# GREAT BOOKS



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FOR KIDS & TEENS

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# Are you looking for the perfect gift to give to a child? May we suggest a book?

The Youth Services Department staff has chosen the titles in this gift guide from books published over the past year. Each book has been selected for its timeless quality and lasting kid appeal. Each listing includes a summary of the book, the writer and/or illustrator, and the age range for which the book is most appropriate.

While we put the list out each year in time for holiday shopping, we hope you will refer to it year-round to help you decide which books to buy for birthdays, baby showers, and other occasions.

The guide is a wonderful tool to help you select books that will be read, re-read, and treasured by the children who receive them as gifts at any time of year!

Books make great gifts!

- Youth Services Department Staff Warren-Trumbull County Public Library December 2021

For these titles and more, visit any Warren-Trumbull County Public Library location, the Bookmobile, or the library website at www.WTCPL.org

# **Picture Books**

### Families Grow Written by Dan Saks; illustrated by Brooke Smart

For ages 1-3 No matter how your family comes to be, this book offers a gentle celebration of new little ones. A sweet, simple board book that is perfect for growing families. *Recommended by Miss Taylor* 

### The Giggles are Coming By Christopher Eliopoulos

For ages 4 - 7 Look out - the Giggles are coming! Can two best friends stop themselves from laughing during their first day of school? The silly illustrations are sure to make everyone get the giggles by the end of the story.

Recommended by Miss Trish

### Hello, Moon By Julie Downing

For ages 4-6

While we're settling into bed, many of the forest's creatures are just waking up! The moonlight calls them to scurry and flutter. They enjoy feasts of fruit and leaves. They hide from a rainstorm and end the night cozy in their nests and burrows as the day dawns. Beautiful watercolors illustrate this precious bedtime book.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

# Keep an Eye on Ivy

# By Barroux

For ages 3-5

A child receives a plant for a birthday present. When it starts to grow and family members start disappearing, you realize it might not be so innocent. This is such a fun read-aloud with an awesome pop-up surprise toward the end. It gives off a "Little Shop of Horrors" vibe but for the preschool set. Definitely a winner for the youngest gardener! *Recommended by Miss Nicole* 

### Mel Fell

### By Corey R. Tabor

For ages 3-8

Award winning author/illustrator Corey R. Tabor's newest picture book is sure to please the young and the young at heart. Readers follow a daring little kingfisher when she decides today is the day she will learn to fly. After jumping and flipping from the safety of the nest, Mel fell... and fell...and fell past owls, squirrels, and other tree-dwelling neighbors trying to help slow her descent. Mel's fall was stopped when she hit the pond under the tree, caught a fish, and kicked her way to the surface and into flight! Children will delight in the adventure of the book having to be turned sideways and even upside down to read the story. *Mel Fell* would also make a great gift for anyone about to take a leap and leave the nest. *Recommended by Miss Amber* 

# Milo Imagines the World

### Written by Matt de la Pena; illustrated by Chris Robinson

For ages 4-8

As young Milo sits in a subway car, he looks at the other passengers and imagines what their lives might be like. Perhaps the whiskered man is returning to his fifth-floor apartment where he'll be surrounded by his pets. Maybe the woman in the white dress is heading to her own wedding. Milo also wonders what the other passengers might be thinking about him. When they finally reach their destination, Milo realizes that you can never really know a person just by looking at them.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

# Mindi and the Goose No One Else Could See Written by Sam McBratney; illustrated by Linda Olafsdottir

For Ages 3-7

Mindi has a problem – a big goose that no one else can see! Her parents are frustrated by the problem goose that drives Mindi into their bed every night. Flummoxed, Mindi's dad seeks advice from an older farmer, who might have just the right thing to help Mindi forget that great big goose. With the tender feel of a traditional tale, McBratney, author of Guess How Much I *Love You*, offers a reassuring story about the things that bother us but no one else can see. Recommended by Miss Amanda

### Narwhal and Jelly Board Books By Ben Clanton

### For ages 3 and under

Narwhal and Jelly leave their popular graphic novel style behind and try out some board books. They certainly don't disappoint in this format! In *Blankie*, the two friends imagine all the fun things that a blanket can become. From a picnic blanket to a cape, Narwhal and Jelly's imaginations are working overtime. In *Bubbles*, the friends explore many different types of bubbles in the sea. These books are adorable and are a happy introduction to these characters. Recommended by Miss Nicole

### Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did)

### By Ryan T. Higgins

For ages 3-6

Norman is a porcupine whose best friend is a tree named Mildred. They do everything together, until a new tree pops up from the ground, and Norman must watch as Mildred grows closer to the other tree. Poor Norman starts to worry that Mildred must like the other tree more and plans to get rid of the other tree for good! This story will have your family laughing and is a fun way to start a conversation about being a friend. Recommended by Miss Crystal

### Oh Look, a Cake! By J.C. McKee

# For ages 4-7

This story starts with a Sloth, a Lemur, and a very delicious looking cake. They debate whether they should tell the others about the cake, until finally deciding that they are the best ones to eat it. Very quickly the cake disappears, with only crumbs and frosting left behind, until the cake's true owner arrives: Tiger! Uh-oh! Recommended by Miss Crystal

### The Rock from the Sky

### **By Jon Klassen**

### For ages 4-8

Turtle has a spot to stand in. A perfect spot. Armadillo has a bad feeling about that spot. It might have something to do with the rock from the sky. Whatever the reason, you should not have a bad feeling about this picture book. Five very short chapters and three friends deal with stubbornness, friendship, and the future. A very funny read that will appeal to kids who enjoy the surreal and a bit of suspense.

Recommended by Miss Nicole

### Seaside Stroll Written by Charles Trevino; illustrated by Maribel Lechuga

For ages 3 - 7

Follow along with this sensory adventure and get ready to explore the seashore in the... winter? You'll be delighted to see that even on a chilly day, the beach has much to offer anyone with a sense of adventure. Warm illustrations invite the reader to snuggle close as the day ends and settle down for a bedtime story.

Recommended by Miss Trish

### The Secret Fawn Written by Kallie George; illustrated by Elly MacKay

For ages 3-7

A little girl has just about had it with missing out! She wasn't able to pick the first apple because she is too short, she missed the shooting stars because she goes to bed too early, and now she didn't even get to see the deer that the rest of her family saw because she was getting dressed all by herself. Determined to see the deer, she slips into nature with a sugar cube in her pocket. Will she find what she is looking for? Perhaps. Will she treasure her independence and natural discoveries? Undoubtedly.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

### Secret, Secret Agent Guy Written by Kira Bigwood; illustrated by Celia Krampien

For ages 4-8

Get ready to embark on Operation Lollipop, a top-secret mission from Agent 007-year-old! It is of the utmost importance to pay attention to all the details of the mission. Will our operative complete his quest? This fun story told to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," is perfect for any future super spy to read before bed!

Recommended by Miss Crystal

# Vanilla Bean: A Story About Trying New Things

**By Katie Turner** 

For ages 2-5

A sweet story about one picky pup who only likes to eat plain vanilla ice cream. One day while visiting Miss Sundae's ice cream shop, rainbow sprinkles spill everywhere, including on pup's plain vanilla ice cream cone. Will picky pup try a bite of his sprinkled cone? A perfect gift for your little picky eater.

Recommended by Miss Jill

### Wolfboy

### **By Andy Harkness**

For ages 3-6

Wolfboy is very hungry and getting more frustrated by the minute! If he doesn't find some rabbits soon, who knows what he will do?! With clay sculpted illustrations and a sweet, unexpected ending, this book is a delight from start to finish! Recommended by Miss Taylor

# Wonder Walkers

### **By Micha Archer**

For ages 3-7

Two curious children take a 'wonder walk' and ask big questions about the wonders of nature! Is the sun the world's light bulb? Are trees the sky's legs? If you wonder too, this book is for you! Recommended by Miss Taylor

# **Early and Middle Grade Fiction**

### Harry Versus the First 100 Days of School **By Emily Jenkins**

For ages 5-8

Harry is nervous about starting first grade. Kindergarten was one thing, but first grade is totally different! This book covers the first 100 days in Harry's school year. It is a great read-aloud or first chapter book for those in early elementary school. Harry is an endearing character and kids will be able to relate to what he learns and goes through, from spelling and reading to bullies. Hand to those who are just starting school or who may already be a first-grade expert. Recommended by Miss Nicole

### *I'm On It* **By Andrea Tsurumi** For Ages 5-8

Goat, showing off to Frog, unwittingly begins a game of one-upmanship with his friend. As Goat tries desperately to outdo his friend by being on it, in it, along it, and more, their friendship is put to the test. Part of the "Elephant & Piggie Like Reading" series, *I'm On It* is laugh-out-loud funny and perfect for your beginning reader.

Recommended by Miss Amanda

### *Jack Gets Zapped* By Mac Barnett & Greg Pizzoli

### For Ages 6-9

Jack, a naughty rabbit who lives with an old lady and her dog, LOVES to play video games (know anyone like that?). Accidentally sucked into the game, Jack must find a way out or be stuck forever. This beginning reader is perfect for video game fans and for those who enjoy funny stories. *Recommended by Miss Amanda* 

### *JoJo Makoons: The Used-To-Be Best Friend* By Dawn Quigley; illustrated by Tara Audibert

For Ages 6-9

First grader Jo Jo lives on a (fictional) Ojibwe reservation with her mom, her kokum (grandmother), and her cat/best home friend, Mimi. Jo Jo's best school friend doesn't really seem to want to be friends anymore. Can Jo Jo figure out how to make new friends? Is it really ok for Mimi to come to school... and peepee in the model tipi? (At least it helps Jo Jo figure out rhyming.) Filled with silly antics and a realistic child-like understanding of the world, Jo Jo is ready to be your early chapter book reader's new best friend. *Recommended by Miss Amanda* 

### Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey

### By Erin Entrada Kelly

For ages 6 - 9

In this perfect introduction to chapter books, small-but-mighty Marisol has a list of things she wants to do, like climb the great big tree in her backyard, have fun with her best friends, and avoid the annoying bully, Evie. You'll cheer her along as she finds the courage to overcome her fears and accomplish her goals.

Recommended by Miss Trish

### *The Most Perfect Thing in the Universe* By Tricia Springstubb

For ages 9 - 12

Eleven-year old Loah, named for an Arctic bird thought extinct, does NOT take after her parents. Her father died in a horrible mountain-climbing accident (that Loah doesn't want to hear about, thank you very much), and her mother is an adventurous ornithologist determined to save the endangered birds of the shrinking Arctic tundra. Loah, however, prefers life at home with no surprises. But when her mother sets out alone on an expedition to explore a possible sighting of the Loah bird, and her elderly caretakers both fall ill, Loah must find the courage to manage things at home and find help for her missing mother. Filled with wonderfully quirky characters and beautifully written by Cleveland's own Tricia Springstubb! *Recommended by Miss Lori* 

### *The One Thing You'd Save* By Linda Sue Parker

For ages 8-12

What is the one thing you would save in a fire? A teacher poses this profound question to her students. A very thought-provoking novel written in verse with her student's response to this interesting question. What would you save? *Recommended by Miss Jill.* 

### *Rez Dogs* By Joseph Bruchac

For ages 8-12

Malian is visiting her grandparents on the Wabanaki reservation when travel shuts down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though she has to stay longer than expected, they help each other stay safe and healthy, and Malian learns about her family through the candid, honest family history her grandparents share with her.

Recommended by Sarah M.

### *Rosetown Summer* By Cynthia Rylant

### For ages 8-11

During the summer in Rosewood, Indiana, Flora keeps busy by volunteering at the local library and spending time at the local bookshop – two of her favorite places. Miss Meriwether, the bookshop owner, helps Flora and her friends find the perfect books and even takes Flora on a fun road trip. But Flora is worried Miss Meriwether will end up selling the bookshop and moving across the country to live with a friend. Is a big change coming to Rosetown? Great for fans of realistic fiction.

Recommended by Sarah M.

### *Sisters of the Neversea* By Cynthia Leitich Smith

### For ages 9-12

In this modern take on the classic story of Peter Pan, Peter is a rather obnoxious bully, and Wendy and her stepsister Lily are the heroes. After Peter spirits them away to Neverland so that Wendy can tell stories to the Lost Boys, Wendy and Lily have to find their way back home with the assistance of a certain familiar fairy named Belle. A fresh, fun retelling. *Recommended by Miss Lori* 

### Starfish

### By Liza Fipps

### For ages 10 and up

In this novel written-in-verse, Ellie has been bullied and shamed for her weight by what feels like everyone, from her family, classmates, and even herself. As she begins counseling, Ellie begins to find her confidence and stand up for herself. A beautiful look into what it feels like to start the journey to love who you are.

Recommended by Miss Crystal

### Sunshine

### **By Marion Dane Bauer**

For ages 8-12

Ben is an anxious child who lives with his dad and his imaginary dog, Sunshine. His mom left the family to go live in the wilderness of Minnesota when Ben was three-years-old and he hasn't seen her since...until now. Now, Ben has the opportunity to spend a week with his mom and he's going to use that time to show her what a great kid he is in the hopes that she'll come back home to be with him. Join Ben and Sunshine as they explore the wilderness and navigate complex family relationships.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

### Sydney and Taylor Take a Flying Leap

### **By Jacqueline Davies**

### For ages 6-9

Taylor the hedgehog and Sydney the skunk are best friends and always supportive of one another, until the day Taylor wants to fly. Will Sydney be able to help his friend and keep him safe at the same time? This is a story about friendship and following your dreams, no matter how far-fetched. The lovely full color illustrations are perfect for those readers just starting chapter books. Be sure to purchase this for fans of the first volume or friendship stories in general.

Recommended by Miss Nicole

### *Teaflet and Roog Make a Mess* By Jeanne Birdsall

For ages 5-9

You've likely never been to Trelfdom--no matter where you look, it's always somewhere else. It's in this elusive, whimsical place that we find siblings Teaflet and Roog preparing for their annual Strawberry Jam Party. This year's party is sure to be the best yet, complete with dozens of scrumptious treats! The only problem is that the inspector of neatness has scheduled an inspection and if they don't pass, the party will be canceled. Will Teaflet and Roog be able to pass inspection in spite of the seemingly never-ending visits from forest creatures in need of their help?

Recommended by Miss Taylor

# **Graphic Novels**

### *Garlic and the Vampire* By Bree Paulsen

For ages 9-11

*Garlic and the Vampire* is a delightful read for those who enjoy a little magic. Garlic is trying to do the best she can while tending Witch Agnes' garden, alongside her friend, Carrot, and other vegetable people. When a vampire moves into a nearby castle, little Garlic is voted to investigate. Will she be brave enough to confront the vampire or will she learn that appearances can be deceiving? The illustrations in this graphic novel are just lovely and kids will be rooting for Garlic the whole time. A happy gem for the graphic novel fan. *Recommended by Miss Nicole* 

### Katie the Catsitter

### By Colleen A.F. Venable; illustrated by Stephanie Yue

For ages 8-12

Katie will do anything to go to sleepaway camp with her best friend. She decides to earn money by doing errands for neighbors in her apartment building. Her steadiest client is Madeline on the top floor. Katie cat sits her 217 cats. Yes, 217! Each cat has its own personality and they're all rascally. After a few suspicious outings, Katie begins to wonder if Madeline is the town's newest super villain. This graphic novel is a lot of fun. Katie is super relatable and the cats are wonderful. A must-have for the cat lover/superhero fan on your list! *Recommended by Miss Nicole* 

### Magic Tree House: Dinosaurs Before Dark By Mary Pope Osborne; adapted by Jenny Laird

For ages 6-9

Siblings Jack and Annie find a treehouse in the woods. When they climb up to investigate, they are transported to the age of the dinosaurs. *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, revamped into a graphic novel, is perfect for fans of the original "Magic Tree House" books and for new fans, alike. Now you can travel with Jack and Annie with full color illustrations while still being faithful to the original. Hop in the treehouse and see where it takes you! *Recommended by Miss Nicole* 

# Shark Summer

By Ira Marcks For ages 8-12

Gayle Briar was the pride and joy of her softball team until the championship game in which she broke her arm and the team lost. Now, Gayle and her single mom are moving to Martha's Vineyard so that her mom can pursue her dream of opening an ice scream shop, but the looming medical bills are putting the grand opening on pause. When Gayle discovers a youth filmmaking contest that is offering a sizable cash prize, she sees an opportunity to save her reputation and help her mom financially. She teams up with budding cinematographer, Elijah, and town outcast, Maddie, to create what they hope will be a chilling look into the island's history.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

# **Nonfiction**

### The Beak Book by Robin Page

For ages 3-8

It's no secret that birds have beaks, but readers will be amazed to learn about all of the different kinds of beaks out there and their unique purposes. From sniffing out worms to sewing up cozy nests, a beak is an indispensable tool for busy birds! Don't hesitate to purchase for bird enthusiasts.

Recommended by Miss Taylor

### The Big, Fun Kids Baking Book: 110+ Recipes for Young Bakers By the editors of Food Network Magazine

For ages 8-12 Many kid-friendly recipes with easy-to-understand directions and pictures. Guaranteed success for all budding bakers. *Recommended by Miss Jill* 

# Chickenology: The Ultimate Encyclopedia

**By Barbara Sandi** For ages 5-9

Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Everything you ever wanted to know or didn't want to know about chickens. Fun, informative and whimsically illustrated for any young reader. *Recommended by Miss Jill* 

# *Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown* by Steve Sheinkin

### For Ages 11 an up

Steve Sheinkin, that master of gripping nonfiction, has done it again. This time his subject is the Cold War and how frighteningly close the world came to World War III. The book opens with the (true!) story of a paperboy who discovered a hollow coin with what appeared to be a tiny piece of film wedged inside, then proceeds to take the reader at breakneck pace through stranger-than-fiction accounts of espionage and high-stakes power plays. History-loving kids and fans of realistic thrillers won't be able to put this book down. *Recommended by Miss Lori* 

### *History Smashers Series* By Kate Messner

Think you know everything about what happened on the Titanic, during the American Revolution, or during the trip on the Mayflower? Think again! This new series SMASHES everything you thought you knew about history. The mixed media approach of text, sidebars, and graphic panels makes this perfect for kids who love non-fiction. *Recommended by Miss Trish* 

### If You Go Down to the Woods Today

# Written by Rachel Piercey; illustrated by Freya Hartas

For ages 6-8

Set in a delightful woodland, this picture book features lyrical, rhythmic poems alongside fullpage artwork. "What to spot" sections will engage children and foster discussion as they search *Continued*  through the detailed pictures for characters like "three topsy turvy snails" and "a shy frog". Perfect to read all year long, the animals celebrate, play, and learn in the forest throughout every season. The back of the book features a scavenger hunt-style "nature trail" with items to look for outside, such as rough bark and spiderwebs, and gives factual information about these natural wonders.

Recommended by Sarah M.

### The Ultimate At-Home Activity Guide

### **By Mike Lowery**

Ages 4 and up

If you've got some bored kids and are looking for something for them to do (without getting on a screen), this book holds the answer – lots of them. Filled with over 100 ideas to chase that boredom away, it features easy and inexpensive ideas to fuel a fun afternoon or evening. From book safes to yoga, this book entertains and inspires kids to get creative, to get moving, and to get crafty.

Recommended by Miss Amanda

# **Books for Teens**

### Baby & Solo **By Lisabeth Posthuma**

Ever since The Bad Thing happened, Joel has been struggling to get by. But with his new job at ROYO Video, he gets his fresh start - complete with a new name. Dubbed "Solo" after his favorite Star Wars character, he does his job without anyone even guessing that something is wrong with him. Until he befriends Nicole "Baby" Palmer - a sarcastic co-worker with secrets of her own - and he gains the first real friend he's ever had. When his past starts to catch up with him, he has a choice to make - bury his secrets down deeper inside or sacrifice his clean slate and tell his new friend and coworkers the truth. Either way, there's a chance he'll lose the most valuable friend in his life. Set in the 1990s, this book tackles mental health issues and will leave readers laughing, crying, and unable to put it down. Recommended by Anna

### Blackout

### By Dhonielle Clayton, Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, Nicola Yoon

*Blackout* is a multi-author anthology following teens in easy-to-read short stories. The characters are loosely intertwined as a major blackout hits New York. Suddenly, the characters are each in different harrowing events because of the blackout where they all forge new relationships and rely on unexpected people from their past. There's a little bit of everything for different readers. For an added bonus, check out the audiobook where there is a full cast of actors narrating the different stories.

Recommended by Amanda M.

# Bruised

### By Tanya Boteju

The only survivor of an accident that killed her parents, Daya finds herself drawn to the world of roller derby. The confusing sport, with its many, many bruises, is the perfect way to keep the immense emotional pain away. As time goes on, however, her teammates show her there are many ways to be strong and many ways to belong. An empowering, beautiful story of finding oneself despite tragedy.

Recommended by Sarah A.

### The Dire Days of Willowweep Manor By Shaenon K. Garrity

Haley is obsessed with all things gothic romance! She can tell you all about each novel she has Continued ever read. Then, on a dark and stormy night, she rescues a stranger from drowning and she knows this is her time to shine. Whisked away to a pocket dimension, she proves to be the valuable heroine they all need. This graphic novel is perfect for those who enjoy fantasy adventure stories.

Recommended by Miss Crystal

### House of Hollow By Krystal Sutherland

Something happened to Iris Hollow and her two sisters when they were children. They can't quite remember, but they were left with identical scars. Weirdness has followed ever since, and it only gets worse when her oldest sister goes missing. As Iris tries to find her sister, she discovers that the answer lies in the dark mystery of what happened to them as children. Magical realism at its finest; give this to anyone who likes mystery, fantasy, or horror fiction. *Recommended by Sarah A.* 

### *Instructions for Dancing* By Nicola Yoon

This beautiful story by the award-winning author of *The Sun is Also A Star* and *Everything*, *Everything* asks the question: Is love worth the risk? Evie possesses the strange ability to see others' romantic fates, and knows that all great love stories end with a broken heart, no matter what. But when she finds herself falling for her new dance partner X, she begins to question everything she thought she knew about love, and about life. *Recommended by Sarah A.* 

## Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel

### By Jason Reynolds; illustrated by Danida Novgorodoff

For fans of Kwame Alexander and Angie Thomas, as well as Reynolds' other work, this graphic novel adaptation of the novel of the same name is a powerful must-read. Will's older brother has just been shot and now he must follow the rules of the neighborhood – no crying, no snitching – and get revenge. These rules cannot be broken; they were "meant for the broken to follow". As he takes his building's elevator the "long way down" to the ground floor, he is visited by people from his past who make him question the vengeful action he is about to take. *Recommended by Sarah M.* 

### Lore

### **By Alexander Bracken**

The time has come when ancient gods are stripped of their immortality. Lore Perseus, meanwhile, is just trying to keep her head down and avoid drawing attention to herself in her new life. As the last descendant of the Perseus line, she wants nothing more than to disappear. But when her childhood best friend suddenly comes back into her life and the goddess Athena shows up on her doorstep, everything changes. This story grabs you from the very beginning and is for anyone that enjoys Greek mythology and fantasy. *Recommended by Miss Crystal* 

### *The Mary Shelley Club* By Goldy Moldavsky

Rachel Chavez is the new girl in school with a secret that she's desperate to keep from all of her new classmates. Then she learns about the secret, invitation only Mary Shelley Club. This club has only one goal: compete to pull elaborate and terrifying pranks that prey on their victim's worst fears. At first, it's all fun and games, but when the pranks start to escalate with more dangerous and disastrous results, Rachel has to find the real-life monster - even if that means coming face to face with the secrets of her past. Perfect for horror and thriller fans, this book will have readers on the edge of their seats. *Recommended by Anna* 

### Me (Moth) **By Amber McBride**

In this beautifully moving novel written-in-verse, Moth, who lost her family in a car accident, is simply existing unnoticed in her everyday life at school. Then she meets Sani, who moved into town recently. The pair grow close as they take an unforgettable road trip chasing the ghosts and ancestors of their past. For anyone that loves a haunting good read and finds beauty in sadness.

Recommended by Miss Crystal

### My Last Summer with Cass **By Mark Crilley**

This is a story about the complex nature of childhood friends navigating through their teen years. The two main characters, Cass and Megan, are thrown into new situations together and apart. Illustrated beautifully in purple and blue hued tones, the heart wrenching plot ruminates on how when life changes, so can relationships. Cass and Megan, and a colorful cast of side characters, will have even reluctant readers engaged in their friendship. Recommended by Amanda M.

# Nubia: Real One

### **By L.L. McKinney**

Despite showing Amazonian strength, everyone has always been quick to tell Nubia that she's no Wonder Woman. But when her best friend is in danger, she's willing to risk everything to become the heroine society tells her she can't be. This delightful graphic novel from DC is great for teens of all ages.

Recommended by Sarah A.

# The River Has Teeth

### **By Erica Waters**

Girls have been disappearing near the Bend where the Lloyds, a family of local witches, have lived for generations. Only now, the family fears they will be blamed for the mysterious disappearances. When Natasha Greymont, who is struggling to contain her anger over her missing sister, asks Della Lloyd to help find her sister, Rochelle, the unlikely pair go on unexpected journey full of secrets, lies, love, magic, monsters, revenge and murder. Recommended by Miss Crystal

### Sauad

### By Maggie Tokuda-Hall

Picture this: you moved to an upscale suburb and are accepted right away into the clique of popular girls, and then you discover that they're all werewolves! That is exactly what happens to Becca, and she finally feels like she has a place to belong. But as time goes on, things get a lot more complicated. This fast-paced graphic novel thriller is perfect for those who love the Lumberjanes.

Recommended by Miss Crystal

### Zoe Rosenthal Is Not Lawful Good **By Nancy Werlin**

Zoe Rosenthal has her whole life planned out – marry her perfect activist boyfriend after college and then work together to make the world a better place. The only problem? Zoe is secretly obsessed with a sci-fi show called Bleeders, and her boyfriend Simon thinks its a waste of time. But when she discovers a group of fellow fans who are unapologetically themselves, Zoe begins to wonder if the future she's laid out for herself is really what she wants. Full of humor and heart, this novel is perfect for the nerdy teens in your life.

Recommended by Anna

