



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



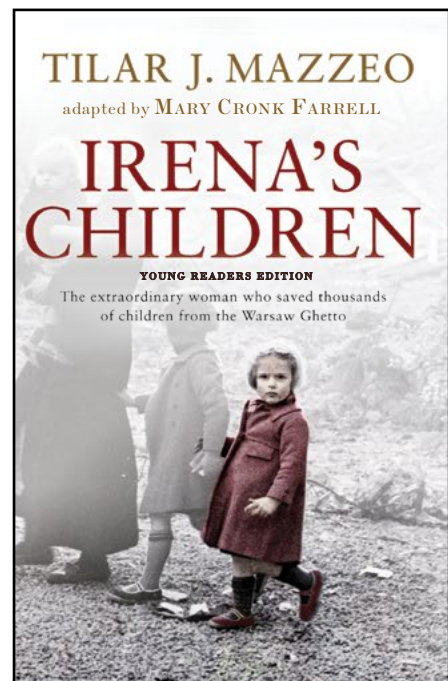


Irena's Children

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



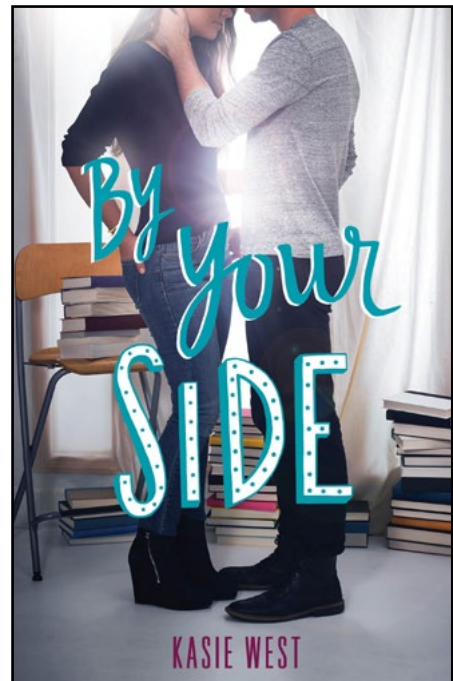
Booktalk!

By Your Side

by Kasie West

Booktalk!

How does a 16-year-old girl get trapped in a library during a long holiday weekend? This is Autumn's worst nightmare! Because she suffers from anxiety disorder, the situation worsens when she discovers that someone else is also in the library. No, it's not a homeless person as she first suspected. It's Dax, the troubled, mysterious boy from her high school. What's he doing here, she wonders? Meanwhile, Autumn's friends are in a horrible car accident, and news reports say that she is missing and presumed dead because her personal belongings were pulled from the car!



Best for grades 6-8



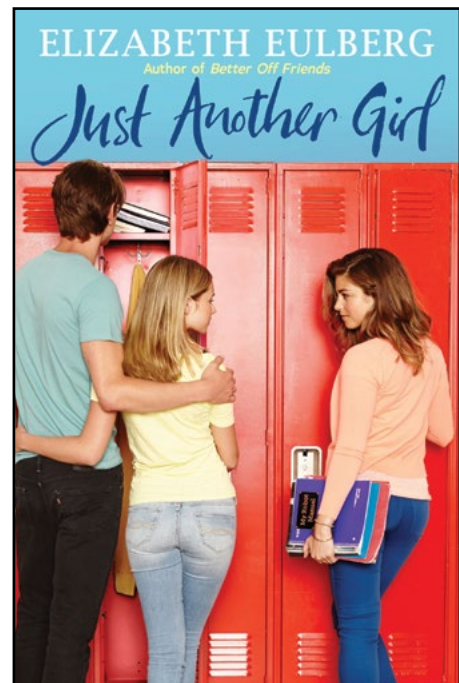
Booktalk!

Just Another Girl

by Elizabeth Eulberg

Booktalk!

Sixteen-year-old Hope believes anything can be accomplished with the three Ps: patience, planning, and perseverance. Voices in her head tell her that she's not good enough and constantly fixate on things that Hope can't control. Whenever she and Brady are in the same room, they're drawn together like magnets. It's been that way since they were little kids. When Parker, the popular, perfect, pretty girl, becomes Brady's girlfriend, Hope realizes that at 16, life shouldn't be so stressful. But Hope may learn that she doesn't really know Parker or Brady at all!



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Worthy

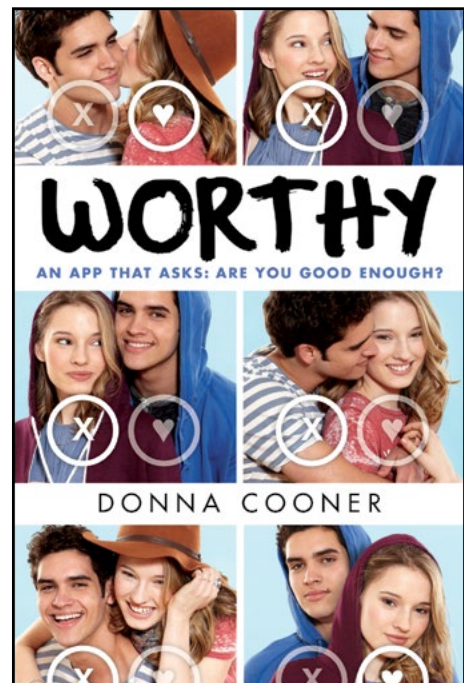
by Donna Cooner

Booktalk!

Imagine seeing this invitation on your school's social media page to download the following:

“Welcome to WORTHY, a private app for students to rank couples on their photos through anonymous reader comments. WORTHY wants to know: Are you good enough? Swipe here to continue...”

At first, Linden Wilson is focused on other things like cute Alex Rivera, prom committee, and her writing. But thanks to the app, she starts questioning her friends, popularity, and self-image. Who's posting the pictures? Who's voting? And what will happen if the spotlight turns ... on Linden?



Best for grades 6-8

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Overtuned *by Lamar Giles*

Booktalk!

Las Vegas can be a monster with bright lights, dark alleys, and big jackpots. Nikki Tate knows all about it, and her high school classmates know all about her father sitting on death row for murder. Card-playing is Nikki's strong suit, and her gift for big wins comes straight from her old man. When her father returns home from prison with an overturned conviction, Nikki fears he has changed more than she expected. When the dark underbelly of Las Vegas surrounds the Tate family once again, can Nikki play her cards just right to clear the family name?



Best for grades 6-8

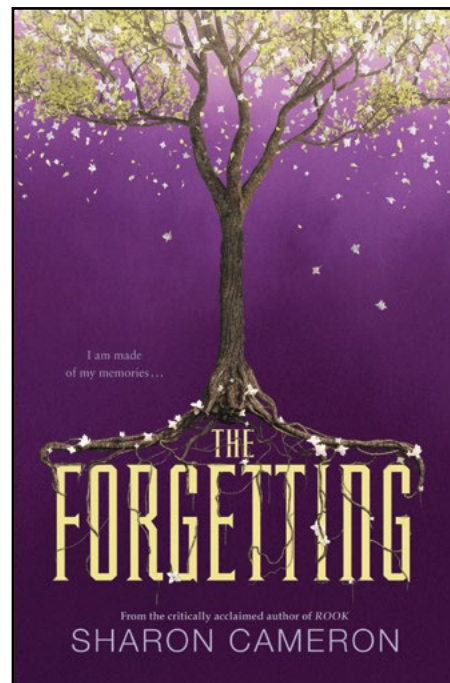




The Forgetting *by Sharon Cameron*

Booktalk!

A book must contain the truth. Your truth. That's what Nadia and everyone in Canaan know. But what happens when your truth is taken from you and you're forced to forget everything you have ever known? That's what everyone in Nadia's world is facing — except for her. She is the only one who remembers. Before the chaos of the Forgetting begins again, Nadia and Gray, her handsome and unexpected ally, seek to stop the enemy that threatens their world. Is the Forgetting inescapable, or can Nadia and Gray create a new world order for the people of Canaan?



Best for grades 6-8



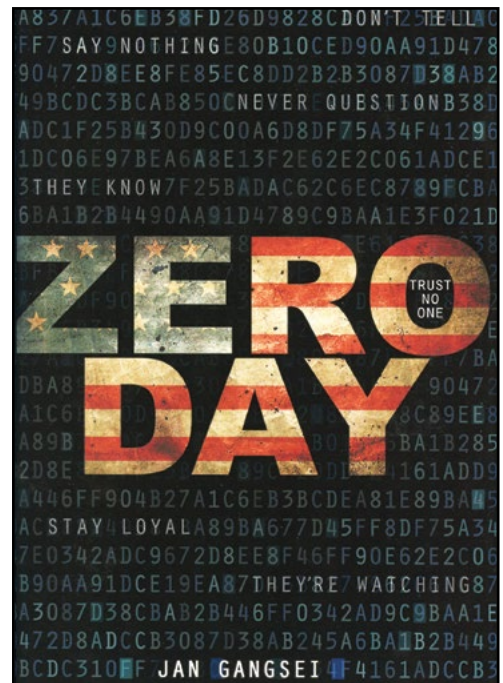


Zero Day

by Jan Gangsei

Booktalk!

Eight years ago, Addie Webster was kidnapped while her father was governor. Today, she returns as mysteriously as she vanished — and can't remember a thing. Many thought she was dead, and a lot has changed while she was gone. Her sister seems to be a different person, and now her father is President of the United States! Could her best friend, Darrow, know anything about what happened? Does his mom, the President's Chief of Staff, have any clues about that fateful day she was taken and all the years in between? In a world of terrorism and cyber hacking, anything is possible.



Best for grades 6-8



Booktalk!

EXO

by Fonda Lee

Booktalk!

Humans are no longer the dominant species on the planet. Seventeen-year-old Donovan was turned into an exo against his will when he was only five years old. Exos are stronger than anyone else and can live longer than normal humans because of their alien armor. Donovan's father, Prime Liaison of West America, is the most powerful man in the country. When Donovan is abducted by a human revolutionary group, he wonders if he can remain alive long enough to be rescued, especially since his father won't negotiate with terrorists!



Best for grades 6-8



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