

All books listed below are written by writing associates of mine. They focus on ethical and moral issues that preteens and teens encounter. If they are bereaved, these books may be helpful in supporting their healthy development and ability to make wise choices. Please review any or all before suggesting or using them with children.

Here are the descriptions of Kim Denman's books for teens.

Battle of the Bands

Themes: Friendship, Overcoming Challenges, Romance

Orca Soundings: Ages 12+

Jay, Kelvin and Cia are The Lunar Ticks, a dedicated band who are convinced they are on their way up. They hope to win an upcoming battle of the bands where the first prize is a full day in a recording studio. Jay is struggling to write new material but finds he lacks the experience to come up with a truly original song. Going up against Indigo Daze, a band from another school, Jay finds himself falling for Rowan, the leader of the other band. When Rowan's guitar is trashed right before the contest The Lunar Ticks are the prime suspects.

Also available in Spanish: La guerra de las Bandas Spiral

Themes: Overcoming Challenges, Drug Addiction, Animal Assisted Healing

Orca Soundings: Ages 12+

When fifteen-year-old Abby is seriously injured, her wounds go far deeper than her broken back. Rehabilitation therapy teaches her to cope with her new physical reality but once she's home with her family, she refuses to participate in life and withdraws into a world of drugs. Abby's family discovers her addiction, and she is sent to a farm that specializes in Equine Assisted Therapy. She must still do battle with her cravings, but when she witnesses the connection between another young patient and a pony, she decides that if this girl can heal, she too can learn to be present in life again.

Mirror Image

Themes: Friendship, Self Acceptance/ Discovery

Orca Currents: Ages 10 - 14

Sable wears only black and has always felt that doom is near. Lacey wears pink and seeks beauty everywhere. A sadistic art teacher pairs Sable and Lacey together for their final project. The girls have to get to know one another and select a suitable poem for the back of each other's decorative mirror. Sable is less than thrilled at having to spend time with Lacey, who she believes to be nothing more than a brainless doll. As the project progresses, and Sable gets past her resentment, she learns some surprising truths about who Lacey really is. All of Sable's images begin to change, including the one she holds of herself.

Rebel's Tag

Themes: Family Issues/ Relationships, Forgiveness,

Orca Currents: Ages 10 – 14

Sam's grandfather vanished from his life the day Sam's father was buried. Now, ten years later, Grandpa Max wants to make amends. He sends letters that lead Sam on a scavenger hunt. Sam follows his grandfather's bizarre instructions though he's still not ready to forgive. To alleviate his anger at his grandfather, Sam turns to his favorite stress release: climbing onto roofs and leaving his tag, a spray painted symbol for Aquarius. When he gets caught by an elderly couple, Sam learns a valuable lesson about forgiveness. He's ready to forgive his grandfather, but is he too late?

The Shade

Themes: Family Issues, Self Acceptance/ Discovery, Relationships

Orca Currents: Ages 10 - 14

Safira doesn't believe in ghosts, but the girl in her cabin at camp was not a living person, so what was she? Her friend Trinity is convinced Safira's seen a ghost and sets out to discover who the ghost girl is. Safira is too busy dealing with her family to help solve the mystery. Safira has never gotten along with her sister, Mya, and now that Mya's pending marriage dominates the family there seems to be no hope for friendship between them. But when Trinity discovers the death of a girl named Myra, Safira starts to wonder if the ghost-girl has an important message about her own sister.

Orca Teacher's Guides: http://www.orcabook.com/client/client_pages/teachers/guides.cfm

Available for: Battle of the Bands, Mirror Image, Rebel's Tag

Author: Shelley Hrditschka for all books below:

You can see the covers of her books on her blog. <http://shelleyhrdlitschka.blogspot.com/>

Gotcha! Orca Book Publishers (a grad game spins out of control.) Themes: peer pressure, gambling, family dysfunction

Sun Signs Orca Book Publishers (while taking online courses, fifteen-year old Kaleigh learns that on the Internet, people are often not who they seem.) Themes: dangers of the internet, cancer, on-line relationships.

Kat's Fall Orca Book Publishers (when 15-year old Darcy's mother is released from prison, he finds it is much harder to love than to hate, until he too is accused of a horrific crime.) Themes: self-abuse, dysfunctional families, forgiveness, deafness

Dancing Naked Orca Book Publishers (16-yr. old Kia must decide what to do when she discovers she is pregnant) Themes: choice, teen pregnancy, homosexuality, elderly/youth friendships.)

Sister Wife Orca Book Publishers (to be released this fall) (A 15 year old girl, living in a polygamous community is assigned to an older man who already has 5 wives.) Themes: choice, religion, families