

BOOK FRENZY 2010:

Reviews for Middle and High School Librarians

SINGLE TITLES

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Welcome to my highly idiosyncratic book reviews. These reviews are more a blog of my daily reading as I choose books for my middle school library.

Key to reviews:

EL - Elementary aged - usually chapter books and slightly longer novels

MS - of interest for Middle School ages

HS - most appropriate High School age students.

ESSENTIAL - every library of the appropriate level should have this book on their shelves. First priority for purchasing no matter how small or large your budget is.

ADVISABLE - Second tier library books. I still like them, but only buy them after you have stocked up on ESSENTIALs and if your budget can handle them.

OPTIONAL - Last tier of books to buy. Get these if you have a large budget or if you can find them in paperback. Even use your Book Fair profits and get them for "free". Don't buy them if your budget is very small.

NO - Usually a book is here because it has described sex, excessive swearing, is poorly written, or for whatever reason I just don't feel like I can recommend it for a school library.

Anderson, Laurie Halse *Wintergirls*, 278 p. Viking (Penguin), 2009. \$17.99. Language: PG-13 (20, 1 "f"). MS, HS - ESSENTIAL.

Berry, Julie *The Amaranth Enchantment*, 306 p. Bloomsbury, 2009. \$16.99. Content: G. MS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Bradford, Chris Young *Samurai: The Way of the Warrior*, 353 p. Hyperion, 2009. Violence: PG. \$16.99. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Breathed, Berkely *Flawed Dogs: The Shocking Raid on Westminster*, 216 p. Philomel (Penguin), 2009. \$16.99. Content: G. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Bullen, Alexandra *Wish*, 336 p. Point (Scholastic), January 2010. \$17.99. Language: PG-13 (13 swears, 1 "f"). MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Catanese, P.W. *Happenstance Found* (Books of Umber #1), 342 p. Aladdin (Simon), 2009. \$16.99. Violence: PG. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Chima, Cinda Williams *The Demon King*, 506 p. Disney Hyperion, 209. \$17.99. Content: G. MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Clement-Moore, Rosemary *The Splendor Falls*, 513 p. Delacorte (Random), 2009. \$17.99. MS, HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Dashner, James *The Maze Runner*, 384 p. Delacorte (Random House), October 2009. Violence: PG. \$16.99. MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Dessen, Sarah *Along for the Ride*, 383 p. Viking (Penguin), 2009. Language: PG (35 swears, no "f"). MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Diamond, Emily *Raider's Ransom*, 352 p. Chicken House (Scholastic), DECEMBER 2009. \$17.99. Content: G. EL, MS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Durst, Sarah Beth *Ice*, 308 p. McElderry, 2009. \$16.99. HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Efaw, Amy *After*, 350 p. Viking (Penguin), 2009. \$17.99. Language: PG-13 (25 swears, 3 "f"), Violence: PG-13 (descriptions of the birth), Sexual Content: G (nothing described). MS - ADVISABLE (know your audience), HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Flinn, Alex *Beastly* pgs.320 HarperTeen Language~G; Sexual Content~PG; Violence~G. MS/HS - ESSENTIAL Allison Madsen~Teen Librarian-SJO Public Library

Garcia, Kami and Margaret Stohl *Beautiful Creatures*, 563 p. Little, Brown, 2009. \$17.99. Language: PG (13 swears, 0 "f"). MS, HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library Teacher

Geisert, Bonnie *Prairie Winter*, 218. Houghton Mifflin, 2009. Language- PG (3swears, 0 'f'), Sexual Content-G; Violence-G. EL/MS/HS- ESSENTIAL. Student Reviewer: MM

Harmel, Kristin *After*, 227 p. Delacorte (Random), 2010. \$16.99. Language: PG (12 swears – mostly OMG). MS, HS – ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library Teacher.

Harvey, Alyxandra *Hearts at Stake*, 320 p. Walker, JANUARY 2010. \$9.99. Language: R (80+ swears, no 'f'); Violence: PG-13. HS - ESSENTIAL (note the ratings, however). Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Headley, Justina Chen *North of Beautiful*, 373 p. Little, Brown, 2009. \$16.99. Content: G. MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Hoffman, Kerry Cohen *It's Not You, It's Me*, 176 p. Delacorte (Random) 2009. Language: PG (13 swears). MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Houts, Michelle *The Beef Princess of Practical County* 226 p. Delacorte Press 2009 Language-G (0 swears no "f") Sexual Content- G Violence-G. ADVISABLE to MS Student Reviewer: EM

Jinks, Catherine *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*, 362 p. Harcourt, 2009. Language: G (6 swears), Violence: G (comical, not violent, though a vampire does get staked). MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Keat, Nawuth *Alive in the Killing Fields: Surviving the Khmer Rouge Genocide*, 125 p. Violence: PG-13. National Geographic, 2009. \$15.95. MS, HS - ESSENTIAL.

Knowles, Jo *Jumping Off Swings*, 230 p. Candlewick, 2009. Language: R (75+ swears, 10 'f'); Sexual Content: R (sexual encounters, intimate touching, body talk); also includes lots of teen drinking. PUBLIC. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Kovac, Tommy *Wonderland*, illustrated by Sonny Liew, 160 p. Disney Press, 2009. \$19.99. GRAPHIC NOVEL. MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

LaFleur, Suzanne *Love, Aubrey*, 262 p. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Logsted, Greg *Alibi Junior High*, 244 p. Aladdin (Simon), 2009. \$15.99. Content: PG (some violence). MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library Teacher.

Marchetta, Melina *Finnikin of the Rock*, 399 p. Candlewick, 2010. \$18.99. Violence: PG (swords, arrows, etc). MS, HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library Teacher

McKay, Hilary *Wishing For Tomorrow*, 273 p. McElderry (Simon), 2010. \$16.99. Content: G. EL, MS, HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Meyer, Carolyn. *True Adventures of Charley Darwin*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2009. Pgs. 321. MS. ESSENTIAL. Reviewer: Jessica Moody, Librarian, Olympus Jr. High.

Morris, Paula *Ruined: A Ghost Story*, Point (Scholastic), 2009. \$16.99. Language: G: (7 swears); Violence: PG (descriptions of deaths and violent climactic scene). MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds *Faith, Hope and Ivy June*, 280 p. Delacorte (Random), 2009. \$16.99. Content: G. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Pearson, Mary E. *The Miles Between*, 264 p. Henry Holt, 2009. \$16.99. Language: PG (4 swears). MS, HS – ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Petersen, P.J. *Wild River*, 120 p. Delacorte (Random), 2009. \$14.99. Content: G. EL, MS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Rottman, S.L. *Out of the Blue*, 297 p. Peachtree, 2009. \$16.95. Language: PG-13 (25+ swears, no 'f'), Violence: PG (lightly describe physical and emotional abuse), FYI - some drinking and pot smoking are included. MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Ryan, Carrie *Forest of Hands and Teeth*, 310 p. Delacorte (Random), 2009. Violence: PG-13. HS - ESSENTIAL.

Sanchez, Alex *Bait*, 239 p. Simon & Schuster, 2009. Language: PG (10 swears, no 'f'). FYI: if you want to know the edgy topics addressed, ...off page rape, cutting, off page sex MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Smith, Roland. *Tentacles*. Scholastic Press. Pgs. 336. Language: G, Violence: PG, Sexual Content: G. ESSENTIAL. Reviewer: Jessica, Librarian, Olympus Jr. High .

Smithson, Ryan *Ghosts of War: My Tour of Duty*, 320 p. HarperTeen, 2009. \$16.99. Language: R (60 + swears, 6 'f'); Violence: PG (war scenes, but nothing graphic). MS, HS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Snicket, Lemony *The Composer is Dead*, illustrated by Carson Ellis, music by Nathaniel Stookey. HarperCollins, 2009. PICTURE BOOK, with free CD. EL, MS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Stead, Rebecca *When You Reach Me* 208pgs. Wendy Lamb Books Language~G, Sexual Content~G; Violence~PG. ELM/MS ADVISABLE Allison Madsen~Teen Librarian-SJO Public Library

Stiefvater, Maggie. *Shiver*, 392 pgs. Scholastic Press, 2009. Ratings : PG for language (handful of swears, no f-) and violence (wolf attacks) ; PG-13 for sexual content (sexual encounter with no graphic description). MS, HS - ADVISABLE.

Testa, Dom *The Comet's Curse*. Tom Doherty Associates. Language-G, Sexual content-G, Violence-G. MS,HS - ESSENTIAL, Student Reviewer-MP

Vaught, Susan *Big FAT Manifesto* pgs. 336 Bloomsbury USA Children's Books Language~PG-13, Sexual Content~PG; Violence~PG. MS/HS -ESSENTIAL Allison Madsen~Teen Librarian-SJO Public Library

Venkatraman, Padma *Climbing the Stairs*. 243 p. Putnam's (Penguin), 2008. Content: G. MS, HS – ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Watt, Melanie. *Scaredy Squirrel at Night*. Kids Can Press, 2009. PICTURE BOOK. EL, MS-ESSENTIAL. Student Reviewer: CW NOTE: I shared this with one of our health teachers and she is going to use it when she talks about the importance of sleep Everyone – ESSENTIAL. - Cindy. EL, MS - ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Westerfeld, Scott *Leviathan*, 439 p. Simon and Schuster, 2009. \$19.99. Violence: PG. EL, MS, HS – ADVISABLE. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Williams, Carol *The Chosen One*, 213 p. St. Martin's Press, 2009 Language: G; Sexual Content: PG; Violence: PG. MS, ESSENTIAL. Student Reviewer: KH

The Wonders Inside: The Human Body, 90 p. Silver Dolphin (National Geographic), 2009. \$19.95. EL, MS, HS – ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.

Ye, Ting-Xing *My Name is Number 4: A True Story from the Cultural Revolution*, 229 p. St. Martin's Griffin, 2009. Violence: PG; Language: PG. NON-FICTION. HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher

Zarr, Sara *Once Was Lost*, 217 p. Little, Brown, 2009. Content: G (I think there were two swears). MS - ADVISABLE. Reviewer: Cindy, Library-Teacher

Zink, Michelle *Prophecy of Sisters*, 343 p. Little Brown, 2009. \$17.99. Content: G. MS, HS - ESSENTIAL. Cindy, Library-Teacher.