

The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California Presents

2014 Distinguished Books

2014 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.

ACL
Association of
Children's Librarians
of Northern California

Nonfiction

Applegate, Katherine

Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla

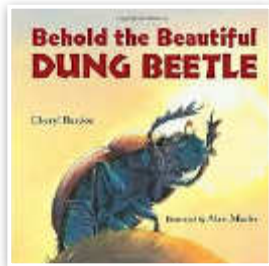
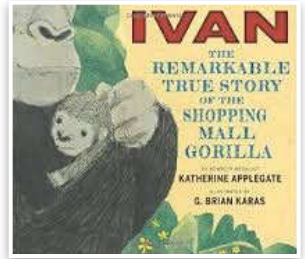
Illustrated by G. Brian Karas

Clarion, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 4

Applegate's evocative language and moving illustrations by G. Brian Karas speak directly to young readers, describing with tenderness Ivan the gorilla's 27-year journey from captivity to Zoo Atlanta. For a younger audience than, and lacking the anthropomorphism of, the author's Newbery Award-winning novel, this includes informative back matter and identifies sources for further information.



Bardoe, Cheryl

Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle

Illustrated by Alan Marks

Charlesbridge, 2014

\$16.95

Grades 6 - 8

Bardoe has written a clear and fascinating account of the habits and life of the dung beetle, which includes over 5,000 species spread across every continent save Antarctica. Watercolor and pencil illustrations by Alan Marks zoom in closely to give the reader a larger-than-life view of their actions and habitat. Good coverage on a topic not well covered in children's books.

Bausum, Ann

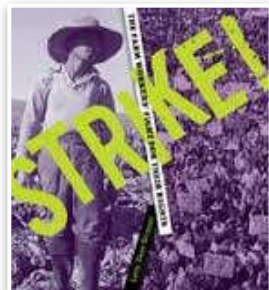
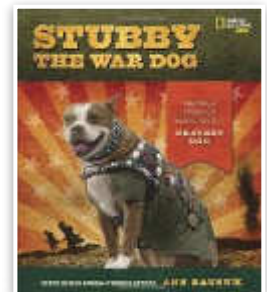
Stubby: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog

National Geographic, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 4 - 8

A dog of "obscure origins," Stubby served heroically in World War I trenches, was honored after the war, and wound up in the Smithsonian. Carefully sorting facts from speculation, and integrating chunks of World War I history, this is an unsentimental yet awe-inspiring true dog story.



Brimner, Larry Dane

Strike!: The Farm Workers' Fight for Their Rights

Calkins Creek, 2014

\$16.95

Grades 6 - 12

The engaging, well-researched, and thoughtful text describes the United Farm Workers, using many quotations so that those involved in the 1960's grape pickers strike get to tell their story (including the Filipino workers who began the strike). But it is the large and spacious book design that is a standout, using black and white photos, political cartoons, maps, sidebars, timeline, author's note, index, and source notes.

Burns, Loree Griffin

Beetle Busters: A Rogue Insect and the People Who Track It

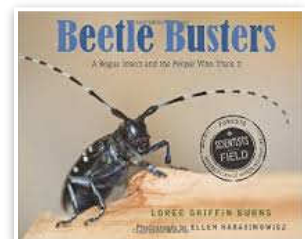
Illustrated by Ellen Harasimowicz

HMH, 2014

\$18.99

Grades 4 - 8

The Asian longhorned beetle is a ravenous threat to U.S. northeastern hardwood forests and, since 1996, thousands of people, including scientists, surveyors, arborists, citizens young and old, and even sniffer dogs have been engaged in discovering and fending off its attacks. Fine and fascinating exploration of a controversial effort whose outcome is still uncertain.





Dillon, Patrick

The Story of Buildings: From the Pyramids to the Sydney Opera House and Beyond

Illustrated by Stephen Biesty

Candlewick, 2014

\$19.99

Grade 4 - Adult

As humans we spend so much time in buildings, but often take this so for granted that we need a book like this to remind us of the origins and history of buildings as well as their present states. The content also looks to the future with some vital questions about ecological balance.

Farrell, Mary Cronk

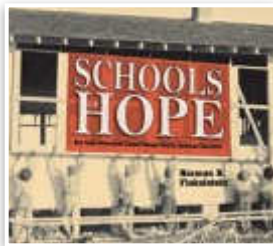
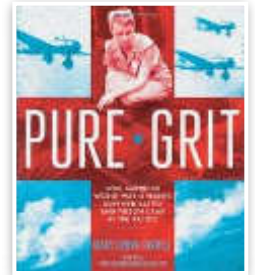
Pure Grit: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific

Abrams, 2014

\$24.95

Grades 7 - 11

Farrell tells the harrowing story of nurses who were stationed in the Philippines during World War II. At first, their days were relaxed, but that changed after the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. The nurses, most of whom were not combat trained, were suddenly in a combat zone. This gripping story is a must-read for anyone interested in World War II, especially the Pacific region.



Finkelstein, Norman H.

Schools of Hope: How Julius Rosenwald Helped Change African American Education

Calkins Creek, 2014

\$16.95

Grade 5 - Adult

In an era that preceded the modern civil rights period by several decades, Julius Rosenwald, the very wealthy president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, began a legacy of supporting education for African Americans after Booker T. Washington, the renowned African American educator, had asked him to build new and fully equipped schools for black children.

Fleischman, Paul

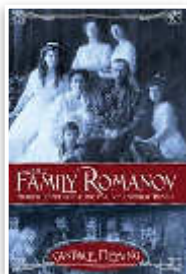
Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines

Candlewick, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 7 - 12

Instead of just facts and figures, Fleischman describes several environmental crises by first asking the reader to be open-minded, discussing critical thinking skills, propaganda, the news media, and other factors to empower students to then look at the issues (including fossil fuels, food issues, fracking, climate change, and alternative energy), and search for changes that can propel solutions. The book design is equally up-to-date with sidebars, quotations, and other tidbits that help it resemble a website.



Fleming, Candace

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

Schwartz & Wade, 2014

\$18.99

Grade 9 - Adult

As engrossing as fiction, this history weaves correspondence, personal observations, facts and figures into a narrative that captures the grit and grandeur of the era, the small thinking and big ideas, and the Romanovs as royalty and as family.

Freedman, Russell

Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain

Clarion, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 3 - 8

Paired with large black and white historical photos, engaging text gives an honest depiction of what it was like to wait on Angel Island before being admitted to the U.S. as an immigrant from Asia. Many of those who waiting were children, making their experience all the more frightening and stressful, and relatable for the reader. The author quotes many primary resources, including diaries, letters, memoirs, and poems, and has source notes as well as an index.



Galat, Joan Marie

Branching Out: How Trees Are Part of Our World

Illustrated by Wendy Ding

Owlkids, 2014

\$18.95

Grades 3 - 7

The inspiring dialogue about trees and their benefits to humans, animals and the environment make this book a valuable addition to school and public library collections. The photos, pop-up illustrations, and maps complement and augment the text.

Goldsmith, Connie

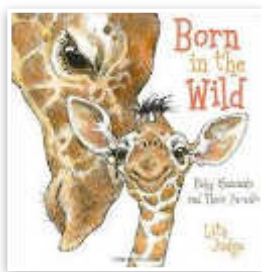
Bombs Over Bikini: The World's First Nuclear Disaster

Twenty-First Century, 2014

\$34.60

Grades 4 - 8

The atomic testing over the Marshall Islands from 1946-58 is described in this clear, lively narrative paired with historic black and white photos. The author's viewpoint is clear - the testing was both an environmental as well as human rights disaster, yet this is conveyed with facts and avoids being heavy-handed.



Judge, Lita

Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and Their Parents

Illustrated by Lita Judge

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$18.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Young children and their caregivers will find this a fascinating and engaging read-aloud and introduction to a variety of mammal behavior - most of which will resonate strongly with a young listener. Illustrations and brief text are full of vivid and expressive details and the back matter includes additional resources and information.

Kanefield, Teri

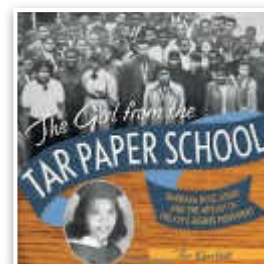
The Girl from the Tar Paper School: Barbara Rose Johns and the Advent of the Civil Rights Movement

Abrams, 2014

\$19.95

Grades 4 - 8

Strong research and writing, and fine photographic reproductions convey the little-known story of a high school junior, Barbara Rose Johns, who led her segregated high school classmates in a two-week boycott of their inadequate Prince Edward County, Virginia, school. This powerful narrative will appeal to young readers.



Kidd, Chip

Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design

Workman, 2013

\$17.95

Grade 5 - Adult

Kidd has created an absolutely terrific, accessible look at graphic design, both historical and current, in order to introduce readers to the ways designers (and are we not all potentially designers, especially in this era?) communicate ideas, beliefs, and feelings through images and/or text and/or placement of both or either.

Kuklin, Susan

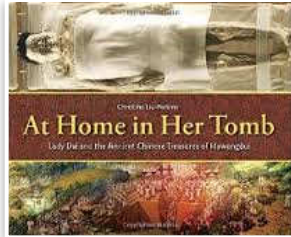
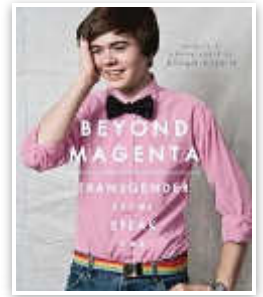
Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out

Candlewick, 2014

\$22.99

Grade 8 - Adult

Six transgender teens from diverse backgrounds share their experiences growing up and transitioning to their preferred gender identity. Immersive first-person accounts include brief editorial comments in a distinct typeface and, where permitted by the subject, illuminating photo essays.



Liu-Perkins, Christine

At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui

Illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen

Charlesbridge, 2014

\$19.95

Grades 5 - 8

A fascinating and well-documented account of the discovery and the contents of Lady Dai's tomb, dating from the Chinese Han dynasty (206 B.C. E - 220 C.E.), and unearthed in 1971. Lively writing, clear descriptions, and magnificent photos and some watercolor illustrations combine with careful documentation to engage the reader's interest and open up a window to a long-ago time and place.

MacLachlan, Patricia

The Iridescence of Birds :A Book About Henri Matisse

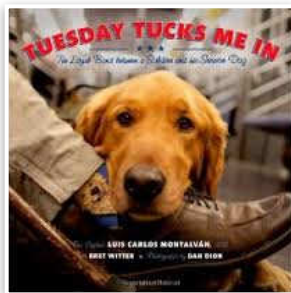
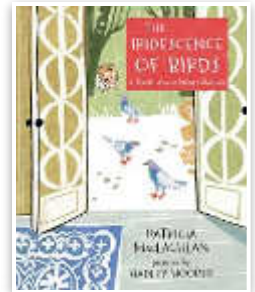
Illustrated by Hadley Hooper

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 3

Patricia MacLachlan's gift for whittling prose to its essential conveyance of ideas and feelings works harmoniously with the sponge on cardboard illustrations to tell the story of influences on Henri Matisse's art. While Matisse's art is brighter, he would most likely admire the technique used here.



Montalvan, Luis Carlos and Bret Witter

Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond between a Soldier and his Service Dog

Illustrated by Dan Dion

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$16.99

Kindergarten - Grade 2

Tuesday is a service dog who assists Luis Carlos Montalvan, an author and Iraq War veteran, in daily life. Will be enjoyed by young dog lovers and by adults looking to explain PTSD to a child.

Overdeck, Laura

Bedtime Math 2: This Time It's Personal

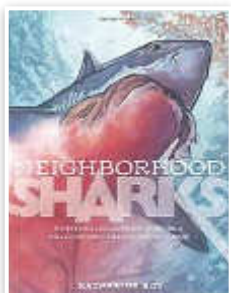
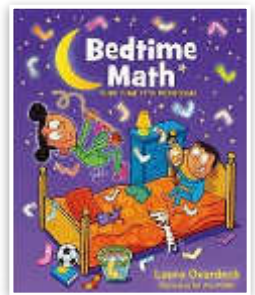
Illustrated by Jim Paillot

Feiwel, 2014

\$15.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Paillot and Overdeck captivate their audience's attention and effectively achieve their goal of having children hanging off the edge of their seats with excitement about math and a strong sense of its relevance in their lives.



Roy, Katherine

Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting With the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands

Illustrated by Katherine Roy

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 2 - 7

In this lively book, the migration of white sharks to San Francisco Bay's Farallon Islands, where they eat seals and sea lions, is described in a thrilling narrative paired with watercolor illustrations. Roy's debut is very successful, achieving a nice balance of information with slightly graphic action-oriented artwork that features blood but is not exploitive.

Shecter, Vicky
Hades Speaks!

Illustrated by J.E. Larson

BMP, 2014

\$16.95

Grades 4 - 6

Long before Voldemort there was an original 'He Who Must Not Be Named': Hades. And, if you dare, he is here to take you on a personal tour of his dark realm. With fantastic stories about the gods of the Greek and Roman worlds Schecter entertains, informs, delights and creeps readers out.



Sheinkin, Steve

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

Roaring Book, 2014

\$19.99

Grades 5 - 10

Using primary sources, Sheinkin has put together a very readable account of the events leading up to the 1944 Port Chicago disaster, and the court martial of fifty young African American sailors who refused to continue to load bombs after the explosion that killed 320 people including 202 black dockworkers.

Tonatiuh, Duncan

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

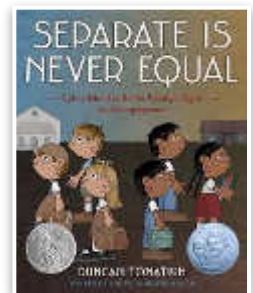
Illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

Abrams, 2014

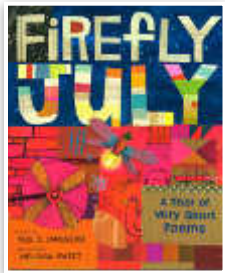
\$18.95

Grades 1 - 5

A must-read for every California 4th grader, this is a fluid history of the court case that desegregated California schools in 1947, involving the Mendez family who were Mexican-American. This informational picture book has dramatic color illustrations done in the style of Mayan artwork.



Poetry



Janeczko, Paul B.

Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Candlewick, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 4

This anthology celebrates the four seasons with a delightful variety of free verse that serves to enhance children's natural curiosity and expand their universe at the same time. Sweet's highly decorative mixed media illustrations seep across every inch of the page in kaleidoscopic texture, vibrant colors and delicious details. A must-have addition for any juvenile poetry collection.

Sidman, Joyce

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold

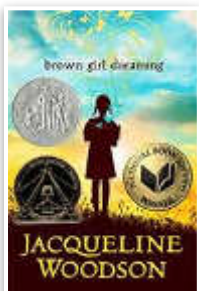
Illustrated by Rick Allen

HMH, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 4

An ethereal and lush ode to the lives of creatures in winter. Linoleum relief collages, poetry about plants and animals in winter, and fascinating scientific information combine to create a reading experience that is both visually pleasing and highly educational.



Woodson, Jacqueline

Brown Girl Dreaming

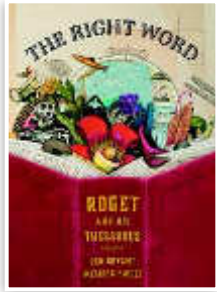
Nancy Paulsen, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 8

Jacqueline Woodson shares her experience of growing up in the 1960s and 1970s through a series of poem vignettes. This quiet book requires a special reader, one willing to forego action for a window into the life of a young girl finding her voice in tumultuous times.

Biography



Bryant, Jen

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Eerdmans, 2014

\$17.50

Grades 3 - 5

This picture-book biography of Peter Mark Roget chronicles the key moments in his life and conveys his fascination with lists and words, leading to his groundbreaking thesaurus. Blending comic-style art with historical artifacts and images, the richly inventive book design and illustrations convey the allure of words, letters, and lists.

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan

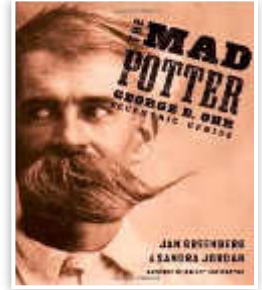
The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius

Roaring Brook, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 2 - 6

George E. Ohr, a Biloxi, Mississippi, blacksmith's son was a truly fascinating potter, who created unique sculptural designs far ahead of their time. A rabid self-promoter, Ohr displayed both a quirkiness in dress and style as well as a demeanor that led many to think of him as truly eccentric. This is a fascinating introduction to his life and art; the book ends with bibliography and notes.



Hruby Powell, Patricia

Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker

Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Chronicle, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 4 - 7

Exciting text and colorful, expressive acrylic illustrations make this biography of dancer Josephine Baker one of the best. Readers learn of her struggles to be accepted, triumphs, world-wide performances, WWII war work as a spy for France, adoption of twelve children, and her bankruptcy and subsequent comeback at age sixty-seven.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs

Alice Waters and the Trip to Delicious

Illustrated by Hayelin Choi

Readers to Eaters, 2014

\$18.95

Grades 2 - 4

The motivation that inspired chef Alice Waters to open Chez Panisse, a restaurant in Berkeley, and start the Edible Schoolyard Project is conveyed well in this picture book biography. The cheerful and colorful digitally enhanced brush and ink illustrations beautifully complement the text.



Russell-Brown, Katheryn

Little Melba and Her Big Trombone

Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Lee & Low, 2014

\$18.95

Grades 2 - 4

This beautiful picture book biography with lively, engaging illustrations presents the story of little Melba Liston, a self-taught jazz trombonist who would eventually play with and compose for the likes of Dizzy Gillespie and Billie Holliday. This well-researched book concludes with an afterword, source notes, and a discography.

Sis, Peter

The Pilot and the Little Prince: The Life of Antoine De Saint-Exupéry

Illustrated by Peter Sis

FSG, 2014

\$18.99

Grades 2 - 5

In the latest picture book biography by Sis, he describes the life and career of French aviator and author Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, best known for *The Little Prince* (Reynal & Hitchcock, 1943). The main text runs along the bottom of each page with spot illustrations and smaller print captions containing interesting facts within the spreads. The stunning illustrations, which appear to be watercolors with ink details, are fanciful yet still convey much factual information.



Sisson, Stephanie Roth

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos

Illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 1 - 5



Fans of the new “Cosmos” television series will enjoy this picture book biography of astronomer Carl Sagan. The distinctive full color artwork has cartoonish characters that are child-friendly, while still being respectful of the subject. The final spread includes an author’s note, notes concerning each page’s text, bibliography and source notes that help to fill in more details on Sagan’s life.

Rosenstock, Barb

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

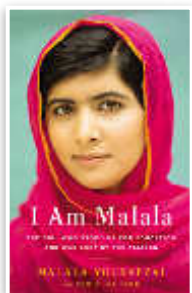
Illustrated by Mary GrandPré

Knopf, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 1 - 5

This refreshing picture book biography of the Russian abstract artist Vasily Kandinsky focuses on his synesthesia, which was his ability to see colors when he heard music, and hear sounds when he mixed the colors in his paint box.



Yousafzai, Malala and Patricia McCormick

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World

Little Brown/Hachette, 2014

\$17.00

Grades 4 - 8

In this excellent adaptation of her memoir for adults, Malala Yousafzai and co-author Patricia McCormick focus on Malala herself, her family, and her primary cause-- education for all children, providing a glimpse of the sometimes lonely girl behind the intrepid young woman on the international stage.

Graphic Novels

Bell, Cece

El Deafo

Illustrated by Cece Bell

Harry N. Abrams, 2014

\$21.95

Grades 3 - 6

This graphic novel memoir recounts the joys and frustrations of author Cece Bell growing up as a deaf child. Her giant hearing aid strapped to her chest makes her feel like an outsider, but also is the source of her superpowers. Kids will relate to the universal themes in this warm, humorous and insightful book.



Harrell, Rob

Monster on the Hill

Illustrated by Rob Harrell

Top Shelf Productions, 2013

\$19.95

Grades 3 - 6

Desperate to revive the town's sagging morale and lackluster tourist trade which is dependent on their pathetic monster, the town fathers set out to "fix" the problem. Meanwhile a great evil wakes and threatens the unguarded town. Full color illustrations in a tertiary palette have a vintage vibe reminiscent of a 1970's interpretation of an alternate 1840's England. Lots of word play, irreverent humor, slapstick and pop-culture jokes add up to a sophisticated whole and make the book appealing to a wide range of ages.



Novgorodof, Danica

The Undertaking of Lily Chen

Illustrated by Danica Novgorodof

First Second, 2014

\$29.99

Grade 9 - Adult

Deshi Li must find a woman's corpse to serve as a ghost bride for his deceased, unmarried older brother. This graphic novel's lush artwork beautifully conveys the complexity of Deshi's emotions, the presence of his brother's spirit, and his evolving feelings for the woman who will either become his girlfriend or his victim.

Prince, Liz

Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir

Illustrated by Liz Prince

Zest, 2014

\$15.99

Grades 8 - 12

Liz Prince details her exploration of gender identity in this humorous coming-of-age graphic novel. Tomboy is an important book to help young adults question and find their own way to be in the world.



Tamaki, Mariko

This One Summer

Illustrated by Jillian Tamaki

First Second, 2014

\$21.99

Grade 9 - Adult

This graphic novel for teens examines a summer in the life of Rose at her family's cottage in a small beach town. The stunning art blends seamlessly with the text, resulting in a complex picture of Rose's emotions and her personal growth over the course of the summer.

Telgemeier, Raina

Sisters

Illustrated by Raina Telgemeier

Graphix, 2014

\$24.99

Grades 4 - 10

In this follow-up to *Smile* (Scholastic, 2010), Raina, Amara, and little brother Will drive with Mom from the Bay Area to Colorado for a family reunion, arguing all the way. There is plenty of humor but what stands out is the realistic portrayal of two sisters who are very different.





Yang, Gene Luen
The Shadow Hero

Illustrated by Sonny Liew

First Second, 2014

\$17.99

Grade 7 - Adult

A compelling adventure story about an unlikely Chinese American super-hero who defends his family against a Chinatown crime boss. The striking color and bold, gestural art conveys the humor and authentic emotions of Yang's text. This nuanced portrayal of a family nursing their unfulfilled dreams is an essential addition to any collection.

Dauvillier, Loic

Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust

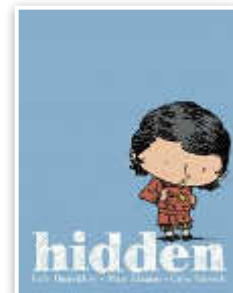
Illustrated by Marc Lizano, Colored by Greg Salsedo

First Second, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 1 - 5

In this moving, powerful graphic novel for our youngest readers, author Dauvillier and illustrator Lizano have created a seemingly impossible work - a graphic novel exposition of the Holocaust within World War II for an age level not necessarily able to take in much of the magnitude of the events.



Joffo, Joseph, Kris, and Edward Gauvin

A Bag of Marbles

Illustrated by Vincent Bailey

Graphic Universe, 2013

\$29.27

Grades 6 - 8

Two young Jewish brothers from Paris rely on their wits to keep one step ahead of the Nazis. Adapted into graphic novel form from a memoir by Joseph Joffo, the water color/ink drawings add dimension and pathos in this important addition to the canon of Holocaust literature for young adults.

Fiction

Alexander, Kwame

The Crossover

HMH, 2014

\$12.95

Grades 5 - 10

Seventh grade twins, Josh and Jordan Bell, are kings of the basketball court - headed for the championship. Told in free verse and concrete poetry from Josh's perspective, this fast-paced novel about an African American teen and his strong family touches on tragedy, talent, passion and the hard work of growing up.



Anderson, John David

Minion: A companion to Sidekicked

Walden Pond, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 8

Michael Morn isn't evil, but when the arrival of a superhero shifts him from an aider and abettor of villains to the center of a plot to take over the world, he must choose sides. A fast-paced, smart, fun read with a satisfying and open ending that hints there may be more to come.

Anderson, Laurie

The Impossible Knife of Memory

Viking, 2014

\$18.99

Grades 9 - 12

Anderson (*Speak*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999) is never afraid to tackle hot button issues. *Impossible Knife* illuminates, through the story of a high school girl and her ex-army father, the shoddy treatment of veterans and their difficulty in re-assimilating into a world that is not full of threats, along with the fallout this has on their loved ones.





Auxier, Jonathan
The Night Gardener

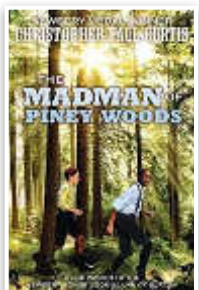
Abrams, 2014 \$16.95 Grades 6 - 9

Two plucky and resilient orphans confront the nocturnal horrors of an isolated house, in this superbly constructed middle-grade gothic mystery chiller. Auxier (*Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*, *Amulet*, 2011) has created a wonderfully paced and flowing narrative that is both a horror story and a meditation on the murky difference between stories and lies, and on the psychic damage of greed.

Brown, Skila
Caminar

Candlewick, 2014 \$15.99 Grades 6 - 10

Told in free verse, this debut novel is set in Guatemala in 1981, with some parts of the plot based on actual events. Carlos lives with his mother in a small town, but as conflict breaks out between the military and Communist rebels, she sends him to her mountain village for safety. An endnote describes some of the history covered in the story, and there is a glossary for Spanish terms.



Curtis, Christopher Paul
The Madman of Piney Woods

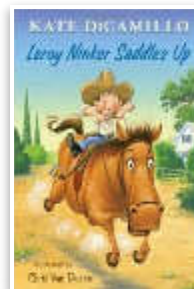
Scholastic, 2014 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 8

The communities bordering the Canadian woods where Benji lives in the runaway-slave founded community of Buxton, and Red lives with his Irish immigrant family in neighboring Chatham are full of tales about a wild man, known as the "Madman of Piney Woods" to some, and the "Lion Man" to others. Once again, Curtis weaves intrigue and fascinating historical detail into a sturdy narrative.

DiCamillo, Kate
Leroy Ninker Saddles Up

Illustrated by Chris Van Dusen
Candlewick, 2014 \$12.99 Grades 1 - 3

Leroy is a small man with big dreams of becoming a cowboy. He has a hat, boots, a lasso - all he lacks is a horse. A friend shows him an advertisement: "Horse for sale....Old but good.Very exceptionally cheap." Leroy adopts Maybelline, a horse with a quirky personality.



Ehrlich, Esther
Nest

Wendy Lamb, 2014 \$16.99 Grades 5 - 9

Chirp's happy life in Cape Cod is torn apart by her mother's serious illness and the devastation it leaves behind. Ehrlich's writing is thoughtful, genuine and grabs the reader and squeezes tight.

Engle, Margarita
Silver People:Voices from the Panama Canal

HMH, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 6 - 9

The blatant racism and horrific conditions surrounding the monstrous undertaking of the construction of the Panama Canal is told through the voices of a variety of characters, including the local flora and fauna, in this eloquent, yet devastating, free-verse novel.





Gebhart, Ryan
There Will Be Bears

Candlewick, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 6 - 9

Despite his grandfather's fragile health and the threat of a rampaging grizzly, 13-year-old Tyson accompanies "Gramps" on a hunting trip neither will ever forget.

Gleason, Colleen

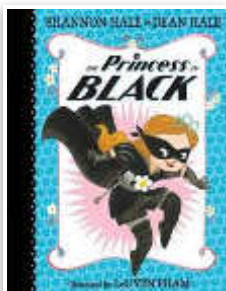
The Clockwork Scarab: A Stoker & Holmes Novel

Chronicle, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 4 - 7

In what appears to be the first of a series, Gleason pairs Evaline Stoker (a vampire hunter, and sister to Bram Stoker) with Mina Holmes (niece of Sherlock, and daughter of Mycroft) in a steampunk mystery set in London in 1889.



Hale, Shannon and Dean Hale

The Princess in Black

Illustrated by LeUyen Pham

Candlewick, 2014

\$14.99

Preschool - Grade 2

A prim and proper princess has a secret identity as the monster-stopping Princess in Black.

Appealing illustrations and shorter text should please both princess-loving younger readers and their princess-weary parents.

Holm, Jennifer L.

The Fourteenth Goldfish

Random House, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 3 - 7

Ellie's mom brings home a 13-year-old relative from the police station, who turns out to be Ellie's scientist grandfather who has discovered a way to reverse the aging process. This is more thoughtful than one might expect, due to its similarities to movies like "Freaky Friday" and "Big". Humor, an authentic first-person voice, dynamic dialogue, and a popular premise make for an engaging read.



Honeyman, Kay

The Fire Horse Girl

Arthur Levine, 2013

\$17.99

Grade 7 - Adult

Protagonist Jade Moon escapes Angel Island under the assumed identity of Fire Horse, hides in plain sight disguised as a man, gets involved with the Tongs, and has adventures in Chinatown while she grows as a person. Well-developed characters draw readers into the rich and authentic story. Suitable back matter explains terms and provides relevant cultural context.

Lamana, Julie T.

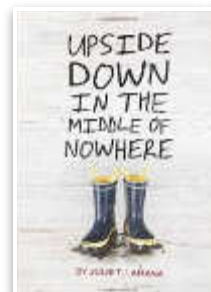
Upside Down in the Middle of Nowhere

Chronicle, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 8

Ten-year-old Armani Curtis lives in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans. She and her family struggle to survive as Hurricane Katrina looms, strikes, and destroys her way of life, and everything she knows.



Lester, Alison

Sophie Scott Goes South

Illustrated by Alison Lester

HMH, 2013

\$17.99

Grades 2 - 5

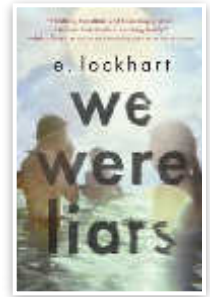
Alison Lester's story of her 2005 trip to Antarctica on an icebreaker is told in the exuberant voice of 9-year-old Sophie Scott and illustrated with Lester's typically cheerful drawings, some of her own photographs from the trip and fascinating hand-drawn maps and diagrams.

Lockhart, E.

We Were Liars

Delacorte, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 8 - 12

Nearly eighteen, her memory “hacked” by an accident, Cady tries to recall the momentous events of her fifteenth summer. Deftly plotted, heavy with foreshadowing, Cady's compelling narration moves relentlessly to a haunting conclusion.



Lord, Cynthia
Half a Chance

Scholastic, 2014 \$16.99 Grades 3 - 6

When Lucy moves to a small town she begins taking pictures in order to win a photo contest that her father will be judging. Lord cleverly has her protagonist discover her new surroundings through the lens of a camera, while Lucy's experiences will be all-to-familiar to young readers.

Martin, Ann M.

Rain Reign

Feiwel, 2014 \$16.99 Grades 3 - 6

After a superstorm knocks down trees and floods her town, Rose (who has autism but is high functioning), can't find her dog Rain. The plot is believable and the narrative compelling, without being emotionally manipulative, although some characters are a little too perfect.



Milford, Kate
Greenglass House

Illustrated by Jaime Zollars
Clarion, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 4 - 8

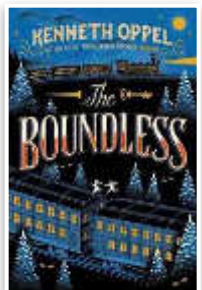
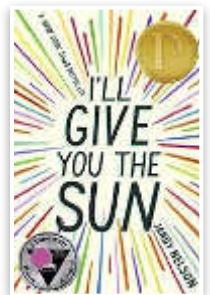
Ruining his Christmas break, mysterious strangers arrive to stay at Greenglass House, an old smuggler's inn run by Milo's parents. When guests' items disappear, Milo and the daughter of the inn's cook assume alternate identities and attempt to solve the mystery. The chilly setting, empty inn, and characters with shadowy intentions set a solid mood.

Nelson, Jandy

I'll Give You the Sun

Dial/Penguin, 2014 \$19.99 Grades 9 - 12

Twins Jude and Noah narrate their stories from before and after a family tragedy. The luminous writing and compelling imagery of both the twins' lives and loves, as well as their artistic processes will give this Printz winner appeal to teen readers who enjoy the novels of John Green.



Oppel, Kenneth
The Boundless

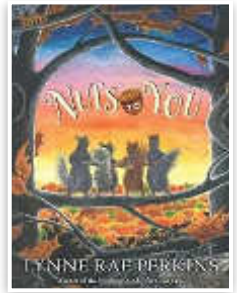
Simon & Schuster, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 6 - 8

In this riveting middle grade thriller set on The Boundless - a seven-mile-long train crossing late 19th century Canada - Oppel mixes railway history, creatures from folklore, and a splash of steampunk into an exciting yarn about a boy seeking his own adventure.

Perkins, Lynne Rae
Nuts to You

Illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins
 Greenwillow, 2014 \$16.99 Grades 2 - 5

A gregarious squirrel relates a lively tale of adventure, friendship, and squirrel derring-do. His humorous wise-guy tone matched with patches of exquisite writing make this an ideal read-aloud or read alone fantasy.



Pinkney, Andrea Davis
The Red Pencil

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans
 Little Brown, 2014 \$17.00 Grades 4 - 8

Twelve-year-old Amira wishes she could go to school; after the militia invades her Darfur village, Amira and her mother and sister must walk to a refugee camp. Perhaps there will be a chance for education there? Told in free verse, Amira's story is compelling and the pencil sketch illustrations give the appearance that they were done by a child like Amira.

Preus, Margi
West of the Moon

Illustrated by Lilli Carre
 Abrams, 2014 \$16.95 Grades 5 - 9

Hired out to a humpbacked goat-herder, thirteen year-old Astri vows to be stronger and meaner than he, so that she can survive her servitude, rescue her younger sister Greta and emigrate to America to rejoin their father. Preus's masterful novel weaves together Norwegian folktales and a powerful story of a young girl's heroic determination to do more than survive.



Quintero, Isabel
Gabi: A Girl in Pieces

Cinco Puntos, 2014 \$11.95 Grades 8 - 12

16 year old Gabi's senior year is complicated by drama with friends and family, all of whom she loves. Gabi's funny, sarcastic voice is fresh and honest; told in diary entries, letters and a zine, Gabi's story is realistic and thoroughly engaging. Use of Spanish adds dimension and authenticity.

Rundell, Katherine
Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms

Simon & Schuster, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 4 - 7

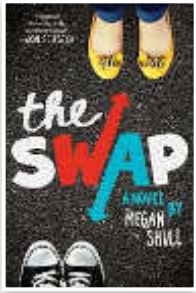
Nicknamed "Wildcat" by her widower father, Wilhemina (Will) lives a vibrant, idyllic life in the Zimbabwe bush until her father dies and she is shipped to dark, damp London. Intensely moving, this first novel introduces a clever, resourceful girl with an indomitable spirit.



Sedgwick, Marcus
She Is Not Invisible

Roaring Brook, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 8 - 12

Far removed from the Gothic fantasy of his Printz award winning *Midwinterblood* (Roaring Brook, 2013), Marcus Sedgwick's new YA mystery wraps a contemporary story of a blind girl searching for her father around the idea of "hidden patterns in the universe".



Shull, Megan

The Swap

HarperCollins, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 6 - 9

Ellie and Jack switch bodies for a weekend, during which they learn much about the other gender and how to be true to themselves.

Smith, Andrew

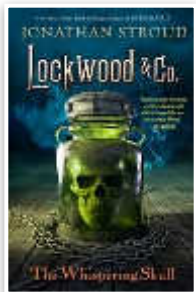
Grasshopper Jungle

Dutton, 2014

\$18.99

Grade 10 - Adult

16 year-old Austin Szerba is the self-appointed historian of the end of the world, in this YA science fiction horror story that is a wacky mix of teen mundanity and Armageddon.



Stroud, Jonathan

The Whispering Skull

Disney, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 5 - 8

Maverick psychic detectives, Lockwood & Co., attempt to track down an evilly powerful artifact. With a world and main characters already established in *The Screaming Staircase* (Disney-Hyperion, 2013), Stroud has space for a more intricate plot and more nuanced character development in a triumphant second entry to this middle grade fantasy series.

Talley, Robin

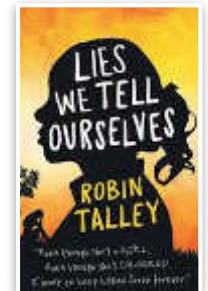
Lies We Tell Ourselves

Harlequin Teen, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 9 - 12

At a newly integrated high school in 1959 two women share a clandestine kiss. Well developed protagonists and researched details construct an extremely vivid portrayal of the era. A riveting story that provides a fascinating glimpse into the minds of young people who wouldn't have had the language to name their same sex attraction.



Turnage, Sheila

The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing

Kathy Dawson, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 8

The colorful narrative voice of rising sixth grader Mo LoBeau and the quirky, small Southern town of Tupelo Landing again come to life in the companion to Newbery Honor *Three Times Lucky* (Dial, 2012) as Desperado Detectives investigate the mystery of the haunted Tupelo Inn in hopes of earning extra credit on their history project.

Watson, Jude

Loot: How to Steal a Fortune

Scholastic, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 10

In a rollicking farce that tickles and thrills, a group of kids plan and carry out a series of jewel heists at the expense of ethically challenged adults. Madcap adventure, elements of wishful fantasy, and cinematic scenes make this laugh out loud, hair-raising picaresque novel a rousing read.





Weiner, Ellis

The Templeton Twins Make a Scene

Illustrated by Jeremy Holmes

Chronicle, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 3 - 5

At the Thespian Academy of the Performing Arts and Sciences (aka TAPAS), the twins' father is installing his latest invention. A set of older twins try to claim credit for it. Humorous and fast-paced, the narrative is enhanced by black and white digital illustrations set against a blue background. The text is also in blue and is comfortable to read.

Wiles, Deborah

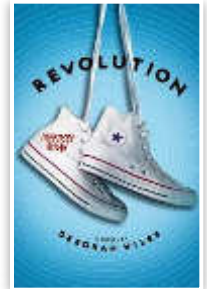
Revolution

Scholastic, 2014

\$19.99

Grades 5 - 9

Sunny, a 12-year-old white girl in 1964 Mississippi, is the main narrator of this thoughtful novel that describes the summer when northern college students came to town to help African-Americans register to vote and run summer programs for children. There is a secondary narrator, Raymond, an African-American teen in the same town; the reader gets to hear his take on the Freedom Summer experience in contrast to Sunny's. This novel contains a wealth of photographs, posters, song lyrics, and newspaper clippings from that time.



Wilson, Willow

Ms. Marvel: No Normal

Illustrated by Alphonso Adrian

Marvel, 2014

\$15.99

Grade 8 - Adult

Kamala Khan is a Muslim-American teen living in Jersey City, who mysteriously gains the superpowers of her hero, Carol Danvers aka Captain Marvel. Ms. Marvel is a great read for teenagers and up, especially those looking for superheroes, strong female characters and diversity done well.

Folklore

Aylesworth, Jim

My Grandfather's Coat

Illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Scholastic, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 3

In a story based on a Yiddish folksong, an immigrant's great wedding coat is trimmed to a jacket, then a vest, ever smaller until nothing is left except this story. Illustrated with buoyant art, this fresh, rhythmic retelling places family in the center of the familiar tale.



Gaiman, Neil

Hansel & Gretel

Illustrated by Lorenzo Mattotti

Toon, 2014

\$16.95

Grades 4 - 8

A deeply satisfying and historically grounded retelling of Grimms' classic tale of abandonment, cannibalism and gingerbread makes the story both more understandable and more chillingly believable, elevating its appeal to older readers. Mattotti's claustrophobically dark and vigorous brushed-ink drawings complement Gaiman's conversational and creepily compelling narrative.

Picture Books

Adderson, Caroline
Norman, Speak!

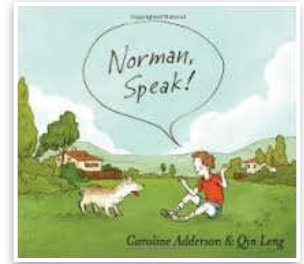
Illustrated by Qin Leng

Groundwood, 2014

\$17.95

Kindergarten - Grade 3

In this subtle yet joyous celebration of bilingualism, a family gets a new dog at the shelter. But the dog Norman doesn't come when he is called or respond to their other commands; later at the park they discover from a neighbor that Norman understands Chinese. The ink drawings with digital watercolor wash on white backgrounds are well-suited to the realistic story.



Arndt, Michael
Cat Says Meow

Illustrated by Michael Arndt

Chronicle, 2014

\$12.99

Preschool - Kindergarten

Inspired by animals and typography, Arndt presents a marvelous book whereby an animal's sound is incorporated into its illustration.

Baldacchino, Christine
Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress

Illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant

Groundwood, 2014

\$16.95

Preschool - Grade 3

An expressive and emotionally resonant representation of gender variance that will inspire discussion in the library, classroom and at home.



Barnett, Mac
Sam & Dave Dig A Hole

Illustrated by Jon Klassen

Candlewick, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Colored pencil and digital drawings construct the comical world of these unflappable diggers. An exceptional story that will keep the reader amused.

Beaty, Daniel
Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me

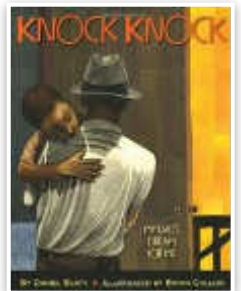
Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Little Brown, 2013

\$18.00

Preschool - 1

A boy misses his father who is away for years; he describes how much fun they had and wishes his dad was around to teach him to drive and shave. Collage and watercolor artwork is rich in deep colors depicting a loving African-American family.



Boyd, Lizi
Flashlight

Illustrated by Lizi Boyd

Chronicle, 2014

\$16.99

Baby/Toddler - Grade 2

A wordless picture book that follows a child's adventure through the woods at night. Boyd juxtaposes the seemingly quiet night with the busy nocturnal goings-on with her gouache illustrations to create an enchanting story.

Brown-Wood, JaNay

Imani's Moon

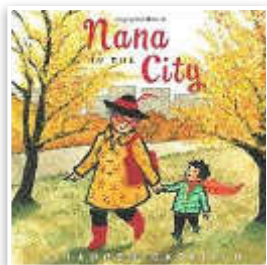
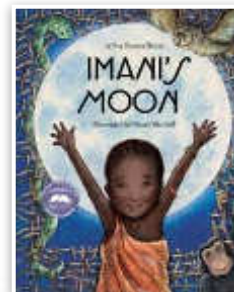
Illustrated by Hazel Mitchell

Mackinac Island, 2014

\$17.95

Preschool - Grade 3

Imani wants to touch the moon, and though naysayers and physical barriers stand in the way, she perseveres. Early readers will be drawn in and inspired by Imani's spunk, creativity, and determination. Clear, gentle text and colorful, expressive illustrations harmoniously mesh together.



Castillo, Lauren

Nana in the City

Illustrated by Lauren Castillo

Clarion, 2014

\$16.99

Grade 1 - Preschool

Cityscapes drawn with splashes of red and yellow become ever more bold and vibrant as a little boy gains courage and begins to see the city through his grandmother's eyes. Text and art together capture a living, breathing city and an equally resplendent grandmother clad in red boots, glasses, and feathered hat.

Chaud, Benjamin

The Bear's Sea Escape

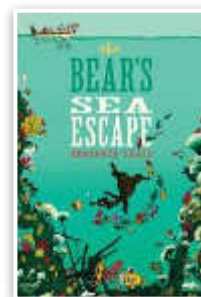
Illustrated by Benjamin Chaud

Chronicle, 2014

\$17.99

Preschool - 2

Little Bear is accidentally whisked away, with Papa Bear in hot pursuit. The vintage sensibility of Chaud's stylized art pairs well with the fluid exuberance of the illustrations. Like an ursine Where's Waldo?, children will repeatedly enjoy poring over the large-format illustrations full of wonderful discoveries and charming details.



Copeland, Misty

Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like the Firebird

Illustrated by Christopher Myers

G.P. Putnam's, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 3

Both the poetic text and the dramatic full-color collage paintings in this picture book encourage young people to pursue their dreams in ballet as well as other fields. Myers' illustrations deservedly received the 2015 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, but Copeland's poetry is equally adept at expressing these hopes and dreams; Copeland is a soloist with the American Ballet Theatre.



Davies, Benji

The Storm Whale

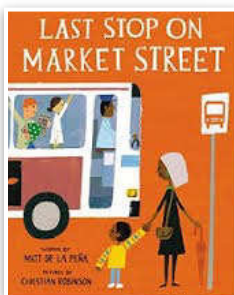
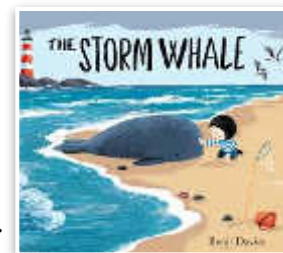
Illustrated by Benji Davies

Henry Holt, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

A tender, quiet adventure shows brave Noi rescuing a small beached whale and accompanying his father to release the creature back to the sea. The tidy adventure and the loving bond between father and son are beautifully expressed in the spare text and atmospheric illustrations.



De la Pena, Matt

Last Stop on Market Street

Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Putnam's/Penguin, 2015

\$16.99

Kindergarten - Grade 2

As CJ and his "Nana" travel through a city that looks like San Francisco, she points out the beauty of their gritty, urban neighborhood and their di19 array of friends.

Dempsey, Kristy

A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream

Illustrated by Floyd Cooper

Philomel, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Wishing on stars to become a ballerina, a young African American girl growing up in Harlem solidifies her dreams when she sees the "first colored prima ballerina", Janet Collins, perform at the Met. Lyrical writing by Kristy Dempsey and masterful art by Floyd Cooper immerses us into soft pinks, yellows and browns, giving the feel of looking at old photographs.



DiPucchio, Kelly

Gaston

Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Atheneum, 2014

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 2

A tale of poodles, bulldogs, and two adorable puppies who have seemingly been switched at birth. Brimming with visual humor and lively language, this storytime winner celebrates individuality and values family, both given and chosen.

Durand, Hallie

Mitchell Goes Bowling

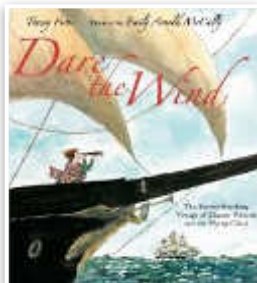
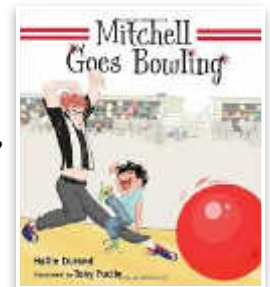
Illustrated by Tony Fucile

Candlewick, 2013

\$15.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Bowling should be the perfect sport for a 4-year-old who loves to knock things down - right? Well, it depends. Text and illustrations are full of the different types of physicality displayed by Mitchell and his dad as Mitchell flails away and Dad celebrates his more successful efforts with a "steam-in' hot potato dance." The text is economical, but full of zesty dialog and sharp awareness of the emotional dance between father and son as Mitchell comes perilously close to a meltdown.



Fern, Tracey

Dare the Wind: The Record-Breaking Voyage of Eleanor Prentiss and the Flying Cloud

Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

FSG, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 4

At the height of the gold rush Eleanor Prentiss navigated the clipper ship Sea Cloud, smashing the speed record from New York to San Francisco. Compelling prose and strong illustrations combine for an exciting read, a fine piece of local history and a testament to a brave and talented woman who was not afraid to dare both the wind and the status quo.

Gray, Rita

Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?

Illustrated by Kenard Pak

HMH, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 3

With rhyme and repetition, this informational story describes several birds and their sounds; perfect for storytime, the text includes the repeated title phrase along with onomatopoeia. The digitally enhanced watercolor illustrations resemble cut paper collage, in earth tones on speckled cream paper.



Harrison, Hannah E.

Extraordinary Jane

Illustrated by Hannah E. Harrison

Dial, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Jane, a little white dog, belongs to a family of circus dogs who all have special talents except for her. The illustrations in this debut picture book are a stand-out, conveying much of the humor as well as Jane's winning personality, which is her most accomplished talent.

Hoffman, Sarah and Ian Hoffman

Jacob's New Dress

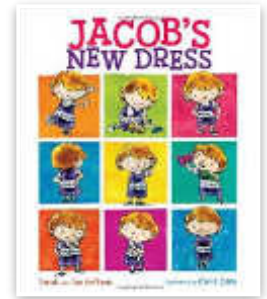
Illustrated by Chris Case

Albert Whitman, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Jacob enjoys wearing dresses in his classroom "dress-up corner", so he gets his mother to help him make a dress of his own that he can wear to school. This story of gender-nonconformity displays a general acceptance of what makes us unique rather than a specific, message-heavy didacticism.



Jeffers, Oliver

Once Upon an Alphabet: Short Stories for All the Letters

Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers

Philomel, 2014

\$26.99

Grades 1 - 4

In this fresh, off-beat alphabetical tour, the letters are the only predictable element. In amusing cartoon-like sketches and brief stories, characters deal with an imaginative array of situations that will delight those who already know their way from A to Z.

Kang, Anna

You Are (Not) Small

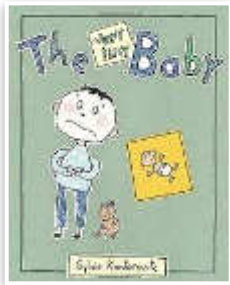
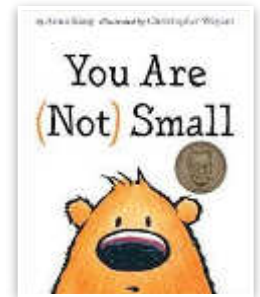
Illustrated by Christopher Weyant

Two Lions, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

In this delightful picture book, two bear-like creatures debate their sizes and the simple repetitive dialogue is reminiscent of Mo Willems' "Elephant and Piggie" series, with ink and watercolor cartoon illustrations on stark white backgrounds. This is the first book from the author and illustrator duo, and received the 2015 Geisel Award. Sure to work both as a read-aloud and for those just learning to read.



Kantorovitz, Sylvie

The Very Tiny Baby

Illustrated by Sylvie Kantorovitz

Charlesbridge, 2014

\$14.95

Preschool - Grade 2

Kantorovitz combines just the right amount of medical information on premature birth with emotional support for the young child whose family or friend may be experiencing what happens when "a baby comes out too soon." Illustrations, dialog and type face tell the tale in a child's voice.

Kohara, Kazuno

The Midnight Library

Illustrated by Kazuno Kohara

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

Run by a tiny pig-tailed librarian and her three assistant owls, the Midnight Library opens only at night, ready to serve a community of dogs, rabbits, sheep and mice. Kohara successfully highlights the use of the library as a community space, and the thick-lined black ink linocut illustrations create a happy, retro feel while maintaining a sense of cozy, nighttime fun.



Light, Steve

Have You Seen My Dragon?

Illustrated by Steve Light

Candlewick, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

A little boy looks for his dragon and ends up touring New York City, counting everything from hot dogs to manhole covers. Light's wonderfully intricate black and white ink drawings use spot color effectively to highlight each item being counted (numbers 1-20).

Luján, Jorge

Numeralia

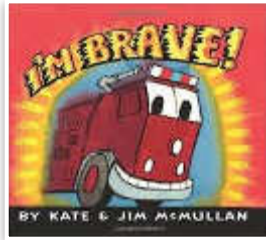
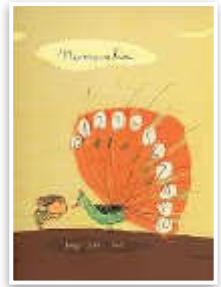
Illustrated by Isol, Translated by Susan Ouriou

Groundwood, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

This charming counting book is also a celebration of both numbers and numerals (the more physical manifestations of the abstract concepts of numberness). The illustrations are powerful depictions, both literal representations of the numerals and, sometimes, surreal. Artist Isol uses pen, color pencil, and photoshop to produce an earth palette plus blacks and blues to create a pleasing sequence.



McMullan, Kate

I'm Brave!

Illustrated by Jim McMullan

Balzer & Bray, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

This firetruck loves to show off his equipment and how it is used to save people. Great for storytimes, especially those focusing on vehicles, rescue personnel, or visiting firefighters.

Meshon, Aaron

Take Me Out to the Yakyu

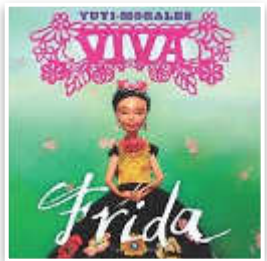
Illustrated by Aaron Meshon

Atheneum, 2013

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

In playful illustrations and simple, lively text, young readers are introduced to the way baseball is played both in Japan and in the United States. Back matter includes a glossary of Japanese words and brief information on the history of baseball in the two countries.



Morales, Yuyi

Viva Frida

Illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Roaring Book, 2014

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Lush visuals created by stop-motion puppets, acrylic paints, and digital manipulation transport the reader into the lyrical life of the iconic artist Frida Kahlo. An unforgettable combination of stunning visuals peppered with poetic text.

Nichols, Lori

Maple

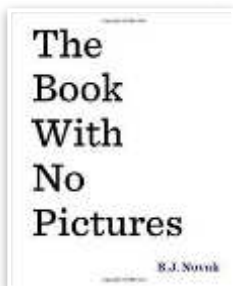
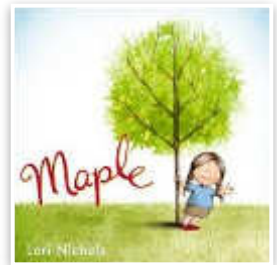
Illustrated by Lori Nichols

Nancy Paulsen, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Kindergarten

A young girl makes the adjustment from relying on a tree for company to relying on the companionship of her little sister. Nichols' pencil on Mylar illustrations and spare text exude a charm missing from the vast majority of new sibling picture books.



Novak, B.J.

The Book With No Pictures

Dial, 2014

\$17.99

Kindergarten - Grade 3

This clever read-aloud should be shelved with the picture books, even though it has no pictures. The premise is relatively simple: "Here is how books work: Everything the words say, the person reading the book has to say." The text is in various fonts, sizes, and colors, so in some ways the words serve as illustrations, especially with nonsense phrases such as "Ba-Dooongy Face!!!!!"

Pham, LeUyen
A Piece of Cake

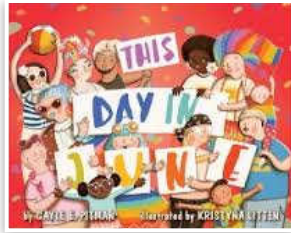
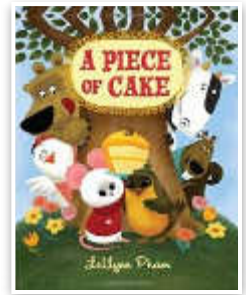
Illustrated by Pham LeUyen

Balzer & Bray, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

A lovely, funny read-aloud with bright colors and a message of kindness and cleverness where Bear exchanges each piece of a cake he has baked for a myriad of unusual objects. Pham's digital illustrations are as expressive as ever, but she's brightened her palette and dropped her usual thick black outlines, giving her characters a soft and fuzzy feel.



Pitman, Gayle E.

This Day in June

Illustrated by Kristyna Litten

Magination, 2014

\$14.95

Preschool - Grade 2

With vibrant color, simple phrases, and beautifully diverse characters, *This Day in June* is a first of its kind: a cheerful, exuberant read-aloud about a gay pride parade.

Rabinowitz, Alan
A Boy and a Jaguar

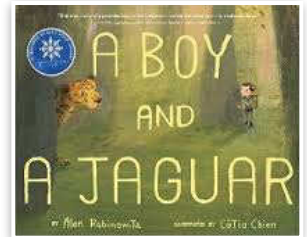
Illustrated by Catia Chien

HMH, 2014

16.99

Kindergarten - Grade 2

Alan is a child who stutters (except when he is singing or talking to animals) and dedicates his life to keeping his promise to protect all wild animals. Soft acrylic and charcoal illustrations set a comforting tone, and lively expressions on the faces of human and animal characters will engage readers. A strong picture book with an inspiring differently-abled protagonist.



Rockliff, Mara

Chik Chak Shabbat

Illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker

Candlewick, 2014

\$15.99

Kindergarten - Grade 4

Goldie Simcha's neighbors look forward each Saturday to sharing her delicious Shabbat stew but when a Friday illness derails Goldie's preparations the neighbors rally-round and each contribute a cultural dish that helps recreate the tastes, and more importantly, the spirit of togetherness at the heart of Shabbat. Whimsical and lively acrylic and collage illustrations convey the comfort and charm of traditions that foster community. A recipe is included.

Saltzberg, Barney
Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep

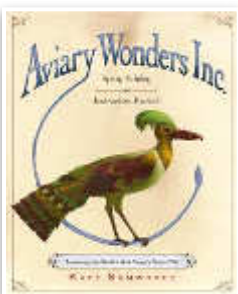
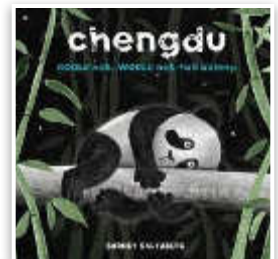
Illustrated by Barney Saltzberg

Disney, 2014

\$16.99

Baby/Toddler - Kindergarten

In this clever take on a common subject, a little panda in the bamboo grove cannot fall asleep, no matter what. The illustrations are strong, dominated by black, white, and green for the bamboo, using pencil and watercolors that have a charcoal appearance. Perfect for a lullaby or toddler storytime, as well as a great bedtime read-aloud.



Samworth, Kate

Aviary Wonders Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual: Renewing the World's Bird Supply Since 2031

Illustrated by Kate Samworth

Clarion, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 3 - 6

An inventive picture book for older readers presented as a faux catalog for Aviary Wonders, a fictitious, future company that allows one to pick parts and assemble one's own unique bird. Hilarious asides and illustrations boasting richly saturated, vibrant colors elevate this lovely and imaginative debut.

Santat, Dan

The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend

Illustrated by Dan Santat

Little, Brown, 2014

\$17.00

Preschool - Grade 2

Winner of the 2015 Caldecott Medal, this picture book has a delightful story as well as engaging illustrations. A creature that resembles a marshmallow lives on an island, waiting to become some child's imaginary friend. The colorful cartoon-like illustrations are warm and the hand-lettered text is placed in spaces that add to the drama of the story.



Schneider, Josh

Princess Sparkle-Heart Gets a Makeover

Illustrated by Josh Schneider

Clarion, 2014

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

After Amelia's best friend, a doll named Princess Sparkle-Heart, has an "accident," her mom helps her design and create a new-and-improved version. Don't let the pink, glittery cover fool you -- it's an empowering story of resilience, creativity, and the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle).

Shea, Bob

Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads

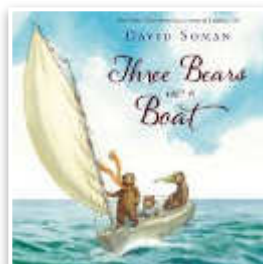
Illustrated by Lane Smith

Roaring Brook, 2014

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Kid Sheriff comes to Drywater Gulch to rid the town of the Toad brothers who robbed the bank's vault in this homage to Hollywood westerns. The snarky humor of the story is well-matched by Lane Smith's sepia-toned cartoonish illustrations.



Soman, David

Three Bears in a Boat

Illustrated by David Soman

Dial, 2014

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 1

Three mischievous bears set off to find a blue seashell like the one they accidentally broke. Filled with sun-dappled seascapes and amusing fellow travelers above and below water, this is a stunningly beautiful adventure.

Tan, Shaun

Rules of Summer

Illustrated by Shaun Tan

Levine, 2014

\$18.99

Kindergarten - Grade 3

Shaun Tan's first foray into the format is haunting, disquieting, and above all, excellent. Tan leaves behind his usual black and white illustrations for richly colored, thickly applied paint. Some children may be frightened; all will be riveted.



Tullet, Herve, Translated by Christopher Franceschelli

Mix It Up!

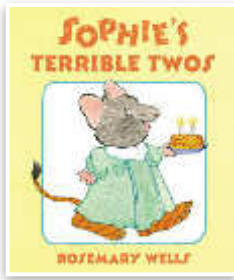
Illustrated by Herve Tullet

Chronicle, 2014

\$15.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Tullet follows his landmark *Press Here* (Chronicle, 2011), with another "faux touch-screen" style picture book, this time using blobs of paint to show how primary colors mix to create secondary colors. Sure to be a storytime favorite, the outside covers are board.



Wells, Rosemary
Sophie's Terrible Twos

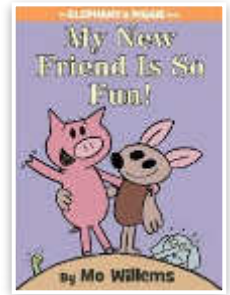
Illustrated by Rosemary Wells
Viking, 2014 \$16.99 Baby/Toddler

On her second birthday, Sophie wakes up in a contrary mood, and is not happy with any presents from her family. "I know someone who has turned the corner onto Grumpy Street," says Mama. Granny comes to the rescue. Colorful illustrations in ink, watercolor, and gouache provide subtle humor and a comfortable, family feeling.

Willems, Mo
My New Friend Is So Fun!

Illustrated by Mo Willems
Disney, 2014 \$8.99 Preschool - Grade 2

Gerald and Snake are afraid they are no longer Piggie's and Brian Bat's best friends in this delightful beginning reader that contains a good amount of repetition. Willems' trademark pastel cartoon illustrations with dialogue balloons serve the story and facilitate readability for emergent readers.



Willems, Mo
The Pigeon Needs a Bath!

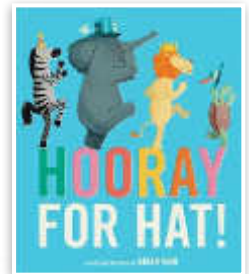
Illustrated by Mo Willems
Disney, 2014 \$16.99 Preschool - Grade 2

Mo Willems' famous dicking pigeon returns, this time trying to convince the reader he really doesn't need a bath. Graphically strong cartoon style images are wittily expressive. The ultimate, humorous, and entirely realistic ending, will have both parents and kids chuckling in recognition.

Won, Brian
Hooray for Hat!

Illustrated by Brian Won
HMH, 2014 \$16.99 Baby/Toddler - Preschool

What may have started as a bad day turns into a celebration of friendship when Elephant finds a surprise box of hats at his doorstep and shares the joy it brings him with his animal friends. Won's expressively bold and cheerful depictions of each animal are a successful pairing with a simple repetitive text perfect for preschool storytime.



Young, Jessica
My Blue is Happy

Illustrated by Catia Chien
Candlewick, 2013 \$15.99 Preschool - Grade 3

A lovely and intimate story about colors and emotions, showing positive family relationships. The illustrations work perfectly with the story.

Professional

Bird, Betsy, Julie Danielson, and Peter D. Sieruta
Wild Things!: Acts of Mischief in Children's Literature

Candlewick, 2014 \$22.99 Adult

Wild Things! by three children's book bloggers is filled with fun, almost gossip-like history and anecdotes about children's authors and books, but is not mean-spirited. Topics covered include "subversive" children's lit, GLBT authors and characters, books that attract censors, popular books that critics disliked, books by celebrities, and how money propels some aspects of publishing.



About ACL

Founded in the 1930's by a group of public and school librarians, the Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California (ACL) is a community of committed youth services library professionals. Members meet monthly to review books for young people, engage in professional development, network, and discuss issues related to the profession. ACL reviews are published in *BayViews*, a journal of book reviews and opinions with a western perspective.



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Distinguished Books production by Celia Jackson, Kathryn Shepler, Jamie Renton, and Hayley Beale; design by Meredith Steiner.

What our members say:

ACL is the best professional organization to belong to for a children's librarian. As a recent MLIS graduate looking for a full-time job, it is a great networking opportunity for me. I also learn more about being a children's librarian than I have from any other organization.

-Jamie Renton, Children's Librarian

When people join ACL, they may already be good librarians, but ACL will make them even better. It has made a difference in my professional development and continues to keep me in touch with a terrific group of practitioners. Their enthusiasm and commitment are infectious.

-Linda Perkins, ALSC Past President and Distinguished Service Awardee

The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California is especially helpful for librarians that work in smaller systems, where they may be the only youth services professional at that library. The meetings, Performers' Showcase, Institute, reviewing process, and Distinguished Books discussions all help in giving librarians continual professional development in programming, collection development, and many other skills needed in youth services.

-Penny Peck, Author of *Crash Course in Children's Services*, Instructor at San José State University School of Information Science

ACL has made such a difference in my professional life! Attendance at its monthly meetings has exposed me to new ideas, challenging opinions and the excitement of learning from and with other dedicated children's staff. The leadership opportunities that come with active involvement in ACL have paved the way to more effective participation in my own library systems and in national and state library associations.

-Elizabeth Overmyer, Retired Children's Librarian