

# Booktalk!

## The Rains

by Gregg Hurwitz

### Booktalk!

In the rural community of Creek's Cause, families take care of each other. But when a horrible parasite takes over the town's adults and turns them into zombie-like drones, brothers Chance and Patrick Rains unite with other surviving kids to protect themselves. As teens turn 18 and become zombies, the Rains brothers must race against time and their cruel reality to save humanity. As Patrick's 18th birthday gets closer, the Rains fear losing the only thing they have left — each other.



**Best for grades 6-8**



## **In the Shadow of the Sun**

*by Anne Sibley O'Brien*

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### **Booktalk!**

**T**welve-year-old Mia doesn't want to die; she wants to go home! Her father's job involves helping the starving North Koreans, and he wants to show Mia and her brother Simon the country where he spends a lot of time working. But when their father is arrested by North Korean soldiers, Mia and Simon must run! Their dad is the least likely spy in the world, but there is no other option. They must get to China so they can call the American embassy for help. Meanwhile, they're foreigners in a strange land trying to rescue their father. Mia wonders if her name means M-I-A — Missing In Action!



**Best for grades 6-8**





## Swing It, Sunny

by Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm

### Booktalk!

Surviving the first year of middle school is hard enough, but Sunny Lewin is also sad that her teenage brother, Dale, has been sent to military school. Teddy, her little brother, can always be counted on to provide a few good laughs, and her beloved Gramps's advice strengthens the love her parents provide. But this thing called middle school is confusing! Luckily, Sunny has a best friend and an odd new neighbor to occupy her thoughts. She's not about to allow the confusion of both school and family life keep her down!



**Best for grades 5-8**





## Refugee

by Alan Gratz

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### 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



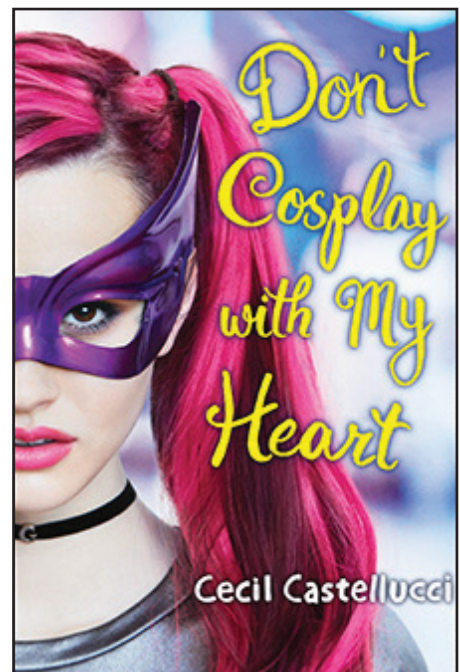


## Don't Cosplay With My Heart

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**



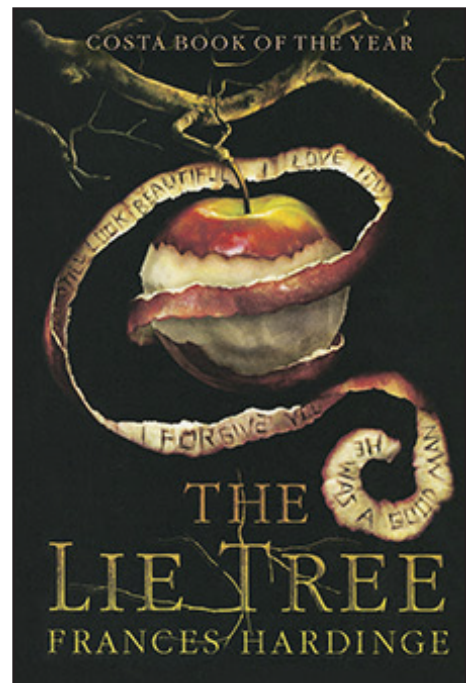


## The Lie Tree

by Frances Hardinge

### Booktalk!

Nobody knows more about fossils than Faith's father, but people think he's a fraud and that his fossils are fake. Fourteen-year-old Faith believes her father and thinks that enemies want him destroyed because of his Lie Tree, a powerful plant that can solve the world's mysteries and reveal terrible secrets. It's valuable, powerful, and priceless! Almost anyone would kill to own it. When Faith's father mysteriously dies, the plant becomes hers, and she sets out to find the truth about her father's death.



Best for grades 6-8



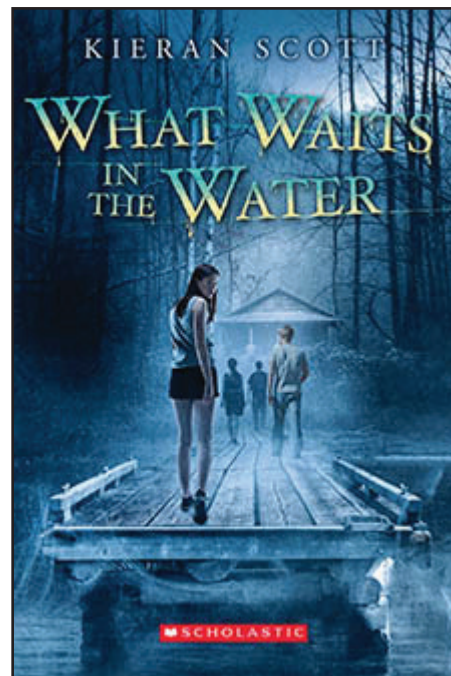


## What Waits in the Water

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





## 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?



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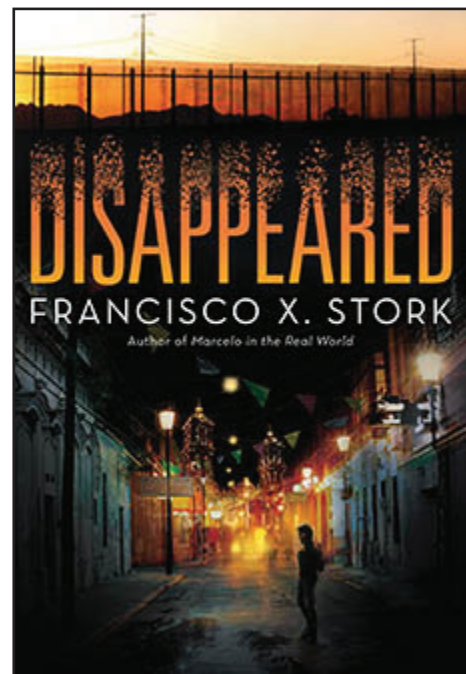
## Disappeared

by Francisco X. Stork

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### Booktalk!

For years, young women have been kidnapped by the Juarez Mafia — turning up murdered months later or disappearing forever. After her best friend is kidnapped, Sara Zapata uses her job as a newspaper reporter to secretly investigate Juarez’s underground. Her brother, Emiliano, has fallen in love with the beautiful Perla, but her family doesn’t approve of his poor family. Caught in a web of murder and crime, the two siblings must flee to the United States to save themselves and their friends. What happens over the next four short days is absolutely unbelievable!



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