

### BANK STREET COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

# THE BEST CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF THE YEAR

2021 EDITION BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2020

SELECTED BY THE CHILDREN'S BOOK COMMITTEE

The 2021 edition of *The Best Children's Books of the Year* is dedicated to Roberta "Bobbi" Mitchell and Ellen Rappaport, two valued committee members of long standing who passed away during the previous year. The Committee gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions that their families have made in their memory.

The publication of the 2021 edition of *The Best Children's Books of the Year* was made possible with the assistance of the many publishers who helped the Children's Book Committee receive books in non-traditional ways throughout the pandemic.

Special thanks to John Rolander, our "bike courier extraordinaire," who distributed books throughout New York City.

The print edition was made possible by the generous support of The Helping Hands fund in memory of RaeLee Thompson.

Finally, a special thank you this year to the members of the Bank Street Children's Book Committee, whose technological skills grew exponentially as we continued the work of reading, sharing, and reviewing via Zoom.

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### TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Share your enjoyment of books with your child.
- Talk over your reading.
- Continue to read aloud to your child even after they read independently.
- Encourage your child to choose a book to read aloud to someone else.
- Broaden your child's horizons by helping them to select books from a wide range of subjects.
- Encourage your child to read whatever they enjoy, even if it appears to be too easy or too hard.
- Let your child see your enjoyment of your own reading.
- Find time for your child to visit and browse in libraries and bookstores.

### **2021 AWARDS**

### The Josette Frank Award

for a work of fiction of outstanding literary merit for young readers in which children or young people deal in a positive and realistic way with difficulties in their world and grow emotionally and morally

### When Stars Are Scattered

by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson (Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Random House)

### The Claudia Lewis Award

for the best poetry book of the year for young readers

(for younger readers)

### I Am Every Good Thing

by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House)

(for older readers)

### Flooded: Requiem for Johnstown

by Ann E. Burg (Scholastic Press)

### The Flora Stieglitz Straus Award

for a distinguished work of nonfiction that serves as an inspiration to young readers

(for younger readers)

### Lizzie Demands a Seat!: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane)

(for older readers)

All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick Press) In evaluating books for their literary merit, the Bank Street Children's Book Committee (CBC) recognizes the importance of diversity in children's literature and acknowledges and celebrates the voices and cultures of all of our readers. Diversity encompasses the varied and unique identities, experiences, perspectives, and cultural communities of a book's main and supporting characters, whose attributes include (but are not limited to) race, ethnicity, gender, abilities, sexuality, class, religion, and family structure. All children benefit from seeing themselves reflected in what they read, and from seeing characters with different identities, depicted accurately and without stereotypes in texts and/or illustrations. The CBC values representations of characters who are change agents and advocates for social justice, inclusivity, and equity.

In accordance with the Committee's goal of modeling proper sourcing of nonfiction writing, all listed informational books for children nine and older must contain supporting references including, at a minimum, sources, quote attributions, and photo credits. Book annotations may also include the term "back matter" to indicate that there is additional reference material provided.

### **KEY**

B) Board Book \* Outstanding Merit

D Diversity Read Aloud

Graphic Format (4-6) Age Range

(M) Mature

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# **UNDER FIVE**

### 13 Stories about Harris

written and illustrated by Amy Schwartz (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4249-2 Short playful vignettes are paired with simple line illustrations to capture moments in a toddler's urban childhood. Perfect for emergent readers and toddlers. (3-6)

### (D) (B) ABC What Can I Be?:

# YOU Can Be Anything YOU Want To Be, from A to Z (ABC for Me series)

written and illustrated by Jessie Ford (Walter Foster Jr. Quarto Group, \$16.99) 978-1-6005-8882-2

A diverse group of children are introduced to both traditional and nontraditional jobs, arranged alphabetically from astronaut to zookeeper. Animated, colorful illustrations with minimal text. (3-6)

### All along the River

written and illustrated by Magnus Weightman, translated from the Dutch by Magnus Weightman (Clavis Publishing, \$19.95) 978-1-60537-518-2 Join Bunny and her brothers in a journey to recover her beloved Little Duck. Detailed illustrations and picture clues abound in this search-and-find adventure. (3-6)

### **Almost Time**

by Gary D. Schmidt and Elizabeth Stickney, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-544-78581-6 Young Ethan must be patient as he waits for the sap to run and for his loose tooth to fall out. Expressive digitally colored illustrations. (4-6)

### **B** Animal Families series

- Animal Families: Forest (978-1-5362-1198-6)
- Animal Families: Safari (978-1-5362-1199-3) written and illustrated by Jane Ormes (Nosy Crow/Candlewick Press, \$9.99)

Bright colors, sturdy flaps, and simple text introduce readers to animal families in these visually striking interactive board books with screen-printed illustrations. (0-3)

### **Animal Olympics:**

# Creatures Great and Small Competing in Incredible, Impressive, and Extraordinary Events!

by Carron Brown illustrated by Katy Tanis (Ivy Kids/Quarto, \$16.99) 978-1-7824-0987-8 The surprising animal winners competing in twelve Olympic games are introduced with accompanying facts. Animated color illustrations, humorous endpapers. Back matter. (5-6)

### At the Pond

written and illustrated by Geraldo Valério (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$19.95) 978-1-77306-232-7

In this wordless book, a child befriends a swan. When the swan is leashed, the sky turns black. Only when the swan is freed do the pastel colors return. Mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

### The Bear and the Moon

by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Cátia Chien (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-7191-3 After befriending a stray balloon, a gentle bear experiences the joy of companionship, heartache of loss, and relief of forgiveness. Evocative illustrations create a gentle mood.(4-6)

### **D** Bedtime for Sweet Creatures

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-4926-3832-2

A young child and her menagerie of wild creatures get ready for bed. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

### **Beehive**

written and illustrated by Jorey Hurley (Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-7003-2

Using only one word on each two-page spread, the author follows the life cycle of a bee busy making honey. Soft pastel illustrations. Back matter. (4-6)

### **Bird Hugs**

written and illustrated by Ged Adamson (Two Lions/Amazon Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-5420-9271-5

What if your body could not do the one thing you had imagined it had been built for? Embrace your differences! Amusing watercolor and pencil illustrations. (4-6)

### **Bo the Brave**

written and illustrated by Bethan Woollvin (Peachtree Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-182-9 A griffin, a kraken, and a dragon help Bo show her brothers that girls can hunt monsters too. gouache illustrations in a limited palette. (4-6)

### \* Brian Wildsmith's Animal Gallery

written and illustrated by Brian Wildsmith (Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1235-8

In this reissued artistic treasure, see animals in their habitats and learn what a group of each is called. Watercolors, chalk, colored pencil, and gouache. (3-6)

### **D** Brick by Brick

written and illustrated by Heidi Woodward Sheffield (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-51730-6

A loving Latino father and son work toward a dream of owning their "always" home in the United States. Creative collage-based digital paintings. (4-6)

### Bye, Penguin!

written and illustrated by Seou Lee (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-021-3 In this wordless tale, a stranded penguin travels the world on a shrinking ice floe, passing famous sights like the Statue of Liberty, and returns on a surfboard. Colorful digital illustrations. (4-6)

### **Cannonball Coralie and the Lion**

written and illustrated by Grace Easton (Frances Lincoln Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-0-7112-5215-8

When Coralie is dismissed by a cruel ringmaster, her bravery and dignity motivate her lion friend and others to follow. Quirky engaging digital illustrations. (4-6)

### \* Cat Dog Dog:

### The Story of a Blended Family

by Nelly Buchet, illustrated by Andrea Zuill (Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-4899-4

In this nearly wordless story, two people move in together very happily. But will their pets get along too? Humorous energetic digital ink illustrations. (3-5)

### (D) Catch That Chicken

by Atinuke, illustrated by Angela Brooksbank (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1268-6 Spare, alliterative text joins bold mixed-media illustrations in this joyful tale of a resourceful Nigerian girl in her quest to catch chickens. (3-6)

### **Cave Dada**

written and illustrated by Brandon Reese (Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-7994-0 When Baba demands the perfect bedtime book, Dada looks for the perfect stone tablet. Hilarious color pencil, and gouache Photoshopped illustrations. (2-4)

### Cozy

written and illustrated by Jan Brett (G.P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-593-10979-3

Exquisitely detailed watercolor illustrations immerse us in this gentle tale of Arctic tundra animals sheltering from a storm within a musk ox's coat. (4-6)

### D Danbi Leads the School Parade

written and illustrated by Anna Kim (Viking BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-451-47889-4 New to the United States from Korea, Danbi bravely goes to school, but no one plays with her until a magical moment at lunchtime! Soft, sweet illustrations. (4-6)

### **Dandelion's Dream**

written and illustrated by Yoko Tanaka (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0453-7 Digitally colored charcoal illustrations depict the ethereal adventures of a flower as it transforms into a yellow-maned dandelion before it goes to seed. (4-6)

### \* Don't Worry, Little Crab

written and illustrated by Chris Haughton (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1119-1 Gently encouraged by Very Big Crab, Little Crab finds the courage to overcome his fear of the ocean and discover a new world. Simple, colorful digital illustrations. (2-5)

### (D) (B) Families Belong

by Dan Saks, illustrated by Brooke Smart (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$7.99) 978-0-593-22276-8

Families of various configurations show many ways of being together. Colorful illustrations depict multiple racial representations. (2-4)

### (D) Federico and the Wolf

by Rebecca J. Gomez, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-1-328-567788-9

A resourceful Latinx boy saves the day in this rollicking Red Riding Hood retelling. Colorful Photoshopped illustrations. Salsa recipe. Spanish/English glossary included. (3-6)

### Fight the Night

written and illustrated by Tomie dePaola (Simon & Schuster BFYR/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4373-0

Animated, crosshatched black ink/color illustrations elevate the story of a young boy's struggle to resist sleep. Refreshed edition of a 1968 classic. (3-6)

### **D** Friday Night Wrestlefest

by J. F. Fox, illustrated by Micah Player (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-250-21240-5

Rollicking text, vibrant digital art, and a diaper joke will have young readers sharing one family's fun—their weekly bedtime tradition. (4-6)

### **Green on Green**

by Dianne White, illustrated by Felicita Sala (Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-6278-5

Share a family's joyful experience of a pregnancy as the seasons pass. Lyrical rhyming text. Engaging watercolor, gouache, and colored pencil illustrations. (4-6)

### \* The Heart of a Whale

written and illustrated by Anna Pignataro (Philomel Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-984-83627-4

A whale's song is filled with kindness, but it takes another whale's friendship to bring happiness and fulfillment. Evocative watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### How to Be a Pirate

by Isaac Fitzgerald, illustrated by Brigette Barrager (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-1-68119-778-4

Can girls be pirates? CeCe sets out to learn from her grandfather if she has what it takes. Bright, engaging illustrations. (4-6)

### **How to Potty Train Your Porcupine**

written and illustrated by Tom Toro (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-49539-4

A sister and brother go to extreme measures in an attempt to potty train a porcupine. Rollicking antics ensue. Very entertaining color illustrations. (2-5)

### (D) I Am Brown

by Ashok Banker, illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat (Lantana Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-911373-94-0 Children celebrate being brown and take pride in who they are and where they come from. Bright, cheerful illustrations. (4-6)

### **B** I Love You, Little Moo

by Tilly Temple, illustrated by Laura Deo (Tiger Tales, \$9.99) 978-1-68010-624-4 In this simple lift-the-flap board book, animal parents express their love for their children. Bold colorful illustrations. (2-4)

### **D** I Promise

by LeBron James, illustrated by Nina Mata (HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-297106-7 The activities at the school James started in Akron, Ohio, are the focus of this account of the joyful experience of learning together. Exuberant colorful digital illustrations. (3-6)

### (D) In a Garden

by Tim McCanna, illustrated by Aimée Sicuro (Paula Wiseman Books/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-1797-7

Critters, insects, and plantings abound as friends and neighbors come together in a community garden throughout the year. Colorful, playful mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

### In a Jar

written and illustrated by Deborah Marcero (G.P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-5149-6

Wonderful watercolors show us the world of Llewellyn, a rabbit, who loves to collect things in jars. After he meets Evelyn, they collect and share sunsets, rainbows, and even heartbreak. (4-6)

### (D) (B) In My Heart

by Mackenzie Porter, illustrated by Jenny Løvlie (Little Simon, \$7.99) 978-1-5344-5433-0 A child is reassured by her mother that even when they are not together, she is always in her mother's heart. Bold, textured illustrations. (1-4)

### In the City

written and illustrated by Chris Raschka (Richard Jackson Books/ Atheneum, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-8627-9

Ink and watercolor illustrations vividly capture the pulse of a busy city where winged and two-legged creatures find and make friends. Rhyming text. (4-6)

### \* It Is a Tree

written and illustrated by Susan Batori (Holiday House, \$15.99) 978-0-8234-4531-8 When blindfolded animals must identify an elephant, their guess reflects their self-referenced perspective. Based on an ancient Indian fable. Sparse text and humorous digital illustrations. (3-5)

### It's My Tree

written and illustrated by Olivier Tallec, translated from the French by Yvette Ghione (Kids Can Press, \$17.99) 978-1-525-30547-4 A squirrel must figure out a way to keep everyone else away from "his" pine cones. Can he enforce his proclamation? Should he? Expressive illustrations with an emphasis on yellow and orange. (3-5)

### **Ivy Bird**

by Tania McCartney, illustrated by Jess Racklyeft (Blue Dot Kids Press, \$17.95) 978-1-7331212-1-7 lvy spreads her imaginary wings and imitates the sounds and manners of twelve birds as she goes about her daily activities. Vivid playful illustrations. (3-6)

### Julia's House Moves On

written and illustrated by Ben Hatke (First Second, \$18.99) 978-1-250-19137-3 Julia is faced with many challenges as she tries to move her house full of lost creatures. Beautiful exciting watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

### **Keith among the Pigeons**

written and illustrated by Katie Brosnan (Child's Play, \$17.99) 978-1-78628-344-3 Keith, the cat, wishes he were a pigeon. Maybe if he pastes feathers on his body, he can become one. Bright colorful illustrations. (3-5)

### (D) Lali's Feather

by Farhana Zia, illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman (Peachtree, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-129-4 Set in India, this gentle story of a creative little girl who finds a stray feather celebrates the power of imagination. Colorful, detailed illustrations of Lali's rural community. (3-6)

### Let's Swap for a Day

written and illustrated by Shu-Ti Liao (Reycraft, \$14.95) 978-1-4788-6819-4 A child and her dog enjoy trading lives for a day until... Child-friendly, energetic illustrations match a humorous, breezy tale. (3-6)

### Lift

by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-1-368-03692-4

The exuberant emotional maturing of a little girl who loves to push the elevator button is shown through the power of her imagination. Sparse text and dynamic illustrations. (4-6)

- **B** Little Baby's Busy Day: A Finger Wiggle Book (978-1-5362-1278-5)
- **B** Little Baby's Playtime:

A Finger Wiggle Book (978-1-5362-1279-2) by Sally Symes, illustrated by Nick Sharratt (Candlewick Press, \$8.99)

A toddler's activities are enhanced by colorful cutout illustrations that allow children's fingers to poke through holes to create legs. (0-3)

### \* Little Bear's Treasures

written and illustrated by Stella Dreis (Greystone Kids, \$17.95) 978-1-77164-653-6 No one appreciates Little Bear's humble treasured objects. Then Little Bird comes along. Soft, muted pastels with accents of color magically capture the wonder of friendship. (3-6)

### The Little Duckling Who Wouldn't Get Wet

written and illustrated by Gek Tessaro (Holiday House, \$16.99) 978-0-8234-4564-6 A duckling refuses to go in the water until he is good and ready. Colorful cut-paper collage illustrations. (3-5)

### **B** Little Penguin (Little Animal Friends series)

by Julie Abery, illustrated by Suzie Mason (Amicus Ink, \$8.99) 978-1-68152-741-3 An emperor penguin chick takes his first step in his journey to leave his mama. Warm, textured illustrations. (0-3)

### **Little Wise Wolf**

by Gijs van der Hammen, illustrated by Hanneke Siemensma, translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson (Kids Can Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5253-0549-8 Too busy to engage with others, a wolf with superior abilities is humbled by the kindness of friends. Words and illustrations add a touch of magic. (4-6)

### **Looking for Smile**

by Ellen Tarlow, illustrated by Lauren Stringer (Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6619-7

Bear learns that he may not always feel happy, but a friend and a song can help restore his mood and smile. Tender illustrations; color palette reflects changing emotions. (4-6)

### Louis

by Tom Lichtenheld, illustrated by Julie Rowan-Zoch (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR/HMH, \$17.99) 978-1-328-49806-9

In this sweet relatable story, a beloved teddy bear speaks out about all the unreasonable requirements of his job, Expressive vibrant artwork created on an iPad using Procreate. (3-5)

### D Love by Sophia (The Sophia Books series)

by Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail (Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-7790-1

A girl learns the power of perspective in life and art as she defends her vision of love to her diverse family. Watercolor illustrations. Art lesson included. (4-6)

### Mommy, Carry Me Please

written and illustrated by Jane Cabrera (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4474-8 Animal mothers carry their babies on their tails, in their arms, and in many other ways. Evocative vibrant illustrations. (3-4)

### **D** The Most Amazing Bird

by Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak, illustrated by Andrew Qappik (Annick Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77321-418-4 An Inuit girl overcomes her dislike of ravens, eagerly awaiting their return during the harsh winter after other species have migrated. Soft-tone illustrations illuminate the changing seasons. (4-6)

### **Motor Mouse Delivers (Motor Mouse series)**

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard (Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-4814-9128-0

Follow a very philosophical mouse on three humorous adventures. Richly detailed mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

### D My Rainy Day Rocket Ship

by Markette Sheppard, illustrated by Charly Palmer (Denene Millner Books/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6177-2

A stay-at-home day challenges a creative girl to create an imaginative rocket ship for a space adventure. Bright painterly illustrations. (2-5)

### D Natsumi's Song of Summer

by Robert Paul Weston, illustrated by Misa Saburi (Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6541-7

Young Natsumi welcomes her American cousin to Japan and shares her favorite things about summer, including cicadas! Traditional Japanese verse is showcased by soft vibrant illustrations. Back matter. (4-6)

### **No Ordinary Jacket**

by Sue-Ellen Pashley, illustrated by Thea Baker (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0966-2 Amelia's favorite jacket doesn't fit her any more. What will she do to keep it forever? Engaging collage illustrations. (4-6)

### **B** On the Go Awesome

by Lisl H. Detlefsen, illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-5234-2

A young boy imagines himself not only watching a variety of things that go, but actually operating them. Bold over-the-top digital art captures the excitement. (3-6)

### Only a Tree Knows How to Be a Tree

written and illustrated by Mary Murphy (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1470-3 All living things, including trees, dogs, fish, and people, have unique characteristics that define them. Digital illustrations in brush and ink. (3-5)

### (D) Only the Cat Saw

written and illustrated by Ashley Wolff (Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-6692-9

Warm acrylic gouache illustrations on double-page spreads showcase a cat experiencing the natural world around him as his family goes about their daily activities. (4-6)

### **The Perfectly Perfect Wish**

by Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Jessica Courtney-Tickle (Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-0619-3

A girl who is offered one wish shows what it means to be empathetic and kind. Watercolor and digital illustrations. (4-6)

### Play Outside!

written and illustrated by Laurent Moreau, translated from the French (Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, \$18.95) 978-1-324-01547-5 Children, sent outside to play, embark upon a

Children, sent outside to play, embark upon a worldwide adventure and "discover" 250 animals. Simple illustrations. Chart with data on each animal. (4-6)

### D Plenty of Hugs

by Fran Manushkin, illustrated by Kate Alizadeh (Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55401-1

Two moms and their toddler spend a day celebrating nature and their time together as a family. Vibrant illustrations. (2-4)

### \* A Polar Bear in the Snow

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0396-7 Simple words and cut-paper collages in white, greys, and blues invite us to follow a black nose on a polar bear's joyous journeying in the Arctic. (3-5)

### **Prairie Days**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Micha Archer (Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-4191-0

Mixed-media illustrations filled with period details perfectly complement this lyrical ode to life on the farm in days gone by. (4-6)

### **Red Red Red**

written and illustrated by Polly Dunbar (Kane Miller, \$14.99) 978-1-68464-026-3 A toddler wants a biscuit, falls, and has a temper tantrum. Mom comes to the rescue with a way to help him calm down. Simple, warm illustrations. (2-4)

### **Share Some Kindness, Bring Some Light**

written and illustrated by Apryl Stott (Simon & Schuster BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6238-0

When Coco sets out to help her friend, Bear, prove that he is not mean, the other animals soon learn the true meaning of kindness. Joyful watercolor and digital ink illustrations. (3-6)

### \* Smart George

written and illustrated by Jules Feiffer (Michael Di Capua Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-279099-6

Puppy George resists his mother's simple arithmetic problems but is caught in a dream where trees and other creatures demand answers. Hilarious cartoon illustrations. (4-6)

### **Snail Crossing**

written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-0628-7800-7

Whimsical watercolor illustrations depict a humorous and heartfelt burgeoning friendship. (4-6)

### (D) The Snow Dancer

by Addie Boswell, illustrated by Mercè López (Two Lions/Amazon Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-5420-9317-0

Sparkling illustrations full of playful motion magnify the magic of a snowy day that neighborhood children discover when they're inspired by a young girl. (3-5)

### D A Space for Me

written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell (Lee & Low Books, \$18.95) 978-1-62014-963-8 Tired of sharing a room with his younger brother, Lucas, Alex creates a space for himself in the backyard, but it makes Lucas sad. What will Alex do? Coloful cut-paper collage illustrations. (3-5)

### A Stopwatch from Grampa

by Loretta Garbutt, illustrated by Carmen Mok (Kids Can Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5253-0144-5 When a young child is left a watch by a beloved grandfather, it evokes their connection, intensifies the child's grief, and reawakens their memories. Evocative colorful gouache and graphite pencil illustrations. (4-6)

### Studio:

### A Place for Art to Start

and bright color scheme. (3-6)

by Emily Arrow, illustrated by The Little Friends of Printmaking (Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6485-4 Rhyming text shows a bunny searching for a creative space for art. Digital illustrations include a black outline

### \* Summer Song

by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-286613-4

In the green grass, children hear music everywhere from frogs, even in silence, in a lyrical description of summer. Acrylic paints in full-color illustrations. (3-5)

### **Sun and Moon Have a Tea Party**

by Yumi Heo, illustrated by Naoko Stoop (Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-385-39033-0 Sun and Moon argue about the activities that each celestial orb sees on Earth, until Cloud helps to reconcile their differences. Delightful mixed-media and digital illustrations. (4-6)

### **Sun Flower Lion**

written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-286610-3

Six short chapters introduce three recurring shapes interacting in a satisfying story. Brush and ink illustrations artfully employ a limited palette. (2-5)

### D Superhero Gran

by Timothy Knapman, illustrated by Joe Berger (Nosy Crow/Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-1-5362-1442-0

Nothing's more fun than a day with Gran—except one that turns into a sleepover. Colorful digital illustrations. (3-6)

### **D** Ten Ways to Hear Snow

by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Kenard Pak (Kokila/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-39-918633-2

On the way to visit her grandmother to make warak enab (stuffed grape leaves), Lina listens to the many sounds that snow makes. Serene digital illustrations. (4-6)

### This Is Gus

written and illustrated by Chris Chatterton (Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-5930-9736-6

Grumpy Gus doesn't like (among other things) walks, being petted, and birthdays, but there are two things he *does* like. Amusing simple text and bold colorful illustrations. (3-5)

### The Three Billy Goats Gruff: The Full Story

by Richard Jackson, illustrated by Katherine Tillotson (Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-1573-6

This humorous retelling retains the fear and suspense about whether the bullying troll will succeed. Colorful, large-scale illustrations. (3-5)

### **Turtle Walk**

written and illustrated by Matt Phelan (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-006-293413-0

In luscious watercolors, a family of turtles is shown slowly walking through the seasons, asking "Are we there yet?" It ends in pure joy. (3-5)

### \* Two Little Trains

by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Greg Pizzoli (Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-267651-1 Rubber stamp artwork provides an imaginative and appealing new look at an old, favorite tale of a steam engine and a sleek modern train traveling across the United States. (3-6)

### **Two Many Birds**

written and illustrated by Cindy Derby (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-23254-0

When one bird goes too far in trying to control all the other birds, a revolt results in positive change. Humorous watercolor illustrations accompany this allegory. (5-6)

### **Under the Great Plum Tree**

by Sufiya Ahmed, illustrated by Reza Dalvand (Tiny Owl, \$17.95) 978-1-910328-46-0 With friendship, quick thinking, and bravery, a goodhearted monkey survives after almost being betrayed by her friend, the crocodile. Both are horrified. Colorful illustrations incorporate Indo-Persian designs. (5-6)

### **Up on Bob**

written and illustrated by Mary Sullivan (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-1-328-99471-4

A dog clears the bed of dolls and toys to settle down for a nap, but an intruder spoils his plans. Expressive digital art. (3-6)

### Vinny Gets a Job

written and illustrated by Terry Brodner (Aladdin/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-1356-6 Seeking to imitate his owner, a pet dog gets a job but continually misunderstands directions. Humorous illustrations. (4-6)

### **Welcome to Your World**

by Smriti Prasadam-Halls, illustrated by Jaime Kim (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0622-7 A mother introduces mountains, valleys, oceans, and skies to her baby. Lyrical rhymes and brightly colored illustrations illuminate the natural world. (3-5)

### **What Matters Most**

written and illustrated by Emma Dodd (Templar Books/ Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-1-5362-1017-0

In simple rhymed text, a horse reassures her foal that their love will endure. Emotionally evocative muted color illustrations with embossed foil. (3-5)

### Where's Baby?

written and illustrated by Anne Hunter (Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6498-4

Finely textured pen and pencil drawings in black and white against a pale blue sky and river reveal a rust-colored baby fox that Papa can never quite see. (2-5)

### (D) Who Will You Be?

written and illustrated by Andrea Pippins (Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-4948-9

A mother invites her child to consider whether she will grow up to be loving, bold, joyful, curious, or adventurous like her relatives. How will she become uniquely wonderful? Digitally colored illustrations. (4-6)

### **Witchy Things**

written by Mariasole Brusa, illustrated by Marta Sevilla, translated from the Italian by Cecilia Ross (NubeOcho, \$16.95) 978-84-17673-60-4 Worried that her blue hair doesn't make her scary enough, a witch decides to snatch a boy. This leads to unexpected and delightful consequences. Humorous illustrations. Also available in Spanish. (4-6)

### **Woodland Dreams**

by Karen Jameson, illustrated by Marc Boutavant (Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-7063-3 On her way home, a girl stops to sketch woodland creatures and uses lyrical rhyming verse to beckon them to bed. Warm, earth-toned illustrations. (4-6)

### You Are Ready!: The World Is Waiting

written and illustrated by Eric Carle (HarperCollins, \$9.99) 978-0-06-295352-0 Animals offer their offspring advice and reassure them that they will be able to face life's challenges on their own. Minimal text. Bold, colorful illustrations. (3-6)

# **Concept Books**

### **ABC Animals**

written and illustrated by Christopher Evans (Peter Pauper Press, \$17.99) 978-1-4413-3463-3 An arresting ABC showcases a variety of mammals, reptiles, birds, and more. Artistic finely textured digital woodcuts. (4-6)

### **The Button Book**

by Sally Nicholls, illustrated by Bethan Woollvin (Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-7352-6715-2

In this interactive book, animals press different buttons to explore shapes, colors, and actions. Humorous splashes of colors match the buttons. Mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

# D Do I Have to Wear a Coat?: A Journey through the Seasons

written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin YR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-51660-6

Varied activities of a diverse group of children celebrate the seasons. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

### **Every Little Letter**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Joy Hwang Ruiz (Dial BFYR/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55402-8

In this "not an alphabet book," lowercase letters convince uppercase letters to welcome strangers by breaking down barriers. Vibrant digital illustrations. (4-6)

### The Hidden Rainbow

written and illustrated by Christie Matheson (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-0623-9341-8

Colors, numbers, and the important work of bees coalesce engagingly in this interactive book. Inviting mix of watercolor and collage art. Endnote on bees. (3-5)

### (B) \* I Love My Tutu Too! (Never Bored Book series)

written and illustrated by Ross Burach (Scholastic Press/Scholastic, \$7.99) 978-1-33850-427-9

Join the counting fun with animals, word play, and tutus. Brightly colored cartoons display numerals, written-out numbers, and dancing animals. (2-4)

### \* Knowing the Name of a Bird

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Jori van der Linde (Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-349-0 Poetic language and vivid illustrations of birds gently deliver the important message that we cannot understand any living creature, including a fellow human, without striving to connect deeply. (4-6)

# B My Favorite Color: I Can Only Pick One?

written and illustrated by Aaron Becker (Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-1-53621-474-1

A gorgeous spectrum of color palettes viewed through translucent light and accompanied by lyrical text provide an invitation to understand what a favorite means. (4-6)

### D The Power of One: Every Act of Kindness Counts

by Trudy Ludwig, illustrated by Mike Curato (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-7158-4

Straightforward minimal text and colorful expressive illustrations spotlighting specific examples enhance the message that even the act of a single person can effect positive change. Back matter. (4-6)

### Some Dinosaurs Are Small

written and illustrated by Charlotte Voake (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0936-5 A reassuring message for small children is subtly offered in the simple descriptions of a variety of dinosaurs. Bright watercolor and ink illustrations help make the point. (3-5)

# Holidays and Religion

### **Christmas Is Joy**

written and illustrated by Emma Dodd (Templar Books/Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-1-5362-1545-8

A little reindeer discovers the true meaning of Christmas—joy, love, family, and peace. Gentle expressive digital illustrations on double-page spreads. (3-5)

### **Cookie Boo**

written and illustrated by Ruth Paul (Harper Festival/HarperCollins, \$10.99) 978-0-06-286956-2

Vibrant digital illustrations and a shiny cover enhance this rhyming tale of cookies escaping the cookie tin for an adventurous Halloween night. (4-6)

### **The Ghosts Went Floating**

by Kim Norman, illustrated by Jay Fleck (Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-31213-8

All types of spooky creatures make their way across vivid, playfully illustrated pages in this Halloween counting book. Rhythm and rhyme inspired by "The Ants Go Marching." (3-6)

STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

### **Bug Dipping, Bug Sipping**

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Lucy Semple (Simon Spotlight/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4140-8

Simple, rhyming text introduces bugs and their habits. Colorful digital art and bug facts. (4-6)

### Feel the Fog (Weather Walks series)

written and photographed by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-3760-9

Readers are immersed in fog in this poetic volume. Stunning full-color photographs. Extensive endnotes provide opportunities for further exploration of this surprisingly exciting meteorological phenomenon. (4-6)

### \* Nesting

written and illustrated by Henry Cole (Katherine Tegen Books/ HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-288592-0

Beginning with the male's early-spring mating song, simple but elegant text traces the life cycle of this family of robins. Arresting pen and acrylic illustrations add lively details. (3-5)

### **Secrets of the Loon**

by Laura Purdie Salas, photographed by Charles Dayton (Minnesota Historical Society Press, \$16.95) 978-1-68134-158-3

Rhymed text enveloped in lyrical settings captures an aquatic bird's first year as she learns to survive and spread her wings. Striking photographs. Back matter. (3-6)

# D B Up to My Knees! (Storytelling Math series) written and illustrated by Grace Lin (Charlesbridge, \$6.99) 978-1-62354-123-1 A child plants a sunflower seed and measures how tall it grows by comparing its height to her body. Clear, colorful illustrations. Back matter. (1-4)

(D) (B) What Will Fit? (Storytelling Math series) written and illustrated by Grace Lin (Charlesbridge, \$6.99) 978-1-6235-4125-5 At the farmer's market, a Black child tries to put a "just right" object in her basket. An age-appropriate exploration of spatial skills. Bold colorful art. (1-4)

### When the Storm Comes

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Taeeun Yoo (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-54609-9

How do people and animals shelter to protect themselves from storms? Simple rhyming text and colorful digital and pencil drawings provide some answers. (3-5)

# **FIVE TO NINE**

### **FICTION**

# Adventure and Mystery

### I Dream of a Journey

written and illustrated by Akiko Miyakoshi, translated from the Japanese by Cathy Hirano (Kids Can Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5253-0478-1 A small-town hotel owner enjoys the stories of varied guests and longs to travel the world. Anthropomorphic animal characters; glowing, soft-textured drawings. (6-9)

### Madame Badobedah

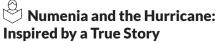
by Sophie Dahl, illustrated by Lauren O'Hara (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1022-4

A seemingly grumpy hotel guest and a young girl share imaginative journeys without ever leaving Room 32. A heartwarming intergenerational tale depicted with playful watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### \* One Afternoon

written and illustrated by Hsin-Yu Sun (Reycraft, \$15.95) 978-1-4788-7029-6 Exquisitely detailed illustrations follow a young art designer bicycling through Taipei performing his daily activities while his dog enjoys his own activities at home. Wordless. (6-9)

### **Animals**



written and illustrated by Fiona Halliday (Page Street Kids, \$18.99) 978-1-6241-4999-3 While migrating south, a courageous, determined little bird battles through a hurricane to be reunited with her family. Traditional and digital mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

### **Once upon a Winter Day**

written and illustrated by Liza Woodruff (Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4099-3

Young Milo learns that nature is full of stories when he follows a mouse's tracks in a wintry wood. Lush, detailed wordless spreads capture the activity. Mixedmedia illustrations. (4-7)

### \* This Way, Charlie

by Caron Levis, illustrated by Charles Santoso (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4206-4 A friendship between a horse and a goat at a rescue center teaches each how to handle life's challenges. Luminous illustrations. (6-9)

# **Anthologies and Collections**

### \* The Fabled Life of Aesop

by Ian Lendler, illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99) 978-1-328-58552-3

A life in enslavement taught Aesop to express ideas in allegories, the wisdom of which is still celebrated. Stunning intriguingly detailed illustrations. Afterword and bibliography. (6-9)

# **Beginning Readers**

### Max & Mo's 100th Day of School (Max & Mo series)

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont in the style of Brian Floca (Ready-to-Read/Simon Spotlight/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6326-4

\$17.99) 978-1-5344-6326-4
Two hamsters learn some important lessons about

counting and size. Ink and watercolor drawings. Activity and game instructions. (5-6)

### Max & Mo's Science Fair Surprise (Max & Mo series)

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont in the style of Brian Floca

(Ready-to-Read/Simon Spotlight/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-322-6

Can hamsters figure out how to grow bean sprouts? Ink and watercolor drawings. Instructions on growing plants from seeds. (5-6)

### See the Cat:

### Three Stories about a Dog

by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka (Candlewick Press, \$8.99) 978-1-5362-0427-8 Clever, short, repetitive sentences and expressive cartoon-like gouache illustrations create a laugh-outloud story about a dog who everyone thinks is a cat. (5-7)



# D Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom!

by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Nina Mata (I Can Read!/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-295112-0

Everyone is busy, so Ty turns a box into a locomotive and plays engineer. The fun is infectious, and his family joins in. Playful, joyful illustrations. (5-7)

# **Concept Books**

### \* Dance Like a Leaf

by AJ Irving, illustrated by Claudia Navarro (Barefoot Books, \$16.99) 978-1-64686-058-6 Through the passing of the seasons, a young girl grieves and heals from the loss of her grandmother. Vibrant acrylic illustrations. (5-8)



# \* Facts vs. Opinions vs. Robots

written and illustrated by Michael Rex (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1626-9

Colorful digital art with humorous and concrete examples dramatizes the importance of understanding the difference between facts and feelings. (5-7)

### **Memoirs of a Tortoise**

by Devin Scillian, illustrated by Tim Bowers (Sleeping Bear Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5341-1019-9 The truth that every life must end is told gently and with humor through the eyes of a tortoise who loses his human age-mate. Realistic, painterly illustrations. (5-7)



# \* Outside In

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Cindy Derby (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-1-328-86682-1

Luminous watercolor, ink, and graphite illustrations and spare text assure us that, even if we are inside, we are always inextricably part of the wondrous world outside. (5-8)

### The President of the Jungle

written and illustrated by André Rodrigues, Larissa Ribeiro, Paula Desgualdo, and Pedro Markun, translated from the Portuguese by Lyn Miller-Lachmann (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1474-6

Unhappy with things Lion is doing as king, the animals decide to elect a new leader. Digital cut-paper and charcoal illustrations. (5-8)



### Simon at the Art Museum

by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Christine Davenier (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-3752-4

Simon finds visiting an art museum baffling and frustrating, until he notices how people are reacting to the art. Lively, colorful illustrations. (5-8)

### Where Lily Isn't

by Julie Paschkis, illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine (Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-250-18425-2

A girl thinks about the places her beloved dog, Lily, isn't going to be anymore, but she knows Lily will always be in her heart. Mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)



### Why Do We Cry?

by Fran Pintadera, illustrated by Ana Sender, translated from the Spanish by Mihaila Petričić (Kids Can Press, \$16.99) 978-1-52530-477-4 A mother sensitively and reassuringly explains to her son all the possible causes of our tears. Soft, colorful illustrations perfectly capture the mood. Back matter and activities. (4-7)

# Contemporary Issues



# D 🖰 \* Big Papa and the Time Machine

by Daniel Bernstrom, illustrated by Shane W. Evans (Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-246331-9 In his time machine car, an African American grandfather drives his fearful grandson through his personal landscape of experiences, encouraging bravery and hope. Expressive, uplifting soft mixedmedia illustrations. (5-7)

### (D) The Day Saida Arrived

by Susanna Gómez Redondo, illustrated by Sonja Wimmer, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel

(Blue Dot Kids Press, \$17.95) 978-1-7331-2125-5 A newcomer from Morocco and a classmate decide to teach each other their respective languages. Whimsical, surreal art, transliteration of Arabic words, appended English and Arabic alphabets. (7-10)

### **D** Everything Naomi Loved

by Katie Yamasaki and Ian Lendler, illustrated by Katie Yamasaki

(Norton Young Readers/ W. W. Norton, \$18.95) 978-1-324-00491-2

Eleventh Street is changing, leaving Naomi lonely and sad, but Mister Ray knows how she can cope. Colorful, whimsical art brings the city to life. (5-8)

### D I Am the Storm

by Jane Yolen and Heidi E. Y. Stemple, illustrated by Kristen Howdeshell and Kevin Howdeshell (RISE x Penguin Workshop/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-5932-2275-1

What is it like to live through a tornado, blizzard, forest fire, or hurricane? Calming lyrical text and vivid illustrations capture children's experiences of extreme weather and its aftermath. Back matter. (6-8)

### \* I Talk Like a River

by Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4559-2

A father comforts his son by comparing the child's stutter to a river—often choppy and churning, but ultimately smooth. Extraordinary impressionistic art. (7-10)

### D Julián at the Wedding

written and illustrated by Jessica Love (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1238-9 At the wedding of two women, Julián makes a new friend named Marisol, granddaughter of his abuela's old friend. Subtle mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

# D D Lulu the One and Only

by Lynnette Mawhinney, illustrated by Jennie Poh (Magination Press, \$14.99) 978-1-4338-3159-1 Biracial Lulu is tired of people asking what she is. Her brother tells her she needs a power phrase that answers *who* she is instead. Whimsical cartoonish illustrations. (6-8)

### D Salma the Syrian Chef

by Danny Ramadan, illustrated by Anna Bron (Annick Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77321-375-0 Friends at a welcome center help Salma, a Syrian refugee, prepare a traditional dish, foul shami, to help ease her mother's sadness. Cheerful illustrations convey resilience. (5-7)

### \* Stand Up! Speak Up!:

### A Story Inspired by the Climate Change Revolution

written and illustrated by Andrew Joyner (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-30158-6 Minimal text brilliantly captures a young girl's community activism, followed by real examples of young activists. Digital charcoal illustrations highlighted with green add to the charm. (5-8)

### D Sugar in Milk

by Thrity Umrigar, illustrated by Khoa Le (Running Press Kids, \$17.99) 978-0-7624-9519-1 The auntie of a lonely, homesick immigrant girl tells her an ancient story of Persian refugees finding a home in an Indian kingdom. Lush colorful illustrations. (5-8)

### **D** Woodpecker Girl

by Chingyen Liu and I-Tsun Chiang, illustrated by Heidi Doll (Reycraft, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-6954-2 A girl with cerebral palsy learns to paint using a headband with a paintbrush. Impressionist drawings and original art of the child this story is based upon. (4-7)

# **Ecology**

# Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy

by Tara Dairman, illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan (G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-51806-8

In India, one family leaves their wind-ravaged desert home, searching for water. Another leaves their stormflooded home for higher ground. Will each find refuge? Digitally painted illustrations. (8-10)

### ① \* One Little Bag: An Amazing Journey

written and illustrated by Henry Cole (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-35997-8 Follow the journey of a brown paper bag through this wordless story of a family over the years. Detailed black-ink illustrations. Author's note. (6-8)

### (D) \* We Are Water Protectors

by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade (Roaring Brook/Holtzbrinck, \$17.99) 978-1-250-20355-7

The women of three Indigenous tribes vow to fight against the oil pipeline that threatens their sacred water source. Brilliant mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

# Family/School/Community

### (D) The All-Together Quilt

written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell (Knopf, \$17.99) 978-0-375-82204-9

A diverse and multigenerational community comes together to create a beautiful quilt. A comforting story beautifully illustrated in vivid watercolors and fabric. (5-8)

### \* Ani's Light

by Tanu Shree Singh, illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat (Magination Press, \$14.99) 978-1-4338-3277-2 Vibrant illustrations and gentle text seamlessly combine to portray the emotional resilience of a child facing his mother's terminal cancer. (4-7)

### (D) Bedtime Bonnet

by Nancy Redd, illustrated by Nneka Myers (Random House Books for Young Readers/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-9524-0

The youngest girl in a multigenerational Black family searches for her special bedtime bonnet as she describes the way everyone else cares for their hair. Vibrant illustrations. (5-7)

### **Blue Daisy**

by Helen Frost, illustrated by Rob Shepperson (Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$15.99) 978-0-8234-4414-4

Neighbors Sam and Katie describe in poetry and prose how a stray dog brings together unlikely friends. Recipes, author's note, expressive full-page illustrations. (7-9)

### The Boy and the Gorilla

by Jackie Azúa Kramer, illustrated by Cindy Derby (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-9832-4 Suffering the loss of his mother, a young boy searches for answers in the company of an imaginary gorilla. Vibrant watercolor and ink illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) \* Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a **World of Butterflies**

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Meilo So (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-7680-2 A young immigrant is called to community action to save endangered butterflies. Luminous digital artwork.

# (D) \* The Camping Trip

written and illustrated by Jennifer K. Mann (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0736-1 Excited when she's invited on a camping trip with her aunt and cousin, Ernestine finds camping in the wilderness isn't exactly what she expected. Woodsy mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

# Can Bears Ski?

by Raymond Antrobus, illustrated by Polly Dunbar (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1266-2 After missing some jokes and greetings, Little Bear visits an audiologist. Engaging and expressive ink and paint illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) Cannonball

by Sacha Cotter, illustrated by Josh Morgan (Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-7282-1756-7

A Maori boy's grandmother helps him hear his inner voice to find his own style of diving. Digital painting. (5-8)

### **Covid-19 Helpers**

by Beth Bacon, illustrated by Kary Lee (Blair, \$24.00) 978-19494676-0-4

The many people who are combating the virus, from community workers to children, are applauded for doing their parts to help. Simple colorful illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

### A Doll for Grandma:

### A Story about Alzheimer's Disease

by Paulette Bochnig Sharkey, illustrated by Samantha Woo

(Beaming Books/1517 Media, \$17.99) 978-1-5064-5738-3

When her beloved grandmother is moved to an assisted-care home because of her failing memory, Kiera finds a way to bond with her. Colorful, expressive illustrations. (4-7)

### (D) \* Dusk Explorers

by Lindsay Leslie, illustrated by Ellen Rooney (Page Street Kids/Page Street, \$17.99) 978-1-62414-871-2

Diverse children explore and play outdoors on a summer evening. Well-paced lyrical text. Mixed-media collages. (5-7)

### **Escape Goat**

by Ann Patchett, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser (HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-288339-1 Nicolette wants justice for the poor goat who keeps getting blamed for the minor misdeeds of others. Detail-filled ink and watercolor illustrations of a farm family's life. (5-7)

### D \* Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away

by Meg Medina, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0704-0 Two young girls promise to forever be each other's número uno even though one is relocating. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations of urban scenes. Also available in Spanish. (5-7)

### **D** From My Window

by Otávio Júnior, illustrated by Vanina Starkoff (Barefoot Books, \$17.99) 978-1-78285-977-2 A boy looks out his window and sees the poverty and the treasures of his neighborhood in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Vibrant acrylic illustrations finished digitally. (6-8)

# D A Gift for Amma: Market Day in India

by Meera Sriram, illustrated by Mariona Cabassa (Barefoot Books, \$16.99) 978-1-6468-6061-6 A little girl in South India shops for a present for her mother and describes the market products. Vibrant mixed-media pictures. Back matter includes information on international markets. (5-7)

### **D** Ginger and Chrysanthemum

by Kristen Mai Giang, illustrated by Shirley Chan (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-001-5 Young girl cousins of different temperaments work out their differences to bake a special cake for their grandmother's birthday. Supportive bright digital art with Chinese motifs. (6-8)

### (D) Grandma and the Rooster

by Yimei Wang, illustrated by Hechen Yu (Reycraft, \$15.95) 978-1-4788-6974-0

A young girl saves a rooster from becoming her family's soup when she discovers the bird's positive impact on others. Eye-popping watercolors capture the Chinese New Year. (5-8)

# D 🖰 Harlem Grown:

### How One Big Idea Transformed a Neighborhood

by Tony Hillery, illustrated by Jessie Hartland (Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-0231-7

When a new teacher, Mr. Tony, saw the trash-filled empty lot across from PS 175, he and his students created a community vegetable garden. Whimsical gouache illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) \* Hike

written and illustrated by Pete Oswald (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-53632-0157-4 In this nearly wordless story, a father and child spend a day in the woods, observing woodland creatures and planting a tree seedling. Angular softly colored digital illustrations. (5-8)

### D \* I Will Dance

by Nancy Bo Flood, illustrated by Julianna Swaney (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-3061-7

Wheelchair-bound Eva longs to be able to dance. Will it ever be possible? Watercolor and graphite illustrations. (5-7)

### \* If You Come to Earth

written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-3779-7 In this profound paean to our precious planet, a young boy describes the earth and all its complexity. Exquisite, luminous, and often quirky ink and watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

### I'll Be the Water:

### A Story of a Grandparent's Love

by Alec Aspinwall, illustrated by Nicole Wong (Tilbury House Publishers, \$17.95) 978-0-88448-776-0

A grandfather reassures his grandson through simple similes that even after his death, he will always be with him. Gentle evocative watercolor wash illustrations. (5-8)

# D 😊 \* Jabari Tries

written and illustrated by Gaia Cornwall (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0716-3 Jabari's frustration with the science of his flying machine increases. Can his little sister help? Expressive and vibrant pencil, watercolor, and collage illustrations. (5-8)

# D Khalil and Mr. Hagerty and the Backyard Treasures

by Tricia Springstubb, illustrated by Elaheh Taherian (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0306-6 An unlikely friendship develops between Khalil and his elderly neighbor as they find treasures in Mr. Hagerty's garden. Brightly colored mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

### D Lubaya's Quiet Roar

by Marilyn Nelson, illustrated by Philemena Williamson (Dial YR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-5555-1 Poetic text and warm oil and crayon paintings tell the story of a shy girl whose drawings give her a voice in a protest march. (5-7)

### D \* Me & Mama

written and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera (Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-53445-421-7 A young Black girl eagerly wakes to enjoy a rainy day with her mother. Vivid acrylic paintings and simple text portray a lovely mother-daughter relationship. (4-7)

# D Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business (Mindy Kim series)

by Lyla Lee, illustrated by Dung Ho (Aladdin, \$16.99) 978-1-5344-4009-8 In this new series, seven-year-old Mindy finds her way as the only Asian American in her new school. Blackand-white digitally realized cartoon illustrations. (7-9)

# D \* The Most Beautiful Thing

by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrated by Khoa Le (Carolrhoda Books, \$17.99) 978-1-5415-6191-5 Kalia grows to understand her grandmother's experiences (and her own) as a Hmong refugee, focused on love of family. Lush mixed-media illustrations magnify the story. (5-8)

### **D** My Big Family

by Yanitzia Canetti, illustrated by Micha Archer (Reycraft Books, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-6790-6 A young boy welcomes his grandmother, aunt, and cousins from Cuba to his home. But will there be enough room for them? Exuberant, vivid illustrations enhance the story. (5-7)

### D My Day with Gong Gong

by Sennah Yee, illustrated by Elaine Chen (Annick Press, \$18.95) 978-1-7732-1439-0 May isn't very happy about spending the day with her grandfather. He doesn't speak English and doesn't seem to understand her. Or does he? Colorful watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### D \* Nana Akua Goes to School

by Tricia Elam Walker, illustrated by April Harrison (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-58113-0 Zura introduces her beloved Ghanaian grandmother to her classmates, and everyone learns something about beauty and kindness. Jewel-toned illustrations that resemble fabric envelop the characters. (5-8)

### **Neighbors**

written and illustrated by Kasya Denisevich (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-7775-5 A girl moves into a new apartment building and wonders about her neighbors. Sparse text with extraordinary ink drawings relate stories about the people, including her new school friend. (6-8)

### **Nothing in Common**

by Kate Hoefler, illustrated by Corinna Luyken (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-544-77478-0

Two children who live separate but parallel lives reunite a lost dog with its owner and, in doing so, discover each other's marvelousness. Mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) 'Ohana Means Family

by Ilima Loomis, illustrated by Kenard Pak (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4326-0

The customs, values, and environment of the Hawaiian people are all elements in the making of poi, a favorite dish. Vivid, evocative, panoramic illustrations. Author's note, glossary. (5-7)

### **D** The Old Truck

written and illustrated by Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey (Norton Young Readers/W.W. Norton, \$17.99) 978-1-324-00519-3

A hard-working farm truck grows old alongside a girl who grows up to rescue and restore it. Distinctive retro art incorporates over 250 handmade stamps. (5-7)

### (D) One Girl

by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-1905-9 When a girl finds a book, her world opens up to incredible possibilities. Poetic text and beautiful illustrations celebrate the power of reading and imagination. (4-7)

### (D) Our Little Kitchen

written and illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4655-0 Using donated food and produce from their garden, a wonderfully diverse group prepares a meal each week for their neighbors in need. Lively, colorful illustrations. (4-6)



# \* Over the Moon

by James Proimos, illustrated by Zoey Abbott (Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-7715-1 Can two wolves nurture and raise a human baby? Absolutely! A sweet story about family love. Gouache, color pencil, and ink illustrations. (5-8)

# D Papa, Daddy, & Riley

by Seamus Kirst, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth (Magination Press, \$14.99) 978-1-4338-3239-0 A classmate pressures a young girl to name which of her two dads is her real dad. A loving message, accompanied by colorful watercolor illustrations, offers a satisfying conclusion. (6-9)

### **A Quiet Girl**

written and illustrated by Peter Carnavas (Pajama Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77278-122-9 Mary is keenly in tune with the natural world but so soft-spoken that her gentle ways are overlooked. Watercolor illustrations. Mindfulness tips included. (5-8)

### **Remembering Ethan**

by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Tracy Nishimura Bishop (Magination Press, \$16.99) 978-1-4338-3113-3 A little girl shows her parents how important it is to talk about sad things as well as happy ones. Warm illustrations. Back matter suggests how to talk about grief. (5-7)

### (D) Rita & Ralph's Rotten Day

by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Pete Oswald (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-338-21638-7 After a game goes bad, two friends find a way to meet in the middle. Based on a classic hand game. Playful digital art. Also available Spanish. (4-7)

### (D) Speak Up

by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-358-14096-2

Children at school find ways to make their voices heard. Colorful illustrations. Author's note.(4-7)

### (D) \* Thank You, Miyuki

by Roxane Marie Galliez, illustrated by Seng Soun Ratanavanh (Princeton Architectural Press, \$17.95) 978-1-61689-901-1

Over the course of a day, a grandfather models meditation to his curious granddaughter. Lush, immersive, dreamy illustrations show a deep appreciation for Japanese arts. (5-7)

### (D) Uncle Bobby's Wedding

by Sarah S. Brannen, illustrated by Lucia Soto (Little Bee Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4998-1008-0 Uncle Bobby and soon-to-be Uncle Jamie reassure Chloe that their love for each other still leaves plenty of room for her. Lively illustrations show racial diversity. (4-7)

### (D) ¡Vamos!:

### Let's Go Eat (¡Vamos! series)

by Raul the Third, colors by Elaine Bay (Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$14.99) 978-1-328-55704-9

Little Lobo feeds nine hungry luchadores. Graphic, novel-like illustrations evoke the culture of the U.S.-Mexico border. Spanish-English food glossary. (5-7)

### (D) Ways to Make Sunshine

by Renée Watson, illustrated by Nina Mata (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-5476-0056-4

Recently, Ryan and her African American family have experienced some hard times, but this tight-knit family knows how to navigate changes. Cheerful black-andwhite spot illustrations. (6-9)

### \* Weekend Dad

by Naseem Hrab, illustrated by Frank Viva (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77306-108-5

A young boy navigates confusion after his parents' divorce: he has two homes, but neither feels like home without the other parent. Stylized inked illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) \* Your Name Is a Song

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Luisa Uribe

(The Innovation Press, \$16.99) 978-1-943147-72-4 A young Black child, distressed that her name was not pronounced correctly, comes to advocate for its musicality. Realistic, detailed pastel illustrations. (5-8)

# **Fantasy**

### **The Barnabus Project**

written and illustrated by Terry, Eric, and Devin Fan (Tundra Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-7352-6326-0 Imprisoned along with other failed pet projects, Barnabus displays the courage and compassion that allow him to fulfill his dream. Gentle, finely detailed digital graphite illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) Dandan's Dream

by Xiaowen Zhu, illustrated by Yanling Gong (Reycraft Books, \$17.95) 971-1-4788-6853-8 Exquisite illustrations and words tell the tale of Dandan, a Chinese girl, who mails herself to the South Pole to visit her father. (5-8)



written and illustrated by Bob Graham (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1113-9 Ellie and her dragon are constant companions at first, but as Ellie's interests change, she notices the dragon starts to fade. Watercolor and ink illustrations. (7-9)

### Felix and the Monsters

written and illustrated by Josh Holtsclaw and Monica Holtsclaw (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-11052-2

Through the magic of music, guards who have been following orders to exclude a group of monsters learn to be inclusive. Mixed-media and digital artwork. (5-7)



### \* Letters from Bear

by David Gauthier, illustrated by Marie Caudry, translated from the French by Sarah Ardizzone (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, \$17.99) 978-0-8028-5536-7

Letters in poetic form and deep rich illustrations, some with hidden images, depict the travels of Bear, who makes her way South to visit her friend Bird. (6-9)



# Our Friend Hedgehog:

### The Story of Us (Our Friend Hedgehog series)

written and illustrated by Lauren Castillo (Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-6671-9 When Hedgehog's beloved stuffed dog is carried away by a storm, new friends join her guest to find him. Chapter book format. Heartwarming color illustrations. (4-7)

### Sandcastle

written and illustrated by Einat Tsarfati (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1143-6 Explore each of the fanciful rooms in the sandcastle a young girl builds at the beach one summer day before the waves come. Imaginatively detailed illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) Soraya and the Mermaid

by Salima Alikhan, illustrated by Atieh Sohrabi and Jennifer Naalchigar (Reycraft Books, \$15.95) 978-1-4788-6815-6 When Soraya helps a mermaid return to her ocean home, she learns that what friends want matters. Lively illustrations. (7-10)

### (D) \* Swashby and the Sea

by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (HMH Books, \$17.99) 978-0-544-70737-5 Curmudgeonly Captain Swashby initially rebuffs his friendly new neighbors, but eventually has a change of heart after the sea intervenes. Warm, richly detailed illustrations. (5-7)

# Folklore and Fairy Tales

### (D) \* Feathered Serpent and the Five Suns: A Mesoamerican Creation Myth

written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-4677-2 Quetzalcóatl, the ancient Mesoamerican god of knowledge, embarks on a dangerous but successful quest to the underworld to create humankind. Illustrations evoke ancient codices. Endnotes.(6-9)

### (D) The Little Mermaid

written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-44031-8

A young mermaid sacrifices her voice in exchange for legs and the hope of friendship. Striking pencil and watercolor illustrations. A reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's tale. (6-8)

### (D) The Phoenix of Persia

by Sally Pomme Clayton, illustrated by Amin Hassanzadeh Sharif (Tiny Owl, \$17.95) 978-1-910328-43-9 A firebird rears a baby abandoned by his royal father. Deeply colored scratchboard illustrations. A QR code gives access to the story told with music. (6-9)



# \* Rónán and the Mermaid:

### A Tale of Old Ireland

by Marianne McShane, illustrated by Jordi Solano (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0022-5 A young boy, rescued by a monk, hears the song of the sea and searches for the mermaid who sang to him. Expressive ink and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### **The Three Billy Goats Buenos**

by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Miguel Ordóñez (G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0399-54739-3

A popular tale retold with a twist. In rhyme with Spanish words within an English text. Pencil, collage, and digital illustrations. Glossary with pronunciations. (5-7)

### \* The Weather's Bet

by Stephen Cowan, illustrated by Ed Young (Philomel/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-525-51382-7 In this lyrical reimagining of Aesop's The Wind and the Sun, majestic mixed-media collages convey the power of natural forces, with the earth and sun ultimately triumphing. (6-9)

### **Historical Fiction**

### (D) \* Northbound:

### A Train Ride Out of Segregation

by Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein, illustrated by James E. Ransome (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-9650-4 Michael must sit in the segregated section of a train until it leaves Atlanta, when he guickly befriends a white boy. Realistic, watercolor illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

### (D) Sleeping with the Lights On

by David Unger, illustrated by Carlos Vélez Aguilera (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$14.95) 978-1-77306-384-3

War in Guatemala in the 1950s changes the life of a young boy and his family. Ultimately, they flee to the United States. Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)

### Humor



# \* A Is for Another Rabbit

written and illustrated by Hannah Batsel (Lerner Publishing Group, \$17.99) 978-1-5415-2950-2 Lots of rabbits and protesting Dr. Owl roam through the alphabet in a clever, humorous style. Painted acrylic, black ink and gold leaf illustrations. (5-8)

### **Agent Lion**

by David Soman and Jacky Davis, illustrated by **David Soman** 

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-286917-3 Silliness abounds as a clueless detective searches for a missing pet cat. Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations highlight the humor. (5-8)

### **Bunny Braves the Day:** A First-Day-of-School Story

written and illustrated by Suzanne Bloom (Boyds Mills Press, \$17.99) 978-1-68437-812-8 Bunny has endless excuses to avoid school, but his sister's wise words change his mind. Vivid illustrations show emotions. (5-7)

### I Am Goose!

by Dorothia Rohner, illustrated by Vanya Nastanlieva (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/HMH Books, \$17.99) 978-1-328-84159-9

A group of very talkative animals argue with each other as they play a game. Clever mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

# Magical Realism



### (D) \* Golden Threads

by Suzanne Del Rizzo, illustrated by Miki Sato (Owlkids, \$17.95) 978-1-77147-360-6 Emi's much-loved stuffed fox is ripped away in a big storm. Will he find his way back home to her? Vibrant, textured collages. Inspired by the Japanese art of kintsugi. (5-8)



# **Wondrous Rex**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Emilia Dziubak (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-294098-8

When a magician arrives with a mysterious dog to help Aunt Lily overcome writer's block, the dog inspires young Gracie too. Black-and-spot illustrations. (7-10)

# **Sports**

### (D) Let's Go to Taekwondo! A Story about Persistence, Bravery, and **Breaking Boards**

written and illustrated by Aram Kim (Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-4360-4 Animal friends join Yoomi as she learns Korean selfdefense. Her grandmother and friends help her pass the board-breaking test. Cartoon, colored pencil, and pastel illustrations (5-8)

### **POETRY**

### (D) \* Black Is a Rainbow Color

by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (Roaring Brook Press, \$17.99) 978-1-62672-631-4 A young girl proudly reflects on Black history and culture and on what the legacy means for her. Free verse. Brightly painted, collage illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)



### D \* Child of the Universe

by Ray Jayawardhana, illustrated by Raul Colón (Make Me a World/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-1754-4 As his daughter prepares for bed, her father compares her to the elements of the cosmos. Intense, spectacular colored pencil illustrations. (6-9)

### D \* I Am Every Good Thing

by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-51877-8

A joyful celebration of Black boys and the wonderful things that they are and can be is told in energetic lyrical language, accompanied by boldly colored oil paint illustrations. (5-8)

### Ice!:

### **Poems about Polar Life**

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian (Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-4101-3 Playful turns of phrase about the inhabitants of earth's frozen zones are enhanced with colored pencil and oil pastel illustrations. (6-9)



# In the Woods

by David Elliott, illustrated by Rob Dunlavey (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-9783-9 Fifteen poems in varied forms and moods offer vivid portraits of woodland creatures. Expressive watercolor and mixed-media art. Includes short animal profiles. (5-8)



### Just Like Me

written and illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Alfred A. Knopf/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-525-5809-0 Simple, upbeat poems foster appreciation for what it is like to be a girl. Brightly colored mixed-media drawings convey warmth and humor within diverse contexts. (5-7)

### D Night Wishes

selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Jen Corace

(Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, \$18.99) 978-0-8028-5496-4

In these lyrical verses by thirteen poets, the moon, a teddy bear, a blanket, and more accompany a dreaming child. Soft gouache illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) No Voice Too Small:

### **Fourteen Young Americans Making History**

edited by Lindsay H. Metcalf, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley, illustrated by Jeanette Bradley (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-131-6 Poems by diverse writers feature children fighting for environmental change, LGBTQIA+ equality, and other social issues. Short bios and digital illustrations. Back matter includes information on poetic forms. (7-10)



### **Our Corner Store**

by Robert Heidbreder, illustrated by Chelsea O'Byrne (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-77306-216-7

The local grocery store was the center of the world for the narrator and his sister. Poems fancifully depicted in gouache and colored pencil illustrations. (7-9)



### Whoo-Ku Haiku:

### **A Great Horned Owl Story**

by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Jonathan Voss (G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/PRH, \$16.98) 978-0-3995-4842-0

The nesting, egg-laying, hatching, and flights of an owl family are dramatized through haiku and expressive dreamy watercolor/sepia ink illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

### INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

### **Activities**

# The Highlights Book of Things to Do: Discover, Explore, Create, and Do

written and illustrated by Highlights Press (Highlights Press, \$24.99) 978-1-68437-642-1 Clear text, diagrams, and photographs provide information on one hundred indoor and outdoor activities to foster physical, mental, creative, and personal growth skills. (7-10)

### **Arts**

### When Emily Was Small

written and illustrated by Lauren Soloy (Tundra Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6606-3 As a young girl, the artist Emily Carr finds beauty, awe, and wonder in nature with the help of a new friend, the Wild. Sumptuous mixed-media illustrations. (6-8)

# Biography and Memoir

### D All the Way to the Top:

# How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything

by Annette Bay Pimentel, illustrated by Nabi H. Ali (Sourcebooks eXplore/Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-4926-8897-6

Jennifer, a six-year-old with cerebral palsy who experiences daily obstacles to wheelchair access, becomes an unrelenting activist for disability rights. Digitally painted illustrations. Back matter. (5-8)

### D Althea Gibson:

### The Story of Tennis' Fleet-of-Foot Girl

by Megan Reid, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Balzer & Bray/ HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-285109-3

Born in Harlem in the 1940s, a Black girl broke racial barriers to become one of the world's greatest tennis champions. Animated expressive illustrations. (6-9)

### D Beautiful Shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring

by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Felicia Marshall (Creston Books, \$18.99) 978-1-939547-65-1 Waring, an early 20th-century Black artist, was commissioned to paint portraits of prominent African Americans. Painterly reproductions beautifully capture the brown facial tones. (7-10)

### ① \* Bread for Words: A Frederick Douglass Story

by Shana Keller, illustrated by Kayla Stark (Sleeping Bear Press, \$16.99) 978-1-53411-001-4 With wit, drive, and determination, an enslaved child who grew up to become an abolitionist leader learns to read and write. Beautifully detailed illustrations. (6-8)

### **Cubs in the Tub:**

# The True Story of the Bronx Zoo's First Woman Zookeeper

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Julie Downing (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4318-5

Though Helen Martini couldn't have children of her own, she became a mother to rejected lion and tiger cubs at the Bronx Zoo. Playful illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

### D \* Dark Was the Night

by Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-3888-4 Blind gospel/blues musician Willie Johnson, whose first guitar was a cigar box, grew up to write a song chosen for the Golden Record on Voyager I. Expressive watercolors. Endnotes and bibliography. (7-10)

### **D** Digging for Words:

### José Alberto Gutiérrez and the Library He Built

by Angela Burke Kunkel, illustrated by Paola Escobar (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-984892-63-8 A garbage collector in Bogotá, Colombia, known as the Lord of the Books, scavenges to create a library in his barrio. Whimsical digital art. Background notes. Also available in Spanish. (7-9)

### D Drawing on Walls: A Story of Keith Haring

by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Josh Cochran (Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-267-1 Haring, an iconic pop artist, strove to make art accessible to everyone. Vibrant illustrations. Biographical notes. (7-10)

# The Efficient, Inventive (Often Annoying) Melvil Dewey

by Alexis O'Neill, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-198-3

Quirky and compulsive, Dewey created a library cataloging system, started the first library training school, and promoted free libraries. Digital illustrations. Author's notes, time line, and sources. (6-9)

### **Emily Writes:**

### **Emily Dickinson and Her Poetic Beginnings**

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Christine Davenier (Henry Holt /Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-12808-9 This fictional portrayal of Emily Dickinson as a young child follows her through the days as she discovers delight in wordplay. Joyful watercolor illustrations. Historical back matter and bibliography. (5-8)

### **Emmy Noether:**

# The Most Important Mathematician You've Never Heard Of

by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Kari Rust (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0059-2 When no male scientists could make sense of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity, Emmy Noether could! Humorous illustrations and lively text introduce this brilliant, independent thinker. (7-10)

### **D** Exquisite:

### The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks

by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-3411-3 Born in 1917, Brooks grew up to become the first Black American to win the Pulitzer Prize. Beautifully detailed painterly illustrations. Endnotes. (6-8)

### (D) Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon

by Simran Jeet Singh, illustrated by Baljinder Kaur (Kokila/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55509-4 Overcoming lifelong obstacles, a Sikh broke all records in 1911 as the first 100-year-old man to run the marathon. Collage-like illustrations. Back matter. (6-8)

### \* Fly High, John Glenn: The Story of an American Hero

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Maurizio A. C. Quarello (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-274714-3 Glenn's lifelong passion for flying began in childhood and clearly continues as he flies at age 90. Realistic oil illustrations. (7-10)

# D A Girl Named Rosita: The Story of Rita Moreno: Actor, Singer, Dancer, Trailblazer!

by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Leo Espinosa (Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-287770-3 A determined young Puerto Rican became the talented performer Rita Moreno, breaking barriers for Latinx women. Vibrant illustrations showcase the star in action. Author's note, time line. (6-8)

# \* Hello, Neighbor!

### The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers

written and illustrated by Matthew Cordell (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4618-6

The birth of his television show and Fred Rogers's path are depicted in clear text and inviting ink and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

### D How to Solve a Problem:

### The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion

by Ashima Shiraishi, illustrated by Yao Xiao (Make Me a World/Random House/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-7327-4

A famous Japanese American shares her patience, perseverance, creative strategies, and failures, essential for her successful climbs to challenging summits. Vivid, colorful illustrations. Time line. (5-8)

### (D) \* Itzhak:

### A Boy Who Loved the Violin

by Tracy Newman, illustrated by Abigail Halpin (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4110-4 An undaunted Israeli immigrant boy, stricken with polio, rises to fame as a violinist. Music notation in watercolor and colored pencil. Time line, notes, bibliography. (6-9)

### Jane Goodall:

### A Champion of Chimpanzees

by Sarah Albee, illustrated by Gustavo Mazali (Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-243279-7 Goodall's life and work studying and protecting chimpanzees is presented in simple language and enhanced by color drawings. Back matter includes photographs and additional information. (6-8)

### Joey: The Story of Joe Biden

by Jill Biden with Kathleen Krull, illustrated by **Amy June Bates** 

(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99) 978-1-5344-8053-7

From boyhood on, competitiveness, leadership qualities, and struggles with stuttering have been facets of the 46th president's life. Watercolor and gouache illustrations. Sourced quotes, time line, and back matter. (5-8)

# D Nacho's Nachos:

### The Story behind the World's Favorite Snack

by Sandra Nickel, illustrated by Oliver Dominguez (Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-62014-369-8 When a restaurant customer requests something special, Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya demonstrates his imagination and talent in the kitchen. Realistic, painterly illustrations match this real-life story. (6-9)

### (D) \* The Oldest Student: **How Mary Walker Learned to Read**

by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-6828-7 Enslaved at birth but emancipated at 15, Walker fulfilled her life's dream, at age 114, to achieve literacy, receiving community recognition. Evocative expressive collage illustrations. Author's note. (5-8)



### \* Perkin's Perfect Purple: How a Boy Created Color with Chemistry

by Tami Lewis Brown and Debbie Loren Dunn, illustrated by Francesca Sanna (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-1-368-03284-1

Trying for a medical breakthrough, a chemistry student discovered a new hue that satisfied Queen Victoria's wish for a truly purple gown. Playfully illustrated. Rich historical and scientific back matter. (7-10)

### (D) \* The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist **Ethel L. Payne**

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by John Parra (Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-6289-1

Fighting discrimination all her life, the "First Lady of the Black Press" combined her talent for writing and passion for justice to take her from her Chicago childhood to the White House press corps in 1954, where she remained for almost 50 years. Stylized acrylic illustrations. (5-8)

### (D) Ready to Fly:

### How Sylvia Townsend Became the **Bookmobile Ballerina**

by Lea Lyon and Alexandria LaFaye, illustrated by Jessica Gibson

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-288878-5 An African American girl, denied admittance to ballet school, taught herself to dance using books from a bookmobile. Lively digitized illustrations and back matter. (5-8)

### D A Ride to Remember: A Civil Rights Story

by Sharon Langley and Amy Nathan, illustrated by Floyd Cooper

(Abrams BFYR/Abrams \$18.99) 978-1-4197-3685-8 Sharon Langley recalls being the first African American child in 1963 to ride a carousel in a restricted amusement park after community protests. Softly textured illustrations. Author's note, time line, bibliography. (6-8)

### (D) She Was the First:

### The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm

by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Eric Velasquez

(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-62014-346-9

With character strength evident even as a child, Chisholm, motivated by social consciousness, became the first Black presidential candidate. Watercolor illustrations enhance this life story. (7-10)

### The Strange Birds of Flannery O'Connor: **A Life**

by Amy Alznauer, illustrated by Ping Zhu (Enchanted Lion Books, \$18.95) 978-1-59270-295-4 Flannery loved to write about all things strange and fantastical, especially birds. Bold illustrations, steeped in color, sweep across the pages. Background notes and sources. (6-9)

### **Terry Fox and Me**

by Mary Beth Leatherdale, illustrated by Milan Pavlović (Tundra Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-7352-6768-8 Terry, once the shortest, worst athlete in his class, lost a leg to cancer but persevered to run across the width of Canada on a prosthetic leg. Pencil, crayon, and ink illustrations. (7-9)

### **Thanks to Frances Perkins: Fighter for Workers' Rights**

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Kristy Caldwell (Peachtree, \$18.99) 978-1-68263-136-2

Following heart and mind, Perkins fought for laws for workplace justice. Authentic period illustrations depict FDR's secretary of labor, the first female cabinet member. Well referenced. (6-9)



### \* A Thousand Glass Flowers:

### Marietta Barovier and the Invention of the Rosetta Bead

written and illustrated by Evan Turk (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-1034-3

Captivated by fire and sun, Marietta defied societal rules to become a female glassblower. Orange-, gold-, and indigo-toned illustrations evoke Renaissance Venice. Enchanting text. (7-10)

### (D) Were I Not a Girl:

### The Inspiring and True Story of Dr. James Barry

by Lisa Robinson, illustrated by Lauren Simkin Berke (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-4905-2 A physician, born female, decides to live as a man from age 18 to his passing. Gorgeous mixed-media illustrations. (6-8)

### Wood, Wire, Wings:

### **Emma Lilian Todd Invents an Airplane**

by Kirsten W. Larson, illustrated by Tracy Subisak (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$18.99) 978-1-62979-938-4

Some people thought women couldn't invent things, but Emma Lilian loved solving problems. Could she improve on early designs for flying machines? Bold, energetic illustrations. Extensive source notes. (6-8)

# **Ecology**

### **Crossings:**

### **Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals**

by Katy S. Duffield, illustrated by Mike Orodán (Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-6579-4

Lively, colorful pencil and digital illustrations showcase human-made structures that help wildlife safely cross roads and highways. Map, additional animal information, bibliography. (5-8)

# D 😂 If You Want to Visit a Sea Garden

by Kay Weisman, illustrated by Roy Henry Vickers (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.95) 978-1-55498-970-6

Explore a clam garden, a food source that Indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest have cultivated for thousands of years. Bold, digital illustrations. Author's note with color photographs. (6-9)

### **Pika Country:**

### Climate Change at the Top of the World

by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent and Marlo Garnsworthy, photographed by Dan Hartman (Web of Life Children's Books, \$17.95) 978-1-970039-02-3

The shrinking of the alpine habitat as a result of climate change threatens the pika's existence, which in turn threatens their ecosystem. Diagrams and striking photographs. (6-9)

### Health



### Consent (For Kids!):

### Boundaries, Respect, and Being in Charge of You

written and illustrated by Rachel Brian (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$15.99) 978-0-316-45773-6

Lively digital illustrations complement a guide on how to respect yourself and others. (6-9)

# History



# D \* The ABCs of Black History

by Rio Cortez, illustrated by Lauren Semmer (Workman, \$14.95) 978-1-5235-0749-8 The important names, dates, and places in Black history

and culture are related in rhyming text. Bright, boldly colored illustrations. (7-10)

### **Honey:**

### The Dog Who Saved Abe Lincoln

by Shari Swanson, illustrated by Chuck Groenink (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-269900-8

Young Abe Lincoln's compassion and affinity with nature are celebrated in a rescue story with a dog hero. Engaging digital illustrations. Time line. (5-7)

### Jacob Riis's Camera:

### **Bringing Light to Tenement Children**

by Alexis O'Neill, illustrated by Gary Kelley (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$18.99) 978-1-62979-866-0

Atmospheric ink and pastel drawings augment the life story of the journalist-photographer whose accounts of impoverished tenement dwellers led to important social change. Includes Riis's photographs. Extensive sources. (7-9)



# D 🖰 Kamala and Maya's Big Idea

by Meena Harris, illustrated by Ana Ramírez González (Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-293740-7

Warm, colorful panels show how young Kamala and Maya Harris worked to unite a community to get a neighborhood playground built. (7-9)

### \* Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children

by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Schwartz & Wade/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-4498-1291-4 Mother Jones narrates her own story of her protest march with child laborers in 1903. Watercolor illustrations capture her spirit and the times. Bibliography, author's note, endpapers featuring auotes. (6-9)

### The Pig War:

### How a Porcine Tragedy Taught England and **America to Share**

by Emma Bland Smith, illustrated by Alison Jay (Astra Publishing House, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-171-6 In 1859 the United States and England almost went to war over the shooting of a pig. Alkyd paints on paper. Time line, resources, and author's notes. (7-10)

### **Rescuing the Declaration of Independence:** How We Almost Lost the Words that Built America

by Anna Crowley Redding, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham (HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-274032-8

In 1814 Stephen Pleasonton, Secretary of State Monroe's clerk, skillfully secured the safety of crucial documents when the British threatened to burn Washington. Energetic illustrations. Well-documented. (6-8)

### (D) \* The Teachers March!: **How Selma's Teachers Changed History**

by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace, illustrated by Charly Palmer

(Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills, \$18.99) 978-1-62979-452-5

A little-known aspect of the African American fight for voting rights is dramatically depicted with vibrant acrylic illustrations. Fictionalized dialogue. Time line, bibliography. (7-9)

# Holidays and Religion

### Addy's Cup of Sugar

written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-63428-1 When her pet dies, Addy turns to a wise panda, Stillwater, for help and comfort. Adapted from a Buddhist tale. Evocative watercolor art. (5-8)

### Miriam at the River

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Khoa Le (Kar-Ben/Lerner, \$17.99) 978-1-54154-400-0 Brave Miriam does what she must to save her brother in this beautiful, poetic retelling of the familiar Biblical story. Effective swirling, vibrant illustrations. (5-8)

### ① \* The Seed of Compassion: Lessons from the Life and Teaching of his Holiness the Dalai Lama

by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, illustrated by Bao Luu (Kokila/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-525-55514-8 Chosen from an ordinary family in Tibet, the great Buddhist spiritual leader shares his personal journey and ethical values inspired by his mother. Expressive, digital illustrations. (5-8)

# Law and Justice

### I Voted:

### Making a Choice Makes a Difference

by Mark Shulman, illustrated by Serge Bloch (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4561-5

Colorful ink drawings accompany this accessible explanation of voting. Expanded back matter clearly explains how national and state governments work. Additional resources. (5-7)

# **Parenting**

### ① \* All Because You Matter

by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Orchard Books/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-338-57485-2

A stirring ode to empowering children of color through love, comfort, hope, and pride in their heritage. Strong emotive illustrations. Notes. (4-7)

# **Sports**

### D Always, Jackie

by Ron Rabinovitz and J. Patrick Lewis, illustrated by John Thompson

(Creative Editions, \$18.99) 978-1-56846-307-0 Jackie Robinson responded to a letter from the father of a young fan, and so began a life-long correspondence and friendship. Realistic paintings. Bibliography. (6-8)

### (D) \* Swish!:

# The Slam-Dunking, Alley-Ooping, High-Flying Harlem Globetrotters

by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Don Tate (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-48167-0

Despite racism, members of a Black high school basketball team were catapulted to worldwide fame for their athleticism and theatrics. Energetic illustrations, archival photographs. Time line, sources, notes. (6-9)

# $\begin{center} STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) \end{center}$

### All the Birds in the World

written and illustrated by David Opie (Peter Pauper Press, \$16.99) 978-1-4413-3329-2 Vibrant illustrations depict the many similarities and differences among birds from all over the world. Where does a kiwi bird fit in? Back matter. (5-8)

### **Birds (Nature All Around series)**

by Pamela Hickman, illustrated by Carolyn Gavin (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-77138-818-4
Bite-sized, well-organized, and diverse facts highlighted by brilliantly colored, detailed watercolor and gouache illustrations include tips and encouragement for potential young birdwatchers. Glossary. (7-10)

### Dinosaurs Are Not Extinct: Real Facts about Real Dinosaurs

written and illustrated by Drew Chenman (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-297234-7 A humorous presentation of the evolution of dinosaurs into birds is enhanced by clever cartoon drawings with witty captions. (5-8)

### Dive In:

### Swim with Sea Creatures at Their Actual Size

written and illustrated by Roxie Munro (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4335-2 Lavish color drawings portray the creatures that dwell in the world's oceans and reefs. Back matter, glossary, map. (8-10)

### Frogs (We Both Read series)

by Sindy McKay

(Treasure Bay, P \$4.99) 978-1-60115-358-6 The life cycle, predators, and diet of these amphibians are presented in simple text for beginning readers. Color photographs and back matter. (5-7)

### (D) \* How to Find a Bird

by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Diana Sudyka (Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-6705-6

Children are directed to look for the birds in the gentle watercolor illustrations, just as they would outdoors. (5-8)

### \* If You Take Away the Otter

by Susannah Buhrman-Deever, illustrated by Matthew Trueman (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-8934-6 Otters play an important role in the northern Pacific Coast ecosystem. Discover what happened to their thriving home when they temporarily disappeared. Luminous mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

### D I'm Trying to Love Rocks

written and illustrated by Bethany Barton (Viking BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-451-48095-8 A humorous interchange between a doubting narrator and an enthusiastic young scientist provides a wonderful invitation to study geology. Bold lettering and comical illustrations. (7-10)

### \* Insects:

### By the Numbers (By the Numbers series)

written and illustrated by Steve Jenkins (HMH Books for Young Readers/HMH, \$14.99) 978-1-328-85099-7

The life span, size, and behavior of a wide variety of insects are presented in infographics. Life-like torn paper illustrations. (5-8)

### A Last Goodbye

by Elin Kelsey, illustrated by Soyeon Kim (Owlkids Books, \$18.95) 978-1-77147-364-4 Animal mourning rituals provide a reassuring introduction to the topic of losing a loved one. Ink and watercolor cut-out illustrations. Back matter references scientific research. (5-8)

### Migration

written and illustrated by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4065-8 Animal migratory habits are engagingly depicted with vibrant watercolor illustrations. Clear facts, maps of migratory patterns, and an interwoven glossary make this a great resource. (5-8)

### **Nature Did It First:**

### **Engineering through Biomimicry**

by Karen Ansberry, illustrated by Jennifer DiRubbio (Dawn Publications, \$16.95) 978-1-58469-657-5 Plants, animals, and insects have inspired many modern inventions. Poems, interesting facts, and colorful illustrations introduce the concept of biomimicry, showing how we can learn from nature. (5-8)

### The Nest that Wren Built

by Randi Sonenshine, illustrated by Anne Hunter (Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0153-6 Wrens build their nests with surprising elements, making them secure for hatchlings, until the fledglings fly away. Soft, realistic ink and colored paper illustrations. Back matter, including glossary. (6-8)

### (D) The Oboe Goes Boom Boom Boom

by Colleen AF Venable, illustrated by Lian Cho (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-249437-5

A patient teacher introduces his students to eight musical instruments. Energetic illustrations highlight funny and informative text, explaining how sound is created. (6-8)

# Over and Under the Rainforest (Over and Under series)

by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-6940-8 A child and older companion hike through the Costa Rican rainforest, observing and talking about the ecosystems native to that area. Bright mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)



### \* Packs:

### **Strength in Numbers**

written and illustrated by Hannah Salyer (HMH Books for Young Readers/HMH, \$17.99) 978-1-328-57788-7

Simple text and colorfully captivating mixed-media illustrations explore how different creatures live in communities, using teamwork to survive and thrive. (5-8)

### **D** Pitter Pattern

written and illustrated by Joyce Hesselberth (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-274123-3

Lu and her family and friends find patterns in nature, music, dance, the city, and their homes. Vibrant mixed-media and digital pictures help readers detect these designs. (4-7)

### Plants (Nature All Around series)

by Pamela Hickman, illustrated by Carolyn Gavin (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-77138-819-1 Bright, detailed watercolors and clear text introduce plants and describe how, when, and where they grow. (6-9)

# Plants Fight Back: Discover the Clever Adaptations Plants Use to Survive

by Lisa J. Amstutz, illustrated by Rebecca Evans (Dawn Publications/Sourcebooks eXplore, P \$8.99) 978-1-5846-9673-5

Dynamic bold color illustrations and rhymed text introduce the various defenses plants employ to survive predators. Glossary, activities. (6-8)

### Rare and Blue:

### **Finding Nature's Treasures**

by Constance Van Hoven, illustrated by Alan Marks (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-097-5 The habitat and current status of eight species with blue coloration are presented with simple, lyrical text. Detailed illustrations. Back matter includes bibliography and definitions. (6-9)

### Run, Sea Turtle, Run: A Hatchling's Story

by Stephen R. Swinburne, photographed by Guillaume Feuillet

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$27.99) 978-1-5415-7812-8 Large photographs depict the first months of the leatherback sea turtle, from its hatching to its first swim in the ocean. Back matter includes notes on life cycle and further information. (5-8)

### \* She Leads:

### The Elephant Matriarch

by June Smalls, illustrated by Yumi Shimokawara (Familius, \$16.99) 978-1-64170-232-4
Painterly illustrations on double-page spreads honor the female elephants whose love and leadership serve as enviable models for humankind. Factual matter accompanies simple, lyrical text. (6-8)

### **Slow Down:**

### 50 Mindful Moments in Nature

by Rachel Williams, illustrated by Freya Hartas (Magic Cat/Abrams, \$24.99) 978-1-4197-4838-7 Selected animals and plants display the mysteries of the natural world. Accessible text and charming, painterly illustrations. (6-8)

# Thump Goes the Rabbit: How Animals Communicate (Let's Read and Find Out series)

by Fran Hodgkins, illustrated by Taia Morley (HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-249101-5
The variety of ways animals send messages and reveal feelings are revealed in simple text accompanied by colorful digital illustrations. (4-8)

# The Turtle Dove's Journey: A Story of Migration

by Madeleine Dunphy, illustrated by Marlo Garnsworthy (Web of Life, \$17.95) 978-1-970039-01-6 Each autumn, turtle doves migrate thousands of miles by night from England to Mali. How do they do it? Vibrant watercolor and digital oil illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

### Who Will It Be?:

### **How Evolution Connects Us All**

by Paolo Vitale, illustrated by Rossana Bossù, translated from the Italian by Denise Muir (Blue Dot Kids Press, \$18.95) 978-1-7331212-0-0 The evolution of diverse life forms, from cells to unique creatures, is poetically described. History, charts. Vibrant illustrations. (6-9)

### Whooo Knew?: The Truth about Owls

by Annette Whipple, illustrated by various photographers (Reycraft Books, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-6962-7

How do owls hunt? Do they sleep all day? Striking photographs and clear text answer questions about these fascinating birds. (6-9)

### \* Winged Wonders:

### **Solving the Monarch Migration Mystery**

by Meeg Pincus, illustrated by Yas Imamura (Sleeping Bear Press, \$17.99) 978-1-53411-040-3 Scientists, schoolchildren, Mexican villagers, gardeners, and teachers were among those who helped discover where monarch butterflies' annual journey from Canada ends. Colorful, detailed illustrations. (6-8)

## World

## **D** 111 Trees:

# How One Village Celebrates the Birth of Every Girl (Citizen Kid series)

by Rina Singh, illustrated by Marianne Ferrer (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0120-9 An Indian father honors his dead daughter by encouraging neighbors to plant trees and educate girls. Paint and graphite illustrations show an emerging green village. Back matter. (6-9)

## **D** The Cat Man of Aleppo

by Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha, illustrated by Yuko Shimizu (G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1378-7

A Syrian ambulance driver rescues the cats of Aleppo left behind when their owners flee the war-torn city. Dramatic ink and Photoshopped illustrations. Back matter. (6-9)

### D \* My Bed:

#### **Enchanting Ways to Fall Asleep around the World**

by Rebecca Bond, illustrated by Salley Mavor (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99) 978-0-544-94906-5

Magnificent, detailed handstitched artwork invites children to explore beloved beds in many countries. The message gently celebrates human similarities and differences. (5-8)

## NINE TO TWELVE

## **FICTION**

## Adventure and Mystery

## (D) Foreverland

by Nicole C. Kear (Imprint/Macmillan Publishers, \$16.99) 978-1-250-21983-1

With trouble at home, 12-year-old Margaret runs away to her family's favorite amusement park. Another resourceful runaway helps her navigate the challenges of life's roller-coaster ride. (9-12)

#### **The Great Upending**

by Beth Kephart

(Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-9156-3

Twelve-year-old Sara, facing a rare disease, hatches a dangerous plan with her brother Hawk to unravel the mystery of the strange tenant on their troubled farm. (10-13)



## No Place for Monsters

written and illustrated by Kory Merritt (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$14.99) 978-0-358-12853-3

Levi enlists fellow loner Kat to help him find his sister, who hasn't just just disappeared: she's been erased! Spirited, witty black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)



## **D** \* Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer

by Gillian Goerz

(Dial BFYR/PRH, \$20.99) 978-0-525-55285-7 Jamila, a brown-skinned Muslim girl, becomes involved in solving a mystery with white-skinned Shirley, a kid detective. Full-color animated illustrations. (10-12)

## (D) The Smartest Kid in the Universe

by Chris Grabenstein (Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-525-64779-9

Three seventh graders encounter a bizarre science experiment and look for buried treasure while trying to save their middle school from demolition. (9-12)

## **D** Tales of the Feathered Serpent: Rise of the Halfling King (Tales of the **Feathered Serpent series)**

by David Bowles, illustrated by Charlene Bowles (Cinco Puntos Press, P \$12.95) 978-1-947627-37-6 A magical boy from Mayan mythology faces impossible tasks and a ruthless king to save the people of Mexico. Vivid, dramatic illustrations. (9-12)

## (D) The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez

by Adrianna Cuevas

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-31360-9

When your father's in the military you have to move—a lot. Nestor thinks making new friends isn't worth the trouble, until a shape-shifting witch shows up. (9-12)

## **Animals**

#### A Whale of the Wild

by Rosanne Parr, illustrated by Lindsay Moore (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-299592-6

Vega, an orca, leaves her family to bury her stillborn sister. Her little brother follows her, and they get caught in a tsunami. Dramatic black-and-white illustrations. Extensive back matter. (9-12)

## **Contemporary Issues**

#### **Brave Like That**

by Lindsey Stoddard

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-287811-3 Cyrus, 11, knows he will not be a football hero or fireman like his adopted father, but it takes a stray dog, new friends, and a loving grandmother to teach him just how he is brave. (10-12)

#### Don't Stand So Close to Me

by Eric Walters

(Orca Book Publishers, P \$10.95) 978-1459827875 Thirteen-year-old Quinn and her classmates work through their new realities during the coronavirus pandemic. (10-13)

## (D) From the Desk of Zoe Washington

by Janae Marks

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-287585-3

After unexpectedly receiving a letter from her incarcerated father on her 12th birthday, Zoe spends the summer getting to know him and working to prove his innocence. (10-13)

## (D) (M) \* King and the Dragonflies

by Kacen Callender (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-12933-5 Devastated by the death of his older brother, King is forced to deal with the pain of loneliness, grief, and selfacceptance. (10-13) Mature Content

#### **Migrants**

written and illustrated by Issa Watanabe (Gecko Press, \$18.59) 978-1-77657313-4 In this wordless book, colorful pencil illustrations against a nearly pitch-black background depict the arduous, yet hopeful, migration of a group of anthropomorphized animals. (9-12)

#### My Life in the Fish Tank

by Barbara Dee (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-3233-8

Twelve-year-old Zinny's world is turned upside down when her beloved older brother is diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Can she move on with her life? (9-12)

#### **No Vacancy**

by Tziporah Cohen (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-77306-410-9

Miriam's family relocates to upstate NY to manage a motel. A faked apparition of the Virgin Mary sparks overt anti-Semitism, but the community rallies to support the business. (9-12)

#### \* Nonstop

written and illustrated by Tomi Ungerer (Phaidon Press, \$16.95) 978-1-83866-159-5 This is an uncompromising warning tale of the end of civilization. Hope remains if we persevere. Apocalyptic landscapes complement this dark, inspiring call to action. (10-13)

#### Sara and the Search for Normal

by Wesley King

(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-2113-4

Sara endures panic attacks and selective mutism. Can she save her only friend from her father's abuse? Should she hope to be "normal"? (9-12)

#### **Seven Clues to Home**

by Gae Polisner and Nora Raleigh Baskin (Knopf BFYR/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-11961-7 A year after the death of her best friend, Joy has the courage to follow the clues in the scavenger hunt he left behind. Poignant yet heartwarming. (9-12)

#### (D) \* The Talk:

#### Conversations about Race, Love & Truth

edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson (Crown BFYR/PRH,\$16.99) 978-0-593-12161-0 Thirty diverse, predominantly BIPOC authors and illustrators share personal anecdotes in the form of stories, letters, and comics addressing racism, culture, and advocacy. (10-13)

### D \* Three Keys (Front Desk series)

by Kelly Yang

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-59138-5 In the 1990s, the resourceful sixth-grade daughter of newcomer hotel owners finds her voice and rallies her community to fight California's anti-immigrant Proposition 187. (8-11)

## **D** What Lane?

by Torrey Maldonado (Nancy Paulsen Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-525-51843-3

Comfortable with diverse friends, Stephen, a biracial sixth grader, wants to speak up when surrounded by racist behavior. Told in the language of NYC youth. (10-13)

## **D** \* When Stars Are Scattered

by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson (Dial BFYR/PRH, \$20.99) 978-0-525-55391-5 With resourcefulness, intelligence, and kindheartedness, two brothers living in a Kenyan refugee camp wait in hope of resettlement in the United States. Based on a true story. Colorful panels provide multiple visual perspectives. (10-13)

#### Willa and the Whale

by Chad Morris and Shelly Brown (Shadow Mountain, \$14.99) 978-1-629727-31-8 Willa, 12, devastated with grief after her marine biologist mother's death and unable to communicate with her father and his new family, discovers she can talk with a whale. (10-12)

## Family/School/Community

#### 365 Days to Alaska

by Cathy Carr (Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-4380-1 Rigel, 11, lives "off the grid" in Alaska—no running water, no electricity. Moving to noisy, congested Connecticut seems an impossible challenge. (8-11)

## **D** The Boys in the Back Row

by Mike Jung (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-011-4 When their school marching band is chosen to play in a competitive festival, sixth-grade best friends Matt and Ethan plan to sneak away to a comic con. (9-12)

## D Duck Days

by Sara Leach, illustrated by Rebecca Bender (Pajama Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77278-148-9 Initially wary of new friendships and a school mountain biking day, third grader Lauren uses strategies to cope with her autism spectrum disorder. Line drawings. (8-11)

#### **Five Things about Ava Andrews**

by Margaret Dilloway (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-280349-8 Struggling with her anxiety and heart disease, 11-year-old Ava uses improv to help herself and her community. (9-12)

## (D) Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero

by Kelly J. Baptist (Crown BFYR/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-12136-8 His mother is barely coping following his father's death, but Isaiah's inherited literary talent and a supportive community help the family begin to recover. (9-12)

## (D) The Lonely Heart of Maybelle Lane

by Kate O'Shaughnessy (Knopf BFYR/Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-9848-9383-3

Maybelle's courageous road trip to a singing contest, where she plans to meet her father for the first time, provides opportunities for self-discovery and empathy. (11-13)

## D C Lupe Wong Won't Dance

by Donna Barba Higuera (Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614003-9 Lupe, a seventh grader who describes herself as Chinacan or Mexinese, loves baseball and doesn't understand why square dancing is part of P.E. (9-12)

#### \* One Time

by Sharon Creech (Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-257074-1

As 11-year-old Gina and her classmates struggle with the question "Who are you?" their imaginative teacher's writing experiments cause them to begin to define their worlds and relationships. (8-11)

## **D** The Only Black Girls in Town

by Brandy Colbert (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-45638-8)

Two middle school friends bond when they discover the secrets in journals left behind by a young woman passing for white in 1950s California. (10-13)

#### **Orphan Eleven**

by Gennifer Choldenko (Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-3857-4255-9

In 1939 four young people escape from an abusive orphanage and find hope when they join the intriguing world of a traveling circus. (9-12)

## M Pine Island Home

by Polly Horvath

(Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, \$16.99) 978-0-8234-4785-5

Four sisters in a missionary family go to live on a British Columbian island with an aunt after suddenly losing their parents. Then their aunt dies. (10-12) Mature Content

#### The Queen Bee and Me

by Gillian McDunn (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-1-68119-751-7

In this story of middle school social dynamics, Meg is torn between old loyalties and what she really wants. (10-13)

#### (D) The Reluctant Storyteller

by Art Coulson with Traci Sorrell, illustrated by Carlin Bear Don't Walk and Roy Boney Jr. (Reycraft, \$16.95) 978-1-4788-7025-8

A fictional story about contemporary Cherokee life, a folktale, and an informational section about Cherokee people today are accompanied by bold illustrations and colorful photos. (9-11)



by Alex Gino

(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-04810-0 Sixth grader Rick struggles with his identity and with a best friend who is a homophobic bully. Can the new Rainbow Spectrum club help him find some answers? (9-12)

## (D) Something to Say

by Lisa Moore Ramée, illustrated by Bre Indigo (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-283671-7

Jenae's fear of public speaking challenges her when she becomes her best friend's debate partner. Grayscale illustrations. (9-11)

#### The Space between Lost and Found

by Sandy Stark-McGinnis (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-5476-0123-3

When seventh grader Cassie's mom develops earlyonset Alzheimer's, Cassie wants to give her mom a memorable experience—swimming with dolphins. (10-12)

## (D) Stand Up, Yumi Chung!

by Jessica Kim (Kokila/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-525-55497-4 One day after summer cram-school class, Yumi stumbles into a comedy camp of her dreams and is mistaken for an absent student. (9-12)

#### That's What Friends Do

by Cathleen Barnhart (Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-288893-8

Seventh-grade best friends Samantha and David are the pride of their Little League-loving fathers. A new kid at school upends more than their friendship. (9-12)

#### (D) Tune It Out

by Jamie Sumner (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-5700-3

Lou has a sensory processing disorder and has lived a nomadic life. When placed in a home that offers food and shelter security, she tentatively tries to make a friend. (11-13)



by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright (Graphix/Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-23617-0 Twins Maureen and Francine do everything together. When they start middle school, their bonds are challenged. Expressive, vibrant illustrations. (9-11)

#### (D) We Could Be Heroes

by Margaret Finnegan (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4525-3

Autistic fourth grader Hank and his new friend Maisie plot to rescue an epileptic dog they believe is being abused. Complications ensue (8-11)

## (D) When Life Gives You Mangos

by Kereen Getten

(Delacorte BFYR/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-59317397-8 Twelve-year-old Clara can't remember anything that happened the previous summer after a hurricane, and lately Gaynah is not acting like a best friend. (9-12)

#### Wink

by Rob Harrell

(Dial Books/PRH, \$16.99) 978-1-9848-1514-9 Despite tear-duct cancer, Ross discovers a new talent and finds new friends in middle school. Humorous black-and-white comics and spot art. (9-12)

## (D) The Wish and the Peacock

by Wendy S. Swore

(Shadow Mountain, \$16.99) 978-1-62972-608-3 Twelve-year-old Paige has been trying to save the family farm since her father's death. Can her plans to sabotage her mother's decision to sell the farm succeed? (10-13)



## Wrong Way Summer

by Heidi Lang

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-3693-3 Claire, 12, and her younger brother start living on the road in a van when her always inventive father can't pay the mortgage. (10-12)

## **Fantasy**

#### **Cinders & Sparrows**

by Stefan Bachmann (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-228995-7

Orphan Zita Brydgeborn, 12, learns she's a witch when she inherits a haunted estate housing her petrified family. Can she reverse the curse that has bewitched them? (9-12)

#### **The Circus of Stolen Dreams**

by Lorelei Savaryn (Philomel Books/PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-5932-0206-7 Andrea, 12, feeling guilty and unhappy over the disappearance of her brother, seeks relief from reality in a dream world. Can she return to the real one? (9-12)

#### **Embassy of the Dead**

by Will Mabbitt, illustrated by Taryn Knight (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1047-7

The Embassy governs the use of magic, but Jake has no idea there are ghosts until he opens the wrong package. Engaging black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

### **Eva Evergreen, Semi-Magical Witch** (Eva Evergreen series)

by Julie Abe, illustrated by Shan Jiang (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-49388-8

With some help from her friends, an apprentice witch learns to believe in herself. Then her magic grows! Detailed black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

## (D) Gloom Town

by Ronald L. Smith (Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-1-328-84161-2 When biracial Rory becomes the valet of Foxglove Manor, he doesn't anticipate the danger and adventure involved in recovering stolen shadows with his friend Izzy. (9-11)



### The Ickabog

by J. K. Rowling, illustrated by young winners of an illustration contest

(Scholastic, \$26.99) 978-1-338-73287-0

Two best friends face off against unscrupulous advisors to the crown who have wrested control of the kingdom by inventing supposed threats from a legendary monster. Lively illustrations. (9-11)

## (D) Ikenga

by Nnedi Okorafor (Viking BFYR/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-593-11352-3 12-year-old Nigerian Nnamdi is given an ikenga from his dead father that gives him superpowers to fight crime and solve his father's murder. (9-12)

#### (D) \* Mañanaland

by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-15786-4 When Max, 11, discovers a family secret, he knows he must go on a journey to discover the truth about his mother, who disappeared shortly after his birth. (9-12)

## (D) Maya and the Rising Dark

by Rena Barron (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99) 978-1-328-63518-1

When her father disappears, Maya faces the news of her godling origins and must find a way to avert war with mythical creatures from the Dark. (9-12)

#### The Midnight Hour

by Benjamin Read and Laura Trinder (Chicken House/Scholastic,\$17.99) 978-1-338-56909-4

After receiving mysterious letters in the night, Emily's parents disappear. Following them takes her to another plane of existence and leads to revelations about her own magical nature. (9-12)



## Of Salt and Shore

written and illustrated by Annet Schaap, translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson (Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-62354-230-6 In an adventure filled with mermaids, pirates, and misfits, a lighthouse keeper's daughter faces terrors and finds her true self. Atmospheric, full-spread blackand-white illustrations. (10-12)

#### The One and Only Bob

by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Patricia Castelao (Harper/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-299131-7 In this sequel to The One and Only Ivan, scrappy Bob tells of grieving the loss of his family and of celebrating friends. Black-and-white illustrations. Includes a canine glossary and picture dictionary. (8-11)

### (D) \* Quintessence

by Jess Redman

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-30976-3

With the aid of three other Elementals, 11-year-old Alma, plagued by panic attacks, attempts to save a fallen star and send her home. (9-12)

## \* Skunk and Badger (Skunk and Badger series)

by Amy Timberlake, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Workman/Algonquin Young Readers, \$18.95) 978-1-64375-005-7

Badger accepts Skunk as his roommate in his Aunt Lula's brownstone. Then Skunk's 100 chicken guests arrive. Classic color and black-and-white illustrations. (9-11)

#### \* The Wanderer

written and illustrated by Peter Van den Ende (Levine Querido, \$21.99) 978-1-64614-017-6 Detailed pen and ink drawings, reminiscent of Escher, depict the surreal, wordless, epic ocean voyage of a paper boat. (8-11)

## (D) \* A Wish in the Dark

by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0494-0) After escaping the orphan's prison, Pong, 13, is pursued by Nok, the prison warden's daughter, as a revolution against the tyrannical governor of Chattana is planned. (9-12)

#### **Wishes and Wellingtons**

by Julie Berry

(Sourcebooks Young Readers/Sourcebooks, \$16.99) 978-1-7282-2325-4

At strict Miss Salamanca's School for Upright Young Ladies in London, boarder Maeve discovers a hidden, magical djinni and learns to harness its powers for adventure and personal growth. (8-11)



## (D) Witches of Brooklyn

written and illustrated by Sophie Escabasse (Random House Graphic, \$20.99) 978-0593-12528-1 Charmed by her eccentric aunts, Effie, a temperamental rock star in crisis, begins life as a witch. Lively, full-color panels. (9-12)

#### A Wolf for a Spell

by Karah Sutton, illustrated by Pauliina Hannuniemi (Knopf BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-12165-8 An orphan, a witch, amd a wolf all want to protect the forest, but the rules of the forest require a favor for a favor. Black-and-white digital illustrations. (9-12)

#### The Wonder of Wildflowers

by Anna Staniszewski

(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4278-8 In Amberland since she was five, Mira, 10, is still seen as an outsider. Will a magic dose of Amber change attitudes? (9-12)

## **Historical Fiction**

#### **Blue Skies**

by Anne Bustard (Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4606-9 It's 1949, and Glory Bea, 11, is convinced her dad

is finally coming home from the war on the French Gratitude Train when it stops in Gladiola, Texas. (9-12)



## (D) Gold Rush Girl

by Avi

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0679-1 In 1848 Tory stows away to San Francisco, and with the help of two boys, one white, one Black, eventually finds her kidnapped brother. (9-12)

## (D) \* Leaving Lymon

by Lesa Cline-Ransome (Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-4442-7 In the 1940s, an African American boy faces terrible family problems but is strengthened by the love of his father, grandfather, and music. (9-12)

## (D) \* Loretta Little Looks Back: **Three Voices Go Tell It**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-53677-6

Through interwoven monologues, three generations of a Mississippi sharecropping family share their history from the 1920s through the 1960s when they win the right to vote. Expressive grayscale illustrations. (10-13)

## (D) Not Your All-American Girl

by Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-03778-4 In 1984 in Virginia, after losing the lead role in the school play to her best friend, Lauren begins to question her Jewish/Chinese identity and what makes an all-American. (9-12)



## **D** \* Overground Railroad

by Lesa Cline-Ransom, illustrated by James Ransome (Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-3873-0 Eloquent text and evocative watercolor and pencil illustrations capture the hopes and tribulations of a Black family migrating north in 1930s America. (8-10)

#### **Pixie Pushes On**

by Tamara Bundy (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin/PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-525-51516-6

In the 1940s, Pixie's world is upended when her sister is stricken with polio, but she is supported by family and friends. (9-11)

## (D) \* Prairie Lotus

by Linda Sue Park (Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99) 978-1-328-78150-5

Hanna, 14, who is half-Chinese, and her white father hope to be accepted into an 1880s Dakota Territory frontier town. Author's note. (10-12)



## Red Menace

by Lois Ruby

(Carolrhoda/Lerner, \$17.99) 978-1-5415-5749-9 In the summer of 1953, when Martin's parents are accused of being communists, it tears his family apart. Author's note, discussion questions. (9-12)

#### The Summer We Found the Baby

by Amy Hest

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6007-9

When Julie and her younger sister find an abandoned baby, they want to keep it, but then the mother and a surprise visitor show up. Set during World War II. (9-11)

#### \* War Is Over

by David Almond, illustrated by David Litchfield (Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-5362-0986-0 During World War II, a British boy sees how the cruelty of war is affecting his townspeople. When will it end? Simple, evocative black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

#### \* We Dream of Space

by Erin Entrada Kelly (Greenwillow/ HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-274730-3

During the 1986 Challenger disaster, three siblings struggle to find their true selves. Thought-provoking and moving. (10-13)

## Humor

## (D) Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe

by Carlos Hernandez (Rick Riordan Presents/Disney Hyperion, \$16.99) 978-1-368-02283-5

In zany language, Sal tells a weird story about his Miami theater arts middle school, multiverse adventures, and his friends—some human, and some artificial intelligence devices. (9-12)

#### The Secret Time Machine and the **Gherkin Switcheroo**

written and illustrated by Simone Lia (Candlewick Press,\$14.99) 978-1-5362-0740-8 Best friends don't always want to do the same things, but some quick thinking might just save the day. Playful line drawings animate the quirky adventure. (8-10)



#### **Yorick and Bones**

by Jeremy Tankard and Hermione Tankard, illustrated by Jeremy Tankard (Harper Alley/Harper Collins Children's Books, P \$9.99) 978-0-06-285431-5

Shakespeare would laugh up his puffy sleeve at the antics of "poor Yorick" and the furry friend who digs him up. Vibrant, colorful illustrations. (9-12)

## Magical Realism

#### The Magnificent Monsters of Cedar Street

by Lauren Oliver

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-234507-3

When her father and the monsters in his care disappear, Cordelia, her friend Gregory, and two remaining monsters undertake a dangerous rescue mission. Ink on paper illustrations. (9-12)

#### **The Silver Arrow**

by Lev Grossman (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-53953-1

It's Kate's 11th birthday and she is bored with her life. Everything changes when her mysterious uncle shows up with a real train. (8-11)

#### \* Some Days

written and illustrated by María Wernicke, translated from the Spanish by Lawrence Schimel (Amazon Crossing Kids, \$17.99) 978-1-5420-2251-4 Spare, vibrant, and evocative illustrations help capture a young girl's ability to deal with fear and loss. (8-10)



## The Time of Green Magic

by Hilary McKay

(Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6276-2

When 12-year-old loner Abi moves to an eerie new home with her stepfamily, strange things happen. (9-12)

# What We Found in the Corn Maze and How It Saved a Dragon

by Henry Clark

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

978-0-316-49231-7

When three kids discover magic spells that can only be cast a few minutes a day, they cooperate to save a dying magical world, its last dragon, and themselves. Clever wordplay. (10-12)

## ① \* When You Trap a Tiger

by Tae Keller

(Random House Children's Books, \$16.99)

978-1-5247-1570-0

When her grandmother becomes very ill, Lily makes a deal with a magical tiger—she'll return the stories her grandmother stole in exchange for her grandmother's recovery. (9-12)

## Science Fiction

## (D) Glitch

by Laura Martin (HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-289435-9 Will Regan and Elliot overcome their differences as they travel through time to save the "Academy" and prevent the disruption of American history? (10-13)

## **Sports**

## D Becoming Muhammad Ali: A Novel

by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile

(Jimmy Patterson Books/Little, Brown and Co. and HMH/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-49816-6 With the support of a loving family, friends, and a fierce dedication to boxing, racial justice, and peace activism, Ali becomes a legend. Powerful black-and-white digital illustrations. (9-12)

#### D \* Before the Ever After

by Jacqueline Woodson

(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-399545436

ZJ's father was a Super-Bowl-winning football star. Now, migraine headaches and incipient dementia prevent his playing. (9-12)

#### **Dan Unmasked**

by Chris Negron

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-294305-7 With his best friend, Nate, in a coma after being hit by a baseball, Dan, 13, believes their favorite comic book series holds the key to Nate's recovery. (10-13)

# The Derby Daredevils: Kenzie Kickstarts a Team (The Derby Daredevils series)

by Kit Rosewater, illustrated by Sophie Escabasse (Amulet Books/Abrams, \$14.99) 978-1-4197-4079-4 Friendship conflicts and a first crush challenge an 11-year-old girl's efforts to form a roller derby team. Grayscale illustrations. (8-11)

## D Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!

by Sarah Kapit

(Dial BFYR/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-5255-5418-9 An unlikely friendship between a major-league Black knuckleball pitcher and autistic 11-year-old Vivy leads to e-mail exchanges as both struggle with life and the knuckleball. (9-12)

## **POETRY**

#### \* Amphibian Acrobats

by Leslie Bulion, illustrated by Robert Meganck (Peachtree Publishing Company, \$15.99) 978-1-68263-098-3

Twenty inventive poems are paired with science facts about frogs, salamanders, and caecilians. Jaunty digital art. Extensive back matter includes information on varied poetic forms. (8-11)

#### (D) Construction People

edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Ellen Shi (Wordsong/Boyds Mill & Kane, \$17.99) 978-1-68437-361-1

Each of 14 well-known poets offers an ode to machines and people who are essential to building a skyscraper. Colorful illustrations. (9-12)

#### (D) A Hatful of Dragons: And More Than 13.8 Billion Other Funny Poems

written and illustrated by Vikram Madan (WordSong/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$17.99) 978-1-68437-150-1

Expect the unexpected from the pangolins, aliens, oysters, and other creatures in these antic verses. Rollicking, playful language and comical black-andwhite illustrations. (8-10)

## (D) \* Land of the Cranes

by Aida Salazar (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-34380-9 Nine-year-old Betita recounts how she survives and holds onto her humanity in the horrific conditions of a for-profit ICE detention center. (9-12)

## (D) Love, Love

by Victoria Chang

(Sterling Children's Books, \$16.95) 978-1-4549-3832-3 White bullies make Chinese American Frances miserable; her only outlet is tennis. Meanwhile, her sister is experiencing inexplicable hair loss, and Frances determines to solve the mystery. Resources. (8-11)



## \* On Wings of Words:

#### The Extraordinary Life of Emily Dickinson

by Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander (Chronicle Books, \$18.99) 978-1-[4521-4297-5 Dickinson's own poetry beautifully enhances this short, accessible biography. Gouache and watercolor illustrations with fantasy elements. Includes suggestions for how to read, write, and share poetry. (8-10)

### (D) A Place inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart

by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Noa Denmon (Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-30741-7

A Black child's joyful summer is shattered by a police shooting. Support from community and friends inspire him to take pride in his heritage. Lively, thoughtprovoking illustrations. (8-11)



## \* This Poem Is a Nest

by Irene Latham, illustrated by Johanna Wright (Boyds Mills/Wordsong, \$17.99) 978-1-68437-363-5 Using the words of a poem about a nest, the poet creates an inventive collection of verse. Writing instructions and index. Digital grayscale ink wash illustrations. (9-12)

## (D) What the Chickadee Knows (Great Lakes Books series)

by Margaret Noodin (Birchbark Books/Wayne State University Press, \$16.99) 978-0-814347508

Poems in Anishinaabemowin and English about nature, relationships, history, and tradition reflect the Anishinaabe worldview. Author's preface. (9-12)

## (D) Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice

by Mahogany L. Browne, with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood, illustrated by Theodore Taylor III, foreword by Jason Reynolds (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$18.99)

978-1-250-31120-7

Young poets are encouraged to find their own voices and stand up for what is right. Bold, stylized illustrations. (9-12)

## INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

## **Activities**

#### How to Build a Story ... Or, the Big What If

by Frances O'Roark Dowell, illustrated by Stacy Ebert (Cailyn Dlouhy/Atheneum, \$17.99)

978-1-5344-3842-2

An encouraging "how to" about writing fiction focuses on plot development. Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

## (D) NIAM!: Cooking with Kids: Inspired by the **Mamagtug Nanook Cooking Club**

by Kerry McCluskey, photographed by Lisa Milosavljevic (Inhabit Media, \$19.99) 978-1-77227-255-0 Detailed photographs accompany simple, clear, stepby-step recipe instructions for foods enjoyed and prepared by the children of Nunavut, Canada. The introduction describes the creation and purpose of the cooking club. (9-12)

## Arts

#### \* How to Build an Orchestra

by Mary Auld, with Rachel Leach, illustrated by Elisa Paganelli, foreword by Sir Simon Rattle (Crocodile Books, \$18.95) 978-1-62371-871-8 Every orchestral instrument is described as it is played. from audition to rehearsal to classical music concert. Includes CD and descriptions of each piece; also available to download. Line drawings, glossary, index. (8-11)

#### The Magic of Clay

written and illustrated by Adalucía (Star Bright Books, \$17.99) 978-1-59572-854-8 A picture book guide explains in clear language the chemical makeup and molding, forming, heating, and glazing of ceramics. Collage-style illustrations. (9-12)

#### Rise Up!: The Art of Protest

by Jo Rippon, in collaboration with Amnesty International (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-623541507 The power and historical significance of posters about social justice and environmental issues helped promote activism. Includes reproductions of posters. (9-12)

#### The Tempest

by William Shakespeare, retold by Georghia Ellinas, illustrated by Jane Ray (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1144-3 This accessible picture-book retelling of the Shakespeare play includes some of the original lines. Enticing watercolors with lush foliage. (8-10)

#### \* World of Glass: The Art of Dale Chihuly

by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$22.99) 978-1-4197-3681-0

Full-color photographs showcase Chihuly's art and the creative process of his contemporary glassblowing techniques. Endnotes, bibliography, list of locations of Chihuly's works. (8-11)

## Biography and Memoir



## D \* Above the Rim:

### **How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball**

by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4108-1

Before Colin Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem to protest racial inequality, Baylor's protests helped change NBA policies. Sumptuous oil illustrations reflect his athleticism. Source notes and time line. (9-12)

## (D) \* Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Michele Wood

(Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-9156-1 After his enslaved family was sold, Henry Brown decided to mail himself to freedom with the help of his friends. Colorful mixed-media collage illustrations. (9-12)

## \* The Boy Whose Head Was Filled with Stars: A Life of Edwin Hubble

by Isabelle Marinov, illustrated by Deborah Marcero (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-317-3 Following his childhood passion, the renowned astronomer used advanced telescopes to discover many new galaxies and an ever-expanding universe. Mixed-media illustrations with a contrasting color palette. Notes. (8-10)

#### (D) Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon

by Kelly Starling Lyon, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Lee & Low Books, \$19.95) 978-1-62014-955-3 A math- and art-loving Black child grew up to build the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Mixed-media illustrations. Endnotes. (8-10)

#### In One Ear & Out the Other: Antonia Brico & Her Amazingly Musical Life (Amazing Women series)

by Diane Worthey, illustrated by Morgana Wallace (Penny Candy Press, \$16.95) 978-1-73422-591-4 In the 1930s, a female musician shattered male-dominated barriers to form a professional women's orchestra and conduct major symphonies worldwide. Evocative watercolor illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

# ① \* Mary Seacole: Bound for the Battlefield

by Susan Goldman Rubin, illustrated by Richie Pope (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-7994-1 Despite racism, Mary, a Creole from Jamaica, traveled to Crimea in 1854 to care for wounded soldiers on the battlefield. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (8-11)

#### On the Horizon

by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Kenard Pak (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99) 978-0-358-12940-0

Lowry shares memories and gives a voice to the lives lost in two horrific events of World War II: the bombings of Pearl Harbor and of Hiroshima. Black-and-white graphite illustrations. (9-12)

#### \* Out of Hiding:

#### A Holocaust Survivor's Journey to America

by Ruth Gruener (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-338-62745-9 After Ruth and her family survive the Holocaust following the Nazi invasion of Poland, they struggle to build a new life as they immigrate to Brooklyn. (9-12)

#### Peter's War:

#### A Boy's True Story of Survival in World War II Europe

by Deborah Durland DeSaix and Karen Gray Ruelle, illustrated by Deborah Durland DeSaix (Holiday House,\$18.99) 978-0-8234-2416-0 After the Nazis arrest his parents in France, Peter must outwit the Gestapo until he escapes to Switzerland. Muted watercolor illustrations and archival black-and-white photographs. Back matter. (8-11)

# Rainbow Revolutionaries: Government of the state of the state

by Sarah Prager, illustrated by Sarah Papworth (HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-294775-8 Concise biographies highlight the myriad accomplishments achieved by people in the LGBTQ+community throughout history. Colorful, stylized art. (9-12)

#### **Ruth Objects:**

#### The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Big Words series)

by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Eric Velasquez (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-1-4847-4717-9

Striking, realistic illustrations depict the life of the remarkable woman who never stopped fighting for gender equality and justice. Back matter, bibliography. (8-11)

#### (D) \* Sharuko:

### El arqueólogo peruano Julio C. Tello/ Sharuko: Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello

by Monica Brown, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri, Spanish translation by Adriana Domínguez (Lee & Low Books, \$19.95) 978-0-89239-423-4 An Indigenous boy surmounts many obstacles to study the lost knowledge and history of his Incan ancestors. Detailed gouache illustrations. Endnotes. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (8-11)

## **D** \* A Sporting Chance:

#### **How Ludwig Gutmann Created the Paralympic Games**

by Lori Alexander, illustrated by Allan Drummond (Graphia/HMH Books, \$17.99) 978-1-328-58079-5 The neurologist whose methods promised recovery for people with spinal cord injuries also enhanced their lives through sports. Cartoon illustrations and archival photographs. Time line, athletes' profiles. (8-11)

## **D** Stay Curious!:

#### A Brief History of Stephen Hawking

by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer, illustrated by Boris Kulikov

(Crown/Random House/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-399-55028-7

The world-renowned physicist's creativity, curiosity, and playfulness continued to shine despite his struggle with ALS. Multifaceted, powerful mixed-media art. Source notes, bibliography. (8-11)

# **D** The Story of Civil War Hero Robert Smalls (The Story Of series)

by Janet Halfmann, illustrated by Duane Smith (Lee & Low Books, \$9.95) 978-1-64379-016-9 Demonstrating intelligence, bravery, and ingenuity, an enslaved man escaped the Confederacy, serving as a Union boat pilot. Black-and-white illustrations. Glossary, time line, and extensive sourcing. (8-11)

## (D) The Story of Olympic Diver Sammy Lee (The Story Of series)

by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Dom Lee (Lee & Low Books, \$9.95) 978-1-64379-014-5 Discrimination didn't deter Korean American Lee from pursuing a medical career, even while breaking Olympic diving records. Black-and-white illustrations. Time line, glossary, and extensive sourcing. (8-11)

## (D) \* This Is Your Time

by Ruby Bridges

(Delacorte Books for Young Reader/ Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-593-37852-6

After the 2020 murder of George Floyd and the subsequent protests, Civil Rights activist Ruby Bridges encourages young people to keep fighting for equality. (9-12)

## (D) William Still and His Freedom Stories: The Father of the Underground Railroad

written and illustrated by Don Tate (Peachtree, \$18.99) 978-1-56145-935-3

Born free in Pennsylvania to parents who had escaped their enslavement but had to leave their other children behind, Still made it his life's work to help freedom seekers. Expressive sepia-toned and color illustrations. (8-11)

## **Ecology**

## **Bringing Back the Wolves:**

How a Predator Restored an Ecosystem

by Jude Isabella, illustrated by Kim Smith (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-77136-625-8 Reintroducing a keystone species restored the complex balance of Yellowstone's ecosystem. Accessible format and colorful illustrations. Glossary, index, resources. (9-12)

#### A Forest in the City (ThinkCities series)

by Andrea Curtis, illustrated by Pierre Pratt (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$19.95) 978-1-77306-142-9

How can urban areas take care of their trees so that they not only survive, but thrive? Lush, playful illustrations. Glossary, sources. (8-11)



by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Jeanette Winter (Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-3077-8

Simple, poetic text describes how humans' extraction and use of oil, and particularly the Exxon Valdez disaster, have impacted flora and fauna. Textured illustrations. Author's note. (9-11)

## History

#### \* All of a Sudden and Forever:

Help and Healing after the Oklahoma City Bombing

by Chris Barton, illustrated by Nicole Xu (Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-5415-26 Seedlings from an elm tree still standing after the bombing of the Federal Building become an important part of the healing process. Ink folk art-style illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

## (D) Black Heroes of the Wild West

written and illustrated by James Otis Smith, introduction by Kadir Nelson (Toon Graphics, \$16.95) 978-1-943145-51-5 Little-known but legendary African Americans, including stagecoach Mary, Marshal Bass Reeves, and horse wrangler Bob Lemmons are depicted with vibrant graphic illustrations, archival photographs. and extensive back matter about cowboy life. (9-12)

## (D) Desert Diary:

## **Japanese American Kids behind Barbed Wire**

by Michael O. Tunnell (Charlesbridge, \$19.99) 978-1-5808-9789-1 Pages from a third-grade classroom in the Utah relocation camp help explore the experience of children in incarceration during World War II. Archival photos, glossary, bibliography. (9-12)

## (D) The Escape of Robert Smalls: A Daring Voyage out of Slavery

by Jehan Jones-Radgowski, illustrated by Poppy Kang (Capstone, \$18.95) 978-5435-1281-6 A perilous plan to steal a loaded Confederate munitions

ship at night hinges on an enslaved man's ability to impersonate a white captain. Evocative illustrations. Glossary, map, sources. (9-12)

#### \* Farmers Unite!:

#### **Planting a Protest for Fair Prices**

by Lindsay H. Metcalf (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-908-8

In the late 1970s, when they earned less selling crops than it cost to produce them, farmers took to the streets on their tractors demanding support from the government. Archival photographs. Meticulously sourced. (8-10)

#### \* The House by the Lake:

# The True Story of a House, Its History, and the Four Families Who Made It Home

by Thomas Harding, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup (Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1274-7 A reclaimed country villa near Berlin bears witness to a turbulent time by providing a window into the lives of its different inhabitants. Poignant mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

## If You Want a Friend in Washington: Wacky, Wild, & Wonderful Presidential Pets

written and illustrated by Erin McGill (Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-12269-3

United States presidents have had a wide variety of pets in the White House, including some very unusual ones! Cartoon-like color illustrations. (8-11)

### ① \* Lizzie Demands a Seat!: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights

by Beth Anderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills & Kane, \$17.99) 978-1-62979-939-1

In 1854 African American Elizabeth Jennings challenged the seating policy on a whites-only New York streetcar. Bold watercolor illustrations. (8-11)

## Maurice and His Dictionary: A True Story

by Cary Fagan, illustrated by Enzo Lord Mariano (Owlkids, \$18.95) 978-1-7714-7323-1 A young boy pursues his education as he and his family flee the Nazis and settle in a Jamaican internment camp. Illustrations in a muted palette. (9-12)

#### The Mayflower (History Smashers series)

by Kate Messner, illustrated by Dylan Meconis (Random House Children's Books, P \$7.99) 978-0-593-12032-3

Historical facts replace longstanding mythologies concerning pilgrims and Native Americans. Appealing child-friendly language. Humorous illustrations, comic strips, diagrams, photos, and maps. Extensive sourcing. (8-11)

#### **Railway Jack:**

#### The True Story of an Amazing Baboon

by KT Johnston, illustrated by César Samaniego (Capstone Editions, \$18.95) 978-1-68446-088-5 In the 1880s, after losing both legs, a South African railway inspector trained a baboon to help him perform his tasks. Animated period illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

#### We Had to Be Brave:

### **Escaping the Nazis on the Kindertransport**

by Deborah Hopkinson (Scholastic Focus, \$18.99) 978-1-338-25572-0 The rescue operation that saved 10,000 Jewish children from the Nazis between 1938 and 1939 is recounted with oral histories, memoirs, and interviews. Copious photographs. Back matter. (9-12)

## Holidays and Religion

## D \* Once upon an Eid:

#### Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices

edited by S. K. Ali and Aisha Saeed, illustrated by Sara Alfageeh

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-4083-1 Fifteen Muslim children from Philadelphia, a Syrian refugee camp on a Greek island, and many other places celebrate the annual Eid festival. Grayscale illustrations, including a story in graphic format. (10-13)

 $STEM \ (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)$ 

## **AMAZING Islands:**

#### 100+ Places That Will Boggle Your Mind

by Sabrina Weiss, illustrated by Kerry Hyndman (What On Earth Book, \$24.00) 978-1-912920-16-7 What are the origins of islands around the world? Who inhabits these isolated places? Which plants grow there? What animals live there? Informative, double-page illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

#### The Boreal Forest:

#### A Year in the World's Largest Land Biome

by L. E. Carmichael, illustrated by Josée Bisaillon (Kids Can Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5253-0044 Explore the massive forest that spans North America and Eurasia and the plants and animals that inhabit it. Lavish mixed-media illustrations in a muted palette. (9-12)

## (D) Changing the Equation: 50+ US Black Women in STEM

by Tonya Bolden (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-0734-6

Inspiring profiles celebrate Dr. Rebecca Crumpler, who earned her MD degree in 1864, and other Black woman who defied discrimination to become computer scientists, doctors, mathematicians, and more. Archival images and photographs. Extensive source notes. (9-12)

#### The Dog Patrol:

(8-11)

#### **Our Canine Companions and the Kids Who Protect Them**

by Rob Laidlaw (Pajama Press, \$19.95) 978-1-77278-103-8 An abundance of engaging information augmented by color photographs and side bars presents the history of dogs and the responsibility of ownership. Back matter.

### (D) Eye by Eye: **Comparing How Animals See**

by Sara Levine, illustrated by T. S. Spookytooth (Millbrook/Lerner, \$26.65) 978-1-5415-3838 What animal's eyes are at the end of its arms? How many eyes does a spider have? Humorous illustrations help you see the answers. (8-10)

#### **Follow Those Zebras:**

## Solving a Migration Mystery (Sandra Markle's **Science Discoveries series**)

by Sandra Markle

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-5415-3837-5 Scientists using GPS trackers discovered where and why a herd of 2,000 South African plains zebras migrate during the dry season. Captioned photographs, maps, and back matter. (9-11)

### (D) Grasping Mysteries: **Girls Who Loved Math**

by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Victoria Assanelli (Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6068-3

In poetic language, Atkins celebrates the lives and work of women who used math and ingenuity to rise above discrimination and make change. Well documented. Pencil illustrations. (10-13)

## Grow: Secrets of Our DNA

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1272 Learn how plants and animals are governed by a set of instructions that differentiate us and unite us as living beings. Colorful, detailed watercolor illustrations. (8-9)

#### \* Honeybee:

#### The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4285-0

Follow a worker bee as she grows and performs many tasks: tending to the queen, building the honeycomb, gathering nectar, and more. Meticulously detailed oil illustrations. (8-10)

## **Pretty Tricky:**

## The Sneaky Way Plants Survive

by Etta Kaner, illustrated by Ashley Barron (Owlkids, \$18.99) 978-1-771-47369-9 Plants have developed many ingenious adaptations to survive. Clear prose accompanied by vivid collages. Index, glossary, sources. (9-12)

#### \* Your Place in the Universe

written and illustrated by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, \$18.99) 978-0-8234-4623-0

Dramatic illustrations with clearly labeled diagrams and child-friendly text convey the majesty and the relative sizes and distances of various components of the cosmos. (8-11)

## \* You're Invited to a Moth Ball: A Nighttime Insect Celebration

by Loree Griffin Burns, photographed by

Ellen Harasimowicz (Charlesbridge, \$16.99) 978-1-58089-686-3 Learn how to create an outdoor science lab to attract and study moths. Color photographs. Glossary, resources. (8-10)

## World

by Robin Terry-Brown

archival images. (10-13)

Breaking the News: What's Real, What's Not, and Why the Difference Matters

(National Geographic Kids, \$19.99) 978-1-4263-3888-5 How can budding journalists and people active on social media spot fraud and become more discerning about the news they read? Photographs, graphics, and

#### (D) Rice

written and illustrated by Hongcheng Yu (Reycraft, with China Children's Press & Publication Group, \$17.95) 978-1-4788-6936-8
Beautifully detailed paintings depict a year of the process of cultivating rice in mountainous Yunnan province. Back matter. (8-11)

## TWELVE TO FOURTEEN

## **FICTION**

## Adventure and Mystery

#### The Canyon's Edge

by Dusti Bowling (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-49469-4

After a flash flood carries away her father, Nora finds herself alone in an isolated southwestern canyon. A harrowing tale of survival, bravery, and healing. (11-14)

#### The Longest Night of Charlie Noon

by Christopher Edge (Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-593-17308-4 In 1933 three English children spend a night in a frightening woods where time bends and glimpses of their potential future appear. Can they change what happens? (11-13)

#### The Truth According to Blue

by Eve Yohalem (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-42437-0

Blue, 13, searches for a sunken family treasure, hoping she'll then be identified as more than "Diabetes Girl." But will a celebrity's snobby daughter and a millionaire foil her plans? (11-14)

## Coming of Age

## (D) Ana on the Edge

by A. J. Sass (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-45861-0

Ana, 12, a champion figure-skater, becomes increasingly drawn to a non-binary identity. (11-14)

## D Black Brother, Black Brother

by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-49380-2

Two biracial brothers in prep school present themselves differently. The one who lives as a Black person is bullied, but finds empowerment in fencing. (11-14)

#### D Blood Sport

by Tash McAdam

(Orca Book Publishers, P \$9.95) 978-1-459-82436-2 A foster transgender child mourning the death of his sister finds some consolation in the boxing ring. (11-14)

#### The King of Jam Sandwiches

by Eric Walters

(Orca Book Publishers, P \$12.95) 978-1-459-82556-7 The relationship of eighth graders Robbie and Harmony begins with a punch in the nose, but they bond when they discover both have dysfunctional single parents. (12-15)

## (D) \* The List of Things That Will Not Change

by Rebecca Stead

(Wendy Lamb/Random House Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-101-93809-6

After her parents' divorce and her father's engagement to another man, Bea, now 12, an only child, tells of her eagerness to meet her new stepsister. (11-13)

#### **A Many Feathered Thing**

by Lisa Gerlits

(Capstone Editions, \$16.95) 978-1-684-46071-7 Clarity, who has trouble speaking, dreams of becoming an artist. When she accidentally breaks elderly Mr. Vogelman's lawn ornament, he lets her pay in service in his studio. (11-13)

#### **Music for Tigers**

by Michelle Kadarusman (Pajama Press, \$17.95) 978-1-77278-054-3 Louisa is sent to a family camp in remote Tasmania. Will she be able to find the courage to sustain her passion for the violin and her new passion for endangered animals? (11-14)

#### The Places We Sleep

by Caroline Brooks DuBois (Holiday House, \$16.99) 978-0-8234-4421-2 Bodily changes, a new school, and the 9/11 tragedy profoundly impact 12-year-old Abbey. A novel in verse. (11-13)

## (D) (M) The Ship We Built

by Lexie Bean, illustrated by Noah Grigni (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-525-55483-7 In letters attached to helium balloons, Rowan, 12, struggles to come to terms with his gender identity. Grayscale spot illustrations. (13-15) Mature Content

## D A Song Only I Can Hear

by Barry Jonsberg (Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-153444-252-8 Mysterious messages pose challenges to Rob, a painfully shy, imaginative 13-year-old who harbors a secret. (11-14)

#### **Summer and July**

by Paul Mosier (HarperCollins Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-0-06-284936-6

When goth girl Juillet, 12, meets surfer girl Summer, 12, Juillet's July is filled with overcoming fears, facing harsh realities, and discovering who she really is. (11-13)

#### **Things Seen from Above**

by Shelley Pearsall, illustrated by Xingye Jin (Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-1739-1 April, a sixth grader, develops a relationship with Joey, a fourth-grade loner making strange designs in the playground dirt—and learns about perspective. Evocative digital and pencil illustrations. (11-13)

#### **Things You Can't Say**

by Jenn Bishop (Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4097-5

Three years after his father's suicide, 12-year-old Drew faces his anger over his loss and his worries that he might have his father's tendencies. (11-13)

#### **War Stories**

by Gordon Korman (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-3383-9020-2 Trevor, 12, loves everything about World War II, especially his great-grandfather's war stories, until a trip to France for D-Day celebrations opens his eyes to the harsh realities of war. (11-14)

#### (D) The Water Bears

by Kate Baker

(Wendy Lamb/Random House Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-9848-5220-5

A terrifying woodland bear attack leaves 13-year-old Newton Gomez slowly recovering but plagued by nightmares. Family, friendship, and possible magic support his recovery. (11-14)

## Contemporary Issues

#### Chirp

by Kate Messner (Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-5476-0281-0

After being sexually harassed by her gymnastics coach in Boston, Mia, 12, moves to Vermont where she gains confidence and solves a mystery at her grandmother's cricket farm. (11-14)

## **D** Crossing the Farak River

by Michelle Aung Thin (Annick Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77321-397-2 Hasina, her brother, and her cousin must survive on their own after anti-Rohingya forces in Myanmar destroy their home and they are separated from their parents. Back matter. (11-14)

## **D** Displaced

by Dean Hughes

(Atheneum BFYR/S&S, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-5232-9 Desperate, Hadi, who peddles gum on a Beirut street to help his Syrian refugee family survive, makes a bad decision that endangers them. (12-14)

#### **Dress Coded**

by Carrie Firestone (Penguin YR, \$17.99) 978-1-984816-43-6 Molly leads a protest against her middle school's unfair dress code while coming to terms with changing friendships, family problems, and the stresses of being 13. (11-14)

## D 😂 \* Efrén Divided

by Ernesto Cisneros (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-288168-7

When his undocumented mother is deported, seventh grader Efrén takes on new responsibilities, caring for his younger siblings and going to Mexico to assist with bringing his mom back. (11-13)

## (D) A Galaxy of Sea Stars

by Jeanne Zulick Ferruolo (Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-0-374-30909-1

While trying to keep bonded with her friends as the three move to middle school, Izzy also copes with a refugee Muslim family from Afghanistan moving in upstairs. (11-13)

## (D) The Invincible Summer of Juniper Jones

by Daven McQueen

(Wattpad Books, P \$10.99) 978-1-98936-516-8 In this grim view of the South in 1955, a biracial teenager is sent to Alabama to live with white relatives as punishment for his striking a classmate. (12-15)

## D The Magic Fish

written and illustrated by Trung Le Nguyen (Random House Graphic, \$23.99) 978-0-5931-2529-8 Loving family, supportive friendships, and fairy tales help Tiến navigate a cultural divide with his Vietnamese parents and newfound feelings for his best friend. Graceful illustrations. (12-15)

## (D) \* Santiago's Road Home

by Alexandra Diaz

(A Paula Wiseman Book/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-5344--4623-0

An orphaned boy creates a new family with other migrants heading to El Norte and then spends months in a psychologically scarring U.S. youth detention center. (11-14)

## (D) Sunnyside Plaza

by Scott Simon (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99)

978-0-316-53120-7

Sally Miyake, 19, can't read, but she notices things and values kindness and honesty. Can she figure out why deaths are increasing in her group home? (11-14)

## (D) \* A Thousand Questions

by Saadia Faruqi

(Quill Street/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-294320-0

In Pakistan, Mimi from Houston helps Sakina, a servant to Mimi's grandparents, learn English; Sakina helps Mimi discover the charms of Karachi - and find her missing father. (11-14)

## **Ecology**

## (D) We Didn't Ask for This

by Adi Alsaid

(Inkyard Press, \$18.99) 978-1-33514-676-2 Holding others hostage, Marisa and her friends chain themselves to the doors of an international school for days, demanding environmental change. (12-15)

## Family/School/Community

## All Together Now (Eagle Rock series)

written and illustrated by Hope Larson (Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$21.99) 978-0-374-31162-9

Bina's new band is great, until two bandmates start dating. Illustrations in muted tones with expressive, bold lines. (11-13)



## D Any Day with You

by Mae Respicio, illustrated by Mark Koerner (Wendy Lamb Books/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$16.99) 978-0-525-70757-8

When her treasured great-grandfather announces his intention to return to the Philippines, Kaia is devastated and resolves to convince him to stay in Santa Monica. Ink-sketch spot illustrations. (11-14)



## Becoming Brianna (Emmie & Friends series)

written and illustrated by Terri Libenson (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$22.99) 978-0-06-289454-0

Bri grapples with mixed feelings about religion, having a bat mitzvah, and her guarrel with her best friend. Text with amusing spot illustrations interspersed with graphic format pages. (11-13)



## (D) \* Class Act (New Kid series)

written and illustrated by Jerry Craft (HarperCollins, \$22.99) 978-0-0628-8551-7 Friends Jordan, Drew, and Liam spend eighth grade learning to understand each other's different economic circumstances as their private school tries to become more woke. Colorful graphic panels. (11-14)

#### **Closer to Nowhere**

by Ellen Hopkins

(G. P. Putnam's Sons, \$17.99) 978-0-59310861-1 When troubled 12-year-old Cal comes to live with his aunt's family, he and his cousin, Hannah, share the impact. Verse with alternate voices. (11-13)



written and illustrated by Cynthia L. Copeland, color by Ronda Pattison (Algonquin BFYR, \$24.95) 978-1-61620-993-3 In the 1970s, seventh grader Cindy encounters bullies, crushes, and friendship challenges while following her dreams to be a newspaper reporter. Colorful graphic panels. (11-13)

## (D) \* Everything Sad Is Untrue: (A True Story)

by Daniel Nayeri

(Levine Querido, \$17.99) 978-1-64614-000-8 Steeped in Persian history and culture, Daniel is just trying to survive seventh grade and make sense of his journey from Iran to Oklahoma. (11-14)

## M \* Fighting Words

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1568-2 Della finds the strength to speak out and acknowledge the multiple abuses she and her sister have suffered. (11-14) Mature Content

## D Fly Back, Agnes

by Elizabeth Atkinson (Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$17.99) 978-1-5415-7820-3

Dealing with troubling friendship issues at school and the challenges of recently divorced parents, 12-year-old Agnes creates a new self-identity. Then she must deal with the results of her lies. (11-14)

## (D) In the Role of Brie Hutchens

by Nicole Melleby (Algonquin Books, \$16.95) 978-1-616-20907-0 Brie, 13, soap opera fanatic and aspiring actor, likes girls. When her mother finds out, Brie lies to distract her—but will their relationship ever be the same? (12-14)

## ① \* Keep It Together, Keiko Carter

by Debbi Michiko Florence (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-338-60752-9 Junior high brings new challenges and stresses to Keiko and her two long-standing "besties." Further complications include busy, distracted parents, social competition, and a growing interest in boyfriends. (11-13)

#### \* Mary Underwater

by Shannon Doleski

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-4080-0 When 13-year-old Mary's violent and abusive father returns from prison, she finds courage and safety in building a submersible with her first love, Kip. (12-14)

#### Me and Banksy

by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (Puffin/Penguin Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-7352-6691-9

Inspired by a real graffiti artist, Dominica and her classmates use her street art to combat cyberbullying and the school's invasive security cameras. (11-14)

#### (D) Tornado Brain

by Cat Patrick (Putnam, \$17.99) 978-1-984815-31-6 Frankie, 13, is on the autism spectrum. Can she help find her estranged friend who has mysteriously disappeared? (11-13)

#### **Turtle Boy**

by M. Evan Wolkenstein (Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press, \$16.99) 978-0-593-12157-3 Kids bully seventh grader Will Levine because of his odd-looking chin. His new challenge is his bar mitzvah community service project—hospital visits. Ugh! (12-14)

## M When You Know What I Know

by Sonja K. Solter (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$16.99) 978-0-316-53544-1

After being molested by her uncle, Tori, 10, is helped by family, friends, and professionals, and begins to heal. Free verse. (11-13) Mature Content

## **Fantasy**

#### **All Sales Final**

by Sarah S. Reida (Warrior Press, P \$10.99) 978-1-7348170-3-4 In a small town in 1956, a new magical shop gives 11-year-old Anna an opportunity to be extraordinary, but what price must she pay? (11-13)



## D Beetle & the Hollowbones

written and illustrated by Aliza Layne (Atheneum BFYR/S&S, \$21.99) 978-1-5344-4153-8 Beetle needs to learn magic quickly to save her best friend Blob Ghost. Will Kat help? And is she more than a friend? Colorful, dynamic artwork. (11-13)

#### **Bloom**

by Kenneth Oppel (Knopf BFYR/Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-5247-7301-4

As the earth is covered with possibly carnivorous plants, three unusual young people discover their ability to confront the invasion. First of a trilogy. (11-14)

## (D) The Girl and the Ghost

by Hanna Alkaf (HarperCollins Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-0-06-294095-7

Suraya has inherited a ghostly demon from her grandmother. Its friendship can be either destructive or healing. Which aspect will prevail? A contemporary version of a Malaysian folktale. (11-14)

## (D) Into the Tall, Tall Grass

by Loriel Ryon (McElderry Books, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4967-1 In a tale filled with magic, two sisters learn about their family's past as they work to develop their future. (11-13)



## D Lizard in a Zoot Suit

written and illustrated by Marco Finnegan (Graphic Universe/Lerner, \$31.99) 978-1-5415-2365-4 In 1943 two Latinx zoot-suit sisters rescue a reptilian creature and try to find his family before a corrupt scientist gets his hands on him. Yellow, black, and white artwork with a retro feel. (12-15)

#### Poisoned

by Jennifer Donnelly (Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-1-338-26849-2 Seven brothers give Princess Sophie a mechanical heart after hers is stolen. Will she be able to rescue her kingdom before the heart stops? A reimagining of Snow White. (13-15)

#### **Scritch Scratch**

by Lindsay Currie (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks, \$16.99) 978-1-7282-0972-2

Reluctantly helping her father run a ghost-themed Chicago bus tour, Claire is astonished and terrified to find a young spirit repeatedly haunting her and apparently seeking her help. (11-13)

## (D) A Song of Wraiths and Ruin

by Roseanne A. Brown (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-0-06-289149-5

Malik, a refugee, and Princess Karina find themselves falling in love though knowing they must murder each other. A West African-inspired tale involving action, magic, and romance. (12-15)

## D Superman Smashes the Klan

by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by Gurihiru (DC Comics, P \$16.99) 978-1-77950-421-0 When a Chinese family moves to Metropolis, the Klan of the Fiery Kross tries to run them out of town. Can Superman save the day? Colorful retro illustrations. (11-14)

## (D) Wonder Woman: Tempest Tossed

by Laurie Halse Anderson, illustrated by Leila del Duca (DC Comics, P \$16.99) 978-1-4012-8645-3

Princess Diana flees from the island of Themyscira to New York City to rescue drowning refugees. Boldly colored illustrations. (11-14)

## Folklore and Fairy Tales

## (D) Mulan:

#### **Before the Sword**

written and illustrated by Grace Lin (Disney-Hyperion, \$16.99) 978-1-368-02033-6 Mulan feels herself to be a less worthy daughter than her younger sister, but aided by immortal allies, she embarks on a quest that reveals her bravery. Black-andwhite spot illustrations. (11-14)

## **Historical Fiction**

#### \* The Blackbird Girls

by Anne Blankman

(Viking BFYReve/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-3735-6 An unlikely friendship forms when a young girl and her nemesis are thrown together after the Chernobyl nuclear meltdown. (12-14)



## D 😂 \* Brother's Keeper

by Julie Lee

(Holiday House, \$17.99) 978-0-8234-4494-6 After war erupts, 12-year-old Sora flees south from North Korea with her brother. Author's note, family photographs, Korean glossary. (11-13)



## Catherine's War

by Julia Billet, illustrated by Claire Fauvel; translated from the French by Ivanka Hahnenberger (HarperAlley/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$21.99) 978-0-06-291560-3

To survive in Nazi-occupied France, Rachel, Jewish, becomes Catherine and moves throughout the country photographing everything she sees. Subtle ink and watercolor panels. (11-13)

## A Ceiling Made of Eggshells

by Gail Carson Levine (HarperCollins Children's Books, \$17.99) 978-0-06-287819-9

Proud to be her grandfather's companion as he works to keep Jews safe from persecution in 15th-century Spain, Loma still longs to realize her own dreams. (12-14)

#### \* Echo Mountain

by Lauren Wolk (Dutton/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-525-5556-8 During the 1930s Great Depression, 12-year-old Ellie develops new friendships in the Maine woods while helping her father recover from an accident. Lyrical prose about an idyllic natural world. (11-14)

#### In a Flash

by Donna Jo Napoli (Wendy Lamb/Random House Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-1-101-93413-5 Caught in Tokyo as World War II engulfs Europe and Asia, two motherless young Italian sisters struggle to survive with their father, an Italian embassy chef. Extensive bibliography. (11-13)

## (D) (M) The Maps of Memory: **Return to Butterfly Hill**

by Marjorie Agosín, illustrated by Lee White; translated from the Spanish by Alison Ridley (Atheneum BFYR/S&S, \$18.99) 978-1-481469-01-2 Fourteen-year-old Celeste returns to Chile from Maine to uncover the truth about what happened in Valparaíso during the dictatorship and to find Lucila, her missing friend. Grayscale pen and ink illustrations. (11-14) Mature Content

## (D) Saving Savannah

by Tonya Bolden (Bloomsbury Children's Books USA, \$17.99) 978-1-6811-9804-0

In 1919, when Washington DC is on the cusp of chaos from anarchist bombings and race riots, an upper-class Black high school student finds his identity among those less privileged. (11-14)

## (D) \* Show Me a Sign

by Ann Clare LeZotte (Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-25581-2 In 1805 Mary, 11, is struggling with the accidental death of her brother, when a suspicious scientist arrives on Martha's Vineyard to study Mary's deaf community. Back matter. (11-13)

## (M) Trowbridge Road

by Marcella Pixley (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0750-7 In 1983 when AIDS is a lethal mystery that kills June's father and renders her mother dangerously germaphobic, a new kid with his own problems becomes a special ally. (12-15) Mature Content

#### **Village of Scoundrels**

by Margi Preus, illustrated by S. M. Vidaurri (Amulet Books/Abrams, \$16.99) 978-1-4197-0897-8 Isolated villagers in Vichy France rescue, hide, and help Jews and other victims of Nazism escape to Switzerland. Photographs and stark grayscale illustrations. Time line, bibliography. (11-14)

## Humor

#### **Double the Danger and Zero Zucchini**

by Betsy Uhrig (Margaret K. McElderry Books/S&S, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-6765-1

The aunt of reluctant reader Alex, 12, persuades him to improve her first novel, with hilarious results, as he and his friends film plot elements in search of verisimilitude. (11-14)

## Magical Realism

## **D** The Brave

by James Bird (Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-24775-9

Finally meeting his mother and encountering his Ojibwe heritage, Collin, 13, experiences love, spirituality, and the strength to conquer his crippling OCD. (11-14)

#### A Game of Fox & Squirrels

by Jenn Reese, illustrated by Jessica Roux (Henry Holt and Company / Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-1-250-24301-0

Eleven-year-old Sam embarks on a quest prompted by forest animals depicted in a card game. Fantasy elements closely mirror trauma in her family. Grayscale spot illustrations. (11-14)

## (D) Snapdragon

written and illustrated by Kat Leyh (First Second/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$21.99) 978-1-250-17112-2

With the help of her gender-nonconforming best friend, Snapdragon becomes an apprentice to the rumored town witch and discovers surprising family connections. Dynamic cartoon-style artwork. (11-13)

## **Science Fiction**

#### The Last Lie (The List series)

by Patricia Forde

(Sourcebooks Young Readers/Sourcebooks, \$16.99) 978-1-49269-333-8

Letta, a teacher, is part of a rebel group looking to restore their community, created after the "melting." Are freedom of speech and peace possible? (11-14)

## **Sports**

## D A High Five for Glenn Burke

by Phil Bildner

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-3743-1273-2

Like his baseball hero Glenn Burke, Silas, 12, is gay. He's terrified people will find out and needs to talk to someone he can trust. (11-13)

#### \* One Last Shot

by John David Anderson (Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$16.99) 978-0-06-264392-6

Malcolm, 12, yearns for his father's approval, but sports are not his forte. Life changes dramatically when he uses his unusual analytic talent playing miniature golf. (11-13)

## **POETRY**

### (D) All He Knew

by Helen Frost

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-31299-2

In the 1930s a deaf boy, erroneously deemed unteachable, faces inhumane treatment at an institution until a kindly worker there sees his potential. (11-14)

#### The Bird in Me Flies

written and illustrated by Sara Lundberg; translated from the Swedish by BJ Epstein

(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.95) 978-1-77306-260-0

This novel in verse with nature-inspired watercolor and collage illustrations explores the life, art, and writing of Swedish artist Berta Hansson. Back matter with archival photos. (11-13)

#### \* Flooded:

#### **Requiem for Johnstown**

by Ann E. Burg

(Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-54069-7 In lyrical verse, a chorus of six children and other witnesses share their personal stories about the

catastrophic collapse of a dam in 1889. (11-14)

## D 🖰 \* Say Her Name

by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Loveis Wise (Jump at the Sun/Disney-Hyperion, \$18.99) 978-1-368-04524-7

Striking illustrations accompany powerful and empowering descriptions of the experiences of Black women throughout history. Endnotes. (12-15)

## D With a Star in My Hand: Rubén Darío, Poetry Hero

by Margarita Engle (Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-2493-7

Born in Nicaragua, Rubén, abandoned by his mother, began experimenting with different forms of complex poetry at a young age and became famous as el niño poeta. (11-13)

## INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

## Biography and Memoir

## D A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story

by Caren Stelson, illustrated by Akira Kusaka (Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$17.99) 978-1-5415-2148-3

World War II brings devastation to Japan and suffering to Sachiko's family, but grandmother's bowl, found intact amid the wreckage, evokes treasured memories and hope for future peace. Warm digital illustrations. (11-14)

#### **Chance:**

#### **Escape from the Holocaust**

written and illustrated by Uri Shulevitz (Farrar, Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan \$19.99) 978-0-374-31371-5

Deeply evocative drawings by a renowned artist intensify the story of his life as a Polish Jew whose family escaped the Nazis, only to face harrowing experiences in the Soviet Union. Afterword. (11-14)

### D Even More Fantastic Failures: True Stories of People Who Changed the World by Falling Down First

by Luke Reynolds

(Beyond Words/Aladdin, \$12.99) 978-1-58270-733-4 Vignettes of famous and not so famous people depict the adversities they overcame. (13-15)

## **D** \* Finish the Fight!:

# The Brave and Revolutionary Women Who Fought for the Right to Vote

by Veronica Chambers and the Staff of the New York Times, illustrated by various artists (Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group (HMH), \$18.99) 978-0-358-40830-7 Featuring a diverse group of activists, this comprehensive book focuses on women who fought for the 19th Amendment and other social justice issues. Colorful digital illustrations and archival images. Back matter. (11-14)

## D Kiyo Sato:

# From a WWII Japanese Internment Camp to a Life of Service

by Connie Goldsmith with Kiyo Sato (Twenty-First Century Books, \$37.32) 978-1-5415-5901-1

Though once incarcerated, Japanese American Kiyo never gives up hope for progress in the United States, serves in the US Air Force, and advocates for human rights. Extensive back matter, archival photos. (12-15)

## M The Missing:

## The True Story of My Family in World War II

by Michael Rosen

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-1289-1

The account of a search for family members who had gone missing in the Holocaust provides lessons for today's world. Many suggestions for further reading. (11-13) Mature Content

## **D** Sing and Shout:

#### The Mighty Voice of Paul Robeson

by Susan Goldman Rubin

(Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills/Kane Miller, \$19.99) 978-1-62979-857-8

An extraordinary voice and a passionate commitment to universal civil rights marked the life a much-loved performer. Photographs and extensive back matter. (11-14)

## **Ecology**

#### **Condor Comeback (Scientists in the Field series)**

by Sy Montgomery, photographed by Tianne Strombeck (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group/HMH), \$18.99) 978-0-3583-3066-0

The heroic efforts to save the critically endangered California condor from extinction are depicted with captivating photographs. Extensive back matter. (11-14)

## Earth Day and the Environmental Movement: Standing Up for Earth

by Christy Peterson (Twenty-First Century Books, \$30.49) 978-1-5415-5281-4 In 1970 different environmental groups joined together to celebrate the first Earth Day and increase awareness about the urgent need to protect the planet. Bibliography. (11-13)

## History

## **D** \* All Thirteen:

# The Incredible Cave Rescue of the Thai Boys' Soccer Team

by Christina Soontornvat (Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-1-5362-0945-7 An incredible international effort led to the rescue of 12 Thai children and their coach, trapped in a flooded cave. Endnotes, bibliography, archival photos. (12-15)

#### **Attacked at Sea:**

# A True World War II Story of a Family's Fight for Survival (True Rescue series)

by Michael J. Tougias and Alison O.Leary (Henry Holt and Company, \$19.99) 978-1-2501-2806-5

A family shares the harrowing tale of their experiences after their ship is destroyed by a German submarine during World II. Photographs. Bibliography, notes. Young readers edition of So Close to Home: A True Story of an American Family's Fight for Survival during World War II. (11-14)

#### **Guardians of Liberty:**

#### Freedom of the Press and the Nature of News

by Linda Barrett Osborne

(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-3689-6 A succinct history of communication in the United States explores the value of a free press in a democracy. Includes guidance on evaluating news. Photographs, time line, index, and bibliography. (12-15)

# ① \* Lifting As We Climb: Black Women's Battle for the Ballot Box

by Evette Dionne

(Viking BFYR/PRH, \$19.99) 978-0-451-48154-2 Powerful Black women led the charge for women's suffrage, and in 1920 women finally gained the right to vote. Racism, however, continued to pose obstacles. Archival photographs and documents. (11-14)

## **D** Stamped:

#### Racism, Antiracism, and You

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-0-316-45369-1

This powerful examination of the roots and evolution of racist ideas in America is a remix of Dr. Kendi's *Stamped from the Beginning*. Extensive source notes and further reading. (12-15)

## Star Spangled:

## The Story of a Flag, a Battle, and the American Anthem

by Tim Grove

(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-4102-9 Under attack by the British during the War of 1812, Baltimore fought back, and Francis Scott Key wrote what became our national anthem. Maps, illustrations, and back matter. (11-13)

## **D** Strong Voices:

#### **Fifteen American Speeches Worth Knowing**

by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, foreword by Cokie Roberts (HarperCollins Children's Books, \$21.99) 978-0-06-257204-2

The stirring words of Patrick Henry, Fannie Lou Hamer, and thirteen others provides insight into significant issues and events in American history. Striking oil portraits. Time line, back matter. (11-13)

#### \* Strongman:

#### The Rise of Five Dictators and the Fall of Democracy

by Kenneth C. Davis (Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$19.99) 978-1-2502-0564-3

Five 20th-century dictators who manipulated democracy in order to gain unlimited power are profiled. Archival photographs. Back matter. (12-15)

## Language

#### **Alphamaniacs:**

#### **Builders of 26 Wonders of the Word**

by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-9066-3 Women and men invent, rediscover, and play with language in 26 challenging and entertaining entries. Artful and colorful collage illustrations. Back matter. (12-15)

## Law and Justice

### \* Conspiracy:

### Nixon, Watergate, and Democracy's Defenders

by P. O'Connell Pearson (Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-8003-2 Combined efforts of journalists, prosecutors, the judicial system, and Congress forced Richard Nixon to resign from his presidency. A clear account of the Constitution triumphing, (12-15)

## D Finding a Way Home:

# Mildred and Richard Loving and the Fight for Marriage Equality

by Larry Dane Brimner (Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills/Kane Miller, \$18.99) 978-1-62979-751-9

This landmark U.S. Supreme Court case legalized interracial marriage and became the precedent for other marriage equality cases. Archival documents and photographs. Source materials. (12-15)

#### For Which We Stand:

#### **How Our Government Works and Why It Matters**

by Jeff Foster, illustrated by Julie McLaughlin (Scholastic, \$24.99) 978-1-338-64309-1

This account of how our democracy came to exist explains the government's different roles and functions and emphasizes the need for citizen activism for its preservation. Black-and-white and full-color illustrations. Back matter, resources. (11-14)

#### Give Us the Vote!:

#### Over 200 Years of Fighting for the Ballot

by Susan Goldman Rubin (Holiday House, \$19.88) 978-0-8234-3957-7 Learn about the struggle for suffrage in the United States, including the passage of the 19th Amendment, the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and today's voter suppression controversies. Extensive back matter and source notes. (12-15)

### (D) Into the Streets:

# A Young Person's Visual History of Protest in the United States

by Marke Bieschke (Zest Books/Lerner Publishing Group, \$37.32) 978-1-5415-7903-3

People from across the political and social spectrum have marched for their belief in the power to change laws and practices. Archival photos. Source notes, bibliography, index. (12-15)

#### D \* We Are Power:

#### **How Nonviolent Activism Changes the World**

by Todd Hasak-Lowy

(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4111-1 Nonviolence's powerful effect on world history is examined through various struggles, including those for suffrage, civil rights, India's independence, migrant workers' rights, and the mitigation of climate change. Index, endnotes, photos. (12-15)

#### You Call This Democracy?:

# How to Fix Our Government and Deliver Power to the People

by Elizabeth Rusch

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group, \$19.99) 978-0-358-17692-3

How have the electoral college, gerrymandering, voter suppression, and more failed democracy? How can concerned teenagers effect change? Enlightening diagrams and charts. Source notes, bibliography. (13-15)

## **Sports**

#### Wild Girl:

#### **How to Have Incredible Outdoor Adventures**

by Helen Skelton, illustrated by Liz Kay (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-536-212860-0 A guide with real-life adventure stories encourages girls to seek adventure locally or globally by using positive self-talk, planning, and creativity. Colorful illustrations. (11-14)

## $\begin{center} STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) \end{center}$



## \* Astronauts:

#### Women on the Final Frontier

by Jim Ottaviani, illustrated by Maris Wicks (First Second/Roaring Book/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-62672-877-6

Mary Cleave, astronaut and NASA executive, describes how women broke the gender barrier in the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. space programs. Action-filled comic panels. Excellent back matter. (11-14)

#### **Beyond Words:**

#### What Wolves and Dogs Think and Feel

written and photographed by Carl Safina (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$19.99) 978-1-250-14465-2

Learn about the behavior of wolves and what makes them both different from and similar to humans. Footnotes, bibliography, and index. Young readers edition. (11-14)

#### The Big One:

### The Cascadia Earthquakes and the Science of Saving Lives (Scientists in the Field series)

by Elizabeth Rusch (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group/ HMH, \$18.99) 978-0-544-88904-0 Plate tectonics, continental drift, the Cascadia Subduction Zone, earthquakes, tsunamis, and the efforts of scientists and engineers to predict and mitigate their impacts are clearly explained. Maps and photographs. (11-14)

#### **Bill Nye's Great Big World of Science**

by Bill Nye and Gregory Mone (Abrams BFYR/Abrams, \$29.99) 978-1-4197-4676-5 An accessible overview of a multitude of subjects, including the human body and climate change, draws upon the expertise of working scientists. Full-color graphic and photographic images, extensive sources. (11-14)

#### \* How We Got to the Moon:

### The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure

written and illustrated by John Rocco (Crown/Random House Children's Books, \$29.99) 978-0-525-64741-6

Enlivened with anecdotes, this highly informative history brings clarity to the complex rocket science of the Apollo space program. Finely detailed, realistic illustrations. Source notes, bibliography. (12-15)

## World

#### Into the Clouds:

#### The Race to Climb the World's Most **Dangerous Mountain**

by Tod Olson (Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-33820-736-9 Follow the perilous journeys dared by undaunted men during three early expeditions attempting to climb K2, the second-highest mountain on Earth. Archival photographs. Back matter. (11-14)

#### (D) Sisters of the War:

## Two Remarkable True Stories of Survival and **Hope in Syria**

by Rania Abouzeid (Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-55112-9 Two Syrian girls, one Sunni, and one Alawite, experience the civil war that began in 2011. Map. Author's note. (12-15)

## FOURTEEN AND OLDER

## **FICTION**

## Adventure and Mystery

## M \* Above All Else

by Dana Alison Levy (Charlesbridge, \$18.99) 978-1-62354-140-8 Two teens have trained for years to climb Mt. Everest, but nothing can prepare them for the reality of the physical and emotional toll. Map. (14-17) Mature Content

## M Dogchild

by Kevin Brooks (Candlewick Press, \$22.99) 978-1-5362-0974-7 In a brutal postapocalyptic world, Jeet, raised by wild dogs, now lives among people in one of only two surviving communities. Is he safe within its besieged walls? (14-17) Mature Content

#### **The Inheritance Games**

by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-1-368-05240-5

Avery, an impoverished teenager, suddenly inherits a multibillion-dollar legacy, but along with it comes a family rife with rivalry, jealousy, and secrets. (13-16)

## D Take Me with You

by Tara Altebrando (Bloomsbury Children's Books USA, \$17.99) 978-1-68119-748-7

Four teens are forced to work together to unravel the intrigue behind an eerily prescient black cube that hacks into every aspect of their private lives. (14-17)

## **D** The Truth App (Liars series)

by Jack Heath

(Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-5344-4986-2 Jarli, an Australian teen, invents an app that detects conversational truths and falsehoods. It goes viral, but some are willing to kill to keep their secrets hidden. (14-16)

#### What I Want You to See

by Catherine Linka (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$18.99) 978-1-3680-2755-7

Sabine, homeless due to the recent death of her mother, wins an art school scholarship but plays a risky game trying to survive in that cutthroat world. (13-16)

## **Anthologies and Collections**

# **D** 19 Love Songs by David Levithan

(Penguin Random House/Knopf, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-4863-5 Stories and verses about attraction and love are featured in this collection that centers on boys and men finding their partners. (13-16)

#### D Come On In:

## **15 Stories about Immigration and Finding Home** edited by Adi Alsaid

(Inkyard Press, \$18.99) 978-1-3351-4649-6) This engaging anthology includes tales of teen immigrants and young people in immigrant families from a variety of countries. (15-18)

## **D** Foreshadow:

# Stories to Celebrate the Magic of Reading and Writing YA

edited by Emily X. R. Pan and Nova Ren Suma (Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill/Workman Publishing, P \$16.95) 978-1-6437-5079-8

This collection of 13 short stories by diverse YA authors explores the ways in which the writers used prompts and techniques to develop their narratives. (14-17)

## D M Out Now:

## Queer We Go Again!

edited by Saundra Mitchell (Inkyard Press, \$18.99) 978-1-335-01826-7 Seventeen short stories feature teens representing various gender identities. The theme of self-acceptance balanced against societal pressure runs throughout. (14-17) Mature Content

# A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope

edited by Patrice Caldwell (Viking/Penguin Young Readers, \$18.99) 987-1-9848-3565-9

This diverse and wonderful collection of fantasy and science fiction short stories features protagonists who are women of color. (14-17)

#### **D** Rural Voices:

# 15 Authors Challenge Assumptions About Small-Town America

edited by Nora Shalaway Carpenter, illustrated by Veeda Bybee, Randy DuBurke, and Nasuġraq Rainey Hopson (Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1210-5 Authors explore and celebrate issues of identity and growing up in rural America. Includes black-and-white spot illustrations and two black-and-white graphic format stories. (14-17)

## Coming of Age

## M \* Be Not Far from Me

by Mindy McGinnis (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-256162-6

Resourceful, courageous, and stubborn 17-year-old Ashley flees her boyfriend's infidelity; she survives weeks in the wilderness learning respect for herself, nature, and human connections. (15-18) Mature Content

## \* Being Toffee

by Sarah Crossan (Bloomsbury, \$17.99) 978-1-5476-0329-9 Fleeing an abusive father, Allison finds shelter, empathy, and friendship with an elderly woman suffering from dementia. Free verse. (15-18)

## ① \* The Black Flamingo

by Dean Atta (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-299029-7

Cypriot, Jamaican, and gay, Michael journeys from painful childhood to empowered manhood. In free verse. (14-17)

#### M Blood Moon

by Lucy Cuthew (Walker Books/Candlewick Press, \$18.99) 978-1-5362-1503-8

The intersection of burgeoning sexual curiosity, menstruation, and online shaming form the backdrop for this fast-paced novel that could encourage teens to reexamine their preconceptions. (14-17)

Mature Content

#### D Break the Fall

by Jennifer Iacopelli (Razorbill/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-11417-9 About to strive for a medal in her last Olympics, Audrey, a US gymnast, is staggered by accusations of a coach's abuse. (14-16)

## **D M** Breathless

by Jennifer Niven

(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-1-5247-0196-3

After her parents' divorce, Claudine travels with her mother to a remote island to heal where, floundering for support, she falls in love with Jeremiah. (14-17) Mature Content

## (D) (M) The Bridge

by Bill Konigsberg (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-32503-4 Two teens contemplate committing suicide by jumping off the George Washington Bridge. Four separate scenarios present potential outcomes as they struggle for survival. Author's note, resources. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) (M) Charming as a Verb

by Ben Philippe (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-282-414-1

Haitian American Henri dreams of acceptance at Columbia University. His plans go awry when classmate Corinne blackmails him into helping her change her reputation. (15-18) Mature Content

## \* The Dark Matter of Mona Starr

written and illustrated by Laura Lee Gulledge (Amulet Books/Abrams, \$22.99) 978-1-4197-3423-6 Grayscale and spot yellow cosmic illustrations dramatically depict Mona's journey to manage her depression. Back matter includes reading list and self-care plan. (15-18)

#### M \* Dear Universe

by Florence Gonsalves (Little, Brown BYFR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-43673-1

Chamomile, a senior in high school, struggles to reconcile two worlds: home, where her father is terminally ill, and school, with its own anxieties. (14-17) Mature Content

## **D** Every Body Looking

by Candice Iloh

(Dutton Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-525-55620-6 Nigerian American Ada's upbringing by a strict father and uninvolved mother renders her submissive and secretive; leaving home for college gives her room to bloom. In verse. (14-17)

#### (D) Felix Ever After

by Kacen Callender (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-282025-9

Felix, 17, Black, trans, and queer, suspects that the anonymous bully tormenting him is his chief rival for a competitive art scholarship. Revenge-seeking leads to surprising consequences. (16-18)

## **D** Finding My Voice

by Marie Myung-Ok Lee, foreword by Kat Cho (Soho Teen, \$18.99) 978-1-64129-197-2 In a small Minnesota town, Korean American Ellen Sung grapples with pressures of college choices, overt racism, and demanding parents. (13-16)



#### Flamer

by Mike Curato (Henry Holt and Company, \$25.99) 978-1-62779-641-5

The boys at St. Michael's bully biracial Filipino American Aiden for his weight, race, and mannerisms. He hates boys, he's Catholic; how could he possibly be gay? Monochrome illustrations with bright highlights. (14-17) Mature Content

#### **Goodbye from Nowhere**

by Sara Zarr

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-0-06-243468-5

With a girlfriend and a loving extended family, life is good for Kyle—until he learns his mother is having an affair. (14-17)

#### (D) The Henna Wars

by Adiba Jaigirdar (Page Street Publishing Company, \$17.99) 978-162-414-968-9

Working to balance her Muslim Bengali family background with the culture of her predominantly White Irish girls' school, 16-year-old Nishat is also challenged by her growing lesbian identity. (14-17)

## (D) \* I Am Here Now

by Barbara Bottner

(Imprint/Macmillan, \$18.99) 978-1-250-20769-2 In 1960, a teenager and her gay 11-year-old brother live with an abusive mother. Despite her father's absence, she strives to find solace and strength. In free verse. Abuse resources. (15-18)

## M If These Wings Could Fly

by Kyrie McCauley (Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-288502-9

Seventeen-year-old Leighton struggles to protect her sisters and mom from her father's domestic abuse but longs to flee herself. (15-18) Mature Content

## M It Only Happens in the Movies

by Holly Bourne

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Children's Book Group, \$17.99) 978-0-358-17206-2

Audrey gave up on romance before meeting aspiring filmmaker Harry at the cinema where they both work. Does real love look like love in the movies? Sexual content. (15-18) Mature Content

## **D** The Lightness of Hands

by Jeff Garvin

(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins Children's Books, \$18.99) 978-0-06-238289-4

Sixteen-year-old Ellie, bipolar, lives on the road with her father, a brilliant magician whose career is in a downward spiral. Can she help him turn things around? (14-17)

#### **Making Friends with Alice Dyson**

by Poppy Nwosu (Walker Books/Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-1-536-21478-9

Studious Alice quietly devotes herself to her parents' expectations. In her senior year, everything changes with her unexpected friendship with Teddy Taualai, the school outcast. (13-16)



## (D) A Map to the Sun

written and illustrated by Sloane Leong (First Second/Macmillan, \$24.99) 978-1-250-14668-7 Five friends and an optimistic coach struggle on and off the court as they start a girl's high school basketball team. Sunset-inspired graphic illustrations. (15-18)

#### \* My Eyes Are Up Here

by Laura Zimmermann (Dutton/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-1524-8 Greer's enormous breasts dominate her life in ways she knows are unhealthy. A possible boyfriend, a powerful sports bra, and her volleyball teammates help. (13-16)

## (D) Not So Pure and Simple

by Lamar Giles

(Harper Teen, \$17.99) 978-0-06-234919-4 In a small Black community in Virginia, where high school sex education courses get cancelled despite numerous teenage pregnancies, Del and his classmates face unprecedented social pressure. (14-17)

#### One Way or Another

by Kara McDowell (Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-1-338-65454-7 Decision-making is beyond challenging for 17-yearold Paige. Two very different possibilities for a special Christmas experience unfold in alternating chapters in this romantic story. (14-17)

## (D) \* Only Mostly Devastated

by Sophie Gonzales (Wednesday Books/St. Martins Press, \$17.99) 978-1-250-31589-2

Ollie has a perfect summer fling with Will. When they unexpectedly attend the same school in the fall, Ollie is thrilled—until Will says their relationship must remain secret. (14-17)

## (D) (M) Private Lessons

by Cynthia Salaysay (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-0960-0 Seventeen-year-old Claire gets more than she bargained for when her protective Filipina mother agrees to let her take piano lessons with a prestigious, demanding male teacher. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling by Wai Chim

(Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-65611-4 In Australia, Chinese immigrant Anna must cope with her mother's increasing mental illness, while contending with academic pressure at school and the busy restaurant that supports them. (14-17)

## (M) \* Three Things I Know Are True

by Betty Culley (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-290802-5

Seventeen-year-old Jonah is brain damaged after accidentally shooting himself with his friend's father's gun. His sister advocates for him while struggling with the aftermath. Free verse. (14-17) Mature Content

#### (D) \* Turtle under Ice

by Juleah del Rosario

(Simon Pulse/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-4295-5

This novel in verse explores the evolving grief of two Filipino Chamorro American teenage sisters after the deaths of their mother and then of a miscarried halfsister. (13-16)

#### What I Carry

by Jennifer Longo (Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-553-53771-0

About to age out of foster care, Muir finds her fierce self-preservation strategies confounded by a wonderful foster mother, friends, and a passion for the outdoors. (13-16)

## (D) \* What I Like about Me

by Jenna Guillaume (Peachtree, \$17.99) 978-1-68263-160-7 16-year-old Maisie, overweight and struggling with her self-image, forges new paths toward self-expression. (14-17)

## (M) You Know I'm No Good

by Jessie Ann Foley (Quill Tree Books, \$17.99) 978-0-06-295708-5 After she punches her stepmother, 17-year-old Mia gets sent to a facility for troubled teens. There she begins her arduous road toward self-awareness and recovery. (14-17) Mature Content

## Contemporary Issues

#### Accidental

by Alex Richards (Bloomsbury, \$17.99) 978-1-5476-0358-9 When her absent father reappears after 13 years, Jo, raised by grandparents, learns devastating information about her mother's death. Can she learn to forgive? (14-17)

## (D) (M) The Burning

by Laura Bates (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-72820-673-8 When Anna's nude photos are distributed on social media, she and her mom escape to Scotland, where she learns about historic female persecution. Unfortunately, the scandal follows her. (15-18) Mature Content

#### (D) Darius the Great Deserves Better

by Adib Khorram (Dial Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-10823-9 Darius's depression is under control, and he has a wonderful boyfriend. But his family is struggling financially and his beloved Iranian grandfather is dying. Life is complicated. (14-17)

## (D) (M) Dear Justyce

by Nic Stone

(Crown BFYR/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-2966-5 In letters, Quan, 17, relates the events that led him to prison, and his observations of how the juvenile justice system treats African Americans. Sequel to Dear Martin. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) (M) \* The Everything I Have Lost

by Sylvia Zéleny, illustrated by BluePanda Studios (Cinco Puntos Press, \$15.95) 978-1-947627-17-8 In her journal, Julia records the tumultuous year her family escapes from Juárez, Mexico, to El Paso, Texas, as she gradually acknowledges her father's criminality and her mother's helpless love for him. Line drawings. (13-16) Mature Content

## (D) Here the Whole Time

by Vitor Martins, translated from the Brazilian Portuguese by Larissa Helena (Push/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-62082-5 When Felipe's mom announces that Caio—his neighbor and lifelong crush—will stay with them for 15 days, he must confront his shyness and body-image insecurities. (14-17)

## (D) How It All Blew Up

by Arvin Ahmadi

(Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-593-20287-6

When a blackmailing classmate threatens to out him to his conservative Persian parents, Amir bolts to Rome, where new friends teach him the joy of gay culture and community. (13-16)

## (D) \* I'll Be the One

by Lyla Lee

(Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-293692-9

Sixteen-year-old Korean American Skye dreams of becoming a K-pop star, but everyone—especially her mother—says that fat girls can't dance. Can she prove them wrong? (14-17)

### (D) Just Breathe

by Cammie McGovern (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-246335-7

Friendless Jamie, recovering from depression, volunteers at the hospital where ultrapopular David has been admitted for cystic fibrosis. They might be the only ones who understand each other. (14-17)

#### **Last Words**

by Leanne Baugh

(Red Deer Press/Fitzhenry & Whiteside, P \$14.95) 978-0-88995-576-9

Sixteen-year-old Claire meets a young man on a Vancouver bridge, who says, "I'm sorry" and then jumps off. The narrative follows Claire's reactions to this horrific event. (14-17)

## (D) \* Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel

by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Danica Novgorodoff (Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99) 978-1-5344-4495-9

A young teen struggles to decide if avenging his brother's killing is the right thing to do. Lyrical text with ink and watercolor illustrations. (14-17)

## (D) Mad, Bad, & Dangerous to Know

by Samira Ahmed

(Soho Teen, \$18.99) 978-1-61695-989-0

In Paris, French-Indian-American Khayyam and Alexandre Dumas's sixth-great-grandson hunt for a lost Delacroix painting rumored to have been given to the famed author. (15-17)

## (D) (M) The New David Espinoza

by Fred Aceves

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-248988-3

In this cautionary tale, 17-year-old David, unhappy with his body image, begins using steroids, with disastrous results. The author draws from personal experience. (15-18) Mature Content

## **D M** \* Parachutes

by Kelly Yang

(Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, \$18.99)

978-0-06-294108-4

Scholarship student Dani hosts wealthy Claire from Shanghai when she enrolls in Dani's private school in California. Initial antipathy gives way to alliance as they each face their own traumas. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) (M) \* Punching the Air

by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-299648-0

One bad punch during a confrontation between groups of boys results in Amal's incarceration. This novel in verse reveals his sensitivity, talent, intellect, and worth. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) (M) Sanctuary

by Paola Mendoza and Abby Sher (G.P. Putnam's Sons/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-984815-71-2 In 2032 Vali, 16, and her brother flee from Vermont to California after her mother is captured by the Deportation Force; a horrifying picture of a future dystopian USA. (13-16) Mature Content)

## D Six Angry Girls

by Adrienne Kisner (Feiwel & Friends, \$17.99) 978-1-250-25342-2 A high school Mock Trial team ousts its only female member, Millie. She then forms her own all-female team, but what starts as retaliation grows into true social activism. (14-17)

## **D** Stay Gold

by Tobly McSmith (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-294317-0

Pony is unwilling to reveal he is transgender. Cisgender Georgia has trust issues from a prior relationship. There's an attraction, but what are they willing to risk? (14-17)

## D \* This Is My America

by Kim Johnson

(Random House Children's Books/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-593-11876-4

Tracy's father sits on death row. Working to overturn his conviction, Tracy investigates the murder of a fellow journalist that may uncover past injustices. Back matter. (14-17)

## **D** This Is My Brain in Love

by I. W. Gregorio

(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-42382-3

Jocelyn, 16, feels overwhelmed by academic pressure and the failure of her family's Chinese restaurant. New hire Will secretly grapples with anxiety. Can they help each other? (14-17)

## **D** This Train Is Being Held

by Ismée Williams

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$17.99) 978-1-4197-3493-9 Isa, a ballet dancer, and Alex, a baseball player, meet on the subway. They are drawn to each other, but family secrets and societal issues threaten their relationship. (14-17)

#### **Together We Caught Fire**

by Eva V. Gibson

(Simon Pulse/Simon & Schuster, \$19.99)

978-1-5344-5021-9

Lane's emotional walls, built after witnessing her mom's suicide 13 years earlier, are tested by her father's marriage to the mother of her childhood crush. (16-18)

## **D** The Voting Booth

by Brandy Colbert

(Disney Hyperion, \$18.99) 978-1-368-05329-7 Two politically active Black teens meet on Election Day, battling polling mishaps, break-ups, and a missing pet cat while forging a new relationship. (15-18)

## D M \* We Are Not from Here

by Jenny Torres Sanchez (Philomel/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-1226-1 Three young immigrants from Guatemala flee the horrors of their gang-ridden town determined to escape to the United States. Brutally realistic. (15-17) Mature Content

## (D) Yes No Maybe So

by Becky Albertalli and Aisha Saeed (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$24.99) 978-0-06-293704-9

Jamie and Maya, former childhood friends, narrate their reconnection over a political campaign where they confront prejudice, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and their feelings for each other. (14-17)

## Family/School/Community

#### The Assignment

by Liza Wiemer (Delacorte Press/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-593-12316-4

When high school seniors protest their assignment to reenact the Wannsee Conference, during which the "Final Solution" for European Jews was debated, their community is thrown into turmoil. (15-18)

## (D) Clap When You Land

by Elizabeth Acevedo (HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, \$18.99) 978-0-06-288276-9

Two 15-year-old girls, Camino in the Dominican Republic and Yahaira in Harlem, describe learning about each other's existence when their father suddenly dies. Free verse. (14-17)

#### The Edge of Anything

by Nora Shalaway Carpenter (Running Press Teens, \$17.99) 978-0-7624-6758-7 An unlikely friendship develops between star athlete Sage and loner Len. Both girls are struggling in very different ways while learning the meaning of true friendship. (15-18)

## D It Came from the Sky

by Chelsea Sedoti (Sourcebooks, \$17.99) 978-1-4926-7302-6 When gay, teenaged Gideon's science experiment including explosives goes awry, he and his brother blame the gaping hole in a nearby cornfield on extraterrestrial activity. (13-16)

## (D) Under Shifting Stars

by Alexandra Latos (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-358-06775-7

Fraternal twins Clare and Audrey are devastated after their older brother's death. Clare discovers she may be nonbinary; Audrey must come to terms with her neurodivergence. (14-16)

## D M When You Were Everything

by Ashley Woodfolk (Random House, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-1591-5 Cleo and Layla have been best friends for years, but 11th grade brings challenges that tear them apart. Where can Cleo go from here? (14-17) Mature Content

### (D) Wishbone

by Anna Garcia Schaper (Piñata Books/Arte Público Press, P \$12.95) 978-1-55885-894-7

In alternating time lines, we see a Mexican American teen and her great aunt, 45 years apart, in their heartfelt fights against misogyny and fat-shaming. (15-18)

## **Fantasy**

#### **Ashlords**

by Scott Reintgen (Crown BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-593-11917-4 Ashlords, with the help of their gods, tyrannize their empire and dominate the annual phoenix races. The stakes couldn't be higher for competitors. (13-16)

## M \* Bearmouth

by Liz Hyder

(Norton Young Readers, \$18.95) 978-1-324-01586-4 Newt has been satisfied working in a coal mine since age four, never seeing daylight, but when a new boy arrives, questioning working conditions, trouble ensues. (14-17) Mature Content

## **D** Burn

by Patrick Ness (Quill Tree Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-286949-4

In an alternate racially intolerant Washington state during the Cold War era, Sarah's father hires a dragon to work on their farm, unaware of an imminent threat from a dragon-worshipping cult. (15-18)

#### \* Deeplight

by Frances Hardinge (Amulet/Abrams, \$19.99) 978-1-4197-4320-7 The lifelong friendship of orphans Hark and Jelt is existentially strained after they make a dangerous discovery while scavenging for body parts of long-dead gods. (15-18)

## (D) \* Displacement

written and illustrated by Kiku Hughes (First Second/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$24.99) 978-1-2501-9354-4

Teen Kiku travels back in time to experience the traumatic World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans, including the grandmother she never knew. Nuanced colored panels. Back matter. (13-16)

## (D) The Empire of Dreams

by Rae Carson

(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-269190-3

When orphan Red's adoption is thwarted, she petitions to join the all-male Royal Guard. A planned coup will test her mettle. (14-17)

## (D) Girl, Serpent, Thorn

by Melissa Bashardoust (Flatiron Books, \$18.99) 978-1-250-19614-9 Soraya is poisonous to anything she touches. Isolated and lonely, she grasps at a chance for change, potentially dooming her family and kingdom. Inspired by Persian lore. (13-16)

## (D) The Gravity of Us

by Phil Stamper (Bloomsbury Children's Books USA, \$17.99) 978-1-5476-0014-4

Seventeen-year-old Cal's ambition to be a journalist and his guest for a boyfriend could be scuttled by his father's sudden acceptance into a space mission to Mars. (14-17)

#### The Puppetmaster's Apprentice

by Lisa DeSelm

(Page Street Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-64567-080-3 A wooden puppet brought to life by her father's use of forbidden magic, Pirouette is forced by an evil ruler to create an army of marionettes. (13-16)

## (D) Raybearer

by Jordan Ifueko

(Amulet Books/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-3982-8 Tarisai must find the strength to seek justice rather than revenge, but her mother's enchantment seems impossible to overcome. (14-16)

## (D) (M) Rebelwing

by Andrea Tang (Razorbill/PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-3509-3 In a near-future dystopia, diverse teenage activists and a sentient mechanized dragon join the resistance against a totalitarian military-industrial complex. (13-16) Mature Content

## (M) Red Hood

by Elana K. Arnold (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-274235-3

After Bisou, 17, kills a wolf, its body turns into that of a classmate. More attacks follow. Is Bisou a hunter or a murderer? (14-17) Mature Content

## (D) Splinters of Scarlet

by Emily Bain Murphy (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-358-14273-7

In 19th-century Denmark, Marit's father dies in a suspicious accident. Can her magical abilities solve the mystery and save others suffering from deadly magical sickness? (13-16)

#### The Way Back

by Gavriel Savit

(Knopf/Random House, \$18.99) 978-1-9848-9462-5 The arrival of the Messenger of Death in the shtetl of Tupik sends a boy and a girl on intersecting journeys, full of demons, sorcery, and Hasidic mysticism. (14-17)

#### **Woven in Moonlight**

by Isabel Ibañez

(Page Street Publishing, \$18.99) 978-1-62414-801-9 When the king, a usurper, demands the hand of the deposed princess in exchange for hostages, warrior Ximena volunteers to go in her stead. Map. Spanish and Quechua glossary. (14-17)

## Folklore and Fairy Tales

#### Hood

by Jenny Elder Moke (Hyperion/Buena Vista Books, \$17.99) 978-1-368-04745-6

Leaving her quiet life in a medieval convent, Isabelle encounters violence and treachery in surrounding villas as she searches for the legendary father she has never known: Robin Hood. (13-16)

## **D** The Iron Will of Genie Lo

by F. C. Yee

(Amulet/Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-3145-7 Genie wants a normal senior year, but she's the reincarnation of a magical weapon of Chinese legend, and a demon has just started an extra-dimensional war. (14-17)

## **Historical Fiction**

## (D) The Black Kids

by Christina Hammonds Reed (Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-6272-4 Wealthy African American Ashley Bennett goes on a journey of self-discovery as rioting flares up in Los Angeles in 1992 following the Rodney King beating. (14-17)

## **D** The Blossom and the Firefly

by Sherri L. Smith

(G.P. Putnam's Sons/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-5247-3790-0 In Japan in 1945, Taro, 17, a kamikaze pilot, is willing to die for his country. Then he meets 15-year-old Hana. Author's note, glossary, bibliography. (14-17)

## **D** Cane Warriors

by Alex Wheatle (Akashic Books/Black Sheep, P \$15.95) 978-1-6177-5855-3

Fourteen-year-old Moa fights for the freedom of enslaved people in Jamaican plantations. Based on the true story of Tacky's Rebellion against the British in 1760. (13-16)

#### A Cloud of Outrageous Blue

written and illustrated by Vesper Stamper (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books, \$19.99) 978-1-5247-0041-6

It's 1348 in Yorkshire; 16-year-old Edyth, a synesthete, illuminates manuscripts in a priory, where terrified townspeople flee from the Plague. Elegant watercolor illustrations. (15-18)

## **D** The Degenerates

by J. Albert Mann (Atheneum, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-1935-3 In 1928 four young girls are among those incarcerated for life in an institute for the "feeble-minded." How can they change their fate? (13-15)

## **D** The Enigma Game

by Elizabeth Wein (Hyperion/Disney Book Group, \$18.99) 978-1-368-01258-4

During World War II, a Jamaican British 15-year-old finds a smuggled German encryption device near an RAF airfield in Scotland. Companion to *Code Name Verity*. (13-16)

## M The Light in Hidden Places

by Sharon Cameron (Scholastic Press, \$18.99) 978-1-338-35593-2 In Poland during World War II, 17-year-old Fusia, a Catholic, harbors 13 Jews. Harrowing, inspirational. Based on the unpublished memoir of Stefania Podgórska. Family interviews, author's note, photographs. (13-16) Mature Content

## M Open Fire

by Amber Lough

(Carolrhoda Lab/Lerner Publishing Group, \$18.99) 978-1-5415-7289-8

Katya joins the 1st Russian Women's Battalion of Death during World War I. Intensely violent battles fuel her ambivalence about patriotism, Bolshevism, class struggles, and misogyny. (15-18) Mature Content

# M The Snow Fell Three Graves Deep: Voices from the Donner Party

by Allan Wolf

(Candlewick Press, \$21.99) 978-0-7636-6324-7 The harrowing, tragic story of the Donner Party is told in free verse, narrated by multiple voices. Extensive back matter, sources, and maps. (14-17) Mature Content

#### \* They Went Left

by Monica Hesse (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-49057-3

Having survived two concentration camps during World War II, Zofia, 18, searches for the younger brother who she believes also survived the Holocaust. (14-17)

# D This Light between Us: A Novel of World War II

by Andrew Fukuda, illustrated by Euan Cook (Tom Doherty Associates, \$17.99) 978-1-250-19238-7 Leaving Manzanar, Japanese American Alex enlists in an all-Nisei combat unit, hoping to find his French Jewish pen pal, who has disappeared. Black-and-white illustrations. Back matter. (14-17)

## (D) We Are Not Free

by Traci Chee, illustrated by Julia Kuo (Houghton Mifflin & Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-358-13143-4

Fourteen West Coast Japanese American teenagers tell intertwining stories of their incarceration in internment camps during World War II. Archival photos and ink drawings. Back matter, maps. (14-17)

## Humor

## **Pretty Funny for a Girl**

by Rebecca Elliott

(Peachtree Publishers, \$17.99) 978-1-682-63147-8 Haylah is heavy (she says fat), clever, witty, and funny. Can she make it as a stand-up comic, or will she forever ghostwrite Leo's sets? (13-16)

## Magical Realism

## (D) (M) Black Girl Unlimited:

## The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard

by Echo Brown

(Henry Holt, \$17.99) 978-1-250-30985-3 Growing up in Cleveland, Echo is determined to "rise" even as her crack-cocaine addicted mother struggles to stay alive. Are they really both wizards? (15-18) Mature Content

## D \* Cemetery Boys

by Aiden Thomas

(Swoon Reads/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-250-25046-9 Lady Death, who empowers the brujx to guide spirits to the afterlife, accepts transgender brujo Yadriel as a boy. Will the rest of the community? (14-17)

## D Dark and Deepest Red

by Anna-Marie McLemore (Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-25-016274-8

In 16th-century Strasbourg, Lala, a Roma, is blamed for a deadly dancing fever. Five hundred years later, red shoes bind to Mexican American Rosella's feet, forcing her to dance. (14-17)

## D M Daughters of Jubilation

by Kara Lee Corthron (Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-4814-5950-1 Evvie draws on magical powers, inherited from generations of Black women, to fight against a man who assaulted her as a child and has returned to find her. (16-18) Mature Content

#### \* Hello Now

by Jenny Valentine (Philomel/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-399-54695-2 Out of an ordinary, futureless existence, Jude finds Novo and boundless love in a timeless, magical moment and comes to understand love and loss. (13-16)

## D M \* Tigers, Not Daughters

by Samantha Mabry

(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, Workman Publishing, \$17.95) 978-1-61620-896-7 When the oldest teenage sister in a contemporary Mexican American family dies, the other three grieve, suffer, and receive different messages from her restless spirit. (14-17) Mature Content

#### Watch over Me

by Nina LaCour

(Dutton BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-593-10897-0

After aging out of foster care, Mila gets an internship on a remote farm on the California coast; then mysterious gifts connected to her past start to appear. (14-17)

## Science Fiction

## (D) Agnes at the End of the World

by Kelly McWilliams, illustrated by Tristan Elwell (Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette, \$17.99) 978-0-316-48733-7

Agnes, 16, escapes a fundamentalist cult to save her diabetic little brother, only to find that the outside world has been decimated by a deadly disease. Elegant, detailed map. (14-17)

#### The Between

by David Hofmeyr (Delacorte Press/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-74475-1

A cinematic adventure through seven worlds in a multiverse provides Ana the opportunity for selfactualization, growing self-awareness, and a possible romance. Sequels are in the offing. (15-18)

## (D) (M) The End

by Mats Strandberg, translated from the Swedish by Judith Kiros (Arctis, \$18.95) 978-164690-006-0 A meteor is hurtling toward Earth; two Swedish teens try to solve a murder while deciding what they truly value and who they ultimately want to be. (15-18) Mature Content

#### **Hard Wired**

by Len Vlahos (Bloomsbury, \$17.99) 978-1-68119-037-2 Quinn discovers his entire life is an Al fabrication. What does it mean to be sentient, to be real? Who has the right to control someone's life? (14-17)

## D M Parable of the Sower: A Graphic Novel Adaptation

## by Octavia E. Butler, adapted by Damian Duffy,

illustrated by John Jennings (Abrams Comic Arts, \$24.99) 978-1-4197-3133-4 In a near-future, violently apocalyptic United States, hyperempathic Lauren flees her community, hoping to establish a safe space to practice her Afrofuturistic religion. Deep tonal digital illustrations. (15-18) Mature Content

## (D) When We Vanished (Call of the Crow Quartet series)

by Alanna Peterson (Root City Press, P \$14.99) 978-1952149016 Four teens attend a protest at a local food manufacturer and end up being part of a bizarre experiment. First of a quartet. (14-17)

## **Sports**

## (D) Furia

by Yamile Saied Méndez

(Algonquin Young Readers, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill/Workman Publishing, \$17.95) 978-1-61620-991-9 Camila, aspiring to a professional soccer career, faces an anti-feminist Argentinian society, an abusive father, and a choice between her boyfriend and her sport. (14-17)

#### Golden Arm

by Carl Deuker (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) 978-0-358-01242-9

Star pitcher Laz, 19, hampered by poverty and learning disabilities, could pitch for a more competitive school and maybe get drafted by the majors; but it will mean leaving his community. (14-17)

#### We Are the Wildcats

by Siobhan Vivian (Simon & Schuster, \$18.99) 978-1-5344-3990-0 A high school girls' field hockey team comes to recognize the excessive manipulation and intimidation tactics of their coach and mounts a resistance. (14-17)

## **POETRY**

#### **Everything Comes Next: Collected & New Poems**

by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Rafael López (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-301345-2

Looking through a lens of connectivity, the Poetry Foundation's Young People's Poet Laureate offers over 100 profound and memorable poems. Creative blackand-white spot art. (13-16)

## (D) (M) Somebody Give This Heart a Pen

by Sophia Thakur

Mature Content

(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-1-5362-0992-1 This poetic exploration and search for personal identity is broken up into five growth cycles, examining themes such as family, friends, love, and race. (13-16)

## INFORMATIONAL BOOKS

## **Activities**

## (D) This Book Is Anti-Racist:

### 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work (Empower the Future series)

by Tiffany Jewell, illustrated by Aurélia Durand (Frances Lincoln Children's Books/Quarto, P \$14.99) 978-0-71124-5-211

This workbook encourages teens to explore, develop a positive racial identity, and work in solidarity against racism. Bold, colorful, dynamic illustrations. Endnotes, glossary, bibliography, suggested further reading. (13-16)

## Arts

## (D) \* This Is What I Know about Art (Pocket Change Collective series)

by Kimberly Drew, illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky (Penguin Workshop/PRH, P \$8.99) 978-0-593-09518-8 A Black curator, writer, and activist describes her passion for art and for taking action to make art institutions more welcoming spaces for BIPOC audiences and to increase representation of artists of color in museums and galleries. Spot illustrations. (15-18)

## Biography and Memoir

## \* Almost American Girl:

**An Illustrated Memoir** 

written and illustrated by Robin Ha (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$22.99) 978-0-06-268510-0

Life in Alabama is difficult for Ha, 14, a South Korean immigrant. A comic drawing class helps her find the way forward. Colorful comic art. (13-16)

#### D \* Apple: Skin to the Core

written and illustrated by Eric Gansworth (Levine Querido, \$18.99) 978-1-64614-013-8 An Onondaga writer/artist growing up among the Tuscarora shares his memories of unrelenting lifetime struggles with cultural dislocation. Vivified with his poetry, artwork, and family photographs. (13-16)

## D Banned Book Club

by Kim Hyun Sook and Ryan Estrada, illustrated by Ko Hyung-Ju

(Iron Circus Comics, P \$15.00) 978-1-945820-42-7 Joining a banned book club opens college student Kim Hyun Sook's eyes to political realities in the authoritarian regime of 1980s South Korea. Illustrations in Korean comics (manhwa) style. (14-17)

#### **Beauty Mark:**

## A Verse Novel of Marilyn Monroe

by Carole Boston Weatherford (Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-1-5362-0629-6 Although she was a beloved movie star, this iconic Hollywood star's life was traumatic. (16-18)

## (D) \* Call Me American

by Abdi Nor Iftin (Delacorte Press/PRH, \$17.99) 978-1-9848-9711-4 Abdi grows up in war-torn Somalia, learns English, becomes excited about American culture, meets journalists, does some writing himself, and finally immigrates to the United States. Young readers edition. (14-17)

## (D) \* The Cat I Never Named: A True Story of Love, War, and Survival

by Amra Sabic-El-Rayess with Laura L. Sullivan, illustrated by Shazleen Khan (Bloomsbury YA/Bloomsbury, \$19.99) 978-1-5476-0453-1

Love, resourcefulness, and a faithful cat give Muslim teenager Amra and her family the strength to survive the 1992–1995 Bosnian genocide. Black-and-white spot illustrations. Resources. (16-18)

## Dancing at the Pity Party: A Dead Mom Graphic Memoir

written and illustrated by Tyler Feder (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$18.99) 978-0-525-55302-1 Feder describes her grief at the death of her mother when she was was a 19-year-old college freshman. Colorful, hand-lettered illustrations. (14-17)

#### **One Boy's Triumph Over Violence**

written and illustrated by Joel Christian Gill, colors by Shannon Scott

(Oni Press, P \$19.99) 978-1-549-30335-7 The author tells how he overcame early abuse and a fragmented, frightening childhood to discover

friendship, inspiration, and love. Expressive artwork, (14-17)



## **D** The Fire Never Goes Out:

#### A Memoir in Pictures

written and illustrated by Noelle Stevenson (HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$19.99) 978-0062278272 A graphic novelist chronicles her highs and lows from 2011, when she was 19 and in art school, to 2019 when she married her wife. Stevenson's signature, sketchy cartoons illustrate the text. (15-18)

#### \* A Hopeful Heart:

#### Louisa May Alcott before Little Women

by Deborah Noyes

(Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-525-64623-5

Well-connected socially and intellectually but poverty stricken, Alcott is portrayed as a caring, brave, driven, and talented woman living in a complex world. (14-17)



#### **Invisible Differences:**

### A Story of Asperger's, Adulting, and Living a Life in Full Color

by Julie Dachez, inspired by and in collaboration with Fabienne Vaslet, adapted and illustrated by Mademoiselle Caroline, translated from the French by **Edward Gauvin** 

(Oni Press, \$19.99) 978-1-62010-766-9

When Marguerite, 27, receives an Asperger's diagnosis, she begins to change her way of living. The illustrations' palette becomes more varied as Marguerite learns more about herself. Back matter. (15-18)

## (D) One Real American:

#### The Life of Ely S. Parker, Seneca Sachem and **Civil War General**

by Joseph Bruchac

(Abrams, \$18.99) 978-1-4197-4657-4

This unique figure in US history achieved success in two worlds, yet was caught between them. Archival photos and images, maps, endnote, bibliography, and time line. (15-18)

#### \* The Rise and Fall of Charles Lindbergh

by Candace Fleming

(Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$18.99) 978-0-525-64654-9

This unflinching account of the pilot's life includes his solo flight from New York to Paris, his son's kidnapping, and his embrace of eugenics and Nazism. Bibliography, source notes, and index. (13-16)

## (M) Sarah Bernhardt:

### The Divine and Dazzling Life of the World's **First Superstar**

by Catherine Reef

(Clarion Books/HMH, \$18.99) 978-1-328-55750-6 A once-temperamental French teen blossomed into a legendary actress and world-wide celebrity. Illustrated with numerous archival photographs. (15-17) Mature Content

#### D Walk toward the Rising Sun: From Child Soldier to Ambassador of Peace

by Ger Duany with Garen Thomas (Make Me a World/Random House Children's Books/ PRH, \$18.99) 978-1-52471941-8 War-torn Sudan turns Duany's carefree childhood into

a daily fight for survival. Escaping to America at 18, Duany struggles to build a new life. (14-17)

## Health

## (D) The Self-Love Revolution: **Radical Beauty Positivity for Girls of Color** (Instant Help Solutions series)

by Virgie Tovar

(Instant Help Books/New Harbinger Publications, P \$16.95) 978-1-68403-411-6

Tovar addresses the importance of self-love by sharing her own journey and guides girls to self-love with exercises and insight on societal standards for women. (14-17)

## History

#### 1789:

#### Twelve Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, **Revolution, and Change**

edited by Marc Aronson and Susan Campbell Bartoletti (Candlewick Press, \$22.99) 978-1-5362-0873-3 Snapshots of pivotal events on both sides of the Atlantic describe the social upheavals that informed early America's policies on human rights. (14-17)

## (D) \* Big Black: Stand at Attica

by Frank "Big Black" Smith and Jared Reinmuth, illustrated by Améziane (Archaia, P\$19.99) 978-1-68415-479-1 This blistering, graphic account of the events at Attica prison in 1971, told from the perspective of the incarcerated, spares no details about the racially charged uprising. Dramatic, expressive artwork. (15-18)

## (M) Blood and Germs:

### The Civil War Battle against Wounds and Disease (Medical Fiascoes series)

by Gail Jarrow (Calkins Creek/Boyd Mills & Kane, \$18.99) 978-1-68437-176-1

Numerous diseases that killed more soldiers than bullets are described with in-person accounts and photos of the fighters, doctors, and nurses affected. Archival photographs. Back matter. (15-17) Mature Content

### The First Conspiracy:

#### The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington

by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch, adapted by Catherine Frank

(Roaring Brook Press, \$19.99) 978-1-250-0257623 In a conflict with constantly shifting loyalties, it became clear that espionage would play a key role if the revolutionaries were to prevail. Extensive back matter. Young readers edition. (13-15)

### (D) Freedom Summer for Young People: The Violent Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy (For Young People series)

by Bruce Watson, adapted by Rebecca Stefoff (Seven Stories Press, \$40.00) 978-1-64421-009-3 In the summer of 1964, college students registered black voters in Mississippi and opened schools for youngsters. Archival photos, extensive back matter. Young readers edition of Freedom Summer. (14-17)

## Law and Justice

## (D) \* The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person

by Frederick Joseph (Candlewick Press, \$17.99) 978-1-5362-1701-8 The author describes race-related experiences from his youth, weaving in interviews with artists and activists, to help develop readers' capacity to be racial justice accomplices. Rich back matter. (15-18)

## (D) Stolen Justice:

#### The Struggle for African American Voting Rights

by Lawrence Goldstone, foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-1-338-32348-1

Gladstone traces how African Americans have fought for voting rights from 1787 to the 21st century. Archival photographs and images. Back matter, sources. (14-17)

## Reference

#### \* True or False:

## A CIA Analyst's Guide to Spotting Fake News

by Cindy L. Otis (Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$19.99) 978-1-250-23949-5

This engaging history of and primer on spotting false information in the news and on social media could not be more timely or essential. Archival photographs. Extensive sourcing. (13-16)

## **Sports**



## D \* Dragon Hoops

written and illustrated by Gene Luen Yang (First Second/Roaring Brook Press, \$24.99) 978-1-62672-079-4

The author describes how a graphic novel was created from the compelling story of a high school's drive to become basketball state champions. Full-color illustrations. Extensive back matter. (13-16)

## $\begin{center} STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) \end{center}$

### Apollo 13:

#### A Successful Failure

by Laura B. Edge

(Twenty-First Century Books/Lerner Publishing Group, \$37.32) 978-1-5415-5900-4

The heroic effort to return a malfunctioning spacecraft to Earth is vividly detailed within the historical framework of the US space programs. Archival photographs, time line, glossary, sources, bibliography. (13-16)

## World

## D M In Search of Safety: Voices of Refugees

written and photographed by Susan Kuklin (Candlewick Press, \$24.99) 978-0-7636-7960-6 Five refugees from three Asian and two African countries describe the danger they fled to seek safe new lives in the United States. Color photographs. Extensive back matter. (15-18) Mature Content



#### 2021 Edition / Books Published in 2020

Looking for just the right children's books?

Here—for parents, grandparents, relatives, and friends, as well as for teachers and librarians—is the perfect guidebook. Each year, the Children's Book Committee issues an annotated guide to more than 650 children's books they consider the best publications of the prior year, in this case 2020.

The fiction listings are divided into sections by age and arranged by topic: adventure, animals, coming of age, folklore and fairy tales, humor, science fiction, sports, and more. Another section lists informational books and poetry titles, also arranged by topic.







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