

Green Mountain Book Award

Handbook

2015-2016



**Compiled by
the Green Mountain Book Award Committee**

State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609-0601

http://libraries.vermont.gov/services/children_and_teens/book_awards/green_mountain

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INTRODUCTION

The Green Mountain Book Award is the student-selected award for Vermonters in grades 9-12. In 2005 it joined the other two Vermont child-selected book awards, the Red Clover Award, a picture book award for children in Kindergarten-grade 4, and the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, a book award for students in grades 4-8.

Mission statement

The goal of the award is to select a list of books of good literary quality that:

- Engages high school students.
- Represents a variety of genres, formats and viewpoints.
- May include books written both for young people and adults.
- Reflects the interests of high school students.

Criteria for choosing books

To be eligible for the Green Mountain Book Award list, a book must:

- Have been published in the last 3 years
- Have received two favorable reviews in professionally recognized review sources (if possible)

In addition, there may be only one book by an author on any given list.

Timetable

Voting for the winner of the Green Mountain Book Award is in May. The committee recommends that in order to be eligible to vote, a student should read at least three books on the masterlist. The new list is selected and put on both the Department of Libraries website http://libraries.vermont.gov/services/children_and_teens/book_awards/green_mountain and the GMBA website <https://sites.google.com/site/greenmountainbookaward/>.

This year's committee consisted of: Marilee Attley, Brattleboro Union High School; Luci Bailey, student, Northfield High School; Erin Egan, student, Essex Junction; Maria Harris, Enosburgh Public Library; Jory Hearst, Green Mountain Union High School; Stacy Holbrook, Middlebury High School; Peter Langella, Champlain Valley Union High School; Sue Monmaney, Montpelier High School; Rebecca Cook, Poultney Public Library, Chair; and Sharon Colvin, Youth Services Consultant, Department of Libraries, Liaison to Committee.

ALL THE TRUTH THAT'S IN ME by Julie Berry



Genre: Historical Fiction, Mystery

Themes: Kidnapping, Abuse, War, Colonial America

Author information: Julie Berry grew up in western New York and has an MFA in Creative Writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. She has written eight books for young people. *All the Truth That's In Me* is her first YA novel. She has books on both the DCF and GMBA lists for 2015-16.

Plot summary: Judith was kidnapped and has been returned to her family. She is now mute and her family and community consider her an outcast. Because she cannot speak, Judith spills all her truth to the boy she loves in this story. Her truths unravel the mystery of her disappearance, her friend's death and the perils of war. This story is set in an unnamed, but colonial-feeling time when maintaining a puritanical image was more important than the truth.

Booktalk: What would you do if you had a horrible story to tell but you had no voice? How would you convince people that your friend's death wasn't your fault, that you're not possessed by the devil and that someone the whole community trusts cut out your tongue?

Curriculum tie-ins:

History

What time period is alluded to in this story? Pick out the details that make you believe that it takes place in a certain time and place.

Writing

Write a letter to your best friend telling them a secret you've told no one else. Try to fit in all the details as if you couldn't contact him/her in any other way.

Discussion questions:

- How do we judge people today? Discuss what differences we consider acceptable in today's society and which we do not. How is it different from the way it was in this book?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Gerwitz, Adina Rische. *Zebra Forest*. Candlewick, 2013.

Howe, Katherine. *Conversion*. Putnam, 2014.

Lockhart, E. *We Were Liars*. Delacorte, 2014.

Sepetys, Ruta. *Out of the Easy*. Philomel, 2013.

Other books by this author:

The Amaranth Enchantment. Bloomsbury, 2009.

Secondhand Charm. Bloomsbury, 2010.

The Scandalous Sisterhood of Prickwillow Place. Roaring Brook, 2014.

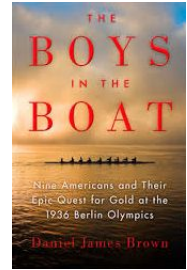
Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.julieberrybooks.com/>

All the Truth That's in Me Tumblr: <http://allthetruththatsinme.com/>

THE BOYS IN THE BOAT

by Daniel James Brown



Genre: American History, Biography, Nonfiction, Sports

Themes: Achievement, College Sports, Determination, Great Depression, Perseverance, Rowing

Author information: Daniel James Brown was born in 1951 and grew up in the San Francisco Bay area. He attended Diablo Valley College, the University of California at Berkeley, and UCLA. Before becoming a full-time writer, he taught writing at San Jose State University and Stanford. Today he lives outside of Seattle, Washington. He is married with two daughters and several animals. Brown enjoys birding, gardening, fly-fishing, and American history. He describes writing as a relationship, and is currently searching for a subject he can commit to and love for the length of time required to write his next book.

Plot summary: Growing up in the Great Depression, Joe Rantz struggles to survive through a hungry, parentless childhood. When he arrives at the University of Washington in 1933, his clothes are ragged and his stomach empty – but willpower and strength get him on to the rowing team. Here he finds himself in a team of other young men like himself, with the help of a good coach and a brilliant boat maker, and together they grow with the hard work and perseverance needed to make it to the 1936 Olympics.

Booktalk: Welcome to the exciting, intense world of competitive rowing! In *The Boys in the Boat*, Joe Rantz and his fellow University of Washington rowers persevere, pushing themselves seemingly beyond their own abilities. Join in as they win race after race, until the biggest one looms ahead. Can they win the Olympic Gold? And will they ever be the same afterwards?

Curriculum tie-ins:

History

Create an illustrated timeline of the events leading up to World War II. Research the political controversy surrounding the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Write a persuasive essay in favor of allowing minorities to participate in the games.

Agriculture

What effect did the Dust Bowl have on agriculture in America? How did this impact the economy? Work in a group to prepare a ten-minute presentation answering these questions.

Physical Education

Study the life of an Olympic athlete. Prepare a biographical presentation, taking on the role of that person.

Writing

Write a personal essay describing a time in your life when you feel you triumphed against the odds or worked harder than you thought possible.

Discussion questions:

- Brown begins the book with a quote from Greek writer Homer: “But I desire and I long every day to go home and to look upon the day of my return... for already I have suffered and labored at so many things on the waves.” How does this quote pertain to the book? How do you think the quote would have resonated with members of the rowing team?
- Joe Rantz was poor, and forced to work at a young age. How do you think child labor affects children? How did it shape Joe’s character?
- Discuss the role of propaganda in Nazi Germany, and in politics in general.
- How did rowing impact the boys’ lives? Is there an aspect of your life, such as a sport or hobby, that does the same for you?

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Davis, Sampson. *The Pact: Three Young Men Make a Promise and Fulfill a Dream*. Riverhead Books, 2002.

Halberstam, David. *The Amateurs: The Story of Four Young Men and Their Quest for an Olympic Gold Medal*. Morrow, 1985.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Seabiscuit: An American Legend*. Random House, 2001.

Hillenbrand, Laura. *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*. Random House, 2010.

Lambert, Craig. *Mind Over Water: Lessons on Life from the Art of Rowing*. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.

Large, David Clay. *Nazi Games: The Olympics of 1936*. Norton, 2007.

Schaap, Jeremy. *Triumph: The Untold Story of Jesse Owens and Hitler's Olympics*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007.

Other books by this author:

Connections: A Rhetoric / Short Prose Reader. Houghton Mifflin, 1984.

Under a Flaming Sky: The Great Hinckley Firestorm of 1894. Lyons Press, 2006.

The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride. Morrow, 2009.

Additional resources:

Author’s website: <http://www.danieljamesbrown.com>

Interview with the author: <http://www.powells.com/blog/interviews/daniel-james-brown-the-powells-com-interview-by-shawn-donley/>

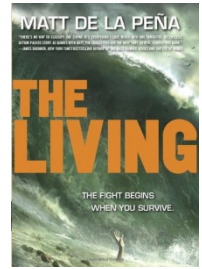
NCAA.com: Rowing: <http://www.ncaa.com/sports/rowing>

Summer Olympic Games: Berlin 1936: <http://www.olympic.org/berlin-1936-summer-olympics>

Author reading at Politics and Prose: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blb3k8VTsTM>

THE LIVING

by Matt de la Peña



Genre: Survival, Contemporary, Contagion, Thriller

Themes: Family, Cultural Identity, Class Issues

Author information: Matt de la Peña is the author of five critically-acclaimed young adult novels: *Ball Don't Lie*, *Mexican WhiteBoy*, *We Were Here*, *I Will Save You* and *The Living*. He's also the author of the award-winning picture book *A Nation's Hope: The Story of Boxing Legend Joe Louis* (illustrated by Kadir Nelson). Matt received his MFA in creative writing from San Diego State University and his BA from the University of the Pacific where he attended school on a full basketball scholarship. de la Peña currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. He teaches creative writing and visits high schools and colleges throughout the country.

Plot summary: Shy took the summer job to make some money. In a few months on a luxury cruise liner, he'll rake in the tips and be able to help his mom and sister out with the bills. And how bad can it be? Bikinis, free food, maybe even a girl or two – every cruise has different passengers, after all.

But everything changes when the Big One hits. Shy's only weeks out at sea when an earthquake more massive than ever before recorded hits California, and his life is forever changed.

The earthquake is only the first disaster. Suddenly it's a fight to survive for those left living.

Booktalk: Do you like thrillers? Contagion stories? A little bit of dystopia? How about relationships? Love triangles? Characters so real they could be your next-door neighbors? Now what if all of these were part of one book? It would be called *The Living*.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies

Research the eugenics movement in early 20th-century America. Are there any parallels to the plotline about Romero Disease? If so, what do you think will happen with this storyline in the sequel, *The Hunted*?

Science and Geography

The idea of The Big One, a massive earthquake in and around California, plays a large role in the novel. Find resources about the real-life version of this proposed event and compare and contrast Shy's story with the science you find and/or accounts of past disasters.

Discussion questions:

- How does Shy's race impact the way he interacts with other characters?
- What is Shoeshine's role in the story? How does it relate to literary archetypes?

- How are Carmen and Addie different? What would happen if only one of them were a part of Shy's story?
- During the escape from the boat, Shy has to make some big decisions. Can you empathize with him in any way? How and why?
- How do setting and timing control the plot of this novel?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Lake, Nick. *In Darkness*. Bloomsbury, 2012.
 McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. Knopf, 2006.
 Northrop, Michael. *Trapped*. Scholastic, 2011.
 Pfeffer, Susan Beth. *Life As We Knew It*. Harcourt, 2006.
 Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. Simon & Schuster, 2014
 Smith, Andrew. *Grasshopper Jungle*. Dutton, 2014.

Other books by this author:

Ball Don't Lie. Delacorte, 2005.
Mexican WhiteBoy. Delacorte, 2008.
We Were Here. Delacorte, 2009.
I Will Save You. Delacorte, 2010.
The Hunted. Delacorte, 2015.

Additional resources:

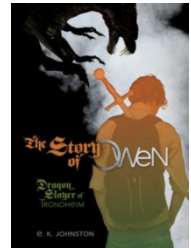
Author's website: <http://mattdelapena.com/books/the-living/>

Motoko Rich's review in the *New York Times*:
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/books/review/the-living-by-matt-de-la-pena.html?_r=1

Matt de la Peña's essay for CodeSwitch on NPR:
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/codeswitch/2013/11/11/243960103/a-reluctant-reader-turns-ya-author-for-tough-teens>

THE STORY OF OWEN: DRAGON SLAYER OF TRONDHEIM

by E. K. Johnston



Genre: Contemporary Fantasy, Satire

Themes: Dragons, Environmentalism, Politics, Storytelling

Author information: Emily Kate Johnston has degrees in Forensic Archaeology and Crime Scene Management. Raised in a small town in southwestern Ontario, Canada, where she actually attended Trondheim Elementary School, Emily Kate has since lived on four continents. *The Story of Owen* was her first novel.

Plot summary: There have always been dragons, and as far back as history is told, men and women have fought them, loyally defending their villages. But dragons and humans have one thing in common: an insatiable appetite for fossil fuels. With the advent of mass-produced cars, even the smallest village was subject to attack. Such was Trondheim's fate until Owen Thorskard, last of a noble line of dragon slayers, arrives in town. At sixteen, with dragons advancing and his grades plummeting, Owen faces impossible odds, but with the help of his faithful bard and algebra tutor, Siobhan, he may just have a chance.

Booktalk: Dragons have always been humanity's greatest enemy, and as the world heats up with carbon emissions – the dragons' fuel of choice – their attacks are just getting worse. This tongue-in-cheek adventure follows Owen, a teenage dragon slayer, and his faithful bard Siobhan, who also tutors him in algebra so he can pass junior year.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Art

Every culture has dragons and dragon lore. Draw your concept of the dragons that threatened Trondheim.

Environmentalism

The dragons in *Owen* feed off carbon emissions. Research current trends in fossil fuel usage around the world and predict where dragons would be likely to attack next.

Discussion questions:

- Why has Michigan become the lair of choice for dragons?
- What is Owen's biggest challenge?
- What are some other monuments or fortifications that could be attributed to the dragon threat?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *Ship Breaker*. Little, Brown, 2007.

Carey, Janet Lee. *Dragon's Keep*. HMH, 2008.

Goodman, Alison. *Eon*. Viking, 2008.
Hartman, Rachel. *Seraphina*. Ember, 2012.
Peterfreund, Diana. *Rampant*. HarperTeen, 2009.

Other books by this author:

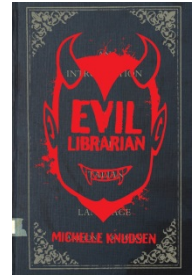
Prairie Fire. Carolrhoda, 2015.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://ekjohnston.ca/>

Author's blog: <https://emilykatejohnston.wordpress.com/>

EVIL LIBRARIAN by Michelle Knudsen



Genre: Adventure, Fantasy, Friendship, Humor, Horror, Music, Paranormal

Themes: Self-Identity, Relationships, Demonology, Humor

Author information: Michelle Knudsen is the author of more than 40 children's books. *Evil Librarian* is her first book for teens. She previously worked as an editor and a bookseller, and received her MFA in Writing from The Vermont College of Fine Arts. Michelle currently lives in Brooklyn, New York with her diabetic cat Cleo.

Plot summary: When Cynthia Rothschild's best friend, Annie, falls head over heels for the new high-school librarian, Cyn can totally see why; he's really young and very good-looking. But after meeting Mr. Gabriel, Cyn realizes something isn't quite right. Maybe it's the creepy look in the librarian's eyes, or the weird feeling Cyn gets whenever she's around him. Before long Cyn realizes that Mr. Gabriel is, in fact ...a demon. Now, in addition to saving the school production of *Sweeney Todd* from technical disaster and trying not to make a fool of herself with her own hopeless crush, Cyn has to save her best friend from the clutches of the evil librarian, who also seems to be slowly sucking the life force out of the entire student body!

Booktalk: It is awkward when your best friend falls in love with the hunky new school librarian. When the librarian in question turns out to be a demon, it can be downright horrifying! Cyn is the only one who sees what is going on. Can she protect the school from soul sucking demons, design the ultimate set for *Sweeney Todd*, and stop looking like an idiot in front of Ryan?

Curriculum tie-ins:

Drama

Cyn is working on a school production of *Sweeney Todd*. Read the play in conjunction with the book. How does the story of *Sweeney Todd* tie in with the book? Why would it be so appealing to the demons in *Evil Librarian*?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Armentrout, Jennifer L. *White Hot Kiss*. Harlequin Teen, 2014.
Brennan, Sarah Rees. *Demon's Lexicon* (trilogy). McElderry, 2009.
Clare, Cassandra. *The Infernal Devices* (series). Simon & Schuster.
Clare, Cassandra. *The Mortal Instruments* (series). McElderry.
Clement-Moore, Rosemary. *Prom Dates From Hell*. Delacorte, 2007.
Yovanoff, Brenna. *The Space Between*. Razorbill, 2007.

Other books by this author:

The Dragon of Trelian. Candlewick, 2009.
The Princess of Trelian. Candlewick, 2012.

Additional resources:

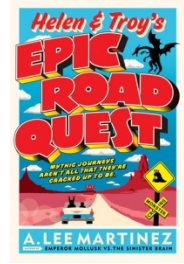
Author's website: <http://www.michelleknudsen.com/>

Author's blog: <http://michelleknudsen.blogspot.com/>

Author's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/michelleknudsen.author>

HELEN AND TROY'S EPIC ROAD QUEST

by A. Lee Martinez



Genre: Adventure, Alternate Reality, Fantasy, Friendship, Humor, Mythology, Travel

Themes: Self-Image, Friendship, Road Trips

Author information: A. Lee Martinez is a writer of fantasy and science fiction. Born in El Paso, Texas on January 12, 1973, he currently lives in Dallas. His books have been translated into five languages, and *Helen and Troy's Epic Road Quest* is his tenth novel.

Plot summary: Witness the epic battle of the cyclops! Visit the endangered dragon preserve! Please, no slaying. Solve the mystery of The Mystery Cottage, if you dare! Buy some knick knacks from The Fates! They might come in handy later.

On a road trip across an enchanted America, Helen and Troy will discover all this and more. If the curse placed upon them by an ancient god doesn't kill them or the pack of reluctant orc assassins don't catch up to them, Helen and Troy might reach the end their journey in one piece, where they might just end up destroying the world. Or at least a state or two.

A minotaur girl, an all-American boy, a three-legged dog, and a classic car are on the road to adventure – where every exit leads to adventure. Whether they like it or not.

Booktalk: Helen is your average vegetarian minotaur working in a fast food joint to save money for college; that is until the night that her boss tries to sacrifice her to a hamburger god. Suddenly she finds herself on a quest across America with her perfect co-worker Troy in a race against time. Will they survive their quest, and are they the heroes or the villains of the story?

Curriculum tie-ins:

Language Arts

Helen and Troy visit several characters and creatures from Greek Mythology. This book is a perfect tie in to stories about the Fates, minotaurs, heroes, and more. A Classical Connections Curriculum, pairing classic literature to modern titles, would be a perfect match for this book. It is also an excellent follow up for those who were fans of Percy Jackson in elementary and middle school.

Geography

Helen and Troy embark upon the classic American road trip, with a twist. Have students map their mythical journey across America. Students can then research tourist destinations across the country, and plot actual sites that Helen and Troy could have visited on their trip.

Math

The Geography project above can include a math tie in. Have students calculate distance for their road trip, as well as a budget for gas, meals, and lodging.

If you loved this, you'll like:

Clement-Moore, Rosemary. *Prom Dates from Hell*. Delacorte, 2007.
Matson, Morgan. *Amy and Roger's Epic Detour*. Simon & Schuster, 2010.
Werlin, Nancy. *Impossible*. Dial, 2008.

Other books by this author:

Gil's All Fright Diner. Tor, 2005.
In the Company of Ogres. Tor, 2006.
A Nameless Witch. Tor, 2007.
The Automatic Detective. Tor, 2008.
Too Many Curses. Tor, 2008.
Monster. Orbit, 2009.
Divine Misfortune. Orbit, 2010.
Chasing the Moon. Orbit, 2011.
Emperor Mollusk Versus The Sinister Brain. Orbit, 2012.

Additional resources:

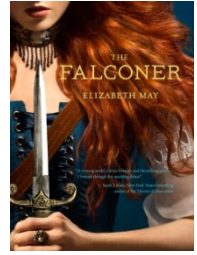
Author's website: <http://www.aleemartinez.com/>

Author's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aleemartinez>

Author's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alee.martinez.37>

THE FALCONER

by Elizabeth May



Genre: Fantasy

Themes: Steampunk, Faeries, Victorian Age, Women's Empowerment

Author information: Elizabeth May was born in California, but moved to Scotland after her “formative years.” She recently received her PhD in anthropology from the University of St. Andrews – her specialty is folklore. She resides in Edinburgh, Scotland with her husband.

Plot summary: Aileana Kameron, daughter of a Marquess, is a polite, mild-mannered young woman in 19th-century Scotland. She fulfills her obligations of attending balls and entertaining potential suitors at tea. But she also has a secret life – hidden under the aristocratic façade, Aileana is a Falconer – she hunts faeries, kills them, and enjoys every second of it. Her faery hunting begins after seeing her mother murdered; Aileana becomes so full of rage that she no longer seeks a husband, as is her duty as a woman of eighteen, but seeks only vengeance. Aileana trains with Kiaran, a powerful faery hiding many secrets; she hides Derrick, a pixie with a penchant for mending her torn garments who lives in her dressing room and Gavin, a friend and human Seer, who helps her in both of the lives she leads.

Booktalk: Aileana is everything an aristocratic young woman should be by day – polite and mild-mannered while she attends balls and entertains suitors. But by night she is a Falconer, a faery hunter, a female warrior. And she is determined to kill the faery who killed her mother.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies

Though Aileana's world is fantastical, women in the 19th century had limited rights. Compare and contrast Aileana to Vicky's character in *A Mad Wicked Folly*.

English/Language Arts

The Falconer was inspired by Scottish folklore and the fae are very different from fairies in movies, TV shows, or modern day fairy tales. Read some original folklore or fairy tales from different cultures – how are they similar or how are they different? What might account for the similarities you find?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Bardugo, Leigh. *Shadow and Bone*. Henry Holt and Company, 2012.
Black, Holly. *The Darkest Part of the Forest*. Little Brown, 2015.
Bray, Libba. *A Great and Terrible Beauty*. Delacorte Press, 2003.
Carriger, Gail. *Etiquette and Espionage*. Little Brown, 2013.
LaFevers, Robin. *A Grave Mercy*. Houghton Mifflin, 2012.
Pearson, Mary E. *Kiss of Deception*. Henry Holt and Company, 2014.

Waller, Sharon Biggs. *A Mad, Wicked Folly*. Viking, 2014. (on this year's GMBA list)
Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. Simon Pulse, 2009.

Other books by this author:

The Vanishing Throne (The Falconer #2), TBD.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.elizabethmaywrites.com/>

Official book trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tFQ_P8JSUc

Curriculum guide for educators: <http://www.elizabethmaywrites.com/for-educators/>

TEMPLAR
by **Jordan Mechner**
Illustrations by **LeUyen Pham and Alex Puvillard**



Genre: Historical Fiction, Graphic Novel, Medieval History, Heist

Themes: Honor, Loyalty, True Love, Revenge

Author information: Author, screenwriter and video game designer Jordan Mechner is best known as the creator of *Prince of Persia*, one of the most successful and enduring video game franchises of all time.

Jordan began his career as a video game creator in the 1980s with *Karateka* and followed soon after with *Prince of Persia*, two of the first games to combine arcade action with realistic animation and cinematic storytelling. Both titles became #1 bestsellers and are considered all-time classics. *Prince of Persia* was adapted in the 1990s for nearly every computer and console platform and was a major influence in the development of the action-adventure video game genre.

In 2010, Jordan became the first game creator-turned-screenwriter to successfully adapt his own work as a feature film with Disney's *Prince of Persia*, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer. It is the world's highest-grossing video game adaptation ever, at \$335 million worldwide.

Plot summary: Martin is one of a handful of Templar Knights to escape when the king of France and the pope conspire to destroy the noble order. The pope and king aim to frame the Templars for heresy, execute all of them, and make off with their legendary treasure. That's the plan, anyway, but Martin and several other surviving knights mount a counter-campaign to regain the lost treasure of the Knights Templar.

Booktalk: Set in the 14th century, this beautifully written and illustrated graphic novel is the ultimate power struggle. The Knights Templar are rumored to possess the greatest treasure ever known, which angers the French king, courtiers, and corrupt members of the clergy, who want to steal the riches. A few brave knights decide to stop them by stealing it first. Think *Ocean's Eleven* with chainmail and swords instead of suits and card tricks. A medieval heist thriller of the highest degree.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies

Research the real Knights Templar. Find facts that directly correlate to the storyline. In turn, search for other parts of the storyline that don't show up in your initial investigation. Write a reflection about the historical accuracy of the book.

Social Studies

Based on what you now know about the Knights Templar and the time period, create a critique of books and movies like *The Da Vinci Code* and *National Treasure*. What do

they get right? What do they sensationalize? How could you make their references to the Templars more historically accurate?

Discussion questions:

- What drives Martin as a character? Love? Revenge? Loyalty? Something else?
- How do characters like Martin, Bernard, and The Priest complement each other?
- Why do you think Jordan Mechner chose to end the story the way he did?
- How does Isabelle serve as motivation for the various characters?
- Does the time period make the story? How would the plot differ if it were set in the present day? Would anything stay the same?
- Who is the most likeable character in the book and why? Does this match the person you view as the main protagonist?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Desberg, Stephen. *The Scorpion*. Cinebook, 2008.
Martin, George R.R. *The Hedge Knight*. Jet City Comics, 2013.
Martin, George R.R. *The Sworn Sword*. Jet City Comics, 2014.
Russell, P. Craig. *The Ring of the Nibelung*. Dark Horse Books, 2014.
Yang, Gene Luen. *The Shadow Hero*. First Second, 2014.

Other books by this author:

Prince of Persia. First Second, 2008.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.jordanmechner.com>

The Making of *Templar*: <http://www.jordanmechner.com/downloads/maktemplar.pdf>

Illustrator LeUyen Pham's site: <http://www.leuyenpham.com/leuyenphamstudios.html>

IF YOU FIND ME

By Emily Murdoch



Genre: Realistic Fiction

Themes: Family, Abuse, Resilience, Survivalism

Author information: Emily Murdoch is a writer and poet who lives in Arizona. When she's not writing, she spends her spare time working to rescue horses from abuse or slaughter. She uses her writing to raise awareness of the inhumane treatment of horses and provides housing and care on her ranch for rescued animals. *If You Find Me* is her debut novel.

Plot summary: A broken-down camper hidden deep in a national forest is the only home 15-year-old Carey can remember. The one bright spot in her threadbare existence is her younger sister, Jenessa, who depends on Carey for her very survival. All they have is each other, as their mentally ill mother comes and goes with greater frequency. One fateful day their mother has disappeared for good, and two strangers arrive. Suddenly, the girls are taken from the woods and thrust into a perplexing new world of high school, clothes and boys. Now Carey must face the truth of why her mother abducted her 10 years ago, while haunted by a past that hides many secrets, including the reason Jenessa hasn't spoken in over a year.

Booktalk: Living a survivalist existence in a dilapidated trailer in the middle of the woods, Carey has learned to make do with only the barest essentials. She's gotten used to her mother's long absences and the constant struggle to keep warm and find enough food for her and her beloved little sister. Then her drug-addicted mother goes missing and a stranger steps into their clearing – a stranger who just might be the father Carey has been running from her whole life.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Sciences

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Office, 200,000 children are reported missing each year as a result of parental abduction, but few cases are criminally prosecuted. Investigate the number of cases in your state and the laws and practices that impact them.

Discussion questions:

- Nessa and Carey adjust differently to life with their father. What are some of the reasons this is so?
- What is Delaney's reaction to having two new sisters in the house?
- If you found yourself living in the woods like Carey, what strengths do you have that would help you survive?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. Viking, 2009.

Berry, Julie. *All the Truth That's In Me*. Speak, 2014. (on this year's GMBA list)
Donaghue, Emma. *Room*. Little, Brown, 2010.
Key, Watt. *Alabama Moon*. Paw Prints, 2008.
Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.emilymurdoch.com>

Author's blog: <http://emilymurdoch.wordpress.com>

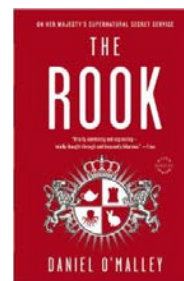
Author on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LeftyWritey>

Author on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/emily.murdoch.author>

If You Find Me Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/Ifyoufindme>

THE ROOK

by Daniel O'Malley



Genres: Fantasy, Adventure, Mystery, Science Fiction

Themes: Supernatural, Good vs. Evil

Author information: Daniel O'Malley currently lives in Australia, where he works for the Australian Transportation Safety Bureau. He graduated from Michigan State University and Ohio State University, where he earned a Master's Degree in Medieval History. *The Rook* is his first novel.

Plot summary: Faced with supernatural mysteries and enemies closing in from every angle, the newly amnesiac Myfanwy Thomas must discover who stole her memories, face the terrifying flesh-manipulating Grafters, and hunt down a mole in the secret government organization for which she works.

Booktalk: Imagine waking up surrounded by corpses wearing suspicious latex gloves, in the middle of London, with no memories of who you are. All you have to go on are two letters, one addressed *To You* and the other *2*, both written by the person you used to be. This is the situation Myfanwy Thomas found herself in. Following the advice given to her in those letters, Myfanwy, armed with a purple binder outlining her life as it once was, must enter a strange world of the supernaturally powered government agencies and evil flesh-manipulating Belgians, all while trying to impersonate herself and attempting to discover who, or what, stole her memories, and if they are still after her.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Creative Writing

Write a short story from the perspective of a Pawn in the Rookery. Does this Pawn notice the change in Myfanwy's behavior? How does he/she react?

If you had a power like those found among Checquy operatives, what would it be? What would your position in the Checquy be? Write a short story to answer these questions.

Ethics

For the most part, the Checquy takes children with supernatural powers from their families at a very young age. Do you think this is an acceptable practice? Why or why not? What other techniques could the Checquy use to recruit operatives?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Cashore, Kristen. *Graceling*. Harcourt, 2008.

Maas, Sarah J. *Throne of Glass*. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012.

Morgenstern, Erin. *The Night Circus*. Doubleday, 2011.

Oh, Ellen. *Prophecy*. Harper Teen, 2013.

Wein, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity*. Hyperion Books, 2012.
Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. Simon Pulse, 2009.

Other books by this author:

The Rook is Daniel O'Malley's first novel. The sequel, *Stiletto*, is currently due to be published in July 2015.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.rookfiles.com/>

Author's Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/denimalley>

Main character's Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/rookfiles>

Book trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ByWvG3KfOmo>

Interview with the author: <http://www.unwalkers.com/interview-with-daniel-omalley-vo/>

STEELHEART

by Brandon Sanderson



Genre: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Urban Fantasy

Themes: Power, Heroism, Superpowers, Guerrilla Warfare

Author information: Brandon Sanderson was born in December of 1975 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He enjoyed reading as a child but lost interest by junior high. But his love of reading was sparked again by his eighth grade teacher, and he started writing stories in high school. He majored in Biochemistry at Brigham Young University but took some time off from school to work in a mission. When he returned to school he chose to switch to an English major, and wrote several manuscripts. His first published novel, *Elantris*, was published in 2005, and over the next few years his popular Mistborn Trilogy was published, as well as the first in a ten-book series called the Stormlight Archive. On September 24, 2013, his novel *Steelheart* was published, the first in the Reckoners series.

Plot summary: In this futuristic dystopia, people called Epics, who have extraordinary powers, have become evil. In the city once known as Chicago, a terrifyingly powerful Epic called Steelheart pronounced himself Emperor. He has the strength of ten men and can control the elements. It is believed no bullet can harm him, no sword can split his skin, and no explosion can burn him. He is invincible. Nobody can fight back... except for the Reckoners. They are a group of ordinary humans who spend their lives studying Epics, finding their weaknesses, and destroying them. David Charleston is a young man who is determined to avenge his father's death at the hands of Steelheart, and hopes to join the Reckoners in order to make his ambition a reality. And he has something important they can use against Steelheart – for David has seen Steelheart bleed.

Booktalk: This book is exciting and pulls you along for the ride, constantly keeping you in a state of shock. The world that Sanderson creates truly catches the imagination. The Epics' powers are amazing, and all of the characters, especially our main character David, have their own quirky personalities that cause the reader to celebrate their triumphs and weep at their failures. This book will appeal to anyone, whether they love action and adventure, mystery, or drama.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Current Events

Steelheart raises questions that can be applied to today's world. For instance, if a regime is overthrown, would it be better or worse for that country? What regime changes have happened in recent years? How is life now different in those countries?

History

Steelheart could also reflect what has happened in the past with the rise of national super powers and dictators. Research how some dictators of the past century came to power. How does this relate to how countries have amassed power internationally?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Johnston, E. K. *The Story of Owen: The Dragon Slayer of Trondheim*. Carolrhoda, 2014. (on this year's GMBA list)

Knudsen, Michelle. *Evil Librarian*. Candlewick, 2014. (on this year's GMBA list)

Martinez, A. Lee. *Helen and Troy's Epic Road Quest*. Orbit, 2013. (on this year's GMBA list)

Smith, Andrew. *Winger*. Simon & Schuster, 2013. (on this year's GMBA list)

Other books by this author:

The Stormlight Archive (series) Tor.

Mistborn (series) Tor.

Elantris. Tor Books, 2005.

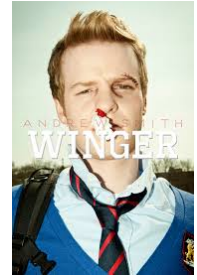
Firefight. Delacorte, 2015.

Additional Resources:

Author's website: <http://brandonsanderson.com/>

Author on Goodreads: https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/38550.Brandon_Sanderson

WINGER by Andrew Smith



Genre: Realistic Fiction, Coming of Age

Themes: High Schools, Private Schools, Rugby, Interpersonal Relations, Love, GLBTQ, Comics

Author information: Andrew Smith is a native-born Californian. He traveled the world when he was younger and later studied political science, journalism, and literature. He now lives in Southern California.

Plot summary: Ryan Dean West (named “Winger” for his rugby position) is two years younger than his classmates at a prestigious boarding school. Junior year finds him playing on the Varsity rugby team, in love with his best female friend, and rooming with the team bully in a dorm for troublemakers – much of which Ryan Dean chronicles in humorous, hand-drawn comics. Tragedy happens, and Ryan Dean must find and hold on to what is most important.

Booktalk: I live with the team bully and fear for my life on and off the rugby field – especially every time his (incredibly hot!) girlfriend hits on me. But what’s a guy to do? Okay, I should focus on Annie. I mean, she’s my best friend, smart, gorgeous, and I’m crazy in love with her. The only problem is that she’s two years older than me, and she still thinks I’m just a “little boy.” I’ll just win her over with my athletic prowess, incredible wit, and brilliant drawings. Sure, that’ll work.

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies

- Explore the history of education and philosophies regarding child development – should we group students by age or ability? What are the pros and cons of each?
- Research the history and current attitudes toward gays in sports.

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Green, John. *Looking for Alaska*. Speak, 2008.

Hubbard, Jenny. *Paper Covers Rock*. Delacorte Press, 2011.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2013.

Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012.

Other books by this author:

Ghost Medicine. Feiwel & Friends, 2008.

In the Path of Falling Objects. Feiwel & Friends, 2009.

The Marbury Lens. Feiwel & Friends, 2010.

Stick. Feiwel & Friends, 2011.

Grasshopper Jungle. Dutton, 2014.

100 Sideways Miles. Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2014.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://www.authorandrewsmith.com/>

“Author Andrew Smith Keeps YA Weird with ‘Grasshopper Jungle’ and ‘The Alex Crow’,” by Anthony Breznican, Entertainment Weekly’s EW.com. <http://disq.us/8mur3i>

New York Times book review: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/12/books/review/winger-by-andrew-smith.html>

BANDETTE VOL. 1: PRESTO! **by Paul Tobin and Colleen Coover**



Genres: Humor, Action/Adventure, Graphic Novels

Themes: Friendship, Superheroes, Crime

Author information: Paul Tobin is the author of hundreds of comics from Marvel, DC, Dark Horse, Top Shelf and more. He is an Eisner Award winning author for *Bandette* and the *Colder* series. He lives in Portland, Oregon with his wife, Colleen Coover.

Plot summary: Teenage thief and crime fighter Bandette is a carefree “superhero” who, with the help of her friends, the urchins, solves crimes for Police Inspector Belgique and slyly liberates rare items from those who don't deserve them. But when her thievery and panache start to gain attention from the leader of a dangerous international criminal organization, she finds her life in jeopardy.

Booktalk: Action! Adventure! Humor! Presto! Bandette is a teenage crime-fighting, antiquity-“liberating,” and all around fun superhero. Unfortunately, her carefree spirit irks some powerful people and she becomes a target on a nasty criminal organization’s hit list. Can Bandette and her friends outwit these criminal masterminds? To find out, read *Bandette! Presto!*

Curriculum tie-ins:

Art

- Bandette liberates rare works from their owners. Some of these masterpieces can be found at the end of the book in the “What's Bandette Stolen Now?” section. Research the items. Besides the monetary value, why would a teenage thief want to acquire them? Why is it important to cherish artwork from so long ago?
- At the end of the book, Colleen Coover shares how she uses the author's script to illustrate *Bandette*. Read *Go!: a Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design* by Chip Kidd, then read the “Drawing Bandette” section of the book. What elements of graphic design did the illustrator use in *Bandette*?

English/Language Arts

- At the end of *Bandette*, the author shares an excerpt of the script he wrote for the book. Write your own script, as Paul Tobin has, to continue Bandette’s story.
- Some of the characters in *Bandette* are featured in short comics or stories at the end of the book. Write your own comic or story about a different character in the book.

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Tobin, Paul and Colleen Coover. *Bandette: Stealer’s Keepers (Vol. 2)*, Dark Horse Books, 2015.

Tobin, Paul and Colleen Coover. *Gingerbread Girl*. Top Shelf Productions, 2011.

Wilson, G. Willow. *Ms. Marvel*. Marvel Worldwide, 2014.

Yang, Gene Luen. *The Shadow Hero*. First Second, 2014.

Other books by this author:

Gingerbread Girl. Top Shelf Productions, 2011.
Plants vs. Zombies: Lawnmageddon. Dark Horse Books, 2013.
Plants vs. Zombies: Timepocalypse. Dark Horse Books, 2015.
Bandette: Stealer's Keepers (Vol. 2). Dark Horse Books, 2015.

Paul Tobin is the author of the following Dark Horse comic series:

Colder
Falling Skies
Prometheus
The Witcher

Additional resources:

Paul Tobin's website: <http://www.paultobin.net/>

Colleen Coover's website: <http://www.colleencoover.net/>

A MAD, WICKED FOLLY by Sharon Biggs Waller



Genre: Historical Fiction, Coming of Age

Themes: Feminism, 20th Century London, Art, Suffrage

Author information: Sharon Biggs Waller's past professions include being a national park ranger, owning a riding school, and teaching the Civil Service Club at the Royal Mews in Buckingham Palace. She lived in England for six years, and she once sort of met Her Majesty the Queen. Sharon lives on a farm in Northwest Indiana with her husband and a lovely mix of animals.

Plot summary: Victoria Darling feels constrained by the obligations of high society in 1909 London. At 17, Vicky must decide what she is willing to sacrifice in order to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

Booktalk: What have I done? I just wanted to fit in at my art class (okay, technically, I should have been at finishing school, not art class). Why is it acceptable for men to pose nude, but not women? And honestly, why is it acceptable for men to attend art school and not women? I want to be an artist, not a subservient wife to someone of my parents' choosing. Is that too much to ask?

Curriculum tie-ins:

Social Studies

- Explore the suffragette movement in Edwardian London, and compare it to women's suffrage in America.
- Explore feminism and women's rights through the ages and in different areas of the world. What has changed, and what is still the same?

Art History

- How has the role of women artists changed and remained the same through the ages?

If you loved this, you'll like:

Blankman, Anne. *Prisoner of Night and Fog*. Balzer + Bray, 2014.

Feldman, Ruth Tenzer. *Blue Thread*. Ooligan Press, 2012.

Hodge, Rosamund. *Cruel Beauty*. Balzer + Bray, 2014.

Yousafzai, Malala. *I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*. Little, Brown and Company, 2013.

Other books by this author:

Fiction

The Forbidden Orchid. Viking, Winter 2016.

Non-Fiction

In One Arena: Top Dressage Experts Share their Knowledge through the Levels. Half Halt Press, 2001.

Advanced English Riding, i5 Press, 2007.

The Original Horse Bible: The Definitive Source for All Things Horse. i5 Press, 2011.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://sharonbiggs-waller.com/>

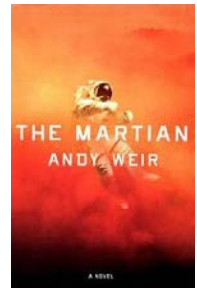
2015 Amelia Bloomer Project List:

<https://ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/announcing-the-2015-amelia-bloomer-project-list/>

YALSA's 2015 Best Fiction for Young Adults: <http://www.ala.org/yalsa/2015-best-fiction-young-adults>

THE MARTIAN

by Andy Weir



Genre: Science Fiction, Adventure, Thriller

Themes: Survival Story, Journaling, Resourcefulness, Ingenuity

Author information: Andy Weir self-published *The Martian* in 2011, and it has become a huge success since then (and a film adaptation directed by Ridley Scott is due for release in November 2015). It is his first novel. Weir self-describes as “a lifelong space nerd and a devoted hobbyist of subjects like relativistic physics, orbital mechanics, and the history of manned spaceflight,” which explains a lot about this novel. He currently works as a software engineer.

Plot summary: Mark Watney is on NASA’s third manned-mission to Mars, yet a sudden dust storm causes his crew to evacuate the planet... without him. The crew and NASA assume he’s dead, yet this book tells a different story. It tells the story of Mark’s ingenious attempts to stay alive, alone, on Mars. Through his journal entries of his time on Mars, the incredibly creative survival story unfolds, as Mark is forced to repair damaged equipment, figure out how to keep himself with enough food to live longer, and attempt to communicate with Earth. By the end, the reader can’t but be simultaneously holding their breath and cheering loudly for Mark’s survival.

Booktalk: Mark Watney is a crew member of Ares 3, NASA’s third manned-mission to Mars. When a sudden dust storm causes his crew to evacuate the planet, they leave Mark behind, assuming he’s dead. But he isn’t. Not at all. And he has no way to contact Earth to tell them he’s still alive. As the novel unfolds, Mark must combat starvation, damaged machinery, attempts to communicate with NASA, and much more. It is his wry sense of humor and ingenious problem-solving that keep him logging journal entries. Just how long can he survive on the red planet?

Curriculum tie-ins:

Science and Language Arts

Try to fact-check aspects of this book in a cross-curricular project with Physics, Chemistry, or Earth Science and Language Arts. In an Earth Science class, you might fact-check Mark Watney’s solution for growing potatoes on Mars and see if it would really have been feasible with what we know of Mars. Or in a Physics class, you might test out some of his equations on gravity on Mars and see if they hold true. Attempt to grow food in Mars-like conditions or build a replica of an EVA suit or the rover.

English/Language Arts

Imagine you are stranded on Mars (or any of the planets you’ve studied). Write your own survival journal, complete with the challenges you face (based on possible scenarios) and your ingenious solutions to them.

If you loved this, you’ll like:

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender’s Game*. Tor Books, 1985.

Cline, Ernest. *Ready Player One*. Crown, 2011.
Martinez, A. Lee. *Emperor Mollusk vs. The Sinister Brain*. Orbit, 2012.
Roach, Mary. *Packing for Mars*. Norton, 2010.

Additional resources:

Author's website: <http://andyweirauthor.com/>

Information on the upcoming film adaptation: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt3659388/>

Green Mountain Book Award

Checklist, 2015-2016

Check the boxes as you read the books. You MUST read at least three titles on this list to vote.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Berry, Julie | <i>All the Truth That's in Me</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brown, Daniel James | <i>The Boys in the Boat</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> de la Peña, Matt | <i>The Living</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Johnston, E. K. | <i>The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Knudsen, Michelle | <i>Evil Librarian</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Martinez, A. Lee | <i>Helen and Troy's Epic Road Quest</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May, Elizabeth | <i>The Falconer</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mechner, Jordan, with LeUyen Pham and Alex Puvillard | <i>Templar</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Murdoch, Emily | <i>If You Find Me</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> O'Malley, Daniel | <i>The Rook</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanderson, Brandon | <i>Steelheart</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Andrew | <i>Winger</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tobin, Paul & Colleen Coover | <i>Bandette Vol. 1: Presto!</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waller, Sharon Biggs | <i>A Mad Wicked Folly</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weir, Andy | <i>The Martian</i> |