



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Kirkland, A. B. (n.d.) *By the Brooks*. Retrieved from www.bythebrooks.ca
This is Kirkland's website and blog, where she shares a wealth of workshop resources

The Canadian School Libraries. (2018). *Canadian School Libraries*. Retrieved from www.canadianschoollibraries.ca

This website provides direct access to all major projects and resources.

As a writer, presenter and consultant, **Anita Brooks Kirkland** (B.Mus, B.Ed, MM, MLIS, Ontario Certified Teacher) specializes in the areas of information and digital literacy and the role of the school library learning commons. She draws on her extensive experience as a teacher educator, both as an instructor in teacher librarianship for the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, and in her previous role as the consultant for K–12 libraries at the Waterloo Region District School Board. Kirkland was a contributing writer to *Together for Learning*, Ontario's guideline document for the school library learning commons. She serves as chair of Canadian School Libraries, coeditor of the *Canadian School Libraries Journal*, and cochair of the Treasure Mountain Canada Research Symposium and Think Tank. She was the 2014 president of the Ontario Library Association and president of the Ontario School Library Association in 2005. She is on the *Teacher Librarian* advisory board.

YA FICTION

CONNECTING THE DOTS

Thomas, Kara. **The Cheerleaders**. Delacorte, 2018. 384p. \$17.99. ISBN: 9781524718329. Grades 9–12. Monica, 15, misses her sister, Jen, who apparently committed suicide five years earlier. In this tightly-plotted mystery, Monica finds a mysterious note written to her stepfather, a police officer, and starts to wonder if it was really suicide. Four other high school girls died shortly before Jen did, all of them cheerleaders like Jen: two murdered and two in a car accident. Life at home has been bleak since then. Monica's also just ended a pregnancy after being secretly involved with a guy in his twenties. More clues emerge about the deaths, including a significant text message on Jen's old cell phone and stories from people who knew her. Suspense builds as the dots connect beautifully right up to surprises at the end. The title will pull in readers while the excellent mystery will keep them glued to the page.

Ireland, Justina. **Dread Nation**. Justina Ireland. Balzer + Bray, 2018. 464p. \$17.99. ISBN: 9780062570604. Grades 9 up. The Civil War has ended early, because the dead started turning into zombies. That wild premise launches this dramatic fantasy about racism and sexism in an alternate historical setting. The zombies, called shamblers, need to be fought, which is why Jane, a biracial teenager, is at a Baltimore school, training to fight. Although she expects to be a bodyguard to a wealthy white woman, instead Jane finds herself on a train West as punishment for looking into a mystery about corruption among the wealthy and powerful. Will the walled settlement on the plains, where the mystery continues, be the death of her, or will she find the freedom she deserves in a painfully unfair world? With lots of action and a little romance, this is a terrific first book of two.

Lucier, Makiia. **Isle of Blood and Stone**. Houghton, 2018. 400p. \$17.99. ISBN: 9780544968578. Grades 9–12. Everyone in the long-ago imaginary kingdom of St. John del Mar knows that two of their three princes—along with their caretakers and bodyguards were brutally killed as children in a massacre while on a picnic eighteen years ago. Another of the dead was a famous mapmaker, whose son, Elias, 19, has followed in his footsteps. But then two maps appear with recent sites on them, maps that bear the unmistakable style of Elias's father. Is he still alive? Are the princes? Allied with Mercedes, a strong, smart diplomat who has won his heart, Elias sets about uncovering the past. Each clue brings danger and new clues, with red herrings and surprises along the way. Strong on plot and characterization, this appealing tale explores themes about prejudice, sexism, and the importance of kindness. First of two books.

Miller, Samuel. **A Lite Too Bright**. Harper, 2018. 480p. \$17.99. ISBN: 9780062662002. Grades 9 up. What if your grandfather were a cross between Jack Kerouac and J.D. Salinger—a Beat-type cult figure from the hippie era who wrote just one novel? So it is with Arthur Louis Pullman III, whose famous, reclusive grandfather died five years ago after having inexplicably disappeared for five days. Narrator Arthur, 18, misses him despite the Alzheimer's of his grandfather's last years. Having lost his girlfriend, best friend, and college scholarship—a back story that unfolds slowly—Arthur boards a train to figure out why his grandfather left and why he died in Ohio. Following what could be clues in the form of poems presumably written by his grandfather, Arthur travels from California to Ohio with stops along the way, falling for an enigmatic girl and encountering a group of dangerous fanatics who worship his grandfather's writing. Intricately plotted with a complicated main character, this debut novel shines.