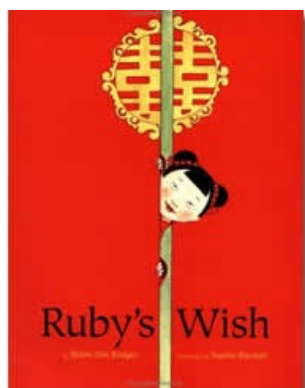


Children and Young Adult Book Reviews

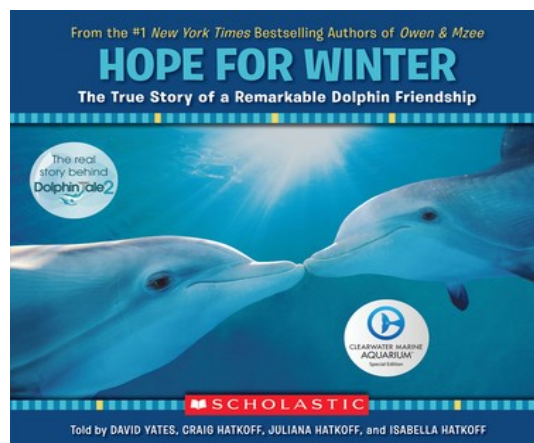


Ruby's Wish

Written by Shirin Yen

Reviewed by Dr. Tamesha Bullock, 7th ELAR, Spring Branch ISD, Houston, TX.

Ruby is Red! Red is Ruby! Ruby's love of red and learning personifies one with great character and courage. Red is the fire that sparks Ruby's trail to ignite a blaze that brings great change to the world around her. The brilliance of "red" in Ruby makes her shimmer, shine and stand out among others while demanding the attention of an entire society. Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yen is one of the most fascinating realistic fictional books. It details a young girl's struggle against cultural traditions in China. Because Ruby has a passion for learning, her journey as young girl displays the fight and the determination on the inside of her to go against the cultural grain of not allowing girls to obtain an education. Her personality of self-determination and being a "cultural rebel" in her society is displayed in how she dresses and presents herself to those around her. Ruby's character is not only hard to ignore, but also plays a huge role in impacting the mindsets of an entire society. Ruby's Wish is an inspirational book that motivates those on personal journeys to become trailblazers for those who follow and want to leave an imprint and long lasting legacy.

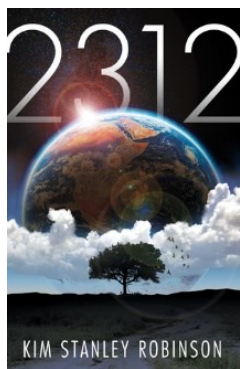


Hope for Winter: The True Story of a Remarkable Dolphin Friendship

Told by David Yates, Craig Hatkoff, Juliana Hatkoff, and Isabella Hatkoff

Reviewed by Paula Opp, 5th Grade Science, Cleveland ISD, Cleveland, TX.

What kind of friend do you think you are? How do friendships begin? What makes them strong and lasting? The story, Hope for Winter, begins with the rescue of a two-month old female, Bottlenose dolphin, named Hope. With the help of the Clearwater Marine Team, Hope struggles to survive and grow stronger. It is soon evident that the tough little dolphin will never be able to be released back into the wild. The story continues in the Clearwater Marine Aquarium located in Florida where another female, Bottlenose dolphin, named Winter was rescued five years before Hope. This tale of the remarkable friendship between Hope and Winter is accompanied by photos of their journey. This real life story of friendship can help students appreciate different forms of friendship and that differences can be good.

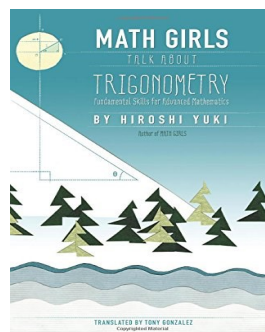


2312

Written by K.S. Robinson
(2012)
New York, NY: Orbit

Reviewed by Lisselotte Villatoro, READ 3373/3374, Grades 4-8, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.

This science fiction book is a one of a kind adventure. 2312 takes place in outer space following two major characters living on different planets. We see how they adjust and what they have to go through in space. This book also makes the reader think critically. This futuristic novel takes us to a world that could become our own with the help of advanced technology. There is a lot of astronomy, which is great for young readers who love science fiction. It is a beautifully written novel using real physics and biology to represent our possible future. Definitely something for young readers to look into; not only does it give the reader a captivating story but it also teaches about how the human race can live in outer space and how far we have come along.

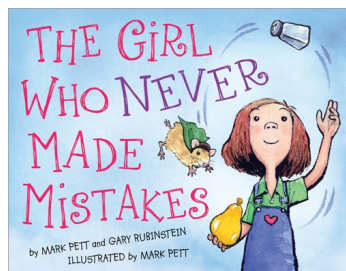


Math Girl's Talk about Trigonometry

Written by H. Yuki (2014)
Austin, TX: Bento Books, Incorporated, 276 pages.

Reviewed by Chelsea Actkinson, Cailynn "Cici" Senneff, and Mikaela Odom, READ 3373/3374, Grades 4-8, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.

Just imagine yourself being a girl and talking to your best friend. You can talk to her about anything! You are not afraid to ask your best friend questions, and she is always there to respond back! Together you and your best friend will find a solution. Through a fun math girl series, the book talks back by using sine and cosine functions, and deriving the value of pi. The reader will be consumed by the helpful review problems the book provides and open-ended problems to push the reader's mathematical curiosity. This is a fun teen book that opens your mind from the dream world you thought you lived into the mathematical fact of reality, while being your best friend.



The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

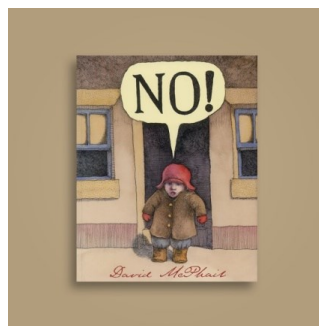
Written by M. Pett and G. Rubinstein (2011).

Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.
ISBN 978-1-402-25546-5

Reviewed by Sarah Hodges and Rachel Shelton,
READ 3373/3374, Grades 4-8, Sam Houston
State University, Huntsville, TX.

Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein talk about the life of Beatrice, a girl who never makes mistakes. This fictional story illustrates the unrealistic expectations she feels that life has set for her. It is not until she finds herself lying on the floor that she realizes her fear of messing up.

Beatrice's life was constantly on display while the world watched for her to make her first error. While cooking with her friends, she slips on rhubarb that her friend previously dropped on the floor. Eggs fly into the air, but flawless Beatrice catches them all and forgives her friend's slip-up. Realizing that she *almost* made her first mistake, anxiety began to swell within her. As her concern becomes too much, her act in the talent show comes tumbling down across the stage leaving her frozen in fear. Her worst nightmare was now her reality. Instead of letting the fear overcome her thoughts, she was able to laugh off her mistake. This book connects the student's own anxieties with Beatrice's fear of messing up. The student can share those emotions through her story and come to the conclusion that it is okay to not be perfect. I definitely recommend this book for middle school classrooms to help alleviate some anxieties that students have regarding mathematics.



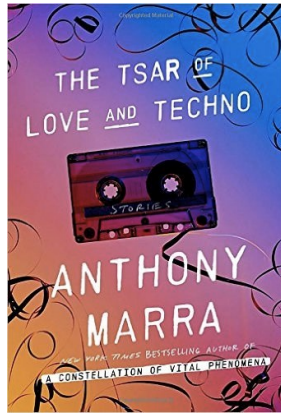
No!

Written by D. McPhail (2009)
New York: Roaring
Brook Press

Reviewed by Christine Benedict and Kristin Pesz, READ 3373/3374 Grades 4-8, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.

How can the word “No!” prove to be so meaningful, especially when only used three times in an entire book? David McPhail uses the book *No!* to show how powerful a simple word can be.

Although our young, male, central character in the book is unnamed; he provides the focus for the story as he encounters and witnesses several different acts of oppression and violence. When the character decides to use his voice, the chain of events in the story takes a turn. The author uses the word “No!” and the images in the book to show that we should not stand down to even the scariest of thoughts. In the classroom, this book can be used as an example of man vs. society, man vs. man, and man vs. self. It can provide a lesson on bullying through literary conflict. Through the book's imagery, we get glimpses of important conflicts in history, so it can be used as a great introduction to a historical lesson. The vivid scenes portrayed in the book bring a message of great meaning to young minds that may be struggling with conflict in their own lives. How would you use your most powerful word to bring about change?



The Tsar of Love and Techno

Written by Anthony Marra
(2015)
New York, NY:
Hogarth

Reviewed by Kristie Bledsoe and Katy Davis,
READ 3373/3374 Grades 4-8, Sam Houston
State University, Huntsville, TX.

Press play and immerse yourself in the stories of a prima ballerina, a correction artist, a curator and a Russian soldier whose lives seem to be interconnected by thinly drawn lines only to be revealed as an expansive web in the conclusion of Anthony Marra's *The Tsar of Love and Techno*. Mimicking the recordings on a cassette tape the series of short stories compile together to create one lasting impression of the impactful nature human lives have on one another. The book takes a new light to the writing of short stories with language and references that come together into a cohesive story about the corruption within Soviet Russia and the surrounding regions. The short stories activate the students' critical literacy as they find the links between stories and search for new perspectives on a history often ignored in the United States. Never before will the readers have experienced writing so meticulous and detail oriented. This innovative and upcoming classic will stir a provoking discussion in the classroom and give students a broader perspective on the world .

*Cashville Kidz: SMART Budgeting episode 23.
24 episodes*

Created by Reyes M. and Liew B. One-Step
digital animation studio. Money Tree produc-
tions. Feb.26, 2016.

Reviewed by Jasmine Morales and Lauren
Trapp, READ 3373/3374 Grades 4-8, Sam
Houston State University, Huntsville, TX.

It's money and financial literacy time in your classroom and the school has an unplanned fire drill. You're running late, or even if you are not late, you just feel like your students deserve a easy school day; whatever it is, you must show your students Cashville Kidz is a show that is strictly about money! It starts with the history of money, smart buying habits, and proceeds to introducing banking; how to balance time and money; goal and goal setting; good debt vs. bad debt; savings and investing; and even smart budgeting! This cute cartoon series is fun, has student friendly language, and the characters' personalities are easy to love. One key episode is episode 23, "SMART Budgeting". It's about the students having to learn an important tool, a budget plan, to lead them on way to financial success. The students talk about all the easy ways to spend money, how to realize how much they spend and how fast, and why it is important we have a budget. A budget will help prevent you from overspending and allows you to prioritize. The real-world scenarios make this show very relatable. Cashville Kidz is an awesome show that must be shown in a class-room!