

*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



Mature
content



Graphic Format

(10-12) Suggested
age range

Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

FICTION

COMING OF AGE

Alice Bliss

by Laura Harrington

(Viking/Penguin, \$25.95) 978-0-670-02278-6

When Alice's father is unexpectedly shipped out to Iraq, the fifteen-year-old must come to terms with her sense of loss while navigating family relationships and a budding romance. (13-15)

Badd

by Tim Tharp

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86444-5

A teenage girl changes her views of courage after her beloved brother returns home from the Iraq War. (12-16)

Butterflies

by Susanne Gervay

(Kane/Miller/EDC, P\$6.99) 978-1-61067-043-2

Having suffered severe burns and scarring as a three-year-old, Katherine relies on the love and help of her mother and older sister until she becomes her own person. (12-16)



Famous

by Todd Strasser

(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-7511-3

Sixteen-year-old Jamie, a talented photographer, becomes ensnared in a world of superstars, ultimately forcing her to bring the world into closer focus. (12-15) [Mature content]

First Club

by Cathleen Daly

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$15.99)

978-1-59643-572-8

Best friends, Annie and Izzy, join forces to navigate the challenging social world of middle school. (11-13)

Four Seasons

by Jane Breskin Zalben

(Knopf/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-86222-9

Allegro started to play the piano at the age of four. Now thirteen, she faces a decision about the role of music in her future. (12-15)

Island's End

by Padma Venkatraman

(G.P. Putnam's/Penguin \$16.99)

978-0-399-25099-6

Chosen as the island's spiritual leader, Uido confronts the threat of strangers who are destroying her people's traditions. (12-15)

***Jasper Jones**

by Craig Silvey

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86666-1

In a small town in Australia, bookish thirteen-year-old Charlie learns about loyalty and friendship when the town "bad boy" asks him to help cover up a murder in order to find the one person really responsible. (12-14)

Long Story Short

by Siobhán Parkinson

(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-1-59643-647-3

To escape a chaotic home, fourteen-year-old Jonathan runs away with his eight-year-old sister only to find greater difficulties. (12-15)

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Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

COMING OF AGE, continued

Orchards

by Holly Thompson, illustrated by Grady McFerrin
(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-385-73977-1

Sent to spend the summer with her mother's family in Japan, Kana reflects on her complicity in the events that led to a classmate's suicide at home. Told in free verse. (12-15)

Out of the Box

by Michelle Mulder

(Orca, P\$9.95) 978-1-55469-328-3

New friends, a budding passion, and an unexpected discovery fill Ellie's summer with her free-spirited aunt and empower her to face her dysfunctional parents. (12-14)

The Rites & Wrongs of Janice Wills

by Joanna Pearson

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

978-0-545-19773-1

Janice, a high school anthropologist-in-training, provides a tongue-in-cheek look at teenage stereotypes, beauty pageants, and small-town life. (12-15)

Rival

by Sara Bennett Wealer

(Harper Teen/Harper Collins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-182762-4

Through their junior and senior high school years, Brooke and Kathryn compete for friends and music scholarships as misunderstandings undermine their friendships. (12-16)

Sparrow Road

by Sheila O'Connor

(G.P. Putnam's/Penguin \$16.99)

978-0-399-25458-1

When her mother takes a job as housekeeper in a former orphanage turned summer artists' colony, Raine faces a lonely summer away from friends and her beloved grandpa—but she makes some surprising discoveries. (12-14)

*The Summer I Learned to Fly

by Dana Reinhardt

(Wendy Lamb/Random House, \$15.99)

978-0-385-73954-2

After Birdie meets Emmett Crane, she starts to experience her world in a new way. Exquisitely written. (12-14)

The Summer of May

by Cecilia Galante

(Aladdin/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-8023-0

May, a very angry thirteen-year-old, must take a class in summer school with Movado the Avocado—the worst English teacher ever. (11-14)

Under the Mesquite

by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

(Lee & Low, \$17.95) 978-1-60060-429-4

As her mother battles cancer, Lupita takes on the responsibility for her seven younger siblings while finding refuge in acting and writing poetry. Told in free verse. Includes Spanish glossary. (12-14)

Viola in the Spotlight

by Adriana Trigiani

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-145105-8

Fifteen-year-old Viola uses her film skills to put turn lens on her changing relationships with her family and friends. (12-15)

*= Outstanding merit



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Graphic Format

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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

COMING OF AGE, continued

***What Happened to Goodbye**

by Sarah Dessen

(Viking/Penguin, \$19.99) 978-0-670-01294-7

High school senior McLean resists relationships as she and her divorced father move often, but finally she finds friends who won't let her escape them...or herself. (12-14)

You Don't Know about Me

by Brian Meehl

(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-385-73909-2

Sixteen-year-old Billy escapes from his repressive, fanatically religious mother, embarking on a journey to discover the truth about his biological father. (11-14)

FANTASY

All Good Children

by Catherine Austen

(Orca, \$19.95) 978-1-55469-824-0

When all children are being vaccinated to make them obedient, Max and a friend are not included. Can they escape their increasingly repressive society? (12-15)

The Black

by D. J. MacHale

(Aladdin/S&S, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-6517-6

Cooper, a headstrong boy in life, carries his stubbornness into his afterlife and finds himself fighting real evil to protect the living. (11-15)

The Blackhope Enigma

by Teresa Flavin

(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5694-2

Walking a labyrinth in Blackhope Castle leads artistically talented teens into an enchanted sixteenth-century painting—but can they get out? (12-14)

Breadcrumbs

by Anne Ursu

(Walden Pond/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-201505-1

As eleven-year-old Hazel searches the frightening forest in hopes of finding Jack and reclaiming their friendship, she learns to examine the obstacles within her own head. (11-14)

Darkness Becomes Her

by Kelly Keaton

(Simon Pulse/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-0924-8

In attempting to trace her history, Ari finds herself in ruined New Orleans with vampires and other strange creatures—and discovers she belongs there. (12-15)

Death Watch

by Ari Berk

(Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-9115-1

When his father disappears, Silas grows into his missing father's peculiar occupations. Vivid characters explore love and loss. (12-15)

Divergent

by Veronica Roth

(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-202402-2

In this breathtaking dystopian adventure, the most important thing for sixteen-year-old Beatrice is to make the right choice. (12-14)

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

FANTASY, continued

The Door in the Forest

by Roderick Townley

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-85601-3

Fourteen-year-old Daniel, his younger brother, Wes, and their enigmatic new friend, Emily, are drawn to a mysterious, inaccessible island in hopes that it will somehow lead to saving their village from ruin. Will the soldiers who are hunting Emily prevent them from succeeding? (11-14)

***The Fox Inheritance**

by Mary E. Pearson

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-8829-8

Their bodies were destroyed 260 years ago, but their minds were preserved. Now Locke and Kara are alive in bioengineered bodies—with profound, dire consequences. (12-15)

The Girl behind the Glass

by Jane Kelley

(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86220-5

Eleven-year-old twins are haunted by a ghost who struggles to share her story of an injustice that occurred eighty years before. (10-13)

The Girl of Fire and Thorns

by Rae Carson

(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-202648-4

A newly-married princess learns to value her wisdom and problem-solving abilities when she battles to save her kingdom through magic and faith. (12-16)

The Girl Who Became a Beetle

by Greg Taylor

(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, P\$9.99)

978-0-312-60683-1

Sixteen-year-old Regina, an aspiring rock star, gets everything she wishes for—and then has to decide whether she wants to keep it. (13-16)

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making

by Catherynne M. Valente, illustrated by Ana Juan

(Feiwel and Friends, \$16.99) 978-0-312-64961-6

Whisked away from her dull life, September arrives in Fairyland, where things are not perfect either. Whimsically illustrated in black-and-white. (12-14)

Kat, Incurigible

by Stephanie Burgis

(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-9447-3

Twelve-year-old Kat uses magic to upend the traditions of courtship and romance in Regency England. Humorous fantasy. (11-13)

***Lost and Found**

written and illustrated by Shaun Tan

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$21.99)

978-0-545-22924-1

This collection of three stories about loss, friendship, and hope is richly and imaginatively illustrated in the author's unique mixed-media style. (9-13)

May

by Kathryn Lasky

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-78311-8

After her fifteenth birthday, May discovers that she is a mermaid. Should she return to the sea or continue to live on land? (11-13)

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

FANTASY, continued

The Midnight Zoo

by Sonya Hartnett, illustrated by Andrea Offermann

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5339-2

Two Romany brothers, struggling to survive in their war-torn country, find themselves in a small zoo populated by talking animals. Gentle black-and-white illustrations. (11-13)

Ruby Red

by Kerstin Gier

(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9252-3

At sixteen, Gwen likes being a regular girl, but when she discovers she can travel through time and is part of a secret society, everything changes. (12-14)

The Scorpio Races

by Maggie Stiefvater

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-22490-1

On an island where carnivorous horses erupt from the water, Sean—who can control them—and Puck enter the violent, annual horse race. The outcome is bittersweet. (13-16)

Siren's Storm

by Lisa Papademetriou

(Knopf/Random House, \$15.99) 978-0-375-84245-0

Seventeen-year-old Will encounters mermaids, legends, and myths as he deals with his brother's death and his friend's sleepwalking. (12-16)

***Steampunk!: An Anthology of Fantastically Rich and Strange Stories**

edited by Kelly Link and Gavin J. Grant
(Candlewick, \$22.99) 978-0-7636-4843-5

Wondrous machines, natural disasters, witches, and outlaws fill fourteen superbly written stories combining the scientific and the magical. (13-16)



Texas Gothic

by Rosemary Clement-Moore

(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-385-73693-0

Ranch-sitting with her sister, seventeen-year-old Amy finds a corpse, a ghost, and romance. Convincing details of Texas farm life. (12-16)
[Mature content]

Through Her Eyes

by Jennifer Archer

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-183458-5

In this ghostly tale, sixteen-year-old Tansy faces her new haunted home, school, and friendships through her camera lens. (12-16)

The Undrowned Child

by Michelle Lovric

(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-385-73999-3

In 1899 eleven-year-old Teodora becomes involved in a mysterious, deadly serious battle between good and evil. Can she help prevent the destruction of Venice? (11-13)

Warped

by Maurissa Guibord

(Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-73891-0

In a lively fantasy woven of elements from the past and present, Tessa struggles to determine her true self. (12-14)

*= Outstanding merit



Read Aloud



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

HISTORICAL FICTION

***Anya's War**

by Andrea Alban

(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)

978-0-312-37093-0

A Russian Jewish girl, whose family seeks refuge in Shanghai in 1937, learns to adapt to her new environment while maintaining her Jewish traditions. (12-16)

The Auslander

by Paul Dowswell

(Bloomsbury, \$17.99) 978-1-59990-633-1

In Germany in 1941–1943, when orphaned thirteen-year-old Peter is taken in by a loyal Nazi family, his slowly developing awareness leads him to take life-threatening risks. (11-14)

Belladonna

by Mary Finn

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5106-0

Illiterate Thomas Rose's future prospects are dim until two chance meetings. Set in eighteenth-century England. (12-14)

The Berlin Boxing Club

by Robert Sharenow

(HarperTeen/Harper Collins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-157968-4

Boxing lessons from the international hero, Max Schmeling, allow Karl to escape bullying, but not the horrors of the Nazi regime as it engulfs his artistic Jewish family. (12-14)

***Between Shades of Gray**

by Ruta Sepetys

(Philomel/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25412-3

In this tale of bravery in the face of brutality, fifteen-year-old Lina and her family are crowded onto a train that takes them from Russian-occupied Lithuania to Siberia. (12-16)



***Bird in a Box**

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$16.99)

978-0-316-07403-2

Three African American children, each dealing with different losses and cherishing different dreams, become friends and find hope in each other--and in the triumph of Joe Louis. (11-14)

Cleopatra's Moon

by Vicky Alvear Shecter

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$18.99)

978-0-545-22130-6

Despite the death of her famous parents, Mark Antony and Queen Cleopatra of Egypt, Cleopatra Selene determines to surmount the dangers that perpetually surround her and to live in her mother's image. (12-15)

***Daughter of Xanadu**

by Dori Jones Yang

(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-385-73923-8

In thirteenth-century Mongolia, Princess Emmajin becomes a warrior, but her heart changes when she meets Marco Polo. Extensive glossary. (12-16)

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

HISTORICAL FICTION, continued

Deadly

by Julie Chibbaro, illustrated by Jean-Marc Superville Sovak
(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-0-689-85738-6
When sixteen-year-old Prudence Galewski joins the Department of Health in 1906, progress is made in understanding typhoid, and an unwitting carrier is revealed. (12-16)

***Eddie's War**

by Carol Fisher Saller
(Namelos, P\$9.95) 978-1-60898-109-0
Eddie is too young to enlist in World War II, but from his farm in Ellisville, Illinois, he sees how the conflict affects all its citizens, including his bomber pilot brother, Tom. Beautifully written prose vignettes. (11-14)

Father of Lies

by Ann Turner
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-137085-4
In 1692 fourteen-year-old Lidda attempts to expose the lies of the Salem witch trials while dealing with her own mental problems. (12-16)

Hurricane Dancers: The First Caribbean Pirate Shipwreck

by Margarita Engle
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-8050-9240-0
A young slave on a pirate ship in the Caribbean in the 1500s begins a new, free life when a hurricane sinks the vessel. Told in verse. (12-16)

***Jefferson's Sons**

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley
(Dial/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3499-9
What would you do if Thomas Jefferson were your father and you couldn't call him "papa"? A nuanced portrait of our third president and the meaning of the Declaration of Independence. (11-14)

***The Lost Crown**

by Sarah Miller
(Atheneum/S&S, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-8340-8
With extensive research, the author pieces together the last few years in the lives of Tzar Nicholas II's children. (12-15)

***My Name Is Not Easy**

by Debby Dahl Edwardson
(Marshall Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-5980-4
In 1960s Alaska, Eskimo and Indian children attend a Catholic boarding school where they confront ethnic hostilities and attempts to suppress their traditional culture. (10-14)

The Other Countess

by Eve Edwards
(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-385-74089-0
Titled but without a fortune, can Lady Eleanor survive her alchemist father's embarrassing behavior and overcome the Earl of Dorset's disdain? (12-14)

***Phantoms in the Snow**

by Kathleen Benner Duple
(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-19770-0
Once a pacifist, fifteen-year-old Noah learns that sometimes good people have to do bad things to fight evil. (12-14)

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

HISTORICAL FICTION, continued

Promise the Night

by Michaela Maccoll

(Chronicle, \$16.99) 978-0-8118-7625-4

This fictional account of Beryl Markham's childhood imagines what might have inspired the spunk and determination that led to her trans-Atlantic flight. (11-13)

Small Acts of Amazing Courage

by Gloria Whelan

(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-0931-6

In India after World War I, when Rosalind becomes interested in Gandhi's teachings, her family sends her to a family in England she does not know. (11-14)

The Traitor's Smile

by Patricia Elliott

(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2361-3

Sixteen-year-old Eugenie, from an aristocratic family, flees from the French Revolution and joins her English cousin in a thrilling effort to save her brother and herself. (12-15)

HUMOR

***Dead End in Norvelt**

by Jack Gantos

(FSG/MACMILLAN, \$15.99) 978-0-374-37993-3

Twelve-year-old Jack Gantos is grounded for the summer, but escapes by promising to assist an elderly neighbor write her extraordinary obituaries. (10-14)

SCIENCE FICTION

Ashes, Ashes

by Jo Treggiari

(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-25563-9

Sixteen-year-old Lucy struggles to survive in a Manhattan devastated by plague, global warming, and roving warriors. (12-16)

Everfound

by Neal Shusterman

(SIMON & SCHUSTER, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-9049-9

Abbie and her allies fight to thwart Mary and her "children's" plan to destroy Earth. (12-16)

***How I Stole Johnny Depp's Alien Girlfriend**

by Gary Ghislain

(Chronicle, \$16.99) 978-0-8118-7460-1

Fourteen-year-old David finds hilarious adventures and self-confidence with Zelda, who claims she is from another planet. (12-15)

A Long, Long Sleep

by Anna Sheehan

(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5260-9

After sixty years, sixteen-year-old Rosalinda is awakened by a Prince Charming but faces a strange new world including attempts to "terminate" her. (11-14)

Memento Nora

by Angie Smibert

(Marshall Cavendish, \$16.99) 978-0-7614-5829-6

Teenagers Nora, Micah, and Winter start an underground magazine to rebel against the literally mind-numbing establishment. (12-15)

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

SPORTS

Pick-Up Game: A Full Day of Full Court

edited by Marc Aronson and Charles R. Smith,
photographs by Charles R. Smith.
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4562-5
Nine interwoven stories, poems, and photographs
portray street basketball players and their fans.
(12-14)

TODAY

***The Absolute Value of Mike**

by Kathryn Erskine
(Philomel/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25505-2
Can a fourteen-year-old help a town full of loving
but dysfunctional adults raise \$40,000 in three
weeks to adopt a Romanian child? (11-14)

All the Things You Are

by Courtney Sheinmel
(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-9717-7
When her mother is imprisoned for embezzlement,
seventh grader Carly's life is upended. Can she
learn to forgive? (11-14)

The Beginning of After

by Jennifer Castle
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-198579-9
Sixteen-year-old Laurel's life changes in a single
moment when her entire family is killed in a car
accident. How does she cope? (12-15)

Dogtag Summer

by Elizabeth Partridge
(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-183-1
The summer before she enters junior high school,
Tracy, an adopted Vietnamese girl, finds something
that brings back painful memories. (11-14)

***Guantanamo Boy**

by Anna Perera
(Albert Whitman, \$17.99) 978-0-8075-3077-1
On vacation in Pakistan, a fifteen-year-old British
boy, Khalid Ahmed, is seized and sent to
Guantanamo where he suffers brutal interrogation
and torture. (12-16)

I'll Be There

by Holly Goldberg Sloan
(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99)
978-0-316-12279-5
Seventeen-year-old Sam needs to protect his
brother Riddle from their volatile, unstable father.
When they meet Emily's family, they learn what a
loving home can be. (12-14)

Like Mandarin

by Kirsten Hubbard
(Delacorte/Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-385-73935-1
Serious fourteen-year-old Grace admires carefree
classmate Mandarin, but eventually learns the
limits of friendship. (12-14)

***A Monster Calls**

by Patrick Ness
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5559-4
As his mother is dying, Connor learns to accept the
truth through the redemptive power of
storytelling. (11-14)



Moonglass

by Jessi Kirby
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1694-9
When her father's job requires that they move to
the Pacific beach town where her mother
drowned, Anna's relationship with him is
threatened. (13-15) [Mature content]

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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

TODAY, continued

***Now is the Time for Running**

by Michael Williams

(Little, Brown/Hachette, \$17.99)

978-0-316-07790-3

As fourteen-year-old Deo and his handicapped brother flee to escape violence in their Zimbabwe village, they encounter increased violence and xenophobia, but soccer is a saving grace. (12-16)

***Okay for Now**

by Gary D. Schmidt

(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-15260-8

When fourteen-year-old Doug moves to a new town, he finds inspiration and strength in surprising places, despite some serious family problems. (11-16)

The Pull of Gravity

by Gae Polisner

(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-37193-7

When their friend dies of a rare disease, two teenagers search for the father who abandoned him. (12-15)

***The Queen of Water**

by Laura Resau and María Virginia Farinango

(Delacorte/Random House, \$16.99)

978-0-385-73897-2

As a seven-year-old, a Quechua Indian Ecuadorian girl becomes an indentured servant and struggles to find her identity. Based on a true story. (12-16)

The Running Dream

by Wendelin Van Draanen

(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86667-8

When a sixteen-year-old running star loses her leg in an accident, she is certain that her life is over. Gradually she begins to learn that people are not their disabilities. (12-15)

***See What I See**

by Gloria Whelan

(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, \$16.99)

978-0-06-125545-8

An aspiring artist reconnects with her estranged father, a famous painter, now ill and impoverished. (12-14)

Stay

by Deb Caletti

(Simon Pulse/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-0373-4

To escape Christian, her abusive boyfriend, Clara and her father move to a remote town in Washington state, but Christian finds them. (12-14)

This Girl Is Different

by J. J. Johnson

(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-578-2

When homeschooled Eve spends her senior year in a public high school, she causes havoc by challenging its undemocratic rules and routines. (12-14)

Where I Belong

by Gillian Cross

(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2332-3

From the relative safety of London, Khodija uses her modeling talent to rescue her younger brother who was kidnapped in Somalia (11-14)



Words in the Dust

by Trent Reedy

(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99)

978-0-545-26125-8

Zulaikha's life in contemporary Afghanistan changes when American soldiers operate on her cleft lip, and her deceased mother's friend teaches her how to read. (11-14) [Mature content]

*= Outstanding merit



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Best Children's Books of the Year

Twelve to Fourteen

2012 Edition

POETRY

At the Sea Floor Café: Odd Ocean Critter Poems

by Leslie Bulion, illustrated by Leslie Evans
(Peachtree, \$14.95) 978-1-56145-565-2
Poetry and prose describe various fascinating creatures. Hand-colored block prints enliven each page. Includes glossary, sources, and information about the poetic forms. (11-14)

***Requiem: Poems of the Terezin Ghetto**

by Paul B. Janeczko
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4727-8
The horrific experiences in the Terezin Ghetto are recreated through the voices of inmates and German officers in powerful verse and stark artwork. (11-16)

***The Watch That Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic**

by Allan Wolf
(Candlewick, \$21.99) 978-0-7636-3703-3
In varied verse forms, the passengers, the crew, the rats—and the iceberg—tell the dramatic story of the famous shipwreck. (12-16)

INFORMATION BOOKS

BIOGRAPHY

***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)

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by Andrea Warren
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$18.99)
978-0-547-39574-6
Forced into child labor himself, Dickens demonstrated his concern for the poor—particularly children—in his literature, influencing reforms. Notes, index, and bibliography. (12-14)

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by Susan Goldman Rubin
(Charlesbridge, \$19.95) 978-1-58089-344-2
Although his father disapproved of his goal of having a career in music, Leonard followed his passion and triumphed in his chosen profession. Wonderful photographs. (10-12)

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The Constitution

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The Emancipation Proclamation

by Stephen Krensky
(Marshall Cavendish, \$23.95) 978-0-7614-4912-6,
978-0-7614-4917-1, 978-0-7614-4913-3,
978-0-7614-4915-7
What is the story behind the creation of these vital documents in the development of the United States government? (12-14)

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*= Outstanding merit



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by Marjorie Gann and Janet Willen

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by Gail Jarrow

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When ancient bones are found, they stir up an old controversy between Native Americans and archaeologists. Glossary, bibliography, and notes. (11-14)

Raggin' Jazzin' Rockin': A History of American Musical Instrument Makers

by Susan VanHecke

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Who was the most famous drummer in the United States? Which piano maker changed his name? Find answers to these questions and more in this well-researched and informative history. Archival photographs. (10+)

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written and illustrated by Rosalyn Schanzer

(National Geographic, \$16.95) 978-1-4263-0869-7

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RELIGION



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by George O'Connor

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Among the Olympians, Hera is often portrayed as spiteful, but here her story is told from a different point of view. Powerful, graphic style. (11-14)

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Learn about the origins and traditions of the Islamic faith, including its connections to Judaism and Christianity. Includes chronology, glossary, and sources. (12-16)

SCIENCE

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by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

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by Dora Lee, illustrated by Margot Thompson

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Discover how inventions such as Velcro, sharkskin-inspired swimsuits, and biodegradable plastics and many more were created. (11-14)

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This humorous, irreverent, and sometimes gory examination of the life and death of nineteen celebrities is not for the squeamish! Includes fascinating related facts and a multitude of sources. (12-14)

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The creation of the bicycle in the late 1800s transformed transportation and dress and provided equal opportunity. Archival material and photographs. (10-14)