

UNDER FIVE

Avocado Magic

written and illustrated by Taltal Levi
(NorthSouth Books, \$19.95) 978-0-7358-4498-8
As Ellie waits to get bigger, she nurtures an avocado seed, and they grow together through the years. Warm, muted illustrations. Avocado planting instructions in back matter. (3-6)

ⓓ ⓑ Bed! Bed! Bed! (Baby Step series)

by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Christiane Engel
(Little Bee Books, \$7.99) 978-1-4998-1590-0
From putting away their toys to listening to lullabies, children get ready to go to sleep. Gently soothing rhymes. Colorful, bold, digital illustrations. (1-3)

ⓓ Being Home

by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-1-9848-1603-0
A Cherokee girl and her mother move from the city back to their ancestral lands to be closer to their community. Rich, expressive, mixed-media illustrations. Cherokee glossary. (4-6)

A Best Friend for Bear

written and illustrated by Petr Horáček
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-3399-5
Lonely black bear and lonely brown bear both want a best friend and decide to look for one together, with surprising results. Mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

Big Bear and Little Bear Go Fishing

by Amy Hest, illustrated by Erin Stead
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-4975-0
It's time to fish, but Big Bear remembers one important task after another before setting out for the lake. Gentle, bucolic illustrations in watercolor and pencil. (3-5)

*** The Boy and the Elephant**

written and illustrated by Freya Blackwood
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-70766-1
A lonely boy protects the imaginary elephant behind his house when the trees that form the elephant's body are marked for removal. Wordless. Pencil and oil painting illustrations. (3-6)

ⓓ Bros

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Reggie Brown
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-2041-4
A celebration of the friendship among several young Black boys as they spend a joyful day exploring their neighborhood. Sparse, rhyming text. Bold digital illustrations. (4-6)

Bunny Should Be Sleeping

by Amy Hest, illustrated by Renata Liwska
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-5341-2
When Dad forgets to check on him at bedtime, Bunny leaves his bed to bring Dad water, a cookie, and their favorite story. Soft digital illustrations. (3-6)

ⓓ Bye Land, Bye Sea

by René Spencer and Rodolfo Montalvo, illustrated by Rodolfo Montalvo
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$19.99)
978-1-250-24672-1
Dramatic mixed-media illustrations show the dual perspectives of an English-speaking girl lost at sea and a shipwrecked Spanish-speaking boy, who must learn to communicate and survive together. Told in Spanish and English. (4-6)

ⓑ Can I Sit in the Middle?

written and illustrated by Susanne Strasser, translated from the German by Melody Shaw
(Gecko Press/Lerner, \$12.99) 978-1-7765-7585-5
Reading will commence once everyone is ready! A fun look at how hard it is to settle down before story time. Delightful acrylic illustrations. (2-4)

Comet & Star:

A Story of Cosmic Friendship

by Lee Juck, illustrated by Lee Jinhee, translated from the Korean by Stine An
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-400-2
Through brief encounters once every 76 years, two celestial bodies become friends. Bright, gentle illustrations. Author's note provides information about Halley's Comet. (3-6)

Crick, Crack, Crow!

by Janet Lord, illustrated by Julie Paschkis
(Margaret Quinlin Books/Peachtree Publishing,
\$18.99) 978-1-68263-629-9

An adventurous crow plays a trick on a cat, escapes a hawk, and more. Rhythmic text. Luscious gouache and pen and ink art. Bibliography and crow facts. (4-6)

Dalmatian:

A Mars Rover's Story

written and illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-66591-195-5

A doglike alien befriends a young boy and learns the ins and outs of life on Earth. Playful ink, charcoal, and digital illustrations. (4-6)

④ Desert Song

by Laeken Zea Kemp, illustrated by Beatriz Gutiérrez Hernández

(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House. \$18.99)
978-0-8234-5392-4

Under the stars, a family plays instruments and sings together to honor their ancestors. Dynamic flat-style art in gouache and colored pencil, digitally edited. (4-6)

Emma Full of Wonders

written and illustrated by Elisha Cooper
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-88476-3

Vibrant watercolors thickly outlined in bold black ink express the joys and concerns of a gentle dog as she looks forward to tomorrow. (3-6)



*** Everyone Gets a Turn**

written and illustrated by Marianne Dubuc
(Princeton Architectural Press/Chronicle Books,
\$18.99) 978-1-79722-729-0

Bear, Mouse, Turtle, and Hare find an egg and nurture the chick inside with warmth, food, and encouragement. But can they relinquish their overprotectiveness? Colorful comic-style panels. (3-6)

④ Everyone Loves Career Day but Zia (Zia series)

by Jenny Liao, illustrated by Dream Chen
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-42545-9

How can Zia's Chinese mother tell the class about her job as a seamstress when she doesn't speak English? Zia has an idea. Expressive illustrations. Author's note, Cantonese glossary. (4-6)

Everyone Starts Small

by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by
Dominique Ramsey

(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2615-7

Engaging text and bright digital art celebrate growth and change in a pastoral landscape filled with plants, animals, and personified elements of nature. Author's note with environmental resources. (3-6)

Exactly as Planned

written and illustrated by Tao Nyeu
(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-46248-5

Moose and Fox unwittingly find each other's lost gifts; their stories begin at either end of the book and meet in the middle. Whimsical silkscreen and colored pencil art. (4-6)

The Fire Fox

by Alexandra Page, illustrated by Stef Murphy
(Two Hoots/Pan Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-03-502759-0

Grieving a loss, Freya visits a cabin in the snowy woods and encounters a magical fox in the moonlight. Luminous digital illustrations. (4-6)

Gina Kaminski Saves the Wolf (Gina Kaminiski series)

by Craig Barr-Green, illustrated by Francis Martin
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$17.99)
978-1-68464-786-6

Entering fairyland to prevent the woodcutter from killing the "big bad wolf," an empowered young reader finds a way to change the wolf's fate. Humorous sketchy illustrations punctuated with emotionally charged emojis. (4-6)

④ * The Girl Who Planted Trees

by Caryl Hart, illustrated by Anastasia Suvorova
(Nosy Crow, \$17.99) 979-8-88777-047-5

A young girl dreams of reforesting a barren mountain. After many attempts and with the perseverance of her inspired village, she finally succeeds. Lush colors capture the landscape. (4-6)

Go and Get with Rex

by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-2206-7

Have big fun with four consonants, two kids, and a pup with a smart sense of humor, as they fetch mostly correct surprises. Cheery gouache art. (3-6)

The Good Little Mermaid's Guide to Bedtime

by Eija Sumner, illustrated by Nici Gregory
(Tundra Books/Tundra/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-0-7352-6789-3
Beware the ferocious mergirl who mocks the instructions of a saccharine book on bedtime etiquette ... until she starts feeling drowsy. Cartoon-style digital art, equally hilarious and terrifying. (4-6)

(B) * Good Night Belly Button

written and illustrated by Lucie Brunellière, translated from the French
(Gecko Press/Lerner, \$11.99) 978-1-7765-7586-2
A wide-awake baby is gently lulled to sleep as, with every flap turn, a blanket progressively covers her body from little toes to little chin. (0-2)

(D) Harriet's Reflections

written and illustrated by Marion Kadi, translated from the French by Marion Kadi and Abram Kaplan
(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$18.99)
978-0-8028-5621-0
When an old lion dies, his reflection lingers and joins up with a young girl, who starts acting like a lion herself. Vivid, energetic acrylic paintings. (4-6)

Heatwave

written and illustrated by Lauren Redniss
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-593-64594-9
A boy spends a sweltering day at the beach. Expressionistic mixed-media art emphasizes the scorching heat in bold red; cool cyan begins taking over after a welcome downpour. (3-6)

*** A Home That Means the World**

written and illustrated by Victoria Turnbull
(Frances Lincoln Children's Books/The Quarto Group, \$18.99) 978-0-71126-232-4
When their tree is cut down, an ant family journeys far in search of a new place to live. Fanciful graphite and colored pencil art with pale, delicate textures. (4-6)

A Horse Called Now

by Ruth Doyle, illustrated by Alexandra Finkeldey
(Nosy Crow, \$17.99) 979-8-88777-072-7
A contemplative horse reassures a series of animals anxious about the future, encouraging them to focus on the here and now. Soothing natural imagery. (4-6)

(B) I Can Help (I Can Help series)

written and illustrated by David Hyde Costello
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$8.99)
978-0-374-39132-4
A variety of animals come to each other's aid. Sturdy construction. Mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

I Do Not Like Water

written and illustrated by Eva Lindström, translated from the Swedish by Annie Prime
(Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99)
978-1-6626-2055-3
A boy finds an ingenious way to participate in aquatic activities with his friends without getting wet. Whimsical gouache and watercolor illustrations capture mood and landscapes. Humorous endpapers show swimming tadpoles. (4-6)

**(D) (B) I Like Your Chutzpah:
And Other Yiddish Words You'll Like**

written and illustrated by Suzy Ultman
(RISE X/Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$9.99) 978-0-593-75191-6
Learn how to tell a child all the delightful things about them—their punim (face), seykehl (cleverness), and more—in Yiddish. Humorous, bold, colorful illustrations. (2-4)

*** If You Run Out of Words**

written and illustrated by Felicita Sala
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-6688-6
In this swashbuckling fantasy adventure, a father gives soothing reassurances to his daughter's worried "what if?" questions. Rich, vivid mixed-media art. (4-6)

Jump for Joy

by Karen Gray Ruelle, illustrated by Hadley Hooper
(Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99)
978-1-6626-0202-3
A girl and a dog, each alone and friendless, build companions out of flowers and snow. Finally, they discover each other. Brush, ink, and found art collage illustrations. (3-5)

Just Like Millie

written and illustrated by Lauren Castillo
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-53622481-8
It takes a new pet dog to help Millie overcome her shyness and anxiety when she moves with her mother to an urban apartment. Watercolor and soft pastel illustrations. (4-6)

(B) Just One More!: A Bedtime Book

by Mara Conlon, illustrated by Vin Vogel
(Peter Pauper Press, \$5.99) 978-1-4413-4374-1
A toddler uses numerous tactics for delaying bedtime.
Simple mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

King Lion

written and illustrated by Emma Yarlett
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-3149-6
A lion alienates his kingdom with his coarse manners
until a brave young girl approaches him to make
friends. Illustrations contribute gentle humor. (3-6)

Knight Owl and Early Bird (Knight Owl series)

written and illustrated by Christopher Denise
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown/Hachette,
\$18.99) 978-0-316-56452-6
A no-nonsense owl who keeps watch over a medieval
castle is frustrated by his adorable, energetic new
volunteer. Warm, glowing digital art. (3-6)

(D) * L Is for Love

by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 987-1-5362-3555-5
Before dawn, a family packs up their harvest of lemons
and starts the long journey to the market in Lagos.
Lush, frolicking mixed-media art. (2-5)

**(B) Little Bunny:
A Peek Through Book**

written and illustrated by Petr Horáček
(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-3885-3
A baby rabbit explores the forest, meeting other
animals along the way. Sweet mixed-media illustrations
with die cuts. (1-3)

(B) Little Lamb, Where Are You? (Baby Faces series)

written and illustrated by Ekaterina Trukhan
(Nosy Crow, \$9.99) 979-8-88777-038-3
An introduction to farmyard friends. Bright acrylic
illustrations with mirrors and flaps. (0-1)

Lonely Bird's Dream

written and illustrated by Ruth Whiting
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2619-5
A paper bird embarks on a daring quest to soar through
the air like the other birds. Cheerful oil paint and cut-
paper collage art. (4-6)

(D) A Maleta Full of Treasures

by Natalia Sylvester, illustrated by Juana Medina
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-46242-3
When her abuela visits from Peru, a young girl creates
memories with her, sharing food, stories, time, and love.
Digital illustrations inspired by Andean art. (4-6)

Mama in the Moon

by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Brian Cronin
(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-69820-4
After tumbling to the ground at night, Baby Sloth
is comforted by his mama, who encourages him to
observe nature's wonders. Striking dark backgrounds
with splashes of pastel colors. (3-5)

(D) The Mango Tree/La mata de mango

written and illustrated by Edel Rodriguez
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4586-7
Two island-dwelling boys spend their days playing
in their beloved tree until they are separated by a
ferocious storm. Wordless. Woodblock printing and
sumi ink with digital media. (4-6)

**The Midnight Panther (Poonam Mystery Fable
series)**

written and illustrated by Poonam Mistry
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$18.99)
978-1-5362-3871-6
A panther tries to imitate other jungle cats before
learning to appreciate its own unique beauty.
Glittering, ornate ink and digital illustrations inspired
by the folk art of India. (3-6)

(D) My Book and Me

by Linda Sue Park, illustrated by Chris Raschka
(Red Comet Press, \$18.99) 978-1-63655-094-7
Clear, joyful words and exuberant paintings celebrate
the many ways to appreciate a favorite book. (3-6)

(D) My Daddy Is a Cowboy

by Stephanie Seales, illustrated by C. G. Esperanza
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-6081-5
A Panamanian American girl expresses pride and joy
during her early morning ride with her dad. Striking
illustrations capture the colors of daybreak. (5-6)

*** Night Song**

by Mk Smith Despres, illustrated by Hyewon Yum
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-394-4
A frog who wishes to sing like the morning birds is reminded of his important vocal role at dusk. Lyrical text and idyllic art in pencil, ink, and watercolor. (4-6)

ⓓ Not Perfect

by Maya Myers, illustrated by Hyewon Yum
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-5170-8
Frustrated by her errors, plucky young Dot tackles a school art project. Can she live up to her best friend Sam's "perfect" standard? Cheerful colored pencil artwork. (4-6)

Oh! Look, a Boat!

written and illustrated by Andrew J. Ross
(Flying Eye Books, \$17.99) 978-1-83874-218-8
After a folded paper boat drifts up to his front door, a mouse steps in and embarks on a grand voyage around the world. Bright collage-style art. (3-5)

On a Summer Night

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Kenard Pak
(Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-0013-2
Who has awakened a child and a series of animals in the evening stillness? A gentle, cumulative refrain leads to the answer. Dark, purple-tinted digital art. (3-6)

One Giant Leap

written and illustrated by Thao Lam
(Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-599-0
With the zip of a snowsuit and the push of an elevator button, a child becomes an astronaut exploring the moon. Playful collage art conveys the wordless narrative. (4-5)

Our Spot

by Lindsay Ward, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
(Two Lions/Amazon Publishing, \$17.99)
978-1-5420-3985-7
A girl and her papa share special memories of Mama on their weekly evening fishing trips. Warm-hued mixed-media art. (4-6)

Out of the Blue

by Rebecca Bach-Lauritsen, illustrated by Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard, translated from the Danish by Michael Favala Goldman
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-401-9
A boy's lonely existence is upended by the arrival of an energetic bear. Soft greyscale drawings with spots of blue and brown. (4-6)

The Pelican Can!

written and illustrated by Toni Yuly
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-49781-7
Soar, fly, spy, dive, splash, and scoop along with a busy pod of pelicans at the shore. Torn paper collage art. (4-5)

Pretty Ugly

by David Sedaris, illustrated by Ian Falconer
(TOON Books/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-66266527-1
A young ogre turns herself adorable to scare her family, but the prank backfires when her face freezes. Can she fix her mistake? Hilariously grotesque cartoon drawings. (4-6)

ⓓ Prunella

by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Claire Keane
(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99)
978-1-6659-2173-2
Born with a purple thumb, prickly Prunella grows up loving only the oddest, foulest plants. Will she ever allow friends into her wild garden? Lively digital illustrations. (4-6)

Roar-Choo!

by Charlotte Cheng, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-53175-4
Dragon has a fiery cold but, wanting to look fierce, rejects Phoenix's healing tea and soup. Will Dragon slow down and rest? Humorous mixed-media illustrations. Author's note. (3-5)

The Shadow & the Ghost

written and illustrated by Cat Min
(Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-368-9
Separated by the cycle of day and night, two supernatural beings forge an unlikely friendship by writing messages on a rock. Bright, expressive mixed-media art, digitally finished. (4-6)

Shine

written and illustrated by Bruno Valasse
(Tundra Books/Tundra/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$17.99) 978-1-77488-428-7
Entranced by the stars, a little moth boy ventures out into the night, where he meets wonder, danger, and new friends. Earth-tone mixed-media art with printed textures. (3-6)

The Ship in the Window

by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Matthew Cordell
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-35057-7

The proud builder of a model ship keeps it safely displayed indoors, but a brave, curious mouse wants to sail it on the open water. Hand-drawn, hatched illustrations. (3-6)

The Strangest Fish

by Katherine Arden, illustrated by Zahra Marwan
(Astra Young Readers/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-66262078-2
When Daisy wins a “weird-looking” goldfish, she helps find his appropriate habitat after he outgrows a series of homes. Exquisite pen, ink, and watercolor artwork. (4-6)

ⓓ Summer Is Here

by Renée Watson, illustrated by Bea Jackson
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99)
978-1-5476-0586-6
Summer comes to life joining a young Black girl from morning till night, sharing the joys of the season. Bright mixed-media art adds to the fun. (4-6)

The Teeny-Weeny Unicorn

written and illustrated by Shawn Harris
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-57188-0
After accidentally squashing the car of a grumpy gnome, a frustrated miniature unicorn learns that size is relative. Comical neon-bright art in chalk pastels. (4-6)

ⓑ That’s Not My Dog . . . (That’s Not My series)

by Fiona Watt, illustrated by Rachel Wells
(Usborne Publishing, \$10.99) 978-1-80507-127-3
You can’t be my pup because . . . Bold, colorful illustrations include mirrors, fake fur, and other tactile elements. (0-2)

ⓓ * This Baby, That Baby

by Cari Best, illustrated by Rashin Kheiriyeh
(Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-59356463-9
Two babies playfully wave to each other across their apartment windows and then begin their daily routines, ending with a playdate in the park. Appealing layout, vivid acrylic art. (1-4)

This Is the Way in Dog Town

written and illustrated by Ya-Ling Huang
(Frances Lincoln First Editions/The Quarto Group, \$18.99) 978-0-71129533-9
Canine youngsters of diverse breeds perform their daily activities to the rhythmic pattern of a familiar nursery song. Action verbs accompany each activity, set on colorful whimsical pages. (3-5)

ⓓ ⓑ Time to Eat!

by Vickie Lee, illustrated by Joey Chou
(Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$8.99)
978-1-250-80150-0
It’s time for dinner, but everyone in the family wants something different. Told in Mandarin, English, and Pinyin. Colorful digital illustrations. (2-4)

Touch the Sky

by Stephanie V. W. Lucianovic, illustrated by Chris Park
(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$18.99)
978-1-7284-6045-1
Vern wishes he could use the swings all by himself, but first he’ll have to learn how to pump. Mixed-media illustrations with eye-popping colors. (4-6)

Two Homes, One Heart

by Jessica Young, illustrated by Chelsea O’Byrne
(Harper/HarperCollins \$19.99) 978-0-06-325397-1
A child splits time between two loving parents’ homes and discovers opportunities for individualized activities, attention, exploration, and creativity. Childlike drawings reinforce the protagonist’s point of view. (4-6)

Two Together

written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
(Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-0277-8
A cat and a dog have wild adventures on their way home. Rich, luminous art in acrylic, watercolor, and colored pencil, digitally finished. (3-6)

Ursula Upside Down

written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-327556-0
A happy-go-lucky catfish is dismayed to learn that she has been swimming upside down; rotate the book to follow her changes of heart. Mixed-media art, assembled digitally. (4-6)

④ Wake Up, Woodlands

by Karen Jameson, illustrated by Marc Boutavant
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-7972-1503-7
Children give a fond hello to nature as they journey out into the warmth of spring. Bright, cheerful digital illustrations. (4-6)

The Walk of the Field Mouse

by Nadine Robert, illustrated by Valerio Vidali
(Milky Way Picture Books/Comme des géants, \$20.99)
978-1-990252-32-7
Despite onlookers' jeers, a steadfast mouse rolls a fallen robin's egg back to its nest atop an enormous rock. Bold, textured digital art in luminous colors. (3-6)

④ ② * We All Play/kimêtaŵânaw

written and illustrated by Julie Flett
(Greystone Kids/Greystone Books, \$10.95)
978-1-77840-210-4
A celebration of playtime and of the connection between children and the natural world. Warm-toned illustrations and creatures' direct gazes invite engagement. Cree pronunciation guide and glossary. (1-3)

④ What's New, Daniel?

written and illustrated by Micha Archer
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-593-46130-3
A question from his beloved grandpa sends thoughtful Daniel off through the park to discover the newness in the world around him. Acrylic ink and patterned-paper collage. (3-6)

When I Became Your Grandpa

by Susannah Shane, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup
(Nosy Crow, \$17.99) 979-8-88777-077-2
A grandfather lion describes his joy in sharing the world with his grandcub. Warm, colorful illustrations. (2-4)

④ When You Have to Wait

by Melanie Conklin, illustrated by Leah Hong
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-81654-2
An Asian American girl can hardly wait to get into the pool, see her mom after a business trip, and ride a bigger bike. Soft gouache and crayon illustrations. (3-5)

Where to Hide a Star

written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$22.99)
978-0-593-62224-7
After a game of hide-and-seek goes wrong, a boy, a penguin, and a Martian journey to the North Pole to find a missing star. Bright, playful illustrations. (4-6)

④ Wonderful Goodbyes

written and illustrated by Kelly Wu
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-31332-2
Soft, introspective illustrations move thoughtfully between past and present as a girl and her family spend time with their beloved dog in the final few hours of its life. (4-6)

The Wrong Book

by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Alex Willmore
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-62196-7
A bookmark stumbles upon a topsy-turvy world of characters making unexpected wrong sounds. Animated and hysterically funny graphics make it a great read aloud. (4-6)

④ Yaya and the Sea

by Karen Good Marable, illustrated by Tonya Engel
(Denene Miller Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-6201-4
On the first day of spring, a Black girl watches her mother and beloved aunties give ritual offerings to the ocean. Radiant acrylic and oil paintings. Author's note. (4-6)

④ * You'll Always Be My Chickadee

by Kate Hosford, illustrated by Sarah Gonzales
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-7972-1437-5
A mother expresses love for her daughter through metaphor as they explore the wonders of nature. Brilliant, glowing art combines gouache, watercolor, pencil crayon, and digital technique. (4-6)

② Winter Light

written and illustrated by Aaron Becker
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)
978-1-5362-3646-0
Die-cut holes with translucent inserts surround pale watercolor images of snow-covered nature and the warm hearth. Lyrical text. (1-3)

Concept Books

④ **Baby's Firsts**

created by Flowerpot Press

(Flowerpot Press, \$8.99) 978-1-4867-2412-3

Diverse children are featured in this photographic chronicle of the milestones occurring in the initial 12 months of life. (1-2)

* **Big Gorilla:**

A Book of Opposites

written and illustrated by Anthony Browne

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-3569-2

Different primates' sizes, bodies, and facial expressions depict opposites. Finely detailed, eye-catching watercolor and gouache illustrations. (2-5)

④ **Cat and Bird (So Can We! series)**

written and illustrated by Jo Empson

(Child's Play, \$8.99) 978-1-78628-741-0

Two friends show each other their talents, and then collaborate to share a skill with a new friend. Delightful mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

Counting Winter

by Nancy White Carlstrom, illustrated by

Claudia McGehee

(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$18.99)

978-0-8028-5570-1

Count the creatures that live in a snow-covered forest. Free verse. Scratchboard and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

④ **Country Baby**

by Laurie Elmquist, illustrated by Ellen Rooney

(Orca Book Publishers, \$10.95) 978-1-4598-3633-4

A toddler and mother enjoy a wonderful day on the farm. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

* **D Is for Dog**

by Em Lynas, illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

(Nosy Crow, \$14.99) 979-8-88777-108-3

A diverse pack of dogs acting in exuberantly doggy ways introduce letters of the alphabet. Humorous illustrations. List of dog breeds in back matter. (3-6)

④ **¡Fiesta!:**

A Festival of Colors

written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh

(Abrams Appleseed/Abrams, \$15.99)

978-1-4197-7330-3

A joyful own voices review of the food, music, and colors of Mexican celebrations. Illustrations evoking Mixtec codices. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (3-5)

Finding Things

by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek

(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)

978-0-06-324566-2

What might happen if you discovered little treasures on your daily walks and brought them home? Gentle acrylic art in small frames and full-bleed pages. (3-5)

④ **Flora and Friends:**

Colors (Flora and Friends series)

written and illustrated by Molly Idle

(Chronicle Books, \$12.99) 978-1-7972-0057-6

Combine colors and create a rainbow. Expressive illustrations and flaps. (0-3)

④ ④ **The Fruit Shop/La frutería (Teeny Tiendas series)**

by Lourdes Heuer, illustrated by Zara González Hoang

(Candlewick Press, \$8.99) 978-1-5362-2659-1

Mr. Manzano sells all sorts of wonderful produce in his local store. Mixed-media illustrations of his multi-ethnic customers. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (1-3)

④ **Goodbye, Hello:**

A Going Home Travel Adventure

by Angela H. Dale, illustrated by Daniel Wiseman

(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5477-8

A biracial US Navy family travels by taxi, plane, and bus to meet Mama in Japan. Rhymed couplets, staccato phrasing. Fine-lined, digital illustrations with saturated colors. Author's note. (2-5)

④ **Gus & Sully Watch the Weather (Gus & Sully series)**

written and illustrated by Steve Light

(Candlewick Press, \$7.99) 978-1-5362-3004-8

A mouse and rhino experience different weather conditions, each in very different ways. Humorous pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (2-3)

ⓑ Hello Hello Shapes

written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
(Chronicle Books, \$9.99) 978-1-7972-1996-7
Meet a range of lively creatures in a wild mix of shapes.
Vibrant mixed-media art. Back matter. (2-5)

ⓑ I See You Care

by Deborah Farmer Kris, illustrated by Jane Massey
(Free Spirit Publishing/Teacher Created Materials,
\$9.99) 979-8-88554-077-3
Sharing, comforting, and helping are among the ways a
child shows he cares about others. Sweet mixed-media
illustrations. (1-3)

Love Is My Favorite Color

by Nina Laden, illustrated by Melissa Castrillón
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S,
\$18.99) 978-1-6659-1309-6
Rollicking verse and elegant metaphors invite readers
to celebrate concepts like peace, gratitude, and
knowledge. Pencil and digital art with swirling lines and
eye-popping colors. (4-6)

ⓓ ⓑ On Powwow Day

by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight
(Charlesbridge, \$8.99) 978-1-62354-576-5
Count the activities and objects and identify the
colors at a traditional Native American gathering and
celebration. Vibrant Illustrations. (2-5)

ⓓ One Sweet Song

by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-153621981-4
As diverse people create a communal melody with
voices, instruments, and other things that make sound,
music transforms a neighborhood into a celebration.
Vibrant digital illustrations. (3-6)

There Was a Shadow

by Bruce Handy, illustrated by Lisk Feng
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-406-4
A poetic look at the shadows and their emotional
resonance that a child encounters throughout a day.
Bright, expressive illustrations of nature and home.
(4-6)

ⓓ When You Find the Right Rock

by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Felicita Sala
(Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-1458-0
A poetic exploration of pebbles, stones, and boulders
and their place in our world. Quietly philosophical text
with richly colored mixed-media art. (3-6)

Holidays and Religion

ⓓ Abuelita's Gift:

A Día de Muertos Story

by Mariana Ríos Ramírez, illustrated by Sara Palacios
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-56837-8
Julieta finds her own special way to bond forever with
her dead grandmother at her family's Día de Muertos
celebration. Mixed-media art. Spanish glossary. Back
matter. (5-6)

ⓓ ⓑ EidTale:

An Eid al-Fitr Adventure (Abrams Trail Tale series)

written and illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel
(Abrams Appleseed/Abrams, \$16.99)
978-1-4197-6952-8
Two Muslim children celebrate a traditional festive
holiday with their family and community. Warm, cheery
tableaux with occasional surprise-revealing foldouts.
(2-4)

Santa's First Christmas

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Sydney Smith
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-52497-8
Realizing Santa has never celebrated Christmas, the
elves decide to introduce him to the warmth and good
cheer of the holiday traditions. Soft watercolor and
gouache illustrations. (3-6)

A Stickler Christmas

written and illustrated by Lane Smith, design by
Molly Leach
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-81528-1
A bizarre creature cheerfully delivers stick-based gifts
to animal friends in a snowy landscape. Oil, gesso, and
cold wax illustrations, with digital pencil. (4-6)

Humor

A Bear, a Fish, and a Fishy Wish

by Daniel Bernstrom, illustrated by
Brandon James Scott
(Hippo Park/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99)
978-1-6626-4069-8
A little fish traveling upstream eludes capture by
a goofy, bumbling bear. Engaging, comical digital
illustrations. (3-6)

ⓓ ⓑ * Below the Ice

by Michaël Escoffier, illustrated by Ella Charbon,
translated from the French
(Peter Pauper Press, \$7.99) 978-1-4413-4299-7
In the Arctic, a little fish and her would-be captor fight
for control, with the help of some friends. Humorous
blue and white illustrations with touches of color. (2-4)

Loveykins

written and illustrated by Quentin Blake
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-3772-6
An eccentric lady finds and nurtures a baby bird,
feeding him until he flies away but then comes back
to return her kindness. Whimsical pastel-colored
illustrations. (4-6)

Still Life

by Alex London, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-322955-6
While introducing his grand, formal work of art, a
painter fails to notice the objects within coming to life.
Pencil drawing combined with digital illustrations. (4-6)

Social-Emotional Learning

ⓓ An Anishinaabe Christmas

by Wab Kinew, illustrated by Erin Hill
(Tundra Books/Tundra/Penguin Random House of
Canada, \$18.99) 978-1-77488-357-0
On a wintry car ride from the city to the Rez, a child learns
that home is both where you live and where you come
from. Intimate illustrations. Anishinaabe glossary. (4-6)

ⓓ Anxious

by Luciana De Luca, illustrated by Natalí Barbani,
translated from the Spanish by
Roberto C. Caceres Caravantes
(Annick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-77321-837-3
A girl learns to process her worried feelings through
gentle care and deep breathing. Expressive illustrations
with faded colors. Extensive resources on childhood
anxiety. (3-4)

ⓓ Bao's Doll

written and illustrated by Bo Lu
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-6921-4
Misunderstood by her mother, a Taiwanese girl
attempts to steal a beautiful doll. Digital art with
powerful contrasting colors emphasizes the journey
from emotional distance to healing connection. (4-6)

ⓓ Bookie & Cookie

written and illustrated by Blanca Gómez
(Rocky Pond Books/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-69680-4
Two little friends who live on opposite pages of a book
learn to compromise. Cheery digital art with paper
collage. (3-5)

The Boy on Fire

written and illustrated by Sarthak Sinha
(Flying Eye Books, \$16.99) 978-1-83874-902-6
A boy who spends his life literally burning with anger
finds a kindred spirit in a star descended from the night
sky. Vivid, powerful art. (3-5)

Built to Last

by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-56917-7
Two boys collaborate on ever bigger construction
projects, experiencing failure and success along the
way. Reality and fantasy blend in bright colored pencil
and watercolor art. (4-6)

Cranky (Cranky and Friends series)

by Phuc Tran, illustrated by Pete Oswald
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-0632-5628-6
A yellow crane truck in a bad mood, encouraged by
fellow vehicles to share his feelings, discovers the
value of their advice. Colorful, animated illustrations
accompany punny text. (4-6)

First Day, Hooray!

by June Sobel, illustrated by Nabila Adani
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-326578-3
Children learn to accept a wide range of emotions,
broadening their vocabulary with specific words that
will help them self-regulate their feelings. An invaluable
classroom resource. Expressive illustrations. (3-6)

The Green Baby Swing

by Thomas King, illustrated by Yong Ling Kang
(Tundra Books/Tundra/Penguin Random House of
Canada, \$18.99) 978-0-7352-6936-1
When Nana dies, Xavier and his mother explore Nana's
possessions, uncovering family stories and sharing
memories. Delicate watercolor illustrations. (5-6)

④ I Lived Inside a Whale

written and illustrated by Xin Li
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-49227-0
Inside an imaginary whale, a girl seeks refuge from the noisy world, and a new friend helps her unlock her talents as a storyteller. Bright mixed-media art. (4-6)

I'm Sorry You Got Mad

by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Julie Kwon
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-46291-1
With the support of his patient teacher, Jack writes a series of notes as he struggles to apologize to his classmate. Expressive illustrations filled with humor and heart. (4-6)

④ ② Is That the Bus?

by Libby Koponen, illustrated by Katie Mazeika
(Charlesbridge, \$8.99) 978-1-62354-474-4
Anticipation builds as a little boy waits impatiently for his older sister to come home from school. Illustrations use a soft, bright color palette. (2-4)

② Lionel Is Just Like Dad (Lionel series)

written and illustrated by Éric Veillé, translated from the French by Daniel Hahn
(Gecko Press/Lerner, \$9.99) 978-1-7765-7465-0
Lionel sings, combs his hair, and more—just like his father. Brightly colored illustrations. (1-3)

*** Mela**

by Maddalena Schiavo, illustrated by Eleonora Pace
(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-386-5
This story of patience, warmth, and gentleness celebrates the growth of love and trust between a girl and a rescue dog. Expressive, finely detailed art. (4-6)

My Thoughts Have Wings

by Maggie Smith, illustrated by Leanne Hatch
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-321458-3
While a young girl is falling asleep, her mother gently helps her acknowledge and release her worries. Imaginatively painted illustrations digitally assembled. (4-6)

④ Peace on Earth

by Smriti Prasadam-Halls, illustrated by David Litchfield
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-3570-8
A trio of travelers explore an idyllic wilderness and, with love and harmony, settle a fierce dispute. Ink, paint, and digital art in glowing colors. (4-6)

Ready to Soar

written and illustrated by Cori Doerrfeld
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-5936-9672-9
After folding a paper airplane, Riley encounters a series of birds whose unwanted advice keeps getting in the way of a proper liftoff. Cheerful digital illustrations. (3-6)

② Ruffles and the Red, Red Coat (Ruffles series)

written and illustrated by David Melling
(Candlewick Press, \$8.99) 978-1-5362-3767-2
A puppy realizes that the way to play outside in the cold with his friend Ruby is to wear a coat to stay warm. Humorous illustrations in primary colors. (1-3)

④ ② See, Touch, Feel:

Look at Me (See, Touch, Feel series)

created by Roger Priddy
(Priddy Books, \$12.99) 978-1-684-49425-5
Diverse babies and toddlers clap hands, play peekaboo, hug their teddies, and more. Photographs and mixed-media art. Interactive format with mirror. (0-2)

Towed by Toad

written and illustrated by Jashar Awan
(Tundra Books/Tundra/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-1-77488-348-8
A young tow truck driver enjoys helping others, but avoids being helped by anyone himself, until he has no choice. Rhyming text. Lively illustrations of various vehicular woes. (3-6)

What Can a Mess Make?

written and illustrated by Bee Johnson
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-90024-1
Two sisters share a joyful day of art projects, pillow forts, and tea parties. Richly colored flat-style art. (4-6)

④ * You're SO Amazing!

by James Catchpole and Lucy Catchpole, illustrated by Karen George
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-50657-1
One-legged Joe wants to be "Just Joe" to everyone. His friends and perseverance help him see he's both amazing and ordinary, as we all are. Expressive gouache art. Back matter. (4-6)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

④ **Solar Bear**

by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-325173-1
Endangered species around the world take on a mystical glow to reveal the importance of their survival. Rhyming text with haunting mixed-media art. Back matter, including conservation resources. (4-6)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Animals

④ **Nature's Architects (Little Nature Explorers series)**

by Amber Hendricks, illustrated by Gavin Scott
(Amicus Ink, \$9.99) 978-1-68152-926-4
Beavers, ants, and other creatures design different styles of homes that help protect their young. Poetic text. Clear supportive illustrations. (3-5)

* **Sleepy: Surprising Ways Animals Snooze**

by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Robin Page
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-6659-3510-4
Lively rhyming text and fascinating facts introduce readers to the amazing slumber styles of 17 animals. Vibrant digital art. Back matter. (4-6)

The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants

written and illustrated by Philip Bunting
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-56778-4
Humorous text and vibrant animated graphics depict the life cycle and social behavior of ants. (4-6)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

Forest

written and illustrated by Christie Matheson
(Princeton Architectural Press/Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-2849-5
Rhymed verse and soft watercolor textures depict plants, animals, and other aspects of nature in the peace and quiet of a woodland environment. (3-6)

④ **A Tree Is a Community (Books for a Better Earth series)**

by David L. Harrison, illustrated by Kate Cosgrove
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-5558-4
Exuberant verse and digitally enhanced drawings depict a tree's role in its ecosystem. (3-6)