

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of Newbery Award winning books as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the Newbery 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 4: What is First Chapter Friday?

Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts

Page 7: Book List

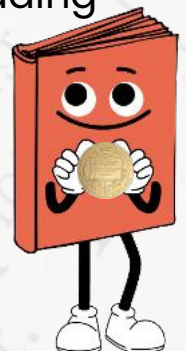
Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster

Pages 10-27 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 29-46: 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!



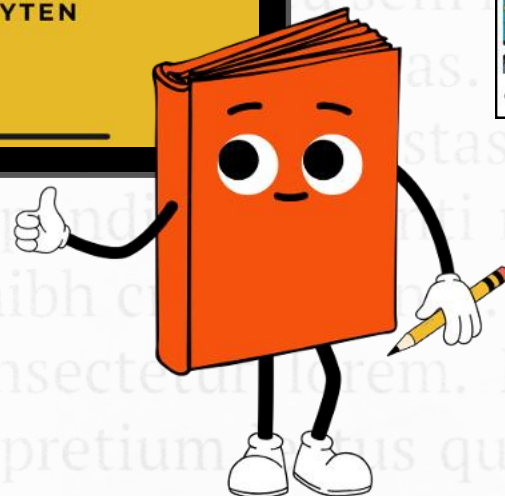
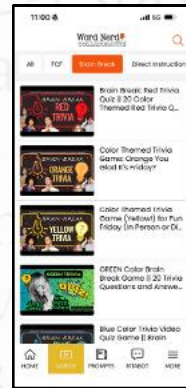
First Chapter Friday Videos

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.

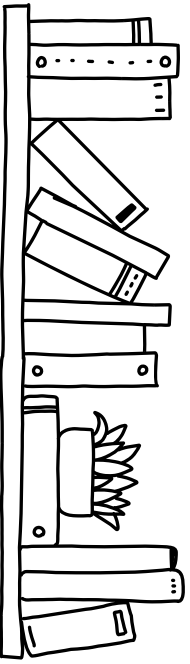


If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click [here](#).

[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

[illegible]



Books I've

READ

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NAME: _____

WNC BOOK LIST

NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS

The books on this list have the distinguished honor of winning the John Newbery Medal.

Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jaqueline Woodson

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

The Giver by Lois Lowry

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barbara Higuera

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Merci Suarez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo

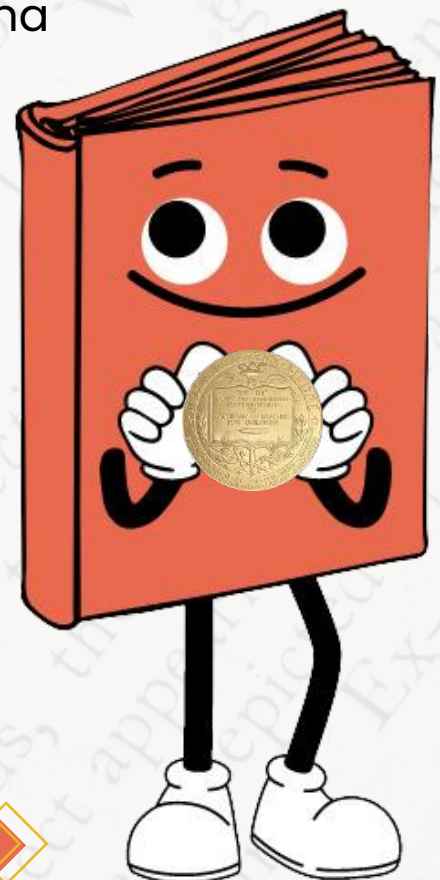
The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman

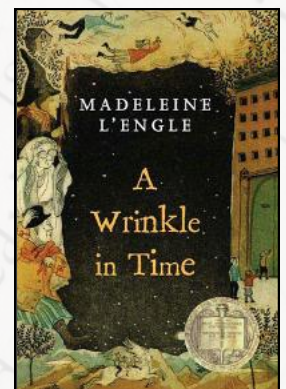
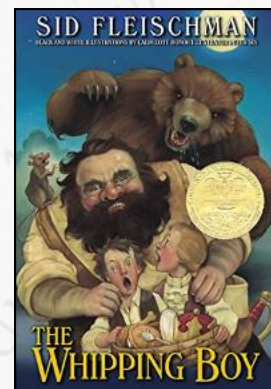
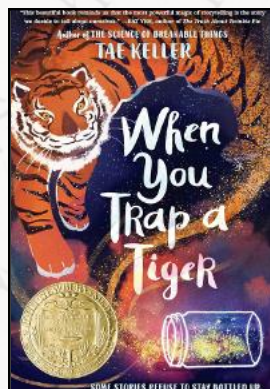
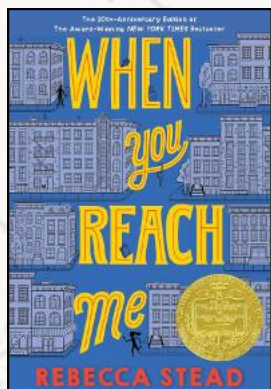
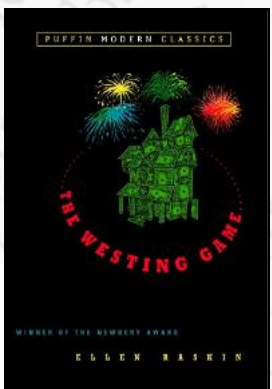
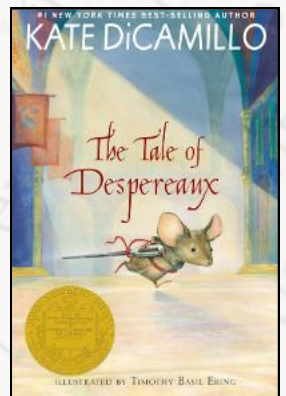
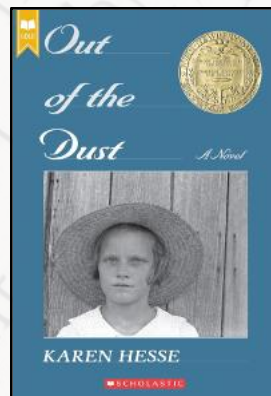
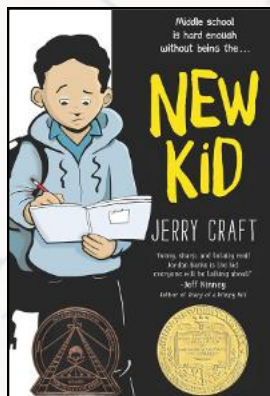
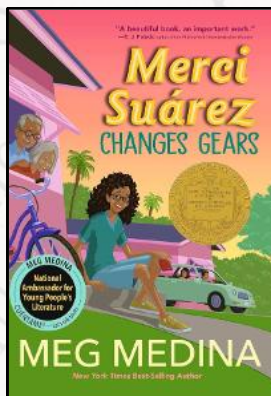
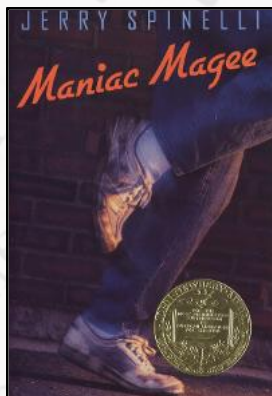
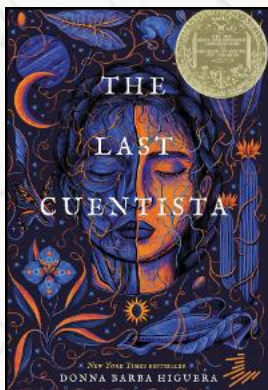
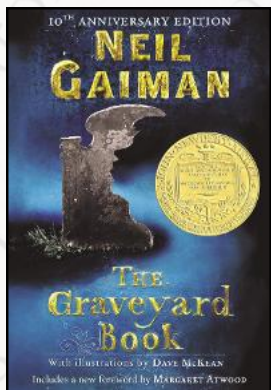
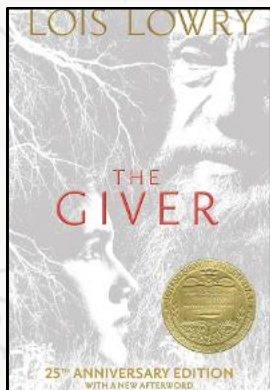
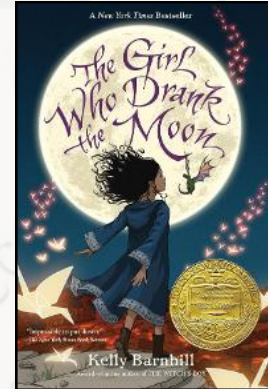
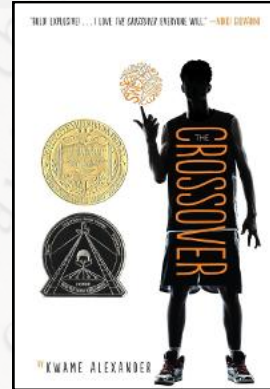
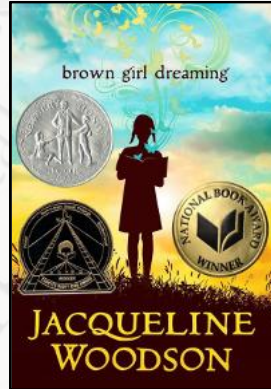
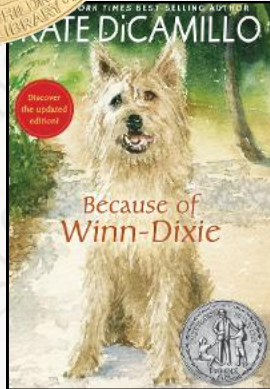
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle





WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

NEWBERY AWARD WINNING BOOKS



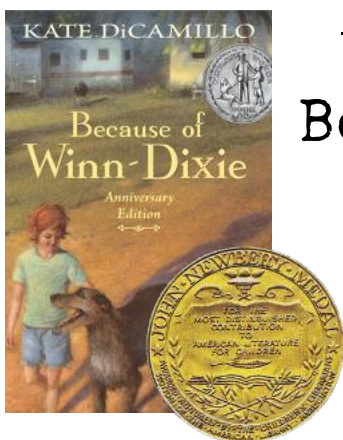
WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo

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?

One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries – and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about everything that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.

- Newbery Award Winner
- Also a movie!

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, raised in Clermont, Florida, and currently live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I write for both children and adults and I like to think of myself as a storyteller. Here are a few more facts about me: I am short. And loud. I hate to cook and love to eat. I am single and childless, but I have lots of friends and I am an aunt to three lovely children (Luke, Roxanne, and Max) and one lovable dog (Ramona). I have won the Newbery Medal twice. I think of myself as an enormously lucky



person: I get to tell stories for a living. Kate writes 2 pages a day, 5 days a week.

www.katedicamillo.com

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Lexile Level: 670

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 _____



Brown Girl Dreaming

by Jacqueline Woodson



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?

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement.

Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

Who Wrote It?

"I used to say I'd be a teacher or a lawyer or a hairdresser when I grew up but even as I said these things, I knew what made me happiest was writing."

Fun Facts about Jaqueline:

- I can only write with my notebook turned sideways. When I was a kid, I wrote with it turned upside down.
- I have only lost at checkers once or twice. I have only won at Chess once.
- I can jump double-dutch.
- Even though I can walk to a Brooklyn Nets game from my house, I'm still a die-hard Knicks fan.



Check out Jaqueline's website for more info including a great video on her about page.

www.jacquelinewoodson.com/

AR Reading Level: 5.3

Lexile Level: 990L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

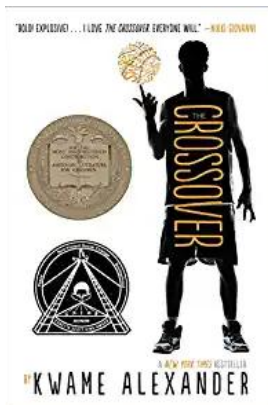
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Crossover

by Kwame Alexander



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?

12-year old Josh Bell. He and his twin brother Jordan are awesome on the court. But Josh has more than basketball in his blood, he's got mad beats, too, that tell his family's story in verse, in this fast and furious middle grade novel of family and brotherhood from Kwame Alexander. Josh and Jordan must come to grips with growing up on and off the court to realize breaking the rules comes at a terrible price, as their story's heart-stopping climax proves a game-changer for the entire family.

This book is a novel in verse, which means it is told in poems. Many are styled like raps.

- ** Soon to be a show on Disney+
- ** Won the Newbery Award
- ** New York Times Bestseller!

Who Wrote It?

Kwame Alexander has written 35 books, three of them in a chair next to a fireplace at his neighborhood Panera Bread. He now writes in a penthouse in London, where he lives. When he's not writing, Kwame's playing Softball with his soon-to-be six feet tall middle school daughter, walking around London listening to audio books, and travelling to schools and libraries across the globe...on Zoom. Kwame has eaten snails, chocolate covered bugs, and grasscutter, which is like a big rat, which he had no idea he was eating



because it was in a really tasty stew he ate in Ghana while building a library and a health clinic in a village called Konko. Kwame loves jazz. Kwame loves his family. Kwame loves his job.

AR Reading Level: 4.3

Lexile Level: 750L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

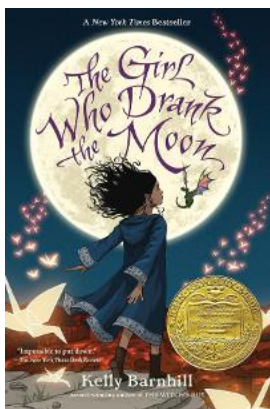
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill



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.

** I'd recommend this book for grades 7+. Please know there are trigger warnings related to addiction and extreme poverty. More about this information can be found in the video description box. **

What's It About?

Every- year, the people of the Protectorate leave a baby as an offering to the witch who lives in the forest. They hope this sacrifice will keep her from terrorizing their town. But the witch in the Forest, Xan, is kind. She shares her home with a wise Swamp Monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon. Xan rescues the children and delivers them to welcoming families on the other side of the forest, nourishing the babies with starlight on the journey. One year, Xan accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling the ordinary child with extraordinary magic. Xan decides she must raise this girl, whom she calls Luna, as her own. As Luna's thirteenth birthday approaches, her magic begins to emerge—with dangerous consequences. Meanwhile, a young man from the Protectorate is determined to free his people by killing the witch. Deadly birds with uncertain intentions flock nearby. A volcano, quiet for centuries, rumbles just beneath the earth's surface. And the woman with the Tiger's heart is on the prowl...

Who Wrote It?

Kelly describes herself as an author, teacher, mom, Newbery medalist, Terrible gardener, Maker of pie. About her time as a teacher, Kelly says this, 'I loved my students very much. And I trained an entire team of seventh graders - 120 in all - to spend an entire school year referring to me as Princess Barnhill. Which is pretty much the best thing ever.' About being a writer, she says this, 'Every day I sit at my desk, and every day I must ask the characters in my head, what do you think you're doing? And every day they look at me coyly and they refuse to answer my questions. To be a writer you must be part detective,



Photo by Jenna Fraboni

part interrogator, part friend, part nosy neighbor. And so we work. Very, very, very hard. Kelly has more delightful things to say on her website, which is:

www.kellybarnhill.wordpress.com/faq/

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 640L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



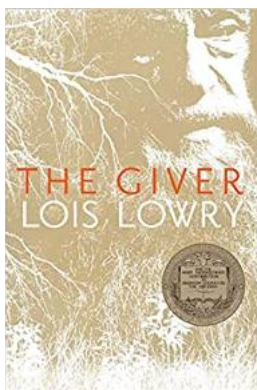
WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Giver

by Lois Lowry



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?

It was almost December, and Jonas was beginning to be frightened. Thus opens this haunting novel in which a boy inhabits a seemingly ideal world: a world without conflict, poverty, unemployment, divorce, injustice, or inequality.

December is the time of the annual Ceremony at which each twelve year old receives a life assignment from the Elders. Jonas's friend Fiona is named Caretaker of the Old. His cheerful pal Asher becomes the Assistant Director of Recreation. But Jonas has been chosen for something special. When his selection leads him to an unnamed man known only as the Giver, Jonas begins to sense the dark secrets that underlie the fragile perfection of his world.

This book has won many awards including:

- A Newbery Medal Winner
- An ALA Notable Children's Book
- An ALA Best Book for Young Adults

Who Wrote It?

Because Lois's father was a dentist for the military, she lived all over the world! She was born in Hawaii, lived in Tokyo and eventually moved back to the United States and was living in New York City when she graduated high school. Lois always wanted to be a writer. When she was a little girl she carried around a notebook and was always writing poems and stories. She started her career as a freelance journalist and then novels. A common theme and message that runs through her work is this: the vital need of people to be aware of their interdependence, not



only with each other, but with the world and its environment. Lois now lives in Maine with her husband and their big shaggy dog, a Tibetan Terrier named Alfie. Lois likes to spend the winter in the warm climate of Naples, Florida.

AR Reading Level: 5.7

Lexile Level: 760L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

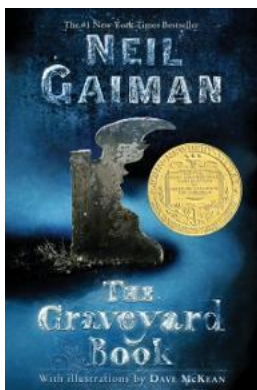
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman



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?

IT TAKES A GRAVEYARD TO RAISE A CHILD. Nobody Owens, known as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised by ghosts, with a guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the dead. There are adventures in the graveyard for a boy—an ancient Indigo Man, a gateway to the abandoned city of ghouls, the strange and terrible Sleer. But if Bod leaves the graveyard, he will be in danger from the man Jack—who has already killed Bod's family.

The Graveyard Book, a modern classic, is the only work ever to win both the Newbery (US) and Carnegie (UK) medals.

Neil got the idea for this book while watching his young son ride his tricycle in a cemetery. (It was the only place in his neighborhood with sidewalks!)

This book also has a graphic novel version and will soon be made into a movie.

Who Wrote It?

Neil Gaiman was born in Hampshire, UK, and now lives in the United States near Minneapolis. I was the sort of kid who devoured books, and my happiest times as a boy were when I persuaded my parents to drop me off in the local library on their way to work, and I spent the day there. Gaiman began his writing career in England as a journalist. His first book was a Duran Duran biography that took him three months to write. The groundbreaking comic series Sandman followed, collecting a large number of US awards. He is listed in the Dictionary of Literary Biography as one of the top ten living post-modern writers and is



a prolific creator of works of prose, poetry, film, journalism, comics, song lyrics, and drama. Neil writes for readers of all ages and genres and you can learn more about him on his website: www.neilgaiman.com

AR Reading Level: 5.1

Lexile Level: 820L

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

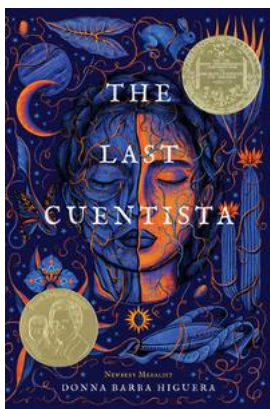
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The 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

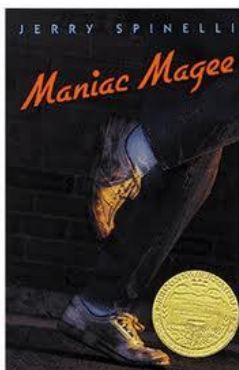
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Maniac Magee

by Jerry Spinelli



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 Newbery Medal winning modern classic about a racially divided small town and a boy who runs.

Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run-- and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

A few interesting facts...

1. Maniac Magee was partially inspired by a motown song.
2. According to Jerry Spinelli, the South African government bought several hundred copies of Maniac Magee to promote anti-apartheid efforts.
3. There's a movie adaptation of Maniac Magee and Jerry Spinelli is not a fan!
4. Maniac Magee won the Newbery Award in 1991.

Who Wrote It?

Jerry did not always want to be a writer. First he dreamed of being a cowboy and then a baseball player. When he wrote a poem about a football field in high school and that poem was published, he switched his dreams to writing. He went to Gettysburg University and afterward studied writing at John Hopkins. He worked as the editor of department store magazine and wrote in his free time... which was challenging at times because he and his wife had 6 noisy kids! But he must have managed to get some work done, because now, 30 years later he has written 21 books, some of



them, like Maniac Magee, are award winning! To hear Jerry's writing advice and answers to FAQ, head to his website: www.jerryspinelli.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 820L

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 _____

Merci Suarez Changes Gears

by Meg Medina



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?

Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just how different. For starters, she's not exactly like the other kids at Seaward Pines because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. At home, Merci's most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely and no one in her family will tell her anything about what's going on with her grandfather. In a coming of age story that features family, friends, frenemies – and ripped off eyebrows – we look at the confusion and constant change that define middle school and the steadfast connection that defines family.

This book won the Newbery Medal in 2019.

If you like this book, you might also enjoy the sequel: *Merci Suarez Can't Dance*.

Who Wrote It?

Meg Medina is an award-winning and New York Times best-selling author who writes picture books, as well as middle grade and young adult fiction. Her works have been called 'heartbreaking,' 'lyrical' and 'must haves for every collection.' When she's not writing, Meg works on community projects that support girls, Latino youth, and/or literacy. She is a faculty member of Hamline University's Masters of Fine Arts in Children's



Literature and lives with her family in Richmond, Virginia. You can learn more about Meg on her website: www.MegMedina.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

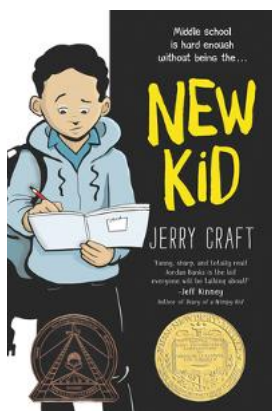
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Name _____

Date _____



New Kid by Jerry Craft



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?

New Kid is a timely, honest graphic novel about starting over at a new school where diversity is low and the struggle to fit in is real, from award-winning author-illustrator Jerry Craft.

Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?

This middle grade graphic novel is an excellent choice for tween readers, including for summer reading. Winner of the Newbery Medal, Coretta Scott King Author Award, and Kirkus Pri

Who Wrote It?

As a kid, Jerry did not like to read, but as he got older, he felt that the lack of books with characters who looked and acted like him and his friends, was probably the biggest reason. So he decided to make the books he wished he had when he was a kid. Jerry always loved drawing. A lot of what readers read and see in **New Kid** is built off the experiences of Jerry's life (and of his sons too!). Jerry says he feels honored to represent his community through his stories. "No ONE character is always right, nor are they always wrong. And I feel like that's important for both kids AND adults to see." Jerry said he had a blast creating this book. Jerry lives



with his family in Connecticut. He is excited about the newest book in this series, **School Trip** to come out in 2023. You can learn more about Jerry at his website: <https://jerrycraft.com/faq/>

AR Reading Level: 2.9

Lexile Level: 320L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

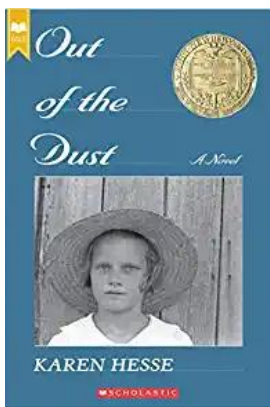
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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

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Out of the Dust

by Karen Hesse



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?

"Dust piles up like snow across the prairie. . . ."

A terrible accident has transformed Billie Jo's life, scarring her inside and out. Her mother is gone. Her father can't talk about it. And the one thing that might make her feel better -- playing the piano -- is impossible with her wounded hands. To make matters worse, dust storms are devastating the family farm and all the farms nearby. While others flee from the dust bowl, Billie Jo is left to find peace in the bleak landscape of Oklahoma -- and in the surprising landscape of her own heart.

This book is a novel in verse, which means it is told in poems.

This book is historical fiction.

This book won the Newbery Award in 2010.

Who Wrote It?

I was born in 1952, in Baltimore, Maryland. I lived in a brick, row house in the city and my neighborhood brimmed with children my age. Summers were spent flying in and out of each other's homes. We played everything from jacks to hopscotch, jump rope to 'swinging statues', 'talent show' to 'mothers and babies'. There was a park about five blocks from my house in one direction and a public library about the same distance in the other direction and I loved going to both. I graduated from high school when I was sixteen and later earned my English degree from the University of Maryland. I've lived in Vermont since 1976 where, with my



husband, I've raised two amazing daughters. I love to knit dolls, go hiking, take photographs, read, write little tunes for the piano, paint, sing, and cook. Learn more about Karen and her books at <https://karenhesseblog.wordpress.com/>.

AR Reading Level: 5.3

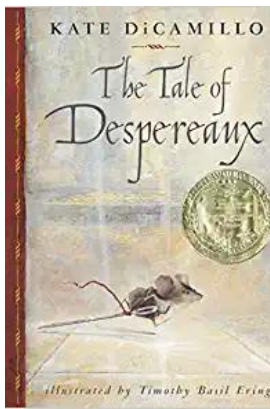
Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

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Name _____

Date _____

The Tale of Despereaux

by Kate DiCamillo



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?

Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. And what happens then? As Kate DiCamillo would say: 'Reader, it is your destiny to find out.'

- This book won the Newbery Medal in 2004.
- This book was turned into a movie.
- Illustrations by Timothy Basil Ering accompany the story.

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, raised in Clermont, Florida, and currently live in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I write for both children and adults and I like to think of myself as a storyteller. Here are a few more facts about me: I am short. And loud. I hate to cook and love to eat. I am single and childless, but I have lots of friends and I am an aunt to three lovely children (Luke, Roxanne, and Max) and one lovable dog (Ramona). I have won the Newbery Medal twice. I think of myself as an enormously lucky



person: I get to tell stories for a living. You can learn more about me at www.katedicamillo.com

AR Reading Level: 4.7 Lexile Level: 670L

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 Westing Game by Ellen Raskin



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?

A bizarre chain of events begins when sixteen unlikely people gather for the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will. And though no one knows why the eccentric, game-loving millionaire has chosen a virtual stranger—and a possible murderer—to inherit his vast fortune, on things for sure: Sam Westing may be dead...but that won't stop him from playing one last game!

"A supersharp mystery...confoundingly clever, and very funny." —Booklist, starred review

Winner of the Newbery Medal
Winner of the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award
An ALA Notable Book

Who Wrote It?

Raskin was born in Milwaukee in 1928 and grew up during the Great Depression. She was educated at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a major in fine art. Raskin was an accomplished graphic artist. In New York City she worked as a commercial artist for about 15 years. Among other things she designed more than 1000 dust jackets for books including the first edition of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, the 1963 Newbery Medal winner. Ellen is the author of 16 books and the illustrator for over two dozen more.



Ellen struggled with mental health and died at the age of 56 due to a connective tissue disease.

AR Reading Level: 5.3

Lexile Level: 7500L

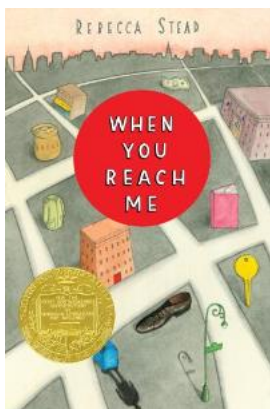
I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK







Name _____

Date _____

When You Reach Me

by Rebecca Stead

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?

Shortly after a fall-out with her best friend, sixth grader Miranda starts receiving mysterious notes, and she doesn't know what to do. The notes tell her that she must write a letter—a true story, and that she can't share her mission with anyone. It would be easy to ignore the strange messages, except that whoever is leaving them has an uncanny ability to predict the future. If that is the case, then Miranda has a big problem—because the notes tell her that someone is going to die, and she might be too late to stop it.

- Newbery Award Winner
- Winner of the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Fiction
- A New York Times Bestseller
- Five Starred Reviews
- A Junior Library Guild Selection

Who Wrote It?

I grew up in New York City, where I was lucky enough to go to an elementary school where I could sit in a windowsill, or even under a table, and read a book. On those windowsills, under those tables, and in my two beds at night, I fell in love with books. (I had two beds because my parents were divorced.) Reading books made me think about writing. BUT, AS A KID, I DIDN'T WRITE A LOT. YOU COULD PROBABLY FIT EVERYTHING I WROTE BEFORE THE AGE OF 17 INTO ONE (SKINNY) NOTEBOOK. Much, much later, I became a lawyer (I believed that trying to be a writer was impractical), got married, and started working as a public defender. But I still wrote stories (for adults) when I could find the time. One day my 3 year old son pushed my laptop off the dining room table and my stories were gone. POOF! It was



time to write something new. Something joyful. I went to a bookstore and bought an armload of books that I remembered loving as a kid. I read them. And then I began to write again. This time, for kids.

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 750L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

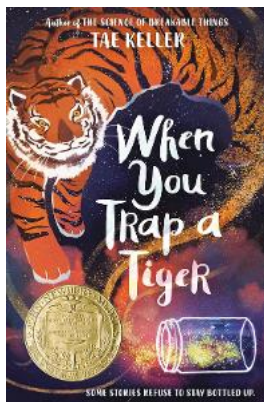
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Name _____

Date _____



When You Trap a Tiger

by Tae Keller



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 Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.

This book won the Newbery Award in 2021.

This book is in the genre Magical Realism because there are magical elements happening in our present day world.

If you like folktales, you will love this book!

Who Wrote It?

Tae Keller grew up in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she subsisted on kimchi, purple rice, and stories. Now, she writes about biracial girls trying to find their voices, and lives in Seattle with her husband and a multitude of books.

When I was younger, I loved sending long emails to my friends and family. There was something so personal, so safe about letter writing. But as I got older, email became about logistics—a quick way to convey information, make a request, schedule a meeting. I missed the love letters. I missed telling stories.



If you want to read Tae's letters, you can sign up for her eNewsletter (and also learn more about her cool books!) on her website @ www.taekeller.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 590L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

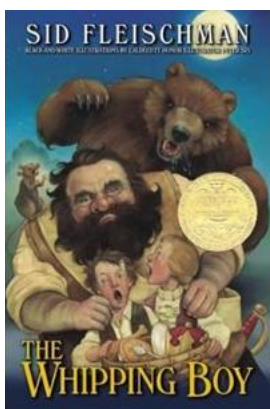
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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



The Whipping Boy by Sid Fleischman



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?

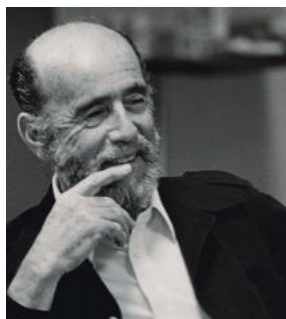
A Prince and a Pauper . . . Prince Brat and his whipping boy inadvertently trade places after becoming involved with dangerous outlaws. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like each other. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other. "A rollicking tale of adventure and mistaken identity . . . Robust scenes and characters are vividly evoked."—Kirkus Reviews

This briskly told tale of high adventure, taut with suspense and rich with colorful characters, was named an ALA Notable Book. Sid Fleischman's celebrated novel features brief, action-packed chapters and includes black-and-white illustrations by Caldecott Honor artist Peter Sís. "An 18th century tale about the escapades of a resourceful orphan and a spoiled young prince. . . Full of adventure, suspense, humor, and lively characters."—The New York Times

Newbery Award Winner!

Who Wrote It?

Born in Brooklyn, he grew up in San Diego during the Great Depression and decided in the fifth grade to become a magician. He practiced so diligently with cards, coins, and the occasional rabbit that shortly after high school he was traveling the country as a performing magician. Magic's suspense and surprises would stamp his future books. After serving in World War II with the U.S. Naval Reserve, he finished college and worked as a reporter on the San Diego Daily Journal. When the paper folded in 1950, he turned to writing fiction. At first he wrote screenplays for movies, one of which even starred the famous John Wayne and Lauren Bacall.



His children led him into writing for the young. His ideas came from history and folklore. Sid passed away in 2010. You can learn more about Sid here:
<http://www.sidfleischman.com/>

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Lexile Level: 570L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

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

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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

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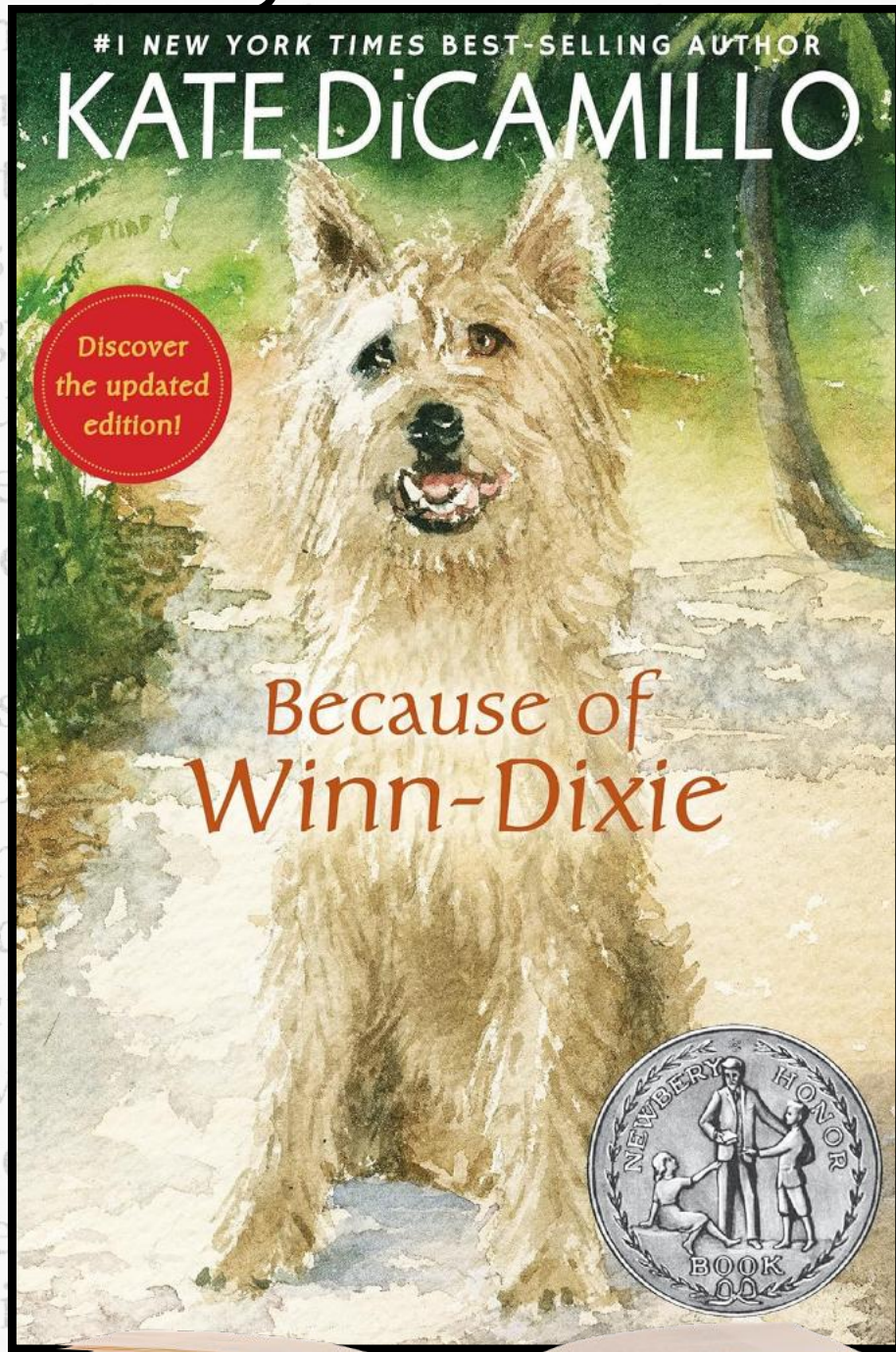
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BECAUSE OF WINN-DIXIE

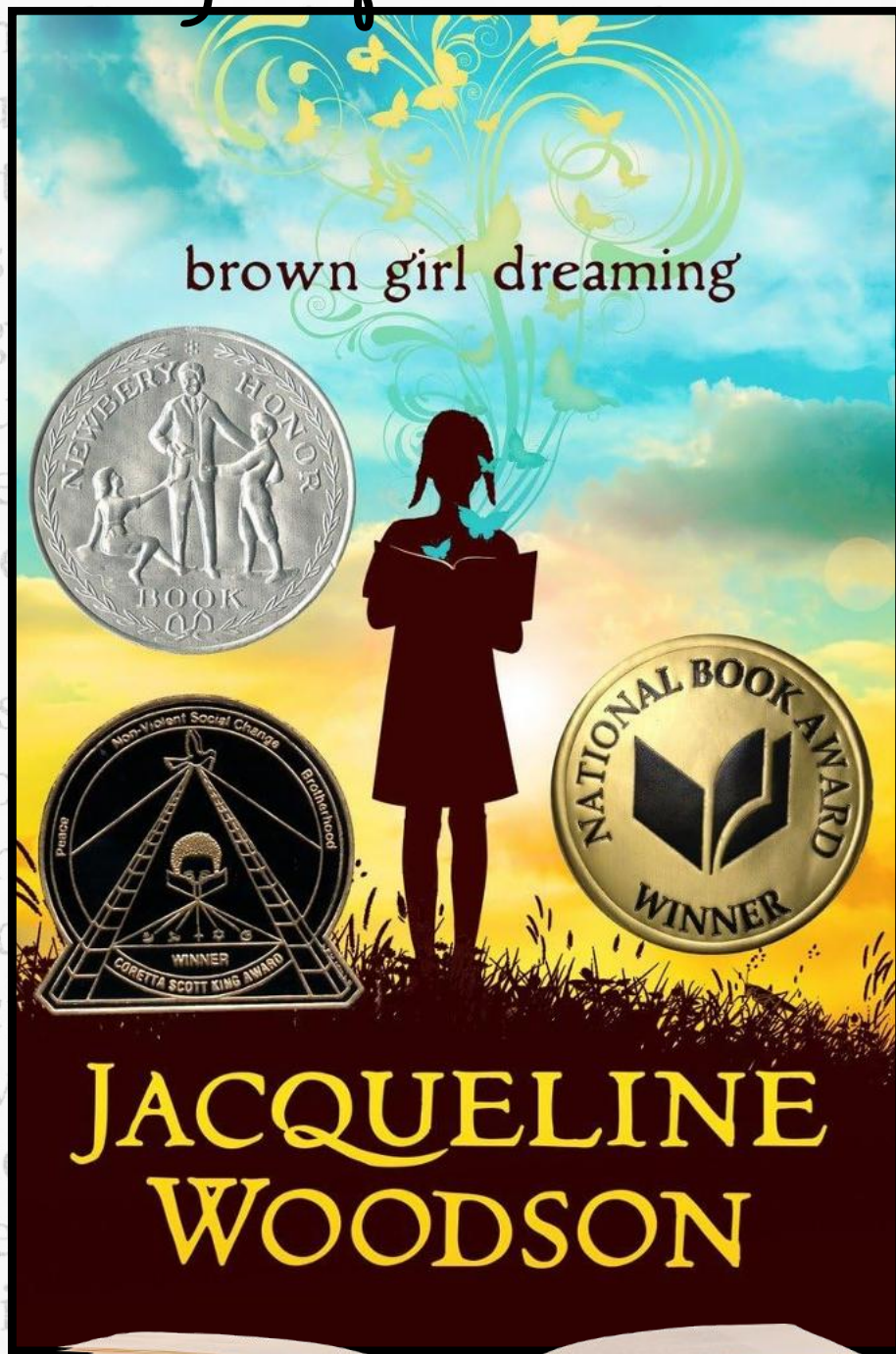
By Kate DiCamillo



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BROWN GIRL DREAMING

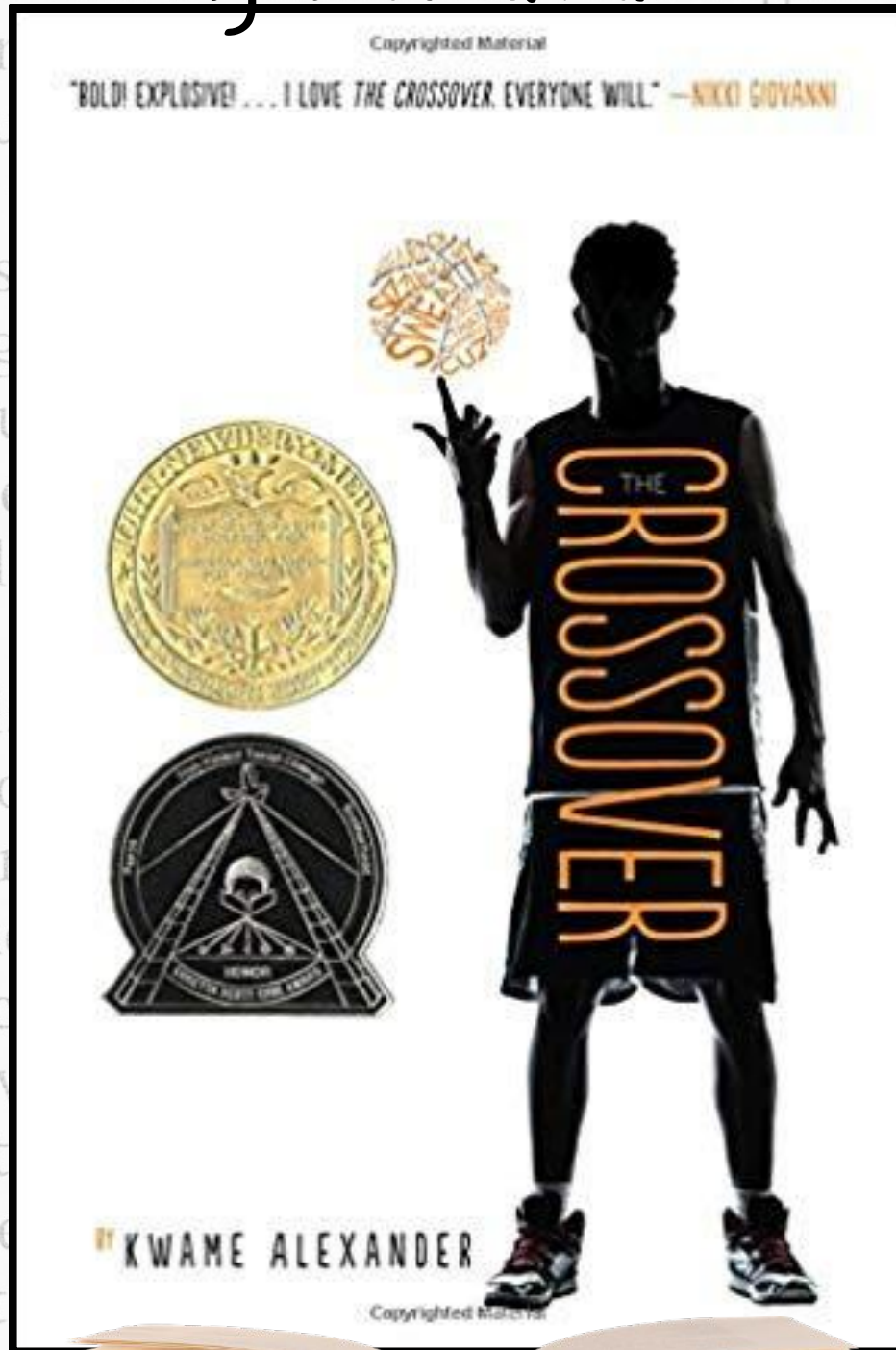
By Jacqueline Woodson



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE CROSSOVER

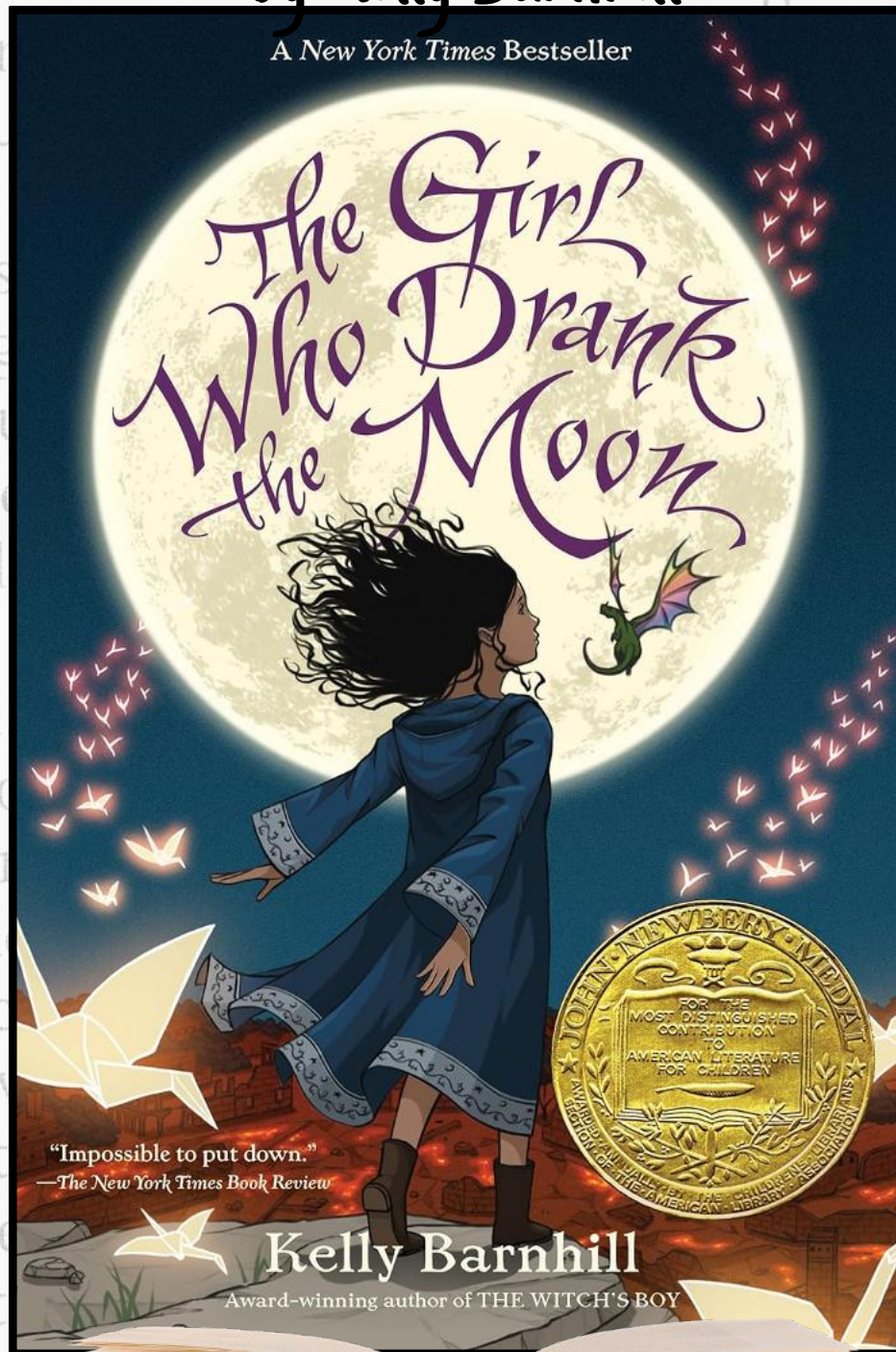
by Kwame Alexander



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON

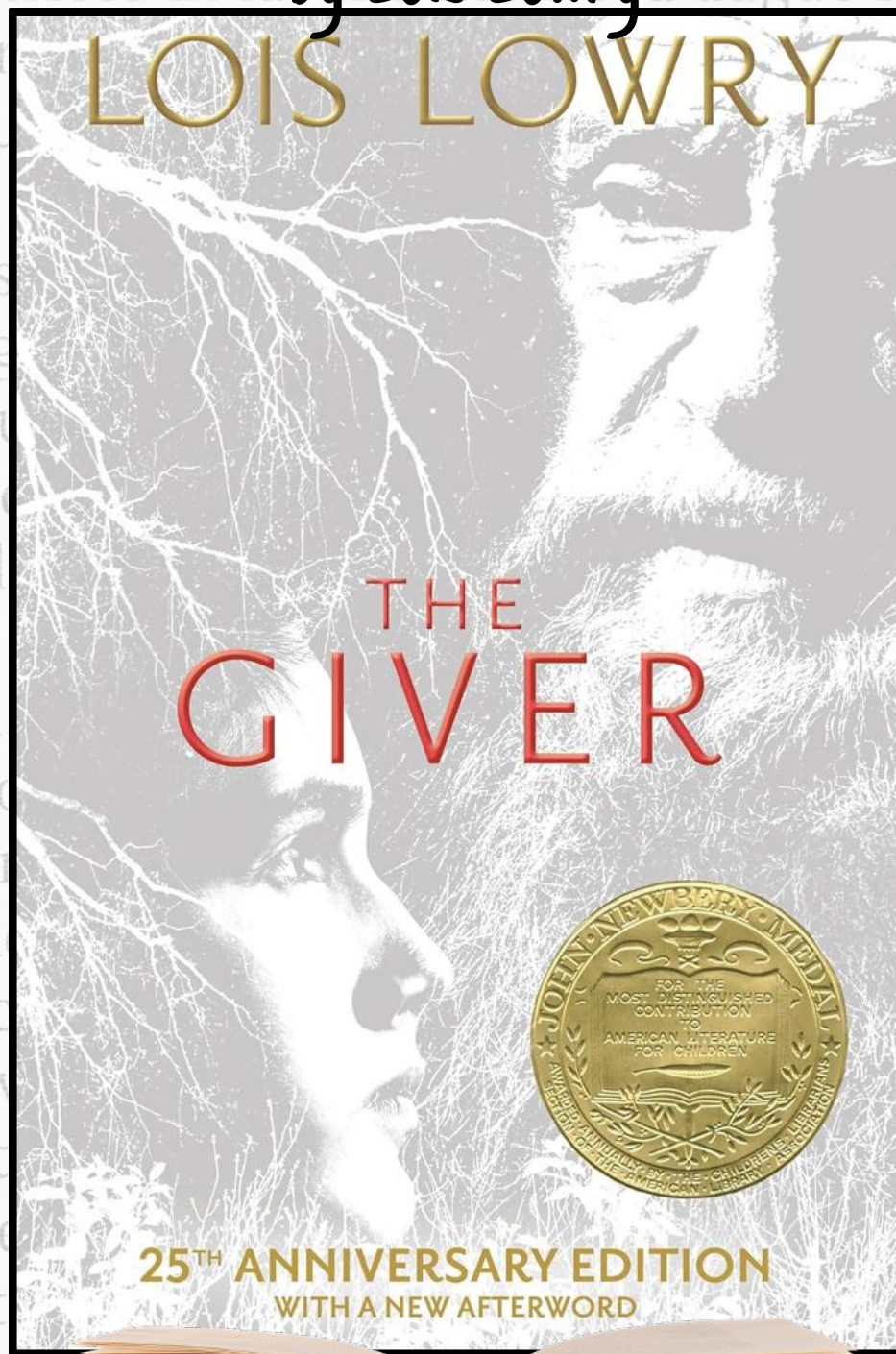
by Kelly Barnhill



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE GIVER

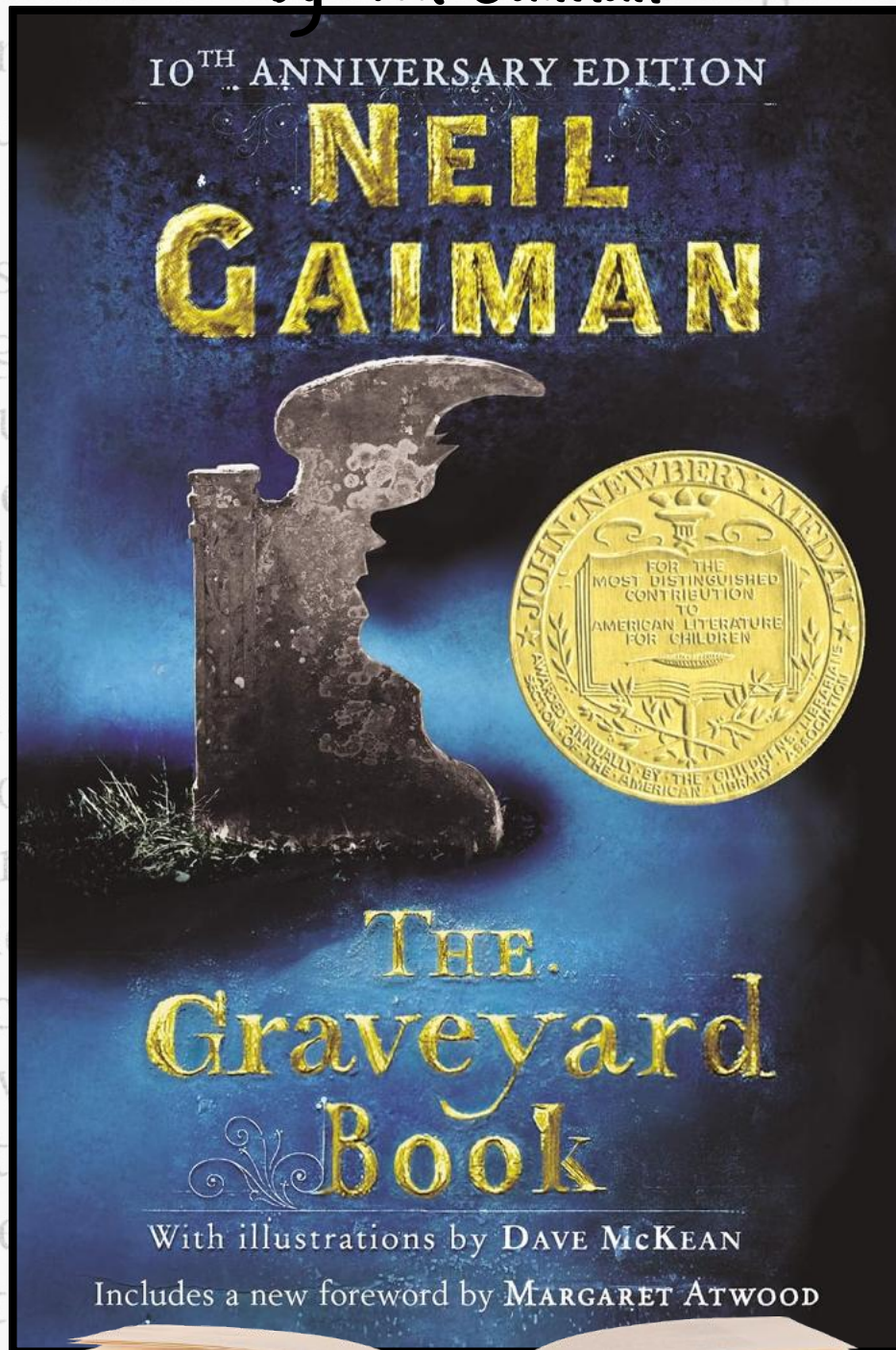
by Lois Lowry



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

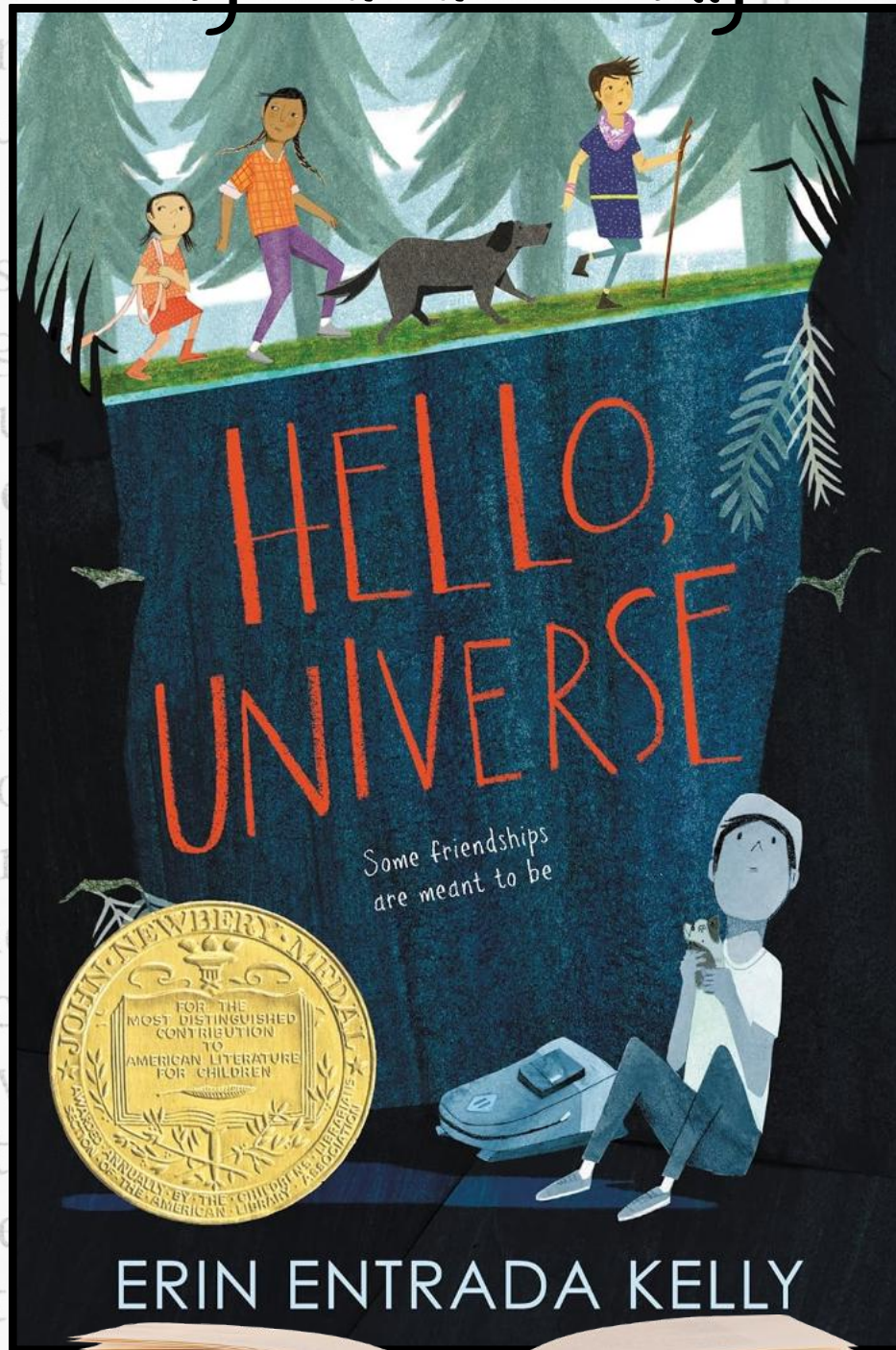
by Neil Gaiman



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HELLO UNIVERSE

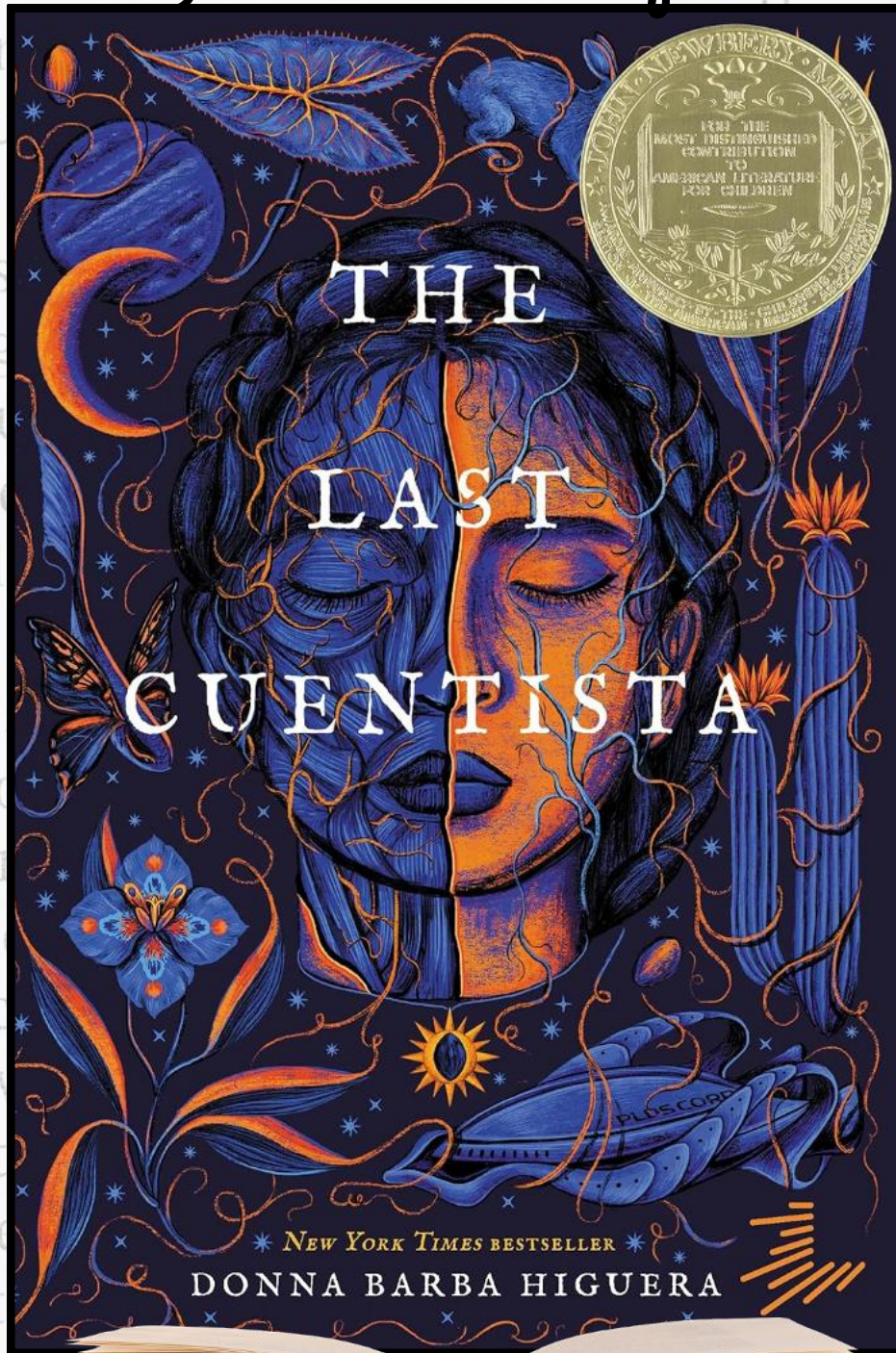
by Erin Entrada Kelly



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE LAST CUEENTISTA

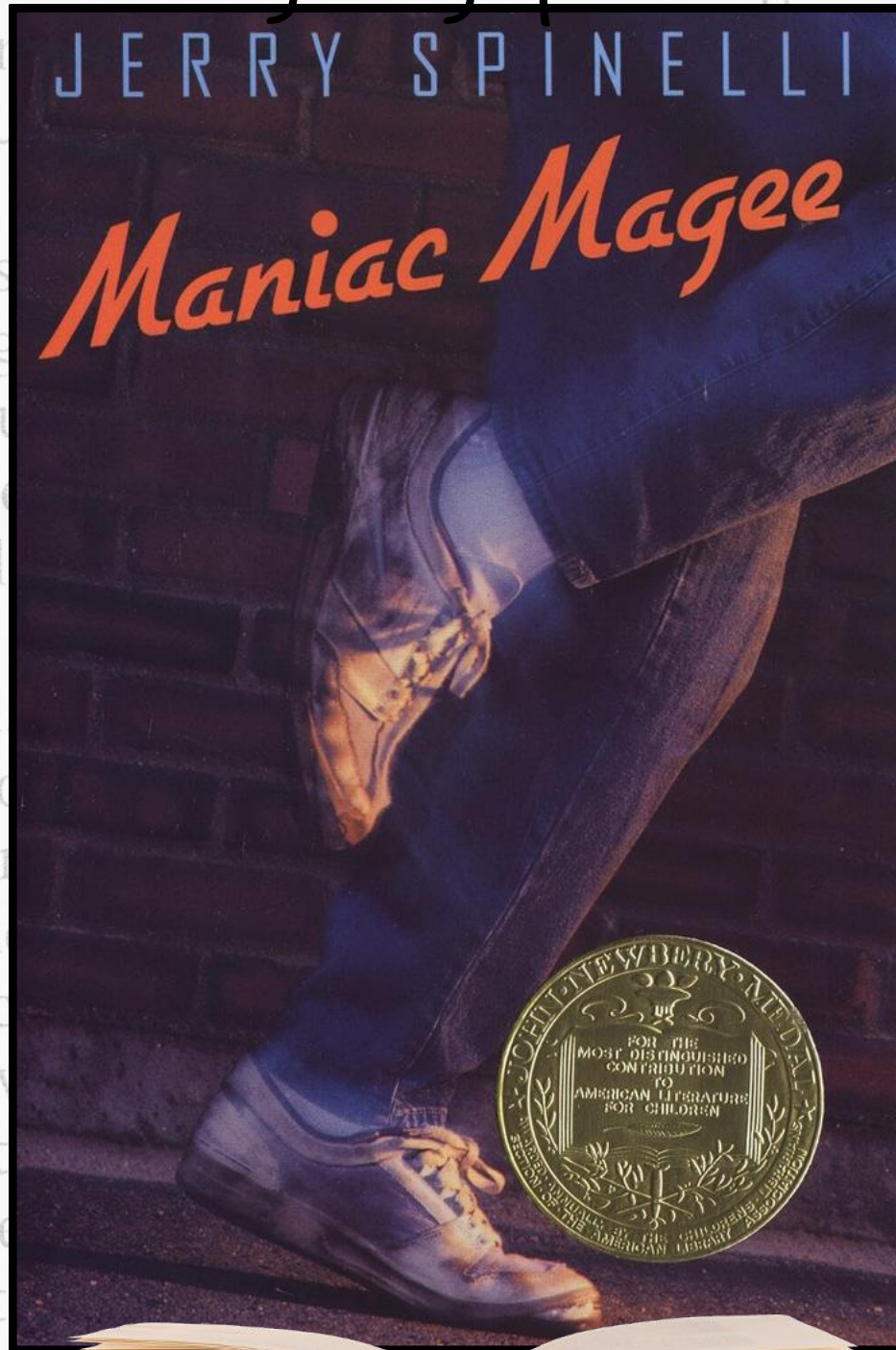
by Donna Barba Higuera



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

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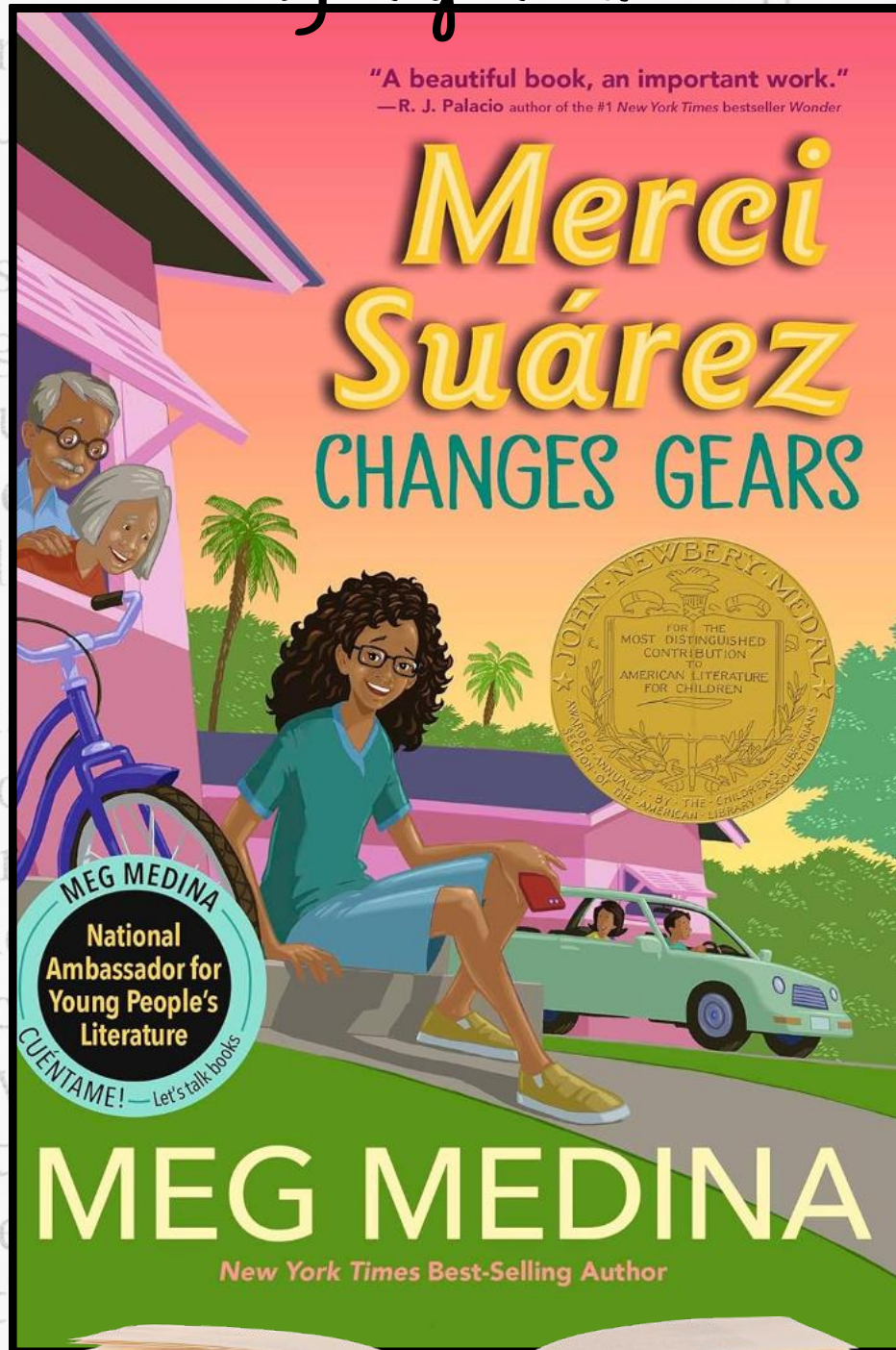
by Jerry Spinelli



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MERCI SUÁREZ CHANGES GEARS

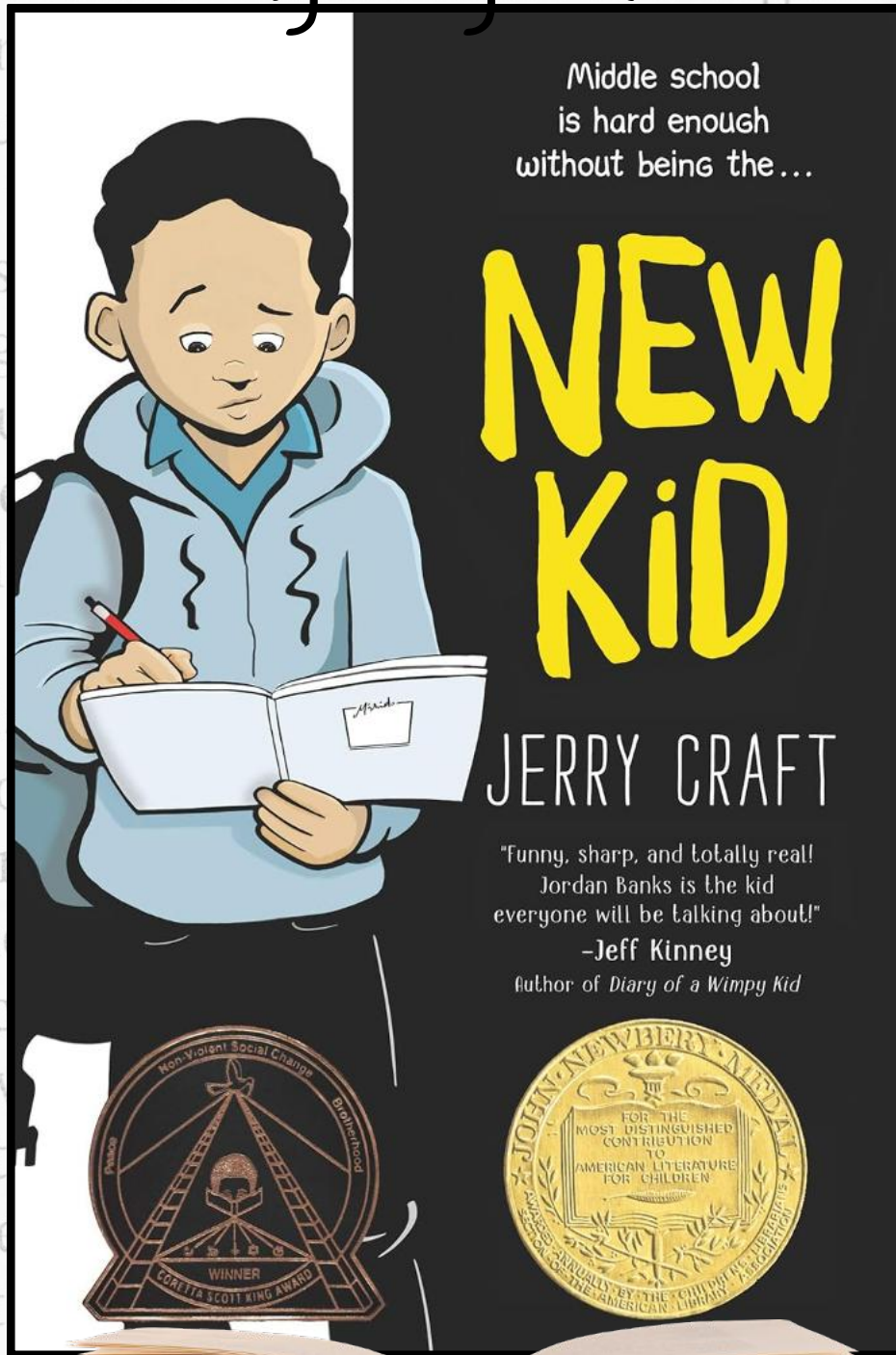
by Meg Medina



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

new kid

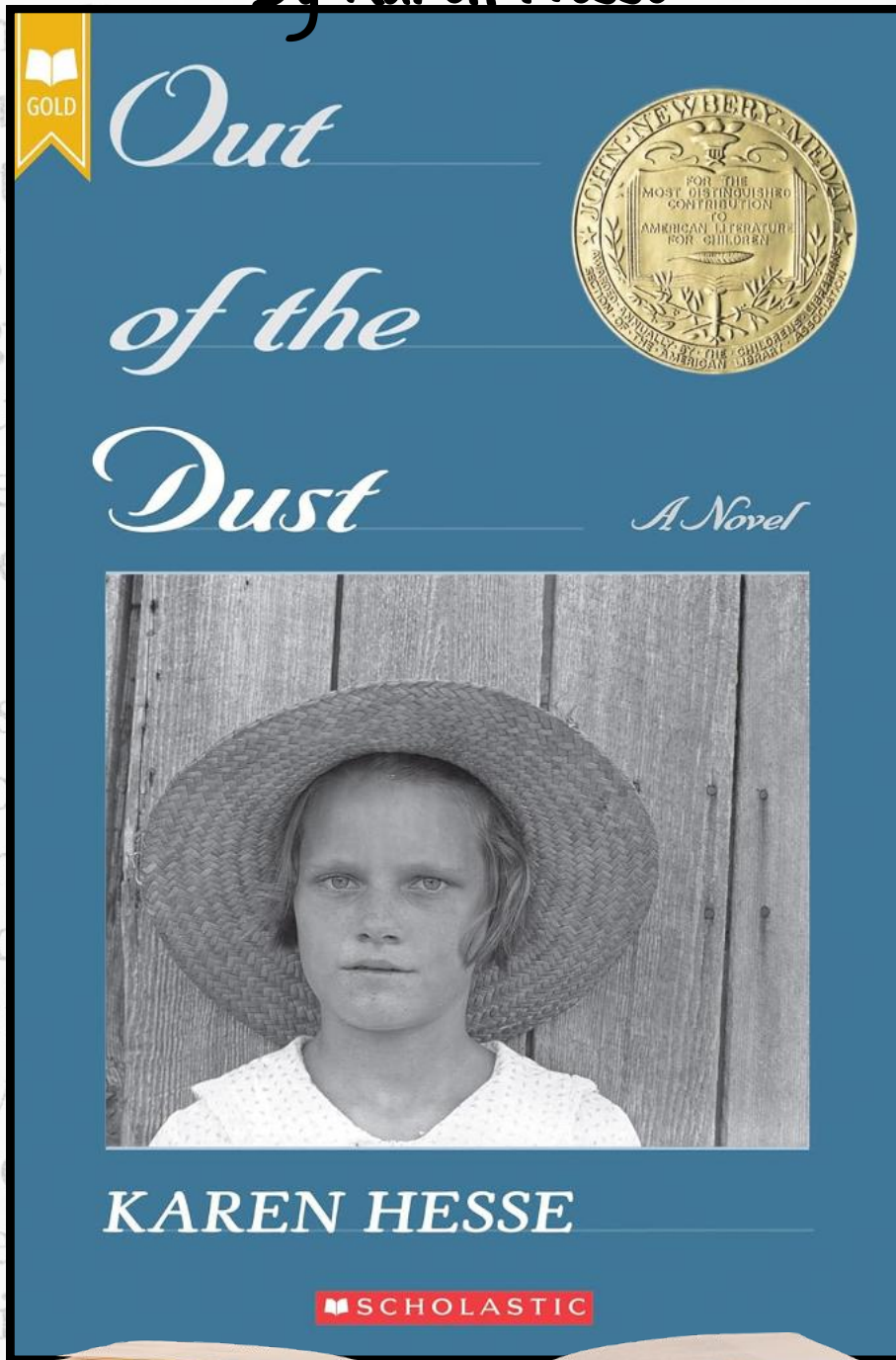
by Jerry Craft



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OUT OF THE DUST

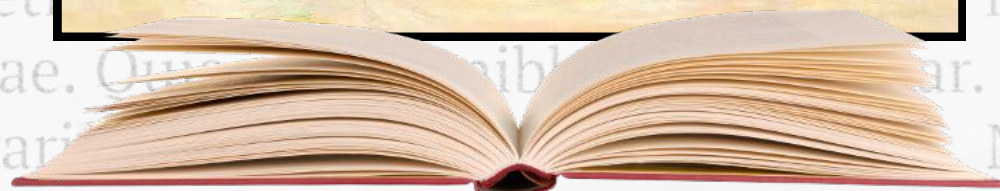
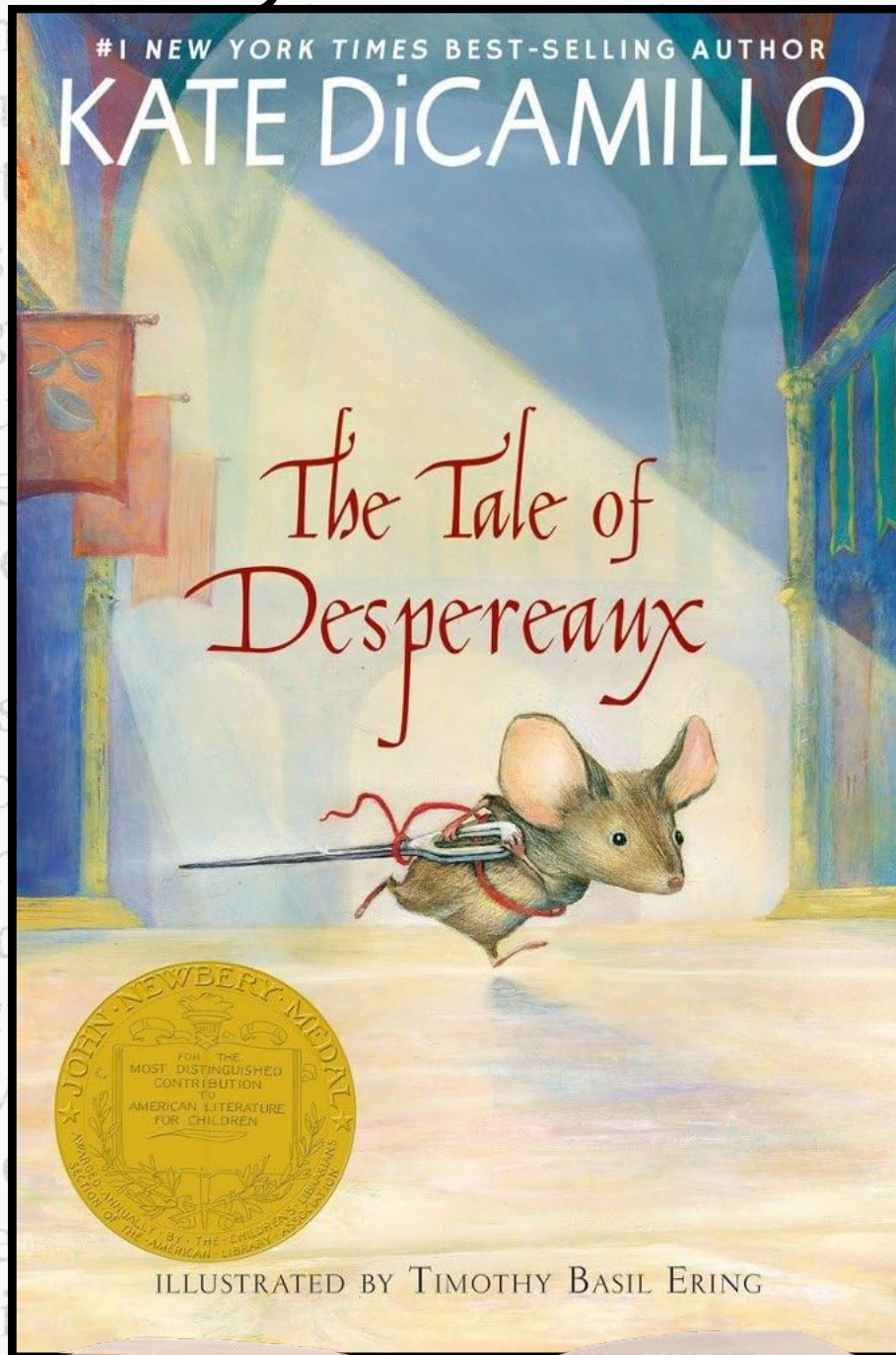
By Karen Hesse



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE TALE OF DESPEREAUX

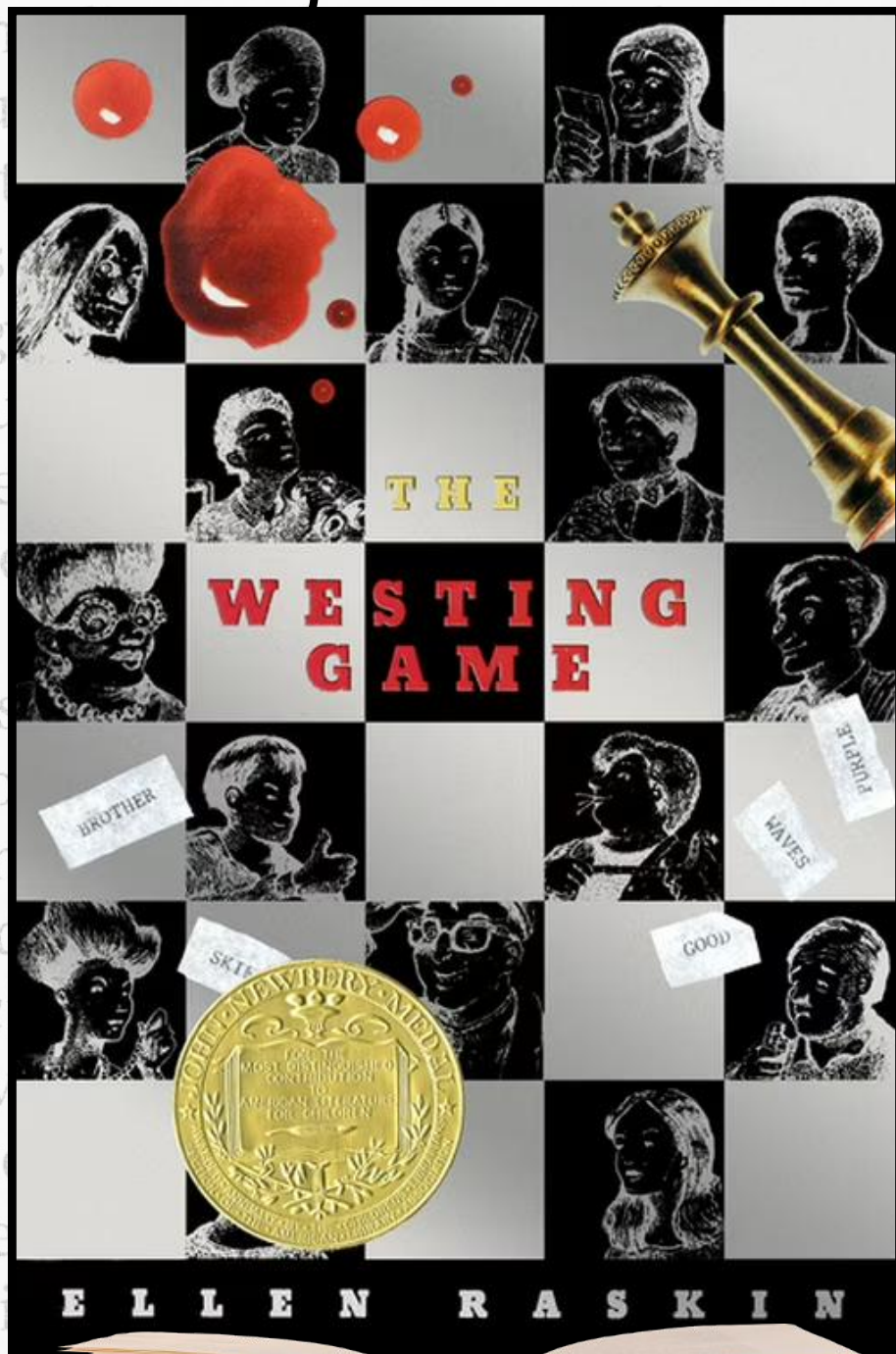
By Kate DiCamillo



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE WESTING GAME

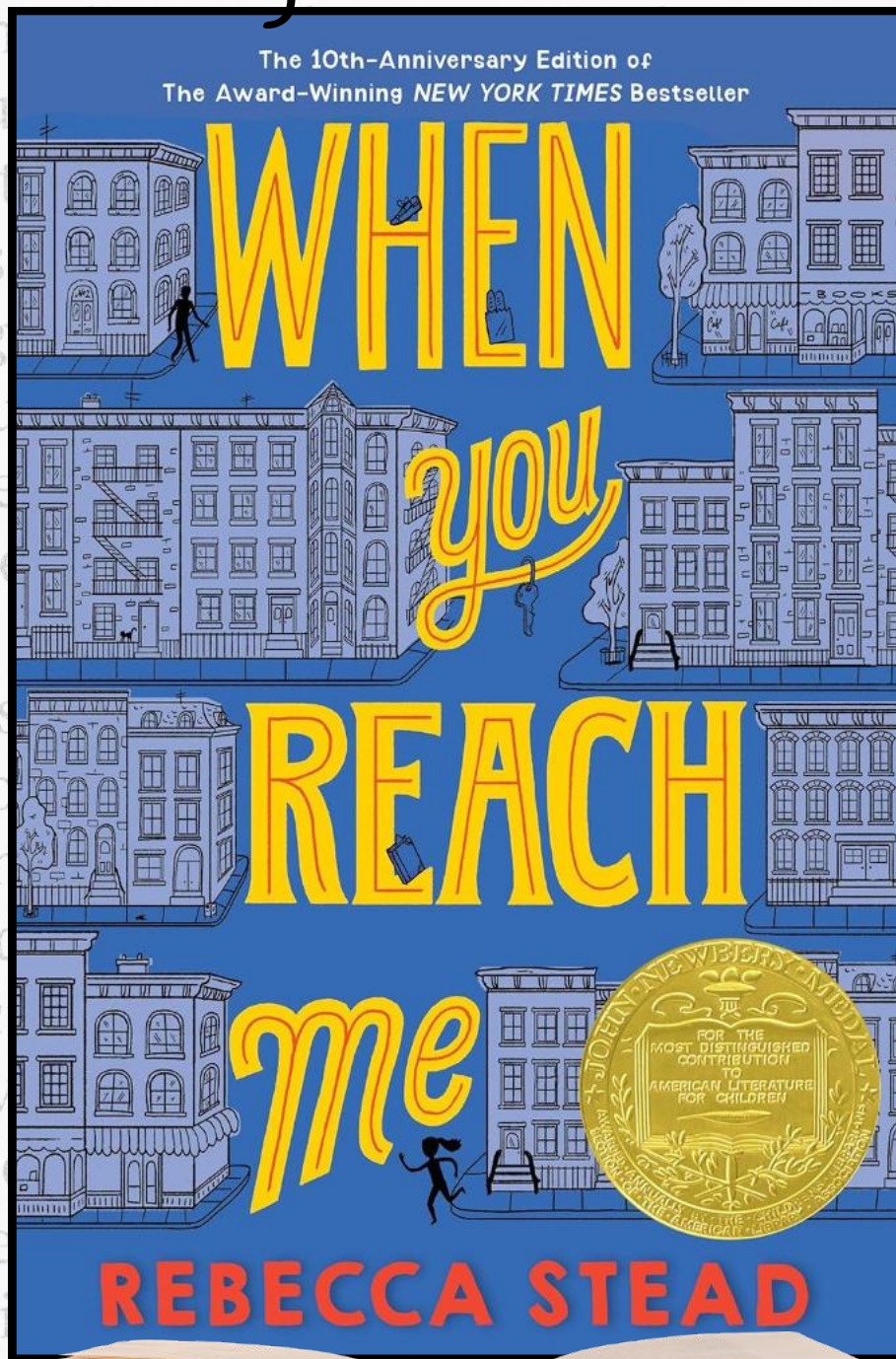
By Ellen Raskin



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

WHEN YOU REACH ME

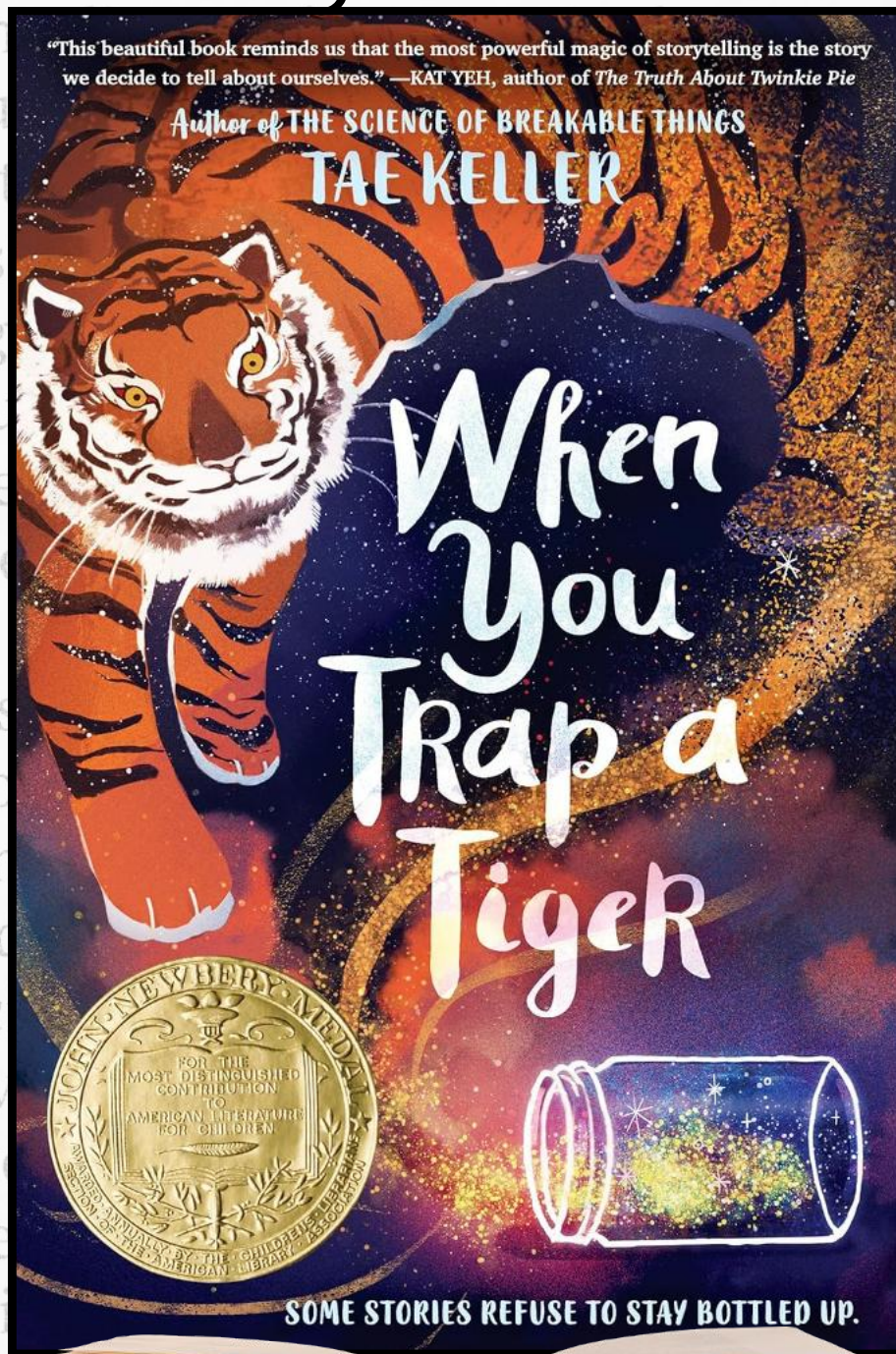
By Rebecca Stead



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER

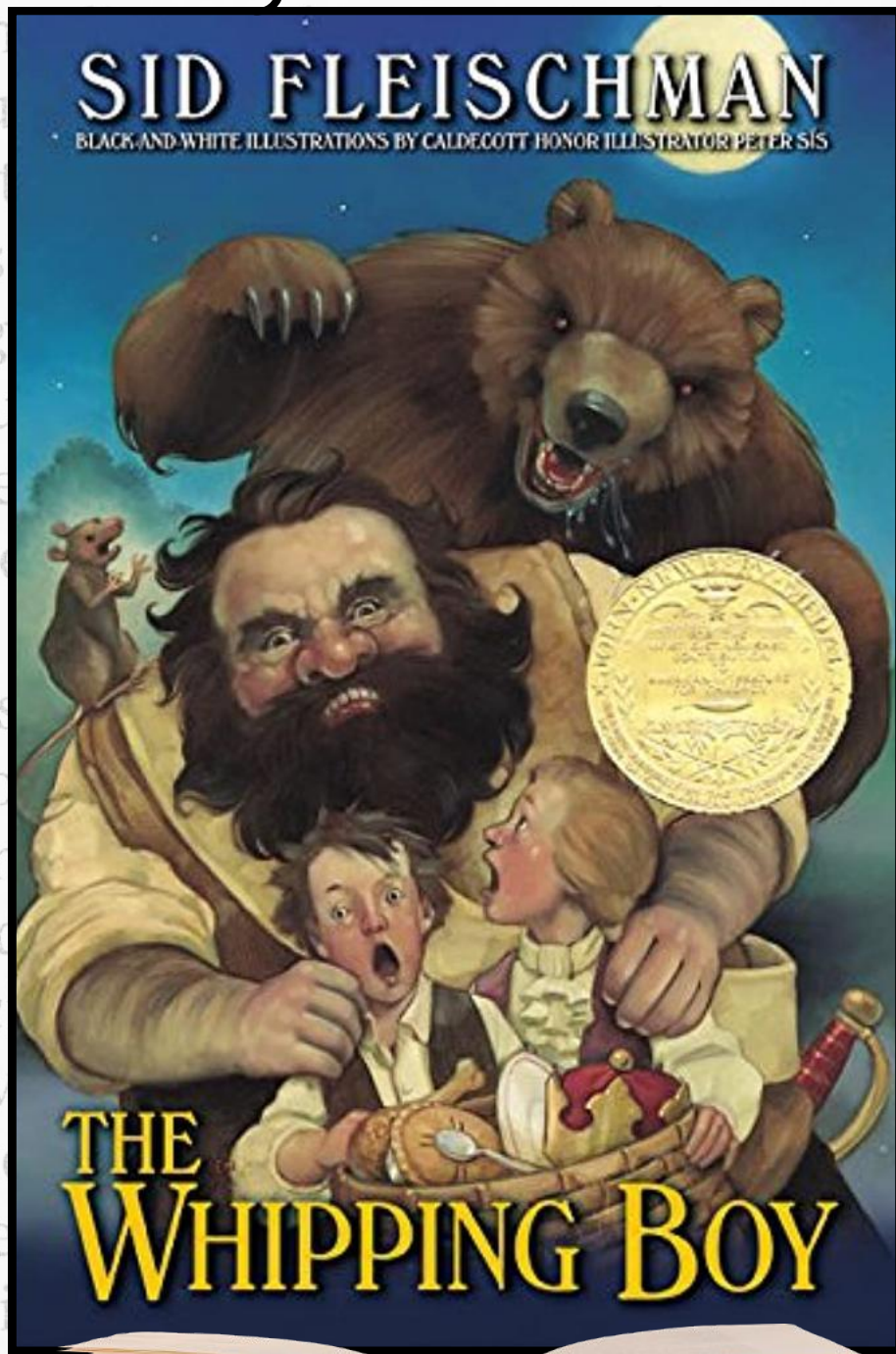
By Tae Keller



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE WHIPPING BOY

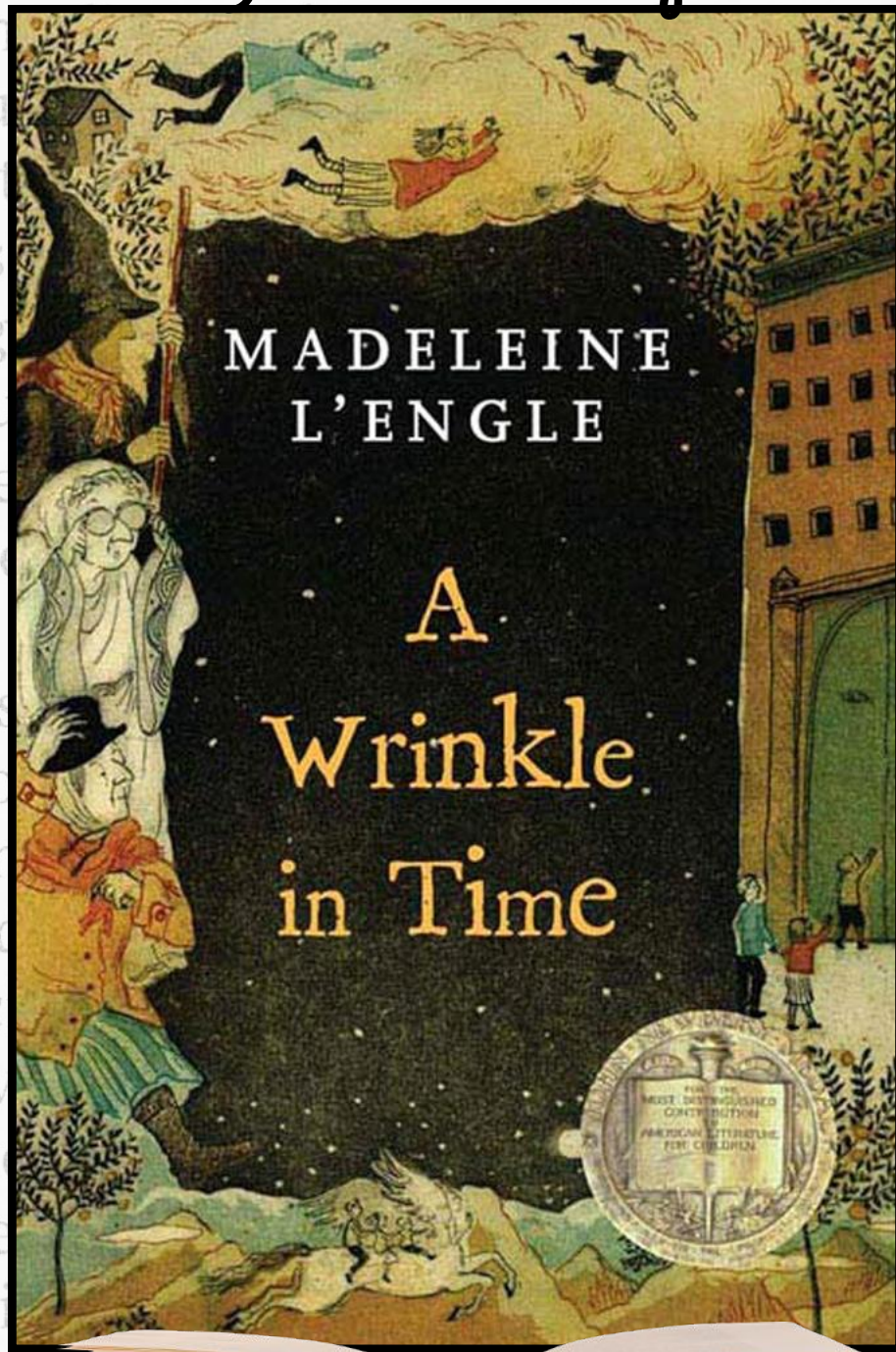
By Sid Fleischman



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A WRINKLE IN TIME

By Madeleine L'engle



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY