

TWELVE TO FOURTEEN

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

Hamlet Is Not OK

by R. A. Spratt

(Penguin Books/PRH Australia, P \$15.99)

978-0-14377-927-8

Selby hates reading. Then her tutor helps her with her *Hamlet* assignment. When they find themselves actually in Elsinore, the adventure helps her understand the magic of books. (13-15)

① The Legendary Mo Seto (The Legendary Mo Seto series)

by A. Y. Chan

(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-3732-0

Chinese American Mo wants to be best at taekwondo for her father. She breaks all the rules to audition for their idol's upcoming movie, but can she survive it? (11-14)

Swimming with Spies

by Chrystyna Lucyk-Berger, map by

Jim McMahon/Mapman®

(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$18.99)

978-1-339-01246-9

In 2014, with Russian aggression escalating in Ukraine, 12-year-old Sofiya works with her father, director of the Sevastopol dolphinarium, to save the animals in their care. Based on true events. Greyscale map. Back matter. Glossary. (11-12)

① War of the Wind

by Victoria Williamson

(Neem Tree Press, P \$12.95) 978-1-915584-61-8

After Max loses his hearing in a boating accident, he is angry and friendless. Will the new wind turbines bringing great Wi-Fi to his island help him? ASL and BSL charts. Map. (11-13)

Anthologies and Collections

① The Door Is Open:

Stories of Celebration and Community by 11 Desi Voices

edited by Hena Khan

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-45063-8

When the Desi kids in Maple Grove learn their beloved community center is going to be demolished, they work together to save it. (11-14)

Coming of Age

① Chronically Dolores

by Maya Van Wagenen

(Dutton Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-525-42682-0

Dealing with severe symptoms of her chronic disease, Dolores meets a fellow outsider, Terpsichore, who is on the autism spectrum. Can their growing friendship help them heal and adjust to high school? (12-15)

① * Gut Reaction

by Kirby Larson and Quinn Wyatt

(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-89313-7

Starting a new school in eighth grade, Tess faces many challenges: the loss of her father, making new friends, recurring abdominal pain, and a bake-off competition. Back matter. (11-13)

① I'm from Here Too

by Kashmira Sheth

(Peachtree Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-606-0

At school, 13-year old Anoop, a South Asian Indian American Sikh, is bullied by two boys because of his religion. Can he use the teachings of his faith to deal with their threats? Free-verse novel. (11-14)

① * Leila and the Blue Fox

by Kiran Millwood Hargrave, illustrated by

Tom de Freston

(Union Square Kids/Union Square/Sterling Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-4549-5434-7

While on an Arctic expedition tracking a blue fox, Syrian English Leila, 12, struggles to come to terms with her absent scientist mother and how to rediscover herself. Bright blue illustrations. (12-15)

D Mallory in Full Color

by Elisa Stone Leahy, illustrated by Maine Diaz
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-325553-1

Seventh grader Mallory has difficulty saying no, causing her to repress her feelings. A new nonbinary friend leads her to involvement in the library's drag queen story time. Dramatic black-and-white illustrations. (11-14)

D Mani Semilla Finds Her Quetzal Voice

by Anna Lapera
(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-371-9
Inspired by her Guatemalan aunt's activism and her grandmother's urging her to find her voice, 12-year-old Mani, along with her friends, advocates for free menstruation supplies at school. Unexpectedly, their project gets sidelined. (11-13)

Matt Sprouts and the Curse of the Ten Broken Toes (Matt Sprouts series)

written and illustrated by Matt Eicheldinger
(Andrews McMeel Publishing/Andrews McMeel Universal, P \$12.99) 978-1-5248-8869-5
After he causes Jenna to break her collar bone, 11-year-old Matt, a soccer player, has a series of bone-breaking accidents. Is he cursed because of Jenna's lost summer? Amusing black-and-white line drawings. (11-13)

D Murray Out of Water

by Taylor Tracy
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-332681-1
Numerous challenges confront 12-year-old Murray: a destroyed beachfront home; the loss of her magical connection with the ocean; an emerging LGBTQ+ identity; and a censorious, homophobic mother. Free verse. (11-13)

D Ultraviolet

by Aida Salazar
(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-77565-5
Elio, 13, grapples with first love and conflicting feelings about his role as a boy within his Mexican culture. Affecting, unusual portrayal of male puberty. Free verse. (11-13)

D * We Are Big Time

by Hena Kahn, illustrated by Safiya Zerrougui
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$21.99) 978-0-593-43048-4
Aliya exits her basketball league to move from Florida to Wisconsin. At her Muslim school, she challenges stereotypes that question her ability to excel in basketball while wearing a hijab. Dynamic artwork. (12-14)

D Where Wolves Don't Die

by Anton Treuer, illustrated by Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley
(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614381-8
Ninth grader Ezra is wrongly suspected of murder and arson. His father sends him to the Canadian Ojibwe reservation for safety and to learn traditional skills from Grandpa Liam. Bold greyscale spot art. (12-15)

Contemporary Issues

D M Born a Girl: It Takes Courage

written and illustrated by Alice Dussutour, translated from the French by David Warriner
(Orca Book Publishers, \$29.95) 978-1-4598-3898-7
Five girls from around the world fight gender-related issues. Each chapter is followed by additional information about the problem addressed in it. Vibrant illustrations. Back matter. Resources. (12-15) Mature content

Breaking into Sunlight

by John Cochran
(Algonquin Young Readers/Workman Publishing/Hachette, 17.99) 978-1-5235-2729-8
Thirteen-year-old Reese is torn between following what his mother expects of him and searching for ways to help his drug-addicted father. (11-13)

D Buffalo Dreamer

by Violet Duncan
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-62481-4
Summer's idyllic vacations on the reservation include picking sweetgrass, dancing at powwows, and riding horseback. But this summer she also learns about her grandfather's painful past in a residential school. Black-and-white and greyscale spot art. (13-15)

A Galaxy of Whales

by Heather Fawcett

(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-53055-9

In the Pacific Ocean's Salish Sea, Fern and Jasper's families run rival whale tours. But after her best friend deserts Fern, she teams up with Jasper to enter a photography contest—and makes a new friend. (11-14)

Kyra, Just for Today

by Sara Zarr

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-304513-2

Kyra, 13, and her mother, a recovering alcoholic with a house cleaning business, are very close. When Kyra suspects her mother is drinking again, she feels life slipping out of control. (11-14)

The Outsmarters

by Deborah Ellis

(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.99)
978-1-77306-857-2

Living with her irascible grandmother, 12-year-old Kate navigates her traumatic past by starting a business, finding friends in unlikely places, and passing her GED. Complex themes handled with compassion and humor. (12-15)

Pizza Face

by Rex Ogle and Dave Valeza, colors by Ash Szymanik (Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-57504-0
Puberty, pimples, poverty, mood swings, and thrift clothing destroy seventh grader Rex's school friendships. Can he survive and help others having the same experience? Bold, dynamic artwork. Also available in Spanish. (11-14)

The Reckoning

by Wade Hudson

(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-64777-6

Lamar, a Black boy, wants to make movies but thinks he doesn't have a worthy subject. When his grandfather gets killed, unraveling the injustice behind the murder becomes Lamar's passion. (11-14)

Ecology

*** The Monarchs of Wingham**

written and illustrated by Naila Moreira

(Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99)
978-1-5362-1830-5

Preteen naturalists Samantha and Bram bond as they observe and document the flora and fauna, including butterflies, of a nearby field and pond. Detailed black-and-white nature drawings. Map. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

Family/School/Community

*** And Then, Boom!**

by Lisa Fipps

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-40632-8

With the help of his friends and his rescue dogs, 11-year-old Joe tries to fend for himself after his grandmother dies and his mom leaves. Free verse. (11-13)



Answers to Dog

by Pete Hautman

(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-3488-6

When 12-year-old Evan goes running, a border collie starts following him, and the two begin to bond. But his mother is adamant that he cannot have a dog. (11-14)

Averil Offline

by Amy Noelle Parks

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-61864-6

Gifted 12-year-old computer whiz Averil struggles with over-protective helicopter parents and the intrusive new technology—Ruby Slippers—which tracks and reports every aspect of her life. (11-14)

*** Between Two Brothers**

by Crystal Allen

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-304729-7

When his beloved older brother suffers a brain injury in a car accident, Isaiah (Ice), a Black boy, defies dire predictions and devises ways to help him recover. Back matter. (11-13)

④ Bird Nerd

by Jennifer Ann Richter
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5656-7
Nyla, a Black girl, must win a fifth grade birding competition with a suburban school and alienates her best friend in her struggle for acceptance. Multiple descriptions of birds and their calls and songs. (11-14)

④ Call Me Ali

by Wali Shah and Eric Walters
(Orca Book Publishers, P \$14.95) 978-1-4598-3794-2
Ali's parents have high expectations about his academic achievements and future career, but when he experiences anti-Muslim behavior, it's writing that helps him sort through his emotions. (11-14)

④ Deer Run Home

by Ann Clare LeZotte
(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-339-02190-4
Abused and neglected, a Deaf girl does her best to survive with only the sporadic help of her sister. Told in spare but intense free verse. Author's note. (11-14)

Dinner at the Brake Fast

by Renee Beauregard Lute
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-332490-9
Tacoma's efforts to retrieve her depressed father's prized memento, stolen from the wall of her family's truck-stop diner, lead to unusual adventures with two new friends. (11-14)

Jupiter Rising

by Gary D. Schmidt
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-35-865964-8
Eighth grader Jack loves his three-year-old foster sister, Jupiter, daughter of his dead foster brother. Their rural community rallies in support as Jack fights to keep Jupiter in his life. (11-14)

④ * Kareem Between

by Shifa Saltagi Safadi
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-69926-3
Seventh grader Kareem struggles to reconcile his Syrian heritage with his dream of being an all-American football player. In verse. (11-13)

④ Kicked Out

by A. M. Dassu, illustrated by Daby Zainab Faidhi
(Tu Books/Lee & Low Books, \$23.95)
978-1-64379-687-1
Living in England after escaping the war in Syria, Ali and Sami need to raise money to help their friend pay for legal fees to avoid deportation. Greyscale spot art. Author's note. Glossary. (11-14)

The Last Apple Tree

by Claudia Mills
(Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$17.99)
978-0-8234-5710-6
Sonnet and Zeke reluctantly agree to collaborate on an oral history project, which leads to discoveries about their families and themselves. Author's note. (11-14)

Listen to This

by Jennifer Blecher, illustrated by Maeve Norton
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-314073-8
Dual perspectives show how Lily and Will cope with middle school, friendships, family, and change. Greyscale spot art. (11-14)

④ My So-Called Family

by Gia Gordon
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-0-374-39205-5
Ash feels she has nobody to depict in a family tree for a school assignment, but growing friendships with unconventional classmates teach her otherwise. Discerning teachers also come to her rescue. (11-14)

Winner of the 2025 Josette Frank Award

*** Not Nothing**

by Gayle Forman
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-6659-4327-7
After committing a juvenile offense, Alex, 12, is assigned to Shady Glen Retirement home for community service. A 107-year-old Holocaust survivor there helps them both to heal. (11-14)

D The Partition Project

by Saadia Faruqi
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-311581-1
Pakistani American Maha, 12, wonders if she can turn her grandmother's experiences during the 1947 partition of India into a documentary film for a school assignment. (11-14)

Shaken

by James Preller
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-1-250-83449-2
Kristy, 13, lives and breathes soccer and expects to be a national or Olympic competitor, until a concussion forces her to deal with an invisible injury and find a new path. (11-14)

D Shark Teeth

by Sherri Winston
(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$17.99)
978-1-5476-0850-8
Seventh grader Sharkita, a Black girl, wants to keep her family together and to enjoy school. But can she do that when her mama keeps disappearing? (11-13)

Slouch

by Christina Wyman
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-0-3743-9190-4
Seventh grader Stevie is 5'10" and has to deal with unwanted comments about her appearance. Joining the debate club gives her confidence to speak out. Moving author's foreword. (11-13)

D * What's Eating Jackie Oh?

by Patricia Park
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-56341-0
Second-generation Korean American senior Jackie struggles with her parents' expectations but finds solace at her grandparents' deli. Her passion for food lands her on a competitive cooking show. Recipes. (12-15)

D Wires Crossed

by Beth Fantaskey, illustrated by O'Neill Jones
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$24.99)
978-0-35-839544-7
Outsider Mia is thrilled when her science camp friend Tariq moves to town. But excitement soon turns to disappointment—until the science Olympics is announced. Brightly colored artwork. (11-14)

D With Just One Wing

by Brenda Woods
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-46153-2
After a curveball summer, Coop, an almost 12-year-old adopted Black boy, faces giving up the maimed baby mockingbird he had rescued. (11-14)

D * The World Divided by Piper

by Caela Carter
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-299666-4
About to participate in an Academic Decathlon, 11-year-old Piper resists her mother's efforts to end the injections Piper has been receiving to treat precocious puberty. Black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Fantasy

D Dragonfruit

by Makiia Lucier
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-35-827210-6
Sam is determined to find a rare seadragon egg to cure his mother's grave illness. But as his friend Hanalei knows, that will come at a terrible price. (13-15)

The Game of Noctis

by Deva Fagan
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-3019-2
The stakes are high in the perilous Game of Noctis competition. Twelve-year-old Pia joins the Seafoxes team, hoping that the prize money will help her grandfather and herself. (12-14)

*** Impossible Creatures (Impossible Creatures series)**

by Katherine Rundell, illustrated by Ashley Mackenzie
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-80986-0
While rescuing a griffin, Christopher stumbles into a magical archipelago and meets a girl who can fly. Together they must save the world. Line drawings. Glossary of magical beasts. (11-14)



Island of Whispers

by Frances Hardinge, illustrated by Emily Gravett
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-7433-1
Fourteen-year-old Milo seeks to take over his father's profession of ferrying the dead to a final resting place. Black, white, and blue illustrations. (11-14)

Madsi the True

by S. J. Taylor
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-6659-3882-2

On a hazardous journey from her Norwegian village to find her sister, Madsi and her friends brave extreme weather, dead Vikings, monsters, and an avalanche. Glossary of creatures. (11-14)



Monster Locker (Monster Locker series)

by Jorge Aguirre and Andrés Vera Martínez, illustrated by Andrés Vera Martínez
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, P \$14.99) 978-1-250-74973-4
With the help of a few friends, Pablo saves his middle school from a vengeful Aztec goddess. Dramatic artwork. (11-14)

Not Quite a Ghost

by Anne Ursu
(Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-227515-8
Violet, a middle child, is challenged by her relationships with her birth father and her Black stepfather, being sick and very tired, losing friends—and a ghost appearing in her bedroom! (11-14)

Sona and the Golden Beasts

by Rajani LaRocca
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-329540-7
Sona discovers that she's the product of an illegal mixed marriage. She must journey with a friend and an orphaned wolf pup to a sacred space to free her land. (11-14)

Splinter & Ash (Splinter & Ash series)

by Marieke Nijkamp, illustrated by Vivienne To
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-332626-2
Returning to her kingdom after a long absence, Princess Adelisa (Ash) discovers the palace is not safe. Splinter, a girl wanting to be a squire, vows to protect her. Map. Greyscale spot art. (11-13)



Taxi Ghost

written and illustrated by Sophie Escabasse
(RH Graphics/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$21.99) 978-0-593-56598-8
Originally unnerved to discover that she can see ghosts and communicate with them, Adèle comes to embrace being a medium and the adventures it brings her. Lively, colorful artwork. (11-13)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

Beastly Beauty

by Jennifer Donnelly
(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-80944-2
In this retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*, an imprisoned noblewoman and a handsome thief break a century-old curse once the maiden learns to love herself. (12-14)

Historical Fiction

Across So Many Seas

by Ruth Behar
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-32340-3
Beginning in 1492, four 12-year-old Sephardic Jewish girls in different times and places leave their homelands, carrying their traditions with them, with great courage. Author's note. Sources. (11-13)

* Adventures of Mary Jane

by Hope Jahren, map by Virginia Norey
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-48411-1
Follow the perilous 1850s journey of Huckleberry Finn's friend, the undaunted 14-year-old Mary Jane, southward on the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Mississippi. Rich period details. Map. Greyscale spot art. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

(D) (M) * Black Star (The Door of No Return series)

by Kwame Alexander
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-44259-6
In the American South in the 1920s, Charley's summer revolves around her Black family, church, and playing baseball. An encounter with white teenagers changes everything. In verse. Sequel to *The Door of No Return*. (11-13) Mature content

The Bletchley Riddle

by Ruta Sepetys and Steve Sheinkin
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-52754-2

During World War II, Lizzie's American grandmother insists that she leave England before the Germans attack. But Lizzie needs to find out what secrets her brother is hiding, and why their mother might be missing. (11-14)

Code Name Kingfisher

by Liz Kessler
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-6659-2973-8
Liv's bubbe has never talked about her past, but when Liv is assigned a family history school project, she learns about her grandmother's extraordinary life in Holland during World War II. (11-14)

*** Lifeboat 5**

by Susan Hood
(Simon & Schuster BYFR/S & S, \$17.99)
978-1-6659-4324-6
After their ship was torpedoed by Nazis during World War II, Bess and her best friend clung to an overturned lifeboat in the Atlantic Ocean for 19 hours. Free verse. Based on a true story. (11-14)

ⓓ The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry

by Anna Rose Johnson, map by Emily Faith Johnson
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5363-4
In 1912 Lucy, a French Ojibwe orphan with an active imagination, finds life with a foster family in a lighthouse to be challenging. Greyscale map. Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) glossary; French glossary. (11-13)

ⓓ Max in the House of Spies: A Tale of World War II (Operation Kinderspion series)

by Adam Gidwitz
(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-593-11208-3
During World War II, 11-year-old Max is sent from Berlin to London to live with Jewish spies. Two creatures comment from Max's shoulders. End notes. (11-14)

ⓓ * One Big Open Sky

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, map by Allira Tree
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5016-9
In 1879 Lettie and her Black family leave Mississippi seeking a better life in Nebraska, their arduous journey detailed in prose poetry and multiple voices. Author's note. Greyscale map. (11-14)

ⓓ Pearl

by Sherri L. Smith and Christine Norrie
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-02943-7
Japanese American Amy, 13, is sent to Hiroshima in 1941 to visit her ailing great grandmother. While she is there, Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, and Amy cannot return home. Artwork in shades of blue and grey. (11-14)

ⓓ Ⓜ The Songbird and the Rambutan Tree

by Lucille Abendanon
(Jolly Fish Press/North Star Editions, P \$14.99)
978-1-63163-820-6
In 1942, 11-year-old Emmy, a Dutch national, is interned in the Japanese-run Tjideng prison camp. Can she survive its brutal conditions? Based on the author's grandmother's experience. (11-14) Mature content

Horror

Ⓜ * The Book of Denial

by Ricardo Chávez Castañeda, illustrated by Alejandro Magallanes, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel
(Unruly/Enchanted Lion Books, \$24.95)
978-1-59270-362-3
A boy grapples with his father's harrowing literary project on the killing of children throughout history. Bold graphic illustrations on each page explore the devastating themes. (12-14) Mature content

Magical Realism

Olivetti

by Allie Millington
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-1-250-32693-5
When his mother goes missing, shy dictionary-loving Ernest must rely on her old Olivetti typewriter and a new-found friend to try to find her. (11-14)



On a Wing and a Tear

by Cynthia Leitich Smith

(Heartdrum/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-06-287000-1

After Great-Grandfather Bat injures his wing, he asks humans Charlie Halfmoon, Charlie's grandson Ray, and Ray's friend Mel to drive him to the Great Ball Game between the Birds and Mammals. (11-14)

Romance



Twelfth Night

by William Shakespeare, adapted by Georghia Ellinas, illustrated by Jane Ray

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-3150-2

Feste the Fool tells the story of mistaken identities, clever disguises, and unrequited love when shipwrecked twins Viola and Sebastian arrive separately on the shores of Illyria. Watercolor illustrations. (11-14)

Science Fiction

The First State of Being

by Erin Entrada Kelly

(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)

978-0-06333-731-2

Michael, 12, and Gibby, 15, sense something is way off with Ridge, who tells them he is from 2199 but fascinated with 1999. Does Ridge know what Y2K will bring? (11-14)

Thunder City (Mortal Engines series)

by Philip Reeve

(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$19.99)

978-1-5461-3823-5

A small band of unlikely allies race to overthrow a dictator in a world where combative mobile cities can mow down and absorb smaller ones. (12-15)

Westfallen (Westfallen series)

by Ann Brashares and Ben Brashares

(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99)

978-1-6659-5081-7

Three children in 2023, able to communicate with three children in 1944, share information about World War II, changing the outcome. Can they reverse what they have done? (11-14)

Sports

Clutch Time (Shot Clock series)

by Caron Butler and Justin A. Reynolds

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-306964-0

As Kofi, a star Black basketball player, spends his summer reuniting with his old team, his father returns from prison. Can they rebuild their relationship? (11-14)

POETRY

Winner of the 2025 Claudia Lewis Award



*** Black Girl You Are Atlas**

by Renée Watson, illustrated by Ekua Holmes
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-46170-9

Written in various poetic forms, this semi-autobiographical collection celebrates Black girlhood and Black sisterhood, and encourages young people to embrace their future boldly. Vibrant, mixed-media illustrations. (12-15)

Force of Nature:

A Novel of Rachel Carson

by Ann E. Burg, illustrated by Sophie Blackall

(Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$19.99) 978-1-338-88338-1

A first-person, free verse narrative of a biologist and author who ignited the environmental movement despite personal tragedy and the challenges of working in a male-dominated field. Naturalistic black-and-white illustrations. (12-14)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Arts

*** The Bard and the Book:
How the First Folio Saved the Plays of William
Shakespeare from Oblivion**

by Ann Bausum, illustrated by Marta Sevilla
(Peachtree Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-68263-495-0
Explore the complicated and eventful history
surrounding the survival of Shakespeare's plays in the
First Folio collection. Folk-art-style illustrations. Rich
back matter. (11-14)

**Wall to Wall:
Mural Art around the World**

by Mary Ann Fraser, with Elizabeth Nicholson,
illustrated by Mary Ann Fraser
(Getty Publications, \$22.95) 978-1-947440-08-1
The ancient Cave of the Hands in Argentina, Shamsia
Hassani's contemporary graffiti in Afghanistan, and
15 other masterpieces are depicted, along with
information about their history, the techniques used
to produce them, and their creators. Lush illustrations.
Photographs. Back matter. (12-14)

Biography and Memoir

ⓓ Ⓜ The Ballerina of Auschwitz

by Dr. Edith Eva Eger, with Esmé Schwall, edited by
Jordan Engle
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-6659-5255-2
With grit and humanity, Edie, an accomplished
gymnast-dancer, and her sister Magda survive the
horrors of Nazi concentration camps during World War
II. Young readers edition of *The Choice*. (13-15) Mature
content

**ⓓ The Girl Who Sang:
A Holocaust Memoir of Hope and Survival**

by Estelle Nadel, with Sammy Savos and
Bethany Strout, illustrated by Sammy Savos
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$25.99)
978-1-250-24776-6
After the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, Enia and her
extended Jewish family fled. Aided by neighbors, Enia
and two of her brothers survived and emigrated to the
United States. Digital pen, ink, and watercolor artwork.
Back matter. (11-14)

**ⓓ Lost at Windy River:
A True Story of Survival**

by Trina Rathgeber, illustrated by Alina Pete, colors by
Jillian Dolan
(Orca Book Publishers, P \$19.95) 978-1-4598-3226-8
During a snow storm, Ilse, a 13-year-old Indigenous
girl, became separated from her family and had to
survive the bitter cold wilderness alone. Clear, full-color
illustrations. (11-14)

**ⓓ Puzzled:
A Memoir About Growing Up with OCD**

written and illustrated by Pan Cooke
(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$23.99)
978-0-593-61561-4
Pan lives in fear that his obsessive, anxious thoughts
are taking over his life, making him feel different from
everyone else. Simple, clear illustrations. (12-15)

**ⓓ Three Summers:
A Memoir of Sisterhood, Summer Crushes, and
Growing Up on the Eve of War**

by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess, with Laura L. Sullivan
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-39081-5
Amra describes her strong family ties and life as a
Muslim in Bosnia before the war there in 1992 tore her
community apart. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

Contemporary Issues

**ⓓ Everything I Learned About Racism I Learned in
School**

by Tiffany Jewell
(Versify/HarperCollins, \$21.99) 978-0-35-863831-5
Statistical information intertwined with deeply
personal narratives of people of the Global Majority
expose systemic racism in education. Includes
insightful short bios of all contributors, an extensive list
of recommended readings, and resources. (12-15)

Ecology

**When Forests Burn:
The Story of Wildfire in America**

by Albert Marrin
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$24.99) 978-0-593-12173-3
A detailed history of forests, forest fires, and firestorms
in America from the Ice Age to the present day.
Archival photographs. Notes, sources, index. (12-15)

History

D Bite by Bite:

American History Through Feasts, Foods, and Side Dishes

by Marc Aronson and Paul Freedman, with contributions from Dr. Frederick Douglass Opie, Amanda Palacios, Tatum Willis, and David Zheng, illustrated by Toni D. Chambers (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-3550-0
Starting with prehistory, the authors show that “American” food is multicultural, with many traditions that started long before any Europeans arrived. Black-and-white illustrations. Back matter. Sources. (11-14)

*** Radar and the Raft:**

A True Story About a Scientific Marvel, the Lives It Saved, and the World It Changed

by Jeff Lantos, illustrated by Alan Marks (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-345-7
Thanks to brilliant inventions and courageous countrymen, injured and starving survivors of a cargo ship torpedoed in shark-filled waters were rescued at the eleventh hour. Watercolor illustrations, archival photos. Index, sources. (11-14)

The Wild River and the Great Dam:

The Construction of the Hoover Dam and the Vanishing Colorado River

by Simon Boughton (Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown/Hachette, \$19.99) 978-0-316-38074-4
A comprehensive history of the people, the politics, and the astounding engineering feats behind the building of the Hoover Dam, with commentary on its current environmental impact. Archival photographs. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

Winner of the 2025 Flora Stieglitz Straus Award

*** Witch Hunt:**

The Cold War, Joe McCarthy, and the Red Scare

by Andrea Balis and Elizabeth Levy, illustrated by Tim Foley (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$20.99) 978-1-250-24681-3
The rise and fall of a senator from Wisconsin who exploited post-WWII fear of the Soviet Union and communism, unjustly persecuting many without evidence. Black-and-white illustrations. Extensive back matter. (12-15)

Religion



Odin (Asgardians series)

written and illustrated by George O'Connor, colors by Norm Grock (First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$21.99) 978-1-250-76076-0
Valkyries whisk a warrior from a bloody battlefield to Valhalla, where he hears the complex story of Odin and the numerous Norse gods. Dramatic graphic art. Extensive page notes, glossary. (11-14)

Sports

A Greater Goal:

The Epic Battle for Equal Pay in Women's Soccer—and Beyond

by Elizabeth Rusch (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-322090-4
A wide analysis of women's fight for equality in sports and life, using the 2019 US Women's National Soccer team's suit over unequal pay as a focal point. (13-15)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

The Astrochimps:

America's First Astronauts

by Dawn Cusick (Chicago Review Press, \$19.99) 978-1-64160-895-4
Understanding how chimpanzees reacted to space travel lay the groundwork for sending human astronauts on NASA missions. Spaceflight glossary and detailed resources. (11-14)

Mountain of Fire:

The Eruption and Survivors of Mount St. Helens

by Rebecca E. F. Barone (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-88165-6
For two months in 1980, scientists recognized the signs of an imminent earthquake in Washington State. The power and destruction of the volcano dwarfed predictions. Back matter. (11-14)

Virus Hunters:

**How Science Protects People When Outbreaks and
Pandemics Strike**

by Amy Cherrix

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-306954-1

Scientists spend their entire careers searching for the cures to a single disease. The author details the journey to discover vaccines for smallpox, HIV/AIDS, and COVID. Photos. Bibliography, index. (11-14)