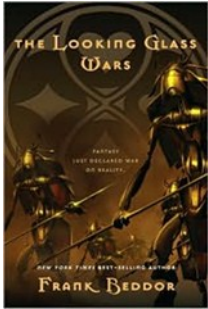


## Cavalcade of Authors 2011-12

### Book Synopsis for Middle Grades



#### ***The Looking Glass Wars (book 1)*** by Frank Beddor

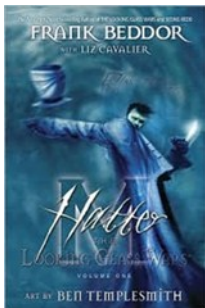
**grades 6-8**

Alyss Heart, heir to the Wonderland throne, was forced to flee through the Pool of Tears after a bloody coup staged by her murderous aunt Redd. Lost and alone in Victorian London, Alyss is befriended by an aspiring author to whom she tells the surreal, violent, heartbreaking story of her young life. Alyss had trusted Lewis Carroll to tell the truth so that someone, somewhere would find her and bring her home. But Carroll had gotten it all wrong. He even misspelled her name! If not for Royal Bodyguard Hatter Madigan's nonstop search to locate the lost princess, Alyss may have become just another society woman sipping tea in a too-tight bodice instead of returning to Wonderland to fight Redd for her rightful place as the Queen of Hearts.

**Paperback \$16.95**

**Publisher: The Penguin Group**

**pages: 400**



#### ***Hatter M*** by Frank Beddor

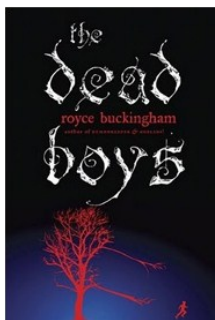
**grades 7-12**

Based on Beddor's *The Looking Glass Wars* trilogy, this graphic novel series follows the story of Hatter Madigan, expert bladesman, high ranking Millinery man, and Royal Bodyguard of Wonderland as he searches for Princess Alyss. Before Queen Genevieve was beheaded, she ordered Hatter to protect her daughter, but when he takes Alyss through the Pool of Tears, he loses her. Hatter finds himself in 1859 Paris missing both Alyss and his signature hat, a weapon complete with blades. He travels to Budapest on the trail of a "Princess" kidnapped by Baroness Dvonna, who runs an orphanage that drains children of their imaginations. Hatter believes it could be Alyss and sets out to destroy Baroness Dvonna and her "Night Walkers." Hatter's unfamiliarity with human customs keeps him in constant battle mode, fighting many foes who underestimate his prowess - knives and blades shoot out of him either shocking or killing his opponents.

**Paperback \$14.95**

**Publisher: Automatic Pictures**

**pages: 176**



#### ***The Dead Boys*** by Royce Buckingham

**grades 5-8**

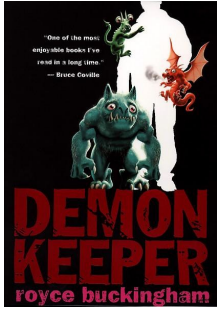
In the desert town of Richland, Washington, there stands a giant sycamore tree. Horribly mutated by nuclear waste, it feeds on the life energy of boys that it snags with its living roots. And when Teddy Matthews moves to town, the tree trains its sights on its next victim.

From the start, Teddy knows something is very wrong with Richland-every kid he meets disappears before his eyes. A trip to the cemetery confirms that these boys are actually dead and trying to lure him to the tree. But that knowledge is no help when Teddy is swept into the tree's world, a dark version of Richland from which there is no escape . . .

**Hardback \$14.98**

**Publisher: Penguin Young Readers Group**

**pages: 208**



### ***The Demon Keeper*** by Royce Buckingham

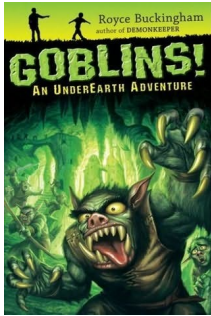
**grades 6-8**

Ever since his mentor—the original Demonkeeper— mysteriously disappeared, Nat has been in charge of the demons that live in his house. Most of them are just nuisances, but the Beast who lives in the basement is very dangerous. When Nat goes out one night, a clueless burglar breaks into the house and unwittingly sets the Beast free. Meanwhile, a vicious villain, the Thin Man, wants to use the Beast for his own evil purposes. Can Nat defeat the Thin Man and return the Beast to the basement without any major casualties?

**Paperback \$7.99**

**Publisher: Penguin Group Incorporated**

**pages: 224**



### ***Goblins! An Underearth Adventure*** by Royce Buckingham

**grades 5-8**

While cruising through the woods in a "borrowed" police car, PJ and Sam accidentally hit what looks like a mutant gorilla with a bad attitude. But this is no ape - it's a goblin, escaped from the city of Argh in UnderEarth, a place beneath the world's surface. When Sam is captured by a gang of goblins, PJ must go after him. But can PJ save Sam before he becomes dinner for a bunch of hungry goblins? (Barnes & Noble)

**Paperback \$6.99**

**Publisher: Penguin Group Incorporated**

**pages: 240**



### ***Dragon's Keep*** by Janet Lee Carey

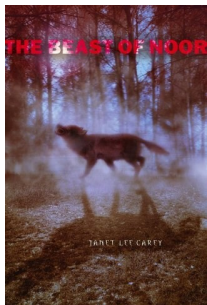
**grades 6-10**

Far away on Wilde Island, Princess Rosalind is born with a dragon claw where her ring finger should be. To hide this secret, the queen forces her to wear gloves at all times until a cure can be found, and Rosalind can fulfill the prophecy that will restore her family to its rightful throne. But Rosalind's flaw cannot be separated from her fate. When she is carried off by the dragon, everything she thought she knew falls apart. . . .(Barnes & Noble)

**Paperback \$7.95**

**Publisher: Houghton Mifflin**

**pages: 302**



### ***The Beast of Noor*** by Janet Lee Carey

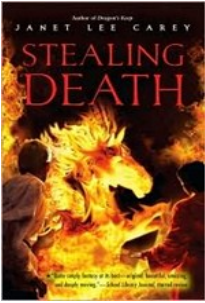
**grades 7-10**

Late one night, piercing screams awake the villages of Noor. And the next day the bones of a young woman are found deep in the surrounding forests. Terror courses through the hearts of the villagers, along with something else...relief. An attack such as this is not uncommon in Noor. The Shriker, a massive beast of unimaginable strength and rage, has roamed the dark woods for nearly three hundred years, savaging those unfortunate enough to encounter him. The people of Noor have lived in fear for so long that most have forgotten that the Shriker was once a loyal dog until the day his master betrayed and cursed him, condemning him to life as a monster. But Miles and Hanna Ferrell have never forgotten where the Shriker came from -- how could they? It was, after all, their ancestor who betrayed the dog. (Barnes & Noble)

**Hardback \$17.20**

**Publisher: Gardners Books**

**pages: 497**



## Stealing Death by Janet Lee Carey

grades 7-10

"I want that soul sack," he said suddenly. "What?" the witch asked around the scrap of meat she was chewing. "I want it so no one I love will ever, ever, ever have to go inside again." "It's not for mortal hands to have." The witch spat out a bit of bone. "You know magic. Give me the power to steal the sack." When fire steals his family from him, Kipp is left with only his little sister to protect as best he can, and he's determined that death will not come to her—or to the girl he loves but can never approach. But who would dare to master death? As Kipp finds out, it's complicated, and possession of the soul sack is no guarantee of success. Dragon's Keep author Janet Lee Carey has crafted a stirring and original fantasy set in a harsh and beautiful desert landscape, in which a young man who has lost everything finds the strength within himself to care for those he loves—and to allow those he cannot keep close to him to take a path he cannot follow.

Hardback \$16.99

Publisher: Egmont USA

pages: 368



## Breathing Underwater by Alex Flinn grades 8-12

To his friends, popular and handsome sixteen-year-old Nick Andreas has led a charmed life. But the guys in Nick's anger management class know differently. So does his ex-girlfriend Caitlin. Now it looks like the only person who doesn't realize how far from perfect Nick's life has become is Nick himself.

### Annotation

Sent to counseling for hitting his girlfriend, Caitlin, and ordered to keep a journal, sixteen-year-old Nick recounts his relationship with Caitlin, examines his controlling behavior and anger, and describes living with his abusive father. .

Paperback \$15.95 Publisher: Harper Collins pages: 272



## Beastly by Alex Flinn

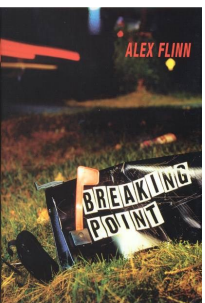
grades 7-12

Love is never ugly Now a major motion picture starring Vanessa Hudgens and Alex Pettyfer I am a beast. A beast! Not quite wolf or bear, gorilla or dog but a horrible new creature who walks upright. I am a monster. You think I'm talking fairy tales? No way. The place is New York City. The time is now. It's no deformity, no disease. And I'll stay this way forever—ruined—unless I can break the spell. Yes, the spell, the one the witch in my English class cast on me. Why did she turn me into a beast who hides by day and prowls by night? I'll tell you. I'll tell you how I used to be Kyle Kingsbury, the guy you wished you were, with money, perfect looks, and the perfect life. And then, I'll tell you how I became perfectly . . . beastly.

Paperback \$8.99

Publisher: Harper Collins

pages: 304



## Breaking Point by Alex Flinn

rades 8-12

Paul Richmond is in his private high school free because his mom works in the guidance office, but that fact makes him an instant outcast, and his only friend is a funny-looking, independent girl named Binky. Even worse off is David Blanco, whose mom is a cafeteria lady and whose father is the janitor. The jocks hound him unmercifully, even killing his dog. Binky, tries to explain the cruelty of the rich kids who surround them, but Paul yearns to be accepted anyway. So when cool, elegant, and charismatic Charlie Good asks for his help in computer lab, Paul is eager to comply. Gradually he is accepted at school as part of Charlie's group, but for a price. When David Blanco kills himself and the school simply ignores it, Paul is momentarily taken aback, especially when he learns that David had been Charlie's ally last year. But then Charlie reveals his real plan, for which everything else has been preliminary, and Paul has his last chance to say no.

Paperback \$8.54

Publisher: Harper Collins

pages: 256



## **A Kiss in Time** by Alex Flinn

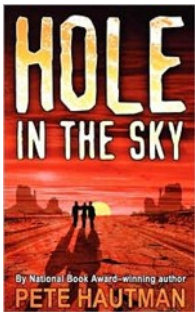
**grades 7-12**

Talia fell under a spell . . . Jack broke the curse. I was told to beware the accursed spindle, but it was so enchanting, so hypnotic. . . I was looking for a little adventure the day I ditched my tour group. But finding a comatose town, with a hot-looking chick asleep in it, was so not what I had in mind. I awakened in the same place but in another time—to a stranger's soft kiss. I couldn't help kissing her. Sometimes you just have to kiss someone. I didn't know this would happen. Now I am in dire trouble because my father, the king, says I have brought ruin upon our country. I have no choice but to run away with this commoner! Now I'm stuck with a bratty princess and a trunk full of her jewels. . . The good news: My parents will freak! Think you have dating issues? Try locking lips with a snoozing stunner who turns out to be 316 years old. Can a kiss transcend all—even time?

**Paperback \$8.99**

**Publisher: Harper Collins**

**pages: 383**



## **Hole in the Sky** by Pete Hautman

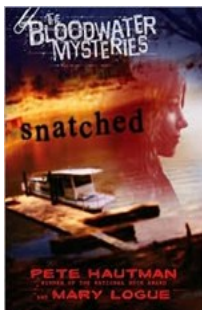
**grades 7-10**

In 2028 a deadly Flu virus ravages the Earth. Only one in two thousand survive the virus, and these "Survivors" are rarely left unaffected. By 2038, only thirty-eight million people remain on Earth. Most of them live in small communities, ever fearful of outsiders who might bring the deadly Flu. Ceej Kane lives with his uncle and his Survivor sister, Harryette, in an abandoned hotel on the rim of the Grand Canyon. His quiet, boring life suddenly becomes a desperate adventure when Uncle and Harryette disappear. Searching for them, Ceej and his only friend, Tim, are attacked by a renegade band of half-mad Survivors who spread the Flu to make more of their own. Worse yet, it appears that Harryette has joined them. Fleeing deep into the canyon, Ceej and Tim meet Bella, a mysterious Hopi girl. She has been searching for a mystical portal that the Hopi believe leads to another world. Tim thinks Bella is crazy, but Ceej is not so sure. Maybe there is a way out of this Flu-ravaged world.

**Paperback \$11.95**

**Publisher: Simon Schuster**

**pages: 224**



## **Snatched** by Pete Hautman

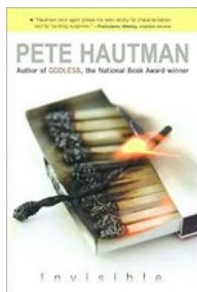
**grades 6-9**

From award-winning author Pete Hautman and Mary Logue comes a lively mystery series. When high school student Alicia Camden suddenly disappears, the small town of Bloodwater is in shock. And it's up to Roni Delicata, reporter for the school's Bloodwater Pump, and her brilliant sidekick, Brian Bain, to figure out what's going on. With suspects all around them and suspicions high, Roni and Brian risk their lives—and a few groundings from their parents—to get to the bottom of things. But can they find Alicia and solve the mystery before it's too late? Full of suspense and humor, readers will love to watch the hilarious relationship between Roni and Brian as they save the day.

**Paperback \$6.99**

**Publisher: The Penguin Group**

**pages: 224**



## **Invisible** by Pete Hautman

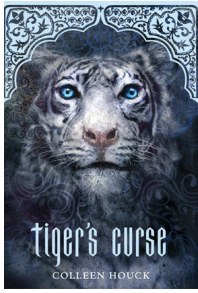
**grades 7-10**

Lots of people think Doug Hanson is a freak — he gets beat up after school and the girl of his dreams calls him a worm. Doug's only refuge is building elaborate model trains in his basement and hanging out with his best friend, Andy Morrow. Andy is nothing like Doug: He's a popular football star who could date any girl in school. Despite their differences, Doug and Andy talk about everything — except what happened at the Tuttle place a few years back. As Doug retreats deeper and deeper into his own world, long-buried secrets come to light — and the more he tries to keep them invisible, the looser his grip on reality becomes. In this fierce, disturbing novel, Pete Hautman spins a poignant tale about inner demons, and how far one boy will go to control them.

**Paperback \$7.99**

**Publisher: Simon Schuster**

**pages: 160**



## **Tiger's Curse** by Colleen Houck

**grades 8-12**

The last thing Kelsey Hayes thought she'd be doing this summer was trying to break a 300-year-old Indian curse. With a mysterious white tiger named Ren. Halfway around the world.

But that's exactly what happened. Face-to-face with dark forces, spell-binding magic, and mystical worlds where nothing is what it seems, Kelsey risks everything to piece together an ancient prophecy that could break the curse forever.

Tiger's Curse is the exciting first volume in an epic fantasy-romance that will leave you breathless and yearning for more.

**Hardback \$10.98**

**Publisher: Sterling Publishing**

**Pages: 402**

## **Gender Blender** by Blake Nelson

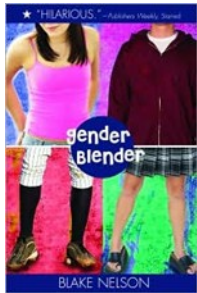
**grades 7-8**

Emma: Wants Jeff Matthews to notice her, hates sexist boys and wonders when she'll get her period. Tom: Must avoid looking like a wuss. Must deal with his blended family. Must get a chance with Kelly A. Then something freaky happens: Emma and Tom switch bodies. And until they can find a remedy: Emma: Can't believe she has a . . . thingi. Hates mean girls. Finds out secondhand that her period has arrived. Tom: Must learn to put on a bra. Must deal with an overachieving family. Must not be alone with Jeff Matthews.

**Paperback \$8.99**

**Publisher: Random House**

**pages: 192**



## **Paranoid Park** by Blake Nelson

**grades 7-12**

A psychological thriller tracing the chilling consequences of an impulsive act of violence. The adventure-turned-nightmare begins at Paranoid Park, an "underground" skateboard park in Portland, Ore., with a "dangerous, sketchy vibe." Finding himself with nothing to do on a Saturday night, the unnamed narrator, a high-school junior, enters the park looking for excitement and ends up involved in a scuffle between Scratch, a "borderline gutter punk," and a security guard. The guard is killed. There are no witnesses except the two surviving boys, and the narrator must decide what to do after Scratch flees the scene of the accident. Written in the form of a confessional letter, the book details the narrator's moral dilemma after the incident. Tormented by nightmares, questioned by the police and toying with the notion of telling the truth to his father or the authorities, the narrator remains paralyzed, trapped by his feelings of guilt and paranoia. While effectively conveying the intensity of his protagonist's emotions, the author refrains from passing judgment. It is left up to readers to decide if the narrator is a criminal or a victim, and how he will be affected by his final decision.

**Paperback \$6.99**

**Publisher: The Penguin Group**

**pages: 192**



## **Peter and the Starcatchers** by Ridley Pearson

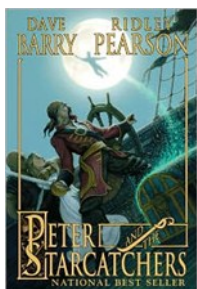
**grades 5-8**

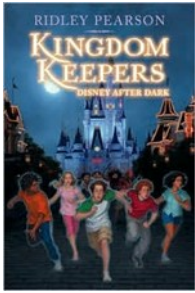
Don't even think of starting this book unless you're sitting in a comfortable chair and have lots of time. A fast-paced, impossible-to-put-down adventure awaits as the young orphan Peter and his mates are dispatched to an island ruled by the evil King Zarboff. They set sail aboard the Never Land, a ship carrying a precious and mysterious trunk in its cargo hold-and the journey quickly becomes fraught with excitement and danger. Discover richly developed characters in the sweet but sophisticated Molly, the scary but familiar Black Stache, and the fearless Peter. Treacherous battles with pirates, foreboding thunderstorms at sea, and evocative writing immerse the reader in a story that slowly and finally reveals the secrets and mysteries of the beloved Peter Pan.

**Paperback \$8.99**

**Publisher: Disney Press**

**pages: 440**





## **Kingdom Keepers** by Ridley Pearson

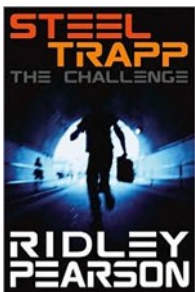
**grades 5-8**

In this fantastical thriller, five young teens tapped as models for theme park "guides" find themselves pitted against Disney villains and witches that threaten both the future of Walt Disney World and the stability of the world outside its walls. Using a cutting-edge technology called DHI--which stands for both Disney Host Interactive and Daylight Hologram Imaging--Finn Whitman, an Orlando teen, and four other kids are transformed into hologram projections that guide guests through the park. The new technology turns out, however, to have unexpected effects that are both thrilling and scary. Soon Finn finds himself transported in his DHI form into the Magic Kingdom at night. Is it real? Is he dreaming? Finn's confusion only increases when he encounters Wayne, an elderly Imagineer who tells him that the park is in grave danger. Led by the scheming witch, Maleficent, a mysterious group of characters called the Overtakers is plotting to destroy Disney's beloved realm, and maybe more.

**Paperback \$8.99**

**Publisher: Hyperion**

**pages: 336**



## **The Challenge (Steel Trapp Series)** by Ridley Pearson

**grades 5-8**

In this riveting thriller, fourteen-year-old Steven "Steel" Trapp sets off with his mom and their dog, Cairo, on a two-day Amtrak journey to compete in the National Science Competition in Washington, D.C. Steel is both blessed and cursed with a remarkable photographic memory - just one look, and whatever he sees is imprinted for keeps. Trying to be a good Samaritan on the train, he unwittingly becomes embroiled in an ingenious international plot of kidnapping that may have links to terrorists. Federal agents (first seen in Pearson's adult thriller Cut and Run) track Steel and his newfound science geek accomplice, Kaileigh Augustine, as they attempt to put together the pieces of a complex puzzle. Using Steel's science contest invention - and with the help of Cairo - Steel and Kaileigh lead listeners on an action-packed chase adventure as they attempt to prevent the unimaginable, before it's too late.

**Hardback \$16.99**

**Publisher: Disney Press**

**pages: 336**



## **Lockdown (Furnace Series)** by Alexander Gordon Smith

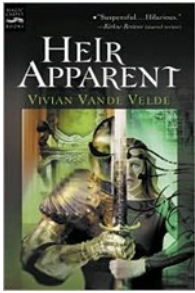
**grades 7-12**

Furnace Penitentiary: the world's most secure prison for young offenders, buried a mile beneath the earth's surface. Convicted of a murder he didn't commit, sentenced to life without parole, "new fish" Alex Sawyer knows he has two choices: find a way out, or resign himself to a death behind bars, in the darkness at the bottom of the world. Except in Furnace, death is the least of his worries. Soon Alex discovers that the prison is a place of pure evil, where inhuman creatures in gas masks stalk the corridors at night, where giants in black suits drag screaming inmates into the shadows, where deformed beasts can be heard howling from the blood-drenched tunnels below. And behind everything is the mysterious, all-powerful warden, a man as cruel and dangerous as the devil himself, whose unthinkable acts have consequences that stretch far beyond the walls of the prison. Together with a bunch of inmates—some innocent kids who have been framed, others cold-blooded killers—Alex plans an escape. But as he starts to uncover the truth about Furnace's deeper, darker purpose, Alex's actions grow ever more dangerous, and he must risk everything to expose this nightmare that's hidden from the eyes of the world.

**Paperback \$8.99**

**Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux**

**pages: 288**



## **Heir Apparent** by Vivian Vande Velde

**grades 6-9**

In the virtual reality game Heir Apparent, there are way too many ways to get killed—and Giannine seems to be finding them all. Which is a darn shame, because unless she can get the magic ring, locate the stolen treasure, answer the dwarf's dumb riddles, impress the head-chopping statue, charm the army of ghosts, fend off the barbarians, and defeat the man-eating dragon, she'll never win. And she has to, because losing means she'll die—for real this time.

**Paperback \$6.95      Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Hardcourt      pages: 336**

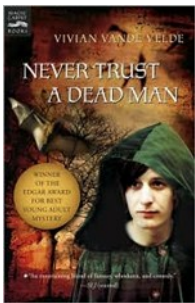


## **Witch Dreams** by Vivian Vande Velde

**grades 6-9**

For six long years Nyssa has been seeking justice for her parents who were murdered when she was 10 years old. She had suspected Elsdon, a youngest son of Lord Haraford, but his parents had provided his alibi, and Nyssa was powerless to prove otherwise. Now, Elsdon returns to their medieval village, and Nyssa has a chance to discover what really happened on the day her parents died, for she has the ability to share, almost like eavesdropping, other people's dreams. But she must be subtle, for such a power would be considered magic in the eyes of the villagers, and she would be tried as a witch.

**Hardback \$15.95      Publisher: Cavendish, Marshall Corp.      pages: 320**

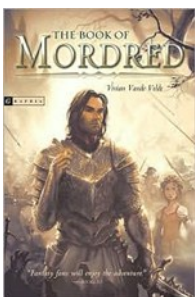


## **Never Trust a Dead Man** by Vivian Vande Velde

**grades 6-9**

When Selwyn is accused of murdering his rival, Farold, he is sealed in the village burial cave with Farold's moldering corpse to await starvation—or worse. Worse comes along quickly in the form of a witch who raises Farold from the dead. Selwyn thought he disliked Farold when he was alive, but that was nothing compared to working by the dead man's side as they search for the real killer. Annotation: Wrongly convicted of murder and punished by being sealed in the tomb with the dead man, seventeen-year-old Selwyn enlists the help of a witch and the resurrected victim to find the true killer.

**Paperback \$6.95      Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Hardcourt      pages: 208**



## **The book of Mordred** by Vivian Vande Velde

**grades 6-10**

Dark forces are taking hold in the kingdom of Camelot: King Arthur struggles to keep his knights in line as they steadily divide themselves into factions; the great Merlin has vanished at the hands of his lover and pupil, Nimue; wizards all over the countryside battle for whatever measures of power they can find. At the center of the maelstrom stands Keira, an innocent girl who possesses the ability to foretell the fate of her world. When Keira is kidnapped from her village home, her mother, Alayna, flees to Camelot and finds Mordred, an enigmatic knight who will ultimately become Keira's greatest champion, Alayna's greatest love, and King Arthur's greatest enemy. In the long tradition of Arthurian legend, Mordred has been characterized as a buffoon, a false knight, and a bloodthirsty traitor. The Book of Mordred reveals a mysterious man through the eyes of three women who love him.

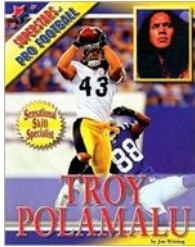
**Paperback \$8.99      Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Hardcourt      pages: 352**



**Awakening (Chasing Yesterday Series) by Robin Wasserman** **grades 6-8**

Found: One girl, age 13. Unconscious. Unharmed. Unclaimed. Unidentified. Lost: Everything. J.D. may not know the truth about her past, but she knows she's in danger, and she can't shake the dark visions haunting her dreams. She won't be safe until she figures out who she is and where she came from. She can trust no one, not even herself—especially not herself. Because it turns out there's one thing even more terrible than forgetting her past: remembering.

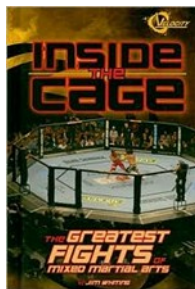
**Paperback \$5.99** **Publisher: Scholastic Inc.** **pages: 207**



**Troy Polamalu by Jim Whiting** **grades 5-8**

As an eight-year-old in a gang-ridden community, Troy Polamalu seemed destined for a life of crime. His life turned around, however, when he moved to rural Oregon to live with his uncle. He became a top athlete and eventually earned a football scholarship to the University of Southern California. Drafted in 2003 by the Pittsburgh Steelers, Troy became one of the top-rated defensive players in the National Football League in just two years.

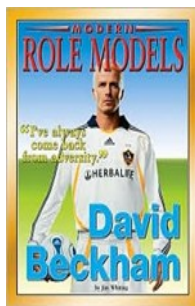
**Paperback \$6.99** **Publisher: Mason Crest** **pages: 64**



**Inside the Cage: Greatest Mixed Martial Arts Fights by Jim Whiting** **grades 6-9**

A full-contact, unarmed combat sport, Mixed Martial Arts pits competitors from different martial arts backgrounds against one another. These books cover the gamut of this incredibly popular sport, from its history to its greatest fights. A must-have for any fighting enthusiast!

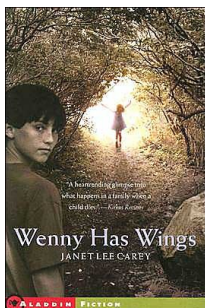
**Hardback \$30.65** **Publisher: Capestone** **pages: 64**



**David Beckham by Jim Whiting** **grades 6-9**

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