

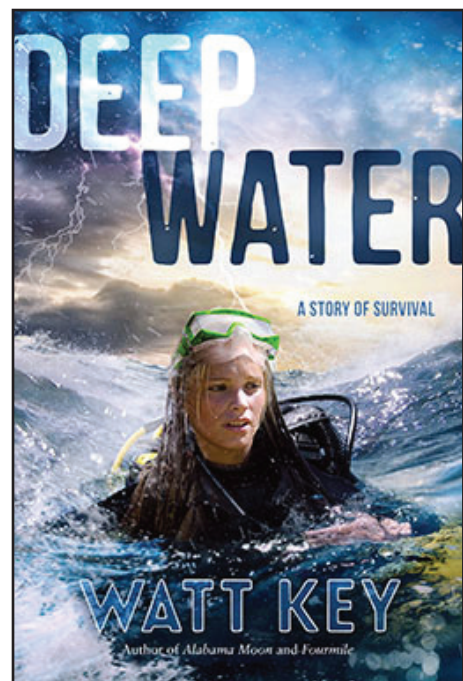


Deep Water: A Story of Survival

by Watt Key

Booktalk!

Julie Sims has been scuba diving hundreds of times, but she still gets nervous when she can't see what's below her. After all, she knows that scuba divers get separated from their boats more than people know. So, when Julie and an annoying classmate, Shane, lose sight of her father's boat on a diving mission, they find themselves in an aquatic wilderness where humans don't belong. How can they avoid panic when facing possible starvation, storms, hypothermia, and sharks? One girl, one boy — the chance of rescue seems hopeless. Will Julie and Shane survive these unknown waters?



Best for Grades: 6-8



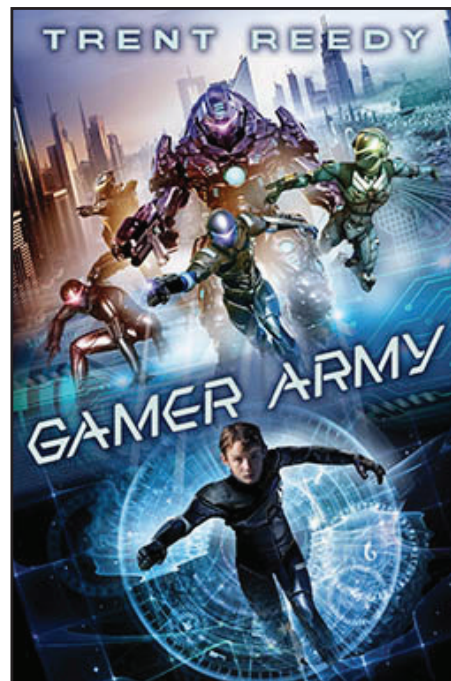


Gamer Army

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





Anything But Okay

by Sarah Darer Littman

Booktalk!

Everyone in Stella Walker's family has served in the military, except for her. "Walkers are patriots. That's what we do." But when Stella's older brother Rob returns from serving two tours in Afghanistan, he doesn't act like the same person. He's moody, angry, and unpredictable. When she asks Rob to go to a movie at the mall, she is shocked when he assaults someone. She doesn't understand — wasn't he serving overseas to protect people harassed because of their religion? As Stella waits to learn if Rob will face charges, she starts to wonder — what is a patriot?



Best for Grades 6-8



Booktalk!

Screenshot

by Donna Cooner

Booktalk!

Skye Matthews is good at doing exactly what is expected of her, a trait many consider her superpower and one that could lead to an internship in a state senator's office. But each time Skye goes online, she's slammed with hundreds of people who are prettier, smarter, and richer than her. Sure, Skye realizes that in the big blue Galactic World, everyone shows edited versions of their lives. But when someone threatens to post an embarrassing screenshot of Skye taken at a recent party, she forgets that "perfect is a lie." Someone is blackmailing Skye, and whoever it is has the potential to ruin her life!



Best for Grades 6-8



Miles Morales: Spider-Man

by Jason Reynolds

Booktalk!

Since the beginning of his junior year at Brooklyn Visions Academy, Max Morales has wondered if his spidey-senses are on the fritz. Is he losing the special powers that always alarm him when danger is close or when someone needs his help? Maybe, for a kid like Max, being a superhero has an expiration date. He can't guarantee that he will still be Spider-Man by graduation! When he faces huge problems like his uncle's death, school suspension, an unfair teacher, and a newly-incarcerated cousin, Max must decide if his superpowers are worth restoring.



Best for Grades 6-8



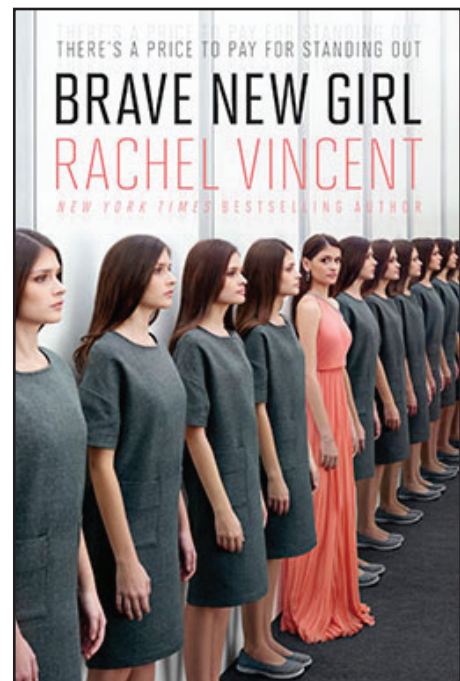


Brave New Girl

by Rachel Vincent

Booktalk!

How can anyone function without a barcode? Dahlia and 4,999 other girls were cloned by a genetic engineer to be healthy, strong, and smart. Their human DNA was cloned and assembled to distribute genetic traits equally, creating humans in the same way a construction worker builds houses! When Dahlia graduates, she will join the trade labor division, but her curiosity makes her different, and after meeting a boy named Trigger, Dahlia knows that their mutual attraction is dangerous. If they require a blood test and discover possible genetic flaws, she could be sentenced to death!



Best for Grades 6-8



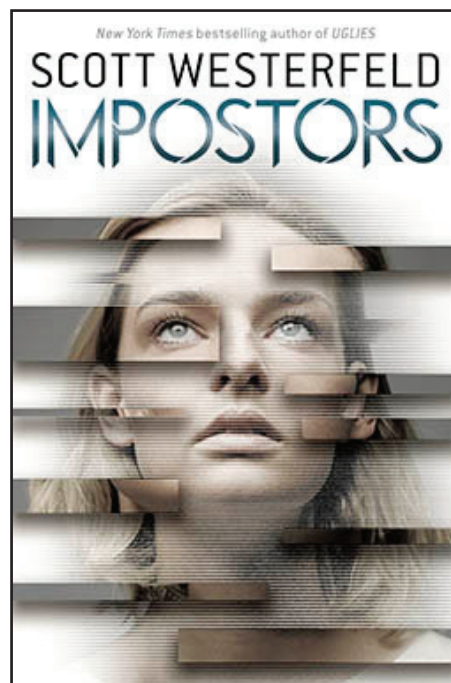


Impostors

by Scott Westerfeld

Booktalk!

The daughter of a dictator, Rafia represents the new regime. But why is the existence of her twin sister Frey a secret? Trained as a bodyguard, Frey takes Rafia's place at public events, even saving her from an assassination attempt. When the twins' father negotiates with a rival city to buy natural resources, they threaten to hold Rafia hostage. But instead of Rafia, they send Frey, and she must decide whether or not to reveal her identity. She can choose to join forces with a rebel group to overthrow her father's regime and rescue her sister — or not. What will she choose?



Best for Grades 6-8





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





A Face Like Glass

by Frances Hardinge

Booktalk!

Grandible is certain that something unwelcome is living within his cheese tunnels. But how could anything get through the locks and bars that protect him from the rest of the underground city? He's not accustomed to other living things, nor does he welcome them. So, when he finds a human child trying to live off the splendors of his cheese kingdom, he fears that she is danger, but also wonders who sent her. Should he ignore his fear and make her an apprentice? A mask that makes her face look like glass might help keep her identity a secret.



Best for Grades 6-8



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