

Book Summaries – October, 2008

The Underneath

Appelt, Kathi

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Beauty Shop for Rent

Bowers, Laura

Raised by a great-grandmother and a bunch of beauty shop buddies, fourteen-year-old Abbey resolves to overcome her unhappy childhood and disillusionment with the mother who deserted her.

The Nature of Jade

Caletti, Deb

Seattle high school senior Jade's life is defined by her anxiety disorder and dysfunctional family, until she spies a mysterious boy with a baby who seems to share her fascination with the elephants at a nearby zoo.

The Loser's Guide to Life and Love

Cannon, A.E.

Over the summer, Salt Lake City high school student Ed McIlff works at a video store, wearing a shirt with the name Sergio on it, and when a beautiful girl comes in one day, he decides to take on a new, more suave identity, resulting in a series of misunderstandings and star-crossed adventures.

Oh, My, Gods.

Childs, Tera Lynn

When her mother suddenly decides to marry a near-stranger, Phoebe, whose passion is running, soon finds herself living on a remote Greek island, completing her senior year at an ancient high school where the students and teachers are all descended from gods or goddesses.

Lost and Found

Clements, Andrew

Twin brothers Jay and Ray Grayson learn about friendship, honesty, and themselves after taking advantage of a clerical oversight in which their new school thinks there is only one Grayson boy.

Mao's Last Dancer

Cunxin, Li.

Li Cunxin, a principal dancer with the Houston Ballet and Australian Ballet, explains how his childhood of poverty in rural China changed when he was selected by Madame Mao to attend the dance academy in Beijing, tells how his devotion to Communist philosophy was shaken during his first visit to the U.S. as part of an exchange program with the Houston Ballet, and discusses his eventual defection to the West.

Spellbound

Dale, Anna

A quiet summer vacation in a small country village turns out to be anything but peaceful for Athene and her younger brother, Zach, when they find themselves caught up in a skirmish between two groups of magical, gnome-like creatures.

Kenny & the Dragon

DiTerlizzi, Tony

Kenny Rabbit tries to save his friend, the dragon, after he is labeled a community nuisance by the simple people of Roundbrook village, who arrange for the creature to be fought by St. George.

The Walls of Cartagena

Durango, Julia

Thirteen-year-old Calepino, an African slave in the seventeenth-century Caribbean city of Cartagena, works as a translator for a Jesuit priest who tends to newly-arrived slaves and, after working for a Jewish doctor in a leper colony and helping an Angolan boy and his mother escape, he realizes his true calling.

The Circle of Blood

Ferguson, Alane

As she uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to investigate the death of a young runaway, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney, an assistant to her coroner father, worries that her secretive mother may be involved.

The Angel of Death

Ferguson, Alane

While investigating the murder of her English teacher, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney, who works as assistant coroner for her father, begins a romance with the most popular guy in school, awaits the arrival of her long-missing mother, and puts her life in danger.

The Christopher Killer

Ferguson, Alane. On the payroll as an assistant to her coroner father, seventeen-year-old Cameryn Mahoney uses her knowledge of forensic medicine to catch the killer of a friend while putting herself in terrible danger.

Twice Upon a Marigold

Ferris, Jean

After a quiet, happy year in a small town, Queen Olympia regains her memory and initiates new plots and manipulations, as the residents of Zandelpia and Beurivage, now ruled by Christian, Marigold, and Swithbert, feel the effects of her bad energy.

Duel! Burr and Hamilton's Deadly War of Words

Fradin, Dennis Brindell

Examines the Burr-Hamilton duel which occurred on July 11, 1804, in which vice-president Aaron Burr and the secretary of treasury, Alexander Hamilton, used dueling pistols to settle their political grievances.

The Finnish Line S.A.S.S.

Gerber, Linda

Nordic ski jumper Maureen Clark arrives in Finland hoping to escape her famous skier father's shadow and compete in the Lahti Ski Games, but when a gorgeous teammate offers her coaching assistance and turns her head, Mo struggles to balance her love life and her professional life.

Rumors – A Luxe Novel

Godbersen, Anna After the death of Elizabeth Holland, all of New York speculates about her unfortunate demise and wonder what role her mischievous sister, Diana, and notorious cad Henry Schoonmaker played in the events leading up to her death.

See How They Run, Campaign Dreams, Elections Scheme

Goodman, Susan E.

Provides a short history of Democracy, explains the process by which presidential campaigns are conducted, and discusses why citizens should exercise their right to vote.

Gone

Grant, Michael

In a small town on the coast of California, everyone over the age of fourteen suddenly disappears, setting up a battle between the remaining town residents and the students from a local private school, as well as those who have "The Power" and are able to perform supernatural feats and those who do not.

Nightmare at the Book Fair

Gutman, Dan

On his way to lacrosse tryouts, the president of the PTA asks Trip Dinkelman to help her with the book fair, resulting in Trip sustaining a head injury which causes him temporary amnesia and makes for an interesting journey home.

Seekers – the Quest Begins

Hunter, Erin

Three young bears of different species--one black, one polar, and one grizzly--travel on a perilous quest to the Northern Lights, escorting a shape-shifting grizzly cub whose destiny will affect them all.

The Dragon in the Sock Drawer

Klimo, Kate

Cousins Jesse and Daisy always knew they would have a magical adventure, but they are not prepared when the "thunder egg" Jesse has found turns out to be a dragon egg that is about to hatch.

Raymond and Graham Rule the School

Knudson, Mike

Best friends Raymond and Graham have looked forward to being the oldest and toughest boys at East Millcreek Elementary School; but everything goes wrong, including the scary teacher.

The Writing on the Wall

Licktman, Wendy

Math-loving eighth-grader Tess learns that sometimes life, like algebra, has no solutions and that she must take risks and find her own answers.

The Latent Powers of Dylan Fontaine

Lurie, April

Fifteen-year-old Dylan's friend Angie is making a film about him while he is busy trying to keep his older brother from getting caught with drugs, to deal with his mother having left the family, and to figure out how to get Angie to think of him as more than just a friend.

100 Days and 99 Nights

Madison, Alan

As Esme introduces her stuffed animal collection that is alphabetically arranged from Alvin the aardvark to Zelda the zebra she also relates her family's military life and her father's deployment.

Wicked Lovely

Marr, Melissa

Seventeen-year-old Aislinn, who has the rare ability to see fairies, is drawn against her will into a centuries-old battle by Keenan, the terrifying but alluring Summer King, who determines that she must become his queen and save summer from perishing.

Ink Exchange

Marr, Melissa

Seventeen-year-old Leslie wants a tattoo as a way of reclaiming control of herself and her body, but the eerie image she selects pulls her into the dangerous Dark Court of the faeries, where she draws on inner strength to make a horrible choice.

The Totally Made-Up Civil War Diary of Amanda MacLeish

Mills, Claudia

While dealing with her parents' separation and her best friend's distance, Amanda is able to work out some of her anxiety through her fifth-grade project--writing a diary from the point of view of a ten-year-old girl whose brothers fight on opposite sides in the Civil War.

Attack of the Growling Eyeballs

Oliver Lin

Daniel Funk, who lives with three sisters, his mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, has always wanted a brother, and when he suddenly shrinks to the size of a toe, he discovers that he has a twin brother who is the same size.

The Dangerous Days of Daniel X

Patterson, James

Fifteen-year-old Daniel has followed in his parents' footsteps as the Alien Hunter, exterminating beings on The List of Alien Outlaws on Terra Firma, but when he faces his first of the top ten outlaws, the very existence Earth and another planet are at stake.

The Adoration of Jenna Fox

Pearson, Mary E.

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

The Dead & The Gone

Pfeffer, Susan Beth

After a meteor hits the moon and sets off a series of horrific climate changes, seventeen-year-old Alex Morales must take care of his sisters alone in the chaos of New York City.

Streams of Babel

Plum-Ucci, Carol

Six teens face a bioterrorist attack on American soil as four are infected with a mysterious disease affecting their small New Jersey neighborhood and two others, both brilliant computer hackers, assist the United States Intelligence Coalition in tracking the perpetrators.

Septimus Heap #4 Queste

Sage, Angie

Septimus must elude the plans of Merrin Meredith and Tertius Fume in order to find the House of Foryx, a place where all Time meets, and secure the release of Nicko and Snorri.

The Magician

Scott, Michael

Fifteen-year-old twins Sophie and Josh Newman continue their magical training in Paris with Nicholas Flamel, Scatty, and the Comte de Sant Germaine, pursued by Doctor Dee and the immortal Niccolo Machiavelli.

The Mighty 12 – Superheroes of Greek Myth

Smith, Charles Jr

Introduces an illustrated collection of twelve mythical gods and goddesses of ancient Greece including Zeus, Apollo, Aphrodite, Athena, and Dionysus

Sisters of the Sword

Snow, Maya

Two aristocratic sisters in ancient Japan disguise themselves as samurai warriors to take revenge on the uncle who betrayed their family.

Dodger and Me

Sonnenblick, Jordan

Miserable because his only friend moved away and he has once again caused his baseball team to lose a game, fifth-grader Willy Ryan's life suddenly becomes a lot more interesting when he finds Dodger, a furry, blue chimpanzee that only he can see, and he has to decide what he really wishes for in life.

Smiles to Go

Spinelli, Jerry

Will Tuppence's life has always been ruled by science and common sense but in ninth grade, shaken up by the discovery that protons decay, he begins to see the entire world differently and gains new perspective on his relationships with his little sister and two closest friends.

Dolphin Song

St. John, Lauren

Sequel to: The white giraffe. A second prophesy, this time involving dolphins, comes true for eleven-year-old Martine, an orphaned South African girl who has mystical powers over animals, when she embarks on a school trip to study marine life off the coast of Mozambique.

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey

Stewart, Trenton Lee

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

Artichoke's Heart

Supplee, Suzanne

When she is almost sixteen years old, Rosemary decides she is sick of being overweight, mocked at school and at Heavenly Hair--her mother's beauty salon--and feeling out of control, and as she slowly loses weight, she realizes that she is able to cope with her mother's cancer, having a boyfriend for the first time, and discovering that other people's lives are not as perfect as they seem from the outside.

Nick of Tim

Bell, Ted

twelve-year-old Nick McIver tries to help his father and sister send vital information to England about imminent Nazi invasion, until he finds himself transported through time to help his ancestor stop a mutinous captain who is aiding the French fleet and endangering British sailors.

March Toward the Thunder

Bruchac, Joseph

Louis Nollette, a fifteen-year-old Abenaki Indian, joins the Irish Brigade in 1864 to fight for the Union in the Civil War.

Wrath of the Bloodeye

Delaney, Joseph

Bloodeye, an ancient water witch, emerges and Tom must train under Bill Arkwright, a man who has unusual training techniques, in order to fight her.

The Trouble Begins at 8 : A life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West

Fleischman, Sid

A narrative account of the childhood and youth of nineteenth-century writer Mark Twain. Includes period engravings, newspaper cartoons, and black-and-white photographs

Found

Haddix, Margaret Peterson

When thirteen-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time.

Rapunzel's Revenge

Hale, Shannon and Dean

Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home, but she is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch.

Brooklyn Bridge

Hesse, Karen

Fourteen-year-old Joseph Michtom's life takes a dramatic turn when, in 1903 Brooklyn, his parents turn their apartment into a factory for making teddy bears; and Joseph wonders whether he will ever see the glitter of Coney Island.

Complete Horowitz Horror

Horowitz, Anthony

Presents a collection of eighteen horror stories, set in England, that focus on everyday items that have sinister qualities, and includes computer games, a mysterious elevator, and a deadly cell phone.

Toys go out : being the adventures of a knowledgeable stingray, a toughy little buffalo, and someone called Plastic

Jenkins, Emily

Six stories relate the adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys.

Toy dance party : being the further adventures of a bossyboots Stingray, a courageous Buffalo, and a hopeful round someone called Plastic

Jenkins, Emily

Six stories relate further adventures of three best friends, who happen to be toys, as they encounter a fearsome--possible--shark, enjoy a dance party, and deal with rejection by The Girl, who is growing up.

Boys Are Dogs

Margolis, Leslie

After Annabelle's mother starts dating a new boyfriend, she faces life in a new town with a new school, and a new puppy, and while training the dog Annabelle decides to experiment with some of her training techniques to deal with the unruly middle school boys in her class.

Next to Mexico

Nails, Jennifer

Outspoken, impulsive Lylice has skipped fifth grade, but she finds that getting along at Susan B. Anthony Middle School is more difficult than she expected, until she befriends another newcomer to the sixth grade.

Keys to the Kingdom Lady Friday

Nix, Garth

Sequel to: Sir Thursday. Still holding the fourth key, Arthur Penhaligon receives a suspicious offer from Lady Friday and travels to the Middle House to find out if he should accept it.