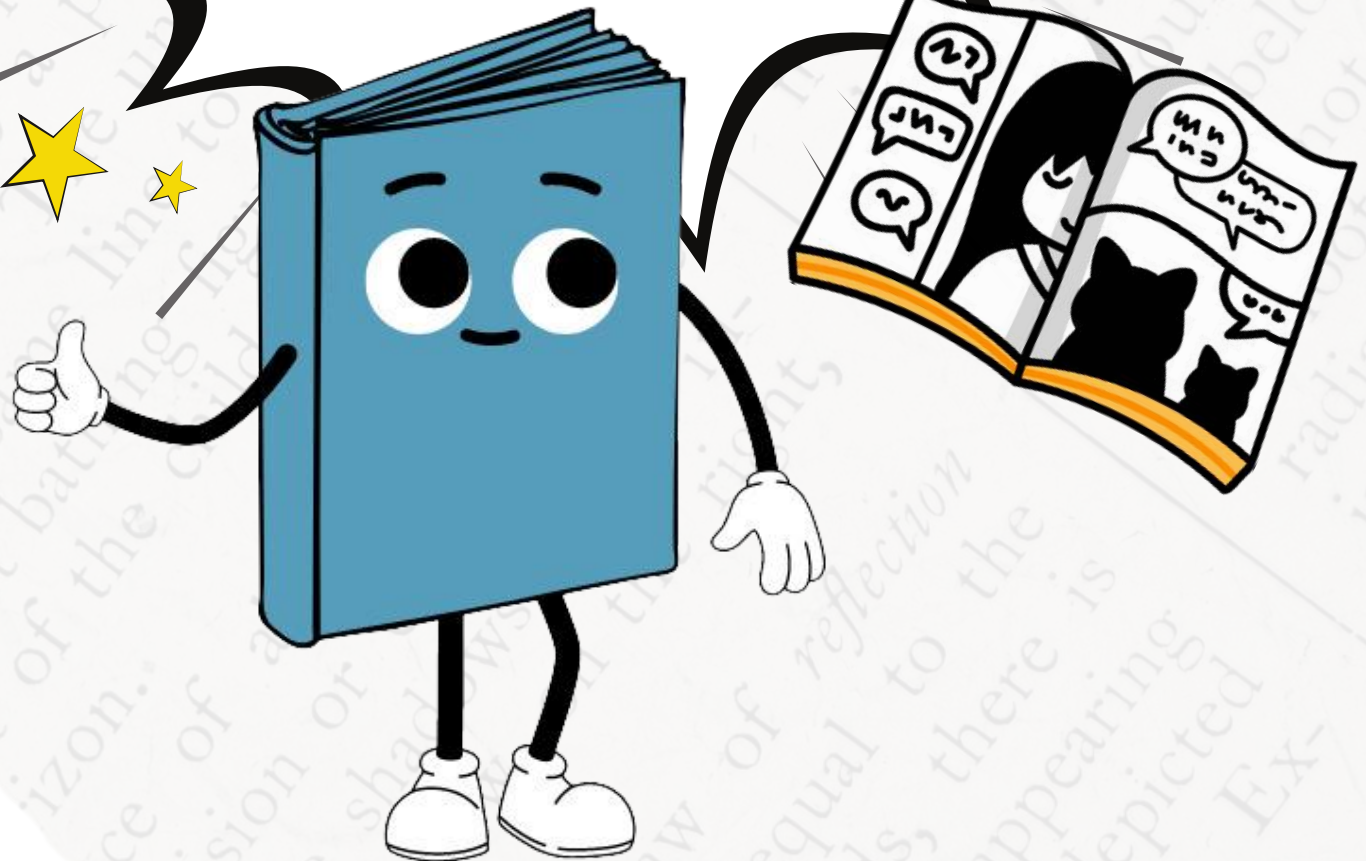


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

GRAPHIC NOVELS



HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of graphic novels as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the graphic novel 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 5-7: Book Tracking Charts

Page 8: Book List

Page 9: Full List Book Cover Poster

Pages 11-28 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 30-47: 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)

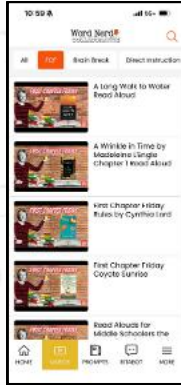


HAPPY READING GRAPHIC NOVEL FANS!

Word Nerd Daily

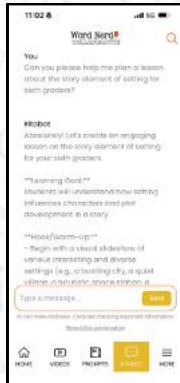
an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



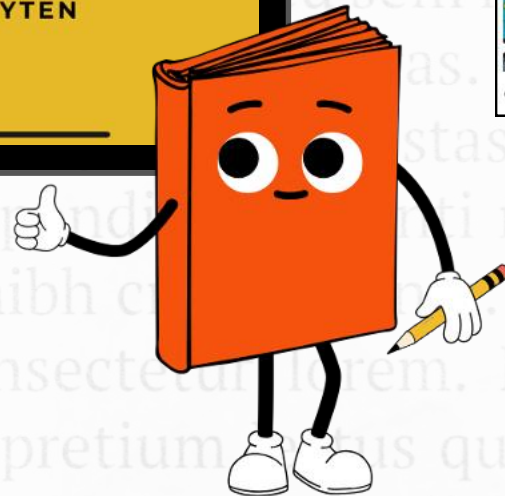
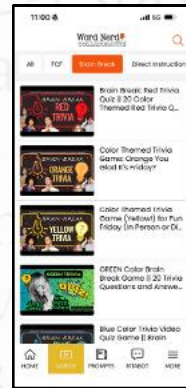
First Chapter Friday Videos

ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning



Writing Prompt Library

Brain Break Videos



AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER *Friday Videos*

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

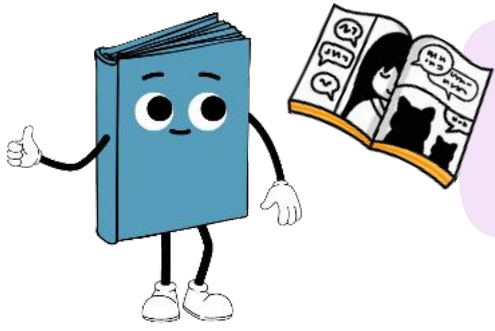
Check out this [video](#) for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.



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

[Click here](#) for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba



GRAPHIC

novels



Preview Video

Name: _____

TITLE	LIKE IT?	NOTES
8 Tiny Reindeer	Y / M / N	
All is Not Lost	Y / M / N	
Batter Royale	Y / M / N	
Bomb	Y / M / N	
Change the Game	Y / M / N	
Chunky	Y / M / N	
Dragon Hoops	Y / M / N	
Duel	Y / M / N	
A First Time for Everything	Y / M / N	
Invisible	Y / M / N	
Mexikid	Y / M / N	
Mixed Up	Y / M / N	
Muhammad Nejem: War Reporter	Y / M / N	
New Kid	Y / M / N	
Parachute Kids	Y / M / N	
Stealing Home	Y / M / N	
The Try Out	Y / M / N	
A Work in Progress	Y / M / N	
	Y / M / N	
	Y / M / N	

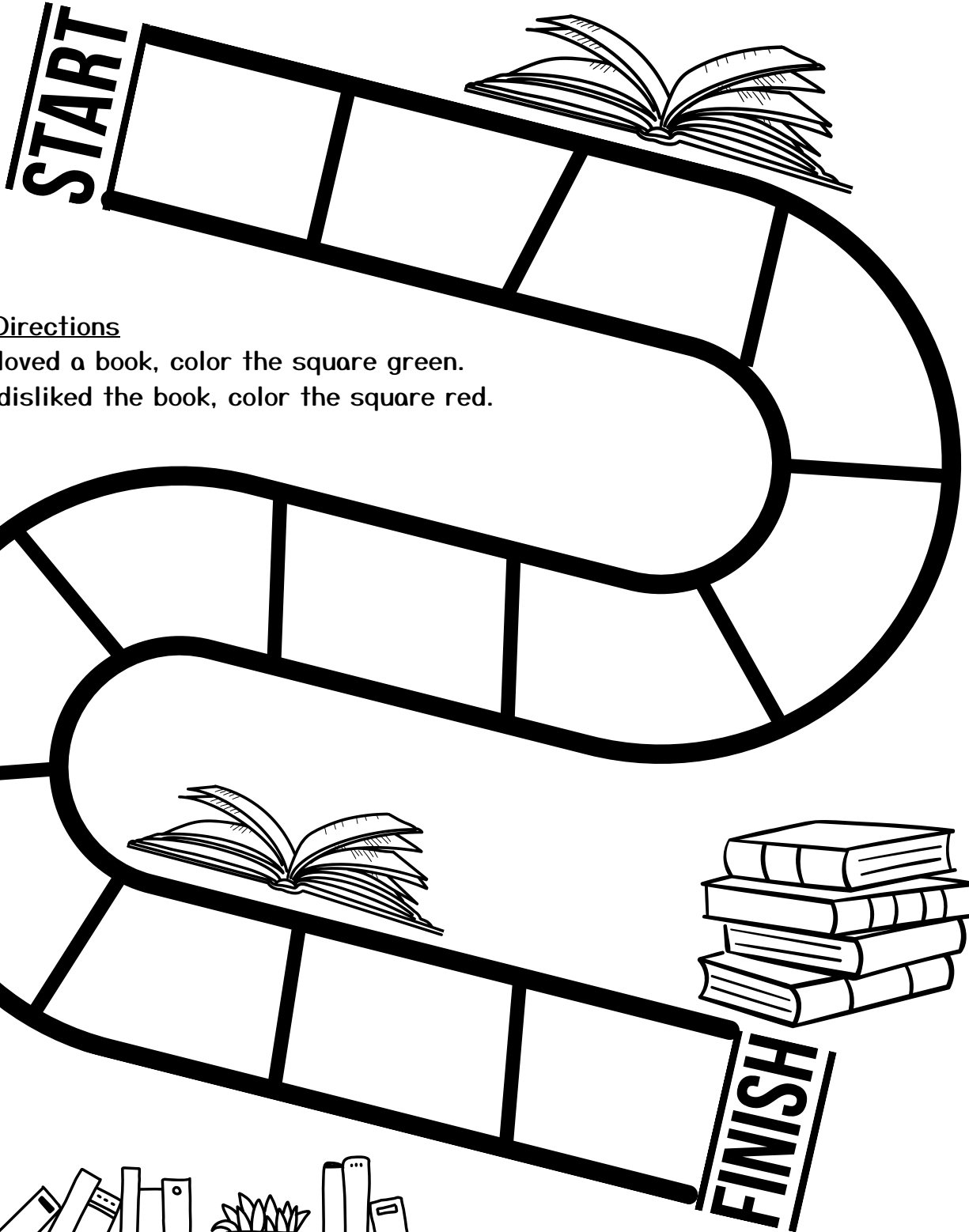
Which book are you most excited to give a try and why?

[illegible]



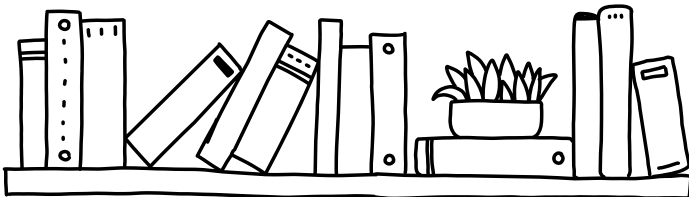
First Chapter Friday Game Board

Every time you listen to a First Chapter Friday read aloud video, write its title in the square. To win, fill up the entire game board!



Additional Directions

- If you loved a book, color the square green.
- If you disliked the book, color the square red.



Name: _____



GRAPHIC NOVELS

8 Tiny Reindeer by Robert Tinkler

All is Nat Lost by Maria Scrivan

Batter Royale by Leisl Adams

Bomb by Steve Sheinkin

Change the Game by Colin Kaepernick

Chunky by Yehudi Mercado

Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang

Duel by Jessixa Bagley

A First Time for Everything by Dan Santat

Invisible by Christina Diaz Gonzalez

Mexikid by Pedro Martin

Mixed Up by Kami Garcia

Muhammad Najem: War Reporter by Muhammad Najem

New Kid by Jerry Craft

Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang

Stealing Home by J. Torres

The Try Out by Christina Soontornvat

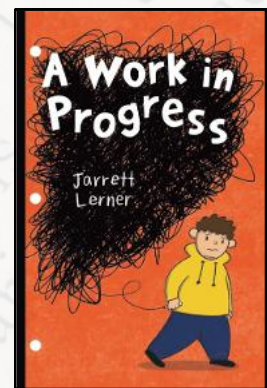
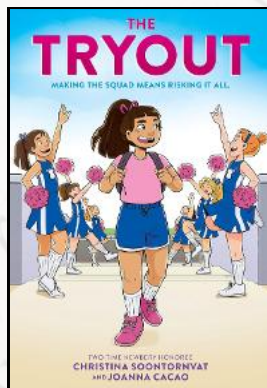
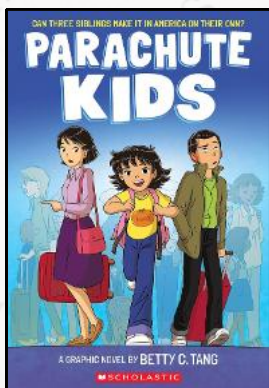
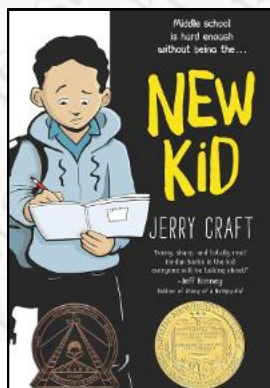
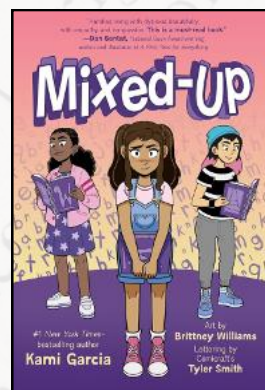
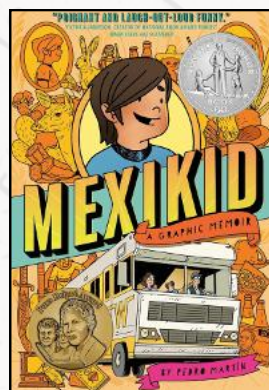
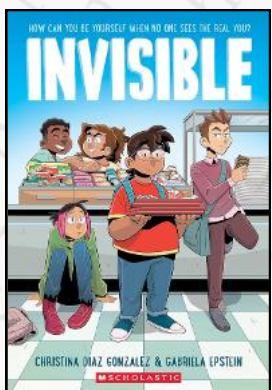
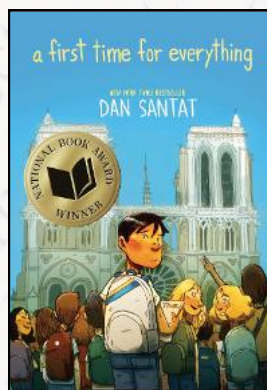
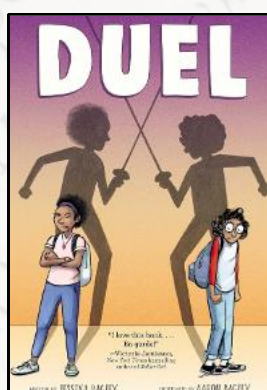
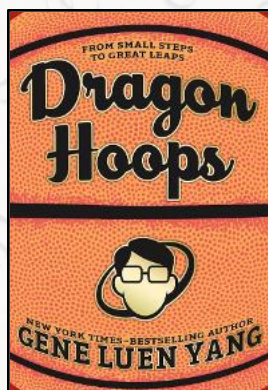
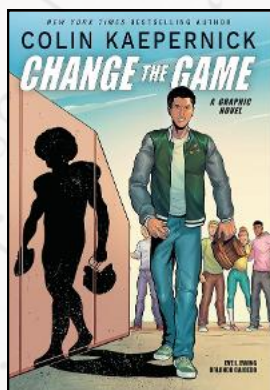
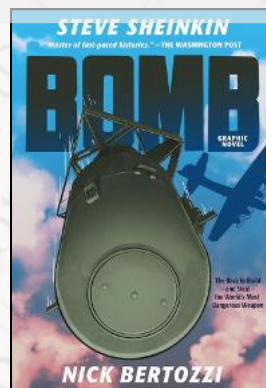
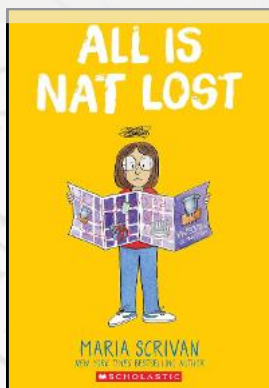
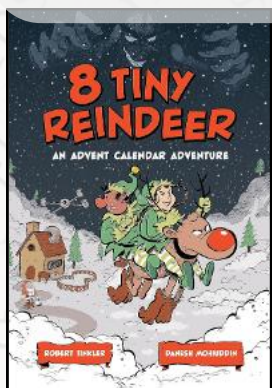
A Work in Progress by Jarett Lerner





WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

GRAPHIC NOVELS

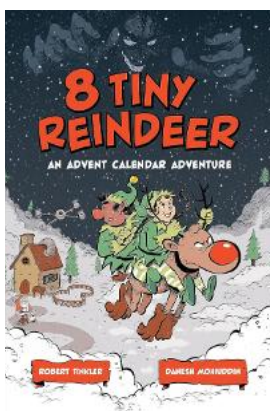


WNC BOOK LISTS * TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



8 Tiny Reindeer

by Robert Tinkler

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?

In this modern holiday tale, based on the podcast of the same name, two resourceful elves help Santa try to save Christmas from an evil tech baron! In the not-too-distant future, Santa's entire operation has been automated. Machines, not elves, make all the toys. And drones transport the presents around the world on Christmas Eve, not Santa's reindeer. Since Santa no longer needs much help, he's let go all but two of his elves, Elvis and Delfina, and released his 8 tiny reindeer into the wild. Only, just days before Christmas, Santa learns that the wealthy tycoon who supplied him with all his technology, Larchmont Quickbuck, is plotting to take over Christmas and send Santa packing! Santa knows his only hope of saving the holiday from Quickbuck is to bring back the true source of Christmas magic – his 8 tiny reindeer. But will Elvis and Delfina find them in time? The holiday adventure story with a modern twist is structured like an advent calendar, with one chapter for each day of December leading up to Christmas Day Loaded with contemporary takes on familiar characters, such as a tech-challenged Santa and selfie-obsessed elf, this action-packed, hilarious and heartfelt book is destined to be a Christmas classic!

AR Reading Level: N/A

Who Wrote It?



Robert Tinkler is a writer, podcast producer and voice actor. He has worked on animated and live-action series for Disney, Netflix, PBS, Cartoon Network and Corus Entertainment. For his performance in the hit PBS series *Cyberchase*, he received a Daytime Emmy-Award nomination. Robert lives with his family in Toronto, Ontario.

Lexile Level: GN380L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

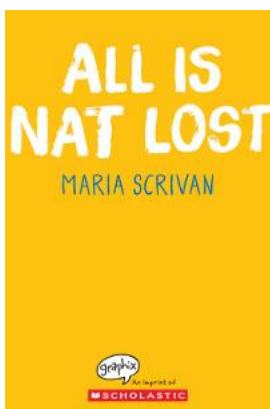
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



All is Nat Lost

by Maria Scrivan



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?

Nat's class trip is a bigger adventure than she imagined! Nat is on an overnight class trip to Philadelphia, which is her first time in a big city without her parents. And it's a big deal because Nat's mom and dad are finally giving her the independence she's been longing for. But the trip is off to a bad start -- with one disaster after another -- and if things keep up, Nat's on track to lose her newfound freedom for good! Can she turn things around in time, or will her first chance with liberty be her last?



Who Wrote It?

Where do you get your ideas? - I don't know but they're out there somewhere. I find a lot of them when I'm running or hiking in the woods, and also when I'm riding my bike.

What do you like to do besides writing and drawing? I love traveling, cycling, running, hiking, yoga, reading, painting, petting every dog I meet, spending time with friends and family, gardening, looking for frogs in the nearby pond, and collecting books and art supplies.

Do you have any advice for aspiring writers and artists? - Write a lot, read a lot and draw a lot. And most importantly, have fun.

What would you like to do if you weren't a cartoonist? I can't think of anything else I'd like to do, and I've tried a lot of other things. I was an animator, an art director, a graphic designer, a lifeguard, a fitness instructor, an art teacher and a camp counselor. None of those things seemed to fit.



Photo credit: Kyle Norton

Where do you live? I currently live in Connecticut, very close to New York City. There are all kinds of trails nearby to go hiking, running and idea hunting, and plenty of beautiful roads to cycling on. My backyard has a resident groundhog, a family of deer, and many frogs, voles, and birds.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 320L

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 _____

Batter Royale

by Leisl Adams



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

In Leisl Adams's fun debut graphic novel, *Batter Royale*, a talented young chef is selected to participate in a baking reality show and finds herself mixed up in spicy competition, bitter rivalry, and sweet romance.

When 17-year-old small-town waitress Rose impresses a famous food critic, she and her best friend, Fred, find themselves thrust into the tough world of competitive baking. The contest is an intense 10 days of bizarre challenges, and the competition is cutthroat. Some competitors are willing to lie, cheat, and sabotage their way to the top. Rose may be in over her head, but she is determined to show that she can become a top chef.

Batter Royale is a fish-out-of-water-style romantic comedy about climbing out of the circumstances you're in and making your dreams come true.

Who Wrote It?

Even though *Batter Royale* is Leisl's first graphic novel, she is no stranger to art and stories. She has been working in the animation business for over 20 years. She has worked for a variety of big deal companies including: Warner Bros, Disney Jr., Mattel, Teletoon and CBC. Leisl lives in Canada with her family and is currently working on many projects including a new graphic novel and a couple of short films. An interview is included in the



video read aloud so you can learn even more about her and her work.

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 _____



Bomb

Written by Steve Sheinkin

Illustrated by Nick Bertozzi



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 December of 1938, a chemist in a German laboratory made a shocking discovery: When placed next to radioactive material, a Uranium atom split in two. That simple discovery launched a scientific race that spanned three continents. In Great Britain and the United States, Soviet spies worked their way into the scientific community; in Norway, a commando force slipped behind enemy lines to attack German heavy-water manufacturing; and deep in the desert, one brilliant group of scientists, led by "father of the atomic bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer, was hidden away at a remote site at Los Alamos. This is the story of the plotting, the risk-taking, the deceit, and genius that created the world's most formidable weapon. This is the story of the atomic bomb. A riveting graphic novel adaptation of the award-winning nonfiction book, *Bomb*—the fascinating and frightening true story of the creation behind the most destructive force that birthed the arms race and the Cold War.

Who Wrote It?

Steve was born in Brooklyn, NY, and my family lived in Mississippi and Colorado before moving back to New York and settling in the suburbs north of New York City. As a kid his favorite books were action stories and outdoor adventures. I went to Syracuse University and studied communications and international relations. The highlight of those years was a summer I spent in Central America, where I worked on a documentary on the streets of Nicaragua. After college Steve moved made a movie with his brother, wrote comics and worked for a textbook company. After a lot of time spent writing and editing for other people, he finally got the opportunity to write his own book and



Photo Credit: Erica Miller

ideas and aren't we all lucky he did! Other people agree because Steve has won many awards for his work. You can learn more about Steve on his website: www.stevesheinkin.com.

AR Reading Level: 4.8

Lexile Level: 640L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



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 genres 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.

Name _____

Date _____



Chunky

by Yehudi Mercado



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?

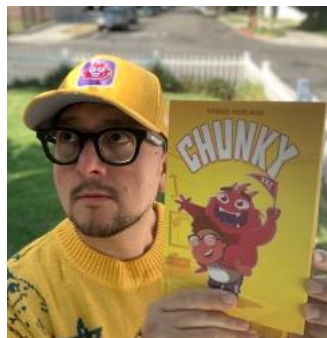
Hudi needs to lose weight, according to his doctors. Concerned about the serious medical issue Hudi had when he was younger, his parents push him to try out for sports. Hudi would rather do anything else, but then he meets Chunky, his imaginary friend and mascot. Together, they decide to give baseball a shot.

As the only Mexican and Jewish kid in his neighborhood, Hudi has found the cheerleader he never had. Baseball doesn't go well (unless getting hit by the ball counts), but the two friends have a great time drawing and making jokes. While Hudi's parents keep trying to find the right sport for Hudi, Chunky encourages him to pursue his true love—comedy.

But when Hudi's dad loses his job, it gets harder for Hudi to chart his own course, even with Chunky's guidance. Can Chunky help Hudi stay true to himself or will this friendship strike out?

Who Wrote It?

Yehudi Mercado is a former pizza delivery driver and art director for Disney Interactive. He is currently a writer-artist-director. "During his time at Disney he co-wrote and was the Art Director for Guardians of the Galaxy: The Universal Weapon (Mobile Game). His original graphic novels as include Buffalo Speedway, Pantalones, TX, Rocket Salvage and Sci-Fi: Kick it Off (which was featured on the Scholastic Book Fair and was one of the top 10 most checked out books for kids in the New York Public Library System)" (www.bricfoundation.org). Yehudi was born in Mexico City, grew up in Texas, and now lives in Los Angeles.



You can learn more about Yehudi and his work on his website: <https://www.supermercado.pizza/about>

AR Reading Level: currently unavailable Lexile Level: currently unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

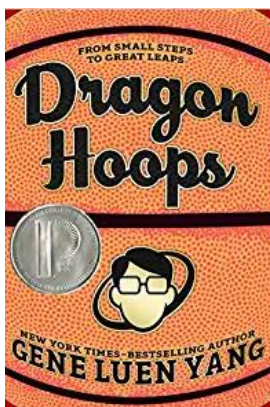
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang



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?

Gene understands stories—comic book stories, in particular. Big action. Bigger thrills. And the hero always wins.

But Gene doesn't get sports. As a kid, his friends called him 'Stick' and every basketball game he played ended in pain. He lost interest in basketball long ago, but at the high school where he now teaches, it's all anyone can talk about. The men's varsity team, the Dragons, is having a phenomenal season that's been decades in the making. Each victory brings them closer to their ultimate goal: the California State Championships.

Once Gene gets to know these young all-stars, he realizes that their story is just as thrilling as anything he's seen on a comic book page. He knows he has to follow this epic to its end. What he doesn't know yet is that this season is not only going to change the Dragons's lives, but his own life as well.

Who Wrote It?

Hi! I'm Gene Luen Yang. I began making comics and graphic novels in the fifth grade. In 2006, my book *American Born Chinese* was published by First Second Books. It became the first graphic novel to be nominated for a National Book Award and the first to win the American Library Association's Printz Award. I've done a number of other comics, including Dark Horse Comics' continuation of the popular Nickelodeon cartoon *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and DC Comics' *Superman!* In addition cartooning, I teach creative writing at Hamlin



University. In January 2016, the Library of Congress appointed me the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

AR Reading Level: 3.9

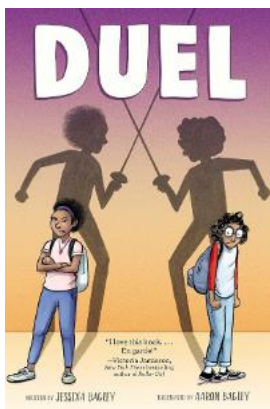
Lexile Level: 550L

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.

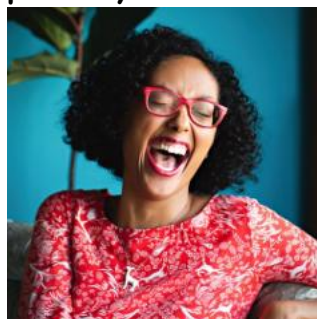
What's It About?

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?

AR Reading Level: N/A

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

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

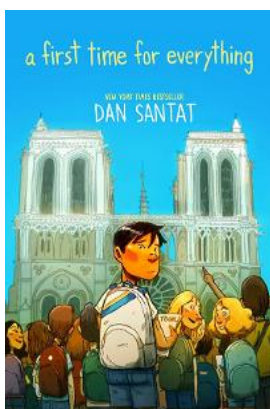
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



A First Time for Everything

by Dan Santat

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?

Dan's always been a good kid. The kind of kid who listens to his teachers, helps his mom with grocery shopping, and stays out of trouble. But being a good kid doesn't stop him from being bullied and feeling like he's invisible, which is why Dan has low expectations when his parents send him on a class trip to Europe.

At first, he's right. He's stuck with the same girls from his middle school who love to make fun of him, and he doesn't know why his teacher insisted he come on this trip. But as he travels through France, Germany, Switzerland, and England, a series of first experiences begin to change him—first Fanta, first fondue, first time stealing a bike from German punk rockers... and first love.

Funny, heartwarming, and poignant, *A First Time for Everything* is a feel-good coming-of-age memoir based on New York Times bestselling author and Caldecott Medal winner Dan Santat's awkward middle school years. It celebrates a time that is universally challenging for many of us, but also life-changing as well.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Who Wrote It?

Birthday: October 2, 1975

Birthplace: Brooklyn, NY

Current Location: Los Angeles, CA

College: University of California San Diego

Major: Microbiology

College: Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California

Degree: Illustration

First Book Published: *The Guild of Geniuses* (2004)

Awards: Caldecott Medal for Most Distinguished Picture Book



Dan Santat is a #1 New York Times Best Selling Author author/illustrator of over one hundred titles. Dan Santat's parents moved to the United States from Thailand before he was born. Thailand is on the continent of Asia near Burma, Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. He likes to incorporate his Thai heritage in the books that he illustrates. He is also the creator of the Disney animated hit, *The Replacements*. Dan lives in Southern California with his wife, two kids, and various pets.

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 _____



Invisible

by Christina Diaz Gonzalez



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?

How can you be yourself when no one sees the real you?

Five students meet in the school cafeteria when they're forced to complete their school community service hours.

There's George: the brain

Sara: the loner

Dayara: the tough kid

Nico: the rich kid

And Miguel, the jock. They immediately know that they have nothing in common with each other... even though their school administration has decided that they all belong together.

None of the kids wants to be there, and each has their own issues they're dealing with in their life outside of school. But when they encounter someone who truly needs their help, they might just be able to come together to work as a team—and help their community—after all.

Who Wrote It?

I grew up in a very small Southern town in the Florida panhandle where I was the only Spanish-speaking kid around. My parents are Cuban and they had decided to teach me Spanish first (I quickly learned English when I started school, but Spanish was still spoken at home) and I developed a deep love for both my Cuban roots and my Southern hometown. It was a wonderful childhood filled with memories of riding my bike with friends and reading books up in my treehouse. It was during this time that I secretly dreamed of one day having my own stories published, but I'd never met an author and it didn't seem like it was something people like me actually did... so I tried other things. Eventually I became a lawyer (lots of reading and writing required... just not the fun kind I had done up in my treehouse) and started a family of my own in Miami. It was my sons who ended up inspiring me to pursue my dream of becoming a writer because their love of books reminded me of my own love for stories. So, with the support of my parents, sister,



husband, sons, and large extended family I began to pursue that passion for writing. Now, over a decade later, I am able to share my books with readers all over the world! You can learn more about Christina and her other books over on her website at: www.christinagonzalez.com

Photo and text taken from Andrew's website: www.andrewclements.com.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 260L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK

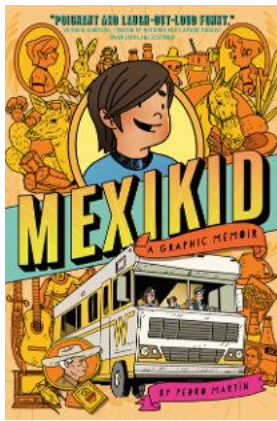




Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

Name _____

Date _____



Mexikid by Pedro Martin



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?

An unforgettable graphic memoir about a Mexican American boy's family and their adventure-filled road trip to bring their abuelito back from Mexico to live with them that National Book Award Finalist Victoria Jamieson calls 'one of those books that kids will pass to their friends as soon as they have finished it.'

Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his grito.

** Also available in SPANISH! :)

Who Wrote It?

Pedro grew up in California with his very larger family (9 kids!). He went to San Jose and earned a degree in Editorial Illustration and Design. Pedro created greeting card art for Hallmark for almost 30 years! He is also the creator of the cartoon Asteroid Andy and also illustrated Don't Know Much About® The Solar System and Don't Know Much About® The Presidents. He loves to eat Dot's Homestyle Pretzels while he is writing. His favorite holiday tradition is making tamales with the whole family. He lives in Kansas City, Missouri. Mexikid is the first book he has written, but hopefully it will not be his last!



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: N/A

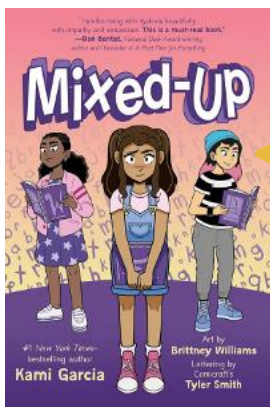
I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



Name _____

Date _____



Includes
Author
Interview!

Mixed-Up

by Kami Garcia

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



Read Aloud Video and
Author Interview

What's It About?

Stella knows fifth grade will be the best year ever. Her closest friends, Emiko and Latasha, are in her class and they all got the teacher they wanted. Then their favorite television show, Witchlins, announces a new guidebook and an online game! But when the classwork starts piling up, Stella struggles to stay on top. Why does it take her so long to read? And how can she keep up with friends in the Witchlins game if she can't get through the text-heavy guidebook? It takes loving teachers and her family to recognize that Stella has a learning difference, and after a dyslexia diagnosis she gets the support and tools she needs to succeed.

Bestselling author Kami Garcia was inspired to write this special book by her daughter's dyslexia journey; her own neurodivergent experience; and the many students she taught over the years. With subtle design and formatting choices making this story accessible to all readers, *Mixed-Up* shows that our differences don't need to separate us. *Mixed-Up* has been lettered in Dyslexie to make reading as comfortable as possible for dyslexic readers.

Who Wrote It?

Kami Garcia a #1 New York Times, USA Today and international bestselling author and comic book writer. She has written 12 novels and graphic novels, that have been published in 51 countries and 38 languages and her books have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide!! She is also a cofounder of the Kid Lit book festival YALLFest and co-organizer of #Creators4Comics. She is married to Alex Garcia, a video game producer. They have two



children together. Learn more about Kami at kamigarcia.com and follow her on [Instagram](#) and [X](#) @kamigarcia.

AR Reading Level: 3.0

Lexile Level: Unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

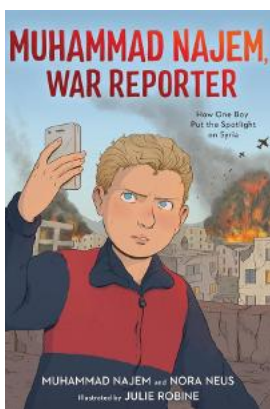
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Muhammad Najem: War Reporter

by Muhammad Najem & Nora Neus



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?

Muhammad Najem was only eight years old when the war in Syria began. He was thirteen when his beloved Baba, his father, was killed in a bombing while praying. By fifteen, Muhammad didn't want to hide anymore—he wanted to act. He was determined to reveal what families like his were enduring in Syria: bombings by their own government and days hiding in dark underground shelters. Armed with the camera on his phone and the support of his family, he started reporting on the war using social media. He interviewed other kids like him to show what they hope for and dream about. More than anything, he did it to show that Syrian kids like his toddler brother and infant sister, are just like kids in any other country. Despite unimaginable loss, Muhammad was always determined to document the humanity of the Syrian people. Eventually, the world took notice. This tenderly illustrated graphic memoir is told by Muhammad himself along with CNN producer Nora Neus, who helped break Muhammad's story and bring his family's plight to an international audience.

Who Wrote It?

Muhammad Najem is from the eastern city of Ghouta in Syria. He began filming and reporting on the war in Syria at the age of 15 to share with the world the horrors of bombings, death, and destruction occurring daily in his homeland. He lived through eight years of war—documenting and sharing the stories and realities of the Syrian people online. In 2019, Muhammad moved to Turkey with his family, where they are now safe. However, the war in Syria continues more than 11 years later, and people still lose their lives every day. He remains committed to reporting on Syria to keep the world informed of the truth. In addition to this book, Muhammad was featured in Angelina Jolie's book Know Your Rights and Claim Them, a guide



empowering young people worldwide to advocate for themselves and others. Currently, Muhammad is focused on improving his English and continuing his education.

AR Reading Level: 3.1

Lexile Level: N/A

I want to read this book: YES / NO

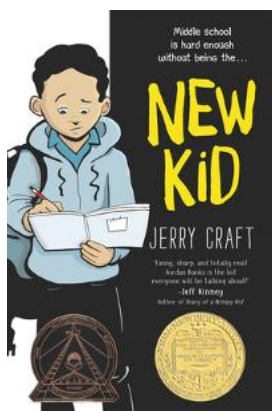
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



New Kid by Jerry Craft



Read Aloud Video

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



What's It About?

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

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

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

Who Wrote It?

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



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

AR Reading Level: 2.9

Lexile Level: 320L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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



Name _____

Date _____

Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang

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



Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

A DREAM TRIP TO AMERICA TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE!

Feng-Li can't wait to discover America with her family! But after an action-packed vacation, her parents deliver shocking news: They are returning to Taiwan and leaving Feng-Li and her older siblings in California on their own. Suddenly, the three kids must fend for themselves in a strange new world--and get along. Starting a new school, learning a new language, and trying to make new friends while managing a household is hard enough, but Bro and Sis's constant bickering makes everything worse. Thankfully, there are some hilarious moments to balance the stress and loneliness. But as tensions escalate--and all three kids get tangled in a web of bad choices--can Feng-Li keep her family together?

This funny, fast-paced, and heartrending story about three siblings living on their own as undocumented new immigrants is perfect for fans of New Kid and Front Desk.

****National Book Award Longlist Title**
****Asian/Pacific American Award Honor Book**

Who Wrote It?

From Betty's Author Website: I spent my childhood nights secretly reading mangas under the covers with a flashlight, much to my mother's dismay. It did no favor to my eyes, but my love for drawing ignited. After graduating from CalArts with a BFA, I worked for various Hollywood animation studios including Disney TV and Dreamworks Animation. Then adventurously, I moved to Beijing, China for a couple of years, and co-directed *Where's the Dragon?*, an animated feature. Now I'm 100% devoted to creating meaningful books for children. I'm also a NY Times Bestselling Illustrator of the graphic novel, *JACKY HA-HA*, written by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein and adapted by Adam Rau. I love squirrels and hate roaches. I am also a 4th degree black



belt in Aikido--a Japanese martial art--but the roaches aren't impressed. Born in Taiwan, I arrived in America as a parachute kid. Currently, I live in Los Angeles, CA.

AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 250L

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 _____



Stealing Home

by J. Torres

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?

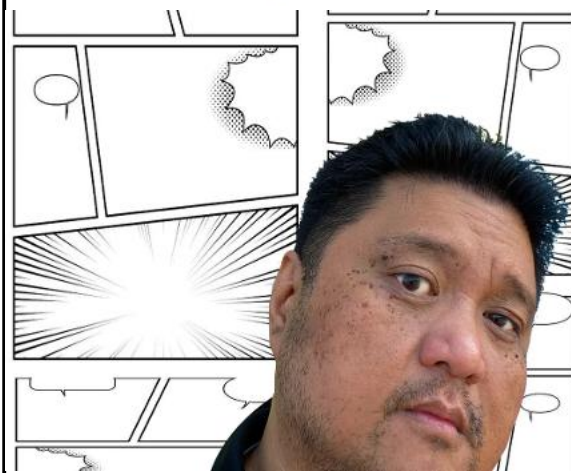
Sandy Saito is a happy boy who reads comic books and is obsessed with baseball --- especially the Asahi team, the pride of his Japanese Canadian community. But when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, his life, like that of every other North American of Japanese descent, changes forever. His family is forced to move to a remote internment camp, and his father must spend months away from them. Sandy, his mother and his brother cope as best they can with the difficulties at the camp. Over time, Sandy comes to realize that life is a lot like baseball. It's about dealing with whatever is thrown at you, however you can. And it's about finding your way home. In this emotionally gripping graphic novel, J. Torres has artfully woven a fictional story into a historically accurate, thoroughly researched account of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. Using the approachable graphic novel format, the story of this grave chapter in North American history is gently told with sensitivity and insight, and the theme of baseball runs through the story as a message of hope and renewal.

AR Reading Level: 3.3

Who Wrote It?

Bio

Readers may know me as the writer of DC's *Batman: Knightwatch*, the original *Teen Titans Go* comic book series, the Forest of Reading Honour Books *Planet Hockey* and *Stealing Home*, or *Lola: A Ghost Story*, recipient of an Aesop Accolade from the American Folklore Society. I was born in Manila and raised in Montreal where he was educated at McGill University. I'm married, have two sons, and love going to the movies, traveling, and cheering for the Toronto Raptors.



Lexile Level: 430L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

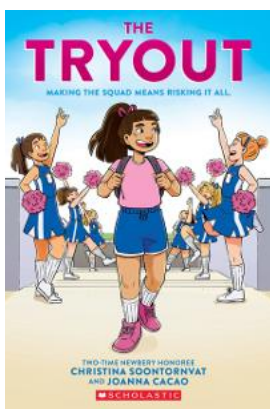
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Name _____

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?



Author Christina Soontornvat



AR Reading Level: unavailable

Lexile Level: 380L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

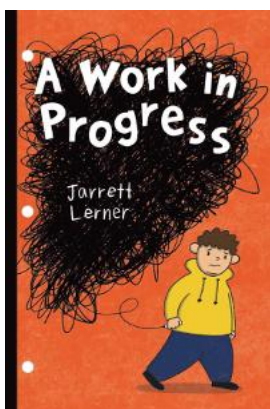
☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



A Work in Progress

by Jarrett Lerner

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



Novel in Verse

What's It About?

Will is the only round kid in a school full of string beans. So he hides...in baggy jeans and oversized hoodies, in the back row during class, and anywhere but the cafeteria during lunch. But shame isn't the only feeling that dominates Will's life. He's also got a crush on a girl named Jules who knows he doesn't have a chance with—string beans only date string beans—but he can't help wondering what if?

Will's best shot at attracting Jules's attention is by slaying the Will Monster inside him by changing his eating habits and getting more exercise. But the results are either frustratingly slow or infuriatingly unsuccessful, and Will's shame begins to morph into self-loathing.

As he resorts to increasingly drastic measures to transform his appearance, Will meets skateboarder Markus, who helps him see his body and all it contains as an ever-evolving work in progress.

Who Wrote It?

Author-illustrator Jarrett Lerner is the award-winning creator of the EngiNerds series of Middle Grade novels, the Geeger the Robot series of early chapter books, the activity books Give This Book a Title and Give This Book a Cover, The Hunger Heroes series of graphic novel chapter books, and the Nat the Cat series of early readers. Jarrett is also the creator of the illustrated novel in verse *A Work in Progress*, as well as several as-yet-unannounced projects. In addition to writing, drawing, and visiting schools and libraries across the country, Jarrett spearheads fundraisers for various reading- and book-related causes. He is also



the founder and operator of Jarrett Lerner's Creator Club. He can be found at jarrettlerner.com and on Twitter and Instagram at [@Jarrett_Lerner](https://twitter.com/Jarrett_Lerner). He lives with his wife and daughters in Massachusetts.

AR Reading Level: unavailable

Lexile Level: unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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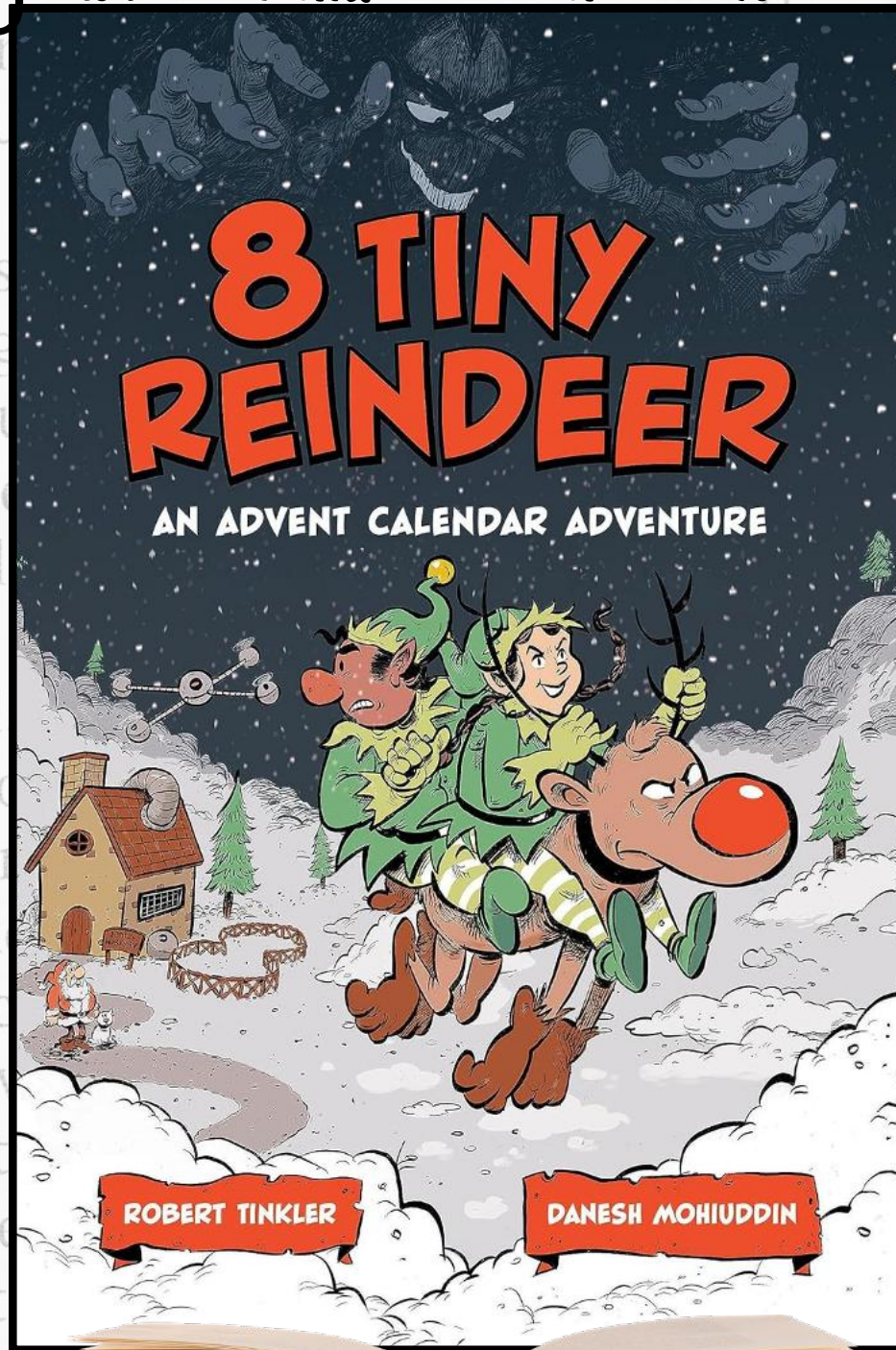
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

8 TINY REINDEER

by Robert Tinkler & Danesh Mohiuddin



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

ALL IS NAT LOST

by Maria Scrivan

ALL IS NAT LOST



MARIA SCRIVAN

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

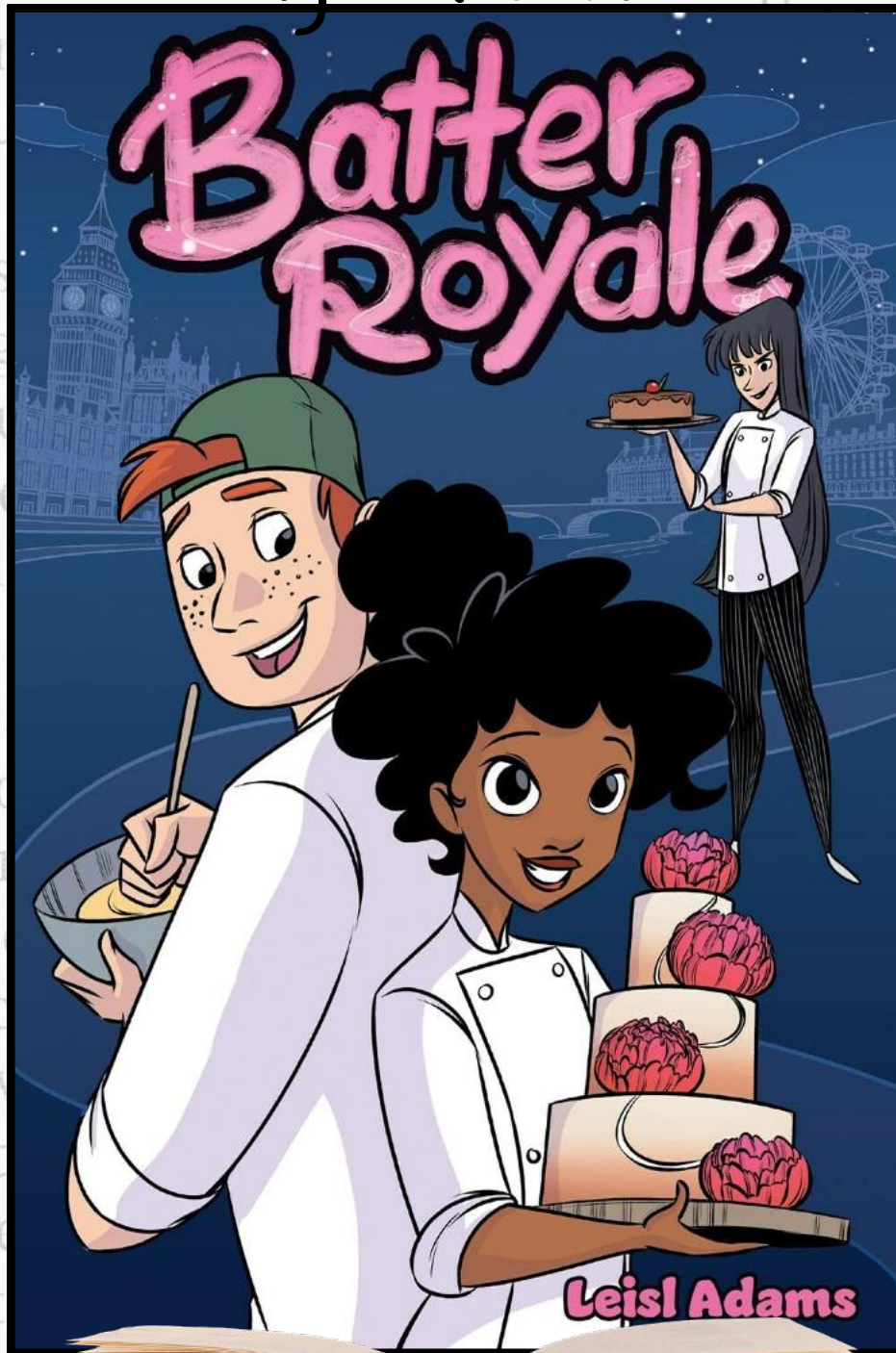
 SCHOLASTIC



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BATTER ROYALE

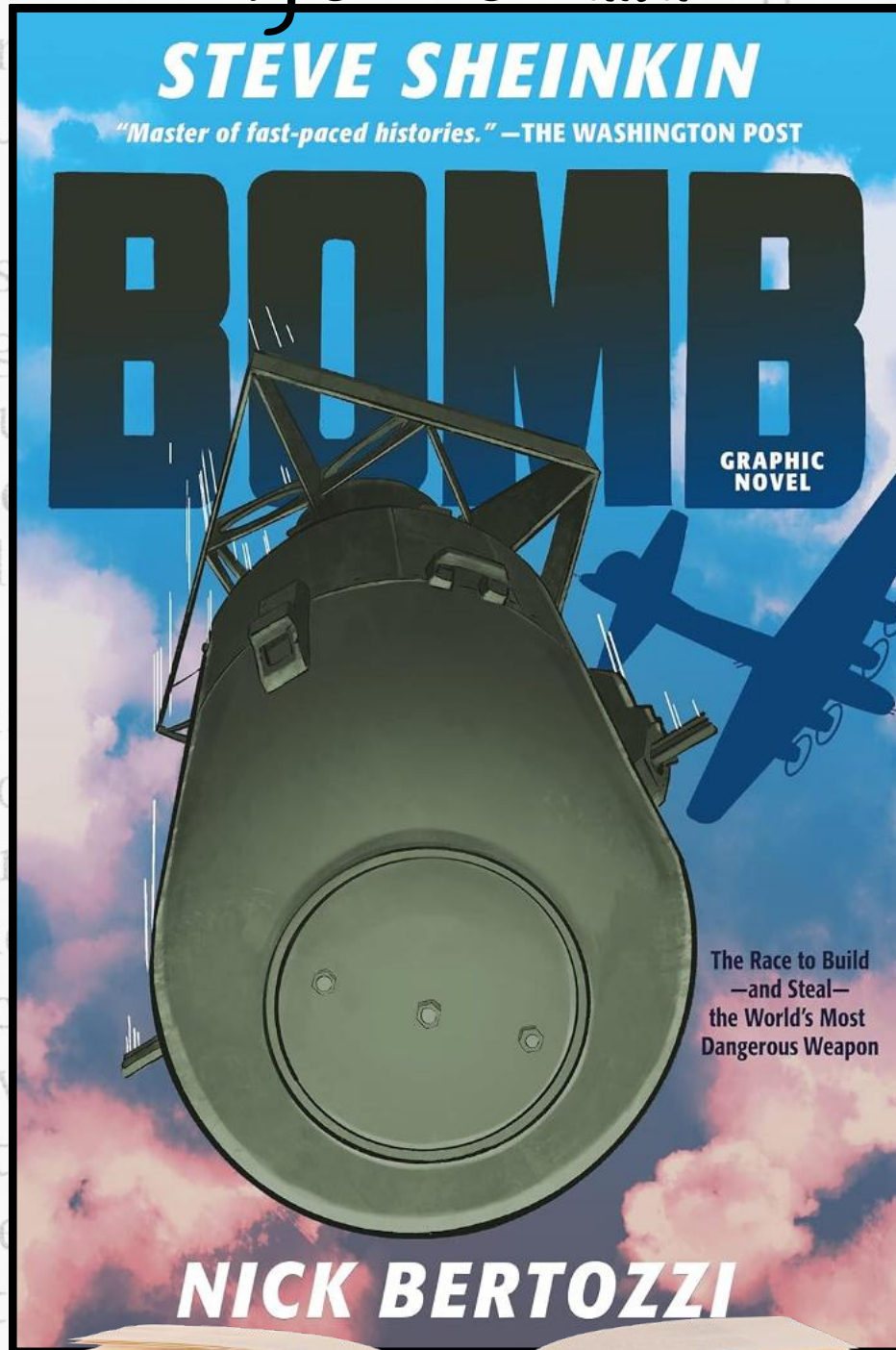
by Leisl Adams



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BOMB

by Steve Sheinkin



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

CHANGE THE GAME

by Colin Kaepernick



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

CHUNKY

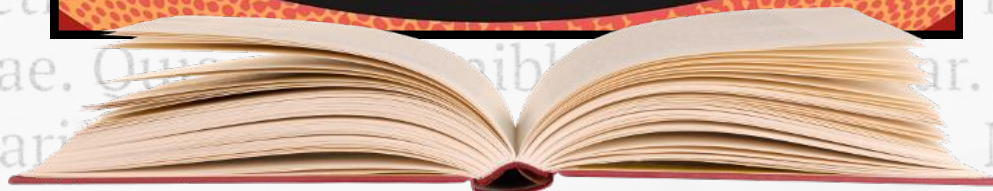
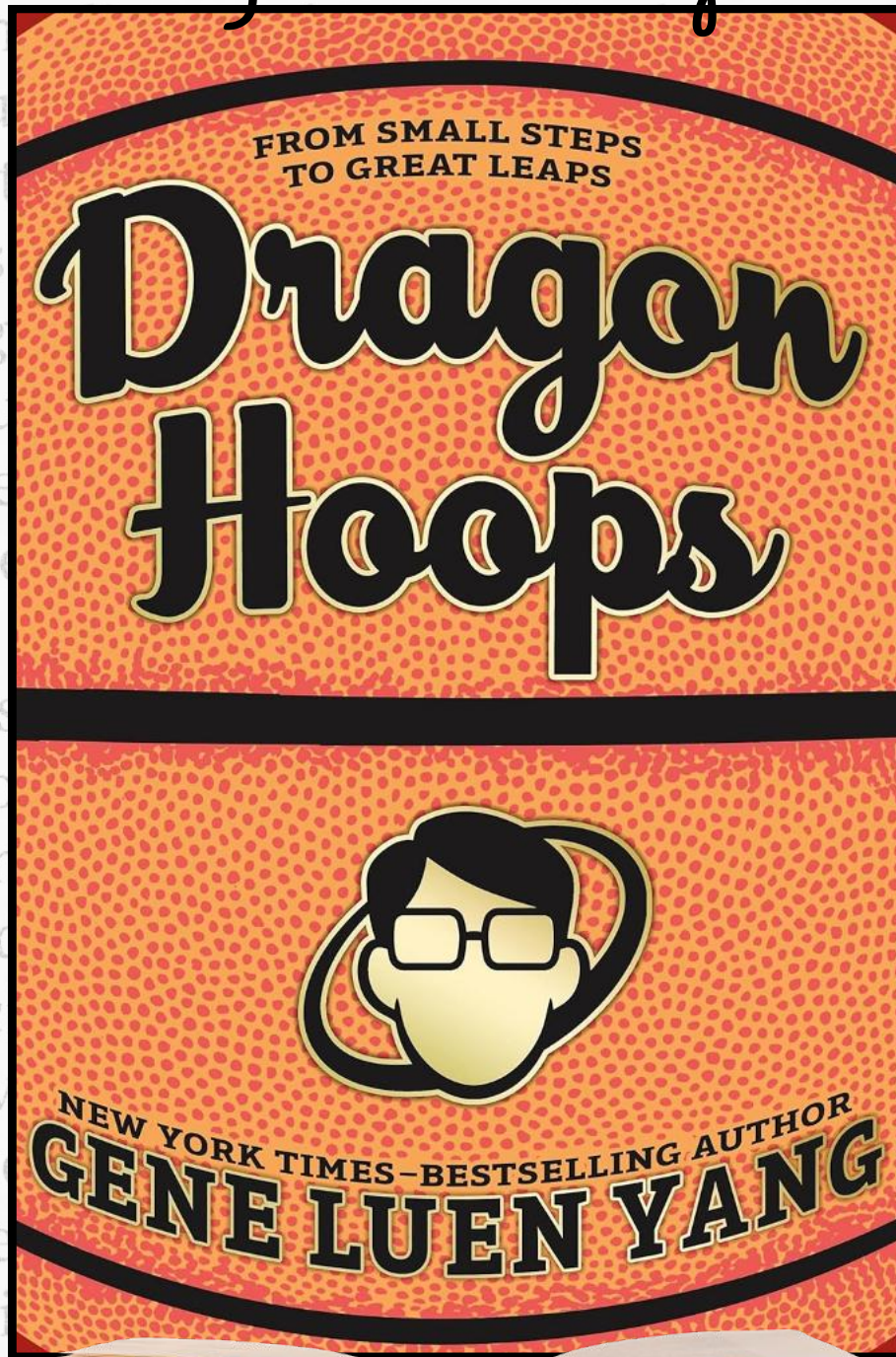
by Yehudi Mercado



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

DRAGON HOOPS

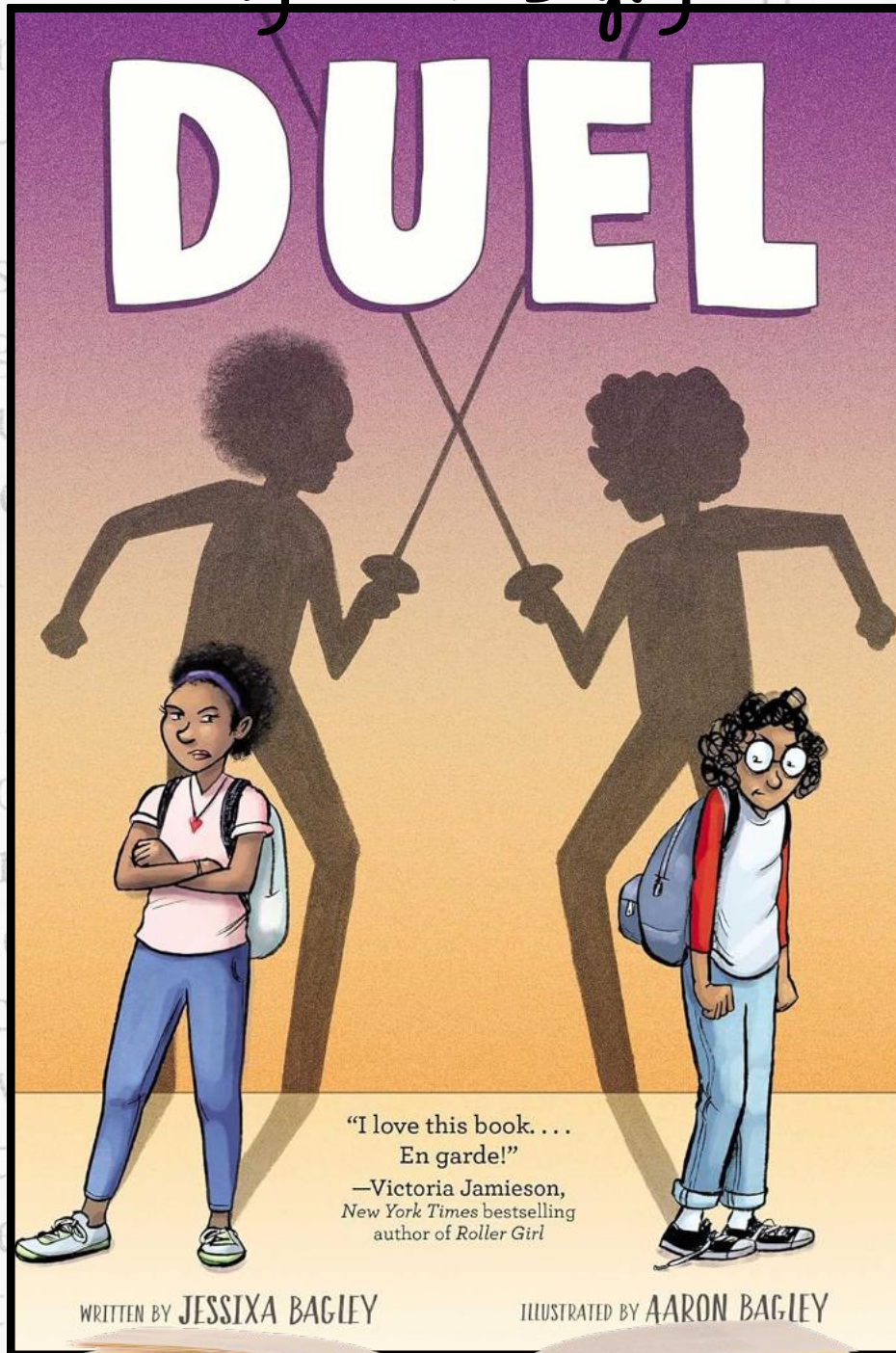
by Gene Luen Yang



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

DUEL

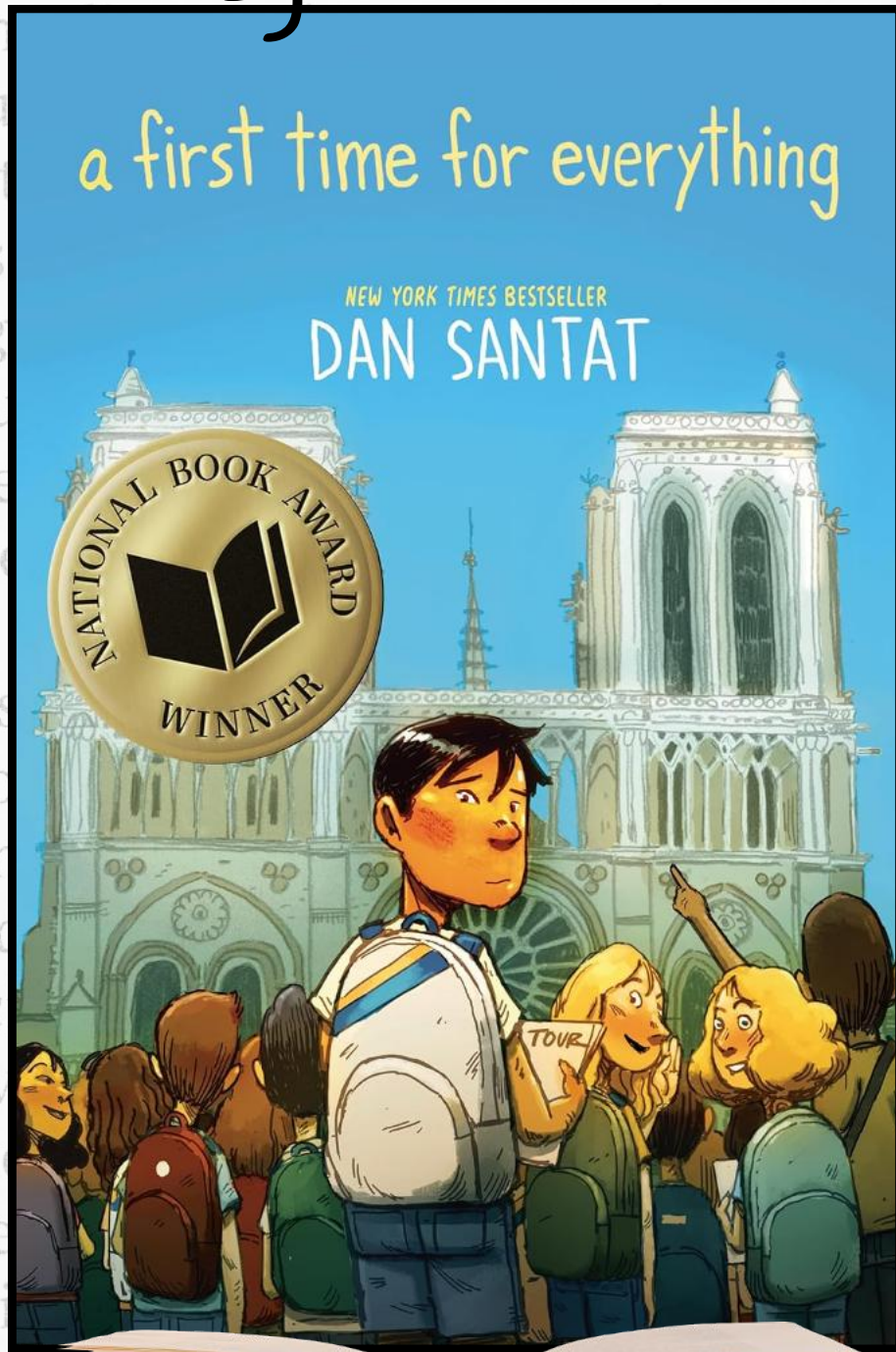
by Jessixa Bagley



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

By Dan Santat



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

INVISIBLE

By Christina Diaz Gonzalez & Gabriela Epstein



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

By Pedro Martin



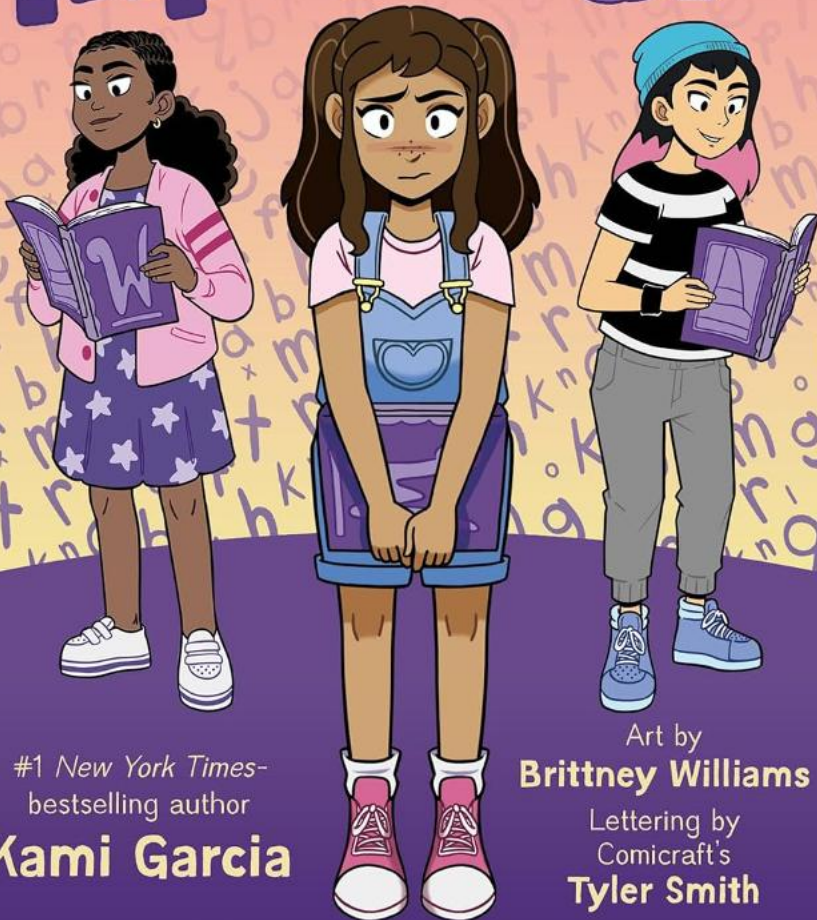
FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MIXED-UP

By Kami Garcia

Handles living with dyslexia beautifully,
with empathy and compassion. **This is a must-read book.**
—Dan Santat, National Book Award-winning
author and illustrator of *A First Time for Everything*

Mixed-Up



#1 New York Times-
bestselling author

Kami Garcia

Art by
Brittney Williams

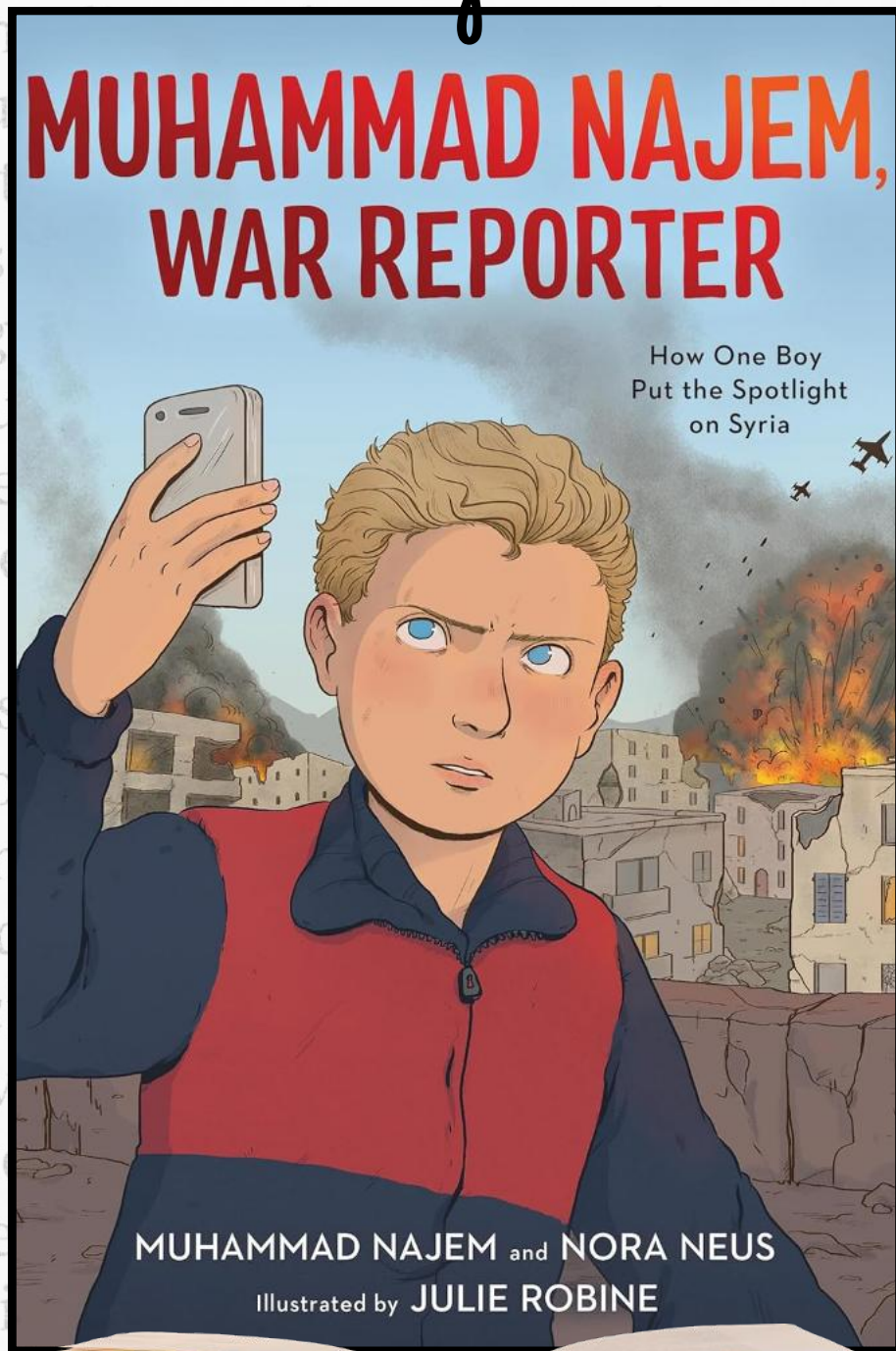
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Comicraft's
Tyler Smith



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MUHAMMAD NAJEM, WAR REPORTER

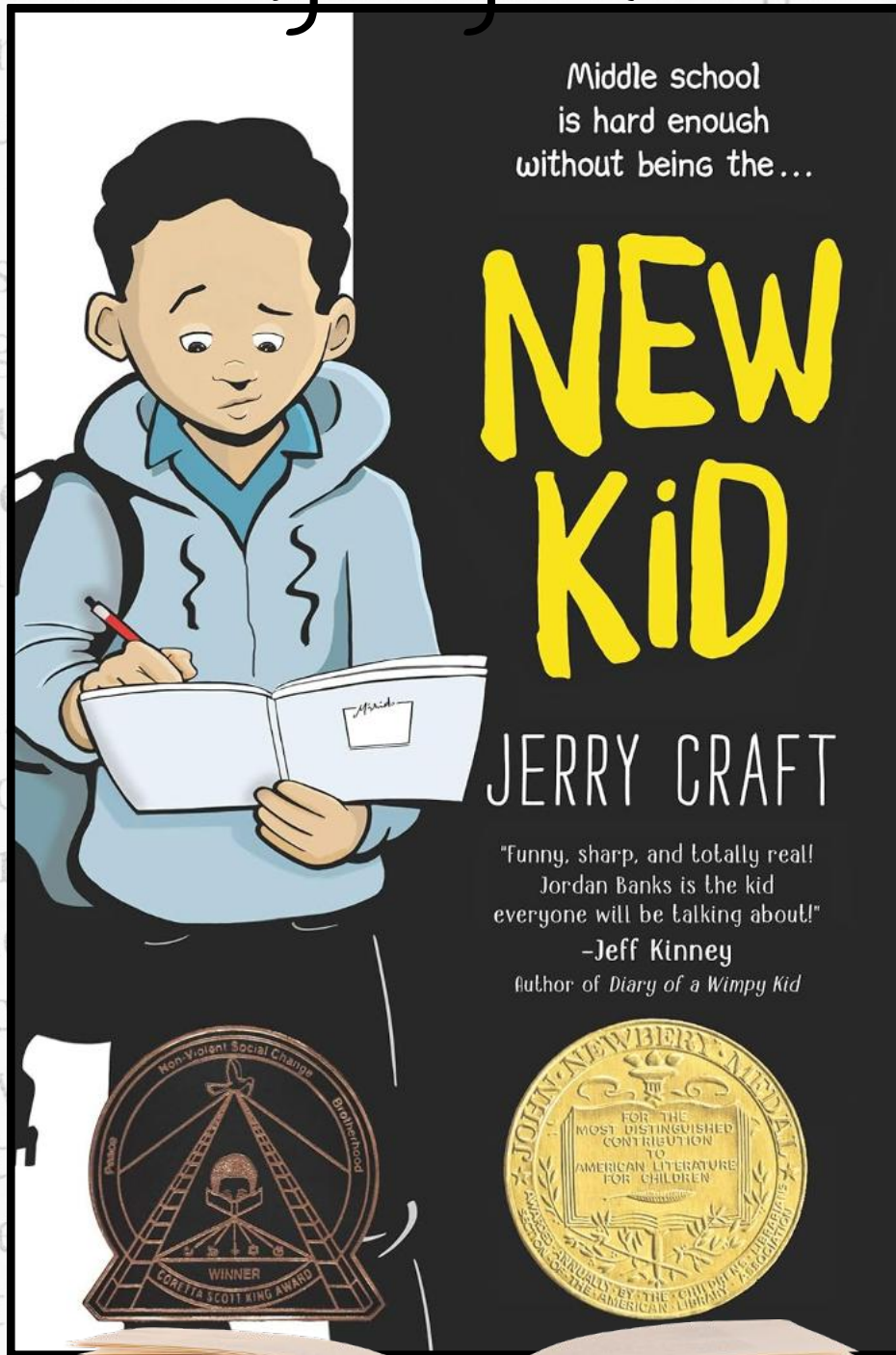
by Muhammad Najem & Nora Neus



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

new kid

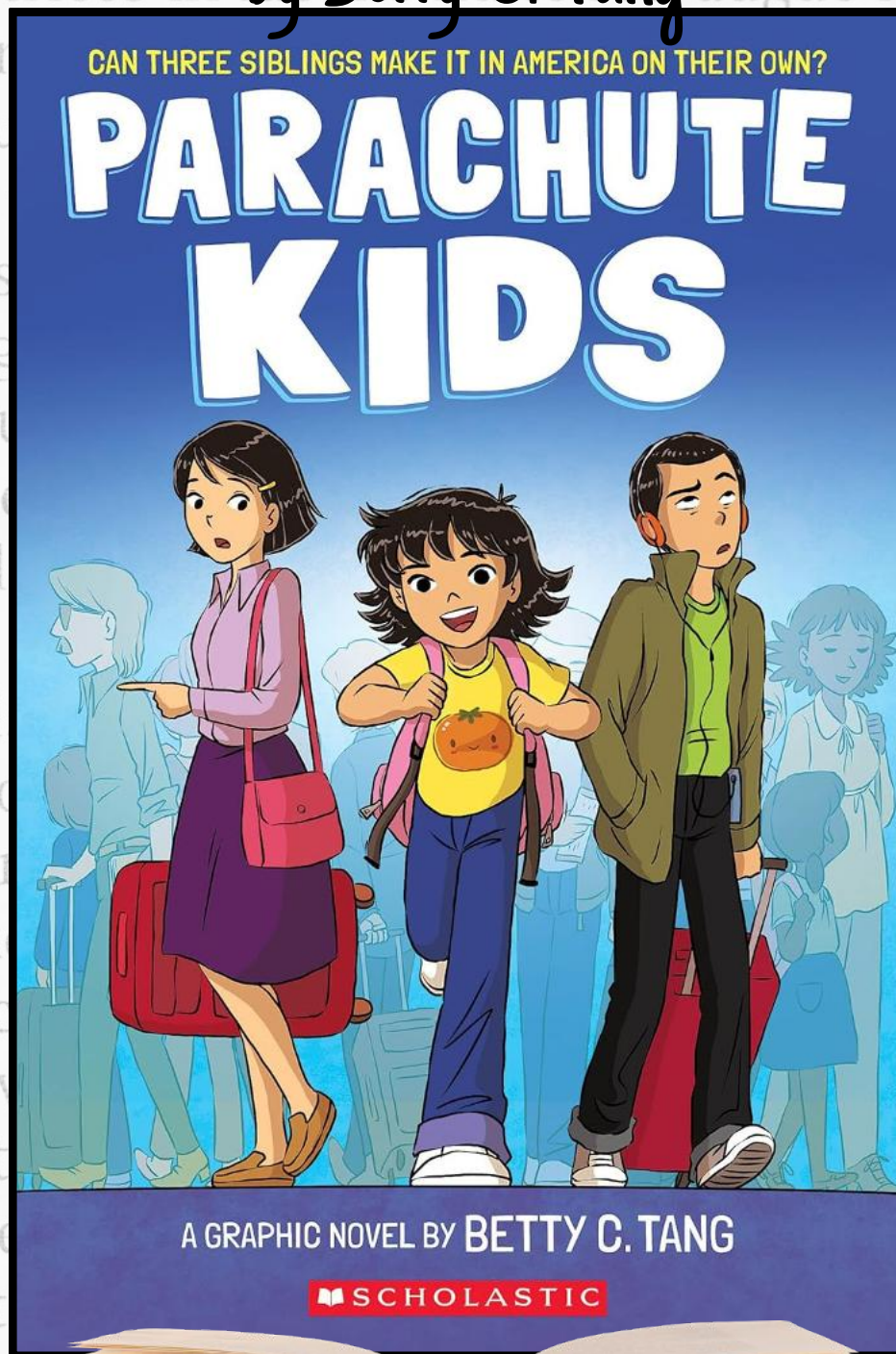
by Jerry Craft



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

PARACHUTE KIDS

by Betty C. Tang



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

STEALING HOME

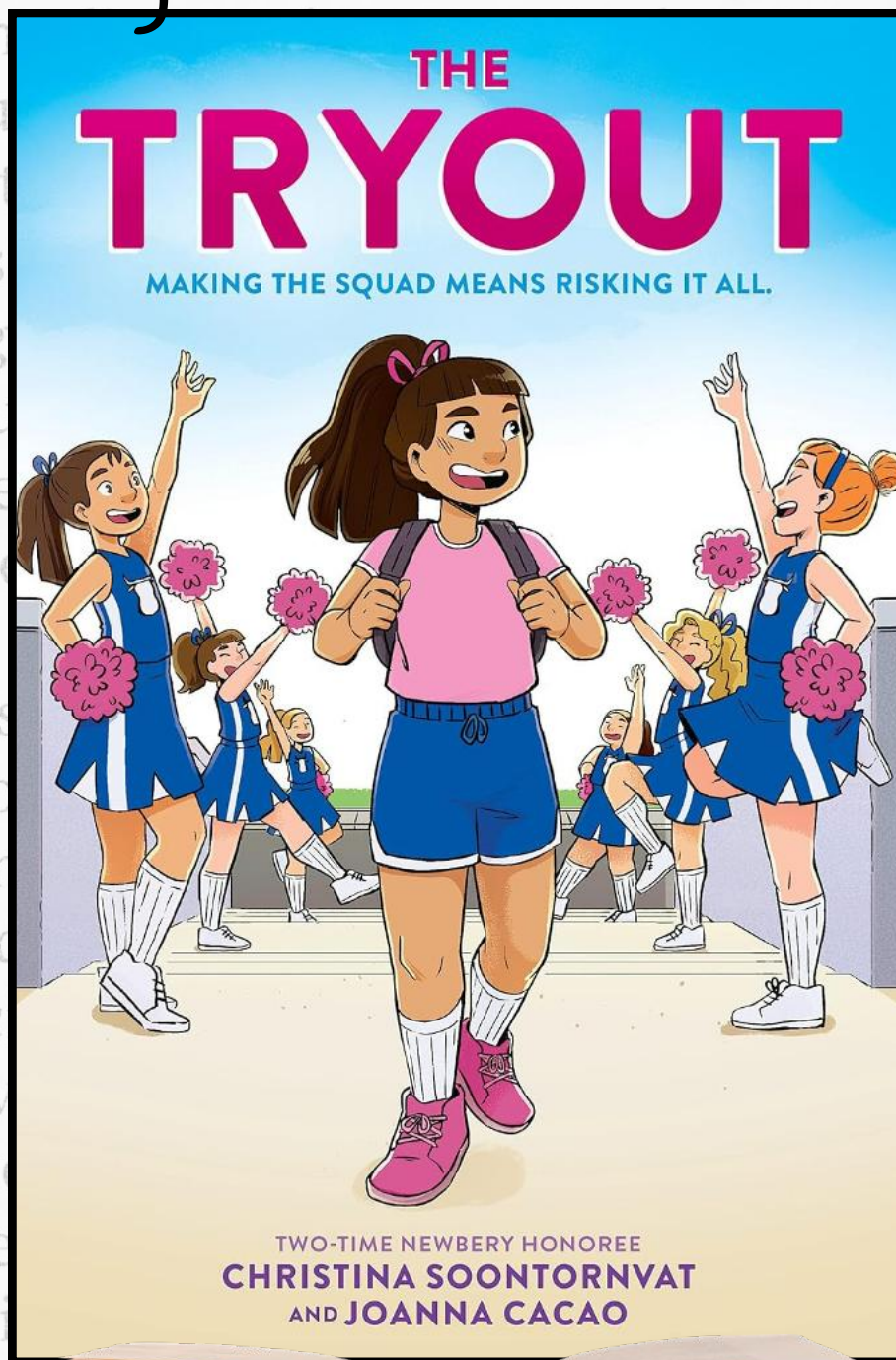
by J. Torres & David Namisato



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE TRYOUT

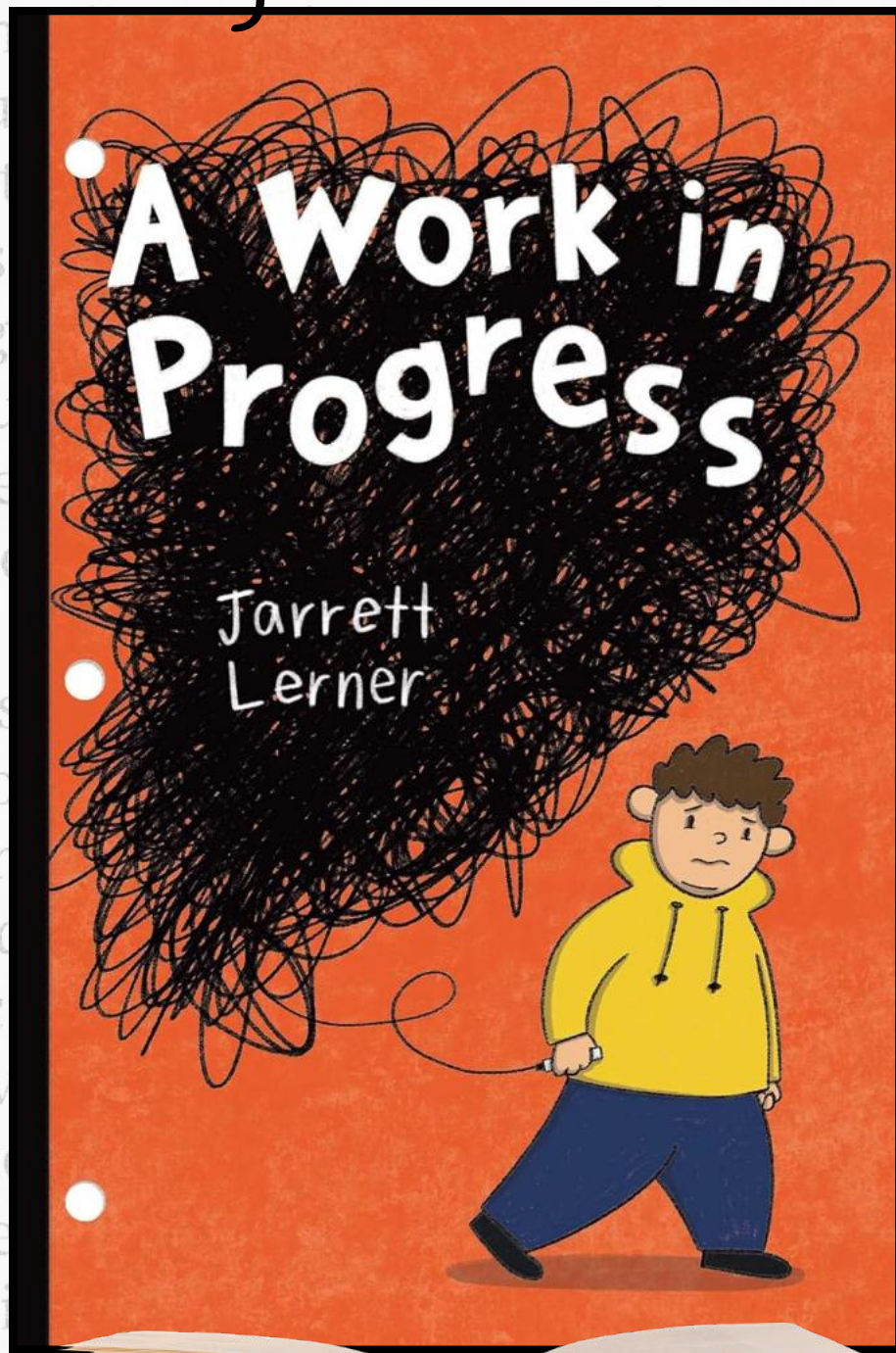
by Christina Soontornvat



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

A WORK IN PROGRESS

by Jarrett Lerner



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY