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The Center for Children's Literature

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3-2015

## The Best Children's Books of the Year [2015 edition]

Bank Street College of Education. Children's Book Committee

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# The Best Children's Books of the Year

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## 2015 Edition

Books Published in 2014



BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

**THE BEST  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS  
OF THE YEAR**

2015 EDITION

BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2014

SELECTED BY THE  
CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE

# FOREWORD

By Jon Scieszka

Inaugural National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

If there were a riddle about the volume you are holding in your hands, it might go something like: What is gold, more than 100 years old, but also brand new?

It's more than 100 years old because that's how long the Children's Book Committee has been selecting *The Best Children's Books of the Year*. It's brand new because each list recommends the best of the new books published in the previous year. And it is gold because this collection is the gold standard of quality literature for children.

Bank Street has always championed good literature as the foundation of literacy, learning, and development at all levels of childhood education. And boy do we need this list.

As the first Ambassador for Young People's Literature, I have been given a Library of Congress medal, a really long title, and the mission to promote the best in children's books. I love the Children's Book Committee at Bank Street College of Education because they make my job so much easier. Watch how:

Looking for a good book to get a child you know interested in reading?

Read this.

Done. Wasn't that nice of them? Thanks, Bank Street!

I could go on about the hundreds of great titles carefully chosen by a group of very smart and dedicated people, the perfect and perfectly practical Tips for Parents, the incredibly useful organization by age and interest. But that's all pretty obvious. And it's all in the book.

So, thanks and congratulations all around. Thanks for making my Ambassador job easy. Congratulations on helping us answer the riddle: How do you get a child reading?

The Bank Street *Best Children's Books of the Year*.

Ambassador Emeritus Jon Scieszka  
Brooklyn, NY

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## TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Share your enjoyment of books with your child.
- Talk over your reading
- Continue to read aloud to your child even after he or she reads independently.
- Encourage your child to choose a book to read aloud to someone else.
- Broaden your child's horizons by helping to select from a wide range of subjects
- Encourage your child to read whatever he or she enjoys even if it appears to be too easy or too hard.
- Let your child see your enjoyment of your own reading
- Find time for your child to visit and browse in libraries and bookstores.

### KEY

**\* Outstanding Merit**



**Board Book**



**Mature Reading**

**(4-6) Age Range**



**Graphic Format**



**Read Aloud**



## UNDER FIVE



### **All Fall Down**

by Mary Brigid Barrett, illustrated by LeUyen Pham

(Candlewick, \$6.99) 978-0-7636-4430-7, 978-0-7636-4358-4

Diverse groups of joyful children have fun exploring textures of everyday objects and building smashable structures. Lively gouache, watercolor, and ink pictures. (0-3)

### **Alone Together**

written and illustrated by Suzanne Bloom  
(Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-736-7

Bear wants some time alone. Goose and Fox approve. Will Bear get what he wants? Spare text and glorious pastels. (3-4)



### **Baby Animal Farm**

written and illustrated by Karen Blair  
(Candlewick Press, \$6.99) 978-0-7636-7069-6  
Five very cute toddlers follow animals and hear their sounds. Simple watercolors. (1-3)



### **Backseat A-B-See**

written and illustrated by Maria van Lieshout  
(Chronicle Books, \$7.99) 978-1-4521-3732-2  
An alphabet book for children who travel the highways and byways. Digital renderings of common road signs. (1-3)



### **Bears in the Bath**

by Shirley Parenteau, illustrated by David Walker

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6418-3  
Will Big Brown Bear outsmart four resistant

grimy bears when luring them into the bathtub? Rhyming text with vivid action verbs. Soft, animated acrylic illustrations. (2-5)

### **Big Rig**

by Jamie A. Swenson, illustrated by Ned Young

(Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-6330-5  
Frankie, the semitruck, invites the reader to come with him and learn how he works. Bright, colorful illustrations. (2-6)

### **Build, Dogs, Build: A Tall Tail**

written and illustrated by James Horvath  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-218967-7

Lively, humorous text and pictures detail the work of construction dogs as they demolish an old building and raise a skyscraper. (4-6)



### **By Day, By Night**

by Amy Gibson, illustrated by Meilo So  
(Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-991-9

Wander through the day with the world's children as they perform everyday routines. Lively pencil and watercolor vignettes. Benefit for the Global Orphan Project. (3-6)



### **Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep**

written and illustrated by Barney Saltzberg  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-6721-1

A young panda has difficulty sleeping. Simple rhythmic text with charcoal illustrations. An engaging read-aloud. (3-6)

### **Chu's First Day of School**

by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Adam Rex  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-

222397-5

A nervous panda faces the first day of school hoping to be liked. Oil and mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

### **Construction**

by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock (Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7325-3  
A rhythmic text and colorful ink drawings depict the construction of a new library. (3-6)



### **Demolition**

by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock (Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6493-0  
A poetic format describes the sounds and movements of a building's razing. Dramatic pigmented-ink illustrations. (2-5)



### **Doug Unplugs on the Farm**

written and illustrated by Dan Yaccarino (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-75328-9  
What happens when Doug, a city robot, becomes unplugged and experiences farm life? Brush-and-ink and computer-generated illustrations. (3-6)

### **Duck & Goose Go to the Beach**

written and illustrated by Tad Hills (Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-37235-0  
Duck takes reluctant Goose on an adventure to the beach, but when they get there, it is Goose who leads the way. Expressive, humorous oil paintings. (4-6)

### **Extraordinary Jane**

written and illustrated by Hannah E. Harrison (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3914-7  
Jane, the dog, wishes she had a special talent equal to the rest of her circus-performer

family. Will the ringmaster recognize it? Colorful acrylic illustrations. (4-6)

### **\*Flashlight**

written and illustrated by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1894-9  
Wonders of the dark unfold as a boy lights up various plants and animals and then becomes the subject of the beams himself. A wordless book illuminated by a black background which highlights gray-blue figures. (3-6)

### **\*Found**

written and illustrated by Salina Yoon (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$14.99) 978-0-8027-3559-1  
A young bear finds a lost stuffed bunny, rescues it, and even finds its home. Digitally created, child-friendly illustrations. (3-6)

### **Fox's Garden**

written and illustrated by Princesse Camcam (Enchanted Lion Books, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-167-4  
On a snowy night a fox wanders into a garden and is seen by a little boy in this wordless book. Soft, muted, cut-paper illustrations. (3-5)



### **Froodle**

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis (Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-59643-922-1  
Little Brown Bird's "froodle sproodle" song encourages the other birds to invent their own silly calls. Illustrations in pencil, charcoal, ink, and digital color. (3-6)

### **George in the Dark**

written and illustrated by Madeline Valentine (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-449-81334-8

George is very brave except...in the dark. When his beloved toy bear is missing, George must act despite his fears. Gouache, graphite, and colored pencil illustrations. (4-6)



### **Global Baby Boys**

by Maya Ajmera

(Charlesbridge, \$6.95) 978-1-58089-440-1

Expressive color photographs represent kind, curious, smart, and joyful baby boys from around the world. (0-4)

### **Have You Seen My Dragon?**

written and illustrated by Steve Light

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6648-4

A boy scours New York City in search of his dragon amid an increasing number of objects on each double-page spread. Detailed pen-and-ink drawings with colored pencil highlights. (3-6)

### **Hug Machine**

written and illustrated by Scott Campbell

(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-5935-9

It's lots of fun to hug everyone and everything in sight, from people to rocks, evoking a wide range of reactions. Spare, expressive watercolors. (3-5)



### **I Got the Rhythm**

by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison

(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-61963-178-6

A young girl on a neighborhood walk with her mother finds rhythmic sounds that lead her and other children to break into dance. Vibrant oil paintings. (3-6)

### **If I Had a Raptor**

written and illustrated by George O'Connor  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6012-3

An African American girl loves her "teensy and tiny" baby raptor—even when it gets bigger. Cartoonish illustrations smoothly blend fantasy and realistic elements in a pleasing read-aloud. (3-6)



### **\*Jack**

written and illustrated by Tomie DePaola

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16154-4

A traditional "Jack" tale, the cast of characters grows on the journey into the city to find a new home. Painted acrylic illustrations. (2-6)

### **A Letter for Leo**

written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier

(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-544-22360-8

As Leo, a weasel, delivers the mail, he finds a new friend. Will the little bird fulfill Leo's hope for a letter of his own? Pen-and-ink and gentle watercolors. (3-5)

### **A Library Book for Bear**

by Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4924-1

Bear is sure that he has all the books he needs until Mouse insists on a trip to the library. Expressive watercolor and gouache illustrations. (4-6)

### **Lion Lion**

by Miriam Busch, illustrated by Larry Day

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-227104-4

A boy and a lion enjoy a playful, imaginative interchange. Humorous watercolor illustrations support the text. (3-5)

### **\*The Little Bear Book**

written and illustrated by Anthony Browne  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7007-8  
A little bear with a pencil distracts fierce-looking predators by drawing what they need. Colorful watercolor and ink illustrations. (3-5)

### **Little Elliot, Big City**

written and illustrated by Mike Curato  
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9825-9  
Elliot feels small living in a big city, until he finds good things come in small packages. Gentle illustrations in soft earth tones. (2-5)

### **Lost for Words**

written and illustrated by Natalie Russell  
(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-739-7  
All of his friends are busy writing, but Tapir just can't think of the right words until he finally finds the way to express himself. Exuberant, colorful silkscreen illustrations. (4-6)

### **Maple**

written and illustrated by Lori Nichols  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16085-1  
The tree planted in her honor is Maple's best friend, and when she becomes a big sister, another little sprig appears. Gentle pencil and digitally colored illustrations. (3-5)

### **Maple & Willow Together**

written and illustrated by Lori Nichols  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16283-1  
Even the closest sisters can fight occasionally.

Muted, digitally colored pencil illustrations. (3-5)

### **Mia's Thumb**

written and illustrated by Ljuba Stille,  
translated from the German by Anja Mundt  
(Holiday House, \$16.99) 978-0-8234-3067-3  
Little Mia sucks her thumb even though everyone tries to make her stop—except Grandma. Artistic cut-paper collages. (3-6)   i



### **The Midnight Library**

written and illustrated by Kazuno Kohara  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-59643-985-6  
In this library, open only at night, a little librarian knows how to please all the animals who enter. Yellow and blue art outlined in black. (4-6)

### **Number One Sam**

written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-7111-9  
Sam deals with losing a race after being a winner. Silkscreen and digital collages. (4-6)

### **Oliver's Tree**

written and illustrated by Kit Chase  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25700-1  
Oliver cannot tag his playmates when they hide in trees until they figure out a way to play together. Appealing watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations. (3-5)

### **One Busy Day: A Story for Brothers and Sisters**

by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jessica Meserve  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-1-

4231-7112-6

More than anything else, Mia wants to play with her busy big brother. Can she show him that togetherness is fun? Thick-lined, bold, digitally colored illustrations. (4-6)

### **The Orchestra Pit**

written and illustrated by Johanna Wright (Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-59643-769-2  
When a snake wanders into the wrong pit by mistake, he encounters the instruments in an orchestra, to the consternation of the young musicians. Mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

### **Out of the Blue**

written and illustrated by Alison Jay (Barefoot Books, \$16.99) 978-1-78285-042-7  
A day at the beach is interrupted by a big storm, but afterward the ocean leaves a surprise behind. Wordless with crackled oil paintings that reveal real sea creatures. (2-6)

### **Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure**

written and illustrated by Anna Walker (Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-544-25900-3  
When a gust of wind drops her in a big city, Peggy, a hen, has an adventure and makes some new friends. Ink and photo collage illustrations. (3-5)

### **\*A Pet for Fly Guy**

written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-31615-6  
Can Fly Guy and Buzz find the perfect pet for Fly Guy? Bold, colorful, digitally created illustrations. (4-6)

### **\*Pig and Small**

written and illustrated by Alex Latimer

(Peachtree, \$15.95) 978-1-56145-797-7

Despite the differences in their sizes, friends Pig and Bug find many things they can do together. Digitally enhanced colored pencil drawings. (4-6)

### **Ping Wants to Play**

written and illustrated by Adam Gudeon (Holiday House, \$14.95) 978-0-8234-2854-0  
Pong comes to the rescue when his friend Ping needs help. Energetic, digitally colored illustrations. (3-5)



### **Planes Go**

written and illustrated by Steve Light (Chronicle Books, \$9.99) 978-1-4521-2899-3  
Bold, double-paged illustrations depict the sounds made by different types of planes as they take off. (2-5)

### **Row, Row, Row Your Boat**

written and illustrated by Jane Cabrera (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-3050-5  
In this clever rewrite, rowers meet animals on their trip down the river to home. Each chorus invites participation. Bright, whimsical acrylic illustrations. (3-5)

### **\*Stanley the Builder**

#### **\*Stanley's Garage**

written and illustrated by William Bee (Peachtree, \$14.95) 978-1-56145-801-1, 978-1-56145-804-2  
Watch as Stanley, the hamster, helps his driver friends and builds a house for Myrtle. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (3-5)

### **Swim, Duck, Swim**

by Susan Lurie, photographed by Murray Head (Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-04642-0

Little duckling is afraid to swim, but encouraged by his parents and others, he works up the courage to jump into the water. Bold, color photographs. (2-5)



### **Three Bears in a Boat**

written and illustrated by David Soman  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3993-2

After breaking their mother's prize seashell, three bear cubs set out on the high seas to replace it, with resulting arguments and reconciliation. Detailed watercolors. (3-6)

### **Tugboat**

written and illustrated by Michael Garland  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2866-3  
Graphite and digital illustrations and simple text tell the story of tugboats. A picture glossary helps to explain terms. (3-6)

### **Vanilla Ice Cream**

written and illustrated by Bob Graham  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-7377-2

A sparrow's journey far from home allows Edie to get her first taste of vanilla ice cream. Expansive ink and watercolor illustrations show how. (4-6)

### **The Way to the Zoo**

written and illustrated by John Burningham  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7317-8  
When Sylvie finds a door in her room leading to the zoo, animals come to spend the night with humorous results. Droll pen, pencil, pastel, and watercolor illustrations. (2-5)



### **Who Says That, Cat the Cat?**



### **Who Sleeps, Cat the Cat?**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$6.99) 978-0-06-230654-8, 978-0-06-230655-5

Imitate the sounds and sleep habits of familiar animals and get ready for bed . . . except for the one animal that is different. Bold outlines of humorous animal figures. (2-4)

### **Yoko Finds Her Way**

written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells  
(Disney/Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-6512-5

Leaving for Japan, Yoko proudly guides her mother through the airport by following posted signs. But coming back from the restroom, she loses her way. Shimmering, colorful illustrations. (4-6)



### **YOU ARE MY BABY**

**Garden**

**Ocean**

**Pets**

**Woodland**

written and illustrated by Lorena Siminovich  
(Chronicle Books, \$8.99) 978-1-4521-2649-4, 978-1-4521-2650-0, 978-1-4321-3430-7, 978-1-4521-3431-4

Maternal bonds between animal mothers and their babies grow close in the garden, ocean, home, and woods. Gouache collages. (0-3)

### **Animals (Fiction)**



### **Cat & Dog**

written and illustrated by Michael Foreman  
(Andersen Press/Lerner, \$16.95) 978-1-4677-5124-7

When a stray cat gets separated from her kittens, a stray dog cares for them until she returns. Realistic watercolor and pastel illustrations. (4-6)



### **\*Following Papa's Song**

written and illustrated by Gianna Marino  
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01315-9  
Little Blue follows Papa through the ocean  
and learns to listen for the whale's song.  
Lush, gouache illustrations. (3-5)

### **Little Ducks Go**

written and illustrated by Emily Arnold  
McCully  
(Holiday House, \$14.95) 978-0-8234-2941-7  
When Mother Duck's six ducklings are  
washed down a grate, a cast of characters  
comes to their aid. Expressive pen and  
watercolor illustrations. (4-6)



### **Little Owl's Day**

written and illustrated by Divya Srinivasan  
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01650-1  
Usually up at night, Little Owl is awakened in  
the morning and visits all the strange,  
wonderful creatures and places he has never  
seen before. Bold, bright illustrations. (3-5)

### **Nat the Cat Can Sleep Like That**

by Victoria Allenby, illustrated by Tara  
Anderson  
(Pajama Press, \$19.95) 978-1-927485-52-1  
Can the orange tabby cat sleep through all the  
antics of a kitten? Playful mixed-media  
illustrations express surprise, curiosity,  
affection, and sleep. (2-5)



### **The Storm Whale**

written and illustrated by Benji Davies  
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan,  
\$16.99) 978-0-8050-9967-6  
A lonely boy's rescue of a beached whale  
helps to strengthen the boy's relationship  
with his father. Comforting illustrations. (4-6)



### **Who Can Jump?**



### **Who Can Swim?**

written and illustrated by Sebastien Braun  
(Candlewick Press, \$6.99) 978-0-7636-6753-5,  
978-0-7636-6752-8  
Guess which animals can jump or swim. Lift  
the sturdy flaps to see who they are. Boldly  
outlined, colorful mixed-media illustrations.  
(1-3)

### **Winston & George**

by John Miller, illustrated by Giuliano Cucco  
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-  
59270-145-2  
The strong friendship between a crocodile  
and his crocodile bird is seriously tested when  
the bird plays one too many pranks. Vibrant  
illustrations. Information page included. (3-5)

## **Concept Books**



### **Colors**



### **Shapes**

written and illustrated by Sophie Pelham  
(Price Stern Sloan/Penguin, \$6.99) 978-0-  
8431-7242-3, 978-0-8431-7240-9  
Counting, tracing, and other activities make  
identifying colors and shapes interesting.  
Bold, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

### **Colors versus Shapes**

written and illustrated by Mike Boldt  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-  
210303-1  
At a contest to determine which is better, a  
surprising thing happens. Bold, colorful  
digital illustrations. (4-6)



**B** **\*Creature Baby Animals**

**B** **\*Creature Colors**

**B** **\*Creature Sounds**

written and photographed by Andrew Zuckerman

(Chronicle Books, \$7.99) 978-1-4521-1721-8, 978-1-4521-1668-6, 978-1-4521-1722-5

Realistic photos, creative text, and generous use of white space brings this collection of concept books alive. (1-3)

**Early Bird**

written and illustrated by Toni Yuly  
(Feiwei and Friends/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-1-250-04327-6

A bird sets out on an early morning journey and encounters a breakfast surprise. Simple language emphasizes action, with bright, pen-and-ink and digital media. (2-5)

**B** **Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site**

by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld  
(Chronicle Books, \$12.99) 978-1-4521-2824-5  
Hear the sounds of the construction site at work and at rest in this enhanced interactive version of the 2011 book. Symbols tell which buttons to push for the sounds, and richly colorful illustrations add character to the machines. (3-5)

**Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors**

by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, illustrated by John Parra  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-0203-0  
Colors are explored through natural and cultural objects in a rhyming text studded

with Spanish words. Stylized, colorful paintings. (3-6)

**B** **Little Blue Truck's Christmas**

by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$14.99) 978-0-544-32041-3

After Little Blue Truck delivers all his Christmas gifts to his friends, he finds a twinkly surprise at home. Colorful, wintery illustrations. (3-5)

**\*Little Green Peas: A Big Book of Colors**

written and illustrated by Keith Baker  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-7660-8  
Playful, mischievous little green peas show up to explain the array of colors. Find the hidden, repeated objects on each page. Bright, digital illustrations. (2-5)

**B** **Love You More**

by Susan Musgrave, illustrated by Esperanca Melo  
(Orca, \$9.95) 978-1-4598-0240-7  
Rhymes, rhythm, and colorful illustrations lead to warm celebrations of a parent's love for a child throughout each month of the year. (3-5)

**B** **\*Mix It Up**

written and illustrated by Hervé Tullet, translated from the French by Christopher Franceschelli  
(Handprint Books/Chronicle, \$15.99) 978-1-4521-3735-3  
Readers lend a helping hand as blobs of color, big and small, create new colors. Vibrant, painted illustrations. (2-5)



## **My Bus**

written and illustrated by Byron Barton  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)  
978-0-06-228736-6

As each cat and dog passenger is picked up and dropped at a specific destination, readers have the opportunity to practice basic math concepts. Brightly colored, computer-generated art. (3-5)



## **Tap Tap Boom Boom**

by Elizabeth Bluemle, illustrated by G. Brian Karas

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5696-6  
Words that evoke the sounds of rain and thunder capture the excitement of a rainstorm in the city. Evocative collage, gouache, and pencil illustrations. (3-6)



## **\*We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers**

written and illustrated by Julie Flett  
(Native Explore, \$12.00) 978-1-5547-6398-6  
Aunties laugh, fireflies flicker, and owls burrow. Children have plenty to count in this gentle celebration of Cree language and culture. Smooth, soft illustrations. (0-5)

## **Holiday Stories**

### **\*Dog and Bear: Tricks and Treats**

written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$14.99) 978-1-59643-632-9  
Whether finding costumes or trick-or-treating, this duo encounters challenges in this three-chapter hilarious romp. Bold, expressive illustrations. (4-6)

### **Honeyky Hanukah**

by Woody Guthrie, illustrated by Dave

Horowitz

(Doubleday BFYR/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-385-37926-7

A happy family and its dog sing, dance, eat, and celebrate Hanukah. Lively collage, charcoal, and pencil illustrations. (3-6)



### **Llama Llama Trick or Treat**

written and illustrated by Anna Dewdney  
(Viking/Penguin, \$5.99) 978-0-451-46978-6  
Llama Llama prepares for Halloween. Spare rhyming text and bold color illustrations. (3-5)



### **Wickle Woo Has a Halloween Party**

illustrated by Jannie Ho  
(Nosy Crow/Candlewick, \$7.99) 978-0-7636-7400-7  
Wickle Woo is having a Halloween party. Pull the tabs to help him find the costumed friends he invited. Illustrated in seasonal colors. (1-3)

## **Humor**

### **Fly Guy's Amazing Tricks**

written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold  
(Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, \$6.99) 978-0-545-49329-1

Will Fly Guy's strategy succeed in helping Buzz perform his newly learned tricks without causing havoc when confronted with a bully? Colorful, humorous illustrations match the snappy dialogue.

(4-6)



### **Hopper and Wilson Fetch a Star**

written and illustrated by Maria van Lieshout  
(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25772-8

Two friends set out on their paper airplane to

find the perfect star. Whimsical, mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)



### **Is There a Dog in This Book?**

written and illustrated by Viviane Schwarz (Candlewick Press, \$16.91) 978-0-7636-6991-1  
In this humorous mystery for very young children, three cats become friends with a dog. Flaps and bright, energetic pen-and-ink illustrations. (2-5)

### **\*Max and the Won't Go to Bed Show**

by Mark Sperring, illustrated by Sarah Warburton  
(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-70822-7  
A very small ringleader performs all his creative tricks to delay bedtime. Spritely, dazzling illustrations. (3-5)

### **Naptime**

written and illustrated by Iris de Mouy, translated from the French by Shelley Tanaka (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55498-487-9  
The animals on the savannah offer a variety of familiar excuses for not taking a nap. Then a bossy young girl offers a solution. Simple appealing watercolors. (2-5)



### **\*The Pigeon Needs a Bath!**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems (Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-9087-5  
Pigeon insists, "I don't really need a bath.... I took one last month!" Hilarity ensues, but Pigeon emerges squeaky-clean. Cartoonish, dynamic illustrations. (3-6)

### **Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale**

by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86918-1  
On a trip to visit her second cousin twice

removed, a fish is totally unaware of the dangers that she encounters. Comic evocative text and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### **The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School**

by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Hanna (Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-36095-5  
A rhythmic tale of a little fish on his first day at school follows him as he finds a wonderful teacher and realizes he can learn. Humorous illustrations. (4-6)

### **Underpants Dance**

by Marlena Zapf, illustrated by Lynne Avril (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3539-2  
Lily loves to dance and show her frilly underpants, much to the chagrin of her older sister. Engaging gouache illustrations. (4-6)

### **Science**

#### **Can You See Me?**

written and illustrated by Ted Lewin (Holiday House, \$14.95) 978-0-8234-2940-0  
Animals are hard to spot in the Costa Rican rain forest, but one creature stands out--a red poison dart frog. Beautifully illustrated in shimmering pencil and watercolor. (3-5)



#### **\*Daytime Nighttime**

written and illustrated by William Low (Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9751-1  
Do grasshoppers, rabbits, frogs, and fireflies appear by day or by night? Vibrant, full-page color illustrations. (3-6)

#### **I Hatched!**

by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Jen Corace (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-

3688-7

A killdeer chick is traced from birth through its development in clear, amusing rhymes and engaging watercolors. (4-6)



### **Plants Feed Me**

written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2526-6  
Learn how plants grow and about the many parts of plants that we can eat. Simple language and gouache illustrations. (3-6)



### **Some Bugs**

by Angela DiTerlizzi, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-5880-2  
Rhyming verses explore busy bugs and insects that hop, glide, swim, or hide. Colorful collages illustrate a busy backyard world. (3-6)



### **\*Swamp Chomp**

by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Paul Meisel  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2407-8  
Vibrant, detailed double-page spread illustrations with simple action-verb text introduce young readers to the life and food chain of a swamp. Endnotes. (2-6)

## **FIVE TO NINE**

### **FICTION**

#### **Adventure and Mystery**



### **\*The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend**

written and illustrated by Dan Santat

(Little, Brown BFYR, \$17) 9780316199988  
Beekle sets out from his island of imaginary friends to find the child to whom he belongs. Mixed-media illustrations convey a child's-eye view of his brave journey. (5-9)

### **Coyote Run**

written and illustrated by Gaetan Dorémus  
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-147-6

In this wordless tale, coyote breaks out of jail and a wild chase ensues. Will she make her escape? Cross-hatched colored pencil illustrations. (5-7)

### **\*Flora and the Penguin**

written and illustrated by Molly Idle  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-2891-7  
Ice-skating Flora discovers the joy of true friendship in a wordless tale that unfolds with flaps, fold-out pages and delicately hued illustrations. (4-7)



### **Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads**

by Bob Shea, illustrated by Lane Smith  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-975-7

A seven-year-old sheriff who knows all about dinosaurs outsmarts a gang of robbers. A funny and imaginative western adventure with mixed-media art. (5-8)



### **Sam & Dave Dig a Hole**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6229-5  
Two brothers and their dog dig in playful exploration. Suspend disbelief! Digital and colored pencil illustrations. (4-8)

### **\*Sophie Scott Goes South**

written and illustrated by Alison Lester  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)

978-0-544-08895-5

Sophie, aged nine, goes on an exciting adventure to Antarctica on her dad's icebreaker. Colorful illustrations. (7-10)



### **Zoe's Jungle**

written and illustrated by Bethanie Deeney Murguia  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-55869-3  
Sisters Addie and Zoe have a wild, imaginative adventure during their precious last four minutes at the park. Playful pen-and-ink with watercolor illustrations. (4-8)

## **Animals**



### **Baby Bear**

written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-224172-6  
When baby bear is lost in the forest, different animals offer advice to help him find his way home. Exquisitely rendered oil paintings. (4-7)



### **\*Bear Hug**

written and illustrated by Katharine McEwen  
(Templar Books/Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6630-9  
In a realistic portrayal of a bear's life cycle, a cub's parents teach him to survive in his environment. Soft color collage illustrations. (5-8)

### **Dolphin SOS**

by Roy Miki and Slavia Miki, illustrated by Julie Flett  
(Tradewind Books/Orca, \$17.95) 978-1-896580-76-0  
When three dolphins get trapped by ice, a

community bands together to save them. Spare, textured illustrations evoke the Newfoundland winter and keep the focus on the stranded mammals. (5-8)



### **Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?**

by Rita Gray, illustrated by Kenard Pak  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99) 978-0-544-10580-5  
Why do the nesting birds remain so quiet, when all the other birds are full of sounds and songs? Delicate watercolor and digital media illustrations. (4-7)

### **My Bibi Always Remembers**

by Tony Buzzeo, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-14231-8385-3  
During a severe drought, baby elephant Bibi is separated from the herd. The rumble of her grandmother leads her back to them and to water. Simple but stunning paintings. (5-7)



### **\*Nest**

written and illustrated by Jorey Hurley  
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-8971-4  
A burst of lyrical illustrations highlights the single word on each page that evokes the joys of spring and a robin's life cycle. (4-7)

### **The Pandas and Their Chopsticks: And Other Animal Stories**

written and illustrated by Demi  
(Wisdom Tales, \$16.95) 978-1-937786-16-8  
Ten short stories show the importance of sharing, humility, and other principles to live by. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

## **Beginning Readers**



### **Benny and Penny in Lost and Found!**

written and illustrated by Geoffrey Hayes  
(Toon/Candlewick, \$12.95) 978-1-935179-64-1

Big brother Benny and little sister Penny need each other's strengths and smarts to solve a lost-and-found mystery (or two). Told in cartoon format. (4-8)

### **Bruno and Lulu's Playground Adventures**

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Kirstie Edmunds

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3553-8

Two friends, a squirrel and a chipmunk, enjoy a rollicking time together, by mixing pretend play with action. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (5-7)

### **Muddy, Mud, Bud**

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Cale Atkinson  
(Penguin Young Readers/Penguin Group, \$14.99) 978-0-448-47990-3

Bud, a childlike automobile, loves to jump in the mud. Bright cartoonish illustrations. (4-8)

### **\*My New Friend Is So Fun! (Elephant and Piggie series)**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$8.99) 978-1-4231-7958-0  
When Piggie and Bernie Bat become friends, Elephant worries about his best friend status. That makes snake worry too. Expressively humorous illustrations. (5-8)



### **Tippy and the Night Parade**

written and illustrated by Lilli Carré  
(Toon/Candlewick, \$12.95) 978-1-935179-

57-3

Tippy doesn't remember just how all these animals got into her room! Follow her sleepwalking adventure to find out. Clever digitally colored graphics. (5-7)



### **Waiting Is Not Easy! (Elephant & Piggie series)**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$8.99) 978-1-4231-9957-1  
Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but waiting for it is very hard! Amusingly impatient illustrations.

(6-8)

## **Coming of Age**

### **Emily's Blue Period**

by Cathleen Daly, illustrated by Lisa Brown  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-469-1  
When her parents divorce, artist Emily, inspired by Picasso, enters her "blue period." Discovering collage helps her piece her life together. Unique cartoon features and text-matching palette. (6-8)

### **Frances Dean Who Loved to Dance and Dance**

written and illustrated by Birgitta Sif  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7306-2  
Will shy Frances Dean learn to share her talent with others? Perhaps a new friend can help. Digitally penciled and colored illustrations. (5-9)



### **My Blue Bunny, Babbit**

written and illustrated by Maggie Smith  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-55861-5

A little girl and her Nonni sew a special gift for the new baby, celebrating love, creativity,

and (even) siblings. Pencil, fabric, and painted papers assembled digitally. (4-8)

## **Concept Books**

### **\*Before After**

written and illustrated by Anne-Margot Ramstein, and Matthias Arégui (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-7621-6  
Thought-provoking, enchanting colorful spreads wordlessly depict changing vistas from nature, animal life, art, science, and fairy tales. (5-8)

### **Take Away the A: An Alphabeast of a Book**

by Michael Escoffier, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-156-8

A new word is created as one letter is removed from each word. Whimsical illustrations link the two words in mini adventures. (5-8)

## **Fantasy**



### **Catch That Cookie!**

by Hallie Durand, illustrated by David Small (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-525-42836-0

A class follows clues to discover if gingerbread cookies run. Pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (4-8)

### **The Grudge Keeper**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler (Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-729-8  
An enormous wind storm buries Cornelius in a mess of townspeople's grudges, which he had carefully catalogued and stored. What will

the townspeople do? Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

### **The Jacket**

by Kirsten Hall, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-168-1

Book's dream of being loved by a child comes true, but Book's girl also loves her dog. When the dog ruins him, Book worries that his girl won't love him anymore. Wonderfully expressive watercolors. (4-7)

### **\*Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse**

written and illustrated by Torben Kuhlmann, translated from the German by Suzanne Levesque (NorthSouth Books, \$19.95) 978-0-7358-4167-3

An inventive mouse constructs a flying machine to travel from Germany to America. Could his flight have inspired Charles Lindbergh? Fascinating muted watercolors. (7-9)

### **The Miniature World of Marvin & James (The Masterpiece Adventures series)**

by Elise Broach, illustrated by Kelly Murphy (Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9190-8  
Marvin, the beetle, is worried when his boy, James, goes away on vacation. A scary adventure soon cures him of his boredom. Pen-and-ink illustrations. (7-9)

### **The Numberlys**

written and illustrated by William Joyce and Christina Ellis (Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-7343-0  
When numbers made the world an orderly

place, five friends decided that things should change -- and invented the alphabet. Illustrations change too, from somber to colorful. (4-7)

### **Oliver and the Seawigs**

by Philip Reeve, illustrated by Sarah McIntyre (Random House Children's Books, \$12.99) 978-0-385-38788-0

When Oliver's parents disappear on a roaming island, he takes up a friendship with a mermaid on an island of his own. Humorous illustrations. (6-9)

### **Folk and Fairy Tales**

#### **\*Ashley Bryan's Puppets**

by Ashley Bryan, photographed by Ken Hannon, photographs edited by Rich Entel (Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-424-8728-4

Found objects from the sea create a magical puppet world. Accompanying poems are told in the voices of characters from African traditions, shown in close-up photographs. (6-14)

#### **Beauty and the Beast**

retold by H. Chuku Lee, illustrated by Pat Cummings (Amistad Press/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-688-14819-5

A lonely creature and a caring girl create a tender and gentle retelling. Close inspection of the African-inspired brilliant watercolor and gouache paintings reveals pertinent details. (6-9)



#### **Brother Hugo and the Bear**

by Katy Beebe, illustrated by S. D. Schindler (Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5407-0

Brother Hugo must craft another manuscript after a bear eats the original--a library book that must be returned. Ink and watercolors illustrate medieval life. (6-10)

### **Chukfi Rabbit's Big, Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale**

by Greg Rodgers, illustrated by Leslie Stall Widener

(Cinco Puntos Press, \$16.95; P \$7.95) 978-1-935955-26-9; 978-1-935955-27-6

In this Choctaw folk tale, Chukfi, the trickster rabbit, lets laziness and greed rule his choices. Humorous ink and watercolor illustrations. (4-8)



#### **My Grandfather's Coat**

retold by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-439-92545-7

In this variation on a Yiddish folksong, an immigrant boy makes good use of his coat. Colorful pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations depict four generations of his loving family. (5-8)

#### **Two Parrots**

written and illustrated by Rashin, inspired by a tale from Rumi (NorthSouth Books, \$17.95) 978-0-7358-4171-0

A clever parrot conspires with a friend to win his freedom from a Persian merchant. Vibrantly colored acrylic paintings on handmade paper. (5-8)

### **Historical Fiction**

#### **\*A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream**

by Kristy Dempsey, illustrated by Floyd Cooper



(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25284-6

The first African American to dance with the Metropolitan Opera, in 1951, inspires a young girl from Harlem. Soft, mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

**\*Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla**

by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by G. Brian Karas

(Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-544-25230-1

Kidnapped from his family in central Africa, a young gorilla finds friends and a new home after twenty-seven years on display in a mall. Expressive illustrations. (4-7)

**The Soccer Fence: A Story of Friendship, Hope and Apartheid in South Africa**

by Phil Bildner, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson

(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-24790-3

A young black South African wants to play soccer with the better equipped white boys, but under apartheid, it's not possible. Rich, vibrant pencil and acrylic illustrations. (6-8)



**Strongheart: The World's First Movie Star Dog**

written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9448-0

A German Shepherd is retrained to star in movies. Dramatic period watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations. (6-9)

**A Time to Be Brave**

by Joan Betty Stuchner, illustrated by Cynthia Nugent

(Stepping Stone/Random House, P \$4.99) 978-0-385-39205-1

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old David helps the resistance and then flees persecution by the Germans. Dramatic line drawings. (7-9)

**Holiday Stories**

**Chik Chak Shabbat**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5528-0

Every Sabbath, true to her grandmother's tradition, a young woman invites her neighbors to a cholent dinner, but when she becomes ill, they bring their own traditional dishes. Oil paint and collage illustrations create a folk-like atmosphere. (5-8)

**Here Comes the Easter Cat**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Claudia Rueda

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3939-0

Cat tries to replace the Easter Bunny but discovers it's a hard job that leaves no time for naps. Cat's feelings are evident in the simple ink and color pencil illustrations. (5-7)

**Here Comes Santa Cat**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Claudia Rueda

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-4100-3

It's December 24th, and Cat is on Santa's naughty list. Can he get on Santa's "good" list in time to get a present? Spare ink-and-color pencil illustrations. (6-8)

**I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel**

by Caryn Yacowitz, illustrated by David



Slonim

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-91530-4

Enjoy Chanukah fun as Grandma downs a dreidel, latkes, brisket, gelt, and a menorah. Humorous, colorful illustrations. (4-7)

**Simon and the Bear: A Hanukkah Tale**

by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Matthew Trueman

(Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-4355-0  
Shipwrecked on his way to America, a boy shares the Festival of Lights with a polar bear. Colorful collages and blue acrylics. (5-8)

**\*Twas Nochebuena**

by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, illustrated by Sara Palacios

(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01634-1  
A warm holiday tale, peppered with Spanish words, touches on traditions to be eaten, sung, and celebrated. Uplifting illustrations embellish the rituals. (5-8)

**Humor**

**Bow-Wow's Nightmare Neighbors**

written and illustrated by Mark Newgarden and Megan Montague Cash

(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-640-4  
Witty, weird, and wordless cartoons tell the story of Bow-Wow's attempt to rescue his stolen dog-bed from the odd cats across the street. Visual puns, puzzles. (5-9)

**The Cat, the Dog, Little Red, the Exploding Eggs, the Wolf, and Grandma**

written and illustrated by Diane Fox and Christyan Fox

(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-69481-0  
In this comical metafiction exchange, as Cat reads a classic fairy tale she must endure

Dog's constant queries. Sketch-style sparse color illustrations. (6-10)

**The Chicken Squad**

by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Kevin Cornell

(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$12.99) 978-1-4424-9676-7

Four chicks must figure out what frightened Tail, a not-so-brave squirrel. Graphite, watercolor and digital illustrations. (7-9)

**Drop It, Rocket**

written and illustrated by Tad Hills

(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$12.99) 978-0-385-37247-3

Beloved character Rocket returns with his teacher, the little yellow bird, seeking new words to read. Gentle, expressive colored pencil and acrylic painted illustrations. (4-7)

**\*Hermelin the Detective Mouse**

written and illustrated by Mini Grey

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-75433-0

A mouse with a typewriter secretly helps his human neighbors find lost items and rescue babies. Clever, detailed mixed-media art adds to the fun. (5-8)

**\*I'm My Own Dog**

written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6139-7  
An autonomous dog adopts a lonely human, teaches him some tricks, and makes a new best friend. Expressive watercolor illustrations show who's top dog. (5-8)

**Jasper John Dooley: Not in Love**

by Caroline Adderson, illustrated by Ben Clanton

(Kids Can Press, \$15.95) 978-1-55453-803-4

Jasper attempts to thwart Isabel's vocal love for him, but his plans don't go well. Black-and-white drawings. (6-8)



### **Leroy Ninker Saddles Up**

by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen  
(Candlewick Press, \$12.99) 978-0-7636-6339-1  
After acquiring a horse named Maybelline, Leroy Ninker learns that there is more to being a cowboy than just dressing the part. Whimsical gouache illustrations. (6-9)

### **A Piece of Cake**

written and illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-199264-3  
Uh-oh! On the way to deliver a birthday cake for Little Bird, Mouse agrees to trade pieces of it for his friends' offerings, until it is all gone. Now what? Clever Little Bird finds a solution. Cartoon-like pencil and digitally colored illustrations. (4-7)

### **\*Shh! We Have a Plan**

written and illustrated by Chris Haughton  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7293-5  
Three hunters are outwitted by a child and a bird in this practically wordless story. Brilliantly colored digital illustrations enhance the humor. (4-7)

### **Today**

#### **\*Abuelo**

by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Raúl Colón  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-168627-6  
Watercolor and pencil paintings illustrate the memories of a boy's days riding the pampas with his grandfather. Spanish words appear in context. (6-8)

#### **\*At the Same Moment around the World**

written and illustrated by Clotilde Perrin  
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-2208-3  
Journey around the world from Dakar, Senegal, to San Francisco, California, to find out what is happening at the same moment but different times. Vibrant pencil and digital illustrations. (5-9)



#### **\*Bad Bye, Good Bye**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Jonathan Bean  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-92852-4  
A brilliant blend of rhymed text and pen and ink illustrations, which—in a deceptively simple way—capture a child's multifaceted emotions upon moving. (5-8)



#### **\*Blizzard**

written and illustrated by John Rocco  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4231-7865-1  
Snowed in for days, a young boy devises a way to get to the store for supplies for his family and his neighbors. Pencil, watercolor, and digital paintings. (5-8)

#### **Coming Home**

written and illustrated by Greg Ruth  
(Feiweil and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-05547-7  
In this nearly wordless picture book, a boy anxiously awaits a soldier's return. Handsome graphite, chalk, and watercolor illustrations stirringly capture his anticipation. (5-7)

#### **\*The Farmer and the Clown**

written and illustrated by Marla Frazee  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-9744-3

When a little clown gets separated from the circus train, a reluctant farmer provides loving shelter. Warm, gentle gouache illustrations. Wordless. (5-7)

### **Flo & Wendell Explore**

written and illustrated by William Wegman  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3930-7

A sister and brother's camping adventure is depicted in droll gouache-enhanced photographs of the author's Weimaraner dogs. (4-7)

### **Fly Away**

by Patricia MacLachlan  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-6008-9  
While in North Dakota helping her Aunt Frankie prepare for a possible flood, Lucy finds her voice as a poet. (7-10)



### **Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin**

by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Qin Leng  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-894786-33-1  
Although her brothers tease that she is just a beginner, Hana stands out at the talent show with her own unique performance honoring her grandfather. Pencil illustrations, digitally colored (5-9)



### **Louise Loves Art**

written and illustrated by Kelly Light  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-224817-6

Louise loves art but realizes that she loves her little brother even more. Pencil and Photoshop illustrations. (5-7)



### **\*Miss Brooks' Story Nook: (Where Tales Are Told and Ogres Are Welcome)**

by Barbara Bottner, illustrated by Michael Emberley  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-449-81328-7

Missy learns how to construct a great story and scare her bully nemesis away. Highly expressive scanned pencil and watercolor illustrations add to the humor. (5-8)

### **\*The Most Magnificent Thing**

written and illustrated by Ashley Spires  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-704-4  
With the help of her dog assistant, a young girl overcomes frustration to create something wonderful. Funny, digitally generated illustrations. (4-7)



### **Room in My Heart**

by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Pradyut Chatterjee  
(Rosetta Press, P \$7.00) 978-1-50090823-2  
It took Nikki time to adjust to her parent's divorce. Now Daddy has a girlfriend, and Nikki has another worry: will he still love her and her sister? Black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)



### **Saving Sammy**

by Eric Walters, illustrated by Amy Meissner  
(Orca, P \$6.95) 978-1-4598-0499-9  
When her dog finds a baby beaver stranded after a flood, Morgan and her family try to rescue it. Appealing black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)

### **What If...?**

written and illustrated by Anthony Browne  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-7419-9  
Looking for his friend's party, Joe passes one strange house after another. Surreal gouache and crayon illustrations. (5-7)

### **Where's Mommy?**

by Beverly Donofrio, illustrated by Barbara McClintock

(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-84423-2

Maria lives upstairs, Mouse Mouse downstairs. Though their families don't know it, they are friends. Detailed illustrations in pen-and-ink, watercolor, and gouache. (4-7)

## **POETRY**

### **Dear Wandering Wildebeest: And Other Poems from the Water Hole**

by Irene Latham, illustrated by Anna Wadham

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-1232-3

Visit a water hole on an African savannah. Poems and soft illustrations describe the animals as they gather there to drink. Glossary, bibliography, web sites. (6-9)

### **\*Hi, Kool!: A Year of Seasons**

written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-16668-3  
In twenty-six haiku, Panda cub Koo and his friends explore the changing seasons. Ink and watercolors capture the humor and imagery of the poems. (5-8)

### **On the Wing**

by David Elliott, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5324-8  
Witty and lyrical poems about all sorts of birds are accompanied by colorful, expressive gouache illustrations. (4-7)

### **Outside the Box: A Book of Poems**

by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Diane Goode  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-8005-6

Over 100 whimsical poems with varied styles, topics, and emotional tones speak to children's concerns, wishes, and hopes. Playful typographical and sketchy ink illustrations. (7-11)

### **Sequoia**

by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Wendell Minor

(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-727-2  
A giant old sequoia watches over the forest and its wildlife year after year throughout the changing seasons. Colorful gouache watercolors. (5-8)



### **\*Water Rolls, Water Rises/El Agua Rueda, El Agua Sube**

by Pat Mora, illustrated by Meilo So  
(Children's Book Press/Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-0-89239-325-1

These poetic tributes to water in all its moods, movements, and majesty inspire gratitude and awe. Bilingual English and Spanish text. Illustrations add energy, location, and beauty. (7-10)

### **\*Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold**

by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-547-90650-8

Poems evoke the season as plants and animals respond to the cold. Hand-painted, digitized, layered linoleum cuts show nature's beauty. Vocabulary-rich information appears in sidebars. Glossary. (8-10)

## INFORMATION BOOKS

### Animals

#### **Ancient Animals: Saber-Toothed Cat**

by Sarah L. Thomson, illustrated by Andrew Plant

(Charlesbridge, \$12.95) 978-1-58089-400-5  
It's 16,000 years ago, and a skilled hunter in California hides, awaiting his prey. A range of resources and illustrations of related large-toothed hunters encourage further research. Acrylic and gouache illustrations. (6-8)



#### **Lucky Dog: Twelve Tales of Rescued Dogs**

by Kirby Larson, et al.

(Scholastic Press, \$15.99) 978-0-545-55451-0  
Twelve tales from a variety of authors about dogs from a rescue center, some told from the dogs' point of view and some from the new owners', will make dog lovers smile and weep. (7-10)



#### **Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and His Service Dog**

by Luis Carlos Montalván, with Bret Witter, photographed by Dan Dion

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-59643-891-0

Service dog Tuesday introduces her human companion, a wounded soldier, and describes all the different ways she helps him every day. Illustrated with colorful photographs. (6-9)

#### **\*What's New? The Zoo!: A Zippy History of Zoos**

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Marcellus Hall

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-

545-13571-9

Royal menageries, Victorian zoos, and many scientists have all contributed to the development of contemporary animal parks. Delightful watercolors. (5-9)

### Arts

#### **\*Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like the Firebird**

by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Christopher Myers

(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16615-0

An African American dancer encourages a girl who is unsure of herself to live her stage dreams. Dramatic, full-color collages capture the beauty and drama of the *Firebird* ballet. (5-9)

#### **\*The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Hadley Hooper

(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-948-1  
The great French artist remembers a childhood filled with the colors and textures of plates, paint, fruit, flowers, silk, and pigeons. Brilliantly illustrated with relief prints. (5-8)

#### **Music Everywhere!**

by Maya Ajmera, Elise Hofer Derstine, and Cynthia Pon

(Global Fund for Children/Charlesbridge, \$17.95) 978-1-57091-936-7

Color photographs showcase children around the world enjoying music and playing instruments. Includes a map and simple instructions for making instruments from everyday materials. (6-8)

**\*The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life**

written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster  
BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-3571-1  
Enter author Lois Ehlert's world and  
understand her creative collage process.  
Exuberant illustrations. (5-8)

**\*Viva Frida**

by Yuyi Morales, photographed by Tim  
O'Meara  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook  
Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-603-9  
Artist Frida Kahlo, manifested both as a  
puppet and as an acrylic-painted figure, sees,  
plays, dreams, creates, and lives. Vivid,  
powerful colors and dynamic spreads.  
Bilingual. (6-10)

**What's Your Favorite Animal?**

written and illustrated by Eric Carle and  
Friends  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-  
0-8050-9641-5  
The favorite animals of renowned children's  
book artists come to life in marvelous  
illustrations and sweet musings. (5-10)

**Biography and Memoir**

**A Boy and A Jaguar**

by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia  
Chien  
(Harcourt Children's Books/HMH, \$16.99)  
978-0-547-87507-1  
A boy who stutters but can speak fluently to  
animals grows up to study and protect  
endangered creatures. Acrylic and charcoal  
pencil illustrations reflect emotions and plot.  
(7-9)

**In Search of the Little Prince: The Story  
of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

written and illustrated by Bimba Landmann  
(Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5435-3  
The life of the creator of the endearing Little  
Prince is told whimsically with photographs,  
quotations, and drawings that create a world  
of fantasy. (7-10)

**\*Leontyne Price: Voice of a Century**

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by  
Raul Colón  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-375-85606-8  
Following in Marian Anderson's  
groundbreaking footsteps, Leontyne Price  
sang her way from a church gospel choir to  
the Metropolitan Opera House. Soft mixed-  
media illustrations (7-10)



**\*Little Melba and Her Big Trombone**

by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by  
Frank Morrison  
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-898-8  
Melba Doretta Liston, an African American  
child prodigy, overcame the challenges faced  
by women and people of color of her era to  
share her trailblazing jazz. Lively oil paintings  
and insightful back matter. (6-10)



**\*Malala, a Brave Girl from  
Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from  
Pakistan: Two Stories of Bravery**

written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster  
BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-2294-9  
The biographies of two Pakistani children's  
rights activists, Malala Yousafzai and Iqbal  
Masih, join together in one to create a radiant  
whole. Flat, child-centric illustrations. (6-9)

**\*The Pilot and the Little Prince: The Life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

written and illustrated by Peter Sís  
(Frances Foster Books/Farrar Straus & Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-38069-4

A spare narrative, meaty captions, and detailed colorful illustrations depict the connections between Saint-Exupéry's life and that of *The Little Prince*. (6-9)



**\*Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos**

written and illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-960-3

Young Carl Sagan, filled with curiosity and imagination, followed his passion: studying the solar system. Colorful acrylic paints and digitally rendered collages. (5-8)

**Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything**

written and illustrated by Maira Kalman  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-24040-9

The life of this famous American is conveyed through verbal and visual sketches that capture his range and complexity. Vibrant paintings. (7-10)

**History**

**All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom**

by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-689-87376-8

A little girl in Texas tells about the day her family finally learned that they had been freed

from slavery. Evocative watercolor paintings mirror their intense emotions. (5-8)

**\*Mr. Ferris and His Wheel**

by Kathryn Gibbs Davis, illustrated by Gilbert Ford  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-547-95922-1

Using the new metal, steel, George Ferris created the sensation of the 1893 World's Fair. Digital mixed-media illustrations with ink and watercolor. (6-9)

**My Country 'Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights**

by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Bryan Collier  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-8226-5

The evolution of a song, which first celebrated a British king and which Aretha Franklin sang centuries later at Obama's inauguration, reflects US history. Dramatic watercolor and collage illustrations. Sources, bibliography, music. (7-10)

**The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art**

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary Grandpré  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-307-98748-6

Can someone see colors as sounds and sounds as colors? Kandinsky did, and he became a famous painter of abstract art, inspired by the music he heard. Colorful, expressive illustrations. (6-9)



**Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation**



written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams BFYR, \$18.95) 978-1-4197-1054-4 Sylvia Mendez was sent to a segregated school for Mexicans instead of her local public school, but her family fought back, and won, seven years before the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case. Hand-drawn, digitally colored and collaged illustrations and extensive back matter. (Note: Rather than asking for a new trial in state court as described in the book, the school district actually requested a review by an appellate court and the entire proceeding was heard in federal courts. Nonetheless the book is a superb account of this significant but little-known civil rights case.) (7-10)

### **\*What's New? The Zoo!: A Zippy History of Zoos**

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Marcellus Hall (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-13571-9  
Royal menageries, Victorian zoos, and many scientists have all contributed to the development of contemporary animal parks. Delightful watercolors. (5-9)

## **Mathematics**



### **\*Circle, Square, Moose**

by Kelly Bingham, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-229003-8  
Moose and Zebra continue their playful friendship while exploring shapes. Dynamic illustrations celebrate geometry. (4-7)



### **\*Mice Mischief: Math Facts in Action**

by Caroline Stills, illustrated by Judith Rossell (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2947-9

Playful mice demonstrate ways to make ten as they engage in everyday work and play. Pencil, acrylic, and collage illustrations. (4-7)

### **\*Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature**

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell (Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-627-8

Gorgeous photographs accompany a simple and straightforward explanation of fractals, geometric shapes made up of smaller parts that each look like the whole shape. (7-10)

## **Parenting**

### **Grandma**

written and illustrated by Jessica Shepherd (Child's Play International, \$16.99) 978-1-84643-602-4

Oliver learns that he can still enjoy Grandma as she becomes more forgetful and moves to a "special home." Colorful, poignant illustrations. (6-8)



### **Healing the Bruises**

by Lori Morgan, illustrated by Kathy Kaulbach (Lorimer/Orca, \$16.95) 978-1-4595-0283-3  
Simple text and quasigraphic illustrations eloquently describe the escape of a girl and her mother from a physically abusive relationship to a safe home. (8-10)

## **Science**

### **Animal School: What Class Are You?**

by Michelle Lord, illustrated by Michael Garland (Holiday House, \$14.95) 978-0-8234-3045-1  
With rhythmic, rhyming text and vivid digi-



woodcut illustrations, students are introduced to vertebrates. (7-10)

### **Animal Teachers**

by Janet Halfmann, illustrated by Katy Hudson

(Blue Apple Books, \$17.99) 978-1-60905-391-8  
How do animals learn their life skills? Simple explanations along with descriptive paintings. Additional facts. (4-8)

### **Animals That Make Me Say Wow!**

by Dawn Cusick

(Imagine/Charlesbridge, \$14.95) 978-1-62354-041-8

Brief text and color photographs describe how special adaptations in a variety of animals help them find food and protect themselves and their young. (7-10)

### **A Baby Elephant in the Wild**

by Caitlin O'Connell, photographed by Caitlin O'Connell and Timothy Rodwell  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99) 978-0-544-14944-1

Did you know that baby elephants weigh 150 pounds at birth and grow inside their mothers for two years? Follow a baby and its family for a year in Namibia. Color photographs. (7-10)

### **\*Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle**

by Cheryl Bardoe, illustrated by Alan Marks  
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-554-5  
Three varieties of dung beetles fight over, devour, and hoard fecal matter and lay their eggs in it in a variety of ways. Dramatic watercolor and pencil illustrations. (7-9)



### **\*Birds (Discover More series)**

by Penelope Arlon and Tory Gordon-Harris  
(Scholastic Press, \$7.99) 978-0-545-66773-9

Fun facts about a variety of birds ranging from hummingbirds to eagles, depicted with amazing, detailed color photographs. (5-8)

### **\*Buried Sunlight: How Fossil Fuels Have Changed the Earth**

by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, illustrated by Molly Bang

(Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-57785-4

Fossil fuels, how humans have used them, and the effect on climate change are explained clearly from the sun's perspective. Full-page, brightly colored art. (7-10)

### **Creature Features: 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-544-23351-5

Animals explain why their faces have feathers, tusks, bright colors, long tongues, or big beaks. Colorful cut-paper collages. (6-9)

### **Dear Wandering Wildebeest: And Other Poems from the Water Hole**

by Irene Latham, illustrated by Anna Wadham

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-1232-3

Visit a water hole on an African savannah. Poems and soft illustrations describe the animals as they gather there to drink. Glossary, bibliography, web sites. (6-9)

### **Dolphin Dive (Scholastic Discover More Readers)**

by James Buckley, Jr.

(Scholastic Press, P \$3.99) 978-0-545-63632-2

These smart mammals live in pods, hunt and feed together, communicate, and swim fast.

Color photographs above and below the water. (6-8)



### **Edible Colors**

written and photographed by Jennifer Vogel Bass  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$12.99) 978-1-62672-002-2  
Well-known and very unusual vegetables and fruits are grouped by their colors with surprising results! Bright labeled photographs. (6-9)



### **Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas**

Lynne Cox, illustrated by Brian Floca  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-85888-8  
An elephant seal finds a home on the Avon River in a New Zealand town. Based on a true story and illustrated in pen and ink and watercolor. Includes a photograph of Elizabeth. (5-9)

### **\*Galápagos George**

by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-028793-1  
One million years ago giant tortoises migrated to the Galápagos Islands and slowly evolved into different subspecies of tortoises. Realistic watercolor paintings. (6-9)

### **\*Handle with Care: An Unusual Butterfly Journey**

by Loree Griffin Burns, photographed by Ellen Harasimowicz  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$29.26) 978-0-7613-9342-9  
Butterflies change from eggs to caterpillars to pupae under the meticulous care of workers

on a farm in Costa Rica. Colorful photographs detail the stages. (6-10)

### **Hurricanes: Be Aware and Prepare**

by Renée Gray-Wilburn  
(Capstone Press/Capstone, \$19.99) 978-1-4765-9903-8  
Rain falls in sheets and the wind howls, bends trees, and tosses objects. How do we know if it is a hurricane? Dramatic photographs. (6-8)

### **\*A Mom for Umande**

by Maria Faulconer, illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3762-4  
After months of nurturing a baby gorilla, her zookeepers come up with a plan to find a true mother surrogate. Colorful oil paintings. Author's note. (5-8)

### **\*Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature**

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell  
(Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-627-8  
Gorgeous photographs accompany a simple and straightforward explanation of fractals, geometric shapes made up of smaller parts that each look like the whole shape. (7-10)

### **Nic Bishop: Lizards**

written and photographed by Nic Bishop  
(Scholastic Press, P \$3.99) 978-0-545-60569-4  
Spectacular photographs and clear text introduce a variety of these reptiles. Glossary and photo-index. (6-8)



### **On Kiki's Reef**

by Carol L. Malnor, illustrated by Trina L. Hunner

(Dawn Publications, P \$8.95) 978-1-58469-477-9

The life cycle of the green sea turtle as it journeys from egg to adult teaches about the ocean ecosystem. Engaging illustrations, references and resources. (6-9)

### **Planets (Scholastic Discover More Readers)**

by Gail Tuchman

(Scholastic Press, \$3.99) 978-0-545-57270-5

Interesting facts, photos, and diagrams introduce our solar system. (6-8)

### **The Secret Galaxy**

by Fran Hodgkins, photographed by Mike Taylor

(Tilbury House, \$16.95) 978-0-88448-391-5

In its own words, the Milky Way tells about its composition, particularly of stars and black holes. Stunning photographs from different views enhance understanding. (7-9)



### **The Secret Life of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar**

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Joan Paley  
(Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-000-9

The life cycle of the caterpillar that becomes an Isabella Tiger Moth is described with detailed illustrations. (7-9)

### **Secrets of the Seashore**

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Alyssa Nassner

(Kane/Miller/EDC, \$12.99) 978-1-61067-309-9

This clever book presents tide pools full of hidden sea creatures revealed by shining a light behind the page. Investigation is encouraged. Illustrations in color and black-and-white. (5-9)

### **Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7315-4

What living things exist everywhere, and are so small that billions are inside your body? Learn what they are and about the amazing things they do. Clear, detailed watercolors. (6-8)

### **Weeds Find a Way**

by Cindy Jenson-Elliott, illustrated by Carolyn Fisher

(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster  
BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1260-6

A poetic exploration of how the uncelebrated weed travels and grows. Vibrant, full-page illustrations. (4-7)



### **Wild about Bears**

written and illustrated by Jeannie Brett

(Charlesbridge, \$17.95) 978-1-58089-418-0

Learn about the similarities and differences of bear species and how to protect them.

Engaging accessible text and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

### **World**

#### **\*Dear Malala, We Stand with You**

by Rosemary McCarney, with Plan International

(Crown BFYR/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-553-52120-7

Rich color photographs illustrate a composite letter to Malala Yousafzai from girls who have faced educational discrimination and were inspired by Malala's work for girls' rights. (5-8)



### **Families around the World**

by Margriet Ruurs, illustrated by Jessica Rae

Gordon  
(Kids Can Press, \$18.95) 978-1-894786-57-7  
Celebrate diversity as you meet fourteen families from around the world and see their different structures, religions, culture, and food. Mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

### **Goal!**

by Sean Taylor, photographed by Caio Vilela  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-62779-123-6

Appealing photographs of children playing soccer in various countries are accompanied by a running text about the game and a historical note for each country. (5-8)

## **NINE TO TWELVE**

### **FICTION**

#### **Adventure and Mystery**

#### **The Book of Secrets (Mister Max series)**

by Cynthia Voigt, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-307-97684-0

Max, the Solutioneer, continues to use his theater background to solve mysteries while also trying to reunite with his missing parents. Illustrated with line drawings. (10-13)



#### **Cast Away on the Letter A: A Philemon Adventure**

written and illustrated by Fred (Frederic Othon Aristides), translated from the French by Richard Kutner  
(TOON Books/Candlewick Press, \$16.95) 978-1-935179-63-4

When teenager Philemon falls down a well into a parallel world of islands, he and a new

companion must find their way home. Classic comic book illustrations. (7-12)

#### **Dangerous Deception**

by Peg Kehret  
(Dutton BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-525-42652-3

Sixth grader Emmy's admirable determination to help a needy family gets her in trouble. (9-11)

#### **Dreamwood**

by Heather Mackey, illustrated by Teagan White  
(Putnam Juvenile/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25067-5

Twelve-year-old Lucy Darrington and her friend Pete search for her missing "ghostologist" father in the Pacific Northwest, hoping also to find the powerful "Dreamwood" tree. Beautifully detailed black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

#### **A Hitch at the Fairmont**

by Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Nick Bertozzi  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-9447-3

The great Alfred Hitchcock himself stars in this light-hearted mystery, helping a young orphan, Jack, solve a kidnapping. Enlivened by clever comic-strip illustrations. (9-12)

#### **Jackpot (Swindle series)**

by Gordon Korman  
(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-56146-4  
When a winning lottery ticket is lost and unclaimed, thirteen-year-old Griffin and his friends use their myriad talents to locate the unsuspecting buyer and share the prize. (9-12)

#### **Manhunt**

by Kate Messner

(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-41977-2  
Three junior members of the Silver Jaguar Society solve the mystery of an art heist. But which society member is a double agent? (8-12)

**Once Upon a Midnight Eerie (The Misadventures of Edgar & Allan Poe series)**

by Gordon McAlpine, illustrated by Sam Zuppardi  
(Viking Juvenile/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-78493-6

The Poe twins are back, and this time they're teamed up with Em and Milly Dickinson as they try to solve a ghostly mystery in New Orleans. Black-and-white illustrations. (9-11)

**Saving Kabul Corner**

by N. H. Senzai  
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-8494-8  
An eleven-year-old Afghan-American girl, her cousin, and her best friend investigate the vandalization of her family's store and a rival one. Includes a glossary and bibliography. (9-12)

**The Time of the Fireflies**

by Kimberley Griffiths Little  
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-0-545-16563-1  
When fireflies transport twelve-year-old Larissa to her family's tormented past in Louisiana's bayou, she heals their age-old conflicts. (9-12)

**Animals**

**The Escape (Horses of the Dawn series)**

by Kathryn Lasky  
(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-39716-2  
Born in the hold of a ship sailing to the New World, the foal Estrella becomes the leader of

a small group of horses determined to escape their captors and survive. (8-12)

**The Lion Who Stole My Arm**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Annabel Wright  
(Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-6620-0  
Pedro loses one arm in a lion attack, but learns to compensate and coexist with animals around his village. Although the exact location is not specified, the story is based on a real East African conservation project. Black-and-white illustrations. (8-12)

**Nuts to You**

written and illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-009275-7  
A squirrel tells the story of his friends who band together to save their colony from destruction. Pen and ink drawings. (8-11)

**Coming of Age**

**Absolutely Almost**

by Lisa Graff  
(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16405-7  
A wonderful babysitter and two good friends help ten-year-old Albie, painfully aware of his weaknesses, discover his strengths. (9-12)

**Circa Now**

by Amber McRee Turner  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-7639-8  
When eleven-year-old Circa's photographer father dies she copes with her grief by imagining that his photographs are magical. Illustrated with several intriguing photographs. (10-12)

**\*The Crossover**

by Kwame Alexander

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-544-10771-7

In rhythmic free verse, twelve-year-old Josh Bell describes life with his twin, Jordan, on and off the basketball court. When Jordan starts dating and Dad's health deteriorates, Josh has to figure out his priorities. (9-12)

### **\*Gracefully Grayson**

by Ami Polonsky

(Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-8527-7

When Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, gets the female lead in a school play, she finds support as well as opposition and bullying. (10-14)

### **The Great Greene Heist**

by Varian Johnson

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-52552-7

Jackson Greene has given up scheming. But when his friend Gaby's run for school president is in jeopardy, Jackson and his team deliver. (10-14)

### **\*Half a Chance**

by Cynthia Lord

(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-03533-0

When twelve-year-old Lucy's family moves to New Hampshire, she develops wonderful friendships, joins the Loon Patrol to protect the species, and enters a photography contest. (9-12)

### **The Key that Swallowed Joey Pigza**

by Jack Gantos

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-30083-8

In this series-concluding story, a stronger and more confident Joey gets help from an old friend as he copes with a very difficult family situation. (8-12)

### **Life on Mars**

by Jennifer Brown

(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-61963-252-3

Twelve-year-old Arty is upset at his family's imminent move and worried about its affect on his search for life on Mars. Then he becomes friends with a surly retired astronaut. (9-12)

### **\*The Meaning of Maggie**

by Megan Jean Sovern

(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1021-9

With humor, insight, and a distinctive voice, Maggie narrates the changes in herself and her family as they cope with her father's illness. (10-12)



### **Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece**

written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco

(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16095-0

Shy Trisha faces reciting in public. With the help of her drama teacher, she is able to conquer her fears. Emotions vividly expressed in dramatic illustrations. (8-11)

### **Odd, Weird & Little**

by Patrick Jennings

(Egmont USA, \$15.99) 978-1-60684-374-1

Woodrow, a much bullied middle schooler, befriends a very strange new student, also the target of bullies. (8-11)

### **\*The Perfect Place**

by Teresa E. Harris

(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-25519-4

When twelve-year-old Treasure and her sister are relocated to great-aunt Grace's home in Virginia, Treasure redefines her ideas of family and perfection. (10-13)



## **Sisters**

written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier  
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-0-545-54059-0  
Life on a road trip with Mom and younger sister and brother is fraught with tension, adventure, and even some fun and bonding. Crisp, vivid illustrations in a graphic novel format pump up the humor and sibling tensions. (8-12)

## **Sorry You're Lost**

by Matt Blackstone  
(Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-374-38065-6  
Struggling with the death of his mother, seventh grader Denny discovers that he cannot ease his pain with jokes and schemes. (10-12)

## **Fantasy**

### **Backwards Moon**

by Mary Losure  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-3160-1  
Two cousin witchlings, Nettie and Bracken, with the help of a couple of human "Witch Friends" and a raccoon, manage to save their coven from human invasion. (8-11)

### **The Boundless**

by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Jim Tierney  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-7288-4  
Murder, theft, Sasquatch, and traveling circus are a part of Will's steampunk adventure on an epic train. Black-and-white sketches suggest clues. (10-13)

### **The Cat at the Wall**

by Deborah Ellis  
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55498-491-6

After dying in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, thirteen-year-old Clare is transformed into a cat in Bethlehem on the West Bank, where events between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians oddly mirror her former life. (9-12)

### **Centaur Rising**

by Jane Yolen  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9664-4  
Born the year after a shooting star appears to have landed on their horse farm, a baby centaur affects Arianne's troubled family in surprising ways. (9-12)

### **The Children of the King**

by Sonya Hartnett  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6735-1  
Evacuated to the countryside in World War II, twelve-year-old Cecily and ten-year-old May meet two mysterious boys in a ruined castle who seem to be from another time. (9-12)

### **\*Fleabrain Loves Franny**

by Joanne Rocklin  
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.95) 978-1-4197-1068-1  
In 1952, as Franny slowly recovers from polio, she is befriended by a brilliant, erudite flea with superpowers who takes her on amazing adventures. (8-12)

### **Frostborn (Thrones and Bones series)**

by Lou Anders, illustrated by Justin Gerard  
(Crown BFYR/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-38778-1  
When twelve-year-old Karn meets Thianna, half giantess and half human, their special talents shape their destiny. Elegant black-and-white spot art. (10-14)

**Gabriel Finley & the Raven's Riddle**

by George Hagen, illustrated by Scorr Bakal  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House,  
\$16.99) 978-0-385-37103-2

As evil ravens seek to conquer the world, an eleven-year-old boy searches for his missing father. Will Gabriel's talent for answering riddles help him succeed? Stark black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

**The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing**

by Sheila Turnage  
(Kathy Dawson Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3671-9

Mo and Dale of the Desperado Detective Agency must interview a ghost or flunk history. Do they have a ghost of a chance? (9-12)

**The Islands of Chaldea**

by Diana Wynne Jones, completed by Ursula Jones  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-229507-1

Twelve-year-old Aileen's talent as a magic maker blossoms as she accompanies her powerful Aunt Beck on a mission for the King. (9-12)

**Lost Children of the Far Islands**

by Emily Raabe  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-375-87091-0

Twins Gus and Leo and their little sister Ila discover unknown powers as they embark on a sea adventure to save their family from an evil force. (9-12)

**Magic in the Mix**

by Annie Barrows  
(Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, \$16.99)  
978-1-61963-482-4

If magic sets things right, why are twins Molly and Miri traveling in time back to 1935 and 1918 to save their twin brothers stuck in the Civil War? (8-12)

**The Night Gardener**

by Jonathan Auxier  
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.95) 978-1-4197-1144-2

Siblings Molly and Kip were warned about the isolated manor where they work and the "sour woods" around it. Could the legend of the Night Gardener be true? (9-12)

**Nightingale's Nest**

by Nikki Loftin  
(Razorbill/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-1-59514-546-8

Twelve-year-old Little John meets Gayle, whose magical voice heals physical and emotional damage, and is so affected by her that he is matured and changed. (10-12)

**Operation Bunny (Wings & Co. series)**

by Sally Gardner, illustrated by David Roberts  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$12.99) 978-0-8050-9892-1

Emily discovers fairies, talking animals, and magical shops as she tries to escape her cruel parents and outwit the evil Harpella. Detailed, whimsical line drawings. (8-10)

**Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy**

by Karen Foxlee  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-385-75354-8

Timid, realistic Ophelia unwillingly helps a boy find his magical sword while coping with her mother's death and her own asthma. Decorative black-and-white illustrations. (9-11)



**The Orphan and the Mouse**

by Martha Freeman, illustrated by David McPhail  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-3167-0  
Eleven-year-old Caro befriends mice, discovers a criminal element, and locates an infant sold by the head of the Cherry Street Orphanage. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (8-12)

**Rules of Summer**

written and illustrated by Shaun Tan  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-63912-5  
A younger boy learns to navigate summer based on an older boy's humorous, arbitrary rules. Majestic, sometimes scary illustrations. (7-12)

**Saving Lucas Biggs**

by Marisa de los Santos and David Teague  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-227462-5  
Plucky Margaret O'Malley uses her special time-traveling abilities to go back sixty years, change history, and save her father's life. (9-12)

**The Secrets of Eastcliff-by-the-Sea**

by Eileen Beha, illustrated by Sarah Jane Wright  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-9840-2  
Why did Annaliese's mother leave when she was a baby, and will Annaliese ever see her again? Throckmorton Sock Monkey tells the tale. Intermittent black-and-white drawings. (10-12)

**Secrets of the Terra-Cotta Soldier**

by Ying Chang Compestine and Vinson Compestine  
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.95) 978-1-

4197-0540-3

Ming learns from a clay statue that life in his own world of Maoist China has many similarities to life during the reign of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. (9-12)

**\*A Snicker of Magic**

by Natalie Lloyd  
(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-55270-7  
Twelve-year-old Felicity and her new friend, Jonah, work to restore Midnight Gulch's magic by reversing a long-standing curse. (8-12)

**The Thickety: A Path Begins**

by J. A. White, illustrated by Andrea Offermann  
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-225724-6  
Years after her mother was executed for witchcraft, Kara must care for her brother and overcome the grimoire that awakens her own magical abilities. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

**\*WinterFrost**

by Michelle Houts  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6565-4  
When their parents leave to tend to older relatives and baby Pia disappears, twelve-year-old Bettina must venture into the world of the mischievous, gnome-like nisse. (8-11)

**The Witch's Boy**

by Kelly Barnhill  
(Algonquin Young Readers/Workman, \$16.95) 978-1-61620-351-1  
When his mother is away and a bandit tries to steal her magic, young Ned must defend and save it, with help from a bandit's daughter. (9-12)

## **Folk and Fairy Tales**

### **\*Ashley Bryan's Puppets**

by Ashley Bryan, photographed by Ken Hannon, photographs edited by Rich Entel (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-424-8728-4

Found objects from the sea create a magical puppet world. Accompanying poems are told in the voices of characters from African traditions, shown in close-up photographs. (6-14)



### **Hansel & Gretel**

by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Lorenzo Mattotti (Toon Books/Candlewick Press, \$16.95) 978-1-935179-62-7

Chillingly expressive black-and-white illustrations intensify this eerie yet straightforward retelling of the traditional Grimm tale. (8-12)



### **Theseus and the Minotaur**

written and illustrated by Yvan Pommaux, translated from the French by Richard Kutner (Toon Books/Candlewick Press, \$16.95) 978-1-935179-61-0

In the full-color pencil and ink illustrations of this graphic novel, Athenians are sacrificed every year to the half-bull, half-human Minotaur in his maze in Minos. Can Theseus end the sacrifices by destroying the creature? (9-12)

## **Historical Fiction**

### **The Badger Knight**

by Kathryn Erskine

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-46442-0  
In England in 1346, small, sickly, twelve-year-old Adrian follows his best friend to war against the Scots and proves his courage, wisdom, and loyalty. (9-12)



### **\*Dare the Wind: The Record-**

### **Breaking Voyage of Eleanor Prentiss and the Flying Cloud**

by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-31699-0

In 1851 Eleanor Prentiss navigated a clipper ship from New York City to San Francisco in record time, reading the sea and daring the wind. Watercolor illustrations. Maps and glossary. (8-12)

### **Dash**

by Kirby Larson

(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-41635-1

When eleven-year-old Mitsi is sent to a Japanese Internment Camp in 1942, she must leave her beloved dog, Dash, with a kind neighbor. (9-12)



### **Hidden: A Child's Story of the**

### **Holocaust**

by Loïc Dauvillier, illustrated by Marc Lizano, color by Greg Salsedo, translated from the French by Alexis Siegel

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-59643-873-6  
As a young girl in Paris, Dounia was hidden from the Nazis by neighbors and friends when her parents were sent to concentration camps; she survived to tell the story to her granddaughter in this subtly colored graphic novel. (8-10)

### **The Magician of Auschwitz**

by Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland

(Second Story Press, \$18.95) 978-1-927583-46-3

When young Werner arrives in Auschwitz, his bunkmate teaches him magic to help him survive. Years later, Werner learns the true identity of the man. Dark, foreboding watercolors. (8-11)

### **Nest**

by Esther Ehrlich

(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-38607-4

In 1972, when her mother is diagnosed with MS and depression, eleven-year-old Chirp desperately tries to keep her world from falling apart. (10-13)

### **Revolution (The Sixties Trilogy, Book 2)**

by Deborah Wiles

(Scholastic Press, \$19.99) 978-0-545-10607-8

Civil rights activism in Mississippi in 1964 is viewed from the perspective of two young people, one white and one African American. A documentary novel containing many source materials and copious photographs. (10-13)

### **A Taste of Freedom: Gandhi and the Great Salt March**

by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, illustrated by Giuliano Ferri

(Walker BFYR/Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-0-8027-9467-3

A young boy joins Gandhi on a march for freedom. Watercolor and colored pencil illustrations. (9-12)

### **Humor**

#### **Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden Palace, and Other Tourist Attractions**

by Lenore Look, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-385-36972-5

Alvin is back! This time he is on a family trip to China to visit relatives. Will he survive the plane trip and other scary adventures? Lively black-and-white ink illustrations. (8-10)

#### **Charlie Joe Jackson's Guide to Making Money**

by Tommy Greenwald, illustrated by J. P. Coover

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$13.99) 978-1-59643-840-8

When his weekly allowance isn't enough, Charlie invents some dubious ways to make money. Black-and-white drawings. (9-12)

#### **Just Jake**

by Jake Marcionette, illustrated by Victor Rivas Villa

(Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin, \$11.99) 978-0-448-46692-7

In a journal-style presentation, sixth grader Jake relates the trials of going to a new school. Hilarious text by a twelve-year-old author with entertaining illustrations. (8-12)

#### **\*Kate the Great: Except When She's Not**

by Suzy Becker

(Crown BFYR/Random House, \$12.99) 978-0-385-38742-2

Quirky fifth-grader Kate deals with teachers, friends, siblings, and parents in this humorous story, generously illustrated with cartoon sketches showcasing Kate's artistic talent. (8-12)

## **Science Fiction**

### **The Fourteenth Goldfish**

by Jennifer L. Holm, illustrated by Tad Carpenter

(Random House Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-0-375-87064-4

When a strange boy shows up at her house and turns out to be her grandfather, eleven-year-old Ellie's life changes and her interest in science grows. Cheerful black-and-white illustrations of goldfish. (9-12)



### **Frank Einstein and the Antimatter**

#### **Motor**

by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Brian Biggs (Amulet Books/Abrams, \$13.95) 978-1-4197-1218-0

Frank is confident that he'll win the \$100,000 science prize and save his Grampa Al's repair shop—but his rival, Edison, has a devious scheme to thwart him. Bold, detailed two-color illustrations. (8-12)

### **Space Rocks!**

by Tom O'Donnell (Razorbill/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-1-59514-713-4

When alien Chorkle encounters human kids on his planet, they all learn about peacemaking and cultural understanding. (8-12)

## **Today**

### **Annika Riz, Math Whiz (Franklin School Friends series)**

by Claudia Mills, illustrated by Rob Shepperson (Margaret Ferguson Books/Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-374-

30335-8

Can Annika win the sudoku contest and convince her best friends that math is really cool? Black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

### **The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond**

by Brenda Woods (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25714-8

Eleven-year-old Violet is biracial but has never met her African American family. When she gets to know them, will she finally feel complete? (9-12)

### **Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile**

by Marcia Wells (Harcourt Children's Books/HMH BFYR, \$16.99) 978-0-544-23833-6

Because sixth grader Edmund has a photographic memory and excellent drawing skills, the NYPD enlists him to help capture an art thief. Digital illustrations. (9-12)

### **Justin Case: Rules, Tools, and Maybe a Bully**

by Rachel Vail, illustrated by Matthew Cordell (Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-03978-1

Fourth grade is challenging—a tough teacher, old and new friends who don't get along, and other worries. How is Justin going to make it? Black-and-white doodle-like spot art. (8-10)

### **\*The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher**

by Dana Alison Levy (Delacorte Press/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-385-37652-5

The Fletchers—two dads, four ethnically diverse adopted sons, one invisible cheetah—

face the challenges and rewards of school and life with a grouchy new neighbor. (9-12)

### **My Cousin's Keeper**

by Simon French

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6279-0  
Eleven-year-old Kieran wants to fit in at school, and so he goes along with the bullies who target his weird cousin. But when they go too far, he finally does the right thing. (10-12)

### **New Kid**

by Tim Green

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-220872-9

After years of relocating whenever his father says so, twelve-year-old Brock is finally feeling at home with baseball, his coach, and a good friend. Then the family moves again. (8-12)

### **Outside In**

by Sarah Ellis

(Groundwood/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55498-367-4

Lynn's conventional eighth-grade world collides with her new friend's antimaterialistic, off-the-grid family and creates conflict between maintaining old friendships and embracing new alliances. (10-13)

### **\*Rain Reign**

by Ann M. Martin

(Feiweil and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-312-64300-3

Twelve-year-old Rose, diagnosed with high-functioning autism, steps out of her comfort zone of homonyms, rules, and prime numbers to find her dog, lost in a storm. (9-12)

### **\*The Red Pencil**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Shane Evans

(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$17.00) 978-0-316-24780-1

Traumatized after seeing her Sudanese village destroyed and her father killed, twelve-year-old Amira must learn again to express herself. Free verse with simple pencil drawings. (9-12)



### **\*Rhyme Schemer**

by K. A. Holt

(Chronicle Books, \$15.99) 978-1-4521-2700-2

Bully at school and bullied at home, Kevin comes to terms with his problems with the help of an older brother and a librarian and by writing poetry. Told in verse. (9-12)

### **The Secret Hum of a Daisy**

by Tracy Holczer

(Putnam Juvenile/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16393-7

After her mother dies, twelve-year-old Grace, must live with the grandmother she doesn't know or trust and resents for a life-altering decision made years ago. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

### **The Turtle of Oman**

by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Betsy Peterschmidt

(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-201972-1

Preparing to move from Oman to Michigan, Aref must say goodbye to all he loves there, especially his beloved grandfather. (8-10)

### **Under the Egg**

by Laura Marx Fitzgerald

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-4001-3

Just before he dies, her grandfather tells

thirteen-year-old Theo that he has left her a treasure. Could he mean a stolen work of art? (9-12)

### **Unfriended**

by Rachel Vail  
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01307-4  
Six narrators experience middle school friendships, budding romance, and bullying. (10-13)

### **Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina**

by Rodman Philbrick  
(Blue Sky/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-34238-4  
In New Orleans, twelve-year-old Zane and his dog, Bandy, experience the horrors of Hurricane Katrina. (10-13)

## **INFORMATION BOOKS**

### **Arts**

#### **Edward Hopper Paints His World**

by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-8752-9  
Learn about the artistic influences on the work of this American realist painter and about the psychology that shaped his artistic vision. Gouache watercolor illustrations and pencil sketches. (9-12)

#### **Photos Framed: A Fresh Look at the World's Most Memorable Photographs**

by Ruth Thomson  
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-0-7636-7154-9  
Point of view is explored through a selection of twenty-seven famous historical

photographs. Includes biographies of the photographers and a glossary. (10-14)

#### **Stone Giant: Michelangelo's David and How He Came to Be**

by Jane Sutcliffe, illustrated by John Shelley  
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-295-7  
In Renaissance Florence, Michelangelo transforms a block of marble into the magnificent statue of David. Detailed color drawings. (8-11)

### **Biography and Memoir**

#### **\*Brown Girl Dreaming**

by Jacqueline Woodson  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25251-8  
Through a series of poems, the author Jacqueline Woodson tells the story of growing up in Ohio, South Carolina, and New York during the turbulent Civil Rights era, and of becoming a writer. (10-14)

#### **The Dumbest Idea Ever!**

by Jimmy Gownley  
(Graphix/Scholastic, P \$11.99) 978-0-545-45347-9  
When chicken pox and pneumonia cost thirteen-year-old Jimmy his top-of-the-class standing and basketball stardom, he finds his comeback in comic book creation. Dramatic graphics by the author. (9-12)

#### **Edward Hopper Paints His World**

by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-8752-9  
Learn about the artistic influences on the work of this American realist painter and about the psychology that shaped his artistic

vision. Gouache watercolor illustrations and pencil sketches. (9-12)

### **Grandfather Gandhi**

by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Evan Turk (Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-2365-7

When Arun is pushed playing soccer, he's filled with anger. Grandfather teaches him to live his life as a light. Mixed-media illustrations. (8-10)

### **Hello, I'm Johnny Cash**

by G. Neri, illustrated by A. G. Ford (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6245-5  
The positive aspects of the singer's rise from poverty to the top of the charts are conveyed in words as lyrical and poetic as those of his songs. Realistic oil paintings. (8-12)



### **\*The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**

by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.50) 978-0-8028-5385-1  
Paul Roget loved making lists of just the right words to express something. Eventually, his lists grew into a book called a thesaurus. Watercolor illustrations combined with vintage images throughout. (8-11)

### **Rock & Roll Highway: The Robbie Robertson Story**

by Sebastian Robertson, illustrated by Adam Gustavson (Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9473-2  
Influenced by his Mohawk heritage and his rock-and-roll heroes, Robbie Robertson

becomes a world famous musician with The Band. Realistic oil paintings. (8-12)

### **Stand There! She Shouted: The Invincible Photographer Julia Margaret Cameron**

by Susan Goldman Rubin, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5753-6  
In the early days of photography, a young woman is derided for her sentimental images but ultimately receives the fame she deserves. Finely detailed, colorful acrylic gouache illustrations. Bibliography, source notes, photographs. (9-13)

### **The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America's Hero**

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Terry Widener (Calkins Creek/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-992-6  
At a time when the nation was looking for heroes, "Joltin' Joe" stepped up to the plate—and made a hit a record-breaking fifty-six times in a row. Lush acrylic paintings. (9-12)

### **Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank**

by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Jamel Akib (Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-658-8  
As a child in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus grieved for the poverty around him and was determined to help. He studied economics and grew up to create the Grameen Bank. Loose, atmospheric pastels. (8-12)

### **Ecology**

### **Aviary Wonders Inc.: Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual**

written and illustrated by Kate Samworth (Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-547-

97899-4

As the real birds are becoming extinct, this futuristic catalog would allow the reader to design, order, and build artificial ones. A cautionary fable with detailed oil illustrations. (9-12)

**\*Plastic Ahoy!: Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch**

by Patricia Newman, photographed by Annie Crawley  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$22.95) 978-1-4677-1283-5

The causes of the vast swaths of plastic floating in the Pacific Ocean, and the dangers they pose, are well explained and photographed. Extensive sources and recommendations for further reading. (8-12)

**Skydiver: Saving the Fastest Bird in the World**

written and illustrated by Celia Godkin  
(Pajama Press, \$19.95) 978-1-927485-61-3  
Follow the efforts of scientists intent upon saving an endangered peregrine falcon as it develops from egg to adult. Muted, soft illustrations. (8-11)

**History**

**\*Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain**

by Russell Freedman  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-547-90378-1  
Chinese immigrants who arrived at the “Ellis Island of the West”—Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay—provide accounts of the difficulties they faced. Photographs, reproductions of immigrants’ poetry, notes, and bibliographies. (9-13)

**\*At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui**

by Christine Liu-Perkins, illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen  
(Charlesbridge, \$19.95) 978-1-58089-370-1  
The discovery of the tomb of a well-preserved noblewoman of the Han Dynasty reveals the era’s customs, daily life, and treasures. Delicate watercolor illustrations; maps and photographs. (9-12)

**The History of Money: From Bartering to Banking**

by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6763-4  
The development of money from pre-historic times to the present is described in a clear and amusingly straightforward way. Humorous watercolors. (9-13)

**Shackleton’s Journey**

written and illustrated by William Grill  
(Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, \$24.00) 978-1-909263-10-9  
Clear writing accompanied by maps, cheerful pencil sketches, and meticulous illustrations describe Ernest Shackleton’s attempt to cross the Antarctic continent. (8-12)

**Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog**

by Ann Bausum  
(National Geographic Children’s Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4263-1486-5  
Period photographs and amazing documents enhance the true story of an exceptional stray dog and his soldier partner who heroically supported American troops in France during World War I. (9-12)



**The White House Is Burning: August 24, 1814**

by Jane Sutcliffe

(Charlesbridge, \$19.95) 978-1-58089-656-6

The infamous day in August, 1814, when the British burned most of Washington, D.C., had profound repercussions. Careful research and annotations with archival illustrations. (10-14)

**Mathematics**

**Fractions in Disguise**

by Edward Einhorn, illustrated by David Clark

(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-57091-773-8

Mr. Factor, who loves fractions, goes on an exciting adventure to gain a prized possession. Humorous ink and watercolor illustrations. (8-11)

**\*Shapes in Math, Science and Nature: Squares, Triangles and Circles**

by Catherine Sheldrick Ross, illustrated by Bill Slavin

(Kids Can Press, \$24.95) 978-1-77138-124-6

Activities with the three basic geometric shapes demonstrate their importance in the real world. Instructions, diagrams, and drawings provided. (10-14)

**Science**

**\*Animalium**

by Jenny Broom, illustrated by Katie Scott  
(Big Picture Press/Candlewick, \$35.00) 978-0-7636-7508-0

This “museum” of the animal kingdom matches incredible colorful illustrations with informative text introducing the tree of life, the theory of evolution, and biodiversity. (9-13)

**The Case of the Vanishing Little Brown Bats: A Scientific Mystery**

by Sandra Markle

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$29.27) 978-1-4677-1463-1

Before it is too late, scientists must find out what is killing little brown bats, which are essential in keeping insects under control. Color photographs. (8-12)

**Cat Champions: Caring for Our Feline Friends**

by Rob Laidlaw

(Pajama Press, \$19.95) 978-1-927485-31-6

Young people find humane ways to care for lost, abandoned, and neglected cats. Color photographs, resources, glossary, and links. (8-12)

**\*Hello from 2030: The Science of the Future and You**

by Jan Paul Schutten, translated from the Dutch by Ilse Craane

(Aladdin/Beyond Words/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$15.99) 978-1-58270-474-6

What will be different in 2030? Possibilities are discussed, based on the technology that we now possess, and issues are considered. Color photographs. (9-13)

**Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands**

written and illustrated by Katherine Roy  
(David Macaulay Studio/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-874-3

All of the necessary conditions—from their anatomy to their environment—that enable sharks to capture their food are described. Striking, yet muted, color illustrations. (8-12)

**\*The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans (Scientists in the**

**Field series)**

by Elizabeth Rusch  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$18.99)  
978-0-544-09999-9

The power created by ocean waves offers a source of clean energy. Join the scientists working in the field to make this happen. Glossary, photographs, notes, and sources. (10-14)

**Our Solar System**

by Seymour Simon  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-233379-7

A well-written photo-essay about our solar system includes dramatic full color photographs and spacecraft images. (9-12)

**\*Park Scientists: Gila Monsters, Geysers, and Grizzly Bears in America's Own Backyard (Scientists in the Field series)**

by Mary Kay Carson, photographed by Tom Uhlman  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$18.99)  
978-0-547-79268-2

Discover ways to study animal life and plant growth in Yellowstone, Sagaro, and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks. Profusely illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams. (10-13)

**Picture This! Animals**

by Margaret Hynes, illustrated by Andy Crisp  
(Kingfisher/Macmillan, \$12.99) 978-0-7534-6887-6

A wide range of fundamental topics about the animal kingdom is covered in a visually appealing and easy-to-read format. Clean, often humorous, illustrations. Helpful introduction, glossary, and index. (8-12)

**Sea Turtle Scientist (Scientists in the Field series)**

by Stephen R. Swinburne  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$18.99)  
978-0-547-36755-2

Scientist Kimberly Stewart leads the fascinating study of the life cycle and behavioral habits of an ancient and endangered species as well as efforts to save it. Vivid photos. (10-13)

**When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses**

by Rebecca L. Johnson  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$29.27) 978-1-4677-2109-7

How do certain creatures fight off predators? Read about the weird and wild defenses they use. Photographs, notes, bibliography. (8-11)

**World****Super Sniffers: Dog Detectives On the Job**

by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent  
(Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, \$17.99)  
978-0-8027-3618-5

Because of their supersensitive sense of smell, dogs are used to detect many different things: disaster victims, human remains, explosives, dangerous allergens, and even cancer. Color photographs. (9-12)

**Take Shelter: At Home around the World**

by Nikki Tate and Dani Tate-Stratton  
(Orca, \$19.95) 978-1-4598-0742-6

An informative presentation of traditional and innovative forms of housing from many cultures. Color photographs, resources, and index. (8-12)

# TWELVE TO FOURTEEN

## FICTION

### Adventure and Mystery



#### **The Cabinet of Curiosities: 36 Tales Brief & Sinister**

by Stefan Bachmann, Katherine Catmull, Claire Legrand, and Emma Trevayne, illustrated by Alexander Jansson (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-233105-2

A cabinet of curiosities with eight drawers—each with a theme—contains mysterious, sinister short stories, curated by four authors. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

#### **Greenglass House**

by Kate Milford, illustrated by Jaime Zollars (Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-544-05270-3

Milo's parents are the proprietors of Greenglass House, an inn frequented by smugglers. Milo reluctantly teams up with Meddy to solve the mysteries that lie within its walls. Black-and-white illustrations (11-13)



#### **\*The Shadow Hero**

by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by Sonny Liew, lettering by Janice Chiang (First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, P \$17.99) 978-1-59643-697-8 In the mid-20th century, San Francisco's Chinatown is in the grip of a vicious tong. Can Hank, an unlikely super hero, defeat it? Dramatic detailed graphic art. (12-15)

#### **Skink: No Surrender**

by Carl Hiaasen

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-375-87051-4

A one-eyed wandering vigilante, presumed dead, joins forces with Richard to search for his missing cousin. (11-14)

#### **Surrounded by Sharks**

by Michael Northrop (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-61545-7 On vacation with his family, Davey wakes up early and goes for a swim, ignoring a "No Swimming" sign, which has dangerous consequences. (11-14)

#### **Threatened**

by Eliot Schrefer (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-55143-4 AIDS orphan Luc is living in debt slavery until he is hired to assist the mysterious Prof as he studies chimpanzees in the Gabon jungle. (11-15)

#### **Uncaged**

by John Sandford and Michele Cook (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-385-75306-7 Shay needs to find her brother, Odin, who has escaped from "Singular," an organization that experiments on animals. (12-14)

#### **Will Poole's Island**

by Tim Weed (Namelos, \$18.95) 978-1-60898-173-1 Will rejects the restrictions of his fellow settlers of Connecticut Colony in 1643. He spends time in the wilderness where he meets an Indian to whom his fate is linked. (12-14)

#### **The Winner's Curse**

by Marie Rutkoski (Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-38467-8 When Kestrel, an aristocratic Valorian, buys a

handsome Herrani slave, she gets more than she bargained for: lies, espionage, deceit, and treachery. (12-15)

### **Coming of Age**

#### **Bird**

by Crystal Chan  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-5089-9

For her entire life, the tragic death of Jewel's brother cast a shadow over her family, until the day a boy named John came to town. (12-15)

#### **Blind**

by Rachel DeWoskin  
(Viking/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-670-78522-3  
When fifteen-year-old Rachel is accidentally blinded, she begins the long journey of healing and appreciating life again. (12-16)

#### **\*Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms**

by Katherine Rundell  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-9061-1  
Twelve-year-old Will's glorious life on a farm in Zimbabwe ends abruptly when she is sent to an all-girls boarding school in England. (12-15)

#### **Five, Six, Seven, Nate!**

by Tim Federle  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-4693-9  
Auditions behind him, middle-schooler Nate starts rehearsals as Alien #7 for the Broadway production of *E.T.*, enduring intimidating child stars and demanding directors. (11-14)

#### **Flying with a Broken Wing**

by Laura Best

(Nimbus Publishing, \$12.95) 978-1-77108-038-5

Living with her bootlegging aunt, visually impaired Cammie struggles for a new life. News of a school in Halifax and a new friend offer possible help. (11-14)

#### **\*Kinda Like Brothers**

by Coe Booth  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-22496-3  
Jarrett's life is jarred when a new baby, and her older brother, show up as foster children to his mother. (11-14)

#### **Maybe One Day**

by Melissa Kantor  
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-227920-0  
When she is cut from her ballet program, Zoe thinks it is the worst thing that could happen. Then her best friend is diagnosed with cancer. (12-15)

#### **\*My Brother's Shadow**

by Tom Avery  
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-38487-2  
When a mysterious feral boy enters her life, eleven-year-old Kaia begins to come to terms with her beloved brother's devastating suicide. (11-13)

#### **Noggin**

by John Corey Whaley  
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-5872-7  
When sixteen-year-old Travis Coates wakes up after five years, his head has been attached to a new, disease-free body. His problems are just beginning. (12-15)

**The Swap**

by Megan Shull

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,  
\$16.99) 978-0-06-231169-6

Popular jock Jack and social pariah Ellie swap bodies and learn more than they expected to about each other. (12-15)

**Swim That Rock**

by John Rocco and Jay Primiano

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6905-8

Fourteen-year-old Jake will do just about anything to save the family diner after his father goes missing in a boat accident. Mysteries and relationships emerge. (11-15)

**There Will Be Bears**

by Ryan Gebhart

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6521-0

Thirteen-year-old Tyson, facing changing friendships and academic challenges, embarks on an elk hunting trip with his grandfather that alters his self-image. (12-14)

**Why We Took the Car**

by Wolfgang Herrndorf, translated from the German by Tim Mohr

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-48180-9

In 2010 Berlin, unassuming, unpopular Mike takes off with a trouble-making Russian classmate, Tschick, in a stolen car. Will their wild adventures change their lives? (11-14)

**Fantasy****Atlantia**

by Ally Condie

(Dutton BFYR/Penguin, \$18.99) 978-0-525-42644-8

Rio lives below, in Atlantia, and yearns to join her sister above. Will she risk everything and

reveal her siren voice in order to escape? (12-15)

**The Castle behind Thorns**

by Merrie Haskell

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,  
\$16.99) 978-0-06-200819-0

Sand and Perrotte, both fourteen-years-olds, can mend the sundered castle, but can Perotte forgive those who imprisoned them there? (11-14)

**A Creature of Moonlight**

by Rebecca Hahn

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-0-544-10935-3

Marni's mother died protecting her. Will she remain safe from the call of "the woods" or choose to reclaim her birthright as princess? (12-15)

**Dorothy Must Die**

by Danielle Paige

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-28067-1

Dorothy has returned to Oz and, with help from her three famous pals, has become a horrible despot. Can another Kansas girl liberate the land? (12-16)

**Egg & Spoon**

by Gregory Maguire

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-7220-1  
Two Russian girls—one poor and one rich—accidentally change places in an adventure involving the Tzar, Baba Yaga, the Firebird, and climate change. (12-15)

**The Finisher**

by David Baldacci

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-65220-9  
When a resident of Wormwood bolts for the dangers of the surrounding Quag, teenager

Vega Jane questions the protected nature of her village. (11-15)

**\*The Graveyard Book, Volumes 1 and 2**  
based on the novel by Neil Gaiman, adapted by P. Craig Russell, illustrated by David Lafuente, Scott Hampton, P. Craig Russell, Kevin Nowlan, and Galen Showman, color by Lovern Kindzierski, lettering by Rick Parker

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99 each) 978-0-06-219481-7; 978-0-06-219483-1

After his family is murdered, a baby crawls into a graveyard where he is raised by ghosts and a vampire who keep him safe.

Atmospherically colored illustrations. (11-14)

### **Hook's Revenge**

by Heidi Schulz, illustrated by John Hendrix (Hyperion/Disney Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-9867-3

Captain of her own pirate ship, the teenage daughter of Captain Hook returns to Neverland to avenge her father's death and confront the fearsome crocodile. Black-and-white spot art. (12-14)

### **The Iron Trial (Magisterium series)**

by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare, illustrated by Scott Fischer (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-52225-0

Call unintentionally passes magic tests that place him in the dark, mysterious Magisterium to train for the first of many trials. Black-and-white drawings. (11-14)

### **The Last Wild**

by Piers Torday, illustrated by Thomas Flintham (Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01554-2

A silent twelve-year-old boy who can only communicate with animals is charged with

saving the remaining animals in a devastated earth. Black-and-white chapter drawings. (11-14)

### **The Mark of the Dragonfly**

by Jaleigh Johnson (Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-37615-0

When orphaned Piper, thirteen, saves Anna during a meteor shower that plagues the land but fuels her town's economy, they must flee in order to survive. (11-14)

### **Pennyroyal Academy**

by M. A. Larson (G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16324-1

Evie joins a group of hopeful princesses who are being trained to combat evil witches. Friendships, dragons, magic, and betrayal abound in this complex adventure. (11-14)

### **Plus One**

by Elizabeth Fama (Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-36007-8

Forbidden to venture out in the daylight, Sol risks everything to help her dying grandfather. She doesn't expect to fall in love with an unlikely ally. (12-15)

### **Reboot**

by Amy Tintera (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) '13 978-0-06-221707-3

In this futuristic tale, Reboots (humans who died of disease but return stronger, faster, and less emotional) are used by HARC to maintain "the peace." (12-15)

### **The Riverman**

by Aaron Starmer (Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan,

\$15.99) 978-0-374-36309-3

In upstate New York, Fiona discovers a portal to a magical world and enlists classmate Alistair to help her explore it and rescue missing children. (12-15)

### **\*Sparkers**

by Eleanor Glewwe

(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-451-46876-5

When fourteen-year-old Marah uncovers a government plot to eliminate a rival class by spreading disease, she races to find a cure. (11-15)

### **The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim**

by E. K. Johnston

(Carolrhoda LAB/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-1066-4

Every dragon slayer needs a bard, and Siobhan expertly assumes the role for Owen, extolling his exploits as he grows from apprentice to master. (11-14)

### **Through the Woods**

by Emily Carroll

(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, P \$14.99) 978-1-4424-6596-1  
Terrifying stories offer illustrations to engross and themes to ponder. Illustrations are ink and graphite on board, digitally (and harrowingly) colored. (11-15)

### **Historical Fiction**

#### **Arcady's Goal**

written and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9844-0

Arcady, twelve, is sent to a Russian orphanage when his parents are imprisoned as enemies of the state. Will his soccer talent

save him? Expressive black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

### **\*Caminar**

by Skila Brown

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6516-6

In this novel in verse, set in Guatemala, young Carlos escapes when an army attacks his village and he quickly grows into a “man.” (10-14)

### **Crazy**

by Linda Vigen Phillips

(Eerdmans BFYR, P \$9.00) 978-0-8028-5437-7

In 1963 a fifteen-year-old finds solace in art while coping with her mother's mental illnesses, and the fear that she will suffer the same fate. (12-15)

### **Danny Blackgoat: Rugged Road to Freedom**

by Tim Tingle

(7th Generation/Orca, P \$9.95) 978-1-939053-05-3

Seventeen-year-old Danny is taken prisoner during the Civil War. He escapes, but faces many dangerous obstacles trying to rescue his family from Fort Sumner. (12-15)

### **Gaijin: American Prisoner of War**

written and illustrated by Matt Faulkner  
(Hyperion/Disney Books, \$19.99) 978-142313735-1

Cinematic illustrations reveal a half-Japanese boy's struggles with discrimination in an internment camp following the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Notes and sources. (11-14)

### **A Less Than Perfect Peace**

by Jacqueline Levering Sullivan

(Eerdmans BFYR, P \$8.50) 978-0-8028-5431-5

It's 1950, and fourteen-year-old Annie Howard just wants to help her depressed,

disabled father as well as her new friends, Dutch refugees. (12-14)

### **\*The Madman of Piney Woods**

by Christopher Paul Curtis  
(Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-15664-6  
In 1901 Benji, an African Canadian, and Red, an Irish Canadian, both thirteen, meet and uncover the identity of the madman of Piney Woods. (11-14)

### **A Medal for Leroy**

by Michael Morpurgo  
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-03980-4  
When Michael reads the letter he finds taped to the back of his father's photograph, everything he knows about who he is changes. (11-14)

### **Mending Horses**

by M. P. Barker  
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2948-6  
In 1839, freed from indentured servitude only to be falsely accused of theft and murder, sixteen-year-old Danny is almost lynched by a small town Connecticut mob. (12-14)

### **Nine Open Arms**

by Benny Lindelauf, translated from the Dutch by John Nieuwenhuizen, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova  
(Enchanted Lion Books, P \$16.95) 978-1-59270-146-9  
Life in an abandoned house at the edge of the world is equal parts puzzle, tragic romance, family history, and coming of age.  
Translator's note, glossary, character list, map, spot art for section openers. (11-14)

### **The Paper Cowboy**

by Kristin Levine  
(Putnam Juvenile/Penguin,) 978-0-399-

16328-9

In 1953 twelve-year-old Tommy struggles with an unstable, abusive mother and suspicions that someone he knows is a communist. Can he do anything about either problem? (11-14)

### **Rory's Promise**

by Michaela MacColl and Rosemary Nichols  
(Calkins Creek/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-653-0  
Rory promised her little sister, Violet, that they would never be parted. When Violet is placed on a train headed west for adoption, can Rory keep her promise? (11-13)

### **Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal**

by Margarita Engle  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, P \$17.99) 978-0-544-10941-4  
Three workers on the Panama Canal tell of racism and horrific working conditions while animals and trees vocalize about their environment. Free verse. (11-15)



### **\*Stars of the Savanna**

by Melanie R. Martel  
(WPR: Latino Insights, \$16) 978-1-889379-52-4  
During a drought, Kiko, a handicapped Quechua, is put out by his impoverished family. His travels with a Spanish girl reveal the Peru of the late 17th century. (12-14)  
Mature Content

### **\*The True Adventures of Nicolo Zen**

by Nicholas Christopher  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86738-5  
Nicolo Zen, survivor of a malaria epidemic in eighteenth century Venice, relies on his talent



with an enchanted clarinet to make his way in the world. (12-15)

### **\*West of the Moon**

by Margi Preus

(Amulet Books/Abrams , \$16.95) 978-1-4197-0896-1

Sold to an abusive old goatherd, Astri, thirteen, takes drastic actions to save herself, rescue her little sister, and escape to America. Silhouette illustrations. Photos, glossary, back matter, bibliography. (11-14)

### **The Winter Horses**

by Philip Kerr

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-75543-6

As Kalinka, orphaned by the Nazis, tries to escape German troops advancing across the Ukraine, she gets help in unexpected ways. (12-14)

## **Science Fiction**

### **Dangerous**

by Shannon Hale

(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-1-59990-168-8

When Maisie Danger Brown wins a spot at a summer camp for astronauts, her life is turned upside down by aliens, romance, and saving the world. (12-15)

### **\*The Here and Now**

by Ann Brashares

(Delacorte Press/Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-385-73680-0

Penna, seventeen, has traveled back from a different time. She falls in love but must deal with the heartbreaking rules of her secret community. (12-15)

### **The Inventor's Secret**

by Andrea Cremer

(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$18.99) 978-0-399-15962-6

When the British win the Revolutionary War, sixteen-year-old Charlotte and her brother use magic and inventive machinery as they lead a rebel group to freedom. (12-15)

### **On a Clear Day**

by Walter Dean Myers

(Crown BFYR/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-38753-8

In a dystopian society, sixteen-year-old Dahlia joins a group in which members contribute to the fight against powerful organizations that control the world's resources. (12-15)

### **Silver**

by Chris Wooding

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-60392-8  
Mortingham Boarding Academy is difficult enough for Paul and his classmates, but when strange, aggressive silver creatures begin to take over, survival becomes the final exam. (12-15)

## **Today**

### **The Art of Secrets**

by James Klise

(Algonquin Young Readers/Workman, \$17.95) 978-1-61620-195-1

When arson destroys the apartment of high school sophomore Saba Khan, an auction to aid her family launches a mystery involving loyalty, prejudice, and betrayal. (11-14)

### **The Categorical Universe of Candice Phee**

by Barry Jonsberg

(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-3351-5  
Twelve-year-old Candice, who refuses to be

labeled as autistic, takes extreme measures to keep her family from falling apart. (12-14)

### **Jasmine and Maddie**

by Christine Pakkala

(Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-739-8

Jasmine has lost her father and her home. Maddie seems to have everything. Despite the tension between them, can they become friends? (11-13)

### **Like No Other**

by Una LaMarche

(Razorbill/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-1-59514-674-8

A sixteen-year-old Hasidic girl examines her life in her Orthodox family and community after meeting and becoming romantically involved with a West Indian neighbor. (11-14)

### **Moon at Nine**

by Deborah Ellis

(Pajama Press, \$19.95) 978-1-927485-57-6

In Tehran, teenage girls Farrin and Sadina become best friends, then fall in love. If they are caught disaster will surely follow. (12-15)

### **Searching for Sky**

by Jillian Cantor

(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-1-61963-351-3

Two teenagers who survive fourteen years on a small isolated Pacific island are rescued and then must cope with "civilized" California. (12-14)

### **\*Two Girls Staring at the Ceiling**

by Lucy Frank

(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-307-97974-2

Chess and Shannon are two very different

girls who bond while hospitalized with Crohn's disease. Written in verse. (12-15)

### **What Flowers Remember**

by Shannon Wiersbitzky

(Namelos, \$18.95) 978-1-60898-166-3

Delia loves gardening with Old Red Clancy. When he begins to lose his memory, can she help him by writing down his stories? (11-13)

## **POETRY**

### **\*Caminar**

by Skila Brown

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6516-6

In this novel in verse, set in Guatemala, young Carlos escapes when an army attacks his village and he quickly grows into a "man." (10-14)



### **\*How I Discovered Poetry**

by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Hadley Hooper

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3304-6

In fifty sonnets the author recalls the events in her 1950s childhood that led her to discover her love for poetry. Sketches and family photographs. (12-15)



### **Lasso the Wind: Aurélia's Verses and Other Poems**

by George Elliott Clarke, illustrated by Susan Tooke

(Nimbus Publishing, \$24.95) 978-1-77108-050-7

Bold mixed-media illustrations complement the rich language of poems on subjects as diverse as picnicking dragons and the rigors of poverty. (11-14)

**Voices from the March on Washington**

by J. Patrick Lewis and George Ella Lyon  
(Wordsong/Highlights, \$15.95) 978-1-62091-785-5

Six fictional marchers, white and black, voice their feelings, worries, and hopes in cycles of verse. Intense, dramatic, inspirational, and perfect for readers' theater. (11-15)

**INFORMATION BOOKS**

**Biography and Memoir**

**Colonel Theodore Roosevelt**

by David A. Adler  
(Holiday House, \$18.95) 978-0-8234-2950-9  
The many facets of the man who was president, conservationist, Rough Rider, and more are described with archival photographs and cartoons. Notes, bibliography, time line. (11-14)

**\*Frida & Diego: Art, Love, Life**

by Catherine Reef  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$18.99) 978-0-547-82184-9  
Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, two of Mexico's greatest artists, loved one another but had a complicated relationship. Illustrated with photographs and reproductions of their work. (11-14)

**\*Ida M. Tarbell: The Woman Who Challenged Big Business—and Won!**

by Emily Arnold McCully  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$18.99) 978-0-547-29092-8  
Appalled by increasing disparities in wealth, investigative reporter Ida Tarbell succeeded in exposing the ruthless practices behind John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company, ushering in the era of muckraking journalism and progressive reform. (13-15)

**\*Leaving China: An Artist Paints His World War II Childhood**

written and illustrated by James McMullan  
(Algonquin Young Readers/Workman Pub., \$19.95) 978-1-61620-255-2  
In vignettes, an illustrator of children's books and theater posters recounts his coming-of-age in Shanghai, Canada, and India. Beautiful watercolor illustrations. (11-14)

**Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina**

by Michaela De Prince, with Elaine De Prince  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-75511-5  
A magazine cover of a ballerina ignites a passion in war-orphaned Michaela. She overcomes racial barriers and concepts of conventional beauty to become a rising star in ballet. (11-13)

**History**

**\*Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights That Changed America**

by Russell Freedman  
(Holiday House, \$20.00) 978-0-8234-2921-9  
A vivid account and graphic archival photographs celebrate the courage of Americans who fought fifty years ago for their right to vote. (11-14)

**\*Bombs over Bikini: The World's First Nuclear Disaster**

by Connie Goldsmith  
(Twenty-First Century/Lerner, \$25.95) 978-1-4677-1612-3  
Between 1946 and 1958, the United States tested sixty-seven nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands, with devastating consequences for the region's inhabitants. Archival photographs. (12-15)

**Boundaries: How the Mason-Dixon Line Settled a Family Feud & Divided a Nation**

by Sally M. Walker

(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-0-7636-5612-6

Two scientists, using meticulous astronomical measurements, establish a line between colonies and, later, between slave states and free states. Archival maps, photographs, and diagrams. (12-16)

**Bugged: How Insects Changed History**

by Sarah Albee, illustrated by Robert Leighton

(Walker BFYR/Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$23.89; P \$17.99) 978-0-8027-3423-5; 978-0-8027-3422-8 (pbk)

The fascinating, and gross, story of the diseases caused by insects and the impact they had on history, told with humor and attitude. Humorous illustrations. Sources, archival images. (11-15)

**Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi**

by Susan Goldman Rubin

(Holiday House, \$18.95) 978-0-8234-2920-2

Civil Rights groups recruit volunteers to do dangerous work registering African Americans to vote, and three are murdered. Illustrated with photographs. (11-15)

**\*Harlem Hellfighters**

by J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by Gary Kelley

(Creative Editions/Creative Company/Chronicle, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-246-2

Poetic text and distinctive illustrations showcase both the bravery and jazz musicianship of an African American regiment during World War I. Bibliography and artist's notes. (11-15)

**\*Hidden Like Anne Frank: Fourteen True Stories of Survival**

by Marcel Prins and Peter Henk Steenhuis, translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-54362-0

During World War II in the Netherlands, many Jewish children were hidden with strangers. First-person descriptions capture their fears, hardships, and emotional turmoil. Glossary, notes, maps. (12-15)

**\*The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights**

by Steve Sheinkin

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$19.99) 978-1-59643-796-8

After a dangerous explosion at a World War II naval yard, black sailors, fearful for their lives, refused to load ammunition and were charged with mutiny. Based on interviews. Photographs, notes, bibliography. (11-14)

**\*Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education**

by Norman H. Finkelstein

(Calkins Creek/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-841-7

To improve the under-resourced education of black children in the South in the early 1900s, Julius Rosenwald partnered with communities and helped build nearly 5,000 schools. Archival photographs. (12-15)

**Searching for Sarah Rector: The Richest Black Girl in America**

by Tonya Bolden

(Abrams BFYR, \$21.95) 978-1-4197-0846-6

After oil is discovered on her government issued land allotment, eleven-year-old Sarah

Rector suddenly disappears. Photographs, maps, and primary sources. (11-14)

## **Language**



### **Every Body's Talking: What We Say Without Words**

by Dinna M. Jackson, with Carol Kinsey Goman, PhD  
(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$22.95)  
978-1-4677-0858-6

How we look, act, and move when we say something reveals a lot about us—and others—as we learn to read and use body language. Lively illustrations. (12-17)

## **Religion**

### **Percy Jackson's Greek Gods**

by Rick Riordan, illustrated by John Rocco  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$24.99) 978-1-4231-8364-8  
Meet the Olympians—often wily and violent, sometimes generous, and always fascinating—as they punish and reward mortals, battle hideous monsters, and grapple for power. Dramatic, richly textured illustrations. (11-14)

## **Science**

### **Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cats (Scientists in the Field series)**

by Sy Montgomery, photographed by Nic Bishop  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$18.99) 978-0-547-81549-7

Dr. Laurie Marker leads a team in Namibia to rescue these graceful animals from extinction, vivified by stunning photographs. Well-referenced with map and additional material. (11-13)

### **Curiosity's Mission on Mars: Exploring the Red Planet**

by Ron Miller  
(Twenty-First Century/Lerner, \$24.95) 978-1-4677-1087-9

The space rover Curiosity was sent to Mars loaded with scientific equipment. It sends back information, helping us to better understand the conditions on the Red Planet. Bibliography, glossary, notes, photographs. (11-14)

### **Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat**

by Gail Jarrow  
(Calkins Creek/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-732-8

The fascinating history of how doctors discovered the cause of pellagra, a horrible disease caused by malnutrition. Archival photos and illustrations. (11-14)

### **Remaking the John: The Invention and Reinvention of the Toilet**

by Francesca Davis DiPiazza  
(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$34.60)  
978-1-4677-2645-0

From ancient times to the present challenges of poor sanitation and of space travel, this book chronicles the history of the toilet. Photographs, source notes, and other backmatter. (11-14)

### **The Science of Soccer: A Bouncing Ball and a Banana Kick**

by John Taylor  
(University of New Mexico Press, \$34.95)  
978-0-8263-5464-8

The physics, math, biomechanics, and biochemistry of soccer are explained with illustrations, diagrams, and photographs.

Includes glossary, experiments, bibliography, and index. (12-15)

## **World**

### **Sniffer Dogs: How Dogs (and Their Noses) Save the World**

by Nancy F. Castaldo, photos  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99) 978-0-544-08893-1

Because of their extraordinary sense of smell, dogs can be trained to provide many important services, from “search and rescue” to finding dangerous contraband and allergens. Color photographs and extensive back matter. (11-13)

## **FOURTEEN AND OLDER FICTION**

### **Adventure and Mystery**

#### **Buzz Kill**

by Beth Fantaskey  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-547-39310-0

When her father is suspected of murdering her high school football coach, Millie uses her journalistic skills to solve the crime. (13-17)

#### **Circle of Stones**

by Catherine Fisher  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3819-5

Three overlapping stories, one mythical, one historical, and one contemporary, tell the power of the English city of Bath. (13-17)

#### **The Killing Woods**

by Lucy Christopher

(Chicken House/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-46100-9

Damon, the victim’s boyfriend, and Emily, whose father is accused of murder, alternately narrate their quest to find out what happened during the adventurous night games the teenagers play. (14-18)

#### **Nearly Gone**

by Elle Cosimano  
(Kathy Dawson Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3926-0

Nearly Boswell, model student but social nobody, discovers cryptic clues that seem to lead to who is murdering her classmates. Is she smart and brave enough to stop the killing? (14-18)

#### **Vango: Between Sky and Earth**

by Timothée de Fombelle, translated from the French by Sarah Ardizzone  
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-7196-9  
Moments before taking his priestly vows, Vango becomes a target of both the police and an assassin. His search for his true identity takes him on a wild chase across post-World War I Europe. (13-16)

### **Anthologies**

#### **\*A Matter of Souls**

by Denise Lewis Patrick  
(Carolrhoda LAB/Lerner, \$16.95) 978-0-7613-9280-4

The experiences of African Americans, from the brutality of the slave trade to the struggle for voting rights, are depicted in eight short stories. (14-18)



#### **\*Monstrous Affections: An Anthology of Beastly Tales**

edited by Kelly Link and Gavin J. Grant

(Candlewick Press, \$22.99) 978-0-7636-6473-2  
Fifteen stories focusing on the interactions of monsters and humans lead readers to ask who is really the monster. (14-17)

### **One Death, Nine Stories**

edited by Marc Aronson and Charles R. Smith Jr.

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5285-2  
Nine authors give voice to the friends and family—and even to some people who never knew him—who struggle to come to terms with nineteen-year-old Kevin's death. (15-17)

### **Coming of Age**



#### **100 Sideways Miles**

by Andrew Smith

(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-4495-9

Finn copes with epilepsy, his first kiss, and experiences of a high school student growing into the world. But is he real, or a character from his father's cult classic book? (14-18)

Mature Content

### **Althea & Oliver**

by Cristina Moracho

(Viking/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-670-78539-1

High school juniors Althea and Oliver have been best friends since they were six, but Althea's feelings for Oliver are changing into something more. Will their friendship survive? (14-17)



#### **The Chance You Won't Return**

by Annie Cardi

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6292-9

When Alex's mom, suffering from mental illness, comes to believe herself to be Amelia Earhart, teenager Alex attempts to hold

herself and her family together. (14-17)

Mature Content

### **Death Coming up the Hill**

by Chris Crowe

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)

978-0-544-30215-0

In 1968 seventeen-year-old Ashe records his thoughts, in haiku, about the escalating Vietnam War, the increasing tensions between his parents, and his first girlfriend. (14-17)

### **Exile**

by Kevin Emerson

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,

\$17.99) 978-0-06-213395-3

A high school senior who is managing a rock band learns about the seamy side of the music industry and the many dimensions of love. (14-17)

### **Fan Art**

by Sarah Tregay

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,

\$17.99) 978-0-06-224315-7

Jamie's senior year is filled with decisions, including whether he will come out of the closet and confess his love for his best friend, Mason. (14-17)

### **\*Girls Like Us**

by Gail Giles

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6267-7

Quincy and Biddy, abused graduates of a high school special ed program, bond and learn to appreciate one another's strengths. (14-18)

### **Grandmaster**

by David Klass

(Frances Foster Books/Farrar Straus Giroux

BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-32771-2

When chess teammates invite a novice player

to a father-son weekend tournament, Daniel discovers his father's dark secret and much more. (13-16)

### **The Half Life of Molly Pierce**

by Katrina Leno

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-223117-8

When seventeen-year-old Molly, suffering from identity disorder, confronts her two personalities, she unravels the source of her issues. (14-17)



### **\*I'll Give You the Sun**

by Jandy Nelson

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3496-8

When tragedy drives thirteen-year-old Jude and her twin apart, they need art and some magic to find their way back to each other. (14-17) Mature Content

### **\*The Impossible Knife of Memory**

by Laurie Halse Anderson

(Viking/Penguin, \$18.99) 978-0-670-01209-1  
Witty and rebellious teenager Hayley must care for her PTSD-ravaged father while struggling with school and a volatile relationship. Will she grow enough to cope with her challenges? (14-17)



### **The Museum of Intangible Things**

by Wendy Wunder

(Razorbill/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-1-59514-514-7

When seventeen-year-old Hannah and her best friend, Zoe, who has bipolar disorder, take a road trip, Zoe enables Hannah to experience life and friendship. (14-17)  
Mature Content

### **Panic**

by Lauren Oliver

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-201455-9

Heather and her high school friends enter a high-stakes game, each with the hope for something better. (13-17)



### **Paper Airplanes**

by Dawn O'Porter

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.95) 978-1-4197-1184-8

Two fifteen-year-old girls from Guernsey have been classmates but never friends until circumstances draw them together. Can their new friendship survive mean girls, betrayal, and family dysfunction? (13-16) Mature Content



### **Pointe**

by Brandy Colbert

(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16034-9

Theodora, a high school junior, loves ballet, but battles anorexia and demons when her best friend, kidnapped four years earlier, comes home. (14-18) Mature Content



### **Road Rash**

by Mark Huntley Parsons

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-75342-5

Being invited to join a band for a summer tour is good news for Zach until the reality of life on the road hits home. (14-18) Mature Content

### **\*The Scar Boys**

by Len Vlahos

(Egmont USA, \$17.99) 978-1-60684-439-7

Left physically and emotionally scarred after a



horrible incident, lonely and bullied Harry finds redemption playing in a punk rock band. (13-17)

### **Side Effects May Vary**

by Julie Murphy

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-224535-9

High schooler Alice, fighting leukemia, pulls friend Harvey into her bucket list, seeking revenge. What happens when Alice goes into remission and sees that living is an option? (14-17)



### **Storm**

by Donna Jo Napoli

(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-0302-3

When a catastrophic flood wipes away the world, sixteen-year-old Sebah stows away on Noah's ark with subsequent adventures and struggles. (14-17) Mature Content

### **Straight Punch**

by Monique Polak

(Orca, P \$12.95) '14 978-1-4598-0391-6

When Tessa's graffiti offenses send her to an alternative high school for troubled teens, the students, the faculty, and the boxing program help build her confidence. (13-17)



### **The Things You Kiss Goodbye**

by Leslie Connor

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-089091-9

When sixteen-year-old Bettina's boyfriend becomes physically abusive, she must evaluate her own self-worth. (14-18) Mature Content

### **The Tyrant's Daughter**

by J. C. Carleson

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-449-80997-6

Living in exile with her mother and brother, fifteen-year-old Laila is confronted with ugly truths about her father, the recently assassinated leader of a Middle Eastern country. (13-17)



### **The Undertaking of Lily Chen**

written and illustrated by Danica

Novgorodoff

(First Second/Roaring Brook

Press/Macmillan, P \$29.99) 978-1-59643-586-5

Deshi Li, who feels responsible for his brother's death, must find a female corpse to accompany him into the next life. A graphic novel set in contemporary China. Vibrant pen-and-watercolor art. (14-18) Mature Content

### **We Are the Goldens**

by Dana Reinhardt

(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-74257-3

Through the whirl of studies, sports, and parties, Nell discovers her adored older sister's secret. Should she tell? (14-18)

### **We Were Liars**

by E. Lockhart

(Delacorte Press/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-74126-2

What really happened on the Sinclair's private island when fifteen-year-old Cadence suffered a terrible accident? Psychologically, emotionally, and physically damaged, Cadence struggles to uncover the truth her brain has blocked. (13-17)



### **What We Hide**

by Marthe Jocelyn

(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House,

\$16.99) 978-0-385-73847-7

American teen Jenny begins a semester abroad at a British boarding school by telling an untruth to her new classmates. She is not the only one with a secret. (14-17) Mature Content

## **Fantasy**

### **Afterworlds**

by Scott Westerfeld

(Simon Pulse/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$19.99) 978-1-4814-2234-5

Eighteen-year-old Darcy Patel writes a paranormal romance, and her character Lizzie Scofield lives the tale. Their stories are told in alternating chapters. (13-17)

### **(Don't You) Forget about Me**

by Kate Karyus Quinn

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-213596-4

In a town where sickness is banished and long life guaranteed, teenagers pay a horrible price. (14-18)

### **The Island of Excess Love**

by Francesca Lia Block

(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9631-6

Having survived the near destruction of the world, Pen, her brother, her lover, and her two dearest friends leave their home on a perilous journey. (13-16)

### **The Kiss of Deception (The Remnant Chronicles)**

by Mary E. Pearson

(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9923-2

Seventeen-year-old Lia refuses an arranged marriage and begins a quest to discover her destiny and that of her kingdom. (14-16)

### **Mortal Danger**

by Ann Aguirre

(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-250-02464-0

When high school senior, Edie, is bullied by cruel classmates, she contemplates suicide but then decides against it by making a pact with a magical boy. (14-17)



### **\*The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender**

by Leslye Walton

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-6566-1

Born with a pair of speckled wings, Ava journeys through her family's history to discover who she is and where she came from. (14-18) Mature Content

## **Historical Fiction**

### **Always Emily**

by Michaela MacColl

(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1174-2

The famed Brontë authors are woven into a heather-covered moor mystery, which includes characters similar to ones in the stories they wrote. Who will save the day? (13-16)

### **Graffiti Knight**

by Karen Bass

(Pajama Press, P \$14.95) 978-1-927485-53-8

In post World War II Soviet-controlled East Germany, a teenager, frustrated with widespread hunger and government oppression, finds power in small acts of sabotage against the police and their Soviet masters. Is it worth the risk? (13-17)

### **Hunt for the Bamboo Rat**

by Graham Salisbury

(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House,

\$16.99) 978-0-375-84266-5

Zenji Watanabe, seventeen, is sent from Hawaii to the Philippines to spy on the Japanese, but gets captured by them when Manila is invaded in World War II. (13-17)



**\*Like Water on Stone**

by Dana Walrath

(Delacorte Press/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-74397-6

Three siblings endure great loss and hardship but survive the Armenian genocide. Inspired by a true story. (14-16) Mature Content

**A Mad, Wicked Folly**

by Sharon Biggs Waller

(Viking/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-670-01468-2

In 1909 London, seventeen-year-old Vicky struggles against the social constraints that limit women's behavior as she pursues her dream of studying at the Royal College of Art. (14-17)



**People of the Plague (Horrors of History series)**

by T. Neill Anderson

(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-518-7

Although this is a novel, it gives a clear picture of the killer flu that decimated Philadelphia in 1918. Mature content depicting illness and death. (14-16)

**Soldier Doll**

by Jennifer Gold

(Second Story Press, P \$11.95) 978-1-927583-29-6

As her father is about to ship out to Afghanistan, Elizabeth is determined to discover whether the antique soldier doll she found is the same one described in a famous poem. (13-16)

**Science Fiction**

**Ashes to Ashes**

by Melissa Walker

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,

\$17.99) 978-0-06-207734-9

When a high school sophomore picks up her cell phone while driving, it results in a tragic accident that catapults her to the Prism, a space beyond Earth where good and evil persist. (13-16)

**Elusion**

by Claudia Gabel and Cheryl Klam

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins,

\$17.99) 978-0-06-212241-4

Regan's father dies just before his amazing virtual reality technology goes public. But is the technology actually safe, and is her father's death connected to its release? (13-16)



**\*Grasshopper Jungle**

by Andrew Smith

(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin, \$18.99)

978-0-525-42603-5

Sexually conflicted high schooler Austin narrates this fantastic tale about 412-E, a substance that breeds "unstoppable soldiers" in Ealing, Iowa. Is the apocalypse near? (15-18) Mature Content

**The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf**

by Ambelin Kwaymullina

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-6988-1

The future of her tribe is threatened when Ashala, a leader of youngsters who have supernatural abilities, is captured by the totalitarian government. (14-17)

**Minders**

by Michele Jaffe

(Razorbill/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-1-59514-658-8

Sadie is thrilled to be selected for a Mind Corps Fellowship and enter into a troubled teenage boy's mind. But can she really remain simply an objective observer of his life? (13-16)

### **\*Salvage**

by Alexandra Duncan  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-222014-1

Cast out of her male-dominated interplanetary home by her misogynist father, Ava, a bright but illiterate teenager, builds a life on what remains of Earth. (14-18)

### **Sekret**

by Lindsay Smith  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-59643-892-7

In 1963 Communist Russia, seventeen-year-old Yulia is captured by the KGB and forced to use her psychic powers to reveal space secrets. (14-17)

### **A Thousand Pieces of You**

by Claudia Gray  
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-227896-8

Are there alternate universes where we exist as a different (but similar) person? In pursuing her father's alleged killer, Marguerite finds herself in a futuristic London and then in Tsarist Russia. (13-15)

### **Whisper**

by Chris Struyk-Bonn  
(Orca, P \$12.95) 9787-1-4598-0475-3  
In a society that exiles those with physical and mental imperfections, fifteen-year-old Whisper, who has a cleft palate, redefines family and self-worth. (13-17)

## **Today**

### **Beetle Boy**

by Margaret Willey  
(Carolrhoda LAB/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-2639-9

Eighteen-year-old Charlie is haunted by his troubled past as "the world's youngest published author." What will happen if his girlfriend gets him to reveal his secrets? (15-18)

### **Belzhar**

by Meg Wolitzer  
(Dutton BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-525-42305-8

After the loss of her boyfriend, Jam is sent to a boarding school for emotionally fragile teens, where she takes a mysterious English class with other trauma survivors. (13-17)

### **Bombay Blues**

by Tanuja Desai Hidier  
(Push/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-38478-0  
Dimple Lala, nineteen, still in the throes of identity confusion, travels to Bombay hoping to find herself and renew the spark with her boyfriend. (14-17)



### **How It Went Down**

by Kekla Magoon  
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9869-3  
When an African American teen is shot and killed by a white man in broad daylight, those who witnessed or were affected by the crime tell different stories. (13-17) Mature Content



### **\*I Love I Hate I Miss My Sister**

by Amélie Sarn, translated from the French by Y. Maudet  
(Delacorte Press/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-74376-1

Two contemporary French-Algerian teenage sisters disagree with one other as they struggle with strictures concerning the wearing of head scarves by Muslim women, with tragic results. (14-16) Mature Content



### **Knockout Games**

by G. Neri

(Carolrhoda LAB/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-3269-7

When sixteen-year-old Erica moves to a new school, she experiences racial and romantic tensions, forcing her to examine her own values. (14-16) Mature Content

### **Love and Other Foreign Words**

by Erin McCahan

(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-4051-8

Fifteen-year-old Josie is fluent in high school, friends, boyfriends, and beautiful girls. But when her sister gets engaged, Josie realizes there is one language she just cannot seem to understand: Love. (13-15)

### **On the Road to Find Out**

by Rachel Toor

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-30014-2

Losing focus after her rejection from Yale, valedictorian Alice Davis reinvents herself, becoming a successful runner and developing empathy for her parents and friends. (13-17)

### **Pieces of Me**

by Amber Kizer

(Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-74116-3

Teenagers tied together by organ donation help each other navigate life, death, and the gift of a second chance. (13-16)

### **\*Say What You Will**

by Cammie McGovern

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-227110-5

When Matthew, who has OCD, becomes a paid companion to Amy, a high school classmate with cerebral palsy, their lives become entwined in unexpected ways. (13-17)



### **Schizo**

by Nic Sheff

(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16437-8

Sixteen-year-old Miles, suffering from mental illness, must deal with the disease's impact on his family and his own future. (14-18) Mature Content

### **Something Real**

by Heather Demetrios

(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9794-8

Being a reality TV star makes seventeen-year-old Bonnie miserable. Will it ever be possible for her to have the normal life she desperately longs for? (13-17)

### **Tease**

by Amanda Maciel

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-230530-5

When sixteen-year-old Emma commits suicide, high school juniors Sara and her friend Brielle are forced to confront their role in her death. (14-18)

### **A Time to Dance**

by Padma Venkatraman

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25710-0

In India, a talented girl, Vida, lives to dance.

After she loses her lower right leg in an accident, she refuses to give up dancing. Written in free verse. (13-16)

### **The Vigilante Poets of Selwyn Academy**

by Kate Hattemer

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-75378-4

When a reality TV show spends the year filming in a Minnesota arts high school, Ethan and his friends secretly distribute poetry protesting the phoniness of the show. (13-16)



### **\*When Mr. Dog Bites**

by Brian Conaghan

(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-1-61963-346-9

When Dylan, who is struggling with Tourette Syndrome, believes he is terminally ill, he creates a remarkable bucket list. (13-17) Mature Content

## **POETRY**



### **\*Like Water on Stone**

by Dana Walrath

(Delacorte Press/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-74397-6

Three siblings endure great loss and hardship but survive the Armenian genocide. Inspired by a true story. (14-16) Mature Content



### **Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty**

by Christine Heppermann

(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-228957-5

Fifty poems with fairy-tale allusions offer

heartbreak, humor, challenge, and empowerment for girls and perhaps also insight for boys. Black-and-white photos. (13-16) Mature Content

## **INFORMATION BOOKS**

### **Biography and Memoir**



### **Andre the Giant: Life and Legend**

written and illustrated by Box Brown

(First Second/Roaring Brook

Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-851-4

This candid and well-researched account of a larger-than-life wrestler—both in size and accomplishments—creates a vivid portrait of the man and sport. Graphic format, illustrated in black and white. (15-17) Mature Content

### **Because I Am a Girl I Can Change the World**

by Rosemary McCarney, with Jen Albaugh and Plan International

(Second Story Press, P \$16.95) 978-1-927583-44-9

True stories of individual girls from developing nations around the world call for a change in how girls are treated and viewed. Lively color photographs. (13-16)



### **I Remember Beirut**

written and illustrated by Zeina Abirached, translated from the French by Edward Gauvin

(Graphic Universe/Lerner, \$29.27; P \$9.95)

978-1-4677-3822-4; 978-1-4677-458-4

The author recalls what her life was like growing up in the 1980s during the Lebanese

Civil War. Stark black-and-white graphic illustrations. (13-17)

### **Laughing at My Nightmare**

by Shane Burcaw

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-1-62672-007-7

How the author copes with the threatening and debilitating form of muscular dystrophy (SMA) is painful, poignant, humorous, and finally hopeful and uplifting. (13-16)



### **This Star Won't Go Out: The Life and Words of Esther Grace Earl**

by Esther Earl, with Lori and Wayne Earl

(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin, \$19.99)

978-0-525-42636-3

Twelve-year-old Esther writes in her journals about her life with thyroid cancer. Her brave spirit helps not only herself but the rest of her family and friends as well. (13-17) Mature Content

### **\*Thomas Paine, Crusader for Liberty: How One Man's Ideas Helped Form a New Nation**

by Albert Marrin

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-375-86674-6

Thomas Paine's turbulent life and passionate writings in support of liberty inspired changes in the American colonies, England, and France. Archival images, notes, index, and further reading. (13-16)

## **History**

### **\*The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia**

by Candace Fleming

(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House,

\$18.99) 978-0-375-86782-8

As the Russian Empire floundered in the face

of intense social unrest and the toll of World War I, Tsar Nicholas II did nothing, with disastrous results for his family and his country. (13-16)

### **\*The Freedom Summer Murders**

by Don Mitchell

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-0-545-47725-3

This meticulously researched account explores the lives of the three young men whose brutal murders were a pivotal event in the civil rights movement. Archival photographs. (14-18)

### **Strike!: The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights**

by Larry Dane Brimner

(Calkins Creek/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-997-1

This account of the California grape strike led by Mexican American Cesar Chavez and Filipino Larry Itliong also explores the rise and fall of the United Farm Workers of America. (12-16)

### **A Volcano beneath the Snow: John Brown's War against Slavery**

by Albert Marrin

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$19.99)

978-0-307-98152-3

Passionate abolitionist John Brown, whose seizure of the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in 1859 played a crucial role in bringing about the Civil War, is a hero to many. But is "righteous violence" ever really justified? Archival illustrations and photographs. (13-17)

## **Law and Justice**

### **Guilty?: Crime, Punishment, and the Changing Face of Justice**

by Teri Kanefield



(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-544-14896-3

This is a fascinating exploration of how civil and criminal court decisions affect laws and what our society considers a crime. Cases include disputes on segregation, legal representation, and enemy combatants. (13-17)

## **World**

### **\*Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out**

written and photographed by Susan Kuklin  
(Candlewick Press, \$22.99) 978-0-7636-5611-9  
Six transgender teens speak of the social and familial problems they face and their deep need to be who they are. Photographs show changes in how these teens present to the world. (13-18)

### **\*Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines**

by Paul Fleischman  
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-7102-0  
Thoughtful essays about the interconnectivity of events, countries, and politics as related to the environment address many critical issues. Extensive resources for further research. Special section on how to weigh information. (13-18)

### **Smart Spending: The Teens' Guide to Cash, Credit, and Life's Costs**

by Kara McGuire  
(Compass Point/Capstone, \$24.99) 978-0-7565-4923-7

Clear explanations of economic principles combine with commonsense strategies to help young adults manage their finances. Charts, color photographs, and extensive back matter. (13-17)

### **Transgender Lives: Complex Stories, Complex Voices**

by Kirstin Cronn-Mills  
(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$25.95)  
978-0-7613-9022-0  
Young people tell their stories of navigating the complicated world of the gender spectrum. Photographs. (13-17)



### **Up for Sale: Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

by Alison Marie Behnke  
(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$25.95)  
978-1-4677-1611-6  
This revealing and devastating analysis of many forms of current human trafficking throughout the world provides important information about a profound human rights violation. First-hand accounts, extensive documentation and photographs. (13-17)  
Mature Content



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# The Best Children's Books of the Year

## 2015 Edition / Books Published in 2014

Looking for just the right children's books?

Here—for parents, grandparents, relatives and friends, as well as for teachers and librarians—is the perfect guidebook. Each year, the Children's Book Committee issues an annotated guide to more than 600 children's books they consider the best publications of the prior year, in this case 2014.

The fiction listings are divided into sections by age and arranged by topic: adventure, animals, folk and fairy tales, growing up, mystery, science fiction, sports, and more. Another section lists information books and poetry titles, also arranged by topic.

