

FIVE TO NINE

ADVENTURE

Cork & Fuzz:

Finders Keepers

by Dori Chaconas, illustrated by Lisa McCue
(Viking, \$13.99) 978-0-670-01113-1

Two friends learn that “finders-keepers” is not always the best policy in this early chapter book. Textured, full-color illustrations. (5-7)



Dracula Madness

by Mary Labatt, illustrated by Jo Rioux
(Kids Can, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-418-0

Samantha, a mystery-solving dog and her new friend, Jennie, who can read Sam’s mind, investigate a recluse’s house. (6-9)

Henry the Impatient Heron

by Donna Love, illustrated by Christina Wald
(Sylvan Dell, \$16.95) 978-1-934359-90-7

Now that he must catch his own food, Henry learns the importance of standing still. Illustrated Full-color, close-up illustrations. (5-8)

The Hermit Crab

written and illustrated by Carter Goodrich
(S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-3892-7

When a flounder is trapped, a shy hermit crab in his new “shell” becomes an unexpected and unwitting hero. Humorous watercolors. (5-7)



The Longest Night

by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Ted Lewin
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2054-4

The animals think night has lasted too long, but the wind knows that only one of them can bring back the sun. Evocative watercolors. (5-8)

KEY	
★	Outstanding merit
	Read-aloud
•	SERIES TITLE
■	(series books follow)
(4-6)	Age range
	Graphic novel
P	Paperback

Marsh Island

by Sonya Spreen Bates, illustrated by Kasia Charko

(Orca, P\$6.95) 978-1-55469-117-3

Two brothers go camping with their father and have unanticipated adventures. (6-8)

ANIMALS

Always in Trouble

by Corinne Demas, pictures by Noah Z. Jones

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-02453-2

Humorous cartoon-style illustrations enliven this tale of Toby, a dog who learns good behavior. (5-7)

Farley Follows his Nose

by Lynn Johnston and Beth Cruikshank, illustrated by Lynn Johnston

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-170234-1

Farley spends his day finding good things to eat and ends it by using his nose to bring a lost boy home. Bright, animated illustrations. (4-7)



Henry's Night

by D.B. Johnson and Linda Michelin, illustrated by D.B. Johnson

(HMH, \$16.00) 978-0-547-05663-0

When Henry cannot sleep, he sets off into the dark to hear the whippoorwill. Soft, shadowy mixed-media illustrations. (4-7)



Little Devils

written and illustrated by Robert J. Blake

(Philomel, \$16.99) 978-0-399-24322-6

By doing what Tasmanian devils are supposed to do, three pups rescue their mother from a trap. Atmospheric oil paintings. (6-8)

Lost and Found:

Three Dog Stories

written and illustrated by Jim LaMarche

(Chronicle, \$17.99) 978-0-8118-6401-5

Endearing dogs in a trio of tales help families solve problems. Illustrated in acrylic wash and colored pencil. (5-7)



***Pond Circle**

by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Stefano Vitale

(McElderry, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-4021-0

The circle of life in and around a pond unfolds in lyrical text and sensitive detail. Includes factual information. Stunning oil-on-board illustrations. (4-8)

Trudy

written and illustrated by Henry Cole

(Greenwillow, \$17.99) 978-0-06-154267-1

Trudy's goat is talented--she can even predict the weather. Then she does something really special. Warm acrylic illustrations. (4-7)



***Waiting for Winter**

written and illustrated by Sebastian Meschenmoser

(Kane/Miller, \$15.99) 978-1-935279-04-4

Squirrel and his friends want to see snow--but what is it and when will it come? Entertaining and intricate mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

Zarafa:

The Giraffe Who Walked to the King

by Judith St. George, illustrated by Britt Spencer

(Philomel, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25049-1

As Zarafa, a gift to the French king, travels from Africa to Paris, he grows up. Watercolor, gouache, and ink illustrations. (6-9)

BEGINNING READERS

Annie and Snowball and the Cozy Nest

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Suçie Stevenson

(S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-3943-6

Annie and Henry observe a robin's nest. Pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations chronicle their springtime adventure. (5-7)

Baby Elephant

by Ginjer L. Clarke, illustrated by Robbin Cuddy

(Grosset, P\$3.99) 978-0-448-44825-1

A baby elephant is born and grows up in the African grassland. Watercolor illustrations enhance the story. (6-8)

Barack Obama:

Out of Many, One

by Shana Corey, illustrated by James Bernardin

(Random, P\$3.99) 978-0-375-86339-4

A short, clearly presented biography of our current President. (6-8)

Dirk Bones and the Mystery of the Missing Books

written and illustrated by Doug Cushman

(HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-073768-9

Who's stealing books in the town of Ghostly? Reporter Dirk Bones tries to find out in this slightly spooky, book-loving tale with funny, goosepimply, full-color illustrations. (6-8)

Earth Day:

Robin Hill School

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Mike Gordon

(Aladdin, P\$3.99) 978-1-4169-5535-1

Emma's dad helps her devise a list of small ideas for saving the Earth that she learns can have big results. Comical watercolors. (5-7)

Gilbert the Surfer Dude

written and illustrated by Diane deGroat

(HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-125211-2

Gilbert's humorous adventures at the beach are presented in an easy-to-read format. Captivating watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

Honest Abe Lincoln:

Easy-to-Read Stories about Abraham Lincoln

by David A. Adler, illustrated by John Wallner

(Holiday House, \$15.95) 978-0-8234-2057-5

Captivating anecdotes from the life of Abraham Lincoln will inspire young historians to learn more. Full-color illustrations. (6-8)



Houndsley and Catina:

Plink and Plunk

by James Howe, illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3385-1

Two friends learn to share hobbies loved by one and feared by the other. Cheerful watercolors add to the fun. (6-8)

Pearl and Wagner:

One Funny Day

by Kate McMullan, pictures by R.W. Alley

(Dial, \$14.99) 978-0-8037-3085-4

Pearl the rabbit is having fun, but April Fools' Day is not a good day for Wagner the mouse. Pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

Peter Peter Picks a Pumpkin House

by Christine Graham, illustrated by Susan Boase

(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-8706-2

Peter Peter and his wife grow pumpkins outside their little hut and find an unusual solution to their leaky roof. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

Shampoodle

by Joan Holub, illustrated by Tim Bowers

(Random, P\$3.99) 978-0-375-85576-4

When some cats walk by a dog grooming salon, mayhem ensues. Lively text and vivid illustrations. (6-8)



Zelda and Ivy:

Keeping Secrets

written and illustrated by Laura McGee Kvasnosky

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4179-5

In three easy-to-read stories, siblings Zelda, Ivy, and Eugene have dramatic, humorous adventures. Animated illustrations. (5-7)

COMING OF AGE

Mousie Love

by Dori Chaconas, illustrated by Josée Masse

(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-111-4

Tully asks Frill to marry him, but what will she say after so many mishaps don't give her a chance to answer? (4-8)

Nikki & Deja:

Birthday Blues

by Karen English, illustrated by Laura Freeman

(Clarion, \$15.00) 978-0-618-97787-1

It is Deja's eighth birthday, and another girl has scheduled a party just to antagonize her. Amusing black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)

Sassy:

Little Sister is NOT My Name!

by Sharon M. Draper

(Scholastic, \$14.99) 978-0-545-07151-2

Fourth-grader Sassy discovers how special she can be. (6-9)

***Star of the Show**

by Della Ross Ferreri, illustrated by Tony Weinstock

(Shenanigan Books, \$15.95) 978-1-934860-03-8

Francine learns the value of working together when she plays with her brother, Max, who has his own ideas about playing games. (5-8)



***Who Will I Be, Lord?**

by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by Sean Qualls

(Random, \$16.99) 978-0-375-84342-6

A girl is inspired by her diverse and spirited family members to ponder what--and who--she will become. (5-7)

***Wink:**

The Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed

written and illustrated by J.C. Phillipps

(Viking, \$15.99) 978-0-670-01092-9

Unimpressed with Wink's flamboyant style, Master Zutsu actually discovers Wink's true talents. Animated collage-style illustrations. (5-7)

FANTASY



Come to the Fairies' Ball

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Gary Lippincott

(Wordsong, \$17.95) 978-1-59078-464-8

A joyful rhyming story tells of a fairies' ball. Amusing, imaginative illustrations. (4-6)

The Duchess of Whimsy:

An Absolutely Delicious Fairy Tale

by Randall de Sève, illustrated by Peter de Sève

(Philomel, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25095-8

Love strikes when two opposites attract and discover that, despite their differences, there is much to cherish in one another. Whimsical illustrations. (6-9)

Homework

by Arthur Yorinks, illustrated by Richard Egelski

(Walker, \$16.99) 978-0-8027-9585-4

Tony's school tools help him do his homework. With wonderful arguments and a satisfying conclusion, this is a great read-aloud. Animated erasers, pencils, and rulers populate pen and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

The Hungry Ghosts

by Julius Lester, illustrated by Geraldo Valério

(Dial, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-2513-3

Malcolm David searches for the ghosts who are chilling his room, only to find that they are hungry, and he can help them. Whimsical acrylic illustrations. (5-8)



It's a Secret!

written and illustrated by John Burningham

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4275-4

Where do cats go at night? Marie Elaine begs her dressed-up cat to take her along. It's a cat party! Sketchy, mixed-media illustrations. (6-8)

The Knitting of Elizabeth Amelia

by Patricia Lee Gauch, illustrated by Barbara Lavalley

(Henry Holt, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-6535-0

Elizabeth Amelia, made of wool, must figure out how to prevent her unraveling. Textured watercolors feature characters dancing on the pages. (5-8)

The Pied Piper's Magic

written and illustrated by Steven Kellogg

(Dial, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-2818-9

A magical pipe that plays letters rather than notes helps an elf rid a village of gloom. Colorful mixed-media drawings. (6-8)

Raspberries!

by Jay O'Callahan, illustrated by Will Moses

(Philomel, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25181-8

A luckless baker turns his life around with some very special raspberries, a gift for past kindness. Colorful folk-art paintings. CD included. A good read-aloud. (4-8)

Redwoods

written and illustrated by Jason Chin

(Roaring Brook, \$16.95) 978-1-59643-430-1

A book and a boy's imagination take him from a New York subway into the forest to gain extensive information about the endangered redwood trees. Watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

FOLK



Davy Crockett Gets Hitched

retold by Bobbi Miller, illustrated by Megan Lloyd

(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-1837-4

Miss Sally Ann Thunder Ann Whirlwind becomes Mrs. Crockett after Davy proves his dancing skills are better than hers. Hyperbolic oil paintings. (6-9)

Foo, the Flying Frog of Washtub Pond

written and illustrated by Belle Yang

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-3615-9

A boastful frog is humbled--but learns the value of friendship. Saturated gouache illustrations highlight pond life. (4-7)

Hansel and Gretel

retold and illustrated by Rachel Isadora

(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25028-6

The classic tale is retold in an African setting and superbly illustrated with colorful Matisse-influenced collages. (5-8)



One Fine Trade

retold by Bobbi Miller, illustrated by Will Hillenbrand

(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-1836-7

As in the old folk song, a peddler trades animals and objects to obtain a wedding dress for his daughter. Humorous ink, pencil, and gouache illustrations. (7-10)

***The Orphan Boy**

by Tolowa M. Mollel, illustrated by Paul Morin

(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, \$21.95) 978-1-55005-082-0

A Maasai storyteller tells of the planet Venus, known to the Maasai as Kilken, the orphan boy. New edition with haunting oil paintings, using elements of the African landscape. (6-8)



Pig-Boy:

A Trickster Tale from Hawai'i

written and illustrated by Gerald McDermott

(Harcourt, \$16.00) 978-0-15-216590-1

This wily porcine trickster's hunger is always getting him in trouble--but he knows how to get out of it. Bold, funny illustrations. (5-8)

The Three Little Tamales

by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Valeria Docampo

(Cavendish Children, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5519-6

Lively illustrations reflect the southwestern setting for this Texas spin on the "Three Little Pigs." Glossary of Spanish words. (5-8)



***Yummy:**

Eight Favorite Fairy Tales

written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins

(Candlewick, \$18.99) 978-0-7636-4474-1

Each tale is reduced to its essence, painting sound effects and key phrases in large letters so early readers can follow along. Bold brush strokes and electric colors. (5-7)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Cromwell Dixon's Sky-Cycle

written and illustrated by John Abbott Nez

(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25041-5

In 1907, fourteen-year-old Cromwell Dixon uses ingenuity to build and fly his sky-cycle. Based on a true story. Humorous illustrations. (6-12)



Crow Call

by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-03035-9

In this quiet, moving tale, Liz and her father reconnect after his return from World War II. Muted, realistic illustrations. (7-10)

The Dollshop Downstairs

by Yona Zeldis McDonough, illustrated by Heather Maione

(Viking, \$14.99) 978-0-670-01091-2

When World War I threatens her family's doll repair business, nine-year-old Anna suggests a clever way to save their shop. (7-9)

Galileo's Leaning Tower Experiment:

A Science Adventure

by Wendy MacDonald, illustrated by Paolo Rui

(Charlesbridge, P\$7.95) 978-1-57091-870-4

The meeting and scientific collaboration of a young boy in Pisa and professor Galileo challenges Aristotle's theory about falling objects. (7-9)

Jackson and Bud's Bumpy Ride:

America's First Cross-Country Automobile Trip

by Elizabeth Koehler-Pentacoff, illustrated by Wes Hargis

(Millbrook, \$16.95) 978-0-8225-7885-7

The first ever automobile trip across the United States by two men and a dog was filled with adventure, breakdowns, and finally--success. Based on a true account. (5-7)



The Listeners

by Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Mike Benny
(Sleeping Bear, \$17.95) 978-1-58536-419-0

In a time when African-American people were oppressed, the listening duties of children provided small, yet vital clues about their futures. (6-10)

Louie!

written and illustrated by Will Hillenbrand
(Philomel, \$16.99) 978-0-399-24707-1

A creative interpretation of the childhood of Ludwig Bemelmans introduces a pig who loves to draw. Whimsical collage and gouache illustrations. (6-8)



Most Loved in All the World:

A Story of Freedom

by Tonya Cherie Hegamin, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera
(HMH, \$17.00) 978-0-618-41903-6

This poignant story describes a slave mother who makes a quilt full of symbols as a guide to reaching freedom. Acrylic paint and textile collages. (6-8)

My Uncle Emily

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
(Philomel, \$17.99) 978-0-399-24005-8

This moving picture book with expressive period-style illustrations explores the relationship between Emily Dickinson and her nephew, Gib. Biographical information. (6-9)

Ron's Big Mission

by Rose Blue and Corinne J. Naden, illustrated by Don Tate
(Dutton, \$16.99) 978-0-525-47849-2

In South Carolina in the 1950s, future astronaut Ron McNair sets out to integrate his public library. (6-8)

Sam's Ride

by Becky Citra, illustrated by Amy Meissner
(Orca, P\$6.95) 978-1-55469-160-9

When Sam reluctantly learns to ride a huge scary horse at his grandfather's home, he grows to appreciate both his grandfather and life on the ranch. (6-8)



***Strawberry Hill**

by Mary Ann Hoberman
(Little, Brown, \$15.99) 978-0-316-04136-2

Fourth grader Allie searches for friends and strawberries in this gentle Depression-era story. Soft pencil illustrations. (7-10)



***Teedie:**

The Story of Young Teddy Roosevelt

written and illustrated by Don Brown
(HMH, \$16.00) 978-0-618-17999-2

A small, asthmatic child, Teddy overcomes his weaknesses to become a sportsman and the youngest President of the United States. Humorous illustrations. (6-8)

Timmerman Was Here

by Colleen Sydor, illustrated by Nicolas Debon
(Tundra, \$19.95) 978-0-88776-890-3

After the girl narrator's family takes in a boarder, rumors circulate about the man's late night activities. The girl continues to believe in his goodness and is finally vindicated. Pencil and gouache drawings. (7-9)



Tricking the Tallyman:

The Great Census Shenanigans of 1790

by Jacqueline Davis, illustrated by S. D. Schindler
(Knopf, \$17.99) 978-0-375-83909-2

Set in Vermont, this humorous story imagines the problems of taking the first census. Funny paintings. (7-10)



Voyage to the Pharos

by Sarah Gauch, illustrated by Roger Roth
(Viking, \$16.99) 978-0-670-06254-6

In this ancient Greek adventure, young Dino travels to see the famous Pharos lighthouse--but will his ship make it? Vivid, dramatic illustrations. (6-9)

HUMOR

Archie and the Pirates

written and illustrated by Marc Rosenthal
(HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-144164-6

Marooned on an island, clever Archie takes adversity in stride while fighting a band of no-good pirates with his new-found friends. (5-7)



Backpack Stories

written and illustrated by Kevin O'Malley
(Albert Whitman, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-0504-5

A clever spoof of the ever-present carryall is well-supported by energetic, vibrant cartoon-like illustrations. (6-8)

Bella & Bean

by Rebecca Kai Dotlich, illustrated by Aileen Leijten
(Atheneum, \$15.99) 978-0-689-85616-7

Bella tries very hard to concentrate on her poetry until she realizes that her best friend Bean is her inspiration. (5-7)

***Billy & Milly:**

Short & Silly

by Eve B. Feldman, illustrated by Tuesday Mourning
(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-24651-7

Three or four rhymed words, along with humorous mixed-media illustrations, invite readers to interpret a much longer story. (5-7)



***Billy Twitters and His Blue Whale Problem**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Adam Rex
(Hyperion, \$16.99) 978-078684958-1

Make sure you listen to your parents or you may end up in really big trouble -- as Billy finds out in this rollicking story. Wackily humorous illustrations. (6-8)



Binky the Space Cat

written and illustrated by Ashley Spires
(Kids Can, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-309-1

A hilarious graphic novel about Binky, "qualified space Cat and brave alien hunter," even if he has never actually left the house. (7-10)

***A Book**

written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein

(Roaring Brook, \$16.95) 978-1-59643-251-2

A young girl living inside a book takes a hilariously imaginative romp in search of her story. Quirky, humorous illustrations. (6-9)



Crazy Hair

by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Dave McKean

(HarperCollins, \$18.99) 978-0-06-057908-1

Amazing creatures nest in a tangled mass. Clever rhyme and imaginative, outrageous illustrations. (7-9)

Dear Vampa

written and illustrated by Ross Collins

(HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-135534-9

A vampire family that apparently doesn't seek blood in the usual way is aghast when new neighbors disturb their days and frustrate their nights. Contrasting illustrations help tell the story. (6-8)

Dinosaur Woods

written and illustrated by George McClements

(Beach Lane Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-8626-3

When their forest is threatened, seven creatures come up with a new, big, amazing idea to save it. Humorous collages. (5-7)



***Don't Look Now**

written and illustrated by Ed Briant

(Roaring Brook, \$16.95) 978-1-59643-345-8

In this nearly wordless story, two brothers find that trying to trick each other leads to unexpected, zany adventures. Wonderfully detailed, humorous illustrations. (5-8)



Dragonbreath

by Ursula Vernon

(Dial, \$12.99) 978-0-8037-3363-3

Danny, the only mythical creature in school, has a big imagination--but his underwater adventure is (mostly) real. Partly done in graphic format. (7-10)

***The Dunderheads**

by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by David Roberts

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-2498-9

Delightful illustrations match this clever tale of daring-do as one class outwits their villainous teacher. (7-10)

The Fiesta Dress:

A Quinceañera Tale

by Caren McNelly McCormack, illustrated by Martha Avilés

(Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5467-0

Lola causes mischief with her dog while her family prepares for her sister's 15th birthday celebration. The illustrations are as funny as the story. (5-7)

Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom

written and illustrated by Eric Wight

(S&S, \$9.99) 978-1-4169-6484-1

Fourth-grader Frankie has quite an imagination--but will it help him escape the Closet of Doom? Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)



Friend or Fiend?:

With the Pain & the Great One

by Judy Blume, illustrated by James Stevenson

(Delacorte, \$12.99) 978-0-385-73308-3

Feuding siblings discover the importance of relationships in a series of humorous vignettes. Cartoon-like illustrations. (6-8)



***Gooney Bird is So Absurd**

by Lois Lowry, illustrated by Middy Thomas

(HMH, \$15.00) 978-0-547-11967-0

With Mrs. Pidgeon, their teacher, the second graders work their way through the year with poetry, projects, and pleasure. Charcoal illustrations bring the classroom to life. (6-8)

Good Dog, Aggie

by Lori Ries, illustrated by Frank W. Dormer

(Charlesbridge, \$12.95) 978-1-57091-645-8

Ben finds training his exuberant dog quite a challenge until he figures out what Aggie really likes. Expressive, humorous drawings. (6-8)

The Great Dog Wash

by Shellie Braeuner, illustrated by Robert Neubecker

(S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-7116-0

A neighborhood dog wash goes awry. Funny rhymes and digitally-created illustrations. (5-7)

Joe and Sparky Get New Wheels

by Jamie Michalak, illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3387-5

Two zoo animals have a hilarious romp in a “borrowed” car. (7-9)



The King’s Taster

by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-075372-6

Max, the cook’s dog, tastes all food set before the boy-king, who rejects everything, until the cook finds the clue to the king’s lack of appetite. Cheerful paintings. (6-8)

***Let’s Do Nothing!**

written and illustrated by Tony Fucile

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-3440-7

Two bored friends challenge one another to play without moving--with surprising results. Funny ink, watercolor, and acrylic artwork. (6-8)

Look Out, Jeremy Bean!

by Alice Schertle, illustrated by David Slonim

(Chronicle, \$14.99) 978-0-8118-5609-6

In three humorous stories, Jeremy plans an original show-and-tell project, learns about dust bunnies, and makes a new friend. (4-7)

***A Mighty Fine Time Machine**

written and illustrated by Suzanne Bloom

(Boyd’s Mills, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-527-0

An anteater, an armadillo, and an armadillo turn a carton that didn’t work as a time machine into a delightful bookmobile. Gouache and colored-pencil illustrations. (5-8)

Minifred Goes to School

written and illustrated by Mordecai Gerstein

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-075889-9

Minifred, the cat, could almost pass as a child; she talks and wears dresses and goes to school. However, there is one thing she just won't do. (4-7)

The One and Only Marigold

by Florence Parry Heide, illustrated by Jill McElmurry

(S&W, \$16.99) 978-0-375-84031-9

Marigold seems stubborn, but four connected vignettes show that there is more to this eccentric character. Detailed gouache illustrations provide continuity while adding humor. (5-7)

***Princess Hyacinth (The Surprising Tale of a Girl Who Floated)**

by Florence Parry Heide, illustrated by Lane Smith

(S&W, \$17.99) 978-0-375-84501-7

Princess Hyacinth has an unusual problem--she floats in the air. Whimsical computer-manipulated illustrations in ink and oil. (5-8)



***Robot Zot!**

by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by David Shannon

(S&S, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-6394-3

A tiny alien and his sidekick attack evil household appliances, but a rational human places the blame for the destruction elsewhere. Bold acrylics. (6-9)

***Sergio Saves the Game!**

written and illustrated by Edel Rodriguez

(Little, \$15.99) 978-0-316-06617-4

Even if you're the one who always gets picked last, with hard work and luck, you can turn out to be a star! Bold, lively illustrations. (5-7)



***Silly Tilly**

by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by David Slonim

(Cavendish, \$16.99) 978-0-7614-5525-7

The other barnyard animals ask Tilly to stop being so silly, but soon regret it. Bold humorous drawings and well-rhymed text. (5-7)

Sleepy Little Alphabet:

A Bedtime Story from Alphabet Town

by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

(Knopf, \$16.99) 978-0-375-84002-9

The little letters of the alphabet aren't ready to say goodnight in this funny bedtime tale. Humorous illustrations. (5-7)

Tiny & Hercules

written and illustrated by Amy Schwartz

(Roaring Brook, \$16.95) 978-1-59643-253-6

Elephant Tiny and mouse Hercules help one another out of tight spots in five cheery stories. Simple, entertaining watercolors. (5-8)



Tough Chicks

by Cece Meng, illustrated by Melissa Suber

(Clarion, \$16.00) 978-0-618-82415-1

The unconventional behavior of three girl chicks helps save the hen house in this silly but engaging tale. Colorful, humorous acrylic illustrations. (5-7)

Uncle Andy's Cats

written and illustrated by James Warhola

(Putnam, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25180-1

Andy Warhol's nephew describes how one blue pet cat eventually became 25 kittens, all named Sam. Funny watercolors. (5-8)



The Underground Gators

by Tina Casey, illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

(Dutton, \$16.99) 978-0-525-47213-1

Alligators that live in sewers perform all sorts of useful functions. Lively watercolors. (5-8)

Who Wants to be a Poodle, I Don't

written and illustrated by Lauren Child

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4610-3

A pampered poodle does not like her fancy name or life. She longs to jump in puddles and bark like other dogs. Delightful collages. (7-9)

SPORTS

Pelé:

King of Soccer/El Rey de Fútbol

by Monica Brown, illustrated by Rudy Gutiérrez

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-122779-0

Stunning, energetic paintings and engaging bilingual text tell how a poor, yet determined, Brazilian boy became the world's greatest soccer player. (6-9)

Scaredy-Cat Catcher

by Betty Hicks, illustrated by Adam McCauley

(Roaring Brook, \$16.95) 978-1-59643-246-8

When you're in a terrible slump, will sheer determination and wonderfully supportive friends be enough to get you out of it? (6-9)

TODAY



Ballyhoo Bay

by Judy Sierra, illustrated by Derek Anderson

(S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-5888-8

An art teacher uses her talents and her students to save the beach from development. Told in rhyme with vibrant illustrations. (5-8)



Calvin Coconut:

Trouble Magnet

by Graham Salisbury, illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers

(Wendy Lamb, \$12.99) 978-0-385-73701-2

Fourth grade in Hawaii is pretty cool--even if it means coping with the class bully and centipede-filled bedroom in the garage. (6-9)

A Child's Garden:

A Story of Hope

written and illustrated by Michael Foreman
(Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-4271-6

In a war-torn land, a child's strength of spirit sustains him and ultimately many others. (7-10)

Cora Cooks Pancit

by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore, illustrated by Kristi Valiant
(Shen's Books, \$17.95) 978-1-885008-35-0

Cora, youngest in a family of Filipino-Americans, longs to help her mother cook the popular noodle dish. Colorful paintings, glossary, and recipe. (5-7)



El Barrio

by Debbi Chocolate, illustrated by David Diaz
(Henry Holt, \$16.95) 978-0-8050-7457-4

A young boy describes the diversity and richness of Latino life in the barrio. Vibrant, mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

Excellent Emma

by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper
(Viking, \$14.99) 978-0-670-06310-9

Emma does not share her third grade teacher's enthusiasm for the upcoming Winter Games Day. She learns that winning is wonderful, but so is friendship. (6-9)

Fancy Nancy:

Explorer Extraordinaire!

by Jane O'Connor, illustrated by Robin Preiss Glasser
(HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-168486-9

Fancy Nancy and her best friend explore natural science in the backyard. (5-8)

First Come the Zebra

written and illustrated by Lynne Barasch
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-365-5

A Kikuyu boy and a Maasai boy overcome ethnic prejudice to work together. Evocative watercolors of the Kenyan grasslands. (6-8)

First Dog

by J. Patrick Lewis and Beth Zappitello, illustrated by Tim Bowers
(Sleeping Bear, \$15.95) 978-1-58536-467-1

"Dog" visits dogs around the world before finding his way to a famous white house. Paintings inspired by the real "first dog." (6-9)



Gracias/Thanks

by Pat Mora, illustrated by John Parra
(Lee & Low, \$17.95) 978-1-60060-258-0

A young boy celebrates the many things that make his life special, beautiful, and thanks-worthy. Lively, colorful illustrations. (4-7)

Homegrown House

by Janet S. Wong, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
(S&S, \$16.99) 978-0-689-84718-9

A girl who has moved often wants to live like her grandmother in the stability of a long-term home. Soft watercolors. (6-9)

The Imaginary Garden

by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher

(Kids Can, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-279-7

When Theo's grandfather moves to an apartment, they recreate, through brushstrokes of color, the garden he left behind. Lively mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)



Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

(Putnam, \$10.99) 978-0-399-25175-7

The new girl in school befriends a new boy classmate which enables them both to feel more comfortable. (6-9)

MAX DISASTER

Alien Eraser to the Rescue

Alien Eraser Unravels the Mystery of the Pyramids

by Marissa Moss

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3577-0, 978-0-7636-3585-5

Creating experiments, inventions, and comics in his logbook helps Max deal with his parents' separation. (8-11)

My Name is Sangoel

by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed, illustrated by Catherine Stock

(Eerdmans, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5307-3

A fatherless boy from western Sudan settles in the United States and finds a creative way to fit in and stay true to himself. Watercolor illustrations. (7-10)

My Parents are Divorced, My Elbows Have Nicknames, and Other Facts About Me

by Bill Cochran, illustrated by Steve Björkman

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-053942-9

A young boy tries to come to grips with his parents' divorce--on his own terms and with a sense of humor. Cartoon-like watercolors. (6-9)

***OK Go**

written and illustrated by Carin Berger

(HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-157666-9

Energetic, detailed collage art, bold design, and spare text show creative ways to go green. (5-7)

A Party in Ramadan

by Asma Mobin-Uddin, illustrated by Laura Jacobsen

(Boyd's Mills, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-604-8

Leena tries to fast during Ramadan, but wants to attend a friend's party. Her U.S. Muslim family is warmly portrayed in soft, realistic pastels. Author's note on Ramadan and the hijab (headscarf). (5-8)

***Ready to Dream**

by Donna Jo Napoli and Elena Furrow, illustrated by Bronwyn Bancroft

(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-049-0

Ally meets an Aborigine painter on her trip to Australia and learns to use sand, sunlight, and her own mistakes to create a whole new kind of art. (5-8)

***René Has Two Last Names/René Tiene Dos Apellidos**

by René Colato Laínez, illustrated by Fabiola Graullera Ramírez

(Piñata, \$15.95) 978-1-55885-530-4

René explains why people from El Salvador (and other Spanish-speaking places) use two last names to represent the proud heritage of their extended families. (6-9)

***Song of Middle C**

by Alison McGhee, illustrated by Scott Menchin

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-3013-3

Despite her extensive practice, a young pianist experiences stage fright at her first recital, but creative improvisation saves the day. (5-7)

Waiting for the Owl's Call

by Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Pascal Milelli

(Sleeping Bear, \$17.95) 978-1-58536-418-3

Eight-year-old Zulvija weaves carpets all day with her female relatives, while dreaming of school and her own artistic skills. Detailed, strong images of Turkoman traditional life in Afghanistan. Author's note on child labor. (7-10)

You and Me and Home Sweet Home

by George Ella Lyon and Stephanie Anderson

(S&S, \$17.99) 978-0-689-87589-2

Sharonda helps volunteers from her church and community build a house so that she and her mother can have a home. Watercolor and pastel illustrations. (5-8)