What Is the Children’s Choices Reading List?

Each year, 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children’s and young adults’ trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children’s Choices, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children truly enjoy reading. This list, a project cosponsored by the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Children’s Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by educators, librarians and media specialists, administrators, and booksellers but also by families and caregivers—and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

**Beginning Readers**
(Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

**Am I Yours?**
Alex Latimer. Peachtree.
Similar to P.D. Eastman’s *Are You My Mother?*, this refreshing remake includes a misplaced dinosaur egg. The unhatched dinosaur asks each passing dinosaur, “Am I yours?” As the sun sets, the egg’s identity is revealed and reconnected with the rightful pterosaur parents.

**Bear’s Scare**
Jacob Grant. Bloomsbury Children’s Books.
Bear is very neat. He enjoys cleaning his house with his best friend Ursa, a stuffed bear. One day, Ursa’s arm becomes ripped while trying to clean a spiderweb. When Bear comes back, he finds that the spider has fixed Ursa’s arm.

**Be Our Guest!**
Would you like to play ping-pong with a monkey? Or party with a giraffe by the pool? Through the use of creative animal photography, the Parker Palm Springs Hotel has been transformed into a modern-day fantasyland that will delight readers and spark the imagination.

**Bye Bye Pesky Fly**
This is a story about managing frustration. A pesky fly gets into Pig’s face and starts to ruin his day. Should he let it? This book talks us through Pig’s ideas, thoughts, and coping strategies.
**Captain Starfish**  

What do a clownfish and a little boy have in common? They are both shy. Read how Alfie met a very shy clownfish and decided that he could be in the Underwater Dress-Up Parade after all. Alfie’s costume? He dressed as a clownfish, of course.

**The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions**  
Anna Llenas. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Linking colors to emotions is the tool for teaching children empathy in this story. Poor Monster is having lots of big feelings, but his friend helps him sort through all the feelings and colors. This is an important book to have in any collection for young children.

**Crash, Splash, or Moo!**  

Readers are invited to play a guessing game where the answer will be either crash, splash, or moo. The host of the game, Mr. McMonkey, wins a banana for each winning answer. Children will love playing along with this game.

**Day at the Beach**  

Every summer, Audrey and Gideon built a sandcastle together at the beach, until the summer Gideon decided to go it alone. Gideon built a masterpiece. Many praised it, but when he saw his family building one without him, he saw working together had much more appeal.

**Eraser**  
Anna Kang. Ill. Christopher Weyant. Two Lions/Amazon.

Pencil takes all of the credit for everything and takes Eraser for granted. That is, until Eraser leaves. This is a very creative story about second chances, friendship, and finding your worth.

**Fangsgiving**  

Readers will enjoy this tale of a Thanksgiving gone wrong featuring everyone’s favorite ghosts, ghouls, and creatures. Vladimir is trying to make a delicious dinner with all of his friends when some uninvited relatives show up. Can Vladimir still salvage a successful holiday?

**Grow Up, David!**  
David Shannon. Blue Sky/Scholastic.

Shannon explores the complexities of life between siblings in his newest David book. David may be a pain to his older brother most of the time, but brotherly love still wins in the end.
Hello, Hot Dog
Hot Dog is having a relaxing day sitting on bread. A bee comes along and asks what he is doing, and Hot Dog explains how relaxed he is. Then, somebody tries to eat him. Kids will love following Hot Dog on his journey to freedom.

I Am a Cat
Meet Simon, a small house cat, who teaches a lion, a puma, a panther, a tiger, and a cheetah that although he might be smaller and slower, they are all really just cats!

*I Say Ooh You Say Aah
John Kane. Kane Miller.
Be prepared to laugh your way through this text! In this colorful picture book, readers are engaged through both interactive dialogue and motions. This book definitely keeps readers on their toes as responses build with each turn of the page.

Jack B. Ninja
Tim McCanna. Ill. Stephen Savage. Orchard/Scholastic.
Jack is on a quest to find a stolen treasure. He escapes a bandit crew while performing tricky stunts. Readers will enjoy the updated version of the old nursery rhyme Jack Be Nimble.

Kat Writes a Song
Bright pages and adorable characters fill the pages of the new Kat book. Kat decides to write a song to chase the blues away, and the song ends up creating a chain reaction. Music can bring us together, as can the power of a positive attitude.

Let’s Go ABC! Things That Go, From A to Z
Twenty-six ways to travel make up this delightful rhyming book. This book has an airplane, a zeppelin, and everything in between. The detailed illustrations include countless adorable animals and their vehicles.

MVP: Most Valuable Puppy
Phoebe is a delightful dog with a pink tail who loves her adoptive family. This heartwarming story reminds readers of the importance of bouncing back after making mistakes, as well as the significance of friendship and family.
**My Stinky Dog**  
Christine Roussey. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
Alfred the dog is perfectly perfect in almost every way—except he stinks! Alfred’s boy is worried that Alfred won’t be liked anymore, so he cleans him up. Boy soon realizes that Alfred’s stench is very much a part of him and shouldn’t be altered.

**The Night Dragon**  
Maud is picked on by the other dragons, so she stays cooped up in her cave, sad and lonely. With the help of her friend, Mouse, Maud takes her chance to fly and help change the day into night.

**Piggy: Let’s Be Friends!**  
Piggy knows what it is like to not have friends. When he meets a lonely mole named Miles, he wants to make sure this new friend feels included. Just when his new friend becomes brave enough to join in the fun, one small remark could ruin it all.

**Pig the Star**  
Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press.  
Pig the Pug is at it again, but this time he is starring in a photoshoot. But when the photographer starts to favor Trevor, Pig must try everything to steal back the show.

**The Princess and the Pit Stop**  
Hop in and buckle up for a fast-paced race with fairy tale favorites. Princess finds herself in last place with one lap remaining. All looks lost, but Princess will not allow it. Can she blaze her own path and win the race?

**Reading Beauty**  
Ellie and Gabe don’t like to read. A modern twist on a classic tale, Ellie pricks her finger on the page of a book and gets lost in an enchanted reading spell. Gabe must rescue her, but will he find his own love of reading?

**Rusty the Squeaky Robot**  
Rusty the robot learns that having a unique characteristic is a good thing. As he searches for a lubricant, Rusty meets other robots who have unique sounds. Collectively, they make a band. This is a good story for reinforcing the strength of individual differences.
There's a Dragon in Your Book
This interactive book starts with a dare: Don’t turn the page. Of course, you will turn the page, and each turn leads to demands that readers tickle, blow on, cover, and high five a lovable, flammable sneezing dragon.

This Is a Taco!
See how a story can be changed with a little bit of wit and a red marker. Taco is a taco-loving squirrel who finds himself thinking there should be more to the life of a squirrel.

Three Grumpy Trucks
Three trucks are having a wonderful time doing what trucks do. The owner keeps telling them that it is time to quit, but they plead for more time. Young readers will enjoy the rhyming text while their parents can relate to the truck owners’ pleas.

Unplugged
Steve Antony. Scholastic Press.
On a child’s level, this book cleverly outweighs the benefits of being online (plugged in) all the time versus going outdoors and interacting with nature (unplugged).

A Whale’s World
Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read. Orca.
Visit the Great Bear Sea, admire beautiful green islands with trees as tall as skyscrapers, and see a beautiful black-and-white orca spyhop out of the sea. Each page is beautiful, action-packed, and factual, and tells a story that will interest readers of all ages.

*What Do They Do With All That Poo?
Zoos have a lot of poo to deal with every day. Have you ever wondered what they do with it? Learn interesting facts about zoo animal waste and how it is used to solve problems and help the environment.
What If...
This is the story of a girl whose passion for creating cannot be quelled. The rhythm and rhyme of the story keep children engaged and have them asking to have it read again.

When the World Is Full of Friends
Albert, Tom, Flossie, and Pipkin love to play. However, their biggest wish is to have friends to play games with. Luckily, a family of squirrels moves in across the stream, but how will they ever cross?

Young Readers
(Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

Ariana Grande
Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.
Since the age of 3, Ariana knew she wanted to entertain people. From actress to singer, she has become a music industry sensation. Her career includes winning the 2016 American Music Award Artist of the Year.

*Back to the Future: The Classic Illustrated Storybook
A cinema classic comes to the pages of a picture book. Marty McFly travels through time and discovers that present issues in his life stem from his parents’ past lives. Parents will love sharing this familiar story with the next generation.

Becoming a Zombie
Ruth Owen. Bearport.
From a weekly sitcom to horror movies only the brave watch, this gory zombie book provides an inside view of movie features plus actual human viruses and diseases. Scientific facts and speculation in this book are meant for curious zombie hunters.

Bruno Mars
Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.
This is the story of Bruno Mars from his childhood into his career, with discussion about his family and how he came to be famous. A glossary of vocabulary words found throughout the book is a great help to younger readers.
The Cat Encyclopedia for Kids
Joanne Mattern. Capstone Young Readers.
Cats became domesticated centuries ago to help control rodent populations. Of the 42 distinct breeds, 12 are highlighted in this encyclopedia. From Abyssinian to Sphynx, readers will learn the history, traits, and care of different cat breeds.

The Chinese Emperor’s New Clothes
This tells the original story of the Chinese Emperor’s New Clothes. The emperor is not vain; rather, he makes a conscious decision to walk in a parade through the city along with his vain ministers wearing old rice sacks to save his country.

Deadly Spider Bite!
Kevin Blake. Bearport.
This nonfiction spider guide weaves breathtaking photographs with hair-raising stories involving the most venomous spiders of the world. Readers will learn about the varieties of poisonous spiders, their markings, and the effects of their bite.

Deadly Venomous Mammals!
Joyce Markovics. Bearport.
In this narrative nonfiction book, you will learn about platypus, loris, shrews, and more rare venomous mammals in engaging scenarios, colorful photos, and loads of information about venom and its deadly effects.

Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas
Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.
Lil’ Petey is the clone of the most evil cat in the world, Petey. Petey comes to Dog Man’s house in disguise, saying Lil’ Petey must go to school. Instead of taking Lil’ Petey to school, he takes him out of town. This book is filled with fun, colorful illustrations.

*Down by the River
Art is headed out for “his favorite kind of day,” fishing with his mother and grandpa. When Art catches a branch, he is reminded about the time that his grandpa caught his own brother. Fly fishing explanations can be found in the back of the book.
Elizabeth Warren: Nevertheless, She Persisted
In this biographical account of the first female senator from Massachusetts, readers learn about Elizabeth, who had a rough start and learned why it was so difficult for working-class families like her own to advance economically. Today, she continues to advocate with her words as a senator.

50 Wacky Things Pets Do: Weird & Amazing Things Pets Do
Heidi Fiedler. Ill. Marta Sorte. Walter Foster Jr./The Quarto Group.
Readers continue to be delighted by the weird and amazing things pets do. With the same simplistic format as the wildly popular 50 Wacky Things Animals Do, this book is both engaging and informative.

George the Hero Hound
Jeffery Ebbeler. Two Lions/Amazon.
George is a farm dog left behind when his farmer retires to the beach. His new family doesn’t have a lot of farming experience. In fact, they have no idea what they’re doing. George tries to help them run the farm in this sweet story with gorgeous illustrations.

Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail
The amazing Grandma Gatewood, age 67, was the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. She accomplished this incredible feat after raising 11 children. Her story has been chronicled in numerous newspaper articles and an interview in Sports Illustrated.

Green Slimers: Opossums
Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.
Open the world of the opossum in the palm of your hands through vibrant photographs and interesting facts. This book is sure to please even the most reluctant readers with its slimy, little-known facts about North America’s only marsupial.

Horrifying Hollywood
Sweetie Peason. Bearport.
This book contains information on some of Hollywood’s “horror stories” and includes a map of places to visit. In the back, there is also a glossary of words found throughout the story. It’s definitely for those who love scary stories.
How to Sell Your Family to the Aliens
Happy (“Hap”) Conklin Jr.’s father is a brilliant inventor and the reason Hap and his sisters have strange qualities. When Hap sees a chance to get rid of his tyrannical grandma, he takes it by selling his whole family to the aliens.

Luke Bryan
Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.
This book tells the story of a small-town boy from Georgia who makes it big in the country music world. Despite tragedies, Luke uses his gift as a singer and songwriter to share his love for entertaining fans across the United States. Photos, a timeline, and a glossary are included.

Maggie: Alaska’s Last Elephant
When her friend Annabelle dies, Maggie, an elephant in the Alaskan Zoo, is alone in the cold. This touching story follows her journey from Alaska to find a home with a group of African elephants in California.

The Mushroom Fan Club
Mushrooms can be found on the ground, in trees, and tucked away in tiny crevices. All you have to do is take a walk in the woods and look around. Gravel brings the mushrooms to life by giving them faces and personalities.

Nightmarish New York
E. Merwin. Bearport.
From Ellis Island to New York University, readers learn about four scary ghost stories that take place in the city that never sleeps. The book also includes a map of the spooky spots for the more adventurous tourists.

Pluto Is Peeved! An Ex-Planet Searches for Answers
Written as a graphic novel, young readers learn about the decision and science behind taking away Pluto’s planet status. Pluto is upset about no longer being a planet until he learns of the science behind the decision.
Poison Slimers: Poison Dart Frogs, Sea Cucumbers and More
Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.
Slime and animal fans will get their thrills when reading this amazing informational book. Poison frogs, sticky salamanders, velvet worms, and exploding ants are some of the unique animals that appear in this book. Readers will especially enjoy the “science lab” section.

*Safari Pug
Adorable little Pug and his best friend Lady Miranda are on a wild adventure with the lions at the zoo! The book’s bright, thick pages and easy-to-hold size make it a great companion to take along for a reading safari.

School People
This anthology of 15 poems celebrates the grown-ups that children encounter throughout the course of their school day. There’s even a poem about the school building.

Scout’s Heaven
Bibi Dumon Tak and Annemarie van Haeringen. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
Sibling conversation and simple illustrations help readers navigate the difficult loss of a pet. Two older siblings answer Younger Brother’s questions as best they can when their beloved dog, Scout, passes.

She Made a Monster: How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein
How did Mary Shelley create her famous work, Frankenstein? This fascinating story gives readers insight into the tale behind one of the world’s most celebrated works and the creation of an indelible monster that is recognizable by all ages.

Smart Cookie
Elly Swartz. Scholastic Press.
Frankie misses her mom. She writes to her every night despite knowing she is never coming back. This heartwarming story with identifiable and relatable characters includes twists and themes such as middle school relationships, single parenting, hoarding, depression, divorce, and BFFs.
*Titanic’s Fatal Voyage*
Kevin Blake. Bearport.
This nonfiction book provides detailed insights into the history of the ship of dreams. Using photos and realistic drawings, it engages readers beyond the text. It also encourages research on the topic with additional book recommendations and online resources.

*What Do Animals Do All Day?*
Through 14 different habitats, children can explore and learn about the animals that live there. Did you know the prairie dog is a news reporter? Or that the mangrove snail is a tide expert? Kids love the fun way they can learn about animals.

**The Wild Robot Escapes**
Peter Brown. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
In this sequel to *The Wild Robot*, Roz arrives on Mr. Shareef’s farm having been refurbished. She learns how to be a farmer and befriends the animals and children. Although she loves her new farm life, she misses her son. Will she reunite with him?

**Wrapped Up! Vol. 1**
Dave Scheidt and Scoot McMahon. CubHouse/Lion Forge.
Milo is a 12-year-old boy who just happens to be a mummy. The cast is diverse, with a blended family, his best friend is a wizard, and the babysitters are witches. This collection of comic stories is told in bright colors.

**Zombies Through the Ages**
Ruth Owen. Bearport.
Kids who are into scares and gore will love Owen’s latest installment in the Zombie Zone series. Read about zombie history, folklore, and how stories of the undead have been told for centuries.

**Advanced Readers**
(Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

**Alice: From Dream to Dream**
Giulio Macaione. BOOM! Box.
This graphic novel about nightmares, dreams, and growing up deals with big issues such as families and friendships through a fantasy world of dreams and a diversity of characters. Children of many backgrounds will be able to recognize themselves in these characters.
**All the Things That Could Go Wrong**  
*Stewart Foster. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.*  
Dan, the bully, is angry because his brother is in jail. Alex, the victim, can’t function because of obsessive compulsive disorder. In this book told from each boy’s point of view, they are forced to work together to complete a raft that Dan and his brother started.

**Be the Change: The Future Is in Your Hands**  
*Eunice Moyle and Sabrina Moyle. Walter Foster Jr./The Quarto Group.*  
This book puts power into the hands of our tweens and teens, helping them to become the change they want to see in the world. It supports them with conversation protocols, ideas for projects, and ways to make change in their communities.

**Be Prepared**  
*Vera Brosgol. First Second/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.*  
Vera, a Russian girl in middle school, wants to fit in. All her friends talk about summer camps, but her single mom can’t afford it. Then Vera finds out about a Russian summer camp. Vera learns how to depend on and accept herself.

**Beyond the Sixth Extinction: A Post-Apocalyptic Pop-Up**  
This imaginative world is set in the year 4847 and filled with bizarre and wondrous fictional creatures. The tale of the sixth global extinction includes amazing pop-ups to help visualize eight post-apocalyptic creatures along with a fictional field guide, habitat map, and timeline.

**The Boggart Fights Back**  
Set in the Scottish Highlands village of Port Appin, Jay and Allie Cameron are visiting their granda. But Mr. Trout, a greedy real estate developer, is threatening to turn their village castle into a tourist resort and golf course.

**The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker**  
This story is set in a magical place. It is about loss, loneliness, danger, and new friendships and how two unlikely friends can find each other, share secrets, and forge a new life that makes each one stronger, happier, and better.
**Breakout**
Kate Messner. Bloomsbury Children’s Books.
Nora Tucker is a blossoming journalist who is spending her summer writing for her school paper. Then two inmates break out of her town’s prison. This story is told like a file that a journalist would keep when working on a story.

**Checked**
Conor MacRae is going to be a professional hockey player. There’s nothing he loves more than hockey, except maybe his dog, Sinbad. Life is great until Sinbad becomes sick. Now Conor must learn that life is also about making difficult choices.

**Cosmo: Vol. 1**
Ian Flynn. Ill. Tracy Yardley. Archie Comics.
This graphic novel, with colorful illustrations and witty dialogue, is an Archie Comics reboot of the 1958 Cosmo and Friends characters. We find them on their adventures throughout our solar system once again. In this adventure, an Earthling finds his way onto Cosmo’s UFO.

**Dork Diaries 13: Tales From a Not-So-Happy Birthday**
Nikki and her BFFs Chloe and Zoey have been planning a birthday party to end all birthday parties. Nikki’s mom says “no way” because of the cost. When Nikki is ready to call off the party, help comes from the person she least expects.

**Elle of the Ball**
Elle Deluca stands head and shoulders above other seventh graders. Already six feet tall, she has to navigate her way through stereotypes both on and off the court. Elle is a relatable character who ultimately learns the importance of being yourself.

**Endling #1: The Last**
Byx may be the last member of her race, the Dairnes. They look like dogs but walk upright and can speak, think, and know when someone is lying. Byx meets Tobble and Khara, and all three head off to an island where there may still be Dairnes.
**Ghost Boys**
Twelve-year-old Jerome is unjustly shot by a police officer. He meets another ghost, Emmett Till, with a similar situation but from a different time. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions.

**Grenade**
Alan Gratz. Scholastic Press.
Fans of historical fiction and stories of battle will enjoy this fast-paced, heart-wrenching novel. The story centers on two young men who have come face to face during the Battle of Okinawa toward the end of World War II.

**Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race**
Learn about the achievements of four of NASA’s most influential African American “computers.” Determination and perseverance are the keys to reaching your goals, even if your goals are to reach the stars. This is a picture book adaptation of Shetterly’s best-selling book.

**It Wasn’t Me**
Theo agrees to display his photographs at his middle school, only to have them vandalized. A Justice Circle is formed where five suspects must spend their school breaks together for a week in an effort to find out what happened to the photos.

**Kid Normal**
Murph becomes accidentally enrolled in a school for superheroes, but he does not have any special powers. A villain captures most of the kids at the school, so it is up to Murph and other “misfits” to save the day.

**Love, Penelope**
The story begins with Penny writing in her diary to her unborn sibling. Throughout this transition, we see how Penny grows, learns, hurts, matures, and loves. This touching tale gives us an honest look at the insights of a modern girl.
No Slam Dunk
Mike Lupica. Philomel/Penguin Books for Young Readers.
Wes, a young basketball player, is facing difficulties both on the court and at home. His father has returned home from Afghanistan with problems, and one of his teammates is selfishly causing issues with their team. This is a great book about finding balance with real-life problems.

*Pizzasaurus Rex
Justin Wagner and Warren Wucinich. Oni.
This graphic novel features Jeremy, an awesome scientific mind, who is bullied. He invents the Reality Alternative Dimensionator and brings the Pizzasaurus Rex to help stop Emperor Buzzkill in this story where brains triumph over brawn and being yourself is the lesson to be learned.

*Positively Izzy
Izzy, the talented thespian who needs to “focus,” and Brianna, the “brain,” both struggle with their labels. Middle school drama keeps readers entertained while the art and text add to the enjoyment of this book.

Science Comics: Robots and Drones: Past, Present, and Future
Take a journey through time to see how robots and drones have become part of our lives. There are robots all around us, and robotics have allowed humans to live more efficient lives. Where will robotic and drone technology take you?

The Secrets of Tutankhamun: Egypt’s Boy King and His Incredible Tomb
This informational text explores details about one of the most famous kings in history. Readers learn about mummification, the hieroglyphic alphabet, and the archeological discovery of Tutankhamun’s tomb—including the curse and mysteries surrounding this young king’s death.

*Sewing the Rainbow: The Story of Gilbert Baker and the Rainbow Flag
Gilbert Baker enjoyed drawing and watching his grandmother sew in her clothing store. As an adult, Gilbert fulfilled his childhood dream by designing and sewing costumes. He became known for creating the rainbow flag, a symbol for people to be their colorful selves.
**Something Happened in Our Town: A Child’s Story About Racial Injustice**  
After a young black man is shot, Emma, who is white, and Josh, who is black, discuss the injustice of the shooting with their families. In school, Josh and Emma find that the new student, Omad, is ostracized. This book includes end matter for families and caregivers about discussing racial bias and injustice.

**Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America**  
Gail Jarrow. Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills.  
Jarrow has mixed several personal stories with pictures of the time to recount the events leading up to, and following, the infamous 1938 *The War of the Worlds* broadcast. The book includes bios and an overview of worldviews of the time.

**STEAM Lab for Kids: 52 Creative Hands-On Projects for Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math**  
Craft books take on a whole new look when created through a science, technology, engineering, arts, and math lens (STEAM). Included are 52 doable projects for the classroom or at home. Detailed pictures and explanations for kids abound with STEAM connections.

**The Thrifty Guide to The American Revolution**  
Through witty humor, Stokes brilliantly entices readers with present day and unexpected anecdotes surrounding various American Revolution events. By juxtaposing contemporary and historical facts through time travel, the result is hilarious.

**The Trials of Apollo, Book 3: The Burning Maze**  
Rick Riordan. Disney Hyperion.  
Riordan has mastered writing with incredible detail, infusing mythology into a contemporary setting and hooking his readers. Like his other books, there is the right balance of action, near-death predicaments, and honoring individual strengths from each of the gods.
The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair
A move from New York to Iowa and a mother suffering from a brain injury (unable to remember anything) mark the setting and tone for this poignant story, which will capture the hearts of readers and keep them guessing until the end.

Whatshisface
Gordon Korman. Scholastic Press.
Cooper, referred to as Whatshisface, declines the opportunity to be part of the seventh-grade play at his new school, but his phone and his teacher have a different idea. This is a must-read for any middle school teacher teaching Shakespeare.

You Go First
Charlotte and Ben, who have never met, enjoy playing online Scrabble. Ben’s parents are divorcing and Charlotte’s dad is recovering from heart surgery, so both are dealing with family crises as well as finding their own place in the hostile environment of middle school.

*Titles that received the most votes
Titles listed in orange are finalists for the Children’s Choice Book Awards.
Children’s Choices 2019 Reading List

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Am I Yours? Alex Latimer. Peachtree. 36x506
Bear’s Scare. Jacob Grant. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x516
Be Our Guest! Gray Malin. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 36x516
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Crash, Splash, or Moo! Bob Shea. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 36x516
*Day at the Beach. Tom Booth. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 36x516
Eraser. Anna Kang. Ill. Christopher Weyant. Two Lions/Amazon. 36x516
*Fangsgiving. Ethan Long. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x516
*Grow Up, David! Kevin Blake. Bearport. 36x516
I Am a Cat. Galia Bernstein. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 36x516
*I Say Ooh You Say Aah. John Kane. Kane Miller. 36x516
Jack B. Ninja. Tim McCanna. Ill. Stephen Savage. Orchard/Really Reads. 36x516
Kat Writes a Song. Greg Foley. Little Simon/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 36x516
Let’s Go ABC! Things That Go. From A to Z. Rhonda Gowler Greene. Ill. Daniel Kirk. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x516
My Stinky Dog. Christine Roussey. Abrams Books for Young Readers. 36x516
The Night Dragon. Naomi Howarth. Lincoln Children’s Books/The Quarto Group. 36x516
Piggy: Let’s Be Friends! Trevor Lai. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x516
Pig the Star. Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press. 36x516
*Pig the Pig. John Bemelmans. 36x516
The Princess and the Pit Stop. Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press. 36x516
Rusty the Squeaky Robot. Neil Clark. Wide Eyed Editions/The Quarto Group. 36x516
There Is a Taco! Andrew Cangelose. Ill. Josh Shipley. CubHouse/Lion Forge. 36x516
Unplugged. Steve Antony. Scholastic Press. 36x516
A Whale’s World. Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read. Orca. 36x516
*What Do They Do With All That Poo? Jane Kurtz. Ill. Allison Black. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 36x516
What If.... Samantha Berger. Ill. Mike Curato. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 36x516
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Horrifying Hollywood. Sweetie Pearson. Bearport. 36x506
How to Sell Your Family to the Aliens. Paul Noth. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x506
Pluto Is Peeved! An Ex-Planet Searches for Answers. Jacqueline Jules. Ill. Dave Roman. Seagrass/The Quarto Group. 36x506
Poison Slimer: Poison Dart Frogs, Sea Cucumbers and More. Ellen Lawrence. Bearport. 36x506
*Safe Rat. Laura James. Ill. Églantine Ceulemans. Bloomsbury Children’s Books. 36x506
School People. Lee Bennett Hopkins. Ill. Ellen Shi. WordSong/Boyds Mills. 36x506
Scout’s Heaven. Bibi Dumon Tak and Annemarie van Haeringen. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 36x506
She Made a Monster: How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein. Lynn Fulton. Ill. Felicita Sala. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers(Random House Children’s Books. 36x506
Smart Cookie. Elly Swartz. Scholastic Press. 36x506
*Titanic’s Fatal Voyage. Kevin Blake. Bearport. 36x506
The Wild Robot Escapes. Peter Brown. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 36x506
Wrapped Up! Vol. 1. Dave Scheidt and Scoot McMahon. CubHouse/Lion Forge. 36x506
Zombies Through the Ages. Ruth Owen. Bearport. 36x506

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

Alice: From Dream to Dream. Giulio Macaione. BOOM! Box. 36x506
All the Things That Could Go Wrong. Richard Harries. Ill. Stephen Savage. Orchard/Random House Books for Young Readers. 36x506
Be the Change: The Future is in Your Hands. Eunice Moyle and Sabrina Moyle. Walter Foster Jr./The Quarto Group. 36x506
Be Prepared, Vera Bros gol. First Second/Macmillan Children’s Publishing. 36x506
Beyond the Sixth Extinction: A Post-Apocalyptic Pop-Up. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing. 36x506
Be Prepared, Vera Bros gol. First Second/Macmillan Children’s Publishing. 36x506
Be the Change: The Future is in Your Hands. Eunice Moyle and Sabrina Moyle. Walter Foster Jr./The Quarto Group. 36x506
Becoming a Zombie. Ruth Owen. Bearport. 36x506
*Titanic’s Fatal Voyage. Kevin Blake. Bearport. 36x506
**Smart Cookie. Elly Swartz. Scholastic Press. 36x506
**Titanic’s Fatal Voyage. Kevin Blake. Bearport. 36x506
**The Wild Robot Escapes. Peter Brown. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 36x506
*Wrapped Up! Vol. 1. Dave Scheidt and Scoot McMahon. CubHouse/Lion Forge. 36x506
*Zombies Through the Ages. Ruth Owen. Bearport. 36x506

(continued)
Children’s Choices 2019 Reading List (Cont’d)


*Titles that received the most votes

To learn more about the Children’s Choices project, including how to participate and to access previous years’ reading lists, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

About the Children’s Book Council

The Children’s Book Council (CBC) is the nonprofit trade association for children’s book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children’s publishers, from smaller independent presses to large international houses, the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, diversity in employment and books, and literacy advocacy. For more information, visit cbcbooks.org.
More About Children’s Choices

Thank you to the 2018–2019 ILA Children’s Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams.

Project cochairs: Michele Owen, Bryant, AR, and Amy Vessel, Ruston, LA

AREA 1
Stan Steiner (team leader), Boise, ID, and Karen Gabino (trainee), Tucson, AZ

AREA 2
Terrilyn Lebel Cheney (team leader), Saco, ME
Biddeford Intermediate School (Biddeford, ME) ▪ Biddeford Middle School (Biddeford, ME) ▪ Biddeford Primary School (Biddeford, ME) ▪ C.K. Burns School (Saco, ME) ▪ Fairfield School (Saco, ME) ▪ J.F.K. Kindergarten Center (Biddeford, ME) ▪ Saco Middle School (Saco, ME) ▪ Young School (Saco, ME)

AREA 3
Lark West (team leader), Bryant, AR
Bauxite Middle School (Bauxite, AR) ▪ Bethel Middle School (Alexander, AR) ▪ Bryant Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ▪ Collegeville Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ▪ Episcopal Collegiate School (Little Rock, AR) ▪ Hill Farm Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ▪ Lonoke Elementary School (Lonoke, AR) ▪ Parkway Elementary School (Alexander, AR) ▪ Salem Elementary School (Benton, AR)

AREA 4
Nan Brandenbergerpayne (team leader), Missoula, MT
Bonner Elementary (Missoula, MT) ▪ Chief Charlo Elementary (Missoula, MT) ▪ Franklin Elementary (Missoula, MT) ▪ Hawthorne Elementary (Missoula, MT) ▪ Jeannette Rankin School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Lewis and Clark Elementary (Missoula, MT) ▪ Paxson and Russell (Missoula, MT) ▪ Target Range Elementary (Missoula, MT)

AREA 5
Jenny Brown (team leader), Dixon, IL, and Michelle Fish (trainee), Elkhart, IN
Battell Elementary School (Mishawaka, IN) ▪ Bethel University Lab Kindergarten (Mishawaka, IN) ▪ Concord East Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord Intermediate School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord Ox Bow Elementary (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord South Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord West Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Jefferson School (Dixon, IL) ▪ Madison School (Dixon, IL) ▪ Reagan Middle School (Dixon, IL) ▪ St. Mary’s School (Dixon, IL) ▪ Washington School (Dixon, IL)