

CHOICES 2020 READING LISTS

Children's Choices
Teachers' Choices
Young Adults' Choices



From the Executive Director

The Choices reading lists, published annually on May 1, present titles selected by students and educators across the United States. The three lists—Children’s Choices, Young Adults’ Choices, and Teachers’ Choices—serve as trusted and anticipated resources for connecting students to books that will help foster their love of reading.

This year’s lists arrive at a time when most of the educational institutions across the globe are closed, a measure taken by governments to slow the spread of COVID-19. In fact, UNESCO estimates that more than 90% of the world’s students have been impacted by these closures and, that as of April 2020, nearly 1.3 billion are still being actively affected by the necessary protective measures.

In a time when the world is a scary, uncertain place, reading offers refuge. The books that make up the 2020 Choices lists offer options that teachers, librarians, reading/literacy specialists, and families and caregivers can use to engage the readers in their lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcie Craig Post". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "P".

Marcie Craig Post
ILA Executive Director

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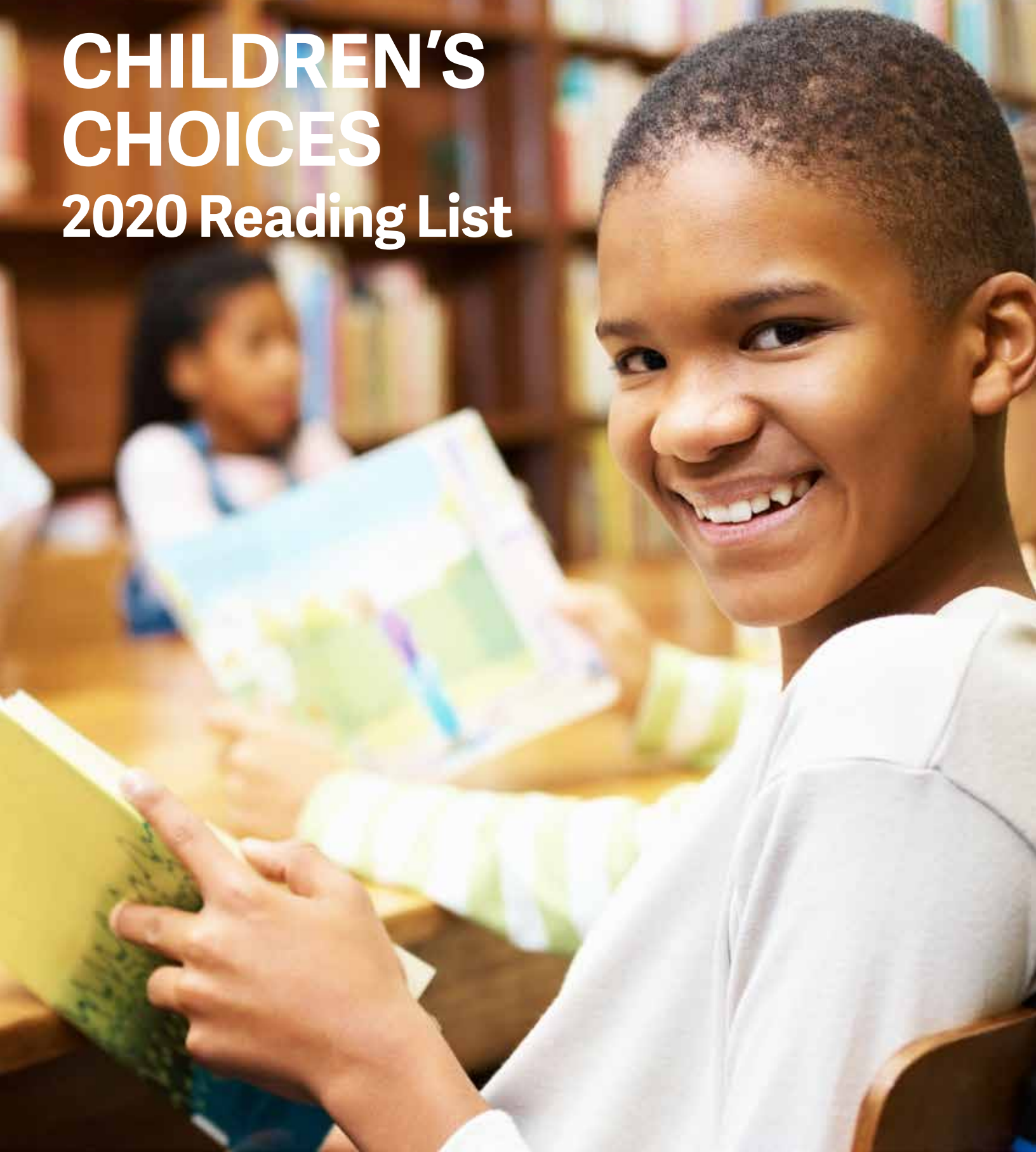
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INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION



CHILDREN'S CHOICES

2020 Reading List



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 trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. This list, a project 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.



The Babysitter From Another Planet. Stephen Savage.

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

The Babysitter From Another Planet

Stephen Savage. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books.

When their parents head out to the movies and the babysitter arrives, the children say, "She took some getting used to." Fun, colorful illustrations take over from that point, delighting readers with an out-of-this-world babysitter experience.

Bear Came Along

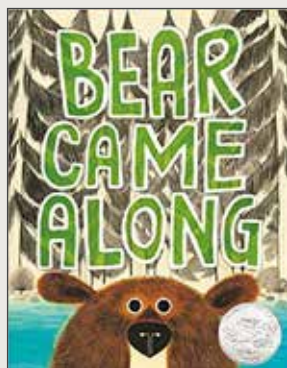
Richard T. Morris. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

The river was flowing quietly along until Bear pushes a tree over and falls in. Froggy soon joins Bear on his log, the Turtles come next, and pretty soon many animals have joined Bear on an adventure down the river. With engaging text and beautiful illustrations, this book demonstrates how each member of the party can be a valued contributor.

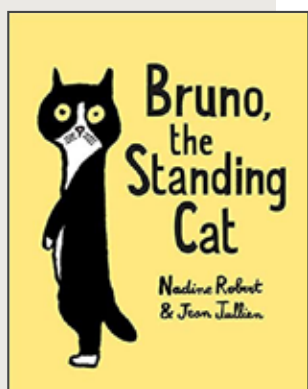
Bruno, the Standing Cat

Nadine Robert. Ill. Jean Jullien. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Bruno the Cat is anything but ordinary. He rides skateboards, serves tea, and even stands like a human. His owner, Peter, is overjoyed to have a pet cat. Friends begin to inquire about Bruno's odd behaviors, but true friendship will prevail.



Bear Came Along. Richard T. Morris.
Ill. LeUyen Pham.



Bruno, the Standing Cat.
Nadine Robert. Ill. Jean Jullien.

Dandy

Ame Dyckman. Ill. Charles Santoso. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Sweetie finds a dandelion on the lawn, names it Charlotte, and tells Daddy it is her best friend. Daddy and the neighbors want this weed removed. When Sweetie is at her swim lessons, Daddy cuts the weed before he sees Sweetie's painting of it. Sweetie is devastated, but Daddy saves the day by spreading the seeds and letting new Charlottes grow.

Field Trip to the Moon

John Hare. Holiday House/Margaret Ferguson Books.

An imaginative yet easily distracted child astronaut takes a field trip to the moon with class. Drawing pad and crayons in hand, the child daydreams while the class explores the moon. What will happen when the class leaves without the child? This wordless picture book will open readers' imagination to new worlds.

Goldilocks for Dinner: A Funny Book About Manners

Susan Montanari. Ill. Jake Parker. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

Troll and Goblin decide to head to town for a cup of tea. They hope to avoid any "wretched children" who they think are smelly, gross, and rude! After discussing the need for manners, the two decide to have the rudest child that they encounter for dinner—none other than Goldilocks. Readers will delight in the results of the dinner invitation.

The Good Egg

Jory John. Ill. Pete Oswald. HarperCollins.

In this delightful story with engaging illustrations, Good Egg finds out that he cannot change all the bad eggs in the carton—he begins cracking when he tries! So he takes time to heal. Once he returns to the carton with his friends, he has a new attitude: He does not need to be perfect. This is a great story for children and adults alike.

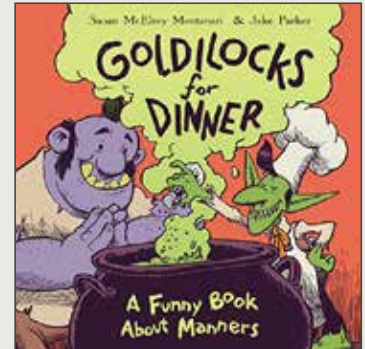
I Am a Tiger

Karl Newson. Ill. Ross Collins. Scholastic Press.

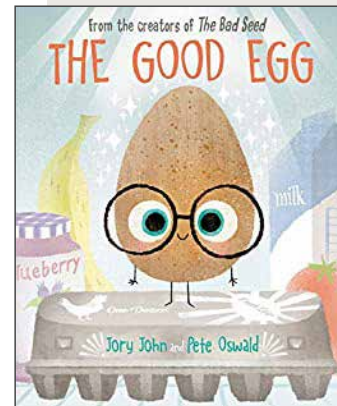
Children will love this laugh-out-loud book about a mouse who believes it is a tiger. The mouse convinces other animals that because of its "Grrr," ability to climb trees, and need to hunt for lunch that it is indeed a tiger. Isolating each animal's characteristics, the mouse dubs each as something else, including calling the raccoon a caterpillar.



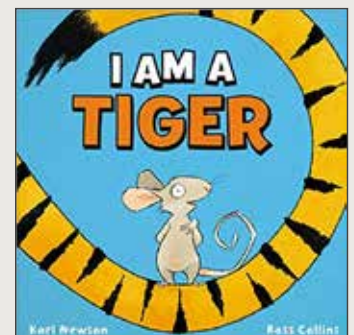
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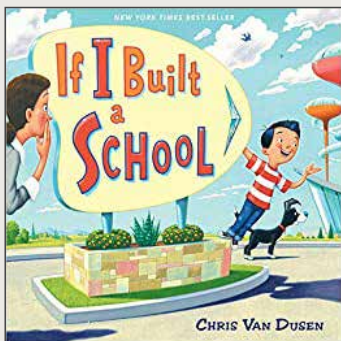
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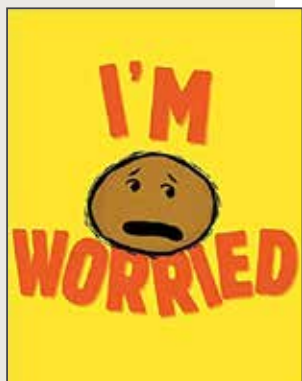
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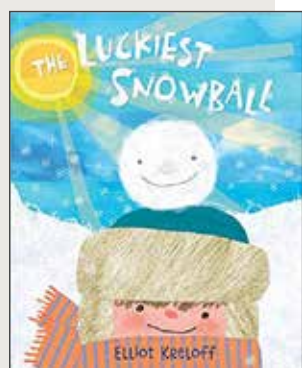
If I Built a School. Chris Van Dusen.



I'm Worried. Michael Ian Black.
Ill. Debbie Ridpath Ohi.



Little Taco Truck. Tanya Valentine. Ill. Jorge Martin.



The Luckiest Snowball.
Elliot Kreloff.

I Am Love: A Book of Compassion

Susan Verde. Ill. Peter Reynolds. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

This is a simple yet powerful text that will have an impact on readers of all ages. Verde's well-paced and relatable words leave readers with a sense of empowerment to show compassion for everyone. Reynolds's illustrations bring heart to the text and provide guidance for even the youngest of readers.

If I Built a School

Chris Van Dusen. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.

Jack has lots of amazing ideas for a school. From hover desks to a trampoline basketball court, Jack's school is superior in every way! After all, "learning is fun in a place that's fun," right? This fantastic story will engage young readers' imaginations and have them wondering if they could build a school too.

I'm Worried

Michael Ian Black. Ill. Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Potato and Flamingo are worried about the future. Once their friend points out that their worries are in the past and should no longer be a worry, their thinking is changed. Big, bold illustrations add to the charm of this book.

It's Not Hansel and Gretel

Josh Funk. Ill. Edwardian Taylor. Amazon Publishing/Two Lions.

This is not the Hansel and Gretel you know. These two siblings are questioning everything about their story, from the wasted food crumbs left on the ground to the idea that their story is called "Hansel and Gretel" and not "Gretel and Hansel"! Readers will delight and laugh as these characters decide to retell their story their way.

****Little Taco Truck***

Tanya Valentine. Ill. Jorge Martin. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

Little Taco Truck finds the perfect place to serve his customers, but what will he do when another truck parks in his spot? Vivid colors and a great lesson about communicating with others when there are problems will have readers cheering for the little taco truck.

The Luckiest Snowball

Elliot Kreloff. Holiday House.

Izzy and his dog are enjoying winter when they make Larry, a snowball that talks. Larry is introduced to Izzy's mom and takes up residence in the freezer. Each season, Larry meets several new freezer items and is taken outside to experience the season until he yells, "Help, I'm melting!" Children will love the interactive nature of the book.

My Teacher Is a Robot

Jeffrey Brown. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

Clearly Fred's teacher is a robot. Why else would Mr. Bailey not be able to go outside in the rain? Why else would he give another test? Fred's imagination and antics, as well as the vivid and colorful illustrations, will entertain young readers of any age.

No Place Like Home

Ronojoy Ghosh. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

George, a misplaced polar bear, is grumpy because he cannot remember where his home is. He decides to find his home by traveling to many different climates. When he finally arrives in an icy, cold area, he no longer feels grumpy. He realizes "there is no place like home."

Peanut Butter & Santa Claus: A Zombie Culinary Tale

Joe McGee. Ill. Charles Santoso. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

There's an emergency in Quirkville—Christmas is canceled! Reginald, Abigail Zink, and Zarfon load up the spaceship to rescue Santa from the snowstorm. But when they arrive at the North Pole, marshmallow cream has Santa and his elves stuck inside. With their peanut butter, and some creativity, they must find a way to turn this disaster around.

****The Perfect Sofa***

Fifi Kuo. Little Bee Books.

Panda has decided that he and Penguin need a new sofa. When they go shopping, they look at all different types and colors of sofas, but none seem just right. So they walk home saddened. Kids will be drawn to the playful decision making as well as the colorful, simple illustrations.

The Sad Little Fact

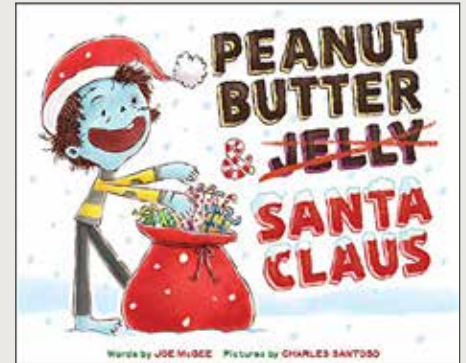
Jonah Winter. Ill. Pete Oswald. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

There once was a fact that could not tell a lie. It was sad because no one believed the truth. The authorities locked up the little fact and buried it underground with many other facts. The world grew dark and troubled until some very determined fact finders went on a mission to find the facts and set them free.

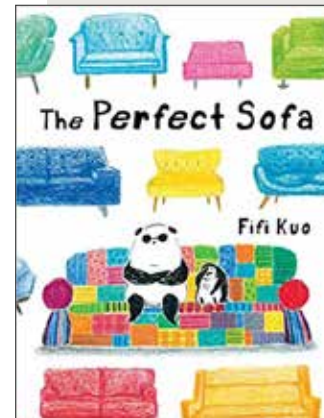
The Second Sky

Patrick Guest. Ill. Jonathan Bentley. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Gilbert wants to fly, but he keeps falling on his face, back, and bottom. Other penguins tell him to give it up, but he will not. When he sees an albatross flying above him, he heads to a cliff, jumps off, and tumbles into the sea. There, Gilbert learns that penguins can fly, but in their own special way.



Peanut Butter & Santa Claus: A Zombie Culinary Tale. Joe McGee. Ill. Charles Santoso.



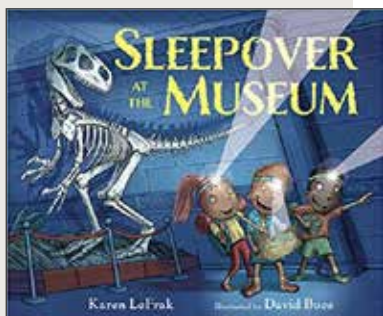
The Perfect Sofa. Fifi Kuo.



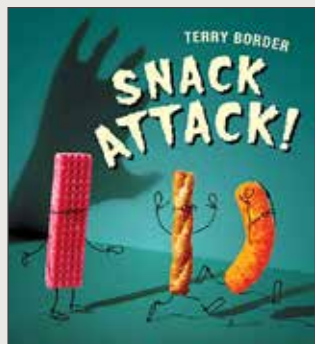
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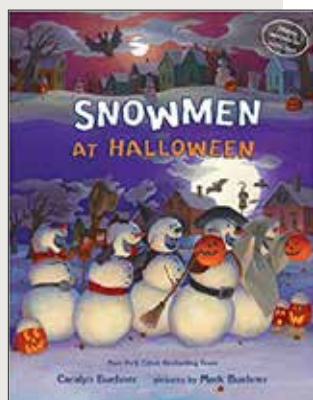
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Sleepover at the Museum. Karen LeFrak. Ill. David Bucs.



Snack Attack! Terry Border.



Snowmen at Halloween. Caralyn M. Buehner. Ill. Mark E. Buehner.



Take Your Pet to School Day. Linda Ashman. Ill. Suzanne Kaufman.

Sleepover at the Museum

Karen LeFrak. Ill. David Bucs. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

Mason is celebrating his birthday with a sleepover at his favorite place: the Museum of Natural History. Given a map and headlamp, Mason and his friends are guided through a scavenger hunt. Each illustration gives details, showing more about the exhibits, while the hidden clues lead to a birthday party and a great place to sleep.

****Snack Attack!***

Terry Border. Penguin Young Readers/Philomel Books.

A cheese doodle, pretzel stick, and cookie all escape from their packages to join forces on a little adventure in the outside world. They soon discover a note on the counter from Mom and realize they were left as snacks for her kiddo! Will they be able to hatch a plan to outsmart this monster kid?

****Snowmen at Halloween***

Caralyn M. Buehner. Ill. Mark E. Buehner. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.

Snow came early on Halloween day, and the children have fun building snowmen and dressing them up for that night. When the kids leave to go trick-or-treating, guess who comes alive, makes their own parade, gets treats, and leaves a special message for the kids to see the next day? Readers will have fun discovering hidden pictures on each page.

Superbuns! Kindness Is Her Superpower

Diane Kredensor. Simon & Schuster/Aladdin.

A new kind of superhero, Superbuns, shows the world that kindness is in fact a superpower. Buns's sister, Blossom, is annoyed with her for always taking time to help others out. Can Buns not see that this is just making them late? Then, Superbuns's power ends up saving the day. By the end, Blossom and all agree that kindness is a superpower.

Take Your Pet to School Day

Linda Ashman. Ill. Suzanne Kaufman. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

The Maple View School students get to bring their pets to school. And what an assortment of animals the students arrive with! Chaos breaks out as a result. Whose idea was that anyway? Young readers will enjoy the mayhem in this story and the detail of the pictures.

****There Are No Bears in This Bakery***

**Julia Sarcone-Roach. Random House Children's Books/
Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.**

Muffin the cat stumbles across some surprising guests at the bakery shop. New sights and sounds will make readers suspicious but also ready for some innocent indulgence. Readers will also love the featured sweet treats and the similes, which vividly paint the night shift at the bakery.

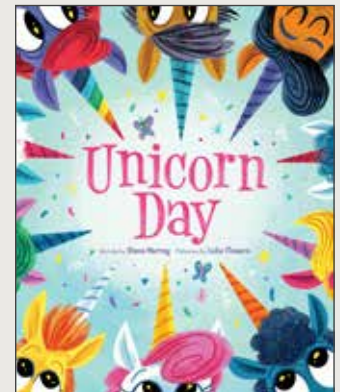


There Are No Bears in This Bakery. Julia Sarcone-Roach.

Unicorn Day

**Diana Murray. Ill. Luke Flowers. Sourcebooks
Jabberwocky.**

Happy Unicorn Day! The unicorns are all celebrating by showing off their horns, fluffing up their hair, dancing, and having fun, fun, fun! They soon realize one of their friends is not a unicorn but a horse. He turns to go, but the unicorns stop him, realizing that keeping a friend is more important.

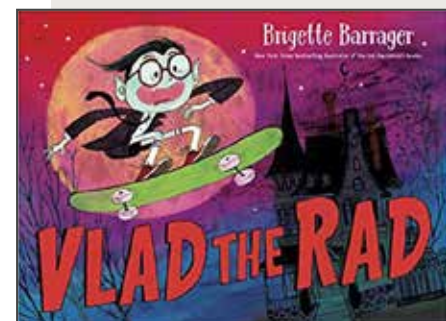


Unicorn Day. Diana Murray. Ill. Luke Flowers.

Vlad the Rad

**Brigitte Barrager. Random House Children's Books/
Random House BFYR.**

Vlad the vampire stays in trouble at Miss Fussbucket's School for Aspiring Spooks, not because he is practicing his "spookiness" but because he just loves his skateboard. Vlad takes it too far one day and gets detention, so he has to figure out a way to continue to both skateboard and spook.



Vlad the Rad. Brigitte Barrager.

When Pencil Met Eraser

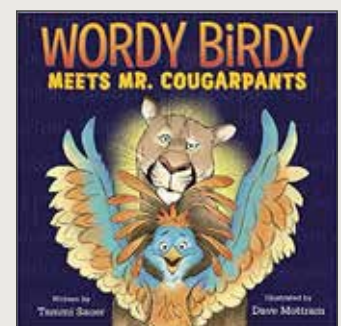
**Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos Jr. Ill. Germán Blanco.
Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Imprint.**

Pencil and Eraser may be inseparable now, but that was not always the case. At the beginning, Pencil was a solo artist, and then Eraser came along and made improvements to his work. Pencil challenges Eraser daily until one day Pencil makes a mistake and Eraser helps him out. From that day on, Eraser and Pencil are the dynamic duo we all know and love.

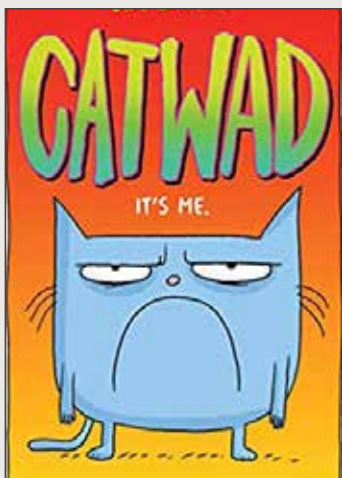
Wordy Birdy Meets Mr. Cougarpants

**Tammi Sauer. Ill. Dave Mottram. Random House Children's
Books/Doubleday BFYR.**

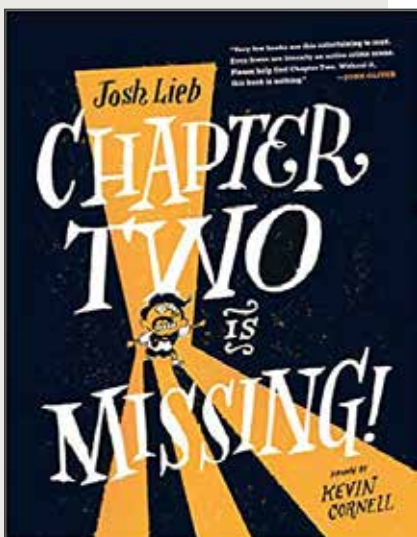
Wordy Birdy and his friends are onto another adventure: This time they are going on a camping trip. Our favorite chatty bird is all ready for a big night under the stars until Mr. Cougarpants comes to the site. Can Wordy Birdy talk himself out of danger?



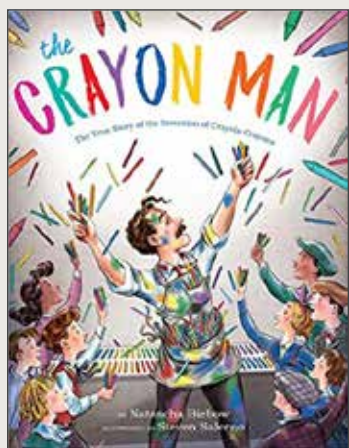
Wordy Birdy Meets Mr. Cougarpants. Tammi Sauer. Ill. Dave Mottram.



Catwad: It's Me. Jim Benton.



Chapter Two Is Missing. Josh Lieb. Ill. Kevin Cornell.



The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons. Natascha Biebow. Ill. Steven Salerno.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories: An Acorn Book (Mister Shivers)

Max Brallier. Ill. Letizia Rubegni. Scholastic.

Do you know what is under the bed? Mister Shivers does! This collection of stories is sure to thrill young readers of horror everywhere! With authentically vivid details and beautifully gothic-style characters and illustrations to match, these tales will give readers a light scare and something to tell their friends.

Catwad: It's Me

Jim Benton. Scholastic/Graphix.

Catwad is a bit of a grouch. His best friend is a dim-witted cat named Blurmp who can see the bright side of anything. He has a different take on just about everything, and he is not afraid to share it. This graphic novel is the first in the Catwad series.

****Chapter Two Is Missing***

Josh Lieb. Ill. Kevin Cornell. Penguin Young Readers/Razorbill.

An investigation is launched to find the missing chapter. Milo, the book's janitor, offers to help, but he ends up not really helping. This comical mystery is a favorite that will prompt readers to talk to the book in order to help solve the mystery.

The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons

Natascha Biebow. Ill. Steven Salerno. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Edwin Binney loved color. During the industrial age, he found that there was far too much black and gray in the world. He teamed up with Harold Smith, listened to his family about improvements, and never gave up. A story of perseverance, American ingenuity, and a dream come together to make this colorful and inspiring story.

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal

Jeff Kinney. Abrams/Amulet Books.

Jeff Kinney is at it again, but this time, we are seeing the Wimpy Kid world through the eyes of Rowley Jefferson. Friendships can be tricky, but being friends with Greg Heffley is challenging. Rowley starts a journal to document his life, but Greg has different plans. Will their friendship last through disagreements, force fields, and frequent pranks?

Dinosaur Feathers

Dennis Nolan. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books.

This beautifully illustrated book walks readers poetically through the beginning of dinosaurs to the evolution of the animals we know today. At the back of the book is a visual guide depicting the evolution of animals over millions of years.

****Does It Fart? A Kid's Guide to the Gas Animals Pass***

Nick Caruso and Dani Rabaiootti. Ill. Alex G. Griffiths. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Have you ever wondered if animals fart? Or how gas can even pass? Well, wonder no more! This entertaining and humorous nonfiction book will keep you guessing. Does a horse fart? How about a sea lion? An octopus? You will have to read this book to find out.

****The Eternal Soldier: The True Story of How a Dog Became a Civil War Hero***

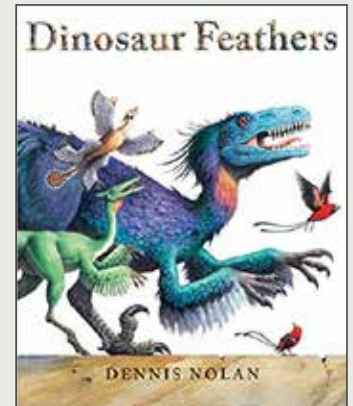
Allison Crotzer Kimmel. Ill. Rotem Teplow. Little Bee Books.

Sallie, a dog gifted to the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, goes to war with the soldiers, leading them into battle. After the fighting ended at Gettysburg, Sallie guarded the dead and wounded until help could find them. Readers will enjoy this true story of Sallie, a brave soldier of the Civil War.

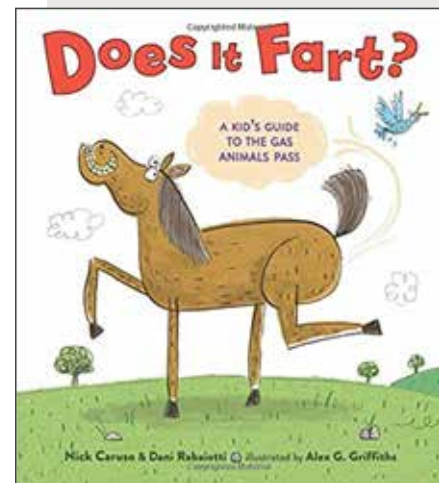
Fairy in Waiting (Fairy Mom and Me #2)

Sophie Kinsella. Ill. Marta Kissi. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte BFYR.

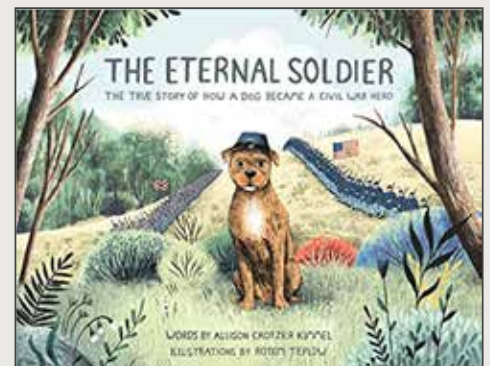
Ella Brook and her fairy mom are back! Ella is ready to be a fairy, but despite helping her mom with magic codes, she just has not finished growing up yet. What is a young fairy in waiting to do to prove she is ready? This book will thrill new readers and fans alike with the characters' funny antics and cute, quirky illustrations.



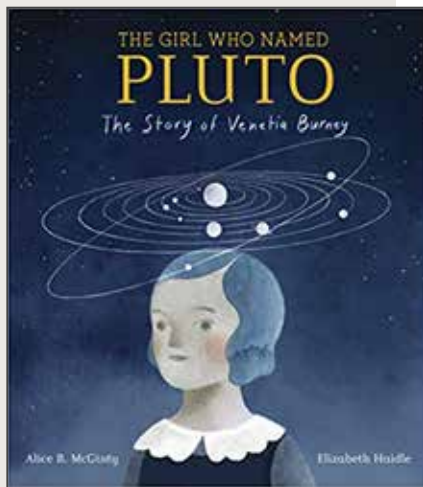
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The Eternal Soldier: The True Story of How a Dog Became a Civil War Hero. Allison Crotzer Kimmel. Ill. Rotem Teplow.



The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney. Alice B. McGinty, Ill. Elizabeth Haidle.

For Whom the Ball Rolls (Dog Man #7)

Dav Pilkey. Scholastic/Graphix.

The Supa Buddies, Li'l Petey and 80-HD, try and help Dog Man control his dog-like habits. Dog Man also finds himself being chased by a new supervillain as Petey the Cat is released from jail. This is a new book in the Dog Man series that emphasizes the importance of doing good.

The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney

Alice B. McGinty. Ill. Elizabeth Haidle. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

One day, Venetia Burney's grandfather reads aloud about a new discovery. With the help of her grandfather and his friend at London's Royal Astronomical Society, Venetia gets her chance to give the planet a name. After a vote, the scientists unanimously agree: *Pluto* is the perfect name for the dark, cold planet.

Glitch

Sarah Graley. Scholastic/Graphix.

Izzy can secretly enter her new video game world. There, she meets Rae, a robot who tells Izzy to save the video world. How can she do that and live in the real world with school, family, and her best friend, Eric? This action-packed comic is perfect for adventure lovers and gaming fans.



Glitch. Sarah Graley.

How to Be Cheeri (Team Taekwondo #3)

Master Taekwon Lee and Jeffrey Nodelman. Ill. Ethen Beavers. Random House Children's Books/Rodale Kids.

Cheeri is a hardworking perfectionist. Baeoh would rather have fun than work hard. When Master Jahngsoo pairs them together for their next-level challenge, Cheeri is not happy. In this brightly colored graphic novel, these two opposites must figure out how to work together to achieve their goals and be successful.

If You Played Hide-and-Seek With a Chameleon

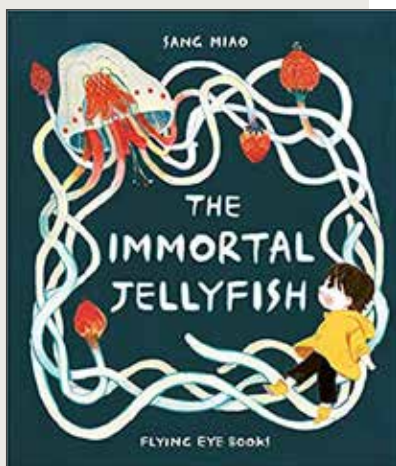
Bill Wise. Ill. Rebecca Evans. Dawn Publications.

What if kids entered into competition with animals? Who would win? Although children will probably never enter a pie-eating contest with a hippo or compete in a long-jump event with a kangaroo or play tag with a porcupine, by reading this book they will find out many interesting facts about some amazing animals.

The Immortal Jellyfish

Sang Miao. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

This book tells the touching story of a grandfather and a grandson. The grandfather journeys to the Life Transfer City where the young boy learns about reincarnation. He meets several people and animals who are choosing their next life. This is a story about the circle of life and how our loved ones can live on through memories even after they pass.



The Immortal Jellyfish. Sang Miao.

***The Karate Kid**

John G. Avildsen, Kim Smith, and Robert Mark Kamen. Ill. Kim Smith. Quirk Books.

Daniel is new in town and a bit nervous. When he is threatened by bullies at his new school, he discovers Mr. Miyagi's karate skills. Mr. Miyagi agrees to teach Daniel karate, but Daniel must first promise to learn. Readers will enjoy the illustrations that help bring the details of the lessons in the story alive.

Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot

Beverley Bass with Cynthia Williams. Ill. Joanie Stone. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Beverly started to practice flying at a very young age by jumping off of the washing machine with arms spread wide. From that time on, she worked toward her dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot, and she succeeded. The backstory at the end of the book helps readers to understand what a pioneer Beverly Bass was.

Moth: An Evolution Story

Isabel Thomas. Ill. Daniel Egnéus. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

This book is an explanation of evolution, through adaptation and survival. For readers to better understand such a complex and deeply interconnected topic, Thomas uses the simplicity of a peppered moth. The illustrations draw readers into the story with detailed beauty of light and dark.

The Moviemaking Magic of Marvel Studios: Heroes and Villains

Eleni Roussos. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

This is a comprehensive text featuring the heroes and villains within the Marvel universe. Each character is described with a backstory, while costume design and concept ideas are described using interactive flap pages. These will entertain and engage the youngest of readers, and the encyclopedia format is appropriate for more advanced readers—making the book perfect for superhero fanatics of all ages.

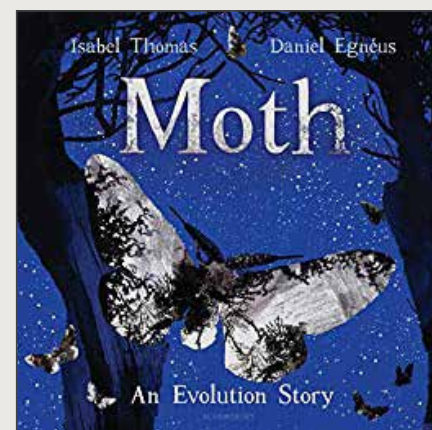
Mr. Posey's New Glasses

Ted Kooser. Ill. Daniel Duncan. Candlewick Press.

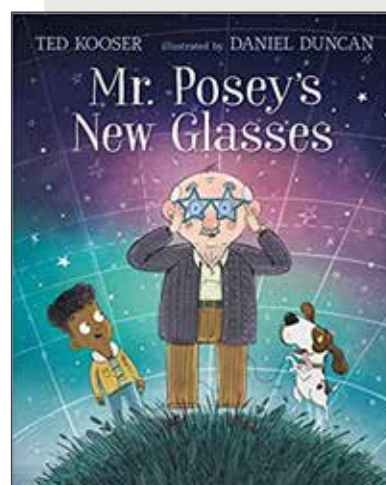
Mr. Posey is feeling gloomy and decides he needs new glasses. With the help of his young neighbor, Andy, he goes to the Cheer Up Thrift Store looking for new glasses. Each pair tried on brings a different experience. But when Andy makes a simple observation, Mr. Posey's view opens to a whole new world, where finally things are brighter and exciting.



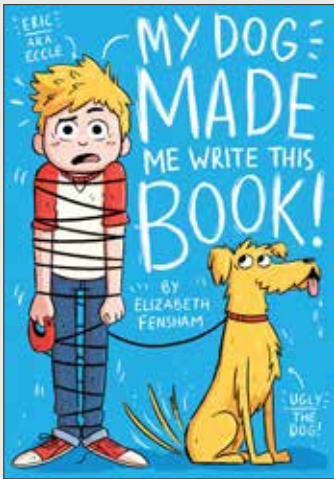
The Karate Kid. John G. Avildsen, Kim Smith, and Robert Mark Kamen. Ill. Kim Smith.



Moth: An Evolution Story. Isabel Thomas. Ill. Daniel Egnéus.



Mr. Posey's New Glasses. Ted Kooser. Ill. Daniel Duncan.



My Dog Made Me Write This Book.
Elizabeth Fensham.

My Dog Made Me Write This Book

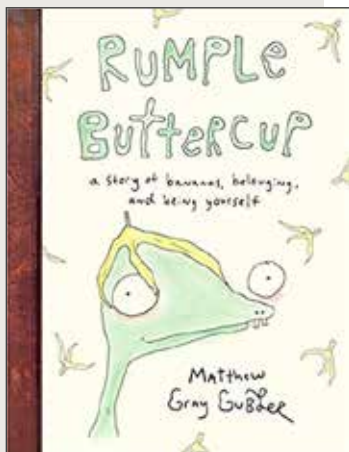
Elizabeth Fensham. Sourcebooks Young Readers.

This is a story about a boy named Eric and his dog, Ugly. The problem is that Ugly does not give Eric the time of day. Ugly is a growing puppy and is becoming quite a nuisance. When Eric and Ugly are faced with an ultimatum, Eric must figure out a way to get his dog under control.

Noodleheads Fortress of Doom

Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Holiday House.

The Noodleheads are back again, and what are they up to this time? Building a fortress of doom, of course. The question is if they will be able to stop fighting each other long enough to finish it. Readers will enjoy finding out in this fantastically illustrated and funny graphic novel.



Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself. Matthew Gray Gubler.

Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself

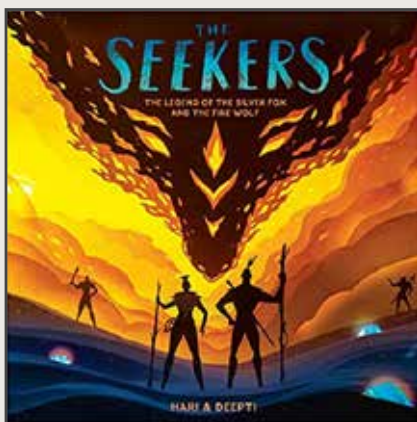
Matthew Gray Gubler. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Rumple Buttercup has five crooked teeth, three strands of hair, green skin, and a left foot that is slightly bigger than his right. He is weird. Join him and Candy Corn Carl (his imaginary friend made of trash) as they learn the joy of individuality as well as the magic of belonging.

Science You Can Eat: 20 Activities That Put Food Under the Microscope

Stefan Gates. DK Publishing.

This book answers questions about how cooking is like chemistry. Part science and part cookbook, it contains edible science experiments and interesting recipes that help readers understand what is happening with our food and why. Eye-catching illustrations, photographs, and clear labels capture readers' attention, making the book easy to follow.



The Seekers: The Legend of the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf. Hari Panicker and Deepti Nair.

The Seekers: The Legend of the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf

Hari Panicker and Deepti Nair. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Mio and Nao are siblings who go on a journey to save their village. The themes of conservation, community, and our relationship with the natural world are interspersed throughout this beautifully illustrated text. The hand-cut, colored paper illustrations are amazing, with details that will have you looking at the page long after you are done reading it.

Sofia Valdez, Future Prez

Andrea Beaty. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Sofia Valdez is a second grader who takes on the challenge of making a difference in the world. She works to change a trash pile, Mount Trashmore, into a park. The rhyming and wrapping text, as well as the message that one person can make a difference, will delight readers.

Superpower Dogs

Cosmic. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Beautiful photographs give readers a glimpse into the lives of five superhero dogs from around the world. The dogs and their trainers work to rescue people, give them emotional support, and find poachers in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Isiolo, Kenya. Readers will have many new facts to share about superhero dogs after reading this book.

The Undefeated

Kwame Alexander. Ill. Kadir Nelson. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Versify.

This poem is an ode to the persistence and grit displayed by black Americans and a tribute to those who have succeeded as activists, artists, and athletes. It is a way to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is the story of overcomers and dreamers. Alexander calls the book "a love letter to America. To black America."

WeirDo

Anh Do. Scholastic.

Weir Do is a third grader and the new kid in school. With an unforgettable name, a crazy family, and some seriously weird habits, fitting in will not be easy—but it will be funny! This tale will keep young readers laughing as Weir and his friends survive elementary school and their families.

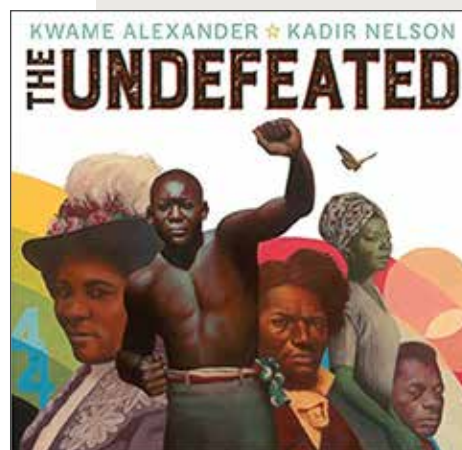
****Who Am I? A Peek-Through-Pages Book of Endangered Animals***

Tim Flach. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

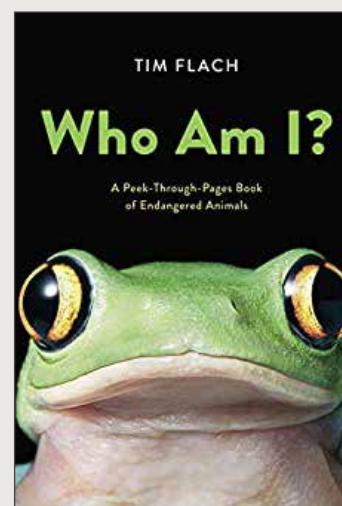
Readers can guess each animal's identity by reading a clue and looking at part of a photograph of the animal. Younger kids love guessing the animals, which range from easy (polar bear) to exotic (crowned sifaka). Animal lovers will find profiles at the end of the book explaining how each animal is endangered.



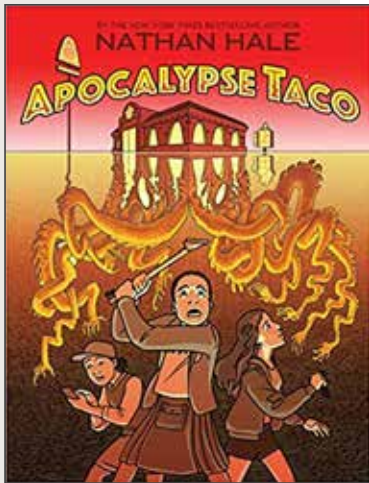
Sofia Valdez, Future Prez. Andrea Beaty. Ill. David Roberts.



The Undefeated. Kwame Alexander. Ill. Kadir Nelson.



Who Am I? A Peek-Through-Pages Book of Endangered Animals. Tim Flach.



Apocalypse Taco. Nathan Hale.

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

Apocalypse Taco

Nathan Hale. Abrams/Amulet Books.

Eleven-year-old twins Axl and Ivan and their friend, Sid, make a late-night fast food run for the theater team. Then the food from the restaurant transforms into strange beasts that attack the kids. A multiarmed graduate student takes them into an alternative world created by evil bioengineered squid-bees. Kids will enjoy the silly details and twisted events along the way.

Back to the Drawing Board (Making Friends #2)

Kristen Gudsruk. Scholastic/Graphix.

Danny is enjoying the beginning of a new school year with her best friend, Madison, and her magic sketch book. However, when Danny decides to double herself with a little magic, it makes more than a little trouble for her and her friends. Readers will be kept on their toes and will relate to the middle school woes throughout this graphic novel.



Camp. Kayla Miller.

Best Babysitters Ever

Caroline Cala. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Twelve-year-old best friends Malia, Bree, and Dot need to earn enough money for their 13th birthday bash. After reading *Kristy's Great Idea*, a book about a babysitters club, Malia decides to use the idea with her friends. Although babysitting sounds great, the three find it to be much different from what they imagined.

****Camp***

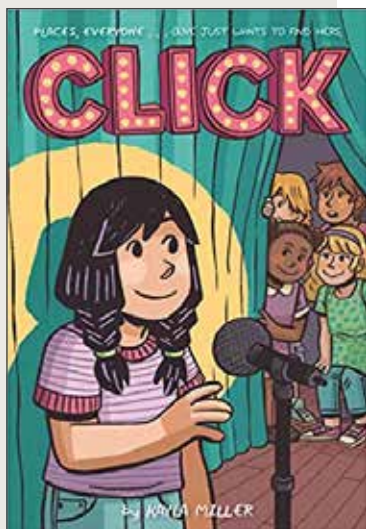
Kayla Miller. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

In this story about navigating friendships, Olive and her best friend, Willow, go off to sleepaway camp. Olive is sure that this will be the best time ever, but she soon realizes that Willow is not enjoying herself. Willow is not as outgoing as Olive and becomes dependent on Olive. Will this end their friendship?

****Click***

Kayla Miller. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Olive has many friends in her fifth-grade class. But when the annual talent show is announced, she finds herself feeling left out by all the cliques. She wants to be included, but she also wants to stay true to herself. With the help of her cool Aunt Molly, she finds out exactly how she can "click" with her friends.



Click. Kayla Miller.

The Crossover (Graphic Novel)

Kwame Alexander. Ill. Dawud Anyabwile. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Twelve-year-old basketball phenoms Josh and Jordan are “moving & grooving, bopping and rocking” on the court in this graphic novel written in verse. Their incredible basketball skills, family life, and girlfriend jealousy make for a fast-paced read that shows readers life is not all about winning.

Earth: By the Numbers

Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

A small book filled with big facts about Earth’s geographical features, it contains interesting and well-illustrated information about the Earth’s surface, its deepest places, its many disruptions (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornadoes), and its dangers (lightning, extreme temperatures, and changing continents) as well as an extensive timeline and glossary.

From an Idea to Disney: How Imagination Built a World of Magic

Lowey Bundy Sichol. Ill. C.S. Jennings. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

This book offers a historical look at how Disney World came to be and the man behind it all, Walt Disney. Part biography and part history lesson, this book takes children on a journey through the development of one of the most well-known and beloved brands. Children will be sure to enjoy the quotes and appreciate the more challenging vocabulary.

Guest: A Changeling Tale

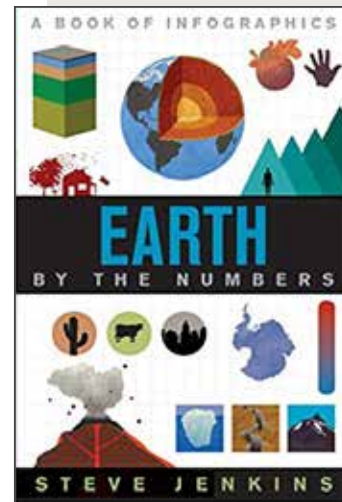
Mary Downing Hahn. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion Books.

Mollie’s baby brother, Thomas, has been stolen and switched with a mean, ugly changeling. If Mollie had not taken the locket for herself that was meant to protect Thomas, none of this would have happened. Determined to get her baby brother back, Mollie embarks on a dangerous quest to the Dark Lands.

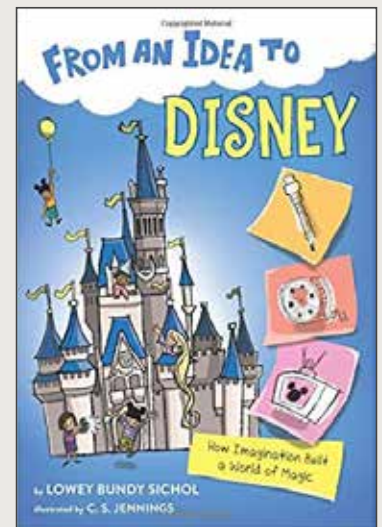
****Guts***

Raina Telgemeier. Scholastic/Graphix.

Raina grapples with her fear of vomit, which might come from the stomach flu again. On top of that, there are bullies, hormones, and middle school to cope with. Readers will relate to the many topics in this graphic novel.



Earth: By the Numbers. Steve Jenkins.



From an Idea to Disney: How Imagination Built a World of Magic. Lowey Bundy Sichol. Ill. C.S. Jennings.



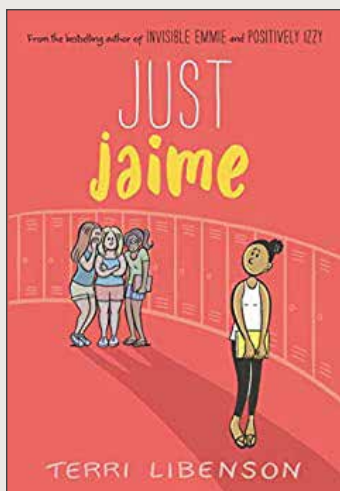
Guts. Raina Telgemeier.



Hicotea: A Nightlights Story. Lorena Alvarez.



Hotel Dare. Terry Blas. Ill. Claudia Aguirre.



Just Jaime. Terri Libenson.

Hicotea: A Nightlights Story

Lorena Alvarez. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

On a school field trip to the river, Sandy wanders away from her classmates and discovers an empty turtle shell. Peeking through the dark hole, she suddenly finds herself within a magical realm. Filled with sculptures, paintings, and books, the turtle's shell is a museum of the natural world. But one painting is incomplete, and the turtle needs Sandy's help to finish it.

Hilo #5: Then Everything Went Wrong

Judd Winick. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Hilo is a superpowered robot that looks like a regular boy. He takes a trip to his home planet of Jannus along with D.J. and Gina, his best friends. This graphic novel is filled with strange creatures, fantastic giant robots, elementary humor, and lots of action. A wide audience of early readers, struggling readers, and middle schoolers will find this book appealing.

Hotel Dare

Terry Blas. Ill. Claudia Aguirre. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

What better summer vacation plan than spending it in Mexico with your long-lost abuela? Olive, Charlotte, and Darwin are bored helping out their grandmother, but they soon discover her rundown hotel is full of secrets and adventures. Behind each door lies a new adventure and the children embrace it while strengthening their family bond in this engaging graphic novel.

Just Jaime

Terri Libenson. HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray.

Jaime and Maya have been best friends for forever. While Maya is annoyed that Jaime acts too babyish, Jaime has noticed that her friend group has been excluding her. Written in two voices, this graphic novel showcases the rollercoaster of emotions that can occur in middle school friendships, as two friends navigate peer pressures and the desire to fit in.

The Lost Heir: A Graphix Book (Wings of Fire Graphic Novel #2)

Tui Sutherland. Ill. Mike Holmes. Scholastic/Graphix.

This eagerly awaited graphic novelization of the second book in the popular Wings of Fire series about young dragons on a quest to bring peace to a world at war is a faithful adaptation sure to please fans of the novels. The engaging artwork, exciting action sequences, and heartfelt dialogue will surely win over new followers.

Max and the Midnight

Lincoln Peirce. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

Max, an apprentice to Uncle Budrick, a traveling troubadour, always wanted to be a knight. Uncle Budrick is kidnapped by King Gastley, giving Max and a band of misfits a chance to prove, through magic and misadventure, that anyone can be a knight. The plot twists and humor in this hybrid book will keep readers turning pages from beginning to end.

New Kid

Jerry Craft. HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books.

Gifted young artist Jordan Banks struggles to fit in as one of the few kids of color in a prestigious, predominantly white private school in the Bronx. Like life in middle school, the story is both awkward and funny. The consistent, varied instances of racism on campus are especially poignant—an eye-opener for some readers, whereas others will certainly identify with Jordan's struggles.

Not If I Can Help It

Carolyn Mackler. Scholastic Press.

Willa has sensory processing disorder, so she likes things a certain way. Her best friend, Ruby, is easygoing and loves new adventures. The friendship is strained when Ruby's mother and Willa's father decide to get married. This is a sweet coming-of-age story for elementary students about accepting change.

Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness and Woe

Josh Allen. Ill. Sarah J. Coleman. Holiday House.

Allen's 13 short tales tell of odd and scary occurrences that happen to ordinary kids. This book will give readers spooky stories to retell around a campfire or during a sleepover or to frighten their friends. From the spooky to bizarre, this book delights!

Pandora's Legacy

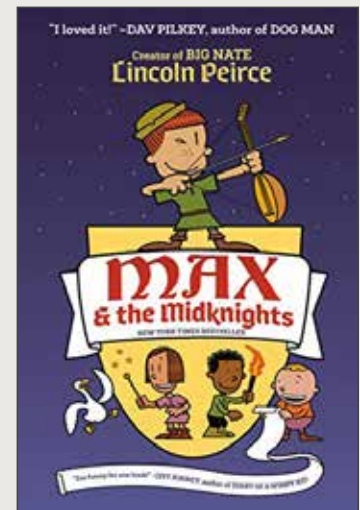
Kara Leopard. Ill. Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

While on a family vacation, three curious kids discover how their family's history ties into the turmoil inside a mythological world. Readers will be drawn to the details in the storytelling and the illustrations that bring together Greek mythology with a modern-day twist.

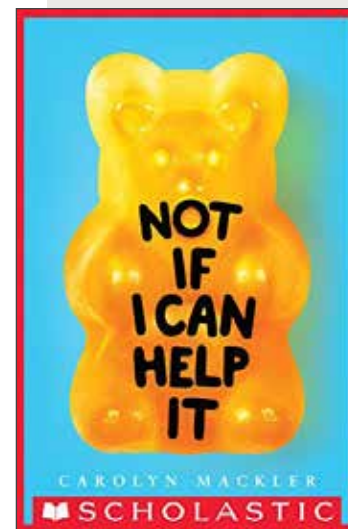
Pilu of the Woods

Mai K. Nguyen. Oni Press.

Willow's emotions are depicted as tiny monsters that emerge even when she does not want them to. In a fit of anger, she runs away in the woods and meets a little friend with similar woes. Readers will learn valuable coping skills right alongside these magnificent characters. This book touches on grief, forgiveness, and the importance of family.



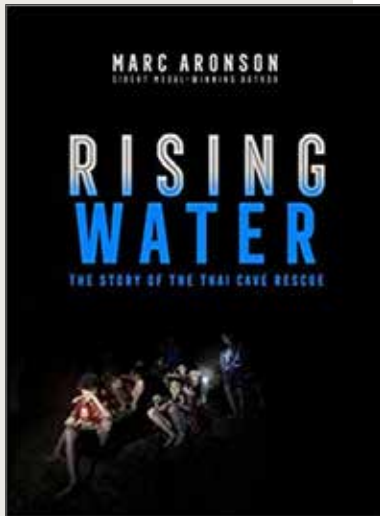
Max and the Midnight. Lincoln Peirce.



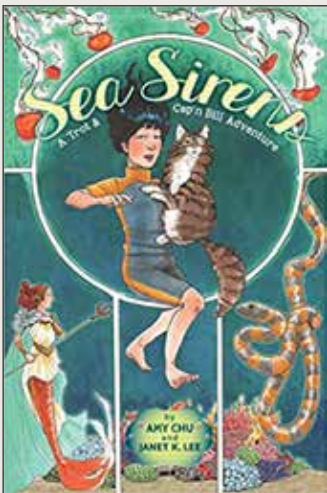
Not If I Can Help It. Carolyn Mackler.



Pandora's Legacy. Kara Leopard. Ill. Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews.



Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue. Marc Aronson.



Sea Sirens (A Trot & Cap'n Bill Adventure, Book 1). Amy Chu. Ill. Janet K. Lee.



Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island. Max de Radiguès.

The Red Maze (5 Worlds #3)

Mark Siegel and Alexis Siegel. Ill. Xanthe Bouma, Matt Rockefeller, and Boya Sun. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

This book finds Oona Lee continuing her dangerous quest to save the galaxy. Her task, with the aid of her friends Jax and An Tzu, is to reach and light the red beacon stopping the evil force working to rule the 5 Worlds. This graphic novel will hold readers' interest to the very end.

****Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue***

Marc Aronson. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Twelve members of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach became trapped in a cave complex in Thailand. A sudden downpour flooded the tunnels, leaving the group with no way out. After eight days of searching and three days of rescue diving, the team and coach make it out of the cave. Nonfiction fans will enjoy this fact-filled read.

Sea Sirens (A Trot & Cap'n Bill Adventure, Book 1)

Amy Chu. Ill. Janet K. Lee. Penguin Young Readers/Viking BFYR.

Trot, a Vietnamese American surfer girl, and Cap'n Bill, her cranky one-eyed cat, catch too big a wave and wipe out. They are sucked down into a magical underwater kingdom where an ancient deep-sea battle rages: The beautiful Sea Siren mermaids are under attack from the Serpent King and his slithery minions. Trot and her feline become dangerously entangled in this war of tails and fins.

Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island

Max de Radiguès. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

Keeping with a local tradition, Stig and Tilde hop on a dinghy and head to a desert island to survive alone without adult supervision. However, an unexpected detour leads them to the wrong island. This one looks like it is inhabited by something that is not too fond of guests.

Sunny Rolls the Dice

Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Scholastic/Graphix.

According to the Groovy Quiz, Sunny is not groovy. Deb, Sunny's best friend, is totally groovy. She is into boys, fashion, and makeup. However, Sunny would rather be playing Dungeons & Dragons in her basement with the neighborhood boys than saving money for cool new jeans. Over time, Sunny realizes she must find her own kind of groovy to be happy.

****Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children***

Edited by Kath Shackleton. Ill. Zane Whittingham.

Sourcebooks eXplore.

Heinz, Trude, Ruth, Martin, Suzanne, and Arek were sent to concentration camps by the Nazis during World War II. They tell of their experiences with the "dearest wish that no one should suffer as they did...and that we always show respect for each other." Although some pictures are upsetting, this graphic novel depicts the reality of the children's experiences.

Unplugged and Unpopular

Mat Heagerty. Ill. Tintin Pantoja and Mike Amante. Oni Press.

Erin Song loses her screen privileges because of a poor choice at school. Walking through the library, she sees a strange creature that no one else notices. Erin discovers that aliens are using mind control through everyone's screens and have hatched an evil plot to take over Earth. Now, Erin must team up with her grandmother to save the world!

White Bird: A Wonder Story

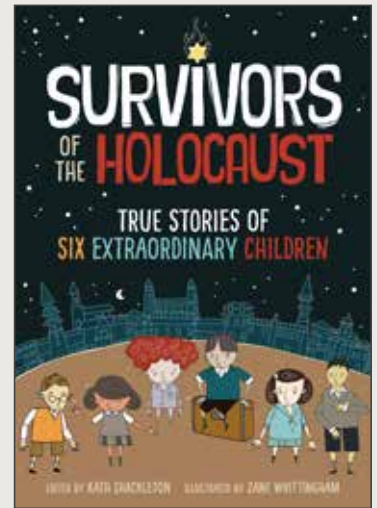
R.J. Palacio. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Grandmère Sara's story comes to light as she describes her life as a young Jewish girl during Nazi times. While hiding in a Nazi-occupied French village, she tells the tale of how a boy once shunned by classmates became her best friend.

The Woods

R.L. Toalson. Little Bee Books/Yellow Jacket.

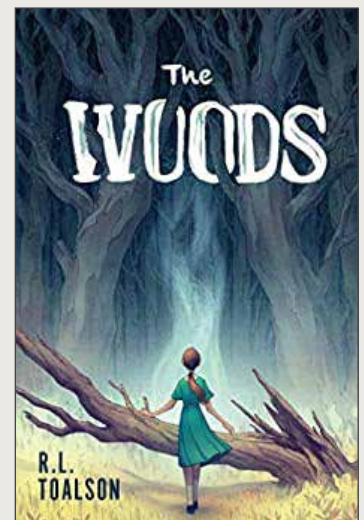
Set in the 1940s, 12-year-old Lenora is taken in by her Uncle Richard and told to stay away from the woods. However, a familiar voice lures her into the woods where she meets a magical creature named Bela. Lenora desperately wants to reunite her uncle with his son, but can she save her cousin without dooming herself?



Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children. Edited by Kath Shackleton. Ill. Zane Whittingham.



White Bird: A Wonder Story. R.J. Palacio.



The Woods. R.L. Toalson.

*Titles that received the most votes

Children's Choices 2020 Reading List

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

The Babysitter From Another Planet. Stephen Savage. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books.

Bear Came Along. Richard T. Morris. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Bruno, the Standing Cat. Nadine Robert. Ill. Jean Jullien. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Dandy. Ame Dyckman. Ill. Charles Santoso. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Field Trip to the Moon. John Hare. Holiday House/Margaret Ferguson Books.

Goldilocks for Dinner: A Funny Book About Manners. Susan Montanari. Ill. Jake Parker. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

The Good Egg. Jory John. Ill. Pete Oswald. HarperCollins.

I Am a Tiger. Karl Newson. Ill. Ross Collins. Scholastic Press.

I Am Love: A Book of Compassion. Susan Verde. Ill. Peter Reynolds. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

If I Built a School. Chris Van Dusen. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.

I'm Worried. Michael Ian Black. Ill. Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

It's Not Hansel and Gretel. Josh Funk. Ill. Edwardian Taylor. Amazon Publishing/Two Lions.

**Little Taco Truck.* Tanya Valentine. Ill. Jorge Martin. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

The Luckiest Snowball. Elliot Kreloff. Holiday House.

My Teacher Is a Robot. Jeffrey Brown. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

No Place Like Home. Ronojoy Ghosh. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Peanut Butter & Santa Claus: A Zombie Culinary Tale. Joe McGee. Ill. Charles Santoso. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

**The Perfect Sofa.* Fifi Kuo. Little Bee Books.

The Sad Little Fact. Jonah Winter. Ill. Pete Oswald. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

The Second Sky. Patrick Guest. Ill. Jonathan Bentley. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

Sleepover at the Museum. Karen LeFrak. Ill. David Bucs. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

**Snack Attack!* Terry Border. Penguin Young Readers/Philomel Books.

**Snowmen at Halloween.* Caralyn M. Buehner. Ill. Mark E. Buehner. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.

Superbuns! Kindness Is Her Superpower. Diane Kredensor. Simon & Schuster/Aladdin.

Take Your Pet to School Day. Linda Ashman. Ill. Suzanne Kaufman. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

**There Are No Bears in This Bakery.* Julia Sarcone-Roach. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Unicorn Day. Diana Murray. Ill. Luke Flowers. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.

Vlad the Rad. Brigitte Barrager. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

When Pencil Met Eraser. Karen Kilpatrick and Luis O. Ramos Jr. Ill. Germán Blanco. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Imprint.

Wordy Birdy Meets Mr. Cougarpants. Tammi Sauer. Ill. Dave Mottram. Random House Children's Books/Doubleday BFYR.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories: An Acorn Book (Mister Shivers). Max Brallier. Ill. Letizia Rubegni. Scholastic.

Catwad: It's Me. Jim Benton. Scholastic/Graphix.

**Chapter Two Is Missing.* Josh Lieb. Ill. Kevin Cornell. Penguin Young Readers/Razorbill.

The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons. Natascha Biebow. Ill. Steven Salerno. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal. Jeff Kinney. Abrams/Amulet Books.

Dinosaur Feathers. Dennis Nolan. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books.

**Does It Fart? A Kid's Guide to the Gas Animals Pass.* Nick Caruso and Dani Rabaïotti. Ill. Alex G. Griffiths. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

**The Eternal Soldier: The True Story of How a Dog Became a Civil War Hero.* Allison Crotzer Kimmel. Ill. Rotem Teplow. Little Bee Books.

Fairy in Waiting (Fairy Mom and Me #2). Sophie Kinsella. Ill. Marta Kissi. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte BFYR.

For Whom the Ball Rolls (Dog Man #7). Dav Pilkey. Scholastic/Graphix.

The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney. Alice B. McGinty. Ill. Elizabeth Haidle. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

Glitch. Sarah Graley. Scholastic/Graphix.

How to Be Cheerful (Team Taekwondo #3). Master Taekwon Lee and Jeffrey Nodelman. Ill. Ethen Beavers. Random House Children's Books/Rodale Kids.

If You Played Hide-and-Seek With a Chameleon. Bill Wise. Ill. Rebecca Evans. Dawn Publications.

The Immortal Jellyfish. Sang Miao. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

**The Karate Kid.* John G. Avildsen, Kim Smith, and Robert Mark Kamen. Ill. Kim Smith. Quirk Books.

Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot. Beverley Bass with Cynthia Williams. Ill. Joanie Stone. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Moth: An Evolution Story. Isabel Thomas. Ill. Daniel Egnéus. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

The Moviemaking Magic of Marvel Studios: Heroes and Villains. Eleni Roussos. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Mr. Posey's New Glasses. Ted Kooser. Ill. Daniel Duncan. Candlewick Press.

My Dog Made Me Write This Book. Elizabeth Fensham. Sourcebooks Young Readers.

Noodleheads Fortress of Doom. Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Holiday House.

Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself. Matthew Gray Gubler. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Science You Can Eat: 20 Activities That Put Food Under the Microscope. Stefan Gates. DK Publishing.

The Seekers: The Legend of the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf. Hari Panicker and Deepti Nair. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Sofia Valdez, Future Prez. Andrea Beaty. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

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(continued)

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WeirDo. Anh Do. Scholastic.

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Best Babysitters Ever. Caroline Cala. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

**Camp*. Kayla Miller. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

**Click*. Kayla Miller. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

The Crossover (Graphic Novel). Kwame Alexander. Ill. Dawud Anyabwile. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Earth: By the Numbers. Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

From an Idea to Disney: How Imagination Built a World of Magic. Lowey Bundy Sichol. Ill. C.S. Jennings. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Guest: A Changeling Tale. Mary Downing Hahn. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion Books.

**Guts*. Raina Telgemeier. Scholastic/Graphix.

Hicotea: A Nightlights Story. Lorena Alvarez. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

Hilo #5: Then Everything Went Wrong. Judd Winick. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Hotel Dare. Terry Blas. Ill. Claudia Aguirre. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

Just Jaime. Terri Libenson. HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray.

The Lost Heir: A Graphix Book (Wings of Fire Graphic Novel #2). Tui Sutherland. Ill. Mike Holmes. Scholastic/Graphix.

Max and the Midnighters. Lincoln Peirce. Random House Children's Books/Crown BFYR.

New Kid. Jerry Craft. Ill. Jerry Craft. HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books.

Not If I Can Help It. Carolyn Mackler. Scholastic Press.

Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness and Woe. Josh Allen. Ill. Sarah J. Coleman. Holiday House.

Pandora's Legacy. Kara Leopard. Ill. Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

Pilu of the Woods. Mai K. Nguyen. Oni Press.

The Red Maze (5 Worlds #3). Mark Siegel and Alexis Siegel. Ill. Xanthe Bouma, Matt Rockefeller, and Boya Sun. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

**Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue*. Marc Aronson. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Sea Sirens (A Trot & Cap'n Bill Adventure, Book 1). Amy Chu. Ill. Janet K. Lee. Penguin Young Readers/Viking BFYR.

Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island. Max de Radiguès. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

Sunny Rolls the Dice. Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Scholastic/Graphix.

**Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children*. Edited by Kath Shackleton. Ill. Zane Whittingham. Sourcebooks eXplore.

Unplugged and Unpopular. Mat Heagerty. Ill. Tintin Pantoja and Mike Amante. Oni Press.

White Bird: A Wonder Story. R.J. Palacio. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

The Woods. R.L. Toalson. Little Bee Books/Yellow Jacket.

*Titles that received the most votes

To learn more about the Children's Choices project, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

About the Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council (CBC) is the largest 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.

Thank You to the 2019–2020 Children’s Choices Teams

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

AREA 1

Karen Gabino (team leader), Tucson, AZ

Butterfield Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Coyote Trail Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ■ DeGrazia Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Los Amigos Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Twin Peaks K–8 School (Tucson, AZ)

AREA 2

Terrilyn Lebel Cheney (team leader), Hampstead, NH

Atkinson Academy (Atkinson, NH) ■ Danville School (Danville, NH) ■ Hampstead Central School (Hampstead, NH) ■ Hampstead Middle School (Hampstead, NH) ■ Pollard School (Plaistow, NH) ■ Timberlane Middle School (Plaistow, NH) ■ Sandown Central School (Sandown, NH) ■ Sandown North School (Sandown, NH)

AREA 3

Lark West (team leader), Bryant, AR, and Pamela Jill Green (team leader trainee), Covington, LA

Bayou Woods Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ■ Bethel Middle School (Alexander, AR) ■ Bryant Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ■ Collegeville Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ■ Episcopal Collegiate School (Little Rock, AR) ■ Florida Avenue Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ■ Lancaster Elementary School (Madisonville, LA) ■ Parkway Elementary School (Alexander, AR) ■ Riverside Elementary School (Pearl River, LA) ■ Salem Elementary School (Benton, AR) ■ Sixth Ward Elementary School (Pearl River, LA) ■ Whispering Forest Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ■ Woodlake Elementary School (Mandeville, LA)

AREA 4

Nan Brandenbergerpayne (team leader), Missoula, MT

Bonner Elementary School (Bonner, MT) ■ Chief Charlo Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ■ Franklin Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ■ Hawthorne Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ■ Jeannette Rankin School (Missoula, MT) ■ Lewis and Clark Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ■ Paxson Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ■ Russell Elementary School (Missoula, MT)

AREA 5

Michelle Fish (team leader), Elkhart, IN

Battell Elementary School (Mishawaka, IN) ■ Bethel University Lab Kindergarten (Mishawaka, IN) ■ Clay International Academy (South Bend, 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)

A smiling male teacher with dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, stands in a classroom. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera. In the background, out of focus, are bookshelves filled with books and other students working at desks.

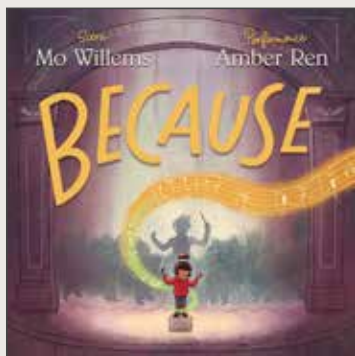
INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

TEACHERS' CHOICES

2020 Reading List

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.



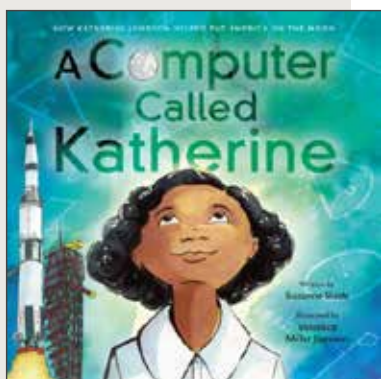
Because. Mo Willems. Ill. Amber Ren.

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

Because

Mo Willems. Ill. Amber Ren. Disney Book Group/Hyperion Books for Children.

In a text that is different from Willems's general style, readers find a lyrical story explaining what happens "because" for the little girl featured here. Throughout a journey from spectator to performer, readers understand that one event has an effect on others to follow.



A Computer Called Katherine.
Suzanne Slade. Ill. Veronica Miller Jamison.

The Bell Rang

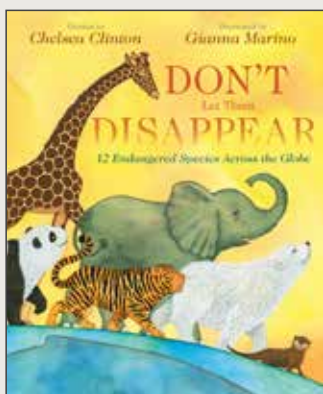
James E. Ransome. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

This book tells the simplistic story of an enslaved family's rhythm of life. Every day when the bell rings, each family member has specific jobs to undertake. The same pattern is followed until the bell rings and Ben is missing. Readers gain insight into the family's thoughts when their loved one is gone.

A Computer Called Katherine

Suzanne Slade. Ill. Veronica Miller Jamison. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Katherine Johnson was wise beyond her years. As a young child, she understood that one should not be treated differently because of skin color or have limited choices because of gender. She proved this by finishing college at a young age and playing a vital role with NASA.



Don't Let Them Disappear. Chelsea Clinton. Ill. Gianna Marino.

Don't Let Them Disappear

Chelsea Clinton. Ill. Gianna Marino. Philomel Books.

Most readers will know that our world is filled with millions of animals, but do you know which ones are in danger of extinction? Clinton shares clear information about what makes the animals special, what threatens them, and how soon they could each become extinct if nothing changes.

I Didn't Stand Up

Lucy Falcone. Ill. Jacqueline Hudon. Clockwise Press.

Based on a poem first written in response to Nazi oppression, this story gives a picture of common methods of oppression and how children may feel as a bystander or victim.

Just Ask!

Sonia Sotomayor. Ill. Rafael Lopez. Philomel Books.

Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor uses her childhood experience of having diabetes as the impetus for this book about differences among children. She shows that even though you might be different from others, you can work together to achieve great things, and if you are confused about someone or something, you should *just ask!*

Meet Miss Fancy

Irene Latham. Ill. John Holyfield. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

Frank is obsessed with elephants and wants only to visit Miss Fancy, but his skin color prohibits this. When his carefully constructed plan to get close is protested, he is doubly heartbroken. When Miss Fancy escapes and Frank has the chance to save her, he knows that skin color does not affect whether he should help.

****Moon! Earth's Best Friend***

Stacy McAnulty. Ill. Stevie Lewis. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

Young readers are introduced to this nonfiction "autobiography" told from the moon's perspective. Moon explains why she and Earth will always stick together and how she never turns her back on Earth. This is a wonderful explanation of the moon's purpose and relationship to our planet.

Snowman - Cold = Puddle: Spring Equations

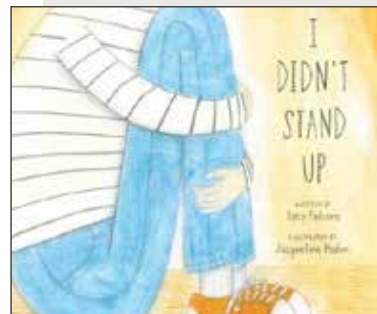
Laura Purdie Salas. Ill. Micha Archer. Charlesbridge.

Do math and science relate? Sure they do, in this exploration of spring equations. Although each equation seems simple, the informative sidebars explain the relationship between the two and how there is science behind the various signs we see each spring.

What Is Given From the Heart

Patricia C. McKissack. Ill. April Harrison. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

James Otis's mother shares the importance of giving, even when there seems to be little to give. He struggles with choosing something to place in the "love" box for a family who has lost everything. When his mother reminds him that choosing something from the heart makes a difference, James figures out what to give.



I Didn't Stand Up. Lucy Falcone. Ill. Jacqueline Hudon.



Just Ask! Sonia Sotomayor. Ill. Rafael Lopez.



Meet Miss Fancy. Irene Latham. Ill. John Holyfield.



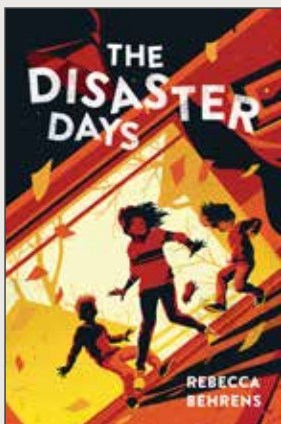
Moon! Earth's Best Friend. Stacy McAnulty. Ill. Stevie Lewis.



The Bridge Home. Padma Venkatraman.



Can You Hear the Trees Talking? Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest. Peter Wohlleben.



The Disaster Days. Rebecca Behrens.



Mario and the Hole in the Sky: How a Chemist Saved Our Planet. Elizabeth Rusch. Ill. Teresa Martinez.

Intermediate Readers

(Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

The Bridge Home

Padma Venkatraman. Penguin Young Readers/Nancy Paulsen Books.

The poverty and homelessness prevalent in contemporary India are the focus of this story of friendship and perseverance for four children attempting to survive on their own in urban squalor. Young readers gain cultural insight into and awareness of others in less fortunate circumstances.

Can You Hear the Trees Talking? Discovering the Hidden Life of the Forest

Peter Wohlleben. Greystone Kids.

The science and intricate relationship of trees within forests are beautifully shared in this engaging work filled with photographs. Young readers will be fascinated and enlightened as they learn more about this intriguing element of nature.

The Disaster Days

Rebecca Behrens. Sourcebooks Young Readers.

What to do in the face of a crisis? Hannah Steele has no worries about babysitting, until the earth starts shaking and disaster strikes. What to do when she is all alone and no way to reach help? Readers will find suspense and adventure awaiting them in this book.

Even More Lesser Spotted Animals

Martin Brown. Scholastic/David Fickling Books.

In a cartoon-like and humorous style, Martin Brown informs and entertains young readers with intriguing facts about creatures that are not so well known. Fans of nonfiction and nature will be delighted with these anecdotes to broaden their knowledge of animals.

Mario and the Hole in the Sky: How a Chemist Saved Our Planet

Elizabeth Rusch. Ill. Teresa Martinez. Charlesbridge.

Mexican American Mario Molina helped solve the ozone crisis of the 1980s. As a young child, Molina studied everything he could about the world, and when he was a little older, he discovered the harm that chlorofluorocarbons were causing our planet. His quick action and education of this issue has helped save our ozone.

Our Flag Was Still There

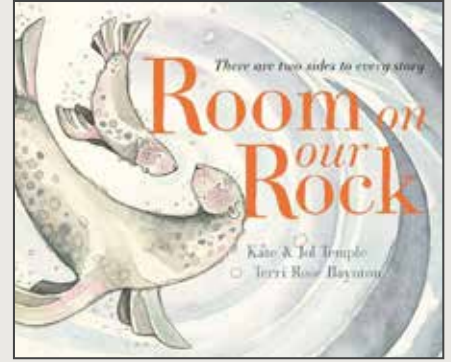
Jessie Hartland. Paula Wiseman Books.

In 1812, Mary Pickersgill was tasked with sewing a very large American flag. It ended up being 30 feet long and 42 feet wide. Hartland crafts the story so readers can see the immense task of creating this flag and how it had an impact on the United States national anthem.

Room on Our Rock

Kate Temple & Jol Temple. Ill. Terri Rose Baynton. Kane Miller: A Division of EDC Publishing.

This clever work provides opportunities for discussion in its creative perspective on the treatment of others. Using a group of seals to convey the message, the work evokes compassion after first reading forward and then in reverse.



Room on Our Rock. Kate Temple & Jol Temple.
Ill. Terri Rose Baynton.

****Thurgood***

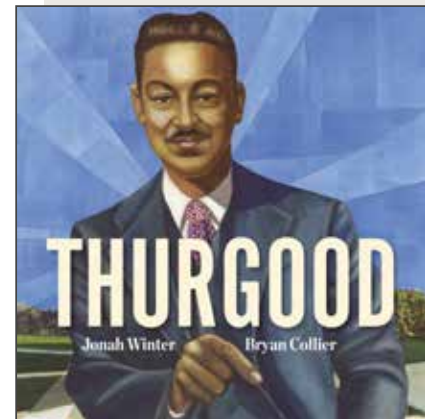
Jonah Winter. Ill. Bryan Collier. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

Known for being the loudest talker, a joke teller, and best arguer, it is no wonder that Thurgood Marshall became a lawyer. As intricate illustrations combine with the powerful story, readers learn how Thurgood became known as Mr. Civil Rights and the first black Supreme Court justice.

The Undefeated

Kwame Alexander. Ill. Kadir Nelson. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Versify.

With beautifully illustrated details, Alexander's poem, originally written for ESPN, shows the trauma of slavery, the Civil Rights movement, and the perseverance of the black community. Alexander brings in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, and Gwendolyn Brooks while giving readers a glimpse of the strength exhibited through history.



Thurgood. Jonah Winter. Ill. Bryan Collier.

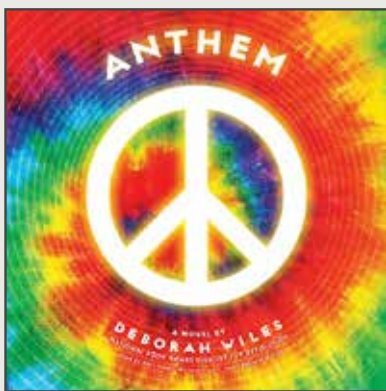
What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet

Jess French. DK Publishing.

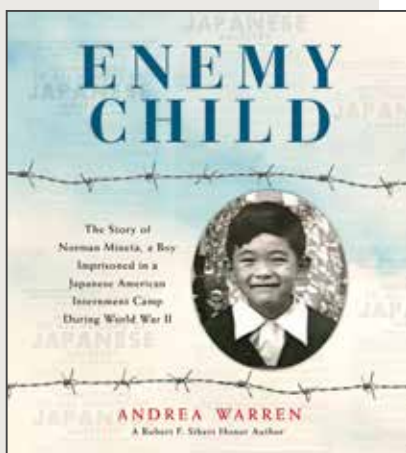
Thought-provoking facts and statistics provide readers with profound evidence for living a greener lifestyle. Ideas for positive change for minimizing waste and lessening our impact on the environment offer lasting lessons for readers.



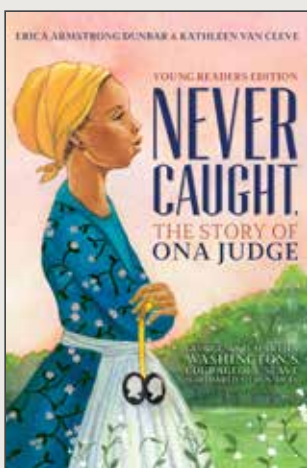
What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting Our Planet. Jess French.



Anthem. Deborah Wiles.



Enemy Child: The Story of Norman Mineta, a Boy Imprisoned in a Japanese American Internment Camp During World War II. Andrea Warren.



Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge. Erica Armstrong Dunbar.

Advanced Readers

(Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

Anthem

Deborah Wiles. Scholastic Press.

This documentary novel captures the uncertain times of America in 1969 as two cousins travel through the country with an important family mission at hand. The content of the book is set with the culture, music, and images relevant to the times and provides poignant references for this historical fiction.

Enemy Child: The Story of Norman Mineta, a Boy Imprisoned in a Japanese American Internment Camp During World War II

Andrea Warren. Margaret Ferguson Books.

This important biography of Norman Mineta's life experiences as a Japanese American focuses on his family's forced internment in a camp in World War II. The work enlightens readers with an informative story of resilience and perseverance set in context of this lesser known side of U.S. history.

Genesis Begins Again

Alicia D. Williams. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Teenager Genesis battles her negative self-image as a dark-skinned African American and her emotional struggles in search of friendship and acceptance. Her personal challenges are compounded by her unstable home life set with addiction, abuse, and economic uncertainty.

Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge

Erica Armstrong Dunbar. Aladdin.

As a slave in the household of George and Martha Washington, Ona was a valued worker until her escape in 1796. This nonfiction look at the Washingtons' persistent search for her return provides a necessary glimpse of another element of early American history.

Reaching for the Moon

Katherine Johnson. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Katherine Johnson relates her story of perseverance and success as an African American woman thriving as a mathematician at NASA despite the challenges of racism and sexism in the mid-20th century. Her skills led to her contributions as a valued team member of the U.S. space program.

Refugee 87

Ele Fountain. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Suspense drives this story as a young refugee's life is upended and he struggles to flee a controlling government's power and cruelty. Shif's journey to seek freedom is filled with danger and fear with the undertones of hope and kindness.

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise

Dan Gemeinhart. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

Coyote and her father travel the country in a school bus in an attempt to escape from grief in the aftermath of a devastating loss. When Coyote realizes she has the chance for some closure, their journey changes in purpose and allows for empathy to positively affect their lives.

Roll With It

Jamie Sumner. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

The limits and concerns that impart Ellie's life with cerebral palsy accompany the new stresses of moving to help care for her ailing grandpa. Ellie's struggle for acceptance and quest for friendship accompany the narrative of her quest to become a skilled baker.

***Song for a Whale**

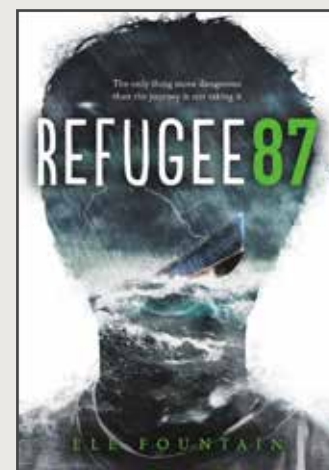
Lynne Kelly. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte BFYR.

As a deaf child, Iris becomes fascinated with the plight of a whale being studied for its unique song, which causes a communication gap for reaching others within its pod. Iris's talent with radio repair and her connection to the whale's situation inspires her to research a way to help.

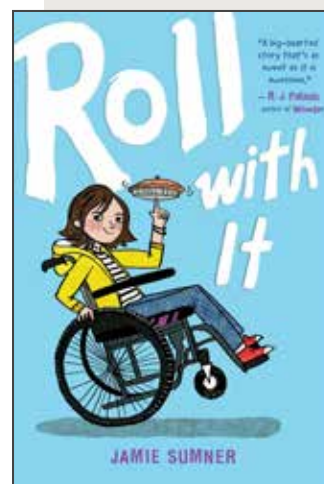
White Bird: A Wonder Story

R.J. Palacio. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

The important message of the powers of friendship and hope shine through in this graphic novel depiction that elaborates on the story of Julian's grandmother in Palacio's *Wonder* as she seeks to survive as a Jew in Nazi-occupied France in World War II.



Refugee 87. Ele Fountain.



Roll With It. Jamie Sumner.



Song for a Whale. Lynne Kelly.

* Titles that received the most votes

Teachers' Choices 2020 Reading List

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

Because. Mo Willems. Ill. Amber Ren. Disney Book Group/Hyperion Books for Children.

The Bell Rang. James E. Ransome. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

A Computer Called Katherine. Suzanne Slade. Ill. Veronica Miller Jamison. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Don't Let Them Disappear. Chelsea Clinton. Ill. Gianna Marino. Philomel Books.

I Didn't Stand Up. Lucy Falcone. Ill. Jacqueline Hudon. Clockwise Press.

Just Ask! Sonia Sotomayor. Ill. Rafael Lopez. Philomel Books.

Meet Miss Fancy. Irene Latham. Ill. John Holyfield. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers.

**Moon! Earth's Best Friend.* Stacy McAnulty. Ill. Stevie Lewis. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers.

Snowman – Cold = Puddle: Spring Equations. Laura Purdie Salas. Ill. Micha Archer. Charlesbridge.

What Is Given From the Heart. Patricia C. McKissack. Ill. April Harrison. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

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

The Bridge Home. Padma Venkatraman. Penguin Young Readers/Nancy Paulsen Books.

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Even More Lesser Spotted Animals. Martin Brown. Scholastic/David Fickling Books.

Mario and the Hole in the Sky: How a Chemist Saved Our Planet. Elizabeth Rusch. Ill. Teresa Martinez. Charlesbridge.

Our Flag Was Still There. Jessie Hartland. Paula Wiseman Books.

Room on Our Rock. Kate Temple & Jol Temple. Ill. Terri Rose Baynton. Kane Miller: A Division of EDC Publishing.

**Thurgood.* Jonah Winter. Ill. Bryan Collier. Random House Children's Books/Schwartz & Wade.

The Undefeated. Kwame Alexander. Ill. Kadir Nelson. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Versify.

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Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge. Erica Armstrong Dunbar. Aladdin.

Reaching for the Moon. Katherine Johnson. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Refugee 87. Ele Fountain. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

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To learn more about the Teachers' Choices project, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

The 2020 Teachers' Choices titles, available in four collections, can be purchased through our partner Booksource, who specializes in helping educators find the best books to engage and inspire today's readers: booksource.com/ila-collections

Thank You to the 2019–2020 Teachers' Choices Teams

Project cochairs: April Hoying, Russia, OH, and Heather Jones, Smyrna, DE

AREA 1

Tracey MacLachlan (team leader), Washougal, WA

Canyon Creek Middle School (Washougal, WA)
■ Columbia River Gorge Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ■ Gause Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ■ Hathaway Elementary School (Washougal, WA) ■ Heritage High School (Vancouver, WA) ■ Jemtegaard Middle School (Washougal, WA) ■ Prune Hill Elementary School (Camas, WA) ■ Woodburn Elementary School (Camas, WA)

AREA 2

Tammy Parker (team leader), Claymont, DE

Brandywine High School (Wilmington, DE)
Carrcroft Elementary School (Wilmington, DE)
Claymont Elementary School (Wilmington, DE)
Concord High School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Forwood Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Hanby Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Harlan Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Lancashire Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Las Americas Aspira Academy (Newark, DE) ■ Lombardy Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Maple Lane Elementary School (Claymont, DE) ■ Mount Pleasant Elementary School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Mount Pleasant High School (Wilmington, DE) ■ P.S. DuPont Middle School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Springer Middle School (Wilmington, DE) ■ Talley Middle School (Wilmington, DE)

AREA 3

Sharon Thompson (team leader), Biloxi, MS

Biloxi Upper Elementary School (Biloxi, MS) ■ Central Elementary School (Pascagoula, MS) ■ Cherokee Elementary School (Pascagoula, MS) ■ Escatawpa Upper Elementary School (Moss Point, MS) ■ Magnolia Middle School (Moss Point, MS) ■ Martin Bluff Elementary School (Pascagoula, MS) ■ Trent Lott Academy (Pascagoula, MS)

AREA 4

Sherry Harrington (team leader), Imperial, MO

Antonia Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ■ Antonia Middle School (Barnhart, MO) ■ Brentwood School District (Brentwood, MO) ■ Clyde Hamrick Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ■ Confluence Academy (St. Louis, MO) ■ Fox Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ■ Guffey Elementary School (Fenton,

MO) ■ Hazelwood School District (St. Louis, MO) ■ Hodge Elementary School (Imperial, MO) ■ Lindbergh School District (Sappington, MO) ■ Lonedell Elementary School (Arnold, MO) ■ Meramec Heights Elementary School (Arnold, 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)

AREA 5

Julie Greenberg (team leader), Oregon, OH, and Gary Willhite (team leader trainee), Holmen, WI

Bangor Elementary School (Bangor, WI) ■ Coulee Montessori (La Crosse, WI) ■ Eagle Bluff Elementary School (Onalaska, WI) ■ Evergreen Elementary School (Holmen, WI) ■ Hamilton Elementary School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Hintgen Elementary School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Holmen Middle School (Holmen, WI) ■ Irving Pertzsch Elementary School (Onalaska, WI) ■ Lemonweir Elementary School (Tomah, WI) ■ Lincoln Middle School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Longfellow Middle School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Maplewood Elementary School (Sparta, WI) ■ Maumee City Schools (Maumee, OH) ■ Northern Hills Elementary School (Onalaska, WI) ■ Northside Elementary (La Crosse, WI) ■ North Woods Elementary (La Crosse, WI) ■ Onalaska Middle School (Onalaska, WI) ■ Oregon City Schools (Oregon, OH) ■ Prairie View Elementary School (Holmen, WI) ■ Rio Elementary School (Rio, WI) ■ Rossford Schools (Rossford, OH) ■ Sand Lake Elementary School (Holmen, WI) ■ School of Technology & Arts I (La Crosse, WI) ■ Southern Bluffs Elementary School (La Crosse, WI) ■ State Road Elementary School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Summit Elementary School (La Crosse, WI) ■ Toledo Public Schools (Toledo, OH) ■ Universal Academy Charter School (Minneapolis, MN) ■ University of Toledo (Toledo, OH) ■ Viking Elementary School (Holmen, WI) ■ Washington Local Schools (Toledo, OH)

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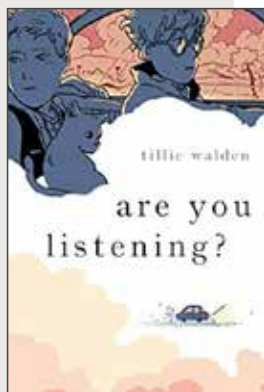
YOUNG ADULTS' CHOICES

2020 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 (ILA), and was supervised by the Association's Literature for Young Adults Committee. Cosponsored by ILA and the Children's Book Council (CBC), 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 themes, topics, and stories young adults value.

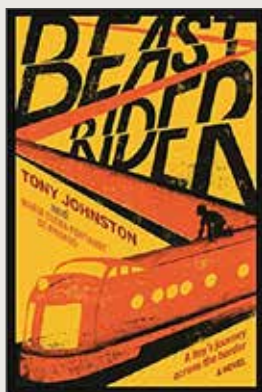


Are You Listening?
Tillie Walden.

Are You Listening?

Tillie Walden. Macmillan Children's Book Group/First Second.

This graphic novel follows two LGBTQIA characters on a road trip, as each struggles to process and grow beyond their respective trauma and grief. Walden's blend of magical realism and raw, relatable heartache lends an element of refreshing unpredictability to this story about the power of friendship and the often painful process of healing after personal tragedy.



Beast Rider. Tony Johnston
and María Elena Fontanot
De Rhoads.

Beast Rider

Tony Johnston and María Elena Fontanot De Rhoads. Abrams/Amulet Books.

When 12-year-old Manuel leaves his home in Mexico to join his brother in Los Angeles, California, he begins a perilous journey. To make it to the border, he becomes a "beast rider," hopping a train in the face of great danger.



*Before They Were Authors:
Famous Writers as Kids.*
Elizabeth Haidle.

Before They Were Authors: Famous Writers as Kids

Elizabeth Haidle. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Ten authors' childhood lives are vividly described in this colorful, graphic format. Writing and reading in many forms are entwined throughout the book including poems, newspapers, animation, drawing, and letters. The historic context, hardships, and daily routines of these legendary authors help readers appreciate the numerous influences on writers.

The Bridge Home

Padma Venkatraman. Penguin Young Readers/Nancy Paulsen Books.

Structured as letters from Viji to her sister, Venkatraman introduces four preteens forced by abuse and neglect into homelessness in India. A tale of survival, this book describes the agonizing choices family and friends must make to protect loved ones. This missive exemplifies the powerful bond between humans and our obligation to help one another cope with and overcome tragedy.

The Cold Is in Her Bones

Peternelle van Arsdale. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Gender roles and feminism are explored in this retelling of the Medusa myth. Milla learns the chilling truth that her new friend, Iris, is afflicted by the demon Hulda. When Iris is taken to quarantine, Milla secretly follows. During the journey, snakes appear in Milla's scalp, giving her the ability to embrace a wild strength and the courage to break the curse.

The Field Guide to the North American Teenager

Ben Philippe. HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray.

Norris, a black French Canadian, has to move to Austin, Texas, where he meets someone from each of the major cliques: jocks, nerds, loners. He never actually tries to make friends because he knows he will be going back to Canada where he belongs. Later, he somehow finds himself going to prom where he might actually care what others think.

Five Feet Apart

Rachael Lippincott with Mikki Daughtry and Tobias Iaconis. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Controlling Stella and free-spirited Will, both cystic fibrosis patients, meet in the hospital while receiving treatments. Their disease means they can never touch, but that does not stop them from pursuing their love. Will knows he needs to stay away from Stella, so as not to endanger her lung transplant chances, but can he? This is a heartbreaking story of love and loss.

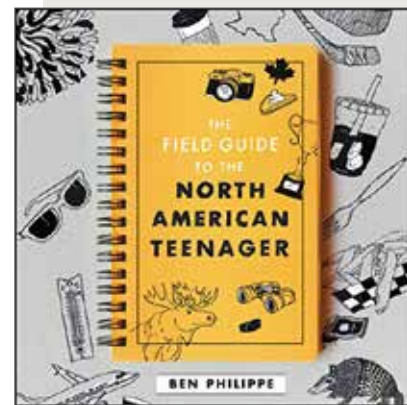
Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History (Young Readers' Edition)

Keith O'Brien. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Fly girls refused to follow tradition. The obstacles these women faced in a male-dominated field challenged them to surpass expectations. These accounts are notable for not just what was achieved but also the time in history in which they were achieved. The stories of these five women's lives reads like fiction but is replete with facts about planes, races, and history.



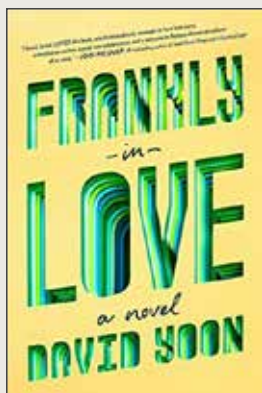
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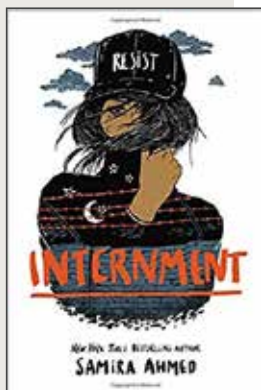
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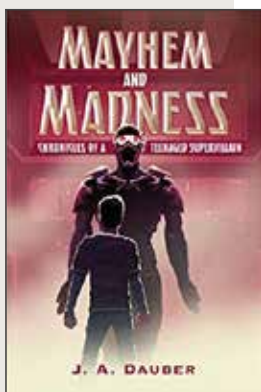
Frankly in Love. David Yoon.



Internment.
Samira Ahmed.



Loki: Where Mischief Lies.
Mackenzi Lee. Ill. Stephanie Hans.



*Mayhem and Madness:
Chronicles of a Teenaged
Supervillain.* J.A. Dauber.

Frankly in Love

David Yoon. Penguin Young Readers/G.P. Putnam's Sons
BFYR.

Frank is torn between his love for his fun and nerdy white girlfriend and his conflicting sense of duty to his matchmaking traditionalist parents. A Korean American teen, Frank looks for solutions to get out of his arranged relationship only to discover some surprising things about himself and first loves.

The Haunted

Danielle Vega. Penguin Young Readers/Razorbill.

A teen refuses therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder and faces major changes. Starting with a clean slate at a new school, Hendricks is unsure whether the visions she sees and voices she hears are reality until her house tries to hurt her brother and her father. She and an unlikely assistant tackle her ghosts together to lay the past to rest.

Internment

Samira Ahmed. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Ahmed's novel imagines the equivalent of what law-abiding Japanese Americans suffered during World War II for Muslim American citizens today. The Amin family's internment illustrates the consequences of perpetuating a fear of "others," the result of a populace controlled by prejudice. Ultimately, however, this is a message of resistance and hope, a triumph of morality, where community and humanity prevail.

Life Sucks: How to Deal With the Way Life Is, Was, and Always Will Be Unfair

Michael I. Bennett and Sarah Bennett. Ill. Bridget Gibson.
Penguin Young Readers/Penguin Workshop.

With no-nonsense advice, this father-daughter duo explains just how much high school is a hormonal, stressful, and chaotic storm phase of life that is not really all clichés. You really can be whoever you want once you figure out who that is, and some adults can be helpful as allies.

****Loki: Where Mischief Lies***

Mackenzi Lee. Ill. Stephanie Hans. Disney Book Group/
Marvel Press.

Young Loki longs to be seen as respected and heroic, but he lives in the shadow of his brother Thor. His magic makes others suspect villainy; only Amora sees magic as a gift, not a threat.

Mayhem and Madness: Chronicles of a Teenaged Supervillain

J.A. Dauber. Holiday House.

When Bailey discovers a computerized and armored flying suit in a hidden bunker under his home, his life as an average teenager is over. Could the suit have belonged to his father who mysteriously disappeared years ago?

***Mirror, Mirror: A Twisted Tale**

Jen Calonita. Disney Book Group/Hyperion.

Readers are transported into the minds and hearts of plucky Snow White and evil Queen Ingrid in this reimagined Disney story. When Snow journeys to retake her rightful place as ruler of the kingdom, she faces seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The dwarves, a charming prince, and an unexpected stranger assist in the quest to restore justice.

On the Come Up

Angie Thomas. HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray.

Bri follows in the footsteps of her father, who was murdered, and creates a viral rap about a racial injustice at school. As she attempts to deal with the incident and the community's misconceptions, Bri discovers the power of her voice amplified by the support of those around her. A significant and powerful novel by the author of *The Hate You Give*.

Refugee 87

Ele Fountain. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

"The only thing more dangerous than the journey is not taking it." Two boys endure unimaginable cruelty as they journey from their homeland to freedom in Europe. When Shif and Bini are torn from their families and forced into military service, the only option they have left is to run. This is a great story to build empathy for all refugees.

The Revolution of Birdie Randolph

Brandy Colbert. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Birdie, a black high school sophomore, has a life path paved for her by strict parents who demand academic excellence. Her aunt Carlene and boyfriend, Booker, however, lead her to question what she has always held true. As Birdie makes her own life and love choices, she deals with difficult issues including social justice, addiction, and sexuality.

Sea Sirens (A Trot & Cap'n Bill Adventure, Book 1)

Amy Chu. Ill. Janet K. Lee. Penguin Young Readers/Viking BFYR.

In this exciting graphic novel, a smart and adventurous surfer girl named Trot and her grouchy one-eyed cat, Cap'n Bill, take a dive into a magical world under the sea. In a fantasy world of mermaids, Trot and Cap'n Bill are sucked into underwater deep sea battles between the sea sirens and an evil king.

SHOUT

Laurie Halse Anderson. Penguin Young Readers/Viking BFYR.

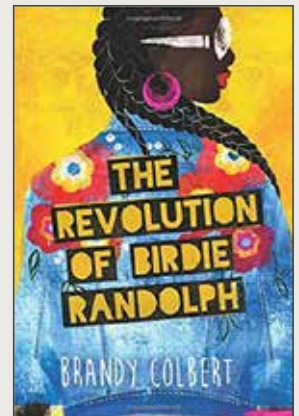
In this striking and intense free verse memoir, Laurie Halse Anderson, the author of the best-selling book *Speak*, tells the personal story about her experience with sexual violence and her path to recovery. This is a memoir from a survivor who refused to be silenced and a powerful call to action for the #MeToo movement.



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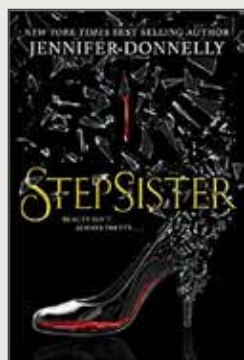
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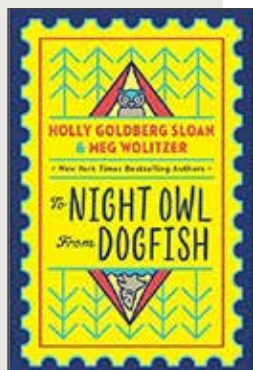
Stepsister. Jennifer Donnelly.



Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island.
Max de Radiguès.



Superman: Dawnbreaker.
Matt de la Peña.



To Night Owl From Dogfish. Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer.

The Stars and the Blackness Between Them

Junauda Petrus. Penguin Young Readers/Dutton BFYR.

Told in two strong and distinctive voices, this story takes us through the lives of two 16-year-old girls, Mabel from Minneapolis and Audra from Trinidad, as their friendship develops into a loving black queer relationship. The story unfolds with beautiful, authentic dialogue. Each section begins with a poem that moves readers from season to season using the signs of the zodiac.

Stepsister

Jennifer Donnelly. Scholastic Press.

Isabelle, the ugly stepsister, cuts off her own toes to try unsuccessfully to fit into Cinderella's shoes. The Fates make a bet with Chance and the Fairy Queen offers her a wish in exchange for finding the pieces of her broken heart. Will she change her destiny and prove that beauty is more than skin deep?

****Stig and Tilde: Vanisher's Island***

Max de Radiguès. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

In this coming-of-age graphic novel, 14-year-old twins Stig and Tilde gear up for a monthlong "kulku," a local tradition to show that they can survive on their own. Unexpectedly, they are stranded on an unknown island where the sole inhabitant is anything but welcoming. Simple and colorful illustrations convey a range of emotions in this mysterious and creepy story.

Superman: Dawnbreaker

Matt de la Peña. Random House Children's Books/Random House BFYR.

Teenage Clark Kent's powers are beginning to emerge, and he hides them from his classmates, family, and best friend, Lana Lang. But when their small town considers a stop-and-frisk law and immigrants are disappearing, Clark must decide if he is the one to save them all. Teens will love this fresh take on an iconic story.

To Night Owl From Dogfish

Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.

When Bett's father introduces her to his boyfriend's daughter, Avery, they soon realize they are two very different people. As their parents' relationship begins to fade, the girls' relationship strengthens when they attend summer camp. Told in emails and letters, this novel explores the definition of family.

Tyna of the Lake (Gamayun Tales #3)

Alexander Utkin. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

This richly illustrated Russian folktale tells the story of Tyna, the daughter of the Water Spirit, as she discovers her true heritage. Using intelligence and ingenuity, Tyna and her friend, the merchant's boy, escape the underwater realm and return to the dry land, his family, and home.

Watch Us Rise

Renée Watson and Ellen Hagan. Bloomsbury YA.

Frustrated by their school's failure to address issues of inequality, Jasmine and Chelsea start a blog to take a stand and challenge the status quo. Things escalate when they are targeted by trolls, and they are forced to confront those who would silence their voices.

The Water Spirit (Gamayun Tales #2)

Alexander Utkin. Nobrow/Flying Eye Books.

This retelling of a Russian folktale follows a merchant who, after angering the Water Spirit, must sacrifice his 9-year-old son. Raised by his parents and a House Spirit to be brave and intelligent, the boy journeys to the lake, meeting Tyna, the Water Spirit's daughter, along the way. Themes of family, loyalty, and sacrifice are revealed in this beautifully illustrated tale.

XL

Scott Brown. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.

Will has always been small. At 16 years old, he is just shy of five feet tall. The only people who do not judge him by his size are Drew and Monica. But, suddenly, Will has a growth spurt. Will's new stature provides him with everything he has ever wanted until he realizes that it is what is on the inside that matters.

You Owe Me a Murder

Eileen Cook. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

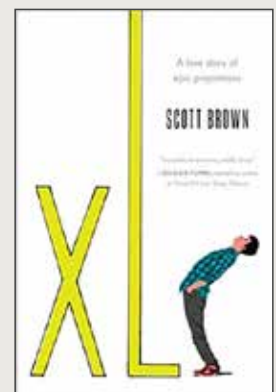
In this psychological mystery, Kim and a group of teens travel to Europe for a 16-day adventure. Things turn dark when Kim meets Nicki on the flight over and unwittingly ends up in a pact. Kim is to kill Nicki's mom in exchange for Nicki killing Kim's ex-boyfriend, Connor. Nicki keeps her end of the bargain, but will Kim?



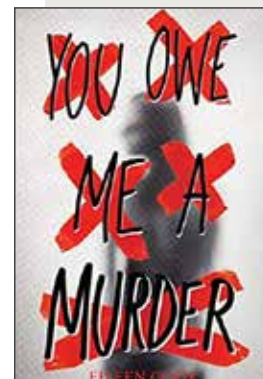
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To learn more about the Young Adults' Choices project, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

About the Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council (CBC) is the largest 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.

Thank You to the 2019–2020 Young Adults' Choices Teams

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

AREA 1

Jessica Lorentz Smith (team leader), Bend, OR, and Marina Welmers (team leader trainee), Tucson, AZ

Amphitheater High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Apollo Middle School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Bend Senior High School (Bend, OR) ■ Cascade Middle School (Bend, OR) ■ Emily Gray Junior High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Gallego Primary Fine Arts Magnet School (Tucson, AZ) ■ High Desert Middle School (Bend, OR) ■ La Cima Middle School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Los Amigos Technology Academy (Tucson, AZ) ■ Marana High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Mountain View High School (Bend, OR) ■ Pacific Crest Middle School (Bend, OR) ■ Pueblo High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Sabino High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Sahuarita High School (Sahuarita, AZ) ■ Salpointe Catholic High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Sierra 2–8 School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Summit High School (Bend, OR) ■ Sunnyside High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Tanque Verde High School (Tucson, AZ) ■ Twin Peaks K–8 (Tucson, AZ) ■ Walden Grove High School (Sahuarita, AZ)

AREA 2

Aimee Thompson (team leader), Old Orchard Beach, ME

Kennebunk High School (Kennebunk, ME) ■ Middle School of the Kennebunks (Kennebunk, ME) ■ Noble High School (North Berwick, ME) ■ Noble Middle School (North Berwick, ME) ■ Old Orchard Beach High School (Old Orchard Beach, ME) ■ Saco Middle School (Saco, ME)

AREA 3

Nina James (team leader), Sarasota, FL

Booker High School (Sarasota, FL) ■ McIntosh Middle School (Sarasota, FL) ■ Riverview High School (Sarasota, FL)

AREA 4

Julianne Scullen (team leader), Andover, MN, and Christine Aspegren (team leader trainee), Topeka, KS

Coon Rapids High School (Coon Rapids, MN) ■ Coon Rapids Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN) ■ Northdale Middle School (Coon Rapids, MN) ■ Washburn Rural High School (Topeka, KS) ■ Washburn Rural Middle School (Topeka, KS)

AREA 5

Cheryl McCall (team leader), Crestwood, KY

East Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY) ■ North Oldham High School (Goshen, KY) ■ North Oldham Middle School (Goshen, KY) ■ Oldham County High School (La Grange, KY) ■ Oldham County Middle School (La Grange, KY) ■ South Oldham High School (Crestwood, KY) ■ South Oldham Middle School (Crestwood, KY)

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.



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