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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
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## FLYP Forward December 2017 Volume 10, Issue 8

### Check This Out!

#### **Newsletter Topics**

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#### **Webinars**

[Chat with Jana:  
YA Services Forum, Teen Video Challenge & the 50th Anniversary of FLYP](#)

12/7/2017

10:00 a.m. - 11:00

a.m.

Eastern

[Board Books 101: From Selection to Programming](#)



### FLYP Workshop Video Material for Summer of 2018 *Libraries Rock*

Since there will be **no in-person youth summer training** this year, please send us short videos showcasing the theme *Libraries Rock* through songs, crafts, booktalks or activities. For example, your video could feature a favorite tune, an activity teens enjoy, or a craft that kids love.

You may submit videos between two and five minutes long, in MP4 format (most cell phones use MP4). If you record your video on a cell phone, please use the highest resolution (720p or above).

You may upload your video to YouTube or Instagram (please send us the links!) or submit directly via email. **You must submit any song lyrics separately in a Word document.** Please send all links, videos and lyrics to [bld.florida500@gmail.com](mailto:bld.florida500@gmail.com).

If you have questions, please contact:

Jana Fine

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### Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant

The [Ezra Jack Keats Foundation](#), which fosters children's love of reading and creative expression in our diverse culture, celebrates the 30th year of its Mini-Grant program with a call for proposals. Approximately 60 grants of up to \$500 each will be awarded to qualifying teachers and librarians in public schools and libraries across the country. For more information visit the Ezra Jack Keats Mini-Grant [webpage](#).

### Letters About Literature

Each year Florida Center for the Book coordinates the Library of Congress [Letters About Literature](#) writing contest for the state of Florida. This contest is open to students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to the author (living or

[Use and Everything In Between](#)

12/14/2017  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Eastern

[From Tots to Teens: STE\(A\)M-powered Ideas for Programming](#)

12/14/2017  
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Eastern

[Staying in Genre Shape](#)

12/19/2017  
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Eastern

[Steps to Becoming a More Inclusive and Diverse Library for Young Readers](#)

12/21/2017  
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Eastern

**December 2017 Celebration Weeks and Promotional Events**

The links below will show you how to bring these promotions to your library. Don't forget to share your activities with others.

12/6/17  
[Mitten Tree Day](#)

12/7/17  
[Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day](#)

12/12/17  
[Hanukkah](#)

12/15/17  
[Bill of Rights Day](#)

12/21/17  
[Winter Solstice](#)

12/25/17  
[Christmas](#)

12/26/17  
[Kwanzaa](#)

12/31/17

dead) about how the book affected them personally.

Prizes will be awarded on both the state and national levels. Florida Center for the Book's panel of judges will select the top letter writers in the state. Florida's first-place winners will advance to the national judging.

Prizes for Florida winners at each competition level are \$100 cash for first place, a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card for second place, and a \$25 Barnes & Noble gift card for third place. More information on the contest is available [here](#). Have questions? Email Tara Zimmermann at [tzimmerm@broward.org](mailto:tzimmerm@broward.org).

**Submissions for all levels must be postmarked by January 12, 2018.**

**C U on Social Media**

[View our videos on YouTube](#)

[Like us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

**Palm Beach County's Touch-a-Truck Program**

This June, the [Hagen Ranch Road Branch Library](#) held a Touch-a-Truck program as part of the *Build a Better World 2017* Summer Reading Program.

A big thank-you to the [Road & Bridge Division](#) of the Palm Beach County Engineering and Public Works Department for participating in this special story-time program.



Robyn Hemond  
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Palm Beach County Library System

**Manga Café**

**Kato, Kazue. *Blue Exorcist*. (2011-present). San Francisco, CA: Viz Media.**

Orphan Rin Okumura and his twin brother Yukio have spent their lives in a monastery with Father Fujimoto, who is secretly an exorcist. Rin gets into lots of trouble but has a normal existence until Satan shows up in his bedroom and tries to whisk him off to Hell because Rin is his long-lost son! Father Fujimoto sacrifices his life to save Rin. Grief-stricken, Rin vows that he will become the best exorcist in the world and kill Satan himself. Can the brothers work together and save the world? Can Rin use the power of Satan to defeat his father, or will using it turn him into a monster?

*Blue Exorcist* is action-packed, but it's also filled with the search for identity, the meaning of good and evil and a great deal of humor as the exorcist students interact. The art is excellent at portraying action and emotion. Quick-paced and appealing, this series is sure to fly off the shelves. Some sexual humor, violence, and fanservice make this appropriate for high school students. This popular series also has a successful [anime](#). Recommended for all libraries serving older teens.

[New Year's Eve](#)

Shannon Schreur-Klein  
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[East County Regional Library](#)  
[Lee County Library System](#)

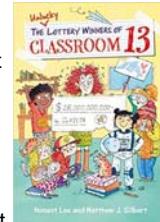
## Book Reviews From the Field

**Lee, Honest and Matthew J. Gilbert.**

***The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13.***

**(2017). New York: Little, Brown and Company.**

*The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13* is the first installment of a new series about the unluckiest classroom in history. Ms. Linda wins the lottery, and she shares the \$28,000,000,000 with her class. Each student in the classroom gets a billion dollars, including the class pet, an ungrateful hamster named Earl. But Earl is not alone in his squandering; nearly every student wastes the money on useless, pointless or ludicrous ideas.



Clocking in at 119 pages and 30 chapters (one chapter for each student and two chapters for the teacher), *The Unlucky Lottery Winners of Classroom 13* is a dark comedy of errors for children 8-12 years, or anyone who enjoys a pessimistic outlook and futility. If your library is looking for more books like Captain Underpants, then you should give this a read.

Jennifer Vargo

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[Niceville Public Library](#)

[Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative](#)

**Williams, Nicole. *Trusting You and Other Lies.* (2017). New York:**



**Crown Books for Young Readers.**

Phoenix is fed up with her parents' emotional neglect and that they've been hiding the fact that they're about to lose their home. Now they're making everything worse by forcing her to spend her last summer vacation at Camp Kismet! Rather than wallow in self-pity, Phoenix rises to the occasion. She's determined that her younger brother will have a fun experience. Hoping to earn enough income to buy a car, she also signs up to work as a camp counselor. She never expects that she'll enjoy the job and certainly doesn't anticipate the growing attraction she feels toward lead counselor Callum.

Despite the serious issues it raises, *Trusting You and Other Lies* is a lightweight read. Camp Kismet feels like a cardboard cutout rather than an outdoor location replete with trees and mountains. The supporting characters (except for Callum and brother Harry) are one-dimensional. The dialogue between the teenagers suffers from repetition: not only do Phoenix and Callum continuously answer questions with questions, but they also have a habit of returning each other's lines verbatim.

As realistic fiction, William's story occasionally strains credibility. Teenage counselors lead adults (some with multiple seasons of experience) on dangerous outdoor activities? A poor test-taker suddenly achieves stellar scores? Phoenix's devotion to Harry is endearing and the teenage romance is sweet. Those who like simple plots without much tension might enjoy this happily-ever-after story. Recommended for readers aged fifteen and older.

Crystal Sidell

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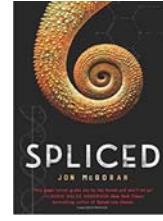
[Pinellas Public Library Cooperative](#)

**McGoran, Jon. *Spliced.* (2017). New York: Holiday**



**House.**

Jimi and her best friend Del live in futuristic Philadelphia. But their friendship takes a turn when Del contemplates becoming a Chimera-- a human who has spliced their genes with animal genes. When Del disappears, Jimi sets out to find him before he can change himself. But by the time she can locate Del, it's too late. With the H4H (Humans for Humans) and E4E (Earth for Everyone) battling to change the laws and the people becoming hateful towards Chimera, Jimi must choose a side.



I was unable to put this book down. It grabs you by the hand and takes you on an exciting adventure full of action, thrilling suspense and many turns that you will not see coming. Within the book are topics that might not be suitable for younger ages. Make sure that you have a night full of nothingness planned. *Spliced* is a fast-paced read with content that will keep you turning the pages until you reach the end. Recommended for ages fourteen and up.

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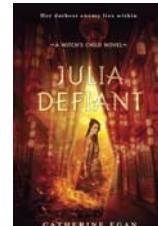
**Jones, Kelly. *Murder, Magic and What We Wore*. (2017). New York:****Alfred A. Knopf.**

Magic manipulates the characters in Kelly Jones' *Murder, Magic, And What We Wore*. Who can our 16-year-old protagonist, Annis Whitworth, trust in this intriguing murder mystery set in 1818 England? Her aunt is withholding information about the recent death of Annis' father. Millie, the new maid with street smarts and uncanny self-defense skills, seems too perfect. Annis is suspicious when the death of her father is declared an accident. Read and learn how Annis threads her way to the answers she seeks.

Jill Mullins  
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[Lakewood Ranch High School](#)

**Egan, Catherine. *Julia Defiant*. (2017). New York****Alfred A. Knopf.**

*Julia Defiant* is the second volume of the series *Witch's Child*. This novel features the protagonist (Julia), a reformed thief and kidnapper with the unique ability to step out of reality and into another dimension inhabited by ethereal creatures. Through her efforts to complete a mercenary mission for her current employer, and bound by love for the child she once kidnapped, Julia begins to understand the nature of her powers. She begins investigating her true identity to discover not only WHO she is, but WHAT she might be. Julia and her ragtag crew travel the world on missions of intrigue and adventure, from their home country of Frayne, which resembles Western Europe, to Tianshi, which unabashedly correlates with China. The story line echoes race relations and the geopolitical histories of empires in an interaction between kingdoms and religions. It also touches on the tendency of humans to persecute anyone perceived as different or as the "other," deemed to be less human or unnatural.

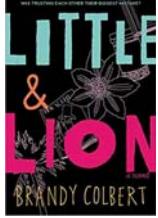


Young adult readers may make the connections to the allegory of actual historical events and literature that incorporate similar scenes of magic, escape and the salvation of humanity from unspeakable evil (Tolkien and Rowling come to mind). *Julia Defiant*, at 442 pages, is a longer read, filled with exciting, fantastical scenes best suited for readers aged thirteen and up due to mature themes.

Athanasia Fitos

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**Colbert, Brandy. *Little and Lion*. (2017). New York: Little, Brown and Company.**



Suzette and Lionel are step-sister and brother who are closer than most biological siblings. They call each other by their nicknames, Little and Lion. When Little comes home to L.A. from a boarding school in Massachusetts, she is not sure what to expect. When she left, Lion was just diagnosed and beginning to deal with his bipolar disorder. But she is also coming home to her old friends from her former school and to a boy who she has known since childhood, but now she finds herself noticing how attractive he is. She also finds herself attracted to a girl in her circle of friends-- a girl who just happens to be Lion's girlfriend.

As you read their story, you get to know the characters and get inside their thoughts. You may be shocked to get a real-life look at being on the receiving end of peoples' thoughtless jokes about being black, Jewish, Korean, gay or having a mental illness. These issues are all woven throughout an interesting and modern-day story that captures your interest as well as your heart. The book contains mature content, sexuality, mental health issues and language that is suitable for fifteen years and up.

Kris Horst  
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[Lynn Haven Library](#)

**Thomas, Kara. *Little Monsters*. (2017). New York: Delacorte Press.**

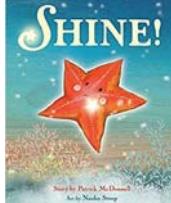
Kacey moves to Broken Falls, Wisconsin, to live with the father she has never known and his new family. Fleeing her mother and the revolving door of men in her life is a godsend for Kacey. Kacey meets Bailey and Jade, and they become her fast friends. One night the three girls sneak out. They hold a séance in a barn to conjure The Red Woman, a legendary ghost - the girls escape when the roof caves in. Later, Bailey goes missing. All eyes are on Kacey, one of the last people to see Bailey. Kacey is confused and angry - she had nothing to do with Bailey's disappearance, but she intends to find out what happened to her.



The ending, though unexpected, is flat. Readers may be confused by the numerous tertiary characters who have little to do with the story. *Little Monsters* is a cautionary tale for girls: be careful who you befriend, but be more careful of the ones you love.

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[Col. John O. Ensor Middle School](#)

**McDonnell, Patrick. *Shine!* (2017). New York: Little, Brown and Company.**



A little sea star named Hoshi longs to sparkle in the night sky rather than being stuck at sea in Patrick McDonnell's feel-good story *Shine!* Hoshi's preoccupation with shining in the sky comes at the cost of missing out on the wonders of the ocean. When Hoshi hits rock bottom (emotionally and literally), she learns from an unusual new friend that if you have a happy heart, you can shine wherever you are.

Illustrator Naoko Stoop's acrylics on plywood mimic Hoshi's emotions flawlessly. With joy there are yellows, greens, and lighter blues; with

despair only sepia tones with wood grain for motion.  
Recommended for all ages.

Christy Keyes  
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[Doreen Gauthier Lighthouse Point Library](#)

**Buxbaum, Julie. *What to Say Next*. (2017). New York: Delacorte Press.**

When popular Kit sits down at the resident weird kid David's table, she's looking for an escape and some quiet. What she finds instead is someone whose honest truths are refreshing while she's grieving the death of her father. David knows he's different, he is used to sitting alone, has difficulty connecting with people and uses headphones to drown out the noise. He enjoys looking through the DSM-4 [*Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*] since it's cheaper than THE DSM-5 and has the now-outdated mention of Asperger's syndrome in it - something with which he has been tentatively diagnosed.



Told in alternating chapters the pair slowly get to know each other and themselves throughout this realistic contemporary novel. Kit, initially dealing with grief from the death of her father, has lost the ability to connect with her friends and later on withdraws further when she learns of a betrayal by her mother. This book, filled with rich and realistic characters, is a relatable read for those dealing with love, loss and everything in between. Recommended for readers thirteen and up.

Becky Greer  
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[Hillsborough County Public Library Cooperative](#)



**Becker, Lindsey. *The Star Thief*. (2017). New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.**  
 Honorine is a maid at the dull and boring Vidalia mansion. She dreams of far-away places, adventure and inventing as she dusts priceless treasures and daydreams in front of maps. But one night she catches two strangers ransacking Lord Vidalia's study. Suddenly a mysterious girl with wings whiskers her away and she's plunged into a battle between the crew of a spectacular spaceship and a band of living mythical constellations. The more time she spends with the stars she learns that she is much more than a maid and the stars are more than just twinkling lights. Honorine soon finds herself torn between both sides in this battle and questioning everything she knows. Is it possible for this young girl to bring together both sides of a larger-than-life fight before they unleash an evil power?

This book is filled with magic and adventure with a touch of steampunk thrown in to create a world perfect for all ages. Lindsey Becker weaves a story full of exploration and intrigue that will keep you guessing. *The Star Thief* is sure to capture you and keep you hooked until the very last page. This book is appropriate for ages ten and up.

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## Florida Library Youth Program

*FLYP Forward* provides information about the Florida Library Youth Program and Florida's public libraries.

This project was funded under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Florida's LSTA program is administered by the Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services.

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