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Hot Titles - Fall 2015 - Chapter Books & Elementary Novels

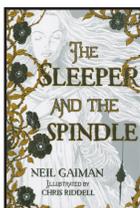


Benjamin, Ali. *Thing About Jellyfish*. (110692) Little. Ages 8-12. A twelve-year-old girl loses her friend to drowning right after being mean to her. Already a precocious science-minded loner, she stops talking and immerses herself in research about the jellyfish she is certain caused her friend to drown. The book contains interesting science, as well as the twists and turns of tween girl relationships. The girl is very intense and self-involved but she does make friends and get over her guilt by the end of the book. This is Benjamin's first children's novel. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [343 pp.] **\$19.52**

Brallier, Max. *Last Kids On Earth*. (145114) Viking. Ages 8-12. A tongue-in-cheek middle school graphic novel version of the *Walking Dead*. A 13-year-old boy has to survive in a world taken over by zombies and monsters. The action is pretty non-threatening and the boy kids around a lot when he joins together with other survivors. Brallier has done several other funny graphic novel adventure series, like *Galactic Hot Dogs* and *Poptropica*. The artist is Douglas Holgate, who is mainly a comic book artist, but he has done several trade graphic novel books as well, such as the *Cheesie Mack* series by Stephen Cotler and the *Planet Tad* series by Tim Carvell. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist](#). [225 pp.] **\$17.41**



Cottrell Boyce, Frank. *Astounding Broccoli Boy*. (244768) Walden Pond. Ages 8-12. An ordinary boy in England, along with the bully from his school, suddenly turns green. The doctors lock them away to study them but, convinced they must now have some superpowers, the duo escapes to find out what has caused their dilemma. There is much mayhem and silliness along the way. Cottrell Boyce's sense of humor and frantic action is well-known for his *Cosmic* from 2011, as well as his three additional stories about *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [370 pp.] **\$19.51**



Gaiman, Neil. *Sleeper And The Spindle*. (363904) Harper. Ages 13-17. A somewhat twisted version of the *Sleeping Beauty* fable, complete with Beauty as the heroic queen, her sidekick dwarves and an evil witch enveloping the land in a troubled sleep. The black-and-white drawings by Chris Riddell are by turns creepy and comic. Gaiman has been doing mostly picture books lately but he is well known by this age group for his *Graveyard Book* in 2008 and *Coraline* in 2002. This book is most similar to Gaiman's *Hansel and Gretel* in 2014. Riddell is better known in his native England but we know him in this country for illustrating Paul Stewart's *Edge Chronicles*. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist](#). [66 pp.] **\$21.61**

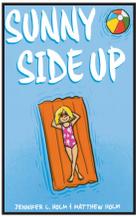
Hatke, Ben. *Little Robot*. (424887) First Second. Ages 7-10. This is an almost wordless graphic novel but it is such a long, involved story that I would not classify it as a picture book. A little girl discovers a lost robot and tries to repair him and protect him from the robot sent to retrieve him. The colorful friendly characters are engaging and there are usually five or six illustrations on each page, giving it a comic book feel. Hatke is well-known for his *Zita the Spacegirl* in 2011 and the two sequels to it, *Legends of Zita the Spacegirl* in 2012 and *Return of Zita the Spacegirl* in 2014. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [132 pp.] **\$19.51**



Haydu, Corey Ann. *Rules For Stealing Stars*. (248754) Katherine Tegen. Ages 8-12. In a contemporary family troubled by the mother's drinking, four sisters find magical closets in their New Hampshire summer house to get away from their problems. But they soon find the magic has a darker side too. Haydu has written several books for teens but this one, even with the alcoholism issue, is aimed more at the middle school reader. The story is told from the perspective of the youngest sister, who is eleven years old. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [323 pp.] **\$19.51**

Hilton, Marilyn. *Full Cicada Moon*. (445386) Dial. Ages 8-12. This is Hilton's second novel and it is getting a much warmer reception than her first, *Found Things* in 2014. This one is definitely a fish out of water story. A young girl in 1969 moves from Berkeley, California to Vermont. She is half-black and half-Japanese. And she is determined to be a scientist/astronaut, not a popular goal for a girl in 1969. The novel is in verse in the young girl's voice and it follows her journey as she makes new friends, gains acceptance and struggles to keep her goals in sight. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [389 pp.] **\$19.51**





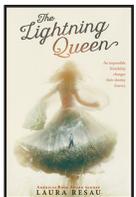
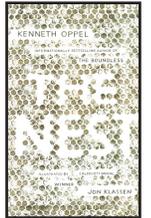
Holm, Jennifer L. Sunny Side Up. (460074) Graphix. Ages 8-12. A young girl is sent from Pennsylvania down to Florida to stay with her Grandpa in his senior living apartments because her older brother has a drug problem that needs to be dealt with. Jennifer's brother, Matthew, does the colorful illustrations in this graphic novel. The text is easy and all dialogue. The overall situation is serious and thus more geared to an older reader, although the main character's witty observations lighten up the mood considerably. The humor and family dynamics reminds me of Holm's *Turtle In Paradise* from 2010 or *Fourteenth Goldfish* from 2014, although those two were not graphic novels. The Holms team is also very well-known for their Babymouse and Squish collaborations. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [216 pp.] **\$16.71**

Kidd, Ronald. Night On Fire. (517082) Whitman. Ages 9-13. A young white girl in Anniston, Alabama in 1961 witnesses the Freedom Riders going through her town on their way to Montgomery. In the course of a couple of weeks she goes from being somewhat oblivious about racial matters to being a fervent civil rights advocate, which seems a little unlikely. But I guess the point is to show those events through the eyes of a local. She is loosely modeled on a real girl who helped out the Freedom Riders as they went through Anniston and their bus was destroyed. Out of Kidd's several novels this one most resembles his historical fiction about the Scopes Trial, *Monkey Town*, in 2006. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#) and [Booklist+](#) [264 pp.] **\$19.51**



McGhee, Alison. Firefly Hollow. (624977) Atheneum. Ages 8-12. Better known for her picture books such as *Case Of The Missing Donut* in 2013, McGhee seems to have started writing more elementary novels lately. She did *Star Bright* in 2014 and now this gentle adventure story about a rebellious firefly, cricket and vole and their exciting encounter with a "miniature giant", (a human child). Very reminiscent of *Wind In The Willows* or *Winnie The Pooh*. There are a small number of black-and-white drawings by Christopher Denise, as well as a few full color paintings of key scenes in the story. Denises's warm detailed paintings graced the pages of Rosemary Wells' *Following Grandfather* in 2012 and Anika Denise's *Baking Day At Grandma's* in 2014. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [291 pp.] **\$19.51**

Oppel, Kenneth. Nest. (690629) Simon. Ages 8-12. A young boy's baby brother is born with health problems. The boy is devastated until a mysterious wasp appears offering to fix the baby. But the wasp's evil intentions become clearer bit by bit and the boy has to desperately find a way to stop the wasps. A creepy tense story that is not difficult in word count or vocabulary but maybe too disturbing for those who have the right reading level but not enough emotional maturity yet. Oppel has done many creepy books for somewhat older readers, such as *This Dark Endeavor* in 2011 and *Such Wicked Intent* in 2012. He also has done pure adventure for this age level, such as 2014's *Boundless*. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [244 pp.] **\$19.51**

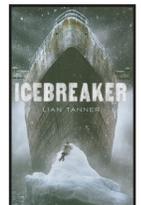


Resau, Laura. Lightning Queen. (747010) Scholastic. Ages 8-12. A story that starts in rural Mexico in the 1950s and ends up in contemporary Los Angeles. A gypsy girl and a Mixteco Indian boy become friends when her caravan visits his small mountain village. They have several immediate adventures and then, although they each have separate destinies, they swear to be friends for life. Magical realism and an interesting look at two unusual cultures make this a very engaging story. Resau specializes in novels set in indigenous American cultures, such as *What The Moon Saw* in 2007 about Mexico and *Queen Of The Water* in 2011 about Ecuador. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist](#). [323 pp.] **\$19.51**



Rundell, Katherine. Wolf Wilder. (771088) Simon. Ages 8-12. Rundell is a relative newcomer but her first two books, *Rooftoppers* in 2013 and *Cartwheeling In Thunderstorms* in 2014, got great reviews. A young girl lives in Czarist Russia with her mother, who is a wolf wilder. This is a person who trains wolves who have grown up as pets how to live in the wild again. The mother is imprisoned by a Russian Army general who hates wolves and it is up to the tough, half-wild twelve-year-old girl to protect their wolves and free her mother. It seems cold, icy weather, passionate people and flowery language are the hallmark of Russian literature and this novel set in Russia fits into that model. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#), [Bulletin+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [231 pp.] **\$19.51**

Tanner, Lian. Icebreaker. (871991) Feiwel and Friends. Ages 9-13. The start of a new dystopian trilogy by the author of the *Keepers* trilogy that started with *Museum Of Thieves* in 2010. The Anti-Machinists have taken over the world and destroyed everything mechanical. Six kids are the crew of a ship that attempts to maintain the old machines so they will be there when the world is ready for them again. A dark, moody setting in a spartan ship on a frozen sea. There are mysteries and danger aboard the ship as well as the ever present threat of the Anti-Machinists. There is almost a Lord of the Flies feel to the isolated, savage and dysfunctional society of the ship. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#) and [SLJ+](#) [294 pp.] **\$19.51**



Willems, Mo. Story of Diva and Flea. (949617) Hyperion. Ages 6-9. A street cat meets a domestic dog and shows him the wonders of Paris, while the cat learns the pleasures of domestic life from the dog. This is just one step beyond Willems' *Elephant And Piggy* series in terms of word count and complexity. Rather than doing his own illustrating, as Willems did in his award winning *Pigeon* and *Knuffle Bunny* books, the humorous mostly black-and-white drawings are done by Tony DiTerlizzi. DiTerlizzi is well-known for his *Spiderwick Chronicles* and his *WondLa* books. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [65 pp.] **\$18.11**

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