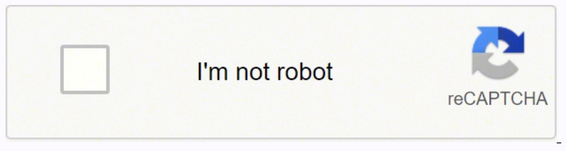

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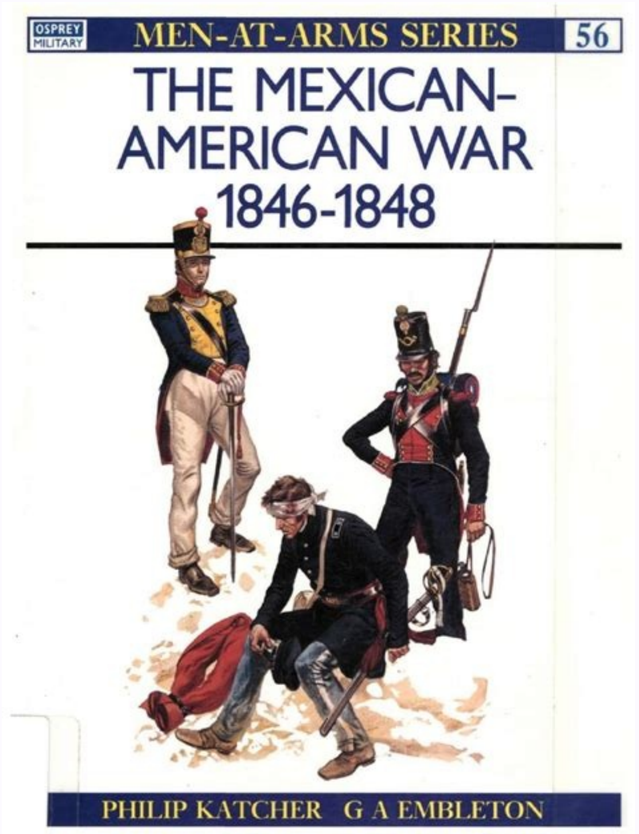
Brothers in arms book pdf online reading english language



"The Tale of the Three Brothers" – JK Rowling – *The Tales of Beedle the Bard* – Literacy Analysis

There were once three brothers who were traveling along a lonely, winding road at twilight. In time, the brothers reached a river too deep to wade through and too dangerous to swim across. However, these brothers were learned in the magical arts, and so they simply waved their wands and made a bridge appear across the treacherous water. They were halfway across it when they found their path blocked by a hooded figure.

And Death spoke to them.

He was angry that he had been cheated out of the three new victims, for travelers usually drowned in the river. But Death was cunning. He pretended to congratulate the three brothers upon their magic, and said that each had earned a prize for having been clever enough to evade him.

So the oldest brother, who was a combative man, asked for a wand more powerful than any in existence: a wand that must always win duels for its owner, a wand worthy of a wizard who had conquered Death! So Death crossed to an elder tree on the banks of the river, fashioned a wand from a branch that hung there, and gave it to the oldest brother.

Then the second brother, who was an arrogant man, decided that he wanted to humiliate Death still further, and asked for the power to recall others from Death. So Death picked up a stone from the riverbank and gave it to the second brother, and told him that the stone would have the power to bring back the dead.

And then Death asked the third and youngest brother what he would like. The youngest brother was the humblest and also the wisest of the brothers, and he did not trust Death. So he asked for something that would enable him to go forth from that place without being followed by Death. And Death, most unwillingly, handed over his own Cloak of Invisibility.

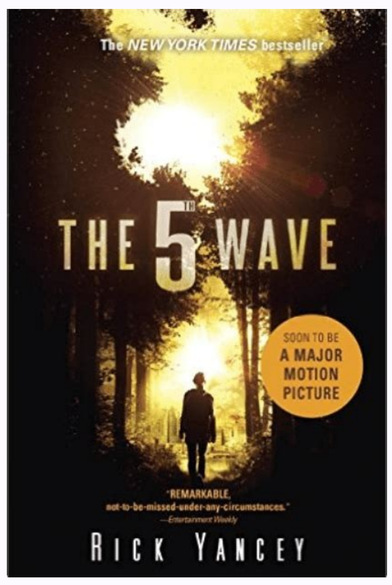
Then Death stood aside and allowed the three brothers to continue on their way, and they did so talking with wonder of the adventure they had had and admiring Death's gifts. In due course the brothers separated, each for his own destination.

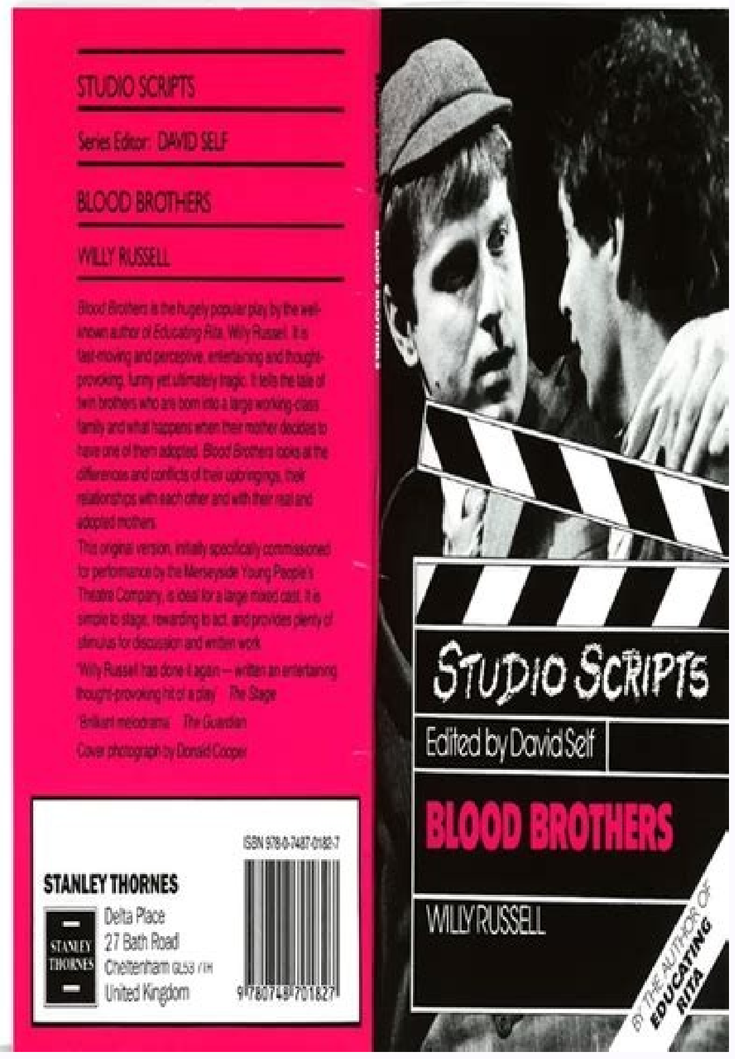
The first brother traveled on for a week more, and reaching a distant village, sought out a fellow wizard with whom he had a quarrel. Naturally, with the Elder Wand as his weapon, he could not fail to win the duel that followed. Leaving his enemy dead upon the floor the oldest brother proceeded to an inn, where he boasted loudly of the powerful wand he had snatched from Death himself, and of how it made him invincible.

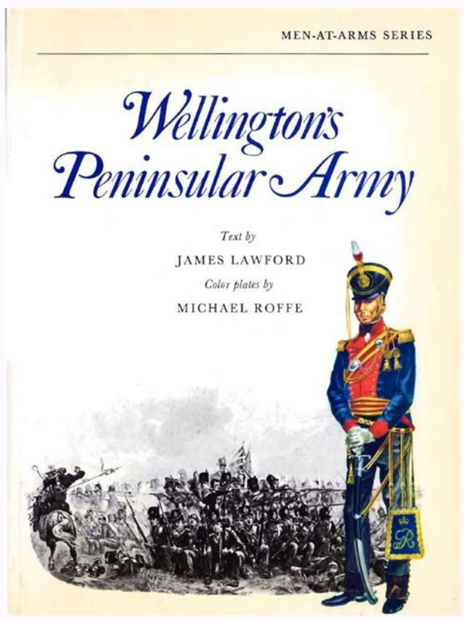
That very night, another wizard crept upon the oldest brother as he lay, wine-sodden upon his bed. The thief took the wand and for good measure, slit the oldest brother's throat.

And so Death took the first brother for his own.

Meanwhile, the second brother journeyed to his own home, where he lived alone. Here he took out the stone that had the power to recall the dead, and turned it thrice in his hand. To his amazement and his delight, the figure of the girl he had once hoped to marry, before her untimely death, appeared at once before him.







The simple sentences make this book easy to read aloud to its early childhood target audience. 0 Pub Date: Sept. Jarrod, in short, is a character whom many young readers will recognize, perhaps with unkind preconceptions. 17, 2017 As Easter approaches, sixth-grader Sophie Washington and her little brother, Cole, struggle with giving up tattling and video games for Lent in this lighthearted children's chapter-book sequel. Page 11 A sentient statue, deep in the ocean, falls in love with her rescuer, only to be separated from him in this fablelike novel for middle-grade readers. Moreover, many will hunt Arud and Lykke, in order to use them in the oncoming conflict. (He can access the memories of the pests he devours.) Yet there's no denying the gross-out appeal of Jarrod's metamorphosis from passive introvert to proactive, insect-crunching champion. Page 26 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. 3, 2015 ISBN: 978-0-9909328-3-3 Page Count: 172 Publisher: Diving Boy Books Review Posted Online: Nov. Each of the 26 pages of this book features a photo, with illustrated details, of a child in the midst of a game of dress-up and imagination. In the end, she discovers the joy and pride of success. In a series of self-contained chapters previously published as short stories, Tolles (Darci in Cabin 13, 1989) introduces us to a regular kid who has an endearing zest for life. The dog, named Tobi, travels with his beloved human, Ted, to northern Vermont for a summer on the family farm. She arranges these very short tales into three sections: "Far Away Times and Places," which includes stories set in India, the American West and other locales; and "About Boys" and "About Girls," which feature male and female protagonists, respectively. 28, 2018 Debut authors Pi and Pi offer a debut picture-book alphabet of occupations, featuring photos of children playing dress-up. The following chapters weave together the story of how destiny brings together Raymond, Marie, Ti-Joe and Ola, the boy's uncle, showing how they overcome poverty and illiteracy. All the fun of a children's book, coupled with the razor-sharp wit and potent insight that seasoned readers crave. A sequel to the New York–based Little Deer's (Little Tramp, 2014) first book—both inspired by his real-life dog companion—the YA novel begins when the Chihuahua is uprooted from his contented life in a New York City apartment. All this changes when his mother, Marie, meets Ti-Joe, a local fisherman who lets the boy earn money by helping him catch fish. Sparky, a young blue dragon, can't wait to grow a long tail, which dragons need to breathe fire. Page 25 by Michael F. 0 Pub Date: May 8, 2014 ISBN: 978-1491895603 Page Count: 24 Publisher: AuthorHouseUK Review Posted Online: Jan. The cat's traumatic odyssey weaves together the same characters and objects most significant to Mateo—Minerva; his best friend, Sergio; the forest creatures; an orange tree; an abusive psychotic and his son; and a magic crystal. But who will believe him? Page 2 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. He hates Christmas because Tonton Noël (Santa Claus) always seems to skip his house, and his worn shoes and ragged clothes mark him at school as someone of low social status. Martin's first-person narration supplies much of the book's power. Page 3 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. A gently enjoyable fantasy with worthwhile lessons for young readers. Page 22 by Martha Tolles · RELEASE DATE: Dec. A simple ABC book whose vibrant photographs will grab kids' attention. As in the preceding books, Ammerman (Waiting for the Voo, 2014, etc.) has the two leads narrating alternating chapters (which tend to conclude in cliffhangers), Wilkin in his more levelheaded voice making an amusing contrast with the self-aggrandizing and aggressive Alice Jane. One notable example is the thematic link between the wolflike ferine and the Viking gods that the characters revere. Marie, a widow, with her "skin dark like ebony" and "ivory white teeth," is determined to properly bring up her son after her husband's death, and "like an ant," Ti-Joe "had disproportionate strength compared to his weight." Ti-Joe looms large in the book, befriending Raymond, passing on his wisdom to the boy and eventually taking care of his mother. This, unfortunately, has made him an outcast. The text fails in the opposite direction: It doesn't create the typical patterns that can help toddlers follow the story, build anticipation and learn to chime in—steps on the path to reading alone. Brevity is just about right for the breezy material, and readers who have followed these daring frenemies and their daffy exploits should find this very much in keeping with its predecessors. For better or worse, the enigmatic, beautiful Scalvia agrees to be their guide, and from her family, Arud learns of a mysterious prophecy which may have far-reaching impact, not only for Arud, Lykke, and their journey, but also for all the residents of the lands around them; specifically, the fates of two species could be in their hands. 14, 2014 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Although one of the children perishes along the way (and others turn against their friends), the group manages to survive against the odds. 27, 2012 Magnusson's debut YA fantasy follows a young boy's flight from the wrath of bullies, taking him to another world from which there may be no escape. 8, 2013 ISBN: 978-1492321644 Page Count: 74 Publisher: CreateSpace Review Posted Online: March 3, 2014 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? If pared down to its essential storyline, this heartfelt tale of a young boy's pain and reluctance to make connections could form an instructive, charming story for younger readers. By the end of the story, both children grow and change in authentic ways. Jarrod's interactions with his parents show how superficial his differences really are; so too do his friendship with Gavin and his awkward introduction to a student called Dog-girl and the unlikely prospect of romance. Stewart writes in the first-person, present tense, bringing intimacy to Jarrod's isolation and immediacy to his plight. There are suggestions that the young characters are in their teens (and some hints of romance), but the text repeatedly refers to them as "kids," and they speak in a somewhat hokey dialect; some phrases, such as "Stop being such a square," seem to have been borrowed from a 1950s sitcom. Other positive aspects of the story include its uplifting portrayals of family life, faith, and multicultural friendships. In fact, Martin's character is so well drawn that when he realizes the truth about his friend Frankie, readers won't feel as if they are watching an after-school special, but as though they are observing the natural progression of Martin's personal growth. An engaging, if occasionally uneven, second chapter in Klecter's unique Yellow Truck series. "I've lost my mother….I am lost and scared," explains the little rabbit. Page 19 A small city dog, lost in the rugged backcountry of Vermont, relates his eventful struggle to find his way home. 17, 2017 ISBN: 978-1-4575-5780-4 Page Count: 102 Publisher: Dog Ear Review Posted Online: Oct. The pooch suffers but gradually adjusts, finding comfort with gentle Rex and Ted's grandmother until, caught up in the thrill of a dog pack's wild deer hunt, he is lost in the woods. Pub Date: April 22, 2016 ISBN: N/A Page Count: 272 Publisher: CreateSpace Review Posted Online: March 9, 2016 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book?Page 14 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. 12, 2014 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? The venerated book prophesizes a devastating final battle, but Stewart only wants a look at its pages in hopes of finding a way home. When a stray bullet kills Martin's adored 8-year-old brother, Huero, Martin seems to be heading into a life of crime. 1, 2012 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? His father, Burnard, tells Sparky that he's OK the way he is and that whenever his tail grows will be the right time. The stories' teenagers also seem to come from an earlier era; in "Girl Runner," for example, Tolles explains that "[c]oed sports had come to southern California this year." Title IX, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in school athletic activities, was signed into law more than 40 years ago; it's also very strange that a girl in today's athletic culture wouldn't want a potential boyfriend to know she's on the track team. 23, 2019 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Occasional punctuation errors also detract. Pub Date: Feb. The 5-year-old girl in "Swim Meet" learns that keeping at a task is more important than winning, and it will still get you a ribbon. On a seemingly ordinary day, 16-year-old Wilkin Delgado and his upstairs housemate, the 17-year-old, superpowered, warrior princess/fashion icon Alice Jane Zelinski LLC (having taken over most extraterrestrial business enterprises in an earlier tale), are teleported far away to the "Flipside" of outer space. Suddenly, they want to visit him, and school becomes more bearable. Stewart · RELEASE DATE: Feb. The nameless little rabbit asks if the bee knows where his home is, but the bee doesn't and sends him on to the wise owl, who "sees everything." As the little rabbit runs through the "eerie" fog toward the owl's tree, he meets a kind squirrel. Pub Date: Aug. A fast-paced space-capade whose apocalyptic elements are more comedy than gravity. It's unclear who the target audience for this book is, although it's apparently aimed at an older middle-grade or younger YA audience. The search for answers involves an ancient, planet-sized spaceship gone haywire on a salvage-recycling mission, a few cryptic lines of alien religious scripture, and an endless, pointless, carnage-filled ground war against an indeterminate foe. When he's wrongly sent to Hell to be judged by Satan, he tries to find a way to return to a life that he never fully appreciated. At first, the story's 11-year-old hero, John, doesn't feel up to the task, but his unlikely friendship with a talking rat teaches him that he may have latent talents, including the ability to illuminate himself and summon an otherworldly power. How's he going to track down the sickening puppy mill he's just seen through the eyes of a fly? Over 40 days, the two children find new ways to focus their energies, spending more time with friends, family, and a stray dog that happens to find them after school one day. The digitized art by Adams, some of which is credited to Thinkstock, is in a cartoon style that clearly delineates the characters but includes a few anthropomorphic details—a graduation cap for the owl, spectacles for the squirrel and only four legs for the bee—that add little value. Although the focus on daily life activities may not make it an overly exciting story, Sophie's genuine personality and relatable experiences make it enjoyable. 15, 2017 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Despite a theme geared for younger readers and the unmistakable moral lesson of facing one's fears head-on, the author surprises with somber, mature dialogue, as when the Princeps, the city's female leader, states bluntly, "[W]e are fairly confident that we are no longer on the planet Earth." For good measure, there are also talking animals, a protagonist who's more than deserving of a cheering audience and a bittersweet ending, with a slightly greater emphasis on the sweet. On the way, they encounter dangers, including a drop down a waterfall and possibly dangerous allies. 26, 2018 Kirkus Reviews Issue: March 1, 2018 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? 0 Pub Date: Feb. There, she makes a final, earnest wish. His dialogue is plain, but realistic and believable, and the authors wisely avoid the temptation to lard his speech with dated and potentially embarrassing slang. The Sage's education of Pearl fits in with the human idea of growing up, leaving childhood behind, and understanding one's greater place in the world. 0 Pub Date: Dec. 1, 2004 ISBN: 978-1591940173 Page Count: 152 Publisher: Townsend Press Review Posted Online: Jan. The relationships between the boys and girls are also somewhat old-fashioned: The boys always seem to be the heroes, while the girls tend to be mere love interests. 16, 2012 ISBN: 978-0974659817 Page Count: 50 Publisher: A Little Texas Entertainment Company, Incorporated Review Posted Online: Feb. Warrensberg, Minnesota, alias "Dorkville," is home to the two protagonists, who in the course of previous novels attained recognition all through the cosmos as troubleshooting heroes. Some of the descriptions are made all the more authentic through the impressionable eyes of a child: Stewart likens the landscape to emerald green ice cream covered with candy. He eventually helps his friends out of many dire situations. She's a realistic, engaging, and aptly flawed protagonist with room to grow as a character. 6, 2013 In Rivera's epic debut YA fantasy novel, a group of children faces off against an evil ice queen. He calls for his mother, but instead of her voice in response, he hears the hum of a bumblebee. He winds up lost in a maze of pipes until he steps out into a lush forest and the drain pipe entrance disappears. 15, 2012 ISBN: 978-1478280439 Page Count: 238 Publisher: CreateSpace Review Posted Online: April 1, 2013 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Nobody knows why, but he has to wear a helmet—all the time. An old-fashioned fantasy, but younger readers seeking a new world to explore may enjoy its classic feel. That chapter begins, "My folks were going on a vacation but they weren't planning to take me." Although it may have worked as a short story, it's such an awkward shift that it may be a bit too jarring for a beginning reader. 16, 2012 Hicken's colorful picture book showcases an adorable young dragon who learns that sometimes it's good to be different. Page 8 by Tonya Duncan Ellis illustrated by Tonya Duncan Ellis · RELEASE DATE: Sept. But then Jarrod swallows a fly, and suddenly everything makes sense. Life is difficult; even Gavin seems as if he's drifting away. Kindall (Delivering Virtue, 2015, etc.) taps into the mythic for this fable about rejoining life after having been frozen—a storyline that readers could interpret psychologically, spiritually, or intellectually as a reawakening. The journey on which they embark may be a fairly standard epic-fantasy jaunt, but it's entertaining as the action progresses smoothly, if occasionally predictably, along a standard "chosen one" plotline. Little Deer (a pen name) seamlessly connects the intersecting stories of all his well-drawn characters, both human and animal, with a poignant thread—keep the tissues handy. Delivering suspenseful storytelling, colorful and believable characters, and a deeply moving tribute to canine loyalty, this tale should resonate with dog lovers of any age. He rushes to the scene, saves the village, becomes a great hero and finally understands that being different can be fantastic. Unabashedly, a young hero from the margins shocks, then ultimately conquers the mainstream in this strangely compelling oddity. But Magnusson infuses the narrative with stunning imagery that wallops the senses—the cacophony of a construction site as Stewart passes by or the multitude of colors in the forest. Alice Jane, meanwhile, learns she's been erroneously declared dead, but her quest sets her on a parallel path to the same dilemma: in a few days, a rogue black hole will consume the universe unless something is done. 15, 2012 In this second installment in the Yellow Truck series, Brave Knight faces ruin, but Yellow Truck sticks by his friend. The book's breezy, chatty narrative style has a faint hint of Lemony Snicket's work, and the storyline is wryly self-referential throughout; for example, Gabriel always knows when he's learning a lesson, but he recognizes their value all the same. Instead, he and his sister, Lykke, must travel alone to Vithalia City and get the protection of their uncle. On the seafloor stands a sculpture of a pretty girl "carved from the purest milk-white stone." Then a boy diver, Niko, lifts her from the seabed with ropes, dubbing her Pearl. Gabriel allows his ego and intellect to distance himself from his family and from other people. The plot is one darned thing after another, often referencing characters and events of the saga's previous installments, but it never bores or condescends to the YA demographic (violence quotient is, in fact, quite high; sex is nothing to worry about). Feeling betrayed by his family, he responds to everyone with fury and attempts to shield himself from further pain with pledges to never love again. On the run from bullies, new kid at school Stewart seeks refuge down a storm drain. 15, 2018 ISBN: 978-0-9937579-8-3 Page Count: 134 Publisher: N/A Review Posted Online: Jan. Familial love shines through in these timeless anecdotes; when Ben's little sister, Becky, uses his beloved mitt as a doll bed, he doesn't get angry, as readers might expect: "Sisters, Ben thought. At his new school, the still-grieving Martin quickly makes enemies and gets into trouble. by Vinika Lakhiani · RELEASE DATE: May 8, 2014 A lost bunny searches for his mother in this debut picture book. Wilkin finds his old mentor, cosmic "plumber" Cardamon Webb, has yet another EOE (End of Everything) crisis on hand. Although there's a good message in not allowing physical challenges to prevent participation, such easy answers and guaranteed rewards don't always happen in real life. 19, 2017 Kirkus Reviews Issue: Dec. Martin's touching novel A Dog's Life, this beautifully observant story, told from the point of view of a bighearted Chihuahua, will stay with canine-loving readers long after the tale is finished. A vivid, well-meaning collection, but one that offers too-easy resolutions. Page 7 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. The best moments involve Cora and Stewart running through the forest, dodging the Venators; the book even opens with Stewart midsprint. Looking around, he sees his mother, who embraces him: "I will never again let you out of my sight," she tells him. The first shows a cheerful girl, costumed as a doctor, imagining, "What can I be today?" For "A," a young artist paints on an easel; then, in a transition sentence, she decides to do ballet. On a foggy day, a young rabbit finds that he doesn't recognize where he is. He knows next to nothing about his stern scientist father, who died when Gabriel was 5 years old. It's unclear when Mateo discovered who his biological mother was since he refers to both women by their first names and mourns the untimely death of Minerva with an intensity that nearly destroys his other relationships. 6, 2013 ISBN: 978-0988739321 Page Count: 360 Publisher: Jonathan Rivera Review Posted Online: Jan. They can sometimes seem pat, however, as children who struggle to do the right thing are always recompensed in short order. They were full of surprises." Though Ben is 9 in the story, he will appeal to younger readers as well. But he also makes friends with a kind English teacher and catches the eye of Vicky, a smart, pretty and outgoing Bluford student. Many of the emotions the humans feel appear to be transferred to other creatures: cats, ghosts and even the plant life in the island's thick forests. Messages of friendship, self-acceptance and unconditional love enrich this beautiful story. An absorbing glimpse into another culture, with memorable characters and the quiet message that you don't have to be rich to live honorably. Tobi is confused and bereft when one day Ted is gone, unaware that he will be traveling and can't take the canine along. For example, when the kids are forced to choose between two factions, readers are told that a girl named Pippy "had a crush on Rob, so she would go to whichever side he had chosen." (Shortly after this scene, helpless Pippy runs away after she's overwhelmed by having to make a decision.) However, although the book is on the long side, it moves along quickly, with lots of action and new dangers to threaten the intrepid children, and its ending leaves room for a sequel. Characterizations are vivid and compelling. Although the book relates a wonderful lesson, Hicken also weaves in moments of subtle humor, such as the spelling of Sparky's dad's name and the plucky chameleon's unintentional colors and patterns. 0 Pub Date: April 1, 2014 ISBN: 978-0-9831891-6-9 Page Count: 330 Publisher: Exit Studio Review Posted Online: Dec. Unfortunately, the pagan piety comes across more as window dressing than as something important or significant to the characters. In their journey from the Ice Queen's palace to the home of the Fire King, they encounter many challenges and adventures, meet extraordinary creatures and learn more about the pasts that the Ice Queen wiped from their memories. In the same league as Ann M. 18, 2012 ISBN: 978-1479178131 Page Count: 52 Publisher: CreateSpace Review Posted Online: April 3, 2013 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Ben gives each activity his all, whether he's competing in an Easter egg hunt, making a gift for his great-grandmother or playing baseball. His father is a week late returning from a two-day trading trip, but Arud can't go search for him because the shape-shifting, wolfish "ferine" in the nearby woods threaten his family. A charming children's book that aims to remind children that they're wonderful exactly as they are. That said, Klecter manages to pack a lot into this story, which never feels too heavy. This would be an unfortunate outcome, as the world Engle has created in this novel is an intriguing one, equal parts familiar and fantastic. With the money, Raymond buys a large toy truck, and for the first time, he has a toy to compete with his friends' gifts. The next page shows a ballerina who, when she gets hungry, visits a chef—and so on. Page 9 by Jonathan Rivera · RELEASE DATE: Nov. Jarrod likes bugs. In her new home, a statue of a wise old man explains that "We are the solidified dreams of a sculptor"; they can also talk and think in what he calls the "old language," or the speech of the "Big Dream from which we all…are born….We silently speak to [people], helping them to recall what they have lost and forgotten." The sage instructs Pearl about the world and its secrets (for example, that "Knowledge, and her sister Wisdom, are born from Ideas"); Pearl listens closely, hoping to find a way back to Niko. A solid, journeyman effort that shows signs of trying to break free of epic-fantasy tropes but never truly flies. Soon after Minerva's death, Mateo travels to Palo Verde to reconnect with his grandparents and gain some perspective on his loss. Apart from the fact that she butts heads with her little brother on a regular basis and really wants a cellphone, she has few complaints, as she belongs to a happy family and has a diverse group of good friends. 0 Pub Date: Jan. Surprisingly, the only sports-related position is an umpire, but a leading question at the end, about other jobs that one may discover, leaves room for young listeners to create their own. A story with a delicate, intriguing voice, but its philosophy may not appeal to everyone. 12, 2019 ISBN: 978-1-949596-00-7 Page Count: 312 Publisher: Tobi Books Review Posted Online: Feb. Ted's gruff dad doesn't help, banning Tobi from the house and forcing him to share farm dog Rex's quarters. Then Sparky's little sister rushes up and announces that some of the other young dragons accidentally set fire to the village and they need Sparky to put it out. Every couple of days or so, without warning or explanation, he passes out. The text flows beautifully when read aloud, and the story magically unfolds with the lovely rhythm of its language; the engaging plot and strong characters will likely capture readers' hearts. At one point, when Cole slips up, Sophie faces a dilemma, as she must decide between keeping her own Lent fast or breaking it. A tragic loss and other incidents periodically bring Ted back, but he always leaves Tobi behind when he departs again. A story with a tried-and-true plot that needs to freshen up its presentation. 26, 2013 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? He fantasizes aloud about standing with Pearl on the balcony of a pink stucco hotel, and she falls in love with him; over time, though, he grows up while Pearl stays the same. But those who enjoy unassuming philosophical tales may well find inspiration in this slice of Caribbean life. At 12, Mateo is devastated by the death of his young mother, Minerva. Danger, refuge, companionship, and a hint of uncanny mystery follow as Tobi encounters memorable animals and people during his monthslong ordeal. Page 21 by Susie Pi and Vincent Pi · RELEASE DATE: Dec. 28, 2018 ISBN: 978-1-4808-5453-6 Page Count: 32 Publisher: Archway Publishing Review Posted Online: Feb. Page 4 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. 0 Pub Date: Aug. 31, 2017 ISBN: 978-0-9846822-6-3 Page Count: 183 Publisher: CreateSpace Review Posted Online: Oct. Page 23 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. Erratic rhythms, changing stanza lengths and rhyme schemes, and awkward syntax undercut attempts to enliven the tale with poetry. They are descendants of a commune, or Lakou, proud people who believe that "death was preferable to shame and dishonor." Raymond feels like an outcast. 17, 2012 ISBN: N/A Page Count: 105 Publisher: Booktango Review Posted Online: March 12, 2013 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? Precocious 11-year-old Gabriel McGregor lives a normal life in the suburban home he shares with his hyperactive younger sister, Emma, and his quiet, intelligent mother, Susan. But Martin's mother, determined not to lose another son, moves him to another neighborhood—the fictional town of Bluford, where he attends the racially diverse Bluford High. Klecter · RELEASE DATE: Aug. When Niko sells Pearl, her heart breaks. Page 5 by Brad Ulreich · RELEASE DATE: Dec. Each story contains a lesson or moral; for example, "Bear Watch" concerns a northern Indian girl who realizes that she must climb a platform and make noise to protect her family's cornfield from bears—in the middle of the night, all by herself. Tolles is a prolific writer of children's books, and her stories are simple, vivid and affectionate. 6, 2014 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? They soon become friends, bonding over their uniqueness. Not a home run, but a solid, likable collection. Page 10 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. He has one friend, Gavin, but to all the other eighth-graders—indeed, to the rest of the school—he is "Bug-boy." If that weren't bad enough, Jarrod has a condition. The novel's dialogue is particularly strong, and Gabriel's words ring true as those of a know-it-all child who doesn't quite know it all yet. Arud Bergson lives near the woods with his mother, grandmother, and little sister. The story relies heavily upon reminiscence, which might make it a difficult read for young readers looking for fast-paced action, and the mixed tenses and idiomatic expression of native speech occasionally spoil the flow. Page 17 In this fourth installment of a YA gonzo sci-fi series, two teenage galactic adventurers find themselves teleported across the universe to save, well, literally everything from an all-devouring black hole. Page 24 by Edwin Fontanez · RELEASE DATE: April 1, 2014 In Fontánez's (On this Beautiful Island, 2004, etc.) illustrated novel, Mateo, a troubled young boy reared in Puerto Rico, returns briefly, but eventfully, to his grandparents' small island community. As Gabriel overcomes dangers and learns lessons, he finds a helper in a two-headed ram named LugWig (or, rather, one head is named Lug, the other Wig); he also finds himself pursued by the demonic Payne and his hellhound, Mabel. 18, 2012 In this children's chapter book, a sweet, sincere baseball fan experiences the highs and lows of being 9 years old. The simple, black-and-white line drawings in every chapter successfully direct readers' imaginations without overpowering them. The other dragons ridicule and disdain him, and he runs away to the woods to hide in shame. Ellis (Sophie Washington: Things You Didn't Know About Sophie, 2017, etc.) delivers another positive episode in the life of Sophie Washington, a preteen living with her family in Houston. 1, 2004 In the ninth book in the Bluford young-adult series, a young Latino man walks away from violence—but at great personal cost. 15, 2018 A middle-grade novel tells the story of an outsider who searches for something that will make him special. However, when Sophie's parents decide that the family must give up something for Lent, she and Cole must confront their bad habits. He encounters Cora, a young girl who takes him to a city hidden behind a great wall. Driven to join in the howls of a pack of Native American sled dogs one night, he observes: "I was carried into timeless moonlit wilderness, and I, too, became a wild thing." The novel's rural, woodsy, and lakeside setting, described from Tobi's perspective, is vividly detailed in sights, sounds, and smells. But, as they battle, nothing Knight does seems to work, and before long, Brave is the laughingstock of the Kingdom. His domestic situation also deteriorates when his wife, Jolie, spends all of Brave's money—following her neighbor Ungrateful Greta's advice— and begins an extramarital affair with mechanic Billy Tuneup, the playboy cad from the first novel. The story's lighthearted, tongue-in-cheek tone makes it a charming read—somewhat like a children's book, but one with adult themes. However, some of the characters from the first novel appear without adequate explanation; Sally the Untalented Artist and Rodney Rebuild make brief cameos, for example, but serve no real purpose in the story. Although Ungrateful Greta gets her due at the end of the tale, her comeuppance is somewhat unsatisfying and a bit long-winded. Unfortunately, the tales have no unifying theme, and the jumps from one chapter to the next can be a bit bumpy at times—especially the chapter narrated by the new family dog. 9, 2017 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book?Page 12 by Martha Tolles · RELEASE DATE: Dec. His relationships, moreover, are worked neatly into the plot and add depth to Stewart's (The River Keepers, 2017, etc.) lively book. Page 16 by Reynald Altema · RELEASE DATE: N/A Filled with optimism and nuggets of wisdom, Altema's short novel tells of a poor family's struggle to survive and overcome prejudice in a harsh modern world. Ample action and suspense, including the predicted conflict between the city and its skeletal enemies, help the plot retain a steady speed. 0 Pub Date: Nov. Page 6 by Emmitt B. 0 Page Count: - Publisher: Dog Ear Publisher Review Posted Online: Feb. Most transitions make sense, and the photos of children with occupation props, set against mostly white backgrounds, offer plenty of smiles. 16, 2017 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book?Page 18 by Paul Langan Ben Alirez · RELEASE DATE: Jan. 7, 2019 Kirkus Reviews Issue: March 15, 2019 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book?Page 20 by M D Hicken illustrated by Clare Rushing · RELEASE DATE: Jan. In a large Southern California city, 16-year-old Martin Luna hangs out on the fringes of gang life. 8, 2013 Children face moral dilemmas in these stories for middle-school readers. But the story of the young boy's loss is compelling enough without all the touches of magical realism, the constant jumps from past to present, and questionably profound truths: "a tree never forgets an act of kindness," or "that indomitable law of Nature, bad things come in threes." The black-and-white drawings, which appear every few pages, are occasionally endearing and impressive but do little to advance or clarify the plot. When he retreats to the woods again, he meets a chameleon who has trouble changing colors. (Especially the cockroaches he's training.) Jarrod can identify lots of different insects. The family, divided between the city and the country town of Palo Verde, has attempted to maintain the fiction that Mateo's mother is actually his widowed aunt Maria. The helmet makes him look like a bug, setting him further apart. 17, 2012 A debut children's fantasy book that delves into the afterlife. He knows all about them and is happy to share. Even the canine helps keep Sophie and Cole accountable to their commitments in ways that they didn't expect. The youngster is already lost in the beginning of Lakhiani's version of the time-honored tale of a lost child reuniting witha parent. However, they're also more likely to criticize them; for example, if "the Cosmos is in league with every one of its inhabitants," for example, then why do so many innocents suffer? Each chapter—and, thus, each story—is six pages or fewer, making this book ideal for beginning or reluctant readers who need a boost of confidence. When it finally does, Sparky's excited to become a fire-breathing dragon like his dad. The boy's regular bug eating—which forms an integral part of the story, described copiously and in graphic detail—won't be to everyone's taste. Otherwise, though, the characters have great emotional truth and are sure to appeal to younger readers; in particular, the relationship between Arud and Lykke, is notably satisfying. If they're lucky, they'll evade capture until they can make it safely to their uncle; if not, the whole world could be devoured. A YA novel that treats its subject and its readers with respect while delivering an engaging story. The squirrel leads the rabbit to the wise owl's tree, which the rabbit climbs to ask the owl, "[C]an you see where I live?" The fog is too thick for the owl to spot little rabbit's home, so he gives the little rabbit a snack and invites him to rest. A satisfying read, full of real-life lessons and good-hearted characters. Her greatest wish is to be flesh and blood, and the Sage advises her to "utter [her] improbable desire to the stars." A local revolution among humans brings chaos, and Pearl is eventually sold to a pink stucco hotel. 27, 2012 ISBN: 978-0984861057 Page Count: 240 Publisher: Olivander Press Review Posted Online: Oct. Falling asleep, the little rabbit dreams of his mother but is awakened by the hooting, buzzing and chattering of his three new friends. At the novel's outset, a group of children plans a daring escape from the Ice Queen's prison. Since the story centers on the little rabbit failing to recognize where he is, the choice to make the right-hand page of every spread identical is potentially confusing; regardless, it's repetitious. Things change forever after Gabriel invades his dead father's forbidden laboratory and, in a freak accident, Emma electrocutes him. Magnusson's novel is an allegory: The Venators, who merely beat their prey in lieu of killing them, are equated with bullies, while the children, who never age, are the perpetual embodiment of innocence. The author draws a vivid and affecting picture of Martin's pain and confusion, bringing a tight-lipped teenager to life. But before they know it, they'll likely have embraced his aptitude—his "thing"—and be rooting for him. He's disaffected, fatherless and increasingly drawn into the orbit of the older, rougher Frankie. When he receives a new baseball mitt, for example, he's so determined to "make a good pocket" that he sleeps on top of the mitt with a baseball inside it. This short novel appears to be aimed at urban teens who don't often see their neighborhoods portrayed in young-adult fiction, but its sophisticated characters and affecting story will likely have much wider appeal. Other narrative jumps could use more explanation, as well. The characters are smartly written, with a light touch even in the darkest moments; LugWig, the book's "id" and "ego" to Gabriel's burgeoning "superego," is a particular standout. He crosses paths with a stray cat, whose tragic story is intended to evoke as much sympathy as Mateo's. The author steals a joke from Douglas Adams and the classic Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by offering a fourth volume in a declared Warrensberg Trilogy. Inside are only children, guided by a book written by the Forebears—the previous inhabitants—and fearing the tall, vicious Venators outside. 15, 2012 Kirkus Reviews Issue: Dec. He keeps them in his bedroom and feels that they are misunderstood, just like he is. His father eventually convinces him that being different is fine and that his family loves him no matter what happens. Klecter (Yellow Truck and

Billy’s Toolbox, 2012, etc.) continues his allegorical tale about Yellow Truck, a war-veteran vehicle who has feet instead of tires, and life in Yellow Truck’s hometown, Hillville. As with the first installment, Yellow Truck has a pivotal role in a story that centers on someone else; this time around, he assists his friend Brave Knight as he battles evil forces, seen and unseen. When a giant hurls enormous playing cards at the locals, Brave fights back against him. Page 15 by Ari Magnusson · RELEASE DATE: Feb. Page 13 Engle (The Dredge, 2015, etc.) weaves Viking lore, animalistic shape-shifters, and coming-of-age adventure into a fantasy epic. Sparky then tries to make friends with the other young dragons, but again, he’s rebuffed for being different. His grandfather forced Minerva to leave their home when, at 14, she became pregnant with Mateo. Tobi’s internal dialogue (he doesn’t speak with other animals) has a compelling authenticity, encompassing eloquent ponderings about the bond between humans and dogs, canine devotion, and forgiveness—and the awakening of his own ancestral memory. In “Who Will Be Emperor: A Chinese Legend,” a boy is richly rewarded for telling the truth, even though he fears being exposed as a failure. Young readers will relate to Sophie’s frustrations when it comes to relationships with friends, feeling left out, dealing with little brothers and moral dilemmas, and just having a bad day. In this collection, Tolles (Ben’s Big Year, 2012, etc.) reprints stories that first appeared in publications such as Cricket magazine and the Los Angeles Times’ Kids’ Reading Room page. Raymond lives with his mother on the sunny Caribbean island of Haiti. Rushing’s gorgeous watercolor illustrations are full of personality and warmth. 3 Pub Date: Jan. Ultimately, Gabriel gets the answers he’s been looking for, as well as a few that he hadn’t expected. The story moves from the McGregors’ sad, mildly quirky world into a sort of Dante’s Inferno for kids, as the spirit of the deceased Gabriel wanders through strange vistas of the afterlife (featuring, among other things, talking paper cups and flying sneakers). 15, 2015 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? His condition isn’t a weakness at all: It’s a superpower (of sorts) stemming from his affinity for bugs. In “Barn Dance,” for example, a teenage girl with a leg brace braves her fears, hoping her long dress will hide the brace; it doesn’t, but the nice boy from the dance calls her anyway. 12, 2013 Review Program: Kirkus Indie Did you like this book? However, a few job titles may be a stretch for them to understand, such as “geologist,” “horticulturalist,” and “optician.” The jobs are varied and include artistic positions (illustrator, knitter, musician), service professions (firefighter, judge, librarian, soldier), and science jobs (engineer, X-ray technician). Although the book is aimed at children, adults are more likely to find interest in the Sage’s ideas. Burnard invites the entire village to come watch Sparky’s first attempt, but unfortunately, Sparky spews water instead of flames.

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