

# GO! read

LOCAL LITERARY HIGHLIGHTS

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## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS FROM DESCHUTES PUBLIC LIBRARIES

BY DAVID JASPER  
The Bulletin

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

#### "My Thoughts Are Clouds: Poems for Mindfulness,"

by Georgia Heard; Illustrated by Isabel Roxas

With poems that explore a variety of mindfulness techniques, Heard shares verses that allow readers to focus on breathing, being present and taking notice of the world around them. With thoughts that race a mile a minute, or jump around like a monkey, these poems offer tools to help quiet down the noisy mind. Mindfulness is explored in ways that are relatable to kids, like in the poem "Selfie Moment", and in ways that allow them to explore the words of the poem, like in "Mindfulness is Like a Mir-



#### "Starfish," by Lisa Fipps

Twelve-year-old Ellie has been bullied because of her weight for as long as she can remember. She is called names and

fat-shamed not only by the kids at her school, but by members of her own family. It is all she can do to hold it together, but between her only trusted friend moving and the on-going struggle to prove her worth to her overly critical mother, things seem to be unraveling fast. In this poignant middle-grade novel told in verse, Ellie must learn to find her voice and to fight for what she feels that every per-

son is deserved: the right to take up space.

—Ericka Brunson, Deschutes Public Library  
community librarian

### TEEN BOOKS

#### "Dragon Hoops," by Gene Luen Yang

If you're already missing March Madness go and get this graphic novel. It's 2014 and Yang is a teacher at Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd High School where the storied basketball team regularly makes it to the state championship finals without winning. Will this be their year? Yang's deceptively simple

drawings convey all the energy, nerves and excitement of the game, yet the book's quieter moments spent getting to know coaches and players are often its best. Yang twines The Dragons' story with his own struggle with deciding whether to remain a teacher or take a shot at being a full-time author. You'll be rooting for both him and the team all the way to the final buzzer.

"Ashlords," by Scott Reintgen  
This incredibly detailed fantasy reads like a mash-up of "The Hunger Games" and "The Scorpio Races." The Ashlords have been gifted phoenix horses by the gods

Continued on next page

**Mindfulness is explored in ways that are relatable to kids, like in the poem "Selfie Moment", and in ways that allow them to explore the words of the poem, like in "Mindfulness is Like a Mirror Haiku." This book of mindfulness poems is perfect for anyone needing to take a moment to breathe and to focus on the now.**

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