



FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

**The Clackity (Blight Harbor series)**

by Lora Senf, illustrated by Alfredo Cáceres
(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-66590-267-0

When her aunt disappears, Evie knows she has to go after her. When the dreadful creature Clackity offers her a “fair deal,” Evie can’t refuse it. Ghostly black-and-white illustrations. (10-12)

**Leon the Extraordinary (Leon series)**

written and illustrated by Jamar Nicholas, color by Bonaia Rosado
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-74416-3
Pen and ink comic drawings with bright vibrant color depict Leon’s heroic journey to self-acceptance as he figures out the right reason for helping others. (9-12)

Team Chu and the Battle of the Blackwood Arena (Team Chu series)

by Julie C. Dao, illustrated by Chi Ngo
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-38875-1

Vietnamese American siblings Sadie and Clip are fiercely competitive in laser tag. When a virtual-reality-enhanced game becomes dangerous, can they bury their rivalry to escape? Animated black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Violet & Jobie in the Wild

written and illustrated by Lynn Rae Perkins
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-249969-1

House mice get trapped and released to a wild they’ve never experienced. Can they learn to survive without humans, upon whom they’ve come to rely? Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

D Wreck at Ada’s Reef (The Swallowtail Legacy series)

by Michael D. Beil, illustrated by Torborg Davern
(Pixel + Ink, \$17.99) 978-1-64595-048-6
Hired for the summer by her mother’s best friend, 12-year-old Lark works on solving the mystery of a 75-year-old boating accident. Black-and-white illustrations. Maps. (9-12)

Animals

Odder

by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-14742-4

A rescued otter pup encounters both joy and peril when reintroduced to the wild. Based on actual Monterey Bay Aquarium cases. Free verse. Soft black-and-white illustrations. Glossary, bibliography, resources. (8-11)

Contemporary Issues

D Berani

by Michelle Kadarusman
(Pajama Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77278-260-8
Privileged Canadian Indonesian Malia and Indonesian Ari, a boy struggling to get an education, work together to save endangered orangutans. Alternating viewpoints with interludes by Berani, an orangutan. Back matter. (10-13)

D M * In the Key of Us

by Mariama J. Lockington
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-31410-1

Sent to a predominately white summer music camp, 13-year-old Andi, Black, struggles in her relationship with her family and friends, while grieving the loss of her mother. (10-12) Mature content

**Saving the Butterfly**

by Helen Cooper, illustrated by Gill Smith
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$17.99)
978-1-5362-2055-1

A brother and sister, refugees, have different memories of their difficult journey to a new land. The poignant, poetic text describes how a butterfly helps them heal. Expressive mixed-media illustrations. (8-11)

D * Thirst

by Varsha Bajaj
(Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99)
978-0-593-35439-1

While studying for final exams, Minni, 12, discovers a theft ring depriving her poor Mumbai neighborhood of needed water. Despite growing family responsibilities, she combats the injustice. (10-13)

D Weird Rules to Follow

by Kim Spencer
(Orca Book Publishers, P \$12.95) 978-1-4598-3558-0
A close friendship evolves between middle schoolers Mia, Native Indian, and comparatively privileged Mexican Hungarian Canadian Lara, who live in a fishing community in Prince Rupert, British Columbia. (10-12)

Family/School/Community

D All Four Quarters of the Moon

by Shirley Marr
(Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$17.99)
978-1-5344-8886-1

When Ba Ba's job requires a move from Singapore to Australia, Peijing, 11, helps her mother, grandmother, and irrepressible little sister navigate their new world. (9-12)

D Aviva vs. the Dybbuk

by Mari Lowe
(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-125-8
Aviva's dybbuk always gets her in trouble in her Orthodox Jewish community. Is the mischievous spirit a friend or an enemy? Hebrew and Yiddish glossary. (10-12)

D Bhai for Now

by Maleeha Siddiqui
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-70209-5
Ashar and Shaheer, Pakistani American twins separated in infancy, meet in eighth grade and decide to switch places to try to uncover their family secrets. (11-13)

D Detour Ahead

by Pamela Ehrenberg and Tracy López, illustrated by Laila Ekboir
(PJ Publishing/PJ Library, \$14.99) 978-1-7365573-5-8
A friendship helps 12-year-old, neurodiverse Gilah prepare for her bat mitzvah and 13-year-old Salvadoran American Guillermo enter a poetry contest to win money to fix his broken bicycle. Alternating prose and free verse. Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

D * Falling Short

by Ernesto Cisneros
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-28817-4

Two dissimilar but dear friends, Isaac Castillo and Marco Honeyman, help each other to become the middle grade students they want to be. (9-12)

D Freestyle

written and illustrated by Gale Galligan
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-04581-9
Cory's parents hire nerdy Sunna to tutor him when his geometry grades fall. Soon he discovers she can do cool, very complicated yo-yo tricks. Colorful detailed illustrations. (10-13)

D Frizzy

by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, \$21.99) 978-7-250-25962-2
Marlene faces colorism and racism in her Dominican American community because of the texture of her hair, until her aunt teaches her how to care for and love it. Digital illustrations. (8-11)

D * Honey and Me

by Meira Drazin
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-15543-3
Milla and her best friend, Honey, from Modern Orthodox Jewish families, encounter challenges to their friendship amid growing independence as they enter sixth grade. Hebrew and Yiddish glossary. Back matter. (10-13)

The Hope of Elephants

by Awanda Rawson Hill
(Charlesbridge, \$17.99) 978-1-62354259-7
Cass, 12, whose life now centers on her father's medical care, struggles to maintain family traditions while facing the possibility of having inherited his rare disorder. Free verse. (10-12)

**D If You Read This**

by Kereen Getten

(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-17400-5

Brie's 12th birthday present includes three letters, written before her mother's death, that lead her across Jamaica on an adventure involving her father, grandfather, family, and friends. (10-12)

D * Jennifer Chan Is Not Alone

by Tae Keller

(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-31052-6

Did new seventh grader Jennifer Chan run away because of aliens or because of "the Incident" with her so-called friends? (9-12)

D Just Right Jillian

by Nicole D. Collier

(Versify/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-358-43461-0

Fifth grader Jillian must overcome her shyness and lack of confidence to show her true self and honor the memory of her grandmother. (9-11)

D Maizy Chen's Last Chance

by Lisa Lee, illustrated by Rebecca Shieh

(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-9848-3025-8

With her grandfather's health failing, Maizy, 11, spends the summer in Minnesota helping out at the family's Chinese restaurant and learning about her heritage. Warm, moving, and multilayered. Greyscale spot art. (9-12)

A Million Views

by Aaron Starmer

(Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-38693-4

Sixth grader Brewster makes videos by himself, but when classmates challenge him to make a movie trailer, he makes new friends and realizes all families are unique. (9-12)

D Miss Quinces

written and illustrated by Kat Fajardo

(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-53558-7

Sue has big plans for the summer, but her family has made other arrangements. A dramatic turn of events changes everything. Whimsical graphic art. (8-11)

Our Own Little Paradise

by Marianne Kaurin, translated from the Norwegian by Olivia Lasky

(Arctis Books, \$15.00) 978-1-64690-018-3

In Norway, on the last day of school, an impoverished and humiliated sixth grader blurts falsely that she'll vacation in "the tropics." A new classmate discovers her lie. (9-12)

D Shine On, Luz Véliz!

by Rebecca Balcárcel

(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-79720-967-8

After an injury on the soccer field, sixth grader Luz feels lost until she discovers a knack for coding. And then a new Guatemalan half sister arrives! Author's note. (9-12)

D * Tumble

by Celia C. Pérez

(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-593-32517-9

Adela, 12, has never met her biological father. After learning he is a member of a professional wrestling family, she finds a way to meet him, and new relationships evolve. (10-13)

D Twin Cities

written and illustrated by Jose Pimienta

(RH Graphic/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$20.99) 978-0-593-18063-1

Twin Mexican 12-year-olds going to middle school on opposite sides of the Mexican-U.S. border grow apart. Can they find one another again? Colorful graphics of Mexicali and Calexico. Back matter. (10-12)

D When the World Turned Upside Down

by K. Ibura

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-74626-6

Four friends, living in the same apartment building during the COVID pandemic, discover that taking action assisting neighbors and participating in social justice protests helps them to endure turbulent times. (9-12)

*** Wildoak**

by C. C. Harrington, illustrated by Diana Sudyka

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-80386-0

To combat Maggie's stuttering, her parents send her to her grandfather's in the country. There, her mission to save a wounded snow leopard liberates her own voice. Black-and-white spot illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

Fantasy

 **Always, Clementine**

by Carlie Sorosiak
(Walker Books/Candlewick, \$17.99)
978-1-5362-2884-7

A genetically engineered genius mouse escapes the research lab but longs for her chimpanzee friend. Serious themes with humorous touches. (8-11)

 **The Aquanaut**

written and illustrated by Dan Santat, color by Mike Boldt
(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-0-545-49760-2
After the research vessel *Miette* sinks in a storm, a crew of courageous marine animals walk out of the ocean at San Diego. Expressive, action-packed art. (9-12)

 * **Cress Watercress**

by Gregory Maguire, illustrated by David Litchfield
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-1100-9
After mother bunny moves Cress and baby Kip to the basement of the Broken Arms, Cress experiences danger, adventure, and a colorful group of residents. Richly luminous digital art. (8-11)

 **Duet**

by Elise Broach, illustrated by Ziyue Chen
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-31135-9
A musically gifted goldfinch befriends a boy practicing to play in a Chopin competition. An engaging mystery, with bird and music facts. Black-and-white spot art. (9-11)

 **Freddie vs. the Family Curse**

by Tracy Badua
(Clarion Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-358-61289-6
Freddie Ruiz, 12, has 13 days to break the curse of the amulet in which his ancestor is trapped—or Freddie will die! Based on a Filipino legend. (9-12)

 **Ghostcloud**

by Michael Mann
(Peachtree Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-518-6
Luke Smith-Sharma is enslaved with other children in a dystopian London. When he rescues a girl who turns out to be a ghost, escape and friendship suddenly become possibilities. (8-11)

The Haunting (Secret of Glendunny series)

by Kathryn Lasky
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-303101-2
After an earthquake disrupts life in Glendunny, a deep forest in Scotland, the beavers help ghost siblings find their way, while tackling discrimination in the community. (8-11)

 **The Last Mapmaker**

by Christina Soontornvat
(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0495-7
In an imagined old Siam, the daughter of a con man apprentices herself to an elderly mapmaker, leading to the ocean adventure of a lifetime. (9-12)

 **Leave It to Plum!**

written and illustrated by Matt Phelan
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-307916-8
Peppy peacock Plum loves that peacocks run free at the zoo as ambassadors. But jealous Itch, a ningbing, causes havoc. Humorous greyscale drawings. (8-10)

 **Lily and the Night Creatures**

by Nick Lake, illustrated by Emily Gravett
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-9461-9
Doppelgängers of her parents have invaded Lily's home. Even though she's battling an illness, it's up to her to save her family. Mysterious black-and-white spot illustrations. (8-11)

 * **The Marvellers**

by Dhonielle Clayton, illustrated by Khadijah Khatib
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-250-17494-9
When Conjuror Ella Durand, 11, enters the Arcanum Training Institute, not everyone welcomes her. When her mentor disappears and a Marvellian escapes prison, fingers point at Ella. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

The Problem with Prophecies (Celia Cleary series)

by Scott Reintgen
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)
978-1-6659-0357-8
On her 4,444th day, Celia's magic starts up. She learns to manage the complications of seventh grade and her increased engagement with mortality that comes with her gift. (10-13)

The Sheep, the Rooster, and the Duck

written and illustrated by Matt Phelan
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-291100-1

The famous 1783 Versailles hot-air balloon trio uncover an evil plot to steal Benjamin Franklin's inventions and enthrone a king in America. Graphic-novel-style illustrations. Author's note. (9-11)

D Solimar:**The Sword of the Monarchs**

by Pam Muñoz Ryan
(Disney-Hyperion, \$17.99) 978-1-4847-2835-2

With the help of a magical rebozo, a young royal protects her kingdom and its natural resources from invading forces. (9-11)

**Storm**

by Nicola Skinner
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-307168-1
Frankie's ghost is angrily stuck in her family's home, now a tourist attraction. Her newfound ability to hurl objects attracts attention from a nefarious source. (10-12)

D Valentina Salazar Is Not a Monster Hunter

by Zoraida Córdova
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-71271-1
Even though an Orü puma killed their father, three siblings rescue an Orü egg that is in danger of being destroyed by monster hunters. (9-12)

The Witch, the Sword, and the Cursed Knights

by Alexandria Rogers
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)
978-0-7595-5458-0

A misunderstood, underappreciated witch and a boy from Wisconsin, mourning his friend's death, are recruited to break the curse that felled the legendary kingdom of Camelot. (9-12)

D Witchlings (Witchlings series)

by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Lissy Marlin
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-74552-8
Can three 12-year-old Spare Witchlings, unlikely companions, avoid being turned into toads forever by working together to defeat the dreaded Nightbeast and completing the impossible task? Black-and-white spot illustrations. (8-11)

Folklore and Fairy Tales**D Kapaemahu**

by Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson, illustrated by Daniel Sousa
(Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-593-53006-1

The buried sacred stones of the mahu—dual female/male spirit individuals who brought healing to Hawaii—have been recovered, but the erasure of their history continues. Somber, striking illustrations. Bilingual in Olélo Niihau and English. (10-13)

D  * One & Everything

written and illustrated by Sam Winston
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$19.99)
978-1-5362-1566-3

One story claims to be the only story after absorbing all others, until they demand to be heard too. Watercolor and typographic illustrations. Map. Back matter includes descriptions of the language systems used. (8-11)

*** Windswept**

by Margi Preus, illustrated by Armando Veve
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-5824-9
Despite her parents' objections, Tag is determined to find her sisters, who have been swept away in a storm. A modern tale based on ancient Norwegian folklore. Finely detailed black-and-white spot illustrations. (10-13)

*** The Wolf Suit**

written and illustrated by Sid Sharp
(Annick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-77321-720-8
Looking for a way to move freely in the forest, a sheep crafts and dons a wolf costume. Colorful, emotive illustrations. (9-11)

D  * Yellow Dog Blues

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Chris Raschka
(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$18.99)
978-0-8028-5553-4
A Black boy searches for the classic blues song. Joyful language. Illustrations created with fabric paint and embroidery on canvas. Back matter. (8-11)



Historical Fiction

Coming Up Cuban

by Sonia Manzano

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-06515-2

Four children representing different intersections of race and class detail their experiences during Castro's rise to power in 1959–1961. Back matter, time line, and resources. Also available in Spanish. (10-13)

Different:

A Story of the Spanish Civil War

by Mónica Montañés, illustrated by Eva Sánchez Gómez, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel

(Eerdmans BFYR/Eerdmans, \$17.99)

978-0-8028-5598-5

Two siblings experience difficulties when their father must flee because of his political beliefs. Expressive charcoal, pastel, and colored pencil illustrations. Comprehensive back matter. (9-11)

Dog Star

by Megan Shepherd

(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-0-374-31458-3

Laika, a stray dog in the Soviet Union, is sent into outer space. Ethical and political considerations are explored within the context of a girl's friendship with the heroic dog. Archival photos. Back matter. (9-12)

Freewater

by Amina Luqman-Dawson

(JIMMY Patterson Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-05661-8

After escaping the Southerland plantation, Homer and Ada join Freewater, a swampland community of formerly enslaved people. But can they ever return and free their mother? Brief historical note. (10-13)

Isla to Island

written and illustrated by Alexis Castellanos

(Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$21.99)

978-1-5377-6924-2

After escaping Cuba in 1961, Marisol, 11, struggles to adapt to her foster family and life in Brooklyn. Spanish dialogue. Vibrant Cuban pictures and wordless monotone panels. Back matter. (10-13)

The Lucky Ones

by Linda Williams Jackson

(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-2255-5

Ellis Earl lives in poverty, but his teacher gives him hope for the future, inviting him to church programs and even to a meeting with Senator Robert Kennedy. (9-12)

* **The Moon from Dehradun:**

A Story of Partition

by Shirin Shamsi, illustrated by Tarun Lak

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

978-1-66590-679-1

In 1947 during the Partition of India, a family hurriedly flees their home in fear. Back matter includes maps. Digital illustrations. (8-11)

My Own Lightning

by Lauren Wolk

(Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55559-9

In 1944, after Annabelle is struck by lightning and acquires the ability to understand animal emotions, she meets Nora, who secretly nurtures injured and maltreated animals. Sequel to *Wolf Hollow*. (10-13)

The Puffin Keeper

by Michael Morpurgo, illustrated by Benji Davies

(Puffin Canada/Penguin Random House Canada, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-7180-7

A lifelong friendship starts when a boy, who will grow up to found Penguin Books, is rescued from a shipwreck by a lighthouse keeper on Puffin Island. Painterly illustrations. (8-11)

Red Scare

written and illustrated by Liam Francis Walsh

(Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-3381-6709-2

In 1953, when townsfolk see communists everywhere, Peggy, who has polio, fights villains and her own emotional shortcomings. Comic noir drawings. (10-13)

Sashiko

by Barbara Ciletti, illustrated by Maria Cristina Pritelli

(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-370-4

Sumptuous watercolors accompany a fictionalized account of the origins of a type of Edo-period Japanese embroidery, originally used for repair, now an art form. (8-10)

**(D) (M) A Seed in the Sun**

by Aida Salazar

(Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-593-40660-1

After Mama falls ill due to toxic working conditions, Lula and her family decide to fight for the rights of farmworkers alongside Dolores Huerta. (10-12)

Mature content

(D) Singing with Elephants

by Margarita Engle

(Viking/Penguin Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-593-20669-0

In 1947 Cuban immigrant Oriol learns to write poetry from Gabriela Mistral, famous poet and diplomat, who assists her campaign to reunite an elephant with its family. In verse. Back matter. (9-12)

(D) The Tattooed Torahby Marvell Ginsburg, illustrated by Martin Lemelman
(Cottage Door Press, \$19.99) 978-1-64638-551-5

A small, beloved, sacred Jewish scroll that survives the Holocaust makes a perilous journey. Vividly realized with dramatic illustrations. Updated for a new generation. Back matter. (8-10)

Three Strike Summer

by Skyler Schrepp

(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster
Children's Publishing/S & S, \$17.99)

978-1-5344-9914-0

In 1936 Gloria's family abandons their failed Oklahoma farm to work in California. Gloria is determined to play baseball at the migrant workers' camp, despite the "no girls" code. Back matter. (9-12)

(D) We Were the Fire:**Birmingham 1963**

by Sheila P. Moses

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House,
\$17.99) 978-0-593-40748-6

Although only 11, Rufus is determined to participate in the demonstrations being held in his city during the spring of 1963. Author's note. (9-12)

(D) * Yonder

by Ali Standish

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-298568-2

In 1943, after his abused friend Jack disappears, Danny Timmons, 13, tries to figure out where he went, using the only clue he has—a place called Yonder. (10-13)

Humor

**Mr. Lemoncello's Very First Game
(Mr. Lemoncello's Library series)**

by Chris Grabenstein

(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99)

978-0-593-48083-0

Two older teens try to prevent Luigi L. Lemoncello, 13, from creating games and solving treasure hunts with his friends. Black-and-white illustrations involving rebuses. (8-11)

The Supervillain's Guide to Being a Fat Kid

by Matt Wallace

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-300803-8

How does Max Tercero, a heavy sixth grader, cope with humiliation and bullying? He gets advice from an incarcerated supervillain—and enters a baking contest! (9-11)

Magical Realism

(D) Children of the Quicksands

by Efuia Traoré

(Chicken House/Scholastic, \$18.99)

978-1-338-78192-2

When city-bred Simi, 13, stays with her grandmother in a Nigerian village, she discovers Yoruba traditional beliefs and heroically tries to rescue children caught in a magical place. Back matter. (9-12)

The Impossible Destiny of Cutie Grackle

by Shawn K. Stout, illustrated by Alona Millgram

(Peachtree Publishing, \$16.99) 978-1-68263-320-5

Ravens present an impoverished lonely 10-year-old a series of objects imbedded with memories of her cursed family's past. Can the birds help her break the curse? Spot illustrations. (8-10)

**(D) Omega Morales and the Legend of La Lechuza
(Omega Morales series)**

by Laekan Zea Kemp, illustrated by Vanessa Morales

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)

978-0-316-30416-0

From a magical family of empaths, Mexican American Omega, 12, her cousin Carlitos, and a ghost solve the mystery of a giant owl wreaking havoc in their Texas town. Occasional greyscale illustrations. (9-12)



Science Fiction

D * **A Rover's Story**

by Jasmine Warga, illustrated by Matt Rockefeller
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99)
978-0-06-311392-3

Res, a rover built to explore Mars, narrates his experience from assembly to final location. Designed to be rational, Res wrestles with human emotions. Black-and-white Illustrations. (9-12)

D **Ruby Finley vs. the Interstellar Invasion**

by K. Tempest Bradford
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-38879-9

Ruby, 11, is a gifted Black student who loves bugs. Her curiosity unleashes a chain reaction, filled with G-men, aliens, brave friends, supportive parents, and her own courage. (8-10)

D **The Unforgettable Logan Foster (Unforgettable Logan Foster series)**

by Shawn Peters, illustrated by Pétur Antonsson
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-304767-9
After six failed foster placements, amazingly intelligent neurodivergent Logan, 12, may finally be adopted by a new set of prospective parents, Gil and Margie—but evil awaits. Dramatic black-and-white art. (10-12)

Sports

D **Swim Team**

written and illustrated by Johnnie Christmas
(HarperAlley/HarperCollins, \$24.99)
978-0-06-305677-0

Bree, a whiz at math, but afraid of swimming, joins the team and learns why Black people were discouraged from swimming and competing. Warm graphic art. (9-12)

POETRY

Behold Our Magical Garden:

Poems Fresh from a School Garden

by Allan Wolf, illustrated by Daniel Duncan
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0455-1
The many wonders of a garden, flora and fauna, are depicted in playful varied verse forms and whimsical colorful illustrations. Back matter activity for each poem. (8-11)

D **Inheritance: A Visual Poem**

by Elizabeth Acevedo, illustrated by Andrea Pippins
(Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-293194-8

An Afro-Dominican protagonist refuses to straighten her hair, lighten her skin, or otherwise internalize others' standards of physical beauty. Free verse. Richly hued hand-drawn and digital illustrations. (9-12)

* **Marshmallow Clouds:**

Two Poets at Play among Figures of Speech

by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek, illustrated by Richard Jones
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0303-5
Thirty free verse poems about fire, water, air, and earth play imaginatively with words, imagery, similes, and metaphors. Paint and digital illustrations. (9-12)

INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

Anthologies and Collections

D **Step**

by Deborah Ellis
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$15.99)
978-1-77306-594-6

Ten stories feature young people in many different settings, from refugee detention centers to comfortable middle class homes, who need to make personal choices. (9-12)

Arts

Action!:

How Movies Began

written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-5230-5
A comprehensive introduction to the evolution of movie-making and its creators. Lively black-and-white and acrylic cartoon images. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

**Curtain Up!:****Behind the Scenes at the Royal Opera House**

by the Royal Opera House, illustrated by Lauren O'Hara (Thames & Hudson, \$18.95) 978-0-500-65251-0
Figaro, the resident cat at the Royal Opera House, takes us on a tour behind the production of the *Nutcracker*. Legendary performances come alive through the sumptuous, detailed illustrations. (8-10)

 The Snail

written and illustrated by Emily Hughes (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-7972-0467-3
There was no place on Earth that famed Japanese American artist Isamu Noguchi felt accepted, except in his own creation, made in the shape of a snail. Subdued illustrations. Author's note. Bibliography. (10-13)

Biography and Memoir

*** Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock**

by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Isabelle Follath (Tundra Books/Tundra Book Group/Penguin Random House of Canada, \$18.99) 978-0-7352-6925-5
When Arthur Conan Doyle, doctor, adventurer, and humanitarian, created his legendary detective character in 1887, it changed the course of his life. Evocative watercolor and pencil illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

Blips on a Screen:**How Ralph Baer Invented TV Video Gaming and Launched a Worldwide Obsession**

by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Zachariah O'Hara (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30671-0
Bored watching TV, a Jewish refugee attempted to make the experience more interesting, using skills he had acquired as a radio operator in the U.S. Army during World War II. Colorful, cheerful illustrations. (8-10)

Cloaked in Courage:**Uncovering Deborah Sampson, Patriot Soldier**

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by Anne Lambelet (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-63592-610-1
A brave young woman disguised herself as a man to fight in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Photoshopped period-style pencil drawings. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

The Flying Man:**Otto Lilienthal, the World's First Pilot**

by Mike Downs, illustrated by David Hohn (Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House, \$17.99) 978-0-63592-550-0
After years of experimenting, in 1891 Lilienthal took his first airborne ride in a glider he had constructed. Back matter describes his trial-and-error path to flight. Mixed-media color illustrations. (8-11)

**Gaudí:****Architect of Imagination**

by Susan B. Katz, illustrated by Linda Schwalbe (NorthSouth Books/NordSüd Verlag, \$18.95) 978-0-7358-4487-2
The many life challenges faced by the Catalan artist resulted in a fascination "with the crooked line." Most of the buildings he designed in Barcelona reflect that entrancement. Colorful acrylic illustrations. (8-10)

*** Going Places:****Victor Hugo Green and his Glorious Book**

by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-296740-4
Because traveling around America was dangerous for Black people in the 1930s, Green, a Black postman, created a book with information about places that welcomed people of color. Richly detailed illustrations. (9-12)

Hilde on the Record:**Memoir of a Kid Crime Reporter**

by Hilde Lysiak (Chicago Review Press, \$17.99) 978-1-64160-581-6
The author recounts the triumphs and struggles that stemmed from breaking a news story of a local murder when she was nine. Family photos. (10-13)

**Hope Is an Arrow:****The Story of Lebanese American Poet Kahlil Gibran**

by Cory McCarthy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-0032-4
As a child, Gibran found solace in art and poetry, helping him meld his Lebanese and new American identities together. Glorious collage and acrylic illustrations. (8-11)

**D Just a Girl:****A True Story of World War II**

by Lia Levi, illustrated by Jess Mason, translated from the Italian by Sylvia Notini (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-306508-6 In Italy during Mussolini's fascist regime, Lia and her siblings survived by hiding their Jewish identity in a Catholic boarding school. Black-and-white illustrations. Photos. (9-11)

D * Maya's Song

by Renee Watson, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Harper/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-287158-9 This free-verse tribute to Maya Angelou, Black writer and activist, conveys her courage following the painful childhood experience that silenced her voice for five years. Glorious watercolor and collage illustrations. (8-11)

D  * Not Done Yet:**Shirley Chisholm's Fight for Change**

by Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nina Crews (Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$20.99) 978-1-72842-008-0 Chisholm, a teacher from Brooklyn, became the first Black woman in Congress and ran for president in 1972. Free verse. Evocative digital collage illustrations. Time line, bibliography. (8-10)

D Once I Was You

by Maria Hinojosa (Simon & Schuster BFYR/S & S, \$17.99) 978-1-6659-0280-9

Born in Mexico City and raised in Chicago, Hinojosa chronicles her journey from being an immigrant with big dreams to becoming an award-winning journalist. Also available in Spanish. Young reader's edition. (10-13)

D Only the Best:**The Exceptional Life and Fashion of Ann Lowe**

by Kate Messner and Margaret E. Powell, illustrated by Erin K. Robinson (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-6160-0 Gorgeous, collage-like illustrations amplify this story of the brilliant Black clothing designer who succeeded despite personal hardship and racial discrimination. Archival photos. Back matter. (9-12)

Out of the Shadows:**How Lotte Reiniger Made the First Animated Fairytale Movie**

written and illustrated by Fiona Robinson (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4085-5 Reiniger's innovative techniques made her a pioneering animator. Dramatically illustrated with silhouettes, cut paper designs, and silent movie intertitles, reminiscent of her films. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Parks for the People:**How Frederick Law Olmsted Designed America**

by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Viking/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-984-83515-4 A 19th-century visionary thinker led the creation of beautiful public spaces throughout the United States. Detailed, realistic watercolor and gouache illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Sandor Katz and the Tiny Wild (Food Heroes series)

by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee, illustrated by Julie Wilson (Readers to Eaters, \$19.95) 978-0-9980477-1-3 A lover of fermented foods travels from New York to Tennessee to open a school for like-minded cooks. Humorous, detailed mixed-media illustrations. Recipe. (9-11)

D * The Tower of Life:**How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs**

by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-3382-2589-1 A Holocaust survivor collected thousands of photographs of the Jews of Eishyshok who perished during World War II and of their descendants to create a permanent exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Evocative watercolor illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

D * Troublemakers in Trousers:**Women and What They Wore to Get Things Done**

by Sarah Albee, illustrated by Kaja Kajfež (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-095-1 Joan of Arc, Khutulun, and 19 other women from different countries, eras, and races who wore men's clothing, defying laws and customs, are depicted through informal text and full-page cartoonish portraits. Archival photographs. Extensive sources. (9-11)

 **The Tryout**

by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Joanna Cacao (Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-74130-8
Christina, from a multiracial Thai American family, tries out for her Texas middle school cheerleading squad. A warm honest look at racism and friendship. Expressive graphic panels. (9-12)

**Unlawful Orders:
A Portrait of Dr. James B. Williams, Tuskegee Airman,
Surgeon, and Activist**

by Barbara Binns
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$19.99)
978-1-338-75426-1

Refusing to accept the Air Force's segregation policy, Williams participated in the Freeman Field mutiny and later became a leading civil rights activist. Archival photos and images. Back matter. (10-13)

Ecology

**Antarctica:
The Melting Continent**

by Karen Romano Young, illustrated by Angela Hsieh (What on Earth Books, \$24.00) 978-1-913750-53-4
A thorough overview emphasizing the impact of global warming on the world's "coldest and driest place." Clear illustrations with many sidebars. Glossary, bibliography, and index. (9-12)

**A River's Gifts:
The Mighty Elwha River Reborn**

by Patricia Newman, illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-5415-9870-6
A Washington state river, central to the life of the Lower Elwha Klallam tribe, is restored after being dramatically altered by damming over 100 years ago. Bold, colorful illustrations. (8-11)

History

 * **Bandoola:
The Great Elephant Rescue**

written and illustrated by William Grill
(Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, \$19.99)
978-1-83874-023-8

An Asian elephant, his keeper Po Toke, and "Elephant Bill" Williams brought elephants and refugees to safety during World War II. Detailed colored pencil illustrations. Back matter. (9-11)

**Blue:
A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as
Wide as the Sky**

by Nana Ekuu Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-9436-6

Explore the significance of the color blue, from its uses in ancient times to recent advances in dye making. Lush acrylic wash illustrations. Free verse with word play. Back matter. (8-10)

Winner of the 2023 Flora Stieglitz Straus Award * **Choosing Brave:
How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till
Sparked the Civil Rights Movement**

by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington (Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-250-22095-0

The resourcefulness and steel of a mother seeking justice for her son's heinous murder is dramatized in free verse. Stained-glass-like cut paper illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)
Mature content

 * **H Is for Harlem**

by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by April Harrison (Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-32237-9
Celebrate Harlem and its dramatic role in African American history in this inspiring, alphabetical text. Lush mixed-media illustrations show deep knowledge of times, places, and people. (9-12)

 * **A Land of Books:
Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters**

written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-4942-1
A young girl tells her brother how their Aztec parents create books unique to Mexihcah word painters and explains their history. Pre-Colombian-style illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

**Seeking Freedom:****The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America**

by Selene Castrovilla, illustrated by E. B. Lewis
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-63592-582-1

In 1861 George Scott, an enslaved person seeking freedom and safety, worked with the Union commander of Fortress Monroe in Virginia to save the fort. Expressive watercolors. Extensive back matter. (8-10)

**A Song for the Cosmos:****Blind Willie Johnson and Voyager's Golden Record**

by Jan Lower, illustrated by Gary Kelley
(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-362-9
Graphic art in a dark somber palette complements the text to tell the story of Blind Willie Johnson and the Golden Record sent on NASA's 1977 Voyager spacecrafts. Back matter. (8-11)

**A Song for the Unsung:****Bayard Rustin, the Man behind the 1963 March on Washington**

by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Byron McCray
(Henry Holt and Company/Macmillan, \$19.99)
978-1-250-77950-2
Despite marginalization as a gay man, Rustin organized and motivated the nonviolent protest movement, mentoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Extensive back matter. Mixed-media illustrations. (8-10)

*** We the People! (Big Ideas that Changed the World series)**

written and illustrated by Don Brown
(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$14.99) 978-1-4197-5738-9
Ideas from ancient times through the present and from nations and cultures throughout the world have contributed to the development of democracy in the United States, through steps and missteps. Engaging cartoon illustrations. Notes. (9-11)

Holidays and Religion

*** The Very Best Sukkah:****A Story from Uganda**

by Shoshana Nambi, illustrated by Moran Yogev
(Kalaniot Books/Endless Mountains Publishers, \$19.99)
978-1-7350875-8-0

In the village near Mbale where the Abayudaya community has practiced Judaism for generations, Shoshi's family and neighbors celebrate Sukkot, building the holiday's traditional outdoor structure. Colorful stylized illustrations. Glossary, back matter. (8-10)

Language

**The Hanmoji Handbook:****Your Guide to the Chinese Language through Emoji**

by Jason Li, An Xiao Mina, and Jennifer 8. Lee, illustrated by Jason Li
(MITeen Press/Candlewick Press, \$24.99)
978-1-5362-1913-5

Interesting parallels between emojis and Chinese characters, or hanzi, both of which use images to convey meaning, are illuminated. Playful illustrations. Bibliography, index. (9-12)

Law and Justice

**Evicted!:****The Struggle for the Right to Vote**

by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Charly Palmer
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$18.99) 978-1-68437-979-8

An important event in Civil Rights history, the 1950s Fayette County Tent City movement in Tennessee, comes alive. Vivid, impressionistic acrylic paintings. Back matter. (9-12)

Reference

*** Killer Underwear Invasion!:****How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation & Conspiracy Theories**

written and illustrated by Elise Gravel
(Chronicle Books, \$14.99) 978-1-7972-1491-7
Cartoon-like illustrations introduce and explore the concepts and etiology of various methods of sowing doubt about the truth of news reports. A very appealing and kid-friendly approach to media literacy. (8-10)



STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)



The Adventures of Dr. Sloth: Rebecca Cliffe and Her Quest to Protect Sloths

written and photographed by Suzi Eszterhas
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$30.65) 978-1-5415-8939-1
Two women, a zoologist and a wildlife photographer,
present emerging research about the elusive, arboreal
Central and South American mammal. Full-color
photographs and links to videos. Back matter. (8-11)

* **Copycat:**

Nature-Inspired Design around the World

written and illustrated by Christy Hale
(Lee & Low Books, \$20.95) 978-1-64379-230-9
Space-saving cars, robotic arms, and apartments that
stack like honeycombs are just a few inventions inspired
by nature. Digital art paired with photos. Extensive
back matter and source notes. (8-11)

* **Infinity:**

Figuring Out Forever

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by
Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell
(Calkins Creek/Astra BFYR/Astra Publishing House,
\$17.99) 978-1-62979-875-2
The mathematical concept of something that is endless
is presented simply and accessibly, illuminated with
clear color photographs. Back matter includes glossary
and information about different infinite sets. (9-12)



Mammoth Math: Everything You Need to Know about Numbers

written and illustrated by David Macaulay
(DK/Penguin Random House, \$19.99)
978-0-7440-5611-2
Hundreds of math concepts, from number systems
to shapes to probability, are presented with colorful
diagrams and cartoon mammoths. Includes glossary,
index, multiplication and squares grids, units of
measurement, and more. (8-11)

Operation Pangolin:

Saving the World's Only Scaled Mammal

written and photographed by Suzi Eszterhas
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$30.65) 978-1-7284-4295-2
In Vietnam, Thai Nguyen is among the rescuers and
researchers working to save a rare, endangered
creature. Maps, diagrams, and photographs. (8-10)

Secrets of the Lost City:

A Scientific Adventure in the Honduran Rain Forest

by Sandra Markle
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-7284-3659-3
Travel deep into the Honduran rain forest with
scientists as they uncover an ancient civilization while
experiencing the unique challenges of this virgin space.
Photographs. Back matter. (9-12)

* **Swoop and Soar:**

How Science Rescued Two Osprey Orphans and Found Them a New Family in the Wild

by Deborah Lee Rose and Jane Veltkamp
(Persnickety Press/WunderMill, \$16.95)
978-1943978564
A raptor biologist rescues and cares for two young
osprey chicks until they can be adopted by adult birds.
Beautiful color photographs. (8-11)

World

D * A Kunwinjku Counting Book

by Gabriel Maralngurra and Felicity Wright,
illustrated by Gabriel Maralngurra
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$19.95) 978-1-59270-356-2
Sophisticated illustrations inspired by ancient west
Australian rock art enhance information about native
animals and Aboriginal culture. Back matter includes a
pronunciation guide. (9-12)

D The Waiting Place:

When Home Is Lost and a New One Not Yet Found

by Dina Nayeri, photographed by Anna Bosch Miralpeix
(Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1362-1
Ten refugees from Afghanistan and Iran, ages 5-13,
wait at a Greek refugee camp to be granted asylum.
Engrossing full-color photos. Extensive back matter.
(10-13)