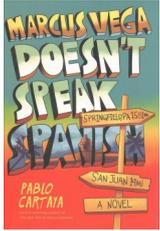


## Staff Picks: Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Alejandria G.**

At six feet tall and 180 pounds, Marcus isn't exactly the smallest 8th grader at Montgomery Middle School. But looks can be deceiving and he isn't quite the tough bully many seem to think he is. When the real school bully calls Marcus's younger brother a nasty word, Marcus fights back and faces suspension. Marcus's mom decides this suspension is the perfect time to hit the 'reset' button for their little family. She takes Marcus and his younger brother Charlie to the island of Puerto Rico, to reconnect as a family and meet relatives they never knew they had. But Marcus has a secret mission as they adventure across the island: to find his father, who moved back to Puerto Rico and walked out of their lives ten years ago.

[Read more](#)

Posted by Alejandria G. on May 11, 2019

[Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish](#)

[Children's](#)

[Diversity](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: The Adventurers Guild by Zack Logan Clark and Nick Eliopoulos



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Ginny H.**

Best friends, Brock and Zed are anxious for their *Guildculling Day*, the day their futures are determined by what guild chooses them to train and work for the rest of their lives. They decide they'll be happy as long as it isn't the *Adventurer's Guild*, the guild tasked with venturing outside of the city walls to defend against the dangerous monsters outside. When the Adventurer's Guild unexpectedly steals the two friends for their guild, everything in Brock and Zed's world changes.

I loved this book! It'd be great for fans of Harry Potter with its mix of humor, adventure, mystery and friends who fight and stand up for what's good.

Posted by Alejandria G. on April 23, 2019

[The Adventurers Guild](#)

[Adventure](#)

[Children's](#)

[Fantasy](#)

[Monsters](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: A Dash of Trouble by Anna Meriano



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Alejandria G.**

Leo Logroña is the youngest member of her family. And as the youngest member of her family, she is used to everyone always telling her she is too young to help.

When the annual Día de los Muertos festival approaches, Leo thinks this will finally be the year she will be asked to help with festival preparations at her family's beloved bakery. But yet again, she is disappointed when she is told she is still too young. After sneaking out of school to make sure all is really okay at the bakery, Leo accidentally discovers the shocking family secret: she belongs to family of brujas -witches- who use their magic to bake up the sweetest (and luckiest) treats in town. [Read more](#)

Posted by Alejandria G. on April 9, 2019

[A Dash of Trouble](#)

[Children's](#)

[Diversity](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

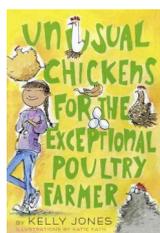
[Magic](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer by Kelly Jones



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Cidne B.**

Told in a series of letters, this is the story of twelve year old Sophie Brown's adventures after she and her family move from L.A. to the rundown farm they inherit from her great-uncle Jim. It begins with the sighting of an unusual chicken and leads to the discovery that there was once an entire coop full of

remarkably different breeds.

This wonderful novel tackles issues of family, belonging, community, and change. The difficulties of adjusting to a whole new life are made more interesting by Sophie's efforts to learn how to take care of her remarkable flock and to solve the mystery behind where they came from and where they are hiding. Witty, engaging, and utterly delightful, with charming illustrations by Katie Kath, this warm-hearted story would make an excellent read aloud for younger children as well as appeal to independent readers.

Posted by Alejandria G. on March 19, 2019

[Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer](#)

[Animals](#)

[Chickens](#)

[Children's](#)

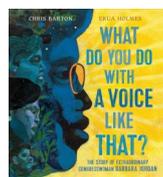
[Farm](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: What Do You Do with a Voice Like That? by Chris Barton



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Alejandria G.**

It's impossible not to feel inspired while reading this gorgeous, well-written nonfiction picture book about the life of Texas congresswoman Barbara Jordan.

From a young age, Barbara Jordan had a remarkable voice. Her voice demanded attention and projected confidence beyond her years. As the author ponders, "What do you do with a voice like that??" And so began the journey of Barbara Jordan from child to college student. From lawyer to Congresswoman. Jordan spent her career speaking up for those who had less power and protected the rights of those who were discriminated against. Chris Barton's wonderful words remind us to honor Jordan's legacy by making our own voices heard.

Ekua Holmes honors Barbara's life with gorgeous mixed media illustrations. Bold colors and patterns fill the pages and add dimension to the story. [Read more](#)

Posted by Alejandria G. on March 14, 2019

[What do you do with a voice like that?: the story of extraordinary congresswoman Barbara Jordan](#)

[African American](#)

[American History](#)

[Biography](#)

[Children's](#)

[Civil Rights](#)

[Diversity](#)

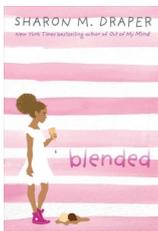
[Picture Book](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: Blended by Sharon M. Draper



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Christina J.** [Read more](#)

Posted by Alejandria G. on February 26, 2019

[Blended](#)

[African American](#)

[Children's](#)

[Diversity](#)

[Family Relationships](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: The Iron Trial by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Lizzie F.**

Callum Hunt has spent his entire life avoiding magic, but his attempts to flunk the entrance exam for the Magisterium are unsuccessful, and he finds himself an apprentice at the underground magic school where young mages are trained. Despite his initial reluctance, he begins to enjoy learning to use magic, but nothing can prepare him for what he is about to learn about himself and his past.

*This book is great for fans of Harry Potter and the twist ending will leave you excited for the Magisterium series' second installment.*

Posted by Alejandria G. on February 6, 2019

[The iron trial](#)

[Children's](#)

[Fantasy](#)

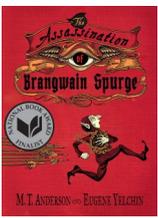
[Magic](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Dana D.**

Brangwain Spurge, the historian of the elves, is sent into rival goblin territory to deliver a peace offering in hopes of easing tensions between the two worlds. Werfel, the goblin historian is thrilled to meet Brangwain and has been put in charge of planning the perfect visit. But, things go wrong before Brangwain even steps foot on goblin territory, and get worse after that.

**Fans of the Hobbit and The Invention of Hugo Cabret will love this tale told half in pictures and half in words.**

Posted by Alejandria G. on January 2, 2019

[The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge](#)

[Children's](#)

[Fantasy](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: Serafina and the Black Cloak



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Ginny H.**

Serafina and her Pa live in the basement of the Biltmore Estate. Serafina loves her Pa and the quiet nights when she can skulk around the estate kitchens and catch rats. She loves everything about her life except for the fact that no one but her Pa knows she exists.

One night, while out catching rats, she witnesses a kidnapping of sorts. And then, more children begin to go missing from the estate. Serafina has no choice but to team up with the young master, Braeden, to figure out what is happening to all the children before she or Braeden fall victim next. [Read more](#)

Posted by Alejandria G. on December 17, 2018

[Serafina and the Black Cloak](#)

[Children's](#)

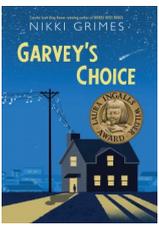
[Fantasy](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)

## Staff Picks: Garvey's Choice



[view in catalog](#)

**Reviewed by Alex G.**

Garvey loves reading and singing, but he's a little awkward and doesn't have too many friends. Even at home, his family doesn't quite get him. To cope with his feelings, Garvey turns to food as a source of comfort.

But when his best friend encourages him to join choir, Garvey may finally have found a place to belong and shine.

*Garvey's Choice* is a beautifully written novel in verse. Nikki Grimes does a wonderful job of telling the story of a boy trying to relate to the people around him and the way she writes Garvey's attempts at a relationship with his father is so real and, at times, heartbreaking. The poetry format of this novel make it a quick read and a great reading suggestion for reluctant readers.

Try *Garvey's Choice* is you like moving realistic fiction.

Posted by Alejandria G. on December 3, 2018

[Garvey's Choice](#)

[Award Winner](#)

[Children's](#)

[Poetry](#)

[Read](#)

[Oh, the Thinks You Can Think](#)

[Alejandria G.'s blog](#)