

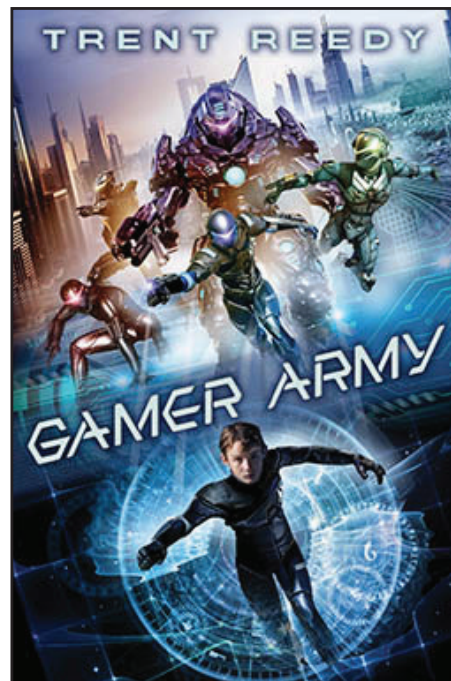


Gamer Army

by Trent Reedy

Booktalk!

Rogan Weller has been using electronic devices since he was two years old. At eight years old, he was playing video games and visiting people in Digi-Space. Now at the age of 12, Rogan is one of the world's five best Laser Viper gamers in his age division. It's obvious that the digital world is a huge part of Rogan's life, especially with his private 50th floor Virtual City apartment. But Rogan's life becomes even more exciting when he is chosen to compete in the most sophisticated, realistic gaming experience in world history – with a chance to win \$250,000 and a million game credits!



Best for Grades 4-8





Bears of the Ice #2: Den of Forever Frost *by Kathryn Lasky*

Booktalk!

Twin polar bears Jyette and Stellan have no choice — their mother Svenna has been captured and made a slave to the Ice Clock by power-hungry bears. In order to rescue her, they must destroy that clock! But it's said that the Ice Clock is found in the dangerous Den of Forever Frost, where scary monsters reside, and that the ice is so bright it burns the eyes! But if the twins can find their mysterious father, maybe they can stop the clock, defeat the bears at the Ice Cap, and save the lives of countless cubs.



Best for Grades 4-8



Booktalk!

Lucky Luna

by Diana López

Booktalk!

If all of Luna Ramos's girl cousins (primas) were in the same place, they would have to rent a football stadium! Luna thinks that every time she gets in trouble, a cousin is involved. Is her cousin Claudia really to blame when Luna's latest punishment means not wearing hats for a whole month? Luna has loved wearing hats since she was two years old — a month seems like a lifetime! She wonders why Claudia always tattles on her. Is it possible for a cousin to be a real friend? And when she's teased for being different, will Luna find another friend to step in?



Best for Grades 4-6

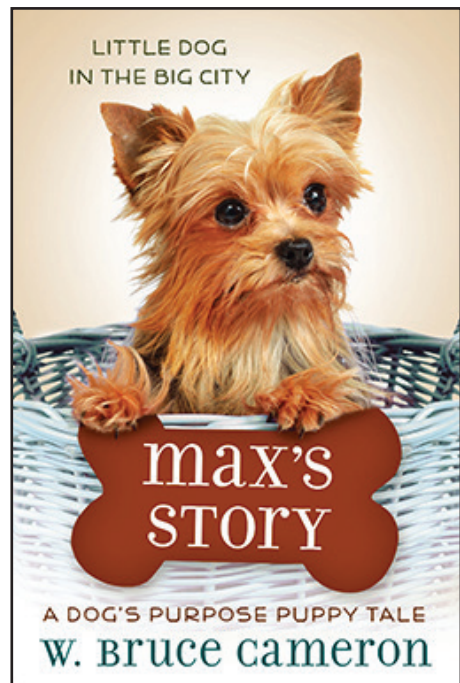
Booktalk!

Max's Story

by W. Bruce Cameron

Booktalk!

Max has a big bark for such a tiny puppy. He growls, bites, and tries to be the toughest, strongest dog possible, despite his small size. But Max must show the world that he matters because he has an important job to do – somewhere out in the world is someone who needs him to take care of them. All the other puppies born in the shelter have found the right people, so why can't Max? Dogs sometimes choose their people, and when Max meets CJ, he just knows he's the one.



Best for Grades 4-6

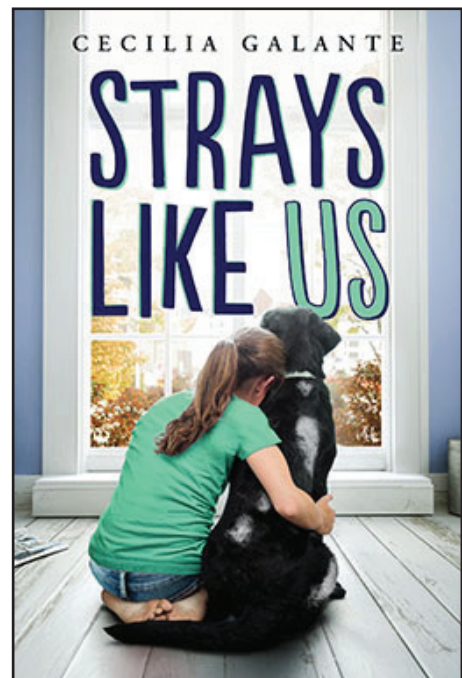


Strays Like Us

by Cecilia Galante

Booktalk!

After her mother is arrested for stealing prescription pills at work, Fred suddenly finds herself in foster care. Mom has always told Fred they don't need anyone but each other, so Fred decides to tough it out on her own. After all, she vows that she'll be reunited with her mother soon. Even though Fred doesn't make friends easily, she finds herself helping an abused dog and a friend who is being bullied at her new school. And in one of the biggest decisions of her life, Fred is forced to decide whether telling a lie will help or hurt her mom.



Best for Grades 4-8



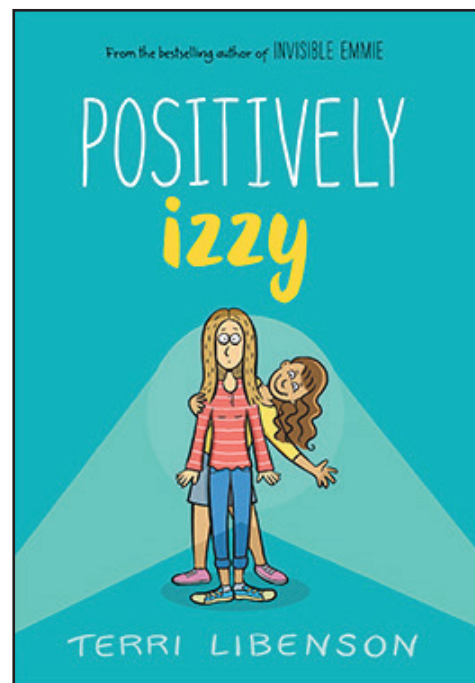


Positively Izzy

by Terri Libenson

Booktalk!

Everyone sees Brianna as a brainiac. Her parents might be the only ones that see more to her than her brain power. On the flip side, Izzy is artsy. She's a dreamer, a storyteller, and an actor. She's usually behind on her homework assignments but always seems to have a good excuse. When the school talent show comes up, Izzy can't wait. Brianna wants nothing to do with being on a stage until she's recruited to do a scene with Dev, a guy she likes. Then, on the day of the show, Izzy and Brianna find themselves in a completely unexpected place.



Best for Grades 4-8



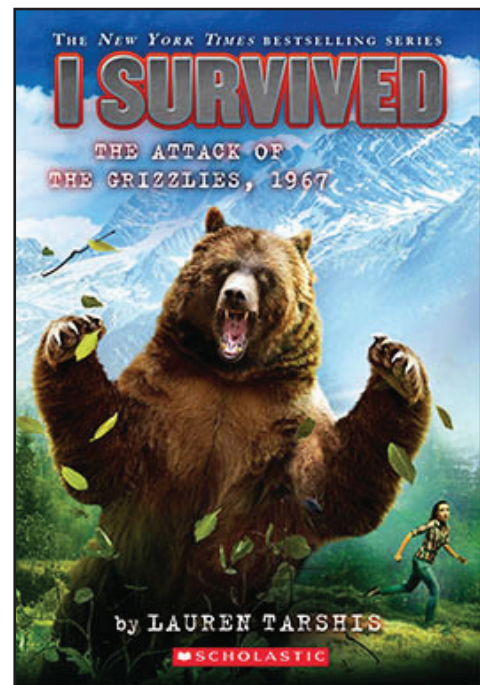


I Survived: The Attack of the Grizzlies, 1967

by Lauren Tarshis

Booktalk!

Who needs a big house when your backyard is a million acres of Rocky Mountain wilderness? Every year, Mel Vega and her family spend two weeks at Glacier National Park, and Mel's mom always reminds her that they are the guests. Glacier really belongs to the animals, especially grizzly bears. Grizzly bear sightings are rare and the huge creatures usually avoid people. There's no question they are powerful, smart, and curious, which is why Mel is terrified when a grizzly bear smashes a window and tries to break down the door of her cabin!



Best for Grades 3-5





Resistance

by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Booktalk!

Hope is in short supply in Nazi-occupied Poland. Chaya's sister has been taken and her brother has disappeared. Her parents seem to have given up the will to live. But Chaya is determined to fight back in whatever way she can to help Jews escape. Using courage and cleverness, Chaya becomes a courier, delivering fake papers, food, and hope. When a major mission fails, she finds herself teamed with Esther as part of a new resistance cell. Esther seems weak and Chaya isn't sure she can be safe with her, especially since they are now part of the uprising in Warsaw.



Best for Grades 5-8





Jake the Fake #1: Keeps It Real

by Craig Robinson and Adam Mansbach,
illustrated by Keith Knight

Booktalk!

Jake is a new student at a magnet school for music and art, but there's one problem — he faked his way in. He auditioned with the only song he knows how to play! Trying to fit in at a new school is hard, but keeping the whole school from finding out he cheated on the admissions test is much more challenging. Jake finds ways to fake out his teachers and classmates, but with the talent show quickly approaching, it will soon be time to face the music. Can Jake get away with performing the same song again, or will everyone learn Jake's a fake?



Best for Grades 4-6





The Collector

By K. R. Alexander

Booktalk!

When Josie and her younger sister move in with their grandmother, they must follow strict rules. If it's hot, no windows can be opened. No dolls are ever allowed, and the sisters must never enter the woods! Josie dreads being the new student at school, but to her surprise, the coolest girl at school instantly becomes her friend. But why do the other kids constantly stare at them? Then Josie's horrible nightmares begin, and warning notes about her friend Vanessa are left in Josie's locker. But nothing prepares Josie for the huge, creepy doll collection in Vanessa's house!



Best for Grades 4-8



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