**Orange for the Sunsets**
By Tina Athaide

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
Asha and Yesofu, who live in British-occupied Uganda, have always been best friends and they don’t see gender or color differences, until Uganda’s president decides that people that don’t have British citizenship must leave the country. Asha and Yesofu are faced with reality; they ARE very different and how can they remain best friends through all of these changes?

**Book Talk:**
Asha and Yesofu are very best friends and have been all of their lives. They have never been bothered by their differences, but when the leader of Uganda decides that all people living in Uganda that do not have a British citizenship must leave – and they only have ninety days in which to leave the country, or there will be severe consequences. Asha and Yesofu don’t know what to do, or what this means for them, because Asha is an Indian girl and Yesofu is a Ugandan boy and by law Asha and her family must leave. How will they continue to be best friends after this? Why does it even matter? Asha has always lived in Uganda and now the president says they must leave, just because they don’t have the right citizenship papers. This is a story based on historical events, but is also about friendship, families and cultural groups.

**Reviews:**
- Booklist, 3/1/2019
- Publisher’s Weekly, starred review, 2/18/2019
- Horn Book, March/April, 2019
- School Library Journal, 3/1/2019
- Kirkus, 1/15/2019

**Author’s Website:**
[https://tinaathaide.com/](https://tinaathaide.com/)
This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality
By Jo Ann Boyce and Debbie Levy

Citation:

Annotation:
Boyce, one of 12 black students who integrated Clinton, Tennessee's public high school in 1956, recounts her experiences in narrative poems and free verse. Readers are introduced to segregation practices in the South not only through Boyce’s poems, but also through interspersed headlines and quotations from newspapers and public figures at the time.

Booktalk:
Imagine you are on your way to school and angry mobs block your path, spitting insults and other derogatory terms at you. Even once you reach inside the school you are still berated by constant harassment from classmates and even teachers. You can’t even participate in extra-curricular activities because of the color of your skin. This was a reality for many black students who were paving the way for school integration in the 1950s and 60s. This Promise of Change is an autobiography written in verse by Jo Ann Boyce. In 1956 she was among 12 teenagers who enrolled in the all-white Clinton High School in Tennessee. While Boyce’s voice is hopeful, you will also empathize with her as she describes the difficult days she had attending a school where she was disliked because of the color of her skin. For example, she writes, “Mouths spewing insults. / (Do these mouths sing hymns on Sunday? / Do they say ‘I love you’?)” This book tells the story of a not so distant-past. Read This Promise of Change by Jo Ann Boyce and Debbie Levy to learn more about Boyce’s experiences during the desegregation of schools.

Reviews:
● Booklist, 11/01/18
● Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 12/01/18
● Horn Book Magazine, 01/01/19
● Kirkus Reviews starred, 10/15/18
● Publishers Weekly Annex, 12/24/18
● School Library Journal, 12/01/18
● School Library Connection starred, 01/01/19
● School Library Journal starred, 12/01/18
● Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA) starred, 12/01/18

Awards and Honors:
● Boston Globe–Horn Book Award, 2019
- CPL Best Book, 2019
- Kirkus Best Books, 2019
- Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor, 2020

**Websites/Social Media:**
*Jo Ann Boyce*
Twitter: [@singerjoey1](https://twitter.com/singerjoey1)

*Debbie Levy*

**Related Titles:**
- *March forward, girl* by Melba Beals (2018)

**Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)**
*Debbie Levy*
- *Yiddish Saves the Day!* (2019)
New Kid
By Jerry Craft

Citation:

Annotation:
When his parents decide to send him to a fancy private school known for rigorous academics, Jordan is bummed. He had his heart set on art school, and now he is one of only a couple of students of color in his new school. In this engaging graphic novel, Jordan must find balance between his two very different lives and learn how to just be himself.

Booktalk:
If you have ever been the new kid in school, you know how hard it is. Navigating new classes and teachers, making new friends, and finding where you belong. This is exactly what Jordan is facing in New Kid. Despite his pleas to attend art school, Jordan’s parents send him to the Riverdale Academy Day school, a fancy private school known for rigorous academics. And Jordan can’t help but notice that there are only a few students of color like him in the whole school. As Jordan makes the journey back and forth between school and his home in Washington Heights, it seems his two lives will always have to be separate, and Jordan faces tough choices about the kind of person he wants to be. This funny and poignant graphic novel is great for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Jeff Kinney.

Reviews:
- Booklist, 11/15/18
- Horn Book Magazine, 01/01/19
- Kirkus Reviews, 11/01/18
- New York Times, 03/10/19
- Publisher’s Weekly, 11/26/18
- School Library Journal, 11/01/18

Awards and Honors:
- Coretta Scott King Author Award
- Newbery Medal
- Kirkus Prize for Young Readers’ Literature

Website/Social Media:
- jerrycraft.com
- facebook.com/jerrycraftbooks
- twitter.com/JerryCraft
- instagram.com/jerrycraft

Related Titles:
- Guts by Raina Telgemeier (2019)
• *Best Friends* by Shannon Hale (2019)

**Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)**

- *The Offenders: Saving the World while Serving Detention!* (2014)
- *I Love when Daddy Reads to Me!* (2016)
- *Class Act* (2020)
Stepsister
By Jennifer Donnelly

Citation:

Annotation:
Isabelle pretends to be Cinderella however the prince finds out she is her stepsister and sends her away. She decides that she doesn’t have to spend her life being horrible and turns her life around in a most amazing way.

Booktalk:
A beautiful feminist take on the Cinderella story. Evil, ugly, stepsister Isabelle believes her destiny is written, as does those who originally wrote it! But someone believes it can be changed if Isabelle will only try. As she rushes headlong into death, beings behind the scenes are pushing her towards finding herself and setting her own destiny. She becomes the heroine her world, and Cinderella, needs.

Reviews:
- Kids Book Review 8/20/2019
- Booktopia 5/10/2019
- Kirkus 2/20/2019

Awards and Honors:
- Nominated for a Carnegie Medal
- YALSA 2020 Best Fiction for Young Adults

Websites:
https://www.jenniferdonnelly.com/

Related Titles:
- *Sorcery of Thrones* by Margaret Rogerson (2019)
- *House of Salt and Sorrows* by Erin Craig (2019)
- *The Grace Year* by Kim Liggett (2019)

Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)
Never Caught, The Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away
By Erica Armstrong Dunbar & Kathleen Van Cleeve

Citation:

Annotation:
Ona Judge was born into slavery in the 1770s. This account tells of her early life and time as George and Martha Washington’s slave. Through her accounts she describes life as the First Family’s slave. The story goes through Judge’s history including escaping slavery and her death in 1848.

Booktalk:
Ona Judge was born a slave. Little did she know that she would become the slave of America’s First President and his wife. Through many trials and tribulations she realizes her only chance at a real life is through freedom. Will she succeed in escaping the chains of slavery or not?

Reviews:
- Booklist, 6/1/2019
- School Library Journal, 1/1/2019
- Kirkus Review (starred), 12/15/2018

Awards and Honors:
- A School Library Journal Best Nonfiction Book of 2019
- A National Book Award Finalist for Nonfiction

Websites/Social Media:
- https://ericaarmstrongdunbar.com/
- Twitter: @ericaadunbar

Related Titles:
- This Promise of Change: One Girl’s Story in the Fight for School Equality by Jo Ann Allen Boyce (2019)
- A Good Kind of Trouble by Lisa Moore Ramee (2019)
- A Place to Belong by Cynthia Kadohata (2019)

Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)
- She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman (2019)
**Focused**
By Alyson Gerber

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
Even though 12 year-old Clea tries to be responsible, prepare for tests, play her best moves during her chess matches, and complete her homework on time, she struggles to be successful. Something always seems to distract her. In an attempt to help Clea, her parents take her to a doctor who eventually diagnoses her with ADHD (without hyperactivity). Clea, along with help from her psychiatrist, seeks to understand what her diagnosis means and identify ways to help her stay **focused**.

**Booktalk:**
What does it mean to be smart? Is it being able to keep up with all of your assignments and turn them in on time? Is finishing a test in the given amount of time? Or, is it the ability to not get distracted at important times like at a chess tournament or in class? If so, Clea would not be considered smart. Twelve year-old Clea can’t seem to do anything right these days. When she fails one too many tests, her parents take her to see a psychologist to get help. Clea is diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (without the hyperactivity), which means she can be smart but still struggle with things going on in her mind. Now that she has this diagnosis, she must learn coping strategies necessary to help her be successful in school and on the chess team. Can Clea find ways to help her stay focused? Find out by reading *Focused* by Alyson Gerber.

**Reviews:**
- Booklist starred, 02/15/19
- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, 03/01/19
- Kirkus Reviews starred, 01/15/19
- School Library Connection starred, 03/01/19
- School Library Journal, 03/01/19
- Teacher Librarian, 12/01/18
- Voice of Youth Advocates (VOYA), 04/01/19

**Awards and Honors:**
- Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2019
- Today Show Best Kids’ Books of 2019
- A Mighty Girl’s 2019 Books of the Year
- Austin Public Library’s Best Middle Grade Fiction of 2019
- Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection
- Oklahoma Library Association’s Sequoyah Book Award Nominee
- Michigan Library Association’s YouPer Book Award Nominee

**Websites:**
• Alyson Gerber Website
• Facebook
• Email
• Twitter @AlysonGerber
• Instagram

Related Titles:
• *The Boy with the Butterfly Mind* by Victoria Williamson (2019)
• *Each Tiny Spark* by Pablo Cartaya
• *The Echo Park Castaways* by M. G. Hennessey

Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)
• *Braced* by Alyson Gerber (2017)
• *Taking up Space* by Alyson Gerber (May 2021)
 Allaies  
By Alan Gratz

Citation:  

Annotation:  
Dee, Samira, James and Henry all deeply feel the struggles that World War II has caused. Life during a war moves swiftly and they all play a very important role in the outcome of the war.

Book Talk:  
Dee, Samira, James and Henry did not know each other, but they all four played a big role in their country’s part of World War II. Obviously this story is a work of fiction, but people such as these characters existed during the war. Dee was a sixteen-year-old U.S soldier that stormed Omaha Beach, Samira was an eleven-year-old French girl who worked as a spy, James was a Canadian paratrooper and Corporal Henry Allen, was a medic and worked tirelessly to help the wounded on that monumental day, otherwise known as D-Day. This is their story, of how their life passed in front of their eyes in one single, monumental day.

Reviews:  
- Booklist, starred review, 9/1/2019
- Kirkus, starred review, 8/1/2019
- Publisher’s Weekly, 8/26/2019
- School Library Journal, 10/4/2019

Author Website:  
https://www.alangratz.com/

Other books by Alan Gratz  
Ground Zero  
Grenade  
Ban This Book  
Refugee  
Projekt 1065  
Monster War
Reaching for the Moon: the autobiography of NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson
By Katherine G Johnson

**Citation:**

**Annotation:**
In 1950s & 1960s America, being a woman, much less a woman of color gave you few opportunities outside of the stereotypes of the day. Katherine Johnson broke many barriers during her life. From advancing beyond her peers in school, to studying complex math with professors, Katherine soon found herself working for NASA before it was NASA and on into the era of the race to the moon. In her own words she tells the story of the changes she experienced throughout her life.

**Booktalk:**
Katherine Johnson was a NASA mathematician who is credited with helping land the first man on the moon. What’s remarkable about her is that she was not only female, but African American, and she grew up in the south in the era of Jim Crow laws, segregated schooling, and rampant racial discrimination. Despite these challenges, Johnson went on to go to college and become a research mathematician. You’ve seen her featured in the movie *Hidden Figures*, now read her story in her own words. In *Reaching for the Moon*, Johnson relatably tells the tale of overcoming every obstacle to become one of the most important scientists in the history of NASA.

**Reviews:**
- Booklist, 06/01/2019
- Horn Book Magazine 01/01/2019
- Kirkus Reviews starred 05/15/2019
- Publishers Weekly 06/24/2019
- School Library Journal 07/01/2019

**Website:**
- www.nasa.gov/content/katherine-johnson-biography

**Related Titles:**
- *Hidden figures: the American dream and the untold story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race* (2016)
It’s the End of the World as I Know It
By Matthew Landis

Citation:

Annotation:
Ever since his mom was killed in Iraq, Derrick is convinced that doomsday is coming. He has even been building a shelter in preparation for that day. When his neighbor, Misty, insists on helping, Derrick isn’t so sure, thinking that there was only room in the shelter for one person. However, when disaster strikes, it wasn’t what either of them had anticipated.

Booktalk:
If you have ever been afraid that the end of the world is coming, then you will understand how Derrick feels. Derrick is so convinced the end of the world is coming that he is building a shelter in his yard. He thinks he has things under control but then Misty, the girl that lives next door, insists on helping. Then his friend Tommy begs him to keep his pet snake in the shelter too. Though Derrick is wary of the snake he agrees. Then disaster strikes... and it wasn’t anything like Derrick expected.

Reviews:
- Booklist, 10/15/19
- Kirkus Reviews, 07/15/19
- School Library Journal Xpress starred, 9/27/19

Websites:
- www.matthew-landis.com
- Instagram @matthew_landis
- Facebook @matthewlandisauthor
- Twitter @AuthorLandis

Related Titles:
- The World Ends in April by Stacy McAnulty (2019)
- My Jasper June by Laurel Snyder (2019)
- The Line Tender by Kate Allen (2019)

Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)
- The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody (2018)
A Good Kind of Trouble
By Lisa Moore Ramée

Citation:

Annotation:
Twelve-year-old Shayla always follows the rules and never gets in trouble until she starts a armband movement in her school to support Black Lives Matter. She faces a lot of resistance from those who do not share her views, especially school administration. Shayla is not sure of the right thing to do when she is in the most trouble she has ever been.

Booktalk:
Shayla is expecting life as usual when she begins the seventh grade. She has two best friends and she has always been the good girl. She always follows the rules and she does not get into trouble. But now her friends are changing and Shayla also has new interests and friendships. The biggest change comes when Shayla decides to wear a black armband to school in support of Black Lives Matter. Some of her classmates are supportive, but many do not understand, and some are hostile. Her principal tells her to quit wearing the armband or face the consequences. Shayla must decide whether this issue is worth the cost.

Reviews:
- School Library Journal starred, February 2019
- Kirkus starred, December 2018
- Booklist, December 2018
- Hornbook, March 2019
- Publisher Weekly Annex, December 2018

Awards and Honors:
- Kirkus Best Books - 2019
- SLJ Best Books - 2019
- NPR’s Book Concierge - 2019
- The Walter Awards Honoree Younger Readers Category - 2020

Websites/Social Media:
- https://www.lisamooreramee.com/home
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- Instagram: @leeseray

Related Titles:
- Blended by Sharon Draper (2018)
- Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson (2017)
- All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely (2015)
Other Books by Author:
  • *Something to Say* (Upcoming 7/14/2020)
Pay Attention, Carter Jones
By Gary D. Schmidt

Citation:

Annotation:
As Carter Jones prepares for sixth grade and is trying to deal with his parents divorce, he finds out they have inherited a butler from his late grandfather. A true Englishman, the know-it-all Butler does his best to “fix” Carter’s family and teach Carter to be a true gentleman.

Booktalk:
It’s 7:15 in the morning on the first day of middle school. Carter Jones’ house is chaos. His little sisters are crying, there’s no milk, his mom’s car won’t start, and the doorbell is ringing. Carter begrudgingly opens the door to find the Butler. A true English butler is standing on his porch telling Carter he is there to help.

Carter immediately distrusts the butler his family has apparently inherited, and struggles with Mr. Bowles-Fitzpatrick’s no-it-all attitude. After all, what teenager wants to be told what to do by some random British dude? But with the help of a purple Bentley and the game of Cricket, maybe Carter’s feelings will change. Young Master Carter may just find this butler helps him overcome burdens he wasn’t even aware he was carrying.

Reviews:
- Booklist (Starred), December 2018
- Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, January 2019
- Horn Book Magazine (Starred), January 2019
- Kirkus Reviews (Starred), October 2018
- Publishers Weekly (Starred), December 2018
- School Library Connection (Starred), November 2018
- School Library Journal (Starred), November 2018

Awards and Honors:
- Kirkus Best Books - 2019
- Publishers Weekly Best Books - 2019

Websites/Social Media:
- Website: https://www.hmhbooks.com/author/Gary-Schmidt/2230485
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Gary-Schmidt-12197187306/
Related Titles:
- *New Kid* by Jerry Kraft (2019)
- *Spy Runner* by Eugene Yelchin (2019)

Other Books by Author:
- *Okay for Now* (2011)
- *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* (2013)
- *Almost Time* (2020)
Citation:

Annotation:
Eleven year-old Petra and her family live in a light house in Kent, England during WWII. Their picturesque life gets overturned by a series of unsettling events that includes her German mother being shipped off to an internment camp, her father helping the troops at Dunkirk, and her older sister Mags being secretive and withholding things from her younger sister. See how this family survives the horrors of war in their castle by the sea.

Booktalk:
This is the story of how a small, frightened young girl must learn to become strong in a world that is unfamiliar and unsettling. She must gather all her bravery and wits to overcome lies and secrets that have been plaguing her family and threatening to tear them apart.

Reviews:
- Booklist 3/01/19
- Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 3/01/19
- Horn Book Magazine 5/01/19
- Kirkus 2/01/19
- Publishers Weekly 2/18/19
- School Library Connection 8/01/19

Websites:
- [https://lucystrange.org/](https://lucystrange.org/)
- Twitter: @theLucyStrange
- Instagram: @thelucystrange

Related Titles:
- *The Taste of Rain* by Monique Polak (2019)

Other Books by Author:
A Time Traveler’s Theory of Relativity
By Nicole Valentine

Citation:

Annotation:
Finn is dreading his thirteenth birthday as it not only reminds him of his twin sister’s death, but his mom has left them as well with no explanation. While Finn’s father goes away for the weekend, Finn discovers the fantastical truth from his gran: the women in his family are time travelers and his mother has disappeared into another timeline to save his sister. Finn embarks on a journey to help save his family.

Booktalk:
Finn is not excited about his upcoming thirteenth birthday. It only reminds him of losing his twin sister, Faith, in the Dorset, Vermont, marble quarry at age 3. Now it is 10 years later, and Finn’s mother has gone missing with no explanation. “She just needs some time,” says Finn’s father, but it doesn’t help Finn feel any better. When Finn’s dad drops him off at his gran’s house for the weekend, Finn discovers the fantastical truth: the women in his family are time travelers and his mother has disappeared into another timeline to save his sister. With the help of his best friend Gabi, Finn embarks on an incredible journey through time. Read *A Time Traveler’s Theory of Relativity* to see if Finn can rescue not only his sister, but also his entire family.

Reviews:
- Booklist, 11/01/19
- Kirkus Reviews, 08/01/19
- School Library Journal, 10/01/19

Awards and Honors:
- Junior Library Guild Selection

Websites:
- Website: [https://www.nicolevalentinebooks.com/](https://www.nicolevalentinebooks.com/)
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- Instagram: [@nicolevalentine](https://www.instagram.com/nicolevalentine)

Related Titles:
- *Samantha Spinner and the super secret plans* (2018)
- *Found* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (2008)
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (1962)
Other Words for Home
By Jasmine Warga

Citation:

Annotation:
This novel in verse tells the story of Jude who flees the violence in Syria with her mother to live with relatives in Cincinnati. She must try to adjust to a lifestyle that is very different from the one she left behind and she misses the friends and family she left in Syria.

Booktalk:
We all have been in situations where we felt as if we did not belong. This is especially true for Jude. The growing violence in her homeland of Syria forces Jude and her mother to leave the rest of their family and friends to stay with Jude’s uncle in Cincinnati. Jude has always loved American movies and music and thinks her English is good. However, she finds that it is not as good as she thought when she starts school. Everything is so strange for Jude. The language, the customs, the clothing, the food, and even her uncle’s American family make Jude feel as if she does not belong. However, she does make new friends and finds new opportunities. Jude must decide if she can make a place for herself in America. This novel in verse makes it a quick read.

Reviews:
● ALA Booklist starred, 04/01/19
● School Library Journal starred, 04/01/19
● Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books starred
● Horn Book starred
● Kirkus Reviews starred
● Publishers Weekly starred

Awards and Honors:
● 2020 John Newbery Honor Book
● 2020 Walter Awards Honor Book
● 2020 Charlotte Huck Award Honor Book
● ALSC 2020 Notable Book
● Top 10 Indie Next List Pick
● NPR Favorite Book of 2019
● Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2019
● School Library Best Book of 2019
● Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2019
● Booklist Best Book of 2019
● Parent Magazine Best Kids’ Book of 2019
● Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature Best Book of 2019
● Forbes Best Kids’ Book of 2019
● Chicago Public Library Best Book of 2019
- New York Public Library Best Book of 2019

**Websites/Social Media:**
- Twitter: @jasminewarga
- Instagram: @jassiewarga

**Related Titles:**
- *Refugee* by Alan Gratz (2017)
- *Escape From Aleppo* by N.H. Senzai
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai (2011)

**Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)**
- *My Heart and Other Black Holes* (2015)
- *Here We Are Now* (2017)
- *The Shape of Thunder* (coming spring 2021)
Genesis Begins Again
By Alicia Williams

Citation:

Annotation:
Genesis has many reasons she doesn't like herself. In fact, she keeps a list of them. She believes she is the reason why her family has troubles. Her family has to move frequently, her dad has a problem with gambling and perhaps also with drinking. She feels that if she could just change these things about herself, everything would be fine. When one of her family’s moves brings Genesis to a new school, she meets people there who help her see things to like about herself. She then learns that change begins with a change in her own attitude.

Booktalk:
Genesis finally gets the popular girls to agree to come over to her house. They round the corner of her block when, “Not again. Please not again,” Genesis thinks when she sees all of her family’s belongings in the yard. Genesis is so embarrassed, but she told herself that she wouldn’t cry. To make matters worse, Genesis thinks that all of her family’s troubles are her fault. She will try anything to help her family, even if it means hurting herself.

Reviews:
- Booklist, 12/15/2018
- Kirkus, 11/15/2018
- Publisher’s Weekly Annex, 12/10/2018
- School Library Journal, 2/1/2019

Awards and Honors:
- John Steptoe Award - Author, 2020
- Newbery Honor, 2020
- William C. Morris YA Debut Nominees, 2020

Websites/Social Media:
- [www.aliciadwilliams.com](http://www.aliciadwilliams.com)
- Facebook: @authoraliciadwilliams
- Twitter: Alicia D. Williams @storiestolife

Related Titles:
- *Some Places More Than Others* by Renee Watson (2019)
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C Perez (2017)
- *Free Lunch* by Rex Ogle (2019)

Other Books by Author: (Most recent and/or notable works)
- *Jump at the Sun* (to be published December 2020)