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Hot Titles - Fall 2015 - Young Adult Novels



Applegate, Katherine. *Crenshaw*. (064889) Feiwel and Friends. Ages 10-14. A young fourth grade boy believes in fact not whimsy like his dreamy parents. So how to explain his imaginary friend, the large cat Crenshaw, who comes back to help him as his family teeters on the edge of becoming homeless? The uncertainty and helplessness of poverty seen from a child's point of view. There is a hopeful, if not totally happy ending. After a long career as writer of the fantasy series, *Animorphs*, Applegate has switched to serious fiction, as in the popular *The One And Only Ivan* in 2012 and *The Home Of The Brave* in 2007. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [245 pp.] **\$19.51**



Gino, Alex. *George*. (380142) Scholastic. Ages 10-14. Fourth grade boy George knows he was really meant to be a girl. Playing the role of Charlotte in the school play *Charlotte's Web* becomes the catalyst for George to come out gradually to his best friend, a girl, then his older brother, and then his mom. George/Melissa still has a long way to go at the end of the book but he/she has certainly made a brave and determined start. Alex Gino is transgender and this is his/her first novel. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [195 pp.] **\$19.51**

Morpurgo, Michael. *Listen To The Moon*. (659275) Feiwel and Friends. Ages 10-14. History is wrapped up with drama in this new novel by the author of *Half A Man* earlier in 2015 and the beloved *War Horse* from 2007. A German submarine has sunk the *Lusitania* off the English coast and two fishermen find a young mute girl survivor on a deserted island. They bring her back to their fishing village and initial sympathy slowly turns into suspicion that she is a German spy. Selections from different characters' journals allow us to see the story from several points of view. A close study of the tensions caused by a distant war and both the good and bad tendencies in small town life. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [341 pp.] **\$19.51**



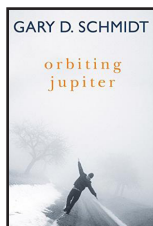
Pearsall, Shelley. *Seventh Most Important Thing*. (706366) Knopf. Ages 10-14. A junior high boy, suffering from the death of his father, throws a brick at a street person. When he is sentenced to help the street person go through trash he finds out that the street person is actually an eccentric but inspired folk artist making art from what he finds in the trash. The folk artist character was inspired by a real artist, James Hampton, who lived in Washington, D.C. in the 1960s. The boy's relationship with James Hampton helps him to deal with his grief and do a considerable amount of growing up. Pearsall has written several realistic novels, the most noted of which was *Jump Into the Sky* in 2012. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#) and [Booklist+](#) [278 pp.] **\$19.51**

Sachar, Louis. *Fuzzy Mud*. (773951) Delacorte. Ages 10-14. This new novel by a master storyteller reminds me of Carl Hiaasen's light eco-adventures. A boy and girl trying to avoid the school bully accidentally run into a threatening top-secret experiment. Lots of similarities to the classic *Holes* from 1998, with likeable underdog heroes and an environmental message. There are no evil bad guys in this story, just an eccentric genius who doesn't have a good grasp on reality. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#), [Bulletin](#) and [Horn Book](#). [181 pp.] **\$19.51**



Sands, Kevin. *Blackthorn Key*. (776749) Aladdin. Ages 10-14. This debut novel by a Canadian is a rollicking good adventure. A young apprentice to an apothecary in London in the latter 1600s gets caught up in a plot that threatens the entire kingdom. The apprentice is daring, sassy and uses his wits and his master's potions to win out over the bad guys. This could work for upper elementary readers but some of the action is just a little bit bloody for too young of an audience. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [371 pp.] **\$20.21**

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Hired Girl*. (785892) Candlewick. Ages 12-16. Fourteen year old Joan leaves her farm in 1911 to escape to Baltimore, where she becomes a household servant to a wealthy Jewish family. The diary format captures the details of the time and place, as well as the growing up process of a naïve but well-intentioned girl. Her various crushes on boys make this definitely more a girl book than a boy book. Schlitz won the Newbery for her book bringing England in the Middle Ages to life in *Good Masters, Sweet Ladies* in 2008. Her Newbery Honor book in 2013, *Splendors And Glooms*, was more of an adventure book than this one is. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [387 pp.] **\$20.21**



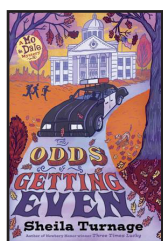
Schmidt, Gary D. *Orbiting Jupiter*. (786847) Clarion. Ages 12-16. The story of a complicated boy in pain unfolds as his new foster brother gets to know him and understand him. He is an eighth grade boy from an uncaring family who has a baby daughter already. The farm family in Minnesota that takes him in struggles to support him even though they are scared by a violent episode in his past. An absorbing character study of two very sympathetic boys, much like Schmidt's *Wednesday Wars* in 2007 and *Okay For Now* in 2011. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [183 pp.] **\$20.21**

Selznick, Brian. *Marvels*. (799218) Scholastic. Ages 12-16. Using the innovative combination of text and illustrations he pioneered in 2007's *Invention Of Hugo Cabret* and 2011's *Wonderstruck*, Selznick first tells the story in pictures of a thesbian family in London during the 1800s. Then he tells the story of a boy arriving at his uncle's house in London a century later and discovering mysteries galore there. In a mix of text and pictures he then brings the two stories together. Selznick based the uncle's house somewhat on the real Sever's House in London, which attempts to recreate a London home in Victorian times. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [665 pp.] **\$30.71**



Smith, Andrew. *Stand-Off*. (830562) Simon. Ages 14-18. The precocious, mouthy, rugby-loving Ryan Dean from 2013's *Winger* is back. This is his senior year and he has rugby issues, girlfriend issues, and best friend issues at his private school. He is also the mentor and leader this year, rather than the young rebellious upstart. There is bad language and sexual situations in this one, perhaps even more than in *Winger*, so this is better directed to the high school reader. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist](#). [401 pp.] **\$20.21**

Stead, Rebecca. *Goodbye Stranger*. (844441) Wendy Lamb. Ages 10-14. Three seventh grade girl friends with various issues try to help each other get through the school year. Most of their issues revolve around boys, the worst being one of the girls texting a revealing picture to her possible boyfriend. Set in contemporary New York City. Stead won the Newbery in 2010 for *When You Reach Me* and *Liar & Spy* did very well in 2012. Both are also contemporary urban fiction. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#), [Bulletin+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [289 pp.] **\$19.51**



Turnage, Sheila. *Odds Of Getting Even*. (893849) Kathy Dawson. Ages 10-14. This is the third book set in fictional small town Tupelo Landing, North Carolina and starring the young detectives Mo and Dale. This time they are trying to get Dale's no good Daddy convicted of kidnapping. The idiosyncratic characters and intimate small town feel from 2012's *Three Times Lucky* and 2014's *The Ghosts Of Tupelo Landing* are still evident in this book. These three are Turnage's only children's books. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [342 pp.] **\$19.51**

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