

Library Book Procurement List for LV Intermediate - November 2025

List procured by: P Watson, Campus Library Media Specialist

Book list reviewed for compliance with SB13 and HB 900 as outlined in [LVISD Library Collection Development Plan](#)

Books approved from this list may be purchased in any format (hardback, paperback, audio...etc) without the need for additional approval.

Campus	ISBN	Title	Author/Artist	Review
La Vernia Intermediate	9780008682293	100% unofficial Fortnite annual 2026	Yeo, Matt	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798765608524	Absolutely Everything --a Graphic Novel	Alexander, Damian	School Library Journal (August 1, 2025) Gr 4-7-The transition to sixth grade is a lot for Marcella to manage-an earlier bus and rotating block schedule leave her off-balance and feeling anxious. The lights and noise of crowded hallways and busy classrooms make it hard to focus on conversations and tasks. She's confused and hurt when her best friend Jen is more interested in ballet, cute boys, and new friends than in spending time together. On top of it all, her dads announce that they'll be moving to a new apartment within the week. "There's so much to remember all the time. And everything is so distracting." Alexander demonstrates the overwhelming sensations that Marcella perceives when she is trying to listen by first overlapping speech balloons and then changing the letters in subsequent panels to scribbles. Later, a personal essay assignment looms over Marcella's head and shoulders; scratchy block lettering on a bright red background crowds her out of the frame. The concern of a caring teacher and her fathers' quick action lead to a diagnosis of ADHD that allows Marcella to appreciate that "things are easier when you understand how your brain works." Marcella and her fathers have pale skin; other characters are presented with a variety of skin tones. VERDICT A warm and sensitive depiction of a neurodivergent character finding her way in middle school. Highly recommended.-Jennifer Costa © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781250852403	Agents of S.U.I.T. Wild ghost chase	Green, John Patrick	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 6 Up-In the third volume of this spin-off of the "InvestiGators" series, Agents of S.U.I.T. continues their hijinks. New recruit Zeb the sheep joins the B Team and wants to show he can help solve mysteries at the same level as the other agents. The ghost of the organization's first leader show up, causing chaos in the ranks. Wanting to move on to the afterlife, he seeks to solve one final great mystery as the Agents scramble to track him down. Acronym jokes, corny humor, and many references to popular movies (like Star Wars, Wizard of Oz, and Ghostbusters to name a few) are sprinkled throughout the story. Readers will continue to flock to these wild, comedic graphic novels. VERDICT Young readers love a good mystery. When you add in crazy characters and huge helpings of humor, you have a recipe for success. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781978539556	Air Force One	Bradshaw, Eleanor	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368781341	Alexis Cool as a Cupcake the Graphic Novel	Simon, Coco	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798886878165	Apache helicopter	McKinney, Donna B	Booklist (April 1, 2024 (Vol. 120, No. 15)) Grades 3-6. Known as a "flying tank," this U.S. Army attack helicopter is built for action, and military and aircraft enthusiasts are the obvious targets of this accounting of its capabilities. Part of the Military Aircraft series (6 titles), this high-interest offering opens with a short fictional scenario of an Apache helicopter completing a stealth mission. It then launches into an overview of the aircraft's form, function, and history, capitalizing on succinct text, flashy photos, and infographics. Some noteworthy examples of the latter include a time line of military missions in which Apache helicopters were used and a diagram of one executing a sneak attack on an enemy tank. Labeled photos also point out the helicopter's exciting weapons, such as Hellfire missiles and the hydra rocket launcher. A final, two-page visual spread recaps key facts and stats.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781499816907	Band Camp 4	Smith, Brian "Smitty"	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368755373	Band camp! 3,In the spotlight	Smith, Brian	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368789767	Besties Set Sail	Miller, Kayla	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368746371	Besties. Prank war	Miller, Kayla	School Library Journal (February 1, 2025) Gr 4-7-Trent and Sawyer, sixth grade best friends and self-proclaimed prank experts, are always on the lookout for their next big laugh. When their idol, skater and internet sensation Trixie Sampson, announces a prank competition with an unbelievable prize, the duo is determined to take the crown. Their half-baked pranks, featuring slime, confetti, and other classics, leave no friend safe-or happy. But when they set their sights on Natasha, their cool and dramatic friend, they quickly find themselves in over their heads. Nat's retaliation ignites an all-out prank war, leaving chaos and some unintended casualties in its wake. Trent and Sawyer are charming and well-meaning, but their obsession with winning blinds them to the impact their antics have on their friendships. Sawyer often acts as Trent's moral compass, but even he gets quite carried away. Tyler, whose kindness and easygoing nature make him an easy target for neglect, is especially compelling. As the prank war escalates, Trent and Sawyer are forced to confront the consequences of their actions. This graphic novel is a lighthearted, entertaining read, though it sometimes strains believability with parents joining in on the pranking. Turner adeptly stays true to the "World of Click" art style. VERDICT Fans of the series will enjoy the humor, mischief, and heart at the core of this story.-Amy Ribakove © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9798318912061	Captain Underpants; --the first epic manga	Pilkey, Dav	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368783574	City of dragons. 3,Quest for the true dragon	Yogis, Jaimal	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2025) A girl and a dragon are on the run from dark forces in this third series entry. Grace, her three friends, and the young dragon, Nate, have obtained a dragon stone, one of four that can be used to wake the dragon kings. Lord Daijiang has collected the other three, and along with dangerous human accomplices and powerful dragons of smoke and shadow, he continues to twist magic and science to his own ends. Daijiang needs the stone—and Nate, whose blood will confer immortality. But Grace doesn't plan to run; she wants to fight, and she searches for the sleeping dragon kings and a solution to their predicament. Daijiang is on the move, too, pursuing Grace and her friends out of Hong Kong and all the way to Japan. While the kids have just enough contact with adults to make the action believable, Grace and her friends remain independent and get into and out of all sorts of misadventures on their own. Through dealing with dark magic, dragons, and a first crush, the friends learn to handle challenging situations while relying on each other. As in earlier installments, the graphic novel features colorful, dynamic panels and a focus on friendship, even as Grace faces more mature problems and dangerous scenarios. Grace is Chinese and white, and her friends are a variety of ethnicities. Magical and technological thrills with a wholesome heart. (Graphic fantasy. 9-13)

La Vernia Intermediate	9780735230620	Creaky Acres	Brill, Calista	School Library Journal Xpress (April 4, 2025) Gr 4-8-Moving to a new town and settling in is hard, especially when the old spaces and routines provide happiness and comfort. Proud of her accomplishments and skills, newcomer Nora is unimpressed by the facilities, the other riders, and the general lack of spiffiness around Creaky Acres, her new riding stable. One horse looks an awful lot like a mule, and the resident cow, goat, and passel of opossums have more run of the place than might typically be the case in a posh establishment. The new school is also a struggle, with a string of microaggressions from classmates and teachers that leave Nora feeling like she will never fit in. With guidance from her parents, support from her new riding teacher, and encouragement from a new friend, Nora finds a way to connect with the kids at Creaky Acres, share her gifts, and help the whole team shine. Magruder's depictions of human and animal characters are expressive. The bright, saturated colors and skillful use of shifting perspective give the story energy and a zippy pace. There is enough technical information and detail to satisfy horse lovers, but not so much as to overwhelm readers who might not have riding experience. Nora and her parents are Black; all other characters are white. VERDICT While barn life is at the core of this story, it is also about seeing and being seen beyond first impressions and outward appearances. A first purchase for middle grade graphic collections.-Jennifer Costa © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781523530687	Crumble	McClaren, Meredith	School Library Journal (December 1, 2024) Gr 3-6-At the Om Nom Bakery, Emily and her aunt Gina bake sweet treats infused with empowering emotions like confidence, contentment, and relief. There is only one rule with this magical skill set: do not bake with bad feelings as the resulting confections will make people sick. All is going fine until Gina dies suddenly in a car accident and Emily's life is turned upside down. Baking is the only way Emily can cope with her grief and what results is a crumble that her friends and classmates find mysteriously irresistible, much to their detriment. Will Emily be able to reclaim her baking magic in a world without her aunt? McClaren builds dimensional characters and an ideally paced narrative that gives readers plenty of time to experience Emily's feelings-good and bad-alongside her. Bell's kawaii-informed style creates a cozy world that fans of Kristen Gudsnu's Making Friends, Reimena Yee's Séance Tea Party, and Suzanne Walker's Mooncakes will eat up. VERDICT The levity of this magical story deftly balances the gravity of its subject matter and will leave readers wanting another bite. A recommended purchase for middle grade graphic novel collections.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368765167	Cupcake diaries, the graphic novel. #7, Emma all stirred up!	Simon, Coco	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368783857	Darkstalker --a Graphic Novel	Sutherland, Tui T	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368789491	Flat Stanley The Graphic Novel	Brown, Jeff	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2025) Gr 1-4-The lore of Stanley Lambchop and his adventures as a flattened boy have captivated generations of young readers since the story was first published by Brown in 1964. For the first time, Flat Stanley's origin story makes the leap from early chapter book format to full-color graphic novel and introduces today's readers to Stanley's unconventional adventures. When Stanley is flattened in bed by a falling bulletin board, his parents and brother are understandably alarmed. But as it turns out, being flat has its advantages for travel, recreation, and fighting crime. Stanley's adventures continue to provide a reliable springboard for early elementary classroom projects, but the dialogue, character development, and story arc of this graphic novel feel a little antiquated for today's readers, whose worldviews are shaped by advancing technology. In its fidelity to Flat Stanley's original story, the graphic novel adaptation misses a critical opportunity to reimagine Stanley's character and experience in a more relevant way for new generations of readers. Egbert's illustrations are a fitting realization of Flat Stanley's world. VERDICT While the conceptual appeal of Flat Stanley endures more than 60 years after its original publication, this graphic novel lacks the necessary refresh that other adaptations like "The Baby-Sitters Club" have done to great success.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9780593807095	Hilo. Book 11, The great space iguana	Winick, Judd	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368784052	If the Shoe Fits --the Graphic Novel	Mlynowski, Sarah	Kirkus Reviews (September 1, 2025) A potential princess gets down to business in this comics adaptation of Mlynowski's "Cinderella" retelling. Yearning to return to the fairy-tale world after their adventure with Snow White, siblings Abby and Jonah obsessively check on their enchanted basement mirror. When the mirror allows, they find themselves not in Snow's forest but in the coat closet of a palace. They're in the kingdom of Floom, at the royal ball where Cinderella meets her prince. Although Abby cautions Jonah that they must avoid doing anything to alter the story, the interloping siblings follow Cinderella home, hoping to locate a mirror portal to get to their own home, but they accidentally cause Cinderella to break her foot and her remaining glass slipper. These mishaps require a call to Cinderella's fairy godmother, who lectures her on the importance of self-reliance. Cinderella decides to get a job, and Abby and Jonah help her cook up a brisk "crownie" business (Cinderella's take on the brownie). The narrative smartly incorporates business basics such as product testing, profit margins, and marketing. And though the original tale may have been altered—despite Abby's warnings—the results are downright enchanting; fairy-tale fans will be pleased. Crandall's cheerful cartooning enlivens bustling city market scenes and dramatic family confrontations in Cinderella's shabby quarters. Abby and Jonah are tan-skinned, Cinderella and her family are pale-skinned, and the kingdom of Floom is diverse. A playful reimagining that celebrates self-sufficiency and sweet treats. (Graphic fantasy. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate	9781250223227	InvestiGators --CASE FILES	Green, John Patrick	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368784069	Jessi Ramsey, Pet-Sitter --A Graphic Novel	Crenshaw, Ellen T	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368784076	Jungle Pursuit	Vannotes	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368792149	Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business The Graphic Novel	Park, Barbara	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368786919	Max, a Little Axolotl --an Original Graphic Novel	Spiotto, Joey	School Library Journal (July 1, 2025) K-Gr 2-Axolotl Max's peaceful lake-dwelling lifestyle is rudely disrupted by habitat-harming construction when a quick-thinking conservationist intervenes, giving Max a fresh start at a nearby aquarium. Much to standoffish Max's chagrin, his new tank is brimming with freshwater fauna, including Milo the turtle and Sheila the snail. The social and academic pressures of aquarium life prove to be a lot for shy, hiccup-prone Max to handle. During a game of kickball, he ventures into a nearby cave to find a rogue ball and comes face-to-face with the ominous Water Monster. Surprisingly, this unexpected encounter makes Max realize his new life might not be so bad after all. Early elementary school graphic novel readers will find Max and company to be charming and relatable, and Spiotto cleverly sprinkles axolotl facts and lore throughout the text. The no-frills, boldly outlined panels are an ideal match for the straightforward narrative. A cliffhanger leaves Max poised for a potential series. VERDICT Early elementary readers will pick this book up for the axolotl and stay for the cute, informative, and engaging story.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368792163	Midnight on the Moon Graphic Novel	Osborne, Mary Pope	

La Vernia Intermediate	9781974758111	Minecraft The Manga, Vol. 4	Seto, Kazuyoshi	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781974747146	Minecraft the manga. 1	Seto, Kazuyoshi	Booklist (May 1, 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 17)) Grades 3-7. Ten-year-old Nico White has just unlocked his ability to craft new items without a crafting table, just like his adventurer father before him, and soon, Nico feels the pull to set out on his own. Within days, Nico meets and befriends a human named Gray, who is cursed to constantly look like a zombie. The two decide to travel together to look for the End of the World, a mythical place with inspiring treasures and people. Nico, as described, has one setting—adventure—and all of his page time is dedicated to his high-energy, positive approach to everything. He's fascinated by the world and brings a childlike wonder to every situation. Gray provides a realistic and balanced foil for Nico's enthusiasm. Seto expertly incorporates game material while smoothing out the blockiest of graphics to provide visually pleasing illustrations. There are plenty of references to the source material to keep game enthusiasts happy but also enough explanation to keep newcomers interested in the story. If you have readers who haven't been able to put down Splatoon or Pokémon, this is the next logical purchase for your library.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781974747153	Minecraft the manga. 2	Seto, Kazuyoshi	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781974758104	Minecraft the manga. 3	Seto, Kazuyoshi	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368792460	Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics The Graphic Novel	Grabenstein, Chris	Kirkus Reviews starred (July 15, 2025) A second round of bookish riddles and rebuses leads to a stout battle against the forces of intellectual repression in this graphic remake of the popular series' second entry. With teams of avid young readers from around the country descending on eccentric Mr. Lemoncello's fabulous library to compete for a glittering first prize—a full ride to college—it looks like Kyle Keeley and his three compatriots have their work cut out for them. They must also contend with chicanery from slimy Charles W. Chiltonington, his even more reprehensible mother, and a squirrely new book-burning nemesis. Are they up to the challenge? "On your mark. Get set. Lemoncello—GO!" Holgate's fluidly drawn assemblages of actively engaged contestants, expertly colored by Todeschini, capture the 2016 novel's narrative vim while highlighting the young cast's racial diversity. Though some of the 12 games (like a book cart relay race) are tests of physical agility, most of them lean on mental acuity as well as a working knowledge of the Dewey Decimal System, basic research skills, and wide reading knowledge. The abundant book references have been updated to include worthy titles published since the original's appearance. A love for libraries and those who value them shines here more brightly than ever, from the very first poser—a rebus with a message that bookworms will delight in—onward. The dynamic graphic format will draw new fans to this timeless manifesto for library lovers. (Graphic fiction. 9-13)
La Vernia Intermediate	9780063238145	Old school	Korman, Gordon	School Library Journal Xpress (December 20, 2024) Gr 3-7-Korman's latest realistic fiction set in a middle school poses a fish-out-of-water scenario. Twelve-year-old Dexter has lived in his grandma's retirement community for the past six years, enjoying homeschooling and friendships with the elderly. But when he's forced to go to public school for the first time, Dexter must learn to be a kid; how to dress, talk slang, and deal with bullies. Dexter doesn't like being at school and his classmates don't seem to care for him either, until an incident rallies the students behind him. Told by various narrators-including a wannabe student reporter, a guidance counselor, and the big man on campus-this title explores the good and bad of public education as different characters try to find their place. While Dexter's musings are thought-provoking, some of the other characters are oversimplified. Savvy readers may question why the guidance counselor sounds less mature than the students, and how Dexter's forced education is due to officials realizing that his grandma listed Dexter as a 60-year-old so she wouldn't have to fill out the paperwork for homeschooling. VERDICT Korman is always a safe bet, and this is no exception. Purchase where his titles do well.-Elissa Cooper © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781368099295	Pet Shop Racers	Jennings, C. S	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781368099448	Pet Shop Racers The Fast and the Furriest	Jennings, C. S	
La Vernia Intermediate	9780593703496	Pizza and Taco. 8.Best Christmas ever!	Shaskan, Stephen	School Library Journal (September 1, 2024) K-Gr 2-Best friends Pizza and Taco are back, this time looking forward to Christmastime and the presents that Santa Slaw will surely bring them. Their spirits are dampened when they recall that Santa Slaw only brings presents to "good children." Luckily, the pair have months before the big day to polish up their records. The series theme of friendly competition carries through, with the pair vying to see who can demonstrate more niceness by raking leaves and doing chores without being asked. They even exchange pleasant holiday wishes with their frenemy, Cheeseburger. When Pizza is disappointed that they didn't get every present on their wish list, Taco comes through to remind them that some presents are too big to fit under a tree. Shaskan packs a lot of emotion and action into very simple lines and shapes. Dialogue presented in speech balloons contains just a few words each, and the panel structure is uncomplicated. Frequent repetition of the duo's catchphrases "YAAAS!" and "AWESOME!" will enable beginning readers to recognize them, even though they may be unlikely to appear on a typical sight-word list. The Christmas focus is limited to secular elements: the anticipation of gifts, a festive gathering, and goodwill toward others. VERDICT Fans will welcome this nice addition to the series.-Jennifer Costa © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9780593814512	Pizza and Taco. 9.Coollest club ever!	Shaskan, Stephen	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781549085758	Pokemon sun & moon. 1	Kusaka, Hidenori	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781549085208	Pokemon sun & moon. 2	Kusaka, Hidenori	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781544431710	Pokemon sun & moon. 4	Kusaka, Hidenori	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781725486744	Pokemon sun & moon. 6	Kusaka, Hidenori	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781713722489	Pokemon sun & moon. 8	Kusaka, Hidenori	

La Vernia Intermediate	9798368787008	Refugee --the Graphic Novel	Gratz, Alan	School Library Journal (September 1, 2025) Gr 4-8-In 1939, Josef's Jewish family flees Berlin to escape the Nazi regime. In 1994, Isabel's family sails toward Miami, leaving Castro and Cuba behind. In 2015, Mahmoud and his family run from Syria as civil war rages. Decades and thousands of miles separate them, but Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud share one thing in common: they are refugees, and their stories converge in surprising ways. This graphic novel adaptation is faithful to the original book, omitting only minor details from the main plotlines. The illustrations, which resemble the superhero comics art style, effectively heighten the drama. For example, when Josef's apartment is trashed by Nazi storm troopers, dark shadows in each panel convey the abruptness of the nighttime raid and the family's terror. The coloring is exquisite, showcasing the beauty of Isabel's Havana and the despair of Mahmoud's Aleppo. Maps are helpfully placed at the beginning of the chapters, showing each character's place in their journey. While the illustrations add excitement, the original novel's emotional heft can get lost in the graphic novel format, and the cliff-hanger chapter endings are not as riveting. The author's note has been updated to reflect new information about Syrian and Cuban refugees since the prose novel's publication. VERDICT The original Refugee remains an important and timely book; this graphic novel adaptation brings the moving stories of Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud to life for a new generation of readers. A good choice for where the original is popular.-Danielle Sachdeva © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781525305689	Rover and Speck. 3.It's a gas!	Roth, Jonathan	Kirkus Reviews (September 15, 2024) Exploring space is Speck-tacular with Rover and Speck. In book three in Roth's Rover and Speck graphic series, both robots are on a mission to discover life on other planets. The pair examine glowing spheroids and battle spark sharks that could be alternate life forms and, when Rover is damaged in battle, are rescued by a space jelli, whom they later help become a space-exploring GAsTonaut. When a superstorm and spark sharks threaten the jelli community, Rover and Speck discover that the spark sharks are only protecting the glowing spheroids that are their eggs; Rover sings a fun variation of "Baby Shark." Fun Science Fact panels define topics such as gas giants and their superstorms, the Goldilocks Zone, and the different states of matter. Gentle potty humor centered on the word and concept of gas, as well as puns—such as labels on two tanks of helium (HE) turning HE HE into "hee, hee"—keep the story fun. Backmatter introduces Carl Sagan and Edwin Salpeter, both of whom proposed the idea of life on gas planets in the form of floaters (jellis in this story), hunters (spark sharks), and sinkers (not present in the story, but, as Rover jokes, maybe they all sank!). Information about four different planets may inspire readers to use their imaginations to draw life there. An imaginative mission into space filled with information, humor, and action. (Graphic informational fiction. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate	9780593699423	Schoolbot 9000	Hepburn, Sam	School Library Journal (July 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-This timely, engaging, and funny story looks at the intersection of AI and one kid's daily life. Fifth grader James recently lost his dad and now lives with his mom in a big city with robots everywhere. James does not like robots but must contend with one at home that cooks, cleans, and monitors his behavior and moods. To make matters worse, his school has been chosen to test a new teaching robot: the SchoolBot 9000. Red flags begin to appear quickly as the AI models are given complete access to records and private information. Questionable pedagogy based solely on test outcomes becomes the guiding norm, and James's worst fear comes true when beloved teachers are replaced by the AIs. Themes of big tech vs. free will are explored as mounting opposition inside and outside the school results in protests about the robot manufacturer's true intentions. Hint: they are not altruistic. Meanwhile, at home, James's family robot reads his journal and becomes more humanlike, nudging the narrative into Turing Test developments. Full-color panels are loaded with realistic dialogue and clever diagrams. James and his family are white with more diversity among the students and teachers at school. VERDICT An exploration on humans vs. machines combines with a student navigating middle school life. Graphic novel fans will gobble this up and be eager for the next installment. Highly recommended. -Elisabeth LeBris © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781250359469	Sew Much Trouble	Green, John Patrick	
La Vernia Intermediate	9780063238107	Slugfest	Korman, Gordon	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2024) Eighth grader Arnie Yashenko hits a lot of home runs playing for the high school's JV baseball team. Problem is, he's been missing middle-school gym classes to practice at the high school, and now the state has changed the rules: if he doesn't take summer school PE, he won't graduate and can't start high school in the fall. But if he does the class, he'll miss the workouts necessary for pitching for the JV Comets. Besides (and Yash knows he sounds like a "stuck-up jerk" here), he can't mingle with the uncoordinated unfortunates who attend summer school PE. "There's a name around here for the people who end up in that class -- slugs! That's why they call it Slugfest!" Chapters alternate between Yash and other reluctant summer school attendees, including Cleo Marchand, who's there because of incompletes for missed time due to a skiing accident. (The others' first-person narratives save readers from an overload of Yash's self-absorption.) Star athlete and local legend Yash starts the season playing tag; duck, duck, goose; and musical chairs and, by the end of the term, is part of a team he loves. The team's musical-chairs experience even serves them well in a city-wide seven-on-seven flag football tournament. Yash learns the value of friendship and teamwork in this big-hearted novel. Dean Schneider March/April 2024 p. 95
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La Vernia Intermediate	9798368755915	Spy ski school, the graphic novel	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781427856944	Stitch! Best friends forever!	Asada, Miho	
La Vernia Intermediate	9781338792478	Sunny figures it out	Holm, Jennifer L	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368799827	Talons of Power	Sutherland, Tui T	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368790473	The Do-Over Friendship Goals	Vargas, Rodrigo	

La Vernia Intermediate	9798822681309	The liars society	Gerber, Alyson	School Library Journal (March 1, 2024) Gr 5-8-After winning a district sailing regatta, public school student Weatherby Walker is offered a full scholarship to the Boston School, the elite private school that her late father attended. The only problem? Weatherby accidentally cheated in the race, and her family's motto is, "Walkers don't lie." Still, she decides not to tell anyone and quickly comes to find that she's not the only student with a secret. Jack Hunt, a fellow seventh grader whose wealthy family owns the waterproofing company Hunt International, is also hiding a cheating incident, but he's from a family whose motto is, "If you can't get to the top, get to the top anyway." Paired as sailing partners, Jack and Weatherby are soon tapped as candidates for the Last Heir, a secret society. When funds for the annual class trip to Hart Isle are stolen and initiation gambits send them on an investigation, both are desperate to uncover the truth-Jack, because he fears his uncle's involvement, and Weatherby, because her dad's childhood journal details a life-changing trip to Hart Isle with a critical page missing. Told from Jack and Weatherby's alternating perspectives, this is a layered, atmospheric mystery that effectively combines prep school intrigue, environmental issues, sports competition, and explorations of class privilege. The almost otherworldly setting of Hart Isle captivates, and the ending sets up a sequel that readers will be eager to devour. Weatherby and Jack are both cued as white. VERDICT This is an Inheritance Games-style mystery perfect for middle school readers.-Elizabeth Giles © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368787114	The Sword Thief --A Graphic Novel	Lerangis, Peter	
La Vernia Intermediate	9780063257207	There's a skunk in my bunk!	Gutman, Dan	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798822686588	There's a skunk in my bunk!	Gutman, Dan	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368787145	Thick as Thieves --a Graphic Novel	Santat, Dan	
La Vernia Intermediate	9798368773827	Tuck Everlasting --The Graphic Novel	Babbitt, Natalie	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2025) Gr 4 Up-Much like with her graphic novel adaptation of The Great Gatsby, Woodman-Maynard achieves the seemingly impossible task of enhancing a much beloved classic novel. Adapted from Babbitt's original text, with the encouragement and support of Babbitt's family, this graphic novel features the story of Winnie Foster, a 10-year-old girl trapped in a rigid life of societal and familial expectations. When Winnie tries to run away from her gilded cage, she stumbles across the Tuck family and discovers their unbelievable secret-immortality after drinking from a magical spring. Through lush, atmospheric watercolors, Babbitt's lyrical and descriptive language is brought to life, creating palpable visualizations of abstract concepts, like the imagery of a wheel to represent story structure, the cyclical nature of life, and the ticking of a clock. Also included in this edition is a conversation between the artist and Babbitt's daughter, Lucy; a "making of" vignette on the process of creating the graphic novel; and primary sources of Babbitt's handwritten drafts, paintings, and life. Winnie, her family, and the Tuck family are white. VERDICT Enhancing a classic and empowering readers to better understand complex imagery, this faithful and beautiful adaptation is a must purchase for all graphic novel collections.-Kasey Swords © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	9781536237054	Two-Headed Chicken Chaos in the Cosmic Library	Angleberger, Tom	
La Vernia Intermediate		SlappyWorld		
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Alcatraz Escape</u>	Katie Chanez	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Ariana Grande</u>	Suzane Nguyen	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Asteroids and Comets</u>	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Awesome Orange Birthday</u>	Mitali Banerjee Ruths	Grades K-3 A young entrepreneur chronicles her burgeoning party-planning venture in this upbeat early chapter book series opener. Priya's guiding principles include "making people happy and helping animals." Her first client, Layla Aunty (Priya's mom's best pal), offers an excellent opportunity to attain both goals. The thoughtful, eco-friendly girl organizes a bespoke birthday bash complete with pumpkin-filled samosas, decorations handmade from recycled paper, and an invitation to contribute a donation to save endangered quokkas. Priya's infectious enthusiasm shines through the diary format of this book, as does her relatable anxiety when unexpected surprises inevitably arise. Jaleel's full-color, eye-catching digital cartoons feature illustrated to-do lists, a neighborhood map, and washi-taped, annotated photographs. Definitions are woven seamlessly into the conversational text: "Now that I have my own business, I want to be professional. That means I have to figure out what I need to do. Then I have to get it done." DIY instructions for making a paper-chain curtain are included, along with discussion questions. This series opener gets an enjoyable party started for beginning readers. COPYRIGHT(2023) Booklist, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Beginning of All Things</u>	Karla Arenas Valenti	Gr 2-4-Twins Emma and Martin are settling into their new life in Chicago after growing up in Mexico and can't wait to use the magic book their abuela gave them to take another adventure. But first they must register for their new school where they discover they will be in separate classrooms for the first time ever. When they finally get home to the magic book, they embark on a new escapade, experiencing the Aztec legend of Ometecuhtli and the Beginning of all Things. This second installment of Emma and Martin's "Legendarios" series reads like ancient Mexican myths mixed with Mary Pope Osborne's beloved "Magic Tree House" series, complete with occasional Spanish words, black-and-white illustrations up to full page in size, and an author's note on both Aztec culture and deities. The twins' heritage is briefly discussed and celebrated, and their strong relationship with their abuela features prominently. Emma and Martin model excellent problem-solving skills and teamwork throughout. The action resolves with more adventures promised to come. VERDICT This action-packed series is a must-buy for early chapter book collections.-Emily Beasley © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Beginning of All Things</u>	Karla Arenas Valenti	Gr 2-4--Twins Emma and Martin are settling into their new life in Chicago after growing up in Mexico and can't wait to use the magic book their abuela gave them to take another adventure. But first they must register for their new school where they discover they will be in separate classrooms for the first time ever. When they finally get home to the magic book, they embark on a new escapade, experiencing the Aztec legend of Ometecuhtli and the Beginning of all Things. This second installment of Emma and Martin's "Legendarios" series reads like ancient Mexican myths mixed with Mary Pope Osborne's beloved "Magic Tree House" series, complete with occasional Spanish words, black-and-white illustrations up to full page in size, and an author's note on both Aztec culture and deities. The twins' heritage is briefly discussed and celebrated, and their strong relationship with their abuela features prominently. Emma and Martin model excellent problem-solving skills and teamwork throughout. The action resolves with more adventures promised to come. VERDICT This action-packed series is a must-buy for early chapter book collections.--Emily Beasley Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.

La Vernia Intermediate	Big Jim Believes	Dav Pilkey	
La Vernia Intermediate	Black Holes	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate	Bo and the Witch	Rebecca Elliott	
La Vernia Intermediate	Bobby Witt Jr.: Baseball Star	Anthony Streeter	
La Vernia Intermediate	Bush Vipers	Joanne Mattern	
La Vernia Intermediate	Cade Cunningham: Basketball Star	Luke Hanlon	
La Vernia Intermediate	Can You Escape a Haunted House?	Ailynn Collins	
La Vernia Intermediate	Carlos Alcaraz	Leigh Lewis	
La Vernia Intermediate	Cat Fact Frenzy!	Nikki Potts	
La Vernia Intermediate	ChupaCarter and the Curse of la Llorona	Ryan Calejo, George Lopez	
La Vernia Intermediate	ChupaCarter and the Haunted Piñata	Ryan Calejo, George Lopez	Comedian Lopez teams up with award-winning Calejo (the Charlie Hernandez series) in their second installment in the ChupaCarter series. Native Californian Jorge Lopez is finally feeling grounded in his new home of Boca Falls, New Mexico, and the company of best friends Ernie, Liza, and Carter (the chupacabra). Those happy feelings are quickly upended when mysterious fires and sightings of a haunted piñata materialize. Believing these events to be the works of the Blackbriar curse, which occurs every six years, the townspeople are on edge. Things only get worse when Liza's father's butcher shop goes up in flames. Convinced that an arsonist is afoot, Jorge and the gang decide to investigate this unnerving urban legend before their friendship falls victim to it. Lopez and Calejo have created another exciting adventure for young readers that is sprinkled with Spanish words and phrases. The humor in the story is elevated by Gutiérrez's artwork. A great reminder that you can count on your friends to help save the day.
La Vernia Intermediate	ChupaCarter and the Haunted Piñata	Ryan Calejo, George Lopez	A rash of mysterious fires sets Jorge and his amigos on the trail of an evil arsonist...or maybe a vengeful ghost. Being as his best friend, Carter, is the 7-foot tall, wolflike cryptid met in the series opener--and now just back in town--Jorge Lopez has trouble dismissing a scary old local legend about an evil incendiary piñata possessed by the ghost of a despised rich kid. Still, since the grown-ups in Boca Falls seem oddly uninterested in finding out who, human or otherwise, is burning down local businesses, Jorge nervously enlists his fanged but friendly buddy to join science-minded classmate Liza in an investigation that quickly turns up a positively bountiful array of clues and suspects. Seasoning the eponymous narrator's account with Spanish words, including flavorful Chicano slang, Lopez and Calejo alternate chuckles and chills as the young detectives struggle with their fears, fend off prankster "bully-jerk" Zane, puzzle over the significance of seemingly contradictory findings, and, in the wake of a string of (as Jorge puts it) "übercreepy" incidents and narrow squeaks, wind up stuck in a ruinous old mansion with an entire gang of crazed villains eager to explain their motives before setting one final, deadly blaze. Gutiérrez's frequent monochrome illustrations feature both a racially diverse cast and action and dialogue that segue smoothly into the narrative, offering the feeling of a graphic novel-prose hybrid format. A fresh, lively escapade with lots of übercreepy bits. ¡Orale! (Fantasy. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
La Vernia Intermediate	ChupaCarter and the Screaming Sombrero	Ryan Calejo, George Lopez	A museum heist and a mouthy talking hat put Jorge and sus amigos, including the cryptid one, on the trail to a fabled treasure in this third series entry. Legend has it that a witch left three cursed artifacts behind as clues to the location of her stolen riches. When mysterious thieves take two, and the third (a sombrero) winds up on Jorge's head, it's time for him and his fanged, nacho-loving chupacabra buddy, Carter, to enlist the help of human friends. Ernie and Liza once again join up for a round of serious sleuthing. As it turns out, the sombrero—which has a startling habit of bursting into screams, when it's not making rude comments about the size of Jorge's cabeza—knows more about the treasure than it's telling. For one, the most valuable thing isn't the glittering trove they seek but the young investigators' friendships, which are tested but ultimately prove true. As in earlier episodes, the mood turns occasionally serious (such as when the tweens see Ernie's dad arrested as a suspect in the robbery). But the tale plays mostly as a Chicano-flavored comedy related in jaunty prose interspersed with pictures that add punchlines (and even major incidents) in a mix of single and sequential panels. Notwithstanding a cave-in, a corrosive subterranean lake, and other thrillingly dangerous hazards, none of the characters, not even the burglars, wind up seriously harmed. Final art not seen. Message-driven but well stocked with chills and chuckles. (Fantasy. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate	Coco Gauff	Leigh Lewis	
La Vernia Intermediate	Creepy Crawly Fact Frenzy!	Penelope S. Nelson	
La Vernia Intermediate	Dinosaur Fact Frenzy!	Mathew J. Wedel	
La Vernia Intermediate	Dog Fact Frenzy!	Nikki Potts	
La Vernia Intermediate	Dua Lipa	Ariel Birdoff	
La Vernia Intermediate	Dungeon Runners: Hero Trial	Kieran Larwood	
La Vernia Intermediate	Dungeon Runners: Sky Battles	Kieran Larwood	
La Vernia Intermediate	Edmontosaurus Stampede	Rex Stone	

La Vernia Intermediate		Elly De La Cruz: Baseball Star	Charlie Beattie	
La Vernia Intermediate		Eva and the New Teacher	Rebecca Elliott	
La Vernia Intermediate		Evil Genius	Kirby Heyborne, Chris Grabenstein	
La Vernia Intermediate		Flight of the Quetzalcoatlus	Rex Stone	
La Vernia Intermediate		For Whom the Ball Rolls	Dav Pilkey	Kid comic creators George Beard and Harold Hutchins (now with added maturity!) are thrilled to present readers with the next installment of their co-written graphic-novel series. A six-page recap of backstory and prior events helps situate readers who might be unfamiliar with the saga, and from there on out the action and the laughs are nonstop. Three loosely connected plot threads dominate. Petey the jailcat's revolutionary aspirations are cut short when he receives his pardon, but now he struggles to connect with his overly optimistic son and to fend off the abuses of his lowlife father. Dog Man, meanwhile, must learn to focus after one fouled-up chase too many, but the training has its own dire consequences. Meanwhile, a villainous trio and an equally villainous mad scientist find their plans for world domination thwarted again and again. There is a moral, along the lines of being, but more importantly doing, good, but it's never forced upon readers. Pilkey's signature style revels in its wackiness. Panels with a single-color gradient background vary in size, and bold black outlines and hilariously full-face expressions make the characters pop. Several full-page panels of a star-studded sky are absolutely breathtaking. The various plots, though they might seem shallow at first, still make for a gripping read. Extensive backmatter, including in-story news, drawing tutorials, and "authors' " notes, rounds out the fun. Human characters are diverse. Weird and unabashedly joyful. (Graphic fantasy. 7-10)
La Vernia Intermediate		Galaxies	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate		Great Catnapping	Emily Ecton	Gr 2 Up—Have you ever wondered what all the dogs are talking about when they get into a sniffing circle at the dog park? What if they are working to help solve a mysterious kidnapping? It may sound far-fetched, but this companion novel to The Great Pet Heist will have readers believing in the super sleuth skills of Butterbean the wiener dog. Accompanying Butterbean in his quest to rescue their feline friend Walt, is a charming menagerie of rats, a mynah bird, a goldfish, and an octopus. Marco, Polo, Oscar, Chad, and Leia join forces and take readers along a comical quest to determine exactly what happened after the commotion at the grand opening of the Plucky Hen supermarket. A fun class read-aloud or skill-building chapter book for struggling readers with illustrations that perfectly capture each character's personality. VERDICT A cute story with appeal to a wide range of audiences.
La Vernia Intermediate		Great Ghost Hoax	Emily Ecton	
La Vernia Intermediate		Great Vandal Scandal	Emily Ecton	A series of break-ins gives the Strathmore apartment building's animal detectives an exciting new mystery to solve. Who is plundering the basement storage cages at night? Only momentarily dismayed by a hysterical Yorkie's reports of scratching claws and "THOUSANDS OF GLOWING EYES," the motley multispecies squad--consisting at this point of two dogs, a feline diva, three rats, a mynah bird, and an octopus named Chad--feverishly plan and execute an investigation under the noses of their oblivious human companions, Mrs. Food and her temporary ward, Madison Park. They run up against a troop of foraging raccoons, sneaking in beneath the security cameras to wreak havoc. How to get them to lay off? When threats don't work any better than polite requests, it's time for a different approach. Maybe a little sympathy? (Butterbean the spaniel is scheduled for therapy dog tryouts.) Maybe the troop can be transformed into...a troupe? (The unnamed cat has starred in many cat food commercials.) The nonstop action and droll exchanges offer chuckles aplenty on the way to a tidy resolution made all the more satisfactory by a hilarious viral video and a well-deserved comedown for nasty nemesis Mrs. Hates Dogs on Six. Mottram's rich, if rare, spots and vignettes feature creatures as aglow with character as the racially diverse human cast. Another wild caper for this winning animal ensemble. (Mystery. 8-12) COPYRIGHT(2023) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
La Vernia Intermediate		Haunted House	Ari Avatar	
La Vernia Intermediate		History Fact Frenzy!	Cari Meister	
La Vernia Intermediate		How To Steal a Dragon	Ryan Hammond	Five young villains in training save their school from a rogue teacher in another round of cozy evildoing. In this second series entry, the Weir doughsâ€ werewolf Bram, Sheila the ghost, surly Mona the elf-witch, Skele- tony Le Bone, and fartmeister extraordinaire Bryan the Lionâ€ immediately smell something rotten in Felix Frostbite, a charismatic if literally icy new instructor. The friends wind up in a good position to scupper his genuinely villainous scheme to destroy the Villains Academyâ€and oh yes, the world. Meanwhile, the increasingly tightknit squad disrupt exams (to the grudging approval of homeroom teacher Master Mardybum) and learn evil arts from teachers with names like Whiz Warmbottom and Professor Plops. They also struggle to keep secret the pair of runty but rapidly growing dragons theyâ€ve illegally rescued from culling. In the end, through teamwork and TLC, the Weir doughs come out smelling likeâ€well, not roses, considering the continual noxious contributions of Bryan, but at least close friends. Told that even she is loved, student villain Mona responds characteristically, â€œI knowâ€But never tell anyone I just said that, or Iâ€ll have to destroy you.â€ The pages of accessibly written text are festooned with charming duo-toned illustrations. In the multispecies cast, Hammond depicts Bram as a boy whoâ€s lightly covered in fur and Emma and some fellow students with dark skin and pointy ears. A gas for fans of magic school stories. (drawing instructions) (Paranormal. 7-10)
La Vernia Intermediate		Human Body Fact Frenzy!	Cari Meister	
La Vernia Intermediate		Invention Fact Frenzy!	Cari Meister	
La Vernia Intermediate		Jayden Daniels: Football Star	Luke Hanlon	
La Vernia Intermediate		Lamar Jackson: Football Star	Derek Moon	
La Vernia Intermediate		Lindsey Horan	Leigh Lewis	
La Vernia Intermediate		Luke Combs	Ariel Birdoff	

La Vernia Intermediate		March of the Ankylosaurus	Rex Stone	
La Vernia Intermediate		Monday	Eva Amores	Gr 3-7--Husband-and-wife team Cosgrove and Amores kick off a fun-filled series with this highly illustrated novel. Justin Chase, 12, just wants to fit in, but he is highly anxious given the latest events in his life. He is starting a new school, facing a bully, has a new stepdad whom he thinks is a vampire--and his actual dad, a plumber, is driving a giant toilet on wheels! Justin even worries about his cat being abducted by aliens. Readers are taken through one day in Justin's life: Monday, starting at 5 a.m. Each part of Justin's day is depicted through prose and dynamic spot art and panels, painting a very clear picture of who he is and his values. The tone of this self-portrait is reminiscent of Junior from Sherman Alexie's The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Illustrations flesh out the cast; important people in Justin's life each get a special diagram for their likes and dislikes. Most amusing is his nan's obsession with crochet, including experimenting with curtains, umbrellas, and hats for the cat. Readers will wonder if they really can swim in crocheted swim trunks! Tweens will enjoy the fun facts included at the end of the book, and the guidance on how to draw Justin Chase. VERDICT A charming look at one tween's day, rife with goofiness and middle grade toilet humor. Fans of Captain Underpants will enjoy this series.--Lisa Gieskes Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.
La Vernia Intermediate		Monday	Eva Amores	A supremely unlucky kid's terrible, horrible, no good, very bad first day at a new school. Only a bold or foolish narrator would start a book by calling out the upcoming story beats like Babe Ruth predicting a home run. But Justin Chase does just that, warning readers of the mortification to come. Now that his mom has married Vlad, his new stepdad, both of whom work the night shift, he'll be living with his dad during the week and spending weekends with his mom--and that means attending a new school. His ill-fitting clothing, the embarrassing car his plumber father drives ("a giant TOILET on wheels"), and the fact that he shares his name with a famous singer set him up for bullying from the get-go. Neighbor and classmate Mia is a rare social lifeline throughout Justin's trials, which include two scatological incidents so gross that the book cuts away to images of cute animals. Cosgrove's humorous, cartoonish illustrations appear on nearly every page. The text frequently employs large, bold, and capitalized words, suggesting an emphatic reading whether out loud or in one's head. These visual elements help exaggerate the many outlandish incidents that occur. Readers won't be able to look away while wondering how much worse this day can get. Justin and most of the cast have skin the white of the page. A worst day to remember among the pantheon of Wimpy Kids and Dorks. (trivia, how to draw Justin, authors' note) (Fiction. 9-11) COPYRIGHT(2024) Kirkus Reviews, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
La Vernia Intermediate		Nazca Lines Mystery	Katie Chanez	
La Vernia Intermediate		Nether Ghost	Winston Wolf	
La Vernia Intermediate		Night of the Chipmunk	Susan Tan	Gr 2-4--A chihuahua named Ember the Mighty accompanies his human family, the Chins, on a vacation to Acorn Island in the sixth title in this series. Two other families and their pets--a frog named Sweet Pea, and a sheepdog named Izzy, accompany them. The Chin's other pets Neo (a canary) and Smelly Steve (a hamster), must stay behind with the pet sitter. Despite his plan to be a future dark overlord, Ember is nervous about the trip because the island is supposedly haunted by a giant evil chipmunk, the Monster of Acorn Island. As the families and their pets settle in, a series of mischievous behavior carried out by the Monster gets blamed on the dogs, who must come up with a plan to defeat the chipmunk. The plan? Ember must find a way to become just as scary! This series is a crowd pleaser with its endearingly earnest animal characters and gentle misadventures. This latest story explores feeling scared, acting bravely, and taking care our natural environment. Shiau Wei's friendly illustrations round out the appeal of this pitch-perfect early chapter book series. VERDICT Recommended for purchase where illustrated early chapter books are popular. Copyright 2024 School Library Journal, LLC Used with permission.
La Vernia Intermediate		Partypooper	Jeff Kinney	
La Vernia Intermediate		Paul Skenes: Baseball Star	Luke Hanlon	
La Vernia Intermediate		Penny Draws a Best Friend	Sara Shepard	As outlined in an author's note, Shepard (the Pretty Little Liars series) draws from her own childhood experience with anxiety for this diary-style illustrated novel. Rising fifth grader Penny is looking forward to her best friend Violet's return from summer gymnastics camp. But the start of school promptly reveals that Violet has moved on: she's no longer into Art Club; an activity the girls previously shared; and camp has bonded her with popular mean girl Riley. But Mrs. Hines, the "feelings teacher" Penny speaks with regularly about her worries, proves a catalyst for personal change, giving Penny a journal to work through things. As Penny encounters, and slowly befriends, other students who talk to Mrs. Hines, she directs her diary entries to her "loyal and nice" dog, Cosmo, who shares many of Penny's fears ("Storms. Fireworks. Balloons. Clowns"). In chatty, quick-moving installments, Penny tells entertaining anecdotes and details her brother's recurring croup, her concerns about social scenarios, and a secret her parents seem to be keeping. Shepard's light touch and sketchbook-style b&w doodles make for an engaging read that candidly portrays the effect of destabilizing changes on one child experiencing anxiety. Character portrayals reflect the white of the page. Ages 8: 12. Agent: Richard Abate, 3 Arts. (May)
La Vernia Intermediate		Penny Draws a Best Friend	Sara Shepard	Penny learns important lessons about friendship and worry in a series opener inspired by the author's own early struggles with anxiety. As Penny prepares to start fifth grade, she can't wait for her best friend to return from camp, but when Violet gets back, things are awkward. Violet's no longer interested in drawing, and she's spending all her time with popular but mean Riley. Penny tries to accept this, but intrusive, spiraling thoughts continue to interrupt her life; between Violet's distance, her parents' big secret, and her little brother's croup that requires frequent ER visits, she has plenty of real reasons to worry. Thankfully, Penny's visits to Mrs. Hines, the Feelings Teacher, give her a safe place to talk about what is going on in her head, and familiar faces open the door to new, unexpected friendships whose value becomes clear when something bad really does happen. Illustrated throughout with black-and-white sketches that highlight some of the more comical moments in the story, the book features just the right amount of humor to balance out more serious explorations of changing friendships and the ways uncertainty and lack of control can contribute to an increase in feelings of panic for young anxiety sufferers. Many readers will see their own concerns and feelings reflected here. Penny and her family read White. A bright and emotionally accessible story full of wit and warmth. (Fiction. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		Penny Draws a Best Friend	Sara Shepard	Penny is a for-real, big-time worrier. When she starts fifth grade, she gears up for another year of comfortable friendship with her pal Violet, but suddenly Violet thinks Penny is too babyish and starts hanging out with a new crowd. While Penny tries to get back into Violet's good graces, she unexpectedly makes some new friends, and this time, they're the good kind who don't exclude her or put her down. This book is set up like Dork Diaries, with all of Penny's private thoughts and retellings of her day peppered with simple cartoon drawings showing what is going on, but they're charmingly addressed to her dog, Cosmo, instead of "Dear Diary." Readers will likely relate to her concerns, such as worrying whether people are laughing about her behind her back, feeling nervous about talking in front of people, or meeting new friends. Penny also learns that looks can be deceiving, and that rumors can be harmful as she gets to know her new misfit pals. This new series comes straight from the heart.

La Vernia Intermediate		Penny Draws a Best Friend	Sara Shepard	Fifth-grader Penny Lowry is a worrier. She worries about her beloved dog, Cosmo, eating the remote control; about the bacteria lurking in the dirt under her fingernails; about the secret that has her parents acting so squirrely. One thing she never thought she'd have to worry about, however, was losing her best friend, Violet Vance, to their catty classmate, Riley Miller. Unmoored in the face of Violet's desertion, Penny turns to her diary for comfort and to Mrs. Hines, the school's "Feelings Teacher." Just as Penny is starting to grow comfortable with herself and make new friends, Violet and Riley return to her life, and Penny finds herself struggling between who she was, who she is, and who she wants to be. Shepard's illustrated middle-grade novel, relayed through Penny's doodles and diary entries, is imbued with humor, colorful characters, and the perilous dilemmas of childhood-from randomly assigned partners to the mortifying ordeal of eating alone in the cafeteria. Informal line drawings host a cast of wide-eyed characters with gangly, nervous limbs that complement the confessional nature of the narrative and the drive-by observational humor of its protagonist. Shepard carefully and successfully walks a tightrope in her treatment of Penny's worries by validating her feelings while suggesting that they should not be the only thing that guide her actions and choices. The epistollic format and the quirky, lovable main character will appeal to fans of Rachel Renée Russell's Dork Diaries and Svetlana Chmakova's Brave. AB COPYRIGHT(2023) Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
La Vernia Intermediate		Penny Draws a School Play	Sara Shepard	Journal entries addressed to her dog, Cosmo, continue to help Penny navigate life's more difficult situations. Though things have been going OK for a while, Penny knows she needs to start writing letters to her dog again when her classmate Luke's folded-paper fortuneteller predicts "unexpected surprises" are coming her way. The first surprise turns out to be that everyone will be required to participate in the fifth grade class play. As if that isn't enough, next her parents suddenly announce they're moving to a new house. This second series entry further explores Penny's changing friendship with ex-bestie Violet. She also attempts to forge a friendship between two people she likes very much who unfortunately dislike each other. Navigating these uncomfortable changes and social situations requires Penny to step outside her comfort zone and lean on her coping mechanisms to deal with her anxiety. Discussions with her Feelings Teacher offer more useful strategies for young people with anxiety. Although Penny's new friend group is supportive, readers will squirm with vicarious embarrassment from some of the situations she finds herself in. Parts of the narrative would have benefited from tightening, but many readers will feel seen and validated. The interspersed comics are a highlight, carrying surprising emotional weight and humor given their simplicity. Penny and her family read white. A helpful story about a young anxiety sufferer navigating the unexpected. (Fiction. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		Planets	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate		Player Attack	Winston Wolf	
La Vernia Intermediate		Puka Nacua: Football Star	Charlie Beattie	
La Vernia Intermediate		Pup Called Trouble	Kirby Heyborne, Bobbie Pyron	
La Vernia Intermediate		Pythons	Joanne Mattern	
La Vernia Intermediate		Rat Snakes	Joanne Mattern	
La Vernia Intermediate		Revenge of the Raccoons	Susan Tan	
La Vernia Intermediate		Sea Snakes	Joanne Mattern	
La Vernia Intermediate		Secret of the Lost Gold	Rebecca Elliott	
La Vernia Intermediate		Space Fact Frenzy!	Emma Carlson Berne	
La Vernia Intermediate		Space Travel	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate		Starry Henna Night	Mitali Banerjee Ruths	
La Vernia Intermediate		Stars	Jane Yates	
La Vernia Intermediate		Tesla	Dalton Rains	
La Vernia Intermediate		Thursday	Eva Amores	
La Vernia Intermediate		Top Secret Anniversary	Mitali Banerjee Ruths	
La Vernia Intermediate		Tornado Rescue	Rekha S. Rajan	
La Vernia Intermediate		Tuesday	Eva Amores	
La Vernia Intermediate		Wednesday	Matt Cosgrove, Eva Amores	

La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Wrath of the Rain God</u>	Karla Arenas Valenti	This first book in Valenti's Legendarios series follows nine-year-old twins Emma and Martøn on an electrifying adventure. Sadly, their father's new job forces the family to move from Cuernavaca to Chicago, and before they depart, their abuela gives them a book about Mexican legends—and it&squos magic, which they discover when it starts to glow. Opening the book sends the twins traveling through time to pre-Columbian Texcoco, Mexico. Someone or something has stolen the lightning bolt of the Aztec god Tlaloc, the god of rain and thunder, and his displeasure is manifested in torrential rain. It's up to Emma and Martøn to appease the deity. Valenti's adventurous premise will engage readers, while the plot and characters deftly introduce Mexican history and myths, astutely focusing on the unforgettable Tlaloc. The rapport between the twins adds levity, the movement of the characters between time and place aids with pacing, and the occasional black-and-white illustrations add appeal. A promising series starter featuring plenty of clever references to Indigenous Mexican food, history, and language.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Wrath of the Rain God</u>	Karla Arenas Valenti	Gr 2-5-A thrilling adventure with Emma and Martin, twins navigating the emotional challenges of moving from Mexico to the United States. On the eve of their departure, a magical book from their abuela transports them into an ancient world of gods and legends. Faced with a furious Rain God, Tlaloc, whose stolen lightning bolt threatens to unleash a catastrophic storm, the twins must find the thief and restore balance. Along the way, they learn valuable lessons about courage, family, and embracing change. Valenti integrates Spanish and Nahuatl words seamlessly into the dialogue, enhancing the cultural richness without hindering comprehension for non-Spanish speakers. Readers will also appreciate the glossary provided at the back of the book, offering translations and cultural context. Morales's sketchlike illustrations add vibrancy to the story, capturing the dramatic storm scenes and the exciting world of Mexico's legends. VERDICT A delightful mix of myth and modern-day struggles, this adventure will captivate young readers and is a recommended purchase for collections seeking to expand their myth-based offerings.-Amanda Chacon © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>A copycat conundrum</u>	Yee, Lisa	Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2025) In the first installment of this series (A Royal Conundrum, rev. 1/24), twelve-year-old Olive Cobin Zang arrived at the Reforming Arts School near San Francisco. Eventually, the lonely homebody found her place as part of a diverse group of friends who dubbed themselves the Misfits. Now, the Misfits -- undercover operatives for the secret agency NOCK -- are swept into a new mystery. Their classmate Zeke has been receiving threatening messages, and seemingly random events -- e.g., earthquakes, a runaway cable car, bank robberies, the discovery of an old bunker under the school -- turn out to be connected. Santat's black-and-white illustrations (final art not seen) lend a visual element to Yee's conversational prose. Despite its high-tech gadgetry, this is an old-fashioned adventure tale with a pleasingly complicated mystery and a tremendously likable cast of sleuths (and even some Miss Marple allusions). As this installment concludes, Olive runs off to join her friends on a new escapade. Back matter includes agent and gadget profiles. Dean Schneider March/April 2025 p.89
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>A Secret Escape</u>	Gerber, Alyson	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>A super scary Narwhalloween</u>	Clanton, Ben	School Library Journal (August 1, 2023) K-Gr 3-Sure, Clanton is the author here, but when he's not initially included in the opening credits, he playfully inserts himself anyway: "With narration by Ben Clawwww-ton... uhh, Clanton." His energetic humor sets the stage for a charming, full-cast production of his latest, bestselling "Narwhal and Jelly" early graphic series. The eighth entry includes three adventurous (not too super scary, really!) shorts that celebrate empathy and friendship, jauntily interrupted by three informative interstitials that provide complementary information, from real-life sea creatures (vampire squids are not really vampires) to bats (and their guano-"That's poopier! I mean super!"). A much-appreciated who-read-who cast list (thankfully, mostly the same since Book 1) appends the recording-revealing Clanton (again) was also Mr. Blowfish! Kiddie fave Kirby Heyborne stands out as sweet Jelly and Dion Graham extends his reach as Octopus. VERDICT Halloween might be only once a year, but sea-loving fans will want easy access to this title any time. © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>All is Nat lost</u>	Scrivan, Maria	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>All the books</u>	Rocco, Hayley	School Library Journal (October 1, 2024) PreS-Gr 3-The cover illustration from this husband-and-wife team glows with the warm green light of banker lamps, illuminating the rodents who appear engrossed in moving and consuming treasured piles of classic-looking tomes. Opening end papers charmingly depict scenes of tension between dyads of animals that may or may not be siblings. Indeed, the problem of the protagonist, proud book-owner and anthropomorphized chipmunk Piper Waterstone, is that she does not yet understand the concept of sharing books and has never visited a library. Illustrations-pencil, watercolor, and digital elements-suggest warm, fuzzy problem-solving is up ahead. But despite their tackling relatable themes, the creative team behind this book has not conveyed the meaning or mechanics of sharing beyond the narrowest contexts. The book uses the notion of magic to explain how sharing works, without clarifying the broader societal benefits of sharing resources, including books. In an earnest effort to introduce youngest readers to the joys and importance of public libraries, and reinforce the inclusive mission and potential of public circulating collections, the book upholds the importance of individual ownership, neglecting the true strengths of sharing. VERDICT A charming introduction to libraries but a missed opportunity for deeper explorations.-Jessica Fenster-Sparber © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Amari and the despicable wonders</u>	Alston, B. B	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2024) Robbed of magical powers, Amari faces her greatest challenge yet as the League of Magicians and rival Bureau of Supernatural Affairs head for a decisive showdown. As the war escalates, Amari's older brother, Quinton, and most of the rest of the Bureau are set on shuffling her off to safety. Her friend turned nemesis, Dylan Van Helsing—the League's powerful new head—is also proving himself able to outmaneuver her at every turn. Alston stacks the deck against the determined 13-year-old and her loyal band of sidekicks in this third series entry. Even though Amari's loyalty and determination wind up playing important roles, the author must introduce new element anti-magick (a formerly theoretical way to "balance magical equations") if she's to have any hope of succeeding. Ancient inventions called Wonders are the only source of anti-magick, and Amari and friends set out to locate them. A subplot involving a faun with mind-control powers and delusions of grandeur feels unfortunately underdeveloped, but as in previous entries, there's plenty of battle action to keep readers entertained but (for the squeamish among them) little explicit gore. The story winds its way through twists both comical and tragic on the way to a poignant resolution that affirms both the faith that underdog Amari's elders have in her abilities and her place within the community. Returning series fans will come away happy. As previously established, the cast behind the Black lead is racially diverse. Final art not seen. A rousing tale. (Fantasy. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Answers to dog</u>	Hautman, Pete	Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2024) Two lonely souls -- one human, one canine -- find home in each other in Hautman's (The Rat Queen, rev. 11/22, and others) latest novel. Eighth grader Evan Dunn is known for being a bit gloomy. "You're such a sad sack," a friend asserts. "You think things are going to be bad all the time." Evan's world shifts when a mysterious white dog, later identified as Samarkand, starts appearing daily in his driveway. Eventually, Samarkand leads Evan to the rundown and mismanaged kennel from which he escaped; Hautman doesn't shy away from describing the abuse inflicted on the dogs living on the property. When an accident sends the kennel's owner to the hospital, Evan finds himself, alongside new friend Hana, responsible for the dogs left behind. Alternating between Evan's and the dog's perspectives, the narrative follows the pair as they learn to trust each other and discover new joy and meaning in their lives. Evan and Hana's compassion, as well as Samarkand's endless tail-wagging, inspire hope for dog lovers and all readers. Hill Saxton September/October 2024 p.75

La Vernia Intermediate	Art club	Doucet, Rashad	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2024) Gr 4 Up-Dale Donovan loves comics and video games, and he imagines a future where he can turn his creativity into a job that he would actually enjoy. But many of the grown-ups in Dale's life keep telling him that he needs to focus more on "important" subjects like math and science if he wants to get a good job and make money. When Dale has the idea to start an after-school art club, he meets resistance every step of the way. But the creation of the art club means new friends and new allies for Dale, and these creative students are determined to prove that you don't have to be starving to be an artist. This story is filled with different kinds of tension that will keep readers hooked: rocky friendships, family problems, artists trying to prove themselves, and the struggle between creativity and financial security. Since this graphic novel is about art and artists, it's also a colorful treat for the eyes as the art club kids learn about different visual styles and ways to create art, from painting and sculpture all the way to game design. VERDICT For readers who enjoy realistic fiction about school and friendship, and for creative kids who want to incorporate art into their futures.-Andrea Lipinski © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	At the edge of lost	Brockenbrough, Martha	School Library Journal starred (October 1, 2025) Gr 4-7-Brockenbrough's second middle grade title delivers an emotionally charged survival tale centered on family, resilience, and an unbreakable human-animal bond between a teen and his beloved dog. Caleb wants nothing more than stability after years of moving for his parents' State Department postings. Staying with his grandfather Poppy in a senior living community with his best friend (and dog) Ronan, is comfortable if nontraditional-until a virulent avian flu outbreak upends everything. When Poppy falls ill, and Caleb is whisked into quarantine, circumstances require Ronan be left behind. Ronan will not be separated from Caleb in his time of need and escapes to find his boy, navigating a world full of human and natural hazards. Told in alternating perspectives-Caleb's anxious, determined voice and Ronan's soulful, perceptive one-the narrative explores loss, loyalty, and survival against a backdrop of isolation and uncertainty. The author's portrayal of pandemic anxiety feels authentic and timely without overwhelming the story's heart. Caleb has already lived through a pandemic and understands the threats are real. However, the dog's point of view is a standout feature, offering emotional immediacy and a poignant counterbalance to Caleb's turmoil. Themes of love, responsibility, and hope resonate deeply, making this an ideal pick for readers drawn to stories of animal loyalty or classics like White Fang. VERDICT A timely, heartfelt, and emotive adventure for fans of survival or dog narratives using a quick pace to grip readers.-Jessica Bushore © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	Author visit jitters	Danneberg, Julie	Horn Book Magazine (January/February, 2025) Inviting readers into this spirited book, a bouncing red-rubber ball generates a path leading from the initial endpapers to the first words of text. Here readers discover properties of rubber: that it can bounce, stretch, roll, and be molded. Animated illustrations at times combine with text treatment to graphically reinforce features of rubber (e.g., under vignettes of children riding a rubber-tired tricycle, scooter, and bike: "It can r o o o o o ll"). By posing three questions, Albee provides an outline of what readers can expect to learn about rubber: "Who discovered it? Where does it come from? How is it made?" As promised in the subtitle, she provides scientific explanations for each of the properties discussed in the introduction. Spot art supports clear, understandable explanations of scientific steps, as well as key historical moments of discovery. Throughout, Ewen's bright watercolor illustrations both pace and inform this lively text, creating a book as bouncy as the original red ball. Extensive back matter includes a note about the nomenclature of Indigenous people of South America who first discovered rubber, a discussion of environmental problems and historical conflicts involving rubber today, a timeline, a bibliography, and documentation. Betty Carter January/February 2025 p.98
La Vernia Intermediate	Author vs. illustrator	Lemke, Donald B	School Library Journal Xpress (August 2, 2024) K-Gr 4-Serious Lemke, the author, and silly Lentz, the illustrator, demonstrate how the two work together to create a picture book. Going by their first names for this dialogue, mustard yellow Don and blue-colored Bob start a story. Don begins his idea, and readers see Bob create a picture to go along with it; hilarity ensues as they discover the villain and superhero in Don's mind isn't what Bob initially draws on the page, and they must keep working to make the pictures and words become a shared vision. The narrative is told entirely through speech bubbles (Bob's speech in pink and Don's speech in gold), which will be harder for those listening or not yet reading themselves-but it makes for a great choice for readers transitioning from picture books to graphic novels, as full-color illustrations accompany the text. Kids will laugh at the banter between author and illustrator and the burps and roars that come from the characters created in the book within a book, but the serious sentiment of the importance of teamwork will be impossible to miss. VERDICT A laugh-out-loud tale for readers looking for a bridge between picture books and graphic novels.-Carrie Voliva © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	Baa Baa Black Belt	Than, Gavin Aung	Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2025) A haughty sheep has a misconstrued view of his martial arts abilities. With hooves flying in a sprightly jump and a toothy, proud smile on his face, a bipedal sheep shouts out his nickname: "They call me... // Baa Baa Black Belt!" With a deadpan look, another sheep on the farm retorts, "We never call him that." The martial arts master shows off some of his incredible techniques, accompanied by his reluctant student, a pig named Pork Chop. Alas, when Baa Baa Black Belt attempts to break a piece of wood, he winds up injuring his hoof (immersed in Hamlet, Pork Chop scarcely looks up), and his "spinning BACK KICK" causes a pile-up of cows, each knocking the other over like a row of dominoes. Perhaps Baa Baa Black Belt's skills aren't quite up to par, but that doesn't stop him from striking a winning pose and basking in imagined glory—even if the cows aren't so amused. Filled with giggle-worthy asides from peripheral farm friends, silly happenstances that play directly against the protagonist's ego, and goofy, exaggerated cartoon art, this Australian import will have storytime audiences rolling in the aisles (but hopefully not kicking and chopping). A laugh-inducing look at a puffed-up personality. (Picture book. 3-6)
La Vernia Intermediate	Baby-sitters little sister. 11.Karen's ghost	Yingst, DK	
La Vernia Intermediate	Beach bumper	Higgins, Ryan T	School Library Journal (January 1, 2024) PreS-Gr 2-It's a hot summer day in Soggy Hollow. While the geese and mice want relief at the beach, Bruce just wants to sit at home. Eventually worn down by their imploring looks, Bruce relents, and they head to the beach with Bruce lugging all the equipment. Bruce's curmudgeonly ways don't spoil the outing for the others, but rain drives them all back home. A laugh-out-loud ending will surprise readers as Bruce has a turn of heart and creates a wonderful beach substitute for his companions. Delightful illustrations capture emotion with great humor. VERDICT Fans of the "Mother Bruce" series will not be disappointed, and newcomers will want to read more of the adventures of this grouchy bear and his friends.-John Scott © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	Because of Shoe and other dog stories		School Library Journal (July 1, 2012) Gr 3-6-Wendy Orr, Pam Munoz Ryan, Thacher Hurd, Ann M. Martin, Valerie Hobbs, Matt de la Pena, and Jon J. Muth are among the writers included in this anthology. Students looking for a hilarious story will enjoy Mark Teague's "Science Fair" in which a nerdy science whiz is determined to take first place in this year's fair. He's convinced he is a genius, and he can't understand why his solar-powered pooper-scooper hasn't netted him top honors in the past. In "Trail Magic," Margarita Engle writes evocative verse about a boy whose horrific early life revolved around his mother's cruel dogfighting business. When she is sent to prison, the boy goes to live with his forest-ranger uncle and his dog. The natural world and his inspiring relative help heal him from his nightmarish past, as does his bonding adventures with Gabe. There's sure to be a story here to please any dog lover, whether it's a mystery about a poodle napper, a realistic tale about a picked-on Latino boy with a "wolfigator" mutt, or a thrilling adventure in which a lovable but chicken-killing dog has been given his last warning. Occasional black-and-white spot art by various illustrators captures the personalities of the canines and their antics.-Diane McCabe, Loyola Village Elementary School, Los Angeles (c) Copyright 2012. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	Beware of the Dino-Snake --a Branches Book	Tan, Susan	

La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Bittersweet</u>	Mandin, Christy	School Library Journal Xpress (September 26, 2025) Gr 2-4-A work of narrative nonfiction that has the potential to evoke conversations about the power of empathy, care, and kindness in the wake of war. World War II had ended and for Hilda, a child in West Berlin, "the war raged on in her belly, a rumbling hunger that never seemed to go away." In response to a blockade from the east, leaders in the west organized airdrop missions to bring food and necessities to the people of West Berlin. As a way to bring sweetness to a bitter moment, an American pilot named Gail organized a secret mission to drop candies for the children. Once his secret mission was made public the support for the candy drops spread, with people across the United States donating time and sweets to the operation. Based on a true story, the author's note provides context and connects this piece of history to the current moment. Mandin (Millie Fleur's Poison Garden) shares that Gail and his colleagues' acts of kindness recognized that the children's futures were worth fighting for regardless of their country's past. She names current wars and crises around the world, including those across the Middle East and those in Yemen, Ukraine, Myanmar, and South Sudan, where children are caught in the middle of conflicts that they did not create. The author writes that "every kindness, no matter how small, has the potential to ripple across the world." VERDICT With digitally rendered illustrations that have the quality of faded color photographs, Mandin lifts up a story that reminds readers that all children deserve protection, care, and joy in their lives.-Sarah Pousty © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Blue sky morning</u>	Kim, Jihyun	School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2025) K-Gr 2-Eunny's day begins with a beautiful, blue-sky morning and it sets the stage for everything else. Her morning routine from waking up-"Can you hear the town waking up too? Lots of people are starting their busy days"-to a family breakfast, then walking her mother to the bus stop and continuing on to school is transformed. On this unhurried day, there is time to breathe the cool fresh air; notice the flowers and others on the street; look up at the big, blue sky; talk to Mama about the day ahead; and enjoy the colors of the turning leaves. The text, written as though speaking to Eunny, is simple and direct. Set in Kim's old neighborhood in Seoul, the mostly watercolor illustrations are amazingly realistic and detailed. The bricks on the houses, the artwork on Eunny's room, the dragonflies in the sky, the individual leaves on the trees-readers will see it all and so much more. Changing perspectives, depth, and angles keeps the story moving along. Those who have been awaiting the follow-up to The Depth of the Lake and the Height of the Sky will not be disappointed. VERDICT Within the confines of a regular day, the author-illustrator brilliantly conveys the joy and beauty found in an autumn morning, making every small moment relatable and wonderful. A solid purchase for libraries.-Catherine Callegari © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Books on bikes</u>	Campoy, F. Isabel	Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2025) A voracious young reader meets a bike rider giving away books—and becomes inspired by his good work. Lia reads all day, every day: "sitting down, upside down, and before bed almost every single night." Though summer offers ample time to read, sadly, Lia's access to books is limited; school is closed, and she lives far from the library. But at a nearby park, she meets Gabriel, a cyclist who rides around making books available to the public. With Gabriel busy visiting other parks, Lia decides to outfit her own bike with baskets filled with books. She recruits other kids, and before long, their idea has spread—across the neighborhood and then to cities all over the world. A plucky hero in the mold of climate activists Xiye Bastida and Greta Thunberg—both referenced in the text—Lia works hard to create the change she wishes to see in the world. Campoy and Howell's child-friendly testament to the power of collective action concludes with backmatter explaining the real-life inspiration for the tale. Magro's eclectic art conjures up a setting certain to enchant bibliophiles; various elements, from the roofs of houses to a red tent in which Lia holes up reading, resemble oversize books, while scribbly linework and the use of collage set a whimsical tone. Lia and Gabriel are brown-skinned; Lia's community is diverse. Publishes simultaneously in Spanish. An inspiring ode to books and the heroes who make them available to those in need. (Picture book. 4-8)
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Bored</u>	Sala, Felicitia	School Library Journal starred (November 1, 2025) PreS-Gr 3-Boredom can feel unbearable. And yet, riding its wave can be fuel for some of the most fantastic and creative adventures! Rita is so bored that even repeating the word "bored" out loud 100 times can't snap her out of it. Exhausted by her boredom, she retreats to Bored Island, a refuge for all the bored people in the world and a place where boredom can take many different forms, like playing with driftwood, performing in a band, or accidentally discovering new galaxies. Sala perfectly captures the intolerable nature of boredom and how, when left uninterrupted, it can be a portal to infinite possibilities. Her concise writing allows for soft, whimsical, watercolorlike illustrations to fill the page with effect. As Rita's imagination grows, so does Sala's palette, replacing the white space of boredom with rainbow colors and full-bleed spreads of unknown worlds. VERDICT A fantastic depiction of the upside of boredom-readers will easily relate to Rita's desperation while feeling bored and feel inspired by the places that the feeling takes her.-Sarah Pousty © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Bruce saves the planet</u>	Higgins, Ryan T	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 1-4-In this latest "Mother Bruce" tale, Bruce reluctantly becomes an environmental inspiration for the entire community. It's a seamless continuation of his story, perfectly introducing the chaos of Bruce's backstory as the begrudging caretaker to a gaggle of geese and mice. As he searches for peace at his favorite fishing hole, he gets swept up in a preservation protest. It continues with typically sharp dialogue, contrasting community enthusiasm with the grumpy bear who can't help but get embroiled in the situation. It's a perfect introduction to advocacy, protesting, discussing with town councils, and even finding legal loopholes. The back matter expands on those themes, describing how we can help save the planet in our homes, community, and more. VERDICT A great addition to Mother Bruce's exploits. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Busted</u>	Gemeinhart, Dan	School Library Journal starred (July 1, 2025) Gr 3-7-Twelve-year-old Oscar Aberdeen lives with his grandpa at Sunny Days, an assisted living facility for seniors. He is the apple of the elderly residents' eyes, and he considers all of them family. Oscar has seen his share of funerals and given the eulogy on several occasions. When Sunny Days changes hands, the new owner drastically increases the monthly rents. Unless Oscar and his grandpa can find money somewhere, they will be homeless at the end of the month. A mysterious new resident named Jimmy DeLuca moves in, setting the gossip mills churning; he's "connected," the gossips whisper, a mobster! Oscar steers clear until one day, Jimmy DeLuca makes him an offer he can't refuse: help him break out of the facility and Jimmy will pay him in stacks of cash, enough to pay the rent forever. "Operation Jimmy Shimmy" is afoot; the old man and Oscar sneak out the front and almost make a clean break, but they are ambushed by pesky girl Natasha who insists on coming along. The unlikely trio: the wheezing octogenarian mobster, good kid "Boy Scout" Oscar, and nosy Natasha set off in Jimmy's 1953 Kaiser Dragon. They make several stops and run into bad guys, car thieves, floozies, mobsters, gamblers, nogoodniks, cops, and overall sketchy people. Nonstop action and fast pacing keep the story rollicking along. Gemeinhart crafts a delightful story of unlikely friendships and breaking out of one's comfort zone. Tweens will enjoy the funny vocabulary and speech patterns Oscar has picked up from being around adults who are 60+ years his senior. Main characters are cued white. VERDICT A real humdinger of a story told by master storyteller; this title will appeal to tweens seeking high-stakes, high-fun realistic fiction.-Pamela Thompson McLeod © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	<u>Butt or Face? Volume 4 Ador-A-Butts!</u>	Lavelle, Kari	

La Vernia Intermediate		Carter Avery's tricky fourth-grade year	Buyea, Rob	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2024) A challenging fourth grader faces the "meanest and nastiest" teacher in the school. Readers will recognize Carter Avery when he blurts out a rude question about the port-wine stain on Ms. Krane's face in their first meeting. He's the kid with no filters. He struggles with writing. But, like Mr. Terupt in Buyea's popular series, Ms. Krane knows how to deal with even the most difficult kids. She has challenges besides wiggly Carter and his nemesis, "bossy" Missy Gerber. Some parents don't approve of Ms. Krane's choice to have a baby as an unmarried woman. Buyea weaves all these elements into a suspenseful account of Carter's year, told in the boy's believable first-person voice. Readers will fill in the blanks in his unreliable narration, because they know kids like him—they may even share many of his difficulties. Carter doesn't have friends among his classmates, but he does have caring adults in his life: the grandmother who's raised him since his parents died, bus driver Mr. Wilson, and Farmer Don, whose eggs Carter and Grams buy. They're patient with his behavior and his questions. They help him (and readers) understand donor insemination and why judgmental gossip is a problem. Carter decides that his secret mission will be sticking up for Ms. Krane as she has stuck up for him: becoming a good student and proving she's a good teacher. His success is gratifying. Most characters present white. A school story that's full of heart. (Fiction. 8-11)
La Vernia Intermediate		Cat on the run in Hidden layers!	Blabey, Aaron	Kirkus Reviews (May 15, 2025) A feline framed for a world-destroying plot goes to dramatic lengths to reveal the true villain. Princess Beautiful, an internet superstar, started her story as a self-obsessed, demanding diva. The earlier books in the trilogy saw her attempting to clear her name and discovering the real bad guy: Thaddeus Cash, a scheming media mogul and the father of her boyfriend, Catrick. Cash harnesses Beautiful's internet celebrity for evil, broadcasting a video that brainwashes viewers into believing that he's president of the United States. With most elements essential to the narrative already revealed, this tale sees our protagonist trying to put a stop to Cash's corruption. The first two installments were compelling and suspenseful, with a premise that was darkly comedic in its likeness to real-world manipulators of mass media. In his latest, Blabey sacrifices tension and character development for high-energy action sequences. Though a bit loosely plotted, this third-act romp still offers thrills and plenty of humor, including an improbable but hilarious scene in which a subway car careens into a helicopter. Readers will cheer as Princess Beautiful finds her true calling as a nunchucks-wielding action hero. Loose-lined, expressive grayscale cartoon artwork punctuated by pops of red bring plenty of drama. Familiarity with the earlier two books in the series is a must for readers of the newest volume. A silly series finale, rife with action and hijinks. (Graphic fiction. 7-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		Cranky Pug	Blabey, Aaron	Kirkus Reviews (July 15, 2024) The infamous Pig the Pug walks board-book readers through a range of emotions in this new installment that's loosely tied to the rest of the series. Blabey's signature exaggerated style and Pig the Pug's bug-eyed facial expressions are put to especially good use in this concept book. The first page states that "Pig the Pug has many feelings! How is he feeling today?" Readers are invited to identify Pig's moods, from "cranky" to "EXCITED" to "sleepy." Each page highlights the named emotion in large colored type, followed by a quote from a character on the page (usually Pig). Fans will recognize Pig's selfishness and cheekiness in many of the quotes ("I want ALL my stuff!" "Aren't I divine?"), some of which offer callbacks to previous books, while those new to the series will still find much humor in both Pig's lines and his caricaturelike expressions. A mirror on the last page that asks, "How are YOU feeling?" gives readers the opportunity to put their emotional vocabulary to use immediately and perhaps make a Pig-like face themselves. An effective stand-alone concept book and a series add-on; followers of the titular pug will be delighted. (Board book. 0-3)
La Vernia Intermediate		Doggo and Puper Search for Cozy	Applegate, Katherine	School Library Journal starred (January 1, 2023) K-Gr 2-No one loves to sleep more than Cat, but when her humans get her a new bed and throw out her old one, it's up to Pupper and Doggo to help her adjust. Applegate's story may seem simple, but wit and charm infuse every page. Cat's reaction, for example, to losing her old bed is to simply say "I have no choice...I will never sleep again." Put in the right hands, lines like that make this story perfect for a shorter classroom read-aloud. Artwork adds to the appeal as well; the adorable character design and cute reactions create a lighthearted experience, while also adding to the humor. In particular, one scene that shows all the odd places Doggo likes to sleep demonstrates Alder's ability to add humor and whimsy to an already solid text. Numerous and often oversized illustrations give the book an almost graphic novel feel at times. Sentences are simple with easy and repeating word choice, so Applegate's ability to make this piece so funny is all the more impressive. VERDICT A winner and a first purchase.-Peter Blenski © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Doggo and Pupper Save the World	Applegate, Katherine	School Library Journal starred (March 1, 2022) Gr 1-3-Applegate's second tale about two canine friends offers early readers another entertaining story about being kind to others. Upon observing a bird, Pupper voices his longing to fly; he likes to picture himself as a superhero in a red suit with yellow boots and flowing cape. One day, a baby bird flies from a nest, leaving its sibling alone. Doggo assures Pupper the fledgling "will fly when he is ready." The two dogs make plans to attend a music concert at the park, but when they arrive, they discover the second baby bird hiding under a bush. Pupper insists they stay close to make sure the fledgling is safe until its mother arrives; they miss the concert, but perform a good deed. Alder's humorous illustrations, created from a mix of collage and digital techniques, include Doggo lying on a bench with his legs crossed at the ankles; Cat snacking on Goldfish crackers; and Doggo's ability to use the TV remote control and willingness to teach Pupper to play the drums. The book concludes with "Pupper's Guide to Being a Hero," which lists 10 codes of conduct, including "Be helpful," "Imagine how others feel," and "Listen well." Pupper learns that while giving assistance to those in need may not always look flashy, it can still make one feel like a superhero. VERDICT A number of attractive features, including cartoon illustrations, seven short chapters, numbered pages, and being part of a series will entice early readers. A first purchase for libraries.-Maryann H. Owen © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Down Came the Spiders	Russell, Ally	Kirkus Reviews (October 15, 2025) Creepy-crawlies take over a Halloween party. Halloween is Andi's favorite holiday—to her, it's "serious business," and she loves spiders almost as much as she loves her best friends, Carly and Devon. But now that they're sixth graders, her friends are more interested in attending eighth grader Clementine's party than going trick-or-treating as usual. Andi reluctantly agrees, lured by the promise of seeing the office of Mr. Mendez, Clementine's science teacher dad, which is filled with spiders in terrariums. Andi recognizes the species in his collection—until she comes face to face with a spider that's as big as a person's head. Strangely, the more she looks into its red eyes, the more she wants to remove the lid and set it free. The party continues, but soon spiders start appearing out of every nook and cranny, all heading in the same direction. Andi and her friends follow them, discovering a giant funnel web where the adults are trapped. Andi suddenly fears spiders for the first time: Can she stop them before it's too late? Russell's sophomore novel balances slow-building creepiness with a genuine affection for arachnids and incorporates occasional scientific facts. The evocative descriptions of spiders and their webs make for some truly chilling scenes, and the explorations of loneliness and tween difficulties with making friends add human elements to the terror. Andi is Black, and there's racial diversity among the secondary characters. A well-spun tale that combines suspense with relatable emotional themes. (author's note) (Horror. 9-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		Dream	O'Connor, Barbara	School Library Journal (August 1, 2025) Gr 4-6-The strength of unexpected friendship and the hopefulness of a dream is explored in this middle grade novel. Eleven-year-old Idalee Lovett comes from a long line of musicians, and all she wants is to become a country music songwriter. When the local radio station hosts a songwriting contest, she begins to dream about what it might feel like to win; but as she presses forward, the fear of failure creeps in, leading her to make an out-of-character decision regarding the contest. As the award announcement date approaches, Idalee's anxiety increases, resulting in an admission to her mother of what she has done. Although this brings her some relief, she continues to agonize over the possible ramifications of her actions. When the contest results in an unexpected outcome, Idalee learns about the power of friendship and honesty. The ragtag group of characters are endearing, adding to the general warmth of the story. Idalee's anger at her situation is somewhat glossed over, making parts of the story feel a bit inauthentic; however, readers familiar with O'Connor's Wish will enjoy the appearance of some familiar faces. Main characters are cued white. VERDICT A tender story of the strength of friendship and the power of a dream, this page-turner captures the heart.-Misty Schattile © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

La Vernia Intermediate		Emperor Pickletine rides the bus : an origami yoda book	Angleberger, Tom	School Library Journal (November 1, 2014) Gr 4-6-The fateful day has finally arrived for the seventh graders at McQuarrie Middle School to embark on their much-anticipated field trip to Washington, DC, their reward for defeating the FunTime Menace back in Princess Labelmaker to the Rescue (Abrams/Amulet, 2014). When cell phones and origami (and paper altogether) are banned on the trip by Principal Rabbski, and "bus buddies" are mandated, the kids are anxious that things might turn "nostrul" (awful). Tommy and the gang open a new case file chronicling their ups and downs, with Kellen adding the riotous illustrations. Smuggled cell phones and lime Fruit Roll-Ups used to create Fruitigami Yoda may save the day, but Harvey threatens to sour everyone's plans with his smuggled evil origami, Emperor Pickletine (with real pickle head). Chaperones include Mr. Good Clean Fun (along with his monkey puppet, Soapy) and dreaded Mr. Howell, who seems destined to thwart any possible fun. Can the students avoid the standardized tests? Will Fruitigami Yoda conquer Emperor Pickletine? As Angleberger brings the wildly popular series to a close (or does he?), age-appropriate boy-girl relationships are explored, and most of the story lines are wrapped up. As in the previous titles, instructions to make the origami figures are included, and this installment also includes an entertaining chart showing the effects of Origami Yoda on all of the pertinent characters. Fans of the series won't want to miss the satisfying conclusion, but new readers should start at the beginning.-Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA (c) Copyright 2014. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Eva and the new teacher	Elliott, Rebecca	
La Vernia Intermediate		Eva Saves the Day --a Branches Book	Elliott, Rebecca	
La Vernia Intermediate		Grumpy Monkey are we there yet?	Lang, Suzanne	
La Vernia Intermediate		Grumpy monkey. 1.Freshly squeezed	Lang, Suzanne	Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2021) Grumpy Monkey moves from picture books to a graphic-novel chapter book, in which he tolerates his friends' goofy antics during a group journey to an orange grove. Divided into three chapters of cartoon-style comics, with bonus interludes in between, the book features Jim Panzee, the protagonist of the Grumpy Monkey picture-book series. He is on his relaxing Wednesday Walk, stress orange in hand, but little is quiet about his journey once his jungle friends appear. After the accumulation of unwanted companions causes Jim to squeeze his stress orange so hard that he destroys it, the group seeks a replacement, stopping for a papaya fight, a splash party in the water, and some swinging from vines. They eventually escape angry parrots with the only orange the parrots didn't devour. There's a good dose of potty humor: Leslie the giraffe responds to Norman the gorilla's invitation to come along with "you bet your butt I do," and two spreads are devoted to poop humor (with Jim as the butt of the joke). There's also wordplay (a chapter called "Orange Ya Glad We Made It?"; Jim's repeated mantra, "Squeeze, squeeze, mind at ease"; and a guide to speaking Jim's nonsense language, in which the syllable ob is inserted before vowels in every word). That the book pauses for a "Primate Primer" with talking simians will be like pouring lemon juice on a cut for those readers who see in anthropomorphized monkeys a perpetuation of pernicious anti-Black stereotypes. Disappointing. (Graphic fiction. 6-10)
La Vernia Intermediate		Grumpy monkey. 2.Who threw that?	Lang, Suzanne	
La Vernia Intermediate		Grumpy monkey. 3.School stinks!	Lang, Suzanne	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 3-5-Another series title offering a humorous learning experience combined with the frantic energy level of Grumpy Monkey. Jim Panzee is playing with his jungle friends when he is sprayed by a polecat. Everyone agrees: he stinks! Could this accident have been avoided? What about attending school where he, accompanied by readers, can learn jungle life lessons? Jim resists attending, but begrudgingly goes with his friends. The animals learn jungle survival skills, like identifying other animals through their sense of smell and recognizing tracks. As the students begin "physical tests," they put their senses to work. Jim is starting to learn that school can be both practical and fun. The creators know how to keep young readers engaged. There's great humor when Jim experiences something new, with his entire body going into a pouting, curled-up, sulking pose. Jim's actions and emotions are on full display through very energetic illustrations that reveal exactly what he's thinking. Pages dedicated to learning new animal terms and a snack-making activity are a bonus. Grumpy Monkey will win over readers with his antics and possibly introduce them to some new animal facts. VERDICT Grumpy Monkey retains his usual humor while slipping in a little new knowledge in this book that may become a favorite reread.-Jessica A. Bushore © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Grumpy monkey. Play all day	Lang, Suzanne	
La Vernia Intermediate		I Survived the Bombing of Pearl Harbor, 1941	Tarshis, Lauren	
La Vernia Intermediate		I survived the Dust Bowl, 1935	Tarshis, Lauren	School Library Journal (October 1, 2025) Gr 2-5-The best-selling "I Survived" series chronicles its 25th historical ordeal in this milestone publication. Ray and his best friend Dolly are tweens growing up in Windy Plains, Texas, during the Great Depression. Tarshis gently introduces readers to the poverty, food scarcity, disease, and extreme weather of the Dust Bowl while maintaining an overall positive tone and ending on a very hopeful note. Though Ray and Dolly's families are both negatively impacted by their circumstances, strong relationships with their families and community see them through. A harrowing opening scene featuring Black Sunday, one of the worst dust storms in history, sparks tension but then fizzles when it is resolved quickly and with little drama. Back matter includes information about the author's research process as well as additional facts about the time. Occasional photorealistic illustrations support the text. All characters are cued white. VERDICT An adequate but unexceptional addition to the series; recommended only for libraries where these books are in very high demand. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		I survived the Japanese tsunami, 2011	Ball, Georgia	
La Vernia Intermediate		InvestiGators --Weather or Not	Green, John Patrick	
La Vernia Intermediate		Marker	Kang, Anna	

La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mixed-up</u>	Garcia, Kami	School Library Journal (December 1, 2024) Gr 3-6-Fifth grade friends Stella, Latasha, and Emiko have a shared obsession: their favorite magical television show, Witchlins. But when the TV show releases a guidebook and accompanying digital game, Stella can't keep up with the text-heavy directions. Not only is she falling behind with her friends, her struggle to read and comprehend is also causing problems at school. Fortunately, Stella has a crew of concerned educators who see her challenges and help her gain the skills she needs to read fluently. Garcia writes Stella's journey from her own lived experience being neurodivergent and parenting a dyslexic child. It's because of this that Stella's emotional crescendo of frustration and self-isolation feels deeply authentic. The word choices and visual cues increase this title's accessibility for dyslexic or struggling readers. Brown's visual storytelling is paced perfectly and will draw fans of Raina Telgemeier Smile, Varian Johnson's Twins, and Kat Fajardo's Miss Quinces right in. The characters throughout the book are diverse in ethnicity and skin tone, including Stella and her friend group, their families, teachers, and fellow students. VERDICT While this must-read title will be especially affirming for those with dyslexia or who struggle in school, all young readers will find aspects of themselves within Stella's world, and perhaps be inspired to ask for help when needed.-Sarah Simpson © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Monster movie!</u>	Wendig, Chuck	School Library Journal (September 1, 2024) Gr 3-7-Ethan Pitowski is scared of everything. So, when his classmate, Kevin Rook, invites the whole sixth grade to his basement to watch the scariest movie ever made, Ethan refuses to go, even when his best friends Harley and Olivia beg him. He eventually changes his mind, arriving at Kevin's house just in time to find his classmates hypnotized and frozen in front of the TV screen. To his horror, the TV transforms into a monster that climbs off the wall and eats the students' heads one by one, only there's no blood, and their bodies seem to still be alive and breathing. The monstrous TV Head appears to be unstoppable and intent on invading every home and building in the city. It is up to Ethan to face his fears and solve the mystery that will save the world. This imaginative horror novel for kids is suspenseful and engaging, with a truly terrifying monster-but also full of funny, exaggerated characters and descriptions that keep the tone light. Ethan is an endearing, unlikely hero who learns the importance of fighting for the things and people you love. The races of most of the characters are not identified, but from the descriptions, they are assumed white, with the exception of Olivia, Ethan's best friend, who is Black. VERDICT This funny, fast-paced celebration of horror movies will appeal to fans of "Goosebumps" and similar series.-Ashley Larsen © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mouse & his dog</u>	Applegate, Katherine	Kirkus Reviews (October 1, 2024) An intrepid mouse tries to help his canine friends find forever homes. This second visit to the Dogtown animal shelter brings back some familiar furry faces while introducing a new narrative perspective—that of one of the mice residing in the building's rafters. Mouse enjoys lounging in the basement with the "unadoptable" pups, among them Buster, a "bounceback," who has been adopted several times but then been returned following a litany of tragicomic mishaps. There's also Smokey, the robot dog, who (due to an error at the factory) randomly emits a tremendous, misery-inducing smoke alarm sound. Saanvi and Owen, kids from Dogtown's Reading Buddies program, also find their way to the basement, where they spend time with these exiled animals. Growing mutual affection between the dogs and children leads Mouse to devise an ambitious plan to help the dogs get to the apartment building where Saanvi and Owen live, in pursuit of a happy ending for all involved. The authors thoughtfully portray the growing relationships, and moments of breakneck action culminate in a conclusion that pulls together a dizzying array of moving pieces. Mouse at times feels more like a literary device than an integral member of the Dogtown universe, an element further emphasized by the frequent references to mouse-focused children's classics. Final art not seen. A relatable, entertaining second entry in a charming series. (Fiction. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mr. Lemoncello and the titanium ticket</u>	Grabenstein, Chris	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mr. Lemoncello's fantabulous finale</u>	Grabenstein, Chris	Booklist (October 15, 2024 (Vol. 121, No. 4)) Grades 4-6. One last round of clever games, puns, rebuses to solve, literary references, tests of character, and valuable prizes for a cast of 13-year-old contestants brings this bright and bookish series to a (supposed) close. In fact, Mr. Lemoncello dangles the most valuable prize of all: declaring that his entire multibillion-dollar gaming empire is up for grabs and there will be but one big winner. So it is that a new set of brainteasers takes Kyle and a rapidly dwindling group of other platinum ticket-holders from the mammoth new amusement park Lemoncelloland to the Dewey depths of the Lemoncello Library. Along with taking one (possibly) final opportunity to dish out nods and sly pokes to dozens of fellow authors past and present, Grabenstein caters to series fans by trotting out characters from past episodes, yet again pulling the rug out from under the exaggeratedly villainous Chillingtons, highlighting the theme that true winning requires not just individual effort but cooperation too, and closing with a properly magnificent shower of balloons. It all adds up to a "wondermous" wrap-up.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mr. Lemoncello's great library race</u>	Grabenstein, Chris	School Library Journal (July 1, 2017) Gr 3-6-Eccentric billionaire game maker Luigi Lemoncello is back with all-new games and contraptions. In his ultramodern, high-tech library, Lemoncello unveils his newest creation, the Nonfictionator, which is capable of generating historical holograms, including Abraham Lincoln and Eleanor Roosevelt, who then converse with library patrons. Kyle Keeley, Akimi, and the other young contestants are back in this third installment facing their greatest challenge yet-the Great Library Race. Teams of contestants must travel by bookmobile and Mr. Lemoncello's private jet as they discover clues about historical figures such as Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers. When Kyle's team unearths evidence that suggests that the title character is a fraud who stole the ideas for his blockbuster games, it is up to the young sleuths to learn the truth before Lemoncello's empire and library are ruined. Lemoncello's nemesis game rivals, the Krinkle brothers, along with a slew of other nefarious characters, try to mastermind an evil takeover. Fans will embrace this new entry, which, like the previous books, features lightning-fast pacing and zany plotlines. Educators will be pleased by the emphasis on careful research and fact-checking. VERDICT Chock-full of literary references, this title will have readers racing to pick up the next volume in this popular series.-Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA © Copyright 2017. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics</u>	Grabenstein, Chris	School Library Journal (December 1, 2015) Gr 4-6-After receiving a million requests from fellow book lovers, billionaire game maker Luigi Lemoncello launches a Library Olympics open to kids all over the country to challenge the reigning literature-loving champions of Alexandria, OH. The sequel to Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library (Random, 2013) pits teams of four middle schoolers from seven different geographical regions against the reigning hometown favorites, led by Kyle Keeley. The games feature a duodecimalthon of 12 challenging library-related games, from solving Dewey-related rebus puzzles to identifying banned books, all taking place in the ultra-modern, technologically advanced Lemoncello Library. The grand prize is an all-expenses paid college scholarship, plus bragging rights. Before long, however, mysterious events threaten to jeopardize the Olympics and the library itself-books are disappearing from the shelves, and some groups or individuals may be to blame, as not everyone is a fan of the sparkling new library. Kyle and his teammates must band together with the rival teams to outwit those intent on bringing Lemoncello and the library down. Dewey Decimal aficionadados, bibliophiles, and gamers will all find something to savor while trying to decipher the clues in this fast-paced sequel. At the end of the book, Grabenstein challenges kids to find quotes from banned books within the novel and to read the extensive list of titles mentioned throughout the story. VERDICT This is a successful blend of mystery, adventure, and suspense, with a sizable cast of characters, in a wholly satisfying sequel that easily stands alone.-Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA © Copyright 2015. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Percy Jackson & the Olympians. Book two.The sea of monsters : the graphic novel</u>	Venditti, Robert	

La Vernia Intermediate		Pizza and Taco Go Viral!	Shaskan, Stephen	
La Vernia Intermediate		Pocket Bear	Applegate, Katherine	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 19, 2025) Gr 4-6-Readers will fall in love with their childhood teddy bear all over again in Applegate's new heartwarming novel. Feline Zephyrina (also known as Corporal Z) is a kleptomaniac; sole supplier for the Second Chances Home for the Tossed and Treasured. In this home for forgotten stuffed animals, there is one leader-a handmade miniature soldier bear named Pocket. Pocket is a devoted sergeant who spent time in WWI; he is always caring for the toys in his charge and his beloved human family Dasha and Elizaveta, refugees from Ukraine. When Corporal Z finds an old stuffed bear in the trash behind an Italian restaurant, she knows exactly where to take him for his second chance. As Pocket and his family care for their new recruit, a wartime secret begs to burst to the surface. Who is this bear? And can he help the family of Second Chances just as much as they've helped him? Applegate's latest strikes at the heart, addressing the vitality of empathy, the long-lasting effects of war, and the power of found family. Readers follow the plot through Zephyrina's perspective and journey from a tough street cat to a loving pet. One can either let their past harden them or let it soften them to the world around them, and the characters of Applegate's book strive for empathy and softness. VERDICT This tender story about empathy, war, and family is a must-buy for libraries with readers who already love Applegate's dynamic repertoire.-Ashton Conley © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Pug the Unicorn --a Branches Book	May, Kyla	
La Vernia Intermediate		Revenge of the raccoons	Tan, Susan	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 1-3-Ember the power-hungry Chihuahua is back from vacation at Ember Island and ready to rescue his fellow animal friends Neo, BeBe, and Steve in this hilarious addition to the "Pets Rule!" series. After hearing from a canary that there was trouble back home, Ember returns to find out that the ever-troublesome raccoons are taking over the neighborhood one trash can at a time. With the help of his fellow pets, Ember hatches a plan to stop the raccoons for good. This series is distinct for its pitch-perfect animal-tinged humor and frequent illustrations, making it a great pick for both regular and reluctant readers. VERDICT A worthy series to have on all library shelves. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Sea Monster Conundrum (The Misfits)	Yee, Lisa	
La Vernia Intermediate		Secret mission: Guam	Sutter, Marcus	
La Vernia Intermediate		Smiley	Ross, M. C	Kirkus Reviews (June 15, 2025) An affectionate dog's positive attitude is challenged by prejudice. Smiley, an American Staffordshire terrier—a type of pit bull—begins her life at a high-end Boston kennel. The breeder socializes Smiley and her littermates, exposing them to all kinds of people and a variety of objects and experiences, including vacuum cleaners, skateboards, swimming, and even the zoo (which may surprise readers who are aware that zoos generally ban pets who aren't service animals). Smiley is so happy that she smiles not only "with her butt" but also with her big, goofy mouth. When she's adopted by the Menino-Rosado family, Smiley uses her highly empathic nature to support Carlito, a small, nervous Puerto Rican tween from an affordable housing development in Boston's South End. He's about to enter seventh grade at prestigious Boston Classical Academy, where he has a scholarship. Carlito becomes the crew team's coxswain, but when he's too light for the required minimum, Smiley joins him in the boat, serving as an unorthodox yet effective deadweight. When a classmate's well-intentioned but poorly socialized pit bull exhibits apparently aggressive behavior at a boat race, Carlito's wealthy classmate's father labels Smiley a menace, too, and she suffers a crisis of confidence. Ross thoughtfully explores snobbery, socioeconomic inequity, and racial bias in a strongly developed Boston setting. As in Ross' Nugly (2023), the story serves as a treatise on canine behavior and care interwoven with layered, deliberately paced storytelling. Insightful and purposeful, with strong appeal for animal lovers. (Fiction. 9-13)
La Vernia Intermediate		Snoop	Korman, Gordon	School Library Journal Xpress (July 18, 2025) Gr 4-7-Korman's latest delivers a Rear Window premise for the middle grade set, complete with exotic animals, amateur sleuthing, and a screen-addicted protagonist stuck at home. After a ski accident leaves 12-year-old Carter Peregrine with two broken legs, he discovers he can access public surveillance cameras around his small town...and then goes a step further. What begins as boredom-fueled snooping escalates into a full-blown investigation involving cryptic vans, a red panda, and a suspected animal-smuggling ring. The plot moves at Korman's trademark, brisk pace, building to a suspenseful climax involving a high-speed wheelchair chase and a loose snow leopard. Carter's voice is believably tween, and the relationship with his guilt-ridden younger brother, Martin, adds warmth and humor. While the mystery is engaging and the stakes feel real, Carter's moral reasoning remains murky; his passionate defense of endangered animals is never balanced against the ethical implications of tapping into private camera feeds. His uncritical infatuation with classmate Lacey also feels strained. The supporting cast, while serviceable, lacks depth and appears to default to white, with little cultural specificity. Though the character development doesn't reach the depth of Ungifted or Schooled, fans of Korman's accessible, fast-moving stories will find plenty to enjoy. VERDICT A high-interest mystery with broad appeal for existing Korman fans; an easy addition to shelves where his titles are popular.-Rose Garrett © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		Spy school entrance exam	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate		Spy school goes north	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate		Spy school goes wild	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate		Spy school project X	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate		Spy school revolution	Gibbs, Stuart	

La Vernia Intermediate	Spy School secret service	Gibbs, Stuart	Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2017) Only a few months after accidentally blowing up the principal's office at the CIA Academy of Espionage, 13-year-old Benjamin Ripley is back with another explosive assignment, and the stakes couldn't be any higher. With reliable intel that the evil organization SPYDER is plotting an assassination attempt against the president of the United States, Ben is handpicked to go undercover as a friend of the president's son to stop the attack before it happens. In keeping with Spy School adventures past, nothing ever goes quite as planned, and Ben and his agent-in-training classmates find themselves embroiled in a high-stakes and hilarious secret operation to save the leader of the free world. While Gibbs largely sticks to the formula that readers have come to know and love, the setting takes on added importance in this installment, keeping the story fresh and adding depth to the otherwise lighthearted spy romp. As it's peppered with entertaining historical trivia, readers may even learn a thing or two as they follow Ben from one Washington, D.C., landmark to the next. While Ben is white and the rest of the cast lacks significant racial diversity, their individual quirks and humor will likely appeal to middle-grade readers. Strong female characters like Ben's crush, superspy-in-training Erica Hale, add a gender balance and strengthen the story. This is espionage well worth uncovering. (Thriller. 8-12)
La Vernia Intermediate	Spy School Secret Service the Graphic Novel	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate	Spy school, the graphic novel	Gibbs, Stuart	School Library Journal (January 1, 2022) Gr 4-7-In this graphic novel adaptation of the popular prose books, Ben Ripley is recruited into the CIA's Academy of Espionage due to his enthusiastic gaming abilities and his exceptional math skills. As Ben tries to adapt to life at his new top-secret school, he unwittingly becomes the target of a deadly assassin. Someone is mistakenly after Ben because of false data placed in his file, but how were they able to access classified information on the school mainframe? Several members of the school administration and Ben's new classmates offer him protection, but it's difficult to trust a group of spies who are mastering the art of deception. Gibbs's first book in the series seamlessly translates into a comic format, which allows the action to take center stage. Readers will be enthralled by the rapid sequencing as Sarkar stylishly presents the narrative, deftly balancing text and visuals. Although this new version is full of visual energy, it's not without the twists and turns of the original text. Gibbs's unique brand of humor comes through, as there are ample laughs throughout the book. Ben is white; several of his classmates are people of color. VERDICT With a fast-paced plot and striking illustrations, the graphic novel version of this story will be a definite hit among established fans as well as newcomers to the series.-Claire Moore © Copyright 2022. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	Spy ski school, the graphic novel	Gibbs, Stuart	
La Vernia Intermediate	Strangeville School is totally normal	Miller, Darcy	School Library Journal (November 1, 2021) Gr 4-7-Fifth grader and budding photographer Harvey Hill is the new kid at Strangeville School. With freckles and average elbows, Harvey seems perfectly normal-except he is guarding a mysterious secret. Strangeville, on the other hand, is the opposite of normal, with crocodiles roaming the hallways, a rat named Cuddles who is growing at an alarming rate due to a science fair mishap, and an evil lizard named Mr. Pickles with his own sinister plans, among other oddities. Harvey befriends Stella Cho, lead reporter of the school paper, and together they become wrapped up in the mystery of the dangerous Supply Closet on the third floor, which is responsible for the disappearances of several students and teachers over the years. In the same vein as Louis Sachar's "Wayside School," this tale offers a blend of dark humor, quirky characters, and strange happenings. Although the unusual encounters and odd bits of trivia seem random, there is continuity within the narrative and with the characterizations. Harvey, despite seeming average (especially when compared to his classmates and teachers at Strangeville), is an endearing character who's easy to root for. He plays well off his cohort, Stella, who remains calm and matter-of-fact, even when faced with giant, mutated rats and meatloaf made from black holes. The mystery surrounding the Supply Closet concludes in an appropriately extravagant and bizarre manner, as does the reveal of Harvey's big secret. Harvey is cued as white, while Stella is cued as Asian American. VERDICT Give this offbeat and irreverent book to young readers who like dark comedy, eccentric characters, and off-the-wall storytelling.-Laura J. Giunta, Garden City P.L., NY © Copyright 2021. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	The Baby-sitters Club, 18, Jessi Ramsey, pet-sitter	Crenshaw, Ellen T	
La Vernia Intermediate	The Bad Guys joke book	Kaplan, Arie	
La Vernia Intermediate	The blossoming summer	Johnson, Anna Rose	School Library Journal Xpress (June 20, 2025) Gr 3-6-A sweet story of unity with a World War II backdrop. Thirteen-year-old Rosemary has been living with relatives for three years while her parents scuffle for work. Stuck in dreary London, Rosemary daydreams of Paradise, an idyllic home in the countryside with blooming flowers, open spaces, and her loving family beside her. As Hitler's army advances, her parents retrieve Rosemary and her two younger brothers to flee the imminent threat. They arrive in Wisconsin to live with Rosemary's estranged paternal grandmother on her vast property, a former lakeside resort. Aesthetically, Wisconsin is everything Rosemary dreamed Paradise would be, teeming with beautiful gardens. However, tensions mount between the adults, and Rosemary unexpectedly discovers she has Ojibwe and French ancestry. After learning of an upcoming gardening competition, Rosemary conspires to repair her fractured family, but she'll need everyone's cooperation to bring home a win. Readers will relate to how Rosemary struggles to meet her high expectations of herself. Her earnestness is clearly communicated via third-person narration. The inclusion of Anishinaabemowin words brings authenticity to the story, and Rosemary's urge to learn more about her background rings true. At times, the motivations of the adult characters are unclear. The story is light on dramatic action, with a gentle, somewhat plodding plot. Themes of hope and the value of collective effort cultivate a lighthearted, optimistic tone. VERDICT Calmer than a typical WWII story, this is well suited for fans of cozy historical fiction, such as Anne of Green Gables.-Hannah Grasse © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate	The book bus	Moore, Melanie	Publishers Weekly (November 27, 2023) Books provide an old truck with a new sense of purpose in Moore and Wray's community story, which, per an end note, takes inspiration from Moore's mobile bookstore. After a day of usefully hauling cherries, Tilly, a happy-go-lucky green farm truck, looks forward to evenings spent listening to the girl who inhabits the farmhouse read aloud: "Tilly loved drifting off to sleep, imagining marvelous mermaids, searching scientists, or pirouetting panda ballerinas." After the child grows up and larger trucks arrive at the farm, Tilly wonders whether her helpful days are done. But when the vehicle ventures solo into town to distribute the child's old books, the result gives the truck a second life. While storybook-sounding text offers thoughtful internality to the book's vehicle protagonist, Helm's carefully shaded rural landscapes play things straight, depicting an apparently self-driving VW pickup without anthropomorphized elements. Human characters are portrayed with various skin tones. Ages 4-8. (Feb.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
La Vernia Intermediate	The book snail	Jin, Bo	

La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The bookshop on Lemon Tree lane</u>	Lucas, Mike	Publishers Weekly (August 4, 2025) When a dark-haired, pale-skinned child's beloved local bookshop undergoes renovations, the young patron worries, since "old things and new things/ are never the same." While lines acknowledge the existing store's structural deficiencies, including a leaky ceiling, they also highlight the store's cozy qualities—"crannies," "nooks," and "places to hide in while looking at books." After the doors close for construction, the narrator observes the ensuing activity until opening day helps the youth to realize that the bookstore remains a place for discovery—a feeling underscored by doodles of fantastical creatures that surround the reading child in both of the store's incarnations. Smudgy, colored pencil- and pastel-like artwork from Karmazina amplifies Lucas's first-person rhymes, which emphasize growth and change as the shop's initial warm brown shelves morph into a light-filled, modern space with apple-green accents. Background characters are portrayed with various skin tones. Ages 3-6. (Sept.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The child king of Uxmal</u>	Valenti, Karla	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The dodo. Chi Chi's story</u>	Andrus, Aubre	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The first cat in space and the baby pirate's revenge</u>	Barnett, Mac	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The first cat in space and the soup of doom</u>	Barnett, Mac	School Library Journal (August 1, 2023) Gr 3-5-A failed set of assassination attempts on the Moon Queen—first by serving her poisoned soup, then by a knife attack carried out by an assassin disguised as a chef—send her and her close friend First Cat on a mission to find an antidote and determine who was behind it all. After an unsuccessful attempt to reconnect with their long-missing friend LOZ 4000, the toenail clipping robot, Moon Queen and First Cat pay a visit to a wizard who reveals the Moon Queen only has 24 hours from the time she tasted the soup to find the antidote before the poison turns her to glass. With 19 hours remaining, Moon Queen and First Cat set out to obtain the antidote, and chaos ensues. In a return to form for this sequel, now entirely set on the moon, many of the features of book one are present once again: artwork that has a simple but sophisticated style in its textured, retro-hued pastel chalk appearance with heavy black line work, variable and angular panels that denote action, footnotes that provide links to real world recordings of music referenced in the story, self-referential jokes that break the fourth wall, and humorously absurd plot twists and red herrings to keep readers on their toes. VERDICT Though not as strong a showing as the first book in terms of laugh-out-loud moments, this sequel still has much to enjoy, and fans will be thrilled to see their favorite characters back in action.—Alea Perez © Copyright 2023. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The first cat in space and the wrath of the paperclip</u>	Barnett, Mac	Kirkus Reviews (October 15, 2024) A rogue spell-check program's bid to transform all life-forms into that eminently useful office item, the paper clip, touches off a fresh round of lunar lunacy. Predicated on the entirely reasonable premise that eliminating all spelling and grammar errors everywhere would logically lead to the necessity of exterminating carbon-based life in the universe, this third series entry combines high stakes with daffy banter and daring exploits. CheckMate—a chipper, jumped-up editing program—has invented the Transmogratron, a giant laser that will fulfill its ultimate goals in both the cyber world and "meatspace." Facing challenges as random as prankster lunar unicorns and a disarmingly motherly Motherboard, scowling First Cat joins a motley crew of diversely carbon- and silicon-based allies, led by the pearlescent Queen of the Moon. They're in a race to the finish—diverted occasionally by, for instance, a relentlessly punny comic-book interlude featuring a pair of literal and figurative Pool Sharks. They ultimately triumph thanks to teamwork and moxie. Following a celebratory party and toasts to "new friends...and steadfast comrades" (and, of course, "MEOW"), the story's energetic, brightly colored panels close with a reveal of the next volume. ("I always hate it when comics end by announcing a sequel. SO CRINGE!" declares an authorial stand-in.) It can't come too soon. File under "laugh riot." (Graphic science fiction. 8-11)
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The Hybrid Prince</u>	Sutherland, Tui T	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The Last Comics on Earth Across the Doodleverse</u>	Brallier, Max	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The last kids on Earth and the destructor's lair</u>	Brallier, Max	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The Pumpkin Princess and the buried castle</u>	Banbury, Steven	Booklist starred (August 2025 (Vol. 121, No. 22)) Grades 4-7. Peculiar things have been happening to Eve ever since the events of the Forever Night transpired nearly a year ago—when, thanks to the undead denizens of Hallowell Valley, her life changed forever. Or was it her death? The Pumpkin Princess isn't quite sure anymore. Now she's dealing with some weird and magical changes: breathing fire like her adoptive father, the Pumpkin King; drifting through walls like her ghostly neighbors; and, apparently, being the only one who can see the mysterious shadow with glowing green eyes lurking around town. Then, on All Hallows' Eve, the shady specter approaches her, presenting her with a tempting but impossible choice—one that comes with catastrophic consequences no matter what she decides. In the disastrous aftermath, Eve must steadfastly step into her role as princess and steward to save not only the land of the undead but also the world of the living. In this sequel to The Pumpkin Princess and the Forever Night (2024), Banbury significantly expands his enchanting world with fresh faces, new dangers, and remarkable revelations. While the numerous additions make the plot feel a little convoluted at times, they also offer ample opportunities for meaningful character growth, particularly among the supporting cast, which truly gets to shine in this bewitching tale of friendship, family, and fairness. Another fantastic fall fable.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The Pumpkin Princess and the forever night</u>	Banbury, Steven	School Library Journal Xpress (June 7, 2024) Gr 4-7-A young girl cleverly escapes her orphanage to find a loving stepfather in the Pumpkin King and discover a world she could have never imagined. Bibliophiles will feel and smell the disgusting mud she cakes on her pajamas while trying to escape the orphanage. The girl is eventually saved by the Pumpkin King, who tells her, "You shall come back with me, and I shall adopt you as my own child, where you will be the Pumpkin Princess." He names her Eve and takes her to his home, Hallowell. Eve's new home is filled with sinister yet charming characters, such as Ellie, the skeleton seamstress, and her equally bony husband, Franklin. There's also Vlad the vampire who craves human food, even though it makes him terribly sick. And, when Eve makes friends with a witch named Lyla, she is delighted to have a close friend for the first time in her life. But just as there are kind characters in Hallowell, Eve also discovers not so friendly fare: Evil vampire Baroness LaMent is intent on getting Eve banished from the undead world. Humor, adventure, and pluck make this an enjoyable read. Relationships and suspense are solid throughout the narrative, and Vlad, Lyla, and Eve's friendship will especially resonate with young readers. VERDICT This delightfully chilling romp with a brave and clever orphan is a Halloween tale with heart, that would be a splendid read-aloud at Halloween.—Julie Shatterly © Copyright 2024. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The Taylors</u>	Calonita, Jen	Publishers Weekly starred (July 21, 2025) Calonita (Charmed) presents an effervescent, heartwarming tale of four tweens named Taylor and their quest to meet their idol, Taylor Swift. Hardcore Swift fan Taylor Bennett-also known as Teffy-is dreading her first day of middle school. The newly minted fifth grader is pleasantly shocked to find, however, that she shares a class with three other devoted Swifties, each of whom is also named Taylor. Teffy, competitive and sporty TS, outgoing Tay Tay, and confident Taylor P. quickly bond over their shared love of music, and Teffy's first-day-of-school promise to herself- "make one friend"-becomes a reality. The group soon makes a pact: if they don't all manage to obtain seemingly elusive tickets to the Indianapolis stop of the Eras Tour, none of them will attend the concert. Everything seems perfect until an unexpected conflict forces Teffy to consider what she's willing to do to keep her newfound friendships and stay true to herself. Rapid-fire, detail-rich scenes depicting typical adolescent setbacks and pitfalls-such as overcoming fears and feeling different from others-make for snappy pacing that draws readers in from the jump. Organic and playful prose renders Teffy's endearing third-person POV while gently presenting lessons about speaking up, apologizing, and taking accountability in this uplifting work. The Taylors cue as racially diverse. Ages 8-12. Agent: Dan Mandel, Sanford J. Greenburger Assoc. (Oct.) © Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>The terrible trio. 1.The (not so) superheroes</u>	Haddow, Swapna	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Too uncool for school</u>	Patterson, James	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Tornado rescue</u>	Rajan, Rekha S	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 2-4-Jaden and Leela Jackson's family travels in an RV, assisting with disaster relief. Their father, an award-winning doctor, treats the injured, while their mother, a journalist, documents the disasters. While helping at an animal shelter damaged by a tornado, the siblings find themselves facing twin tornadoes and must act quickly to protect both themselves and the animals. The short sentences and plentiful illustrations add to the fast-paced action, making this an engaging choice for early chapter book readers building confidence. Though some tornado facts are included, the focus remains on disaster preparedness and helping others. VERDICT A good choice for large collections, this book presents an important topic in an accessible way while keeping young readers engaged. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Waffle Lot of Love (A Narwhal and Jelly Book #10)</u>	Clanton, Ben	
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>Wagnificent. 2.A new dog in the den</u>	Murguia, Bethanie Deeney	School Library Journal (May 1, 2025) Gr 2 Up-Sage and her dog, Thunder, are the best of friends. Being the only dog in the house, Thunder likes to have things a specific way. This all changes when a friend asks Sage to watch Byron, and now there are two dogs in the house. As tensions build, can these two dogs learn to coexist? What role will Zia, a dog walker and new friend to Sage, play in this story? Many things change when routines are interrupted, whether it's by a new baby, a new partner, or a new pet. We all deal with others coming in and out of our lives, but it is only when we learn to love and work together that we discover how deeply friendship has the ability to become. VERDICT Pet comedy entertains all. Young readers will learn so much while they laugh at these two dogs at odds with each other. © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.
La Vernia Intermediate		<u>War games</u>	Gratz, Alan	School Library Journal Xpress starred (September 26, 2025) Gr 4-7-Gratz delivers another compelling narrative, this time at the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Thirteen-year-old gymnast Evie Harris leaves her Dust Bowl refugee family behind to compete for Team USA. Largely ignored by her teammates, Evie has goals to bring home a gold medal, become famous, and lift her family out of poverty. Her plans change after meeting Solomon Monday, an opportunistic British journalist. He presents Evie with an incredible proposition: join him and two other Olympians in robbing the Reichsbank of its cache of Nazi gold. Her fervently anti-Nazi Olympian mates include Karl, a gay German weight lifter, and Ursula, a German-Wolof swimmer competing for France. What follows is a gripping heist story combined with a dramatic sports story, where the prewar German backdrop adds tension. The short, easily digestible chapters coupled with the plot's high stakes enhance the book's compulsive readability. Gratz's vivid descriptions-from crowds enthusiastically cheering for Hitler to track-and-field athlete Jesse Owens's triumphant performance-effectively embed readers in the drama of the 1936 games. Evie grapples with various moral dilemmas, such as the privilege she enjoys as an Aryan-presenting girl in a country that reviles her Black and Jewish teammates. Atrocities committed by the Nazis are handled in an age-appropriate manner. An author's note provides additional context. VERDICT A first purchase, especially where thrillers and historical fiction are popular.-Hannah Grasse © Copyright 2025. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.