GREAT BOOKS TO READ IN 1ST GRADE 2015
SELECTED BY MS. BOCK
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Cover image by Ms. Amanda Bock, with help from Ms. Deb Kramer. Next year, we’ll have a contest for students in each grade, so start thinking about ideas.
Introduction from the Librarian

Dear students, teachers, and families,

I am so pleased to offer these book lists to you. All year, students, teachers, and parents ask me for suggestions for reading material, and giving recommendations is one of my favorite things to do. I hope that these lists will offer a starting point for anyone looking for something excellent to read.

The most important thing in elementary school is that students find books they enjoy reading. I firmly believe that there is a book out there for every reader. If you haven’t yet found books that make you want to stay up all night reading under the covers, don’t worry. Maybe you’ll discover some in this booklet! The important thing is to keep trying different books until you find the ones that are perfect for you.

I sincerely hope that there will be something for everyone on this list. There are picture books, novels, informational books, poetry, and graphic novels. There are books in every genre, classics, and new releases. What they all have in common is that every single one is worth reading.

The lists are made up of books that will be of interest to students in that grade. I have paid little attention to reading level, except to make sure that there is a wide range on each list. For some students, this will mean listening to an audiobook or having someone read a book aloud to them. I encourage everyone to access the stories in whatever way suits them. Family read-alouds are a fantastic way to spend time together, regardless of anyone’s age.

I hope you’ll tell me if the lists are helpful. I already have some ideas for how to make them even better next year. When you find a new favorite, be sure to come and tell me about it!

Happy reading!

Amanda Bock
How to Use This Book

The list has been divided into broad categories.

**Stories** This section includes fictional and true stories, including folk and fairly tales. They may be picture books, early readers, chapter books, graphic novels, or novels.

**Information** These books contain factual information designed to teach about a topic or explore an idea. They tend to be heavily illustrated, and some may be designed for early readers, but most are geared towards fluent readers (i.e. adults).

**Poetry** This section is mostly made up of collections of poetry. Occasionally, there will be a book that is a single poem, illustrated.

Whether a book is a read-to-self or a read-aloud will depend on the reading skills of each individual student. Families are encouraged to read together as much as possible.

The authors and illustrators listed are generally recommended. Due to space considerations, not all of their works are listed. If you find an author or illustration who you like, look at the library or bookstore for their other books!

Within each section, the books are arranged in alphabetical order by the author’s last name.

Almost all of the books will be available at any self-respecting bookstore. There are a few under-appreciated gems that will only be available at the public library or a used bookstore. When that is the case, I have tried to include that information in the annotation.

Most of the annotations come from publishers’ websites, although some have been written especially for this list. The source or contributor is indicated in parentheses at the end. Can you do a better job describing a book or series? Write it up and bring it to the Library! Maybe it will be included in next year’s booklet!
What’s Great About Being a Reader in First Grade

First Grade students are putting together the building blocks of reading for themselves. They are continuing to gather information about the world around them. These students can now listen to longer stories, and appreciate more sophisticated humor and writing.

Ms. Bock’s Top Picks for Grade 1

Overwhelmed by the number of books on this list? Start with these. Find the annotations in the main list.

Stories
Why Mosquitos Buzz in People’s Ears by Verna Aardema
Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard
Hi, Fly Guy! by Tedd Arnold
Shark Vs. Train by Chris Barton
Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
When Dinosaurs Came With Everything by Elise Broach
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild by Peter Brown
Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel
Dex: the Heart of a Hero by Caralyn Buehner
One Cool Friend by Toni Buzzeo
Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney
I Lost My Bear! by Jules Feiffer
The Farmer and the Clown by Marla Frazee
The Beast in Ms. Rooney’s Room by Patricia Reilly Giff
A Story, A Story by Gail E. Haley
Duck and Goose by Tad Hills (series)
Pinky and Rex by James Howe (series)
This is Not My Hat by Jon Klassen
Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester (series)
Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester
Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same by Grace Lin
An Extraordinary Egg by Lio Lionni
How I Became a Pirate by Melinda Long
Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle by Betty MacDonald
Precious and the Boo Hag by Patricia McKissack
Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne (Magic Tree House)
Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathman
Top Picks for Grade 1

**Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Ryland (series)**

**Imogene’s Antlers by David Small**

**Sylvester and the Magic Pebble by William Steig**

**Alexander and the Terrible Horrible No Good Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst**

**Information**

**books by Nic Bishop**

**Faces of the Moon by Bob Crelin**

**Same Same by Marthe Jocelyn**

**She’s Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head by Kathryn Lasky**

**You’re Aboard Spaceship Earth by Patricia Lauber**

**Move! by Robin Page**

**I See a Kookabura! by Robin Page**

**Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart**

**Balloons Over Broadway by Melissa Sweet**

**The Book of Cities by Piero Ventura**

**Brothers At Bat: the True Story of an Amazing All-Brothers Baseball Team by Audrey Vernick**

**Poetry**

**Monarch and Milkweed by Helen Frost**

**A House is a House for Me by Mary Ann Hoberman**

**Forget-Me-Not: Poems to Learn by Heart by Mary Ann Hoberman**

**Swirl by Swirl by Joyce Sidman**
New Recommended Books for Everyone

These books were published in the last year and may be of interest to all readers, regardless of age.

**Arégui, Matthias. *Before After***
Which came first? No words are necessary in this beautiful, artfully humorous book, in which every turn of the page offers a surprise. (candlewick.com)

**Barnett, Mac. *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole***
Sam and Dave are on a mission. A mission to find something spectacular. So they dig a hole. And they keep digging. And they find... nothing. Yet the day turns out to be pretty spectacular after all. Attentive readers will be rewarded with a rare treasure in this witty story of looking for the extraordinary — and finding it in a manner you’d never expect. (candlewick.com)

**Cronin, Doreen. *The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure***
No job is too big or small for the shortest, yellowest, fuzziest detectives around: The Chicken Squad. Follow Dirt, Sugar, Poppy and Sweetie as they piece together the mysteries of their backyard friends while stirring up some trouble too! (simonandschuster.com)

**DiPucchio, Kelly. *Gaston***
A bulldog and a poodle learn that family is about love, not appearances in this adorable doggy tale from New York Times bestselling author Kelly DiPucchio and illustrator Christian Robinson. (simonandschuster.com)

**Escoffier, Michaël. *Take Away the A***
Take Away the A is a fun, imaginative romp through the alphabet. The idea behind the book is that within
every language there are words that change and become a different word through the simple subtraction of a single letter. (enchantedlion.com)

**Florian, Douglas. Poem Depot: Aisles of Smiles**
In the vein of Shel Silverstein and Jack Prelutsky, this illustrated book of humorous poems will guarantee giggles! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Frazee, Marla. The Farmer and the Clown**
Whimsical and touching images tell the story of an unexpected friendship and the revelations it inspires in this moving, wordless picture book from two-time Caldecott Honor medalist Marla Frazee. (simonandschuster.com)

**Himmelman, John. Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny**
Introducing Isabel, aka Bunjitsu Bunny! She is the BEST bunjitsu artist in her school, and she can throw farther, kick higher, and hit harder than anyone else! But she never hurts another creature... unless she has to. (us.macmillan.com)

**Janeczko, Paul B. Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems**
Celebrated poet and anthologist Paul B. Janeczko pairs with Caldecott Honoree Melissa Sweet for a collection of short poems to sample and savor. (candlewick.com)

Here is a poetic ode to the beauty of the natural world as expressed by the movement and moods of water on Earth. (leeandlowbooks.com)
Morales, Yuyi. *Viva Frida*
Distinguished author/illustrator Yuyi Morales illuminates Frida’s life and work in this elegant and fascinating book. (us.macmillan.com)

Myers, Christopher. *My Pen*
My pen rides dinosaurs and hides an elephant in a teacup. What can your pen do? Acclaimed author and illustrator Christopher Myers uses rich black-and-white illustrations to bring a sketchbook to life, showing that with a simple pen, a kid can do anything! (books.disney.com)

Peña, Matt De La. *Last Stop on Market Street*
This energetic ride through a bustling city highlights the wonderful perspective only grandparent and grandchild can share, and comes to life through Matt de la Pena’s vibrant text and Christian Robinson’s radiant illustrations. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Pizzoli, Greg. *Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower*
In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. “Count Victor Lustig,” moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A con artist, that is. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Samworth, Kate. *Aviary Wonders Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual*
What can you do when all the birds are gone? Build your own! This comic environmental fable offers a businessman’s dollars-and-sense solution to the drastic effects of deforestation. (hmhco.com)

Schatz, Kate. *Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future!*
American history was made by countless rad—and often radical—women. By offering a fresh and diverse
array of female role models, we can remind readers that there are many places to find inspiration, and that being smart and strong and brave is rad. (citylights.com)

**Spires, Ashley. The Most Magnificent Thing**
Award-winning author and illustrator Ashley Spires has created a charming picture book about an unnamed girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog. (kidscanpress.com)

**Willems, Mo. Waiting Is Not Easy!**
The newest book in the Elephant & Piggie series! (Ms. Bock)
Aardema, Verna, *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale*
In this West African folk tale, retold by Verna Aardema, a mosquito brags to an iguana that he spied a farmer digging yams as big as mosquitoes. The iguana scoffs at such a notion and refuses to listen to any more nonsense. Grumbling, he puts sticks in his ears and scuttles off through the reeds and sets off a chain reaction among myriad animals inhabiting the same landscape. (scholastic.com)

Abbott, Tony, *The Hidden Stairs And The Magic Carpet*
Eric, Julie, and Neal have just found something magic in Eric’s basement. They have discovered a staircase to another world! The world of Droon is amazing—full of magic, flying lizards, and fun, furry creatures. But how will Eric, Julie, and Neal find their way home? Maybe their new friend, Princess Keeah, can help. (scholastic.com) This is the first in The Secrets of Droon series. They are best when read in order.

Adler, David A., *Bones and the Dinosaur Mystery*
Detective Jeffrey Bones solves crimes, but this time it's personal. He’s at a science museum when his blue Tyrannosaurus rex goes missing. Could someone have stolen it? Bones must find his T-rex! Hopefully there’s something in Bones's detective bag that can help him solve this roar of a mystery! (penguinrandomhouse.com) Bones solves many mysteries. His books can be read in any order.

Adler, David A., *Young Cam Jansen and the Dinosaur Game*
A jar full of toy dinosaurs, a game of musical chairs, and a smudge of chocolate cake. Can Cam Jansen put the clues together to solve a birthday party puzzle? This is part of the Young Cam Jansen series. You can read them in any order. (us.penguin.com)

Ahlberg, Allan, *The Pencil*
Once a pencil draws a little boy, there’s no telling what will come next — a dog, a cat, a chase (of course), and a paintbrush to
color in an ever-expanding group of family and friends. But it’s not long before the complaints begin — "This hat looks silly!" "My ears are too big!" — until the poor pencil has no choice but to draw . . . an eraser. Oh, no! In the hands of Allan Ahlberg and Bruce Ingman, creators of The Runaway Dinner and Previously, can anything but havoc and hilarity ensue? (candlewick.com)

Allard, Harry, Miss Nelson Is Missing!
The students don’t proffer a shred of respect for their good-natured teacher Miss Nelson, but when the witchy substitute Miss Viola Swamp appears on the scene, they start to regret their own wicked ways. James Marshall’s scratchy, cartoonish full-color ink and wash illustrations are hilarious. (hmhco.com) There are three books about Miss Nelson.

Amato, Mary, The Chicken of the Family
Henrietta's two older sisters love to tease her. When they try to convince her that she's actually a chicken instead of a little girl, it's pretty hard to believe at first. But the evidence is all there: her legs are kind of yellow, and her toes are kind of long. The feathers she finds beside her bed the next morning settle it, and Henrietta heads off to the farm to find her real family. The chickens welcome her with open wings, and this lovably gullible heroine's joyful acceptance of who she really is will have readers squawking with laughter. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Andersen, Hans Christian, The Emperor's New Clothes
Illustrated by the beloved creator of Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel, The Little House, and Katy and the Big Snow, here is a delightful version of the tale that boys and girls have loved for centuries. The Emperor himself, his court, and his clothes—or lack of them—are ridiculous as only the master storyteller Hans Christian Andersen can make them. Fifty-five years ago, Virginia Lee Burton added to this tale of fun her own irrepressible humor in pictures and design. (hmhco.com) (There are many editions of this story. The version illustrated by Virginia Lee Burton is particularly recommended, but there are many other excellent ones to choose from.)
Angleberger, Tom, Crankee Doodle
“Yankee Doodle went to town / a-riding on a pony / stuck a feather in his hat / and called it macaroni.” Many know the song “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” but few understand it. This unapologetically silly picture book reveals that the legendary ride to town (and the whole macaroni thing) was all suggested by Mr. Doodle’s overeager pony. This just makes Mr. Doodle cranky: “I do not want macaroni. I do not want a feather. I do not want any other clothing, any other pasta, or any other parts of a bird. I do not want anything that they have in town!” A historical note ends this colorful, comical take on a nonsensical old song. (hmhco.com)

Archer, Dosh, Urgency Emergency! Big Bad Wolf
A choking wolf is rushed to City Hospital, and a lost little girl in a red coat has been found, looking for her missing granny. What on earth did the wolf eat? Early readers have never been such fun! With bright color illustrations on every page, minimal easy-to-read text and a brilliantly fast-paced plot, this animal hospital adventure story will have young readers devouring the pages. (albertwhitman.com) This is one book in the Urgency Emergency series. They can be read in any order.

Arnold, Tedd, Hi! Fly Guy
While out on a search to find the perfect creature to bring to 'The Amazing Pet Show,' a young boy encounters a friendly fly who is more than happy to lend him a hand, in an amusing tale about a very unlikely friendship. (scholastic.com)

Atinuke, Anna Hibiscus
Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa. Amazing Africa. She lives with her whole family in a wonderful house. There is always somebody to laugh or play with. She loves to splash in the sea with her cousins and have parties with her aunties. But more than anything else in the world, Anna Hibiscus would love to see snow. (books.google.com)

Atwater, Richard, Mr. Popper’s Penguins
The Poppers unexpectedly come into possession of a penguin, then get a penguin from the zoo who mates
with the first penguin to have 10 baby penguins. Before long, something must be done before they eat the Poppers out of house and home! (goodreads.com)

**Aylesworth, Jim, The Mitten**
When a little boy loses a mitten in the snow, a passing squirrel finds it’s the perfect place to warm his icy toes. So he squeezes inside. But he’s not the only animal with that idea. How many animals can fit inside a little boy’s mitten? Jim Aylesworth’s rollicking rhyming refrains and Barbara McClintock's delightfully expressive characters are sure to make this book every child's storytime favorite.(scholastic.com) Compare and contrast this version with Jan Brett's more famous one. Which do you like better?

**Baker, Jeannie, Mirror**
Somewhere in Sydney, Australia, a boy and his family wake up, eat breakfast, and head out for a busy day of shopping. Meanwhile, in a small village in Morocco, a boy and his family go through their own morning routines and set out to a bustling market. In this ingenious, wordless picture book, readers are invited to compare, page by page, the activities and surroundings of children in two different cultures. Their lives may at first seem quite unalike, but a closer look reveals that there are many things, some unexpected, that connect them as well. Designed to be read side by side--one from the left and the other from the right--these intriguing stories are told entirely through richly detailed collage illustrations. (candlewick.com)

**Bang-Campbell, Monika, Little Rat Sets Sail**
It’s time for Little Rat to start sailing lessons. But there’s a BIG problem--she’s afraid of water! She’s scared she’ll fall in, she’s scared her boat will sink, and she’s sure the other students will laugh at her. Isn't it lucky, then, that Little Rat ends up with an instructor who helps her realize she is braver than she thinks? (books.google.com) This is the first book about Little Rat. They can be read in any order.

**Bang, Molly, Tye May and the Magic Brush**
Plucky Tye May. She learns to paint. Lucky Tye May. Her brush is magic. Wise Tye May. She thinks quickly -- and well. (books.google.com)
Barnett, Mac, *Extra Yarn*  
Extra Yarn, a Caldecott Honor Book, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winner, and a New York Times bestseller, is the story of how a young girl and her box of magical yarn transform a community. With spare, gently humorous illustrations and a palette that moves from black-and-white to a range of color, this modern fairy tale has the feel of a new classic. (harpercollins.com)

Barnett, Mac, *Guess Again!*  
This book is full of absurd riddles and rhymes. Just when you think you’ve figured it out, another surprise comes your way! (Ms. Bock)

Barnett, Mac, *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*  
Sam and Dave are on a mission. A mission to find something spectacular. So they dig a hole. And they keep digging. And they find... nothing. Yet the day turns out to be pretty spectacular after all. Attentive readers will be rewarded with a rare treasure in this witty story of looking for the extraordinary — and finding it in a manner you’d never expect. (candlewick.com)

Barnett, Mac, *Telephone*  
It’s time to fly home for dinner! In this witty picture book from award-winning and bestselling author Mac Barnett, a mother bird gives the bird next to her a message for little Peter. But passing messages on a telephone line isn’t as simple as it sounds. Each subsequent bird understands Mama’s message according to its own very particular hobbies. Will Peter ever get home for dinner? This uproarious interpretation of a favorite children’s game will get everyone giggling and is sure to lead to countless rereads. (chroniclebooks.com)

Barton, Chris, *Shark vs. Train*  
If you think Superman vs. Batman would be an exciting matchup, wait until you see Shark vs. Train. In this hilarious and wacky picture book, Shark and Train egg each other on for one competition after another, including burping, bowling, Ping Pong, piano playing, pie eating, and many more! Who do YOU think will win, Shark or Train? (hachettebookgroup.com)
**Bate, Lucy, *Little Rabbit's Loose Tooth***
What should Little Rabbit do with her loose tooth when it comes out in a dish of chocolate ice cream? Throw it away? Wear it on a necklace? Draw stars around it and hang it on the wall? Try to buy some candy with it? Or leave it under her pillow for the tooth fairy? (scholastic.com)

**Bearn, Emily, *Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall***
Tumtum and Nutmeg lead cozy and quiet lives, secretly looking after Arthur and Lucy, the disheveled human children of the cottage, never dreaming that so many exciting adventures will soon find them. But when evil Aunt Ivy, a squeamish schoolteacher named Miss Short, and pirating pond rats threaten the safety of those they hold dear, the courageous pair will stop at nothing to save the day. In three thrilling tales of daring and wit, Tumtum and Nutmeg—along with veteran hero General Marchmouse, Ms. Tiptoe’s bouncing ballerina army, and a team of caged gerbils—prove that small-size mice can have world-size hearts. (lb-kids.com)

**Beaty, Andrea, *Iggy Peck, Architect***
Iggy has one passion: building. His parents are proud of his fabulous creations, though they’re sometimes surprised by his materials—who could forget the tower he built of dirty diapers? When his second-grade teacher declares her dislike of architecture, Iggy faces a challenge. He loves building too much to give it up! With Andrea Beaty’s irresistible rhyming text and David Roberts’s puckish illustrations, this book will charm creative kids everywhere, and amuse their sometimes bewildered parents. (abramsbooks.com)

**Becker, Bonny, *A Visitor for Bear***
Bear is quite sure he doesn’t like visitors. He even has a sign. So when a mouse taps on his door one day, Bear tells him to leave. But when Bear goes to the cupboard to get a bowl, there is the mouse -- small and gray and bright-eyed. In this slapstick tale that begs to be read aloud, all Bear wants is to eat his breakfast in peace, but the mouse -- who keeps popping up in the most unexpected places -- just won’t go away! (candlewick.com)
Bell, Cece, **Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover**
Rabbit is excited: his friend Robot is coming to spend the night! Rabbit has left nothing to chance and has drawn up a list of all the things they will do. First off is making pizza, but Robot only likes nuts and bolts and screws on top (good thing he has magnetic hands). Next on the list is watching TV, but the remote is missing, and Rabbit is panicking! Will Robot find a logical (and rather obvious) solution to the problem? Number three is . . . uh-oh! Why is Robot lying down instead of playing Go Fish? And what is that message reading "BAT" printing out from a slot on his front? New readers who like silly stories will race through this funny adventure about a rabbit who likes to be in control and an obliging robot who calmly keeps their friendship humming. (candlewick.com)

**Blade, Adam, Ferno The Fire Dragon**
Strange things are happening in Tom’s village. First, the horses were attacked. Then, the river dried up. Now, the last of the crops has mysteriously burnt to the ground. Everyone is terrified. But Tom isn’t afraid. He’s always dreamed of a quest—a real quest!—and vows to go to the king and bring help for them all. But Tom soon learns that his village is not the only one in trouble. People are in trouble all over the kingdom. Hope is nearly lost. That is, until Tom is sent on the greatest quest of all—the Beast Quest. (books.google.com) This is the first book in the Beast Quest series. They are best read in order.

**Bliss, Harry, Luke On The Loose**
Luke looks on at the pigeons in Central Park, while Dad is lost in "boring Daddy talk," and before you know it—LUKE IS ON THE LOOSE! He’s free as a bird, on a hilarious solo flight through New York City. Harry Bliss, the renowned illustrator of many bestselling children’s books, finally goes on a solo flight on his own with a soaring story that will delight any young reader who has ever felt cooped up. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Blume, Judy, Freckle Juice**
Nicky has freckles—they cover his face, his ears, and the whole back of his neck. Sitting behind him in class, Andrew once
counted eighty-six of them, and that was just a start! If Andrew had freckles like Nicky, his mother would never know if his neck was dirty. One day after school, Andrew works up enough courage to ask Nicky where he got his freckles. When know-it-all Sharon overhears, she offers Andrew her secret freckle juice recipe—if he pays. Andrew is desperate and feels it’s worth it. At home he carefully mixes the strange combination of ingredients. Then the unexpected happens... (penguinrandomhouse.com) If you like this book, you should read George’s Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl.

Bolden, Tonya, Beautiful Moon
A young boy wakes. He has forgotten to say his prayers. Outside his window, a beautiful harvest moon illuminates the city around him and its many inhabitants. As the moon slowly makes its way across the heavens, the boy offers a simple prayer for the homeless, the hungry, and others.(tonyaboldenbooks.com)

Broach, Elise, When Dinosaurs Came with Everything
Just when a little boy thinks he’s going to die of boredom from running errands with his mom, the most remarkable, the most stupendous thing happens. He discovers that on this day, and this day only, stores everywhere are giving away a very special treat with any purchase. No, not the usual lollipop or sticker. Something bigger. Much, MUCH bigger. It’s a dream come true, except...what exactly do you do with these Jurassic treats? And how do you convince Mom to let you keep them? (books.simonandschuster.com)

Brown, Don, Rare Treasure: Mary Anning and Her Remarkable Discoveries
Before the word dinosaur was even invented, an English girl discovered a remarkable skeleton on the rocky beach at Lyme Regis. Thus began a lifelong passion for the woman who became one of the first commercial fossil collectors. Mary Anning (1799-1847) spent her lifetime teaching herself about fossils and combing the rugged shore for ancient treasures. Her collection thrilled the public, excited the scientific community, and proved that a woman could overcome danger and social limitations to accomplish great things. (scholastic.com)
Brown, Don, *Ruth Law Thrills a Nation*
In 1916 a young woman named Ruth Law attempted to fly from Chicago to New York City in one day—something no one else had ever done. This is the story of that daring attempt. Beautifully detailed watercolors dramatize a dangerous journey made by the pilot President Woodrow Wilson called "great." (scholastic.com)

Brown, Jeff, *Flat Stanley*
Stanley Lambchop is an ordinary boy. At least he was, until the night his bulletin board fell off the wall and flattened him. All of a sudden, Stanley can slide under doors, mail himself across the country in an envelope, and fly like a kite! But flatness has its serious side, too. Sneak thieves have been stealing paintings from the Famous Museum of Art, and Stanley knows he's the only one who can stop them. Will the robbers discover Stanley's plan before he foils theirs? (harpercollins.com)

Brown, Peter, *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*
Are you bored with being so proper? Do you want to have more fun? Mr. Tiger knows exactly how you feel. So he decides to go wild. But does he go too far? From Caldecott Honor artist Peter Brown comes a story that shows there's a time and place for everything...even going wild. (lb-kids.com)

Brown, Peter, *My Teacher Is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)*
A young boy named Bobby has the worst teacher. She's loud, she yells, and if you throw paper airplanes, she won't allow you to enjoy recess. She is a monster! Luckily, Bobby can go to his favorite spot in the park on weekends to play. Until one day... he finds his teacher there! Over the course of one day, Bobby learns that monsters are not always what they seem. (hachettebookgroup.com)

Browne, Anthony, *Me and You*
A small bear goes for a stroll in the park with his parents, leaving their bowls of porridge cooling on the kitchen table. Meanwhile, a girl with golden hair is hopelessly lost in a big, frightening city when she comes across a house with the door left invitingly
open. Inside are three bowls of porridge in the kitchen, three chairs in the living room, and three comfortable-looking beds upstairs, and no one seems to be home... (us.macmillan.com) Anthony Browne is one of the most underrated author/illustrators working today. He has created some of the most intriguing picture books in the last few decades. I encourage you to look at them all, but especially his version of Hansel and Gretel. (Ms. Bock)

**Bruel, Nick, Bad Kitty**
From the creator of The New York Times bestseller Boing! comes the riotous story of a cat gone berserk -- four times over an in alphabetical order each time. Kitty is not happy hen she’s told that her favorite foods are all gone and all that’s left are Asparagus, Beets, Cauliflower, Dill...and 22 other equally unappealing vegetables. So she: Ate my homework, Bit grandma, Clawed the curtains, Damaged the dishes, and so on, through Z. Only when tastier things arrive (An Assortment of Anchovies, Buffalo Burritos, Chicken Cheesecake...) does she Apologize to Grandma. (us.macmillan.com) There are both picture books and longer, heavily illustrated chapter books about Bad Kitty. They are all hilarious and can be read in any order.

**Brun-Cosme, Nadine, Big Wolf and Little Wolf**
Big Wolf lives alone under a tree at the top of a hill. He is alone, but happy. One day he sees another wolf approaching, a little wolf. Without a word, Little Wolf sits down next to Big Wolf. He stays all night and all the next day. At first Big Wolf is suspicious. He also is worried that Little Wolf will grow bigger and become a rival. After a while, however, he starts to feel fond of his small companion. He decides to let Little Wolf share his covers, just a little, so he isn’t cold at night. The next day he shares some of his lunch. Just as Big Wolf is starting to get used to his new friend, and even to care for him, Little Wolf disappears. Big Wolf is too proud to cry or get upset, but the reader cannot miss the great mix of emotions he feels, which are movingly portrayed in Olivier Tallec’s sensitive illustrations. Big Wolf loses his appetite and cannot sleep. He spends his time staring at the horizon, waiting for Little Wolf to return, but without the slightest reason to hope that he will. But with the arrival of spring Little Wolf does return. Big Wolf is so happy his heart almost bursts. The two wolves shyly admit that without each other they
found life lonely. Never again will they leave each other's side. (enchantedlion.com)

Bryan, Sean, A Boy and His Bunny
How would you feel if one morning you woke up with a big-eared, wet-nosed bunny on your head? Would you be surprised? And what would you do if you learned the bunny's name was Fred? And he liked it there on top of your head? You'd be different from your friends, who have nothing on their heads, but hey! That's okay too. This charming fun-filled book about a boy and special friend will delight young readers and enchant their parents as well. (arcadepub.com) If you enjoy this book, look for A Girl and Her Gator and A Bear and His Boy by the same author.

Buehner, Caralyn, Dex: The Heart of a Hero
Dexter the dog is so little that Cleevis the tomcat bullies him. But little Dex has dreams—big dreams. He wants to be a superhero. So he reads all the comic books he can, builds his muscles, and even orders a hero suit. Suddenly, even Cleevis needs his help! Dexter has determination, spirit, and heart as he proves, above all, that no matter how little you are, you can still do very big things. (harpercollins.com) (This book was originally called Superdog, which I think is a much better title. -Ms. Bock)

Buitrago, Jairo, Jimmy the Greatest!
Jimmy lives in a small town by the sea where there is just one tiny gym. The owner of the gym suggests that Jimmy start training, and to inspire him, he gives Jimmy a box full of books, as well as newspaper clippings about Muhammad Ali - "The Greatest." Jimmy is swept with admiration for Ali. He begins to read and run and box like crazy, even though someone at the gym has taken his shoes. And as he does so, he makes a great discovery: you don’t have to leave home to be "the greatest." Unlike many stories about emigration, Jairo Buitrago's simple, profound text is about someone who decides to stay in his small remote town in Latin America. Combined with Rafael Yockteng's humorous illustrations, this book will be especially appealing to boys and boxing aficionados. (houseofanansi.com)
Burkert, Rand, *Mouse & Lion*
This beautiful picture book features exquisite, detailed paintings by famed Caldecott Honor-winning artist Nancy Ekholm Burkert. In a ridge above the Kalahari, Lion naps, until Mouse bumbles into him willy-nilly, startling him awake. After a show of teeth, Lion is softened by Mouse’s pledge of loyalty, and sets him free. When a cold moon brings a humbling lesson, Lion comes to recognize Mouse’s keen skill and deeper kindness. (scholastic.com)

Burks, James, *Bird & Squirrel on the Run*
Bird and Squirrel outwit Cat and become best friends in this zany adventure. Squirrel is afraid of his own shadow. Bird doesn’t have a care in the world. And Cat wants to eat Bird and Squirrel. Of course, he’ll have to catch them first, and that’s not going to be easy. Join this trio as they head south for the winter in a hilarious road trip. But watch out! Cat is waiting around every bend, and he’s one pesky feline. (scholastic.com) This is a graphic novel.

Burnett, Frances Hodgson, *A Little Princess*
Alone in a new country, wealthy Sara Crewe tries to make friends at boarding school and settle in. But when she learns that she’ll never see her beloved father again, her life is turned upside down. Transformed from princess to pauper, she must swap dancing lessons and luxury for drudgery and a room in the attic. Will she find that kindness and generosity are all the riches she truly needs (us.penguingroup.com)

Buzzeo, Toni, *One Cool Friend*
On a spontaneous visit to the aquarium, straight-laced and proper Elliot discovers his dream pet: a penguin. When he asks his father if he may have one (please and thank you), his father says yes. Elliot should have realized that Dad was probably thinking of a toy penguin, not a real one… Clever illustrations and a wild surprise ending make this sly, silly tale a kid-pleaser from start to finish. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Byars, Betsy Cromer, *Hooray for the Golly Sisters!*
Big rivers, magic pigs, and high-wire waltzes can mean only one thing - the Golly sisters are here again! Five more adventures star those western showgirls, May-May and Rose, as they dance and sing their way out west. (books.google.com) These books are often out of print, so you’ll have better luck if you look in a library than in a bookstore.

Camcam, Princesse, *Fox’s Garden*
One snowy night, a fox loses its way, entering a village. Chased away by the grown ups, Fox takes shelter in a greenhouse. A little boy sees this from his window. Without hesitating, he brings a basket of food to the greenhouse, where he leaves it for the fox. His gift is noticed and the night becomes a garden of new life, nourished by compassion and kindness. Princesse Camcam’s cut-paper illustrations, along with the beautiful lighting of the sets she creates, make the experience of looking at these illustrations both touching and transcendent. Their beauty and essential simplicity reflect the beauty of the story. The reader is left charmed by the fox and the child and thoughtful about the emotional lives of both humans and other creatures. (indiebound.org)

Cameron, Ann, *The Stories Julian Tells*
Julian is a quick fibber and a wishful thinker. And he is great at telling stories. He can make people—especially his younger brother, Huey—believe just about anything. Like the story about the cats that come in the mail. Or the fig leaves that make you grow tall if you eat them off the tree. But some stories can lead to a heap of trouble, and that’s exactly where Julian and Huey end up! (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the series about Julian, Huey, and Gloria. They can be read in any order.

Carnesi, Monica, *Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic*
On a cold winter day, a curious dog wandered onto a frozen river, and before he knew it he was traveling fast on a sheet of ice. Many people tried to help, but the dog could not be reached. Finally, after two nights and seventy-five miles, the little dog was saved by a ship out in the
Baltic Sea. The gallant rescue of the little dog nicknamed Baltic made international news. Mônica Carnesi’s simple text and charming watercolor illustrations convey all the drama of Baltic’s journey. His story, with its happy ending, will warm readers’ hearts. An author’s note and map are included. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Carre, Lilli, Tippy and the Night Parade
When Tippy wakes up, there’s a peacock in her bedroom, a bird in her hair, and mice dancing on the headboard... Yet all Tippy remembers is falling asleep. In her first book for children, award-winning cartoonist Lilli Carré takes Tippy on an nocturnal adventure up a mountain, down a hole, and back home for endless bedtime enjoyment. (toonbooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

Catrow, David, Dinosaur Hunt
Max Spaniel is a daffy hound dog who one day decides to go on a dinosaur dig. But what Max thinks are dinosaur parts is just a lot of junk — or is it? As Max puts his fossils together, readers will see how the random objects Max finds — including a football, a hockey stick, and an old boot — transform into a living dino! New readers will laugh out loud as they follow the fantastical thoughts of this wacky hound. The ingenious story, by David Catrow, is easy to read with lots of visual humor. (scholastic.com)

Child, Lauren, Princess and the Pea, The
The tale of a prince, a princess, perfect politeness, pages of love and a peculiarly hard pea. This utterly original interpretation of the classic tale has dazzling illustrations from multi-talented collaborators, award-winning Lauren Child and widely acclaimed photographer Polly Borland. This beautifully presented picture book explores the tale of the down-to-earth princess through a stunning mix of artwork and photography to create a fairy tale to be treasured. (books.google.com)

Coerr, Eleanor, Buffalo Bill and the Pony Express
A story about Buffalo Bill and his exploits as a pony express rider. (harpercollins.com)
Coerr, Eleanor, *The Big Balloon Race*
Ariel would love to be in the basket of Lucky Star on the day of the big balloon race against Bernard the Brave. Her mother, Carlotta the Great, is the best lady balloonist in America. But Ariel's parents think she is too young. Little do they know she is asleep in the Odds and Ends box when Carlotta the Great orders "Hands off!" and the balloon race begins. The thrills of Ariel's first ride in a hydrogen balloon come to life in this story based on a real ballooning family of the late 1800's. Carolyn Croll's pictures capture the pageantry and drama of the race, and will have readers rooting to the end for Ariel and her mother. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Cole, Brock, *The Money We'll Save*
When Pa brings a turkey poult home to fatten for Christmas dinner, he assures Ma that it will be no trouble since it can live in a box by the stove and eat table scraps--and just think of the money we'll save! But it's not quite so simple to raise a turkey in a tiny flat in a nineteenth-century New York City tenement. Can Pa and the children manage the willful and growing Alfred and keep the neighbors happy until Christmas? Pa finds a solution for every difficulty--until he encounters one that threatens to ruin Christmas completely. How the family joins together to solve this last difficulty makes for a very funny and satisfying holiday story. (us.macmillan.com)

Compestine, Ying Chang, *The Real Story of Stone Soup*
A stingy fisherman always makes his three young helpers do all his work. One day he scolds the "lazy boys" for forgetting to provide lunch. "Don't worry," they say. "We can make stone soup." The boys dig a hole and fill it with water and "flavored" stones. They trick the fisherman into making bowls and chopsticks, and fetching salt and sesame oil. While he's busy, they stir in bird eggs, add wild vegetables, and slip fish into the soup. By the time the old man returns, they have a feast fit for a king. To this day, "Egg Drop Stone Soup" is a traditional dish in southeast China. A recipe is included. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Cooney, Barbara, Miss Rumphius
Barbara Cooney’s story of Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Cowell, Cressida, That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown
When the Queen steals Emily Brown’s favorite toy and erstwhile companion, a toy rabbit called Stanley, Emily sets out to get him back and teach that naughty queen a valuable lesson. (books.google.com)

Crowley, Ned, Nanook & Pryce: Gone Fishing
Two oblivious fishermen and an intrepid dog who scares away sharks star in this cleverly written, whimsically illustrated story with a subtle environmental message. Nanook, Pryce, and Yukon go out ice fishing for breakfast one morning when the next thing they know, they are adrift on the high seas. The accidental tourists escape sharks (or are the sharks escaping them?) and giant squid, wriggle out of fishnets, dodge hungry pelicans, and inadvertently partake in all kinds of adventures. (harpercollins.com)

Croza, Laurel, I Know Here
The little girl in this story lives in a trailer near a forest in Saskatchewan, where her father is building a dam. She knows and loves everything about the place, but the dam is nearly finished, and when summer comes the family will move to Toronto - a city marked by a big red star on the map at school. “Have the people in Toronto seen what I’ve seen?” the little girl asks, thinking of her road, her school, the forest where she plays hide-and-seek and where the wolf howls at night, the hill where she goes tobogganing in winter... And with her teacher’s help, she finds a way to keep everything she loves about home. This simple, beautifully written story, complemented by Matt James's vibrant, imaginative illustrations, will resonate deeply with anyone who has had to leave their home for a new place. (houseofanansi.com)
Crum, Shutta, *Thunder-Boomer!*

It’s a hot day on the farm, and a little girl, her brother, and their mother are trying to cool off by the pond. Suddenly, dark clouds roll in. A thunder-boomer is on the way! The storm brings pounding rain and hail—and an unexpected visitor: a soggy wet stray kitten. Colorful descriptions of the storm are accompanied by lots of playful sound effects, making this free-verse poem perfect for reading aloud. Charming watercolor illustrations capture all the drama, humor, and tenderness of the text. (hmhco.com)

Cushman, Doug, *Inspector Hopper*

Inspector Hopper is a detective with a feel -- and feelers -- for mysteries. With the help of his partner, McBugg, this tiny supersleuth can crack any case! (harpercollins.com)

Cuyler, Margery, *The Bumpy Little Pumpkin*

All summer, Little Nell has tended the garden with big Mama, big Sarah, and big Lizzie, and finally the pumpkins are ready for Halloween. Her sisters choose smooth, round pumpkins to carve, but Little Nell likes a bumpy little one best. Sarah and Lizzie jeer, "It's bumpy and little and ugly!" But Little Nell perseveres. With help from her animal friends, she scoops and carves it into a wonderful jack-o'-lantern! (scholastic.com)

DaCosta, Barbara, *Nighttime Ninja*

Late at night, when all is quiet and everyone is asleep, a ninja creeps silently through the house in search of treasure. Soon he reaches his ultimate goal...and gets a big surprise! Will the nighttime ninja complete his mission? (hachettebookgroup.com)

Dahl, Roald, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*

Someone’s been stealing from the three meanest farmers around, and they know the identity of the thief—it’s Fantastic Mr. Fox! Working alone they could never catch him; but now fat Boggis, squat Bunce, and skinny Bean have joined forces, and they have Mr. Fox and his family surrounded. What they don’t know is
that they’re not dealing with just any fox—Mr. Fox would rather die than surrender. Only the most fantastic plan can save him now. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Dahl, Roald, *George’s Marvelous Medicine*  
George is alone in the house with Grandma. The most horrid, grizzly old grunion of a grandma ever. She needs something stronger than her usual medicine to cure her chronic grouchiness. A special grandma medicine, a remedy for everything. And George knows just what to put into it. Grandma’s in for the surprise of her life—and so is George, when he sees the results of his mixture! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Dahl, Roald, *The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me*  
The Ladderless Window-Cleaning Company certainly doesn’t. They don’t need a pail, either, because they have a pelican with a bucket-sized beak. With a monkey to do the washing and Billy as their manager, this business is destined for success. Now they have their big break—a chance to clean all 677 windows of the Hampshire House, owned by the richest man in all of England! That’s exciting enough, but along the way there are surprises and adventures beyond their wildest window-washing dreams. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Darbyshire, Kristen, *Put It On the List*  
I just went to the store! What happens one frantic week when everyone forgets to put the things they need on Mom’s shopping list? First, it’s cookies, but no milk. Then macaroni, no cheese. And don’t even ask about the toilet paper! Newcomer Kristen Darbyshire’s quirky humor, fresh, graphic style, and sweetly expressive family of chickens will make this a favorite with kids.... and the beleaguered grocery shoppers in their lives. (books.google.com)

Davis, Eleanor, *Stinky*  
Stinky is a monster who loves pickles and possums but is terrified of people. When a new kid enters his swamp, this adorable little monster comes up with all sorts of crazy plans to scare him away. But Stinky quickly learns to conquer his fear, as he realizes that bats, rats, and toads aren’t the only friends you can...
find in the swamp. This hilarious and heart-warming story by ferociously talented newcomer Eleanor Davis proves that even monsters can make new friends…warts and all! (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Daywalt, Drew, *The Day the Crayons Quit***
Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun. What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best? (penguin.com)

**Demi, *Firebird***
With the aid of his magical horse, Ptitsa, a young archer fulfills the increasingly difficult requests of Tsar Ivan and wins the hand of Princess Vassilissa. (books.google.com)

**Demi, *Liang and the Magic Paintbrush***
When a poor boy in China receives a magical paintbrush, everything he paints turns to life. But the wicked emperor wants to capture the boy when he hears the news. The story will excite readers as the ruler gets his just reward when the boy creates a masterpiece that spells his doom. (books.google.com) Compare this version of the story with Tye May and the Magic Brush by Molly Bang.

**Demi, *The Empty Pot***
Long ago, a Chinese boy-emperor named Ping challenges the children of his kingdom to show him the greatest power in the world, and all are surprised at what is discovered. (books.google.com)

**Dormer, Frank W., *The Obstinate Pen***
This is what Uncle Flood wants to write with his new pen:
The following story is all true.
But the pen does not write that sentence. Instead it
writes:
You have a big nose!
Who knows what to do with a pen that has a will of its own? Not Uncle Flood. Not Officer Wonkle. But young Horace has an idea...
(us.macmillan.com)

**Dorros, Arthur, Abuela**
Flying around Manhattan Island, somersaulting in midair, resting in the sky on a chair-shaped cloud... Rosalba and her grandmother, her abuela, are having an extraordinary adventure. How do they manage this exhilarating travel that started in the park? On Rosalba's marvelous imagination. The story is told in English and sprinkled with Spanish phrases. (scholastic.com)

**Dubowski, Cathy East, Pirate School**
While studying the tough, seafaring life of a pirate at P.S. 1, two young pirates discover buried treasure at the same time, and the amusing results are observed by everyone. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Dubuc, Marianne, Animal Masquerade**
Come one, come all to the animal masquerade! The lion is going as an elephant, the elephant as a parrot, and the parrot as a turtle! Each costume gives way to another, yielding new surprises on every page, and revealing a menagerie of familiar and unusual animals. Young children will delight in the absurd and amusing images (who wouldn't love a ladybug dressed as a hippopotamus?) and will also appreciate the gags (a fish costumed as a cat is dubbed a “catfish”) and other bits of silly sweetness. Recapping this reading adventure: a detailed panorama at book's end, showing all the party guests in their fanciful finery. (kidscanpress.com)

**Dusen, Chris Van, The Circus Ship**
When a circus ship runs aground off the coast of Maine, the poor animals are left on their own to swim the chilly waters. Staggering onto a nearby island, they soon win over the wary townspeople with their kind, courageous ways. So well do the critters blend in that when the greedy circus owner returns to claim them, villagers of all species conspire to outsmart the bloated blowhard. With buoyant
rhymes and brilliantly caricatured illustrations evoking the early nineteenth century, Chris Van Dusen presents a hugely entertaining tale about the bonds of community -- and a rare hidden-pictures spread for eagle-eyed readers of all ages. (candlewick.com)

Eager, Edward, Half Magic
Half Magic is the uproarious tale of four siblings who discover a charm that grants exactly half of whatever they wish for--with results that are twice as predictable (and hilarious) as you might expect. Jane, Mark, Katharine, and Martha manage to cope with an unexpected trip to the Sahara and nearly a disastrous trip to the time of King Arthur. But can these plucky and resourceful children deal with the changes magic is bringing to their tight-knit family? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the series. I suggest you read this one first, but then you can read the others in any order.

Edens, Cooper, Princess Stories: A Classic Illustrated Edition
The classic tales in this lavishly illustrated collection have enchanted generations of readers. Here, among others, is the fair Snow White, Rapunzel with her golden tresses, and the princess so delicate that even just a small pea hidden under 20 mattresses keeps her awake at night. The stories are paired with magnificent artwork by some of the most renowned children's book illustrators of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. From Arthur Rackham to Millicent Sowerby to Kay Nielsen, each brought a unique artistic vision to these timeless tales. This beautifully designed edition is equally at home on a child’s bedside table as it is on a collector’s bookshelf. (chroniclebooks.com)

Ehlert, Lois, Color Zoo
Shapes and colors in your zoo, lots of things that you can do. Heads and ears, beaks and snouts, that's what animals are all about. I know animals and you do too; make some new ones for your zoo. (harpercollins.com)

Ehlert, Lois, Moon Rope/Un lazo a la luna
Fox wants to go to the moon. Mole does not — at least not until he hears about the huge worms waiting up
there for him to eat. So the two of them set off on their adventure, with a little help from a rope of grass and their friends the birds. The bilingual text and bold art showcase Lois Ehlert at her captivating best. (scholastic.com)

**Ehlert, Lois, **RRRalph
Would you believe that Ralph the dog can talk? Yip, yip, yip--it's true! With bestselling author Lois Ehlert's simple, funny, call-and-response text and bold, playful collage illustrations, this fresh, young book is sure to get little ones laughing (and talking to their dogs!) (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Elliott, David, **Knitty Kitty
What could Knitty Kitty be knitting? Something to keep three mischievous kittens toasty and comfy, of course. But after the snow falls and the moon comes up and it's bedtime for kittens everywhere, what will keep them all warm and snug? Knitty Kitty has the answers! With a fun, rhythmic text and delightfully detailed illustrations, the storybook team of David Elliott and Christopher Denise knit together a cozy read-aloud. An ever-patient kitty knits away with one watchful eye on three impish kittens in a charming tale that's purr-fect for bedtime -- or anytime. (candlewick.com)

**Elya, Susan Middleton, **Little Roja Riding Hood
While Roja picks flowers on the way to her grandma's, a mean wolf sneaks away with her cape to surprise Abuelita. But Grandma's no fool and Roja's no ordinary chica. They send that hungry lobo packing with a caliente surprise! (goodreads.com)

**Enright, Elizabeth, **Gone-Away Lake
Summer has a magic all its own. When Portia sets out for a visit with her cousin Julian, she expects fun and adventure, but of the usual kind: exploring in the woods near Julian's house, collecting stones and bugs, playing games throughout the long, lazy days. But this summer is different. On their first day exploring, Portia and Julian discover an enormous boulder with a mysterious message, a swamp choked with reeds and quicksand, and on the far side of the swamp...a ghost town. Once upon a time the swamp was a splendid lake, and the fallen houses along its shore
an elegant resort community. But though the lake is long gone and the resort faded away, the houses still hold a secret life: two people who have never left Gone-Away...and who can tell the story of what happened there. (goodreads.com)

**Faller, Regis, The Adventures of Polo**

Equipped with a backpack full of supplies, Polo sets off on a little boat--and on a series of delightful adventures that take him across (and under) the ocean, to an island and a frozen iceberg, to space and home again, with a world of magical encounters along the way. (us.macmillan.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Feiffer, Jules, I Lost My Bear**

It's not under the bed, or on the chair, or beneath the couch, or behind the curtains. It's GONE! What do you do when your favorite toy disappears, and you can't find it where you left it? What if your family is NO help at all? A determined little detective heads up the search, and discovers more than she ever expected! (harpercollins.com)

**Fields-Meyer, Ezra, E-mergeincy**

It’s an E-mergeincy! The letter E took a tumble and the only way to get her back on her foot is for people to stop using her. But who can take her place? The other letters have to make a decision ASAP. Z is too sleepy and Y asks way too many questions. Thankfully, O rolls in to try and save the day. Now E can rost up and got bottor . . . as long as ovorybody follows the rulos. Chock-full of verbal and visual puns, this zany book is sure to tickle both the brain and the funny bone. (chroniclebooks.com)

**Fienberg, Anna, Tashi**

For twenty years Tashi has been telling fabulous stories. He escaped from a war lord in a faraway place and flew to this country on the back of a swan. And he wished he would find a friend just like Jack. In this first book of his daring adventures, Tashi tells Jack about the time he tricked the last dragon of all. Now, a whole generation of readers know that when Tashi says, 'Well, it was like this...' a new adventure is about to begin. (allenandunwin.com)

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Fitzgerald, John D., *The Great Brain*
The best con man in the Midwest is only ten years old. Tom, a.k.a., the Great Brain, is a silver-tongued genius with a knack for turning a profit. When the Jenkins boys get lost in Skeleton Cave, the Great Brain saves the day. Whether it’s saving the kids at school, or helping out Peg-leg Andy, or Basil, the new kid at school, the Great Brain always manages to come out on top—and line his pockets in the process. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Fogliano, Julie, *And Then It’s Spring*
Following a snow-filled winter, a young boy and his dog decide that they’ve had enough of all that brown and resolve to plant a garden. They dig, they plant, they play, they wait . . . and wait . . . until at last, the brown becomes a more hopeful shade of brown, a sign that spring may finally be on its way. (us.macmillan.com)

Franceschelli, Christopher, *Alphablock*
With thick pages cut into the shape of each letter, children and parents will enjoy this peek-through guessing game around the letterform itself. Sprinkles, hot fudge, and cherries hint at I’s ice cream sundae, while aquarium accessories hint at F’s fish. As readers interact with the pages, they will familiarize themselves not only with the 26 letters and associated words, but also with each letter’s physicality—angles, holes, and curves, both front and back. With Peskimo’s animated, stylish visuals, this fresh ABC book encourages readers to manipulate the alphabet in a whole new way. (abramsbooks.com)

Frazee, Marla, *The Farmer and the Clown*
A baby clown is separated from his family when he accidentally bounces off their circus train and lands in a lonely farmer’s vast, empty field. The farmer reluctantly rescues the little clown, and over the course of one day together, the two of them make some surprising discoveries about themselves—and about life (simonandschuster.com)

Fucile, Tony, *Let’s Do Nothing!*
Frankie and Sal have already played every sport and board game invented, baked and eaten batches of cookies, and painted a
zillion pictures. What’s left to do? Nothing! Ten seconds of nothing! Can they do it? Can they act like stone statues in the park? Can they simply hold their breath and not blink an eye? With a wink to the reader and a command of visual humor, feature film animator Tony Fucile demonstrates the Zen-like art of doing nothing...oops! Couldn’t do it! (candlewick.com)

Gaiman, Neil, *Blueberry Girl*

This is a prayer for a blueberry girl . . . A much-loved baby grows into a young woman: brave, adventurous, and lucky. Exploring, traveling, bathed in sunshine, surrounded by the wonders of the world. What every new parent or parent-to-be dreams of for her child, what every girl dreams of for herself. Let me go places that we’ve never been, trust and delight in her youth. (harpercollins.com)

Gantos, Jack, *Rotten Ralph*

Even when he's been at his rottenest, his owner Sarah still manages to love him. Kids everywhere love reading about Ralph's rotten — but loveable — antics. (scholastic.com) There are many books about Rotten Ralph. They can be read in any order.

Gantos, Jack, *Rotten Ralph Helps Out*

Sarah is excited about her school project on ancient Egypt. She would like Ralph's help. But Ralph's idea of helping out is no help at all. According to Sarah, the ancient Egyptians believed cats were wise and had special powers. Can Rotten Ralph prove them right? (us.macmillan.com)

Gerstein, Mordicai, *A Book*

Caldecott medalist Mordicai Gerstein looks at books from a whole new angle. Once upon a time there was a family who lived in a book. All but the youngest had stories they belonged to—fighting fires, exploring space, entertaining in the circus—but she didn’t have one yet. Walking through all the possibilities of story types Mordicai Gerstein presents her quest in unique and changing perspectives: readers look down into the books below at the characters in their worlds. A funny and touching celebration of books, stories, and finding yourself. (us.macmillan.com)
Giff, Patricia Reilly, *The Beast in Ms. Rooney's Room*  
It’s September again. What does it mean for Richard "Beast" Best to be left back? It means being teased by his old friends while he’s stuck facing the same old teacher in the same old classroom. He even has to take a special reading class with "babies" like Emily Arrow and Matthew Jackson. And just like last year, he can’t help getting into trouble. But with the help of Mrs. Paris, the reading teacher, Beast starts to enjoy reading and just might find a way to help the second grade win the school banner for best class. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Polk Street School series. You don’t have to read them in order, but there is one for each month of the school year, so you might want to.

Godin, Thelma Lynne, *The Hula Hoopin' Queen*  
A spunky African American girl has a hula-hooping competition with her friends in Harlem, and soon everyone in the neighborhood—young and old alike—joins in on the fun. With vibrant illustrations by Vanessa Brantley-Newton, *The Hula-Hoopin’ Queen* is a charming celebration of family and community ties. Set in Harlem, this intergenerational story shows the importance of staying young at heart. (leeandlow.com)

Goodrich, Carter, *The Hermit Crab*  
The hermit crab would prefer to blend into the background. He is happy to spend his time alone, looking for food. But when he finds a flashy new shell, he can’t resist trying it on for size. He is so taken with it that he doesn’t notice the mysterious contraption that floats down from the surface. While the lobster wonders if the contraption is a restaurant and the bluefish thinks it’s a trap, the poor flounder gets stuck underneath! When the hungry hermit crab investigates the delicious smells coming from the contraption and frees the flounder, he inadvertently becomes a hero. But is the hermit crab ready for the limelight? (simonandschuster.com)

Graham, Bob, *April and Esme Tooth Fairies*  
April Underhill, seven-year-old tooth fairy, gets a call on her cell phone. This is it! Her first tooth collection. April and her little sister, Esme, must convince Mom and Dad to let them take on the task all by themselves. But
soon, two tiny fairies fly off into the night, over a highway of thundering eighteen-wheelers, eager to prove how grown up they can be. As always, the charm is in the visual details: the pony-tailed, winged dad in baggy jeans; the snug fairy house with teeth dangling from the rafters like wind chimes. Once again, Bob Graham has crafted a tale of heartwarming adventure, magical yet very real. (books.google.com)

**Greene, Stephanie, Owen Foote, Money Man**
Owen has discovered an amazing catalog called "Junk You Never Knew About," and found a bunch of neat stuff to buy. The only trouble is, he’s broke! How can he make some cash, quick? His parents are willing to give him an allowance, but that would mean doing all sorts of boring chores. Owen is sure there's a better way—all he needs is the perfect plan. With the help of his best friend, Joseph, Owen comes up with one money-making scheme after another, but—funny thing—he’s still broke. Not till Owen changes his ideas about how to make money, and how to spend it, does the tide of fortune start to flow the other way. Owen Foote's new adventure makes a hilarious and fast-paced book, perfect for kids fascinated with the joys of getting and spending money. (hmhco.com) This is one book in a series about Owen Foote. You can read them in any order.

**Griffiths, Andy, The Cat on the Mat Is Flat**
Muck! Uck! Yuck! It is just bad luck When the truck of a duck Gets stuck in the muck? Wacky rhymes that won't bore! All of this and so much more; What are you waiting for? (us.macmillan.com) (Look for more hilarious early readers by this author.)

**Guest, Elissa Haden, Iris and Walter**
Iris is sure that life in her new home will be just awful. There is nothing to do and no one to play with in the country. Iris will never be happy there. Then Grandpa suggests a walk. Down the road and around the bend, they discover a huge green tree, a secret hideaway—and a boy named Walter. Maybe life far from the city won't be so lonely after all. (hmhco.com) This is the first of many books about Iris and Walter. They can be read in any order.
Haley, Gail E., *A Story A Story: An African Tale Retold*  
Once, all the stories in the world belonged to Nyame, the Sky God. He kept them in a box beside his throne. But Ananse, the Spider man, wanted them -- and caught three sly creatures to get them. This story of how we got our own stories to tell is adapted from an African folktale. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Hanlon, Abby, *Dory Fantasmagory*  
As the youngest in her family, Dory really wants attention, and more than anything she wants her brother and sister to play with her. But she’s too much of a baby for them, so she’s left to her own devices—including her wild imagination and untiring energy. Her siblings may roll their eyes at her childish games, but Dory has lots of things to do: outsmarting the monsters all over the house, escaping from prison (aka time-out), and exacting revenge on her sister’s favorite doll. And when they really need her, daring Dory will prove her bravery, and finally get exactly what she has been looking for. With plenty of pictures bursting with charm and character, this hilarious book about an irresistible rascal is the new must-read for the chapter book set. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Harper, Charise Mericle, *Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball*  
Bean Dog and Nugget lose Bean Dog’s shiny new ball in a bush. They dream up elaborate and silly ways to get it back while they argue about who is actually going to go and get it. Enter Superdog and Ninja Nugget for a hilarious ending that kids will love and relate to. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the series. You can read them in any order. This is a graphic novel.

Harrington, Janice N., *The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County*  
Meet one smart chicken chaser. She can catch any chicken on her grandmother’s farm except one - the elusive Miss Hen. In a hilarious battle of wits, the spirited narrator regales readers with her campaign to catch Miss Hen, but this chicken is “fast as a mosquito buzzing and quick as a fleabite.” Our chicken chaser has her mind set on winning, until she discovers that sometimes it’s just as satisfying not to catch chickens as it is to catch them. A fresh voice full of sass and inventive, bold
collage illustrations full of surprises create a childlike escapade brimming with funny high jinks that leads the reader on a merry, memorable chase. (us.macmillan.com)

**Hautzig, Deborah, Little Witch Goes to School**
Little Witch wants to go to school just like her friends, but her mother thinks she should stay home and learn from her witchy aunts. Mother Witch finally agrees to let Little Witch go, but only if she promises to be very, very bad. It’s a wild ride on a broomstick that kids won’t soon forget! (penguinrandomhouse.com) There are several books about Little Witch. They can be read in any order.

**Hayes, Geoffrey, Benny And Penny in The Big No-No**
Benny and his sister Penny know it’s wrong to sneak into someone else’s backyard but their mysterious new neighbor—or is it a monster?—may be a thief. They go snooping and discover a lot about themselves and...a new friend. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Henkes, Kevin, Penny and Her Song**
When Penny comes home from school, she is ready to sing her song. But the babies are sleeping, and Mama and Papa are worried that Penny will wake them up. Oh, but it is a good song, a really wonderful song...and Penny wants more than anything to sing it. What do you think will happen? (harpercollins.com)

**Hills, Tad, Duck and Goose**
Duck and Goose have to work at getting along. You see, Duck doesn’t much care for Goose at first, and Goose isn’t fond of Duck. But both want the egg that each claims to be his. As the two tend to their egg, and make plans for the future, they come to appreciate one another’s strengths. And when a bluebird points out that it isn’t really an egg—it’s a polka dot ball—the two are not dismayed. After all, it is a lovely ball.... (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Hobbie, Holly, Fanny & Annabelle**
Holly Hobbie, the bestselling author of the Toot & Puddle series, brings us Fanny & Annabelle, a new story about creative Fanny with a do-it-yourself theme.
In the second Fanny adventure, Fanny writes her first picture book. Since Annabelle, her doll, was Fanny’s first creation, it’s fitting she should star in the story. Annabelle’s adventure ends up mirroring Fanny’s own life as they both manage to give the perfect birthday gift to a loved one. With Hobbie’s heartwarming art mixed with Fanny’s own delightfully naïve drawings, this sweet tale will inspire fans and new readers alike to get creative. (hachettebookgroup.com)

**Hoberman, Mary Ann, The Seven Silly Eaters**
Peter wants only milk, Lucy won’t settle for anything but homemade lemonade, and Jack is stuck on applesauce. Each new addition to the Peters household brings a new demand for a special meal. What’s a mother to do? Even though Mrs. Peters picks, peels, strains, scrapes, poaches, fries, and kneads, the requests for special foods keep coming. It isn’t until her birthday arrives that a present from her children solves the problem with a hilarious surprise that pleases everyone. (hmhco.com)

**Hoberman, Mary Ann, You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You: Very Short Stories to Read Together**
Here's a book With something new - You read to me! I'll read to you! We'll read each page To one another - You'll read one side, I the other. But who will read - Now guess this riddle - When the words are In the middle? The answer's easy! Plain as pie! We'll read together, You and I. (hachettebookgroup.com) There are now several collections of these stories that are designed for an adult and a child to read together.

**Hoff, Syd, Grizzwold**
Grizzwold the lovable bear is having a tough time finding somewhere to live. He’s too big for most places, and too clumsy for others. He’s not even any good as a live bearskin rug! Will Grizzwold ever find a home that’s just right? (harpercollins.com)

**Hoff, Syd, The Littlest Leaguer**
Of all the players in the little league, Harold was the littlest. No matter how hard he tries, Harold is no good at baseball. The ground balls always bounce over his
head, and his little legs never get him to the pop flies fast enough. So the only place Coach Lombardi puts him is on the bench. Until one day, during a very important game, Harold gets his big chance to show that being little isn’t so bad after all. (harpercollins.com)

Holub, Joan, The Garden That We Grew
After planting the seeds and watching them grow, huge pumpkins appear in a patch. Now we can make pumpkin pie and jack-o’-lanterns! Planting a garden is so much fun, and this rhyming reader shows us how. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Hopkinson, Deborah, Girl Wonder: A Baseball Story in Nine Innings
When Alta Weiss throws a corncob at a tomcat chasing her favorite hen, folks know one thing for sure: she may be a girl, but she’s got some arm. At the age of six Alta can nail any target, and by seventeen she’s outpitched every boy in town. Then one day her father takes Alta to Vermilion, Ohio -- home of the semipro baseball team called the Independents. "Where do I sign up?" she asks. But one look at Alta tells the coach all he needs to know: She's a girl, and girls can't play baseball. But faster than you can say "strike out," Alta proves him wrong: Girls can play baseball! (books.simonandschuster.com)

Horowitz, Ruth, Crab Moon
One June night, under the full moon, Daniel’s mother wakes him up to see the extraordinary sight of horseshoe crabs spawning on the beach, just as they have every spring for an awesome 350 million years. But when Daniel returns in the morning, he finds only one lonely crab, marooned upside down in the sand. Can he possibly save it? Like a perfect day at the beach, CRAB MOON leaves an indelible memory of a special adventure between parent and child, and a quiet message about doing our part to preserve even earth’s oldest creatures. (candlewick.com)

Horvath, Polly, Mr. and Mrs. Bunny - Detectives Extraordinaire!
In this hilarious chapter book mystery, meet a girl whose parents have been kidnapped by disreputable
foxes, and a pair of detectives that also happen to be bunnies! When Madeline gets home from school one afternoon to discover that her parents have gone missing, she sets off to find them. So begins a once-in-a-lifetime adventure involving a cast of unforgettable characters. There’s Mr. and Mrs. Bunny, who drive a smart car, wear fedoras, and hate marmots; the Marmot, who loves garlic bread and is a brilliant translator; and many others. Translated from the Rabbit by Newbery Honor-winning author Polly Horvath, and beautifully illustrated by Sophie Blackall, here is a book that kids will both laugh over and love. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Howe, James, Houndsley and Catina**
Catina wants to be a famous writer. Houndsley is an excellent cook. Catina thinks Houndsley is a wonder. Houndsley thinks Catina is a very good friend. So what should Houndsley say about Catina’s seventy-four-chapter memoir? And can Catina find the right words of comfort for Houndsley after the big cooking contest fiasco? James Howe’s funny and endearing world of ginger tea, no-bean chili, and firefly watching is brought to life in cozy watercolors by Marie-Louise Gay in this tender chapter book about what it means to be friends. (candlewick.com)

**Howe, James, Pinky & Rex**
Pinky has twenty-seven stuffed animals, and Rex has twenty-seven dinosaurs. They have everything the same, and that’s the way it should be with best friends. So what do they do when there’s only one pink dinosaur in the museum gift shop, and they both want it? Could Pinky’s pesky little sister Amanda have the answer? (books.simonandschuster.com) (This is the first book in the series. You can read them in any order.)

**Hubbell, Will, Pumpkin Jack**
The first pumpkin Tim ever carved was fierce and funny, and he named it Jack. When Halloween was over and the pumpkin was beginning to rot, Tim set it out in the garden and throughout the weeks he watched it change. By spring, a plant began to grow! Will Hubbell’s gentle story and beautifully detailed illustrations give an intimate look at the cycle of life. (albertwhitman.com)
Idle, Molly, *Flora and the Flamingo*

In this innovative wordless picture book with interactive flaps, Flora and her graceful flamingo friend explore the trials and joys of friendship through an elaborate synchronized dance. With a twist, a turn, and even a flop, these unlikely friends learn at last how to dance together in perfect harmony. Full of humor and heart, this stunning performance (and splashy ending!) will have readers clapping for more! (chroniclebooks.com) (If you enjoy this book, look for Flora and the Penguin by the same author.)

III, Maxwell Eaton, *The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Evil Penguin Plan*

Meet Ace and Bub, the flying beaver brothers! Ace loves extreme sports and is always looking for a new adventure. Bub loves napping and, well, napping. But when penguins threaten to freeze Beaver Island for “resort and polar-style living,” the brothers put their talents to work saving their tropical island paradise. Can they save Beaver Island from environmental destruction? And can they do it in time to still win the annual Beaver Island Surfing Competition? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in a series. You can read them in any order. This is a graphic novel.

Isadora, Rachel, *Old Mikamba Had a Farm*

Old Mikamba had a farm, E-I-E-I-O. And on this farm he had . . . a giraffe, a baboon, and an elephant! Meet Old Mikamba, who watches over a wide variety of animals on his game farm in the plains of Africa. Children will discover a whole new set of fun animal sounds as they are invited to sing along and roar with the lions, bellow with the rhino, whinny with the zebras, honk with the wildebeests, and more! (penguin.com)

Isadora, Rachel, *Yo, Jo!*

While Jomar and his brother, Franklin, are on their stoop waiting for Grandpa, friends and neighbors come by—whizzing on skates, showing off their new treads, or bouncing a ball. Whether it’s Whassup? or Yo!, Jo’s got a greeting for everyone—until Grandpa arrives and only classic words will do: I love you. With a fresh new style, Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator Rachel Isadora fashions an
exuberant intergenerational celebration of language, neighborhoods, and family. (books.google.com)

**Jackson, Ellen, Cinder Edna**

Once upon a time there were two girls who lived next door to each other. Cinder Edna was forced to work for her wicked stepmother and stepsisters, just as her neighbor, Cinderella, was. But Edna had learned a thing or two from doing all that housework, such as how to make tuna casserole sixteen different ways and how to get spots off everything from rugs to ladybugs. And she was strong and spunky and knew some good jokes. Now, one day the king announced that he would give a ball ... Ellen Jackson and Kevin O’Malley team up to bring young readers the delightful story of what can be done without the help of a fairy godmother. (harpercollins.com)

**Jeffers, Oliver, This Moose Belongs to Me**

Wilfred is a boy with rules. He lives a very orderly life. It’s fortunate, then, that he has a pet who abides by rules, such as not making noise while Wilfred educates him on his record collection. There is, however, one rule that Wilfred’s pet has difficulty following: Going whichever way Wilfred wants to go. Perhaps this is because Wilfred’s pet doesn’t quite realize that he belongs to anyone. A moose can be obstinate in such ways. Fortunately, the two manage to work out a compromise. Let’s just say it involves apples. (penguin.com)

**Ji, Zhaohua, No! That's Wrong!**

A serendipitous breeze starts off this playful journey which begs the seemingly simple question, When is a hat not a hat? Along the way, Rabbit manages to learn a little bit about friendship, fashion, and the importance of believing in himself. (goodreads.com)

**Johnston, Tony, My Abuelita**

Abuelita’s hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her carcacha—her jalopy—with all the things she needs: a plumed snake, a castle, a skeleton, and more. Her grandson knows he has the most amazing grandmother ever—with a very
important job. What does Abuelita do? With her booming voice and wonderful props, Abuelita is a storyteller. Next to being a grandmother, that may be the most important job of all. (www.hmhco.com)

Jr., Bill Martin, Ten Little Caterpillars
Ten little caterpillars are out and about in our big, wide world—come join them! You never know what you might find. . . . A butterfly, perhaps?
Readers of all ages have celebrated the work of Bill Martin Jr and Lois Ehlert ever since their first collaboration on Chicka Chicka Boom Boom more than twenty-five years ago. Now these two picture-book geniuses are together again in this dynamic and visually stunning counting-and-natural history picture book that’s just perfect for reading aloud—and comes complete with a glossary filled with intriguing information about all of the caterpillar stars! (books.simonandschuster.com)

Kasza, Keiko, My Lucky Day
An award-winning story time favorite with a hilarious twist at the end. When a delicious-looking piglet knocks on Mr. Fox’s door, the fox can hardly believe his good luck. It’s not every day that dinner just shows up on your doorstep. It must be his lucky day. But as the piglet is quick to point out, shouldn’t the fox give him a bath first? And wouldn’t it be best to fatten him up a little, and give him a massage so he’ll make for a nice tender roast? Preparing this feast is a lot of work, but the fox is sure it will be worth it. After all, it’s his lucky day. Or is it? In a funny trickster tale of her own, Kasza keeps readers guessing until the surprise ending when they’ll realize it was piglet’s lucky day all along. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Kennedy, Anne Vittur, The Farmer’s Away! Baa! Neigh!
What mischief do the animals get up to when the farmer’s back is turned? Anne Vittur Kennedy lets us know in the animals’ own words! There will be boating, of course, and a picnic, a rollercoaster ride, Jet Skiing, a hot-air balloon, ballroom dancing — oh, no! Could that arf! arf! arf! mean the farmer’s heading back? Even the youngest listeners can read this book aloud by following along with the pictures and making each animal’s sound. (randomhouse.com)
Kerrin, Jessica, *Martin Bridge: Ready for Takeoff!*
Meet Martin Bridge — a boy whose well-meant plans sometimes go awry. In three illustrated stories, Martin encounters two bus drivers with very different ways of relating, makes a tough decision about a friend’s pet and takes on an extremely competitive model rocket project that almost costs him a friendship. The daily rhythms, struggles and triumphs of childhood — at home, at school and with friends — are evoked with warmth, understanding, honesty and humor. (kidscanpress.com) This is the first book in the series.

Kimmel, Elizabeth Cody, *My Penguin Osbert*
Each year at Christmas, Joe writes a letter to Santa. But they’ve had a few misunderstandings in the past. Last year, for example, Joe wanted a fire-engine-red racecar with retracting headlights, and he did get one -- but it was only three inches long. So this year Joe is really, really careful. He describes exactly what he wants -- and on Christmas morning, guess what’s waiting for him under the tree! Santa has brought him a living, breathing, black-and-white penguin named Osbert. Will anything in Joe’s life ever be the same? (candlewick.com)

Kitamura, Satoshi, *Millie’s Marvellous Hat*
Millie loves hats, but she has no money and she can’t afford to buy any of the lovely hats in town. But the man in the hat shop has an idea. He produces a box containing a hat too fine and beautiful to behold, but with the most perfect shape and colour imaginable, if Millie dares to imagine it. Millie does dare, and soon she can not only see her own beautiful hat, but everyone else’s hats as well. (andersenpress.co.uk)

Klassen, Jon, *I Want My Hat Back*
The bear’s hat is gone, and he wants it back. Patiently and politely, he asks the animals he comes across, one by one, whether they have seen it. Each animal says no, some more elaborately than others. But just as the bear begins to despond, a deer comes by and asks a simple question that sparks the bear’s memory and renews his search with a vengeance. Told completely in dialogue, this delicious take on the classic repetitive tale plays out in sly
illustrations laced with visual humor-- and winks at the reader with a wry irreverence that will have kids of all ages thrilled to be in on the joke. (candlewick.com)

**Klassen, Jon, *This Is Not My Hat***

When a tiny fish shoots into view wearing a round blue topper (which happens to fit him perfectly), trouble could be following close behind. So it’s a good thing that enormous fish won’t wake up. And even if he does, it’s not like he’ll ever know what happened. . . . Visual humor swims to the fore as the best-selling Jon Klassen follows his breakout debut with another deadpan-funny tale. (candlewick.com)

**Knapman, Timothy, *Guess What I Found in Dragon Wood***

Here’s a wonderful twist on the familiar theme of "boy meets dragon." This time, it’s not the boy who finds a dragon—it’s the dragon who’s found the boy. "It’s called a Benjamin," the dragon drolly explains to his family. The Benjamin is a true novelty (no wings, no tail, no fire-breath!), and all of the dragons gather round to examine the strange creature, right down to his plastic boots and leaking eyes. Chock full of clever situations and charmingly illustrated, this unique picture book—one part fantasy, one part fairy tale, and one part tear jerker—is sure to entertain children on many levels. (bloomsbury.com)

**Kochalka, James, *The Best Little Ghost In The World***

Johnny Boo is the best little ghost in the whole world, because he’s got Boo Power. This means that he can go "BOO" really loudly. His pet ghost named Squiggle has Squiggle Power, which means that he can fly and do really fast loop-the-loops. Together they have the world’s greatest ghost adventures! They enthusiastically frolic and roughhouse, having ghost races and drinking melted ice cream, but they often accidentally hurt each other’s feelings, and have to comfort and console one another. When the giant pink and yellow Ice Cream Monster bumbles into their lives, they go into a mad panic ... until they discover that he’s actually quite friendly. But even though he’s friendly, he’s also completely wild and unpredictable, and he impulsively swallows Squiggle whole. Some wild loop-the-loops from Squiggle inside his stomach cause a bout of uncontrollable burping, and the Ice Cream Monster burps Squiggle up unscathed. But now how do
they stop the burping? (topshelfcomix.com) This is the first book in this graphic novel series.

**Kohara, Kazuno, Ghosts in the House!**
At the edge of town lives a clever girl with a spooky problem: Her house is haunted! Luckily, she happens to be a witch and knows a little something about taking care of ghosts. She catches them, puts them in the washing machine, airs them out to dry, and gives them new lives as sofa covers, table cloths, and, of course, bed sheets to cozy up under. Fresh and charming illustrations in dynamic orange, black and white bring this resourceful heroine and these spooky ghosts to life. (us.macmillan.com)

**Krutik, Nancy E., Anyone but me**
Katie Carew, nicknamed Katie Kazoo by the class bully, had no idea what would happen when she wished that she could be anyone but herself. But now her wish has come true, and-switcheroo!-she keeps turning into other people and even animals! What is one ordinary third-grade girl with a really extraordinary problem to do? It’s a good thing Katie is resourceful and smart enough to find a solution for every problem . . . no matter how much of a disaster she causes! Katie can’t stand George, the class bully. He constantly picks on everyone, but he really torments Katie. One day, she can’t stand it anymore, and she wishes she could be anyone but herself. What she doesn’t see is the shooting star that flashes through the sky at that moment . . . catapulting Katie into a crazy series of adventures, starting the next day when she turns into the class hamster! Will she be trapped in a glass cage forever? Will she ever be a girl again? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Katie Kazoo series. They can be read in any order.

**Kvasnosky, Laura McGee, Zelda and Ivy**
Zelda and Ivy are fox sisters with a flair for the dramatic. Their exploits unfold with plenty of sugar and sass in this spirited trio of stories. Wry and genuine, the linked episodes and expressive illustrations will strike home with beginning readers, especially those who’ve experienced the warmth — and occasional wrath — of a sibling’s attentions. (books.google.com)
**Lagercrantz, Rose, My Happy Life**
Dani is probably the happiest person she knows. She’s happy because she’s going to start school. She’s been waiting to go to school her whole life. Then things get even better—she meets Ella. Dani and Ella stick together through wet and dry, sun and rain, thick and thin. They do everything together. But then things start to happen that Dani isn’t prepared for… (geckopress.co.nz)

**Landry, Leo, Sea Surprise**
Poor Eel. Kate and Dave want to help their friend get his zap back. All they need is a plan—one that doesn’t involve biting things, even though Dave’s shark teeth are itching to chomp something. With lots of help from the other sea creatures, the friends come up with the perfect way to jolt Eel’s zap back into him. A surprise party is sure to do the trick! But the party starts off with a shock that no one expected. (us.macmillan.com)

**LaRochelle, David, The Haunted Hamburger and Other Ghostly Stories**
What’s scarier than a ghost story? Three ghost stories, of course. And these three stories, told to little ghosts at bedtime, are the scariest kind of ghost stories there are—they’re about people! From a ghost who becomes the victim of a baby in need of a diaper to a hamburger that can win a scaring contest just by lifting its bun, these hilariously illustrated silly stories are sure to bring Halloween laughs to even the littlest ghosts. (books.google.com)

**Leeuwen, Jean Van, Tales of Amanda Pig**
Amanda Pig, her brother Oliver, and their parents share a busy day, working and playing together from breakfast to bedtime. (scholastic.com)

**Lenski, Lois, Strawberry Girl**
The land was theirs, but so were its hardships. Strawberries -- big, ripe, and juicy. Ten-year-old Birdie Boyer can hardly wait to start picking them. But her family has just moved to the Florida backwoods, and they haven’t even begun their planting. "Don’t count your biddies ’fore they’re hatched, gal young un!” her father tells her. Making the new farm prosper is not
easy. There is heat to suffer through, and droughts, and cold snaps. And, perhaps most worrisome of all for the Boyers, there are rowdy neighbors, just itching to start a feud. (harpercollins.com)

**Lester, Helen, Hooway for Wodney Wat**
Poor Rodney Rat can't pronounce his R's and the other rodents tease him mercilessly. But when Camilla Capybara joins Rodney's class and announces that she is bigger, meaner, and smarter than any of the other rodents, everyone is afraid. It seems she really is bigger, meaner, and smarter than all of the rest of them. Until our unwitting hero, Wodney Wat, catches Camilla out in a game of Simon Says. Read along with Wodney as he surprises himself and his classmates by single-handedly saving the whole class from the big bad bully. Children will delight as shy Rodney Rat triumphs over all and his tiny voice decides the day, R's or no R's. (hmhco.com)

**Lester, Helen, Hurty Feelings**
Fragility the hippo is solid on the outside and fragile on the inside. In every compliment, Fragility hears an insult. If someone says she looks nice, she hears that she looks like a big, squishy cupcake—since cupcakes are also nice. But soon, Rudy the bully comes along to insult her for real. In the face of these insults, will Fragility realize the difference between a jab and a compliment? (hmhco.com)

**Lester, Helen, Tacky Goes to Camp**
Tacky and his fellow penguins are off to summer camp in Nice Icy Land to enjoy themselves while Rock Hopping, Line Dancing, and playing Capture the Ice Cube. One night, they gather around the campfire to sing, eat s'mores, and tell scary stories. But after going to bed, something straight out of one of their scary stories pays the sleeping penguins a visit. Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, and Perfect think they should high-tail it out of there, but it is Tacky—with some unexpected heroics—who saves the day. (hmhco.com) There are many books about Tacky the Penguin. You can read them in any order.

**Lester, Julius, John Henry**
John Henry is stronger than ten men, and can dig through a mountain faster than a steam drill. Julius Lester’s folksy retelling of a popular African-American
folk ballad has warmth, tall tale humor, and boundless energy. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Lieshout, Elle Van, The Wish**
Winter is lasting forever, the vegetable garden is barren, and Lila is hungry. All she needs to make it through the winter is some flour for baking bread. She makes a wish on a falling star. It works! Luckily, each time the bread is gone, another star falls. Someone else might have wished for an elaborate feast or extravagant clothes, but not Lila—until at least not until her birthday. That’s when she will make a very special wish. (books.google.com)

**Lin, Grace, Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!**
Ling and Ting are two adorable identical twins, and they stick together, whether they are making dumplings, getting their hair cut, or practicing magic tricks. But looks are deceiving—people can be very different, even if they look exactly the same. (hachettebookgroup.com)

**Lindgren, Astrid, Lotta on Troublemaker Street**
Poor Lotta is having a very bad day. First, she wakes up mad because in her dream her older brother and sister were mean to her. Then, Mother expects her to wear a sweater that "scratches and tickles." Madder than ever, Lotta decides to run away and find a new place to live. After all, everyone at her house is mean, so she won't miss her family at all—will she? (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Lionni, Leo, An Extraordinary Egg**
While taking a walk, three frogs discover what they believe to be a chicken egg and eagerly wait for it to hatch. When a scaly, four-legged creature with a long snoutful of teeth emerges a few days later, the frogs are still convinced it’s a chicken and are thrilled to have a new friend. Soon the frogs and "chicken" are inseparable, at least until the day "chicken" finds and returns to her mother...an enormous "hen" who looks suspiciously like an alligator! (penguinrandomhouse.com) (Leo Lionni has written many award-winning picture books and you should look for them all.)
Litwin, Eric, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*
Pete the Cat is wearing his favorite shirt—the one with the four totally groovy buttons. But when one falls off, does Pete cry? Goodness, no! He just keeps on singing his song—after all, what could be groovier than three groovy buttons? Count down with Pete in this rocking new story from the creators of the bestselling Pete the Cat books. (harpercollins.com)

Livingstone, Star, *Harley*
Harley is a young llama who lives on a ranch. He is learning to be a pack animal, but he is having a hard time. He kicks. He screams. He spits! But then a shepherd calls; she needs a llama to watch over her sheep. She decides to take a chance on Harley. Through the seasons, a series of challenges both great and small turn the temperamental llama into a loving leader—whether he’s facing mischievous lambs, a bullying ram, or a pack of coyotes who prey on the sheep. With its poetic language and captivating artwork by Caldecott Honor-winning Molly Bang, this distinctive book speaks to all those who sometimes march to the beat of a different drummer. (chroniclebooks.com)

Lloyd, Jennifer, *Murilla Gorilla, Jungle Detective*
Murilla Gorilla, the jungle detective, is woken up by a new case: Ms. Chimpanzee’s muffins were stolen. But who did it? It’s up to Murilla to find out... as long as she can find her badge first! Murilla may seem like a hopeless detective—disorganized, messy and always thinking about her next snack—but out of her mess come some pretty good ideas, and some pretty funny moments too. (simplyreadbooks.com)

Lobel, Arnold, *Frog and Toad Are Friends*
One summer day Toad was unhappy. He had lost the white, fourholed, big, round, thick button from his jacket. Who helped him look for it? His best friend, Frog. Another day, Frog was unhappy. He was sick in bed and looking green. Who gave him some tea and told him a story? His best friend, Toad. From the first enchanting story to the last, these five adventures of two best friends are packed with excitement, gaiety, and tender affection.
Children will find this book delightful to read and beautiful to look at, either story by story, or from cover to cover. (harpercollins.com)

Long, Ethan, *Up, Tall and High*

In three laugh-out-loud situations, an irresistible cast of colorful birds illustrate the concepts of “up,” “tall” and “high.” First, a short peacock proves that he may not be tall, but he definitely isn’t small. Then, a resourceful bird helps his penguin friend find a way to fly. Finally, two birds want to live in the same tree, but what goes up must come down! Each short story features a flap that reveals a surprise twist. (penguin.com)

Long, Heather, *Max & Milo Go to Sleep! (Max and Milo)*

Milo can’t get to sleep: He tosses and turns; he turns and he tosses. And then finally he calls on his older brother: “MAX! WAKE UP!” But no matter what helpful sleeping tip Max suggests, Milo turns it riotously on its head and is as far from rest as ever. Will Milo finally get to sleep? Will he ever stop driving Max crazy? Will the beaver brothers be up half the night in search of forty winks? (books.simonandschuster.com)

Long, Melinda, *How I Became a Pirate*

Pirates have green teeth—when they have any teeth at all. I know about pirates, because one day, when I was at the beach building a sand castle and minding my own business, a pirate ship sailed into view. So proclaims Jeremy Jacob, a boy who joins Captain Braid Beard and his crew in this witty look at the finer points of pirate life by the Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator David Shannon and the storyteller Melinda Long. Jeremy learns how to say “scurvy dog,” sing sea chanteys, and throw food . . . but he also learns that there are no books or good night kisses on board: “Pirates don’t tuck.” A swashbuckling adventure with fantastically silly, richly textured illustrations that suit the story to a T. (hmhco.com)

Luciani, Brigitte, *The Meeting*

Having lost their home, a fox and her daughter move in with a badger and his three children, but when the youngsters throw a big party hoping to prove that they are incompatible, their plan backfires.
Lynch, Jay, *Otto’s Orange Day*
When Otto the Cat meets a magical genie, he knows just what to wish for: he makes the whole world orange! At first, this new, bright world seems like a lot of fun, but when his mom serves orange spinach for lunch, Otto realizes that his favorite color isn’t the best color for everything. Fixing this mixed-up world won’t be easy, though, because Otto already used up his only wish. To save the day, Otto will need his family’s help, some quick thinking, and... a pizza? (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

MacDonald, Betty, *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*
Meet Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle! She’s the kind of grown-up you would like to have for a friend—and all her friends are children. She is a little lady with brown sparkly eyes. She lives in an upside-down house, with a kitchen that is always full of freshly baked cookies. Her husband was a pirate, and she likes to have her friends dig in the back yard for the pirate treasure he buried there. Best of all, she knows everything there is to know about children. When a distraught parent calls her because Mary has turned into an Answer-Backer or Dick has become Selfish or Allen has decided to be a Slow-Eater-Tiny-Bite-Taker, Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle has the answer. And her solutions always work, with plenty of laughs along the way. (harpercollins.com) There are several books about Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle. You can read them in any order.

Mahy, Margaret, *The Great White Man-Eating Shark: A Cautionary Tale*
Norvin pretends to be a shark in order to have his favorite swimming cove all to himself, but his imitation proves to be too good when a female shark begins to pursue him. (scholastic.com) This book is out of print; look for it at the library or a used bookstore.

Manning, Maurie J., *Laundry Day*
This graphic novel-style picture book takes us on the quest of a shoe-shine boy through busy, multicultural tenements to return a piece of silk to its rightful owner. Meeting a host of colorful characters along the way, this lively picture book lets us make friends across race...
Marshall, Edward, *Fox at School*
Starring in the school play means hard work, and being left in charge means keeping the class under control, but - uh-oh! - Fox thinks there’s nothing to it. But will Fox retreat? Never! (goodreads.com) This is one of many books about Fox and his friends. They can be read in any order.

Marshall, James, *George and Martha*
George and Martha will entertain readers of all ages in these funny, warm, and wonderful stories. The two lovable hippos teach the meaning of friendship in five separate vignettes: "Split Pea Soup," "The Flying Machine," "The Tub," "The Mirror," "The Tooth." (hmhco.com) There are several books about George and Martha. They can be read in any order.

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs, *Chicken Joy on Redbean Road: A Bayou Country Romp*
When people danced to Joe Beebee’s music they forgot about bad knees, tight shoes, backaches, blisters, and beetles . . . They forgot sickness, sadness, and sin. Joe Beebee’s music, folks say, will take you up so high, your problems look small enough to stomp on. But, worries a plain brown hen, can it make a quiet rooster sing? Can it save her best friend from becoming Quiet Rooster Stew? Will Joe Beebee even play for chickens? With art as fun as waltzing on the moon and with words as lively as a fiddle, this book captures the power of music to heal and of friendship to endure. (hmhco.com)

Mathers, Petra, *Dodo Gets Married*
Lottie’s friend Dodo is funny, exotic, and utterly charming. Captain Vince is a lonely bird with a heart of gold. Children everywhere will delight in watching this unlikely pair find true love in Petra Mathers’s newest picture book that enchantingly proves there is someone for everyone. (books.simonandschuster.com)

McClements, George, *Night of the Veggie Monster*
When a single pea touches the lips of this determined vegetable hater, our hero doesn’t cry, whine, or refuse to swallow. He turns
Stories

into a VEGGIE MONSTER! Ready to smash the chairs! Ready to tip the table! Ready to . . . GULP . . . down his peas? With inventive mixed-media illustrations and a short, snappy text that combines a child's dinnertime drama with a hilarious parents'-eye-view, George McClements has created a wry and funny story that just might inspire a few veggie monsters out there to give peas a chance. (bloomsbury.com)

McClintock, Mike, A Fly Went By

A fly is followed by a menagerie of characters in this humorous cumulative tale edited by Dr. Seuss. When a young boy sees a frantic fly buzzing past, he asks where the fly is headed—and with that, a chase begins. The fly and the frog, the cat and the dog, the pig and the cow, the fox and the hunter . . . who is causing all the fuss? A Fly Went By will have young readers buzzing with excitement! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Mcdonald, Megan, Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid

Shrink, shrank, shrunk! Every morning, Judy Moody measures Stink and it's always the same: three feet, eight inches tall. Stink feels like even the class newt is growing faster than he is. Then, one day, the ruler reads — can it be? — three feet, seven and three quarters inches! Is Stink shrinking? He tries everything to look like he's growing, but wearing up-and-down stripes and spiking his hair aren't fooling anyone into thinking he's taller. If only he could ask James Madison — Stink's hero, and the shortest person ever to serve as president of the United States. (candlewick.com)

McDonnell, Patrick, Me . . . Jane

In his characteristic heartwarming style, Patrick McDonnell tells the story of the young Jane Goodall and her special childhood toy chimpanzee named Jubilee. As the young Jane observes the natural world around her with wonder, she dreams of "a life living with and helping all animals," until one day she finds that her dream has come true. One of the world's most inspiring women, Dr. Jane Goodall is a renowned humanitarian, conservationist, animal activist, environmentalist, and United Nations Messenger of Peace. In 1977 she founded the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), a global
nonprofit organization that empowers people to make a difference for all living things. With anecdotes taken directly from Jane Goodall's autobiography, McDonnell makes this very true story accessible for the very young—and young at heart. (hachettebookgroup.com)

**McKissack, Patricia C., Precious and the Boo Hag**

When Precious is left home alone with a stomachache, she's got nothing but a warning from Mama -- "Don't let nothing or nobody into this house" - - to keep her company. You see, "nothing or nobody" could turn out to be something awful: the Boo Hag! The Boo Hag's got a voice that rumbles like thunder and hair that shoots out like lightning. And she can disguise herself to look like anything. So when the Boo Hag comes calling, will Precious be clever enough to outwit even the trickiest trickster? (books.simonandschuster.com)

**McLeod, Bob, SuperHero ABC**

Silly and zany, and armed with the most unusual skills, these heroes are out to save the world-one letter at a time! bubble-Man blows big bubbles at bullies, and laughing lass laughs at lawbreakers! together, these one-of-a-kind defenders represent the ABC's in a way never seen before. Renowned comic-book illustrator Bob McLeod has created a full cast of humorous and delightful characters, sure to please anyone in need of a hero to save the day. (harpercollins.com)

**McMullan, Kate, Pearl and Wagner: One Funny Day**

Wagner has been fooled by just about everyone this April Fools' Day—his best friend Pearl, his teacher, and even the librarian. Tired of being on the receiving end of all the pranks, Wagner is determined to have the last laugh. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is one of many books about Pearl and Wagner. They can be read in any order.

**McMullan, Kate, The New Kid at School**

When a traveling minstrel foretells that he is to become a hero, Wiglaf sets out to fulfill his destiny: he signs up at the Dragon Slayers’ Academy. But how can he ever hope to be a dragon slayer when he can’t even stand
the sight of blood? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Dragon Slayer's Academy series. They are best read in order.

**Medina, Meg, Tía Isa Wants a Car**

Tía Isa wants a car. A shiny green car the same color as the ocean, with wings like a swooping bird. A car to take the whole family to the beach. But saving is hard when everything goes into two piles - one for here and one for Helping Money, so that family members who live far away might join them someday. While Tía Isa saves, her niece does odd jobs for neighbors so she can add her earnings to the stack. But even with her help, will they ever have enough? Meg Medina's simple, genuine story about keeping in mind those who are far away is written in lovely, lyrical prose and brought to life through Claudio Muñoz’s charming characters. (candlewick.com)

**Meisel, Paul, See Me Run (I Like to Read)**

Happiness is a day in the park for this pack of running, joyful canines. They run, chase one another, jump in mud, go for a swim, and dig, dig, dig! Their doggy day becomes even more wonderful when they discover a mother lode of bones! But when some bones magically arrange themselves as a T-Rex, the dogs find themselves running away from the giant skeleton! (holidayhouse.com)

**Milgrim, David, My Dog, Buddy**

When Dad tells Buddy to sit, Buddy stands up and barks. When Mom tells Buddy to get the paper, Buddy rips it. When Brother Pete tells Buddy to roll over, he takes Pete’s shoe and runs away! Only the youngest in the family knows how to get Buddy to do what he should: with hugs and cuddles and lots of love. (scholastic.com)

**Milway, Alex, Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey**

Pigsticks is the last in a noble line of explorers, and he's decided it's time for him to follow in his forepigs' footsteps — with an assistant to do the heavy lifting, of course. When his help-wanted ad draws a motley crew of candidates, he chooses a hapless delivery hamster named Harold. As the unlikely duo set off from Tuptown...
with plenty of tea cakes in tow, Pigsticks is breathless with excitement (and Harold is struggling for breath under all the gear). But after a long trek through jungles, over deserts, and up a giant ice-topped mountain, the last crumb of cake is stolen by a herd of thieving goats, and their goal is nowhere in sight. Will they ever discover the Ends of the Earth? Could it be in the last place they’d ever think to look? (candlewick.com)

**Montanari, Eva, Chasing Degas**
Monsieur Degas likes to paint the students while they practice in ballet class—they’ve inspired many of his beautiful paintings. But one day he mistakenly leaves his bag of paints in the dance studio and instead takes a young ballerina’s bag, which contains her new tutu for the evening’s recital! And so the ballerina begins a great chase to find Degas before her big night. As she searches the streets of Paris, the ballerina encounters many other Impressionist painters, who are in the process of painting some of their great works. Monet, Renoir, Caillebotte, and Cassatt help the ballerina until she is reunited, at last, with Degas. (abramsbooks.com)

**Morales, Yuyi, Just In Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book**
Yuyi Morales takes us on a new journey with Señor Calvera, the skeleton from Day of the Dead celebrations. Señor Calvera is worried. He can’t figure out what to give Grandma Beetle for her birthday. Misunderstanding the advice of Zelmiro the Ghost, Señor Calvera decides not to get her one gift, but instead one gift for every letter of the alphabet, just in case. Una Acordéon: An accordion for her to dance to. Bigotes: A mustache because she has none. Cosquillas: Tickle to make her laugh...only to find out at the end of the alphabet that the best gift of all is seeing her friends. Morales’s art glows in this heart-warming original tale with folklore themes, a companion book to her Pura Belpré-winning Just a Minute. (us.macmillan.com)

**Morales, Yuyi, Niño Wrestles the World**
Señoras y Señores, put your hands together for the fantastic, spectacular, one of a kind . . . Niño! Fwap! Slish! Bloop! Krunch! He takes down his competition in a single move! No opponent is too big a challenge for
the cunning skills of Niño--popsicle eater, toy lover, somersault expert, and world champion lucha libre competitor! (us.macmillan.com)

**Murphy, Claire Rudolf, Gold Rush Winter**
Klondy and her mother are finally joining Klondy’s father in Alaska. But does Papa have time for a daughter? Or is he too busy hunting for gold? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Murphy, Frank, Babe Ruth Saves Baseball!**
Batter up! It’s 1919 and baseball is in trouble! All across the country, people are throwing down their bats, and giving up America’s national pastime. It’s up to Babe Ruth to win back fans and save baseball! Can he do it, or will he strike out? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Naujokaitis, Pranas T., Dinosaurs in Space**
Dinosaurs and Life in Space—c’mon, what could be a funnier combination? And what a rip-snorting rocket ride it is in this three-story collection chronicling the hilarious adventures of the dino-denizens of Planet Meatball and Plant Lettuce. (blueapplebooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Naujokaitis, Pranas T., The Totally Awesome Epic Quest of the Brave Boy Knight**
A young boy and his best buddy Butterscotch search for hidden treasure, save the city from an angry monster, and patrol a kingdom. Amazing adventures ensue as brave boy knight saves the day! (blueapplebooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Nesbit, E., Books**
E. Nesbit is one of the most famous authors in English history. Many people say she invented the children’s adventure story, particularly those that have characters who find magical objects in our own world (not a separate fantasy world). Her books were first published in the early 1900s and have been in print and loved by people ever since. Her most famous book is probably The Story of the Treasure Seekers, or perhaps The Railway Children. Both books feature siblings who appear in several books. I think my favorite is Five
Children and It, in which some kids find a creature that grants wishes. (Ms. Bock)

Nickle, John, Ant Bully
Lucas is picked on by the neighborhood bully, and in turn terrorizes the ant colony. The ants create a potion that shrinks Lucas to the size of an ant. They put him on trial, and find him guilty of crimes against the colony -- his sentence? To live and work as an ant! Lucas learns about teamwork and the importance of friendship--and in the end, he saves the colony and is returned to his normal size. (scholastic.com)

Nilsson, Ulf, Detective Gordon: The First Case
Someone’s stealing nuts from the forest, and it’s up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief! Unfortunately, solving this crime means standing in the snow and waiting for a long time... If only he had an assistant – someone small, fast, and clever – to help solve this terrible case. Then Detective Gordon would be able to go back to doing what he’s best at: thinking, eating cakes, drinking tea, and stamping important papers. (geckopress.co.nz)

O’Connor, Jane, Fancy Nancy at the Museum
Nancy’s class is going on a trip to the museum, and Nancy wants to be extra fancy for the occasion. After a bumpy bus ride, she doesn’t feel very well. Luckily for Nancy, her teacher, Ms. Glass, has a few fancy tricks of her own. Nothing can keep Nancy from making this trip magnifique! (That’s a fancy French word for great!) (harpercollins.com)

Osborne, Mary Pope, Dinosaurs Before Dark
Where did the tree house come from? Before Jack and Annie can find out, the mysterious tree house
whisks them to the prehistoric past. Now they have to figure out how to get home. Can they do it before dark...or will they become a dinosaur's dinner? (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the Magic Tree House series. They are best read in order.

Otoshi, Kathryn, One
Blue is a quiet color. Red’s a hothead who likes to pick on Blue. Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple don’t like what they see, but what can they do? When no one speaks up, things get out of hand — until One comes along and shows all the colors how to stand up, stand together, and count. As budding young readers learn about numbers, counting, and primary and secondary colors, they also learn about accepting each other’s differences and how it sometimes just takes one voice to make everyone count. (from the publisher)

Parish, Peggy, Amelia Bedelia
Amelia Bedelia, the housekeeper with a literal mind, merrily upsets the household when she "dresses" the chicken and "trims" the steak with ribbons and lace. (books.google.com) This is the first book in a series. You can read them in any order.

Park, Linda Sue, Xander's Panda Party
Xander planned a panda party. Yes, a dandy whoop-de-do! But Xander was the only panda. Just one panda at the zoo. The zoo’s paucity of pandas doesn’t impede Xander’s party planning for long. He decides to invite all the bears. But Koala protests. She’s not a bear—she’s a marsupial! Does that mean she can’t come? Xander rethinks his decision to invite only bears, and “Calling all bears” evolves into “Calling all creatures.” The Newbery Medal author Linda Sue Park introduces animal taxonomy in a wonderfully engaging way, and the celebrated artist Matt Phelan’s charming ink and watercolor paintings are the icing on the cake. A read-aloud whoop-de-do! (hmhco.com)

Paterson, Katherine, Marvin One Too Many
It is the first day of school, and Marvin is scared. Everyone seems to know where to go – except Marvin. Everyone seems to have a place in class – except Marvin. And everyone seems to know how to read – except Marvin. Marvin’s struggle with reading will ring
true to reluctant and eager readers alike, and all will share his triumph in Katherine Paterson’s reassuring story, the third about this popular character. (books.google.com)

**Perkins, Lynne Rae, Pictures from Our Vacation**
Snap! With their new cameras -Snap!- a brother and sister Snap! take pictures of their vacation. But when they look at their photographs they see:
1. The back of Dad’s head
2. Feet
3. A container of noodles
That’s it? Does 1 + 2 + 3 = summer vacation? What about how it felt to swim in the lake? What about the stories their cousins told and the taste of a just-invented strawberry and whipped cream dessert? For those memories—the memories of summer and the memories of family that mean the most—they need to look someplace else. Someplace deep inside. Someplace permanent. (harpercollins.com)

**Peterson, John, The Littles**
Meet the Littles, a family like any other but with a few tiny differences! They live in the walls of the Bigg family house where they get everything they need. In return they make sure the Bigg house is always in good repair. When the Biggs go away for the summer the Newcombs come to stay in their house. And the Newcombs are slobs! The mess the Newcombs make attracts one of the Littles biggest enemies: mice! Just when it seems like things can’t get any worse, they bring a cat to live with them. How will this little family get out of such big trouble? (scholastic.com)

**Phillipps, J.C., Wink! The Ninja Who Wanted to be Noticed**
The happiest day of Wink’s life was when he was accepted to the Summer Moon School for Young Ninjas. He is sure that he will be a great ninja. Silence is the first lesson and everyone is very silent... except for Wink. Stealth is the second lesson and everyone is very stealthy... except for Wink. Finally, Wink decides that he will be silent and stealthy. But no one notices! What’s the point of being a great ninja if no one notices? Maybe Wink wasn’t meant to be a ninja? (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Pilkey, Dav, *A Friend For Dragon*
A lonely little dragon ventures into the world looking for a friend. He is tricked into thinking he has found one after an apple falls on his head. He becomes grief stricken when he believes the apple is lost to him. Will he have his friend back again? (scholastic.com)

Pilkey, Dav, *The Adventures of Captain Underpants*
George and Harold’s principal, mean old Mr. Krupp, doesn’t like the pair’s pranks or their comic books. And he’s cooked up a plan to catch George and Harold and stop their shenanigans — once and for all! Here’s the story of what happened when that plan backfired, and Captain Underpants leaped off the page to save the day! (scholastic.com)

Pinkney, Jerry, *The Tortoise & the Hare*
Even the slowest tortoise can defeat the quickest hare, and even the proudest hare can learn a timeless lesson from the most humble tortoise: Slow and steady wins the race! Here is a superbly rendered journey from starting line to finish that embodies the bravery, perseverance, and humility we can all find inside ourselves. (hatchettebookgroup.com)

Pizzoli, Greg, *The Watermelon Seed*
With perfect comic pacing, Greg Pizzoli introduces us to one funny crocodile who has one big fear: swallowing a watermelon seed. What will he do when his greatest fear is realized? Will vines sprout out his ears? Will his skin turn pink? This crocodile has a wild imagination that kids will love. (books.disney.com)

Preller, James, *The Case of the Glow-in-the-Dark Ghost*
Missing hamsters, lost coins, haunted houses…Jigsaw Jones has seen it all before. With his top-secret detective journal, eye for detail, and ace partner Mila, Jigsaw is always ready to take on a new case. Unless it means staying after school! Jigsaw and Mila’s new case has them searching school buses, spying on classmates, and dusting for fingerprints in the school cafeteria. Yuck! Will the hunt for clues help them solve this back-to-school mystery? Or just land
them in detention? (scholastic.com) This is one book in the series about Jigsaw Jones. You can read them in any order.

Rabinowitz, Alan, A Boy and a Jaguar

Alan loves animals, but the great cat house at the Bronx Zoo makes him sad. Why are they all alone in empty cages? Are they being punished? More than anything, he wants to be their champion—their voice—but he stutters uncontrollably. Except when he talks to animals... (hmhbooks.com)

Rathmann, Peggy, Officer Buckle & Gloria

Officer Buckle’s safety presentation at Napville Elementary School is always ignored. It’s so dull, in fact, that it puts audiences to sleep. Z Z Z z z z z... But soon, children are paying attention...to Officer Buckle’s new police dog, Gloria, who stands behind him, impishly miming the dire consequences and accidents involved in not using one's head. Buckle is surprised to see the children suddenly so attentive, even applauding and laughing, and each time he checks on Gloria, she is sitting at attention. Humorous illustrations let readers know what Buckle does not realize — that Gloria is performing the children's socks off. That is until a news team videotapes Gloria's comedy routine. This sends Officer Buckle into a slump, deflated to learn that Gloria has been stealing the show. Gloria soon goes solo, and not only does she flop without him, but Napville Elementary has its biggest accident ever. It's apparent how much Officer Buckle and Gloria need each other, and before long, they are again a winning team. (scholastic.com)

Recorvits, Helen, My Name Is Yoon

Yoon's name means "shining wisdom," and when she writes it in Korean, it looks happy, like dancing figures. But her father tells her that she must learn to write it in English. In English, all the lines and circles stand alone, which is just how Yoon feels in the United States. Yoon isn't sure that she wants to be YOON. At her new school, she tries out different names—maybe CAT or BIRD. Maybe CUPCAKE! Helen Recorvits's spare and inspiring story about a little girl finding her place in a new country is given luminous pictures filled with surprising vistas and dreamscapes by Gabi Swiatkowska. (us.macmillan.com)
Reynolds, Aaron, *Creepy Carrots!*

In this Caldecott Honor–winning picture book, The Twilight Zone comes to the carrot patch as a rabbit fears his favorite treats are out to get him. Jasper Rabbit loves carrots—especially Crackenhopper Field carrots. He eats them on the way to school. He eats them going to Little League. He eats them walking home. Until the day the carrots start following him...or are they? (books.simonandschuster.com)

Reynolds, Aaron, *Metal Man*

Devon visits the Metal Man at his fiery workshop every day, despite the scorching heat of the city where he lives. At the Metal Man’s shop, sparks fly from his welding torch as he cuts and melts together old pieces of junk into works of art. Devon is fascinated by the Metal Man’s creations. Then one day, the Metal Man lets Devon put his own imagination to work. (charlesbridge.com)

Reynolds, Aaron, *Superhero School*

Leonard is no ordinary kid—he’s enrolled in Superhero School, where leaping tall buildings in a single bound is considered child’s play. If only division, fractions, and multiplication came as naturally, and weren’t so, well, ordinary. But when the kids’ math teacher, Mr. Tornado, and the rest of the staff get kidnapped by ice zombies, Leonard and his pals find themselves using every superhero trick in the book—not to mention a few unexpected math skills— to divide (and conquer!) the enemy. (bloomsbury.com)

Rocco, John, *Blizzard*

Blizzard is based on John Rocco’s childhood experience during the now infamous Blizzard of 1978, which brought fifty-three inches of snow to his town in Rhode Island. Told with a brief text and dynamic illustrations, the book opens with a boy’s excitement upon seeing the first snowflake fall outside his classroom window. It ends with the neighborhood’s immense relief upon seeing the first snowplow break through on their street. In between the boy watches his familiar landscape transform into something alien, and readers watch him transform into a hero who puts the needs of others first. John uses an increasing amount of white space in his playful images, which include a gatefold spread of the boy’s
expedition to the store. This book about the wonder of a winter storm is as delicious as a mug of hot cocoa by the fire on a snowy day. (books.disney.com)

Rodowsky, Colby F., Not My Dog
It isn’t Ellie’s fault, really. She’s always wanted a puppy, and now that she’s almost nine, finally old enough to get one, Preston is foisted on her. What’s more, her parents say that this fully grown mutt that Great-aunt Margaret can no longer keep will have to do. They can’t very well have a dog and a puppy. Although heartbroken and resentful, Ellie does see Preston’s virtues. Still, she refuses to accept him as her dog. Then Ellie’s resistance almost costs her Preston, and at last she embraces him. Colby Rodowsky’s story about a child’s change of heart has just enough tenderness -- and just enough bite -- to satisfy young dog lovers. (us.macmillan.com)

Rogers, Gregory, Midsummer Knight
Gregory Rogers is back with a new wordless adventure every bit as funny and inspired as The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard. Here the Bear returns as a soldier whose daydreams are interrupted by Shakespeare’s fairy, Puck--the Boy in the previous book. Soon Bear finds himself hurtled into an enchanted world replete with treacherous doings, sinister plots and, of course, palace dungeons. Is Bear truly a swashbuckler? Will he ever escape? (books.google.com)

Rohmann, Eric, Bone Dog
Gus doesn’t feel like doing much after his dog Ella dies. He doesn’t really even feel like dressing up for Halloween. But when Gus runs into a bunch of rowdy skeletons, it’s Ella--his very own Bone dog--who comes to his aid, and together they put those skeletons in their place. A book about friendship, loss, and a delightfully spooky Halloween. (us.macmillan.com)

Rosenstiehl, Agnes, Silly Lilly and the Four Seasons
Lilly is a spunky little girl who delights in the unexpected pleasures of each season, peering inside shells in the summer and tasting different kinds of apples in the fall. In this charming and subtle book by one of
France’s premier children’s book authors, Lilly learns more about the outdoors and introduces the youngest readers to the colors, words, and shapes that arise in nature. Silly Lilly’s intimate monologues deftly capture a child’s sense of wonder in five whimsical episodes that cycle through the calendar from Spring back to Spring again. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Roy, Ron, The Absent Author**

A is for Author . . . A famous writer is coming to Green Lawn! Dink rushes to the bookstore to meet his favorite author, Wallis Wallace, and get all his books signed. But the author never shows up! Where is Wallis Wallace? It’s up to Dink and his friends Josh and Ruth Rose to track him down. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

This is the first book in the A to Z Mysteries series. They can be read in any order.

**Rylant, Cynthia, Henry And Mudge First Book**

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. The Henry and Mudge series has grown into one of the most beloved and acclaimed beginning-reading series ever. These books have been recommended by the American Library Association, the Library of Congress, the American Booksellers Association, and, most importantly, the thousands of children who belong to the Henry and Mudge fan club. (scholastic.com) This is the first of many Henry and Mudge books. You can read them in any order.

**Rylant, Cynthia, Mr. Putter & Tabby Turn the Page**

Mr. Putter and his fine cat, Tabby, love reading their favorite books over and over. So when Mr. Putter sees a sign at the library that says "Read Aloud with Your Pet at Story Time," he signs up. But then Mr. Putter’s friend and neighbor, Mrs. Teaberry, wants to join. If Mrs. Teaberry brings her good dog, Zeke, to the library, who knows what will happen? With Zeke up to his usual tricks, story time might get too exciting! (indiebound.org)

**Rylant, Cynthia, Poppleton**

Poppleton the pig makes a friend, reads a library book about adventure, and helps a sick friend get better. (goodreads.com)
Rylant, Cynthia, *The Case of the Missing Monkey*
When a glass monkey is stolen, High-Rise Private Eyes Bunny Brown and Jack Jones are on the job! But will this be one case that’s too tough to crack? (harpercollins.com) This is the first book in the High Rise Private Eyes series. They can be read in any order.

Santat, Dan, *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*
This magical story begins on an island far away where an imaginary friend is born. He patiently waits his turn to be chosen by a real child, but when he is overlooked time and again, he sets off on an incredible journey to the bustling city, where he finally meets his perfect match and— at long last—is given his special name: Beekle. (hachettebookgroup.com)

Sarcone-Roach, Julia, *Subway Story*
Never was there a subway car who loved her job more than Jessie. From morning to night she carried all sorts of people all sorts of places—to work and school and World’s Fairs, over bridges and through tunnels—sometimes she even took a pigeon along for the ride! But as time passed, sleek new silver cars began to take over the tracks, banishing Jessie to an abandoned lot. What will she do with no passengers to carry? And where will she go now that she’s no longer welcome on the tracks? Based on the true story of 1960’s-era subway cars that are now being used to create artificial reefs in the Atlantic, this stunningly illustrated second book from Julia Sarcone-Roach is sure to delight scuba diving historians and kids alike. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Sarcone-Roach, Julia, *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*
“By now I think you know what happened to your sandwich. But you may not know how it happened. So let me tell you. It all started with the bear...”
So begins Julia Sarcone-Roach’s delicious tale of a bear, lost in the city, who happens upon an unattended sandwich in the park. The bear’s journey from forest to city and back home again is full of happy accidents, funny encounters, and sensory delights. The story
is so engrossing, it’s not until the very end that we begin to suspect this is a TALL tale. The wonderfully told story, spectacular illustrations, and surprise ending make this Julia Sarcone-Roach’s best book to date. You’ll want to share it with your friends (and keep a close eye on your lunch). (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Savage, Stephen, Where’s Walrus?**
Bored with life at the zoo, an adventurous walrus escapes to the outside world. With the zookeeper in hot pursuit, Walrus cleverly tries on all sorts of hats to disguise himself. Will a yellow hardhat point to a new life as a construction worker? Or will a red swimming cap reveal his true talents? Follow the happy-go-lucky runaway as he hides amongst firefighters, businessmen, and even high-stepping dancers in this delightful wordless picture book. (scholastic.com)

**Schwartz, Amy, Starring Miss Darlene**
A star is born, hippo style in this riotous tribute to life upon the stage. Determined to be a star, Darlene signs up for theater class. And she succeeds, though not in the way you might expect. In Noah’s Ark she’s cast as the Flood, with cataclysmic results. She mangles her lines in a science fiction epic. And as Sleeping Beauty, she, well, sleeps. The funniest book yet by an acclaimed author and artist, this picture book romp will have readers dancing in the aisles. (books.google.com)

**Schwarz, Viviane, There Are Cats in This Book**
Our lovable feline friends Tiny, Moonpie, and Andre have returned, and this time they’re filled with the spirit of adventure: they want to go off to explore the world! They have their suitcases packed and are ready to set out, but can’t get out of the book. They try pushing their way out and jumping their way out, but nothing seems to work. Finally, they get a brilliant idea: they decide to wish themselves out! But they’re going to need help. Will it work? Are you missing them yet? The interactive cats are back, but not for long! They’re eager to go off to see the world. So will someone please help them get out of the book? (candlewick.com)

**Scieszka, Jon, Robot Zot!**
From the minds of Scieszka and Shannon comes a tale of a quixotic robot determined to conquer the earth. The only problem
is that the earth he lands on is a suburban kitchen and he is three inches tall. Robot Zot, the fearless and unstoppable warrior, leaves a trail of destruction as he encounters blenders, toasters, and televisions. But when he discovers the princess...a pink cell phone...his mission takes a new course. Robot Zot must learn how to be a hero - in the name of true love. (simonandschuster.com)

**Scotton, Rob, Splat the Cat**

It's Splat's first day of school and he's worried. What if he doesn't make any new friends? Just in case, Splat decides to bring along his pet mouse, Seymour, and hides him in his lunchbox. The teacher, Mrs. Wimpydimple, introduces Splat to the class and he soon starts learning all his important cat lessons. But when Seymour escapes and the cats do what cats do (they chase mice!), Splat's worried again. Maybe now he’ll lose all his friends, old and new! Just in time, wise Mrs. Wimpydimple takes charge and teaches everyone an important new lesson. Maybe Cat School is going to be okay after all! (harpercollins.com) There are many books about Splat the Cat. They can be read in any order.

**Seeger, Laura Vaccaro, Bully**

Bully doesn't have a kind word for any of his friends. When the other animals ask him to play, he responds in the way he's been taught: Chicken! Slow poke! You stink! Laura Vaccaro Seeger's bold, graphic artwork, along with her spare but powerful words, make for a tender, hilarious, and thoughtful tale. (us.macmillan.com)

**Selden, George, The Cricket in Times Square**

Tucker is a streetwise city mouse. He thought he'd seen it all. But he's never met a cricket before, which really isn't surprising, because, along with his friend Harry Cat, Tucker lives in the very heart of New York City--the Times Square subway station. Chester Cricket never intended to leave his Connecticut meadow. He'd be there still if he hadn't followed the entrancing aroma of liverwurst right into someone's picnic basket. Now, like any tourist in the city, he wants to look around. And he could not have found two better guides--and friends--than Tucker and Harry. The trio have many adventures--from taking in the sights and sounds of Broadway to escaping a smoky fire. Chester makes a third friend, too. It is a
boy, Mario, who rescues Chester from a dusty corner of the subway station and brings him to live in the safety of his parents' newsstand. He hopes at first to keep Chester as a pet, but Mario soon understands that the cricket is more than that. Because Chester has a hidden talent and no one—not even Chester himself—realizes that the little country cricket may just be able to teach even the toughest New Yorkers a thing or two. (us.macmillan.com)

Shannon, David, A Bad Case of Stripes
Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her school don't like them. And Camilla Cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she's so worried that she's about to break out in...a bad case of stripes! (scholastic.com)

Sharmat, Marjorie Weinman, Nate the Great
Nate the Great has a new case! His friend Annie has lost a picture. She wants Nate to help her find it. Nate the Great must get all the facts, ask the right questions, and narrow the list of suspects so he can solve the mystery. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Sharp, Margery, The Rescuers
Miss Bianca is a white mouse of great beauty and supreme self-confidence, who, courtesy of her excellent young friend, the ambassador’s son, resides luxuriously in a porcelain pagoda painted with violets, primroses, and lilies of the valley. Miss Bianca would seem to be a pampered creature, and not, you would suppose, the mouse to dispatch on an especially challenging and extraordinarily perilous mission. However, it is precisely Miss Bianca that the Prisoners’ Aid Society picks for the job of rescuing a Norwegian poet imprisoned in the legendarily dreadful Black Castle (we all know, don’t we, that mice are the friends of prisoners, tending to their needs in dungeons and oubliettes everywhere). Miss Bianca, after all, is a poet too, and in any case she is due to travel any day now by diplomatic pouch to Norway. There Miss Bianca will be able to enlist one Nils, known to be the bravest mouse in the land, in a desperate and daring endeavor that will take them, along with their trusty companion Bernard, across turbulent seas and over the paws and under the
maws of cats into one of the darkest places known to man or mouse. It will take everything they’ve got and a good deal more to escape with their own lives, not to mention the poet. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Shaw, Nancy E., Sheep Trick or Treat
What will happen when the sheep go trick-or-treating? Could there be wolves lurking in the woods, hoping to waylay them as they return home with their bags full of goodies? In crisp verse and whimsically eerie pictures, Nancy Shaw and Margot Apple tell the lively story of a remarkable Halloween adventure. Simple sentences, rhyming text, and a humorous tone make this the perfect treat for beginning readers. Fans of this adventuresome flock of sheep will not want to miss this Halloween treat. (hmhco.com)

Small, David, Imogene’s Antlers
David Small’s dryly comic story of a little girl who wakes one morning to discover she has grown antlers has delighted children since it was first published. The family doctor, the school principal, and even Imogene’s know-it-all brother, Norman, fail to resolve her dilemma. Imogene, the cook, and the kitchen maid, however, make the best of things, finding unusual uses for Imogene’s new horns. Meanwhile, the problem appears to be solved when Imogene awakes the next morning antler-free. But the family (and the reader) are in for a surprise when Imogene comes down to breakfast.... (books.google.com)

Smith, Alexander McCall, Akimbo and the Lions (Akimbo)
Alexander McCall Smith is known and loved around the world for his No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency mysteries and other novels. Now, in his first books for children to be published in the U.S., he takes readers deep into the heart of Africa, where the grass grows taller than a man, and where lions and great elephants still roam. There, ten-year-old Akimbo lives with his father on the edge of a game reserve. Akimbo loves to join his father when he patrols the reserve because there is always something exciting to see. But when it comes to wild animals, excitement can also mean danger...
In Akimbo and the Lions, Akimbo helps his father set a trap for a lioness that has been attacking cattle on nearby farms. But when the lion they catch turns out to be a cub, Akimbo must find a way to care for him until he is strong enough to return to the wild. (bloomsbury.com) There are several books about Akimbo. Unfortunately, they are often out of print. You'll have better luck finding them at a library than a bookstore. They are worth searching for!

**Snicket, Lemony, The Dark**
Laszlo is afraid of the dark. The dark lives in the same house as Laszlo. Mostly, though, the dark stays in the basement and doesn't come into Lazslo's room. But one night, it does. This is the story of how Laszlo stops being afraid of the dark. With emotional insight and poetic economy, two award-winning talents team up to conquer a universal childhood fear. (hachettebookgroup.com)

**Spires, Elizabeth, The Mouse of Amherst**
When she moves into Emily Dickinson's bedroom, Emmaline the mouse discovers her own propensity for poetry. (books.google.com) This lovely book is out of print, so you'll have better luck finding it in a library than a bookstore.

**Springman, I. C., More**
This innovative and spare picture book asks the question: When is MORE more than enough? Can a team of well-intentioned mice save their friend from hoarding too much stuff? With breathtaking illustrations from the award-winning Brian Lies, this book about conservation wraps an important message in a beautiful package. (www.hmhco.com)

**Stead, Philip C., A Home for Bird**
While out foraging for interesting things, Vernon the toad finds a new friend - a small blue bird who is curiously silent. Vernon shows Bird the river and the forest and some of his other favorite things, but Bird says nothing. Vernon introduces Bird to his friends, Skunk and Porcupine, but Bird still says nothing. "Bird is shy," says Vernon, "but also a very good listener."
Vernon worries that Bird is silent because he misses his home, so the two set off on a journey to help find a home for Bird. (us.macmillan.com)

Steig, William, *Dominic*
It’s time for a change, so Dominic packs his collection of hats and his piccolo and heads out, letting the world take him where it may. When Dominic encounters members of the Doomsday Gang, he easily foils their attempt to rob him. Legend of his victory quickly spreads, and each new friend Dominic meets tells him a story of their own less-fortunate meeting with the villains, and asks for help from the heroic dog. But can one lone dog bring down an entire band of hooligans? (books.google.com)

Steig, William, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
Sylvester can’t believe his luck when he finds a magic pebble that can make wishes come true. But when a lion jumps out at him on his way home, Sylvester is shocked into making a wish that has unexpected consequences. After overcoming a series of obstacles, Sylvester is eventually reunited with his loving family. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Stein, David Ezra, *Interrupting Chicken*
It’s time for the little red chicken’s bedtime story--and a reminder from Papa to try not to interrupt. But the chicken can’t help herself! Whether the tale is HANSEL AND GRETEL or LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD or even CHICKEN LITTLE, she jumps into the story to save its hapless characters from doing some dangerous or silly thing. Now it’s the little red chicken’s turn to tell a story, but will her yawning papa make it to the end without his own kind of interrupting? Energetically illustrated with glowing colors--and offering humorous story-within-a-story views--this all-too-familiar tale is sure to amuse (and hold the attention of) spirited little chicks. (candlewick.com)

Steptoe, John, *Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters*
Mufaro has two beautiful daughters. Nyasha is kind and considerate, but Manyara is selfish and spoiled. When the king decides to choose a bride from among "The Most Worthy and Beautiful Daughters in the
Land," both Mufaro's girls travel to the capital city. But only one can be chosen to marry the king. (harpercollins.com)

**Stevens, Janet, *And the dish ran away with the spoon***

Every night the rhyme gets read. Every night Dish and Spoon run away. And every night they return--until tonight! Where can Dish and Spoon be? The rhyme can’t go on without them, so Cat, Cow, and Dog set out to search for their missing friends. But where to start? Should they go north? East? Northeast? They'll just have to read Fork's map, ask directions, and try not to get lost in Little Boy Blue’s haystack or under Miss Muffet’s tuffet or in Big Bad Wolf's kitchen--"FEE, FI, FO . . ." Oh no. Could that be the giant? (hmhco.com)

**Stewart, Sarah, *The Library***

Elizabeth Brown doesn't like to play with dolls, and she doesn't like to skate. What she does like to do is read books. Now that she’s grown up, her collection is so big all the shelves are collapsing. Her front door has disappeared entirely. What in the world will she do? The reclusive Elizabeth Brown surprises everyone with her splendid solution. (franceslincoln.com)

**Sullivan, Mary, *Ball***

A dog with a ball is one of the most relentlessly hopeful creatures on Earth. After his best little-girl pal leaves for school, this dog hits up yoga mom, baby, and even the angry cat for a quick throw. No luck. Forced to go solo, the dog begins a hilarious one-sided game of fetch until naptime’s wild, ball-centric dream sequence. The pictures speak a thousand words in this comic book-style ode to canine monomania. Ball? Ball. (hmhco.com)

**Sweet, Melissa, *Balloons over Broadway: The True Story of the Puppeteer of Macy’s Parade***

Everyone’s a New Yorker on Thanksgiving Day, when young and old rise early to see what giant new balloons will fill the skies for Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Who first invented these "upside-down puppets"? Meet Tony Sarg, puppeteer extraordinaire! In brilliant collage illustrations, Caldecott Honor artist Melissa Sweet tells the story of the puppeteer Tony Sarg, capturing his genius, his dedication, his zest for play, and his
long-lasting gift to America—the inspired helium balloons that would become the trademark of Macy’s Parade. (hmhco.com)

Taylor, Sydney, *All-of-a-kind Family*
Meet the All-of-a-Kind Family — Ella, Henny, Sarah, Charlotte, and Gertie — who live with their parents in New York City at the turn of the century. Together they share adventures that find them searching for hidden buttons while dusting Mama’s front parlor and visiting with the peddlers in Papa’s shop on rainy days. The girls enjoy doing everything together, especially when it involves holidays and surprises. But no one could have prepared them for the biggest surprise of all! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Tellegen, Toon, *The Squirrel’s Birthday and Other Parties*
A whale and a seagull dance silently on a moon-drenched beach. A grasshopper pays a fortune for a speck of dust. A squirrel and an ant discover a mysterious feast, with an invisible host, in the depths of a forest. Toon Tellegen’s whimsical animal tales are perfectly complemented by Jessica Ahlberg's delicate illustrations in this collection of lyrical stories that will captivate readers of all ages. (boxerbooksltd.co.uk)

Thompson, Kay, *Eloise*
Eloise lives at The Plaza Hotel on the top floor with her Nanny while her mother is away. She is very busy with her daily activities, although the hotel staff sometimes wishes she would do something else. (scholastic.com)

Tonatiuh, Duncan, *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant’s Tale*
In this allegorical picture book, a young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa’s return. Papa Rabbit traveled north two years ago to find work in the great carrot and lettuce fields to earn money for his family. When Papa does not return, Pancho sets out to find him. He packs Papa’s favorite meal—mole, rice and beans, a heap of warm tortillas, and a jug of aguamiel—and heads north. He meets a coyote, who offers to help Pancho in exchange for some of Papa’s food. They travel together until the food is gone and the coyote decides he is still hungry . . . for Pancho! (abramsbooks.com)
Trivizas, Eugene, *The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig*
When it comes time for the three little wolves to go out into the world and build themselves a house, their mother warns them to beware the big bad pig. But the little wolves’ increasingly sturdy dwellings are no match for the persistent porker, who has more up his sleeve than huffing and puffing. It takes a chance encounter with a flamingo pushing a wheelbarrow full of flowers to provide a surprising and satisfying solution to the little wolves’ housing crisis. Eugene Trivizas’s hilarious text and Helen Oxenbury’s enchanting watercolors have made this delightfully skewed version of the traditional tale a contemporary classic. (simonandschuster.com)

Tullet, Herve, *Press Here*
Press the yellow dot on the cover of this book, follow the instructions within, and embark upon a magical journey! Each page of this surprising book instructs the reader to press the dots, shake the pages, tilt the book, and who knows what will happen next! Children and adults alike will giggle with delight as the dots multiply, change direction, and grow in size! Especially remarkable because the adventure occurs on the flat surface of the simple, printed page, this unique picture book about the power of imagination and interactivity will provide read-aloud fun for all ages! (chroniclebooks.com) (If you enjoy this book, look for Mix It Up! by the same author.)

Turner-Denstaedt, Melanie, *The Hat That Wore Clara B.*
On Mother’s Sunday at church, Clara B.’s grandma has the most beautiful hat of all the ladies. When people compliment her on it, she says, “Honey, I’m not wearing this hat. This hat is wearing me!” Clara B. likes to sit behind the hat in church and pretend it is wearing her. One day Clara B. decides that pretending isn’t enough, and she waits for her chance at the hat. But when the right moment comes along and she finally gets her hands on it, things don’t go exactly as she’d planned... (us.macmillan.com)

Underwood, Deborah, *The Quiet Book*
All quiet is not created equal. In this irresistibly charming picture book, many different quiet moments are captured, from the
anticipation-heavy “Top of the roller coaster quiet” to the shocked-into-silence “First look at your new hairstyle quiet.” The impossibly sweet bears, rabbits, fish, birds, and iguanas are all rendered in soft pencils and colored digitally, and, as in all of the best picture books, the illustrations propel the story far beyond the words. (hmhco.com) There is a companion book called The Loud Book.

Urbanovic, Jackie, Duck Soup
Max the duck is cooking up an amazing soup. But what's this? A feather floating in the soup! And where's Max? Brody the dog, Dakota the cat, and Bebe the bird race about in their hilarious search for the missing Max. But remember, sometimes things just aren’t as they appear. (harpercollins.com)

Vamos, Samantha R., The Cazuela That the Farm Maiden Stirred
This is the story of how the farm maiden and all the farm animals worked together to make the rice pudding that they serve at the fiesta. With the familiarity of "The House That Jack Built," this story bubbles and builds just like the ingredients of the arroz con leche that everyone enjoys. Cleverly incorporating Spanish words, adding a new one in place of the English word from the previous page, this book makes learning the language easy and fun. (charlesbridge.com)

Various Authors, Fairy Tale Comics: Classic Tales Told by Extraordinary Cartoonists
From favorites like "Puss in Boots" and "Goldilocks" to obscure gems like "The Boy Who Drew Cats," Fairy Tale Comics has something to offer every reader. Seventeen fairy tales are wonderfully adapted and illustrated in comics format by seventeen different cartoonists, including Raina Telgemeier, Brett Helquist, Cherise Harper, and more. (us.macmillan.com)

Velasquez, Eric, Grandma's Gift
Eric describes Christmas at his grandmother's apartment in Spanish Harlem the year she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diego
Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja, which has had a profound and lasting effect on him. (scholastic.com)

**Vernick, Audrey, Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team**
The amazing true story of the Acerra family from New Jersey, whose 12 boys formed their own semi-professional baseball team in the 1930s. The team was the longest-running all-brother team in history and is honored in the Baseball Hall of Fame. (hmhco.com)

**Viorst, Judith, Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day**
Alexander is not having a great day. He has to endure gum in his hair, sitting in the middle of the backseat, third-best-friend status, no dessert at lunch, lima beans, railroad pajamas, and kissing on TV—all in one day! Maybe he'll just move to Australia. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Vozar, David, Yo, Hungry Wolf! - a Nursery Rap**
Here are Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs, and The Boy Who Cried Wolf retold hilariously in rap. The stories may be familiar, but the telling is fresh, new and alive. Full-color illustrations capture the mood perfectly. (books.google.com)

**Waddell, Martin, The Hollyhock Wall**
After Mary makes a garden in an old cooking pot and includes in it a boy fashioned out of clay, she finds herself with him in the garden. (books.google.com)
This wonderfully charming book is out of print, but you can find it at used bookstores or online used booksellers.

**Ward, Helen, Unwitting Wisdom: An Anthology of Aesop's Fables**
For over 2,500 years the simple stories and wry humor of Aesop's fables have entertained children and adults alike. Their lessons have seeped into the very fabric of our language, as evidenced by expressions such as "sour grapes" and "a wolf in sheep's clothing." Through the centuries many artists have risen to the challenge of interpreting their favorite tales. In this magnificent edition, award-winning...
illustrator Helen Ward has chosen a dozen of her favorite fables, painstakingly creating with words and breathtaking watercolors a dazzling new collection destined to become a classic. (chroniclebooks.com) There are many editions of Aesop’s fables, and any will be worth reading. This beautifully illustrated edition by Helen Ward is particularly recommended.

**Warner, Gertrude, The Boxcar Children**
Orphaned and alone but determined to stay together, Henry, Jessie, Violet, and Benny Alden set off on their own and turned an abandoned boxcar into their home. (books.google.com)

**Watt, Melanie, Scaredy Squirrel**
Scaredy Squirrel never leaves his nut tree. It's way too dangerous out there. He could encounter tarantulas, green Martians or killer bees. But in his tree, every day is the same and if danger comes along, he's well-prepared. Scaredy Squirrel's emergency kit includes antibacterial soap, Band-Aids and a parachute. Day after day he watches and waits, and waits and watches, until one day ... his worst nightmare comes true! Scaredy suddenly finds himself out of his tree, where germs, poison ivy and sharks lurk. But as Scaredy Squirrel leaps into the unknown, he discovers something really uplifting... (kidscanpress.com) There are many books about Scaredy Squirrel. They are all hilarious and can be read in any order.

**Wells, Rosemary, Max and Ruby's Show-and-Tell**
It's show-and-tell day at Ruby’s school, and Ruby is going to show off her cake. Max wants to come, but Ruby says that he can't—he is too young for school! Find out what happens when Max goes anyway in this sweet and funny All Aboard Picture Reader. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Wells, Rosemary, Voyage to the Bunny Planet**
In each book of this beloved trio of mini-picture books—First Tomato, Moss Pillows, and Island Light—a little rabbit who has had a particularly bad day is transported to the Bunny Planet. There, the bunnies experience the day that should have been—a day filled with warmth, love, and peaceful activities. (books.google.com)
White, E. B., *Charlotte's Web*
This beloved book by E. B. White, author of Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan, is a classic of children’s literature that is “just about perfect.” Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These are the words in Charlotte’s Web, high up in Zuckerman’s barn. Charlotte’s spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur’s life when he was born the runt of his litter. E. B. White’s Newbery Honor Book is a tender novel of friendship, love, life, and death that will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. (harpercollins.com)

White, E. B., *The Trumpet of the Swan*
Like the rest of his family, Louis is a trumpeter swan. But unlike his four brothers and sisters, Louis can’t trumpet joyfully. In fact, he can't even make a sound. And since he can’t trumpet his love, the beautiful swan Serena pays absolutely no attention to him. Louis tries everything he can think of to win Serena’s affection—he even goes to school to learn to read and write. But nothing seems to work. Then his father steals him a real brass trumpet. Is a musical instrument the key to winning Louis his love? (harpercollins.com)

Wiesner, David, *Books*
David Wiesner creates some of the most amazing picture books I’ve ever seen. He is one of only two illustrators in the whole world who has won the Caldecott Medal three times. He is particularly known for wordless (or nearly wordless) stories that have some sort of magical or impossible creature or event. His most famous books are probably Tuesday and The Three Pigs (the one where they jump out of the story). I can’t possibly choose just one favorite, but I would add Flotsam as one of the top three. Really, you should just plan to read them all, preferably more than once. (Ms. Bock)
Willems, Mo, Books
Mo Willems is one of the current rock stars of the children's book world, and you are probably already familiar with his books. His first series of picture books is about the Pigeon who would like to do something that he's not supposed to. His Elephant & Piggie series of early readers are wonderful for showing different moments in a friendship. You may not have heard of the Cat the Cat books, but they are especially good for kids who are just beginning to learn to read. They have a surprise ending that keeps everything fun. All of his books are funny and have characters that will remind you of yourself or a person that you know. You can find lots of fun games and other goodies at mowillems.com and pigeonpresents.com. (Ms. Bock)

Williams, Vera B., Three Days on a River in a Red Canoe
Follow the red canoe from page to page as it journeys down river carrying the family on a camping tour. It's the next best thing to paddling it yourself. (harpercollins.com)

Wise, William, Christopher Mouse: The Tale of a Small Traveler
Though his life begins "in a commonplace way," Christopher Mouse is not the least bit common. From his birth in an ordinary wire cage, to his various young owners who range from bad to worse, his escape from a youthful taxidermist, and finally his close encounter with a large cat in the Egyptian room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Christopher proves an adventurer of the most intrepid sort - and a budding poet as well. With the delightful feel of a lost (and found) classic, this is the story of a rather extraordinary mouse who, through the force of will, and indeed, good luck, finds his own small way in a very large world. (bloomsbury.com)
Woodson, Jacqueline, *Each Kindness (Jane Addams Award Book (Awards))*

Each kindness makes the world a little better. Chloe and her friends won’t play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe’s teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she’d shown a little kindness toward Maya. (penguin.com)

Yee, Wong Herbert, *Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mole paperbacK*

Mouse and Mole are neighbors. Mouse lives inside an oak tree, and Mole lives in a hole underneath. They are neighbors, but they are also friends. Sometimes friends make mistakes—but they always try to help each other out. That is what Mouse and Mole do. (hmhco.com) (This is the first book about Mouse and Mole. You can read them in any order. If you enjoy Frog and Toad, you will also like this series.)

Yolen, Jane, *Commander Toad in Space*

Brave Commander Toad and the crew of the spaceship Star Warts have a mission: they must go where no spaceship has gone before and bring a little bit of earth out to the alien stars. But when they try to land their sky skimmer on the planet made of water, a terrible sound rises from the waves. Deep Wader is not pleased at being disturbed. “This planet belongs to me,” he roars. It looks as though the crew of the Star Warts might become the monster’s lunch. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Zullo, Germano, *Little Bird*

A man drives his truck up to a cliff’s edge. Unable to go any further, he opens the back door of his truck and a flock of birds flies out, but, as the man soon discovers, a small timid bird remains. Surprised and delighted, the man acts kindly towards the bird and an intimacy develops. After lunch, the man tries to show the bird that he should fly off and join his friends. The man’s comic attempt at flight
deepens the encounter between these two very different creatures. Soon the bird flies off and the man drives away, but in a surprise twist the bird and his friends return, and in a starkly lyrical moment we see them all experience something entirely new. (enchantedlionbooks.com)
Ancona, George, *Ole Flamenco*
Photo-essay about Flamenco, a southern Spanish art form that incorporates song, dance, and music, tracing its cultural history and focusing on a contemporary young girl and her brother as they learn the traditional style of movement and instrument playing. (goodreads.com)

Arnosky, Jim, *Thunder Birds: Nature’s Flying Predators*
Acclaimed naturalist and illustrator Jim Arnosky helps birds and imaginations take glorious flight in this breathtaking nonfiction picture book with six giant gatefolds. Arnosky will draw out kids' inner explorer as he explains why there are no feathers on a vulture’s head, which bird is the deep-diving champ, what makes an owl’s wings perfectly silent in flight, and much more. Readers can use this gorgeously illustrated book to bring the wilderness right into their rooms-or as a guide on their next expedition. (goodreads.com)

Aston, Dianna Hutts, *A Seed Is Sleepy*
Award-winning artist Sylvia Long and author Dianna Hutts Aston have teamed up again to create this gorgeous and informative introduction to seeds. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, the book introduces children to a fascinating array of seed and plant facts, making it a guide that is equally at home being read on a parent’s lap as in a classroom reading circle. (chroniclebooks.com)

Bean, Jonathan, *Building Our House*
In this unique construction book for kids who love tools and trucks, readers join a girl and her family as they pack up their old house in town and set out to build a new one in the country. Mom and Dad are going to make the new house themselves, from the ground up. From empty lot to finished home, every stage of their year-and-a-half-long building project is here. And at every step their lucky kids are watching and getting their hands dirty, in page after page brimming with machines, vehicles, and all kinds of house-making activities! As he imagines it through the eyes of his older sister,
Building Our House is Jonathan Bean's retelling of his own family's true experience, and includes an afterword with photographs from the author's collection. (us.macmillan.com)

Bishop, Nic, Books
If you like animals, you simply must take a look at Nic Bishop’s books. He is one of the current rock stars of the children’s nonfiction world. He is a photographer, scientist, and writer. His photographs are just amazing. You may be familiar with his first major success, The Red-Eyed Tree Frog. He now has published many other books at a wide range of reading and interest levels, from early readers, to simple nonfiction, to more in-depth nonfiction like the Scientists in the Field series. You won’t go wrong with any of his books. I am particularly fond of Backyard Detectives. (Ms. Bock)

Blackford, Harriet, Elephant's Story
Elephant's Story follows the life of a young elephant calf as she grows up surrounded by her family on the vast African savanna. With clear, informative text and stunning paintings, Elephant's Story delivers non-fiction to a young audience with freshness, clarity and drama. Packed with facts, conservation information and parental notes, this is a must-have book for every child. (boxerbookslimited.co.uk)

Brown, Monica, Pele, King of Soccer/Pele, El rey del futbol
Do you know how a poor boy from Brazil who loved fútbol more than anything else became the biggest soccer star the world has ever known? Turn the pages of this book to read the true life story of Pelé, King of Soccer, the first man in the history of the sport to score a thousand goals and become a living legend. Rudy Gutiérrez’s dynamic illustrations make award-winning author Monica Brown’s story of this remarkable sports hero truly come alive! (harpercollins.com)
Burleigh, Robert, *Night Flight: Amelia Earhart Crosses the Atlantic*

Award-winning author Robert Burleigh has captured Amelia Earhart’s first solo flight across the Atlantic in 1932. She was only the second person to do this—and the first woman. Rich in detail, feeling and incident this is nonfiction with edge and action, a you-are-there experience made more dramatic and real by Wendell Minor’s vivid paintings. (simonandschuster.com)

Calmenson, Stephanie, *May I Pet Your Dog?: The How-to Guide for Kids Meeting Dogs (and Dogs Meeting Kids)*

Children encounter dogs wherever they go: in the park, on the sidewalk, at their friends’ homes. Sometimes it’s love at first sight, on both sides—but not always. The right way for a child to approach a dog to ensure that the first connection is a complete success begins with this question to the owner: “May I pet your dog?” Using Harry the dachshund as a gentle guide, Stephanie Calmenson addresses this valuable yet overlooked topic with care and precision, and Jan Ormerod’s warm illustrations portray a wide variety of breeds and personalities and depict situations that are realistic but never scary. Unique and straightforward, this is the essential guide to bringing children and dogs together—for kids and parents alike. (hmhco.com)

Campos, Maria de Fatima, *Victoria Goes to Brazil*

Victoria’s mother was born in Brazil, but she and her daughter live in London. Now it’s time for a visit to the country where Mom grew up. From a coffee farm to a saint’s day procession, from a street children’s shelter to a huge family barbeque, Victoria learns about her mother’s country and enjoys getting to know her large Brazilian family. Using vibrant photographs and a first-person narrative based on the fresh perceptions of a child, Victoria Goes to Brazil stimulates young imaginations by showcasing the unfamiliar yet fascinating food, clothing, customs, and culture of this colorful and diverse country. (books.google.com)

Chin, Jason, *Redwoods*

An ordinary train ride becomes an extraordinary trip to the great ancient forests. A subway trip is transformed when a young boy
happens upon a book about redwood forests. As he reads the information unfolds, and with each new bit of knowledge, he travels—all the way to California to climb into the Redwood canopy. Crammed with interesting and accurate information about these great natural wonders, Jason Chin's first book is innovative nonfiction set within a strong and beautiful picture storybook. (us.macmillan.com) (Look for other great books by this author!)

Collard III, Sneed B., Many Biomes, One Earth
Discover earth's natural neighborhoods on a colorful trek through the twelve terrestrial biomes of North and South America. Travel from the icy tundra, where the polar bear makes its home, to the tropical rain forest, the natural home of more than thirty million kinds of insects. From mountains to prairies, rich, exquisite illustrations and fascinating facts present a detailed journey through earth's splendid natural homes. (charlesbridge.com)

Cooper, Elisha, Farm
There is so much to look at and learn about on a farm — animals, tractors, crops, barns, even a rooster named Breakfast! And children feeding animals for morning chores, which "would be better if they didn't happen in the morning." With lyrical writing and beautiful illustrations that capture the rhythms of the changing seasons, Elisha Cooper brings the farm to life. (scholastic.com)

Crelin, Bob, Faces of the Moon
Why does the Moon seem to change shape from night to night? In this unique book, innovative die-cuts and playful poetry introduce the names and shapes of the lunar phases to explain the role light and shadow play in this transformation. (charlesbridge.com)

Davies, Nicola, Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes
All around the world — in the sea, in the soil, in the air, and in your body — there are living things so tiny that millions could fit on an ant's antenna. They’re busy doing all sorts of things, from giving you a cold and making yogurt to eroding mountains and helping to
make the air we breathe. If you could see them with your eye, you’d find that they all look different, and that they’re really good at changing things into something else and at making many more microbes like themselves! From Nicola Davies comes a first exploration for young readers of the world’s tiniest living organisms. (randomhouse.com)

**Daynes, Katie, Firefighters**
Fires, accidents, earthquakes and floods - firefighters are never far from danger. This thrilling book shows where they work, how they fight fires and how they rescue people. (usborne.com)

**Ehlert, Lois, The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life**
The renowned Caldecott Honoree and illustrator of Chicka Chicka Boom Boom provides a moving, intimate, and inspiring inside look at her colorful picture book career. Lois Ehlert always knew she was an artist. Her parents encouraged her from a young age by teaching her how to sew and saw wood and pound nails, and by giving her colorful art supplies. They even gave her a special spot to work that was all her own. Today, many years and many books later, Lois takes readers and aspiring artists on a delightful behind-the-scenes tour of her books and her book-making process. Part fascinating retrospective, part moving testament to the value of following your dreams, this richly illustrated picture book is sure to inspire children and adults alike to explore their own creativity.

**Farmer, Jacqueline, Pumpkins**
Did you know pumpkins have been around for 11,000 years? Or that the biggest pumpkin on record weighed over 1,300 pounds? Learn all about pumpkins—where they come from, how to grow them, and more—in this informative book that’s guaranteed to squash the competition. Recipes, fun facts, and resources round out the text. (charlesbridge.com)

**Frost, Helen, Monarch and Milkweed**
Every spring the monarch butterfly migrates thousands of miles in search of the ideal milkweed plant. When she finds it, she lays her eggs on the plant, so when each egg hatches, the baby caterpillar can feed on the milkweed leaves. The milkweed plant then
provides the perfect protection as the caterpillar turns into one of nature's wonders, a chrysalis, before transforming into an even greater wonder: a monarch butterfly. And once the newborn butterfly soars away, the milkweed seeds fly away on the wind and start this cycle over again. The exacting prose and jewel-toned illustrations echo the harmony of monarch and milkweed in this carefully researched book, explaining one of nature's most spectacular displays in a refreshingly simple manner. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Glaser, Linda, Emma's Poem: The Voice of the Statue of Liberty**

Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free...
Who wrote these words? And why? In 1883, Emma Lazarus, deeply moved by an influx of immigrants from Eastern Europe, wrote a sonnet that was to give voice to the Statue of Liberty. Originally a gift from France to celebrate our shared national struggles for liberty, the Statue, thanks to Emma's poem, slowly came to shape our hearts, defining us as a nation that welcomes and gives refuge to those who come to our shores.(hmhco.com)

**Guiberson, Brenda Z., Life in the Boreal Forest**
The great northern forest--the boreal forest--is home to a unique ecosystem of animals and plants. It covers one-third of the earth's total forest area and is home to so many birds that it is known as "North America's bird nursery." The forest is a treasure trove of riches, but it's threatened by increased human development and climate changes. This gorgeous book teaches readers about the boreal forest and reminds them that it's up to us to make sure the beauty and bounty survive. (us.macmillan.com)

**Helman, Andrea, Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts**
First you see them, then you don’t! In habitats around the world, animals rely on clever ways to hide in plain sight. They camouflage themselves in unique ways to avoid danger or to keep undercover while hunting. Vivid color photographs take readers from one ecosystem to the next, searching high and low for animals using the best tricks of the trade to survive. Blink and you might miss these crafty creatures...
using camouflage to either outwit or outhunt one another. (books.google.com)

**Holub, Joan, *Groundhog Weather School***

Ever wonder where Groundhog Day first began? Want to know the reason why we have different weather seasons? Curious about how some plants and animals can help predict the weather? Learn the answers to these questions and many more at *Groundhog Weather School!* This clever story—starring a cast of lovable groundhog characters—is a fresh, informative, and fun look at Groundhog Day through the eyes of the animals who are the stars of it each year. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Huber, Raymond, *Flight of the Honey Bee***

A tiny honey bee emerges from the hive for the first time. Using sunlight, landmarks, and scents to remember the path, she goes in search of pollen and nectar to share with the thousands of other bees in her hive. She uses her powerful sense of smell to locate the flowers that sustain her, avoids birds that might eat her, and returns home to share her finds with her many sisters. Nature lovers and scientists-to-be are invited to explore the fascinating life of a honey bee. (candlewick.com)

**Jocelyn, Marthe, *Same Same***

Forget about differences! Here’s a wonderful new concept book to explore and enjoy! Marthe Jocelyn and Tom Slaughter team up again to deliver a delightfully simple book. Jocelyn’s marvelous concept—finding common characteristics in different creatures and objects—coupled with Slaughter’s masterful paper cuts makes *Same Same* a clever introduction to similarities, as well as a preface to modern art. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Khan, Hena, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors***

Magnificently capturing the colorful world of Islam for the youngest readers, this breathtaking and informative picture book celebrates Islam’s beauty and traditions. From a red prayer rug to a blue hijab, everyday colors are given special meaning as young readers learn about clothing, food, and other important elements of Islamic culture, with a young Muslim
girl as a guide. Sure to inspire questions and observations about world religions and cultures, Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns is equally at home in a classroom reading circle as it is being read to a child on a parent’s lap. (chroniclebooks.com)

Komiya, Teruyuki, *Life-Size Zoo: From Tiny Rodents to Gigantic Elephants, An Actual Size Animal Encyclopedia*

An elephant’s trunk is so nimble, it can pick up a single blade of grass, and yet so strong, it can knock over a tree. Giraffes have eyelashes. Sloths hang from trees for days at a time without going to the bathroom. These are just some of the insights featured in *Life-Size Zoo*. Acclaimed wildlife photographer Toyofumi Fukuda visited Japan’s premier zoos to capture remarkably vivid and detailed close-up photographs of 21 animals, from pandas and meerkats to giraffes, rhinos, and elephants (adult and baby). Each photograph is accompanied by a profile including body length, weight, and natural habitat, as well as fun facts about the animal. (perseusbooksgroup.com) For more life-size animals, try Actual Size by Steve Jenkins.

Lasky, Kathryn, *She’s Wearing a Dead Bird on Her Head!*

After watching women go from having bird feathers in their hats to wearing whole dead birds, the Massachusetts Audubon Society is founded in 1896 in order to take a stand against what they consider an incredibly appalling practice. (books.google.com) For more information about John Audubon, read The Boy Who Loved to Draw Birds by Jacqueline Davies. (Ms. Bock)

Lauber, Patricia, *You’re Aboard Spaceship Earth*

The earth is like a spaceship in orbit—it has everything on board that we need to survive: water, food, and air with oxygen. Unlike a space shuttle, Earth is able to renew its resources. Read and find out why Earth is the greatest spaceship to be aboard! (harpercollins.com)

Marzollo, Jean, *I Spy A Butterfly*

All-new, easy-to-read riddles by Jean Marzollo are paired with fun photographs culled from previously published I Spy books to create the ninth I Spy reader.
With rhythm, rhyme, and picture clues, this book is written to support the newest reader. (scholastic.com)

**McCarthy, Meghan, Astronaut Handbook**
Do you have what it takes to be an astronaut? Meghan McCarthy blasts readers off to astronaut school in her new, young, nonfiction picture book. Take a ride on the “Vomit Comet” and learn how it feels to be weightless. Have your measurements taken—100 to be exact—for your very own space suit. Meghan McCarthy has created the perfect book to share with children who want to be astronauts when they grow up. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**McKinney, Barbara, A Drop Around the World**
This book is a year-after-year favorite with teachers. It engagingly leads readers around the world following a drop of water—whether as steam or snow, inside a plant or animal, or underground—teaching the wonders and importance of the water cycle. (dawnpub.com)

**Meshon, Aaron, Take Me Out to the Yakyu**
You may know that baseball is the Great American Pastime, but did you know that it is also a beloved sport in Japan? Come along with one little boy and his grandfathers, one in America and one in Japan, as he learns about baseball and its rich, varying cultural traditions. This debut picture book from Aaron Meshon is a home run—don’t be surprised if the vivid illustrations and energetic text leave you shouting, “LET’S PLAY YAKYU!” (simonandschuster.com)

**Napoli, Donna Jo, Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya**
Through artful prose and beautiful illustrations, Donna Jo Napoli and Kadir Nelson tell the true story of Wangari Muta Maathai, known as “Mama Miti,” who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization that has empowered many people to mobilize and combat deforestation, soil erosion, and environmental degradation. Today more than 30 million trees have been planted throughout Mama Miti’s native Kenya, and in 2004 she became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.
Wangari Muta Maathai has changed Kenya tree by tree—and with each page turned, children will realize their own ability to positively impact the future. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Ogburn, Jacqueline, *Little Treasures: Endearments from Around the World*

All over the world, people express their love for their children through endearments, such as “sweetie pie” or “peanut.” A child might be called little angel, angelito, in Spanish or precious, bao bei, in Chinese or my sweet little moon, mera chanda, in Hindi. Little Treasures offers a wealth of endearments in fourteen languages to share with your own beloved poppet and petit chou. (hmhco.com)

Page, Robin, *I See A Kookaburra! Discovering Animal Habitats Around World*

*I See a Kookaburra!* lets readers search for an oystercatcher, an elephant shrew, and a fierce snapping turtle in the places where they live. Learn how these animals and many others grow and thrive in very different environments. Incorporated into the book is an interactive element. Hidden in the illustrations are animals camouflaged in their surroundings. Turn the page to see if you were able to find them all! (hmhco.com)

Page, Robin, *Move!*

Animals move! Follow them as they swing, dance, float, leap, and slide from page to page, then learn why these animals move the way they do, from the jumping spider who dances to impress and then floats away on a thread of silk, to the roadrunner who flies, but not too far, and would rather run to catch its prey. Illustrated in eye-popping cut-and torn-paper collages by Caldecott Honor artist Steve Jenkins, Move! is a playful introduction to motion in the animal kingdom that invites young readers to guess some of the unusual ways that animals get around. (hmhco.com)

Pfeffer, Wendy, *A Log's Life*

One stormy day a strong wind rages through the forest, causing an old oak tree to bend and sway. Lightning strikes; the tree crashes to the ground. Now it’s a giant log. In this fascinating book, author Wendy Pfeffer and illustrator Robin Brickman introduce readers to they life cycle of a
tree. The informative, lyrical text is complemented by stunning, three-dimensional paper sculptures that showcase the forest ecosystem, inspiring readers to take a close look at the trees -- and logs -- in their own backyards. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Pfeffer, Wendy, *Wiggling Worms at Work***
Deep underground and on the surface, worms are hard at work! Worms work like little plows, burrowing through soil by swallowing it. As they make their way through the dirt, worms loosen the soil so roots can spread and grow. Worms eat the bits of leaves and plants mixed with the dirt and leave behind castings that feed the plants. Find out how worms help us as they wiggle their way underground. (scholastic.com)

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis, *Ella Fitzgerald: The Tale of a Vocal Virtuosa***
Through the voice of Scat Cat Monroe, a feline fan, an acclaimed author tells the inspiring story of the Queen of Scat while a Caldecott Honor winner's dramatic perspectives and fantastical images offer a jazzy improvisation all their own. (books.google.com)

**Robbins, Ken, *Seeds***
SEEDS! From summer's flourishing flowers to autumn's succulent fruits, everything begins with a tiny little seed. In this fascinating chronicle, young readers will learn how seeds grow, and how they vary in shape, size, and dispersal patterns. From cherry pits to exploding pods, to sticktight seeds that cling to your shoes, acclaimed photographer and author Ken Robbins illuminates how wondrous nature springs up throughout the year before our very eyes. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Rockwell, Anne, *Bugs Are Insects***
What makes an insect an insect? What makes a bug a bug? Read and find out! With intricate and vividly colored collages from Caldecott Medal winner Steve Jenkins and engaging text from Anne Rockwell, Bugs Are Insects introduces the youngest readers to the fascinating world of the creepy crawly. (harpercollins.com)
**Stewart, Melissa, Feathers: Not Just for Flying**
Young naturalists meet sixteen birds in this elegant introduction to the many uses of feathers. Feathers can protect a bird’s skin like sunscreen, attract attention like fancy jewelry, or even distract a predator like a bullfighter’s cape. Curious readers are invited to explore informative sidebars, which underscore specific ways each bird uses its feathers. (charlesbridge.com)

**Toft, Kim Michelle, The World That We Want**
A stunning interactive environmental picture book illustrating the unique ecosystems of North Queensland. Each illustration has been exquisitely created by hand painting on silk and each contains 10 representative creatures. Nine ecosystems are explored with the climax bringing together all ecosystems in a rarely attempted multiple gatefold page. The World That We Want brings to centre stage the rare beauty and fragile environment of North Queensland and its native inhabitants of this great land for all to share. (books.google.com)

**Turnbull, Stephanie, Castles**
Explore the thrilling history of castles and the people who lived in them in the Middle Ages in this simple and exciting introduction. (usborne.com)

**Ventura, Piero, Book of Cities**
Ever wondered what people are doing in cities all over the world at any given moment? Piero Ventura’s charmingly illustrated children’s book—appreciated by both young and old—brings bustling scenes of major cities to life in intricate detail. This facsimile edition of Ventura’s original book, first published in 1975, provides a colorful, educational, and unique tour of major world cities. Delight in each city as you look for the London policeman holding up traffic, children shoveling the heavy snow of the side streets in Moscow, clerks waiting on customers in a huge Parisian department store, or the steam rising from the Chinese food cooking on a tiny houseboat in Hong Kong. The finely drawn illustrations and humorous details in Book of Cities are a celebration of the many ways people live, work, travel, and have fun in the major cities of the world. (rizzoliusa.com)
Winter, Jeanette, *The Watcher: Jane Goodall's Life with the Chimps*

Acclaimed picture book biographer Jeanette Winter has found her perfect subject: Jane Goodall, the great observer of chimpanzees. Follow Jane from her childhood in London watching a robin on her windowsill, to her years in the African forests of Gombe, Tanzania, invited by brilliant scientist Louis Leakey to observe chimps, to her worldwide crusade to save these primates who are now in danger of extinction, and their habitat. Young animal lovers and Winter's many fans will welcome this fascinating and moving portrait of an extraordinary person and the animals to whom she has dedicated her life. (randomhousekids.com)
Poetry

Coombs, Kate, *Water Sings Blue*
Come down to the shore with this rich and vivid celebration of the ocean! With watercolors gorgeous enough to wade in by award-winning artist Meilo So and playful, moving poems by Kate Coombs, *Water Sings Blue* evokes the beauty and power, the depth and mystery, and the endless resonance of the sea. (chroniclebooks.com)

Copeland, Misty, *Firebird*
In her debut picture book, Misty Copeland tells the story of a young girl—an every girl—whose confidence is fragile and who is questioning her own ability to reach the heights that Misty has reached. Misty encourages this young girl's faith in herself and shows her exactly how, through hard work and dedication, she too can become Firebird. Lyrical and affecting text paired with bold, striking illustrations that are some of Caldecott Honoree Christopher Myers's best work, makes *Firebird* perfect for aspiring ballerinas everywhere. (indiebound.org)

Feldman, Eve, *Billy and Milly, Short and Silly!*
Follow Billy and Milly through thirteen adventures in these funny and simple short stories. Through very basic storytelling, these brief narratives are told in only three or four words apiece. For example, "Stoops (Billy and Milly sit on their front stoops as the ice cream truck drives by.), Hoops (Billy shoots his basketball.), Scoops (as Milly licks her ice cream cone), Oops (until the ball hits the cone and squashes her ice cream!). Eve Feldman cleverly uses easily recognizable words in these entertaining episodes, and Tuesday Mourning's vibrant, playful illustrations jump off the page to bring readers right into the action. With a pair of wonderfully playful characters, Billy and Milly is perfect for anyone who likes a good short story! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Frost, Helen, *Step Gently Out*
What would happen if you walked very, very quietly and looked ever so carefully at the natural world outside? You might see a cricket leap, a moth spread her wings, or a spider step across a silken web. In
simple, evocative language, Helen Frost offers a hint at the many tiny creatures around us. And in astonishing close-up photographs, Rick Lieder captures the glint of a katydid’s eye, the glow of a firefly, and many more living wonders just awaiting discovery. Fascinating facts about all the creatures pictured may be found at the end. (candlewick.com)

**Hale, Christy, Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building**
Children building—
Concrete poetry—
Pair them with notable structures from around the world and see children’s constructions taken to the level of architectural treasures. Here is a unique celebration of children’s playtime explorations and the surprising ways childhood experiences find expression in the dreams and works of innovative architects. Come be inspired to play—dream—build—discover! (leeandlow.com)

**Hoberman, Mary Ann, A House Is a House for Me**
Where does everyone?and everything?live? A House Is a House for Me is a rollicking rhyme about houses. Some of the houses are familiar, such as an anthill and a dog kennel, while others are surprising, such as a corn husk and a pea pod. This longtime favorite is filled with pictures that parents and children will want to look at again and again. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Hoberman, Mary Ann, Forget-Me-Not: Poems to Learn by Heart**
“When you learn a poem by heart, it becomes a part of you. You know it in your mind, in your mouth, in your ears, in your whole body. And best of all, you know it forever.”

From the creators of the bestselling You Read to Me, I’ll Read to You series comes this new collection of poems especially suitable for learning by heart and saying aloud. With personal introductions by former Children’s Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman -- as well as her own time-tested tips and tools for memorization and recitation -- and vivid illustrations by Michael Emberley featuring his trademark wit and lively characters, Forget-Me-Not includes more than 120 works from both classic and contemporary poets, from childhood favorites to lesser-known treasures. This anthology will inspire a love of learning poetry! (hachettebookgroup.com)
Hopkins, Lee Bennett, *Hamsters, Shells, and Spelling Bees: School Poems*
From the very first day of the school year, there is so much to do! So grab your backpack, hop on that school bus, and don’t forget your lunch. Whether you’re practicing for the spelling bee or getting ready for the big school play, there isn’t a moment to lose! (harpercollins.com)

Krensky, Stephen, *Snack Attack*
A cat and a rat in a shack -- ham and jam, what a treat, smack, smack! Both cat and rat agree -- it’s time for a snack attack! (books.simonandschuster.com)

Mavor, Salley, *Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes*
This hand-picked collection of classic nursery rhymes, all delicately and painstakingly illustrated by Salley Mavor, who is reknown for her incredibly detailed fabric and cloth scenes. It took Mavor ten years to develop her own fabric relief technique to a level where she felt comfortable even considering illustrating a book. Now, Mavor embroiders and sews illustrations, each scene taking nearly a month to complete. In this book, Mavor renders a new and visionary nursery rhyme world with precision and intricacy for many a generation to treasure for years and years to come. (hmhco.com)

Mora, Pat, *Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children’s Day/Book Day; Celebremos El día de los ninos/El día de los libros*
Take a ride in a long submarine or fly away in a hot air balloon. Whatever you do, just be sure to bring your favorite book! Rafael López’s colorful illustrations perfectly complement Pat Mora’s lilting text in this delightful celebration of El día de los niños/El día de los libros; Children’s Day/Book Day. Toon! Toon! (harpercollins.com)

Mora, Pat, *Gracias ~ Thanks*
Straight from the heart of a child flows this lighthearted bilingual celebration of family, friendship, and fun. Come share the joy, and think about all the things for
which you can say, "¡Gracias! Thanks!" (leeandlow.com)

Here is a poetic ode to the beauty of the natural world as expressed by the movement and moods of water on Earth. With every evocative verse in English and Spanish, we visit one of fourteen different water landscapes and cultural areas around the world, each stunningly illustrated with a breathtaking view of a place of natural beauty and conveying a sense of the drama, joy, power, serenity, grandeur, or peacefulness of water. From the Grand Canal of Venice to Qutang Gorge in China, from the Sahara in Morocco to the Andes of Chile, we learn about the world through the lens of water, our most precious, life-giving resource. (leeandlowbooks.com)

Sidman, Joyce, Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature
A Caldecott medalist and a Newbery Honor-winning poet celebrate the beauty and value of spirals. What makes the tiny snail shell so beautiful? Why does that shape occur in nature over and over again—in rushing rivers, in a flower bud, even inside your ear? With simplicity and grace, Joyce Sidman's poetry paired with Beth Krommes's scratchboard illustrations not only reveal the many spirals in nature—from fiddleheads to elephant tusks, from crashing waves to spiraling galaxies—but also celebrate the beauty and usefulness of this fascinating shape. (hmhco.com)
About Ms. Bock

Amanda Bock is the Library Teacher at the Angier School in Newton, MA. She has been a Librarian for 14 years and a children’s bookseller for nearly as long. Ms. Bock has Masters degrees in Library Science and Children’s Literature, which means she went to school for 4 extra years after college. A voracious reader as a younger person, Ms. Bock now identifies more with reluctant readers. She spends more time carrying books around to look cool instead of actually reading them. But, she’s trying to get back in the habit of reading and has made a goal to read 100 books this year. You can see how far behind she is at goodreads.com/amandabock.

My Notes

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