

Check out OYAN's Teen Book Raves – literally!

By JENNIFER COSTLEY

Each year the Oregon Young Adult Network (OYAN) puts together a list of the best teen titles published the previous year. Nominations come from librarians, teens and OYAN members. Of the 21 books selected for this year's OYAN Book Rave, I have found four to be exceptional. Help your teen start the summer off right by introducing them to the following instant classics. You can find the complete list of 2016 Book Raves online at <http://bit.ly/1rcfpi0>.

"Goodbye Stranger" by Rebecca Stead.



Seventh-grader Bridge Barsamian navigates life on Manhattan's Upper West Side with the help of a few quirky friends and a possible new love interest. Middle school-aged teens will enjoy this coming of age tale that centers on friendship, love and betrayal, while weaving

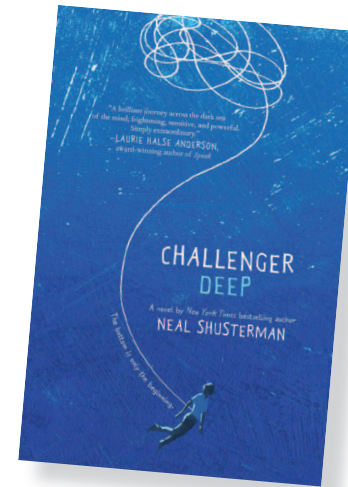
together a variety of story lines. Heads up parents: This book delves into some tough but timely topics such as sexting and bullying. If approached carefully, "Goodbye Stranger" could be an excellent opportunity to talk to your teen about internet safety.

"Challenger Deep" by Neal Shusterman.

Influenced by his son's schizophrenia, author Neal Shusterman (most famous for his "Unwind Dystology") crafts a novel that is part adventure, part reality. In his own mind, Caden Bosch is part of a pirate crew on a mission to reach Challenger Deep, the deepest trench in the ocean. In real life, Caden Bosch is your average teenager, struggling to balance school and family. The trouble is, lately Caden finds it difficult to separate one from the other. Shusterman does an excellent job of portraying mental illness in a way that is both approachable and entertaining for teen readers.

"Carry On" by Rainbow Rowell.

Rowell first caught the attention of teen readers with her ultra-romantic tale of two misfits in love in "Eleanor and Park." There is plenty of kissing and teen angst to go around in "Carry On," however, Rowell makes the bold leap from realistic fiction to fantasy. The result is a clever mashup between the Harry Potter series and anything John Green has ever written. "Carry On" can be

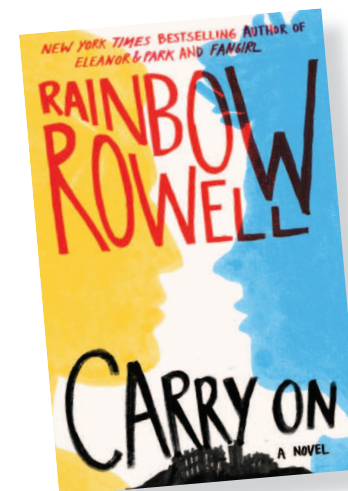


read as a standalone novel, but if you're looking for a fun change of pace try reading it along with Rowell's previous title "Fangirl," which was the inspiration for "Carry On."

"Orbiting Jupiter" by Gary Schmidt.

You may remember Gary Schmidt from a few years back when his breakthrough novel "Okay for Now" took the children's literary world by storm. "Okay for Now" was a 2014 Oregon Battle of the Books title as well as a national book award finalist. His newest novel, "Orbiting Jupiter," is told through the perspective of 12-year-old Jack, a farm boy whose family takes in 14-year-old Joseph as a foster child. Joseph has recently been released from a juvenile

detention center and is on a quest to find the daughter he fathered but has never met. You will need your tissues for this one, but like Schmidt's previous novels you'll be left thinking of the beautiful humanity portrayed in the story long after you've gotten over the tragedy.



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