2016 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.
Hooks, Gwendolyn
Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas
Illustrated by Colin Bootman
Lee & Low, 2016  $17.95  Grades 2 - 6
In the 1940s, African American doctor Vivien Thomas invented the surgical tools and perfected the procedures to operate on tiny babies (so-called "blue babies"), with fatal heart problems. This inspiring picture book biography describes the sequence of events leading to Dr. Thomas' eventual acceptance and success in the world of medicine.

Pimentel, Annette Bay
Mountain Chef: How One Man Lost His Groceries, Changed His Plans, and Helped Cook Up the National Park Service
Illustrated by Rich Lo
Charlesbridge, 2016  $16.95  Grades 1 - 4
Chinese American trail cook Tie Sing is one of the unsung heroes of the 1915 camping trip that helped form the National Park Service one hundred years ago. A fun yet serious story with attractive illustrations.

Say, Allen
The Inker's Shadow
Illustrated by Allen Say
Scholastic, 2015  $19.99  Grades 7 - Adult
Allan Say's new autobiographical graphic memoir is a treasure. Taking up where Drawing From Memory (2011) leaves off, The Inker's Shadow follows Say's progress as an artist after immigrating to California from Japan in the early 1950s.

Steptoe, Javaka
Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat
Illustrated by Javaka Steptoe
Groundwood, 2016  $18.95  Grades 1 - 4
In this Caldecott Award winner, Javaka Steptoe introduces children to Jean-Michel Basquiat, a modern American artist known for his "charisma, energy, and bold, captivating art." Steptoe's style, using found objects and painting with vivid, striking colors, captures the expressive feeling of Basquiat's work in this striking, thoughtful look at a revolutionary artist.

Sweet, Melissa
Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016  $18.99  Grades 3 - 7
Two-time Caldecott Honoree Sweet seamlessly blends photography, correspondence, quotations from various articles and poems, and mixed media collage for a compelling profile of the beloved, reclusive author of Charlotte's Web. This fascinating portrait of E.B. White reveals his remarkable ability to connect with a wide variety of readers--the same skill Sweet herself demonstrates in this memorable biography.

Turner, Pamela S.
Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune
Illustrated by Gareth Hinds
Charlesbridge, 2016  $16.95  Grades 5 - 8
In this exciting and well-researched nonfiction narrative, the story of one of Japan's most famous figures, real-life samurai Minamoto Yoshitsune, unfolds. Battle scenes on horseback and the drama of samurai family honor will engage readers in this epic tale.
**Board Books**

Smith, Monique Gray  
**My Heart Fills With Happiness**  
Illustrated by Julie Flett  
Orca, 2016 $9.95 Baby/Toddler - Kindergarten  

In this joyful board book, children describe what fills their hearts with happiness, including walking barefoot on grass and listening to stories. In Flett's deeply colored illustrations we see First Nations people: a costumed girl dancing, a boy sitting on his father's lap while the father drums, and other children participating in activities that indicate the community being celebrated.

Stosuy, Brandon  
**Music Is . . .**  
Illustrated by Amy Martin  
Little Simon, 2016 $8.99 Baby/Toddler - Kindergarten  

Introduces very young children to musical senses and concepts in a board book format. Each page turn reveals a musical comparison using both familiar and expansive vocabulary. Sparse, rhythmic text is integrated into colorful, dynamic illustrations depicting musical objects and people of many skin tones and cultures.

Van Camp, Richard  
**We Sang You Home**  
Illustrated by Julie Flett  
Orca, 2016 $9.95 Baby/Toddler - Kindergarten  

A baby is welcomed and celebrated by his mother and father in a text made up of declarative sentences: "As we give you roots you give us wings." The striking illustrations were constructed using gouache and paper and digital collage in this elegant board book.

**Fiction**

Alexander, Kwame  
**Booked**  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016 $16.99 Grades 5 - 9  

Like his Newbery Medal winning *The Crossover* (2014), Alexander's latest novel in free verse also features an 8th grade male protagonist who loves sports. Nick struggles with a strict father and a mother who moves away for a job opportunity, but he finds solace playing soccer. Alexander's well developed characters shine and will appeal to old and new readers alike.

Anderson, John David  
**Ms. Bixby's Last Day**  
Walden Pond, 2016 $16.99 Grades 4 - 7  

With their favorite teacher in the hospital battling cancer, Brand, Steve, and Topher hatch a plan to comb the city collecting some of Ms. Bixby's favorite things to bring to her. An amusing caper dotted with hilarious setbacks, this clever story slowly reveals itself to be emotionally affecting and sincere as well.

Auxier, Jonathan  
**Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard**  
Amulet, 2016 $18.95 Grades 5 - 8  

Twelve-year-old bookmender Sophie Quire must unite four magical books in order to stop Inquisitor Prigg's plan to burn all stories. The power and magic of stories and books is the potent theme of this thrilling and emotionally satisfying middle grade fantasy adventure, companion to *Peter Nimble and his Fantastic Eyes* (2011).
Barnhill, Kelly
The Girl Who Drank the Moon
Algonquin, 2016 $16.95 Grades 4 - 7
In this Newbery Award winner, a witch rescues a baby girl left in the woods and accidentally lets her drink so much moonlight that it imbues her with magical powers. Barnhill’s thoroughly realized fairy tale features strong and determined characters, as well as a cautionary message about the dangers of hiding truth as a means of control.

Bemis, John Claude
The Wooden Prince
Disney-Hyperion, 2016 $16.99 Grades 5 - 8
The characters and plot elements of Pinocchio, the puppet who becomes a real boy, are thrillingly twisted in John Claude Bemis’s charming middle grade fantasy set in an inventive, steam-punky Venetian Empire. Book 1 of the Out of Abaton series.

Brown, Peter
The Wild Robot
Illustrated by Peter Brown
Little, Brown, 2016 $16.99 Grades 3 - 6
A female robot gradually becomes a part of life on an island inhabited only by animals. The interplay between technology and nature makes this an unusual survival tale and a great starting point for discussions.

Brown, Skila
To Stay Alive: Mary Ann Graves and the Tragic Journey of the Donner Party
Candlewick, 2016 $17.99 Grades 7 - 12
Brown’s latest novel in free verse is told from the point of view of Mary Ann Graves, eldest daughter of a family that was part of the Donner Party. The 1840s setting, journey, and events are told in a serious way, appropriate for older tweens and teens, due to the horrifying nature of their starvation and the cannibalism that occurred during this venture to California that went terribly wrong.

DiCamillo, Kate
Raymie Nightingale
Candlewick, 2016 $16.99 Grades 4 - 7
When her father runs off with a dental hygienist, Raymie plans to enter and win the Little Miss Central Tire competition so he will realize his mistake and come home. Also entering the contest for very specific reasons are Louisiana and Beverly. Slowly learning to trust each other as their stories are revealed, the girls embark on an adventure to rescue a lost cat and end up saving each other. An extremely satisfying read, this is DiCamillo at the top of her game.

Dinerstein, Eric
What Elephants Know
Disney-Hyperion, 2016 $16.99 Grades 4 - 7
In the lowland jungles that form the border between Nepal and India, young Nandu dreams of becoming a mahout, or elephant trainer. Readers are drawn into this world, identifying with Nandu as he struggles to save the elephant stables and home he loves, in this compelling adventure story and call to action.
Eagar, Lindsay

Hour of the Bees
Candlewick, 2016  $16.99  Grades 5 - 9
This coming-of-age story follows twelve-year-old Carol and her family on a summer-long visit to her ailing grandfather's New Mexico ranch. Seeped in the desert setting, family lore, and the challenges of junior high, Eagar weaves a captivating, relatable tale with an element of magical realism.

Gidwitz, Adam

The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog
Illustrated by Hatem Aly
Dutton, 2016  $17.99  Grades 4 - 8
Gidwitz tackles medieval life, religious intolerance, and the power of deep, loyal friendships, all with a healthy dose of fun, adventure, and brilliant storytelling. Three children--a peasant girl, a young monk, and a Jewish boy--band together to escape persecution by the king of France, dodging knights, dragons, and angry townsfolk along the way.

Grimes, Nikki

Garvey's Choice
Wordsong, 2016  $16.95  Grades 4 - 7
Overweight black middle-schooler Garvey finds comfort in books and food rather than sports, against his father's hopes, but he comes into his own upon joining the school chorus. Grimes' verse novel, though brief, packs an emotional punch, and Garvey is an immensely relatable and sincere protagonist.

Hardinge, Frances

The Lie Tree
Amulet, 2016  $17.95  Grades 7 - 10
Hardinge's (Cuckoo Song, 2015) signature sinuous creativity, beautifully crafted writing, and chiaroscuro characterization is woven into a gloriously atmospheric Victorian fantasy-mystery.

Holm, Jennifer L.

Full of Beans
Random House, 2016  $16.99  Grades 2 - 6
Holm offers another memorable contribution to historical fiction with the story of ten-year-old Beans, a cousin of Turtle from Turtle in Paradise (2011) in this prequel. The reader is transported to Key West, FL, as it undergoes a transformation from a shanty town into a tropical paradise during the New Deal.

Hopkinson, Deborah

A Bandit’s Tale: The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket
Knopf, 2016  $16.99  Grades 4 - 8
Rocco is a young Italian immigrant in New York City in 1888, where he is a virtual slave for the padrone who paid for his passage. To break free, he resorts to being a pickpocket with the help of some other boys. This highly entertaining tale filled with rich historical detail, adventure, cliffhangers, and unpredictable but believable coincidences makes for a rousing read.

Jung, Mike

Unidentified Suburban Object
Arthur A. Levine, 2016  $16.99  Grades 4 - 8
Chloe Cho is the only Asian in her whole middle school and she's sick of being stereotyped. She is proud of being Korean, until her parents reveal the shocking truth about their true heritage. A dose of science fiction and humor adds fresh perspective to issues of racial identity.
Kanakia, Rahul  
**Enter Title Here**  
Disney-Hyperion, 2016 $17.99 Grades 9 - 12  
Reshma Kapoor is going to Stanford by any means necessary and is sure that having an agent and a book deal will help her stand out among the sea of Indian-American valedictorians. This honest, painful, and funny novel follows Reshma’s writing the book as she proceeds, mercilessly, down the path to her goal. 

Kelly, Erin Entrada  
**The Land of Forgotten Girls**  
Greenwillow, 2016 $16.99 Grades 4 - 7  
Sol and her sister must live with an abusive stepmother after their mother dies and their father never returns from a trip back home to the Philippines. Intriguing side characters and allusions to fairy tales give Sol, and the reader, a sense of hope in a seemingly hopeless situation. 

King, A. S.  
**Still Life with Tornado**  
Dutton, 2016 $17.99 Grades 9 - 12  
Sarah will do just about anything to avoid school, her classmates, and her past, but no matter what she does she cannot escape herself. Filled with wit, honesty, and a touch of magical realism, this fantastic young adult novel does not shy away from tough topics including abuse, depression, and bullying. 

Lin, Grace  
**When the Sea Turned to Silver**  
Illustrated by Grace Lin  
Little, Brown, 2016 $18.99 Grades 4 - 7  
Young Pinmei faces many challenges as she tries to rescue her grandmother from the Tiger Emperor’s clutches in this *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* (2009) companion. Lin’s figurative language draws readers into Pinmei’s ancient Chinese world, while the exciting action builds dramatic suspense and engages young readers. 

McGinnis, Mindy  
**The Female of the Species**  
Katherine Tegen, 2016 $17.99 Grades 9 - 12  
Three small-town white teenagers looking ahead to the next chapter in their lives and escaping their troubles with drinking, drugs, and sex is nothing unusual. But one of these teens is Alex Craft, sister of Anna Craft, who was raped and murdered last year. Brilliantly written, the author leaks bits of Alex’s violent tendencies throughout the story, leading the reader on a fast-paced psychological thriller. 

Medina, Juana  
**Juana and Lucas**  
Illustrated by Juana Medina  
Candlewick, 2016 $14.99 Grades 1 - 4  
Juana describes her life in Bogatà, where she has school challenges that American readers will understand. Learning English is one of those challenges, but if Juana brings up her grades, her family will take her to the Spaceland amusement park in Florida. Dynamic full color ink and watercolor cartoon-style illustrations and an engaging, original main character make this an appealing early chapter book.
Nannestad, Katrina

*When Mischief Came to Town*


Sent to live with her grandmother on a remote island, ten-year-old Inge Maria arrives with plenty of energy, curiosity, and mischief. A deft blend of humor and poignancy make this old-fashioned feel-good story an excellent family or classroom read-aloud.

O’Connor, Barbara

*Wish*

Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016  $16.99  Grades 3 - 6

Belief in the power of wishes has carried eleven-year-old Charlie a great distance, but will it be enough as she toughs it out miles away from the only family she’s known? A strong choice for developing empathy in young readers who may see the world as black and white, Charlie’s dog softens the hard exterior she’s developed through an undependable home life.

Patel, Sonia

*Rani Patel in Full Effect*

Cinco Puntos, 2016  $16.95  Grades 9 - 12

Rani’s experiences of Gujarati and Hawaiian culture, her survival of sexual abuse and assault, and her powerful, original raps are intertwined in a compelling narrative about a distinctive protagonist.

Pennypacker, Sara

*Pax*

Illustrated by Jon Klassen

Balzer + Bray, 2016  $16.99  Grades 4 - 8

When pet fox Pax and 12-year-old owner and friend Peter are forced to separate, each sets out on a journey to find the other. The simple beauty and commitment on both sides of the relationship tear at the heartstrings as each learns about war and its long-reaching effects.

Reynolds, Jason

*As Brave as You*

Atheneum, 2016  $16.99  Grades 5 - 8

Brooklyn-born brothers Ernie and Genie visit their grandparents in rural Virginia and are challenged by their grandfather’s declaration that to become a man, you need to learn how to shoot a gun. The adjustment to country life and the many aspects of African-American history and culture shared by the family are told with humor and emotional depth in this longer middle grade novel.

Reynolds, Jason

*Ghost*

Atheneum, 2016  $16.99  Grades 4 - 7

Castle “Ghost” Crenshaw joins the team as a sprinter, and his training helps him stay focused on what’s important and quiet the “scream inside.” This compelling first book in a series about members of an elite track team combines a fast-paced plot and real, imperfect characters readers will easily empathize with.
Russo, Meredith
If I Was Your Girl
Macmillan, 2016  $17.99  Grades 9 - 12
High school senior Amanda is starting a new life in Lambertville, TN, but she has a secret: she is a trans girl, and this is the first time she has truly been able to live as she has always felt inside. This well-written and hopeful book should appeal not only to a cisgender and transgender readership but also to any teen questioning their identity on any level.

Sepetys, Ruta
Salt to the Sea
Philomel, 2016  $18.99  Grades 8 - 12
Based on actual events, this harrowing and moving historical YA novel brings a human dimension to a largely forgotten World War II tragedy. As thousands flee the Soviet advance through Eastern Europe, the novel’s four narrators are caught up in the melee as they try to escape to unoccupied Germany.

Shusterman, Neil
Scythe
Simon & Schuster, 2016  $18.99  Grades 9 - 12
Teens Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch have been chosen as Scythe apprentices, competing for the job of keeping the human population down in a future where suffering and death have been eradicated. This unique book is full of action, intrigue, violence, compassion, and sophisticated moral dilemmas in an apparently utopian society.

Stork, Francisco X.
The Memory of Light
Arthur A. Levine, 2016  $17.99  Grades 9 - 12
Following a suicide attempt, Vicky Cruz is put in a therapy group with three other Latinx teens. Inspired by the author’s own experience, this is a rich and resonant novel about teen mental illness that is full of illuminating conversations and metaphors.

Stroud, Jonathan
The Hollow Boy
Disney-Hyperion, 2015  $16.99  Grades 5 - 8
In this strong third entry in the Lockwood & Co. series, Stroud creates an extraordinarily detailed world peopled with interesting three-dimensional characters and guides them through a marvelously well-paced and intricate plot in which an epidemic of hauntings in Chelsea is investigated by the psychic agents we first met in The Screaming Staircase (2013).

Sullivan, Tara
The Bitter Side of Sweet
Putnam, 2016  $17.99  Grades 7 - 10
Fifteen-year-old Amadou describes his grim daily existence as a child slave on an Ivory Coast cacao plantation and chronicles each harrowing moment of his attempted escape. This relentlessly fast-paced, yet touching, story puts a human face on a bitter aspect of the contemporary chocolate business.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
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<th>Publisher, Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whaley, John Corey</td>
<td>Highly Illogical Behavior</td>
<td>Dial, 2016</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
<td>8 - 12</td>
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<td></td>
<td>This charming and witty YA coming of age novel centers on 16-year-old agoraphobic Solomon Reed and fellow teen/amateur psychologist Lisa Praytor, who is determined to “fix” Solomon so she can write a scholarship-winning essay about her experience with mental illness.</td>
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<td>Wolk, Lauren</td>
<td>Wolf Hollow</td>
<td>Dutton, 2016</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>5 - 9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>In Wolk’s outstanding first person debut novel, Annabelle describes life in her small town of Wolf Hollow in early 1940s America, where newcomer Betty bullies Annabelle and begins a series of events that impacts the community, particularly a homeless WWI veteran whom Betty blames for her violent actions. The language is rich, the emotions deep and authentic, and the plot is not predictable or safe.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoon, Nicola</td>
<td>The Sun Is Also a Star</td>
<td>Delacorte, 2016</td>
<td>$18.99</td>
<td>9 - 12</td>
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<td>Daniel, a son of Korean immigrants, is a dreamer. Natasha, whose family is about to be deported, is a believer in science and reason. When they meet on a New York City street, is it simply coincidence or fate? This contemporary romance is a multi-layered ode to the connectedness of everything. Yoon (Everything, Everything, 2015) deftly handles important issues such as illegal immigration and racism, and her unique narrative structure creates a sense of wonder for the rich world behind the mundane details of everyday life.</td>
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<td>Zentner, Jeff</td>
<td>The Serpent King</td>
<td>Crown Books, 2016</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
<td>9 - 12</td>
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<td>This complex coming-of-age story set in small-town Tennessee features three young adults struggling to find themselves while fighting the traditions and assumptions of their parents and their conservative environment. Facing tragedy and controversy head on, Zentner creates a believable world filled with touching, relatable characters and issues.</td>
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**Folklore**

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher, Year</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tan, Shaun</td>
<td>The Singing Bones</td>
<td>Shaun Tan</td>
<td>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016</td>
<td>$14.99</td>
<td>5 - Adult</td>
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<td>Excerpts from 75 of the tales of the Brothers Grimm are presented in all their beauty and brutality. Photographs of Tan’s original sculptures accompany each tale, evoking both the feeling and content of the story. Additional resources about the brothers and the tales—including an introduction by Neil Gaiman—make this a well-rounded, engaging read.</td>
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<td>Tonatiuh, Duncan</td>
<td>The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes</td>
<td>Duncan Tonatiuh</td>
<td>Abrams, 2016</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
<td>Kindergarten - Grade 5</td>
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<td>In this adaptation of a Mexican legend, a princess falls in love with a warrior who goes to battle to win her hand. The compelling narrative has touches of Romeo and Juliet and is an origin tale about the two volcanoes near Mexico City. The hand drawn, digitally colored artwork in this Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor title is done using Tonatiuh’s customary style, resembling Mixtec codices.</td>
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Turk, Evan
The Storyteller
Illustrated by Evan Turk
Atheneum, 2016  $18.99 Grades 1 - 5
Multiple nested stories set in the Moroccan desert highlight the unifying power and magic of storytelling. Dynamic, fluid illustrations pair beautifully with the rich text. Features an author's note on Moroccan culture.

Camper, Cathy
Lowriders to the Center of the Earth
Illustrated by Rault the Third
Chronicle, 2016  $22.99 Grades 3 - 7
A catnapping by Mictlantecuhtli, the Aztec god of the underworld, forces Lupe Impala, Elirio Malaria (a mosquito) and El Chavo Flapjack (an octopus) to take a roadtrip to the center of the earth in their most mechanically inventive, exquisitely detailed, and galactic powered lowrider. Zany plot twists, shameless puns, energetic illustrations, and lots of Mexican culture and Spanish vocabulary add up to an impossibly wonderful, madcap adventure.

Lucke, Deb
Lunch Witch: Knee-deep in Niceness
Illustrated by Deb Lucke
Papercutz, 2016  $26.95 Grades 4 - 8
Is full-time witch and part-time school cafeteria cook Grunhilda Blackheart going soft? Fearing so, her animal familiars botch an evil-enhancing spell, release a fog of positivity, and leave Grunhilde to face both the cruel justice of the witchy undead and the do-gooding efforts of an overzealous boy scout. Witty, deadpan prose matches splendid illustrations that balance beauty and grime.

Phelan, Matt
Snow White
Illustrated by Matt Phelan
Candlewick, 2016  $19.99 Grades 5 - 9
This graphic retelling of “Snow White” creatively reimagines the familiar characters to fit a new setting: the 1920s through the dawn of the Great Depression in New York City. Muted watercolors and sparse text combine beautifully to convey the drama and emotion of the story.

Freedman, Russell
Vietnam: A History of the War
Holiday House, 2016  $20.00 Grades 5 - 12
Freedman’s crystal clear prose is the strength of this history of what the Vietnamese call “The American War”; even readers with very little knowledge of this tragic war will be able to follow his narrative. Black & white photos appear every other page, and backmatter includes map, time line, glossary, bibliography, index, and source notes.
Freedman, Russell
We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler
Clarion, 2016  $17.99  Grades 5 - 8
Newbery medalist Russell Freedman focuses on a young brother and sister, members of the White Rose, a Hitler resistance campaign during World War II. Though Hans and Sophie Scholl were eventually captured and executed for their secret leaflet campaign urging their fellow Germans to overthrow Hitler, Freedman conveys their bravery and integrity in a concise, inspiring story. Photos and bibliography included.

Grady, Cynthia
Like a Bird: The Art of the American Slave Song
Illustrated by Michele Wood
Millbrook, 2016  $19.99  Grades 4 - 6
Thirteen slave songs are illustrated with acrylic paintings and accompanied by text explaining the historical context and biblical allusions of each song. Exceptional art and breadth of subject distinguish this work, which is recommended for all collections.

Jarrow, Gail
Bubonic Panic: When Plague Invaded America
Calkins Creek, 2016  $18.95  Grades 5 - 12
This well researched and excellent presentation of the Bubonic Plague tells its history and emergence in the United States in the early twentieth century.

Lyons, Heather and Elizabeth Tweedale
Kids Get Coding: Learn to Program
Illustrated by Alex Westgate
Lerner, 2016  $26.65  Grades 1 - 4
Beginning-level introductions to coding and online safety are clear, engaging, not too long, and appealingly illustrated with multicultural girls and boys.

Markle, Sandra
Great Leopard Rescue: Saving the Amur Leopards
Millbrook, 2016  $30.65  Grades 4 - 8
Amur Leopards from the Vladivostok area of Russia are the focus of this engaging informational book. Both the narrative and dramatic color photos and page decorations contribute to the book's success; many of the photos give a close-up look at these beautiful animals. A helpful book for young researchers as well as a solid choice for nonfiction recreational reading.

McCormick, Patricia
The Plot to Kill Hitler: Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Unlikely Hero
Balzer + Bray, 2016  $18.99  Grades 5 - 12
Pacifist pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer refused to stand by as Hitler persecuted the Jews. Lucid and dynamic prose follows his moral and physical struggle to battle Nazi evil, and original scholarship reveals he was the first to warn Allies of the Holocaust. Hand this to fans of Sheinkin, war buffs, and those interested in social justice. Extensive back matter includes a timeline, endnotes, a selected bibliography, and index.
McLachlan, Brian  
What Noise Do I Make?  
Illustrated by Brian MacLachlan  
Owlkids, 2016  $16.95  Baby/Toddler - Grade 2

“WOARRRRGH. Eeeeeee eeeeeee click click click.” This unusual nonfiction book for young children is filled with both familiar and unusual animal calls. Each page features a cartoon animal and the name of that animal against a bright monotone background. Turn the page to discover the noise the animal makes.

O’Connell, Caitlin  
Bridge to the Wild: Behind the Scenes at the Zoo  
Photographs by Cailin O’Connell and Timothy Rodwell  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016  $18.99  Grades 3 - 8

Experience the zoo like never before with text by O’Connell and stunning photos by the Sibert Honor winning team of O’Connell and fellow photographer Rodwell. This narrative nonfiction takes children and adults on a behind-the-scenes adventure of a lifetime!

Osborne, Linda Barrett  
This Land Is Our Land: A History of American Immigration  
Abrams, 2016  $24.95  Grades 5 - 10

Beginning with English settlers arriving in 1607, this well researched book provides a chronology of immigration in America from Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Photographs, illustrations, and quotes from both immigrants and those who feared them, as well as exhaustive back matter, enrich and enhance accessibility of the content.

Rockliff, Mara  
Anything But Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic  
Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno  
Candlewick, 2016  $17.99  Grades 1 - 4

Once world famous but now forgotten, magician Adelaide Herrmann’s life and legacy are paid tribute to in this superb picture book biography by Mesmerized team Rockliff and Bruno.

Rockwell, Anne  
A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette, Revolutionary War Double Agent  
Illustrated by Floyd Cooper  
Carolrhoda, 2016  $17.99  Grades 3 - 6

Rockwell’s well-pitched historical account of the enslaved James and his work as a double agent during the American Revolution is expanded upon with Cooper’s sensational and atmospheric illustrations. The artwork reads well from a distance, and the succinct text with its great narrative hook—a heretofore unknown hero—makes for an excellent read-aloud.

Roth, Susan L. and Cindy Trumbore  
Prairie Dog Song: The Key to Saving North America’s Grasslands  
Illustrated by Susan L. Roth  
Lee & Low, 2016  $18.95  Kindergarten - Grade 5

This informational collage picture book has a dual narrative: the main poetic text in larger print is written using the pattern of the cumulative folksong “The Green Grass Grows All Around,” while the smaller text describes facts about prairie dogs in North America, including their endangered status and their habitat. Includes abundant back matter.
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<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Sayre, April Pulley**  
Best In Snow**                      | Illustrated by April Pulley Sayre | 2016 | Beach Lane          | $17.99    | Preschool - Grade 2 |
| Moving from ice crystals during a freeze to a darkening sky, and then into snowfall, drifting, a thaw, and then a freeze and snowfall again, this circular story features spare, poetic text, with a delicate rhyme. Clear photos offer a visceral depiction of the dark, chilly days of winter. |
| Schatz, Kate  
**Rad Women Worldwide: Artists and Athletes, Pirates and Punks, and Other Revolutionaries Who Shaped History** | Illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl | 2016 | Ten Speed           | $15.99    | Grades 5 - 12   |
| Over 40 fierce women from a wide array of countries are celebrated in this follow-up to *Rad American Women A-Z* (City Lights, 2015). Women both living and dead are featured in one or two page essays, including indigenous women from several countries and many from Asia and Africa. Valuable for reports as well as casual reading. |
| Stelson, Caren  
**Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story** | Carolrhoda, 2016 | $19.99 | Grades 5 - 9 |
| Sachiko was six when the atomic bomb was dropped on her hometown of Nagasaki. Her life story answers the question of how one lives through brutal war and still eventually finds peace. Vivid and moving recollections are interspersed with photographs and sidebars that provide historical context. Extensive back matter includes an author’s note, a family tree, a glossary of Japanese words, endnotes, a bibliography, print and online resources, and an index. |
| Weatherford, Carole Boston  
**Freedom in Congo Square** | Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie | 2016 | Little Bee          | $17.99    | Kindergarten - Grade 2 |
| In New Orleans, slaves were allowed to gather in Congo Square on their Sunday afternoons off. Rhyming couplets capture their daily harsh existence and the contrast of the joy of celebrating their African heritage on Sundays. Vibrant, brightly colored paintings complement this spiritually uplifting story. Backmatter with historical information of this unique place is included. |
| Weintraub, Robert  
**No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II** | Little, Brown, 2016 | $16.99 | Grades 5 - Adult |
| Judy, an English Pointer dog, was one of the most celebrated heroes of WWII in postwar England. Just before the fall of Singapore to the Japanese, shy sailor Frank Williams took over Judy’s care and together they survived a near-fatal experience in a Sumatran jungle POW camp. This moving, true story of a wily and big-hearted dog brings the Pacific Theater of WWII to life. |
| Whiting, Sue  
**Platypus** | Illustrated by Mark Jackson | 2016 | Candlewick          | $16.99    | Kindergarten - Grade 3 |
| Marvelous mixed media illustrations put readers in the world of the platypus in this wonderful introduction to this unusual mammal and its habitat. The illustrations reveal an environment that photographs may not succeed in capturing. |
Beaton, Kate

King Baby
Illustrated by Kate Beaton
Arthur A. Levine, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 1
A new baby is brought home to joyful and proud parents. He is gracious but also has many demands in this hilarious, tongue-in-cheek picture book.

Bernstrom, Daniel

One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree
Illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
Katherine Tegen, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 2
A clever boy with brown skin is swallowed by a snake but convinces the snake to over-stuff himself with jungle animals until a burp allows all to escape unscathed. Crafted with rhythmic, fun-to-read text and lively and vibrant illustrations, this is a guaranteed hit.

Bogart, Jo Ellen

The White Cat and the Monk
Illustrated by Sydney Smith
Groundwood, 2016 $18.95 Grades 1 - 4
Bogart's version of the ancient and often translated poem is clear and gently rhythmic, conveying the meaning of the poem and the spirit of companionship between person and pet. Smith's (Sidewalk Flowers, 2015) sequential panels of water color and ink flawlessly pair with the poem's stanzas and add to the pacing and storytelling.

Brosogl, Vera

Leave Me Alone!
Illustrated by Vera Brosogl
Roaring Brook, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 3
Grandma wants a quiet place to knit but is overrun by dozens of grandchildren, so she leaves to find some peace and quiet, before returning with sweaters for everyone. This original humorous tale has many of the traditions of a folktale, but the Caldecott Honor artwork is really the stand-out feature of the book, from its dirndl-skirted characters in the small village to its green moon-men.

Brown, Lisa

The Airport Book
Illustrated by Lisa Brown
Roaring Brook, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 2
A family goes on vacation, but first they must go to the airport. This picture book describes the twenty-first century airport experience for young children. Engaging art with tons of fun details and attention to diversity make this an outstanding book.

Bryan, Ashley

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life
Illustrated by Ashley Bryan
Atheneum, 2016 $17.99 Grades 3 - 6
Historic slave documents serve as a template for author/illustrator Ashley Bryan to give voice to eleven slaves, contrasting their aspirations with the brutal realities of slavery. Recommended for all library collections, this visually stunning book provides an emotional connection to slavery that invites discussion and reflection.
Collins, Ross
There's a Bear on My Chair
Illustrated by Ross Collins
Nosy Crow, 2016 $16.99 Preschool - Kindergarten
"We do not make a happy pair, a mouse and a bear with just one chair." How will mouse ever get bear out of his chair? Driven to despair, Mouse heads elsewhere. But what happened to Bear? Find out in this clever and sweet rhyming picture book, sure to get a laugh out of the read-aloud crowd.

Ellis, Carson
Du Iz Tak?
Illustrated by Carson Ellis
Candlewick, 2016 $16.99 Kindergarten - Grade 3
Page by page, a plant grows as sharply dressed insects speculate, in their own language, about what it might be. The story is simple enough for a first reading, but the real joy comes from noticing new details and understanding more of the language on revisits.

Godwin, Laura
Owl Sees Owl
Illustrated by Rob Dunlavey
Schwartz & Wade, 2016 $17.99 Baby/Toddler - Grade 2
A young owl sets out from the family nest on a moonlit journey in this superb picture book example of a reverso poem. The calming rhythms of the spare language, no more than four concrete words per spread, will reach the youngest audiences, although it’s rich enough to interest and inspire children up to second grade.

Goetz, Steve
Old MacDonald Had a Truck
Illustrated by Eda Kaban
Chronicle, 2016 $16.99 Preschool - Grade 2
Old MacDonald has a lot of heavy earth-moving equipment that will give children something to sing about! Great for reading--and singing--aloud.

Goldsaito, Katrina
The Sound of Silence
Illustrated by Julia Kuo
Little, Brown, 2016 $17.99 Grades 1 - 5
After learning that a koto player’s favorite sound is ma, the silence between sounds, Yoshio listens all around him for silence at school and at home. With this soft, gentle story, Goldsaito and Kuo help young readers think about how we can seek out still moments and find silence in the midst of our busy lives.

Hoefler, Kate
Real Cowboys
Illustrated by Jonathan Bean
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016 $16.99 Preschool - Grade 2
Cowboys think of others, are gentle, are safe, always listen, cry, and have many other noble and respectable traits, as laid out in Hoefler’s soft, lyrical text. Equally as dynamic are Jonathan Bean’s layered, angular, hand-stenciled illustrations, abounding with texture and movement.
Isadora, Rachel
*I Hear a Pickle (and Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!)*
Illustrated by Rachel Isadora
Nancy Paulsen, 2016 $16.99 Preschool - Grade 1
In this celebration of the five senses, each spread focuses on one, offering examples such as “I hear the birdie. I hear the bee…” with some onomatopoeia, “I hear thunder. Boom!” Charming illustrations feature a multicultural cast of toddlers.

Jeffers, Oliver and Sam Winston
*A Child of Books*
Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston
Candlewick, 2016 $17.99 Kindergarten - Grade 3
Jeffers teams up with typographic artist Winston to produce a beautiful and imaginative tribute to reading. Masterfully manipulated typographic landscapes made from the texts of classic books combine with beautiful art to convey humor and adventure in books.

Klassen, Jon
*We Found a Hat*
Illustrated by Jon Klassen
Candlewick, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 2
Two desert tortoises find a hat but, deciding it wouldn’t be fair for one to have a hat and not the other, they leave it behind. However, one of them doesn’t seem to be able to forget about it. With Klassen’s signature subtle, deadpan humor, this one is all about the eyes…

Kleber, Dori
*More-igami*
Illustrated by G. Brian Karas
Candlewick, 2016 $15.99 Kindergarten - Grade 3
When Mrs. Takimoto demonstrates how to fold a paper crane, Joey is determined to learn origami, though it takes a lot of practice. Karas’ colorful cartoon gouache artwork features his usual pencil detailing. Give this charming debut picture book to primary grade teachers as a natural match for a class art project.

Lui-Trujillo, Robert
*Furqan’s First Flat Top / El primer corte de mesita de Furqan*
Illustrated by Robert Lui-Trujillo
Come Bien, 2016 $15.95 Kindergarten - Grade 3
The relationship between a father and son unfolds during the son’s first trip to the barbershop. Liu-Trujillo provides an authentic bilingual (English/Spanish) story of an Afro-Latino family.

Mann, Jennifer
*Sam and Jump*
Illustrated by Jennifer Mann
Candlewick, 2016 $15.99 Preschool - Grade 2
Simple, expressive water colors and minimal text show the deep affection a child feels for a special toy, the sorrow of losing it, and the joy of finding a new and caring friend who brings them together again. Sam, with peachy skin, and his new friend Thomas, with brown skin, are simply drawn, and the expressive illustrations tell most of this reassuring story.
McClure, Nikki
Waiting for High Tide
Illustrated by Nikki McClure
Abrams, 2016  $19.95  Kindergarten - Grade 3
A boy, his parents, and his grandmother picnic, build a raft, and see the range of life in the mudflats as they await the return of the tide. McClure's illustrations are full of details and even the end papers add to this fascinating look at people enjoying life at the ocean's edge, in this longer picture book.

Murray, Alison
Hare and Tortoise
Alison Murray
Candlewick, 2016  $16.99  Preschool - Kindergarten
Murray's beautifully simple text and bright digital illustrations update the classic fable "The Tortoise and the Hare." With humor and emotion throughout, the animals find a satisfying and friendly conclusion to the race.

Park, Linda Sue
Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs
Illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt
Clarion, 2016  $16.99  Grades 1 - 4
Eighteen animals are joined with their homonymic and homographic verbs, sometimes doubled, sometimes tripled, in this excellent work of wordplay. The imaginative ink and watercolor illustrations clearly portray the meaning of the text and will be wholly appreciated by young readers as well as older English learners.

Peacock, Shane
The Artist and Me
Illustrated by Sophie Casson
Owlkids, 2016  $16.95  Grades 1 - 3
A young boy joins in with the rest of the adults and children in his village in bullying a crazy artist. Years later, he reflects on his mistakes and the talent of the man he tormented: Vincent Van Gogh. A beautiful and meaningful story that celebrates both art and individuality.

Perkins, Lynne Rae
Frank and Lucky Get Schooled
Illustrated by Lynne Ray Perkins
Greenwillow, 2016  $17.99  Kindergarten - Grade 2
When unlucky, red-headed Frank's parents take him to the pound to find a pet dog, rescued mutt Lucky enters Frank's life and the two explore the world together. This inventive title, which blurs the line between fiction and nonfiction, should lead readers to a curiosity of the world around them.

Plourde, Lynn
Bella's Fall Coat
Illustrated by Susan Gal
Disney-Hyperion, 2016  $17.99  Preschool - Grade 1
This story about a precocious and carefree young girl who wants her fall coat to last forever is full of richly saturated illustrations that scream autumn. This book celebrates fall, changing seasons, and adapting to change. Bella learns that not everything lasts forever and one can still appreciate the old while embracing the new. This book fully represents autumn and warm, fuzzy feelings.
Rex, Adam
School's First Day of School
Illustrated by Christian Robinson
Roaring Brook, 2016  $17.99  Preschool - Grade 3
A newly built school describes the nervousness of its first day of school, wondering if the children will like it. The school soon realizes it has an important purpose and can’t wait for the children to return. Robinson’s signature artwork offers a multicultural cast of characters.

Ringtved, Glen
Cry, Heart, But Never Break
Illustrated by Charlotte Pardi, Translated by Robert Moulthrop
Enchanted Lion, 2016  $16.95  Kindergarten - Grade 1
Death, bringing his scythe and wearing his black cloak, visits a home where four children live with their grandmother. They try to talk Death out of taking grandmother away, but Death explains why life would have no meaning without death in a way younger children can understand without being frightened. The narrative is spare and unsentimental and the pencil with watercolor sketches are equally subdued and complement the text. This Batchelder Award winner was originally published in Denmark in 2001.

Rockliff, Mara
Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten and 10,000 Miles
Illustrated by Hadley Hooper
Candlewick, 2016  $16.99  Kindergarten - Grade 4
Snappy, upbeat text and bright, graphically strong illustrations bring to life the cross-country journey of suffragettes Nell Richardson and Alice Burke. Substantial back matter provides context for both the automotive adventure and the cause of women’s suffrage. Perfect for a school-age read-aloud.

Sidman, Joyce
Before Morning
Illustrated by Beth Krommes
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016  $17.99  Preschool - Grade 2
Sidman delivers an invocation on the importance of slowing the speed of a fast paced life. The message is most powerfully delivered in conjunction with Krommes’ stunning sketchboard and watercolor illustrations.

Teckentrup, Britta
Don’t Wake Up the Tiger
Illustrated by Britta Teckentrup
Nosy Crow, 2016  $15.99  Preschool - Grade 2
Five animal friends try to get past a sleeping tiger, and readers are asked to help them along by petting and singing to the tiger to keep him asleep. Illustrations are colorful and bold in this outstanding picture book.

The Fan Brothers
The Night Gardener
Illustrated by The Fan Brothers
Simon & Schuster, 2016  $17.99  Kindergarten - Grade 2
The creation of topiaries turns a gray town colorful. The marvelous art, the sense of wonder as the pages turn, and the calm telling distinguish this work that shows how art can bind a community.
Twohy, Mike
Oops, Pounce, Quick, Run! An Alphabet Caper
Illustrated by Mike Twohy
Balzer + Bray, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 3
This clever book has two levels: the alphabet showing words that describe what is occurring, and the cartoon story told by the illustrations in what could have been a wordless book. The elements combine for a wonderful story about a dog chasing a mouse, who wants his ball back.

Wenzel, Brendan
They All Saw A Cat
Illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
Chronicle, 2016 $16.99 Preschool - Grade 2
“The cat walked through the world, with its whiskers, ears, and paws…” and along the way meets a cast of characters of the animal variety, each of them viewing our feline friend in a slightly different way. Using repeated phrases and a pleasing rhythm, the result is a fun read-aloud that gives young audiences an imaginative introduction to the concept of perspective.

Willems, Mo
Nanette’s Baguette
Illustrated by Mo Willems
Disney-Hyperion, 2016 $17.99 Preschool - Grade 2
This hilarious rhyming picture book shows a frog’s first solo trip to the bakery in a hand-drawn paper village where Nanette gets a baguette, eats it, is beset with regret, and is then given a chance to reset.

Argueta, Jorge
Somos como las nubes / We Are Like the Clouds
Illustrated by Alfonso Ruano, Translated by Elisa Amado
Arthur A. Levine, 2016 $24.99 Grades 3 - 6
Moving poems, along with beautiful, sometimes abstract illustrations, offer a glimpse into the life of unaccompanied children making their way through the harsh migration from Central America to the US. These vignettes offer the reader an empathetic view of a risky yet hopeful journey.

Fogliano, Julie
When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons
Illustrated by Julie Morstad
Roaring Brook, 2016 $18.99 Grades 2 - 5
Fogliano celebrates the gentle movement of the seasons with 48 free verse poems that capture the wonder and joy children feel as they notice nature changing around them. A quietly dazzling combination of art and poetry to inspire personal reflection, observation, and journaling.

Frost, Helen
Among a Thousand Fireflies
Photographs by Rick Lieder
Candlewick, 2016 $15.99 Kindergarten - Grade 3
An evocative, brief, free-verse poem describes the process a firefly goes through on a summer night when searching for a mate. The sumptuous color photographs, shot with a short depth of field, create a gauzy, poetic counterpoint to the verse. End matter completes this enchanting book.
Orgill, Roxane
Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph
Illustrated by Francis Vallejo
Candlewick, 2016  $18.99  Grades 4 - 8
This collection of 21 original free verse poems celebrates the landmark photograph of jazz greats taken in Harlem for Esquire magazine in 1958. The artwork combines pastel and pencil sketches with acrylic paint, clearly depicting the historical time period as well as the facial features of the well-known participants.

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems
Illustrated by Bob Raczka
Roaring Brook, 2016  $17.99  Grades 2 - 7
These 21 concrete rhyming poems rely only on the typeface for illustration--there is no other accompanying artwork. Instead, Raczka arranges the letters of the poem's title to create an interesting image, followed by the poem's words set down in unusual shapes to reflect the topic.

Bang, Molly
Picture This: How Pictures Work, Revised and Expanded 25th Anniversary Edition
Illustrated by Molly Bang
Chronicle, 2016  $28.99  Adult
Using paper cutouts in black, light purple, and red, Bang demonstrates many concepts relating to the composition of pictures in this 25th anniversary revised edition (Bullfinch, 1991). The majority of the text is the same as the original, but a new section, along with a larger size and improved book design, make it a much more effective manual on how our visual perception and emotional reaction to pictures rely on these design principles.

Keller, Laura
We Are Growing
Illustrated by Laurie Keller
Disney-Hyperion, 2016  $9.99  Preschool - Grade 1
In this Geisel Award winner, eight blades of grass chat as they grow, discussing who is the tallest, curliest, and so forth, but the one named Walt doesn't feel special like the others. Part of the new Elephant & Piggie Like Reading! imprint, the simple text set in dialogue balloons and the humor and sweet, positive conclusion will satisfy fans of the original Gerald and Piggie books.

Shea, Bob
Dance! Dance! Underpants!
Illustrated by Bob Shea
Disney-Hyperion, 2016  $9.99  Preschool - Grade 2
Will the audience laugh at Butter Bear's underpants? Shea's second book in this early reader series encourages the reader, in a series of cartoon sketches, to follow their heart without worrying about what others are thinking.
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Founded in the 1930s 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.

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