Dear Librarians and Educators,

Among the many books published each year, it is always so exciting to introduce new voices into the esteemed categories of middle grade and young adult literature. After all, names like Judy Blume and Gary Paulsen, John Green and Laurie Halse Anderson; Brian Selznick and Walter Dean Myers were once unknown. Each of them was discovered on a library shelf, at a school visit, and shared among friends in an intimate book club setting.

The titles featured represent a talented collection of authors, each with their own writing style: we have humorists and mystery plotters, romance writers and fantasy world builders; writers encompassing futuristic, contemporary and historical fiction.

We have provided comparison titles for each debut, making reader’s advisory seamless. If you have Rainbow Rowell fans, introduce them to Anna Breslaw’s Scarlett Epstein Hates it Here; if your readers loved Dorothy Must Die introduce them to Sara Saedi’s Never Ever. When you get parents looking for a book to hold up to The Watsons Go to Birmingham -1963, try Taylor Kitchings’ The Yard War. We’ve catered this brochure to meet your needs and your readers’ interests, so use it as much as you can!

We can’t wait to share our class of 2016 with you. Enjoy!

—Penguin Young Readers Group and Random House Children’s Books

Middle Grade

INTRODUCING . . .

Haifaa Al-Mansour AUTHOR OF The Green Bicycle

Haifaa Al Mansour is a Saudi Arabian film director and screenwriter. She is the winner of the 2015 Sundance Institute Global Filmmaking Award and the EDA Female Focus Award from the Alliance of Women Film Journalists. Her first feature-length film, Wadjda, is the basis of this middle grade novel. This Middle-Eastern coming of age story is told with warmth, spirit, and a mischievous sense of humor.

READ-ALIKES:
- Lions of Little Rock
- I Am Malala
- A Long Walk to Water
- The Lemonade Wars
- How to Steal a Dog

Dave Butler AUTHOR OF Extraordinary Journeys of Clockwork Charlie: Kidnap Plot

Dave Butler lives in an old house, and works in a study where one of the biggest bestsellers of the 20th century was written—Dave has kept the room’s original shag carpet and wooden-veneered walls. He likes games, guitars, languages, and most of all his family.
Andrew S. Chilton drew inspiration for *The Goblin’s Puzzle* from a wide variety of sources, ranging from *The Hobbit* to Monty Python to Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*. As a kid, he gobbled up fantasy novels and logic puzzles, and as an adult, he spent over ten years as a practicing lawyer before launching his career as a writer. He lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This is his first novel.

Chelsea Clinton is the Vice Chair of the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation where she helps lead the work of the Foundation across its various initiatives, with a particular focus on work related to health, women and girls, creating service opportunities, and empowering the next generation of leaders. With lots of suggestions and ideas for action, Chelsea Clinton shares her passion for helping others and shows readers that the world belongs to every single one of us, and every one of us counts.

Victoria J. Coe grew up in the seaside community of Duxbury, Massachusetts and went on to live in New York and San Francisco, as well as large and small towns on both US coasts. During her family’s most recent move, she noticed her dog’s confusion and started to wonder what was going through his mind. As they walked in Boston’s Fenway neighborhood, his reactions to the sights, sounds, and smells of the city took hold of her imagination.
INTRODUCING . . .

Melanie Conklin AUTHOR OF Counting Thyme

Melanie Conklin is a writer, reader, and all-around lover of words and those who create them. She lives in South Orange, New Jersey, with her husband and two small maniacs. Melanie spent a decade as a product designer and approaches her writing with the same three-dimensional thinking and fastidious attention to detail.

INTRODUCING . . .

Tamara Ellis Smith AUTHOR OF Another Kind of Hurricane

Tamara Ellis Smith graduated in 2007 from Vermont College of Fine Arts with an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults. This is her first novel.

INTRODUCING . . .

Laurel Gale AUTHOR OF Dead Boy

Debut author Laurel Gale is an academic director at an ESL school. She grew up in California and Colorado and later graduated from Tulane University with a degree in anthropology. Laurel currently lives with her husband in Henderson, Nevada.
Jake Gerhardt was born and raised in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania. He attended Elkins Park Middle School where he played football and basketball, ran track, performed in the school musical, and was a member of the student council. He also found time to attend many school dances, in constant pursuit of various Miranda Mullalys. Since graduating from West Chester University, he has worked as a teacher. He currently lives in Los Angeles with his pulchritudinous wife and two amazing daughters.

Jessica Haight is a true New Englander, with a deep desire to be near the ocean and a love of the four seasons. Jessica lives in Connecticut.

Stephanie Robinson lives with her husband in a quiet town, though it is not as quaint as Ashpot. After teaching fifth grade for almost fifteen years, she is now enjoying her role as a school media specialist.

Taylor Kitchings’ roots in Mississippi are many generations deep, though it took him a while to circle back to them. As a college freshman, he recorded the original album Clean Break. As a junior, he wrote music for mallet and giant Möbius strip, performed at Manhattan’s Café La MaMa. In the years between his BA and MA, he traveled from Memphis to New York to Europe, writing and performing songs on piano. Home at last, he lives with wife Beth, children, dog and cat in Ridgeland, Mississippi, and teaches English at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School.
INTRODUCING...  

Susan Kreller AUTHOR OF You Can’t See the Elephants

Susan Kreller is a freelance journalist and writer. She has been nominated for the German Youth Literature Prize twice and has won the Kranichsteiner literary prize.

INTRODUCING...  

Lisa Lewis Tyre AUTHOR OF Last in a Long Line of Rebels

Lisa Tyre grew up in the tiniest of towns in Tennessee, where the only form of entertainment was watching her crazy family, and even crazier neighbors. As a child, she heard the story of siblings that found gold in their field, enough to pay off the family farm. Legend claimed it was Civil War gold. Whatever the truth, Lisa and her friends spent many hours searching their own backyards for treasure.

INTRODUCING...  

Juman Malouf AUTHOR OF The Trilogy of Two

Juman Malouf was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and grew up in London. She graduated from Brown University with a BA in fine arts and art history. She received an MFA from Tisch School of the Arts for set and costume design. She has designed and illustrated for theatre, film, and fashion in the US and Europe.
This is Denis Markell’s first novel, and he took writing it very seriously, playing hours and hours worth of Escape the Room games for research and authenticity (or so he told his family). He has also written (or co-written): an award-winning Off-Broadway musical revue; a few musical comedies for the stage; various and sundry sitcoms; a play with Joan Rivers; and an episode of Thundercats. He lives in a small apartment in Brooklyn with his wife and son. You can find him on Twitter at @DenisMarkell.

Cameron McAllister is a TV scriptwriter, and has worked on shows such as Robinson Crusoe, Spooks Code 9, Primeval and Emmerdale. He grew up near the beaches of Cornwall, and now lives in Brighton with his wife, four sons and Floss the dog.

Justin Sayre is a writer and a performer, writing for hit TV shows like 2 Broke Girls and showcasing his original work on stage in L.A. He was once compared to Oscar Wilde (meets Whoopi Goldberg) and when you meet him and fall in love with his ability to tell a good joke and a better story, you’ll understand why.
Laura Shovan has more than 20 years of experience as an educator and poet-in-the-schools. She holds a BFA from New York University and an MAT from Montclair State University in New Jersey, where she taught high school English. She is poetry editor of the literary journal Little Patuxent Review and of two poetry anthologies, and is an award winning poet: her chapbook, Mountain, Log, Salt and Stone, won the inaugural Harriss Poetry Prize.

Kathryn Siebel teaches Humanities at Billings Middle School in Seattle and works with elementary school students at the Greenlake School Age Care Program. She has worked in educational publishing and as an English teacher and librarian and has a MFA from the Iowa’s Writers’ Workshop. This is her first novel.

Lauren Wolk is an award-winning poet. She was born in Baltimore and has since lived in California, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Canada, and Ohio. She now lives with her husband and two sons on Cape Cod. She is also a contributing editor for OWL, an award-winning children’s magazine.
Young Adult

INTRODUCING . . .

Anna Breslaw AUTHOR OF Scarlett Epstein Hates It Here

Anna Breslaw has a winning voice that’s already attracted over 27,000 followers on Twitter. Her account was named a Top 140 account for 2014 by TIME magazine. Her writing regularly appears in Cosmopolitan, where she works full-time as the sex and relationship editor and has also appeared in New York Magazine’s Vulture blog, Jezebel, the New York Times, New Yorker online, and more. She lives in New York and tweets (mostly weird jokes) @annabreslaw.

INTRODUCING . . .

Pratima Cranse AUTHOR OF All the Major Constellations

Pratima Cranse was born and raised in Vermont. She now lives in New Hampshire with her husband, daughter, and their two magnificent cats. She is a recent MFA grad, with keen observations and empathy for the teen experience. When she’s not writing, Pratima enjoys jogging very slowly (some might call it shuffling) and spending time with her family.

INTRODUCING . . .

Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison AUTHORS OF Totally Awkward Love Story

Tom Ellen and Lucy Ivison met at the end of high school and quickly became sweethearts. Though they broke up in college, they remain best friends. Lucy runs online teen magazine Whatever After, as well as teaching in girls’ schools across London specializing in building confidence and creativity. Tom is a journalist and has written for Time Out, Vice, ESPN, Glamour, and many more. They co-wrote A Totally Awkward Love Story partially inspired by their own high school relationship, with Tom writing Sam’s chapters and Lucy writing Hannah’s. This is their first novel.
Moïra Fowley-Doyle  
**AUTHOR OF The Accident Season**

Moïra Fowley-Doyle is half French, half Irish and lives in Dublin with her husband, their young daughter, and their old cat. Moïra’s French half likes red wine and dark books in which everybody dies. Her Irish half likes tea and happy endings. Moïra started a PhD on vampires in young adult fiction before concentrating on writing young adult fiction with no vampires in it whatsoever.

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Marina Gessner  
**AUTHOR OF The Distance from Me to You**

Marina Gessner is the pen name of Nina de Gramont. Nina is a writer, teacher, and mom, not necessarily in that order. Her work has appeared in Redbook, Harvard Review, Nerve, and Seventeen. She lives in North Carolina with her husband and daughter.

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Alwyn Hamilton  
**AUTHOR OF Rebel of the Sands**

Alwyn Hamilton was born in Toronto and lived between Canada, France, and Italy until he was three, when her family settled in the small French town of Beaune. She studied History of Art at King’s College, Cambridge, graduated in 2009, and lives in London, where she works for Christie’s as Senior Administrator in the Interiors department.
Emily Henry has expertly crafted the page-turning cosmic mystery at the center of her story to communicate--and practically translate--the specific yet universal emotions particular to young adulthood, when the past, present, and future seem to be pulling you in three different directions at once. She’s a writer, proofreader, and donut connoisseur. She studied creative writing at Hope College and the New York Center for Art & Media Studies, and now spends most of her time in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the part of Kentucky just beneath it. She tweets @EmilyHenryWrite.

Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock earned an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Hamline University. A third generation Alaskan and a longtime journalist for Alaska Public Radio, she spent ten years fishing commercially and raised her children on a boat in Southeast Alaska. She now lives in Lyons, Colorado. This is her first novel.

David Hofmeyr was born in South Africa and lives in London and Paris. In 2012 he was a finalist in the SCBWI Undiscovered Voices competition and in 2013 he graduated with distinction from Bath Spa University with an MA in Writing for Young People. He works as a Planner for Ogilvy & Mather in the UK.
Aditi Khorana spent part of her childhood in India, Denmark and New England. She has a BA in International Relations from Brown University and an MA in Global Media and Communications from the Annenberg School for Communication. She has worked as a journalist at ABC News, CNN, and PBS, and most recently as a marketing executive consulting for various Hollywood studios including FOX, Paramount and SONY. She lives in Los Angeles and spends her free time reading, hiking, and exploring LA’s eclectic and wonderful architecture.

At sixteen, Kim Liggett left her rural midwestern town for New York City, where she pursued a career in music and acting. While attending the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, Kim sang backup for some of the biggest rock bands of the 80’s. After settling down to have a family, she became an entrepreneur, creating a children’s art education program and a travel company specializing in tours for musicians. She’s married to jazz musician Ken Peplowski and has two beautiful teenagers.

Jenny Manzer is a writer, editor, and former news reporter. She lives in Victoria, British Columbia with her husband, son, and daughter. She loves music but never did see Nirvana play live. Find her on Twitter @JennyManzer.
Adriana Mather is a full time writer, producer and actor. She owns a production company called Zombot Pictures, which has produced three films, including the award-winning Honeyglue. She lives in Los Angeles, California.

Parker Peevyhouse teaches part-time at a tutoring center and a K-8 school. She loves puzzles, games, and riddles of all kinds and can’t pass up a chance to take in California’s amazing scenery. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her family.

Sara Saedi was born in Tehran, Iran, smack-dab in the middle of a war and an Islamic Revolution. As the story goes, she entered the world to the sounds of bombs exploding near the hospital. Though her memory of the day is a little fuzzy, the life and death stakes surrounding her birth helped prepare her for a writing career. Sara received a BA in Film and Mass Communications from the University of California, Berkeley, and began her career as a creative executive for ABC Daytime. In 2010, she left the company to pursue her dream of being a writer. She currently resides in Los Angeles with her husband and her pug, Mabel.
Gavriel Savit holds a BFA in musical theater from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he grew up. As an actor and singer, Gavriel has performed on three continents, from New York to Brussels to Tokyo. He lives in Brooklyn.

Shalanda Stanley grew up in Louisiana and earned her BA in Creative Writing at Florida State University. She has an M.Ed in Special Education from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a PhD from LSU in Curriculum & Instruction, with a focus in reading curriculum and research. She’s an Assistant Professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe in the department of Curriculum, Instruction, & Leadership.

Kara Thomas has written for everything from her high school newspaper to Warner Brothers Television. She’s a True Crime addict who lives on Long Island with her husband and rescue cat. To learn more about Kara and her books, visit kara-thomas.com and follow @karatwrites on Twitter.
**INTRODUCING . . .**

**Nicola Yoon** AUTHOR OF *Everything, Everything*

Nicola Yoon grew up in Jamaica (the island) and Brooklyn (part of Long Island). She currently resides in Los Angeles, CA with her husband and their daughter, both of whom she loves beyond all reason.

**INTRODUCING . . .**

**Jeff Zentner** author of *The Serpent King*

Jeff Zentner is a singer-songwriter and guitarist who has recorded with Iggy Pop, Nick Cave and Debbie Harry. In addition to writing and recording his own music, Zentner works with young musicians at Tennessee Teen Rock Camp, which inspired him to write a novel for young adults. He lives in Nashville with his wife and son. You can follow Zentner on Facebook, Instagram, and on Twitter at @jeffzentner.
INTRODUCING . . .

Penguin Young Readers Group
and
Random House Children’s Books

DEBUT AUTHOR BROCHURE