

# The Book Report

## The Cavalcade of Authors Edition

May

Libraries, they're bigger on the inside.

2018

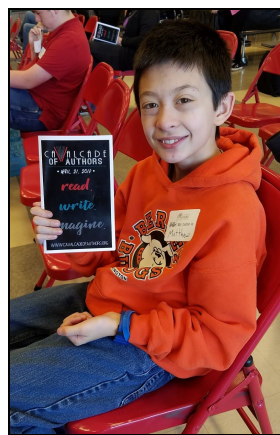
### Library Update

\*This school year the library has checked out 8460 books to students and staff. Remember students need to carry a book with their binders to earn Power Tickets redeemable at the Pioneer store.

\***Newspaper Fort Challenge:** Do you like to build blanket forts, tree forts, or blanket forts? Test your skills in the 2nd annual Newspaper Fort Challenge! Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

\***Summer Ebook Challenge:** Do you get bored during the summer? Stay tuned for the 2nd annual Summer Ebook Challenge against Garrison Middle School. *We won last year; don't let Garrison take the trophy away from us!*

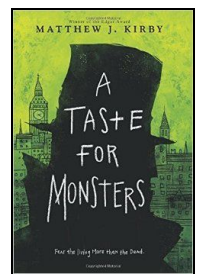
\*Fifty-one students from Pioneer and Garrison, two WaHi students, and five chaperones attended **Cavalcade of Authors** on April 21st. Students spent time with sixteen young adult authors learning what it takes to become an author, how the professional writing process works, and practiced writing techniques with the authors. It was an amazing event, don't take this librarian's word though.... Read below to hear about the experience from Pioneer's Library TAs and Library RaTs (Readers & Thinkers).



**Aiden Carver and Audra Walmsley** get autographs from Lissa Price.

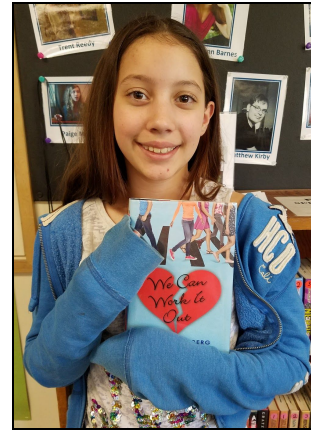
### Aiden Carver (8th grade) *Library RaT*

I went to Cavalcade of Authors and met the author of *A Taste for Monsters*. His name was Matthew Kirby. His book is about a girl named Evelyn and she lived in Whitechapel, London. She was a maid for the Elephant Man while Jack the Ripper was on his murder spree. Matthew Kirby told me that he was depressed while writing and you could really tell. The book has a depressing overlook. Meeting him really helped me understand the book. I also feel like I have a better understanding on how to write.



**Abigail Binney** (6th grade) 1st period TA

Elizabeth Eulberg is an amazing author, filled with personality and perseverance. If you went to her session during Cavalcade of Authors, you would have seen all of us (students) writing for one minute about a topic then passing it on. Mrs. Eulberg taught us that first drafts are never the final. On her first book she wrote 17 drafts that took her five years to complete. She also taught us that it can take awhile to even finish one draft. In the end Mrs. Eulberg taught us that having a storyline prepared will help us in the long game of writing books.



**Abigail Binney** has read every book the library has by Elizabeth Eulberg.



**Anna Milligan** smiles with A.S. King (Amy Sarig King).

**Anna Milligan** (8th grade) 3rd period TA & Library RaT

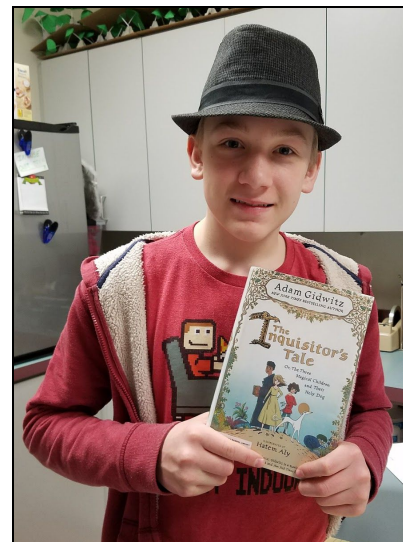
I went to the workshop of one Adam Gidwitz, author of *A Tale Dark and Grimm* and *The Inquisitor's Tale*. The workshop was on writing an outline of the story. There were funny comments, read-outs, and nobody said that the ideas were crazy. Convolution, sentient radishes, and cheesy romantic comedies were the letter of the day. Despite complicated analogies, there was a sense of ridiculous fun. His humor is seen in *A Tale Dark and Grimm*, with many fractured fairy tales told by a shocked and sarcastic narrator and the worst secret-keeping crows in the world!



**Aidan Hartman** (7th grade) 2nd period TA

I went to Cavalcade this year and had Adam Gidwitz as a session. He is one of my favorite authors, since he wrote *The Inquisitor's Tale*. I really like the book. It has many real events from the middle ages and fun illustrations. It also has an interesting writing style because, at the end of each chapter it would cut to the narrator, in a dinner, asking people for more stories.

In the author session, Adam Gidwitz taught about creating a storyboard, or planning out a story. It was really interesting, because he used his books, like *The Inquisitor's Tale*, as examples. He walks you through creating a character, creating a problem, and solving the problem.



**Aidan Hartman** enjoyed Adam Gidwitz's book *The Inquisitor's Tale*.

# A Writer's Day

By

**Kaitlynn Beuck &  
Brooklyn Schoesler**

(8th graders)

5th period TA & 4th period TA



It started with the sun exploding . . . Just kidding! It started with a super early bus ride over to a Tri-Cities middle school where we attended the 2018 Cavalcade of Authors. Waking up at six in the morning for a seven o'clock bus ride is not a normal Saturday routine. There's more coffee involved. But it was worth it.

When all the schools attending had arrived, we sat in the bleachers to learn a little more about the authors and also about this amazing program. And even better, Brooklyn won a free book and didn't have to skip lunch to buy one. It was **amazing!**

Our first workshop was even better. As fellow writers, soon to be famous authors, it was nice to go to a workshop that went over how to write action scenes.

"I'm not someone who knows the special names of certain punches and kicks, and what to do when I get to that point in my story. It was a real treat to learn how to make confusing and boring fights in your stories a little more exciting. My adrenaline starts to flow just listening to Fonda Lee talk about her own fight scenes," said Brooklyn.

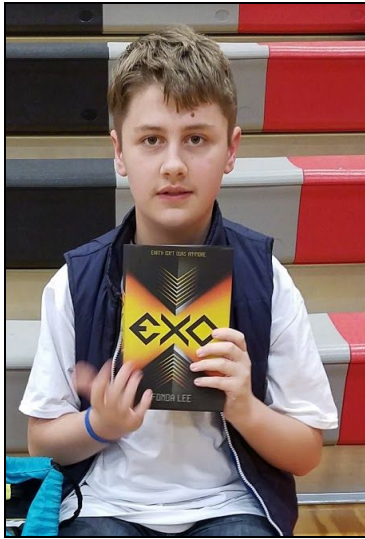
Trent Reedy, our second workshop, was a bunch of fun. He was funny and had us laughing a lot. It was refreshing to go into his workshop because he talked about how being an author is his main job. That it's everything to him. He also talked about the knicks and knacks of getting free coffee and waking up early just to write. He even told us that, "I knew someone who was writing a book, and when I went to ask him how it was going, he told me he hadn't written anything for six months. That he never had the time. But let me tell you something: *You always have the time to write.*"

This year there were food trucks we got to eat at instead of bringing our own lunches. My friends and I all waited in the hamburger line, talking about our morning and laughing. We also got shaved ice which was a nice treat. They had so many flavors. I hope they have even more choices next year.

The third workshop we attended had us hanging on the author's every word. Benjamin Sáenz was a man of words who had everyone crying by the time the workshop was done. He explained to us that you don't have to stick with your first idea for a story. Keep trying out different versions of the same story and soon you will find the best one for you.

Our final workshop was with Jennifer Donnelly. She mentioned the different types of ‘monsters’ while writing a story and explained how you can resolve them. She told us about how you shouldn't tell a character who they are, you should listen to them and they will tell you about themselves. Then build off of what they tell you and you can make your setting and other characters that correspond with his/her lives.

Overall, we love Cavalcade and want to go every year and come back to chaperone for Ms. Sara when we finish high school.



**Kosmo Nerdin** shows off his new book by Fonda Lee.

**Kosmo Nerdin** (6th grade) *Library RaT*

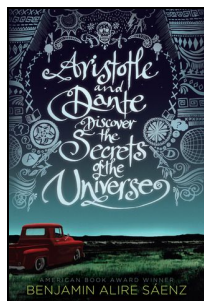
*Quantum League: Spell Robbers*, written by Matthew J. Kirby, was one of my favorite books by the authors at Cavalcade. This is a book about a boy named Ben who just moved into town. He went to an after-school activity where he finds a way to master the power of elements by using his imagination. One day the professor that started the program made a gun to enhance the abilities of the person holding it. But that made her a target so she was kidnapped by terrorists and then Ben and his friend were taken in by the Quantum League but they erased all memory of themselves so no one remembered them. So Ben has to help them so that they could “return their memory”.



**Grace Evans** (8th grade) *1st period TA*

Benjamin Alire Sáenz is most popularly known as the writer of *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*. This book is a LGBT teen novel telling the story of two boys and the struggles they have as they grow up in El Paso, Texas, 1987. In the beginning, Ari and Dante have nothing in common but when they start to hang out more often they learn and grow as they form an unbreakable friendship and discover who they really are.

Benjamin Alire Sáenz is a writer and poet of many genres. In his Cavalcade workshop he talked about how many possibilities a story can have. He shared a story with us and then added on to it to find what the whole story was. He said to always make a novel unpredictable and have many possibilities.



**Grace Evans, Paula Vargus, and Libby Drabek** wait for the “Reality Bytes” Author Panel to begin.

***“I was looking for the world,  
and I finally found it.”*** -Benjamin Alire Sáenz

**Caleb Milligan** (6th grade) *Library RaT*

At Cavalcade of Authors, I attended a session taught by Jonathan Maberry, author of the *Rot & Ruin* series and the *Nightsiders*. In his session, he briefly talked about his life. As a child, he grew up in a rough neighborhood. His father did not allow him to read, so he hid his books in his grandmother's house. When he was seven, he saw *The Night of the Living Dead*. His friend that he saw it with completely freaked out and had to leave. Jonathan, however, noticed that all the characters were making stupid decisions. As he was walking home, he started thinking what he would do if he were in that situation.

Now, he often writes about zombies and advises on filming zombie movies and television shows. In this session, we made an assessment of the people and things in the room. We asked how many people could drive, sew, do CPR, basic first aid, play an instrument, build, engineer, deliver a baby, cook, play baseball, tennis, lacrosse and badminton and a lot of other questions. We came to the conclusion that we would



barricade the door, make crude weapons, escape out the window, steal cars, and go to either Home Depot, Costco, or a food distribution center to survive a zombie invasion. Eventually we would settle down in a base and gather more supplies and survivors. All in all, this was an interesting class that I enjoyed very much.



**Caleb Milligan** shakes hands with Jeff Zentner.



Trent Reedy signs **Catherine Hoerner's** Cavalcade t-shirt.





# A Day of Authors

By

**Libby Drabek**

(6th grade) 7th period TA

My name is Libby Drabek, I am a 6th grader at Pioneer (obviously). This year was my first attending Cavalcade of Authors. Cavalcade is a convention of authors for middle school and high school kids to get to know famous authors' lifestyles and writing techniques. I woke up around 5:45 a.m. on Saturday, but it ended up being worth it. The bus ride from Pioneer to Enterprise Middle School (where Cavalcade was held this year) went by pretty fast because I was talking to my friends most of the time. When we got to the school we were directed to the large gym where we had an assembly. The lady talked about winners of the writing project, rules, and brought out the authors.

After that, it was time for my first session! My first class was with Benjamin Alire Sáenz. To be quite frank I thought his class was going to be boring because he was old. His class was my absolute favorite, I won't go into too much detail because this was only the first class. I liked his class because he didn't make his session like a class where you learn about plot or punctuation. He just talked about his everyday life as a writer. Next, was my second session. It was taught by Jeff Zentner. His class was less of a talk and more of a class. He talked about how to improve your writing by adding dialogue.

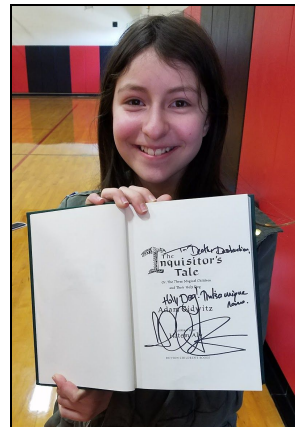
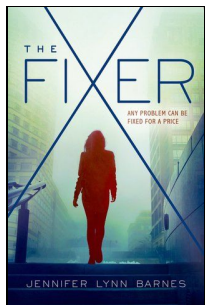
Lunch came after session two, I just had my own sack lunch but this year was the first time Cavalcade had food trucks. THE LINES WERE CRAY CRAY! Soon after lunch the third session awoke us. My third session was run by Trent Reedy, his class was about plot. He also brought up a good point, he had a slideshow with books written by young authors and it was super inspiring to know that even though you are 15 years old you can be published.

Later I got to go to an author panel. The author panel was all authors who write mainly realistic fiction, and the authors were A.S. King, Benjamin Alire Sáenz, Elizabeth Eulberg, and Jeff Zentner. The panel was interesting because you got to learn more about the authors' lives as they answered truth or dare questions. One of my favorite truth or dare questions was, "If you had 24 hours to write an entire book what would it be?" They also talked about their favorite books and about how young you really can be to write a book; that was super inspiring.

After the author panel we got to get books autographed and jumped on the bus. Once we got home, I told my parents all about it. Overall, Cavalcade of Authors was an amazing and inspiring experience! I will 100% go to Cavalcade every year that I can.

**Mila Petit** (7th grade) *Library RaT*

When I went to Calvacade, Jennifer Lynn Barnes was not my favorite author. However, after I went to her panel, the session I had with her was my favorite, even over one of my actual favorite authors. The session was called, *How to be Mean to Your Characters*. We had to take situations and find out ways to make them harder for the characters. I learned, that if a character has a perfect life, we will not empathize with them and we won't like the story.



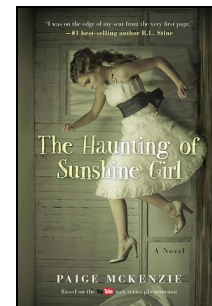
**Mila Petit** shows off her autographed book, *The Inquisitor's Tale*, by Adam Gidwitz.



**Olivia Spada and Tierra Golden** smile with Elizabeth Eulberg.

**Tierra Golden** (8th grade)- *7th period TA*

So, when Cavalcade of Authors happened, I went! And I met some really cool authors. One of the authors was Paige McKenzie. She talked about her life journey. It started with her YouTube channel, The Haunting of Sunshine Girl Network, when she was in high school. Later in her life, she started a book series based off her YouTube channel. It starts with *The Haunting of Sunshine Girl*, then *The Awakening of Sunshine Girl*, and *The Sacrifice of Sunshine Girl*. She is now 24, and she started her channel seven years ago. I thought it was really cool that you could become an author when you are so young. You could try to become an author right now! So, go read those books, and check out her YouTube channel!



## 21st Century After-School Programs

**Fly Fishing:** Sign up on Mr. Fortney's door!

**Library RaTs:** The RaTs had an amazing time preparing for and attending Cavalcade of Authors.



**Millennials Indoor Soccer:** The end of April saw the second Crossover day against Garrison. If you missed it, you're in luck! [bit.ly/GarrisonSoccer](http://bit.ly/GarrisonSoccer) is the link to relive the exciting action.



**Youth & Government:** The kids pack their bags and head to Olympia this week to take over the Capital Campus! (No Governmental usurping will take place). They will meet and debate their Bills with over 600 students from around the State. The kids are going to debate all Bills deemed important to the youth of Washington State. From mandating the use of more environment friendly grocery bags to the humane treatment of slugs, everything is on the table! They will be doing this from Wednesday through Saturday! It is going to be a busy week, capped off with the Governor's Ball under the Rotunda on Friday night!

## GEAR UP

**Career Showcase Competition:** Denali Parodi claimed the 2nd place prize at the GEAR UP Career Showcase Competition this past Friday evening. There were students representing 13 middle schools from around southeast Washington. It was a great event with a lot of good energy. I am proud of Denali for stepping up to the challenge and taking on one more extra responsibility. Congratulate her when you get a chance!

**Cavalcade of Authors:** GEAR UP was excited to sponsor a part of the students who attended Cavalcade of Authors. Those that returned from the day excited to learn more about careers in publishing, writing, editing, etc, will meet with Greg to learn more about college options.