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The Best Children's Books of 2022: Holiday Gift Edition

Bank Street College of Education. Children's Book Committee

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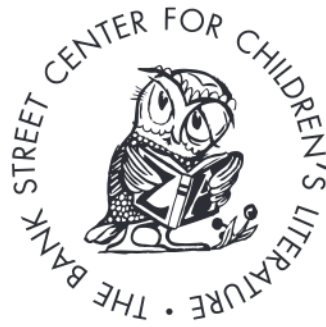
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**THE BEST
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS
OF 2022**

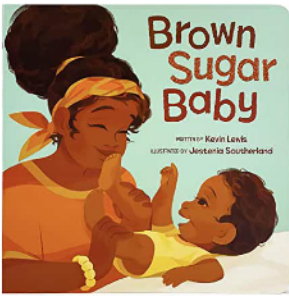


HOLIDAY GIFT EDITION



The holiday book buying season has arrived. While the Bank Street Children's Book Committee is still hard at work, reading and reviewing books for the Spring 2023 edition of *The Best Children's Books of the Year*, committee members have been sharing some of their own current favorites. Stay tuned for the annual list, compiled by professionals in the field of children's literature, including librarians, authors, teachers, psychologists, and booksellers. Meanwhile, these are some of this year's notable titles that have captured the attention of the members.

BOARD BOOKS



Brown Sugar Baby

Kevin Lewis, ill. Jostenia Southerland

Cottage Door Press

A rhyming celebration of the sweetness of babies. Warm, vibrant illustrations.

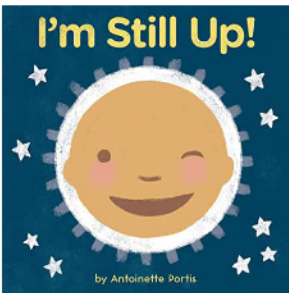


Bumblebee Grumblebee

David Elliot

Gecko Press

Animals shown with alter egos are transformed by lighthearted wordplay. Sweet, beautifully detailed pastel illustrations.

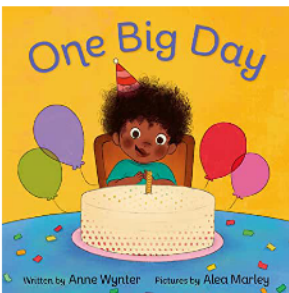


I'm Still Up!

Antoinette Portis

Clarion Books/HarperCollins

Parents are ready to say good night, but the baby is not! Repeating text; sweet mixed-media illustrations.



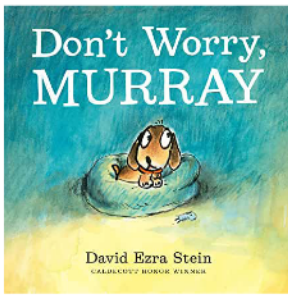
One Big Day

Anne Wynter, ill. Alea Marley

Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins

Baby's first birthday is celebrated in simple rhyming text with colorful and vibrant mixed-media illustrations.

AGES 5 AND UNDER



Don't Worry, Murray

David Ezra Stein

Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins

Gentle reassurance from an omniscient narrator helps an anxious, long-eared pup conquer his fears. But does it? Humorous, animated mixed-media, cartoonish illustrations.



A Grandma's Magic

Charlotte Offsay, ill. Asa Gilland

Doubleday Books for Young Readers

In lyrical text with animated color illustrations, diverse grandmothers and grandchildren engage in favorite activities, forging bonds of enduring love.



How to Say Hello to a Worm: A First Guide to Outside

Kari Percival

Rise x Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House

A how-to guide for the youngest gardeners that introduces some creatures they will encounter and demonstrates patience leading to rewards. Gleeful illustrations appeal to all the senses.



I Am Golden

Eva Chen, ill. Sophie Diao

Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan

Loving ode to immigrant Chinese-American children, celebrating the strength and power of their history, culture, and language. Colorful, expressive digital illustrations.

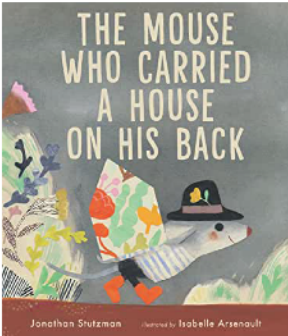


Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle

Nina LaCour, ill. Kaylani Juanita

Candlewick Press

Mommy leaves on a business trip. The separation is very hard despite much love and support from all the grownups. Vibrant detailed mixed-media illustrations.



The Mouse Who Carried a House on His Back

Jonathon Stutzman, ill. Isabelle Arsenault

Candlewick Press

Mouse locates his portable magical ever-expanding house to places where animals, big and small, are welcome. Multimedia illustrations with double-page spreads and center foldouts.

AGES 6 TO 9



Celia Planted a Garden: The Story of Celia Thaxter and Her Island Garden

Phyllis Root and Gary D. Schmidt, ill. Melissa Sweet

Candlewick Press

Illustrations gloriously evoke the seacoast setting of the garden created by the 19th-century New England painter and poet. Timeline and extensive sourcing.



How to Bake a Universe

Alec Carvlin, ill. Brian Biggs

Norton Young Readers/W.W. Norton

Whimsical storytelling and bold illustrations grounded in science make this a great introduction for young readers to the Big Bang Theory and astrophysics. Thorough back matter, visually stunning timeline.

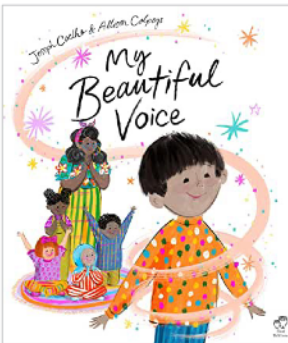


Jack Knight's Brave Flight: How One Gutsy Pilot Saved The U.S. Air Mail Service

Jill Esbaum, ill. Stacy Innerst

Calkins Creek/Astra

During a 1929 blizzard, one courageous pilot takes charge for much of the nighttime coast-to-coast route. Text and illustrations capture the drama and danger. Archival photos, timeline.

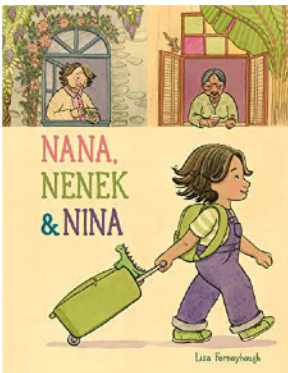


My Beautiful Voice

Joseph Coelho, ill. Allison Colpoys

Kane Miller/Boyd's Mills

A young girl who is shy, fearful, and silent finds her poetic voice with the support of her teacher. Energetic, vibrant illustrations.

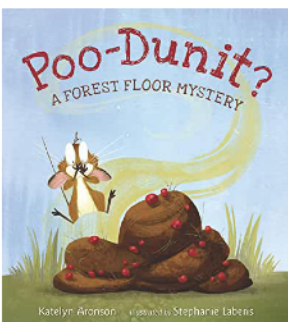


Nana, Nenek & Nina

Liza Ferneyhough

Dial Books/PenguinYoung Readers/Penguin Random House

Nina loves to visit her grandmothers, Nana in England and Nenek in Malaysia, aware of the differences and similarities between the two places. Warm, mixed-media illustrations.

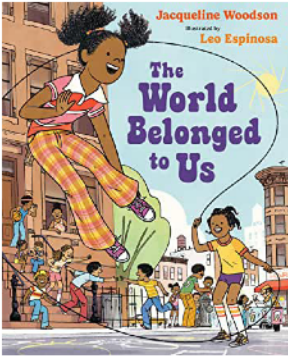


Poo-Dunit? A Forest Floor Mystery

Katelyn Aronson, ill. Stephanie Laberis

Candlewick Press

Who deposited the smelly droppings outside a mouse's burrow? Rhyming text exposes several possible suspects. Delightful wordplay. Humorous animation-style illustrations.



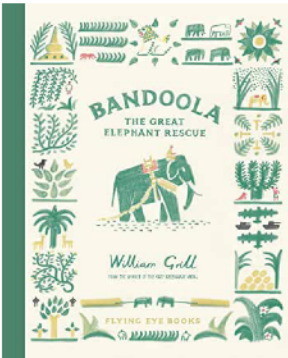
The World Belonged to Us

Jacqueline Woodson, ill. Leo Espinosa

Kane Miller/Boyd's Mills

Based on the author's reminiscences, joyful text and illustrations capture the energy of 1970's Brooklyn, where children on summer vacation create a model diverse community. Nostalgic and inspirational.

AGES 9 TO 12

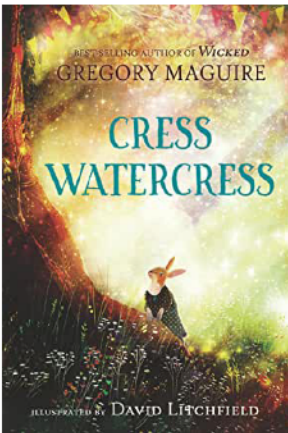


Bandoola: The Great Elephant Rescue

William Grill

Flying Eye Books

Po Toke and "Elephant Bill" Williams bring 70 elephants and refugees from Burma to safety in India during World War II. Detailed colored pencil illustrations. Back matter.

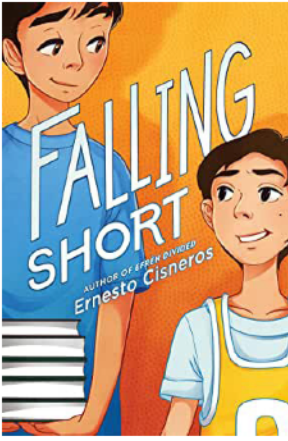


Cress Watercress

Gregory Maguire, ill. David Litchfield

Candlewick Press

A rabbit family takes refuge in the basement of a broken-down apartment building, where they find adventure, danger, and new friendships. A gloriously illustrated chapter book.

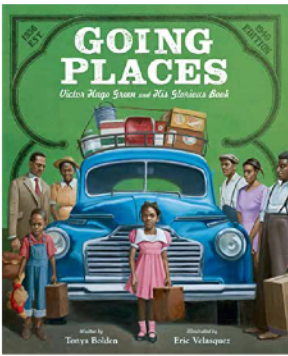


Falling Short

Ernesto Cisneros

Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

Two dissimilar but dear friends, Isaac Castillo and Marco Honeyman, help each other to become the middle grade students they want to be.

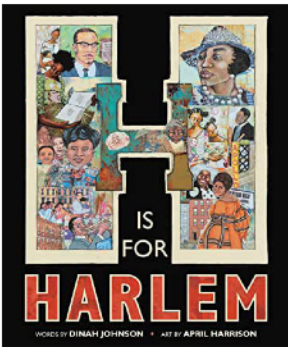


Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book

Tonya Bolden, ill. Eric Velasquez

Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

A richly layered and textured book about Green that is as much a biography about him as it is about his book.



H is for Harlem

Dinah Johnson, ill. April Harrison

Little Brown Books for Young Readers

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.



The Marvellers

Dhonielle Clayton, ill. Khadijah Khatib

Henry Holt and Co./Macmillan

When Conjuror Ella Durand, age 11, begins school at the Arcanum Training Institute, not everyone welcomes her. After her mentor disappears and a Marvellian escapes prison, fingers point at Ella.

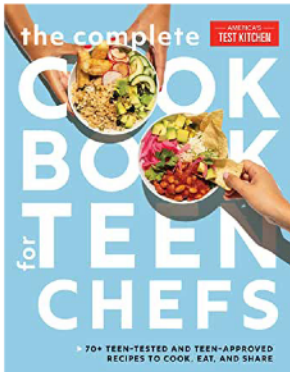


Book of Questions: Libro de las Preguntas

Pablo Neruda, ill. Paloma Valdivia

Enchanted Lion Books

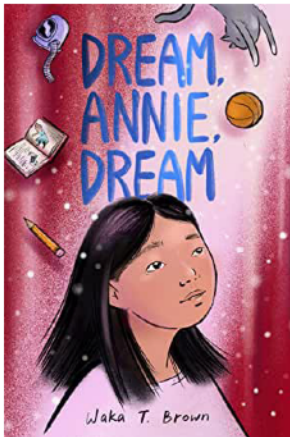
Profound, thought-provoking musings by the Nobel Laureate poet. Dreamlike, folkloric illustrations. Bilingual.



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

America's Test Kitchen/Penguin Random House

Excellent recipe collection for all meals and snack times, with a global flavor. Cooking and safety tips, clear directions, and color photos of finished dishes.

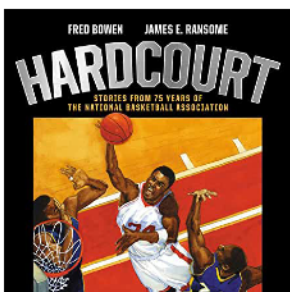


Dream, Annie, Dream

Waka T. Brown

Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

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?

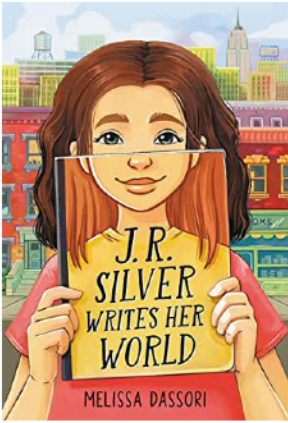


Hardcourt: Stories from 75 Years of the National Basketball Association

Fred Bowen, ill. James E. Ransome

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster

A lively history of how the game evolved from peach baskets. Painterly portraits bring greats, such as Larry Bird and Wilt Chamberlain, to life.

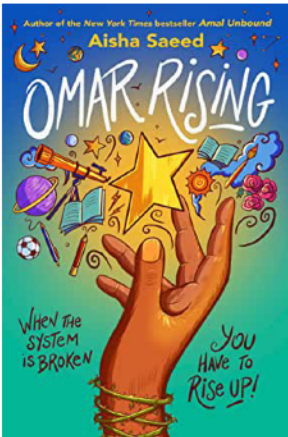


J. R. Silver Writes Her World

Melissa Dassori, ill. Chelen Écija

Christy Ottaviano/Little, Brown

A sheltered 6th-grader discovers that the creative writing assignments given by her mysterious new teacher come true. The New York City setting focuses on the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

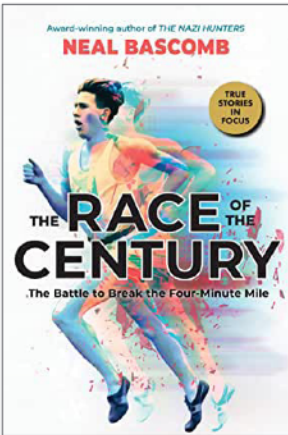


Omar Rising

Aisha Saeed

Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House

Omar, a seventh-year student, wins a scholarship to a famous Pakistani boarding school, but he must fight hard to keep his place there.

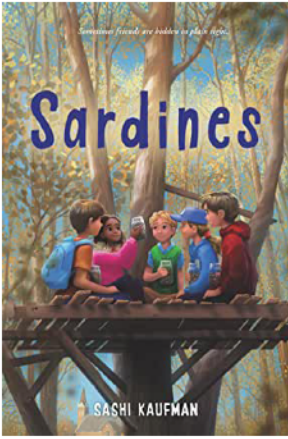


The Race of the Century: The Battle to Break the Four-Minute Mile

Neal Bascomb

Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, Inc.

In the 1950's, three men compete to achieve the impossible—run the four-minute mile. The gripping narrative utilizes original interviews and meticulous sourcing.

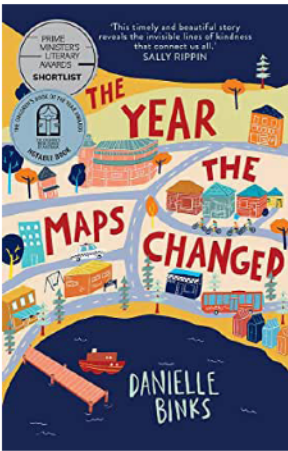


Sardines

Sashi Kaufman

Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

Lucas, 11, and four diverse classmates in an after-school program bond through a game that inspires them to solve each other's problems.



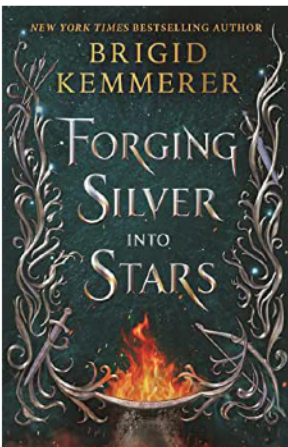
The Year the Maps Changed

Danielle Binks

Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins

In 1999, 11-year-old Winifred, a.k.a. Fred, sees her nuclear family expand as Australia starts to receive Albanian refugees from Yugoslavia.

AGES 14 AND UP



Forging Silver into Stars

Brigid Kemmerer

Bloomsbury Young Adults/Bloomsbury Publishers

Myra can heal people and animals by painting them. Is her magic powerful enough to save her ill sister?

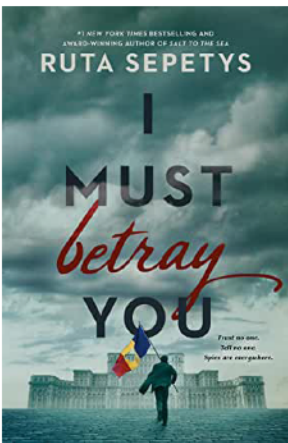


Great or Nothing

Joy McCullough, Caroline Tung Richmond, Tess Sharpe, and Jessica Spotswood

Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House

In a reimagined *Little Women* set in 1942, Jo works in an aircraft factory, Amy joins the Red Cross, and the March family struggles with their grief over Beth's death.



I Must Betray You

Ruta Sepetys

Philomel Books/Penguin Random House

The extreme deprivations of Romania's authoritarian Ceausescu regime drive Cristian, 17, to spy on an American diplomat to secure medicine for his grandfather. Historical notes, lengthy bibliography.

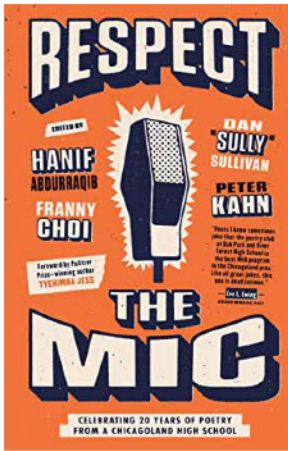


Queen of the Tiles

Hanna Alkaf

Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

Though grieving the death of her best friend during a Malaysian Scrabble tournament, Najwa is determined to play again and to win. But was Trina murdered? Challenging Scrabble vocabulary.



Respect the Mic: Celebrating 20 Years of Poetry From a Chicagoland High School

Hanif Abdurraqib, Franny Choi, Peter Kahn, Daniel Sullivan, eds., ill. Timba Smits

Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House

Culled from a decades-long high school writing and poetry slam project, these powerful and varied verses are deeply personal, urgent, and affecting. An inspirational resource for teachers and students.

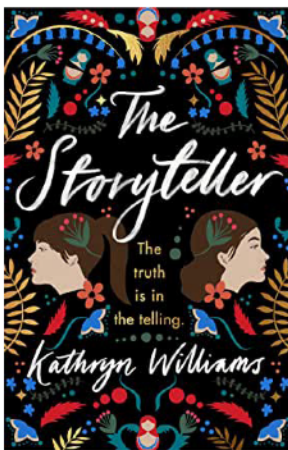


This Rebel Heart

Katherine Locke

Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers

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.



The Storyteller

Kathryn Williams

HarperTeen/HarperCollins

Jess, 17, finds a trunkful of diaries kept by her Russian emigre great-great-aunt, opening the possibility of a family connection to the last Russian tsar and his murder.