WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

OUTER SPACE



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books that take place in outer space as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the animal main character 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 Frist Chapter Friday?
Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts
Page 7: Book List
Pages 9-14 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets
Pages 16-21: 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!

MUST TRY

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



First Chapter Friday Videos

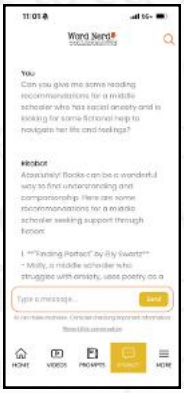


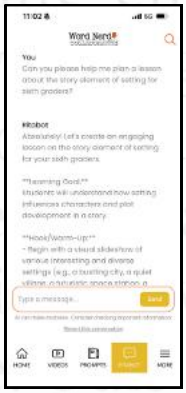
Writing Prompt Library

FREE!



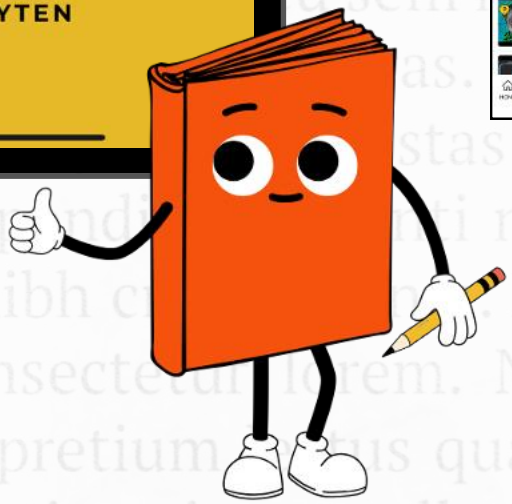
ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning





Brain Break Videos





AVIALBLE 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

Teacher Planning Sheet

First CHAPTER Friday



DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	STUDENT REACTION?

Name: _____

Quarter: #__



BOOKS I'VE READ

Use this worksheet to keep track of the books you have read the quarter.

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION

WNC BOOK LIST

OUTER SPACE

These books take place among the stars and galaxies far, far away.



Alone Out Here by Riley Redgate

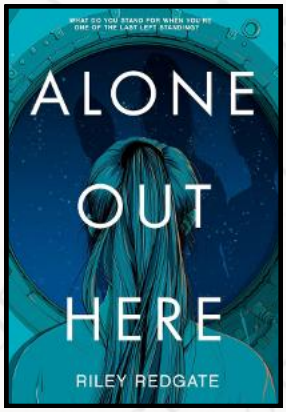
Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

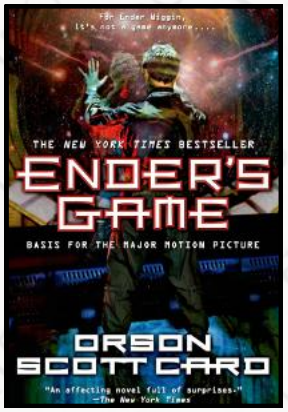
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barbara Higuera

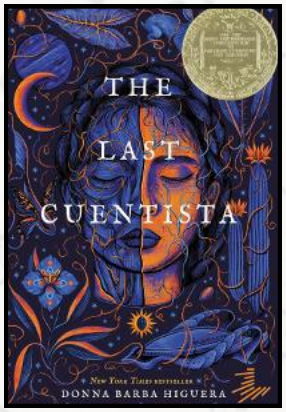
The Lion of Mars
by Jennifer L. Holm

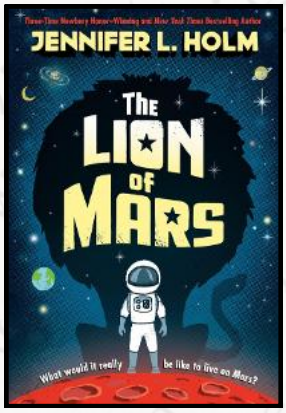
A Rover's Story
by Jasmine Warga

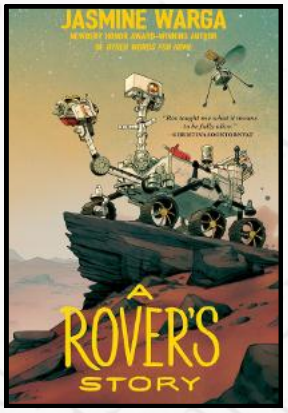
A Wrinkle in Time
by Madeline L'Engle

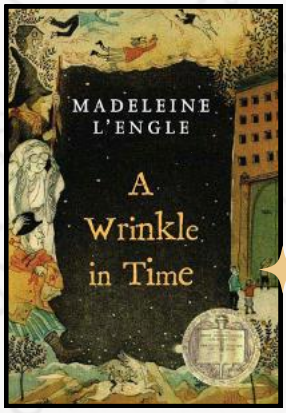












INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

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Name _____ Date _____



Alone Out Here
by Riley Redgate

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?

The year is 2072. Soon a volcanic eruption will trigger catastrophic devastation, and the only way out is up. While the world's leaders, scientists, and engineers oversee the frantic production of a space fleet meant to save humankind, their children are brought in for a weekend of touring the Lazarus, a high-tech prototype spaceship. But when the apocalypse arrives months ahead of schedule, First Daughter Leigh Chen and a handful of teens from the tour are the only ones to escape the planet. This is the new world: a starship loaded with a catalog of human artifacts, a frozen menagerie of animal DNA, and fifty-three terrified survivors. From the panic arises a coalition of leaders, spearheaded by the pilot's enigmatic daughter, Eli, who takes the wheel in their hunt for a habitable planet. But as isolation presses in, their uneasy peace begins to fracture. The struggle for control will mean the difference between survival and oblivion, and Leigh must decide whether to stand on the side of the mission or of her own humanity.

Who Wrote It?

I majored in Economics at Kenyon College, which is somehow even prettier in reality than in its promotional photographs. I'm now based in Chicago, where I was an apprentice with The Onion, America's Finest News Source. I am a genre omnivore whose favorite books include: Zadie Smith's Swing Time, Patrick Ness's Chaos Walking trilogy, Emily St. John Mandel's Station Eleven, George R.R. Martin's A Storm of Swords, Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility, Suzanne Collins's Catching Fire, Vladimir Nabokov's Pale Fire, Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl, and Kazuo Ishiguro's The Remains of the Day. I'm also enthusiastic about these things: sharks, parallel universes, Jennifer Kent's 2014 film The Babadook, the last forty seconds of Chopin's 4th Ballade (F Minor), and improbably large dogs.



You can learn more about Riley and her work on her website: www.rileyredgate.com

AR Reading Level/Lexile Level: Neither available
Publisher Recommends book for Ages 14+

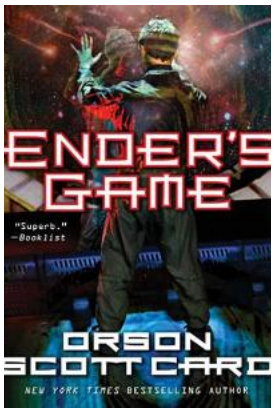
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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Name _____ Date _____

Ender's Game
by Orson Scott Card

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

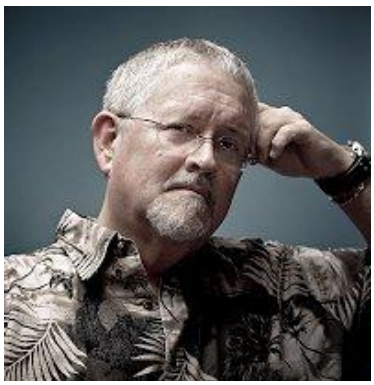
What's It About?

In order to develop a secure defense against a hostile alien race's next attack, government agencies breed child geniuses and train them as soldiers. Young Ender is the Wiggin drafted to the orbiting Battle School for rigorous military training. Ender's skills make him a leader in school and respected in the Battle Room, where children play at mock battles in zero gravity. Yet growing up in an artificial community of young soldiers Ender suffers greatly from isolation, rivalry from his peers, pressure from the adult teachers, and an unsettling fear of the alien invaders. The war with the Buggers has been raging for a hundred years, and the quest for the perfect general has been underway for almost as long. Ender's two older siblings are every bit as unusual as he is, but in very different ways. Between the three of them lie the abilities to remake a world. If, that is, the world survives.

Orson Scott Card's Ender's Game is the winner of the 1985 Nebula Award for Best Novel and the 1986 Hugo Award for Best Novel.

Who Wrote It?

Card was born in Washington and grew up in California, Arizona, and Utah. As a child he enjoyed reading and playing in the marching band. ard graduated from high school at the end of his junior year. He won a Presidential Scholarship to BYU which he entered as an archaeology major. Like many young artists in love with their art, Card resented all the hours that the university required him to "waste" on general education re= quirements; as a novelist, however, he found that those were the most useful parts of his college education. Besides his writing, he teaches classes and workshops and directs plays. Card currently lives in Greensboro, NC, with his wife, Kristine Allen Card.



AR Reading Level: 5.5 Lexile Level: 780

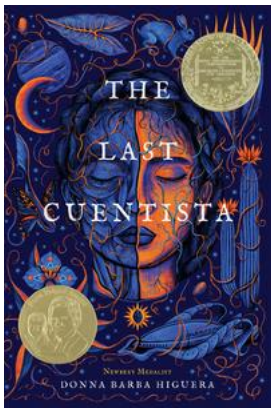
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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Name _____ Date _____

The Last Cuentista
by Donna Barba Higuera

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?

Había una vez . . . There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita.

But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children – among them Petra and her family – have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet – and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard – or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?

2022 Newbery Award Winner
2022 Pura Belpré Award Winner
School Library Journal's Best of the Year
Kirkus Reviews' Best of the Year

Who Wrote It?

Donna grew up in Central California surrounded by agricultural and oil fields. As a child she preferred spending recess squirreled away in the janitor's closet with a good book. Her favorite hobbies were calling dial-a-story over and over again, and sneaking into a restricted cemetery to weave her own spooky tales using the crumbling headstones as inspiration. Donna's Middle Grade and Picture Books are about kids who find themselves in odd or scary situations. From language to cultural differences in being biracial life can become...complicated. So like Donna, characters tackle more than just the bizarre things that happen to them in their lives. Donna likes to write



about all things funny, but also sad, and creepy, and magical. If you like those things, she hopes you will read her books! Donna lives in Washington State with her family, three dogs and two frogs.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Lexile Level: N/A

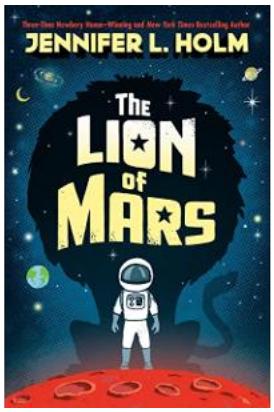
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

The Lion of Mars
by Jennifer L. Holm

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?

Bell is just like any other kid. He loves cats, eats all kinds of cake, and is curious about everything. Oh, and he lives on another planet! Living on Mars comes with a ton of rules. Like don't go outside without a buddy. Always keep a glow stick in your pocket. And no contact with the kids in the other settlements. Ever. Then a virus breaks out among the grown-ups, and the children are the only ones who can help. Suddenly it's up to Bell - a regular kid in a very different world - to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Life on Mars is pretty standard.... until a mysterious virus hits. Don't miss this timely and unputdownable novel from the bestselling author of The Fourteenth Goldfish.

Who Wrote It?

Jennifer L. Holm is a NEW YORK TIMES-bestselling children's author and the recipient of three Newbery Honors for her novels OUR ONLY MAY AMELIA, PENNY FROM HEAVEN, and TURTLE IN PARADISE. Jennifer collaborates with her brother, Matthew Holm, on several graphic novel series including the the Eisner Award-winning Babymouse series, the bestselling Sunny series, and the Squish series which is now a streaming show on HBO MAX. Her new novel is THE LION OF MARS. She lives in California with her husband, two children, and two bossy cats names Augustus and Livvie (after the Roman Emperor and Empress.)



AR Reading Level: 5.2

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

A Rover's Story by Jasmine Warga

Includes Author Interview!

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?

Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop humanlike feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming.... Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly. But Res quickly discovers that Mars is a dangerous place filled with dust storms and giant cliffs. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage, and resilience to succeed... and survive?

The One and Only Ivan meets The Wild Robot in this unique and deeply moving middle grade novel about the journey of a fictional Mars rover, from the Newbery Honor–winning author of Other Words for Home. New York Times bestseller!

A Best Book of the Year from The Washington Post and Publishers Weekly

Who Wrote It?

I was born on April 24, 1988 at 11:59 PM in Cincinnati, Ohio. This means that I am a Taurus if you are into astrology and star stuff, which I most definitely am. Also, like all other people from Cincinnati, I am inordinately proud of my little Midwestern city and think that Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream is the most delicious food in the whole world. (I'm really into a baby hippo named Fiona, too. She makes her home at the Cincinnati Zoo.) I loved to read. I also loved to tell stories. I come from a long-line of story-tellers. I only met my paternal grandmother twice—she lived in Jordan—but one of my most distinct childhood



memories is of her telling me a story about the mermaids that live in the Dead Sea. That story has stayed with me for years. Stories are the way I make sense of our messy and complicated world.

AR Reading Level: 4.1 Lexile Level: currently unavailable

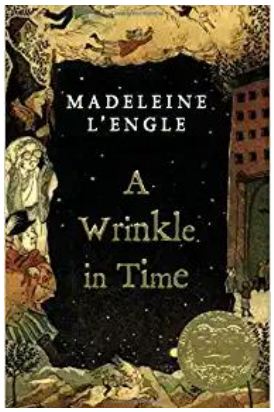
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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Name _____ Date _____

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle

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?

This book chronicles the adventures of Meg Murry, her little brother and new friend Calvin O'Keefe as they travel through space and time. They are in search of Meg's father, a scientist who disappeared while engaged in secret work for the government on the tesseract problem.

A Wrinkle in Time won the Newbery Award in 1962.

There have been two movie versions made of this book.

Ellen Raskin, who won the Newbery Medal for The Westing Game (1979) drew the illustrations in the original 1962 publication of this book!

This book is the first in a series of 5, called the Time Quintet.

This book is a mix of fantasy and science fiction.

Who Wrote It?

Madeline was born in 1918 in New York City. At age 12, she moved to the French Alps with her parents and went to an English boarding school where, thankfully, her passion for writing continued to grow. She went to Smith College. After college she worked at a theater, wrote two books and was married. Shortly after, she had a baby girl and kept on writing, eventually moving to Connecticut to raise the family away from the city in a small dairy farm village with more cows than people. They bought a dead general store, and brought it to life for 9 years. In her career Madeline wrote over 60 books! She is a literary legend!



AR Reading Level: 4.7 Lexile Level: 740L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

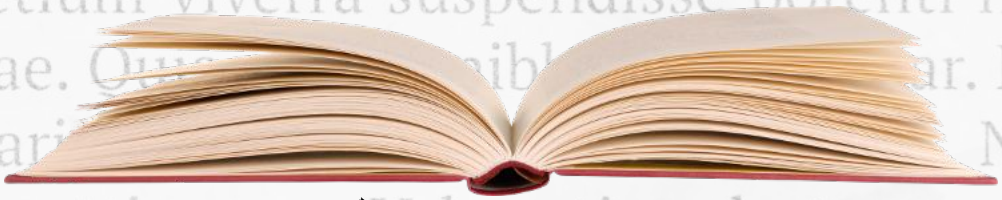
WHAT I THINK



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

INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS

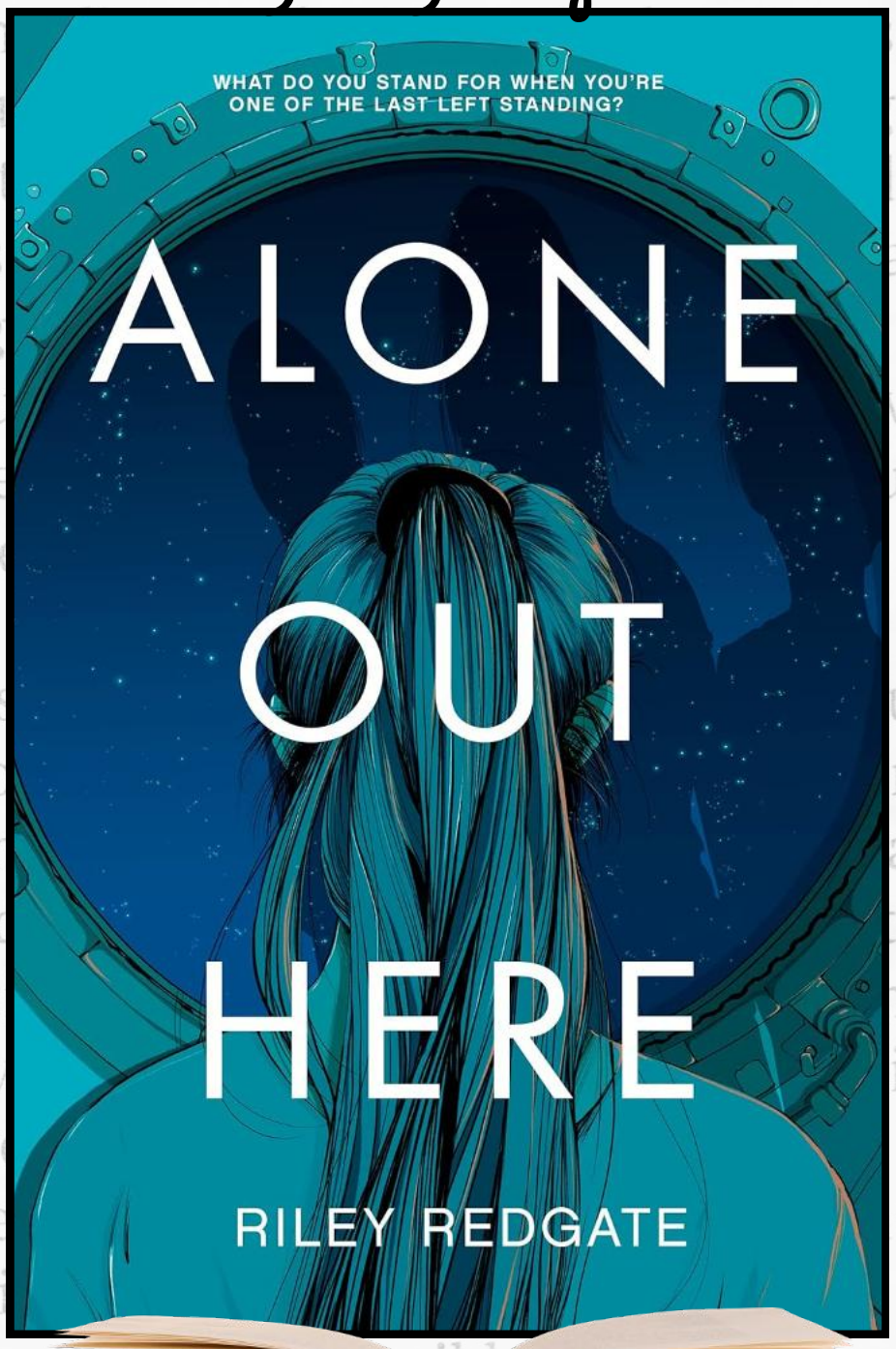




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

ALONE OUT HERE

By Riley Redgate

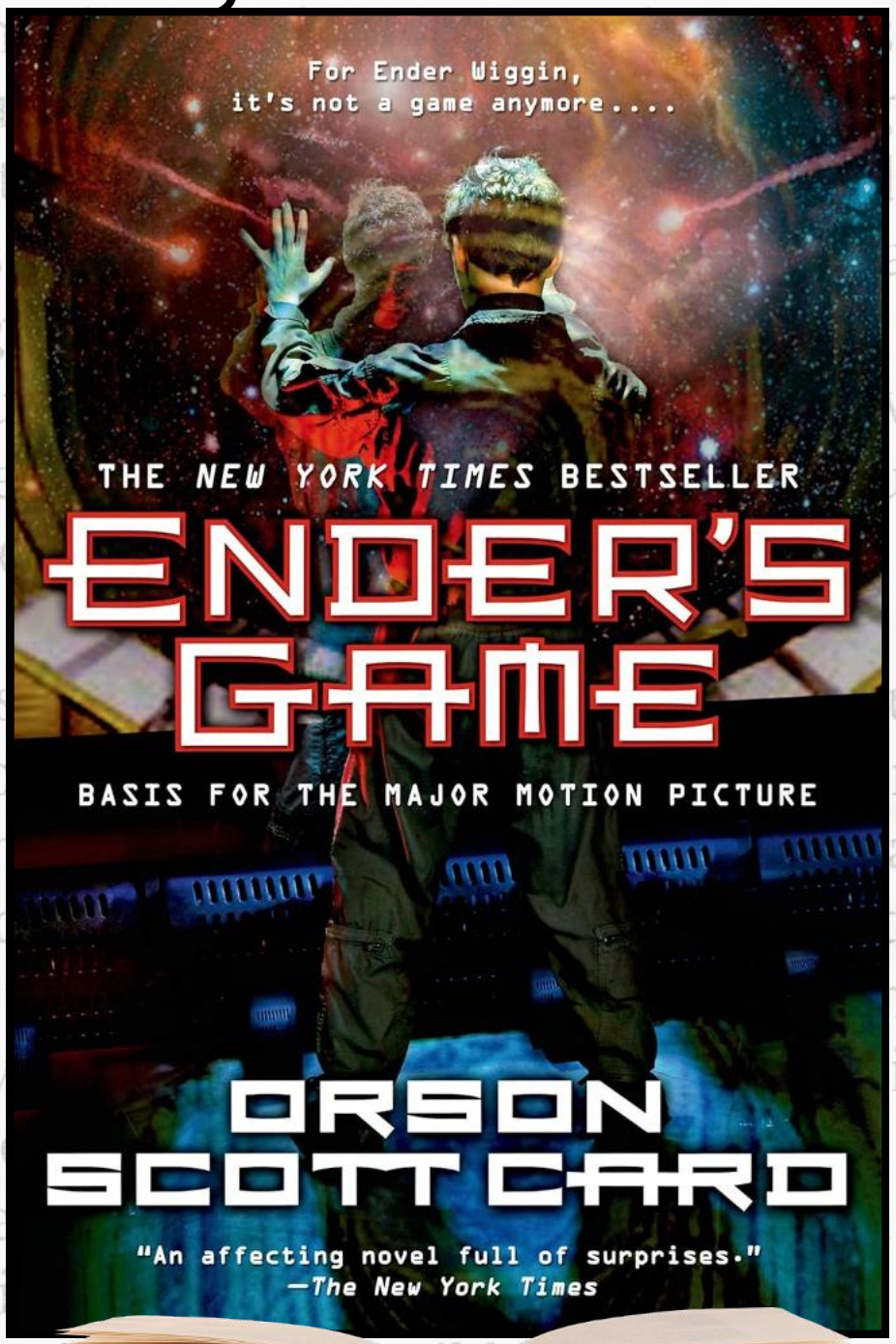




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

ENDER'S GAME

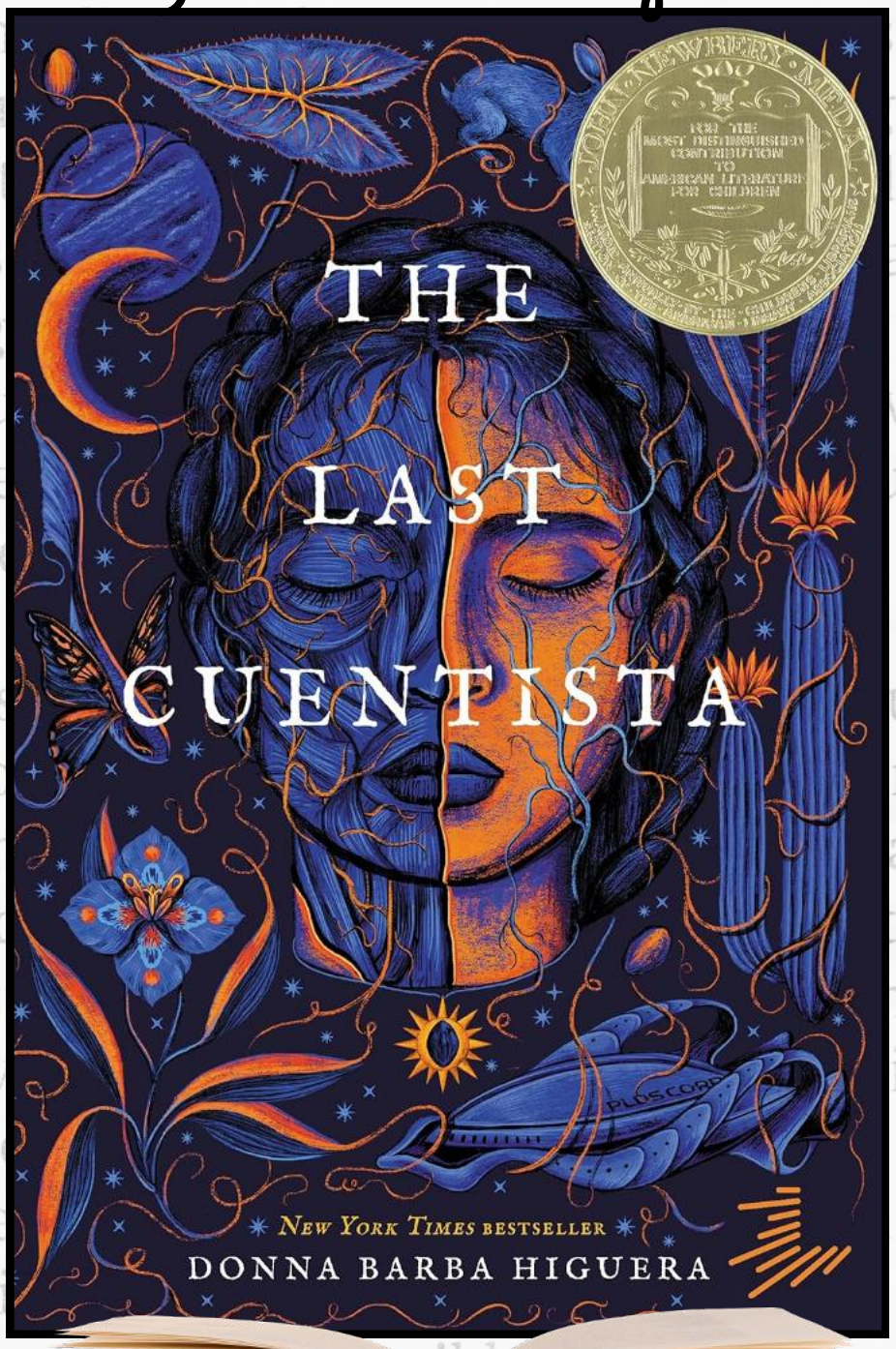
By Orson Scott Card



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE LAST CUENTISTA

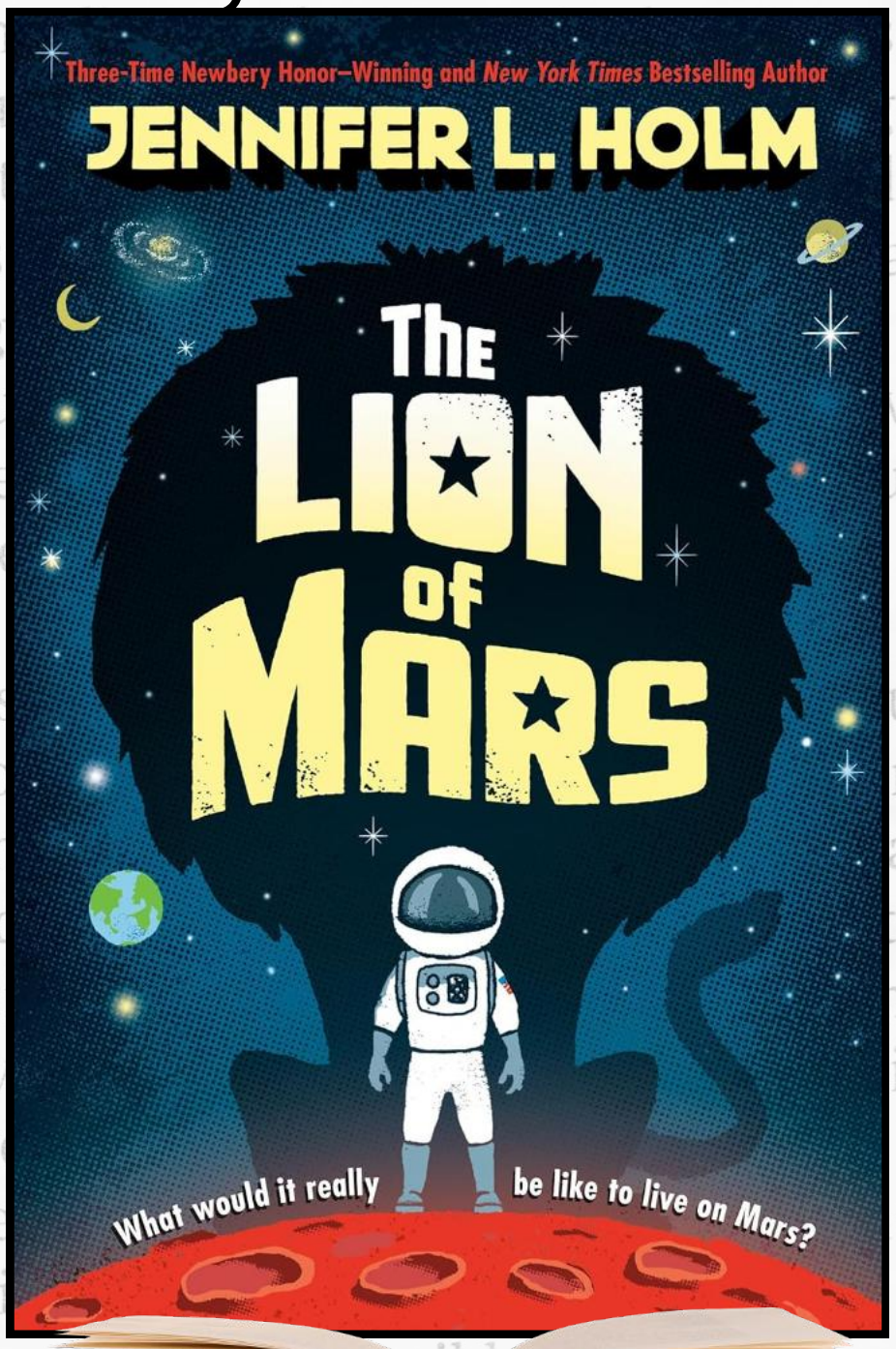
By Donna Barba Higuera



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE LION OF MARS

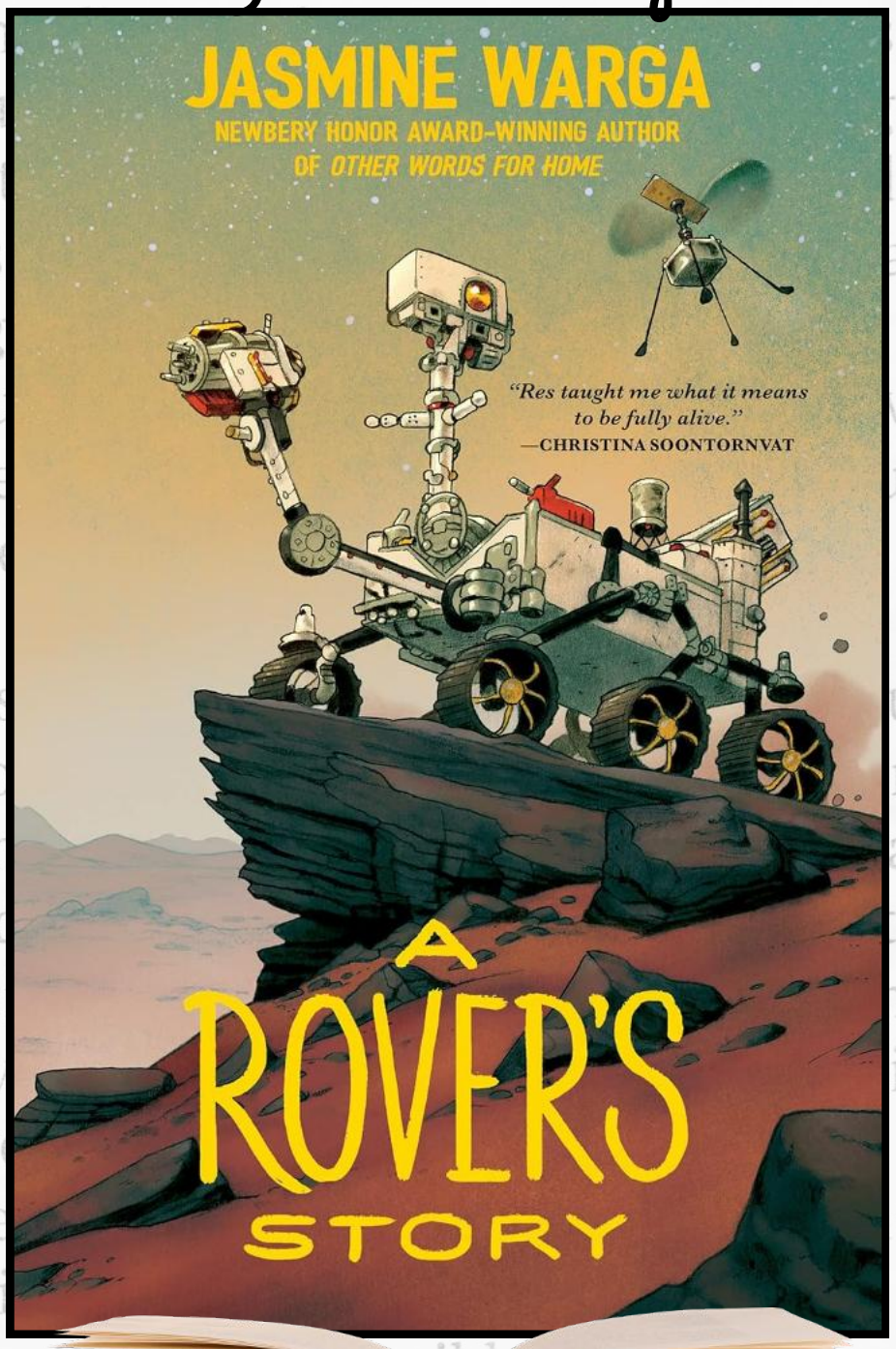
By Jennifer L. Holm

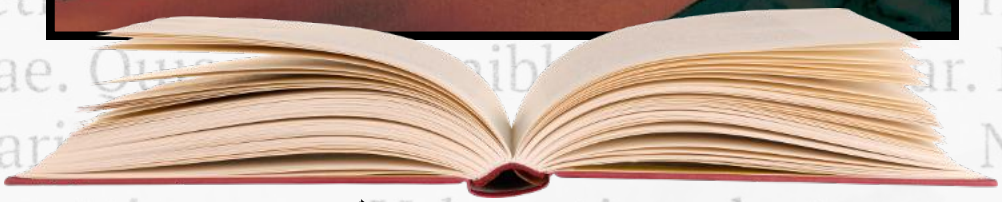


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A ROVER'S STORY

By Jasmine Warga

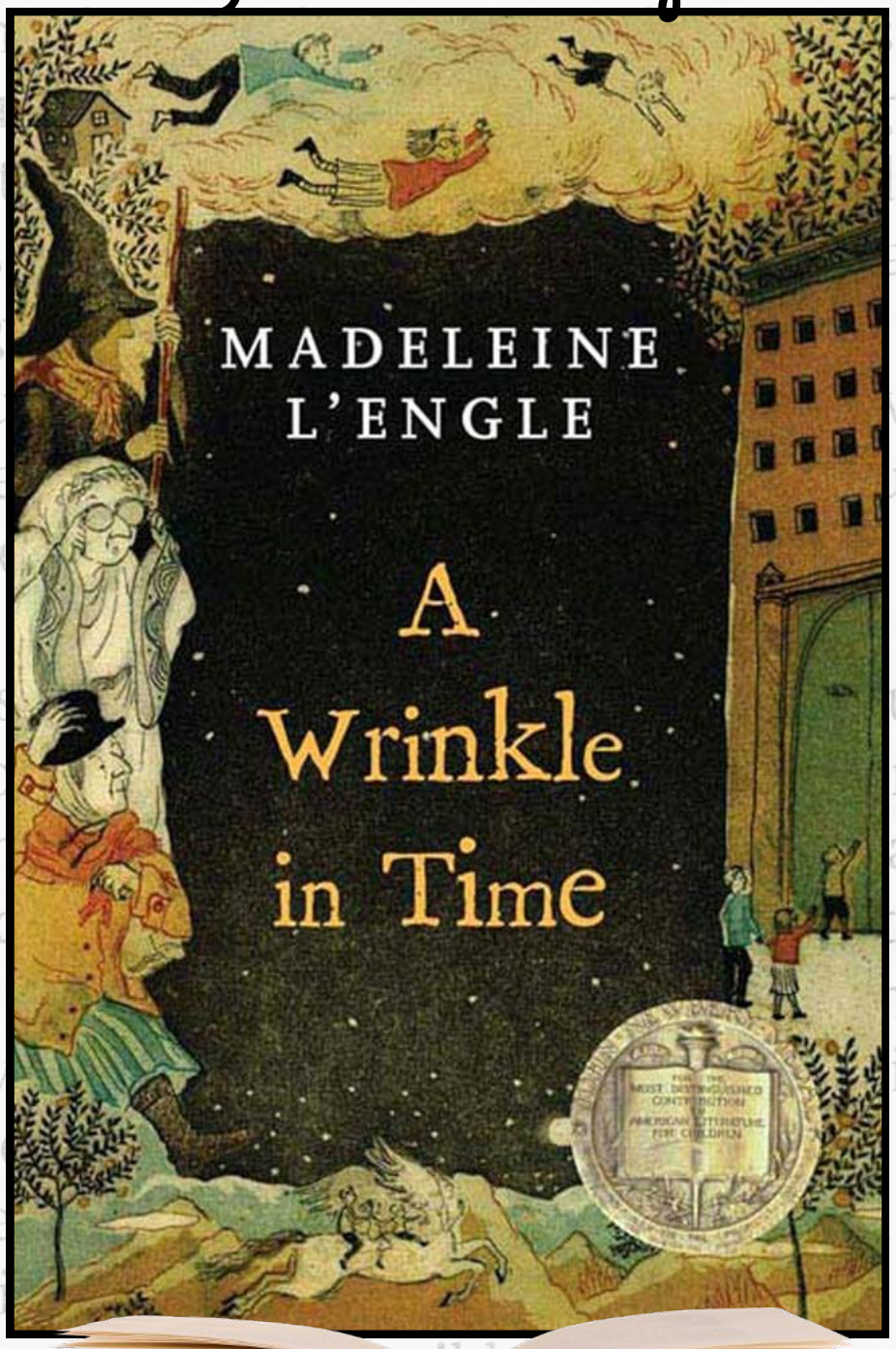




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A WRINKLE IN TIME

By Madeleine L'Engle



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY