Best Children’s Books of the Year  Nine to Twelve  2019 Edition

Read Aloud  Mature Content  (10 - 14) Suggested Age Range  Graphic Format  Diversity

FICTION

ADVENTURE AND MYSTERY

The Bookshop Girl
by Sylvia Bishop, illustrated by Poly Bernatene
(Peachtree, $16.96) 978-1-68263-045-7
After coping with a struggling small town bookstore, Property and her family win the greatest bookstore in England. But there’s a catch! Black-and-white digital illustrations. (8-10)

The Elephant Thief
by Jane Kerr
(Chicken House/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-1-338-18843-1
In Victorian Edinburgh, Danny, orphan pickpocket, changes his life when he agrees to a dangerous task-walking an elephant from Edinburgh to Manchester in one week. (10-12)

Knights vs. Dinosaurs
written and illustrated by Matt Phelan
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-268623-7
Merlin sends the Knights of the Round Table on a new quest to find and slay the storied Terrible Lizards. Varied black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

*The Mortification of Fovea Munson
by Mary Winn Heider, illustrated by Chi Birmingham
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4847-8054-1
Instead of going to summer camp, Fovea becomes the new receptionist at her parents’ cadaver lab, where not everything is lifeless. Quirky black-and-white cartoon illustrations. (9-12)

*Orphaned (Ape Quartet series)
by Eliot Schrefer
(Scholastic Press, $18.99) 978-0-545-65505-7
In the Paleolithic era, Snub, a young female gorilla, encounters humans for the first time. Her thoughts and feelings are told in blank verse. (8-11)
ANIMALS

Saving Winslow
by Sharon Creech, illustrated by Vincent Moustache
(Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-257070-3
Despite dire predictions, Louie and Nora nurture Winslow, a newborn mini-donkey. As Winslow matures, neighbors complain, and his future must be determined. Simple line drawings. (8-10)

Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen
by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House/PRH, $17.99)
978-1-101-93410-4
In the 1920s, a German shepherd becomes a star of the silent screen. Based on a true story. Black-and-white oil paintings. Back matter. (9-12)

COMING OF AGE

*All the Things That Could Go Wrong
by Stewart Foster
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $16.99)
978-0-316-41685-6
Alex, who suffers from severe OCD, and Dan, who has bullied him, join forces to build a raft, with surprising results for both of them. (10-13)

Ana Maria Reyes Does Not Live in a Castle
by Hilda Eunice Burgos
(Tu Books/Lee & Low, $18.95) 978-1-62014-362-9
Living in NYC, Dominican American Ana Maria tries to win a scholarship to a prestigious private school, even though family circumstances present her with big challenges. (9-12)

The Girl with More Than One Heart
by Laura Geringer Bass, illustrated by Penelope Dullaghan
(Amulet Books/Abrams, $16.99) 978-1-4197-2882-2
When Briana’s father suddenly dies, her family seems to fall apart. A brother with autism and a depressed mother are a heavy burden for a grieving, gifted young teen. Occasional black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

*Copyboy
by Vince Vawter
(Capstone Editions, $15.95) 978-1-63079-105-6
To keep his promise to spread his former neighbor’s ashes at the mouth of the Mississippi, Victor goes on an adventurous journey. (10-13)

The Dollar Kids
by Jennifer Richard Jacobson, illustrated by Ryan Andrews
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-9474-6
Lowen's family buys a house for a dollar in a small town seeking new families to fill their school and their sports teams. Occasional comic strip illustrations. (10-12)

Ebb & Flow
by Heather Smith
(Kids Can Press, $16.99) 978-1-77138-838-2
After a wrenching year, Jett, almost 12, is sent to the coast to spend the summer with Grandma Jo. A compassionate tale of betrayal and forgiveness. Told in free verse. (9-12)

Harbor Me
by Jacqueline Woodson
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin YR/PRH, $17.99)
978-0-399-25252-5
Six students in a fifth/six grade special needs class, assigned to a room where they can talk without adult supervision, bond as they discuss issues of immigration, racial discrimination, and economic disparities. (10-13)
COMING OF AGE, continued

**The Heart and Mind of Frances Pauley**
by April Stevens
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-5247-2061-2
When Frances, a solitary, gifted student and nature lover, loses her best friend, the school bus driver, she slowly begins to reach out to classmates and her sister. (9-12)

**I'm OK**
by Patti Kim
When his father dies unexpectedly, Ok, the child of Korean immigrants, tries to make money, and in the process finds friendship and his own identity. (9-12)

**Just Like Jackie**
by Lindsey Stoddard
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-265291-1
Robinson can do just about anything, including care for her Alzheimer’s-afflicted grandfather. But she struggles to emulate her namesake, Jackie Robinson, and control her temper. (8-11)

**Louisiana’s Way Home**
by Kate DiCamillo
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-9463-0
After her Granny abandons her in Georgia, Louisiana Elefante, 12, begins to believe her life is just a series of good-byes. Can she change her destiny? (9-12)

**Merci Suárez Changes Gears**
by Meg Medina
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-9049-6
A plucky sixth grader navigates changes at school and at home as her warm, close-knit Latinx family faces the painful reality that her beloved grandfather has Alzheimer’s. (10-12)

**The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl**
by Stacy McAnulty
(Random House BFYR/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-5247-6757-0
Can home-schooled 12-year-old Lucy—a math genius with strange behavioral rituals—adapt to regular school? Supportive family, new friends, a math teacher, and an orphan dog all help. (10-12)

**Running on Empty**
by S. E. Durrant
(Holiday House, $17.99) 978-0-8234-3840-2
Grandad used to take care of Aj’s developmentally disabled parents, but he’s gone, and the bills are overdue. Aj desperately wants to help, but he’s only eleven. (9-12)

**The Season of Styx Malone**
by Kekla Magoon
(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-5247-1595-3
Styx appears in the woods near Caleb and B.G.’s house one summer, tempting them to test their overprotective father’s rules and steering them toward risky behavior. (9-12)

**Stanley Will Probably Be Fine**
by Sally J. Pla, illustrated by Steve Wolfhard
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-244579-7
Challenged by his sensory processing disorder, middle schooler Stanley uses his love of comics to battle environmental stress. Friends and school staff provide vital support. Intermittent black-and-white cartoons. (10-12)

**The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle**
by Leslie Connor
Dyslexia is one of the challenges for Mason as he faces not only bullies, but also the unjust suspicion of the police that he caused a friend’s death. (10-13)
COMING OF AGE, continued

*You Go First
by Erin Entrada Kelly
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-241418-2
Separated by 1,000 miles but connected by their online Scrabble game, gifted outsiders Charlotte and Ben help each other through difficulties at home and at school. (9-12)

FANTASY

*Begone the Raggedy Witches (The Wild Magic Trilogy, Book One)
by Celine Kiernan
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-9996-3
When witches carry off her father, Mup discovers that she comes from a magical family. Can she help rescue him from her tyrannical grandmother, the queen of the Glittering Land? (9-12)

*Bob
by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead, illustrated by Nicholas Gannon
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99)
978-1-250-16662-3
Five years ago, Livy promised Bob, a greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, that she would help take him home. Will she keep her promise? Luminous illustrations. (9-11)

*The Cardboard Kingdom
edited and illustrated by Chad Sell, written by Chad Sell and others
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House/PRH, $20.99)
978-1-5247-1937-1
A diverse cast of characters, including knights, rogues, robots, and monsters, share summer adventures in a very creative neighborhood. Bold, colorful artwork. (8-10)

*Charlie Hernández & the League of Shadows
by Ryan Calejo
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-5344-2658-0
Charlie and Violet battle frightening monsters and evil spirits as they try to find Charlie’s vanished parents. (10-13)

The Creature of the Pines (Unicorn Rescue Society series)
by Adam Gidwitz, illustrated by Hatem Aly
(Dutton Children’s Books/PRH, $14.99) 978-0-7352-3170-2
Students Elliot and Uchenna take a field trip with an eccentric professor and end up in a secret society. Mixed-media illustrations. (8-10)

*Endling: The Last
by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Tony Piedra
(HarperCollins Children’s Books, $17.99) 978-0-06-233552-4
When Byx’s pack is killed, she fears she is last of the doglike dairnes and joins with unlikely creatures in a quest to discover if others of her kind have survived. Expressive black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

*Granted
by John David Anderson
Fledgling wish-granting fairy Ophelia has a finite amount of magic available. How can she figure out which wishes should be granted in this complicated world? (9-12)

The House with Chicken Legs
by Sophie Anderson
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-1-338-20996-9
Longing for friends, Marinka chafes against her destiny of becoming a Yaga and a Guardian of the Gate to the world of the dead. (9-12)
FANTASY, continued

**Inkling**  
by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Sydney Smith  
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House/PRH, $17.99)  
978-1-5247-7281-9  
An inkspot comes alive and enables Ethan to draw with confidence, restores his father’s artistic abilities, and enriches the life of his developmentally disabled sister. Expressive grey-scale illustrations. (9-12)

**The Language of Spells**  
by Garret Weyr, illustrated by Katie Harnett  
(Chronicle Books, $16.99)  
978-1-4521-5958-4  
Are dragons disappearing—or are they just invisible to other people? Eleven-year-old Maggie can see one, named Grisha, and the two of them set out to find the others. Folkloric black-and-white illustrations. (10-12)

**The Lifters**  
by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Aaron Renier  
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House/PRH, $17.99)  
978-1-5247-6416-6  
In an allegory about courage and hope, a 12-year-old boy’s hometown is menaced by violent sinkholes. A bossy classmate might be involved. Arresting black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**Nightbooks**  
by J. A. White  
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)  
978-0-06-256008-7  
Lured into a witch’s enchanted apartment, Alex and fellow prisoner Yasmin plot their escape. (9-12)

**The Serpent’s Secret (Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond series)**  
by Sayantani DasGupta, illustrated by Vivienne To  
(Scholastic Press, $17.99)  
978-1-338-18570-6  
The morning of Kiranmala’s birthday starts normally, until a demon bursts through the door and steals her Bangladeshi parents from their New Jersey home. Intermittent black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

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**Winterhouse**  
by Ben Guterson, illustrated by Chloe Bristol  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-1-250-12388-6  
When orphan Elizabeth is sent alone to a luxurious hotel at Christmastime, little does she suspect that Winterhouse offers life-changing adventures and magic. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-12)

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**FOLKLORE AND FAIRY TALES**

**A Grain of Rice**  
written and illustrated by Helena Clare Pittman, afterword by Daniel Rockmore  
(Delacorte Press/Penguin Random House, $14.99)  
978-1-5247-6552-1  
A very smart but poor man tries to win the hand of a princess by using his math skills. An engaging tale set in China. Pencil drawings. Extensive afterword explains the math in the story. Delicately shadowed black-and-white drawings. (8-10)

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**HISTORICAL FICTION**

**Betty Before X**  
by Ilyasah Shabazz, with Renée Watson  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-0-374-30610-6  
Betty Sanders, who will one day marry Malcolm X, enjoys her friends, her adoptive family, and community volunteering in 1940s Detroit, but increasingly notices the blight of racial prejudice. Author’s note, time line. (9-12)

**The Book of Boy**  
by Catherine Gilbert Murdock, illustrated by Ian Schoenherr  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)  
978-0-06-268620-6  
In 14th-century France, a plucky and physically disfigured boy narrates his action-packed journey with the villainous pilgrim he serves. Spot black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)
HISTORICAL FICTION, continued

The Eleventh Hour
written and illustrated by Jacques Goldstyn, translated from the French by Anne Louise Mahoney
(Owlkids Books, $18.95) 978-1-77147-348-4
Two unlikely friends join the Canadian Army together when World War I begins, with tragic consequences. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (9-12)

Front Desk
by Kelly Yang
(Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-1-338-15779-6
When the motel they manage outside Disney World is suddenly up for sale, Chinese immigrants Mia, 10, and her parents lead a campaign to buy it. Will they succeed in time? (9-12)

Grenade
by Alan Gratz, map by Jim McMahon
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-1-338-24569-1
Hideki, 13, an Okinawan student, and Ray, a young American Marine, meet on the battlefield during the Battle of Okinawa, with grave consequences for both. (9-12)

Hunger: A Tale of Courage
by Donna Jo Napoli, map by Ryan Thompson
(A Paula Wiseman Book/Simon & Schuster, $18.99) 978-1-4814-7749-9
In 1846 Ireland, Lorraine’s family, like many others, leases farmland from English landowners. Then a blight wipes out the potato crop on which their lives depend. Extensive back matter. (9-12)

Journey of the Pale Bear
by Susan Fletcher
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, $16.99) 978-1-5344-2077-9
In 1752, runaway Arthur, 12, winds up looking after a polar bear en route from Norway to the King of England. Will either ever be free? (10-12)

Lifeboat 12
by Susan Hood
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99) 978-1-4814-6883-1
A 13-year-old has harrowing adventures as he tries to escape the Nazis in a life boat. Based on a true story. Told in free verse. (10-12)

Made by Hand: A Crafts Sampler
by Carole Lexa Schaefer, illustrated by Becca Stadtlander
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-7433-5
Told through narrative, poetry, memoir, and journal entries, this tribute to handmade objects brings American history alive. Gouache illustrations. (8-11)

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968
by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
(Calkins Creek/Highlights, $17.95) 978-1-62979-718-2
The story of the Memphis sanitation strike during the struggle for civil rights in 1968 is told from a child’s perspective. Striking illustrations. Back matter. (9-11)

The Orphan Band of Springdale
by Anne Nesbet
(Candlewick Press, $18.99) 978-0-7636-8804-2
In 1941, 11-year-old Gusta Neubronner’s spirit is tested when her parents send her from New York to her grandmother’s boarding house in Maine. (10-13)

Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein
by Jennifer Roy, with Ali Fadhil
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $16.99) 978-0-544-78507-6
When the Gulf War between Iraq and the U.S. begins in 1991, Ali, 11, and his Christian Kurdish family struggle to survive the nightly bombings in Basra. (9-12)
### HISTORICAL FICTION, continued

**The Rhino in Right Field**  
by Stacy DeKeyser  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-5344-0626-1  
Laugh out loud as 12-year-old Nick tries to play baseball, satisfy his hard-working Greek immigrant father, and avoid Tank the rhino. Set in Wisconsin in 1948. (8-11)

**The Sound of Freedom**  
by Kathy Kacer  
(Annick Press, P $9.95) 978-1-55451-969-9  
In 1936, as life in Poland becomes difficult for Jews, Anna hopes her father, a celebrated clarinetist, will be accepted into a newly formed orchestra in Palestine. (10-12)

*A Stitch in Time*  
by Daphne Kalmar  
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-250-15498-9  
When her beloved pops dies, Donut’s aunt comes to take her from her familiar rural Vermont home to live in Boston. What can 11-year-old Donut do but run away? (8-11)

*Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster*  
by Jonathan Auxier, illustrated by Dadu Shin, map by Jonathan Auxier  
(Amulet Books/Abrams, $18.99) 978-1-4197-3140-2  
In Victorian England, 11-year-old Nan is indentured to a cruel master as a chimney sweep, a brutally dangerous job, until the day a strange creature rescues her. Sooty black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**Voices from the Underground Railroad**  
by Kay Winters, illustrated by Larry Day  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin YR/PRH, $18.99) 978-0-8037-4092-1  
Two young runaway slaves embark on a harrowing journey, seeking freedom. Told in free verse. Poignant, evocative mixed-media illustrations. References, notes, and map end papers. (8-10)

### Diverse Content

**The Wind Called My Name**  
by Mary Louise Sanchez  
(Tu Books/Lee & Low, $18.95) 978-1-62014-780-1  
During the Depression, Margarita Sandoval’s family leaves New Mexico for Wyoming, where her father has taken work with the railroad. (9-12)

**Zora & Me: The Cursed Ground**  
by T. R. Simon  
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-4301-0  
When Zora and her friend Carrie see their neighbor’s prize horse running away, they become involved in a mystery dating back to 1855, during the era of slavery in the U.S. (9-12)

### MAGICAL REALISM

**Dragons in a Bag**  
by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Geneva B  
(Random House BFYR/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-5247-7045-7  
Ma isn’t who Jaxon thought she was. She’s a witch who must get some beasts out of Brooklyn and back to where they belong. Occasional black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

**Following Baxter**  
by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Gilbert Ford  
(Harper, $16.99) 978-0-06-249978-3  
Jordie and her younger brother, TJ, help their new neighbor and his dog with a risky science experiment that moves objects through space. Black-and-white flip book illustrations. (9-11)

**The Spirit of Cattail County**  
by Victoria Piontek  
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-1-338-16705-4  
Bereaved by her mother’s recent death, 12-year-old Sparrow has one friend, a ghostly boy. What is his secret? The answer may allow Sparrow to keep her home. (9-12)
MAGICAL REALISM, continued

The Third Mushroom
by Jennifer L. Holm, illustrated by Tad Carpenter
(Random House BFYR/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-5247-1980-7
When seventh grader Ellie’s scientist grandfather returns for a long visit, he teaches her that there is much to learn from failed experiments. Decorative black-and-white elements. (9-12)

SCIENCE FICTION

Masterpiece Robot and the Ferocious Valerie Knick-Knack
by Frank Tra, illustrated by Rebecca Evans
(Tilbury House, $17.95) 978-0-88448-518-6
Vividly colored present-day scenes contrast with sci-fi adventures depicted in a muted palette as Laura and her young siblings become superheroes battling against their older sister, an evil, powerful robot. (8-10)

The Wild Robot Escapes
written and illustrated by Peter Brown
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $16.99)
978-0-316-38204-5
A robot, originally built for servitude, has spent years in the wild. Now refurbished and sold to a farm, she longs to return to her island home. Charcoal illustrations. (8-11)

SPORTS

Checked
by Cynthia Kadohata, illustrated by Maurizio Zorat
(A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, $16.99) 978-1-4814-4661-7
Like his father, 11-year-old half-Japanese Conor lives for hockey. Their dog’s cancer and the cost of elite sports force Conor to make difficult choices, but nothing dampens his passion. Chapter-head black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

Lu (Track series)
by Jason Reynolds
(A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, $16.99) 978-1-4814-5024-9
As the Defenders prepare for the track championship, Lu must overcome his fear of jumping hurdles, even as he discovers the truth about his father. (9-12)

Lucky Enough (Fred Bowen Sports Story series)
by Fred Bowen
(Peachtree, $14.95) 978-1-56145-957-5
Thirteen-year-old Trey made the baseball travel team and had a good start. Was it due to his lucky piece of sea glass? (8-11)

My Life as a Diamond
by Jenny Manzer
(Orca Book Publishers, P $10.95) 978-1-4598-1831-6
After moving from Canada to Washington state, Caz Cadman joins the local baseball team where he thrives, until a rival threatens to reveal Caz’s identity before he’s ready. (9-12)

Takedown
by Laura Shovan
Fighting stereotypes and prejudices, a girl and boy become unlikely friends as they compete at wrestling. Together they find self-confidence and their moral compasses. (9-12)

TODAY

24 Hours in Nowhere
by Dusti Bowling
(Sterling Children’s Books/Sterling Publishing, $14.95) 978-1-4549-2924-6
After Rossi gives bully Bo her bike to rescue Gus, Gus agrees to bring Bo gold from a lethal collapsing mine to get the bike back. (9-12)
**TODAY, continued**

**D** Amal Unbound
by Aisha Saeed
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin YR/PRH, $17.99)
978-0-399-54468-2
Amal’s dreams of becoming a teacher appear to be shattered when she insults Jawad Khan and becomes an indentured servant to his powerful family. (9-12)

**Captain Superlative!**
by J. S. Puller
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-3680-0427-5
Janey is comfortable moving under the radar and avoiding confrontation, until a disguised classmate, Captain Superlative, swoops down the hall and changes her life. (10-13)

***Class Action**
by Steven B. Frank
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $16.99) 978-1-328-79920-3
With the help of his neighbor, sister, and friends, Sam, 11, sues the school board for robbing him of his childhood because teachers assign too much homework. Ultimately, the Supreme Court agrees to hear the case. Glossary of legal terms. (11-13)

**The Crossroads**
by Alexandra Diaz
(A Paula Wiseman Book/Simon & Schuster, $16.99)
978-1-5344-1455-6
Jaime is sent, along with his cousin Ángela, from Guatemala to live with Jaime’s older brother, Tomás, in the United States. He learns English, and a great deal more. Also available in Spanish. (9-12)

**M** *The Day War Came*
by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-0173-4
Forced to leave her familiar world, a refugee girl tells about her arduous journey. Starkly realistic narrative heightened by colorful childlike illustrations that render the pain of war. (8-11) Mature Content

**The Doughnut Fix**
by Jessie Janowitz
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks, $16.99)
978-1-4926-5541-1
Tris, 11, and his family move from New York City to a one-horse town. Can good doughnuts help? Recipes and business plan. (9-12)

**Hazelnut Days**
by Emmanuel Bourdier, illustrated by Zaü, translated from the French by Michael Neugebauer
(Minedition/Michael Neugebauer Publishing, $17.99) 978-988-8341-54-2
A young boy experiences many emotions, from love to anger, every Saturday when he and his mother visit his incarcerated father. Charcoal illustrations on beige paper. (8-10)

**D** *The House That Lou Built*
by Mae Respicio
(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House/PRH, $16.99)
978-1-5247-1794-0
Lou, a bicultural fatherless Californian, must deal with the challenges of a prospective move away from a large, loving Filipino family and a house she is secretly building in the woods. (9-12)

**D** Iqbal and His Ingenious Idea: How a Science Project Helps One Family and the Planet
(CitizenKid series)
by Elizabeth Suneby, illustrated by Rebecca Green
(Kids Can Press, $18.99) 978-1-77138-720-0
In Bangladesh, Iqbal creates a solar cooker both to help his mother and to win the science fair. Color pencil and digital illustrations. Note, project instructions, and glossary. (8-11)

**Kasey & Ivy**
by Alison Hughes
(Orca Book Publishers, P $10.95) 978-1-4598-1574-2
Because of a rare bone disease infection, Kasey, 12, spends a month in the geriatric ward of a local hospital, where she makes some unusual friendships. (9-11)
**TODAY, continued**

**Krista Kim-Bap**
by Angela Ahn  
(Second Story Press, P $11.95) 978-1-77260-063-6
Krista, the only Canadian Korean girl in her class, and Jason are best friends. But when the popular girl in school invites Krista to her party, the friendship begins to erode. (8-11)

**A Long Line of Cakes**
by Deborah Wiles  
(Scholastic Press, $17.99) 978-1-338-15049-0
Moving yet again, 11-year-old Emma resolves not to make friends when her family arrives in Halleluia, Mississippi. But Ruby Lavender changes Emma’s mind. (9-12)

**My Father’s Words**
by Patricia MacLachlan  
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $15.99) 978-0-06-268769-2
A terrible accident changes the lives of Fiona and Finn. Volunteering at a dog shelter helps them recover and find reasons to live. (8-10)

**The Patchwork Bike**
by Maxine Beneba Clarke, illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd  
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-1-5362-0031-7
Acrylic paint and cardboard illustrations combine with lively text to describe rural desert life and the joy that comes from creating something out of nothing. (9-12)

**The Sky at Our Feet**
by Nadia Hashimi  
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-242193-7
When immigration authorities arrest his Afghan mother, Jason escapes to New York City in search of a family friend. Max, a new and unexpected ally, helps him. (9-12)

**The Unforgettable Guinevere St. Clair**
by Amy Makechnie  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-5344-1446-4
Spunky, imaginative Gwyn and her sister, Bitty, find friends and adventure when the family moves back to their Iowa hometown, hoping to trigger a recovery for their brain-injured mother. (10-12)

**The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden**
by Karina Yan Glaser  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $16.99) 978-1-328-77002-8
The Vanderbeeker siblings decide to create a garden next door. Unfortunately, a real estate developer has his sights set on the same lot. (9-12)

**You Don’t Know Everything, Jilly P!**
by Alex Gino  
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-95624-6
Jilly and Derek start out chatting online about their favorite fantasy series, but move on to discuss deafness, racism, and other real-world issues. (10-12)

**POETRY**

**I Am Loved**
by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Ashley Bryan  
Joyous poems, some with African American themes, are illustrated with vibrant watercolor and tempera art. (8-11)

**Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy**
by Tony Medina, illustrated by 13 artists  
(Penny Candy Books, $16.95) 978-0-9987999-4-0
Tanka poems celebrate the ups and downs of black boyhood. Illustrators include Floyd Cooper, Javaka Steptoe, and Ekua Holmes. (9-12)
INFORMATION BOOKS

ARTS

Carlos Santana:
**Sound of the Heart, Song of the World**
by Gary Golio, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-1-62779-512-8
Text and vibrant, dynamic, Mexican-inflected mixed-media illustrations focus on the childhood of the innovative rock-fusion musician. (9-11)

*How Sweet the Sound:
The Story of Amazing Grace*
by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-4814-7206-7
John Newton, a slave trader who became an English minister and an abolitionist, wrote a stirring and still inspiring hymn. Illustrated with bold oil paintings. Back matter. (9-12)

*Ode to an Onion: Pablo Neruda and His Muse*
by Alexandria Giardino, illustrated by Felicita Sala
(Cameron Kids/Cameron & Co., $17.95) 978-1-944903-34-3
Pablo Neruda’s spirits, uplifted by the optimism of a friend while visiting her garden, are imagined as the inspiration for his poem. Evocative, bold, colorful illustrations. Endnotes. (8-11)

Picturing America:
The Birth of American Art
written and illustrated by Hudson Talbott
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin YR/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-399-54867-3
A British boy who emigrated to America captures the beauty of the Hudson River landscape in his paintings. Watercolor, pencil, and ink illustrations evoke the power of his canvases. (8-10)

**The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art**
by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Claire A. Nivola
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-7475-5
Following the historic 1947 partition of India, Nek Chand recreates his childhood village using recycled materials for the now famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh. Evocative watercolor and gouache illustrations. Back matter. (9-11)

Steel Drums (Made by Hand series)
by Patricia Lakin
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-4814-7898-4
Learn about the history of the steel drum, including Ellie Mannette’s essential contribution, and follow as an instrument is created, step by step. Photographs, diagrams, and back matter. (9-12)

Vivid: Poems & Notes about Color
written and illustrated by Julie Paschkis
(Godwin Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-1-250-12229-2
The arts and science of colors are celebrated with clever verse, whimsical gouache illustrations, and a multitude of fascinating facts and wordplay. (8-11)

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR

**Bold & Brave:**
Ten Heroes Who Won Women the Right to Vote
by Kirsten Gillibrand, illustrated by Maira Kalman
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House/PRH, $18.99) 978-0-525-57901-4
Celebrating the 19th Amendment, Gillibrand tells about the strong women in her family and links the story to ten suffragists. Exciting, colorful gouache illustrations. (8-10)
BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR, continued

Brave Jane Austen: Reader, Writer, Author, Rebel
by Lisa Pliscou, illustrated by Jen Corace
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-1-62779-643-9
Persistence and curiosity marked the early years of the 18th-century author’s life in a poor but stimulating and supportive family. Ink, gouache, and acrylic illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

Eliza: The Story of Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton
by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Esmé Shapiro,
afterword by Philippa Soo
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House/PRH, $17.99) 978-1-5247-6588-0
In imagined letters revealing her varied strengths, a wife emerges from the shadow of her famous husband, Alexander Hamilton. Early American folk art-style mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (9-11)

Hammering for Freedom
by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by John Holyfield
(Lee & Low Books, $17.95) 978-1-60060-969-5
Though born into slavery, William Lewis possessed skill as a blacksmith that enabled him to buy his freedom and his family’s. Expressive, color illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

Herstory:
50 Women and Girls Who Shook Up the World
by Katherine Halligan, illustrated by Sarah Walsh
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $19.99) 978-1-5344-3664-0
Meet Indira Gandhi, Billie Holiday, Elizabeth Blackwell, and 47 other women who have made an important mark on the world. Gouache and colored pencil illustrations. (9-12)

Howard and the Mummy:
Howard Carter and the Search for King Tut’s Tomb
by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Boris Kulikov
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-0-374-30305-1
Brilliant, mixed-media illustrations illuminate the true adventure of an archaeologist’s lifelong search for an Egyptian king’s tomb. Back matter. (8-11)

La Frontera:
El viaje con papá/My Journey with Papa
by Deborah Mills and Alfredo Alva, illustrated by Claudia Navarro
(Barefoot Books, $17.99) 978-1-78285-388-6
Alfredo Alva tells his powerful story of coming from a small Mexican town to the U.S. several decades ago as an undocumented immigrant. Graphite, acrylic, and digital illustrations. Bilingual. (8-10)

*A Lady Has the Floor:
Belva Lockwood Speaks Out for Women’s Rights
by Kate Hannigan, illustrated by Alison Jay
(Calkins Creek/Highlights, $17.95) 978-1-62979-453-2
Teacher, lawyer, and candidate in the 1880s presidential campaigns, this courageous, determined suffragist devoted her life to demanding equality for women. Quotes are integrated in folk art-style illustrations. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

*Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You
by Marley Dias, with Siobhan McGowan, introduction by Ava DuVernay
(Scholastic Press, $14.99) 978-1-338-13689-0
Teen Marley Dias, founder of #1000blackgirlbooks, shares advice on activism based on her experiences. Photographs throughout. Includes a list of 1,000 books with black girls as protagonists. (10-13)
**BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR, continued**

**No Small Potatoes:**
*Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas*
By Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Don Tate
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House/PRH, $17.99)
978-0-385-75276-3
Groves, formerly enslaved, worked hard to buy his own potato farm, eventually becoming one of the richest men in Kansas. Painterly illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

**No Truth without Ruth:**
*The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg*
By Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Nancy Zhang
(Harper/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-256011-7
The second woman on the US Supreme Court faced discrimination because of her gender throughout her education and working life. Her fight for equality changed the way the law dealt with women’s rights. Dramatic, digital illustrations. (8-11)

**Pride:**
*The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag*
By Rob Sanders, illustrated by Steven Salerno
(Random House Children’s Books/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-399-55531-2
Vibrant illustrations and engaging text bring this LGBTQ activist to life. Time line, photos, and additional back matter expand on Milk’s life and impact. (8-10)

**Rosa’s Animals:**
*The Story of Rosa Bonheur and Her Painting Menagerie*
By Maryann Macdonald, illustrations by Rosa Bonheur et al.
(Abrams BFYR, $21.99) 978-1-4197-2850-1
Meet the 19th-century artist who achieved great success with her realistic paintings of animals. Illustrated with full-page reproductions of Bonheur’s work and archival photographs and drawings. Back matter. (9-12)

**Streetcar to Justice: How Elizabeth Jennings Won the Right to Ride in New York**
By Amy Hill Hearth
The far-reaching effects of a black woman whose court case desegregated cable cars in New York in 1855 are supported by extensive historical and biographical documentation. Archival photographs and drawings. Rich back matter. (10-13)

**Thomas Paine and the Dangerous Word**
By Sarah Jane Marsh, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $19.99) 978-1-4847-8144-9
This well-researched and documented biography recounts the life and work of the man whose *Common Sense* issued a wake-up call that rallied the American people to declare independence. Lively, colorful illustrations. Extensive back matter. (9-12)

**The Vast Wonder of the World:**
*Biologist Ernest Everett Just*
By Mélinia Mangal, illustrated by Luisa Uribe
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $19.99) 978-1-5124-8375-8
An impoverished childhood in the segregated South did not deter the gifted African American scientist from attending Dartmouth College and succeeding in a career as a groundbreaking biologist. Mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

**What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?: The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan**
By Chris Barton, illustrated by Ekua Holmes
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, $17.99) 978-1-4814-6561-8
Jordan’s bold voice took her to places few African American women had been in the 1960s, and finally to the US Congress, where her oratory and integrity shone. Simple language and mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)
BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR, continued

Who Says Women Can’t Be Computer Programmers?: The Story of Ada Lovelace
by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-1-62779-299-8
The daughter of the famous poet Lord Byron grew to be a brilliant mathematician whose work became recognized as the debut of computer programming. Lively gouache and India ink illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

ECOLOGY

*Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild
by Catherine Thimmesh
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $17.99) 978-0-544-81891-0
China struggles against the near extinction of the panda, its national symbol, using innovative efforts to reintroduce them into the wild. Photographs, maps, and extensive back matter. (8-10)

*The Monarchs Are Missing: A Butterfly Mystery
by Rebecca E. Hirsch
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $31.99) 978-1-5124-5250-1
Scientists are working to discover why monarch butterfly populations are decreasing. Back matter includes advice on participating in that effort as a citizen scientist and on planting butterfly gardens. Vivid photographs. (10-12)

HEALTH

Eat This!: How Fast-Food Marketing Gets You to Buy Junk (and How to Fight Back)
by Andrea Curtis, illustrated by Peggy Collins
(Red Deer Press, P $16.95) 978-0-88995-532-5
Advertising tricks and techniques are revealed, empowering kids to make healthy food and drink choices. Colorful drawings, photos, sidebars, and suggested activities included. (9-12)

Itch!: Everything You Didn’t Want to Know about What Makes You Scratch
by Anita Sanchez, illustrated by Gilbert Ford
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $16.99) 978-0-544-81101-0
Learn about insects and plants that make human animals and birds uncomfortable—and what can be done to combat the pests. Humorous illustrations. Glossary, notes, and bibliography. (10-13)

HISTORY

Enough!: 20 Protesters Who Changed America
by Emily Easton, illustrated by Ziyue Chen
(Crown BFYR/Random House/PRH, $17.99) 978-1-9848-3197-2
Inspired by the tragic Parkland shooting, this book profiles 20 people who used peaceful protest and actions to effect change. Colorful digital art. Back matter. (8-11)

The Eye That Never Sleeps:
How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln
by Marissa Moss, illustrated by Jeremy Holmes
(Abrams BFYR, $17.99) 978-1-4197-3064-1
A Scottish immigrant who became a detective foiled a plot to assassinate President-elect Lincoln. Digitized scratchboard illustrations add to the minute-by-minute drama. Back matter. (8-10)

Fairy Spell: How Two Girls Convinced the World That Fairies Are Real
by Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler
(Clarion Books/HMH, $17.99) 978-0-544-69948-9
In 1917, two girls and a camera duped a great many people, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Archival photographs and watercolor and mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)
HISTORY, continued

In Harm’s Way:
JFK, World War II, and the Heroic Rescue of PT 109
by Iain Martin
(Scholastic Press, $17.99) 978-1-338-18567-6
Vivid quotes and archival photographs recall John F. Kennedy’s PT 109 experiences in World War II. Back matter. (10-13)

Pass Go and Collect $200:
The Real Story of How Monopoly was Invented
by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Steven Salerno
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-1-62779-168-7
The remarkable history of this popular board game is vividly narrated and illustrated with retro-style, mixed-media artwork. Back matter features Monopoly math problems. (8-10)

The Sinking of the Vasa:
A Shipwreck of Titanic Proportions
by Russell Freedman, illustrated by William Low
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-1-62779-866-2
Commissioned by the Swedish king in 1628 to be the greatest sailing warship ever, the Vasa sank immediately after its launching. Colorful digital illustrations and back matter. (8-10)

*Thirty Minutes over Oregon:
A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story
by Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Melissa Iwai
(Clarion Books/HMH, $17.99) 978-0-544-43076-1
In 1942 a Japanese pilot dropped bombs on Oregon, although they didn’t do much damage. Twenty years later, his story became a tale of redemption. Bright watercolor illustrations. Bibliography. (8-10)

LAW AND JUSTICE

We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices
edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, foreword by Ashley Bryan
(Crown BFYR/Random House/PRH, $18.99) 978-0-525-58042-3
In prose, poetry, letters, and songs, people of color offer inspiration and advice. Varied color illustrations and photographs. Back matter. (9-12)

You Are Mighty: A Guide to Changing the World
by Caroline Paul, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, $17.99) 978-1-68119-822-4
This engaging and informative guide tells kids how to become effective social activists. Back-and-white spot illustrations. (8-11)

RELIGION

*Hermes:
Tales of the Trickster (Olympians series)
written and illustrated by George O’Connor
(A Neal Porter Book/First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, $18.99) 978-1-62672-524-9
Meet the Greek god of shepherds, thieves, fables, and much more, who, as a mischievous newborn, cunningly stole Apollo’s sacred herd. Dramatic graphic panels and extensive back matter. (11-13)

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)

Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon
by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez
(Peachtree, $22.95) 978-1-68263-013-6
President Kennedy’s dream of space travel became a reality when the United States landed a man on the moon. Told in blank verse. Photographs and mixed-media illustrations. Bibliography and citations. (10-12)
### Nine to Twelve

#### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), continued

**Cute as an Axolotl: Discovering the World’s Most Adorable Animals (The World of Weird Animals series)**
by Jess Keating, illustrated by David DeGrand
(Tilbury House Publishers, $17.95) 978-1-5247-6447-0
Seventeen very appealing critters show that cuteness in any species is more than skin deep. Brilliant photographs and graphics. (8-10)

**Eavesdropping on Elephants: How Listening Helps Conservation**
by Patricia Newman
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $18.99) 978-0-544-89826-4
With meticulous observation, scientists monitor the daily life and strong family ties of killer whales in Pacific Northwest waters. Color photographs and digital illustrations. Back matter. (10-13)

**The Orca Scientists (Scientists in the Field series)**
by Kim Perez Valice, photographed by Andy Comins and the Center for Whale Research, illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $18.99) 978-0-544-89826-4

**Snowy Owl Invasion!: Tracking an Unusual Migration**
(Sandra Markle’s Science Discoveries series)
by Sandra Markle
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $31.99) 978-1-5124-3106-3
An unusual migration of snowy owls in 2013–2014 provided researchers with an unprecedented opportunity to study them. Amazing photographs. Notes, glossary, and sources. (9-12)

**The Sockeye Mother (Mothers of Xsan series)**
by Hetxw’ms Gyetxw (Brett David Huson), illustrated by Natasha Donovan
(HighWater Press, $23.00) 978-1-55379-739-5
Follow the life cycle of the sockeye salmon, which the Gitksan people of northwestern British Columbia depend on. Detailed, full-page illustrations using imagery from Pacific Northwestern cultures. (8-11)

**Summer Science (Acadia Files series)**
by Katie Coppens, illustrated by Holly Hatam
(Tilbury House, $13.95) 978-0-88448-601-5
Curious Acadia uses the scientific method to find out why her hair is curly, where sand comes from, and more. Entertaining, informative illustrations. Includes experiments. Website resources. (8-11)

**To Pluto & Beyond: The Amazing Voyage of New Horizons**
by Elaine Scott
(Viking/Penguin YR/PRH, $18.99) 978-1-101-99701-7
In 2006, NASA launched a New Horizons spacecraft to explore Pluto and its surroundings. Includes images being sent now from the spacecraft. Amazing photographs, bibliography. (9-12)
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), continued

Trees: Kings of the Forest (Science Comics series)
written and illustrated by Andy Hirsch
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, P $12.99)
978-1-250-14310-5
Follow an acorn and learn about trees and their role in our planet’s ecosystem. Colorful digital panels. Back matter includes glossary, bibliography, and leaf diagrams, encouraging tree identification. (8-10)

*Your Amazing Skin from Outside In
(Your Amazing Body Books series)
by Joanne Settel, PhD, illustrated by Bonnie Timmons
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster, $18.99)
978-1-4814-2205-5
Through informative rhymed text and fact-filled prose, readers learn about all kinds of skin and its care. Humorous digital illustrations. Glossary. (9-12)