

Young Adult Booktalk Recommendations
SLS BOCES
Farnsworth Middle School
Monday, Jan. 9, 2005

Linda Fasano Schalmont Middle School Schalmont

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin is a beautiful interpretation of death and dying in the afterlife. Liz, gets killed in a hit and run accident and goes to Elsewhere, without touching on religion, nor told in a didactic manner. Also recommended reading along with Turnabout by Margaret Peterson Haddix.

Kim Putnam Oneida Middle School Schenectady

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson takes place in NYC with an African American 5th grader, living in poverty, who has to write different forms of poetry for his teacher. This may be chosen as a good quick read for poetry, such as haiku and sonnets, and for discussing emotions. Recommended for 7/8th graders.

Colleen Wygal Oneida Middle School Schenectady

Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood (paperback recommended over the hardcover version) by Marjane Satrapi. This autobiography is done as a graphic novel from a young Iranian girl's perspective as she is going through the Islamic Revolution.

Donna Phillips School at Grout Park Northeast Parent & Child

True Sight by David Stahler. Along the lines of the Giver, the colony is a blind society, genetically altered out of the gene pool. A teenage boy with headaches begins to regain his eyesight. For 9-10 year olds.

So B. It by Sarah Weeks recommended for girls in 6-8th grades, about a girl who is brought up by a mother who has only a 23-word vocabulary. The girl has questions about who she is, she'd like to know more about her father and she wants to learn what the word "soof" means, since her mother uses it. Suspenseful.

Deanna Smith Algonquin Averill Park

The Game of Silence by Louise Erdrich. This is the second book she wrote after The Birchbark House. This Native American story takes place on Lake Superior in the 1850s and it follows the seasons. Omakayas has a gift of having visions of the future and she has to come to accept the fate of her people.

Kathryn Hardy Algonquin Averill Park

Left for Dead: A Young Man's Search for Justice for the USS Indianapolis by Pete Nelson—Non-fiction. Good for reluctant readers 7/8/9th grades. From watching "Jaws" a young boy researches the sinking of the USS Indianapolis and its surviving officers for a history fair. He changed history with his findings.

Mary Emerson

Tamarac H.S.

Brittonkill

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt. Turner Buckminster arrives in Maine since his father was transferred, and his father's a preacher. He hates this new area until he meets Lizzie Bright, a young African American who lives on Malaga Island, a poor island community that was settled by freed slaves since no one else wanted the land for use. With tourism becoming more popular in the area, the residents are driven off the island and transferred to asylums for the feeble-minded. Recommended for 6-9th graders.

Nikki Hathaway

Fonda-Fultonville CSD

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The Marino Mission: One Girl, One Mission, One Thousand Words; 1,000 Need-to-Know, New SAT Vocabulary Words by Karen B. Chapman. A teenage girl works in a lab and befriends a baby dolphin. SAT words are intertwined with the story, with footnotes for description at the bottom of the pages. Appropriate for 11th graders.

Mary-Frances Manno

Draper Middle School

Mohonasen

Girl, 15, Charming But Insane (part of a British series) by Sue Limb, part of a series which began with Girl, (Nearly) 16: Absolute Torture, but we have to wait for the third to be published. It was recommended to get the paperback instead of hardcover version. Jess has a beautiful and perfect best friend and she feels she never measures up. Her grandmother moves in with her grandfather's remains. Her father sends her daily horrorscopes of weird things that may happen. Fans of Louise Rennison will appreciate this author for providing more substance.

Daniel Gray

The Five Star Series by Mamoru Nagano is new anime recently published in English. Reading from right to left, the reader learns of the five stars and six planets in this galaxy setting. The story unfolds with a robot's proclamation of love for one of the three "fatimas".

Newtype Magazine offers a peak at the new anime debuting in the US and Japan.

Fran Waldman

Myers Middle School

Albany

Honey, Baby, Sweetheart, by Deb Caletti, is about teen, Ruby McQueen and her mother, who are trying to recover from their broken hearts. Ruby falls in love with the wrong kind of boy, who steals things, has a reckless manner. Her mother, a librarian, keeps taking her ex-husband back, only to have her heart broken again. They have a goal to get over these men and so they begin a book discussion group which takes them cross-country on an adventure to bring together two soulmates. Recommended for readers 8th grade and up. Also recommended: Queen of Everything, by the same author.

Marion Burghart Schoharie Jr/Sr High School Schoharie

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke most of us have already been introduced to the fantasy world from which Meggie's father Mo, a bookbinder, reads characters out of the book.

In Inkspell, the sequel, Meggie can read the characters back in. We learn more about the story and realize the power of words.

Mary Jeanne Dicker Farnsworth Middle School Guilderland

The Trial by Jen Bryant takes place during the Depression, in 1935, in Flemington, NJ, with the main character, Katie, bored with her small town life. But then the Lindbergh baby is kidnapped, followed by an arrest, and the trial takes place in town. Told with free-verse poems, Katie aspires to become a newspaper reporter and has the opportunity to attend the trial and serve as the secretary amid the media frenzy. Appropriate for 8th graders.

Ann Sayers Clifton Park-Halfmoon P.L. SALS

Where the Great Hawk Flies by Liza Ketchum. The British Army led an Indian raid in Vermont 1790. The people returned, but two boys, a white boy and an "Injun" have strong dislikes for each other. With alternate voices, the story progresses to find how they and their families manage together. This book could be read along with I am Regina by Sally M. Keehn.

Defiance by Valerie Hobbs focuses on Toby's cancer reoccurrence and his refusal to give in to it or his parents. He becomes friends with an elderly woman from a neighboring farm and together they care for a cow and their friendship grows deeper.

The Minister's Daughter by Julie Hearn. This action packed story, done by a protégé of Phillip Pullman, involves the minister's daughter who accuses a cunning woman who had knowledge of herbs, in order to conceal an out of wedlock pregnancy. The lie catches up with the accuser years later.

Linda Powell Shenendehowa High School East Shenendehowa

The Diary of Ma Yan: The Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl is set in a drought stricken province of China. Money is scarce as her parents struggle in poverty. The young girl has just enough education to be upset that her education couldn't continue. Both her parents must work to send her back and both she and her mother exchange heated arguments when she isn't at the top of her class.

Michelle Furlong student/University at Albany

B is for Buster by Iain Lawrence is the story of a young boy who joins the Canadian Air Force in WWII with rose-colored glasses and hopes to fulfill his dreams of becoming a hero, fighting against evil doers. After his first mission, he is terrified with the grim realities of war. Good read for those interested in military and recommended for middle schoolers and up.

Jim Schneider

Oneida Middle School

Schenectady

How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff. The author gives glimpses of character development with her vivid descriptions of the emotions Daisy has: anger, hatred, and love. She travels to modern day London from Manhattan and meets her cousin, with whom she begins to fall in love.

Compiled and submitted by: Catherine Benson student/University at Albany