

## FICTION

### **Ata, Iasmin Omar. "Wallflower" 2026**

Marlena's overwhelming feelings and anxiety are beautifully conveyed through colorful artwork that bleeds off the page in this coming-of-age graphic novel. Recommended for fans of "How to Talk to Your Succulent," "The Witches of Pepperwood Bay" or the film "The Colors Within."

**J GN ATA**

### **Babbitt, Natalie. "Tuck Everlasting" 2025**

K. Woodman-Maynard adapts and illustrates "this timeless story about immortality, friendship, and growing up" in a sepia-style watercolor reminiscent of Babbitt's own original edition jacket painting. Backmatter includes a page from an early draft of the original text, a conversation between K. Woodman-Maynard and Lucy Babbitt, and a "making of" section detailing the adaptation process.

**J GN BABBITT (PopNow)**

### **Bagley, Jessixa. "Jazzy the Witch in Broom Doom" 2025**

This diverse and inclusive tale about feeling you don't fit in, is presented in an accessible cartoony style with loads of onomatopoeia, as well as colors and shading extending past the lines, sometimes right out of the panels. Recommended for fans of "The Worst Witch" or "Kiki's Delivery Service."

**J GN BAGLEY (PopNow)**

### **Birdsall, Jeanne. "The Library of Unruly Treasures" 2025**

Birdsall slowly drifts from the grounded literary fiction of her renowned "Penderwicks" series into magical realism featuring Lahdukan, tiny, winged creatures in dire need of the young Gwen Mackinnon's aid. Recommended for fans of "The Borrowers," "Hilda" or readers graduating from Daisy Meadow's "Rainbow Magic" series.

**J FIC BIRDSALL; J PLAYAWAY BIRDSALL; LIBBY eBook, eAudiobook**

### **Black, Ryan James. "The Dark Times of Nimble Nottingham" 2025**

Set during the London Blitz, this historical horror tale expertly executes the "Oops! I Released a Monster" trope to good effect. This isn't a novel for the fainthearted. But middle-grade readers who enjoy fast-paced adventures set in notoriously perilous eras of the past will find themselves rooting for Nim and his ever-increasing group of orphaned allies.

**J FIC BLACK (PopNow)**

**Bragg, Sam. "Hooves of Death" 2025**

What this zombie apocalypse really needs is more Unicorns! "Who knew unicorns could kick so much tail? Saddle up for a grim, glittering, and gory ride!" Recommended for fans of "The Last Kids on Earth" or readers who wish "Phoebe and her Unicorn" were a little more hardcore.

**J GN BRAGG**

**Callans, Jess. "Ollie In Between" 2025**

A Stonewall Book Award Honor Book with "clear echoes of Judy Blume." Callans' debut is an empathetic exploration of identity that will resonate with young readers carving out their own definition of self. Infused with equal amounts serious, topical conversation, and gently humorous observation, "Ollie in Between" is a middle grade classic in the making.

**J FIC CALLANS (PopNow); LIBBY eBook**

**Colbert, Brandy. "Let's Get Together" 2025**

In this nimble, winning reimagining of "The Parent Trap," Colbert examines the social and emotional effects of navigating the foster care system alongside nuanced depictions of substance reliance and children managing complex relationships with parents and caregivers.

**J FIC COLBERT (PopNow)**

**Gemeinhart, Dan. "Busted" 2025**

What do you get when a kid decides he's willing to break all the rules to save his home (so what if it is a retirement community)? "A humdinger doozy of a read filled with humor, heart, and incredible characters you won't soon forget!" —Chris Grabenstein

**J FIC GEMEINHART (PopNow); J PLAYAWAY GEMEINHART**

**Gino, Alex. "Chris Makes a Friend" 2025**

Chris doesn't want to spend summer with her grandparents and little sister, until she escapes into the woods with a book and meets Mia, who understands her in a way her family can't.

**J FIC GINO (PopNow); HOOPLA Ebooks, Audiobooks**

**Globerman, Jordana. "Soul Machine" 2025**

Follow one girl's quest to save her family's livelihood — and maybe existence itself. The ever-shifting single-color sepia pallet enhances the dystopian mood of this science fiction fairytale. Recommended for fans of "A Wrinkle in Time" or "The Phantom Tollbooth" who aren't quite ready for "The Giver."

**J GN GLOBERMAN (PopNow)**

**Gratz, Alan. "Refugee" 2025**

As different as Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are, the similarities in their stories make the tale compelling. As the narrative shuffles from the 1930s Europe to 1990s Caribbean to the 2010s Middle East, readers grow to appreciate the tragedy of the circumstances and awe in the perseverance of the human spirit. Recommended for fans of the "I Survived" series.

**J GN GRATZ (PopNow); LIBBY eBook; HOOPLA Comics**

**Gratz, Alan. "War Games" 2025**

"A Novel of 1936 Berlin," this historical fiction is set in the often-underrepresented pre-World War II Germany during the Olympic Games. The protagonist is young American athlete who is disturbed by the undertones of intimidation and violence the Nazis have cast over the capital. Rather than numbers, each chapter is headed by a bold and often ominous or intriguing title that draws readers in.

**J FIC GRATZ (PopNow); Libby eBook; HOOPLA Ebooks, Audiobooks**

**Gutman, Dan. "The Picasso Curse" 2025**

The author says, "I want my readers to think that reading my books is like watching a movie. One where you never know what's going to happen next." It's easy to say he has succeeded in this cinematic yarn about how one piece of "good luck" can set off a disastrous chain of events. Readers graduating from Gutman's "My Weird School" series who still enjoy his humor will love this stand-alone.

**J FIC GUTMAN (PopNow); HOOPLA Audiobooks**

**Hepburn, Sam. "Schoolbot 9000" 2025**

Much of the best sci-fi starts with a "What If?" question that looks at current trends and projects possible futures. "Schoolbot 9000" asks, "What if your teachers were replaced by AI-powered robots that are only interested in turning kids into grown-ups as quickly and efficiently as possible?" Only occasionally disturbing, and often funny, this read is recommended for fans of the "My teacher is an Alien" or "My Weird School" series.

**J GN HEPBURN (PopNow)**

**Hicks, Faith Erin. "Inbetweens" 2026**

Twin sisters Ash and Sloane are headed to animation camp — where their courage, drive, and sisterly bond will be put to the test. Tackling concepts of talent vs. aptitude and enthusiasm vs. passion, this book has many parallels with "Emma & Capucine" and "Hikaru in the Light."

**J GN HICKS**

**Hoàng, Brandon. "Minecraft: One Last Quest" 2025**

This standalone Minecraft adventure balances a story divided between real life and the “Kingdom of the Killer Bunnies,” a virtual world carefully constructed by Lam and their friends. When all their hard work and monument to their friendship is threatened, they must follow clues in the real world, as well as the “Overworld,” to solve a mystery. While the dilemma may feel like a non-threat to an outside perspective, the shifting interpersonal relationships provide real stakes to the drama. An obvious choice for Minecraft fans and gamers, but also a good bridge title for reluctant readers.

**J FIC MINECRAFT (PopNow)**

**Meadows, Jodi. "Confessions from the Group Chat" 2025**

A classic story of weighing being true to oneself against fitting in amongst peers, “Confessions” is a distinctly modern polemic centered around what happens when a private group chat becomes very public. A great choice for readers interested in middle grade mean girls drama. Recommended for fans of Shannon Hale’s “Best Friends,” Stephanie Faris’ “The Popularity Code” or the “Dork Diaries” series.

**J FIC MEADOWS (PopNow); HOOPLA Audiobooks**

**Mensinga, Sarah. "Kindred Dragons" 2025**

Like “Anne of Green Gables” meets “How to Train your Dragon,” this cozy fantasy’s gentle mood is enhanced by the pastoral setting, period garb, and uniquely curved panel design. With no caption or narration, Sarah Mensinga allows her dialog to breathe, and her powerful visuals do the heavy lifting. Perfect for fans of Kay O’Neill’s “The Tea Dragon Society” series, or readers who wish “Little House on the Prairie” had more dragons.

**J GN MENSINGA (PopNow); HOOPLA Comics**

**Munda, Rosaria. "Confessions of a Junior Spy" 2025**

Raised in a sanctuary hotel for spies, the daughter of one of its top agents is determined to follow in her mother’s footsteps and use her hard-won spy skills to help others. Rogue agents, assassins, lessons in spycraft, hidden weapons, and fast cars add excitement and intrigue – this tale has it all, with the hint of even more adventures to come.

**J FIC MUNDA (PopNow); HOOPLA Ebooks**

**Persico, Zoe. "How to Talk to Your Succulent" 2025**

Adara’s struggles with coping with life without her mother are altered when she inherits the ability to talk to plants. You’d be forgiven for expecting a subdued or melancholic mood given the grief allegory on hand. However, the vibrancy of the artwork displayed has a distinctly

affirmational effect. Recommended for fans of Debbie Fong's "Next Stop," Dan Santat's "The Aquanaut" or Raina Telgemier's "Ghosts."

**J GN PERSICO**

**Ransaw, Rosalyn. "Smoke & Mirrors" 2025**

Colored by the author's observations of who most often receives the benefit of the doubt, and an unshakable belief that the only difference between illusion and magic is perspective, this mystery is complete with a gripping combination of hidden doors, shocking twists, and deep emotional heart.

**J FIC RANSAW (PopNow); HOOPLA Ebooks, Audiobooks**

**Reynolds, Aaron. "Jasper Rabbit's Creepy Tales! Troubling Tonsils!" 2025**

As unusual as it is for a series to make the jump from picture book to chapter book, the dynamic team of Aaron Reynolds and Peter Brown, who brought you such classics as "Creepy Carrots," "Creepy Pair of Underwear," and "Creepy Crayon" continue to bring their trademark humor to the next level. The Twilight Zone pastiche open and close may sail over the head of young readers, but there are plenty more laughs where that came from. Only the most daring daredevil readers dare read until the creepy O'Henry twist-ending of this creepy tale.

**J FIC REYNOLDS (PopNow); LIBBY eBook**

**Russell, Rachel Renée. "Dork Diaries: Tales From a Not-So-Fabulous Life" 2025**

This full-color rerelease of the eponymous epistolary novel makes an already quick read even more accessible to reluctant readers of a whole new generation. Great for readers graduating from "Bad Kitty" or "Owl Diaries."

**J FIC RUSSELL (PopNow)**

**Salerni, Dianne K. "The Tontine Caper" 2025**

Arch humor and an incredible cast of characters keep the pages turning in this twisty-turny mystery filled with funny mishaps and misunderstandings. This dark comedy comes recommended for fans of Lemony Snicket's "Series of Unfortunate Events."

**J FIC SALERNI (PopNow); J PLAYAWAY SALERNI; LIBBY eBook; HOOPLA Audiobooks**

**Spiotto, Joey. "Max, a Little Axolotl" 2025**

If you are already a fan of the unofficial amphibious library mascot who asks a lot of questions, you're sure to fall in love with Max and his adorable cartoon friends.

**J GN SPIOTTO (PopNow); LIBBY eBook; HOOPLA Comics**

**Stine, R.L. "Nightmare on Nightmare Street" 2026**

Don't let the repetitive title fool you into thinking this is a satire. This "Nightmare" delivers fright with the same spine-tingling panache that has been giving generations "Goosebumps" for 40 years. Doubling down on the nightmare theme, Stine weaves a web of surreality where characters question whether they are even awake or stuck in a potentially unending bad dream.

**J FIC STINE**

**Wolff, Tracy. "The Aftermyth" 2026**

An interesting mélange of genres and tropes for erudite young readers, this dark academia tale involves students being sorted into Hogwarts-like houses. The theme, much like Riordan's "Olympians," leans heavily on Greek mythology. Delving deeper, the metatextual aspects of the plot are equally reminiscent of the "Inkheart" series or "The Neverending Story."

**J FIC WOLFF**

**Wu, Ash J. "Game Quest: Player vs. Player" 2025**

This pulpy little isekai is in many ways the modern equivalent to "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," only less literary. Breezy and lightly illustrated, this is a great find for reluctant readers who really enjoy Minecraft and other sandbox games, or anyone who wants the multiplayer adventure stories to be heavily pixelated.

**J PAPERBACK WU (PopNow); HOOPLA Ebooks**

**Yolen, Jane. "Monsters of Fife: Sea Dragons" 2025**

In this first in a promised trilogy, Yolen presents an 1890s Scotland surrounded by sea dragons. On a dangerous mission to find and capture the sea dragon before it destroys everything they know and love, not everyone in the Royal & Ancient thinks monster hunter Cat Douglas should be on the ship. Will she prove them wrong? For readers who like a little fantasy in their historical fiction or fans of the Irish Cartoon Saloon films like "The Secret of Kells."

**J FIC YOLEN (PopNow); HOOPLA Ebooks, Audiobooks**

## **NONFICTION**

**Becker, Helaine. "Smart Machines: How AI is Changing our World" 2025**

This extensive intermediate study is well balanced; briefly examining the history and development of Artificial Intelligence, and how it is currently transforming the information technology field. The controversies, limitations, and vulnerability of the technology are

presented in a clear, concise, unbiased way. The entire presentation does not feel overly text heavy, without relying too heavily on illustrations or infographics.

**J 006.3 BECKER (PopNow)**

**Cargill-Martin, Honor. "The Six Queens of Henry VIII" 2026**

Succinct and lavishly illustrated in a comic approach with trading card style stat sheets. Readers would be hard-pressed to find another accounting of the notorious Tudors so simultaneously informative and entertaining. Complete with plenty of extras including a Tudor family tree and timeline.

**J 942.052 CARGILL**

**Cooper, Jennifer. "This Skirt Won't Work!" 2026**

A thoughtful look back at how far we've come and how important women athletes were in changing social norms regarding women's dress codes. The picture book style works for reluctant readers or as a jumping-off point to further research for curious readers.

Recommended for fans of Stacy McAnulty's "Are We There Yet? The First Road Trip Across the USA."

**J 796.082 COOPER; HOOPLA Ebooks**

**Crowley Redding, Anna. "The Danger Files: Real-Life Disasters" 2025**

Fans of the "I Survived" prose or graphic novel series will enjoy this dive into these calamity casefiles. Topics include The Great Chicago Fire, the sinking of the Titanic, the Spanish Flu of 1918, The Boston Molasses Flood, and the Hindenburg disaster.

**J 363.1 CROWLEY**

**Fadeeva, Ol'ga. "Sound: Discovering the Vibrations We Hear" 2025**

This dynamically formatted study of sound is carefully constructed to be thought provoking to readers interested in STEAM, without getting bogged down in the "hard" science.

**J 534 FADEEVA (PopNow)**

**Freschi, Brian. "The 50 Most Mysterious Places Ever" 2025**

Heavily and beautifully illustrated, stressing the quantity rather than delving deeply into any specific locations; this book serves best as jumping-off point to further research or as a children's coffee table book, rather than atlas or travel guide.

**J 910.014 FRESCHI**

**Hays, Anna. "Vanished: Seven Women Magicians Who Simply Disappeared" 2025**

While each of the magical subjects could warrant a biography on their own, Hays manages to cram extensive research as well as primary source photographs and other visuals into a well-organized tome. Each individual story is enhanced by the company it keeps.

**J 793.8092 HAYS**

**Ignotofsky, Rachel. "Dinosaurs: Exploring Prehistoric life and Geological Time" 2025**

Crammed full of vibrant illustrations, charts, and infographics, this extensive tome extends beyond the dinosaurs; thoroughly covering the kinds of life around before the Mesozoic Era and touching on the furrier denizens of the Cenozoic. A must read for budding paleontologists.

**J 567.9 IGNOTOFSKY (PopNow)**

**Langholtz, Gabrielle. "A World of Flavor: A Celebration of Food and Recipes from Around the Globe" 2025**

Complete with cooking terms, tips for kitchen tools and stocking your pantry, a recipe difficulty index, and regional background information for its 43 recipes, this is more than just a cookbook. It is sure to inspire budding culinarians and encourage broadening tastes.

**J 641.59 LANGHOLTZ**

**Larkin, John. "How to Avoid Being Eaten by Sharks ... and Other Advice" 2025**

The most succinct way to describe this humor book is to spoil the first chapter (and the title); "There is one absolute, sure-fire method to avoid being eaten by sharks. Don't go in the ocean."

**J 808.87 LARKIN; HOOPLA Ebooks**

**Messner, Kate. "History Smashers: Ancient Egypt" 2025**

Grab your head lamp — the award-winning History Smashers team is busting history's biggest misconceptions about ancient Egypt and digging up the truth behind the innovative civilization that spanned thousands of years. Messner brings readers on an engaging journey through chronology of Ancient Egypt. The latest entry in the History Smashers series is accurate, entertaining, and compulsively readable.

**J 932.01 MESSNER (PopNow)**

**Miyares, Daniel. "How to Say Goodbye in Cuban" 2025**

This lauded biographic is the story of the author's father, Carlos, and his family's desperate departure amidst the rise of Fidel Castro's Cuban Revolution of the 1950s. The illustrations are heavily textured in the crosshatch style typical of children's literature of the period, overlaid with subdued watercolor. The overall effect is enthralling.

**J GN MIYARES (PopNow)**

**Ollestad, Norman. "Sole Survivor" 2025**

How would you survive stranded 8,000 feet up a mountain alone? Norman had to discover the hard way, after the plane he and his father were in crashed deep in the San Gabriel Mountains. This narrative biography, told in first-person, is sure to be a hit for fans of the "I Survived" series and "The Hatchet."

**J BIO OLLESTAD**

**Shulevitz, Uri. "The Sky was my Blanket: A Young Man's Journey Across Wartime Europe" 2025**

This first-person narrative biography follows a young man's journey across Europe in the 1930s and 40s as his experience of wanderlust slowly changes into a struggle for survival as he flees and eventually fights the rising fascism of the Third Reich.

**J 940.5409 SHULEVITZ (PopNow)**

**Sidman, Joyce. "Dear Acorn (Love, Oak): Letter Poems to Friends" 2025**

Joyce Sidman's letter poems are little secret missives shared between inanimate objects. Sit and absorb the exchanges of Oak & Acorn, Bubble & Sky, Brick & School, Button & Coat, and more. While easily read in a single sitting, the collection begs for rereading and contemplation. A great introduction to poetry adverse young readers.

**J 811.54 SIDMAN (PopNow)**

**Telgemeier, Raina. "Facing Feelings: Inside the World of Raina Telgemeier" 2025**

Based on the exhibitions at the Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum, "Facing Feelings" contains an extensive interview, biographic and influence information, an examination of emotion and expression, and a look behind the scenes of five of the author/illustrator's most renowned works. Recommended for not only Telgemeier fans, but also readers interested in entering the industry.

**J 741.59 TELGEMEIER (PopNow); HOOPLA Comics**

**Yong, Ed. "An Immense World: How Animals Sense Earth's Amazing Secrets" 2025**

Journey into the natural world's sense of smell, taste, sight, pain, heat, touch, vibration, sound, electrical, and magnetic fields. Reformatted in a high-quality textbook style, the Young Readers Edition adaptation benefits from the addition of eye-catching color illustrations, highlighted vocab words, field notes, as well as bullet and talking points. Essential for biology and zoology enthusiasts.

**J 591.5 YONG (PopNow)**