Raymie Nightingale
By Kate DiCamillo
“DiCamillo returns to her native Florida in her newest novel and she writes with a level of mastery that will take your breath away. One moment you’ll be laughing, and the next your laughter will turn to tears. Three little girls who have already shouldered more than their share of loss form an uncertain alliance over the meaning of life, baton-twirling, and Florence Nightingale. Who will win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire 1975 competition? Every reader will!”
—Jennifer Armstrong, Northshire Bookstore, Manchester Center, VT

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Wolf Hollow
By Lauren Wolk
“Wolk’s debut is the story of Annabelle, who is harassed by Betty the bully in small-town Pennsylvania in 1943. No one believes Annabelle despite the bad events that are causing major harm to others. Everything is blamed on Toby, a misunderstood WWI veteran trying to live a simple and remote life in Wolf Hollow. Annabelle, however, sees Toby’s kindness, and courageously takes a stand as the lone voice of justice as tensions mount. Reminiscent of the time and tone of To Kill a Mockingbird, this is a haunting read.”
—Candace Moreno, San Marino Toy & Book Shoppe, San Marino, CA

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There Is a Tribe of Kids
By Lane Smith
“Other books have been published about groupings of animals and the collective nouns used to describe them, but this one has Lane Smith’s gift for blending wit, whimsy, and wonder. He uses puns and wordplay combined with amazingly textured mixed media illustrations to craft a clever and heartfelt tale about childhood adventure, the beauty of language, and the gift of belonging.”
—Marc Villa, Politics and Prose Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Washington, DC

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Ms. Bixby’s Last Day
By John David Anderson
“Ms. Bixby is the teacher that every student dreams of having for sixth grade. When she announces that she is leaving school due to health complications, Topher, Steve, and Brand set out on a quest to make her last day unforgettable. Told with warmth and lots of humor that 12-year-old boys will appreciate, this new classic coming-of-age story from Anderson is truly one-of-a-kind.”
—Pamela Klingler-Horn, Excelsior Bay Books, Excelsior, MN

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Towers Falling
By Jewell Parker Rhodes
“Rhodes has accomplished a very difficult thing: the task of explaining the emotional repercussions of 9/11 to a generation who wasn’t even born at the time of the terrorist attacks. In this middle-grade novel, recent history becomes present and personal for the characters and the reader. This book is perfect for teachers looking for an entry point into a discussion of 9/11, and for readers looking for a character-driven novel with both emotional impact and heart.”
—Erin Barker, Hooray for Books!, Alexandria, VA

If I Was Your Girl
By Meredith Russo
“Amanda Hardy is starting a new life in a new town and a new school—one where no one ever knew her as Andrew Hardy. She has survived a suicide attempt, lifelong bullying from peers, and her father’s denial of who she really is. Now, she finds herself in the life she’s always imagined — as a normal teenage girl with girlfriends and even a boyfriend—but she still finds herself living in fear of her past. This novel about a transgender woman, written by a transgender woman, is an important and timely story.”
—Sandy Scott, The Galaxy Bookshop, Hardwick, VT

A Unicorn Named Sparkle
By Amy Young
“Lucy really, really wants a unicorn. As she waits for her magical mail-order steed, Lucy imagines what her unicorn will be like: sweet, dainty, and blue with a pink mane. What she gets in Sparkles, though, is not what she had in mind. Sparkles eats underwear, smells funny, and has fleas. What should Lucy do? Will Lucy really send Sparkles away just for being different? This is a silly, sweet, and fun tale about expectations and the appreciation for one’s unique—and sometimes unexpected—qualities.”
—Jennifer Oleinik, University Book Store, Seattle, WA

Wolf Camp
By Andrea Zuill
“Oh, to step out of our routines, if only for a moment, and pretend to be someone else. Homer, a pampered pooch, gets to do just that when he goes off to Wolf Camp to experience life as a wolf. Homer and his fellow canine campers survive in the wild with all of its adventures and discomforts and make themselves into a temporary pack. When they take some of their new-found skills home, they enliven the neighborhood. Zuill’s witty asides and comical artwork add humor to an already funny story.”
—Diann Fortune, The Country Bookshop, Southern Pines, NC
The Star-Touched Queen
By Roshani Chokshi
“A princess cursed with a horoscope that promises a marriage of Death and Destruction becomes an empowered queen of the Otherworld in Chokshi’s darkly romantic debut, inspired by Indian and Greek mythology. Richly imaginative, lyrical, sensuous, and lush, The Star-Touched Queen is a spellbinding tale of love, betrayal, and redemption—perfect for fans of Rosamund Hodge, Laini Taylor, and Bree Despain.”
—Alyssa Raymond, Boulder Book Store, Boulder, CO

The Outliers
By Kimberly McCreight
“In this story of unrelenting suspense, 16-year-old Wylie Lang receives a text message from her best friend Cassie: ‘I need your help, I messed up big...’ With only cryptic clues to guide them, Wylie and Jasper, Cassie’s boyfriend, take off to find her. But the trip quickly goes from difficult to extremely dangerous and Wylie has to figure out who is trustworthy and who is an enemy. With The Outliers, McCreight proves that Reconstructing Amelia was just the first stellar tale from a major new talent.”
—Jerry Brown, The Bookstore, Radcliff, KY