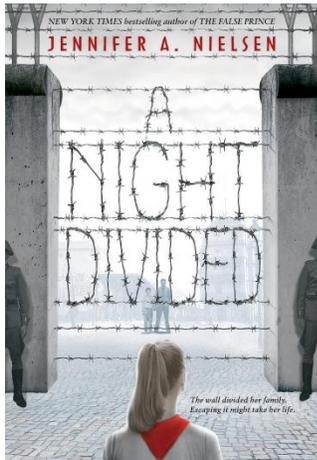


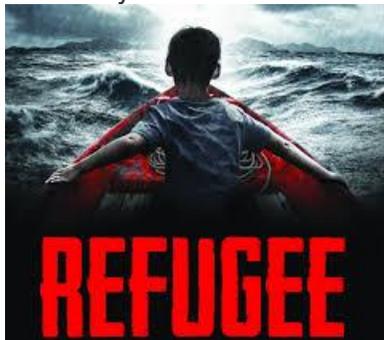
## 2018 Read Around Book Selections



### A Night Divided

(Jennifer A Nielsen, Historical Fiction, *RL 5-8, IL 6-8, Lexile 810L*)

A stunning thriller about a girl who must escape to freedom after the Berlin Wall divides her family between east and west. With the rise of the Berlin Wall, twelve-year-old Gerta finds her family suddenly divided. She, her mother, and her brother Fritz live on the eastern side, controlled by the Soviets. Her father and middle brother, who had gone west in search of work, cannot return home. Gerta knows it is dangerous to watch the wall, to think forbidden thoughts of freedom, yet she can't help herself. She sees the East German soldiers with their guns trained on their own citizens; she, her family, her neighbors and friends are prisoners in their own city. But one day, while on her way to school, Gerta spots her father on a viewing platform on the western side, pantomiming a peculiar dance. Then, when she receives a mysterious drawing, Gerta puts two and two together and concludes that her father wants Gerta and Fritz to tunnel beneath the wall, out of East Berlin. However, if they are caught, the consequences will be deadly. No one can be trusted. Will Gerta and her family find their way to freedom?

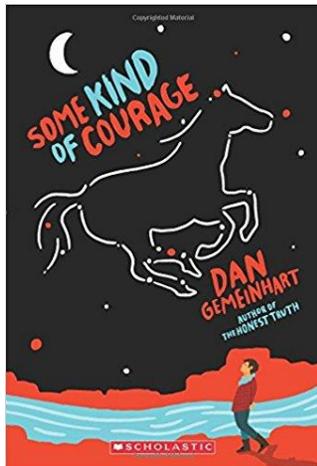


### Refugee

(Alan Gratz, Fiction, *RL 5-8, IL 6-8, Lexile 800L*)

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . . ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . . MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . . All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of tomorrow. And

although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home.

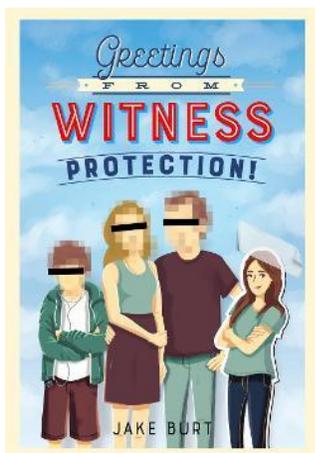


## **Some Kind of Courage**

(Dan Gemeinhart, Fiction, *RL 4-6, IL 6-8 Lexile 760L*)

Joseph Johnson has lost just about everyone he's ever loved. He lost his pa in an accident. He lost his ma and his little sister to sickness. And now, he's lost his pony-fast, fierce, beautiful Sarah, taken away by a man who had no right to take her.

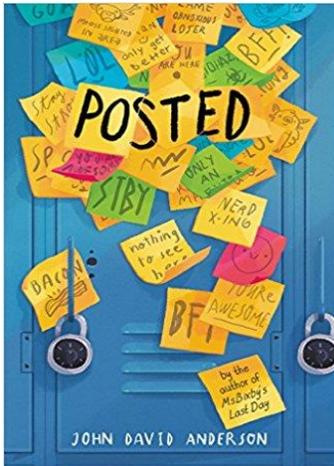
Joseph can sure enough get her back, though. The odds are stacked against him, but he isn't about to give up. He will face down deadly animals, dangerous men, and the fury of nature itself on his quest to be reunited with the only family he has left. Because Joseph Johnson may have lost just about everything. But he hasn't lost hope. And he hasn't lost the fire in his belly that says he's getting his Sarah back-no matter what.



## **Greetings from Witness Protection!**

(Jake Burt, Fiction, *RL 3-5, IL 6-8, Lexile 750L*)

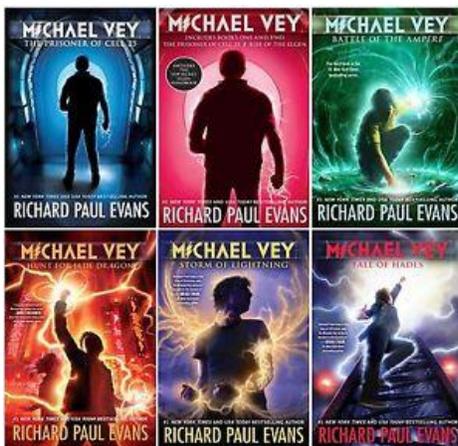
Nicki Demere is an orphan and a pickpocket. She also happens to be the U.S. Marshals' best bet to keep a family alive. . . .The marshals are looking for the perfect girl to join a mother, father, and son on the run from the nation's most notorious criminals. After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two, and adding a streetwise girl who knows a little something about hiding things may be just what the marshals need.Nicki swears she can keep the Trevor family safe, but to do so she'll have to dodge hitmen, cyberbullies, and the specter of standardized testing, all while maintaining her marshal-mandated B-minus average. As she barely balances the responsibilities of her new identity, Nicki learns that the biggest threats to her family's security might not lurk on the road from New York to North Carolina, but rather in her own past.



## **Posted**

(John David Anderson, Realistic Fiction, *RL 3-5, IL 6-8, Lexile 750L*)

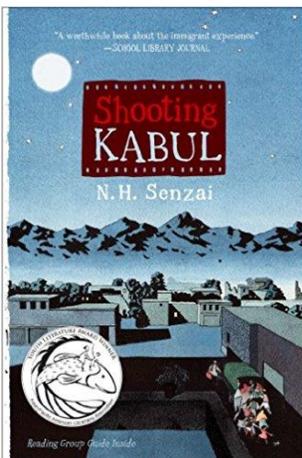
The Sticky Notes War at Branton Middle School starts small. Shortly after cell phones are banned, notes begin appearing on school lockers. Some of the messages are friendly but many are not. Eighth-grader Frost and his group of misfit friends become a target of bullies, especially after the four boys reluctantly let an unconventional new girl hang out with them. Can the boys' friendship survive someone new in their group? Can the kids at Branton survive the cruel notes? Life in middle school can be harsh but, as Frost and his friends find out, it can have moments of courage and solidarity that keep their hope alive.



## **Michael Vey Series(Fast Reader's Series)**

(Richard Paul Evans, Science Fiction/Adventure,  
*RL 3-5, IL 7-8 Lexile 500-610L*)

To everyone at Meridian High School, fourteen-year-old Michael Vey is nothing special, just the kid who has Tourette's syndrome. But in truth, Michael is extremely special, he has electric powers. Michael thinks he is unique until he discovers that a cheerleader named Taylor has the same mysterious powers. With the help of Michael's friend, Ostin, the three of them set out to discover how Michael and Taylor ended up with their abilities, and their investigation soon brings them to the attention of a powerful group who wants to control the electric teens and through them, the world. #1 New York Times bestselling author Richard Paul Evans introduces a character whose risk-filled exploration marks the beginning of a riveting new series. With only his powers, his wits, and his friends to protect him, Michael will need all his strength to survive!

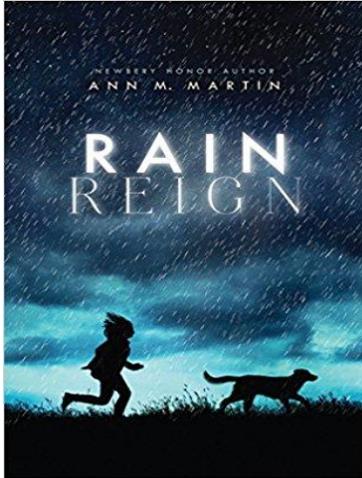


## **Shooting Kabul (The Kabul Chronicles)**

(N.H. Senzai, Contemporary Fiction, *RL 5-8, IL 6-8, Lexile 800L*)

In the summer of 2001, twelve year old Fadi's parents make the difficult decision to illegally leave Afghanistan and move the family to the United States. When their underground transport arrives at the rendezvous point, chaos ensues, and Fadi is left dragging his younger sister Mariam through the crush of people. But Mariam accidentally lets go of his hand and becomes lost in the crowd, just as Fadi is snatched up into the truck. With Taliban soldiers closing in, the truck speeds away, leaving Mariam behind.

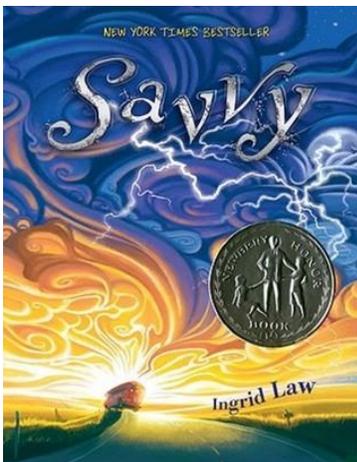
Adjusting to life in the United States isn't easy for Fadi's family and as the events of September 11th unfold the prospects of locating Mariam in a war torn Afghanistan seem slim. When a photography competition with a grand prize trip to India is announced, Fadi sees his chance to return to Afghanistan and find his sister. But can one photo really bring Mariam home?



### **Rain Reign**

*(Ann M. Martin, Realistic Fiction RL 3-5, IL 4-7, Lexile 720L)*

Rose Howard has Asperger's syndrome, and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). She gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Rain was a lost dog Rose's father brought home. Rose and Rain are practically inseparable. And they are often home alone, as Rose's father spends most evenings at a bar, and doesn't have much patience for his special-needs daughter. Just as a storm hits town, Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. Rose will find Rain, but so will Rain's original owners.



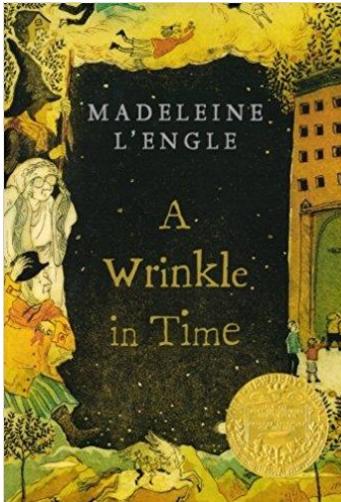
### **Savvy**

*(Ingrid Law, Fantasy, RL6-8, IL7-9, Lexile 1070L)*

For generations, the Beaumont family has harbored a magical secret. They each have a "savvy" -a special supernatural power that strikes when they turn thirteen. Grandpa Bomba moves mountains, her older brothers create hurricanes and spark electricity . . . and now it's almost Mibs's big day.

The family gets scary news two days before Mibs's birthday: Poppa has been in a terrible accident. Mibs plans a mission to get to the hospital and prove that her new power can save her dad. So she sneaks onto a salesman's bus . . . only to find the bus heading in the opposite direction. Suddenly Mibs finds herself on an unforgettable odyssey that will force her to make

sense of growing up-and of other people, who might also have a few secrets hidden just beneath the skin.



### **A Wrinkle In Time**

*(Madeline L'Engle, Fantasy, RL 3-5, IL 4-8 Lexile 740L)*

Recently made into a major motion picture, *A Wrinkle in Time* is a classic. It was a dark and stormy night; Meg Murry, her small brother Charles Wallace, and her mother had come down to the kitchen for a midnight snack when they were upset by the arrival of a most disturbing stranger.

*"Wild nights are my glory," the unearthly stranger told them. "I just got caught in a downdraft and blown off course. Let me be on my way. Speaking of way, by the way, there is such a thing as a tesseract".*

Meg's father had been experimenting with this fifth dimension of time travel when he mysteriously disappeared. Now the time has come for Meg, her friend Calvin, and Charles Wallace to rescue him. But can they outwit the forces of evil they will encounter on their heart-stopping journey through space?

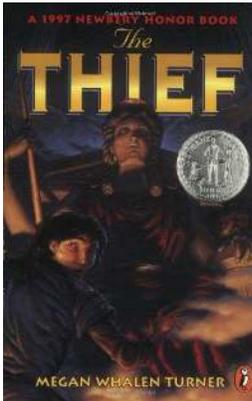


WENDELIN VAN DRAANEN

### **The Running Dream**

*(Wendelin Van Draanen, Realistic Fiction, RL 4-5, IL 6-8, Lexile HL650L)*

Jessica has run her personal best at a track meet-then there's a tragic bus accident and the high school junior loses her leg as well as her future dreams. From waking up in the hospital and coping with the trauma, to her return home, then school, she tries to grab her life back. On one level the story offers inspiration to those dealing with physical changes in their own lives and the stages of recovery, fight, survival, and victory as Jessica reaches deep to push past her wall of self-pity and loathing, and moves beyond the "finish line." On a deeper level, there is her blind discrimination toward a fellow classmate who has cerebral palsy. Rosa is hard to understand and easy to ignore. She is anchored to a wheelchair. Jessica, encumbered by her crutches and her tender "stump," is seated in the back of the class, out of the way, next to Rosa. She learns that the girl is smart, wise, and friendly. They pass notes and share lunch. Rosa writes, "I wish people would see me and not my condition." When Jessica is running again-on a specially engineered prosthesis-she challenges herself to help her friend be seen. How Jessica orchestrates putting Rosa in the forefront of a community race and pushing her wheelchair across a finish line is a study in faith and determination. Readers will cheer for Jessica's recovery and be reminded to recognize people for their strengths and not overlook them because of their disabilities.



**The Thief**

*(Megan Whalen Turner, RL 6-8, Fantasy, Lexile 920L)*

Gen's skills as a thief are considerable, but so, too, is his penchant for bragging about his deeds. Undermined by his tongue, the young man finds himself in prison for stealing from the king. Then the king's scholar, the magus, orders Gen to accompany him on a secret journey, to work as a thief on behalf of the ruler, though he refuses to tell Gen what the king wants him to steal. Gen's nimble mind begins to suspect there is more than mere treasure at stake as he travels with the magus, the scholar's two young apprentices--one an eager boy, the other a prickly teenager--and a dedicated soldier. When the destination and purpose of their journey is revealed, he realizes that the fate of three nations may lie in his hands.