All Fall Down

Ally Carter Scholastic, 2015 320 pages

SUMMARY:

In this action-packed suspense novel, main character Grace Blakely is the granddaughter of the US Ambassador to the fictional country of Adria. Grace is recovering from her mother's shocking death, which was ruled an accident. However, Grace remembers seeing the scar-faced man who shot her mother, and the fiery blaze that covered up the murder. After she spends three years in treatment for post-traumatic stress, she moves in with her grandfather on Embassy Row in Adria. Still believing that her mother was murdered, Grace continues searching for clues as to why her mother was killed. After meeting other teens living on Embassy Row, Grace tries to settle in to her new life—but this all changes when she sees the scarred man who killed her mother in Adria. First in the *Embassy Row* series, *All Fall Down* is an intriguing mystery, full of action and adventure.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Dark Eyes by William Harlan Richter The Fixer by Jennifer Barnes We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

WEBSITES:

Main website for the US Embassy, http://www.usembassy.gov/. This site gives students more information about how the US Embassy works. Students can also visit the pages of US Embassy offices in countries around the world.

Short interview with the author, https://youtu.be/0qnciNFsVKg. Author Ally Carter explains how she created the Embassy Row series and gives a summary of *All Fall Down*.

BOOKTALK:

Grace Blakeley is not your average teenager. Her grandfather is the US ambassador for the country of Adria, and Grace spends a lot of time in the spotlight. Grace's thrilling, glamorous life is destroyed when her mother dies in a fiery accident. At least, everyone says it was an accident. But Grace knows the truth—her mother was murdered, and she is going to prove it. After Grace moves in with her high-profile grandfather, she struggles to live a normal life. But when Grace encounters the scarred man who murdered her mother, it is up to her to prove him guilty. Read *All Fall Down* by Ally Carter to discover if Grace catches the killer!

Prepared by:

Dana Whelchel, Liberty Middle School, danawhelchel@pickens.k12.sc.us

Being Sloane Jacobs

Lauren Morrill Delacorte Press, 2014 330 pages

SUMMARY:

Switching places with someone else has never been more fun than in this novel about following your dreams and finding your heart from the author of *Meant to Be* that Huntley Fitzpatrick, author of *My Life Next Door*, calls "unforgettable" and "full of twists and romance."

Meet Sloane Emily Jacobs: a seriously stressed-out figure skater who choked during junior nationals. Now meet Sloane Devon Jacobs: a spunky ice hockey player who's been suspended from her team for too many aggressive hip checks. The two girls are on their way to skating camps in Montreal when a luggage mix-up causes them to meet. Pretty soon, the Sloanes realize that this is the opportunity they've been waiting for: the chance to escape their lives and switch places for the summer. But it didn't occur to Sloane E. that she might meet a hockey hottie; and Sloane D. never expected to run into a familiar (and very good-looking) face from home. It's not long before the Sloanes discover that convincing people you're someone else might be more difficult than being yourself.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Bittersweet by Sarah Ockler Catching Jordan by Miranda Kenneally Break Away by Sylvain Hotte Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

WEBSITES:

The author's website, http://laurenmorrill.com/ You can find info about the author and her books at this website.

An *Entertainment Weekly* article that features an interview with the author, answering questions about this book, can be found at http://www.ew.com/article/2014/02/07/lauren-morrill-being-sloane-jacobs-qa.

The US figure skating website, http://www.usfsa.org/ If you are interested in learning more about figure skating, this is a great place to start.

The women's college hockey website, http://www.uscho.com/d1women/ Go here to get a glimpse into the world of women's hockey at the collegiate level.

BOOKTALK:

Have you ever wanted to just get away from your hectic life for just a bit, or wondered what it would be like to be someone else? Well for Sloane Emily Jacobs and Sloane Devon Jacobs, the opportunity to do both literally falls into their laps. Sloane Emily is a high stakes competitive figure skater that totally blew a huge opportunity in the junior nationals. Sloane Devon is a very talented but highly aggressive hockey player that has been suspended from her team for her attitude. The two girls accidently meet in a hotel in Canada where they have both been sent to summer camps for their respective sports. Realizing they have the chance of a lifetime to escape their stressful lives for the summer, experience new things, and meet new people, they decide to switch places and go to each other's camp. The girls soon realize that switching places isn't as easy as they thought. Not only are the Sloanes faced with the challenges of pretending to be someone they are not, they also have friend troubles, romance issues, and family struggles to contend with. This refreshing story of female athletes will leave you with a warm fuzzy feeling, and more appreciation for your own life.

Prepared by:

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The Bridge from Me to You

Lisa Schroeder Point, 2014 336 pages

SUMMARY:

Seventeen-year-old Lauren is the new girl when she moves to Willow, Oregon. As she adjusts to small-town living, she struggles with a personal tragedy and nightmares about her younger brother. She soon meets Colby, the local high school football star. As their friendship grows, each learns more about each other and themselves. Although Colby enjoys football, he doesn't see it in his future, which would be disappointing to his family and the community. Lauren appreciates her new family, but hasn't dealt completely with her past. Told in alternating voices, readers experience the roller-coaster emotions of each character throughout.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Joyride by Anna Banks
The Queen of Bright and Shiny Things by Ann Aguirre
My Life Next Door by Huntley Fitzpatrick

WEBSITES:

Bridge Basics from PBS, http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/buildingbig/bridge/basics.html. Main character Colby is interested in bridges, and possibly a future building and designing them. This site has great information for students interested in bridge engineering and construction.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, http://www.birds.cornell.edu/education/kids. Main character Lauren loves to watch birds, and this site has great resources for kids and teens interested in ornithology.

BOOKTALK:

Seventeen-year-old Lauren has just moved to the small town of Willow, Oregon to escape a dark family secret. As she struggles with events in her past, she meets Colby, the local high school football star. Colby wants to be more than just a football star, though, and he shares his secret dream with Lauren. As their friendship grows, Colby and Lauren share more through close conversations. Can they be honest with each other? Will they realize their dreams? Read *The Bridge from Me to You* by Lisa Schroeder to discover how Colby and Lauren help each other answer these questions and make life-changing decisions.

Prepared by:

Dana Whelchel, Liberty Middle School, danawhelchel@pickens.k12.sc.us

The Cure for Dreaming

Cat Winters Amulet, 2014 352 pages

SUMMARY:

Seventeen-year-old Olivia Mead is a girl ahead of her time. It's Portland, Oregon in 1900 and she is a suffragist, a crusader for women's right to vote. Her father is determined to see her take the more traditional path of wife and mother, but his plan to use the skills of hypnotist Henry Reverie to erase her rebellious thoughts has unintended consequences. Olivia can now see the true nature of the people around her, and some of them are real monsters.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

A Question of Courage by Marjorie Darke
The Monstrumologist (The Monstrumologist #1) by Rick Yancey
The Aviary by Kathleen O'Dell
Crooked Hills by Cullen Bunn
A Drowned Maiden's Hair by Laura Amy Schlitz
The Seer of Shadows by Avi
Uprising by Margaret Peterson Haddix

WEBSITES:

Author Cat Winters' website http://www.catwinters.com/

The author's website with information about her books

New York Times Upfront

http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/indepth/upfront/features/index.asp?article=f090610_19amend
Information about the 19th Amendment and women's right to vote from New York Times Upfront Magazine

A History of the American Suffragist Movement

http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm

A timeline of events surrounding the right to vote for women

American Alliance of Hypnotists

http://www.americanallianceofhypnotists.org/

Website of the professional association for hypnotists

Franz Mesmer

http://www.britannica.com/biography/Franz-Anton-Mesmer

Biographical information about the father of modern hypnosis, Franz Mesmer

The Cure for Dreaming Book Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLJR4UW1mtI&list=FLuUJY2of5AXW7UQWh4hfhbQ&index=1

Promotional video for the book

BOOKTALK:

In Portland, Oregon, in 1900, Olivia Mead is not your typical seventeen-year-old. She is interested in books and school and giving women the right to vote. Her father, a well-known dentist, wants her to follow a more traditional path, that of a wife and mother. He even goes so far as to hire a famous hypnotist in an attempt to

erase Olivia's rebellious spirit. Not only does this NOT work, but there is an unintended effect: Olivia can see people as they really are--good or evil, friend or foe. Can Olivia overcome her visions and her controlling father and regain control of her destiny? Find out – read *The Cure for Dreaming* by Cat Winters.

Prepared by:

Carolyn Masek, Hand Middle School, cmasek@richlandone.org

Famous Last Words

Katie Alender Point, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., 2014 312 pages

SUMMARY:

Willa is a teenager uprooted from her home in Connecticut to live in Los Angeles with her mother and famous movie director stepfather. This new luxurious life is far different from her small town in Connecticut. She isn't happy about her mom remarrying because she is still upset by her father's death back home. There are some good parts to the move like Marnie, a new friend at school and Reed, her stepdad's cute assistant. Unfortunately there is also a serial killer, AKA the Hollywood Killer, who is recreating famous movie scenes with his murder victims, all young aspiring actresses. Soon Willa realizes her new house is haunted. The ghost is desperately trying to tell her something, and she believes it has something to do with the murders.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY....

Gone by Michael Grant.
The Ghost of Graylock by Dan Poblocki
Matched by Aly Condie
The Bar Code Tattoo by Suzanne Weyn
Amanda Project by Melissa Kantor

WEBSITES:

The book's website: http://katiealender.com/famous-last-words. Includes a summary of the book

The author's website: http://katiealender.com/. Contains information on her life, books, contact information and a FAQ section

Book Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ccGdG0H3AVY

BOOKTALK:

Combine Hollywood history, mystery, murder, a ghost, and a pinch of romance, and you will have the recipe for *Famous Last Words*. Willa's just your average teenager, angry that she has to move to Hollywood because her mother has remarried a big shot movie director. She does meet a friend, Marnie, and has a huge crush on her stepdad's handsome assistant, Reed. Meanwhile a serial killer is stalking Los Angeles recreating famous murder scenes from movies. And her unfriendly chemistry partner, Wyatt, is obsessed with the Hollywood Killer. Then Willa starts to see things. Like a drowned girl in her swimming pool, a reflection in a tub that isn't hers, and messages written on the walls. Soon Willa realizes that her new house is haunted, and the ghost is trying to tell her something. Will she get the message in time to save her life? Read *Famous Last Words* by Katie Alender to find out.

Prepared by:

Wendi Michael, Gold Hill Middle School, michaelw@fortmillschools.org

Fantasy League

Mike Lupica Puffin, 2015 320 pages

SUMMARY:

Twelve-year-old Charlie is a fantasy football genius. He might not be as amazing on his school football team, but when it comes to knowing and loving the game, he's a whiz. When his podcast gets noticed by a sports radio host, who plays Charlie's fantasy picks for all of Los Angeles to hear, and when the owner of a local sports team takes Charlie's advice for a key management decision, fame grabs hold of Charlie and presents him with challenges he hasn't yet seen. Though fame threatens to take Charlie's simple life in a whole new direction, with the help of family and friends, Charlie learns the bigger value of family, friends, and loyalty.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Contract by Derek Jeter First Team by Tim Green The Only Game by Mike Lupica

WEBSITES:

Main website for the National Football League (NFL) Fantasy Football League, http://fantasy.nfl.com/. This site gives more information about how the NFL Fantasy Football League works. Students can view statistics and find out the basic information about the NFL, its teams, and the research that goes in to the Fantasy Football League process.

Short interview with the author, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzjs2UCMZ_U. Author Mike Lupica gives a summary of *Fantasy League*.

BOOKTALK:

Charlie "The Brain" Gaines is in love with football. Though he is a mediocre player, he is a complete "brain" at managing a team in the Fantasy Football League. His best friend, Anna, is the beloved granddaughter of the owner of Los Angeles' local struggling football team. Charlie's knowledge of players' strengths and weaknesses soon helps Anna's grandfather with a key decision for real players on a real team and Charlie is faced with some difficult decisions and consequences as he evolves into a local celebrity and deals with the difficult decisions that accompany the transformation. Read *Fantasy League* by Mike Lupica to discover if Charlie really does save his favorite team and if he, his family and his friendships can survive the fame!

Prepared by:

Susan Grinsteinner, Dorchester District Two, sgrinsteinner@dorchester2.k12.sc.us

Fish in a Tree

Lynda Mullaly Hunt Nancy Paulsen Books, 2015 288 pages

SUMMARY:

Ally has a secret – she doesn't know how to read, and she is afraid to ask anyone to help. Everyone else assumes that Ally is dumb and that she acts out to get attention, but her new teacher Mr. Daniels sees Ally's talents and intelligence. With Mr. Daniels' help, Ally begins to accept herself for who she is and to appreciate her differences.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea
Lost in the Sun by Lisa Graff
Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin
All the Answers by Kate Messner
The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen
El Deafo by Cece Bell

WEBSITES:

Fish in a Tree, http://www.lyndamullalyhunt.com/books/fish-in-a-tree/. Author's website with more information about the book, a book trailer, classroom activities, and a teacher's guide

Dyslexia, http://kidshealth.org/kid/health_problems/learning_problem/dyslexia.html. Describes what it's like to have dyslexia and reading accommodations that can help kids with dyslexia

Famous People with the Gift of Dyslexia, http://www.dyslexia.com/famous.htm. A list of actors, artists, athletes, scientists, business leaders and more who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having dyslexia

BOOKTALK:

"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid." Ally knows that she is different from everyone else in her sixth grade class. The other kids in her class tell her that she's dumb, and they're right. When Ally tries to read, the letters flutter around on the page like butterflies. Writing is hard too - it takes Ally hours just to put a couple paragraphs down on paper. Ally tries to make sure that no one realizes just how dumb she is though. If an assignment is too hard, she just makes a joke or pretends she forgot to do it. But when she gives her teacher the perfect card to welcome her new baby, Ally is humiliated to find out that the picture of the beautiful yellow flowers actually adorns a sympathy card. The principal and Ally's mom dismiss her behavior as acting out, but deep down inside Ally knows that she will never be smart enough to read the card's words. But when Ally gets a new teacher named Mr. Daniels, Ally can no longer hide how different she feels. Mr. Daniels is the first person who has ever cared enough to look beneath Ally's wisecracks and seemingly bad attitude. As he helps her put a name to her challenges and teaches her to embrace her strengths, Ally begins to accept herself and value her own unique talents.

Prepared by: Kirsten Barber, Lexington County Public Library, kbarber@lex.lib.sc.us

Girl on a Wire

Gwenda Bond Skyscape, 2014 372 pages

SUMMARY:

Sixteen-year-old Julieta (Jules) Maroni, a wire walker, is part of the Amazing Maronis, a circus family on a small-time circuit. In an attempt to save her family from obscurity, Jules runs away to join Cirque American, a successful touring production which happens to feature the Maronis' long-time rivals, the Flying Garcias. Reluctantly, Jules's father agrees to join the Cirque American, but the other performers do not welcome them with open arms. Instead, someone is planting bad luck charms around Jules in an apparent attempt to sabotage or perhaps even kill her. Jules finds an unlikely ally in Romeo (Remy) Garcia, as they work together to uncover the truth about their grandparents' feud and the person who is trying to hurt Jules's family.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Paris Mysteries by James Patterson
A Candidate for Murder by Joan Lowry Nixon
High Wire by Melanie Jackson
Life in the Pit by Kristen Landon
Sage for Sanctuary by Felicity Pulman
High-Wire Act by Franklin W. Dixon

WEBSITES:

Gwenda Bond, http://www.gwendabond.com/, author's website.

Scandal Beneath the Big Top: Gwenda Bond on Her New YA Novel, http://carnegiecenterlex.org/2014/10/scandal-beneath-big-top-gwenda-bond-new-ya-novel/, interview with Gwenda Bond about the book, herself, and the writing process.

BOOKTALK:

For as long as I can remember, I've been reminded of my family's ancient feud with The Flying Garcias. That crazy rivalry is the reason that my father, the best wire walker in the world, and our family, the Amazing Maronis, performed in a tiny circus instead of the successful Cirque American where the Garcias are stars. I wasn't going to sit by and watch as the Amazing Maronis became extinct, so I ran away to join the Cirque American and convinced my father that it was the only way to save our family. Being a part of the Cirque American is allowing me to create my own dream wire walking act, but not everyone wants me to succeed. Someone keeps leaving bad luck charms around to ruin my act, which is more dangerous than ever. I never expected that Remy Garcia would become the one person that I can trust as we try to find out the truth behind our grandparents' feud and who is trying to hurt my family.

Prepared by:

Natalie Childs, Gable Middle School, childsna@spart6.org

The Honest Truth

Dan Gemeinhart Scholastic Press, 2015 240 pages

SUMMARY:

In all the ways that matter, Mark is a normal kid. He's got a dog named Beau and a best friend, Jessie. He likes to take photos and write haiku poems in his notebook. He dreams of climbing a mountain one day.

But in one important way, Mark is not like other kids at all. Mark is sick. The kind of sick that means hospitals. And treatments. The kind of sick some people never get better from.

So Mark runs away. He leaves home with his camera, his notebook, his dog, and a plan to reach the top of Mount Rainier--even if it's the last thing he ever does.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick Hatchet by Gary Paulsen Duke by Kirby Larson Wilder Boys by Brandon Wallace

WEBSITES:

All About Cancer, http://www.cancer.gov/. Current information on cancer and other similar diseases

Basic Mountain Climbing, http://www.wikihow.com/Climb-a-Mountain. Simple instructions on basic mountain climbing

Mount Rainier website, http://www.nps.gov/mora/index.htm. Mount Rainier site with current conditions and live webcam coverage

BOOKTALK:

Life doesn't always make sense, and it doesn't always play fair. Ask Mark. He can tell you. But he won't. He is sick and tired of being sick. He just knows he is angry; angry enough to run away. He has his destination in mind: he's always wanted to go to the top of Mount Rainier. He and his dog Beau are going to climb that mountain--or die trying.

Prepared by:

Michelle Martin, South Middle School, michelle.martin@lcsdmail.net

Hunt for the Bamboo Rat

Graham Salisbury Wendy Lamb Books, 2014 323 Pages

SUMMARY:

Based on a true story, this World War II novel tells how Zenji Watanabe, seventeen, is sent from Hawaii to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese during World War II. After he is captured and tortured, Zenji must find a way to survive months of being lost in the jungle behind enemy lines.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY:

The Eyes of the Emperor by Graham Salisbury Elephant Run by Roland Smith The Book Thief by Markus Zusak Stones in Water by Donna Jo Napoli

WEBSITES:

The book's website: http://grahamsalisbury.com/books/world-war-ii-novels/

More about Graham Salisbury: http://grahamsalisbury.com

More on WWII in the Philippines: http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/pacificwar/timeline.htm

Book Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJCJF3zs0lE

Jungle Survival: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfwWEZNPi2Q

BOOKTALK:

Zenji, 17, is sent from Hawaii to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese during World War II. Zenji Watanabe was born in Hawaii. He's an American, but the Japanese wouldn't know it by the look of him. And that's exactly what the US government is counting on. Because he speaks both English and Japanese perfectly, the army recruits Zenji for a top-secret mission to spy on the Japanese. But if they discover his true identity, he'll be treated as a traitor and executed on the spot. As World War II boils over in the Pacific, Zenji is caught behind enemy lines. But even though his Japanese heritage is his death warrant, it's also his key to outwitting the enemy and finding the strength to face the terrors of battle, the savagery of the jungle, and the unspeakable cruelty of war.

Prepared by:

Kay Falls, York Intermediate School, kfalls@york.k12.sc.us

If You're Reading This

Trent Reedy Arthur A. Levine Books, 2014 352 pages

SUMMARY:

Mike lives with his sister, Mary, and his mother in a house that seems to be falling apart. His father has been dead nine years, and the family is struggling to survive economically on mom's salary. Mike wants to be the "man" of the family, but as he tries to take on more responsibilities from his mother he also sees he is missing out on everyday high school life. His sister can also be a pest and doesn't understand Mike's desire to learn more about his father since she barely remembers him.

But a couple of things change two weeks before Mike's 16th birthday that alter his family relationships. First of all, Mike decides to play football despite his mother's reservations about his participating in such a dangerous sport. Then, he begins receiving posthumous letters from his father. These two events propel Mike into thinking about the future in which he would become the man his father would have been proud of. However, Mike learns more about his father's death that puts into question things Mike thought he knew. But even more on Mike's mind are his guilt feelings concerning the lies he has told to his mother. Told in first person, this story will appeal to many students and especially those in single-parent families. Bottom line: This book has romance for the girls and sports and military adventure for the boys.

If YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Big Time: a Football Genius Novel by Tim Green
Playing With Boys: a Pretty Tough Novel by Liz Tigelaar
Tony's Last Touchdown by Benjamin Jarman
Benito Runs by Justine Fontes
Black Jack Jetty: a Boy's Journey Through Grief by Michael A. Carestio
Capagie's Moon by Chris Woodworth

Georgie's Moon by Chris Woodworth

Dear Papa by Anne Ylvisaker

The Orange Girl by Jostein Gaardner

The Letters by Kazumi Yumoto

WEBSITES:

Personal Website of Author Trent Reedy, http://www.trentreedy.com/
Visit this website to find out about the author and other books that he has written.

Armed Forces in Afghanistan Timeline, http://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12024253 Visit this website if you want to look at the history of Afghanistan's foreign army occupations

BOOKTALK:

Hi, I'm Mike and I'm will turn sixteen in less than two weeks. You might think this would be a great time in my life, but I have some complicated circumstances. My mom thinks I shouldn't play football, but the coach thinks I would be good and I really want to play. She also has strong negative feelings about people from Afghanistan and Isma, one of my best buddies at school, is a second generation Afghan. But my true problems began when I got a letter from my dad. You would think that is normal when a father goes away for his job; but, you see, he died in Afghanistan when I was seven. Don't get me wrong. I was truly excited to get the first letter. I have continually wondered about my father but couldn't ask my mother because whenever I did she would relapse into a dark spell. Still, the letters have changed my focus to more questions about his death than seeking answers to the questions I already had. I know I need to let my mom know about my playing football and my growing relationship with Isma, but I also want to find out the answers to my questions about my dad without hurting my mom. Find out how I answer these questions by reading my story, *If You're Reading This*, by Trent Reedy.

Prepared by: Camellia Harris, CE Williams Middle School for Creative and Scientific Arts, Camellia Harris@charleston.k12.sc.us

The Iron Trial

Holly Black, Cassandra Clare Scholastic Press, 2014 299 pages

SUMMARY:

All his life, Callum Hunt's father has warned him to stay away from the Magisterium, an elite school where young mages hone their special abilities. Despite his best intentions to fail the Iron Trial, Callum Hunt is admitted to the Magisterium. As time goes on, Call discovers that his past is much more complicated than he could have ever dreamed. As Call makes friends with his fellow apprentices and works on his magical skills, he must also figure out who he can trust.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan The Revenge of the Witch by Joseph Delaney The Forbidden Library by Django Wexler Alistair Grim's Odditorium by Gregory Funaro The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud The Luck Uglies by Paul Durham The Night Gardener by Jonathan Auxier The Map to Everywhere by Carrie Ryan

WEBSITES:

Magisterium, http://irontrial.scholastic.com/, publisher's website containing forums, games, and quizzes

The Magisterium Series, http://www.cassandraclare.com/my-writing/novels/the-magisterium-series/, information about the series from one of the author's websites, including book trailers

The Iron Trial, http://blackholly.com/books/iron-trial-magisterium-1/, information about the book from one of the author's websites

BOOKTALK:

Every kid would do anything to pass the Iron Trial – that is, every kid except for Callum Hunt. Passing the Iron Trial means gaining entrance to the Magisterium, an elite school of magic, the one thing that Call's father has cautioned him against his whole life. Even though Call manages to fail the test, he can't hide his abilities and he is recruited to become a student at the Magisterium. Call is whisked away from life as he knows it to become a prisoner in the school's underground fortress. But as it turns out, the Magisterium is the least of Call's worries. His classes are sometimes full of boring exercises like sorting grains of sand, while other times he faces exciting tasks like battling elementals. Meanwhile, a war is being waged within the magical world that has gone on since before Call's birth. During his infancy, a pivotal battle with the evil Constantine Madden led to Call's leg being deformed and his mother's untimely demise. Could Constantine Madden be regaining strength and planning another attack? Should Call heed his father's warnings, or can he depend on his new friends and teachers? Even his own mother's dying words, carved in the ice beside her body, were: "Kill the child." Faced with the chilling reality of his situation, Call must figure out who he can trust before it's too late.

Prepared by: Kirsten Barber, Lexington County Public Library, kbarber@lex.lib.sc.us

Listen, Slowly

Thanhha Lai HarperCollins, 2015 272 pages

SUMMARY:

Assisting her grandmother's investigation of her grandfather's fate during the Vietnam War, Mai struggles to adapt to an unfamiliar culture while redefining her sense of family.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Blackbird Fly by Erin Entrada Kelly Dumpling Days by Grace Lin Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia Sunny Side Up by Jennifer L. Holm

WEBSITES:

The author's website is http://www.thanhhalai.com
An alternate website about the author is https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thanhha_Lai

BOOKTALK:

The summer before she turns 13, Mai is planning to spend her time going to the beach and finally talking to her secret crush. Then she finds out her parents are going to make her escort her grandmother to Vietnam instead. New information may have surfaced about her long lost grandfather, who disappeared over 40 years ago in "THE WAR." Mai doesn't know the culture or speak the language, and everything she knows about Vietnam is from a PBS documentary on the Fall of Saigon. While her parents are excited for her to learn more about her roots, the teen doesn't even know the details of her own parents' escape. Stuck in a village with limited internet access, a reluctant Mai slowly makes friends due to lack of better things to do and bonds with her beloved grandmother and as she does, Mai remembers how close they were when she was little. The sights, smells, and tastes of Vietnam's cities and villages come alive on the page, without overwhelming a story filled with a summer's-worth of touching and hilarious moments, grand adventure, and lazy afternoons. Readers will experience many painful and bittersweet events through the pages of this book.

Prepared by:

Clara Eads, Liberty Middle School, cnheads@msn.com

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune

Jude Watson Scholastic Press, 2014 266 pages

SUMMARY:

On a foggy night in Amsterdam, a man falls from a rooftop to the wet pavement below. It's Alfie McQuinn, the notorious cat burglar, and he's dying. As sirens wail in the distance, Alfie manages to get out two last words to his young son, March: "Find jewels." But March learns that his father is not talking about a stash of loot. He's talking about Jules, the twin sister March never knew he had. No sooner than the two find each other, they're picked up by the police and sent to the world's worst orphanage. It's not prison, but it feels like it. March and Jules have no intention of staying put. They know their father's business inside and out, and they're tired of being pushed around. Just one good heist, and they'll live the life of riches and freedom most kids only dream about.

Watch out! There are wild kids on the loose and a crime spree coming . . .

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Mission Unstoppable by Dan Gutman The Secret of Rover by Rachel Wildavsky Swindle by Gordon Korman Belly Up by Stuart Gibbs

WEBSITES:

The book's website, http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/book/loot#cart/cleanup. This website provides a brief summary of the book, information about the author, and links to teacher resources.

The author's website, http://judewatsonbooks.com/. You can find info about the author and her books at this website.

BOOKTALK:

March's dad is no ordinary dad--in fact his dad is world renowned jewel thief Alfie McQuinn. When March is a witness to his dad's death during a heist, he finds himself all alone and lost. His father's last words to him were "find jewels," only March has no idea what he is supposed to do with this information. What jewels? Where should he start looking? When March discovers that Alfie left clues to finishing his last major heist, the real adventure begins! March quickly finds himself in a whirlwind of adventure, danger, mystery, and even a curse. If you like suspenseful, fast-paced stories, with a little mystery thrown in, then you need to read *Loot: How to Steal a Fortune* by Jude Watson.

Prepared by:

Bambi Ferrer, Lugoff-Elgin Middle School, <u>bambi.ferrer@kcsdschools.net</u>

The Mark of the Dragonfly

Jaleigh Johnson Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 2014 400 pages

SUMMARY:

Piper has never seen the Mark of the Dragonfly until she finds the girl amid the wreckage of a caravan in the Meteor Fields. The girl doesn't remember a thing about her life, but the intricate tattoo on her arm is proof that she's from the Dragonfly Territories and that she's protected by the king--which means a reward for Piper if she can get the girl home. The one sure way to the Territories is the 401, a great old beauty of a train. But a ticket costs more coin than Piper could make in a year. And stowing away is a difficult prospect--everyone knows that getting past the peculiar green-eyed boy who stands guard is nearly impossible. Life for Piper just turned dangerous, a little bit magical, and very exciting, if she can manage to survive the journey.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Expeditioners series by S. S. Taylor
Flights and Chimes and Mysterious Times by Emma Trevayne
Jack Black and the Ship of Thieves by Carol Hughes
The League of Seven by Alan Gratz
A Riddle in Ruby by Kent Davis

WEBSITES:

Website for the book, <u>www.markofthedragonfly.com</u>. Explore the world of Solace, meet the characters of the book, and more.

Author's Website, http://www.jaleighjohnson.com/. The author's website gives insight to the world of Solace including information on her upcoming book with new characters and adventures.

BOOKTALK:

Piper knows some things. She knows that meteor showers are what keep scrappers like her alive. She knows her father left for the capital for work and a better life only to die there. She knows she should not have been out in the meteor storm last night, where she found Anna. Piper knows she has to get Anna out of the scrap town fast. And she knows the grand 401 train is the way out to what could be a bright future.

What Piper doesn't know is Anna's past or how valuable the reward for getting Anna back to the Dragonfly territories might be. But what Piper really doesn't know is the challenges, surprises, and adventures she is going to run into while trying to get Anna to the Dragonfly capital.

Prepared by:

Michelle Martin, South Middle School, michelle.martin@lcsdmail.net

Paper Things

Jennifer Richard Jacobson Candlewick Press, 2015 384 Pages

SUMMARY:

When Ari's mother died four years ago, she had two final wishes: that Ari and her older brother, Gage, would stay together always, and that Ari would go to Carter, the middle school for gifted students. So when nineteen-year-old Gage decides he can no longer live with their bossy guardian, Janna, Ari knows she has to go with him. But it's been two months, and Gage still hasn't found them an apartment. He and Ari have been "couch surfing," staying with Gage's friend in a tiny apartment, crashing with Gage's girlfriend and two roommates, and if necessary, sneaking into a juvenile shelter to escape the cold Maine nights. But all of this jumping around makes it hard for Ari to keep up with her schoolwork, never mind her friendships, and getting into Carter starts to seem impossible. Will Ari be forced to break one of her promises to Mama?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK THEN TRY:

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor Peace, Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

WEBSITES:

The book's website: http://jenniferjacobson.com/paper-things/

More about Jennifer Jacobson: http://jenniferjacobson.com/about/

More about helping orphans: http://howtohelporphans.org/bythenumbers.html

Interview with Jennifer Jacobson: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KfwFVniyAfo

Book Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANw6CdDUpLs

BOOK TALK:

Ari Hazard has lost it all: Ari lost her father in the war in Afghanistan and her mother when she was young, so she only has her older brother, Gage, and their guardian, Janna. Gage promised their mother that he and Ari would always remain a family but when Gage decides he can no longer live under Janna's control, they leave her safe and stable condo and end up on the streets. Gage promises that he'll have an apartment within a week but jobs are hard to come by and most landlords require a rental applicant to have a job before being able to rent. What follows is months of homelessness, of Gage and Ari struggling to find places to sleep. She struggles to keep up appearances, taking comfort in her 'Paper Things' --- people and furniture cut from catalogues to form makeshift dollhouses --- but unfortunately, her situation spirals. Ari's grades suffer, she loses her best and only friend and it seems like her one greatest wish --- to get into the gifted middle school, Carter --- is out of reach.

Prepared by:

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Snow Like Ashes

Sara Raasch HarperCollins Publishers, 2014 416 Pages

SUMMARY:

Meira has been orphaned her whole life. Just an infant, sixteen years ago, when Angra took over the kingdom of Winter, she and seven others escaped his wrath. As for the other Winterians (the people of Winter), they weren't so lucky. They were captured and enslaved. So, the eight survivors are doing all they can to get the magic back to Winter and rebuild their kingdom. Meira has trained to be a soldier her whole life, been raised by Sir, the general, and has fallen in a forbidden love with Mather, her best friend and the future king. So when the scouts find the location of the locket that can restore the magic back to Winter, Meira decides to go after it. While fighting in a war, like she always dreamed she would, her life takes a twist. She finds herself thrown into a world of evil magic and dangerous politics. And she finds she's not who she thought she was. Read Sara Raasch's book about loyalty, love, and finding one's destiny.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

The Divergent Series by Veronica Roth The Young Elites by Marie Lu The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins The Giver by Lois Lowry

WEBSITES:

Sara Raasch's Website, http://sararaasch.tumblr.com/

Find the author on: Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Goodreads, Amazon Author Page, YouTube, Reedsy, Wattpad

BOOKTALK:

Meira has been orphaned her whole life. Just an infant, sixteen years ago, when Angra took over the kingdom of Winter, she and seven others escaped his wrath. As for the other Winterians, they weren't so lucky. They were captured and enslaved. So the eight survivors are doing all they can to get the magic back to Winter and rebuild their kingdom. Meira has trained to be a soldier her whole life, been raised by Sir, the general, and has fallen in a forbidden love with Mather, her best friend and the future king. So when the scouts find the location of the locket that can restore the magic back to Winter, Meira decides to go after it. While fighting in a war, like she always dreamed she would, her life takes a twist. She finds herself thrown into a world of evil magic and dangerous politics. And she discovers she's not who she thought she was. Read Sara Raasch's book about loyalty, love, and finding one's destiny.

Prepared By:

Natalie Davis, Powdersville Middle School, tnc31113d@gmail.com

The Swap

Megan Shull Scholastic Inc., 2014 382 pages

SUMMARY:

After summer break, Jack and Ellie are both ready for a change. As ordinary middle schoolers, they try to balance their social lives, academics, and sports. Both have a story and a past that affects their future every day, and with all the stress of middle school life, they find themselves wishing they could be someone else to escape the constant pressure placed on them. The unlikely friends find themselves both in the nurse's office one fateful day. Jack, with his face busted up from a scuffle, and Ellie, with her simple excuse to get out of class, suddenly find themselves in each other's bodies after the nurse whispers a special chant. Realizing that they've swapped bodies, Jack and Ellie have to live each other's lives until a way to swap them back is found. Told in alternating points of views, both share their experiences in being someone of the opposite gender and having to deal with the daily pressures placed on them. Will they be able to swap back, or will they have to abide in each other's bodies for the rest of their lives? This tale of new friends and family is intertwined with humorous comments and remarks made by the characters in the book, and it opens the reader's eyes to the lives of others around them, giving them an inside scoop of what it's like to be someone else.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Guitar Notes by Mary Amato
The Geography of You and Me by Jennifer E. Smith
The Candy Makers by Wendy Mass
Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
The Christmas Genie by Dan Gutman

WEBSITES:

Author's Website, www.heymegan.com, Includes information about the author and her book, *The Swap*

BOOKTALK:

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Prepared by:

Taylor Davis, Powdersville Middle School, taylordavis010202@gmail.com

Tell Me

Joan Bauer Viking Books for Young Readers, 2014 272 pages

SUMMARY:

Twelve-year-old Anna has come to stay with her grandmother, Mim, to escape from the tensions at home caused by her parents' marital problems. She is staying in a town whose motto is, "Nothing bad ever happens in Rosemont" and becomes involved with the annual Flower Festival preparations. But before long, Anna finds herself involved in something that could be very bad. She observes a girl her own age who appears to be held against her will. The young girl's frightened eyes haunt Anna and she must try to find and help this girl she does not know. This combination of a crime drama and a coming-of-age story introduces middle school readers to the world of human trafficking.

IF YOU LIKE THIS BOOK, TRY...

Sold by Patricia McCormick
Tears of Tess by Pepper Winters
The Slave Across the Street by Theresa Flores
Her Master's Courtesan by Lily White
A Walk Across the Sun by Corban Addison

WEBSITES:

Joan Bauer: Doing a Report, http://joanbauer.com/reports, a biography of the author's life, educations, interests, and a list of her books.

Human Trafficking: Empowerment Through Knowledge, <u>www.humantrafficking.org</u>, a web resource for combating human trafficking.

Hakim's Story: Child Survivor, http://www.safehorizon.org/page/hakims-story-child-survivor-230.html, Hakim regained his life and his freedom from modern-day slavery.

Survival Stories, http://richmondjusticeinitiative.com/human-trafficking/survival-stories/, true-life stories of survivors of human trafficking.

BOOKTALK:

Anna has come to Rosemont to escape the bickering caused by her parents' marital problems. Her grandmother, Mim, is the greatest, and the upcoming Flower Festival promises to be a lot of work and a lot of fun. Just what Anna needs! She becomes involved in the preparations for the floats and bands and, in doing so, THINKS she sees a girl her own age being held against her will. The girl's frightened eyes beg for help and Anna wants to set her free. But Anna is only twelve years old and has to wrestle with her fear of being wrong about what she saw, of telling and not being believed, of failing to help the girl. Anna can't give up so she sets out to discover who the girl is and where she is being held. She must trust her instincts and speak up...but who will listen?

Prepared by:

Jane Chinault, retired library media specialist, jane.chinault@yahoo.com

The Walk On

John Feinstein Alfred A. Knopf, 2014 359 pages

SUMMARY:

Freshman Alex Myers is a quarterback with a golden arm. Unfortunately, his new high school's team already has a quarterback – the coach's son, Matt. Even though Alex has the best arm, Coach Gordon is not going to take playing time away from his son. When Matt is injured, Alex finally gets a chance to show what his arm can do. While Alex deals with plenty of pressure on the field, he also has to deal with his parents' divorce and his growing feelings for the school's female sports reporter off the field. When something threatens to take Alex out of the game before the end of the season, Alex fights harder than he ever has to keep playing.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

Gym Candy by Carl Deuker Second Stringer by Thomas J. Dygard True Legend by Mike Lupica Pull by Kevin Waltman Crackback by John Coy Pop by Gordon Korman

WEBSITES:

Guest Post by John Feinstein, Author of *The Walk On*, http://www.teenreads.com/blog/2014/09/29/guest-post-by-john-feinstein-author-of-the-walk-on, John Feinstein explains where the inspiration for Alex Myers, protagonist of *The Triple Threat* series, came from.

John Feinstein - *The Walk On*, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JndLcRJalb0, a video of the author talking about the book.

BOOKTALK:

Alex Myers has at least one thing going for him – a golden throwing arm. If only that were enough to make his dream of being first-string varsity quarterback come true. Unfortunately, he has a lot stacked against him. He's a freshman. He's the new kid in town. Worst of all, the coach's son, Matt, is the starting quarterback, and Coach Gordon isn't going to take playing time away from his son. Matt's father may be a jerk, but Matt becomes one of Alex's biggest supporters and friends. When Matt is injured, Alex finally has a chance to show what his golden arm can do. However, something threatens to take Alex out of the game before the end of the season, and Alex has to fight harder than he ever has to keep playing.

Prepared by:

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