GREAT BOOKS TO READ IN 2ND GRADE 2015 SELECTED BY M.S. BOCK
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This book belongs to:

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Cover image by Ms. Bock. 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.

**Realistic Stories:** These are made-up stories that could actually happen, but didn't. They might take place now or in the past. They might be novels, graphic novels, picture books, or stories told in poetry.

**Fantasy Stories:** These are made-up stories that could never happen in real life. They might have magic, fantastical creatures, or take place in the future. They might be novels, graphic novels, picture books, or stories told in poetry.

**Unlikely Stories:** These are the made-up stories that don't fit easily into Realistic or Fantasy. Perhaps there's one about a kid who is an international spy, or one about family, friendship, and school that just happens to have talking mice instead of people. This is where you'll find a story that is *almost* possible. These, too, might be novels, graphic novels, picture books, or stories told in poetry.

**Nonfiction:** These are true stories, biographies, and informational books, as well as poetry.

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 Second Grade

Second Grade students read to build stamina, fluency, and vocabulary. These students often read chapter books on their own, but still love being read to. Second Grade readers will discover new series, nonfiction books full of amazing facts, and some of the greatest picture books ever created.

Ms. Bock’s Top Picks for Grade 2

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

Realistic Fiction
Superfudge by Judy Blume
Bad Kitty Gets a Bath by Nick Bruel
Bink & Gollie by Kate DiCamillo
The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
Let’s Do Nothing by Tony Fucile
The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes
Rabbit Hill by Robert Lawson
Gooney Bird Greene by Lois Lowry
Mr. Putter and Tabby series by Cynthia Rylant

Unlikely Fiction
Guess Again by Mac Barnett
The Curious Garden by Peter Brown
The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary
Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin
George’s Marvelous Medicine by Roald Dahl
Babymouse by Jennifer Holm
Bunnicula by James Howe
Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey
Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
Dear Mrs. LaRue by Mark Teague

Fantasy Fiction
Lunch Walks Among Us by Jim Benton (Frannie K. Stein series)
Moomin by Tove Jansson
Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka
Flotsam by David Wiesner
The Castle in the Attic by Elizabeth Winthrop

Nonfiction
Books by Nic Bishop
The Right Word by Jen Bryant
The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordecai Gerstein
Books by Steve Jenkins
Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley
Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System! by Kathleen Kudlinski
Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
If You Decide to Go to the Moon by Faith McNulty
A Street Through Time by Anne Millard
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)

DiPuccchio, 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 DiPuccchio 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)
Realistic Stories

**Adler, David A., Cam Jansen and the Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds**

Can Cam help catch the diamond thief? Cam and her friend Eric are sitting at the mall when the jewelry store is robbed. Cam sees the thief, but the police arrest the wrong person. Now it’s up to Cam to catch the real criminal! (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Cam Jansen series. You can read them in any order.

**Agee, Jon, Terrific**

Terrific, says Eugene when he wins an all-expenses-paid cruise to Bermuda. I’ll probably get a really nasty sunburn. But Eugene’s luck is much worse than that. His ship sinks, and he ends up stranded on a tiny island. That’s where he meets a parrot who happens to know about building boats. The two castaways team up and make their escape, but look out! There are still plenty of twists and turns to come on Eugene’s vacation. (scholastic.com)

**Azuma, Kiyohiko, Yotsuba&!, Vol. 1**

Yotsuba is a strange little girl with a big personality! Even in the most trivial, unremarkable encounters, Yotsuba’s curiosity and enthusiasm quickly turn the everyday into the extraordinary! Join Yotsuba’s adventures as she explores the wonders of the world around her! (yenpress.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Barrows, Annie, Ivy and Bean**

The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn’t be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to hide quickly, Ivy comes to the rescue proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other. Vibrant characters and lots of humor make this a charming and addictive introduction to Ivy and Bean. (chroniclebooks.com) This is the first in the series. They can be read in any order.
Base, Graeme, *The Water Hole*

In the tradition of his best-selling alphabet book, *Animalia*, author and illustrator Graeme Base takes young readers on an exhilarating journey of discovery with an ingenious fusion of counting book, puzzle book, storybook, and art book. From the plains of Africa and the jungles of the Amazon to the woodlands of North America and the deserts of outback Australia, the animals come together to drink from the water hole. But their water supply is diminishing. What’s going on? Each sumptuous landscape illustration conceals hidden animal pictures for readers to find as they count the animals that visit the water hole and try to solve the mystery: will the animals come back or is their water source gone forever? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Bjork, Cristina, *Linnea in Monet’s Garden*

Linnea has been in Paris. And she has visited the painter Claude Monet’s garden! She even stood on the same little Japanese bridge that Monet painted so often in his pictures. In Paris, Linnea got to see many of the real paintings. Now she can understand what it means to be called an Impressionist, and she knows a lot about Monet’s life in the pink house where he lived with his eight children. (books.google.com) There are three books about Linnea. They are often out of print, but definitely worth finding.

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.
**Blume, Judy, *Superfudge***

Sometimes life in the Hatcher household is enough to make twelve-year-old Peter think about running away. His worst problem is still his younger brother, Fudge, who hasn’t changed a bit since his crazy capers in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. If you ask Peter, Fudge is just an older — and bigger — pain. Then Peter learns that his mom is going to have a baby and the whole family is moving to Princeton for a year. It will be bad enough starting sixth grade in a strange place and going to the same school as Fudge. But Peter can imagine something even worse. How will he ever survive if the new baby is a carbon copy of Fudge? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**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.

**Child, Lauren, *What Planet Are You from, Clarice Bean?***

"Sometimes I think gravity is a pity," says Clarice Bean, who is learning about planet Earth in school. For a project on the environment, her brain leaps to the holes in the sky from her sister’s hairspray and the nature safari in her brother’s bedroom. But when a big neighborhood tree is about to be chopped to pieces, she has no choice but to join her quirky family in its branches and save the day. Clarice Bean needs a science project or she’s in BIG trouble. Her brother Kurt just wants to save the planet. And now they’re both up a tree. (candlewick.com) There are many books about Clarice Bean. Some are picture books and some are novels.

**Cleary, Beverly, *Ribsy***

Newbery Medal-winning author Beverly Cleary gives Henry’s dog, Ribsy, the center stage in this dog’s-eye view of the adventure of a lifetime. Good ol’ Ribsy’s ever-curious mind has always gotten him into scrapes,
but this time he may have gone too far. After a comical turn of events, Ribsy finds himself in the wrong station wagon with the wrong children. Ribsy will do anything to find Henry, but there’s plenty of excitement to be had along the way—and scoring a touchdown for a local high school team is only part of the fun! (harpercollins.com)

Cohn, Diana, ¡Si, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can!: Janitor Strike in L.A.

Carlitos’ mother is a janitor. Every night while he sleeps, his mother cleans in one of the skyscrapers in downtown L.A. One night, his mamá explains that she can’t make enough money to support him and his abuelita the way she needs to unless she makes more money as a janitor. She and the other janitors have decided to go on strike. Will he support her and help her all he can? Of course, Carlitos wants to help but he cannot think of a way until he sees his mother on TV making a speech in support of the strike. Finally, Carlitos knows how he can show his mamá how proud he is of her. He and the other children in his class make posters and Carlitos joins the marchers with a very special sign for his mom! (cincopuntos.com)

Cole, Henry, Unspoken: A Story From the Underground Railroad

A young girl’s courage is tested in this haunting, wordless story. When a farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding in the barn, she is at once startled and frightened. But the stranger’s fearful eyes weigh upon her conscience, and she must make a difficult choice. Will she have the courage to help him? Unspoken gifts of humanity unite the girl and the runaway as they each face a journey: one following the North Star, the other following her heart. Henry Cole’s unusual and original rendering of the Underground Railroad speaks directly to our deepest sense of compassion. (henrycole.net)

Coy, John, Night Driving

A warm-hearted portrait of a simple event that encapsulates the bond between a father and a son. This warm and thoughtful story about a father and son on an all-night drive to the mountains is just right for Father’s Day. (us.macmillan.com)
Cunnane, Kelly, *Deep in the Sahara*
Lalla lives in the Muslim country of Mauritania, and more than anything, she wants to wear a malafa, the colorful cloth Mauritanian women, like her mama and big sister, wear to cover their heads and clothes in public. But it is not until Lalla realizes that a malafa is not just worn to show a woman’s beauty and mystery or to honor tradition—a malafa for faith—that Lalla’s mother agrees to slip a long cloth as blue as the ink in the Koran over Lalla’s head, under her arm, and round and round her body. Then together, they pray. (randomhouse.com)

Debon, Nicolas, *The Strongest Man in the World*
Strongman and circus owner Louis Cyr captured the world’s imagination with his remarkable feats of strength and his mammoth proportions. Set in Quebec at the turn of the 20th century, this biography, in graphic-novel style, features the celebrity in his old age as he recalls the glory days for his young daughter. In vivid detail he recounts his adventures traveling through Europe, performing feats of strength that astounded audiences and remain unsurpassed today. (houseofanansi.com)

DiCamillo, Kate, *Bink and Gollie*
Meet Bink and Gollie, two precocious little girls—one tiny, one tall, and both utterly irrepressible. Setting out from their super-deluxe tree house and powered by plenty of peanut butter (for Bink) and pancakes (for Gollie), they share three comical adventures involving painfully bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion. No matter where their roller skates take them, at the end of the day they will always be the very best of friends. Full of quick-witted repartee, this brainchild of Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and award-winning author Alison McGhee is a hilarious ode to exuberance and camaraderie, imagination and adventure, brought to life through the delightfully kinetic images of Tony Fucile. (candlewick.com)
This is the first book in the series. You can read them in any order.

DiPucchio, Kelly, *Grace for President*
Grace is shocked to learn that there’s never been a woman president, so she decides she’ll become the
first -- and starts out with her classroom election.  
(books.disney.com)

**Draper, Sharon M., Little Sister Is Not My Name**

Its not easy being nine, especially when youre Sassy Simone Sanford. Especially when you were named for sticking out your tongue on the day you were born. Especially when everyone in the family calls you Little Sister. And if thats not bad enough, imagine being the youngest in the family. Imagine watching your big brother and sister have all the fun. Imagine being left out of the cool stuff your older sibs get to do--just because youre younger. Just because youre in the fourth grade. Just because Mom and Dad rule. Well, nothing stops Sassy. All she has to do is reach into her Sassy Sack to find the right lip gloss, hair clip, or rubber band, and lifes problems get solved. And thanks to her best friends, Carmelita, Jazzy, and Tandy, the most sour situations can become as sweet as honey! (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the Sassy series. They can be read in any order.

**Estes, Eleanor, The Hundred Dresses**

Eleanor Estes’s The Hundred Dresses won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn’t and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it’s too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda’s classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." (hmhco.com)

**Evans, Freddi Williams, Hush Harbor: Praying in Secret**

In the early nineteenth century, enslaved Africans are not allowed to gather together in groups. For Simmy and his family, that means they must worship in secret. If they are caught, the punishment will be terrible. Simmy’s job is to watch for danger while the others pray and sing as the Spirit moves them. Will he be able to keep the hush harbor safe? (learnerbooks.com)
Evans, Shane W., *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*
A family silently crawls along the ground. They run barefoot through unlit woods, sleep beneath bushes, take shelter in a kind stranger’s home. Where are they heading? They are heading for freedom by way of the Underground Railroad. (us.macmillan.com)

Fleming, Candace, *Imogene's Last Stand*
Meet Imogene Tripp, a plucky girl with a passion for history. As a baby, her first words were “Four score and seven years ago.” In preschool, she finger-painted a map of the Oregon Trail. So it’s not surprising that when the mayor wants to tear down the long-neglected Liddleville Historical Society to make room for a shoelace factory, Imogene is desperate to convince the town how important its history is. But even though she rides through the streets in her Paul Revere costume shouting, “The bulldozers are coming, the bulldozers are coming!” the townspeople won’t budge. What’s a history-loving kid to do? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Frazee, Marla, *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*
When James and Eamon go to a week of Nature Camp and stay at Eamon's grandparents' house, it turns out that their free time spent staying inside, eating waffles and playing video games is way more interesting than nature, but sometimes things work out best when they don't go exactly as planned. (hmhco.com)

Fritz, Jean, *The Cabin Faced West*
Ann Hamilton’s family has moved to the western frontier of Pennsylvania, and she misses her old home in Gettysburg. There are no girls her age on Hamilton Hill, and life is hard. But when the Hamiltons survive a terrible storm and receive a surprise visit from George Washington, Ann realizes that pioneer life is exciting and special. (penguinrandomhouse.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)

Gardiner, John Reynolds, Stone Fox
There's just no stopping little Willy. Determined to keep their farm going -- and to give his ailing grandfather a reason to live -- the ten-year-old boy hitches his dog, Searchlight, to the plow and harvests the whole potato crop. Now little Willy needs five hundred dollars to pay off ten years' back taxes, or the farm will be taken away from them. Dauntless as ever, he stakes everything on one wild hope: that he and Searchlight can outrun the best dogsled racers in the country -- including the legendary Indian, Stone Fox. But the huge mountain man is every bit as intent on winning the big prize money as little Willy is. And he and his five beautiful Samoyeds haven't lost a race yet.... Based on a Rocky Mountain legend, John Reynolds Gardiner's story -- like its hero, little Willy -- has all the ingredients of a winner, right down to the unforeseen drama at the finish line. (harpercollins.com)

George, Jean Craighead, One Day in the Woods
An intrepid explorer, young Rebecca ventures into the forest in search of an ovenbird, a warbler reputed to be the wizard of the woods. Readers follow Rebecca's progress through the day discovering the secrets of the spring foliage and learning much about the temperate forest and its inhabitants. (books.google.com) (other books in the series are: Alpine Tundra, Desert, Prairie, Tropical Rain Forest)

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.

**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.

**Grimes, Nikki, Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel**

Dyamonde Daniel may be new in town, but that doesn’t stop her from making a place for herself in a jiffy. With her can-do attitude and awesome brain power she takes the whole neighborhood by storm. The only thing puzzling her is the other new kid in her class. He’s grouchy— but Dyamonde’s determined to get to the bottom of his attitude and make a friend. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**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.
Hall, Bruce Edward, *Henry & The Kite Dragon*  
Everyone knows that kids from Chinatown don’t go to the park when the kids from Little Italy are there. They’re rough, they’re big, and they don’t like Chinese kids. That’s okay—Henry doesn’t like them, either. But what Henry does like are kites. He loves them. Even more, he loves to help his friend Grandfather Chin make them, and fly them over Chinatown and the park. But when Tony Guglione and his friends from Little Italy keep throwing rocks and destroying their beautiful creations, Henry and his friends decide enough is enough! In this touching story based on true 1920’s events, two rival groups of children representing two different cultures come face to face, and when they do, they find they share much more than just the same sky. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Hall, Donald/ Cooney, Barbara (ILT)/ Cooney, Barbara, Ox Cart Man**  
Thus begins a lyrical journey through the days and weeks, the months, and the changing seasons in the life of one New Englander and his family. The oxcart man packs his goods – the wool from his sheep, the shawl his wife made, the mittens his daughter knitted, and the linen they wove. He packs the birch brooms his son carved, and even a bag of goose feathers from the barnyard geese. He travels over hills, through valleys, by streams, past farms and villages. At Portsmouth Market he sells his goods, one by one – even his beloved ox. Then, with his pockets full of coins, he wanders through the market, buying provisions for his family, and returns to his home. And the cycle begins again. (penguinrandomhouse.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, Just Grace

Grace loves cats. She also loves taking pictures of cats and drawing Not-So Super comics. She doesn’t like Sammy Stringer, a boy in her class. She’s got lots and lots of ideas, and when her neighbor’s cat goes missing, Grace does her best to make Mrs. Luther feel less lonely. But as the mystery of the missing cat continues, Grace’s well-intentioned plan backfires, and she finds herself in a bit of trouble. Maybe, just maybe, Sammy Stringer will help her through. (hmhco.com) This is the first book in the series. They can be read in any order.

Hearne, Betsy, Seven Brave Women

Take a journey through time as a young girl recounts the exploits of her female ancestors, seven brave women who left their imprints on the past and on her. Beginning with the great-great-great-grandmother who came to America on a wooden sailboat, these women were devout and determined and tireless and beloved. (books.google.com)

Henkes, Kevin, The Year of Billy Miller

When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade, with a lump on your head! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad. Newbery Honor author and Caldecott Medalist Kevin Henkes delivers a short, satisfying, laugh-out-loud-funny school and family story that features a diorama homework assignment, a school poetry slam, cancelled sleepovers, and epic sibling temper tantrums. This is a perfect short novel for the early elementary grades. (harpercollins.com)

Hill, Susanna Leonard, No Sword Fighting in the House

Charge! Arthur and Lance are at it again, sword fighting in the house, that is. When Mom returns home,
the boys are in trouble, big trouble. But that doesn't Stop Arthur, who already has a new idea. He and Lance can joust, which isn't exactly against the rules and at least they won't be in the house. Atop their strapping steers, they are ready to charge; but the cows won't move...until one of them spots Mom's tasty garden!

Holm, Jennifer, *Queen of the World!*

Meet Babymouse—Her dreams are big! Her imagination is wild! Her whiskers are ALWAYS a mess! In her mind, she’s Queen of the World! In real life...she’s not even Queen of the lunch table. NEW YORK TIMES bestselling, three-time Newbery Honor winning author Jennifer Holm teams up with Matthew Holm to bring you a fully illustrated graphic novel series packed with humor and kid appeal—BABYMOUSE! It’s the same thing every day for Babymouse. Where is the glamour? The excitement? The fame?!? Nothing ever changes, until...Babymouse hears about Felicia Furrypaws’s exclusive slumber party. Will Babymouse get invited? Will her best friend, Wilson, forgive her if she misses their monster movie marathon? Find out in Babymouse #1: Queen of the World! (penguinrandomhouse.com) There are approximately nine hundred Babymouse books. You can read them in any order. They are graphic novels.

Hosford, Kate, *Infinity and Me*

When I looked up, I shivered. How many stars were in the sky? A million? A billion? Maybe the number was as big as infinity. I started to feel very, very small. How could I even think of something as big as infinity? Uma can’t help feeling small as she peers up into the night sky. She begins to wonder about infinity. Is infinity a number that grows forever? Is it an endless racetrack? Could infinity be in an ice cream cone? Uma soon finds that the ways to think about this big idea might just be...infinite. (khosford.com)

Johnson, D.B., *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*

Inspired by a passage from Henry David Thoreau’s WALDEN, this wonderfully appealing story follows two friends who have very different approaches to life.
When the two agree to meet one evening in Fitchburg, which is thirty miles away, each decides to get there in his own way and have surprisingly different days. (hmhco.com)

**Keene, Carolyn, *Sleepover Sleuths***

Nancy and her two best friends, George and Bess, are so excited! They have been invited to Deirdre’s sleepover party! There will be pizza, cake, and even a pajama fashion show. But the most exciting thing is that the party has a City Girls doll theme. All of the guests are bringing their dolls with them! But then Deirdre's City Girls doll -- Hollywood Heather -- goes missing. Is her sleepover ruined? Or is there a detective in the room who can make sense of this mystery? (books.simonandschuster.com) This is the first book in the Nancy Drew and the Clue Crew series. They can be read in any order.

**Kenah, Katharine, *The Best Chef in Second Grade***

Ollie is not the best at anything in second grade, but he does love to cook. When the famous Chef Antonia comes to visit, he can’t wait! Will he finally be the best in the class? (harpercollins.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.

**Konami, Kanata, *Chi's Sweet Home, volume 1***

Japan’s latest kitty sensation is finally making herself at home in North America! Presented in full color and left-to-right format, Chi and her collection of furry and feathered friends are winning the hearts of readers of all ages. Chi is a mischievous newborn kitten who, while on a leisurely stroll with her family, finds herself lost. Overcome with loneliness she breaks into tears in a large park meadow, where she is rescued by a young boy named Yohei and
his mother. The little kitty is then quickly and quietly whisked away into the warm and inviting Yamada apartment...where pets are strictly not permitted. (vertical-inc.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Lagercrantz, Rose, *My Heart Is Laughing***
Dani’s been trying her best to stay happy ever since her best friend Ella moved away. But when some girls in Dani’s class start being cruel to her, it starts a chain of rather unhappy events... It would all be okay if only Ella would move back. (geckopress.co.nz)

**Lawson, Robert, *Rabbit Hill***
It has been a while since Folks lived in the Big House, and an even longer time has passed since there has been a garden at the House. All the animals of the Hill are very excited about the new Folks moving in, and they wonder how things are going to change. It’s only a matter of time before the animals of the Hill find out just who is moving in, and they may be a little bit surprised when they do. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Lewis, Maggie, *Morgy Makes His Move***
Morgy MacDougal-MacDuff hates being the new kid in a new school in a new town in a new state. Each day brings more things to get used to, from weird Boston accents to surviving the blizzard of the century to facing Ferguson, bully extraordinaire. Gradually, though, Morgy begins to figure out life in Puckett Corner, Massachusetts, and learns that he just might fit in after all. (hmhco.com) This is the first book in the series.

**Li-Qiong, Yu, *A New Year’s Reunion: A Chinese Story***
Little Maomao’s father works in faraway places and comes home just once a year, for Chinese New Year. At first Maomao barely recognizes him, but before long the family is happily making sticky rice balls, listening to firecrackers, and watching the dragon dance in the streets below. Papa gets a haircut, makes repairs to the house, and hides a lucky coin for Maomao to find. Which she does! But all too soon it is time for Papa to go away again. This poignant, vibrantly illustrated tale, which won the prestigious Feng Zikai Chinese Children’s Picture Book Award in 2009, is sure to resonate with every child who misses relatives when they are
away—and shows how a family’s love is strong enough to endure over time and distance. (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)

**Liniers, *The Big Wet Balloon***

When her little sister, Clemmie, refuses to go out in the rain, Matilda sets out to teach her all the delights of a wet Saturday. But after her enthusiasm leads her to make a big mistake, it’s Matilda who will end up learning an unforgettable lesson. The world-renowned cartoonist Liniers gives us a funny and sweet portrait of his daughters that is sure to become every beginning reader’s favorite story. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Look, Lenore, *Ruby Lu, Brave and True***

Most days the best thing about being Ruby is everything. Like when she’s the star of her own backyard magic show. Or when she gives a talk at the school safety assembly on the benefits of reflective tape. Or when she rides the No. 3 bus all the way to Chinatown to visit GungGung and PohPoh. And then there are the days when it’s very hard to be Ruby. Like when her mom suggests Chinese school on Saturdays. Or when her little brother, Oscar, spills all of Ruby’s best magician secrets. Or when her parents don’t think she’s old enough to drive! Join Ruby Lu on her first adventure and discover your own best things about
her! (books.simonandschuster.com) This is the first book in the series.

**Lowry, Lois, *Crow Call***
This is the story of young Liz, her father, and their strained relationship. Dad has been away at WWII for longer than she can remember, and they begin their journey of reconnection through a hunting shirt, cherry pie, tender conversation, and the crow call. This allegorical story shows how, like the birds gathering above, the relationship between the girl and her father is graced with the chance to fly. (scholastic.com)

**Lowry, Lois, *Gooney Bird Greene***
There’s never been anyone like Gooney Bird Greene at Watertower Elementary School. What other new kid comes to school wearing pajamas and cowboy boots one day and a polka-dot t-shirt and tutu on another? Gooney Bird has to sit right smack in the middle of the class because she likes to be in the middle of everything. She is the star of story time and keeps her teacher and classmates on the edge of their seats with her “absolutely true” stories. But what about her classmates? Do they have stories good enough to share? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Gooney Bird series. They can be read in any order.

**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 lines, culture lines, and clotheslines! (hmhco.com)

**Martin, Jacqueline Briggs, *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table***
Will Allen is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he’s as tall as his truck, and he can hold a cabbage, or a basketball, in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can see what others can’t see. When he looked at an abandoned city lot he saw a huge table, big enough
to feed the whole world. No space, no problem. Poor soil, there’s a solution. Need help, found it. Farmer Will is a genius in solving problems. (readerstoeaters.com)

**Mason, Margaret H., These Hands**

Joseph’s grandpa could do almost anything with his hands. He could play the piano, throw a curveball, and tie a triple bowline knot in three seconds flat. But in the 1950s and 60s, he could not bake bread at the Wonder Bread factory. Factory bosses said white people would not want to eat bread touched by the hands of the African Americans who worked there. In this powerful intergenerational story, Joseph learns that people joined their hands together to fight discrimination so that one day, their hands—Joseph’s hands—could do anything at all in this whole wide world. (hmhco.com)

**McCully, Emily Arnold, Mirette on the High Wire**

One day, a mysterious stranger arrives at a boardinghouse of the widow Gateau—a sad-faced stranger, who keeps to himself. When the widow’s daughter, Mirette, discovers him crossing the courtyard on air, she begs him to teach her how he does it. But Mirette doesn’t know that the stranger was once the Great Bellini—master wire-walker. Or that Bellini has been stopped by a terrible fear. And it is she who must teach him courage once again. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**McDonald, Megan, Judy Moody**

"Judy Moody was in a mood. Not a good mood. A bad mood. A mad-faced mood." To start, Judy Moody doesn’t have high hopes for third grade. Her new desk won’t have an armadillo sticker with her name on it. Her new classroom will not have a porcupine named Roger. And with her luck, she’ll get stuck sitting in the first row, where Mr. Todd will notice every time she tries to pass a note to her best friend, Rocky. An aspiring doctor, Judy does have a little brother who comes in handy for practicing medicine, a cool new pet, and a huge Band-Aid collection. Judy also has an abundance of individuality and attitude, and when Mr. Todd assigns a very special class project, she really gets a chance to express herself! Megan McDonald’s spirited text and Peter Reynolds’s wry illustrations combine in a feisty, funny first chapter book for every kid who has ever felt a little
out of sorts. Any kid who’s ever been in a bad mood will relate to the feisty, funny, ever-changing Judy Moody. (candlewick.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)

**McGill, Alice, Way Up and Over Everything**
My great-grandmama’s mama told her and she told me this story about a long time ago . . . So begins this account of the author’s great-great-grandmother Jane, and how she meets a slave new to the plantation, a slave who would prove to have magical powers . . . created by the wish for freedom. Alice McGill remembers this story, passed down in her family through the generations, from her childhood and how her great-grandmother told it to her “as if unveiling a great, wonderful secret. My siblings and I believed that certain Africans shared this gift of taking to the air—‘way up and over everything.’” (hmco.com)

**McKay, Hilary, Lulu and the Duck in the Park**
Lulu loves animals. When Lulu finds a duck egg that has rolled out of its nest, she takes it to class to keep it safe. Lulu isn’t allowed to bring pets to school. But she’s not really breaking the rules because it’s just an egg. Surely nothing bad will happen... (albertwhitman.com)

**Miller, Sara Swan, Three Stories You Can Read to Your Dog**
Does your dog sleep a lot? Maybe he or she is bored. Why not try reading these three stories to your dog? Accompanied by lively illustrations, they are all about the things dogs understand best -- burglars, bones, and running free. (hmhco.com) If you prefer cats, look for Three Stories to Read to Your Cat. There is also one called
Three Stories You Can Read to Your Teddy Bear in case you are allergic to furry pets.

**Mills, Claudia, How Oliver Olson Changed the World**

Oliver Olson’s teacher is always saying that one person with a big idea can change the world. But how is Oliver supposed to change the world when his parents won’t let him do anything on his own—not his class projects or even attending activities such as the space sleepover at school. Afraid he will become an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, Oliver decides to take control of his corner of the universe! How Oliver Olson Changed the World is an irresistible chapter book from Claudia Mills, featuring lively illustrations by Heather Maione. Oliver Olson learns that before you can change the world, sometimes you need to change yourself. (us.macmillan.com)

**Mitchell, Margaree King, Uncle Jed’s Barbershop**

Sarah Jean’s Uncle Jed was the only black barber in the county. He had a kind heart and a warm smile. And he had a dream. [return]Living in the segregated South of the 1920’s, where most people were sharecroppers. Uncle Jed had to travel all over the county to cut his customers’ hair. He lived for the day when he could open his very own barbershop. But it was a long time, and many setbacks, from five-year-old Sarah Jean’s emergency operation to the bank failures of the Great Depression, before the joyful day when Uncle Jed opened his shiny new shop— and twirled a now grown-up Sarah Jean around in the barber chair. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Moss, Marissa, Barbed Wire Baseball**

As a boy, Kenichi “Zeni” Zenimura dreams of playing professional baseball, but everyone tells him he is too small. Yet he grows up to be a successful player, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig! When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family are sent to one of ten internment camps where more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry are imprisoned without trials. Zeni brings the game of baseball to the camp, along with a sense of hope.[return]This true story, set in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, introduces children to a little-discussed part of American history through Marissa Moss’s rich text and Yuko Shimizu’s beautiful illustrations. The book includes
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)

Nelson, Marilyn, *Snook Alone*
Abba Jacob is a monk who lives on a far, far away island with his loyal rat terrier, Snook. Every day, from the wee hours of dawn till the sun sets over the sea, Snook keeps Abba Jacob company as he prays or works, tending the gardens or fixing the plumbing of the little hermitage he calls home. But when the two are separated by a ferocious storm, Snook must learn to fend for himself in the wild, all alone in a world of fierceness and wonder. Will he ever again hear the loving voice that he waits for? Simply and lyrically told by award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson and beautifuly illustrated by Timothy Basil Ering with wit, warmth, and affection for the natural world, this captivating tale of friendship lost and found conveys the power of faith against all odds. (candlewick.com)

Nivola, Claire A., *Orani: My Father’s Village*
As a child, Claire Nivola loved summers in Orani, the village where her father grew up and where her many aunts, uncles, and 50 cousins still lived. She ran freely through the town’s cobbled streets with packs of cousins, who quizzed her about America while she took in all the simple joys and pleasures of daily life in a village where surprises met them at every turn. In this sensuous homage of prose and pictures, Nivola invites readers to share in her experience of Orani, a village where surprises met them at every turn and luxuries were unheard of, but life was rich, lived close to the earth. (us.macmillan.com)
Pennypacker, Sara, *Clementine*

Clementine is having not so good of a week. On Monday she’s sent to the principal’s office for cutting off Margaret’s hair. Tuesday, Margaret’s mother is mad at her. Wednesday, she’s sent to the principal...again. Thursday, Margaret stops speaking to her. Friday starts with yucky eggs and gets worse. And by Saturday, even her mother is mad at her. Okay, fine. Clementine is having a DISASTROUS week. (books.disney.com) This is the first book in the series. They can be read in any order, mostly.

Perkins, Lynne Rae, *The Broken Cat*

There are times when hearing a familiar story -- even a story about how your mother fell and broke her arm when she was a little girl -- can be comforting. And so it was for Andy, and for his cat, Frank. Because the important thing is that injuries heal. When they have healed, they become stories -- and sometimes a story with a happy ending is exactly what is needed. If you are looking for the perfect book about love and families and intergenerational support (to say nothing of cats), look no further. (harpercollins.com)

Pinfold, Levi, *Black Dog*

A black dog appears outside the Hope family’s home. As each member of the household sees it and hides, the dog grows bigger and bigger. Only Small, the youngest Hope, has the courage to face the Black Dog. When it chases her through the forest she shows no fear, so it grows smaller and smaller. Finally, back to the size of a normal hound, the Black Dog is welcomed into the Hope household as their newest addition. (templarco.co.uk)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*

This picture book is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the momentous Woolworth’s lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement. Andrea Davis Pinkney uses poetic,
powerful prose to tell the story of these four young men, who followed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s words of peaceful protest and dared to sit at the “whites only” Woolworth’s lunch counter. Brian Pinkney embraces a new artistic style, creating expressive paintings filled with emotion that mirror the hope, strength, and determination that fueled the dreams of not only these four young men, but also countless others. (hachettebookgroup.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.

Priceman, Marjorie, Hot Air: The (Mostly) True Story of the First Hot-Air Balloon Ride
The first "manned" hot-air balloon is about to take off! But what are those noises coming from the basket? Based on the (POSSIBLY) true report of a day in 1783, this is the story of (PERHAPS) the bravest collection of flyers the world has ever seen, as (SORT OF) told to Marjorie Priceman. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Richardson, Charisse, The Real Lucky Charm
Mia Robinson has always cheered for her twin brother, Marcus, at his rec center basketball games. But this year Mia is getting the chance to have Marcus cheer for her. Marcus’s team, the Titans, has just become coed! Mia is thrilled to be playing on the team and wearing a team uniform, and she’s even more excited when her dad gives her a basketball charm for her charm bracelet. When Mia does well on the court, she starts to believe that her basketball charm is really a lucky charm. Mia’s got it made! After all, who needs to practice when they have a real lucky charm on their side? (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Rocco, John, Blackout

One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. The TV shuts off and a boy wails, “Mommm!” His sister can no longer use the phone, Mom can’t work on her computer, and Dad can’t finish cooking dinner. What’s a family to do? When they go up to the roof to escape the heat, they find the lights—in stars that can be seen for a change—and so many neighbors it’s like a block party in the sky! On the street below, people are having just as much fun—talking, rollerblading, and eating ice cream before it melts. The boy and his family enjoy being not so busy for once. They even have time to play a board game together. When the electricity is restored, everything can go back to normal . . . but not everyone likes normal. The boy switches off the lights, and out comes the board game again. Using a combination of panels and full bleed illustrations that move from color to black-and-white and back to color, John Rocco shows that if we are willing to put our cares aside for a while, there is party potential in a summer blackout. (books.disney.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.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse, *Duck! Rabbit!*

From the award-winning author of Little Pea, Little Hoot, and Little Oink comes a clever take on the age-old optical illusion: is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it! Readers will find more than just Amy Krouse Rosenthal's signature humor here--there's also a subtle lesson for kids who don't know when to let go of an argument. A smart, simple story that will make readers of all ages eager to take a side, Duck! Rabbit! makes it easy to agree on one thing: reading it again! (chroniclebooks.com)

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)

Schaefer, Lola M., *Arrowhawk*

A hungry red-tailed hawk sits near a fence post and devours his catch. Out of nowhere a poacher's arrow pierces his body, seriously injuring him and leaving him to fend for himself. This is the courageous true story of Arrowhawk--an endangered bird of prey who, with sheer determination and will, survives eight weeks in the wild with a poacher's arrow through his thigh and tail. Stunning illustrations capture his remarkable journey from peril and rescue to eventual freedom. (us.macmillan.com)

Schneider, Josh, *Tales for Very Picky Eaters*

James is a very picky eater. His dad has to get creative—very creative—in order to get James to eat foods he thinks he doesn’t like. He presents James with a series of outlandish scenarios packed with
fanciful and gross kid-friendly details—like pre-chewed gum as an alternative to broccoli and lumpy oatmeal that grows so big it eats the dog—in an effort to get James to eat. But it is eventually James himself who discovers that some foods are not so bad, after all, if you’re willing to give them a try. This irreverently hilarious early reader, illustrated in full color, explores a universal point of contention between parent and child in a playful, satisfying way. (hmhco.com)

Selznick, Brian, The Houdini Box
Victor is forever trying to escape from locked trunks, to walk through walls, and to perform any number of Houdini’s astonishing magic tricks...without success. Then -- amazingly -- he meets his idol and begs Houdini to explain himself. A mysterious, locked box is the only answer, and Victor is left to wonder: Does the box contain the secrets of the most famous magic tricks ever performed? (books.simonandschuster.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)

Sobol, Donald J., Encyclopedia Brown, Boy Detective
Leroy Brown, aka Encyclopedia Brown, is Idaville neighborhood’s ten-year-old star detective. With an uncanny knack for trivia, he solves mysteries for the neighborhood kids through his own detective agency. But his dad also happens to be the chief of the Idaville police department, and every night around the dinner table, Encyclopedia helps him solve his most baffling crimes. And with ten confounding mysteries in each book, not only does Encyclopedia have a chance to solve them, but the reader is given all the clues as well. Interactive and chock full of interesting bits of information—it’s classic Encyclopedia Brown! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Stamaty, Mark Alan, Shake, Rattle & Turn That Noise Down!: How Elvis Shook Up Music, Me & Mom
For his eighth birthday, Mark Alan Stamaty’s parents gave him his very own radio. Little did his mother realize that that innocent-
looking plastic box would one day be the gateway for a new kind of sound that would “rock” her nearly out of her mind. Mark first heard the howling thunder of Elvis Presley singing “Hound Dog” on the radio one lazy day and his life was forever changed. Soon he was styling his hair like the King and practicing his dance moves with a tennis racket as his pretend guitar in front of the mirror. But his mother lived in constant fear that her son’s new love of rock ‘n’ roll would turn him into a juvenile delinquent. Could Mark’s performance at his Cub Scout talent show change her mind? (randomhousekids.com)

**Stewart, Sarah, The Gardener**
Lydia Grace Finch brings a suitcase full of seeds to the big gray city, where she goes to stay with her Uncle Jim, a cantankerous baker. There she initiates a gradual transformation, bit by bit brightening the shop and bringing smiles to customers’ faces with the flowers she grows. But it is in a secret place that Lydia Grace works on her masterpiece -- an ambitious rooftop garden -- which she hopes will make even Uncle Jim smile. Sarah Stewart introduces readers to an engaging and determined young heroine, whose story is told through letters written home, while David Small's illustrations beautifully evoke the Depression-era setting. (us.macmillan.com)

**Thomson, Melissa, Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up**
Keena Ford doesn’t mean to be a troublemaker, but sometimes things get out of hand. Lucky for her, it’s the beginning of the second grade and Keena’s got a clean slate. So when her new second-grade teacher, Ms. Campbell, mistakenly thinks it’s her birthday and brings in a huge chocolate cake, Keena realizes that she’s gotten herself into a sticky situation. She knows she has to tell the truth, but it’s not easy to turn down her very own birthday cake and a chance to wear a sparkly crown. How will Keena get out of this mess? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Tonatiuh, Duncan, Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin**
From first-time Mexican author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh comes the story of two cousins, one in America and one in Mexico, and how their daily lives are different yet similar. Charlie takes the subway to school; Carlitos rides his bike. Charlie plays in fallen
leaves; Carlitos plays among the local cacti. Dear Primo covers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of two very different childhoods, while also emphasizing how alike Charlie and Carlitos are at heart. Spanish words are scattered among the English text, providing a wonderful way to introduce the language and culture of Mexico to young children. Inspired by the ancient art of the Mixtecs and other cultures of Mexico, Tonatiuh incorporates their stylized forms into his own artwork. (abramsbooks.com)

**Trottier, Maxine, *Migrant***

Each spring Anna leaves her home in Mexico and travels north with her family where they will work on farms. Sometimes she feels like a bird, flying north in the spring and south in the fall. Sometimes she feels like a jack rabbit living in an abandoned burrow, as her family moves into an empty house near the fields. But most of all she wonders what it would be like to stay in one place. (houseofanansi.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.

**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)
Wardlaw, Lee, *Won Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku*

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)

Woodson, Jacqueline, *Show Way*
Soonie’s great-grandma was just seven years old when she was sold to a big plantation without her ma and pa, and with only some fabric and needles to call her own. She pieced together bright patches with names like North Star and Crossroads, patches with secret meanings made into quilts called Show Ways — maps for slaves to follow to freedom. When she grew up and had a little girl, she passed on this knowledge. And generations later, Soonie — who was born free — taught her own daughter how to sew beautiful quilts to be sold at market and how to read. From slavery to freedom, through segregation, freedom marches and the fight for literacy, the tradition they called Show Way has been passed down by the women in Jacqueline Woodson’s family as a way to remember the past and celebrate the possibilities of the future. Beautifully rendered in Hudson Talbott’s luminous art, this moving, lyrical account pays tribute to women whose strength and knowledge illuminate their daughters’ lives. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Yee, Paul, *Roses Sing on New Snow: A Delicious Tale*
Maylin cooks delicious meals every day in her father’s restaurant, but her lazy brothers take all the credit. One day a contest is held to honor the visiting governor of South China, and Maylin’s brothers decide to pass off her cooking as their own. But when neither they nor the governor can replicate Maylin’s wonderful dish, they all learn that there’s more to the art of good cooking than the right ingredients. Paul Yee’s charming text and Harvey Chan’s dramatic
watercolors transport the reader to another time and culture in this engaging tale. (houseofanansi.com)
Unlikely Stories

**Abouet, Marguerite, *Akissi: Feline Invasion***

Poor Akissi! The neighbourhood cats are trying to steal her fish, her little monkey Boubou almost ends up in a frying pan and she’s nothing but a pest to her older brother Fofana... But Akissi is a true adventurer, full of silliness and mischief, and nothing will scare her for long! (flyingeyebooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Agee, Jon, *Retired Kid, The***

“It’s been a wonderful eight years, but I need a break.” At the Happy Sunset Retirement Community, there’s Ethel, Myrtle, Harvey, and Tex. And then there’s Brian. The retired kid. He’s here to escape school, homework, and daily chores. But retired living has its challenges, especially when you’re sixty years younger than everybody else! (books.google.com)

**Alexander, Lloyd, *The Fortune-Tellers***

This original folktale set in Cameroon is full of adventure and sly humor. Lloyd Alexander’s story of a young man visiting — and then becoming — the village fortune-teller is brought to vibrant life with some of Caldecott Medalist Trina Schart Hyman’s most memorable artwork. Both children and adults will relish The Fortune-tellers. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Alley, Zoe, *There’s a Wolf at the Door***

Wolf, a rather fine dresser and intelligent creature, just can’t catch a break. All he wants to do is eat some pig, lamb, a gosling or two, a loud shepherd...or that little girl wearing a red hood, but for some reason none of them will cooperate. Five classic tales morph into one ongoing yarn as Wolf bumbles his way through each of them. Told in graphic novel style in an oversized picture book package, this is the gift for kids of all ages for happily-ever-after holidays. (us.macmillan.com)

**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)

Asch, Frank, *Star Jumper: Journal of a Cardboard Genius*
Self-proclaimed genius inventor Alex is convinced that his little brother Jonathan is evil. The kid never shuts up. He's a klutz, and he drools on his pillow when he sleeps. Jonathan's specialty, though, is sticking to Alex like glue -- and sticking his nose into his big brother's business. That's why Alex has to leave Earth and fly so far away that no one will ever be able to find him. Using cardboard, duct tape, old odds and ends and his amazing scientific imagination, Alex builds Star Jumper, a spaceship that will deliver him from his rotten little brother forever! It's a plan only a cardboard genius could ever hope to pull off. But Jonathan has other ideas -- and a secret that ultimately brings forth Alex's most brilliant creation ever! (kidscanpress.com) This is the first book in the series.

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) If you’ve only seen the movie, you’ve missed most of the story!

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)
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)

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)

Bruel, Nick, *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath*

Pet owners beware! Bad Kitty really needs a bath, and she is forced to take one in this hysterical new illustrated how-to for young readers. The following are some items you will need for Kitty’s bath: one bathtub, plenty of water, dry towels, a suit of armor, a letter to your loved ones, clean underwear (because stressful situations can cause “accidents”), an ambulance in your driveway with the engine running, and, oh, yeah, you’ll also need Kitty . . . but good luck with that! Kitty is at her worst in this riotous how-to guide filled with bad smells, cautionary tales of horror, and hopefully by the end . . . some soap. (us.macmillan.com) There are several books about Bad Kitty (and Poor Puppy); some are picture books and some are heavily illustrated novels. They can be read in any order.

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.

**Cleary, Beverly, The Mouse and the Motorcycle**

In this imaginative adventure from Newbery Medal-winning author Beverly Cleary, a young mouse named Ralph is thrown into a world of excitement when a boy and his shiny toy motorcycle check into the Mountain View Inn. When the ever-curious Ralph spots Keith’s red toy motorcycle, he vows to ride it. So when Keith leaves the bike unattended in his room one day, Ralph makes his move. But with all this freedom (and speed!) come a lot of obstacles. Whether dodging a rowdy terrier or keeping his nosy cousins away from his new wheels, Ralph has a lot going on! With a pal like Keith always looking out for him, there’s nothing this little mouse can’t handle. (harpercollins.com)

**Coudray, Philippe, Benjamin Bear in Bright Ideas**

Knitting a sheep a sweater? Visiting a fish’s underwater house? Soaring down a staircase on a square-wheeled bicycle? These could only be the predicaments of beloved character Benjamin Bear! Our favorite fuzzy friend returns with a whole new set of problems to solve—but when it comes to Benjamin Bear, the solutions may cause just as much trouble. Award-winning artist Philippe Coudray brings us another collection of one-page gags that kids will love to puzzle out. (toon-books.com) There are several books about Benjamin Bear. You can read them in any order. This is a graphic novel.

**Cronin, Doreen, Diary of a Worm**

This is the diary . . . of a worm. Surprisingly, a worm not that different from you or me. Except he eats his homework. Oh, and his head looks a lot like his rear end. Doreen Cronin, the New York Times best-selling author of CLICK, CLACK, MOO and GIGGLE, GIGGLE, QUACK, teams up with illustrator Harry Bliss for this hysterical journal about the daily doings and the hidden world of a lovable underground dweller. (harpercollins.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)

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 grouchininess. 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)

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, One Grain Of Rice: A Mathematical Folktale
Long ago in India, there lived a raja who believed that he was wise and fair. But every year he kept nearly all the people's rice for himself. Then a village girl named Rani devises a clever plan, using the surprising power of doubling to win more than one billion grains of rice from the raja. (scholastic.com)

Dormer, Frank W., The Obstinate Pen
This is what Uncle Flood wants to write with his new pen:[return]The following story is all true.[return]But the pen does not write that sentence. Instead it writes:[return]You have a big nose![return]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)

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)

Godden, Rumer, The Mousewife
Day in and day out the dutiful mousewife works alongside her mousehusband in the house of Miss Barbara Wilkinson. It is a nice house and the mousewife is for the most part happy collecting crumbs and preparing a nest for her future mouse-babies—yet she yearns for something more. But what? Her husband, for one, can’t imagine. “I think about cheese,” he advises her. “Why don’t you think about cheese?” Then an odd and exotic new creature, a turtledove, is brought into the house and placed in a gilded cage. A friendship develops as the dove tells the mousewife about things no house mouse has ever imagined, blue skies, tumbling clouds, tall trees, and far
horizons, the memory of which haunt the dove in her captivity. The dove’s tales fill the mousewife with wonder and inspire her to take daring action. (randomhouse.com)

**Gutman, Dan, Miss Daisy Is Crazy!**

For A.J. and the gang at Ella Mentry School, weirdness and fun are all part of the routine. In this first book in the outrageously funny series that has reached millions of readers around the world, second-grade teacher Miss Daisy is in over her head. She doesn’t even know how to add or subtract! But the kids have other things on their minds. Principal Klutz has promised that if they read a million pages in books, they can turn the school into a video-game arcade for one whole night! One thing’s for sure—life at Ella Mentry School is never going to be the same again! Perfect for reluctant readers and word-lovers alike, My Weird School has something for everyone. (harpercollins.com) This is the first book in the My Weird School series. They can be read in any order.

**Hamilton, Virginia, The People Could Fly**

“The well-known author retells 24 black American folk tales in sure storytelling voice: animal tales, supernatural tales, fanciful and cautionary tales, and slave tales of freedom. All are beautifully readable. With the added attraction of 40 wonderfully expressive paintings by the Dillons, this collection should be snapped up.”—(starred) School Library Journal. (penguinrandomhouse.com) There is also a shorter picture book version.

**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, The Bunnicula Collection Three Hare-Raising Tales in One Volume**

BEWARE THE HARE! Is he or isn’t he a vampire? Before it’s too late, Harold the dog and Chester the cat must find out the truth about the newest pet in the Monroe household -- a suspicious-looking bunny with unusual habits...and fangs! (books.simonandschuster.com)

**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.

**Jenkins, Emily, Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic**

Lumphy is a stuffed buffalo. StingRay is a stuffed stingray. And Plastic... well, Plastic isn’t quite sure what she is. They all belong to the Little Girl who lives on the high bed with the fluffy pillows. A very nice person to belong to. Together is best for these three best friends. Together they look things up in the dictionary, explore the basement, and argue about the meaning of life. And together they face dogs, school, television commercials, the vastness of the sea, and the terrifying bigness of the washing machine. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the Toys trilogy. The others are Toy Dance Party and Toys Come Home. They can be read in any order.

**Krupik, 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.

Krull, Kathleen, Fartiste
Across the world there are many an artiste - But none so outrageous as Joe, the Fartiste. The Fartiste doesn’t sing, he doesn’t dance, and he doesn’t act. But that doesn’t stop him from taking the stage at Paris’s famed Moulin Rouge, where he performs his much-loved act for celebrities and royalty with the funniest talent of all - Joe is the man who has perfected the art of the fart. Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer bring new wind to their mostly true story about "the man who made his pants dance," which is perfectly matched with Boris Kulikov’s explosive art. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Kurtz, Chris, The Adventures of a South Pole Pig: A novel of snow and courage
Flora the pig was born for adventure: “If it’s unexplored and needs to get dug up, call me. I’m your pig,” she says. The day Flora spots a team of sled dogs is the day she sets her heart on becoming a sled pig. Before she knows it, she’s on board a ship to Antarctica for the most exhilarating—and dangerous—adventure of her life. This poignant novel of a purposeful pig is sure to become a favorite with any young readers who have ever dreamed of exploring the great beyond. (hmhco.com)

Layton, Neal, The Mammoth Academy
Oscar and his sister, Arabella, are starting their first year at the Mammoth Academy. Oscar isn’t fond of schoolwork, but he loves learning outdoor sports and becoming best friends with Fox. Things are going
wonderfully, until the cook’s oranges are stolen and Oscar spots some MYSTERIOUS TRACKS. Whatever made the MYSTERIOUS TRACKS has only two feet. Could it be those wild and dangerous animals called humans? (us.macmillan.com) This is the first book in the series. They can be read in any order.

**Lehrhaupt, Adam, *Warning: Do Not Open This Book!***

It looks like a book, it feels like a book, and it even smells like a book. But watch out...madness and mayhem lie within! Debut author Adam Lehrhaupt urges you NOT to take a walk on the wild side in this humorous, interactive romp with inventive and engaging illustrations from Eisner Award–winning comic artist and rising star children’s book illustrator Matthew Forsythe. *Warning: Do Not Open This Book?* won the E.B. White Read-Aloud Honor award and was a 2013 Huffington Post Best Picture Book honorable mention and an ALA Notable Children’s Book. This quirky, subversive creation begs to be enjoyed again and again and again. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Lester, Helen, *Batter Up Wombat***

The new kid in town is a wombat from Down Under. He’s having a tough time fitting in, so he tries to join the baseball team. They’re excited to see a “Whambat” hit, but baseball seems to him like a strange game indeed as his literal interpretations of the lingo, such as “stealing third base,” lead to hilarious, and ultimately victorious, results. (books.google.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. (turtleback.com) This is a graphic novel.

**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)

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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)

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)

Rogers, Gregory, *The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard*

What happens when a boy bursts through the curtain of a deserted theatre and onto the world's most famous stage? He lands on the Bard himself and the chase is on-through the streets of Shakespeare's London. This is a rare and inventive visual feast—a runaway story about a curious boy, a magic cloak, a grumpy bard, a captive bear and a baron bound for the chopping block. It is also a richly illustrated, dramatic and very funny tale of adventure and friendship. (books.google.com)

Say, Allen, *The Boy in the Garden*

There was a story that Mama read to Jiro: Once, in old Japan, a young woodcutter lived alone in a little cottage. One winter day he found a crane struggling in a snare and set it free. When Jiro looks out the window into Mr. Ozu’s garden, he sees a crane and remembers that story. Much like the crane, the legend comes to life—and, suddenly, Jiro finds himself in a world woven between
dream and reality. Which is which? Allen Say creates a tale about many things at once: the power of story, the allure of the imagined, and the gossamer line between truth and fantasy. For who among us hasn’t imagined ourselves in our own favorite fairy tale?(hmhco.com)

Scieszka, Jon, **Battle Bunny**
Alex has been given a saccharine, sappy, silly-sweet picture book about Birthday Bunny that his grandma found at a garage sale. Alex isn’t interested—until he decides to make the book something he’d actually like to read. So he takes out his pencil, sharpens his creativity, and totally transforms the story! Birthday Bunny becomes Battle Bunny, and the rabbit’s innocent journey through the forest morphs into a supersecret mission to unleash an evil plan—a plan that only Alex can stop. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Speck, Katie, **Maybelle in the Soup**
Maybelle is a lovely, plump cockroach. She lives in her own cozy little home under the refrigerator of Mr. and Mrs. Peabody. Maybelle knows it’s best to stay hidden away, but she simply adores food. Just once she would love to taste something yummy before it hits the floor! When the Peabodys invite a Very Important Guest for dinner, Maybelle can’t resist. She takes a teeny taste—and splashes into the biggest adventure of her life! (us.macmillan.com)

Teague, Mark, **Dear Mrs. LaRue**
When Ike Larue is “imprisoned” at the Igor Brotweiler Canine Academy, he tries everything to get sent home—weepy letters to his owner, even illness. In reality, Brotweiler is more like camp than prison, but still, Ike’s not cut out for life without Mrs. Larue & his creature comforts. Finally, he runs away only to find himself back in Snort City—just in time to save Mrs. Larue’s life. (scholastic.com)
There are several books about Ike LaRue’s misadventures.

Venable, Colleen AF, **Guinea Pig, Pet Shop Private Eye 1: Hamster and Cheese**
A light-hearted, punny mystery series for very young readers. Sasspants is a guinea pig with a penchant for puzzles. She lives in a pet shop in which the animals
are smarter than the shopkeeper, who mistakes hamsters for koalas, chinchillas for camels, and hermit crabs for tractors. When the “g” falls off the sign on Sass’s cage, Hamisher the koala – that is, hamster – is positive she’s a Private Eye. And when there are no mysteries to be solved, Hamisher is happy to create some! (lernerbooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**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.

**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)

**Young, Ed, Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China**

In this Chinese version of the classic fairy tale, a mother leaves her three children home alone while she goes to visit their grandmother. When the children are visited by a wolf, pretending to be their Po Po, or granny, they let him in the house, but ultimately are not fooled by his deep voice and hairy face. Combining ancient Chinese panel art techniques with a contemporary palette of watercolors and pastels, this powerful story brings lessons about strangers, trust and courage to a new generation. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Fantasy Stories

Allsburg, Chris Van, Just a Dream
Walter is a litterbug who does not appreciate the beauty of nature, or understand his role in keeping the planet healthy . . . until a fantastic journey shows him the tragic fate that could befall Earth if humans like him are not more careful. Are Walter’s actions really helping his planet along the road to destruction, or is it all just a dream? (hmhco.com)

Andersen, Hans Christian, Hans Christian Andersen’s Fairytales
Lisbeth Zwerger is one of the world’s preeminent children’s book artists, and one of the most original interpreters of Hans Christian Andersen’s classic fairytales. This handsome collection, originally published in 1991 now returns in celebration of Hans Christian Andersen’s 200th birthday. It includes eleven favorite stories, such as “The Princess and the Pea” and “The Emperor’s New Clothes,” as well as lesser-known but equally wonderful stories, all featuring Ms. Zwerger’s distinctively elegant, witty illustrations. This superb anthology is bound to become a treasured part of every child’s library. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
There are many editions of Andersen's tales. This collection, illustrated by Elizabeth Zwerger, is particularly recommended.

Authors, Various, 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)

Becker, Aaron, Journey
A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound. Red marker in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon, and a flying carpet that carry her on a spectacular journey toward an uncertain destiny. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only
an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also lead her home and to her heart’s desire? With supple line, luminous color, and nimble flights of fancy, author-illustrator Aaron Becker launches an ordinary child on an extraordinary journey toward her greatest and most exciting adventure of all. Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination — and unexpected friendship. (candlewick.com)

Benton, Jim, Lunch Walks Among Us

Franny K. Stein is not your average girl—she’s a mad scientist. She prefers poison ivy to daisies, and when Franny jumps rope, she uses her pet snake. The kids in Franny’s class think she’s weird, wacky, and just plain creepy. Tired of being stared at, Franny decides to attempt her most dangerous experiment yet—she’s going to fit in. But when a giant Monstrous Fiend attacks the class, everyone knows only a true mad scientist can save the day. But has Franny lost her creepy, crawly ways? (books.google.com) This is the first book in the Frannie K. Stein series. They can be read in any order.

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.

Brock, Betty, No Flying in the House

Annabel Tippens seems like an ordinary little girl, with short blond hair and very good manners. But Annabel is actually quite unusual. Instead of parents, she has Gloria, a tiny white dog who talks and wears a gold collar. Annabel never wonders why her life is different, until one day a cat named Belinda tells her the truth -- she’s not just a little girl, she’s half fairy! But now that
she knows the truth, will her whole life have to change? (harpercollins.com)

**Brown, Peter, The Curious Garden**

One boy's quest for a greener world... one garden at a time. While out exploring one day, a little boy named Liam discovers a struggling garden and decides to take care of it. As time passes, the garden spreads throughout the dark, gray city, transforming it into a lush, green world. This is an enchanting tale with environmental themes and breathtaking illustrations that become more vibrant as the garden blooms. Red-headed Liam can also be spotted on every page, adding a clever seek-and-find element to this captivating picture book. (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)

**Colón, Raúl, Draw!**

Based on his own childhood, beloved and award-winning artist Raul Colon's wordless book is about the limitless nature of creativity and imagination. A boy named Leonardo begins to imagine and then draw a world afar: first a rhinoceros, and then he meets some monkeys, and he always has a friendly elephant at his side. Soon he finds himself in the jungle and carried away by the sheer power of his imagination, seeing the world through his own eyes and making friends along the way. (goodreads.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.

Eliopoulos, Chris, Mr. Puzzle Super Collection!
With his incredible powers, Mr. Puzzle can stretch, bend, shrink, grow, and will work hard to keep the folks of Busyville safe from trouble. What a nice guy! Mr. Puzzle, a superhero who’s a perfect fit for all problems. (goodreads.com) These books are also published separately. This is a graphic novel.

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.

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.)

Guibert, Emmanuel, Sardine in Outer Space
In the goofy space adventures of a little girl called Sardine, encounters aren’t always friendly: weird creatures, cosmic squids, masters of the universe, talking clouds, and evil beings abound. In this volume of twelve stories, Supermuscleman, the chief executive dictator of the universe, is on a mission to make all the galaxy’s kids behave. Sardine must enlist the help of her cousin Lou and her pirate uncle, the gruff Captain Yellow Shoulder, to outwit him and his evil plans. (us.macmillan.com) This is a graphic novel.
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. This series of brief stories about Isabel’s adventures are a beguiling combination of child-friendly scenarios and Eastern wisdom perfect for the youngest readers. (us.macmillan.com) This is the first book in the series.

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)


Tove Jansson is revered around the world as one of the foremost children’s authors of the twentieth century for her illustrated chapter books regarding the magical worlds of her creation, the Moomins. The Moomins saw life in many forms but debuted to its biggest audience ever on the pages of world’s largest newspaper the London Evening News, in 1954. The strip was syndicated in newspapers around the world with millions of readers in 40 countries.[return]The Moomins are a tight-knit family — hippo-shaped creatures with easygoing and adventurous outlooks. Jansson’s art is pared down and precise, yet able to compose beautiful portraits of ambling creatures in fields of flowers or rock-strewn beaches that recall Jansson’s Nordic roots. The comic strip reached out to adults with its gentle and droll sense of humor. Whimsical but with biting undertones, Jansson’s observations of everyday life, including guests who overstay their welcome, modern art, movie stars, and high society, easily caught the
attention of an international audience and still resonate today. (drawnandquarterly.com) Stories about the Moomins are available in both novel and graphic novel formats. Look for them all!

**Johnson, R. Kikuo, The Shark King**

From the islands of Hawaii comes the electrifying tale of Nanaue, who has to balance his yearning for Dad’s guidance with his desire for Mom’s nurture. Award-winning cartoonist R. Kikuo Johnson transports young readers to the lush, tropical shores of his native Hawaii. Emerging readers, fluent or not, will be thrilled when they experience the transformative powers of this stirring literary work. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Keane, Dave, Bobby Bramble Loses His Brain**

Bobby Bramble has a thirst for adventure, a taste for danger, and energy to spare. But no one in his family seems to appreciate these traits. Instead, they worry that he’ll fall and crack his skull open—and one day that’s exactly what happens. To make matters worse, Bobby’s brain decides to take off, as if it had a mind of its own. What follows is the madcap pursuit—and recapture—of the elusive gray matter and the successful reunion of brain and brawn. A hilarious cautionary tale full of mayhem—and wordplay. (books.google.com)

**Kimmel, Eric A., The McElderry Book of Greek Myths**

Walk among the gods and goddesses, men and monsters, in this enchanting volume of classic Greek myths! Here are twelve of the most beloved legends of Greek mythology, from Pandora and her dreaded box to Icarus with his wings of wax, and, of course, that greedy, gold-fingered King Midas. Vibrant art adds a fresh twist to this collection, giving today's readers their own version of these timeless tales. (simonandschuster.com)

**King-Smith, Dick, Lady Lollipop**

Lollipop is no ordinary pig. According to her young owner Johnny Skinner, she’s the cleverest pig in the whole kingdom. When people stare into Lollipop’s bright, intelligent eyes, it seems to change them for the better. But will Lollipop win over spoilt Princess
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)

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.

Lasky, Kathryn, *The Capture*

Ga’Hoole is a classic hero mythology about the fight between good and evil. After Soren, a young owlet, is pushed from his family’s nest by his older brother, he’s plucked from the forest floor by agents from a mysterious school, the St. Aegolius Academy for Orphaned Owls. When Soren arrives at St. Aggie’s, he suspects there is more to the school than meets the eye. He and his new friend, the clever and scrappy Gylfie, find out that St. Aggie’s is actually a training camp where the school’s leader can groom young owls to help achieve her goal: to rule the entire owl kingdom. (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the Guardians of Ga’hoole series. They are best read in order.
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.

McKissack, Patricia, *The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural*
With an extraordinary gift for suspense, McKissack brings us ten original spine-tingling tales inspired by African-American history and the mystery of that eerie half-hour before nightfall—the dark thirty. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

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.

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.

Norton, Mary, *Bedknob and Broomstick*
When the witch next door falls off her broomstick, it’s the start of an amazing adventure for Carey, Charles and Paul. Her spell turns out better than she’d hoped,
and gives the children an enchanted bedknob which whisks them off anywhere they want, even back in time. (books.google.com)

Nytra, David, *The Secret of the Stone Frog*

When Leah and Alan awaken in an enchanted forest, they have only each other and their wits to guide them. In a world full of pet bees and giant rabbits, they befriend foppish lions and stone frogs. Learning to overcome danger, they find their way home—and their independence. (toon-books.com) This is a graphic novel.

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 back-fired, and Captain Underpants leaped off the page to save the day! (scholastic.com)

Prior, Natalie, *Lily Quench and the Dragon of Ashby*

As a family of dragon slayers, the Quenches of Ashby have always been burning successes...until the evil Black Count invades, and the family's fortunes go into a downward spiral. Then a dragon unexpectedly arrives and Lily, the last of the Quenches, is called upon to fight it. Soon she finds herself on a desperate, magical quest to save Ashby from destruction—and restore the lost heir to his throne... (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the series. It can be a little slow at the beginning, but stick with it. The end has more action, as do the rest of the books. (Ms. Bock)

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)

**Santat, Dan, Sidekicks**

Captain Amazing, superhero and savior of Metro City, is getting old. He's out all hours battling arch-villains, catching thieves, and helping little old ladies cross the street. He doesn't even have time for his house full of pets. He needs... a sidekick! Captain Amazing’s pets agree. But each one of them thinks he should get the sidekick spot -- and a chance for one-on-one time with the Captain. Get ready for sibling rivalry royale as pets with superpowers duke it out for the one thing they all want -- a super family. (arthurlevinebooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Schlitz, Laura Amy, The night fairy**

Flora is a Night Fairy; she is supposed to be out at night. When she was quite small, she lost her wings in a terrible accident. Now she is alone and friendless, living in a giantess’s garden. She is determined to turn herself into a Day Fairy because it seems safer. With the help of her squirrel friend, she practices her stinging spell and tries to conquer her new world. (candlewick.com)

**Schmitt, Michel-yves, Your Pajamas Are Showing!**

What if you woke up one morning and could turn invisible? Would you fight crime? Save the world? If you’re like Leopold, you’d rather play tricks on your big sister and steal her caramels! But being invisible isn’t all it’s cracked up to be. Leopold can make his body disappear, but not his clothes. How will he pull his pranks with his pajamas showing? Is he brave enough to play his tricks in the nude? Maybe the right magic word is all he needs! (learnerbooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Scieszka, Jon, Knights of the Kitchen Table**

Joe's been caught up in a book before, but this is ridiculous! Joe's Book, a gift from his magician uncle, doesn't just tell stories, it zaps Joe and his friends Sam and Fred right into the middle of them. And when these thoroughly modern kids meet King Arthur and become Knights of the Round Table, the result can only be thoroughly amusing mayhem.
Sierra, Judy, *Tell the Truth, B.B. Wolf*

Big Bad Wolf’s first visit to his local library (as related in *Mind Your Manners, B.B. Wolf*) was such a success that he returns to tell his version of “The Three Little Pigs.” His outrageous spin on the tale draws skeptical remarks from his audience: “Isn’t that wolf’s nose getting longer?” asks Pinocchio. “It’s a cooked-up, half-baked tale,” snaps the Gingerbread Boy. And “Tell the truth, B.B. Wolf!” squeal the Three Little Pigs. Caught in his own lie, B.B. explains that he is a reformed villain: “Now I’m begging on my knees, Little Pigs, forgive me, please!” How B.B. turns his bad old deed into a good new one provides a happy ending to this fun-to-read fractured fairytale. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Stilton, Geronimo, *Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye*

Geronimo’s sister, Thea, discovers a map that reveals a treasure on a faraway island. Before Geronimo can squeak in protest, Thea drags him into her treasure hunt. (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the Geronimo Stilton series. There are approximately eleven billion books about Geronimo and Thea. They can be read in any order.

Thomson, Bill, *Chalk*

A rainy day. Three kids in a park. A dinosaur spring rider. A bag of chalk. The kids begin to draw... and then... magic! The children draw the sun, butterflies, and a dinosaur that amazingly come to life. Children will never feel the same about the playground after they experience this astounding wordless picture book and the power of the imagination. Bill Thomson embraced traditional painting techniques and meticulously painted each illustration by hand, using acrylic paint and colored pencils. (apub.com)

Winthrop, Elizabeth, *The Castle in the Attic*

William has just received the best present of his life—an old, real-looking stone and wooden model of a castle, with a drawbridge, a moat, and a finger-high knight to guard the gates. It’s the mysterious castle his
housekeeper has told him about, and even though William is sad she’s leaving, now the castle is his! William can’t wait to play with the castle—he’s certain there’s something magical about it. And sure enough, when he picks up the tiny silver knight, it comes alive in his hand! Sir Simon tells William a mighty story of wild sorcery, wizards, and magic. And suddenly William is off on a fantastic quest to another land and another time—where a fiery dragon and an evil wizard are waiting to do battle.... (penguinrandomhouse.com)

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)
Nonfiction

Agee, Jon, *Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*  
Have you ever gotten tripped up trying to say a silly succession of similar syllables? Of course—everyone has! It can be sometimes frustrating, but it's always funny! For example, you know New York's unique, but did you know that unique New York's also pretty chic? And if you switched your wristwatch with a new Swiss watch, could you tell which wristwatch was which? Wordplay master Jon Agee tackles these and other tricky tongue twisters in a funny new title featuring his equally hilarious artwork. The combination will leave you speechless. (books.google.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)

Bang, Molly, *Common Ground: The Water, Earth, And Air We Share*  
As a point of reference for modern environmental problems, Bang tells the story of a village commons and the trouble that ensues when the area is misused by overgrazing. Bang won the Giverny Award for Best Science Picture Book for Common Ground. In this book, she talks about one of the most basic and important principles in ecology, known as the “tragedy of the commons.” In very simple text and pictures, she shows how what is beneficial for one individual can be detrimental to society as a whole. (scholastic.com)

Bang, Molly, *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring The Earth To Life*  
Here is a stunning, poetic exploration of the universal energy force within us all. Two award winners, illustrator Molly Bang and biologist Penny Chisholm, present the story of how light from the sun is transformed into energy on Earth—and becomes YOU! Clear, accessible, and dazzling, Living Sunlight shows
children, teachers, and parents alike the remarkable magic of photosynthesis. We are all living sunlight. (scholastic.com) This is part of a trilogy about how sunlight affects life on earth. The other two are Ocean Sunlight and Buried Sunlight.

**Bartoletti, Susan Campbell, The Flag Maker**

Here in lyrical prose is the story of the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the words that became the national anthem of the United States. This flag, which came to be known as the Star-Spangled Banner, also inspired author Susan Campbell Bartoletti, who, upon seeing it at the Smithsonian Institution, became curious about the hands that had sewn it. Here is her story of the early days of this flag as seen through the eyes of young Caroline Pickersgill, the daughter of an important flag maker, Mary Pickersgill, and the granddaughter of a flag maker for General George Washington’s Continental Army. It is also a story about how a symbol motivates action and emotion, brings people together, and inspires courage and hope. (hmhco.com)

**Bash, Barbara, Urban Roosts: Where Birds Nest in the City**

On window ledges and underneath bridges, on statues and inside streetlights, birds of many kinds make their homes right in the heart of the city. Barn owls and finches, pigeons and crows these and many others have found ways to survive in a sometimes harsh world of glass and concrete. In this delightful and unusual book, acclaimed author-artist Barbara Bash explores a little-known aspect of city life with wit and imagination. Her brilliant watercolor illustrations let readers peek into a hidden world, showing us a tiny house wren nestled in a work glove and a killdeer watching over its eggs by the railroad tracks. Her book will inspire readers with wonder and admiration for the pluckiness of these adaptable creatures that have found ways to survive, even thrive, in the urban environments that now make up so much of our country. (hachettebookgroup.com)

**Berne, Jennifer, On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein**

A boy rides a bicycle down a dusty road. But in his mind, he envisions himself traveling at a speed beyond imagining, on a beam of light. This brilliant mind will one day offer up some of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived. From a boy endlessly fascinated by the wonders around him, Albert Einstein
ultimately grows into a man of genius recognized the world over for profoundly illuminating our understanding of the universe. Jennifer Berne and Vladimir Radunsky invite the reader to travel along with Einstein on a journey full of curiosity, laughter, and scientific discovery. Parents and children alike will appreciate this moving story of the powerful difference imagination can make in any life. (chroniclebooks.com)

**Bernier-Grand, Carmen, Diego: Bigger Than Life**

Carmen T. Bernier-Grand's inspiring free verse and David Diaz's vivid paintings capture the defining moments and emotions of Diego Rivera's tumultuous life, including his stormy relationship with artist Frida Kahlo and his passion for his art. Rivera's energy, physique, love for women, and work were all "bigger than life." A biography, chronology, glossary, sources, notes, and famous quotations are included. (goodreads.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)

**Bolden, Tonya, The Champ**

Muhammad Ali is one of the world's best-known figures, and this incredible biography delves into precisely why. From his unlikely beginnings as a skinny, young Cassius Clay learning to box at a local gym to becoming the heavyweight champion
of the world at the famous “Rumble in the Jungle,” where even the skies let loose with rain right after his victory, Ali has captivated the world. Tonya Bolden’s careful research and elegant telling, paired with R. Gregory Christie’s incredible paintings, make this a book that will inform and inspire readers of all ages. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Bonner, Hannah, *When Fish Got Feet, Sharks Got Teeth, and Bugs Began to Swarm: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life Long Before Dinosaurs*
Take a fun, fact-filled trip back to Earth as it was 430 million years ago. Then, watch as continents drift and oceans take shape. Watch out (!) as fish get toothier, plants stretch skywards and bugs get bigger. Soon fish get feet and four-legged creatures stalk the planet. Here’s the story of Earth in conversational text, informative illustrations, and humorous cartoons. (books.google.com)

Borden, Louise, *A. Lincoln And Me*
Skinny as a beanpole and tall for his age, an awkward young boy learns that Lincoln was often called "gorilla" and "backward hick" by his peers. Yet along with big hands and big feet, Lincoln had the amazing gift to lead a nation through a troubled time. A poetic story, illustrated with dramatic paintings by a Caldecott Honor recipient, tells the story of a child who finds a role model in Abraham Lincoln. (scholastic.com)

Borden, Louise, *America Is...*
What is America? It is fifty states from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific Ocean and beyond. It is a flag of stars and stripes. It is farmers, miners, factory workers, bakers, and bankers. It is Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon, swamps and desert. It is the stories of all of us, told together. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Borden, Louise, *Fly High! The Story Of Bessie Coleman*
Besse Coleman was born in rural Texas in 1892. She loved school, especially learning about numbers, and she was a good reader, too. Yet when it was time to pick cotton she had to work in the fields instead of going to school. Nevertheless, she was determined to be somebody when she grew up. In her early twenties, Bessie moved to Chicago. Perhaps there she could “find
a bigger life." In the city, Bessie heard many tales of World War I from returned veterans. She also heard there were woman airplane pilots in France. From then on, she was determined to become a pilot. But she soon found out that no one would teach a woman -- especially a woman with dark skin -- how to fly. To study in France was her only chance, and by working hard and saving her money, she managed at last to get there. Bessie Coleman became the first African-American to earn a pilot's license. She was somebody. The inspiring story of her difficult early years, her success as a stunt pilot putting on daring air shows in many states, and her dedication to telling young African-Americans wherever she went, "You can be somebody. You can fly high just like me," is as moving and important today as it was then. Simply told with evocative full-color illustrations, this is a special book for today's young people. (simonandschuster.com)

Borden, Louise, The Greatest Skating Race: A World War II Story from the Netherlands

In 1941 Piet, a young Dutch boy from Sluis, gets the assignment of a lifetime: He must skate along the frozen canals of the Netherlands and across the Belgian border, in order to guide two neighborhood children to their aunt's house in Brugge, where the children will remain for the duration of World War II. Their father has been taken by German soldiers, and the children are no longer safe in Sluis -- but the journey with Piet, past soldiers and enemies, is fraught with danger. Along the treacherous path to Belgium the three children skate using every bit of speed, courage, and strength they can muster. All the time they try to appear like innocent schoolchildren simply out for a skate, for if the German soldiers discover their escape plan, the children will be in grave trouble. During the journey Piet thinks about his hero, Pim Mulier -- the first person to ever skate the Elfstedentocht, the famous and prestigious Eleven Towns Race that takes place in his country. For years Piet has dreamed of proving that he is a skater as brave and strong as Pim Mulier -- but he had never imagined that his test would fall under such dangerous circumstances. (simonandschuster.com)

Bridges, Ruby, Through My Eyes

In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges chronicles each
Brown, Don, *Kid Blink Beats the World*  
In the summer of 1899, the hundreds of newsboys who sold Randolph Hearst’s Journal and Pulitzer’s World on the streets of New York and surrounding cities went on strike. The issue was a penny—the extra penny that the press owners wanted to charge the newsboys to buy the papers. To the press owners it didn’t seem like much, but to the newsboys it was a living, and they fought. Led by kids with colorful names like Kid Blink, Race Track Higgins, Tiny Tim, and Crutch Morris, they refused to sell the papers, staged rallies—and finally brought the newspapers to the negotiating table. (books.google.com)

Brown, Don, *Mack Made Movies*  
Mack Sennett invented the Keystone Kops, filmed the first pie-in-the-face skit, and introduced Charlie Chaplin to the movies. Here Don Brown tells the story of this American movie genius, from his beginnings as a Vaudeville actor to his triumph as the “King of Comedy”. (booksbybrown.com)

Brown, Don, *Odd Boy Out: Young Albert Einstein*  
When he was born, Albert was a peculiar, fat baby with an unusually big and misshaped head. When he was older, he hit his sister, bothered his teachers, and didn’t have many friends. But in the midst of all of this, Albert was fascinated with solving puzzles and fixing scientific problems. The ideas Albert Einstein came up with during his childhood as an odd boy out were destined to change the way we know and understand the world around us... (hmhco.com)

Brown, Don, *One Giant Leap: The Story of Neil Armstrong*  
As a young boy, Neil Armstrong had a recurring dream in which he held his breath and floated high in the sky. He spent his free time reading stacks of flying magazines, building model airplanes, and staring through a homemade telescope. As a teenager, Neil worked odd jobs to pay for flying lessons at a nearby airport. He earned his student pilot’s license on his sixteenth birthday. But who was to know that this shy boy, who also loved books and music, would
become the first person to set foot on the moon, on July 20, 1969. (hmhco.com)

**Brown, Don, *Uncommon Traveler: Mary Kingsley in Africa***
Mary Kingsley spent her childhood in a small house on a lonely lane outside London, England. Her mother was bedridden, her father rarely home, and Mary served as housekeeper, handyman, nursemaid, and servant. Not until she was thirty years old did Mary get her chance to explore the world she’d read about in her father’s library. In 1893, she arrived in West Africa, where she encountered giant Xying insects, crocodiles, hippos, and brutal heat. Mary endured the hardships of the equatorial country—and thrived. (hmhco.com)

**Bryan, Ashley, *Ashley Bryan: Words to My Life’s Song***
Ashley’s autobiography is full of art, photographs, and the poignant never-say-never tale of his rich life, a life that has always included drawing and painting. Even as a boy growing up during the Depression, he painted -- finding cast off objects to turn into books and kites and toy and art. Even as a solder in the segregated Army on the beaches of Normandy, he sketched -- keeping charcoal crayons and paper in his gasmask to draw with during lulls. Even as a talented, visionary art student who was accepted and then turned away from college upon arrival, the school telling Ashley that to give a scholarship to an African American student would be a waste, he painted -- continuing to create art when he could have been discouraged, continuing to polish his talents when his spirit should have been beaten. Ashley went on to become a Hans Christian Anderson Award nominee, a May Hill Arbuthnot lecturer, and a multiple Coretta Scott King award winner. As you might imagine, his story is powerful, bursting with his creative energy, and a testament to believing in oneself. It’s a book every child in America should have access to and it does what the very best autobiographies do; it inspires! (simonandschuster.com)

**Bryant, Jen, *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin***
As a child in the late 1800s, Horace Pippin loved to draw: He loved the feel of the charcoal as it slid across the floor. He loved looking at something in the room and making it come alive again in front of him. He drew pictures for his sisters, his classmates, his co-workers. Even during W.W.I, Horace filled his notebooks
with drawings from the trenches . . . until he was shot. Upon his return home, Horace couldn't lift his right arm, and couldn't make any art. Slowly, with lots of practice, he regained use of his arm, until once again, he was able to paint--and paint, and paint! Soon, people—including the famous painter N. C. Wyeth—started noticing Horace's art, and before long, his paintings were displayed in galleries and museums across the country. (randomhouse.com)

**Bryant, Jen, The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**

For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions — and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and used it to organize his ideas and find exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. (eerdmans.com)

**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)

**Burleigh, Robert, Flight: The journey of Charles Lindbergh**

Flight. Loneliness. Fear. Danger. Courage. Charles Lindbergh considered all these things and more when he set out for Paris on the morning of May 20, 1927, with only two compasses and the stars for his guides. Experience all the drama of Lindbergh's history-making flight with startling intimacy as you travel along with the
first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic, and follow the courage and endurance of one man who dared to make his dream come true. (scholastic.com)

**Burleigh, Robert, One Giant Leap**

The words are instantly recognizable: ‘That’’s one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind.’ Spoken by Neil Armstrong moments after he became the first human being to set foot on the moon, they have come to represent all that is possible when man’s determination to achieve the seemingly impossible results in success. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of this extraordinary moment in human history, Robert Burleigh and Mike Wimmer have created a breathtakingly beautiful tribute that transports readers to the stars, where they will experience the moon landing just as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin did. (us.penguin.com)

**Burns, Loree Griffin, Handle With Care: An Unusual Butterfly Journey**

Some farms grow vegetables or grains, and some raise cows, sheep, chickens, or pigs. But have you ever heard of a butterfly farm? How do you raise a butterfly? On a farm in Costa Rica, workers care for these delicate, winged creatures as they change from eggs to caterpillars to pupae. Like any other crop, the butterflies will eventually leave the farm. But where will they go? And just how do you ship a butterfly? Very carefully! To discover how it works, follow these butterflies on a remarkable journey! (lernerbooks.com)

**Cate, Annette LeBlanc, Look Up!: Bird-Watching in Your Own Backyard**

This conversational, humorous introduction to bird-watching encourages kids to get outdoors with a sketchbook and really look around. Quirky full-color illustrations portray dozens of birds chatting about their distinctive characteristics, including color, shape, plumage, and beak and foot types, while tongue-in-cheek cartoons feature banter between birds, characters, and the reader (“Here I am, the noble spruce grouse. In a spruce grove. Eatin’ some spruce. Yep.”). Interactive and enjoyable tips bring an age-old hobby to new life for the next generation of bird-watchers. (candlewick.com)
Chandra, Deborah, George Washington's Teeth

From battling toothaches while fighting the British, to having rotten teeth removed by his dentists, the Father of His Country suffered all his life with tooth problems. Yet, contrary to popular belief, he never had a set of wooden teeth. Starting at the age of twenty-four, George Washington lost on average a tooth a year, and by the time he was elected president, he had only two left! In this reverentially funny tale written in verse and based on Washington's letters, diaries, and other historical records, readers will find out what really happened as they follow the trail of lost teeth to complete toothlessness. (us.macmillan.com)

Chin, Jason, Island: A Story of the Galápagos

Charles Darwin first visited the Galápagos Islands almost 200 years ago, only to discover a land filled with plants and animals that could not be found anywhere else on earth. How did they come to inhabit the island? How long will they remain? Thoroughly researched and filled with intricate and beautiful paintings, this extraordinary book by Award-winning author and artist Jason Chin is an epic saga of the life of an island--born of fire, rising to greatness, its decline, and finally the emergence of life on new islands. (us.macmillan.com) If you enjoy this book, look for Redwoods, Coral Reef, and Gravity, all by the same author/illustrator.

Christensen, Bonnie, Woody Guthrie: Poet of the People

Woody Guthrie spent his life putting into words and music what the rest of America was thinking. He roamed from coast to coast and captured the despair of those displaced by the Great Depression and the dust bowl, eulogized workers, and celebrated the great natural beauty of America. This is an introductory biography presented as a picture book with a brief lyrical text and powerful, hand-tinted, woodcut-like illustrations. It includes the complete lyrics to “This Land Is Your Land” and excerpts from his other songs. A book for all ages, it makes this talented and tragic man accessible to young children and will please his older folksinging fans with its stunning art. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
Cooney, Barbara, *Eleanor*

Though she came from a wealthy and privileged family, Eleanor Roosevelt grew up in a cheerless household that left her lonely and shy. Years passed before Eleanor began to discover in herself the qualities of intelligence, compassion, and strength that made her a remarkable woman. In *Eleanor*, two-time Caldecott Medal winner Barbara Cooney paints a meticulously researched, lushly detailed picture of Eleanor’s childhood world—but most importantly, she captures the essence of the little girl whose indomitable spirit would make her one of the greatest and most beloved first ladies of all time. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Coy, John, *Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball*

Taking over a rowdy gym class right before winter vacation is not something James Naismith wants to do at all. The last two teachers of this class quit in frustration. The students—a bunch of energetic young men—are bored with all the regular games and activities. Naismith needs something new, exciting, and fast to keep the class happy—or someone’s going to get hurt. Saving this class is going to take a genius. Discover the true story of how Naismith invented basketball in 1891 at a school in Springfield, Massachusetts. (learnerbooks.com)

Curlee, Lynn, *Skyscraper*

Did you know that it took ten million bricks to build the Empire State Building? Did you know that residents of the John Hancock Center sometimes have to call down to the doorman to find out the weather on the streets below? Did you know a building in Dubai is planned to be nearly one half mile high? In *Skyscraper*, Lynn Curlee delves into one of man’s endless fascinations—building as high in the sky as possible. From the Empire State Building to the Chrysler Building, to the Sears and Hancock Towers, to the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, to the World Trade Center, Curlee captures all the drama, excitement, and tragedy of man’s attempt to reach ever closer to the clouds. *Skyscraper* details the history of these monuments to ambition, science, and curiosity, beginning with their origins at the Pyramid of Giza and the Eiffel Tower and then moving to New York (the skyscraper capital of the world), Chicago, Boston, and finally to
the skyward expansion that is spreading across the globe. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Curlee, Lynn, *Trains*

From steam engines to diesel engines and box cars to sleeper cars, a ride on Lynn Curlee’s *Trains* is about as close as most kids can hope to get to the Japanese bullet train or the inner workings of steam power. This book’s bold, graphic acrylic paintings are a perfect match for sleek, modern engines; dark, dirty locomotives; and the sprawling landscapes of the countryside. Thoroughly researched and very kid-friendly, *Trains* tells the history of the railroad, and in doing so, the history of America. This stunning book is one part history, one part art gallery, and a truly terrific ride! (books.simonandschuster.com)

DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami, *A Black Hole Is Not a Hole*

Get ready to S-T-R-E-T-C-H your mind! What is a black hole? Where do they come from? How were they discovered? Can we visit one? Carolyn Cinami DeCristofano takes readers on a ride through the galaxies (ours, and others), answering these questions and many more about the phenomenon known as a black hole. In lively and often humorous text, the book starts off with a thorough explanation of gravity and the role it plays in the formation of black holes. Paintings by Michael Carroll, coupled with real telescopic images, help readers visualize the facts and ideas presented in the text, such as how light bends, and what a supernova looks like. *A Black Hole Is NOT a Hole* is an excellent introduction to an extremely complex scientific concept. Back matter includes a timeline which sums up important findings discussed throughout, while the glossary and index provide a quick point of reference for readers. Children and adults alike will learn a ton of spacey facts in this far-out book that’s sure to excite even the youngest of astrophiles. (charlesbridge.com)

Dempsey, Kristy, *A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina’s Dream*

Little ballerinas have big dreams. Dreams of pirouettes and grande jetés, dreams of attending the best ballet schools and of dancing starring roles on stage. But in Harlem in the 1950s, dreams don’t always come true—they take a lot of work and a lot of hope. And sometimes hope is hard to come by. But the first African-American prima ballerina, Janet Collins, did make her
dreams come true. And those dreams inspired ballerinas everywhere, showing them that the color of their skin couldn’t stop them from becoming a star. (goodreads.com)

**Farrar, Sid, The Year Comes Round: Haiku through the Seasons**

Twelve nature-themed haiku accompanied by lush illustrations take the reader from January to December. (albertwhitman.com)

**Fern, Tracey, Dare the Wind: The Record-breaking Voyage of Eleanor Prentiss and the Flying Cloud**

Ellen Prentiss’s papa said she was born with saltwater in her veins, so he gave her sailing lessons and taught her how to navigate. As soon as she met a man who loved sailing like she did, she married him. When her husband was given command of a clipper ship custom-made to travel quickly, she knew that they would need every bit of its speed for their maiden voyage: out of New York City, down around the tip of Cape Horn, and into San Francisco, where the Gold Rush was well under way. In a time when few women even accompanied their husbands onboard, Ellen Prentiss navigated their ship to set the world record for speed along that route. (us.macmillan.com)

**Floca, Brian, Locomotive**

It is the summer of 1869, and trains, crews, and family are traveling together, riding America’s brand-new transcontinental railroad. These pages come alive with the details of the trip and the sounds, speed, and strength of the mighty locomotives; the work that keeps them moving; and the thrill of travel from plains to mountain to ocean. Come hear the hiss of the steam, feel the heat of the engine, watch the landscape race by. Come ride the rails, come cross the young country! (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Florian, Douglas, Books**

Douglas Florian writes fun poetry that is usually about animals, although sometimes about other things, like the Solar System. His poems are often funny and use wordplay, made-up words, and rhymes to describe different topics. His most famous book is probably Dinothesaurus. I also like Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars. (Ms. Bock)
Gerstein, Mordicai, *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*
In 1974, French aerialist Philippe Petit threw a tightrope between the two towers of the World Trade Center and spent an hour walking, dancing, and performing high-wire tricks a quarter mile in the sky. This picture book captures the poetry and magic of the event with a poetry of its own: lyrical words and lovely paintings that present the detail, daring, and—in two dramatic foldout spreads—the vertiginous drama of Petit’s feat. (us.macmillan.com)

Giovanni, Nikki, *Rosa*
Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. This tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed. (us.macmillan.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)

Golenbock, Peter, *Teammates*
This is the moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a Major League baseball team when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in the 1940s, and how on a fateful day in Cincinnati, Pee
Wee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate. Illustrated with a blend of historic photographs and eloquent watercolors by Paul Bacon. (hmhco.com)

**Green, Michelle Y., A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson**

Motivated by her love for the game and inspired by the legendary Jackie Robinson, Mamie Johnson is determined to be a professional baseball pitcher. But in a sport that's dominated by white men, there is no place for a black woman. Mamie doesn't give up from the time she insists on trying out for the all-male, all-white Police Athletic League team until she realizes her dream and becomes one of only three women to play in the Negro Leagues. Mamie Johnson's life shows that with courage and perseverance one can overcome even the greatest challenges. (us.penguingroup.com)

**Grimes, Nikki, Talkin' About Bessie (The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman)**

Elizabeth "Bessie" Coleman was always being told what she could & couldn't do. In an era when Jim Crow laws and segregation were a way of life, it was not easy to survive. Bessie didn't let that stop her. Although she was only 11 when the Wright brothers took their historic flight, she vowed to become the first African-American female pilot. Her sturdy faith and determination helped her overcome obstacles of poverty, racism, and gender discrimination. Innovatively told through a series of monologues. (books.google.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)
Hill, Laban Carrick, *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave*

Dave was an extraordinary artist, poet, and potter living in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry, carved onto his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as a slave. In this inspiring and lyrical portrayal, National Book Award nominee Laban Carrick Hill's elegantly simple text and award-winning artist Bryan Collier's resplendent, earth-toned illustrations tell Dave's story, a story rich in history, hope, and long-lasting beauty. (hatchettebookgroup.com)

Hill, Laban Carrick, *When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*

Before there was hip hop, there was DJ Kool Herc. On a hot day at the end of summer in 1973 Cindy Campbell threw a back-to-school party at a park in the South Bronx. Her brother, Clive Campbell, spun the records. He had a new way of playing the music to make the breaks-the musical interludes between verses-longer for dancing. He called himself DJ Kool Herc and this is When the Beat Was Born. From his childhood in Jamaica to his youth in the Bronx, Laban Carrick Hill's book tells how Kool Herc came to be a DJ, how kids in gangs stopped fighting in order to breakdance, and how the music he invented went on to define a culture and transform the world. (us.macmillan.com)

Hines, Anna Grossnickle, *Peaceful Pieces: Poems and Quilts About Peace*

In this evocative collection of poems illustrated by beautiful handmade quilts, Anna Grossnickle Hines explores peace in all its various and sometimes surprising forms: from peace at home to peace on a worldwide scale to peace within oneself. Pondering the meaning of peace and its fleeting nature, this book compels each of us to discover and act upon peace ourselves. (us.macmillan.com)

Holling, Holling C., *Pagoo*

From the moment of his birth, Pagoo the hermit crab learns to rely on his "instinct" in order to survive to adulthood in his tide pool home. (books.google.com)
Holmes, Mary Tavener, *My Travels With Clara*

A life-size portrait of the famous rhinoceros named Clara is the massive centerpiece of the Getty Museum’s exhibition Oudry’s Painted Menagerie. In her honor, the Getty has produced *My Travels with Clara*, a picture book for children that tells the true story of this five-thousand-pound animal and her owner, an eighteenth-century Dutch sea captain. *My Travels with Clara* begins in India, where Clara was born, and follows this amazing animal and her owner through their exploits in Berlin (where she met Frederick the Great), Paris (where she was a sensation and inspired rhinoceros hairdos), Versailles (where she met Louis XV and had her portrait painted), Rome (where she lost her horn), and finally Venice (where Clara joined in the annual Carnival). (shop.getty.edu)

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)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, *Weather: Poems for All Seasons*

A collection of poems describing various weather conditions, by such authors as Christina G. Rossetti, Myra Cohn Livingston, and Aileen Fisher. (books.google.com)

III, Sneed B. Collard, *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)
Jenkins, Martin, *Can We Save the Tiger?*

Tigers are pretty special -- and so are ground iguanas and partula snails and even white-rumped vultures. But these and many other animals are in danger of disappearing altogether, joining the dodo, the marsupial wolf, the great auk, and countless other animals we will never see again. Using the experiences of a few endangered species as examples, Martin Jenkins highlights the ways human behavior can either threaten or conserve the amazing animals that share our planet. Vicky White's stunning portraits of rare creatures offer a glimpse of nature's grace and beauty -- and give us a powerful reason to preserve it. (candlewick.com)

Jenkins, Steve, *Books*

Steve Jenkins writes and illustrates really cool nonfiction books about animals. He often looks at things that animals have in common, like tails, and shows how different animals use them differently. One of his more famous books is *What Do You Do With a Tail Like This.* In that book, you get to guess the animals by their tails, while you read about them. I love reading all of the animal facts in his books, but what really makes his books stand out are the illustrations. Steve Jenkins creates very detailed collages out of cut paper that look almost like photographs. Somehow, he is able to make scientifically accurate pictures of animals using tiny scraps of paper. You can’t go wrong with any of his books, but some of my favorites are *Actual Size* and *Eye To Eye.* On his website, stevejenkinsbooks.com, you can see a video about how he creates his illustrations. (Ms. Bock)

Katz, Susan, *The President's Stuck in the Bathtub: Poems About the Presidents*

Sure, William Taft got stuck in his tub, but did you know that John Quincy Adams used to skinny-dip in the Potomac? Herbert Hoover spoke Chinese with his wife, and Gerald Ford had his name changed from Leslie Lynch King. It’s true! In *The President's Stuck in the Bathtub,*
the lives of the presidents are served up as fact-filled and fanciful poems that will make you laugh, cringe, and gasp with amazement at the colorful cast of men and women who have lived in the White House. With footnotes relating the facts behind the inspiration for each poem, and a section called “Presidential Notes and Quotes” in the back, this is one hilarious history lesson that kids will elect to read over and over again! (hmhco.com)

**Kennedy, Caroline, Poems to Learn by Heart**
There’s a poem to celebrate every moment in life—whether it’s hitting a home run, watching a sunset, or laughing with your best friend. A poem is a gift of the heart that can inspire, reassure, or challenge us. Memorize it—share it—it’s yours forever.[return]In this diverse collection, a companion to her New York Times #1 best-seller A Family of Poems, Caroline Kennedy has chosen more than a hundred poems that speak to all of us: the young and young at heart, readers new to poetry and devoted fans. These poems explore deep emotions, as well as ordinary experiences. They cover the range of human experience and imagination. Divided into sections about nature, sports, monsters and fairies, friendship and family, this book is full of surprises. (books.disney.com)

**Kerley, Barbara, Dinosaurs Of Waterhouse Hawkins**
There was a time when few knew what dinosaurs looked like. This is the story of how Waterhouse Hawkins built the first life-sized dinosaur models and stunned the world with his awe-inspiring creations. (scholastic.com)

**Krull, Kathleen, Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez**
Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn’t always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive. Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that—maybe—he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened. (hmhco.com)
Kudlinski, Kathleen V., Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System
Some people used to think that Earth was smack-dab in the middle of the universe, with all the stars and planets held in the sky by giant glass balls. Boy, were they wrong! In this follow-up to the award-winning Boy, Were We Wrong About Dinosaurs!, Kathleen Kudlinski and John Rocco look at the mistakes, mishaps, and creativity that are part of scientific discovery. From the first humans wondering about the night sky to the demotion of Pluto to dwarf planet status, this book is an entertaining and informative look at how scientific theories change over time. (penguinrandomhouse.com) Look for other books in this series about dinosaurs, weather, and human body. They're all awesome.

Lasky, Kathryn, One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin
From the time Charles Darwin was a boy, he was happiest when he was out alone collecting specimens (especially beetles). And despite his father's efforts to turn young Darwin -- a poor student -- into a doctor or clergyman, the born naturalist jumped instead at the chance to sail around South America, observing and collecting flora and fauna all the way. In a clear, engaging narration, Kathryn Lasky takes readers along on Darwin's journey, from his discovery of seashells on mountaintops that revealed geological changes to his observations of variations in plants and animals, suggesting that all living things are evolving over time. Matthew Trueman's striking mixed-media illustrations include actual objects found in nature, enhancing this compelling look at the man behind the bold theory that would change the way we think about the world -- and ourselves. (candlewick.com)

Lauber, Patricia, What You Never Knew About Tubs, Toilets, & Showers
In the Middle Ages, St. Francis of Assisi listed dirtiness as a sign of holiness... But by the mid 1800s clean was in. The early Greeks and Romans were among the first to build public baths and toilets. One of the biggest Roman baths held three thousand people at once -- and everyone went naked! But when those empires fell, so did the standard for cleanliness. It would be 1,400 years before bathing came back into style. Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia Lauber and artist John Manders team up again to tackle the dirty business of getting clean in their latest book, What You Never
Knew About Tubs, Toilets, & Showers. In this hilarious how-to of bathing and bathrooms, readers can take a trip through the stalls of history and learn not only how bathrooms came to be, but who used them and why. (books.google.com) This author wrote similar books about Fingers, Forks, and Chopsticks, and Beds, Bedrooms, and Pajamas.

**Lawson, Robert, Ben and Me: An Astonishing Life of Benjamin Franklin by His Good Mouse Amos**

Ever wonder where inventors get their ideas? As it turns out, the great inventor Benjamin Franklin got his best ideas from a mouse named Amos! Funny, interesting and wise, this classic tale has been a favorite for generations. Once you’ve met Amos and read his account, you’ll never think of Ben Franklin—or American history—quite the same way. Explore this historical time period even further in this new edition of award-winning author Robert Lawson’s classic tale, with additional bonus material, including a map of Ben Franklin’s travels! (hachettebookgroup.com)

**Levine, Ellen, Henry’s Freedom Box**

Henry Brown doesn’t know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves’ birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom. (scholastic.com)

**Levine, Ellen, If You Lived At The Time Of The Great San Francisco Earthquake**

Told from a child’s perspective, this book puts readers into the middle of the action as it recounts what happened on April 18, 1906, when San Francisco suffered an earthquake of tremendous proportions. (scholastic.com) This author has written other books about different times in history, including the Underground Railroad, traveling with the wagon trains to the western territories, and traveling through Ellis Island as an immigrant.

What could be better than cuddling up with your child and this book on your lap and allowing your imaginations to soar with the words and images? Lovingly selected by U.S. Children's Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis and paired with vibrant animal photography, this collection of poems is an exuberant celebration of the animal kingdom and a beautiful introduction to this genre of literature. Designed for family sharing but targeted to ages 4-8, this dynamic, fresh, yet still classic collection of animal poems is a must-have for the family bookshelf. Featured poets include J. Patrick Lewis, Dorothy Aldis, Emily Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling, Jack Prelutsky, Elizabeth Madox Roberts, Robert Louis Stevenson, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, and many more. (ngchildrensbooks.org)

**Lyon, George Ella, *All the Water in the World***

A lively and inspiring poem weaves together facts about water and the need for water conservation. (goodreads.com)

**MacLachlan, Patricia, *The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse***

If you were a boy named Henri Matisse who lived in a dreary town in northern France, what would your life be like? Would it be full of color and art? Full of lines and dancing figures? Find out in this beautiful, unusual picture book about one of the world’s most famous and influential artists by acclaimed author and Newbery Medal-winning Patricia MacLachlan and innovative illustrator Hadley Hooper. (us.macmillan.com)


Randolph Caldecott is best known as the namesake of the award that honors picture book illustrations, and in this inventive biography, leading children’s literature scholar Leonard Marcus examines the man behind the medal. In an era when the steam engine fueled an industrial revolution and train travel exploded people’s experience of space and time, Caldecott was inspired by his surroundings to capture action, movement, and speed in a way that had never before been seen in children’s picture books. Thoroughly
researched and featuring extensive archival material and a treasure trove of previously unpublished drawings, including some from Caldecott’s very last sketchbook, Leonard Marcus’s luminous biography shows why Caldecott was indeed the father of the modern picture book and how his influence lives on in the books we love today. (us.macmillan.com)

**Markle, Sandra, The Case of the Vanishing Little Brown Bats: A Scientific Mystery**

Little brown bats do us a big favor. They eat huge numbers of insects! That helps limit the spread of diseases and the damage that insects do to farm crops. But in recent years, large populations of little brown bats have been dying off each winter. Is a virus killing them? Could climate change or pesticides be the cause? Or is it something else? Follow a team of dedicated scientists working to save the little brown bats in this real-life science mystery. (goodreads.com)

**Martin, Jacqueline Briggs, Snowflake Bentley**

From the time he was a small boy in Vermont, Wilson Bentley saw snowflakes as small miracles. And he determined that one day his camera would capture for others the wonder of the tiny crystal. Bentley's enthusiasm for photographing snowflakes was often misunderstood in his time, but his patience and determination revealed two important truths: no two snowflakes are alike; and each one is startlingly beautiful. His story is gracefully told and brought to life in lovely woodcuts, giving children insight into a soul who had not only a scientist's vision and perseverance but a clear passion for the wonders of nature. (hmhco.com)

**McMahon, Patricia, Six Words, Many Turtles, and Three Days in Hong Kong**

Doing homework is not the way eight-year-old Tsz Yan wants to spend her weekend, but she must learn six new English words. Tsz Yan is a Chinese child living in Hong Kong, where she shares an apartment with her mother and father. With humor and insight, the author paints a portrait of daily life for an engaging, energetic child living in one of the most intriguing of all international cities. Hong Kong is in the midst of dramatic, historic change from British to Chinese ownership. The fabric of Tsz Yan’s life may remain largely unchanged, yet she and her parents cannot help but be
concerned about the transition. Stunning, vividly detailed photographs capture resplendent street scenes and the mountainous surroundings of Hong Kong as well as the quiet moments and joyful times of a young girl and her family. (hmhco.com) This book is out of print. You will have better luck finding it at a library than a bookstore.

Mcnulty, Faith, *If You Decide To Go To The Moon*
In language that is elegant, yet fun, this adventure invites the reader on an emotionally charged trip to the moon—from reminders of what one should pack on a trip to the moon, to the exciting countdown and lift-off. (books.google.com)

Menotti, Andrea, *How Many Jelly Beans?*
How many jelly beans are enough? How many are too many? Aiden and Emma can’t decide. Is 10 enough? How about 1,000? That’s a lot of jelly beans. But eaten over a whole year, it’s only two or three a day. This giant picture book offers kids a fun and easy way to understand large numbers. Starting with 10, each page shows more and more colorful candies, leading up to a giant fold-out surprise—ONE MILLION JELLY BEANS! With bright illustrations and an irresistible extra-large format, How Many Jelly Beans? makes learning about big numbers absolutely scrumptious! (chroniclebooks.com)

Millard, Anne, *A Street Through Time*
In a series of fourteen intriguing illustrations, the award-winning A Street Through Time tells the story of human history by exploring a street as it evolves from 10,000 BCE to the present day. Watch the landscape and daily lives of the street’s inhabitants change, as the small settlement grows into a city, is struck by war and plague, and gains trade and industry. Throughout, children are asked to study the photos in order to find a time traveler in each scene, as well as to pick out interesting details, encouraging them to pore over the unique illustrations and more easily learn about the historical background. (dk.com/us)

Mortenson, Greg, *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea*
Greg Mortenson stumbled, lost and delirious, into a remote Himalayan village after a failed climb up K2. The villagers saved his
life, and he vowed to return and build them a school. The remarkable story of his promise kept is now perfect for reading aloud. Told in the voice of Korphe’s children, this story illuminates the humanity and culture of a relevant and distant part of the world in gorgeous collage, while sharing a riveting example of how one person can change thousands of lives. (penguin.com)

Musgrove, Margaret, Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions
Explains some traditions and customs of 26 African tribes beginning with letters from A to Z. (penguinrandomhouse.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)

Nelson, Kadir, Nelson Mandela
In this picture book biography, award-winning author and illustrator Kadir Nelson tells the story of Mandela, a global icon, in poignant free verse and glorious illustrations. It is the story of a young boy’s determination to change South Africa, and of the struggles of a man who eventually became the president of his country by believing in equality for all people, no matter the color of their skin. Readers will be inspired by Mandela’s triumph and his lifelong quest to create a more just world. An author’s note at the back retells the story of Mandela’s fight against apartheid in simple prose, and takes the story further, including Mandela’s Nobel Peace Prize. A short bibliography lists additional sources for readers who want to find out more. (harpercollins.com)
Nobleman, Marc Tyler, **Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman**

Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, two high school misfits in Depression-era Cleveland, were more like Clark Kent—meek, mild, and myopic—than his secret identity, Superman. Both boys escaped into the worlds of science fiction and pulp magazine adventure tales. Jerry wrote his own original stories and Joe illustrated them. In 1934, the summer they graduated from high school, they created a superhero who was everything they were not. It was four more years before they convinced a publisher to take a chance on their Man of Steel in a new format—the comic book. The author includes a provocative afterword about the long struggle Jerry and Joe had with DC Comics when the boys realized they had made a mistake in selling all rights to Superman for a mere $130. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Novesky, Amy, **Me, Frida**

Like a tiny bird in a big city, Frida Kahlo feels lost and lonely when she arrives in San Francisco with her husband, the famous artist Diego Rivera. It is the first time she has left her home in Mexico. And Frida wants to be a painter too. But as Frida begins to explore San Francisco on her own, she discovers more than the beauty, diversity, and exuberance of America. She finds the inspiration she needs to become one of the most celebrated artists of all time. (abramsbooks.com)

Old, Wendie C., **To Fly: The Story of the Wright Brothers**

Orville and Wilbur Wright were a fascinating pair. Not only did they invent, build, and fly the first airplane, they were also idiosyncratic individuals who had a unique relationship, sharing a home, a bank account, and a business throughout their lives. Their story is portrayed here in brief, accessible chapters, beginning with their childhood fascination with flight and love of problem solving, then detailing their early experiments and dangerous trial runs in North Carolina, and ending with their successful flights of 1903. This well-researched and personable biography is illustrated with elegant watercolors by flight enthusiast and noted artist Robert Andrew Parker. (hmhco.com)
Peters, Lisa Westberg, *Earthshake: Poems from the Ground Up*

Maybe that plain old rock has gleaming jewels inside. Maybe Africa and South America used to be best friends. Maybe a clam that died 300 million years ago is in your backyard. What secrets is Earth hiding? These twenty-two poems leave no stone unturned in exploring the world’s natural wonders. Crack this book open and watch geology sparkle. (harpercollins.com)

Pinkney, Andrea Davis, *Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song*

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and his strong voice and powerful message were joined and lifted in song by world-renowned gospel singer Mahalia Jackson. It was a moment that changed the course of history and is imprinted in minds forever. Told through Andrea Davis Pinkney’s poetic prose and Brian Pinkney’s evocative illustration, the stories of these two powerful voices and lives are told side-by-side -- as they would one day walk -- following the journey from their youth to a culmination at this historical event when they united as one and inspiring kids to find their own voices and speak up for what is right. (hatchettebookgroup.com)

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)

Ramsey, Calvin Alexander, *Belle, The Last Mule at Gee’s Bend: A Civil Rights Story*

Sitting on a bench waiting for his mother, Alex spies a mule chomping on greens in someone’s garden, and he can’t help but ask about it."Ol Belle?" says Miz Pettway next to him. “She can have all the collards she wants. She’s earned it." And so begins the tale of a simple mule in Gee’s Bend, Alabama, who played a singular part in the civil rights movement of the 1960s. When African-Americans in a poor community-- inspired by a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-- defied local authorities who were trying to stop them from registering to vote, many got around a long detour on mule-drawn...
Rappaport, Doreen, *Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller*

This picturebook biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world’s most influential luminaries. With her signature style of prose laced with stirring quotes, Doreen Rappaport brings to life Helen Keller’s poignant narrative. Acclaimed illustrator Matt Tavares beautifully captures the dynamism and verve of Helen Keller’s life and legacy, making Helen’s Big World an unforgettable portrait of a woman whose vision for innovation and progress changed America-and the world-forever. (books.disney.com)

Rappaport, Doreen, *Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., was one of the most influential and gifted speakers of all time. Doreen Rappaport uses quotes from some of his most beloved speeches to tell the story of his life and his work in a simple, direct way. Bryan Collier’s stunning collage art combines remarkable watercolor paintings with vibrant patterns and textures. (books.disney.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)

Robinson, Sharon, *Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson*

When Jackie Robinson retires from baseball and moves his family to Connecticut, the beautiful lake on their property is the center of everyone’s fun. The wagons. Later, after Dr. King’s assassination, two mules from Gee’s Bend pulled the farm wagon bearing his casket through the streets of Atlanta. As Alex looks into the eyes of gentle Belle, he begins to understand a powerful time in history in a very personal way. (candlewick.com)
neighborhood children join the Robinson kids for swimming and boating. But oddly, Jackie never goes near the water. In a dramatic episode that first winter, the children beg to go ice skating on the lake. Jackie says they can go—but only after he tests the ice to make sure it's safe. The children prod and push to get Jackie outside, until hesitantly, he finally goes. Like a blind man with a stick, Jackie taps on the ice's surface, when suddenly howling and roaring sounds come out of the lake! It is only then that Sharon realizes why she's never seen her father in the water -- Jackie doesn't know how to swim! But her horror changes to relief as Jackie bravely taps his way to the middle of the lake -- and declare it safe! In a stunning metaphor for Jackie Robinson's legendary breaking of the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Sharon Robinson honors her extraordinary father's memory with her warm graceful storytelling. Two-time Caldecott Honor Book artist Kadir Nelson has created richly rendered paintings that radiate with the beauty and spirit of one of America's finest heroes.

(Rockwell, Anne, *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*)

Sojourner Truth traveled the country in the latter half of the 19th century, speaking out against slavery. She told of a slave girl who was sold three times by age 13, who was beaten for not understanding her master’s orders, who watched her parents die of cold and hunger when they could no longer work for their keep. Sojourner’s simple yet powerful words helped people to understand the hideous truth about slavery. The story she told was her own. *Only Passing Through* is the inspiring story of how a woman, born a slave with no status or dignity, transformed herself into one of the most powerful voices of the abolitionist movement. Anne Rockwell combines her lifelong love of history with her well-known skill as a storyteller to create this simple, affecting portrait of an American icon.

(Rosenstock, Barb, *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky’s Abstract Art*)

Vasya Kandinsky was a proper little boy: he studied math and history, he practiced the piano, he sat up straight and was perfectly polite. And when his family sent him to art classes, they expected him to paint pretty houses and flowers—like a proper artist. But as Vasya opened his paint box and began mixing the reds, the yellows, the blues, he heard a strange sound—the swirling colors
trilled like an orchestra tuning up for a symphony! And as he grew older, he continued to hear brilliant colors singing and see vibrant sounds dancing. But was Vasya brave enough to put aside his proper still lifes and portraits and paint . . . music? In this exuberant celebration of creativity, Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPré tell the fascinating story of Vasily Kandinsky, one of the very first painters of abstract art. Throughout his life, Kandinsky experienced colors as sounds, and sounds as colors—and bold, groundbreaking works burst forth from his noisy paint box. (randomhouse.com)

Roth, Susan L., Parrots Over Puerto Rico
Puerto Rican parrots, once abundant, came perilously close to extinction in the 1960s due to centuries of foreign exploration and occupation, development, and habitat destruction. In this compelling book, Roth and Trumbore recount the efforts of the scientists of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program to save the parrots and ensure their future. Woven into the parrots’ story is a brief history of Puerto Rico itself, from before the first human settlers to the present day. With striking collage illustrations, a unique format, and engaging storytelling, Parrots Over Puerto Rico invites readers to witness the amazing recovery efforts that have enabled Puerto Rican parrots to fly over their island once again. (leeandlow.com)

Russell-Brown, Katheryn, Little Melba and Her Big Trombone
Melba Doretta Liston loved the sounds of music from as far back as she could remember. As a child, she daydreamed about beats and lyrics, and hummed along with the music from her family’s Majestic radio. At age seven, Melba fell in love with a big, shiny trombone, and soon taught herself to play the instrument. By the time she was a teenager, Melba’s extraordinary gift for music led her to the world of jazz. She joined a band led by trumpet player Gerald Wilson and toured the country. Overcoming obstacles of race and gender, Melba went on to become a famed trombone player and arranger, spinning rhythms, harmonies, and melodies into gorgeous songs for all the jazz greats of the twentieth century: Randy Weston, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Billie Holiday, and Quincy Jones, to name just a few. (leeandlow.com)
Ryan, Pam Munoz, *When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson*
An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, whose life and career encouraged social change. (books.google.com)

Schmidt, Gary D., *Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert*
As the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and a former slave, Martin de Porres was born into extreme poverty. Even so, his mother begged the church fathers to allow him into the priesthood. Instead, Martin was accepted as a servant boy. But soon, the young man was performing miracles. Rumors began to fly around the city of a strange mulatto boy with healing hands, who gave first to the people of the barrios. Martin continued to serve in the church, until he was finally received by the Dominican Order, no longer called the worthless son of a slave, but rather a saint and the rose in the desert. (books.google.com)

Sidman, Joyce, *Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night*
Welcome to the night, where mice stir and furry moths flutter. Where snails spiral into shells as orb spiders circle in silk. Where the roots of oak trees recover and repair from their time in the light. Where the porcupette eats delicacies—raspberry leaves!—and coos and sings. Come out to the cool, night wood, and buzz and hoot and howl—but do beware of the great horned owl—for it’s wild and it’s windy way out in the woods! (hmhco.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)
Sisson, Stephanie Roth, *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos*

When Carl Sagan was a young boy he went to the 1939 World’s Fair and his life was changed forever. From that day on he never stopped marveling at the universe and seeking to understand it better. *Star Stuff* follows Carl from his days star gazing from the bedroom window of his Brooklyn apartment, through his love of speculative science fiction novels, to his work as an internationally renowned scientist who worked on the Voyager missions exploring the farthest reaches of space. This book introduces the beloved man who brought the mystery of the cosmos into homes across America to a new generation of dreamers and star gazers. (us.macmillan.com)

Strauss, Rochelle, *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth*

Seen from space, our planet looks blue. This is because almost 70 percent of Earth’s surface is covered with water. Earth is the only planet with liquid water — and therefore the only planet that can support life. All water is connected. Every raindrop, lake, underground river and glacier is part of a single global well. Water has the power to change everything — a single splash can sprout a seed, quench a thirst, provide a habitat, generate energy and sustain life. How we treat the water in the well will affect every species on the planet, now and for years to come. *One Well* shows how every one of us has the power to conserve and protect our global well.

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)
Talbott, Hudson, *United Tweets of America: 50 State Birds Their Stories, Their Glories*

Welcome to the United Tweets Pageant! This colorful parade of state birds competing to be Top Tweet will have readers of all ages laughing aloud. From Alabama’s Yellowhammer to Wyoming’s Western Meadowlark, each bird is a winner, and each bird loves to show off the state it calls home. Hudson Talbott has created an inspired introduction to states and their birds. His vibrant, detailed illustrations infuse the birds’ interactions with energy and humor, making this a great way to spark kids’ interest in United States history, geography, and, of course, wildlife! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Thong, Roseanne, *Wish: Wishing Traditions Around the World*

This lively compilation of wishing traditions from around the world is sure to educate and inspire young readers and makes a perfect gift! Each charming custom provides insight into the cultures of lands far and near while reminding us of the similarities we all share. Includes Japan, China, Thailand, Russia, Iran, Israel, India, Australia, South Africa, Italy, Ireland, Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States. (chroniclebooks.com)

Thong, Roseanne Greenfield, *Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors*

Green is a chile pepper, spicy and hot. Green is cilantro inside our pot. In this lively picture book, children discover a world of colors all around them: red is spices and swirling skirts, yellow is masa, tortillas, and sweet corn cake. Many of the featured objects are Latino in origin, but all are universal in appeal. With rich, boisterous illustrations, a fun-to-read rhyming text, and an informative glossary, this playful concept book will reinforce the colors found in every child’s day! (chroniclebooks.com)

Tonatiuh, Duncan, *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours*

This charming book introduces one of the most popular artists of the twentieth century, Diego Rivera, to young readers. It tells the story of Diego as a young, mischievous boy who demonstrated a clear passion for art and then went on to become one of the most famous painters in the world. Duncan Tonatiuh also prompts readers to think about what Diego would paint today. Just as
Diego’s murals depicted great historical events in Mexican culture or celebrated native peoples, if Diego were painting today, what would his artwork depict? How would his paintings reflect today’s culture? (abramsbooks.com)

**Tonatiuh, Duncan, Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation**

Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a “Whites only” school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California. (abramsbooks.com)

**Turner, Pamela S., Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog**

Imagine walking to the same place every day, to meet your best friend. Imagine watching hundreds of people pass by every morning and every afternoon. Imagine waiting, and waiting, and waiting. For ten years. This is what Hachiko did. Hachiko was a real dog who lived in Tokyo, a dog who faithfully waited for his owner at the Shibuya train station long after his owner could not come to meet him. He became famous for his loyalty and was adored by scores of people who passed through the station every day. This is Hachiko’s story through the eyes of Kentaro, a young boy whose life is changed forever by his friendship with this very special dog. Simply told, and illustrated with Yan Nascimbene’s lush watercolors, the legend of Hachiko will touch your heart and inspire you as it has inspired thousands all over the world. (hmhco.com)

**Webb, Sophie, My Season with Penguins: An Antarctic Journal**

What is it like to live in a tiny polar haven for two months? To paint penguins outdoors in freezing weather? To be flipper-slapped by a bird whose wings are powerful enough to propel it swiftly through frigid waters? To look into the oddly expressive eyes of a penguin chick? With charming watercolors and intriguing journal entries, this book inspires our curiosity. Sophie Webb gives readers a vivid, frank, firsthand account of what it is like to spend a season in a land not yet affected by people, yet
populated for centuries by true dwellers of the Antarctic -- the fearless, round-bellied, pink-footed, gliding, diving, utterly adept Adélie penguins. (books.google.com)

**Weill, Cynthia, Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish**

Cynthia Weill’s book of Mexican folk art teaches kids about opposites in Spanish and English! These whimsical little animals from Oaxaca, carved and painted by hand, make learning about opposites fun. Up and down, tall and short, left and right—all inside a beautiful book. (cincopuntos.com)

**Whelan, Gloria, Queen Victoria’s Bathing Machine**

Poor Queen Victoria! She loves to swim, but can’t quite figure out how to get to the water without her devoted subjects glimpsing her swimming suit. (Because, of course, such a sight would compromise her regal dignity.) Fortunately for the water-loving monarch, it’s Prince Albert to the rescue with an invention fit for a queen! (simonandschuster.com)

**Winter, Jonah, You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!**

In this striking picture book biography, an old-timer tells us what made Sandy Koufax such an amazing baseball player. We learn that the beginning of his career with the Brooklyn Dodgers was rocky, that he was shy with his teammates, and experienced discrimination as one of the only Jews in the game. We hear that he actually quit, only to return the next season—different—firing one rocket after another over the plate. We watch him refuse to play in the 1965 World Series because it is a Jewish high holy day. And we see him in pain because of an overused left arm, eventually retiring at the peak of his career. Finally, we are told that people are still “scratchin’ their heads over Sandy,” who remains a modest hero and a mystery to this day. (randomhousekids.com)

**Yaccarino, Dan, The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau**

Jacques Cousteau was the world’s ambassador of the oceans. His popular TV series brought whales, otters, and dolphins right into people’s living rooms. Now, in this exciting picturebook biography, Dan Yaccarino
introduces young readers to the man behind the snorkel. From the first moment he got a glimpse of what lived under the ocean’s waves, Cousteau was hooked. And so he set sail aboard the Calypso to see the sea. He and his team of scientists invented diving equipment and waterproof cameras. They made films and televisions shows and wrote books so they could share what they learned. The oceans were a vast unexplored world, and Cousteau became our guide. And when he saw that pollution was taking its toll on the seas, Cousteau became our guide in how to protect the oceans as well. (penguinrandomhouse.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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