GENRE THROUGH THE AGES: Handselling Sci-Fi & Fantasy from Picture Books to Adult

Friday October 2nd | 10:15 am – 11:15 am

with Betsy Covert from The Toadstool Bookshop; Rebecca Wells from Porter Square Books; Gwendolyn Baltera from Buttonwood Books & Toys; and moderator Meg Wasmer from Copper Dog Books

WHY DO PEOPLE BUY SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY?

- Do you always want to live in the real world?
- It helps readers keep their sense of wonder.
- It’s important to read across all genres to expand your perspective.
- Kids have so much reading for school; it’s important to let them choose what they like, or it may turn them against reading in general.

PICTURE BOOKS
Almost all books for the youngest readers are full of fantastical elements! Have you seen my hat?

Field Trip to the Moon by John Hare
Interstellar Cinderella by Deborah Underwood
Julia’s House for Lost Creatures by Ben Hatke
Unicorn (and Horse) by David W. Mile
Love Z by Jessie Sima

YOUNG CHAPTER BOOKS
For the reader transitioning out of picture books.

Dragon Masters by Tracy West
Ricky Ricotta’s Mighty Robot by Dav Pilkey
Odd Gods by David Slavin
The Princess in Black by Shannon Hale
Mia Mayhem Is a Superhero! by Kara West

OLDER CHAPTER BOOKS
For kids switching chapter books to middle grade.

Unicorn Rescue Society by Adam Gidwitz
Knights vs. Dinosaurs by Matt Phelan
The Dragon With a Chocolate Heart by Stephanie Burgis
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin

MIDDLE GRADE
For ages 8 – 12.

SCIENCE FICTION:
The Wild Robot by Peter Brown
Voyage of the Dogs by Greg Van Eekhout
Chronicle of the Dark Star by Kevin Emerson
Timeless: Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic by Armand Baltazar
The Gideon Trilogy by Jeff Buckley-Archer

FANTASY:
Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel Jose Older
Frogkisser! by Garth Nix
The Wolf Hour by Sara Lewis Holmes
The Last Last–Day of Summer by Lamar Giles
Malamander by Thomas Taylor
Nevermoor by Jessica Townsend
The Gauntlet by Karuna Riazi
Witch Boy (GN) by Molly Knox Ostertag
 Estranged (GN) by Ethan M Aldridge

RIORDAN READ–ALIKES:
Look up the Rick Riordan Presents line as well!

Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond by Sayantani DasGupta
Charlie Hernandez & the League of Shadows by Ryan Calejo
The Twelve by Cindy Lin
The Blackwell Pages by KL Armstrong
Seven Wonders by Peter Legrais
Arlo Finch by John August
GENRE THROUGH THE AGES:
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YOUNG ADULT
For ages 13+.

Not all books by YA authors are meant for a teen audience! Do your research when handselling books by Leigh Bardugo, Jay Kristoff, Victoria Schwab, and more.

SCIENCE FICTION:
Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer
Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith
Once & Future by Amy Rose Capetta & Cori McCarthy
Chaos Walking by Patrick Ness
Unearthed by Amie Kaufman & Meagan Spooner

FANTASY:
Hero at the End of the World by Erin Claiborn
Shadowshaper by Daniel Jose Older
Sawkill Girls by Claire LeGrand
Witchlight (GN) by Jessi Zabarsky
The Merciful Crow by Margaret Owen

YOUNGER YOUNG ADULT:
For 11 – 14 year olds transitioning out of middle grade.

Anything by Tamora Pierce
Anything by Margaret Rogerson
Anything by Ashley Poston
Anything by Zoraida Cordova
Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld
The Thief by Megan Whalen Turner

OLDER YOUNG ADULT SFF:
For 15+ who aren’t quite ready for adult books.

Forest of a Thousand Lanterns by Julie C. Dao
The Star–Touched Queen by Roshani Chokshi
Beyond the Red by Ava Jae
Seraphina by Rachel Hartman
Scythe by Neal Shusterman
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

ADULT
You know what an adult is, right? Readers 17+.
Imagine a blanket recommendation for Tor.com here.

ADULT CROSSOVER:
Adult authors appealing to an older teen audience.

Neil Gaiman
Terry Pratchett
Naomi Novik
Fonda Lee
Seanan McGuire

YOUNG ADULT CROSSOVER:
YA authors that appeal to an adult audience, particularly those in their 20s.

Leigh Bardugo
Garth Nix
Phillip Pullman

ACCESSIBLE ADULT FANTASY:
These help dissuade the fear of being labeled a “fantasy” reader while still having a magical element.

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey
The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden
The Crane Wife by Patrick Ness

ADULT FANTASY:
The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin
Every Heart a Doorway by Seanan McGuire
Jade City by Fonda Lee
An Unkindness of Magicians by Kat Howard
Cold Magic by Kate Elliott

ADULT SCIENCE FICTION:
Ancillary Justice by Ann Leckie
All Systems Red by Martha Wells
Gideon the Ninth by Tamsyn Muir