



The Association of Children's Librarians of Northern California Presents

# 2015 Distinguished Books



**2015 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

Alko, Selina

*The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage*

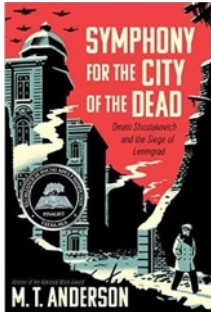
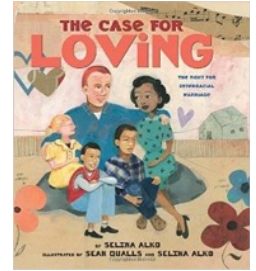
Illustrated by Sean Qualls

Levine, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 2 - 5

Richard and Mildred Loving loved each other, but their interracial marriage was ruled illegal in Virginia until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the state law. This picture book history succinctly describes the Jim Crow setting and the Lovings' struggle for legal recognition.



Anderson, M.T.

*Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Shostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad*

Candlewick, 2015

\$25.99

Grades 9 - 12

Anderson (Feed, 2002) gives us dense, thoroughly researched and gripping narrative non-fiction about the life and works of Dmitri Shostakovich. Using the composer's Seventh Symphony as a spring board, the author examines the Russian Revolution, the subsequent Stalinist Five-Year Plan and Great Terror, and the Nazi siege of Leningrad.

Benson, Kathleen

*Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews*

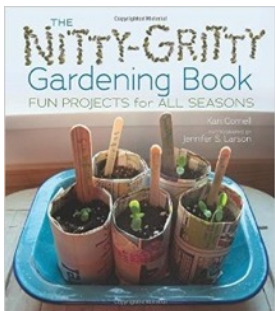
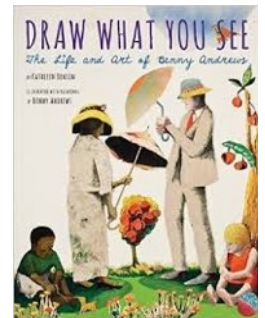
Illustrated by Benny Andrews

Clarion, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 6

This remarkable picture book biography traces painter Benny Andrews's life as a child of fieldworkers in Georgia in 1933 to his development as a major African-American artist of the 20th century. Benson's clear writing and the accompanying illustrations by Andrews make this an excellent resource for classroom use and research.



Cornell, Kari A.

*The Nitty-Gritty Gardening Book: Fun Projects for All Seasons*

Illustrated by Jennifer S. Larson

Millbrook, 2015

\$26.65

Grades 3 - 6

Includes detailed instructions for gardening projects ranging from growing a sack of potatoes to building a terrarium in a jar. This well-organized, attractive book will make an excellent addition to a children's gardening collection.

Goldstone, Bruce

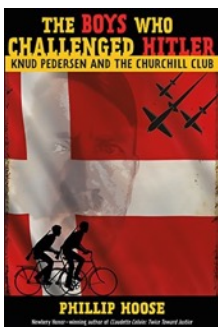
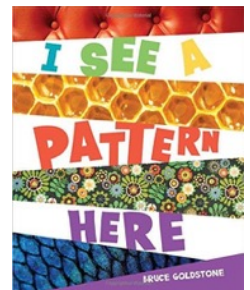
*I See a Pattern Here*

Holt, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 1 - 5

Beautiful photographs of art, nature, and everyday objects illustrate mathematical concepts related to pattern-making. A superb STEAM book.



Hoose, Phillip

*The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*

FSG, 2015

\$19.99

Grades 6 - 10

Using first hand accounts, this riveting nonfiction book about a little known piece of World War II history tells how a group of teenage boys inspired the Danish resistance after the Germans occupied their country in April 1940.

Jarrow, Gail

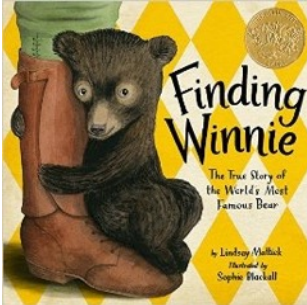
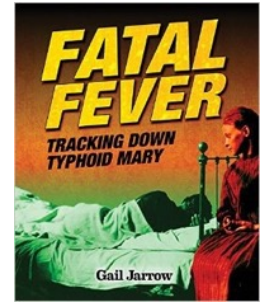
*Fatal Fever*

Calkins Creek, 2015

\$16.95

Grades 5 - 10

The harrowing tale of the first identified healthy typhoid carrier in America, "Typhoid Mary" Mallon, is told using primary source documents and eyewitness accounts in this expertly written and extensively researched book. The book's eye-catching layout and copious end notes make this a worthy addition to any teen nonfiction collection.



Mattick, Lindsay

*Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*

Illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Little Brown, 2015

\$18.00

Grades K - 3

A young man, headed for war, rescues an orphaned bear cub and names him Winnie. So begins a beautifully illustrated true story, as full of wonder and charm as those inspired by Winnie's eventual friendship with Christopher Robin. A concluding album features photographs of all the participants.

Montgomery, Sy

*The Octopus Scientist*

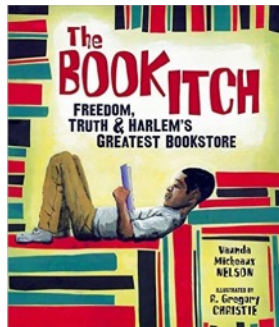
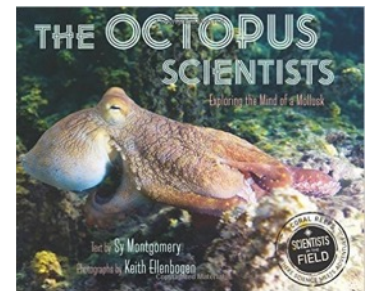
Illustrated by Keith Ellenbogen

HMH, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 7 - 10

Gorgeous underwater photography and entertaining stories about the intelligence and color-changing abilities of octopuses make this a winning addition to the acclaimed Scientists in the Field series, whose new tagline, "Where Science Meets Adventure," is right on target here.



Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux

*The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore*

Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Carolrhoda, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 2 - 5

This picture book presentation of the life of Lewis Michaux, through the eyes of his young son, gives a taste of the politically and intellectually active community in Harlem, and conveys the outlook of the subtly influential and relentlessly positive bookstore owner as well as the context that surrounded him.

Newman, Patricia

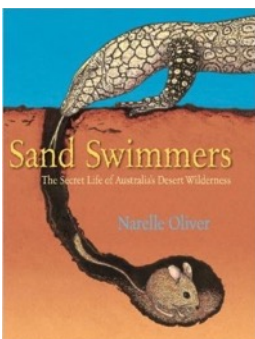
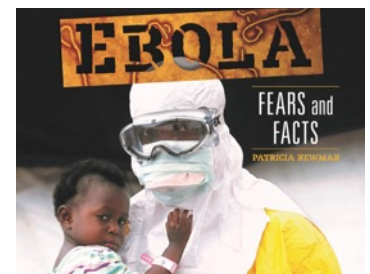
*Ebola: Fears and Facts*

Millbrook, 2015

\$31.99

Grades 4 - 8

With a concise and clear text, this photo-filled look at the Ebola crisis describes the origins of the disease, its spread, how it can be treated, and its current state, using language most tweens will understand. The photo captions add solid information, as do charts, sidebars, and clear maps.



Oliver, Narelle

*Sand Swimmers: The Secret Life of Australia's Desert Wilderness*

Illustrated by Narelle Oliver

Candlewick, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 2 - 6

A fascinating exploration of the secret life of Australia's desert wilderness provocatively juxtaposes historic European perspectives and the Aboriginal understanding of remarkable animal adaptations. Gorgeous, earth-toned illustrations, opportunities to search for camouflaged wildlife and extensive supporting back matter make this a great choice for both pleasure reading and classroom study.



Page, Robin

*A Chicken Followed Me Home: Questions and Answers about a Familiar Fowl*

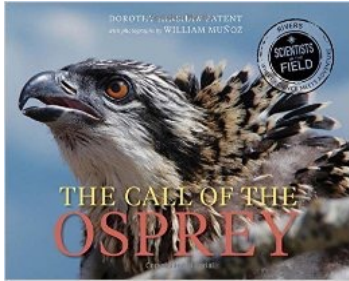
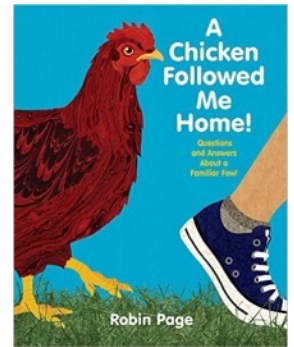
Illustrated by Robin Page

Beach Lane, 2015

\$17.99

Grades K - 3

Colorful hens waddle and scurry across the pages of this informative, handsomely illustrated, and distinctively designed introduction to the care and behavior of chickens.



Patent, Dorothy

*The Call of the Osprey*

Illustrated by William Muñoz

HMH, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 7 - 10

Researchers are studying the impact of environmental degradation on a population of ospreys that nest and fish near a Superfund mine cleanup site in Montana. Students considering careers in biology or environmental science will appreciate this impressive addition to the long-running Scientists in the Field series.

Paul, Miranda

*Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle*

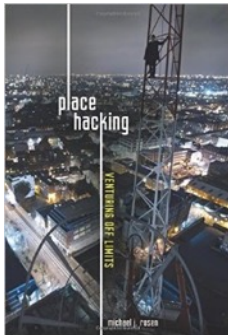
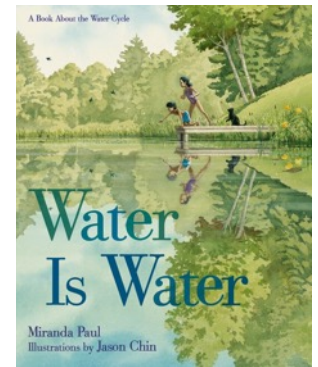
Illustrated by Jason Chin

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 2

A brother and sister explore water's various forms as they play and explore throughout the seasons. Told in rhythmic verse and handsomely illustrated, this is a lively introduction to the water cycle.



Rosen, Michael J.

*Place Hacking: Venturing Off Limits*

Twenty-First Century, 2015

\$33.32

Grades 8 - 12

Place hacking is broadly defined as going where one is not allowed to go, and Rosen divides the category into urban exploration, adventure, and infiltration. Great photos. The back matter - timeline, glossary, persuasive writing activity, source notes, and a "for further information" section - makes this an outstanding addition.

Rusch, Elizabeth

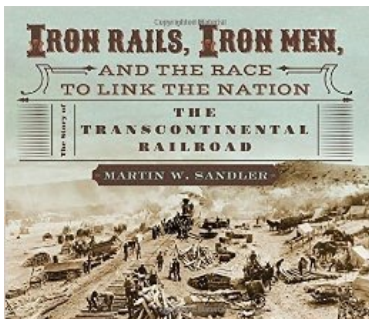
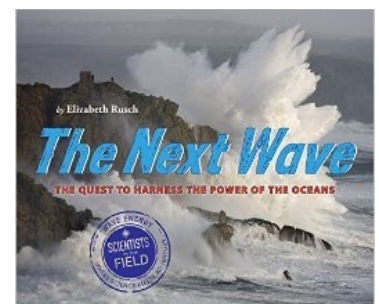
*The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans*

HMH, 2014

\$18.99

Grades 4 - 8

An addition to the Scientists in the Field series, Rusch tells the fascinating quest of the struggles, failures, and minor successes of the engineers who are attempting to harness the energy of waves. Remarkable pictures, diagrams, and photographs bring to life the struggles of working with this extremely punishing renewable.



Sandler, Martin W.

*Iron Rails, Iron Men, and the Race to Link the Nation: The Story of the Transcontinental Railroad*

Candlewick, 2015

\$22.99

Grades 7 - 12

An expansive, dramatic, photo-filled book design and an engaging, dynamic text combine to make this an essential book on the building of the Transcontinental Railroad in the U.S. The author deftly describes the plight of the Chinese workers and the Native American groups that were displaced.

Schnell, Lisa Kahn

*High Tide for Horseshoe Crabs*

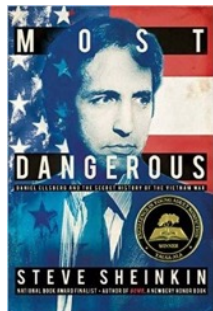
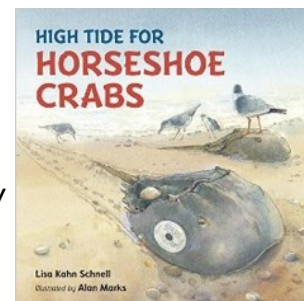
Illustrated by Alan Marks

Charlesbridge, 2015

\$18.95

Grades K - 3

Soft pastel watercolor and pencil illustration paired with simple yet informative text introduce readers to the various life on the Delaware Bay: the fascinating horseshoe crab (who is actually not a crab), hungry migrating shorebirds, and curious human visitors. Highly recommended for budding naturalists and elementary educators teaching about coastal ecosystems.



Sheinkin, Steve

*Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$19.99

Grades 7 - 12

Steve Sheinkin (*Bomb*, *Flash Point*, 2012) is a master of narrative nonfiction for teens, and he scores again with *Most Dangerous* – the story of Washington insider turned Vietnam war whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg. This is a thrilling, insightful story, grounded in research, and perfect for readers who like intrigue and real-life history.

Silverberg, Cory

*Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU*

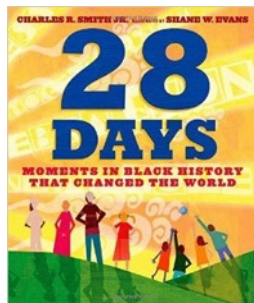
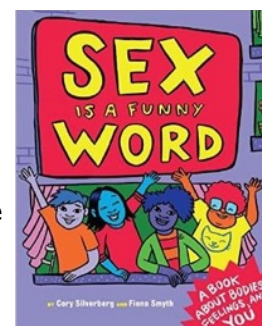
Illustrated by Fiona Smyth

Triangle Square, 2015

\$23.95

Grades 1 - 4

Featuring attractive, jewel-toned, comic-style art and empowering language that affirms the value of ALL kids' knowledge and experiences, this dynamic, truly inclusive exploration of bodies, gender, feelings, and relationships helps demystify sex for young readers.



Smith Jr., Charles R.

*28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Neal Porter, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 3 - 6

From Crispus Attucks' death to the inauguration of Barack Obama, this celebration of African-American achievement focuses on one date in history, told in poems, prose, and quotations. The various narrative styles will engage readers, and the dramatic full-color mixed media collages serve the subject and also make this appealing to a wide age range.

## Poetry

Heppermann, Christine

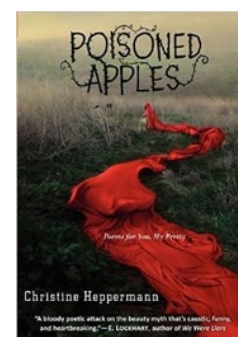
*Poisoned Apples: Poems for You, My Pretty*

Greenwillow, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 7 - 12

Each of these dark, subversive poems gives a twist to a different fairy tale or pop culture reference, examining teen girl issues such as anorexia, body image, alcoholism, abuse, sexuality. Most of the poems are accompanied by creepy, black and white photographs. Highly recommended addition for teen poetry collections.



Hopkins, Lee Bennett

*Jumping Off Library Shelves: A Book of Poems*

Illustrated by Jane Manning

WordSong, 2015

\$16.95

Grade K - Adult

Possibilities abound in this compilation of fifteen short poems celebrating a child's experience in the library. Fantastical gouache-and-pencil illustrations featuring children of diverse color bring each poem to life. This collection will support poetry writing in the classroom and will make a unique addition to any library shelf. Be sure to read aloud.



National Geographic

*National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More Than 200 Poems With Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!*

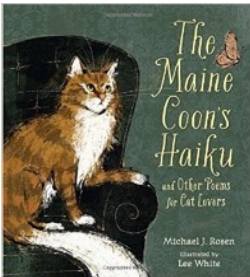
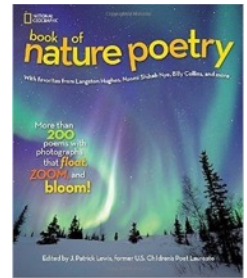
Edited by J. Patrick Lewis

National Geographic Society, 2015

\$24.99

Grade 1 - Adult

This eloquent anthology, elegantly illustrated with vibrant, lush National Geographic photography, is an excellent resource for libraries and a treasure for poetry and nature aficionados of all ages.



Rosen, Michael J.

*The Maine Coon's Haiku and Other Poems for Cat Lovers*

Illustrated by Lee White

Candlewick, 2015

\$17.99

Grades K - 5

Twenty original haiku celebrating various breeds of cats are offered and really capture the personalities and physical characteristics of those breeds. Equally pleasing are the full-color illustrations; although they were "created digitally" they resemble gouache paintings and are quite charming.

## Biography

Andrews, Troy

*Trombone Shorty*

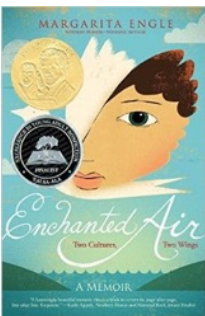
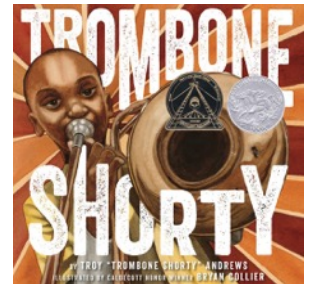
Illustrated by Bryan Collier

Abrams, 2015

\$17.95

Grades 1 - 4

Troy Andrews, aka Trombone Shorty, offers readers the story of his boyhood love for music and growing up to become a world-famous musician. Lively illustrations show his early discovery of a discarded trombone almost as big as he and add a sense of movement and musical waves as he practices and achieves his lifelong dream: to become a musician and play in public.



Engle, Margarita

*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir*

Illustrated by Edel Rodriguez

Atheneum, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 6 - 10

Award-winner Engle's excellent memoir in verse tracks her first fourteen years giving a child's view of the joy, beauty, and pain of growing up in two countries and cultures that during the course of her short life, go from allies to enemies. An important and gripping tale.

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon

*Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*

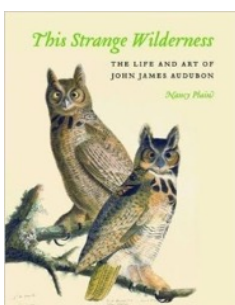
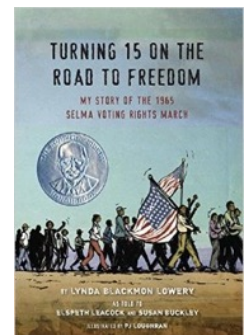
Illustrated by PJ Loughran, Adapted by Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley

Dial, 2015

\$19.99

Grades 5 - 12

A team's accomplishment: from the beautiful, believable voice (Lowery remembering experiences as the youngest participant in the entire Selma to Montgomery March) with help from Leacock and Buckley, to the illustrator Loughran, who uses original photos, comic drawings, and a variety of techniques to tell the story, to the book designer Mina Chung whose choice of typefaces, papers, and spacing and pacing is impeccable. Back matter completes the story, illuminates, and clarifies. A tour de force!



Plain, Nancy

*This Strange Wilderness: The Life and Art of John James Audubon*

University of Nebraska, 2015

\$19.95

Grades 4 - 12

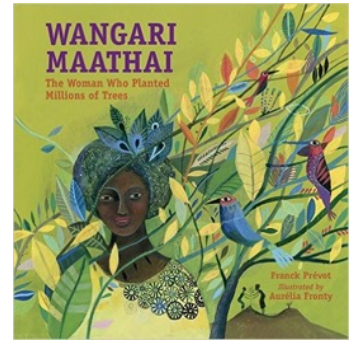
Plain's biography of artist and ornithologist John James Audubon uses Audubon's own lively turns of phrase to give an immediacy to the narrative that is well matched by vibrant full-color reproductions of his paintings. The natural wonders of 19th century America, Audubon's contributions to science, his delight in nature and his family, and his extraordinary persistence make a fascinating story.

Prevot, Franck

*Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees*

Illustrated by Aurélie Fronty, Translated by Dominique Clement  
Charlesbridge, 2015 \$17.95 Grades 2 - 5

Prevot provides just the right amount of information for his audience, paired with Fronty's vivid paintings, for one of the year's most memorable biographies.



Rappaport, Doreen

*Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass*

Illustrated by London Ladd  
Jump at the Sun, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 2 - 5

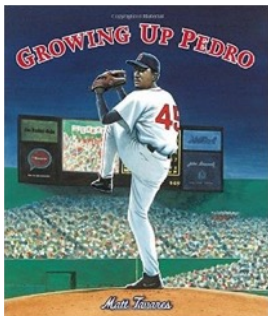
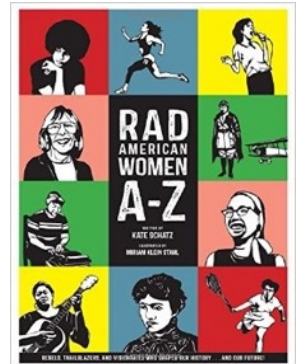
This picture book biography focuses on Frederick Douglass, the man who escaped slavery to be a major abolitionist of the Civil War era. Each spread contains a few paragraphs of text along with a quotation or two from Douglass. Dramatic full-color paintings don't shy away from the more violent aspects of slavery and give the book a strong emotional impact.

Schatz, Kate

*Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History... and Our Future*

Illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl  
City Lights, 2015 \$14.95 Grades 3 - 7

In an A-Z format, readers are introduced to 25 women, both well- and lesser-known, who made an impact on the world. The conversational tone, accessible vocabulary, and extensive additional reading list make this a first purchase for most libraries.



Tavares, Matt

*Growing Up Pedro*

Illustrated by Matt Tavares  
Candlewick, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 2 - 5

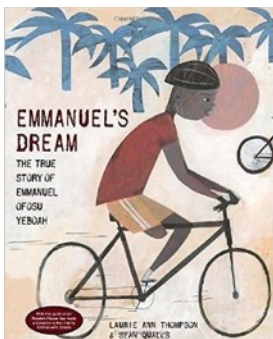
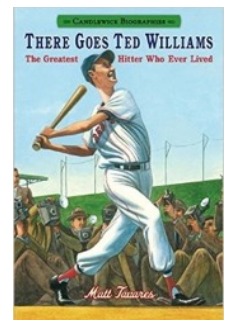
Dominican Republic native Pedro Martinez achieved a childhood dream of playing in the major leagues where he pitched the Red Sox to a 2004 World Series championship. Well-constructed text, vibrant illustrations, and rich back matter make this a top choice for reports and pleasure reading.

Tavares, Matt

*Henry Aaron's Dream and There Goes Ted Williams*

Illustrated by Matt Tavares  
Candlewick, 2015 \$14.99 Grades 2 - 6

Reissued editions of information-rich picture book biographies of baseball greats Hank Aaron (2010) and Ted Williams (2012) that organize the text into short chapters. Each book includes a helpful table of contents and index; both are great for reports.



Thompson, Laurie Ann

*Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*

Illustrated by Sean Qualls  
Schwartz & Wade, 2015 \$17.99 Grades K - 2

Emmanuel's story seems to be a sad one: he was born in Ghana with only one leg. But with his mother's faith in him and his own determination, he earns respect, gains friendship, and becomes a national hero. Gorgeous illustrations paired with simple text produce a rousing and heart-warming story.



Tonatiuh, Duncan

*Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras*

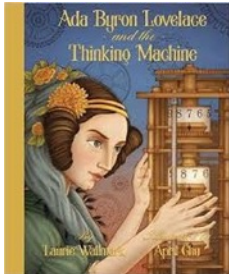
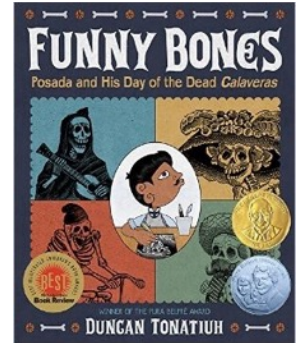
Illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

Abrams, 2015

\$18.95

Grades 3 - 6

The life and art of late 19th c. Jose Guadalupe Posada are vividly told by countryman Tonatiuh. Posada began as a printer's apprentice and he gained his fame by his broadsides of b/w illustrated Calaveras accompanied by poems which often spoke of his activist view of Mexico history. Back matter has detailed material about the art techniques Posada used, lithograph, etching and engraving. The book is colorfully illustrated with Tonatiuh's signature nod to ancient Mixtec-style figures and the lively Calaveras provide a lesson to explore Día de los Muertos history.



Wallmark, Laurie

*Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*

Illustrated by April Chu

Creston, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 2 - 5

Dramatic full color pencil drawings that look like paintings combine with a concise, factual text in this picture book biography of the woman who invented the first computer program in the 1800s.

Weatherford, Carole Boston

*Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*

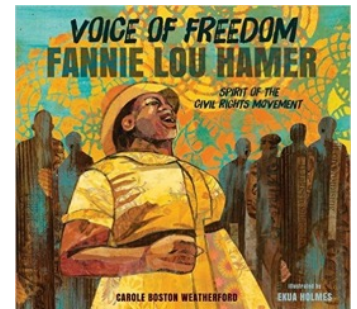
Illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Candlewick, 2015

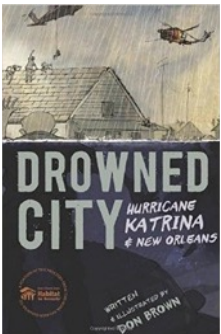
\$17.99

Grades 6 - 12

Richly-hued collage, painted and stenciled illustrations accompany the first person, verse biography of larger-than-life civil rights activist, Fannie Lou Hamer. Weatherford keeps Hamer's bravery, strength and humanity in focus without mythologizing, leaving readers with the sense that they have met a real person. Must see!



## Graphic Novels



Brown, Don

*Drowned City : Hurricane Katrina & New Orleans*

HMH, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 4 - 8

Brown's powerful illustrations in a graphic novel format present the onslaught and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's devastating destruction of New Orleans. Local and national governments' disgraceful inability to act is part of the narrative, as are those good people who did help. A strong story about this storm and the challenges of facing any natural catastrophe.

Holm, Jennifer

*Sunny Side Up*

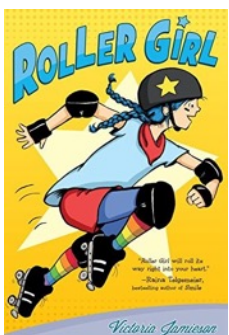
Illustrated by Matthew Holm

Graphix, 2015

\$23.99

Grades 4 - 7

The slow pace of summer with Grandpa in Florida gives Sunny time to flashback on the family secret surrounding her brother. The art and story are seamlessly integrated and the format makes a difficult family story of addiction understandable. The Holms have created an important and enjoyable addition to the growing list of excellent graphic novels for middle grade readers.



Jamieson, Victoria

*Roller Girl*

Illustrated by Victoria Jamieson

Dial, 2015

\$20.99

Grades 4 - 7

A light-hearted message about endurance and the importance of practice is driven home in Jamieson's first efforts as an author. Pencil and pen full-color illustrations depict twelve-year-old Astrid's fledgling steps as she comes into her own via roller derby.

Liniers

*Written and Drawn by Henrietta*

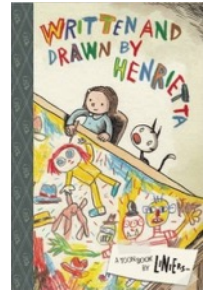
Illustrated by Liniers

Toon, 2015

\$12.95

Grades 2 - 4

Inspired by a gift of colored pencils, Henrietta writes and illustrates a story, narrating her process to her talking cat. Hilarious illustrations and witty text manage to provide readers not only with an excellent and satisfying tale but also with great practical advice on how to write their own adventure.



McCoola, Marika

*Baba Yaga's Assistant*

Illustrated by Emily Carroll

Candlewick, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 7

In this fast-paced and slightly spooky graphic novel, teenager Masha heads into the forest seeking an interview to be the new assistant to the child-stealing witch, Baba Yaga. Expressive illustrations, a strong heroine, and an engaging plot join to create a story that will be appreciated by most middle-grade readers.

O'Connor, George

*Ares: Bringer of War*

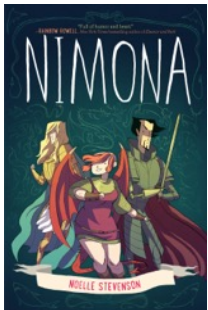
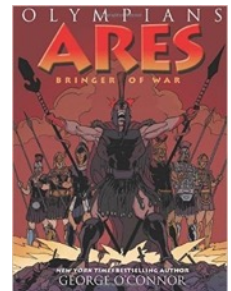
Illustrated by George O'Connor

First Second, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 8

Filled with violent action, impressively erudite, and packed with wit, O'Connor's Ares tells the story of the Trojan War in handsomely colored, graphically strong panels. A range of skin-tones indicate ethnic diversity among the gods and men. Rich back-matter provides context, explains artistic choices, provides a bibliography and offers reading recommendations.



Stevenson, Noelle

*Nimona*

Illustrated by Noelle Stevenson

HarperTeen, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 7 - 12

Shapeshifter Nimona joins the evil Blackheart to take down the not-so-heroic Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics, along with Blackheart's nemesis Goldenloin. Through witty dialog, intense action, and complex questions of morality, Stevenson weaves a story ultimately about friendship and trust.

Strum, James and Andrew Arnold and Alexis Frederick-Frost

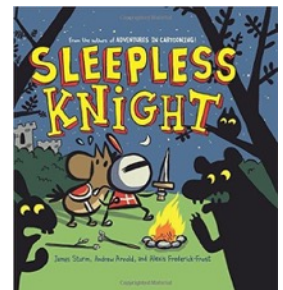
*Sleepless Knight*

First Second, 2015

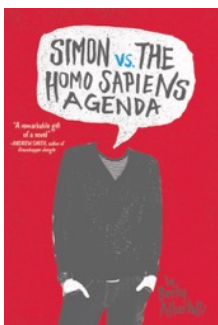
\$14.99

Grades K - 3

A young knight with a trusty horse sets off on a camping trip, and discovers that they need the help of forest animals to find the knight's lost teddy bear. Large boldly colored illustrations and an action-packed story ensure that this book will be welcomed by young readers.



## Fiction



Albertalli, Becky

*Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

Balzer & Bray, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 8 - 10

High school junior Simon Spier is gay, though not out, and as his anonymous email relationship with another gay student develops, he begins to examine his life and relationships with his friends and family. Albertalli's debut novel combines an upbeat and breezy tone with thoughtful reflections on contemporary social mores.



Baker, Matthew

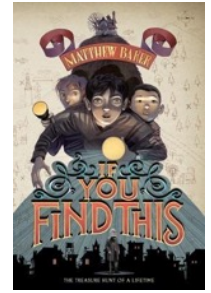
*If You Find This*

Little Brown, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 6 - 8

Nicholas and two other alienated seventh graders pull together to find heirlooms that could save Nicholas's home. Confused grandfathers, musical and mathematical notation, and the tree where Nicholas talks with his dead brother, make for an amusing, heartfelt, and somewhat sophisticated piece of writing.



Baptiste, Tracey

*The Jumbies*

Algonquin, 2015

\$15.95

Grades 3 - 5

Corinne must save her village from evil creatures called Jumbies in this story based on Haitian folktales. A very fresh take in a popular genre.

Benjamin, Ali

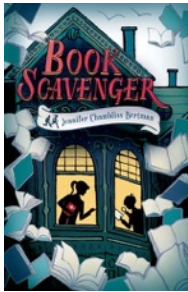
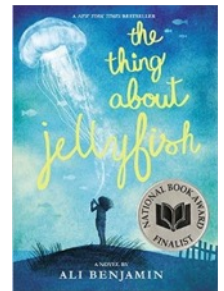
*The Thing About Jellyfish*

Little Brown, 2015

\$17.00

Grades 5 - 7

Devastated by the sudden swimming death of her former best friend, seventh-grader Suzy turns to science for an explanation. In a compelling voice that rings true, Suzy struggles with the nature of grief, change, death, love and other phenomena beyond the measure of science.



Bertman, Jennifer Chambliss

*Book Scavenger*

Illustrated by Sarah Watts

Holt, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 8

Emily and her family move to San Francisco, home of her hero Garrison Griswold, publisher and creator of the Book Scavenger game (similar to geocaching). After Griswold is wounded, Emily and her neighbor James, who is Chinese-American, try to find out what happened, and the scattered puzzles, ciphers, and ink artwork add appeal.

Blackwood, Sage

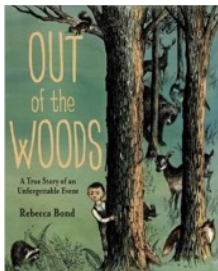
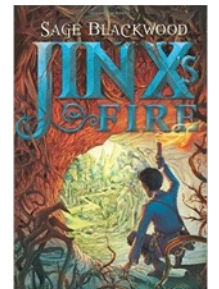
*Jinx's Fire*

Katherine Tegen, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 8

Blackwood has crafted a wonderful conclusion to her Jinx trilogy, filled with an inventive mix of creatures, the thrilling landscape of the Urwald forest, and the layers of power that lie below. In a beautifully paced narrative, she employs a light touch to leaven the complexity of characterization and the nuances of balancing good and evil.



Bond, Rebecca

*Out of the Woods*

FSG, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 1 - 3

People and wild animals, natural enemies, go to the lake to save their lives as a wild fire burns in the remote woods of Ontario, Canada. Based on a true story, the attention to details in the distinctive illustrations elevate this story from interesting to absorbing.

Booth, Coe

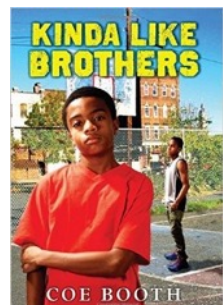
*Kinda Like Brothers*

Scholastic, 2014

\$17.99

Grades 4 - 9

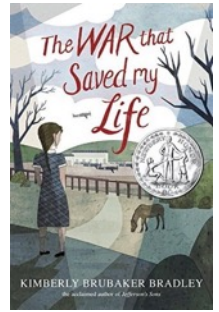
The eleven-year-old son of a perennial foster care parent strives to remain top dog at home while navigating puberty and 6th grade retention. The author does a good job of touching on the various issues that reflect the human condition as well as those which specifically affect the Black community.



Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker  
*The War That Saved My Life*

Dial, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 6 - 8

Abused by their mother, Ada and Jamie are evacuated from London during World War II and assigned to a tough-minded yet caring single woman. Built on believable relationships, this well-paced story meshes several themes into an old-fashioned, heartwarming historical novel that will also appeal to horse story fans.



Cerrito, Angela  
*The Safest Lie*

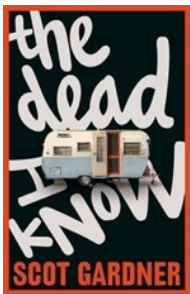
Holiday House, 2015 \$16.95 Grades 4 - 7

Anna is eight when she is rescued from the Warsaw Ghetto, by Jolanta (after the real-life Polish resistance fighter, Irena Sendler) and begins a new and dangerous life, hiding in plain sight of the Nazis, as a German-speaking, Christian child. Told in short chapters in first person present tense, the age-appropriate story is nevertheless suspenseful and emotionally powerful.

Draper, Sharon  
*Stella by Starlight*

Atheneum, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 8

This compelling historical novel begins as eleven-year-old Stella and her brother witness the Ku Klux Klan burning a cross. This story of the 1930s segregated South is made accessible through a relatable main character who is at once both ordinary and extraordinary.



Gardner, Scot  
*The Dead I Know*

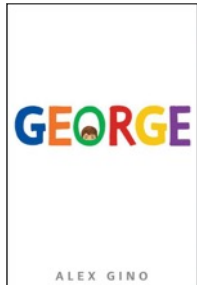
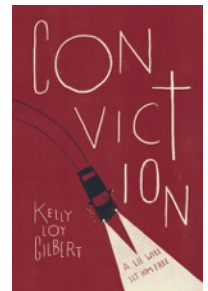
HMH, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 9 - 12

Moving between mordant humor and contemplations on life and death, this compelling, compact Australian novel is narrated by Aaron Rowe as he starts work at John Barton's funeral parlor. The mystery of Aaron's life is slowly unraveled for both himself and the reader, and a satisfying resolution is reached.

Gilbert, Kelly Loy  
*Conviction*

Hyperion, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 9 - 12

16-year-old Braden Raynor is a witness when his white father kills a Hispanic police officer – but is it deliberate or accidental? In this rich and complex novel, set in a conservative Christian community, long submerged family memories bubble up when Braden's estranged half brother moves back while their father awaits trial.



Gino, Alex  
*George*

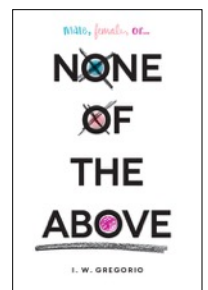
Scholastic, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 6

A 10-year-old, white, transgender girl takes first steps toward introducing her true self to the world when she and her best friend contrive to reveal her secret during a school performance of Charlotte's Web. Pitch perfect, 4th-6th grade novel.

Gregorio, I.W.  
*None of the Above*

Balzer & Bray, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 9 - 12

High school senior Kristin Lattimer's life gets complicated when she discovers she is intersex, appearing female but having some male physical characteristics. This well researched book uses the perceptions of Kristin's family and friends to address misconceptions about being intersex as well as exploring positive ways of managing the diagnosis. Back matter includes a list of resources.





Hanlon, Abby

*Dory and the Real True Friend*

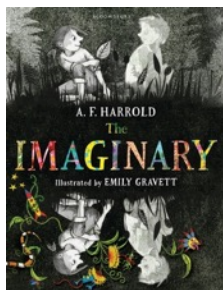
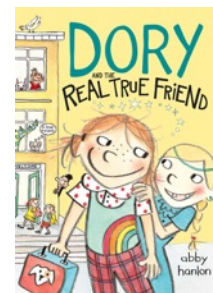
Illustrated by Abby Hanlon

Dial, 2015

\$14.99

Grades 1 - 3

It's a new school year, and Dory, her monster, and her fairy godmother are ready for it. Hanlon's pencil illustrations and strong characterization combine for an unforgettable early chapter book experience.



Harrold, A.F.

*The Imaginary*

Illustrated by Emily Gravett

Bloomsbury, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 7

Rudger is Amanda's excellent imaginary friend, but when a sinister man and his very alarming child companion come hunting imaginaries, Rudger and Amanda must fight for their survival. Gravett's many winning illustrations, and Harrold's exciting story that avoids cliché, charm, delight, inspire and frighten in a sophisticated tale about the importance of noticing and caring.

Haydu, Corey Ann

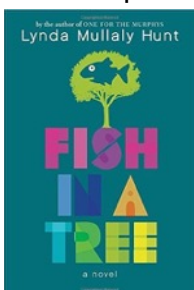
*Rules for Stealing Stars*

Katherine Tegen, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 8

Silly hopes a stolen star can save her family. But when dark truths are revealed along with wonderful secrets, it might be the thing that tears them apart. In *Rules for Stealing Stars*, Haydu paints a beautiful and realistic picture of a family in shambles trying to cope with their mother's unpredictable moods.



Hunt, Lynda Mullaly

*Fish in a Tree*

Nancy Paulsen, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 6

Ally hates everything about school because she doesn't want anyone to know that she has difficulty reading. Realistically drawn characters such as an encouraging teacher, and a couple of fellow outcasts, help Ally – and themselves – to discover the ways in which they are “smart”, and that which makes each of them special.

Jones, Kelly

*Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*

Illustrated by Katie Kath

Knopf, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 4 - 7

Twelve-year-old Sofie uses heartfelt letters to her deceased abuelita and great uncle to tell the story of moving to the farm her family has inherited. The epistolary format and delightful line drawings combine to make a funny and heartfelt tale of super-powered chickens alongside relatable feelings of loss and loneliness.



Kelly, Erin Entrada

*Blackbird Fly*

Greenwillow, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 6 - 12

Apple must deal with friendship problems, a mom who doesn't understand her and racism from other kids at school, all while trying to secretly learn guitar. Apple's struggles with identity and relationships are well-written and incredibly relatable.

Lai, Thanhha

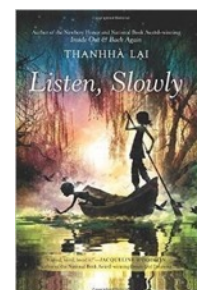
*Listen, Slowly*

HarperCollins, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 3 - 7

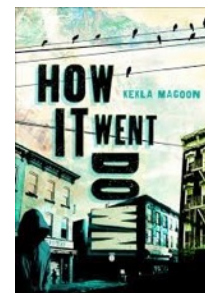
Mai, known as Mia at school, is a twelve-year-old self-proclaimed Laguna Beach girl, and she is reluctantly spending her summer in Vietnam with her grandmother Bà. Readers will want to read this book slowly to savor Mai's character and the affecting backstory involving Bà's journey.



Magoon, Kekla  
*How It Went Down*

Holt, 2014 \$17.99 Grades 8 - 10

In this timely and illuminating novel, Magoon uses multiple voices from a neighborhood to explore the shooting of a black teen by a white man, and its after effects on friends, family and community.



McDougall, Sophia  
*Mars Evacuees*

HarperCollins, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 5 - 8

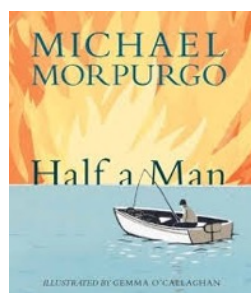
Earth has been invaded, and 12-year-old Alice and 300 other kids are evacuated to Mars for safety. Alice narrates with entertainingly British self-deprecation and sang froid, as this intelligent and thought-provoking middle grade novel uses a sci-fi setting to mirror contemporary concerns.

*Monstrous Affections: An Anthology of Beastly Tales*

Edited by Kelly Link and Gavin Grant

Candlewick, 2014 \$22.99 Grades 9 - 12

A collection of fifteen short stories about a beast, either otherworldly or mundane, and the teen who must face it. Surprisingly consistent for an anthology, the stories will leave readers spooked, particularly those stories about the monster within.



Morpurgo, Michael  
*Half a Man*

Illustrated by Gemma O'Callahan

Candlewick, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 5 - 7

Michael is a young boy raised to fear this grandpa for his severely disfigured face -- the vestiges from a horrific torpedo attack in World War II. Through quiet prose and beautifully bold illustrations, readers will appreciate this quiet, but moving story about forgiveness and family.

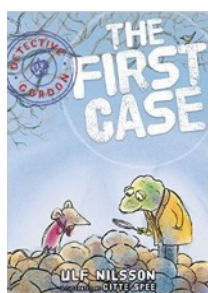
Morpurgo, Michael

*The Great War: Stories Inspired by Items from the First World War*

Illustrated by Jim Kay

Candlewick, 2015 \$19.99 Grades 6 - 10

This handsome collection, which includes eleven exceptional stories by authors including Michael Morpurgo, Marcus Sedgwick and Tanya Lee Stone linked together by Jim Kay's (*A Monster Calls*, 2011) exquisitely beautiful ink and charcoal war scenes, is a valiant attempt to make World War One relevant to contemporary kids.



Nilsson, Ulf  
*Detective Gordon: The First Case*

Illustrated by Gitte Spee

Gecko, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 1 - 4

With his new assistant, Chief of Police Detective Gordon ventures out of his cozy office to track down the "wretched thieves" who have stolen squirrel's nuts. Droll, understated humor and soft expressive illustrations make this charming mystery a choice read-aloud for families and classrooms.

Niven, Jennifer  
*All the Bright Places*

Knopf, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 9 - 12

Theodore Finch and Violet Markey start an intense relationship when they meet at the top of a tower that they are both considering jumping from. Though sharing elements from many recent heart-breaking YA romances, the two protagonists, and their different mental health problems, gain an authenticity that transcends formula.







Oppel, Kenneth  
*The Nest*

Illustrated by Jon Klassen  
Simon & Schuster, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 5 - 8

Agonizing over his sick baby brother's struggle to survive, Steve is visited in his dreams by a mysterious wasp queen who offers to save his brother, but at what cost? Definitely not for the faint-hearted or nervous reader, this terrifying page-turner will give horror fans a first rate scare.

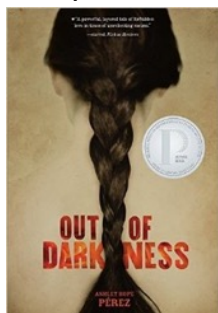
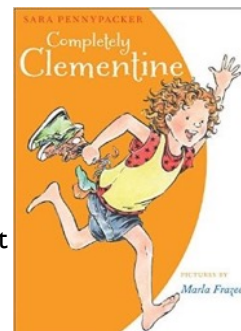
Pennypacker, Sara  
*Completely Clementine*

Illustrated by Marla Frazee  
Hyperion, 2015

\$14.99

Grades 1 - 3

Clementine is forced to manage a number of difficult transitions at the end of third grade, but she's come a long way in seven books. A "completely" satisfying conclusion to an early chapter series that always delivered. Bravo, Clementine!



Perez, Ashley Hope  
*Out of Darkness*

Carolrhoda LAB, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 9 - 12

Set in East Texas in 1937, this compelling YA novel uses the real-life explosion at a school as the backdrop and metaphor for the powerful racial tensions of the time. Mexican-American Naomi starts an ill-fated love affair with Wash, an African-American, while fending off the attentions of her white stepfather.

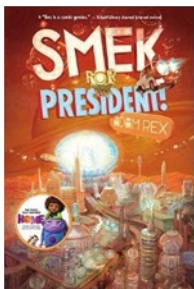
Priest, Cherie  
*I Am Princess X*

Levine, 2015

\$18.99

Grades 7 - 12

In fifth grade, two best friends created a fantasy about a character named Princess X, but that story ended when one of the girls was killed in a tragic accident. Or did it? Attractive packaging and web comics add clever, contemporary elements to the thrilling tale.



Rex, Adam  
*Smek For President*

Hyperion, 2014

\$16.99

Grades 3 - 7

Tip and J.Lo continue their adventures together on Boovworld while trying to clear J.Lo's name. A funny and rich sequel to author Adam Rex's novel, *The True Meaning of Smekday*, and strong enough to stand alone.

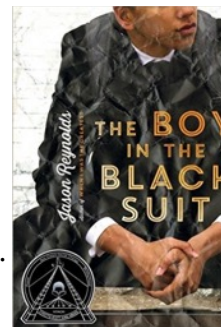
Reynolds, Jason  
*The Boy in the Black Suit*

Atheneum, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 7 - 12

After his mother dies, Matt finds comfort in helping others – including a girl hiding her own grief – cope with their losses in his job at a funeral home. A realistic cast of primarily African American characters and an engaging storyline make this sometimes difficult novel an uplifting and satisfying read.



Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely  
*All American Boys*

Caitlyn Dlouhy, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 8 - 12

In alternating chapters, two authors -- one Black and one White -- give voice to the very real struggles of two all-American boys -- one Black and one White. Racialized police brutality, the implications of White silence in the face of such violence, and the meaning of justice are brought to light in this powerful novel.

Ruby, Laura

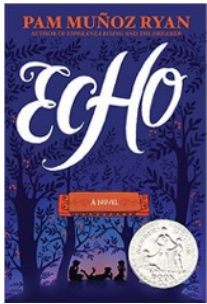
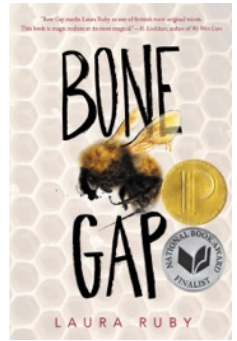
*Bone Gap*

Balzer & Bray, 2015

\$17.99

Grade 10 - Adult

The surreal tale of two brothers, a kidnapped beauty, a girl who resembles a bee and the gaps in the world seen only by a select few. An original and darkly rewarding addition to the library collection, especially for older teens who are fans of dark fantasy, romance, mystery and magical realism.



Ryan, Pam Muñoz

*Echo*

Scholastic, 2015

\$19.99

Grades 5 - 9

Three tweens are able to overcome injustice with the help of a magical harmonica. Beautifully written, with rich characters and convincing settings, the strengths of Ryan's storytelling is powerful.

Schlitz, Laura Amy

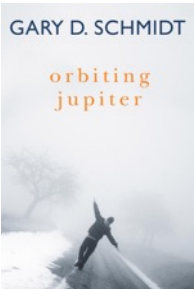
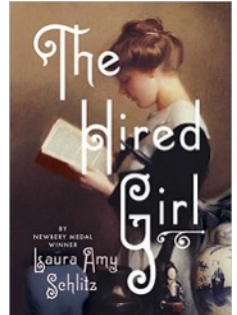
*The Hired Girl*

Candlewick, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 6 - 9

Moving from an isolated life to working as a hired girl for a wealthy Jewish family, Joan recounts in her diary the adventures she has on her way to becoming an independent woman. Skillfully written, this is an excellent study of faith, family, and a woman's place in society.



Schmidt, Gary D.

*Orbiting Jupiter*

Clarion, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 6 - 9

When 13-year-old Joseph comes to live with the Hurds, the farm family knows his troubled past but offers him their full support and unwavering love. This spare, taut novel explores the limitations of love, the possibilities for growth, and the meaning of family.

Sedgwick, Marcus

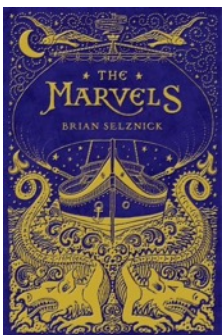
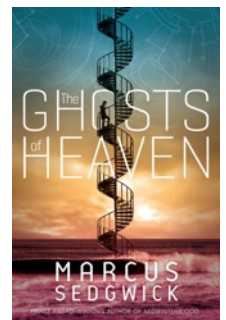
*The Ghosts of Heaven*

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$17.99

Grade 10 - Adult

Printz winner Marcus Sedgwick's new collection has four loosely connected stories. In each, spirals play a significant, though changing, role. Set in different time periods, from the prehistoric past, to the space traveling future, this stylish and erudite collection will appeal to mature teen and adult readers.



Selznick, Brian

*The Marvels*

Illustrated by Brian Selznick

Scholastic, 2015

\$32.99

Grades 5 - 8

Wordless tales and prose intersect to tell the story of runaway Joseph, who ends up at his eccentric uncle's home. There he finds out about his distant family, beginning with Billy Marvel, orphaned at sea, who becomes the patriarch of a noted theatre family. This many-layered book has a deep, emotional resonance that will appeal to a wide age range.

Shabazz, Ilyasah with Kekla Magoon

*X: A Novel*

Candlewick, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 8 - 12

Malcolm X's daughter, with Kekla Magoon, tells a fictionalized story of her father's difficult coming of age. Their first-person, present tense storytelling lends an immediacy and authenticity to this emotional story.







Shang, Wendy Wan-Long

*The Way Home Looks Now*

Scholastic, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 7

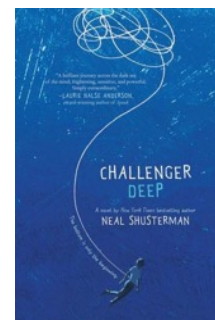
After his brother's sudden death and his mother's slide into deep depression, Peter believes that baseball holds the key to his family's happiness. Taiwanese-American immigrant expectations, family tragedy, historical references, and realistic baseball moments are seamlessly knitted into a richly believable, absorbing story.

Shusterman, Neal

*Challenger Deep*

HarperTeen, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 10 - 12

Inspired by his son's battle with mental illness, Neal Shusterman (*Unwind* series, Simon & Schuster) has written an intense, unsettling, but also witty and intelligent YA novel, putting the reader in the head of 15-year-old Caden Bosch, who suffers schizophrenia.



Springstubb, Tricia

*Moonpenny Island*

Illustrated by Gilbert Ford

Balzer & Bray, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 6

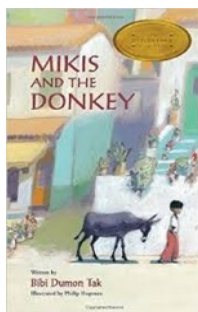
Set on Moonpenny Island, a "a dot, a titch, a pinch" in Lake Erie, this tale of friendship, fossils and forgiveness is exquisitely written and wonderfully insightful.

Stead, Rebecca

*Goodbye Stranger*

Wendy Lamb, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 6 - 9

An unforgettable tale of teenage friendship and a cautionary tale regarding the temptation to succumb to a charismatic leader. Stead's characterization is so strong that it catapults the reader into contemporary life as a middle-schooler in Manhattan.



Tak, Bibi

*Mikis and the Donkey*

Illustrated by Philip Hopman, Translated by Laura Watkinson

Eerdmans, 2014 \$13.00 Grades 1 - 4

When Grandpa gives Mikis the opportunity to name the new donkey, Mikis gives the animal a chance to name herself, signaling the beginning of a beautiful friendship. Short chapters, charming illustrations, and a relaxed tone make this perfect for early chapter book readers.

Wein, Elizabeth

*Black Dove, White Raven*

Hyperion, 2015. \$17.99 Grades 7 - 11

The Menotti Dupre family, a blend of American, Italian and Ethiopian, has their peaceful life in Ethiopia upended when Italy invades the country. Wein's skill at historical fiction shines again; she addresses war, racism, sexism and conflicting cultural norms in a moving, complex and very compelling story.



Willems, Mo

*The Story of Diva and Flea*

Illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi

Hyperion, 2015 \$14.99 Grades 2 - 4

Set in Paris, this is an enchanting story about the friendship between a dog and a cat and how their friendship allows each to grow. Both text and illustrations are filled with humor and charm. The lush design of the book enhances the reading experience.

Williams-Garcia, Rita  
*Gone Crazy in Alabama*

Amistad, 2015 \$16.99 Grades 4 - 8

In this third and final book featuring Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern, the country environment of Big Ma's home which they visit during summer vacation is much different than Brooklyn. Although not as ground-breaking or as memorable as the first book in the series, *One Crazy Summer* (2010), this has a nice pace.



Wynne-Jones, Tim  
*The Emperor of Any Place*

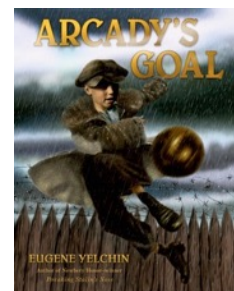
Candlewick, 2015 \$17.99 Grades 9 - 12

A Japanese soldier and a wounded American soldier occupy a ghost-filled island near the end of WWII. Sixty years later, the teenaged Evan and his grandfather, Griff, fight battles dealing with the torment of the family. The secrets that need telling relate back to the island. This remarkable story is fascinating and deals with the large issues of truth, life, death, the unknowns of ghosts, jikininki, and a Tengu.

Yelchin, Eugene  
*Arcady's Goal*

Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin  
 Holt, 2014 \$15.99 Grades 4 - 7

Arcady is adopted from a special home for children of Soviet prisoners by a kind widower who helps him pursue his goal as a soccer star. Similar in format to Yechin's Newbery Honor book *Breaking Stalin's Nose* (2011), this has an appealing main character and clear plot.



## Picture Books



Agee, Jon  
*It's Only Stanley*

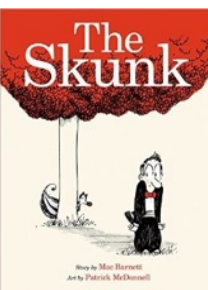
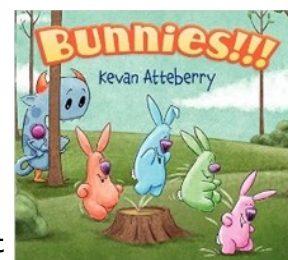
Illustrated by Jon Agee  
 Dial, 2015 \$17.99 Preschool - Grade 2

Stanley's a man with a plan -- or rather, a dog with big ambitions. Rhyming text and watercolor illustrations depict a highly motivated, single-minded beagle who won't stop until he achieves his goal in this rollicking adventure with the Wimbledon family.

Atteberry, Kevan  
*Bunnies!!!*

Illustrated by Kevan Atteberry  
 Katherine Tegen, 2015 \$12.99 Preschool - Grade 2

A polka-dotted monster greets rocks, clouds, trees and snails while he searches for bunnies along his walk. The story alternates with humorous repetition while background images encourage readers to notice the hiding characters. Digital illustrations are clean and unencumbered. A perfect choice for storytime, sure to make the audience laugh out-loud.



Barnett, Mac  
*The Skunk*

Illustrated by Patrick McDonnell  
 Roaring Brook, 2015 \$17.99 Grades K - 2

A skunk randomly follows an anonymous man in this Kafkaesque picture book. The man's increasingly absurd attempts to escape form the backbone of the story. A plot twist and open-ended conclusion to the chase make this a sophisticated romp. Cartoon-like illustrations expertly heighten the levels of absurdity and tension.



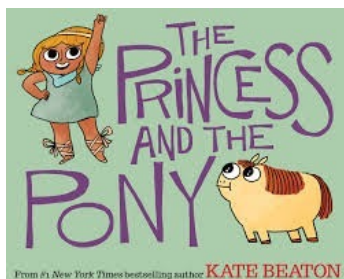
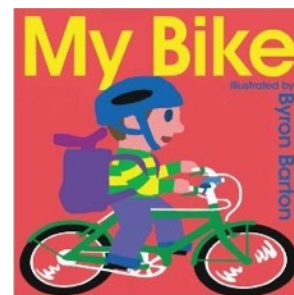
Barton, Byron  
*My Bike*

Illustrated by Byron Barton  
Greenwillow, 2015

\$16.99

Baby/Toddler - Preschool

Tom rides his bike to work, past cars, trucks, and even monkeys and elephants, before donning clown makeup to ride a unicycle in the circus. The simple sentences, bright colors, and bold images with tons of toddler-appeal make this transportation-themed story a real winner.



Beaton, Kate

*The Princess and the Pony*

Illustrated by Kate Beaton

Levine, 2015

\$17.99

Grades K - 2

Droll storytelling and cartoon-style art turn stereotypes upside down in this rollicking, pseudo-folktale featuring plucky Princess Pinecone and her unconventional battle horse. Even macho warrior types will find this a hoot.

De la Pena, Matt

*Last Stop on Market Street*

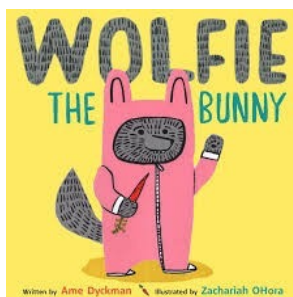
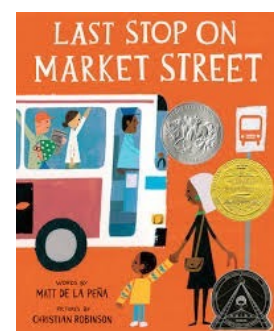
Illustrated by Christian Robinson

Putnam, 2015

\$16.99

Grades K - 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 diverse array of friends.



Dyckman, Ame

*Wolfie the Bunny*

Illustrated by Zachariah OHora

Little Brown, 2015

\$17.00

Preschool - Grade 3

Fierce bunny Dot doesn't like her new brother Wolfie, but her parents love the adorable wolf and raise him as their own. Giggle-inducing details, like Wolfie's huge pink bunny onesie, and a delightfully surprising climax belie more serious themes of trust and loyalty in this wholly original sibling story.

Engle, Margarita

*Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*

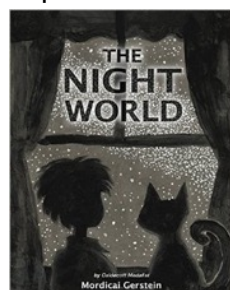
Illustrated by Rafael López

HMH, 2015

\$16.99

Grades 1 - 4

Rhythmic text and bright, whimsical illustrations tell the story of a multi-racial girl who longs to play drums in defiance of the all-male tradition. Appended is a historical note about the real-life inspiration for the girl, Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Cuban bongo player.



Gerstein, Mordicai

*The Night World*

Illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein

Little Brown, 2015

\$18.00

Preschool - Grade 2

As a boy and his cat prowl their house and backyard at night, they see familiar scenery in an entirely new way and discover the drama of sunrise. Exquisite use of shadow, shape, and silhouette evoke the mystery of nighttime and the beauty of dawn.

Hall, Michael

*Red: A Crayon's Story*

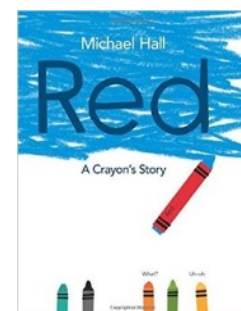
Illustrated by Michael Hall

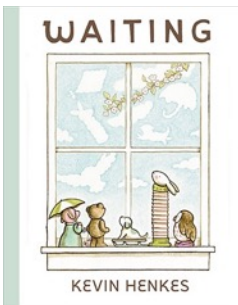
Greenwillow, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Red is a crayon who is clearly blue, but no one is able to see his true color until a new friend comes along. Crayon and cut paper illustrations combine with a simple narrative to create a touching book that will be popular with a variety of ages.





Henkes, Kevin

*Waiting*

Illustrated by Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Five toys wait on a windowsill and all of the trinkets wait for something to happen outside of the window. Illustrations are drawn in black ink with soft watercolor hues coloring the drawings. The feelings of the toys are subtly expressed with small facial changes. Henkes' seemingly simple book has a meditative quality on waiting which will appeal to children.

Knapman, Timothy

*Soon*

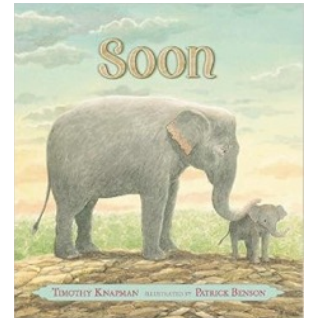
Illustrated by Patrick Benson

Candlewick, 2015

\$16.99

Baby/Toddler - Preschool

On their long journey to a mountaintop, a mother and young elephant encounter dangers. With stunning illustrations and rhythmic text, this story makes a great one-on-one or groups read-aloud.



Lee, JiHyeon

*Pool*

Illustrated by JiHyeon Lee, Translated by Chronicle Books

Chronicle, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 5

In this wordless picture book, a boy dives below the noisy crowd of inner-tube-wearing swimmers to discover another solo swimmer, and an amazing world of fascinating creatures, depicted in subtle colored-pencil drawings that emphasize the fragile-feeling secret world they explore.

Lynch, P.J.

*The Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower: or John Howland's Good Fortune*

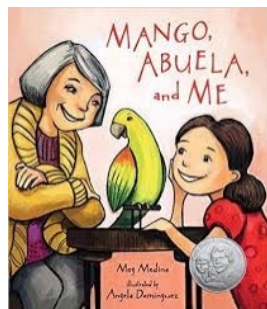
Illustrated by P.J. Lynch

Candlewick, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 3 - 6

Award-winning illustrator P.J. Lynch puts the adventure, romance and the "nightmare of sickness, death and danger" back into the Pilgrim story, telling the true story of young John Howland, who survived falling from the Mayflower during a storm and went on to build Plymouth settlement. A bibliography and author's note provide sources and intriguing historic context.



Medina, Meg

*Mango, Abuela, and Me*

Illustrated by Angela Dominguez

Candlewick, 2015

\$15.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Mia's Abuela, or grandmother, leaves her tropical home and moves in with Mia's family in the city. With time, and with the help of a parrot named Mango, the cross cultural and generational gaps begin to close, and Abuela and Mia grow a close bond. Medina's text and Dominguez's illustrations engage the reader with this touching story.

Miyares, Daniel

*Float*

Illustrated by Daniel Miyares

Simon & Schuster, 2015

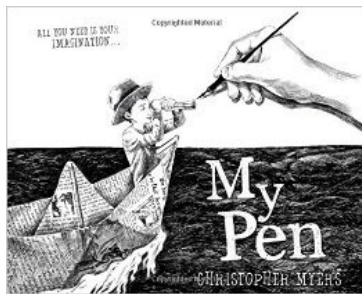
\$17.00

Preschool - Grade 2

In a wordless picture book, a boy takes his paper boat outside in the rain with a predictable outcome. The dynamic illustrations, however, surprise with each page turn, inviting the eye to follow the boy as he splashes through puddles, scurries across pages, and returns home for hugs, hot chocolate, and a new paper vehicle to pilot.







Myers, Christopher

### My Pen

Illustrated by Christopher Myers

Hyperion, 2015

\$16.99

Grades K - 5

Myers' elaborate representational realism/surrealism black-and-white line drawings present a dream-like antidote to feeling small or less-than in a world where children see wealth disparity and war. They can find escape in their imaginations in this dramatic picture book with an obvious message.

Newman, Lesléa

### Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed

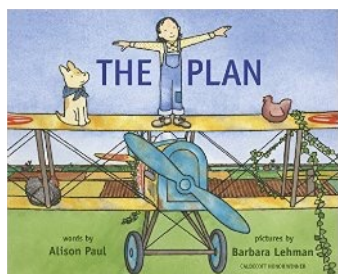
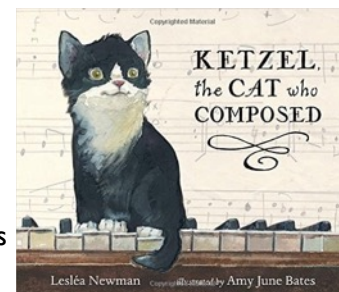
Illustrated by Amy Bates

Candlewick, 2015

\$16.99

Grades K - 3

Ketzel the kitten becomes a celebrated composer when his owner, Moshe, submits his work to a competition for one-minute compositions. Richly illustrated and eloquently narrated, this delightful true story will captivate young audiences.



Paul, Alison

### The Plan

Illustrated by Barbara Lehman

HMH, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 1

A girl enlists the help of her dog and her widower father to get her mother's old plane flying again. Although the text only consists of 20 different words, with 1 letter difference between them, they work seamlessly with the crisp illustrations to tell a surprisingly nuanced story.

Portis, Antoinette

### Wait

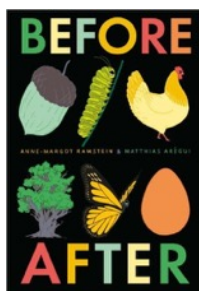
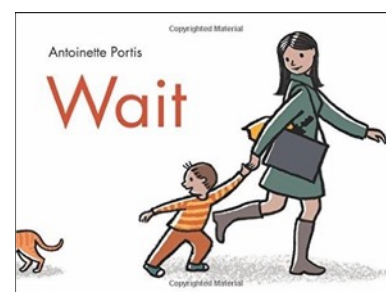
Illustrated by Antoinette Portis

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 1

A mom and young son rush through streets to catch a train, but the boy wants to "wait" and pet a dog, feed a duck, and look at a butterfly. This simple story is a lovely testament to slowing down and seeing the wonders that surround us every day.



Ramstein, Anne-Margot and Matthias Aregui

### Before After

Illustrated by Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Aregui

Candlewick, 2015

\$19.99

Grades K - 3

This gorgeous French import has crisp, digitally-illustrated spreads which depict such scenarios as showing a swarm of bees around a beehive on the left, and a jar of honey on the right, and could provide jumping off points for discussions on sequencing, cause and effect, and the passage of time.

Ray, Mary Lyn

### Goodnight, Good Dog

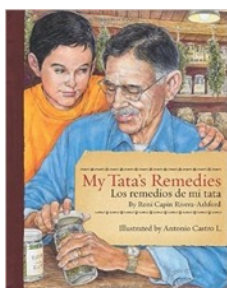
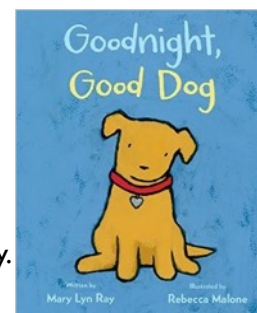
Illustrated by Rebecca Malone

HMH, 2015

\$16.99

Baby/Toddler - Grade 2

At nighttime, a little dog cannot sleep thinking about the fun he had during the day. Colorful acrylic illustrations, and a sparse but playful text blend well to make this a cozy and worthwhile bedtime story.



Rivera-Ashford, Roni Capin

### My Tata's Remedies = Los remedios de mi tata

Illustrated by Antonio Castro

Cinco Puntos, 2015

\$8.95

Grades 2 - 4

While a boy spends the day with his grandfather, he watches neighbors drop by for help with small medical needs like soothing a bee sting for which Tata creates an herbal poltice. Everyone stays to share empanadas and hot chocolate. This is a warm inter-generational and integrated-community story.

Savage, Stephen  
*Supertruck*

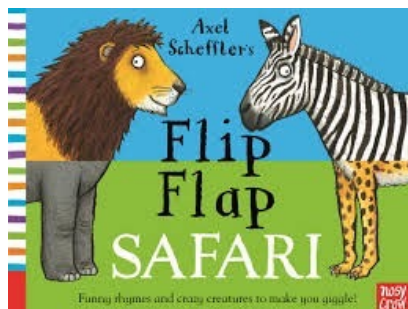
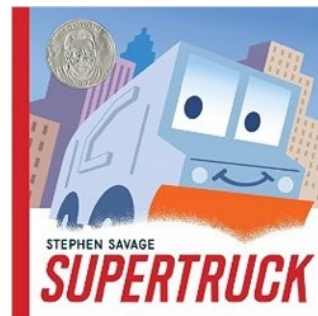
Illustrated by Stephen Savage

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$12.99

Baby/Toddler - Grade 1

An inconspicuous garbage truck turns into a super-heroic snowplow in this simple-yet-satisfying tale. Clean lines with bold, vibrant graphic illustrations make this title a perfect read for the truck-obsessed toddler.



Scheffler, Axel

*Axel Scheffler's Flip Flap Safari*

Illustrated by Axel Scheffler

Nosy Crow, 2015

\$11.99

Preschool - Grade 1

Each cardstock page is split in half lengthwise so that jaunty illustrations of African animals can be recombined to make creatures such as the CHEETODILE and the ELEPHELOPE. Pleasingly silly rhyming text adds to the fun of this well-designed novelty book, whose sturdy construction should permit a long circulation life.

Schneider, Josh

*Everybody Sleeps (But Not Fred)*

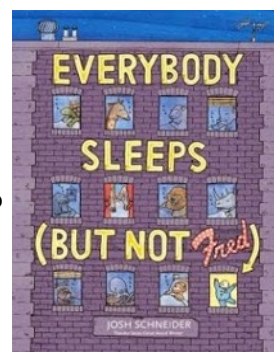
Illustrated by Josh Schneider

Clarion, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Fred, a small, blond boy in striped pajamas, goes through his bombastic bedtime to-do list much to the discomfort of all those around him. This humorous picture book works on many levels and will be a hit with many audiences, including one-on-one and group storytimes.



Shannon, George

*One Family*

Illustrated by Blanca Gomez

FSG, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade K

A celebration of diverse families and a conclusion that we are really all one big family is the gentle message imparted in this short counting book. An appealing repetitive text and large, two-page layouts depict engaging characters and fun details set against flat backgrounds.

Snyder, Laurel

*Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova*

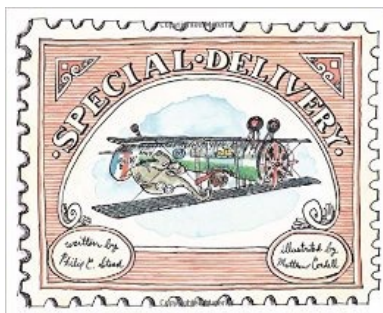
Illustrated by Julie Morstad

Chronicle, 2015

\$17.99

Grades K - 4

This picture book biography of Anna Pavlova is luminous and powerful, showing the determination of the poor and pale young dancer in Russia in the 1800s and early 1900s. Dancers will grab it off the shelves and maybe not return it. Buy two.



Stead, Philip C.

*Special Delivery*

Illustrated by Matthew Cordell

Roaring Brook, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 1

Sadie is determined to bring an elephant to her lonely Great Aunt Josephine in this madcap picture book adventure. The humorous watercolor and ink illustrations add to the book's enjoyment. The use of sound makes this a great read-aloud. The expressions found on the elephant's face as well as the many comic details on each spread will elicit repeat readings.



Taylor, Sean

*Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise*

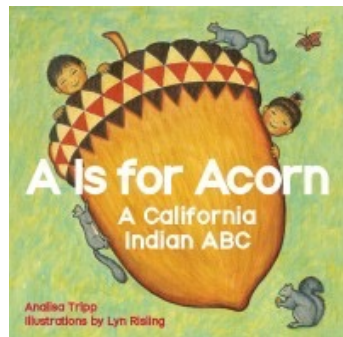
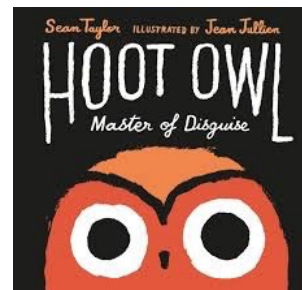
Illustrated by Jean Jullien

Candlewick, 2015

\$15.99

Preschool - Grade 2

Hoot Owl is an adorable nocturnal predator who pronounces himself a "master of disguise" and melodramatically and humorously narrates his efforts to fool potential prey. The thick lines and bold colors make Hoot Owl and friends adorable and never threatening, and children will cheer Hoot Owl's eventual success in "hunting" for pizza.



Tripp, Analisa

*A Is for Acorn: A California Indian ABC*

Illustrated by Lyn Risling

Heyday, 2015

\$9.99

Baby/Toddler - Grade 4

This simple alphabet board book of things relating to California Indian culture is great for babies and toddlers, but libraries should also consider for 3rd and 4th grade classes studying local and California history. Lovely colored pencil illustrations. Author and illustrator from the Karuk tribe.

Underwood, Deborah

*Interstellar Cinderella*

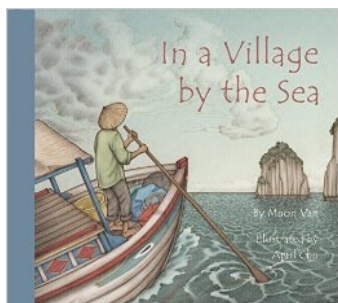
Illustrated by Meg Hunt

Chronicle, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 3

A mechanically-inclined Cinderella fixes the Prince's spaceship in this space-themed take on a classic. Rhyming text and rich, retro-looking illustrations make this a good choice for read-alouds.



Van, Muon

*In a Village by the Sea*

Illustrated by April Chu

Creston, 2015

\$16.95

Preschool - Grade 2

Captivating pencil and digital illustrations, reminiscent of Japanese wood block prints, are paired with poetic text about a family waiting for their fisherman father.

Waber, Bernard

*Ask Me*

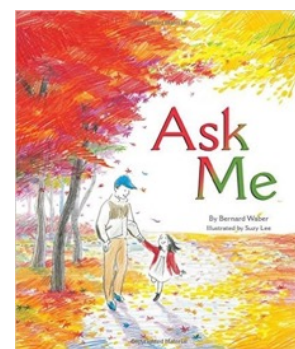
Illustrated by Suzy Lee

HMH, 2015

\$16.99

Preschool - Grade 2

A father and daughter walk through their neighborhood park, with the daughter encouraging the father to ask her questions, such as "What do you like?" The text is a dialogue, with the daughter's words in black, and the father's responses in blue ink. The fine illustrations by Suzy Lee are accomplished using colored pencils, dominated by red, orange, and yellow.



Wahl, Phoebe

*Sonya's Chickens*

Illustrated by Phoebe Wahl

Tundra, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 3

Sonya becomes mama to three chicks and raises them to be happy and healthy, until a fox arrives. This beautiful story shows the natural cycle of birth, growth and death in a child's chicken coop. Sonya is embraced by her loving, freckled and bearded mixed-race family and soon her grief subsides and life begins again.

Wardlaw, Lee

*WonTon and Chopstick: A Cat and Dog Tale Told in Haiku*

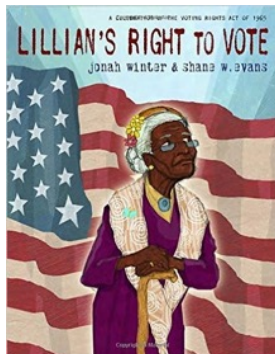
Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin

Holt, 2015

\$17.99

Preschool - Grade 1

In this sequel to *Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku* (2011), Won Ton the cat becomes stressed when a new puppy called Chopstick arrives. This charming story of adjusting to a new family member is told in Senryu: a form of Haiku focused on the foibles of human—or in this case, animal—nature.



Winter, Jonah

*Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Schwartz & Wade, 2015

\$17.99

Grades 3 - 6

As she climbs a dauntingly steep hill to cast her vote, 100-year-old Lillian recollects historical moments in the African-American struggle to secure voting rights. The elegant, succinct narration and dramatic, dignified illustrations commemorate the long journey leading to the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Woelfle, Gretchen

*Mumbet's Declaration of Independence*

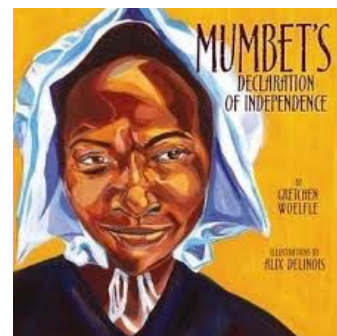
Illustrated by Alix Delinois

Carolrhoda, 2014

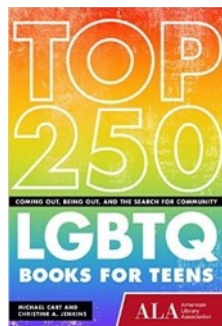
\$17.95

Grades 2 - 4

When Mumbet, a slave, hears the Declaration of Independence read she sues for her freedom. When she wins, she frees herself, all Massachusetts slaves, and earns the right to choose a last name: Freeman. Based on a true story, this dynamically illustrated picture book is inspiring and perfect for a read aloud.



## Professional



Cart, Michael and Christine A. Jenkins

*Top 250 LGBTQ Books for Teens: Coming Out, Being Out, and the Search for Community*

Huron Street, 2015

\$21.95

Grade 7 - Adult

With thoughtful reviews of nearly 200 fiction titles, 22 graphic novels, and 34 nonfiction titles, this slim volume gives a real sense of what each book is about, the significant aspects of the LGBTQ content, and why teen readers would appreciate it. Librarians and teachers will find this reference book invaluable.

## Readers

Adler, David A.

*Don't Throw It to Mo!*

Illustrated by Sam Ricks

Penguin, 2015

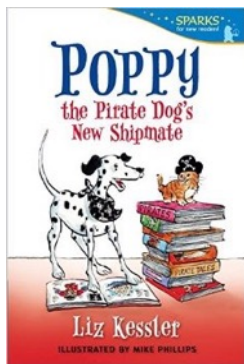
\$14.99

Grades K - 2

Many early-middle elementary school kids will identify strongly with Mo and his predicament: even though Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins football team, will he let kids' teasing keep him from playing and, if given the chance, will he make a catch or drop the ball? Coach helps him to manage and stay on the team. This 2016 Geisel Award winner has just the right variation of sentence structure and length for beginning readers, and the illustrations in vibrant and rich colors help tell this very charming sports story.







Kessler, Liz  
*Poppy the Pirate Dog's New Shipmate*

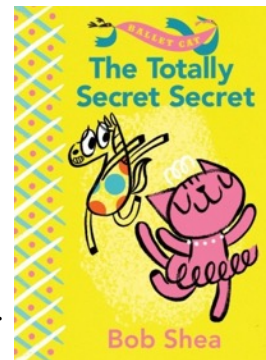
Illustrated by Mike Phillips  
 Candlewick, 2014 \$14.99 Grades 1 - 3

Poppy the Pirate Dog is lonely, with her family either in school or at work. Poppy hears that she is going to have a new "shipmate." She looks forward to another dog. When her new roommate arrives — a spunky orange kitten — it takes a few mishaps before the two become friends. The story is charmingly and humorously told.

Shea, Bob  
*Ballet Cat the Totally Secret Secret*

Illustrated by Bob Shea  
 Hyperion, 2015 \$10.99 Grades 1 - 3

Sparkles the Pony and best friend Ballet Cat are spending another happy day playing more ballet games. Or are they? Sparkles has an unhappy secret which may ruin their day. Lively and silly early readers written by high-caliber authors like Bob Shea are desperately needed and much appreciated.



Virjan, Emma J.  
*What This Story Needs is a Pig in a Wig*

Illustrated by Emma J. Virjan  
 HarperCollins, 2015 \$9.99 Baby/Toddler - Grade 2

What this circular story needs is a reader, which shouldn't be too hard, since it improves with each successive review. Virjan's charcoal sketches are retro with a digitally painted bright mod palette. This book soars as both a picture book and early easy reader.

## 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. Members have a particular interest in providing excellence in service and materials to the diverse communities they serve.

**ACL**  
 Association of  
 Children's Librarians  
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