

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

THEME: BELONGING

One thing many young adults is to feel like they belong to something greater. To feel like they can be something glorious. It doesn't have to be some grand scheme, even something like a group of friends that they can trust in. Often when consuming media, young adults will feel pulled to what they feel they need the most. For these works I found that each presented a different face for that sense of belonging and helped the reader/viewer/player/listener be able to feel a closeness with the characters. Here, they find that there's a place for them.

1. HARDINGE, FRANCES. *FACE LIKE GLASS*. ABRAMS, INC., 2018.

- a. Imagine a world that lives just beneath our own. They create delicacies of the highest order. Wines that can erase entire time periods from memory, foods that can bring visions, or perfumes that can bewitch the mind. Then imagine that the residents of this world have no expressions. They feel emotion, but they have no natural facial expressions of their own. If you are of the upper class, you can pay Facesmiths to teach you a Face, or even create one for you. As slightly frightening as that is, now imagine that someone has been dropped into that world with a full range of emotions available to her that she wears on her sleeve. This is where we start "A Face Like Glass".

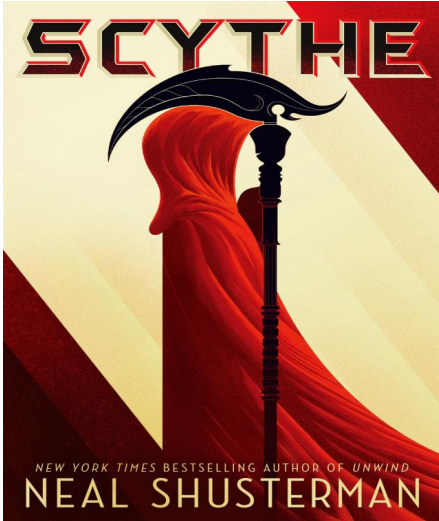


Neverfell is both an enigma and an open book to others, and through simple coincidence ends up in the middle of a large conspiracy full of political intrigue.

- b. Neverfell's life is relatively comfortable, she has work, has friends that she sees every day, even through a mask. Grandmaster takes good care of her, even if he is a bit grumpy. Even through all of that, she feels unnatural, and just wants to fit in. With everything that happens to her in the book, she still feels the need to reach out and try to see the best in people. She want to be friends with the world, even when they are not

always friendly to her. This is similar to other stories that convey that feeling of wanting to belong.

2. SHUSTERMAN, NEAL. SCYTHE. WALKER BOOKS AND SUBSIDIARIES, 2018.

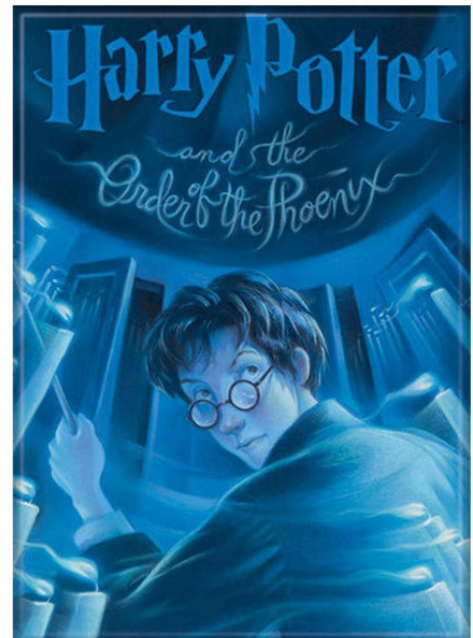


a. A world with no hunger, no disease, no war, no misery: humanity has conquered all those things, and has even conquered death. Now Scythes are the only ones who can end life—and they are commanded to do so, in order to keep the size of the population under control. Citra and Rowan are chosen to apprentice to a scythe—a role that neither wants. These teens must master the “art” of taking life, knowing that the consequence of failure could mean losing their own.

b. Both the main characters Citra and Rowan are chosen for this role due to circumstances that surround their normal human existence. Rowan tries to comfort his classmate, even if he knows he can’t save him, while Citra shows no fear of Scythe Faraday. They are different from the normal population, whom are all afraid of the scythes. The fact that they are put into a situation where they don’t initially like what they have been chosen for, they also learn to grow within their roles. They become loyal to each other, with Citra saving Rowan from death.

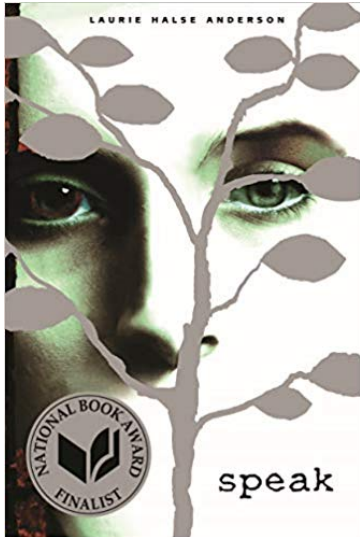
3. ROWLING, J. K., AND GRANDPRÉ MARY. HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX. SCHOLASTIC, 2003.

- a. In his 5th year at Hogwarts, Harry finds the world around him crashing down. He’s being accused of lying about Voldemort’s return, and of the truth of Cedric Diggory’s death. What’s worse, he’s been seeing visions of Voldemort that he can’t stop. To top it all off, the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher is a sadistic woman who is out to have him expelled.



- b. While this book is arguably Harry's most rebellious and Teen-angst filled story, it also has the best example of friendship and belonging of all the books. Harry not only forms a group to be able to learn how to properly protect themselves, but he also find he is not alone when he truly needs help. This book is what solidifies friendships that, if lore is to be believed, last for decades.

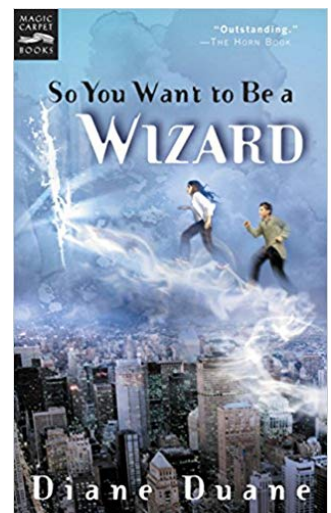
4. ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE SPEAK. SQUARE FISH, 2011.



- a. After the police busted an end of summer party, Melinda has become an outcast. She becomes isolated to the point where she stops talking and stops interacting with anyone. It takes an art project, along with a couple patient friends to help her come to terms with what happened at that party.
- b. For most of the book Melinda is alone, no one really knows how to listen to her. It takes Mr. Freeman, David, and Ivy all patiently waiting for her to come out and help her in the small ways that they can. Even when it seems that they can't help much, the fact that they are there at all for her is a support system that all teens need.

5. DUANE, DIANE. SO YOU WANT TO BE A WIZARD. HARCOURT, 2003

- a. Nita spends most of her afternoons hiding from bullies in the library, preferring to be down in the children's section where it's quiet. When she starts looking through the shelves to pick something up one night, a book catches her hand. "So You Want to Be A Wizard?" It seems like a funny joke, but this book sends her down a path that changes her entire world.
- b. This book was originally put up to be a competitor to the Harry Potter series, but it has a charm all it's own. Nita is introduced to several new friends that help her along the way. A white hole, a junked car, and a weird kid named Kit help her find her place in the new world that she discovered.



6. "MULAN." BUENA VISTA PICTURES, 1999.



- a. Mulan just wants to make her family proud, but it isn't easy when you'd rather spend your time riding your horse rather than making tea for your husband. But when the army come to send her elderly father back into service, she makes a decision that sends her to training camp. What started as an attempt to save her father, may save all of China.
- b. Mulan is a story that empowers women to do what they think is right, but it also empowers young adults to believe in themselves. When you find a group of friends that are willing to follow you into battle, dress and all, there's nothing that can stop you.

7. "RISE OF THE GUARDIANS." PARAMOUNT, 2012.

- a. Jack Frost just wants to be seen. While all the other guardians have people who believe in them, he is left out in the cold. But when they come to him for help, he finds that what he wants most of all is a family.
- b. Jack Frost is a character that I feel many young adults will feel a kinship with. It is too easy to tell oneself that if no one believes in you, why should you? That feeling of powerlessness can only be dispelled with the help of people who won't let you down. It sure doesn't hurt to have a fluffy jackrabbit on your side.



8. "GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY." WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES, 2014.



- a. Peter Quill has been told all his life he should just be grateful to be alive. When he gets arrested with a bunch of other outcasts like him, he gets thrown into a fight that can only be solved one way: A Dance Off. A makeshift high powered gun helps too.

- b. Starlord has always been an interesting figure in comics, but this movie shows how much he relies on other people. While he is pretty scrappy on his own, without the other guardians, he might not have found the power inside of him. Even though they don't have anything that ties them all together, the Guardians are at their best when they are with each other.

9. *BORDERLANDS 2: TINY TINA'S ASSAULT ON DRAGON KEEP.* GEARBOX SOFTWARE FOR XBOX, 2013.

- a. So you've gone and finished the main campaign for Borderlands 2, but even with the defeat of Handsome Jack, you find that there isn't much closure for what happened. Tina feels the same, she still can't accept what happened to Ronan. Instead, she takes you through this story that helps provide her with the closure she needs, and gives you and insight to the madness that is Tiny Tina.
- b. Most people discount games like Borderlands 2 for being too violent and having the depth of a teaspoon. I find that these people haven't actually spent any amount of time playing this game. Tiny Tina lost her entire family, and found a new one with the Crimson Raiders. Ronan gave her something she hadn't had since she was a child, a home. When he was taken from her, she needed a way to cope. It's something I feel many young adults will empathize with at some point in their lives.



10. SETTLE, KEALA. "THIS IS ME." *THIS IS ME*, 2017.

- a. This song is about being accepting yourself for who you are, even when the rest of the world says they don't want your broken parts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjxugyZCfuw>

- b. This song became a theme for many people, who found that it helped give them strength in the dark. The sense of camaraderie this song brings can help many young adults get through tough times. It helps them feel as if they are not alone, and makes them no longer scared to be seen.

