

Fiction

ISBN 1416963987; 9781416963981; 9781442474871
LC 2012018299

Newberry Honor Book (2104)

In this book, by Holly Black, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler, “a doll that may be haunted leads three friends on a thrilling adventure. . . . Zach, Poppy, and Alice have been . . . playing one continuous, ever-changing game. . . . Ruling over all is the Great Queen, . . . cursing those who displease her. . . . Zach and Alice and Poppy set off on one last adventure to lay the Queen’s ghost to rest. But nothing goes according to plan, and . . . creepy things begin to happen.” (Publisher’s note)

“Veteran Black packs both heft and depth into a deceptively simple (and convincingly uncanny) narrative. . . . A few rich metaphors . . . are woven throughout the story, as every encounter redraws the blurry lines between childishness and maturity, truth and lies, secrecy and honesty, magic and madness. Spooky, melancholy, elegiac and ultimately hopeful; a small gem.” Kirkus

The **iron** trial; Holly Black, Cassandra Clare. First edition Scholastic Press 2014 304 p. illustrations (Magisterium) (hardcover) \$17.99

Grades: 4 5 6 7 8

Fic

1. Fantasy fiction 2. Magic -- Fiction
ISBN 0545522250; 9780545522250

LC 2014937300

In this fantasy novel by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare, part of the Magisterium series, “most kids would do anything to pass the Iron Trial. Not Callum Hunt. He wants to fail. All his life, Call has been warned by his father to stay away from magic. If he succeeds at the Iron Trial and is admitted into the Magisterium, he is sure it can only mean bad things for him.” (Publisher’s note)

“The third-person narration, filtered through Callum’s delightfully insecure-and-overcompensating-with-snarky-bravado perspective, carries a tone that will likely have readers chortling in recognition. A promising beginning to a complex exploration of good and evil, as well as friendship’s loyalty.” Kirkus

Black, Peter Jay

Urban outlaws; Peter Jay Black. Bloomsbury USA Childrens 2014 288 p. illustration (hardback) \$16.99

Grades: 5 6 7 8

Fic

1. Science fiction 2. Ability -- Fiction 3. Orphans -- Fiction 4. Criminals -- Fiction 5. Adventure and adventurers 6. Computers -- Fiction 7. Adventure and adventurers -- Fiction
ISBN 1619634007; 9781619634008

LC 2014005604

In this middle-grades book, by Peter Jay Black, “deep beneath the city live five extraordinary kids: world-famous hacker Jack, gadget geek Charlie, free runner Slink, communications chief Obi, and decoy expert Wren. Orphans bonded over their shared sense of justice, the kids have formed the Urban Outlaws, a group dedicated to outsmarting criminals and handing out their stolen money through Random Acts of Kindness (R.A.K.s).” (Publisher’s note)

“Five orphans—Jack, Charlie, Wren, Obi, and Slink—have made a home for themselves in a WWII bunker under the London subway. They are skilled in various ways—technological savvy, surveillance, and physical prowess in

particular—and work together as the Urban Outlaws, using their knowledge to play Robin Hood against local criminals and sharing the benefits of their activities with those less fortunate than themselves...The characters are warm and well developed and will appeal to reluctant readers across middle school. This new series will be an excellent choice for younger fans of Alex Rider.” Booklist

Blackwood, Gary

Curiosity; by Gary Blackwood. Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. 2014 320 p. (hardcover) \$16.99

Grades: 5 6 7 8

Fic

1. Chess -- Fiction 2. Robots -- Fiction 3. Historical fiction 4. Poverty -- Fiction 5. Apprentices -- Fiction 6. Philadelphia (Pa.) -- History -- 19th century -- Fiction
ISBN 0803739249; 9780803739246

LC 2013013438

This novel, by Gary Blackwood, begins in “Philadelphia, PA, 1835. Rufus, a twelve-year-old chess prodigy, is recruited by a shady showman named Maelzel to secretly operate a mechanical chess player called the Turk. . . . But Rufus’s job working the automaton must be kept secret, and he fears he may never be able to escape his unscrupulous master. And what has happened to the previous operators of the Turk, who seem to disappear as soon as Maelzel no longer needs them?” (Publisher’s note)

“In 1835, Rufus, twelve-year-old hunchback and chess prodigy, is taken in by Johann Maelzel, owner of the Turk, a chess-playing automaton. They can’t seem to escape the mysterious Woman in Black, or the attention of Edgar Allan Poe, who aims to expose their operation for the fraud it is. Blackwood excels in writing historical fiction that is as informative as it is entertaining.” Horn Book

Blackwood, Gary L.

Second sight; [by] Gary Blackwood. Dutton 2005 279p hardcover o.p. pa \$6.99

Grades: 5 6 7 8

Fic

1. Lawyers 2. Presidents 3. State legislators 4. Members of Congress 5. Clairvoyance -- Fiction 6. Washington (D.C.) -- Fiction 7. United States -- History -- 1861-1865, Civil War -- Fiction
ISBN 0-525-47481-1; 0-14-240747-X pa

In Washington, D.C., during the last days of the Civil War, a teenage boy who performs in a mind reading act befriends a clairvoyant girl whose frightening visions foreshadow an assassination plot.

“This is a well-researched, engrossing story grounded in historical detail.” SLJ

★ The **Shakespeare** stealer; [by] Gary Blackwood. Dutton Children’s Bks. 1998 216p \$15.99; pa \$5.99

Grades: 5 6 7 8

Fic

1. Poets 2. Authors 3. Dramatists 4. Orphans -- Fiction 5. Theater -- Fiction 6. Great Britain -- History -- 1485-1603, Tudors -- Fiction
ISBN 0-525-45863-8; 0-14-130595-9 pa

LC 97-42987

A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare’s acting troupe in order to steal the script of “Hamlet,” but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty

“Wry humor, cliffhanger chapter endings, and a plucky protagonist make this a fitting introduction to Shakespeare’s world.” Horn Book

Other titles in this series are:
Shakespeare’s scribe (2000)
Shakespeare’s spy (2003)

Blackwood, Sage

★ **Jinx**; Sage Blackwood. Harper 2013 368 p. (Jinx) (trade bdg.) \$16.99
Grades: 4 5 6 7 **Fic**

1. Fantasy fiction 2. Magic -- Fiction 3. Voyages and travels -- Fiction 4. Fantasy
ISBN 0062129902; 9780062129901

LC 2012005249

This fantasy book is set “in the Urwald, an enormous, sentient forest where humans exist on sufferance . . . After Jinx’s brutal stepfather decides to abandon him in the forest, the boy is saved by a crusty, morally ambiguous wizard named Simon, who takes him in as a servant, eventually teaching him some magic. Years later, a 12-year-old Jinx and two new friends set off to find another wizard, the monstrous Bonemaster, in hopes he can help them overcome their respective magical troubles.” (Publishers Weekly)

“...Rounding out the exciting story are terrifying dangers, delightful bouts of wordplay, and vivid settings that will appeal to readers’ imaginations, senses of humor, and desire for fair play. A literary cut above Eoin Colfer’s *Artemis Fowl* books but with no less tension or bravado, this exciting, thought-provoking debut will leave readers eager for follow-up adventures.” Booklist

Jinx’s fire; Sage Blackwood. Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers 2015 400 p. map (hardback) \$16.99

Grades: 4 5 6 7 **Fic**
1. Fantasy fiction 2. Wizards -- Fiction 3. Forests and forestry -- Fiction 4. Fantasy 5. Magic -- Fiction 6. Orphans -- Fiction
ISBN 0062129961; 9780062129963

LC 2014022688

Sequel to: *Jinx’s magic*

In this novel by Sage Blackwood, “the young wizard Jinx concludes his suspenseful and dryly humorous adventures in the magical forest of the Urwald with this third installment in the series. . . . The forest is under attack and its magic is fading. Can Jinx summon enough of his magic . . . to rescue Simon, defeat the Bonemaster, unite the Urwald, and fight off the invaders?” (Publisher’s note)

“In this concluding volume of Blackwood’s critically acclaimed series, Jinx is nearly 15, and he finally rescues his mentor, Simon, from the fate the evil Bonemaster wrought in *Jinx’s Magic* (2014). . . . Series fans will be elated to have another outing with the sweetly sardonic hero, whose conscience is almost as troublesome as his grasp of spells. Fans of Cornelia Funke should add this to their stacks.” Booklist

Jinx’s magic; Sage Blackwood. Katherine Tegen Books 2014 400 p. (hardcover) \$16.99
Grades: 4 5 6 7 **Fic**

1. Fantasy 2. Magic -- Fiction 3. Wizards -- Fiction 4. Orphans -- Fiction 5. Forests and forestry -- Fiction
ISBN 9780062129932; 0062129937

LC 2013010171

Sequel to: *Jinx*

“Jinx knows he can do magic. But he doesn’t know why he’s being stalked by a werewolf with a notebook, why the trees are starting to take back the only safe paths through the Urwald, or why the elves think Jinx and the evil Bonemaster are somehow connected.” (Publisher’s note)

“The plot is a little convoluted, wrapping up loose ends from the first volume and setting up elements for the next before finally establishing its own internal tension, but the unique setting, smart pace, likable characters, and sprightly voice hold the narrative together.” Horn Book

Blakemore, Megan Frazer

The **spy** catchers of Maple Hill; by Megan Frazer Blakemore. Bloomsbury 2014 320 p. (hardback) \$16.99
Grades: 4 5 6 7 **Fic**

1. Mystery fiction 2. Vermont -- Fiction 3. Country life -- Fiction 4. Spies -- Fiction 5. Cold War -- Fiction 6. Friendship -- Fiction 7. City and town life -- Vermont -- Fiction 8. Vermont -- History -- 20th century -- Fiction
ISBN 1619633485; 9781619633483

LC 2013039857

In this children’s novel by Megan Frazer Blakemore, “Hazel Kaplansky is a firm believer in the pursuit of knowledge and truth—and she also happens to love a good mystery. When suspicions swirl that a Russian spy has infiltrated her small town of Maple Hill, Vermont, amidst the fervor of Cold War era McCarthyism, Hazel knows it’s up to her to find a suspect starting with Mr. Jones, the quietly suspicious grave digger.” (Publisher’s note)

“The book does a wonderful job of displaying the way in which the fear inherent in the McCarthy era turned neighbor against neighbor. While the heart of the story lies within the issues of trust and truth, the writing is never preachy, using Hazel’s innate humor to deflect moments that veer close to saccarine or preachy. A strong work of historical fiction for mystery fans.” SLJ Reviews

The **Water** Castle; by Megan Frazer Blakemore. Walker 2013 352 p. (hardback) \$16.99
Grades: 3 4 5 6 7 **Fic**

1. Magic -- Fiction 2. Castles 3. Family secrets -- Fiction 4. Maine -- Fiction 5. Families -- Fiction 6. Dwellings -- Fiction 7. Moving, Household -- Fiction 8. Discoveries in science -- Fiction
ISBN 0802728391; 9780802728395

LC 2012016442

In this novel by Megan Frazer Blakemore “Ephraim Appledore-Smith is an ordinary boy, and up until his father’s stroke he lived an ordinary life. But all that changes when his family moves to the Water Castle. . . . Mallory Green’s family has always been the caretakers of the Water Castle. . . . She has been raised to protect the legendary Fountain of Youth, hidden on the estate grounds. When Ephraim learns of the Fountain, he’s sure finding it can cure his dad.” (Publisher’s note)

Block, Francesca Lia

★ **House** of dolls; illustrated by Barbara McClintock. Harper 2010 61p il \$15.99
Grades: 3 4 5 6 **Fic**

1. Fantasy fiction 2. Dolls -- Fiction
ISBN 978-0-06-113094-6; 0-06-113094-X