

2013 Distinguished Books



Titles have been selected from those reviewed in *BayViews*, the review journal of the Association of Children's Librarians 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. Age designations in the annotations are approximate.



Nonfiction

Abel, Jessica, and Matt Madden

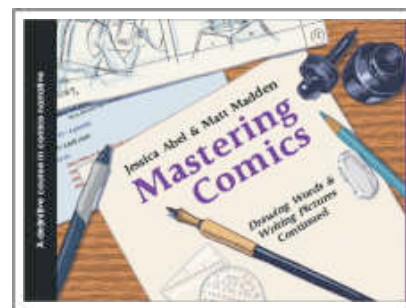
Mastering Comics: Drawing Words & Writing Pictures Continued

First Second, 2012

\$34.99

Grade 7 – Adult

Two teachers write their second and more advanced book on comics, integrating narrative with pictures, proper inking, publishing, etc. Aspects of making comics as a business are also covered.



Ajmera, Maya and Victoria Dunning and Cynthia Pon *Healthy Kids*

Charlesbridge, 2013

\$17.95

Preschool – Grade 4

Through photographs and short text, children from many countries are shown performing healthy activities such as washing hands and brushing teeth. More mature matter in the back discusses the disparity of health among children globally and what may be done. A great conversation starter to be used with young children!



Anderson, Tanya

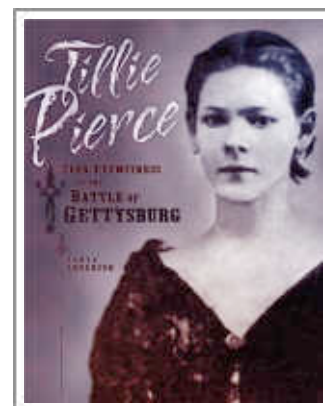
Tillie Pierce: Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg

21st Century, 2013

\$34.60

Grades 5 – 8

Imagine living in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania during the Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg. That's where 15-year-old Tillie Pierce lived in 1863. Tillie saw the Battle happen before her eyes and quickly became a companion and nurse to many dying men. The intriguing text is accompanied by maps, sidebars, and primary-source photographs.



Bascomb, Neal

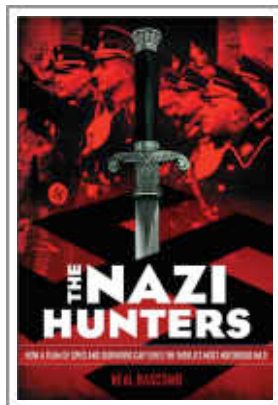
The Nazi Hunters: How a Team of Spies and Survivors Captured the World's Most Notorious Nazi

Arthur A. Levine, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 7 – 10

Combining meticulous research with an easy to read narrative style, Neal Bascomb has created a thrilling true tale of the hunting down, capture, and trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi responsible for the transportation of millions of Jews to the concentration camps.



Cheng, Andrea

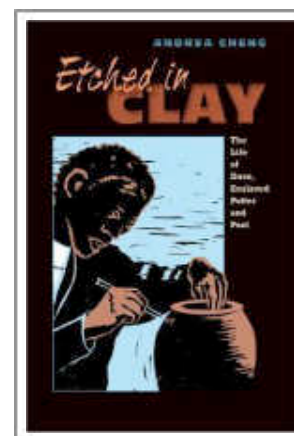
Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet

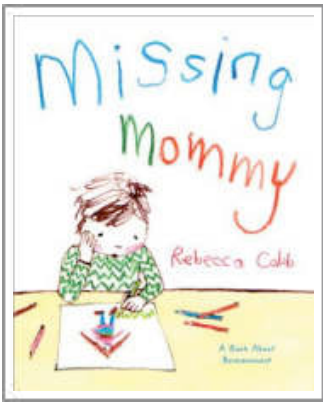
Lee & Low, 2013

\$17.95

Grade 3 – Adult

In this superb biography, Cheng gives us a powerful portrait of an amazing artist, poet, and quiet rebel. The physical, mental, and spiritual pain of slavery is conveyed in free verse poems, many in Dave's voice. Cheng illustrates her own verse with striking woodcuts that deliver parts of the story in bold strokes of black-and-white.





Cobb, Rebecca

Missing Mommy: A Book About Bereavement

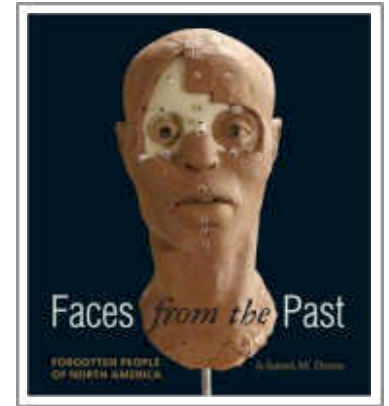
Illustrated by Rebecca Cobb

Henry Holt, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 3

With short sentences and simple thoughts about an enormously complex and powerful event, *Missing Mommy* presents the loss of a parent from a child's point of view and in the child's voice. It explores both the ranges of emotions a child may have, as well as questions the child may ask.



Deem, James M.

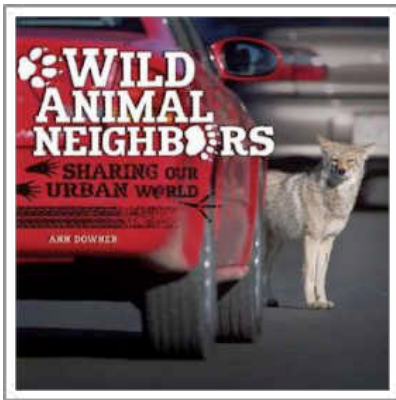
Faces from the Past: Forgotten People of North America

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012

\$18.99

Grade 5 – Adult

The modern study of skeletons, and the sculpturing of faces from skulls, in particular, brings to light the stories of forgotten people buried in unmarked graves in North America.



Downer, Ann

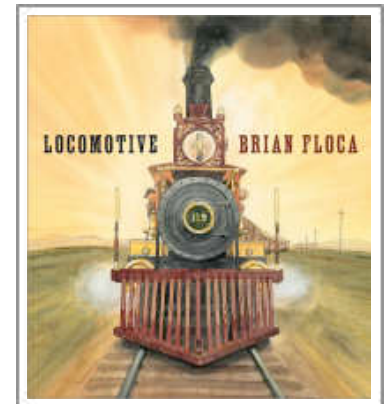
Wild Animal Neighbors: Sharing Our Urban World

Lerner, 2013

\$33.27

Grades 4 – 8

With a dynamic, photo-filled design and fascinating text that uses anecdotal evidence to set the scene, this timely look at how wild animals and urban and suburban life are in conflict is an exemplary informational book. Featuring color photos, sidebars, a map, and page decorations that resemble animal footprints.



Floca, Brian

Locomotive

Atheneum, 2013

\$17.99

PreK – Grade 5

A young mother and her children journey on the newly completed Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, from Omaha to Sacramento. This oversized picture book fills its pages with expansive views, looming engines, and intricate details. The compelling rhythm of the free verse text and the variety of lines, perspectives, and scenery keep the pacing moving forward, even if the journey seems long at times.



Frenz, Florida

How to Be Human: Diary of an Autistic Girl

Creston, 2013

\$12.99

Grades 1 – 7

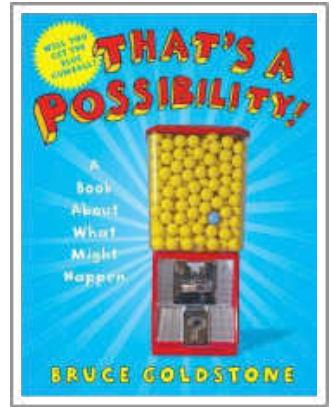
This is a remarkable book, both for its information and for its humor and compassion in the face of difficulties. Florida Frenz is on the autism spectrum, and this book tells the story of her figuring out how to read expressions, make and keep friends, and survive in complex social environments like school.

Goldstone, Bruce

That's a Possibility! A Book About What Might Happen

Henry Holt, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 1 – 4

A wonderful introduction for future gamblers, this book defines the mathematical terms: possible, impossible, certain, likely, probable, improbable, and odds. All examples are illustrated with colorful photographs or digital renderings.

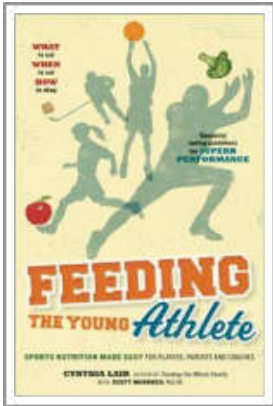


Lair, Cynthia

Feeding the Young Athlete: Sports Nutrition Made Easy for Players, Parents and Coaches

Readers to Eaters, 2012 \$12.95 Grades 6 – 12

This appealing and straightforward guide to nutrition for young athletes gives information, explanations, advice, recipes, and guidelines to foster habits for health, concentration, fitness, and performance.

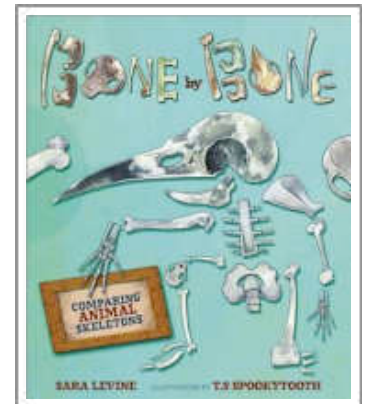


Levine, Sara

Bone by Bone: Comparing Animal Skeletons

Illustrated by T.S Spookytooth
Lerner, 2013 \$26.60 Kindergarten – Grade 3

Thoughtful and amusing questions about skeletons encourage insight and discussion in this witty, scientific, and charmingly illustrated picture book. The author uses comparative anatomy and imagination to explore evolutionary history and skeletal adaptations that affect function. The book is a natural for storytime or a parent-child read-aloud.

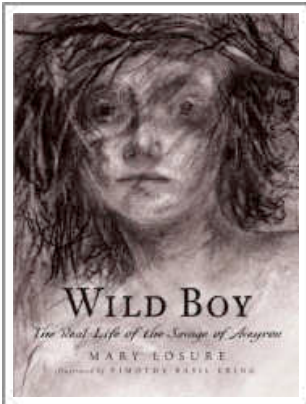


Losure, Mary

Wild Boy: The Real Life of the Savage of Aveyron

Illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering
Candlewick, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 6 – 12

In 1798, a feral child was captured in southern France; he was treated like a freak or a specimen until he found a home with a scientist and his assistant. The author delivers a text rich in factual detail, including ten pages of source notes, while also wondering what may have gone on between the lines of the official record.



Markle, Sandra

Bats: Biggest! Littlest!

Boyd's Mills, 2013 \$16.95 Grades 2 – 4

Fourteen bats from the world's smallest to the largest and from six countries are shown with their special adaptations for surviving. Clear color photos entice the reader to turn each page. A map at the end points out where each is from. This title is a great addition to the *Biggest, Littlest!* series and a *must* for public and school libraries.





Moss, Marissa

Barbed Wire Baseball

Illustrated by Yuko Shimizu

Harry N. Abrams, 2013

\$18.95

Grades 2 – 6

The achievements of baseball player and manager Kenichi “Zeni” Zenimura, while living in a World War II internment camp in Arizona, are told in rousing text and marvelous illustrations. The book brings to life an unknown hero and a complicated time in this country's history.

Rosenstock, Barb

Thomas Jefferson Builds a Library

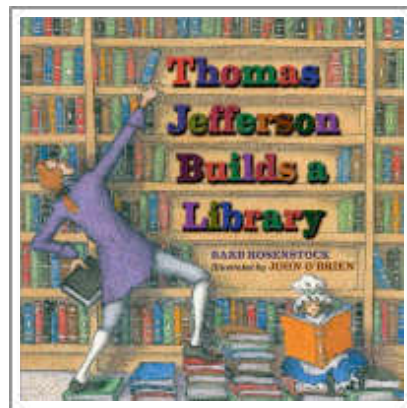
Illustrated by John O'Brien

Calkins Creek, 2013

\$16.95

Grades 2 – 5

This relatively brief and lively informational book focuses on the libraries created by Thomas Jefferson, from his penchant for reading anytime and anywhere, to the sale of his books to create the Library of Congress.



Roth, Susan

Parrots Over Puerto Rico

Illustrated by Cindy Trumbore

Lee & Low, 2013

\$19.95

Grades 3 – 6

With its spectacular collage art and vertical orientation, well-matched by vivid and information-packed text, this book follows the intertwined history of Puerto Rico and the decline and regrowth of its native parrots.



Rusch, Elizabeth

Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives

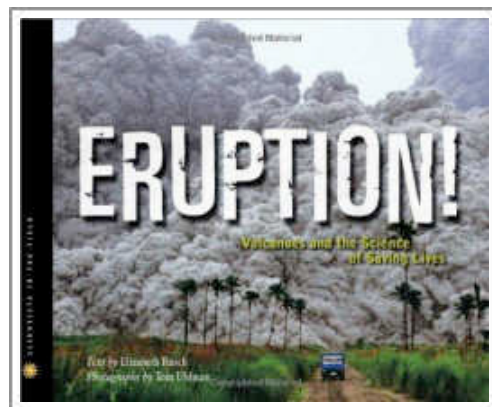
Photographs by Tom Uhlman

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$18.99

Grades 4 – 7

Well designed and vividly written, Eruption! chronicles a small group of volcanologists who form an international volcano crises team. Working with a diverse group of local scientists they apply cutting edge technology to mitigate disaster and save lives around the world. This book is an excellent addition to the *Scientists in the Field* Series.



Schwartz, David

Rotten Pumpkin: A Rotten Tale in 15 Voices

Photographs by Dwight Kuhn

Creston, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 1

This non-fiction narrative tells the story of how a Jack-O-Lantern rots and returns to the earth to be born again in time for next Halloween. A shining example of what we can hope to expect from other offerings supportive of the new Common Core standards.



Stern, Rebecca and Brad Wolfe (editors)

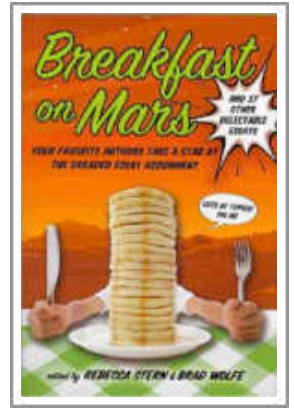
Breakfast on Mars: And 37 Other Delectable Essays

Roaring Brook, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

Bay Area native Rebecca Stern has assembled a rare anthology of short essays written for a tween audience. Lively, diverse, and written by children's authors, the pieces refute the idea that essays must be serious, structured, and dull and offer a multitude of examples and jumping off points to inspire both student writers and their teachers.



Stone, Tanya Lee

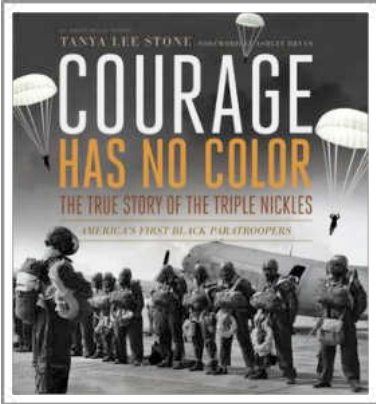
Courage Has No Color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers

Candlewick, 2013

\$24.99

Grade 5 – Adult

Although focused on the “Triple Nickles,” the first black paratroop unit in the U.S. Army, this penetrating, moving account uses official records and personal interviews to examine the injustice and impact of segregation on the U.S. Military during World War II.



Stringer, Lauren

When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, Their Ballet, and One Extraordinary Riot

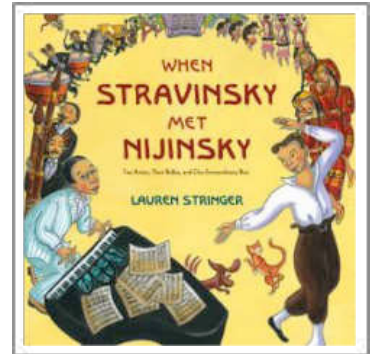
Illustrated by Lauren Stringer

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

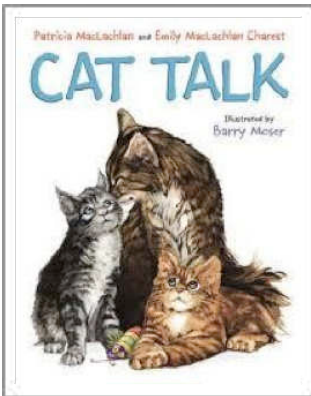
\$16.99

Grades 3 – 7

Stringer conveys the excitement of Stravinsky's and Nijinsky's collaboration, as well as the dramatic - and mixed - reception to The Rite of Spring. Stringer's acrylic illustrations are particularly well suited to Stravinsky's enthusiasm and Nijinsky's energy and grace.



Poetry



MacLachlan, Patrica

Cat Talk

Illustrated by Barry Moser

Katherine Tegen, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 1 – 3

Thirteen poems eloquently convey the charm and eccentricity of cats. The variety in personalities is shown vividly by MacLachlan and Charest's poignant words and by Moser's exquisite watercolor illustrations. The cats are all beautiful, even the scruffy one; the softness of their shapes suggests stillness waiting on movement.

Paterson, Katherine

Giving Thanks: Poems, Prayers, and Praise Songs of Thanksgiving

Illustrated by Pamela Dalton

Chronicle, 2013

\$18.99

Kindergarten – Adult

In this beautiful book, word and image work together seamlessly to create a true devotional for readers young and old. The poems, prayers, and praise songs are from around the world, from ancient to modern times, and they are all simple, direct, and profound. Illustrations are scherenschnitte, a type of scissor-cut illustration, tinted with coffee, giving them a warm feeling and tone, as well as watercolor.



Prelutsky, Jack

Stardines Swim High Across the Sky and Other Poems

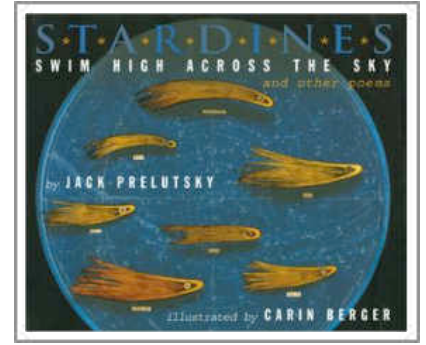
Illustrated by Carin Berger

Greenwillow, 2013

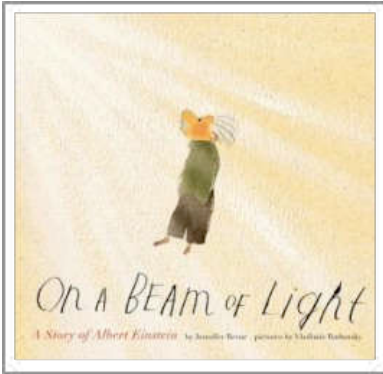
\$17.99

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Presented as a field guide, Children’s Poet Laureate emeritus Prelutsky and collage artist Berger introduce sixteen new specimens including the Planda and the Slobster, created from animal names mashed up with other nouns. Poems and illustrations play on these implied traits and are beautifully crafted and full of creative wit.



Biography



Berne, Jennifer

On a Beam of Light: a Story of Albert Einstein

Illustrated by Vladimir Radunsky

Chronicle, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 2 – 5

This picture book biography of Albert Einstein focuses on his thought-process and encourages readers to wonder about physics. The text is enhanced by lively, humorous, and irreverent pen and goache illustrations.

Bryant, Jen

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin

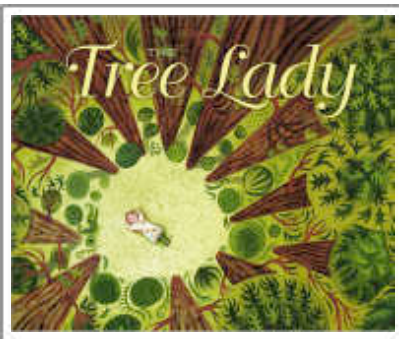
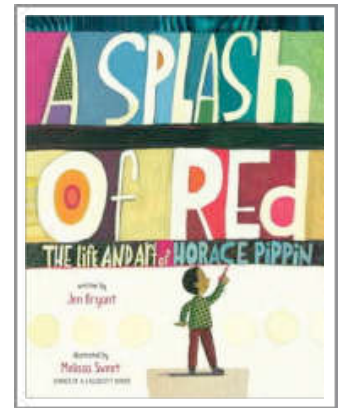
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Knopf, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 2 – 5

Horace Pippin, injured during World War I, didn't begin painting until age 40. The story of his persistence, talent, and eventual success, is told in a fine pairing of Jennifer Bryant's strong text and collage artwork by Melissa Sweet.



Hopkins, H. Joseph

The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever

Illustrated by Jill McElmurry

Beach Lane, 2013

\$16.99

Kindergarten – Grade 4

This handsome picture book-biography introduces the indomitable Californian, Kate Sessions, the gardener who promoted the cultivation of trees in San Diego, and became known as the “Mother of Balboa Park.”

Marcus, Leonard S.

Randolph Caldecott: The Man Who Could Not Stop Drawing

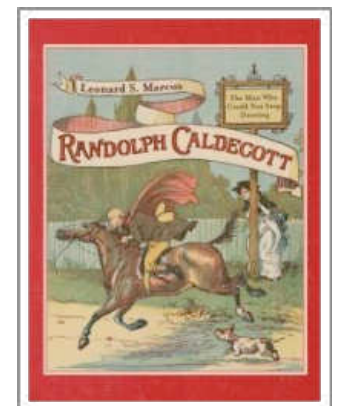
Illustrated by Leonard S. Marcus

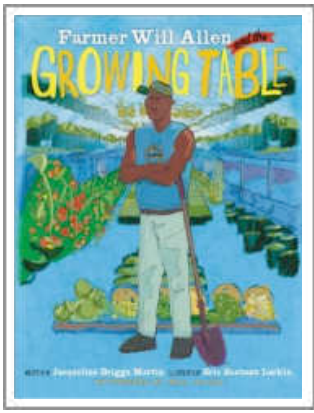
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013

\$24.99

Grades 4 – 7 and Adult

Caldecott’s life and times are explored through a creative, entertaining, and informative text. The picture book-sized biography displays many of Caldecott’s illustrations throughout. Excellent research makes for an absorbing reading experience.





Martin, Jacqueline Briggs
Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

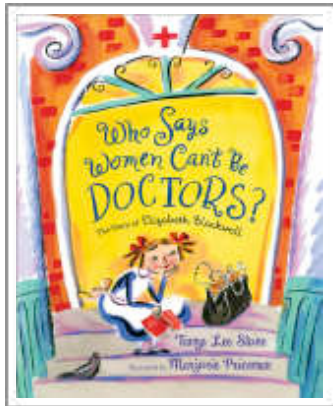
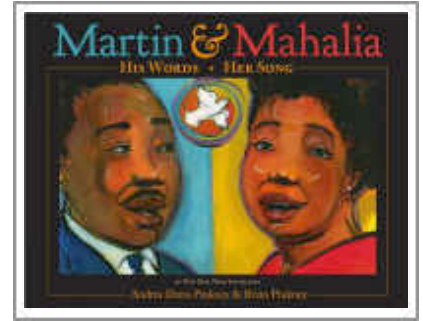
Illustrated by Eric Larkin
 Readers to Eaters, 2013 \$17.95 Grades 2 – 6

Spot-on biography of Will Allen whose MacArthur Genius-awarded work in urban farming has brought nutritious food to many a table and inspiration to thousands of others to go forth and grow food – everywhere! Allen’s unique life path and his worm-fueled farming techniques are vividly portrayed through Martin’s narrative and Larkin’s ink and pen illustrations.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis
Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song

Illustrated by Brian Pinkney
 Little, Brown, 2013 \$17.99 Grades 1 – 4

With poetic words and inspiring illustrations, Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney show how Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahalia Jackson came together as leaders of the civil rights movement, arriving at the pivotal moment of the 1963 March on Washington.



Stone, Tanya Lee
Who Says Women Can't Be Doctors?: The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell

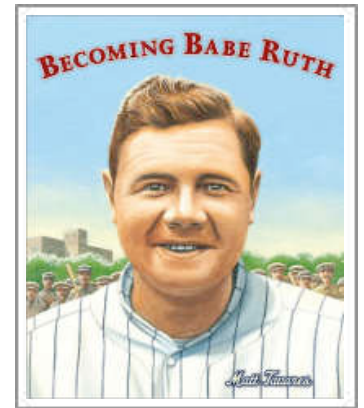
Illustrated by Marjorie Priceman
 Henry Holt, 2013 \$17.99 Kindergarten – Grade 2

Stone’s terrific telling of the story of Elizabeth Blackwell’s path to becoming the first woman doctor in the U.S. and Priceman’s energetic illustrations make this little biography engaging and empowering for young readers.

Tavares, Matt
Becoming Babe Ruth

Illustrated by Matt Tavares
 Candlewick, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 1 – 4

Babe Ruth’s amazing baseball accomplishments and joie de vivre are captured in this compelling picture book biography for young readers.

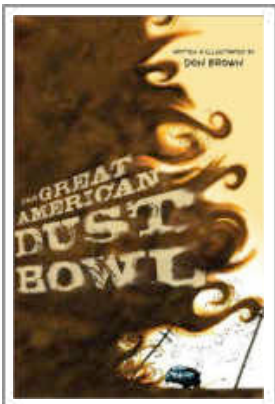


Graphic Novels

Brown, Don
The Great American Dust Bowl

Illustrated by Don Brown
 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013 \$18.99 Grades 3 – 7

Brown's wonderful cartoon illustrations bring to life the dust storms on the American prairie in the 1930's. This powerful introduction to the subject explores scientific and cultural influences as well as harsh realities, such as the death of people and animals.



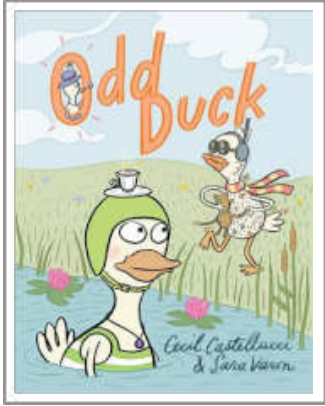
Brown, Jeffrey

Star Wars: Jedi Academy

Illustrated by Jeffrey Brown

Scholastic, 2013 \$12.99 Grades 4 – 8

This graphic novel from the author/illustrator of *Darth Vader and Son* (Chronicle, 2012), imagines familiar Star Wars characters as middle schoolers with all the attendant humor, drama, and angst. Enhanced by engaging artwork, this funny story will be a hit with Star Wars fan far beyond its intended middle grade audience.



Castellucci, Cecil

Odd Duck

Illustrated by Sara Varon

First Second, 2013 \$15.99 Grades 1 – 4

Proper Theadora is appalled when Chad, a colorful, eccentric duck, moves in next door. Only when the other ducks fly south for the winter does Theadora find that she and Chad have more in common than she thought.

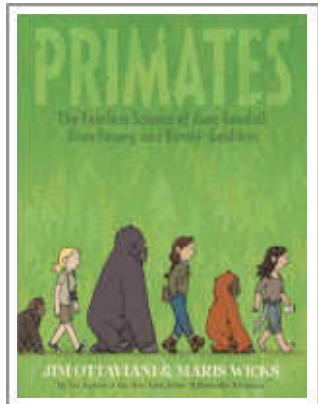
Lewis, John

March Book 1

Illustrated by Andrew Aydin

Top Shelf Productions, 2013 \$14.95 Grade 7 – Adult

Congressman John Lewis was a young man when he first heard about Martin Luther King, Jr., and he remembers reading a comic book about the Civil Rights leader. So he and two young writer/artists helped him construct this moving black and white graphic novel about his own youth.



Ottaviani, Jim

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas

Illustrated by Maris Wicks

First Second, 2013 \$19.99 Grade 7 – Adult

Clean, engaging drawings bring humor, clarity and insight to the intertwined lives of the three greatest primatologists: Goodall, Fossey and Galdikas. Extensive research, compressed events and some fictionalized dialogue produce a vivid story that conveys the spirit of the women, the tenor of their times, the difficulty of their living conditions, and the quality of their discoveries.

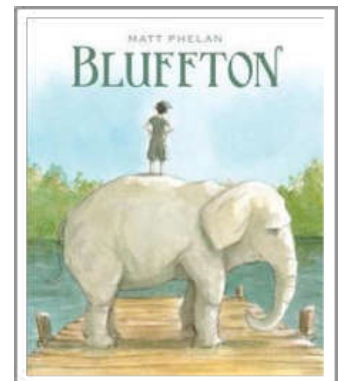
Phelan, Matt

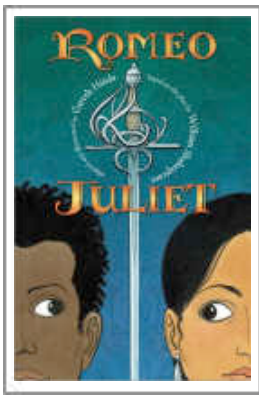
Bluffton: My Summers with Buster

Illustrated by Matt Phelan

Candlewick, 2013 \$22.99 Grades 4 – 7

A fictional character named Henry Harrison befriends the young slapstick artist, Buster Keaton, who summers with other vaudeville performers at a lively actors' colony in Bluffton, Michigan. Pastel water colors pair brilliantly with text to illuminate Keaton's early life.





Shakespeare, William

Romeo and Juliet

Adapted and Illustrated by Gareth Hinds

Candlewick, 2013

\$21.99

Grades 7 – 12

Hinds' detailed illustrations make this adaptation of Shakespeare's play accessible and assist in understanding the often difficult Shakespearean language, which is retained in this version. As an introduction for teens to *Romeo and Juliet*, this graphic novel is authentic and appealing.

Shelley, Mary

Gris Grimly's Frankenstein

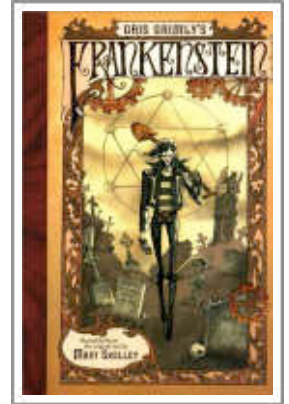
Illustrated by Gris Grimly

Balzer + Bray, 2013

\$24.99

Grade 6 – Adult

Gris Grimly's adaptation and illustration of Shelley's *Frankenstein* re-visions the classic, making it accessible to a new generation. Grimly's gothic ink and watercolor illustrations have a steampunk edge, bringing the monster and his tormented creator to life while infusing the story with a quirky pathos.



Yang, Gene Luen

Boxers & Saints

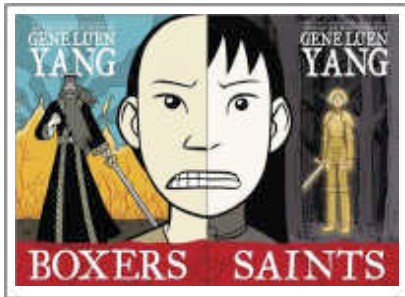
Illustrated by Gene Luen Yang

First Second, 2013

18.99 (*Boxers*), 15.99 (*Saints*)

Grades 7 – 12

Yang's witty, deft art brings to life parallel and intertwined stories of the Boxer Rebellion in this graphic novel diptych. Radicalized by abuse at the hands of Western missionaries, Little Bao joins a violent uprising in *Boxers*. On the conflict's opposite side, a young ostracized girl is taken in by Christian missionaries in *Saints*. Historical facts are brilliantly integrated with Chinese and Christian mythology.



Fiction

Angus, Sam

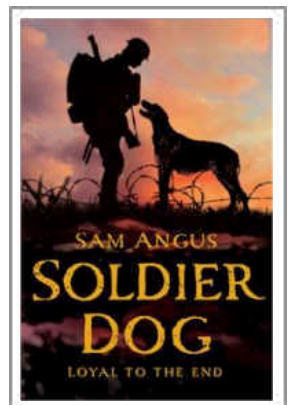
Soldier Dog

Feiwel & Friends, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 4 – 7

In this novel, set during World War I, thirteen year-old Stanley misses his brother Tom, who is fighting in France, so he runs away and joins the British Army, where he becomes responsible for the care and training of army messenger dogs. Well developed characters, rich descriptive language, and a most compelling story combine in this compelling book.



Black, Holly

Doll Bones

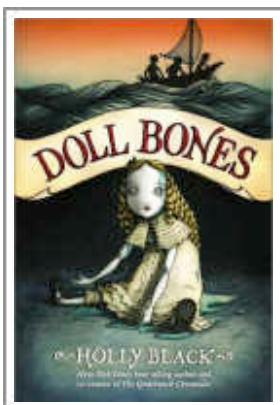
Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler

Margaret K. McElderry, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 9

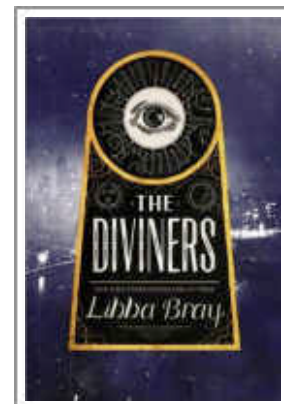
Haunted by a bone-china doll that may be made from a dead girl, close friends: Zach, Alice, and Poppy, embark on a quest to lay her angry ghost to rest. Their journey is both a suspenseful and sensitive exploration of the strains adolescence puts on childhood friendships and childhood beliefs.



Bray, Libba
The Diviners

Little, Brown, 2012 \$19.99 Grade 9 – Adult

Banished from her conservative Ohio town, seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill is sent to live in New York City with her uncle Will, the curator of the Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult. *The Diviners* depicts the glamor and mayhem of the Roaring Twenties in a frenzied pace that captures the spirit of the era and mixes it with a chilling supernatural plot.



Charlton-Trujillo, e.E.
Fat Angie

Candlewick, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 9 – 12

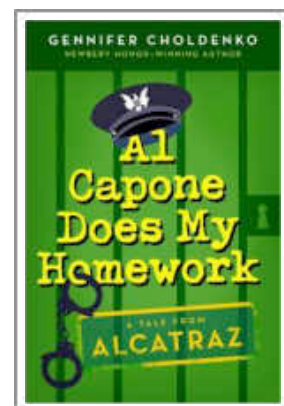
Fat Angie is a sad teenager who has a lot of things going against her. She misses her sister, who is presumed dead in Iraq, and she attempts suicide at a school pep rally. Even when things begin to look up with a new friend, the relationship turns rocky. Authentic and engaging, this book speaks to teens struggling with their own issues.



Choldenko, Gennifer
Al Capone Does My Homework

Dial, 2013 \$17.99 Grades 5 – 8

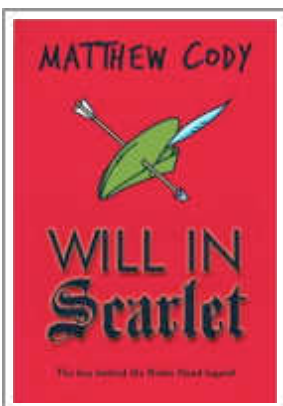
When an unexplained fire is pinned on Moose's autistic sister Natalie, he and his friends must discover the real arsonist. Nuanced writing and believable characters complement a packed plot that includes a knifing, arson, counterfeiting, mystery gifts, cockroach messengers, and a long anticipated kiss.



Cody, Matthew
Will in Scarlet

Knopf, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 5 – 8

Definitely not the classic Howard Pyle, this version of *Robin Hood* will hook and satisfy contemporary readers who enjoy non-stop adventure mixed with a smattering of history, and seasoned with humor and charming characters.

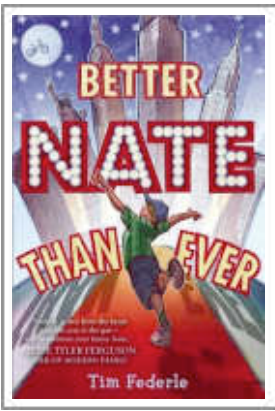


Farrant, Natasha
After Iris

Dial, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 5 – 8

Blue is still reeling from the death of her twin sister Iris in this bittersweet middle grade novel reminiscent of Hilary McKay's Casson family series. Told with humor and deep emotion, but not sentimentality, this is a moving story about a family's healing process.





Federle, Tim

Better Nate Than Ever

Simon & Schuster, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 4 – 7

In this entertaining and humorous read, middle schooler Nate Foster sneaks off to audition for the Broadway musical of E.T. in New York. Federle mixes quite a few topics into an entertaining, though slightly improbable, storyline: themes on acting aspirations and sneaking behind parents' backs are joined by story lines about friendship, estranged families, and difficult siblings.

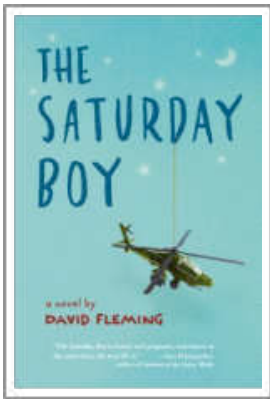
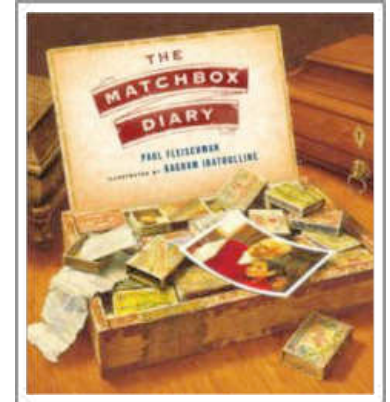
Fleischman, Paul

The Matchbox Diary

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

Dial/Penguin, 2013 \$16.99 Grade 1 – Adult

A grandfather and his great granddaughter open a cigar box filled with matchboxes that contain the grandfather's diary. As they open each box, each small object within triggers a memory of his life in Italy, his immigration to America, and, finally, his life in America. Illustrations of the objects, in soft sepia, resemble photographs and beautifully reflect the grandfather's narrative. This is a magical book for all ages.



Fleming, David

The Saturday Boy

Viking, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 5 – 9

Eleven-year-old, Derek, runs into trouble at school, especially with a fairweather friend. Luckily, he has letters from his dad, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, to comfort him.

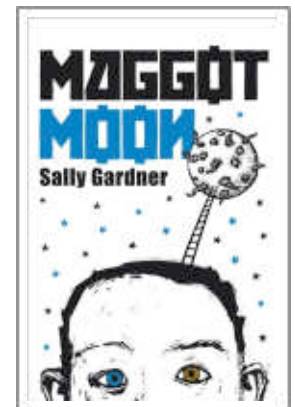
Gardner, Sally

Maggot Moon

Illustrated by Julian Crouch

Candlewick, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 8 – 10

Maggot Moon is a dystopia as bleak as 1984, seen through the eyes of a teenager who is “a breeze in the park of imagination” and has a unique, funny and almost poetic voice.



Gewirtz, Adina Rishe

Zebra Forest

Candlewick, 2013 \$15.99 Grades 5-8

At the beginning of the summer, eleven-year-old Annie has three wishes. Two are fulfilled in a way she could never have imagined in this tense, taut novel– part family story, part thriller.

Henkes, Kevin

The Year of Billy Miller

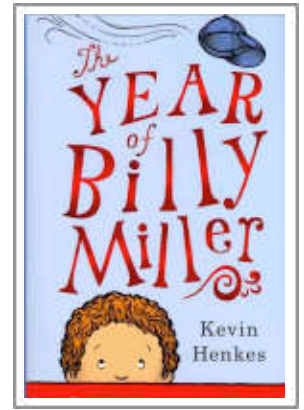
Illustrated by Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 2 – 4

In this warm, low key longer transitional novel, we experience the second grade school year of average kid Billy Miller, from hesitance about his new teacher, to the year-end school poetry assembly. The book design features quite a bit of white space, a sizable font, as well as spot pencil illustrations that will draw in the reader who is moving up from simple, short chapter books.



Jinks, Catherine

How to Catch a Bogle

Illustrated by Sarah Watts

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 4 – 6

Ten-year-old Birdie's dangerous job of helping to catch child-eating bogles becomes even more exciting as criminals and a mad scientist wade in. Jinks' fine writing is a wonderful mix of nonstop adventure and a vividly-alive 1870s London, teeming with sights, sounds and smells, amazing characters, and constant danger.



Kirby, Matthew J.

The Lost Kingdom

Scholastic, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 5 – 8

Kirby (*Icefall*, 2011) skillfully mixes fact, fiction, myth, and fantasy, in this rousing adventure yarn about an expedition of the American Philosophical Society in 1753, which also weaves in wider themes of difference and father-son relationships.



Kadohata, Cynthia

The Thing About Luck

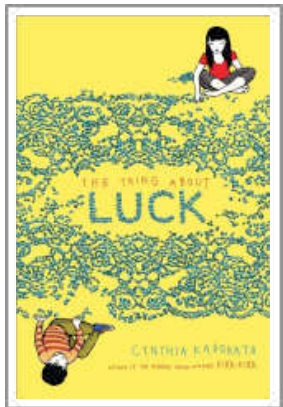
Illustrated by Julie Kuo

Atheneum, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

Twelve year old Summer is spending weeks on the road with her brother and grandparents, working the wheat harvest in Kansas, in this memorable first-person intergenerational novel about a contemporary Japanese-American family.



Konigsberg, Bill

Openly Straight

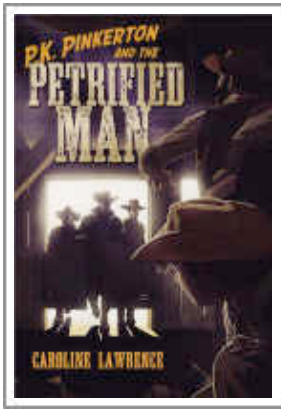
Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2013

\$17.00

Grades 8 – 12

High school sophomore Rafe Goldberg leaves his public high school, where he is openly gay, for a boys boarding school where he decides to leave the “gay boy” label behind and become “openly straight.” A funny and honest examination of the complex feelings that come with being labeled, and how those labels are really seen by those around us.





Lawrence, Caroline

P.K. Pinkerton and the Petrified Man

Putnam, 2013 \$18.98 Grades 5 – 8

Having just set up shop as Virginia City's newest detective, twelve-year old orphan P.K. Pinkerton is hired by Martha, a girl who witnessed the murder of a local "soiled-dove", to find the killer. Though not as fast-paced and suspenseful as the initial title in the series, there's still a good amount of action and surprises for fans of the first novel, *P.K. Pinkerton and the Deadly Desperados* (2012).

McKay, Hilary

Lulu and the Dog from the Sea

Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont

Albert Whitman, 2013 \$13.99 Grades 2 – 4

In this second book starring Lulu, a young British girl of African descent, Lulu, an animal lover, and her cousin find a dog when on vacation. Black and white ink sketches beautifully capture the personalities of both girls and dog. A great series for summer reading that will appeal to fans of *Ivy + Bean*.



Medina, Meg

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass

Candlewick, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 7 – 12

Piedad Sanchez transfers to a high school in Queens where another Latina girl has it out for her. This story realistically chronicles the damaging effects of bullying and how it cannot be handled alone.

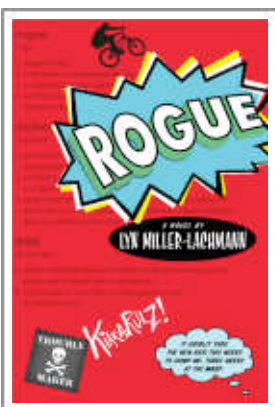
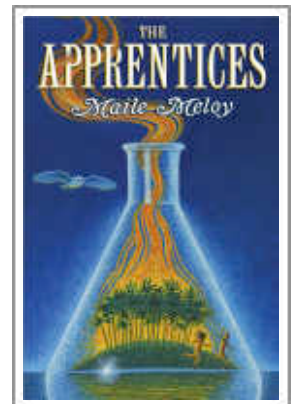
Meloy, Maile

The Apprentices

Illustrated by Ian Scheonherr

Putnam, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 5 – 8

Meloy reunites the characters first met in *The Apothecary* (2011), fills in their back story, and adds new faces in this inventive continuation of a quest to tame the proliferation of nuclear weapons with alchemy.



Miller-Lachmann, Lyn

Rogue

Nancy Paulsen, 2013 \$16.99 Grades 7 – 10

Struggling with Asperger's Syndrome, Kiara knows that she's different, a mutant like her hero Rogue from *The X-Men*. When Chad moves next door, Kiara is desperate to make a friend, joining him on trips to buy Sudafed for his parents' meth lab. Miller-Lachman raises questions about friendship, trust, and identity through this gripping, gritty story.

Obed, Ellen Bryan

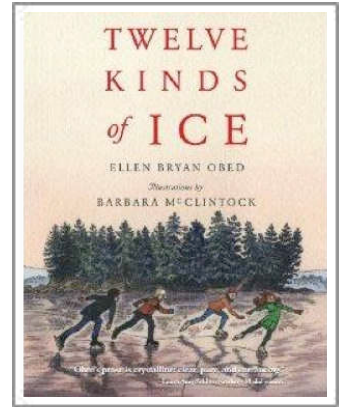
Twelve Kinds of Ice

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012

\$16.99

Grades 2 – 6

Lyrical describing a family's love for ice, conveying the thrill and fun of skating that causes them to chart their year by the different kinds of ice that arrive during a winter. This fictionalized, nostalgic memoir delights and informs and is equally well suited for reading to younger children or for tweens to read themselves.



O'Brien, Annemarie

Lara's Gift

Knopf, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

Young Lara dreams of becoming the next kennel steward raising prestigious borzoi dogs on Count Vorontsov's countryside estate. When her mother gives birth to a son, Lara is caught between honoring her family's traditional values and her own dreams. O'Brien creates a fully realized setting, weaving many historical, cultural, and linguistic details into this compelling story.



Rowell, Rainbow

Eleanor & Park

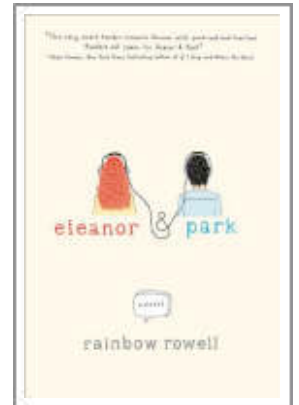
St. Martin's Griffin, 2013

\$18.99

Grade 9 – Adult

High schoolers in 1986 Nebraska unite as they share the experience of being outsiders.

Nuanced characters and plenty of ambiguity set this novel apart from others in the YA genre and encourage readers to draw their own conclusions.



Rubens, Michael

Sons of the 613

Clarion, 2012

\$16.99

Grades 6 – 8

Three weeks before his Bar Mitzvah, Isaac is far from ready. His 245 lb. "SuperJew" brother Josh is determined to change that with a punishing and hilarious quest designed to transform Isaac into a man. Isaac's rite of passage is filled with outrageous comedy, boatloads of adolescent shame and angst, bar fights, strip clubs, double-dares, and, ultimately, growing maturity.



Sedgwick, Marcus

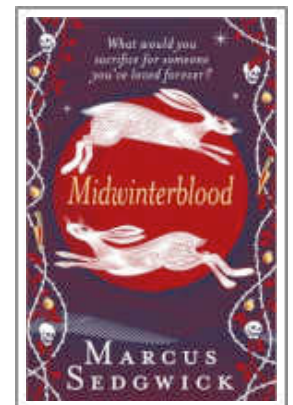
Midwinterblood

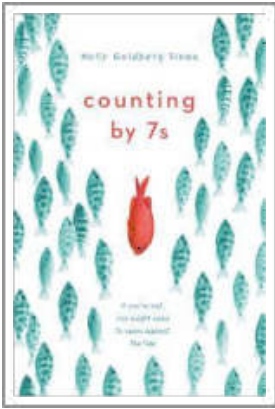
Roaring Brook, 2013

\$17.99

Grade 9 – Adult

Seven linked stories from the future to the past explore a strange community on a remote island. Vampires, Vikings, love and horror--Sedgwick's electrifying storytelling is ultimately about companionship.





Sloan, Holly Goldberg

Counting by 7s

Dial, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 6 – 8

How can a book with such a depressing premise (parents of outsider die suddenly) leave such a heartwarming impression? Sloan's strong characterization of a group of misfits finding connection in each other is an absorbing story of overcoming adversity.

Smith, Sherri L.

Orleans

Putnam, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 7-12

Hurricane ravaged New Orleans is mostly deserted, decayed, and walled off from the remaining United States as a new primitive society struggles for survival amidst the ruins and the deadly Delta Fever.



Stroud, Jonathan

Lockwood and Co: The Screaming Staircase

Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

Lockwood & Co. is a psychic agency with only three young employees who investigate and lay to rest ghosts in an alternate London. This first book in a new series has many familiar elements from Stroud's Bartimaeus Sequence: dry humor, a thoroughly constructed fantasy world, intriguing characters, and action aplenty.

Timberlake, Amy

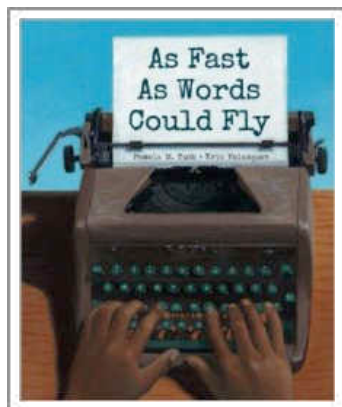
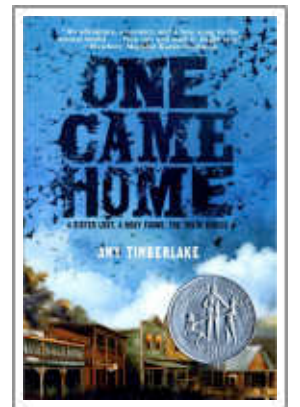
One Came Home

Knopf, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

In this thoughtful first person historical fiction novel, Georgie leaves Placid, Wisconsin, to look for her older sister. Very early in the story, the town sheriff brings back a body, that some think is the sister because she is wearing the sister's dress. But Georgie does not believe her sister is dead - just missing - and the sister's former beau Billy joins Georgie in the search.



Tuck, Pamela M.

As Fast As Words Could Fly

Illustrated by Eric Velasquez

Lee & Low, 2013

\$18.95

Kindergarten – Grade 3

A long picturebook best suited for mid-elementary readers presents the fictionalized story of the author's father as he integrates an all-white high school in North Carolina in the 1960's and wins the county's high school typing contest. Eric Velasquez' oil paintings capture well the time and place.

Ursu, Anne
The Real Boy

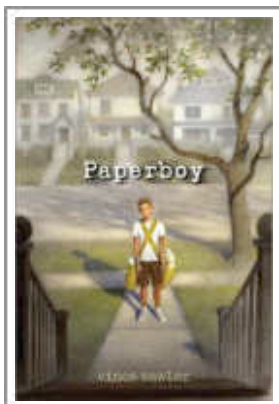
Illustrated by Erin McGuire

Walden Pond, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 6 – 8

Oscar is the servant of Caleb, the only magician left on the magic-soaked island of Aletheia. When Aletheian children fall inexplicably ill and a monster terrorizes the island, Oscar and his new friend Callie investigate. *The Real Boy* is raised far above typical middle grade fantasy by both the character and development of Oscar, and the sophistication of the themes explored.



Vawter, Vince

Paperboy

Delacorte, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 5 – 8

The paperboy is just taking over his best friend's paper route for a month. Dangerous and wonderful things are going to happen that summer, he can feel it coming. Vawter offers strong writing about a tricky and emotional time in this 11-year-old's life.

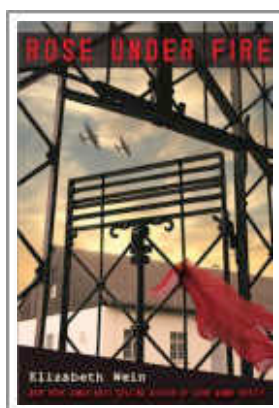
Voorhoeve, Anne C.
My Family for the War

Dial, 2012

\$17.99

Grades 6 – 11

Ziska leaves Germany to live in London as part of the late 1930's Kindertransport. A non-practicing Jew, Ziska has to learn to live with her Orthodox Jewish foster family. Although the novel is relatively long, it is compelling, filling in historic details without coming off as a lesson. Winner of the 2013 Batchelder Award.



Wein, Elizabeth

Rose Under Fire

Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 7 – 12

Pennsylvania native, Rose Justice, flies and delivers fighter planes to southern England during World War II. Caught by German pilots in a mission over France, Rose endures the horrors of the Ravensbrück concentration camp.

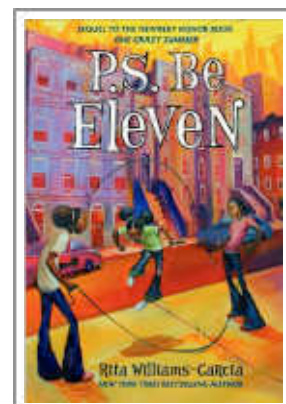
Williams-Garcia, Rita
P.S. Be Eleven

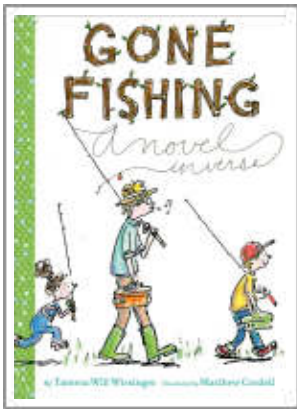
Amistad, 2013

\$16.99

Grades 4 – 8

Following up on her Coretta Scott King winner *One Crazy Summer* (2010), Rita Williams-Garcia has crafted a sequel as tremendously full of sound, light, discomfort, and warmth as the original. Triumphant.





Wissinger, Tamera Will

Gone Fishing: A Novel in Verse

Illustrated by Matthew Cordell

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$15.99

Grades 3 – 5

A boy and his father go fishing, and little sister tags along in this transitional novel written as a series of poems. The topic, text, and ink cartoon illustrations are perfect for 2nd and 3rd graders. Each poem is done in a different style, which is specified under the poem's title (quatrain, couplets, concrete, free verse, etc.).

Picture Books

Ashman, Linda

Rain!

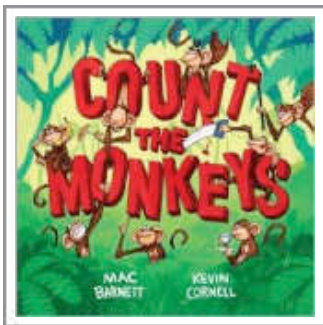
Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

A curmudgeon and a happy young boy have very different reactions to the rainy weather. Everyone who comes in contact with the man ends up in a dour mood. The opposite happens with the cheerful boy. A fine lesson on how one's speech and actions can affect others.



Barnett, Mac

Count the Monkeys

Illustrated by Kevin Cornell

Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Readers initially exhorted to "Count the Monkeys" are thwarted when increasing numbers of comical characters chase the monkeys away. An interactive, enjoyable counting book filled with silliness and fun.

Bean, Jonathan

Building Our House

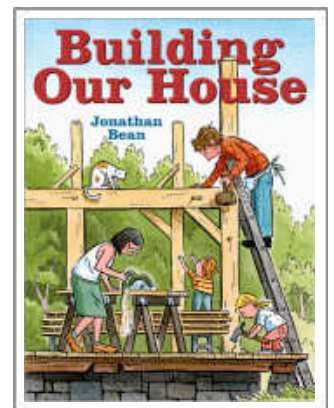
Illustrated by Jonathan Bean

Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2013

\$17.99

Preschool – Grade 4

For every child who stops to gaze at a construction site, here is a feast of how-to details that also tells a warm story of one family's home-building adventure.



Bean, Jonathan

Big Snow

Illustrated by Jonathan Bean

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013

\$16.99

Pre-K to Grade 2

A boy wonders whether it will snow this December day and how much it will snow; this wonderful book traces the day of his watching and checking on the snow. The pace is fun, the illustrations are perfectly matched to the simple, but perfectly chosen, text, and the affection of the family is surely apparent. *Big Snow* is a great choice for story time.

Becker, Aaron

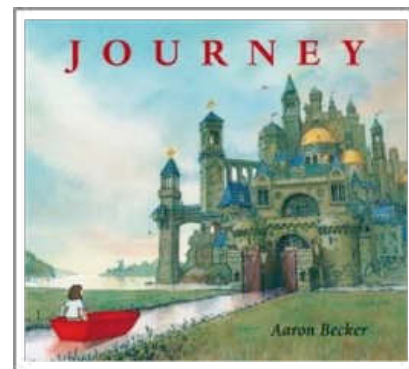
Journey

Illustrated by Aaron Becker
Candlewick, 2013

\$15.99

PreK – Grade 3

In a sweeping wordless debut, Becker carries readers away with his protagonist, a lonely young girl who escapes to a magical world. Becker's watercolor shading creates depth and warmth with a light touch, while his pen and ink drawings are full of architectural and technological details that invite repeated readings.



Brown, Peter

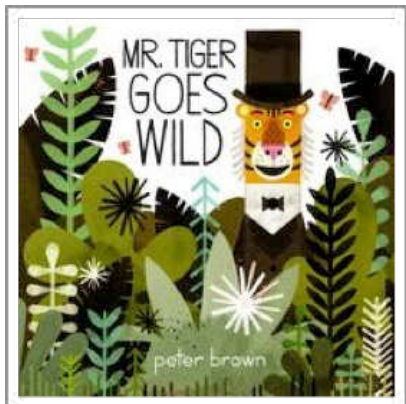
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild

Illustrated by Peter Brown
Little, Brown, 2013

\$18.00

PreK- Grade 3

Unsatisfied with “the ways things were” in the city, Mr. Tiger searches for his true nature in the wilderness, but becomes lonely. A succinct, understated narrative lets the droll, subtle art tell most of this silly, self-discovery story.



Browne, Anthony

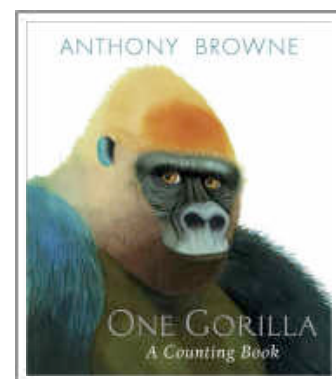
One Gorilla: A Counting Book

Illustrated by Anthony Browne
Candlewick, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Kindergarten

Primates numbering one to ten are portrayed as part of the same family as humans in this gorgeously illustrated, mixed-media counting book.



Bunting, Eve

Have You Seen My New Blue Socks?

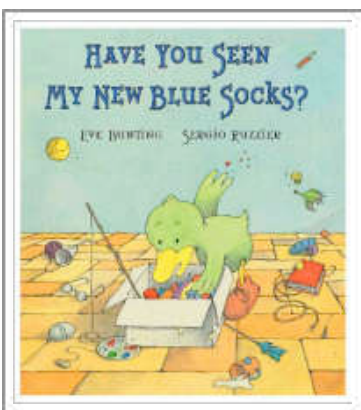
Illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier

Clarion, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Little green duck cannot find his new blue socks, and asks the fox, ox, and peacocks if they have seen them. This works both as a storytime choice as well as a picture book that is easy for a beginning reader, due to the consistent Seuss-like rhyme, repetition, easy vocabulary, and guessing game element of the story.



Cooper, Elisha

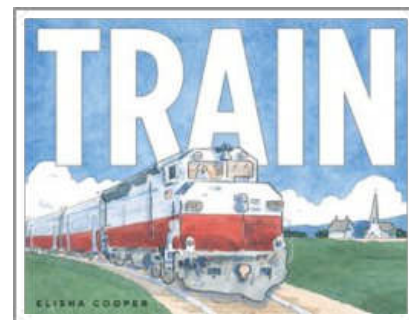
Train

Illustrated by Elisha Cooper
Orchard, 2013

\$17.99

PreK – Grade 4

Five different trains carry passengers and freight across the U.S., passing through cities, prairies, and mountains, arriving at last in San Francisco. Elegant, realistic watercolor and pencil art capture the bustle of railway stations, the diversity of U.S. landscapes, and the excitement of train travel in this inspired cross-country journey.



Dominguez, Angela

Maria Had a Little Llama / María Tenía Una Llamita

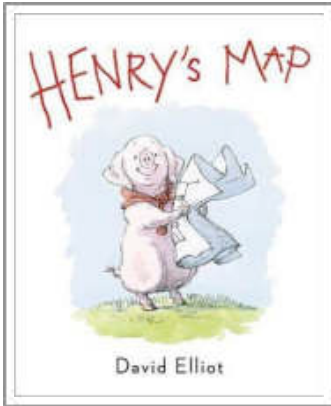
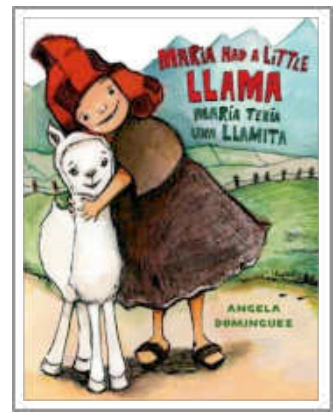
Illustrated by Angela Dominguez

Henry Holt, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Grade 2

In this fresh, lively, and Spanish-English bilingual take on the classic Mary had a Little Lamb, Mary is María, and the lamb is a llama. Some key differences from the traditional poem make this telling, which takes place in a Peruvian village, unique. Gouache and ink illustrations are charming, rich with color, and seamlessly bring the poem to life.



Elliot, David

Henry's Map

Illustrated by David Elliot

Philomel, 2013

\$16.99

Pre-K – Grade 1

Living by the motto “A place for everything and everything in its place,” Henry the pig notices that the farmyard is a disorganized mess, so he walks around the farm drawing up a map so that everyone will know where everything is. Animated dialogue, along with the Winnie the Pooh-ish sense of wonder and naiveté of the farm animals, makes this a storytime-worthy charmer.

Falwell, Cathryn

Rainbow Stew

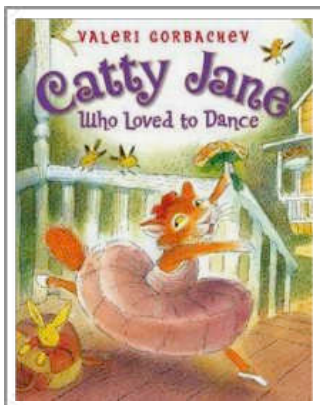
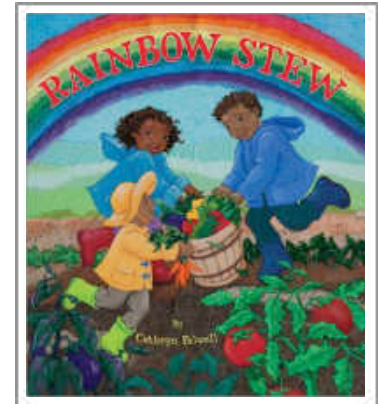
Illustrated by Cathryn Falwell

Lee & Low, 2013

\$17.95

Baby/toddler – Grade 3

This delightful story follows a grandfather and his grandchildren as they gather colorful vegetables from the garden on a rainy day to make Grandpa’s “famous Rainbow Stew.” Rhyme, playful language, and vibrant multimedia collage illustrations unite successfully, in this charming depiction of an African American family working and playing together. Rainbow Stew recipe included.



Gorbachev, Valeri

Catty Jane Who Loved to Dance

Illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev

Boys Mill, 2013

\$16.95

Preschool – Grade 2

Catty Jane loved to dance, dreaming of becoming a ballerina someday. Finally, her mother sends her to ballet classes at Mrs. Herron’s Dance Academy. The tale pairs nicely with Ellen Stoll Walsh’s *Hop Jump* (Voyager, 1993) for a story time on self-expression and inclusion. Colorful and slightly humorous illustrations, done in watercolor and pen and ink, add to the upbeat feel of the story.

Gordon, Gus

Herman and Rosie

Illustrated by Gus Gordon

Roaring Brook, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 3 – 5

In this charming picture book, Gordon, who is more often an illustrator of books for kids and adults, tackles a New York love story with lonely characters Alligator and Deer who are both in love with music, but do not have anyone special with whom to share it. Inevitably, they are brought together with wonderful results.



Graham, Bob
Silver Buttons

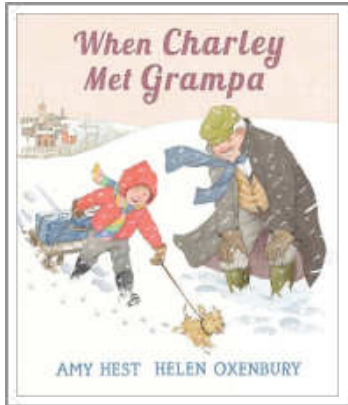
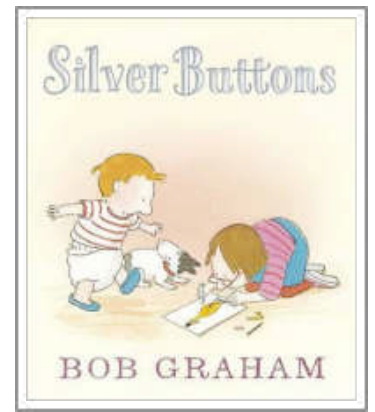
Illustrated by Bob Graham

Candlewick, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Grade 2

As Jodie's brother Jonathan takes his first step, so much else is happening – within his own house, neighborhood and all the way through the city. Graham's simple text and expressive ink and watercolor illustrations introduce a fairly sophisticated concept in a way that will resonate with and inspire the very young.



Hest, Amy

When Charley Met Grampa

Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury

Candlewick, 2013

\$15.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Grandfather admits he has “never been friends with a dog before,” but Henry's winsome puppy Charley eventually wins him over. Elegant, realistic illustrations convey Grandpa's initial discomfort with Charley, and the gradual thawing of their relationship in a story as charming as the earlier *Charley's First Night* (2012).

Holub, Joan
Little Red Writing

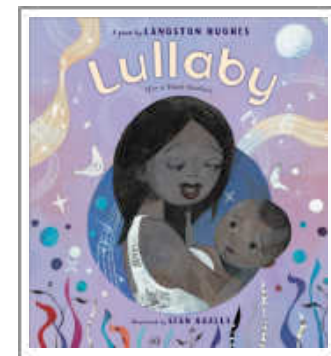
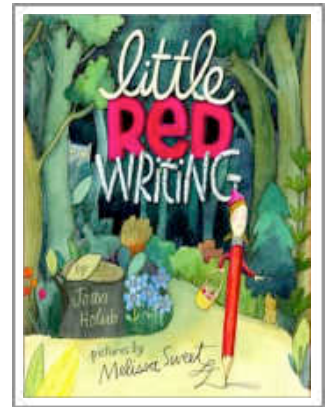
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Chronicle, 2013

\$16.99

Kindergarten – Grade 3

In this clever take-off on Little Red Riding Hood, the teacher in Pencil School assigns the class to write a story. The narrative includes lots of humor, references to the parts of speech, and even a slight nod to female empowerment. Imaginative watercolor/collage illustrations bring the story to life.



Hughes, Langston

Lullaby (For a Black Mother)

Illustrated by Sean Qualls

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Grade 2

Originally published in 1932, this quiet poem is still as dreamy as it was 81 years ago. The soft cadence of the lullaby is complemented by the artwork, with smudgy purples and the blues and blacks of night and sleep.

Idle, Molly
Flora and the Flamingo

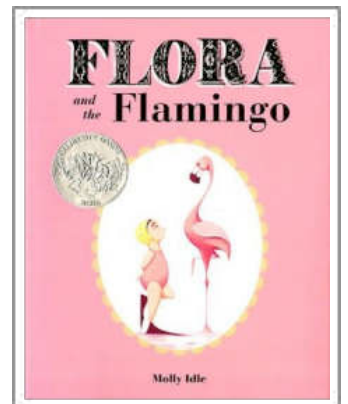
Illustrated by Molly Idle

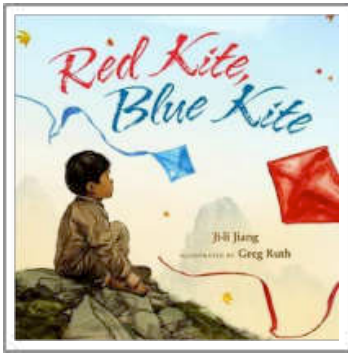
Chronicle, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 1

In this wordless book, adorable Flora and a graceful flamingo dance together with charming choreography. Interactive flaps and a dramatic gatefold finale make this beauty a joy to read.





Jiang, Ji-li
Red Kite, Blue Kite

Illustrated by Greg Ruth
Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$17.99

Kindergarten – Grade 3

Small Tai Shan is separated from his father during China's cultural revolution, but they work out a secret system of flying kites to keep their love in mind. This quiet but powerful story, with handsome illustrations, will encourage classroom discussion.

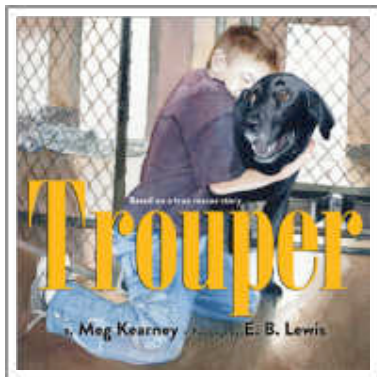
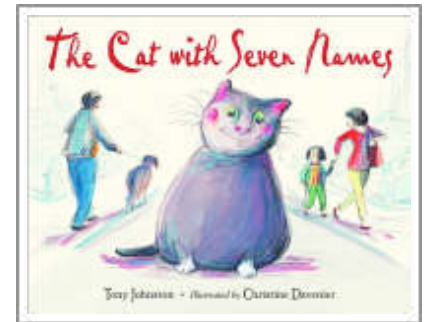
Johnston, Tony
The Cat with Seven Names

Illustrated by Christine Davenier
Charlesbridge, 2013

\$16.95

Preschool – Grade 2

On a city street, the neighbors all have their own good reason for the name they use for the hungry and affectionate cat they each assume has adopted them alone. This warm depiction of a diverse neighborhood allows the reader to savor the individual voices along the street and appreciate the small interactions and one burst of excitement that draw them all together.



Kearney, Meg
Trouper

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis
Scholastic, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 3

This moving story, based on the true story of author Kearney's own dog, is told in the free verse voice of Trouper, a three-legged dog, who remembers what it was like to be a stray and run with his buddies. Illustrator Lewis used the real "Trouper" as a model for his watercolor portraits of dogs and scenes, realistic in the highest sense since they capture perfectly many dog, and kid, moments. This book successfully walks the difficult line between presenting true sentiments and sentimentally.

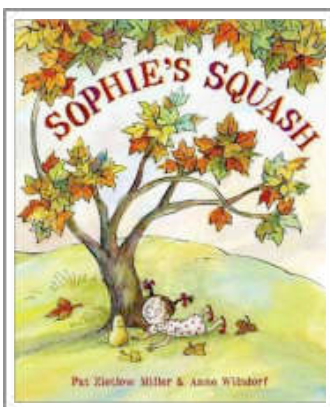
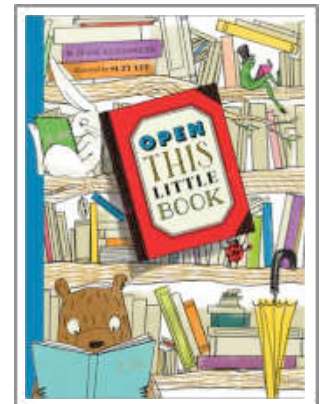
Klausmeier, Jesse
Open This Little Book

Illustrated by Suzy Lee
Chronicle, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 1

Turn the title page and then open a little red book to read about a ladybug, who opens a little green book and reads about a frog, who opens a little orange book and reads about a rabbit who... Such is the simple, meta narrative of this inventive picture book whose clever design is an active part of the fun.



Miller, Pat
Sophie's Squash

Illustrated by Anne Wilsdorf
Schwartz and Wade, 2013

\$16.99

Pre-K – Grade 1

Sophie, a little girl, and Bernice, a squash, go everywhere together; who knew a squash could be such a good best friend? Lively watercolor and ink illustrations cleverly depict their adventures and the satisfying conclusion as Bernice, inevitably, becomes soft and blotchy.

Moore, Eva

Lucky Ducklings: a True Rescue Story

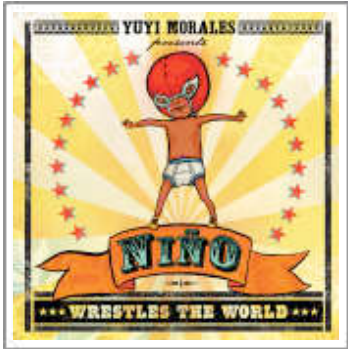
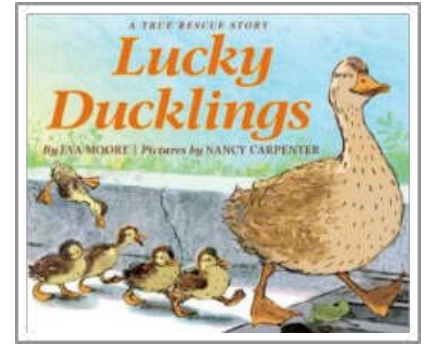
Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

Orchard, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Storytime audiences will cheer this tale of five ducklings rescued from a storm drain, which may remind some of Robert McCloskey's *Make Way for Ducklings* (Viking, 1941). The narrative builds tension, and the artwork helps to convey what the brief words do not, in a great model of an exemplary picture book.



Morales, Yuyi

Niño Wrestles the World

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Roaring Brook, 2013

\$16.99

Kindergarten – Grade 2

The energy and drama of lucha libre wrestling is captured in this exuberant picture book. The staccato text fits the action depicted and is interspersed both with words found in superhero comics, such as “ZZZWAP”, and comic book-style speech bubbles.

Murray, Alison

Little Mouse

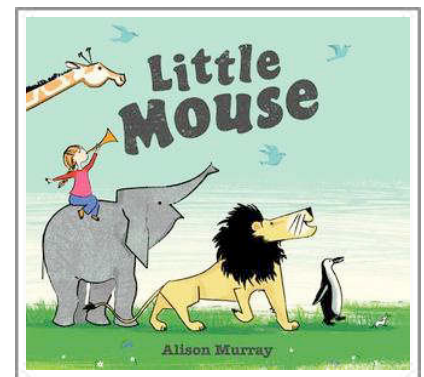
Illustrated by Alison Murray

Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Kindergarten

A little girl sitting in Mom’s lap announces that Mommy calls her “Little Mouse” when she is quiet. Subsequent pages take readers through a row of animals she can act like including a lion, horse, and penguin. Each page has beautiful illustrations and appropriately short sentences. A story time hit!



Pearce, Phillipa

Amy's Three Best Things

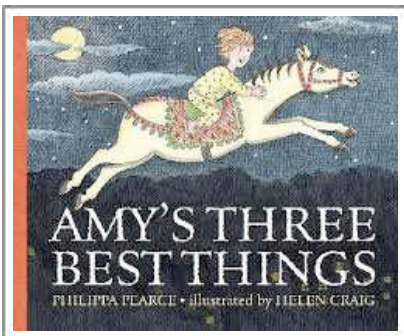
Illustrated by Helen Craig

Candlewick, 2013

\$15.99

Preschool – Grade 1

Amy chooses three secret things that will magically transport her home to check on her family when she stays with her grandmother. The warmth and love of a girl for her caring family come through in text and illustration.



Rocco, John

Super Hair-o and the Barber of Doom

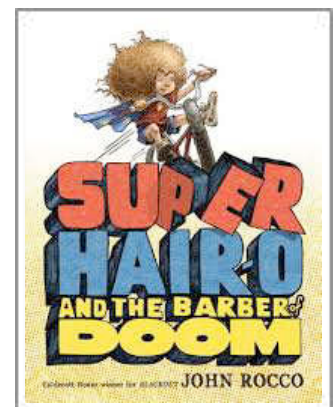
Illustrated by John Rocco

Disney-Hyperion, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Rocco and his friends are superheroes with long hair that they believe to be the source of their superpowers, but, when they are forced to get haircuts, it is up to an ingenious little girl to reassure the boys that it is not their hair that makes them powerful. The hilarious disconnect between text and image, plus a smattering of well-placed superhero comic clichés, make this a clever comic gem.





Rosenthal, Amy Krouse

Exclamation Mark

Illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

Scholastic, 2013 \$17.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Among a group of periods, the lone exclamation mark is depressed because he stands out physically. When he meets a question mark, who naturally asks a slew of questions, he begins to discover his purpose in this informative and fun picture book.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse

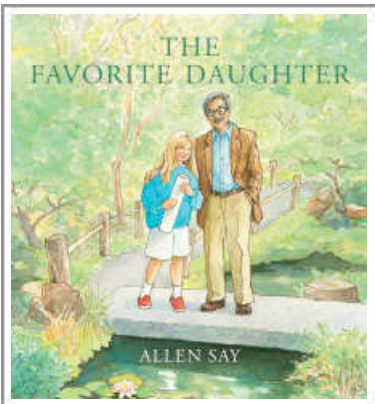
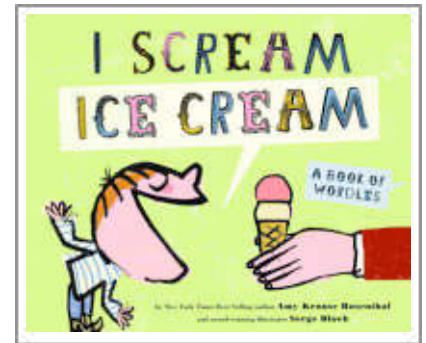
I Scream Ice Cream!: A Book of Wordles

Illustrated by Serge Bloch

Chronicle, 2013 \$16.99

Grade 3 – Adult

“Wordles are groups of words that sound exactly the same but mean different things,” for example “I scream” and “ice cream.” Not all wordles are easy to decipher but this is a wonderful book for readers who like puns and wordplay.



Say, Allen

The Favorite Daughter

Illustrated by Allen Say

Arthur A. Levine, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 2 – 6

Say has chosen to write a wonderful tribute to his only daughter, Yuriko, commemorating an art project about her name that she was at first reluctant to do because of bullying. His quiet encouragement and his gentle exposure of her to Japanese customs help her produce something unique, in this quiet but obvious picture of parental pride!

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro

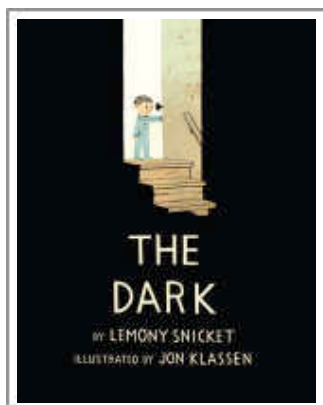
Bully

Illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Roaring Brook, 2013 \$16.99

Preschool – Grade 1

A bull bullies the other animals, calling each one a different name, until goat stands up to him and bull begins to get along. The emotions of the animals lift-off the page and will elicit plenty of empathy from readers.



Snicket, Lemony

The Dark

Illustrated by Jon Klassen

Little, Brown, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool – Grade 2

When Laszlo's nightlight fails, he must face his fear of the dark. Fortunately, the dark is there to help in a tale whose text and pictures are as eerie as they are, in the end, gentle.

Stein, David Ezra

Ol' Mama Squirrel

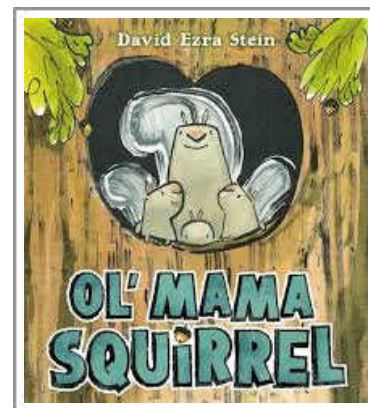
Illustrated by David Ezra Stein

Nancy Paulsen, 2013

\$16.99

Baby/toddler – Preschool

Ol' Mama Squirrel protects her babies from all kinds of danger until a huge, hungry bear climbs up her tree. A satisfying story of the small triumphing over the mighty, brains over brawn, the power of organized resistance, and a mother's fierce love, this will delight children and their parents, especially their mothers.



Tonatiuh, Duncan

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale

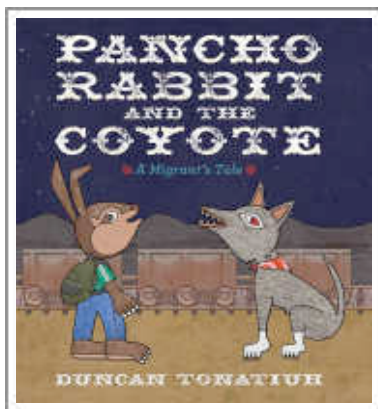
Illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

Harry N. Abrams, 2013

\$16.95

Kindergarten – Grade 5

Pancho ventures out to El Norte in search of his father, who has not returned from picking crops; on his way a coyote says he can help Pancho. In this revolutionary picture book, a common migrant experience is told in a way young children will understand. A timely tale told in crisp language with culturally relevant artwork.



Wadsworth, Ginger

Yosemite's Songster: One Coyote's Story

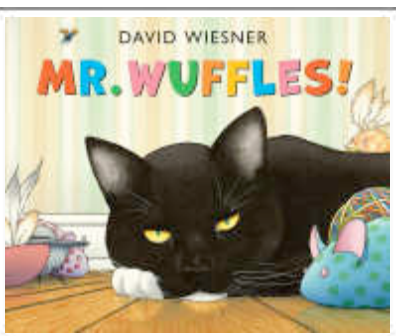
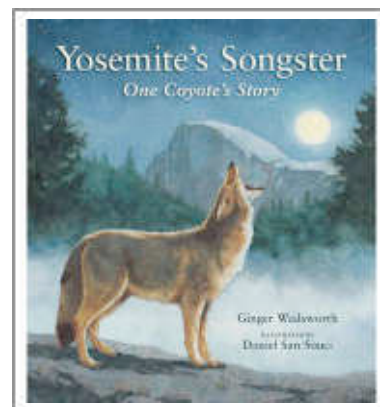
Illustrated by Daniel San Souci

Yosemite Conservancy, 2013

\$15.95

Preschool – Grade 2

Two coyotes are separated while gathering food and their journey is used to take readers through Yosemite National Park. With the text and San Souci's watercolor paintings describing the sights, this book will serve as an introduction to the National Park and one of its wildest creatures.



Wiesner, David

Mr. Wuffles

Illustrated by David Wiesner

Clarion, 2013

\$17.99

Preschool – Grade 4

In a nearly-wordless, highly dramatic picture book, a black cat, Mr. Wuffles, bats around with tiny humanoid aliens on a miniature space-ship that he mistakes for a cat-toy, but the aliens join forces with a ladybug and a battalion of ants to mend broken machinery and escape.

Willems, Mo

That is Not a Good Idea

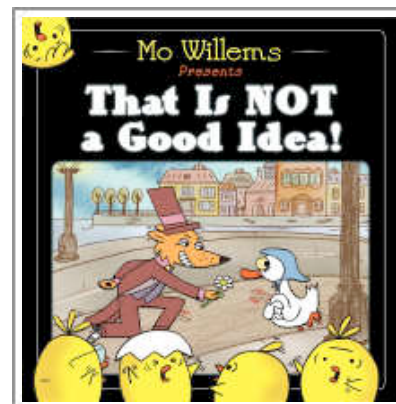
Illustrated by Mo Willems

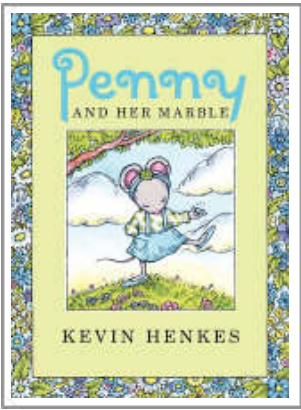
Balzer + Bray, 2013

\$17.99

Preschool – Grade 2

Take one sly, hungry fox and one demure, plump goose, and start the story showing their rendezvous at a cauldron of soup. Constructed as a silent film with title cards, this very simple, dramatic story is sure to surprise and delight.





Henkes, Kevin

Penny and Her Marble

Illustrated by Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, 2013

\$12.99

Kindergarten – Grade 2

Penny finds a marble, then has guilt about keeping it and tries to decide what to do. An excellent addition to beginning reader collections.

Rylant, Cynthia

Mr. Putter & Tabby Dance the Dance

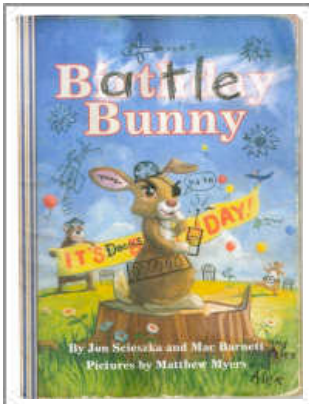
Illustrated by Arthur Howard

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013

\$14.99

Kindergarten – Grade 3

When Mrs. Teaberry asks Mr. Putter to go ballroom dancing, he reluctantly agrees, not wanting to say no to his good friend. Off they go to the Crystal Ballroom with Mr. Putter's fine cat, Tabby, and Mrs. Teaberry's good dog, Zeke. The pencil, watercolor, and ink illustrations are as humorous and charming as in previous books in the series, and the story is on target with the current popularity of ballroom dance.



Scieszka, Jon

Battle Bunny

Illustrated by Matthew Myers

Simon & Schuster, 2013

\$14.99

Kindergarten – Grade 5

A conventional didactic bunny birthday story is reworked by a boy named Alex into a heroic tale called *Battle Bunny*. The reading process is slowed down as readers will pour over the rewritten text and redone illustrations. It is an exercise in fun and mayhem.

Board Book

Franceschelli, Christopher

Alphablock

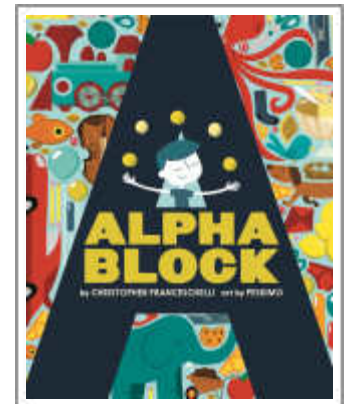
Illustrated by Peskimo

Abrams Appleseed, 2013

\$16.95

Baby/toddler – Preschool

An alphabet book and guessing game in one, this is a perfect board book for toddlers. A die-cut page features the letter, with space for the reader to peek through at part of the illustration on the next page. The full color illustrations have a 1950's graphic quality that is distinctive, and clearly shows the items pictured.



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