

***BOOK AWARDS: BEHIND THE SCENES
WITH EXAMPLES!***

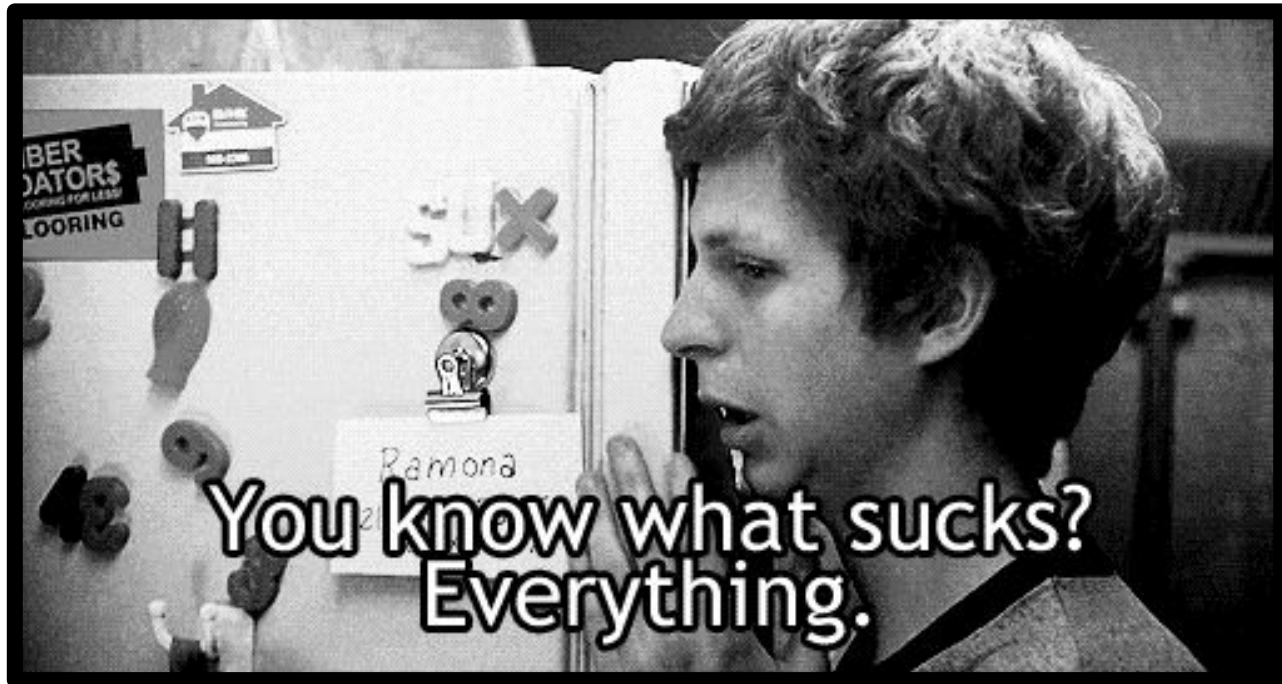
MITTEN, YOU PER, THUMBS UP



***SERVING ON THE
THUMBS UP
AWARD
COMMITTEE***

OR AS I PREFER TO CALL IT:

ADVENTURES IN ANGST



You know what sucks?
Everything.

IS THERE AN ECHO IN HERE...

THE SAME FOR ALL THREE AWARDS:

CHAIRPERSON CREATES SPREADSHEET OF BOOKS TO READ

- FICTION, NONFICTION, POETRY, OR GRAPHIC NOVEL
- PUBLISHED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR
- 2 OR MORE STAR REVIEWS FROM BOOKLIST, KIRKUS, HORN, AND SLJ
- LIBRARIAN AND PUBLISHER NOMINATIONS

READING

- ONCE YOU READ A TITLE YOU INSERT YOUR INITIALS AND COMMENTS ON THE SPREADSHEET
- NO, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO READ EVERY TITLE (IF YOU GET HALF WAY AND IT SUCKS, STOP OR IF 5 OTHER PEOPLE HAVE HATED IT DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME)

NARROWING IT DOWN TO TEN

- EVERYONE SUBMITS TOP TEN
- YOUR NUMBER ONE PICK GETS TEN POINTS, SECOND PICK GETS NINE POINTS, ETC.



SO WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE THUMBS UP...

CRITERIA:

- TEEN BOOKS (13-18 YEARS OF AGE)
- APPEALING TO WIDE AUDIENCE
 - BOYS AND GIRLS
- SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR THE YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S **MICHAEL L. PRINTZ AWARD**
 - NOT FOCUSED ON POPULARITY OR MESSAGE
 - LITERARY EXCELLENCE
 - QUALITY STORY, VOICE, CHARACTERS, SETTING, THEME, ETC.

THERE ARE GREAT
BOOKS IN THE WORLD



AND GREAT WORLDS
IN BOOKS

SO WHAT'S UNIQUE ABOUT THE THUMBS UP...

VOTING:

- TEENS ACTUALLY CHOOSE THE WINNER
 - COMMITTEE TURNS IN TOP TEN BY
END OF FEBRUARY
 - FROM MARCH TO MAY TEENS
CAN VOTE ONLINE

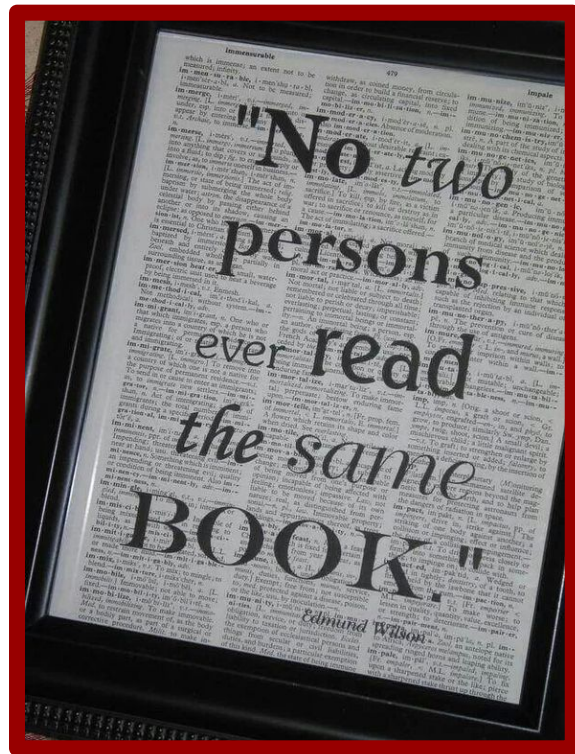


SO, ON TO SOME HITS AND MISSES...

REMEMBER, READING IS A SUBJECTIVE SPORT

WE ALL HAVE BOOKS THAT WE LOVE
AND OTHER PEOPLE HATE AND VICE VERSA

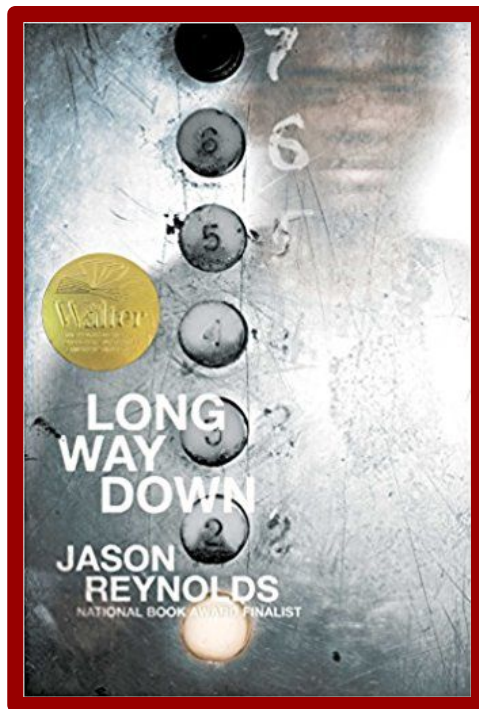
HEARING OTHER READERS' OPINIONS IS
ONE OF THE BEST PARTS ABOUT SERVING
ON AN AWARD COMMITTEE!



THUMBS UP (AT LEAST IN MY OPINION)

THE ONES YOU ALREADY KNOW:

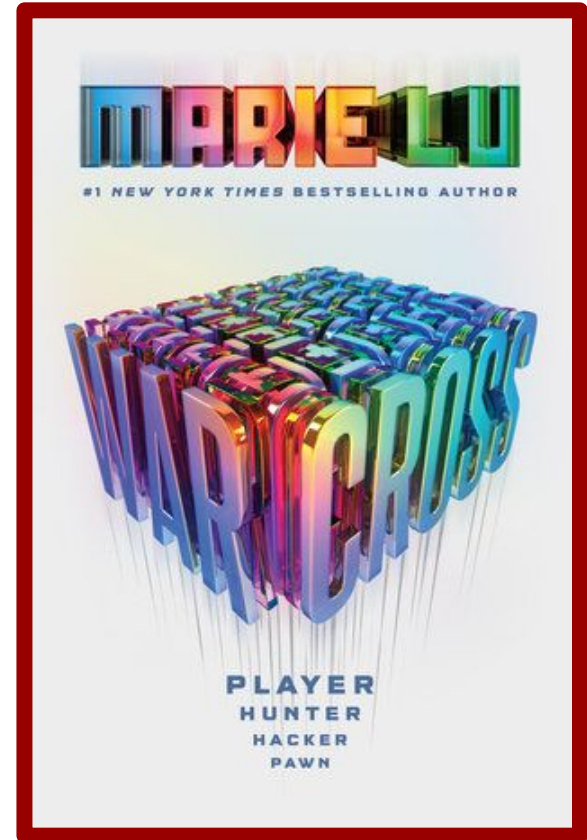
- POWERFUL
- UNIQUE
- TIMELY
- THOUGHT-PROVOKING
- APPEALING TO BOYS, GIRLS, TEENS, ADULTS
- IF YOU HAVE NOT READ YET PICK UP NOW!



THUMBS UP (AT LEAST IN MY OPINION)

FOR FANS OF READY PLAYER ONE:

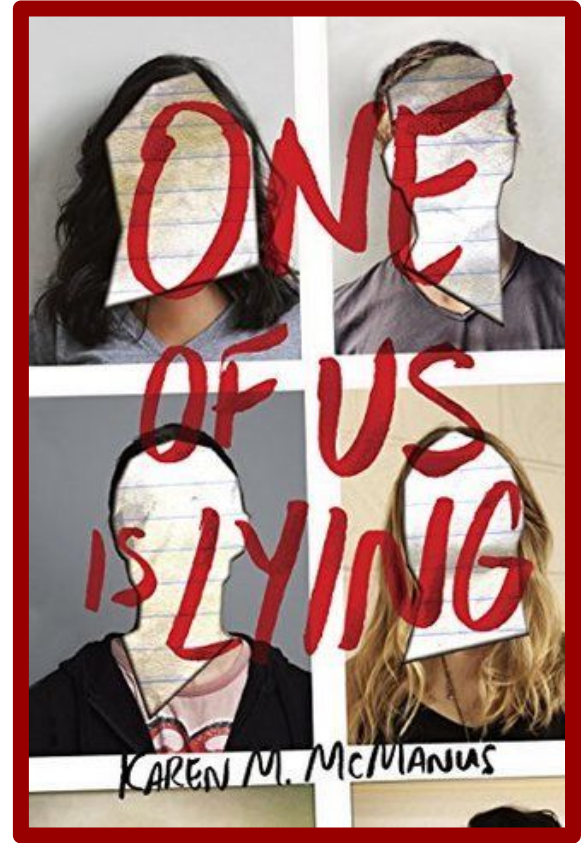
- AWESOME HEROINE
 - GIRLS ARE GAMERS TOO!
- EXCITING
- TONS OF TEEN APPEAL



THUMBS UP (AT LEAST IN MY OPINION)

BREAKFAST CLUB MEETS AGATHA CHRISTIE:

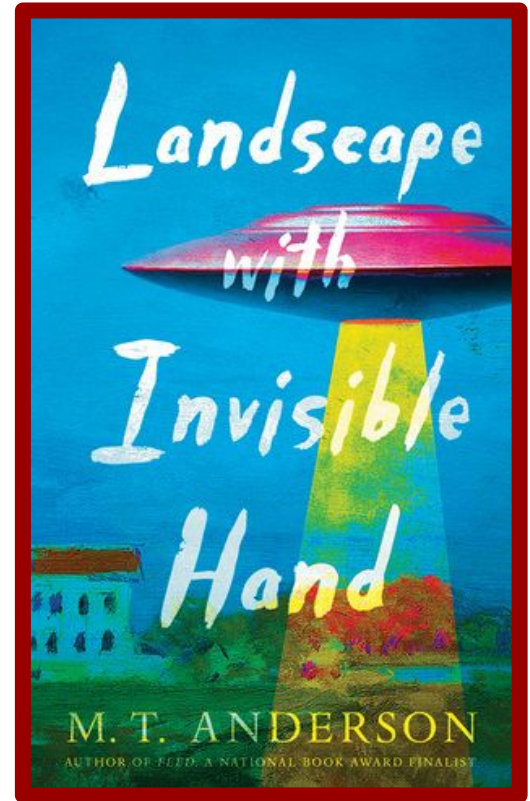
- UNIQUE AND DIVERSE CAST OF CHARACTERS
- INTRIGUING MYSTERY
- TONS OF TEEN APPEAL



OKAY, ONE LAST HIT (I CAN'T HELP MYSELF)

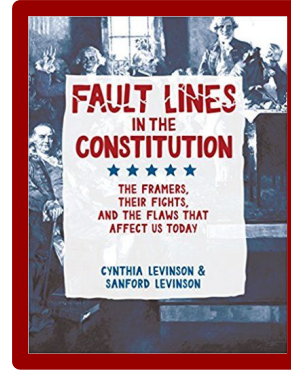
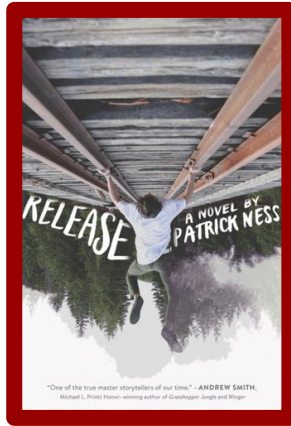
SCI-FI BLACK COMEDY

- SUPER QUIRKY
- QUICK READ WITH A SURPRISING AMOUNT OF DEPTH
- SOME READERS THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS "TOO WEIRD" BUT I LOVED IT!

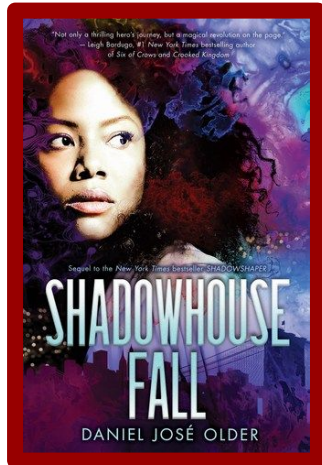


AND NOW FOR SOME MISSES...

BEAUTIFUL WRITING BUT NO
INTERSECTION BETWEEN
THE TWO STORYLINES

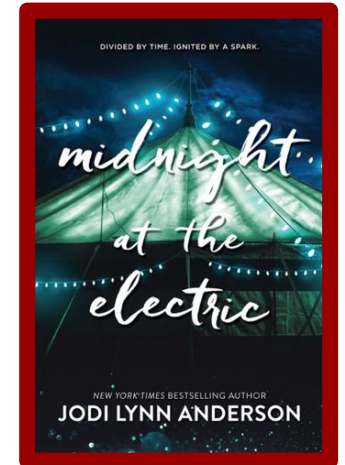


WELL-RESEARCHED AND INTERESTING
BUT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET
TEENS TO READ FOR FUN
RECOMMEND TO TEACHERS!!!!

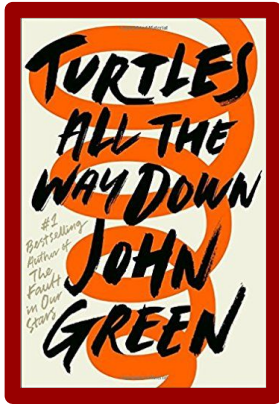


NOT A
STAND-ALONE
STORY

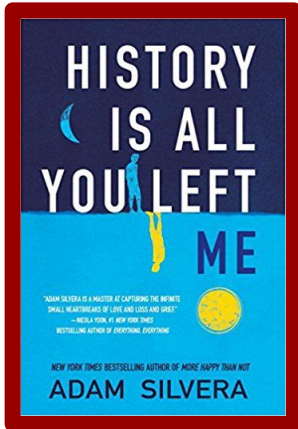
NOT BAD BUT NOT GREAT
ZERO BOY APPEAL
NOT ENOUGH SCI-FI



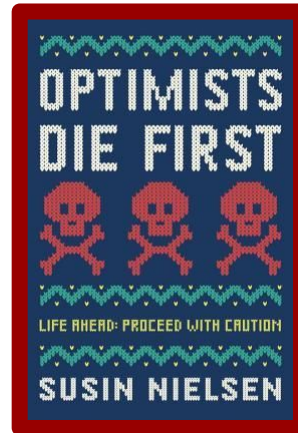
MIXED REVIEWS...



PLEASE DON'T THROW THINGS AT ME!
GREEN NAILED THE DEPICTION OF OCD
OTHER THAN THAT, PRETENTIOUS AND
UNREALISTIC



UGH! SO BORING!
TOO MUCH TEEN ROMANCE
AND DRAMA FOR ME
MAIN CHARACTER WAS JUST
IRRITATING



I ADORE SUSIN NIELSEN'S WRITING
MASTER AT MELDING HUMOR AND SORROW
AUTHENTIC AND HEARTFELT
OTHER READERS THOUGHT THAT IT WAS
JUST OKAY: (

TEEN VOTING HAS BEGUN!!!!!!

TEENS CAN VOTE MARCH 1ST-MAY 31ST
ON MLA WEBSITE

PRINTABLE PDF THAT YOU CAN DISPLAY
IN YOUR LIBRARIES!

OR FEEL FREE TO COPY MY BOOKMARKS
I WILL GLADLY SHARE THEM WITH YOU

EMAIL ME AT JSLISHER@PORTLANDMILIBRARY.COM



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018ThumbsUpTeenVote>

SERVING ON THE *YOUUPER*

(OR YOUNG PERSON)

AWARD COMMITTEE

WHICH IS GIVEN TO RECOGNIZE AND PROMOTE QUALITY LITERATURE IN CHAPTER BOOK
FORMAT



- NO

CRITERIA:

CHILDREN'S FICTION OR NONFICTION WITH OR WITHOUT ILLUSTRATIONS

- PUBLISHED DURING CALENDAR YEAR
- PUBLISHED ORIGINALLY IN UNITED STATES
- ALSO NOTABLE BOOK GUIDELINES:
 - ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY
 - VENTURESOME CREATIVITY
 - REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST
 - ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST
 - UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE



HOW IT BEGINS...

CHAIRPERSON PULLS TOGETHER INITIAL LIST OF BOOKS TO READ FROM BOOKS THAT HAVE RECEIVED 2 OR MORE STARS FROM THESE JOURNALS: SLJ, HORN BOOK, BOOK LIST, KIRKUS*

MICHIGAN LIBRARIANS CAN ALSO NOMINATE ANY CHAPTER BOOK THAT MEETS THE GUIDELINES THAT THEY BELIEVE IS A POTENTIAL WINNER

PUBLISHERS CAN SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

*<https://goo.gl/FRsZYy>



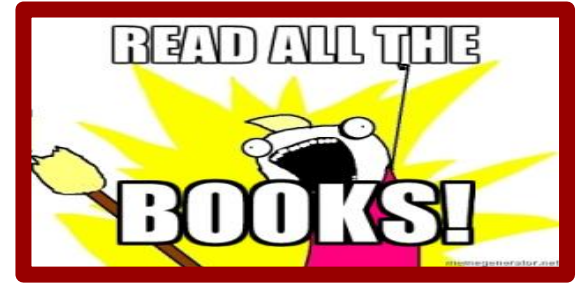
THE READING...

CHAIRPERSON HAS CREATED A [SPREADSHEET](#) LIST OF TITLES. ONCE A MEMBER HAS READ A TITLE THEY INITIAL THAT THEY HAVE DONE SO AND SHARE COMMENTS ABOUT THE TITLE

***MISCONCEPTION - THAT YOU HAVE TO READ EVERY BOOK

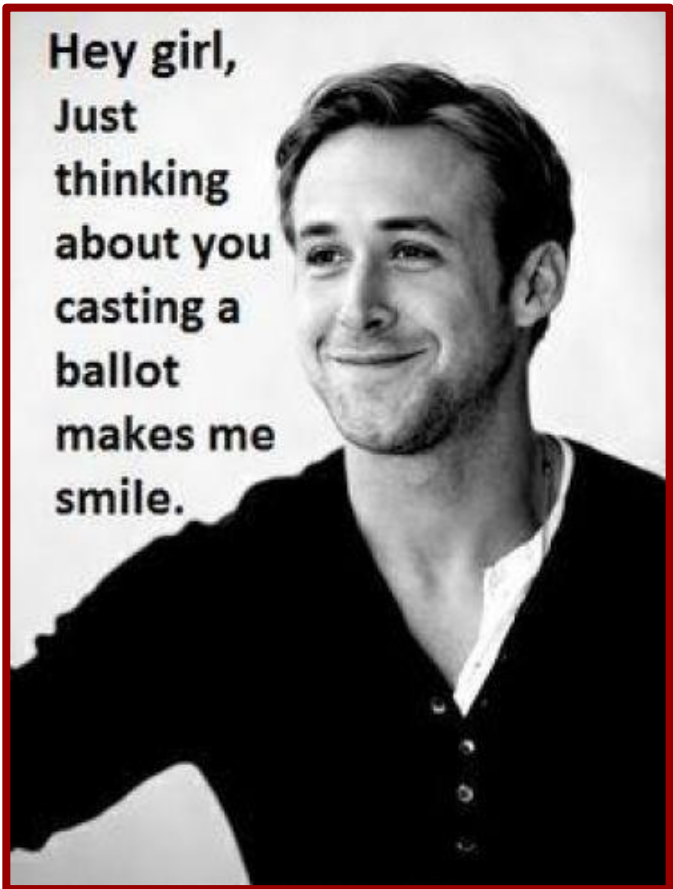
- YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ EVERY BOOK - AT SOME POINT THERE WILL BE SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO HAVE READ A BOOK AND HATED IT (A MISS!) AND YOU CAN PRETTY MUCH TELL IT WON'T MAKE THE TOP TEN. NOT EVERYONE HAS TO READ THOSE BOOKS.

BECAUSE, THE WAY THE WINNER IS CHOSEN PRETTY MUCH NARROWS DOWN THE FIELD OF POTENTIAL WINNERS



THE VOTING...

Hey girl,
Just
thinking
about you
casting a
ballot
makes me
smile.



EVERY MEMBER OF THE WORK GROUP TURNS IN A TOP TEN LIST
-JANUARY

EVERYONE'S NUMBER ONE BOOK IS GIVEN 10 POINTS,
EVERYONE'S SECOND CHOICE IS GIVEN 9 POINTS, ETC. ETC.

*SO, INTERESTINGLY, IT MAY END UP THAT IF ENOUGH PEOPLE PUT
A BOOK IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR LIST, IT COULD BE NUMBER ONE,
BEATING ONE THAT FEWER PEOPLE READ, BUT GAVE A 10.

AND SO, WE ALL MAKE SURE WE'VE READ THE TOP 10 BEFORE WE
VOTE AGAIN FOR THE FINAL TIME

HITS AND MISSES

I'M NOT JUDGING THE QUALITY OF THE BOOKS IN THIS PRESENTATION, BUT I'M JUST POINTING OUT HOW SOME FIT THE CRITERIA BETTER THAN OTHERS.

SOME HITS....AND SOME MISSES...

FOREVER OR A LONG, LONG TIME BY CAELA CARTER



LOVED THIS BOOK - DOES IT FIT THE CRITERIA? C. 2017 US, YOUTH CHAPTER BOOK,

- ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY YES
- VENTURSOME CREATIVITY YES
- REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST MMMMM
- ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST IT COULD
- UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE ABSOLUTELY

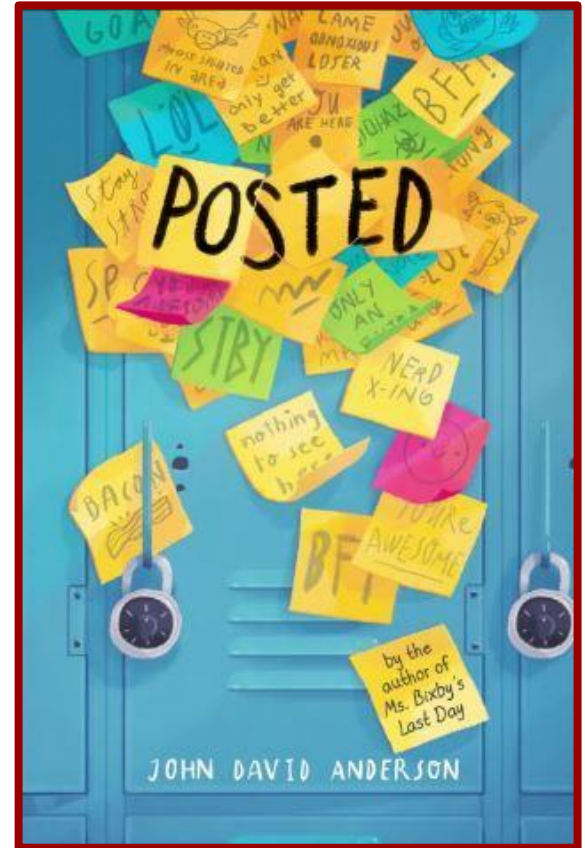
IT MIGHT NOT HAVE THE WIDEST APPEAL TO KIDS, BECAUSE OF SUBJECT MATTER. THIS BOOK WOULD BE PERFECT TO HAND TO A CHILD WHO KIND OF GREW UP IN THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM. IT WOULD MEAN SOMETHING TO THEM. IT MIGHT NOT HAVE AS WIDE OF APPEAL WITH KIDS WHO GREW UP IN A TWO-PARENT, ECONOMICALLY STABLE ENVIRONMENT

POSTED BY JOHN DAVID ANDERSON

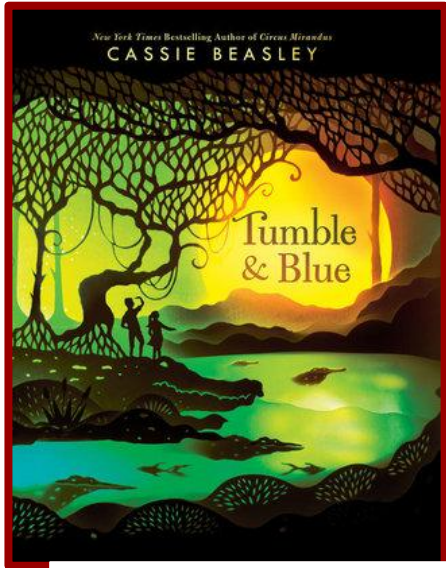
- ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY YES
- VENTURESOME CREATIVITY YES
- REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST YES
- ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST YES
- UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE MMMMMM

TYPICAL MIDDLE GRADE THEMES BUT IN A FUN AND CREATIVE PRESENTATION!

THIS ONE WAS ONE OF MY FAVORITES!



TUMBLE AND BLUE BY CASSIE BEASLEY



- ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY NO
- VENTURESOME CREATIVITY NO
- REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST MAYBE?
- ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST NOT REALLY
- UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE MAYBE?

TRIED AND TRIED AND TRIED TO READ. COULDN'T GET INTO IT.

OTHER PEOPLE COMMENTED - BOTH NEGATIVE, SO THIS IS HOW WE START TO NARROW THE CHOICES DOWN

Some of our comments:

Major Meh. Plot was all over the place, and I hated the ending. The voices between characters were distinct, but I listened to the audio so that helps. Overall really not a fan.

Started it and could not finish. I put it down and had zero desire to pick it up again.

HELLO UNIVERSE BY ERIN KELLY ENTRADA

- ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY MAYBE
- VENTURESOME CREATIVITY NO
- REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST YES
- ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST MMMMM
- UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE TYPICAL THEMES

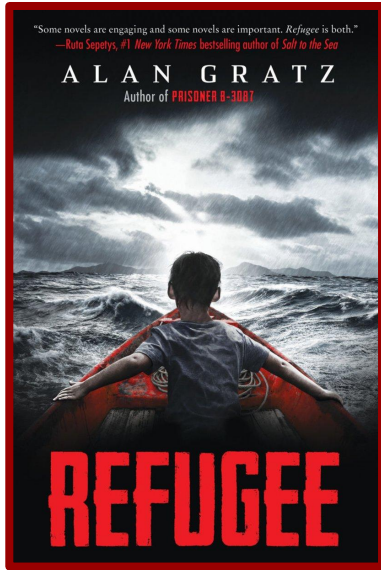


VERY INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE CAST OF CHARACTERS, AND WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A COMPELLING STORY, BUT IT WASN'T A SUPERSTAR :(- *AND YET IT WINS THE NEWBERY. DIFFERENT STROKES . . .*

SOME OF OUR COMMENTS:

— CUTE STORY VERY MUCH ABOUT FATE AND FRIENDSHIP. IT IS WRITTEN FROM A FEW DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND TOUCHES ON LIFE WITH DISABILITY. I LIKED IT, BUT I DIDN'T LOVE IT. - *I AGREE, THIS WAS A WELL-TOLD STORY WITH SOME IMPORTANT THEMES, BUT IT WASN'T OUTSTANDING.*

REFUGEE BY ALAN GRATZ



- ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE QUALITY YES
- VENTURESOME CREATIVITY YES
- REFLECT CHILDREN'S INTEREST MAYBE - PAGE TURNER
- ENCOURAGE CHILDREN'S INTEREST YES
- UNIQUE AND OR INNOVATIVE YES

SO RELEVANT TODAY AND SUCH GRIPPING STORIES, ALL RELATED, INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY WIN

AND THIS ONE DOESN'T EVEN GET AN HONOR BOOK IN THE YMA'S

IN SUMMATION...

- VOLUNTEER FOR THESE COMMITTEES! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS, MARCH 21-APRIL 27
- NOT AS INTIMIDATING AS THEY SEEM
- SO MUCH FUN AND HELP WITH READER'S ADVISORY
- GREAT THING TO PUT ON YOUR RESUME
- TECHNICALLY, YOU ONLY HAVE TO MEET IN PERSON ONE TIME - BUT IT'S FUN TO MEET MORE THAN THAT!
- GET TO KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES



The Mitten Award

A Look
at an MLA Work Group
thru the Year

-
- Call for volunteers 3/21 - 4/27
 - Application process
 - Assignments confirmed by May
 - 1st meeting in June/July
 - The work begins...





2017-2018 Mitten Work Group

- ★ Amanda Vorce
- ★ Audra Eddy
- ★ Dawn Heerspink
- ★ Janice Heilman
- ★ Kathy Merucci
- ★ Kristy Zeluff
- ★ Marta-Kate Jackson
- ★ Patricia Ballard
- ★ Paulina Poplawska
- ★ Stephanie Lyon/Williams
- ★ Stewart Fritz

100+



- Published in the current year
- In person, phone, Google
- 1st published in the USA
- 2 starred reviews, at least
- Publisher nominations
- Nominations by librarians
- **PICTURE BOOK FORMAT**



2nd MEETING

- Top Test Titles (TTTs) practice!
- 48 TTTs (11 voters)
- Why two eyes?
- Woo your cohorts...

150+







271



3rd MEETING coming up

- Mitten criteria
- Ideal Mitten Winner...
- Contenders brought to the table
- Trust among members
- **More publisher nominations!**



Sidewalk Flowers
Jon Arno Lawson Sydney Smith

A small illustration of two dandelions with yellow heads and green stems, positioned between the author and illustrator names.

4th meeting



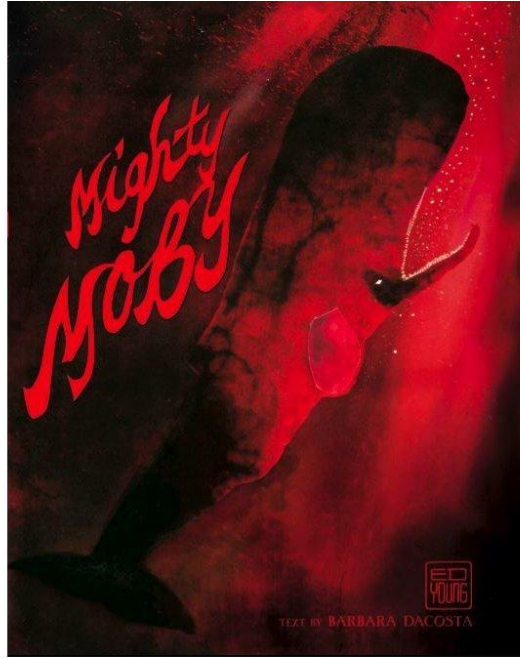
- TTT vote prior to February
- 11 voters, short list
- TTT brought to the table
- New discoveries





- And the Winner is...
- Presentation of The Mitten Award
- Confidentiality
- High Fives - WHY?
- Another year?

Lookie here, but...



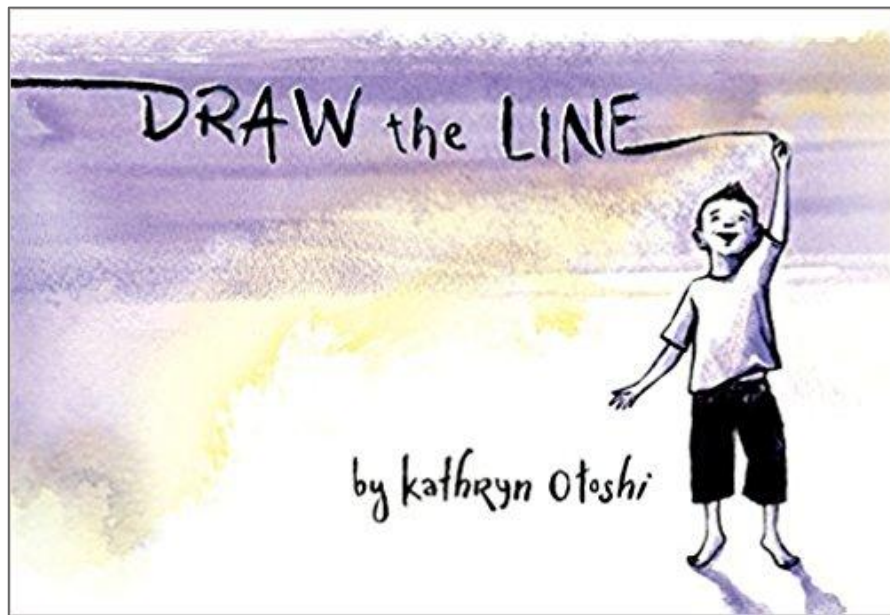
By Barbara DaCosta
& Ed Young

OOPS.

- ★ K, SLJ
- Bloody horror!
- Sophisticated art --
too sophisticated?
- Kid appeal?
- Audience?

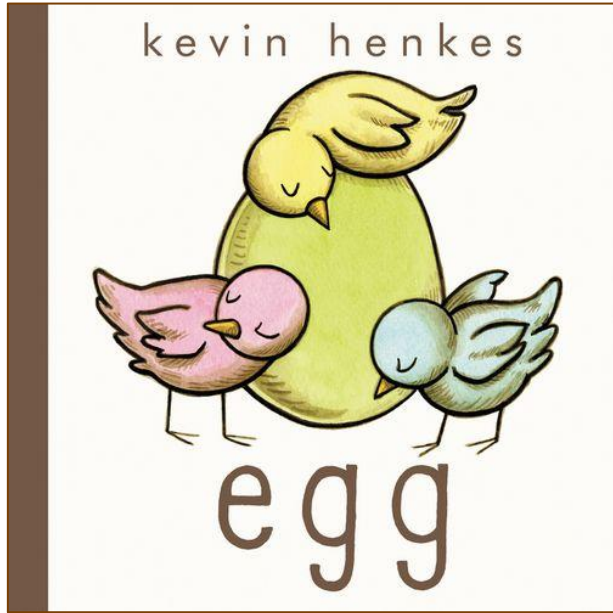
Lookie here, but...

OOPS.



- ★ K, SLJ
- Boring
- Predictable
- Harold, but no fun
- Beautiful colors

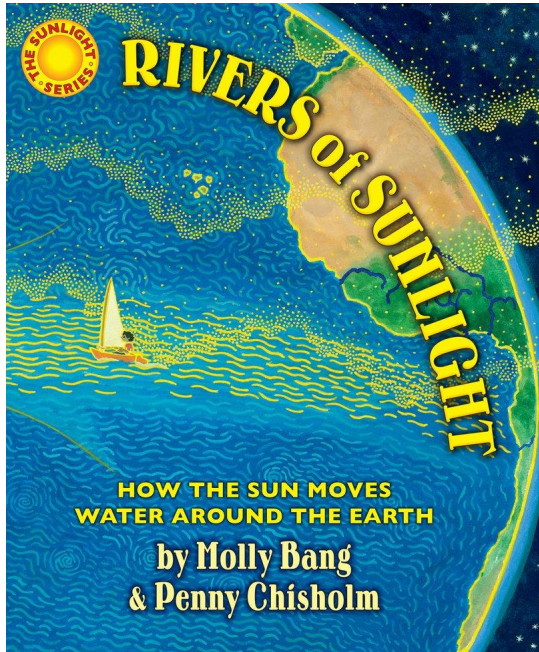
Lookie here, but...



OOPS.

- ★ H, K, PW, SLJ
- Can wordless be literary?
- Aw, so sweet...
- Enough narrative?
- Flow with hiccups

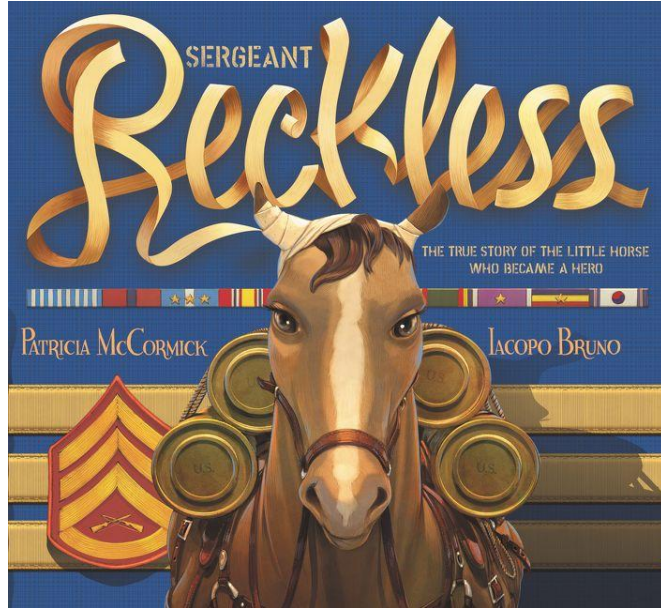
Lookie here, but...



OOPS.

- ★ B, H, K, PW, SLJ
- Visually difficult
- Is this nonfiction?
- Successful?
- For whom?

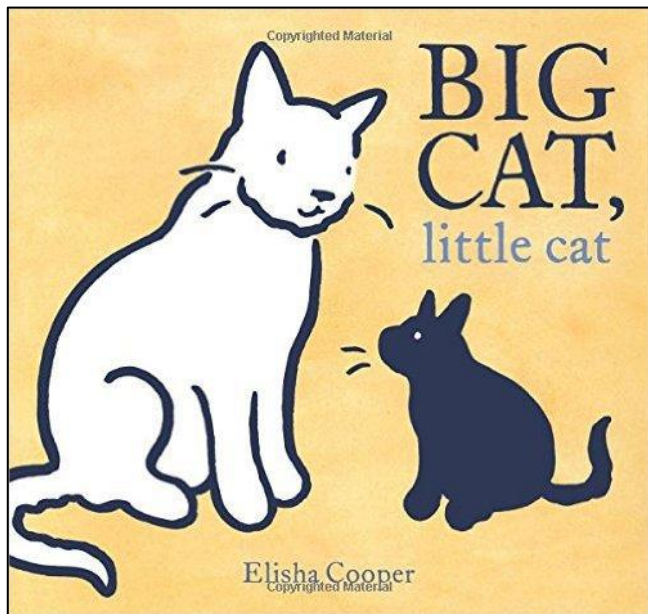
Lookie here, and...



WOW!

- ★ B, PW
- Art embellishes narrative
- Unique story
- Vast appeal
- Want to read more?

Lookie here, and...

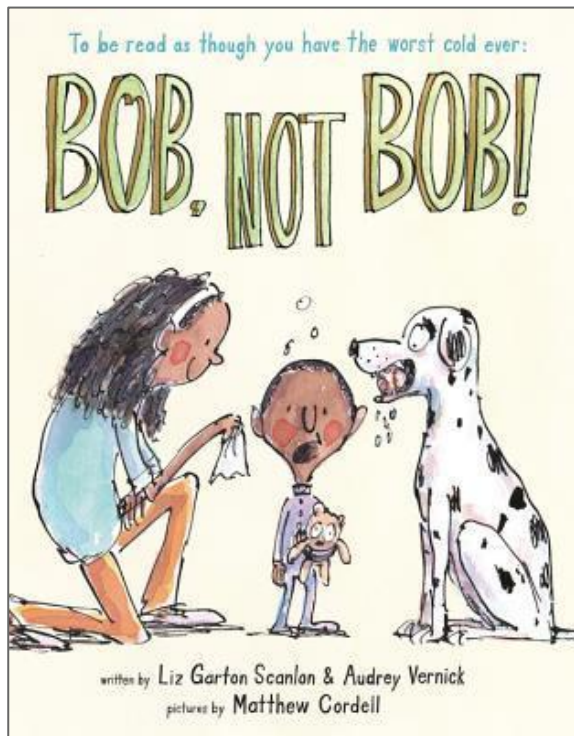


WOW!

- ★ H, K, PW, SLJ
- Right on
- Everyone can relate
- Dynamic interplay
between text &
illustrations
- Lasting effect

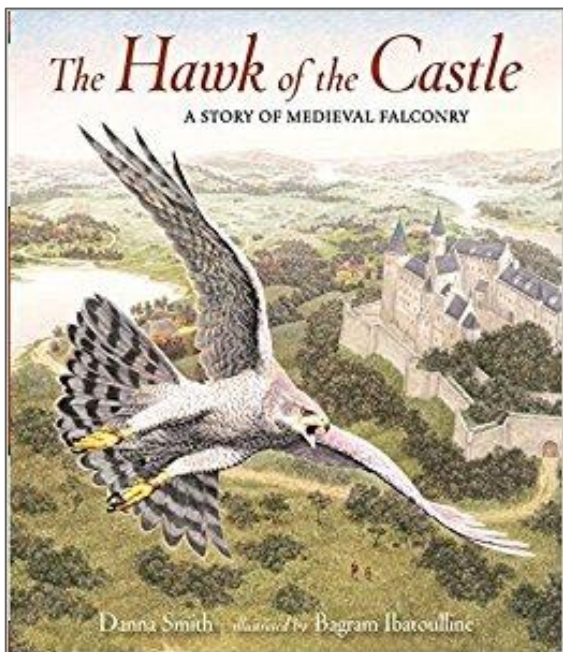
Lookie here, and...

WOW!



- ★ H, PW
- “Bawd abbeel”
- Illustration style
embellishes text
- Lighthearted misery
- New discoveries with
each read

Lookie here, and...



By Dana Smith
& Bagram Ibatoulline

WOW!

- ★ PW, SLJ
- Exquisitely rendered illustrations
- Illustrations *and* text inform
- Unique topic
- Literary nonfiction
- Multilayered

