Material Order Wallenpaupack Area High School Library

SLM 506 Assignment 4

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Megan Frable

Dr. Mona Kerby

SLM 506: Collection Development

11 May 2023

Print Titles



83 Days in Mariupol – A War Diary	
Author	Don Brown
Publisher	HarperCollins
Copyright	2023
Dewey	741.5
ISBN	9780063311565
Cost	\$21.14
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	128

Summary

A young adult graphic novel that captures the complexities of the war in Ukraine, focusing on the siege of Mariupol (Feb '22 - May '22) and the brave people who stayed to defend their city against Russian forces as well as the resulting effects on global politics.

Rationale

- Graphic novel format plus nonfiction content boosts the collection, appeals to students
- Don Brown is an acclaimed children's author/illustrator; high school students may recognize his work from middle or elementary school
- Supports curricular connections in Social Studies, World Cultures, Current Events
- Shocking/tragic cover art
- At least two starred reviews

Reviews

Booklist starred (April 15, 2023)

Though his book is as approachable as ever, [Brown's] story is bleak yet unapologetic, telling the tragic stories of the survivors that escaped and those not so lucky. Bolstered with robust source notes, this is a flawless book about a senseless atrocity.

Kirkus Reviews (March 15, 2023)

A harrowing account of Ukrainian civilians and their defenders during the 2022 Russian attack and occupation of Mariupol.... Succinct, effective storytelling combined with haunting art.

School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2023)

No punches are pulled in this stark, unflinching diary of the siege on Mariupol by Russian forces sent by Vladimir Putin on February 24, 2022. VERDICT: An important piece of history in progress is captured here, and readers will not fail to be moved. An important purchase for high school libraries.



Across a Field of Starlight	
Author	Blue Delliquanti
Publisher	RH Graphic
Copyright	2022
Dewey	741.5
ISBN	9781668810811
Cost	\$22.02
Grade Level	6-12
# of Pages	345

Lu and Fassen are from different worlds and separate solar systems, so when the war of Fassen's world invades Lu's peaceful home, they find themselves at the forefront of a battle they hoped would never happen.

Rationale

- Graphic novel format and science fiction genre meets many students' interests
- The content supports curricular goals/needs in Science Fiction course
- Engaging cover shows characters of diverse backgrounds and body types

Reviews

Kirkus Reviews (January 1, 2022)

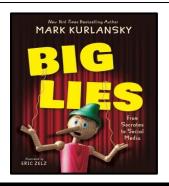
Two young adults forge a profound connection amid an intergalactic war.... Lu is fat and has dark skin; Fassen is brown-skinned, and the rest of the cast includes a variety of genders, skin tones, and body shapes. Charming, kinetic, and colorful in more ways than one.

Publishers Weekly (January 3, 2022)

Two nonbinary youths who meet as kids ally against fascism in this spacefaring graphic novel with a Star Wars feel.... Delliquanti's tropey comic offers a variously inclusive cast, including incidental nonbinary representation, and explores themes of nationalism, imperialism, and revolution.

School Library Journal Xpress (April 29, 2022)

Young scientist Lu, a member of the pacifist Commune, discovers Fassen, a member of the Fireback Brigade who has been inadvertently left behind on a desolate planet following a military skirmish between the Brigade and the oppressive Empire.... VERDICT: A worthy addition to collections where sci-fi titles are sought out.



Big Lies: From Socrates to Social Media	
Author	Mark Kurlansky
Publisher	Tilbury House
Copyright	2022
Dewey	177
ISBN	9780884489122
Cost	\$21.11
Grade Level	6-12
# of Pages	309

In this new book for young readers Mark Kurlansky looks at the art of the big lie. Big lies are told by governments, politicians, and corporations to avoid responsibility, cast blame on the innocent, win elections, disguise intent, create chaos, and gain power and wealth. Big lies are as old as civilization. They corrupt public understanding and discourse, turn science upside down, and reinvent history.

Rationale

- Relevant, nonfiction content is desperately needed in the collection
- Reaches a wide range of readers (Grades 6-12)
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection
- Stand-out, comical cover art; engaging title would hook readers

Reviews

Booklist (September 15, 2022)

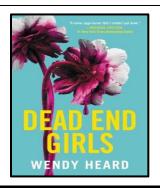
Many books advise young people on recognizing propaganda techniques, but this one offers a particularly broad view of how and why political leaders, hucksters, and others with personal or political agendas lie, how technological changes have magnified the lies' effectiveness, and how critical thinking skills enable people to recognize the big lies that can threaten a free society.

Kirkus Reviews starred (August 1, 2022)

This book takes on a dense and complicated subject; Kurlansky's genius is to embrace the complexity and urge readers to question everything they read, including this book. Impassioned, thorough, and brilliant: describes the struggle for truth that "keeps the world from descending into chaos."

School Library Journal (December 1, 2022)

Kurlansky outlines the history of lying in this informative and compelling introduction to the topic, specifically focusing on the lies of governments, politicians, and corporations with a political agenda. VERDICT: Libraries would [be wise] to purchase and recommend to middle and high school students.



Dead End Girls	
Author	Wendy Heard
Publisher	Christy Ottaviano/Little, Brown
Copyright	2022/2023
Dewey	F HEA
ISBN	9781516049127
Cost	\$16.74
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	324

Desperate to escape suffocating expectations and menacing families, seventeen-year-old Maude and her step-cousin Frankie fake their own deaths while on a family vacation in Hawaii, with deadly consequences.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre; thrillers are well-circulated
- Recommended in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection
- LGBTQ+ representation and important themes

Reviews

Booklist (May 1, 2022)

Heard's atmospheric, heart-jolting thriller follows Maude, a white teenager trying to escape a toxic family by faking her own death.... The book alternates between Maude's and Frankie's perspective as they explore their relationship, identities, and what it means to be truly free from people who don't want you to be yourself or pursue happiness.

Kirkus Reviews (March 1, 2022)

The story incorporates the protagonists' welcome awareness of their privilege as financially comfortable White people while exploring their queerness and the oppression they experience because of it (Maude's aware of her sexuality but not out as a lesbian yet, and Frankie questions their gender identity).

School Library Journal (June 1, 2022)

An action-packed LGBTQIAIA+ thriller. Forced to live out of a suitcase and shuffled between her divorced parents each week, Maude is fed up with her life. But all that is about to change; Maude has found her way out by faking her death.... VERDICT A fast-paced, enjoyable read for those who can suspend disbelief.



Don't Ask Me Where I'm From	
Author	Jennifer De Leon
Publisher	Atheneum
Copyright	2021
Dewey	F DEL
ISBN	9781713766674
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	7-12
# of Pages	323

Liliana Cruz does what it takes to fit in at her new nearly all-white school, but when family secrets come out and racism at school gets worse than ever, she must decide what she believes in and take a stand.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre; enticing title and cover
- Multicultural characters and relevant themes of race, identity, friendship
- Bilingual diction/slang would appeal to many readers, especially Spanish-speaking students and students learning Spanish in their foreign language courses
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist (May 1, 2020)

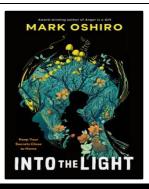
When half-Guatemalan, half-Salvadoran Liliana, writer supreme at her inner-city Boston high school, discovers that she's been accepted into a very "white," very "bougie" academic program she never applied to, she must decide whether or not to let this new school determine who she is and who she wants to be. An energetically paced, boundary-pushing novel that raises important questions of race, identity, belonging, true friendship, and how to stand up for a cause you truly believe in.

Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2020)

While the aspiring young writer theme feels tired at times, De Leon's debut deals tactfully with the tensions that race relations and the stress of keeping family secrets can bring on teenagers, producing an honest and empathetic portrayal. Liliana's mother is from El Salvador and her father's from Guatemala. A thought-provoking tale about navigating race and immigration issues.

School Library Journal (May 1, 2020)

De Leon uses frequent Spanish words and Latino pop culture references, with plentiful context clues, to portray Liliana's world and family. That, paired with slang-heavy dialogue, keeps the story moving along. It will be familiar territory for readers who straddle two cultures, for anyone who has had to be a newcomer, and, in this era, anyone who has ever worried about the impact of deportation on families. VERDICT: A timely addition to most collections, this realistic fiction title will resonate with many readers.



Into the Light	
Author	Mark Oshiro
Publisher	Tor Teen
Copyright	2023
Dewey	FOSH
ISBN	9781250812254
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	442

Seventeen-year-old queer adoptee Manny, now homeless, sets out to find his sister Elena, who is still enmeshed in Christ's Dominion, the community that abandoned him, but the journey is fraught with danger, as he is forced to confront the religious trauma from his past.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre; beautiful, enticing cover art
- LGBTQIA+ representation
- Relevant, thought-provoking themes
- At least three starred reviews
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist starred (March 1, 2023)

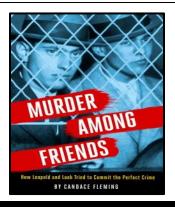
The world hasn't been kind to 17-year-old Manny, but meeting the friendly and supportive Varela family has at least given him the chance to escape Christ's Dominion church and its manipulative leader, Deacon Thompson. *Into the Light* is a thoughtful, beautiful, riveting thriller that fans of dynamic character building, gritty mystery, and searing social commentary will devour in a heartbeat.

Kirkus Reviews starred (January 1, 2023)

An edge-of-your-seat mystery with speculative elements.... As they grew up without knowing their family of origin, Manny and his sister aren't sure of their background but believe they are Mexican like the Varelas. Manny, along with many other characters, is queer. An important and searing read on the value of family, agency, and belief.

School Library Journal starred (April 1, 2023)

Seventeen-year-old Manny has been unhoused and traveling California for a year, ever since he was cast out of his deeply religious family.... VERDICT: A realistic, sometimes horrifying depiction of religious trauma. Recommended for readers who enjoy the works of Courtney Summers and Tiffany D. Jackson.



Murder Among Friends: How Leopold and Loeb Tried to Commit the Perfect Crime

Author	Candace Fleming
Publisher	Anne Schwartz
Copyright	2022
Dewey	364.152
ISBN	9780593177433
Cost	\$22.99
Grade Level	8-12
# of Pages	355

Summary

Taking readers back to 1924, this shocking true crime story follows two eighteen-year-old college students who kidnapped and murdered a child they both knew, their trial, and how a renowned defense attorney enabled them to avoid the death penalty.

Rationale

- Engaging and relevant nonfiction content; trending topic among students (true crime)
- Highly regarded author known for working with amazing illustrators and visual artists
- Supports curriculum in courses like American Horror, Psychology
- Reaches a wide range of readers (Grades 8-12)
- At least three starred reviews
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist starred (February 15, 2022)

The engrossing true-crime narrative style and high-interest subject will likely make this a very popular pick among teen readers, while the comprehensive look at Darrow's defense strategy gives it lots of heft. Thought-provoking reading sure to spark further conversations about crime and punishment.

Kirkus Reviews starred (January 1, 2022)

Fleming, a master of meticulously researched nonfiction, covers Leopold's and Loeb's troubled childhoods, the horrible crime itself, the odd bond between the newspapers and the police that facilitated a conviction, and Darrow's intelligence and humanity. In the end, however, Leopold and Loeb are so chilling that readers won't celebrate their judicial victory. Erudite, readable, and appalling.

School Library Journal starred (May 1, 2022)

Fleming breathlessly accounts the crime, trial, and the public discourse surrounding it. Equally fascinating, she explores the disturbing, psychological life of the murderers, including their unusual upbringings, codependent relationship, and manipulative relationships with the media and prison guards to gain public favor. VERDICT: A chilling page-turner with compelling psychoanalytic aspects not often seen in young adult nonfiction.



Promise Boys	
Author	Nick Brooks
Publisher	Henry Holt
Copyright	2023
Dewey	F BRO
ISBN	9781250866974
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	294

J.B., Ramon, and Trey, students of the Urban Promise Prep School, must follow the school's strict rules, but when their principal is murdered, the three boys must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre (mystery)
- Compelling and diverse characters who portray significant themes
- Standout cover art and title
- At least three starred reviews; multiple other positive reviews
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist starred (January 1, 2023)

Principal Kenneth Moore has been murdered, and the authorities quickly zero in on three students as suspects.... [T]his story is also a top-notch page-turner and deep character study. The three protagonists and slow convergence of their investigations will grip readers, who won't want to stop reading until the culprit is revealed.

Kirkus Reviews starred (December 1, 2022)

When someone murders the renowned founder of an oppressively rigorous Washington, D.C., school, three students—all boys of color—emerge as prime suspects.... Featuring a sharp examination of systemic inequality in urban schools and Black and Latine boyhood, this novel delivers in spades. Breathtakingly complex and intriguing.

Publishers Weekly starred (December 5, 2022)

Dividing the narrative into several parts told from multiple POVs in nonlinear chronology, Brooks shines a light on racial inequality in the criminal justice system and interrogates the degree to which educational institutions play a role in upholding it, particularly regarding young men of color. Brooks excels in creating protagonists worthy of applause and truly foul villains, whose presences linger long after this atmospheric read ends.

School Library Journal (February 1, 2023)

Urban Promise Prep School, an all-boys school in Washington, DC, aims to combat the challenges of urban education with structure and discipline.... VERDICT: With social justice themes, relatable teenage protagonists, and a satisfying conclusion, this is an essential purchase for teen collections.



Slip	
Author	Marika McCoola
Publisher	Algonquin Young Readers
Copyright	2022
Dewey	741.5
ISBN	9781668822494
Cost	\$22.87
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	190

A young pottery student finds her artistic voice and first love at an art camp, while also coping with feelings of guilt and worry about her best friend, who recently attempted suicide.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre in graphic novel format
- Interesting and colorful cover art/illustrations
- Relevant, mature themes for high school students
- Recommended in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist (May 15, 2022)

As Jade prepares to leave for a prestigious art camp, she learns that her best friend Phoebe has attempted suicide and is recovering at a hospital.... The cartoony roundness of the illustrations adds a youthful sweetness to Jade's coming-of-age tale. Meanwhile, the story dwells on heavy topics—including mental illness, the pressure to reach your potential, and learning to let go of things outside your control—making this a good fit for readers looking for a slower, more introspective graphic novel.

Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2022)

Enrolling at the Art Farm should have been fun, but Jade's best friend, Phoebe, has just attempted suicide; the residency is more intense and competitive than she had imagined; and she's feeling lost among the creative, inspired residents.... A fierce, transformative graphic novel about art and relationships.

School Library Journal (March 1, 2022)

Heavy with guilt over her best friend Phoebe's suicide attempt, Jade heads to sleep-away camp at the Art Farm.... Mary and Jade appear to be Asian, while Phoebe appears to be white. VERDICT: With themes ranging from mental health to self-discovery, this art-infused text will entice graphic novel fans and art students and leave them wanting another installment of Jade's story.



Stars and Smoke		
Author	Marie Lu	
Publisher	Roaring Brook	
Copyright	2023	
Dewey	F LU	
ISBN	9781250852816	
Cost	\$18.50	
Grade Level	9-12	
# of Pages	328	

When nineteen-year-old international pop sensation Winter Young is recruited by a covert organization to take down a criminal tycoon, he is paired with Sydney Cossette, a fierce and unpredictable secret agent, but suspicions soon turn to sparks as the two are drawn into a tangled web of secrets and deception.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre (realistic fiction yet engrossing thriller) with a diverse cast of characters
- Unique plot written by a New York Times bestselling author
- Aesthetically pleasing cover art/standout title
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist (February 15, 2023)

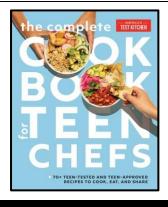
To the world, Winter Young has everything. A Chinese American international pop superstar with the voice—and face—of an angel, Winter summons legions of fans wherever he goes.... HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Just like her boy, Lu's a superstar: the author of the *Legend* series is a reliable #1 NYT best-seller, and this glitzy, high-concept thriller seems poised to join her other titles.

Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2023)

Two 19-year-olds endeavor to bring down an evil villain—and resist their draw to one another—in this romantic thriller.... Winter is Chinese American and has previously had a relationship with another guy; Sydney is cued White, and diversity is woven into the large supporting cast. An engrossing thriller that centers the characters at its heart.

Publishers Weekly (February 27, 2023)

In this well-paced series opener by Lu, a secret agent teams up with a pop star to bring down a powerful crime syndicate.... Via Winter and Sydney's deftly cultivated budding romance, brimming with barbed banter and moments of earnest, emotional resonance, Lu crafts a lively action adventure full of espionage, mystery, and starry-eyed glamour.



The Complete Cookbook for Teen Chefs: 70+ Teen-Tested and Teen-Approved Recipes to Cook, Eat, and Share

Author	N/A
Publisher	America's Test Kitchen
Copyright	2022
Dewey	641.5
ISBN	9781948703956
Cost	\$20.26
Grade Level	7-12
# of Pages	208

Summary

For the first time ever, America's Test Kitchen Kids is bringing their rigorous testing, kitchen knowhow, and hands-on learning to teenagers in the kitchen. Fiercely independent and searching for culinary adventure, teen chefs are ready for exciting, global recipes made to share with friends and family--with the support of fundamental kitchen techniques and approachable instruction.

Rationale

- Popular curricular topic and student interest in the last several years
- Many cookbooks in the current collection are very outdated; provides a needed boost to the 600s
- Culinary students and professional chef faculty members could use this text in class
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist (March 15, 2022)

In addition to including such teen favorites as cheeseburger sliders, French fries, and doughnuts, this cookbook, touted as "teen-tested and teen-approved" by America's Test Kitchen, offers cultural and vegetarian options, like congee, arepas, chana makhani, and tofu bowls.... Charts with conversions and equivalents and recipe stats (calories, fats, sugars, etc.) conclude this fun and friendly guide for teen foodies.

Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2022)

A comprehensive cookbook designed for and tested by teen cooks.... Each dish starts from basic, whole ingredients—no canned soup here—and the text often gives suggestions for how cooks can personalize or expand on it. Bright photographs show racially diverse young people and showcase the mouthwatering array of dishes. Top-notch recipes for junior top chefs.

School Library Journal (March 1, 2022)

A well-designed, visually appealing instructional cookbook from America's Test Kitchen for teens, geared toward beginner and experienced cooks. The 70+ included recipes are grouped together by meal type and range in difficulty.... VERDICT: Recommended for all libraries.



The Minus One Club	
Author	Kekla Magoon
Publisher	Henry Holt
Copyright	2023
Dewey	F MAG
ISBN	9781250806208
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	360

Joining a secret group called the "Minus-One Club," whose members have all suffered the tragic loss of someone they loved, fifteen-year-old Kermit finds his crush Matt's headstrong approach to life helping to relieve his constant despair.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre; unique plot
- Highly regarded, award winning YA author
- LGBTQ+ representation
- Coming-of-age tale with a diverse cast
- Eye-catching cover art
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist starred (January 1, 2023)

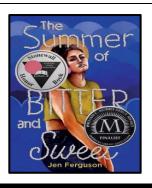
After losing his sister, Sheila, in a tragic car accident, 15-year-old Kermit Sanders is encouraged to take his grief to God and find peace in the platitudes of scripture.... This timely and thoughtful novel makes room for the increasing depth and complexity of navigating adolescence alongside grief, religious dissent, and healing.

Kirkus Reviews (November 1, 2022)

A teen boy learns that he doesn't have to grieve alone.... Kermit needs the support; as a closeted gay teen with homophobic, religious parents, he's unsure where to place his grief.... An ambitious coming-of-age story.

Publishers Weekly (November 28, 2022)

Soon after 15-year-old Kermit Sanders's older sister is killed by a drunk driver, Kermit is anonymously invited to the secret Minus-One Club, comprising fellow students from his high school who have all lost an immediate family member.... Exploring the multitude of ways people grieve, Magoon tells an emotionally complex narrative that emphasizes the importance of the roles loved ones play in individual lives and the ways one can be forever changed when they're gone.



The Summer of Bitter and Sweet	
Author	Jenny Ferguson
Publisher	Heartdrum
Copyright	2022
Dewey	F FER
ISBN	9781516048847
Cost	\$16.74
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	360

Lou has enough confusion in front of her this summer. She'll be working in her family's ice-cream shack with her former best friend, King, who is back in their Canadian prairie town after disappearing three years ago...When she gets a letter from her biological father...Lou immediately knows that she cannot meet him...When her family's business comes under threat, she soon realizes that she can't ignore her father forever.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre with a focus on Indigenous women and girls
- Title and book cover would hook many students; display-worthy shelf appeal
- Stonewall Honor Book, 2023
- William C. Morris YA Debut Nominees, 2023
- Five starred reviews
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist starred (May 1, 2022)

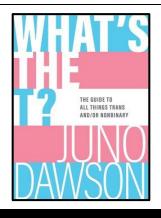
Ferguson's frank and powerful debut opens readers' eyes to the multiplicity of daily traumas faced by people of color, especially Indigenous women and girls. Ferguson, herself Michif/Métis and white, boldly writes on many challenging topics, including racism, physical violence, sexual identity, sexual assault, and teen alcohol use. Lou is complex, smart, and honest, and a narrator readers will trust, love, and learn from as she works to repair friendships and gain security for her treasured family.

Kirkus Reviews starred (March 15, 2022)

An Indigenous teen's journey to self-discovery, community, and acceptance.... Debut author Ferguson, who is Métis and White, touches on intergenerational family suffering at the hands of the state, mental health, substance abuse, racism, sexual harassment and assault, and missing and murdered Indigenous women—all with nuance and care. Heart-rending and healing; a winning blend that will leave readers satisfied.

School Library Journal starred (September 1, 2022)

Louise, who is Métis, plans to spend the summer after graduation with her mom, uncles, and friends while working at the family's ice cream shack earning money for college.... Each chapter begins with a beaded image from her mother's art and a quote from her uncle's ice cream recipe book. VERDICT: The honesty and complexity of this book make it a gripping read; a great first purchase for libraries serving teens.



What's the T? The Guide to All Things Trans and/or Nonbinary

till the second of the second	
Author	Juno Dawson
Publisher	Sourcebooks Fire
Copyright	2022
Dewey	306.76
ISBN	9781668814079
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	9-12
# of Pages	325

Summary

Discover what it means to be a young transgender and/or nonbinary person in the twenty-first century in this frank and funny guide for teens.

Rationale

- Many current high school library patrons would likely connect to the book's topics and would see themselves represented in this text
- Thought-provoking title; much needed nonfiction boost in the 300s
- Illustrations included
- Positively reviewed

Reviews

Booklist (April 1, 2022)

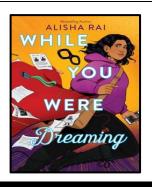
This guide to the truth about being trans is part memoir, part celebration, and all honesty. Author Dawson transitioned six years ago, and she candidly shares her experiences, along with definitions, explanations, and introductions to other trans individuals past and present.

Kirkus Reviews (April 1, 2022)

A trans guidebook by a prolific trans British author. Dawson brings her signature breezy style to this nonfiction text.... Andry's cartoonlike illustrations are lively, frequently amusing, and depict people with diverse skin tones. Light in tone and covering much familiar ground.

School Library Connection (February 14, 2022)

This title is perfectly geared for today's readers—almost to a fault. Not because the subject matter is based on a topic that is currently popular in culture, but because the language throughout relies heavily on modern slang. Unfortunately, this may mean that this otherwise useful book will not age well in its presentation. Nevertheless, high school librarians should strive to put this book in the hands of any student, teacher, or parent wanting to know more about the T in LGBTQ.



While You Were Dreaming	
Author	Alisha Rai
Publisher	Quill Tree
Copyright	2023
Dewey	FRAI
ISBN	9780063083967
Cost	\$18.50
Grade Level	8-12
# of Pages	425

In this debut contemporary YA romance by bestselling author Alisha Rai, a girl with undocumented family members goes viral after saving her crush's life in disguise.

Rationale

- Engaging and popular genre; relatable, strong protagonist
- Enticing title and cover art; author debut
- Relevant topics and themes
- Described as a must-read for fans of popular YA author Nicola Yoon
- Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection

Reviews

Booklist (March 1, 2023)

Rai's *While You Were Dreaming* uniquely tackles undocumented immigration, with a sprinkling of romance and adventure. In the book, Indian American Sonia Patil loves comics and everything geeky, and finds solace in cosplay and fantasy worlds.... This coming-of-age story is filled with true teen conflicts and crushes, and readers will root for the honest, strong-willed Sonia.

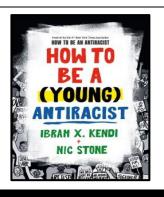
Kirkus Reviews (January 15, 2023)

A high school junior dodges the spotlight after saving her crush from accidentally drowning. Growing up, Indian American Sonia Patil and her older sister, Kareena, were taught to avoid attention.... Undocumented immigration, stress over health care, and the toxic use of social media are among the issues Rai addresses in her YA debut.... A well-balanced story poised between serious reality and romantic ideals.

Publishers Weekly (January 23, 2023)

In this moving ode to comics culture, community care, and the joy of unexpected first love, a spirited nod to 1990s rom-com *While You Were Sleeping*, Indian American high schooler Sonia Patil has been keeping a low profile ever since her mother was deported for overstaying her medical visa.... Sonia's troubles and triumphs are richly drawn; through her struggles, Rai intimately explores personal questions around body image, mental health, and toxic internet culture while interweaving thought-provoking interrogations of U.S. immigration and healthcare policies.

Nonprint/Media Titles



How to be a (Young) Antiracist	
(Audiobook)	
Authors/Narrators	Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone
Publisher	Findaway World, LLC
Copyright	2023
Dewey	305.8
ISBN	9780593502273
Cost	\$45.00 (Follett Digital Audiobook)
Grade Level	6-12

Summary

Spoken audio file; approximately 4 hours, 48 minutes; Originally released by Listening Library; Based on *How to be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. "A guide for teens seeking a way forward in acknowledging, identifying, and dismantling racism and injustice" - Amazon.com.

Rationale

- High praise from AudioFile Magazine
- Book is highly reviewed and recommended from other sources
- Engaging, relevant subject matter with social justice curriculum connections

Reviews

AudioFile (May 2023)

Groundbreaking, award-winning authors and activists Ibram X. Kendi and Nic Stone do an excellent job of narrating this adaptation of Kendi's seminal work for young people.... Lending their own voices to the work enhances the listening experience. Kendi's rich baritone and Stone's clear alto provide enough variety, and their experience in narration comes through with the easy flow of speech and varied pitches.

School Library Connection starred – Book Review (2023)

Without condescension or patronizing young people, Stone takes Kendi's work and makes it immediately relevant to everyone, regardless of color or culture.... A much-needed handbook for all those who care enough about our world to make a point of dismantling the racist policies and attitudes that harm us all.



She is A Haunting (Audiobook)	
Author	Trang Thanh Tran, Read by Emi Ray
Publisher	Bloomsbury
Copyright	2023
Dewey	F TRA
ISBN	9781547610815
Cost	\$26.17
Grade Level	9-12

Jade Nguyen--a bisexual teen who is part of the Vietnamese diaspora--begrudgingly returns to her former country to help her estranged father renovate a house in exchange for college tuition money. Jade teams up with Florence, a beautiful and intriguing young woman from the neighborhood, to uncover the house's history of colonization and ancestral horrors. Audiobook duration: 9.75 hours.

Rationale

- Book is labeled Essential in Wilson's Senior High Core Collection
- Positive audiobook review from AudioFile Magazine
- Genre very popular right now among students; great supplemental choice for American Horror course
- Striking, unique cover design
- Diverse characters with LGBTQ+ representation

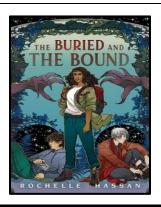
Reviews

AudioFile (April 2023)

Listeners will be transfixed by Emi Ray's atmospheric performance of this creepy horror tale about the haunting power of a family legacy. Ray's performance manifests Jade's dilemma: To fight the house's rot, she'll need to embrace who she is. Despite some clunky vocal transitions, Ray's narration brings tension to a chilling story.

School Library Connection (Recommended) – Book Review (2023)

Gothic horror remains a perennial favorite for many readers, and teenage fans will be eager to read this title for a queer, Vietnamese take on the genre.... The narrative can get muddy at times, with the shift between reality and dreams hard to track, although that was likely intentional. Purchase for high school libraries where horror is popular and recommend this title to teens that like a heavy dose of melancholy with their scares.



The Buried and the Bound	
(eBook)	
Author	Rochelle Hassan
Publisher	Roaring Brook
Copyright	2023
Dewey	F HAS
ISBN	978-1-25082-219-2
Cost	\$25.00 (expires after 12 months – if
	well-circulated, may purchase again)
Grade Level	9-12

Seventeen-year-old Aziza El-Amin, the only hedgewitch in Blackthorn, Massachusetts, teams up with a cursed boy looking for answers and a young necromancer in order to eradicate a new threat in the woods and take back her hometown.

Rationale

- Diverse cast (Lebanese American protagonist)
- Fantasy genre appeals to many current students who seek trilogies/series
- Offering digital versions of books in the fantasy genre may boost circulation, especially if other fantasy books are already checked out

Reviews

Booklist (January 1, 2023)

Hassan's thrilling dark fantasy is told from three perspectives.... Hassan expertly weaves these three titillating storylines, featuring chilling and thrilling faerie monsters and creatures, into a multilayered magical adventure about companionship, sacrifice, and survival.

Kirkus Reviews starred (November 15, 2022)

An ancient horror awakens in Blackthorn, Massachusetts, and three 17-year-olds—a witch, a necromancer, and a cursed boy—come together to face it.... With gorgeous prose and rich worldbuilding, this gripping dark fantasy slowly unfolds its tale of broken hearts, family secrets, and self-empowerment as it follows its three appealing, well-rounded narrators and a variety of interesting secondary characters.... A wonderful start to a new trilogy.



The Minus One Club (Audiobook)	
Author/Narrator	Kekla Magoon/Dion Graham
Publisher	Findaway World, LLC
Copyright	2023
Dewey	F MAG
ISBN	978-1-70509-363-4
Cost	\$60.00 (Follett Digital Audiobook)
Grade Level	9-12

Spoken audio file; Duration: approximately 7 hours; Originally released by Recorded Books. Joining a secret group called the "Minus-One Club," whose members have all suffered the tragic loss of someone they loved, fifteen-year-old Kermit finds his crush Matt's headstrong approach to life helping to relieve his constant despair.

Rationale

- High praise from AudioFile Magazine
- Book included on new print purchase list above; very positively reviewed

Reviews

AudioFile (April 2023)

Grief suffuses Dion Graham's voice as he narrates high school sophomore Kermit's induction into a club no one wants to join.... Sheila's imagined voice, given snark by Graham, offers commentary as Kermit grapples with his sorrow, his faith, and his despair at ever coming out to his homophobic parents.... An empathetic note and a resource list conclude the audiobook. Sad and affirming in equal measure.

Promotion Plan for Audiobooks/eBooks

Promoting digital titles can be done through QR codes posted in the library or outside/near the library doors, the school news broadcast, the digital school newspaper, newsletters posted to social media accounts, and more. The best promotion would probably consist of the librarian talking up these titles and their digital formats while visiting classrooms, during professional development sessions, and of course in the library when curious readers are looking for good conversations!

Websites/Digital Tools

All four choices below are from AASL's 2022 List: Best Digital Tools for Teaching & Learning:

https://www.ala.org/aasl/awards/best



Classroomscreen	
URL	https://classroomscreen.com/
Publisher	Classroomscreen B.V., Founded by
	Laurens Koppers and Sebastiaan de
	Vries
Copyright	2023, Founded in 2019
Cost	Basic Plan/Sign Up – Free
	Pro Plan – \$29.90/year (Free Trial)
	School Pro Plan – \$250/year
Grade Level	K-12

Summary

School Librarians (and all educators) can utilize Classroomscreen to manage classes during instructional units. The ability to duplicate boards makes this tool user friendly for teachers and librarians who teach more than one class that contains the same material. Classroomscreen has multiple features that allow teachers to streamline their instructional process.

Rationale

Popular widgets on this site help a variety of teachers and students with basic tech needs for their daily routines. These widgets include a timer, drawing tool, traffic light, QR codegenerator, random name selections, sound levels, and polls. I would team up with our technology coordinators and hold professional development sessions for teachers on this exciting digital tool.

Reviews

I found four user reviews on Commonsense.org from 1-4 years ago. Three of these reviews gave this digital tool 5/5 stars. One review gave it 3/5 stars, scoring it slightly lower in the categories of Engagement and Pedagogy. Overall, Commonsense says this site is great for Classroom Management, Differentiation, Instructional Design, and Productivity.

https://www.commonsense.org/education/reviews/classroomscreen



Humanities in Class: Resources for		
Educators		
URL	https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org	

URL	https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/education-programs/
	/education-programs/
Publisher	National Humanities Center
Copyright	2023
Cost	Free
Grade Level	K-12

The National Humanities Center hosts the Humanities in Class Digital Library, an Open Education Resource (OER) microsite that collects and combines the best in humanities scholarship and education for use in the K-12 and collegiate classroom.

Rationale

On this site, scholars share their research in a variety of forms and educators submit any type of instructional resource. Members can modify and remix these materials as well as publish their own resources with direct citation - which transforms the traditional repository into a makerspace for scholars and educators. All submissions are reviewed by a team of digital librarians at the NHC for accurate metadata and appropriate content.

This is another great site to show off at professional development sessions, or to promote when teachers stop by the library to chat or to ask about web resources.

Reviews

I did not find any other reviews for this resource; given its inclusion on the 2022 AASL "Best" List, I am trusting that it's a top-notch website!



SlidesMania	
URL	https://slidesmania.com/
Publisher	SlidesMania, Founded by Paula
	Martínez
Copyright	2023
Cost	Free
Grade Level	K-12

SlidesMania provides templates for activities, presentations, and organizational tools for teacher and student use. Templates are free, available for both PowerPoint and Google Slides, and customizable.

Rationale

This is an incredible slide template alternative (and wow – it's free!) to the same old PowerPoint and Google slide templates we've all been using for the longest time. Students and teachers alike can find many uses of this digital tool. I know that the study body at my high school is asked to do a lot of slide-style presentations over the course of their ninth through twelfth grade years; SlidesMania is a great resource for keeping the visual and organizational details of these assignments fresh and modern.

I would promote this site by making slide presentations for the library that would be displayed on our TV screens throughout the building and by encouraging students and teachers to try it out next time they put a presentation together in lieu of typical PowerPoint or Google slides.

Reviews

I did not find any other reviews for this resource; given its inclusion on the 2022 AASL "Best" List, and hearing about it from other colleagues in the past, I believe it's a great digital tool that meets a wide variety of presentation needs for both educators and students.



Stanford History Education Group	
(Civic Online Reasoning)	
JRL	https://cor.stanford.edu/
blishan	Stanford University COD Tooms

URL	https://cor.stanford.edu/
Publisher	Stanford University, COR Team:
	Sam Wineburg, Joel Breakstone, Mark
	Smith, Sarah McGrew, Teresa Ortega,
	and Darby Kerr
Copyright	2023, Founded in 2016
Cost	Free (Sign Up/Account Required),
	Donations Accepted
Grade Level	9-12

The Stanford History Education Group (SHEG) is a research and development group based in Stanford's Graduate School of Education. Specifically, this group seeks to measure Civic Online Reasoning (COR), the ability to effectively search for, evaluate, and verify social and political information online. The ability to evaluate online content has become a prerequisite for thoughtful democratic participation.

Rationale

"Students are confused about how to evaluate online information. We all are. The COR curriculum provides free lessons and assessments that help you teach students to evaluate online information that affects them, their communities, and the world." – SHEG Homepage

SHEG is a wonderful web resource given everything that's at stake when communicating and gathering information online. With the spread of mis/disinformation, the onslaught of personal biases and click-bait, and an ever-shifting political climate, our students must be carefully taught (but not lectured) about their online behaviors more than ever before. Librarians and classroom teachers can easily use the wealth of resources on this site with their secondary students when teaching digital citizenship and positive, information-seeking behaviors. The site also offers a fantastic compilation of video resources, all published in the last 1-5 years.

Reviews

Commonsense.org gives this digital tool a 4/5-star overall rating with 5 stars in Pedagogy, and 4 stars in Engagement and Support, respectively.

"Students will appreciate the authentic resources, and they'll see the relevance in examining multiple perspectives and forming opinions backed by evidence.

The research-backed resources follow a sound structure for historical inquiry: sourcing, contextualizing, corroborating, and close reading. Activities encourage critical thinking, evaluation, and analysis of historical events.

The information is organized and easy to navigate. Closed-captioned videos, PDFs of handwritten texts, and learning materials at a variety of levels all contribute to the site's efficacy."

https://www.commonsense.org/education/reviews/stanford-history-education-group

Comparison to Colleagues' Choices

Since none of my current SLM 506 classmates are selecting for a high school library, I compared my order to two middle school orders. Due to this, many of our choices differ as far as the age/grade levels of our intended student audiences, but some selections are similar (even the same) on a few occasions. Beyond the obvious grade level differences, I am noting the genre/format breakdown of the books, as well as the professional review sources utilized, on my colleagues' lists in comparison to my own.

Alisha Gagliardi's list of print resources has three of the same books as mine, and they happen to be nonfiction, which makes complete sense to me, given that they more easily span middle and high school libraries than fiction books, which could toe a very fine line when it comes to age-relevance. *Big Lies...*, *Murder Among Friends...*, and *The Complete Cookbook...* seem to represent high student interest and strong curricular connections in both our schools. About three of Alisha's choices go up to Grade 9, and I would not hesitate to suggest them to my own high schoolers or review them with the middle school librarian to share/borrow copies.

A striking comparison I noticed was that we each chose an audiobook (an audio version of a notable book adapted for young readers) on racism and social justice issues. I had not even considered or noticed her choice, *The Sum of Us...*, during my search, but it pairs extremely well with one of mine, *How to be a (Young) Antiracist.*

Kristen Gasparo also chose *The Complete Cookbook*... but we have no other titles in common. Our collection goals are probably very different. Based on my breakdown below, it appears that Kristen wanted to focus on boosting her nonfiction choices, and I focused on getting more popular and new fiction into the hands of my patrons, because it's always the most circulated genre among my high schoolers, especially in the subgenres of thriller/mystery/crime.

Regarding our print resource choices: Alisha chose 7 nonfiction books, 3 fiction books, and 5 graphic novels that represent a mix of both fiction and nonfiction. As far as I know from our discussion boards, though she may have changed her list, Kristen chose 7 nonfiction books, 6 fiction books, and 2 graphic novels (both nonfiction). I chose 4 nonfiction titles, 8 fiction, and 3 graphic novels (2 fiction, 1 nonfiction).

All three of us have strong, diverse titles on our lists, especially when it comes to inclusivity of people of color, multinational backgrounds, and the LGBTQ+ population.

Alisha decided to use Horn Book Magazine for some of her review sources, which I did not use at all for my list. I did not specifically see what my other colleagues ended up using for their review sources, but a consensus from our discussions leads me to believe that we all have a ton of reviews from Booklist, Kirkus, and School Library Journal in our assignment charts. I enjoy using these three as they are the ones I read most often for YA texts on Titlewave and they tend to align when it comes to the overall pros/cons of the reviewed books. Kristen also addressed how much she loves School Library Journal; I agree, and while each "VERDICT" at the end of all SLJ reviews may not tell the whole story, it's certainly helpful for quickly comparing to other reviews and making our tough collection decisions just a bit easier. My colleagues likely have a healthy mix of Publishers Weekly, Horn Book Magazine, and School Library Connection reviews on their charts as well. I wanted to be as consistent as possible with my "favorite three" so I included very few instances of other reviews.

Reflection

For my selections, I heavily utilized Titlewave and Wilson's Senior High Core Collection as I have found that these two sources are my best methods when it comes to searching and filtering for appropriate titles and reviews. I read some reviews on School Library Connection which also gave me more confidence in a few of my choices. I wanted to search for reviews using a few other Hoover Library databases, but crunch time during this last module did not allow for that. I'm glad I remembered to consult AudioFile for my audiobook reviews as I put this selection source on my list in Assignment 2 as a helpful one; my foresight guided me well! Along with the sources I just mentioned, Booklist, Kirkus, and School Library Journal remain at the top of my list as far as quality reviews that provide a librarian (who might be on the fence about certain choices) with essential information about a book's pros and cons. Kirkus is usually the most critical, which helps when trying to decide between similar books. Paring down those reviews to around 35 words (though I could not stick to that for each one), really helped me highlight the vital *review* portions rather than the summary portions for each annotation. This is a good review scanning strategy that I will be keeping in mind for future practice.

Regarding publisher preferences, one of my colleagues, Brianna Gibson, said it best when she noted that it's going to take a lot of practical library experience (in more than a few years' time) to really establish a good eye or certain patterns when it comes to "go-to" publishers and how to select based on the everchanging and diverse needs of our varying student populations from year to year. The only publishers that show up more than once on my list are Roaring Brook and Henry Holt for print resources, and Findaway World, LLC for two audiobooks. Selecting fiction vs. nonfiction will be a matter of knowing popular authors and trending topics in those genres, spotting holes in the collection, utilizing search/filtering options to the best of my ability, and pinpointing great reviews. Using award lists, YALSA, and Titlewave, along with my access to OverDrive/Sora for digital resources, will continue to help guide me in the right direction for varying genres and formats.

One of the main difficulties I've encountered throughout this whole course was speaking to my mentor librarian. I have not had the chance to fully discuss my choices with her because she has hardly been available due to proctoring AP tests for two straight weeks and preparing to help with our state Keystone tests next week, as she oversees all test-takers who need extended time in the library. Despite these obstacles, I have emailed her my selection choices and I anxiously await feedback on what she believes are the keepers and the ones she may not purchase based on her ordering expertise and knowledge of current patrons. My ideas for showcasing the collection to demonstrate ALA/AASL/CAEP 2019 Standard 5.2 (leadership, positively impacting learner growth, and strengthening the role of the school library) are:

- Utilize social media platforms to promote library events, displays, resources, announcements, etc.
- Make the library website more engaging and/or have an additional page that's more personal to me and my goals for the HS library. Post newsletters to engage family members/community.
- Utilize the daily school news broadcast to promote library resources to staff and students "Book Talk Tuesdays", "First-Look Fridays", "Library FAQs", "Ask the Librarian", etc.
- Check circulation and database reports to monitor how actively the collection is being used. I would do this at the end of each month consistently; reminders can go on my calendar. I will also reach out to colleagues and administration, especially if I'm concerned about sections of the library going extremely underused.
- Offer formal and informal professional development opportunities for staff and host a book club or before/after-school library/resource club for students.

Selection Criteria & Curriculum Chart

WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT SELECTION CRITERIA

From Board Policy 109 – Resource Materials:

Criteria for Selection of Instructional Materials

Needs of the individual grade level/department based on knowledge of the curriculum and the existing collection are given first consideration.

Materials purchased are considered based on overall purpose; timeliness or permanence; importance of the subject matter; quality of the writing/production; readability; popular appeal; authoritativeness; reputation of the publisher/producer; reputation and significance of the author/artist/composer/producer, etc.; the format and price.

Requests from the faculty and students shall be given consideration.

Procedures for Selection

In selecting materials for purchase the Assistant Superintendent evaluates the existing collection and consults reputable, unbiased professionally prepared selection aides, specialists from all departments and/or all grade levels appointed by the principals to serve in an advisory capacity in the selection of materials.

In specific areas the Assistant Superintendent shall follow these procedures:

- 1. Materials are selected by basic selection standards and are accepted or rejected by these standards.
- 2. Multiple items of outstanding and much in demand media are purchased as needed.
- 3. Worn or missing standard items are replaced periodically.
- 4. Out-of-date or no longer useful materials are withdrawn from the collection.
- 5. Sets of materials and materials acquired by subscription are examined carefully and are purchased only to fill definite need.

Source

Wallenpaupack Area School District Board of Education. Board Policy 109. Updated 2019. https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/wallenpaupack/Board.nsf/Public (Policies Tab)



Created in Canva, Fall 2021

eBook Plan: I would like to get a consensus of how often eBooks would be used by students and staff before I make purchasing determinations. I would check previous circulation data and then survey the school population or informally visit classrooms to discuss the advantages of having eBook checkouts. I would ask the students and staff how they see themselves using them and how often. All students and teachers have school-issued iPads and accessing eBooks on these devices should not be an issue. We use mostly Sora/OverDrive for our digital book resources and have not run into many problems; the Sora app has been very beneficial since the COVID pandemic, and it continues to be a great resource for our district.

The attached PDF, which should open when clicked or double-clicked, shows the curriculum chart I have created to represent Wallenpaupack Area High School's diverse student schedules, interests, and needs regarding Career Academy pathways and curricular activities.

If the file does not open, I have included it in a separate attachment within the Assignment 4 submission on Blackboard.

