



# 2012 Distinguished Books

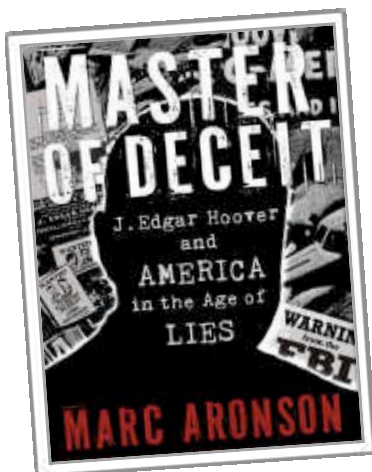
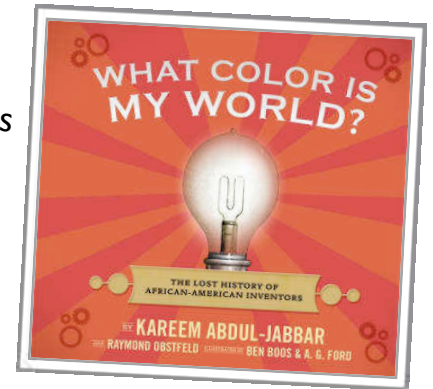
## Presenting ACL's 2012 Distinguished Books

Titles have been selected from those reviewed in *BayViews*, the review journal of the Association of Children's Librarian's of Northern California (ACL), for their outstanding literary merit, high quality of illustration and design, and contribution to a child's understanding of the world. Books are designated as "distinguished" through a process of nomination, discussion, and voting by ACL members. Grade designations in the annotations are approximate.



## Nonfiction

Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem and Raymond Obstfeld  
*What Color Is My World? The Lost History of African-American Inventors*  
Illustrated by Ben Boos and A.G. Ford  
Candlewick, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 4-6  
Thirteen-year-old twins Ella and Herbie learn about lesser-known African-American inventors such as George Crum (potato chips), and Dr. Valerie L. Thomas, ("illusion transmitter," which projects 3-D images) from their new handyman, whose name is "Latimer" spelled backwards -- a ghost, perhaps?



Aronson, Marc  
*Master of Deceit: J. Edgar Hoover and America in the Age of Lies*  
Photographs by Ellen Harasimowicz  
Candlewick, 2012 \$25.99 Grades 8 - Adult  
Aronson's discussion of Hoover against the background of major social challenges – the civil rights movement, labor unrest, Communist hysteria – leaves the reader not only enlightened but empowered to think seriously about the ways we, in the 21st century, will try to balance the demands of national security with the commitment to individual freedoms.

Bragg, Georgia

*How They Croaked: The Awful Ends of the Awfully Famous*

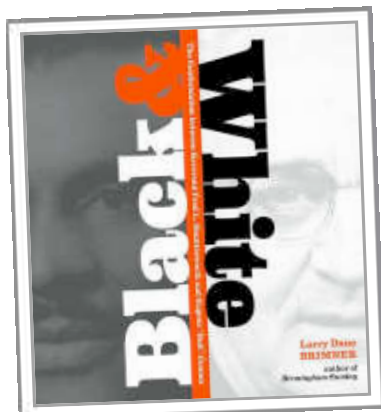
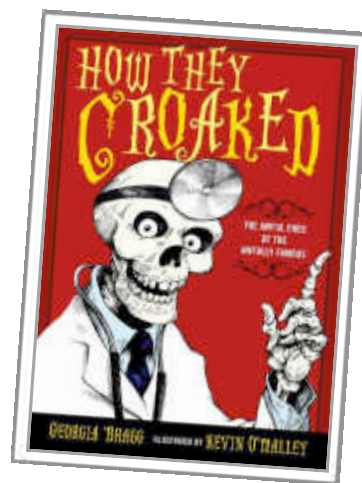
Illustrated by Kevin O'Malley

Walker/Bloomsbury, 2011

\$17.99

Grades 5-8

Nineteen non-fiction chapters tell about the strange and gruesome deaths, and sometimes dismemberment, of historical figures from Cleopatra to Henry VIII to Einstein. The concise and sarcastic text makes this combination of science and history fun, with seven pages on each person, and illustrated with black and white cartoons that help keep the tone light.



Brimner, Larry Dane

*Black and White: The Confrontation between Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth and Eugene "Bull" Connor*

Calkins Creek, 2011

\$16.95

Grades 5-8

Both the dramatic narrative and the inviting book design combine to make this a fascinating look at Birmingham, Alabama's role in the Civil Rights movement. The use of primary sources, such as quotations from speeches and newspaper articles, and black and white photos bring the narrative alive.

Burns, Loree Griffin

*Citizen Scientists: Be a Part of Scientific Discovery from Your Own Backyard*

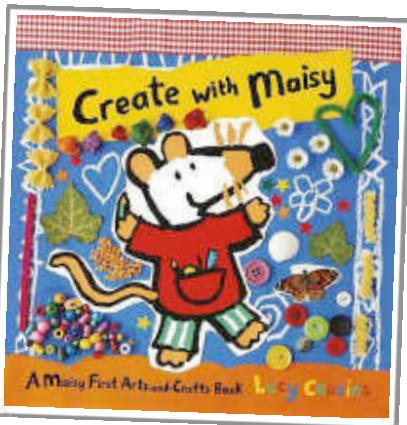
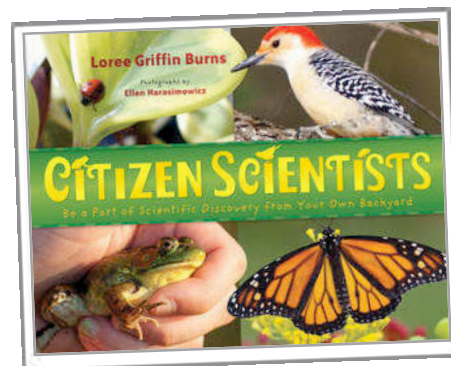
Photographs by Ellen Harasimowicz

Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2012

\$19.99

Grades 3-6

A timely look at citizen science, everyday people collecting data for professional scientists, which will get many readers fired up and ready to become involved, and gives them all the resources they need to get started.



Cousins, Lucy

*Create with Maisy*

Illustrated by Lucy Cousins

Candlewick, 2012

\$16.99

Grades B/T-K

Loose and naïve cartoons pair wonderfully with glossy high-resolution photographs to introduce 17 accessible but satisfying art projects for preschoolers. A valuable resource that encourages the spirit of creativity and self-expression.

DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami

*A Black Hole Is Not a Hole*

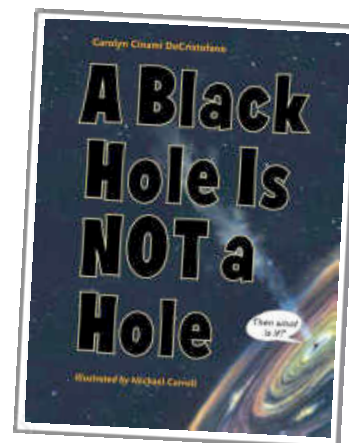
Illustrated by Michael Carroll

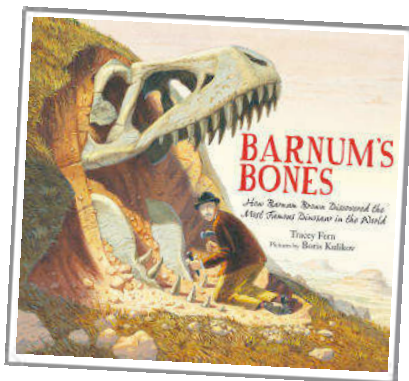
Charlesbridge, 2012

\$18.95

Grades 5-8

Using analogies within a child's experience, this deceptively clear, engaging introduction to black holes describes, explains, excites, and sparks a sense of wonder.





Fern, Tracey

***Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World***

Illustrated by Boris Kulikov

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

\$17.99

Grades 1-4

This captivating biography of Barnum Brown, the most successful dinosaur hunter in history, tells the story of how he discovered the first T-Rex skeleton for the American Museum of Natural History.

Ferris, Jeri Chase

***Noah Webster and His Words***

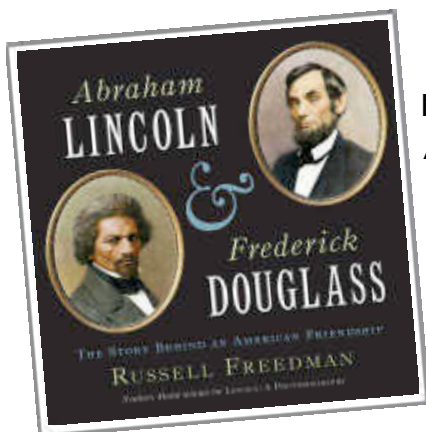
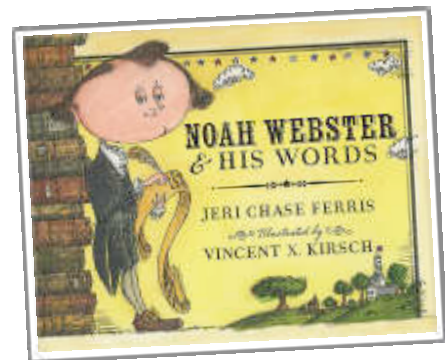
Illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch

Houghton Mifflin, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-3

Noah Webster is celebrated in this lively picture book biography, which describes his efforts in writing the first dictionary in the U.S., and in achieving literacy for everyone. The narrative has a wry humor at times and periodically there are definitions inserted for words that may be unfamiliar to the primary grade reader. The quirky illustration style suits the subject and tone of the narrative.



Freedman, Russell

***Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship***

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2012

\$18.99

Grades 5-10

The lasting friendship of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass is explored in this look at their backgrounds and the many times they conferred and really listened to each other.

Hearst, Michael

***Unusual Creatures: A Mostly Accurate Account of Some of Earth's Strangest Animals***

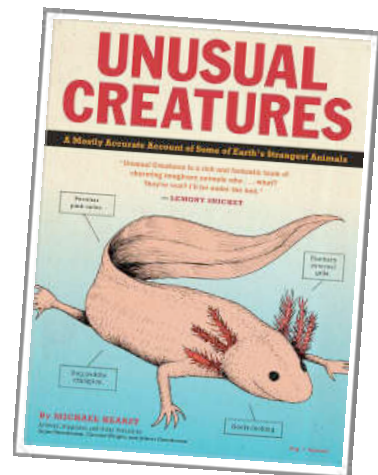
Illustrated by Jelmer Noordeman, Christie Wright and Arjen Noordeman

Chronicle, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-8

Puggles to the milk patch! Thus might an echidna call her brood to breakfast. Why? Echidnas have no nipples. Engaging and informative illustrations, maps, and humor will be stuffing facts about weird creatures into readers before they realize it!



Hoose, Phillip

***Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95***

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012

\$21.99

Grades 5-Adult

By studying the success of B95, a rufa red knot who has lived 20 years and flown over 325,000 miles in his yearly trip from Tierra Del Fuego to Southampton Island in the Arctic, scientists hope to save the diminishing numbers of this amazing shorebird species. Maps, source notes, excellent photos and anecdotes make the title as distinguished as Hoose's *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird* (2004).

Hopkinson, Deborah

*Titanic:Voices from the Disaster*

Scholastic, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 5-12

Told chronologically from the point of view of several eyewitnesses, this account of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 reads as dramatically as it was shown in the 1954 film “A Night to Remember.” The narrative is a real page-turner, and Hopkinson’s style adds to the tension with energetic pacing and the use of primary sources for quotations. The only negative about the book is the photo reproduction and the type of paper used, making for muddy pictures, maps, charts, and even gray sidebars.



Jenkins, Steve  
*The Beetle Book*

Illustrated by Steve Jenkins  
Houghton Mifflin, 2012 \$16.99

Grades 3-Adult

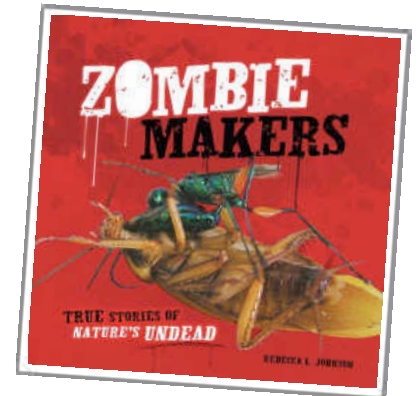
A wide variety of brilliant, jewel-like beetles parade across oversized pages, accompanied by sometimes astonishing, sometimes basic information on different beetle species and their distinctive characteristics.

Johnson, Rebecca L.

*Zombie Makers: True Stories of Nature’s Undead*

Millbrook/Lerner, 2012 \$30.60 Grades 4-8

Real zombies are closer than you think! Electrifying photographs and snappy design break up the pages and lure readers into the rich, solidly scientific text.



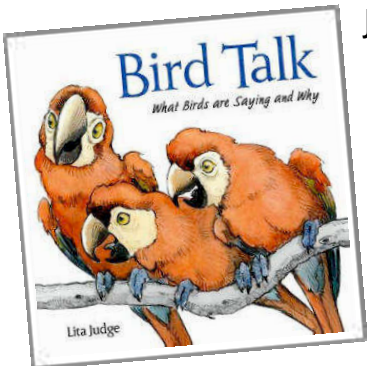
Judge, Lita  
*Bird Talk: What Birds are Saying and Why*

Illustrated by Lita Judge

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012 \$17.99

Grades 1-4

Those doing simple science reports and those who may like bird watching or visiting zoos will enjoy this introductory look at how 28 different birds communicate. The pencil and watercolor illustrations, depicting a nearly life-size bird (in some cases) set on a stark white background, feature more artwork than text, making this a book inviting to primary graders.



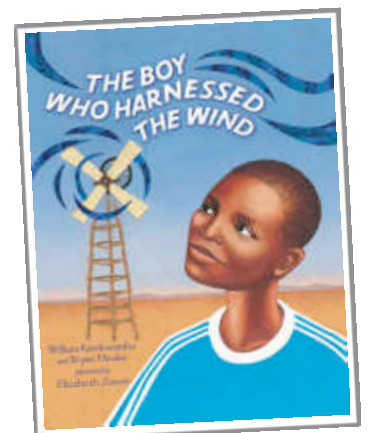
Kamkwamba, William and Bryan Meelner

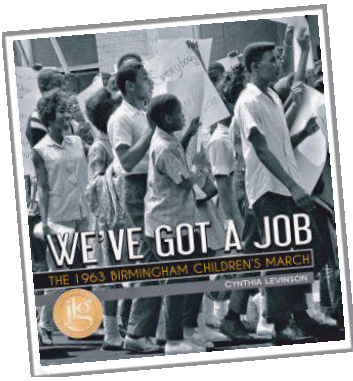
*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*

Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

Dial/Penguin, 2012 \$16.99 Grades K-3

Ever curious and imaginative, William loves to explore how things work, so when a severe drought and famine devastate his rural Malawian village, William goes to the library looking for solutions. Through warm, earth-tone oil paintings and cut paper collage, this true story comes alive as readers watch William forage in the junkyard for materials and then build a machine to make “electric wind.”





Levinson, Cynthia

*We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March*

Peachtree, 2012 \$19.95 Grades 5-12

A detailed and expansive view of the Civil Rights Movement as seen through the 1963 Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama. When the Movement seemed to be lagging among adults who were both intimidated and disheartened, kids and teens stepped up in a very big way.

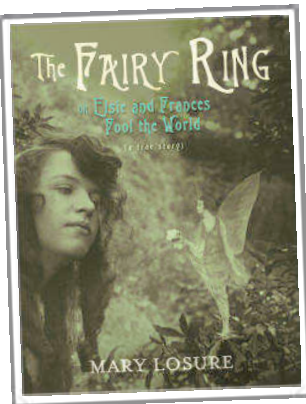
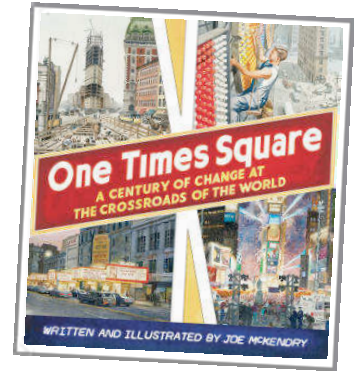
McKendry, Joe

*One Times Square: A Century of Change at the Crossroads of the World*

Illustrated by Joe McKendry

David R. Godine, 2012 \$19.95 Grades 5-Adult

Covering more than a century of dramatic urban change, this engrossing visual history of Times Square traces the area's heyday, decay, and renewal, describes and depicts significant architectural structures, and explains the technology behind the iconic bright lights and advertising signs.



Losure, Mary

*The Fairy Ring, or, Elsie and Frances Fool the World (A True Story)*

Candlewick, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 4-8

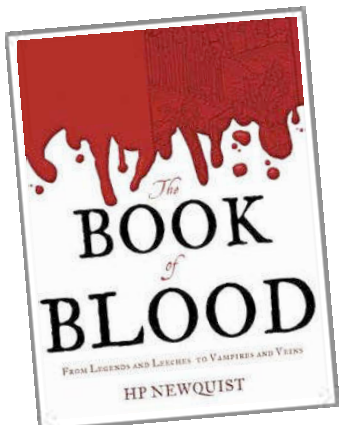
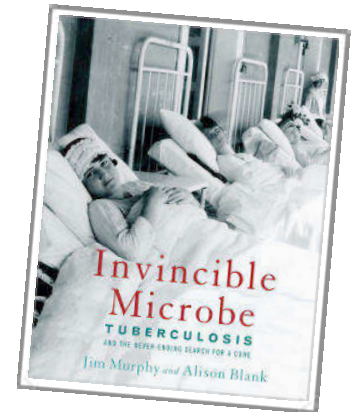
Nine-year-old Frances sees fairies in the glade behind her home so, bored with factory life, her 15-year-old cousin Elsie designs fairies to be photographed with Frances to validate her claim. In this unusual non-fiction page turner Losure is able to portray Frances and Elsie's story without delivering judgment or condescension, while the included actual photographs effectively elucidate the text.

Murphy, Jim and Alison Blank

*Invisible Microbe Tuberculosis: And the Never Ending Search for a Cure*

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2012 \$18.99 Grades 4-6

An impeccably researched, highly fascinating, and definitive biography of the "greatest killer of humans in the history of the world." Rich backmatter, extensive source notes, web resources, and archival photos on almost every page, make this a must-have volume devoted to the medical and social history of a dreaded disease still among us.



Newquist, H.P.

*The Book of Blood*

Houghton Mifflin, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 4-9

The fascination, importance, and ick factor of blood is explored in this intriguing, lurid and comprehensive study, which will satisfy report writers, the science minded, and sensation seekers.

Peterson, Brenda

*Leopard & Silkie: One Boy's Quest to Save the Seal Pups*

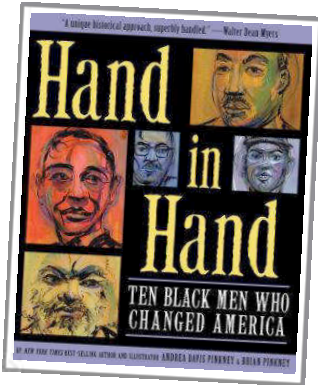
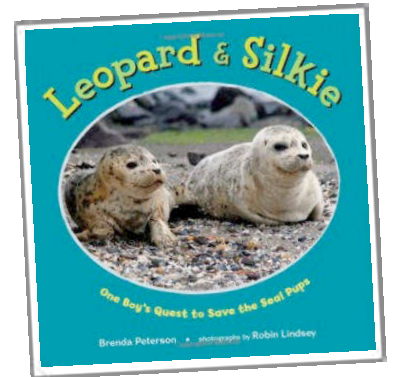
Photographs by Robin Lindsey

Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-4

Young Miles, a "Seal Sitter," watches out for seal pups on the beach near his home in Seattle. Information about the seals' lives is seamlessly interwoven into this true story.



Pinkney, Andrea Davis

*Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*

Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Hyperion, 2012

\$19.99

Grades 5-8

In this collective biography, the author celebrates ten African-American men of achievement, from Benjamin Banneker to Barack Obama. Each segment (approx. 20 pages in length), gives quite a bit of detail on each individual, and will both inform and inspire young readers and work as a resource for reports. Embellishments for each segment include an original poem about the person, a portrait, and a few scattered watercolor illustrations done in Pinkney's distinctive style.

Pringle, Laurence

*Frogs!: Strange and Wonderful*

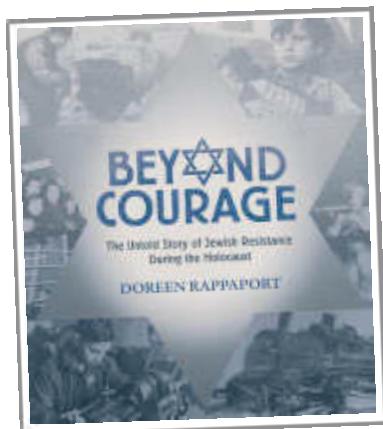
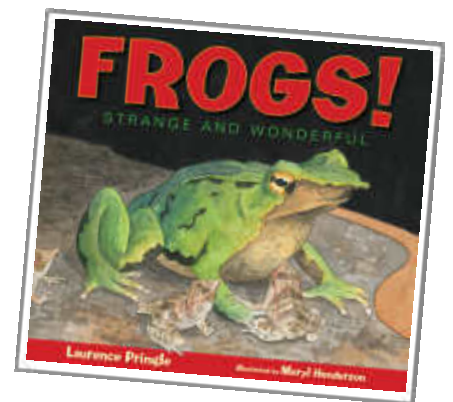
Illustrated by Meryl Henderson

Boyd's Mills, 2012

\$16.95

Grades 2-6

Pringle blends smartly chosen details that will fascinate kids with evocative and full descriptions of the lives and environments of these varied animals throughout the world with illustrations that match the writing well. At a time when frogs are in trouble environmentally worldwide, this book is a keeper!



Rappaport, Doreen

*Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust*

Candlewick, 2012

\$22.99

Grades 5-Adult

Beyond Courage is a vital book for our collections: it tells the story of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust, a story not told often enough, particularly for younger readers. An amazing range of photographs help to personalize the historical portraits of events.

Rusch, Elizabeth

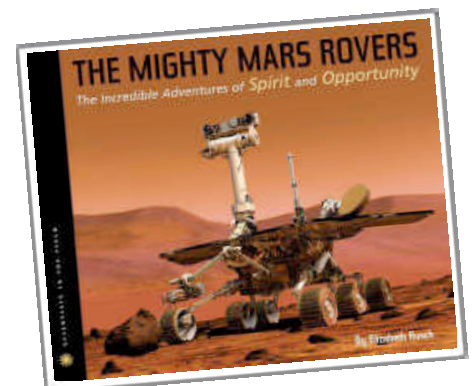
*The Mighty Mars Rover: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity*

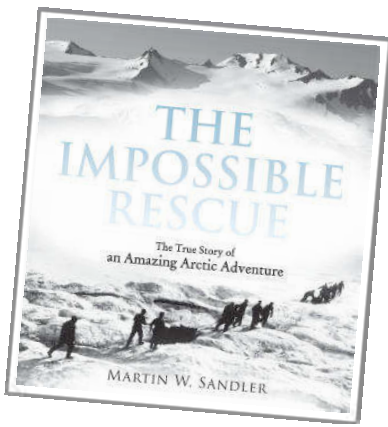
Houghton Mifflin, 2012

\$18.99

Grades 5-10

Part of the "Scientists in the Field" series, this entry focuses on the geologist who helped develop the Mars rovers – two "robots" that covered opposite areas of the Mars surface to see if it is possible that Mars once had water. As is the custom with this series, there are color photos on every page, relevant sidebars, and complete backmatter.





Sandler, Martin W.

*The Impossible Rescue: The True Story of an Amazing Arctic Adventure*  
Candlewick, 2012                      \$22.99                      Grades 5-12

In 1897, several whaling ships and their crews were stuck in the ice near Point Barrow, Alaska, and President McKinley sent a three-man group over land to rescue them. Maps and black and white photos on nearly every page make this visually attractive, and the illustrative material supports the dynamic text.

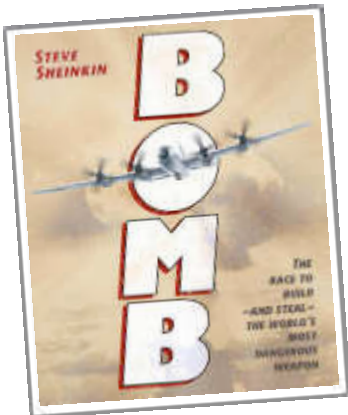
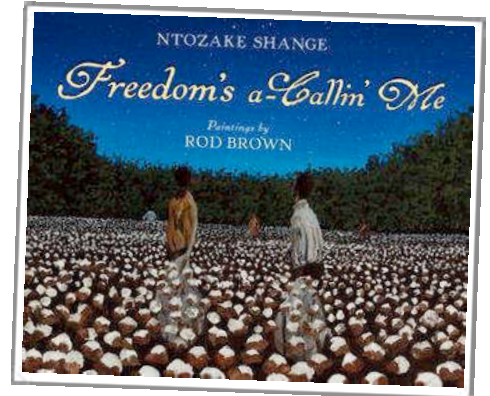
Shange, Ntozake

*Freedom's a-Callin' Me*

Illustrated by Rod Brown

HarperCollins, 2012                      \$16.99                      Grades 3-adult

In this collection of free verse Ntozake Shange describes, in the dialectal voices of the travelers, powerful and disturbing journeys on the Underground Railroad, with exquisite oil-painting illustrations by Rod Brown.



Sheinkin, Steve

*Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal – the World’s Most Dangerous Weapon*

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012                      \$19.99                      Grades 5-12

With tension similar to the best mystery or espionage novel, this narrative on the making of the atomic bomb is a page-turner. It tells the parallel stories of how Robert Oppenheimer led the team of scientists who built the bomb, along with details of spies who obtained and passed information to the Soviets. Because there are so few photos, it is the writing that makes this a standout.

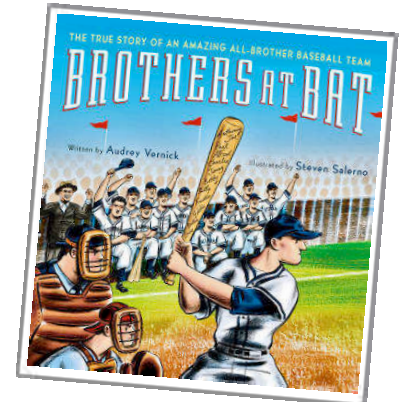
Vernick, Audrey

*Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team*

Illustrated by Steven Salerno

Clarion/Houghton Mifflin, 2012                      \$16.99                      Grades 1-5

Part baseball story, part family chronicle, this intriguing picture-book traces the remarkable history of the Acerra “all brothers” baseball team. Retro illustrations take readers back to the 1930's and 1940's and family style baseball.



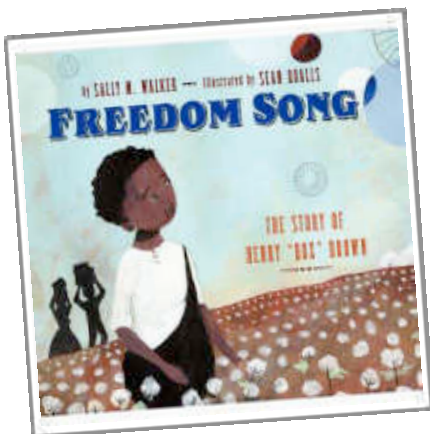
Walker, Sally M.

*Freedom Song: The Story of Henry “Box” Brown*

Illustrated by Sean Qualls

HarperCollins, 2012                      \$17.99                      Grades 1-3

Henry was born into slavery and always feared his family would be separated. In moving rhythmic prose, Walker describes how music brought Henry comfort and hope and how, when he was an adult, his wife and children were sold and Henry executed a risky escape to “freedom-land” by mailing himself in a box to Pennsylvania. Somber-paletted paintings in a folk art style capture the dire situation.



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## Poetry

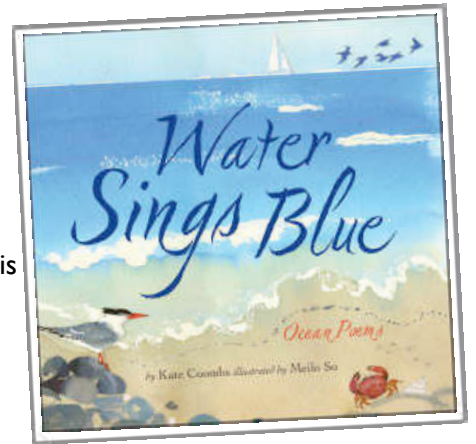
Coombs, Kate

### *Water Sings Blue*

Illustrated by Meilo So

Chronicle, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 3-6

Detailed watercolor illustrations depict ocean subjects in full color and exquisite detail in this collection of imaginative poems. Poetry and art lovers may enjoy this book again and again, discovering something new with each viewing.



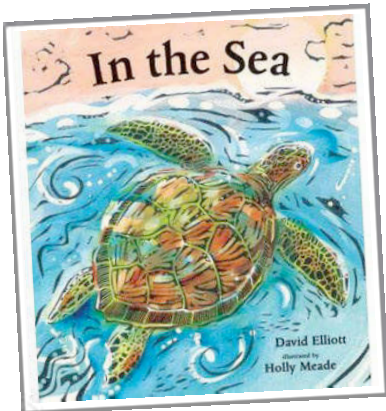
Elliot, David

### *In the Sea*

Illustrated by Holly Meade

Candlewick, 2012      \$16.99      Grades PreK-1

Intriguing sea creatures -- from herring to starfish to whale -- are introduced by cleverly crafted rhymes and beautiful woodcut illustrations with color washes which evoke the motion, mystery, and color of different ocean habitats.



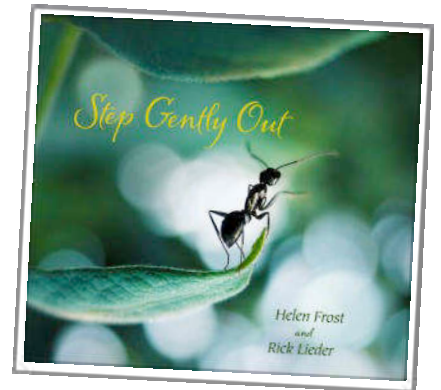
Frost, Helen

### *Step Gently Out*

Photographs by Rick Lieder

Candlewick, 2012      \$15.99      Grades K – 3

A brief, evocative poem pays tribute to small wonders of the natural world in this lyrical picture book, and the dreamy quality of the photographs perfectly complement the text and the subject matter. Backmatter contains additional facts about each insect highlighted in the book.



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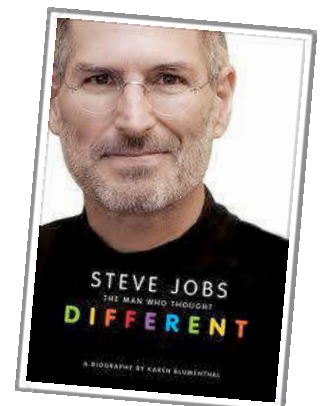
## Biography

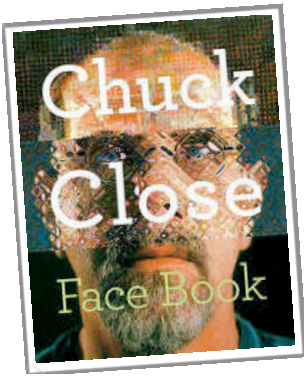
Blumenthal, Karen

### *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different*

Feiwel/Macmillan, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 6-10

From birth, early adoption and early education through his failures and successes, this even-handed biography presents the enigmatic innovator in all his complexity for readers who have never known a world without computers.





Close, Chuck  
*Face Book*

Abrams, 2012 \$18.95 Grades 4-8

A portrait of Chuck Close's development as an artist and of his artistic process is built up using a Q&A format. The innovative and pleasing design of the book is supported with excellent reproductions of many of Close's paintings.

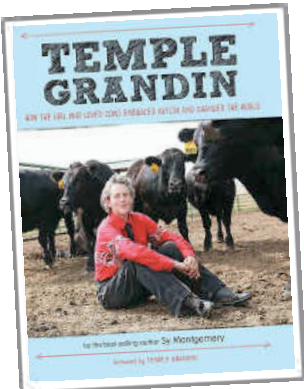
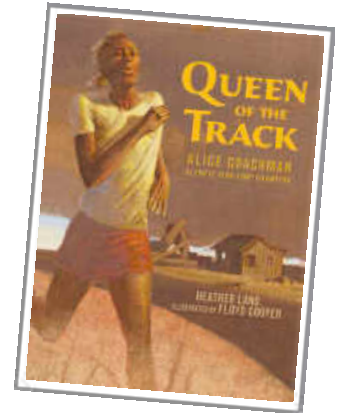
Lang, Heather

*Queen of the Track: Alice Coachman, Olympic High-Jump Champion*

Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Boyd's Mills, 2012 \$16.95 Grades 1-4

Alice Coachman loved to run and jump. Trouble was, in the 1930's it was not considered ladylike or useful for a young African-American girl to spend time on athletics. Lang's biography explores the racism, sexism, and poverty that should have kept Alice Coachman's feet on the ground and the guts and determination that propelled her to become the first African-American female Olympic gold medal winner.



Montgomery, Sy

*Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*

Houghton Mifflin, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 3-6

An authorized portrait of Grandin's life with autism, and her amazing and groundbreaking work as a scientist and genius-designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities, describes how she overcame and utilized her disabilities through education and the support of her mother.

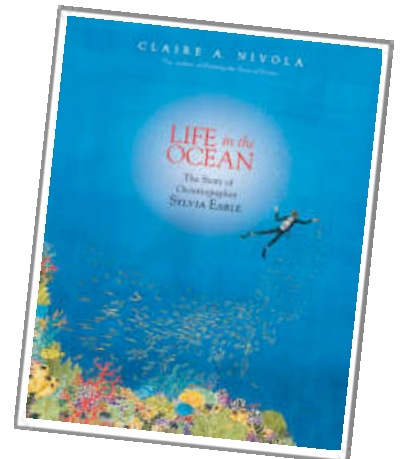
Nivola, Claire A.

*Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle*

Illustrated by Claire A. Nivola

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 2-5

Nivola (*Planting the Trees of Kenya*, 2008) creates a beautifully illustrated, detailed picture book biography that conveys oceanographer Earle's passion for teaching others about the wonders of the ocean, the importance of learning all we can about the life beneath the surface, and the belief that we all must take care of the world's oceans.



Novesky, Amy

*Georgia in Hawaii: When Georgia O'Keeffe Painted What She Pleased*

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Harcourt/Houghton, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 1-6

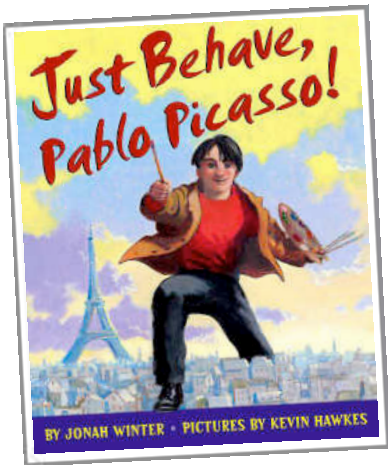
Invited by the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, Georgia O'Keeffe was inspired to paint many island scenes, but not the pineapples they had requested. Handsomely illustrated, this perceptive account reveals O'Keeffe's independent personality and passion for painting.

Wadsworth, Ginger

*First Girl Scout: the Life of Juliette Gordon Low*

Clarion/Houghton, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 5-10

From her pioneer ancestors and their influence on the young “Daisy” to her failed marriage and eventual success in founding and promoting the Girl Scouts, this thoroughly researched biography also chronicles the early days of the organization.



Winter, Jonah

*Just Behave, Pablo Picasso!*

Illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

Levine/Scholastic, 2012 \$18.99 Grades 2-5

As though bursting into “a peaceful, lovely landscape painting,” Pablo Picasso initially excites then infuriates the art world in this energetic, insightful picture-book biography that conveys the core of his personality and the essence of his genius.

## Graphic Novels

Aguirre, Jorge

*Giants Beware!*

Illustrated by Rafael Rosado

First Second, 2012 \$14.99 Grades 3-5

Fairy tale-like action takes young Claudette from her small fortress town out into the mysterious and forbidding wilds to hunt a baby feet-eating giant.



Hatke, Ben

*Legends of Zita the Spacegirl*

Illustrated by Ben Hatke

First Second, 2012 \$12.99 Grades 2-7

This sequel to *Zita the Spacegirl* (2011) picks up right where the first book concluded, and now Zita wants to get back to Earth. The traditional full-color panel comic book format with dialogue balloons flows nicely, and the depiction of aliens rivals the Cantina scene in “Star Wars.”

L’Engle, Madeline

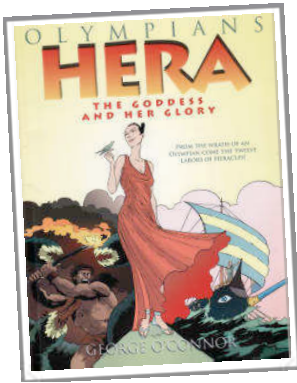
*Madeleine L’Engle’s A Wrinkle in Time: The Graphic Novel*

Illustrated by Hope Larson

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012 \$19.99 Grades 5-Adult

Hope Larson’s graphic novel adaptation of Madeleine L’Engle’s *A Wrinkle in Time*, celebrating its 50th anniversary, and the first novel of her epic, science fiction-like series Time Quartet. Her adaptation is a wonderful introduction to the work and captures the spirit of L’Engle’s philosophical book.





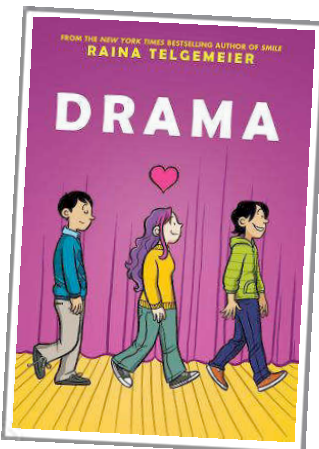
O'Connor, George  
*Hera: The Goddess and Her Glory [The Olympians Series]*  
 Illustrated by George O'Connor  
 First Second, 2011 \$16.99 Grades 3-10

While the stories here focus more on Heracles's epic adventures, O'Connor skillfully brings each narrative thread back to Hera's influence. The superhero-style art instantly grabs readers' attention, while the text blends formal narration with colloquial banter in a way that gives readers both a classical flavor and a contemporary vividness.

Riordan, Rick  
*The Red Pyramid: The Graphic Novel*

Illustrated by Orpheus Collar  
 Hyperion, 2012 \$12.99 Grades 5-9

This graphic novel retelling of *The Red Pyramid*, Book One of The Kane Chronicles, retains all the excitement of the original text version. The rich illustrations bring dramatic life to the story of two siblings discovering their heritage as descendants of Egyptian pharaohs and finding themselves in the middle of a war among the Egyptian deities.



Telgemeier, Raina  
*Drama*  
 Illustrated by Raina Telgemeier  
 Graphix/Scholastic, 2012 \$10.99 Grades 4-8

Callie is a proud member of the school play's tech crew, and she experiences some personal drama in the form of unrequited crushes. But more than teen romance, *Drama* is a wonderful tribute to the joys of teamwork, strong friendships, and pouring your heart into doing what you love.

## Fiction

Applegate, Katherine  
*The One and Only Ivan*

Illustrated by Patricia Castelao  
 HarperCollins, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 4-7

Relatively content at a shabby animal arcade, silverback gorilla Ivan describes his setting, introduces his friends, and struggles to carry out a promise made to a very dear friend, a promise that seems impossible, even to the one and only Ivan. A compelling bittersweet story.





Bardugo, Leigh  
*Shadow and Bone*

Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2012      \$17.99      Grades 7-Adult  
A teenage girl who has led the life of an orphan discovers that she has the magical powers of a Sun Summoner, and the potential to end a war and save the world. Vivid settings and a chilling villain make this fast-paced fantasy a compelling teen novel.

Doyle, Roddy  
*Greyhound of a Girl*

Amulet/Abrams, 2012      \$16.95      Grades 5-8

This affectionately humorous story of four generations of women from an Irish family tackles the themes of facing death and facing the death of a loved one. Readers will relish the richness of the language and the nuances of the writing.



Durbin, Frederic S.  
*The Star Shard*

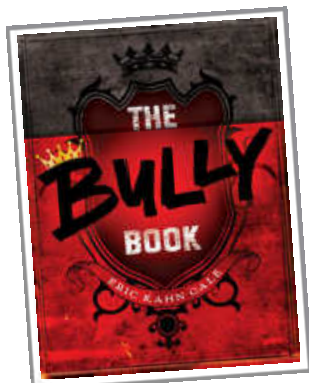
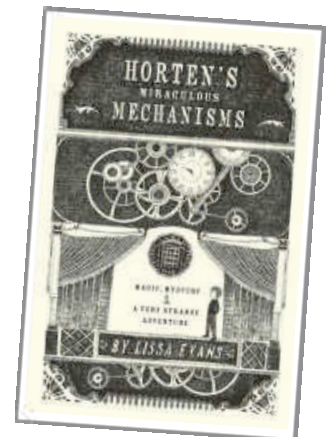
Houghton Mifflin, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 5-9

Cymbril, a slave on Thunder Rake, a wheeled fortified city, strives to free herself and an imprisoned boy. The story moves along at a brisk pace and is filled with wonderful, original characters and subtle and fulfilling magic.

Evans, Lissa  
*Horten's Miraculous Mechanisms: Magic, Mystery, & a Very Strange Adventure*

Sterling, 2012      \$14.95      Grades 3-5

Stuart Horten and friends must solve a series of puzzles to locate his mysterious magician great-uncle's long-long workshop. A page-turning mystery, with elements of magical realism.



Gale, Eric Kahn  
*The Bully Book*

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 4-8

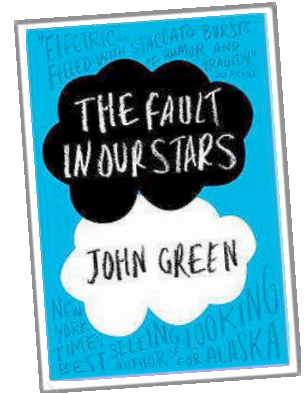
Eric Hasken experiences being "the" sixth grader being bullied, and his efforts to track down the instructional "How To" book being used by the bullies.

Green, John

*The Fault in Our Stars*

Dutton/Penguin, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 8-Adult

Sixteen year-old Hazel's smart, wry, and honest voice narrates an intriguing and profound adventure as she and her boyfriend Augustus, both of whom suffer from cancer, track down a reclusive author in an attempt to find answers to an unfinished story. Hilarious, deeply moving, and incandescently romantic, Green's unforgettable story proves his point: made up stories can matter.



Hartnett, Sonya  
*Sadie and Ratz*

Illustrated by Ann James  
Candlewick, 2012 \$14.99 Grades 1-3

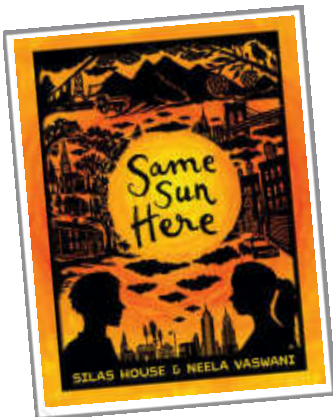
Hannah's hands – troublemakers named Sadie and Ratz – struggle to change their mischievous ways in an exploration of imaginative play, sibling dynamics, and children's burgeoning self-control. Energetic charcoal illustrations enhance the emotion of this satisfying story.

Haskell, Merrie

*The Princess Curse*

HarperCollins, 2011 \$16.99 Grades 5-adult

Using the classic fairy tale "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" as a launching pad, debut author Haskell catapults the reader into a magical world of fantasy, intrigue, and the strength of the human heart. Haskell's attention to historically inspired details and often irreverent sense of humor make this a delightful read that will appeal to a wide range of readers from young to old.



House, Silas and Neela Vaswani  
*Same Sun Here*

Candlewick, 2012 \$15.99 Grades 5-8

Using chapters formatted as letters, this alternates between Meena, an East Indian immigrant living in lower Manhattan and River, a boy from a coal mining town in Kentucky. Each penpal's voice is authentic and evocative, describing their families and issues, showing more similarities than differences.

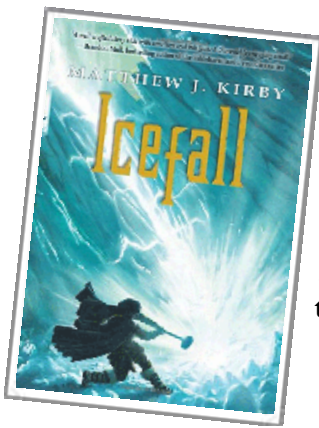
Hunt, Lynda Mullaly

*One for the Murphys*

Nancy Paulsen/Penguin, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 4-8

Thirteen-year old Carley Connors works hard to keep her feelings completely hidden as she is thrust into foster care, but she slowly learns to understand what it means to belong to a loving family, in this richly-realized debut novel.





Kirby, Matthew J.  
*Icefall*

Scholastic, 2011 \$17.99 Grades 5-8

Sent to the far North for safety, Solveig and her siblings are trapped in a settlement with a traitor in their midst. Building a claustrophobic and sinister atmosphere, Kirby creates a real sense of tension and impending doom, which is in counterpoint to the stories of the Norse gods that Solveig tells.

LaCour, Nina  
*The Disenchantments*

Dutton, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 9-12

Local author LaCour perfectly captures the transcendent moment after high school graduation when nothing is settled and everything is possible as four friends go on a road trip from San Francisco to Portland, stopping along the way to perform in a series of small gigs.



LaFevers, Robin  
*Grave Mercy: His Fair Assassin, Book 1*

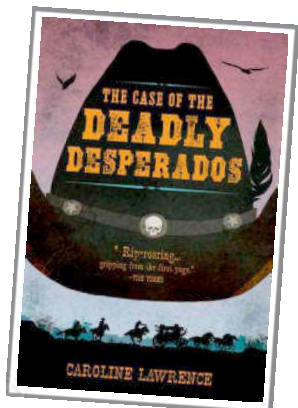
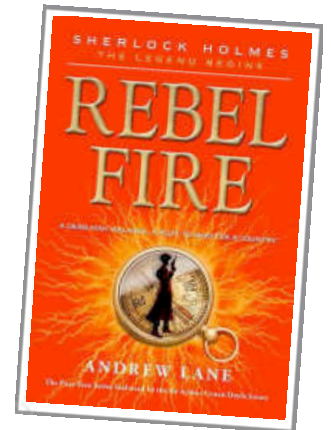
Houghton Mifflin, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 9-Adult

Seventeen-year-old assassin Ismae is tasked with finding and dispatching the traitors in the Duchess' court at Guérande.

Lane, Andrew  
*Rebel Fire (Sherlock Holmes: the Legend Begins)*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 5-10

In this second entry in the series "Sherlock Holmes, the Legend Begins," 14-year-old Sherlock, his tutor Crowe, and Crowe's daughter Virginia travel to the U.S. in 1868, to rescue friend Matty from an unexpectedly alive John Wilkes Booth and his gang. The narrative is exciting, filled with dialogue instead of long descriptions, and with cinematic chase scenes and action.



Lawrence, Caroline  
*The Case of the Deadly Desperados*

Putnam/Penguin, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 4-8

P. K. Pinkerton, a 12-year old, half-Lakota Indian living out in the Wild West in 1862, is on the run from outlaws who are after a piece of paper that P. K.'s mother entrusted to him on her deathbed—the piece of paper that would grant the bearer land believed to contain a large natural deposit of silver. This is an explosive, nonstop beginning to what should be a rip-roaring, fun new series.

Levine, Kristin

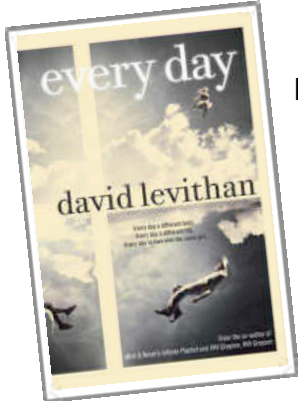
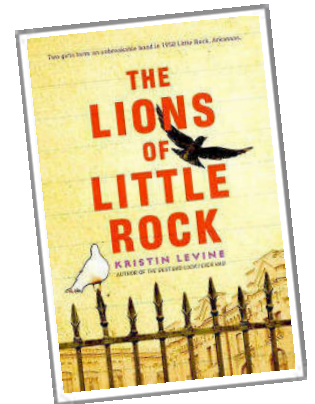
*The Lions of Little Rock*

Putnam/Penguin, 2012

\$16.99

Grades 5-8

A tender but fragile friendship lies at the heart of this deeply moving story, set in Little Rock, a year after integration, when prejudice threatens to tear the community, families, and even best friends apart.



Levithan, David

*Every Day*

Knopf, 2012

\$17.99

Grades 8-12

Every day, "A" wakes up in a different body – life has always been like this. That is, until A meets Rhiannon and falls deeply in love. Teens will be fascinated with Levithan's philosophical musings on love, identity, gender, and relationships, and yet they will ultimately be drawn by this love story.

Lin, Grace

*Starry River of Sky*

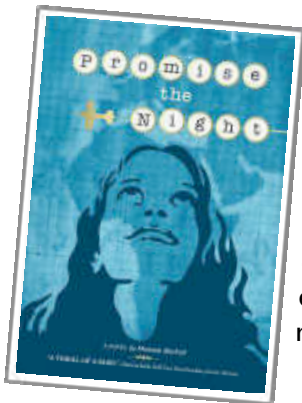
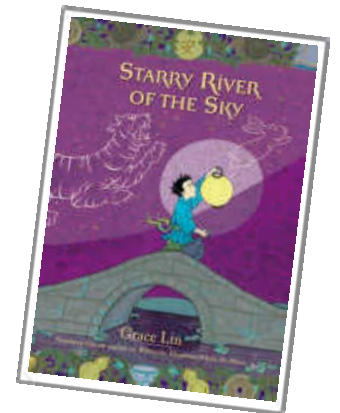
Illustrated by Grace Lin

Little, Brown, 2012

\$17.99

Grades 4-6

This companion to Lin's 2010 Newbery Honor-winning *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (2009) uses full-color illustrations, Chinese folklore, and lively writing to tell the story of young Rendi who has run away from home and found shelter in an isolated and lonely village. While a few characters will be familiar to readers of the earlier novel, this tale can be read on its own for its adventurous fantasy and as a satisfying coming-of-age story.



MacColl, Michaela

*Promise the Night*

Chronicle, 2011

\$16.99

Grades 4-6

Beryl Clutterbuck Markham, the first person to fly a plane from Europe to America, grew up in colonial East Africa, wanting more than anything to be a Murani: a warrior of the Nandi tribe. This engrossing historical fiction coming-of-age novel will captivate middle grade readers.

McKay, Hilary

*Lulu and the Duck in the Park*

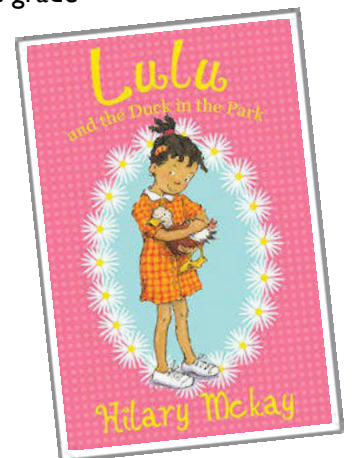
Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont

Albert Whitman, 2012

\$13.99

Grades 2-4

Despite her teacher's stern warning, tender-hearted Lulu inadvertently and quite unexpectedly adds a new animal to the classroom in a laugh-out-loud transitional story.





McKissack, Patricia C.

**Never Forgotten**

Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon

Schwartz & Wade, 2011 \$18.99 Grades 5-8

Free verse poems and dramatic stained glass-like illustrations describe the life of Musafa, a young boy from Mali who is captured by slave traders. The story told in this collection of poems also covers his father's search for him in this satisfying look at a devastating part of history.

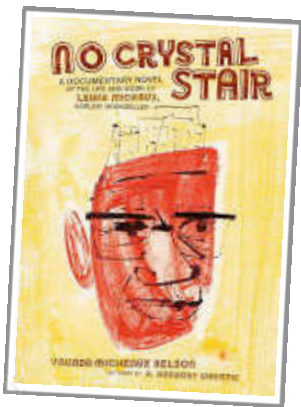
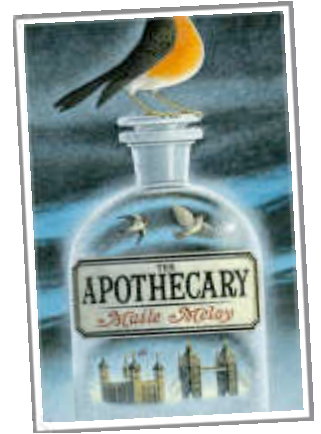
Meloy, Maile

**The Apothecary**

Illustrated by Ian Schoenherr

Putnam/Penguin, 2011 \$16.99 Grades 5-8

The attention of the House Committee on Un-American Activities leads 14-year-old Los Angeles native Janie's family to move to London where she stumbles upon a murder, and teams up with new classmate Benjamin in a daring attempt to subvert a nuclear test. A mesmerizing mix of magic and Cold-War intrigue gives this engrossing fantasy a fresh feel.



Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux

**No Crystal Stair: A Documentary Novel of the Life and Work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem Bookseller**

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Carolrhoda LAB/Lerner, 2012 \$17.95 Grades 7-12

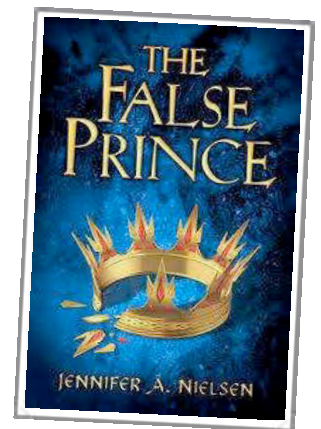
Michaux was the owner of a landmark bookstore in Harlem, specializing in books by and about African-Americans, and helped promote interest in Malcolm X and other leaders. The book walks the border between fiction and nonfiction, using a journal format told from a variety of voices, with photos and ink drawings.

Nielsen, Jennifer A.

**The False Prince**

Scholastic, 2011 \$17.99 Grades 5-8

In a desperate plan to avert Civil War in Carthya, three boys compete to masquerade as the long-missing Prince Jaron. With a drily humorous narrator and packed with adventure and intrigue, *The False Prince* includes surprises along the way before reaching a satisfyingly action-packed conclusion.



Palacio, R.J.

**Wonder**

Knopf, 2012 \$15.99 Grades 4-6

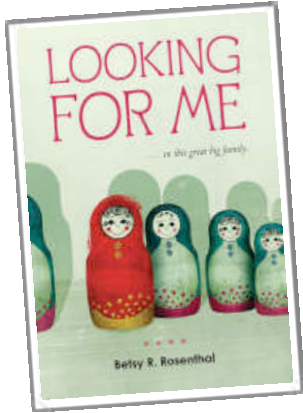
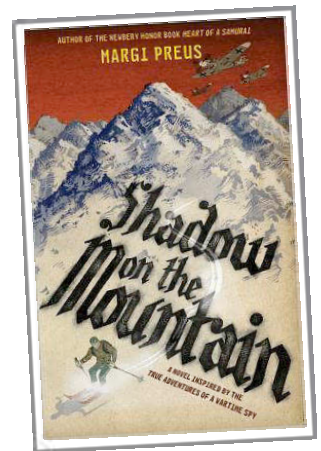
Told from several points of view, this moving middle grade novel follows Auggie, a boy born with a facial deformity, during his first year of middle school. The themes of bullying and being different make it topical and easily relatable for readers of all ages.

Preus, Margi

*Shadow on the Mountain*

Amulet/Abrams, 2012 \$16.95 Grades 6-10

Espen, a good-natured fourteen year old, comes of age during the Nazi occupation of Norway, and risks his life performing missions for the Resistance. Preus provides a riveting fictional account of real characters and events with humor and poignancy, as well as references to Norwegian folklore.



Rosenthal, Betsy R.

*Looking for Me*

Harcourt, 2012 \$15.99 Grades 4-6

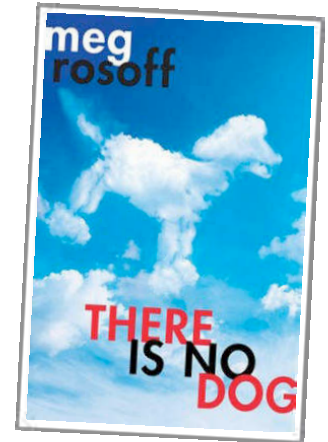
"Just plain Edith" is number 4 in a family with 12 children. At 11, she is the "good little mother" to the siblings below her. Here, in simple but often moving free verse, Edith tries to determine who she really is – in the family and in the world.

Rosoff, Meg

*There Is No Dog*

Putnam/Penguin, 2012 \$17.99 Grades 9-Adult

Wouldn't Life make more sense if you knew that God was a self-absorbed and moody teenage boy? This satirical novel looks at what happens when this God falls in love with a mortal.



Rupp, Rebecca

*After Eli*

Candlewick, 2012 \$15.99 Grades 6-9

In a witty, wrenching narrative, Danny recollects his momentous fourteenth summer when he forced his parents to face the death of this older brother Eli, stood up to school bullies, and fell in love.

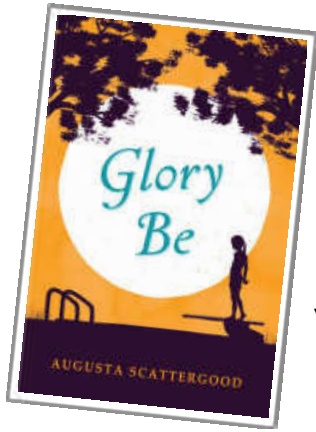
Saenz, Benjamin Alire

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*

Simon & Schuster, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 9-Adult

Aristotle Mendoza is a 15-year old loner who has never had a friend before—until he meets Dante Quintana. When Dante comes out to his friend, Aristotle is accepting but still uncertain of his own sexuality. The distinctive first-person voice of Aristotle, part melancholy introspection, part self-deprecating humor, perfectly captures the uncertainties of a teen boy who has long held himself aloof but is realizing he wants to change.





Scattergood, Augusta

*Glory Be*

Scholastic, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 4-7

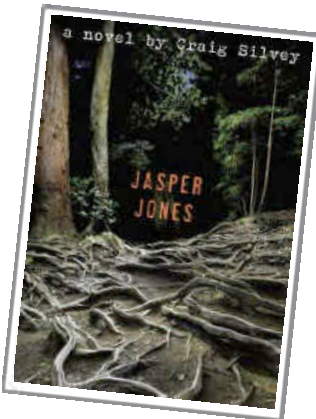
It's 1964 in Hanging Moss, Mississippi, and Glory looks forward to turning 12 but the whites-only community pool is under threat of closure. Debut novelist Scattergood paints a vivid portrait of a girl learning to sort things out for herself and rethink alliances with anyone in the community, who are all living through big changes.

Schlitz, Laura Amy

*Splendors and Glooms*

Candlewick, 2012      \$17.99      Grades 4-8

In 1860's London, Clara disappears after hosting puppeteer Grisini at her birthday party. When Grisini too goes missing, it's up to his apprentices to find out what's going on. Oozing atmosphere, this Dickensian novel is brimming with rich description, vividly drawn characters, and the perfect amount of creepiness.



Silvey, Craig

*Jasper Jones*

Knopf, 2011      \$16.99      Grades 8-12

In 1965 in a small Australian town, Jasper Jones knocks on the window of 13-year-old Charlie asking for help. Charlie is taken to Jasper's remote hide-away, where, to his horror, a young girl hangs dead from a eucalyptus tree. This is a coming-of-age story with surprising twists that reveal the darkest side of humanity along with its most noble qualities.

Stephens, John

*The Fire Chronicle*

Knopf, 2012      \$17.99      Grades 3-8

Continuing the tumultuous, action-packed adventures of siblings Kate, Michael, and Emma introduced in *The Emerald Atlas* (2011), this second book in the series is an equally thrilling page-turner.

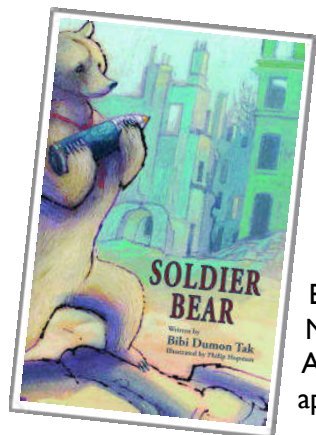


Tak, Bibi Dumon

*Soldier Bear*

Translated by Laura Watkinson  
Illustrated by Philip Hopman  
Eerdmans, 2011      \$13.00      Grades 4-7

Based on a true story, a group of Polish soldiers serving as adjuncts to the British Army in Northern Africa during WWII adopt a Syrian bear cub and take him with them on their missions. Although this is a children's novel with no child characters, it has drama, humor, heart, and will appeal to a wide array of readers.

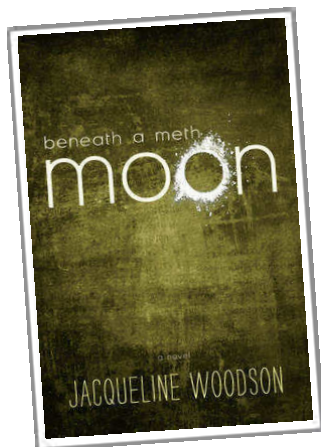
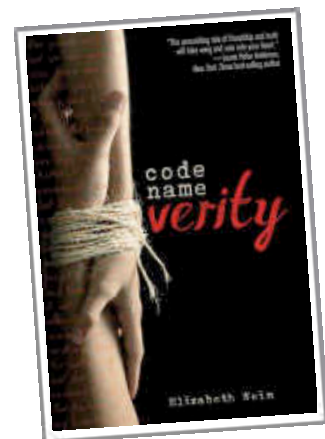


Wein, Elizabeth

*Code Name Verity*

Hyperion, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 8-Adult

*Code Name Verity* is a work of historical fiction set at the end of WWII, 1943. Two 'girls' doing 'man's work' in wartime Britain become best friends; one is a pilot and one is a spy and one has royal Scottish blood and one is the child of Jewish immigrants. A tale of the Resistance that resonates today.

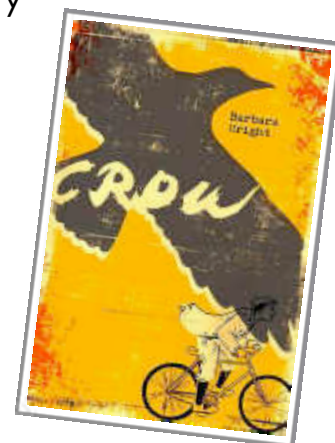


Woodson, Jacqueline

*Beneath a Meth Moon*

Nancy Paulsen/Penguin, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 7-12

Laurel has lost her mother in a Katrina-like flood and starts a new life in a small town, but the boy she is attracted to introduces her to meth. Multiple award-winning author Jacqueline Woodson deals brilliantly with actual contemporary tragedies in a story that will resonate with teenagers.



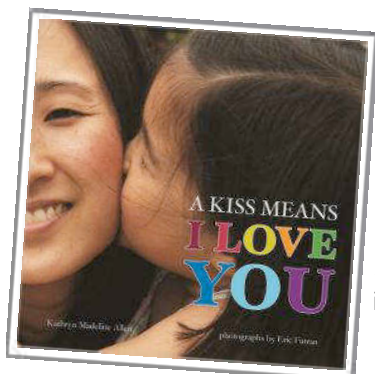
Wright, Barbara

*Crow*

Random House, 2012 \$16.99 Grades 5-8

*Crow* brings history to life through eleven-year-old Moses, as he observes and participates in the real-life tragic events in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1898.

## Picture Books



Allen, Kathryn Madeline

*A Kiss Means I Love You*

Photographs by Eric Futran

Albert Whitman, 2012 \$15.99 Grades B/T-K

A short, sweet rhyme clearly and succinctly explains the various emotions and expressions illustrated in the bright photos of multi-ethnic children's faces.

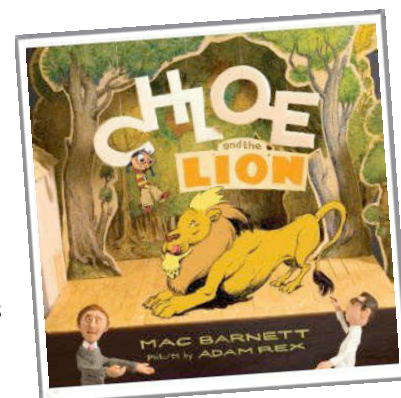
Barnett, Mac

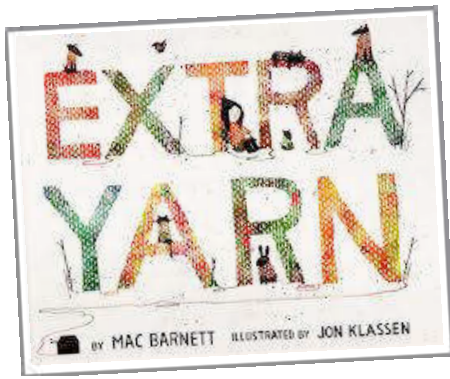
*Chloe and the Lion*

Illustrated by Adam Rex

Hyperion, 2012 \$16.99 Grades K-5

One day, Chloe wandered through the dark forest when, "a huge lion leapt out from behind an oak tree." But children will quickly see that the picture shows an enormous purple dragon, NOT a lion, and Mac, the author, becomes very angry that Adam, the illustrator, won't follow his directions. Kids will love the bickering and final resolution as these two friends create a truly funny story by working together.





Barnett, Mac  
*Extra Yarn*

Illustrated by Jon Klassen  
HarperCollins, 2012

\$16.99      Grades PreK-4

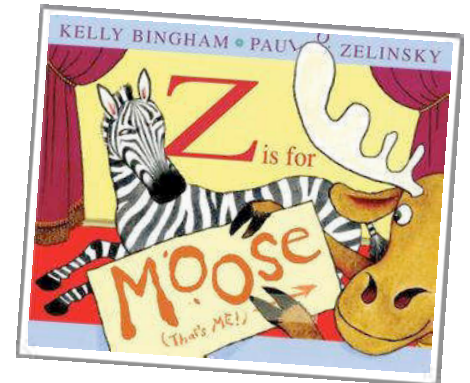
In a drab, wintry town, Annabelle discovers a box "filled with yarn of every color." As she knits and shares with others, the magical yarn never ends. Klassen's droll, ingenious illustrations are integral to the charming, offbeat fable.

Bingham, Kelly  
*Z is for Moose*

Illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky  
Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2012

\$16.99      Grades PreK-1

Moose cannot wait for his feature role in this alphabet picture book, but when Zebra announces a change of plans Moose positively flips his lid. This laugh-out-loud picture book will delight preschool through first grade storytime audiences with its energy and alphabetic antics.



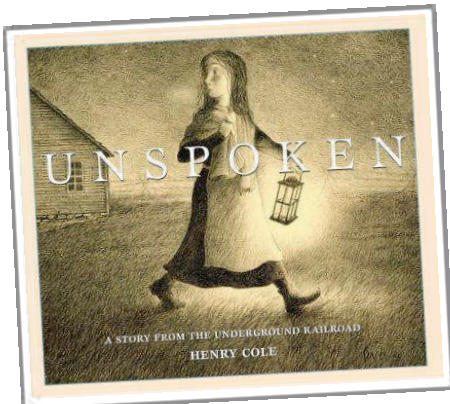
Cole, Henry

*Unspoken: A Story From the Underground Railroad*

Illustrated by Henry Cole

Scholastic, 2012      \$16.99      Grades 3-8

In a wordless yet eloquent picture book, a devout, courageous farm girl secretly provides food to a runaway slave who leaves her a special gift.

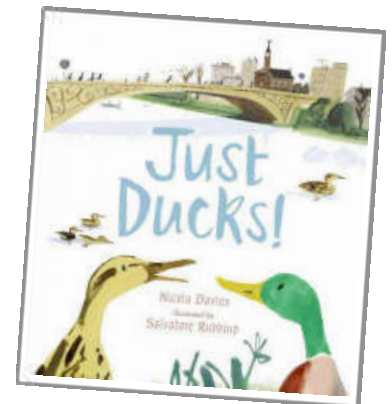


Davies, Nicola  
*Just Ducks!*

Illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino  
Candlewick, 2012

\$15.99      Grades B/T-PreK

A young girl narrates her day in a town full of mallard ducks, sharing information about ducks' lives in a well-illustrated, informational picture book. Can work well as read-aloud.

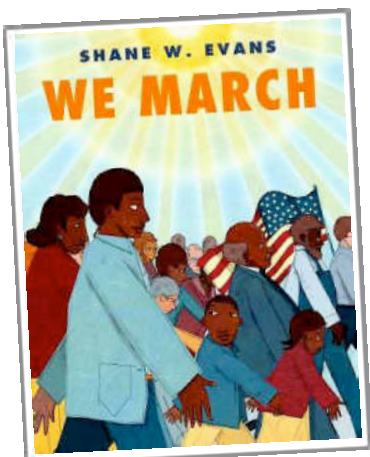


Evans, Shane W.  
*We March*

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012      \$16.99      Grades PreK-2

In simple prose and images, Evans tells the story of one child whose family participated in the 1963 March on Washington. This essential story invites young children to imagine themselves joining this historic event.



Fleming, Candace

*Oh, No!*

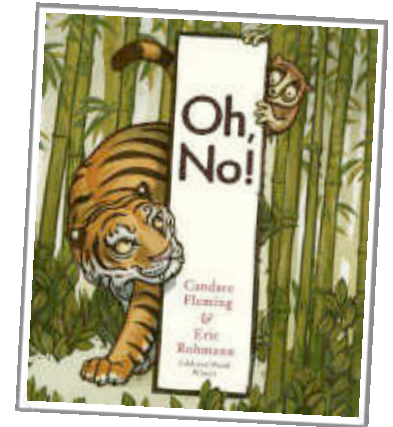
Illustrated by Eric Rohmann

Schwartz & Wade/Random House, 2012

\$17.99

Grades PreK-2

One by one, small animals tumble into a deep hole, closely observed by a salivating tiger. Lively expressive relief print art meshes perfectly with a fresh, rhythmic retelling that invites participation, “Oh, Yes!”



Fogliano, Julie

*And Then Suddenly It's Spring*

Illustrated by Erin E. Stead

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-2

A spare, lyrical narrative and delicate, woodblock print and pencil illustrations capture the anticipation of spring, when a boy, accompanied by a coterie of animals, plants a seed and waits expectantly for it to sprout.

Fraze, Marla

*Boot and Shoe*

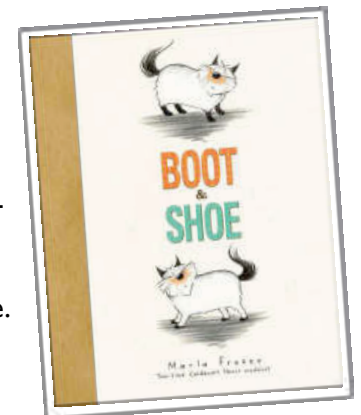
Illustrated by Marla Frazee

Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-2

Dogs Boot and Shoe live together, but after chasing a squirrel, they each search for their look-alike doggie sibling but keep missing each other in this humorous circular story. Black pencil and gouache on creamy speckled paper depict the two dogs and their journey. With hand-lettered text, the narrative has plenty of repetition and rhythm to please a storytime audience.



Freedman, Deborah

*Blue Chicken*

Illustrated by Deborah Freedman

Viking/Penguin, 2011

\$15.99

Grades PreK-3

With delightful mischief, a little chicken pops up out of an artist's flat drawing and topples over a pot of blue paint, turning everything in its wake blue...until one of the chickens thinks of a solution. Freedman has created a story that is playful, creative, and mischievous—and one that plays with the meta-fiction notion of characters wreaking havoc on an artist's work.

Graham, Bob

*A Bus Called Heaven*

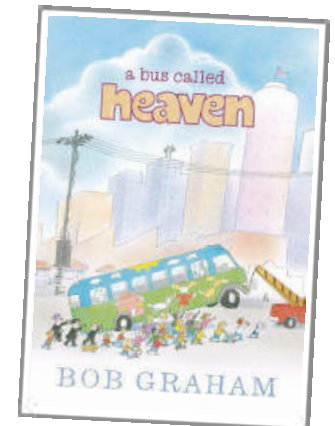
Illustrated by Bob Graham

Candlewick, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-2

When an abandoned bus ticketed for “Heaven” suddenly appears on Stella's street, the neighborhood soon puts it to good use in a rollicking tale of such diverse values as recycling, game skills, and community.





Hest, Amy

*Charley's First Night*

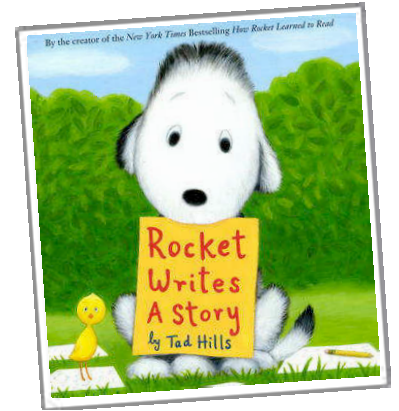
Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

Candlewick, 2012

\$15.99

Grades PreK-2

Henry knows his dog, Charley, is to sleep in the kitchen on his first night in the house, but to comfort Charley when he's crying in night, Henry takes him into his bed where they both fall asleep.



Hills, Tad

*Rocket Writes a Story*

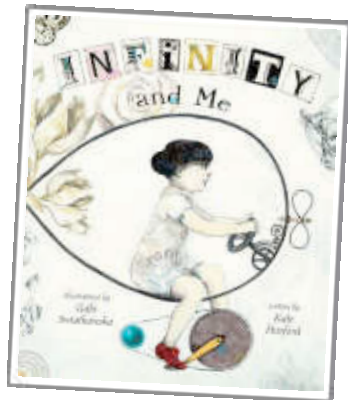
Illustrated by Tad Hills

Schwartz & Wade/Random House, 2012

\$17.99

Grades K-2

In another winsome story of achievement, Rocket, now a reader who collects words, decides to write a story.



Hosford, Kate

*Infinity and Me*

Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska

Carolrhoda/Lerner, 2012

\$16.95

Grades 2-4

A young girl explores the concept of infinity by asking people close to her to define it. This beautifully illustrated and designed book explores a complicated concept in a fun and imaginative way.

Kalman, Maira

*Looking at Lincoln*

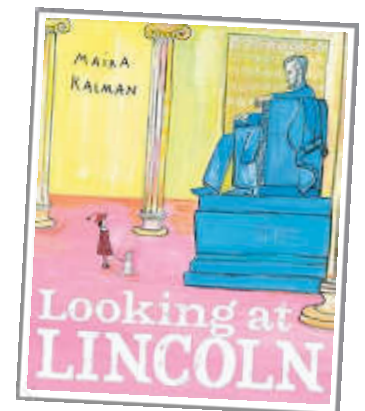
Illustrated by Kalman, Maira

Nancy Paulsen/Penguin, 2012

\$17.99

Grades K-3

Within the brief format Kalman accomplishes miracles: introducing readers to Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglas, discussing the origins and tragic costs of the Civil War, and shepherding us through Lincoln's assassination. Kalman's naïve and graphically strong gouaches in saturated colors match the spirit of this loving, inspiring tribute.



Klassen, Jon

*This Is Not My Hat*

Illustrated by Jon Klassen

Candlewick, 2012

\$15.99

Grades B/T-K

In clear, simple sentences, Jon Klassen shows the natural consequences of actions for a mischievous little fish who steals a larger fish's hat. Told the way a small child might tell the story, even young children will enjoy the characters and predict the results.

Kooser, Ted

### *House Held Up By Trees*

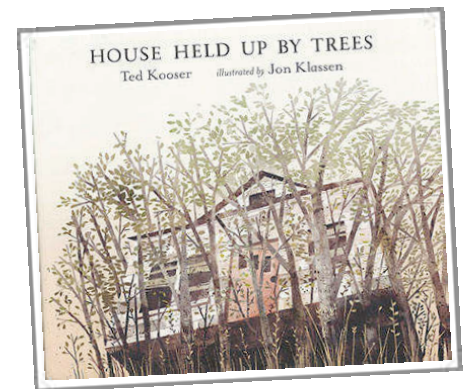
Illustrated by Jon Klassen

Candlewick, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-3

Delightfully lyrical text and charming, muted earth-tone illustrations combine in this somewhat melancholy, but ultimately triumphant, book about the passage of time and the power of nature to grow trees that can lift a house into the sky.



LaRochelle, David

### *It's a Tiger!*

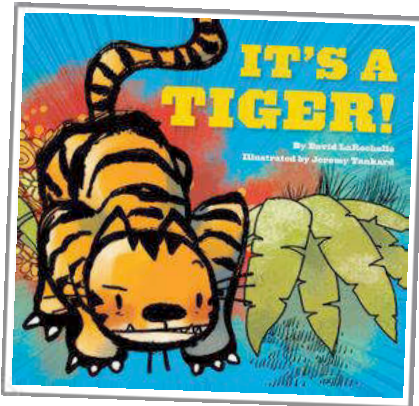
Illustrated by Jeremy Tankard

Chronicle, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-1

A young explorer shows us around the jungle, which includes a monkey whose tail looks suspiciously like... A TIGER! RUN!! Thus begins this sure-to-please read-a-loud gem, filled with repetition, I Spy-ability, and shout-out-loud interactivity. A storytime dynamo.



Li-Qiong, Yu

### *A New Year's Reunion*

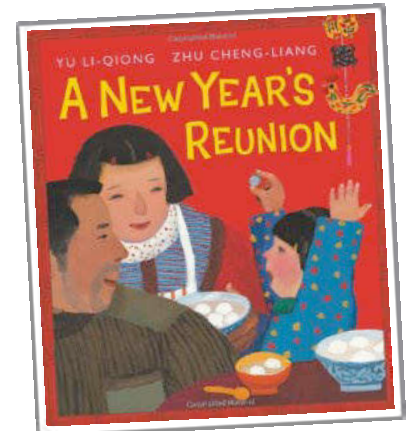
Illustrated by Zhu Cheng-Liang

Candlewick, 2011

\$15.99

Grades PreK-3

First published in Taiwan in 2008, this poignant picture book describes a relatively common practice in China, where parents work so far from home they can only visit their families for a few days each New Year's. A little girl, Maomao, describes the excitement of her Papa's visit, with vivid gouache illustrations.



Logue, Mary

### *Sleep Like a Tiger*

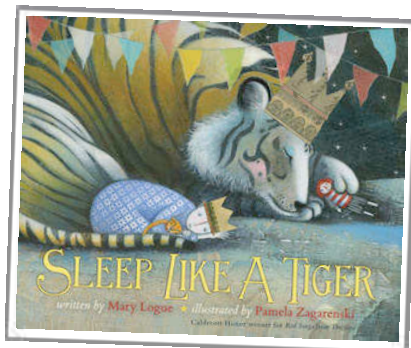
Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski

Houghton Mifflin, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-2

Lyrical text and rich, highly textured illustrations work together to present evocative imagery that brings a new pleasure to the bedtime book genre. The artwork is a feast for the eyes, with repeated patterns and hidden surprises that make this a book that children will want to share one-on-one with somebody special again and again.



Long, Ethan

### *Up! Tall! and High! (But Not Necessarily in That Order)*

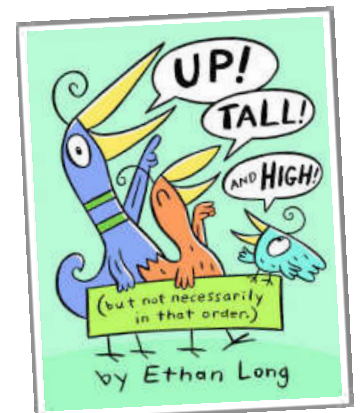
Illustrated by Ethan Long

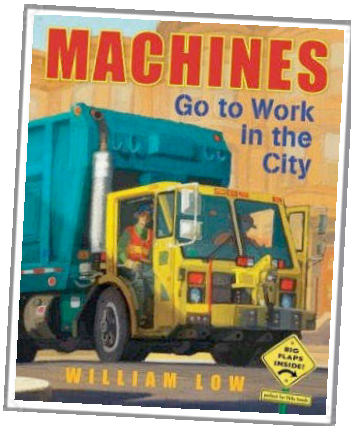
Putnam/Penguin, 2012

\$15.99

Grades B/T-K

Three very brief episodes depict the concepts of high-low, up-down, and tall-small, in this easy to read picture book with gatefold flaps. Brightly colored birds, done in a cartoon style in ink with digital coloring, use dialog balloons for all the text portions of the story; perfect for emergent readers.





Low, William

*Machines Go to Work in the City*

Illustrated by William Low

Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-K

Machines are busy at work throughout the city. Detailed illustrations and flaps enhance the story.

Mack, Jeff

*Good News, Bad News*

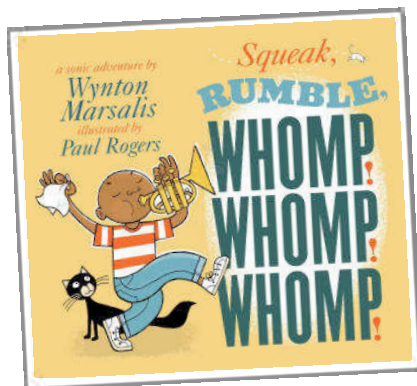
Illustrated by Jeff Mack

Chronicle, 2012

\$16.99

Grades B/T-PreK

Friends Rabbit and Mouse can agree on a picnic, but not much else. Using only four words (“good news” and “bad news”) on all but the last page, this warm-hearted, humorous picture book explores opposites, friendship, and personal identity, and will work well for a range of storytime groups.



Marsalis, Wynton

*Squeak, Rumble, Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!*

Illustrated by Paul Rogers

Candlewick, 2012

\$15.99

Grades PreK-2

A little boy describes the sounds that surround him in rhyming text full of onomatopoeia, which makes this an engaging read-aloud for storytimes. The retro 1950's style cartoon illustrations (resembling *Gerald McBoing Boing*), done in ink with digital enhancements, feature an African-American family in New Orleans, with the text flowing in curved lines or vertically. Of course, the emphasis on “sound” words makes this a great choice for fostering the emergent literacy skills of phonological awareness.

McCarty, Peter

*Chloe*

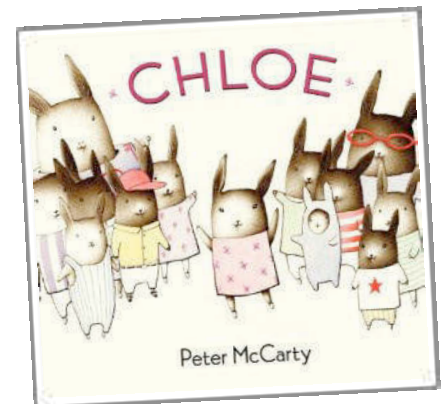
Illustrated by Peter McCarty

Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-1

When a new television pulls her parents and siblings away from their traditional “family fun time,” Chloe uses the empty TV box and bubble wrap to lure them away from the screen. This very funny story makes a subtle point about simple, shared family pleasures.



McGuirk, Leslie

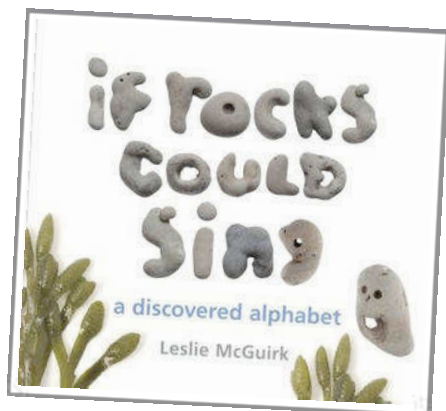
*If Rocks Could Sing: a Discovered Alphabet*

Tricycle, 2011

\$15.99

Grades PreK-2

Fossiliferous sandstone rocks were collected by the author/photographer on Florida beaches over the years, and photos of these alphabet-shaped rocks appear in this unusual book. Each rock was naturally shaped by nature, not manipulated by an artist. This is an excellent alphabet book as well as a great book for a science unit on rocks.



Nyeu, Tao

### *Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always*

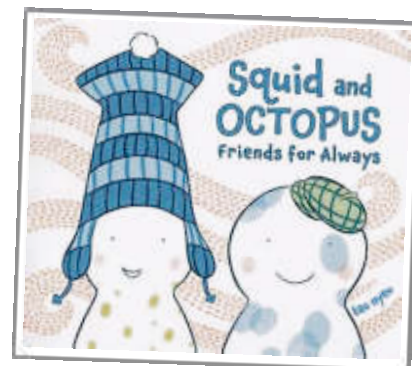
Illustrated by Tao Nyeu

Dial/Penguin, 2012

\$ 16.99

Grades PreK-1

Squid and Octopus sometimes disagree, but in these four silly yet cozy stories, they are always the best of friends.



Redeker, Kent

### *Don't Squish the Sasquatch!*

Illustrated by Bob Staake

Hyperion, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-K

Señor Sasquatch wants to ride the bus without being squished; is that too much to ask? Of course it is, answers this picture book, with everyone ignoring the listener-participation-friendly refrain of "Don't squish the Sasquatch!" A strong candidate for preschool storytime, with a funny story and colorful retro-style illustrations.

Reynolds, Aaron

### *Creepy Carrots!*

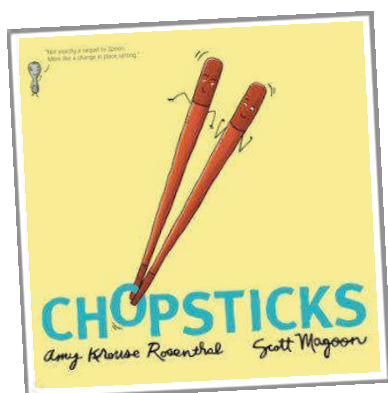
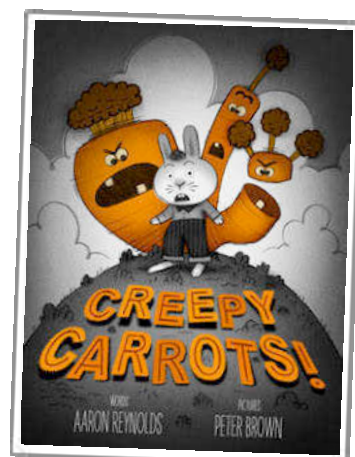
Illustrated by Peter Brown

Simon & Schuster, 2012

\$17.99

Grades PreK-3

An inventive, visually appealing narrative picture book that tells the story of Jasper Rabbit, who begins to notice creepy carrots following him after grabbing carrot snacks from Crankenhopper Field. The use of black, white, gray and contrasting orange illustrations creates an almost cinematic, film noir atmosphere.



Rosenthal, Amy Krouse

### *Chopsticks*

Illustrated by Scott Magoon

Disney/Hyperion, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-1

The Chopsticks are best friends and do everything together—until they attempt a tricky maneuver on an asparagus spear and one of them breaks. With a clear and positive friendship message, Magoon's charming digital art and plenty of verbal and visual puns, this is a surefire hit for storytimes both large and small.

Salas, Laura

### *A Leaf Can Be...*

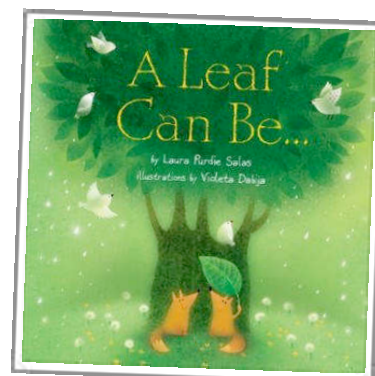
Illustrated by Violeta Dabija

Millbrook/Lerner, 2012

\$17.95

Grades PreK-1

What role do leaves play in nature? This book provides many answers to this question in simple rhyming verse. Young children will be delighted by its whimsical, yet factual, interpretations of leaves combined with beautifully rich illustrations created using mixed media such as gouache, paper, and digital art.





Savage, Stephen

*Little Tug*

Illustrated by Stephen Savage

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012

\$12.99

Grades B/T-PreK

Though not the biggest, tallest, or fastest boat in the harbor, Little Tug still has an important role to play. Savage's latest is easy on young eyes with its limited, soothing color palette rendered primarily in shades of blue; solid shapes set in graphic color blocks; and one short phrase/sentence per page.

Schaefer, Lola M.

*One Special Day*

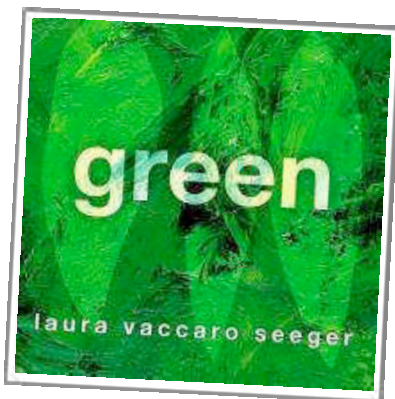
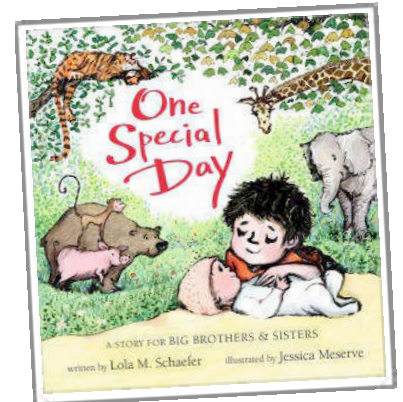
Illustrated by Jessica Meserve

Hyperion, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-1

Spencer undergoes a remarkable transformation from a wild and raucous boy to a gentle, big brother in a joyful, tender story for "big brothers and sisters."



Seeger, Laura Vaccaro

*Green*

Illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012

\$16.99

Grades PreK-2

In this deceptively simple picture book, shades of green are celebrated in short, rhyming text. However, a closer examination reveals that this is an exquisitely designed book, perfectly melding together verse and art, weaving together a sophisticated, subtle storyline and providing an additional level of engagement for readers through its clever use of die cuts.

Stead, Phillip C.

*Bear Has a Story to Tell*

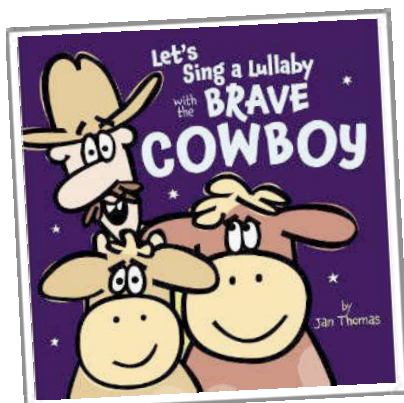
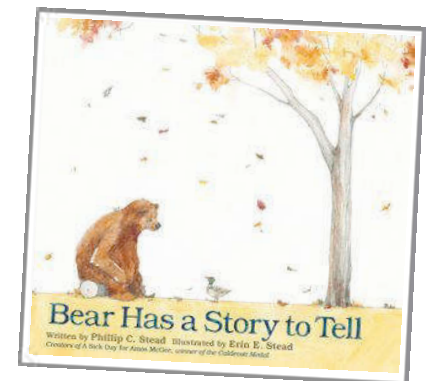
Illustrated by Erin E. Stead

Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2012

\$16.99

Grades B/T-2

Bear has a story to tell, but Winter is coming and his friends don't have time to listen now. Bear, too, must hibernate. When Winter's over, Bear can't quite remember his story ... but that leads to a neat end to this slow and gentle tale. Terrific!



Thomas, Jan

*Let's Sing a Lullaby with the Brave Cowboy*

Illustrated by Jan Thomas

Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, 2012

\$12.99

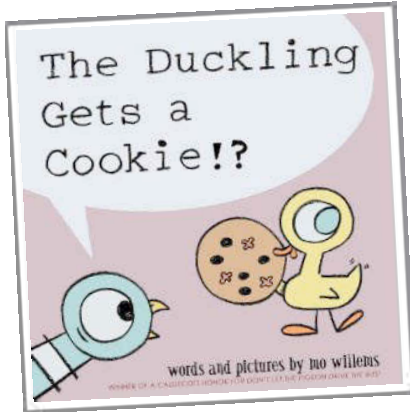
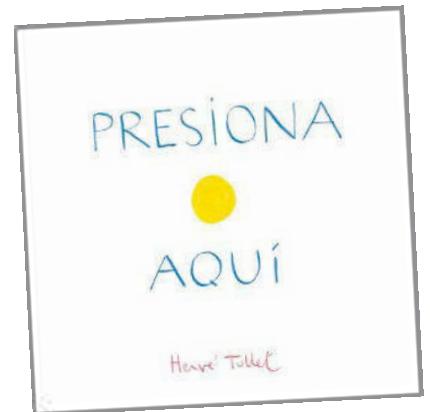
Grades PreK-K

The Brave Cowboy loves to sing lullabies for his friends, but finds it hard to be as brave as his name suggests. This picture book will appeal to a wide range of young readers, and makes a great storytime choice, offering a singalong opportunity in addition to its satisfyingly silly story.

Tullet, Hervé  
*Presiona Aquí*

Illustrated by Hervé Tullet  
Chronicle, 2012 \$15.99 Grades PreK-2

Excellent Spanish translation of Herve Tullet's Press Here (Chronicle Books, 2011).



Willems, Mo  
*The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?*

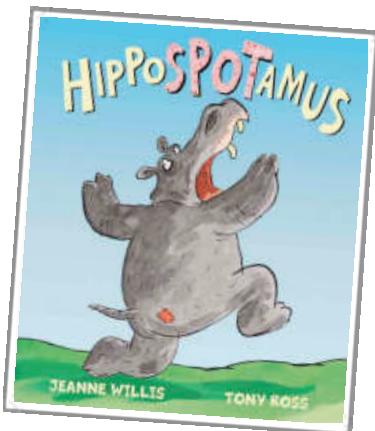
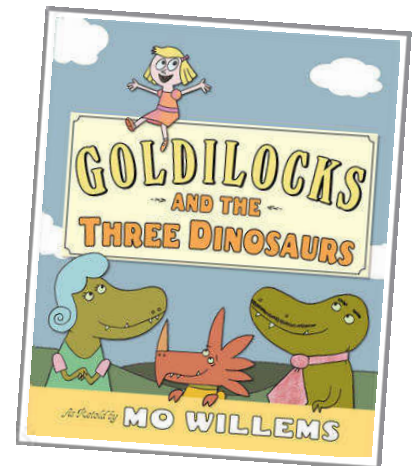
Illustrated by Mo Willems  
Hyperion, 2012 \$15.99 Grades PreK-2

Pigeon throws a fit when Duckling gets a cookie. With references from previous books and the deceptively simple illustrations conveying multiple emotions from the pigeon, this is a hilarious lesson in manners.

Willems, Mo  
*Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs*

Illustrated by Mo Willems  
Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins 2012 \$17.99 Grades PreK-2

A very funny fractured fairy tale take on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, this picture book works on several levels, subverting well-worn genre conventions while creating fresh, funny characters. Deceptively simple mixed media pencil and digital illustrations let the story and characters shine through.



Willis, Jeanne  
*Hippospotamus*

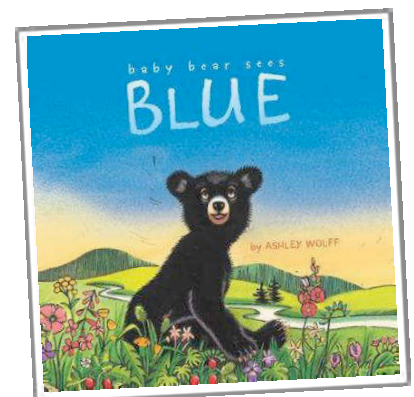
Illustrated by Tony Ross  
Andersen/Lerner, 2012 \$16.95 Grades K-3

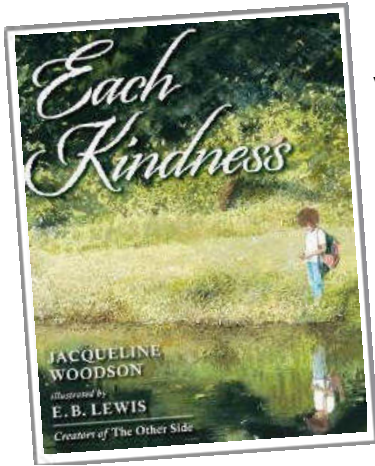
A hilarious rhyming read aloud about a hippopotamus with a mysterious "spotamus" on her "bottomus" taking advice from her friends to find a cure, with a surprising, satisfying gross-out conclusion.

Wolff, Ashley  
*Baby Bear Sees Blue*

Illustrated by Ashley Wolff  
Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, 2012 \$16.99 Grades B/T-PreK

As a curious young bear asks question after question, his mother patiently shows him the world around him. Baby Bear stops to notice the special colors: the yellow sun, the green leaves, the brown trout. Wolff's intricate woodcuts and radiant watercolors capture the joy that mother and baby experience as they explore their world, in this perfectly paced picture book.





Woodson, Jacqueline

*Each Kindness*

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis

Nancy Paulsen/Penguin, 2012

\$16.99

Grades K-4

When the new girl, Maya, comes to elementary school, Chloe and her friends exclude her, despite her attempts to play with them in this sensitive picture book that addresses difficult, and realistic, feelings. Watercolor illustrations render multicultural characters' facial expressions, providing additional depth to this provocative and powerful book.

## Readers

Bell, Cece

*Rabbit & Robot: the Sleepover*

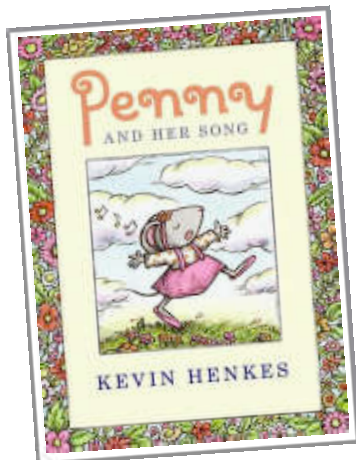
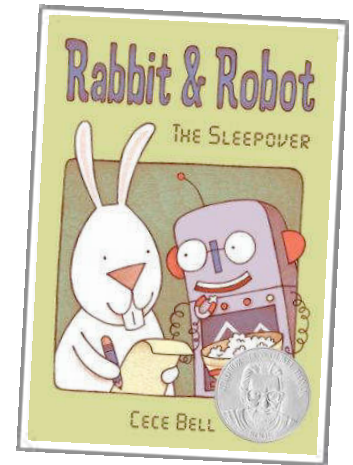
Illustrated by Cece Bell

Candlewick, 2012

\$14.99

Grades 1-3

Rabbit has planned every detail of his sleepover with friend Robot, from what games to play to what they will eat, but plans go awry in this entertaining four-chapter easy reader. The digitally-created full color illustrations resemble the work of Sara Varon (*Robot Dreams*, First Second, 2007).



Henkes, Kevin

*Penny and Her Song*

Illustrated by Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2012

\$12.99

Grades K-2

Young children will delight in Kevin Henkes' first book for beginning readers. Penny comes home from school - she has made up her very own song and can't wait to share it with her family, but she mustn't wake up the babies. The illustrations, in soft watercolors and clear black ink, support the text on each page.

Ponti, Claude

*Chick & Chickie Play All Day!*

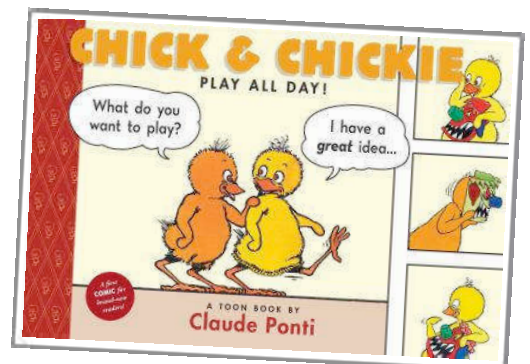
Illustrated by Claude Ponti

Toon, 2012

\$12.95

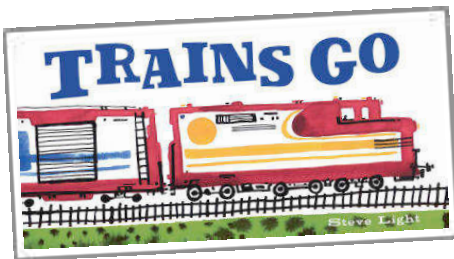
Grades PreK-1

"What do you want to play?" Chick asks his friend Chickie, as they start this giggle-inducing comic book for beginning readers. With simple dialog and clear design features, this Level 1 Toon book will engage new readers with its humor and surprises.



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## Board Book



Light, Steve  
*Trains Go*

Illustrated by Steve Light

Chronicle, 2012

\$8.99

Grades B/T-PreK

Hitch a ride on a freight train, streamliner, mountain train, speed train, old steam train, diesel train, big steam train, and caboose as they clang, chug, and clutter across the pages of this buoyant board book.

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## Professional

Fasick, Adele

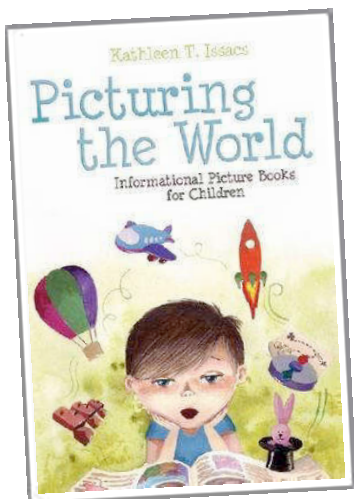
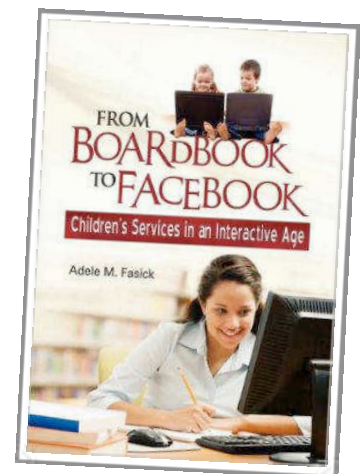
*From Boardbook to Facebook: Children's Services in an Interactive Age*

Libraries Unlimited, 2011

\$45.00

Adult

Fasick's new book on children's library services lives up to that title by offering ideas for blending traditional library services with new technological innovations such as ebooks, iPads, electronic media, online resources, and the growing revolution libraries are facing at this time due to these changes. Whether you are a youth services librarian who started before we had computers, or a "digital native" newer librarian, this will have something for you.



Isaacs, Kathleen T.

*Picturing the World: Informational Picture Books for Children*

American Library Association Editions, 2012

\$50.00

Adult

Libraries preparing for the "Common Core" emphasis on nonfiction will find this introduction to informational picture books and subsequent survey of exemplary titles an invaluable professional tool.

Marcus, Leonard

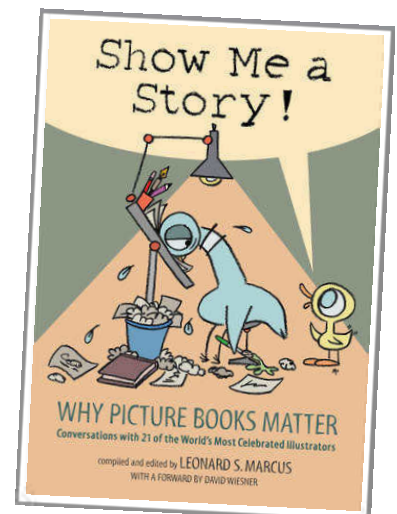
*Show Me a Story: Why Picture Books Matter*

Candlewick, 2012

\$22.99

Adult

Leonard Marcus has collected a series of "conversations" with 21 picture book illustrators, including Maurice Sendak, Mo Willems, Yumi Heo, and Jerry Pinkney. The relaxed back-and-forth yields fascinating glimpses at a variety of creative approaches.



## About ACL

The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California was founded in the 1930s by a group of public and school librarians. Members meet monthly to review books for young people and discuss related issues. ACL reviews are published in *BayViews*, a journal of book reviews and opinions with a western perspective.



## Chairs of The 2012 Distinguished Books Committee:

Eric Barbus, San Francisco Public Library  
Kathryn Shepler, Aurora School

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