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Children's Book Committee

Center for Children's Literature

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6-2024

## The Best Children's Books of 2024: Summer Reading Guide

Bank Street College of Education. Children's Book Committee.

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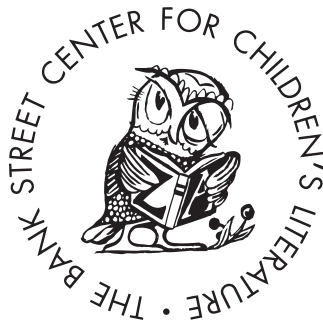
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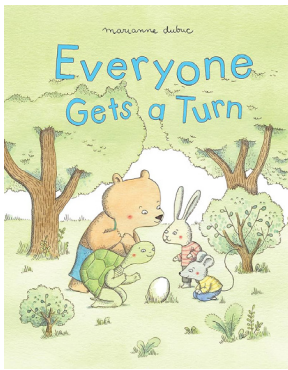
# THE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2024

SUMMER READING GUIDE





School is out—a perfect time for summer reading! The Bank Street Children's Book Committee is still hard at work reading and reviewing books as they come out. Here are some notable titles that have captured the attention of our members as well as experts in the field of children's literature, such as librarians, authors, teachers, psychologists, and editors. This is the perfect place to find a book that will delight young readers during the long days of summer. Enjoy!

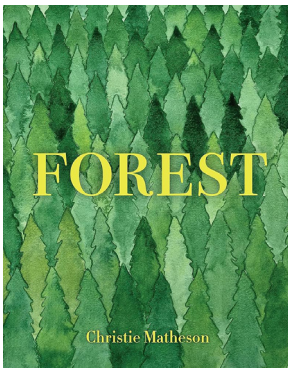


### Everyone Gets a Turn

Marianne Dubuc

Princeton Architectural Press/Chronicle Books

Bear, Mouse, Turtle, and Hare find an egg and nurture the chick inside with warmth, food, and encouragement. But can they relinquish their protective impulses? Colorful comic-style panels.

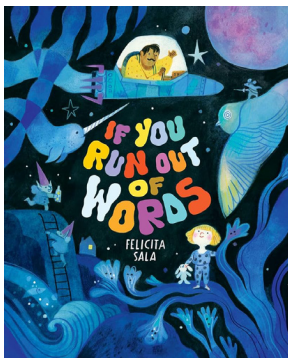


### Forest

Christie Matheson

Princeton Architectural Press/Chronicle Books

Unusual progression of increasingly magnified images shows a forest, seen initially from far away, to views of exquisitely illustrated details of plants and animals. Clever rhymed verse portrays animal activities.

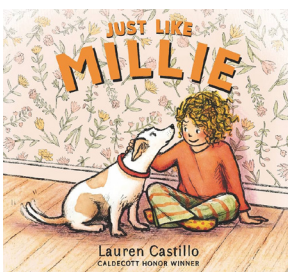


### If You Run Out of Words

Felicita Sala

Abrams Books for Young Readers/Abrams

Rich, vivid mixed-media art alternates between a daughter's worried "what if" questions and her father's soothing reassurances in the form of a swashbuckling fantasy adventure.



### Just Like Millie

Lauren Castillo

Candlewick Press

It takes a new pet dog to help Millie overcome her shyness and anxiety when she moves with her mother to an urban apartment. Watercolor and soft pastel illustrations.

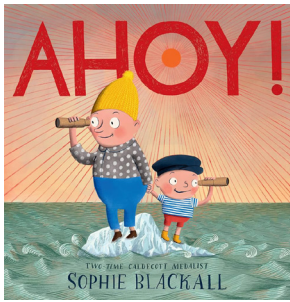


### This Baby. That Baby.

Cari Best, ill. Rashin Kheiriyeh

Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House

Two babies playfully wave to each other across their apartment windows and then begin their daily routines, ending with a playdate in the park. Appealing layout, vivid acrylic art.



### Ahoy!

Sophie Blackall

Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House

An imaginative child cajoles his adult to play along as they embark on a wild sailing adventure. Colorful nautical terms appear in speech bubbles; splendid mixed-media illustrations.

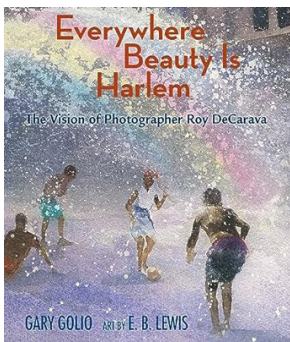


### Angela's Glacier

Jordan Scott, ill. Diana Sudyka

Neal Porter Books/Holiday House

From the day of her birth, a girl's life is enriched by her sensory connection to an Icelandic landmark. Immersive gouache artwork; extensive back matter.

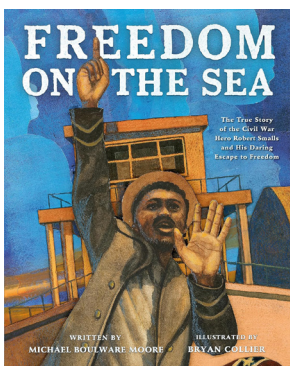


### Everywhere Beauty Is Harlem: The Vision of Photographer Roy DeCarava

Gary Golio, ill. E.B. Lewis

Calkins Creek/Astra Books for Young Readers/Astra Publishing House

Immersive, luminous watercolors and lyrical text invite us to see a beloved 1940s neighborhood through an artist's eyes. Biography, timeline, bibliography, suggested museums to view DeCarava's work.

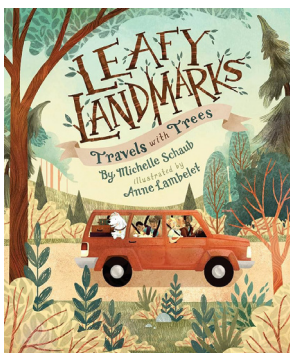


### Freedom on the Sea: The True Story of the Civil War Hero Robert Smalls and His Daring Escape to Freedom

Michael Boulware Moore, ill. Bryan Collier

Godwin Books/Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan

An enslaved seaman commandeers a Confederate ship, thereby liberating himself, the rest of the crew, and their families. Striking painting and collage illustrations.

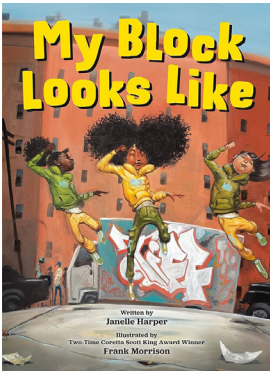


### Leafy Landmarks: Travels with Trees

Michelle Schaub, ill. Anne Lambelet

Sleeping Bear Press

Poems in various styles with informative insets trace a family's cross-country tour to 14 tree sites of historic importance. Illustrations capture colors and details of their settings. Poetic forms explained.

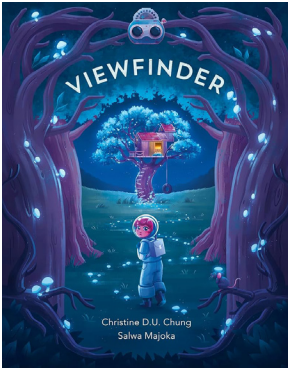


## My Block Looks Like

Janelle Harper, ill. Frank Morrison

Viking/Penguin Random House

Dancing through the Bronx, a young Black girl shows readers the streets, trains, street art, and people of her community. Poetic text and detailed paintings.

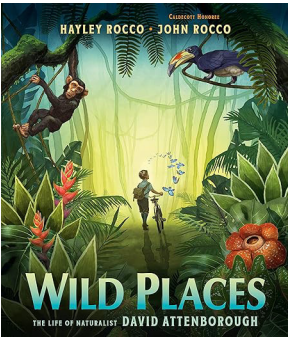


## Viewfinder

Christine D. U. Chung & Salwa Majoka

Tundra Books/Penguin Random House of Canada/Penguin Random House

A young space traveler explores a post-ecological-disaster earth and discovers a time capsule with a viewfinder showing scenes from the planet's past. Dreamlike digital painted artwork.



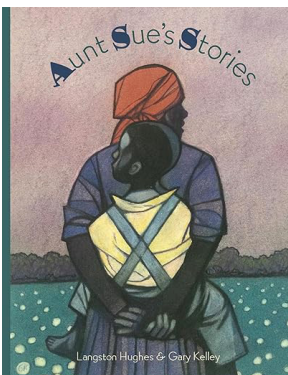
## Wild Places: The Life of Naturalist David Attenborough

Hayley Rocco, ill. John Rocco

G. P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House

This internationally honored conservationist has, throughout his career, shown animals in their habitats and given warnings about the planet's future to audiences worldwide. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations. Photos. Author's note.

## AGES 9 TO 12



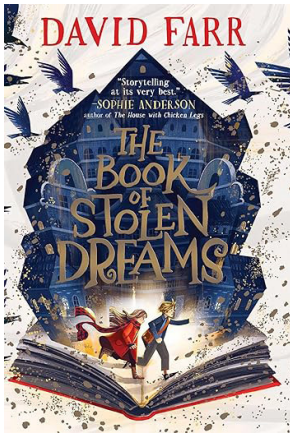
## Aunt Sue's Stories

Langston Hughes, ill. Gary Kelley

Creative Editions

A young boy listens intently to the stories told by his aunt about her life and the lives of others as enslaved people. Free verse. Bold, emotional illustrations.



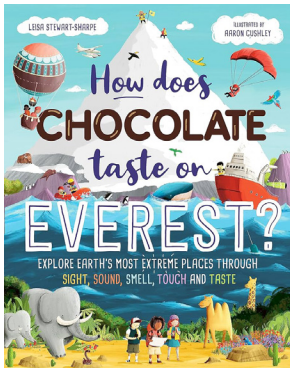


## The Book of Stolen Dreams (The Stolen Dreams Adventures series)

David Farr, ill. Kristina Kister

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

After Rachel's and Robert's librarian father is arrested for stealing an ancient magical book, the tyrannical ruler of Krasnia sets his forces against the family. Whimsical spot art.

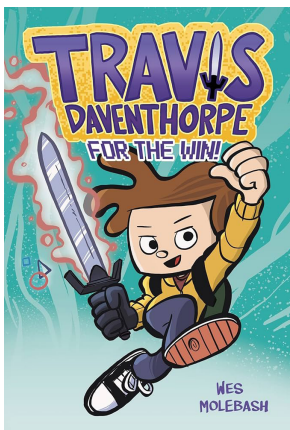


## How Does Chocolate Taste on Everest? Explore Earth's Most Extreme Places Through Sight, Sound, Smell, Touch, and Taste

Leisa Stewart-Sharpe, ill. Aaron Cushley

Charlesbridge

Bring your five senses to experience 12 amazing locations. Geographical and historical information. Enlivening illustrations. Glossary.



## Travis Davenport for the Win! (Travis Davenport series)

Wes Molebash

First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck

Travis, an 11-year-old genius robotic engineer, is an outcast until he discovers a multiverse. Now its survival depends on him, a wizard, and his sentient robot. Energetic cartoon illustrations.



## Parachute Kids

Betty C. Tang

Graphix/Scholastic

In 1981, 10-year-old Feng-Li and her family travel from Taiwan to California for a dream vacation. Her happiness evaporates when her parents reveal their plans. Bold-colored graphic illustrations.



## The Firefly Summer

Morgan Matson, maps by Celia Krampien

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

An unexpected invitation for Ryanna to spend the summer in the Poconos with the maternal grandparents and cousins she has never met leads to uncovering a family mystery. Black-and-white spot art. Maps.

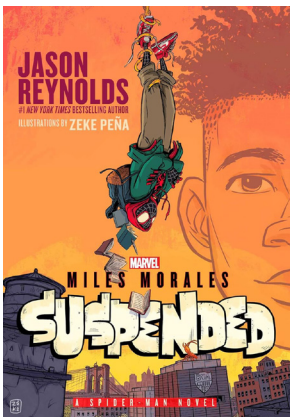


## Juniper Harvey and the Vanishing Kingdom

Nina Varela

Little, Brown/Hachette

When her family moves yet again, shy loner Juniper must try to adapt. An unexpected friendship with magical Princess Galatea and the discovery of amazing secret powers change Juniper's life.

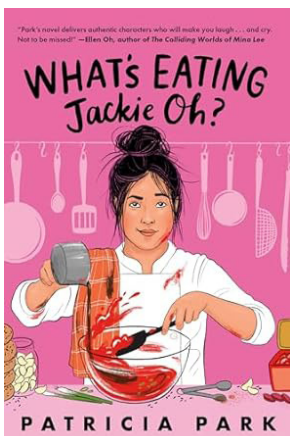


## Miles Morales Suspended (A Spider-Man Novel series/Miles Morales series)

Jason Reynolds, ill. Zeke Peña

Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster

A day of in-school suspension forces Miles to use his superpowers to battle a fellow student who is destroying books as a termite. Is Miles up to the challenge? Told in alternating prose and verse. Greyscale illustrations.



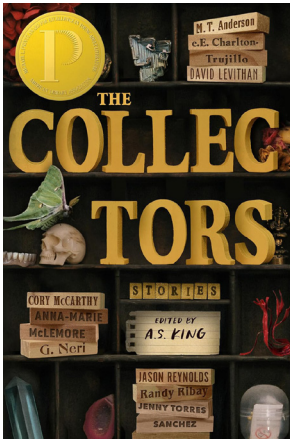
## What's Eating Jackie Oh?

Patricia Park

Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House

Second-generation Korean American sophomore Jackie struggles with her parents' expectations but finds solace at her grandparents' deli. Her passion for food lands her on a competitive cooking show. Recipes.



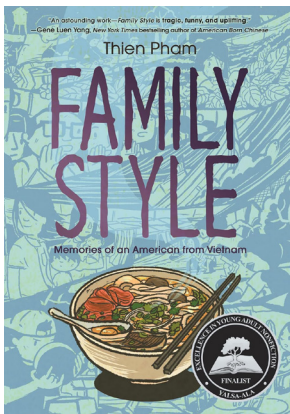


### The Collectors: Stories

Edited by A.S. King

Dutton Books/Penguin Random House

Pilfered items from other people's collections, empty pools for vertical skateboarding, and types of fire are among the very unusual collections explored in this anthology.

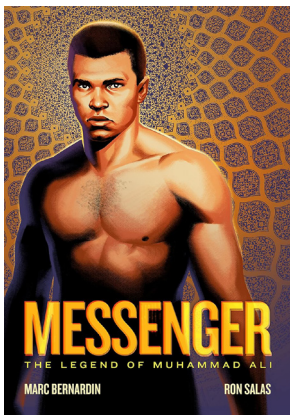


### Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam

Thien Pham

First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck

A Vietnamese refugee recalls his family's journey to the United States through the different foods they experienced along the way. Colorful, emotionally vivid artwork.

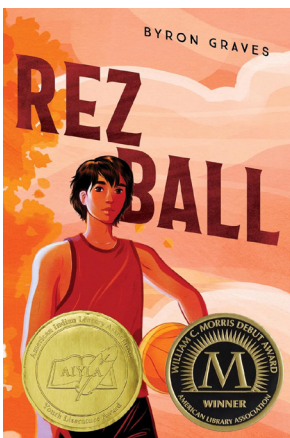


### Messenger: The Legend of Muhammad Ali

Marc Bernardin, ill. Ron Salas

First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck

Framed as a heroic narrative in the style of Homer, this graphic biography is full of great details about Ali's life and his importance. Emotive greyscale artwork.



### Rez Ball

Byron Graves

Heartdrum/HarperCollins

Can sophomore Tre lead his Minnesota reservation's varsity basketball team to their first state victory, or will he be overwhelmed in his attempt to step into his late brother's shoes?