FALL 2021 • SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER

INSPIRING YOUNG READERS WITH
THOUGHTFUL STORIES AND DISTINCTIVE ART

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PAGE STREET KiDS
To Break a Covenant

Debut voice Alison Ames delivers with a chilling, feminist thriller, perfect for fans of *Wilder Girls* and *Sawkill Girls*, about four friends whose bonds are tested when their town’s rundown mine refuses to let anyone leave.

Moon Basin has been haunted for as long as anyone can remember. It started when an explosion in the mine killed sixteen people. The disaster made it impossible to live in town, with underground fires spewing ash into the sky. But life in New Basin is just as fraught. The ex-mining town relies on its haunted reputation to bring in tourists, but there’s more truth to the rumors than most are willing to admit, and the mine still has a hold on everyone who lives there.

Clem and Nina form a perfect loop—best friends forever, and perhaps something more. Their circle opens up for a strange girl named Lisey with a knack for training crows, and Piper, whose father is fascinated with the mine in a way that’s anything but ordinary. The people of New Basin start experiencing strange phenomena—sleepwalking, night te...

Alison Ames lives in Colorado with a lot of animals and her almost-wife. She loves birds, comics, and the rule of three. TO BREAK A COVENANT is her debut novel. Find her on social media @2furiosa, and if you know (or are) Harry Styles she insists you do so.
Pitched as *Speak* for boys, this is a raw and moving story about abusive teen relationships, masculinity, sexual agency, and identity.

Owen Turner is a boy of too many words. For years, they all stayed inside his head and he barely spoke—until he met Lily. Lily, the girl who gave him his voice, helped him come out as bi, and settle into his ASD diagnosis. But everything unravels when someone reports Owen’s biggest secret to the school: that he was sexually assaulted at a class event.

As officials begin interviewing students to get to the bottom of things, rumors about an assault flood the school hallways. No one knows it happened to Owen, and he’s afraid of what will happen if his name gets out. He’s afraid that his classmates will call him a word he can’t stand—“victim.” He’s afraid his father, a tough-as-nails military vet, will resort to extreme methods to hunt down the name of who did it. And he’s afraid that when Lily finds out, she’ll...

Zack Smedley is the author of *Deposing Nathan*, which the *New York Times* said “is a superb story, told in an original and masterly way.” As a member of the LGBT community, his goal is to give a voice to queer young adults, through gritty, morally complex narratives.
A madcap mystery about a rascally trickster and their equally “tricky” and fun words!

Deer wakes up to find one of his antlers is missing...and there’s a tennis racket in its place? One by one his friends also uncover that their important items from glasses to lucky boots have been swapped with silly, useless replacements like donuts and swim flippers. They’ve been hornswoggled! (Hornswoggled means tricked.) It’s pure poppycock! (Poppycock means nonsense.)

Once they gather together to find out what happened, will they find the true thief or be outfoxed? Laugh along with a hilarious cast of animal characters searching for the mysterious trickster in this humorous whodunit bursting with exciting, wacky words that kids will love.

Josh Crute loves silly words like flabbergast and bumbershoot. He is the author of multiple picture books including Oliver: The Second Largest Living Thing on Earth and Jonas Hanway’s Scurrilous, Scandalous, Shockingly Sensational Umbrella (both with Page Street Kids). He currently lives in Birmingham, Alabama.

Jenn Harney is the author and illustrator of Underwear! and Swim Swim Sink, and has illustrated numerous other books as well. Along with creating children’s books, she is a frequent contributor to Highlights for Children. She enjoys really really bad movies and set painting for a local high school. She lives in Ohio with her family and their corgi named Steve.
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SONIA HARTL

The Lost Girls: A Vampire Revenge Story

Sonia Hartl’s *The Lost Girls* is laced with dark humor and queer love; it’s *John Tucker Must Die* with a feminist girl gang of vampires.

When Ezra Irving turned Holly Liddell into a vampire in 1987, he promised her eternal love. But thirty-four years later, Ezra has left her, her hair will be crimped for the rest of immortality, and the only job she can get as a forever-sixteen-year-old is the midnight shift at Taco Bell.

Holly’s afterlife takes an interesting turn when, she meets Rose McKay and Ida Ripley. Having also been turned and discarded by Ezra—Rose in 1954, and Ida, his ex-fiancée, in 1921—they want to help her, and ask for her help in return.

Rose and Ida are going to kill Ezra before he turns another girl. Though Holly is hurt and angry with Ezra for tossing her aside, she’s reluctant to kill her ex, until Holly meets Parker Kincaid—the new girl Ezra has set his sights on—and feels a quick, and nerve-wracking attraction to her.

Sonia Hartl is the author of *Not Your #Lovestory* and *Have a Little Faith in Me* (Page Street), which received a starred review in *BookPage* and earned nominations for the Georgia Peach Book Award, YALSA’s Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers, and ALA’s Rise: A Feminist Book Project List. When she’s not writing or reading, she’s enjoying pub trivia, marathoning Disney movies, or taking a walk outside in the fall. She’s a member of SCBWI and the Managing Director for Pitch Wars 2020. She lives in Grand Rapids, MI, with her husband and two daughters. Follow her on Twitter @SoniaHartl.
Stan Lee didn’t have hulking strength. Or fantastic flexibility. Or cat-like reflexes. His superpower was creating heroes who did.

Every superhero has their origin story: a radioactive spider bite turns ordinary teen Peter Parker into Spider-Man, wealthy Tony Stark escapes captivity by building his Iron Man suit, scientist Bruce Banner survives gamma rays only to transform into the Hulk.

For Stan Lee, it was books of adventure, monsters, and magic that helped him transform from an ordinary boy to a superstar superhero creator. At first, reading these stories was a pathway to a world bigger than his family’s tiny apartment in New York City, but it wasn’t long until Stan was crafting his own stories, creating comics professionally when he was still just a teenager! Still, writing wasn’t exciting when the heroes were always the same: strong, perfect, and boring. Stan had a revolutionary idea. What if anyone—even an ordinary kid—could b...

Annie Hunter Eriksen grew up with a love of superheroes, and remains a huge Marvel nerd to this day. Her favorite comic book series is Ms. Marvel. She works as a freelance writer and lives in Ohio with her husband, cat named Cosmo, and hedgehog named Pineapple.

Lee Gatlin learned to draw by looking at cartoons, kids’ books, and comics. He is the illustrator of the Monster School by Kate Coombs (Chronicle). In addition to drawing and making things, he enjoys making a racket on the piano or banjo. An illustrator and cartoonist, he lives with wife and three children in Georgia.
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The lush setting of Caraval meets the magical mystery of The Prestige in this unique, high-concept fantasy.

The Splendor isn’t just a glamorous hotel, it’s a magical experience that gives its guests the fantasy fulfillment of their dreams. But The Splendor didn’t make Juliette’s dreams come true. It ruined her life.

After a weeklong stay, Juliette’s sister, Clare, returns from the hotel changed. Her connection to Juliette—the special bond they once shared—has vanished. In a moment of hurt and frustration, Juliette steals their meager savings and visits The Splendor herself.

When she arrives, she’s taken in by the lush and sumptuous hotel. But as she delves more deeply into the mystery of the place, and how they make their illusions work, she grows more and more uneasy. The Splendor has a seedy underbelly, but every time she gets close to discovering something real, she seems to hit a wall.

Meanwhile, Juliette ...

Breeana Shields is the author of The Bone Charmer duology (Page Street) and the Poison’s Kiss duology (Random House BFYR). She graduated from Brigham Young University with a BA in English. When she’s not writing, Breeana loves reading, traveling, and playing board games with her extremely competitive family. She lives near Washington D.C. with her husband, her three children, and two adorable, but spoiled dogs. Follow her on Twitter @BreeanaShields.
In this action-packed sequel, Amparo Ortiz expands the world of dragon sports to illegal fight rings—it’s *Fight Club* with dragons!

After the Sire’s capture, teen athletes Lana Torres and Victoria Peralta travel to Puerto Rico with their former Blazewrath team. While Lana discovers her roots, nothing fills the void Blazewrath’s cancelation has left in Victoria. But it’s up to their team and the Bureau to protect their dragons.

But when reports of burning towns and kidnapped dragons dominate the news, Director Sandhar refuses to answer the girls’s questions. So they follow him into his Transport Charm into Le Parc Du Chasseurs.

In this French theme park, they find dragons forced to fight. When the Blazewrath World Cup ended, people turned to this illegal sport for wealth. So now, not only are the Sire’s followers looking to release him, the leader of this fighting ring wants the Puerto Rico’s dragons to fight in Bloodbath too.

Amparo Ortiz is the author of *Blazewrath Games* (Page Street, 2020). She was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and currently lives on the island’s northeastern coast. Her short story comic, “What Remains in The Dark,” appears in the Eisner Award-winning anthology *Puerto Rico Strong* (Lion Forge, 2018), and SAVING CHUPIE, her middle grade graphic novel, comes out with HarperCollins in Winter 2022. She holds an M.A. in English and a B.A. in Psychology from the UPR’s Río Piedras campus. When she’s not teaching ESL to her college students, she’s teaching herself Korean, devouring as much young adult fiction as she can, and writing about Latinx characters in worlds both contemporary and fantastical.
After her excitement spins out of control in slapstick comedic scenes kids will love, an energetic young girl discovers how to calm down and be present in the moment.

Meena is excited to visit Dada and explore all the exciting sights and sensations of his home with him. But Meena has so much energy, it becomes a whole imaginary character she calls her hurly-burly hullabaloo. Wherever Meena goes, her hurly-burly hullabaloo goes too. Together they’re never calm, as they run and cartwheel and make a lot of noise!

When Meena makes a mess, her grandfather is there to teach her how to handle it with deep breaths and meditative poses—after all, he has a hurly-burly hullabaloo too.

With vibrant art and engaging characters (real and imagined), this charming story all about mindfulness will be wonderfully relatable to anyone with a rambunctious hurly-burly hullabaloo of their own.

Tina Athaide is an educator and the author of middle grade novel Orange for the Sunsets (HarperCollins), and multiple easy leveled readers. Born in Uganda, she grew up in London and Canada. She now lives in California with her husband, Ron, and their daughter, Isabella.

Åsa Gilland works in graphic design, packaging design and illustration. She has illustrated multiple picture books, including Flibbertigibbety Words (Page Street Kids). Originally from Sweden, she has lived in Indonesia for over twenty years.
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True Grit meets Sadie in this #ownvoices near-future revenge thriller that tackles capitalism, queerness, and revolution.

Seventeen-year-old Dinah runs her family’s farm in the Ozarks. When she finds her grief-stricken mother dead in the living room with wealthy rancher Gabriel Gates standing over her, Dinah’s life narrows to a single point: kill Gabriel Gates.

But Gates has built his wealth giving out bad loans and surrounds himself with bodyguards. Dinah’s mountains are now one giant foreclosure, including her own farm. It all belongs to him. Once he puts a ten-thousand-dollar reward on Dinah’s head, everyone in the starving county wants a piece of her.

Homeless and alone in the woods, all she has is Johnny, the moonshining bootlegger at home in the caves. He begs her to leave the mountains, to start over with a new life. But Dinah is hell-bent on sparking a county revolution. She’ll lose her life to see this killer dead.

Kate Brauning is the author of How We Fall (Simon Pulse/2014), which received positive reviews from Booklist, School Library Journal, Kirkus, and VOYA, and was shortlisted for the Killer Nashville Silver Falchion Best YA Novel award. She is currently a developmental editor with Dovetail/Working Partners, with her list including two USA Today bestsellers, 5 starred reviews, a Nebraska Book Award winner, a RITA finalist, and a Kirkus indie book of the month.
An underground exploration of the many holes we dig introduces kids to environmental issues in a fun and accessible way.

Like busy moles, we humans dig an awful lot of holes to get things done, in the ground, in our oceans, and even in our bathrooms! We dig holes in sandboxes to play games with friends, on ancient sites to discover awesome treasure and fossils, and on farms to plant the food we eat. Unfortunately, we also dig holes that aren’t so wholesome—holes that rip apart the ground, spill dangerous chemicals, and permanently damage the earth. Going on this way means digging nature into a deeper hole, but used correctly, our shovels and machines might be able to help our planet instead of destroy it.

In whimsical rhyme and delightfully strange illustrations, these moles unearth the good and bad excitement happening beneath our feet, exposing our huge environmental impact and urging us to put our harmful ways back und...

Springer Badger favored a simple, clean art style for this book to make the busy spreads easy for readers to understand. They earned a BFA in Illustration from the University of Central Missouri and are currently finishing an MFA in Children’s Book Writing and Illustrating at Hollins University. They currently live in Salem, Massachusetts. This is their debut picture book.
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This thorough guide from teenage chef Matthew Merril will turn young novices into confident bakers who’ll amaze everyone (and themselves!) with their crowd-pleasing treats.

With recurring appearances on the Food Network and millions of followers of his cooking Tik Tok channel under the belt, culinary prodigy Matthew Merril knows a thing or two about baking; accordingly, young bakers looking to learn indispensable skills in the kitchen will be wowed by what *Teen Baking Bootcamp* has to offer. Featuring tempting recipe after tempting recipe, this book has everything to help precocious readers grasp the fundamentals of baking, while churning out all the donuts, cakes, cookies and more they’ve always wanted to master.

Highlighted by Matthew’s clear explanations and fun anecdotes and featuring tons of decorating and presentation tips, these 60 recipes are easy to follow, and will have readers grasping how ingredients interact together, which common mistakes all beginners should av...

Matthew Merril is a teenage cooking sensation who has notably featured on *Kids Baking Championship*, *Chopped Junior* and *Guy’s Grocery Games*. He has 1.6 million followers on Tik Tok, and is the creator of the Matthew in the Kitchen accounts on YouTube and Instagram. Matthew lives in Great Falls, Virginia.
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