



INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

# CHOICES 2019 READING LISTS

Children's Choices  
Teachers' Choices  
Young Adults' Choices



## From the Executive Director

**W**hen it comes to engaging students with reading, we know the importance of choice. We know that when students have access to and can select the books they want to read, with stories and topics that speak to their interests, and with characters who look like them and with whom they can relate, 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 2019 Choices Reading Lists—Children’s Choices, Teachers’ Choices, and Young Adults’ Choices. These trusted and anticipated lists offer a wealth of options for back-to-school and after-school reading, for building your classroom or school library, or for adding quality titles to your curriculum.

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcie Craig Post".

Marcie Craig Post  
ILA Executive Director

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# CHILDREN'S CHOICES

## 2019 Reading List

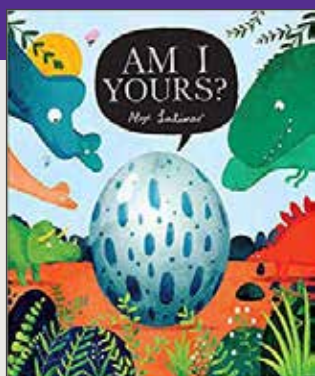
Beginning Readers  
(Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

Young Readers  
(Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

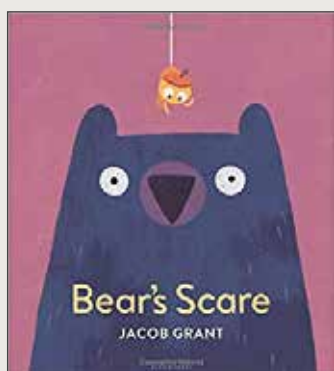
Advanced Readers  
(Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

# What Is the Children's Choices Reading List?

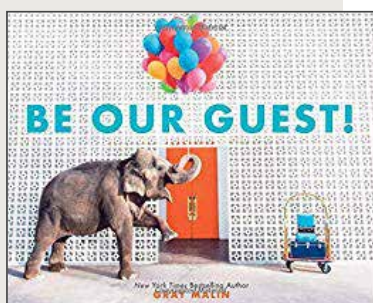
Each year, 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children's and young adults' trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children truly enjoy reading. This 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.



*Am I Yours?* Alex Latimer.



*Bear's Scare.* Jacob Grant.



*Be Our Guest!* Gray Malin.

## 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!*

**Gray Malin. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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*

**Lysa Mullady. Ill. Janet McDonnell. Magination.**

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**

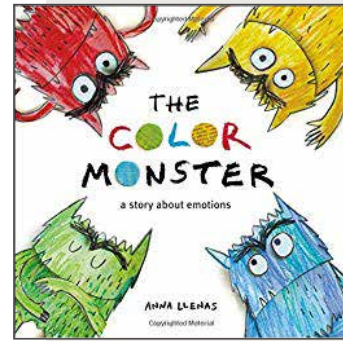
**Davina Bell. Ill. Allison Colpoys. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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.

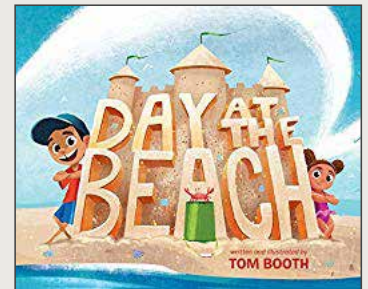


*The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions.* Anna Llenas.

## **Crash, Splash, or Moo!**

**Bob Shea. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.**

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.* Tom Booth.

## **\*Day at the Beach**

**Tom Booth. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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.



*Fangsgiving.* Ethan Long.

## **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**

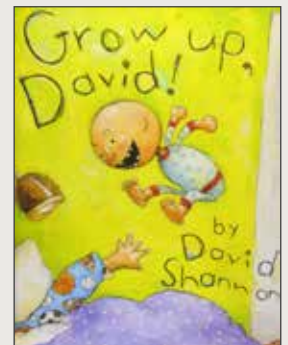
**Ethan Long. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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?

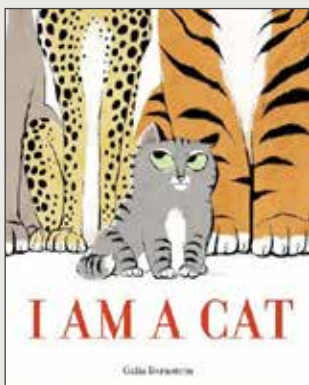
## **\*Grow Up, David!**

**David Shannon. Blue Sky/Scholastic.**

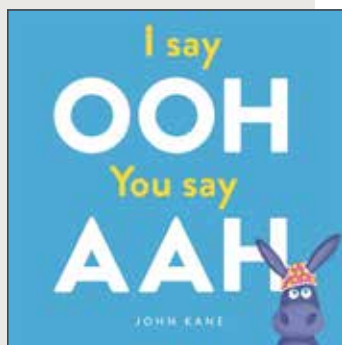
Shannon explores the complexities of life between siblings in his newest David book. David may be a pain to his older brother most of the time, but brotherly love still wins in the end.



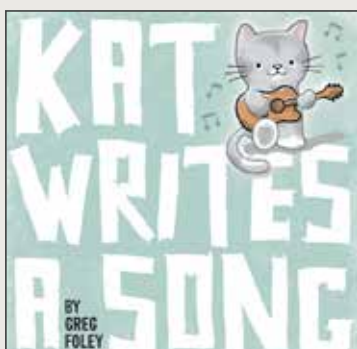
*Grow Up, David!* David Shannon.



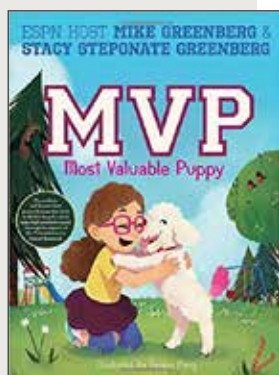
*I Am a Cat.* Galia Bernstein.



*I Say Ooh You Say Aah.*  
John Kane.



*Kat Writes a Song.* Greg Foley.



*MVP: Most Valuable Puppy.*  
Mike Greenberg and Stacy  
Steponate Greenberg. Ill.  
Bonnie Pang.

## ***Hello, Hot Dog***

**Lily Murray. Ill. Jarvis. Lincoln Children's Books/The Quarto Group.**

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***

**Galia Bernstein. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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***

**Greg Foley. Little Simon/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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***

**Rhonda Gowler Greene. Ill. Daniel Kirk. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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***

**Mike Greenberg and Stacy Steponate Greenberg. Ill. Bonnie Pang. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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***

**Naomi Howarth. Lincoln Children's Books/The Quarto Group.**

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!***

**Trevor Lai. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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***

**Tom Angleberger. Ill. Dan Santat. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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***

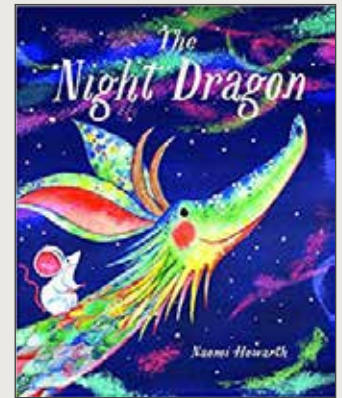
**Kimberly Long Cockroft. Ill. Mary Grace Corpus. Pelican.**

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?

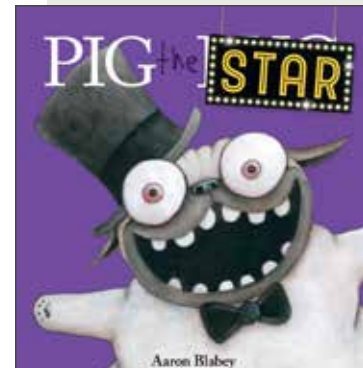
## ***Rusty the Squeaky Robot***

**Neil Clark. Wide Eyed Editions/The Quarto Group.**

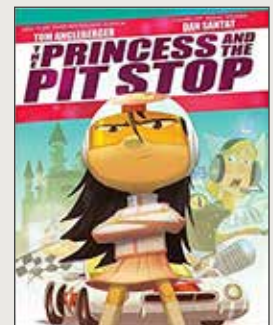
Rusty the robot learns that having a unique characteristic is a good thing. As he searches for a lubricant, Rusty meets other robots who have unique sounds. Collectively, they make a band. This is a good story for reinforcing the strength of individual differences.



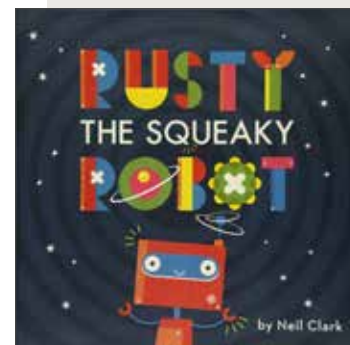
*The Night Dragon.* Naomi Howarth.



*Pig the Star.* Aaron Blabey.

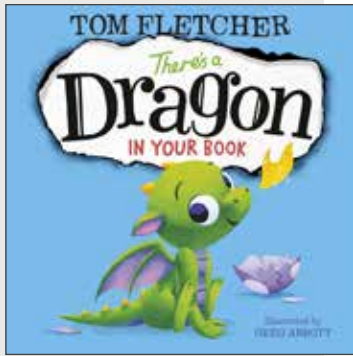


*The Princess and the Pit Stop.*  
Tom Angleberger.  
Ill. Dan Santat.

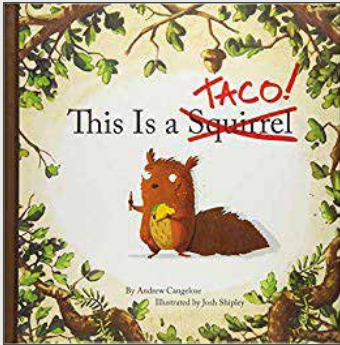


*Rusty the Squeaky Robot.* Neil Clark.

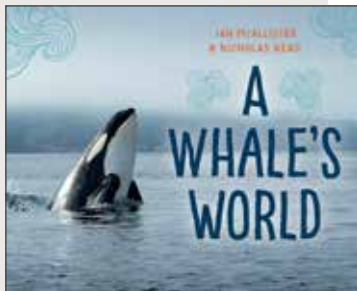




*There's a Dragon in Your Book.*  
Tom Fletcher. Ill. Greg Abbott.



*This Is a Taco!* Andrew Cangelose. Ill. Josh Shipley.



*A Whale's World.* Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read.



*What Do They Do With All That Poo?* Jane Kurtz. Ill. Allison Black.

## ***There's a Dragon in Your Book***

Tom Fletcher. Ill. Greg Abbott. Random House Books for Young Readers.

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!***

Andrew Cangelose. Ill. Josh Shipley. CubHouse/Lion Forge.

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***

Todd Tarpley. Ill. Guy Parker-Rees. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

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?***

Jane Kurtz. Ill. Allison Black. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

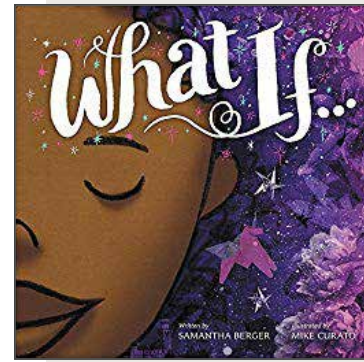
Zoos have a lot of poo to deal with every day. Have you ever wondered what they do with it? Learn interesting facts about zoo animal waste and how it is used to solve problems and help the environment.



## **What If...**

**Samantha Berger. Ill. Mike Curato. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.**

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.

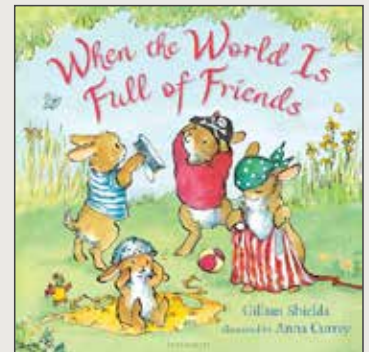


*What If...* Samantha Berger. Ill. Mike Curato.

## **When the World Is Full of Friends**

**Gillian Shields. Ill. Anna Currey. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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?



*When the World Is Full of Friends.* Gillian Shields. Ill. Anna Currey.

## **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**

**Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale. Ill. Kim Smith. Quirk.**

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.



*Back to the Future: The Classic Illustrated Storybook.* Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale. Ill. Kim Smith.

## **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.



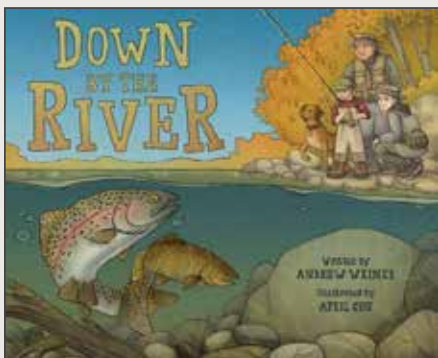
*Bruno Mars.* Jim Gigliotti.



*Deadly Spider Bite!* Kevin Blake.



*Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas.*  
Dav Pilkey.



*Down by the River.* Andrew Weiner. Ill. April Chu.

## ***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***

**Ying Chang Compestine. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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***

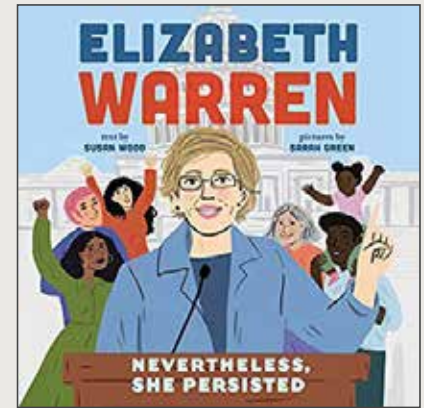
**Andrew Weiner. Ill. April Chu. Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

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***

Susan Wood. Ill. Sarah Green. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

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.



*Elizabeth Warren: Nevertheless, She Persisted.* Susan Wood. Ill. Sarah Green.

## ***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***

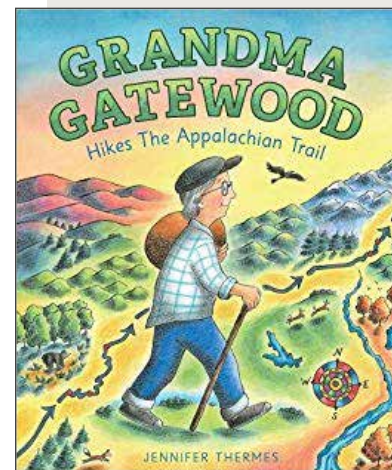
Jeffery Ebbeler. Two Lions/Amazon.

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***

Jennifer Thermes. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

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*.



*Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail.* Jennifer Thermes.

## ***Green Slimers: Opossums***

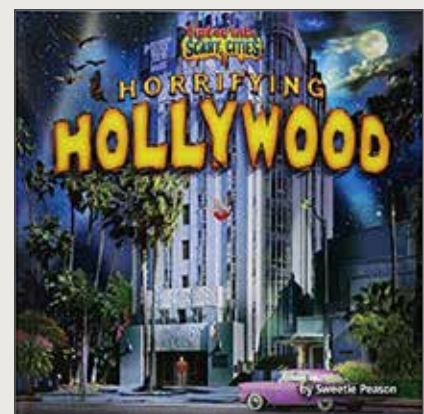
Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.

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***

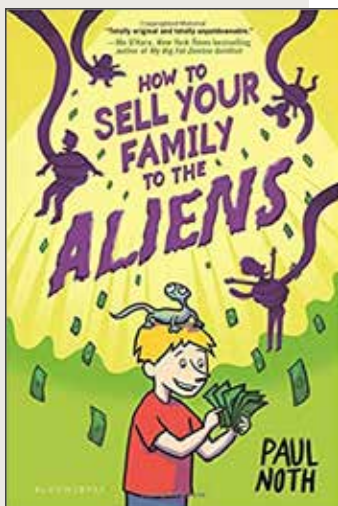
Sweetie Peason. Bearport.

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.



*Horrifying Hollywood.* Sweetie Peason.





*How to Sell Your Family to the Aliens.* Paul Noth.

## **How to Sell Your Family to the Aliens**

**Paul Noth. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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**

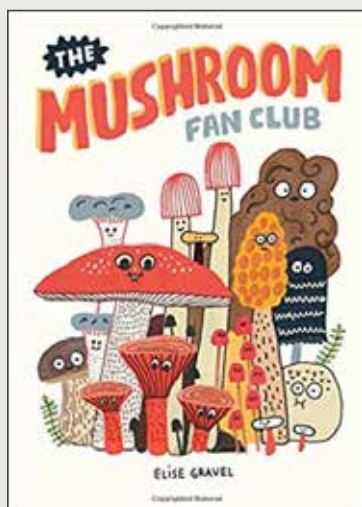
**Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.**

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**

**Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Phyllis Saroff. Arbordale.**

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.* Elise Gravel.

## **The Mushroom Fan Club**

**Elise Gravel. Enfant/Drawn & Quarterly.**

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**

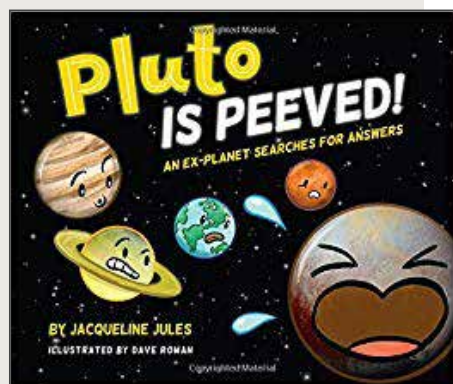
**E. Merwin. Bearport.**

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**

**Jacqueline Jules. Ill. Dave Roman. Seagrass/The Quarto Group.**

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.



*Pluto Is Peeved! An Ex-Planet Searches for Answers.* Jacqueline Jules. Ill. Dave Roman.

## **Poison Slimers: Poison Dart Frogs, Sea Cucumbers and More**

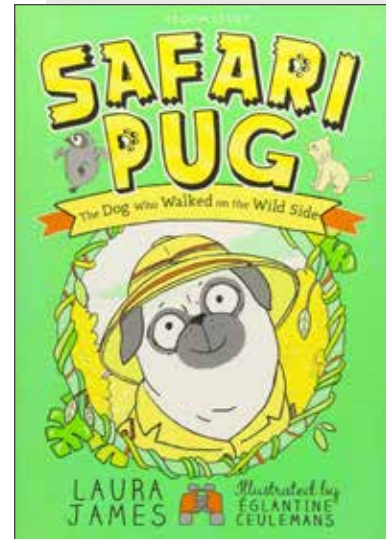
Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.

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**

Laura James. Ill. Églantine Ceulemans. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

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.

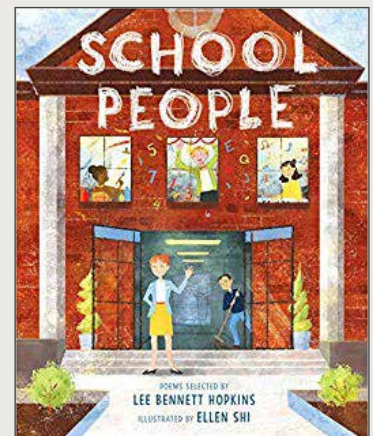


*Safari Pug.* Laura James. Ill. Églantine Ceulemans.

## **School People**

Lee Bennett Hopkins. Ill. Ellen Shi. WordSong/Boyd's Mills.

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.



*School People.* Lee Bennett Hopkins. Ill. Ellen Shi.

## **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**

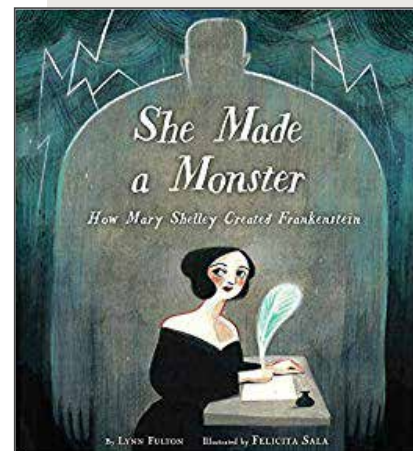
Lynn Fulton. Ill. Felicity Sala. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

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.

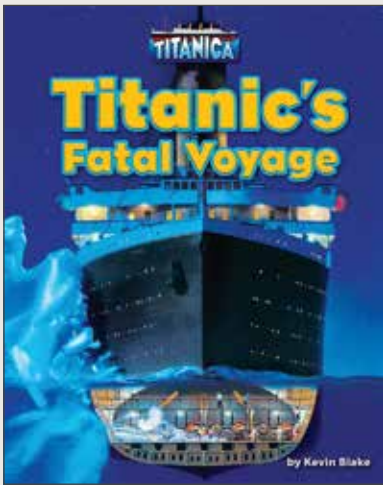
## **Smart Cookie**

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.



*She Made a Monster: How Mary Shelley Created Frankenstein.* Lynn Fulton. Ill. Felicity Sala.



*Titanic's Fatal Voyage.* Kevin Blake.

## **\*Titanic's Fatal Voyage**

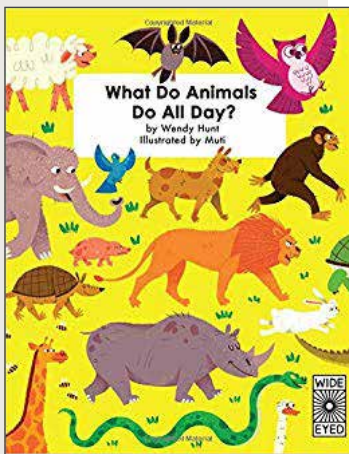
Kevin Blake. Bearport.

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?**

Wendy Hunt. Ill. Muti. Wide Eyed Editions/The Quarto Group.

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.



*What Do Animals Do All Day?* Wendy Hunt. Ill. Muti.

## **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.



*Wrapped Up! Vol. 1.* Dave Scheidt and Scoot McMahon.

## **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***

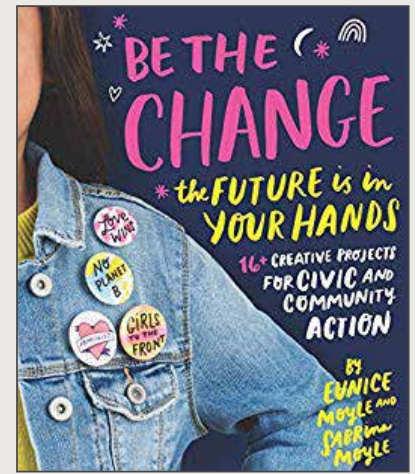
**Stewart Foster.** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

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 the Change: The Future Is in Your Hands.*  
Eunice Moyle and Sabrina Moyle.

## ***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***

**Shawn Sheehy. Ill. Jordi Solano.** Candlewick.

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.* Susan Cooper.

## ***The Boggart Fights Back***

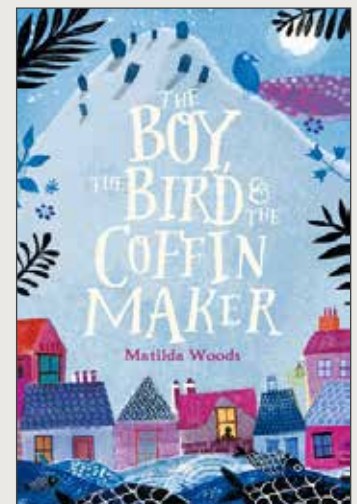
**Susan Cooper.** Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

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.

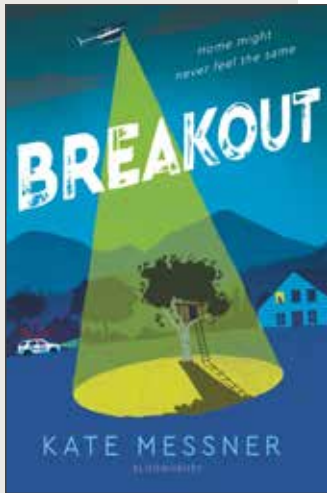
## ***The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker***

**Matilda Woods.** Ill. Anuska Allepuz. Philomel/Penguin Books for Young Readers.

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.



*The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker.*  
Matilda Woods. Ill. Anuska Allepuz.



*Breakout.* Kate Messner.

## **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**

**Cynthia Kadohata. Ill. Maurizio Zorat. Atheneum Books For Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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.



*Checked.* Cynthia Kadohata. Ill. Maurizio Zorat.

## **Cosmo: Vol. 1**

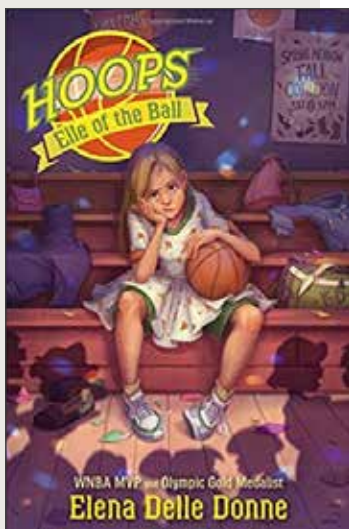
**Ian Flynn. Ill. Tracy Yardley. Archie Comics.**

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**

**Rachel Renée Russell. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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.* Elena Delle Donne.

## **Elle of the Ball**

**Elena Delle Donne. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.**

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**

**Katherine Applegate. HarperCollins Children's Books.**

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**

**Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.**

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**

**Margot Lee Shetterly. Ill. Laura Freeman. HarperCollins Children's Books.**

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**

**Dana Alison Levy. Delacorte Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

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**

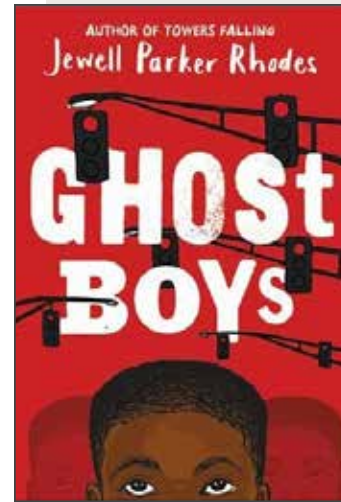
**Greg James and Chris Smith. Ill. Erica Salcedo. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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.

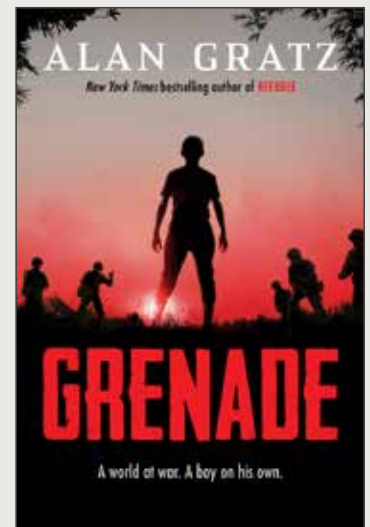
## **Love, Penelope**

**Joanne Rocklin. Ill. Lucy Knisley. Amulet/Abrams Books for Young Readers.**

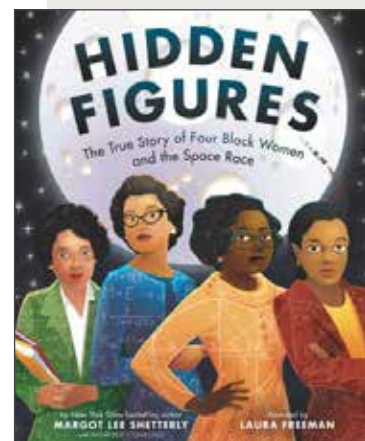
The story begins with Penny writing in her diary to her unborn sibling. Throughout this transition, we see how Penny grows, learns, hurts, matures, and loves. This touching tale gives us an honest look at the insights of a modern girl.



*Ghost Boys.* Jewell Parker Rhodes.

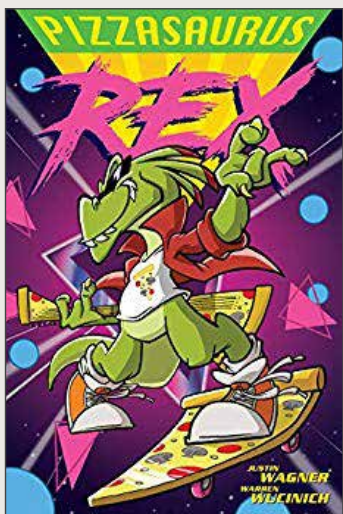


*Grenade.* Alan Gratz.

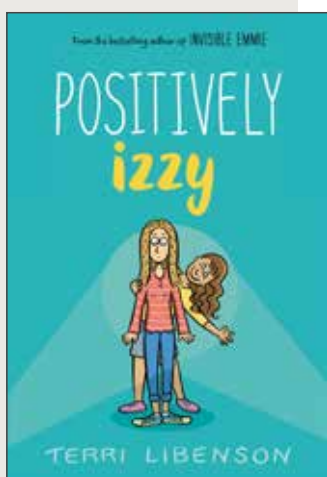


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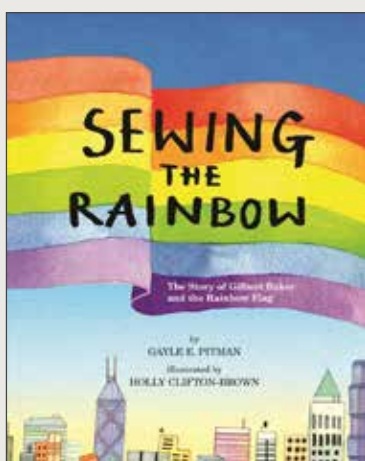




*Pizzasaurus Rex.* Justin Wagner and Warren Wucinich.



*Positively Izzy.* Terri Libenson.



*Sewing the Rainbow: The Story of Gilbert Baker and the Rainbow Flag.* Gayle E. Pitman. Ill. Holly Clifton-Brown.

## ***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***

**Terri Libenson. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books.**

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***

**Mairghread Scott. Ill. Jacob Chabot. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

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***

**Patricia Cleveland-Peck. Ill. Isabel Greenberg. Bloomsbury Children's Books.**

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***

**Gayle E. Pitman. Ill. Holly Clifton-Brown. Magination.**

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***

Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard. Ill. Jennifer Zivoin. Magination.

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/Boyd's 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***

Liz Lee Heinecke. Quarry/The Quarto Group.

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***

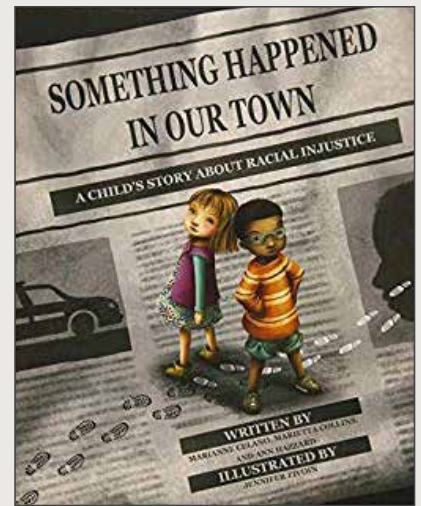
Jonathan W. Stokes. Viking Books for Young Readers/ Penguin Books for Young Readers.

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.

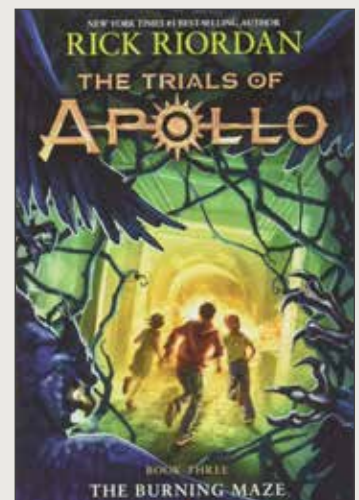
Riordan has mastered writing with incredible detail, infusing mythology into a contemporary setting and hooking his readers. Like his other books, there is the right balance of action, near-death predicaments, and honoring individual strengths from each of the gods.



*Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice.* Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard. Ill. Jennifer Zivoin.



*The Thrifty Guide to The American Revolution.* Jonathan W. Stokes.



*The Trials of Apollo, Book 3: The Burning Maze.* Rick Riordan.



*The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair.* Amy Makechnie.

## ***The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair***

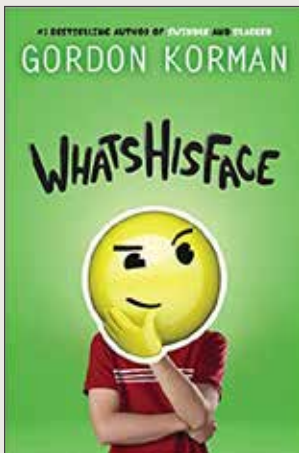
**Amy Makechnie. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.**

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.



*Whatshisface.* Gordon Korman.

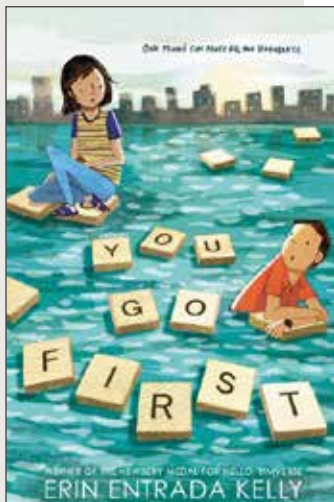
## ***You Go First***

**Erin Entrada Kelly. Greenwillow/HarperCollins Children's Books.**

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.



*You Go First.* Erin Entrada Kelly.



# Children's Choices 2019 Reading List

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

*Am I Yours?* Alex Latimer. Peachtree.  
*Bear's Scare.* Jacob Grant. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*Be Our Guest!* Gray Malin. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*Bye Bye Pesky Fly.* Lysa Mullady. Ill. Janet McDonnell. Magination.  
*Captain Starfish.* Davina Bell. Ill. Allison Colpoys. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*The Color Monster: A Story About Emotions.* Anna Llenas. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*Crash, Splash, or Moo!* Bob Shea. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*\*Day at the Beach.* Tom Booth. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*Eraser.* Anna Kang. Ill. Christopher Weyant. Two Lions/Amazon.  
*\*Fangsgiving.* Ethan Long. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*\*Grow Up, David!* David Shannon. Blue Sky/Scholastic.  
*Hello, Hot Dog.* Lily Murray. Ill. Jarvis. Lincoln Children's Books/The Quarto Group.  
*I Am a Cat.* Galia Bernstein. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*\*I Say Ooh You Say Aah.* John Kane. Kane Miller.  
*Jack B. Ninja.* Tim McCanna. Ill. Stephen Savage. Orchard/Scholastic.  
*Kat Writes a Song.* Greg Foley. Little Simon/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*Let's Go ABC! Things That Go, From A to Z.* Rhonda Gowler Greene. Ill. Daniel Kirk. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*MVP: Most Valuable Puppy.* Mike Greenberg and Stacy Steponate Greenberg. Ill. Bonnie Pang. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*My Stinky Dog.* Christine Roussey. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*The Night Dragon.* Naomi Howarth. Lincoln Children's Books/The Quarto Group.  
*Piggy: Let's Be Friends!* Trevor Lai. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*Pig the Star.* Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press.  
*The Princess and the Pit Stop.* Tom Angleberger. Ill. Dan Santat. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*Reading Beauty.* Kimberly Long Cockcroft. Ill. Mary Grace Corpus. Pelican.  
*Rusty the Squeaky Robot.* Neil Clark. Wide Eyed Editions/The Quarto Group.  
*There's a Dragon in Your Book.* Tom Fletcher. Ill. Greg Abbott. Random House Books for Young Readers.  
*This Is a Taco!* Andrew Cangelose. Ill. Josh Shipley. CubHouse/Lion Forge.  
*Three Grumpy Trucks.* Todd Tarpley. Ill. Guy Parker-Rees. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*Unplugged.* Steve Antony. Scholastic Press.  
*A Whale's World.* Ian McAllister and Nicholas Read. Orca.  
*\*What Do They Do With All That Poo?* Jane Kurtz. Ill. Allison Black. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*What If...?* Samantha Berger. Ill. Mike Curato. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*When the World Is Full of Friends.* Gillian Shields. Ill. Anna Currey. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

## Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

*Ariana Grande.* Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.  
*\*Back to the Future: The Classic Illustrated Storybook.* Robert Zemeckis and Bob Gale. Ill. Kim Smith. Quirk.  
*Becoming a Zombie.* Ruth Owen. Bearport.

*Bruno Mars.* Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.  
*The Cat Encyclopedia for Kids.* Joanne Mattern. Capstone Young Readers.  
*The Chinese Emperor's New Clothes.* Ying Chang Compestine. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*Deadly Spider Bite!* Kevin Blake. Bearport.  
*Deadly Venomous Mammals!* Joyce Markovics. Bearport.  
*Dog Man: Lord of the Fleas.* Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.  
*\*Down by the River.* Andrew Weiner. Ill. April Chu. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*Elizabeth Warren: Nevertheless, She Persisted.* Susan Wood. Ill. Sarah Green. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*50 Wacky Things Pets Do: Weird & Amazing Things Pets Do.* Heidi Fiedler. Ill. Marta Sorte. Walter Foster Jr./The Quarto Group.  
*George the Hero Hound.* Jeffery Ebbeler. Two Lions/Amazon.  
*Grandma Gatewood Hikes the Appalachian Trail.* Jennifer Thermes. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
*Green Slimers: Opossums.* Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.  
*Horrifying Hollywood.* Sweetie Peason. Bearport.  
*How to Sell Your Family to the Aliens.* Paul Noth. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*Luke Bryan.* Jim Gigliotti. Bearport.  
*Maggie: Alaska's Last Elephant.* Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Phyllis Saroff. Arbordale.  
*The Mushroom Fan Club.* Elise Gravel. Enfant/Drawn & Quarterly.  
*Nightmarish New York.* E. Merwin. Bearport.  
*Pluto Is Peeved! An Ex-Planet Searches for Answers.* Jacqueline Jules. Ill. Dave Roman. Seagrass/The Quarto Group.  
*Poison Slimers: Poison Dart Frogs, Sea Cucumbers and More.* Ellen Lawrence. Bearport.  
*\*Safari Pug.* Laura James. Ill. Églantine Ceulemans. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*School People.* Lee Bennett Hopkins. Ill. Ellen Shi. WordSong/Boyd's Mills.  
*Scout's Heaven.* Bibi Dumon Tak and Annemarie van Haeringen. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.  
*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.  
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*\*What Do Animals Do All Day?* Wendy Hunt. Ill. Muti. Wide Eyed Editions/The Quarto Group.  
*The Wild Robot Escapes.* Peter Brown. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*Wrapped Up! Vol. 1.* Dave Scheidt and Scoot McMahon. CubHouse/Lion Forge.  
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## Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

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*Be Prepared.* Vera Brosgol. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.  
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*The Boggart Fights Back.* Susan Cooper. Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

(continued)

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*Breakout.* Kate Messner. Bloomsbury Children's Books.  
*Checked.* Cynthia Kadohata. Ill. Maurizio Zorat. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*Cosmo: Vol. 1.* Ian Flynn. Ill. Tracy Yardley. Archie Comics.  
*Dork Diaries 13: Tales From a Not-So-Happy Birthday.* Rachel Renée Russell. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*Elle of the Ball.* Elena Delle Donne. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.  
*Endling #1: The Last.* Katherine Applegate. HarperCollins Children's Books.  
*Ghost Boys.* Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
*\*Grenade.* Alan Gratz. Scholastic Press.  
*\*Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race.* Margot Lee Shetterly. Ill. Laura Freeman. HarperCollins Children's Books.  
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*Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice.* Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard. Ill. Jennifer Zivoin. Magination.  
*Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America.* Gail Jarrow. Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills.  
*STEAM Lab for Kids: 52 Creative Hands-On Projects for Exploring Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.* Liz Lee Heinecke. Quarry/The Quarto Group.  
*The Thrifty Guide to The American Revolution.* Jonathan W. Stokes. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Books for Young Readers.  
*The Trials of Apollo, Book 3: The Burning Maze.* Rick Riordan. Disney Hyperion.  
*The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair.* Amy Makechnie. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.  
*Whatshisface.* Gordon Korman. Scholastic Press.  
*You Go First.* Erin Entrada Kelly. Greenwillow/HarperCollins Children's Books.

\*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](http://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](http://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**

Butterfield Elementary (Tucson, AZ) ■ Colter Elementary School (Jackson, WY) ■ Coyote Trail Elementary (Tucson, AZ) ■ Driggs Elementary (Driggs, ID) ■ Driggs Middle School (Driggs, ID) ■ Gladden Farms Elementary (Marana, AZ) ■ Kelly Elementary School (Kelly, WY) ■ Moran Elementary School (Moran, WY) ■ Tetonia Elementary (Tetonia, ID) ■ Twin Peaks Elementary (Tucson, AZ) ■ Victor Elementary (Victor, ID)

## **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)



# ILA-CBC Children's Choices Project Recruitment

## Team leaders are needed for the following areas for the 2020–2023 term:

**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

**AREA 5:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Children's Choices is an annual joint project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Children's Book Council (CBC). Each year, approximately 12,500 children (grades K–6) from different regions of the United States read hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and choose their favorites.

ILA members interested in joining this exciting and worthwhile project are encouraged to apply to become a team leader. To qualify, you must:

- Commit to a three-year term
- Be employed as an educator in a school or university in the U.S.
- Want to help teachers use children's literature in the classroom
- Have contacts within local school districts in your state
- Live or work within a reasonable distance of participating schools
- Attend both the project's working meeting and the project session during the ILA Conference for all three years of your term
- Possess excellent organizational skills
- Adhere to project deadlines

As part of ILA's commitment to diversity, representation, and inclusion, we strongly consider the following areas as part of the vetting process:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; socioeconomic status)
- School networks with student populations reflecting historically underserved students or minoritized groups

If you are committed to high-quality literature for children and possess the necessary qualifications, please visit our website ([literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices)) to fill out the team leader online application form.

For more information, please contact [choices@reading.org](mailto:choices@reading.org).



INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

# TEACHERS' CHOICES

## 2019 Reading List

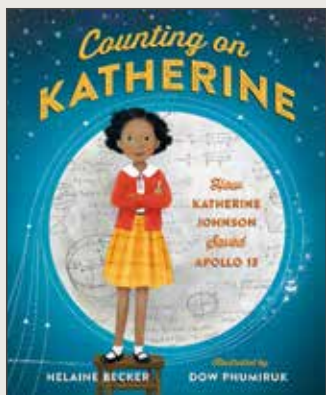
Primary Readers  
(Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

Intermediate Readers  
(Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

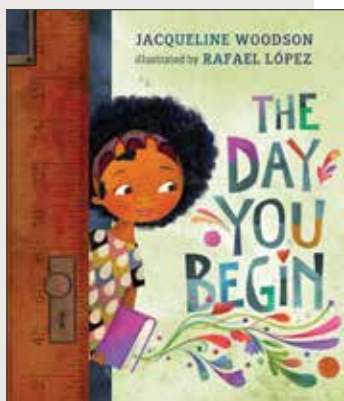
Advanced Readers  
(Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

# What Is the Teachers' Choices Reading List?

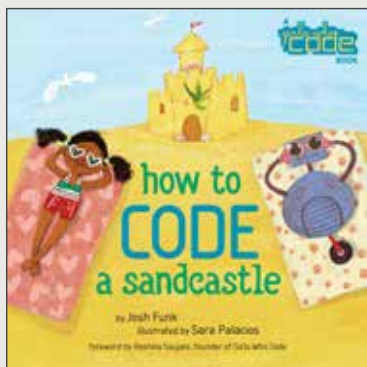
For teachers looking for the best new titles for ages 5–14 to add to their classroom library, the Teachers' Choices list is the place to start. Since 1989, the International Literacy Association's Teachers' Choices project has identified outstanding trade books published in the previous year that teachers, librarians, and reading/literacy specialists chose as being exceptional for curriculum use. Families and caregivers will also find the list invaluable, as it provides excellent choices for reading aloud or for help answering important questions prompted by children's experiences as they grow up.



*Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13.* Helaine Becker. Ill. Dow Phumiruk.



*The Day You Begin.* Jacqueline Woodson. Ill. Rafael López.



*How to Code a Sandcastle.* Josh Funk. Ill. Sara Palacios.

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

### *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*

Helaine Becker. Ill. Dow Phumiruk. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Even as a child, Katherine loved everything about math and learning. This biographical sketch reveals the life and career of one of the preeminent mathematicians who helped make the space program possible, breaking through barriers of segregation and prejudice to make it happen.

### *\*The Day You Begin*

Jacqueline Woodson. Ill. Rafael López. Nancy Paulsen.

For Angelina and Rigoberto, their differences are obvious as they compare themselves with their classmates. However, when they begin to share their own stories, their voices become strong, and their focus begins to shift away from the differences to little bits of commonalities among us all.

### *How to Be a Lion*

Ed Vere. Doubleday Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Leonard (a lion) and Marianne (a duck) are best friends and spend their days doing what friends do. When approached by a pack of bully lions who don't think they should be friends, Leonard learns that there are many ways to be a lion. Being friendly is one.

### *How to Code a Sandcastle*

Josh Funk. Ill. Sara Palacios. Viking Books for Young Readers.

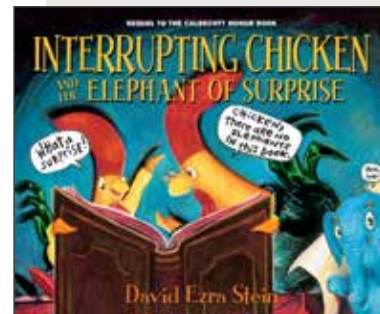
Pearl spends the last day of summer vacation with her robot, Pascal, determined to finally build the perfect sandcastle. When she realizes how big the task is, she breaks it down into smaller tasks, sequences, loops, and if-then-else codes for Pascal to help her find sandcastle success.



## ***Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise***

**David Ezra Stein. Candlewick.**

When the little red chicken is asked to find the element of surprise in stories, she misunderstands it to be the “elephant” of surprise. As Papa reads the classics to her, she keeps adding elephants to each story. Through fun illustrations and witty banter, Papa and Little Red compose a story together with their own surprise.

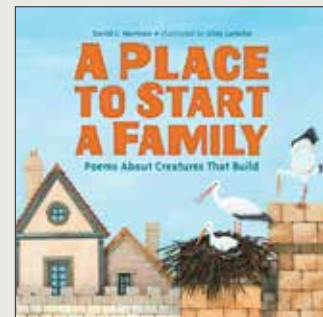


*Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise.* David Ezra Stein.

## ***A Place to Start a Family: Poems About Creatures That Build***

**David L. Harrison. Ill. Giles Laroche. Charlesbridge.**

Readers get a poetic explanation and an up-close glimpse into homes being built underground, on land, in water, and in the air by some of nature's finest architects.

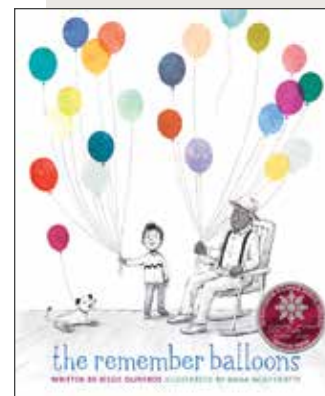


*A Place to Start a Family: Poems About Creatures That Build.* David L. Harrison. Ill. Giles Laroche.

## ***The Remember Balloons***

**Jessie Oliveros. Ill. Dana Wulfekotte. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.**

James is upset that his grandpa starts losing his balloons, meaning he cannot remember some of the most precious times they've shared together, including his favorite fishing trip. However, James finds that he can help his grandpa relive the memories by sitting on his lap and telling the stories.



*The Remember Balloons.* Jessie Oliveros. Ill. Dana Wulfekotte.

## ***Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship***

**Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes. Ill. Scott Magoon. Candlewick.**

Based on a true story, the text reveals how Rescue trains and becomes the service dog for Jessica, who has been injured and experiences the heartbreak of losing her legs after an accident. Their partnership gives them both purpose and a way forward.

## ***Saving Fiona: The Story of the World's Most Famous Baby Hippo***

**Thane Maynard. Photographs courtesy of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.**

Tiny Fiona, a baby Nile hippo, was born at the Cincinnati Zoo two months early. This is the true story of how the zookeepers learned to care for her and nurse her into a healthy young hippo, showing how science and critical thinking were important in keeping her alive.



*Saving Fiona: The Story of the World's Most Famous Baby Hippo.* Thane Maynard. Photographs courtesy of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

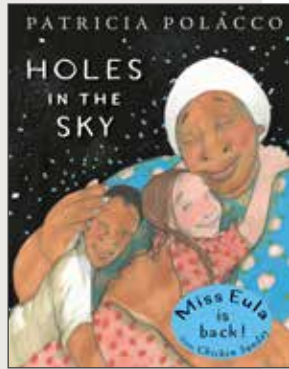
## ***What's Your Favorite Bug?***

**Eric Carle and Friends. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

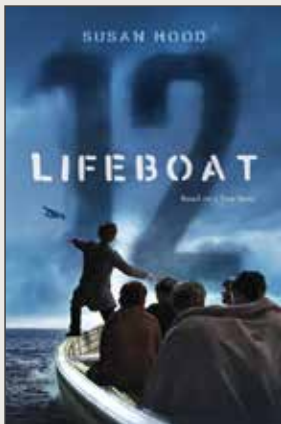
Eric Carle and 14 of his artistic friends showcase their unique and brilliant styles as each one presents his or her favorite bug. Teachers can use this text to explore poetry, science, and art, and it can serve as a model for similar student-created class anthologies.



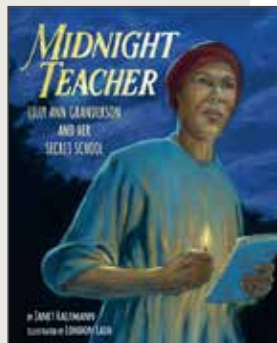
*The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs.* Kate Messner. Ill. Matthew Forsythe.



*Holes in the Sky.* Patricia Polacco.



*Lifeboat 12.* Susan Hood.



*Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School.* Janet Halfmann. Ill. London Ladd.

## Intermediate Readers (Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

### *The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs*

**Kate Messner. Ill. Matthew Forsythe. Chronicle.**

In this beautifully illustrated text, the story of Ken Nedimyer unfolds, beginning with a childhood fascination of all underwater life and continuing into adulthood with his work with the Coral Restoration Foundation. Vivid descriptions and specific vocabulary are used to depict efforts to restore and preserve the world's coral reefs.

### *Finding Langston*

**Lesia Cline-Ransome. Holiday House.**

After his mother dies, Langston sees nothing positive about his new life in 1946 Chicago. Bullying and chaos mark his days, but with complete access to the library, unlike back home in Alabama, Langston is comforted by his namesake's poetry and finds a way to feel close to his mother again.

### *Holes in the Sky*

**Patricia Polacco. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.**

When young Trisha's babushka passes away, she thinks she'll never find anyone to fill the hole that's left. When a family move to California introduces her to Miss Eula, a new grandmother figure, Trisha learns that her babushka may have been right about those *holes in the sky*.

### *\*Lifeboat 12*

**Susan Hood. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.**

Based on a little-known World War II story, this novel in verse depicts the escape of Ken Sparks and other British children on a luxury ship to Canada. Shocked by a torpedo attack and the sinking of their ship, the survivors band together to save each other, showing bravery, compassion, and hope.

### *Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School*

**Janet Halfmann. Ill. London Ladd. Lee & Low.**

Although illegal, enslaved Lilly Ann Granderson learned to read and write. Because she believed in the power of education, she secretly taught hundreds of others to do the same. Dubbed the "midnight teacher," teaching at night inside a hidden building, Lilly Ann risked her life to empower others toward freedom.

## ***Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere***

**Barb Rosenstock. Ill. Katherine Roy. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.**

Filled with mesmerizing illustrations, intriguing text, and fascinating back matter, this story combines engineering, deep-sea diving, and perseverance to portray the true-to-life experiences of Otis Barton and Will Beebe as they designed and built the bathysphere to take them to record-setting ocean depths.

## ***Sisters & Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams***

**Howard Bryant. Ill. Floyd Cooper. Philomel.**

Despite the negative talk, Richard Williams knew his girls with brown skin, wonderful eyes, big smiles, and even bigger hearts were full of magic and destined to be champions. Through trials, setbacks, and triumphs, Venus and Serena Williams silenced the negativity to become the greatest tennis players of all time.

## ***Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story***

**Marc Tyler Nobleman. Ill. Melissa Iwai. Clarion.**

Japanese pilot Nobuo Fujita is the only enemy pilot to ever bomb the continental United States. Even though no fatalities and little damage resulted from his maneuvers, he returned to the little Oregon town 20 years later to apologize. This little-known story illustrates the capacity of forgiveness and reconciliation.

## ***Thomas Paine and the Dangerous Word***

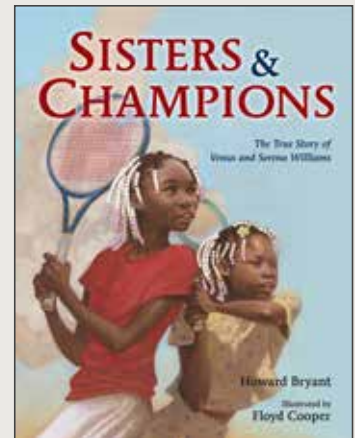
**Sarah Jane Marsh. Ill. Edwin Fotheringham. Disney Hyperion.**

Thomas Paine knew what it was like to leave oppressive situations for a new start in life. He learned early on about the power of words and used them boldly to spur a nation of 13 colonies to declare independence from Great Britain. Never before had words sparked such a revolution.

## ***Washington, D.C.: Our Nation's Capital From A-Z***

**Alan Schroeder. Ill. John O'Brien. Holiday House.**

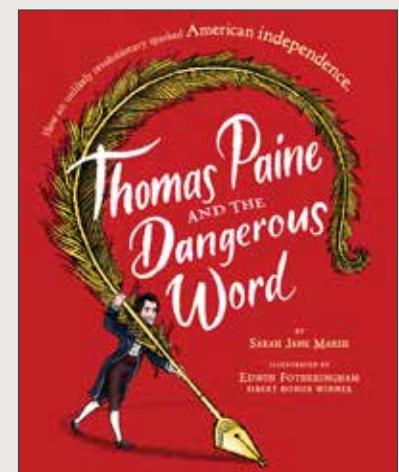
Full of little-known facts, meaningful quotations, and clever quips, this book chronicles the history of the United States capital from A to Z.



*Sisters & Champions: The True Story of Venus and Serena Williams.* Howard Bryant. Ill. Floyd Cooper.

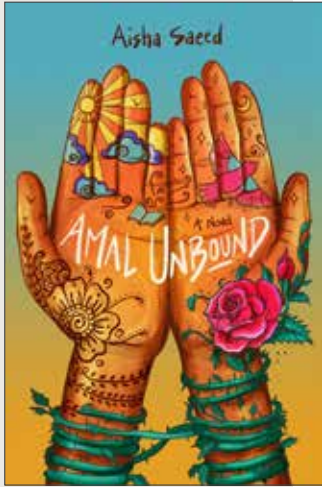


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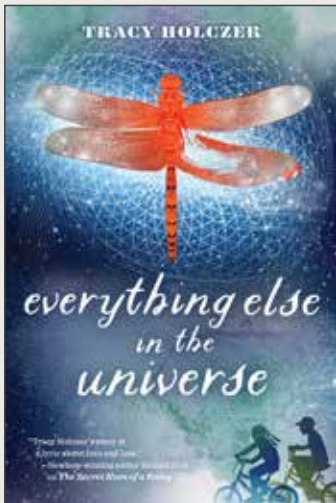


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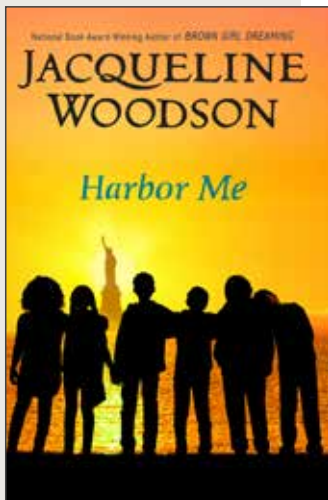




*Amal Unbound.* Aisha Saeed.



*Everything Else in the Universe.*  
Tracy Holczer.



*Harbor Me.* Jacqueline Woodson.

## Advanced Readers (Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

### *Amal Unbound*

**Aisha Saeed. Nancy Paulsen.**

Amal is happy in her Pakistani village, pursuing her dreams of becoming a teacher. But a chance encounter with the son of her village's shady landlord lands her in the depths of indentured service. Amal's undying spirit and unwavering courage show that we all have the power to make change.

### *Code Word Courage*

**Kirby Larson. Scholastic Press.**

Billie's brother Leo is going off to serve in World War II with Denny, who is a Navajo Code Talker. After Denny brings injured dog Bear home for her to care for, Billie does her part to help with the war effort while Bear comes to the rescue through her many adventures.

### *Ebb & Flow*

**Heather Smith. Kids Can Press.**

After his dad's incarceration and a rotten year at a new school, Jett returns to his grandma's house for the summer to try to forget. Written in verse, this novel highlights Jett's regrets, hopes, and plans to seek forgiveness all with the unfailing support of his loving grandma.

### *Everything Else in the Universe*

**Tracy Holczer. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.**

Lucy's father served as an army doctor in the Vietnam War and returned as an amputee, changed forever. As she tries to find ways to reconnect, Lucy joins with her neighbor Milo to solve a mystery of a Purple Heart that she hopes will bridge the distance to her father.

### *\*Harbor Me*

**Jacqueline Woodson. Nancy Paulsen.**

Six middle school kids who are in an experimental class because of their academic challenges meet together weekly to share their stories in a room they dub ARTT (A Room To Talk). Through these conversations, they share their difficult realities and realize friends come in all varieties.

## **The Night Diary**

**Veera Hiranandani. Dial Books for Young Readers.**

With the backdrop of the 1947 India–Pakistan split, this harrowing story is told from the perspective of 12-year-old Nisha through letters to her deceased mother. Nisha writes about her confusion regarding tensions in her country, becoming a refugee, and her hope for a peaceful future.

## **The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody**

**Matthew Landis. Dial Books for Young Readers.**

Seventh grader Oliver, self-proclaimed Civil War expert, is paired with don't-care Ella to research a nobody soldier for a Civil War project. At first disappointed, Oliver soon warms to Ella and recruits his buddy Kevin as their writing consultant. Together they discover a mystery that just might lead to greater things.

## **Out of Left Field**

**Ellen Klages. Viking Books for Young Readers.**

After being unfairly cut from the Little League baseball team, strong-willed Katy uses both her keen research skills and helpful librarians to learn about the history of women in baseball and fight for her rights. Set in 1957, expertly woven facts and cultural details contextualize this fascinating story.

## **Rebound**

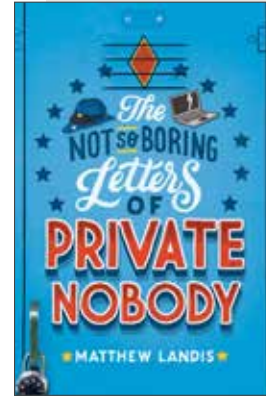
**Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.**

As a prequel to *The Crossover*, readers learn how Jordan and Josh's father, Chuck "Da Man" Bell, was introduced to basketball, and his family's history helps readers of this popular series glimpse into his childhood. The novel in verse focuses on experiencing heartache, the value of family, and growing up.

## **Resistance**

**Jennifer A. Nielsen. Scholastic Press.**

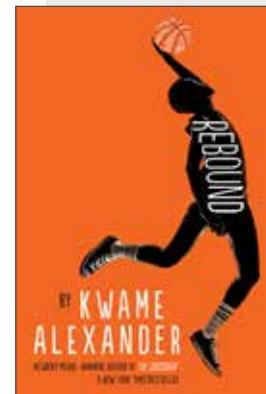
As a young Jewish girl in Nazi-occupied Poland, Chaya Lindner isn't safe. However, she forgoes safety, uses her fair features, and forges papers to become a courier. When a raid goes incredibly wrong, Chaya's left alone. Finding support and her resolve, she vows to resist or die trying.



*The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody.* Matthew Landis.



*Out of Left Field.* Ellen Klages.



*Rebound.* Kwame Alexander.



*Resistance.* Jennifer A. Nielsen.

\* Titles that received the most votes

# Teachers' Choices 2019 Reading List

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

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*The Remember Balloons.* Jessie Oliveros. Ill. Dana Wulfekotte. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

*Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship.* Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes. Ill. Scott Magoon. Candlewick.

*Saving Fiona: The Story of the World's Most Famous Baby Hippo.* Thane Maynard. Photographs courtesy of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

*What's Your Favorite Bug?* Eric Carle and Friends. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

## Intermediate Readers (Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

*The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs.* Kate Messner. Ill. Matthew Forsythe. Chronicle.

*Finding Langston.* Lesa Cline-Ransome. Holiday House.

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*\*Lifeboat 12.* Susan Hood. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

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*Code Word Courage.* Kirby Larson. Scholastic Press.

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*Everything Else in the Universe.* Tracy Holczer. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

*\*Harbor Me.* Jacqueline Woodson. Nancy Paulsen.

*The Night Diary.* Veera Hiranandani. Dial Books for Young Readers.

*The Not So Boring Letters of Private Nobody.* Matthew Landis. Dial Books for Young Readers.

*Out of Left Field.* Ellen Klages. Viking Books for Young Readers.

*Rebound.* Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

*Resistance.* Jennifer A. Nielsen. Scholastic Press.

\*Titles that received the most votes

To learn more about the Teachers' Choices project, including how to participate and to access previous years' reading lists, please visit [literacyworldwide.org/choices](http://literacyworldwide.org/choices).



# More About Teachers' Choices

**Thank you to the 2018–2019 ILA Teachers' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams.**

**Project cochairs: April Hoying, Russia, OH, and Jennifer Fox, Stockton, MO**

## AREA 1

**Kim Fairbanks (team leader), Albany, OR, and Tracey MacLachlan (trainee), Washougal, WA**

Alsea Elementary School (Alsea, OR) ▪ Alsea Middle School (Alsea, OR) ▪ Canyon Creek Middle School, (Washougal, WA) ▪ Central Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Columbia River Gorge Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ▪ Franklin Elementary (Corvallis, OR) ▪ Gause Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ▪ Hathaway Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ▪ Heritage High School (Vancouver WA) ▪ Jefferson Elementary (Corvallis, OR) ▪ Jemtegaard Middle School (Washougal, WA) ▪ Liberty Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Oak Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Sunrise Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Takena Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Tangent Elementary (Albany, OR) ▪ Woodburn Elementary School (Camas, WA)

## AREA 2

**Heather Jones (team leader), Smyrna, DE, and Bonnie Yurkanin (trainee), Claymont, DE**

Allen Frear Elementary School (Camden, DE) ▪ Booker T. Washington Elementary School (Dover, DE) ▪ Brandywine High School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Carrcroft Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Clayton Elementary School (Clayton, DE) ▪ Clayton Intermediate School (Clayton, DE) ▪ Concord High School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Conrad Schools of Science (Wilmington, DE) ▪ East Hartford Middle School (Hartford, CT) ▪ Forwood Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Hanby Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Harlan Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ H.O. Brittingham Elementary School (Rehoboth Beach, DE) ▪ John Bassett Moore Intermediate School (Smyrna, DE) ▪ Lancashire Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Lane Elementary School (Claymont, DE) ▪ Las Americas Aspira Academy (Newark, DE) ▪ Lombardy Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Matapeake Middle School (Stevensville, MD) ▪ Metacomet Elementary School (Bloomfield, CT) ▪ Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Mount Pleasant High School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Olive B. Loss Elementary School (Middletown, DE) ▪ P.S. DuPont Middle School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Silver Lake Elementary (Middletown, DE) ▪ Smyrna Middle School (Smyrna, DE) ▪ Smyrna High School (Smyrna, DE) ▪ Springer Middle School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Sudlersville Elementary School (Sudlersville, MD) ▪ Sunnyside Elementary School (Smyrna, DE) ▪ Sunset Ridge Middle School (East Hartford, CT) ▪ Talley Middle School (Wilmington, DE) ▪ Welch Elementary School (Camden, DE)

## AREA 3

**Alicia Pruitt (team leader), Chesapeake, VA, and Sharon Thompson (trainee), Biloxi, MS**

28th Street Elementary (Gulfport, MS) ▪ Bayles Elementary (Dallas, TX) ▪ Central Elementary (Pascagoula, MS) ▪ Cherokee Elementary (Pascagoula, MS) ▪ College Park Elementary (Pascagoula, MS) ▪ Colmer Middle School (Pascagoula, MS) ▪ Hardeeville Middle School (Hardeeville, SC) ▪ Jeff Davis Elementary (Biloxi, MS) ▪ Magnolia Middle School (Moss Point, MS) ▪ Martin Bluff Elementary (Gautier, MS) ▪ Moss Point Escatawpa Upper Elementary School (Moss Point, MS) ▪ Newton Razor Elementary (Denton, TX) ▪ Trent Lott Academy (Pascagoula, MS)

## AREA 4

**Colleen Shuler (team leader), Stockton, MO, and Sherry Harrington (trainee), Imperial, MO**

Antonia Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ▪ Antonia Middle School (Barnhart, MO) ▪ Bolivar Middle School (Bolivar, MO) ▪ Clyde Hamrick Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ▪ El Dorado Springs Elementary (El Dorado Springs, MO) ▪ Fair Grove Middle School (Fair Grove, MO) ▪ Fox Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Guffey Elementary School (Fenton, MO) ▪ Halfway Elementary (Halfway, MO) ▪ Hodge Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ▪ Humansville Elementary (Humansville, MO) ▪ Leeton Elementary (Leeton, MO) ▪ Lonedell Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Meramec Heights Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ New Covenant Academy (Springfield, MO) ▪ Perspectives Preparatory Academy (Springfield, MO) ▪ Polk County Christian School (Bolivar, MO) ▪ Raymondville R-VII Schools (Raymondville, MO) ▪ Ridgewood Middle School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Rockport Heights Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Seckman Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ▪ Seckman Middle School (Imperial, MO) ▪ Seckman High School (Imperial, MO) ▪ Sherwood Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Simpson Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ▪ Southwest Baptist University (Bolivar, MO) ▪ Stockton Middle School (Stockton, MO) ▪ Three Trails Elementary (Independence, MO) ▪ Truman Elementary (Rolla, MO) ▪ Weaubleau Elementary (Weaubleau, MO) ▪ Willard Intermediate School (Willard, MO) ▪ Windsor Intermediate School (Imperial, MO)

## AREA 5

**Julie Greenberg (team leader), Perrysburg, OH**

Dublin City Schools (Dublin, OH) ▪ Maumee City Schools (Maumee, OH) ▪ Oregon City School Schools (Oregon, OH) ▪ Rossford Schools (Rossford, OH) ▪ Toledo Public Schools (Toledo, OH) ▪ University of Toledo (Toledo, OH) ▪ Washington Local Schools (Toledo, OH)

# ILA Teachers' Choices Project Recruitment

## Team leaders are needed for the following areas for the 2020–2023 term:

**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

Teachers' Choices is an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA). Each year, teachers, librarians, and reading/literacy specialists from different regions of the United States read hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and select 30 books for this popular reading list for readers ages 5–14.

ILA members interested in joining this exciting and worthwhile project are encouraged to apply to become a team leader. To qualify, you must:

- Commit to a three-year term
- Be employed as an educator in a school or university in the U.S.
- Want to help teachers use children's literature in the classroom
- Have contacts within local school districts in your state
- Live or work within a reasonable distance of participating schools
- Attend both the project's working meeting and the project session during the ILA Conference for all three years of your term
- Possess excellent organizational skills
- Adhere to project deadlines

As part of ILA's commitment to diversity, representation, and inclusion, we strongly consider the following areas as part of the vetting process:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; socioeconomic status)
- School networks with student populations reflecting historically underserved students or minoritized groups

If you are committed to high-quality literature for children and middle grade readers and possess the necessary qualifications, please visit our website ([literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices)) to fill out the team leader online application form.

For more information, please contact [choices@reading.org](mailto:choices@reading.org).

INTERNATIONAL  
**LITERACY**  
ASSOCIATION

# YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES

## 2019 Reading List





# What Is the Young Adults' Choices Reading 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 to read; to make teens, educators, librarians and media specialists, and families and caregivers 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 and in whose pages they can find characters and experiences to which they can relate. The books included on this enclosed list reflect current trends in young adult literature and titles that will engage today's readers.



*#MurderTrending.*  
Gretchen McNeil.

## **#MurderTrending**

**Gretchen McNeil. Freeform.**

In this suspenseful, futuristic dark comedy, 17-year-old Dee Guerra is convicted of murdering her stepsister. Sent to Alcatraz 2.0, Dee has to live and survive in prison while also knowing that her life is now being viewed on a live-streaming lethal reality television show, where the prison executioners kill society's convicted criminals in gruesome ways. Will Dee's death earn high ratings?



*All That I Can Fix.* Crystal Chan.

## **All That I Can Fix**

**Crystal Chan. Simon Pulse.**

Just when Ronney thinks his life can't possibly become any more mortifying and complicated, someone opens all the cages of an exotic zoo and wild animals now roam free in his hometown. Can he keep all the pieces of his life from imploding while the whole world seems to be going crazy?

## **Ash Princess**

**Laura Sebastian. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

After enduring years of captivity and shame, Theodosia realizes she must rise up and take back the power that is rightfully hers. By using her intellect, she begins a perilous journey to regain her kingdom and end the injustices her people are suffering. This epic fantasy is an exciting series starter.



*Batman: Nightwalker.*  
Marie Lu.

## **Batman: Nightwalker**

**Marie Lu. Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

Before he was the Dark Knight, Bruce Wayne, 18-year-old heir to the Wayne Enterprises conglomerate, just wanted to graduate from high school. An impulsive act leads him to work with Gotham's police force to apprehend the Nightwalkers, a violent group fashioned after Robin Hood. Battling his attraction to a dangerous foe, he must use his brains to save his city and his closest friends.

## **\*Be Prepared**

**Vera Brosgol. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Attending summer camp is a rite of passage. But what if your single mother can't afford to send you to some swanky, expensive one, and instead sends you to Russian camp? Here you can learn about your culture and where you come from, struggle to belong, and still encounter all of the same nightmares of scary outhouses and camp drama.



*\*Be Prepared. Vera Brosgol.*

## **The Button War**

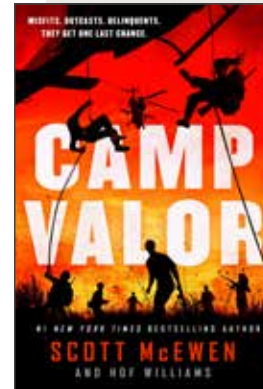
**Avi. Candlewick.**

Set in Poland during World War I, Patryk and his friends entertain themselves by making and completing dares—some harmless, some dangerous. When the Germans invade their village, Patryk's friends up the ante by recklessly stealing buttons off enemy uniforms. Lines blur between the "button war" and the dark brutality of the real war raging around them.

## **Camp Valor**

**Scott McEwen. St. Martin's Griffin.**

Surprised by being released from prison after being framed for someone else's crime, Wyatt finds himself in a secret government training camp for teenage agents. By struggling to survive the brutal training and putting his training to use in real life, will he prove himself worthy of a second chance?

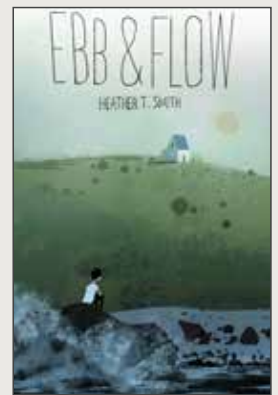


*Camp Valor. Scott McEwen.*

## **The Cheerleaders**

**Kara Thomas. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

A tragic accident, a double murder, and a suicide—all involving cheerleaders—forever taints the town of Sunnybrook. As the town prepares to honor the five-year anniversary of their deaths, the surviving sister to the suicide, Monica, starts to uncover long-buried secrets when she would prefer to forget.



*Ebb & Flow. Heather T. Smith.*

## **Ebb & Flow**

**Heather T. Smith. Kids Can Press.**

Jett returns to Newfoundland to spend emotional healing time with his grandmother after an extraordinarily difficult year. As he examines his memories within the sea glass he finds on the beach, Jett comes to grips with his shameful act of betrayal. As the summer ebbs, Jett finds forgiveness, redemption, and hope.

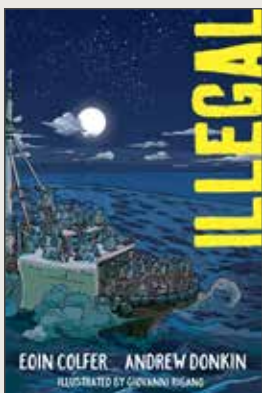
## **Furyborn**

**Claire Legrand. Sourcebooks Fire.**

Through a series of seven elemental magic trials forced upon her, Rielle survives as the apparent Queen of Sun and Salvation. Centuries later, Eliana learns pure evil lies at the heart of the Empire. When the stories of Rielle and Eliana intersect, the fate of the world is in peril. This dark fantasy adventure abounds in passion and danger.



*Furyborn. Claire Legrand.*



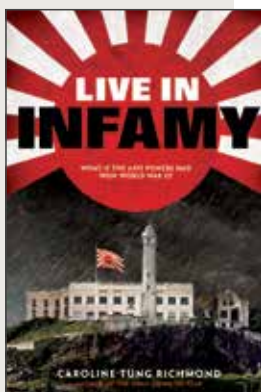
*Illegal*. Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Ill. Giovanni Rigano.



*Legends of the Lost Causes*. Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvester.



*Lies You Never Told Me*. Jennifer Donaldson.



*Live in Infamy*. Caroline Tung Richmond.

## ***Illegal***

**Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Ill. Giovanni Rigano. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.**

In this epic graphic novel, 12-year-old Ebo, a boy from Ghana, takes a daring and dangerous journey to Europe to find his brother, Kwame. Ebo risks his life when he travels through the Sahara Desert, through the scary streets of Tripoli, and across the Mediterranean Sea on a treacherous trek, hoping to reunite with his family.

## ***The Last Girl on Earth***

**Alexandra Blogier. Delacorte/Random House Children's Books.**

Li is the only human left on earth. When the Abdoloreans invaded Earth 16 years ago, Li's human-sympathizer father raised her, training her to blend in with the invader aliens. Abdoloreans appear human, but they have different intellects, feelings, and powers. When Li becomes romantically involved with Ryn, disastrous consequences could be in the offing.

## ***Legends of the Lost Causes***

**Brad McLelland and Louis Sylvester. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

This genre-bending Western has it all: adventure, suspense, good vs. evil, and zombies. When Keech's foster family is killed in a fire, he vows to avenge the evil Bad Whiskey who shattered his world. After joining up with a band of orphans, Keech travels through treacherous lands to fight the risen dead and find the mysterious and powerful Char Stone.

## ***Lies You Never Told Me***

**Jennifer Donaldson. Razorbill.**

Elyse's life is a little too much like her role as Juliet in her school's production of *Romeo and Juliet*, with illicit relationships, lies, and family drama. Gabe is discovering that his romantic choices can have hazardous effects. This novel, with unseen twists and turns, reveals that choices can have dire consequences.

## ***Live in Infamy***

**Caroline Tung Richmond. Scholastic Press.**

In this alternate historical fiction, the United States and the Allied powers have lost World War II. Japan, Italy, and Germany control the territories. Ren, a 16-year-old boy, joins the rebel movement that wants the United States to regain its power and bring back freedom to all citizens. This dystopian fantasy world, based on historical events, demonstrates how race, social status, and power control life and death.



## ***Louisiana's Way Home***

**Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick.**

Louisiana Elefante's granny wakes her in the middle of the night, saying it is time for them to leave. Louisiana isn't worried at first—Granny often has middle-of-the-night wild ideas. Sadly, this time they are not coming back. Louisiana must find a new home and her place in the world. (This title is a companion to *Raymie Nightingale*.)

## ***Lucky Little Things***

**Janice Erlbaum. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Emma is having a difficult eighth-grade year. Her aunt has died and her best friend, Savvy, is more interested in being in the popular group than with her. One day, Emma receives a letter telling her to write down 10 lucky things she wants to happen. At first, the letter's promise comes true, but then complications arise. Does Emma really make her own luck?

## ***Magic, Madness, and Mischief***

**Kelly McCullough. Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Kalvan learns he has magical powers when, disturbingly, a snarky, talking fire hare appears to him, giving advice. Kalvan discovers the Corona Borealis, a crown controlling the power of the world, has been taken by a dark force and the proper balance of power is in peril. Can Kalvan both take control of his life and restore order to the world?

## ***Marvel Studios 101***

**Adam Bray. DK.**

What is Marvel? Who is the Winter Soldier? What is so special about Wakanda? Why should I stay until the end of the credits? These are a few of the questions answered in this Marvel anthology. Full-color pictures, graphs, and timelines make this book a must-have for all who love the Marvel Universe.

## ***Meet the Sky***

**McCall Hoyle. Blink.**

A hurricane is heading straight for Sophie's coastal North Carolina home. Separated from her family during the evacuation, she finds herself trapped with the worst person possible—reckless Finn Sanders, the boy who shattered her heart. But he might be just who she needs—if they can survive the storm.



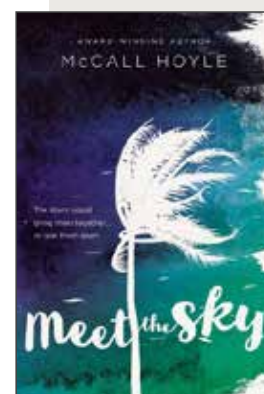
*Louisiana's Way Home.*  
Kate DiCamillo.



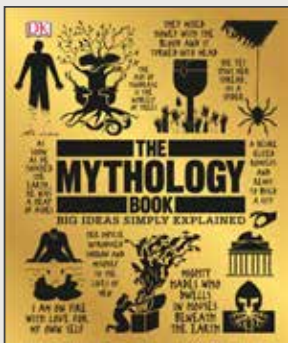
*Magic, Madness, and Mischief.* Kelly McCullough.



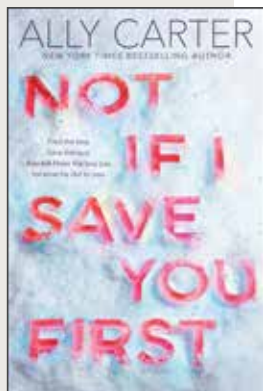
*Marvel Studios 101.* Adam Bray.



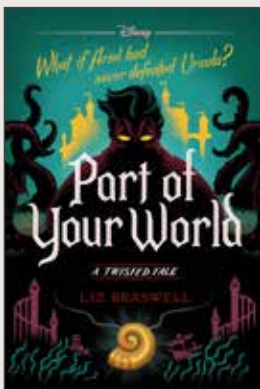
*Meet the Sky.* McCall Hoyle.



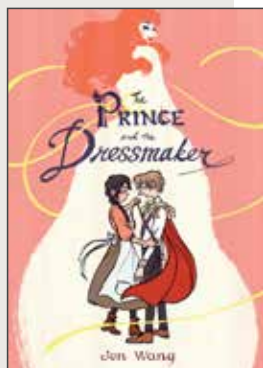
The Mythology Book. DK.



Not If I Save You First.  
Ally Carter.



Part of Your World: A Twisted Tale. Liz Braswell.



The Prince and the Dressmaker. Jen Wang.

## The Mythology Book

DK.

Enjoy 80 of the world's greatest myths and characters, from the gods of Greek mythology to the Norse heroes, in this attractive volume. Included are early creation stories and classic hero narratives with particular emphasis on the afterlife. Each myth is explained clearly, with special emphasis on understanding the importance of mythology within different world cultures.

## Not If I Save You First

Ally Carter. Scholastic Press.

After six years of separation following a traumatic event at the White House, survivalist Maddie is surprised and irritated when reunited with Logan in remote Alaska. Before she can confront Logan, unknown assailants kidnap him. Can Maddie survive long enough to save them both?

## Part of Your World: A Twisted Tale

Liz Braswell. Disney Press.

Five years have elapsed since the sea witch, Ursula, defeated Ariel and kidnapped her father, King Triton. Ursula, having stolen Ariel's voice and married Prince Eric, is attempting to control the Dry World. Ariel, with help from her friends, realizes that her mission is more than saving her father. Her future and the fate of the Dry and Wet Worlds rely on her success.

## The Prince and the Dressmaker

Jen Wang. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

How do you handle your parents trying to arrange your marriage when you are the prince by day, but Lady Crystallia at night? With a secret weapon, of course! Prince Sebastian's best friend, Frances, is a beautiful dressmaker, and he is keeping her a secret from the world so she can keep *his* secret. How long can Frances keep her dreams a secret to protect her best friend?

## Rebound

Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Grieving the loss of his father, all Chuck wants to do is escape into his comics but, instead, his mother sends him to his grandparents' home for the summer. With the help of his stern grandfather and his basketball-loving cousin, he learns about his past and how to face the future. (This title is a companion to *The Crossover*.)

## **\*Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo 2: The Middle Route Run**

**Ben Costa and James Parks. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.**

Rickety Stitch is a skeleton with a soul. He walks, he talks, and he sings on a mission to discover his shadowy past and find the mythical Epoli. Rickety's sidekick, Goo, a gelatinous blob, accompanies him in new adventures where fantasy trope characters, humor, and surprises abound. This enjoyable series continuation has a cliffhanger ending.



*\*Rickety Stitch and the Gelatinous Goo 2: The Middle Route Run. Ben Costa and James Parks.*

## **Robots and Drones: Past, Present, and Future** **Mairghread Scott and Jacob Chabot. First Second/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Robots are our partners, assistants, and protectors. Pouli, a mechanical bird, humorously shows the history of robots and how they work now and speculates on their future. Programming languages, components for robot construction, and a host of other topics are explained. Covered also are ethical issues, including artificial intelligence and the use of military drones.



*\*Speak: The Graphic Novel. Laurie Halse Anderson. Ill. Emily Carroll.*

## **\*Speak: The Graphic Novel**

**Laurie Halse Anderson. Ill. Emily Carroll. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.**

Melinda has experienced a tragedy right before starting high school. Now she doesn't know how she can survive with everyone accusing her of lying and ruining other people's futures. Her only solace is art class. She is friendless and lonely, stuck in a loveless house, just trying to fly under the radar, until she can't any longer.

## **The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: 2 Fuzzy, 2 Furious** **Shannon Hale and Dean Hale. Marvel.**

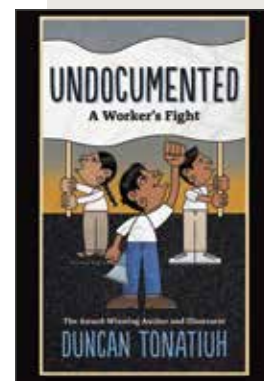
Being a superhero is complicated. Doreen Green, a middle schooler, is also Squirrel Girl, a bushy-tailed superhero. In this second series installment, Squirrel Girl becomes involved in a mall war between two towns. Is the mascot competition actually more sinister than it seems? Meanwhile, Doreen and her best (human) friend, Ana Sofia, learn the importance of being honest.



*The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: 2 Fuzzy, 2 Furious. Shannon Hale and Dean Hale.*

## **Undocumented: A Worker's Fight** **Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams ComicArts.**

This graphic novella tells the story of Juan, an undocumented Mixteco-speaking worker from Mexico, who enters the United States to work in the fields as a way to provide for his family. He risks everything when he stands up for himself and the rest of his community by leading the fight for better wages and workers' rights.



*Undocumented: A Worker's Fight. Duncan Tonatiuh.*

\* Titles that received the most votes



# Young Adults' Choices 2019 Reading List

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\*Titles that received the most votes

To learn more about the Young Adults' Choices project, including how to participate and to access previous years' reading lists, please visit [literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices).

# More About Young Adults' Choices

**Thank you to the 2018–2019 ILA Young Adults' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams.**

**Project cochairs: Stephanie Burdic, Omaha, NE, and Lisa Morris-Wilkey, Casa Grande, AZ**

## **AREA 1**

**Jessica Lorentz Smith (team leader), Bend, OR**  
Bend Senior High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Cascade Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ High Desert Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ LaPine Middle School (LaPine, OR) ▪ LaPine High School (LaPine, OR) ▪ Marshall High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Mountain View High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Pacific Crest Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Pilot Butte Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Sky View Middle School (Bend, OR) ▪ Summit High School (Bend, OR) ▪ Westside Village Magnet School (Bend, OR)

## **AREA 2**

**Aimee Thompson (team leader), Old Orchard Beach, ME**  
Biddeford High School (Biddeford, ME) ▪ Gorham Middle School (Gorham, ME) ▪ Kennebunk High School (Kennebunk, ME) ▪ Loranger Memorial School (Old Orchard Beach, ME) ▪ Middle School of the Kennebunks (Kennebunk, ME) ▪ Noble Middle School (Berwick, ME) ▪ Noble High School (Berwick, ME) ▪ Old Orchard Beach High School (Old Orchard Beach, ME) ▪ Saco Middle School (Saco, ME) ▪ Thornton Academy (Saco, ME)

## **AREA 3**

**Jill Bellomy (team leader), Dallas, TX, and Nina James (trainee), Sarasota, FL**  
Greenhill Upper & Middle School (Addison, TX) ▪ Highland Park Middle School (Dallas, TX) ▪ McIntosh Middle School (Sarasota, FL) ▪ Parish Episcopal Middle & Upper School (Dallas, TX) ▪ Riverview High School (Sarasota, FL) ▪ Skyline High School (Dallas, TX)

## **AREA 4**

**Julianne Scullen (team leader), Andover, MN**  
Coon Rapids Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN) ▪ Coon Rapids High School (Coon Rapids, MN) ▪ Northdale Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN)

## **AREA 5**

**Kimberly Powers (team leader), Hudson, WI, and Cheryl McCall (trainee), Crestwood, KY**  
East Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY) ▪ Hudson Middle School (Hudson, WI) ▪ Hudson High School (Hudson, WI) ▪ North Oldham High School (Goshen, KY) ▪ North Oldham Middle School (Goshen, KY) ▪ Oldham County High School (Buckner, KY) ▪ Oldham County Middle School (La Grange, KY) ▪ South Oldham High School (Crestwood, KY) ▪ South Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY)

# ILA-CBC Young Adults' Choices Project Recruitment

## Team leaders are needed for the following areas for the 2020–2023 term:

**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 5:** Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

Young Adults' Choices began as an annual project of the International Literacy Association (ILA) and is now a joint project of ILA and the Children's Book Council (CBC). Each year, approximately 12,500 students (grades 7–12) from different areas of the United States read hundreds of new titles donated by North American publishers and select 30 books for this popular reading list.

ILA members interested in joining this exciting and worthwhile project are encouraged to apply to become a team leader. To qualify, you must:

- Commit to a three-year term
- Be employed as an educator in a school or university in the U.S.
- Want to help teachers use children's literature in the classroom
- Have contacts within local school districts in your state
- Live or work within a reasonable distance of participating schools
- Attend both the project's working meeting and the project session during the ILA Conference for all three years of your term
- Possess excellent organizational skills
- Adhere to project deadlines

As part of ILA's commitment to diversity, representation, and inclusion, we strongly consider the following areas as part of the vetting process:

- Geographical distribution across the states within the region
- Size and type of project participation group (e.g., college/university/school district; urban/suburban/rural; socioeconomic status)
- School networks with student populations reflecting historically underserved students or minoritized groups

If you are committed to high-quality literature for young adults and possess the necessary qualifications, please visit our website ([literacyworldwide.org/choices](https://literacyworldwide.org/choices)) to fill out the team leader online application form.

For more information, please contact [choices@reading.org](mailto:choices@reading.org).



## 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 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA's *Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017* provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. 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](http://literacyworldwide.org).



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