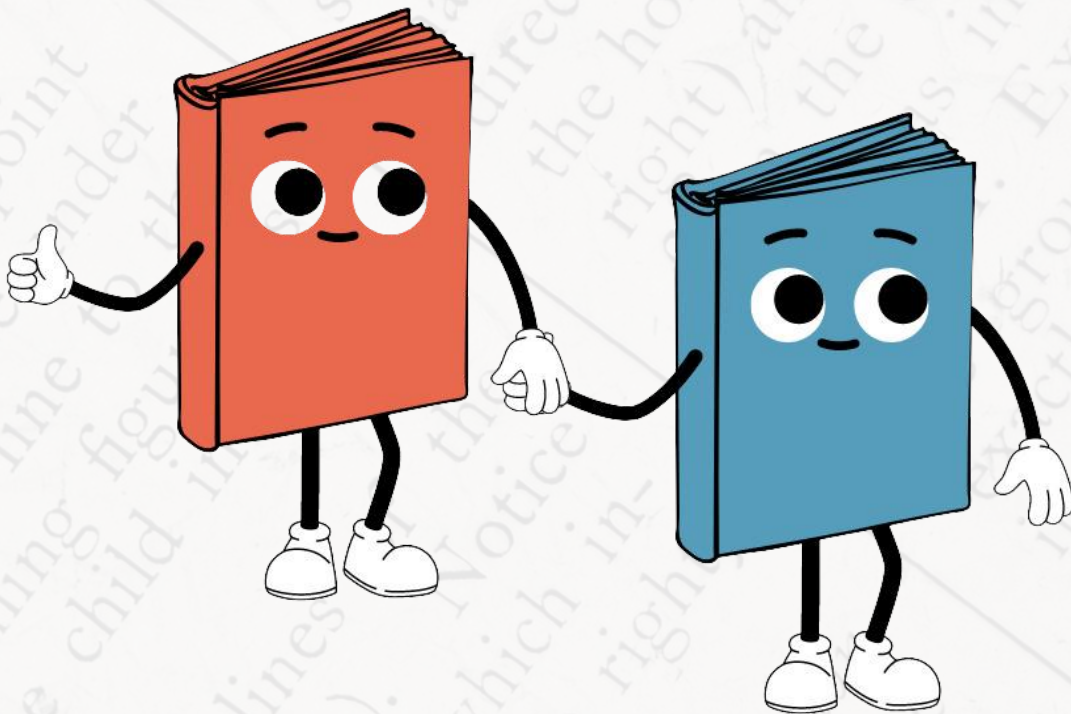


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

FRIENDSHIP



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books that feature friendships as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the friendship 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.

Table of Contents

Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents

Page 4: What is First Chapter Friday?

Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts

Page 7: Book List

Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster

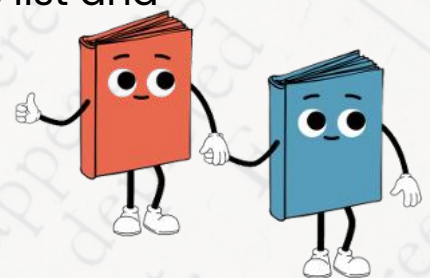
Pages 10-24 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 26-39: 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 BESTIES!



Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



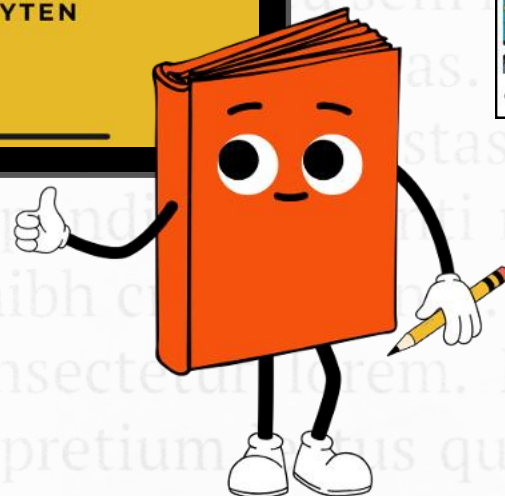
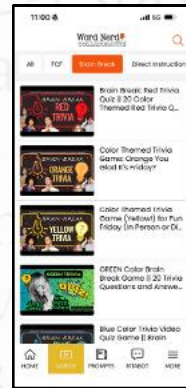
First Chapter Friday Videos

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

[illegible]

Name: _____

Quarter: #__



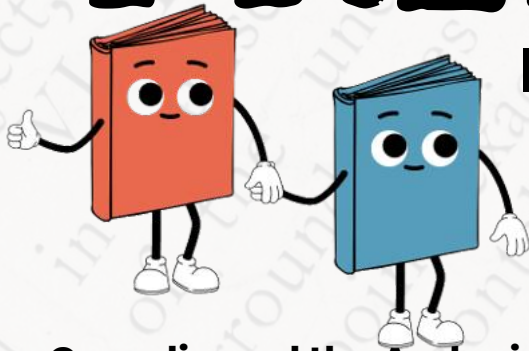
FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TRACKER

Use this worksheet to keep track of the First Chapter Friday
Videos you listen to throughout the quarter.

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION

FRIENDSHIP



learning to be and find good friends



Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters

by Leslie M.M. Blume

Deadlands

by Skye Wegner Melki

Dear Student

by Elly Swartz

Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things We Fouled Up

by Jenn Bishop

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

Hello, Universe

by Erin Entrada Kelly

The House Swap

by Yvette Clark

Marvelous Jackson

by Laura Anne Bird

The Mother Daughter Book Club

by Heather Vogel Frederick

Nowhere Boy

by Katherine Marsh

Olivetti

by Allie Millington

Rules

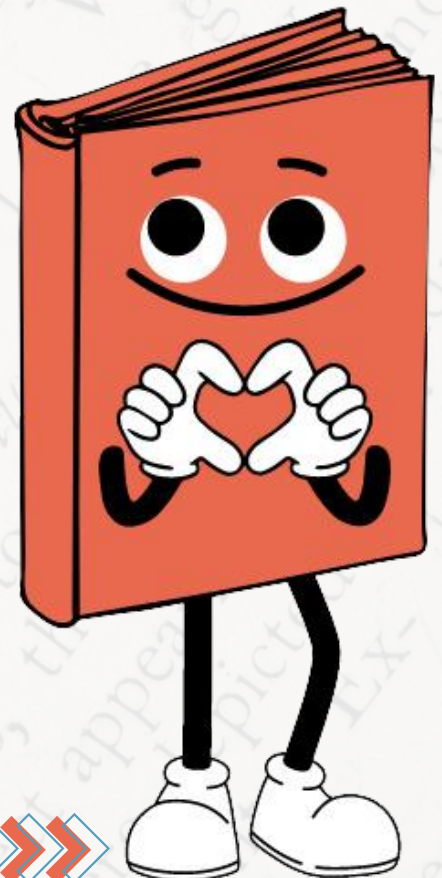
by Cynthia Lord

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

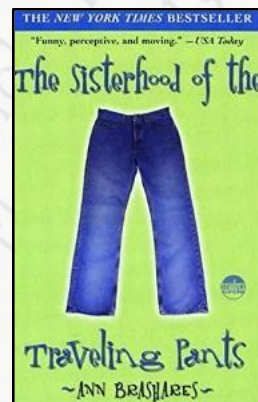
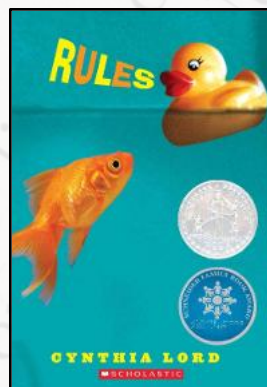
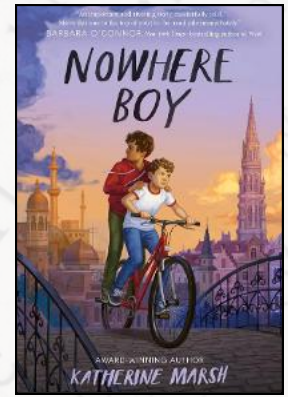
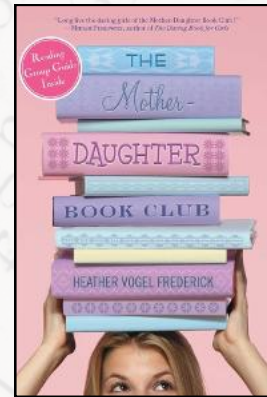
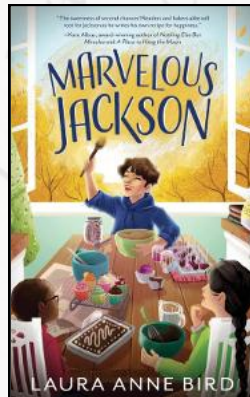
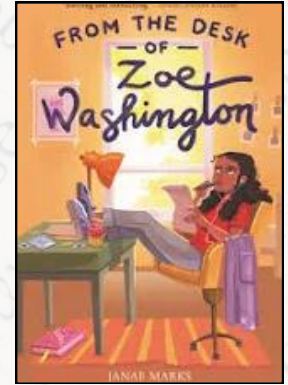
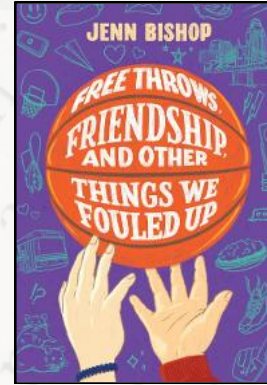
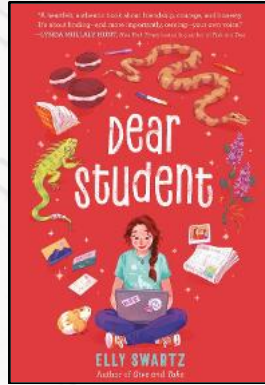
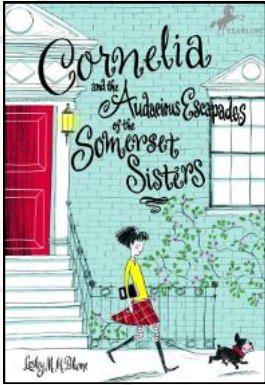
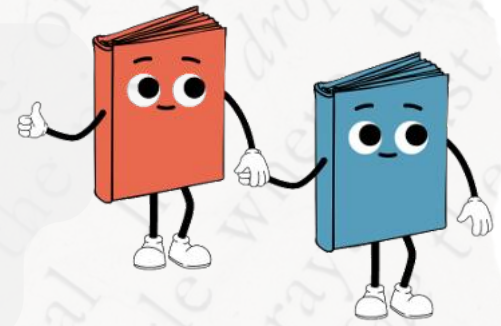
by Ann Brashares

Witchlings

by Claribel A. Ortega



BOOKS ABOUT: FRIENDSHIP

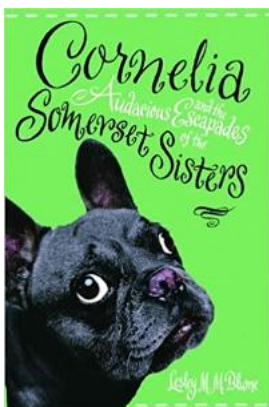


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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters

by Lesley M.M. Blume



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?

Eleven-year-old Cornelia S. Englehard lives in New York City and is the daughter of world-famous concert pianists. Her legacy should feel fabulous, but instead it feels just plain lonely.

In a world where privacy is as rare as diamonds, Cornelia isolates herself inside a fortress of books full of long and complicated words. But when a glamorous writer named Virginia Somerset moves next door with her servant Patel and her mischievous French bulldog, Cornelia discovers that the world is a much more exciting place than she had originally thought.

With a cast of unforgettable characters – from the ghost of King Arthur to Pablo Picasso to Virginia's three winsome and irrepressible sisters – and deliciously imaginative storytelling that takes the reader around the world and back again, *Cornelia and the Audacious Escapades of the Somerset Sisters* is a magical story of friendship and adventure.

If you like to travel, you will love this book!

Who Wrote It?

The daughter of a classical pianist mother and a journalist father, Blume followed her father's footsteps into the newsroom. She later became an off-air reporter and researcher for ABC News Nightline with Ted Koppel in Washington, D.C., where she helped cover the historic presidential election in 2000, the 9/11 attacks, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Blume earned a B.A. in history from Williams College, and a major in Historical Studies from Cambridge University. She is a New York Times bestselling author who has also appeared in National Geographic. Lesley writes for both adults and kids.



She recently moved from New York City to Los Angeles with her husband, also once a Nightline journalist. Their first date was a bio-chemical warfare training session just before the 2003 Iraq invasion. You can learn more at www.lesleymblume.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.5

Lexile Level: 650L

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 Deadlands

by Skye Melki-Wegner



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?

Wings of Fire meets Jurassic Park in this action-adventure middle grade debut series by Skye Melki-Wegner about five outcasts—and former enemies—who are the only hope to save their warring kingdoms from impending doom.

Battle rages between the dinosaur kingdoms of Cretacea. When the Fallen Star struck, it brought death and despair, ash and toxic rain. But some dinosaurs survived . . . and were changed. Their minds grew alert. They learned to speak. To dream. To wage war. As the two remaining dinosaur kingdoms fight for territory, Eleri, the disgraced son of a prince, is exiled from his home for saving an enemy soldier. Banished to the merciless Deadlands, a terrifying desert full of tar pits, poisonous gas, and ruthless carnivores, he must join forces with a group of questionable allies—including the enemy soldier he saved—to avoid becoming prey. When Eleri and his fellow exiles discover the horrific truth behind the war, the unlikely heroes must do all they can to save their kingdoms from a lurking predator. . . and a secret plot that might destroy them all.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Who Wrote It?

Skye Melki-Wegner started writing as soon as she could hold a pen. She was immediately drawn to fantasy — and soon her notebooks overflowed with dragons, pixies, wizards and various magical shenanigans. After graduating with an honors degree in law, she decided to pursue her passion and prioritized writing fantasy



books over pursuing a legal career. Sky lives in Melbourne, Australia. Visit Skye's website [here](#).

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 _____



Dear Student by Elly Swartz



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 Autumn becomes the secret voice of the advice column in her middle school newspaper she is faced with a dilemma--can she give fair advice to everyone, including her friends, while keeping her identity a secret?

Starting Middle School is rough for Autumn after her one and only BFF moves to California. Uncertain and anxious, she struggles to connect with her new classmates. The two potential friends she meets could not be more different: bold Logan who has big ideas and quiet Cooper who's a bit mysterious. But Autumn has a dilemma: what do you do when the new friends you make don't like each other? When Autumn is picked to be the secret voice of the Dear Student letters in the Hillview newspaper, she finds herself smack in the middle of a problem with Logan and Cooper on opposite sides. But before Autumn can figure out what to do, the unthinkable happens. Her secret identity as Dear Student is threatened. Now, it's time for Autumn to find her voice, her courage, and follow her heart, even when it's divided.

Who Wrote It?

Elly grew up in Yardley, a small town in Pennsylvania. At the time, there were many cornfields and cows. Boredom was a popular sport. Her childhood was a happy one with many laughs, family dinners and crooked birthday cakes. Elly loves writing for children, but didn't take a direct path to that career. She weaved and bobbed through many unique opportunities on her way to becoming a writer. She studied psychology at Boston University and also attended Georgetown University School of Law. She was a ride operator at Sesame Place, spent time working in a



furniture store, was a messenger, law library assistant, legal author, litigator, legal research and writing professor. Elly has written 4 books so far with more on the way. She loves a good book, crossword puzzles, the color green.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 610

I want to read this book: YES / NO

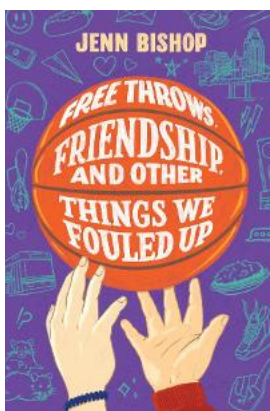
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up

by Jenn Bishop



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?

Cincinnati, Ohio, lives and dies by college basketball, with two elite Division I rivals separated by a mere three miles. Rory's dad just secured a new coaching gig at the University of Cincinnati, so it means yet another school and move for her, only this time to her dad's hometown. Rory's life revolves around basketball; she's never had a close friend outside of it. Could this be a chance for a fresh start? Abby has always lived in Cincinnati, where her dad grew up playing ball and now coaches at Xavier University. But Abby has recently retreated from basketball after a frustrating season that left her confidence in shambles. This year, she finds herself on the outside looking in when it comes to her former teammates, and she could seriously use a new friend. The coaches' daughters connect over their shared love of the game when Abby chaperones Rory on her first day of school. But when Abby's dad practically forbids their friendship because of something that happened between him and Rory's dad when they were younger, Abby and Rory have no choice but to move their budding friendship underground.

Can the two of them get to the bottom of what went down between their dads in the 1990s before history repeats itself?

Who Wrote It?

Jenn grew up in a small Massachusetts town and loved playing sports and being outdoors. She also enjoyed reading and writing. The first book she wrote as a child was about her pet rock, named Christy! She loved writing so much, that she went to college (in Chicago) to learn all about books and became a librarian. Her love of books led her to wanting to write them, so she went back to school to earn an MFA (Master in Fine Arts) at a famous school called The Vermont College of Fine Arts. Shortly after graduating her published her first book, *The Distance to Home* (2016) and hasn't stopped. *Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things we*



Photo credit: Kate L Photography

Fouled Up is her 5th book. Jenn currently lives in Cincinnati. When she isn't writing, she likes running, gardening, hanging out with her husband (and cat!) and cheering for her fav basketball team!

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

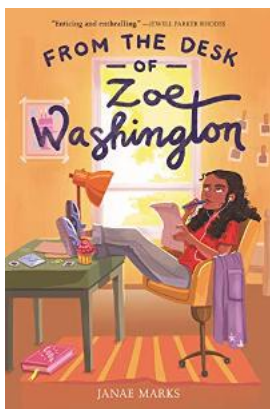
Lexile Level: Unavailable

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 _____

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks



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?

Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies.

* Chicago Public Library Best of the Best Book of the Year *
SLJ Best Book of the Year * Kirkus Best Book of the Year *
Junior Library Guild Selection * Edgar Award Nominee * Four
Starred Reviews * Bank Street Best Children's Book of the
Year * An Indie Bestseller *

Who Wrote It?

Janae grew up in the suburbs of New York City, where she always wrote. She started out writing illustrated autobiographical stories in kindergarten, and then journal entries, stories to submit to Seventeen Magazine's short story contests, and letters to her pen pals and summer camp friends. She read a lot too, of course. Her books were among her prized possessions. Janae went to college to earn a writing degree and afterward she got an inside look at the publishing world while spending 7 years working for a Big 5 Publisher. Janae wrote three young adult manuscripts before switching to middle grade and writing *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*. In 2017, that



novel won the New Voices in Children's Literature Award in the middle grade category. Now, she lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter, and miniature schnauzer named Cookie.

AR Reading Level: 4.4

Lexile Level: 660L

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 _____



Hello, Universe

by Erin Entrada Kelly



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?

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball. They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

- Newbery Award winner from 2018!

Who Wrote It?

Before becoming a children's author, Erin worked as a journalist and magazine editor. She received numerous awards for community service journalism, feature writing, and editing from the Louisiana Press Association and the Associated Press.

Erin has a bachelor's degree in women's studies and liberal arts from McNeese State University and an MFA from Rosemont College. She lives in Delaware. She teaches in the MFA programs at Hamline University and Rosemont



College. She also teaches fiction with Gotham Writers Workshop. Erin is Filipina-American. Her website has a tone more info! Check it out at www.erinentradaakelly.com

AR Reading Level: 5.3

Lexile Level: 800L

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 House Swap by Yvette Clark



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?

Seventh grade is going to be Iveliz's year. She's going to make a new friend, help her abuela Mimi get settled after moving from Puerto Rico, and she is not going to get into any more trouble at school. . . .

Except is that what happens? Of course not. Because no matter how hard Iveliz tries, sometimes people say things that just make her so mad. And worse, Mimi keeps saying Iveliz's medicine is unnecessary—even though it helps Iveliz feel less sad. But how do you explain your feelings to others when you're not even sure what's going on yourself?

Powerful and compassionate, Andrea Beatriz Arango's debut navigates mental health, finding your voice, and discovering that those who really love you will stay by your side no matter what.

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Who Wrote It?

A Brit by birth and a New Yorker by design, Yvette lives in Manhattan with her husband, two teenagers, and a small blue cat.

Yvette is proud to be a mentor for a fantastic organization called Girls Write Now. Find out more about them here: www.girlswritenow.org



Lexile Level: Unavailable

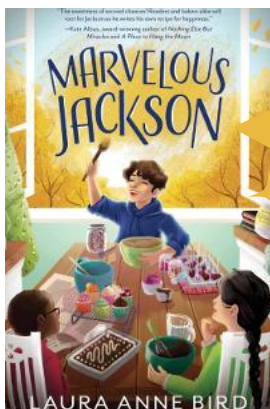
I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK







Name _____

Date _____

Includes
Author
Interview!

Marvelous Jackson by Laura Anne Bird



Read Aloud Video and
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.

What's It About?

Since losing his mom, thirteen-year-old Jack Wilson has spent most of his time seeing just how much trouble he can get away with so that he feels like a winner at something. But he takes his mischief too far and is faced with the possibility of unbearable consequences—like being sent away to boarding school in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan! He knows it's time to make a big change. After rediscovering the love of baking he once shared with his mother, Jack is confident that his new sense of purpose will help him stay on the right path, so he throws himself into learning the finer points of sprinkles and scones, and hopefully even mending his broken relationship with his dad. When the world-famous Marvelous Midwest Kids Baking Championship television show announces that it's accepting applications for its next season, Jack takes his hobby to the next level so he can snag a coveted audition spot in Chicago. He knows his journey will be tough and twisty, but maybe it will take him exactly where he needs to go.

Who Wrote It?

A Milwaukee native, Laura Anne Bird graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a degree in English. In addition to writing books, she is an active literary citizen, often volunteering for bookish organizations and events like the Wisconsin Book Festival and the Great Midwest Book Club. She lives in Madison, Wisconsin, with her husband, three big kids, and little dog. When she's not reading, writing, or reviewing books, she loves to exercise and explore the outdoors.



You can connect with Laura and learn more about her work (including other books!) online at: www.laurabirdbooks.com.

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: 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 _____



Mother Daughter Book Club

by Heather Vogel Frederick



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 book club is about to get a makeover....

Even if Megan would rather be at the mall, Cassidy is late for hockey practice, Emma's already read every book in existence, and Jess is missing her mother too much to care, the new book club is scheduled to meet every month. But what begins as a mom-imposed ritual of reading *Little Women* soon helps four unlikely friends navigate the drama of middle school. From stolen journals, to secret crushes, to a fashion-fiasco first dance, the girls are up to their Wellie boots in drama. They can't help but wonder: What would Jo March do?

Acclaimed author Heather Vogel Frederick will delight daughters of all ages in a novel about the fabulousness of fiction, family, and friendship.

Who Wrote It?

Before Heather became a writer, She was a reader—and still is. She was born in Peterborough, New Hampshire, into a family of bookworms, and spent most of her childhood holed up in the library or in my bedroom, reading. Her father was a teacher and principal and read to her and her sisters a lot. Her favorite part was when he acted the stories out and did fabulous voices. Heather always loved writing and did a lot of it as a child. After college, she wrote for a lot of newspapers and print publications including *The New York Times*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *Family Life*. Heather's first novel, *The Voyage of Patience Goodspeed*, was published in 2002, and she has been writing books ever since. Today, after spending more than 20 happy years in the Pacific Northwest and close to another decade in Boston, she and her husband have embarked on a new adventure, living in Europe. Portugal, to be exact! They love their



little medieval city, with its castle ruins and charming gardens and weekly open-air market. Our city apartment may not look like that English cottage of her childhood, but it's peaceful and full of light — just right for a writer!

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: 800L

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 _____



Nowhere Boy

by Katherine Marsh



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?

A devastating tornado tears apart more than just houses in this striking novel in verse about a girl rebuilding herself. Before the storm, thirteen-year-old Quinn was happy flying under the radar. She was average. Unremarkable. Always looking for an escape from her house, where her bickering parents fawned over her genius big brother. But after the storm, Quinn can't seem to go back to average. Her friends weren't affected by the tornado in the same way. To them, the storm left behind a playground of abandoned houses and distracted adults. As Quinn struggles to find stability in the tornado's aftermath, she must choose: between homes, friendships, and versions of herself. Told in rich, spectacular verse, Caroline Brooks DuBois crafts a powerful story of redemption as Quinn makes her way from Before to After. There's nothing average about the world Quinn wakes up to after the storm; maybe there's nothing average about her, either. This emotional coming-of-age journey for middle grade readers proves that it's never too late to be the person you want to be.

AR Reading Level: 5.4

Who Wrote It?

Katherine grew up in Yonkers, New York in the home of her Ukrainian grandma who taught her to love stories and borscht, er parents, an artist/videographer and a stay-at-home mom, didn't have much money but we always had books: Mother Goose and the Little Bear stories with Maurice Sendak's wonderful etchings were some of my favorites. A former journalist and managing editor of The New Republic, Besides writing, I like to read, cook for friends and family, travel, correspond with friends, family and readers around the world, study languages (in addition to speaking some French and Russian, I'm learning Ukrainian), do puzzles, and visit off-beat museums. Most of all, I like to



spend time with my family. My husband, two children and I live in Washington, DC with two cats, a rabbit, a bunch of fish, a frog and an axolotl. Learn more about Katharine and her books at www.katherinemarsh.com

Lexile Level: 810L

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 _____



Includes
Author
Interview!

Olivetti

by Allie Millington



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 and
Author Interview

What's It About?

Being a typewriter is not as easy as it looks. Surrounded by books (notorious attention hogs) and recently replaced by a computer, Olivetti has been forgotten by the Brindle family—the family he's lived with for years. The Brindles are busy humans, apart from 12-year-old Ernest, who would rather be left alone with his collection of Oxford English Dictionaries. The least they could do was remember Olivetti once in a while, since he remembers every word they've typed on him. It's a thankless job, keeping memories alive. Olivetti gets a rare glimpse of action from Ernest's mom, Beatrice—his used-to-be most frequent visitor—only for her to drop him off at Heartland Pawn Shop and leave him helplessly behind. When Olivetti learns Beatrice has mysteriously gone missing afterward, he believes he can help find her. He breaks the only rule of the 'typewriterly code' and types back to Ernest, divulging Beatrice's memories stored inside him. Their search takes them across San Francisco—chasing clues, maybe committing a few misdemeanors. As Olivetti spills out the past, Ernest is forced to face what he and his family have been running from. The Everything That Happened. Only by working together will they find Beatrice, belonging, and the parts of themselves they've lost.

Who Wrote It?

Allie Millington is the author of heartfelt books for the young and young at heart. Allie started her writing career all the way back in third grade, when she won a reflections contest with a story about a heroic pencil. From there, with the help of encouraging teachers and a steady diet of waffles, she began her long journey of sharing stories told from unique perspectives and chasing wild What If ideas. As with most journeys, there were bumps and stubbed toes along the way—including receiving hundreds of rejection letters which she turned into her Rejection Collection. It was around this time that her husband gifted her a special typewriter, who turned out to have quite a lot to say. When Allie isn't writing, she's likely thrifting for treasures, foraging in the woods, or hanging out and visiting elementary kiddos &



middle schoolers in their classrooms. Allie lives near Atlanta, Georgia, with her husband, their dog Crumpet. You can find her on instagram @allieinink or possibly in her pillow fort.

AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 640L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

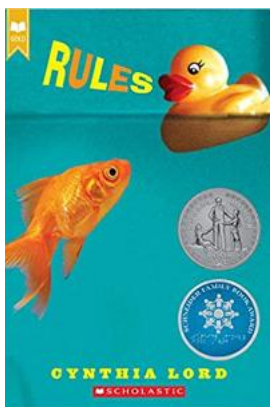
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Rules

by Cynthia Lord



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?

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

This book won the Newbery Honor Award in 2008.

You can write a letter to the author using this address:

Cynthia Lord
c/o Scholastic Inc.
557 Broadway
New York, NY 10012-3999

Who Wrote It?

"My life as a writer began at age four with a song collaboration with my sister. The song was called "Ding Dong the Cherries Sing," and we forced anyone within a 12-mile radius to listen to us sing it, over and over and over. I've come a long way from the girl backspacing over mistakes on the Royal typewriter, reusing the same piece of carbon paper until the letters were ghostly pale. Now I backspace on my computer, and nobody needs to know how many mistakes I make. Some things haven't changed. I still love watching



words jump onto the page and I still love making people laugh and cry and shiver with my writing. I still love to read a great story."
-Cynthia Lord

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Lexile Level: 780L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

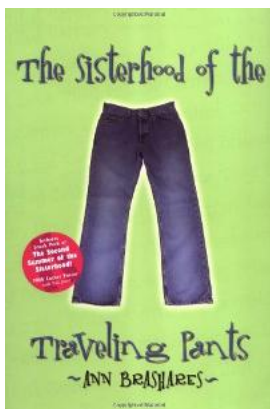


WHAT I THINK





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



Name _____

Date _____

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares



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 first novel in the wildly popular #1 New York Times bestselling Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants series.

Some friends just fit together. Once there was a pair of pants. Just an ordinary pair of jeans. But these pants, the Traveling Pants, went on to do great things. This is the story of the four friends—Lena, Tibby, Bridget, and Carmen—who made it possible.

Pants = love. Love your pals. Love yourself.

** The first in a series of 4 books.
** Also a movie!

Who Wrote It?

I am a writer living in New York City and a mother of four. I am married to artist Jacob Collins. I grew up in and around Washington, DC. Before becoming a writer, I was a student of philosophy, a receptionist, an editor, a ghostwriter, and briefly, the co-president of a small media company. I love babies and children (many of whom are no longer children), teaching, gardening, and the effort, more generally, of growing and taking care of living things, in some cases fictional. I love walking, running, and biking around my own city and others, especially old cities. I love reading



fiction, poetry, and history; I love talking about ideas and also arguing about them in a civilized way. I prize curiosity above intellect. I cherish my friendships.

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 600L

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 _____



Includes
Author
Interview!

Witchlings

by Claribel Ortega



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?

Every year, in the magical town of Ravenskill, Witchlings who participate in the Black Moon Ceremony are placed into covens and come into their powers as full-fledged witches. And twelve-year-old Seven Salazar can't wait to be placed in the most powerful coven with her best friend! But on the night of the ceremony, in front of the entire town, Seven isn't placed in one of the five covens. She's a Spare! Spare covens have fewer witches, are less powerful, and are looked down on by everyone. Even worse, when Seven and the other two Spares perform the magic circle to seal their coven and cement themselves as sisters, it doesn't work! They're stuck as Witchlings—and will never be able to perform powerful magic. Seven invokes her only option: the impossible task. The three Spares will be assigned an impossible task: If they work together and succeed at it, their coven will be sealed and they'll gain their full powers. If they fail... Well, the last coven to make the attempt ended up being turned into toads. Forever. But maybe friendship can be the most powerful magic of all...

Who Wrote It?

New York Times Bestselling and award-winning author, Claribel A. Ortega is a former reporter who writes middle-grade and young adult fantasy inspired by her Dominican heritage. When she's not busy turning her obsession with pop culture, magic, and video games into books, she's co-hosting her podcast Bad Author Book Club. Claribel is also a Marvel contributor! Claribel's NYT Bestselling debut middle grade novel Ghost Squad is being made into a feature film. Witchlings (Scholastic) was an Instant NYT and #1 Indie Bestseller. Her graphic novel Frizzy with Rose Bousamra was winner of the 2023 Pura Belpré Award for Children's Literature.



You can learn more about Claribel and her work at www.claribelortega.com. Claribel lives in New York.

AR Reading Level: 5.6

Lexile Level: 800

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.



PREDICT &



Read Aloud Video



Look at the objects featured on the YouTube thumbnail and book cover and then make a few predictions.



I predict this story will be about...

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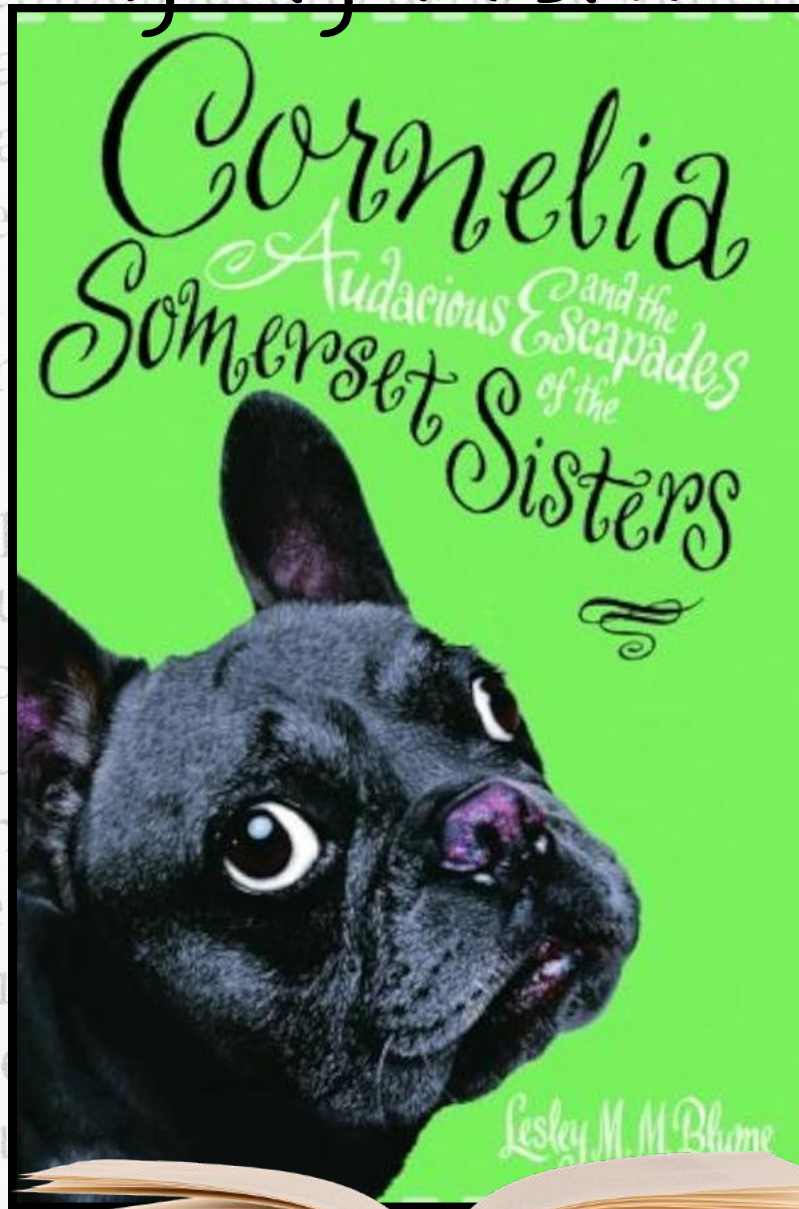
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

CORNELIA AND THE AUDACIOUS ESCAPADES OF THE SOMERSET SISTERS

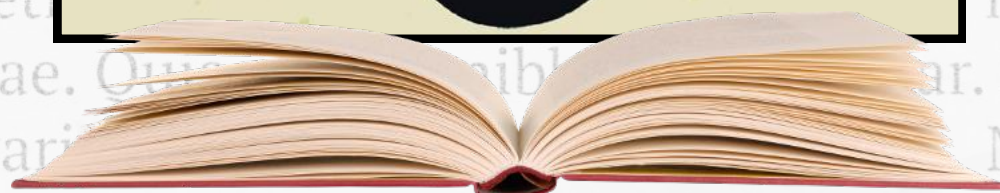
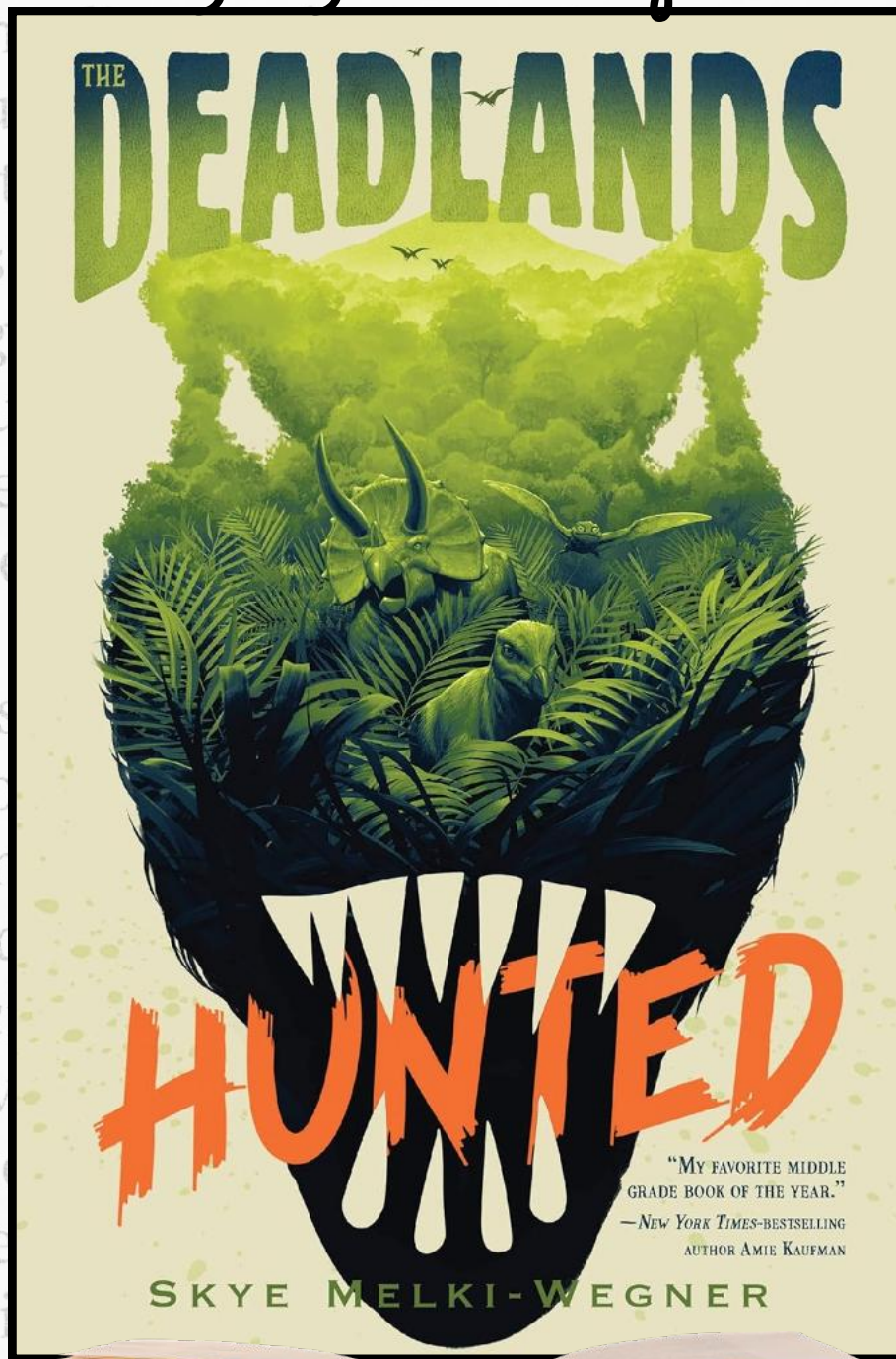
by Lesley M.M. Blume



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

DEADLANDS

By Skye Melki-Wegner

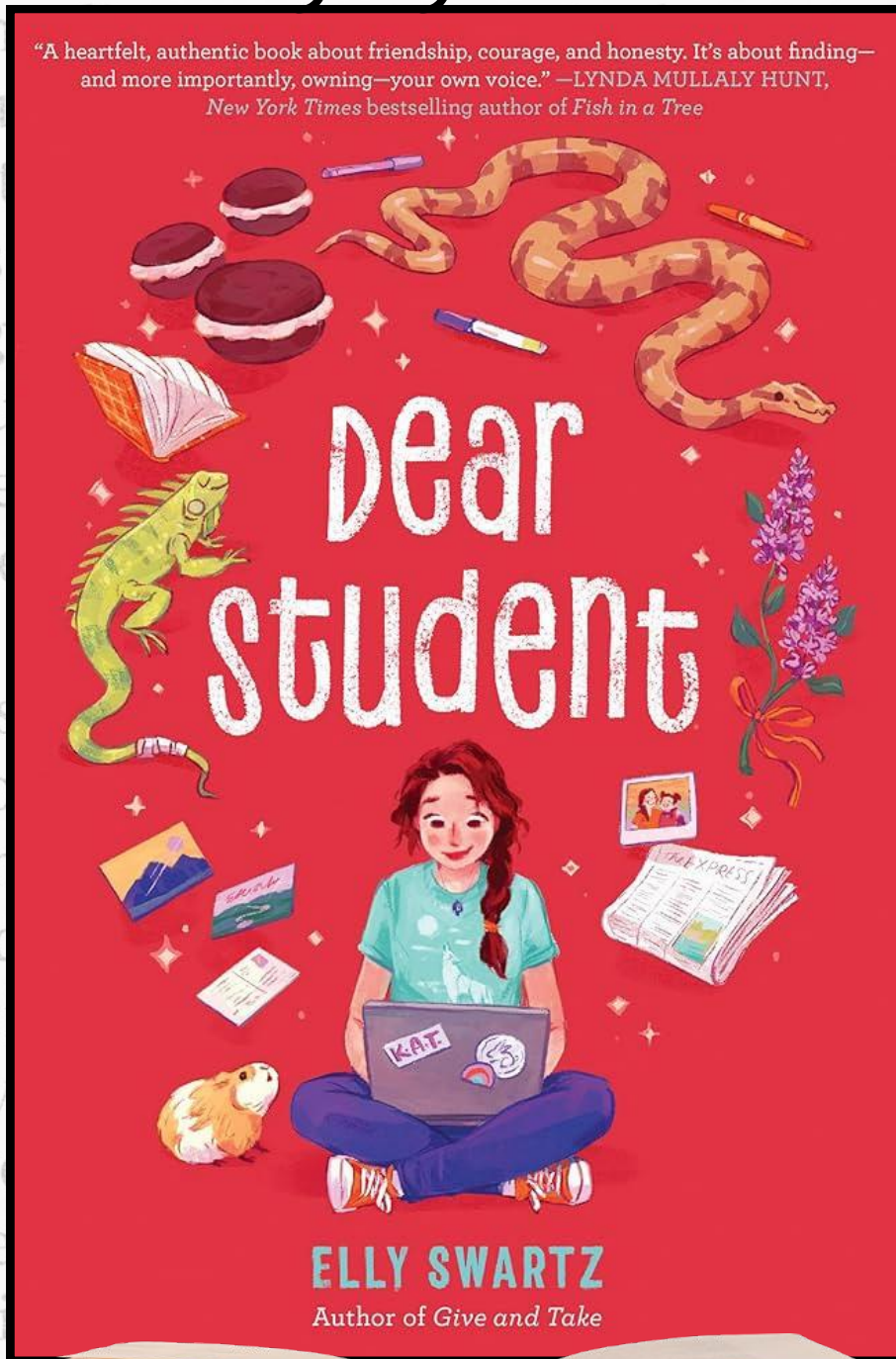


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

DEAR STUDENT

By Elly Swartz

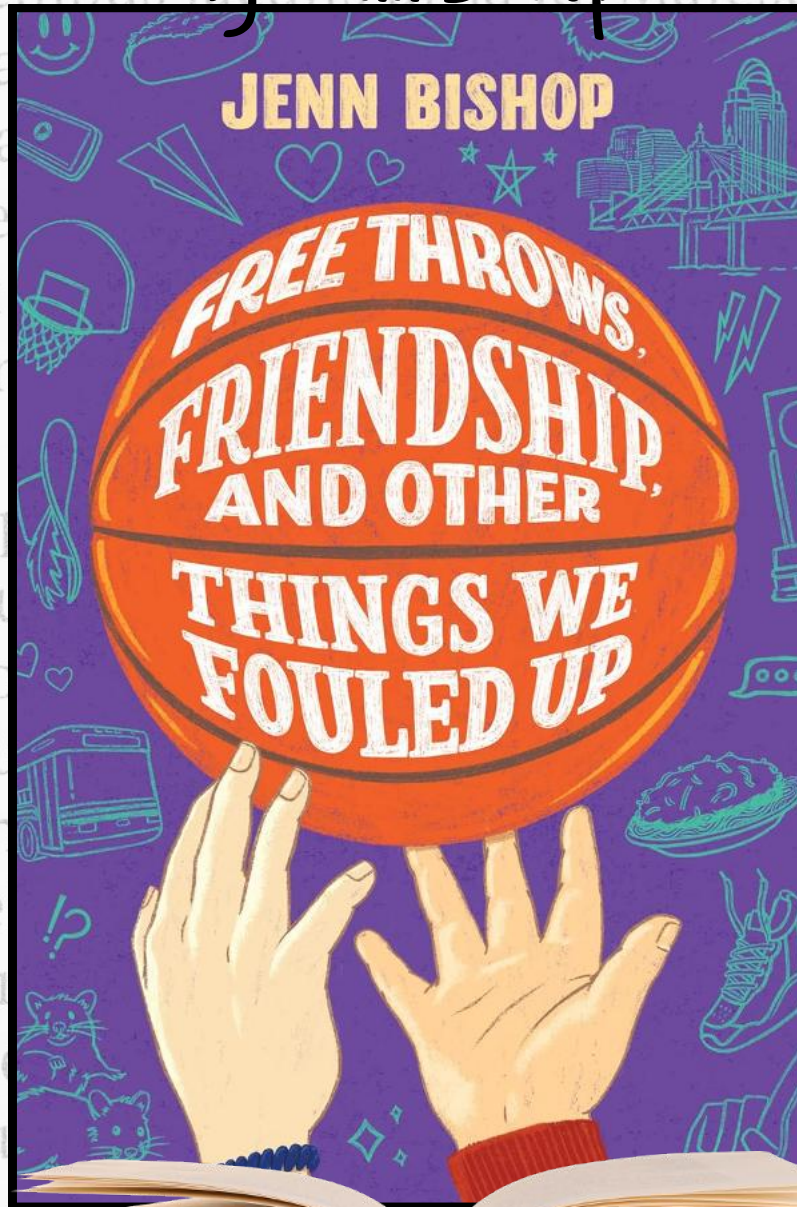
"A heartfelt, authentic book about friendship, courage, and honesty. It's about finding—and more importantly, owning—your own voice." —LYNDA MULLALLY HUNT,
New York Times bestselling author of *Fish in a Tree*



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

FREE THROWS, FRIENDSHIP, AND OTHER THINGS WE FOULED UP

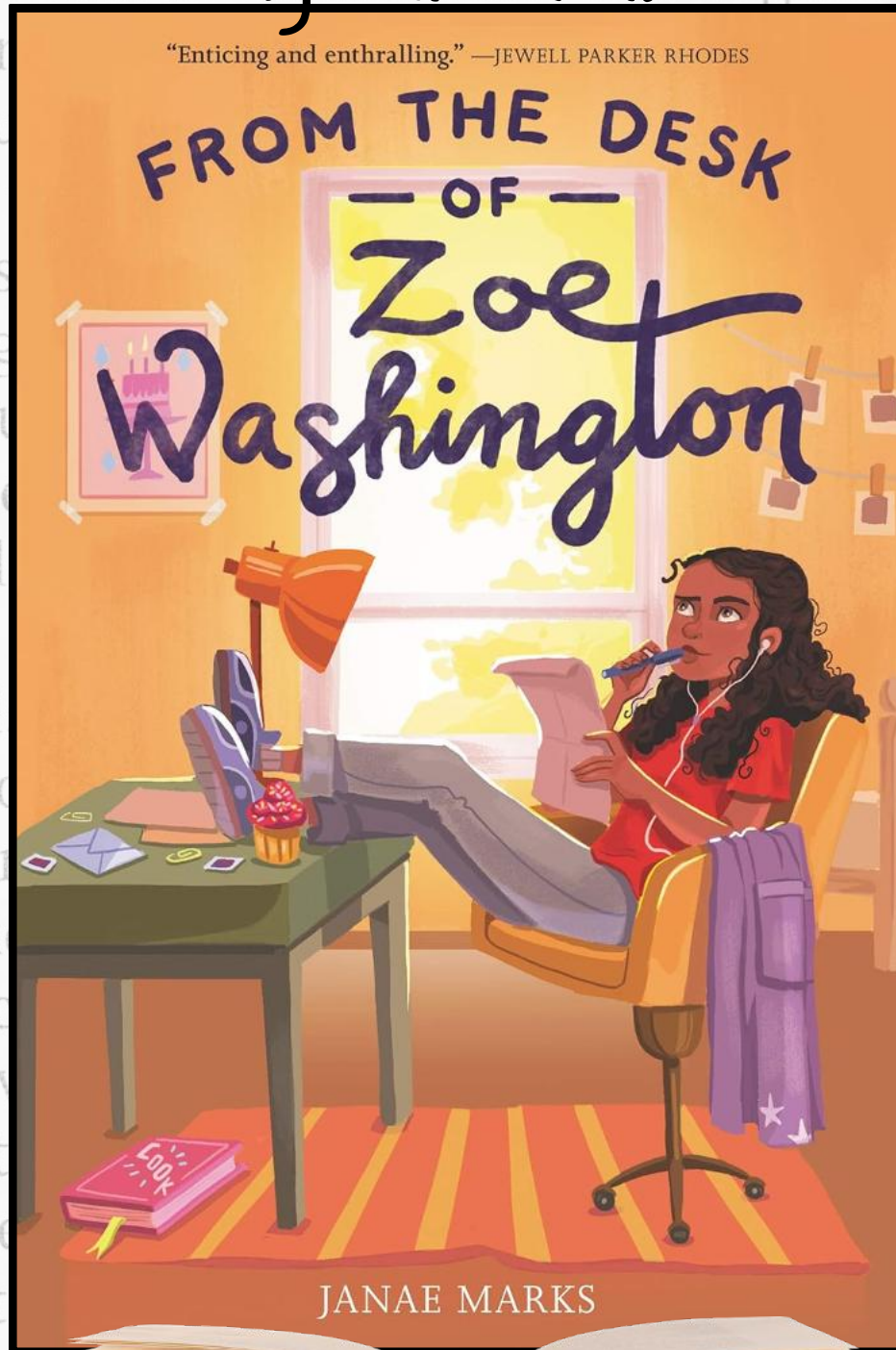
by Jenn Bishop



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON

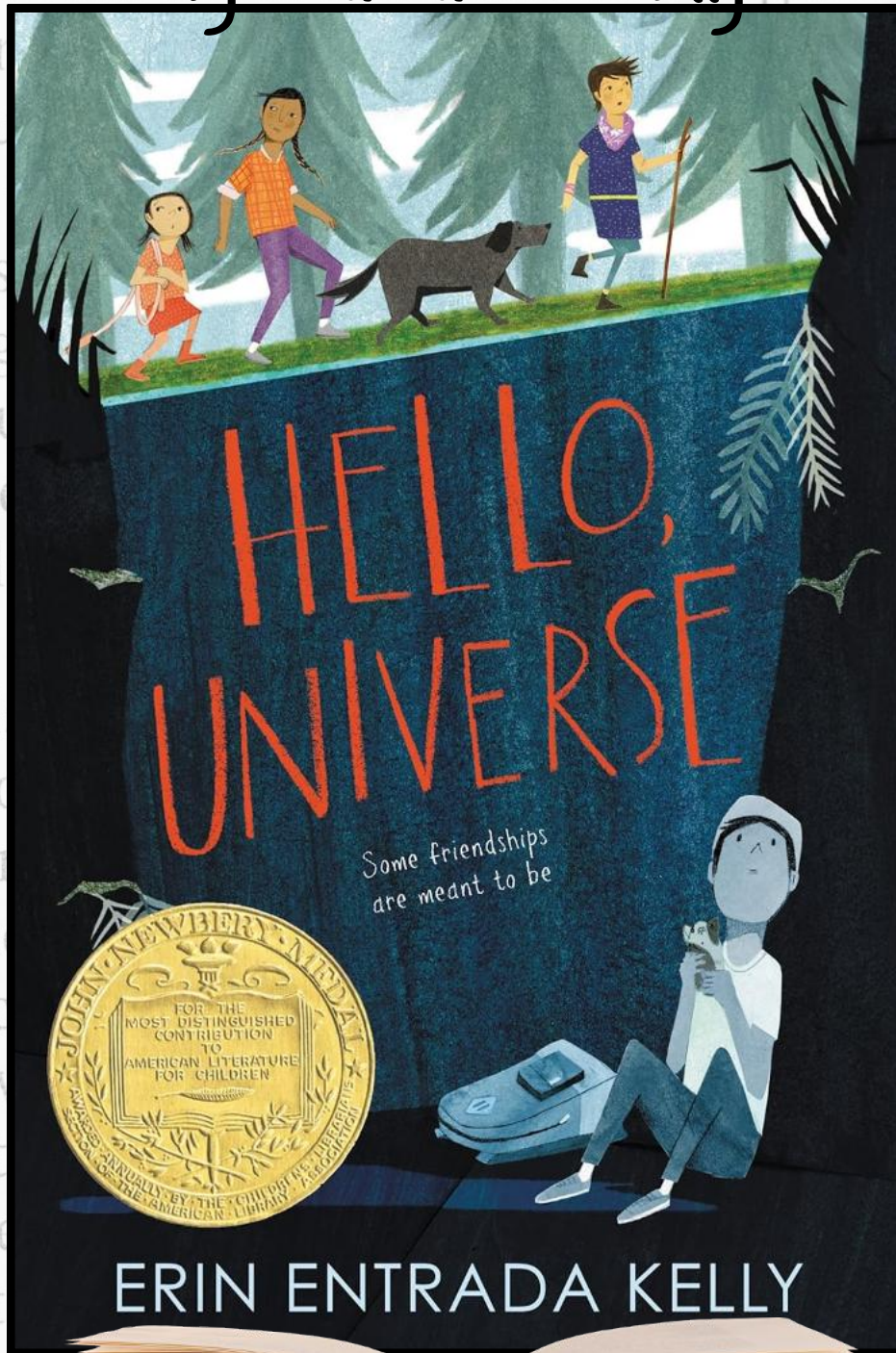
by Janae Marks



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HELLO UNIVERSE

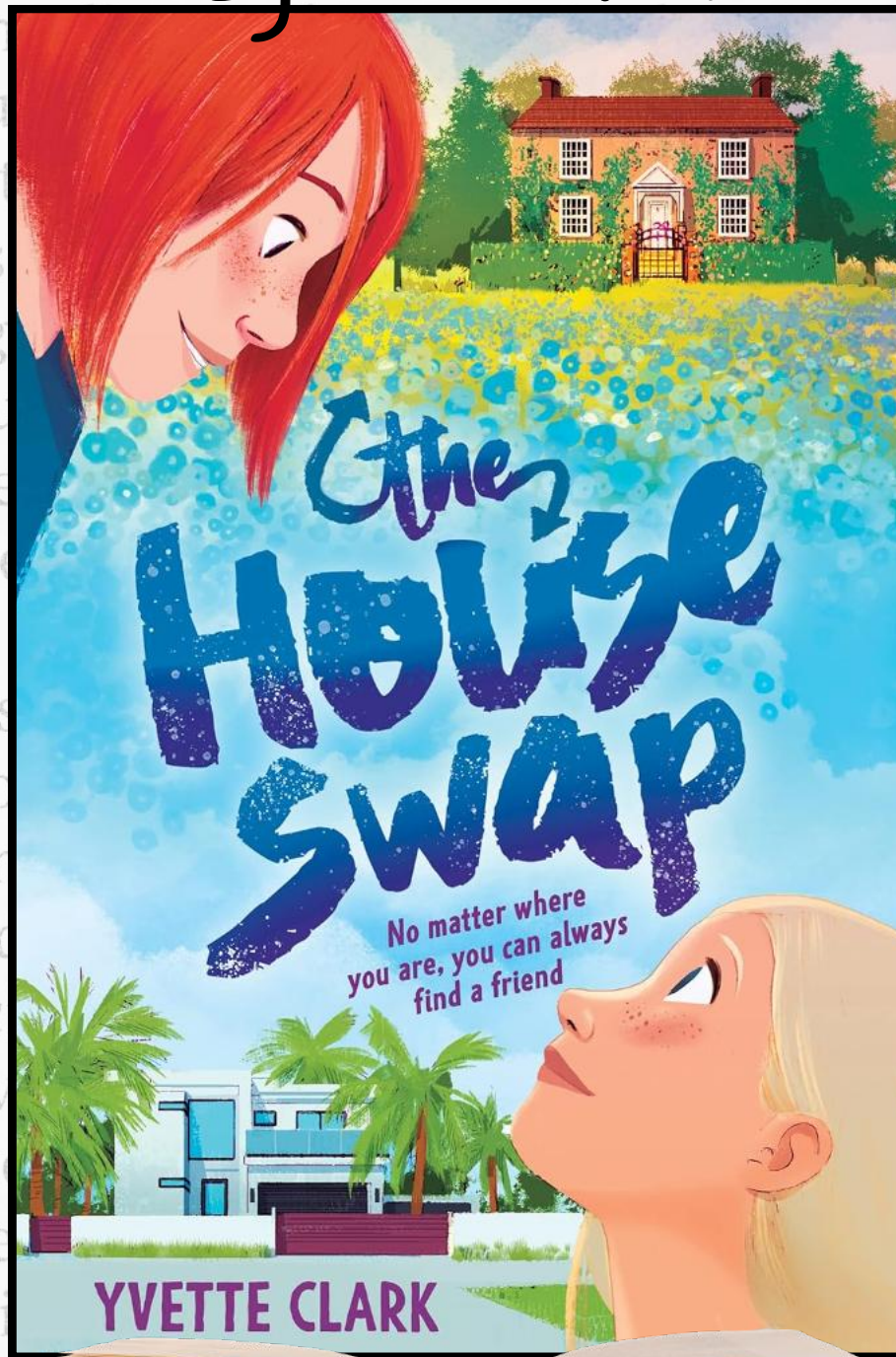
by Erin Entrada Kelly



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE HOUSE SWAP

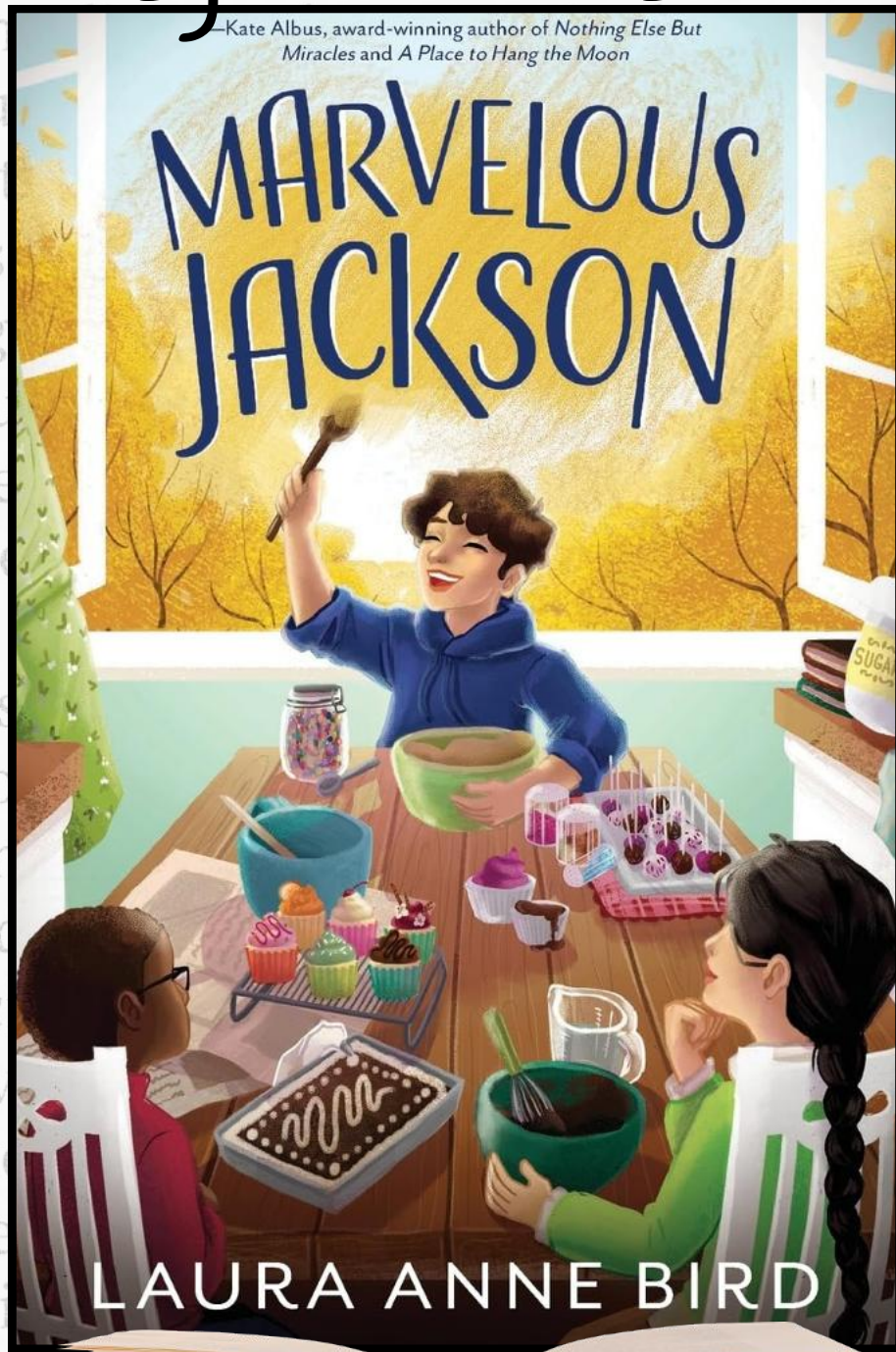
By Yvette Clark



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MARVELOUS JACKSON

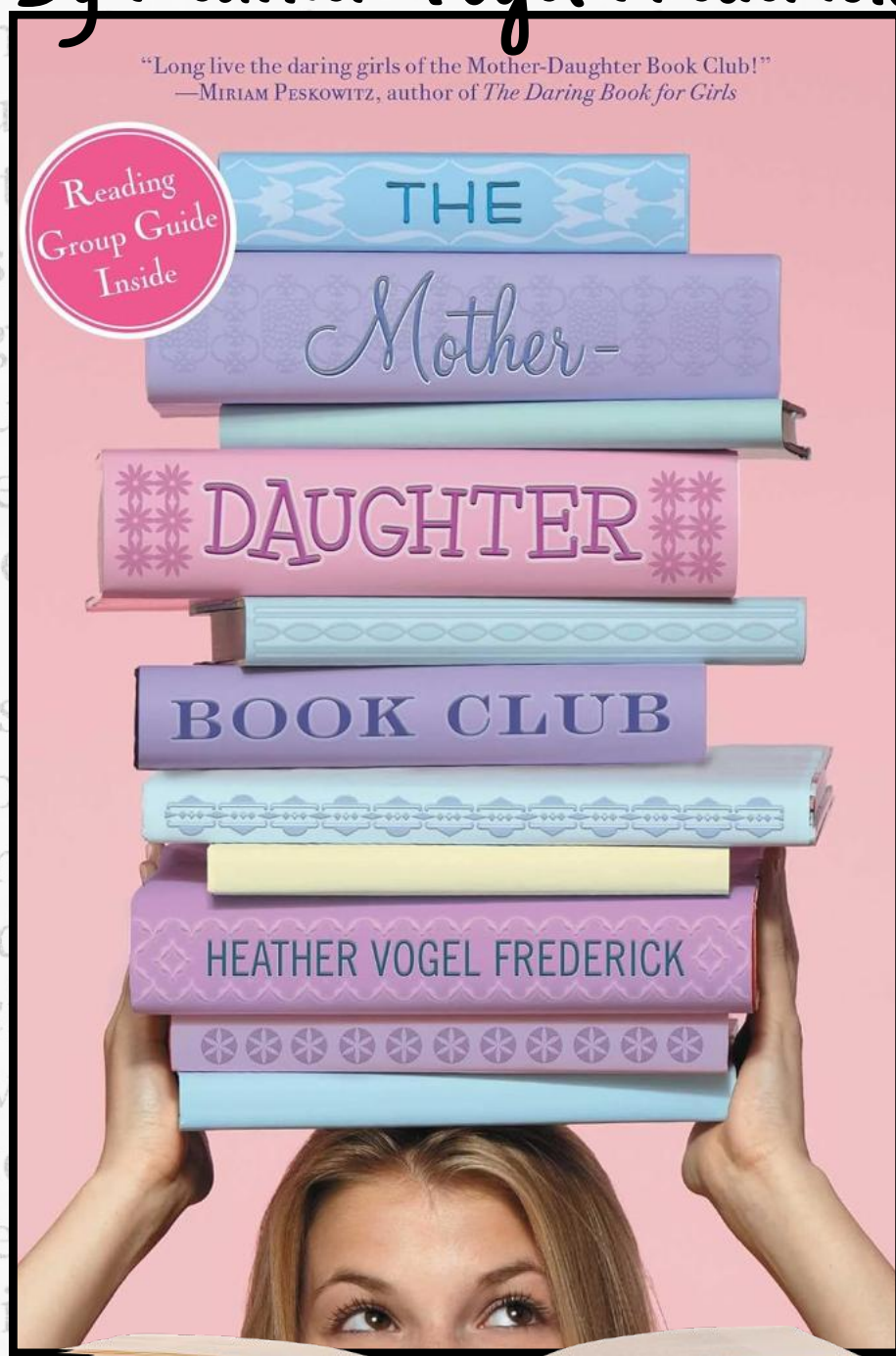
By Laura Anne Bird



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE MOTHER-DAUGHTER BOOK CLUB

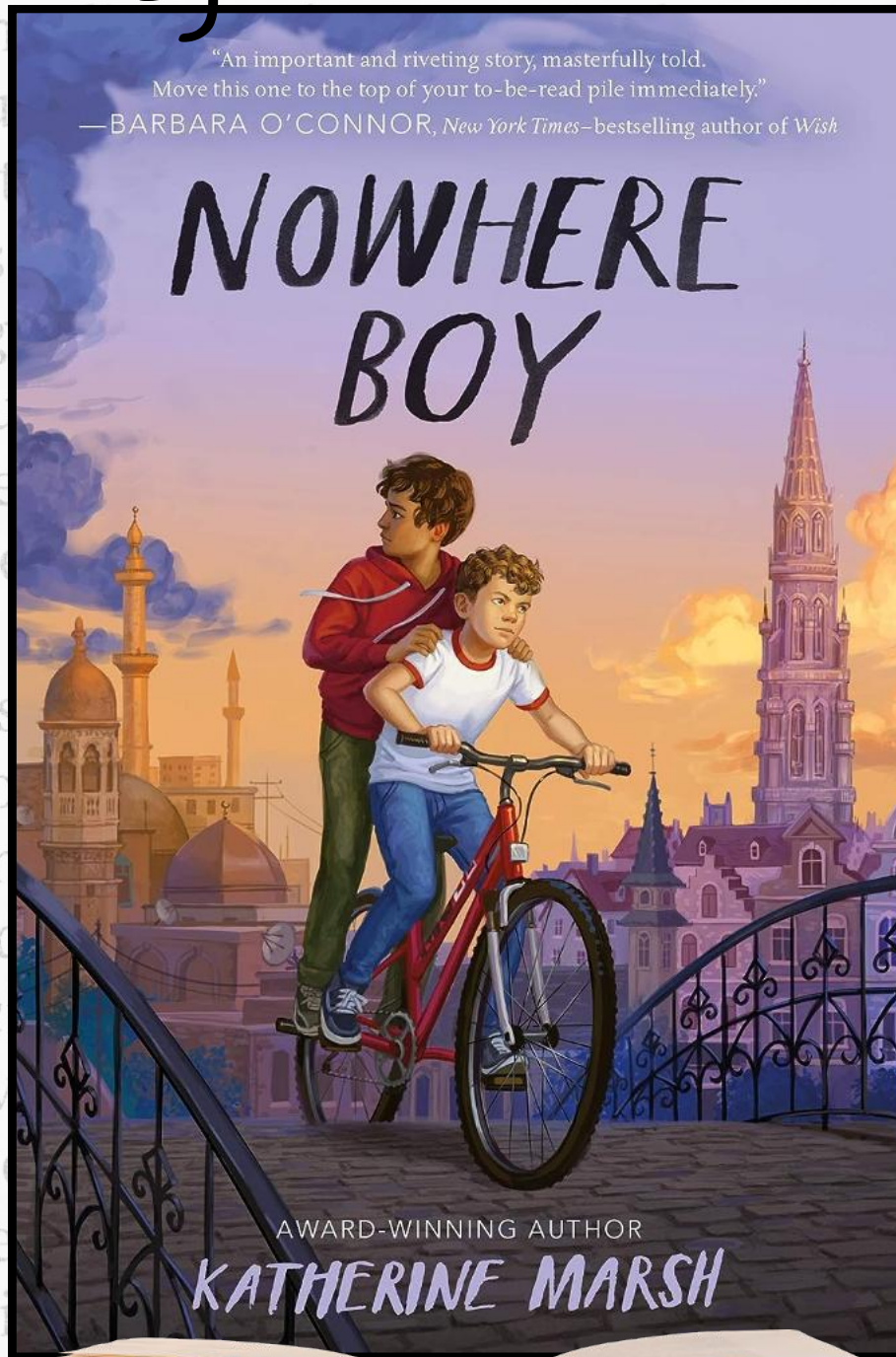
By Heather Vogel Frederick



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

NOWHERE BOY

By Katherine Marsh



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OLIVETTI

By Allie Millington

A boy, a typewriter,
and the stories they hold.

Olivetti



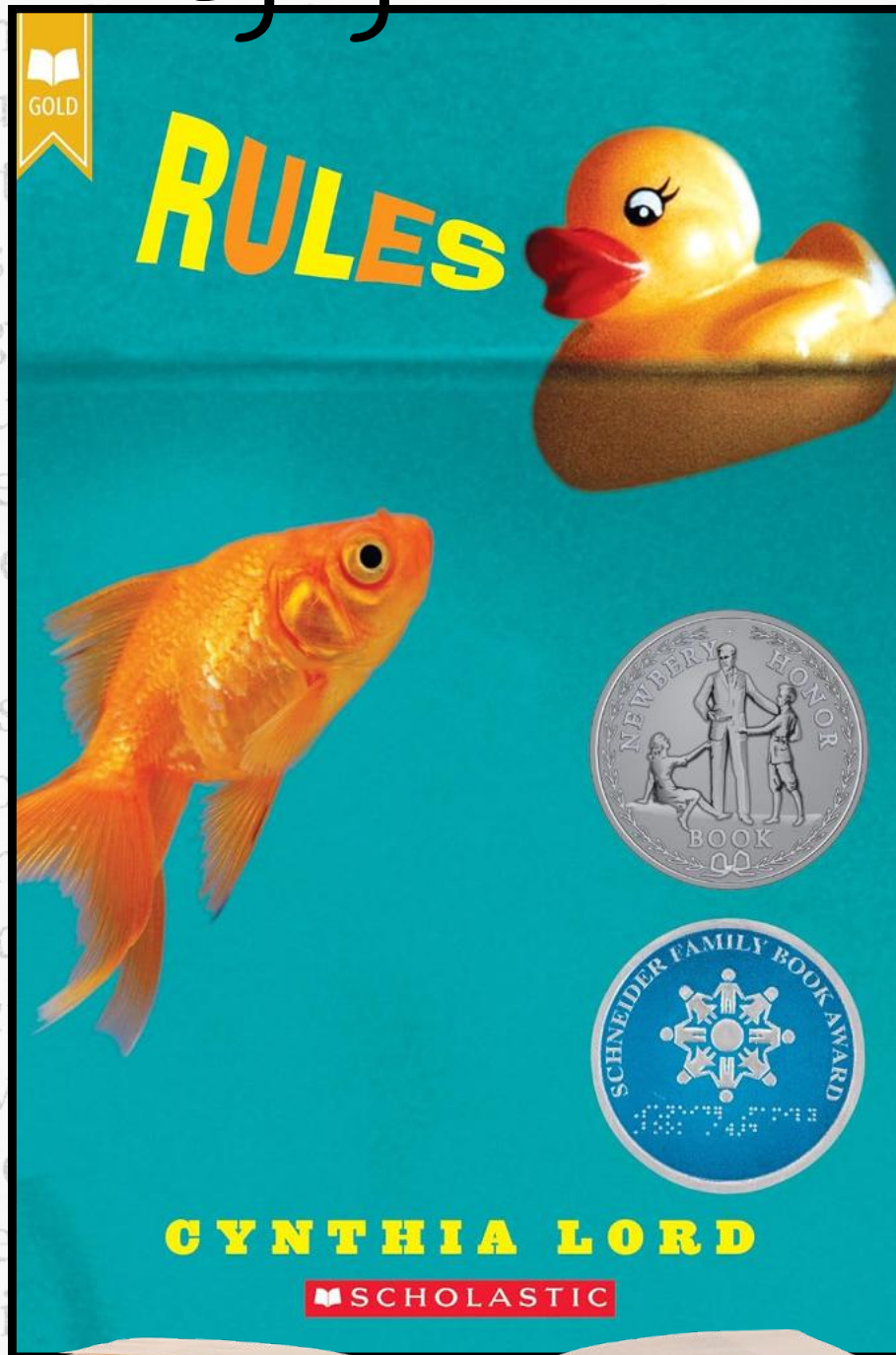
ALLIE MILLINGTON



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

RULES

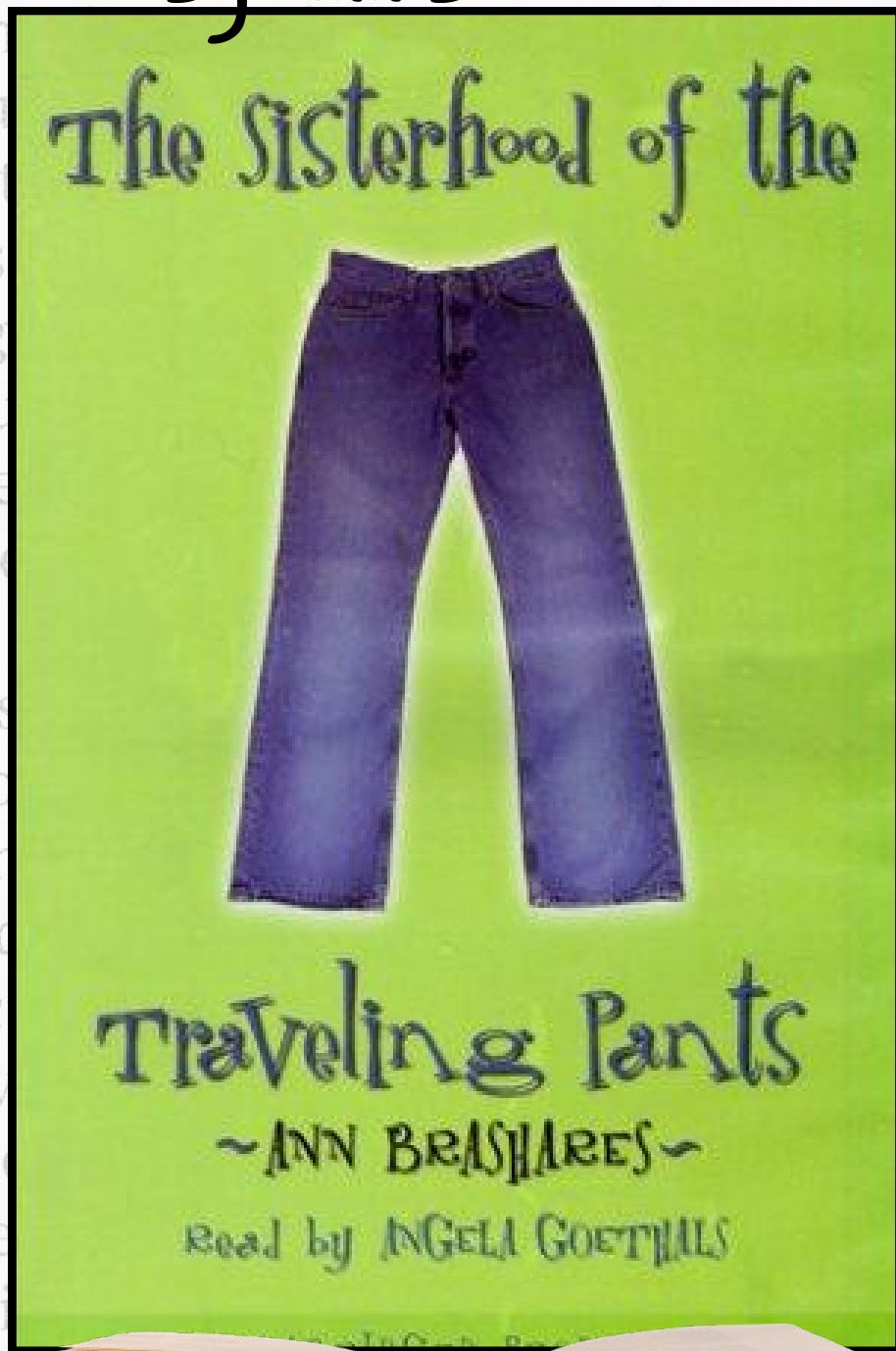
By Cynthia Lord



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

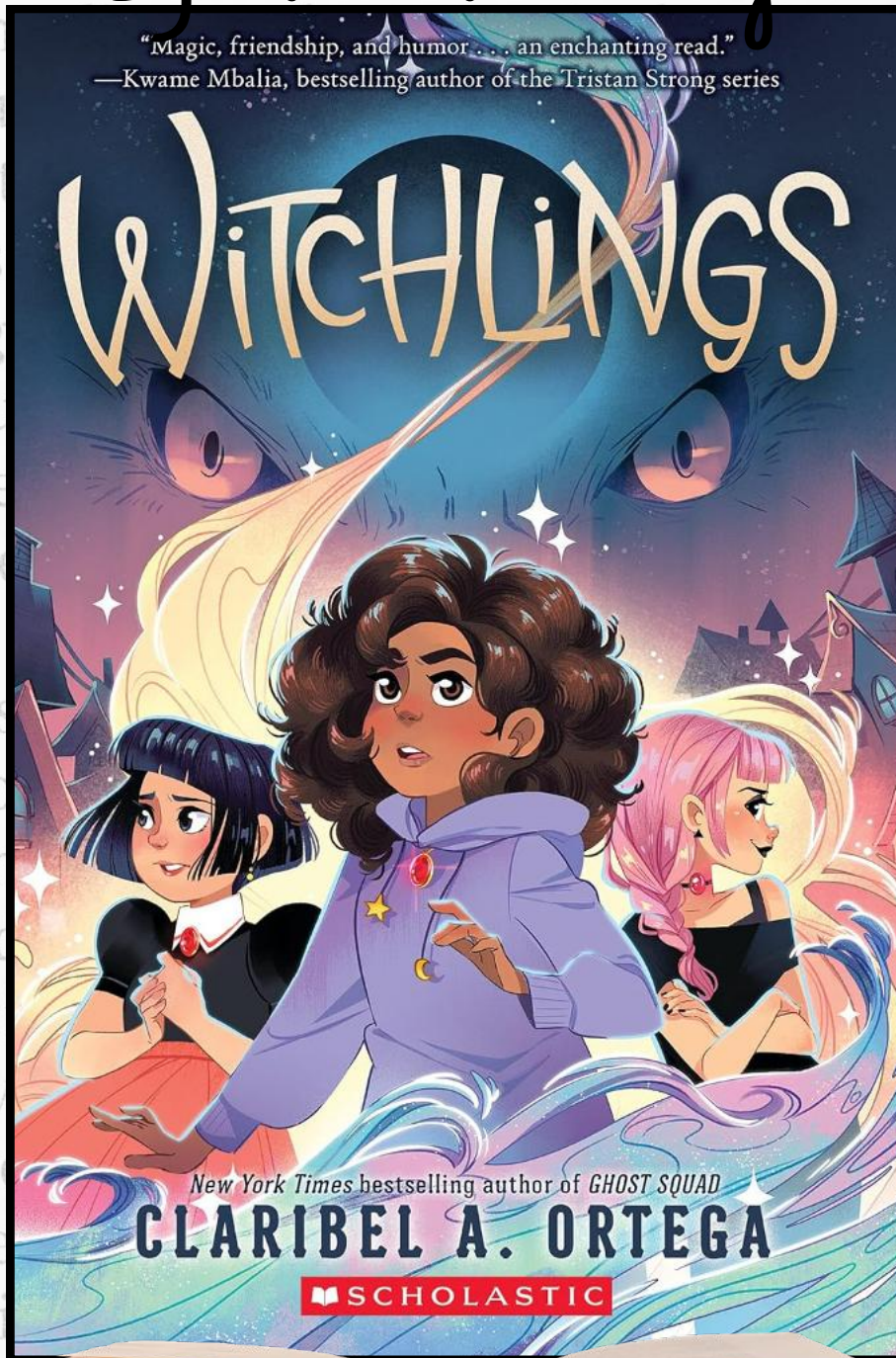
By Ann Brashares



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

WITCHLINGS

By Claribel A. Ortega



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY