



McAllen
Public
Library

Lit Kits

For Young Adults

Ages 12 and up

McAllen Public Library Lit Kit Procedure

Lit Kits are available for check-out to McAllen Public Library cardholders for use in facilitating book clubs. Lit Kits are boxed in containers with up to 16 books of the same title and include a binder with book discussion questions and an inventory tracker for use by the book club facilitator.

Searching for Lit Kits

- A list of current Lit Kits is available in our catalog. To search, type “lit kits” in the “Search the Catalog” field on our webpage:
<http://www.mcallenlibrary.net>.
- Patrons with a current McAllen Public Library card can place a hold on a lit kit and select the preferred MPL branch pick-up location. The patron will be notified when the kit is ready for pick-up.

Borrowing and Returning Kits

- Lit Kits are checked out for six weeks and may be renewed one time.
- One Lit Kit may be checked out per library cardholder at one time.
- Only one library cardholder may check out a Lit Kit. This person is responsible for returning the complete kit by the due date.
- Single copies of the books in the kits cannot be checked out.
- Lit Kits must be returned to any McAllen Public Library location.
- A daily late fee of .10 cents a day per unit will be assessed for kits returned after the due date. Replacement costs will also be charged for lost or damaged materials.
- Library staff will check the content of each Lit Kit at the time of check-out and check-in. The replacement of any missing items shall be the responsibility of the cardholder.

Elatsoe

By Darcie Little Badger

Published: 2020

Ages: 12+

Reading Level: 4.7

Pages: 368

Genre: Fantasy, Supernatural, Mystery

Stand Alone Title



BOOK SUMMARY

Elatsoe—Ellie for short—lives in an alternate contemporary America shaped by the ancestral magics and knowledge of its Indigenous and immigrant groups. She can raise the spirits of dead animals—most importantly, her ghost dog Kirby. When her beloved cousin dies, all signs point to a car crash, but his ghost tells her otherwise: He was murdered. Who killed him and how did he die? With the help of her family, her best friend Jay, and the memory of great, great, great, great, great, great grandmother, Elatsoe, must track down the killer and unravel the mystery of this creepy town and its dark past. But will the nefarious townsfolk and a mysterious Doctor stop her before she gets started?

Source: <https://www.levinequerido.com>

THEMES:

CULTURE, FAMILY, RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE, TRAUMA

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What makes it possible for Ellie to seek justice for somebody she loves?
2. How does the theme of justice present in *Elatsoe* resonate with issues of injustice in society today? What do you do to make the world a more just place?
3. Ellie's family often share stories of their ancestors. How do these stories help Ellie?
4. How is the connection between Ellie's supernatural abilities and her ancestors significant to the plot? How does it aid her personal journey?
5. How would you characterize Ellie's relationship with her parents? How does it compare with parent-child relationships you've read in other books?
6. The author grounds her novel in Indigenous heritage, but it's also filled with fairy rings, vampires, and other aliens. How was understanding what the Lipan Apache suffered at the hands of colonists important to the story?
7. Given the book is mystery/alternate history/fantasy, how did you decide what was true and what is fiction—the author's interpretation of historical events and facts and how these would affect and influence her characters?
8. In what ways did you share the perspective of Ellie and in what ways does your perspective differ?
9. The use of magic is prevalent throughout the novel, what impact does that have on the story? What would happen if there was no magic in this world?
10. Are there any symbols or symbolism that you picked up on throughout the novel?

Source: <https://www.nea.org>

RELATED RESOURCES:

- The Official Website of the Lipan Apache Tribe: <http://www.lipanapache.org/>
- Guide to Indigenous Land & Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions: <http://landacknowledgements.org/>
- To learn more about the Lipan Apache folklore use this book:
Myths and Legends of the Lipan Apache Indians by Morris Edward Opler

MEDIA REVIEWS

"A brilliantly, engaging debut written by a talented author, it seamlessly blends cyberstalking with Vampire Citizen Centers and Lipan Apache Stories."

- Kirkus Reviews

"[A] refreshing voice. Indigenous myths, modern-day technology, and the supernatural successfully blend to build a fast-paced murder mystery."

- Publishers Weekly

Source: <https://darciebadger.wordpress.com>

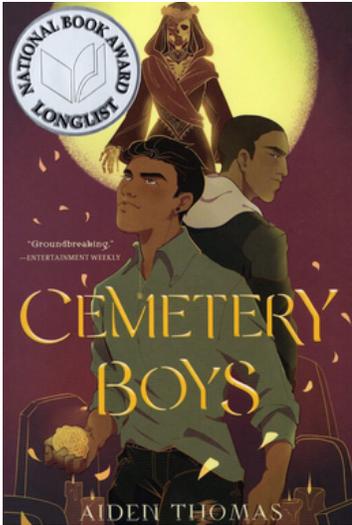
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Darcie Little Badger is a Lipan Apache writer with a PhD in oceanography. Her critically acclaimed debut novel, *Elatsoe*, was featured in *Time Magazine* as one of the best 100 fantasy books of all time. *Elatsoe* also won the Locus award for Best First Novel and is a Nebula, Ignyte, and Lodestar finalist. Her second fantasy novel, *A Snake Falls to Earth*, received a Nebula Award, an Ignyte Award, and a Newbery Honor and is on the National Book Awards longlist. Darcie is married to a veterinarian named Taran.

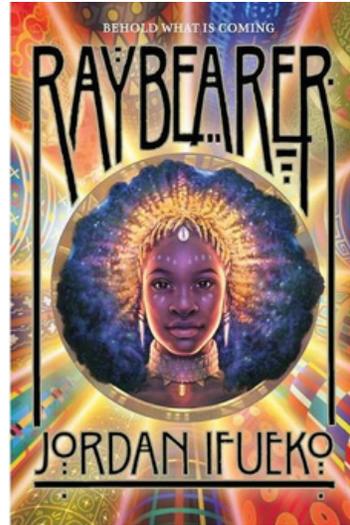


Source: <https://darciebadger.wordpress.com>

IF YOU LIKED ELATSOE, CHECK OUT:



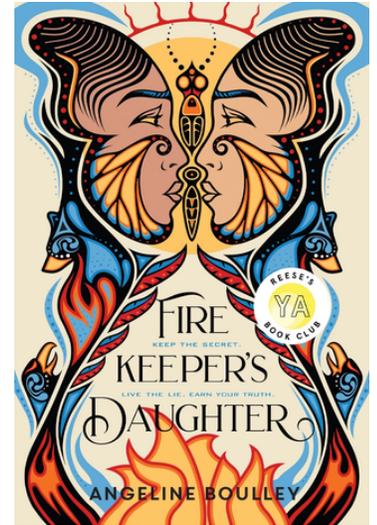
Cemetery Boys
by Aiden Thomas



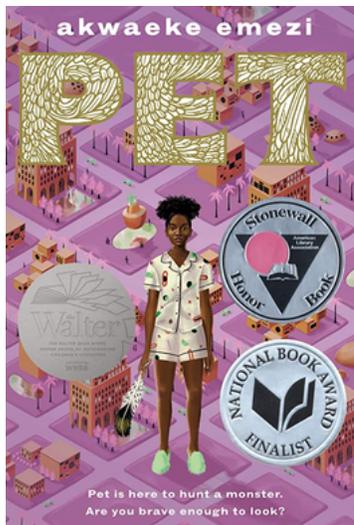
Raybearer
by Jordan Ifueko



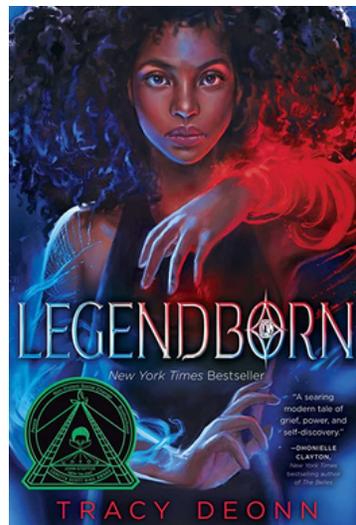
Ancestor Approved
By Cynthia Leitich
Smith



*FireKeeper's
Daughter*
by Angeline Boulley



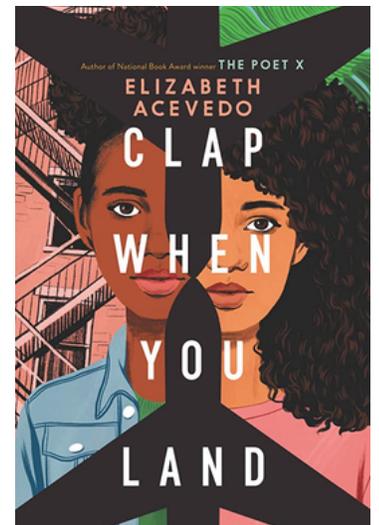
Pet
by Akwaeke Emezi



Legendborn
by Tracy Deonn



Lobizona
by Romina Garber



Clap When You Land
by Elizabeth
Acevedo