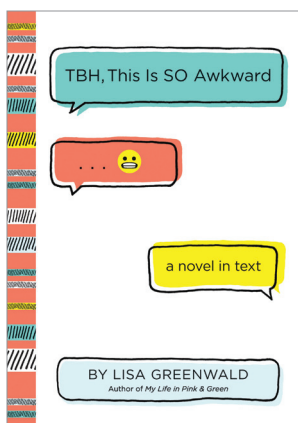


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TBH, This is SO Awkward

Written by Lisa Greenwald
HarperCollins, 2018
ISBN 9780062689900

For ages: 8 – 12

The drama of middle school and pre-teen text messaging is captured in this very unique chapter book told entirely in texts, e-mails, and notes. Cecily, Prianka, and Gabby are a tight group of friends in the sixth grade who have been BFFs since birth. A new girl to school, Victoria, tries to befriend them and has her feelings hurt after a group text message goes wrong. The author promotes a message to be inclusive to others and the importance of communicating beyond cell phones. A warning to teacher-librarians who skim through the pages: you may need the glossary in the back to decode acronyms like TBH (to be honest).

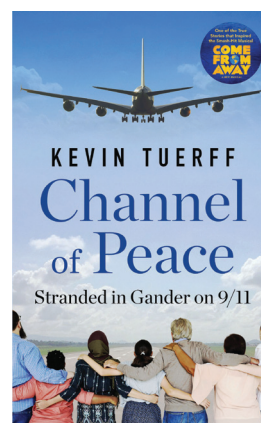


Speak: The Graphic Novel

Written by Laurie Halse Anderson,
Illustrated by Emily Carroll
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2018
ISBN 9780374300289

For ages: 12 – 18

If you attended the past OLA Super Conference, you may have had the chance to meet the illustrator Emily Carroll. Her artwork transformed the original *Speak* written in the late '90s into a graphic novel, bringing this adaptation to a new generation of readers. *Speak* is a powerful story that follows protagonist Melinda on her personal journey to heal and find her voice. While the transition to high-school is challenging enough, she is ostracized by her peers after calling the cops to an end-of-year party. She suffers in silence to share the truth. While the material is heavy, it's also riveting and will capture the attention of readers. Note: mature content including depression and sexual assault are covered.



Channel of Peace: Stranded in Gander on 9/11

Written by Kevin Tuerff
House of Anansi Press Inc., 2018
ISBN 9781487005139

For ages: 13 and up

Although this memoir was published as an adult book, high school students can benefit by exploring themes of kindness, empathy, and problem solving. It's a story that will instill pride in Canadian students when they read how this community came together to welcome others in a period of great crisis. This title is the true story behind the hit musical *Come From Away*. I met Kevin Tuerff at the Reading for the Love of It Conference while he was signing copies at the Mirvish booth. Kevin drew from his experience in Gander, Newfoundland where he was one of 7,000 stranded passengers sheltered when planes were diverted there during 9/11. He also started a "pay it forward" 9/11 initiative and shares tips on how others can follow his example. Note: mature themes. ■