

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### FICTION

#### ADVENTURE



#### **Big City Otto: Elephants Never Forget**

by Bill Slavin

(Kids Can, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-476-0

The search for a chimp named Georgie takes elephant Otto and parrot Crackers from the jungle to the big city in this graphic adventure. (8-11)

#### **The Drop**

by Jeff Ross

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-392-4

Alex's trial run for acceptance into the Snowboarding Division of the Backcountry Patrol in British Columbia becomes a test of man against nature. (10-12)

#### **Horton Halfpott**

by Tom Angleberger

(Amulet/Abrams, \$14.95) 978-0-8019-9715-8

In this funny, irreverent tale of the English class system, Horton (the kitchen boy), Luther (m'lady's son), and many others are caught in the web. Humorous pen and ink sketches. (9-12)

#### **\*Icefall**

by Matthew J. Kirby

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-27424-1

A Norse king's children are taken to an ice fortress to be kept safe during war. Things change when a traitor is found within. (9-14)

#### **Maximillian: The Mystery of the Guardian Angel**

by Xavier Garza

(Cinco Puntos, P\$12.95) 978-1-933693-98-9

Maximillian worships lucha libre wrestlers. Then, unexpectedly, he finds himself closer to his hero than he ever imagined. Black-and-white illustrations. (9-12)

#### **The Midnight Tunnel**

by Angie Frazier

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-20862-8

When little Maddie goes missing, no one takes Zanna's theories seriously—not even her uncle, a famous detective. Set in New Brunswick in 1904. (9-12)

#### **Missing on Superstition Mountain**

by Elise Broach, illustrated by Antonio Javier Caparo

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9047-5

Why does every adult seem so scared of Superstition Mountain? The three Barker brothers are determined to find out. (8-12)



#### **Outback**

by Robin Stevenson

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-419-8

After breaking up with his girl friend, fifteen-year-old Jayden agrees to accompany his eccentric herpetologist uncle into the dangerously remote Australian outback. (10-12)



#### **Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Blue Gem**

by Murray Shaw and M.J. Cosson, illustrated by Sophie Rohrbach

(Graphic Universe/Lerner, \$26.60)

978-0-7613-6190-9

Who can catch the thief of a blue jewel found in the throat of a Christmas goose? (9-12)

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Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### ADVENTURE, continued

### ANIMALS



#### Sidekicks

by Dan Santat

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, P\$12.99)

978-0-439-29819-3

Despite the opposition of his pets, Captain Amazing attempts to enlist a new sidekick. Droll pictures and text. (8-11)

#### The Spaghetti Detectives

by Andreas Steinhofel, translation by Chantal Wright

(Chicken House, \$16.99) 978-0-545-28975-7

Can a boy with learning disabilities use a strand of spaghetti and a red airplane to find a kidnapped friend? Set in Berlin. (9-11)

#### Storm Runners

by Roland Smith

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-08175-7

When their school bus is destroyed by a violent hurricane, Chase and two schoolmates must use all their skill and judgment to escape and survive. (9-12)

#### Wild Life

by Cynthia DeFelice

(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-38001-4

When twelve-year-old Eric's parents are deployed to Iraq, he is sent to live in North Dakota with his grandparents, and then learns about survival the hard way, with the help of a dog he rescues. (10-13)

#### \*Big Red

by Jim Kjelgaard

(Holiday House, P\$8.95) 978-0-8234-2391-0

This beloved adventure, first published in 1945, is about a boy and the Irish setter he is entrusted with. (10-14)

#### The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale

by Carmen Agra Deedy and Randall Wright, drawings by Barry Moser

(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-595-9

A cat and a mouse, each with a secret, become unlikely friends in a London inn frequented by Charles Dickens. (9-13)

#### A Dog's Way Home

by Bobbie Pyron

(Katherine Tegen/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-198674-1

Separated from his family and his "special girl" Abby, Tom, a Shetland sheepdog, endures incredible hardships while trying to find his way home. (9-12)

#### Saving Zasha

by Randi Barrow

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-20632-7

In Russia after World War II, two brothers find a German shepherd and struggle to keep it at a time when anything related to their enemy was routinely destroyed. (10-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### ANTHOLOGIES

#### **The Chronicles of Harris Burdick**

by Chris Van Allsburg, introduction by Lemony Snicket

(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$24.99)

978-0-547-54810-4

The 1984 winner of the Irma Simonton Black Award for best picture book returns with original short stories as imagined by award-winning authors. (9-12)

#### **Guys Read: Thriller**

edited by Jon Scieszka

(Walden Pond Press, \$16.99) 978-0-06-196376-6

Encounter ghosts, monsters, bullies, criminals, and the boys who confront them in these ten stories. Evocative black-and-white illustrations. (9-13)

### COMING OF AGE

#### **\*Calli Be Gold**

by Michele Weber Hurwitz

(Wendy Lamb/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-73970-2

The family of Calli, "ordinary" in an overachieving family, learns to appreciate her extraordinary gifts. (8-10)

#### **\*Camo Girl**

by Kekla Magoon

(Aladdin/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-7804-6

Sixth-grader Ella tries to stay loyal to a friend who is retreating into an imaginary life, but she wants to be friends with the popular crowd, too. (10-12)

#### **EllRay Jakes Is a Rock Star**

by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper

(Viking/Penguin, \$14.99) 978-0-670-01158-2

Third-grader EllRay wants to distinguish himself, so he takes several of his father's rare crystals and gives them away. He redeems himself and makes his father proud. (7-10)

#### **Ellray Jakes Is Not a Chicken!**

by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper

(Viking/Penguin, \$14.99) 978-0-670-06243-0

Can a small African American third-grade boy stand up to his bullying classmates in a suburban school? Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

#### **The Great Wall of Lucy Wu**

by Wendy Wan-Long Shang

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-16215-9

Looking forward to a sixth-grade year of friendships and basketball, Chinese American Lucy meets her stumbling blocks—head on. (10-13)

#### **Hound Dog True**

by Linda Urban

(Harcourt/HMH, \$15.99) 978-0-547-66869-1

Mattie, a painfully shy fifth grader, learns to develop friendships and value herself with the help of her Uncle Potluck. (8-12)

#### **How Tía Lola Saved the Summer**

by Julia Alvarez

(Knopf/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86727-9

When a father, his three daughters, and a dog visit her Vermont farm, Tía Lola creates a magical camp that has a profound effect on the lives of the participants. (8-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### COMING OF AGE, continued

#### **The Lovely Shoes**

by Susan Shreve

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99)

978-0-439-68049-3

Fourteen-year-old Franny won't go to any more high school dances because of her deformed right foot—but her mother has a plan. (9-12)

#### **The Luck of the Buttons**

by Anne Ylvisaker

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5066-7

Twelve-year-old Tugs becomes suspicious of a dapper newcomer to her small Iowa town and helps prevent everyone getting swindled. (9-12)

#### **A Million Miles from Boston**

by Karen Day

(Wendy Lamb/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-73899-6

For Lucy, the summer before middle school promises to be the best ever at her family's Maine cottage, until there are some unexpected arrivals. (9-12)

#### **My Name is Mina and I Love the Night**

by David Almond

(Delacorte/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-74073-9

Because her view of the world is different, nine-year-old Mina is homeschooled by her mother and records her creativity in her journal. Sensitive writing. (10-12)

#### **The Ogre of Oglefort**

by Eva Ibbotson

(Dutton/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-525-42382-9

Orphan Ivo, a Hag, a troll, and a wizard are sent to rescue Princess Mirella from the fearsome Ogre. But in Oglefort, very little is as it seems. (8-12)

#### **Pie**

by Sarah Weeks

(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-27011-3

After the death of Aunt Polly, an extraordinary baker of pies, ten-year-old Alice learns how to overcome her sadness while solving the mystery of the pie crust recipe. (9-12)

#### **Pit Pony**

by Joyce Barkhouse

(Formac, P\$9.95) 978-0-88780-924-8

The only good thing about working in the coal mines for eleven-year-old Willie is the time spent with his beloved pit pony. Tender black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

#### **The Popularity Papers: The Long-Distance Dispatch between Lydia Goldblatt and Julie Graham-Chang**

by Amy Ignatow

(Amulet/Abrams, \$15.95) 978-0-8109-9724-0

Best friends Julie and Lydia are separated as they are about to enter junior high. Is their dream of being popular doomed? Cartoon illustrations. (9-11)

#### **Season of Secrets**

by Sally Nicholls

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99)

978-0-545-21825-2

After the death of their mother, Molly and Hannah are sent by their dad to live with grandparents. To cope with the situation, Hannah acts out, but Molly finds an imaginary world. (9-12)

#### **The Star Maker**

by Laurence Yep

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-025315-8

Taunted by an older cousin, Chester makes a promise he may not be able to keep: to give everyone fireworks for New Year's Eve. (8-10)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### COMING OF AGE, continued

#### Starfields

by Carolyn Marsden

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4820-6

Although they're from different cultures, Rosalba and Alicia have become friends. But what can an illiterate Mayan girl contribute to their shared project of saving the frogs? (9-12)

#### The Summer before Boys

by Nora Raleigh Baskin

(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-8673-7

The summer before she turns thirteen, Julia learns what real friendship is while waiting for her mother to return from duty in Iraq. (9-12)

#### \*The Sundown Rule

by Wendy Townsend

(Namelos, \$18.95) 978-1-60898-100-7

Louise and her father live in a rural area near a lake full of wonderful, wild creatures. When her dad is assigned to work in Brazil, she faces some adjustments. (10-13)

#### Tall Story

by Candy Gourlay

(David Fickling/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-75217-6

English-born Andi is crazy about basketball. Will her eight-foot-tall half brother, newly arrived from the Philippines, help or hinder her school sports career? (10-12)

#### \*True (...sort of)

by Katherine Hannigan

(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-196873-0

Where Delly Pattison goes, trouble follows. She is on her very last chance as she tries a life-saving friendship with Ferris Boyd. (9-12)

### With a Name Like Love

by Tess Hilmo

(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-38465-4

The itinerant Love "preaching family" sets up camp in Binder, Arkansas. They become involved in a local tragedy and work to set things straight. (10-14)

### FANTASY



#### Beasts

by Stephanie Brockway, illustrated by Ralph Masiello

(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-57091-718-9

Thirteen-year-old Abigail's strange life takes a turn for the stranger when an anonymous letter leads her to embark on a quest. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations. (10-13)

#### The Boy at the End of the World

by Greg van Eekhout

(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-524-2

Pod-boy travels with a robot and a mammoth in a dying, inhospitable world (9-12)

#### The Emerald Atlas

by John Stephens

(Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-375-86870-2

An enthralling adventure takes three kids from their bleak orphanage lives to a magical land where they change the course of history and learn how special they are. (9-12)

#### Liesl & Po

by Lauren Oliver

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-201451-1

A whimsical ghost, Po, and his familiar, Bundle, give depth to this story of a wicked stepmother, a magic potion, and a girl on a quest. (9-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### FANTASY, continued

#### **No Passengers beyond This Point**

by Gennifer Choldenko

(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3534-7

When India, Finn, and Mouse are sent to live with their uncle, their journey becomes a mysterious adventure. (10–13)

#### **Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes**

by Jonathan Auxier

(Amulet/Abrams, \$16.95) 978-1-4197-0025-5

Stolen magical eyes give ten-year-old Peter, a blind orphaned thief, the chance to be an unlikely hero. (8-12)

#### **Secrets at Sea**

by Richard Peck, illustrations by Kelly Murphy

(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3455-5

A family of mice follow their human family onto a ship bound for Victorian London, where they meet with “high society.” (8-12)

#### **Small Persons with Wings: (They Hate to Be Called Fairies)**

by Ellen Booraem

(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3471-5

Adventure and magic lead thirteen-year-old Mellie to real friendship and the truth about fairies. (8-11)

#### **A True Princess**

by Diane Zahler

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-182501-9

Lilia's quest to find her true origins and save her best friend is filled with adventure. (8-11)

#### **Wildwood**

by Colin Meloy, with illustrations by Carson Ellis

(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-202468-8

When Prue McKeel's baby brother is abducted, she enters the “Impassable Wilderness” to rescue him and discovers a magical world full of danger and discord. (9-12)

#### **You Will Call Me Drog**

by Sue Cowing

(Carolrhoda/Lerner, \$16.95) 978-0-7613-6076-6

A sinister talking puppet refuses to leave eleven-year-old Parker's hand. What can he do to get rid of it? (9-12)

#### **You'll Like It Here (Everybody Does)**

by Ruth White

(Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-73998-6

The Blues—aliens who were forced to leave their home—are searching for a place that offers security but also intellectual freedom. (10-12)

### FOLKLORE AND FAIRY TALES

#### **\*How the Leopard Got His Claws**

by Chinua Achebe with John Iroaganachi,

illustrated by Mary GrandPré

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4805-3

Dog, who is bullied, uses violence to overthrow leopard's peaceful rule of the animal kingdom, compelling leopard to become a brutal leader himself. Powerful illustrations. (8-11)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### FOLKLORE AND FAIRY TALES, continued



#### **Treasury of Greek Mythology: Classic Stories of Gods, Goddesses, Heroes & Monsters**

by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrations by Christina Balit (National Geographic, \$24.95) 978-1-4263-0844-4  
European-language scholar Napoli reinterprets these well-known tales in a lavishly illustrated, oversized collection, ranging from the familiar to lesser-known deities. (10–13)

#### **The Wise Fool: Fables from the Islamic World**

by Shahrukh Husain, illustrated by Micha Archer (Barefoot Books, \$15.99) 978-1-84686-226-7  
These traditional tales are enhanced with colorful collage illustrations. (9–12)

### HISTORICAL FICTION

#### **All the World's a Stage: A Novel in Five Acts**

by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by Thomas Cox (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2281-4  
Caught stealing purses, twelve-year-old Kit is rescued by Will Shakespeare. Although he thinks he wants to be an actor, Kit learns that his real calling is to be a carpenter. (10-12)

#### **An Elephant in the Garden**

by Michael Morpurgo (Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-312-59369-8  
With Russian and American armies closing in on Dresden toward the end of World War II, a German family struggles to survive and protect a young zoo elephant. (9-12)

#### **Breaking Stalin's Nose**

by Eugene Yelchin (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9216-5  
Ten-year-old Sasha Zaichik is about to join Stalin's Young Pioneers when his own father is arrested by state security officers. Liberally illustrated with black-and-white drawings. (10-12)

#### **Dragons of Silk**

by Laurence Yep (Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-027518-1  
Several generations of girls and women learn the importance of love and sacrifice—and the silken thread that ties their family together. (10-13)

#### **Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans**

written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Balzer + Bray/Harper Collins, \$19.99) 978-0-06-173074-0  
A grandmother relates the history of African Americans from the early settlers up to the present. Accompanied by brilliant oil paintings. (9-13)

#### **I Will Come Back for You: A Family in Hiding During World War II**

written and illustrated by Marisabina Russo (Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86695-1  
A grandmother's charm bracelet carries reminders of her childhood as a Jew in Italy before and during the war. Colorful gouache illustrations. Endpapers contain photographs of the author's family. (8-10)

#### **\*Inside Out & Back Again**

by Thanhha Lai (Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-196278-3  
Ha and her family find new battles to fight in Alabama when they flee South Vietnam in 1975. (9-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### **HISTORICAL FICTION, continued**

#### **Johnny Swanson**

by Eleanor Updale

(David Fickling/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-75198-8

In 1929 England is still suffering from the loss and injury of World War I. Johnny tries to help his impoverished mother and gets caught up in a murder mystery. (9-12)

#### **Just in Time, Abraham Lincoln**

written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco

(Putnam/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25471-0

Brothers Michael and Derek travel back in time to the days after the battle of Antietam. Expressive pencil and watercolor illustrations. (9-12)

#### **Lights on the Nile**

by Donna Jo Napoli

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-166793-0

In ancient Egypt, a young girl accompanied by her pet baboon seeks the help of the gods when she is forced to travel up the Nile. (9-12)

#### **Maggie & Oliver or A Bone of One's Own**

by Valerie Hobbs, illustrated by Jennifer Thermes

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9294-3

A stray dog and an orphaned ten-year-old girl suffer poverty and homelessness until they find each other and a home. (8-11)

#### **\*Marching with Aunt Susan: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Women's Suffrage**

by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Stacey Schuett

(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-593-5

In 1896 in Berkeley, California, a young girl, inspired by a speech of Susan B. Anthony's, joins the struggle to pass a law allowing women to vote. (8-12)

#### **Me & Jack**

by Danette Haworth

(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$16.99)

978-0-8027-9453-6

After Air Force brat Joshua moves with his dad to a new town, he rescues an unusual Pharaoh hound and fights to keep him after the dog, Jack, is accused of killing local animals. (8-11)

#### **The Romeo and Juliet Code**

by Phoebe Stone

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99)

978-0-545-21511-4

Sent to safety with her Maine grandmother on the eve of World War II, British eleven-year-old Felicity solves a family mystery and changes several lives. (9-12)

#### **Sylvia & Aki**

by Winifred Conkling

(Tricycle/Random House, \$16.99)

978-1-58246-337-7

An unlikely bond develops between two girls, as each is caught up in her own form of racial segregation. Based on actual events. Bibliography included. (9-11)

#### **The Trouble with May Amelia**

by Jennifer L. Holm

(Atheneum/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-1373-3

In 1900 twelve-year-old May Amelia has to be strong to live in her large Finnish-American family with seven brothers. Evocative pen and ink illustrations. (10-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### HISTORICAL FICTION, continued

#### **With the Might of Angels: The Diary of Dawnie Rae Johnson: Hadley, Virginia, 1954**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

(Scholastic, \$12.99) 978-0-545-29705-9

In 1954 twelve-year-old Dawnie Rae integrates an all-white school in Hadley, Virginia, where her family consequently suffers abuse and financial distress. Archival photographs and historical notes. (9-12)

#### **Wrapped**

by Jennifer Bradbury

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-9007-9

In England during the Napoleonic Wars, Agnes, a privileged but plucky teenager, becomes intrigued by Egyptology and a mysterious plot against her country. (9-12)

### HUMOR

#### **Alvin Ho: Allergic to Dead Bodies, Funerals, and Other Fatal Circumstances**

by Lenore Look, pictures by LeUyen Pham

(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-375-86831-3

When Alvin's grandfather loses his best friend, Alvin precipitously agrees to accompany him to the funeral—and then imagines every possible thing that might go wrong. (8-11)



#### **Big Nate On a Roll**

by Lincoln Peirce

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$12.99)

978-0-06-194438-3

Nate's finding his way through crushes, disappointments, a fund-raiser, and friendships—all with humor. (9-12)

#### **\*Cheesie Mack Is Not a Genius or Anything**

by Steve Cotler, illustrated by Adam McCauley

(Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86437-7

Can Cheesie Mack and his best friend, Georgie, survive their fifth-grade graduation and solve the mystery of the 1909 penny? (9-11)

#### **The Great Hamster Massacre**

written by Katie Davies, illustrated by Hannah Shaw  
(Beach Lane Books/S&S, \$12.99)

978-1-4424-2062-5

Anna and Tom finally overcome their parents' objection to a new pet—with disastrous results—in this funny import from Britain. Lively black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

#### **The Hidden Gallery**

by Maryrose Wood, illustrated by Jon Klassen

(Balzar + Bray/HarperCollins, \$15.99)

978-0-06-179112-3

Three feral children (supposedly raised by wolves) now live in a grand house and are ready to visit London, accompanied by their intrepid governess. (9-11)

#### **The Loser List**

by H. N. Kowitt

(Scholastic, \$9.99) 978-0-545-24004-8

After Danny, a talented twelve-year-old comic artist, risks being friends with dangerous school bullies, he finds answers to a difficult situation and discovers more about himself. (8-11)

#### **My Life as a Stuntboy**

by Janet Tashjian, illustrated by Jake Tashjian

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$13.99) 978-0-8050-8904-2

A twelve-year-old boy who struggles to read finds his life becoming complicated when he is chosen to perform stunts in a movie. Humorously told. (9-11)

\*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### Humor, continued

#### **The Reinvention of Bessica Lefter**

by Kristen Tracy

(Delacorte/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-73688-6

Named after America's fearless first woman aviator, Bessica is scared to begin middle school without her best friend but then she finds her niche. (10-12)



#### **Wonkenstein: The Creature from My Closet**

by Obert Skye

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$12.99)

978-0-8050-9268-4

Rob prides himself on a junk-filled closet, and when a small creature mysteriously pops out, the fun really begins. Amusing ink drawings on every page. (9-12)

### SCIENCE FICTION

#### **Bongo Fishing**

by Thacher Hurd

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9100-7

A 1960 Dodge Dart, piloted by a small bluish ET named Sam, lands in Berkeley and launches Jason on a series of adventures. (9-12)



#### **Missile Mouse: Rescue on Tankium3**

written and illustrated by Jake Parker

(Graphix/Scholastic, P\$10.99)

978-0-545-11717-3

Galactic Security Agent Missile Mouse must battle Blazing Bat to free Tankium3 and its enslaved inhabitants from the evil King Bognarsh in this graphic adventure. (8-11)

### Steel

by Carrie Vaughn

(Harper Teen/Harper Collins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-154791-1

Sixteen-year-old Jill has lost a fencing tournament, but her skill enables her to triumph during a swashbuckling time-travel adventure with Caribbean pirates. (9-13)

### SPORTS (FICTION)

#### **Goal Line**

by Tiki Barber and Ronde Barber, with Paul Mantell

(Paula Wiseman/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-9095-6

When ninth grade begins, two young football stars begin to show differences, despite being identical twins. (9-12)

### TODAY

#### **\*Better Than Weird**

by Anna Kerz

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-362-7

It's a real challenge for Aaron to fit in with his sixth-grade peers, but he just knows that when his dad comes back everything is going to get better. (10-12)

#### **Bigger Than a Bread Box**

by Laurel Snyder

(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86916-7

When her mother decides she must take her children to live with their grandmother, Rebecca's familiar world falls apart. Magic solves some problems but creates others. (9-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### TODAY, continued

#### \*Bluefish

by Pat Schmatz

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5334-7

Travis, called "Bluefish" at his old school, gets a new start in eighth grade in his new town, thanks to peer Velveeta and a kind teacher. He grows and builds self confidence. (10-12)

#### The Boy Who Wanted to Cook

by Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Steve Adams

(Sleeping Bear, \$16.95) 978-1-58536-534-0

Ten-year-old Pierre yearns to be a chef at his family's restaurant, but his parents think he's too young. Can he convince them to give him a chance? Expressive illustrations. (8-10)

#### Cinderella Smith

by Stephanie Barden, illustrations by Diane Goode  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-0-06-196423-7

Poor Cinderella! She can't hold on to both shoes. When old friends snub her she ends up at the "smart boys table." A new friend helps. (8-12)

#### Close to Famous

by Joan Bauer

(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01282-4

After her Dad's death in Iraq, Foster—an amazing cook—and her mom escape an abusive situation and start a new life in a small West Virginia town. (9-12)

#### \*The Fingertips of Duncan Dorfman

written by Meg Wolitzer

(Dutton/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-525-422304-1

Duncan, Nate, and April tackle the challenges of Scrabble while resolving mysteries and conundrums in their own lives. (8-12)

#### \*Hidden

by Helen Frost

(Farrar/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-38221-6

Two fourteen-year-olds forge a bond at summer camp, overcoming a shared horrifying past. Told in alternating poetic chapters. (10-12)

#### Junonia

by Kevin Henkes

(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$15.99)

978-0-06-196417-6

When Alice becomes ten on her annual vacation to Florida, she hopes to find everyone she knows there—but things change, and so does Alice. (9-12)

#### Katie and the Cupcake Cure

by Coco Simon

(Simon Spotlight/S&S, P\$5.99) 978-1-4424-2275-9

Will things get better for Katie, who faces middle school after losing her best friend? (10-12)

#### The Lemonade Crime

by Jacqueline Davies

(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$15.99)

978-0-547-27967-1

Money disappears from the pocket of his brother Evan's shorts, and Jessie has a good idea who's responsible. A trial of the prime suspect, Scott, involves their fourth-grade class, with surprising results. (8-10)

#### Lexie

by Audrey Couloubis

(Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-85632-7

Expecting a one-on-one beach vacation with her divorced dad, Lexie reluctantly learns to accept his fiancée and her two sons. (8-10)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### TODAY, continued

#### Mimi

by John Newman  
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5415-3  
Mimi has been hit by a bus, and the family is falling apart. Will the efforts and love of Mimi's extended Irish family allow them all to heal? (9-12)

#### \*Pearl Verses the World

by Sally Murphy, illustrated by Heather Potter  
(Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-4821-3  
In amusing free verse and soft black and white illustrations, Pearl expresses how lonely she feels at school, but loved and secure at home until her grandmother's illness. (8-12)



#### The Penderwicks at Point Mouette

by Jeanne Birdsall  
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-85851-2  
During a summer vacation in Maine, three sisters in this loving family help discover the truth. (8-11)

#### Possum Summer

by Jen K. Blom, illustrated by Omar Rayyan  
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2331-6  
An eleven-year-old girl's love of animals leads her to make bad, sometimes dangerous choices in this heart-warming story of life on an Oklahoma cattle ranch. (8-11)

#### Trouble-Maker

by Andrew Clements  
(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-4930-5  
Clayton thinks it's cool to act out in school until the brother he was trying to impress surprises him. (8-11)

#### Waiting for the Magic

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Amy June Bates  
(Atheneum/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-2745-7  
Papa leaves, and the family turns to new pets to help cope with the separation. (8-11)

#### Waiting to Forget

by Sheila Kelly Welch  
(Namelos, P\$9.95) 978-1-60898-115-1  
T. J. and his younger sister, Angela, move from a dysfunctional family to adoption. (10-14)

#### Warp Speed

by Lisa Yee  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99)  
978-0-545-12276-4  
Running from the bullies who fought him, seventh grader Marley becomes a champion runner. (9-12)

### POETRY

#### Born and Bred in the Great Depression

by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Kimberly Bulcken Root  
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-375-86197-0  
The author shares evocative memories of his life during the 1930s as his family struggles to survive are captured with descriptive watercolors. Endpaper photographs. (8-12)

#### \*Cousins of Clouds: Elephant Poems

by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer, illustrated by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy  
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-618-90349-8  
Elephants are celebrated with vibrant, unusual illustrations and amusing, clever poems, accompanied by interesting, factual information on each page. (8-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### POETRY, continued

#### **Never Forgotten**

by Patricia C. McKissack, artwork by Leo and Diane Dillon  
(S&W/Random House, \$18.99) 978-0-375-84384-6  
Nomadic Musafa, an African boy apprenticed to his blacksmith father, is captured and enslaved. Verse lament accompanied by woodcut illustrations. (9-14)

#### **Planet Middle School**

by Nikki Grimes  
(Bloomsbury, \$15.99) 978-1-59990-284-5  
Joylin's transition from child to adolescent is told in free verse. School, sports, boys, and home all contribute to acceptance of her teen persona. (9-12)

#### **Roots and Blues: A Celebration**

by Arnold Adoff, paintings by R. Gregory Christie  
(Clarion/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-547-23554-7  
The history of African Americans from preslavery days to the present is reflected in these connected poems about the development of the blues. Powerful, acrylic paintings. (10-14)

#### **Under the Mambo Moon**

by Julia Durango, illustrated by Fabricio VandenBroeck  
(Charlesbridge, \$12.95) 978-1-57091-723-3  
The customers in Papa's music store describe their favorite Latin dances in a series of poems. Vibrant colored pencil illustrations alternate with black-and-white prints. (8-11)

#### **We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart**

by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers  
(Collins/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-052308-4  
A celebration of multicultural America which depicts who we are. Uses historical quotes. (8-14)

### INFORMATION BOOKS

#### ACTIVITIES

#### **Cool! Whoa! Ah and Oh!: What is an Interjection?**

by Brian P. Cleary, illustrated by Brian Gable  
(Millbrook/Lerner, \$16.95) 978-1-58013-594-8  
Wow! Here is an engaging way to learn grammar through playful rhymes and humorous examples and illustrations. (9-11)

#### **Inkblot: Drip, Splat, and Squish Your Way to Creativity**

written and illustrated by Margaret Peot  
(Boyd's Mills, \$19.95) 978-1-59078-720-5  
The history and methods of making inkblot art are described with questions to guide your interpretation, image-making, and creative writing. (10-16)

#### ARTS

#### **Before They Were Famous: How Seven Artists Got Their Start**

by Bob Raczka, with photographs  
(Millbrook/Lerner, \$25.26) 978-0-7613-6077-3  
Were Michelangelo and Picasso great painters even when they were kids? These brief portraits provide intriguing information about them and five other famous artists. (9-11)

#### **Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite**

written by Anna Harwell Celenza, illustrated by Don Tate  
(Charlesbridge, \$19.95) 978-1-57091-700-4  
The process from inception to finished recording illuminates the thinking of the jazz master. Watercolor and chalk illustrations. CD included. (8-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### ARTS, continued

#### **Migrant Mother: How a Photograph Defined the Great Depression**

by Don Nardo

(Compass Point/Capstone, \$25.83)

978-0-7565-4397-6

The iconic Dorothea Lange WPA photograph is presented in the context of the times with short biographies of the artist and subject. (9-12)

### BIOGRAPHY

#### **Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider**

by Jean Fritz, illustrated by Ian Schoenherr

(Putnam/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25546-5

As a teenage immigrant from the British West Indies, Hamilton arrived in the United States and changed the course of history as a soldier, poet, lawyer, and politician. (9-12)

#### **Alicia Alonso: Prima Ballerina**

by Carmen T. Bernier-Grand, illustrated by Raúl Colón

(Marshall Cavendish, \$19.99) 978-0-7614-5562-2

Free verse and colorful paintings depict the significant events in the life of Cuba's famed ballet dancer. Glossary, chronology, notes, and sources. (9-12)

#### **\*Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart**

by Candace Fleming

(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$18.99)

978-0-375-84198-9

The first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic set many other records before she disappeared in the attempt to circumnavigate the globe. Archival photos and graphics. (10-14)

#### **Father Abraham: Lincoln and His Sons**

by Harold Holzer

(Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills, \$17.95)

978-1-59078-303-0

The famous president is described in his role as the busy and extremely indulgent father of a complicated family haunted by tragedy. Archival illustrations. (9-12)

#### **For the Birds: The Life of Roger Tory Peterson**

by Peggy Thomas, illustrated by Laura Jacques

(Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills, \$16.95)

978-1-59078-764-9

As a child, Peterson watched, identified, and drew birds. As an adult he was an artist, an author of famous bird guides, and a conservationist. (8-10)

#### **Hammerin' Hank Greenberg: Baseball Pioneer**

by Shelley Sommer

(Calkins Creek/Boyds Mills, \$17.95)

978-1-59078-452-5

This comprehensive biography of the famous baseball player explores not only his professional exploits, but also his personal struggles. (10-12)

#### **\*Harry Houdini: The Legend of the World's Greatest Escape Artist**

by Janice Weaver, illustrated by Chris Lane

(Abrams, \$18.95) 978-1-4197-0014-9

From humble beginnings to death-defying feats, he became a master showman. Resources and notes. (9-11)

#### **J.R.R. Tolkien**

by Alexandra Wallner, illustrated by John Wallner  
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-1951-7

The life of the author of *The Lord of the Rings* was ordinary, but with his extraordinary imagination he created magical tales. Gentle multimedia illustrations. (8-11)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### BIOGRAPHY, continued

#### **The Many Faces of George Washington: Remaking a Presidential Icon**

by Carla Killough McClafferty

(Carolrhoda/Lerner, \$20.95) 978-0-7613-5608-0

Busts of Washington, created to illustrate key moments in history, were developed for a project at Mount Vernon. Photographs, notes, bibliography, and timeline included. (9-12)

### ECOLOGY



#### **Energy Island: How One Community Harnessed the Wind and Changed Their World**

by Allan Drummond

(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-32184-0

Learn how Samsø, an island in Denmark, used wind and other renewable resources to become energy independent. Cheerful ink and watercolor illustrations. (7-10)

#### **\*The Manatee Scientists: Saving Vulnerable Species**

by Peter Lourie

(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$18.99)

978-0-547-15254-7

Are manatees fish or mammals, mermaids or elephants? Find the answers in this stunning exploration that includes excellent photographs, fun facts, resources, and glossary. (9-13)

#### **\*The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families**

by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore, illustrated by Susan L. Roth

(Lee & Low, \$19.95) 978-1-60060-459-1

A project to plant trees on salty coasts to sustain impoverished communities is described in poetry and prose. Extraordinary collages and photographs. (8-11)

### **World without Fish**

by Mark Kurlansky, illustrated by Frank Stockton (Workman, \$16.95) 978-0-7611-5607-9

The effect of overfishing, technology, and global warming on ocean life is described. Although no sources are included, the author has written extensively in this field and they are easily available. Excellent illustrations and design. (10-14)

### HISTORY

#### **1862, Fredericksburg: A New Look at a Bitter Civil War Battle**

by K. M. Kostyal, photographs by Lori Epstein

(National Geographic, \$17.95) 978-1-4263-0835-2

The perspectives of slaves and Confederate and Union soldiers are presented. Photographs. (10-13)

#### **\*America Is under Attack: September 11, 2001: The Day the Towers Fell**

written and illustrated by Don Brown

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-1-59643-694-7

This is a clear, matter-of-fact narrative of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. (9-12)

#### **Franklin and Winston: A Christmas That Changed the World**

by Douglas Wood, illustrated by Barry Moser (Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-3383-7

Enjoy a delightful glimpse into the historic relationship between two legendary leaders, Roosevelt and Churchill, and their determination to defend justice throughout the world. Watercolor illustrations based on historical photographs. (8-10)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### HISTORY, continued

#### **\*The Great Migration: Journey to the North**

by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Jan Spivey Gilchrist

(Amistad/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-125921-0

Representative figures give voice to one of the great demographic shifts in United States history. Evocative collage illustrations. (9-12)

#### **\*Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea, and Air**

by Stewart Ross, illustrated by Stephen Biesty (Candlewick, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-4948-7

Fourteen historic land and sea expeditions are recounted with fascinating fold-outs and cross sections. (8-12)

#### **Irena Sendler and the Children of the Warsaw Ghetto**

by Susan Goldman Rubin, illustrated by Bill Farnsworth

(Holiday House, \$18.95) 978-0-8234-2251-7

A young Polish Catholic worker saved Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. Well documented with bibliography and notes. (9-11)

#### **\*Kennedy through the Lens: How Photography and Television Revealed and Shaped an Extraordinary Leader**

by Martin W. Sandler

(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$19.99) 978-0-8027-2160-0

Captivating stand-alone chapters illustrate how, for the first time in history, media and technology changed the way we look at our leaders.

Comprehensive resources and archival photographs. (9-12)

#### **Marco Polo: History's Great Adventurer**

by Clint Twist

(Templar Books/Candlewick, \$19.99)

978-0-7636-5286-9

Fascinating fold-outs and removable maps enhance this portrayal of Marco Polo's 20-year journey and visit to China, based primarily on Polo's own writings. Illustrated with photos and reproductions of artifacts. (10-14)

#### **\*The Mysteries of Angkor Wat: Exploring Cambodia's Ancient Temple**

written and photographed by Richard Sobol

(Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-4166-5

Learn about a photographer's personal exploration of these fascinating ruins for clues about the ancient Khmer people and their link to present-day Cambodian culture. Extraordinary photographs. (8-11)

#### **Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War Hero**

by Marissa Moss, illustrated by John Hendrix

(Abrams, \$18.95) 978-0-8109-9735-6

Disguised as a man during the Civil War, Sarah Edmonds fought bravely, performed grueling work as a nurse, and undertook dangerous spy missions. Evocative, detailed multimedia illustrations. (9-11)

#### **Saga of the Sioux: An Adaptation from Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee***

by Dwight Jon Zimmerman

(Henry Holt, \$18.99) 978-0-8050-9364-3

The story of the Sioux frontier resettlement, told from a Native American perspective, is adapted from Dee Brown's *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. Archival photographs. (9-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### HISTORY, continued

#### **We Stand as One: The International Ladies Garment Workers Strike, New York, 1909**

by Laura B. Edge

(Twenty-First Century/Lerner, \$38.60)

978-0-7613-4609-8

Risking imprisonment, abuse, and their lives when they protested in 1909 in New York City, teenaged girls helped change the way factories were run. Resources include footnotes, bibliography, and websites. (10-13)

#### **Which Side Are You On?: The Story of a Song**

by George Ella Lyon, illustrated by Christopher Cardinale

(Cinco Puntos, \$17.95) 978-1-933693-96-5

In 1931 the wife of a United Mine Workers organizer wrote the words to this song, which is a union anthem to this day. Bold illustrations. Bibliography. Words and music included. (8-10)

#### **Who Will Shout If Not Us?: Student Activists and the Tiananmen Square Protest, China, 1989**

by Ann Kerns

(Twenty-First Century/Lerner, \$38.60)

978-0-8225-8971-6

This is the story of the young people who, in the spring of 1989, took on the oppressive government of China because they believed in freedom, equality, and civil rights. Time lines, bibliography, and index. (10-12)

### MATHEMATICS

#### **Eat Your Math Homework: Recipes for Hungry Minds**

by Ann McCallum, illustrated by Leeza Hernandez

(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-57091-779-0

Playfully illustrated rabbits introduce math concepts through recipes. (8-10)

### Mathemagic!: Number Tricks

by Lynda Colgan, illustrated by Jane Kurisu

(Kids Can, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-425-8

Clever "magic tricks" illustrate the uses of ancient and modern number systems. (10-16)

### MEMOIR

#### **\*Drawing From Memory**

by Allen Say

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-17686-6

Through the masterful blending of original drawings and photographs, Say recounts his courageous journey as a Japanese youth to develop his artistic talent. (9-12)

#### **\*The House Baba Built: An Artist's Childhood in China**

by Ed Young, text as told to Libby Koponen

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-07628-9

In multimedia illustrations, the artist creates a captivating portrait of his childhood in World War II Shanghai and pays tribute to his remarkable father. (9-12)

#### **How to Die of Embarrassment Every Day**

by Ann Hodgman

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-8705-5

Author Ann Hodgman shares humorous anecdotes from her childhood--even the embarrassing ones. (8-12)

### RELIGION

#### **\*The Story of Christmas**

From the *King James Bible*, illustrations by Pamela Dalton

(Handprint/Chronicle, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-0470-6

Detailed cut paper and watercolor artwork richly evokes the story of Jesus's birth. (7-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

### RELIGION, continued

#### \***Tales From India: Stories of Creation and the Cosmos**

by Jamila Gavin, illustrated by Amanda Hall  
(Templar/Candlewick, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-5564-8  
Meet Brahma, Lakshmi, Ravana, and other Hindu gods and goddesses in their journeys and adventures. Exquisite Indian-miniature-style gouache illustrations. (8-11)

#### \***The Twelve Days of Christmas**

illustrated by Laurel Long  
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3357-2  
Highly detailed illustrations invite the reader to find the gifts of each of the twelve days of Christmas on each page. (7-10)

### SCIENCE

#### **13 Planets: The Latest View of the Solar System**

by David A. Aguilar, photos  
(National Geographic, \$16.95) 978-1-4263-0770-6  
The latest and greatest discoveries and theories about our universe are presented. Magnificent photos and paintings illustrate the text. (9-12)

#### \***The Elephant Scientist**

written by Caitlin O'Connell and Donna M. Jackson, photographs by Caitlin O'Connell and Timothy Rodwell  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$17.99)  
978-0-547-05344-8  
Magnificent, close-up photographs help to describe the communication, group behavior, and more about African elephants in their native habitat. (9-12)

#### **Far from Shore: Chronicles of an Open Ocean Voyage**

written and illustrated by Sophie Webb  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$17.99)  
978-0-618-59729-1

A day-to-day description of the ocean and its life during a Pacific voyage is enhanced with soft, skillful watercolors. (10-14)

#### **Feel the Force**

by Tom Adams  
(Templar Books/Candlewick, \$18.99)  
978-0-7636-5566-2

What exactly is electricity? Magnetism? Light? Pop-ups, pull tabs, and flaps plus a few experiments explain why things work the way they do. (8-11)

#### \***Hatch!**

written and illustrated by Roxie Munro  
(Marshall Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5882-1  
Read the hints and look at the eggs. Can you guess which bird laid them? (8-12)

#### **Journey into the Deep: Discovering New Ocean Creatures**

by Rebecca L. Johnson, foreword by Sylvia A. Earle  
(Millbrook/Lerner, \$31.93) 978-0-7613-4148-2  
Scientists explore the ocean from the surface to its depths to discover new species of life. Brilliant photographs, glossary, and bibliography. (8-12)

#### \***Seabird in the Forest: The Mystery of the Marbled Murrelet**

written and illustrated by Joan Dunning  
(Boyd's Mills, \$17.95) 978-1-59078-715-1  
Where does the marbled murrelet nest and raise young? After many years of searching, scientists found the surprising answer. Lush, textured illustrations. (8-12)

\*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Graphic Format

(8-10) Suggested age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

## Nine to Twelve

2012 Edition

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### SCIENCE, continued

#### **Ticks: Dangerous Hitchhikers**

by Sandra Markle

(Lerner, \$29.27) 978-0-7613-5041-5

All you want to know about ticks (or not!) is included in this accurate, well-illustrated scientific study. Useful information about protection from tick bites (8-11)

### SPORTS

#### **Odd Ball: Hilarious, Unusual, and Bizarre Baseball Moments**

by Timothy Tocher, illustrated by Stacy Curtis

(Marshall Cavendish, \$15.99) 978-0-7614-5813-5

Black-and-white cartoon-like illustrations and a combination of facts and humor make this fun to read. (8-12)

### TECHNOLOGY

#### **Just Fine the Way They Are: From Dirt Roads to Rail Roads to Interstates**

by Connie Nordhielm Wooldridge, illustrated by Richard Walz

(Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills, \$17.95)

978-1-59078-710-6

The story of American transportation is accompanied by rich, engaging illustrations. Timeline, bibliography, and resources. (7-10)

#### **\*Trapped: How The World Rescued 33 Miners from 2,000 Feet below the Chilean Desert**

by Marc Aronson

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-1397-9

In August 2010 experts from around the world cooperated in a harrowing rescue of miners trapped in an unsafe mine. Includes source notes and suggestions for further reading. (9-12)