

Fiction

The Closest I've Come

Written by Fred Aceves

HarperTeen, November 2017

9780062488534, Hardcover, \$17.99

Halfway through his sophomore year, Marcos Rivas is chosen to participate in a pilot program for troubled students who show potential. The troubled part stems from living in the projects with his detached alcoholic mother and her truly disgusting and abusive boyfriend. It's clear where Marcos thinks his place is within the school and society; but through funny, sad and thoughtful inner dialogue, debut author Fred Aceves shows us who Marcos wishes he could be.



While not thrilled about the program at first, Marcos soon develops friendships with two students, Amy and Zach, which are very different from the ones he already has. These are two kids who each have their own way of navigating through school and life – and ultimately help Marcos see a way to navigate on his own.

I loved this book! A description of how Marcos feels when a teacher he really respects reaches out and shakes his hand will stay with me for quite a while. Could have cried! And his longing for Amy, teaching him such a great lesson about friendships with the opposite sex, is both funny and heartbreaking to watch. I can imagine this book with resonate with high schoolers on many levels. Fantastic read!

Picked and reviewed by Eileen Armour, CATS Eastern Regional Coordinator

Nonfiction

Wait Till It Gets Dark: A Kid's Guide to Exploring the Night

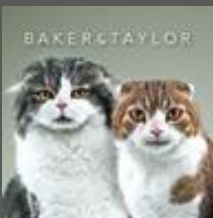
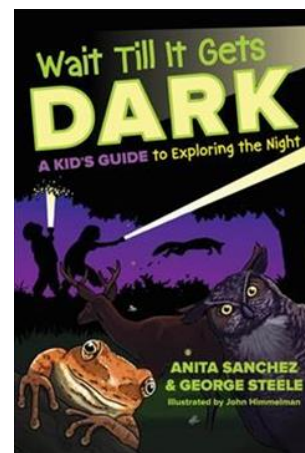
Written by Anita Sanchez & George Steele,

Illustrated by John Himmelman

Muddy Boots, October 2017

9781630763183, Hardcover, \$14.95

What is there for a middle grader to do after dark? Go outside? *Wait Till It Gets Dark* takes a scientific and easily digestible approach to revealing all that's going on in the world after dark. Covering various topics relating to the senses, including that "mysterious sixth sense," and all five classes of vertebrates and invertebrates, this is a comprehensive guide to knowing what's going on both inside your



house, be it in the country or the city.

Each chapter includes at least two hands-on “You Can Do It” bubbles offering simple experiments and other observations involving the senses, many of which can be performed indoors. The book wraps up with a series of suggestions that children and their families can do to enjoy, explore, preserve and be safe in the dark, along with a Glossary and Bibliography. This title is a perfect next step for young science and environmental enthusiasts to see nature in a new light, or lack thereof!

Picked and reviewed by Erica Sommer, CATS- Prebind Manager