WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

MAKING THE TEAM



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books about characters who are working hard to join or find their place on a team. 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.

Table of Contents

Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents
Page 4: What is Frist Chapter Friday?
Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts
Page 7: Book List
Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster
Pages 10-15 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets
Pages 17-22: 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



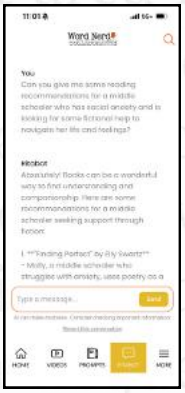
First Chapter Friday Videos



Writing Prompt Library



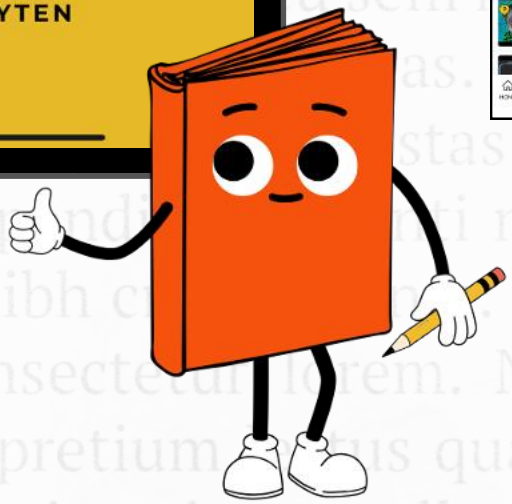
ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning





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?

Books I've Read



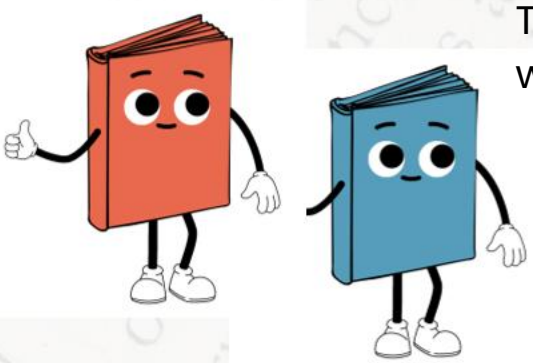
NAME: _____

TITLE	AUTHOR	RATING

Created by Amanda Zieba, The Word Nerd

WNC BOOK LIST

MAKING THE TEAM



The books on this list feature characters who are working hard to join or find their place on a team.

Change the Game
by Colin Kaepernick

Duel
by Jessixa Bagley

Free Throws, Friendship and Other Things We Fouled Up
by Jenn Bishop

Nikki on the Line
by Barbara Carol Roberts

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief
by Rick Riordan

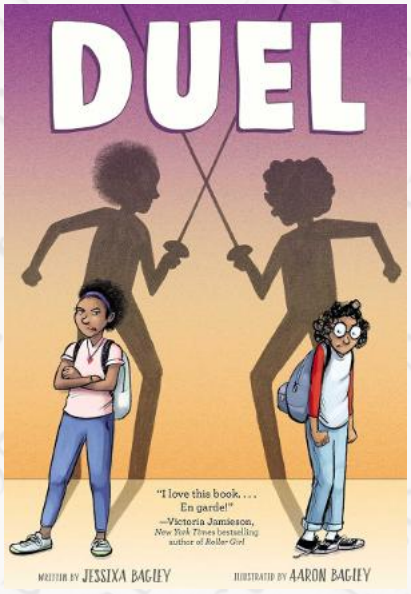
The Try Out
by Christina Soontornvat

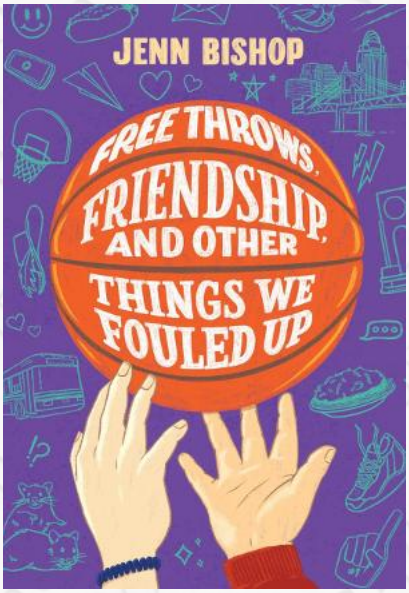


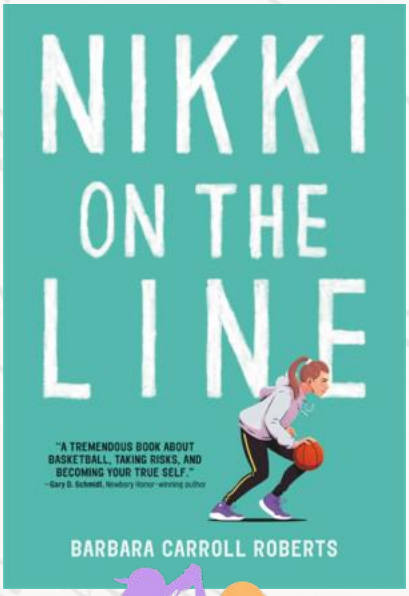
WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

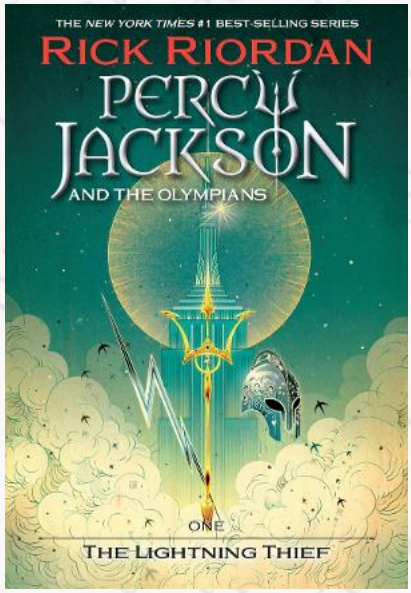
BOOKS ABOUT: MAKING THE TEAM

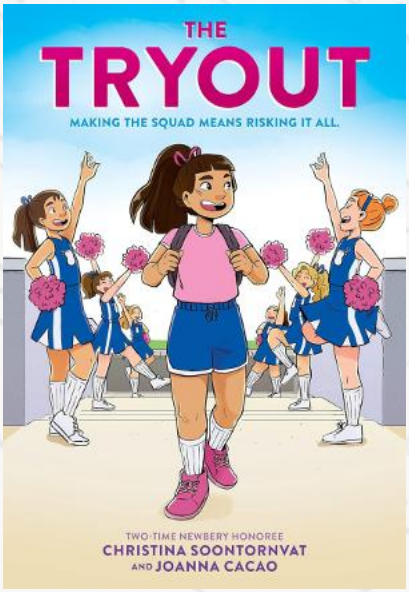














INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

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



Name _____ Date _____

Change the Game
by Colin Kaepernick

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?

High school star athlete Colin Kaepernick is at a crossroads in life. Heavily scouted by colleges and MLB as a baseball pitcher, he has a bright future ahead of him as a highly touted prospect. Everyone from his parents to his teachers and coaches are in agreement on his future. Colin feels differently.

Colin isn't excited about baseball. In the words of five-time all-star MLB player Adam Jones, 'Baseball is a white man's game.' Colin looks up to athletes like Allen Iverson: talented, hyper-competitive, unapologetically Black, and dominating their sports while staying true to themselves. College football looks a lot more fun than sleeping on hotel room floors in the minor leagues of baseball. But Colin doesn't have a single offer to play football. Yet.

This touching graphic novel explores the story of how a young change-maker learned to find himself and never compromise. How the right decision is very rarely the easy one, but taking the road less traveled can make all the difference in the world.

Who Wrote It?

Colin Kaepernick is a professional Super Bowl quarterback who fights oppression globally. He founded the Know Your Rights Camps to advance the liberation and well-being of Black and Brown people through education, self-empowerment, mass-mobilization, and the creation of new systems that elevate the next generation of change leaders. In 2019, he founded Kaepernick Publishing to elevate a new generation of writers and creators through the development and publication of meaningful works of all enres with the focus of amplifying diverse views and voices. I Color Myself Different, a New York Times bestseller, was his first book for children. Change the Game is his third book. Abolition for the People was his second.



AR Reading Level: 3.9 Lexile Level: 670

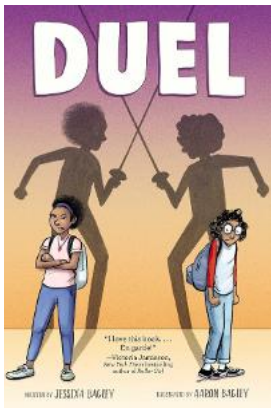
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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



Name _____ Date _____

Duel
by Jessixa Bagley

P.S. The 'x' is pronounced like a 'c'

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?

Sixth grader Lucy loves fantasy novels and is brand-new to middle school. GiGi is the undisputed queen bee of eighth grade (as well as everything else she does). They've only got one thing in common: fencing. Oh, and they're sisters. They never got along super well, but ever since their dad died, it seems like they're always at each other's throats. When GiGi humiliates Lucy in the cafeteria on the first day of school, Lucy snaps and challenges GiGi to a duel with high sisterly stakes. If GiGi wins, Lucy promises to stay out of GiGi's way; if Lucy wins, GiGi will stop teasing Lucy for good. But after their scene in the cafeteria, both girls are on thin ice with the principal and their mom. Lucy stopped practicing fencing after their fencer dad died and will have to get back to fighting form in secret or she'll be in big trouble. And GiGi must behave perfectly or risk getting kicked off the fencing team.
As the clock ticks down to the girls' fencing bout, the anticipation grows. Their school is divided into GiGi and Lucy factions, complete with t-shirts declaring kids' allegiances. Both sisters are determined to triumph. But will winning the duel mean fracturing their family even further?

Who Wrote It?

I grew up in the suburbs of Portland, Oregon where I developed a love of hamburgers, drawing, and anthropomorphic food. Upon becoming an adult, I decided to follow my childhood dreams of being a cartoonist and picture book maker. I attended the University of Washington and then Cornish College of the Arts where I graduated in 2004 with a BFA in painting and printmaking. I live in Seattle, Washington in a castle in the sky with my wonderful husband, painfully adorable son, and a slew of houseplants that all have names. You can learn more about Jessixa on her website at: www.jessixa.com

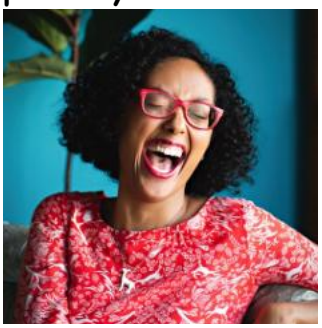


Photo Credit: Jenny Jimenez

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

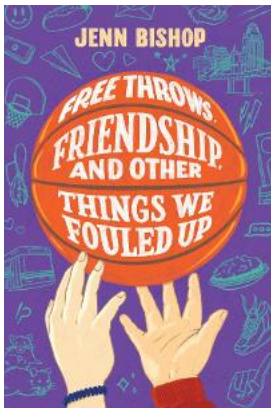
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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



Name _____ Date _____

Free Throws, Friendship, and Other Things We Fouled Up by Jenn Bishop

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?

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 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!


Photo credit: Kate L Photography

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

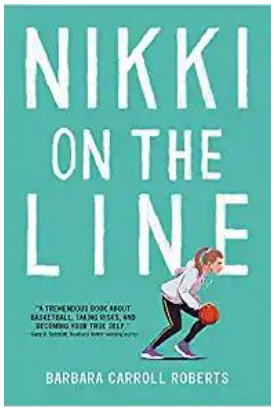
Lexile Level: Unavailable

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.

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



Name _____ Date _____

Nikki on the Line
by Barbara Caroll Roberts

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?

Thirteen-year-old Nikki Doyle's dreams of becoming a basketball great feel within reach when she's selected to play on an elite-level club team. But in a league with taller, stronger, and faster girls, Nikki suddenly isn't the best point guard. In fact, she's no longer a point guard at all, which leaves her struggling to figure out who she is and how she fits in. The stress piles on as Nikki's best friend spends more and more time with another girl on the team, and when her science teacher assigns a family tree project that will be impossible to complete unless Nikki reveals her most embarrassing secret. As if that's not enough to deal with, to cover the costs of her new team, Nikki has agreed to take care of her annoying younger brother after school to save money on childcare. As the stakes rise on the basketball court, at school, and at home, Nikki's confidence plummets. Can she learn to compete at this new, higher level? And how hard is she willing to work to find out?

Who Wrote It?

As a kid, I was a SLOW reader. But when I was in high school, I had a wonderful English teacher who not only introduced our class to some truly great books, he taught us to see the craft techniques the authors used, showed us how to 'explore beyond the plot' to figure out what a book was 'about.' Suddenly, the world of literature opened up for me. And even though I hadn't yet gotten over my embarrassment at reading so slowly, I now realized that because of this 'weakness,' I discovered details in books, sparkling images, musical language, hidden themes



that my fast-reading classmates skimmed past without noticing. My weakness had become a strength. You can learn more about Barbara on her website: www.barbaracarollroberts.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.0 Lexile Level: 840L

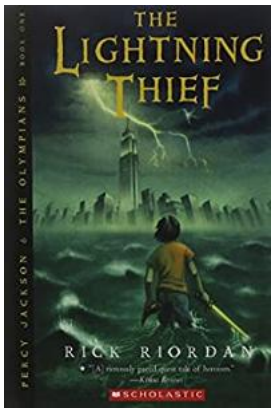
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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



Name _____ Date _____

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

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?

Percy Jackson is about to be kicked out of boarding school . . . again. And that's the least of his troubles. Lately, mythological monsters and the gods of Mount Olympus seem to be walking straight out of the pages of Percy's Greek mythology textbook and into his life. And worse, he's angered a few of them. Zeus's master lightning bolt has been stolen, and Percy is the prime suspect. Now Percy and his friends have just ten days to find and return Zeus's stolen property and bring peace to a warring Mount Olympus. But to succeed on his quest, Percy will have to do more than catch the true thief: he must come to terms with the father who abandoned him; solve the riddle of the Oracle, which warns him of betrayal by a friend; and unravel a treachery more powerful than the gods themselves.

"Perfectly paced, with electrifying moments chasing each other like heartbeats."--New York Times Book Review

There is a graphic novel version of this book, plus a movie and coming soon... a Disney+ series!

Who Wrote It?

Rick Riordan is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of over twenty novels for young readers, including the Percy Jackson series. For 15 years, Rick taught English and history at public and private middle schools in the San Francisco Bay Area and in Texas. While teaching full time, Riordan began writing mystery novels for grownups. His Tres Navarre series went on to win the top three national awards in the mystery genre – the Edgar, the Anthony and the Shamus. Riordan turned to children's fiction when he started The Lightning Thief as a bedtime story for his oldest son. Today, over 190 million copies of his books are in print worldwide, and rights have been sold into more than 37 countries. Rick Riordan now writes full-time. He lives in Boston with his wife and two sons. He has lots more for you to see and learn on his website! Go check it out at www.rickriordan.com.



AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: 680L

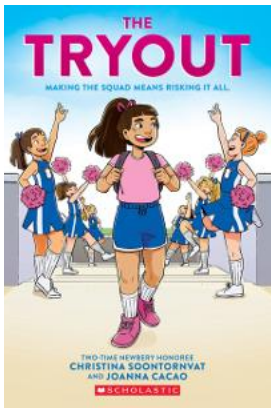
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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

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



Name _____ Date _____

The Tryout

Written by Christina Soontornvat
Illustrated by Joanna Cacao

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?

Trying out for middle school cheerleader means: performing in the giant school gym, with the whole school watching, and risking total humiliation. If Christina can make it through this, she can make it through anything.

As one of the only Asian American kids in her small Texas town, Christina just wants to fit in. Luckily, her best friend, Megan, who is Iranian American, can totally relate. The two girls have always been inseparable and relish creating elaborate fantasy worlds together. But middle school is a reality-check, and suddenly popularity is way more important than playing pretend. When cheerleading tryouts are announced, Christina and Megan literally jump at the chance to join the squad. But does fitting in actually equal belonging? Will they survive the terrifying tryouts? And most importantly, will their friendship withstand the pressures of heated competition and rivalry? Hilarious and heartfelt, The Tryout is Christina Soontornvat's personal story, sure to make you laugh, cry, and cheer!

Who Wrote It?

Artist Joanna Cacao



Author Christina Soontornvat



QUICK FACTS

Hometown: Weatherford, Texas

Siblings: None! I'm an only child.

Age: Born in 1980

Favorite movie: The Labyrinth

Favorite food: Thai food of any kind, but especially dessert, and especially *look choop!*

Favorite color: Blue

Favorite season: Summer

If I could change into any animal it would be: A sea otter

Fears: Swimming in murky water (so maybe it would be hard to be an otter...)

AR Reading Level: unavailable Lexile Level: 380L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

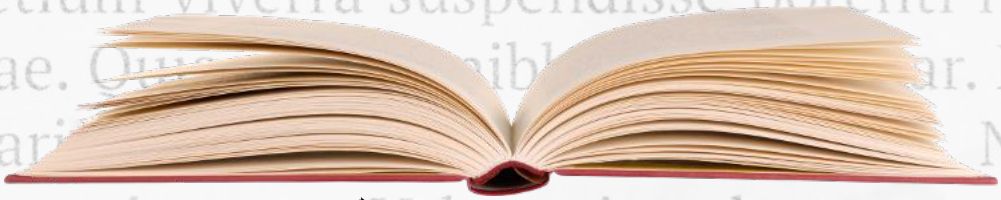
WHAT I THINK



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

INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS

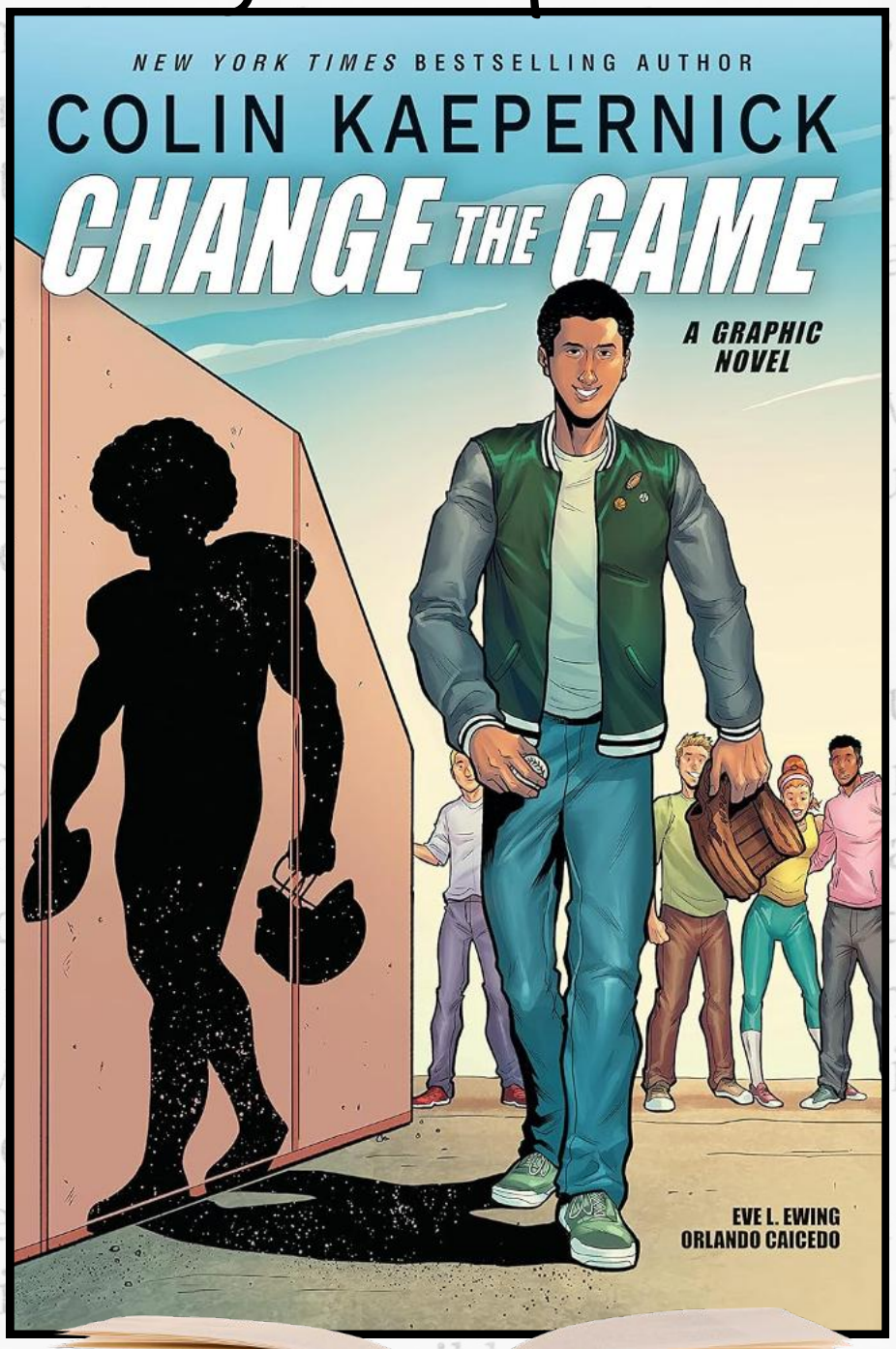


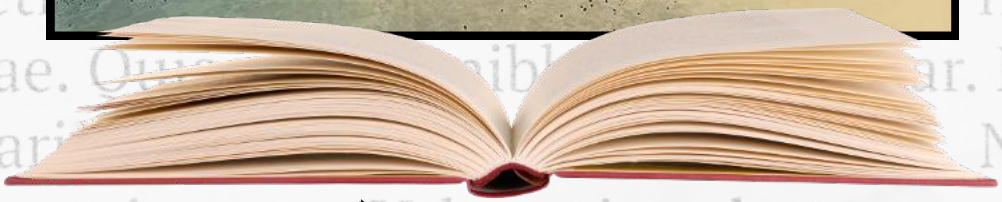


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

CHANGE THE GAME

By Colin Kaepernick

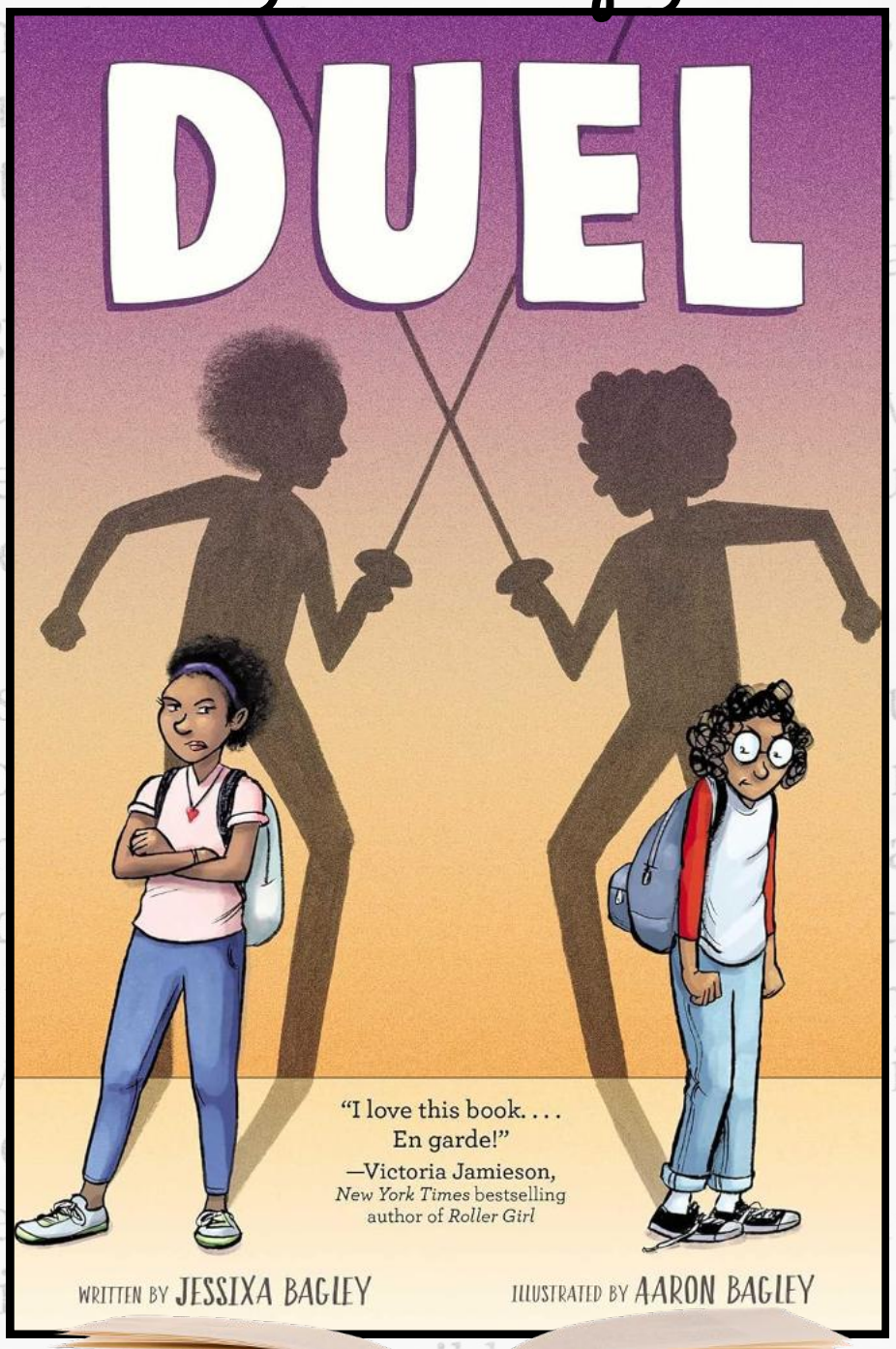




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

DUEL

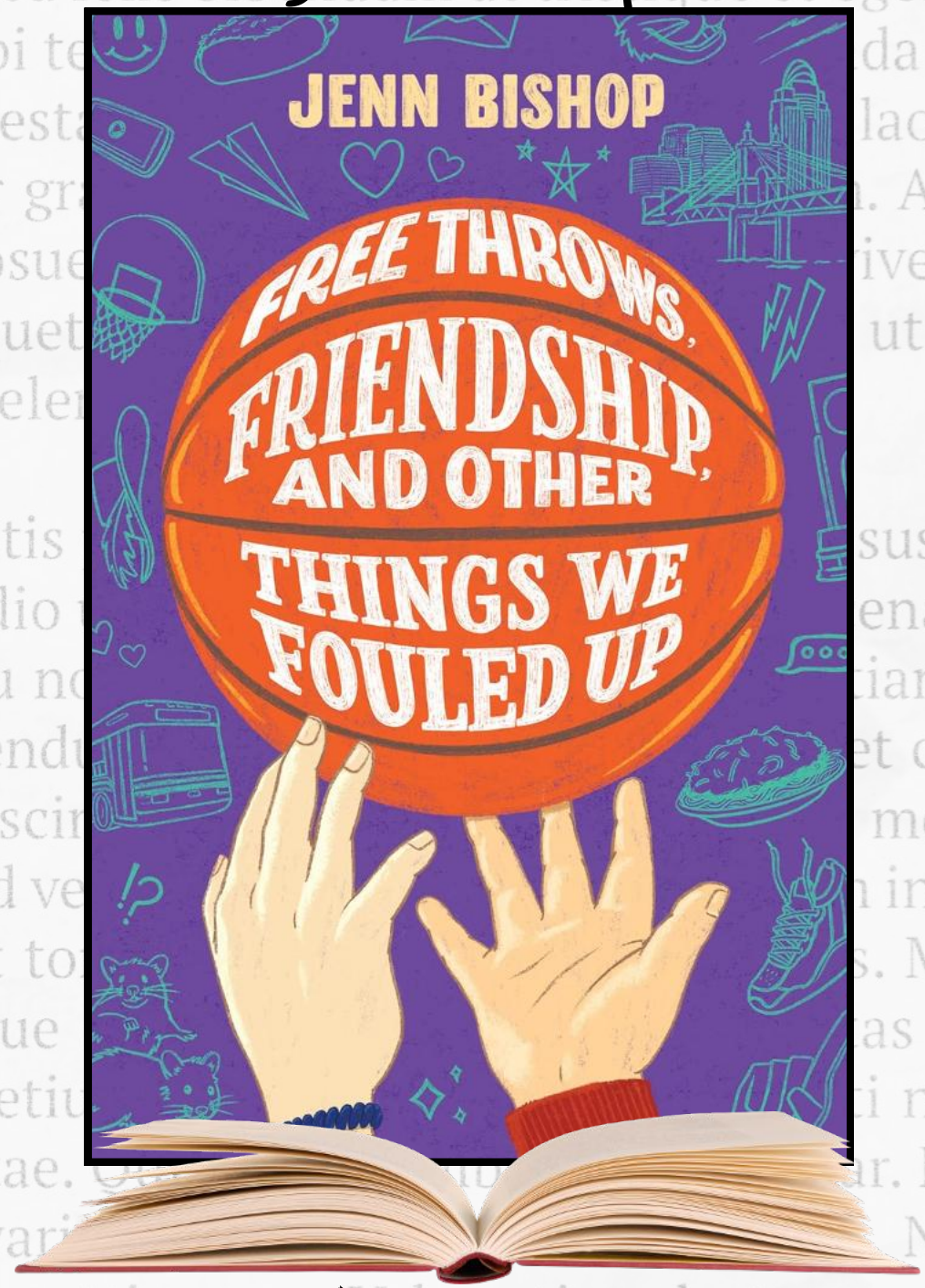
By Jessixa Bagley



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

FREE THROWS, FRIENDSHIP, AND OTHER THINGS WE FOULED UP

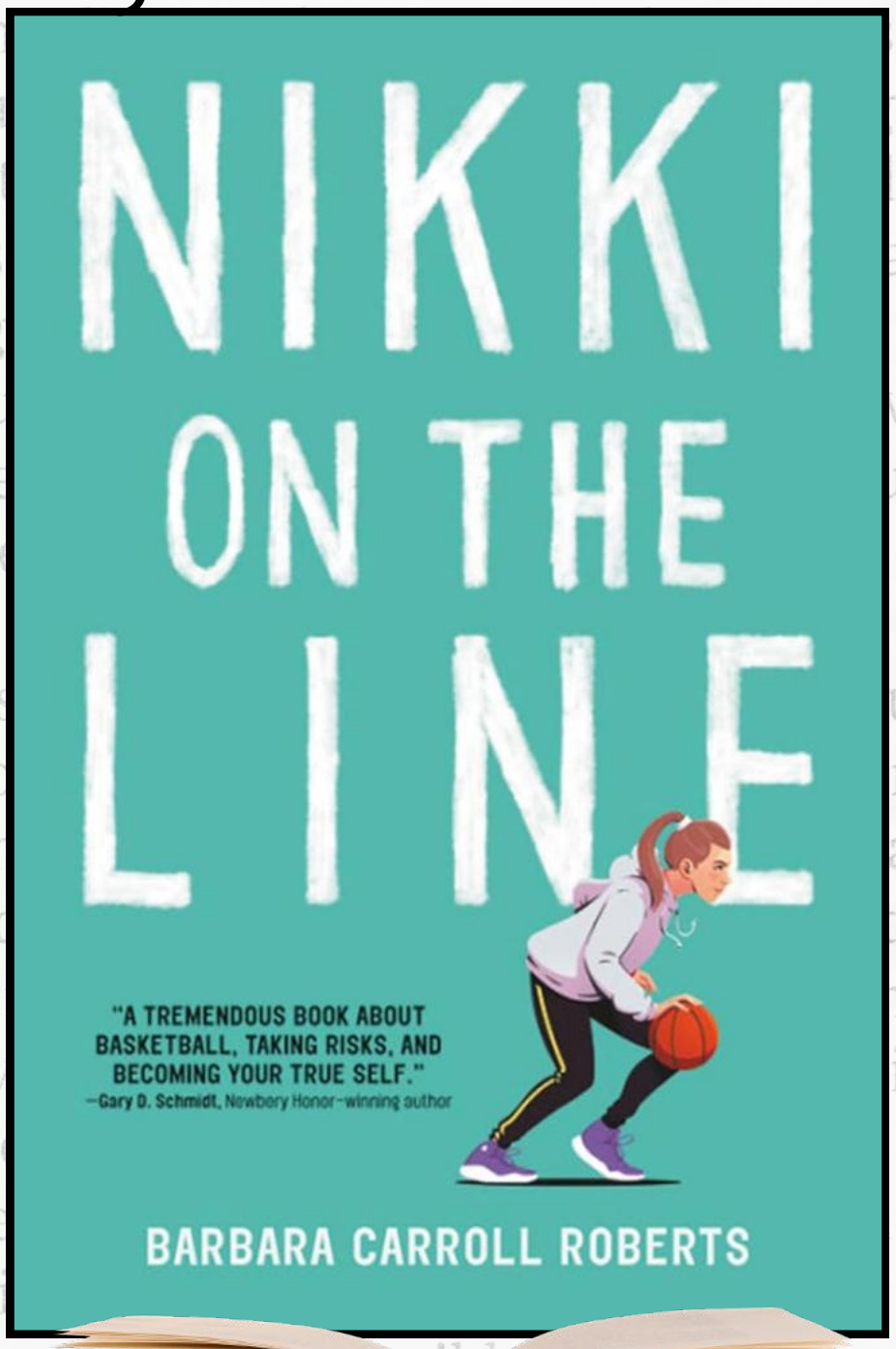
by Jenn Bishop



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

NIKKI ON THE LINE

By Barbara Carroll Roberts

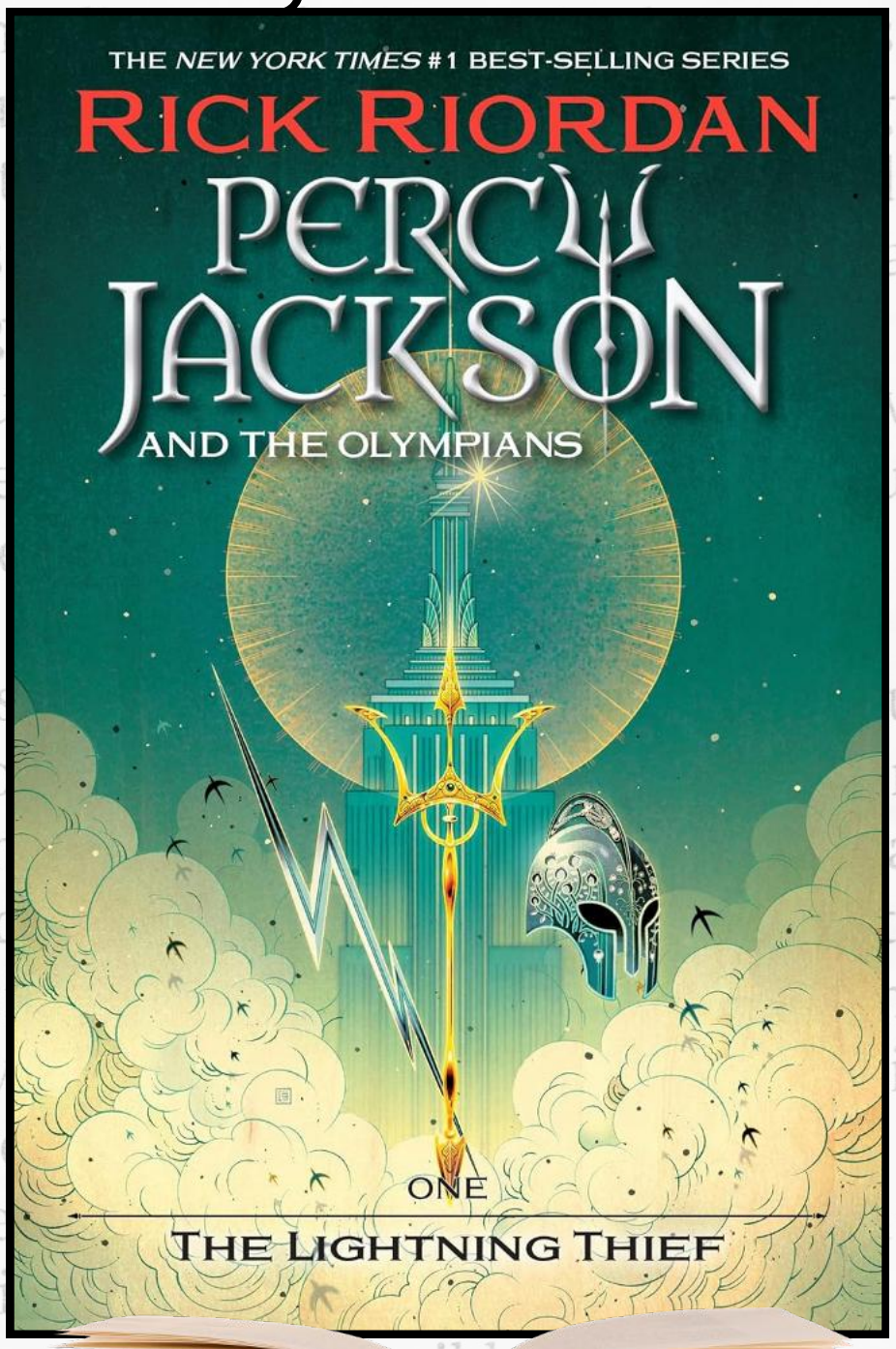


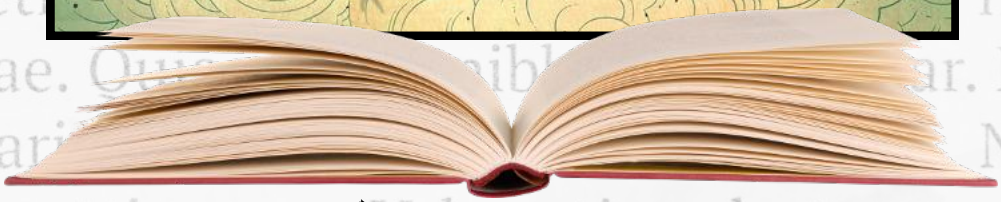


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE LIGHTNING THIEF

By Rick Riordan

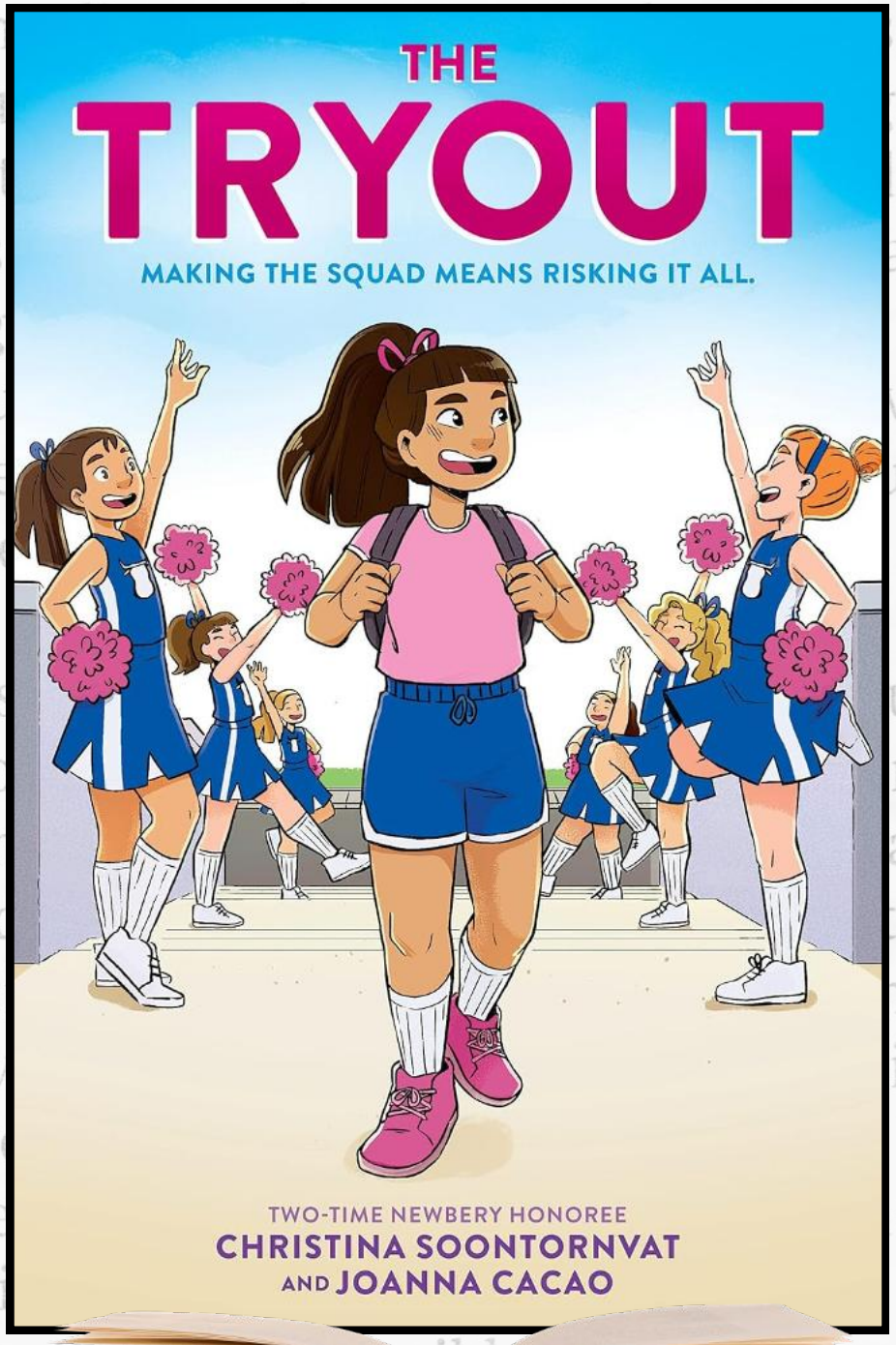


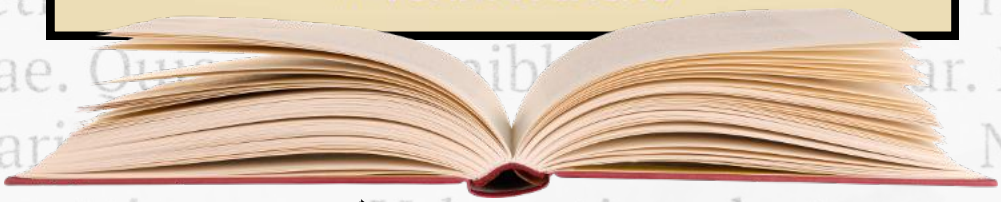


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE TRYOUT

By Christina Soontornvat & Joanna Cacao





FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY