



FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

Beatrice Bly's Rules for Spies:**Mystery Goo (Beatrice Bly's Rules for Spies series)**

by Sue Fliess, illustrated by Beth Mills
(Pixel + Ink, \$17.99) 978-6459-5061-5

When Beatrice, using her detective skills with her sidekick, Nora, discovers the source of a sticky substance on her table, could it become their winning school project? Animated illustrations. (5-8)

 Climb On!

by Baptiste Paul, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara
(NorthSouth Books/NordSüd Verlag, \$17.95)
978-0-7358-4481-0

A dad asks, "Are we there yet?" as his energetic daughter leads the way on a tropical forest hike. Includes Creole terms. Vibrant illustrations lend authenticity to the Caribbean setting. (4-7)

*** Finding Fire**

written and illustrated by Logan S. Kline
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1302-7
A young boy in prehistoric times sets out in search of fire. Mixed-media illustrations beautifully tell a wordless story full of challenges and friendship. (5-8)

A Kitten in Gooseberry Park (Gooseberry Park series)

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-9450-3
Good friends Labrador Kona, hermit crab Gwendolyn, and bat Murray help a bobcat kitten find his family after rain sweeps him down the mountain. Cartoony black-and-white spot illustrations. (7-9)

**Monsters in the Briny**

by Lynn Becker, illustrated by Scott Brundage
(Sleeping Bear Press/Cherry Lake Publishing Group,
\$17.99) 978-1-53411-149-3
Sing along to the tune of the sea shanty "Drunken Sailor" as young adventurers strive to survive encounters with various marine creatures. Watercolor illustrations. Sheet music included. (7-10)

**Our Friend Hedgehog:****A Place to Call Home (Our Friend Hedgehog series)**

written and illustrated by Lauren Castillo
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$17.99) 978-1-5247-6674-0

When Hedgehog meets creatures just like herself, she learns that she's meant to hibernate. But will she choose to leave old friends behind? Colorful illustrations of the natural world. (5-8)

Animals

Hot Dog

written and illustrated by Doug Salati
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$18.99) 978-0-593-30843-1

A little dachshund with a big personality ventures out for a refreshing day at the beach. Expressive illustrations appear in panels and full-page spreads. (5-7)

Beginning Reader

Am I a Frog? (I Like to Read series)

written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell
(Holiday House, \$15.99) 978-0-8234-5078-7
A simple, clear introduction to the way a tadpole turns into a frog. Calming blue and green watercolor and digital illustrations. (4-6)

Billy & Rose:**Forever Friends (Billy & Rose series)**

by Amy Hest, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1419-2
Billy, an industrious sheep, and Rose, a playful pig, are best buddies who both challenge and inspire each other but always end up compromising. Lively, humorous illustrations. (6-8)

Cornbread & Poppy (Cornbread and Poppy series)

written and illustrated by Matthew Cordell
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$15.99)
978-0-7595-5487-0
Two very different endearing friends have an adventure as winter approaches. Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations add detail to the story. (5-7)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range



Fish and Wave (I Can Read! Comics series)

written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-307667-9

Fish befriends a little wave. When it grows, Fish is scared, but later happily rides along. Pastel illustrations. (4-6)

D Gigi and Ojiji (I Can Read! series)

written and illustrated by Melissa Iwai
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-320806-3
A biracial girl, eagerly awaiting her Japanese grandfather's arrival, is initially nonplussed by cultural differences and a language barrier. How will they connect? Bright, cheery illustrations. (5-8)



Maddie and Mabel (Maddie and Mabel series)

by Kari Allen, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss
(Kind World Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-63894-002-9
Two sisters navigate their relationship and learn the power of imagination, play, and forgiveness. Digital art. (5-7)

Make Way for Fenway! series

- **Fenway and the Bone Thieves** (978-0-593-40692-2)
- **Fenway and the Frisbee Trick** (978-0-593-40695-3)

by Victoria J. Coe, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, P \$5.99)
Fenway, a loveable dog with a playful, yet persistent personality, has many adventures. Accessible text with heart and humor. Black-and-white illustrations. (5-8)

Monsters in a Mess (Red Truck Monsters series)

by Candice Ransom, illustrated by Tyrell Solomon
(Simon Spotlight/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0171-0
A messy family cleans up to make room for a pet goldfish. Will their tidy ways continue? Rhyming text. Playful illustrations. (5-7)

Concept Books

D A Is for Bee:

An Alphabet Book in Translation

written and illustrated by Ellen Heck
(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-127-2
Well-known animals portrayed in bold stylized digital illustrations are identified in different languages. Web-based pronunciation guide. (6-9)



Brown Is Beautiful

by Supriya Kelkar, illustrated by Noor Sofi
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-38952-9

A celebration of the color brown in its many shades, as it appears in nature and people. Warm illustrations show a range of skin tones. (4-7)



Home Is Where the Birds Sing

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Katie Harnett
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-4957-2
Expressive, brightly colored illustrations and simple text explore the experiences and love that make a place a home. (5-8)

**Meanwhile Back on Earth...:
Finding Our Place through Time and Space**

written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
(Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$24.99)
978-0-593-62152-3
Snapshot-like views from the cosmos of earthly conflicts of the past are presented in reverse chronological order. Jewel-like illustrations. Solar system map. Time line. (7-9)



My Self, Your Self

written and illustrated by Esmé Shapiro
(Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-1-7788-023-4
A woodland creature shares the many qualities that make us unique, while appreciating similarities and differences. Question and answer format. Pen, watercolor, and digital illustrations. (5-8)

D Not So Small

by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Paola Escobar
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-284744-7
A powerful message about each person's role in improving the world, both individually and with others. Joyful illustrations depict a diverse community. (5-8)

The Path

written and illustrated by Bob Staake
(minedition/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-6626-5063-5
Dramatic landscapes depicted in a variety of intense and soft colors reflect the twists and turns that everyone will face on the journey of life. Figurative language. (6-8)



The Sea in the Way

written and illustrated by Sophie Gilmore
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-302519-6

Badger resents the sea for keeping him and his friend Bear far apart. But the sea teaches Badger that closeness and distance need not be mutually exclusive. Gentle watercolor and ink illustrations. (6-8)

Contemporary Issues

D Abdul's Story

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose

(Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6298-4

Abdul, a dark-skinned boy who loves storytelling but struggles with writing, is assured by an author visiting the school that it is OK to make mistakes. Colorful digital illustrations. (5-8)



Bear in the Family

by Eric Walters, illustrated by Olga Barinova
(Orca Echoes/Orca Book Publishers, P \$7.95)
978-1-4598-3297-8

After a wildfire, a multiracial family finds an orphaned bear cub and cares for it until it can be placed in a wildlife sanctuary. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)



Beauty Woke

by NoNieqa Ramos, illustrated by Paola Escobar
(Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99)
978-0-358-00841-5

When Puerto Rican Beauty experiences racism and loses her sense of self-worth, her family steps in to empower her. Told in a mix of Spanish and English. Bold illustrations. (6-8)



The Coat

by Séverine Vidal, illustrated by Louis Thomas
(Flyaway Books, \$18.00) 978-1-947-88838-8
Elise can't wait to get a coveted hand-me-down red coat. Then she sees a mother and child who have no coats. What to do? Stylized watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

D The Coquíes Still Sing

by Karina Nicole González, illustrated by Krystal Quiles
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$18.99)
978-1-250-78718-7

When Category 4 Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico, the community rebuilt neighborhoods and restored habitats. Vibrant, mixed-media illustrations. Extensive back matter. Also available in Spanish. (5-8)



A History of Me

by Adrea Theodore, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson
(Neal Porter/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-4257-7

The only brown girl in her class, demeaned by her peers because of her race, gains perspective and pride from her mother's stories about their female ancestors. Animated color illustrations. (7-10)

D Loujain Dreams of Sunflowers

by Lina Al-Hathloul and Uma Mishra-Newbery,
illustrated by Rebecca Green
(minedition/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-6626-5064-2

With her parents' support, determined Loujain overcomes her society's limitations and learns to fly as boys do. Immersive gouache illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

D Miss Rita, Mystery Reader

by Sam Donovan and Kristen Wixted, illustrated by Violet Tobacco
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-1-250-77476-7

Tori, a nonbinary young child, is excited but feels uncertain while helping their dad, a drag queen, prepare costumes and makeup to be the class mystery reader. Colorful digital illustrations. (5-7)

D On This Airplane

by Lourdes Heuer, illustrated by Sara Palacios
(Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Random House of
Canada, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6860-9

A family emigrates by plane, along with many others who travel for different purposes. Gouache, cut paper, and digital illustrations deepen the text. (5-7)



D Standing in the Need of Prayer:

A Modern Retelling of the Classic Spiritual

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison

(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-05933-0634-5

Journey through more than 400 years of Black History, from enslavement to the Black Lives Matter movement, by way of this popular spiritual. Rich oil illustrations. (7-9)

D The Talk

by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchendu

(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9529-6

Jay, excited about growing older, has the difficult conversation with his family about growing up Black in a racist society. Digital illustrations. (6-9)

This Will Pass

by J. Donnini, illustrated by Luke Scriven (Bushel & Peck Books, \$17.99) 978-1-63819-089-9

A great-uncle helps tame his timid great-nephew's anxiety about storms by explaining that they are temporary. Full-page watercolor and gouache illustrations. (6-8)

D The Tree of Hope:

The Miraculous Rescue of Puerto Rico's Beloved Banyan

by Anna Orenstein-Cardona, illustrated by Juan Manuel Moreno

(Beaming Books/1517 Media, \$18.99) 978-1-50648-409-9

A beloved, ancient tree is brought back to life by the people of San Juan after Hurricane Maria hits Puerto Rico in 2017. Realistic illustrations. (6-8)

Family/School/Community

D Abuelita and I Make Flan

written and illustrated by Adriana Hernández Bergstrom (Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354-265-8

While preparing flan for Abuelito's birthday, Anita accidentally breaks her grandmother's special plate. How will she tell Abuelita? Includes Spanish words and phrases. Bright, playful illustrations. Back matter includes a recipe. (5-8)

D All from a Walnut

by Ammi-Joan Paquette, illustrated by Felicita Sala (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5002-1
Emilia's immigrant grandfather guides her in carrying on their Italian family's tradition of growing a walnut tree from a single walnut. Comforting green, ochre, and brown illustrations. (5-7)

D Alone Like Me

written and illustrated by Rebecca Evans (Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-18192-8
Liling, taunted and lonely when her parents move from a rural area to an urban environment in China, finds solace through an unexpected friendship. Muted watercolor illustrations. Author's note. (5-8)

D Amah Faraway

by Margaret Chiu Greanias, illustrated by Tracy Subisak (Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99) 978-1-5476-0721-1

It's time to visit Amah in Taipei, but Kylie has doubts; everything there is so different. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. Information on Taipei sights and foods. (5-8)

D * Anna Hibiscus

by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-2519-8
Lively pencil drawings burgeon with the exuberant spirit of Anna's childhood in a busy Nigerian city. (6-9)

The Baker by the Sea

written and illustrated by Paula White (Templar Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2389-7

A boy dreams of becoming a brave fisherman, but comes to value his father's job as a baker in their seaside English village. Evocative pencil and ink illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)

D * The Best Kind of Mooncake

written and illustrated by Pearl AuYeung (Page Street Kids/Page Street, \$18.99) 978-1-64567-556-3

In Hong Kong, a starving stranger staggers into a family's market stall, and the young girl there gives him her prized mooncake. Will this act of kindness be rewarded? Digital illustrations. (6-9)

**Big Truck Little Island**

written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0393-6
When a big rig carrying a surprise slips off an island's only road, it takes everyone's cooperation to work around the stuck truck. Bright gouache illustrations. (5-8)

The Bird Feeder

by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Dorothy Leung (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0483-5
A girl places her bird feeder on a tree outside her ailing grandmother's hospice window so they can continue to bird-watch together. Digital illustrations with a calming palette. (5-8)

D * Black Gold

by Laura Obuobi, illustrated by London Ladd (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-301576-0
Lyrical text and rich atmospheric collage illustrations celebrate the Universe's love for Black children. (5-7)

D Black-Eyed Peas and Hoghead Cheese: A Story of Food, Family, and Freedom

by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Steffi Walthall (Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-48614-6
A Black girl, visiting her Louisiana grandmother, helps prepare a traditional New Year's feast, learning how each dish connects to African American history. Color illustrations. Sources. Praline recipe included. (7-10)

The Boy Who Loved Maps

by Kari Allen, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-5230-4
When a girl requests a map of "the perfect place" from a young mapmaker, he discovers another way to look at the world. Gouache and pencil illustrations. Back matter. (6-8)

D The Comet

written and illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton (Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, \$16.99) 978-1-83874-065-8
Nyla mourns her old home when she and her dad move to the city. One night, a comet inspires her to find connections to both places. Richly hued illustrations. (4-7)

D  Dadaji's Paintbrush

by Rashmi Sirdeshpande, illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane (Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-172-2
When his artist grandfather dies, a boy stops painting until a little girl persuades him to use his skills again. Soft mixed-media illustrations evoke a Goan village. (5-7)

D Dance the Hora, Isadora

by Gloria Koster, illustrated by Barbara Bongini (Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House Publishers, \$17.95) 978-1-68115-587-6
Her ballet classmates have all shared their favorite dances, but Isadora doesn't have one. Will she discover it at her cousin's wedding? Animated bold color illustrations capture the traditional Jewish circle dance. (5-8)

*** A Day for Sandcastles**

by JonArno Lawson, illustrated by Qin Leng (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0842-9
At the beach, three siblings decide to build and then rebuild their sandcastle each time a wave comes in to wash it away. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

D  * Eyes That Speak to the Stars

by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-305775-3
When a Chinese American boy is hurt by a classmate's stereotypical drawing of his eyes, his father helps him see all the ways their eyes are wonderful. Joyful illustrations. (5-7)

*** Farmhouse**

written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-52894-8
Lyrical verse introduces a farmhouse where a loving family's 12 children grew up. Multilayered illustrations embedded with artifacts from the house that Blackall now owns. (5-8)

D  * The Flamingo

written and illustrated by Guojing (Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-12731-5
A young girl visiting her Chinese grandmother is mesmerized by a pink feather and the tales her Lao Lao tells, inspiring her to create her own stories. Photoshop, watercolor, and colored pencil illustrations. (5-8)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

D Francis Discovers Possible

by Ashlee Latimer, illustrated by Shahrzad Maydani (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4910-0
When classmates call Francis fat, she is upset until her father helps her to realize the possible, positive aspects of life. Dreamy soft pastel and watercolor illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)

D Friends Are Friends, Forever

by Dane Liu, illustrated by Lynn Scurfield (Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-77818-5
When her family moves from China to America, Dandan must leave her very best friend. Will she find a new one? Mixed-media collage illustrations. (5-7)

D * Gibberish

written and illustrated by Young Vo (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-110-4
An all-new country, school, and language baffle Dat until a friendly classmate teaches him a few words. Flat black-and-white illustrations burst into color as Dat's comprehension expands. (5-8)

**D * Hold Them Close:
A Love Letter to Black Children**

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Patrick Dougher and photographed by Jamel Shabazz (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-303617-8
Verse, photographs, collage, and gold-leaf illustrations celebrate Blackness, inspiring pride and joy. (5-8)

I Don't Care

by Julie Fogliano, illustrated by Molly Idle and Juana Martinez-Neal (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4345-1
Rhyming text and limited-palette illustrations portray a developing friendship between two children who "don't care" about their differences and embrace their similarities. (5-7)

D I'll Go and Come Back

by Rajani LaRocca, illustrated by Sara Palacios (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0717-0
On a trip to India, Jyoti finds it difficult to communicate with her grandmother until they begin to play, read, and cook together. Warmly patterned digital art. (4-7)

D It's So Difficult

written and illustrated by Raúl Nieto Guridi, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel (Eerdmans, \$17.99) 978-0-8028-5584-8
Counting and calculating soothe a nonverbal child whose daily routine feels noisy and chaotic. White text on black backgrounds and scratchy drawings evoke the child's emotions. (7-9)

*** John's Turn**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Kate Berube (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0395-0
It's John's turn to present at Friday assembly, and he's nervous. Will the other students like his ballet recital or make fun of him? Ink and paint illustrations. (5-8)

D  The Katha Chest

by Radhiah Chowdhury, illustrated by Lavanya Naidu (Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0390-5
When Asiya visits her grandmother, she loves exploring all the quilts that depict their family stories. Bold textured illustrations bring the tales alive. Author's note. (5-8)

The Little House of Hope

by Terry Catasús Jennings, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4716-9
Born in Cuba, Esperanza (Hope in Spanish) helps her family embrace the relatives and friends who share their small U.S. house. Soft colored pencil and watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

D Madani's Best Game

by Fran Pintadera, illustrated by Raquel Catalina, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel (Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$17.99) 978-0-8028-5597-8
Madani, the best player on the soccer team though he plays barefoot, has a plan to get new cleats. Illustrations portray athletic bodies in motion. (6-8)

D Making Happy

by Sheetal Sheth, illustrated by Khoa Le (Barefoot Books, \$17.99) 978-1-64686-622-9
Leila's family and schoolmates find a way to lift her spirits when her mother gets sick. Expressive, intricately patterned illustrations intensify a range of emotions. Author's and illustrator's notes. (5-8)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

*

Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6)

Age Range

D **Mama's Home**

by Shay Youngblood, illustrated by Lo Harris
(Make Me A World/Random House Children's Books/
PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-18022-8

While a mother is working away from home, a young Black child lives with seven different families each week, being nurtured by them all. Bold digital illustrations. (6-8)

D **Me and the Boss:
A Story about Mending and Love**

by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by April Harrison
(Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-31067-0

Lee, a younger brother with a bossy older sister, uses his hard-learned sewing skills to fix her stuffed bear and win her love. Mixed-media illustrations. Project instructions. (4-6)

D **Mommy's Hometown**

by Hope Lim, illustrated by Jaime Kim
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1332-4

The urbanized Korea that a child encounters on his first visit there doesn't match the nostalgic stories his mother has told him. But some things remain the same. Evocative illustrations. (5-7)

D * **My Beautiful Voice**

by Joseph Coehlo, illustrated by Allison Colpoys
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$12.99)
978-1-68464-469-8

A young child, shy, fearful, and silent, finds her poetic voice with the support of her very special teacher. Energetic, vibrant illustrations. (4-7)

My Brother Is Away

by Sara Greenwood, illustrated by Luisa Uribe
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-12716-2

A six-year-old girl recounts her anger and confusion over her brother's imprisonment as well as her joy at their reunion. Based on the author's childhood experiences. Genteel Photoshop-rendered graphics. (5-8)

D * **My Hands Tell a Story**

by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Tonya Engel
(Reycraft Books, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-7061-6

A little Black girl listens to the stories her grandmother's hands tell as she and her grandmother bake cinnamon bread together. Oil paint illustrations.

D **My Paati's Saris**

by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Art Twink
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32460-8

A young South Asian Indian child helps their beloved paati (grandmother) prepare for and celebrate a day at the market. Vibrant illustrations. (5-7)

D * **Nana, Nenek & Nina**

written and illustrated by Liza Ferneyhough
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35394-3

Nina loves to visit her grandmothers in England and in Malaysia and to experience the differences and similarities between the two places. Warm mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

Nervous Nigel

written and illustrated by Bethany Christou
(Templar Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99)
978-1-5362-2386-6

Can crocodile Nigel follow his own path without disappointing his family of swimming champions who have entered him in a contest? Colorful mixed-media illustrations humorously encapsulate dialogues. (5-8)

D **The Notebook Keeper:****A Story of Kindness from the Border**

by Stephen Briseño, illustrated by Magdalena Mora
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30705-2

A refugee writes down the names of families seeking asylum at the U.S./Mexico border, and a little girl learns kindness can exist anywhere. Mixed-media illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (6-9)

D **Rosa's Song**

by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Pascal Campion
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37549-5

Playful watercolor illustrations capture the mixed sadness and joy of a boy who is new to a country and highlight the power of friendship. (5-8)

Rosie and the Pre-loved Dress

written and illustrated by Leanne Hatch
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35448-3

Finding a beautiful yellow dress at the thrift shop, Rosie imagines what the girl who once owned it did while she was wearing it. Digital illustrations with hand-painted



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

Sal Boat (A Boat by Sal)

written and illustrated by Thyra Heder
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5750-1
Sal sets sail in a houseboat he created out of scraps
and gumption, uniting his skeptical seaside town
community. Watercolor art. (5-8)

 The Secret of the Jade Bangle (Nguyen Kids series)

by Linda Trinh, illustrated by Clayton Nguyen
(Annick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-77321-715-4
Grandma Nội left gifts for each of her grandchildren.
Anne discovers her gift just might help her make a
place for herself in a community that is not always
welcoming. Digital black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

 *** Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls (Too Small Tola series)**

by Atinuke, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-1-5362-2517-4
Tola is a great help to her family in Lagos, Nigeria,
because although she's small, her wits and
determination aren't. Detailed black-and-white
illustrations. (6-8)

*** The Treasure Box**

by Dave Keane, illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell
(G. P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-1-9846-1318-3
Colorful, realistic illustrations—scanned handmade
textures digitally collaged—and simple text depict
the special bond between a young girl and her
grandparents. (5-7)

*** The Tunnel**

by Sarah Howden, illustrated by
Erika Rodriguez Medina
(Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-427-6
A young boy's sorrow is rendered in mostly greyscale
illustrations and poignantly simple text, showing how
healing is incremental and different for everyone. (5-8)

 Uncle John's City Garden

by Bernette G. Ford, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4786-2
Having permission to garden a city lot, Uncle John's two
nieces and nephew help him there, from plowing and
planting to harvesting and eating. Oil and spray-painted
illustrations. (6-9)

 Walter Had a Best Friend

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's
Publishing/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-7700-1
Walter and Xavier are best friends, until one day Xavier
finds a new pal. Will Walter find a new best friend, too?
Subtle pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

 *** When the Wind Came**

by Jan Andrews, illustrated by Dorothy Leung
(Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0339-5
After a destructive tornado, a family heals together
through the power of love. Pencil and paint art supports
the emotion of the story. (5-8)

 With Lots of Love

by Jenny Torres Sanchez, illustrated by André Ceolin
(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-20500-6
When Rocio moves to the United States, she misses her
grandmother, but is thrilled by a wonderful birthday
present from Abuela: a star piñata. Vibrant digital
illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (4-7)

 *** The World Belonged to Us**

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Leo Espinosa
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$18.99) 978-0-399-54549-8
Joyful illustrations capture the energy of 1970s
Brooklyn, where children on summer vacation create
a model diverse community. Based on the author's
reminiscences. Nostalgic and inspirational. (5-8)

 *** The Year We Learned to Fly**

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$18.99) 978-0-399-54553-5
An African American grandmother advises her
grandchildren to learn from their ancestors and use
their imaginations to cope with challenges. Colorful
mixed-media illustrations. Author's note. (5-7)



Fantasy

The Bird Coat

by Inger Marie Kjøldtadmyr, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter, translated from the Norwegian by Kari Dickson (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-366-1 Flying is Pierre's greatest wish, and wearing the special coat he has fashioned, he dares to spread his "wings" and takes off. This tale, with its predictable solemn ending, is written in a quirky, fantastical manner. (7-10)

How to Eat a Book

written and illustrated by Mrs. & Mr. MacLeod (Union Square Kids, \$17.99) 978-1-4549-4544-4 Zany illustrations complement the hilarious and only slightly scary story of the three Grunion children who are literally consumed by their books. Offbeat fun! (5-7)

Impossible Moon

by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Tonya Engel (Denene Millner Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-53447-897-8

African American Mable wants to help her Grana get better, visiting constellations with African backstories and trying to touch the moon. Swirling acrylic and oil paintings. Explanatory back matter. (6-9)

Lizzy and the Cloud

written and illustrated by the Fan Brothers (Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-8317-0

A young girl diligently cares for her pet cloud. When it grows too big, she knows she must let it go. But can she say goodbye? Digital illustrations. (5-8)

Marco Polo: Brave Explorer (Book Buddies series)

by Cynthia Lord, illustrated by Stephanie Graegin (Candlewick Press, \$12.99) 978-1-5362-1355-3

First sleepover jitters are overcome by interracial friendship and tiny talking toys. Expressive black-and-white digital artwork adds to the fun. (6-8)

* Monsters in the Fog

written and illustrated by Ali Bahrapour (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-5245-2 Things aren't always what they seem! Donkey Hakim perseveres in his journey to visit his friend despite warnings of monsters along the way. Charming pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

* Maybe:

A Mindfulness Tale

adapted from a traditional folktale, illustrated by various artists (Bushel & Peck Books, \$15.99) 978-1-63819-101-8 When a farmer's friends have different reactions to his various fortunes or misfortunes, he wisely withholds judgement. Vintage artwork including Japanese woodblock prints. (7-10)

The Song of the Nightingale

by Tanya Landman, illustrated by Laura Carlin (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1768-1 Rich, lyrical prose and lively mixed-media illustrations bring to life a fable of how the animals got their colors and the nightingale got its song. (6-9)

* The Three Billy Goats Gruff

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-67384-5

Two goats cross a hungry troll's bridge without being eaten by tricking him into believing that the next goat will be even larger and tastier. Muted, dramatic mixed-media art. (5-8)

Told and Retold:

Around the World with Aesop's Fables

retold and illustrated by Holly Berry (Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-35152-9

Collaged linoleum block prints on colored paper support and extend "The Ants and the Grasshopper," "The Lion and the Mouse," and other tales collected from many regions. (6-9)

Historical Fiction

The Chocolate King

by Michael Leventhal, illustrated by Laura Catalán, recipe by Claudia Roden (Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House, \$17.95) 978-1-68115-582-1

In 1630 Benjamin's Jewish family escapes to France from Spain with only their hot chocolate recipe and some chocolate beans. Detailed color illustrations. (7-9)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

D  **Magnolia Flower**

by Zora Neale Hurston, adapted by Ibram X. Kendi, illustrated by Loveis Wise
(Amistad Books/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-309831-2

In this poetic retelling of a love story between members of an escaped enslaved community, a father tries to stop his daughter from marrying. Lush digital illustrations. (7-10)

D **Me and Muhammad Ali**

by Jabari Asim, illustrated by AG Ford
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-388-1

Ali's eloquent language and goodness of heart combine with athletic grace and skill to inspire a young boy and his community. Acrylic and colored pencil illustrations. (6-9)

D **Yossel's Journey**

by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Johnson Yazzie
(Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-176-7
When his family, fleeing from anti-Jewish pogroms in Russia, settles near a Navajo reservation in the American Southwest, Yossel finds a friend and shares cultural differences. Evocative painterly illustrations. (6-9)

D **Zhang Heng and the Incredible Earthquake Detector**

written and illustrated by Randel McGee
(Familius, \$17.99) 978-1-64170-168-6
In 132 CE, a Chinese scientist invents a device that shows the direction from which an earthquake originated. Vivid illustrations evoke traditional Chinese puppet theater. (6-9)

Holidays and Religion

D  **Mr. Mintz's Blintzes**

by Leslie Kimmelman, illustrated by Esther Hernando
(Apples & Honey Press/Behrman House, \$17.95)
978-1-68115-589-0

When beloved Mr. Mintz is injured and can't make his famous blintzes for Shavuot, his neighbors show their gratitude and love for him. Colorful, whimsical illustrations. Recipe included. (5-8)

D  **Raquela's Seder**

by Joel Edward Stein, illustrated by Sara Ugolotti
(Kar-Ben Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-72842-429-3
A Passover seder celebrated during the Inquisition gives special meaning to freedom, hope, and possibility. Historical back matter. Warm, sensitive illustrations. (5-7)

D  * **Snow Horses:
A First Night Story**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Micha Archer
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$18.99)
978-1-5344-7355-3

In a snow-covered countryside, a horse-drawn sleigh picks up young and old for a joyous community New Year's Eve celebration. Collage and ink capture sparkling wintry landscapes. (5-7)

D **A Sweet New Year for Ren**

by Michelle Sterling, illustrated by Dung Ho
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-9660-6
Ren is finally old enough to participate in making her favorite Lunar New Year dessert, the pineapple cake. Vivid illustrations bring a New Year feast alive. Recipe included. (5-8)

Humor

 **Creepy Crayon!**

by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown
(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99)
978-1-5344-6588-6

Because Jasper Rabbit would rather play than do his schoolwork, he's failing. Then a magic crayon helps him get all the right answers. Sinister greyscale and purple illustrations. (5-8)

Every Dog in the Neighborhood

by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Matthew Cordell
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-4427-4

Louis wants a dog, but his grandmother claims there are already enough dogs in the neighborhood. His survey leads to many surprises. Humorous animated illustrations. (5-8)



How Old Is Mr. Tortoise?

by Dev Petty, illustrated by Ruth Chan
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4670-3
Animal friends insist on knowing Mr. Tortoise's age, but he's more interested in getting to the cake. Lighthearted illustrations. (5-7)



I DID See a Mammoth!

written and illustrated by Alex Willmore
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$14.99)
978-1-68464-511-4
Colorful, cartoon-like illustrations depict a youngster convinced he's seen a mammoth while exploring the Antarctic. Will the grown-ups believe him? (6-9)

* I Want to Be a Vase

by Julio Torres, illustrated by Julian Glander
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99)
978-1-53-449390-2
A toilet plunger becomes his true self, encouraging other home furnishings to do the same. Vibrant digital art adds to the outrageous fun. (4-7)



Kat Hats

by Daniel Pinkwater, illustrated by Aaron Renier
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5194-3
Cats that keep people's (and witches') heads warm? Zany antics, a white dad, a brown mom and children, and many felines fill the vivid over-the-top gouache paintings. (7-10)

D People Are Wild

written and illustrated by Margaux Meganck
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30194-4
Animal children query their parents about the diverse humans they see and are warned not to get too close to the people! Color pencil and watercolor illustrations. Back matter. (4-6)



Too Pig to Fail (A Batpig Book series)

written and illustrated by Rob Harrell
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$14.99)
978-0593-35420-9
With his sidekicks and quick wits, Batpig faces new villains. Colorful cartoon illustrations. (7-10)

Magical Realism

Witch Hazel

written and illustrated by Molly Idle
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99)
978-0-316-54113-8
With a magical whisk of her broom, elderly Hazel shares years of happy memories with young Hilda. Effervescent fine-line white-on-beige illustrations. (5-8)

Sports



* The Legend of Gravity:

A Tall Basketball Tale

written and illustrated by Charly Palmer
(Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-31328-9
This tall tale of a neighborhood basketball team's amazing season celebrates teamwork, unsung heroes, and the joy of nicknames. Dreamlike acrylic art. (6-9)



We Play Soccer/Jugamos al fútbol (My Friend/Mi Amigo series)

by René Colato Laínez, illustrated by Nomar Perez
(Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4506-6
English-speaking Joe and Spanish-speaking José converse with one another as they enjoy their soccer game. The bilingual text supports learning words in each language. Bold, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)



* Poo-Dunit?:

A Forest Floor Mystery

by Katelyn Aronson, illustrated by Stephanie Laberis
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1637-0
Who deposited the smelly droppings outside a mouse's burrow? Rhyming text exposes several possible suspects. Humorous animation-style illustrations. Back matter includes a mystery to solve. (5-7)

POETRY

 **All You Need**

by Howard Schwartz, illustrated by Jasu Hu
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)
978-0-8234-4329-1

A girl from China grows into an accomplished artist mindful of the small but important things in life. Soft watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

 *** Away with Words!:****Wise and Witty Poems for Language Lovers**

by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Perry Hoberman
(Megan Tingley Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette,
\$18.99) 978-0-316-16765-9

Clever rhymes deliver surprisingly sophisticated grammar and punctuation rules with panache, heart, and humor. Playful pencil and pen drawings. (7-10)

Counting in Dog Years and Other Sassy Math Poems

by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Priscilla Tey
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0116-1

In poetic form, concepts of geometry, arithmetic, and puzzles are playfully woven into the stanzas. Colorful, imaginative gouache illustrations. (6-8)

 *** Free at Last:****A Juneteenth Poem**

by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic
(Union Square Kids, \$17.99) 978-1-4549-4374-7

A celebration of Juneteenth, the 1865 announcement in Galveston, Texas, of emancipation from slavery, is depicted through a free verse poem and poignant oil illustrations. (6-9)

 *** Out of this World:****Star-Studded Haiku**

by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Matthew Trueman
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0356-1

Explore the universe one haiku at a time and discover stars, moons, eclipses, asteroids, and more, as you've never seen them before. Mixed-media illustrations. Extensive back matter. (7-10)

 **Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

by Robert Frost, illustrated by P. J. Lynch
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2914-1

Atmospheric gouache and watercolor illustrations depict a brave young girl traveling through snowy woods on horseback at night, giving this classic, century-old poem a new interpretation. (5-8)

 *** You Are the Loveliest**

by Hans Hagen and Monique Hagen, illustrated by Marit Törnqvist, translated from the Dutch by David Colmer

(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-128-9

Detailed mixed-media illustrations accompany rhyming and free verse poems written to express the words and thoughts of a little girl experiencing her world. (5-7)

 *** Zoobilations!:****Animal Poems and Paintings**

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6590-9

Whimsical pun-filled rhymed poems with childlike watercolor illustrations describe a collection of animals. (5-8)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Activities

My Big Book of Outdoors

written and illustrated by Tim Hopgood
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick, \$19.99)
978-1-5362-1533-5

Enjoy four seasons of information, poetry, activities, and recipes. Colorful, appealing mixed-media illustrations. (7-10)

Arts

 **Eighteen Vats of Water**

by Ji-Li Jiang, illustrated by Nadia Hsieh
(Creston Books, \$18.99) 978-1-954354-06-7

Renowned fourth-century Chinese calligrapher Xian followed his father's style and work ethic from age six, but he also developed his own artistic style. Evocative ink and digital illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

Marcel's Masterpiece:**How a Toilet Shaped the History of Art**

written and illustrated by Jeff Mack
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99)
978-1-250-77716-4

Playful illustrations and humorous puns work hand in hand to explain the Dada art movement in an accessible way. (5-8)

**Mr. McCloskey's Marvelous Mallards:
The Making of *Make Way For Ducklings***

by Emma Bland Smith, Becca Stadtlander
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-63592-392-6

After many revisions, a renowned author and illustrator discovered the best way to draw his unforgettable ducklings. Original sketches and humorous colorful illustrations. Includes comments from Jane McCloskey and an author's note. (7-10)

 *The Night before the Nutcracker* (American Ballet Theatre Presents series)

by John Robert Allman, illustrated by Julianna Swaney
(Doubleday BFYR/Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-18091-4

Excitement builds as a diverse cast of child and adult dancers prepare for opening night of a classic holiday ballet. Dreamlike color illustrations. Rhymed text. (7-10)

Biography and Memoir

 *Annette Feels Free:****The True Story of Annette Kellerman, World-Class Swimmer, Fashion Pioneer, and Real-Life Mermaid***

written and illustrated by Katie Mazeika
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children's
Publishing/S & S), \$18.99) 978-1-6659-0343-1

Colorful digital illustrations capture the life of a forward-thinking feminist swimmer who achieved fame after overcoming a childhood disability. Back matter and resources. (5-8)

Bobby:***A Story of Robert F. Kennedy***

by Deborah Wiles, illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh
(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-0-545-17123-6

The family "runt" as a youth, Kennedy evolved into an inspirational political figure of the late 1960s. Soft evocative drawings. (7-10)

*** *Celia Planted a Garden:******The Story of Celia Thaxter and Her Island Garden***

by Phyllis Root and Gary D. Schmidt, illustrated by
Melissa Sweet

(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0429-2
Colorful illustrations gloriously evoke the seacoast setting of the garden created by the 19th-century New England painter and poet. Time line and extensive sourcing. (6-9)

Courage Like Kate:***The True Story of a Girl Lighthouse Keeper***

by Anne Crowley Redding, illustrated by Emily Sutton
(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37340-8

From age 12, Kate assumed her aging father's treacherous job, operating the lighthouse and rescuing shipwrecked sailors. Vivid impressionistic mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

 *Covered in Color:****Christo and Jeanne-Claude's Fabrics of Freedom***

by Elisa Boxer, illustrated by Susanna Chapman
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-5611-5

Christo's childhood under communism influenced his creation of distinctive freestyle art. Colorful illustrations and photos. Back matter. (6-8)

  *Curve & Flow:****The Elegant Vision of L. A. Architect Paul R. Williams***

by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Keith Mallett
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH,
\$18.99) 978-0-593-42907-5

The first certified Black architect west of the Mississippi persisted in his work, with talent and vision, despite racist laws and other setbacks. Digital illustrations highlight Williams's life. Back matter includes photos. (7-10)

 * *The Faith of Elijah Cummings:****The North Star of Equal Justice***

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by
Laura Freeman

(Random House Studio/Random House Children's
Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30650-5

Despite facing many childhood obstacles, Cummings joined the civil rights movement as a teen, went to law school, and became a congressman. Bold digital realistic illustrations. (5-8)

The Gardener of Alcatraz: A True Story

by Emma Bland Smith, illustrated by Jenn Ely
(Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-62354-160-6

When Elliott Michener, convicted counterfeiter, was assigned to work as a prison gardener, he discovered his passion and found redemption. Gouache and digital illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

*** Harriet's Ruffled Feathers:****The Woman Who Saved Millions of Birds**

by Joy McCullough, illustrated by Romina Galotta
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-8676-8

Vibrant watercolors depict the story of two 19th-century women and their successful fight to protect birds from being killed for their decorative feathers. Suggested activities and extensive back matter. (6-9)

D I Am Ruby Bridges:**How One Six-Year Old Girl's March to School Changed the World**

by Ruby Bridges, illustrated by Nikkolos Smith
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$18.99)
978-1-338-75388-2

With school segregation banned, Ruby, escorted by federal marshals in 1960, was the first Black student to attend an all-white elementary school. Painted scenes capture watershed moments. Back matter. (6-8)

D Just Like Jesse Owens

by Ambassador Andrew Young as told to Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Gordon C. James
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$17.99)
978-0-545-55465-7

When neighbors shouted "Heil Hitler!" Young's father countered the hate by taking him to a film about the 1936 Olympic champion. Owens has inspired Young ever since. Dramatic pastel illustrations. (7-9)

D A Life of Service:**The Story of Senator Tammy Duckworth**

by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2205-0
Cherishing American ideals, Duckworth prevailed over poverty, the rigors of the military, and the challenge of life as a double amputee. Pencil and digital collage illustrations. (7-9)

**Like a Diamond in the Sky:****Jane Taylor's Beloved Poem of Wonder and the Stars**

by Elizabeth Brown, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander
(Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99)
978-1-5476-0427-2

Struggling in the shadow of male writers, Taylor persevered, becoming one of England's most famous children's poets. Realistic artwork captures the Romantic era setting. Rich back matter. (6-9)

D * Lion Lights:**My Invention That Made Peace with Lions**

by Richard Turere, with Shelly Pollock, illustrated by Sonia Possentini
(Tilbury House, \$18.95) 978-0-88448-885-9

A young Maasai herder/warrior who likes to experiment recalls solving the challenge of saving both his family's cattle and the lions threatening them. Luminous illustrations. Back matter. (6-8)

**Listen:****How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion**

by Shannon Stocker, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-10969-4

Young Evelyn played clarinet and piano with great skill, but she was losing her hearing. Could she have a career in music? Back matter. Mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

*** Marvelous Mabel:****Figure Skating Superstar**

by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Alleanna Harris
(Lee & Low Books, \$20.95) 978-1-62014-956-0
Orphaned at eight in 1923, Mabel Fairbanks taught herself to skate and became America's first Black figure skating star. Colorful evocative illustrations. (7-10)

**Michael Rosen's Sticky McStickstick:****The Friend Who Helped Me Walk Again**

by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Tony Ross
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2532-7
With the support of medical staff and his reliable walking stick, Rosen transitioned from sickness to recovery during the COVID pandemic. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (7-10) Mature content

Mister Rogers' Gift of Music

by Donna Cangelosi, illustrated by Amanda Calatzis
(Page Street Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-64567-470-2
The joyful legacy of Fred Rogers' music is brought to life with gentle text and dreamlike mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

D One Wish:**Fatima al-Fihri and the World's Oldest University**

by M. O. Yuksel, illustrated by Mariam Quraishi
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-303291-0
In 859 CE, an Islamic woman in ancient Morocco created the world's oldest continually functioning university. Watercolor and gouache artwork. Back matter. (6-8)

**D** **A Perfect Fit:****How Lena “Lane” Bryant Changed the Shape of Fashion**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-358-12543-3

The inspiring story of a Lithuanian immigrant’s transformation of the women’s clothing industry is shared with style. Distinctively fashionable mixed-media illustrations on hand-textured paper. Back matter. (7-9)

The Poem Forest:**Poet W. S. Merwin and the Palm Tree Forest He Grew from Scratch**

by Carrie Fountain, illustrated by Chris Turnham (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1126-9

The former poet laureate, who loved wild thoughts and things, planted thousands of palm trees from around the world in Hawaii. Poetic narration and lush art. (7-10)

D  **Where Butterflies Fill the Sky:****A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home**

written and illustrated by Zahra Marwan (Bloomsbury Children’s Books/Bloomsbury, \$18.99)

978-1-5476-0651-1

When her family must leave Kuwait after her father is declared stateless, a young girl wonders if she will ever find home again. Stylized illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

D  **Wonderful Hair:****The Beauty of Annie Malone**

by Eve Nadel Catarevas, illustrated by Felicia Marshall (Creston Books, \$18.99) 978-1-954354-10-4

Annie Malone became the first self-made African American female millionaire by developing and distributing a line of hair and cosmetic products for Black women. Richly detailed illustrations. Back matter. (7-9)

D * **Yes We Will:****Asian Americans Who Shaped This Country**

by Kelly Yang, illustrated by various artists (Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-593-46305-5

The accomplishments and contributions of Kamala Harris, Yo-Yo Ma, I. M. Pei, and 15 other Asian Americans from the fields of science, the arts, history, and politics are celebrated. Vibrant colorful illustrations. Extensive back matter. (4-7)

Ecology

**Honeybee Rescue:
A Backyard Drama**

by Loree Griffin Burns, photographed by Ellen Harasimowicz

(Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-6235-4239-9

Why do bees swarm? How do they build their hives? Find out when Mr. Connery calls a bee rescuer to remove and relocate a colony from his barn. Clear photographs follow the process. Back matter. (5-8)

* **The Late, Great Endlings:****Stories of the Last Survivors**

by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Aimée van Drimmelen

(Orca Book Publishers, \$21.95) 978-1-4598-2766-0

The last known survivors of several species are honored. Includes actions children can take to help combat mass extinction. Large watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

Only One

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Chuck Groenink (Anne Schwartz Books/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-399-55703-3

This clear, succinct narrative introduces the vocabulary of the Earth, the skies, and each person’s place in the universe. Ink and acrylic paint illustrations. (6-8)

Serengeti:**Plains of Grass**

by Leslie Bulion, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Peachtree Publishing, \$18.99) 978-1-68263-191-1

The survival of plant and animal life in delicate balance are described in poetic form taken from Swahili utendi verse. Immersive gouache and pastel artwork. Glossary. Back matter. (6-9)

The Tide Pool Waits

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Amy Hevron (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99)

978-0-8234-4915-6

Myriad inhabitants of a coastal tide pool adapt to the twice-daily dry periods, awaiting the rush of ocean water at high tide. Vibrant illustrations. Comprehensive back matter. (5-7)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

D A Warbler's Journey

by Scott Weidensaul, illustrated by Nancy Lane (Gryphon Press, \$17.99) 978-0-940719-47-7
Join a tiny bird on a perilous 4,000-mile migratory trip to a nesting ground. Detailed, realistic oil illustrations. Back matter includes practical ways to protect the avian world. (5-8)

*** The Wolves of Yellowstone: A Rewilding Story**

by Catherine Barr, illustrated by Jenni Desmond (Bloomsbury Children's Books/Bloomsbury, \$23.99) 978-1-5476-0798-3
When wolves were brought back to Yellowstone Park after an absence of 69 years, the whole balance of nature in the park changed—for the better. Detailed watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

History

**D * Because of You, John Lewis:
The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-75908-2
After ten-year-old Tybre Faw's dream of meeting Congressman John Lewis came true, a friendship grew between the young activist and the civil rights leader. Watercolor illustrations accompany the poetic text. Thorough back matter includes photographs. (6-9)

How Science Saved the Eiffel Tower

by Emma Bland Smith, illustrated by Lisa Visirin (Capstone Editions/Capstone, \$17.99) 978-1-68446-478-4
Gustave Eiffel saved the tower he'd created for the 1889 World's Fair from being dismantled by demonstrating its value for many scientific and technological advances. Digital art. Sources, back matter. (6-9)

*** Jack Knight's Brave Flight:
How One Gutsy Pilot Saved The U.S. Air Mail Service**


by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Stacy Innerst (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-981-1
In 1921, during a blizzard, one courageous pilot took charge for much of the nighttime coast-to-coast route. Text and illustrations in a somber palette capture the drama and danger. Archival photos. Time line. (6-8)

**D  Keepunumuk:
Wee'achumun's Thanksgiving Story**

by Danielle Greendeer, Anthony Perry, and Alexis Bunten, illustrated by Gary Meeches Sr. (Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-62354-290-0
A Wampanoag grandmother relates how her people and guardian spirits made survival possible for the English Pilgrims in Massachusetts 400 years ago. Imaginative illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

**Nellie vs. Elizabeth:
Two Daredevil Journalists' Breakneck Race around the World**


by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-377-2
Two late 19th-century female reporters sped around the globe, each determined to complete the journey first. Acrylic ink and colored pencil illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

**D  Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free:
The True Story of The Grandmother of Juneteenth**

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo (Tommy Nelson/Thomas Nelson, \$17.99) 978-1-4002-3125-6
The history of the end of American slavery is told in the voice of Opal Lee, the grandmother of our newest national holiday, Juneteenth. Digital artwork. Back matter, sourcing. (6-8)

**Revolutionary Prudence Wright:
Leading the Minute Women in the Fight for Independence**

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Susan Reagan (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-64472-057-8
Freedom from British rule wasn't achieved only by men, as shown in this tribute to a courageous female warrior from Pepperell, Massachusetts. Traditional watercolor and digital illustrations. (7-9)

**D  Sweet Justice:
Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Random House Studio/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-5247-2064-3
An early civil rights hero's legendary cooking sustained both the celebrated and the unsung champions of the 1956 Montgomery bus boycott. Painterly artwork. (6-9)



Holidays and Religion

Awe-Some Days:

Poems about the Jewish Holidays

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-593-32469-1

A family celebrates a year of Jewish holidays. Each of the twelve poems is accompanied by additional information about the festival. Animated illustrations. (6-9)

* **The Christmas Book Flood**

by Emily Kilgore, illustrated by Kitty Moss
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$18.99)
978-0-374-38899-7

The Icelandic tradition of sharing books with loved ones on Christmas Eve is depicted with fanciful illustrations that lend a touch of magic. Diverse representation. Author's note. (5-7)

* **The Little Book of Joy**

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Abrams and Rachel Neumann, illustrated by Rafael López
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-593-48423-4

The two Nobel Peace Prize winners celebrate the power of shared joy. Dense vibrant acrylic art. Back matter about the Dalai Lama and the Archbishop. (4-7)

Law and Justice

* **If You're a Kid Like Gavin: The True Story of a Young Trans Activist**

by Gavin Grimm and Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by J Yang
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-305756-2

Because he was a trans boy barred from using the boys' bathroom, Gavin Grimm chose to become an activist for trans rights. Colorful, cartoony digital illustrations. (6-9)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

Alaska Is for the Birds!:

Fourteen Favorite Feathered Friends

by Susan Ewing, illustrated by Evon Zerbetz
(Alaska Northwest Books/West Margin Press, \$18.99)
978-1-51312-866-5

The tufted puffin, willow ptarmigan, and 12 other birds found in the 49th state are described in rhyming verse. Vibrant linocut illustrations. Back matter includes glossary and additional information. (5-8)

Amazing Plants of the World (World of Amazement series)

by Štěpánka Sekaninová, illustrated by Zuzana Dreadka Krutá
(Albatros Media, \$16.95) 978-8-00006353-9

Dr. Carnations's botanical garden showcases smelly, carnivorous fungi and plants that look like people, animals, and objects. Humorous text accompanies each whimsical colorful illustration. (6-9)

* **Anglerfish:**

The Seadevil of the Deep

by Elaine M. Alexander, illustrated by Fiona Fogg
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1396-6

Born on the ocean surface, anglerfish then live most of their lives in the deepest ocean. Strange and unique characteristics and adaptations allow them to survive. Digital art. Back matter. (5-8)

* **The Bird Book**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-35-832569-7

Torn and cut color paper collages across double-page spreads display the avian species' evolution and their anatomical and behavioral similarities and differences, as well as their endangerment status. Extensive back matter. (6-9)

Bok's Giant Leap:

One Moon Rock's Journey through Time and Space

by Neil Armstrong, adapted by Grahame Baker Smith, illustrated by Grahame Baker Smith
(Crown BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-37886-1

Neil Armstrong considers the history of Earth and the moon from the point of view of the rock he collected during a lunar mission. Vivid illustrations. Back matter includes archival photos. (6-8)



Diversity



Graphic Format



Mature

* Outstanding Merit



Read Aloud

(4-6) Age Range

Cat Eyes and Dog Whistles:**The Five Seven Senses of Humans and Other Animals**

by Cathy Evans, illustrated by Becky Thorns (Cicada Books, \$22.99) 978-1-80066-013-7
Clear descriptions and detailed illustrations demonstrate how sensory cells receive information, translate it into electrical signals, and pass it through nerves to the brain. Index and glossary. (8-10)

**Caves**

by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$19.99) 978-1-338-72662-6
Explore the Lascaux Cave, the Glowworm Grotto, and other underground chambers and discover the mysteries inside them. Two-page cinematic illustrations depict subterranean vistas. (6-9)

**Diving Deep:****Using Machines to Explore the Ocean**

by Michelle Cusolito, illustrated by Nicole Wong (Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354-293-1
Humanity's curiosity about the ocean deep is celebrated with descriptions of ways to reach various depths and the technologies used for exploration. Digital illustrations help reveal the ocean's secrets. (6-9)

Hiders Seekers Finders Keepers:**How Animals Adapt in Winter**

by Jessica Kulekjian, illustrated by Salini Perera (Kids Can Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5253-0485-9
Different species have ingenious strategies to cope with the winter cold. Detailed illustrations in a muted palette. Back matter. (5-8)

*** How to Bake a Universe**

by Alec Carvlin, illustrated by Brian Biggs (Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$18.95) 978-1-324-00423-3
Whimsical storytelling and bold illustrations, grounded in science, make this a great introduction to the Big Bang theory and astrophysics. Thorough back matter. Visually stunning time line. (6-8)

The Lodge That Beaver Built

by Randi Sonenshine, illustrated by Anne Hunter (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1868-8
Spend several seasons with a beaver family as they dam a stream, create a pond, chisel through trees, build a lodge, and give birth to kits. Glowing illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

The Longest Journey:**An Arctic Tern's Migration**

written and illustrated by Amy Hevron (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4700-8
Nautical charts and maps with naturalistic artwork vivify the perilous 60,000-mile journey of a little seabird from the North Pole to the South Pole. Additional facts, bibliography. (6-8)

*** Luminous:****Living Things That Light Up the Night**

written and illustrated by Julia Kuo (Greystone Kids/Greystone Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77164-888-2
Simple eloquent text introduces information about bioluminescence on land and sea. Evocative illustrations provide perfect enhancement. (5-8)

*** The Mystery of the Monarchs:****How Kids, Teachers, and Butterfly Fans Helped Fred and Norah Urquhart Track the Great Monarch Migration**

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Erika Meza (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-2956-6
Scientists led a team, including children and other citizen scientists, to trace the migration patterns of monarchs. Mixed-media illustrations by a Mexican artist. Extensive back matter. (6-9)

*** Polar Bear**

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4916-3
As global warming imperils their survival, a mother and her cubs roam, search for food, and fend off predators. Striking, realistic, oil paint illustrations. (6-9)

What a Shell Can Tell

by Helen Scales, illustrated by Sonia Pulido (Phaidon, \$19.95) 978-1-8386-6431-2
Observing the color, texture, and shape of sea and land shells reveals a wealth of information about them and the creatures that live inside them. Detailed illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

What's That Smell? (Super Gross series)

by Ximena Hastings, illustrated by Alison Hawkins (Simon Spotlight/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-2076-6
Dr. Ick and his dog, Sam, explore many repulsive odors from nature and our bodies. Activity provided. Cartoon-style illustrations. Photographs. (6-8)



Wolves!:

Strange and Wonderful (Strange and Wonderful series)

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Meryl Learnihan Henderson
(Astra Young Readers/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99)
978-1-63592-327-8

History and facts about wolves are presented in engaging text. Watercolor and pencil illustrations capture the wolves' movements. Back matter provides extensive resources. (6-9)

Yoshi and the Ocean:

A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home

written and illustrated by Lindsay Moore
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99)
978-0-06-306098-2

Using a tracking tag, scientists follow the journey of Yoshi, a loggerhead turtle, from a South African aquarium to her home in Australia. Detailed back matter. Watercolor illustrations. (7-9)

World

Wheels!:

All about Transport

by Moira Butterfield, illustrated by Bryony Clarkson
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, \$16.99)
978-1-68464-244-1

Cars, tractors, and myriad other vehicles serve a multitude of purposes. Colorful realistic illustrations. (7-9)