

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

ABUSE



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books about abuse as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the abuse list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities



To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this [Google Doc](#) that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

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Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents

Page 4: What is First Chapter Friday?

Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts

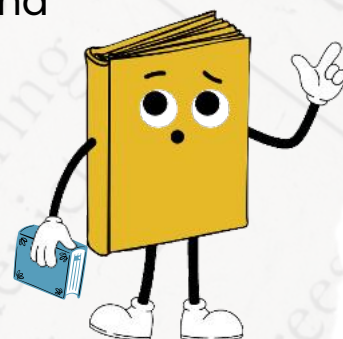
Page 7: Book List

Pages 9-12 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 14-17: Individual Book Posters

** More resources will be added in the future including a Reading Round Up Video to briefly explain every video on this list and possibly even some thematic coloring sheets.

As always, please email me with any title requests or questions. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)



HAPPY READING NEWBERY FANS!

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



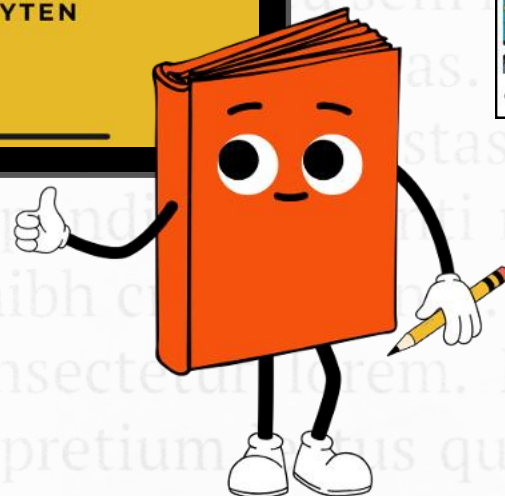
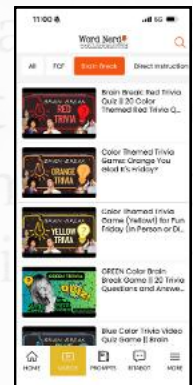
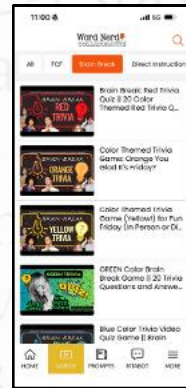
First Chapter Friday Videos

ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning



Writing Prompt Library

Brain Break Videos



AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER *Friday Videos*

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this [video](#) for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.



If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click [here](#).

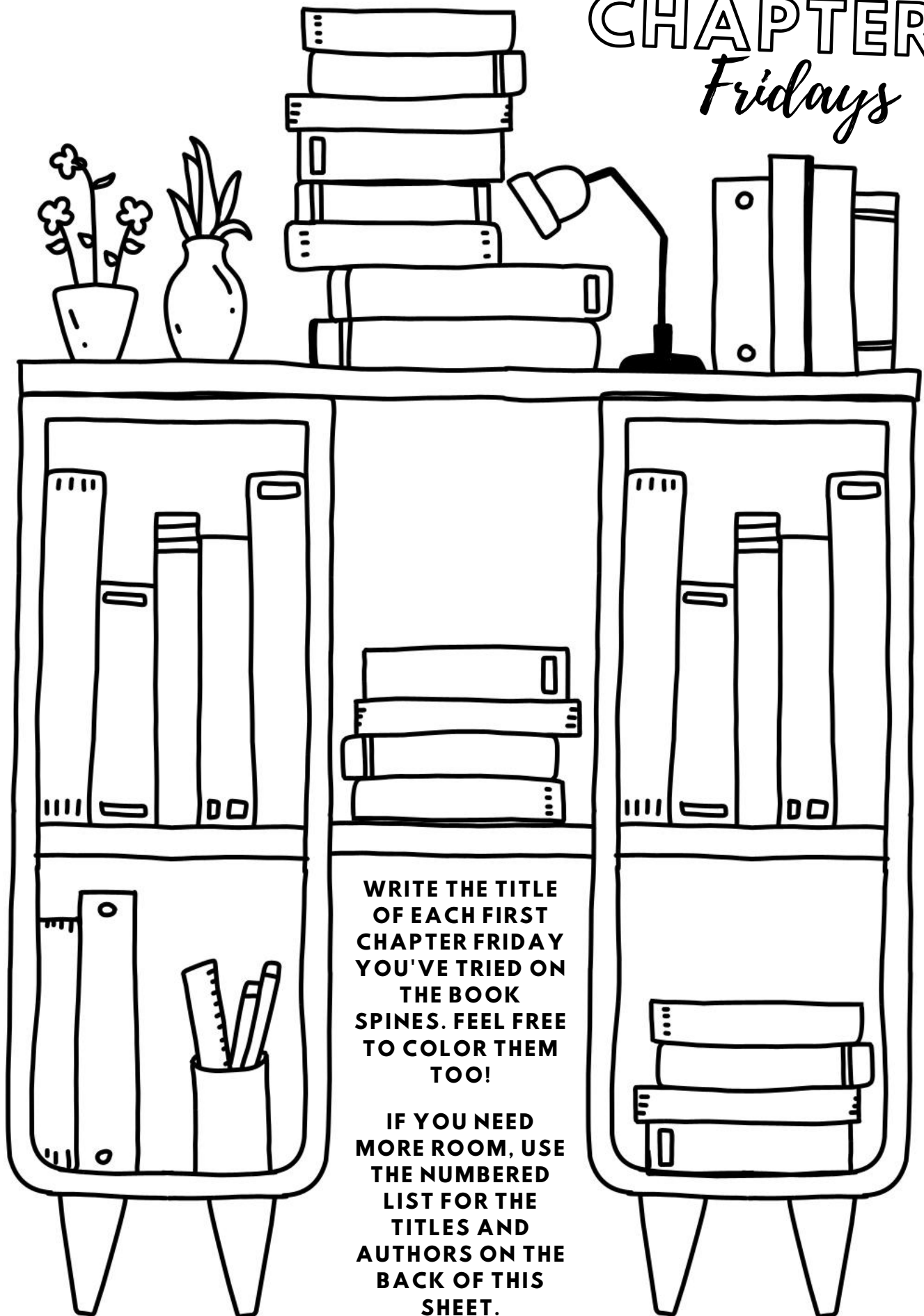
[Click here](#) for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

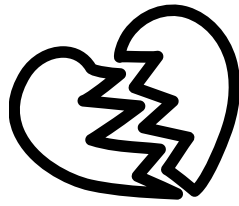
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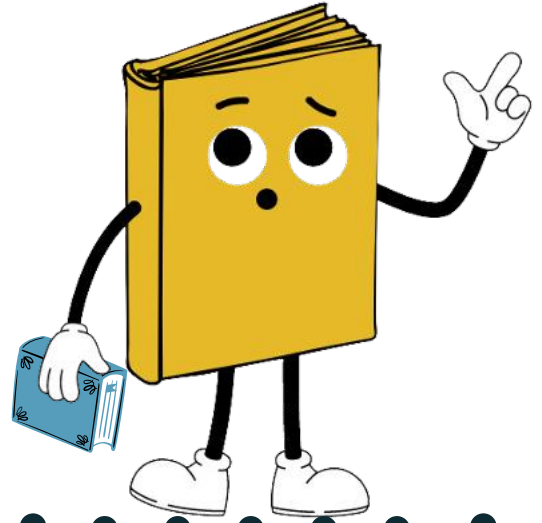
First CHAPTER *Fridays*



ABUSE



The books on this list touch on the topic of abuse, including physical, sexual... They are hard stories to read but are written to be helpful.



Chirp

by Kate Messner

Haven

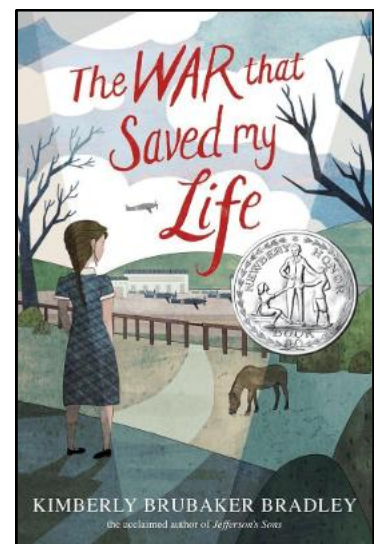
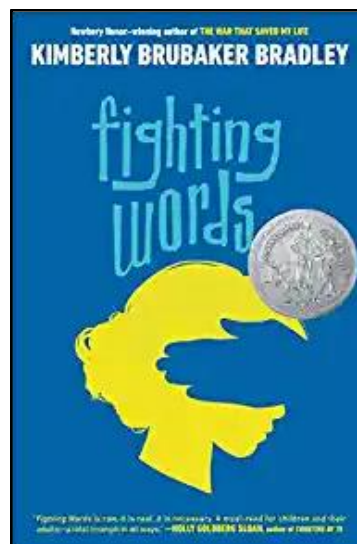
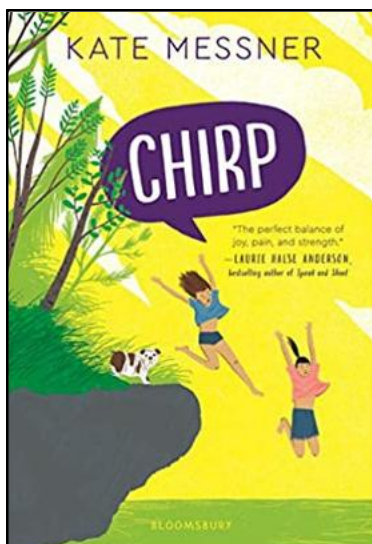
by Valerie Biel

Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

The War That Saved My Life

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Chirp
by Kate Messner

Name _____ Date _____

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Kate Messner is a prolific writer who has written books for both children and adults. She is known for her realistic fiction, often focusing on the lives of young people. In *Chirp*, she tells the story of a girl named Mia who is recovering from a broken arm and is struggling to find her voice and her place in the world. The book is a powerful exploration of resilience and the importance of finding one's own path.

Who's It For?

This book is for anyone who has ever felt like an outsider or someone who is struggling to find their voice. It is a story of hope and the power of friendship.

AR Reading Levels: 4.0 **Lexile Levels:** 400L

I want to read this book: ☐ YES ☐ NO

WHAT I THINK _____

Fighting Words
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Name _____ Date _____

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley is a bestselling author of children's books. In *Fighting Words*, she tells the story of a girl named Della who is a bully. Della is a complex character who is both a bully and a victim. The book explores the reasons why people bully and the consequences of their actions.

Who's It For?

This book is for anyone who is interested in the psychology of bullying. It is a story that challenges our preconceptions about bullies and victims.

AR Reading Levels: 3.0 **Lexile Levels:** 300L

I want to read this book: ☐ YES ☐ NO

WHAT I THINK _____

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Name _____ Date _____

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley is a bestselling author of children's books. In *The War That Saved My Life*, she tells the story of a girl named Cora who is orphaned during the war. Cora is a resilient and brave girl who finds a new family in a small town in England.

Who's It For?

This book is for anyone who is interested in the impact of war on children. It is a story of hope and the power of love.

AR Reading Levels: 4.1 **Lexile Levels:** 500L

I want to read this book: ☐ YES ☐ NO

WHAT I THINK _____

Haven
by Valerie Rice

Name _____ Date _____

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Valerie Rice is a bestselling author of children's books. In *Haven*, she tells the story of a girl named Haven who is a runaway. Haven is a complex character who is both a runaway and a victim. The book explores the reasons why people run away and the consequences of their actions.

Who's It For?

This book is for anyone who is interested in the psychology of running away. It is a story that challenges our preconceptions about runaways and victims.

AR Reading Levels: 4.0 **Lexile Levels:** 400L

I want to read this book: ☐ YES ☐ NO

WHAT I THINK _____

The War That Saved My Life
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

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AR Reading Levels: 4.0 **Lexile Levels:** 400L

I want to read this book: ☐ YES ☐ NO

WHAT I THINK _____



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY



Name _____

Date _____

Chirp

by Kate Messner



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

When Mia moves to Vermont the summer after seventh grade, she's recovering from the broken arm she got falling off a balance beam. And packed away in the moving boxes under her clothes and gymnastics trophies is a secret she'd rather forget. Mia's change in scenery brings day camp, new friends, and time with her beloved grandmother. But Gram is convinced someone is trying to destroy her cricket farm. Is it sabotage or is Gram's thinking impaired from the stroke she suffered months ago? Mia and her friends set out to investigate, but can they uncover the truth in time to save Gram's farm? And will that discovery empower Mia to confront the secret she's been hiding--and find the courage she never knew she had?

In a compelling story rich with friendship, science, and summer fun, a girl finds her voice while navigating the joys and challenges of growing up.

Who Wrote It?

Kate Messner is passionately curious and writes books that encourage kids to wonder. She writes picture books, chapter books and books for middle schoolers. Before becoming a full-time writer, Kate was a TV news reporter as well as an educator who spent fifteen years teaching middle school English. She lives on Lake Champlain with her family and is trying to summit all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in between book deadlines. Kate's writing advice? "I think one of the most important things to do if you want to be a writer is to lead an interesting life. Go outside. Try new things. Talk to people, especially people whose lives are different



from yours. And don't pass up opportunities." You can learn more about Kate and her many books at her website: www.katemessner.com or in this videos' interview!

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Haven

by Valerie Biel

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Taking only what they can quickly pack, 11-year-old Mardella Houston and her mom secretly move away from her abusive, drug-dealing father to start a fresh life in the one-stoplight town of Haven, Minnesota. But Mardella's sure she's to blame—if only she hadn't dialed 911, none of this would be happening. Her dad wouldn't be in jail, her mom would still have her old job, Mardella would still have friends, and they wouldn't be starting over. She knows she should be grateful that her mom's new job at Rest Haven Senior Living gives them a place to live—but the over-age-65 residence is a boring, run-down, funny smelling place. Even so, Mardella volunteers to make their new home as cheerful as possible. Through these colorful projects, she is surprised that she soon has new friends—of all ages. But when her father gets out of jail, angry and determined to find them, Mardella realizes she's made another terrible mistake—one that might destroy her chance at a new, happy life. This time it's up to her to fix everything and keep her mom and new friends safe. This moving middle grade novel sensitively addresses a tough topic through the eyes of a preteen. (Ages 9+)

Who Wrote It?

Valerie Biel writes books for middle grade to adult audiences--stories inspired by her travels and her insatiable curiosity. She helps other authors with their book promotion and marketing and frequently teaches writing workshops and independent publishing classes to students of all ages. When Valerie's away from the computer, you might find her wrangling her overgrown garden, reading everything she can get her hands on, or traveling the world--often on trips for the charity she runs with her husband, The World Orphan Fund. Once upon a time, she graduated from the University of Wisconsin with degrees in journalism and political science. She lives with her husband on a (tiny) portion of her family's century-old farm in rural Wisconsin, but regularly dreams of finding a cozy cottage on the Irish coast where she can write and write.



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.



Name _____

Date _____

Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki. When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf--her protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Della might get told off for swearing at school, but she has always known how to keep quiet where it counts. Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns so far upside down, it feels like it's shaking her by the ankles. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.

In this powerful novel that explodes the stigma around child sexual abuse and leavens an intense tale with compassion and humor, Kimberly Brubaker Bradley tells a story about two sisters, linked by love and trauma, who must find their own voices before they can find their way back to each other.

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1967. I loved to read—I was the sort of kid who would skip recess to go talk with my school librarian—but I didn't know any writers, and I didn't think it was the sort of job I could have. I loved chemistry, too, and I majored in chemistry in college. I was lucky, though, to go to Smith, a liberal arts school where I was encouraged to learn everything that interested me, and I took lots of writing classes. I married my high-school sweetheart, and for awhile I worked as a research chemist and wrote stories late at night and on weekends. But I realized I really wanted to be a writer. My husband and I are still in Bristol, TN



where we live on a 52-acre farm. We love to travel and learn about history from all over the world. Learn more about Kimberly in the interview included at the end of this video!

AR Reading Level: 3.6

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

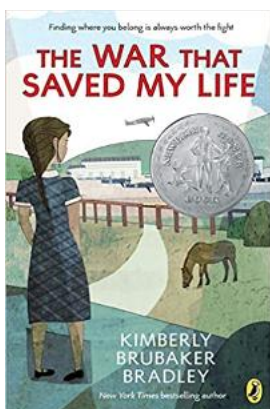
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.

So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan—and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. But in the end, will their bond be enough to hold them together through wartime? Or will Ada and her brother fall back into the cruel hands of their mother?

*Newbery Honor book
*Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award

Who Wrote It?

In 1967, Kimberly was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She always loved to read, often skipping recess to go talk with her school librarian. Being a writer floated in her daydreams, but she didn't know any writers, and it didn't feel like a real job. In school she loved chemistry in addition to writing. When she went to college, she majored in chemistry. She was lucky, though, a liberal arts school (Smith) where she was encouraged to study all sorts of different subjects, and she took lots of writing classes. She married my high-school sweetheart, and for awhile I worked as a research chemist and wrote stories late at night and on weekends. But eventually, she realized she really wanted



to be a writer and began pursuing that path. Kimberly and her husband and live in Bristol, TN where we live on a 52-acre farm. We love to travel and learn about history from all over the world.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 580L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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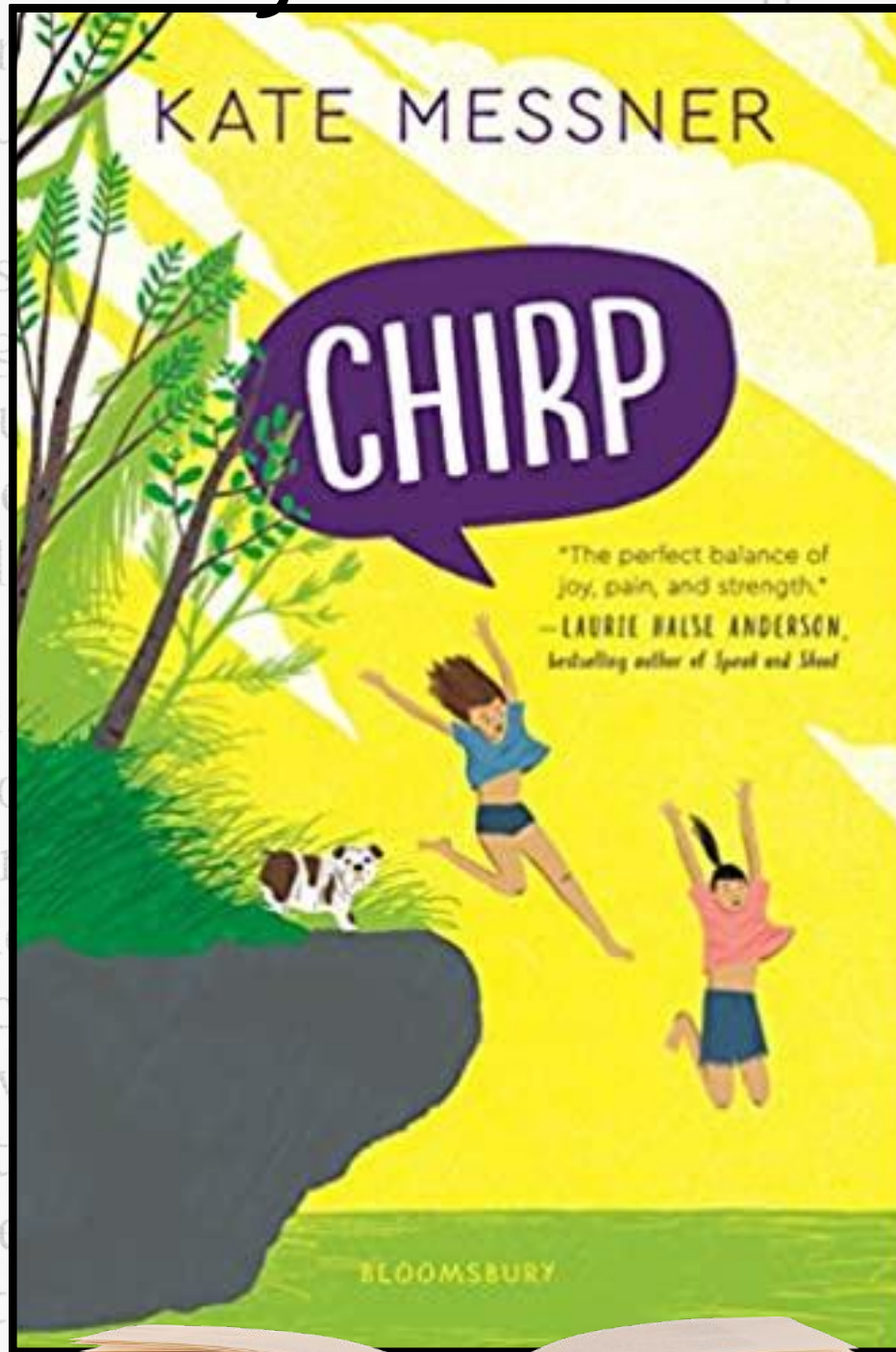
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

CHIRP

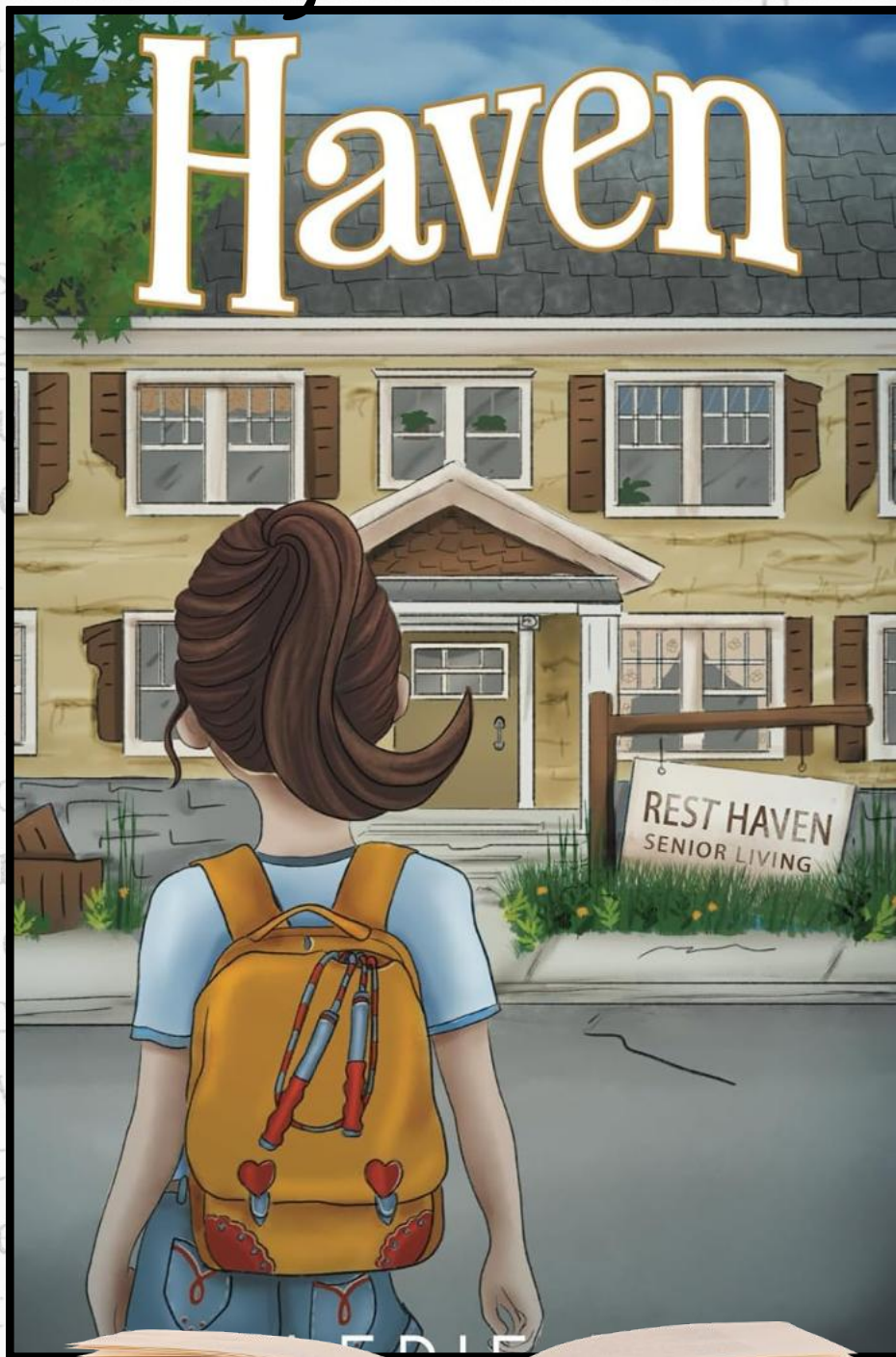
by Kate Messner



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HAVEN

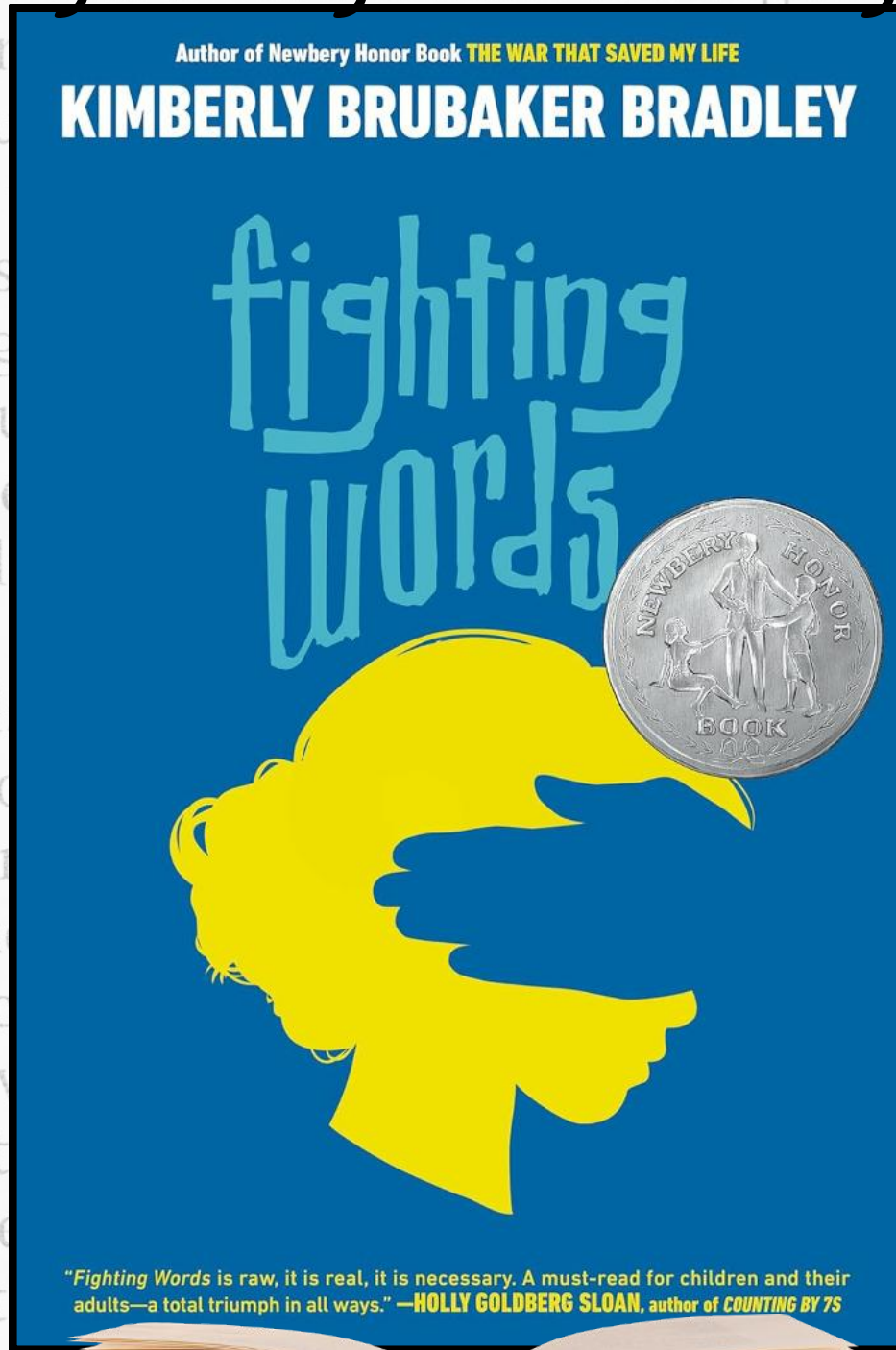
by Valerie Biel



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

FIGHTING WORDS

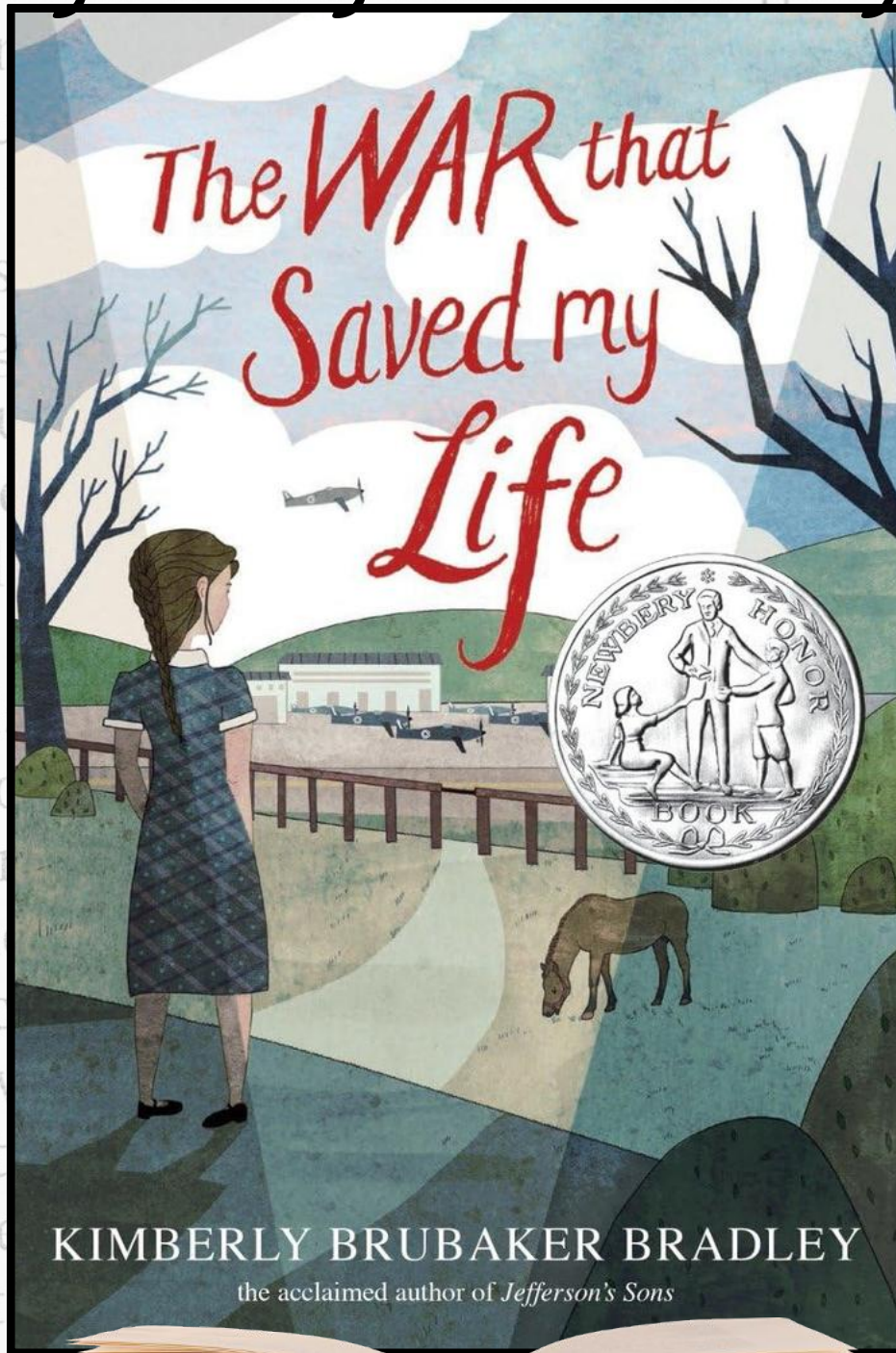
by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY