



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.

**Rot and Ruin**  
**By Jonathan Maberry**  
**Published: 2010**

**Ages: 12+**

**Reading Level: 5.0**

**Pages: 464**

**Genre: Science Fiction, Action, Horror**

**Series: Rot & Ruin (#1), Dust & Decay (#2), Flesh & Bone (#3),  
Fire & Ash (#4), Bits & Pieces (#5)**



## BOOK SUMMARY

In the zombie-infested, post-apocalyptic America where Benny Imura lives, every teenager must find a job by the time they turn fifteen or get their rations cut in half. Benny doesn't want to apprentice as a zombie hunter with his boring older brother Tom, but he has no choice. He expects a tedious job whacking zoms for cash, but what he gets is a vocation that will teach him what it means to be human.

**Source:** <https://www.jonathanmaberry.com>

## THEMES:

COMING-OF-AGE, SURVIVAL, FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Consider what Tom says: “There’s the town and then there’s the Rot and Ruin. Most of the time they aren’t in the same world, you know?” Are there any divides you notice in your daily life where two things exist in “different worlds”?
2. On Benny’s first venture out into the Rot and Ruin, they encounter the “Children.” Tom later says, “I think a lot of the Children are people who didn’t survive the Fall. Oh, sure, their bodies did, but I think some fundamental part of them was broken by what happened. I was there, I can relate.” In what ways are they broken? Why do you think they choose to live as they do?
3. In what ways does the absence of electricity impact life in the new world? Are these changes all practical, or are some of the changes emotional, as well?
4. What are the differences in the attitudes of the characters who survived the First Night, and those who did not live in the old world?
5. Consider what Tom tells Benny: “We let fear rule us and guide us, and that’s never the way to win. Never.” Describe a moment when Benny faces fear in the book. What happened? Why? How might it have been different if he did/didn’t let fear take over in that moment?
6. Benny tells Tom that Nix has “collected everything she can about zoms” in her diary. Make a list that describes all the characteristics about zombies in the book. How are they different from how you imagined zombies to be before reading the book? How are they different from living humans? Why do you think the author chose to characterize and differentiate zombies in these ways?
7. Benny is “sad and disgusted” when he realizes that people “pretend that there was no wasteland of zombies outside.” Why is it problematic to pretend that there is no Rot and Ruin?
8. Does Gameland remind you of anything in today’s world? Do you think it might have been based on something from the real world’s past? Why or why not?
9. Toward the end of the book, Lilah, Nix, and Benny have a short debate about which area is safer—the town or the Rot and Ruin. How did your perception of each area change throughout the book? Can you definitively say which one is safer? Why or why not?
10. Friendship and family play important thematic roles in the story, including the relationship between Benny and Tom, as well as that of Benny, Lilah, and Nix, as well as in the memories of kin turned into zombies. How do the roles of family and friends affect the actions of characters throughout the book? How do various connections change between characters? What did the book teach you about the meaning of both family and friends?

# MEDIA REVIEWS

"An action-packed, thought-provoking look at life—and death—as readers determine the true enemy." - Kirkus Reviews

"The delineation between man and monster, survivor and victim is fiercely debated in Maberry's thoughtful, postapocalyptic coming-of-age tale...This intense novel combines adventure and philosophy to tell a truly memorable zombie story, one that forces readers to consider them not just as flesh-eating monsters or things to be splattered, but as people." - Publishers Weekly

"An impressive mix of meaning and mayhem." - Booklist

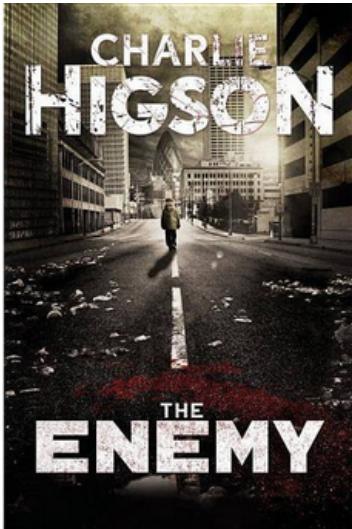
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Maberry is a New York Times best-seller, five-time Bram Stoker Award-winner, anthology editor, comic book writer, executive producer, magazine feature writer, playwright, and writing teacher/lecturer. His books have been sold to more than thirty countries. He writes in several genres including thriller, horror, science fiction, epic fantasy, and mystery; and he writes for adults, middle grade, and young adult.

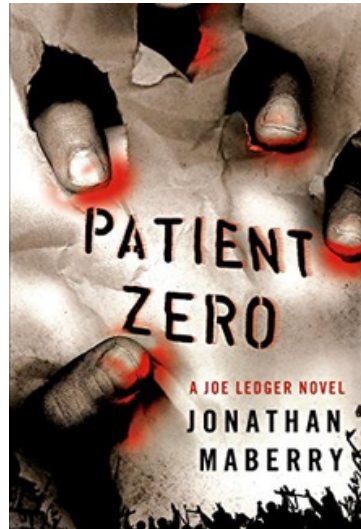


Source: <https://jonathanmaberry.com>

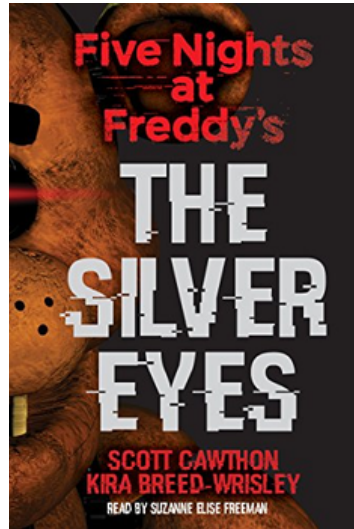
IF YOU LIKED ROT & RUIN,  
CHECK OUT:



*The Enemy*  
by Charlie Higson



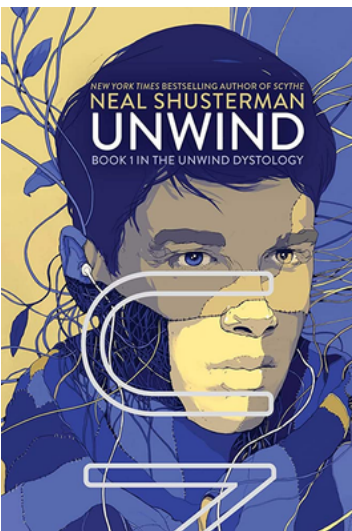
*Patient Zero*  
by Jonathan Maberry



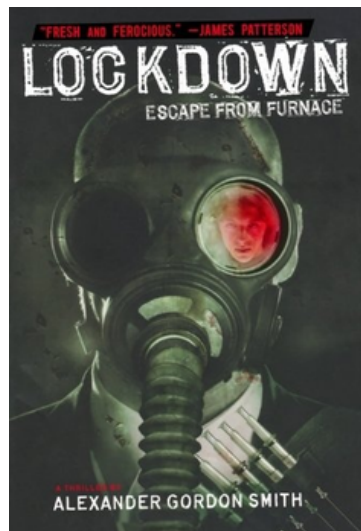
*The Silver Eyes (Five  
Night's at Freddy's #1)*  
By Scott Cawthon



*The Forest of Hands  
and Teeth*  
by Carrie Ryan



*Unwind*  
by Neal Shusterman



*Lockdown: Escape  
from Furnace*  
by Alexander  
Gordon Smith



*Feed*  
by Mira Grant



*Enclave*  
by Ann Aguirre