

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

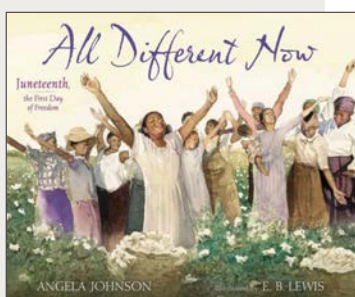
TEACHERS' CHOICES

2015 Reading List

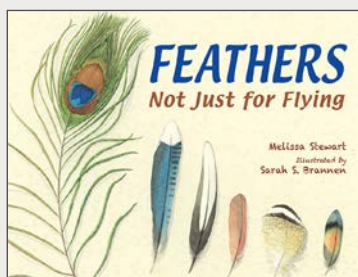


What Is the Teachers' Choices List?

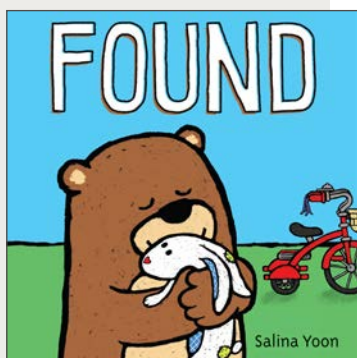
For teachers looking for the best new titles to add to their classroom library, the Teachers' Choices list is *the* place to start. Not only is it where they'll find the best books for ages 5 to 14, but they'll also know it comes from a source they can rely on—their fellow educators. Since 1989, the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



All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom. Angela Johnson. Ill. E.B. Lewis. Simon & Schuster.



Feathers: Not Just for Flying. Melissa Stewart. Ill. Sarah S. Brannen. Charlesbridge.



Found. Salina Yoon. Bloomsbury/Walker Children's Books.

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

All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom

Angela Johnson. Ill. E.B. Lewis. Simon & Schuster.

Under the hot Texas sun in 1865, a family celebrates the first Juneteenth, the day that freedom comes to the slaves. Endnotes provide a timeline and additional resources about the holiday.

Feathers: Not Just for Flying

Melissa Stewart. Ill. Sarah S. Brannen. Charlesbridge.

Sixteen diverse birds from five continents are highlighted with detailed descriptions of how these birds use their feathers for a multitude of tasks.

**Fiona's Lace*

Patricia Polacco. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman.

When Fiona's family emigrated from Ireland to Chicago, her beautiful handmade lace helped supplement the family's income—until one fateful night when it helped save their lives.

Found

Salina Yoon. Bloomsbury/Walker Children's Books.

Bear finds a lost stuffed bunny and is determined to find its owner, but when he starts to become attached to the toy, will he still be able to do the right thing?

Gaston

Kelly DiPucchio. Ill. Christian Robinson. Atheneum.

When a poodle and a bulldog puppy are inadvertently switched at birth and raised by the wrong mothers, readers learn about the importance of accepting and celebrating each other's differences.

Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla

Katherine Applegate. Ill. G. Brian Karas. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

This is the nonfiction account of the life of Ivan, the shopping mall gorilla whom readers first met in the novel, *The One and Only Ivan*.

The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art

Barb Rosenstock. Ill. Mary GrandPré. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

This picture book biography of the Russian painter, Vasya Kandinsky, explains how he ventured from his staid and controlled upbringing into the uncharted world of abstract art.

The Scraps Book: Notes From a Colorful Life

Lois Ehlert. Beach Lane.

Children's book illustrator Lois Ehlert takes readers inside her studio as she shares her life's story and the creative process that inspires her picture book art.

***Under the Same Sun**

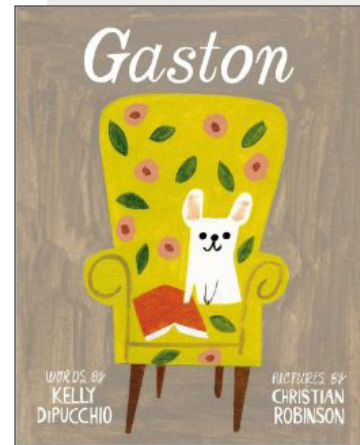
Sharon Robinson. Ill. AG Ford. Scholastic.

The daughter of baseball great Jackie Robinson has created a picture book account of her mother's return to the family's ancestral home of Tanzania on the occasion of her 85th birthday.

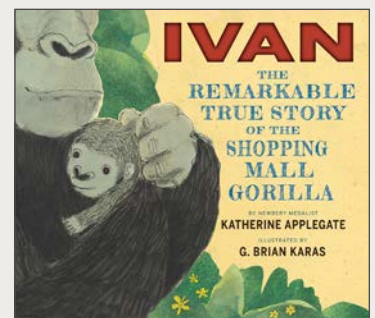
Who Was Here: Discovering Wild Animal Tracks

Mia Posada. Millbrook.

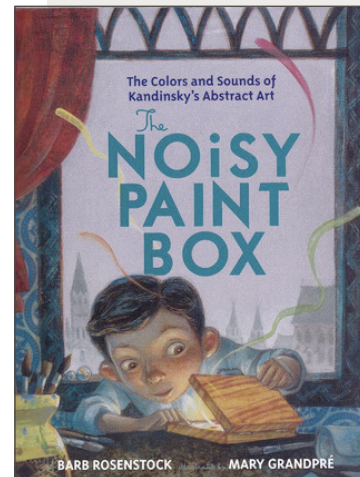
Life-size animal prints are displayed in the habitat where they were found and readers must guess who left these marks behind. Factual descriptions of each animal accompany the guessing game.



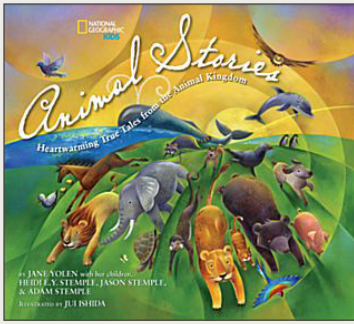
Gaston. Kelly DiPucchio. Ill. Christian Robinson. Atheneum.



Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla. Katherine Applegate. Ill. G. Brian Karas. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art. Barb Rosenstock. Ill. Mary GrandPré. Knopf Books for Young Readers.



Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales From the Animal Kingdom. Jane Yolen, Heidi E.Y. Stemple, Adam Stemple, and Jason Stemple. Ill. Jui Ishida. National Geographic Children's Books.

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

Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales From the Animal Kingdom

Jane Yolen, Heidi E.Y. Stemple, Adam Stemple, and Jason Stemple. Ill. Jui Ishida. National Geographic Children's Books.

True stories of remarkable contributions from animals from around the world are showcased. Additional facts, a map, timeline, and other resources supplement the text.

Fly Away

Patricia MacLachlan. Margaret K. McElderry.

Lucy is the only one in her family who does not sing. When they visit a relative in North Dakota just as flood waters threaten their home, Lucy finds her voice and the courage to use it to save her younger brother.



Fly Away. Patricia MacLachlan. Margaret K. McElderry.

Guts & Glory: The American Civil War

Ben Thompson. Ill. C.M. Butzer. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Told in chronological order from the first battle to the last, this book recounts the stories of the heroes and villains and the good luck and misfortune that define the bloodiest years in our country's history.

Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust

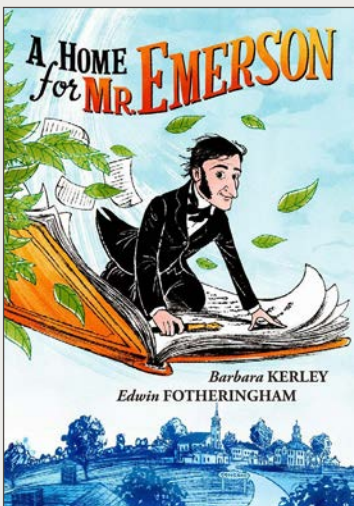
Loïc Dauvillier. Ill. Marc Lizano and Greg Salsedo. Translated by Alexis Siegel. First Second.

This graphic novel recounts a Jewish grandmother's memories of being hidden during her childhood when the Nazis occupied France during World War II.

****A Home for Mr. Emerson***

Barbara Kerley. Ill. Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic.

Quotes from Ralph Waldo Emerson supplement this picture book biography of the life of one of America's greatest philosophers.



A Home for Mr. Emerson. Barbara Kerley. Ill. Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic.

Pay It Forward: Young Readers Edition

Catherine Ryan Hyde. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman.

Rewritten for a middle-grades audience, this book recounts how the “pay it forward” movement began. A curriculum guide for teachers is included.

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus

Jen Bryant. Ill. Melissa Sweet. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

This picture book biography about Peter Roget’s fascination with words explains how his famous thesaurus came to be. Extensive endnotes supplement the reading for teachers and students.

Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation

Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Sylvia Mendez and her family fought for the rights of Mexican immigrants to attend public schools in California seven years before the federal case of *Brown v. Board of Education*.

***Super Sniffers: Dog Detectives on the Job**

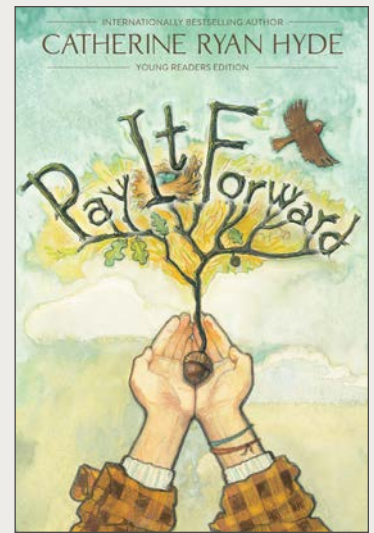
Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Bloomsbury USA Children’s.

Dogs use their noses for amazing work, from finding victims of avalanches to detecting cancer and sniffing out invasive weeds. Endnotes provide additional resources.

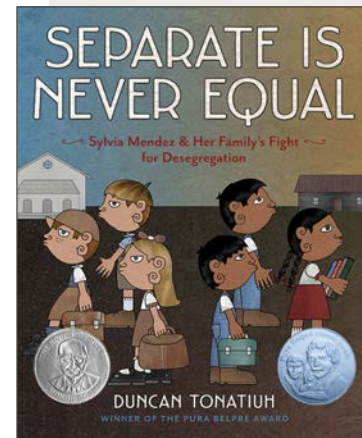
Winter Bees and Other Poems of the Cold

Joyce Sidman. Ill. Rick Allen. HMH Books for Young Readers.

Poems about how various living things survive the cold, combined with new scientific facts and detailed linoleum prints, convince readers that winter is not as barren as it seems.



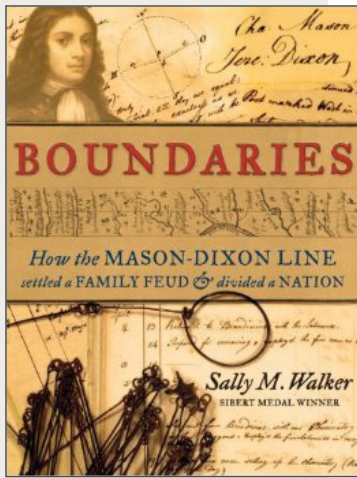
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Super Sniffers: Dog Detectives on the Job. Dorothy Hinshaw Patent. Bloomsbury USA Children’s.



Boundaries: How the Mason-Dixon Line Settled a Family Feud & Divided a Nation. Sally M. Walker. Candlewick.

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

Because They Marched: The People’s Campaign for Voting Rights That Changed America

Russell Freedman. Holiday House.

Archival photographs combined with journalistic essays commemorate the 50th anniversary of the marches that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Endnotes provide additional resources.

Boundaries: How the Mason-Dixon Line Settled a Family Feud & Divided a Nation

Sally M. Walker. Candlewick.

This nonfiction text explains the family feuds, surveying science, and natural boundaries that led to the demarcation of the Mason-Dixon Line, and ultimately the divide between North and South.

Bugged: How Insects Changed History

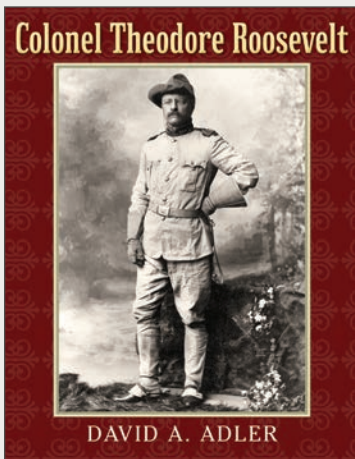
Sarah Albee. Ill. Robert Leighton. Bloomsbury USA Children’s.

This examination of insects—both beneficial and destructive—shows how these fascinating creatures have influenced human life throughout history.

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt

David A. Adler. Holiday House.

From cowboy to soldier, from conservationist to Nobel Peace Prize winner, this biography includes photographs, letters, and primary documents to retell the life story of our 26th president.

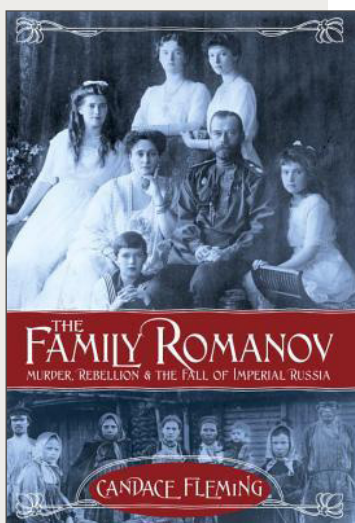


Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. David A. Adler. Holiday House.

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia

Candace Fleming. Schwartz & Wade.

This biography, with supporting photographs, details the Romanov family history, contrasting their exorbitant wealth with the suffering of peasants and industrial workers, while also explaining the changing political climate.



The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia. Candace Fleming. Schwartz & Wade.

*5 Elephants

Rob Laidlaw. Fitzhenry & Whiteside.

By showcasing the stories of five famous elephants, the author introduces readers to facts and figures about the elephant population and the challenges they face in their natural habitats and in captivity.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition)

Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Adolescent readers will learn how a girl their age found the courage to stand up for what she believed and, despite a near-fatal injury, overcame countless obstacles to become an international champion for peace. A glossary and timeline of important events accompany the text.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

Marjorie Agosín. Ill. Lee White. Translated by E.M. O'Connor. Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Eleven-year-old Celeste's idyllic world is uprooted when her native Chile falls under the dictatorship of Pinochet. Her philanthropist parents must go into hiding, while Celeste is sent to stay with an aunt in Maine.

**The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*

Steve Sheinkin. Roaring Brook.

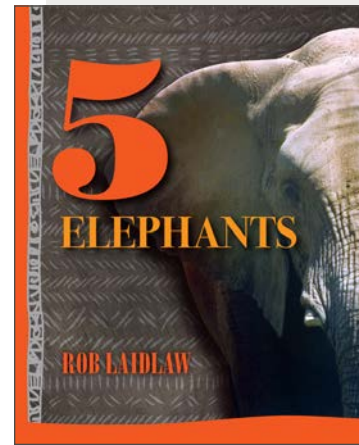
Port Chicago was a busy Navy base during World War II, and like most units in the military, it was highly segregated. When a devastating explosion killed many servicemen, a group of 50 brave sailors dared to fight for better working conditions.

Threatened

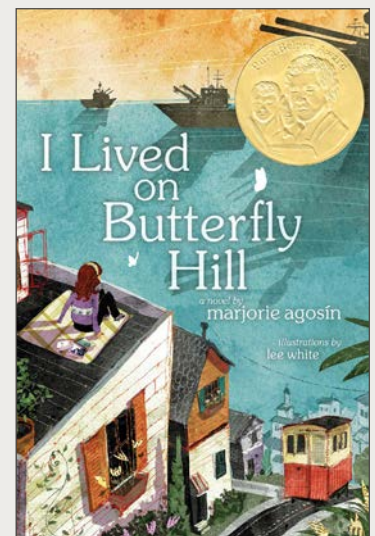
Eliot Schrefer. Scholastic.

Luc, an orphan living in Gabon, leaves his home to accompany a scientist into the jungle to study chimpanzees. When the professor disappears, Luc is left alone to fight for his own life, as well as to protect these creatures he has grown to love.

*Books that received the highest amount of votes.



5 Elephants. Rob Laidlaw. Fitzhenry & Whiteside.



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- Threatened.* Eliot Schrefer. Scholastic.

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More About Teachers' Choices

Thank you to the 2014–2015 ILA Teachers' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Joyce Gulley (cochair) and April Wulber (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Jane Dewailly, Dina Evans, Tammy Everett, Kim Fairbanks, Heather Jones, Amy McClure, Cecilia McCormick, and Susan Zolper.

For more information on the Teachers' Choices list, or to learn how to become involved, visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.