
**Annotation:**
As a baby found floating in the seas with eyes pecked out by ravens, Peter becomes a nimble thief who steals a box of fantastic eyes, which sets him on an amazing quest to find the Vanished Kingdom.

**Booktalk:**
Peter Nimble's sad life was found floating in the ocean with a raven that had pecked out his eyes. Fortunately, an old mother cat adopted him and took care of him...until Peter and the cats were trapped and thrown in the sea. Peter escaped, the cat did not. To survive, he learned to become a nimble thief and all seems well until he makes the unfortunate acquaintance of Mr. Seamus who kidnaps Peter and cruelly forces Peter to steal for him. Mr. Seamus is abusive, greedy, and takes everything for himself. However, the skills Mr. Seamus teaches Peter soon come in handy as he finds himself on an adventure to discover the Vanished Kingdom with three sets of magic eyes. Peter Nimble is a fun coming of age fantasy that pokes fun at orphan literature while creating a quest that is at times silly fun with children rescuing childlike grown-ups in the grips of an evil king, while at the same time exploring qualities of friendship, bravery, and identity. Join Peter, Mr. Tode, and an unkindness of ravens on this fantastic journey to discover the truth behind the fantastic eyes.

**Reviews:**
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* 10/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews* 04/15/2011
*School Library Journal* 10/01/2011
*Publisher’s Weekly* 07/04/2011

**Awards or Honors:**
2011 ABC New Voices Project Choice
2011 BookPage Best Book of 2011, Middle Grade
2013 Manitoba Young Reader’s Choice Nominee
2012 Great Stone Face Book Award

**Author Website:**
[http://www.peternimble.com](http://www.peternimble.com)

**Related Books:**
*Harry Potter* by J.K. Rowling
*Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll
*100 Cupboards* by ND Wilson
*James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl
Like – Try – Why:
Like *The Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snicket?
Try *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier!
Why – Everything that can go wrong does go wrong and it takes the creativity of three orphaned children to figure things out.

Like *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis?
Try *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier!
Why – Like Lucy, Peter finds himself in a world he never knew existed and it is up to him to save the Vanished Kingdom from an evil king.

Like *Gregor the Overlander* by Suzanne Collins?
Try *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier!
Why – Gregor falls through a vent in the laundry room into a world every bit as strange as the world in which Peter finds himself.

**Annotation:**
Beverly, a young slave boy, wants to live “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” like Thomas Jefferson, his master and father, who gave him a violin to play but won’t give him his freedom.

**Booktalk:**
Kimberly Bradley’s historical fiction novel *Jefferson’s Son’s* tells the true story of Sally Hemings, Thomas Jefferson’s slave, and their children, who were also his slaves. We first learn of the big secret of Monticello through the world of Beverly, one of Thomas’s sons. Beverly wants to play the violin like “papa,” or “Master,” because he is not allowed to call “Master” “Papa” because that would not be right. Is it right for the President’s children to be slaves? Can he not free them? If Beverly and his family are owned by their father, does that mean they are just a possession?

**Reviews:**
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* (starred) 10/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews* (starred) 07/15/2011
*Booklist* 09/15/2011
*Horn Book* (starred) 01/01/2012
*School Library Journal* (starred) 10/01/2011
*Library Media Connection* 01/01/2012
*Wilson’s Children* 10/01/2012
*Wilson’s Junior High School* 10/01/2012

**Awards or Honors:**
2012 ALA Notable Children’s Book
2012 Notable Book for a Global Society
2012 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People (National Council for the Social Studies)
2011 *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children's Books of 2011
Chosen for state award lists in Maryland, Nebraska, and Tennessee

**Author Website:**

**Other Books by Author:**
*For Freedom: The Story of a French Spy*  
*Halfway to the Sky*  
*The Lacemaker and the Princess*  
*Ballerino Nate*  
*The President’s Daughter*  
*Leap of Faith*  
*The Perfect Pony*  
*Ruthie’s Gift*
Related Books:
Crow by, Barbara Wright  
Chains by, Laurie Halse Anderson  
Stolen Man: The Story of the Amistad Rebellion by Barry Louis Polisar

Like – Try – Why:
Like Chains by Laurie Halse Anderson?
Try Jefferson’s Sons by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley!
Why – Both stories show the strengths that slave children possessed to deal with the struggles of being an African-American child in the early 1800s.

**Annotation:**
Mike is sent to Poppy and Moo's to improve his math skills, but Mike needs more than math skills to rescue Poppy and Moo, and to help the town of "Do Over" raise $40,000 in three weeks to adopt Misha, a 6-year-old orphan from Romania.

**Booktalk:**
Mike has dyscalculia, a math disability, but his brilliant mathematician father does not understand, and sends Mike to help his Great Uncle Poppy work on an Artesian Screw engineering project that might help him get into a math magnet school. When Mike arrives in Donover or “Do Over” as all the locals call it, things are not as he expected. The Greats are having financial problems, the electricity is off, Poppy is so depressed over the death of his son that he does not talk or move from his chair, and Moo is trying to cope while dealing with vision problems and there is no artesian screw project. Mike is pulled into coordinating the town project of helping the local minister adopt Misha, a Romanian orphant. They have three weeks to raise $40,000. Read this book to see how Mike, with the help of a homeless man, a Goth singer, Poppy and Moo, and the rest of the town come together to bring Misha home.

**Reviews:**
- Horn Book (starred) 07/01/2011
- Kirkus Reviews 05/01/2011
- Library Media Connection (starred) 11/01/2011
- School Library Journal 07/01/2011
- Publisher’s Weekly 04/25/2011
- New York Times (06/05/2011)

**Awards or Honors:**
- 2012 Crystal Kite Award
- 2012 Bank Street Best Children’s Books (Outstanding Merit)
- Chosen for state award list in North Carolina

**Author Website:**
www.kathrynerskine.com/

**Other Books by Author:**
*Seeing Red*  
*Quaking*  
*Mockingbird*  
*IBUBESI: The Lion*

**Related Books:**
*Addie on the Inside* by James Howe  
*Small as an Elephant* by Jennifer Jacobson
Related Books:

*Close to Famous* by Joan Bauer

**Like – Try – Why:**

Like *Close to Famous* by Joan Bauer?

Try *The Absolute Value of Mike* by Kathryn Erskine!

Why – Good things can happen when people from all walks of life come together for a single goal.

**Annotation:**
When Michael’s secret ability to transmit electricity through his body is revealed and his mother is subsequently kidnapped by the evil Dr. Hatch, Michael and his friends go on a quest to save her and to discover the source of his strange, electrifying ability.

**Booktalk:**
Fourteen-year-old Michael Vey has a dangerous power, and the bullies at his school just pushed him into revealing it. When Michael tries to defend himself by using his ability to control electrical currents, he draws the attention of the evil Dr. Hatch and a team of scientists who have been hunting Michael for years. In an attempt to control Michael, the bad guys kidnap Michael’s mother, whisking her off to their secret compound in California. Taking along his friends Ostin and Taylor, Michael sets off on a quest to save his mom, free all the kids in the compound, and find out once and for all why he has these strange, electrifying abilities.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 09/2011
*Library Media Connection (starred)* Jan/Feb 2012
*Voice of Youth Advocates* 10/2011

**Awards or Honors:**
2011 VOYA Best Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror
2012 International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council Young Adult’s Choices
Chosen for state award lists in Connecticut, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, Missouri, and Wyoming.

**Author Website:**

**Other Books by Author:**
*Michael Vey: Rise of the Elgen*  *The Christmas Box*
The author has written many adult novels, all of which can be found on his website.

**Related Books:**
*Bruiser* by Neal Shusterman  *Graceling* by Kristin Cashore
*Maximum Ride* by James Patterson  *Raven’s Gate* by Anthony Horowitz
Like – Try – Why:
Like *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan?
Try *Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25* by Richard Paul Evans!
Why - Michael is on an adventure to save his mother, break his friends out of prison, and discover why he and a group of teenagers have the strange ability to control electricity in different ways.
Gantos, Jack. **DEAD END IN NORVELT.** Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011. 341 p. (Grades 5-8).

**Annotation:**
Grounded for the summer, Jack can only leave the house to help old Mrs. Volker write the obituaries of original Norvelt citizens, but Jack suspects foul play when more and more of them turn up dead.

**Booktalk:**
Young Jack Gantos is in BIG trouble! He defied his father’s instructions and played with his antique Japanese rifle. He defied his mother’s instructions and chopped down her corn field. Because of these two dumb moves, Jack is grounded for the summer. Luckily (or unluckily, depending on how he looks at it), Jack can only leave the house to help old Mrs. Volker write the obituaries of the original Norvelt citizens who seem to be dropping like flies this summer. Mrs. Volker not only schools Jack in the history of Norvelt, but includes him in her medical examiner’s role when she examines the bodies of the dead. Unfortunately, Jack is prone to nose bleeds every time he gets scared, surprised, or grossed out, so viewing dead bodies isn’t at the top of his to-do list. The newspaper editor thinks something sinister is happening to the old ladies of Norvelt, and thinks Mrs. Volker is to blame. Is Jack really working for a murderer?

**Reviews:**
*Horn Book (starred) 09/01/2011*
*Kirkus Reviews (starred) 08/15/2011*
*School Library Journal 09/01/2011*
*Publisher’s Weekly (starred) 07/25/2011*
*Library Media Connection 11/01/2011*
*Wilson’s Children and Junior High School 10/01/2012*

**Awards or Honors:**
2012 ALA Notable Children’s Books
2012 Newbery Medal
2012 Best of the Best from Chicago Public Library
2012 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
2012 Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction
Chosen for state award lists in Kansas, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Maine, Oregon, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Wyoming

**Author Website:**
Other Books by Author:

Joey Pigza series
Jack Henry Adventures (5 books)
Desire Lines

Hole in my Life
Rotten Ralph series
The Love Curse of the Rumbaughs

Related Books:

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt
A Long Way from Chicago by Richard Peck

Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath

Like – Try – Why:

Like Everything on a Waffle by Polly Horvath?
Try Dead End in Norvelt by Jack Gantos!

Why – Like Primrose, Jack is forced to spend his time with a mothball-scented elderly lady and solve a mystery that has befallen his town.

**Annotation:**
In 1896, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Willie Hammond assumes a false identity and begins teaching at the Cherokee Female Seminary where she will confront bullies, race issues, and a vengeful ghost while finding love and adventure in Indian Territory.

**Booktalk:**
Willie Hammond has a secret. She’s taken a job teaching at the Cherokee Female Seminary in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where a student’s death is shrouded in mystery. Her students are refined and posh, bullying her and the lesser students in the class. When Willie discovers that her room belonged to the dead girl, strange happenings begin to occur, possibly tied to the boy from a nearby school that she can’t stop thinking about and who is wrapped up in the mystery of the dead girl. This ghost story involves class issues, mystery, suspense, and a little romance.

**Reviews:**
*Horn Book* (starred) 11/01/2011  
*Booklist* 06/01/2011  
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* 06/01/2011  
*School Library Journal* 09/01/2011  
*Publisher’s Weekly* 04/18/2011  
*Library Media Connection* 11/01/2011  
*Wilson’s Senior High School* 11/01/2012

**Awards or Honors:**
2012 Parents’ Choice Silver Honor  
2012 Oklahoma Book Award for Young Readers  
2012 SCBWI Crystal Kite Award Finalist  
2011 ABC New Voices Extended List

**Author Website:**

**Other Books by Author:**
*The Dark Between*

**Related Books:**
*Hereafter* by Tara Hudson  
*Code Name Verity* by Elizabeth Wein  
*Anna Dressed in Blood* by Kendare Blake  
*The Unbecoming of Mara* Dyer by Michelle Hodkin
Like – Try – Why:
Like *Hereafter* by Tara Hudson?
Try *The Revenant* by Sonia Gensler!
Why – Both are ghost stories set in Oklahoma that focus on mystery and a little romance.

**Annotation:**
Charlie Joe Jackson hates reading and finds a way to scheme his way out of it with help from his friend Timmy, who eventually blabs to the entire middle school about the plan and Charlie is desperate to redeem his reputation, a girl and his life!

**Booktalk:**
I HATE TO READ! How often have you heard that expression? How many of you have ever felt this way? How about if you figured out a way to skip of all of your reading for the entire school year? Middle school would be a breeze then! I thought I had the perfect plan to avoid reading but, as we all know, no plan is perfect! When my plan was discovered by my teachers and parents, I had to figure out a new way to avoid reading without being caught. But, all I can think about is my crush on this girl Eliza! Luckily, I have a plan to win her heart too, but if my parents and teachers bust me again, I may be grounded for life! Will the truth be discovered and if so, will I ever survive my middle school years?

**Reviews:**
*Booklist (starred) 05/01/2011*
*Horn Book Spring 2012*
*Kirkus Reviews 06/15/2011*
*School Library Journal 09/01/2011*
*Publisher’s Weekly 05/30/2011*
*Library Media Connection (starred) 11/01/2011*

**Awards or Honors:**
Chosen for state award lists in Florida, Georgia, Arizona, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Maine, and Oregon

**Author Website:**

**Other Books by Author:**
*Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Extra Credit*
*Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Summer Vacation*

**Related Books:**
*Liar, Liar: The Theory, Practice and Destructive Properties of Deception* by Gary Paulsen
*Hound Dog True* by Linda Urban
*Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life* by, James Patterson
*No Talking* by Andrew Clement
Like – Try – Why:
Like *Liar, Liar* by Gary Paulsen?
Try *Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Not Reading* by Tom Greenwald!
Why – Kevin will say whatever it takes to make his life easier, and Charlie Joe will do the same. Are their lives actually easier after all the lies or will there be some unexpected consequences?

**Annotation:**
Through accessible verse, a seventh grader named Addie tries to grasp the challenges of being an outspoken, yet sensitive person who cares about her friends and fellow students.

**Booktalk:**
Thirteen-year-old Addie Carle wants to change the world. Addie is a sensitive and caring young lady, yet when she wants to get her point across she is unbending. When given the opportunity, Addie will defend her beliefs. Through many experiences, Addie will touch many lives, and change the minds of a few. The telling of this superb story is done in excellent verse. It will inspire young people to stand-up for the important things in life, and let the small issues go.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 06/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews* 06/01/2011
*School Library Journal (starred)* 08/01/2011
*Publisher’s Weekly (starred)* 05/16/2011
*Horn Book* 04/01/2012

**Awards or Honors:**
Chosen for state award lists in Vermont and Kentucky

**Author Website:**
[http://authors.simonandschuster.com/James-Howe/20539048](http://authors.simonandschuster.com/James-Howe/20539048)

**Other Books by Author:**
*The Misfits*  
*Bunnicula Series*  
*Totally Joe*  
*Pinky and Rex Series*  
*The Watcher*  
*The Celery Stalks at Midnight*  
Over 80 more books can be found where books are purchased

**Related Books:**
*Prettiest Doll* by Gina Willner-Pardo  
*Gorgeous* by Paul Rudnick  
*The Wild Book* by Margarita Engle
Like – Try – Why:
Like *The Day Before* by Lisa Schroeder?
Try *Addie on the Inside* by James Howe!
Why – Like Amber, Addie has to face issues that make her uncomfortable, but she learns that problems will arise in life and each person must deal with those problems on their own terms.

Annotation:
Solveig is in hiding with her brother and sister while her father, the king, goes to war; however, danger finds them even in the frozen lands and they must find a way to survive until their father comes for them.

Booktalk:
Princess Solveig is sent with her brother and sister to wait out a war her father is waging. He is to come to them before the land freezes over and they are trapped. They are excited to see the ships in the nick of time, but it seems their father has not come; he has sent his Berzerkers to protect them: his most fierce, trusted warriors with mythical abilities when angered. However, when the entire camp becomes ill, and people start dying, it becomes clear there is a traitor in their midst, and no one is safe. Set within the medieval Nordic time period, Icefall is rich in Nordic mythology. Princess Solveig grows up while trapped in the ice and discovers her own talents as a skald, a storyteller, and she will learn the stories of her people and become a keeper of history… if only she has the courage to tell her father when he arrives.

Reviews:
Booklist 11/15/2011
Kirkus Reviews 09/15/2011
School Library Journal 11/01/2011
Publisher’s Weekly (starred) 09/26/2011
Horn Book 01/01/2012
Voice of Youth Advocates 10/01/2011
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 12/01/2011
Shelf Awareness 10/04/2011
Wilson’s Children’s Catalog 01/01/2012

Awards and Honors:
2011 CYBILS Finalist
2012 Utah Book Award
2012 Edgar Award for Best Juvenile Mystery
2012 PEN Center USA Literary Award for Children’s Literature
2012 Judy Lopez Memorial Award
2011 Agatha Award Finalist
2011 Parents Choice Gold Medal
2012 ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults
Named a New York Public Library 100 Books for Reading and Sharing
Chosen for the state award lists in Arizona and South Carolina
Author Website:
http://matthewjkirby.com/kirbside/

Other Books by Author:
The Clockwork Three
The Lost Kingdom

Infinity Ring: Book Five

Related Books:
The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld

Like – Try – Why:
Like The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan?
Try Icefall by Matthew Kirby!
Why – Both books have exciting stories rooted in mythology.

Like Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld?
Try Icefall by Matthew Kirby!
Why – Heirs to the throne are sent to frozen lands for protection, and instead, they find themselves in great adventure.

**Annotation:**
This novel-in-verse tells of Lupita’s struggle throughout her high school years in caring for her younger siblings during her mother’s fight with cancer after the family immigrated to the United States from Mexico.

**Booktalk:**
This story of a close-knit Mexican-American immigrant family is told in two to three page verses in the words of a 16-year-old girl written while sitting under a gnarled old mesquite tree. Lupita’s family has moved from Mexico to the U.S. in order to have a better life. And for a while, it is better. Here’s an example written a few years after moving to Texas:

“It’s been more than eight years
since my parents transplanted us,
And our family has grown.
We’ve been pretty happy,
living the American Dream
here in Eagle Pass.”

And then as she realizes that something is wrong with her mother:

“But lately Mami’s changed.
She seems distracted.
Worry lines burden her forehead
day and night no matter how hard
I try to make her smile.”

And finally with a foreshadowing of events to come when Mami’s illness becomes apparent:

“A thorny mesquite has sprouted
in the middle of her rose garden.
Even after Mami has pulled it out
by its roots repeatedly,
it keeps growing back.
Papi says the mesquite is nice to have.
And we will come to appreciate
its simple beauty among her delicate roses.”

When Lupita learns Mami has cancer, she is terrified by the possibility of losing the anchor of her close-knit family. Suddenly, being a high school student, starring in a play, and dealing with friends who don’t always understand, become less important than doing whatever she can to save Mami’s life. While her father cares for Mami at an out-of-town clinic, Lupita, **thrust into caring for** her seven younger siblings, takes refuge in the shade of the old mesquite tree to escape the chaos and write.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 10/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews (starred)* 08/15/2011
*School Library Journal* 01/01/2011
Reviews:
Horn Book 04/01/2012
Voice of Youth Advocates 01/01/2011
Library Media Connection (starred) Jan-Feb 2012
Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books 01/01/2012
Wilson’s Junior High School 10/01/2012
Wilson’s Senior High School 11/01/2012

Awards and Honors:
2012 ALA Notable Children’s Books
2012 Pura Belpre Author Award
2012 William C. Morris YA Debut Finalist
2012 YALSA Best Fiction for Young Adults
2012 Mariposa Award
Chosen for state award lists in Texas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and North Carolina

Author Website:
http://www.guadalupegarciamccall.com

Other Books by Author:
Summer of the Mariposas

Related Books:
Addie on the Inside by James Howe
Keesha’s House by Helen Frost
Orchards by Holly Thompson
Hidden by Helen Frost

Like – Try – Why:
Like Keesha’s House by Helen Frost?
Try Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall!
Why – They tell stories in poetry of teenagers as they courageously struggle to hold their lives together and overcome their difficulties.

**Annotation:**
Twelve-year-old Drew is a loner who works in her mother’s cheese shop until the day she meets Emmett Crane, a teen who knows about rats and who leads Drew on an adventure of discovery, friendship, and familial love.

**Booktalk:**
Drew believes her summer is made. She'll spend her summer days working in her mom's cheese shop, feeding leftovers to her pet rat, and hanging out with her coworker and secret crush, surfer Nick. But her summer becomes much more than she expected when she discovers her deceased father’s book of lists. Suddenly, Drew begins to wonder what she's doing with her life. Then she meets Emmet in the alley behind her mother's shop. He knows a lot about rats and leads Drew on an adventure she'll never forget.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 06/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews* 06/01/2011
*School Library Journal* 01/01/2011
*Horn Book* (starred) 07/01/2011
*Voice of Youth Advocates* 06/01/2011
*Library Media Connection* 11/01/2011
*Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* 07/01/2011
*Publisher’s Weekly* (starred) 05/23/2011

**Awards and Honors:**
Bank Street Child Study Children's Book Award Nominee
2011 Kid's Indie Next List “Inspired Recommendations for Kids from Indie Booksellers” Winner
Chosen for state award lists in New Mexico and Virginia

**Author Website:**
[http://danareinhardt.net/](http://danareinhardt.net/)

**Other Books by Author:**
*A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*  
*Harmless*

*How to Build a House*  
*The Things a Brother Knows*

**Related Books:**
*Nicholas Dane* by Melvin Burgess  
*Anything but Ordinary* by Valerie Hobbs

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Saenz

*Swimming in the Monsoon Sea* by Shyam Selvadurai
Like – Try – Why:
Like Close to Famous by Joan Bauer?
Try The Summer I Learned to Fly by Dana Reinhardt!
Why – The stories are about teenage girls who are raised by their mothers, have a connection with food, and are led on an adventure. What’s not to love?

**Annotation:**
In the summer of 1968, as a fourteen-year-old moving to a new town, with no friends, an abusive father, and a louse for an older brother, Doug Swieteck has all the stats stacked against him until he finds an ally in a fiery young lady named Lil and faces the possibility of her death.

**Booktalk:**
At the heart of *Okay for Now* is the sense of wonder Doug feels as he discovers a book of drawings by John James Audubon in a public library. Doug is captivated by the ever-changing emotions expressed by the birds in the drawings… emotions that Doug is experiencing in his real life.

In some ways, Doug is your typical middle schooler. He can be sarcastic and put up a tough front for his peers and teachers, but it’s easy to see through these defenses to the basic goodness right below the surface. It’s Doug’s vulnerability that makes him most appealing. And vulnerable he is—in a difficult situation—having moved to a new town, led there by a father whose hot temper snuffs out any chance his family might have at finding happiness in a new place. When school starts, Doug quickly becomes a pariah, suffering under the combined weight of his older brother’s bad reputation and a humiliating tattoo etched on his skin, a “birthday gift” forced on Doug by his drunken father. Only his friendship with Lil seems to offer him some emotional balance.

Returning to the Audubon drawings, Doug’s quest to find pages missing from the book mirrors his quest to make himself whole. By the end, whatever the outcome of the narrative, the reader is left with no doubt that Doug has achieved what he set out to do.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 04/14/2011
*Kirkus Reviews (starred)* 03/01/2011
*School Library Journal (starred)* 04/01/2011
*Horn Book* 05/01/2011
*Voice of Youth Advocates* 06/01/2011
*Library Media Connection (starred)* 08/01/2011
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* 05/01/2011

**Awards and Honors:**
2011 A National Book Award Finalist
2012 An ALA Notable Children's Book
2012 An ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults Pick
2012 A Children's Choice Award winner
2011 An Amazon Best Book of the Year – Children’s Middle Grades
2011 An IndieNext Pick
2011 A Barnes & Noble Recommends Selection
2013 NPR Backseat Book Club pick for February
Awards and Honors:
Chosen for state award lists in Arkansas, Utah, Connecticut, Arizona, South Carolina, Kansas, Kentucky, Texas, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Indiana, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Illinois, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

Author Website:
http://www.hmhbooks.com/schmidt/

Other Books by Author:
Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy
Trouble
First Boy
What Came from the Stars
The Wednesday Wars
Anson’s Way
Straw into Gold
Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert

Related Books:
Wonder by R.J. Palacio
Welcome to Hokey Pokey by Jerry Spinelli
Bluefish by Pat Schmatz
Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead
Wonderstruck by Brian Selznick
Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nicholls

Like – Try – Why:
Like Liar and Spy by Rebecca Stead?
Try Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt!
Why – The meaning of secrets and deceptions in relationships is explored through family struggles and a friendship which saves the main character.

**Annotation:**
Lina, a Lithuanian girl, and her family are taken from their home in 1941 by the Soviet government and they are imprisoned and forced into years of hard labor while Lina struggles to keep her family alive.

**Booktalk:**
Was Hitler the only leader who gathered up people, took their possessions, and sent them off to hard labor camps? NO! The leader of the Soviet Union, Stalin, had his secret police take entire families of the Baltic States.

*Between Shades of Gray* takes the reader on a journey filled with agony, inhuman conditions, and unbelievable suffering. Lina’s Lithuanian family had their normal lives taken from them in 1941. Through many years of starvation, and illness, Lina is determined to survive and somehow tell the world what was being done by Stalin. Sadness is not all that Lina sees. She finds that love and compassion are possible.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* (starred) 02/01/2011
*Kirkus Reviews* (starred) 01/15/2011
*School Library Journal* (starred) 03/01/2011
*Horn Book* 05/01/2011
*Voice of Youth Advocates* 04/01/2011
*Library Media Connection* (starred) 08/01/2011
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* 05/01/2011
*Wilson’s Senior High School* 10/01/11
*Wilson’s Junior High School* 09/01/11
*Teacher Librarian* 02/01/12

**Awards and Honors:**
2012 William C. Morris YA Debut Finalist
2012 ALA Notable Children's Book
2011 Booklist Editors Choice
2012 Golden Kite Award for Fiction
2011 CYBILS Finalist
2012 YALSA’s Top 10 Best Fiction for Young Adults
2012 Carnegie Medal Nominee
2012 Notable Books for a Global Society Award
2012 IRA Children’s and Young Adult’s Book Award
2011 Winner of the Prix RTL Lire for Best Novel For Young People in France
2012 Waterstones Children’s Book Prize Nominee in the UK
Awards and Honors:
Automatically Yours – CATS Awards
Chosen for state award lists in Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Rhode Island, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin

Author Website:
http://rutasepetys.com/

Other Books by Author:
*Out of the Easy*

Related Books:
*The Impossible Journey* by Gloria Whelan          *Dangerous Neighbors* by Beth Kephart
*The FitzOsbornes at War* by Michelle Cooper       *Delusion* by Laura L. Sullivan

Like – Try – Why:
Like *A Brief History of Montmaray* by Michelle Cooper?
Try *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys!
Why – The lives of Lina and Sophie are gripping tales of devotion to their countries, families, and friends.

**Annotation:**
In order to keep her orphaned family together, Puck Connolly decides she will be the first girl to win her island’s annual water horse race, and she enlists the help of past race champion Sean Kendrick to teach her how to manage the mythical, violent sea creatures.

**Booktalk:**
Every November on the misty island of Thisby, riders compete in the Scorpio Races, a dangerous contest to see who can survive training and racing the island’s mythical and violent water horses. Puck Connolly was never meant to participate in the races, but when her family’s future becomes dependent on the money she could win, she decides she will be the first girl ever to take part. Puck turns to nineteen-year-old Sean Kendrick, a natural rider and the race’s defending champion, for help. Sean and Puck strike up an unlikely friendship, and they grow closer even though both of their futures depend on the outcome of the deadly race. Ultimately, there can be only one winner.

**Reviews:**
- *Booklist (starred)* 09/01/2011
- *Kirkus Reviews (starred)* 09/01/2011
- *School Library Journal (starred)* 11/01/2011
- *Horn Book (starred)* 11/01/2011
- *Voice of Youth Advocates* 10/01/2011
- *Library Media Connection (starred)* 03/01/2011
- *Wilson’s Senior High School* 11/01/11
- *Wilson’s Junior High School* 10/01/11
- *Teacher Librarian* 04/01/12

**Awards and Honors:**
- 2012 ALA Notable Children’s Books
- 2012 Michael L. Printz Award Honor
- 2012 Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts (National Council of Teachers of English)
- 2012 ALA Teens’ Top 10
- 2012 *Los Angeles Times* Book Times Award Finalist
- 2011 *Publishers Weekly* Best Children's Books of 2011
- 2011 Amazon's Best Books for Teens
- 2012 YALSA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults
Awards and Honors:
Chosen for state award lists in Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Arizona, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin

Author Website:
http://maggiestiefvater.com/

Other Books by Author:
The Shiver Trilogy (Shiver, Linger, and Forever)  The Raven Boys
The Books of Faerie (Lament and Ballad)

Related Books:
Ship Breaker by Paolo Bacigalupi  The Maze Runner by James Dashner
Clockwork Angel by Cassandra Clare
Bloody Jack: being an account of the curious adventures of Mary “Jacky” Faber, Ship’s Boy by L.A. Meyer

Like – Try – Why:
Like The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins?
Try The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater!
Why - Puck and Sean team up to prepare together for a deadly race on which their futures depend. As they begin to fall for one another, they realize only one of them can be victorious, and they may not even survive.

**Annotation:**
Jessica’s dream was to become a world class runner, but now that she has lost a leg in a school bus crash, can her friends help her find her dream again?

**Booktalk:**
Waking up in a hospital with only one leg is bad enough, but to Jessica, who lived to run, it was a nightmare. With the help of her best friend, Fiona, Jessica is coaxed out of the house and back into life. When her friends and track team come up with the idea to get Jessica a running prosthesis, Jessica starts to dream of running again. Jessica is helped along the way by Rosa, a classmate who is a wiz at math but is confined to a wheel chair with cerebral palsy. With her new running leg in place Jessica starts training for the local 10-mile River Run. While she is training, Jessica devises a plan to help Rosa run too.

**Reviews:**
*Booklist* 01/01/2011  
*Kirkus Reviews* 12/15/2010  
*School Library Journal* 02/01/2011  
*Horn Book (starred)* 03/01/2011  
*Voice of Youth Advocates* 02/01/2011  
*Library Media Connection (starred)* 08/01/2011  
*Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* 02/01/2011  
*Wilson's Senior High School* 10/01/11  
*Wilson's Junior High School* 09/01/11  
*Teacher Librarian* 10/01/2011

**Awards and Honors:**
2012 Schneider Family Book Award  
Chosen for state award lists in Arkansas, Utah, Connecticut, Georgia, South Carolina, Iowa, Kansas, Texas, Louisiana, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Missouri, Vermont, Wisconsin, South Carolina, Indiana, and California

**Author Website:**
http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/vandraanen/ - Includes a biography, book trailer, and more  
http://etrtr.blogspot.com/ - the author’s blog
Other Books by Author:

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<th>Shredderman series</th>
<th>Sammy Keyes series</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Gecko &amp; Sticky Series</td>
<td>How I Survived Being a Girl</td>
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<td>Flipped</td>
<td>Swear to Howdy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runaway</td>
<td>Confessions of a Serial Kisser</td>
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Related Books:

| Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie and After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick |
| Out of my Mind by Sharon Draper | Lost in a River of Grass by Ginny Rorby |
| Blindsided by Priscilla Cummings | Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock |

Like – Try – Why:

Like Blindsided by Priscilla Cummings?
Try The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen!

Why – Overcoming a physical handicap causes these girls to face tough challenges and learn to live life to the fullest despite their differences.