CHOICES
LISTS 2016

Children’s Choices
Teachers’ Choices
Young Adults’ Choices
When it comes to engaging students with reading, we know the importance of choice. We know that when students can select the books they want to read, with topics in which they are truly interested, they are more likely not only to read them, but also to understand and to reflect upon them.

With that in mind, we are delighted to bring to you the 2016 Choices Reading Lists—Children’s Choices, Teachers’ Choices, and Young Adults’ Choices. These highly anticipated lists come just in time, whether you’re looking to squeeze in some summer reading of your own or with your children, to build up your classroom library for the fall, or to add new favorites to your curriculum.

The best part is these annual lists are chosen by students and teachers themselves, so you know they will please children from our youngest readers to our most selective teenagers.

We know this because choice matters—and it can make all the difference.

Marcie Craig Post
Executive Director
What Is the Children’s Choices List?

Each year 12,500 school children ages 5–12 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 really enjoy reading. This list, a project of a joint committee supported by IILA and The Children’s Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

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

**Bubble Trouble**
Tom Percival. Bloomsbury USA Childrens.
Bubble Trouble is the tale of two friends who make their bubble-blowing fun a competition. Their competition and friendship goes bad, but after they both lose, they work together to create the “world’s largest bubble.”

**Charlie Plays Ball**
Charlie the ranch dog plays ball with the farm animals. He gets his big chance to score in a game. The book includes a simple recipe that can be shared with readers and their families.

**“Clark the Shark: Afraid of the Dark”**
This is Clark the Shark’s first sleepover. When his friends begin telling scary stories, Clark makes up a jingle to help him stay cool. The story ends with how friendships can conquer fears.

**Fright Club**
Ethan Long. Bloomsbury USA Childrens.
Who said only monsters can be scary? The fright club learns that even the cutest of creatures can be scary, especially on Halloween.

**Get Out of My Bath!**
Ellie is an elephant that loves to take a good bath, but so do all the other animals! Ellie finally finds a way to get the bath all to herself. Early elementary readers will enjoy this interactive story.

**How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe?**
This is a funny book about how parents keep their little dinosaurs safe when crossing the street, swimming with friends, riding their bikes, and many other times. Good advice on how to stay safe.

**I Am Henry Finch**
The illustrations and unique use of text features make the story fun to read. The story has different twists and turns that take readers into a new direction. Children will learn how great it can be to stand up for themselves.

**If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don’t!**
Elise Parsley. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
This is the story of Magnolia, who brought her alligator for show and tell. But the alligator gets her into major trouble, and now she wants to send her alligator away before any more trouble starts.

**I Really Like Slop!**
Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
Piggie invites her friend Gerald to try her favorite food—slop! Although Gerald is unsure about trying the slop, he does anyway because Piggie is his best friend. Gerald doesn’t like the slop, but he’s glad he tried it for his best friend.

**I Will Take a Nap!**
Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
Mo Willems once again touches on a familiar theme: naptime. When Gerald wants to take a nap, his friend Piggie joins him. Children will enjoy this story because it is something to which they can relate. And they’ll love the humorous illustrations.
**The Little Shop of Monsters**
The Little Shop of Monsters is a charming story about all different kinds of monsters. You are asked to be ready to pick out one to take home. Wait, you don’t pick one, it picks you. The illustrations are lovable. No one will walk away being scared of monsters.

**Max the Brave**
Ed Vere. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.
Max is a brave cat that knows he is supposed to protect the home from Mouse...but what is Mouse? This fun story will keep kindergarten through second-grade readers engaged from start to finish!

**Monkey and Duck Quack Up!**
Monkey and Duck are trying to win a rhyming contest in which the prize is a cruise. Monkey comes up with a plan to win the cruise and they set off for sea.

**Monster Needs a Party**
Paul Czajak’s Monster series has a new adventure. He wants to have a pirate birthday party, but his friends cannot come. So his boy takes him to “Pirateland” for some pirate fun, but after his fun-filled day he has a surprise for Monster.

**Must. Push. Buttons!**
This story is about a boy who is very busy wanting to push buttons. He also tries to do lots of different things. Kids will find it funny because he is so incredibly busy. Many of them can relate to all of the things he wants to do.

**The Nuts: Sing and Dance in Your Polka-Dot Pants**
Hazel loves her polka-dot pants so much she makes up a song about them. After Hazel’s father, mother, and brother ignore her and her song, Hazel calls her grandmother to rock out with her. When the rest of Hazel’s family hears grandmother and Hazel rocking out, they decide to join in.

**Pete the Cat and the Bedtime Blues**
Pete the Cat is back again in a bedtime adventure sure to resonate with primary-level students. Pete has a sleepover, but his friends aren’t ready to settle down. Pete saves the day and gets everyone to settle down. Children will love the next installment of Pete’s adventures.

**Please, Mr. Panda**
Steve Antony. Scholastic.
Simple text is sure to delight even the youngest readers. The patterned text makes this an emergent storybook perfect for kindergartners and first graders. A message about the benefits of being polite will resonate with all.

**Ragweed’s Farm Dog Handbook**
Anne Vittur Kennedy. Candlewick.
A very funny handbook for any farm dog or young child curious about farm dogs! A book of the dos and don’ts such as don’t wake the farmer (that’s the rooster’s job) will keep kids laughing as Ragweed collects biscuits while breaking his own rules.

**Rappy the Raptor**
An adorable story about Rappy starting to rap after a fall. Rappy ends up going to the doctor because he’s rapping all the time. The doctors discover “Rappy’s perfectly normal.”

**The Runaway Tortilla**
This Spanish version of The Gingerbread Man is a twist on an old classic fairy tale. The use of Spanish words, embedded throughout the engaging tale, makes the story more authentic. Children will enjoy the Spanish influence of this book.

**Sick Simon**
Simon is ready for the best week ever. There is just one little problem: He has a cold. Simon doesn’t care, he still goes to school. After several days of spreading germs, the germs thank Simon for spreading them everywhere. Once Simon learns how germs are spread, he immediately changes his hygiene routines. He starts washing his hands, blowing his nose, and covering his mouth when he coughs. When Simon returns to school, his classmates are excited to learn that he is no longer sick.
The Sky Is Falling!
Mark Teague. Orchard/Scholastic.
This is a fun twist on the Chicken Little story. This tale mingles many different styles of dance and a twist for the fox in the end.

*Stick and Stone
Beth Ferry. Ill. Tom Lichtenheld. HMH Books for Young Readers.
Stick and Stone are lonely, but then they become the best of friends. They help each other out of different troubles.

Ten Pigs: An Epic Bath Adventure
Derek Anderson. Orchard/Scholastic.
One happy pig is enjoying his bath with his rubber duck, until nine other pigs crowd his tub! Pig one disguises himself as a wolf to scare all of the other pigs out of the tub. His plan works, and he’s left with his tub and rubber duck.

There’s a Lion in My Cornflakes
What happens when everyone is saving their cereal boxes to win a lion? The cereal company has to send replacement animals such as a bear, a crocodile, and even a gorilla. Great ending with a new cereal animal.

*To the Sea
Cale Atkinson. Disney-Hyperion.
Tim feels invisible at school, but when he becomes friends with Sam the whale, his life changes. Children will love the charming illustrations as well as the two characters, Tim and Sam, who work together to get Sam back to the ocean.

Welcome to the Neighborwood
Shawn Sheehy. Candlewick.
This unique pop-up book tells the story of seven animal builders and how their skills help them survive. Children will enjoy the moveable parts and the interesting facts.

Young Readers
(Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

Ancient Earth Journal: The Early Cretaceous: Notes, Drawings, and Observations From Prehistory
Juan Carlos Alonso and Gregory S. Paul. Quarto/Walter Foster Jr.
This book tells about the different dinosaurs of different eras: Theropods, Sauropods, Ornithischians, Pterosaurs, and birds. Because this book is very visual, it will help the learners to compare and contrast among the dinosaurs and will give them a clear understanding about the different species of dinosaurs.

Animal Beauty
Kristin Roskifte. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
The elephant picks up a beauty magazine and learns how to get rid of her wrinkles. The other animals also try to improve their looks. The book reminds readers to appreciate who they are.

Animal Mouths
Mary Holland. Arbordale.
The larger-than-life, full-spread pictures engage readers and encourage them to study the fine details. The facts describe the animal and its unique facial features, including mouth, teeth, and bills.

The Baby-Sitters Club: Kristy’s Great Idea
The Baby-Sitters Club gets a graphic novel makeover in this new edition geared toward intermediate students. Popular book in a popular style is sure to please any young reader who is interested in babysitting!

The Case for Loving
The story of an interracial marriage and family set in the early 60s brings to life the harsh reality of segregation in the United States at that time. The family doesn’t want their children growing up thinking their parents’ love is a crime, so they fight to end marriage segregation at the Supreme Court level. A beautiful story that makes a very hard part of U.S. history come alive for today’s readers.
Claude in the Spotlight  
Alex T. Smith. Peachtree.
Mr. and Mrs. Shinyshoes have no idea that Claude and his best friend, Sir Bobbysock, rush off for an adventure when they leave for work. Will a menacing ghost spoil his chance to become a star? Children will enjoy this clever, fast-paced story that surprises page after page.

The Crown Affair  
Detective Joe Dumpy is out to locate the Jack who stole Jack’s crown. Round up the usual suspects, Joe Dumpy eliminates them one by one. Lots of silly puns about eggs are dropped (oops!) in the text.

*Escape From the Lizzarks (Nnewts)  
Doug TenNapel. GRAPHIX/Scholastic.
The story of Herk, a lovable Nnewt who longs for stronger legs. His village is attacked by the Lizzarks and he flees. Alone in the world, Herk meets strange creatures and an evil lord who is out to get him.

*I’m Trying to Love Spiders  
Bethany Barton. Viking Books for Young Readers.
This whimsical book is a mix of information and opinion about spiders. The narrator is attempting to talk himself into liking spiders, but he squishes a few along the way. In the end, he pets the spiders and thanks the spider for all that it does for humans.

I (Don’t) Like Snakes  
A little girl claims that she hates snakes. In an attempt to correct her misconceptions, her family informs her of all sorts of cool things about snakes. By the end of the story, the little girl changes her mind and ends up loving snakes.

I Wish You More  
This uplifting book hits right at the heart of wishing someone well! Bright, simple illustrations highlight everyday events to which kids can totally relate, reminding them to find the positive in every situation.

Lailah’s Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story  
After moving to Peachtree City from Abu Dhabi, Lailah worries none of her classmates will understand Ramadan. After doing everything she could possibly do to avoid telling her teacher, she finally comes clean and gets to share the story of Ramadan with her classmates.

LEGO Awesome Ideas  
Daniel Lipkowitz. DK Children.
In this book of awesome ideas, kids’ imaginations will be sparked. The LEGO book offers ideas and directions for building various LEGO scenes, such as the Wild West or outer space.

Little Red Riding Hood: An Interactive Fairy Tale Adventure  
In this choose-your-own adventure story based on Little Red Riding Hood, danger lurks with every wrong decision. Girls AND boys will love the alternate settings…a city park or war zone. Scary survival story at its best!

Fort  
Cynthia DeFelice. Farrar Straus Giroux.
Wyatt and Augie are the best of friends despite seeing each other only during the summers when Wyatt lives with his dad. This summer is going to be the best ever because they plan to build a fort in the woods. Can they succeed with two bullies trying to spoil their fun and a small town outcast spying on their every move? Middle-school children will enjoy this relatable, coming-of-age story filled with adventure and humor.

*Fort  
Cynthia DeFelice. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras  
Duncan Tonatiuh. Harry N. Abrams.
This book tells the story of artist Guadalupe (Lupe) Posada, who made famous the skeletons in the park, skeletons wearing fancy hats, and the skeletons for the Day of the Dead. The book includes an author’s note, glossary, and index.

Honey  
Sarah Weeks. Scholastic.
In this story, Melody and her friend Nick set off for a bit of detective work. Their mission is to find the person Melody heard her dad refer to as “honey.” The story takes a turn when a dog Mo comes to town. Intermediate elementary school children will enjoy this book about family life.

Honey  
Sarah Weeks. Scholastic.

Fort  
Cynthia DeFelice. Farrar Straus Giroux.

**The Lunch Witch**
Deb Lucke. Papercutz.
Grunhilda comes from a long line of witches. Cooking in a cauldron is her cup of tea. When the local school needs a lunch lady, Grunhilda gives it a shot. But then she encounters a little girl who is a kindred spirit. Can Grunhilda maintain her evil ways? The idea of becoming friends with the lunch lady will appeal to readers.

**Max Goes to Mars**
Max Goes to Mars takes students on a fictional journey to Mars through the eyes of a friendly dog named Max. Readers of all ages will enjoy the story, but upper elementary students will appreciate the “Big Kid Boxes” designed to give readers scientific information about the story. The intersection of science and story is strong in this book!

**Meet the Dullards**
The Dullards, a family duller than any family in the neighborhood, move their three dull children to a home duller than their current one because their kids are itching for some excitement. After moving to their new home and making it duller than ever, the Dullards realize their kids found excitement at their new home, so they move back to their old home.

***Monkey and Elephant and a Secret Birthday Surprise***
Monkey has a secret—she hates birthdays. Elephant has a secret, too. He can’t keep a secret! In these short stories, Monkey and Elephant share adventures resulting in Monkey’s birthday surprise. The digital illustrations are delightful.

**Papa’s Backpack**
James Christopher Carroll. Sleeping Bear.
This book honors the bond between a parent/soldier and a child. The young bear dreams of accompanying his papa through deployment, wanting to stay close and provide support, ultimately overcoming enemies in the end.

**The Secret Galaxy**
This is a beautiful photo journey through our galaxy. Vivid photographs take students on an adventure through the Milky Way, exploring stars, black holes, planets, and matter. The information complements the photographs and would make any elementary student an astronaut!

**Slappy’s Tales of Horror**
Four scary tales: (1) Slappy, an evil ventriloquist, (2) a brother and sister testing rides in a theme park, (3) a boy and his dog who go sniffing around a swamp, and (4) a brother and sister investigating a legend and discovering a secret about their family.

**The Spider Ring**
Andrew Harwell. Scholastic.
When Maria’s grandmother dies, she leaves a note saying Maria should love and appreciate spiders just as she did. Soon, Maria discovers that the ring her grandmother left her enables her to control spiders. Readers will be introduced to the horror genre with this book.

**Star Wars Jedi Academy: The Phantom Bully**
Jeffrey Brown. Scholastic.
Fans of Star Wars will enjoy this third installment of Jedi Academy featuring Roan. In this adventure, Roan is feeling the pain of middle school with a bully on the loose. Will he find out who it is and keep himself and his friends safe? A great book for intermediate-level readers.

**Sunny Side Up**
Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. GRAPHIX/Scholastic.
Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova
This graphic novel deals with the inner thoughts of a girl who is sent to her grandfather’s house for the summer because her brother is in trouble. While in Florida, she meets a friend who introduces her to comics. They do odd jobs to earn money. She also learns about herself and helps her grandfather in the process.

**Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova**
Told in simplistic poetic form, this biography of one of the world’s prima ballerinas will appeal to the senses of young dancers. The artwork includes ink, gouache, graphite, pencil, and crayon and will foster young artists’ imaginations.

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

**Baba Yaga’s Assistant**
After the death of her mother, Masha lives with her grandmother, who tells Masha wild stories about Baba Yaga. After Masha’s grandmother dies, she decides to answer the advertisement to be Baba Yaga’s assistant. In order to enter Baba Yaga’s house, Masha must find strength to survive and endure many tests given by Baba Yaga.

*Backlash*
Sarah Darer Littman. Scholastic.
Lara seems to have it all. After losing weight, she makes the cheerleading squad. Then she meets someone on social media. Her perfect life crashes as she falls victim to cyberbullying. The book shares hurt, pain, and depression. Readers will find this book good for discussing ethics about social media use.

**Blackbird Fly**
When Apple and her mother move to the United States to start a new life, Apple finds new friends and encounters backstabbers. Apple is determined to get a guitar and become a rock star in spite of it all. Readers will learn about diversity and the struggles of being an immigrant.

**Bodie: The Town That Belongs to Ghosts**
Kevin Blake. Bearport.
Bodie is a small miner town named after prospector W.S. Bodey. Much like many miner towns in the West, population grew quickly as people moved in hopes of finding gold. Just as quickly, the population died as the possibilities of finding gold became smaller and smaller. People moved out of the dangerous Bodie to other towns in hopes of finding gold and fresh starts. Now, rumored to be haunted, Bodie’s only inhabitants are park rangers.

**The Copper Gauntlet**
Holly Black and Cassandra Clare. Scholastic.
In this mystery, Alkahest is the copper gauntlet that has been stolen. In their search to discover the thief, Callum Hunt and his friends awaken the attention of some very dangerous enemies.

**Creepy Libraries**
Troy Taylor. Bearport.
Part of the Scary Places series where horror stories meet real life. This story is perfect for middle-school students who want to be spooked by real life. Featuring 11 stories from around the United States, students can read accounts of the supernatural in one of the creepiest places of all—the library!

**DC Superheroes Origami: 46 Folding Projects for Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, and More!**
The book provides hours of fun for anyone who likes crafts and superheroes. There are 46 pages of origami paper and step-by-step instructions to complete the paper-folding projects. This book would be appropriate for upper elementary readers.

**Echo**
Pam Muñoz Ryan. Scholastic.
Lost in a forest, Otto meets three sisters and finds himself tangled in a quest involving a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica. Years later, Friedrich in Germany, Mike in Pennsylvania, and Ivy in California become interwoven when the same harmonica lands in their lives.

**The Elementia Chronicles: Quest for Justice**
This book is based on the Minecraft video game. When new players Stan, Kat, and Charlie arrive on the Elementia server, they quickly find themselves in trouble. They are targeted by the more experienced players as well as the normal evil forces in the game itself. The three ‘noobs’ band together against the king and unravel the mysteries of Elementia in the name of justice.

**The Enchanted Files: Diary of a Mad Brownie**
Bruce Coville. Random House Books for Young Readers.
Angus, the Brownie, has been attached to the McGonagall family because of a curse that has plagued the family for years. After Sarah passes away, Angus must journey to the United States to become a magical servant to Alex, the youngest female in the McGonagall family over the age of 10. Shortly after his arrival, the curse of the McGonagall family is enacted, and Angus and Alex must set out to break the curse.
Faceless
Alyssa Sheinmel. Scholastic.
A lightning strike leaves 16-year-old Maise’s face severely burned. She undergoes a facial transplant in hopes of having a normal life. Teens will relate to her loss of identity, fear of rejection, and search for her inner self.

Flunked (Fairy Tale Reform School)
Jen Calonita. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.
Flunked is the twisted fairy tale of the girl who lived in a shoe. Caught stealing to help feed her family, she is banished to the Fairy Tale Reform School—a place where the villains of our favorite fairy tales are learning to be good. Middle-school students will like the familiarity of the fairy tale characters and the excitement of the good v. evil battle.

Haunted Hollywood
Dinah Williams. Bearport.
This Scary Places book focuses on Hollywood. This tour highlights famous scary places and famous people who haunt them. Students who like chills from things that go bump in the night will enjoy this tour book!

*Hilo Book 1: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth
This graphic novel is the first in the Hilo series. Hilo is a robot boy who crashes to Earth not remembering who or what he is, but he protects his friends, DJ and Gina, by fighting the evil robot insects.

House Arrest
When Timothy’s father disappears, Timothy has to help with his family’s finances because he has a younger brother with major health problems. Timothy steals a wallet and is put on probation. And his probation officer is flat-out tough. Part serious, part humorous, readers will find this an interesting story.

How to Speak Cat: A Guide to Decoding Cat Language
Curious, independent, and sensitive, cats have long been considered terrific pets. But what do their moves, tail waves, and purring mean? In 30 photos, the authors discuss cat feelings and cat language so even humans can understand.

National Geographic Kids Almanac 2016
National Geographic Children’s Books.
This year’s almanac is filled with weird-but-true facts, crafts, activities, and articles about animals, science, nature, and technology. Comes with a mobile media feature that allows access to videos, photos, and games.

National Geographic Kids Brain Games
A text companion to the popular television show. This informational, interactive book is sure to bend minds as well as entertain them. Upper elementary and middle-school students will enjoy learning about the science of their brains!

A Night Divided
Jennifer A. Nielsen. Scholastic.
When the Soviets build a wall to separate the East side of Germany from the West, which is under the Allied command, Gerta’s family becomes separated. She, along with an older brother and their mother, are under Soviet control and the watchful eye of armed soldiers, ready to shoot at any moment. Thriller that history buffs will enjoy.

100 Things to Make You Happy
This is an amazing guidebook for kids to self-motivate. This book gives 100 tips to be happy and to get the most out of life. On top of that, it introduces kids to diverse role models such as marine biologists and magicians to help them to think out of the box and to dream and overcome the impossible.

Percy Jackson’s Greek Heroes
This collection of Greek myths is told through none other than demigod Percy Jackson. He explains how the gods were born and how the world was created while giving his opinion on the gods and goddesses.

Roanoke Island: The Town That Vanished
Kevin Blake. Bearport.
Part of the Abandoned Towns Without People series, Roanoke Island takes middle-school students on a historical adventure into the early days of America. Facts are presented alongside the mystery—what happened to the colonists? This is a real-life mystery to help students become excited about history.
**Super Shark Encyclopedia**
DK Children.
See the blue, hammerhead, and sandtiger sharks. Read about the best swimming sharks, their supernatural senses, and x-ray artwork with cross-sections and strip layers to show anatomical features. Read about record-breaking animals, the deadliest predators, the most venomous creatures, and the deep sea.

**The Tale of Rescue**
A Florida family travels to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains for a snowy vacation that quickly turns into a nightmare when they become lost in a blizzard. A witty and quite stubborn cattle dog from a nearby farm becomes their only chance of survival. Children will love this story of loyalty, survival, and gratitude.

**The Terrible Two**
Miles Murphy is known as the best prankster at his school, but now he's moving with his family to Yawnee Valley, a sleepy town with cows and more cows. Can his new school hold two pranksters?

**Tom Gates: Everything’s Amazing (Sort Of)**
Tom Gates wakes up one morning and makes toast doodles. Tom calls Mrs. Worthing “Mrs. Worthingstash” because she has a slight mustache. This leads him to write out her name correctly many times. Tom likes his English and art teacher, Mr. Fullerman. The story continues to walk the reader through his adventures as he goes to school, deals with his parents and sister, and has a birthday party with friends. This book is hilarious.

**Untwine**
Edwidge Danticat. Scholastic.
Identical twins Isabelle and Giselle are inseparable even as their parents contemplate divorce. When an auto accident kills her family, only Giselle is left. But her aunt believes it is Isabelle who lived and calls her Isabelle. Giselle has to fight to wake up from her coma to reveal her true identity.
Voyagers: Project Alpha

This is the first of six books written by different authors. Earth is about to go dark, and life as we know it will end. A global competition has begun to determine which four kids will join the secret mission to save the Earth. Project Alpha is the contest of physical, mental, and strategic challenges. After the competition, the Voyagers will journey to the far reaches of space to hopefully save Earth.

What’s Up In...The Amazon Rainforest
Ginjer L. Clarke. Grosset & Dunlap.

Read about the largest rainforest with 500-year-old trees, 427 mammals, 1,294 bird species, 2,200 fishes, and one million insects. Learn about plants, animals, trees, reptiles, and the people who live in the Amazon.

Who Was Steve Irwin?

Steve Irwin spent his career trying to protect wildlife and educating people about different animal species. This is an enticing and exciting narrative that reflects Steve’s passion for and dedication to saving wildlife.

The Worst Class Trip Ever
Dave Barry, Disney-Hyperion.

Humorist Dave Barry takes readers on a rollicking class trip to Washington, DC. Wyatt and friends are called into action to save the President from an assassination plot. Middle-school students will like the fast-paced action and will be able to identify with the unlikely hero main character.

*Books that received the highest number of reviews.

Children's Choices 2016 Reading List

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

- If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don’t! Elise Paeley. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
- I Really Like Stop! Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
- I Will Take a Nap! Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
- Please, Mr. Panda. Steve Antony. Scholastic.
- The Sky is Falling! Mark Teague. Orchard/Scholastic.
- Ten Pigs: An Epic Bath Adventure. Derek Anderson. Orchard/Scholastic.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

- *Escape From the Lizzarks (Newt’s). Doug TenNapel. GRAPHIX/Scholastic.
- I Really Like Slop! Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
- The Spider Ring. Andrew Harwell. Scholastic.
- Ten Pigs: An Epic Bath Adventure. Derek Anderson. Orchard/Scholastic.
- The Sky Is Falling! Mark Teague. Orchard/Scholastic.

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Children’s Choices 2016 Reading List (Cont’d)

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


More About Children’s Choices
Thank you to the 2015–2016 ILA/CBC Children’s Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Michelle Owens (cochair) and Anita Hernandez (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Pamela Farris, Anita Hernandez, Terrilyn Lebel, Michelle Owens, Michele Suhovoy, and Amy Vessel.

Get Involved!
For more information on the Children’s Choices list, or to learn how to become involved, visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

Tell Us!
We want to hear your success stories using Choices lists in your classroom! Contact us at social@reading.org.
What Is the Teachers’ Choices List?

For teachers looking for the best new titles to add to their classroom library, the Teachers’ Choices list is the place to start. Not only is it where they’ll find the best books for ages 5–14, but they’ll know it comes from a source they can rely on—their fellow educators. Since 1989, the International Literacy Association’s Teachers’ Choices project has identified outstanding trade books published in the last year that teachers themselves choose as being exceptional for curriculum use. Parents will also find the list invaluable, as it provides excellent choices for reading aloud or for helping answer important questions prompted by children’s experiences as they grow up.

Primary Readers
(Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

8: An Animal Alphabet
Elisha Cooper. Orchard/Scholastic.
Children will enjoy finding both common and unusual animals on each page while also hunting for eight of one kind. Endnotes reveal an interesting fact about each animal.

A Fine Dessert: Four Centuries, Four Families, One Delicious Treat
Emily Jenkins. Ill. Sophie Blackall. Schwartz & Wade.
This story shows how one sweet treat evolves over the centuries, both in how it is prepared and how families enjoy it. The recipe and historical notes are included.

Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems/Aleteo y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales
Julie Paschkis. Henry Holt.
Many different animals ‘flutter and hum’ their way through this collection of poems written in both English and Spanish. Brilliant gouache paintings bring the words and the animals they describe to life.

Janine.
Maryann Cocca-Leffler. Albert Whitman.
Janine marches to her own drummer. When she is excluded from the ‘cool’ kids’ party, Janine finds a way to celebrate who she is and quickly learns that others want to join in her kind of fun.

Last Stop on Market Street
Young CJ learns valuable lessons about appreciating one’s community as he and his Nana ride the bus through their urban neighborhood to help serve a Sunday meal at a soup kitchen.

*Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans
Marvelous Cornelius, a garbage collector in New Orleans, teaches a lesson about taking pride in one’s work. Not even the devastation left behind by Hurricane Katrina could dampen his spirits.

Mother Bruce
When a grumpy bear unwittingly becomes “mama” to a gaggle of goslings, he realizes that life is more enjoyable when you form relationships and embrace change.

A Nest Is Noisy
This award-winning author/illustrator team has collaborated again to shed light on another miracle of nature. The focus in this book is on the wonder of nests and the creatures large and small that build them.

Raindrops Roll
April Pulley Sayre. Beach Lane.
Stunning photography and lyrical text highlight the effects of a rainstorm. Endnotes extend readers’ understanding of water science.

Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt
Kate Messner. Ill. Christopher Silas Neal. Chronicle.
Poetic language and vivid illustrations combine to help young readers understand the creatures that are working above and below the soil to help a garden grow. Extensive end matter provides more details about the animals.
Intermediate Readers
(Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

Billy’s Booger: A Memoir (Sorta)
William Joyce. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
This “mostly true” story of how William Joyce became an author and illustrator will encourage children of all abilities to explore their passions and follow their dreams.

The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland’s Good Fortune
P.J. Lynch. Candlewick.
John Howland, a teenaged servant, recounts the Pilgrims’ journey on the Mayflower and their first months in the new world. Howland went on to become one of the most prominent citizens of the Plymouth Colony.

Curious Critters: Marine
David FitzSimmons. Wild Iris.
Remarkable marine animals are showcased in stunning photographs. Each animal tells its own story about its life. Factual information about each animal is included in the endnotes.

The Fantastic Ferris Wheel: The Story of Inventor George Ferris
Betsy Harvey Kraft. Ill. Steven Salerno. Henry Holt.
In spite of many obstacles, engineer George Ferris created a never-before-seen spectacle for the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago, Illinois—a 26-story observation wheel that we now call the Ferris wheel.

Firefly Hollow
Three unlikely friends—a boy, a cricket, and a firefly—help one another overcome their fears and pursue their dreams. Enchanting illustrations complement the text.

*Painting for Peace in Ferguson
Carol Swartout Klein. Amphorae/Treehouse.
This testimony to the healing power of art describes how volunteers came together to bring beauty back to the neighborhoods of Ferguson, Missouri, after race riots nearly destroyed their community.

Stella by Starlight
Sharon M. Draper. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
During the 1930s in segregated North Carolina, a young black girl and her brother experience the prejudice of white townspeople and the hatred of the Ku Klux Klan. This historical fiction novel will help middle-grade readers understand some of the negative elements of U.S. history.

Tucky Jo and Little Heart
Patricia Polacco. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wisemen.
Johnnie Wallen, known as the “Kentucky Kid” by his comrades, was a young U.S. soldier stationed in the Philippines during World War II. His friendship with a local child and her family shows that compassion and kindness triumph over the atrocities of war.

Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees
This picture book biography of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner is a powerful example of someone who overcame gender, social, and political barriers to accomplish her dreams. Endnotes include a timeline and additional resources.

W Is for Webster: Noah Webster and His American Dictionary
Noah Webster’s story is told with humorous and expressive language. This picture book biography inspires readers to persevere through adversity and stay true to their dreams.
Advanced Readers
(Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

The Boys in the Boat
Part biography and part historical account of the Olympics, this adaptation of the adult nonfiction book by the same title brings the story of Joe Rantz and his teammates to middle-school readers. These boys overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to triumph in a sport in which they were unlikely to succeed.

The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club
When Nazi soldiers occupied Denmark during World War II, a group of teenaged Danish boys formed a secret society to sabotage the German military. Period photographs and detailed maps supplement the text.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind
Young William Kamkwamba figured out how to build a windmill from repurposed scrap parts after a terrible drought in his native Malawi destroyed all the season’s crops. Photographs, illustrations, and an epilogue help readers visualize Kamkwamba’s remarkable achievement.

Echo
Pam Muñoz Ryan. Scholastic.
Four characters’ stories are woven together by a shared harmonica. Their tales reveal the power of music to overcome fear and intolerance and to provide hope, healing, and inspiration.

Fish in a Tree
Ally has always been good at math, and she uses clever avoidance tactics to disguise her inability to read. When Mr. Daniels, an insightful teacher, discovers Ally’s learning difficulties, he transforms her life.

*Full Cicada Moon
As a biracial girl who moves to an all-white Vermont community in the late 1960s, Mimi faces racism and prejudice on a daily basis. This novel-in-verse shows readers how determination and perseverance can overcome stereotypes and break down barriers.

Last in a Long Line of Rebels
Lisa Lewis Tyre. Penguin Young Readers/Nancy Paulsen.
History meets mystery when Lou Mayhew sets out to stop the city from tearing down her family’s 176-year-old home. When she uncovers clues to a Civil War–era mystery, she also realizes that there are some lingering injustices in her small Southern hometown.

A Night Divided
Jennifer A. Nielsen. Scholastic.
The Lowe family is divided overnight when the Berlin Wall is erected without warning. Twelve-year-old Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz must find a way out of Communist-controlled East Germany to be reunited with her father and older brother.

The Seventh Most Important Thing
When 13-year-old Arthur is sentenced to do community service with the Junk Man for an act of rage, he learns about redemption and forgiveness. This coming-of-age story was inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.

The War That Saved My Life
Nine-year-old Ada was born with a twisted foot, and her abusive mother has never let her out of their London apartment. When Ada and her younger brother are sent to the country to escape the encroaching bombs of World War II, she discovers that she might be worthy of love after all.

*Books that received the highest number of reviews.
Thank you to the 2015–2016 ILA Teachers’ Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Joyce Gulley (cochair) and April Wulber (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Dina Evans, Jennifer Fox, Sunni Johnson, Heather Jones, Amy McClure, Cecilia McCormick, Stan Steiner, and Susan Zolper.

More About Teachers’ Choices
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Get Involved!
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Tell Us!
We want to hear your success stories using Choices lists in your classroom! Contact us at social@reading.org.
What Is the Young Adults’ Choices List?

The Young Adults’ Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy Association, and was supervised by the Association’s Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people ages 13–18 to read; to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them. The value of young adult literature is certainly not something new, but it is true that it’s more popular than ever, thanks in part to blockbuster trilogies inspired by their novel predecessors. And we believe it’s safe to say the books included on this enclosed list are going to keep those stats high.

**Backlash**  
Sarah Darer Littman. Scholastic.  
Lara is rejected in the most embarrassing of ways on social media. Though she had created a new façade, her old insecurities come back to haunt her and she attempts suicide. As Lara’s pain becomes even more public, questions arise regarding the circumstances surrounding the cyberbullying she experiences.

**Believarexic**  
J.J. Johnson. Peachtree.  
This is the autobiographical story of Jennifer’s eating disorder after she convinces her parents to check her into a facility. While there, she must face her behaviors, her family’s dysfunction, and her need to be perfect. She must work the program, evaluate relationships, and discover truth before she can come home.

**Code of Honor**  
Alan Gratz. Scholastic.  
When Kamran Smith’s older brother is accused of being involved in a terrorist attack, he faces social ostracism and unwanted attention. As he develops doubts about his brother’s innocence, Kamran is kidnapped by the federal government. He is plunged into a fast-paced world of espionage and suspense where survival is the name of the game.

**The Dead Girls of Hysteria Hall**  
Katie Alender. Scholastic.  
When 16-year-old Cordelia inherits a mansion, she thinks she’s “living the dream.” But her dream soon turns into a living nightmare as she discovers her new estate is a ghostly former insane asylum. When the house kills Delia, she gradually learns the shocking truths of Hysteria Hall. Will she ever be able to escape?

**The Dead House**  
Decades after a series of unsettling series of incidents and a horrific fire at Elmbridge High, an investigation takes place. Told through journal entries, psychotherapist’s notes, photos, and transcripts, the desperate story of Carly/Kaitlin’s life unfolds. Deeply disturbing and creepy, this emotional horror story clutches the imagination of its readers.

**All the Bright Places**  
Finch and Violet form an undeniable bond when they, both desperate, meet on the bell tower of their school. Their friendship deepens while on a “Wander the State” road tour through Indiana. Though Finch is instrumental in Violet’s healing, he ultimately can’t save himself. This emotional story is honest, moving, and heartbreaking.

**The Amazing Book Is Not on Fire: The World of Dan and Phil**  
Dan Howell and Phil Lester. Random House Books for Young Readers.  
With more than 11 million YouTube subscribers, the popular duo Dan and Phil take us on a behind-the-scenes look at their world. Here we find essential advice, lively humor, endearing awkwardness, and overabundant candor. This fun journey is displayed vividly in a full-color format complete with photos and graphics.

**Apple and Rain**  
Sarah Crossan. Bloomsbury USA Childrens.  
Reality hits hard when, after an 11-year absence, Apple’s mother comes back into her life. Though Apple had imagined a close, joyful reunion, tension develops and the relationship deteriorates. Apple becomes overwhelmed by household tasks and taking care of her troubled younger sister, Rain. Eventually, Apple finds comfort and her voice through poetry.
**The Detour**  
S.A. Bodeen. Feiwel & Friends.  
Livvy has an insufferable, inflated ego. She’s rich, gorgeous, famous, and a successful teenage author. While traveling in a remote area, Livvy’s car is wiped out and she is held prisoner. Her deranged captors want to teach her an unforgettable lesson. While plotting to escape, Livvy slowly comes to realizations that could save her.

**Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans**  
Don Brown. HMH Books for Young Readers.  
The dramatic impact that Hurricane Katrina made on New Orleans and the surrounding region is rendered expertly in this graphic account. Both the triumph and tragedy of this disastrous event is captured wonderfully. This is a riveting tale of selflessness, heroism, and courage—but also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

**I Am Princess X**  
When they were young, Libby and May created Princess X, a heroine who scaled mountains and slayed dragons. When Libby died in a car accident, the adventures of Princess X ceased. Several years later while wandering the streets of Seattle, May discovers multiple images of Princess X. Is Libby alive? What secrets might be revealed if she is found?

**Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War**  
Steve Sheinkin. Roaring Brook.  
Truth is dangerous. When Daniel Ellsberg leaked the top-secret Pentagon Papers to the press, he changed the narrative of America’s actions in the Vietnam War. These documents exposed the government’s deceptive policies that destroyed many lives. Ellsberg’s courageous, patriotic actions changed history. Immaculately researched and compelling, Sheinkin’s account brings history vividly to life.

**Nimona**  
Nimona recruits herself as a sidekick to the villainous Lord Blackheart in an effort to take down the wonderfully overrated Sir Ambrosius Goldenloin and his buddies. In this graphic world that blends medieval sensibilities and science, surprises abound. Loyalties are tested while true motives are both dramatically and humorously uncovered in this brilliant epic.

**Orbiting Jupiter**  
Gary D. Schmidt. Clarion.  
Jackson is in sixth grade when Joseph becomes his foster brother. Joseph was a father at 14 and had almost killed a teacher. Jackson should have been afraid, but instead he trusts Joseph. Little does Jackson realize that he will soon be helping Joseph find his baby daughter, Jupiter.

**The Game of Love and Death**  
Claimed at birth, they are pawns in a game between Love and Death. Set in 1930s Seattle, Flora and Henry are attracted to each other through their mutual love of music. Their hearts and wills must overcome their earthly, racially charged circumstances and the epic forces that have battled each other throughout history.

**House Arrest**  
Timothy is on house arrest because he has stolen a wallet. As part of his probation, he is required to keep a journal where he deepens his understandings of family strength and brotherly love. Can he keep himself out of trouble for a year? Read this touching and funny book to find out.

**Hunter**  
Mercedes Lackey. Disney-Hyperion.  
Lackey richly imagines a postapocalyptic world in this series opener. In the distant past, the barriers between civilization and the Otherworld were ripped apart. Joyeaux Charmand trained to hunt the Monsters for most of her childhood. When she is assigned to the city of Apex, an act of sabotage helps her uncover the duplicity of the political elites.
**Saint Anything**
Sarah Dessen. Viking Books for Young Readers.
When Peyton goes to jail, Sydney can’t escape the shadow of her brother’s failures. Her world collapses: changing schools and reconciling with parents who refuse to allow her to make mistakes for fear she will end up like Peyton. She looks for a saint, any saint, to be her savior.

**Six of Crows**
Leigh Bardugo. Henry Holt.
When criminal prodigy Kaz Brekker is offered a chance at a deadly heist that will make him rich beyond his wildest dreams, he recruits a convict, a sharpshooter, a runaway, a spy, a Heartrender, and a thief to help. In this richly imagined and exotic world, the prize has the power to destroy everything.

**srsly Hamlet**
Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* is modernized and simplified in this text message retelling. It remains true to the basic story, but the iambic pentameter is lost. For those unsure of text abbreviations or emoji face meanings, a glossary is provided. Read it with a friend! This is a deliciously fun read.

**Red Queen**
In this richly imagined world, people are divided by their blood. Mare is a poor commoner with Red blood and very little hope for the future. When suddenly she is thrust into the dangerous Silver blood world, she discovers previously unknown powers. Soon she discovers political intrigue, romance, and—eventually—her ultimate worth.

**The Remedy**
Suzanne Young. Simon Pulse.
Since she was 7 years old, Quinn has worked as a closer to help families recover after a loved one has died. When she is given her longest assignment, Quinn forms heartbreaking bonds that uncover disturbing realities behind Catalina Barnes’s death. This gripping companion to The Program duology is fraught with emotion and thought provoking.

**Roller Girl**
Choosing to be a ‘Roller Girl’ girl is a tough decision, but Astrid is captivated by roller-derby culture. Even if it means breaking old relationships and forging into a new world that can be physically, socially, and emotionally painful, Astrid forges ahead. When she falls—whether on the rink or in life—Astrid learns how to pick herself up.

**The Rose Society**
Marie Lu. G.P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers.
The Young Elites series continues with this compellingly dark adventure. Because she has suffered greatly, Adelina’s heart has turned to revenge. Both known and feared as the White Wolf, she flees Kenettra to find other Young Elites. Her powers, fed by fear and hatred, have grown exponentially. Revenge is the rule of the day.

*Books that received the highest number of reviews.*

**P.S. I Still Love You**
In this sequel to *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before*, Lara struggles to protect herself from heartbreak. A video of her making out with Peter surfaces on social media, and Lara is frustrated by the double standard, why is she befuddled while Peter is ignored? Lara learns that hurt and trust can go hand in hand.

**Read Between the Lines**
Jo Knowles. Candlewick.
A day in the lives of several tenuously connected individuals reveals the difficulties that people make their way through small-town life. Reading between the lines is more than just a rude, angry gesture. Knowles shows us that it’s a way for us to understand ordinary traumas, heartbreak, and revenge.

**Until Friday Night**
Abbi Glines. Simon Pulse.
West Ashby is the gifted, popular, handsome athlete who leads the pack. Although on the surface his life is enviable, he struggles with the reality that cancer is taking the life of his father. Maggie Carlton has faced tragedy in her life and talks to no one. When West decides to confide in her, an unbreakable connection forms.

**When**
Victoria Laurie. Disney-Hyperion.
Maddie Flynn has a special gift, which most often feels like a curse. She can see the shadowy death-date digits of everyone just over their forehead. When the authorities discover Maddie’s ability, she is implicated in a series of homicides. Her own safety is at stake when she becomes a tantalizing target for murder.
More About Young Adults’ Choices

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Get Involved!

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Tell Us!

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Choices Project Recruitment

We need your help! We are looking for Team Leaders for our Children’s, Teachers’, and Young Adults’ Choices projects in the areas listed below for the years 2017–2020. If you know of anyone in your area who is willing to participate, please have him or her complete the online application form, which can be found at literacyworldwide.org/choices. Please note this requires a three-year commitment to the project and support from area schools.

Children’s Choices

Area 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington
Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
Area 3: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas
Area 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
Area 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Teachers’ Choices

Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
Area 5: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Young Adults’ Choices

Area 1: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington
Area 2: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont
Area 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 75 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather, and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices, and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students, and inform policymakers. ILA publishes The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, and Reading Research Quarterly, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.