



# Ranger in Time: Escape from the Great Earthquake

by *Kate Messner*

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## Booktalk!

Ready to help, Ranger arrives in San Francisco after the Great Earthquake of 1906 hits. People believe the earthquake shook America from the Atlantic to the Pacific! Lily thinks the world is ending when Ranger's first-aid kit makes a noise and he finds her in an old house. Both Ranger and Lily are now trying to save lives! People have head injuries, broken bones, and some are trapped under fallen buildings. Ranger has helped lots of injured people, but he's never seen this many before! Flames continue to spread. Chinatown might burn to the ground by morning!



**Best for grades 2-3**



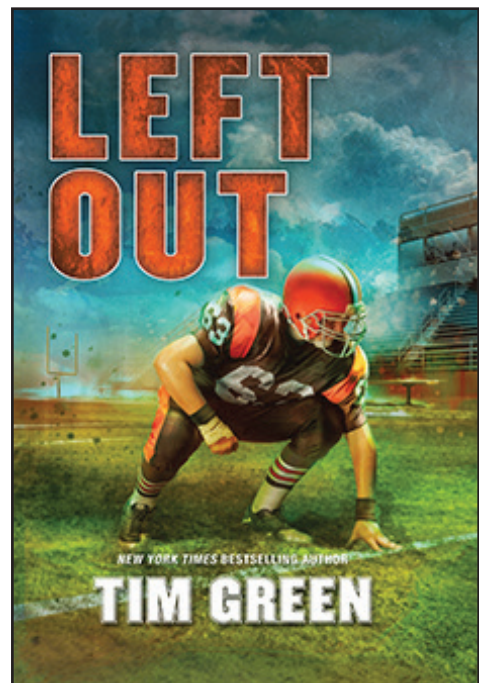
# Booktalk!

## Left Out

by Tim Green

### Booktalk!

Twelve-year-old Landon has always dealt with bullies. Even Landon admits that the hearing implants he needs make him look like a Wookiee from the *Star Wars*<sup>TM</sup> movies! His family's move means a new start, and Landon hopes he can avoid bullying by playing football. But the teasing is worse than ever at his new school. Mentoring from an ex-NFL player helps his technique, but Landon must learn to channel his anger into healthy aggression on the field. Doing so might help him achieve his goal of becoming the team's starting right tackle instead of feeling "left out."



**Best for grades 5-8**



## **A Storm Too Soon**

*by Michael J. Tougas*

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### **Booktalk!**

In this true story, readers learn about Rudy, a kid who had dreamed about sailing across the Atlantic his whole life. In 2007, he got the chance to travel from Florida to France on a sailboat with two friends. When a huge storm with hurricane-force winds capsized their sailboat, the trio battled to survive in a tiny raft, battered by 80-foot waves in the Gulf Stream, one of the world's most dangerous places to be caught in a storm. Sharks and dehydration weren't their only problems. The only hope of rescue was by helicopter, but the three men did not expect to live that long!



**Best for grades 6-8**



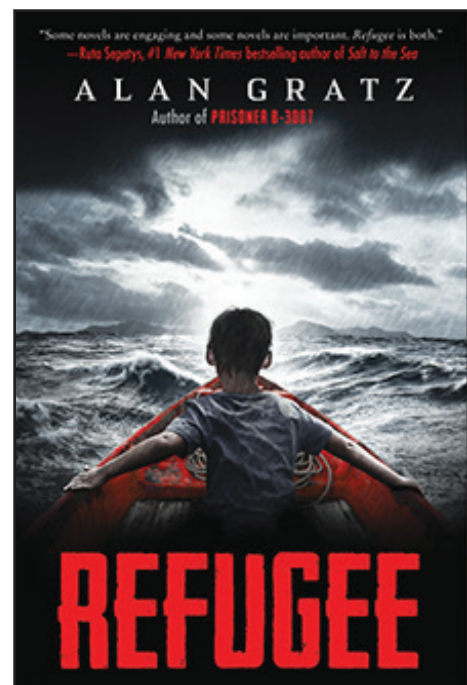


## Refugee

by Alan Gratz

### Booktalk!

A boy from 1930's Nazi Germany, a girl from Castro's Cuba in 1994, and a boy in modern day Syria are fleeing from certain death in their home countries. They have never met, but their lives are connected. A refugee has three lives; the peaceful life before a heinous event, surviving the atrocity itself, and a third life of rebuilding. Living as a refugee means relying on the help of strangers for basically everything. Tents or prisons are not homes! Where will this journey take Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, and will they ever find happiness again?



Best for grades 6-8



# Booktalk!

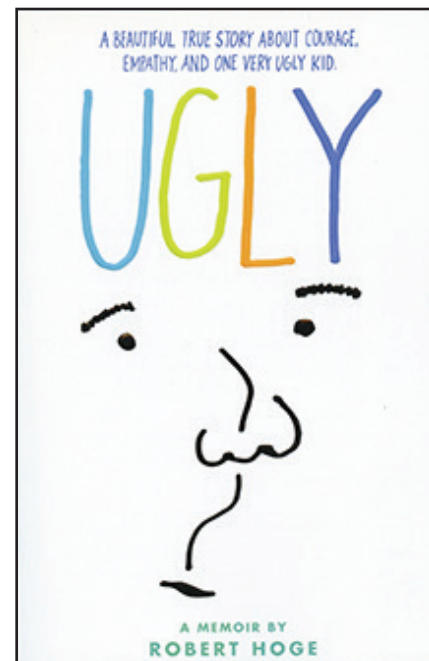
## Ugly

by Robert Hoge

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### Booktalk!

Robert Hoge is the ugliest person you've never met. Although he was born with a facial tumor and misshapen legs, he is determined to not let his disabilities define him. While attending a regular elementary school, Robert realizes that all kids are different. In his words, he just has "different differences." In this remarkable true story, 14-year-old Robert is faced with the choice of undergoing his most serious and risky operation to date. It could make him look more "normal," but he's not sure if he should he take his chances in a sometimes ugly world just the way he is.



**Best for grades 4-8**



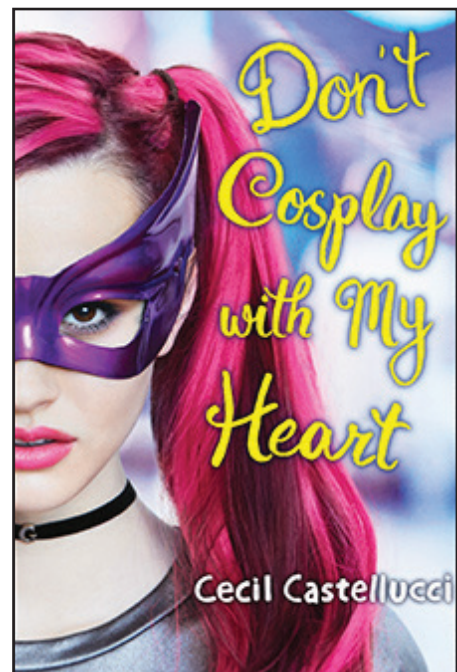


## Don't Cosplay With My Heart

by Cecil Castellucci

### Booktalk!

**G**argantua is a resilient comic book villain who terrifies everyone with her superhuman powers! Edan is a teenage girl with real-world problems. But when Edan cosplays and wears the mask of Gargantua, it melts away her insecurities and she stands tall against her enemies and her parents. Edan's boyfriend Yuri and her best friend Katsumi are big supporters of her cosplaying ambitions until they point fingers at Edan for something she didn't do! It's thrilling to cosplay as a villain, but being cast as one in real life — that's another story.



**Best for grades 6-8**



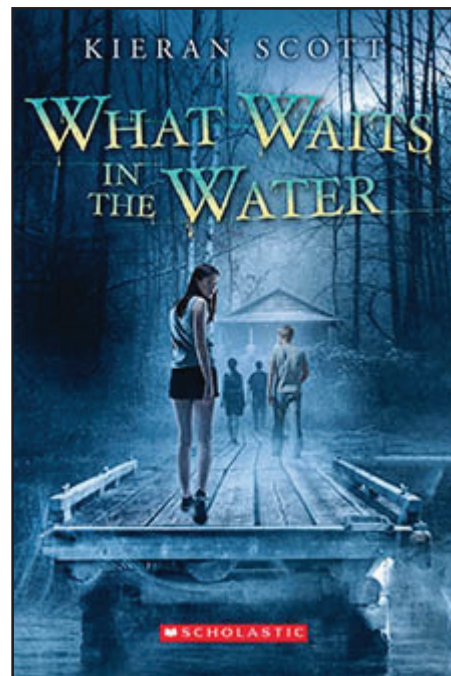


## What Waits in the Water

by Kieran Scott

### Booktalk!

Thrilled that she is spending the summer at her friend Jacob's lake house for the summer, Hannah becomes jealous and annoyed when her stepsister, Katie, decides to join them at the last minute. Jealous of Katie's flirtations with Jacob, Hannah connects with some local kids, who share scary rumors about drownings in the lake. After a frightening encounter with something unseen in the water, Hannah and her friends investigate the terrifying history of the lake. Who — or what — haunts the lake and what does it want?



Best for grades 6-8



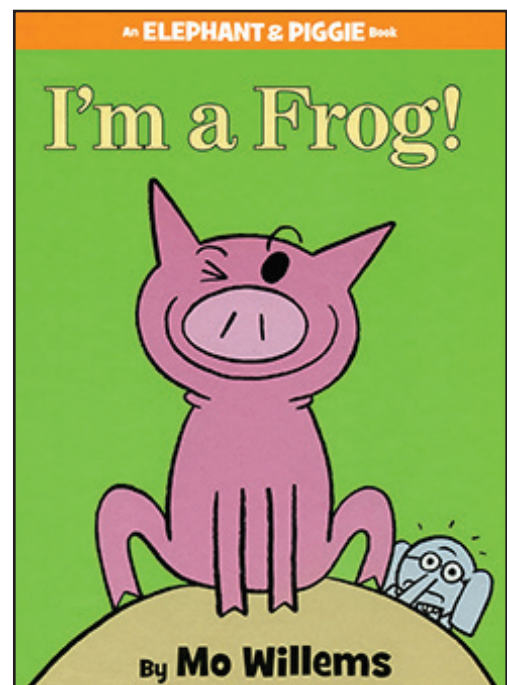


## Elephant & Piggie: I'm a Frog!

by Mo Willems

### Booktalk!

**R**ibbit! Ribbit! Ribbit! Piggie is croaking. Piggie is hopping. She declares to her best friend Gerald, "I'm a frog!" Gerald finds this difficult to believe. Piggie was a pig just five minutes ago! What happened? Worrywart Gerald starts to panic. What if he turns into a frog? The thought of eating flies is totally disgusting. When Piggie explains what pretending is, Gerald is amazed. He can't believe anyone can pretend at any time. When Piggie issues a challenge, Gerald has a moo-velous surprise of his own!



**Best for grades K-2**







## Hensel and Gretel: Ninja Chicks

by Corey Rosen Schwartz and Rebecca J. Gomez,  
illustrated by Dan Santat

### Booktalk!

**B**ird-napping has become a big problem for Hensel and Gretel. Their parents have been snatched by a fox! The sisters are trained in the art of ninjutsu. They aren't about to fall prey to a ferocious fox. They've practiced wing throws. They know how to creep without a peep. While looking for their parents, hungry Hensel and Gretel spy a cottage of cornbread. After nibbling, they see their mistake. This is the fox's home! Mom and Pop are inside, and the sisters must find a way to keep the family from being chicken-pot-pied! Surrender? No way, chicken tender!



**Best for grades K-2**





## The Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Unlikely Hero

by Patricia McCormick

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### Booktalk!

During World War II, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and pacifist, shared information with the Allies that Jews were being deported to concentration camps. He risked his own life to protest Hitler's control of German churches. Working with family members and friends, Bonhoeffer organized several attempts to assassinate Hitler, a testament to the many brave citizens who fought Hitler's Nazi regime. A secret plot, a dangerous enemy, and a hero driven by his beliefs in justice and dignity — will Dietrich Bonhoeffer succeed, or lose his freedom and his life?



**Best for grades 6-8**



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