

WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

ALL ABILITIES



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books that feature characters with varied abilities as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the all abilities 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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** 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!



Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



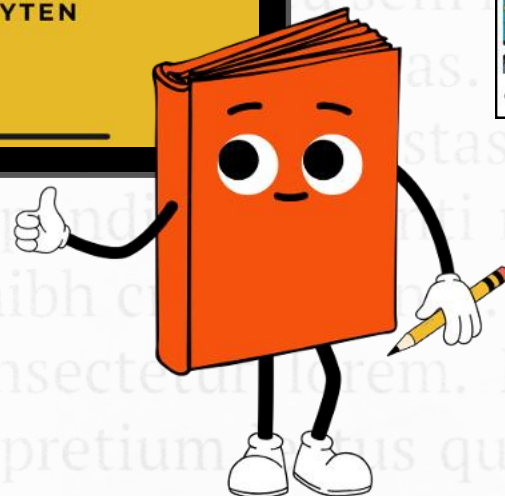
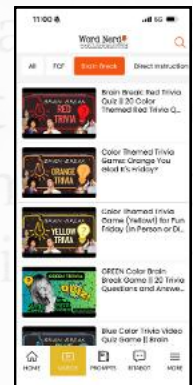
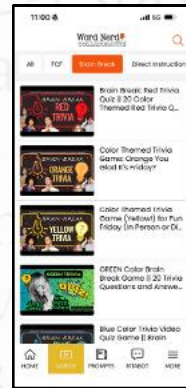
First Chapter Friday Videos

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: #__



BOOKS I'VE READ

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

DATE	TITLE/AUTHOR	GENRE	REACTION

ALL ABILITIES

The books on this list feature characters with varied abilities and the ways in which they impact their lives, the lives of people around them and also how, despite their challenges, they are still amazing humans.



Hear Me by Kerry O'Malley Cera

(Hearing Impairment)

Hello, Universe by Erin Entrada Kelly

(Deafness)

House Arrest by K.A. Holt

(Breathing problems, trachea tube)

Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling

(Phocomelia syndrome or Amelia - a person born without arms)

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

(Cerebral Palsy)

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

(Leg amputation and Cerebral Palsy)

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

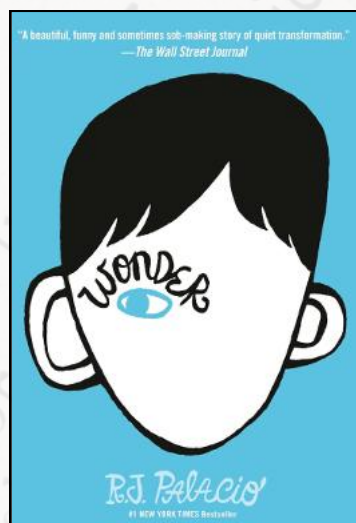
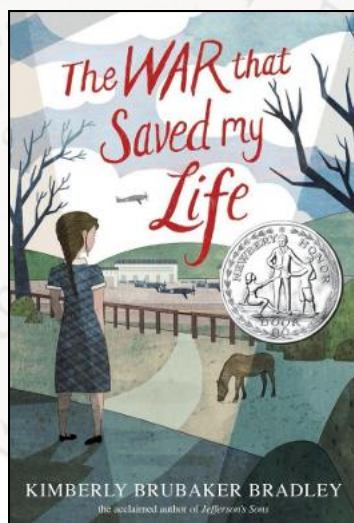
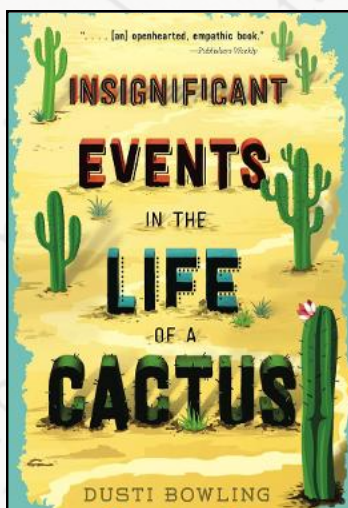
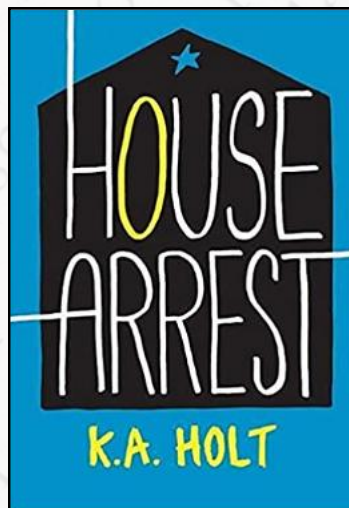
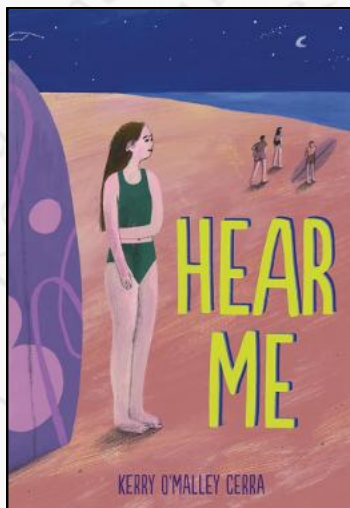
(Club foot)

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

(Treacher Collins syndrome)



ALL ABILITIES



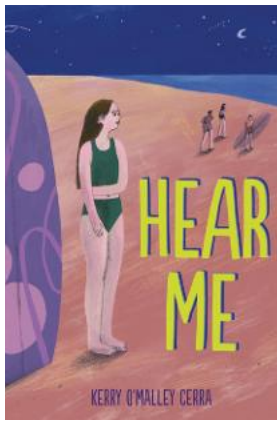
INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Hear Me

by Kerry O'Malley Cerra



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 year after being diagnosed with hearing loss, twelve-year-old Rayne is doing her best to live a 'normal' life and act like nothing has changed. But her hearing keeps failing her. Even with hearing aids, she has trouble following conversations and hanging out with her friends the way she used to. Her grades are slipping, surfing is now a wipeout, and she can't understand the lyrics of her favorite singer's new songs. Rayne's parents are pushing for her to get cochlear implants, which could restore her hearing—though she would hear sounds differently than she did before her hearing loss. Rayne isn't convinced the surgery for CIs is worth the risks and challenges. In fact, she's terrified of it. She begs her parents to consider other options, but they're not budging. With the surgery looming, Rayne sets off on a search for alternatives. Along the way, she discovers that 'normal' can have many meanings—and that even though her ears may be broken, she is not.

Who Wrote It?

1. I love lists! I can't function without lists.
2. Thirteen is my lucky number, and of course this list has 13 items.
3. The best job I ever had—other than writing for kids & teens—was at Sea World.
4. My daughter is a marine biologist turned marine science teacher.
5. I come from a huge family.
6. I loved working in a high school. I started as a social studies teacher and then worked as a media specialist.
7. I live in South Florida.
8. I married my college boyfriend, and we have 3 awesome kids. My family is my world!
9. I'm a sucker for stray animals, and I seem to take them in frequently. I currently have 2 poorly behaved rescue dogs who own my heart.
10. I was diagnosed with sensorineural hearing loss at the age of 16. It's a progressive loss, and by the age of 30, I sported my first hearing aids.
11. I love traveling and great adventures.
12. I was born in New Jersey, just over the bridge from Philadelphia. (Go, Eagles! Go, Phillies!)
13. Teachers are the absolute best! I have three who changed the course of my life.

AR Reading Level: N/A Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK



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 _____



House Arrest

by K.A. Holt



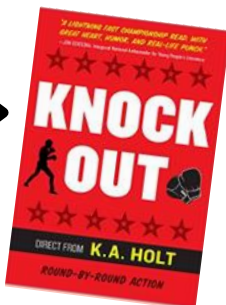
Read Aloud Video

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?

Timothy is a good kid who did a bad thing. Now he's under house arrest for a whole year. He has to check in weekly with a probation officer and a therapist, keep a journal, and stay out of trouble. But when he must take drastic measures to help his struggling family, staying out of trouble proves more difficult than Timothy ever thought it would be.

- A Novel in Verse
- This book has a sequel: Knock Out
- 800+ 5 star reviews on Amazon



Who Wrote It?

FIVE FAST FACTS ABOUT KA HOLT

1. Kari Anne was born in Atlanta, Georgia on September 10th, 1990.
2. When she was 13, Kari Anne accidentally stomped through a gerbil cage, resulting in five stitches on her calf. You can still see the zigzag scar.
3. When she was young, her favorite author was Paula Danziger, followed closely by Lois Lowry.
4. Kari Anne's favorite food is almost always a taco, but there are times when a cheeseburger wins.
5. She has synesthesia, which means she



sees letters and numbers as colors, and she sometimes mixes up other senses, too. (Examples: the letter C is orange, the number one is icy white) You can learn more about KA on her website or YouTube Channel www.kaholt.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.0

Lexile Level: 610L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

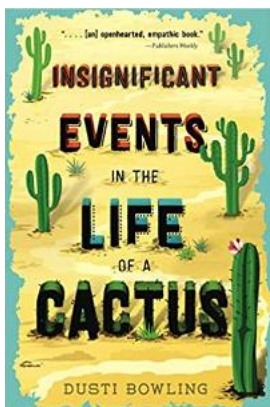
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus by Dusti Bowling



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 bestselling middle grade novel about a spunky girl born without arms and a boy with Tourette syndrome navigating the challenges of middle school, disability, and friendship—all while solving a mystery in a western theme park. Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them. And when her parents take a job running Stagecoach Pass, a rundown western theme park in Arizona, Aven moves with them across the country knowing that she'll have to answer the question over and over again. Her new life takes an unexpected turn when she bonds with Connor, a classmate who also feels isolated because of his own disability, and they discover a room at Stagecoach Pass that holds bigger secrets than Aven ever could have imagined. It's hard to solve a mystery, help a friend, and face your worst fears. But Aven's about to discover she can do it all . . . even without arms.

Who Wrote It?

DUSTI BOWLING grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona, where, as her family will tell you, she always had her nose in a book. She released her first middle grade novel in 2017 and hasn't stopped writing since.

Dusti's books have won the Reading the West Award, the Sakura Medal, a Golden Kite Honor, the William Allen White Children's Book Award, and have been nominated for over thirty state awards. Her books are Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selections and have won many awards, including best books of the year by the Chicago Public Library, Kirkus, Bank Street, A Mighty Girl, and many others!



Dusti currently lives in New River, Arizona with her husband, three daughters, several tarantulas, a gopher snake named Burrito, and a cockatiel named Gandalf the Grey.

AR Reading Level: 4.6

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK

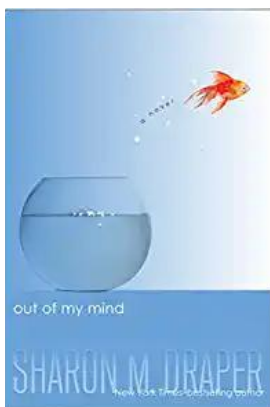




Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper



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 Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school-but NO ONE knows it. Most people-her teachers and doctors included-don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows. But she can't. She can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind-that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

This book was on the New York Times Bestseller list for over 2 years.

A sequel, *Out of My Heart*, is coming in the Fall of 2021!! :)

Who Wrote It?

I'm a creator, a visionary, a poet. I approach the world with the eyes of an artist, the ears of a musician, and the soul of a writer. I see rainbows where others see only rain, and possibilities when others see only problems. Classical music, art museums, and ballet are sources of inspiration, as well as blues music and dim cafes. I love to write; words flow easily from my fingertips, and my heart beats rapidly with excitement as an idea becomes a reality on the paper in front of me. I smile often, laugh easily, and I weep at pain and cruelty. I'm a learner and a seeker of knowledge, and I try to take my readers along on my journey. I am



passionate about what I do. I learned to dream through reading, learned to create dreams through writing, and learned to develop dreamers through teaching. I shall always be a dreamer.

AR Reading Level: 4.3

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

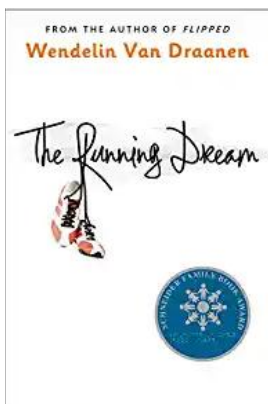
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Running Dream by Wendelin VanDraanen



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?

Jessica thinks her life is over when she loses a leg in a car accident. She's not comforted by the news that she'll be able to walk with the help of a prosthetic leg. Who cares about walking when you live to run?

As she struggles to cope, Jessica feels that she's both in the spotlight and invisible. People who don't know what to say act like she's not there. Jessica's embarrassed to realize that she's done the same to a girl with CP named Rosa. A girl who is going to tutor her through all the math she's missed. A girl who sees right into the heart of her.

With the support of family, friends, a coach, and her track teammates, Jessica may actually be able to run again. But that's not enough for her now. She doesn't just want to cross finish lines herself—she wants to take Rosa with her.

Who Wrote It?

I was born on January 6th to Dutch immigrants (Peter & Mieske Van Draanen) in Chicago, IL. When I was very young, my family moved to California, where I still reside. I grew up with two brothers and a sister. We did a lot of camping and backpacking as a family, and also as Scouts, where we learned useful survival skills and also to appreciate nature. I taught computer science and math at the high school level for 15 years. I began writing because I went through some awful times and learned



that writing can help you sort out your troubles and find focus. To learn more about Wendelin, read her memoir: Hope in the Mail or in the interview at the end of this video.

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 650L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

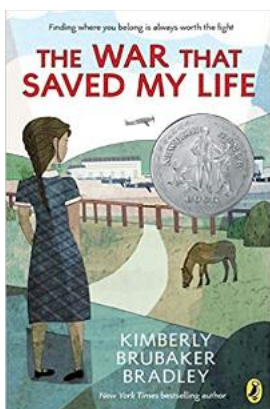
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

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



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

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

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

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

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: 4.1

Lexile Level: 580L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Wonder

by R.J. Palacio



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?

I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. **WONDER**, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

This book is now also a movie!

Who Wrote It?

A first generation American (her parents were Colombian immigrants), Palacio was born on July 13, 1963 in New York City. Her birth name is Raquel Jaramillo (Palacio was her mother's maiden name). Palacio attended The High School of Art & Design in Manhattan, and then majored in illustration at the Parsons School of Design. She spent her junior year at The American University in Paris, where she traveled extensively before returning to NYC with an eye toward making her career in illustration. R. J. Palacio lives in Brooklyn, NY with her husband, two sons and two dogs (Bear and Beau). Her debut novel, **Wonder**, has been on the New York



Times bestseller list since March, 2012, and has sold over 5 million copies worldwide. You can learn more about RJ on her website: www.wonderthebook.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 790L

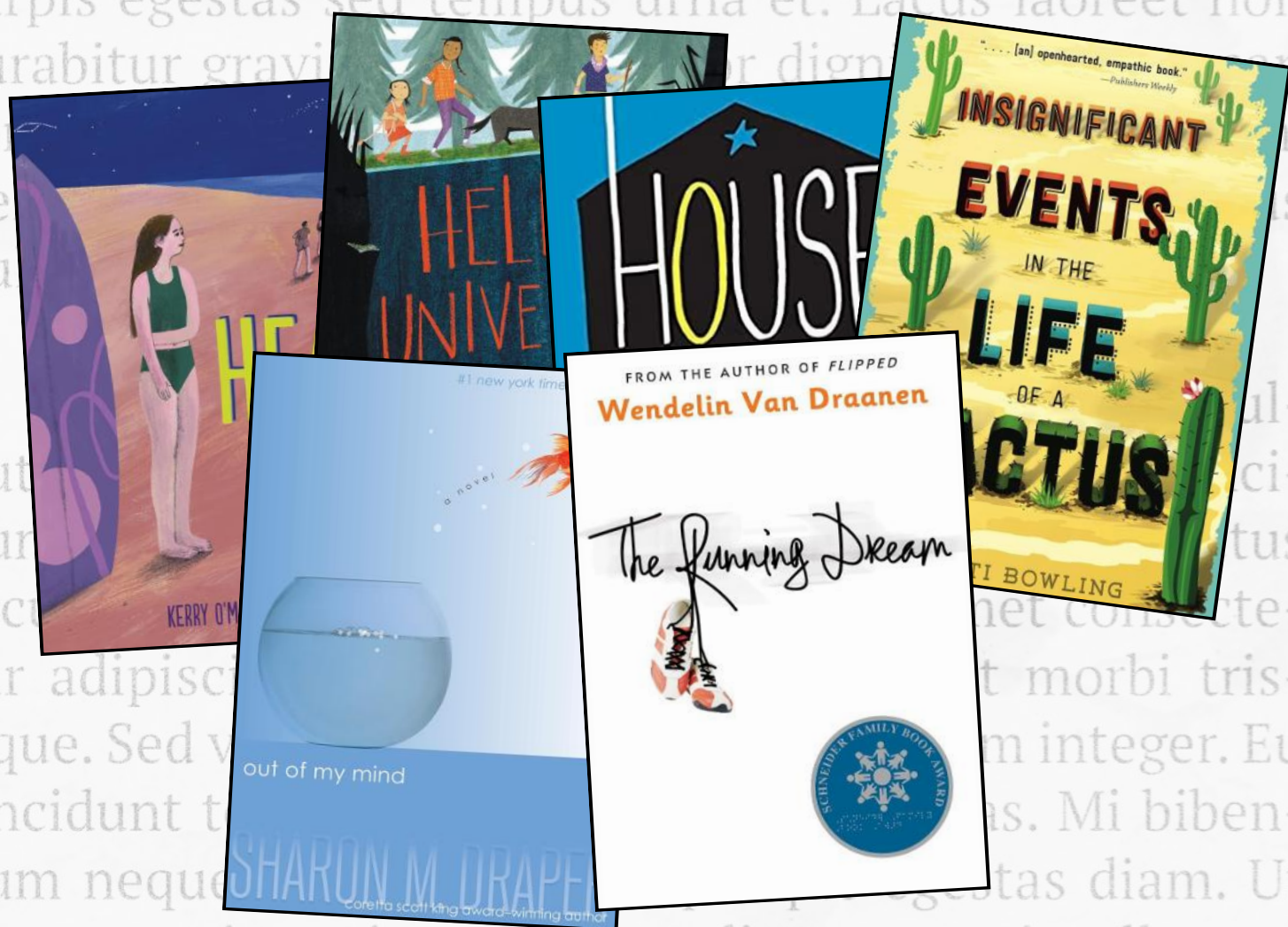
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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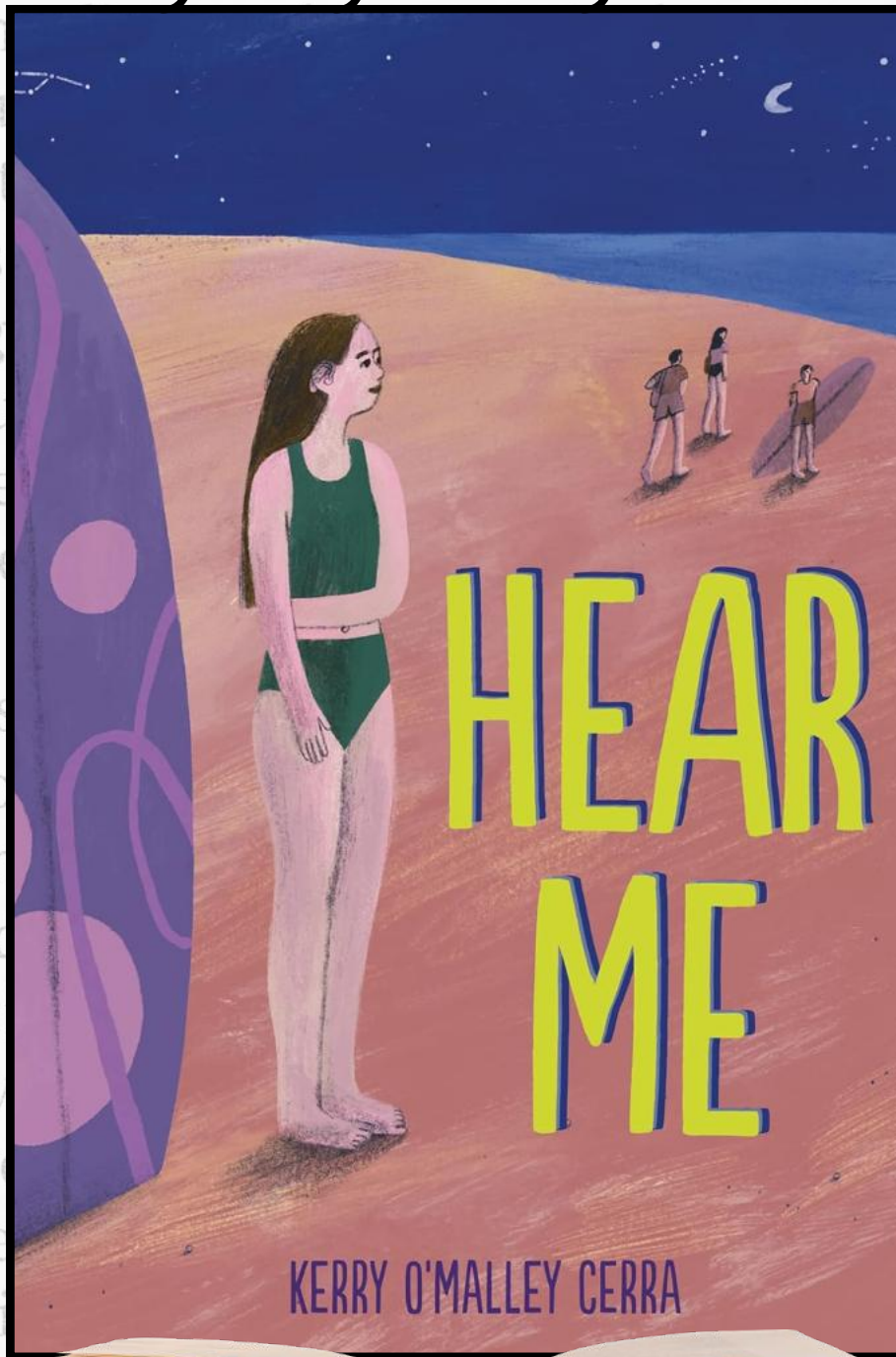
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HEAR ME

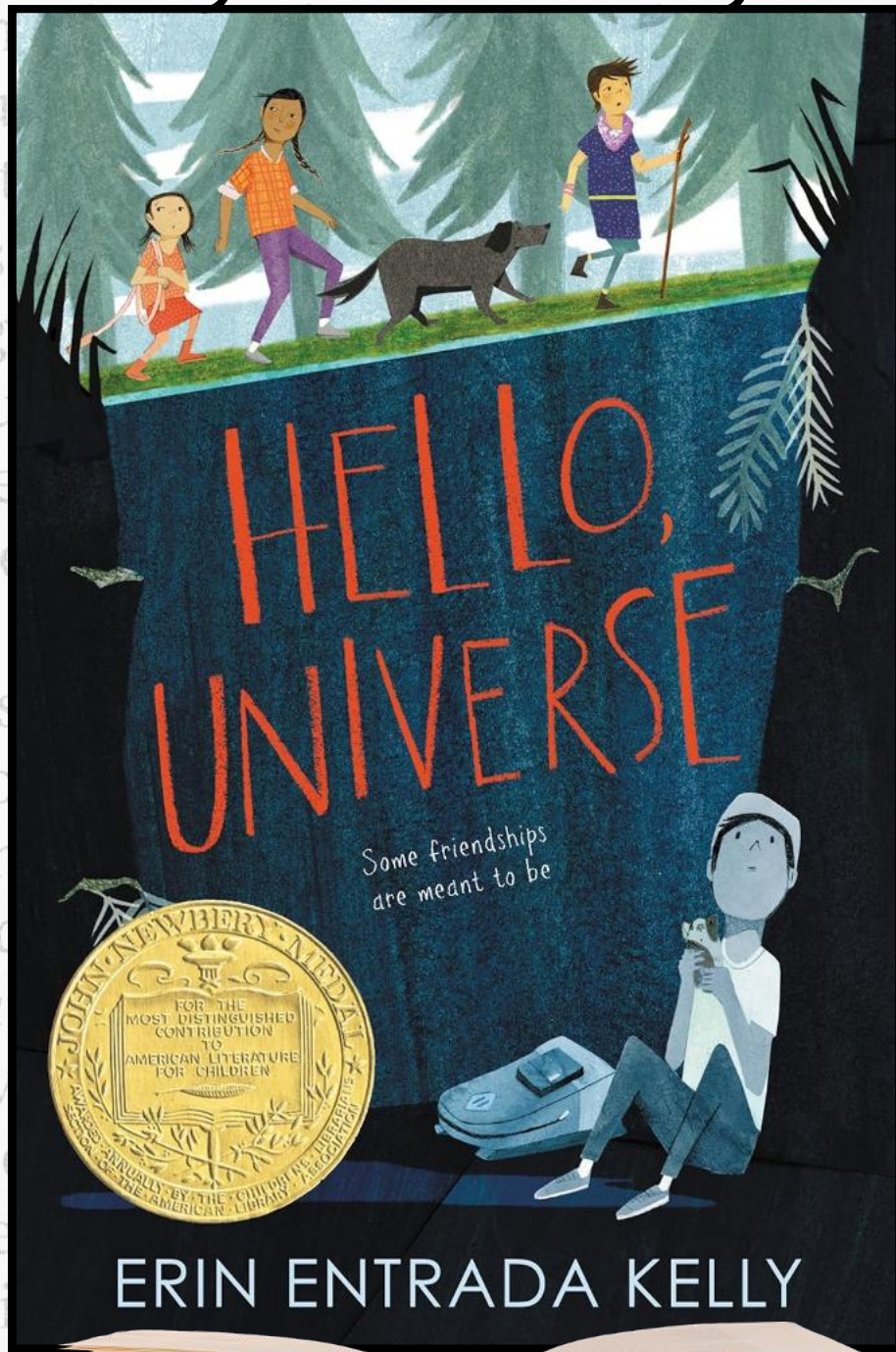
By Kerry O'Malley Cerra



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HELLO, UNIVERSE

By Erin Entrada Kelly



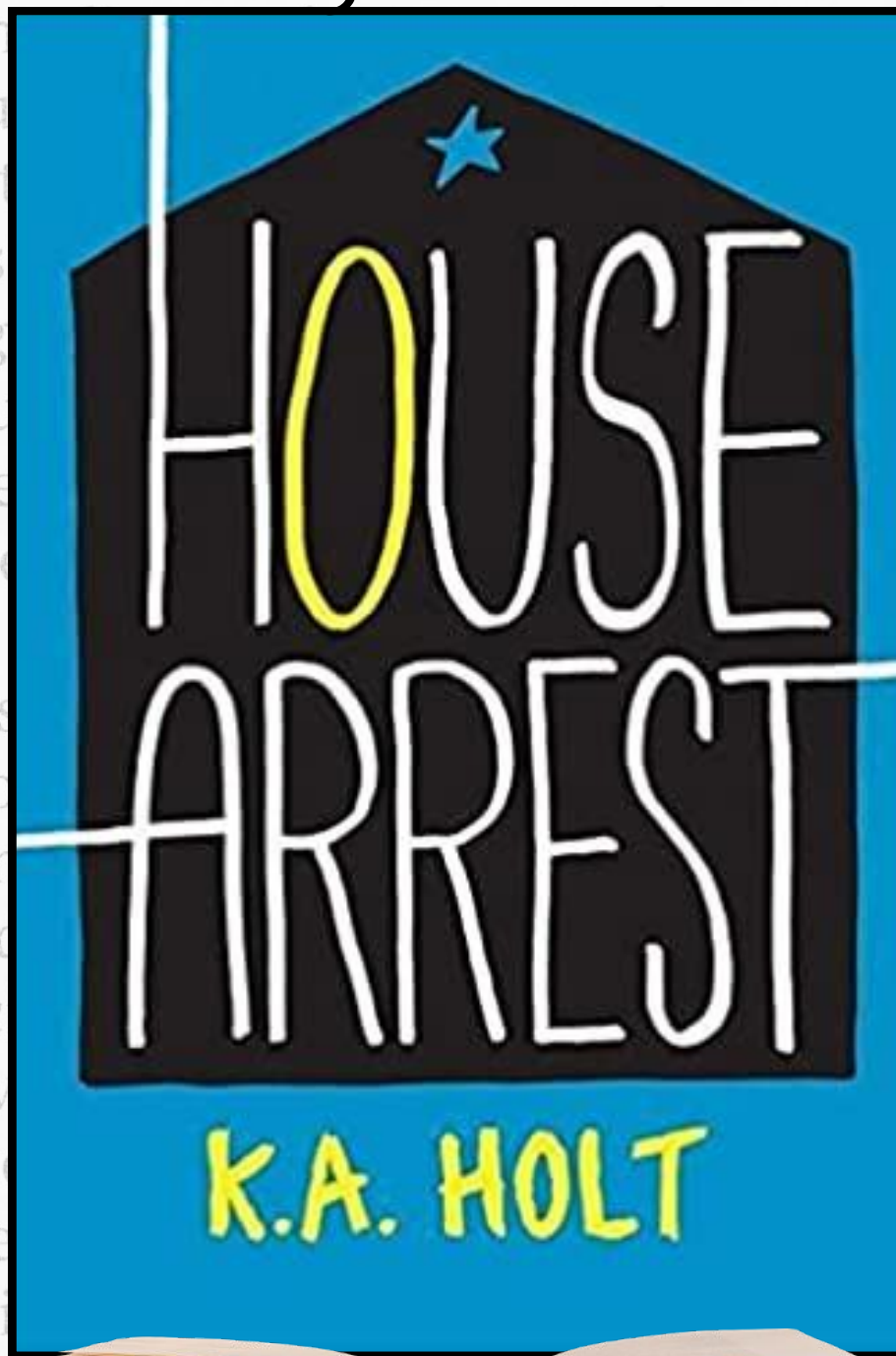
ERIN ENTRADA KELLY



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

HOUSE ARREST

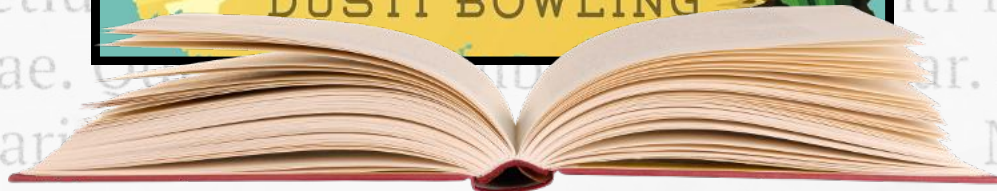
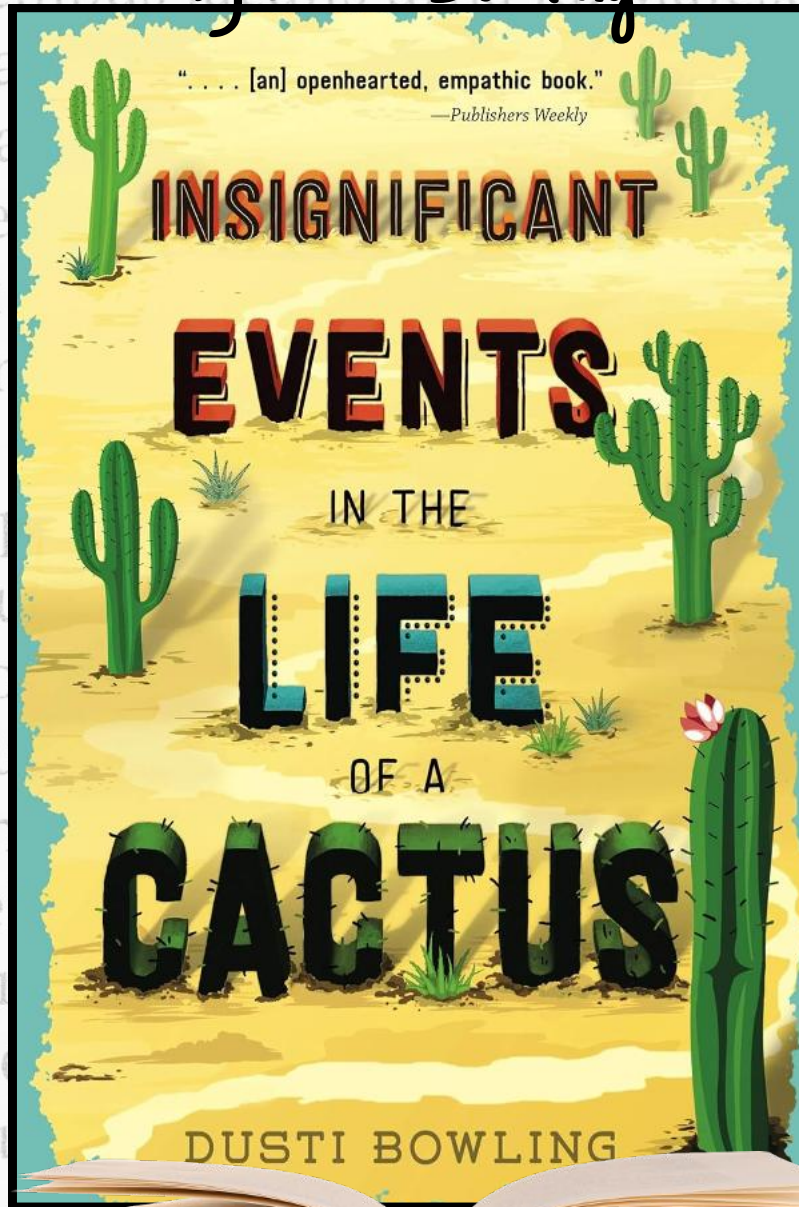
By K.A. Holt



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

INSIGNIFICANT EVENTS LIFE OF A CACTUS

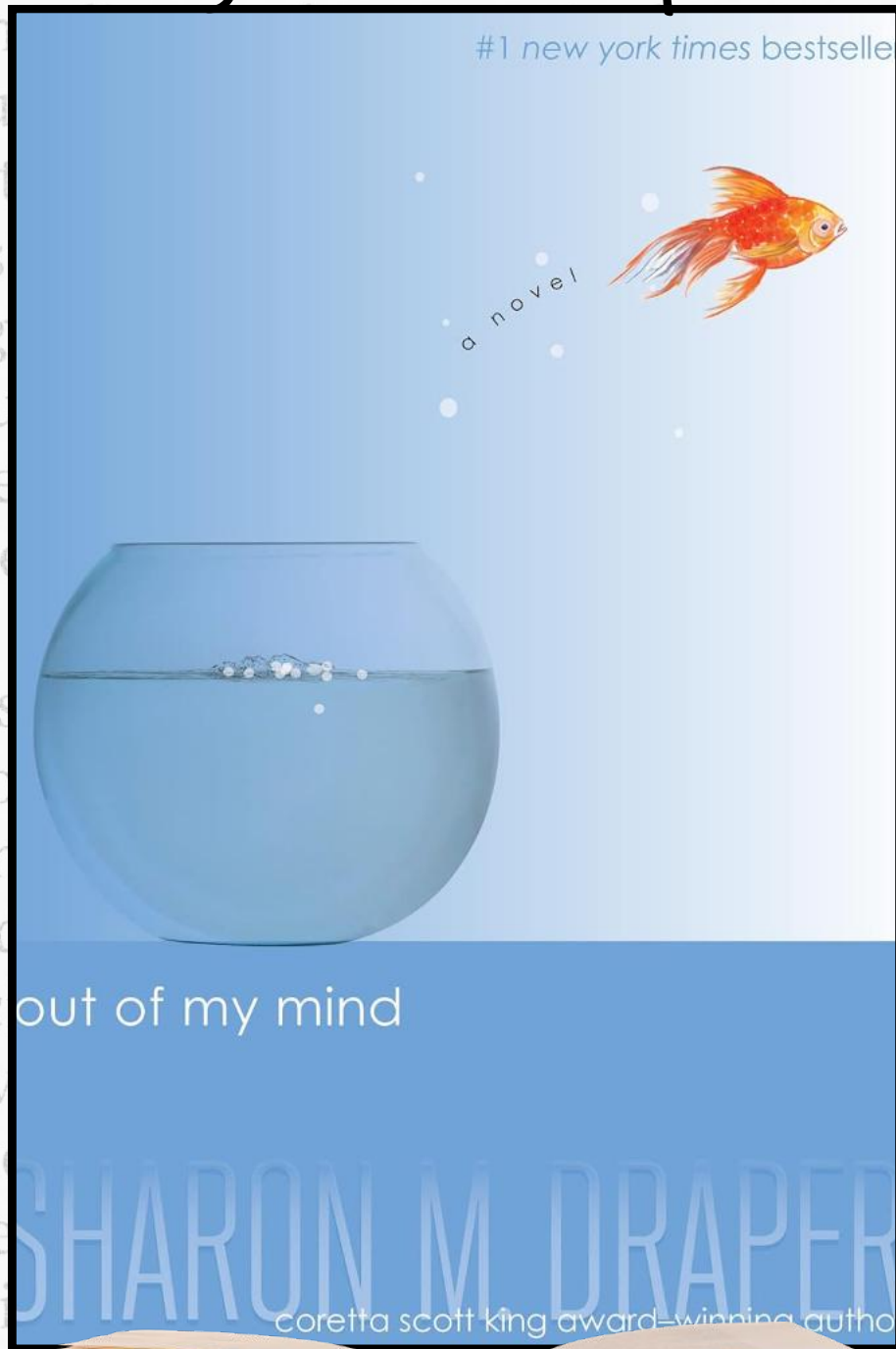
by Dusti Bowling



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OUT OF MY MIND

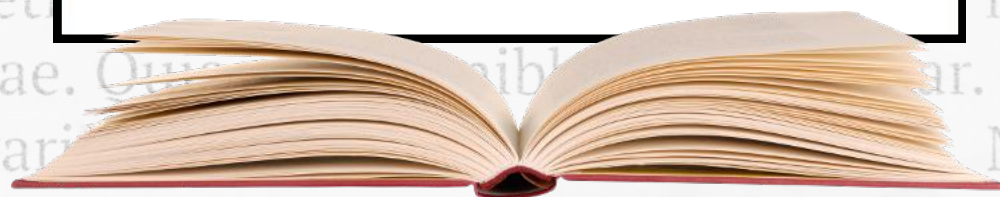
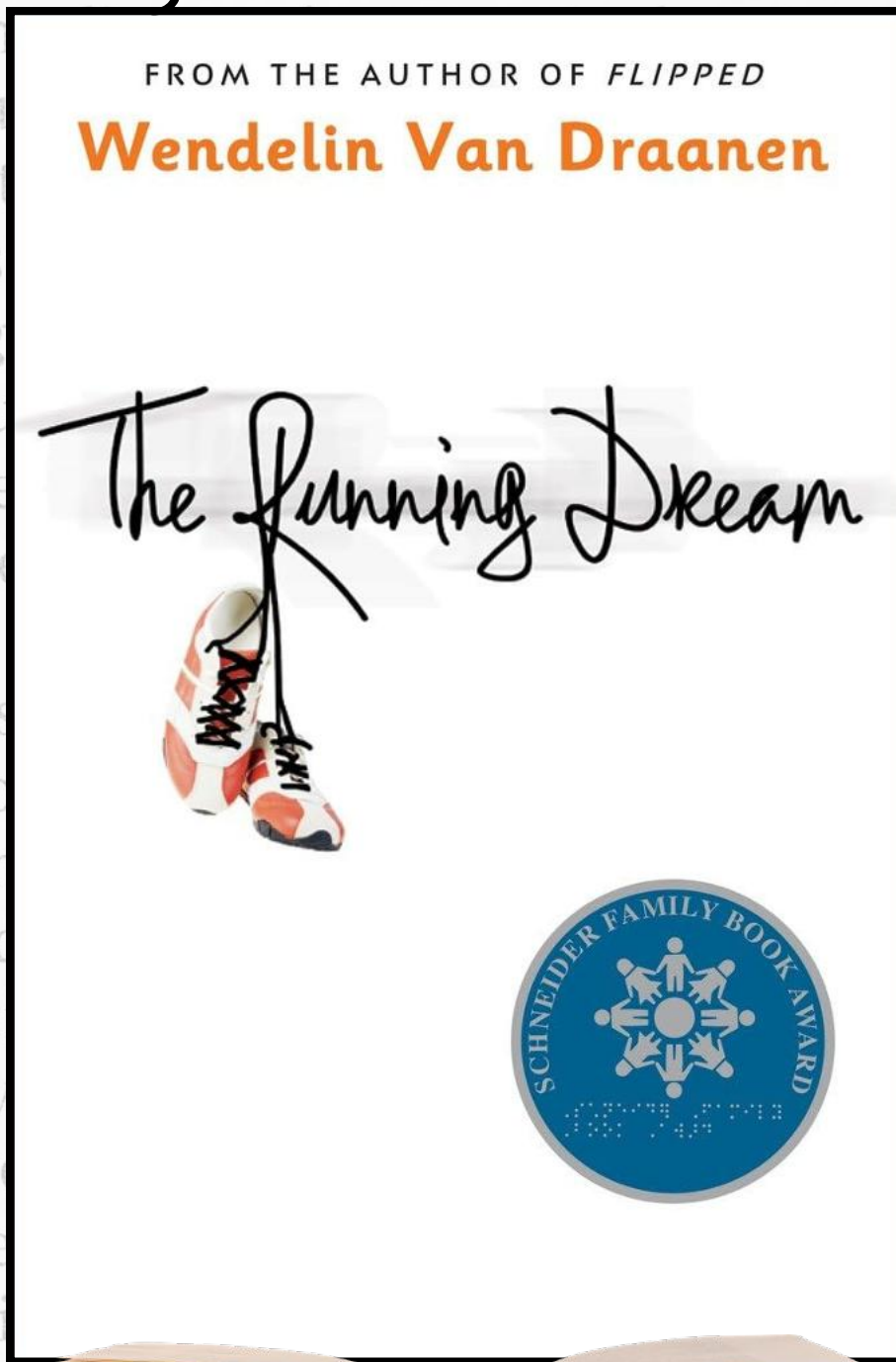
By Sharon M. Draper



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE RUNNING DREAM

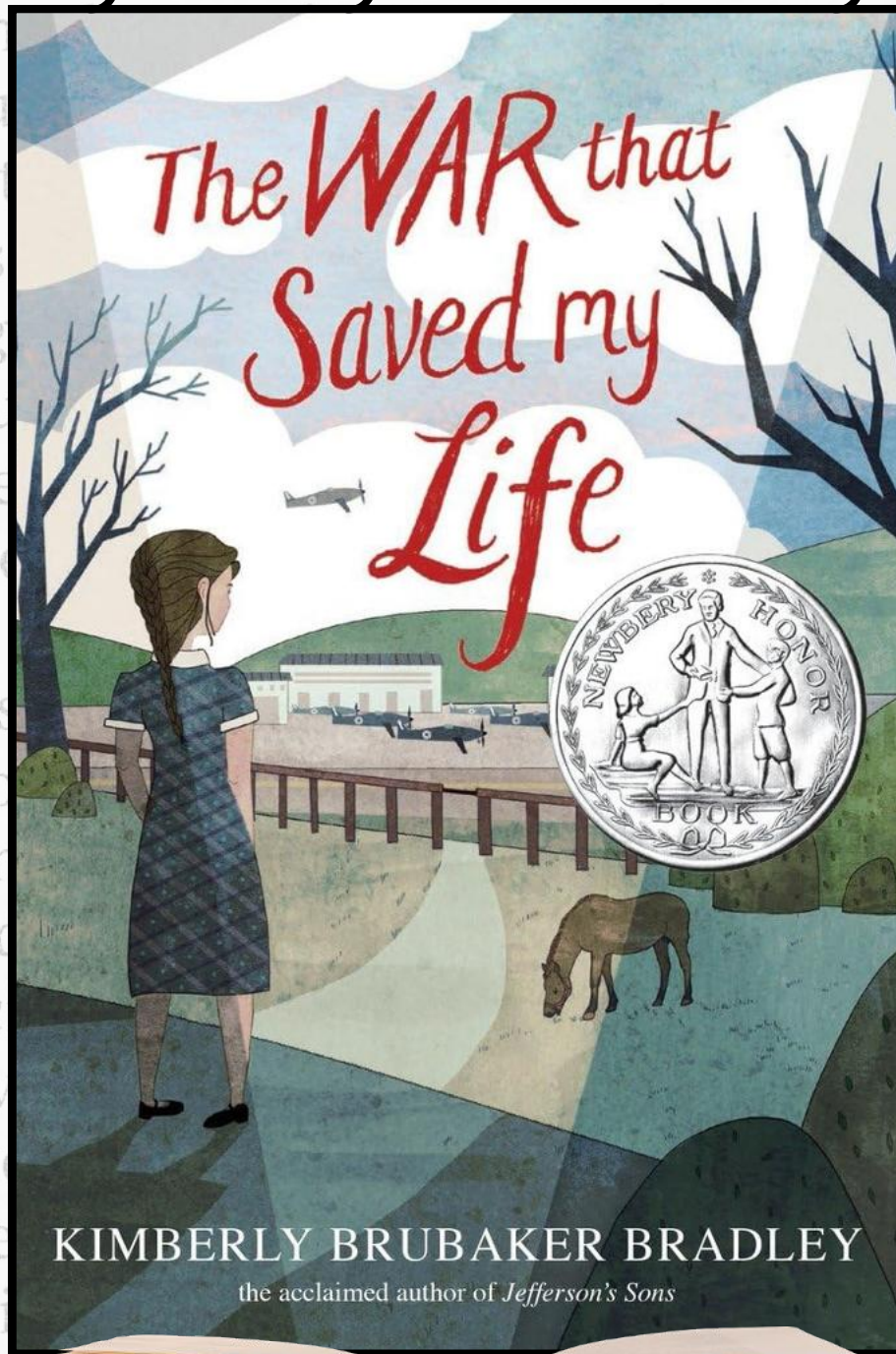
By Wendelin Van Draanen



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE

By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

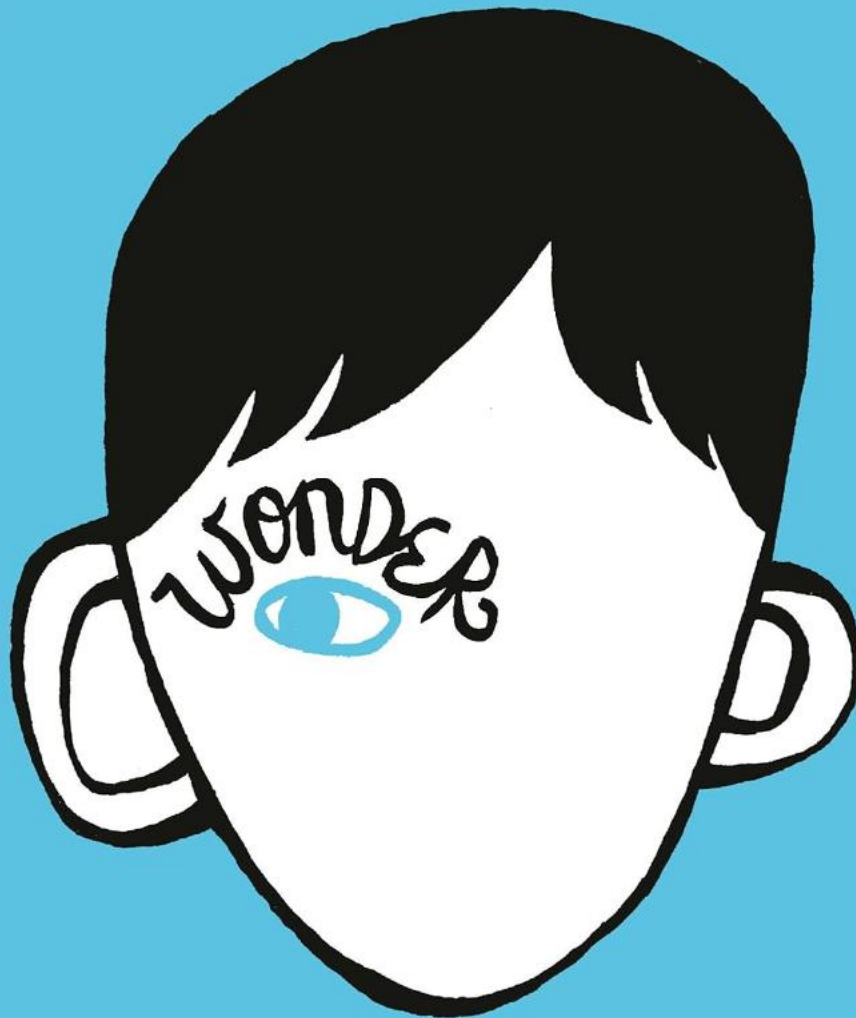


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

WONDER

By R.J. Palacio

"A beautiful, funny and sometimes sob-making story of quiet transformation."
—The Wall Street Journal



R.J. Palacio

#1 NEW YORK TIMES Bestseller



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY