



**Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award
2018-2019 Booktalk Scripts
Grades 6-8**



***Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard* by Jonathan Auxier**

12-year-old Sophie loves books and her father maintains a bookshop. As her town of Bustleburgh prepares for pyre day, a time for burning books and items of non-sense, Sophie wishes to save precious books. Sophie meets Peter Nimble and his squire Sir Tode as trouble brews with the inquisitor. Will they be able to stop the inquisitor and help the citizens of Bustleburgh?

Author Website: <http://www.thescop.com/>

***The Worst Class Trip Ever* by Dave Barry**

Excitement is high as it is finally time for eighth graders from Florida to take their class trip to Washington, D.C. Little would the eighth graders have guessed that their trip would be filled with danger, humor, and friendship as they wonder if they are saving the President from an attack.

Author Website: <http://www.davebarry.com/books-by-type.php?type=Young%20Adult>
Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Enf9WFWwdb8>

***All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by Leslie Connor**

Engaging story of a middle school boy who has grown up in a minimum security correctional facility where his mom has been incarcerated for over 12 years. Despite the unusual circumstances, he is a happy and well-adjusted child until the new district attorney finds out about the situation and wants to make a public example of the warden and his mom by delaying his mom's parole hearing and removing Perry for the only "home" he has ever known to live with him in a real "home."

Author Website: <http://www.leslieconnor.com/>
Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiGBQjbKbHY>

***Moo* by Sharon Creech**

How different is Maine from New York? Very different! There are lots of trees and animals. The kids are into things like 4-H and have chores. It is so quiet! Reena and her younger brother Luke get a crash course in rural living when their parents have them help their elderly neighbor, Mrs. Falala, take care of her animals. Mucking cow poop is not the most glamorous of jobs and the cow, Zora, has a mind of her own. Then there is the pig, Paulie; the parrot, Crockett; China, the cat; and Edna, the snake. Life will never be the same! But is that so terrible? There is excitement even in this quiet town.

Author Website: <http://www.sharoncreech.com>

Author Interview: <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/sharon-creech-interview-transcript/>

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0sI8gndr61g>

Belted Galloway Cows: <http://www.thatsfarming.com/news/belted-galloway-cattle>

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

Survive. Escape. Keep your family safe.

These are the main priorities for Josef in Germany in 1938, Isabel in Cuba in 1994 and Mahmoud in Syria in 2015. Things are no longer safe in their home country and they have to escape. Will they find a way out of the country and what will happen when they get out? Who will welcome them?

Author Website: <https://www.alangratz.com/writing/refugee/>

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89sO3y75hF8>

***Garvey's Choice* by Nikki Grimes**

Garvey loves dad, but he really wishes that his dad would stop bugging him about playing football and sports. Garvey, a large boy, is the victim of cruel jokes and bullying at school. When his friend, Joe, points out his singing talent, Garvey musters the courage to join the chorus. Here he sings his heart out and feels that he really belongs and is admired. Best of all he finds another friend who gets him to ignore the bullying and find his true self. Surprisingly he even connects with his dad.

Author Website: <https://www.nikkigrimes.com>

Author Interview: <http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/grimes>

How to Write a Tanka Poem: <https://www.poetry4kids.com/news/how-to-write-a-tanka-poem/>

***Mayday* by Karen Harrington**

Life for Wayne exists in two worlds. **BEFORE** and **AFTER**.

Before his uncle died overseas.

Before he and his mom were in a plane crash and he lost his ability to talk.

Before Grandpa moved in to help them recover.

In the land of **AFTER**, Wayne wonders, "Do you know how awkward it is to be a plane-crash-surviving, fact-collecting seventh grader with no voice to use a shield?"

Author Website: <http://www.karenharringtonbooks.com/>

Author Interview: <https://bookpage.com/interviews/19886-karen-harrington#.WqbcvsuovIU>

***The Enemy: Detroit, 1954* by Sara Holbrook**

Are you a good friend? Or are you a loyal American? *The Enemy: Detroit, 1954* follows 12-year-old Marjorie as a new girl enters her school. Olga, the new girl, is a little strange. She speaks

with an accent, and Marjorie's classmates are convinced that Olga is a Nazi or a Commie. Will Marjorie decide to be a friend or follow her classmates and make Olga feel unwelcome?

Author Website: <http://www.saraholbrook.com/>

Lesson Idea: <http://www.saraholbrook.com/2017/07/14/enemy-detroit-1954-starter-lesson-guide/>

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQCqEGqTge4&feature=youtu.be>

***Terror at Bottle Creek* by Watt Key**

Page-turning action adventure of three kids surviving a hurricane in the swamps of Alabama. Cort and his neighbors are on a houseboat when the hurricane hits. When the storm carries them miles away before it sinks the houseboat, they must find a way to survive in the swamp as well as a way to get back home.

Author Website: <http://wattkey.com/>

Book Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o45S9EY_gw

***Orphan Train Girl (The Young Readers' Edition)* by Christina Baker Kline**

When Molly is caught stealing a library book, she must serve community service by helping an elderly neighbor clean out her attic. While spending time with Vivian, Molly discovers that she isn't the only one who has lost family. Told in alternating voices between a experiences of Molly, a present day girl in foster care, and Vivian, an orphaned girl in the 1920's, this historical fiction/realistic fiction story will explore forgiveness, family, and fresh starts.

Author Website: <http://christinabakerkline.com>

National Orphan Train Complex Website: <http://orphantraindepot.org/>

***Restart* by Gordon Korman**

Not many people get to change who they are, to make a fresh start. Eighth grader Chase Ambrose awakens from a serious fall with amnesia. It's so weird that everyone knows him but he does not remember anyone, including his own mother. And, boy, do people remember what he has done and not in a good way! Chase rediscovers who he is and realizes that NOW he has become a very different person. He can't believe what he and his so called friends did. He was a jerk and a bully! Can this change last or will he be tempted to revert to his old ways?

Author Website: <http://gordonkorman.com/>

Author Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Fm9W_-kPYw

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rf56kldZo78>

***Scar: A Revolutionary War Tale* by J. Albert Mann**

Two young men, boys really, meet face to face after a battle between the colonial militia near Minisink, and the local Native Americans who are helping the British. Both are gravely wounded. The Patriot boy tries to comfort the Mohawk Brave. How do you connect when your

cultures are so different and you share no common language? Do you even try? This story was based on real events in 1779.

Author Website: <http://jalbertmann.com/>

Educator Guide:

https://www.boydsmillspress.com/sites/default/files/public/educator_guide_files/SCAR_ED%20GUIDE_single%20pg.pdf

Book Talk Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aB67ktgqxI>

***The Exact Location of Home* by Kate Messner**

When Zig hasn't heard from his dad in a while, he thinks he may be trying to communicate with him through geocaching. It doesn't help that Zig feels his mother is keeping a secret from him, which only gets worse when they lose their apartment and are forced to live in a shelter for their home. Zig's search for his father leads him to discover that home isn't always a fixed set of coordinates.

Author Website: <http://www.katemessner.com/exact-location-of-home/>

***Ghost* by Jason Reynolds**

Castle Cranshaw, nicknamed Ghost, had to run with his mother away from his father shooting a gun, and he has not stopped running since. Ghost plans to play basketball, but the opportunity to participate as a member of an elite track team is promising. To maintain running for the team he must avoid finding himself in altercations. This poses a challenge for Ghost because he is teased at school and made fun of for where he lives. Ghost does not have special running clothes, shoes or even a water bottle. His Olympic medal winning track coach has more in common with Ghost than he thought. Will Ghost find a place and a role on the track team?

Author Website: <http://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/bio/>

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ahY5VcB81rc>

***The Poe Estate* by Polly Shulman**

Ghosts, magic, lost treasure, and family lore set the stage for this compelling fantasy adventure. Sukie's sister died several years ago, but her ghost has been a comfort to her until recently. Now, her sister's ghost is getting in the way, trying to prevent her from making friends, especially with boys. When Sukie and her parents move in with an elderly cousin, Sukie will discover that her sister isn't the only ghost around and a magical broom will take her to some fantastical places.

Author Website: <http://www.pollyshulman.com/>

Book Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCkCZtf1LjE>