FICTION

Adventure and Mystery

* Across the Desert
by Dusti Bowling
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $16.99)
978-0-316-49474-8
Jolene is the only person who knows that a 12-year-old pilot has crashed in the desert. With a mother struggling with opioid addiction, Jolene tackles this life-or-death situation alone. (10-12)

Ophie's Ghosts
by Justina Ireland
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-291589-4
In 1922, after her father is lynched in Georgia, 12-year-old Ophie and her mother move to Pittsburgh, where ghosts reveal deaths rooted in racism—and opportunities for justice. (10-13)

Shirley and Jamila's Big Fall (Shirley and Jamila series)
written and illustrated by Gillian Goerz
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, P $12.99)
978-0-525-55288-8
Two friends confront a school blackmailer and changes in their friendship. Warm humor. Bright, lively graphics. (10-12)

Contemporary Issues

Borders
by Thomas King, illustrated by Natasha Donovan
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $24.99)
978-0-316-59306-9
On the way to Salt Lake City, a 13-year-old and his mother are caught between the US and Canadian border when they claim Blackfoot citizenship. Vibrant graphic illustrations. (9-12)

Born behind Bars
by Padma Venkatraman
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99)
978-0-593-11247-2
Kabir, 9, has always lived in a prison with his mother in India. Suddenly released, he must learn to make his way alone in an unfamiliar world. (9-12)

Healer of the Water Monster
by Brian Young
(Heartdrum/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-299040-2
Debut Native author Brian Young weaves Navajo customs, magic, and language into an action-packed adventure of a young boy’s struggle to help end a drought. Glossary. Author’s note. (9-11)

Linked
by Gordon Korman
(Scholastic Press, $17.99)
978-1-338-62911-8
When swastikas start appearing around the school, a community of middle schoolers enter a journey of self-discovery and understanding, and form stronger bonds. (9-12)

Anthologies and Collections

Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood
edited by Kwame Mbalia
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books/PRH, $16.99)
978-0-593-37993-6
Short pieces by acclaimed contemporary Black male and nonbinary authors center on Black boys and their power and interests, from skateboarding to saving the universe. (9-12)

Ecology

Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear
by Trang Nguyen, illustrated by Jeet Zdung, translated from the Vietnamese by Trang Nguyen
(Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $23.99)
978-0-593-35363-9
A young conservationist returns a Vietnamese sun bear to the wild. Based on the author’s life. Handsomely detailed graphic format. (9-12)
Family/School/Community

**D** Allergic
by Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter
(Graphix/Scholastic, $24.99) 978-1-338-56891-2
Longing for a dog but thwarted by allergies, 10-year-old Maggie searches for a suitable pet with the help of her new friend. Warm, clear art. (8-11)

**D** Amina's Song
by Hena Kham
A visit to Lahore is transformative for Pakistani American Amina, but her friends back home don't seem interested. How can she share her love for Pakistan? (9-12)

**D** Annie Lumsden, the Girl from the Sea
by David Almond, illustrated by Beatrice Alemagna
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-1674-5
A mother's love and imaginative storytelling embolden a girl with disabilities to embrace her uniqueness. Muted watercolor illustrations. (9-12)

**D** Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom (Cookie Chronicles series)
by Matthew Swanson, illustrated by Robbi Behr
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, $12.99) 978-0-593-30275-0
Ben's fortune cookie advises him to live each day as if it were his last. What can he cram in? Digital and hand-painted illustrations convey the ensuing manic hilarity. (8-11)

**D** Better with Butter
by Victoria Piontek
(Scholastic Press, $17.99) 978-1-338-66219-1
Marvel, 12, paralyzed by anxiety disorder, finds herself defending a goat, who faints when startled, against bullies. Their growing bond changes them both. (9-12)

**D** Bounce Back
written and illustrated by Misako Rocks!
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, $21.99) 978-1-250-76845-2
In NYC, Japanese Lilico faces bullying, but with the help of a talking cat, she finds friends and basketball again. Manga art in soft colors. Back matter includes lessons on drawing manga. (9-11)
**Living with Viola**  
written and illustrated by Rosena Fung  
(Annick Press, $22.95) 978-1-77321-548-8  
A Chinese Canadian girl, struggling to simultaneously honor her immigrant parents and survive middle school, finds her anxiety spiraling. With adult support, she learns management strategies. Bold illustrations. Resources. (9-12)

**The Lost Language**  
by Claudia Mills  
(Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, $16.99) 978-0-8234-5038-1  
Reviving an endangered language helps a sixth-grade girl recognize her own powerful voice and some truths about friends and family. Tender-hearted verse. (10-12)

**The Many Meanings of Meilan**  
by Andrea Wang  
(Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-11128-4  
A family feud forces Meilan’s parents to move from Boston to Ohio, where her name is changed to Melanie, and she fights to get her identity back. (9-12)

**Maya and the Robot**  
by Eve L. Ewing, illustrated by Christine Almeda  
(Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $16.99) 978-1-984814-63-0  
Black fifth grader Maya, feeling lonely without her best friends, finds a robot and uses her scientific skills to make it work. A whole new world opens for her. Greyscale illustrations. (9-12)

**Merci Suárez Can’t Dance (Merci Suárez series)**  
by Meg Medina  
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-9050-2  
The travails of a Cuban American seventh grader continue as she negotiates school, friendship, and family. A sequel to 2019 Newbery winner Merci Suárez Changes Gears. (9-12)

**Miosotis Flores Never Forgets**  
by Hilda Eunice Burgos  
(Tu Books/Lee & Low, $18.95) 978-1-64379-065-7  
A Dominican American girl growing up in Philadelphia learns how to help herself and those she loves. (9-12)
Starfish
by Lisa Fipps
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99) 978-1-984814-50-0
Body shamed her whole life, Ellie, 11 and overweight, seeks help from a therapist to stand up to her bullies—and to her mother. Free verse. (10-13)

Stuntboy, in the Meantime
by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Raúl the Third
Ten-year-old Portico loves living in Skylight Gardens and keeping everybody safe with his super-stunts. Word play and vibrant comic book-style art. (8-11)

A Tale as Tall as Jacob:
Misadventures with My Brother
written and illustrated by Samantha Edwards
(Andrews McMeel Publishing, P $11.99) 978-1-5248-6504-7
A realistic and often funny look at living and loving a brother with ADHD. Colorful, animated graphic drawings. Based on the author’s childhood. (8-11)

Ten Thousand Tries
by Amy Makechnie
As Golden struggles with his father deteriorating from ALS, his friend moving, and achieving his own goals as a soccer player, he accepts that he can’t control everything. (10-13)

Unsettled
by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Soumbal Qureshi
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-304470-8
Nurah, 13 and Muslim, struggles to define her identity after moving from Pakistan to America. Free verse. Mehndi-like illustrations. (9-12)

Violet and the Pie of Life
by Debra Green
(Holiday House, $18.99) 978-0-8234-4755-8
Violet’s dad has moved out, her mom won’t stop nagging, and her BFF is mad at her. Can math and the school play help her solve these problems? (9-12)

Fantasy

The Accidental Apprentice (Wilderlore series)
by Amanda Foody
Dullshire is the only home Barclay has ever known. Having accidentally used magic in the woods, will he be driven away and sent into the wilderness? (9-12)

The Adventure Is Now
by Jess Redman
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-374-31471-2
Shipped to remote Lone Island to spend the summer with his uncle, Milton P. Greene needs to find fanciful flora and fauna to save it. (9-12)

Amira and Hamza:
The War to Save the Worlds
by Samira Ahmed, illustrated by Kim Ekdahl, map by Kathleen Jennings
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $16.99) 978-0-316-54046-9
Siblings Amira, 12, and Hamza, 10, accidentally enter a parallel world, filled with characters from Islamic folklore, where they have been chosen to prevent evil forces from taking over Earth. Map, glossary. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

Egg Marks the Spot (Skunk and Badger series)
by Amy Timberlake, illustrated by Jon Klassen
(Algonquin Young Readers/Algonquin Books/Workman Publishing, $18.95) 978-1-64375-006-4
During a rock-collecting expedition, odd-couple housemates Skunk and Badger have surprising adventures involving a gigantic dinosaur egg and a treasure-hunting cousin. Expressive black-and-white and color illustrations. (9-11)

Einstein:
The Fantastic Journey of a Mouse through Space and Time (Mouse Adventures series)
written and illustrated by Torben Kuhlmann, translated from the German by David Henry Wilson
(NorthSouth Books, $22.00) 978-0-7358-4444-5
After traveling through time, a mouse inadvertently lands in Switzerland in 1905, where he gets Einstein’s unwitting help to return to the present. Detailed watercolor illustrations. (9-12)
The Gilded Girl (Gilded Magic series)
by Alyssa Colman
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)
978-0-374-31393-7
As servants, two girls in a re-imagined New York City in 1906 struggle to wield magic reserved only for the wealthy. (9-12)

Luna Howls at the Moon
by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-301862-4
Can Luna, a dog being trained to understand and help humans with their emotions, keep her group of disturbed children safe? (9-12)

The Magical Reality of Nadia (The Magical Reality of Nadia series)
by Bassem Youssef and Catherine R. Daly, illustrated by Douglas Holgate
(Scholastic, $14.99) 978-1-33857-228-5
Nerdy Egyptian American Nadia and her friends enthusiastically enter a museum exhibit-designing contest but are distracted by a new antagonist and potentially supernatural phenomena. Humorous black-and-white illustrations; partially graphic format. (10-13)

My Ex-Imaginary Friend
by Jimmy Matejek-Morris
(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, $17.99) 978-1-5415-9699-3
Deserted by his parents, 10-year-old Jack decides he needs his ex-best friend George, half-walrus, half-human, to help him put his family back together. (10-13)

Nightingale
by Deva Fagan
An orphan turned thief to survive, Lark accidentally steals a magic sword from young Prince Jasper. Is she the “Nightingale” who must thwart an ancient evil? (9-11)

The Stolen Prince of Cloudburst
by Jaclyn Moriarty
(Levine Querido, $17.99) 978-1-64614-076-3
Twelve-year-old Esther, ignored by her mother, is determined to keep her school safe from dangerous Shadow Mages, despite having no magical powers of her own. (10-13)

The Thief of Worlds
by Bruce Coville
Four characters from different spheres, needing wind, fire, earth, and water, travel together to save their worlds from environmental disaster. (9-12)

Willodeen
by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, $16.99)
978-1-250-14740-0
When a village eradicates the unlovable screechers, its beloved hummingbears also disappear. Magic with an environmental plea. Gentle, detailed black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

Folklore and Fairy Tales

The Beatryce Prophecy
by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Sophie Blackall
(Candlewick Press, $19.99) 978-1-5362-1361-4
Assisted by a goat, a boy, and a monk, a girl who is hunted fights evil forces to find her rightful place as royalty in this fairy tale/medieval epic. Stylized illustrations. (8-11)
**Diversity**

* Blancaflor, the Hero with Secret Powers: A Folktale from Latin America
  by Nadja Spiegelman, illustrated by Sergio García Sánchez, colors by Lola Moral
  (TOON Books, $16.95) 978-1-943145-55-3
  A young ogre with powerful magical skills must outwit her father and save a hapless prince. Stunning, energetic humorous illustrations convey suspense. Informative back matter. Also available in Spanish. (8-11)

* The Three Princes of Serendip: New Tellings of Old Tales for Everyone
  by Rodaan Al Galidi, illustrated by Geertje Aalders, translated from the Dutch by Laura Watkinson
  (Candlewick Press, $19.99) 978-1-5362-1450-5
  Twenty Middle Eastern fables and folktales are paired with vibrant cut-paper art. (8-11)

* We Belong
  by Cookie Hiponia Everman, illustrated by Abigail Dela Cruz
  (Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $16.99) 978-0-593-11220-5
  At bedtime, a Filipino mother weaves together her immigration story and Tagalog mythology for her two daughters. Free verse. Blue, black, and white spot art. Glossary, songs, and afterword. (9-11)

**Historical Fiction**

37 Days at Sea aboard the M.S. St. Louis, 1939
  by Barbara Krasner
  (Kar-Ben Publishing/Lerner, $17.99) 978-1-54157-912-5
  Ruthie, 12, recounts how she, her family, and 937 other Jews bound for Cuba to escape the Nazis were denied admittance. Emotive blank verse, Note, time line, bibliography. (9-12)

* Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna
  by Alda P. Dobbs
  (Sourcebooks Young Readers/Sourcebooks Kids, $17.99) 978-1-72823-465-6
  In 1913 Petra and her family flee their Mexican village to escape military forces, and then travel across the desert to the United States. Author’s note and time line. (9-12)

* Being Clem (Finding Langston trilogy)
  by Lesa Cline-Ransome
  (Holiday House, $17.99) 978-0-8234-4604-9
  After his father dies in an infamous disaster during World War II, African American Clem, a brilliant student, grapples with his own fears until he meets Langston, who helps him regain his balance. (9-12)

* Cuba in My Pocket
  by Adrianna Cuevas
  (Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-374-31467-5
  Sent to the United States to escape Castro’s Cuba in 1961, homesick Cumba, 12, must adapt to his new home, school, and language. Author’s note. Glossary. (9-12)

* Equal (Bakers Mountain Stories series)
  by Joyce Moyer Hostetter
  (Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills & Kane, $17.99)
  In North Carolina in 1959, Jackie, 13 and White, meets Thomas, 13 and Black. Can the two boys overcome society’s prejudices and become friends? Back matter and archival photographs. (9-12)

* How War Changed Rondo
  written and illustrated by Romana Romanysyn and Andriy Lesiv, translated from the Ukrainian by Oksana Lushchevska
  (Enchanted Lion Books, $17.95) 978-1-59270-367-8
  War nearly destroys a happy, vibrant village. But residents, injured but unbowed, turn back the aggressors and start to reclaim their hometown. Vivid collage and mixed-media illustrations. (9-12)

* Long Road to the Circus
  by Betsy Bird, illustrated by David Small
  (Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, $16.99) 978-0-593-30393-1
  In 1920, Suzy, 12, longs to escape from the farm. Will learning to ride her neighbor’s ostrich help make her dreams come true? Expressive black-and-white illustrations. Archival photos. Back matter. (10-13)

* A Place to Hang the Moon
  by Kate Albus
  (Margaret Ferguson Books/Holiday House, $17.99) 978-0-8234-4705-3
  When their grandmother dies, three orphaned children are evacuated to the countryside from London during the Blitz, hoping to find a new, welcoming family. (9-12)
**The Swallows' Flight**
by Hilary McKay
Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster
$17.99
978-1-66590-091-1
Challenges and circumstances faced at the dawn of World War II bring two girls in England and two boys in Germany together. (9-12)

**Voyage of the Sparrowhawk**
by Natasha Farrant, map by David Dean
Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, $17.95
978-1-324-01972-5
After World War I, friends Ben and Lotti cross the English Channel to find missing relatives. (9-12)

**War and Millie McGonigle**
by Karen Cushman
978-1-9848-5010-2
In 1941 Millie is hard-pressed to find laughter in her life after Gram dies, but her imagination and humor can’t be suppressed. (9-12)

**Otto: A Palindrama**
written and illustrated by Jon Agee
Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $17.99
978-0-8037-4162-1
Otto searches for his dog, Pip. All words—even words on drawings—are palindromes, reading the same backwards and forwards. Delightful graphics. (8-11)

**When Pigs Fly (Batpig series)**
written and illustrated by Rob Harrell
Dial BFYR/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $14.99
978-0-5933-5415-5
When an average pig develops superpowers, his indiscreet friend experiments and accidentally creates a supervillain. Humorous, dynamic illustrations. (8-11)

**Lotería**
by Karla Arenas Valenti, illustrated by Dana Sanmar
978-0-593-17696-2
As she tries to rescue her cousin from dangerous Las Pozas, Clara, 11, becomes an unwitting participant in Life and Death’s game of Lotería. Black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**The Monsters of Rookhaven**
by Pádraig Kenny, illustrated by Edward Bettison
Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, $16.99
978-1-250-62394-2
Two orphans find a magical house inhabited by an unusual family feared by local townspeople. The humans and supernatural beings learn new lessons of cooperation. Enchanting black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)

**Pax, Journey Home**
by Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Jon Klassen
Balzer + Bray /HarperCollins, $17.99
978-0-06-293034-7
Though it’s been a year since Peter and Pax have seen each other, when Pax’s kit becomes ill, he brings her to Peter to heal. Evocative black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

**The Year I Flew Away**
by Marie Arnold
Versify/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $16.99
978-0-358-27275-5
Gabrielle is sent from Haiti to Brooklyn to live with relatives, learn English, and attend public school. A witch seems to help, but then . . . (9-12)

**Atlantis:**
**The Accidental Invasion**
by Gregory Mone
Amulet Books/Abrams, $17.99
978-1-4197-3853-1
Twelve-year-old Lewis, his eccentric scientist father, and his father’s genius assistant collide deep underwater with 14-year-old Kaya, an inhabitant of the secret world of Atlantis. (9-12)
**The Last Cuentista**
by Donna Barba Higuera
(Levine Querido, $17.99) 978-1-64614-089-3
After boarding a spaceship with other families of scientists, Petra wakes in the future to find that she is the only person left wishing to remember Earth's stories. (11-13)

**The Lion of Mars**
by Jennifer L. Holm
(Random House BFYR/Penguin Random House, $16.99) 978-0-593-12181-8
Eleven-year-old Bell, four teenagers, six adults, and a cat live on Mars in an American settlement. Life is good—until all the adults get sick. (9-12)

**POETRY**

**The 1619 Project: Born on the Water**
by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson, illustrated by Nikkolas Smith
(Kokila/Penguin Young Readers Group/PRH, $18.99) 978-0-593-30735-9
When a young Black girl comes home upset over a school assignment, her grandmother teaches her 400 years of her history, beginning in 1619. Free verse. Expressive illustrations. (9-12)

**Aquí era el paraíso:**
Selected Poems of Humberto Ak’abal/Here Was Paradise:
by Patricia Aldana, illustrated by Amelia Lau Carling, translated from the Spanish by Hugh Hazelton (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, $19.99) 978-1-77306-495-6
Ak’abal’s poetry, originally written in K’iche’ and translated into Spanish by the Mayan poet, is illustrated with vibrant mixed-media images. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (9-12)

**Hard-Boiled Bugs for Breakfast:**
And Other Tasty Poems
by Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Ruth Chan
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $18.99) 978-0-06-301913-3
A collection of funny verses in varied forms, from haiku to concrete poems. Perfect for reading aloud. Cartoon-like illustrations in black, grey, and white. (8-10)

**INFORMATIONAL BOOKS**

**Activities**

**My Thoughts Are Clouds:**
Poems for Mindfulness
by Georgia Heard, illustrated by Isabel Roxas
(Roaring Book Press/Holtzbrinck, $19.99) 978-1-250-24488-0
Poems about comprehensive mindfulness techniques from around the world include descriptions of such key practices as “deep breathing,” “being present,” and practicing “loving-kindness” to achieve inner peace. Whimsical illustrations. (8-11)
Arts

**D We Can: Portraits of Power**
written and illustrated by Tyler Gordon
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-0-374-38966-6
Boldly painted portraits and biographical sketches of famous people, drawn and written by a partially deaf African American teenager. (9-12)

**D The Genius under the Table: Growing Up behind the Iron Curtain**
written and illustrated by Eugene Yelchin
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-1-5362-1552-6
A boy desperate to define his place within his eccentric family grows up in the former Soviet Union. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-12)

**D Hear My Voice: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States/Escucha mi voz: Los testimonios de los jóvenes detenidos en la frontera sureña de los Estados Unidos**
Compiled by Warren Binford for Project Amplify/Recopilado por Warren Binford para la campaña Project Amplify, illustrated by 17 Latinx artists
(Workman Publishing, $19.95) 978-1-5235-1348-2
Sixty-one children, 5–17, from five countries, testify on their experiences in detention facilities at the US southern border. Heart-wrenching artwork. Bilingual in Spanish and English. (8-10)

**D Joe Biden: Our 46th President**
by Beatrice Gormley
A thorough portrait of the current US president, from early childhood to his role as commander-in-chief. Bibliography, source notes. (8-11)

**D Latinitas: Celebrating 40 Big Dreamers**
written and illustrated by Juliet Menéndez
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group, $18.99) 978-1-250-23462-9
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, NASA engineer Evelyn Miralles, and singer Selena Quintanilla are among the notable Latina women presented. Beautiful earth-toned folk art-style illustrations. Sources. Back matter. (9-12)

**D Mahalia Jackson: Freedom's Voice (Very Important People series)**
by Denise Lewis Patrick, illustrated by Jennifer Bricking
(Harper/HarperCollins, $15.99) 978-0-06-297809-7
The awe-inspiring life of the queen of gospel music included forming a friendship with Martin Luther King Jr. and performing at the March on Washington. Two-color illustrations. Time line. (8-11)

**D Chunky**
written and illustrated by Yehudi Mercado
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $21.99) 978-0-06-297279-8
Hudi, Mexican American and Jewish, laughs his way through his struggles with sports and his health issues, with the help of an imaginary mascot. Bold, dynamic artwork. (10-13)

**D The Elephant Doctor of India**
by Janie Chodosh
An entertaining, informative account of veterinarian Kushal Konwar Sarma’s lifelong love of Asian elephants and his career treating and saving them. Photos. Glossary. (10-12)

**D Escape: One Day We Had to Run**
by Ming Chen and Wah Chen, illustrated by Carmen Vela
(Lantana, $17.99) 978-1-911373-81-0
Twelve accounts of people forced to leave their homes highlight their courage in overcoming incredible hardships. Colorful digital illustrations. (8-10)

**D Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahua**
by Gloria Amescua, illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, $18.99) 978-1-4197-4020-6
When her indigenous culture is threatened, one young woman holds fast to her traditions and language, becoming an iconic model and teacher. Distinctive Mixtec-inspired art. Authoritative back matter. (9-12)
Diversity
Graphic Format
Outstanding Merit
Read Aloud
Age Range

Maryam’s Magic: The Story of Mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani
by Megan Reid, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $18.99)
978-0-06-291596-2
The first (and only) woman to be awarded the Fields Medal, mathematics’ highest honor, Iranian-born Mirzakhani had a unique way of solving complex geometry problems. Detailed digital illustrations help explain her methods. (8-10)

Other Boys
written and illustrated by Damian Alexander
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, $21.99) 978-1-250-22282-4
A therapist helps seventh grader Damien, who’s bullied as different, to handle his grief after his mother’s death and to accept his homosexuality. Bold, colorful artwork. (10-12)

The People’s Painter:
How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art
by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Evan Turk
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, $18.99) 978-1-4197-4130-2
Refusing to paint gentle, bucolic scenes, a bold artist cried out for social justice by creating starkly realistic stories on canvas. Vivid illustrations convey Shahn’s style. (8-11)

A Plan for the People:
Nelson Mandela’s Hope for His Nation
by Lindsey McDivitt, illustrated by Charly Palmer
(Eerdmans BFYR/Wm. B. Eerdmans, $18.99) 978-0-8028-5502-2
After 27 years in prison for fighting to dismantle apartheid in South Africa, Mandela continued in the struggle and became his country’s president. Lush, vibrant illustrations. Extensive back matter. (9-12)

RBG’s Brave and Brilliant Women:
33 Jewish Women to Inspire Everyone
by Nadine Epstein, introduction and selections by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, illustrated by Bee Johnson
The first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court introduces short biographies of other trailblazing Jewish women, from biblical figures to congresswomen. Historical background. Full-color portraits. (10-13)

Stitch by Stitch:
Clev Jones and the AIDS Memorial Quilt
by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Jamey Christoph
(Magination Press/American Psychological Association, $17.99) 978-1-4338-3739-5
A tribute to the man who envisioned a fabric masterpiece. Evocative artwork. Discussion guide, timeline, and supplementary biographical information. (10-13)

The Stuff between the Stars:
How Vera Rubin Discovered Most of the Universe
by Sandra Nickel, illustrated by Aimée Sicuro
(Abrams BFYR/Abrams, $18.99) 978-1-4197-3626-1
When astronomy was an all-male field, a girl fascinated by the night sky grew up to make remarkable discoveries. Mixed-media illustrations. (8-10)

Unbound:
The Life + Art of Judith Scott
by Joyce Scott, with Brie Spangler, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
(Alfred A. Knopf BFYR/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-525-64811-6
After 35 years in an institution, a woman with Down syndrome was rescued by her twin sister and became a renowned fiber artist. Mixed-media artwork. (9-12)

Unforgotten:
The Wild Life of Dian Fossey and Her Relentless Quest to Save Mountain Gorillas
by Anita Silvey
(National Geographic Kids/National Geographic, $18.99) 978-1-4263-7185-1
Fossey’s research on gorillas and dedication to them included a controversial relationship with poachers. Full-color photographs. Exemplary documentation, detailed maps. (9-12)

Ecology

Butterfly for a King:
Saving Hawai’i’s Kamehameha Butterflies
by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth
(Leo & Low Books, $20.95) 978-1-62014-971-3
Realistic collages adorn this account of the Kamehameha butterfly, efforts to restore its declining population, and the history of its native habitat. Informative photographs. Back matter. (8-10)
**The Elephants Come Home: A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship**
by Kim Tomsic, illustrated by Hadley Hooper  
(Chronicle Books, $18.99) 978-1-4521-2783-5  
When a herd of bullied, hunted, angry elephants is offered a home in an African sanctuary, they develop an unusual friendship with the owners. Sepia-toned illustrations. Back matter. (8-11)

**The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom**
written and illustrated by Lita Judge  
(Roaring Brook Press/Holtzbrinck, $19.99) 978-1-250-23707-1  
Trees communicate and cooperate via complex underground networks that deforestation is disrupting. Soft watercolors and short poems. Resources. (9-11)

**Health**

Fred & Marjorie: A Doctor, a Dog, and the Discovery of Insulin
by Deborah Kerbel, illustrated by Angela Poon  
(Owlkids Books, $18.95) 978-1-77147-411-5  
In the 1920s, a young surgeon thought of a way to potentially save children suffering from a deadly disease. Delicate artwork in a subdued palette. Includes discussion of ethical considerations for using animals in scientific research. (10-12)

* It's Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing Up, Sex, Gender, and Sexual Health
by Robie H. Harris, illustrated by Michael Emberley  
(Candlewick Press, $24.99) 978-1-5362-0720-0  
An updated edition of a comprehensive discussion of the social perspectives and scientific information regarding human maturation and reproductive health. Engaging cartoons. (10-13)

**History**

* The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb
by Candace Fleming  
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, $18.99) 978-1-338-59661-8  
The search for ancient Egyptian burial sites by British explorers led to an important archaeological discovery, but misfortune came to many in contact with it. Archival photos. Bibliography, source notes. (8-11)

If You Lived during the Plimoth Thanksgiving (If You Lived series)
by Chris Newell, illustrated by Winona Nelson  
(Scholastic Press, $22.99) 978-1-338-72637-4  
Misrepresentations surrounding the lives of the Plimoth pilgrims and the Wampanoag people are peeled away to reveal inaccuracies and misconceptions. Engaging line and color illustrations. Back matter. (9-12)

Nicky & Vera: A Quiet Hero of the Holocaust and the Children He Rescued
written and illustrated by Peter Sís  
(Norton Young Readers/W. W. Norton, $19.95) 978-1-324-01574-1  
In Prague in 1939, Nicholas Winton quietly arranged transport and refuge for 669 Jewish children fleeing Nazi persecution. Detailed illustrations in varied palettes. (8-10)

* The People Remember
by Ibi Zoboi, illustrated by Loveis Wise  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $19.99) 978-0-06-291564-1  
Powerful free verse sensitively tells the histories of people of African ancestry in America. Sumptuous full-bleed digital art. Robust back matter. (8-11)

Rescuing Titanic: A True Story of Quiet Bravery in the North Atlantic (Hidden Histories series)
written and illustrated by Flora Delargy  
(Wide Eyed Editions/Quarto Group, $19.99) 978-0-7112-6278-2  
In April 1912 the Carpathia raced to rescue survivors of the Titanic. Vivid illustrations highlight the heroic crew and passengers. Glossary, resources. (9-12)
Stamped (For Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You
by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul, illustrated by Rachelle Baker
(Little, Brown BFYR/Hachette Book Group, $15.99) 978-0-316-16758-1

Together We March:
25 Protest Movements That Marched into History
by Leah Henderson, illustrated by Tyler Feder
From the mill children who walked with Mother Jones in 1907 to the activists in today’s Black Lives Matter protests, people demonstrate the power of fighting together for social justice. Bright cartoon-like illustrations. Time line and bibliography. (10-13)

Twenty-One Steps:
Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
by Jeff Gottesfeld, illustrated by Matt Tavares
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-0148-2
An account of how the United States came to honor its soldiers who died nameless in the line of duty. Evocative pencil and digitally painted illustrations. (8-10)

Holidays and Religion

Across the Rainbow Bridge:
Stories of Norse Gods and Humans
by Kevin Crossley-Holland, illustrated by Jeffrey Alan Love
(Candlewick Studio/Candlewick Press, $18.99) 978-1-5362-1771-1
Fallible, capricious, and enigmatic, the gods of the Scandinavian peoples sometimes interacted with humans on a whim, with unpredictable results. Haunting limited-palette illustrations. (9-12)

Language

Dreyer’s English:
Good Advice for Good Writing
by Benjamin Dreyer
(Delacorte Press/Random House Children’s Books/PRH, $17.99) 978-0-593-17680-1
A longtime copywriter’s entertaining and informative guide to rules and current practices. Includes an amusing, helpful chapter on “trimmables”—redundancies such as “blend together,” “closed fist,” and “fall down.” Young readers edition of Dreyer’s English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style. (10-13)

They’re So Flamboyant
by Michael Genhart, illustrated by Tony Neal
(Magination Press/American Psychological Association, $14.99) 978-1-4338-3278-9
A series of collective nouns is presented through the story of a family of flamingos who move into the neighborhood, upsetting the other birds. Clever word play. Colorful, stylized illustrations. Glossary, back matter. (8-10)

Reference

Amazing Treasures:
100+ Objects and Places That Will Boggle Your Mind
by David Long, illustrated by Studio MUTI
(What on Earth Books, $24.00) 978-1-912920-50-1
A rich compendium of architectural and natural wonders, precious artworks, and more. Colorful illustrations. Glossary. Sources. (8-11)

Sports

It’s Outta Here!:
The Might and Majesty of the Home Run
by Matt Doeden
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $34.65) 978-1-72841-716-5
For baseball fans, there’s nothing more exciting than a home run. A fascinating history of the long ball with stories, photographs, statistics, and explanations of the physics involved. Glossary, sources, index, and further reading. (10-13)
Animals to the Rescue!: Amazing True Stories from around the World (Sandra Markle’s Science Discoveries series)
by Sandra Markle
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $31.99) 978-1-5415-8122-7
Photographs and descriptive anecdotes tell the stories of how various animals, including dogs, whales, elephants, and pouched rats, rescued people and other creatures in distress. (8-11)

Big Brain Book: How It Works and All Its Quirks
by Leanne Boucher Gill, illustrated by Magination Press
(Magination Press/American Psychological Association, $24.99) 978-1-4338-3045-7
“What is the brain made of?” and “Why can’t we tickle ourselves?” are among the questions answered in an accessible, engaging format. Colorful illustrations. (9-12)

The Book of Amazing Trees
by Nathalie Tordjman, illustrated by Julien Norwood and Isabelle Simler, translated from the French by Yolanda Stern Broad
(Princeton Architectural Press, $19.95) 978-1-61689-971-4
Extensive information about tree species, growth, reproduction, and adaptation, organized in an interesting, accessible format. Detailed illustrations. Quizzes. (9-12)

The Deadliest Diseases Then and Now (The Deadliest series)
by Deborah Hopkinson
(Scholastic Focus/Scholastic, $25.99) 978-1-338-36022-6
A meticulously researched and resourced study focuses on the enormous strides made in science and medicine in treating illnesses, from the Black Plague to COVID-19. Glossary, bibliography, source notes. (10-13)

The Frog Mother (Mothers of Xsan series)
by Hetxw’m Gyetxw (Brett D. Huson), illustrated by Natasha Donovan
(HighWater Press/Portage & Main Press, $23.00) 978-1-55379-901-6

From Here to There: Inventions That Changed the Way the World Moves
by Vivian Kirkfield, illustrated by Gilbert Ford
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $17.99) 978-1-328-56091-9
Vision and persistence led to mobility-related inventions like the bicycle, steam engine, and industrial robot. Watercolor illustrations finished digitally. Time line, source notes, and bibliography. (9-12)

The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London’s Poop Pollution Problem
by Colleen Paeff, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

Guitars (Made by Hand series)
by Patricia Lakin
Follow the history of guitars, then go behind the scenes to see how acoustic and electric guitars are crafted by luthier Meredith Coloma. Colorful photographs and clear diagrams. (8-11)

The How and Wow of the Human Body: From Your Tongue to Your Toes and All the Guts in Between (Wow in the World series)
by Mindy Thomas and Guy Raz, illustrated by Jack Teagle
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, $19.99) 978-0-358-30663-4
Digital cartoon layout and illustrations enhance this humorous and nonjudgmental explanation of human bodily functions, including breathing, barfing, and pooping. Extensive back matter. (8-11)

Invented by Animals: Meet the Creatures Who Inspired Our Everyday Technology
by Christiane Dorion, illustrated by Gosia Herba
(Wide Eyed Editions, $22.99) 978-0-7112-6067-2
Thirty-two animals share their unique characteristics that have inspired human inventions, including robots, surgical needles, and weatherproofing. Engaging format and colorful digital illustrations. (8-10)
It Takes Guts:  
How Your Body Turns Food into Fuel (and Poop)  
by Jennifer Gardy, illustrated by Belle Wuthrich  
(Greystone Kids/Greystone Books, $19.95)  
978-1-77164-501-0  
Bright, colorful illustrations accompany this humorous presentation of everything you wanted to know about how the human body processes food. Glossary. (9-12)

Nano:  
The Spectacular Science of the Very (Very) Small  
by Jess Wade, illustrated by Melissa Castrillón  
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-1-5362-1766-7  
An award-winning physicist explains atoms, elements, and nanos, the tiny building blocks used to create many new inventions. Helpful colorful illustrations. Back matter. (8-10)

The Message:  
The Extraordinary Journey of an Ordinary Text Message  
written and illustrated by Michael Emberley  
978-1-53445-290-9  
Lush illustrations help demystify the intricate dance of human neural networks, electrical networks, and fiber optics that enables us to speedily send our thoughts to others. Sources. (8-11)

Planet Ocean:  
Why We All Need a Healthy Ocean  
by Patricia Newman, photographed by Annie Crawley  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $34.65) 978-1-5415-8121-0  
Divers who explore the Arctic, the Coral Triangle in Southeast Asia, and the Salish Sea in western North America discuss local issues that affect us all. Colorful photographs. Sources include video links. (10-13)