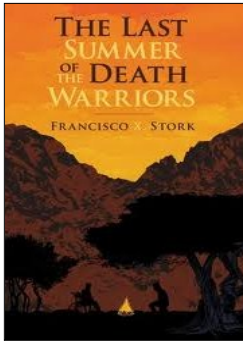


sister's killer. But then he's assigned to help D.Q., whose brain cancer has slowed neither his spirit nor his mouth. Will D.Q. battle cancer under his own terms? Will Pancho revenge his sister's death? Lexile: 640

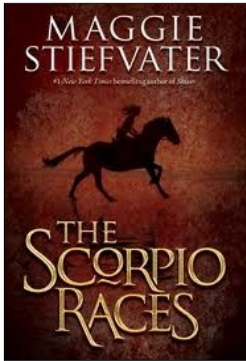


The Scorpio Races by Maggie Stiefvater

It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their dangerous water horses long enough to make it to the finish line.

Some riders live. Others die.

At 19, Sean Kendrick is the returning champion. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn't given her a chance. She enters the competition — the first girl ever to do so. She is not prepared for what is going to happen. Lexile: 840

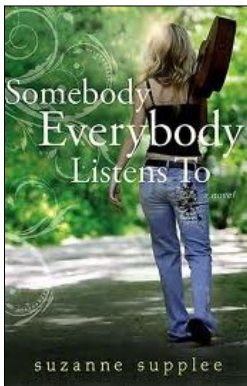


Somebody Everybody Listens To

by Suzanne Supplee

Eighteen-year-old Retta Lee Jones has just graduated, and she can't wait to get out of town and never look back.

Armed with her guitar, golden voice and dreams of stardom, she's headed for Nashville to make it as a country singer. But she's one of hundreds of dreamers streaming into town every year, and with a rickety car and barely \$500 in her pocket, the odds are stacked

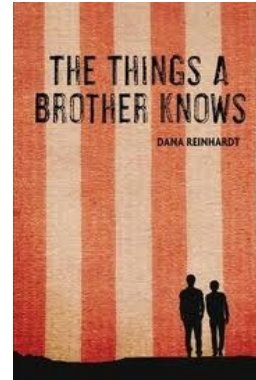


against her. Retta learns what it means to stay true to her own voice and values. And maybe she'll one day become somebody everybody listens to. Lexile: 830

The Things a Brother Knows

by Dana Reinhardt

Finally, Levi Katznelson's older brother, Boaz, has returned from the Middle East after serving his country as a marine. Boaz was a high school star who had it all and gave it up to serve in a war Levi can't understand. With the help of his two best friends, Levi has fumbled through high school, weary of his role as little brother to the hero. But when Boaz walks through the front door after his tour of duty is over, it's obvious there's something wrong. Boaz is home, safe. But Levi knows that his brother is not the same. Then Boaz leaves again, and this time Levi follows him, determined to understand who his brother was, who he has become, and how to bring him home again. Lexile: 650



The Black-Eyed Susan Nominees:

- Outstanding fiction or nonfiction books that broaden the human experience and provide readers with insights into their own lives.
- Suggested by students, teachers, parents, or others.
- Received positive reviews from appropriate professional journals.
- Read, discussed, and voted upon by the Black-Eyed Susan reading committee before being placed on the appropriate list.

Summaries taken from Follett Library Resources (Titlewave), Amazon, Goodreads and Shelfari

Shawn Lees-Carr, literacy specialist

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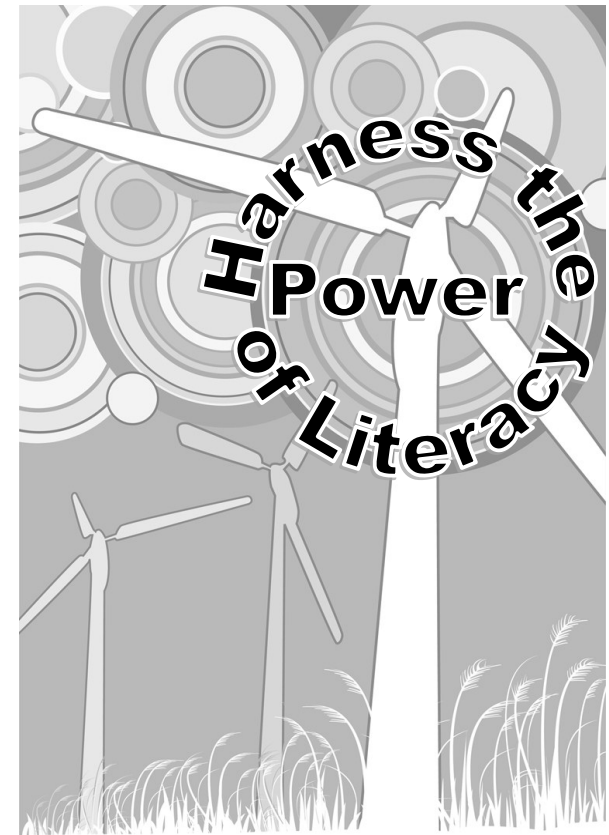
For book reviews, visit my book blog:

<http://bigbraincandy.blogspot.com/>



**2012-2013 Black-Eyed
Susan Nominees**

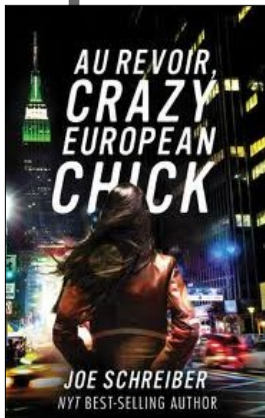
READ and REAP!



**Tuscarora
High School**

Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick

by Joe Schreiber

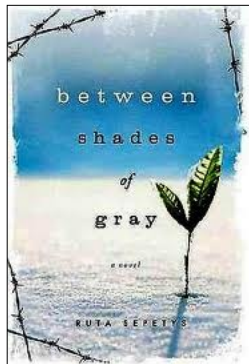


Perry's parents insist that he take Gobi, their quiet, Lithuanian exchange student, to senior prom but after an incident at the dance he learns that Gobi is actually a trained assassin who needs him as a henchman, behind the wheel of his father's precious Jaguar, on a mission in Manhattan. Lexile: 800

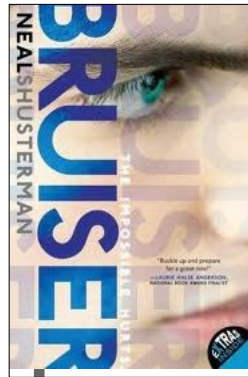
Between Shades of Gray

by Ruta Sepetys

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother,



and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Risking everything, she embeds clues of their location in drawings and secretly passes them along, hoping they reach her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive? Lexile: 490



Bruiser by Neal Shusterman

Tennyson becomes worried when his twin sister, Brontë, takes a liking to a withdrawn classmate, “Bruiser” Rawlins. After he spies Bruiser changing in the locker room and notices that his back is covered in scars and welts, Tennyson becomes more certain that the teen is bad news. In spite of her brother's warnings, Brontë continues her relationship with Bruiser. The twins begin to uncover an unbelievable secret about the pain and wounds Bruiser endures.

Lexile: 820

Divergent by Veronica Roth

In this future world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to upholding a particular virtue—Candor (the honest), Abnegation (the selfless), Dauntless (the brave), Amity (the peaceful), and Erudite (the intelligent). One day each year, all sixteen-year-olds select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. Beatrice, makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

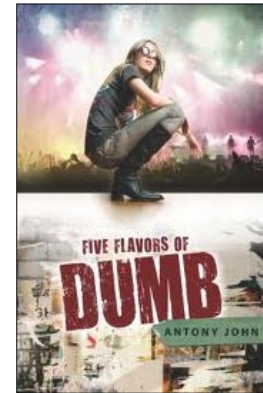


During the highly competitive, dangerous and deadly initiation that follows, Beatrice struggles to live out the choice she made. Everyone must undergo extreme physical tests of endurance and intense psychological simulations.

But Tris also has a secret that could mean death.

Lexile: 700

Five Flavors of Dumb by M. Antony John

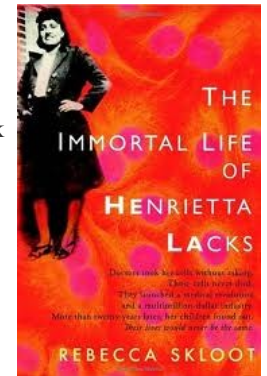


The Challenge: Piper has one month to get the rock band *Dumb* a paying gig. The Deal: If she does it, Piper will become the band's manager and get her share of the profits. The Catch: How can Piper possibly manage one pretty boy, one talentless piece of eye candy, one crush, one silent rocker, and one angry girl? And how can she do it when she's deaf? Lexile: 890

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

by Rebecca Skloot

Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells—taken without her knowledge in 1951—became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. Lexile: 1140



The Last Summer of the Death Warriors

by Francisco Stork

When Pancho arrives at St. Anthony's Home, he knows his time there will be short: If his plans succeed, he'll soon be arrested for the murder of his