

23 Minutes

Vivian Vande Valde

Boyd's Mills Press, 2016

176 pages

SUMMARY:

Zoe has the power to turn back time, but only for 23 minutes. She has learned that turning back time often leads to negative rather than positive consequences. When Zoe steps into a bank to get out of the rain, she witnesses a bank robbery with multiple fatalities. Zoe knows she needs to use her power to change the past and save lives, but she is worried that everything will go wrong and more people will die.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *When*, Victoria Laurie
- *The Naturals*, Jennifer Lynn Barnes
- *All Fall Down*, Ally Carter

WEBSITES:

Time Travel Times Two,

<https://timetraveltimestwo.com/2016/10/10/interview-with-vivian-vande-velde-author-of-23-minutes>.

Interview with the author about the book.

Vivian Vande Velde, <http://vivianvandelde.com/>, Author's website.

BOOKTALK:

What if you could go back in time? Imagine how you could change your life for the better and accomplish amazing things. Zoe has the ability to go back in time to relive the past 23 minutes, but only so many times. Although that sounds like it would solve problems, Zoe has learned that things more often than not turn out worse. So when Zoe witnesses a bank robbery gone wrong, can she turn back time to save lives? Or will she herself be the next victim?

Beautiful Blue World

Suzanne LaFleur

Wendy Lamb Books, 2016

224 pages

SUMMARY:

Mathilde lives in the fictional country of Sofarende. The country has been at war for many years with their rival Tyssia, which means there are food shortages, bombings, and constant uncertainty.

The army begins recruiting children, and paying families for their service. Children selected for service must move away to a secret location to solve problems and puzzles for the war effort. Mathilde is worried that Megs, her best friend, will pass the test and leave her behind. When Mathilde passes the test, her assignment is different, and she must use her empathy and compassion to connect with a POW from Tyssia.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Echo*, Pam Munoz Ryan
- *The Romeo and Juliet Code*, Phoebe Stone
- *Time Traveler Danny and the Codebreaker*, Paul Morris
- *Wolf by Wolf*, Ryan Graudin

WEBSITES:

Suzanne LaFleur, <http://www.suzannelafleur.com/> - The author's website includes information about her books, as well as writing tips.

Bletchley Park, <https://bletchleypark.org.uk/> - Website for the site of Britain's WWII Codebreakers.

The Children's War, <https://thechildrenswar.blogspot.com/> - Website that suggests books about the way war impacts the live of young people.

BOOKTALK:

Mathilde lives in a country at war, Sofarende. Although it is a fictional place, Mathilde describes her country and life in such great detail that everything seems very familiar. Life at home is a struggle, with food shortages and frequent bombings. Everything changes when the military comes to school to test and recruit children for the war effort. Mathilde does not think she will do well on the test, but worries about her friend Megs testing well and leaving her behind.

When Mathilde passes the test, she ends up having to leave her family behind to help with the war effort. While most children are working on codes and puzzles, Mathilde must befriend a soldier from rival Tyssia. What will she find out from him?

Prepared by:

Alana Lewis, Deer Park Middle School, alana_lewis@charleston.k12.sc.us

Booked

Kwame Alexander

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co., 2016

314 pages

SUMMARY:

Nick Hall has trouble paying attention in class. He would much rather spend time thinking about soccer and the girl he likes. Nick is struggling with parent problems at home and bully issues at school. There is also an upcoming soccer tournament where Nick will have to play against his best friend. The school's rapping librarian offers Nick inspiration through specially selected books. This novel in verse addresses the triumphs and disappointments of adolescence.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Heartbeat*, Sharon Creech
- *Words with Wings*, Nikki Grimes
- *Word Nerd*, Nielsen-Fernlund, Susin

WEBSITES:

Kwame Alexander, <http://kwamealexander.com/>, author's website which contains information about the author and the book

Alexander_Booked, https://www.teachingbooks.net/media/pdf/HMH/Alexander_Booked.pdf, educator's guide from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

BOOKTALK:

Nick and Coby have always been best friends, and they still are – only now they are competing against each other on different travel soccer teams in the world youth soccer tournament. With the big tournament coming up, Nick tries to stay focused but there are a few obstacles like schoolwork, a special girl, and the bomb his parents drop on him. How is Nick supposed to pay attention in school when his world seems to be crumbling? Will he even make it to the world soccer tournament, let alone win it? If you enjoyed Kwame Alexander's *Crossover*, this is a must-read!

Prepared by:

Ann Tillman, Buford Middle School, ann.tillman@lcsdmail.net

Children of Exile
Margaret Haddix
Simon and Schuster, 2016
296 pages

SUMMARY:

Children of Exile was a page turner. I definitely like Haddix's way of writing, and this story didn't disappoint me. This book had a lot of different plot twist that made the story much more interesting, though it was already really good.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- Under Their Skin, Margaret Peterson Haddix
- Boy X, Dan Smith
- House of Robots, James Patterson

WEBSITES:

ScDiscus, <http://web.a.ebscohost.com/novpk8/detail?vid=2&sid=e945eecb-aa23-44ed-a1c9-8c56be67eee2%40sessionmgr4007&bdata=JnNpdGU9bm92cGs4LWxpdmU%3d#UI=10526594&db=njh>, ScDiscus was a very good resource for me to look at books alike to Children of Exile and I could read an extended summary of the book.

BOOKTALK:

Basically, you want a great read that's sci-fi, got plenty of plot twists, and keeps you looking for more, this is the book for you. Rosi, one of the older children of Fredtown, has grown up her entire life in Fredtown, unlike her brother, Bobo, a place where the Freds care for the children. One day, the Freds make it apparent that Rosi and the other children are to be returned to their real parents. This rises curiosity in Rosi and she decides to dig a bit deeper. What she finds changes the way she looks at things forever.

Prepared by:

Madison Heyman, Kennedy Middle School, heymanmaddie@gmail.com

The Crown's Game

Evelyn Skye

Balzer + Bray, 2016

399 pages

SUMMARY:

A dual begins for the title of Imperial Enchanter in Russia, which leads to the death of one young enchanter. Set in an alternate fantasy, Imperial Russia is threatened by its neighbors and the tsar needs more than an army to defeat its enemies. In desperation, the tsar commences the Crown's Game. An ancient duel of magic, power, and danger. This soon entangles the lives of the only two enchanters in the land, Nikola and Vika. These teenagers both have the magical power and skill to be the tsar's most trusted adviser. With many twists and turns - secrets emerge, friendship unfolds, and love arises. From all angles, this is a dark, intriguing tale of friendship, family deceit, honor, tragedy, and romance. Who will survive to become the one Imperial Enchanter?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Ever the Hunted*, Erin Summerill
- *Red Queen*, Victoria Aveyard
- *Shadow and Bone*, Leigh Bardugo

WEBSITES:

Evelyn Skye, <http://www.evelynskye.com/>, Author's website features information about her books and writing process.

Epic Reads Explains the Crown's Game by Evelyn Skye, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaxkoHjOA1s>,
View a book trailer of the book.

Q&A with Evelyn Skye, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lk8jw2vcWjo>,
View an interview with author Evelyn Skye and her inspiration for writing the story.

BOOKTALK:

In an alternate fantasy, Imperial Russia is threatened by its neighbors and the tsar needs more than a powerful army to defeat its enemies. Desperate times call for magical measures, and so the tsar initiates the Crown's Game. An ancient duel of magic, power, and danger that entangles the lives of two teenagers. Nikola and Vika are the only enchanters in land. They both have the magical power and skill to be the tsar's most trusted adviser. However, there can only be one Imperial Enchanter in Russia. This dual will end in death for the losing enchanter. With many twists and turns - secrets emerge, friendship unfolds, and love arises. It becomes clear to everyone that this is more than a game. Who will survive the Crown's Game?

Prepared by:

Anya Bonnette, Robert E. Howard Middle School, anya.bonnette@ocsd5.net

The Darkest Hour

Caroline Tung Richmond

Scholastic Press, 2016

307 pages

SUMMARY:

At only sixteen years old in 1943, American Lucie Blaise has gone to German-occupied France with revenge on her mind. Her brother had been killed in combat in Africa and all Lucie can think is how she can avenge his death. She has joined an elite group (Covert Ops) of other young women all sent as spies for the Allies. Lucie sees more and loses more than anyone her age (or anyone older) should ever have to endure, but she knows that her efforts are instrumental in defeating the Germans. Lucie must use her beauty and her brains to determine who to trust and how to take down the enemy.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *For Freedom: the Story of a French Spy*, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
- *Code Name Verity*, Elizabeth Wein
- *An Eagle in the Snow*, Michael Morpurgo

WEBSITES:

Caroline Tung Richmond, <http://www.carolinetrichmond.com/p/welcome.html> This is the author's website where you can go learn about her, the books she has written, and any upcoming events or novels.

HISTORYNET, <http://www.historynet.com/world-war-ii-women-spies-of-the-oss.htm> This link is a reprint of an article from the magazine *World War II*. It gives several accounts of women spies during World War II.

War History Online,

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/war-articles/crafty-gadgets-tricks-famous-wwii-spies.html/2> This interesting website shows gadgets that were commonly used by spies during World War II.

BOOKTALK:

When something bad happens to you, people say you're supposed to channel that hurt in positive ways. Lucie Blaise has suffered tremendous heartache. She's an American girl whose brother was killed while fighting in Africa in 1943. So, to channel her hurt, she goes to Washington, DC and tries to join the war effort as a sixteen-year-old. Six months later, she's in France as a spy.

Prepared by:

Michelle King, Kennedy Middle School, mking@acpsd.net

Falling Over Sideways

Jordan Sonnenblick

Scholastic, 2016

257 pages

SUMMARY:

Middle school is not fun for Claire. All her friends seemed to have moved on and the mean girls, plus a boy named Ryder, aren't helping the situation. Even at home, she feels like an outsider. Then, when it seems it couldn't get any worse, tragedy strikes and turns their whole family upside down.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Silhouetted by Blue*, Traci L. Jones
- *See You at Harry's*, Johanna Knowles
- *Last Man Out*, Mike Lupica

WEBSITES:

10 Things to do When Your Life is Falling Over Sideways,

<https://www.girlslife.com/books/rad-reads/29295/10-things-to-do-when-your-life-is-falling-over-sideways>, Ten tips for what to do when everything seems to be going wrong in your life - from the magazine "Girls' Life."

Falling Over Sideways,

<https://www.jordansonnenblick.com/my-books/falling-over-sideways/>, Author's website with an excerpt from the book that can be downloaded.

Children of a Parent with Brain Injury,

<http://www.braininjury-explanation.com/life-with-brain-injury/consequences-for-the-family/children-of-a-parent-with-brain-injury>, Information about what happens to a child when one of their parents has a brain injury.

BOOKTALK:

OMG my life cannot possibly get any worse! My friends seemed to have deserted me, the mean girls have made me a target, and Ryder has it out for me. At home, I am invisible. My brother, the perfect one in the family, gets all the attention, while I just watch from the sidelines. Then everything falls apart one morning while dad and I are having breakfast. He falls over onto the floor and I don't know what to do. What has happened to him? He is not responding to me. I'm the only one home. I have to step up and handle whatever happens next. Can I do it or will I fail?!

Four-Four-Two

Dean Hughes

Athenum Books for Young Readers, 2016

268 pages

SUMMARY:

Although Yuki Nakahara is American, he and his family are forced into an internment camp during WWII due to his Japanese ethnicity. Yuki enlists in the U.S. military, completes basic training, and is shipped overseas to fight the Germans. Yuki serves in a highly decorated regiment of Japanese Americans which faces grueling combat.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Eyes of the Emperor*, Graham Salisbury
- *Weedflower*, Cynthia Khadota
- *Invasion*, Walter Dean Myers
- *Cracker, the Best Dog in Vietnam*, Cynthia Khadota

WEBSITES:

442nd Regimental Combat Team, <http://www.the442.org/home.html>, comprehensive website with photos, videos, and more.

The War, http://www.pbs.org/thewar/at_war_democracy_japanese_american.htm, Japanese Americans fighting in World War II.

BOOKTALK:

After Yuki's family is forced into a Japanese internment camp, he decides to serve his country by enlisting in the military. He faces prejudices as he completes his basic training and serves in combat. Yuki's regiment, 442, is the most decorated regiment of all times with record numbers of purple hearts and casualties. Will Yuki survive? Will his friends survive? Read 442 to find out.

Prepared by:

Sally and Joseph Brady, Jackson STEM Middle School, sbrady@acpsd.net

Ghost

Jason Reynolds

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2016

192 pages

SUMMARY:

Most people would agree that life is not always fair. However, for Castle Crenshaw better known as Ghost, life has been cruel. Having to run for your life while your own father chases you and your mother with a gun, would make anyone angry. His pain and anger affects his behavior at school and causes him to constantly get in to trouble. What will it take for Ghost to stay out of the principal's office? When will he stop trying to outrun his past? A chance meeting with a track coach and his team, maybe what Ghost needs to finally move on from the dark memories of his past.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Chess Rumble*, Greg Neri
- *Kinda Like Brothers*, Coe Booth
- *Racing the Past*, Sis Boulous Deans

WEBSITES:

An Interview with National Book Award Finalist Jason Reynolds,
http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2016finalist_ypl_reynolds_ghost.html#.Wh2_cmhSziU,
Read an interview with author Jason Reynolds and his inspiration for writing the story.

Jason Reynolds, <http://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/>, Author's website features information about books and his writing process.

Jason Reynolds Reads from Ghost at the 2016 National Book Awards,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6l9-OBEaWs>, Listen to the author read from the book.

BOOKTALK:

When you are used to getting in trouble, sometimes it is hard to do the right thing. This is the case for Castle Crenshaw better known as Ghost, a middle school kid trying to outrun his problems. It is even harder for Ghost to focus on the future or even right now, because of his dark past. A past that will catch up with him, if he doesn't slow down. However, things seem to change for Ghost when he meets "Coach" and his elite track team. Is this what Ghost needs to get on the right track?

Prepared by:

Anya Bonnette, Robert E. Howard Middle School, anya.bonnette@ocsd5.net

The Girl I Used To Be

April Henry

Henry Holt and Co., 2016

229 pages

SUMMARY:

After the murder of her mother, Olivia's father disappears and he is suspected of killing his wife. It takes years for police to discover that he was actually killed on the same day. Although it has been years since then, no one has caught the murderer. Olivia takes it upon herself to finally find the one who left her an orphan. Still, if the murderer killed both her parents, what is the chance is waiting to kill her?

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Blood Will Tell*, April Henry
- *The Night She Disappeared*, April Henry
- *Dead Girls Don't Lie*, Jennifer Shaw Wolf

WEBSITES:

April Henry, Writer, <https://www.aprilhenrymysteries.com/the-girl-i-used-to-be.html> , April Henry's website that holds information on her and her books.

BOOKTALK:

When finding a Christmas tree, what would you expect? Your mother murdered? Your father missing and suspected for murder? You are abandoned at Walmart? Not what you expect from a happy family outing. Years later, Olivia discovers her father had died on the same day, leaving her determined to find the killer that left her an orphan. This takes Olivia back to her hometown where it all happened. Do you want to be thrown into a mystery thriller that keeps you on the verge of a mental break down? Want to stay up until 3:00 AM impatiently reading to find the answer? Maybe there is no answer. Follow Olivia through her adventure as she stumbles through past friendships, new relationships, and the ending she wasn't expecting. If you're up for all this, pick up the book. I dare you.

I Am Drums

Mike Grosso

Clarion books, 2016

256 pages

SUMMARY:

Sam, the main character in *I am Drums* by Mike Grosso, has one desire and only one desire...she wants to play the drums. Nothing will deter her from her dream, not her arguing parents, not an unemployed parent, or her lack of money to purchase a drum set or to pay for lessons. Sam develops a plan to become a drummer. Her plan involves lots of hard work and many lies, but she will stop at nothing to become a drummer.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *A Crooked Kind of Perfect*, Linda Urban
- *Mackenzie Blue*, Tina Wells
- *Eighth Grade is Making Me Sick*, Jennifer L. Holm

WEBSITES:

Mike Grosso Blog, <http://www.mikegrossoauthor.com/>, this is a link to the author's blog. It includes discussion questions and other information about the book.

Mike Grosso's Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmKle7Ni-nCYDTTAlA26sDQ>, this is a link to the author's YouTube channel, on which he has videos related to the book.

How To Play Drums: The Complete Guide for Beginners, <https://takelessons.com/blog/how-to-play-drums-z07>, this is a link to basic information about playing the drums.

Child Development Institute, <https://childdevelopmentinfo.com/parenting/helping-kids-deal-with-parents-unemployment/>, this is a link to an article about helping children deal with a parent's unemployment.

BOOKTALK:

What would you do to achieve your dream? Would you lie to your parents? Would you create your own business to earn money to support your dream? Would you take huge risks that required you to step outside of your comfort zone? Sam, who wants to be a drummer like her idols John Bonham, Buddy Rich, and Karen Carpenter, is tired of practicing on a drum set made of books so she decides that the risk is worth the reward.

Sam befriends a local drummer and makes a deal with him in exchange for drum lessons, but the lessons must remain a secret from her constantly arguing parents. What will happen if she gets caught? Will she ever become the drummer of her dreams?

Prepared by:

Christy Brown, Blythewood Middle School, cbrown@richland2.org

The Inquisitor's Tale

Adam Gidwitz

Dutton Books for Young Readers, 2016

384 pages

SUMMARY:

This story set in Medieval times is told from the viewpoint of several visitors at an Inn. They share magical stories about three children and their unbelievable adventures with the dog that joins them. As they travel to escape danger, magic follows them - leaving the reader longing to find out the end of the story.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *When the Sea Turned to Silver*, Grace Lin
- *The Secret Keepers*, Trenton Lee Stewart
- *Nevermore*, Jessica Townsend
- *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, Kelly Barnhill
- *A Wrinkle in Time*, Madeline L'Engle

WEBSITES:

<http://www.adamgidwitz.com/books/inquisitors-tale/> Author's website which contains information about the book and author.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYO62MbpZNM> an interview with author Adam Gidwitz

<http://www.jewishhistory.org/the-burning-of-the-talmud/> this is some historical information on one of the topics in this book-the burning of the Talmud.

Link to book trailers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QAwmbsWDS0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO9RXOzWtxc>

BOOKTALK:

If you like a book with a mix of mystery and fantasy combined, you will enjoy this great book full of adventure. This book even includes a bit of history as these three children and a holy dog join forces to battle against the King of France who is burning cartloads of Hebrew manuscripts. Adam Gidwitz is a masterful storyteller and keeps readers on the edge of their seats as they wait to find out the fate of the three children and their faithful dog.

Last Man Out

Mike Lupica

Philomel Books, 2016

245 pages

SUMMARY:

Tommy Gallagher is one of the toughest football players on his team. His dad, Patrick, is one of the bravest firefighters in Boston. When Tommy hears the sirens heading away from the fire, he realizes his toughest challenge lies ahead. His father died in a fire as a hero. Now it is Tommy's turn to show just how strong he is. Tommy's sister, Emma, decides to quit soccer. His football team is depending on him to win the championship. His mom needs him to be strong for the family. Tommy just wants to escape from it all. Lupica once again weaves together an action-packed sports story with a story that tugs at the heart.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Football Genius*, Tim Green
- *Quarterback Season*, Fred Bowen
- *Goal Line*, Tiki Barber

WEBSITES:

Mike Lupica's Official Website, <http://www.mikelupicabooks.com/index.html>, author's official website provides information about the author and his books

BOOKTALK:

The Brighton Bears have defeated the Jaguars with Tommy's pick-6 interception. If only his dad could have been there to see it. His dad was filling in for a friend at the fire station. This time being the "last man out" had cost him his life. Tommy and his sister, Emma, are devastated at the loss of their father and hero. Emma quits soccer while Tommy lashes out at his teammates. How will they cope with their father's death? Can Tommy's new skateboarding hobby provide the outlet he needs, or is it just a reckless way to release his frustrations?

Prepared by:

Ann Tillman, Buford Middle, ann.tillman@lcsdmail.net

Love & Gelato

Jenna Evans Welch

Simon Pulse, 2016

389 pages

SUMMARY:

Lina and her mom have always been very close. So when Lina's mom dies of cancer and her last wish is for Lina to spend the summer in Italy with her long lost dad, Lina reluctantly agrees. Determined to get the visit over with and return back home to Seattle, Lina tries not to get whisked away by the wonder that is Florence, Italy. After receiving her mom's journal of her time in Italy, Lina decides to visit all of the places her mom did and try to see Italy through her eyes. She meets a guy that offers to help her on her quests and the two become quite close. Lina starts to realize that her mom did not tell her everything and she has some big choices to make about the rest of her life.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *The Moon and More*, Sarah Dessen
- *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Instructions for a Broken Heart*, Kim A. Culbertson
- *One Thing Stolen*, Beth Kephart
- *Girl out of Water*, Laura Silverman

WEBSITES:

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

Travel website for Florence, Italy, <https://www.visitflorence.com/> Great site to see the wonders of Italy for yourself.

Gelato website, <http://www.italylogue.com/food-drink/italian-gelato-flavors-decoded.html> This site explains the different flavors of Italian Gelato.

BOOKTALK:

Carolina, Lina as she prefers to be called, has just had her world turned upside down. Her mother, who she has always been very close with, died from cancer. To make matters worse, her mom's dying wish is for Lina to go spend the summer in Italy with her father that she has never even talked about, much less met. Lina reluctantly goes to Italy, only to find the wonders of Florence hard to resist. She receives her mother's journal and decides to see Italy through the eyes of her mom. She quickly realizes why her mom loved it so much and falls in love herself. This book has a magical tour of Italy, the excitement of first loves, and even has a little mystery thrown in, as Lina tries to discover the secrets of her mom's relationship with her dad. If you enjoy reading about wonderful places and heartfelt relationships, then *Love & Gelato* is a book for you!

Mighty Jack

Ben Hatke

Publisher, year of publication

208 pages

SUMMARY:

Jack's responsibility is to watch his little sister who never talks. The one time she does talk is at the market. She tells Jack to sell their mom's car and buy mysterious beans. Once the beans are planted, a normal little garden starts to grow. When the small garden grows into a wild, magical jungle with vegetables that come alive.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Dragons Beware!*, Jorge Aguirre
- *The Stratford Zoo Midnight Revue Presents Romeo and Juliet*, Ian Lendler
- *Secret Coders*, Gene Luen Yang

WEBSITES:

<https://us.macmillan.com/mightyjack/benhatke/9781626722644/>- This website has an example of the book.

<http://www.benhatke.com/>- The author's website, more about the author.

<https://www.amazon.com/Ben-Hatke/e/B0042G72WC>- The author's Biography and more books by him.

BOOKTALK:

Jack may be the only kid in the world who's not excited for summer. Until one day at the market, his sister, who has autism, talks. They end up buying magical beans that grows into a wild jungle. The book ends making you excited and exhilarated to read the next book.

Prepared by:

Kara Loyd, Kennedy Middle, kmloyd@yahoo.com

The Only Road

Alexandra Diaz

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2016

320 pages

SUMMARY:

Twelve-year-old Jaime and his cousin Angela make the dangerous journey from their home in Guatemala to his older brother in New Mexico after his cousin Miguel is murdered by a drug cartel.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Refugee*, Alan Gratz
- *The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition*, Reyna Grande
- *Crossing the Wire*, Will Hobbs

WEBSITES:

Alexandra Diaz, <https://alexandra-diaz.com/> Visit author Alexandra Diaz's website to learn more about the author, her books and recent news.

Alexandra Diaz Youtube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LSmgOhJ-7Y> Watch the book trailer for the book.

BOOKTALK:

Follow Jaime and his cousin Angela as they set off on a journey that will take them out of their small Guatemalan village to the United State. The cousins are trying to escape dangerous local gang members intent on making them join their ranks or death if they refuse. Jaime and Angela's families have provided them with their life savings and more for the journey, but will it be enough to face the challenges along the way? Read *The Only Road* to walk in the shoes of these young, brave people in search of hope and a future.

Prepared by:

Lorena Swetnam, Blythewood Middle School, lswetnam@richland2.org

Soar

Joan Bauer
Puffin Books, 2016
320 pages

SUMMARY:

Jeremy is in 6th grade and has a heart for baseball. He must face many challenges including a heart transplant, and as a result, he may no longer play ball. Now his dreams are crushed. But maybe things will change when his adoptive father moves them to a new town with a baseball team. Perhaps Jeremiah can coach and still be a part of the baseball life? Then a scandal unfolds that might ruin the team.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Screaming at the Ump*, Audrey Vernick
- *A Diamond in the Desert*, Kathryn Fitzmaurice
- *Plunked*, Michael Northrop
- *The Walk On*, John Feinstein
- *New Kid*, Tim Green

WEBSITES:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PK6fXI-FLk> meet author Joan Bauer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIPKL6enUrY> interview with Joan about her book *Soar*

<http://joanbauer.com/books/soar/> Joan Bauer's website

Link to book trailers:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWXsO3i8ZOE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4IRsZaqyts4>

BOOKTALK:

If you are a baseball fan then this is the book for you. In fact, even if you aren't a sports fan at all, this book has a touching storyline which will cause the reader to empathize with the main character and the struggles he faces. You will be pulling for him and later his new baseball team throughout the book.

Some Kind of Courage

Dan Gemeinhart
Scholastic Press, 2016
234 pages

SUMMARY:

The only thing orphaned Joseph has left is his beloved pony, Sarah, so when she is sold by cruel Mr. Grissom, the boy sets out to find her. Joseph's encounters along the way in rugged 1890 Washington State include an abandoned Chinese boy, a bear, and log-jammed river rapids. With his mother's advice always in his thoughts and a heart as big as the wild young state, Joseph stays true to his mission to be reunited with Sarah.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Small as an Elephant*, Jennifer Jacobson
- *The Honest Truth*, Dan Gemeinhart
- *Summer of the Wolves*, Polly Carlson-Voiles
- *Beyond the Bright Sea*, Lauren Wolk
- *Mr. Tucket*, Gary Paulsen

WEBSITES:

Dan Gemeinhart, <http://dangemeinhart.com> Limited information, but author bio and contact information are helpful.

**Some Kind of Courage* at Teachingbooks.net (*available through subscription),

<https://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=49249> Author interview, book trailer, teaching ideas, and more

*If unable to access Teachingbooks, the websites below are available:

Reader's Theater Script from Bound To Stay Bound Books,

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MNW8e11lw06molbB26wJoSfq6VNYeb9bwi6UNY2xOk/edit>

Some Kind of Courage Teaching Resources from Texas Bluebonnet Award 2017-2018,

<https://texasbluebonnetaward2018.wordpress.com/some-kind-of-courage/>

Includes activities and Makerspaces ideas

Author Interview at <http://deborahkalbbooks.blogspot.com/2016/05/q-with-dan-gemeinhart.html>

"Chinese Immigrants" at Washington State History museum,

<http://www.washingtonhistory.org/files/library/chineseImmigrants.pdf> History of Chinese immigrants in Washington State in the 1800s

BOOKTALK:

"All I needed was the money. And the gun. And then to hit the trail running" (2). With the old man behind him and Dutch John and Joseph's pony Sarah already hours gone, Joseph begins his fearless, relentless mission to get his "sweet Sarah" back. Escaping from the old man proves to be the easiest part of the quest, though. With his new-found friend Ah-kee, Joseph faces down an angry grizzly bear, loses his pants, delivers a baby, ties up a horse thief, and more. Throughout the journey, the memories of his mother and sister, dead from typhoid, and his father, killed in a bizarre accident, guide Joseph to follow his father's advice: "If there's something that's got to be done, then the thing to do is just buckle down and do it as best you can" (88). But will doing his best be enough to get back his "sweet Sarah"?

Prepared by:

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We Will Not Be Silent

Russell Freedman
Clarion House, 2016
104 pages

SUMMARY:

This nonfiction selection traces the growing disillusionment with Hitler and the Nazis by siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl, as well as their university friends. The students become active resisters by publishing and distributing pamphlets exposing the Third Reich's abuses and calling for an end to the regime. Willing to die for their belief in freedom, the students eventually become targets of the Gestapo.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Hitler Youth*, Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *The Boy Who Dared*, Susan Campbell Bartoletti
- *The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*, John Boyne
- *Projekt 1065*, Alan Gratz
- *Prisoner B-3087*, Alan Gratz
- *The Plot To Kill Hitler*, Patricia McCormick

WEBSITES:

“White Rose” at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum,”

<https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007188#>

An overview of the White Rose Society

“Nazis Slaughtered My Brother and Sister with a Guillotine” in *The Daily Mail*,

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2541753/Nazis-slaughtered-brother-sister-guillotine-German-woman-93-tells-siblings-defied-Hitler-death-treason-1943.html>.

An interview with the remaining sibling of Hans and Sophie Scholl.

BOOKTALK:

The end of the story of Hans and Sophie Scholl and the other members of the White Rose Society is really a beginning. The college students in Nazi Germany have started a resistance movement that Hitler and the Gestapo cannot stop with arrests and the guillotine. With just a typewriter and paper, the brave group of friends inspire others to, as Sophie tells the judge who will determine whether she lives or dies, to overcome their fears and say what is true. “I would do it all over again – because I am not wrong” (72).

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Wolf Hollow

Lauren Wolk

Dutton Children's Books, 2016

291 pages

SUMMARY:

Twelve year old Annabelle lived a simple yet idyllic life in a rural Pennsylvania town during World War II. This all changed the day Betty Glengarry moved to town to stay with her grandparents. Betty slowly begins to manipulate, lie and bully her way through each day. Her bullying takes a serious turn when she makes false accusations against Toby, a recluse and World War I veteran. Annabelle must step out of her comfort zone and do the right thing to set the record straight, in this sad tale of bullying and justice that comes too late.

IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, TRY...

- *Full Cicada Moon*, Marilyn Hilton
- *The Paper Cowboy*, Kristin Levine
- *Paper Wishes*, Lois Sepahban
- *Some Kind of Courage*, Dan Gemeinhart

WEBSITES:

Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center,

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/sites-for-kids-and-teens.asp>, Many anti-bullying resources for tweens and teens.

Lauren Wolk, www.laurenwolk.com, The author shares information about her novels, poetry and artwork, as well as her personal life.

Taste of Home, <https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/hickory-nut-pie>, Try your hand at making a hickory nut pie, just like Annabelle experienced.

BOOKTALK:

“The year I turned twelve I learned how to lie. I don't mean the small fibs that children tell. I mean real lies fed by real fears – things I said and did that took me out of the life I'd always known and put me down hard into a new one.” These are the words of Annabelle, spoken in the autumn of 1943, in a small Pennsylvania town. This is the year that Annabelle faces bullying at its worst. This is the year that Annabelle faces death and grief. But this is also the year that Annabelle digs down deep and learns the power of her own voice and a supportive family.

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