

New Book Reviews for Kids

New Book Reviews

Reading Level:

BabiesPreschoolersKindergarteners1st Grade2nd Grade3rd Grade4th Grade5th Grade6th Grade7th Grade8th GradeHigh SchoolersAdults

Genre:

AdventureAnimals--RealAnimals--TalkingAward WinnersBiographiesBooks for BoysBooks for GirlsChick LitCrime and PunishmentDon't Miss TheseDystopiasFamilyFantasyFolktalesFriends Historical FictionThe HolocaustHorrorHumorIn Other LandsLGBTMisfitsMysteriesMythological Non-FictionNon-ProsePhoneticRead-AlikesRead-AloudsRealistic FictionRebusRelationships SchoolScience FictionSelf ImageShort StoriesSocial IssuesSpiesSportsSupernaturalSurvival Time TravelVampiresWerewolves

Collection:

J FictionJ Graphic NovelsJ Non-FictionJ SeriesJP FictionJP Non-FictionJP SeriesJY Fiction JY Graphic NovelsJY Non-FictionPicture BooksSpanish Picturebook

Reviewer:

CHDJEFHGJLLWPCRRSHSJSThe Gerbils

Addie on the Inside

by James Howe

Reading Level: Grades 6-8

This companion book to *The Misfits* and *Totally Joe* is a worthy addition to the story of the Gang of Five. Addie Carle is now thirteen and facing the "purgatory of the middle school years." Written entirely in verse, these poems show a softer, more vulnerable side of strong, brave Addie. While Addie isn't reluctant to voice her opinions about everything from gay rights to women's role in history, she also feels the appeal of popularity. She loves having a boyfriend, but finds he doesn't

love some of the things she says or the way she says them. A former girlfriend moves back to town and joins her tormentors. While Addie understands that there are those who love her and value her for herself, the turmoil and the gossip are hard to take.

Readers will like Addie and the conclusion she reaches. The first poem is by the author directed to the reader. He asks, "open your eyes, your mind, your heart." Anyone who reads this book will.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by James Howe](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#), [7th Grade](#), [8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Friends](#), [Misfits](#), [Non-Prose](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

The Auslander

by Paul Dowswell

Reading Level: Grades 7 and up

When Piotr's parents are killed he is sent to an orphanage in Warsaw. But Peter is Volksdeutscher, of German blood, and with his blonde good looks he is the image of a Hitler Youth. Newly christened Peter, he is grateful to escape the misery of the orphanage and to be accepted into the home of a prominent Nazi family. The friendly, jovial father is involved with research into racial purity. While Peter is never a strong supporter of Nazi doctrine, he finds that he is expected to participate in Nazi Youth organizations. As time passes he questions doctrine and rebels in small ways. Finally, though terrified, he helps the resistance.

While many books have been written about The Holocaust and this period of history, this is one of the few that explains the appeal of National Socialism. The author has obviously done extensive research into the experiments dealing with racial purity. This is a compelling thought-provoking novel.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Paul Dowswell](#)

You might also find the following books interesting. Both are written by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. [The Boy Who Dared](#) and [Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow](#).

Reading Level: [7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Boys](#), [Books for Girls](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [The Holocaust](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Should I Share My Ice Cream?

by Mo Willems

Reading Level: Grades K - 2

Elephant struggles with a terrible moral dilemma: should he share his ice cream with Piggie, which he knows is the right thing to do, or should he eat the whole thing himself, which is what he would really LIKE to do.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Mo Willems](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#),[Kindergarteners](#),[1st Grade](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking](#), [Friends](#), [Humor](#) Location: [JP Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Memento Nora

by Angie Smibert

Reading Level: Grades 8 and up

"I'm about to forget everything I'm going to tell you." So begins the therapeutic statement of Nora James, age 15. Nora and her two friends Micah and Winter, are being held at the Detention Center for Therapeutic Forgetting. In a world filled with random bombings, the authorities find that the people usually want to take the pill that will make them forget all the ugliness. Nora and her friend will be forced to take The Big Pill that will erase all memory of their friendship and everything that happened.

When Nora witnesses the death of a bombing victim, her mother takes her to the TFC for her first pill. But after a chance encounter with Micah, Nora decides she'd rather keep her memories. An unlikely alliance is formed when artists Micah and Winter befriend Nora and the trio creates the comic "Memento." As the three learn more about the forces at work in their world, their

rebellion becomes more dangerous.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Angie Smibert](#)

Reading Level: [8th Grade](#),[High Schoolers](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Dystopias](#), [Science Fiction](#)

Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Junonia

by Kevin Henkes

Reading Level: Grades 3 - 5

Only child Alice and her parents go to the same beach every winter, where they celebrate her birthday and visit with the various vacationers, young and old, who have become their friends. This year is Alice's tenth birthday, but there are some disappointing changes: Some friends can't make it, others have aged, and some newcomers (interlopers?) are unexpectedly included, such as a motherless, annoying six year old. Alice is a sensitive, observant girl, and the various disappointments that arise from these changes are difficult for her, partly because they reveal to Alice unflattering things about herself. Throughout the less than ideal vacation, she relies on the knowledge that she is "alone together" with people who love her.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Kevin Henkes](#)

Reading Level: [3rd Grade](#),[4th Grade](#),[5th Grade](#) Subjects: [Family](#), [Realistic Fiction](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[CH](#)

Back When You Were Easier to Love

by Emily Wing Smith

Reading Level: Ages 12 and up

Joy is a senior in high school who can't accept the fact that her boyfriend, Zan, elected to graduate early and leave for college without saying a word to her. Last year Joy had been the

new girl in the boring Mormon town of Haven, Utah. It was to her old hometown in California that Zan decided to flee to escape the conformity and wholesomeness of Haven. But Joy is sure that he wouldn't want to rid himself of her. Although both Mormon, she and Zan were different. With break coming up, Joy convinces Zan's former best friend and golden boy, Noah, to drive her to California to find Zan.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Emily Wing Smith](#)

Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Chick Lit](#), [Misfits](#), [Relationships](#), [Self Image](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Your Friend in Fashion, Abby Shapiro

by Amy Axelrod

Reading Level: Grade 5-7

Abby Shapiro is an eleven-year-old Jewish girl who desperately wants two things, her first bra and the hot new doll of 1959, the Barbie doll, the one with the bosoms! Her mom says no to the bra and that she can earn her own money to buy the doll. Abby comes up with the idea of designing clothes and selling her fashion designs to Jackie Kennedy, the "possible future first lady of the United States. Thus Abby begins sending letters to "her friend in fashion."

The book is a lovely coming-of-age story with parts that are laugh out loud funny. Abby learns to deal with complications with her parents, her adored older brother, her gangster uncle, and her neighbors, the witch sisters. Through it all there's her letters to Jackie. A wonderful bonus is the glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew words and expressions.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Amy Axelrod](#)

Reading Level: [5th Grade](#),[6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#) Subjects: [Books for Girls](#), [Chick Lit](#), [Family](#), [Historical Fiction](#), [Humor](#), [Realistic Fiction](#), [Relationships](#) Location: [J Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[HG](#)

Slog's Dad

by David Almond

Reading Level: Grades 6 - 8

When Slog's father dies following a grueling illness involving many amputations, the boy becomes convinced that his dad has returned from the dead. Slog's friend, who tells us this story, is sympathetic to Slog but doubtful. This unconventional story, told partly with mixed-media illustrations, is simultaneously dark but hopeful, as it explores the pain of loss.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by David Almond](#)

Illustrator: Dave McKean Reading Level: [6th Grade](#),[7th Grade](#),[8th Grade](#) Subjects: [Realistic Fiction](#) Location: [JY Fiction](#)

Reviewer:

[CH](#)

If Rocks Could Sing: A Discovered Alphabet

by Leslie McGuirk

Reading Level: Ages 4 - 8

This unique alphabet book is illustrated entirely with interestingly shaped rocks. You'll never look at a rocky beach the same way again!

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Leslie McGuirk](#)

Reading Level: [Preschoolers](#),[Kindergarteners](#),[1st Grade](#),[2nd Grade](#),[3rd Grade](#) Subjects: [Don't Miss These](#), [Humor](#), [Read-Alouds](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

Three Hens and a Peacock

by Lester L. Laminack

Reading Level: Ages 3 - 6

When a peacock falls off a truck at the Tuckers' farm he becomes a grand attraction for passersby and a benefit to the farm, but the hens become jealous because he gets all the attention while doing none of the work.

[Check availability of this book](#)

[More books by Lester L. Laminack](#)

[More books illustrated by Henry Cole](#)

Illustrator: Henry Cole Reading Level: [Preschoolers,Kindergarteners](#) Subjects: [Animals--Talking, Humor, Read-Alouds](#) Location: [Picture Books](#)

Reviewer:

[SH](#)

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