

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

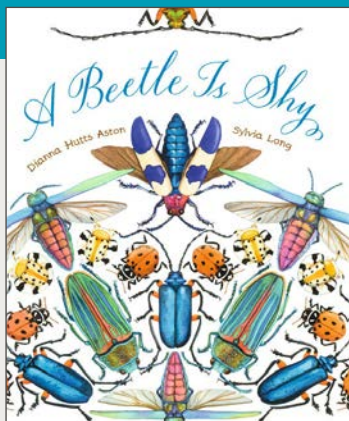
TEACHERS' CHOICES

2017 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 through 14, but also they'll know it comes from a source they can rely on—their fellow educators. Since 1989, the International Literacy Association's Teachers' Choices project has identified outstanding trade books published in the last year that teachers, librarians, and reading specialists choose as being exceptional for curriculum use. Parents also will 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.



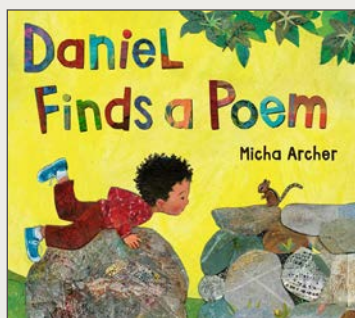
A Beetle Is Shy. Dianna Hutts Aston. Ill. Sylvia Long. Chronicle.

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

A Beetle Is Shy

Dianna Hutts Aston. Ill. Sylvia Long. Chronicle.

Detailed and colorful illustrations highlight a variety of beetles, their habits, and their habitats. Poetic descriptions make the scientific vocabulary accessible to young readers.



Daniel Finds a Poem. Micha Archer. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Young Readers.

Best in Snow

April Pulley Sayre. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

Vivid photographs and gently rhyming text bring a winter wonderland to life. Endnotes provide the scientific explanation for how snow forms, travels, accumulates, and melts.

Daniel Finds a Poem

Micha Archer. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Young Readers.

When young Daniel sees an advertisement for "Poetry in the Park," he elicits help from various animals to help him understand what poetry is. Cleverly, he combines all the animals' insights into an original poem.



Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale. Josh Funk. Ill. Rodolfo Montalvo. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

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Josh Funk. Ill. Rodolfo Montalvo. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

George and Blaise become pen pals and exchange rhyming letters over the course of a year. Despite many differences in lifestyle, they discover that friendship can blossom from unexpected relationships.

Frank and Lucky Get Schooled

Lynne Rae Perkins. Greenwillow/HarperCollins Children's Books.

Using the real-life explorations shared between a boy and his adopted dog, this humorous and insightful picture book offers a new twist on the subjects a child learns each day in school.

The Night Gardener

Terry Fan and Eric Fan. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

The residents of Grimloch Lane awaken to find that the Night Gardener has transformed their dreary neighborhood into a place of beauty through the magical topiaries he creates. Not only does he transform the neighborhood, but he also changes the future for young William, a lonely orphan.

Over on the Farm

Marianne Berkes. Ill. Cathy Morrison. Dawn.

Rollicking, rhyming text introduces counting with farm animals. Endnotes go beyond common knowledge about these animals to provide supplemental ideas for curriculum involvement with this content.

A Squiggly Story

Andrew Larsen. Ill. Mike Lowery. Kids Can.

Inspired by his big sister's love of reading and writing, a young boy learns that he, too, can write stories that others appreciate and enjoy. This book will encourage emergent writers to become authors and storytellers.

The Water Princess

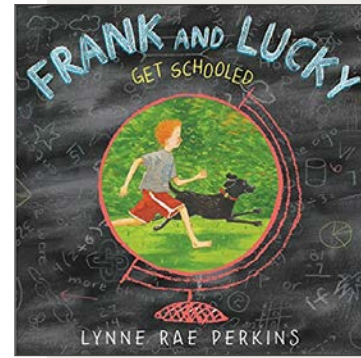
Susan Verde. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

An African mother and her young daughter must walk long distances every day to get water for their family, yet they find joy and reward in their journey. Endnotes provide more information about the importance of clean water in developing nations.

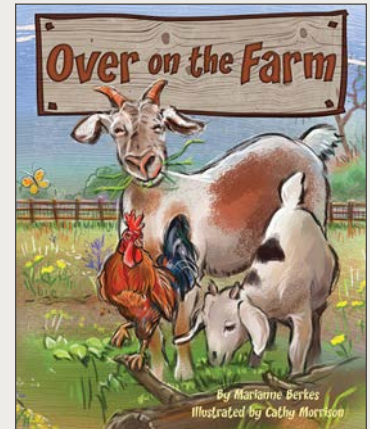
*Whose Hands Are These? A Community Helper Guessing Book

Miranda Paul. Ill. Luciana Navarro Powell. Millbrook/Lerner.

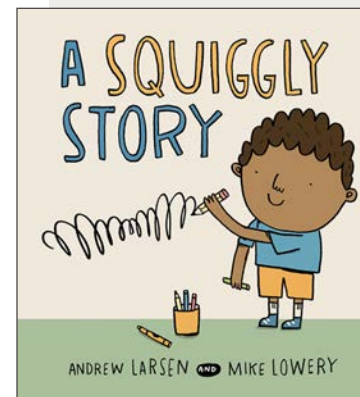
Colorful illustrations and rhyming lyrical text combine to highlight a variety of community helpers and the important role they play in everyday life. Children will enjoy the guessing game format, and endnotes provide more information about the careers mentioned.



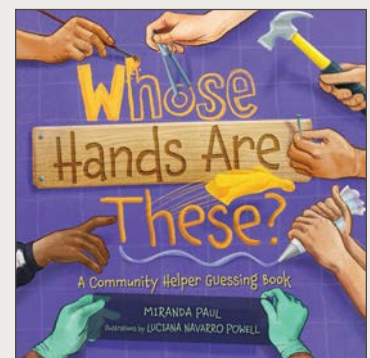
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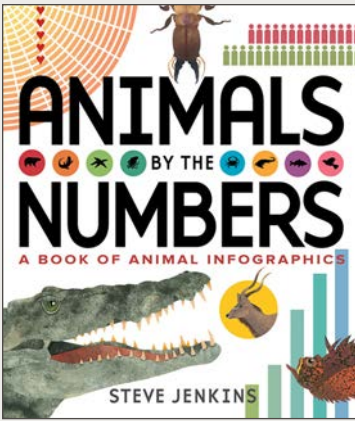
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Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics. Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

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

Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics

Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Torn- and cut-paper collages create visually exciting infographics that reveal fascinating facts about the animal kingdom. This book is ideal for teaching visual literacy, and it will engage animal lovers of all ages.

Cook Me a Story: A Treasury of Stories and Recipes Inspired by Classic Fairy Tales

Bryan Kozlowski. Ill. Laura Wood. Quarto.

In a perfect combination of food and fairy tales, the author has created clever and easy-to-follow recipes to accompany favorite stories. The recipes are based on simple ingredients, and a magic wand symbol indicates where adult supervision might be needed.

Counting Thyme

Melanie Conklin. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

Eleven-year-old Thyme is uprooted from her home in San Diego when the family moves to New York City to seek medical care for her younger brother, who is suffering from a rare cancer. Thyme must negotiate all the change in her life, but in the process, she finds hope, courage, and love.



50 Things You Should Know About American Presidents. Tracey Kelly. Ill with photographs. Quarto.

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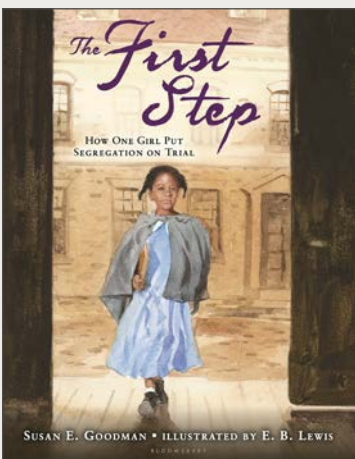
Tracey Kelly. Ill. with photographs. Quarto.

This vibrant book features facts about the U.S. presidents and the major events in history that shaped their terms in office.

The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial

Susan E. Goodman. Ill. E.B. Lewis. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

In 1847, an African American girl named Sarah Roberts was told that she could no longer attend her neighborhood school because it was for white children only. Her legal case became the first one to challenge segregated schools in the United States.

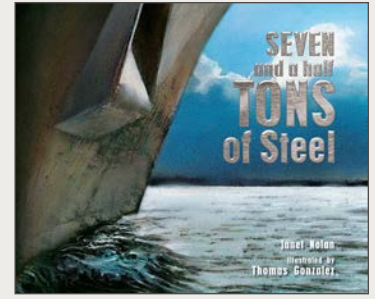


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Maxi's Secrets (Or What You Can Learn From a Dog)

Lynn Plourde. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Young Readers.

Dog lovers of all ages will fall in love with Maxi, a Great Pyrenees puppy who is also deaf. Maxi helps her middle school owner, Timminy, navigate his way through the challenges of early adolescence in a new school and neighborhood.



Seven and a Half Tons of Steel.
Janet Nolan. Ill. Thomas Gonzalez.
Peachtree.

Seven and a Half Tons of Steel

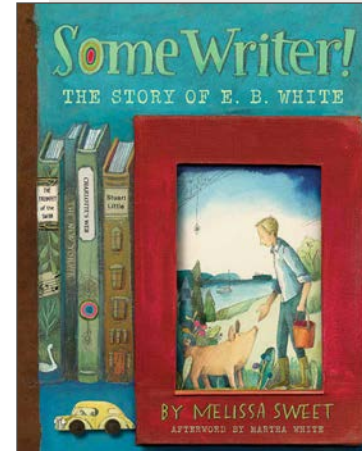
Janet Nolan. Ill. Thomas Gonzalez. Peachtree.

In this dramatic picture book, readers will learn how a beam from the World Trade Center became the bow of a Navy ship called the USS *New York*. Endnotes provide more facts about the ship and its symbolic design.

Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White

Melissa Sweet. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

This lavishly illustrated biography details the life of beloved children's author E.B. White. Readers will delight to learn that White's most famous books arose from moments in his own childhood. A timeline and interview with White's granddaughter accompany the text.



Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White. Melissa Sweet. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Tru & Nelle

G. Neri. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Long before they became famous writers, Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee were friends in a small Alabama town in the 1930s. Despite being misfits, they struck up a friendship based on a mutual love of mysteries and adventures.

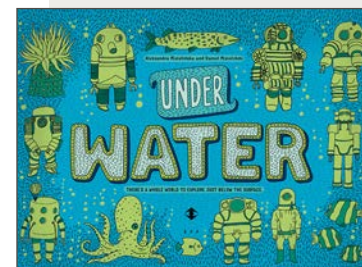


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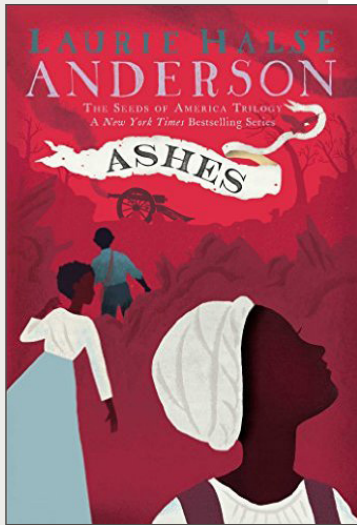
*Under Water, Under Earth

Aleksandra Mizelińska and Daniel Mizeliński. Big Picture/Candlewick.

This cleverly formatted, calendar-style book features sparse text and detailed illustrations. One side of the book opens to reveal natural and manmade features that can be found under water; the other side showcases elements found under the earth.



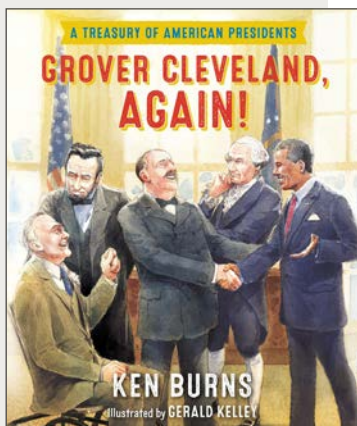
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Beautiful Blue World. Suzanne LaFleur. Wendy Lamb/Random House Children's Books.



Grover Cleveland, Again! A Treasury of American Presidents. Ken Burns. Ill. Gerald Kelley. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

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

***Ashes* (The Seeds of America Trilogy)**

Laurie Halse Anderson. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

In this conclusion to the Seeds of America Trilogy, escaped slaves Isabel and Curzon venture to Charleston, South Carolina, to retrieve Isabel's little sister, Ruth, who was stolen from her years before. A detailed appendix provides historical facts and suggestions for further reading.

Beautiful Blue World

Suzanne LaFleur. Wendy Lamb/Random House Children's Books.

Twelve-year-old Mathilde is recruited to help the war effort in the fictitious country of Sofarende. While living away from her family and all that is familiar to her, she discovers skills and strengths she didn't know she had. A promised sequel will continue Mathilde's story.

Booked

Kwame Alexander. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Newbery Medal winner Kwame Alexander has created another sports-themed novel-in-verse. This time, the focus is on soccer, but 12-year-old Nick also learns some valuable life lessons through his interactions with family, peers, and a beloved school librarian.

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain

John Boyne. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

After young Pierrot is orphaned, he must leave his home in Paris to live with a German aunt who happens to be the housekeeper at Adolf Hitler's mountain retreat. Pierrot, whose name is changed to Pieter, is greatly influenced by Hitler's domineering personality and zealous ideology.

Grover Cleveland, Again! A Treasury of American Presidents

Ken Burns. Ill. Gerald Kelley. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Ken Burns, the acclaimed documentary filmmaker, has created an invaluable resource for social studies teachers and budding historians alike. This compendium features fascinating facts about the first 44 U.S. presidents. Watercolor illustrations bring the tales to life.

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph

Roxane Orgill. Ill. Francis Vallejo. Candlewick.

The poems in this book were inspired by Art Kane's photograph *Harlem 1958*. The author tells about some of the players and the circumstances surrounding that famous photo shoot. Endnotes provide facts about the musicians and suggestions for further exploration.

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story

Caren Stelson. Carolrhoda/Lerner.

Sachiko Yasui was only 6 years old when an atomic bomb exploded a half mile from her home. Even though she survived, she faced a life of physical and emotional hardships until she ultimately made peace with the destruction she witnessed. Extensive endnotes supplement the text.

***Salt to the Sea**

Ruta Sepetys. Philomel/Penguin Random House.

In lyrical prose, four narrators and several secondary characters tell of the greatest maritime disaster ever: the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, an overloaded military ship that was evacuating civilians and soldiers from Prussia at the end of World War II. This little-known piece of history comes to life through the eyes of these memorable characters.

Things Too Huge to Fix by Saying Sorry

Susan Vaught. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

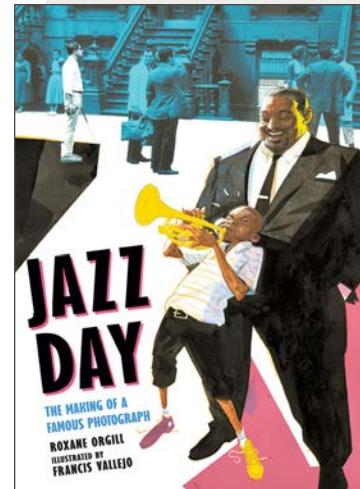
Dani Bean is a typical middle school girl, but when her grandmother begins a downward spiral into Alzheimer's disease, Dani becomes involved in a mystery surrounding the desegregation of Ole Miss. Can Dani uncover the truth about her grandmother and the racism and prejudice of the past?

Wolf Hollow

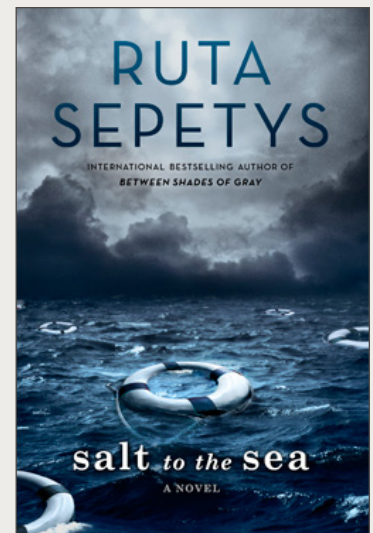
Lauren Wolk. Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers.

Set in western Pennsylvania in 1943, this historical novel centers on young Annabelle's encounters with a classroom bully and a local hermit who suffers from PTSD because of his battleground experiences in World War I. Annabelle confronts issues of prejudice, fear, and social justice in this coming-of-age story.

*Books that received the highest number of reviews



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More About Teachers' Choices

Thank you to the 2016–2017 ILA Teachers' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Joyce Gulley (cochair) and April Hoying (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Kim Fairbanks, Jennifer Fox, Margo Frizzell (trainee), Julie Greenberg, Sunni Johnson, Heather Jones, Alicia Pruitt (trainee), and Cathy Voelker.

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION

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



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