

Fort Collins Regional Library District
Boy Meets Book: Best Boy Reads

Auseon. **Funny Little Monkey.** An angry teenage midget named Arty messes with his bullying fraternal twin's mind by hiring a skinhead named Kerouac to come up with a prank so diabolical, it will set their entire school on a mad goose chase for a giant, concrete....turtle. Weird? Yes-and utterly original.

Cormier. **Rag and Bone Shop.** Jason is a shy and ineffectual boy who takes being bullied as a matter of course--but if he sees someone else being pushed around, he may strike back. When the young girl who lives next door is murdered, Jason is horrified. He was the last one to see her alive. When the police come calling, he tells them all he knows. What Jason doesn't know is that he is the primary suspect.

Curtis. **Bucking the Sarge.** Luther's mother, the Sarge, runs an empire of slums and halfway houses and has a loan-sharking business. At age 15, Luther manages one of her halfway houses, drives the residents around in a van with an illegal license, and readies the homes of evicted tenants for the Sarge's next desperate victims. In exchange, she puts his earnings in a college fund, threatens him into submission, and primes him to take over the business. All Luther wants to do is to escape.

Glatstein. **Emil and Karl.** In Vienna, Austria, in 1940, two boys, one Jewish and one Aryan, are classmates and best friends when events of the Nazi occupation draw them even closer together as they fight to survive and escape together.

Hobbs. **Crossing the Wire.** No longer able to grow corn profitably in his Mexican village, 15-year-old Victor, who has supported his family since his father's death, resolves to go to El Norte. When his friend Rico tells him that he has enough money to pay for a coyote to help him cross into El Norte, Victor decides to attempt the dangerous border crossing even though it means leaving his family.

Horowitz. **Ark Angel.** After recovering from a near fatal gunshot wound, teenage spy Alex Rider embarks on a new mission to stop a group of eco-terrorists from sabotaging the launch of the first outer space hotel.

Jenkins. **Out of Order.** Sophomore Colt Trammel feels that he's reached the top. After all, he's a base-ball star and he's part of the school's elite social group. Not that there aren't problems: Colt hates school and his grades are so bad that his sports eligibility is in danger. He also has problems with his beautiful and brainy girlfriend. When a girl with green hair transfers to his high school, Colt is disconcerted by the fact that he finds her interesting when the school social code dictates that he should ignore her.

Jones. **Nailed.** Sixteen-year-old Bret Hendricks personifies his father's adage: "The nail that sticks out the farthest gets hammered hardest." He's an actor in a school that worships jocks, a semi-intellectual in a blue-collar family, a kid with a ponytail in a school that values conformity. Although he secretly longs to be normal, he just can't bring himself to give up his love of theater--or his argument-tative tendencies even though the consequences are severe.

Powell. **Three Clams and an Oyster.** Flint is the captain of Three Clams and an Oyster, a four man flag-football team in Seattle. The Clams are unhappy with unreliable, party loving Cade, who has filled the Oyster spot since the accidental death of a teammate two years earlier. The three teens wrestle with their personal biases and perspectives on dumping Cade and on recruiting a well-coordinated but distracted ladies' man; a hopeful but inept new-comer; or a self-confident, athletic female.

Rapp. **33 Snowfish.** On the run in a stolen car with a kidnapped baby in tow, Custis, Curl, and Boobie are three young people with troubled pasts and bleak, uncertain futures. As they struggle to find new lives for themselves, it becomes painfully clear that none of them will ever be able to leave the past behind. This is a harrowing, though rewarding, story.

Slade. **Tribes.** 17-year-old Percy explains that his anthropologist father died in the Congo three years earlier after being bitten by a tsetse fly. Percy thereafter refers to fellow humans as "hominids" and observes that numerous tribes exist in friction at his high school. The Logo Tribe exhibits name brands wherever and whenever possible.... the Lipstick/Hairspray Tribe performs elaborate appearance alterations to attract mates. He and his sole friend are shunned by everyone else for reasons that only slowly dawn on the reader.

Yancey. **Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp.** Through a series of dangerous and violent misadventures, teenage loser Alfred Kropp rescues King Arthur's legendary sword Excalibur from the forces of evil.

Yoo. **Girls for Breakfast.** Nick Park, a Korean American, blames his Korean looks for his lack of popularity and girlfriends. Readers will understand that his problem is due to his desperate bids for attention. This edgy and wickedly funny tale, filled with references to '80s pop culture, begins on Nick's high school graduation day as he retraces his thoughts and experiences from elementary school to the present.