2016 Intermediate Sequoyah Masterlist Smorgasbord

*Doll Bones*
by Holly Black

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
Zach, Alice, and Poppy’s wild imaginations send them on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a creepy doll made from the ashes of a dead girl to put to rest a ghost that appears in Poppy’s dreams.

**Booktalk:**
Imagine feeling like you are being followed wherever you go. But you aren’t being followed by a human, you are being followed by a doll. A doll made from the ashes and remains of a dead girl. Zach, Poppy, and Alice are best friends who play a continuous, imaginary game starring a doll that they have named “The Queen” and also including pirates, thieves, mermaids, and warriors. The game ends suddenly when Zach’s father pressures him to stop playing silly games and throws away his characters. Zach decides to lie to Poppy and Alice and tells them he is tired of playing the game. One night, however, the girls sneak over to Zach’s house and persuade him to go with them on a quest to bury the Queen in Ohio. Poppy swears Eleanor Kerchner was murdered and will haunt her dreams until her remains are buried inside her grave.

**Reviews:**
*Horn Book*
*Publisher’s Weekly*
*School Library Journal*- Starred Review
*Kirkus*- Starred Review
*Booklist*- Starred Review

**Awards or Honors:**
Newbery Honor Medal
*School Library Journal* Best Books of 2013, Middle School
YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers 2014

**Author Website:**
www.blackholly.com

**Related Books:**
Spiderwick Chronicles by Holly Black
Coraline by Neil Gaiman
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Like-Try-Why:
If you like Coraline by Neil Gaiman, try Doll Bones by Holly Black. Both books are delightfully creepy and contain magical adventures in order to avoid being cursed forever.

If you like Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snickett, try Doll Bones by Holly Black. Both contain outrageous quests to remove themselves from the grips of sinister, looming villains.

If you like Bad Girls Don’t Die by Katie Alender, try Doll Bones by Holly Black. Both contain ominous dolls that seem to be interacting in their owners’ lives.
Goodbye, Rebel Blue
by Shelley Coriell

Citation:

Annotation:
A chance encounter between students Rebecca Blue and Kennedy Green during detention in which the teacher assigns both girls the task of creating a bucket list. When Kennedy dies unexpectedly, Rebel decides she must complete the bucket list written by Kennedy.

Booktalk:
Rebecca Blue and Kennedy Green don’t really know each other, but when both girls are assigned detention and directed to create “bucket lists” they end up having a deep conversation that is both unexpected and surprising to Rebel. Rebel trashes her list and Kennedy follows suit. The next day Rebel finds out that Kennedy was killed in a car accident. Feeling guilty about her feelings towards Kennedy and unsure about her own direction in life, Rebel breaks into the detention room and steals back the list. At first she decides she won’t do the list and tries desperately to get rid of the list. The list keeps ending up back in her possession. Rebel now thinks she must complete the list to move on without the voice of Kennedy Green in her mind. She meets some fantastic characters along the way that push her in the right direction, whether she wants to go there or not.

Reviews:
School Library Journal
Booklist

Author Website:
www.shelleycoriell.com

Related Books:
Destiny Rewritten by Kathryn Fitzmaurice
The F-It List by Julie Halpern
Side Effects May Vary by Julie Murphy

Like – Try – Why:
If you like Destiny Rewritten by Kathryn Fitzmaurice, try Goodbye, Rebel Blue by Shelley
Coriell. Both books deal with “fate” and whether we are allowed to make our own choices in life. Both books highlight unexpected connections.

If you like *The F-It List* by Julie Halpern, try *Goodbye, Rebel Blue* by Shelley Coriell. Both books concern “bucket lists”, unexpected death or illness, and what it really means to live your life.

If you like *Side Effects May Vary* by Julie Murphy, try *Rebel Blue* by Shelley Coriell. Both books concern “bucket lists”, hope, and what really *living* means.
Zebra Forest
by Gewirtz, Adina Rishe

Citation:

Annotation:
Anna and her brother Rew spend their time in the zebra forest spinning fantastical tales about their murdered father but all that changes the day an escaped prisoner takes her family hostage and reveals shocking secrets about her family.

Booktalk:
Annie and Rew have lived their entire life with their grandmother. They create fantastical stories about their long murdered father and the adventures he might have had as a pirate, astronaut and explorer. When a prison break brings an unexpected visitor to their house and reveals a life altering secret, it causes their already forgetful grandmother to go into a downward spiral of dementia, Annie must make decisions about who to trust, what secrets to tell, and ultimately, who to forgive.

Reviews:
Booklist 04/01/13
Kirkus 03/01/13
Horn Book 03/01/13, 11/01/13 (starred in 11/01/13)
Publishers Weekly Starred 2/25/13
VOYA 8/01/12
School Library Journal Starred 05/01/13
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 05/01/13
Library Media Connection 08/01/13

Awards and Honors:
South Carolina Junior Book Award Nominee 2015
Tennessee Volunteer Book Award Nominee-Middle School Division 2015
Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children’s Book Award Nominee 2015
Chicago Public Library Best of Books 2013

Author Website:
http://www.adinagewirtz.com/
Blog: https://adinagewirtz.wordpress.com/
Twitter: @AdinaGewirtz
Other books by this author:
Adult nonfiction: The Writer’s Roadmap at Work

Like-Try-Why:
Like: Zebra Forest
Try: Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Why: Characters are resourceful kids who have to overcome tragedy.

Like: Zebra Forest
Try; When You Reach Me-Rebecca Stead
Why: Involves a mystery and young characters must decide who to trust their secrets to.

Like: Almost Home by Joan Bauer
Try: Zebra Forest
Why: Characters deal with a mentally ill family member and must make grown up decisions on their own.

Like: Zebra Forest
Try: Sure Signs of Crazy by Karen Harrington
Why: Characters deal with the reality of having a parent who has done something criminal.
Citation:

Annotation:
Because teenager Jade Moon was born in the year of the Fire Horse, her family has always considered her unlucky. Now it is 1923, and Jade, unfairly detained at Angel Island Immigration Station, is determined to take control of her own destiny.

Booktalk:
In China in the early 1900s, any girl born in the Year of the Fire Horse is considered incredibly unlucky. She will possess all the Fire Horse characteristics that make her dangerous and unwanted to her family: temperamental, stubborn, selfish, and far too strong. Jade Moon is a Fire Horse girl, and she hopes that an unexpected journey to the United States will give her the chance to escape her unlucky fate. However, to help her escape an unfair detention at Angel Island Immigration Station, Jade will have to call upon all her Fire Horse traits to take on a new identity and a new destiny.

Reviews:
*Booklist* (starred) Jan. 1, 2013
*Horn Book* Fall 2013
*Kirkus Reviews* Nov. 15, 2012
*Library Media Connection* Aug./Sept. 2013
*Publishers Weekly* Nov. 26, 2012

Awards or Honors:
Parents’ Choice Gold Award
Booklist Top Ten Historical Fiction 2012-13

Author Website:
www.kayhoneyman.com

Related Books:
*Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain* by Russell Freedman
*The Dragon’s Child: A Story of Angel Island* by Laurence Yep
Like – Try – Why:
Like – *Witness* by Karen Hesse?
Try – *The Fire Horse Girl* by Kay Honeyman
Why – Both novels show girls who are brave in the face of racism in the 1920s.
Go: A Kidd’s Guide to Graphic Design
by Chip Kidd

Citation:

Annotation:
Award-winning graphic designer Chip Kidd, responsible for designing the book covers for Jurassic Park and many movie posters, provides a fun, easy introduction to the principles of graphic design and how it can affect and influence our daily life.

Booktalk:
How many of you know what graphic design is? Could you point out some instances of graphic design that you can see? If not, believe me, it is all around you! Go is a fun, eye-opening look at the world of graphic design and the impact it can have on your daily life. Do you know that color and change the way you feel about a picture? That font and type can make you read a sentence differently? If you’re looking for a quick, fun read that has every day implications this is a great one. Chip Kidd is responsible for the iconic Jurassic Park book cover, and this book is a peek into the brain of an award winning graphic designer. Definitely recommended for kids who like to peruse every page, comic book lovers, reluctant readers...with its wealth of images and exercises, this is a fast-paced book. My favorite pages are the ones where Kidd asks you pick a font that best represents your personality. It’s harder than you think!

Reviews:
School Library Journal
Booklist

Awards or Honors:
YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction Nominee (2014)

Author Website:
http://chipkidd.com/home/

Related Books:
Picture This by Molly Bang
Another Book About Design by Gonyea
Make Good Art by Neil Gaiman
Like—Try—Why:
If you like *Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon* by Steve Sheinken, then try *Go: A Kidd’s Guide to Graphic Design*. Both are exciting, non-fiction reads that provide a picture-rich, easy to follow beginner’s look at a fascinating subject.

If you like *Smile* by Raina Telgemeier, try *Go: A Kidd’s Guide to Graphic Design*. If you loved the bright colors and fun illustrations of *Smile*, you will like *Go*. Both books use pictorial storytelling and a great layout to tell an interesting story.

If you like *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* by James L. Swanson, try *Go*. Both stories are fast, informative reads that stick to the truth and help you learn in a fun way.
A Matter of Days
by Kizer, Amber

Citation:

Annotation:
Sixteen-year-old Nadia and her younger brother, two of the few survivors of the pandemic BluStar, depend on their wits and their survival training to help them travel cross country to their grandfather’s compound.

Booktalk:
The BluStar pandemic has killed almost everyone – including Nadia’s mother. Now 16-year-old Nadia and her younger brother Rabbit are in search of the only family they may have left, their survivalist grandfather and an uncle who they hope are still alive in a West Virginia compound. The two siblings must depend on every survival skill they possess as they travel across the country and face an enemy far more dangerous than the virus – other people.

Reviews:
Horn Book Fall 2013
Kirkus Reviews April 15, 2013
Publishers Weekly May 13, 2013
School Library Journal June 1, 2013

Awards or Honors:
Missouri Truman Book Award Nominee 2015-2016
Texas Lone Star Reading List 2014

Author Website:
www.amberkizer.com

Related Books:
Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat by Gail Jarrow
After the Snow by S.D. Crockett
Hole in the Sky by Pete Hautman

Like – Try – Why:
Like: The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau?
Try: A Matter of Days by Amber Kizer
Why: Like the protagonist in *The Testing*, Nadia in *A Matter of Days* must survive a dangerous journey.
Proxy
By London, C. Alexander

Citation:

Annotation:
Syd has spent his life taking punishment for Knox’s bad behavior. Syd is a proxy and counting the days until he can begin his own life. When Knox wrecks a car and causes the death of his date, Syd is sentenced to hard labor he cannot possibly survive and realizes joining the rebellion may be his only chance at survival.

Booktalk:
Syd's life is not his own. He is a proxy who is punished anytime his wealthy Patron counterpart misbehaves. When Knox causes the death of a girl he met at a party, Syd learns he is about to lose any chance he has at a normal life. Syd sets out to escape the system set in place by his government and Knox is unwittingly brought along as a means to escape. As they near the point where each boy will go their separate ways, Knox and Syd begin to understand each other’s world and that Knox may be as trapped in his world as Syd is as a proxy. The only way out for both of them is to take the system down entirely.

Reviews:
Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books 09/01/13
Publishers Weekly 04/29/13
Horn Book 11/01/13
School Library Journal 08/01/13
Kirkus Reviews 05/01/13
Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) 06/01/13
Library Media Connection 01/01/14

Awards and Honors:
ALA Rainbow List 2014
YALSA Best Books for Young Adults 2014
YALSA Top Ten Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers 2014
Arkansas Teen Book Award List 2014-15
Blue Spruce Young Adult Award List (Colorado) 2015
Missouri Gateway Book Award Nominee 2015-16

Author Website:
http://www.calexanderlondon.com/
Twitter: @ca_london
Tumbler: http://alex--london.tumblr.com/

Other books by this author
Guardian
Tides of War: Honor Bound
Tides of War: Blood in the Water
Dog Tags: Semper Fido
Dog Tags: Strays
Dog Tags: Prisoners of War
Dog Tags: Divided We Fall
We Are Not Eaten by Yaks
We Dine with Cannibals
We Give a Squid a Wedgie
We Sled with Dragons

Adult Novels:
One Day the Soldiers Came
Far From Zion

Like – Why – Try:
Like: Proxy?
Try: Insignia by S.J. Kincaid
Why: A future world filled with technology where the teenagers are used to further a cause they know nothing about.

Like: Proxy?
Try: The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman
Why: Story of a privileged prince and his “proxy” and their ultimate confrontation

Like: Boy Nobody by Alan Zadoff?
Try: Proxy
Why: A boy who tries to escape the life he has been forced into and discover who he is and where he fits in the world while avoiding those who prefer him dead.
Far Far Away
By Tom McNeal

Citation:

Annotation:
In this modern fairy tale, Jeremy’s ability to talk to the ghost of Jacob Grimm, one of the Brothers Grimm, might be his only hope to save his life when he finds out who is behind the series of disappearances in his home town.

Booktalk:
“What follows is the strange and fateful tale of a boy, a girl, and a ghost.” This is the first line of this modern day fairy tale, which is appropriately narrated by the ghost of Jacob Grimm, one of the Brothers Grimm. Jeremy, who can hear ghosts, has few friends in the town of Never Better after people discover that he hears voices. Jacob is his best friend and companion until Ginger begins to show an interest in him. Ginger is Jeremy’s chance for fun and adventure but the two accidently discover who is behind some disappearances in town. This causes their lives to be in great danger and Jacob is the only one who can help them! Read this one if you like a creepy story with a twist.

Reviews:
Booklist. 6/1/2013.
Kirkus Reviews. 6/1/2013.
The Bulletin, June 2013

Awards and Honors:
National Book Award Finalist
An Edgar Award Finalist
A California Book Award Gold Medal Winner
Booklist Books for Youth Editors’ Choice: 2013
Summer 2013 Kids’ Indie Next List – Selected “The Top 10” category
SCIBA YA Book of the Year
An Amazon Best Book of 2013 (Teen & YA)
Texas Tayshas Reading List Selection
Edgar Allan Poe Mystery Awards Finalist
Audie Award Finalist

Author Website:
http://mcnealbooks.com/home.aspx

Related Books:
Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
The Cavendish Home for Boys and Girls by Claire Legrand
The Grimm Legacy by Polly Shuman

Like-Try-Why:
Like The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman?
Try Far Far Away by Tom McNeal!
Why- Both of these books have friendly ghosts who try to help, and both books are really unique.

Like Doll Bones by Holly Black?
Try Far Far Away by Tom McNeal!
Why- Both of these books have a little bit of a creep factor.

Like A Tale Dark and Grimm by Adam Gidwitz?
Try Far Far Away by Tom McNeal!
Why- Both of these books have a lot of references to the Grimm fairy tales.
Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick your Ass
by Meg Medina

Citation:

Annotation:
When Piddy is targeted by a female bully and her gang, her life is torn apart. It’s up to Piddy to take matters into her own hands.

Booktalk:
What does it take to make a bully stop? What about if the bully is set on stalking you? And what if there is nothing you can do to prevent the bully from kicking your ass? Piddy Sanchez is about to discover how far Yaqui Delgado and her gang will go to make sure that Piddy’s life is ruined. As painful as this book is to read, Piddy’s strength and resolve give hopes to anyone of any age who has ever had an encounter with a bully.

Reviews:
Kirkus 12/01/12
Booklist 03/15/2013
Horn Book Magazine 03/01/2013
School Library Journal 04/01/2013
Voice of Youth Advocates 04/01/2013

Awards or Honors:
2013 Children’s and Young Adult Bloggers’ (CYBIL) Literary Award for Young Adult Fiction
2014 International Latino Book Award Winner
2014 Pura Belpre Award Winner
2014 American Library Association Notable Books for Children
2014 American Library Association Best Fiction for Young Adults

Author Website:
www.megmedina.com

Related Books:
Until It Hurts to Stop by Jennifer R. Hubbard
Darius and Twig by Walter Dean Myers
Tease by Amanda Maciel
Hex Hall by Rachel Hawkins

Like – Try – Why:
Like Speak by Laurie Halse Andersen?
Try Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick your Ass by Meg Medina
Why - Like Melinda, Piddy must overcome insurmountable odds to reclaim her self-identity.

Like If I Grow Up by Todd Strasser?
Try Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick your Ass by Meg Medina
Why - Set in similar gritty urban settings, Piddy struggles against gangs and violence while staying true to herself.

Like This Song Will Save your Life by Leila Sales?
Try Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick your Ass by Meg Medina
Why - Both Elise and Piddy are strong female protagonists with hidden talents, drive, and passion to create the best life for themselves.
This Song Will Save Your Life  
by Sales, Leila

Citation:  
(Grades 7-12).

Annotation:  
Sixteen-year-old loner, Elise stumbles upon a midnight warehouse party where she unknowingly finds new friends and a passion for being a DJ.

Booktalk:  
Sixteen-year-old Elise has never been popular. She’s tried, reading up on the latest fashion and trends so she can try to fit in with the popular kids at school. But, after a practice suicide attempt gets her unwanted attention at school, Elise begins taking late night walks around town to clear her head. One night she stumbles upon a midnight warehouse party where she befriends a local musician and discovers a passion to be a DJ that just might save her life!

Reviews:  
*Hornbook* 10/08/2013  
*VOYA* 10/01/2013  
*Booklist* 09/01/2013  
*Publisher’s Weekly* 07/22/2013  
*School Library Journal* 11/01/2013

Awards or Honors:  
YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults 2014

Author Website:  
http://leilasales.com/

Related Books:  
The Carnival at Bray by Jessie Ann Foley  
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher  
Beautiful Music for Ugly Children by Kristin Cronn-Mills  
Nick and Norah’s Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn

Like – Try – Why:  
Like *Playlist for the Dead* by Michelle Falkoff?
Try *This Song Will Save Your Life* by Leila Sales!
Why – Both novels feature fantastic playlists that drive the plot and actions of the protagonists!

Like *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen?
Try *This Song Will Save Your Life* by Leila Sales!
Why – Both novels feature strong female leads whose search for identity is navigated by music.

Like *Five Flavors of Dumb* by Antony John?
Try *This Song Will Save Your Life* by Leila Sales!
Why – Both protagonist’s have such a unique voice.
The Rithmatist
by Brandon Sanderson

Citation:
Sanderson, Brandon. The Rithmatist. New York City: Tor Teen, 2013. 378p. (Grades 6-10).

Annotation:
Joel is a student at Armedius Academy and wants nothing more than to be a rithmatist; rithmatists are chosen by the Master in a mysterious ceremony and are taught how to bring 2-D chalk drawings to life. After Professor Fitch is assigned to investigate recent happenings which include rithmatic students who have gone missing, Joel and Melody become part of the detective team and together they try to discover just what’s happening and who is responsible.

Booktalk:
Some authors have the ability to create worlds so magical they draw the reader in, never to be seen again. Well, not really, but I think you understand what I mean. Brandon Sanderson is one such author. In The Rithmatist, Sanderson crafts a world that is mysterious and a little confusing, while intriguingly magical. The Rithmatist is your introduction to a world with springwork animals and currency, chalk drawings and creatures that come to life to both protect and destroy, and a cast of characters you’ll want to know more about from your first meeting. Joel, the chalk maker’s son, dreams of being a rithmatist. He works out a way to learn more about what rithmatists do and how they perform their magic by becoming a student assistant for Professor Fitch. Melody, a rithmancy student, cannot draw the circles she desperately needs to survive at The Tower and is sent to study with Professor Fitch. Professor Fitch is a character full of mystery, who at first seems meek and subdued, but eventually proves himself to be fiercely loyal and incredibly intelligent. These three characters build a relationship reminiscent of the relationship Professor Dumbledore shares with Harry Potter in the popular series by J.K. Rowling. Together they must discover where missing rithmancy students are and who is responsible for what has happened to those students. Does the boastful and powerful new professor, newly returned from the battlefield at The Tower, have anything to do with the missing students? Find out for yourself in this exciting new series!

Reviews:
Kirkus Review May 1st, 2013
School Library Journal

Awards or Honors:
BFYA: Best Fiction for YA (nominated)
Audie Award: Fantasy Category (nominated)
Kirkus Reviews Best Books of the Year (2013)
Author Website:
http://brandonsanderson.com/

Related Books:
Wizard Rising by Toby Neighbors
Libriomancer by Jim C. Hines
Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

Like – Try – Why:

If you like the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling, try The Rithmatist by Brandon Sanderson. Both books are set in a magical world and involve boys who are struggling with their place in the world.

If you like Libriomancer by Jim C. Hines, try The Rithmatist by Brandon Sanderson. Both books involve secret organizations, magic powers, and mysteries to be solved.

If you like Wizard Rising by Toby Neighbors, try The Rithmatist by Brandon Sanderson. Both books involve newly discovered magical powers, malevolent wizards, and a boy who must find a way to protect those he cares about.
Steelheart
by Brian Sanderson

Citation:

Annotation:
After a strange star gives people on Earth superpowers, 17-year-old David must carry a terrible secret about the Epics and find the resistance that is fighting to free the world from their tyranny.

Booktalk:
What I love about this book is the premise: the author sat and wondered, “What would happen if people suddenly had superpowers, but instead of heroes, they were all villains?” Sadly, David knows firsthand what would happen. On a terrible day 10 years ago, David witnessed the deadly power of the Epics--what ordinary people call those with powers. David and his father were in a bank, when an Epic turned up and began killing people. But he was stopped by another Epic, Steelheart, who turned a large part of Chicago into pure steel, killed David’s father and became a ruthless dictator. And what David witnessed would mean instant death if he ever revealed it--he saw Steelheart’s weakness. Every Epic has one--and David has made it his life’s mission to get close to Steelheart and get revenge for his father’s death. To do this he must find the Reckoners, an underground group that takes down Epics. But the Reckoners aren’t what David expects, and he soon finds himself taking action that pushes him to his limit, and will change the world of Epics and ordinary people forever…

Reviews:
School Library Journal
Booklist

Awards:
YALSA Top Ten for Teens, 2014

Author Website:
http://brandonsanderson.com/

Related Books:
V is for Villain by Peter Moore
Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer
Sabriel by Garth Nix
Like--Try--Why
If you liked *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, then try *Steelheart*! Both are the epic stories of a young hero trying to find his destiny. Action-packed and full of adventure, *Steelheart* will satisfy your craving for fast-paced stories!

If you liked the *Justice League* or *X-Men* comics, try *Steelheart*! While most of the super-powered people in *Steelheart* are evil, you’ll still love this fantastic twist on the superhero genre!

If you liked the *Hunger Games*, try *Steelheart*! An underdog hero with a spine of steel goes up against an overwhelming enemy. Will they come out on top?
Golden Boy
by Tara Sullivan

Citation:

Annotation:
Habo is a 13 year old albino boy born in Tanzania. Fearing for the safety of himself as well as his family, he flees after he becomes the target of a poacher who wants to sell his albino body parts as good luck charms on the black market.

Booktalk:
Zeruzeru—a zero-zero—a nothing. For Habo, this is what he has been called his entire life. Habo was born “a bad luck child” with pale skin that burns easily in the sun, shaky eyes, and yellow hair - all traits that set him apart from his black skinned Tanzanian family. His brother shuns him, his mother avoids his touch, and his father abandons him. Only Habo’s sister, Asu, serves as a protector and nurturer to her brother, who was born with albinism. When poverty forces Habo’s family from their home, they seek refuge with a distant relative hundreds of miles away. On their journey, Habo’s family has the misfortune to cross paths with an ivory poacher who sees Habo, not as a human, but as body parts that he can sell on the black market. Habo and his family learn that albinos are frequently killed and their body parts are sold as good luck charms. Terrified and alone, Habo is forced to flee for his life and seeks refuge in Dar es Salaam where an elderly blind artisan named Kweli takes pity on him. It is with Kweli’s guidance that Habo's journey evolves and he learns to take control of his own fate.

Reviews:
School Library Journal July 2013
Kirkus Review April 15th, 2013

Awards or Honors:
Winner of the 2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People Award
A Top 10 Book according to Kirkus, Wall Street Journal, and YALSA

Author Website:
http://tarasullivanbooks.com/

Related Books:
The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Firegirl by Tony Abbott

Like – Try – Why:
If you like Now is the Time for Running by Michael Williams, try Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan. Both books are set in Africa and involve young teenage boys who face prejudice and poverty and must run for their lives seeking a distant promise of a safe haven.

If you like Wonder by R.J. Palacio, try Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan. Both of these books are supported by young male protagonists born with appearances that are different than their peers and the kindness and acceptance that they both eventually experience.

If you like Smile by Raina Teglemeier, try Golden Boy by Tara Sullivan. Both books ultimately deal with the long and painful journey of self acceptance.
The President has been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy
by James L. Swanson

Citation:
Swanson, James L. “The President has been Shot! The Assassination of John F. Kennedy.
New York: Scholastic, 2013. 270p. (Grade 6+).

Annotation:
On November 22, 1963, time stood still as United States President John F. Kennedy was brutally murdered by an assassin as he traveled through Dallas, Texas in an open motorcade.

Booktalk:
Hearts stopped as Walter Cronkite made this television announcement: “From Dallas, Texas, the flash, apparently official: President Kennedy died at one p.m., central standard time, two o’clock eastern standard time- some thirty-eight minutes ago.” On November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy took a trip to Dallas where history was forever changed when Lee Harvey Oswald attempted and succeeded in assassinating our nation’s president. Without warning, Oswald fired three shots from a nearby building as the president rode by in an open limousine. He injured Texas Governor Connally and mortally wounded the president. The car, followed by Secret Service agents, raced to a nearby hospital, but it was too late to save our thirty-fifth president. The death of the president was caught on film, initiating a search for the killer and his eventual public demise as millions watched live.

Reviews:
School Library Journal- September 2013
Kirkus Reviews- September 2013
VOYA
Publishers Weekly- September 2013
Booklist

Awards or Honors:
YALSA-ALA Excellence in Young Adult Nonfiction Award Finalist 2014
Camellia Award: Alabama Children’s Choice Book Award Nominee for 6-8 Nonfiction 2014

Related Books:
Chasing Lincoln’s Killer by James Swanson
Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln’s Killer by James Swanson
End of Days: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy by James Swanson
Like-Try-Why:
If you like *Chasing Lincoln’s Killer* by James Swanson, try “*The President has been Shot*” by James Swanson. Both books are riveting real-life hunts searching for the men who assassinated United States Presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy.

If you like *Imprisoned* by Martin Sandler, try “*The President has been Shot*” by James Swanson. Both books contain loads of photographs and first-person accounts of real historical events in American history.

If you like *The Nazi Hunters* by Neal Bascomb, try “*The President has been Shot*” by James Swanson. Both books follow historical men who committed unspeakable crimes in history and the search to bring them to justice.
How I Became a Ghost
by Tim Tingle

Citation:

Annotation:
In recalling his journey of becoming a ghost on the Trail of Tears, a ten-year-old Choctaw boy called Isaac tells, not only his story, but also that of a shape-shifting panther, a kidnapped teenage girl, her five-year old ghost sister, and dozens of others who suffered and perished under the harsh cruelties of forced resettlement.

Booktalk:
How do you become a ghost? Do you know beforehand? Or is it something you instantly become? Here Isaac, a ten-year-old Choctaw boy, knows he will become a ghost long before his time. Beginning in his Mississippi home, Isaac begins to have premonitions of the deaths of people around him. As his family packs up their home and joins thousands of others west on the Trail of Tears, he begins to see the ghosts of those deceased. They guide him throughout his journey and help him make wise decisions for his family. Isaac’s family joins another as he befriends their six-year-old Nita. Soon, however, he sees a premonition of her death and realizes that her time, as well as his, is near. Shortly after her death, he meets Joseph, the grandson of two deceased elders in his village. Joseph confides in Isaac and tells him he is a shape-shifter. Together, they plan to rescue Nita’s sister who has been kidnapped by soldiers and forced into servitude. Their plan is dangerous and one that might cause Isaac to truly become a ghost. Will he risk his life for a girl he doesn’t even know? Will he and his family survive the brutal Trail of Tears? And finally, how does Isaac become a ghost?

Reviews:
Horn Book 01/01/2014
Kirkus Reviews 06/15/2013
School Library Journal 11/1/2013
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Literature 12/01/2013

Awards or Honors:
201 American Indian Youth Literature Award--ALA
2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People--NCSS & CBC

Author Website:
Related Books:
*Code Talker* by Joseph Bruchac
*The House of Purple Cedar* by Tim Tingle
*Rain Is Not My Indian Name* by Cynthia Leitich Smith
*Trickster: Native American Tales: A Graphic Collection* by Matt Dembick

**Like – Try – Why:**
Like *If I Ever Get Out of Here* by Eric Gansworth
Try *How I Became A Ghost* by Tim Tingle
Why—As with Lewis and George (*If I Ever Get Out of Here*), Isaac and Joseph’s friendship affords an accurate reflection of cultural understanding and bonding among American Indians.

Like *Killer of Enemies* by Joseph Bruchac
Try *How I Became A Ghost* by Tim Tingle
Why—Like Lozen, an Apache heroine who fights alongside Geronimo, Isaac uses his special gifts to protect his family.

Like *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich
Try *How I Became A Ghost* by Tim Tingle
Why--Families must face the terrible difficulties of a forced move farther west away from their homes.

Like *The Heart of a Chief* by Joseph Bruchac
Try *How I Became A Ghost* by Tim Tingle
Why--Isaac must also find the courage to overcome injustices of the soldiers.