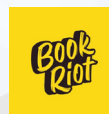


CREATED BY THE SPRINGFIELD-
GREENE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



United for Libraries
Association of Library Trustees,
Advocates, Friends and Foundations

Booklist
Leading book discovery



Springfield-Greene County Library District
Springfield, Missouri • thelibrary.org



SUMMER SCARES

a reading program from The Horror Writers Association (HWA), in partnership with United for Libraries, Book Riot, and Booklist, provides libraries and schools with an annual list of recommended horror titles for adult, young adult (teen), and middle-grade readers. It introduces

readers and librarians to new authors and helps start conversations extending beyond the books from each list and promotes reading for years to come.

Acclaimed and award-winning author Alma Katsu and a committee of five library workers have selected three recommended fiction titles in each reading level. The goal of the program is to encourage a national conversation about the horror genre, across all age levels, at libraries nationwide and ultimately attract more adults, teens, and children interested in reading.

For more information about Summer Scares, contact HWA Library Committee Co-Chairs Becky Spratford and Konrad Stump at libraries@horror.org. Library workers and authors who are interested in cultivating horror programming can contact Konrad Stump at konrads@thelibrary.org for assistance.

ALMA KATSU

Alma Katsu is the award-winning author of seven novels, most recently *The Fervor*, *Red Widow*, *The Deep*, and *The Hunger*.

She is a graduate of the master's writing program at Johns Hopkins University and received her bachelor's degree from Brandeis University. Prior to the publication of her first novel, Katsu had a long career as a senior intelligence analyst for several U.S. agencies. She lives in West Virginia with her husband.



"I'm thrilled to be the author representative to the Summer Scares programming committee and to have the honor of representing my fellow horror writers and be an advocate for the great writing that's being produced by the horror community. Horror is a widely loved genre, for many readers constituting their earliest reads, whether it's R.L. Stine or Edgar Allan Poe, and so I'm happy for the opportunity to work with librarians to introduce more horror stories and new authors to their patrons."

MEET THE COMMITTEE



Becky Spratford is a library consultant and the author of *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Horror*. She reviews horror for *Booklist Magazine*, is the horror

columnist for *Library Journal* and runs the blog *RA for All: Horror*. She is a Library Trustee member of United for Libraries and is currently serving as Secretary for the HWA and co-chair of the HWA's Library Committee.



Konrad Stump is a Local History Associate for the Springfield-Greene County (MO) Library, where he co-organizes the library's popular "Oh, the

Horror!" series. He also created the Donuts & Death horror book group, featured in "Book Club Reboot: 71 Creative Twists" (ALA). He serves as co-chair of the HWA's Library Committee.



Carolyn Ciesla is a library director at Elmhurst University in the Chicago suburbs. She has worked as a teen librarian and a reference librarian, and reviews horror titles for *Booklist Magazine*.



Julia Smith is a senior editor at *Booklist* and a member of the Books for Youth team, for whom she focuses on middle-grade lit and books for younger readers.



Kelly Jensen is a former librarian who works as an editor for *Book Riot*, where she runs the bi-weekly "What's Up in YA?" newsletter and writes about

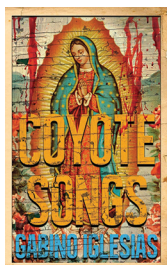
censorship, young adult books, horror, and more. Her books include the award-winning *(Don't) Call Me Crazy: 33 Voices Start the Conversation About Mental Health* and *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World*.



SUMMER SCARES

There's absolutely nothing to be afraid of ... it's just the Summer Scares reading initiative by the Horror Writers Association, Book Riot, Booklist and United for Libraries. Try the horror genre on for size with these curated titles.

ADULT



Coyote Songs

by Gabino Iglesias

Ghosts and old gods guide the hands of those caught up in a violent struggle to save the soul of the American

Southwest in this mosaic horror/crime novel that paints a timely, compelling, pulpy portrait of revenge, family, and hope.

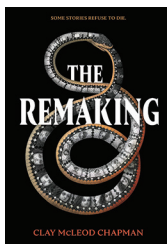


My Favorite Thing Is Monsters

by Emil Ferris

Set against the backgroup of late 1960s Chicago, Karen Reyes

tries to solve the murder of her upstairs neighbor, Anka, a holocaust survivor, in an investigation that explores how the personal, political, the past, and the present converge.



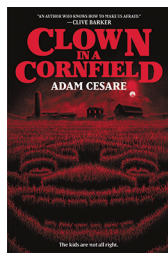
The Remaking

by Clay McLeod Chapman

Inspired by a real urban legend, this supernatural thriller for horror and true crime fans

follows a tale as it evolves every twenty years — from campfire story, to '70s B-movie, to a '90s meta-remake, to a popular true crime podcast.

YOUNG ADULT

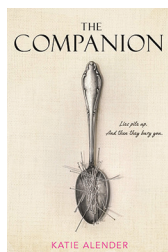


Clown in a Cornfield

by Adam Cesare

Quinn and her dad move to small town Kettle Springs for a fresh start. But then

local mascot Frendo, a creepy clown in a pork-pie hat, decides that the only way for Kettle Springs to be great again is to cull its rotten crop of kids.

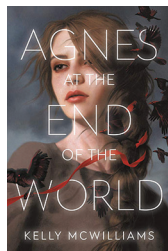


The Companion

by Kate Alender

Orphaned Margot moves into the Sutton family's country estate, only to find she was handpicked to

be a companion to Agatha, the Sutton's silent, mysterious daughter, and soon Margot realizes things are not what they seem.



Agnes at the End of the World

by Kelly McWilliams

Agnes escapes from the isolated Red Creek cult only to discover that the outside

world is in the grips of a viral pandemic, and as a mysterious connection grows between Agnes and the Virus, she may have to choose between saving her family and saving the world.

MIDDLE GRADE

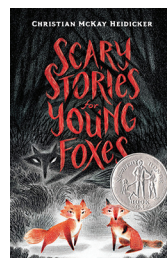


The Forgotten Girl

by India Hill Brown

Iris accidentally raises the ghost of Avery Moore, and as Iris works to appease Avery by bringing

recognition to the abandoned segregated cemetery where Avery is buried, Iris begins to worry that Avery is seeking a best friend forever in the afterlife.



Scary Stories for Young Foxes

by Christian McKay Heidicker

Featuring eight interconnected stories and 16 spooky illustrations, Scary

Stories for Young Foxes follows seven small foxes in the Antler Wood, listening to stories much later than they should, as they try to survive the night.



Beetle & the Hollowbones

by Aliza Layne

In the eerie town of 'Allows, Twelve-year-old goblin and witch-in-training Beetle

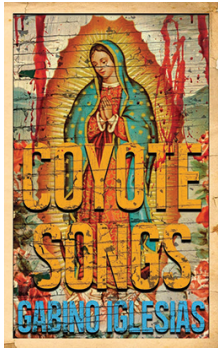
enlists her former best friend, Kat Hollowbones, to help stop Kat's sorceress aunt from demolishing the mall where Beetle's friend Blob Ghost is trapped.



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COYOTE SONGS

by GABINO IGLESIAS



In this mosaic horror/crime novel, ghosts and old gods guide the hands of those caught up in a violent struggle to save the soul of the American Southwest. A man tasked with shuttling children over the border believes the Virgin Mary is guiding him. A woman offers colonizer blood to the Mother of Chaos. A boy joins corpse destroyers to seek vengeance. These stories intertwine with those of a vengeful spirit and a hungry creature to paint a timely, compelling, pulpy portrait of revenge, family and hope.

APPEAL FACTORS

Tone: Emotionally intense; Violent

Character: Brooding; Culturally diverse; Flawed

Writing Style: Gritty; Incisive; Lyrical

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

This gritty but lyrically written novel is told through the intertwining stories of people living along the U.S./Mexico border: some striving to survive, some trying to help others, but all wanting better. Emotionally intense and often violent, the stories of these brooding or flawed characters guided by ghosts and old gods show what separates those living on either side of the border, but also the sense of family and hope for the future that connects everyone.

READ-ALIKES



The Only Good Indians by Stephen Graham Jones

The First Prehistoric Serial Killer and Other Stories by Teresa Solana

Never Have I Ever by Isabel Yap

Things We Lost in the Fire by Mariana Enriquez

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Barrio Noir: A Conversation with Gabino Iglesias

Interview Iglesias about coining the term Barrio Noir and all it encompasses, about how living in Austin inspires his writing, and his experience editing the anthology *Both Sides: Stories from the Border*.

Horror Across the Border

Partner with local Latin American groups and area academics or experts to discuss the horror genre in Mexico, from film, to comics, to books, examining the cultural and societal inspirations and what is universal in the stories being told.

Friday Night Frights: "Cronos"

Partner with a local theater to screen Guillermo del Toro's "Cronos." Follow up with a half hour discussion on experiencing horror in a different language, the film's vampire lore compared to eurocentric lore, and the universality of horror tropes.

Mosaic Stories Summer Writing Workshop

Partner with an area HWA chapter and local writers who will lead a four-session workshop around the idea of mosaic stories, choosing a theme or entity that connects each piece, and end with a public reading for participants and guests.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Coyote Songs is set along the U.S./Mexico border. What were your ideas about the area going into the book? How does your impression of the area compare after reading the book?

The book takes us in and out of the lives of people living along La Frontera. What connects the characters? Which character's story did you connect with most?

The characters are trying to better their lives or the lives of others. What obstacles do they face? How do these compare to the obstacles you face in achieving your goals?

The novel opens with Pedito and his father fishing. How do this activity and the father's hopes for his son compare to American ideals of fatherhood? How is Pedito shaped by what happens?

Violence plays an important role in the story. How did the characters' situations and reasons for violence influence your idea of whether they were good or bad people?

Inmaculada is very central to the story. How does her experience exemplify the emotions involved in the migrant experience? How does her grief show how violence and trauma can cause a ripple effect?

We meet migrants and people involved in the U.S. immigration system. How are the depictions of each group different from what we might see on the news? How can we contribute toward improving the migrant experience?

MY FAVORITE THING IS MONSTERS by EMIL FERRIS



Whitten Sabbatini

Set against the tumultuous political backdrop of late 1960s Chicago, *My Favorite Thing Is Monsters* is the fictional graphic diary of 10-year-old Karen Reyes, filled with B-movie horror and pulp monster magazine iconography. Karen tries to solve the murder of her neighbor, Anka,

a Holocaust survivor, while the interconnected stories of those around her unfold. When Karen's

investigation leads back to Anka's life in Nazi Germany, the reader discovers how the personal, the political, the past, and the present converge.

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: Authentic; Flawed; Introspective

Tone: Moving; Nostalgic

Illustration: Inventive; Lavish

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

This lavishly illustrated novel is the fictional graphic diary of Karen Reyes, an introspective, monster-obsessed 10-year-old in 1960s Chicago, as she investigates the death of her older neighbor, Anka, a Holocaust survivor. Karen interacts with a large cast of flawed but authentic characters as the past and present converge in what is both a nostalgic love letter to classic horror and art history, and a moving examination of the difference between monsters and the monstrous.

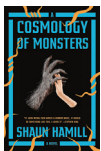
READ-ALIKES



Paper Girls by Brian K. Vaughn



Children of Chicago by Cynthia Pelayo



Skim by Mariko Tamaki

A Cosmology of Monsters by Shaun Hamill

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Drawing Monsters and Monstrous Man: A Conversation with Emil Ferris

Interview Ferris about her family's connections to the Art Institute of Chicago and the city's history, her childhood love of B-movie horror and the Universal monsters, and the difference between monsters and monstrous people.

[Insert Town/City] in the 1960s

Partner with area historians/local history library staff to revisit your town or region during the 1960s, with a particular focus on political protests and social movements, race and class relations, and how the times inspired area artists.

Monsters in Media and Memory

Partner with area academics or experts from the realms of art history, film, or books and comics, for a panel on media's most memorable monsters, from what works or movements inspired them, to public response, to what societal issues they examine.

Monsters out of Masterpieces with [Insert Artist Here]

Partner with area artists for a live art demonstration where some of art history's most indelible images are turned into monstrous creations, while the process and some of the famous pieces that inspire their work are discussed.

READING GROUP GUIDE

The book is presented as the diary of Karen Reyes. How does this enhance Karen's perspective and believability? How does the book's format compare to other graphic novels you've read?

The book examines what makes someone a monster. Why does Karen see herself as a werewolf? How do some of the monsters represent how those who look and act "different" are treated?

The book jumps from Karen's life in 1960s Chicago to Anka's life in WWII-era Europe. What societal issues exist in both stories? What parallels can be drawn between the lives of Karen and Anka?

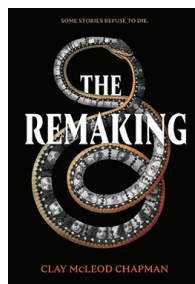
The two stories shift how horror is presented. How is horror seen through the eyes of Karen versus the eyes of Anka? How does Karen's experience investigating Anka's death alter how she sees horror and the monstrous?

Deeze is a central figure in Karen's life, but his life can be tumultuous. How might he be a victim of circumstance? How does his story examine whether people are good or bad or both?

The book is partly a coming of age story. How has Karen navigated the hardships of her life by the end? What has she learned about herself and how has she grown to see herself?

The book ends with a number of questions left unanswered. What would you hope for Karen in another installment? Who do you think killed Anka?

THE REMAKING by CLAY MCLEOD CHAPMAN



Inspired by an actual urban legend, this supernatural thriller follows the story of Ella Louise and her daughter Jessica, burned as witches in 1930s Pilot's Creek, Virginia, as it evolves every twenty years — first around a campfire in the 1950s, then when

Amber Pendleton is cast as Jessica in a 1970s movie about the Witch Girl of Pilot's Creek, again when Amber is cast as Ella Louise in a '90s meta-remake, and finally as a true-crime investigator tracks her down to interview her for his popular podcast to dispel the legends.

APPEAL FACTORS

Pace: Fast-paced

Tone: Creepy; Disturbing

Writing Style: Compelling; Engaging

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

Part ghost story, part true crime tale, this fast-paced book follows the urban legend of the little witch girl of Pilot's Creek as it is retold every twenty years, from a campfire, to film, to a popular podcast. A master class in meta-horror, this creepy supernatural thriller mixes history and pop culture to tell an engaging story that examines everything from women being labeled witches, to horror film history and fandom culture, to how some stories refuse to die.

READ-ALIKES



Hex by Thomas Olde Heuvelt



Experimental Film by Gemma Files



The Queen of the Cicadas by V. Castro



Plain Bad Heroines by Emily M. Danforth

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Remaking Stories:

A Conversation with Clay McLeod Chapman

Interview Chapman about the real urban legend that inspired The Remaking, the novel's parallels to film history, who owns and is able to tell the stories of history, fandom culture, and his 2022 novel Ghost Eaters.

From Script to Screen

Using screenplays from the Horror Studies Collection, explore how text translates from script to screen, from what is lost or gained, to how the mediums work together. A University of Pittsburgh Library Systems partner program.

Friday Night Frights: Scream

Partner with a local theater to screen Wes Craven's "Scream." Follow up with a half-hour panel on meta-horror, slasher franchises, and how horror tropes have been reinvisioned for changing audiences.

Urban Legends of [Insert Town/City]

Partner with area historians/local history library staff to create a series of short five-to-seven minute videos covering area urban legends to be shared via YouTube and library social media.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Ella Louise and Jessica Ford were burned as witches by the Pilot's Creek community. How does this deed affect the townspeople, namely the campfire storyteller?

Amber's role in Don't Tread on Jessica's Grave shapes public perception of her. How does this affect her career? How does it influence her choices during the remake?

The Remaking revisits the story of the Fords every twenty years. How does the true story of the Fords get embellished and altered with each retelling?

Pilot's Creek becomes inextricably linked to the Fords' story. How does the town's relationship with the story change over the course of the book?

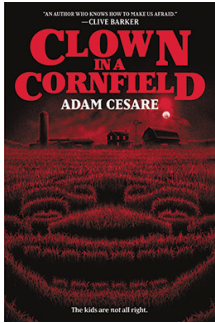
During each iteration, the stories of the Fords and Amber are shaped by other people. Who gets to tell someone else's story? What responsibility does the storyteller have?

The medium of the stories of the Fords and Amber changes from campfire tale, to film, to a podcast. If the story were revisited twenty years after Nate and Amber meet, how might it be told?

The Remaking is inspired by an actual urban legend. What urban legends did it remind you of? Why do you think similar stories exist in different parts of the country?

CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD

by ADAM CESARE



Quinn Maybrook and her dad just moved to tiny, boring Kettle Springs, for a fresh start. But ever since the Baypen Corn Syrup Factory shut down, Kettle Springs has been caught in a battle between old and new. On one side are the adults, who want to make

Kettle Springs great again, and on the other are the kids, who just want to have fun. It's a fight that looks like it will destroy the town. Until Frendo,

Baypen's creepy clown mascot, decides that the only way to fix Kettle Springs is to cull its rotten crop of kids.

APPEAL FACTORS

Storyline: Action-packed

Tone: Atmospheric; Darkly humorous; Gruesome

Writing Style: Engaging; Well-crafted dialogue

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

Set in small town Kettle Springs, this action-packed slasher novel follows Quinn Maybrook as she moves with her dad to the Midwest from a big city to start fresh, only to find herself and her new friends stalked by the Baypen corn syrup factor's creepy clown mascot, Frendo. At turns darkly humorous and shockingly gruesome, this book ingeniously blends horror and politics as it ratchets up boiling generational tensions to examine how nostalgia can quite literally kill progress.

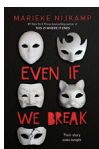
READ-ALIKES



Ten by Gretchen McNeil



Camp So-and-So by Mary McCoy



Even if We Break Up by Marieke Nijkamp



Five Midnights by Ann Dávila Cardinal

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Killer Clowns and Terrified Teens: A Talk with Adam Cesare

Interview Cesare about his popular YouTube channel, moving between the worlds of adult and YA horror, what's so scary about clowns and small towns, and what's in store for Quinn and Kettle Springs in the sequel.

Franken-Clown Teen Craft Night

Use doll and toy parts, hot glue, Halloween clown wigs, colorful permanent pens, and acrylic paint to create your own horrifying clown doll while discussing a backstory for your new frightening friend.

Friday Night Frights: The Final Girls

Partner with a local theater to screen Todd Strauss-Schulson's "The Final Girls." Follow up with a half-hour panel on slasher tropes, what it means to be a final girl, and how the subgenre gets updated for new generations.

Thrilling and Chilling [Insert Town/City]

Partner with local history library staff to create a series of short videos about strange or spooky places, macabre history, or weird and wondrous art around town to be shared via TikTok, YouTube, and library social media.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Clown in a Cornfield is a slasher novel. What are the staples of a slasher? How did the book both adhere to and tweak expectations you have of the subgenre?

The community is caught between the past and the present, with a lot of tension between adults and teens. What is causing the tension? How do the teens view Kettle Springs and its future?

Social media plays an important role in the book. What are the benefits to and negative effects of social media in the teens' lives? How can social media be a force for good?

Once it becomes clear to the teens that they are being attacked, how quickly and in what ways do they react? What does their reaction say about the reality of students' lives in today's culture?

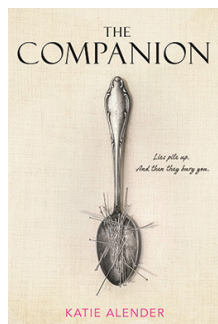
There's a movement to Make Kettle Springs Great Again. How does this movement mirror conflicts in our own world? What do you think the book is saying about nostalgia versus progress?

On the outside, the people of Kettle Springs seem like good, solid citizens. What does the book say about the places hate can hide? What about how quickly hate can escalate into action?

A sequel is coming out. How do you think we'll find Kettle Springs? What do you hope happens with Quinn, Cole, and Rust?

THE COMPANION

by KATIE ALENDER



The other orphans say Margot is lucky to have survived the accident that killed her family, to have her own room because she wakes up screaming, and lucky to be chosen by a rich family to live at their country estate. But it wasn't luck that made the Suttons take

Margot home. She was chosen to be a companion to their silent, mysterious daughter, Agatha. Soon, the house begins playing tricks on Margot's mind,

making her doubt the Suttons and herself. Margot's bad dreams may have stopped, but her nightmare has just begun.

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: Spirited

Pace: Intensifying

Tone: Creepy; Disturbing; Suspenseful

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

This suspenseful book follows 16-year-old Margot, the sole survivor of a car accident that killed her family, as she is taken to live with the Sutton family of Copeland Hall. But Margot soon finds that she was chosen to be a companion to the Suttons' silent and mysterious daughter, Agatha. The story soon takes on an intensifying pace as Margot starts to uncover what really happened to Agatha and unravel the secrets Copeland Hall keeps in this disturbing modern gothic tale.

READ-ALIKES



The Initial Insult by Mindy McGinnis



White Smoke by Tiffany D. Jackson



Horrid by Katrina Leno



Dreaming Darkly by Caitlin Kittredge

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Gothic Stories and Savvy Girls: A Conversation with Katie Alender

Interview Alender about her favorite gothic heroines from film and books, how to fit the pieces together to make a fun mystery, embracing flaws and letting go of perfectionism, and how enduring hardship can reveal heroism.

Friday Night Frights: Coraline

Partner with a local theater to screen Henry Selick's "Coraline." Follow up with a half-hour panel on menacing mother characters, great girl heroines, and themes in children's horror stories.

Gothic Mansion Meet-and-Greet

Partner with a mansion (or castle) museum anywhere in the world to host a virtual meet-and-greet, including the building's history, local legends, fascinating relics, and a behind-the-scenes tour.

Murder at the Mansion: A Mystery Game

The family matriarch has been murdered in the mansion's library, and patrons must unravel the mystery as they meet a series of suspects among the stacks to uncover clues before the killer strikes again.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Margot loses her family in a car accident. What is the transition to life in a group home like for her? How do the other kids in the home treat her?

Margot is taken to live with the Suttons. What are her initial impressions of the Suttons and Copeland Hall? What are some early signs that things are amiss?

Margot has experienced trauma and is suffering with its effects. How does this cloud her judgment around what she experiences at Copeland Hall? How does it affect her reliability as a narrator?

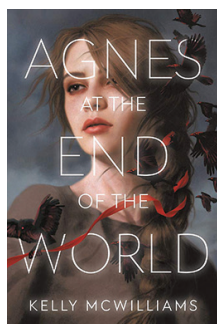
Margot becomes a companion to the Suttons' daughter Agatha. How does Agatha grow to trust and communicate with Margot? How do the details of Agatha's condition start to become clear?

Margot continues to stay in a bad situation. How does her past, as well as her desires for the future, influence the choices she makes? What brings her to a point of wanting to change her situation?

Laura strives for perfection in herself and her family. How do the events of her past complicate what she wants for her life? What choices do her ideals and her secrets drive her to make?

The Companion is a modern gothic novel. What gothic elements are in the story? What is it about gothic themes that keep them relevant to today's society?

AGNES AT THE END OF THE WORLD by KELLY McWILLIAMS



Agnes loves her home of Red Creek. What she doesn't know is that Red Creek is a cult controlled by a madman who says he is a prophet. As the Prophet grows more dangerous, Agnes must escape with her young brother Ezekiel and leave everyone else, including her sister Beth, behind. But the world outside isn't safe, either: A pandemic is burning through the population. In a world where faith, miracles, and cruelty have long been indistinguishable, will Agnes be able to choose between saving her family and saving the world?

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: Complex; Introspective

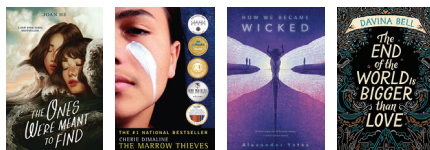
Storyline: Character-driven; World-building

Tone: Thought-provoking

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

Featuring fantastic world-building, this book follows 16-year-old Agnes as she escapes the Red Creek cult in order to save her diabetic brother, only to find the world outside experiencing a horrific pandemic. At the same time, Agnes' sister Beth is caught inside the cult. Both sisters must look within themselves to survive and save the world in this character-driven story that offers a thought-provoking look at fear, faith, and fighting for the future.

READ-ALIKES



The Ones We're Meant to Find by Joan He

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

How We Became Wicked by Alexander Yates

The End of the World is Bigger Than Love by Davina Bell

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Cults, Contagions, and Keeping Faith: A Conversation with Kelly McWilliams

Interview McWilliams about writing a book about a pandemic during the COVID-19 pandemic, how she connects with both Agnes and Beth, growing up with cults nearby, and the importance of holding onto hope at the darkest times.

Zombies in Pop Culture

Using materials from the Horror Studies Collection, explore depictions of zombies in pop culture, from their lasting impact on film and books to how conquering monsters can be a coming of age experience. A University of Pittsburgh Library Systems partner program.

Teen Writing Workshop: Survive the Apocalypse

Partner with an area HWA chapter and local writers as each participant receives a random item and the group works together to figure out how the items will help them survive an apocalypse.

Digging Deeper: Cults

Partner with academics, experts, and authors from across the country as you host an eight-part series of 30-minute podcasts that dig deeper into cults, from famous cases, to film depictions, to the psychology behind being in a cult.

READING GROUP GUIDE

We hear alternately from Agnes and her sister Beth. How did getting both perspectives help you understand their personalities and reasoning? How do each sister's traits complement the other's?

The sisters are living in a cult. In what ways are the cult's members kept under the control of the Prophet and the Patriarchs? How might someone be susceptible to and get mixed up in a cult?

Despite the Prophet's adage that "perfect obedience produces perfect faith," Agnes has reason to doubt his words. What conflicts does this cause her and how does she navigate them?

Danny guides Agnes through the world outside Red Creek. What does Danny teach Agnes about the outside world? What does he help her learn about herself?

Faith is important to the characters, whether it's faith in religion, science, or loved ones. How does faith guide each character? How do your beliefs guide you in difficult times?

Beth can be rebellious and frivolous. How did some of her seemingly negative traits help her to survive? How did she grow in her own eyes and your eyes?

THE FORGOTTEN GIRL

by INDIA HILL BROWN



When 11-year-old Iris snuck out at night to make snow angels, she was not expecting to raise the ghost of Avery Moore, a girl her own age. Bringing to light Avery's segregated and neglected cemetery seems like the best way to help Avery get the recognition she craves, and it will be a good subject

for Iris' school project about the history of her small North Carolina town, where racial tensions are never far from the surface — only it seems that if Avery gets everything she wants, Iris will join her as a ghost.

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: Courageous; Culturally diverse

Storyline: Character-driven

Tone: Scary; Suspenseful

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

This suspenseful book follows best friends Iris and Daniel, who accidentally raise the ghost of 11-year-old Avery Moore, a girl their age who in 1956 was buried in their town's segregated cemetery, which has been forgotten. Iris and Daniel must be courageous as they work to satisfy Avery's ghost by making sure her cemetery's history is remembered in this scary, character-driven story about knowing your worth, caring about your community, and the importance of keeping history alive.

READ-ALIKES



Trace by Pat Cummings

Ophe's Ghosts by Justina Ireland

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary Downing Hahn

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Forgotten Graves and Family Stories: Chatting with India Hill Brown

Lead an interactive chat with Brown about her YouTube channel Books and Big Hair, the segregated cemetery, family stories, and preservation efforts that inspired the book, and how to keep kids connected to history.

[Insert City/Town] Hidden History Hunt

Create a guide of "hidden" history stops, focusing on Black history and other underrepresented groups. Then have patrons visit a number of the spots, or share their journey with your library's social media team, to score library swag.

Girls Inspiring Girls

Coordinate an ongoing meetup series where participants chat about favorite trailblazing girls, share inspiring books, and meet area women, all while enjoying games via Quizlet or Kahoot, crafts, and snacks.

Kids For Change! Fair

Partner with local civic organizations and guest speakers to plan a full day of fun meet-and-greets to help get kids involved in endeavors they care about and be the change they want to see in their communities.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Iris and Daniel are best friends, but they can be pretty different. How do each friend's traits balance the other's? What about with you and your best friend?

Avery was Iris's age when she died. Avery lived in a different time, but how was her life similar to Iris'? How might you be like a kid who lived 70 years ago?

Iris and Daniel find a neglected cemetery. What do they learn about its history? Why should we care about cemeteries and the people buried there?

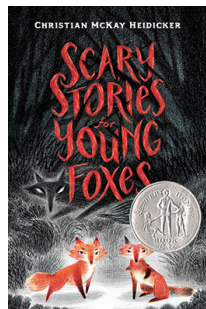
Daniel is dealing with the death of his dad. How does the school project help Daniel process his feelings? How can keeping someone's story alive help us cope with loss?

Segregated schools can feel like ancient history, but Iris still experiences racism. How is the racism Iris experiences different from Avery's? What can we do to work against racism?

Suga helps the kids learn more about Avery. What can we learn about our own ties to history from our elders? What's a favorite story a grandparent has told you?

The book covers a lot of topics, like segregated cemeteries and the Great Migration. What were you most surprised to learn? What do you want to research further?

SCARY STORIES FOR YOUNG FOXES by CHRISTIAN MCKAY HEIDICKER



John Paul Lucas

The haunted season has arrived in the Antler Wood. When Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, they discover a dangerous world full of monsters. To find a den to call home, they must venture through field and forest, facing unspeakable things dwelling in the darkness: a zombie who hungers for their flesh, a witch who tries to steal their skins ... and other things too scary to mention, in these interconnected and illustrated stories that paint a thrilling portrait of survival and an unforgettable tale of friendship.

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: Anthropomorphic; Courageous; Mischievous

Tone: Atmospheric; Suspenseful

Illustration: Black-and-white

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

Seven mischievous fox kits sneak out at night to be scared by an old storyteller, who tells them of Mia and Uly, separated from their litters only to discover a world full of monsters. Mia and Uly must find their courage, and each other, to survive. Enhanced by atmospheric black-and-white illustrations, this suspenseful story is both a cautionary tale about how frightening the world can be and a reminder that the dark can sometimes reveal light.

READ-ALIKES



Ghost by Illustratus

Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods by Hal Johnson

Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters by Dan C. Jones

The Dark-Thirty by Patricia C. McKissack

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Foxes and Frights: Chatting with Christian McKay Heidicker

Lead an interactive discussion with Heidicker about telling classic horror tales through the eyes of foxes, working with illustrator Junyi Wu, and turning beloved author Beatrix Potter into a creature of nightmares.

Cautionary Campfire Tales

Using historic stories from the Children's Literature Collection, gather around a [YouTube] campfire and share bone-chilling cautionary tales while enjoying s'mores. A University of Pittsburgh Library Systems partner program.

Family Movie Night: The Secret of Nimh

Register patrons for a library screening of "The Secret of Nimh." Decorate woodland creature cupcakes using colored frosting, cookie pieces, mini marshmallows, pretzels, and candies.

Escape the Haunted Forest

Register teams to puzzle their way out of a haunted forest by solving seven puzzles inspired by classic horror characters, gaining guidance from cryptic woodland creatures and dodging ghosts, webs, and dark corners to escape the woods.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Mia and Uly both lose the protection of their parents. What fears do they have about it, and what skills does it teach them? Think about school, or camp, or clubs, what did you learn that you might not have learned at home?

Uly's sisters don't put a lot of faith in his future. How does this affect him, and how does he show that they are wrong? What does this say about believing in yourself?

The book turns Beatrix Potter into a fox kit's nightmare. What was it like seeing her through fox eyes? What does it say about how we perceive good and bad in people, or creatures for that matter?

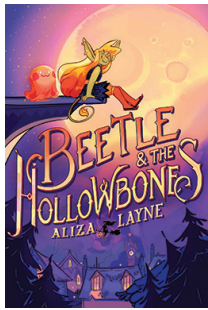
Mia and Uly eventually find one another. How do they rely on one another in order to survive? How do you and your friends rely on each other during scary times?

Mia and Uly both question starting a family because of the pain they experienced as kits. How do they move on from the past? Why is it important to open yourself up to potential pain?

Storytelling, especially telling scary stories, is important for kids. What can scary stories tell you about what's scary in the world? How about what you need to confront it?

The fox kits encounter a lot of scary creatures. Which was your favorite? If you were to write a scary story for fox kits, what kind of monster would they confront?

BEETLE & THE HOLLOWBONES by ALIZA LAYNE



In the eerie town of 'Allows, twelve-year-old goblin-witch Beetle would rather skip being homeschooled and spend time at the mall with her best friend, Blob Ghost. And now Beetle's old best friend, Kat, is back in town for a sorcery apprenticeship.

But Kat's mentor is setting a vile scheme in motion. Now, Beetle has less than a week to rescue her best ghost, encourage Kat to stand up for herself, and confront the magic she's been avoiding in this enchanting, riotous, and playfully illustrated debut graphic novel.

APPEAL FACTORS

Character: LGBTQIA diverse; Quirky; Spirited

Storyline: Action-packed

Tone: Amusing; Whimsical

Illustration: Fanciful

BOOKTALK THIS BOOK

This whimsical book follows twelve-year-old goblin-witch Beetle, her best friend Blob Ghost, and her old best friend Kat as they work together to save Blob Ghost from a ruinous scheme set in motion by Kat's Aunt Hollowbone. An action-packed adventure enhanced by fanciful illustrations, this fun fantasy story features a lovable cast of spirited and LGBTQIA diverse characters as they face changing friendships, find the magic within themselves, and take a stand for those they love.

READ-ALIKES



Tidesong by Wendy Xu

The Witch Boy by Molly Knox Ostertag

Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker

Snapdragon by Kat Leyh

SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Magic & Malls: Chatting with Aliza Layne

Lead an interactive talk with Layne about building the fantasy world of Beetle & the Hollowbones, the importance of play to identity, her time as a mall employee, and her best Halloween costumes.

Wondrous Worlds with [Insert Artist Here]

Partner with local artists for an interactive live art demonstration using audience suggestions to create a fantastical town full of magical creatures, discussing individual powers, how the town operates, and day-to-day life.

Spooked for the Summer Programming Bag

Create a take-home Halloween themed bag with a round plastic terrarium with ideas for creating a spooky town, materials for lollipop ghosts, Halloween scattergories sheets, and a Spooked for the Summer book/movie checklist.

Family Movie Night: The Nightmare Before Christmas

Gather in a library meeting room for a screening of Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Decorate Rice Krispies Treats to create monster townspeople.

READING GROUP GUIDE

Goblins and ghosts are made out to be scary, but how are Beetle and Blob Ghost similar to you? How can we better relate to people who seem different than us?

The characters use tech to chat with each other and share things online. How do you communicate with your friends? How do you interact with social media?

Kat's return to town stirs up a lot of feelings in Beetle because of changes in their friendship. How does their friendship evolve over the story? What helps you adapt to change?

Goblin magic doesn't seem as glamorous to Beetle as sorcery. But how does Beetle come to see that they're both uniquely special? What's a talent or skill that makes you stand out?

Beetle sometimes doubts herself and feels inadequate. How does she work to overcome these feelings? What helps you feel more confident in yourself?

'Allows is both similar to and different from where we live. What's one difference you really enjoyed? How might that difference improve our own world?

Halloween lets you be anyone you want for one night. Why do you think it's important to try out these different identities? Which book character would you be for Halloween?

NoveList: Connecting Summer Readers to Summers Scares

by **Yaika Sabat**
Senior Readers' Advisory Librarian at NoveList

As a fan of all things horror, I'm thrilled to be a part of the Summer Scares program. Anyone who knows me knows that I believe in having a good scare year-round, and I bring that enthusiasm to my work as a readers' advisory librarian at NoveList. If you're not familiar with NoveList, we're a company of librarians and book lovers who create products that empower libraries to engage and inspire their communities.

Our most well-known product is the NoveList Plus database. It helps readers of all ages discover fiction and nonfiction in print, ebook and audio, based on their preferences and interests. Readers can search by title, author, subject, keyword, use NoveList proprietary metadata like genre, appeal and theme, or describe a book they would like to read. Full-text reviews and descriptions from sources like Booklist and Library Journal are included. Searches using Lexile and Accelerated Reader scores are available to pair those readers with books geared to their reading ability. We believe that books and libraries have the power to transform lives and create products to help our users do just that.

So, what makes NoveList and Summer Scares such a good match? Well, not only are we made up of some very devoted fans of the horror genre, but we also recognize that horror fans are some of the most avid readers out there. And as a company that strives to help find a reader's next great book, we recognize that genre fiction is an essential part of readers' advisory. As part of the dedicated (some might say

rabid) collection of NoveList horror fans, I see firsthand how the love and knowledge of the genre goes into creating great horror content. With summer being one of the busiest times of the year for public libraries, why save your next horror buzz until October?



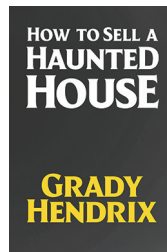
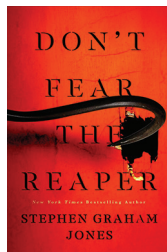
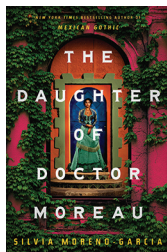
My mother's love of scary movies and even scarier books inspired my love of the genre. Finding Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark and the Goosebumps series, along with some wonderfully chilling urban legends, helped shape me as a young reader and kept me going to the library for my next spooky tale. The stories that had me hiding under the covers and (sometimes) gave me nightmares also kept me turning every page. I was not a brave child, and if I was able to find horror books to read as a kid, I can vouch that there's something for every age. I'm committed to letting people know that horror is for everyone. It's a rich and beautiful genre, and programs like those done by the Horror Writers Association support the same idea.

There is a scary story out there to engage readers of every age — and not just at Halloween. That's why the HWA's Summer Scares initiative matters: It's a fun, straightforward way to get readers excited about horror — even if they're not sure it's their thing. While working as a public librarian, I always appreciated good programming ideas for sometimes tricky genres like horror. Summer Scares unites horror-expert librarians and authors all in one place, working together to create a special space for scary story-loving kids and horror fans-to-be.



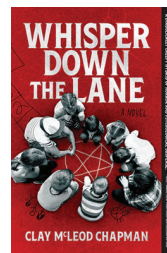
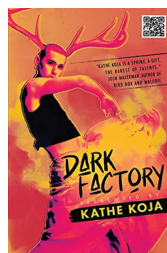
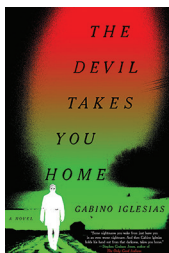
SUMMER SCARES

Keep your **eyes peeled** for these frightening new and upcoming books by Summer Scares spokespeople and authors.



SPOKESPEOPLE

- **The Fervor** by Alma Katsu
- **The Daughter of Doctor Moreau** by Silvia Moreno-Garcia
- **Don't Fear the Reaper** by Stephen Graham Jones
- **How to Sell A Haunted House** by Grady Hendrix



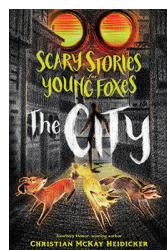
ADULT

- **The Devil Takes You Home** by Gabino Iglesias
- **Dark Factory** by Kathe Koja
- **The Hollow Kind** by Andy Davidson
- **Whisper Down the Lane** by Clay McLeod Chapman



YOUNG ADULT

- **Mirror Girls** by Kelly McWilliams
- **Clown in a Cornfield 2: Frendo Lives** by Adam Cesare
- **Hunting by Stars** by Cherie Dimaline
- **Scout's Honor** by Lily Anderson



MIDDLE GRADE

- **The Girl in the Lake** by India Hill Brown
- **Scary Stories for Young Foxes: The City** by Christian McKay Heidicker
- **This Woven Kingdom** by Tahereh Mafi
- **Spirit Hunters: Something Wicked** by Ellen Oh