

Middle-Grade Booktalks New and Noteworthy Titles for Upper Elementary and Middle School

Prepared by Anna Monders, Jackson County Library Services
The Booktalk Blog: Kid-Tested Titles for Elementary and Middle School
jclsbooktalkblog.org

SCIENCE FICTION

Porter, Sarah. *Tentacle and Wing*. 2017. Gr 5-8. Ada has been lying to people her whole life. She looks human, but she's a dreaded chimera, with part animal DNA. When she's 12, she gets caught and sent away to a quarantined school.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Under Their Skin*. 2016. Gr 4-7. Nick and Eryn aren't allowed to meet their new stepsiblings. But why? Their mom acts like everyone's life is at stake. Sequel: *In Over Their Heads*.

FANTASY

Townsend, Jessica. *Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow*. 2017. Gr 5-8. Morrigan Crow was supposed to die on her 11th birthday, but she's whisked away to Nevermoor, and invited to compete for a place in the prestigious Wondrous Society.

Burgis, Stephanie. *The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart*. 2017. Gr 4-7. In an encounter with a food mage, a young dragon gets herself transformed into a 12-year-old human girl. She's left with no claws, no wings, and no fire—only her insatiable taste for chocolate.

Ballarini, Joe. *A Babysitter's Guide to Monster Hunting*. 2017. Gr 5-8. Kelly doesn't believe in monsters under the bed until her four-year-old babysitting charge goes missing on Halloween.

Beasley, Cassie. *Tumble and Blue*. 2017. Gr 4-7. Like half his family, Blue Montgomery is cursed. But this year he has a chance at a new fate—a good one.

Applegate, Katherine. *Wishtree*. 2017. Gr 4-7. After a new family moves to the neighborhood, Red (an old oak tree) and Bongo (a crow) try to help the humans get along with each other better.

REALISTIC (MAINLY)

Connor, Leslie. *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*. 2018. Gr 5-8. Mason can barely read or write, and his mother and best friend are dead. When he makes a new friend, he hopes some of the family's troubles are finally behind them.

Tyre, Lisa Lewis. *Hope in the Holler*. 2018. Gr 4-7. After her mom dies, Wavie goes to live with her aunt in the small Kentucky town where her mom grew up. New friends help her unravel an old family secret.

McGovern, Cammie. *Chester and Gus*. 2017. Gr 4-7. When Chester fails his service dog test, he's afraid he'll never have a home, but then he's adopted by a family with a 10-year-old autistic son.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Rundell, Katherine. *The Wolf Wilder*. 2015. Gr 4-7. In Russia in 1917, Feo helps captive wolves become wild again. When her mother is arrested, Feo and her pack set out to rescue her.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War that Saved my Life*. 2015. Gr 4-7. Evacuated from London at the beginning of World War II, Ada and her brother are sent to the country. Ada has never been outside before. Sequel: *The War I Finally Won*.

Wolf, Joan. *Someone Named Eva*. 2007. Gr 5-8. When Nazi soldiers come to her village in Czechoslovakia, blond-haired, blue-eyed Milada gets sent away to be trained as a good German citizen.

HUMOR

Burt, Jake. *Greetings from Witness Protection!* 2017. Gr 5-8. After five prior foster care placements, 13-year-old Nicki is recruited by U.S. Marshalls to join Witness Protection and help disguise the Trevor family.

Korman, Gordon. *Restart*. 2017. Gr 4-7. Chase Ambrose falls off a roof and loses all memory of his life before the accident. He doesn't know why his classmates are afraid of him.

Graff, Lisa. *The Great Treehouse War*. 2017. Gr 3-6. After the divorce, Winnie's parents keep trying to outdo each other. Winnie decides to stay in her treehouse until they can be reasonable.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Chmakova, Svetlana. *Awkward*. 2015. Gr 5-8. Penelope is embarrassed by how she treats a nerdy boy on the first day of school, but she can't bring herself to apologize. Sequel: *Brave*.

Gownley, Jimmy. *The Dumbest Idea Ever!* 2014. Gr 5-8. True story of how the author became a comic book artist as a teenager.

NONFICTION

Johnson, Rebecca. *Masters of Disguise: Amazing Animal Tricksters*. 2016. Gr 4-7.

Eszterhas, Suzi. *Moto and Me: My Year as a Wildcat's Foster Mom*. 2017. Gr 2-5.

Gagne, Tammy. *The Dog Encyclopedia for Kids*. 2017. Gr 4-7.

Boyer, Crispin. *Famous Fails: Mighty Mistakes, Mega Mishaps and How a Mess Can Lead to Success*. 2016. Gr 4-7.