The Art of the Swap
By Kristine Asselin & Jen Malone

Citation:

Annotation:
Hannah Jordan, who lives in current times at the famous Elms Museum with her caretaker dad, and Maggie Dunlap, original occupant of the The Elms Mansion in 1905, swap places in time and work together to solve the legendary art heist of Maggie’s original portrait without changing the future.

Booktalk:
When two girls swap places through a mysterious mirror, they find themselves in different centuries with different rules and expectations for girls. Twelve-year-old Hannah swaps places with Maggie, an original occupant of the The Elms Mansion where Hannah’s dad now works, and they find themselves trying to stop the theft of a portrait of Maggie without changing the future for Hannah. Can they set things right in the past and swap back to the way things were? Or will their swap become a permanent trade?

Readalikes:
Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett
Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring by Angela Cervantes

Other Books by the Authors:
Kristine Asselin:
Worst Case of Pasketti-Itis (Picture Book)
Women in World War I (Non-Fiction)
What You Need to Know about Concussions (Non-Fiction)
Dangerous Diseases: Scary Illnesses that Frighten the World (Non-Fiction)
Martin Luther King Jr. Civil Rights Leader (Non-Fiction)

Jen Malone:
At Your Service
You’re Invited
You’re Invited Too
The Sleepover
Best Night Ever

Authors’ Websites
https://www.kristineasselin.com/
https://www.jenmalonewrites.com/

Reviews
Booklist, 11/15/2017
School Library Journal, 2/1/2018
Citation:

Annotation:
Nan, a young chimney sweep, and her golem must find a way to save themselves in this fantasy set in Victorian London.

Booktalk:
Nan is a chimney sweep who finds herself orphaned with nothing but a lump of coal to remind her of the man known only as Sweep who used to take care of her. However, after a near fatal incident in a chimney, the lump of coal comes to life. The golem, whom she nicknames Charlie, becomes a great companion to Nan as she tries to make her way in a hostile world and avoid Crudd, the heinous man who acted as her former employer. She’ll need the help of a street-wise boy and a society lady if she wants to escape her fate and improve the lives of her fellow sweeps.

Readalikes:
*Wolf Hollow* by Lauren Welk
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick
*Serafina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty

Other Books by the Author:
*The Night Gardener*
*Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*
*Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard*

Author’s Website:
https://www.thescop.com/

Reviews:
Kirkus Reviews, 08/1/2018
School Library Journal, 8/1/2018
Booklist, 8/1/2018
Citation:

Annotation:
Auden is color blind in a world ravaged by water shortages, but when his uncle leaves him a mysterious gift, the many secrets and layers of his life will unravel.

BookTalk:
Auden lives in a world where water is short and is ravaged by water wars. Internally, he also struggles with the fact that he is completely color blind. When his uncle mysteriously dies and leaves him cryptic messages and a poetry-reciting super-robot, Auden will need friends to help him uncover the mysteries of what his uncle was really doing and why the government is now chasing him.

Readalikes:
*Fuzzy Mud* by Louis Sachar
*The Last Panther* by Todd Mitchell
*The Truth about Martians* by Melissa Savage

Other Books by the Author:
*A Whisper of Horses*

Reviews:
Booklist, 09/01/2018
The Rhino in Right Field
by Stacy Dekeyser

Citation:

Annotation:
For 12 whole years Nick has done what his immigrant parents want him to do, but now he’s looking for his own American dream. The local baseball team is having a batboy contest, and Nick’s goal is to be a Mudpuppy for a day.

Booktalk:
It’s not the first time Nick Spirakis had to run away from a charging 2,580-pound rhinoceros while playing right field. It’s 1948, and his neighborhood pickup game plays daily inside the city zoo. What is new is the local professional team has just been purchased, and the new owner is holding a “Mudpuppy for a Day” bat boy contest, where the winning boy will wear the official team uniform and join professional players on the field. Every boy in town is entering. When Nick’s parents insist he work the day of the contest, Nick feels his rebellious side rear up for the first time. He would do anything to enter . . . but at what price?

Readalikes:
Sandlot by Alison Hendrie
Batboy by Mike Lupica

Other Books by the Author:
The Brixen Witch
One Witch at a Time
Jump the Cracks

Authors Website:
https://www.stacydekeyser.com

Reviews:
Booklist, 7/01/2018
Kirkus Reviews, 4/16/2018
Journey of the Pale Bear
By Susan Fletcher

Citation:

Annotation:
Arthur, who ran away from home, forms an unusual connection with a polar bear who is a gift to the King of England from the King of Norway. Arthur is tasked with caring for the bear on a ship bound to England.

Booktalk:
Based on the real story of a polar bear that lived in the Tower of London, this timeless adventure story is also a touching account of the bond between a boy and a bear.

Arthur, who ran away from home, steals food, and his punishment is being shoved in a cage with a polar bear. Strangely, the bear does not attack him. Arthur is given the job of caring for the bear, a gift from the King of Norway to the King of England. Arthur sails with the bear to England, a trip full of dangers.

Readalikes:
Dog like Daisy by Kristin O’Donnell Tubb
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
Dirt by Denise Orenstein

Other books by the Author:
Shadow Spinner
The Dragon Chronicles includes books Dragon's Milk, Flight of the Dragon Kyn, Ancient, Strange and Lovely, Sign of the Dove
Dadblamed Union Army Cow
Falcon in the Glass
Alphabet of Dreams
Walk Across the Sea
The Stuttgart Nanny Mafia

Author’s Website:
www.susanfletcher.com
Reviews:
Kirkus (Starred), 08/15/2018
Booklist, 09/15/2018
Winterhouse
By Ben Guterson

Citation:

Annotation:
Cast away by her aunt and uncle, Elizabeth discovers mystery, luxury, friendship, and danger at a lavish mansion over the Christmas holidays. But things are not always as they seem and this mansion might need champion puzzlers like Elizabeth and her friend Freddy to unlock it secrets and right the wrongs of the past.

Booktalk:
When Elizabeth comes home from school for the winter holidays, she finds a note from her guardians, her aunt and uncle, with a cryptic message about sending her away for the holidays. With nothing more than a bag of laundry, three dollars, and the mysterious directions, Elizabeth arrives at Winterhouse, a grand mansion well above the humble means of her guardians’ ability. She quickly discovers that things in the mansion are not what they seem, including the vast library and a mysterious couple in black who seem to be hiding malicious intentions. With the help of her new friend Freddy, a Winterhouse regular, Elizabeth explores the secrets of the house and also learns some surprising truths about herself as well.

Read Alikes:
Greenglass House by Kate Milford
Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chabliss Bertman
Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library by Chris Grabenstein
The Puzzling World of Winston Breen by Eric Berlin

Author’s Website:
https://benguterson.com/

Reviews:
Booklist, 01/01/2018
Kirkus, 11/15/2017
Publisher’s Weekly, 11/20/2017
School Library Journal, 01/01/2018
Lifeboat 12
By Susan Hood

Citation:

Annotation:
Thirteen-year old Ken leaves London on a luxury ship to escape the bombings by the Nazis during World War II. Ken is aboard the ship sailing to Canada when it is torpedoed. Ken jumps into a lifeboat with others and fights to survive. Based on true people and events, Lifeboat 12 is a story of survival. Told in verse, this is the author’s debut middle school grade novel.

Booktalk:
Ken’s dad sends him away on a luxury ship to Canada to keep him safe during World War II. The Nazis have been bombing his hometown of London. His dad thinks he is lucky to get out of London. After five days at sea, the ship’s officers feel safe, but they are wrong. Will Ken survive being lost at sea?

Readalikes:
The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
The War I Finally Won by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen

Other Books by the Author:
Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World
Ada’s Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay
Double Take! A New Look at Opposites
Spike, the Mixed-up Monster
Look! I Can Read
The Fix-it Man
The Tooth Mouse

Author’s Website:
susanhoodbooks.com

Reviews:
School Library Journal, (Starred) 05/01/208
Kirkus, 06/15/2018
Citation:

Annotation:
Eleven year-old Triston Levin is devastated by his family’s move to the tiny, doughnutless town of Petersville, until he launches a plan to bring doughnuts back and changes his life in a big way.

Booktalk:
Eleven year-old Triston Lavine isn't gifted like his almost perfect sister Jeanine, but he is good at baking and can make a mean chocolate chip cookie. When his father loses his job and moves his family to the tiny one-street town of Petersville, Tris thinks that his life can’t get worse. A sign on the General Store window promising doughnuts appears to be hopeful, and Tris begins to think that maybe Petersville isn’t so bad after all. Unfortunately, when he finds out that they are no longer sold there, Tris decides to bring doughnuts back to Petersville. He visits the library and begins to prepare a business plan and a recipe that can lead him to sweet, tasty success.

Readalikes:
*Anna Was Here* by Jean Kurtz
*Rex Zero and the End of the World* by Tim Wayne-Jones
*Moving Day* by Meg Cabot

Reviews:
Booklist, 04/01/18
School Library Connection, 05/01/18
School Library Journal, 02/01/18

Other Book by the Author:
The Doughnut King (2019)
Citation:

Annotation:
Guinevere’s life has been turned upside down with her mother’s brain injury, and now the family is leaving New York City for rural life in Iowa with her grandmother. This family adventure follows Guinevere as she and her new friends try to solve a mystery of a missing farmer while Guinevere is coming to terms with her mother’s condition.

Booktalk:
How would you feel if your mother was trapped in the mind she had as a 9 year old? NYC native Guinevere is adjusting to life on the farm in Iowa, her parents’ hometown, in order to help her mother heal, and her new friends are doing their part to help. When a neighbor goes missing, Guinevere and her friends try to solve the mystery while adding some drama of their own. Can Guin and her friends figure things out before they wind up in a situation of their own?

Readalikes:
*Small Spaces* by Katherine Arden
*One Hundred Spaghetti Strings* by Jen Nail

Author’s Website:
https://www.amymakechnie.com/

Reviews:
Booklist, (Starred), 06/01/2018
Kirkus, (Starred), 05/01/2018
School Library Journal, 03/01/2018
Bob
By Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead

Citation

Annotation
Livy is visiting her Gran Nicholas in Australia for the first time in five years, and she has a nagging feeling she’s forgotten something really important: Bob, the greenish creature who’s been living in her closet since her last visit. Livy must figure out who Bob really is and how to help him get home.

Booktalk
Have you ever had an imaginary friend? Livy has an imaginary friend living at her Gran Nicholas’ house, but he isn’t so imaginary, it turns out. Bob is real! Livy has to figure out who this green creature is that has been living in the closet since her last visit and how to fulfill her promise of getting him back home. Will she remember how she met Bob and find a way to help him get home?

Read Alikes
Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate
The Enchanted Files: Cursed: Diary of a Mad Brownie by Bruce Coville

Other books by the authors
Goodbye Stranger
Liar & Spy
When You Reach Me
Every Soul a Star
13 Gifts
The Last Present

Authors’ Websites
http://www.rebeccasteadbooks.com/index2.html
https://wendymass.com/

Reviews
Booklist 5/1/18
Horn Book Guide 11/1/18
Horn Book Magazine 7/1/18
The Spirit of Cattail County
By Victoria Piontek

Citation:

Annotation:
Sparrow’s mom passes away, and Sparrow is left to live with her sour Auntie Geraldine. She really isn’t alone because her best friend is a ghost she calls “The Boy.” Sparrow thinks if he can linger after death then why can’t her mother? But before The Boy will lead her to Mama, Sparrow must solve the mystery that has The Boy lingering here.

Booktalk:
After Sparrow’s mother dies, Sparrow is left with only a sour aunt for a relative and a ghost she calls “The Boy” as her best friend. Townsfolk find her weird because she has an unusual smell about her, and they think her home and the swamp it is located upon is haunted. Sparrow thinks if The Boy can stay in this world, then her mother can, too. A child psychic comes to town, and Sparrow thinks she may have the answers she has been looking for. Except, all the fortune teller tells her is she must unravel a secret before she can receive the help she needs. This leads Sparrow to solve the mystery about The Boy and why he is still lingering in the marsh.

Readalikes:
*The Grave Keepers* by Elizabeth Byrne
*Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage

Reviews:
Booklist, 05/01/2018
Kirkus Reviews 03/01/2018
School Library Journal, 03/01/2018
Grump: The (Fairly) True Tale of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves
By Liesl Shurtliff

Citation:

Annotation:
Borlen, also known as “Grump,” lives and works in an underground cavern. When an opportunity to explore “The Surface” becomes a reality, Grump feels leaving his home was the best decision. However, once he discovers evil in the world, he wonders if he can protect himself and those he has grown fond of during his adventures above ground.

Booktalk:
Grump was born underground to loving and protective parents. He has been warned of the evils that lurk on “The Surface” his entire life. However, he wants to see what life is really like above ground. Will Grump encounter good or evil during his trip to the surface? Will Snow White and the other six dwarves welcome him, or will he be an outcast, just like he is underground?

Readalikes:
The Hero’s Guide to Saving Your Kingdom
The Fairy-Tale Detectives (Sisters Grimm #1): The Fairy Tale Detectives

Other Books by the Author:
Jack: The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk
Red: The True Story of Little Red Riding Hood
Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin

Author’s Website
https://lieslshurtliff.com/

Reviews
School Library Journal, 02/01/2018
Booklist, 03/15/2018
Kirkus, 03/01/2018

Spindrift and the Orchid
By Emma Trevayne
Annotation
After discovering her glass orb is really one of the Seven Sage Orchids, Spindrift sets off on an adventure with her best friends to find the last orchids before Roland does and discover the truth about her parents.

Booktalk
Spindrift lives in Lux with her grandfather. She gets the shock of her life when the glass orb, found with her as a baby, blooms into the Black Orchid. Grandfather begins to share with her letters her mother wrote before she died, talking about her all consuming search for the Seven Sage Orchids. Roland wants control of all the orchids and is hunting for them. Spindrift decides she must find the missing orchids before he does. Will Spindrift be able to find them before Roland? Will she be able to handle them or lose control from the curse of the orchids?

Read Alikes
The Last by Katherine Applegate
The Serpent’s Secret by Sayantani DasGupta

Other books by the author
The House of Months and Years
The Accidental Afterlife of Thomas Marsden
The Cabinet of Curiosities: 36 Tales Brief & Sinister

Author’s website
http://www.emmatrevayne.com/

Reviews
Booklist 5/15/18
Horn Book Guide 11/1/18
Horn Book Magazine 7/1/18
Kirkus Reviews 4/15/18
School Library Connections 8/1/18

Story Collector: A New York Public Library Book
By Kristin O’Donnell Tubb
Citation:

Annotation:
Eleven-year-old Viviane Fiedler was born and raised in the New York Public Library where each night she is allowed to explore the halls and stories within. Convinced that her home is haunted, she sets out to prove to her friends that a ghost lives in the library.

Booktalk:
Viviane Fiedler grew up living in the New York Public Library. By day her father is the superintendent of the Library, and by night Viviane is allowed to roam the halls, explore the rooms, and read the stories. At 11, Viviane is ready for her own story to begin, so she sets out to solve the mysteries that the library holds. These mysteries include the theft of a stamp collection and the existence of a ghost. She is so excited to share her amazing home with her new friends that she concocts a plan to convince them that the library is haunted, but proving this to her photojournalist friend may be more difficult than she thought.

Other Books by the Author:
*A Dog Like Daisy* (2017)
*John Lincoln Clem: Civil War Drummer Boy* (2016)
*The 13th Sign* (2013)
*Selling Hope* (2010)
*Autumn Winifred Oliver Does Things Different* (2008)

Readalikes:
*The Case of the Boggins* by D. J. MacHale
*Surrender the Key* by D. J. MacHale
*A Festival of Ghosts* by William Alexander
*Hidden in the Haunted School* by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Reviews:
Kirkus, 07/15/18
School Library Journal, 08/01/18

*Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery*
By Sandra Neil Wallace

Citation:

**Annotation:**
Ernie Barnes discovered his love of art at an early age and found a way to use his career as a football player to become the artist he always wished he could be.

**Booktalk:**
Have you ever been told that people like you are not good at something? That you should just stick to one thing and not pursue what your passion is? Ernie Barnes always wanted to be an artist, but was recruited to play football while in high school. Throughout his career, he kept drawing, even when he was fined by the coach of his team! Learn about this artist and football player as he finds a way to combine the two and make his living as an artist.

**Readalikes:**
*The United States v. Jackie Robinson* by Bardhan-Quallen, Sudipta
*Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13* by Helaine Becker

**Other Books by the Author:**
*Bound by Ice: a True North Pole Survival Story*
*Muckers*

**Author’s Website**
https://www.sandraneilwallace.com/

**Reviews**
Booklist, (Starred) 01/01/2018
School Library Journal, 01/01/2018
Publishers Weekly, 11/20/2017
Kirkus, (Starred) 12/15/2017