### UNDER FIVE

**Board Book**

**Diversity**

<table>
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<th>Outstanding Merit</th>
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<th>Age Range</th>
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<tr>
<th><strong>100 Things I Know How To Do</strong></th>
<th>written and illustrated by Amy Schwartz</th>
<th>(Abrams Appleseed/Abrams, $16.99)</th>
<th>978-1-4197-4326-9</th>
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<td>Familiar activities of young children are accompanied by bouncing couplets. Clear, vibrant gouache illustrations.</td>
<td>(4-6)</td>
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| **All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors** | by Davina Bell, illustrated by Jenny Levlie | (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-301918-8 | In rhyming dialog, a young boy gives his protesting mother a detailed defense of his library selection, another book about his beloved tractors. Colorful digital illustrations. | (4-6) |

| **All of Us** | by Kathryn Erskine, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger | (Philomel/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-20469-6 | Children the world over engage in activities that exhibit love and friendship. Rhymed text and subtly colored, soft digital illustrations. | (3-6) |

| **Atticus Caticus** | by Sarah Maizes, illustrated by Kara Kramer | (Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-0840-5 | A day in the life of a boy and his irrepressible cat, told in rhythmic verse. Humorous digital illustrations. | (4-5) |

| **Australian Baby Animals** | written and illustrated by Frané Lessac | (Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-1527-4 | Joeys, hatchlings, chicks, fry, puggles, pups, and platypups all live as babies under the care of various parents and siblings. Simple presentation and colorful illustrations. | (2-5) |


| **Baseball Baby (Sports Baby Book series)** | by Diane Adams, illustrated by Charlene Chua | (Viking Children’s Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $7.99) 978-0-593-20243-2 | A toddler enjoys a baseball game with his family and, in rhyme, explains the basics. Bold illustrations. Also available in Spanish. | (1-3) |

| **Bear Can’t Wait** | by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman | (Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing/S & S, $17.99) 978-1-4814-5975-4 | As Bear and his friends get ready to throw a surprise party, he almost ruins everything when he gets too excited. Vibrant acrylic illustrations. | (3-5) |

| **Bear Wants to Sing** | by Cary Fagan, illustrated by Dena Seiferling | (Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada Young Readers/PRH Canada, $17.99) 978-0-7352-6803-6 | Subtle graphite illustrations capture Bear’s frustration and dejection as his song gets interrupted, and his ultimate joy when a friend stands by his side. | (4-6) |

| **The Best Place in the World** | written and illustrated by Petr Horáček | (Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-1285-3 | Is Hare’s meadow the best, most beautiful place? Hare explores and discovers what makes it special. Splashy, brilliant colors in full-page spreads. | (4-6) |

| **The Big House and the Little House** | by Yoshi Ueno, illustrated by Emiko Fujishima | (Levine Querido, $17.99) 978-1-64614-049-7 | When a storm threatens Mouse’s little house, his newly found friend and neighbor, Bear, comes to the rescue. Detailed illustrations in a gentle pastel palette. | (4-6) |
Blue Floats Away
by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Grant Snider
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, $17.99) 978-1-4197-4423-5
An iceberg floats away from his parents, experiences the ocean, and undergoes a sequence of physical changes before returning home. Mixed-media collage illustrations. (3-6)

Brave As a Mouse
written and illustrated by Nicolò Carozzi
(Random House Studio/Penguin Random House Children's Books/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-18183-6
Animated life-like muted pastel illustrations and minimal text show the dramatic moments when mice ingeniously protect their goldfish friend from looming disaster. (3-6)

Bright Brown Baby: A Treasury
by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, $18.99)
978-0-545-87229-4
A collection of stories uplift Black and Brown babies and encourage love, affirmation, and understanding of child development through family interactions. Gouache and acrylic illustrations. (0-1)

Bubbles … Up!
by Jacqueline Davies, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez
(Katherine Tegen /HarperCollins, $17.99)
978-0-06-283661-8
As a mother and younger sibling look on, an exuberant child frolics in a neighborhood pool. A celebration of swimming and splashing. Imaginative wordplay, effervescent digital art. (3-6)

Carpenter's Helper
by Sybil Rosen, illustrated by Camille Garoche
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-12320-1
Renata loves helping Papi build their new bathroom, but the project is interrupted when a wren comes to nest above the bathtub. Rich language and detailed illustrations. (4-6)

Chaiwala!
by Priti Birla Maheshwari, illustrated by Ashley Barron
(Owlkids Books, $17.95) 978-1-77417-368-2
Richly hued collages and simple text describe a train stop in Jaipur where an Indian mother and daughter have just enough time for a delicious drink of chai. (4-6)

Chez Bob
written and illustrated by Bob Shea
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $17.99)
978-0-316-48311-7
Birdseed featured on the menu of a restaurant attracts birds for the alligator owner to devour. But will making new friends prove even more delicious? Zany illustrations. (4-6)

The Circles All around Us
by Brad Montague, illustrated by Brad Montague and Kristi Montague
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-32318-2
A child draws larger and larger circles to widen their world, enhancing it. Simple effective analog and digital illustrations. (3-6)

City Baby
by Laurie Elmquist, illustrated by Ashley Barron
(Orca Book Publishers, $10.95) 978-1-4598-2592-5
An Asian mom and baby walk through their diverse North American city, visiting the park, a café, and a festival. Bold collage and digital illustrations. (1-3)

Daddy
written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0382-0
Daddy can do everything (according to a diapered narrator)! Bright, acrylic illustrations accompany simple rhyming text. (0-3)

The Day the Rain Moved In
written and illustrated by Éléonore Douspis, translated from the French by Shelley Tanaka
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, $16.95) 978-1-77306-481-9
A family's persistent source of distress and sadness is ameliorated by looking at things through the wondering eyes of others. Digital art in a subdued palette. (5-6)

Don't Hug Doug (He Doesn't Like It)
by Carrie Finison, illustrated by Daniel Wiseman
(G. P. Putnam's Sons BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-984813-02-2
Need a clear, polite way for children to assert their right to be hugged or not? Constructive alternative greetings offered. Vibrant digital illustrations. (4-5)
**Board Book**

**Outstanding Merit**

**AGE RANGE**

(4–6)

**EVERYBODY IN THE RED BRICK BUILDING**
by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Oge Mora
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99)
978-0-06-286576-2
Colorful collage art aptly depicts the sounds that wake apartment dwellers from their sleep. Word repetition makes this urban bedtime story a great read aloud. (3-5)

**FAMILIES CAN**
by Dan Saks, illustrated by Brooke Smart
(Rise X Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, $7.99) 978-0-593-22365-9
A celebration of the American family in its many permutations. Warm illustrations portray diverse households. (0-3)

**FAMILY REUNION**
by Chad Richardson and Dad Richardson, illustrated by Ashleigh Corrin
(Barefoot Books, $16.99) 978-1-64686-218-4
A young boy reluctantly attends the reunion of his extended African American family and finds he really enjoys getting to know everybody. Vibrant illustrations. (4-6)

**FISH AND SUN (I CAN READ! COMICS SERIES)**
written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(HarperAlley/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-307664-8
Fish finds a new friend, Sun, who makes the world warm and exciting. Very simple graphic novel format with beautifully painted watercolor panels. (4-6)

**FREE**
written and illustrated by Sam Usher
(Templar/Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-1704-9
A lost bird becomes friends with a young boy and his granddad. In helping the bird find its home, they enter a magical world. Detailed ink and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

**THE FROGGIES DO NOT WANT TO SLEEP**
written and illustrated by Adam Gustavson
(Charlesbridge, $16.99) 978-58089-524-8
Colorful images of leggy amphibians catapult across double-page spreads. The frogs ride unicycles, fly spaceships, and train beasts in their bedtime-resistant romp. (4-6)

**GO BE WONDERFUL!**
by Donna Gephart, illustrated by Francesca Chessa
(Holiday House, $17.99) 978-0-8234-4511-0
Encouraged by her biracial family from birth, Daisy passes each childhood milestone with confidence and success. Will that continue when she starts school? Whimsical mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

**HARDLY HAUNTED**
written and illustrated by Jessie Sima
A creaky haunted house longs for someone to make it a haunted home, but who will be brave enough? Spooky sounds abound; atmospheric digital art. (4-6)

**HELLO, MOON**
written and illustrated by Julie Downing
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, $18.99) 978-0-8234-4701-5
Follow animals from dusk to dawn in this gentle tale told in quatrains. Saturated watercolor artwork. (3-6)

**HELLO PRESCHOOL!**
written and illustrated by Priscilla Burris
(Penguin Random House, $7.99) 978-0-593-32410-3
Vibrant animated double-page spreads show a diverse class of enthusiastic children experiencing routines and activities on their very first day of school. (3-6)

**HOME IS ...**
by Hannah Barnaby, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing/S & S, $17.99) 978-1-5344-2176-9
Simple rhymed text celebrates homes for people and animals in mountains, seas, small towns, and big cities all over the world. Jewel-toned illustrations. (2-5)

**HONEY FOR YOU, HONEY FOR ME: A FIRST BOOK OF NURSERY RHYMES**
edited by Michael Rosen, illustrated by Chris Riddell
(Candlewick Press, $19.99) 978-1-5362-1273-0
Captivating watercolor illustrations accompany this diverse collection of nursery rhymes sourced from historical anthologies. Each one tickles the tongue. (3-6)
Hugo  
by Atinuke, illustrated by Birgitta Sif  
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-1275-4
Through the seasons, park warden Hugo the pigeon helps his neighbors. Eventually, he coaxes a mysterious Somebody out to play. Soft digitally colored illustrations. (3-6)

I Am a Bird  
by Hope Lim, illustrated by Hyewon Yum  
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-0891-7
A young child is initially frightened by a cross-looking woman. Then the girl learns that they both love to sing to birds. Sunny, soft, textured art. (3-6)

I Can Make a Train Noise  
written and illustrated by Michael Emberley and Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick  
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, $18.99) 978-0-8234-4496-0
A little girl and her family enter a café. With a short declaration, she transforms it into a moving train. Detailed mixed-media illustrations (4-6)

I Like Trains  
written and illustrated by Daisy Hirst  
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-1-5362-1276-1
A young puppy really likes trains—to play with, to drive, to read books about, and to take to visit his grandma. Simple screenprinted illustrations. (3-6)

If I Were a Dog  
written and illustrated by Joanna Cotler  
(Philomel/Penguin Random House, $17.99) 978-0-593-11610-4
This simple story shows the joys of being human and of being a dog, and the similarities between the two. Expressive watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

I’ll Build You a Bookcase/Te haré tu propio librero  
by Jean Ciborowski Fahey, illustrated by Simone Shin, Spanish translation by Yanitzia Canetti  
(Lee & Low Books, $14.95) 978-1-64379-454-9
Children and adults of many races and cultures share the gift of reading with others. Acrylic and digital illustrations. Bilingual in Spanish and English. Also available in Arabic-, Mandarin-, and Vietnamese-English editions. (3-6)

Inside Cat  
written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel  
(Chronicle, $17.99) 978-1-4521-7319-1
Inside Cat thinks it has seen it all through the windows, but then the front door is opened. Lyrical rhyming text. Stylized mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

Interrupting Chicken: Cookies for Breakfast  
written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein  
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-0778-1
The little red chicken returns in this third adventure, hungry for cookies and hilariously shattering nursery rhymes to persuade his father to give him those treats. Bright mixed-media art. (3-6)

Itty-Bitty Kitty-Corn  
by Shannon Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, $18.99) 978-1-4197-5091-5
Kitty wants to be a unicorn, but her friends poke fun at her games. Bright candy-colored illustrations add humor to this story of friendship and self-acceptance. (3-6)

Jenny Mei Is Sad  
written and illustrated by Tracy Subisak  
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $17.99) 978-0-316-53771-1
Recognizing Asian American Jenny’s sadness, her Black friend tries to help by listening carefully. Appealing India ink, watercolor, pastel, and colored pencil illustrations. (4-6)

Lala’s Words: A Story of Planting Kindness  
written and illustrated by Gracey Zhang  
(Scholastic Press, $18.99) 978-1-338-64823-2
Every day, rambunctious Lala rushes out to water city plants and whisper loving words to them. They listen! Endearing hand-drawn illustrations. (3-5)

Leo and the Octopus  
by Isabelle Marinov, illustrated by Chris Nixon  
(Kane Miller/EDC Publishing, $19.99) 978-1-68464-277-9
Prone to sensory overload, Leo struggles to make sense of the world, until he bonds with an octopus in the local aquarium. Acrylic and ink illustrations include details of octopus behaviors. (4-6)
D Like a Dandelion
written and illustrated by Huy Voun Lee
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99)
978-0-06-299373-1
As an Asian child and her mother journey from a refugee camp to America, their resiliency is likened to the small but strong dandelion. Poetic text; graceful digital art. (4-6)

D Listen
by Gabi Snyder, illustrated by Stephanie Graegin
Children are called to listen, moving beyond the noises around them to the sounds of words, of feelings, and of nature. Gentle pencil, watercolor, and Adobe Fresco and Photoshop illustrations (4-6)

D The Little Blue Bridge
by Brenda Maier, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez
(Scholastic Press, $18.99) 978-1-338-53801-4
This reimagining of the Billy Goats Gruff features a young Latina whose ingenuity surprises both a bully and her own big brothers. Joyful illustrations and a STEM component. (4-6)

D The Little One
written and illustrated by Kiyo Tanaka, translated from the Japanese by David Boyd
(Enchanted Lion Books, $16.95) 978-1-59270-358-6
A young Japanese girl spends an afternoon playing with a mysterious magical creature before she meets with her father. Delicate black-and-white copperplate etchings. (4-6)

D Looking for a Jumbie
by Tracey Baptiste, illustrated by Amber Ren
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99)
978-0-06-297081-7
Frightening Caribbean folklore characters are found to be kind companions in this tale of a young girl’s brave exploration. Lively repetitive text; colorful digital art. (4-6)

D The Lost Package
by Richard Ho, illustrated by Jessica Lanan
(Roaring Brook Press, $18.99) 978-1-250-23135-2
When a dark-skinned boy finds a box that has fallen out of a USPS truck, he decides to deliver the package himself. Masterful watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

D Maybe...
written and illustrated by Chris Haughton
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-2024-7
Animated wide-eyed monkeys displayed on vivid red backgrounds are warned by their mother to stay away from the mango grove for fear of tigers. Do they listen? Expressive illustrations. (3-5)

D The Me I Choose to Be
by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, illustrated by Regis Bethencourt and Kahran Bethencourt
(Little, Brown BFYR, Hachette Book Group, $17.99) 978-0-316-46154-2
Creative Photoshopped images show Black children exploring their boundless potential. (4-6)

D Mel Fell
written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-287801-4
A brave fledgling kingfisher leaves her nest to fly for the first time. Innovative vertical format. Engaging pastel illustrations. Author's note. (3-6)

D Mole in a Black & White Hole
written and illustrated by Tereza Sediva
(Thames & Hudson, $16.95) 978-0-500-65205-3
Mole prefers to stay in his underground home, but what happens when he ventures beyond his comfort zone? Horizontal, linocut prints depict Mole’s journey from a stark black-and-white world to one of vibrant colors. (4-6)

D Mommy
written and illustrated by Leslie Patricelli
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0381-3
Mommy can do everything! Bright, acrylic illustrations accompany rhyming text. (0-3)

D Monster Clothes
written and illustrated by Daisy Hirst
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-1528-1
Everybody—including a behemoth—needs to find something to wear in the morning. Humorous screenprinted illustrations. (0-3)

D Moose, Goose, and Mouse
by Mordicai Gerstein, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein and Jeff Mack
(Holiday House, $18.99) 978-0-8234-4760-2
A rollicking adventure on a runaway caboose leads three animal friends to the new home that fulfills each of their wishes. Bright and playful computer-generated collage illustrations. (4-6)
More Than Fluff
written and illustrated by Madeline Valentine
Her friends can’t resist touching cute, fluffy Daisy the chick, but she needs some personal space! Her mother helps her hatch a plan. Cheerful digital graphite and watercolor illustrations. (4–6)

My Time series
• It’s Big Brother Time! (978-0-06-288437-4)
• It’s Big Sister Time! (978-0-06-288438-1)
by Nandini Ahuja, illustrated by Catalina Echeverri
(HarperFestival/HarperCollins, $7.99)
Somebody has to teach baby the house and family rules! Told from the point of view of the older sibling. Humorous, expressive mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

Never, Not Ever!
written and illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna,
translated from the French by Jill Davis
A young bat uses her extraordinary secret powers to overcome her first-day-of-school jitters. Collage and crayon art. (4-6)

New House
written and illustrated by Dave Wheeler
(Rise X/Penguin Workshop/Penguin Random House, $9.99) 978-0-593-22492-2
A toddler explores his fascinating but unfamiliar new home and is assured of familial love. Humorous mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

The Nice Dream Truck
by Beth Ferry, illustrated by Brigette Barrager
(Harper/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-290783-7
With clever rhymes and energetic illustrations, this lyrical bedtime story depicts children’s dreams. (3-5)

Noah’s Seal
written and illustrated by Layn Marlow
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-1851-0
While waiting for Nana to fix their sailboat, Noah shapes a sand seal. A storm washes it out to sea, but then… Textured watercolor and collage illustrations. (3-6)

Nosotros Means Us:
Un cuento bilingüe/A Bilingual Story
written and illustrated by Paloma Valdivia
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House Children’s Books/PRH $17.99) 978-0-593-30514-0
A mother holds her child on her lap and expresses her enduring love. Soothing mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

Off to See the Sea
by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
(Sourcebooks Jabberwocky/Sourcebooks Kids, $17.99) 978-1-4926-3829-2
A Black mother turns bath time into a magical adventure. Told in free verse. Playful, brightly colored mixed-media illustrations. (2-5)

Oh Look, a Cake!
written and illustrated by J. C. McKee
(Clarion Books, $18.99) 978-0-358-38030-6
Sloth and Lemur invent absurd reasons for not sharing the large, tempting cake they have found, but their greed has consequences. Humorous illustrations. (4-6)

One Day
by Lee Juck, illustrated by Kim Seung-youn,
translated from the Korean by Asuka Minamoto,
Lee Juck, and Dianne Chung
(Enchanted Lion Books, $16.95) 978-1-59270-313-5
Grandpa is gone. His grandson contemplates the belongings left behind and imagines where his grandfather might be; perhaps among the stars? Gentle illustrations in a subdued palette capture the child’s loss. (5-6)

Oscar’s Tower of Flowers
written and illustrated by Lauren Tobia
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-1777-3
Colorful illustrations, including some full-page spreads, present touching, wordless scenes of a boy missing his special someone. A planting project shared with diverse neighbors turns sadness to joy. (4-6)

Our Shed:
A Father-Daughter Building Story
by Robert Broder, illustrated by Carrie O’Neill
(Little Bigfoot/Sasquatch Books, $17.99)
978-1-63217-264-8
A daughter learns carpentry skills alongside her father and enjoys the work breaks they take together during the project. Colorful, playfully detailed illustrations. (5-6)
Out of Nowhere
written and illustrated by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros
When its caterpillar friend disappears, a beetle’s search for her ends in an amazing discovery. Stark black-and-white illustrations punctuated with red reveal the caterpillar’s whereabouts. (4-6)

The Pocket Chaotic
by Ziggy Hanaor, illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barbett
(Cicada Books, $16.95) 978-1-908714-80-0
Alexander finds life in his kangaroo mother’s pouch crowded and jumbled. He tries to organize things, but is it perhaps time to move out? Simple humorous illustrations. (3-6)

The Rice in the Pot Goes Round and Round
by Wendy Wan-Long Shang, illustrated by Lorian Tu
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, $18.99) 978-1-338-62119-8
A multigenerational family shares their traditional Chinese foods and love. Told in refrains based on an American folk song. Joyful animated color illustrations. Detailed glossary with Chinese characters. (3-6)

Run, Little Chaski!: An Inka Trail Adventure
by Mariana Llanos, illustrated by Mariana Ruiz Johnson
(Barefoot Books, $16.99) 978-1-64686-164-4
Little Chaski runs into trouble on his first mission, to carry a message to the Inka king. Colorful stylized illustrations. Glossary, map, and information about the Inka. Also available in Spanish. (4-6)

A Small Kindness
by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Wendy Leach
(Running Press Kids/Hachette Book Group, $17.99) 978-0-7624-9522-1
On the first day of school, kind acts spread through a diverse class like a game of tag, bringing smiles to everyone. Spots of bright color in mainly sepia illustrations show the path of the kindness. (4-6)

Spin a Scarf of Sunshine
by Dawn Casey, illustrated by Stila Lim
(Floris Books, $17.95) 978-178250-658-4
Nari’s sheep’s fleece is sheared, washed, brushed, spun, dyed, knit, worn, and composted in this story of sustainability. Watercolor and color pencil illustrations. (3-6)
Tiny Kitty, Big City
written and illustrated by Tim Miller
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-241442-7
A kitten adventures alone in the city. When it begins to snow, where will the kitty go? Detailed acrylic gouache illustrations invite discussion. (3-6)

The Tree in Me
written and illustrated by Corinna Luyken
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-11259-5
The beauty of the natural world enters a child of color through the bite of an apple. Glowing gouache artwork pulls the reader in. (4-6)

Trouble
written and illustrated by Katherine Battersby
(Viking Children’s Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-11404-9
A mouse fears the worst when a bear becomes her neighbor. Sparse text and humorous cartoon-like illustrations combine cleverly in this story about misconceptions. (4-6)

Way Past Jealous (Great Big Feelings series)
by Hallee Adelman, illustrated by Karen Wall
Yaz’s jealousy prompts her to act out against her best friend. Can she heal herself and the friendship? Awareness and discussion is encouraged. Expressive colorful illustrations. (3-6)

We Love Fishing
by Ariel Bernstein, illustrated by Marc Rosenthal
Squirrel is not as enamored of the fishing trip as his buddies are, but despite his attitude and actions, their friendship endures. Humorous colorful pencil and digital illustrations. (4-6)

Welcome Flower Child: The Magic of Your Birth Flower
written and illustrated by Brigette Barrager
Lyrical, rhyming poetry combines with sumptuous full-color illustrations to introduce young readers to 12 species of flowers that celebrate birthday months. (4-6)

What If Wilhelmina: A Story of Imagination Run Wild
written and illustrated by Joseph Belisle
(Blair, $17.95) 978-1-949467-41-3
When her cat is missing, a Black child anxiously fantasizes about her beloved pet’s possible fates. Sporadic text and cartoonish humorous illustrations capture family involvement. (4-6)

When We Say Black Lives Matter
written and illustrated by Maxine Beneba Clarke
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-2238-8
Warmth, strength, and hope stand side by side with anger as Black parents help their young child understand the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement. Pastels evoke stained glass. (3-5)

The Whole Hole Story
by Vivian McInerny, illustrated by Ken Lamug
(Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $17.99) 978-0-358-12881-6
An adventurous Black girl goes around the world and back again when she falls through a hole in her pocket. Colorful, humorous illustrations. (4-6)

Wonder Walkers
written and illustrated by Micha Archer
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-10964-9
Exquisite, evocative textured and patterned paper collages capture two children of color imaginatively pondering the structure and function of the natural world they encounter. (3-6)
Woodland Dance!
written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton
(Workman Publishing, $7.95) 978-1-5235-1468-7
On special nights of the year, forest creatures meet for an important soirée. Rhyming text and earth-toned illustrations. (0-3)

The Worm Family Has Its Picture Taken
by Jennifer Frank, illustrated by David Ezra Stein
The oldest daughter wants the family portrait to be perfect, but will dressing up to hide their worminess do the trick? Amusing mixed-media illustrations. (4-6)

yes & no
written and illustrated by Elisha Cooper
(Roaring Brook/Holtzbrinck Publishing, $18.99)
978-1-250-25733-8
A day in the life of two very different companions: an exuberant puppy and a cool cat. Spare text; expressive ink and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

Concept Books

1 2 3 Cats:
A Cat Counting Book
by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Isabella Kung
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0995-2
In rhyming text, counting from 1 to 12, felines participate in fun, kitty-centric activities. Sumi ink on watercolor paper. (2-3)

ABC Cats:
An Alpha-Cat Book
by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Isabella Kung
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0994-5
Twenty-six felines interact in different ways with colorful oversize alphabet letters. (2-5)

All We Need
by Kathy Wolff, illustrated by Margaux Meganck
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, $17.99)
978-1-61963-874-7
Rhyming text with warm illustrations of diverse children and adults in varied settings show that everyone needs air, water, education, a home, food, family, friends, and sharing. (4-6)

Black and White
by Debora Vogrig, illustrated by Pia Valentinis
(Eerdmans BFYR/Wm. B. Eerdmans, $17.99) 978-0-8028-5575-6
Black invites White to join forces. Galloping zebras, a chess set, and a piano keyboard are some of the bold images these opposites create. Spare, elegant illustrations. (4-6)

Bodies Are Cool
written and illustrated by Tyler Feder
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-11262-5
A rhythmic, rhyming tribute to every individual and every type of physical characteristic. Detailed illustrations in vibrant colors help bring home the cheerful message of inclusivity and acceptance. (4-6)

Ducks on the Road:
A Counting Adventure
written and illustrated by Anita Lobel
On a walk behind mama and papa, 10 baby ducks are distracted by new friends. Invites participation. Cheerful gouache and colored pencil art. (2-5)

A House
written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $18.99)
978-0-06-309260-0
In this read-and-response book, readers are invited to consider what a house is and what makes it a home. Simple, soft watercolor illustrations. (3-5)

Orange Is an Apricot, Green Is a Tree Frog:
Explore the Natural World through Color
written and illustrated by Pascale Estellon
(Princeton Architectural Press, $18.95) 978-1-64896-014-7
The colors of various animals and plants are illustrated in a series of vivid gouache paintings. (2-5)

Red
written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger
(Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, $18.99) 978-0-8234-4712-1
Simple verse tells a story of a young fox who loses its family; an unusual poetic look at many shades of red. Intense, painterly acrylics. (4-6)
**Board Book**

**Diversity**

**Outstanding Merit**

**Age Range**

**THE BEST CHILDREN’S BOOKS OF THE YEAR**

**OF THE YEAR**

**BOARD BOOKS UNDER FIVE**

**Red House, Brown Mouse**
by Jane Godwin, illustrated by Blanca Gómez
(Dial BFYR/ Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $7.99) 978-0-593-11219-9
Rhyming text accompanies a little mouse’s journey through a colorful city. Bold illustrations. (1-3)

**Ten Animals in Antarctica: A Counting Book**
written and illustrated by Moira Court
(Charlesbridge, $16.99) 978-1-62354-232-0
In this informative counting book, collage illustrations and short sentences that are wonderful to read aloud explore an array of Antarctic animals. Back matter. (4-6)

**Thank You, Farm**
by editors of Storey Publishing, illustrated by Jade Orlando
(Storey Publishing, $6.95) 978-1-63586-394-9
Children thank animals, plants, and the soil for all of the bounty they produce. Colorful, detailed illustrations. (1-3)

**There Is a Rainbow**
by Theresa Trinder, illustrated by Grant Snider
(Chronicle Books, $15.99) 978-1-79721-166-4
Vivid colored pencil drawings depict scenes of families enjoying one another in varied environments. Repeating text assures readers that even crises like pandemics will pass. (4-6)

**Time Is a Flower**
written and illustrated by Julie Morstad
Tundra Books/Penguin Random House Canada Young Readers/PRH Canada, $18.99) 978-0-7352-6754-1
A playful and thoughtful way to think about the passage of time. Artwork made with pencil, markers, and pastels, assembled digitally. (4-6)

**We Are All under One Wide Sky**
by Deborah Wiles, illustrated by Andrea Stegmaier
(Sounds True, $17.99) 978-1-68364-633-4
Counting up to 10 and then back down again, rhyming text accompanies detailed illustrations of children from many different countries, shown in their environments and in group scenes. (4-6)

### Holidays and Religion

**Boo! Baa, La La La!**
written and illustrated by Sandra Boynton
A cow sends forth a Halloween greeting and is met by a chorus of animals returning the spooky salutation. Humorous, mixed-media illustrations. (0-3)

**The Little Owl & the Big Tree: A Christmas Story**
by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Jeanette Winter
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing/S & S, $17.99) 978-1-66590-213-7
In this true story, an owl is discovered in the tree chosen for the Rockefeller Center Christmas display. How will the little owl react to the urban environment? Evocative, colorful, stylized illustrations. (4-6)

**Shabbat Shalom!**
by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Hannah Tolson
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0449-0
Simple rhyming text and cheerful, colorful mixed-media illustrations describe an Orthodox Jewish family’s Sabbath evening celebration. (2-4)

**We Go to Shul**
by Douglas Florian, illustrated by Hannah Tolson
(Candlewick Press, $7.99) 978-1-5362-0450-6
A young family celebrates Shabbat, the weekly Jewish day of rest and prayer. Detailed mixed-media illustrations. (2-4)

### Poetry

**Beautiful Day!: Petite Poems for All Seasons**
by Rodoula Pappa, illustrated by Seng Soun Ratanavanh
(Cameron Kids/ Cameron/Abrams, $16.95) 978-1-951836-14-6
A boy experiences the seasons through haiku-inspired poems. Stylized, delicate, colorful illustrations include images of origami, carp kites, and other Japanese objects. (4-6)
STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics)

Chase the Moon, Tiny Turtle: A Hatchling’s Daring Race to the Sea
by Kelly Jordan, illustrated by Sally Walker
(Page Street Kids, $18.99) 978-1-64567-152-7
Simple rhythmic text and vivid print and digital illustrations depict a turtle hatchling’s journey across the dangerous sand to the sea. (4-6)

I Love Insects (I Like to Read series)
written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell
(Holiday House, $15.99) 978-0-8234-4759-6
A Black girl and an Asian boy explore the ways in which insects can be beautiful, scary, surprising, and helpful too! Colorful gouache and watercolor illustrations. (3-6)

In the Desert
by Michaela Weglinski
(National Geographic, $14.90) 978-1-4263-3835-9
This introduction to life in deserts has outstanding photos from many locations. Water and temperature issues are featured. (3-5)

Little Loon Finds His Voice
by Yvonne Pearson, illustrated by Regina Shklovsky
(Collective Book Studio, $17.95) 978-1-951412-33-3
Baby loon cannot make the unique sounds his father makes, but when a threat appears, he finally finds his voice. Finely detailed illustrations. Links provided for sound files. (4-6)

Night Becomes Day: Changes in Nature
by Cynthia Argentine
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $29.32) 978-1-5415-8124-1
Nature is constantly changing and evolving. Simple clear text and extraordinary contrasting photos provide examples of these transformations. (3-6)

Night Creatures: Animals that Swoop, Crawl, and Creep While You Sleep
by Rebecca E. Hirsch, illustrated by Sonia Possentini
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $19.99) 978-1-5415-8129-6
A mother and child camp out in the backyard as the world of nocturnal animals reveals itself from dusk to dawn. Lush, detailed illustrations. Lyrical text. End notes. (4-6)

Odd Bods: The World’s Unusual Animals
by Julie Murphy
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $27.99) 978-1-5415-8502-7
Large clear text and magnified, boldly colored photographs introduce various species whose unique physical features help them adapt to their environment. Extensive back matter. (4-6)

Show Us Where You Live, Humpback
by Beryl Young, illustrated by Sakika Kikuchi
(Greystone Kids/Greystone, $17.95) 978-1-77164-573-7
Lyrical text with dreamy watercolor ocean images shows how humpback whales rear their calves with tender love. Narrated by a young boy who mirrors the calf. (3-5)

Zee Grows a Tree
by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-9754-9
Zee nurtures and grows with a tree that was planted on the day she was born. Information about trees weaves through the story. Mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (5-6)