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### **Congratulations to this year's ALA Youth Media Award winners!**

This year's American Library Association Youth Media Award winners were announced Monday morning to an excited crowd at ALA Midwinter in Seattle!

The Caldecott Award went to previous winner **Sophie Blackall** for *Hello, Lighthouse!*, her lavishly illustrated picture book about the life of a lighthouse as the seasons change and time passes.

The Newbery Medal went to previous Pura Belpré winner **Meg Medina** for *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*, about a spunky sixth-grader dealing with family changes, not fitting in at school, and a classmate's jealousy.

Other notable winners include Elizabeth Acevedo, who took home both the Michael Printz Award and the Pura Belpré Author Award for her verse novel *The Poet X*; P. Djèlí Clark, for his debut urban fantasy novel *The Black God's Drums*; and Claire Hartfield, who received the Coretta Scott King Author Award for her nonfiction title, *A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919*.

For a complete list of this year's winners, go to <https://www.perma-bound.com/ala-awards/>.

**TITLES KIDS ARE  
TALKING ABOUT**

**Books To Change Our World**

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### **Elementary**

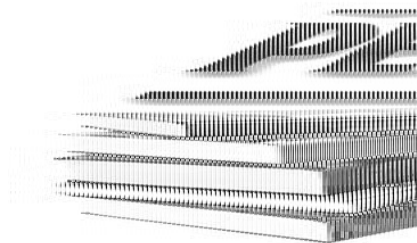
*Breaking The Piggy Bank  
(Craftily Ever After)*  
by **Martha Maker**

RL 2.0 IL 1-4

Bella, Emily, Maddie, and Sam have been hard at work in their craft studio--so busy, in fact, that their supplies are starting to dwindle. It's time to stock up! In order to add a little money to their piggy bank, the friends decide to combine their skills and use the last of their allowance to create their very own business: a lemonade stand! But something's not quite right. While the stand looks fabulous, the lemonade is...not. And where are all their customers? Can these crafty entrepreneurs save their business before it's too late?



## Track this popular series in



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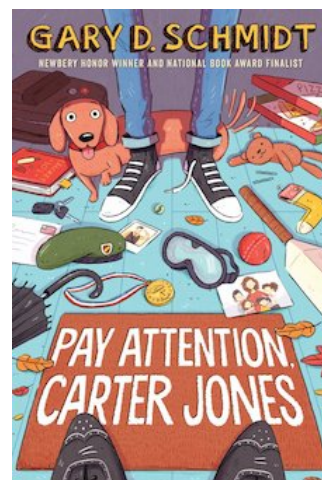
## Middle School

### *Pay Attention, Carter Jones*

by **Gary D. Schmidt**

RL 4.0 IL 4-7

Sixth-grader Carter must deal with burdens from the past as he adjusts to the unwelcome presence of a know-it-all butler who is determined to turn him into a gentleman. An *SLJ* Starred Review title.



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## High School

### *Our Year Of Maybe*

by **Rachel Lynn Soloman**

RL 7.0 IL 9-12

From the author of *You'll Miss Me When I'm Gone* comes a stunning contemporary novel that examines the complicated aftermath of a kidney transplant between best friends.

Aspiring choreographer Sophie Orenstein would do anything for Peter Rosenthal-Porter, who's been on



the kidney transplant list as long as she's known him.

Peter, a gifted pianist, is everything to Sophie: best friend, musical collaborator, secret crush. When she learns she's a match, donating a kidney is an easy, obvious choice. She can't help wondering if after the transplant, he'll love her back the way she's always wanted. An *SLJ* Starred Review title.



In recent years, books in graphic-novel format have come into their own as both an art form and an educational tool. They're a regular fixture in the classroom and the school library, with offerings at every level, in every fiction genre, and even in nonfiction versions.

Educators have dropped the "comic book" stigma of earlier decades to embrace these books as comprehensive educational tools and literacy aids. And this use of the graphic novel format is borne out by research, which shows that these books can improve skills and outcomes for readers at all levels, not just for reluctant or struggling readers. Here are some major benefits of graphic novels:

- **They're cool.** They provide motivating "youth appeal" that engages students--especially important in a visually oriented society that values youth culture.
- **They foster closer reading.** By requiring students to slow down and focus on the interaction between images and text, these books boost reading comprehension and promote text-decoding skills that are then carried over into more traditional types of reading. Images and words are mutually reinforcing.
- **They improve vocabulary.** They can help with vocabulary-building, since pictures help students decode tough words.
- **They improve students' understanding of storytelling.** Readers gain a better overall grasp of plot, and are introduced to non-linear storytelling as well.
- **They're motivating.** English Language Learners, reluctant readers, and high-low readers, especially, can reap the benefits of graphic novels, as well as gain confidence in reading skills.

Not using graphic novels in your classroom yet? Check out our [Graphic Novels catalog](#), featuring hundreds of K-12 titles to start your collection.

NOTHING STAYS BURIED FOREVER

# THE VANISHING STAIR

BY MAUREEN JOHNSON

**ORDER NOW**



The 2nd installment in the *Truly Devious* series.

Stevie's willing to do anything to get back to Ellingham, be back with her friends, and solve the Truly Devious case--even if it means making a deal with the despicable Sen. Edward King.

**Order Now**

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