



Scar Island

by Dan Gemeinhart

Booktalk!

Jonathan committed a terrible crime and he's sentenced to the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys as punishment. A cold, dark prison in the middle of the sea, Slabhenge's cruel warden promises to reform the worst offenders, especially a criminal like Jonathan. When a freak accident leaves the boys of Slabhenge unsupervised, Jonathan and the other inmates must fight the island and their own worst instincts to survive. Why was Jonathan sent to Slabhenge? Will the boys make it off the island alive?



Best for grades 6-8



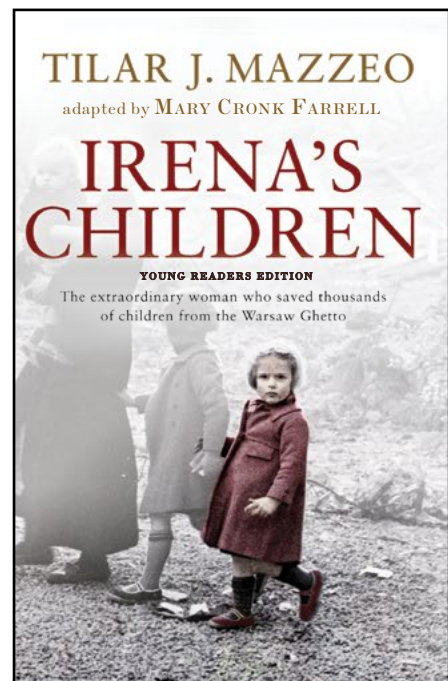


Irena's Children

by Tilar J. Mazzeo

Booktalk!

Before World War II, Poland had one of the largest Jewish populations in Europe. When Hitler's army occupied Poland, the Nazis forced Jewish families into the Warsaw Ghetto — a cramped section of the city surrounded by guards. Disease and starvation claimed many lives, but Hitler's solution to the "Jewish Problem" was worse — send all Jews to death camps. Risking her own life, Irena Sendler, a social worker, smuggled thousands of Jewish children out of Warsaw. This compelling true story of Irena's bravery reminds us that one person can make a difference.



Best for grades 6-8





Night Witches: A Novel of World War II

by Kathryn Lasky

Booktalk!

Fifteen-year-old Valya and her older sister were taught to fly planes by the time they were 12. Their father, a seasoned pilot, proclaimed Valya to be a natural flyer with skills and precision. But Valya has no idea where her father is now. Her grandmother and mother were killed when the Germans seized their Russian city, and Valya's sister is a Night Witch, a term the Nazis use for female fighter pilots. Soon, Valya is a soldier too. Her dream is to join her big sister in the ranks of the Night Witches! Valya knows she is a fighter, but she worries, will releasing bombs change her?



Best for grades 6-8



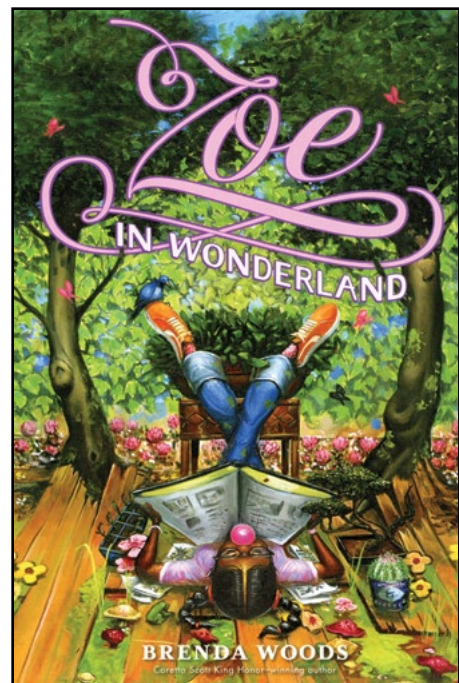
Booktalk!

Zoe in Wonderland

by Brenda Woods

Booktalk!

Shy, perfectly plain Zoe G. Reindeer hates her last name and her big feet. She always feels self-conscious next to her brainy brother and beautiful older sister and prefers to spend free time in her father's plant nursery. There, she dreams up imaginary worlds where she's always cool, confident, and enjoying a perfect life. When Zoe and her friend Quincy manage to grow an endangered Baobab plant for a visiting astronomer from Madagascar, her family's interest in her success gives Zoe confidence to plan real adventures, not just imaginary ones.



Best for grades 4-6



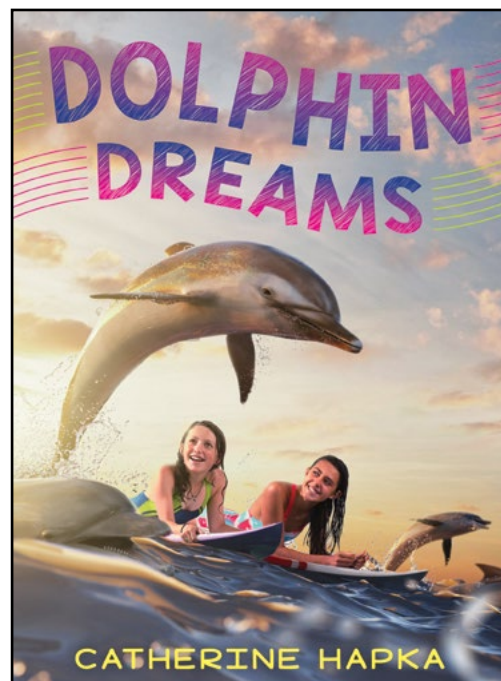


Dolphin Dreams

by Catherine Hapka

Booktalk!

A few years ago, Avery had a near-drowning experience that left her afraid of the ocean, but when she and her mother move from the Midwest to the California coast, Avery welcomes the chance to overcome her fears. Every night she has a marvelous dream about swimming in the ocean with a pod of dolphins, and when she befriends Maria, a surf-savvy girl who loves dolphins as much as she does, the two girls spend their summer days swimming and surfing at a secret cove. Will they learn more about dolphins and each other?



Best for grades 4-6



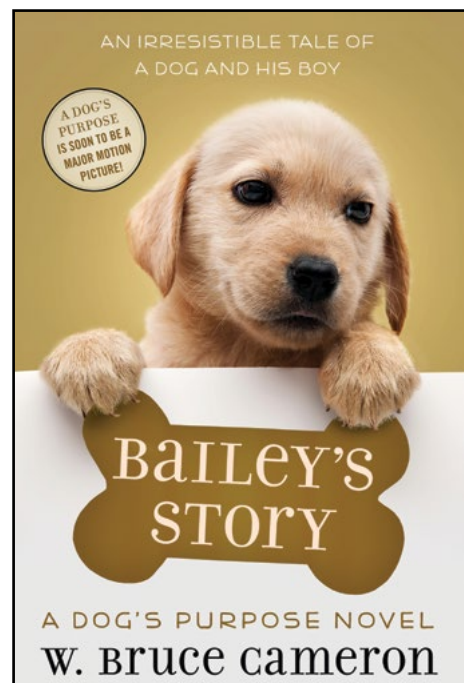


Bailey's Story: A Dog's Purpose Novel

by W. Bruce Cameron

Booktalk!

This puppy knows there are kinder people in the world than the man who caged him. He takes care of the entire litter and believes there must be something out there besides a wire cage and a concrete floor. Kind hands and gentle voices rescue him, but soon, he is on his own once again. Escaping heat exhaustion because of a kind lady, the puppy meets her son. The boy names him Bailey, and he realizes his most important job ever is just beginning. Will he succeed?



Best for grades 4-6





Serafina and the Twisted Staff

by Robert Beatty

Booktalk!

It's 1899. Twelve-year-old Serafina and her Pa live in the basement of the Vanderbilt family's elegant Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. Her Pa is the head mechanic. Serafina is the Chief Rat Catcher. She is also a catamount, or shape-shifting mountain lion. Mysterious visitors arrive at the estate, and unexplained accidents happen! An unspeakable evil threatens the Biltmore and Serafina's forest kin. She and her friend Braedon must overcome their fear to defeat this powerful enemy before it engulfs them.



Best for grades 4-6





DC Comics Secret Hero Society: Fort Solitude

by Derek Fridolfs, illustrated by Dustin Nguyen

Booktalk!

Because of his recent academic success, Clark Kent can attend Evergreen Adventure Camp for a week. His parents remind him to blend in and protect his identity – no powers allowed! At first, Clark enjoys the competitive camp activities, but then he senses that something weird is going on at Evergreen. Yucky cafeteria food, scary stories, and cruel pranks are bad enough, but now campers are disappearing! The counselors don't even seem concerned, so it's up to Clark and his best friends to find the missing campers. Maybe working together as a team can reveal their strengths.



Best for grades 4-6



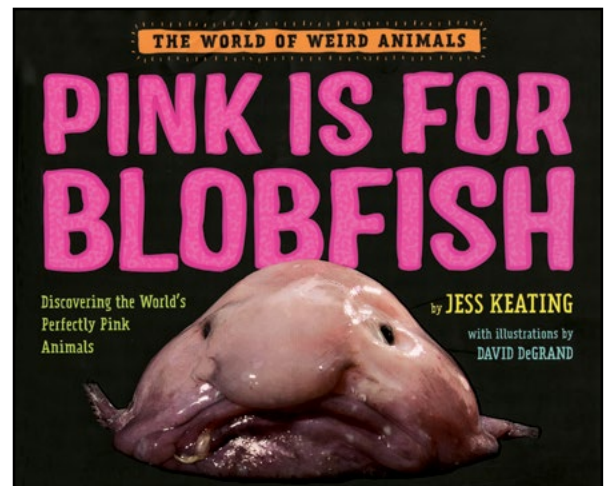


Pink Is for Blobfish

by Jess Keating, illustrated by David DeGrand

Booktalk!

How would you like to be voted the ugliest animal on the planet? This is the not-so-distinguished honor awarded to the blobfish, which also happens to be pink. You'll have fun learning about this animal and 16 other pink critters. Each one has special qualities – like the pink sea star that can make its stomach come out of its mouth to eat large prey. You'll also learn about their species, size, diet, habitat, predators, and threats. In no time, you'll find yourself looking for pink everywhere!



Best for grades K-3



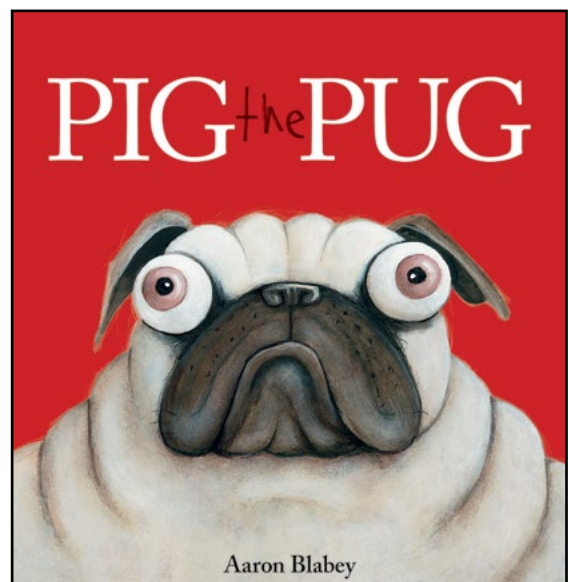
Booktalk!

Pig the Pug

by Aaron Blabey

Booktalk!

Pig the Pug was a very greedy dog. He had some terrific dog toys, but he would not share them with Trevor, the wiener dog in the house. Trevor thought playing together would be fun. Pig did not. He flipped his wig and said, “NEVER!” Then, Pig the Pug gathered all of his toys into a huge pile and climbed on top. “These toys are MINE!” Trevor watched and saw an accident waiting to happen. Pig the Pug took a mighty big fall and learned something—pugs cannot fly! He also found out sharing might not be so bad after all.



Best for grades K-2



Booktalk!

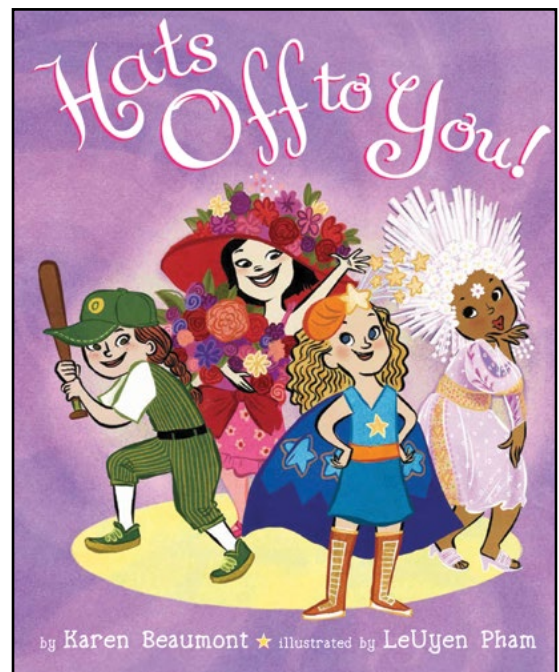
Hats Off to You!

by Karen Beaumont, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Booktalk!

“Hats and more hats piled up high.
Which hats do we want to try?”

Emily, Ashley, Kaitlyn, and Claire are inviting everyone to put on a favorite hat and join in for lots of fun! A street fair vendor has hats hanging everywhere, but how will the girls choose between hats with flowers, hats with feathers, or hats with bells? What about a big sombrero or a cool beret? Perhaps there will even be a mother-daughter tea where the girls can practice their red carpet poses! It’s definitely going to be a “hats off to you” occasion for moms everywhere!



Best for grades K-2

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