



Forest Of Reading[®]

2025 Kid Committee List

Silver Birch Fiction Readers

Ages 8–12, Grades 3–6

Official Wholesaler

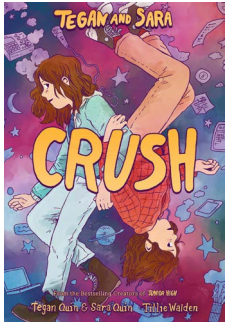
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Suggested Reading List

Silver Birch Readers (Ages 8-12, Grades 3-6)



***Crush* by Tegan Quin and Sara Quin, illustrated by Tillie Walden (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)**

Tegan and Sara may have survived seventh grade, but their junior high jams are just beginning. Offstage, school is officially back in session. Between Sara's growing feelings for her dream girl and Tegan's falling out with her former BFF, eighth grade might prove to be even messier than last year. Onstage, the twins are swept up in a battle-of-the-bands contest to open for their favorite musical artist, landing them with a new manager, new opportunities, and new challenges, too. But stepping into the spotlight—and into their true selves—means colliding over fame, family, and finding their sound.

In this spunky, big-hearted conclusion to the autobiographically inspired story launched in Junior High, the sisters realize that to get the gig that could change their lives forever, they'll have to first figure out who they are and how to get along.

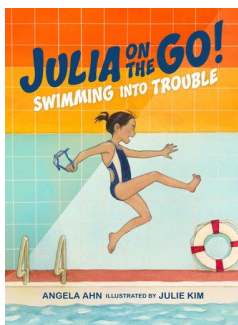


***The Curse of Eelgrass Bog* by Mary Averling (Razorbill)**

Nothing about Kess Pedrock's life is normal. Not her home (she lives in her family's Unnatural History Museum), not her interests (hunting for megafauna fossils and skeletons), and not her best friend (a talking demon's head in a jar named Shrunken Jim).

But things get even stranger than usual when Kess meets Lilou Starling, the new girl in town. Lilou comes to Kess for help breaking a mysterious curse—and the only clue she has leads straight into the center of Eelgrass Bog.

Everyone knows the bog is full of witches, demons, and possibly worse, but Kess and Lilou are determined not to let that stop them. As they investigate the mystery and uncover long-buried secrets, Kess begins to realize that the curse might hit closer to home than she'd ever expected, and she'll have to summon all her courage to find a way to break it before it's too late.



***Julia on the Go! Swimming into Trouble* by Angela Ahn, illustrated by Julie Kim (Tundra Books)**

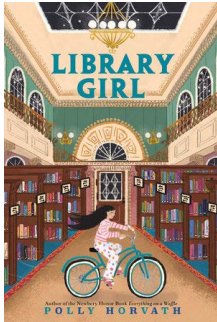
As a member of the Vipers Swim Team, Julia Nam's always in the pool. Mountainview Community Center is like her second home, not only because swimming at the aquatic center is her favorite thing in the world, but also because her parents run the center's sushi café. Julia would much rather be in the pool than sitting behind the counter of Sushi on the Go! watching other people swim.

She's the youngest swimmer on the team, but definitely not the slowest. Julia can't wait for Personal Best Day — the most important day for all of the swimmers. If their times are good enough, they can enter a big regional swim meet.

But then the worst thing happens. A sharp pain in Julia's ear reveals an infection and she's forbidden to swim for ten days. How can she get timed during Personal Best Day when she's not allowed in the water? Julia is desperate to get back in the pool, even if it means having to go behind her parents' backs in order to do so. But Julia's solution lands her in a sticky situation, and it's going to require the entire community center to come together to help her out of it!

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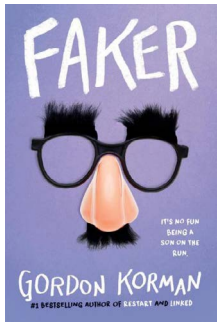
Silver Birch Readers (Ages 8-12, Grades 3-6)



***Library Girl* by Polly Horvath (Puffin Canada)**

Essie has grown up in the public library, raised in secret by the four librarians who found her abandoned as a baby in the children's department. With four mothers and miles of books to read, Essie has always been very happy living there.

But now that she is eleven, Essie longs for a little more freedom . . . and maybe a friend her own age. She seems to get her wish when her moms let her go by herself to the mall and then on her second trip there, she meets G.E., a mysterious boy who looks so much like her she can't help but think they may be twins. Maybe he was raised by four dads in the department store. Maybe his story is intertwined with hers, and their happy ending is as one big family. But as she gets to know him better, she learns that nothing is as simple as it seems in her stories — not even her own past.

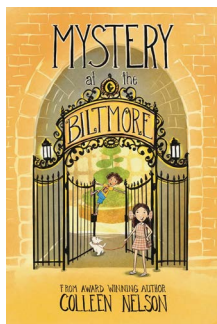


***Faker* by Gordon Korman (Scholastic Press)**

Trey knows the drill: His dad gets him into a school full of kids with rich parents. Trey makes friends, and his dad makes connections. Soon, there's the con, where Trey's dad suckers the other parents into investing in one of his schemes. Once the money's in the bank, Trey, his sister, and their dad are on the run... until they set up somewhere else and start again.

Trey believes his father when he says no one's getting hurt. After all, these parents have money to spare.

But Trey's starting to get tired of running... and lying... and never having a friend for longer than a few months. But how do you get your family to stop lying when your lives depend on it?



***Mystery at the Biltmore: The Vanderhoff Heist* by Colleen Nelson, illustrated by Peggy Collins (Pajama Press)**

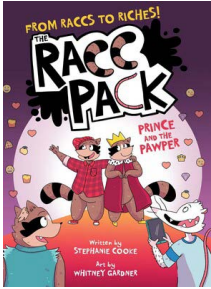
The Biltmore in New York City is full of mysteries, and Elodie LaRue, a novice detective, plans to piece together the clues and solve the case of the missing jewels.

Left behind by her globe-trotting detective parents once again, Elodie decides to prove she's worthy of joining them on a case by setting up her own detective agency at her renowned Upper West Side home, The Biltmore.

When a pair of sapphire earrings mysteriously disappear from Mrs. Vanderhoff's apartment, Elodie is asked to solve the case. Elodie begins her investigation the way any good detective would, looking for clues and potential suspects. With twists, turns, and suspects galore, will Elodie be able to prove she has what it takes to solve a crime? Or will the LaRue Detective Agency fail on its first case? As Elodie, her dog Carnegie, and new friend Oscar (a self-proclaimed parkour master) delve deeper into the mystery, they encounter a quirky cast of characters, an array of clues, and a little bit of fun.

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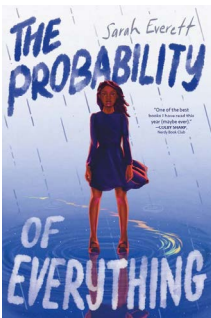


***Prince and the Pawper (The Racc Pack, 2)* by Stephanie Cooke, illustrated by Whitney Gardner (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers)**

The Bins siblings have their sights set on the big pet expo in the heart of downtown Toronto. Dusty, Scraps, and ReRe expect to loot the convention for the latest treats, and they definitely don't expect to meet...Dusty's doppelganger?!

Prince the Raccoon is everything Dusty isn't—famous, pampered, and rich! But Prince wants to know what life is like outside his comfy digs and on the streets. So, with the Bins' help, Dusty and Prince decide to switch places.

At first, Dusty has a great time living it up, but he soon learns the grass isn't always greener on the other side...even when that side has all the snacks he can eat!



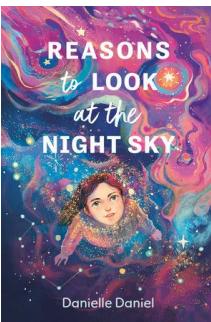
***The Probability of Everything* by Sarah Everett (Clarion Books)**

Eleven-year-old Kemi Carter loves scientific facts, specifically probability. It's how she understands the world and her place in it. Kemi knows her odds of being born were 1 in 5.5 trillion and that the odds of her having the best family ever were even lower. Yet somehow, Kemi lucked out.

But everything Kemi thought she knew changes when she sees an asteroid hover in the sky, casting a purple haze over her world. Amplus-68 has an 84.7% chance of colliding with earth in four days, and with that collision, Kemi's life as she knows it will end.

But over the course of the four days, even facts don't feel true to Kemi anymore. The new town she moved to that was supposed to be "better for her family" isn't very welcoming. And Amplus-68 is taking over her life, but others are still going to school and eating at their favorite diner like nothing has changed. Is Kemi the only one who feels like the world is ending?

With the days numbered, Kemi decides to put together a time capsule that will capture her family's truth: how creative her mother is, how inquisitive her little sister can be, and how much Kemi's whole world revolves around her father. But no time capsule can change the truth behind all of it, that Kemi must face the most inevitable and hardest part of life: saying goodbye.



***Reasons to Look at the Night Sky* by Danielle Daniel (Tundra Books)**

Luna has always loved the night sky. She's an eleven-year-old who knows everything there is to know about space, and dreams of one day becoming an astronaut. The first step in her plan to get there is to ace the space unit in her science class and secure a spot in NASA's summer space camp.

But when Luna's teacher is unexpectedly replaced with a substitute, Ms. Manitowabi, who is looking to shake up science class by bringing in art, Luna's carefully laid plans are crushed. And that's not all that's shifting in Luna's life — changes at home and in her friendships have her feeling topsy-turvy. What on Planet Earth is happening?

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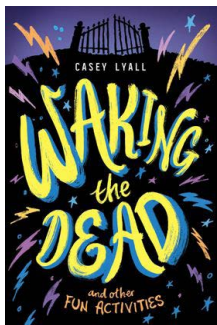


***Summer of Rocks* by Jenna Greene (Heritage House)**

It's the summer of 1990, and Amy (age 11), Beth (age 9), and Marion (age 6) are in for the family vacation of a lifetime. No, they're not going Disneyland, Hawaii, or on a Caribbean cruise. No, they're not flying to Germany to collect pieces of the Berlin Wall.

They will be looking at rocks, though. *Lots* of rocks. *So many* rocks.

You see, when your father is a geologist, that's what you do on your summer vacation. You drive for days to the British Columbia–Yukon border, strapped in the backseat of the family truck with your sisters, fighting over the Gameboy, listening to your parents tell you “fascinating” facts about the scenery, playing the Little Mermaid soundtrack on a loop, and trying not to get elbowed in the face. Doesn't that sound like a dream vacation? Well, it's no luxury trip, but it has its highlights—from camping under the stars to wading in natural hot springs to flying a helicopter! And for Amy, Beth, and Marion, the memories they make along the way will last a lifetime. At least that's what their parents tell them...



***Waking the Dead and Other Fun Activities* by Casey Lyall (Greenwillow Books)**

Twelve-year-old Kimmy Jones wants to excel at the unique (and secret) aspect of her family's funeral home business. Under the watchful eye of Grandma Bev, Kimmy learns how to raise the recently deceased, request their last wish, and break the connection to send them on. But when Grandma unexpectedly dies herself, Kimmy can't reach her spirit, and nothing seems like it's ever going to be right again.

Then a boy dies under mysterious circumstances on the night of a meteor shower. With no witnesses, Kimmy's the only one who can get answers about what happened. So she breaks into the hospital morgue, and for the first time in months, her power works. She Wakes the boy up. Except then Kimmy can't break the connection and so he stays Awake. Even worse, the boy has no memory of what happened to him. As Kimmy works to unravel the mystery, she discovers secrets about her heritage and learns about a witch who has been wreaking havoc for centuries.

The 2025 Committee

Met Virtually in May 2025



Silver Birch



Penelope — London District Catholic School Board, **Ayrah** — Halton District School Board, **Mila** — Halton District School Board, **Molly** — Toronto District School Board, **Mia** — Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, **Elpida** — Branksome Hall

Helen Kubiw, Silver Birch facilitator of the Kid Committee
Retired Teacher-Librarian, former Forest of Reading Chair

Meredith Tutching, Director, Forest of Reading®