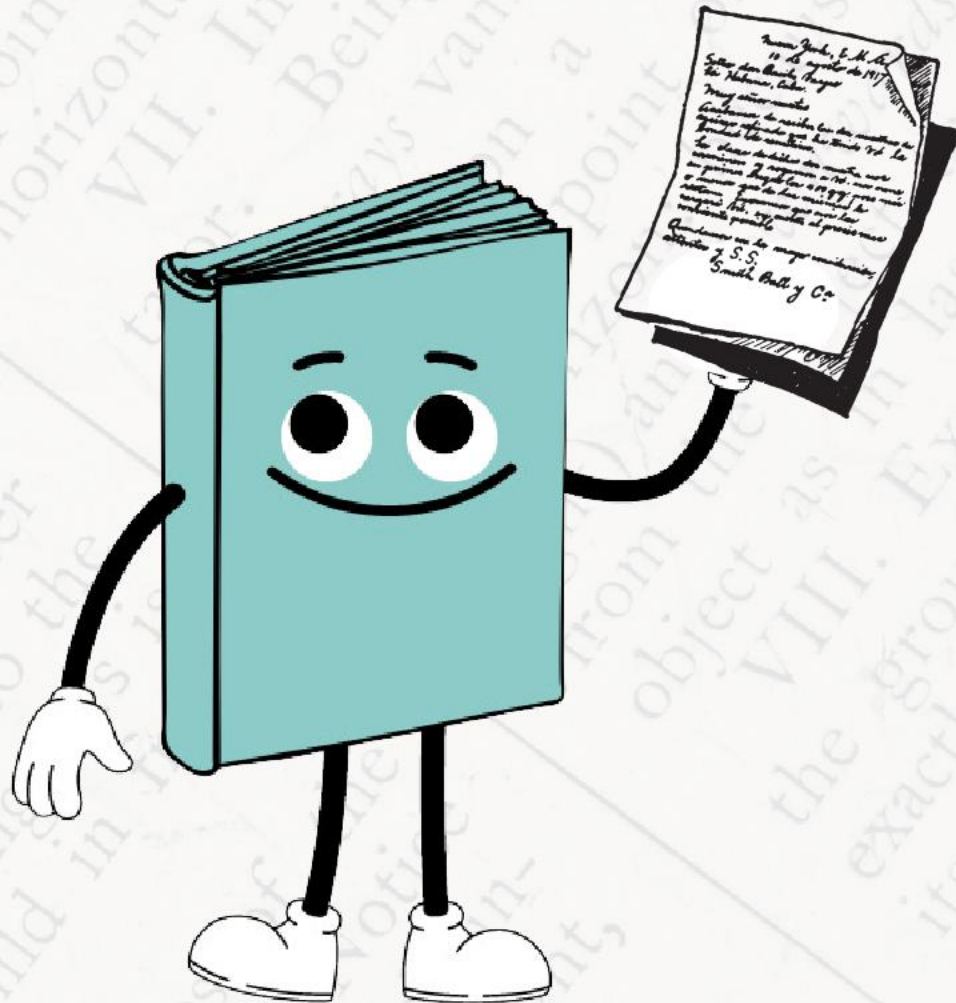


WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



EPISTOLARIES

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books written in the form of letters or correspondence as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the divorce 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

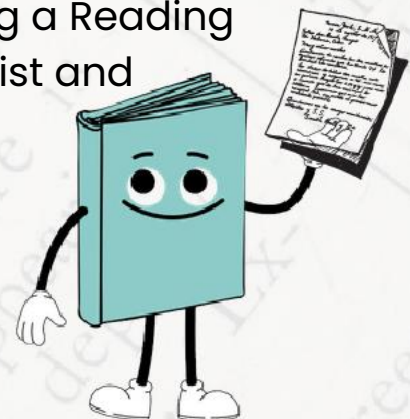
Page 7: Book List

Pages 9-13 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets

Pages 15-19: 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 NERDS!

Word Nerd Daily

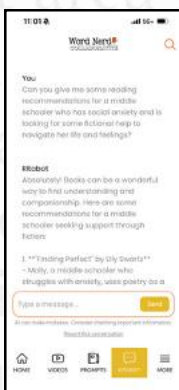
an app from Amanda Zieba

MUST TRY!



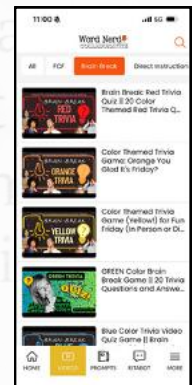
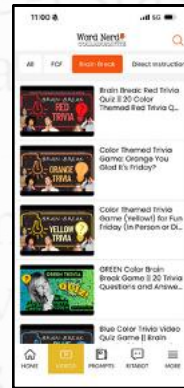
First Chapter Friday Videos

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.

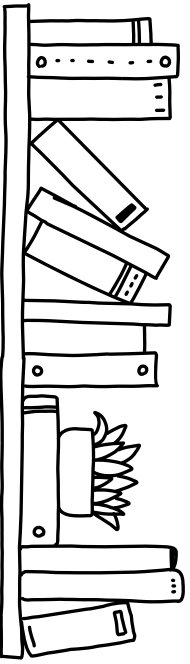


If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click [here](#).

[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

1. _____
2. _____
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29. _____
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31. _____
32. _____

NAME: _____

EPISTOLARIES



The books on this list are written in the form of letters.



Breakout

by Kate Messner

The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter

by John Gosselink

Letters from Rifka

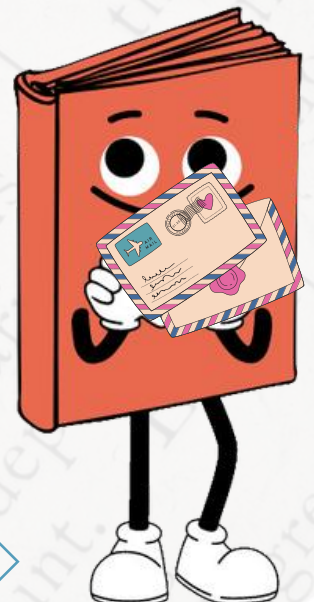
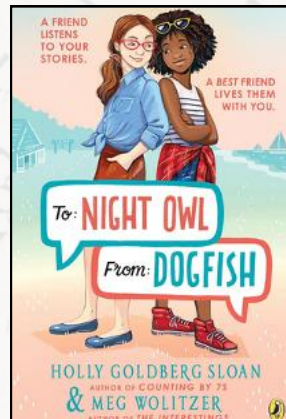
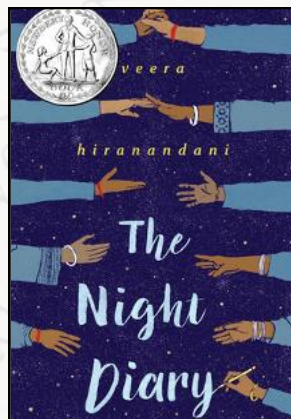
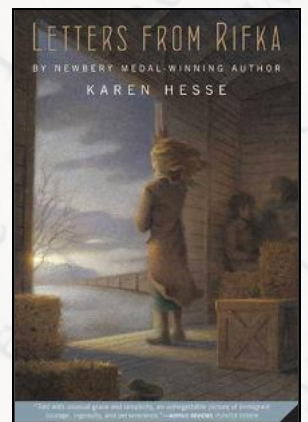
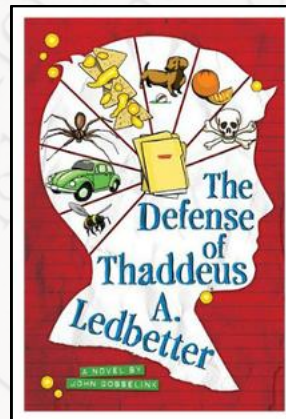
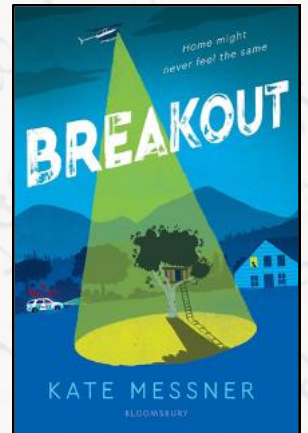
by Karen Hesse

The Night Diary

by Veera Hiranandani

To Night Owl From Dogfish

by Holly Goldberg Sloan
and Meg Wolitzer



Breakout

by Kate Messner

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?

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek—two months of swimming, picnics, and breaking up on her journalism lab for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is in jeopardy, even Nora's life. Even if the inmates worry that she might come home.

Who Reads It?

Kate Messner is a prolific writer who has written books for young adults and children. She is also a journalist and a teacher who spent a year at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is currently working on a book about the history of the prison system in the United States.

Free Thaddeus

by John

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?

Dropped like a case file, chock-full of notes, journal entries, letters, e-mails, illustrations, and more. The defense of Thaddeus A. Leffert is a hilarious, middle-grade novel that argues why Thaddeus should be released from his in-school suspension and explains the unbelievable circumstances that led to his punishment. Like Axtell, Thaddeus and the Great Brain. Thaddeus is a teen reader's best friend. Free Thaddeus is a free reader's best friend. Free Thaddeus is a free reader's best friend.

Who Reads It?

"This original and entertaining book, with its smart, witty narrator and to the point format, will draw comparisons to the Miley Cyrus series." —Booklist

Letters from Rifka

by Karen Hesse

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?

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Rifka to leave her home in Berlin. Her mother is glad to see her go, but her dad says she's old enough to help with the war effort. Rifka is a Jewish girl who lives in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany. She is a Jewish girl who lives in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany. She is a Jewish girl who lives in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany.

Who Reads It?

I was born in 1932 in Baltimore, Maryland. I lived in a brick row house in the city and my neighborhood was known for its Jewish population. I was a Jewish girl who lived in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany. I was a Jewish girl who lived in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany. I was a Jewish girl who lived in the SS City of Refugees to safety in Germany.

The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani

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 I was a kid, I liked video games. I liked to play on the 3DS in my room. I liked to play on the 3DS in my room. I liked to play on the 3DS in my room. I liked to play on the 3DS in my room. I liked to play on the 3DS in my room.

Who Reads It?

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To Night Owl From Dogfish

By Meg Wolitzer and Holly Goldberg Sloan

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?

Avery Bloom, who is lonely, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. But her mother is a fearless, outgoing, and level-headed woman who lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and that they are both very smart. They are both very smart. They are both very smart.

Who Reads It?

I loved the idea of asking you a question and then waiting to get an answer back. Because that is essentially how we wrote To Night Owl From Dogfish. One of us wrote an email in the voice of one of our two main characters and sent it to the other person, and then that person responded in the voice of the other character. And so we went back and forth, and that's the way the book got written.

Read the rest of the interview here

<https://www.readright.org/article/author-guest-writer-interview/>

Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here.

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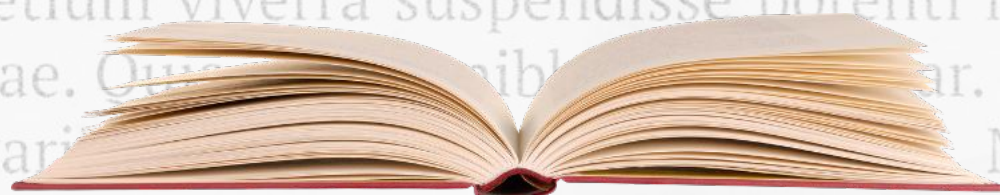
<https://www.readright.org/article/author-guest-writer-interview/>

Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here.

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<https://www.readright.org/article/author-guest-writer-interview/>

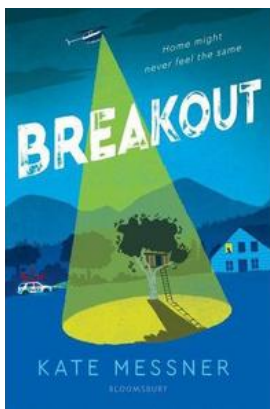
Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here. Read the rest of the interview here.



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

Name _____

Date _____



Breakout

by Kate Messner



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?

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek--two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. But when two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors are locked, helicopters fly over the woods, and police patrol the school grounds. Worst of all, everyone is on edge, and fear brings out the worst in some people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.

If you've ever wanted to be a journalist or poet, this book is for you!

This book will start great discussions about stereotypes.

This book was a Mighty Girl Best Book of the Year in 2019.

Who Wrote It?

Kate Messner is passionately curious and writes books that encourage kids to wonder. She writes picture books, chapter books and books for middle schoolers. Before becoming a full-time writer, Kate was a TV news reporter as well as an educator who spent fifteen years teaching middle school English. She lives on Lake Champlain with her family and is trying to summit all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in between book deadlines. Kate's writing advice? "I think one of the most important things to do if you want to be a writer is to lead an interesting life. Go outside. Try new things. Talk to people, especially people whose lives are different



from yours. And don't pass up opportunities." You can learn more about Kate and her many books at her website: www.katemessner.com.

AR Reading Level: 5.4

Lexile Level: 720L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

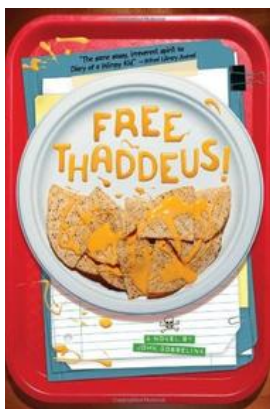
☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



Free Thaddeus

by John Gosselink



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?

Designed like a case file, chock-full of notes, journal entries, letters, e-mails, illustrations, and more, *The Defense of Thaddeus A. Ledbetter* is a hilarious middle-grade novel that argues why Thaddeus should be released from his in-school suspension and explains the unbelievable circumstances that led to his punishment. Like *Adrian Mole* and *the Great Brain*, Thaddeus is a too-smart-for-his-own-good hero. Soon readers will be chanting, 'Free Thaddeus!'

"This original and entertaining book, with its smarty-pants narrator and case-file format, will draw comparisons to the *Wimpy Kid* series." —Booklist

"It has the same sassy, irreverent spirit as Jeff Kinney's *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series but will appeal to a slightly older crowd. The format makes it an enjoyable choice for everyone, including reluctant readers." —School Library Journal

Who Wrote It?

John Gosselink was born in San Francisco, California. His dad was a Vietnam War Veteran and his mom was a teacher. He is now also a teacher and figures if he teaches his students to write badly, then there will be less competition for him as an author. In addition to teacher, he writes a weekly humor column for his local newspaper and has been doing so for more than a decade.

Free Thaddeus is currently his first and only book.



(insert sad face!)
He lives with his wife (a librarian) and their three kids just outside of Austin, Texas.

AR Reading Level: unavailable

Lexile Level: 790L

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 _____

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

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?

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. Life aboard the luxury ship is grand—nine-course meals, new friends, and a life far from the bombs, rations, and his stepmum's glare. And after five days at sea, the ship's officers announce that they're out of danger. They're wrong. Late that night, an explosion hurls Ken from his bunk. They've been hit. Torpedoed! The Benares is sinking fast. Terrified, Ken scrambles aboard Lifeboat 12 with five other boys. Will they get away? Will they survive?

A Junior Library Guild Selection
The 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner
A 2019 ALSC Notable Children's Book
The 2019–2020 Lectoria Book Award Winner
The 2020–2021 Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award List
The 2020 Oklahoma Library Association's Children's Sequoyah Book Award Winner
The Connecticut Book Award Winner

AR Reading Level: 4.2

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 were generally unsupervised, playing from early morning until late in the evening when our parents came out on their porches and called us home. We played everything from jacks to hopscotch, jump rope to 'swinging statues', 'talent show' to 'mothers and babies'. There was a park about 5 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 attended Towson State College for one year as a theater major, then the University of Maryland for three more years where I graduated with a B.A. in English with double minors in Psychology and Anthropology. I've



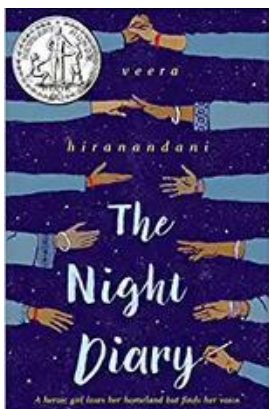
lived in Vermont since 1976 where, with my husband, I've raised two amazing daughters. I love to knit dolls, go hiking, take photographs, read, write little tunes for the piano, paint, sing, and cook.

Lexile Level: 660L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

☆ ☆ WHAT I THINK ☆ ☆





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

☆☆ WHAT I THINK ☆☆



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

Name _____

Date _____



To Night Owl From Dogfish

By Meg Wolitzer and Holly Goldberg Sloan



Read Aloud Video

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

What's It About?

Avery Bloom, who's bookish, intense, and afraid of many things, particularly deep water, lives in New York City. Bett Devlin, who's fearless, outgoing, and loves all animals as well as the ocean, lives in California. What they have in common is that they are both twelve years old, and are both being raised by single, gay dads.

When their dads fall in love, Bett and Avery are sent, against their will, to the same sleepaway camp. Their dads hope that they will find common ground and become friends--and possibly, one day, even sisters.

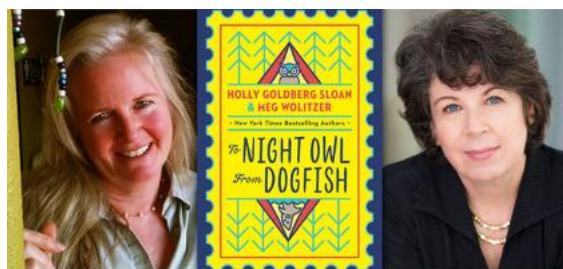
But things soon go off the rails for the girls (and for their dads too), and they find themselves on a summer adventure that neither of them could have predicted. Now that they can't imagine life without each other, will the two girls (who sometimes call themselves Night Owl and Dogfish) figure out a way to be a family?

This book is written by 2 authors!!

Who Wrote It?

I loved the idea of asking you a question and then waiting to get an answer back. Because that is essentially how we wrote To Night Owl From Dogfish. One of us wrote an email in the voice of one of our two main characters and sent it to the other person; and then that person responded in the voice of the other main character. And so we went back and forth, and that's the way the book got written.

Read the rest of the interview here:
<https://www.readbrightly.com/holly-goldberg-sloan-meg-wolitzer-interview/>



AR Reading Level: 5.6

Lexile Level: 720L

I want to read this book: YES / NO



WHAT I THINK





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

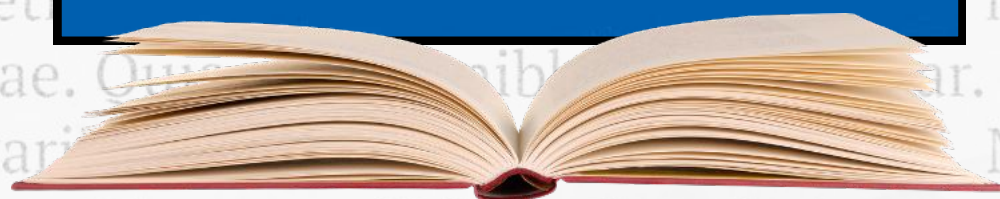
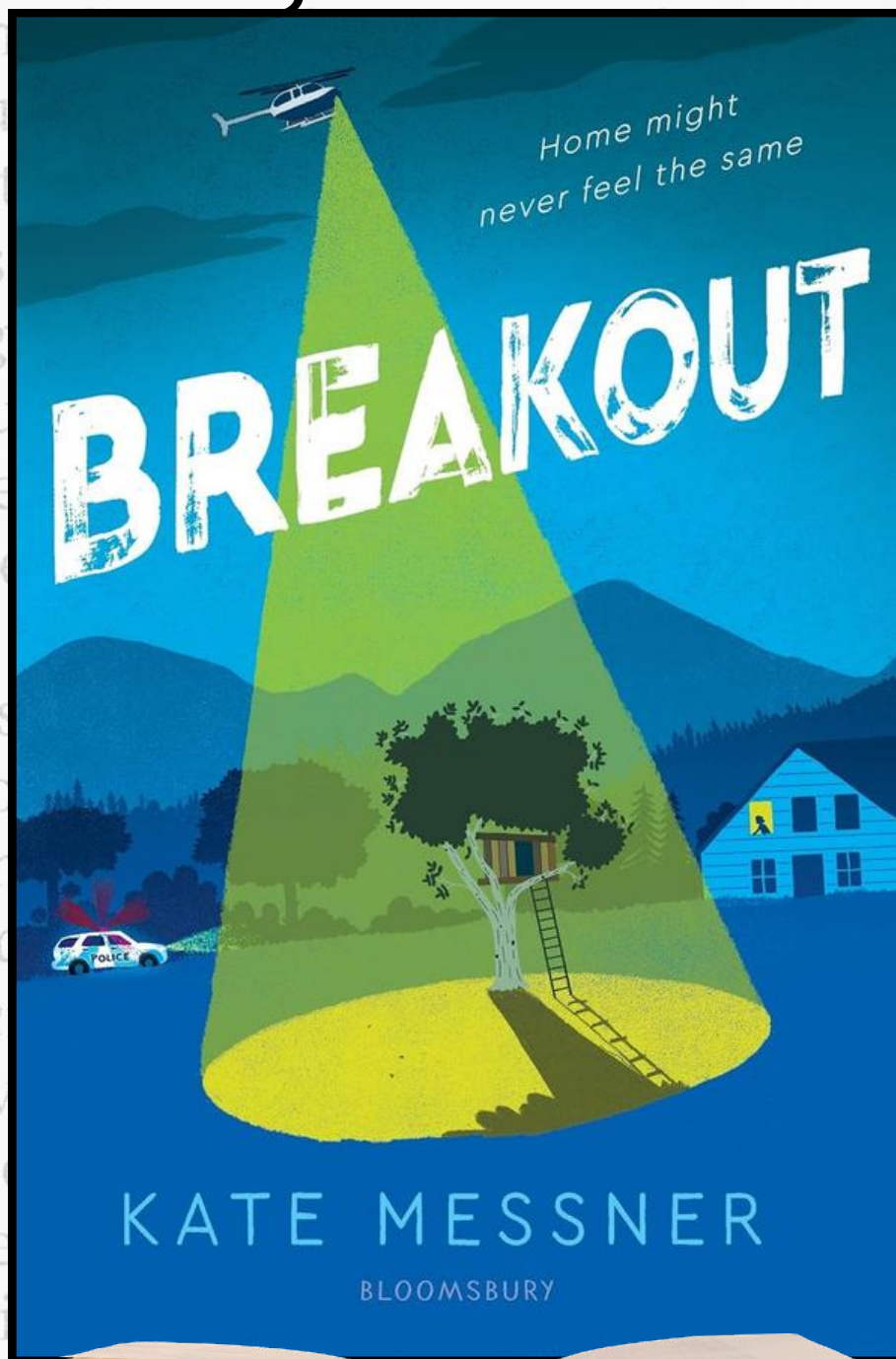
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

BREAKOUT

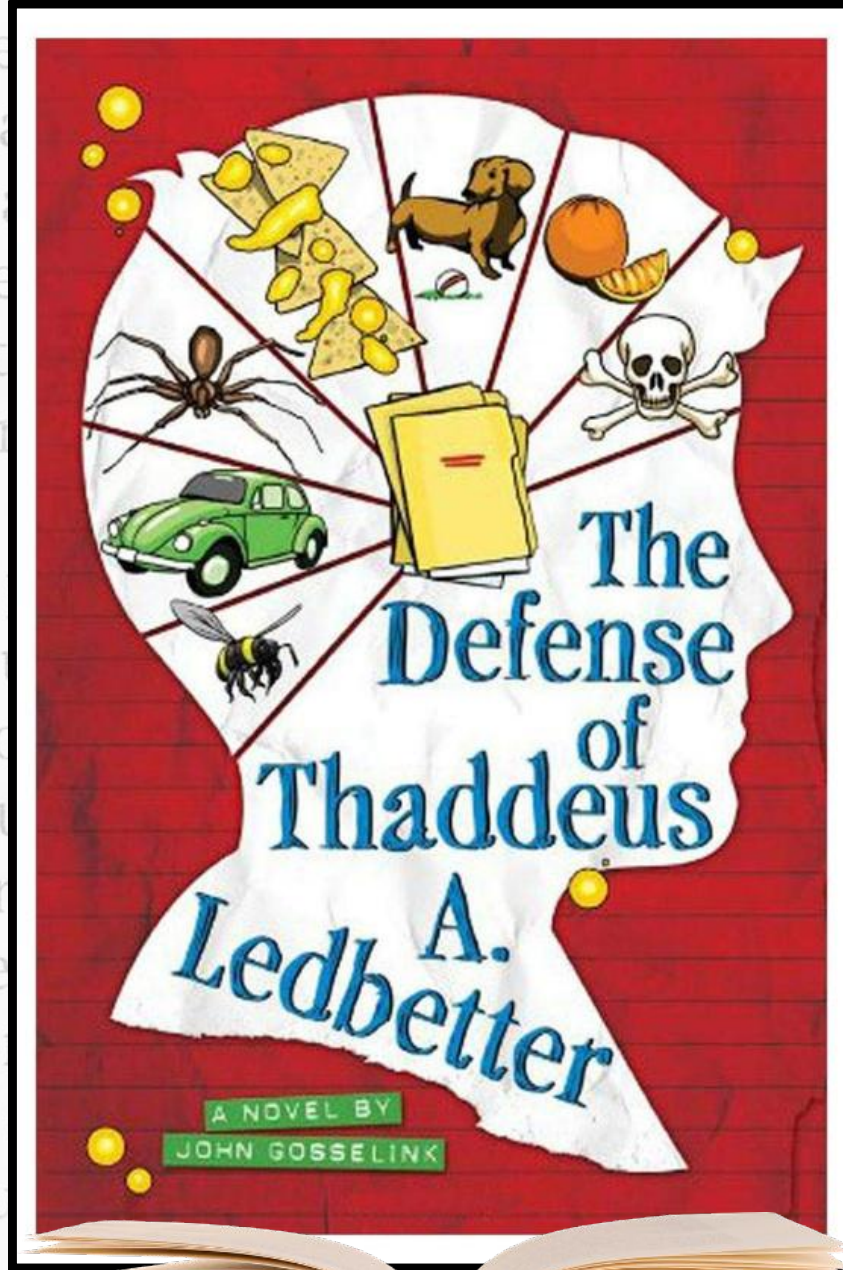
By Kate Messner



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE DEFENSE OF THADDEUS A. LEDBETTER

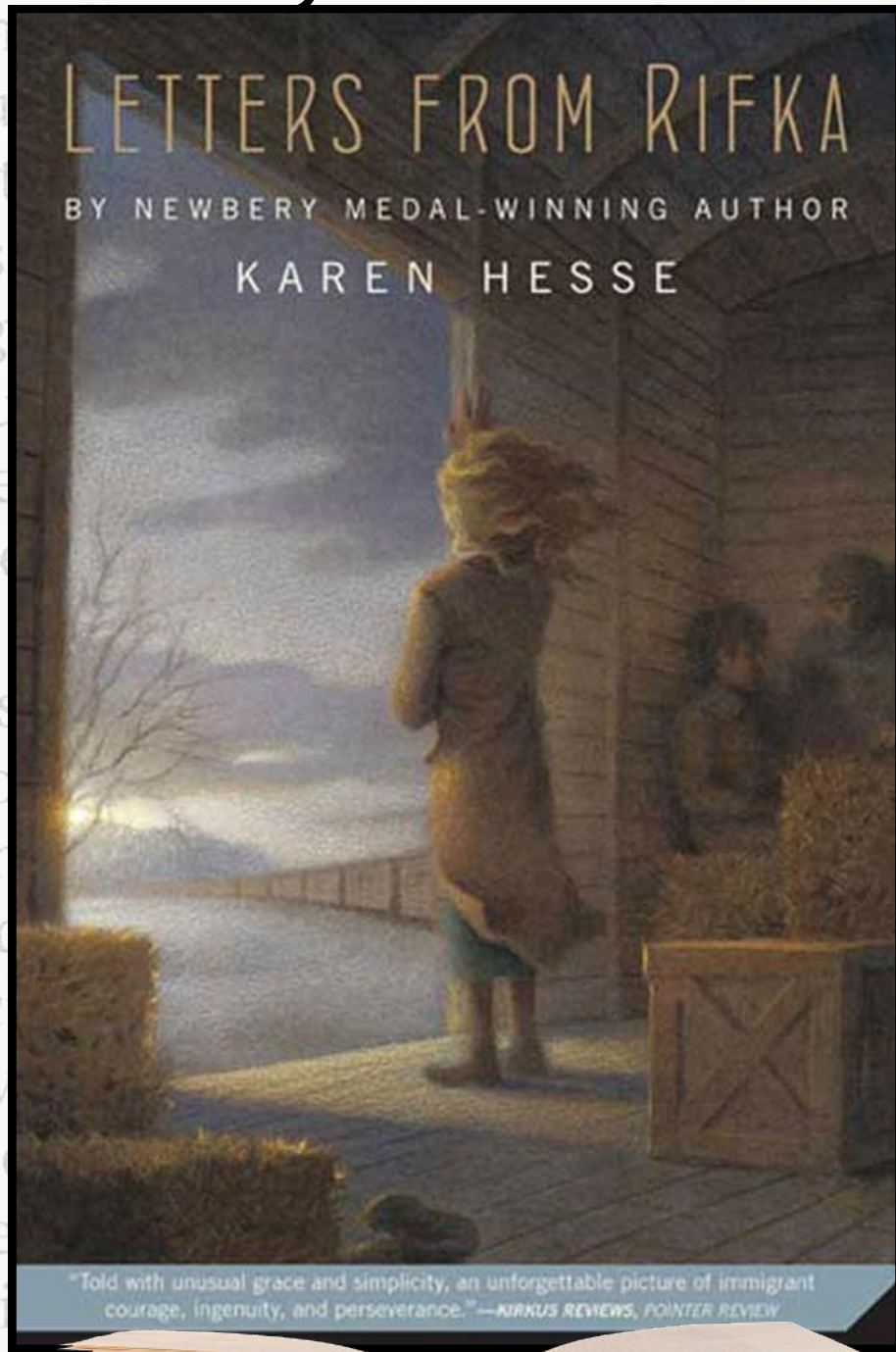
by John Gosselink



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

LETTERS FROM RIFKA

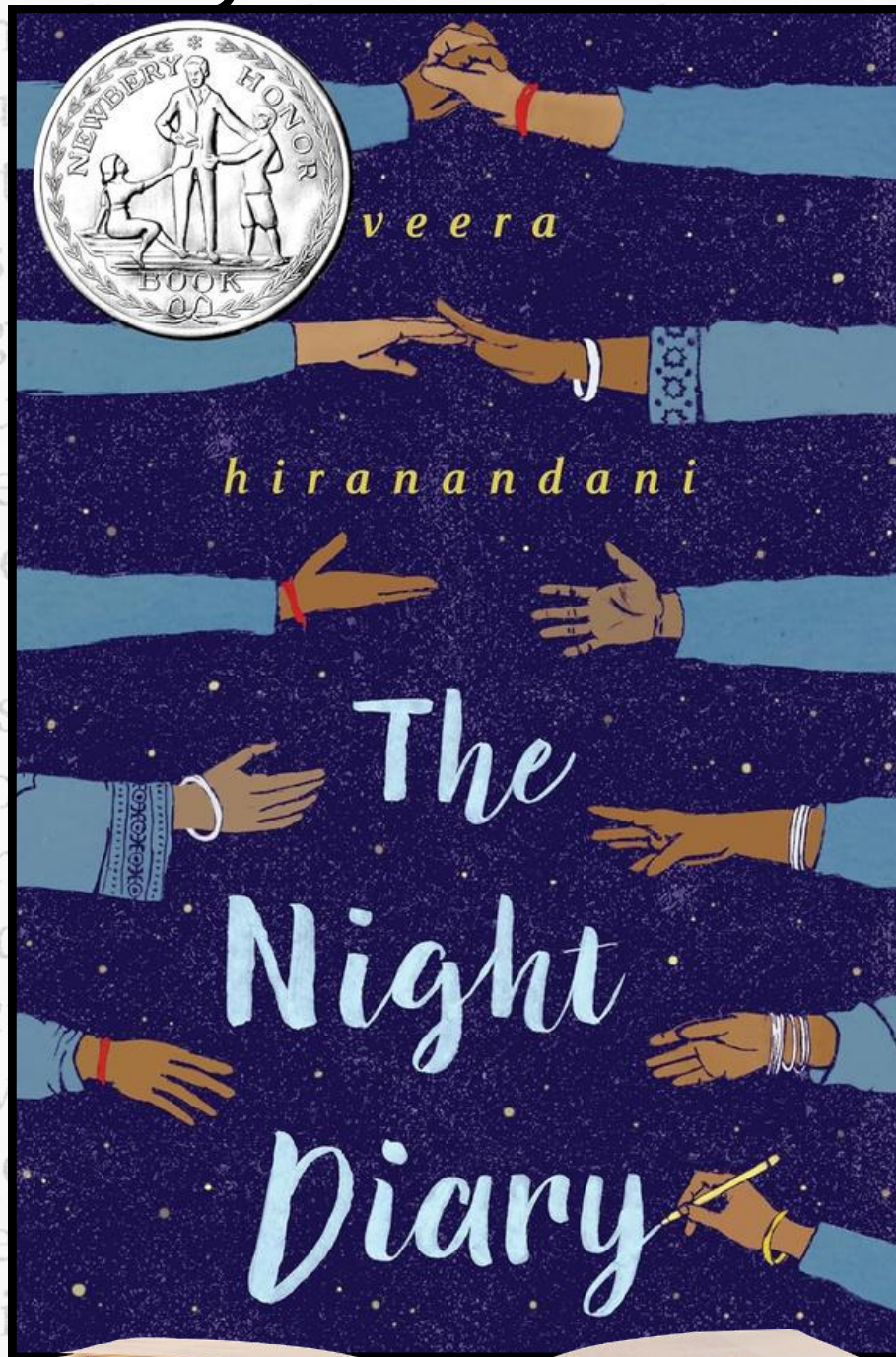
By Karen Hesse



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

THE NIGHT DIARY

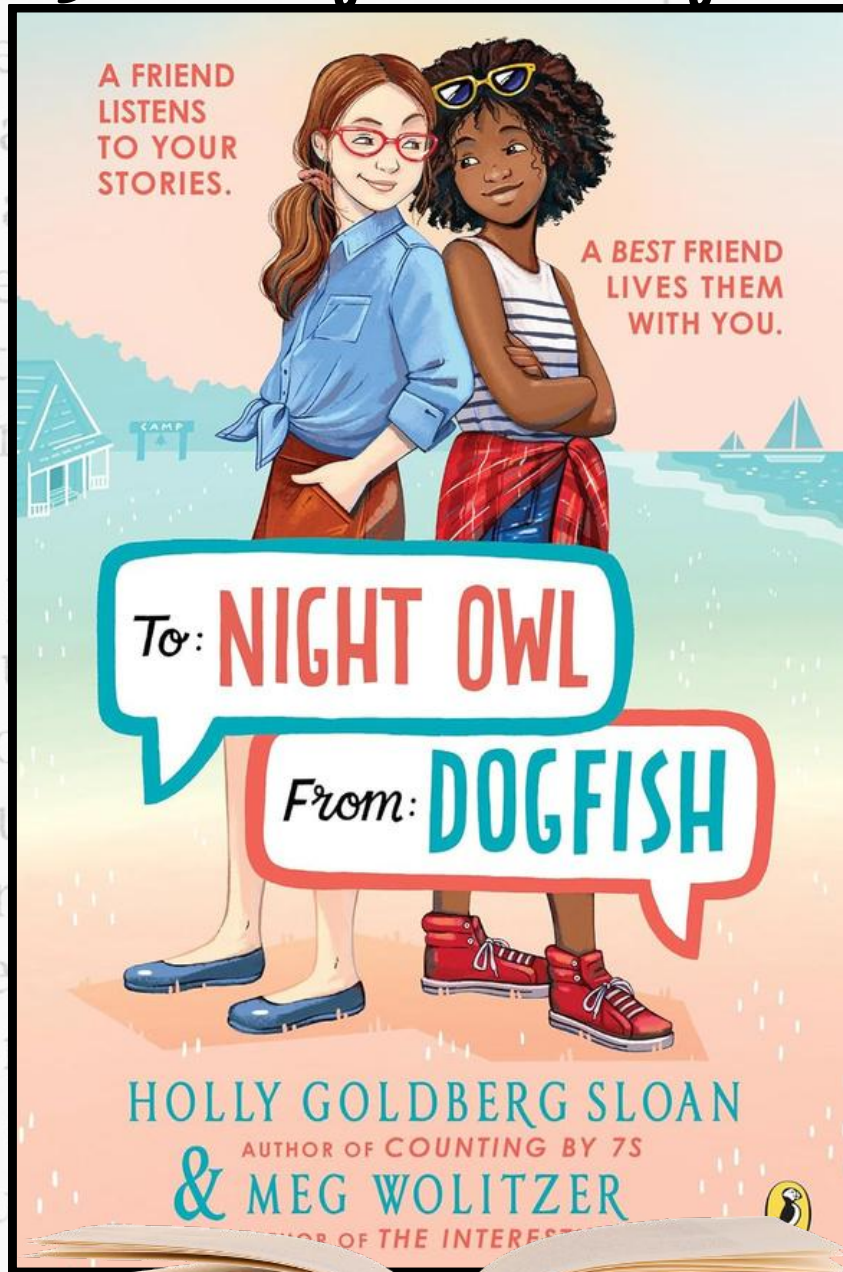
By Veera Hiranandani



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

TO NIGHT OWL FROM DOGFISH

by Holly Goldberg Sloan & Meg Wolitzer



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY