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4-2023

The Best Children's Books of the Year [2023 edition]

Bank Street College of Education. Children's Book Committee

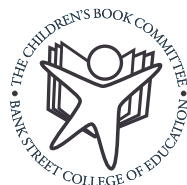
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THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE OF
BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

THE BEST
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS
OF THE YEAR
2023 EDITION



BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2022

BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

THE BEST
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS
OF THE YEAR

2023 EDITION
BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2022

SELECTED BY THE
CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE

We at the Children's Book Committee salute those champions of free speech, free thought, and free reading, the librarians. It is to these courageous souls that the 2023 edition of the *Best Children's Books of the Year* is dedicated.

The print edition was made possible by the generous support of The Helping Hands Fund in memory of RaeLee Thompson.



We are grateful to those who ensured books were freed from our Bank Street office and delivered to the waiting hands and eyes of committee members.

Finally, a special thank you to the members of the Bank Street Children's Book Committee, whose technological skills continued to grow exponentially as we continued the work of reading, sharing, and reviewing via Zoom.

It's not just the books under fire now that worry me, it is the books that will never be written. The books that will never be read. And all due to the fear of censorship. As always, young readers will be the real losers.

— Judy Blume, esteemed children's book author, for whom the National Coalition Against Censorship's Judy Blume Free Speech Defender Lifetime Achievement Award is named.

Alarmed by the recent surge in book challenges and book-banning that are affecting schools, libraries, and—by extension—the publishing industry in the United States, the Bank Street Children's Book Committee shares the concerns of other organizations who support freedom of expression and free speech. These freedoms are the bedrock of democracy, and the freedom to read is an indispensable element of that foundation.

The Children's Book Committee of Bank Street College of Education was founded more than 100 years ago to help parents, teachers, librarians, and other interested adults choose the books that children will find captivating and transforming. Every year, it produces comprehensive annotated book lists for children, from infancy to age 18, and awards for the best work of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and board books. Our mission guides us to value particular literary qualities that include, but are not limited to, credibility of characterization and plot, authenticity of time and place, age suitability, and the positive treatment of human differences.

Readers have a developmental need—and right—to access books encompassing the varied and unique identities, experiences, perspectives, and cultures of a book's main and supporting characters. The CBC honors representations of characters who are change agents and advocates for social justice, inclusivity, and equity.

Access to historical accuracy is vital to understanding our world. Erasing uncomfortable truths serves no one. Therefore, we endorse books that model accuracy in nonfiction writing, including verifiable sourcing, quotation attributions, and photo credits.

The censorship of school, classroom, public libraries, and curricula that we see being advocated and imposed will result in, as Minnijean Brown-Trickey, (one of the "Little Rock Nine" who integrated Central High School) put it, "profound intentional ignorance."

It's time to take action. It's time to develop talking points, find allies, and build coalitions. We can report incidents of book banning to the American Library Association. We can buy or borrow and promote banned books. Let's be a voice of reason in this challenging time.

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE

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MEMBERS ON LEAVE OR AT LARGE

Margery Fisher

INAUGURAL CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE FELLOW

Zach Libresco

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Share your enjoyment of books with your child.
- Talk over your reading.
- Continue to read aloud to your child even after they read independently.
- Encourage your child to choose a book to read aloud to someone else.
- Broaden your child's horizons by helping them to select books from a wide range of subjects.
- Encourage your child to read whatever they enjoy, 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.

2023 AWARDS

The Josette Frank Award

for a work of fiction of outstanding literary merit for young readers in which children or young people deal in a positive and realistic way with difficulties in their world and grow emotionally and morally

I Must Betray You

by Ruta Sepetys
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House)

The Claudia Lewis Award

for the best poetry book of the year for young readers

Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life

by Marilyn Nelson
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

The Flora Stieglitz Straus Award

for a distinguished work of nonfiction that serves as an inspiration to young readers








Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement

by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck Publishing)

In evaluating books for their literary merit, the Bank Street Children's Book Committee (CBC) recognizes the importance of diversity in children's literature and acknowledges and celebrates the voices and cultures of all of our readers. Diversity encompasses the varied and unique identities, experiences, perspectives, and cultural communities of a book's main and supporting characters, whose attributes include (but are not limited to) race, ethnicity, gender, abilities, sexuality, class, religion, and family structure. All children benefit from seeing themselves reflected in what they read, and from seeing characters with different identities, depicted accurately and without stereotypes in texts and/or illustrations. The CBC values representations of characters who are change agents and advocates for social justice, inclusivity, and equity.

In accordance with the Committee's goal of modeling proper sourcing of nonfiction writing, all listed informational books for children nine and older must contain supporting references including, at a minimum, sources, quote attributions, and photo credits. Book annotations may also include the term "back matter" to indicate that there is additional reference material provided.

KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
|  Board Book |  Outstanding Merit |
|  Diversity |  Read Aloud |
|  Graphic Format |  Age Range |
|  Mature | |

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UNDER FIVE

D **13 Stories about Ayana**

written and illustrated by Amy Schwartz
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4829-6
Ayana and her family, along with her friend, Harris, have many event-filled days. Bright, colorful gouache and pen-and-ink illustrations. (4-6)

D **Abuelita and Me**

by Leonarda Carranza, illustrated by Rafael Mayani
(Annick Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77321-610-2
Indoors, a girl treasures quality time with her abuelita. But outdoors, Abuelita sometimes faces unkindness and racism. Together, the two find strength in each other. Vibrant, animated illustrations. (5-6)

D **B** **Baby's Here!**

by Jessica Young, illustrated by Geneviève Godbout
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$7.99)
978-0-358-43858-8
This interactive and playful rhyming celebration of the arrival of a new sibling is told from the perspective of diverse toddlers. Soft pastel illustrations. (1-3)

D **Ballet Kids**

written and illustrated by Holly Sterling
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2037-7
In Mr. Elliot's dance class, Thomas and his friends move freely and are encouraged to experience the magic from within. Bright illustrations evoke pure joy. (2-5)

D * **Bathe the Cat**

by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-4270-8
Grandma's coming over soon, so it's time to clean up the house. But why does that keep getting harder and harder? Humorous, detailed illustrations provide a clue. (4-6)

Bearplane!

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Sam Wedelich
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-11226-7
A cub taking a first plane ride learns what to expect on the journey. Rhyming text and playful illustrations will provide excellent preparation for the youngest travelers. (3-5)

D **Berry Song**

written and illustrated by Michaela Goade
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-49417-5
A Tlingit girl enjoys foraging with her grandmother and passes on the tradition to her younger sister. Lyrical language with a cycling refrain. Lush watercolor and mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

Beyond the Burrow

written and illustrated by Jessica Meserve
(Peachtree Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-375-5
A home-loving bunny braves the world, finding that taking a chance can lead to wonderful adventures and new friendships. Soothing digital art. (4-6)

Big Hedgehog and Little Hedgehog Take an Evening Stroll

written and illustrated by Britta Teckentrup,
translated from the German by Nicola Stuart
(Prestel, \$14.95) 978-3-7913-7519-9
Eager to return home, Big Hedgehog prods Little Hedgehog, who repeatedly stops to savor the sights, smells, and sounds of their world. Textured color pages capture setting and mood. (3-5)

B **The Big Scream**

by Kirsti Call, illustrated by Denis Angelov
(Little Simon/Simon & Schuster, \$7.99)
978-1-6659-0739-2
Little ones learn how to manage a tantrum. Sweet, colorful illustrations. (1-3)

D **Bright Brown Baby: A Treasury**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-80822-3
Five poems celebrate the joys of brown babies and their families. Rhythmic text with whirling watercolor and ink illustrations. (0-2)

Bright Winter Night

by Alli Brydon, illustrated by Ashling Lindsay
(Two Lions, \$17.99) 978-1-5420-2224-8
On a winter's night, a group of animals work together to build a sled so they can see the northern lights. Mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ * Brown Sugar Baby

by Kevin Lewis, illustrated by Jestenia Southerland (Cottage Door Press, \$9.99) 978-1-64638-410-5
The sweetness of babies is celebrated through rhyming text. Warm, vibrant illustrations. (0-3)

ⓑ Bumblebee Grumblebee

written and illustrated by David Elliot (Gecko Press, \$9.99) 978-1-77657-402-5
Animals are shown with alter egos, transformed by lighthearted wordplay. Sweet, beautifully detailed pastel illustrations. (0-3)

ⓑ The Button Book

by Sally Nicholls, illustrated by Bethan Woollvin (Tundra Books, \$8.99) 978-0-7352-7172-2
Animals find surprises when they press variously colored buttons. Childlike black-and-white illustrations with color accents. (2-4)

ⓓ The Catalogue of Hugs

by Joshua David Stein and Augustus Heeren Stein, illustrated by Elizabeth Lilly (Rise X Penguin Workshop/ PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-52179-3
Engaging water color illustrations humorously and lovingly capture the many ways a hug can offer inclusion and affection. (2-5)

Chester van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme

by Avery Monsen, illustrated by Abby Hanlon (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-7595-5482-5
Will Chester be able to recover his special talent? Can his classmates help? Humorous text blends with animated gouache colored-pencil illustrations and rhyme-filled endpapers. (4-6)

Dog Says, Cat Says

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez (Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55396-0
In rhyming couplets, two house pets alternate narrating a day with their humans. Delightful, animated pencil illustrations. (4-6)

Don't Worry, Murray

written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-284524-5
Gentle reassurance from an omniscient narrator helps an anxious long-eared pup conquer his fears. But does it? Humorous animated mixed-media cartoonish illustrations. (3-5)

Everywhere with You

by Carlie Sorosiak, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1497-0
A girl bonds nightly with the next-door dog through snacks and books, stimulating both of their imaginations. Lyrical mixed-media artwork, including illustrated endpapers. (4-6)

ⓓ Fire Chief Fran

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99) 978-1-63592-426-8
Vibrant acrylic illustrations and punchy rhymed text give a clear picture of the lives of firefighters. Informative "fast facts" appear at the end. (5-6)

ⓓ Firefighter Flo! (Big Jobs, Bold Women series)

by Andrea Zimmerman, illustrated by Dan Yaccarino (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5157-9
A heroic female chief and her crew of diverse characters rush to the fire scene, saving a puppy. Vibrant illustrations. Packed with action and sound words. (2-5)

ⓓ Frances in the Country

by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Sean Qualls (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4332-1
A young Black girl experiences the pleasures of rural life while also finding vitality and family love in her own urban environment. Snappy text and playful illustrations. (3-6)

Giant Giant

written and illustrated by Dylan Hewitt (Milky Way Picture Books, \$18.99) 978-1-990252-08-2
A village learns how to stop their troubles and turn outsized bullies into friends through cooperation. Muted digital drawings. (4-6)

A Gift for Nana

written and illustrated by Lane Smith
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-43033-0
In this tenderhearted and offbeat saga, a rabbit searches for the perfect gift. Handsomely designed digital art with subtle greens punctuated with bursts of color. (4-6)

(D) Girl Dad

by Sean Williams, illustrated by Jay Davis
(HarperCollins Children's Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-311363-3
Strong, supportive dads are presented from their children's point of view. Black fathers and daughters are featured. Pencil, gouache, and watercolor cartoon-style digital illustrations. (4-6)

(D) (B) Give Me a Snickle!

by Alisha Sevigny
(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95) 978-1-4598-2870-4
"A snuggle. A tickle." That combination is a "snickle." With photos of diverse babies and loving adults and funny made-up words, this is a gem. (0-2)

A Good Place

written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-2425-2
Four different insects with diverse needs look for a place where they can live happily together. Vibrant gouache illustrations enhance the storyline. (4-6)

*** Good-bye, Bear**

written and illustrated by Jane Chapman
(Tiger Tales, \$17.99) 978-1-68010-247-5
Friends mourn and process the death of their good friend Bear. Colorful illustrations help share how Bear is remembered by his friends. (4-6)

(D) (B) Grandma and Me

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks Kids, \$7.99) 978-1-7282-4243-9
In the yard or the kitchen, on laps and in loving arms, brown and Black babies and toddlers spend joyful moments with their grandmothers. Simple rhyming text and gentle, colorful illustrations. (0-2)

(D) * A Grandma's Magic

by Charlotte Offsay, illustrated by Asa Gilland
(Doubleday BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37600-3
Diverse grandmothers and grandchildren engage in favorite activities, forging bonds of enduring love. Lyrical text with animated color illustrations. (3-6)

The Great Zapfino

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Marla Frazee
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-1154-8
A circus high diver who has lost his nerve finds himself forced to face his fears. Nearly wordless. Dramatic pencil illustrations. (4-6)

(D) (B) Hands On!

by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Alea Marley
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$7.99) 978-0-06-293492-5
A baby makes the journey to taking their first steps. Sweet mixed-media illustrations. (1-2)

(B) * Hats Are Not for Cats!

written and illustrated by Jacqueline K. Rayner
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$8.99) 978-0-35-873108-5
An exuberant cat, aided by a vast array of hats, tries to persuade an increasingly frustrated dog that hats can be for everyone. Rhyming text. Watercolor and charcoal illustrations. (1-4)

Here We Come!

by Janna Matthies, illustrated by Christine Davenier
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-1787-8
This rollicking cumulative tale of a jolly parade is perfect for chanting along to. Pencil and ink artwork add to the fun. (2-4)

Horse and Buggy on Ice (I Like to Read series)

written and illustrated by Ethan Long
(Holiday House, \$15.99) 978-0-82344-768-8
Horse can skate, but naysaying Buggy doubts Horse can do tricks. Can he? Energetic illustrations enrich the storytelling. (5-6)

ⓓ * I Am Golden

by Eva Chen, illustrated by Sophie Diao
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)
78-1-250-84205-3

A loving ode to immigrant Chinese American children celebrates the strength and power of their history, culture, and language. Colorful, expressive digital illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ I Like This, You Like That

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Eve Coy
(Abrams Appleseed/Abrams, \$16.99)
978-1-4197-5089-2

Two children value their friendship even though they have little in common. A great message for our world. Gentle watercolor and crayon art. (3-5)

ⓓ I Want My Book Back

by Viviane Elbee, illustrated by Nicole Miles
(Little Bee Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4998-1174-2
Can Daryl ever find consolation after being devastated when he is unable to renew his favorite dinosaur book? Emotive humorous bold color illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ I Won't Give Up My Rubber Band

written and illustrated by Shinsuke Yoshitake
translated from the Japanese by Sofiane Kohen
(Chronicle Books, \$15.99) 978-1-7972-1492-4
A little girl uses a rubber band imaginatively to expand her world. Pen and digital illustrations. (3-5)

ⓑ I'm a Little Pumpkin (I'm a Little series)

by Hannah Eliot, illustrated by Anna Davis court
(Little Simon/Simon & Schuster, \$6.99)
978-1-6659-1593-9
This introduction to all varieties of pumpkins, in verse, can be sung to the tune of "I'm a Little Teapot." Humorous mixed-media illustrations. (2-3)

ⓑ I'm Still Up!

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis
(Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$7.99)
978-0-358-18134-7
Parents are ready to say good night, but baby is not! Repeating text. Sweet mixed-media illustrations. (1-2)

I'm Terrified of Bath Time

by Simon Rich, illustrated by Tom Toro
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)
978-0-31-662833-4

An anthropomorphized bathtub shares its dread of having its space violated by its recalcitrant toddler bather. Can the experience be made better for both? Cartoon-style illustrations highlight the tub's complaints. (3-5)

ⓑ I'm Up!

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis
(Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$7.99)
978-0-358-18134-7
Early-riser baby wakes everybody up! Sunny, mixed-media illustrations. (1-2)

*** Joy Ride**

by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Ana Ramirez González
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0774-3
This is a winning combination: a loving supportive grandfather, a unique bicycle, and a girl who figures out what is important to her. Appealing digital illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ  Kunoichi Bunny

by Sara Cassidy, illustrated by Brayden Sato
(Orca Book Publishers, \$19.95) 978-1-4598-2780-6
A toddler, unbeknownst to her stroller-pushing father, uses her stuffed bunny throughout the day to prevent potential disasters. Wordless graphic format with muted palette. (4-6)

Leila, the Perfect Witch

written and illustrated by Flavia Z. Drago
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-2050-6
Leila enters the witchy cake-off to prove her worth in the Dark Arts of Patisserie. She learns winning isn't the only way to have fun. Humor enhanced by comic illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ Let's Do Everything and Nothing

written and illustrated by Julia Kuo
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$18.99)
978-1-250-77434-7
This lyrical ode shows the love between a parent and child. Digital illustrations portray this bond in both imaginary and everyday moments. (3-5)

Lily Leads the Way

by Margi Preus, illustrated by Matt Myers
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1403-1
A tiny boat in the Great Lakes harbor saves the day when the tall ships come to town. Bold oil paint art. Back matter about bridges. (4-6)

The Line in the Sand

written and illustrated by Thao Lam
(Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-570-9
Monsters cavort together in the sand until they discover a line drawn in it, sparking a boundary war. Chaos ensues, obliterating the line. Now what? Bold geometrical illustrations. Wordless. (4-6)

Little Bat Up All Day

written and illustrated by Brian Lies
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$14.99)
978-0-358-26985-4
Rusty the Squirrel and Little Bat may have different sleep schedules, but they develop a way to keep their friendship going. Realistic mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

Little Houses

by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-296572-1
A girl goes out with her grandparents to the beach to collect shells and wonders about the creatures who once lived in them. Dreamy acrylic illustrations. (4-6)

The Long Ride Home

written and illustrated by Stephanie Graegin
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-42602-9
It's hard when a best friend moves far away. Digitally created muted color illustrations evoke nostalgia. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ Love Is All Around (Brown Baby Parade series)

by Nikki Shannon Smith, illustrated by Ronique Ellis
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$8.99) 978-0-593-56325-0
A big sister notices all the ways that love is part of her day. Mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

ⓓ * Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle

by Nina LaCour, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1151-1
Mommy leaves on a business trip. The separation is very hard, despite much love and support from all the grown ups. Vibrant, detailed mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ * Me and My Mama

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks Kids, \$7.99)
978-1-7282-4246-0
Black children of various skin tones and physical appearances reflect on the love they have for their mothers. Colorful illustrations. (2-4)

ⓓ ⓑ * Me and the Family Tree

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks Kids, \$7.99)
978-1-7282-4249-1
A young Black girl discovers the ways in which she is part of her family, even though she is unique. Lively, colorful illustrations accompany the lyrical rhyming text. (1-3)

ⓓ Millions of Maxes

by Meg Wolitzer, illustrated by Micah Player
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-32411-0
Max discovers he is not the one and only Max—a great name he is happy to share. Warm, engaging illustrations of the various Maxes. (4-6)

ⓓ The Most Important Thing

written and illustrated by Antonella Abbatiello
translated from the Italian by Angus Yuen-Killick
(Red Comet Press, \$17.99) 978-1-63655-022-0
Animals all think their special characteristics are the most important, but find that such traits are absurd when superimposed on other animals. Large fold-out colored pages celebrate diversity. (3-5)

The Mouse Who Carried a House on His Back

by Jonathan Stutzman, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1679-0
Mouse takes his magical ever-expanding house to places where animals, big and small, require food and shelter, and makes them all welcome. Mixed-media illustrations with double-page spreads and center foldouts. (4-6)

Mushroom Lullaby

written and illustrated by Kenneth Kraegel
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1941-8
Rhyming text and warm ink and watercolor illustrations invite readers to consider the mushroom as a cozy habitat for small creatures. (3-5)

My Day in the Park

written and illustrated by Marta Orzel
translated from the French by Johanna McCalmont
(Blue Dot Kids Press, \$17.95) 978-1-73760-324-5
Readers are invited to explore all the things that Sam discovers when taking a walk through a park. Colorful illustrations depict 14 destinations. (4-6)

D Nigel and the Moon

by Antwan Eady, illustrated by Gracey Zhang
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-305628-2
It is difficult being the only Black child in class, but loving parents and an empathetic teacher help Nigel find his voice. Appealing gouache and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

Old Friends

by Margaret Aitken, illustrated by Lenny Wen
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-80138-8
Missing activities once shared with her grandmother, Marjorie creatively finds kindred spirits at a senior center. Engaging digital art. (5-6)

Old Wood Boat

written and illustrated by Nikki McClure
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1658-5
A family lovingly restores a deserted wood boat, which leads them to adventures. Digital illustrations resemble woodcuts. Glossary of nautical terms. (4-6)

B Olu and Greta

written and illustrated by Diana Ejaita
(Rise X Penguin Workshop/ PRH, \$17.99)
978-0-593-38490-9
Two cousins, one from Nigeria, the other from Italy, can meet only virtually, but have a rich, companionable friendship. Dramatic illustrations on black backgrounds. (4-6)

On a Gold-Blooming Day:

Finding Fall Treasures

by Buffy Silverman, photographed by Buffy Silverman and various other photographers
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$29.99) 978-2-72844-298-3
Explore changes and treasures in nature as summer turns to fall. Full-color photographs are paired perfectly with poetry. Back matter. (4-6)

D * On My Papa's Shoulders

written and illustrated by Niki Daly
(Catalyst Press, \$17.95) 978-1-946395-68-9
A boy relates the experiences he has walking to school with different members of his South African family. His favorite moments are those with his father. Joyful, brightly colored illustrations. (4-6)

D B * One Big Day

by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Alea Marley
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$7.99)
978-0-06-293493-2
Baby's first birthday is celebrated in simple rhyming text with colorful and vibrant mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

One Boy Watching

written and illustrated by Grant Snider
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-79721-088-9
A boy rides the bus each morning from his rural home to his urban school, cataloguing the sights along the way by number. Vibrant colored pencil and marker illustrations. (4-5)

D Our World Is a Family:

Our Community Can Change the World

by Miry Whitehill and Jennifer Jackson, illustrated by Nomar Perez
(Sourcebooks eXplore/Sourcebooks, \$17.99)
978-1-72823-183-9
A timely picture book encourages children to welcome new neighbors who are immigrants or refugees hoping for a better life. Vibrant pictures amplify the message of kindness and compassion. (4-6)

D A Park Connects Us

by Sarah Nelson, illustrated by Ellen Rooney
(Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-450-4
The park invites people of every size, age, ethnicity, gender, and ability to share in its boundless offerings. Lyrical text and illustrations with animated bursts of color. (3-6)

Pip and Zip

by Elana K. Arnold, illustrated by Doug Salati
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$18.99)
978-1-250-79698-1
On a neighborhood walk during the time of COVID, children discover abandoned eggs and find ways to care for them. Free verse. Digitally colored pencil illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ Playtime for Restless Rascals

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks Kids, \$17.99)
978-1-72823-893-7

The work of childhood is play; this book captures the exuberance of a young Black child with doting parents who encourage nonstop daily adventures. Vibrant, joyful illustrations. (3-5)

ⓓ ⓑ Pops

written and illustrated by Gavin Bishop
(Gecko Press, \$12.99) 978-1-77657400-1
A child and a grandfather spend a quiet day together. Soft illustrations complement the spare text. (1-3)

*** Rainy Days (Weather Days series)**

by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Miki Sato
(Pajama Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77278-246-2
Rhyming couplets present all the ways a preschooler can learn from and enjoy the rain. Gorgeous collage and mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

Rocket Finds an Egg (Steps into Reading series)

by Elle Stephens, illustrated by Grace Mills (based on the Rocket series by Tad Hills)
(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$15.99)
978-0-593-18127-0
After numerous failed attempts, will Rocket the dog and his squirrel friend, Bella, ever find out to whom an egg belonged? Bright color illustrations illuminate the beginner reader text. (4-6)

Rodney Was a Tortoise

by Nan Forler, illustrated by Yong Ling Kang
(Tundra Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-73526-662-9
When her pet tortoise dies, Bernadette feels alone with her sadness until another child shares his own experience with loss. Watercolor and pencil artwork. (4-6)

ⓑ Sea (Look, Touch, Learn series)

illustrated by Charlotte Archer
(Child's Play, \$16.99) 978-1-78628-627-7
Images of the sea are depicted in bright colors, shapes, moving parts, and tactile elements to stimulate very young babies during "tummy time." (0-1)

See You Someday Soon

by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Suzy Lee
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$19.99)
978-1-250-22110-0

The distance between a grandchild and grandmother who live far apart is lessened by their shared language and playful modes of staying in touch. Engaging illustrations include die-cuts. (4-6)

ⓓ Sometimes, All I Need Is Me

written and illustrated by Juliana Perdomo
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1804-6
Vivid digital folk art and simple text capture a young girl's ways of building confidence when faced with new situations. (3-6)

*** Sometimes I Grumblesquinch (Big Feelings series)**

by Rachel Vail, illustrated by Hyewon Yum
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-75116-1
Docile Katie "grumblesquinces" her less appealing emotions deep inside until "kaplooming" in frustration. Ultimately, she learns that whatever she's feeling, she is always lovable. Childlike colored pencil art. Back matter. (4-6)

ⓓ Sometimes Love

by Katrina Moore, illustrated by Joy Hwang Ruiz
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-32382-3
The relationship of a loving, mixed-race military family with their dog is challenged as they move from post to post. Back matter and expressive digital art. (4-6)

ⓓ * Song in the City

by Daniel Bernstrom, illustrated by Jenin Mohammed
(HarperCollins Children's Books/HMH, \$17.99)
978-0-06-301112-0
A young blind Black girl experiences the city through sound and shares the song with her hesitant grandmother. Digital illustrations make the sound effects jump off the pages. (4-6)

ⓓ * Still This Love Goes On

by Buffy Sainte-Marie, illustrated by Julie Flett
(Greystone Kids/Greystone, \$18.95)
978-1-77164-807-3
An illustrated song by the Cree songwriter celebrates change in seasons and the permanence of love. Pastel and pencil artwork. Sheet music included. (3-5)

ⓑ Sun Flower Lion

written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$7.99)
978-006-286612-7

A little lion spends a day using his imagination. Simple, childlike illustrations in black, yellow, and grey. (1-3)

ⓓ ⓑ Sweet, Sweet Baby!

written and illustrated by Javaka Steptoe
(Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, \$7.99)
978-1-338-78811-2

A celebration of the joy, hope, and pride that a new baby brings. Striking, bold illustrations. (0-2)

Take off Your Brave:

The World through the Eyes of a Preschool Poet

by Nadim, illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-2316-3
Inspired by his mother, four-year-old Nadim, with a contribution from his sister and school, shares his vivid poetic musings. Punctuated with expressive mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

ⓓ The Tale of the Whale

by Karen Swann, illustrated by Padmacandra
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-9394-0
A brown-skinned girl joins a whale in a magical tour of the ocean. Sadly, they discover hazardous plastic pollution; the girl vows to tell the world about it. Lush illustrations. (2-5)

Tell Me a Lion Story

written and illustrated by Kara Kramer
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1801-5
Engaging stylized illustrations accompany this clever tale of a child anxious for a story where they (and the reader) are important contributors. (5-6)

That's My Sweater!

written and illustrated by Jessika von Innerebner
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-46194-5
Handing down her favorite sweater to her younger sibling creates rivalry and a humorous resolution. Photoshopped cartoonish illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ That's Not My Name!

written and illustrated by Anoosha Syed
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-40517-8

A brown-skinned girl confronts her classmates who mispronounce her Arabic name, Mirha, after her mother explains its uniqueness. Animated bold color illustrations. (5-6)

This Book Will Get You to Sleep!

by Jory John, illustrated by Olivier Tallec
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan \$18.99)
978-0-374-31130-8

Need to get to sleep? Try listening to roaring trucks and wailing guitars, or counting sheep being chased by dragons. Energetic art accompanies the wry humor of the participatory text. (4-6)

ⓓ Together We Ride

by Valerie Bolling, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-7972-1248-7
A father helps his daughter learn to ride a bike, each step depicted in gentle mixed-media illustrations reflecting love and patience. Rhyming text. (3-6)

*** Too Early**

by Nora Ericson, illustrated by Elly MacKay
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4207-1
A young child wakes long before her family is ready to get up. Then she and her father await the dawn. Rhythmic language. Luminous art. (2-5)

Too Many Pigs and One Big Bad Wolf

by Davide Cali, illustrated by Marianna Balducci
(Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada Young Readers/PRH of Canada, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6991-0
This counting book riffs on the well-known fable, including humorous, child-pleasing dialogue, with opportunities to explore language and math concepts. Artwork is silly and fun. (4-6)

Tortoise and Hare:

A Fairy Tale to Help You Find Balance (Feel-Good Fairy Tales series)

by Susan Verde, illustrated by Jay Fleck
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4954-4
Two friends join together, finding the perfect pace to finish a race. Descriptions of three child-friendly yoga poses included. Digital art. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ Tummy Time!:

A High-Contrast Fold-Out Book with Mirror

written and illustrated by Mama Makes Books (Red Comet Press, \$8.99) 978-1-6365-5013-8
This board book for infants and babies supports visual stimulation, brain development, and strength building. Black, white, and red illustrations. (0-1)

ⓑ We Are Love

by Patricia Hegarty, illustrated by Thomas Elliott (Tiger Tales, \$9.99) 978-1-6643-5071-7
Animals and their babies celebrate their love. Rhyming text. Illustrations employing die-cuts demonstrate togetherness as the reader turns the pages. (1-3)

ⓑ Welcome to Your World

by Smriti Prasad-Halls, illustrated by Jaime Kim (Candlewick Press, \$9.99) 978-1-5362-2411-5
A newborn is introduced to the world through the animal kingdom. In verse. Rich, detailed illustrations. (0-3)

ⓓ When You Joined Our Family

by Harriet Evans, illustrated by Nia Tudor (Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$18.95) 978-1-684-64475-9
Simple text and colorful illustrations portray ethnically and racially diverse families celebrating the joys of adoption. (3-5)

Where Is Bina Bear?

written and illustrated by Mike Curato (Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-76220-7
Tiny's search for one missing party guest keeps turning up oddly guest-shaped objects that talk. Why might Bina be hiding? Gently colorful mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

*** While You Sleep**

by Jennifer Maruno, illustrated by Miki Sato (Pajama Press, \$17.99) 978-1-77-278-267-7
All the magical things that happen during a toddler's slumber are presented through fanciful collage illustrations. (2-5)

Will We Always Hold Hands?

by Christopher Cheng, illustrated by Stephen Michael King (Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-56450-9
A panda confirms that it will stand by its rat friend through many circumstances. Cartoon illustrations convey a deep friendship and reassurance that the bond will continue, even if the two ever have to be apart. (4-6)

ⓑ Windy Days (Weather Days series)

by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Miki Sato (Pajama Press, \$11.95) 978-1-77278-270-7
This important natural force is celebrated in rhyming couplets. Fabric collage illustrations. Back matter. (1-3)

The Winter Bird

by Kate Banks, illustrated by Suzie Mason (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1568-7
A nightingale unable to fly south for the winter survives with the help of the animals able to handle the cold. Beautiful digital illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ Year of the Cat

by Richard Ho, illustrated by Jocelyn Li Langrand (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-297682-6
A mission, organized by Rat, entices all the Zodiac animals to apologize to Cat for preventing her from finishing the Great Race, with surprising results. Colorful digital illustrations. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ Yes! No!:

A First Conversation about Consent (First Conversations series)

by Megan Madison and Jessica Ralli, illustrated by Isabel Roxas (Rise X Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$8.99) 978-0-593-38332-2
Bold, expressive illustrations and straightforward text empower young children to understand their own bodies, demand respect, and show respect to others. Additional content for adult readers. (3-5)

Concept Books

B 10 Things I Love about You!

by Danielle McLean, illustrated by Grace Habib (Tiger Tales, \$12.99) 978-1-6643-5037-3
In this counting book, a child expresses her warm feelings for her mother. Rhyming text. Mixed-media illustrations with touch-and-feel textural elements. (1-4)

After the Buzz Comes the Bee: Lift-the-Flap Animal Sounds

by Rachel Isadora and Robie Rogge, illustrated by Rachel Isadora (Holiday House, \$17.99), 978-0-8234-4920-0
Each whimsical, colorful, glossy double-page spread invites children to discover an animal, under the sturdy flap, that matches that creature's sound. (4-6)

D All Are Neighbors

by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-42998-3
Clear, simple text and cheerful, colorful mixed-media illustrations depict the elements that make up a community. (4-6)

D Big and Small and In-Between

by Carter Higgins, illustrated by Daniel Miyares (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-6650-6
An imaginative visual exploration of size in both physical objects and emotional experiences. Expressive illustrations in deep colors and intriguing textures. Several clever paper foldouts. (4-6)

D Black:

The Many Wonders of My World

by Nancy Johnson James, illustrated by Constance Moore (Cameron Kids/Abrams Books, \$16.99) 978-1-951836-44-3
An ode to the color black, both visually and abstractly, evokes a deeper appreciation for the origin and creation of all colors. Bold, striking mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

B Book of Opposites (Here We Are series)

written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, \$9.99) 978-0-593-52785-6
Opposites are presented in single words alongside amusing, imaginative illustrations that capture the concepts clearly. (1-4)

B Foodie Faces

by Bill Wurtzel and Claire Wurtzel, illustrated by Bill Wurtzel (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$7.99) 978-0-316-42352
Emotions are explored through humorous food art. Glossary and guide to an at-home activity. (2-4)

B The Ghosts Went Floating

by Kim Norman, illustrated by Jay Fleck (Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$8.99) 978-0-374-39011-2
Read or sing along to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching" as colorful, creepy creatures dance under moonlit skies with jaunty numbers. (1-3)

B My Feelings

written and illustrated by Jeffrey Turner (Sunbird Books, \$9.99) 978-1-5037-5846-9
A prickly porcupine introduces emotions such as anger, shyness, disappointment, and excitement, each in simple, relatable text with expressive, evocative, and colorful double-page spreads. (3-5)

D Namaste Is a Greeting

by Suma Subramaniam, illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1783-4
Simple lyrical text and animated, richly colored illustrations introduce the many meanings of namaste—peace, joy, and more. (4-6)

B One Leaf, Two Leaves, Count with Me

by John Micklos Jr., illustrated by Clive McFarland (Nancy Paulsen/PRH, \$8.99) 978-0-593-33110-5
Counting leaves, in ascending order in spring and descending order in fall, captures the rhythm of the seasons. Bright, eye-catching mixed-media pictures. (1-3)

B Ready or Not, Here I Come!

by Emilia Zebrowska, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Creative Editions, \$9.99) 978-1-56846-355-1
A zookeeper finds all of his animal friends during a preposition-rich game of hide-and-seek. Rhymed text. Richly colored mixed-media illustrations. (2-3)

Ruffles and the Teeny Tiny Kittens (Ruffles Series)

written and illustrated by David Melling (Nosy Crow/Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-15362-2746-8
The plot vehicle of a dog ultimately willing to share with kittens is used to introduce action words paired with whimsical animated illustrations. (3-6)

Holidays and Religion

D Rumble and Roar:

Sound around the World

by Sue Fliess, illustrated by Khoa Le
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-5415-9869-0
Four children in different parts of the world enjoy nature's sounds. Lush mixed-media illustrations. Back matter includes scientific information. (3-6)

D B Sumo Colors (Little Sumo series)

written and illustrated by Sanae Ishida
(Little Bigfoot/Sasquatch Books, \$9.99)
978-1-63217-344-7
Cheerful, vibrant illustrations depict red (aka) lanterns, yellow (kīro) ginkgo leaves, and other elements of Japanese culture. Bilingual in Japanese and English. (1-3)

D Ten Blocks to the Big Wok:

A Chinatown Counting Book

written and illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu
(Children's Book Press/Lee & Low Books, \$19.95)
978-1-64379-068-8
On a walk through Chinatown, Mia and her uncle see and count lychees, paper lanterns, and other elements of Chinese culture that will appeal to young readers. In Mandarin and English. Watercolor and pastel illustrations. (3-5)

D * Vámonos:

Mexican Folk Art Transport in English and Spanish (Mexican Folk Art in English and Spanish series)

by Cynthia Weill, wooden sculptures by Martín Melchor, Agustín Tinoco Cruz, Avelino Pérez, and Maximino Santiago
(Cinco Puntos Press/Lee & Low Books, \$19.95)
978-1-94762-760-4
Explore the many modes of transportation that can take animals and their friends to a special location. Colorful, hand-crafted sculptures illustrate the journey. (1-3)

D What's Your Name?

written and illustrated by Bethanie Deeny Murguia
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1856-5
Through catchy rhymes with colorful animated illustrations of diverse children proclaiming their names in speech bubbles, the many functions of names are explored, such as identifiers and salutations. (4-6)

D In Our Teeny Tiny Matzah House

by Bill Wurtzel and Claire Wurtzel, illustrated by Bill Wurtzel
(Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House, \$17.95)
978-1-68115-585-2
Told by Kitzel the cat, this rollicking holiday tale is reminiscent of the Yiddish folktale "It Could Be Worse." Food art collage illustrations enliven the story. (4-6)

D B Little Santa's Workshop

written and illustrated by Lala Watkins
(Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, \$7.99)
978-1-338-82943-3
Little Santa's getting ready for Christmas. He and his elves are building toys, checking lists, and making treats for his visit on Christmas Eve. Inviting graphics. (3-5)

D One Sun and Countless Stars:

A Muslim Book of Numbers

by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-8272-8
Share a child's day observing Muslim customs, each paired with a number. Vibrant illustrations bring us into his world. Glossary and back matter. (4-6)

*** The Twelve Cats of Christmas**

by Feather Flores, illustrated by Carrie Liao
(Chronicle Books, \$15.99) 978-1-4521-8461-6
In a new take on the traditional carol, twelve cute and mischievous cats make Christmas more festive with their usual antics! Humorous, detailed mixed-media illustrations. (2-5)

Poetry

Armadillo Antics

by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson, illustrated by Nathalie Beauvois
(Brown Books Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-61254-547-9
Rhyming couplets introduce this nocturnal mammal as it runs, digs, eats, and eventually returns to its burrow at sunrise. Visually arresting mixed-media art. Armadillo facts. (4-6)

D Mother Goose Goes to India

by Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal, illustrated by Wazza Pink

(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)

978-1-5344-3960-3

Fifteen classic European rhymes are reimagined with Hindi words, such as London Bridge becoming Tunga Bridge. Vibrant artwork captures the sights and sounds of modern India. (1-4)

B One Sky

written and illustrated by Aaron Becker

(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)

978-1-5362-2536-5

Graceful verse follows the day from dawn to dark.

Abstract art with stained-glass-like cutouts allows the light to shine through. (2-5)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

**Do Baby Elephants Suck Their Trunks?:
Amazing Ways Animals Are Just Like Us**

by Ben Lerwill, illustrated by Katharine McEwen

(Nosy Crow/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)

978-1-5362-2404-7

Young children are invited to explore both the uniqueness and similarities between themselves and animals, such as thumb sucking and losing teeth. Colorful collage and digital illustrations on double-page spreads. (2-5)

Hello, Puddle!

by Anita Sanchez, illustrated by Luisa Uribe

(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-358-38144-0

Lush color scenic illustrations reveal the many uses of puddles for wildlife as bathing and drinking sites, oases, breeding grounds, and more. Extensive back matter. (4-6)

How to Say Hello to a Worm:

A First Guide to Outside

written and illustrated by Kari Percival

(Rise X Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$17.99)

978-0-593-22679-7

A how-to guide for the youngest gardeners that introduces some creatures they'll encounter and demonstrates that patience leads to rewards. Gleeful illustrations appeal to all the senses. (3-5)

Look and Listen:

Who's in the Garden, Meadow, Brook?

by Dianne White, illustrated by Amy Schimler-Safford

(Margaret Ferguson/Holiday House, \$18.99)

978-0-8234-4346-8

The beauty of the natural world is conveyed through rhyming text and striking collage artwork, using a simple question and answer format. Back matter extends the information. (3-5)

B Odd Birds:

Meet Nature's Weirdest Flock

by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Gareth Lucas

(Abrams Appleseed/Abrams, \$8.63)

978-1-4197-4223-1

Dramatic, strikingly bright pictures and simple text present eight very strange birds. Detailed back matter explains the reasons for their odd features. (3-5)

*** A Seed Grows**

written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis

(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)

978-0-8234-4892-0

Follow a sunflower's life cycle as it grows from a seed until it reseeds. Artwork uses varied printing techniques (including potato stamping and printing with a celery stalk). Back matter. (3-6)

Solitary Animals:

Introverts of the Wild

by Joshua David Stein, illustrated by

Dominique Ramsey

(Rise X Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$18.99)

978-0-593-38443-5

Observe a parade of elephants and other animals who live together, as well as animals who live alone, like the solitary eagle. Striking digital illustrations. Back matter. (4-6)

FIVE TO NINE

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

Beatrice Bly's Rules for Spies:

Mystery Goo (Beatrice Bly's Rules for Spies series)

by Sue Fliess, illustrated by Beth Mills
(Pixel + Ink, \$17.99) 978-6459-5061-5

When Beatrice, using her detective skills with her sidekick, Nora, discovers the source of a sticky substance on her table, could it become their winning school project? Animated illustrations. (5-8)

📖 Climb On!

by Baptiste Paul, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara
(NorthSouth Books/NordSüd Verlag, \$17.95)
978-0-7358-4481-0

A dad asks, "Are we there yet?" as his energetic daughter leads the way on a tropical forest hike. Includes Creole terms. Vibrant illustrations lend authenticity to the Caribbean setting. (4-7)

*** Finding Fire**

written and illustrated by Logan S. Kline
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1302-7
A young boy in prehistoric times sets out in search of fire. Mixed-media illustrations beautifully tell a wordless story full of challenges and friendship. (5-8)

A Kitten in Gooseberry Park (Gooseberry Park series)

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-9450-3
Good friends Labrador Kona, hermit crab Gwendolyn, and bat Murray help a bobcat kitten find his family after rain sweeps him down the mountain. Cartoonish black-and-white spot illustrations. (7-9)



Monsters in the Briny

by Lynn Becker, illustrated by Scott Brundage
(Sleeping Bear Press/Cherry Lake Publishing Group, \$17.99) 978-1-53411-149-3
Sing along to the tune of the sea shanty "Drunken Sailor" as young adventurers strive to survive encounters with various marine creatures. Watercolor illustrations. Sheet music included. (7-10)



Our Friend Hedgehog:

A Place to Call Home (Our Friend Hedgehog series)

written and illustrated by Lauren Castillo
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-6674-0

When Hedgehog meets creatures just like herself, she learns that she's meant to hibernate. But will she choose to leave old friends behind? Colorful illustrations of the natural world. (5-8)

Animals

Hot Dog

written and illustrated by Doug Salati
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-30843-1

A little dachshund with a big personality ventures out for a refreshing day at the beach. Expressive illustrations appear in panels and full-page spreads. (5-7)

Beginning Reader

Am I a Frog? (I Like to Read series)

written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell
(Holiday House, \$15.99) 978-0-8234-5078-7
A simple, clear introduction to the way a tadpole turns into a frog. Calming blue and green watercolor and digital illustrations. (4-6)

Billy & Rose:

Forever Friends (Billy & Rose series)

by Amy Hest, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1419-2
Billy, an industrious sheep, and Rose, a playful pig, are best buddies who both challenge and inspire each other but always end up compromising. Lively, humorous illustrations. (6-8)

Cornbread & Poppy (Cornbread and Poppy series)

written and illustrated by Matthew Cordell
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$15.99)
978-0-7595-5487-0
Two very different endearing friends have an adventure as winter approaches. Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations add detail to the story. (5-7)



Fish and Wave (I Can Read! Comics series)

written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-307667-9

Fish befriends a little wave. When it grows, Fish is scared, but later happily rides along. Pastel illustrations. (4-6)

D Gigi and Ojiji (I Can Read! series)

written and illustrated by Melissa Iwai
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-320806-3
A biracial girl, eagerly awaiting her Japanese grandfather's arrival, is initially nonplussed by cultural differences and a language barrier. How will they connect? Bright, cheery illustrations. (5-8)



Maddie and Mabel (Maddie and Mabel series)

by Kari Allen, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss
(Kind World Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-63894-002-9
Two sisters navigate their relationship and learn the power of imagination, play, and forgiveness. Digital art. (5-7)

Make Way for Fenway! series

- **Fenway and the Bone Thieves** (978-0-593-40692-2)
- **Fenway and the Frisbee Trick** (978-0-593-40695-3)

by Victoria J. Coe, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, P \$5.99)
Fenway, a loveable dog with a playful, yet persistent personality, has many adventures. Accessible text with heart and humor. Black-and-white illustrations. (5-8)

Monsters in a Mess (Red Truck Monsters series)

by Candice Ransom, illustrated by Tyrell Solomon
(Simon Spotlight/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0171-0
A messy family cleans up to make room for a pet goldfish. Will their tidy ways continue? Rhyming text. Playful illustrations. (5-7)

Concept Books

D A Is for Bee:

An Alphabet Book in Translation

written and illustrated by Ellen Heck
(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-127-2
Well-known animals portrayed in bold stylized digital illustrations are identified in different languages. Web-based pronunciation guide. (6-9)



D Brown Is Beautiful

by Supriya Kelkar, illustrated by Noor Sofi
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-38952-9

A celebration of the color brown in its many shades, as it appears in nature and people. Warm illustrations show a range of skin tones. (4-7)



Home Is Where the Birds Sing

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Katie Harnett
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-4957-2
Expressive, brightly colored illustrations and simple text explore the experiences and love that make a place a home. (5-8)

Meanwhile Back on Earth...:

Finding Our Place through Time and Space

written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$24.99)
978-0-593-62152-3
Snapshot-like views from the cosmos of earthly conflicts of the past are presented in reverse chronological order. Jewel-like illustrations. Solar system map. Time line. (7-9)



My Self, Your Self

written and illustrated by Esmé Shapiro
(Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-1-7788-023-4
A woodland creature shares the many qualities that make us unique, while appreciating similarities and differences. Question and answer format. Pen, watercolor, and digital illustrations. (5-8)

D Not So Small

by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Paola Escobar
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-284744-7
A powerful message about each person's role in improving the world, both individually and with others. Joyful illustrations depict a diverse community. (5-8)

The Path

written and illustrated by Bob Staake
(minedition/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-6626-5063-5
Dramatic landscapes depicted in a variety of intense and soft colors reflect the twists and turns that everyone will face on the journey of life. Figurative language. (6-8)



The Sea in the Way

written and illustrated by Sophie Gilmore
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-302519-6

Badger resents the sea for keeping him and his friend Bear far apart. But the sea teaches Badger that closeness and distance need not be mutually exclusive. Gentle watercolor and ink illustrations. (6-8)

Contemporary Issues

Abdul's Story

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose

(Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6298-4

Abdul, a dark-skinned boy who loves storytelling but struggles with writing, is assured by an author visiting the school that it is OK to make mistakes. Colorful digital illustrations. (5-8)



Bear in the Family

by Eric Walters, illustrated by Olga Barinova
(Orca Echoes/Orca Book Publishers, P \$7.95)

978-1-4598-3297-8

After a wildfire, a multiracial family finds an orphaned bear cub and cares for it until it can be placed in a wildlife sanctuary. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)



Beauty Woke

by NoNieqa Ramos, illustrated by Paola Escobar
(Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99)

978-0-358-00841-5

When Puerto Rican Beauty experiences racism and loses her sense of self-worth, her family steps in to empower her. Told in a mix of Spanish and English. Bold illustrations. (6-8)



The Coat

by Séverine Vidal, illustrated by Louis Thomas
(Flyaway Books, \$18.00) 978-1-947-88838-8

Elise can't wait to get a coveted hand-me-down red coat. Then she sees a mother and child who have no coats. What to do? Stylized watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

The Coquíes Still Sing

by Karina Nicole González, illustrated by Krystal Quiles
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$18.99)

978-1-250-78718-7

When Category 4 Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, the community rebuilt neighborhoods and restored habitats. Vibrant, mixed-media illustrations. Extensive back matter. Also available in Spanish. (5-8)



A History of Me

by Adrea Theodore, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson
(Neal Porter/Holiday House, \$18.99)

978-0-8234-4257-7

The only brown girl in her class, demeaned by her peers because of her race, gains perspective and pride from her mother's stories about their female ancestors. Animated color illustrations. (7-10)

Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers

by Lina Al-Hathloul and Uma Mishra-Newbery,
illustrated by Rebecca Green

(minedition/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-6626-5064-2

With her parents' support, determined Loujain overcomes her society's limitations and learns to fly as boys do. Immersive gouache illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

Miss Rita, Mystery Reader

by Sam Donovan and Kristen Wixted, illustrated by Violet Tobacco

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-77476-7


Tori, a nonbinary young child, is excited but feels uncertain while helping their dad, a drag queen, prepare costumes and makeup to be the class mystery reader. Colorful digital illustrations. (5-7)


On This Airplane

by Lourdes Heuer, illustrated by Sara Palacios
(Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Random House of
Canada, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6860-9

A family emigrates by plane, along with many others who travel for different purposes. Gouache, cut paper, and digital illustrations deepen the text. (5-7)


D **Standing in the Need of Prayer: A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual**
by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-05933-0634-5
Journey through more than 400 years of Black History, from enslavement to the Black Lives Matter movement, by way of this popular spiritual. Rich oil illustrations. (7-9)

D  **The Talk**
by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9529-6
Jay, excited about growing older, has the difficult conversation with his family about growing up Black in a racist society. Digital illustrations. (6-9)

D  **This Will Pass**
by J. Donnini, illustrated by Luke Scriven
(Bushel & Peck Books, \$17.99) 978-1-63819-089-9
A great-uncle helps tame his timid great-nephew's anxiety about storms by explaining that they are temporary. Full-page watercolor and gouache illustrations. (6-8)


D **The Tree of Hope: The Miraculous Rescue of Puerto Rico's Beloved Banyan**
by Anna Orenstein-Cardona, illustrated by Juan Manuel Moreno
(Beaming Books/1517 Media, \$18.99) 978-1-50648-409-9
A beloved, ancient tree is brought back to life by the people of San Juan after Hurricane Maria hits Puerto Rico in 2017. Realistic illustrations. (6-8)


Family/School/Community

D  **Abuelita and I Make Flan**
written and illustrated by Adriana Hernández Bergstrom
(Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354-265-8
While preparing flan for Abuelito's birthday, Anita accidentally breaks her grandmother's special plate. How will she tell Abuelita? Includes Spanish words and phrases. Bright, playful illustrations. Back matter includes a recipe. (5-8)

D **All from a Walnut**
by Ammi-Joan Paquette, illustrated by Felicita Sala
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5002-1
Emilia's immigrant grandfather guides her in carrying on their Italian family's tradition of growing a walnut tree from a single walnut. Comforting green, ochre, and brown illustrations. (5-7)

D **Alone Like Me**
written and illustrated by Rebecca Evans
(Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-18192-8
Liling, taunted and lonely when her parents move from a rural area to an urban environment in China, finds solace through an unexpected friendship. Muted watercolor illustrations. Author's note. (5-8)

D  **Amah Faraway**
by Margaret Chiu Greanias, illustrated by Tracy Subisak
(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99) 978-1-5476-0721-1
It's time to visit Amah in Taipei, but Kylie has doubts; everything there is so different. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. Information on Taipei sights and foods. (5-8)

D  * **Anna Hibiscus**
by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-2519-8
Lively pencil drawings burgeon with the exuberant spirit of Anna's childhood in a busy Nigerian city. (6-9)

The Baker by the Sea
written and illustrated by Paula White
(Templar Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2389-7
A boy dreams of becoming a brave fisherman, but comes to value his father's job as a baker in their seaside English village. Evocative pencil and ink illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)

D * **The Best Kind of Mooncake**
written and illustrated by Pearl AuYeung
(Page Street Kids/Page Street, \$18.99) 978-1-64567-556-3
In Hong Kong, a starving stranger staggers into a family's market stall, and the young girl there gives him her prized mooncake. Will this act of kindness be rewarded? Digital illustrations. (6-9)

Big Truck Little Island

written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0393-6
When a big rig carrying a surprise slips off an island's only road, it takes everyone's cooperation to work around the stuck truck. Bright gouache illustrations. (5-8)

The Bird Feeder

by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Dorothy Leung
(Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0483-5
A girl places her bird feeder on a tree outside her ailing grandmother's hospice window so they can continue to bird-watch together. Digital illustrations with a calming palette. (5-8)

D * Black Gold

by Laura Obuobi, illustrated by London Ladd
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-301576-0
Lyrical text and rich atmospheric collage illustrations celebrate the Universe's love for Black children. (5-7)

D Black-Eyed Peas and Hoghead Cheese: A Story of Food, Family, and Freedom

by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Steffi Walthall
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-48614-6
A Black girl, visiting her Louisiana grandmother, helps prepare a traditional New Year's feast, learning how each dish connects to African American history. Color illustrations. Sources. Praline recipe included. (7-10)

The Boy Who Loved Maps

by Kari Allen, illustrated by G. Brian Karas
(Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-5230-4
When a girl requests a map of "the perfect place" from a young mapmaker, he discovers another way to look at the world. Gouache and pencil illustrations. Back matter. (6-8)

D The Comet

written and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton
(Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, \$16.99)
978-1-83874-065-8
Nyla mourns her old home when she and her dad move to the city. One night, a comet inspires her to find connections to both places. Richly hued illustrations. (4-7)

D Dadaji's Paintbrush

by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane
(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-172-2
When his artist grandfather dies, a boy stops painting until a little girl persuades him to use his skills again. Soft mixed-media illustrations evoke a Goan village. (5-7)

D Dance the Hora, Isadora

by Gloria Koster, illustrated by Barbara Bongini
(Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House Publishers, \$17.95) 978-1-68115-587-6
Her ballet classmates have all shared their favorite dances, but Isadora doesn't have one. Will she discover it at her cousin's wedding? Animated bold color illustrations capture the traditional Jewish circle dance. (5-8)

*** A Day for Sandcastles**

by JonArno Lawson, illustrated by Qin Leng
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0842-9
At the beach, three siblings decide to build and then rebuild their sandcastle each time a wave comes in to wash it away. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

D * Eyes That Speak to the Stars

by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-305775-3
When a Chinese American boy is hurt by a classmate's stereotypical drawing of his eyes, his father helps him see all the ways their eyes are wonderful. Joyful illustrations. (5-7)

*** Farmhouse**

written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-52894-8
Lyrical verse introduces a farmhouse where a loving family's 12 children grew up. Multilayered illustrations embedded with artifacts from the house that Blackall now owns. (5-8)

D * The Flamingo

written and illustrated by Guojing
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-12731-5
A young girl visiting her Chinese grandmother is mesmerized by a pink feather and the tales her Lao Lao tells, inspiring her to create her own stories. Photoshop, watercolor, and colored pencil illustrations. (5-8)

D Francis Discovers Possible

by Ashlee Latimer, illustrated by Shahrzad Maydani (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4910-0
When classmates call Francis fat, she is upset until her father helps her to realize the possible, positive aspects of life. Dreamy soft pastel and watercolor illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)

D Friends Are Friends, Forever

by Dane Liu, illustrated by Lynn Scurfield (Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-77818-5
When her family moves from China to America, Dandan must leave her very best friend. Will she find a new one? Mixed-media collage illustrations. (5-7)

D * Gibberish

written and illustrated by Young Vo (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-110-4
An all-new country, school, and language baffle Dat until a friendly classmate teaches him a few words. Flat black-and-white illustrations burst into color as Dat's comprehension expands. (5-8)

D * Hold Them Close:

A Love Letter to Black Children

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Patrick Dougher and photographed by Jamel Shabazz (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-303617-8
Verse, photographs, collage, and gold-leaf illustrations celebrate Blackness, inspiring pride and joy. (5-8)

I Don't Care

by Julie Fogliano, illustrated by Molly Idle and Juana Martinez-Neal (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4345-1
Rhyming text and limited-palette illustrations portray a developing friendship between two children who "don't care" about their differences and embrace their similarities. (5-7)

D I'll Go and Come Back

by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Sara Palacios (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0717-0
On a trip to India, Jyoti finds it difficult to communicate with her grandmother until they begin to play, read, and cook together. Warmly patterned digital art. (4-7)

D It's So Difficult

written and illustrated by Raúl Nieto Guridi, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel (Eerdmans, \$17.99) 978-0-8028-5584-8
Counting and calculating soothe a nonverbal child whose daily routine feels noisy and chaotic. White text on black backgrounds and scratchy drawings evoke the child's emotions. (7-9)

*** John's Turn**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Kate Berube (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0395-0
It's John's turn to present at Friday assembly, and he's nervous. Will the other students like his ballet recital or make fun of him? Ink and paint illustrations. (5-8)

D  The Katha Chest

by Radhiah Chowdhury, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu (Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0390-5
When Asiya visits her grandmother, she loves exploring all the quilts that depict their family stories. Bold textured illustrations bring the tales alive. Author's note. (5-8)

The Little House of Hope

by Terry Catasús Jennings, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4716-9
Born in Cuba, Esperanza (Hope in Spanish) helps her family embrace the relatives and friends who share their small U.S. house. Soft colored pencil and watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

D Madani's Best Game

by Fran Pintadera, illustrated by Raquel Catalina, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel (Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$17.99) 978-0-8028-5597-8
Madani, the best player on the soccer team though he plays barefoot, has a plan to get new cleats. Illustrations portray athletic bodies in motion. (6-8)

D Making Happy

by Sheetal Sheth, illustrated by Khoa Le (Barefoot Books, \$17.99) 978-1-64686-622-9
Leila's family and schoolmates find a way to lift her spirits when her mother gets sick. Expressive, intricately patterned illustrations intensify a range of emotions. Author's and illustrator's notes. (5-8)

 **Mama's Home**

by Shay Youngblood, illustrated by Lo Harris
(Make Me A World/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-18022-8

While a mother is working away from home, a young Black child lives with seven different families each week, being nurtured by them all. Bold digital illustrations. (6-8)

**Me and the Boss:
A Story about Mending and Love**

by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by April Harrison
(Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-31067-0
Lee, a younger brother with a bossy older sister, uses his hard-learned sewing skills to fix her stuffed bear and win her love. Mixed-media illustrations. Project instructions. (4-6)

 **Mommy's Hometown**

by Hope Lim, illustrated by Jaime Kim
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1332-4
The urbanized Korea that a child encounters on his first visit there doesn't match the nostalgic stories his mother has told him. But some things remain the same. Evocative illustrations. (5-7)

 * **My Beautiful Voice**

by Joseph Coehlo, illustrated by Allison Colpoys
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$12.99)
978-1-68464-469-8
A young child, shy, fearful, and silent, finds her poetic voice with the support of her very special teacher. Energetic, vibrant illustrations. (4-7)

My Brother Is Away

by Sara Greenwood, illustrated by Luisa Uribe
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-12716-2
A six-year-old girl recounts her anger and confusion over her brother's imprisonment as well as her joy at their reunion. Based on the author's childhood experiences. Genteel Photoshop-rendered graphics. (5-8)

 * **My Hands Tell a Story**

by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Tonya Engel
(Reycraft Books, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-7061-6
A little Black girl listens to the stories her grandmother's hands tell as she and her grandmother bake cinnamon bread together. Oil paint illustrations. (5-8)

 **My Paati's Saris**

by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Art Twink
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32460-8
A young South Asian Indian child helps their beloved paati (grandmother) prepare for and celebrate a day at the market. Vibrant illustrations. (5-7)

 * **Nana, Nenek & Nina**

written and illustrated by Liza Ferneyhough
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35394-3
Nina loves to visit her grandmothers in England and in Malaysia and to experience the differences and similarities between the two places. Warm mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

Nervous Nigel

written and illustrated by Bethany Christou
(Templar Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99)
978-1-5362-2386-6
Can crocodile Nigel follow his own path without disappointing his family of swimming champions who have entered him in a contest? Colorful mixed-media illustrations humorously encapsulate dialogues. (5-8)

 **The Notebook Keeper:**

A Story of Kindness from the Border
by Stephen Briseño, illustrated by Magdalena Mora
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30705-2
A refugee writes down the names of families seeking asylum at the U.S./Mexico border, and a little girl learns kindness can exist anywhere. Mixed-media illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (6-9)

 **Rosa's Song**

by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Pascal Campion
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37549-5
Playful watercolor illustrations capture the mixed sadness and joy of a boy who is new to a country and highlight the power of friendship. (5-8)

Rosie and the Pre-loved Dress

written and illustrated by Leanne Hatch
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35448-3
Finding a beautiful yellow dress at the thrift shop, Rosie imagines what the girl who once owned it did while she was wearing it. Digital illustrations with hand-painted textures. (5-7)

Sal Boat (A Boat by Sal)

written and illustrated by Thyra Heder
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5750-1
Sal sets sail in a houseboat he created out of scraps
and gumption, uniting his skeptical seaside town
community. Watercolor art. (5-8)

D The Secret of the Jade Bangle (Nguyen Kids series)

by Linda Trinh, illustrated by Clayton Nguyen
(Annick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-77321-715-4
Grandma Nôi left gifts for each of her grandchildren.
Anne discovers her gift just might help her make a
place for herself in a community that is not always
welcoming. Digital black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

D * Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls (Too Small Tola series)

by Atinuke, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-1-5362-2517-4
Tola is a great help to her family in Lagos, Nigeria,
because although she's small, her wits and
determination aren't. Detailed black-and-white
illustrations. (6-8)

*** The Treasure Box**

by Dave Keane, illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-1-9846-1318-3
Colorful, realistic illustrations—scanned handmade
textures digitally collaged—and simple text depict
the special bond between a young girl and her
grandparents. (5-7)

*** The Tunnel**

by Sarah Howden, illustrated by
Erika Rodriguez Medina
(Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-427-6
A young boy's sorrow is rendered in mostly greyscale
illustrations and poignantly simple text, showing how
healing is incremental and different for everyone. (5-8)

D Uncle John's City Garden

by Bernette G. Ford, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4786-2
Having permission to garden a city lot, Uncle John's two
nieces and nephew help him there, from plowing and
planting to harvesting and eating. Oil and spray-painted
illustrations. (6-9)

D Walter Had a Best Friend

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's
Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-7700-1
Walter and Xavier are best friends, until one day Xavier
finds a new pal. Will Walter find a new best friend, too?
Subtle pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

D * When the Wind Came

by Jan Andrews, illustrated by Dorothy Leung
(Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0339-5
After a destructive tornado, a family heals together
through the power of love. Pencil and paint art supports
the emotion of the story. (5-8)

D With Lots of Love

by Jenny Torres Sanchez, illustrated by André Ceolin
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-20500-6
When Rocio moves to the United States, she misses her
grandmother, but is thrilled by a wonderful birthday
present from Abuela: a star piñata. Vibrant digital
illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (4-7)

D * The World Belonged to Us

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Leo Espinosa
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$18.99) 978-0-399-54549-8
Joyful illustrations capture the energy of 1970s
Brooklyn, where children on summer vacation create
a model diverse community. Based on the author's
reminiscences. Nostalgic and inspirational. (5-8)

D * The Year We Learned to Fly

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$18.99) 978-0-399-54553-5
An African American grandmother advises her
grandchildren to learn from their ancestors and use
their imaginations to cope with challenges. Colorful
mixed-media illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)

Fantasy

The Bird Coat

by Inger Marie Kjældtadmyr, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter, translated from the Norwegian by Kari Dickson (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-366-1 Flying is Pierre's greatest wish, and wearing the special coat he has fashioned, he dares to spread his "wings" and takes off. This tale, with its predictable solemn ending, is written in a quirky, fantastical manner. (7-10)

How to Eat a Book

written and illustrated by Mrs. & Mr. MacLeod (Union Square Kids, \$17.99) 978-1-4549-4544-4 Zany illustrations complement the hilarious and only slightly scary story of the three Grunion children who are literally consumed by their books. Offbeat fun! (5-7)

Impossible Moon

by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Tonya Engel (Denene Millner Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-53447-897-8

African American Mable wants to help her Grana get better, visiting constellations with African backstories and trying to touch the moon. Swirling acrylic and oil paintings. Explanatory back matter. (6-9)

Lizzy and the Cloud

written and illustrated by the Fan Brothers (Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-8317-0

A young girl diligently cares for her pet cloud. When it grows too big, she knows she must let it go. But can she say goodbye? Digital illustrations. (5-8)

Marco Polo: Brave Explorer (Book Buddies series)

by Cynthia Lord, illustrated by Stephanie Graegin (Candlewick Press, \$12.99) 978-1-5362-1355-3 First sleepover jitters are overcome by interracial friendship and tiny talking toys. Expressive black-and-white digital artwork adds to the fun. (6-8)

*** Monsters in the Fog**

written and illustrated by Ali Bahrapour (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5245-2 Things aren't always what they seem! Donkey Hakim perseveres in his journey to visit his friend despite warnings of monsters along the way. Charming pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

*** Maybe:**

A Mindfulness Tale

adapted from a traditional folktale, illustrated by various artists (Bushel & Peck Books, \$15.99) 978-1-63819-101-8 When a farmer's friends have different reactions to his various fortunes or misfortunes, he wisely withholds judgement. Vintage artwork including Japanese woodblock prints. (7-10)

The Song of the Nightingale

by Tanya Landman, illustrated by Laura Carlin (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1768-1 Rich, lyrical prose and lively mixed-media illustrations bring to life a fable of how the animals got their colors and the nightingale got its song. (6-9)

*** The Three Billy Goats Gruff**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-67384-5

Two goats cross a hungry troll's bridge without being eaten by tricking him into believing that the next goat will be even larger and tastier. Muted, dramatic mixed-media art. (5-8)

Told and Retold:

Around the World with Aesop's Fables

retold and illustrated by Holly Berry (Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-35152-9

Collaged linoleum block prints on colored paper support and extend "The Ants and the Grasshopper," "The Lion and the Mouse," and other tales collected from many regions. (6-9)

Historical Fiction

The Chocolate King

by Michael Leventhal, illustrated by Laura Catalán, recipe by Claudia Roden (Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House, \$17.95) 978-1-68115-582-1 In 1630 Benjamin's Jewish family escapes to France from Spain with only their hot chocolate recipe and some chocolate beans. Detailed color illustrations. (7-9)

  **Magnolia Flower**

by Zora Neale Hurston, adapted by Ibram X. Kendi, illustrated by Loveis Wise (Amistad Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-309831-2

In this poetic retelling of a love story between members of an escaped enslaved community, a father tries to stop his daughter from marrying. Lush digital illustrations. (7-10)

 **Me and Muhammad Ali**

by Jabari Asim, illustrated by AG Ford (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-388-1

Ali's eloquent language and goodness of heart combine with athletic grace and skill to inspire a young boy and his community. Acrylic and colored pencil illustrations. (6-9)

 **Yossel's Journey**

by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Johnson Yazzie (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-176-7
When his family, fleeing from anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia, settles near a Navajo reservation in the American Southwest, Yossel finds a friend and shares cultural differences. Evocative painterly illustrations. (6-9)

 **Zhang Heng and the Incredible Earthquake Detector**

written and illustrated by Randel McGee (Familius, \$17.99) 978-1-64170-168-6
In 132 CE, a Chinese scientist invents a device that shows the direction from which an earthquake originated. Vivid illustrations evoke traditional Chinese puppet theater. (6-9)

Holidays and Religion

  **Mr. Mintz's Blintzes**

by Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by Esther Hernando (Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House, \$17.95) 978-1-68115-589-0

When beloved Mr. Mintz is injured and can't make his famous blintzes for Shavuot, his neighbors show their gratitude and love for him. Colorful, whimsical illustrations. Recipe included. (5-8)

  **Raquela's Seder**

by Joel Edward Stein, illustrated by Sara Ugolotti (Kar-Ben Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-72842-429-3
A Passover seder celebrated during the Inquisition gives special meaning to freedom, hope, and possibility. Historical back matter. Warm, sensitive illustrations. (5-7)

  *** Snow Horses: A First Night Story**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Micha Archer (Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-7355-3

In a snow-covered countryside, a horse-drawn sleigh picks up young and old for a joyous community New Year's Eve celebration. Collage and ink capture sparkling wintry landscapes. (5-7)

 **A Sweet New Year for Ren**

by Michelle Sterling, illustrated by Dung Ho (Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9660-6
Ren is finally old enough to participate in making her favorite Lunar New Year dessert, the pineapple cake. Vivid illustrations bring a New Year feast alive. Recipe included. (5-8)

Humor

  **Creepy Crayon!**

by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown (Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-6588-6
Because Jasper Rabbit would rather play than do his schoolwork, he's failing. Then a magic crayon helps him get all the right answers. Sinister greyscale and purple illustrations. (5-8)

Every Dog in the Neighborhood

by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Matthew Cordell (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4427-4
Louis wants a dog, but his grandmother claims there are already enough dogs in the neighborhood. His survey leads to many surprises. Humorous animated illustrations. (5-8)



How Old Is Mr. Tortoise?

by Dev Petty, illustrated by Ruth Chan
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4670-3
Animal friends insist on knowing Mr. Tortoise's age, but he's more interested in getting to the cake. Lighthearted illustrations. (5-7)



I DID See a Mammoth!

written and illustrated by Alex Willmore
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$14.99)
978-1-68464-511-4
Colorful, cartoon-like illustrations depict a youngster convinced he's seen a mammoth while exploring the Antarctic. Will the grown-ups believe him? (6-9)

*** I Want to Be a Vase**

by Julio Torres, illustrated by Julian Glander
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-53-449390-2
A toilet plunger becomes his true self, encouraging other home furnishings to do the same. Vibrant digital art adds to the outrageous fun. (4-7)



Kat Hats

by Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by Aaron Renier
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5194-3
Cats that keep people's (and witches') heads warm? Zany antics, a white dad, a brown mom and children, and many felines fill the vivid over-the-top gouache paintings. (7-10)

ⓓ People Are Wild

written and illustrated by Margaux Meganck
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30194-4
Animal children query their parents about the diverse humans they see and are warned not to get too close to the people! Color pencil and watercolor illustrations. Back matter. (4-6)



Too Pig to Fail (A Batpig Book series)

written and illustrated by Rob Harrell
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$14.99)
978-0593-35420-9
With his sidekicks and quick wits, Batpig faces new villains. Colorful cartoon illustrations. (7-10)

Magical Realism

Witch Hazel

written and illustrated by Molly Idle
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-54113-8
With a magical whisk of her broom, elderly Hazel shares years of happy memories with young Hilda. Effervescent fine-line white-on-beige illustrations. (5-8)

Sports

ⓓ * The Legend of Gravity:

A Tall Basketball Tale

written and illustrated by Charly Palmer
(Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-31328-9
This tall tale of a neighborhood basketball team's amazing season celebrates teamwork, unsung heroes, and the joy of nicknames. Dreamlike acrylic art. (6-9)

ⓓ We Play Soccer/Jugamos al fútbol (My Friend/Mi Amigo series)

by René Colato Laínez, illustrated by Nomar Perez
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4506-6
English-speaking Joe and Spanish-speaking José converse with one another as they enjoy their soccer game. The bilingual text supports learning words in each language. Bold, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)



*** Poo-Dunit?:**

A Forest Floor Mystery

by Katelyn Aronson, illustrated by Stephanie Laberis
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1637-0
Who deposited the smelly droppings outside a mouse's burrow? Rhyming text exposes several possible suspects. Humorous animation-style illustrations. Back matter includes a mystery to solve. (5-7)

POETRY

 **D All You Need**

by Howard Schwartz, illustrated by Jasu Hu
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-4329-1

A girl from China grows into an accomplished artist mindful of the small but important things in life. Soft watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

 *** Away with Words!:**

Wise and Witty Poems for Language Lovers

by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Perry Hoberman
(Megan Tingley Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-16765-9

Clever rhymes deliver surprisingly sophisticated grammar and punctuation rules with panache, heart, and humor. Playful pencil and pen drawings. (7-10)

Counting in Dog Years and Other Sassy Math Poems

by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Priscilla Tey
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0116-1

In poetic form, concepts of geometry, arithmetic, and puzzles are playfully woven into the stanzas. Colorful, imaginative gouache illustrations. (6-8)

 *** Free at Last:**

A Juneteenth Poem

by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic
(Union Square Kids, \$17.99) 978-1-4549-4374-7

A celebration of Juneteenth, the 1865 announcement in Galveston, Texas, of emancipation from slavery, is depicted through a free verse poem and poignant oil illustrations. (6-9)

 *** Out of this World:**

Star-Studded Haiku

by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Matthew Trueman
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0356-1

Explore the universe one haiku at a time and discover stars, moons, eclipses, asteroids, and more, as you've never seen them before. Mixed-media illustrations. Extensive back matter. (7-10)

 **Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

by Robert Frost, illustrated by P. J. Lynch
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2914-1

Atmospheric gouache and watercolor illustrations depict a brave young girl traveling through snowy woods on horseback at night, giving this classic, century-old poem a new interpretation. (5-8)

 *** You Are the Loveliest**

by Hans Hagen and Monique Hagen, illustrated by Marit Törnqvist, translated from the Dutch by David Colmer

(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-128-9

Detailed mixed-media illustrations accompany rhyming and free verse poems written to express the words and thoughts of a little girl experiencing her world. (5-7)

 *** Zoobilations!:**

Animal Poems and Paintings

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6590-9

Whimsical pun-filled rhymed poems with childlike watercolor illustrations describe a collection of animals. (5-8)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Activities

My Big Book of Outdoors

written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick, \$19.99)
978-1-5362-1533-5

Enjoy four seasons of information, poetry, activities, and recipes. Colorful, appealing mixed-media illustrations. (7-10)

Arts

D Eighteen Vats of Water

by Ji-Li Jiang, illustrated by Nadia Hsieh
(Creston Books, \$18.99) 978-1-954354-06-7

Renowned fourth-century Chinese calligrapher Xian followed his father's style and work ethic from age six, but he also developed his own artistic style. Evocative ink and digital illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

Marcel's Masterpiece:

How a Toilet Shaped the History of Art

written and illustrated by Jeff Mack
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99)
978-1-250-77716-4

Playful illustrations and humorous puns work hand in hand to explain the Dada art movement in an accessible way. (5-8)

**Mr. McCloskey's Marvelous Mallards:
The Making of *Make Way For Ducklings***

by Emma Bland Smith, Becca Stadtlander
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-63592-392-6

After many revisions, a renowned author and illustrator discovered the best way to draw his unforgettable ducklings. Original sketches and humorous colorful illustrations. Includes comments from Jane McCloskey and an author's note. (7-10)

ⓓ The Night before the *Nutcracker* (American Ballet Theatre Presents series)

by John Robert Allman, illustrated by Julianna Swaney
(Doubleday BFYR/Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-18091-4

Excitement builds as a diverse cast of child and adult dancers prepare for opening night of a classic holiday ballet. Dreamlike color illustrations. Rhymed text. (7-10)

Biography and Memoir

ⓓ Annette Feels Free:

The True Story of Annette Kellerman, World-Class Swimmer, Fashion Pioneer, and Real-Life Mermaid

written and illustrated by Katie Mazeika
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S), \$18.99) 978-1-6659-0343-1
Colorful digital illustrations capture the life of a forward-thinking feminist swimmer who achieved fame after overcoming a childhood disability. Back matter and resources. (5-8)

Bobby:

A Story of Robert F. Kennedy

by Deborah Wiles, illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-0-545-17123-6
The family "runt" as a youth, Kennedy evolved into an inspirational political figure of the late 1960s. Soft evocative drawings. (7-10)

*** Celia Planted a Garden:**

The Story of Celia Thaxter and Her Island Garden

by Phyllis Root and Gary D. Schmidt, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0429-2
Colorful illustrations gloriously evoke the seacoast setting of the garden created by the 19th-century New England painter and poet. Time line and extensive sourcing. (6-9)

Courage Like Kate:

The True Story of a Girl Lighthouse Keeper

by Anne Crowley Redding, illustrated by Emily Sutton
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37340-8

From age 12, Kate assumed her aging father's treacherous job, operating the lighthouse and rescuing shipwrecked sailors. Vivid impressionistic mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

ⓓ Covered in Color:

Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Fabrics of Freedom

by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Susanna Chapman
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-5611-5
Christo's childhood under communism influenced his creation of distinctive freestyle art. Colorful illustrations and photos. Back matter. (6-8)

ⓓ  * Curve & Flow:

The Elegant Vision of L. A. Architect Paul R. Williams

by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Keith Mallett
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$18.99) 978-0-593-42907-5

The first certified Black architect west of the Mississippi persisted in his work, with talent and vision, despite racist laws and other setbacks. Digital illustrations highlight Williams's life. Back matter includes photos. (7-10)

ⓓ * The Faith of Elijah Cummings:

The North Star of Equal Justice

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Laura Freeman
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30650-5
Despite facing many childhood obstacles, Cummings joined the civil rights movement as a teen, went to law school, and became a congressman. Bold digital realistic illustrations. (5-8)

The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story

by Emma Bland Smith, illustrated by Jenn Ely
(Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-62354-160-6
When Elliott Michener, convicted counterfeiter, was assigned to work as a prison gardener, he discovered his passion and found redemption. Gouache and digital illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)



*** Harriet's Ruffled Feathers:**

The Woman Who Saved Millions of Birds

by Joy McCullough, illustrated by Romina Galotta
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-8676-8

Vibrant watercolors depict the story of two 19th-century women and their successful fight to protect birds from being killed for their decorative feathers. Suggested activities and extensive back matter. (6-9)

(D) I Am Ruby Bridges:

How One Six-Year Old Girl's March to School Changed the World

by Ruby Bridges, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-75388-2

With school segregation banned, Ruby, escorted by federal marshals in 1960, was the first Black student to attend an all-white elementary school. Painted scenes capture watershed moments. Back matter. (6-8)

(D) Just Like Jesse Owens

by Ambassador Andrew Young as told to Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Gordon C. James
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$17.99)
978-0-545-55465-7

When neighbors shouted "Heil Hitler!" Young's father countered the hate by taking him to a film about the 1936 Olympic champion. Owens has inspired Young ever since. Dramatic pastel illustrations. (7-9)

(D) A Life of Service:

The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth

by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2205-0
Cherishing American ideals, Duckworth prevailed over poverty, the rigors of the military, and the challenge of life as a double amputee. Pencil and digital collage illustrations. (7-9)



Like a Diamond in the Sky:

Jane Taylor's Beloved Poem of Wonder and the Stars

by Elizabeth Brown, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander
(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99)
978-1-5476-0427-2

Struggling in the shadow of male writers, Taylor persevered, becoming one of England's most famous children's poets. Realistic artwork captures the Romantic era setting. Rich back matter. (6-9)

(D) * Lion Lights:

My Invention That Made Peace with Lions

by Richard Turere, with Shelly Pollock, illustrated by Sonia Possentini
(Tilbury House, \$18.95) 978-0-88448-885-9

A young Maasai herder/warrior who likes to experiment recalls solving the challenge of saving both his family's cattle and the lions threatening them. Luminous illustrations. Back matter. (6-8)



Listen:

How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion

by Shannon Stocker, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-10969-4

Young Evelyn played clarinet and piano with great skill, but she was losing her hearing. Could she have a career in music? Back matter. Mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)



*** Marvelous Mabel:**

Figure Skating Superstar

by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Alleanna Harris
(Lee & Low Books, \$20.95) 978-1-62014-956-0
Orphaned at eight in 1923, Mabel Fairbanks taught herself to skate and became America's first Black figure skating star. Colorful evocative illustrations. (7-10)



Michael Rosen's Sticky McStickstick:

The Friend Who Helped Me Walk Again

by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Tony Ross
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2532-7
With the support of medical staff and his reliable walking stick, Rosen transitioned from sickness to recovery during the COVID pandemic. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (7-10) Mature content

Mister Rogers' Gift of Music

by Donna Cangelosi, illustrated by Amanda Calatzis
(Page Street Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-64567-470-2
The joyful legacy of Fred Rogers' music is brought to life with gentle text and dreamlike mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

(D) One Wish:

Fatima al-Fihri and the World's Oldest University

by M. O. Yuksel, illustrated by Mariam Quraishi
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-303291-0
In 859 CE, an Islamic woman in ancient Morocco created the world's oldest continually functioning university. Watercolor and gouache artwork. Back matter. (6-8)

D A Perfect Fit:

How Lena “Lane” Bryant Changed the Shape of Fashion

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-358-12543-3

The inspiring story of a Lithuanian immigrant’s transformation of the women’s clothing industry is shared with style. Distinctively fashionable mixed-media illustrations on hand-textured paper. Back matter. (7-9)

The Poem Forest:

Poet W. S. Merwin and the Palm Tree Forest He Grew from Scratch

by Carrie Fountain, illustrated by Chris Turnham (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1126-9

The former poet laureate, who loved wild thoughts and things, planted thousands of palm trees from around the world in Hawaii. Poetic narration and lush art. (7-10)



D Where Butterflies Fill the Sky:

A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home

written and illustrated by Zahra Marwan (Bloomsbury Children’s Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99)

978-1-5476-0651-1

When her family must leave Kuwait after her father is declared stateless, a young girl wonders if she will ever find home again. Stylized illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)



D Wonderful Hair:

The Beauty of Annie Malone

by Eve Nadel Catarevas, illustrated by Felicia Marshall (Creston Books, \$18.99) 978-1-954354-10-4

Annie Malone became the first self-made African American female millionaire by developing and distributing a line of hair and cosmetic products for Black women. Richly detailed illustrations. Back matter. (7-9)

D * Yes We Will:

Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country

by Kelly Yang, illustrated by various artists (Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-46305-5

The accomplishments and contributions of Kamala Harris, Yo-Yo Ma, I. M. Pei, and 15 other Asian Americans from the fields of science, the arts, history, and politics are celebrated. Vibrant colorful illustrations. Extensive back matter. (4-7)

Ecology



Honeybee Rescue:

A Backyard Drama

by Loree Griffin Burns, photographed by Ellen Harasimowicz

(Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-6235-4239-9

Why do bees swarm? How do they build their hives? Find out when Mr. Connery calls a bee rescuer to remove and relocate a colony from his barn. Clear photographs follow the process. Back matter. (5-8)

*** The Late, Great Endlings:**

Stories of the Last Survivors

by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Aimée van Drimmelen

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95) 978-1-4598-2766-0

The last known survivors of several species are honored. Includes actions children can take to help combat mass extinction. Large watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

Only One

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Chuck Groenink (Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-399-55703-3

This clear, succinct narrative introduces the vocabulary of the Earth, the skies, and each person’s place in the universe. Ink and acrylic paint illustrations. (6-8)

Serengeti:

Plains of Grass

by Leslie Bulion, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Peachtree Publishing, \$18.99) 978-1-68263-191-1

The survival of plant and animal life in delicate balance are described in poetic form taken from Swahili utendi verse. Immersive gouache and pastel artwork. Glossary. Back matter. (6-9)

The Tide Pool Waits

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Amy Hevron (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)

978-0-8234-4915-6

Myriad inhabitants of a coastal tide pool adapt to the twice-daily dry periods, awaiting the rush of ocean water at high tide. Vibrant illustrations. Comprehensive back matter. (5-7)

D **A Warbler's Journey**

by Scott Weidensaul, illustrated by Nancy Lane (Gryphon Press, \$17.99) 978-0-940719-47-7
Join a tiny bird on a perilous 4,000-mile migratory trip to a nesting ground. Detailed, realistic oil illustrations. Back matter includes practical ways to protect the avian world. (5-8)

*** The Wolves of Yellowstone: A Rewilding Story**

by Catherine Barr, illustrated by Jenni Desmond (Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$23.99) 978-1-5476-0798-3
When wolves were brought back to Yellowstone Park after an absence of 69 years, the whole balance of nature in the park changed—for the better. Detailed watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

History

D *** Because of You, John Lewis: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-75908-2
After ten-year-old Tybre Faw's dream of meeting Congressman John Lewis came true, a friendship grew between the young activist and the civil rights leader. Watercolor illustrations accompany the poetic text. Thorough back matter includes photographs. (6-9)

How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower

by Emma Bland Smith, illustrated by Lisa Visirin (Capstone Editions/Capstone, \$17.99) 978-1-68446-478-4
Gustave Eiffel saved the tower he'd created for the 1889 World's Fair from being dismantled by demonstrating its value for many scientific and technological advances. Digital art. Sources, back matter. (6-9)

*** Jack Knight's Brave Flight: How One Gutsy Pilot Saved The U.S. Air Mail Service**

by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Stacy Innerst (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-981-1
In 1921, during a blizzard, one courageous pilot took charge for much of the nighttime coast-to-coast route. Text and illustrations in a somber palette capture the drama and danger. Archival photos. Time line. (6-8)

D **Keepunumuk:**

Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story

by Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry, and Alexis Bunten, illustrated by Gary Meeches Sr. (Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-62354-290-0
A Wampanoag grandmother relates how her people and guardian spirits made survival possible for the English Pilgrims in Massachusetts 400 years ago. Imaginative illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

Nellie vs. Elizabeth:

Two Daredevil Journalists' Breakneck Race around the World

by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-377-2
Two late 19th-century female reporters sped around the globe, each determined to complete the journey first. Acrylic ink and colored pencil illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

D **Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free:**

The True Story of The Grandmother of Juneteenth

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo (Tommy Nelson/Thomas Nelson, \$17.99) 978-1-4002-3125-6
The history of the end of American slavery is told in the voice of Opal Lee, the grandmother of our newest national holiday, Juneteenth. Digital artwork. Back matter, sourcing. (6-8)

Revolutionary Prudence Wright: Leading the Minute Women in the Fight for Independence

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-64472-057-8
Freedom from British rule wasn't achieved only by men, as shown in this tribute to a courageous female warrior from Pepperell, Massachusetts. Traditional watercolor and digital illustrations. (7-9)

D **Sweet Justice:**

Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-5247-2064-3
An early civil rights hero's legendary cooking sustained both the celebrated and the unsung champions of the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott. Painterly artwork. (6-9)

Holidays and Religion

Awe-Some Days:

Poems about the Jewish Holidays

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32469-1

A family celebrates a year of Jewish holidays. Each of the twelve poems is accompanied by additional information about the festival. Animated illustrations. (6-9)

* **The Christmas Book Flood**

by Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Kitty Moss
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-38899-7

The Icelandic tradition of sharing books with loved ones on Christmas Eve is depicted with fanciful illustrations that lend a touch of magic. Diverse representation. Author's note. (5-7)

* **The Little Book of Joy**

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams and Rachel Neumann, illustrated by Rafael López
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-48423-4

The two Nobel Peace Prize winners celebrate the power of shared joy. Dense vibrant acrylic art. Back matter about the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop. (4-7)

Law and Justice

* **If You're a Kid Like Gavin:**

The True Story of a Young Trans Activist

by Gavin Grimm and Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by J Yang
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-305756-2

Because he was a trans boy barred from using the boys' bathroom, Gavin Grimm chose to become an activist for trans rights. Colorful, cartoony digital illustrations. (6-9)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

Alaska Is for the Birds!:

Fourteen Favorite Feathered Friends

by Susan Ewing, illustrated by Evon Zerbetz
(Alaska Northwest Books/West Margin Press, \$18.99)
978-1-51312-866-5

The tufted puffin, willow ptarmigan, and 12 other birds found in the 49th state are described in rhyming verse. Vibrant linocut illustrations. Back matter includes glossary and additional information. (5-8)

Amazing Plants of the World (World of Amazement series)

by Štěpánka Sekaninová, illustrated by Zuzana Dreadka Krutá
(Albatros Media, \$16.95) 978-8-00006353-9
Dr. Carnations's botanical garden showcases smelly, carnivorous fungi and plants that look like people, animals, and objects. Humorous text accompanies each whimsical colorful illustration. (6-9)

* **Anglerfish:**

The Seadevil of the Deep

by Elaine M. Alexander, illustrated by Fiona Fogg
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1396-6
Born on the ocean surface, anglerfish then live most of their lives in the deepest ocean. Strange and unique characteristics and adaptations allow them to survive. Digital art. Back matter. (5-8)

* **The Bird Book**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-35-832569-7

Torn and cut color paper collages across double-page spreads display the avian species' evolution and their anatomical and behavioral similarities and differences, as well as their endangerment status. Extensive back matter. (6-9)

Bok's Giant Leap:

One Moon Rock's Journey through Time and Space

by Neil Armstrong, adapted by Grahame Baker Smith, illustrated by Grahame Baker Smith
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37886-1

Neil Armstrong considers the history of Earth and the moon from the point of view of the rock he collected during a lunar mission. Vivid illustrations. Back matter includes archival photos. (6-8)

Cat Eyes and Dog Whistles:

The Five Seven Senses of Humans and Other Animals

by Cathy Evans, illustrated by Becky Thorns (Cicada Books, \$22.99) 978-1-80066-013-7
Clear descriptions and detailed illustrations demonstrate how sensory cells receive information, translate it into electrical signals, and pass it through nerves to the brain. Index and glossary. (8-10)



Caves

by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$19.99) 978-1-338-72662-6
Explore the Lascaux Cave, the Glowworm Grotto, and other underground chambers and discover the mysteries inside them. Two-page cinematic illustrations depict subterranean vistas. (6-9)



Diving Deep:

Using Machines to Explore the Ocean

by Michelle Cusolito, illustrated by Nicole Wong (Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354-293-1
Humanity's curiosity about the ocean deep is celebrated with descriptions of ways to reach various depths and the technologies used for exploration. Digital illustrations help reveal the ocean's secrets. (6-9)

Hiders Seekers Finders Keepers:

How Animals Adapt in Winter

by Jessica Kulekjian, illustrated by Salini Perera (Kids Can Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5253-0485-9
Different species have ingenious strategies to cope with the winter cold. Detailed illustrations in a muted palette. Back matter. (5-8)

*** How to Bake a Universe**

by Alec Carvlin, illustrated by Brian Biggs (Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$18.95) 978-1-324-00423-3
Whimsical storytelling and bold illustrations, grounded in science, make this a great introduction to the Big Bang theory and astrophysics. Thorough back matter. Visually stunning time line. (6-8)

The Lodge That Beaver Built

by Randi Sonenshine, illustrated by Anne Hunter (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1868-8
Spend several seasons with a beaver family as they dam a stream, create a pond, chisel through trees, build a lodge, and give birth to kits. Glowing illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

The Longest Journey:

An Arctic Tern's Migration

written and illustrated by Amy Hevron (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4700-8
Nautical charts and maps with naturalistic artwork vivify the perilous 60,000-mile journey of a little seabird from the North Pole to the South Pole. Additional facts, bibliography. (6-8)



*** Luminous:**

Living Things That Light Up the Night

written and illustrated by Julia Kuo (Greystone Kids/Greystone Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77164-888-2
Simple eloquent text introduces information about bioluminescence on land and sea. Evocative illustrations provide perfect enhancement. (5-8)

ⓓ * The Mystery of the Monarchs:

How Kids, Teachers, and Butterfly Fans Helped Fred and Norah Urquhart Track the Great Monarch Migration

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Erika Meza (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-2956-6
Scientists led a team, including children and other citizen scientists, to trace the migration patterns of monarchs. Mixed-media illustrations by a Mexican artist. Extensive back matter. (6-9)

*** Polar Bear**

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4916-3
As global warming imperils their survival, a mother and her cubs roam, search for food, and fend off predators. Striking, realistic, oil paint illustrations. (6-9)

What a Shell Can Tell

by Helen Scales, illustrated by Sonia Pulido (Phaidon, \$19.95) 978-1-8386-6431-2
Observing the color, texture, and shape of sea and land shells reveals a wealth of information about them and the creatures that live inside them. Detailed illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

What's That Smell? (Super Gross series)

by Ximena Hastings, illustrated by Alison Hawkins (Simon Spotlight/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-2076-6
Dr. Ick and his dog, Sam, explore many repulsive odors from nature and our bodies. Activity provided. Cartoon-style illustrations. Photographs. (6-8)



Wolves!:

Strange and Wonderful (Strange and Wonderful series)

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by
Meryl Learnihan Henderson
(Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99)
978-1-63592-327-8

History and facts about wolves are presented in engaging text. Watercolor and pencil illustrations capture the wolves' movements. Back matter provides extensive resources. (6-9)

Yoshi and the Ocean:

A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home

written and illustrated by Lindsay Moore
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-306098-2

Using a tracking tag, scientists follow the journey of Yoshi, a loggerhead turtle, from a South African aquarium to her home in Australia. Detailed back matter. Watercolor illustrations. (7-9)

World

Wheels!:

All about Transport

by Moira Butterfield, illustrated by Bryony Clarkson
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$16.99)
978-1-68464-244-1

Cars, tractors, and myriad other vehicles serve a multitude of purposes. Colorful realistic illustrations. (7-9)

NINE TO TWELVE

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

 **The Clackity (Blight Harbor series)**

by Lora Senf, illustrated by Alfredo Cáceres
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-66590-267-0

When her aunt disappears, Evie knows she has to go after her. When the dreadful creature Clackity offers her a “fair deal,” Evie can’t refuse it. Ghostly black-and-white illustrations. (10-12)

 **Leon the Extraordinary (Leon series)**

written and illustrated by Jamar Nicholas, color by Bonaia Rosado
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-74416-3
Pen and ink comic drawings with bright vibrant color depict Leon’s heroic journey to self-acceptance as he figures out the right reason for helping others. (9-12)

 **Team Chu and the Battle of the Blackwood Arena (Team Chu series)**

by Julie C. Dao, illustrated by Chi Ngo
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-38875-1

Vietnamese American siblings Sadie and Clip are fiercely competitive in laser tag. When a virtual-reality-enhanced game becomes dangerous, can they bury their rivalry to escape? Animated black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Violet & Jobie in the Wild

written and illustrated by Lynn Rae Perkins
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-249969-1

House mice get trapped and released to a wild they’ve never experienced. Can they learn to survive without humans, upon whom they’ve come to rely? Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

 **Wreck at Ada’s Reef (The Swallowtail Legacy series)**

by Michael D. Beil, illustrated by Torborg Davern
(Pixel + Ink, \$17.99) 978-1-64595-048-6

Hired for the summer by her mother’s best friend, 12-year-old Lark works on solving the mystery of a 75-year-old boating accident. Black-and-white illustrations. Maps. (9-12)

Animals

 **Odder**

by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-14742-4

A rescued otter pup encounters both joy and peril when reintroduced to the wild. Based on actual Monterey Bay Aquarium cases. Free verse. Soft black-and-white illustrations. Glossary, bibliography, resources. (8-11)

Contemporary Issues

 **Berani**

by Michelle Kadarusman
(Pajama Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77278-260-8

Privileged Canadian Indonesian Malia and Indonesian Ari, a boy struggling to get an education, work together to save endangered orangutans. Alternating viewpoints with interludes by Berani, an orangutan. Back matter. (10-13)

  *** In the Key of Us**

by Mariama J. Lockington
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-31410-1

Sent to a predominately white summer music camp, 13-year-old Andi, Black, struggles in her relationship with her family and friends, while grieving the loss of her mother. (10-12) Mature content

Saving the Butterfly

by Helen Cooper, illustrated by Gill Smith
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)
978-1-5362-2055-1

A brother and sister, refugees, have different memories of their difficult journey to a new land. The poignant, poetic text describes how a butterfly helps them heal. Expressive mixed-media illustrations. (8-11)

D * Thirst

by Varsha Bajaj
(Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35439-1

While studying for final exams, Minni, 12, discovers a theft ring depriving her poor Mumbai neighborhood of needed water. Despite growing family responsibilities, she combats the injustice. (10-13)

D Weird Rules to Follow

by Kim Spencer
(Orca Book Publishers, P \$12.95) 978-1-4598-3558-0
A close friendship evolves between middle schoolers Mia, Native Indian, and comparatively privileged Mexican Hungarian Canadian Lara, who live in a fishing community in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. (10-12)

Family/School/Community

D All Four Quarters of the Moon

by Shirley Marr
(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-8886-1

When Ba Ba's job requires a move from Singapore to Australia, Peijing, 11, helps her mother, grandmother, and irrepressible little sister navigate their new world. (9-12)

D Aviva vs. the Dybbuk

by Mari Lowe
(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-125-8
Aviva's dybbuk always gets her in trouble in her Orthodox Jewish community. Is the mischievous spirit a friend or an enemy? Hebrew and Yiddish glossary. (10-12)

D Bhai for Now

by Maleeha Siddiqui
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-70209-5
Ashar and Shaheer, Pakistani American twins separated in infancy, meet in eighth grade and decide to switch places to try to uncover their family secrets. (11-13)

D Detour Ahead

by Pamela Ehrenberg and Tracy López, illustrated by Laila Ekboir
(PJ Publishing/PJ Library, \$14.99) 978-1-7365573-5-8
A friendship helps 12-year-old, neurodiverse Gilah prepare for her bat mitzvah and 13-year-old Salvadoran American Guillermo enter a poetry contest to win money to fix his broken bicycle. Alternating prose and free verse. Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

D * Falling Short

by Ernesto Cisneros
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-28817-4
Two dissimilar but dear friends, Isaac Castillo and Marco Honeyman, help each other to become the middle grade students they want to be. (9-12)

D Freestyle

written and illustrated by Gale Galligan
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-04581-9
Cory's parents hire nerdy Sunna to tutor him when his geometry grades fall. Soon he discovers she can do cool, very complicated yo-yo tricks. Colorful detailed illustrations. (10-13)

D Frizzy

by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$21.99) 978-7-250-25962-2
Marlene faces colorism and racism in her Dominican American community because of the texture of her hair, until her aunt teaches her how to care for and love it. Digital illustrations. (8-11)

D * Honey and Me

by Meira Drazin
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-15543-3
Milla and her best friend, Honey, from Modern Orthodox Jewish families, encounter challenges to their friendship amid growing independence as they enter sixth grade. Hebrew and Yiddish glossary. Back matter. (10-13)

The Hope of Elephants

by Awanda Rawson Hill
(Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354259-7
Cass, 12, whose life now centers on her father's medical care, struggles to maintain family traditions while facing the possibility of having inherited his rare disorder. Free verse. (10-12)

D If You Read This

by Kereen Getten
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-17400-5
Brie's 12th birthday present includes three letters,
written before her mother's death, that lead her
across Jamaica on an adventure involving her father,
grandfather, family, and friends. (10-12)

D * Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone

by Tae Keller
(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99)
978-0-593-31052-6
Did new seventh grader Jennifer Chan run away
because of aliens or because of "the Incident" with her
so-called friends? (9-12)

D Just Right Jillian

by Nicole D. Collier
(Versify/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-358-43461-0
Fifth grader Jillian must overcome her shyness and
lack of confidence to show her true self and honor the
memory of her grandmother. (9-11)

D Maizy Chen's Last Chance

by Lisa Lee, illustrated by Rebecca Shieh
(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99)
978-1-9848-3025-8
With her grandfather's health failing, Maizy, 11, spends
the summer in Minnesota helping out at the family's
Chinese restaurant and learning about her heritage.
Warm, moving, and multilayered. Greyscale spot art.
(9-12)

A Million Views

by Aaron Starmer
(Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-38693-4
Sixth grader Brewster makes videos by himself, but
when classmates challenge him to make a movie trailer,
he makes new friends and realizes all families are
unique. (9-12)

D  Miss Quinces

written and illustrated by Kat Fajardo
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-53558-7
Sue has big plans for the summer, but her family has
made other arrangements. A dramatic turn of events
changes everything. Whimsical graphic art. (8-11)

Our Own Little Paradise

by Marianne Kaurin, translated from the Norwegian by
Olivia Lasky
(Arctis Books, \$15.00) 978-1-64690-018-3
In Norway, on the last day of school, an impoverished
and humiliated sixth grader blurts falsely that she'll
vacation in "the tropics." A new classmate discovers her
lie. (9-12)

D Shine On, Luz Véliz!

by Rebecca Balcárcel
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-79720-967-8
After an injury on the soccer field, sixth grader Luz feels
lost until she discovers a knack for coding. And then a
new Guatemalan half sister arrives! Author's note. (9-12)

D * Tumble

by Celia C. Pérez
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-32517-9
Adela, 12, has never met her biological father. After
learning he is a member of a professional wrestling
family, she finds a way to meet him, and new
relationships evolve. (10-13)

D  Twin Cities

written and illustrated by Jose Pimienta
(RH Graphic/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$20.99) 978-0-593-18063-1
Twin Mexican 12-year-olds going to middle school on
opposite sides of the Mexican-U.S. border grow apart.
Can they find one another again? Colorful graphics of
Mexicali and Calexico. Back matter. (10-12)

D When the World Turned Upside Down

by K. Ibura
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-74626-6
Four friends, living in the same apartment building
during the COVID pandemic, discover that taking
action assisting neighbors and participating in social
justice protests helps them to endure turbulent times.
(9-12)

*** Wildoak**

by C. C. Harrington, illustrated by Diana Sudyka
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-80386-0
To combat Maggie's stuttering, her parents send her to
her grandfather's in the country. There, her mission to
save a wounded snow leopard liberates her own voice.
Black-and-white spot illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

Fantasy



Always, Clementine

by Carlie Sorosiak
(Walker Books/Candlewick, \$17.99)
978-1-5362-2884-7

A genetically engineered genius mouse escapes the research lab but longs for her chimpanzee friend. Serious themes with humorous touches. (8-11)



The Aquanaut

written and illustrated by Dan Santat, color by Mike Boldt
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-0-545-49760-2
After the research vessel *Miette* sinks in a storm, a crew of courageous marine animals walk out of the ocean at San Diego. Expressive, action-packed art. (9-12)



*** Cress Watercress**

by Gregory Maguire, illustrated by David Litchfield
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-1100-9
After mother bunny moves Cress and baby Kip to the basement of the Broken Arms, Cress experiences danger, adventure, and a colorful group of residents. Richly luminous digital art. (8-11)



Duet

by Elise Broach, illustrated by Ziyue Chen
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-31135-9
A musically gifted goldfinch befriends a boy practicing to play in a Chopin competition. An engaging mystery, with bird and music facts. Black-and-white spot art. (9-11)

D Freddie vs. the Family Curse

by Tracy Badua
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-358-61289-6
Freddie Ruiz, 12, has 13 days to break the curse of the amulet in which his ancestor is trapped—or Freddie will die! Based on a Filipino legend. (9-12)

D Ghostcloud

by Michael Mann
(Peachtree Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-518-6
Luke Smith-Sharma is enslaved with other children in a dystopian London. When he rescues a girl who turns out to be a ghost, escape and friendship suddenly become possibilities. (8-11)

The Haunting (Secret of Glendunny series)

by Kathryn Lasky
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-303101-2
After an earthquake disrupts life in Glendunny, a deep forest in Scotland, the beavers help ghost siblings find their way, while tackling discrimination in the community. (8-11)

D The Last Mapmaker

by Christina Soontornvat
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0495-7
In an imagined old Siam, the daughter of a con man apprentices herself to an elderly mapmaker, leading to the ocean adventure of a lifetime. (9-12)



Leave It to Plum!

written and illustrated by Matt Phelan
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-307916-8
Peppy peacock Plum loves that peacocks run free at the zoo as ambassadors. But jealous Itch, a ningbing, causes havoc. Humorous greyscale drawings. (8-10)



Lily and the Night Creatures

by Nick Lake, illustrated by Emily Gravett
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-9461-9
Doppelgängers of her parents have invaded Lily's home. Even though she's battling an illness, it's up to her to save her family. Mysterious black-and-white spot illustrations. (8-11)

D * The Marvellers

by Dhonielle Clayton, illustrated by Khadijah Khatib
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-17494-9
When Conjuror Ella Durand, 11, enters the Arcanum Training Institute, not everyone welcomes her. When her mentor disappears and a Marvellian escapes prison, fingers point at Ella. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

The Problem with Prophecies (Celia Cleary series)

by Scott Reintgen
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-6659-0357-8
On her 4,444th day, Celia's magic starts up. She learns to manage the complications of seventh grade and her increased engagement with mortality that comes with her gift. (10-13)

The Sheep, the Rooster, and the Duck

written and illustrated by Matt Phelan
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-291100-1

The famous 1783 Versailles hot-air balloon trio uncover an evil plot to steal Benjamin Franklin's inventions and enthrone a king in America. Graphic-novel-style illustrations. Author's note. (9-11)

D Solimar:

The Sword of the Monarchs

by Pam Muñoz Ryan
(Disney-Hyperion, \$17.99) 978-1-4847-2835-2
With the help of a magical rebozo, a young royal protects her kingdom and its natural resources from invading forces. (9-11)



Storm

by Nicola Skinner
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-307168-1
Frankie's ghost is angrily stuck in her family's home, now a tourist attraction. Her newfound ability to hurl objects attracts attention from a nefarious source. (10-12)

D Valentina Salazar Is Not a Monster Hunter

by Zoraida Córdova
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-71271-1
Even though an Orü puma killed their father, three siblings rescue an Orü egg that is in danger of being destroyed by monster hunters. (9-12)

The Witch, the Sword, and the Cursed Knights

by Alexandria Rogers
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-7595-5458-0
A misunderstood, underappreciated witch and a boy from Wisconsin, mourning his friend's death, are recruited to break the curse that felled the legendary kingdom of Camelot. (9-12)

D Witchlings (Witchlings series)

by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Lissy Marlin
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-74552-8
Can three 12-year-old Spare Witchlings, unlikely companions, avoid being turned into toads forever by working together to defeat the dreaded Nightbeast and completing the impossible task? Black-and-white spot illustrations. (8-11)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

D Kapaemahu

by Hinalaimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson, illustrated by Daniel Sousa
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-53006-1

The buried sacred stones of the mahu—dual female/male spirit individuals who brought healing to Hawaii—have been recovered, but the erasure of their history continues. Somber, striking illustrations. Bilingual in Olelo Niihau and English. (10-13)



D * One & Everything

written and illustrated by Sam Winston
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$19.99)
978-1-5362-1566-3

One story claims to be the only story after absorbing all others, until they demand to be heard too. Watercolor and typographic illustrations. Map. Back matter includes descriptions of the language systems used. (8-11)

*** Windswept**

by Margi Preus, illustrated by Armando Veve
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5824-9
Despite her parents' objections, Tag is determined to find her sisters, who have been swept away in a storm. A modern tale based on ancient Norwegian folklore. Finely detailed black-and-white spot illustrations. (10-13)



*** The Wolf Suit**

written and illustrated by Sid Sharp
(Annick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-77321-720-8
Looking for a way to move freely in the forest, a sheep crafts and dons a wolf costume. Colorful, emotive illustrations. (9-11)



D * Yellow Dog Blues

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Chris Raschka
(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$18.99)
978-0-8028-5553-4

A Black boy searches for the classic blues song. Joyful language. Illustrations created with fabric paint and embroidery on canvas. Back matter. (8-11)

Historical Fiction

Coming Up Cuban

by Sonia Manzano
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-06515-2
Four children representing different intersections of race and class detail their experiences during Castro's rise to power in 1959–1961. Back matter, time line, and resources. Also available in Spanish. (10-13)

Different:

A Story of the Spanish Civil War

by Mónica Montañés, illustrated by Eva Sánchez Gómez, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel
(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$17.99)
978-0-8028-5598-5

Two siblings experience difficulties when their father must flee because of his political beliefs. Expressive charcoal, pastel, and colored pencil illustrations. Comprehensive back matter. (9-11)

Dog Star

by Megan Shepherd
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-31458-3

Laika, a stray dog in the Soviet Union, is sent into outer space. Ethical and political considerations are explored within the context of a girl's friendship with the heroic dog. Archival photos. Back matter. (9-12)

Freewater

by Amina Luqman-Dawson
(JIMMY Patterson Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-05661-8
After escaping the Southerland plantation, Homer and Ada join Freewater, a swampland community of formerly enslaved people. But can they ever return and free their mother? Brief historical note. (10-13)

Isla to Island

written and illustrated by Alexis Castellanos
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$21.99)
978-1-5377-6924-2
After escaping Cuba in 1961, Marisol, 11, struggles to adapt to her foster family and life in Brooklyn. Spanish dialogue. Vibrant Cuban pictures and wordless monotone panels. Back matter. (10-13)

The Lucky Ones

by Linda Williams Jackson
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2255-5
Ellis Earl lives in poverty, but his teacher gives him hope for the future, inviting him to church programs and even to a meeting with Senator Robert Kennedy. (9-12)

* **The Moon from Dehradun:**

A Story of Partition

by Shirin Shamsi, illustrated by Tarun Lak
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-66590-679-1

In 1947 during the Partition of India, a family hurriedly flees their home in fear. Back matter includes maps. Digital illustrations. (8-11)

My Own Lightning

by Lauren Wolk
(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55559-9
In 1944, after Annabelle is struck by lightning and acquires the ability to understand animal emotions, she meets Nora, who secretly nurtures injured and maltreated animals. Sequel to *Wolf Hollow*. (10-13)

The Puffin Keeper

by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Benji Davies
(Puffin Canada/Penguin Random House Canada, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-7180-7
A lifelong friendship starts when a boy, who will grow up to found Penguin Books, is rescued from a shipwreck by a lighthouse keeper on Puffin Island. Painterly illustrations. (8-11)

Red Scare

written and illustrated by Liam Francis Walsh
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-3381-6709-2
In 1953, when townsfolk see communists everywhere, Peggy, who has polio, fights villains and her own emotional shortcomings. Comic noir drawings. (10-13)

Sashiko

by Barbara Ciletti, illustrated by Maria Cristina Pritelli
(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-370-4
Sumptuous watercolors accompany a fictionalized account of the origins of a type of Edo-period Japanese embroidery, originally used for repair, now an art form. (8-10)

D M A Seed in the Sun

by Aida Salazar

(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-593-40660-1

After Mama falls ill due to toxic working conditions, Lula and her family decide to fight for the rights of farmworkers alongside Dolores Huerta. (10-12)

Mature content

D Singing with Elephants

by Margarita Engle

(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-593-20669-0

In 1947 Cuban immigrant Oriol learns to write poetry from Gabriela Mistral, famous poet and diplomat, who assists her campaign to reunite an elephant with its family. In verse. Back matter. (9-12)

D The Tattooed Torah

by Marvell Ginsburg, illustrated by Martin Lemelman
(Cottage Door Press, \$19.99) 978-1-64638-551-5

A small, beloved, sacred Jewish scroll that survives the Holocaust makes a perilous journey. Vividly realized with dramatic illustrations. Updated for a new generation. Back matter. (8-10)

Three Strike Summer

by Skyler Schrempp

(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99)

978-1-5344-9914-0

In 1936 Gloria's family abandons their failed Oklahoma farm to work in California. Gloria is determined to play baseball at the migrant workers' camp, despite the "no girls" code. Back matter. (9-12)

D We Were the Fire:

Birmingham 1963

by Sheila P. Moses

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-40748-6

Although only 11, Rufus is determined to participate in the demonstrations being held in his city during the spring of 1963. Author's note. (9-12)

D  * Yonder

by Ali Standish

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-298568-2

In 1943, after his abused friend Jack disappears, Danny Timmons, 13, tries to figure out where he went, using the only clue he has—a place called Yonder. (10-13)

Humor

Mr. Lemoncello's Very First Game

(Mr. Lemoncello's Library series)

by Chris Grabenstein

(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99)

978-0-593-48083-0

Two older teens try to prevent Luigi L. Lemoncello, 13, from creating games and solving treasure hunts with his friends. Black-and-white illustrations involving rebuses. (8-11)

The Supervillain's Guide to Being a Fat Kid

by Matt Wallace

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-300803-8

How does Max Tercero, a heavy sixth grader, cope with humiliation and bullying? He gets advice from an incarcerated supervillain—and enters a baking contest! (9-11)

Magical Realism

D Children of the Quicksands

by Efua Traoré

(Chicken House/Scholastic, \$18.99)

978-1-338-78192-2

When city-bred Simi, 13, stays with her grandmother in a Nigerian village, she discovers Yoruba traditional beliefs and heroically tries to rescue children caught in a magical place. Back matter. (9-12)

The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle

by Shawn K. Stout, illustrated by Alona Millgram

(Peachtree Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-68263-320-5

Ravens present an impoverished lonely 10-year-old a series of objects imbedded with memories of her cursed family's past. Can the birds help her break the curse? Spot illustrations. (8-10)

**D Omega Morales and the Legend of La Lechuza
(Omega Morales series)**

by Laekan Zea Kemp, illustrated by Vanessa Morales

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)

978-0-316-30416-0

From a magical family of empaths, Mexican American Omega, 12, her cousin Carlitos, and a ghost solve the mystery of a giant owl wreaking havoc in their Texas town. Occasional greyscale illustrations. (9-12)

Science Fiction

D * **A Rover's Story**

by Jasmine Warga, illustrated by Matt Rockefeller
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-311392-3

Res, a rover built to explore Mars, narrates his experience from assembly to final location. Designed to be rational, Res wrestles with human emotions. Black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

D **Ruby Finley vs. the Interstellar Invasion**

by K. Tempest Bradford
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-38879-9

Ruby, 11, is a gifted Black student who loves bugs. Her curiosity unleashes a chain reaction, filled with G-men, aliens, brave friends, supportive parents, and her own courage. (8-10)

D **The Unforgettable Logan Foster (Unforgettable Logan Foster series)**

by Shawn Peters, illustrated by Pétur Antonsson
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-304767-9
After six failed foster placements, amazingly intelligent neurodivergent Logan, 12, may finally be adopted by a new set of prospective parents, Gil and Margie—but evil awaits. Dramatic black-and-white art. (10-12)

Sports

D **Swim Team**

written and illustrated by Johnnie Christmas
(HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$24.99)
978-0-06-305677-0

Bree, a whiz at math, but afraid of swimming, joins the team and learns why Black people were discouraged from swimming and competing. Warm graphic art. (9-12)

POETRY

Behold Our Magical Garden: Poems Fresh from a School Garden

by Allan Wolf, illustrated by Daniel Duncan
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0455-1
The many wonders of a garden, flora and fauna, are depicted in playful varied verse forms and whimsical colorful illustrations. Back matter activity for each poem. (8-11)

D **Inheritance: A Visual Poem**

by Elizabeth Acevedo, illustrated by Andrea Pippins
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-293194-8

An Afro-Dominican protagonist refuses to straighten her hair, lighten her skin, or otherwise internalize others' standards of physical beauty. Free verse. Richly hued hand-drawn and digital illustrations. (9-12)

* **Marshmallow Clouds: Two Poets at Play among Figures of Speech**

by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek, illustrated by Richard Jones
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0303-5
Thirty free verse poems about fire, water, air, and earth play imaginatively with words, imagery, similes, and metaphors. Paint and digital illustrations. (9-12)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Anthologies and Collections

D **Step**

by Deborah Ellis
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$15.99)
978-1-77306-594-6

Ten stories feature young people in many different settings, from refugee detention centers to comfortable middle class homes, who need to make personal choices. (9-12)

Arts

Action!: How Movies Began

written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S,
\$18.99) 978-1-5344-5230-5
A comprehensive introduction to the evolution of movie-making and its creators. Lively black-and-white and acrylic cartoon images. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Curtain Up!:

Behind the Scenes at the Royal Opera House

by the Royal Opera House, illustrated by Lauren O'Hara (Thames & Hudson, \$18.95) 978-0-500-65251-0
Figaro, the resident cat at the Royal Opera House, takes us on a tour behind the production of the *Nutcracker*. Legendary performances come alive through the sumptuous, detailed illustrations. (8-10)

The Snail

written and illustrated by Emily Hughes (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-0467-3
There was no place on Earth that famed Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi felt accepted, except in his own creation, made in the shape of a snail. Subdued illustrations. Author's note. Bibliography. (10-13)

Biography and Memoir

*** Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock**

by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Isabelle Follath (Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-0-7352-6925-5
When Arthur Conan Doyle, doctor, adventurer, and humanitarian, created his legendary detective character in 1887, it changed the course of his life. Evocative watercolor and pencil illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

Blips on a Screen:

How Ralph Baer Invented TV Video Gaming and Launched a Worldwide Obsession

by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Zachariah OHora (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30671-0
Bored watching TV, a Jewish refugee attempted to make the experience more interesting, using skills he had acquired as a radio operator in the U.S. Army during World War II. Colorful, cheerful illustrations. (8-10)

Cloaked in Courage:

Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Anne Lambelet (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-63592-610-1
A brave young woman disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Photoshopped period-style pencil drawings. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

The Flying Man:

Otto Lilienthal, the World's First Pilot

by Mike Downs, illustrated by David Hohn (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99) 978-0-63592-550-0
After years of experimenting, in 1891 Lilienthal took his first airborne ride in a glider he had constructed. Back matter describes his trial-and-error path to flight. Mixed-media color illustrations. (8-11)



Gaudí:

Architect of Imagination

by Susan B. Katz, illustrated by Linda Schwalbe (NorthSouth Books/NordSüd Verlag, \$18.95) 978-0-7358-4487-2
The many life challenges faced by the Catalan artist resulted in a fascination "with the crooked line." Most of the buildings he designed in Barcelona reflect that entrancement. Colorful acrylic illustrations. (8-10)



*** Going Places:**

Victor Hugo Green and his Glorious Book

by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-296740-4
Because traveling around America was dangerous for Black people in the 1930s, Green, a Black postman, created a book with information about places that welcomed people of color. Richly detailed illustrations. (9-12)

Hilde on the Record:

Memoir of a Kid Crime Reporter

by Hilde Lysiak (Chicago Review Press, \$17.99) 978-1-64160-581-6
The author recounts the triumphs and struggles that stemmed from breaking a news story of a local murder when she was nine. Family photos. (10-13)



Hope Is an Arrow:

The Story of Lebanese American Poet Kahlil Gibran

by Cory McCarthy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0032-4
As a child, Gibran found solace in art and poetry, helping him meld his Lebanese and new American identities together. Glorious collage and acrylic illustrations. (8-11)

D **Just a Girl:**

A True Story of World War II

by Lia Levi, illustrated by Jess Mason, translated from the Italian by Sylvia Notini (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-306508-6
In Italy during Mussolini's fascist regime, Lia and her siblings survived by hiding their Jewish identity in a Catholic boarding school. Black-and-white illustrations. Photos. (9-11)

D * **Maya's Song**

by Renee Watson, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-287158-9
This free-verse tribute to Maya Angelou, Black writer and activist, conveys her courage following the painful childhood experience that silenced her voice for five years. Glorious watercolor and collage illustrations. (8-11)

D  * **Not Done Yet:**

Shirley Chisholm's Fight for Change

by Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nina Crews (Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$20.99) 978-1-72842-008-0
Chisholm, a teacher from Brooklyn, became the first Black woman in Congress and ran for president in 1972. Free verse. Evocative digital collage illustrations. Time line, bibliography. (8-10)

D **Once I Was You**

by Maria Hinojosa (Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0280-9
Born in Mexico City and raised in Chicago, Hinojosa chronicles her journey from being an immigrant with big dreams to becoming an award-winning journalist. Also available in Spanish. Young reader's edition. (10-13)

D **Only the Best:**

The Exceptional Life and Fashion of Ann Lowe

by Kate Messner and Margaret E. Powell, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-6160-0
Gorgeous, collage-like illustrations amplify this story of the brilliant Black clothing designer who succeeded despite personal hardship and racial discrimination. Archival photos. Back matter. (9-12)

Out of the Shadows:

How Lotte Reiniger Made the First Animated Fairytale Movie

written and illustrated by Fiona Robinson (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4085-5
Reiniger's innovative techniques made her a pioneering animator. Dramatically illustrated with silhouettes, cut paper designs, and silent movie intertitles, reminiscent of her films. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Parks for the People:

How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America

by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Viking/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-984-83515-4
A 19th-century visionary thinker led the creation of beautiful public spaces throughout the United States. Detailed, realistic watercolor and gouache illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Sandor Katz and the Tiny Wild (Food Heroes series)

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee, illustrated by Julie Wilson (Readers to Eaters, \$19.95) 978-0-9980477-1-3
A lover of fermented foods travels from New York to Tennessee to open a school for like-minded cooks. Humorous, detailed mixed-media illustrations. Recipe. (9-11)

D * **The Tower of Life:**

How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs

by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-3382-2589-1
A Holocaust survivor collected thousands of photographs of the Jews of Eishyshok who perished during World War II and of their descendants to create a permanent exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Evocative watercolor illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

D * **Troublemakers in Trousers:**

Women and What They Wore to Get Things Done

by Sarah Albee, illustrated by Kaja Kajfež (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-095-1
Joan of Arc, Khutulun, and 19 other women from different countries, eras, and races who wore men's clothing, defying laws and customs, are depicted through informal text and full-page cartoonish portraits. Archival photographs. Extensive sources. (9-11)

D  **The Tryout**

by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Joanna Cacao (Graphix /Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-74130-8
Christina, from a multiracial Thai American family, tries out for her Texas middle school cheerleading squad. A warm honest look at racism and friendship. Expressive graphic panels. (9-12)

D **Unlawful Orders:
A Portrait of Dr. James B. Williams, Tuskegee Airman,
Surgeon, and Activist**

by Barbara Binns
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$19.99)
978-1-338-75426-1

Refusing to accept the Air Force's segregation policy, Williams participated in the Freeman Field mutiny and later became a leading civil rights activist. Archival photos and images. Back matter. (10-13)

Ecology

**Antarctica:
The Melting Continent**

by Karen Romano Young, illustrated by Angela Hsieh (What on Earth Books, \$24.00) 978-1-913750-53-4
A thorough overview emphasizing the impact of global warming on the world's "coldest and driest place." Clear illustrations with many sidebars. Glossary, bibliography, and index. (9-12)

D **A River's Gifts:
The Mighty Elwha River Reborn**

by Patricia Newman, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-5415-9870-6
A Washington state river, central to the life of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, is restored after being dramatically altered by damming over 100 years ago. Bold, colorful illustrations. (8-11)

History

D * **Bandoola:
The Great Elephant Rescue**

written and illustrated by William Grill
(Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, \$19.99)
978-1-83874-023-8
An Asian elephant, his keeper Po Toke, and "Elephant Bill" Williams brought elephants and refugees to safety during World War II. Detailed colored pencil illustrations. Back matter. (9-11)

D **Blue:
A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as
Wide as the Sky**

by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-9436-6
Explore the significance of the color blue, from its uses in ancient times to recent advances in dye making. Lush acrylic wash illustrations. Free verse with word play. Back matter. (8-10)

Winner of the 2023 Flora Stieglitz Straus Award

D **M**  * **Choosing Brave:
How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till
Sparked the Civil Rights Movement**

by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington (Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-250-22095-0
The resourcefulness and steel of a mother seeking justice for her son's heinous murder is dramatized in free verse. Stained-glass-like cut paper illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)
Mature content

D * **H Is for Harlem**

by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by April Harrison (Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-32237-9
Celebrate Harlem and its dramatic role in African American history in this inspiring, alphabetical text. Lush mixed-media illustrations show deep knowledge of times, places, and people. (9-12)

D * **A Land of Books:
Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters**

written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-4942-1
A young girl tells her brother how their Aztec parents create books unique to Mexihcah word painters and explains their history. Pre-Columbian-style illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)



Seeking Freedom:

The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America

by Selene Castrovilla, illustrated by E. B. Lewis
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-63592-582-1

In 1861 George Scott, an enslaved person seeking freedom and safety, worked with the Union commander of Fortress Monroe in Virginia to save the fort. Expressive watercolors. Extensive back matter. (8-10)



A Song for the Cosmos:

Blind Willie Johnson and Voyager's Golden Record

by Jan Lower, illustrated by Gary Kelley
(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-362-9
Graphic art in a dark somber palette complements the text to tell the story of Blind Willie Johnson and the Golden Record sent on NASA's 1977 Voyager spacecrafts. Back matter. (8-11)



A Song for the Unsung:

Bayard Rustin, the Man behind the 1963 March on Washington

by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Byron McCray
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99) 978-1-250-77950-2

Despite marginalization as a gay man, Rustin organized and motivated the nonviolent protest movement, mentoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Extensive back matter. Mixed-media illustrations. (8-10)



*** We the People! (Big Ideas that Changed the World series)**

written and illustrated by Don Brown
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$14.99) 978-1-4197-5738-9
Ideas from ancient times through the present and from nations and cultures throughout the world have contributed to the development of democracy in the United States, through steps and missteps. Engaging cartoon illustrations. Notes. (9-11)

Holidays and Religion



*** The Very Best Sukkah:**

A Story from Uganda

by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran Yogev
(Kalaniot Books/Endless Mountains Publishers, \$19.99) 978-1-7350875-8-0

In the village near Mbale where the Abayudaya community has practiced Judaism for generations, Shoshi's family and neighbors celebrate Sukkot, building the holiday's traditional outdoor structure. Colorful stylized illustrations. Glossary, back matter. (8-10)

Language



The Hanmoji Handbook:

Your Guide to the Chinese Language through Emoji

by Jason Li, An Xiao Mina, and Jennifer 8. Lee, illustrated by Jason Li
(MITeen Press/Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-1913-5

Interesting parallels between emojis and Chinese characters, or hanzi, both of which use images to convey meaning, are illuminated. Playful illustrations. Bibliography, index. (9-12)

Law and Justice



Evicted!:

The Struggle for the Right to Vote

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Charly Palmer
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-979-8

An important event in Civil Rights history, the 1950s Fayette County Tent City movement in Tennessee, comes alive. Vivid, impressionistic acrylic paintings. Back matter. (9-12)

Reference



*** Killer Underwear Invasion!:**

How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy Theories

written and illustrated by Elise Gravel
(Chronicle Books, \$14.99) 978-1-7972-1491-7
Cartoon-like illustrations introduce and explore the concepts and etiology of various methods of sowing doubt about the truth of news reports. A very appealing and kid-friendly approach to media literacy. (8-10)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)



The Adventures of Dr. Sloth: Rebecca Cliffe and Her Quest to Protect Sloths

written and photographed by Suzi Eszterhas
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$30.65) 978-1-5415-8939-1
Two women, a zoologist and a wildlife photographer, present emerging research about the elusive, arboreal Central and South American mammal. Full-color photographs and links to videos. Back matter. (8-11)

*** Copycat: Nature-Inspired Design around the World**

written and illustrated by Christy Hale
(Lee & Low Books, \$20.95) 978-1-64379-230-9
Space-saving cars, robotic arms, and apartments that stack like honeycombs are just a few inventions inspired by nature. Digital art paired with photos. Extensive back matter and source notes. (8-11)

*** Infinity: Figuring Out Forever**

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99) 978-1-62979-875-2
The mathematical concept of something that is endless is presented simply and accessibly, illuminated with clear color photographs. Back matter includes glossary and information about different infinite sets. (9-12)



Mammoth Math: Everything You Need to Know about Numbers

written and illustrated by David Macaulay
(DK/Penguin Random House, \$19.99)
978-0-7440-5611-2
Hundreds of math concepts, from number systems to shapes to probability, are presented with colorful diagrams and cartoon mammoths. Includes glossary, index, multiplication and squares grids, units of measurement, and more. (8-11)

Operation Pangolin: Saving the World's Only Scaled Mammal

written and photographed by Suzi Eszterhas
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$30.65) 978-1-7284-4295-2
In Vietnam, Thai Nguyen is among the rescuers and researchers working to save a rare, endangered creature. Maps, diagrams, and photographs. (8-10)

Secrets of the Lost City: A Scientific Adventure in the Honduran Rain Forest

by Sandra Markle
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-7284-3659-3
Travel deep into the Honduran rain forest with scientists as they uncover an ancient civilization while experiencing the unique challenges of this virgin space. Photographs. Back matter. (9-12)

*** Swoop and Soar: How Science Rescued Two Osprey Orphans and Found Them a New Family in the Wild**

by Deborah Lee Rose and Jane Veltkamp
(Persnickety Press/WunderMill, \$16.95)
978-1943978564
A raptor biologist rescues and cares for two young osprey chicks until they can be adopted by adult birds. Beautiful color photographs. (8-11)

World

ⓓ * A Kunwinjku Counting Book

by Gabriel Maralngurra and Felicity Wright, illustrated by Gabriel Maralngurra
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$19.95) 978-1-59270-356-2
Sophisticated illustrations inspired by ancient west Australian rock art enhance information about native animals and Aboriginal culture. Back matter includes a pronunciation guide. (9-12)

ⓓ The Waiting Place:

When Home Is Lost and a New One Not Yet Found
by Dina Nayeri, photographed by Anna Bosch Miralpeix
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1362-1
Ten refugees from Afghanistan and Iran, ages 5-13, wait at a Greek refugee camp to be granted asylum. Engrossing full-color photos. Extensive back matter. (10-13)

TWELVE TO FOURTEEN

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

Consider the Octopus

by Nora Raleigh Baskin and Gae Polisner
(Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-79351-5
A stowaway on a research vessel and the son of a scientist team up to publicize efforts to clean up a floating island of garbage in the Pacific Ocean. (11-14)

Ghostlight

by Kenneth Oppel
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-48793-8
Three friends join forces with a ghost to save the world from "the wakeful and wicked dead" in this suspenseful tale incorporating Canadian history. (12-15)

The Patron Thief of Bread

by Lindsay Eagar
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0468-1
In medieval France, abandoned children pick pockets to survive. The youngest becomes a baker's apprentice to steal bread for her gang and finds herself torn between her two lives. (11-14)

ⓓ Twelfth

by Janet Key
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-316-66931-3
Maren uses her quick wits to solve the *Twelfth Night*-linked clues that will save a theater camp. Characters include LGBTQIA+ youths and adults. Back matter on gender identity. (12-15)

ⓓ Undercover Latina

by Aya de León
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2374-3
Light-skinned Andréa, 14, and her Latinx family spy for a secret organization protecting people of color. Her first assignment: befriend a white supremacist's son. (12-15)

Coming of Age

ⓓ The Best Liars in Riverview

by Lin Thompson
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-316-27672-6
Aubrey and Joel, seventh graders, enjoy the freedom of a nearby Kentucky nature preserve. Societal expectations concerning sexual and gender identity weigh heavily on them and lead to the possibility of escape. (12-14)

ⓓ Different Kinds of Fruit

by Kyle Lukoff
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-11118-5
Rising seventh grader Annabelle deals with gender and sexual identities in her family and community—including learning that her much-loved father is trans. (12-14)

ⓓ Green Eyes and Ham

by Mary Penney
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-269693-9
Homeschooled until eighth grade, Ham, adopted son of a minister, contends with a difficult, confusing social life in public school as he questions his sexual identity. (12-15)

*** Hazard**

by Frances O'Roark Dowell
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-48142-466-0
After Hazard acts violently during a football game, a writing assignment required by his psychologist reveals that Hazard's father lost a leg in Afghanistan. (12-14)



Manatee Summer

by Evan Griffith
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06309491-8
Peter's best friend is moving, and his grandfather with memory loss now requires care. An injured local manatee becomes a cathartic rescue project for them, their neighbors, and friends. (11-13)



* **Northwind**

by Gary Paulsen, illustrated by Joe Wilson
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-31420-0

Told to head north after cholera strikes the fishing camp where he worked, Leif, 12, travels through Nordic fjords, struggling to survive. Occasional black-and-white illustrations. (11-12)

D **The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls**

by James Bird
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-81156-1

Caught for shoplifting again, Benny is sent to live with his estranged father on a Minnesota Ojibwe reservation where the tribal leader's daughter is offering second chances. (12-15)

D **Sir Fig Newton and the Science of Persistence**

by Sonja Thomas
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-8492-4

Biracial Mira attempts to problem-solve with a creative, money-raising venture as she struggles with the serious illness of her beloved cat, family stress, and her best friend moving far away. (11-13)

D **They Call Her Fregona:**

A Border Kid's Poems

by David Bowles
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-46257-7

Güero, a Mexican American boy, falls in love with "tough girl" Joanna (Fregona) and tries to help save her dad from deportation. Free verse. Glossary. Also available in Spanish (11-13)

Contemporary Issues

D * **Ain't Burned All the Bright**

by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jason Griffin
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99) 978-1-5344-3946-7

A powerful look at the life of a Black family during what appears to be the COVID pandemic. Striking, impassioned mixed-media illustrations in Moleskine notebooks. (11-13)

D **Attack of the Black Rectangles**

by Amy Sarig King
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-68052-2
Mac's sixth-grade class, assigned an award-winning novel about the Holocaust, finds that words in the book are crossed out. Can he challenge the censorship while dealing with his dad's growing mental health issues? (11-14)

D * **The Civil War of Amos Abernathy**

by Michael Leali
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-06-311986-4
Amos, 13, a US Civil War reenactor, researches queer history and discovers gay and transgender figures. His friendship with Ben, from a conservative religious home, is threatened. Back matter. (11-14)

D * **Hazel Hill Is Gonna Win This One**

by Maggie Horne
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-35-866470-3
Hazel, 12, discovers that popular Tyler is sexually harassing many of their classmates, but the principal doesn't believe her. Can Hazel find another way to expose Tyler? (11-13)

D **She Holds Up the Stars**

by Sandra Laronde
(Annick Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77321-066-7
Twelve-year-old Misko, on the rez for vacation with her grandmother, protects a neighbor's abused horse and discovers connections to the land and her Ojibway roots. Glossary. (11-13)

Where the Sky Lives

by Margaret Dilloway
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-1-5362-1956-2
Can 12-year-old amateur astronomer Tuesday Beals save the skies over Utah's Zion National Park from developers' light pollution? A discarded, old-fashioned camera may help. (12-15)

Family/School/Community

D **Air**

by Monica Roe
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-38865-2

Twelve-year-old daredevil Emmie, determined not to be defined by her disability, longs for a state-of-the-art sports wheelchair. Will a local fundraiser make her dream come true? (11-13)

D **Answers in the Pages**

by David Levithan
(Alfred A. Knopf /Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-48468-5
White and Latinx kids, first loves, and homophobia are woven into a story about how fifth graders react to the attempt to ban an adventure novel featuring gay characters. (11-14)

D **Be Real, Macy Weaver**

by Lakita Wilso
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-46572-1
Lonely Black sixth grader Macy copes with an unexpected change of hometown and school. Then her secret interest in fashion design leads to collaboration with a new friend. Spot black-and-white art. (11-13)

D **Booked (The Crossover series)**

by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
(Clarion Books and HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$24.99)
978-0-35-816181-3
Dynamic, full-page illustrations showcase the inner turmoil of 12-year-old Nick, a middle school student who prefers soccer to scholarship, is bullied, and is too shy to approach his crush. (11-14)

*** Bright**

by Brigit Young
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$16.99)
978-1-250-82211-6
Feeling inadequate compared to her high-achieving older sister, Marianne zones out in school. But then she is compelled to join the Quiz Quest team. Can she compete? (11-14)

D **M** **Caprice**

by Coe Booth
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-93334-6
After spending the summer at a girls' leadership program, 12-year-old African American Caprice is forced to confront an overwhelming secret from her past. (11-14) Mature content

D **Chester Keene Cracks the Code**

by Kekla Magoon
(Wendy Lamb Books, Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-1599-1
Biracial Chester's defensive rigidity is challenged by a riddle his distant father has posed. A girl offers to help. A light-hearted adventure with a serious undercurrent. (11-13)

D **Dream, Annie, Dream**

by Waka T. Brown
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-301716-0
Kansas-born Annie loves basketball and theater; her loving Japanese parents, more aware of anti-Asian microaggressions, worry about her future and career. How will she negotiate middle school? (11-14)

D **Fly**

by Alison Hughes
(Kids Can Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5253-0583-2
Inspired by Don Quixote's chivalrous ideals, 14-year-old Fly, a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy, exposes a school villain and protects an unwitting girl, gaining respect and self-discovery. Powerful free verse. (12-15)

The Fort

by Gordon Korman
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-62914-9
Five boys discover a hidden fallout shelter. At first it's just the best clubhouse ever, but soon it's really needed as a refuge. (11-14)

D **Golden Girl**

by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Anoosha Syed
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-304475-3
Pakistani American Aafiyah's compulsion to steal is exacerbated when her father's detention and grandfather's illness strains their family finances. How can trust be regained? Free verse. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (11-14)

The Hike to Home

by Jess Rinker

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-1-250-81274-2

Lin, 12, must once again adjust to her family's traveling lifestyle, but solving a local mystery with two new friends creates a sense of rootedness. (11-13)

In Honor of Broken Things

by Paul Acampora

(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)

978-1-984816-64-1

Three eighth-grade classmates deal with divorce, a sibling's death, and the transition from homeschooling. Working with clay in art class becomes a creative challenge, and their friendship grows. (11-13)

Invisible

by Christina Diaz Gonzalez, illustrated by Gabriela Epstein

(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-19455-5

Five Spanish-speaking students are called to their middle school principal's office to explain why their community service led them to break the rules. In Spanish and English. Bright, colorful illustrations. (11-13)

J. R. Silver Writes Her World

by Melissa Dassori, illustrated by Chelen Écija

(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette \$16.99) 978-0-316-33145-6

While navigating thorny middle grade friendships, a sheltered sixth grader discovers that her response to the creative writing assignment given by her mysterious new teacher has come true. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Karthik Delivers

by Sheela Chari

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5522-4

Making deliveries for his family's struggling grocery store unexpectedly leads South Asian American Karthik to act in a play about Leonard Bernstein. (13-15)

*** Lolo's Light**

by Liz Garton Scanlon

(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-79721-294-4

The tragic sudden death of a neighbor's infant for whom she had been the babysitter leaves Millie, 12, dealing with feelings of grief, loss, and guilt. (11-14)

Lotus Bloom and the Afro Revolution

by Sherri Winston

(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$16.99)

978-1-5476-0846-1

Black 12-year-old Lotus Bloom, gifted violinist and normally a peace-loving free spirit, must summon the courage to fight against a racist dress code. (11-14)

*** Merci Suárez Plays It Cool**

by Meg Medina

(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1946-3

A Cuban American eighth grader takes a few more steps toward adulthood, enduring changing friendships, unwanted responsibilities, and heart-breaking loss. Last volume of the trilogy. (11-14)

*** Moonwalking**

by Zetta Elliott and Lyn Miller-Lachmann, illustrated by David Cooper

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-0-374-31437-8

JJ, grandson of Polish immigrants, and Pierre, mixed-race straight-A student and secret graffiti artist, warily start a tentative friendship. Told in two voices. Various verse forms. Spot illustrations. Author's note and sources. (12-15)

The Not-So-Uniform Life of Holly-Mei

by Christina Matula, illustrated by Yao Xiao

(Inkyard Press/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-1-335-42488-4

Moving from Canada to Hong Kong with her biracial, bicultural family challenges 12-year-old Holly. Balancing new friendships with her own goals is an adventure and growth opportunity. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Nowhere Better Than Here

by Sarah Guillory

(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$16.99)

978-1-250-82426-4

Forced to leave their tiny, flood-devasted town in Louisiana, Jillian, 13, and her friends are determined to preserve its history and the memories of their Cajun community, leading them to environmental activism. (11-13)

D * Omar Rising

by Aisha Saeed
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$17.99) 978-0-593-10858-1
Omar, a seventh-year student, wins a scholarship to a famous Pakistani boarding school but must fight hard to keep his place there. (11-13)

D Rain Rising

by Courtne Comrie
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-315973-0
Black 13-year-old Rain struggles with low self-esteem, but when her beloved brother is beaten in a racial assault, she discovers her own worth. Free verse. (11-13)

Repairing the World

by Linda Epstein
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-9855-6
After her best friend dies, Daisy feels only grief. But the first year of middle school brings a range of new emotions, new people, and a sense of wonder. (11-13)

M * The Road to After

written and illustrated by Rebekah Lowell
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$16.99) 978-0-593-10961-8
Forced to flee their abusive home, two young sisters and their mother learn to live without fear, make friends, and find solace in art and nature. Gentle black-and-white illustrations. Back matter. (11-14) Mature content

*** Sardines**

by Sashi Kaufman
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-99561-2
Lucas, 11, and four diverse classmates in an after-school program bond through a game that inspires them to solve one another's problems. (11-13)

 *** Smaller Sister**

written and illustrated by Maggie Edkins Willis
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$22.99)
978-1-250-76741-7
Lucy copes with the challenges of a new school and critical classmates as well as her older sister's growing, serious eating disorder. Colorful illustrations. (11-13)

A Song Called Home

by Sara Zarr
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-304492-0
When a guitar arrives on her 11th birthday, Lou, thinking it's from her alcoholic father, is determined to learn to play it. Authentic and compassionate. (11-13)

D Sweet and Sour

by Debbi Michiko Florence, illustrated by Jacqueline Li
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-67159-9
Japanese Americans Mai, 12, and Zach, 13, were lifelong best friends until, two years ago, he humiliated her. Now he's back from Tokyo, and Mai is bent on revenge. Black-and-white spot art. (11-13)

*** Those Kids from Fawn Creek**

by Erin Entrada Kelly, illustrated by Celia Krampien
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-297035-0
Mysterious, seemingly worldly Orchid arrives at a rural middle school, impacting the lives of all 13 of her fellow seventh graders. Greyscale illustrations. (11-13)

D  Unfadeable

by Maurice Broaddus
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-279634-9
Homeless, street-smart, biracial Bella, 13, is determined to get funding for an art project for her neglected neighborhood. With a mysterious mentor's help, she battles powerful entrenched interests. (12-14)

D Wishing upon the Same Stars

by Jacquetta Nammar Feldman
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-303438-9
Will it be possible for seventh graders Yasmeen, Palestinian American, and Ayelet, a Jewish Israeli American, to overcome parental prejudices and classroom bullying to form a friendship? (11-13)

Worser

by Jennifer Ziegler
(Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$17.99)
978-0-8234-4956-9
Introverted Worser, 12, has always lost himself in words. After his mother has a stroke that leaves her nonverbal, he must learn new ways to navigate his world. (11-14)

Fantasy

Black Bird, Blue Road

by Sofiya Pasternack

(Versify/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-35-857203-9

To save her twin who has leprosy, Ziva, 12, sets out to defeat the Angel of Death. Rich exploration of Jewish culture and mythology in the ancient empire of Khazaria. Historical notes. (11-13)

*** Healer & Witch**

by Nancy Werlin

(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-1956-2

In 1551 Sylvie, 15, a healer, makes a tragic mistake and then leaves her small French town, seeking to learn how to use her special powers less destructively. (11-14)

Lifeling

by Kristy Applebaum

(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-1-250-3175-3

As a lifeling, 12-year-old Lonny can revive dying animals and humans, but at an irreparable cost to himself. How long can this remain a secret? (11-14)

*** Medusa**

by Jessie Burton, illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill

(Bloomsbury, \$19.99) 978-1-5476-0759-4

Perseus—son of Zeus—must seek and behead beautiful Medusa, whose flowing hair was transformed into serpents by enraged Athena. Lush full-color illustrations. (11-13)

*** The Ogress and the Orphans**

by Kelly Barnhill

(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books, \$19.95)

978-1-64375-074-3

In a once-lovely town, a houseful of orphans teams up with a misunderstood ogress to reveal the mayor's perfidy and restore goodwill among the townspeople. (11-14)



*** Shuna's Journey**

written and illustrated by Hayao Miyazaki, translated from the Japanese by Alex Dudok de Wit

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$27.99)

978-1-259-84652-5

When Prince Shuna leaves his devastated village in search of golden grain to feed his people, he meets two kind sisters in the brutal society he encounters. Soft pastel illustrations. (11-14)

Sparrows in the Wind

by Gail Carson Levine

(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-303907-0

After Apollo curses Cassandra, no one believes her visions, but she never stops trying to avert the tragic future she sees for her beloved Troy. (12-15)



Squire

by Sara Alfageeh and Nadia Shammas, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh

(Quill Tree Books and HarperAlley/HarperCollins, P \$14.99) 978-0-06-294585-3

In the Middle East, Aiza joins the conquerors' army for a higher position in society and learns pride, loyalty, and fighting skills. Dramatic, deeply colored panels. Excellent back matter. (12-15)



(M) A Thousand Steps into Night

by Traci Chee

(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-358-46998-8

Miuko, an innkeeper's daughter in a Japanese-inspired fantasy world, is cursed by a demon. She befriends tricksters, shape shifters, and magical creatures to end the curse. (12-15) Mature content



Tiger Honor (A Thousand Worlds series)

by Yoon Ha Lee

(Rick Riordan Presents/Disney-Hyperion, \$16.99)

978-1-368-05554-3

Nonbinary 13-year-old Sebin, a cadet on a Thousand Worlds spaceship, must choose between allegiance to their Juhwang Clan or dedication to the larger good. Korean folklore woven throughout. (11-14)



The Well

by Jake Wyatt, illustrated by Choo

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$24.99) 978-1-250-81652-8

On an imagined Chinese archipelago, a girl with magical abilities steals three coins from a wishing well. Her punishment: fulfill the wishes. Dramatic Chinese motif illustrations. (12-15)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

Goblin Market

by Diane Zahler

(Holiday House, \$17.99 978-0-8234-5081-7)
Lizzie's love and special abilities save her older sister from marrying a trickster goblin whose beauty and professed love are illusory, poisonous, and destructive. (12-15)

Historical Fiction

* **Alte Zachen/Old Things**

by Ziggy Hanaor, illustrated by Benjamin Phillips
(Cicada Books, \$22.99) 978-1-8006-6022-9

Shopping in New York with Bubbe Rosa for Shabbat dinner, Benji, 11, learns about his grandmother's past in Nazi Germany, lost love, and immigration. Soft, stylized watercolor illustrations. (11-14)

A Blanket of Butterflies (The Spirit of Denendeh series)

by Richard Van Camp, illustrated by Scott B. Henderson, color by Donovan Yaciuk
(HighWater Press/Portage & Main Press, P \$21.95)
978-1-77492-040-4

Shinobu traces his grandfather's samurai sword and armor to remote Fort Smith of the Dene Nation in Canada. Dynamic full-color illustrations. Back matter. (12-15)

The Bluest Sky

by Cristina Diaz Gonzalez
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37279-1

In 1980 Héctor, 11, must leave Cuba for political reasons, though he longs to compete in the International Math Olympiad for his country. Spanish-English glossary. (11-13)

Cinder & Glass

by Melissa de la Cruz
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32665-7

Cendrillon, ingenue of the court of France, struggles with her father's death and the loss of stature and freedom under her stepmother's treacherous guardianship. (12-14)

* **The Door of No Return**

by Kwame Alexander
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)
978-0-316-44186-5

Eleven-year-old West Africa Asante Kingdom villager Kofi fights for his survival when he is betrayed by a neighboring village. Extensive back matter. (11-13)
Mature content

* **Louisa June and the Nazis in the Waves**

by L. M. Elliott
Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-305656-5

When a German submarine kills her older brother, Louisa June is determined to do what she can, from her Virginia home, to battle the Nazis. (11-13)

Mordechai Anielewicz: No to Despair (They Said No series)

by Rachel Hausfater, translated from the French by Alison L. Strayer
(Triangle Square/Seven Stories Press, \$14.95)
978-1-64421-132-8

In 1943, against all odds, Mordechai Anielewicz led a revolt in the Warsaw Ghetto from which the Nazis deported most of the nearly 400,000 Jews living there to concentration camps. Extensive back matter. (12-15)
Mature content

The Star That Always Stays

by Anna Rose Johnson
(Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-5040-4
After her mother's remarriage in 1914, Norvia and her siblings move to a Michigan city where divorce and her Ojibwe heritage set her apart. Back matter. (11-14)

Troublemaker

by John Cho, with Sara Suk
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-7595-5447-4

Twelve-year-old Korean American Jordan is caught up in struggling between friends and family honor during the 1992 LA riots following the Rodney King verdict. (11-14) Mature content

We Are Wolves

by Katrina Nannestad, illustrated by Martina Heiduczek
(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-66590-422-3

During World War II, when the Russian Army invades East Prussia, three siblings, separated from their mother, live in the woods to survive. Somber black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

ⓓ We Own the Sky

by Rodman Philbrick
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-73629-8
In 1924 Maine, two orphaned children get to live and work with daring stunt pilots. But the real danger is on the ground: the hate-spewing KKK. Back matter. (12-15)

ⓓ  When Winter Robeson Came

by Brenda Woods
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-4158-7
On the cusp of the Watts race riots of 1965, a Black family hosts a young out-of-town cousin seeking his father, who disappeared ten years earlier. Free verse. (11-13)

ⓓ The Wind Rises (Alma Series)

by Timothée de Fombelle, illustrated by François Place, translated from the French by Holly James
(Europa Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-60945-787-7
The lives of a young African girl and a young European stowaway on board a slave ship in 1786 intertwine. Meticulously written. Finely detailed black-and-white illustrations. (12-15)

ⓓ * The Year the Maps Changed

by Danielle Binks
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06321-160-5
In 1999, 11-year-old Winifred, aka Fred, sees her nuclear family expand as Australia starts to receive Albanian refugees from Yugoslavia. (11-14)

Magical Realism

ⓓ Code Name:

Serendipity

by Amber Smith
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-20491-7
Misunderstood by her brother and two moms, Sadie meets a stray dog with whom she can communicate telepathically. But adopting him becomes a problem. (11-14)

ⓓ Etta Invincible

by Reese Eschmann, illustrated by Gretel Lusky
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-6837-5
When Etta's superhero alter-ego battles the fear of a disability diagnosis while on a magical train journey, her friend Eleazar's puppy helps her find hope. Dramatic black-and-white panel illustrations. (12-15)

ⓓ * Every Bird a Prince

by Jenn Reese
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-1-250-78344-8
Recruited by birds to protect animals and humans against creatures who weaponize doubt, seventh grader Eren Evers must find her inner truths in order to succeed. (11-14)

Hither and Nigh (Hither and Nigh series)

by Ellen Potter
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-66591-038-5
Seventh grader Nell's brother disappeared three years ago, and only she still believes he'll be found. Finding herself in a dangerous parallel New York, she searches for him. (11-14)

ⓓ Moonflower

by Kacen Callender
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-63659-8
Struggling with depression, Black, nonbinary Moon finds themself having to learn love and hope to protect the spirit world. (11-14)

Science Fiction

ⓓ Hana Hsu and the Ghost Crab Nation

by Sylvia Liu
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35039-3
Hana can't wait to be meshed to the multiweb at Start-Up. Slowly she begins to notice that friends are becoming sick and that the technology is problematic. (12-14)

Operation Do-Over

by Gordon Korman
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-303274-3
Best friends Mason and Ty are estranged when they both crush on Ava. Then 17-year-old Mason wakes up as his 12-year-old self and changes history. (12-15)

The School for Whatnots

by Margaret Peterson Haddix
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-283849-0

A whatnot—a robot—tells the story of Max, a coddled rich boy, and Max's best friend, clever adventuresome Josie. Is she real or a whatnot? (11-13)

POETRY

* **Book of Questions/Libro de las preguntas**

by Pablo Neruda, illustrated by Paloma Valdivia, translated from the Spanish by Sara Lissa Paulson (Enchanted Lion Books, \$22.95) 978-1-59270-322-7
Profound thought-provoking musings by the Chilean Nobel Laureate poet. Dreamlike, folkloric illustrations. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (12-15)

Ode to a Nobody

by Caroline Brooks DuBois
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-823451-56-2
Eighth grade underachiever Quinn suddenly finds her life completely leveled by a tornado. Will she use this trauma to build a different life? Free verse. (11-14)

On the Move: Home Is Where You Find It

by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Quentin Blake
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1810-7
The Polish-Jewish poet explores his childhood in postwar London, his family's experiences of World War II, the fate of missing relatives, and migration today. Free verse. Blue-wash watercolor illustrations. (12-15)

Rima's Rebellion: Courage in a Time of Tyranny

by Margarita Engle
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-5344-8693-5
In 1920s Cuba, multiracial Rima, illegitimate and shunned, fights to pass laws to protect and empower women. Free verse. Historical back matter. (13-15)

Wave

by Diana Farid, illustrated by Kris Goto
(Cameron Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-951836-58-0
In 1980s Southern California, surfing with Phoenix is the only time Ava, a Persian American teen, feels she belongs. Then . . . Free verse and concrete poetry. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (11-14)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Activities

* **The Complete Cookbook for Teen Chefs: 70+ Teen-Tested and Teen-Approved Recipes to Cook, Eat, and Share**

by America's Test Kitchen Kids, photographed by Kevin White, Joe Keller, and Steve Klise
(America's Test Kitchen, \$21.99) 978-1-948703-95-6
A mouth-watering collection, for both novices and experienced cooks, of recipes for main meals and snacks. Global cuisines and vegetarian dishes featured. Includes cooking and safety tips. Color photos. (13-15)

Arts

* **Crafting Change: Handmade Activism, Past and Present**

by Jessica Vitkus
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, P \$24.99)
978-0-374-31332-6
Full-color photographs accompany a history of craftivists, artistic social justice advocates who create empowering, inspiring, and sometimes iconic objects through mediums such as embroidery, architecture, sculpting, and knitting. (12-15)

Biography and Memoir

Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'Round: My Story of the Making of Martin Luther King Day

by Kathlyn J. Kirkwood, illustrated by Steffi Walthall
(Versify/Houghton Mifflin/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-358-38726-8
In free verse, Kirkwood relates her lifelong involvement with the civil rights movement and the establishment of the national holiday honoring Dr. King. Greyscale drawings. Archival photographs and documents. (11-14)

Alias Anna: A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis

by Susan Hood, with Greg Dawson, illustrated by the Balbusso Twins
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-308389-9
Two Ukrainian Jewish sisters, both piano prodigies, used their wits and the help of heroic strangers to hide in plain sight in Nazi-occupied Europe. Greyscale illustrations. Maps, photos, letters, sources. (12-15)

D Hidden Powers:

Lise Meitner's Call to Science

by Jeannine Atkins
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-66590-250-2

An Austrian-Swedish Jewish physicist whose research led to the discovery of nuclear fission endured persecution under the Nazi regime and lifelong gender discrimination. Free verse. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

D Islands Apart:

Becoming Dominican American

by Jasminne Mendez
(Piñata Books/Arte Público Press, P \$14.95)
978-1-55885-944-9

A young girl in a Dominican American family living on various U.S. army bases narrates her conflicting feelings about growing up in two cultures. (12-15)

*** The Lady and the Octopus:**

How Jeanne Villepreux-Power Invented Aquariums and Revolutionized Marine Biology

written and illustrated by Danna Staaf
(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$27.99)
978-1-7284-1577-2

In 19th-century France, when women weren't accepted as scientists, Villepreux-Power studied live marine creatures by building an aquarium. Archival illustrations and photographs. Extensive sourcing. (12-15)

D  * Maybe an Artist:

A Graphic Memoir

written and illustrated by Liz Montague
(Random House Studio/PRH, \$24.99)
978-0-593-30781-6

For a Black girl, growing up in predominantly white suburbs can be complicated. Could Montague be an athlete and an artist? Expressive illustrations with soft color palette. (12-15)

D Speak UP, Speak OUT!:

The Extraordinary Life of "Fighting Shirley Chisholm"

by Tonya Bolden, foreword by Stacey Abrams
(National Geographic Kids/National Geographic, \$17.99) 978-1-4263-7236-0

A fiery Black activist from Brooklyn entered politics, achieved many "firsts" in her elected positions, and became a role model for those who followed. Archival photographs. Sources. (11-13)



Star Child:

A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler

by Ibi Zoboi
(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-399-18738-4

Direct quotes, background and historical information, archival photographs, prose passages, and poetry create a vivid portrait of this Black author who was influential in shaping the science fiction genre. Well documented. Personal notes. (11-14)



D * Victory. Stand!:

Raising My Fist For Justice

by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile
(Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$22.95)
978-1-324-00390-8

A track-and-field champion's raised fist on the medal podium at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico became an iconic image of the struggle against racial injustice. Stirring black-and-white panels. (11-12)

D We're in This Together

by Linda Sarsour
(Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-3929-0

A Palestinian Muslim American grew up as a child of immigrants in Brooklyn, New York, and became an activist and organizer. Informational sidebars, glossary, endnotes. Young readers edition of *We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders*. (11-13)

**D * The Woman Who Split the Atom:
The Life of Lise Meitner**

written and illustrated by Marissa Moss
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-5853-9
In 1938, despite misogyny and antisemitism, Lise Meitner discovered how to split uranium and revolutionized nuclear science. Pen and ink graphic inserts, archival photographs. Back matter. (11-13)

Contemporary Issues

D **You Are More Than Magic:
The Black and Brown Girls' Guide to Finding Your Voice**

by Minda Harts

(Dial Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-593-32661-9

Hart's unrelentingly positive push to aid Black and brown girls achieve personal, academic, and professional success is matter-of-fact and sensitive. (11-14)

Ecology

**Where Have All the Birds Gone?:
Nature in Crisis**

by Rebecca E. Hirsch

(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner, \$37.32)

978-1-72843-177-2

Tall glass buildings, plastic trash, and widespread planting of nonnative plant species that don't support insects that native birds feed on are among the many threats to birds' survival. Maps, photos, and archival images. Sources, glossary, suggested reading. (11-13)

History

*** Duet:**

Our Journey in Song with the Northern Mockingbird

by Phillip Hoose

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$24.99)

978-0-374-38877-5

The centuries-long connection between these brilliant mimics, known as "kings of song," and humans is explored. Photos and archival images. Bibliography, source notes, index. (12-15)

**D * Peace Is a Chain Reaction:
How World War II Japanese Balloon Bombs Brought People of Two Nations Together**

by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Yumeno Furukawa

(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-0-7636-7686-5

Through "truth and transparency," Yuzuru John Takeshita was instrumental in healing two communities touched by war. Black-and-white illustrations. Archival images and photos. Abundant back matter. (13-15)

D  **Seen and Unseen:**

What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal about the Japanese American Incarceration

by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki
(Chronicle Books, \$21.99) 978-1-4521-6510-3

The divergent backgrounds and motivations of these photographers produced widely varied portraits of the mass internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Vivid ink, pencil, and digital illustrations and archival photos. Discussion of historic and legal background. Biographies, footnotes. (11-14)

**Trapped in Terror Bay:
Solving the Mystery of the Lost Franklin Expedition**

by Sigmund Brouwer

(Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0345-6

Ten detailed episodes analyze what happened to Sir John Franklin's ill-fated 1845 exploration of the Arctic's Northwest Passage. Maps, photos, and archival images. Copious back matter. (12-15)

*** Unbreakable:**

The Spies Who Cracked the Nazis' Secret Code

by Rebecca E. F. Barone

(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99)

978-1-250-81420-3

Before and during World War II, the heroic efforts of many Poles, French men and women, and Britishers accomplished the impossible: cracking the complex encoded messages sent among the Nazi military. Back matter. (12-15)

Underground Fire:

Hope, Sacrifice, and Courage in the Cherry Mine Disaster

by Sally M. Walker, maps and diagrams by

Rita Csizmadia

(Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-1240-2

A harrowing minute-by-minute account of a 1909 coal mine disaster in Illinois and the attempt to rescue the miners. Greyscale maps and diagrams. Archival photos and images. (12-15)

Law and Justice

ⓓ **The Antiracist Kid:**

A Book about Identity, Justice, and Activism

by Tiffany Jewell, illustrated by Nicole Miles
(Versify/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-0-358-62939-9

This primer on equity work encourages readers to reflect on themselves, examine power and bias issues, and become change advocates. Boldly colored spot illustrations. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

11Religion



Dionysos:

The New God (Olympians series)

written and illustrated by George O'Connor
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$21.99) 978-1-62672-530-0

Hestia, goddess of the hearth, tells the story of Dionysos's trials and tribulations as a human until he ascends to Godhood. Dramatic, detailed panels. Bibliography, notes, and reading suggestions. (11-13)

Sports

ⓓ **Hardcourt:**

Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association

by Fred Bowen, illustrated by James E. Ransome
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99) 978-1-5344-6043-0

A lively history of how the game evolved from using peach baskets as hoops. Painterly portraits bring greats such as Bird and Chamberlain to life. (11-13)

The Race of the Century:

The Battle to Break the Four-Minute Mile

by Neal Bascomb
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-62846-3

In the 1950s, three men competed to achieve the impossible: run a four-minute mile. Original interviews inform the gripping narrative. Meticulous sourcing. (11-14)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

How to Build a Human:

In Seven Evolutionary Steps

by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by John Gurche
(Charlesbridge, \$21.99) 978-1-62354-250-4

Recent scientific discoveries, combined with updated theories, shine a light on modern humans' evolutionary journey. Dramatic illustrations by a paleoartist. Maps. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

ⓓ **Save the People!:**

Halting Human Extinction

by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Nicole Miles
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-7595-5394-1

Take a whirlwind journey through the history of planet Earth, concluding with today's climate emergency and presenting actions to take right now. Engaging black-and-white drawings. Extensive back matter. (11-14)
Mature content

World

ⓓ * **Sky Wolf's Call:**

The Gift of Indigenous Knowledge

by Eldon Yellowhorn and Kathy Lowinger, illustrated by various artists
(Annick Press, \$24.95) 978-1-77321-629-0

Interconnected teachings in science, culture, history, and stewardship, along with legends and biographies of Indigenous leaders. Paintings by Indigenous artists, photographs. Back matter. (12-15)

FOURTEEN AND OLDER

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

The Agathas

by Kathleen Glasgow and Liz Lawson
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-43111-5
Inspired by mystery writer Agatha Christie, two teens
from opposite sides of the social divide unite to solve a
classmate's murder, uncovering uncomfortable secrets
about their seaside town. Back matter. (13-16)

(D) (M) All My Rage

by Sabaa Tahir
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$19.99)
978-0-593-20234-0
Eighteen-year-old Salahudin, a Muslim living in a small
California desert town, struggles to save the family
motel while trying to protect his girlfriend Noor from
abuse. (14-17) Mature content

(D) All That's Left in the World

by Erik J. Brown
(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-305497-4
Two teenage boys survive a pandemic that wipes out
99% of the world's population. Their treacherous
search for civilization brings challenging encounters
with other survivors. (13-15)

(D) Each Night Was Illuminated

by Jodi Lynn Anderson
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-239357-9
After witnessing a fatal train accident, 17-year-old
Cassie, a questioning Catholic, finds herself on a ghost-
hunting quest with Elias, a Bangladeshi Australian
visitor, and discovers something to believe in. (14-17)

(D) (M) The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester

by Maya MacGregor
(Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99)
978-1-63592-359-9
Moving into the home where a tragic death occurred 30
years ago, autistic, nonbinary Sam tries to free themself
from a painful past while finding a path forward.
(14-17) Mature content

My Imaginary Mary

by Cynthia Hand, Brodi Ashton, and Jodi Meadows
(Harper Teen/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-293007-1
Ada Lovelace, mathematical genius, and Mary Shelley,
esteemed writer, attempt to create a living creature as
they face perils and dodge villains. (14-17)

(D) Queen of the Tiles

by Hanna Alkaf
(Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-5344-9455-8
Though grieving the death—and possibly the murder—
of her best friend, Trina, during last year's Malaysian
Scrabble tournament, Najwa determines to play again
and win. Challenging Scrabble vocabulary. (14-17)

Anthologies and Collections

(D) (M) Man Made Monsters

by Andrea L. Rogers, illustrated by Jeff Edwards
(Levine Querido, \$19.99) 978-1-64614-179-1
A series of short stories follows an extended Cherokee
family over generations (from 1839 to 2039) as they
encounter vampires, zombies, and other monsters.
White-on-black line art. (14-17) Mature content

Coming of Age

The 9:09 Project

by Mark H. Parsons
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-30975-9
Jamison, 17, commemorates his mother by taking
pictures of strangers at 9:09, the time she died. His skill
at photography thrusts him into new situations. (14-17)

(D) Anne of Greenville

by Mariko Tamaki
(Melissa de la Cruz Studio/Hyperion/Buena Vista
Books, \$18.99) 978-1-368-07840-5
In this *Anne of Green Gables* remake, a vivacious adopted
multiracial lesbian high schooler and her two moms are
confronted by hate in a new community. (14-17)

(D) Anything but Fine

by Tobias Madden
(Page Street Publishing, \$18.99) 978-1-64567-438-2
When Luca's foot shatters, so do his dreams of a professional ballet career. Will friendship with Indonesian Australian hijabi Amina and having a first boyfriend, Japanese Australian Jordan, help Luca rebuild his life? (14-17)

(D) (M) * Beating Heart Baby

by Lio Min
(Flatiron Books, \$18.99) 978-1-250-81909-3
After a chance encounter, multiracial bisexual Santi and Japanese Korean American transgender Suwa orbit around each other until a cryptic past connection resurfaces. Music, anime, and chosen family rally behind them. (15-18) Mature content

(D) Boys of the Beast

by Monica Zepeda
(Tu Books/Lee & Low Books, \$21.95)
978-1-64379-095-4
Three Latino cousins, strangers at first, take a trip together from Portland, Oregon, to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Adventures abound as they discover truths about themselves and each other. (15-17)

(D) (M) Breathe and Count Back from Ten

by Natalia Sylvester
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$19.95)
978-0-358-53686-4
After multiple surgeries due to hip dysplasia, Verónica, 17, struggles with overprotective Peruvian immigrant parents. Will a romance and the chance to swim in a mermaid-themed show allow her to gain control? (14-17) Mature content

(D) (M) The Days of Bluegrass Love

by Edward van de Vendel, translated from the Dutch by Emma Rault
(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-046-6
A Dutch teen, spending his gap year as a counselor at an international youth camp, experiences the astonishment of first love with his Norwegian roommate. Sexual scenes. (15-18) Mature content

(D) Destination Unknown

by Bill Konigsberg
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-61805-1
In 1987 two teen boys in New York City fall in love and help each other navigate life in the shadow of the deadly AIDS pandemic. (16-18)

(D) Every Variable of Us

by Charles A. Bush
(Flux, North Star Editions, \$17.99) 978-1-63583-074-3
Black high schooler Alexis's dreams of a basketball college scholarship vanish when she's injured in a gang shooting. Pushed to participate in the "science team," she discovers other ways for success. (14-17)

(M) * Family of Liars

by E. Lockhart
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-48585-9
Carrie, 17, confronts the ghost of her sister while recounting a horrific incident. Spare lyrical prose explores complex themes: guilt, blame, love, truth. A stand-alone prequel to *We Were Liars*. (13-16) Mature content

(D) (M) Finding Jupiter

by Kelis Rowe, illustrated by Bex Glendining
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-4295-9
A summer romance between two Black Memphis teens reveals long-held family secrets that can tear them apart. Poetry and prose. Elegant greyscale illustrations. (14-17) Mature content

(D) (M) * The First Thing about You

by Chaz Hayden
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2311-8
After his family moves to New Jersey, Harris, 15, decides to reinvent himself and not just be known as the kid in the wheelchair. (14-17) Mature content

(M) Four for the Road

by K. J. Reilly
(Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99)
978-1-6659-0228-1
Asher vows to avenge his mother's death at the hands of a drunk driver, but his journey takes a different turn when his grief group metamorphoses into a circle of friends. (14-17) Mature content

(D)  * The Greatest Thing

written and illustrated by Sarah Winifred Searle
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck \$25.99)
978-1-250-29722-8
Blue-tinted illustrations depict Winifred's struggles with mental health and identity. Artistic expression and friendship help her find her voice. Semi-autobiographical. (14-17)

(D) (M) Hopepunk

by Preston Norton
(Jimmy Patterson Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-1-368-05785-1

After her sister disappears to escape being sent to a gay conversion camp, Hope joins a diverse, activist rock band with the dream of bringing her home. (14-17) Mature content

(D) The Kaya Girl

by Mamle Wolo
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-316-70393-2

In contemporary Accra, Ghana, two girls from divergent socioeconomic backgrounds form an unlikely but deep friendship. (13-16)

(D) * Kings of B'more

by R. Eric Thomas
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32618-3

Two queer Black best friends, Harrison and Linus, have one last, transformative day of adventures together before Linus must move away. (14-17)

(D) (M) Loveless

by Alice Oseman
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-75193-2
Georgia can't understand why she has never had any romantic feelings for anyone. In her first year at university, she struggles to figure out her aromantic-aseexual identity. Resources. (16-18) Mature content

(D) (M) Man o' War

by Cory McCarthy
(Dutton/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-35370-7

A multiracial competitive swimmer in a small Ohio town known for its dilapidated marine life theme park discovers their gender identity during high school and as they begin college. (16-18) Mature content

(D) (M) My Good Man

written and illustrated by Eric Gansworth
(S'ha-weñ na-sae?)
(Levine Querido, \$21.99) 978-1-64614-183-8
After being viciously assaulted on the Tuscarora reservation, Brian, now a local journalist, reflects on his family and cultural relationships and uncovers the truth of what really happened. Elaborate greyscale illustrations. (15-18) Mature content

(M) * The Name She Gave Me

by Betty Culley
(Harper Teen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-315783-5

In rural Maine, 16-year-old Rynn, unloved by the woman who adopted her as a baby, searches for her biological family and discovers her true identity. Free verse. (14-17) Mature content

(M) Practice Girl

by Estelle Laure
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-35091-1

Jo, who misses and idealizes her dad, realizes that she has sold herself short in her search for love and acceptance on the wrestling team. (15-17) Mature content

(D) (M) Private Label

by Kelly Yang
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-294110-7

Two Chinese American teens in California, one from a traditional background, the other assimilated to the point of cultural erasure, navigate complex relationships with their parents and peers. (15-18) Mature content

(D) Required Reading for the Disenfranchised Freshman

by Kristen R. Lee
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-30915-5

Attending a prestigious, predominantly white college, Black scholarship student Savannah faces microaggressions, racism, and white privilege while living her mother's dream of a better life for her. (14-17)

(D) (M) A Scatter of Light

by Malinda Lo
(Dutton/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-525-55528-5

A graduation party goes wrong, exiling Aria, 17, to her grandmother's home in California. There she meets Steph, a gender-nonconforming singer/songwriter, and begins questioning her own identity. (14-17) Mature content

D Well, That Was Unexpected

by Jesse Q. Sutanto
(Delacorte Press/ Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-43397-3
Seventeen-year old biracial Sharlot and her mother
take a trip to Jakarta to meet George, a wealthy
local teen, in a situation set up by both families.
Complications ensue. (14-16)

Contemporary Issues

D  **Amazona**

written and illustrated by Canizales, translated from
the Spanish by Sofía Huitrón Martínez
(Graphic Universe/Lerner, \$29.32) 978-1-7284-0170-6
Powerful red and black graphics depict an Indigenous
Colombian woman's journey home to the rainforest to
bury her daughter and gather information on the land's
illegal exploitation. (13-16)

D The Color of the Sky Is the Shape of the Heart

by Chesil, translated from the Japanese by
Takami Nieda
(Soho Teen/Soho, \$18.99) 978-1-64129-229-0
Ginny, a Korean born in Japan, is sent to school in the
United States after a breakdown and must decide how
to forge ahead in the face of injustice and prejudice.
(15-17)

The Epic Story of Every Living Thing

by Deb Caletti
(Labyrinth Road/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$18.99) 978-0593-48550-7
When Harper, 17, travels to Hawaii with her half-
siblings to meet their sperm donor father, she begins to
discover who she really is. (13-16)

D The Gaps

by Leanne Hall
(Text Publishing, P \$11.95) 978-1-92233-048-2
Biracial (Chinese Singaporean and white Australian)
scholarship student Chloe and white queen bee
Natalia forge a friendship that enables each to
process complicated feelings after a classmate at their
Melbourne school is kidnapped. (15-18)

D M The Girl in the Castle

by James Patterson and Emily Raymond
(JIMMY Patterson Books/Little, Brown BFYR/
Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-41172-1
A psychiatric patient believing she lives in the 14th
century finally confronts the source of her delusions.
(17-18) Mature content

D M * Hollow Fires

by Samira Ahmed
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-28264-2
A missing Iraqi American student is found dead,
convincing Safiya to investigate racism and
Islamophobia at her Chicago prep school. Told in
alternating voices by Safiya and the victim.
(14-17) Mature content

D M Home Field Advantage

by Dahlia Adler
(Wednesday Books, \$19.99) 978-1-250-76584-0
Everyone is in an uproar when Jaclyn, a female
quarterback, arrives at Atherton High School to take
the field with a male team that already resents her.
When she and a cheerleader fall in love, things get even
more complicated. (14-17) Mature content

M How We Ricochet

by Faith Gardner
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-302235-5
Betty, her mother, and her sister survive a mall
shooting. Each handles her reactions to the trauma in
different ways, and there's a love story too. (13-16)
Mature content

D I Miss You, I Hate This

by Sara Saedi
(Poppy/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)
978-0-316-62982-9
A pandemic strikes, mainly killing young people. Trying
to survive, two best friends, one Iranian American and
one Mexican American, experience life through their
screens. (14-17)

M * The Secrets We Keep

by Cassie Gustafson
(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$19.99)
978-1-665-90694-4
When her best friend Hannah accuses Emma's dad
of unspeakable acts, Emma must decide where her
loyalties lie. (14-17) Mature content

* **That's Debatable**

by Jen Doll

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-0-374-30604-5

Millie needs to win the state debate tournament to compete for a college scholarship. Only Taggart stands in her way. What they learn from each other will surprise them both. (13-16)

This Golden State

by Marit Weisenberg

(Flatiron Books, \$18.99) 978-1-250-78627-2

Poppy's family has been on the run her whole life. A move to California exposes a crack in her parents' persistent, desperate attempts to remain undercover. (13-16)

D We Are All We Have

by Marina Budhos

(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-12020-0

After her mother is detained by ICE, undocumented Pakistani high school senior Rania flees with her younger brother. With another teen from a shelter, they seek a safe haven. (14-17)

D The Wolves Are Waiting

by Natasha Friend

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-04531-5

After Nora, 15, is drugged and assaulted, she wants to just forget it happened—until she learns that her father, the local college's beloved athletic director, is indirectly complicit. (14-17)

D M The Words We Keep

by Erin Stewart

(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-984-84886-4

After her sister's suicide attempt, Lily, 16, starts spiraling downward. An English/art project partners her with Micah, a fellow depression sufferer. Includes mental health resources. (15-18) Mature content

Family/School/Community

D Goth Girl, Queen of the Universe

by Lindsay S. Zrull

(Flux/North Star Editions, P \$14.99)

978-1-63583-078-1

In foster care since age seven, Jess, 17, joins Oscar's cosplay team, hoping a distant costume competition will enable her to reunite with her mentally ill biological mother. (14-17)

D Heartbreak Symphony

by Laekan Zea Kemp

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-46038-5

Aarón and Mia, two musically gifted teens, struggle with unresolved personal and family issues and with increasing attacks on their Latinx community. (14-17)

D M How to Live without You

by Sarah Everett

(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-358-25622-9

Black 17-year-old Emmy grapples with her sister's sudden disappearance while assessing her own maturing identity. Mental health challenges and barriers to treatment depicted with candor and empathy. (14-17) Mature content

D * I Rise

by Marie Arnold

(Versify/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-358-44904-1

Raised to be the next leader of her mother's Harlem civil rights organization, Ayo would rather be an ordinary teen. When tragedy strikes, will she step into the leadership role? (14-17)

D M * The Life and Crimes of Hoodie Rosen

by Isaac Blum

(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-52582-1

Fifteen-year-old Hoodie, an Orthodox Jew, falls hard for Anna Marie, the Christian daughter of the mayor who wants to get rid of the Orthodox families living in their town. (14-17) Mature content

(D) No Filter and Other Lies

by Crystal Maldonado
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4718-3
Insecure and feeling rejected by her parents, biracial high school teen Kat uses social media and her photographic talent to create a popular fictional self. Then her lies are revealed. (13-16)

(D) * Nothing Burns as Bright as You

by Ashley Woodfolk
(Versify/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-358-65535-0
The tumultuous friendship of two Black teen girls evolves into a fiery first love. Nonlinear story arc in passionate free verse. (14-17)

(M) On the Subject of Unmentionable Things

by Julia Walton
(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99)
978-0-593-31057-1
Phoebe Townsend, 16, is a rule follower; however, her alter ego, Pom, writes about sex education on an anonymous blog until it goes viral. (14-16) Mature content

(D) * The Peach Rebellion

by Wendelin Van Draanen
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-5933-7856-4
Three teenaged girls from different socioeconomic backgrounds in post-World War II California unite over a unique and heartbreaking mission. A testament to friendship, feminism, and challenging the status quo. (13-16)

(D) * The Silence That Binds Us

by Joanna Ho
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-063-05934-4
Reeling from her beloved brother's suicide, Chinese American May, with her Haitian American best friend's help, fights back against racism after May's family is publicly maligned. (14-17)

*** This Place Is Still Beautiful**

by XiXi Tian
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-308602-9
A racial slur painted on their home forces mixed-race Chinese American sisters to confront the hate crime. How will it impact their conflict-filled relationships with their mother and each other? (14-17)

(D) Vinyl Moon

by Mahogany L. Browne
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-17643-6
After escaping an abusive romantic relationship in California, Black 11th grader Angel gets a fresh start in Brooklyn, living with her uncle and attending high school. (14-17)

(D) (M) * The Weight of Blood

by Tiffany D. Jackson
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-302914-9
In small-town Georgia, Maddy Washington has always been an outcast, but the bullying gets relentless when classmates find out she is Black. A Carrie retelling. (14-17) Mature content

A Year to the Day

by Robin Benway
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-062-85443-8
Leo was a passenger in the car when her sister, Nina, was killed by a drunk driver. Can she heal despite having no memory of the accident? (14-17)

Fantasy

(D) Beasts of Ruin

by Ayana Gray, maps by Virginia Allyn
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-40571-0
Koffi was raised without knowledge of her magical daraja heritage; Ekon escaped a heinous military order. Each, struggling with insecurities, nonetheless battles the god of death. Finely detailed maps. (14-17)

(D) The Dream Runners

by Shveta Thakrar
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-289466-3
Tanvi, 17, is a harvester of humans' dreams for immortal nagas, who cannot dream. When Tanvi's memories of her former life resurface, she turns to Venkat, the dreamsmith, for help. (14-17)

A Forgery of Roses

by Jessica S. Olson

(Inkyard Press/HarperCollins, \$19.99)

978-1-335-41866-1

Myra is a Prodigy: she can heal people and animals by painting them. Is her magic powerful enough to bring back the dead or save her ill sister? (13-16)

(D) (M) Forging Silver into Stars

by Brigid Kemmerer

(Bloomsbury, \$18.99) 978-1-5476-0912-3

In a kingdom where magic has been banished, Callyn, a baker, and Jax, a blacksmith, learn that their new king has magical powers and become entangled in a conspiracy to overthrow the royal family. (14-17)

Mature content

(D) * The Girl Who Fell beneath the Sea

by Axie Oh

(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-1-250-78086-7

In this reimagined Korean folktale, Mina, 16, sacrifices herself to the Sea God in place of her brother's beloved, hoping to save her homeland. (14-17)

(D) * Only a Monster

by Vanessa Len

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-06-302464-9

Malaysian British Joan learns she is a half-monster who can time travel by stealing time from humans. Unfortunately, her crush is the legendary hero whose mission is to kill monsters. (15-17)

(D) (M) * Rust in the Root

by Justina Ireland

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-063-03822-6

Laura, a Black queer mage in 1937 NYC, earns her magic license and joins an official agency with whom she battles racism and dark forces. Archival black-and-white photos. (14-17) Mature content

Together We Burn

by Isabel Ibañez

(Wednesday Books, \$18.99) 978-1-250-80335-1

Fighting dragons in an arena has been the heritage ruling 18-year-old Zarela's life. Disaster strikes during one celebratory show, and everything changes instantly. (13-15)

(D) Violet Made of Thorns

by Gina Chen

(Delacorte Press/ Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-42753-8

Violet once used her power as a seer to save Prince Cyrus's life. Can her visions continue to protect him and their kingdom? Or will mutual attraction doom them both? (14-17)

(D) The Witchery

by S. Isabelle

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-75896-2

Six teens from Mesmortes Coven Academy and Hammersmitt School for Exceptional Young Men unravel a centuries-long hex and save the town of Haelsford from ensorcelled wolves. (15-18)

(D) Zatanna:

The Jewel of Gravesend

by Alys Arden, illustrated by Jacquelin de Leon

(DC Comics, P \$16.99) 978-1-4012-9638-4

In contemporary Coney Island, Zatanna, a famous illusionist's daughter, suddenly understands mirror script, an inherited trait, leading her to question her parents' identities. Lush, colorful graphics. (14-17)

Historical Fiction

Berliners

written and illustrated by Vesper Stamper

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$21.99) 978-0-593-42836-8

In the 1960s during the Cold War, 15-year-old twins wind up unhappily living in opposite sectors of divided Berlin. Black-and-white illustrations. Glossary, resources. (14-17)

(M) Daughters of a Dead Empire

by Carolyn Tara O'Neil

(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$18.99)

978-1-250-75553-7

In 1918, during the Russian Revolution, Anna, the tsar's daughter, escapes the Bolsheviks. She encounters Evgenia, a peasant girl who must collaborate with her in the desperate battle to survive. Historical notes, back matter. (14-17) Mature content

Ethel's Song:

Ethel Rosenberg's Life in Poems

by Barbara Krasner

(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99) 978-1-63592-625-5

Krasner's verses illuminate the short, impassioned life of Ethel Rosenberg, executed as a spy in a probable rush to judgment during the intensely anti-Soviet 1950s. Archival photographs. Source notes, time line, bibliography. (13-16)

(D) Great or Nothing

by Joy McCullough, Caroline Tung Richmond, Tess Sharpe, and Jessica Spotswood, illustrated by Louise Cannell

(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-37259-3

In a reimagined *Little Women* set in 1942, Jo works in an aircraft factory, Amy joins the Red Cross, and the Marches struggle with their grief over Beth's death. Black-and-white spot art. (14-17)

Winner of the 2023 Josette Frank Award

*** I Must Betray You**

by Ruta Sepetys

(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$19.99) 978-1-984836-03-8

In 1989 the extreme deprivations of Romania's authoritarian Ceaușescu regime drive Cristian, 17, to spy on an American diplomat to secure medicine for his grandfather. Archival photos. Historical notes, lengthy bibliography. (14-17)

(D) Ironhead, or, Once a Young Lady

by Jean-Claude Van Rijckeghem, translated from the Dutch by Kristen Gehrman

(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-048-0

In 1800s Belgium, Stance, disguised as a man, flees a loveless arranged marriage. Her brother pursues the runaway, and both end up embroiled in the war between Austria and France. (14-16)

(D) Nothing Sung and Nothing Spoken

by Nita Tyndall

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-308744-6

Charlie's queer relationship and fear of its consequences during the Nazi regime tests her willingness to risk resistance and being part of the underground Swing culture. (14-17)

(D) Self-Made Boys:

A Great Gatsby Remix

by Anna-Marie McLemore

(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-1-250-77493-4

Latinx, poor, and transgender youth battle for self-identity during the glittering, decadent 1920s, facing pervasive classism, racism, and sexism and finding happiness by being true to themselves. (14-17)

(M) The Silent Stars Go By

by Sally Nicholls

(Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)

978-1-5362-2318-7

During World War I, just as Margot, 16, discovered she was pregnant, her fiancé, Harry Singer, was reported missing in action. Now Harry has returned. Should she tell him about the baby her parents adopted? (14-17) Mature content

The Silent Unseen

by Amanda McCrina

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-0-374-31355-5

In 1944, Maria, a Polish escapee from the Nazis, saves Kostya from the Soviet police. Then she learns he is a Ukrainian resistance fighter, and thus, the enemy. (14-17)

The Storyteller

by Kathryn Williams

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-304939-0

Jess, 17, finds a trunkful of diaries kept by her Russian émigré great-great-aunt, opening the possibility of a family connection to the murdered last Russian tsar. (13-16)

(D) (M) * This Rebel Heart

by Katherine Locke

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-38124-3

Csilla and her aunt, Holocaust survivors in 1956 Budapest, Hungary, must battle for freedom or flee. Csilla fights alongside a student revolutionary and the Angel of Death. Elements of Jewish folklore. (14-17) Mature content

* Torch

by Lyn Miller-Lachmann
(Carolrhoda Lab/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-72841-568-0
After the Soviet invasion quashes the Prague Spring of 1968, three misfit teenagers find their increasingly constricted lives unbearable and daringly flee the repression. (14-17)

D Travelers along the Way: **A Robin Hood Remix**

by Aminah Mae Safi
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-77127-8
In 1192 the Third Crusade rages on. A motley group of fellow travelers led by two Muslim sisters join the fight to protect Jerusalem. (13-15)

D **M** Valiant Ladies

by Melissa Grey
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-62220-4
By day Kiki and Ana, who struggle with their love for one another, are proper 17th-century ladies. At night they take up weapons to fight and gamble. It all becomes sinister when Kiki's brother is murdered. (13-15) Mature content

Humor

D Live, Laugh, Kidnap

by Gabby Noone
(Razorbill/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-32729-6
Gullible Marla gives her daughter Zoe's college fund to a corrupt megachurch. Zoe then bonds with two other teens and Dustin, the pastor's disgruntled son, to kidnap Dustin for ransom. (14-16)

Magical Realism

D Funeral Girl

by Emma K. Ohland
(Carolrhoda Lab/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-7284-5800-7
Asexual Georgia lives with her family in a funeral home. After her grandmother's death, she learns she can awaken the dead, which becomes problematic when a classmate dies. (14-16)

D * The Ghosts of Rose Hill

by R. M. Romero
(Peachtree Teen/Peachtree Publishing, \$18.99)
978-1-68263-338-0
Exiled to Prague for the summer by her Cuban mother and Czech father, Ilana, 16, restores an old Jewish cemetery, falls in love with a ghost, and battles a monster. Free verse. (15-17)

D * I Am the Ghost in Your House

by Mar Romasco-Moore
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-17721-1
Pie and her mother, who are invisible, live a secretive, nomadic life. When her mom disappears, Pie reveals her existence to others, with life-changing results. (15-17)

Wild Is the Witch

by Rachel Griffin
(Sourcebooks Fire/Sourcebooks, \$18.99)
978-1-7282-2945-4
Iris is tried as a witch, shunned, and forced to leave her home; her anxiety controls every thought, leading to an error in judgement that threatens lives. (13-16)

Science Fiction

D Galaxy:

The Prettiest Star

by Jadzia Axelrod, illustrated by Jess Taylor
(DC Comics, P \$16.99) 978-1-4012-9853-1
Sent to Earth after her planet is attacked, an extraterrestrial princess transforms into a boy but finds it difficult to hide and lie. Bright candy-colored graphics. (14-17)

How to Date a Superhero (And Not Die Trying)

by Cristina Fernandez
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-311430-2
Double majoring as a premed student is demanding enough, but dating nerdy Max, who turns out to be a superhero, upends Astrid's rigid life plan. (13-16)

D The Kindred

by Alechia Dow
(Inkyard Press/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-1-335-41861-6
The Kindred Program was devised to pair upper- and lower-class citizens at birth telepathically so that class would not inhibit voice. What could go wrong? (13-16)

D  **Mister Miracle:**

The Great Escape

by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Daniel Isles (DC Comics, P \$16.99) 978-1-77950-125-7
Scott Free, a young Black student, attends a repressive soldier training academy and plots to escape planet Apokolips, but love, treachery, and misleading friends await. Dynamic panel compositions in a muted palette. (14-17)

D  **Tasting Light:**

Ten Science Fiction Stories to Rewire Your Perceptions

edited by A. R. Capetta and Wade Roush, illustrated by Wendy Xu (MITeen Press/Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-1938-8
Ten writers create amazing explorations of the diverse possibilities of evolution in social systems and in human, interspecies, and spatial relationships when supported, controlled, and extended by future technology. Includes a graphic format story; crisp black-and-white artwork. (14-17)

POETRY

D **African Town**

by Irene Latham and Charles Waters, introduction by Jocelyn M. Davis, illustrated by Vivian Shih, map by Richard Amari (G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$19.99) 978-0-593-32288-8
The story of the last illegal slave ship, Clotilda, is told in 14 distinct voices. Variouly styled free verse. Map and spot black-and-white illustrations. Ample back matter. (13-16)

Winner of the 2023 Claudia Lewis Award

D * **Augusta Savage:**

The Shape of a Sculptor's Life

by Marilyn Nelson, afterword by Tammi Lawson (Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-29802-5
Savage, a gifted Black sculptor and teacher, flourished during the 1930s Harlem Renaissance. Free verse and concrete poems. Photographs of Savage's sculptures. Back matter, biography. (15-18)

D * **The Most Dazzling Girl in Berlin**

by Kip Wilson (Versify/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-358-44890-7
In 1932 homeless, penniless, and orphaned, Hilde, 18, finds a friend and a home working at the Café Lila, a gay bar in Berlin. Free verse. Back matter. (14-17)

D **M**  * **Respect the Mic:**

Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry from a Chicagoland High School

edited by Hanif Abdurraqib, Franny Choi, Peter Kahn, and Dan "Sully" Sullivan, foreword by Tyehimba Jess, illustrated by Timba Smits (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-593-22681-0
Culled from a decades-long high school writing and poetry slam project, these powerful varied verses are deeply personal, urgent, and affecting. An inspiring model for replication in other educational settings. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (13-16) Mature content

D * **Voices of the People**

by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by 30 tribally enrolled photographers and artists (Reycraft Books, \$27.95) 978-14788-7515-4
In free verse, the author celebrates the lives, accomplishments, and legacies of 34 Indigenous Americans. Visually arresting mixed-media illustrations enrich each profile. (13-16)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Anthologies and Collections

D **Better Than We Found It:**

Conversations to Help Save the World

by Frederick Joseph and Porsche Joseph (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-2452-8
The authors' lived experiences and interviews with 25 experts clarify the intersectionality of social justice issues for anyone interested in doing more than performative social media activism. (14-17)

Biography and Memoir

(D) (M) * Abuela, Don't Forget Me

by Rex Ogle

(Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$18.95)

978-1-3240-1995-4

Growing up queer in a loveless, abusive household, Rex turned to his grandmother for comfort and support.

Now, as she is diminished by dementia, Rex shares their memories. Free verse. (14-17) Mature content

*** Agent Most Wanted:**

The Never-Before-Told Story of the Most Dangerous Spy of World War II

by Sonia Purnell

(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-35054-6

Despite her prosthetic lower leg, Virginia Hall joined Britain's Special Operations Executive, gathering intelligence about the Nazis and working with the French Resistance. Copious archival photographs. Back matter. (13-16)

(D) Button Pusher

written and illustrated by Tyler Page

(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$21.99) 978-1-250-75834-7

A poignant account of the author's youthful struggles as he tries to make sense of his impulsive behavior and his parents' tumultuous relationship. Colorful graphics. Includes information on ADHD. (13-16)

(D) Call Him Jack:

The Story of Jackie Robinson, Black Freedom Fighter

by Yohuru Williams and Michael G. Long

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$19.99)

978-0-374-38995-6

Famous for breaking the color barrier, great baseball player Jackie Robinson was also a passionate, steadfast civil rights activist. Archival images and photographs. Meticulously sourced. (13-15)

(D) Don't Look Back:

A Memoir of War, Survival, and My Journey from Sudan to America

by Achut Deng and Keely Hutton

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-0-374-38972-7

Achut Deng, one of the few Sudanese girls included in the migration of the Lost Boys, recounts her path to American citizenship. A story of love, sacrifice, and family devotion. (14-17)

I Could Not Do Otherwise:

The Remarkable Life of Dr. Mary Edwards Walker

by Sara Latta

(Zest Books/Lerner, P \$16.99) 978-1-7284-1392-1

Abolitionist, suffragist, spy for the Union, and advocate for unisex clothing for women, Walker was the sole female recipient of the Medal of Honor. Archival images and photos. Meticulously sourced. (14-17)

Kurt Vonnegut:

The Making of a Writer

by Dan Wakefield, illustrated by Kurt Vonnegut

(Triangle Square BFYR/Seven Stories Press, \$23.95)

978-1-64421-190-8

This vivid picture of a lauded and complicated author includes his letters and his ink sketches as well as archival photos. (14-17)

*** Solito:**

A Memoir

by Javier Zamora

(Hogarth/Random House/PRH, \$28.00)

978-0-593-49806-4

When he was nine, Zamora made a heart-wrenching 3,000-mile journey from his home in El Salvador to join his parents and sibling in the United States. (15-18)

(M) Spearhead:

An American Tank Gunner, His Enemy, and a Collision of Lives in World War II

by Adam Makos

(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-30345-0

The paths of an American gunner, his German counterpart, and an innocent civilian collide violently in 1944 Cologne. Extensive back matter and original sources add veracity. Young readers edition. (14-17) Mature content

(D) (M) The Sun Does Shine

by Anthony Ray Hinton, with Lara Love Hardin and Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$19.99)

978-1-250-81736-5

Anthony Ray Hinton, a Black Alabamian accused of murder, spent almost 30 years on death row. Faith, family, and friends sustained him as he struggled for exoneration. Young readers edition. (13-16) Mature content



Welcome to St. Hell:

My Trans Teen Misadventure

written and illustrated by Lewis Hancox
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$27.99) 978-1-338-82444-5
Talking to his younger self with compassion, the English artist tells about his gender awakening. Humorous black-and-white cartoon artwork. (14-17) Mature content

Ecology

D * Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants

by Robin Wall Kimmerer, adapted by Monique Gray Smith, illustrated by Nicole Neidhardt
(Zest Books/Lerner, \$39.99) 978-1-7284-5898-4
A botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation exhorts us to save our endangered planet, offering guidance on proven sustainable practices. Limited-palette illustrations. Bibliography, notes, index. (14-17)

When the World Runs Dry: Earth's Water in Crisis

by Nancy F. Castaldo
(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books, \$16.95) 978-1-61620-971-1
When you turn your tap on, does clean water come out? In many communities throughout the world, it doesn't. Black-and-white photos. Back matter. (13-15)

Health

M Rising Trouble Maker: A Fear-Fighter Manual for Teens

by Luvvie Ajayi Jones
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-52603-3
Although there are countless things to be afraid of, asking for what you need is the antidote to that fear. (14-17) Mature content

History

D * Days of Infamy: How a Century of Bigotry Led to Japanese American Internment

by Lawrence Goldstone
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$19.99) 978-1-338-72246-8
An accessible history of decades of anti-Asian American legislation and policies, leading to the incarceration in the United States of over 110,000 people of Japanese descent during World War II. Sources, notes, archival photographs, maps. (13-16)

D Overground Railroad: The Green Book and the Roots of Black Travel in America

by Candacy Taylor
(Amulet/Abrams, \$22.99) 978-1-4197-4949-0
Detailed research informs this history of an early 20th-century guide for safe travel for Black Americans. Archival photographs and images. Maps, end notes, bibliography. Young readers edition. (13-15)

*** Unequal: A Story of America**

by Michael Eric Dyson and Marc Favreau
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-7595-5701-7
Twenty African Americans, including Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King Jr., and Nikole Hannah-Jones, are profiled in this history of racial inequality in the United States. Archival photographs. Bibliography, source notes, index. (14-17)

Law and Justice

*** Hanged!: Mary Surratt & the Plot to Assassinate Abraham Lincoln**

by Sarah Miller
(Random House Studio/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-18156-0
Mary Surratt was convicted by a military tribunal, and by public opinion, of conspiracy to kill Abraham Lincoln. Was she innocent? Archival photos. Back matter. (13-16)

ⓓ * Me and White Supremacy

by Layla F. Saad

(Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-72825-908-6

A Black British Muslim author discusses topics such as white privilege, racist stereotypes, and cultural appropriation. Reflection questions and activities provided. Young readers edition. (13-16)

Reference

ⓓ * Here and Queer:

A Queer Girl's Guide to Life

by Rowan Ellis, illustrated by Jacky Sheridan

(Frances Lincoln Children's Books, P \$14.99)

978-0-7112-6475-5

An inclusive guide with practical advice about exploring identity, navigating labels, and handling social situations. Vibrant cartoon-style illustrations. Bibliography, glossary, and extensive back matter. (13-16)

The Media and Me:

A Guide to Critical Media Literacy for Young People

by Project Censored and the Media Revolution

Collective, illustrated by Peter Glanting

(The Censored Press and Triangle Square BFYR/Seven

Stories Press, P \$18.95) 978-1-64421-196-0

This comprehensive handbook prepares young readers for understanding today's media landscape and using media responsibly. Extensive back matter includes a glossary, source notes, and further reading. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (15-18)

What the Fact?

by Seema Yasmin

(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$19.99)

978-1-665-90003-4

An accessible presentation of skills for differentiating fact from fiction and ways to counteract the abundance of untruths on social media platforms. Photographs and archival images. Sources, index. (14-17)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

*** The Code Breaker:**

Jennifer Doudna and the Race to Understand Our Genetic Code

by Walter Isaacson, with Sarah Durand

(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S \$17.99)

978-1-6659-1066-8

Doudna and other prominent scientists developed a gene-editing tool that is now being used to prevent and cure human diseases, including the Coronavirus. Well documented. Glossary, photographs. Young readers edition of *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*. (14-17)

ⓓ * Queer Ducks (and Other Animals):

The Natural World of Animal Sexuality

by Eliot Schrefer, illustrated by Jules Zuckerberg

(Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-063-06949-7

Schrefer takes us on a humorous tour of sexual diversity in animal life. Comic-like illustrations. Meticulously sourced. Glossary, bibliography, notes. (13-15)

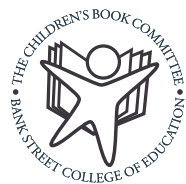
THE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF THE YEAR

2023 EDITION / BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2022

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 650 children's books they consider the best publications of the prior year, in this case 2022.

The fiction listings are divided into sections by age and arranged by topic: adventure, animals, coming of age, folklore and fairy tales, humor, science fiction, sports, and more. Another section lists informational books and poetry titles, also arranged by topic.



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