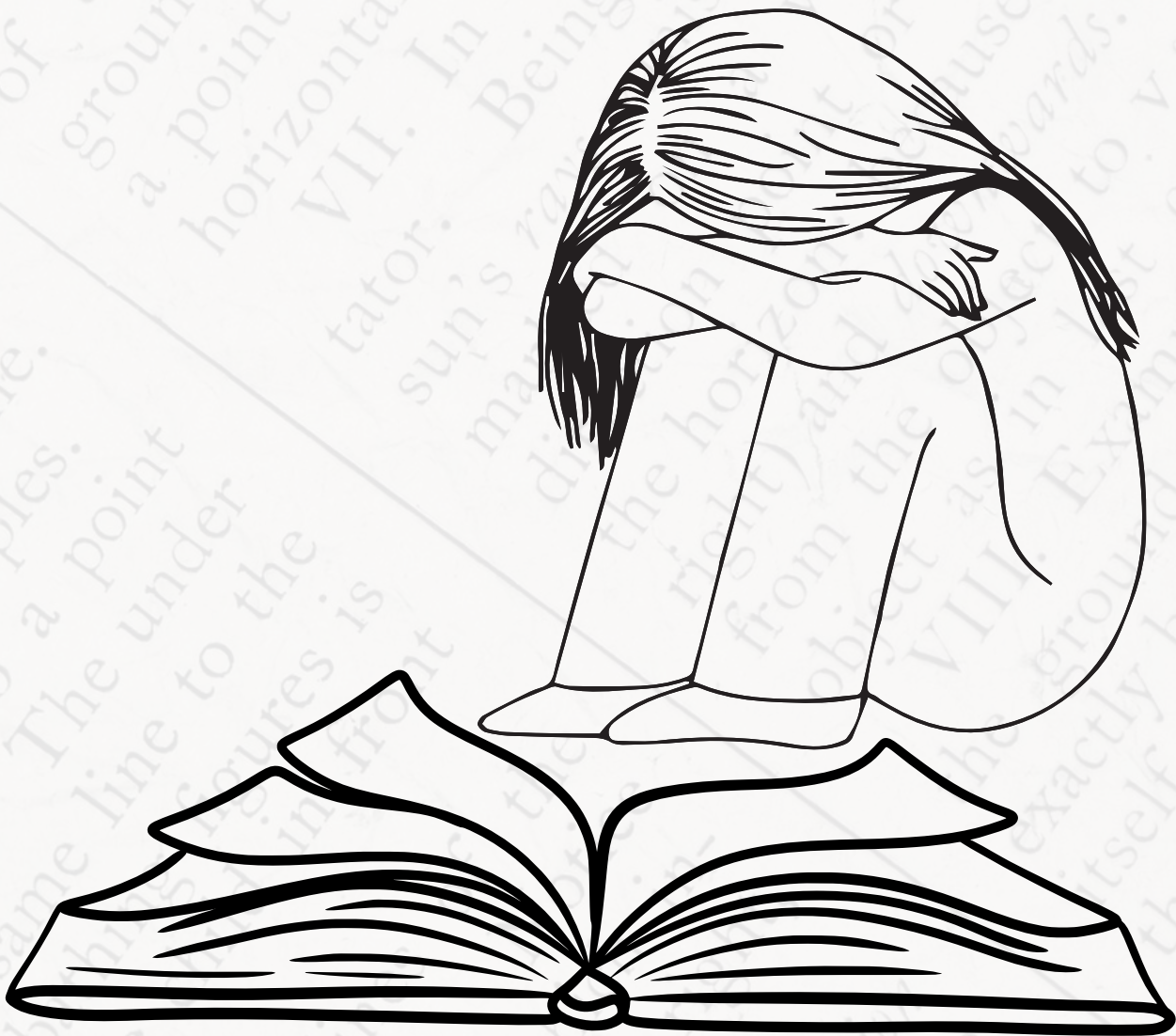


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



DEATH/GRIEF

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books about death and grief as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the death and grief list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities



To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this [Google Doc](#) that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

Table of Contents

Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents

Page 4: What is First Chapter Friday?

Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts

Page 7: Book List

Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster

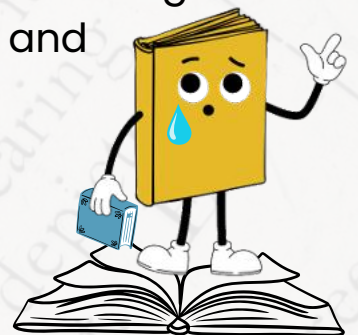
Pages 10-26 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 28-44: 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!



Word Nerd Daily

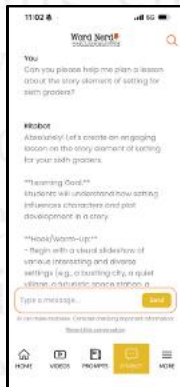
an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



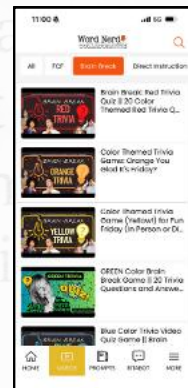
First Chapter Friday Videos

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



NAME: _____

TITLE	AUTHOR	RATING
		♥♥♥♥♥
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DEATH/GRIEF

The Bad Beginning by Lemony Snicket

Big Rig by Louise Hawes

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling

Duel by Jessixa Bagley

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Iveliz Explains it All by Andrea Beatriz Arango

Marvelous Jackson by Laura Anne Bird

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

The Night Diary by Veera Hirinandani

Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse

A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus

Red, White, and Whole by Rajanni LaRocca

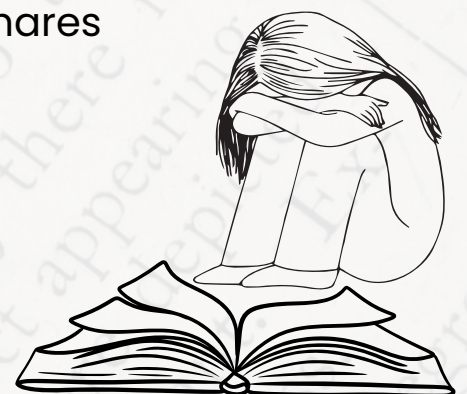
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart
(and its sequel: **Coyote Lost and Found**)

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares

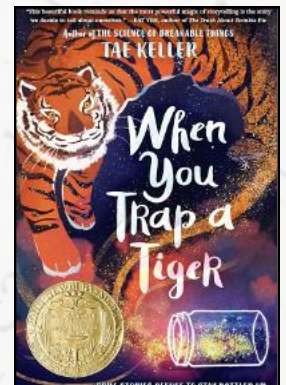
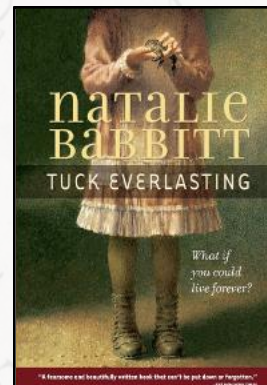
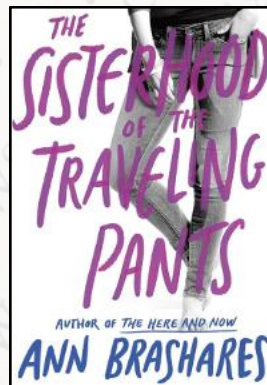
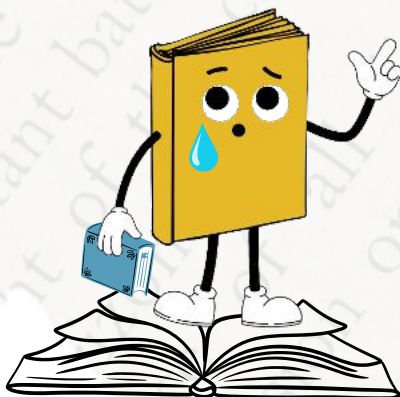
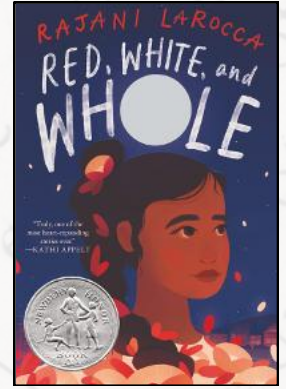
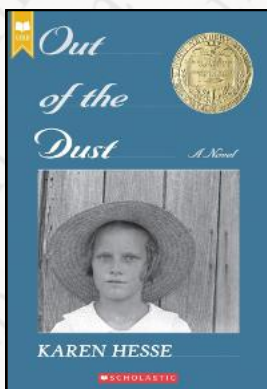
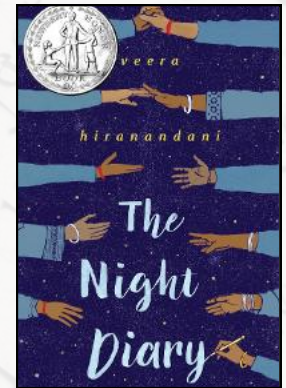
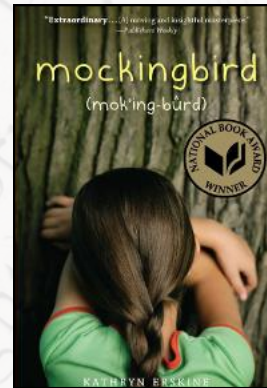
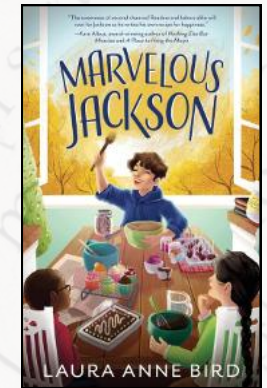
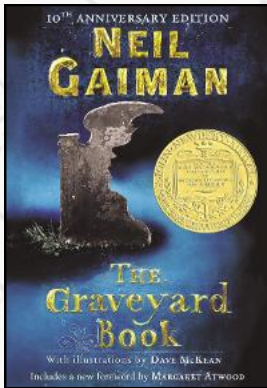
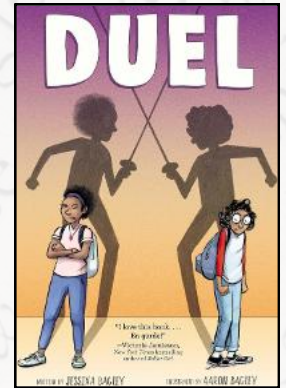
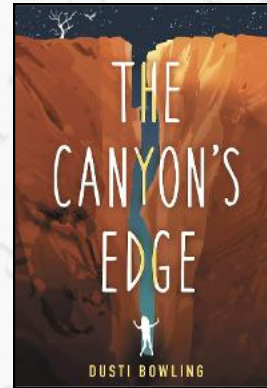
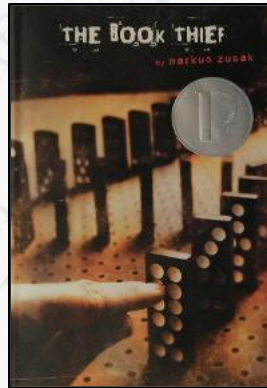
Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

The books on this list touch on the tough topics of death and grief and showcase the way characters navigate difficult times.



BOOKS ABOUT: DEATH/GRIEF

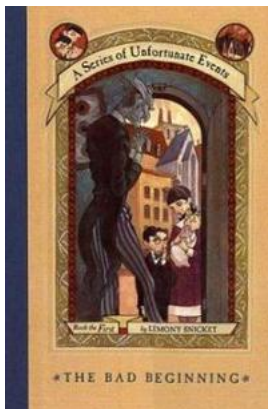


[illegible]

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



The Bad Beginning

by Lemony Snicket



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.

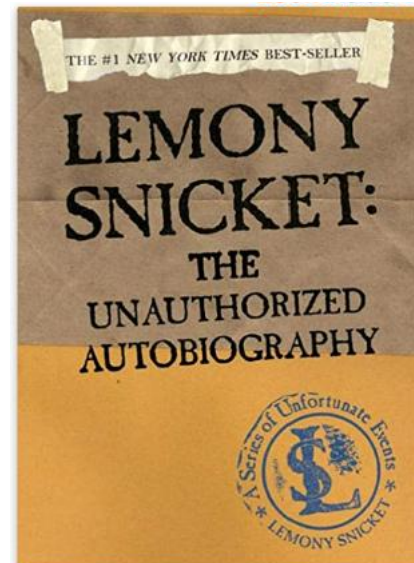
What's It About?

Are you made fainthearted by death? Does fire unnerve you? Is a villain something that might crop up in future nightmares of yours? Are you thrilled by nefarious plots? Is cold porridge upsetting to you? Vicious threats? Hooks? Uncomfortable clothing? It is likely that your answers will reveal *A Series of Unfortunate Events* to be ill-suited for your personal use. A librarian, bookseller, or acquaintance should be able to suggest books more appropriate for your fragile temperament. But to the rarest of readers we say, "Proceed, but cautiously."

The 1st book in a 13 book series!
Now a Netflix Series too!

Who Wrote It?

Lemony Snicket is the penname for a real writer, whom I will not name here. You could read this book to learn more about this fictitious author.



Or you could head to the internet and search for the real person behind the pseudonym! Best of luck and happy reading!

AR Reading Level: 6.4 Lexile Level: 1010L

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 _____



Big Rig

by Louise Hawes

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?

Life on the road with Daddy is as good as it gets for Hazmat. Together, they've been taking jobs and crisscrossing the US for years. Now Daddy's talking about putting down roots— somewhere Hazmat can go to a real school and make friends. Somewhere Daddy doesn't have to mail-order textbooks about 'nature's promise to all women.' Somewhere Mom's ashes can rest on a mantel and not on a dashboard. While everything just keeps changing, sometimes in ways she can't control, Hazmat isn't ready to give up the freedom of long-distance hauling. Sure the road is filled with surprises, from plane crashes and robo trucks, to runaway hitchhikers and abandoned babies, but that all makes for great stories! So Hazmat hatches a plan to make sure Daddy's dream never becomes a reality. Because there's only one place Hazmat belongs: in the navigator's seat, right next to Daddy, with the whole country flying by and each day different from the last. Award-winning author Louise Hawes writes with an easy, conversational voice and an 'I'll never grow up' spirit that cheerfully thumbs its nose at traditional coming-of-age narratives.

AR Reading Level: unavailable

Who Wrote It?

Louise Hawes graduated college with a degree in English Literature, but had a hard time finding a job as anything other than a waitress. She tried to serve coffee for awhile, but soon discovered that she wasn't good at and she also just really wanted to write. Since then, she has been a copywriter, an advertising director, a wannabe actress, and even owned a sculpture studio. Louise is the author of over fifteen books for children, teenagers, and adults. Now she and her 3 creative sisters pool their energy and enthusiasm for the artist in everyone by holding creative retreats



around the globe: New England, Sweden, New Zealand, and who knows where we'll travel next! You can learn more about Louise at www.louisehawes.com.

Lexile Level: unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

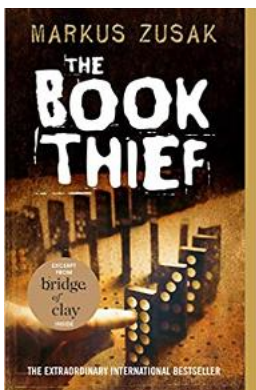
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Book Thief

by Markus Zusak



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 Death has a story to tell, you listen.

It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still.

Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement.

In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time.

Who Wrote It?

Markus Zusak is the author of five books, including the international bestseller, *The Book Thief*, which spent more than a decade on the New York Times bestseller list, and is translated into more than forty languages – establishing Zusak as one of the most successful authors to come out of Australia. His books have been awarded numerous honours ranging from literary prizes to readers choice awards to prizes



voted on by booksellers. Markus Zusak grew up in Sydney, Australia, and still lives there with his wife and two children.

AR Reading Level: 5.1

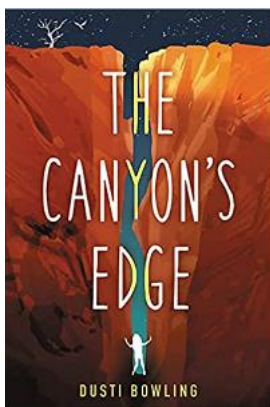
Lexile Level: 730L

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 Canyon's Edge

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?

Hatchet meets Long Way Down in this heartfelt and gripping novel in verse about a young girl's struggle for survival after a climbing trip with her father goes terribly wrong.

One year after a random shooting changed their family forever, Nora and her father are exploring a slot canyon deep in the Arizona desert, hoping it will help them find peace. Nora longs for things to go back to normal, like they were when her mother was still alive, while her father keeps them isolated in fear of other people. But when they reach the bottom of the canyon, the unthinkable happens: A flash flood rips across their path, sweeping away Nora's father and all of their supplies.

Suddenly, Nora finds herself lost and alone in the desert, facing dehydration, venomous scorpions, deadly snakes, and, worst of all, the Beast who has terrorized her dreams for the past year. If Nora is going to save herself and her father, she must conquer her fears, defeat the Beast, and find the courage to live her new life.

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 all sorts of amazing awards! And the best part is she keeps coming out with new books all the time. Currently, she is up to 7!!

Dusti currently lives in Eagar, Arizona with her husband, three daughters, several tarantulas, some guinea pigs, a gopher snake named Burrito, and a



cockatiel named Gandalf the Grey. Yes, her real name is Dusti and yes she really does have all of those pets! You can learn more about Dusti and her books at www.dustibowling.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.8

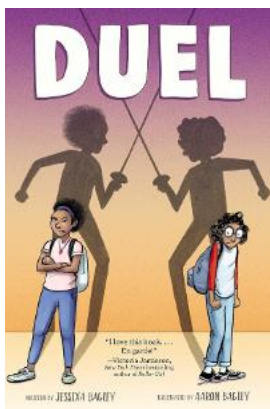
Lexile Level: 750L

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 _____

Duel

by Jessixa Bagley

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



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.

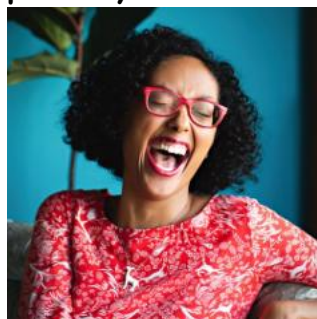
What's It About?

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

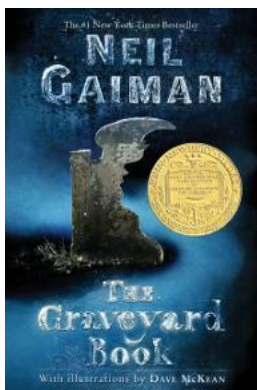
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

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 _____



Iveliz Explains it All by Andrea Beatriz Arango



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.



Novel in Verse

What's It About?

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

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

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

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Who Wrote It?

Andrea was born and raised in Puerto Rico, and is a former public school teacher with almost a decade of teaching experience. Andrea now writes the types of children's books she wishes students had more access to. She balances her life in Virginia with trips home to see her family and eat lots of tostones de pana. When she's not busy writing, you can find her enjoying nature in the nearest forest or body of water.



Lexile Level: 940L

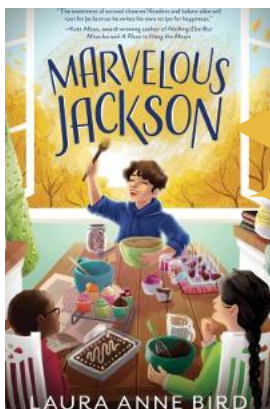
I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK







Name _____

Date _____

Includes
Author
Interview!

Marvelous Jackson by Laura Anne Bird



Read Aloud Video and
Author Interview

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

What's It About?

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

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: Unavailable

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

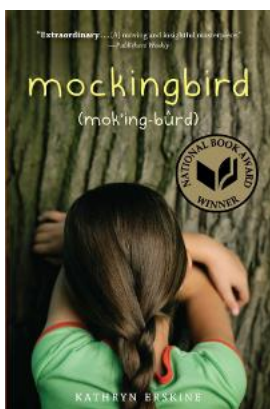
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Mockingbird

by Kathryn Erskine



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?

Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.

****THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER and ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS OF OUR TIME FOR YOUNG READERS****

Who Wrote It?

Kathryn was born in the Netherlands and has lived all over the world, including Israel, South Africa, Scotland, Canada and the United States! Her stories, found in the forms of both middle grade novels and picture books reflect her diverse living experiences. She now lives in Virginia and says, "I still love traveling and, as always, learning, reading, writing, playing games, eating chocolate, drinking coffee, and laughing with family and friends."



You can learn more about Kathryn on her website: www.kathrynnerskine.com

AR Reading Level: 3.6

Lexile Level: 630L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

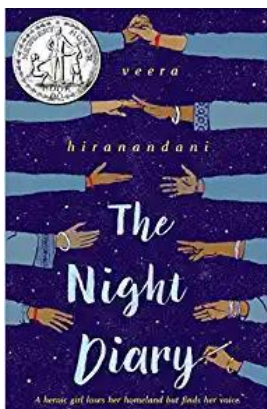
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani



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's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore.

When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together. Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

This book won a Newbery Honor Award in 2019.

Who Wrote It?

When I was a kid, I liked video games a lot and since I grew up in the '80s before the internet, xbox, and wii, going to the arcade and playing Pacman was just about the most exciting thing in the world. When I wasn't begging my parents to take me to an arcade, I was reading, making up stories, doing gymnastics, baking cookies, drawing, and making my little sister play the games I wanted to play. I was raised in a small town in Connecticut. Growing up wasn't always easy. My mother is Jewish-American, my father is from a Hindu family in India, and I didn't know any kids like me where I lived. But coming from two cultures



and not always fitting in has probably made me a stronger person. Now I live in a little town on the Hudson River with my husband, daughter, son, and a very moody cat who we love anyway.

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 700L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

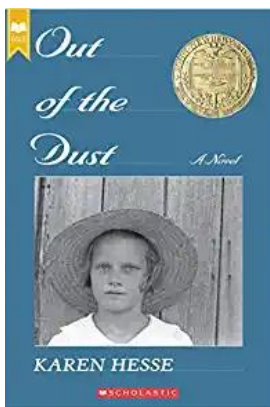
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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



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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A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus



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 is 1940 and William, 12, Edmund, 11, and Anna, 9, aren't terribly upset by the death of the not-so-grandmotherly grandmother who has taken care of them since their parents died. But the children do need a guardian, and in the dark days of World War II London, those are in short supply, especially if they hope to stay together. Could the mass wartime evacuation of children from London to the countryside be the answer? It's a preposterous plan, but off they go-- keeping their predicament a secret, and hoping to be placed in a temporary home that ends up lasting forever. Moving from one billet to another, the children suffer the cruel trickery of foster brothers, the cold realities of outdoor toilets and the hollowness of empty stomachs. But at least they find comfort in the village lending library-- a cozy shelter from the harshness of everyday life, filled with favorite stories and the quiet company of Nora Müller, the kind librarian. The children wonder if Nora could be the family they've been searching for. . . . But the shadow of the war, and the unknown whereabouts of Nora's German husband complicate matters.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Who Wrote It?

I started writing after stepping away from my career as a research psychologist to be with my kids. I had written plenty of scientific stuff, and always assumed I had to be either scientific or creative -- but not both. Silly. Then I attended a dear friend's creative writing group and fell in love with it. I had a story in my head -- about the World War II evacuation of London -- and squirreled myself away in my studio while my kids were in school. For at least a hundred pages. I didn't even tell my family I was doing it, but when we'd had pizza for a suspicious number of dinners, I finally fessed up.

I love writing for the pure, simple, solitary pleasure of it. I love spending a year or more with characters who come to feel like family.



Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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Red, White and Whole

by Rajanni LaRocca



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?

Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted—they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma, although their names are linked—Reha means 'star' and Punam means 'moon'—but they are a universe apart.

Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.

A heartbreakingly hopeful novel in verse about an Indian American girl whose life is turned upside down when her mother is diagnosed with leukemia. New England Book Award finalist!

If you like the 1980's, you'll love all the pop culture references in this book!

Who Wrote It?

I was born in Bangalore, India and immigrated to the U.S. as a baby. I spent most of my childhood in Louisville, Kentucky. I attended Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, and trained in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. I've been working as a primary care physician since 2001. I live in eastern Massachusetts with my wonderful husband, our two brilliant kids, and an impossibly cute dog. I've always been an omnivorous reader – cereal boxes, comic books, fortune cookie fortunes, magazine articles, and, of course, novels. The books I read as a child helped shape who I am today in ways that I'm still discovering. Books inspired me to pursue medicine as a



Bo career; books made me yearn to live in different worlds; books helped me consider what it's like to walk in someone else's shoes. Learn more about Rajanni in this video's interview.

AR Reading Level: 3.7

Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

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Name _____

Date _____



The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

by Dan Gemeinhart



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?

For five years Coyote and her dad, Rodeo, have lived on the road in an old school bus, criss-crossing the nation. It's also how long ago Coyote lost her mom and two sisters in a car crash. Coyote hasn't been home in all that time, but when she learns that the park in her old neighborhood is being demolished—a park where she, her mom, and her sisters buried a treasured memory box—she devises an elaborate plan to get her dad to drive 3,600 miles back to Washington state in four days...without him realizing it. Along the way, they'll pick up a strange crew of misfit travelers. Lester has a lady love to meet. Salvador and his mom are looking to start over. Val needs a safe place to be herself. Over the course of thousands of miles, Coyote will learn that going home can sometimes be the hardest journey of all...but that with friends by her side, she just might be able to turn her 'once upon a time' into a 'happily ever after.'

Who Wrote It?

Dan Gemeinhart was born in Germany because his father was in the Army. Now he lives in a small town smack dab in the middle of Washington state with his wife and three young daughters. He was lucky and grateful to be a teacher-librarian in an elementary school for thirteen years, where he got to share awesome books with awesome kids. He loves camping, cooking and traveling. He also plays guitar (badly) and reads (constantly).



His house is always a mess. He is really pretty darn happy. You can learn more about him and his books @ www.dan gemeinhart.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.7

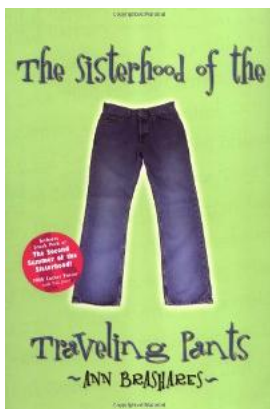
Lexile Level: 730L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

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Name _____

Date _____

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

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

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

Pants = love. Love your pals. Love yourself.

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

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 600L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

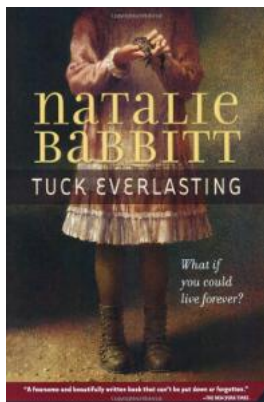
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Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt



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?

What if you could live forever?

Is eternal life a blessing or a curse? That is what young Winnie Foster must decide when she discovers a spring on her family's property whose waters grant immortality. Members of the Tuck family, having drunk from the spring, tell Winnie of their experiences watching life go by and never growing older.

But then Winnie must decide whether or not to keep the Tucks' secret—and whether or not to join them on their never-ending journey.

Critically acclaimed when it was first published, Natalie Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting* has become a much-loved, well-studied modern-day classic.

Now a major motion film available on streaming, featuring stars Alexis Bledel, Ben Kingsley, and Sissy Spacek!

Who Wrote It?

Natalie described herself as a 'fairly average child, 'Very skinny, but fond of toasted-cheese sandwiches and anything chocolate.' She said her favorite books were the kind where "the stories which presented life as it really is: the dark and the light all messed up together, coexisting, with unanswerable questions remaining unanswered." She grew up in Massachusetts and later attended Smith College. Throughout her career she wrote and illustrated dozens of books. In 2012, Babbitt was awarded the inaugural E.B. White Award for achievement in children's literature by the American Academy of



Arts and Letters. Natalie passed away in 2016 and was best known for her award winning book *Tuck Everlasting*.

AR Reading Level: 5.0

Lexile Level: 770L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

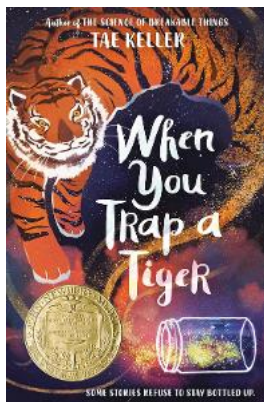
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



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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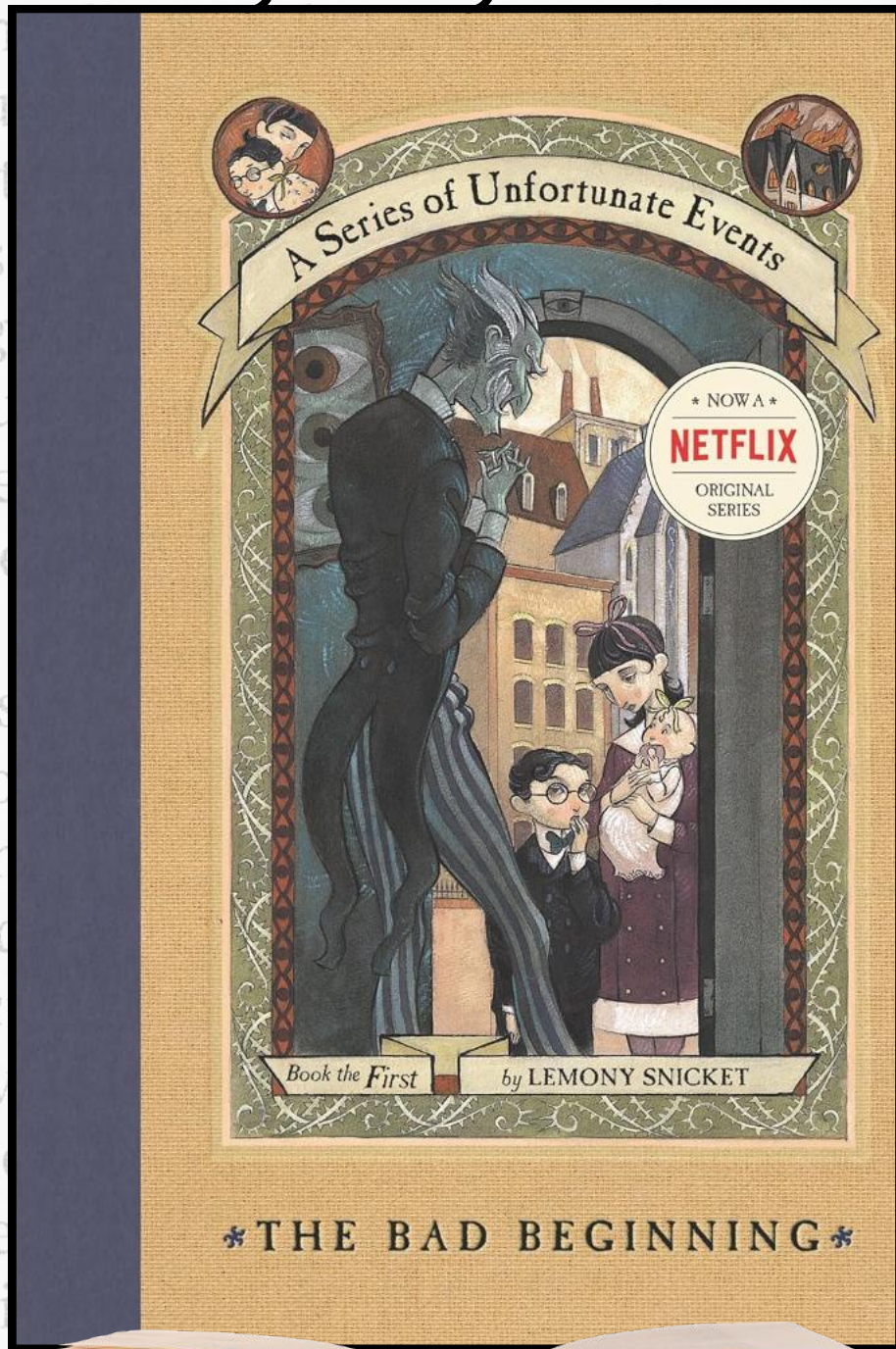
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE BAD BEGINNING

By Lemony Snicket



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BIG RIG

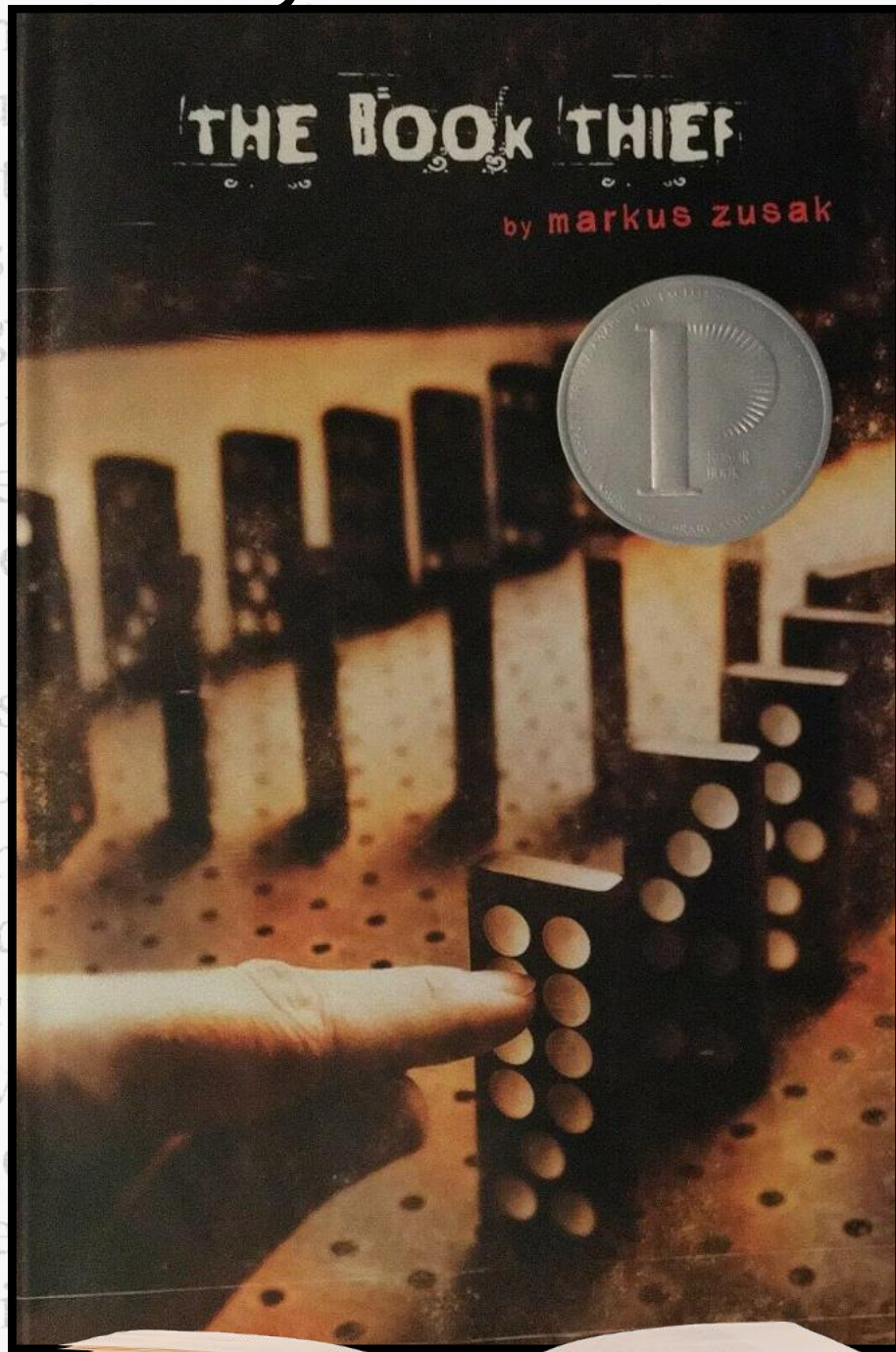
By Louise Hawes



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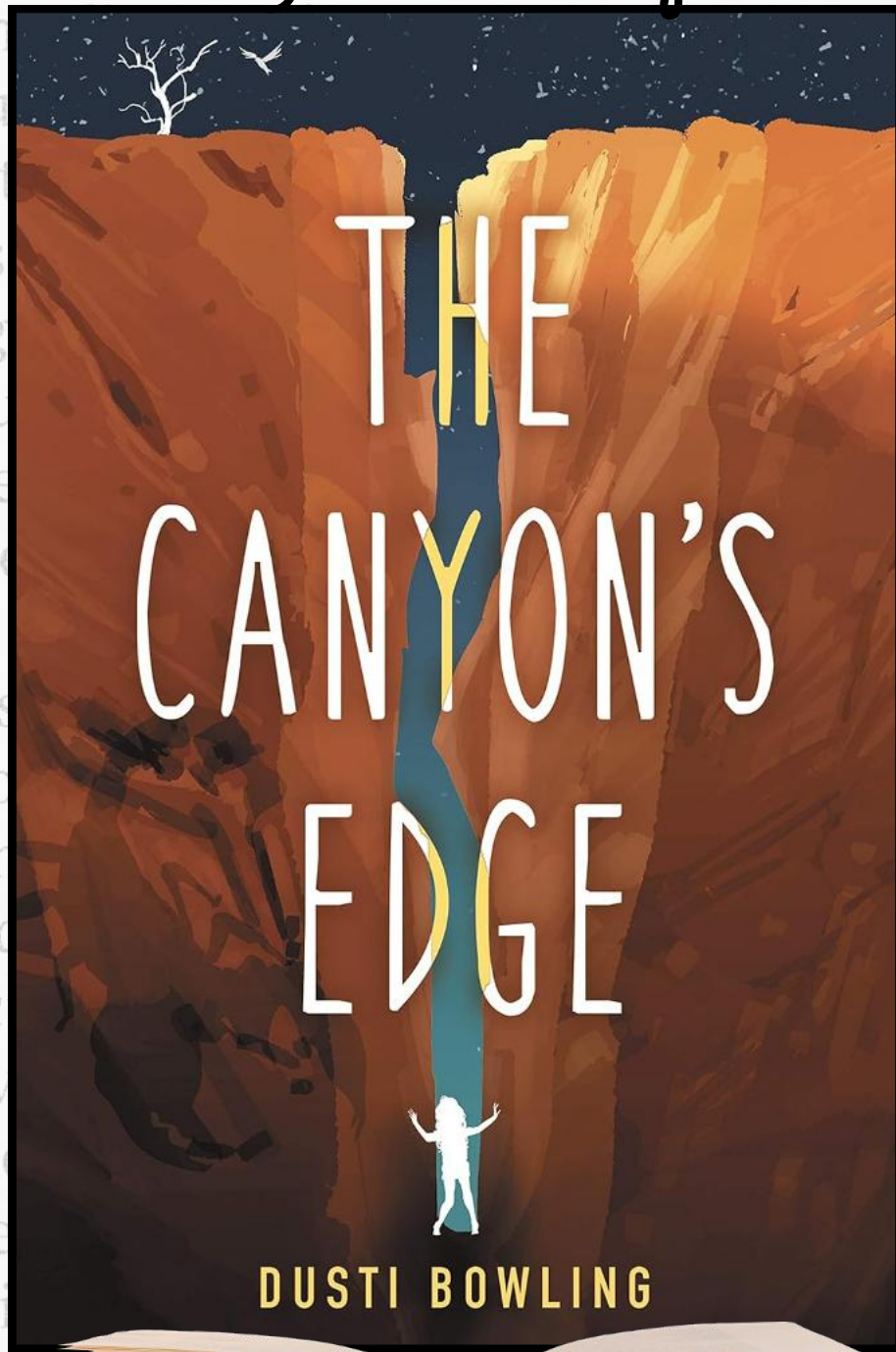
By Markus Zusak



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THE CANYON'S EDGE

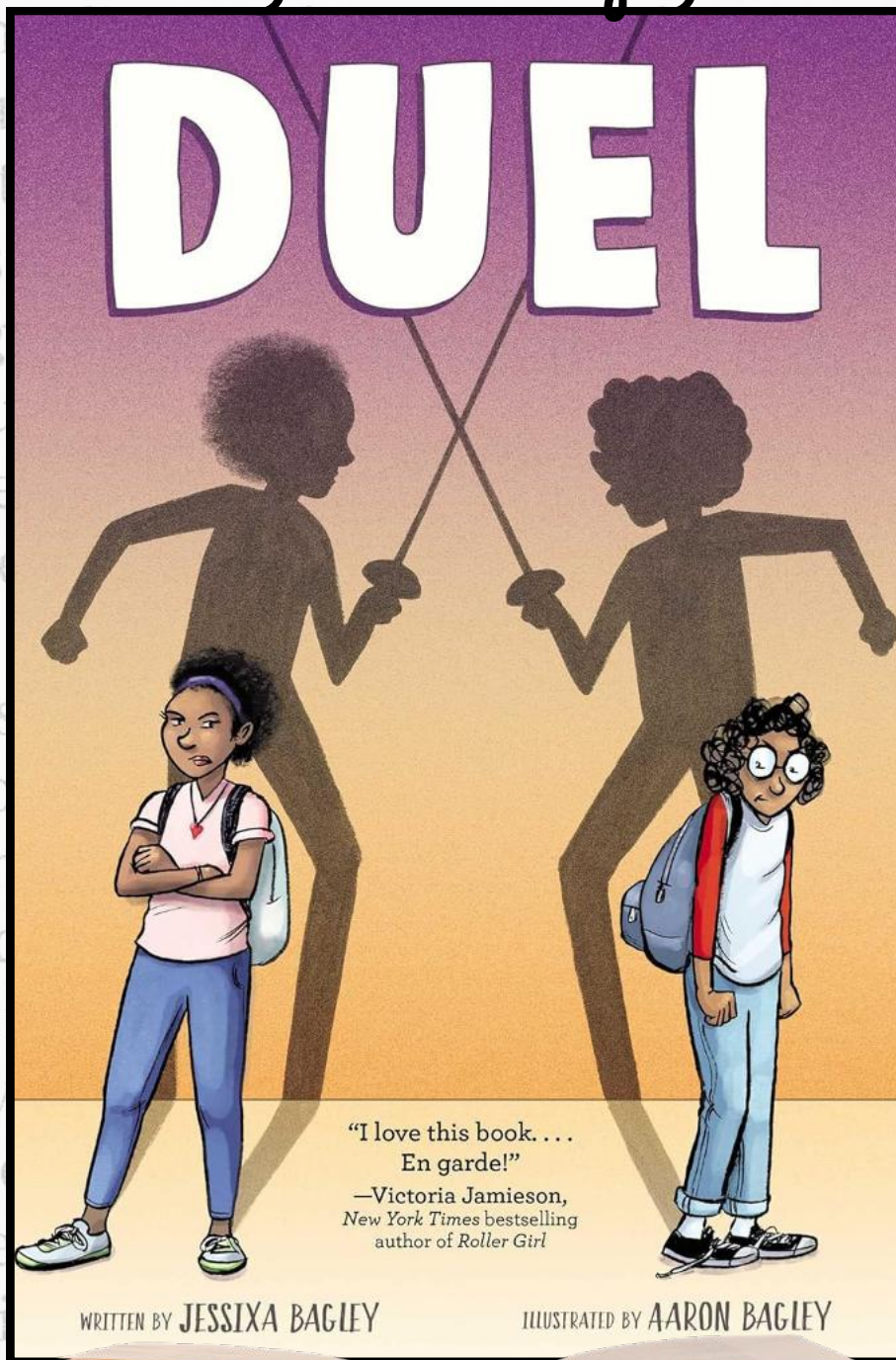
By Dusti Bowling



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DUEL

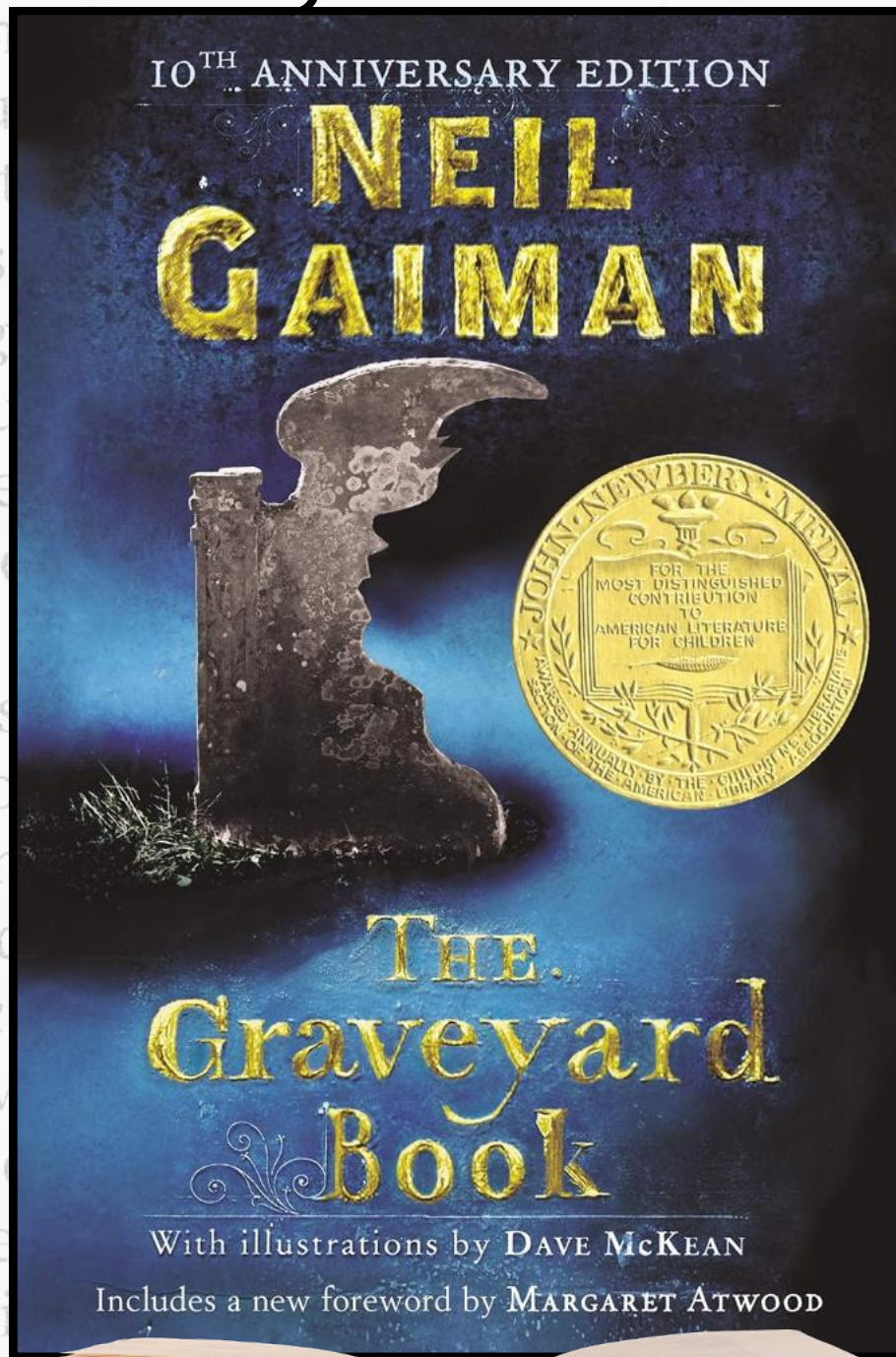
By Jessixa Bagley



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THE GRAVEYARD BOOK

By Neil Gaiman



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Iveliz Explains It All

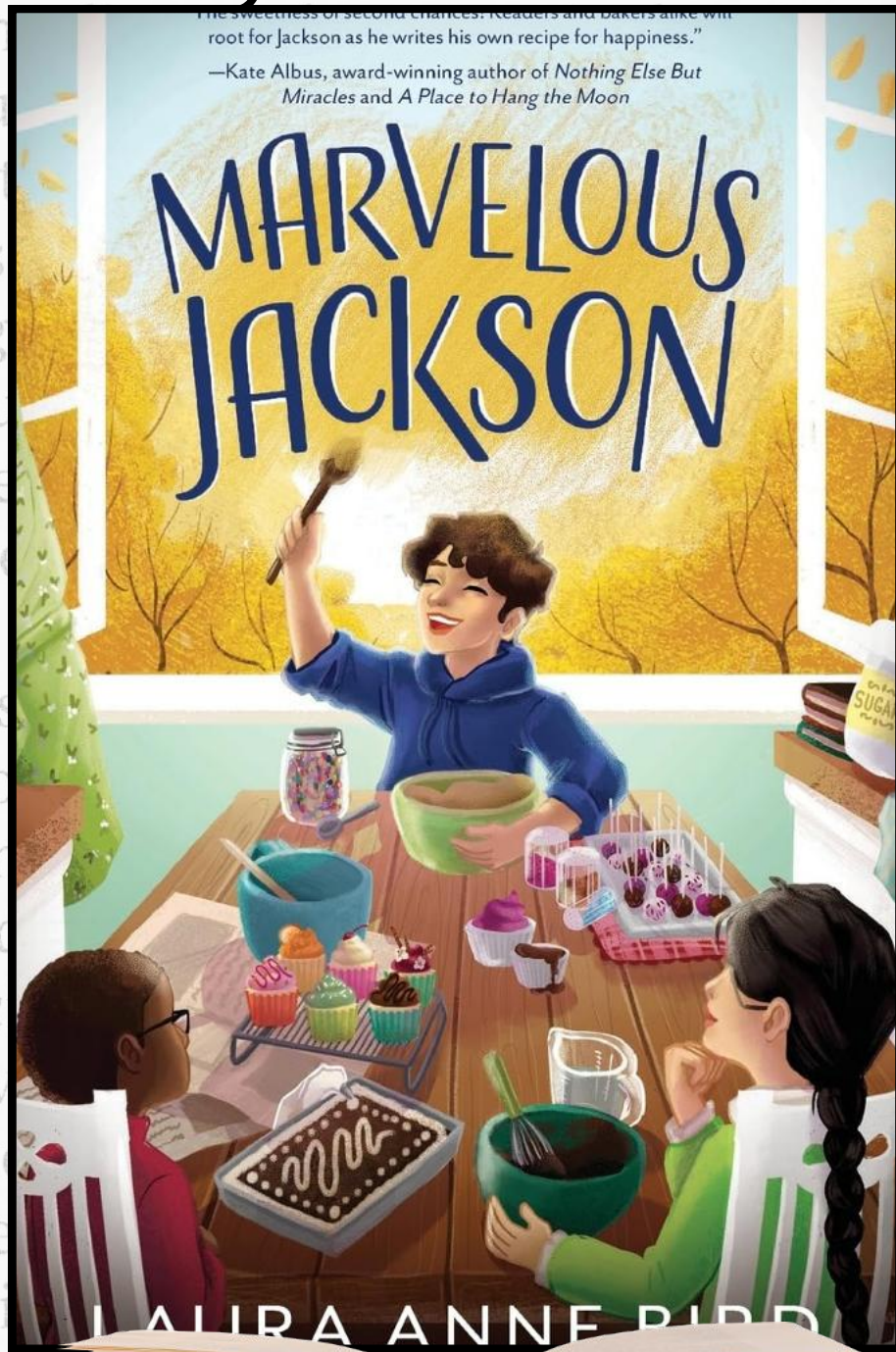
By Andrea Beatriz Arango



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MARVELOUS JACKSON

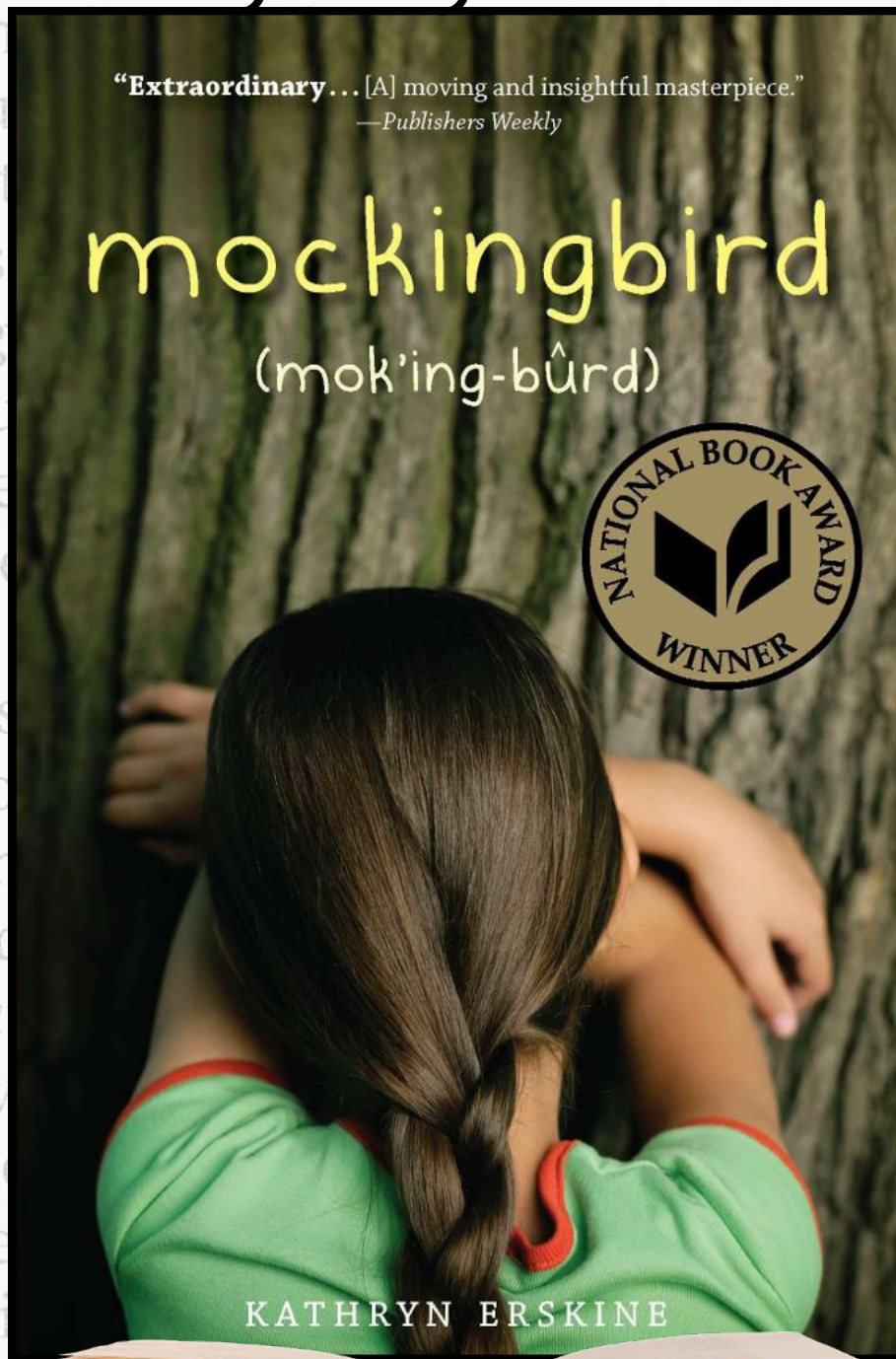
By Laura Anne Bird



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MOCKINGBIRD

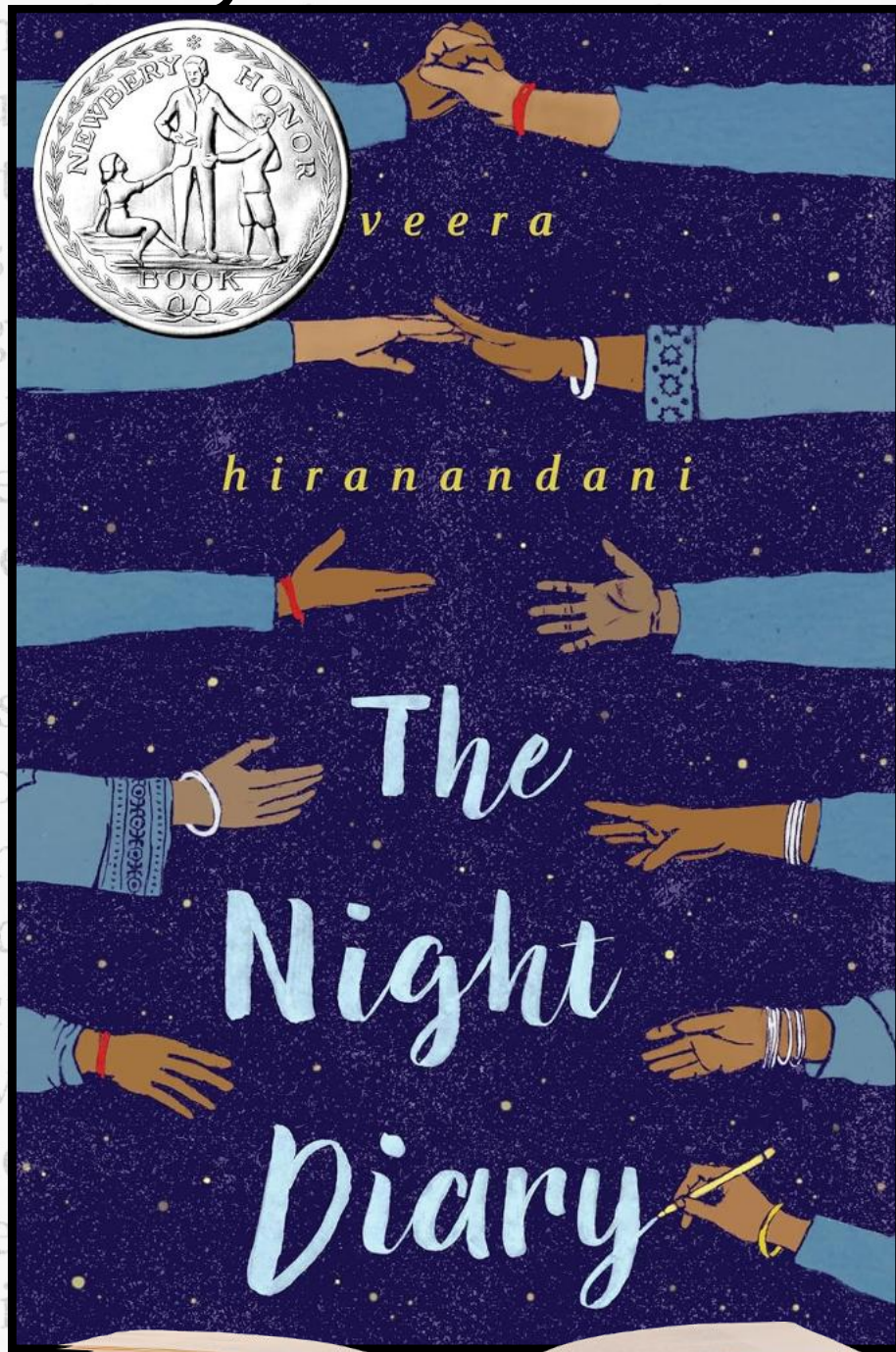
By Kathryn Erskine



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THE NIGHT DIARY

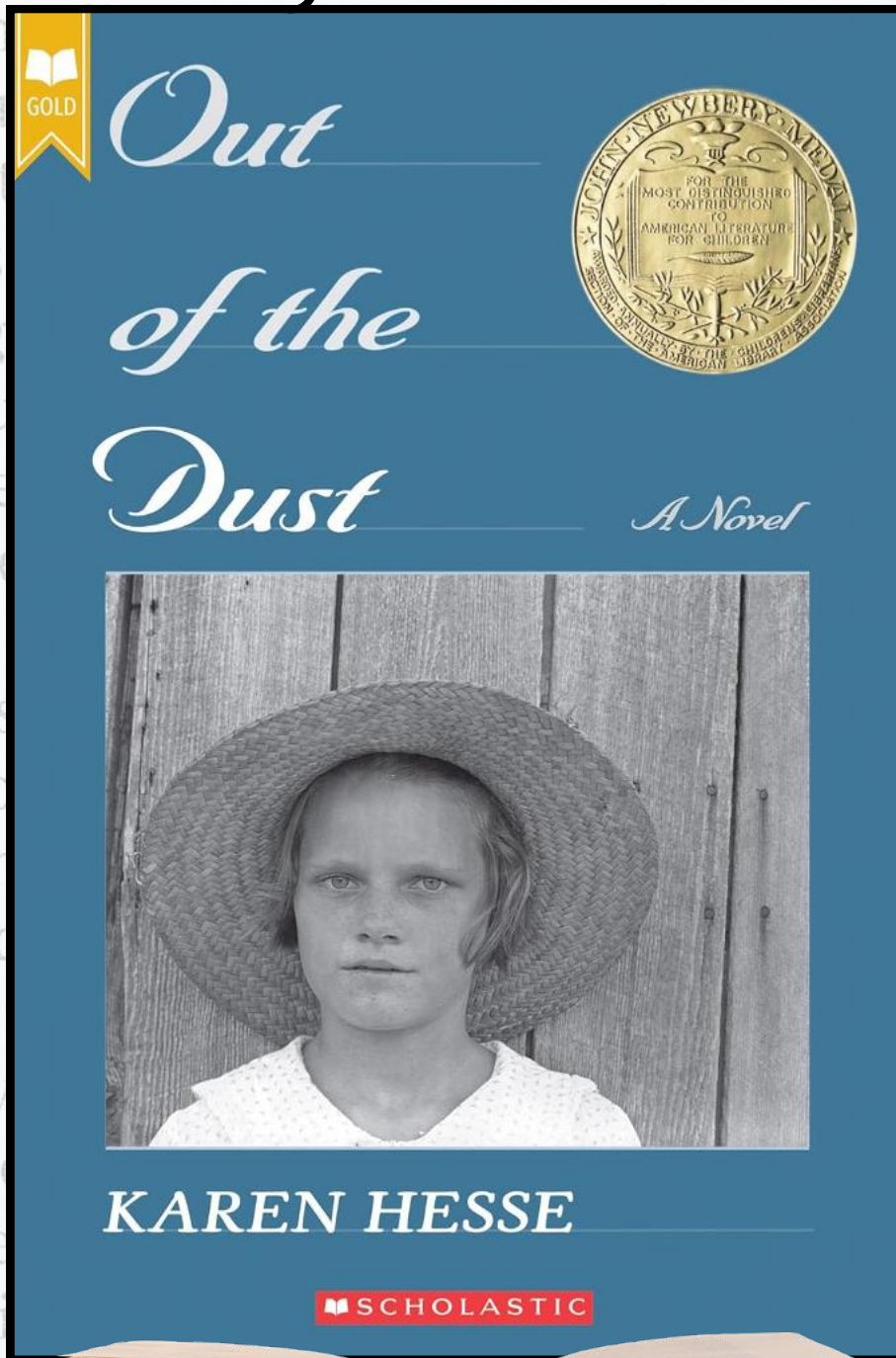
By Veera Hiranandani



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OUT OF THE DUST

By Karen Hesse



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A PLACE TO HANG THE MOON

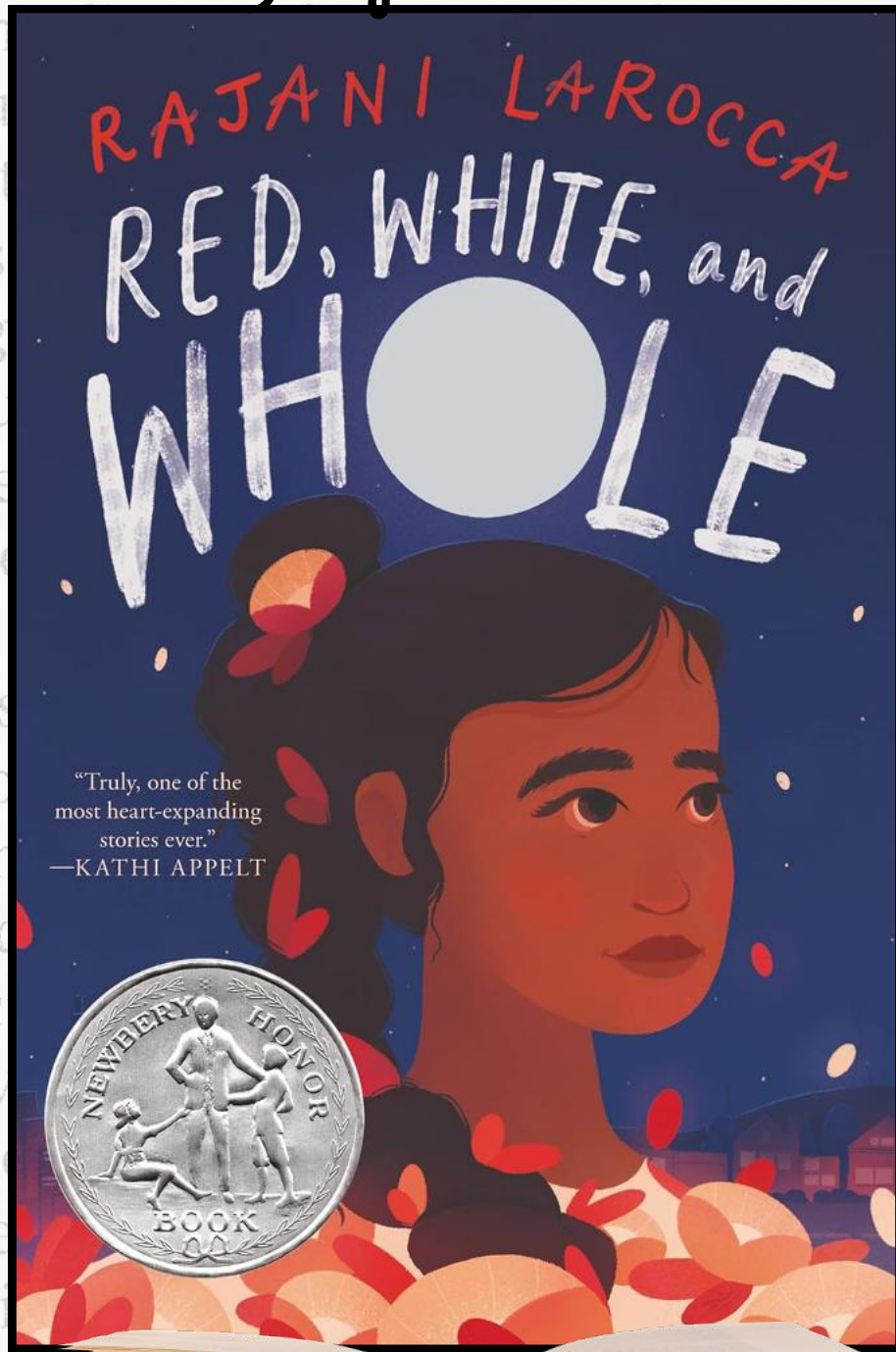
By Kate Albus



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

RED, WHITE, AND WHOLE

By Rajani LaRocca



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY OF COYOTE SUNRISE

by Dan Gemeinhart



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS

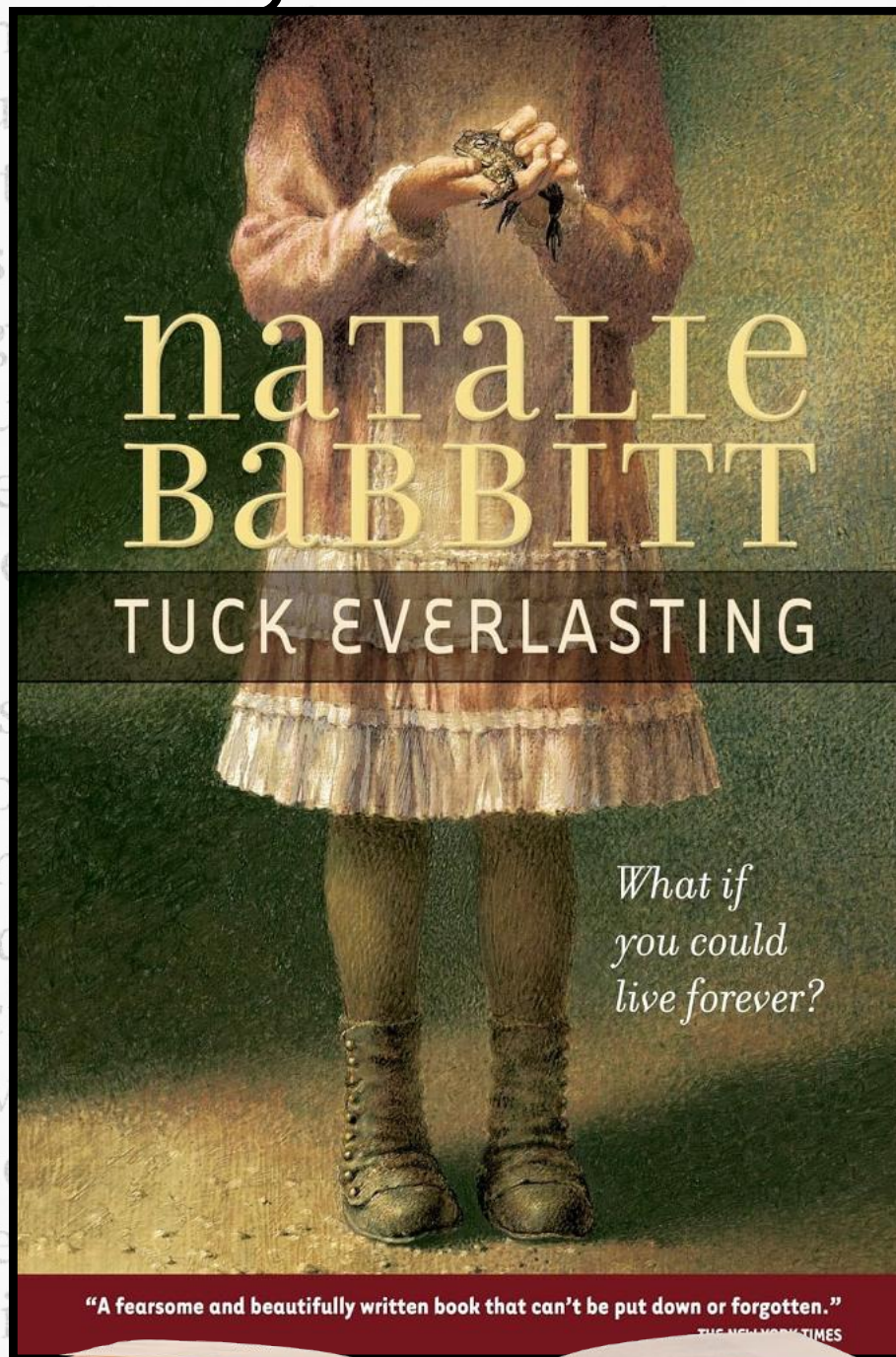
by Ann Brashares



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TUCK EVERLASTING

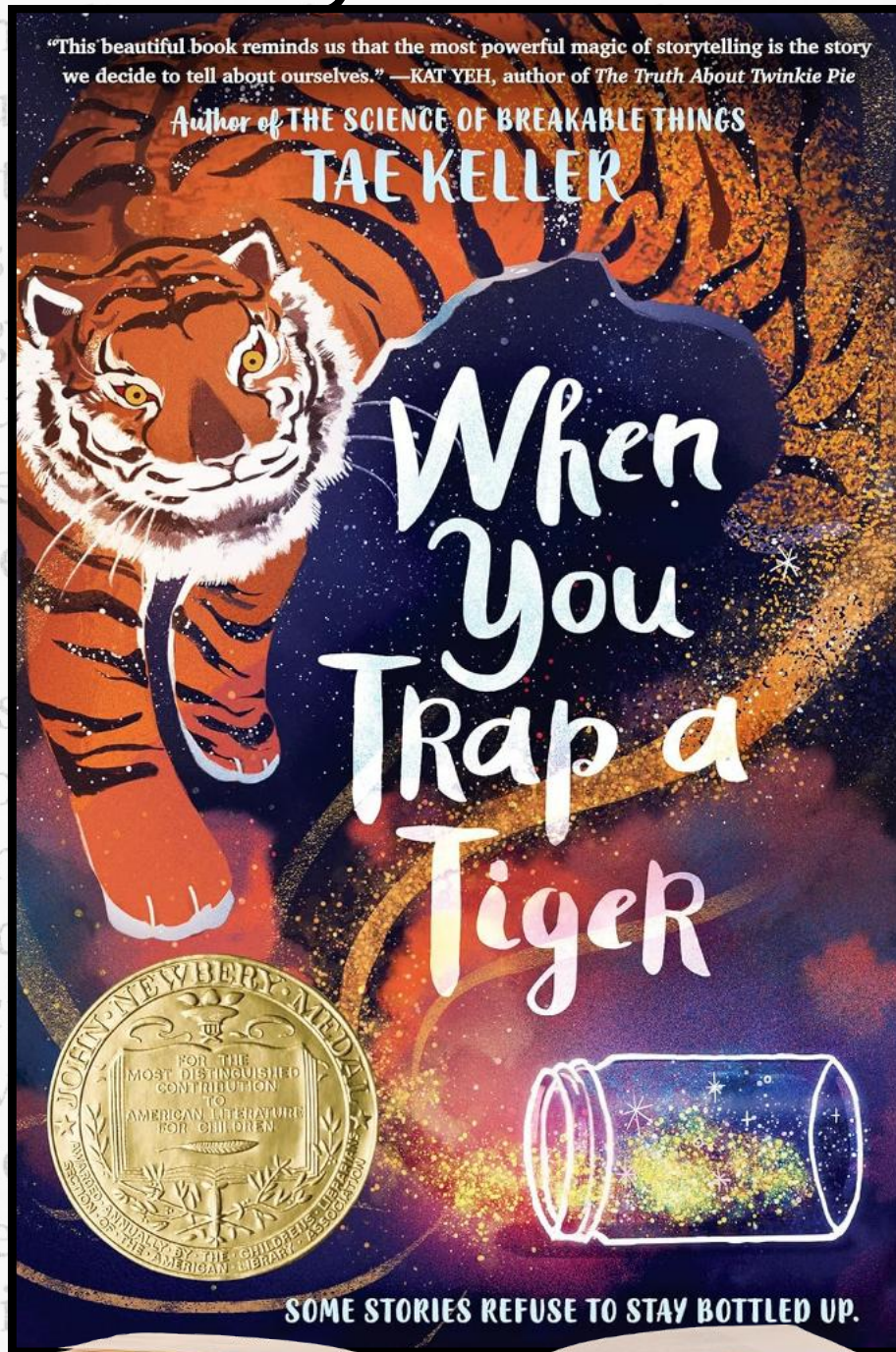
By Natalie Babbitt



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER

By Tae Keller



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY