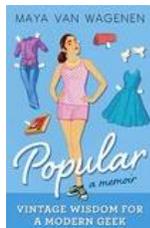


Mrs. Bazsika’s Picks (Librarian)

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek – Maya Van Wagenen



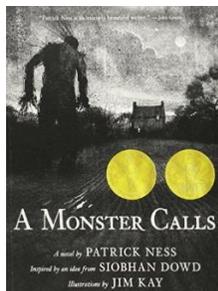
“This was such a darling little book! Maya is sitting at the bottom of her school’s social ladder, and after she discovers a book from the 1950s on how to be popular she decides to embark on a journey/social experiment on what makes someone popular. She commits to following EVERY piece of advice from the book and the results are funny, honest, embarrassing and inspiring. I would recommend this book to any age group!” - Tracy Bazsika, OMS Librarian

The Selection – Kiera Cass

“It’s kind of like *The Bachelor*, but the contestants are in a dystopian world that used to be the United States where a class system determines their social status, and they are not allowed to mix! The prince needs to find a wife, and when America is chosen for the Selection, she is heartbroken to leave her true love behind, but also realizes that due to their different class assignments, they can never be together. She can never love the prince, and she tells him as much, but strikes a bargain that she will give him the inside scoop on all of the other girls if he’ll keep her in the castle as long as possible, since her struggling family receives a weekly check for as long as she has not been eliminated. America’s antics made me laugh, made me cringe and made me want to shake some sense into her! I would recommend this to mostly 7th grade and up.” - Tracy Bazsika, OMS Librarian



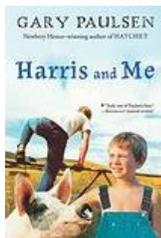
A Monster Calls – Patrick Ness



“Conor is a young boy whose mother has recently started treatments for a cancer that threatens her very life. He wakes up one night in the middle of night to find a monster at his bedroom window! Conor struggles to understand why the monster is stalking him, what it wants and how to make it go away. This is a touching book that explores monsters both real and imaginary in children’s lives. I recommend it for any age, and am excited to hear that it will soon be a movie!” - Tracy Bazsika, OMS Librarian

Mrs. Drance’s Picks (6th Grade LA)

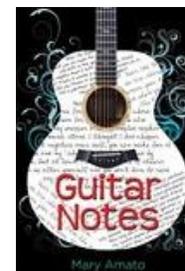
Harris and Me – Gary Paulsen



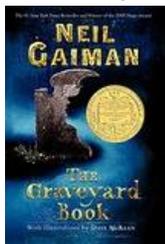
“I laughed until I cried. It also has its serious aspects, such as coming to understand why the main character is never named, though everyone and everything else “belongs”, even the farm animals. This is a great book for everyone, but especially for boys who think they don’t like to read.” – Christine Drance, 6th Grade LA

Guitar Notes – Mary Amato

“Written from the two points of view of students who share a music practice room. One is a rebellious, guitar playing loner and the other a stiff, by-the-rules overachiever who is being crushed under the weight of the expectations of her family and herself. They use the practice room on alternating days and leave notes to each other.” – Christine Drance, 6th Grade LA



The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman



“Just as Moglie was left in the jungle to be raised by the animals, Bod (short for Nobody) strays into an old graveyard and is protected and raised by the ghosts. What do they need to protect this growing boy from? That is the cool and the creepy part. It starts like this....’There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife. The knife had a handle of polished black bone, and a blade finer and sharper than any razor.’ “ – Christine Drance, 6th Grade LA

Steelheart – Brandon Sanderson

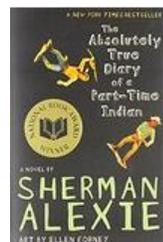
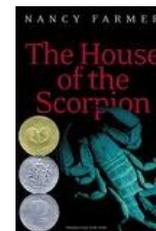
This is the first book of a series (3 total) about a dystopia, once North America, that is ruled by ordinary people who suddenly received extraordinary powers. The book begins with an event that will change the life of the main character forever. I was amazed and delighted throughout the book by the way the author kept me jumping from one nail biting scene to the next, and kept me guessing which character was an ally or an enemy. The characters are appealing (even the bad guys are interesting) and the action is nonstop. – Christine Drance, 6th Grade LA



Mrs. Silbernagel’s Picks (7th Grade LA)

House of the Scorpion – Nancy Farmer

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patron, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. Escape is his only chance to survive — but even that may not save him.

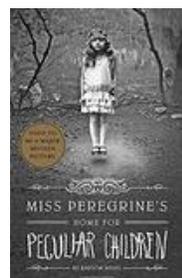
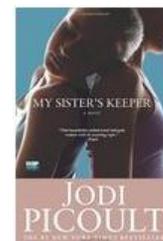


The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian – Sherman Alexie

Sherman Alexie's humorous novel, illustrated by Ellen Forney, follows 14-year-old Junior — poor, skinny and with a freakishly big head — as he leaves his school on the Spokane Indian Reservation for a mostly white school in a nearby town. Alexie captures the pain and awkwardness of adolescence while also meditating on the devastation that poverty, racism and alcoholism have wreaked on Native American communities. **Young Adult**

My Sister’s Keeper – Jodi Picoult

Conceived to provide a bone marrow match for her leukemia-stricken sister, teenage Anna begins to question her moral obligations in light of countless medical procedures, and decides to fight for the right to make decisions about her own body.



Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs

After a family tragedy, Jacob feels compelled to explore an abandoned orphanage on an island off the coast of Wales, discovering that the children once kept there — including his own grandfather — may have been dangerous, and may be still alive. **(Note to 6th grade parents, there is one line of somewhat mature content at the beginning of chapter 2 (Page 38 in our copy) that you may want to put a Post-It note over for younger readers. The rest of the book is completely appropriate for any age!)**

Mrs. Nagle's Picks (7th Grade LA)



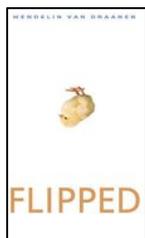
The Outsiders – S.E. Hinton

“Ponyboy Curtis and his gang, The Greasers, are from the wrong side of the tracks-the wrong clothes, the wrong cars, the wrong type of girl, and very little money. They are in constant battle with the Socs, the privileged rich kids.

Through many trials, including domestic issues, a fire, trouble with the law, and even death, Ponyboy learns a great deal about himself and others. I recommend this book to any middle schooler, especially one who has ever felt like an outsider.”-Trish Nagle, 7th grade ELA

Some stories I've enjoyed on the subject of the Holocaust:

- The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne
- The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson (Memoir)
- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak



Flipped – Wendelin Van Draanen

“Girls, have you ever “flipped out” over a boy? Julianna Baker certainly flips when she meets Bryce Loski for the first time in 2nd grade, and this feeling lasts all through 7th grade. Then, something changes. Just when Bryce realizes Juli is something pretty special, Juli realizes Bryce is not quite what she thought he was. The point of view changes with each chapter so we know what each character is thinking and feeling. I mainly recommend this book to middle school girls, but also to any middle school boy who is interested in knowing a girl’s perspective.” –Trish Nagle, 7th grade ELA



Swear to Howdy – Wendelin Van Draanen

“Have you ever had that one friend who is always up to something? Rusty Cooper is new to town. He quickly meets Joey Banks, his neighbor and soon to be best friend. Joey is they type of friend who is full of fun and adventure, and he teaches Rusty all sorts of new things, some of which Rusty’s parents aren’t too happy about. This heartwarming story of friendship is packed with scenarios that will make you laugh and cry. I swear to howdy, you’ll like this book! Recommended for 6th/7th graders.” –Trish Nagle, 7th grade ELA

Mrs. Hill's Picks (8th Grade LA)

The Lunar Chronicles: CINDER, SCARLET, CRESS, FAIREST, WINTER and STARS ABOVE – by Marissa Meyer

“It’s kind of a mix between fairy tales and Star Wars. A futuristic twist on some of the classic fairy tales. The characters are likable, the villain is so easy to hate, and the stories are so easy to get wrapped up in! This book is for all ages, and I feel like boys and girls would both enjoy these!” – Lindsay Hill, 8th Grade ELA

