



TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10 PICKS **TOP 10 PICKS** TOP 10 PICKS TOP 10

## Sky in the Deep

By Adrienne Young

"*Sky in the Deep* is the YA fantasy I've been waiting for—a breath of fresh air that holds the reader captive from the opening scene. Be warned, you will fall hard for Eelyn and Fiske. You will swoon, you will gasp, you will laugh, and you will cry; this book touches on all the emotions. In a brutal, bloody world, Young pulls no punches when putting the characters in intense situations that leave the reader on the edge of their seat. With lush descriptions, impactful character development, and powerful writing, this debut author will have you clamoring for more of her words."

—Sarah Green, Vero Beach Book Center, Vero Beach, FL

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## Furyborn

By Claire Legrand

"*Furyborn* is exactly the kind of ambitious, well-written YA high fantasy that I've been looking for. This novel is female-focused and driven, with girls who are strong, powerful, pissed off, damaged, unabashedly sexual, and in control. The writing is so beautiful, I found myself re-reading sentences simply for the pleasure of it. It's a story that is complex, compelling, and carefully crafted. Claire Legrand is a jewel. I can't wait for the next installment."

—Cristina Russell, Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL

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## The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl

By Stacy McAnulty

"Lucy is definitely not your average 12-year-old. Though a lightning strike four years ago left her basically unharmed, it rendered her a mathematical savant with some compulsive behaviors. When Lucy is forced to attend middle school, she does not fit in and struggles to be accepted. She finds solace and friendship among a couple of her classmates and a very special dog. A charming and delightful story about overcoming obstacles and ultimately finding your place in the world."

—Anita Isser, Bloomsbury Books, Ashland, OR

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## We Don't Eat Our Classmates

By Ryan T. Higgins

"Higgins is back with a pitch-perfect tale of first-day jitters and unexpected empathy. Penelope, a pink-overall-clad T-rex, is exceptionally nervous about her first day of school. She's so nervous that, after learning her classmates are all children, she eats them. Delicious! But Mrs. Noodleman is not amused. It isn't until someone tries to make Penelope into a snack that she begins to understand just how her classmates feel. Penelope's growing awareness of her classmates' feelings is both adorable and relatable. Higgins' charming illustrations and use of humor make Penelope's story ideal for younger readers, especially as they transition into new experiences and social situations."

—Sara Grochowski, McLean & Eakin Booksellers, Petoskey, MI

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## Bob

By Wendy Mass, Rebecca Stead, Nicholas Gannon (Illus.)

“This is a fun little book told in alternating points of view. On one hand, we have Livi, a 10-year-old girl visiting her gran in Australia for the first time since she was five. On the other, we have Bob, a green zombie creature dressed in a disheveled chicken suit who has waited those five years for Livi in the closet of her grandmother’s house. They rekindle their lost friendship (mysteriously forgotten by Livi) to search for Bob’s beginnings and hopefully to get him back home, wherever that is. This book is a magical and fun read.”

—Rani Birchfield, Front Street Books, Alpine, TX

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## Ocean Meets Sky

By Terry Fan, Eric Fan

“The Fan brothers have created a magical dream world that readers will want to return to over and over again. Each illustration begs the reader to pore over its details and imagine the possibilities such a world could hold. Finn’s journey to honor his grandfather is one of the best picture book journeys I’ve ever been on.”

—Erin Barker Yourstone, Quail Ridge Books, Raleigh, NC

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## The Boy, the Bird, and the Coffin Maker

By Matilda Woods, Anuska Allepuz (Illus.)

“A gentle tale—with a healthy dose of magic—about friendship, hope, and looking to the future. *The Boy, the Bird, and the Coffin Maker* reads like a newly discovered folktale that, once found, becomes essential. Sure to delight questing readers of all ages.”

—Sam Miller, Carmichael’s Bookstore, Louisville, KY

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## Puddin’

By Julie Murphy

“I adored Julie Murphy’s earlier book, *Dumplin’*, and *Puddin’* is every bit as delightful. Millie Michalchuk, the fat girl who was the runner-up in the Miss Teen Blue Bonnet Pageant in *Dumplin’*, is a born rule-follower who is nevertheless chafing at the restrictions being put on her by society—and by her overprotective mother. Millie has plans for her life that don’t fall within the narrow paths she’s been taught to follow. Callie, whose life revolves around the school’s dance team, seemingly has it all until a bad decision forces her out of her former life and into Millie’s orbit. Murphy gets inside her characters’ heads beautifully as she narrates the pains, pressures, and joys of high school.”

—Carol Schneck Varner, Schuler Books, Okemos, MI

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## Neverworld Wake

By Marisha Pessl

"*Neverworld Wake* begins like a young adult version of *Groundhog Day*, with a group of young people experiencing the same 11 hours over and over, trapped in a purgatory. One will be allowed to live while the others will die—and they must unanimously vote on it! Mysteries and secrets from the past intertwine with the dangers of the present in this wonderfully dark fantasy novel. Pessl really delves into the psyche of young people, exposing traumas and fears that are usually well-hidden. The finale is stunning—a brilliant piece of psychological drama that is both suspenseful and, ultimately, incredibly moving. This is a book adults and young adults will love."

—William Carl, Wellesley Books, Wellesley, MA

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## Breakout

By Kate Messner

"The format of *Breakout*—a collection of notes and recordings for a time capsule—was a great way to really get to know the book's characters. As a former English teacher, I know that this book will be beneficial for teaching voice and character development in English classes. By the end, I couldn't put it down for anything! I loved the poetry and history that swirled throughout—thank you, Kate Messner, yet again!"

—Shelley Lowe, Monkey and Dog Books, Fort Worth, TX

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