



Soaring Eagle Book Award

Booktalks

2019-2020



Onyx & Ivory by Mindee Arnett

Genre: Fantasy

Dragons rule the night and magic rules the day, and a sinister new threat awaits the kingdom. Travel with traitor Kate and rebel prince Corwin as they face their pasts and work together in the world of Rime. (Dr. Teresa Clark-Massey)

Land of Permanent Good-byes by Atai Abawi

Genre: Historical Fiction

Destiny narrates this story of young Tareq who lives in Syria with his large and loving family...until the bombs strike. This timely story taken from the headlines, follows Tareq as he travels across Syria to unfamiliar lands and people working to survive. He is threatened, hungry and heartbroken but finds the resilience to move forward. (Jeannine Collins)

What If It's Us by Becky Albertalli

Genre: Social Themes

What can happen when you aren't honest with your friends? When Arthur, a summer intern from Georgia, and Ben, a native New Yorker, meet it seems like fate. However, after three hilarious "do over" dates fail because of secrets and lies, they wonder if the universe is pushing them together or apart. Their friends just think they are crazy in this funny LGBT love story by two favorite teen authors. (Leanne Woodfill)

Defy the Stars by Claudia Gray

Genre: Science Fiction

Noemi and Abel should be enemies- at least that is what they have been taught. Noemi is a Genesis soldier intent to defend her planet to her last breath; Abel is a mech (A.I.), developed on Earth, that has been lost in space for 30 years. When Noemi's best friend is critically injured in training, Noemi seeks refuge on the closest ship, which turns out to be the ship Abel's creator left him on.

Their first meeting was at gun point, the story that unfolds is just as explosive as they struggle with how to trust their enemy and try to save their planets. As they travel the galaxy they are faced with truths they are not ready to face. Can they work together for the greater good? (Brenna Franklin)

One of Us Is Lying by Karen McManus

Genre: Mystery/Detective

At first it appears that the five teens in detention have nothing in common. But now they also have seen someone die. Five teens arrived at detention but only four are leaving alive.

I'm Bronwyn. People assume I'm just the brain and don't have any secrets. Who did it? Not me.

I'm Addy. I'm more than just the pretty, popular girl. It wasn't me.

I'm Nate. Does probation and a drug charge automatically make me a bad person or a murderer? It wasn't me.

I'm Cooper, the jock with a promising future career in baseball. It wasn't me.

I was Simon, the guy behind the viral gossip app that exposes the secrets you think no one could know. Is that why someone killed me?

One of us is lying.

We assume we know all about who someone is and that we can fit them easily into a stereotype. But people are more than a label. We all have secrets. Are they worth killing or dying for? (Jennifer Beckstead)

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Genre: Social Themes

Starr Carter's life has been ripped from the headlines. Starr lives in two worlds—the preppy suburban, mostly white, high school she attends and the poor neighborhood she lives in. While all has been relatively smooth transitioning between the two, her worlds collide after one fateful night. While running from a party that had erupted into a gang fight, Starr and her best friend Khalil end up being pulled over by a police officer. In the course of the confrontation, Khalil ends up being shot, dead. To make matters more complicated, the officer is white and Starr and Khalil are African-American. Now Starr's life has become a balancing act filled with racial tension, injustice, and anger. Throughout it all, Starr does not give up understanding and fighting for what she believes. A rollercoaster of a book that highlights very relevant issues in today's society—racism, stereotypes, injustice, and one girl's fight to bring her two worlds together. (Dr. Angie M. Spann)

Renegades by Marissa Meyer

Genre: Science Fiction

The superhero Renegades have kept peace in Gatlin City since the fall of supervillain Ace Anarchy, or so it seems. Nova, Ace's niece, vowed to get vengeance on the Renegades when they failed her in her darkest hour. Nova joins the Renegades in hopes of finding a way to destroy them all/

Adrian will stop at nothing to bring justice to the villains trying to destroy his world.

In an exciting new series Meyer gets you to question is “good” always good and is “bad” always bad? Told in alternating perspectives of Nova and Adrian- we find that not everything is always as it seems! (Brenna Franklin)

Hey Kiddo by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Genre: Graphic Novel/Non-fiction

Starr Carter's life has been ripped from the headlines. Starr lives in two worlds—the preppy suburban, mostly white, high school she attends and the poor neighborhood she lives in. While all has been relatively smooth transitioning between the two, her worlds collide after one fateful night. While running from a party that had erupted into a gang fight, Starr and her best friend Khalil end up being pulled over by a police officer. In the course of the confrontation, Khalil ends up being shot, dead. To make matters more complicated, the officer is white and Starr and Khalil are African-American. Now Starr's life has become a balancing act filled with racial tension, injustice, and anger. Throughout it all, Starr does not give up understanding and fighting for what she believes. A rollercoaster of a book that highlights very relevant issues in today's society—racism, stereotypes, injustice, and one girl's fight to bring her two worlds together. (Johanna Tuttle)

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir

Genre: Fantasy

Laia is a Scholar which means she's worthless in the eyes of the Martial Empire. Her grandparents are slain and brother arrested by the Empire. Desperate to find and free her brother, Laia is asked to spy for the resistance. She is sent by the resistance to the military training academy of Blackthorne as a slave to the pitiless Commandant. Elias is the Commandant's son but he hates the military training and the life of a Mask and wants to desert. If he does, and is caught, his mother will torture and kill him in a painful and public way. Full of violence and intrigue, Laia and Elias's stories entwine and ignite a rebellion. (Johanna Tuttle)

Little White Lies by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

Genre: Mystery

Do you know what a debutante does? They spend the last year of high school attending parties and balls in beautiful gowns with handsome young men.

Sounds like fun? Not if you are Sawyer. She is bribed by her estranged grandmother to be a debutante and hopefully learn the identity of her father. Sawyer's year is complicated by kidnapping, blackmail, a jewel theft, a hit-and-run accident, her angry mother and many lies. Can Sawyer keep her cool while helping her new friends with all these situations? (Leanne Woodfill)