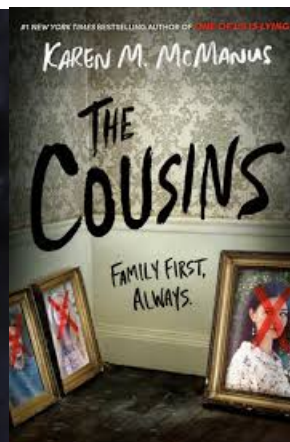
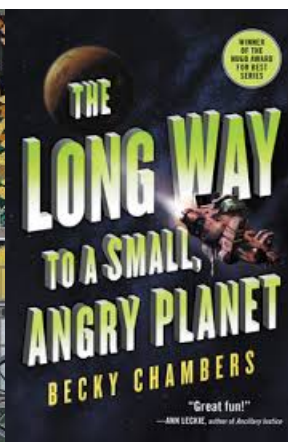
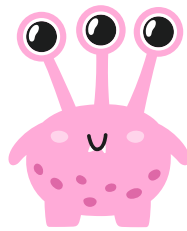


## Fantasy and Science Fiction Recommendations

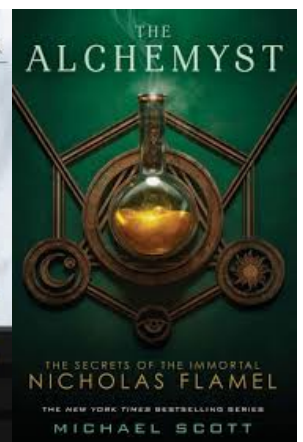
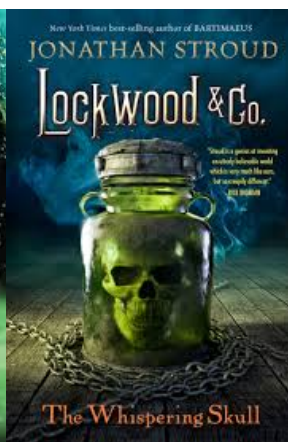
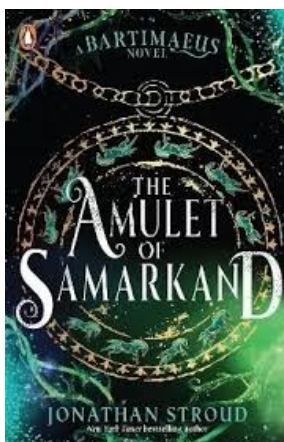
*This list was commissioned by a patron who enjoyed Jennifer Barnes, Marie Lu, Martha Wells, and Rick Riordan. She loved strong worldbuilding and complex characters but did not generally enjoy a heavy focus on romance. This list includes recommendations from our physical collection and our digital Hoopla ebook collection.*

- **Becky Chambers's work.** Highly recommended for Martha Wells fans. Chambers writes futuristic adult science fiction that is humorous, hopeful, and heartfelt, with a special interest in how the characters relate to each other. Her characters are especially richly drawn.
  - **Wayfarer series.** Four-book series comprised of novels that can be read as standalones but also are all interconnected by their setting in outer space. In these stories, humans are only one species among many, and they all must get along to survive.
  - **Monk and Robot series.** Follows the adventures of a tea monk and a robot.
  - **To Be Taught if Fortunate.** Standalone novella. Travelers in outer space shift time and form.
- **Karen M. McManus's work.** Teen mysteries and thrillers that feature complex characters and are recommended for Jennifer Barnes fans. The only non-speculative suggestions on the list.
- **Brandon Mull's work.** Humorous, witty, adventurous fantasies that feature imaginative settings and scrappy characters. Highly recommended for Rick Riordan readers.
  - **Five Kingdoms series.** Cole must search 5 kingdoms for his friends after they accidentally uncover a portal to this world while exploring a haunted house on Halloween.
  - **Fablehaven series.** About a sanctuary for mythical creatures, though they become endangered when the grandchildren of the caretaker become too curious for their own good.
  - **Dragonwatch series.** A sequel to Fablehaven but instead focuses on the human protagonists now in a dragon sanctuary called Wyrmoost.
  - **Beyonders series.** Follows two regular kids who are transported to a magical world without heroes and must find their way back home.
  - **Candy Shop War series.** Four friends get caught in the middle of a magical war centered around an unusual candy shop.

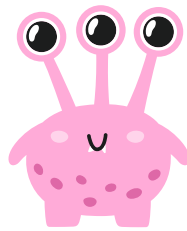




- **Jonathan Stroud's work.** Adventurous fantasies featuring likable and sarcastic characters. Recommended for Rick Riordan fans, though Stroud's worlds often involve more magic and the supernatural and less mythology.
  - **Bartimaeus series.** A magician's apprentice and the djinni he summons have adventures across Europe in these kids' books.
  - **Lockwood & Co. series.** Kids work for the Psychic Detection Agency and deal with ghosts.
  - **Scarlett and Browne series.** In a futuristic Britain, a bank robber joins forces with another outlaw, unaware that his notoriety far exceeds her own.
- **Sarwat Chadda's work.** Funny kids' fantasies about everyday characters drawn into fantasy worlds where mythology comes alive, with Chadda's having a special focus on Hindu mythology. Recommended for Rick Riordan fans.
  - **Ash Mistry trilogy.** Ash Mistry is an ordinary schoolboy on vacation in India, until he finds a legendary arrowhead and finds Hindu mythology coming to life . . . and coming after him.
  - **Devil's Kiss duology.** YA series that focuses more on medieval history fantasy, following the only female member of the Knights Templar who battles the Unholy. It incorporates European folklore and mythology, as well as werewolves, and has a romantic subplot, so may not be of as much interest as the other books.
- **Megan Whalen Turner's Queen's Thief series.** Recommended for Martha Wells readers, this YA fantasy series tells the story of a thief in a fictional world, inspired by Mediterranean history, who finds himself caught in the middle of high-stakes political schemes. Noted for its rich characterization and its vivid worldbuilding. There is a romantic subplot.
- **Michael Scott's Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel series.** YA series about modern twin teens caught in the middle of a war between medieval alchemist Nicholas Flamel and his archrival. It's the modern world but with magic and historical figures like Niccolo Machiavelli and Comte de Saint-Germain as characters. Highly recommended for Rick Riordan fans.







- **Angie Sage's Septimus Heap series.** Witty, humorous middle-grade fantasy adventure about a boy training to become a wizard. Also noted for its detailed worldbuilding. Highly recommended for Rick Riordan readers.
- **Pittacus Lore's Lorien books.** Suspenseful YA science fiction about alien children sent to Earth, to hide them from enemies who are hunting them. Recommended for Rick Riordan fans. Author also has a sequel series called Lorien Legacies Reborn about human teenagers who develop alien powers.
- **Roshani Chokshi's Pandava and Gilded Wolves series.** Engaging fantasies for teens and middle grade readers known for their intricate and engaging worldbuilding, often drawing on the author's Indian and Filipino heritage for inspiration. Suggested for Rick Riordan fans.
  - **Pandava series.** Kids' fantasy series draws heavily on Indian mythology and epics. Aru Shah has a reputation for making up stories, so when she really encounters a cursed lamp that brings to life Hindu mythological figures, nobody believes her.
  - **Gilded Wolves series.** YA fantasy trilogy about a team of misfits in 19<sup>th</sup> century Europe who work in locations as far-flung as Paris, Russia, and Venice to find (and sometimes steal) treasures.
- **Fonda Lee's Exo series.** Recommended for Marie Lu fans, these science fiction books feature rich worldbuilding and are set after Earth has been colonized by aliens. The son of one of the leading collaborators is kidnapped by rebel forces, and the fate of Earth hangs in the balance.
- **The Cursed Carnival and Other Calamities.** An anthology organized by Rick Riordan. A great starting point for discovering other authors similar to him, especially those whose worldbuilding incorporates mythology from diverse cultures.

