GREAT BOOKS TO READ IN 3RD GRADE 2015
SELECTED BY MS. BOCK
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This book belongs to:

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Cover image by Ms. Amanda 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 Third Grade

As a Third Grade reader, you will begin to move away from simpler chapter books and start reading more sophisticated literature. You are about to discover books that will carry you away, change your world, and tell you who you are. You are in for a marvelous adventure.

Ms. Bock’s Top Picks for Grade 3

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

**Realistic Fiction**
Tales of a Fourth-Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
We the Children by Andrew Clements
The Saturdays by Elizabeth Enright
Books by Dick King-Smith
Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild

**Unlikely Fiction**
books by Roald Dahl
Dunderheads by Paul Fleischman
Ramona the Pest by Beverly Cleary
Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
Zen Shorts by Jon Muth
The Van Gogh Cafe by Cynthia Rylant
Meanwhile by Jason Shiga
Dear Mrs. LaRue by Mark Teague
Charlotte’s Web by E.B. White
Books by David Wiesner

**Fantasy Fiction**
The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzi
The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles by Julie Edwards Andrews
Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke
Lunch Lady by Jarrett Krosoczka
The One-Eyed Giant by Mary Pope Osborne
Nonfiction
Day-Glo Brothers by Chris Barton
The Right Word by Jen Bryant & Melissa Sweet
River Ran Wild by Lynne Cherry
Action Jackson by Jan Greenberg
Neighborhood Sharks by Katherine Roy
Sideways Stories from Wayside School by Louis Sachar
Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
Mirror Mirror: a Book of Reversible Verse by Marilyn Singer
Letting Swift River Go by Jane Yolen
New Recommended Books for Everyone

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Here is a poetic ode to the beauty of the natural world as expressed by the movement and moods of water on Earth. (leeandlowbooks.com)

**Morales, Yuyi. Viva Frida**
Distinguished author/illustrator Yuyi Morales illuminates Frida’s life and work in this elegant and fascinating book. (us.macmillan.com)
**Myers, Christopher. *My Pen***

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

**Peña, Matt De La. *Last Stop on Market Street***

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

**Pizzoli, Greg. *Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower***

In the early 1900s, Robert Miller, a.k.a. “Count Victor Lustig,” moved to Paris hoping to be an artist. A con artist, that is. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Samworth, Kate. *Aviary Wonders Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual***

What can you do when all the birds are gone? Build your own! This comic environmental fable offers a businessman's dollars-and-sense solution to the drastic effects of deforestation. (hmhco.com)

**Schatz, Kate. *Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History . . . and Our Future!***

American history was made by countless rad—and often radical—women. By offering a fresh and diverse array of female role models, we can remind readers that there are many places to find inspiration, and that being smart and strong and brave is rad. (citylights.com)
Spires, Ashley. *The Most Magnificent Thing*
Award-winning author and illustrator Ashley Spires has created a charming picture book about an unnamed girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog. (kidscanpress.com)

Willems, Mo. *Waiting Is Not Easy!*
The newest book in the Elephant & Piggie series! (Ms. Bock)
Realistic Stories

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.

Babbitt, Natalie, *Jack Plank Tells Tales*  
Jack Plank has left his pirate shipmates and gone ashore. Each day he sets out from Mrs. DelFresno’s boarding house to look for a new job. Each evening he returns to regale the other boarders with the story of his job search plus a tall tale from his life as a pirate to explain why that particular job wouldn’t be suitable. For who would want to work where there might be a troll, or the danger of getting a crab permanently caught in your beard? Or what about a treacherous, music-loving crocodile? (books.google.com)

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.

Bedard, Michael, *Emily*  
A young girl who lives across the street from the reclusive Emily Dickinson gets her chance to meet the poet when her mother is invited to play the piano for Emily. The girl sneaks up to Emily’s room and exchanges a small gift for an authentic poem, which is included in the book. (penguinrandomhouse.com)
**Bishop, Claire Huchet, *Twenty and Ten***

Twenty French children under the care of wise Sister Gabriel decide to hide and protect ten Jewish refugee children during the German occupation. (books.google.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, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing***

Life with his little brother, two-year-old Fudge, makes Peter Hatcher feel like a fourth grade nothing. Whether Fudge is throwing a temper tantrum in a shoe store, smearing mashed potatoes on the walls at Hamburger Heaven, or trying to fly, he’s never far from trouble. He’s an almost three-year-old terror who gets away with everything, and Peter’s had it up to here! When Fudge walks off with Dribble, Peter’s pet turtle, it’s the last straw. Peter has put up with Fudge for too long. Way too long! How can he get his parents to pay attention to him for a change? (scholastic.com)

**Byars, Betsy Cromer, *The Not-Just-Anybody Family***

When Junior Blossom wakes up in the hospital, his last memory is of crouching on the barn roof with cloth wings tied to his arms, and of Maggie and Vern in the yard below, urging him to fly. That had been just before Junior spotted a police car approaching the farm in a cloud of dust. Meanwhile Pap, the children’s grandfather, sits in disgrace in the city jail. He was arrested for disturbing the peace after his pickup truck accidentally dumped 2,147 beer and soda cans (worth $107.35) on Spring Street. With their mother away on the rodeo circuit, it’s up to Maggie and Vern to find a way to rescue Pap and Junior. How will they solve their family problems? (holidayhouse.com)
Cabot, Meg, Moving Day

When nine-year-old Allie Finkle’s parents announce that they are moving her and her brothers from their suburban split-level into an ancient Victorian in town, Allie is sure her life is over. She’s not at all happy about having to give up her pretty pink wall-to-wall carpeting for creaky floorboards and creepy secret passageways — not to mention leaving her modern, state-of-the-art suburban school for a rundown, old-fashioned school just two blocks from her new house. (scholastic.com)

Cleary, Beverly, Henry Huggins

Just as Henry Huggins is complaining that nothing exciting ever happens, a friendly dog sits down beside him and looks pleadingly at his ice-cream cone. From that moment on, the two are inseparable. But when Ribsy’s original owner appears, trying to reclaim his dog, Henry’s faced with the possibility of losing his new best friend. Has Klickitat Street seen the last of rambunctious Ribsy? (harpercollins.com) This is the first book in the series.

Cleary, Beverly, Ramona the Pest

Ramona Quimby is excited to start kindergarten. No longer does she have to watch her older sister, Beezus, ride the bus to school with all the big kids. She’s finally old enough to do it too! Then she gets into trouble for pulling her classmate’s boingy curls during recess. Even worse, her crush rejects her in front of everyone. Beezus says Ramona needs to quit being a pest, but how can she stop if she never was trying to be one in the first place? (harpercollins.com) This is the first book in the series. You don’t have to read them in order, but you might want to.

Clements, Andrew, We the children

Benjamin Pratt’s school is about to become the site of a new amusement park. It sounds like a dream come true! But lately, Ben has been wondering if he’s going to like an amusement park in the middle of his town—with all the buses and traffic and eight dollar slices of pizza. It’s going to change everything. And, Ben is not so big on all the new changes in his life, like how his dad has moved out and started living in the marina on what used to be the
"family" sailboat. Maybe it would be nice if the school just stayed as it is. He likes the school. Loves it, actually. It’s over 200 years old and sits right on the harbor. The playground has ocean breezes and the classrooms have million dollar views...MILLION DOLLAR views. And after a chance—and final—run-in with the school janitor, Ben starts to discover that these MILLION DOLLAR views have a lot to do with the deal to sell the school property. But, as much as the town wants to believe it, the school does not belong to the local government. It belongs to the CHILDREN and these children have the right to defend it! Don’t think Ben, his friend Jill (and the tag-along Robert) can ruin a multimillion dollar real estate deal? Then you don’t know the history and the power of the Keepers of the School. A suspenseful six book series, book one, We the Children, starts the battle on land and on sea. It’s a race to keep the school from turning into a ticket booth and these kids are about to discover just how threatening a little knowledge can be. (books.simonandschuster.com) This is the first book in the Benjamin Pratt and the Keepers of the School series. They should be read in order.

Coerr, Eleanor, Chang's Paper Pony
It’s the time of the gold rush, and Chang has come with his grandfather to California from China. Chang’s dream is to own a horse of his own. With luck ... and a little gold dust... that wish just might come true. (harpercollins.com)

Coerr, Eleanor, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
After several dizzy spells send Hiroshima-born Sadako to the doctor, the budding school track star finds out she has leukemia--known as the "atom bomb disease." But she faces life with spirit and bravery. And a legend says that if she folds 1,000 paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish to be healthy again. (books.google.com)

Dalgliesh, Alice, The Courage of Sarah Noble
In 1707, young Sarah Noble and her father traveled through the wilderness to build a new home for their family. "Keep up your courage, Sarah Noble," her mother had said, but Sarah found that it was not always easy to feel brave inside. The dark woods were full of animals and Indians, too, and Sarah was only
eight! The true story of Sarah’s journey is inspiring. And as she cares for her father and befriends her Indian neighbors, she learns that to be afraid and to be brave is the greatest courage of all. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**DiCamillo, Kate, Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures**

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book Terrible Things Can Happen to You!, is the just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. (candlewick.com)

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

It’s not easy being nine, especially when you’re 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 that’s 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 you’re younger. Just because you’re 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 life’s 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.

**Durand, Hallie, Dessert First**

Dessert Schneider has her very own personal style. But sometimes walking to the beat of her own drum means walking right into a heap of mischief, especially when it comes to the legendary family recipe (and Dessert’s all-time favorite treat), Grandma Reine’s Double-Decker Chocolate Bars. As the oldest in a rambunctious, restaurant-owning family of six, Dessert seems to be better at getting into trouble than
getting out of it. And that’s because, for this eight-year-old, saying sorry is definitely not a piece o’cake!
(books.simonandschuster.com)

**Elvgren, Jennifer, *The Whispering Town***

The dramatic story of neighbors in a small Danish fishing village who, during the Holocaust, shelter a Jewish family waiting to be ferried to safety in Sweden. It is 1943 in Nazi-occupied Denmark. Anett and her parents are hiding a Jewish woman and her son, Carl, in their cellar until a fishing boat can take them across the sound to neutral Sweden. The soldiers patrolling their street are growing superstitious, so Carl and his mama must make their way to the harbor despite a cloudy sky with no moon to guide them. Worried about their safety, Anett devises a clever and unusual plan for their safe passage to the harbor. Based on a true story. (goodreads.com)

**English, Karen, *Nikki and Deja: Birthday Blues***

Deja’s birthday is coming up, and she’s been talking about it for weeks. But just before the big day, Auntie Dee gets called away on a business trip and Deja must stay with an elderly neighbor . . . who cooks turnips for dinner and doesn’t even have a color TV! Worse, the machinations of spoiled Antonia, Deja’s new nemesis, threaten to ruin Deja’s birthday party plans. (hmhco.com) This is one book in the series. You can read them in any order.

**Enright, Elizabeth, *The Saturdays***

Meet the Melendys! The four Melendy children live with their father and Cuffy, their beloved housekeeper, in a worn but comfortable brownstone in New York City. There’s thirteen-year-old Mona, who has decided to become an actress; twelve-year-old mischievous Rush; ten-and-a-half-year-old Randy, who loves to dance and paint; and thoughtful Oliver, who is just six. Tired of wasting Saturdays doing nothing but wishing for larger allowances, the four Melendys jump at Randy’s idea to start the Independent Saturday Afternoon Adventure Club (I.S.A.A.C.). If they pool their resources and take turns spending the whole amount, they can each have at least one memorable Saturday afternoon of their own. Before long, I.S.A.A.C. is in operation and every Saturday is definitely one to remember.
Written more than half a century ago, The Saturdays unfolds with all the ripe details of a specific place and period but remains, just the same, a winning, timeless tale. The Saturdays is the first installment of Enright’s Melendy Quartet, an engaging and warm series about the close-knit Melendy family and their surprising adventures. (us.macmillan.com) This is the first in the Melendy Quartet. You may read them 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)

**Estes, Eleanor, The Moffats**

Meet the Moffats. There is Sylvie, the oldest, the cleverest, and-most days at least-the responsible one; Joey, who though only twelve is the man of the house...sometimes; Janey, who has a terrific upside-down way of looking at the world; Rufus, who may be the littlest but always gets in the biggest trouble; and their mother. Even the most ordinary Moffat day is packed with extraordinary fun. Only a Moffat could get locked in a bread box all afternoon, or dance with a dog in front of the whole town, or hitch a ride on a boxcar during kindergarten recess. And only a Moffat could turn mistakes and mischief into hilarious one-of-a-kind adventure. (scholastic.com)

**Feiffer, Jules, A Room with a Zoo: Room with a Zoo**

Nine-year-old Julie, who has a passion for animals, decorates her room with a vast array of creatures, including a cat, a hamster, a fish, a turtle, a kitten, and a cranky hermit crab—all which take over the house and her life, but Julie still wants more! (books.google.com) This book is out of print, but you can find it in local libraries.
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)

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.

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)
Gutman, Dan, *The Million Dollar Shot*
Eddie Ball believes he can solve his family's financial woes by sinking a million-dollar half-time basket at the NBA finals, but someone wants him to miss and will stop at nothing to keep Eddie from winning. (books.google.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.

Hill, Kirkpatrick, *Bo at Ballard Creek*
It’s the 1920s, and Bo was headed for an Alaska orphanage when she won the hearts of two tough gold miners who set out to raise her, enthusiastically helped by all the kind people of the nearby Eskimo village. Bo learns Eskimo along with English, helps in the cookshack, learns to polka, and rides along with Big Annie and her dog team. There's always some kind of excitement: Bo sees her first airplane, has a run-in with a bear, and meets a mysterious lost little boy. Bo at Ballard Creek by Kirkpatrick Hill is an unforgettable story of a little girl growing up in the exhilarating time after the big Alaska gold rushes. (us.macmillan.com)

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.

Kastner, Erich, Emil and the Detectives
It’s Emil’s first train ride alone and he”s excited, and a little nervous. On the train, his fellow passengers are impressed with how polite and grown-up Emil is, and the man in the bowler hat offers him some chocolate- but Emil keeps checking his coat pocket, where he”s pinned the money that he is taking to his grandmother. Soon, though, Emil finds himself getting sleepy . . . and the next thing he knows, the man in the bowler hat is gone- and so is the money! With the help of some new friends Emil becomes a detective and tracks the thief through the city. (overlookpress.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.

King-Smith, Dick, Books
If you like animals, you should get to know Dick King-Smith’s books. He is an author from England, and he is a farmer, so he knows animals well. I like his books because the animals in them mostly act like regular animals. He is most famous for his book, Babe, the Gallant Pig, which was made into a movie. It was one of the first major movies to combine live-action animals and computer-generated special effects so it looked like the animals were talking. I think that’s my favorite of his, too, but
he wrote about a million others, so you should take a look at them all. I also really like Lady Lollipop. (Ms. Bock)

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.

Liao, Jimmy, *Sound of Colors*  
A young woman losing her vision rides the subway with her dog in search of emotional healing.  
(hachettebookgroup.com)

Lliniers, *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.

Lovelace, Maud Hart, Betsy-Tacy

There are lots of children on Hill Street, but no little girls Betsy's age. So when a new family moves into the house across the street, Betsy hopes they will have a little girl she can play with. Sure enough, they do—a little girl named Tacy. And from the moment they meet at Betsy's fifth birthday party, Betsy and Tacy becomes such good friends that everyone starts to think of them as one person—Betsy-Tacy. Betsy and Tacy have lots of fun together. They make a playhouse from a piano box, have a sand store, and dress up and go calling. And one day, they come home to a wonderful surprise—a new friend named Tib. Ever since their first publication in the 1940's, the Betsy-Tacy stories have been loved by each generation of young readers. (harpercollins.com)

Lowry, Lois, All About Sam

Everyone knows Sam Krupnik. He's Anastasia's pesty but lovable younger brother. This is Sam's big chance to tell things exactly the way he sees them. He has his own ideas about haircuts, nursery school, getting shots, and not eating broccoli. Sam thinks a lot about being bigger and stronger, about secret codes and show-and-tell. Make way for your little brother, Anastasia. Here for the first time is Sam Krupnik's life story. What a life! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Lupica, Mike, Hot Hand

It’s simple. All Billy Raynor wants to do is shoot. After all, he is one of the best shooters in the league. But with his dad as his coach, and his parents newly separated, somehow everything’s become complicated. His brother Ben hardly talks anymore. His
mom is always traveling on business. And his dad is always on his case about not being a team player. But when Ben’s piano recital falls on the same day as the championship game, it’s Billy who teaches his dad the meaning of being a team player. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is one of the books in the Comeback Kids series. They are about different characters and different sports and can be read in any order.


One if by land! Too many tombstones! Four funny friends! Spooky old places! Lots of clues and it’s a race to the finish! When their schoolteacher cousin disappears in the middle of running the Boston Marathon, four kids wind their way through the perilous maze of Boston streets along the Freedom Trail to discover what happened! Take your mark and race with Christina, Grant and their cousins - Derian and C.F. - as they try to track down the mysterious whereabouts of their schoolteacher cousin who has disappeared from the famous Boston Marathon - right in the middle of the race! MORE than a race, a mystery! MORE than a mystery, there’s real history about the Freedom Trail and the Boston Marathon history, too! MORE THAN ENOUGH REASONS TO RACE TO READ... "The Mystery on the Freedom Trail The Boston Marathon Mystery." (gallopade.com)

Martin, Ann M., Kristy’s Great Idea

Kristy, Mary Anne, Claudia, and Stacey are best friends and founding members of The Baby-sitters Club. Whatever comes up — cranky toddlers, huge dogs, scary neighbors, prank calls -- you can count on them to save the day. But baby-sitting isn’t always easy, and neither is dealing with strict parents, new families, fashion emergencies, and mysterious secrets. But no matter what, the BSC have what they need most: friendship. (scholastic.com) There are about a million books in the Baby-Sitters Club series. You don’t have to read them in order, but you might want to. They were originally written as novels, but the first four books have been adapted into graphic novels by Raina Telgemeier.

Mathis, Sharon Bell, The Hundred Penny Box

Michael loves his great-great-aunt Dew, even if she can’t always remember his name. He especially loves to spend time with her
and her beloved hundred penny box, listening to stories about each of the hundred years of her life. Michael’s mother wants to throw out the battered old box that holds the pennies, but Michael understands that the box itself is as important to Aunt Dew as the memories it contains. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Mazer, Anne, *Every Cloud Has a Silver Lining***

When fifth-grader Abby Hayes feels overwhelmed by her superstar siblings, she decides to make herself into a super soccer player. As Abby works to make herself worthy of the Hayes name, she records her thoughts and feelings in her journal, never dreaming that her creative writing will bring her the fame and success that she craves. (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the Amazing Days of Abby Hayes series. You can read them in any order.

**McCloskey, Robert, *Homer Price***

Welcome to Centerburg! Where you can win a hundred dollars by eating all the doughnuts you want; where houses are built in a day; and where a boy named Homer Price can foil four slick bandits using nothing but his wits and pet skunk. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**McDonald, Megan, *Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid***

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

**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)

**Moundlic, Charlotte, The Bathing Costume: Or the Worst Vacation of My Life**

The book's protagonist is Michel, an eight-year-old Parisian boy. His brother Martin, who's twelve, detests him, and he detests Martin right back. This summer, Michel will go away alone, which really means without his mom, to stay with his grandparents while his parents move apartments. To add to the horror, Michel's older boy cousins will be going, too. As Michel says, "To put it simply, they are big, strong, and pals with Martin. I am their scapegoat." Recounted by Michel himself, his vacation doesn't turn out to be such a complete zero after all. Between a competition to see who can shower the least, wild bike rides without gear, and a tooth that finally falls out, Michel discovers both independence and real moments of happiness. (enchantedlionbooks.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 beautifully 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)
Obed, Ellen Bryan, *Twelve Kinds of Ice*

With the first ice—a skim on a sheep pail so thin it breaks when touched—one family’s winter begins in earnest. Next comes ice like panes of glass. And eventually, skating ice! Take a literary skate over field ice and streambed, through sleeping orchards and beyond. The first ice, the second ice, the third ice . . . perfect ice . . . the last ice . . . Twelve kinds of ice are carved into twenty nostalgic vignettes, illustrated in elegantly scratched detail by the award-winning Barbara McClintock. (hmhco.com)

Paratore, Coleen Murtagh, *The Wedding Planner’s Daughter*

Willa Havisham is 12 years old and the daughter of Cape Cod’s most popular wedding planner. She is a hopeless romantic and the world’s worst wisher — she has been yearning for a father all of her life. When she and her glamorous single mother, Stella, move to Cape Cod, Willa’s wishes begin to come true. A new best friend, a great nana, and a potential Dad! (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the series. They are best read in order.

Parr, Maria, *Adventures with Waffles*

Hardly a day passes without Trille and Lena inventing some kind of adventure that often ends in trouble. Whether it’s coaxing a cow onto a boat or sledding down the steepest and iciest hill with a chicken, there is always a thrill—and sometimes an injury—to be had. Trille loves to share everything with Lena, even Auntie Granny’s waffles. But when Lena has to move away and Auntie Granny leaves the world, it sometimes seems like nothing will ever be right again. The warmth of friendship and the support of family suffuse this lightly illustrated novel, proving that when times are tough, a little taste of sweetness can make all the difference. (candlewick.com)

Paulsen, Gary, *How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports*

When you grow up in a small town in the north woods, you have to make your own excitement. High spirits, idiocy, and showing off for the girls inspire Gary Paulsen and his friends to attempt: shooting waterfalls in a barrel; the first skateboarding; jumping three barrels like motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel—except they only have bikes; hang gliding with an Army surplus
target kite; bungee jumping; wrestling... a bear? Extreme sports lead to extreme fun in new tales from Gary’s boyhood! (books.google.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.

**Polacco, Patricia, Pink and Say**

When Sheldon Russell Curtis told this story to his daughter, Rosa, she kept every word in her heart and was to retell it many times. I will tell it in Sheldon’s own words as nearly as I can. He was wounded in a fierce battle and left for dead in a pasture somewhere in Georgia when Pinkus found him. Pinkus’ skin was the color of polished mahogany, and he was flying Union colors like the wounded boy, and he picked him up out of the field and brought him to where the black soldier’s mother, Moe Moe Bay, lived. She had soft, gentle hands and cared for him and her Pink. But the two boys were putting her in danger, two Union soldiers in Confederate territory! They had to get back to their outfits. Scared and uncertain, the boys were faced with a hard decision, and then marauding Confederate troops rode in. In this Civil War story passed from great-grandfather to grandmother, to son, and finally to the author-artist herself, Patricia Polacco once again celebrates the shared humanity of the peoples of this world. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Proimos, James, The Many Adventures of Johnny Mutton**

It’s hard being the only sheep in class. Even so, Johnny Mutton refuses to follow the herd. Whether bringing a gift to his teacher, creating an outrageous Halloween costume, or enduring a game of basketball, Johnny always manages to find success by doing things just a bit differently. His sweet sense of humor, sheer delight in life’s simple pleasures, and unexpected triumphs are the stuff of legend. So join Johnny Mutton, Momma, Mr. Slopdish,
and Gloria Crust on this wild and woolly adventure. But be sure to watch out for those scary fake teeth! (books.google.com) This is a graphic novel.

Richardson, Charisse, *The Real Slam Dunk*

Marcus Robinson is psyched! Tomorrow, his class is going on a field trip to a professional basketball arena to meet the one and only Jason Carter, Marcus’s hero. Marcus usually ignores everything except for basketball, but this time he studies for hours to win the math contest— for the prize of being the official Jason Carter greeter! But when Jason tells Marcus some things he didn’t expect to hear about professional basketball, Marcus is confused. He thought that all he’d ever need in life was basketball. Thanks to Jason, Marcus is about to learn the meaning of a real slam dunk. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Roberts, Ken, *Thumb in the Box*

Leon and his friend Susan live in New Auckland, a small isolated fishing village on the coast of British Columbia. One day, the village receives an unexpected gift from the Government of Canada—a fire truck. But New Auckland is surrounded by mountains and hugs a tiny beach. There are no roads, no cars, no fire hydrants. What will the village do with its new truck? The man who comes to build the fire station brings with him a practical joke that scares the wits out of Leon and Susan—a real live wiggling thumb, completely detached from its owner. Which will leave the biggest mark on the village—the first vehicle most villagers have ever seen, or a simple joke? (houseofanansi.com)

Robinson, Sharon, *Safe At Home*

Ten-year-old Elijah Breeze, a.k.a. Jumper, is having the hardest summer of his life. His father has just died; his mother has moved them from the suburbs to New York City’s Harlem area; and he has to spend the summer at baseball camp. Basketball is Jumper’s game. He doesn’t know anything about baseball, or city life, or how to keep going without his dad. Jumper struggles in his new life, but he’s encouraged by the support of his coach and his grandma’s wisdom. He finds out it is possible to start over in a new place with new people . . . and still hold on to what’s important from his past. (scholastic.com)
Rylant, Cynthia, *The Blue Hill Meadows*

Willie Meadow lives with his mother, father, and brother in Blue Hill, Virginia. It's peaceful there—a perfect place for growing up. For the Meadow family, each season of the year holds something special, like puppies born to their beloved dog one summer, a fishing trip on a crisp October day, or the thrill of a rare winter blizzard. (hmhco.com)

Salisbury, Graham, *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet*

Calvin Coconut lives near the beach in Kailua, Hawaii, with his mom and his little sister. All his friends live there, too. Mom says: “You’re the man of the house, Cal.” Which means: Be responsible. Calvin tries, but fun—and trouble—follows him wherever he goes, even in the classroom, also known as Mr. Purdy’s Fourth-Grade Boot Camp. And how can he be the man of the house after teenage Stella-from-Texas arrives to be the live-in babysitter and steps all over Calvin’s turf? (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is the first book in the series.

Schulz, Charles M., *Peanuts It’s Tokyo, Charlie Brown*

The Peanuts gang touches down in Tokyo! Charlie Brown and Snoopy lead the charge as the gang’s baseball team is selected for an international tournament in Japan. The Peanuts gang hops on a plane to Japan when their Little League team is chosen to represent the United States in an international baseball game in Tokyo! Between seeing the sights and taking in the best of Japanese culture, Snoopy, Charlie Brown, Peppermint Patty and the rest of everyone’s favorite characters still manage to be their incorrigible selves. (books.simonandschuster.com) This is a comic book.

Smith, Lane, *Madam President*

A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were Madam President. There would be executive orders to give, babies to kiss, tuna casseroles to veto (or VETO!)…and so much more! Not to mention that recess would definitely require more security. With deadpan wit and hilarious illustrations, best-selling picture book creator Lane Smith introduces readers to an unforgettable new character. (books.google.com)
Streatfeild, Noel, *Ballet Shoes*

Pauline, was rescued from a shipwreck as a baby. She longs to be an actress. Petrova, is a Russian orphan. She is happiest when playing with cars and engines. Polly was handed over with just a pair of ballet shoes to her name. If she could, she would dance all day! But one thing they DO have in common is, that with money running out at home and Great Uncle Matthew missing, the sisters want to stay together. Whatever it takes. As they prepare for a dazzling life on stage, the dreams and fears of the fossil girls are about to come true... (books.google.com) This is one of four books in the famous Shoes series. They are about all different characters and can be read in any order. These books go in and out of print a lot, so if you have trouble finding them, check the local library.

Townsend, Michael, *Billy Tartle in Say Cheese!*

How can Billy Tartle make his class picture super-cool? How about a cool haircut—a Mohawk with big spikes! And it must be bright-bright yellow, no pink, no green—well some kinda cool color! Billy’s mom just wants him to get a regular old haircut, look handsome, and smile nice—sooo bo-ring! Will Billy be able to outwit her and kindly Barber Ken? Of course! A familiar childhood ritual is given a fresh, nutty spin in this tale of how kids want things to be fun and parents want things to be normal. But everybody will smile when Billy Tartle gets into the picture! (books.google.com) This is a graphic novel.

Varon, Sara, *Bake Sale*

Cupcake’s life is pretty good. He’s got his bakery, and his band, and his best friend, Eggplant. His days are full of cooking, socializing, and playing music. But lately, Cupcake has been struggling in the kitchen. He’s sure the solution to all his problems is out there somewhere. But maybe that solution is hiding closer to home. (us.macmillan.com) This is a graphic novel.

Warner, Sally, *Only Emma*

Eight-year-old Emma McGraw is an only child who lives with her mom in their “cozy” condo. When four-year-old Anthony Scarpetto moves in for a week while his parents are away, Emma is
not happy. He’s loud, he smells, and he touches her stuff. And that’s only half of it! Emma has started at a new school, and has finally begun to make friends. But how can she invite anyone over when annoying Anthony is there? Emma is in for a surprise, though. As the week goes by, she starts to realize that having a “little brother” may not be as bad as she thought. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

White, Ruth, Tadpole

In the summer of 1955, Carolina Collins is struggling to find her special place among her three older sisters. The oldest, Kentucky, is the most popular girl in town; Virginia is the prettiest; and Georgia is the smartest. Their single mother works hard but barely manages to keep the family afloat; still, she indulges the girls with treats like movies and new hair-dos. Then their 13-year-old cousin Tadpole shows up with his guitar and his smile, and things start to change. Carolina discovers the talent no one knew she had, and her sisters start to appreciate their mother’s hard work. But why is Tad there? As they find out that he is running away from an abusive past, the Collins sisters pull together to try to save him from returning to it. (scholastic.com)

Wight, Eric, Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom

Like most kids, Frankie Pickle hates cleaning his room. But what happens when his Mom says he never has to clean it again! Frankie and his unstoppable imagination mean fun. He and his side-kick Argyle become explorers swinging on vines, forging paths through piles of clothes, and scooting past lava pits! They perform flawless surgery on a broken action figure! They spend time in the big house. They even become superheroes. But will all this imagining be enough to conquer... the closet of DOOM? (books.simonandschuster.com) This is the first book in the series. You can read them in any order. These books are half novel and have graphic novel! They are perfect if you have a parent or teacher who says you should read things besides graphic novels. (wink, wink)

Wissinger, Tamera Will, Gone Fishing: A novel

Nine-year-old Sam loves fishing with his dad. So when his pesky little sister, Lucy, horns in on their fishing trip, he’s none too pleased: “Where’s my stringer? /
Something’s wrong! / The princess doll does not belong!” All ends well in this winsome book of poems—each labeled with its proper poetic form, from quatrain to tercet. Together the poems build a dawn-to-dusk story of a father-son bond, of sibling harmony lost and found—and most of all, of delicious anticipation. (hmhco.com)

**Yee, Lisa, Bobby vs. Girls (Accidentally)**

Bobby Ellis-Chan has a really big secret: His best friend is a girl. Holly Harper has always liked to do all the same fun things he does — like roll down Skeleton Hill in a tire, or hide frogs in her bushy hair — and she gave him his beloved goldfish, Rover, who can do amazing tricks. But now that they're in fourth grade, things are changing. Holly made friends with nasty Jillian Zarr and her wolf pack of other girls, and now she's wearing new clothes, straightening her hair, and laughing at Bobby, even telling some of his secrets. He has to get revenge, doesn't he? Then when Mrs. Carlson announces an election for fourth-grade school representative, all the boys support Bobby, but all the girls line up behind Holly. It's Bobby vs. Holly, boys vs. girls, in the biggest battle ever to rock Rancho Rosetta! (scholastic.com)

**Yelchin, Eugene, Arcady's Goal**

From Newbery Honor–winning author Eugene Yelchin comes another glimpse into Soviet Russia. For twelve-year-old Arcady, soccer is more than just a game. Sent to live in a children’s home after his parents are declared enemies of the state, it is a means of survival, securing extra rations, respect, and protection. Ultimately, it proves to be his chance to leave. But in Soviet Russia, second chances are few and far between. Will Arcady seize his opportunity and achieve his goal? Or will he miss his shot? (us.macmillan.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.

**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.

**Birney, Betty G., The World According to Humphrey**
You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That’s what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true! In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. Soon Humphrey learns to read, write, and even shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course). With lots of friends to help, adventures to enjoy, and a cage with a lock-that-doesn’t-lock, Humphrey’s life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn’t out to get him! (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Brooks, Walter R., Freddy Goes to Florida**
It’s winter, and the barn is cold. There’s no central heating for the ducks. No quilts for the mice. The animals of Bean Farm know that Mr. Bean can’t afford to fix up their barn properly for the coming
winter, so Freddy and friends decide to do the next best thing: head to Florida for a vacation. On the way south with the migrating birds, Freddy, Jinx the Cat, Charles the Rooster and the other animals foil burglars, outwit a band of hungry alligators, meet the President, and even uncover buried treasure.

(books.google.com)

Coatsworth, Elizabeth, *The Cat Who Went to Heaven*

In ancient Japan, a struggling artist is angered when his housekeeper brings home a tiny white cat he can barely afford to feed. But when the village’s head priest commissions a painting of the Buddha for a healthy sum, the artist softens toward the animal he believes has brought him luck. According to legend, the proud and haughty cat was denied the Buddha’s blessing for refusing to accept his teachings and pay him homage. So when the artist, moved by compassion for his pet, includes the cat in his painting, the priest rejects the work and decrees that it must be destroyed. It seems the artist’s life is ruined as well -- until he is rewarded for his act of love by a Buddhist miracle.

(books.simonandschuster.com)

Coerr, Eleanor, *Mieko and the Fifth Treasure*

When the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Mieko’s nearby village was turned into ruins, and her hand was badly injured. Mieko loves to do calligraphy more than anything, but now she can barely hold a paintbrush. And she feels as if she has lost something that she can’t paint without--the legendary fifth treasure, beauty in the heart. Then she is sent to live with her grandparents and must go to a new school. But Mieko is brave and eventually learns that time and patience can help with many things, and may even help her find the fifth treasure.

(penguinrandomhouse.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, Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type
Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears:
Click, clack, moo.
Click, clack, moo.
Click, clack, moo.
But Farmer Brown's problems REALLY begin when his cows start leaving him notes...Come join the fun as a bunch of literate cows turn Farmer Brown’s farm upside-down! (books.simonandschuster.com)

Dahl, Roald, Books
Roald Dahl is one of the most famous children’s authors of all time. His stories are set in our world, but usually have some sort of magic or unexplainable events. They are always funny. Many of his stories are about kids or small creatures standing up to greedy adults. His most famous book is probably Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. My personal favorite is Danny, the Champion of the World. You can find all of his books, plus extra goodies, at roalddahl.com. (Ms. Bock)

Dixon, Franklin W., The Tower Treasure
A dying criminal confesses that his loot has been stored “in the tower.” Both towers of the looted mansion are searched in vain. It remains for the Hardy boys to make an astonishing discovery that clears up the mystery and clears the name of a friend’s father. (books.google.com) (This is the first book in the Hardy Boys series. You can read them in any order.)
Feiffer, Jules, *Meanwhile*

“Raymond, I want you!” Just when Raymond is in the middle of a comic book, his mother calls him. Not once but five times. “It’s not fair!” Raymond thinks. Then he thinks: “What if I had my own MEANWHILE...?” Comic books always use MEANWHILE... to change the scene. So Raymond tries writing it on the wall behind his bed. To his astonishment, Raymond discovers that he can MEANWHILE... from one perilous adventure to another—from pirates on the high seas, to Martians in outer space, to a posse and a mountain lion out West. Then, at the worst possible moment, Raymond’s MEANWHILE... fails him, leaving him in a spot that spells certain doom! Unless... (scholastic.com)

Fleischman, Paul, *The Dunderheads*

Miss Breakbone hates kids. Especially the time-squandering, mind-wandering, doodling, dozing dunderheads in her class. But each kid’s special talent is crucial to a spectacular display of teamwork that teaches Miss Breakbone a lesson she won’t soon forget. From the incomparable Paul Fleischman comes a winning cast of underdogs—and one of the most terrifying teachers you’ll ever meet—brought to vivid life in David Roberts’s quirky, hilarious illustrations. (candlewick.com)

Guibert, Emmanuel, *Just a Donkey Like You and Me*

Ariol is your everyday tween donkey. He lives in the suburbs with his mom and dad. His best friend is a pig. He’s in love with a beautiful cow in his class. His teacher is a dog. His gym teacher is a huge rooster. In short, Ariol is just like you and me. (papercutz.com) This is the first book in a series. You can read them in any order. This is a graphic novel.

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.

**Gutman, Dan, Shoeless Joe & Me**

When Joe Stoshack hears about Shoeless Joe Jackson -- and the gambling scandal that destroyed the star player’s career -- he knows what he has to do. If he travels back in time with a 1919 baseball card in his hand, he just might be able to prevent the infamous Black Sox Scandal from ever taking place. And if he could do that, Shoeless Joe Jackson would finally take his rightful place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. But can Stosh prevent that tempting envelope full of money from making its way to Shoeless Joe’s hotel room before the big game? (harpercollins.com) (This is one book in the Baseball Card Mysteries series. They can be read in any order.)

**Holm, Jennifer L., Comics Squad: Recess! (Comic Squad)**

Wowza! Calling all kidz! Do you like comics? Do you like laughing till milk comes out of your nose?! Look no further—do we have the book for you! All your favorite comic creators are right here in this handy-dandy hilarious book! This all-star tribute to classic Sunday comics includes eight sidesplitting, action-packed stories about every kid’s favorite subject—RECESS! With popular characters from Babymouse and Lunch Lady and brand-new soon-to-be favorite characters from superstars including Dav Pilkey! Raina Telgemeier! Gene Yang! and many more! Comics Squad also features Pizza Monsters! Secret ninja clubs! Aliens! Talking desserts! Dinozilla! Death-defying escapes! Bad guys! Good guys! Medium guys! Superheroes! Bullies! Mean girls! Epic battles! True love! Outlandish schemes! Evil plans! Fun! Jokes! Terrible puns! And other surprises that will tickle your funny bone! WARNING: THIS BOOK MAY CAUSE EXCESSIVE LAUGHTER AND POSSIBLE SILLINESS. No assembly required. (Pizzatron 2000 not included.) (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Howe, James, Bunnicula**

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)

**Johnson, D.B., Magritte’s Marvelous Hat**
When is a hat not a hat? When it’s not on Magritte’s head, of course! Without pinching his ears or mussing his hair, the painter Magritte’s hat floats overhead and helps him to paint. But can he paint without it? Not in a surreal world where paint can fly and where a marvelous hat can play hide-and-seek. (henryhikes.com)

**Klise, Kate, Dying to Meet You**
Ignatius B. Grumply moves into the Victorian mansion at 43 Old Cemetery Road hoping to find some peace and quiet so he can crack a wicked case of writer’s block. But 43 Old Cemetery Road is already occupied by eleven-year-old Seymour, his cat Shadow, and an irritable ghost named Olive. It’s hard to say who is more outraged. But a grumpy old ghost just might inspire this grumpy old man--and the abandoned kid? Well, let's just say his last name's Hope. (hmhco.com) This is an epistolary novel- it is told completely through letters, drawings, newspaper clippings, and even the occasional tombstone engraving. (hmhco.com) This is the first book in the 43 Old Cemetery Road series. They are best read in 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.

**Lee, Suzy, Shadow**

A dark attic. A light bulb. An imaginative little girl. Suzy Lee uses these simple elements to create a visual tour de force that perfectly captures the joy of creative play and celebrates the power of imagination. Stunning in their simplicity, Lee’s illustrations, in just two shades of color, present an adventure that begins and ends with the click of a light bulb. (suzyleebooks.com)

**Lindgren, Astrid, Pippi Longstocking**

The beloved story of a spunky young girl and her hilarious escapades. Tommy and his sister Annika have a new neighbor, and her name is Pippi Longstocking. She has crazy red pigtails, no parents to tell her what to do, a horse that lives on her porch, and a pet monkey named Mr. Nilsson. Whether Pippi’s scrubbing her floors, doing arithmetic, or stirring things up at a fancy tea party, her flair for the outrageous always seems to lead to another adventure. (books.google.com) I suggest getting the edition that is illustrated by Lauren Child. It was the first new translation in 50 years, and it updates the language a bit.
Lindgren, Astrid, *Ronia, the Robber's Daughter*
Ronia lives with her father, a robber chieftain, and his band of men in their fortress on the top of a mountain. On the night Ronia was born, a bolt of lightning split the stronghold in two, leaving a huge chasm - Hell's Gap - in between. Soon Ronia is old enough to explore the forest around her, but she must beware of the grey dwarfs and wild harpies that live there. One day she meets Birk, the son of a rival robber leader who has claimed the other side of Hell's Gap, and upon whom Ronia's father instantly declares war. Ronia and Birk develop a friendship that is as indestructible as the mountain fortress itself. But with their families sworn enemies they are forced to keep their friendship a secret until one fateful day when Ronia's father catches Birk . . . prompting Ronia and Birk to escape into the woods and fend for themselves. How long can Ronia and Birk survive in the magical forest? And will their fathers ever put aside their differences to get their beloved children back? (books.google.com)

Lisle, Janet Taylor, *The Gold Dust Letters*
Angela starts getting mysterious letters in her house at night. They are full of gold dust and signed by a fairy. The fairy is lonely and wants to communicate with humans. Angela and her friends puzzle over the letters and decide to have a sleepover to find out just where they are coming from. Could there really be a magic fairy in Angela’s house? This is the first in a series called The Investigators of the Unknown. This book may be hard to find in bookstores, so check the public library.

Lobel, Arnold, *Fables*
This collection tells the stories of a selfish lion, a lovesick ostrich, a greedy hippopotamus, a vain rhinoceros, a proud camel, the timid duck sisters, and others, and the lessons that they learned. (scholastic.com)

Martin, Ann M., *The Doll People*
Annabelle Doll is eight years old; she has been for over a hundred years. Not much has happened, cooped up in the same dollhouse, with the same doll family day after day, year after year...but all that changes when the Funcrafts move in! This masterfully crafted adventure is illustrated throughout with remarkable black-and-white illustrations. (scholastic.com)
Muth, Jon J, *Zen Shorts*

Michael, says Karl, "there's a really big bear in the backyard." This is how three children meet Stillwater, a giant panda who moves into the neighborhood and tells amazing tales. To Addy he tells a story about the value of material goods. To Michael he pushes the boundaries of good and bad. And to Karl he demonstrates what it means to hold on to frustration. With graceful art and simple stories that are filled with love and enlightenment, Jon Muth (and Stillwater the bear) present three ancient Zen tales that are sure to strike a chord in everyone they touch. (scholastic.com)

Norton, Mary, *The Borrowers*

The Borrowers—the Clock family: Homily, Pod, and their fourteen-year-old daughter, Arrietty, to be precise—are tiny people who live underneath the kitchen floor of an old English country manor. All their minuscule home furnishings, from postage stamp paintings to champagne cork chairs, are “borrowed” from the “human beans” who tromp around loudly above them. All is well until Pod is spotted upstairs by a human boy! Can the Clocks stay nested safely in their beloved hidden home, or will they be forced to flee? (books.google.com)

Otoshi, Kathryn, *Zero*

"Zero", the follow up to "One", is about a big round number, Zero. When she looks at herself, she just sees a hole right through her center. She admires the other numbers who can count. She wants to count too, but wonders how can a number worth nothing become something? Thus begins the story of Zero's search to find value in herself and in others. (kokidsbooks.com)

Peck, Richard, *Secrets at Sea*

Helena is big-sister mouse to three younger siblings, living a snug and well-fed life within the ancient walls of the Cranston family home. When the Cranston humans decide to sail away to England to find a husband for one of their daughters, the Cranston mice stow away in the name of family solidarity. And so begins the scamper of their lives as Helena, her siblings, and their humans set sail on a life-changing voyage into the great world of titled humans . . . and titled mice,
and surprise endings for all. The masterful Richard Peck brings all of his talents to this tale of two branches of an American family, set on the eve of Queen Victoria’s diamond jubilee. There are plenty of laughs and thrills, and of course there’s a ship’s cat too. Will our Cranston heroes squeak by, or will they go entirely overboard? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Perkins, Lynne Rae, Nuts to You

The squirrels Jed, TsTs, and Chai are the very best of friends. So when Jed is snatched up by a hawk and carried away to another realm, TsTs and Chai resolve to go after him. New communities are discovered, new friends are made, huge danger is encountered (both man-made and of the fox and bobcat variety) and mysteries are revealed. Nuts to You is wholly original, funny, lively, and thought-provoking. It is a deeply satisfying piece of storytelling about the power of stories to save the world; about the power of friendship and the importance of community. (harpercollins.com)

Reiche, Deitlof, I, Freddy

Freddy is not happy with his boring treadmill life at the pet store. He continually embarrasses himself in an attempt to get adopted. Freddy believes he will have a more civilized and exciting life as soon as he has a home. After a series of funny misadventures (including encounters with a fierce tomcat and two guinea pigs who speak in Shakespearean couplets) he teaches himself to read and write. He then pens his witty and heartwarming autobiography that tells of his journey to self discovery. A hamster has never been smarter or funnier in telling the tale of his exceptional life. (scholastic.com) This is the first book in the series. They can be read in any order.

Rex, Adam, Pssst!

A child, a visit to the zoo, animals--sounds like good, simple all-American fun. But there’s something different about this zoo. These animals want things. Unusual things. What will they do with them? Laughs, jokes, and surprises abound in this graphic picture book about a feisty, all-too-helpful little girl and her role in aiding and abetting zoo-animal shenanigans. Adam Rex once again reveals the hilarious hidden life of creatures we thought we knew well. (books.google.com)
Rosenthal, Amy Krouse, Chopsticks

Meet Chopsticks! They've been best friends forever. But one day, this inseparable pair comes to a fork in the road. And for the very first time, they have to figure out how to function apart. From New York Times best-selling author Amy Krouse Rosenthal and rising artistic talent Scott Magoon, this witty and inventive tale celebrates both independence and the unbreakable bonds of friendship. (books.google.com)

Rylant, Cynthia, The Van Gogh Cafe

Clara and her dad run The Van Gogh Café in Flowers, Kansas. It’s in an old theater, so it still has some magic in it. No one knows that better than Clara, who sees how it makes people’s lives better. Each chapter is a story about something magical, or something not-quite-explainable that happens in or near the Café. It is a charming book that you will want to read again and again. (Ms. Bock)

Scieszka, Jon, Math Curse

When the teacher tells her class that they can think of almost everything as a math problem, one student acquires a math anxiety which becomes a real curse. (scholastic.com) If you like this book, you should read Science Curse by the same author.

Seidler, Tor, Mean Margaret

Margaret is a mean, cranky human toddler from a family of nine. She is such a pain that her beleaguered parents chuck her out, and she’s on her own, grousing and grumping until two caring woodchucks, Phoebe and Fred, take Margaret in as their own. But despite their love, Margaret continues to wreak havoc with her loud, destructive ways, ruining the burrow and shrieking nonstop. Soon the woodchucks are as beleaguered as Margaret’s human parents were, but because love is more powerful than temper tantrums, they are determined to make it work. So they enlist a little unconventional help, and with the guidance of a snake, bats, and a skunk, their feral little human just might realize there’s more to life than being mean. (books.google.com)
Shiga, Jason, *Meanwhile: Pick Any Path. 3,856 Story Possibilities.* Chocolate or Vanilla? This simple choice is all it takes to get started with *Meanwhile*, the wildly inventive creation of comics mastermind Jason Shiga, of whom Scott McCloud said “Crazy + Genius = Shiga.” Jimmy, whose every move is under your control, finds himself in a mad scientist’s lab, where he’s given a choice between three amazing objects: a mind-reading device, a time-travel machine, or the Killitron 3000 (which is as ominous as it sounds). Down each of these paths there are puzzles, mysterious clues, and shocking revelations. It’s up to the reader to lead Jimmy to success or disaster. (abramsbooks.com) This is a graphic novel. Sort of.

Smith, Stan, *Five-Minute Mini-Mysteries* Detective Stanwick is back! And you are about to be challenged by 30 exciting mysteries. Each one takes only about five minutes to read. Every puzzle combines features of the traditional whodunit (physical clues, red herrings, means, motive, opportunity, time sequences) with logic puzzles (true-false statements, matching suspects with occupations, even a little math). Are you up to a little sleuthing and deductive reasoning?
- The Case of the Suspicious Fire: Did the owner try to burn down his own store? Or was he really home asleep?
- The Megaplast Mystery: Someone’s threatening the life of The Megaplast Corporation’s vice president. Can you find the culprit? You’ll get some confusing facts, but if you use your smarts, you’ll arrive at the answer. And many more! (books.google.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, *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 and it is a series.

Voigt, Cynthia, *Young Fredle*  Fredle is an earnest young fellow suddenly cast out of his cozy home behind the kitchen cabinets—into the outside. It’s a new world of color and texture and grass and sky. But with all that comes snakes and rain and lawnmowers and raccoons and a different sort of mouse (field mice, they’re called) not entirely trustworthy. Do the dangers outweigh the thrill of discovery? Fredle’s quest to get back inside soon becomes a wild adventure of predators and allies, of color and sound, of discovery and nostalgia. And, as Fredle himself will come to understand, of freedom. (penguinrandomhouse.com) This author also writes for older teens and adults; some discretion is advised when looking for other books by her.

White, E. B., *Charlotte's Web*  This beloved book by E. B. White, author of Stuart Little and The Trumpet of the Swan, is a classic of children’s literature that is "just about perfect." Some Pig. Humble. Radiant. These are the words in Charlotte's Web, high up in Zuckerman's barn. Charlotte's spiderweb tells of her feelings for a little pig named Wilbur, who simply
wants a friend. They also express the love of a girl named Fern, who saved Wilbur's life when he was born the runt of his litter. E. B. White's Newbery Honor Book is a tender novel of friendship, love, life, and death that will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come. (harpercollins.com)

White, E. B., *Stuart Little*

Stuart Little is no ordinary mouse. Born to a family of humans, he lives in New York City with his parents, his older brother George, and Snowbell the cat. Though he's shy and thoughtful, he's also a true lover of adventure. Stuart's greatest adventure comes when his best friend, a beautiful little bird named Margalo, disappears from her nest. Determined to track her down, Stuart ventures away from home for the very first time in his life. He finds adventure aplenty. But will he find his friend? (harpercollins.com)

White, E. B., *The Trumpet of the Swan*

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

Aguirre, Jorge, *Giants Beware!*

Make way for Claudette the giant slayer in this delightful, fantastical adventure! Claudette’s fondest wish is to slay a giant. But her village is so safe and quiet! What’s a future giant slayer to do? (books.google.com) This is the first book in the series. It is a graphic novel.

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.

Base, Graeme, *The Sign of the Seahorse: A Tale of Greed and High Adventure in Two Acts*

Romance, mystery and intrigue revolve around the Seahorse Cafe, where the beautiful Pearl Trout falls in love with Corporal Bert the Soldiercrab. But Reeftown is in danger, and soon Pearl, Bert, and Pearl’s brother Finneus must journey through the ocean depths to find the source of the deadly poison that is destroying the coral reef. (penguinrandomhouse.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? This is the first book in the Frannie K. Stein series. They can be read in any order.

**Bondoux, Anne-Laure, Vasco, Leader of the Tribe**

Like all the rats in his tribe, Vasco loves nothing more than to scurry around the harbor in search of discarded fish. But one day he discovers that the members of his tribe have died under mysterious circumstances. Now Vasco is alone . . . until he reluctantly joins some fearsome rats who live deep in the sewers. Among them, he makes some loyal friends and some daunting enemies. And, as he begins to understand that humans are masterminding the extinction of all the rats in the city, Vasco sees only one solution: to flee aboard a ship. Courageous, humble, and determined, Vasco does his best to guide his exiled companions to a faraway land where they can live peacefully. But in struggling to establish a new tribe, and to find a place they can call home, Vasco must endure countless dangers and rise to many challenges.

(penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Brown, Calef, Hypnotize a Tiger: Poems About Just About Everything**

Hypnotize a Tiger is chock-full of Calef’s zany black-and-white artwork and features his wonderfully inventive characters and worlds--from the "completely nonviolent and silent" Lou Gnome to Percival, the impetuous (and none-too-sensible) lad who believes he is invincible, to Hugh Jarm (who has a huge arm, natch!). It’s a whimsical world: creative, fun, and inspiring!

(us.macmillan.com)

**Brown, Jeffrey, Star Wars: Jedi Academy**

Roan’s one dream is to leave home and attend Pilot Academy like his older brother, father, and grandfather. But just as Roan is mysteriously denied entrance to Pilot School, he is invited to attend Jedi Academy--a school that he didn’t apply to and only recruits children when they are just a few years old. That is, until now... This inventive novel follows Roan’s first year at Jedi Academy where, under the tutelage of Master Yoda, he learns that he possesses more strength and potential
than he could have ever dreamed. Oh, and he learns other important things too—like how to make a baking soda volcano, fence with a lightsaber, slow dance with a girl, and lift boulders with the Force. (scholastic.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)

**Byng, Georgia, *Molly Moon’s Incredible Book of Hypnotism***

Molly Moon has spent her entire life in a miserable orphanage run by the hairy, snaggletoothed Miss Adderson. But when she finds a mysterious book, Molly discovers an extraordinary talent -- she can hypnotize anyone! Accompanied by Petula the pug, Molly hypnotizes her way to New York and Broadway stardom. But hot on her trail is the sinister professor, who is determined to use Molly to stage the crime of a century... (harpercollins.com)

**Collins, Ross, *Medusa Jones***

Ever had a bad hair day? How about a bad hair life? Meet Medusa, Medusa Jones. All right, so her best friend is half horse. So her puppy has three heads. Is it anybody’s business that she has snakes for hair? Why won’t the other kids just treat her like the normal little girl she is? And why won’t her parents let her turn the bullies to stone? Meet Medusa Jones. She’s just like you. (Almost.) (arthuralevinebooks.com)

**Cowell, Cressida, *How to Train Your Dragon***

Chronicles the adventures and misadventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III as he tries to pass the important initiation test of his Viking clan, the Tribe of the Hairy Hooligans, by catching and training a dragon.(hachettebookgroup.com)
Curlee, Lynn, *Mythological Creatures: A Classical Bestiary*

Tales about proud gods and goddesses, fabulous creatures, ferocious beasts, and brave heroes from the world of Greek mythology have captured the imaginations of readers, young and old, for centuries. Now see them brought to life like never before, as acclaimed author and artist Lynn Curlee turns his brush to a subject that is unlike any other to create a work of boundless creativity and beauty. From the fierce Chimera, who is part lion, goat, and serpent; to the magnificent Phoenix that rises from its own ashes; to the story of Jason and the Golden Fleece; to the legend of Perseus and the Gorgon Medusa; to the noble winged horse, Pegasus; to Cerberus, the three-headed watchdog of Hades, Mr. Curlee explores the characters of the myths and legends that have been told and retold for thousands of years. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Davis, Eleanor, *The Secret Science Alliance and the Copycat Crook*

Super-smart Julian Calendar thinks starting junior high at a new school will mean he can shed his nerdy image—but then he meets Ben and Greta, two secret scientists like himself! The three form a secret club, complete with a high-tech lair. There, they can work to their hearts content on projects like the Stink-O-Meter, the Kablovsky Copter, and the Nightsnake Goggles. All that tinkering comes in handy when the trio discovers an evil scientist's dastardly plan to rob a museum. Can three inventors, armed with their wacky creations, hope to defeat this criminal mastermind? (bloomsbury.com) This is a graphic novel.

DiTerlizzi, Tony, *The Field Guide*

After finding a mysterious, handmade field guide in the attic of the ramshackle old mansion they’ve just moved into, Jared; his twin brother, Simon; and their older sister, Mallory, discover that there’s a magical and maybe dangerous world existing parallel to our own—the world of faerie. The Grace children want to share their story, but the faeries will do everything possible to stop them... (books.simonandschuster.com) This is the first book in the Spiderwick Chronicles. You absolutely must read them in order, and avoid the movie at all costs. Once you've finished this book, look for Arthur Spiderwick's Field Guide to the Fantastical World Around You. It has some of the coolest artwork
you'll ever see. There is a second series called Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles, which you should read after this one. Go get it right now. What are you waiting for? (Ms. Bock)

Doherty, Berlie, The Goblin Baby
The fairies have stolen Tam’s baby sister—and he has to get her back! Tam wakes up in the middle of the night to the sound of laughing . . . and howling. He runs to his baby sister Blue’s room, but she’s gone and there’s a goblin baby in her place! Blue has been stolen by the fairies and only Tam can get her back. But in order to swap the goblin baby for his sister, he’ll have to face enchanted beasts, cross a wide sapphire lake, and give up the thing he loves most in the world. (books.google.com)

Edwards, Julie Andrews, The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles
The Whangdoodle was once the wisest, the kindest, and the most extraordinary creature in the world. Then he disappeared and created a wonderful land for himself and all the other remarkable animals—ten-legged Sidewinders, the little furry Flukes, the friendly Whiffle Bird, and the treacherous, "oily" Prock. It was an almost perfect place where the last of the really great Whangdoodles could rule his kingdom with "peace, love and a sense of fun"—apart from and forgotten by people. But not completely forgotten. Professor Savant believed in the Whangdoodle. And when he told the three Potter children of his search for the spectacular creature, Lindy, Tom, and Ben were eager to reach Whangdoodleland. With the Professor's help, they discovered the secret way. But waiting for them was the scheming Prock, who would use almost any means to keep them away from his beloved king. Only by skill and determination were the four travelers able to discover the last of the really great Whangdoodles and grant him his heart's desire. (harpercollins.com)

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.
Fleischman, Sid, The 13th Floor: A Ghost Story
There’s a mile-long word for the fear (and magic) of the number thirteen—triskaidekaphobia. In this comic fireworks of a novel, newly orphaned Buddy Stebbins stumbles onto the 13th floor of a shabby old building and finds himself transported aboard a leaking pirate ship in a howling storm—300 years in the past! Cast adrift, he washes up in New England where his plucky ancestor, ten-year-old Abigail, is caught up in the witchcraft mania and is about to be hanged. Firing off surprises like Roman candles from almost every page, award-winning novelist Sid Fleischman tells a many-mirrored tale of ghosts, witchcraft, razzle-dazzle treasure, and the mischief of illusion and delusion. (harpercollins.com)

Funke, Cornelia, Dragon Rider
Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal brownie friend Sorrel and a lonely boy called Ben are united as if by destiny. Together, they embark on a magical journey to find the legendary place where silver dragons can live in peace forever. With only a curious map and the whispered memories of an old dragon to guide them, they fly across moonlit lands and seas to reach the highest mountains in the world. Along the way, they discover extraordinary new friends in unlikely places and a courage they never knew they had. Just as well, for the greatest enemy of all is never far behind them—a heartless monster from the past who’s been waiting a very long time to destroy the last dragons on earth. (doublecluck.com)

Funke, Cornelia, Igraine The Brave
Igraine is the daughter of two magicians. She really wants to be a knight and have adventures, but nothing prepares her for her twelfth birthday. Her parents mistakenly turn themselves into pigs. Then, their castle comes under attack from their greedy neighbor. Igraine will have to use all of her wits and bravery to save her family’s home and magical books. (Ms. Bock)

Gaiman, Neil, The Dangerous Alphabet
A is for Always, that’s where we embark . . . Two children, treasure map in hand, and their pet gazelle sneak past their father, out of their house, and into a world beneath the city, where monsters and pirates
roam. Will they find the treasure? Will they make it out alive? The Dangerous Alphabet is a tale of adventure, piracy, danger, and heroism told in twenty-six alphabetical lines—although even the alphabet is not to be relied upon here. A delightfully dangerous journey from national bestselling author Neil Gaiman and the monstrously talented Gris Grimly, The Dangerous Alphabet is sure to captivate and chill young readers. (harpercollins.com)

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.

Hunter, Erin, Into the Wild
For generations, four Clans of wild cats have shared the forest according to the laws laid down by their ancestors. But the warrior code is threatened, and the ThunderClan cats are in grave danger. The sinister ShadowClan grows stronger every day. Noble warriors are dying—and some deaths are more mysterious than others. In the midst of this turmoil appears an ordinary housecat named Rusty... who may turn out to be the bravest warrior of them all. (harpercollins.com) This is the first book in the Warriors series. There are three different sets of books in this series, so be sure you get the one you want.

Ibbotson, Eva, Books
Eva Ibbotson is one of the most famous and beloved fantasy authors in England. She has a knack for creating marvelous magical creatures, and her characters have fantastic adventures around the world and to imaginary lands. Her most famous book is probably Journey to the River Sea, which actually has no magic in it! There was some controversy over The Secret of Platform 13, because the Harry Potter books are so similar to it. I think my favorite is Island of the Aunts, or maybe Which Witch. (Ms. Bock)
Jeffers, Oliver, *Once Upon an Alphabet: Short Stories for All the Letters*

If words make up the stories and letters make up the words, then stories are made up of letters. In this menagerie we have stories made of words, made FOR all the letters. The most inventive and irresistible book of the year spans a mere 26 letters (don’t they all!) and 112 pages. From an Astronaut who’s afraid of heights, to a Bridge that ends up burned between friends, to a Cup stuck in a cupboard and longing for freedom, *Once Upon an Alphabet* is a creative tour de force from A through Z. Slyly funny in a way kids can’t resist, and gorgeously illustrated in a way readers of all ages will pour over, this series of interconnected stories and characters explores the alphabet in a way that will forever raise the bar. (penguin.com)

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
Kipling, Rudyard, *A Collection of Rudyard Kipling's Just So Stories*

How did the rude Rhinoceros get his baggy skin? How did a 'satiably curious Elephant change the lives of his kin evermore? First told aloud to his young daughter ("O my Best Beloved"), Rudyard Kipling's inspired answers to these and other burning questions draw from the fables he heard as a child in India and the folktales he gathered from around the world. Now, in this sumptuous volume, Kipling's playful, inventive tales are brought to life by eight of today's celebrated illustrators, from Peter Sís's elegantly graphic cetacean in "How the Whale Got His Throat" to Satoshi Kitamura's amusingly expressive characters in "The Cat That Walked by Himself." From one of the world's greatest storytellers come eight classic tales just begging to be heard by a new generation -- and a visual feast that offers a reward with every retelling. (candlewick.com) (There are many editions of these stories. The one published by Candlewick has beautiful illustrations and is particularly recommended.)

Krosoczka, Jarrett J., *Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute*

Serving justice . . . and lunch! Hector, Terrence, and Dee have always wondered about their school lunch lady. What does she do when she isn’t dishing out the daily special? Where does she live? Does she have a lot of cats at home? Little do they know, Lunch Lady doesn't just serve sloppy joes—she serves justice! Whatever danger lies ahead, it's no match for LUNCH LADY! (penguinrandomhouse.com) This is a graphic novel. It is the first of ten books in the series. You don't really have to read them in order, but you might want to.

Larios, Julie, *Imaginary Menagerie: A Book of Curious Creatures*

Who is half gallop, half walk? Who can turn you to stone with one look? Whose voice do you hear in the splash on the shore? Centaurs, mermaids, and other curious creatures populate these wondrous poems and paintings, inspired by a mythological world full of imagination and mystery. (books.google.com)
**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.

**LeGuin, Ursula K., Catwings**

Mrs. Jane Tabby can't explain why her four precious kittens were born with wings, but she's grateful that they are able to use their flying skills to soar away from the dangerous city slums where they were born. However, once the kittens escape the big city, they learn that country life can be just as difficult! (books.google.com) There are four very very short books in the Catwings series.

**Lin, Grace, Starry River of the Sky**

The moon is missing from the remote Village of Clear Sky, but only a young boy named Rendi seems to notice! Rendi has run away from home and is now working as a chore boy at the village inn. He can't help but notice the village's peculiar inhabitants and their problems—where has the innkeeper's son gone? Why are Master Chao and Widow Yan always arguing? What is the crying sound Rendi keeps hearing? And how can crazy, old Mr. Shan not know if his pet is a toad or a rabbit? But one day, a mysterious lady arrives at the Inn with the gift of storytelling, and slowly transforms the villagers and Rendi himself. As she tells more stories and the days pass in the Village of Clear Sky, Rendi begins to realize that perhaps it is his own story that holds the answers to all those questions. (hatchettebookgroup.com)

**Lin, Grace, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon**

In the valley of Fruitless mountain, a young girl named Minli lives in a ramshackle hut with her parents. In the evenings, her father
regales her with old folktales of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man on the Moon, who knows the answers to all of life’s questions. Inspired by these stories, Minli sets off on an extraordinary journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him how she can change her family’s fortune. She encounters an assorted cast of characters and magical creatures along the way, including a dragon who accompanies her on her quest for the ultimate answer. (hachettebookgroup.com)

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

MacLachlan, Patricia. TOMORROW’S WIZARD.
Newbery Medalist Patricia MacLachlan explores what happens when a wizard would rather be human. (hmhco.com)

McGraw, Eloise, The Moorchild
Half moorfolk and half human, and unable to shape-shift or disappear at will, Moql threatens the safety of the Band. So the Folk banish her and send her to live among humans as a changeling. Named Saaski by the couple for whose real baby she was swapped, she grows up taunted and feared by the villagers for being different, and is comfortable only on the moor, playing strange music on her bagpipes. As Saaski grows up, memories from her forgotten past with the Folks slowly emerge. But so do emotions from her human side, and she begins to realize the terrible wrong the Folk have done to the humans she calls Da and Mumma. She is determined to restore their child to them, even if it
means a dangerous return to the world that has already rejected her once. (books.simonandschuster.com)

**Morse, Scott, *Magic Pickle***

Magic Pickle, or "Weapon Kosher," as his creator, Dr. Jekkel Formaldehyde likes to call him, is the product of a top-secret U.S. Army lab. Unfortunately, the 1950s experiments to turn vegetables into soldiers went wrong. Sure, they created Magic Pickle, the flying dill soldier, but they also let loose a bunch of rotten vegetables, like the Romaine Gladiator, Chili Chili Bang Bang, the Phantom Carrot, and Peashooter. This Brotherhood of Evil Produce is out to take over the world. (scholastic.com) This is a graphic novel and it is the first book in the series.

**Nesbit, E., *The Magic City***

When young Philip Haldane builds a play city out of odds and ends, the fantastic creation comes to life, and he and new stepsister Lucy are magically transported into it. Now they must try to save the Magic City by fulfilling an ancient prophecy—despite a mysterious adversary determined to steal their glory for herself. How Philip and Lucy come to forge a friendship and together triumph over impending disaster makes for a riveting read. (chroniclebooks.com)

**Nix, Garth, *Mister Monday***

Strange things begin happening after Arthur Pengaligon dreams of a strange figure who hands him a key shaped like a minute hand. A winged man-dog tries to invade his house. A sleeping sickness falls over the city. And then there's the weird new house that only Arthur can see... Before long, Arthur realizes he's stumbled into a strange new universe of moving staircases and gigantic clocks — and it's up to him to set things right in a literal race against time. (scholastic.com) This is the first book of seven in The Keys to the Kingdom series. While this series is for kids, this author also writes for teens and adults; some discretion is advised.

**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.

**Osborne, Mary Pope, The One-Eyed Giant**

Giants and Cannibals! Wonders and Witches! One Amazing Hero. Brave Odysseus is far from home, tossed by stormy seas, and cursed by an angry one-eyed giant. If he ever wants to see his family again, he will have to face hungry cannibals, outwit a beautiful witch, and sail past a six-headed serpent. His journey is the ultimate test of endurance and courage. In this exciting series, best-selling author Mary Pope Osborne retells Homer's Odyssey, one of the most thrilling adventure stories of all time. (scholastic.com) Don't be put off by how this book looks; it's not for little kids. There are five books in the Tales from the Odyssey series, and they are best read in order. I keep wanting the publishers to put all the stories into one big book, but no one has asked my opinion. (Ms. Bock)

**Pearson, Luke, Hilda and the Troll**

While on an expedition to seek out the magical creatures of the mountains around her home, Hilda spots a mountain troll. As she draws it the blue-haired explorer starts to nod off… when she wakes, she finds herself lost in a snowstorm and her troll has totally disappeared. On her way home, Hilda ventures deep into the woods, befriends a lonely wooden man and narrowly avoids getting squashed by a lost giant. (flyingeyebooks.com) This is a graphic novel.

**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)
Lurking behind this intriguing cover, a Kraken grapples with a ship on the high seas; dragons from Eastern and Western traditions spring to life; and a Medusa, snake-hair twisting and hissing, turns the reader to stone. Deeper inside, an ancient, decrepit vampire rises from his coffin; a lycantherope is caught in the light of the full moon and transforms; and Bigfoot hides behind a tree, ducking his human pursuer. Master paper engineers Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda unfold the legends and lore of cultures around the world to reveal these stunning creatures and many more. Pop-up fans and fantasy lovers will be equally enthralled by the dynamic creatures depicted in this astonishing volume, the climax of the Encyclopedia Mythologica trilogy. (candlewick.com)

In the first of a thrilling new pop-up trilogy, the masterminds behind the phenomenal Encyclopedia Prehistorica explore the characters of magic and myth with glittering special effects. Fairies take to the air on fluttering wings, while pixies, gnomes, goblins and trolls career across the pages. Peer through the windows of the Elven Castle to see the magical interior and marvel at the enchanted tree and transforming flowers. Unicorns, griffins, merfolk and other fantastical beasts from all around the world are also covered in this breath-taking start to the series. (books.google.com) This is part of a series of pop-up books. Others include: Gods & Heroes, and Dragons & Monsters. You might also enjoy the Encyclopedia Prehistorica series, which includes Dinosaurs, and Sharks & Other Sea Monsters.

For all of recorded history, humans have sought to understand Earth's mysteries in the realm of the divine -- and aspired to conduct themselves as heroes. Only gods, of course, could push the sun across the sky, forge entire continents, and impel mountains to touch the clouds. In this stunning volume, the incomparable team of Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda take us to Ra-Atum's land in Ancient Egypt; above the Grecian clouds to Zeus's Mount Olympus; up to Norse god Odin's frozen north; to
the Far East, where the Jade Emperor sits in the heavens; into the wilds of Oceania, where Pele’s volcanic rage simmers below the earth; and to many more lands and times, all rich with sacred myths and legends. (candlewick.com)

**Rex, Michael, Fangbone! Third-Grade Barbarian**

Eastwood Elementary has a new student, and he’s nothing like the other kids in 3G. Fangbone is a barbarian warrior from another world! And he’s been charged with the task of keeping a deadly weapon from Skullbania’s vilest villain, Venomous Drool. Can Fangbone’s new classmates team up to help him triumph over hound-snakes, lava-ferrets, and his first pop quiz? (penguin.com) This is a graphic novel.

**Sachar, Louis, Sideways Stories from Wayside School**

There’d been a terrible mistake. Wayside School was supposed to be built with thirty classrooms one on top of the other...thirty stories tall! (The builder said he was very sorry.) That may be why all kinds of funny things happen at Wayside School...especially on the thirteenth floor. You’ll meet Mrs. Gorf, the meanest teacher of all, terrible Todd, who always gets sent home early, and John who can read only upside down--along with all the other kids in the crazy mix-up school that came out sideways. But you’ll never guess the truth about Sammy, the new kid...or what’s in store for Wayside School on Halloween! (books.google.com) There are several books about Wayside School. You can read them in any order.

**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. (arthuralevinebooks.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)

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. (books.google.com) This is the first book in the Time Warp Trio series. You can read them in any order, but I recommend starting with the first one first, because it sets up the whole series. After that, it doesn't really matter. (Ms. Bock)

Spires, Ashley, *Binky the Space Cat*
Binky is a space cat - at least in his own mind. He's really a house cat who has never left the family “space station.” Unlike other house cats, Binky has a mission: to blast off into outer space (outside), explore unknown places (the backyard) and battle aliens (bugs). Binky must undergo rigorous training so he can repel the alien attacks that threaten his humans. As he builds his spaceship, he must be extremely careful with his blueprints - the enemy is always watching. Soon Binky is ready to voyage into outer space. His humans go out there every day and he's sure they need a certified space cat to protect them. But just as he's about to blast off with his co-pilot, Ted (stuffed mousie), Binky realizes that he's left something very important behind ... and it's not the zero-gravity kitty litter. In the first book in the Binky Adventure series, graphic-novel readers will delight in watching where this lovable and quirky cat's imagination takes him. (kidscanpress.com) This is the first book in the series.
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)

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 fingerhigh 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, The Dragon’s Boy: A Tale of Young King Arthur
Before the legendary Arthur became king, he took lessons from a dragon... Artos is a lonely child, teased or ignored by the other boys in the castle of Sir Ector. One day, he follows Sir Ector’s runaway hound into a mysterious, dark cave, where he encounters a dragon who offers him the gift of wisdom. Both frightened and intrigued, Artos becomes the dragon’s student and gains what he’s always longed for: the friendship and respect of other boys. Under the guidance of the dragon, Artos’s life begins
to take shape in a way he could never have imagined. But has Artos really learned everything the dragon has to teach? And what does the dragon mean when he refers to him as “Artos Pendragon,” or “Arthur son of dragon”? (books.google.com) This book is out of print, but you can find it at many libraries.
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)

Aliki, *William Shakespeare & the Globe*

From *Hamlet* to *Romeo and Juliet* to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Shakespeare's celebrated works have touched people around the world. Aliki combines literature, history, biography, archaeology, and architecture in this richly detailed and meticulously researched introduction to Shakespeare's world—his life in Elizabethan times, the theater world, and the Globe, for which he wrote his plays. Then she brings history full circle to the present-day reconstruction of the Globe theater. (harpercollins.com)

Ashman, Linda, *M IS FOR MISCHIEF: An A to Z of Naughty Children*

Clever cautionary poems, raucously illustrated, about 26 children you'd rather read about than meet. Here are twenty-six brats you'd never want to babysit: Catastrophic Coco, Gluttonous Griffin, Impolite Irma, and Quarrelsome Quincy, just to name a few. Linda Ashman's perfectly crafted ditties about kids from Angry Abby, who is "apt to argue at any time and any place," to Zany Zelda, who "zigs and zags through all the rooms," are paired with hilariously energetic digital collages by Nancy Carpenter. Kids will relish the chaos these naughty tykes create— and also the comeuppance many of them justly receive. Wickedly witty wordplay and fiendishly fresh artwork make this a standout in the field of alphabet books. (penguinrandomhouse.com) If you like this book, you will also like Edward Gorey's *Gashlycrumb Tinies*.
Barton, Chris, *The Day-Glo Brothers*

Joe and Bob Switzer were very different brothers. Bob was a studious planner who wanted to grow up to be a doctor. Joe dreamed of making his fortune in show business and loved magic tricks and problem-solving. When an accident left Bob recovering in a darkened basement, the brothers began experimenting with ultraviolet light and fluorescent paints. Together they invented a whole new kind of color, one that glows with an extra-special intensity—Day-Glo. (charlesbridge.com) You can find out more about the science behind Day-Glo at charlesbridge.com/day-glo-animation.html.

**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)

**Bjork, Cristina, Linnea’s Windowsill Garden**

Linnea loves plants. She grows them all over her room—in pots, and crates, even in glass jars. In this book, she takes you on a tour of her indoor garden. She tells you about her orange tree (and plantable pits and seeds, including melons, tomatoes, and grapes); she shows you how to take a cutting from a Busy Lizzie and how to trim an avocado plant. And she teaches you what keeps plants satisfied: the art of watering properly (plants don’t like standing with their feet in water) and fertilizing. And what to do when plants are attacked by whiteflies or other nasty bugs. Linnea also makes garden-cress cheese (from homegrown cress, of
course); discusses the pleasures and possible pitfalls of growing an amaryllis; and writes a plant newspaper, The Green Gazette. Linnea's Windowsill Garden will informs and inspire anyone who wants to grow an indoor garden of their own. (books.google.com) There are three books about Linnea. They go in and out of print all the time, so if you have trouble finding it, try the public library.

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)

Bond, Rebecca, In the Belly of an Ox: The Unexpected Photographic Adventures of Richard and Cherry Kearton
Raised in the moorlands of Yorkshire, Richard and Cherry Kearton developed a boyhood fascination with nature that fostered their great desire to photograph it. Together the brothers invented ingenious camouflage "hides" (including one inside the belly of an ox) in order to get closer to their subjects of birds. After three years, the brothers published the first natural history book entirely illustrated with photographs; it changed the way people view birds and their nests, inspiring them to protect them rather than plunder them. (goodreads.com)

Borden, Louise, Sleds on Boston Common: A Story from the American Revolution
Times were hard for the people of colonial Boston in the winter of 1774. Not only had King George III of England closed the Boston harbor to punish all those who spoke against his harsh laws, he had sent thousands of soldiers, led by their commander-in-chief General Thomas Gage, to reinforce his edicts. Large numbers of British soldiers were encamped on the Boston Common, preventing the people of Boston from using their own public space. But at least the king had not closed the schools --
young Henry Price and his two brothers still had classes every day. It had snowed hard for three nights, but Henry’s ninth birthday was clear, perfect for sled riding. To his delight, despite the hard times, he was given a beautiful new sled made by his father. Excited by the thought of sledding on the Common, which had the best hills in Boston, Henry and his brothers took their sleds to school. Their sister, Kate, met them at lunchtime with corn bread, apple jam, and her own sled. Together, they hurried to the Common -- only to find that British troops had put their tents and cooking fires right in the middle of the sled runs. But Henry was determined to try his new sled. Could he find a way... (books.simonandschuster.com)

Borden, Louise, The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey

In 1940, Hans and Margret Rey fled their Paris home as the German army advanced. They began their harrowing journey on bicycles, pedaling to Southern France with children’s book manuscripts among their few possessions. Louise Borden combed primary resources, including Hans Rey’s pocket diaries, to tell this dramatic true story. Archival materials introduce readers to the world of Hans and Margret Rey while Allan Drummond dramatically and colorfully illustrates their wartime trek to a new home. Follow the Rey’s amazing story in this unique large format book that resembles a travel journal and includes full-color illustrations, original photos, actual ticket stubs and more. A perfect book for Curious George fans of all ages. (hmhco.com)

Borden, Louise, The Little Ships: The Heroic Rescue at Dunkirk in World War II

In May of 1940 -- the early days of World War II -- half a million British and French soldiers were trapped in France. Weak and wounded, they needed aid. Help came in the form of countless small craft, steered by brave young men, in the legendary armada of "little ships" that sailed across the English Channel. Many people wanted to be a part of the rescue mission. Here is the story of a girl who was so determined to help that she disguised herself as a boy to blend in with the men as they sailed toward Dunkirk. (books.simonandschuster.com)
Brenner, Barbara, *The Earth Is Painted Green: A Garden of Poems About Our Planet*

An environmental treasure for readers of all ages, this collection of nearly 100 poems celebrating the wonders of our green Earth features a diverse range of poetry, from Native American songs to poems by Shel Silverstein, Margaret Wise Brown, Carl Sandburg, and others. Full color. (books.google.com) This book is out of print, but it is available at many local libraries, and well worth searching for!

Brown, Don, *All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912: The Day the Titanic Sank*

It took 4,000 men to build it, 23 tons of animal grease to slide it into the ocean, 100,000 people to wave bon voyage, but only one wrong move to tear the Titanic apart, sinking it into the pages of history. On a cold moonless night in April of 1912, 2,000 passengers—both the uber-rich enjoying a luxury cruise and the dirt-poor hoping to find a new life in America—struggled to survive. Only 700 succeeded. Lifeboats were launched half-full; women were forced to leave their husbands and sons behind; and even those who made it out alive were forever haunted, constantly wondering "why me?" Told through captivating prose and chilling first-hand accounts, Don Brown take the pieces of the broken Titanic and gives it such a vivid shape that you'd swear you've never heard the story before. (us.macmillan.com)

Brown, Don, *Bright Path: Young Jim Thorpe*

A Sac and Fox Indian, Jim Thorpe was born Wa-tho-huck ("Bright Path") in Oklahoma in 1888. His childhood was a mix of hard work on his family’s ranch, wild days hunting and living rough in the outdoors, and a succession of dreary, military-strict "Indian Schools" that sought to impose white culture on Indian children. Jim hated them and frequently ran away, but it was at one such school, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, that his life would change. Watching some student athletes practicing the high jump, Jim asked if he might try. Wearing overalls and a work shirt, he effortlessly cleared the bar on his first attempt—breaking the school’s high jump record. He was drafted onto the track and football teams by the school’s coach, Pop Warner, and went on to lead Carlisle to victories over the best college teams of the time. At the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Thorpe won the five-event Pentathlon with a score that would
never be beaten, and the even more grueling Decathlon with a score that stood for 20 years. (books.google.com)

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)

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)

Burleigh, Robert, *George Bellows: Painter with a Punch!*
No punches are pulled in this fascinating biography that covers the life and work of the prolific artist George Bellows. Having spent most of his adult life in New York City, Bellows left behind an extraordinary body of work that captures life in this dynamic city: bustling street scenes, ringside views of boxing matches, and boys diving and swimming in the East River. Art reproductions and photographs from his youth round out the book. (abramsbooks.com)

Byrd, Robert, *Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin*
A true Renaissance man, Benjamin Franklin was the first American celebrity. In pictures and text, master artist Robert Byrd documents Franklin’s numerous and diverse accomplishments, from framing the Constitution to creating bifocals. The witty, wise, and
endlessly curious Franklin is the perfect subject for Byrd’s lively style and vibrant art. The pages pulse with facts, quotes, and captions, while the inventive design and intricately detailed illustrations make a striking tribute to the brilliant American. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Campbell, Sarah C., *Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature*  
We see familiar shapes in nature all around us—this orange looks like a sphere, that icicle a cone, those cucumbers are almost cylinders. But trees, clouds, or broccoli—what shapes are they? In this photo-filled conceptual picture book, young readers will not only get an introduction to those amazing and naturally repeating patterns called fractals, but they’ll also learn about what makes fractals unique. Curious kids will leave with a sense of wonder about the intricacies of the natural world and the many shapes around us! (goodreads.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)

Cherry, Lynne, *A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History*  
An environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it. (books.google.com)

Christensen, Bonnie, *The Daring Nellie Bly: America’s Star Reporter*  
Born in 1864, during a time in which options were extremely limited for women, Nellie defied all expectations and became a famous newspaper correspondent. Her daring exploits included
committing herself to an infamous insane asylum in New York City to expose the terrible conditions there and becoming the first American war correspondent of either sex to report on the front lines of Austria during World War I. In 1889, Nellie completed her most publicized stunt, her world-famous trip around the world in just 72 days, beating the record of Jules Verne’s fictional hero in Around the World in 80 Days. With an informative text and pen-and-ink illustrations reminiscent of the graphic style of the late 1800s, The Daring Nellie Bly captures the independent spirit of America’s first star reporter, Nellie Bly. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Cook, Sally, Hey Batta Batta Swing!: The Wild Old Days of Baseball
Take a walk on the wild side of baseball in this funny, fascinating journey from the earliest games to today. Discover what it was like before there was a pitching mound or players had numbers on their jerseys. Learn how Babe Ruth got his nickname, why Brooklyn’s team was called the Dodgers, and what Roger Clemens gave to keep his lucky number 21 when he switched teams. See what clever ways players have found to win -- even ways to cheat! Sprinkled throughout are definitions of baseball’s weird and wacky vocabulary, from a meatball to Uncle Charlie. Find out which player was traded for a bag of prunes, but don’t trade this book for anything! Ross MacDonald’s lively pictures bring fans close to the action with plenty of mischievous fun in this free-swinging tribute to the boys of summer. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Curlee, Lynn, Brooklyn Bridge
It so happens that the work which is likely to be our most durable monument, and to convey some knowledge of us to the most remote posterity, is a work of bare utility; not a shrine, not a fortress, but a bridge. So wrote one architectural critic of the Brooklyn Bridge, one of the grandest and most eloquent monuments to the American spirit that our country has produced. Its magnificent site, breathtaking span, cutting-edge technology, and sheer beauty have made it the subject of poems, paintings, photographs, novels, plays, and movies. Beneath the Brooklyn Bridge’s triumphant arches lie astonishing tales of death, deception, genius, and daring. Over the fourteen-year course of its construction, there were many deaths, including that of John A. Roebling, designer and chief engineer; an underwater fire; and even fraud. Finally, though, the bridge was finished, and as part of the opening day festivities, the president, and two mayors crossed
it. In this stunning visual history, Lynn Curlee tells the fascinating story of the history and construction of the "Eighth Wonder of the World." (books.simonandschuster.com)

Curlee, Lynn, **Liberty**

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... Follow the journey of the Statue of Liberty from 1865 to today as it goes from being a mere glimmer in the eyes of two Frenchmen to becoming a colossal gift to the United States, a gesture of friendship between the two nations, a monument to the first hundred years of American independence, and a symbol of liberty for all. (books.simonandschuster.com)

Davies, Nicola, **What's Eating You?: Parasites -- The Inside Story**

Mites and lice, fleas, ticks, and tapeworms -- most living creatures that have a habitat also are a habitat, including you (are you itchy yet?). Unwelcome guests -- parasites -- are everywhere, from the barnacles hitching a ride on a humpback whale's head to the tiny flies that control a bee's brain and make it literally dig its own grave. Now an expert team returns for an in-depth look at how these insidious critters do it, whether it's leaping aboard moving targets or morphing their body shapes, and what their unwitting hosts have learned to do to fight back and reclaim their space. (candlewick.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)

Floca, Brian, **Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11**

Simply told, grandly shown, here is the flight of Apollo 11. Here for a new generation of readers and explorers are the steady astronauts, clicking themselves into gloves and helmets, strapping themselves into
sideways seats. Here are their great machines in all their detail and monumentality, the ROAR of rockets, and the silence of the Moon. Here is a story of adventure and discovery -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away.
(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)

Foster, Mark, Whale Port
Long before the invention of electricity or the discovery of underground reservoirs of fossil fuels, people depended on whale oil to keep their lamps lit. A few brave Colonial farmers left their fields and headed out to sea to chase whales and profits farther and farther off shore. When they did, towns sprung up around their harbors as demand grew for sailors, blacksmiths, ropewalkers, and the many other craftsmen needed to support the growing whaling industry. Through the fictional village of Tuckanucket, Whale Port explores the history of these towns. Detailed illustrations and an informative narrative reveal the way Tuckanucket’s citizens lived and worked by sharing the personal stories of people like Zachariah Taber, his family and neighbors, and the place they called home. Whale Port is also the story of America, and the important role whales played in its history and development as people worked together to build communities that not only survived, but prospered and grew into the flourishing cities of a new nation. (books.google.com)
Fritz, Jean, And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?

Everyone knows about Paul Revere’s midnight ride. But not everyone knows the harrowing details and narrow escapes that occurred along the way. This timeless and witty book highlights little-known facts about patriot Paul Revere.
(penguinrandomhouse.com)

Greenberg, Jan, Action Jackson

One late spring morning the American artist Jackson Pollock began work on the canvas that would ultimately come to be known as Number 1, 1950 (Lavender Mist). Award-winning authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan use this moment as the departure point for a unique picture book about a great painter and the way in which he worked. Their lyrical text, drawn from Pollock's own comments and those made by members of his immediate circle, is perfectly complemented by vibrant watercolors by Robert Andrew Parker that honor his spirit of the artist without imitating his paintings. A photographic reproduction of the finished painting, a short biography, a bibliography, and a detailed list of notes and sources that are fascinating reading in their own right make this an authoritative as well as beautiful book for readers of all ages. (us.macmillan.com)
You can see one of Jackson Pollock's drip paintings at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Greenberg, Jan, Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring

Award-winning authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan tell the story behind the scenes of the collaboration that created APPALACHIAN SPRING, from its inception through the score's composition to Martha's intense rehearsal process. The authors' collaborator is two-time Sibert Honor winner Brian Floca, whose vivid watercolors bring both the process and the performance to life. (us.macmillan.com)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, Extra Innings: Baseball Poems

All the excitement, hope, drama, and joy that America finds in its favorite pastime - in pickup games, Little League, and the major leagues - is reflected in the energetic poems and brilliant paintings of "Extra Innings." Renowned anthologist Lee Bennett Hopkins has compiled a collection that will be embraced by
all who play, watch, dream about, and celebrate the game of baseball. (books.google.com)

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, *Oh, No! Where Are My Pants? and Other Disasters: Poems*

It was simply the worst the most terrible day.
Nothing but NOTHING was going my way.

Ever have one of those days? The narrators of these fifteen poems have. They’ve had worm-in-the-apple days, friends-moving-away days, even forgetting-my-pants days! If you’ve ever wondered whether anyone else knows what it’s like to have a really bad day, this special collection of poignant -- and funny -- poems is for you. (books.google.com)

Jenkins, Alvin, *Next Stop Neptune: Experiencing the Solar System*

Did you know that on the asteroid Ceres you could jump six miles high? That on Pluto it gets so cold that the atmosphere freezes and falls to the ground as snow? Or that there is a volcano on Mars that is almost three times as tall as Mount Everest? Join astronomer Alvin Jenkins and illustrator Steve Jenkins as they take you on an incredible tour of our solar system. Filled with amazing facts about planets, moons, asteroids and everything in between—and some of what lies beyond—this book will take you on a journey you won’t soon forget. (books.google.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)

Kajikawa, Kimiko, Tsunami!

Ojiisan, the oldest and wealthiest man in the village, doesn’t join the others at the rice ceremony. Instead he watches from his balcony. He feels something is coming?something he can’t describe. When he sees the monster wave pulling away from the beach, he knows. Tsunami! But the villagers below can’t see the danger. Will Ojiisan risk everything he has to save them? Can he? (penguin.com)

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)

Kelly, David A., Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse
Before 1918, the Boston Red Sox were unstoppable. They won World Series after World Series, thanks in part to their charismatic pitcher-slugger Babe Ruth. But some people on the Red Sox felt the Babe was more trouble than he was worth, and he was traded away to one of the worst teams in baseball, the New York Yankees. From then on, the Yankees became a golden team. And the Red Sox? For over 80 years, they just couldn’t win another World Series. Then, in 2004, along came a scruffy, scrappy Red Sox team. Could they break Babe Ruth’s curse and win it all? (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Kerley, Barbara, The Extraordinary Mark Twain (According To Susy)
Susy Clemens thought the world was wrong about her papa. They saw Mark Twain as "a humorist joking at everything." But he was so much more, and Susy was determined to set the record straight. In a journal she kept under her pillow, Susy documented her world-famous father — from his habits (good and bad!) to his writing routine to their family's colorful home life. Her frank, funny, tender biography (which came to be one of Twain's most prized possessions) gives rare insight and an unforgettable perspective on an American icon. Inserts with excerpts from Susy's actual journal give added appeal. (scholastic.com)

Kerley, Barbara, Walt Whitman: Words For America
Did you know that poet Walt Whitman was also a Civil War nurse? Devastated by his country dividing and compelled to service by his brother's war injury, Walt nursed all soldiers — Union & Confederate, black & white. By getting to know them through many intense and affecting experiences, he began to see a greater life purpose. His writing could give these men a voice, and in turn achieve his greatest aspiration: to capture the true spirit of America. (scholastic.com)
Kerley, Barbara, What To Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!

Theodore Roosevelt had a small problem. Her name was Alice. Alice Lee Roosevelt was hungry to go places, meet people, do things! Father called it running riot. Alice called it eating up the world. Whether she was entertaining important White House visitors with her pet snake or traveling the globe, Alice bucked convention and turned every new experience into an adventure! Brimming with affection and wit, this spirited biography gives readers a peek at family life inside the White House. Prose and pictures spring, gambol, and two-step across the pages to celebrate a maverick American heroine. (scholastic.com)

Krull, Kathleen, The Boy Who Invented TV: The Story of Philo Farnsworth

An inspiring true story of a boy genius. Plowing a potato field in 1920, a 14-year-old farm boy from Idaho saw in the parallel rows of overturned earth a way to "make pictures fly through the air." This boy was not a magician; he was a scientific genius and just eight years later he made his brainstorm in the potato field a reality by transmitting the world’s first television image. This fascinating picture-book biography of Philo Farnsworth covers his early interest in machines and electricity, leading up to how he put it all together in one of the greatest inventions of the 20th century. The author’s afterword discusses the lawsuit Farnsworth waged and won against RCA when his high school science teacher testified that Philo’s invention of television was years before RCA’s. (penguinrandomhouse.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.

**Lied, Kate, Potato: A Tale From The Great Depression**
When Dorothy's father loses his job and cannot find another, the family borrows a car and sets off for Idaho where jobs picking potatoes can be found. This true story gives children a vivid sense of the Depression on a level they can understand. The illustrations, simple and charming, are a perfect match for the story. (books.google.com)

**Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth, The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere**
In his magnificent interpretation of Henry Wadsworth Longfellows poem, Christopher Bing seamlessly weaves history and imagination into a rich portrait of an American hero. A meticulous researcher, Bing includes material that provides texture to history, maps that follow the British campaign to quell the rebellious citizenry, as well as the patriots ride into the Massachusetts night of April, 1775. Documents firmly affixed into the book, including the British generals orders to his troops and Reveres own deposition relating the events, give the reader not only a visual experience but a tactile one as well. Far more than a brilliantly presented history lesson, this book represents a tour de force of coherent artistic vision. In an extraordinary series of rich and moody engravings, from the mysteriously shimmering rigging of the British sloop, The Somerset, looming in a moonlit Boston harbor to the taut urgency of a man and his horse galloping at a combustible moment in the American experience, this book illuminates our countrys past unlike any other. (chroniclebooks.com)

**Low, Alice, The Fastest Game on Two Feet: And Other Poems About How Sports Began**
Have you ever wondered how your favorite sports began? Skiing got its start when our ancestors, tired of crashing through snowdrifts, strapped animal bones to their feet. The history of other sports is just as surprising—the original soccer ball was a skull; bowling was part of an early religious ritual; and lacrosse games initially stretched for miles and lasted for days. Alice Low's witty and fascinating poems are vividly illustrated by John O'Brien's clever and hilarious cartoons—hitting a true home run for young readers. Includes a time line of sports history. (holidayhouse.com)
Maestro, Betsy, The Story of Clocks and Calendars

Did you know that there is more than one calendar? While the most commonly used calendar was on the year 2000, the Jewish calendar said it was the year 5760, while the Muslim calendar said 1420 and the Chinese calendar said 4698. Why do these differences exist? How did ancient civilizations keep track of time? When and how were clocks first invented? Find answers to all these questions and more in this incredible trip through history. (harpercollins.com)

Marsalis, Wynton, Jazz ABZ: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits

A is for "almighty" Louis Armstrong, whose amazing artistry unfolds in an accumulative poem shaped like the letter he stands for. As for sax master Sonny Rollins, whose "robust style radiates roundness," could there be a better tribute than a poetic rondeau? In an extraordinary feat, Pulitzer Prize-winning jazz composer Wynton Marsalis harmonizes his love and knowledge of jazz's most celebrated artists with an astounding diversity of poetic forms -- from simple blues (Count Basie) to a complex pantoum (Charlie Parker), from a tender sonnet (Sarah Vaughan) to a performance poem snapping the rhythms of Art Blakey to life. Matching Wynton Marsalis's musical cadences note for note is the bold, poster-style art of Paul Rogers, highlighted in two phenomenal foldout spreads. The art's vibrant nostalgic feel is echoed in an exquisite design, with its size simulating an old 78 LP and its endpapers die-cut to mimic a vintage record sleeve. Complete with a discography and brief biographies of the featured musicians as well as notes on the various poetic forms, this is truly an incomparable gift book -- for older children learning about jazz, longtime jazz aficionados, lovers of poetry, and readers of all ages who appreciate the finest in book design. (candlewick.com)

Medina, Tony, Love to Langston

Fourteen original poems offer young readers an exciting glimpse into the life of Langston Hughes, one of America's most beloved poets. Each of Medina's engaging poems explores an important theme in Hughes' life — his lonely childhood, his love of language and travel, his dream of writing poetry. Extensive notes at the back of the book expand upon the poems, giving a broader picture of Hughes' life and the time in
which he lived. With stunning illustrations by R. Gregory Christie, Love To Langston brings Langston Hughes to life for a new generation of readers. (leeandlow.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)

Moffett, Mark, Face to Face with Frogs
You're two inches away from a poison dart frog. You're lying on the rainforest floor as she hops toward you, utterly fearless. This deadly terribilis frog has nothing to fear; your fear is that any accidental contact with your skin could mean death! Mark W. Moffett, winner of the 2006 Lowell Thomas Medal for Exploration, shows you around the diverse world of frogs. Get the expert view on our amphibian friends, from metamorphosis to diet, from habitat to distinctive features; and learn why we urgently need to foster a healthier planet for these sensitive creatures. Let the experts at National Geographic take you out of the library, out of the zoo, and into the wild! This series puts you right in the action. Each book includes practical advice from the experts, a comprehensive reference section, glossary, scientific experiment, and more—all designed to stimulate participation. (nationalgeographic.com)

Myers, Walter Dean, Blues Journey
The African experience in America is celebrated with a soulful, affecting blues poem that details the long journey from the Middle Passage to life today. Accompanied by Myers's bold and powerful paintings, "Blues Journey" creates its own resonant music. (scholastic.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)

Park, Linda Sue, *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo (Poems)*

A sijo, a traditional Korean verse form, has a fixed number of stressed syllables and a humorous or ironic twist at the end. Like haiku, sijo are brief and accessible, and the witty last line winds up each poem with a surprise. The verses in this book illuminate funny, unexpected, amazing aspects of the everyday—of breakfast, thunder and lightning, houseplants, tennis, freshly laundered socks. Carefully crafted and deceptively simple, Linda Sue Park's sijo are a pleasure to read and an irresistible invitation to experiment with an unfamiliar poetic form. Istvan Banyai's irrepressibly giddy and sophisticated illustrations add a one-of-a-kind luster to a book that is truly a gem. (hmhco.com)

Platt, Richard, *Castle Diary: The Journal of Tobias Burgess*

What was it really like to live in a castle? Step back to the Middle Ages with CASTLE DIARY: THE JOURNAL OF TOBIAS BURGESS. Eleven-year-old Toby’s vivid diary entries offer an insider’s view of day-to-day castle life, including tips on etiquette (where do you spit at a feast?) and exciting descriptions of hunting, jousting, and harvesting. Complete with glossary, index, and detailed endnotes, this is a rich look at medieval life that informs as much as it entertains. (candlewick.com)

Prelutsky, Jack, *If Not for the Cat*

A creature whispers:
If not for the cat,
And the scarcity of cheese,
I could be content.
Who is this creature?
What does it like to eat?
Can you solve the riddle?

Seventeen haiku composed by master poet Jack Prelutsky and illustrated by renowned artist Ted Rand ask you to think about seventeen favorite residents of the animal kingdom in a new way. On these glorious and colorful pages you will meet a mouse, a skunk, a beaver, a hummingbird, ants, bald eagles, jellyfish, and many others. Who is who? The answer is right in front of you. But how can you tell? Think and wonder and look and puzzle it out!

Raczka, Bob, GUYKU: A Year of Haiku for Boys

When you’re a guy, nature is one big playground—no matter what the season. There are puddles to splash in the spring, pine trees to climb in the summer, maple seeds to catch in the fall, and icicles to swordfight with in the winter. Nature also has a way of making a guy appreciate important stuff—like how many rocks it takes to dam up a stream, or how much snow equals a day off from school. So what kind of poetry best captures these special moments, at a length that lets guys get right back to tree-climbing and kite-flying? Why, guyku, of course!

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.

Rappaport, Doreen, John’s Secret Dreams: The John Lennon Story

John Lennon’s influence on music and culture is legendary. From a young age he dreamed of fame and fortune. When he achieved it as one of the Beatles, he recognized the need for a deeper meaning in life. His inner search for happiness shaped
his life and brought new dimension to the world of rock 'n' roll. As a follow-up to their award-winning title, Martin's Big Words, Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier present John Lennon's life through a combination of narrative and song lyrics, cut-paper collage and watercolor art-capturing the energy and the essence of a man whose vision and creative genius continue to inspire people today. (books.google.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)

Rice, Paul, As Dead as a Dodo
Describes sixteen extinct animals and explores the reasons for their extinction. Also discusses presently endangered species in the context of the indifferent attitude people often have toward their environment. (books.google.com)

Ross, Stewart, Into the Unknown: How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Land, Sea, and Air
Open this dynamic book and discover how the greatest explorers in history -- from Marco Polo to Neil Armstrong -- plunged into the unknown and boldly pieced together the picture of the world we have today. With the help of masterful cross sections, dramatic storytelling, and sidebars that highlight key concepts, places, and technology, immerse yourself in such expeditions as:
--Leif Eriksson’s voyage to North America (eleventh century)
--Zheng He’s travels from China to East Africa (fifteenth century)
--Magellan’s circumnavigation of the globe (sixteenth century)
--Tenzing Norgay’s and Edmund Hillary’s scaling of Mt. Everest (twentieth century)
--Plus ten more exciting journeys! (candlewick.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)

Roth, Susan L., *The Mangrove Tree: Planting Trees to Feed Families*
For a long time, the people of Hargigo, a village in the tiny African country of Eritrea, were living without enough food for themselves and their animals. The families were hungry, and their goats and sheep were hungry too. Then along came a scientist, Dr. Gordon Sato, who helped change their lives for the better. And it all started with some special trees. (leeandlow.com)

Roy, Katherine, *Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*
Up close with the ocean’s most fearsome and famous predator and the scientists who study them—just twenty-six miles from the Golden Gate Bridge! A few miles from San Francisco lives a population of the ocean's largest and most famous predators. Each fall, while the city's inhabitants dine on steaks, salads, and sandwiches, the great white sharks return to California's Farallon Islands to dine on their favorite meal: the seals that live on the island's rocky coasts. Massive, fast, and perfectly adapted to hunting after 11 million years of evolution, the great whites are among the planet's most fearsome, fascinating, and least understood animals. (us.macmillan.com)

Ruddell, Deborah, *A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems*
In a watery mirror the rugged raccoon admires his face
by the light of the moon:
the mysterious mask,
the whiskers beneath,
the sliver of cricket
still stuck in his teeth.
Take a lighthearted romp through four seasons in the forest with
these whimsical poems. Marvel at the overachieving beaver,
applaud the race-winning snail and its perfect trail of slime, or
head off to be pampered at a squirrel spa. Warning: Deborah
Ruddell’s quirky cast of animal characters and Joan Rankin’s
deliciously daffy pictures will cause giggles. The woods have never
been so much fun! (books.simonandschuster.com)

Rumford, James, Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His
People Writing
The story of Sequoyah is the tale of an ordinary man
with an extraordinary idea—to create a writing system
for the Cherokee Indians and turn his people into a
nation of readers and writers. The task he set for
himself was daunting. Sequoyah knew no English and
had no idea how to capture speech on paper. But
slowly and painstakingly, ignoring the hoots and jibes of his
neighbors and friends, he worked out a system that surprised the
Cherokee Nation—and the world of the 1820s—with its beauty and
simplicity. James Rumford’s Sequoyah is a poem to celebrate
literacy, a song of a people’s struggle to stand tall and proud.
(hmhco.com)

Schulman, Janet, Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City
The birdwatchers of Central Park were buzzing—a
young red-tailed hawk had been spotted, would he
stay? The bird they dubbed Pale Male not only stayed,
he became one of New York City’s most famous
residents. Pale Male and his mate built their nest near
the top of one of Fifth Avenue’s swankiest apartment
buildings. Nine years and 23 chicks later, Pale Male’s fame had
grown so large that a CBS newsman named him Father of the
Year! But Pale Male was less beloved by the residents of the
building, and in 2004 the owners suddenly removed the nest—
setting off an international outcry on behalf of the birds.
(penguinrandomhouse.com)
Shulevitz, Uri, *The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela: Through Three Continents in the Twelfth Century*

Imagine a time when streets were narrow and dirty, towns were surrounded by walls, brigands lurked alongside roads that were treacherous and few, bridges over rivers were rare, and a man setting out on a journey never knew if he would return alive. It was the year 1159 when the medieval Jewish traveler Benjamin left his native town of Tudela in northern Spain on an adventure to see the places he had read about in the Bible. He traveled for fourteen years - from Rome to Constantinople to Jerusalem to Baghdad, among others - by ship, by cart, and on foot, enduring great hardships in his quest for knowledge of other places and people. Working from Benjamin's original chronicle, written in Hebrew, as well as other sources on the period, Uri Shulevitz captures the true spirit of this amazing adventurer, using a text written in the first person and superlative illustrations. (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)

Silverstein, Shel, *Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings*

Where the sidewalk ends, Shel Silverstein's world begins. There you'll meet a boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale. The Unicorn and the Bloath live there, and so does Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout who will not take the garbage out. It is a place where you wash your shadow and plant diamond gardens, a place where shoes fly, sisters are auctioned off, and crocodiles go to the dentist. (harpercollins.com)

Singer, Marilyn, *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse*

What’s brewing when two favorites—poetry and fairy tales—are turned (literally) on their heads? It’s a revolutionary recipe: an infectious new genre of poetry and a lovably modern take on
classic stories. First, read the poems forward (how old-fashioned!), then reverse the lines and read again to give familiar tales, from Sleeping Beauty to that Charming Prince, a delicious new spin. Witty, irreverent, and warm, this gorgeously illustrated and utterly unique offering holds a mirror up to language and fairy tales, and renews the fun and magic of both.

(penguinrandomhouse.com)

Siqanowicz, Igor, Animals Up Close
If your child could be pint-sized like a pipistrelle bat, or see eye-to-eye with a housefly they’d encounter a miniature world of strange body shapes, weird and wonderful behaviour, and some jaw-dropping insights into life for the very small. Thanks to nature photographer Igor Siwanowicz’s incredible photographs, they can do just that. With these astonishing images, they’ll see in eye-popping close up detail how tiny creatures hunt, feed, move, survive and thrive. There are familiar creatures like flies and beetles to look at, along with exotic birds, reptiles, amphibians and rodents. Discover what makes them different and how they cope with living in highly varied habitats. With Igor’s behind the scenes guide on how to photograph such tiny beasts, this is an awesome view of nature in miniature. (dk.com/us)

Smith, Charles R., Rimshots: Basketball Pix, Rolls, and Rhythms
The power, strength, and determination of the game of basketball are captured in striking photographs and sizzling stories, poems, and personal reflections. From frustration to humor, joy, and triumph, this streetwise look at a favorite American pastime conveys all the passion and excitement of the sport. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

Stanley, Diane, Good Queen Bess : The Story of Elizabeth I of England
She was a queen whose strong will, shrewd diplomacy, religious tolerance and great love for her subjects won the hearts of her people and the admiration of her enemies. Elizabeth was born into an age of religious strife, in which plots and factions were everywhere and private beliefs could be punished by death. When she became queen, her counselors urged her to marry quickly and turn the responsibilities of governing over to her husband. But she outwitted them by stalling, changing her mind;
and playing one side against another, as she steered her country to the glorious era of peace and security that would be called the Elizabethan Age. (harpercollins.com)

**Stanley, Diane, Leonardo da Vinci**

An unwanted child. A brilliant genius. Born in 1452 to a peasant woman and a country gentleman, Leonardo da Vinci was one of the most amazing people who ever lived. He grew up to be a great painter, sculptor, architect, scientist, and inventor. As a boy, Leonardo was apprenticed to a famous artist. But he quickly became more skillful than his teacher, and his passionate interests went far beyond art. Fascinated with the human body, he carried out his own experiments in secret. He filled thousands of pages with plans for incredible inventions including a submarine, an air-cooling system, "glasses to see the moon large," and even a flying machine! (harpercollins.com)

**Stringer, Lauren, When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, Their Ballet, and One Extraordinary Riot**

The Russian artists Igor Stravinsky and Vaslav Nijinsky were popular in their time: Stravinsky for music, Nijinsky for dance. When their radically new ballet, The Rite of Spring, was first performed in Paris on May 29, 1913, the reaction was so polarized, there were fistfights and riots! Brilliant or disastrous, the performance marked the birth of modern music and dance. Stringer’s rhythmic text and gloriously inventive, color-rich paintings capture the wild and imaginative collaboration of composer and choreographer. The fascinating author note includes photos of the dynamic duo and The Rite of Spring dancers. (hmhco.com)

**Talbott, Hudson, River of Dreams: The Story of the Hudson River**

The Hudson River has been a source of inspiration and a means of livelihood to all who have lived along its shores. It played a key role in the settling of the New World and the outcome of the Revolutionary War, and was the birthplace of the environmental movement. Now Hudson Talbott pays homage to the river that shares his name in a gorgeously illustrated, fascinating account of the river’s history. Each appealing spread sheds exciting light on the river’s strategic, economic and cultural significance. Packed with facts, timelines and maps, this is a wonderful introduction to a wide range of topics including the Age of Exploration, the Erie Canal, the
Industrial Age, American arts and literature and the environment. River of Dreams is truly a book with something for everyone. (penguin.com)

Thimmesh, Catherine, Scaly Spotted Feathered Frilled: How do we know what dinosaurs really looked like?

No human being has ever seen a triceratops or velociraptor or even the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex. They left behind only their impressive bones. So how can scientists know what color dinosaurs were? Or if their flesh was scaly or feathered? Could that fierce T.rex have been born with spots? In a first for young readers, the Sibert medalist Catherine Thimmesh introduces the incredible talents of the paleoartist, whose work reanimates gone-but-never-forgotten dinosaurs in giant full-color paintings that are as strikingly beautiful as they aim to be scientifically accurate, down to the smallest detail. Follow a paleoartist through the scientific process of ascertaining the appearance of various dinosaurs from millions of years ago to learn how science, art, and imagination combine to bring us face-to-face with the past. (hmhco.com)

Various, Scientists in the Field Series

I couldn’t choose just one (or even a few) books from this award-winning series to recommend. There are over 30 books and they are all great. Each one follows a group of scientists as they work with animals or in a certain habitat. You’ll learn about how the scientists work, what questions they are trying to answer, and what problems they are trying to solve. If you are interested in animals or nature, you must read some of these books. Some of the titles include Chasing Cheetahs: the Race to Save Africa’s Fastest Cat; Stronger Than Steel : Spider Silk DNA and the Quest for Better Bulletproof Vests, Sutures, and Parachute Rope; The Hive Detectives : Chronicle of a Honey Bee Catastrophe; Diving to a Deep-Sea Volcano. Don’t those sound amazing? You can find the entire series listed at sciencemeetsadventure.com. They also have videos, information about enhanced ebooks, and additional information about the authors. (Ms. Bock)
Various, Who Was… ? Biographies
There are over 30 books in this series. You can see the whole list and keep track of which ones you’ve read at whowasbookseries.com. There are biographies about athletes, musicians, writers, artists, world leaders, adventurers, scientists...You name it, they have it. They are easily distinguishable by the enormous heads the people have on the covers. Some biographies are boring, but not these ones! They tell the stories of people’s lives in a fun, interesting way. See if you can read them all! (Ms. Bock)

Weatherford, Carole Boston, I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer
Matthew Henson was not meant to lead an ordinary life. His dreams had sails. They took him from the port of Baltimore, around the world, and north to the pole. No amount of fear, cold, hunger, or injustice could keep him from tasting adventure and exploring the world. He learned to survive in the Arctic wilderness, and he stood by Admiral Peary for years on end, all for the sake of his goal. And finally, after decades of facing danger and defying the odds, he reached the North Pole and made history. At last, Henson had proved himself as an explorer and as a man. (scholastic.com)

Wick, Walter, A Drop Of Water
The most spectacular photographs ever created on the subject of water appear in this unique science book by Walter Wick. The camera stops the action and magnifies it so that all the amazing states of water can be observed — water as ice, rainbow, steam, frost, and dew. Readers can examine a drop of water as it falls from a faucet, see a drop of water as it splashes on a hard surface, count the points of an actual snowflake, and contemplate how drops of water form clouds. Evaporation, condensation, capillary action, and surface tension are explained
through simple text and illustrated by pictures that reveal water in its many awesome transformations. The last pages of the book feature experiments that welcome the reader into the world of scientific investigation. (scholastic.com)

**Wing, Natasha, *An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers***

As a child, Josef Albers loved to watch his handyman father paint houses. When Josef grew up and became an artist, he reduced each image to its simplest shapes, breaking it down into blocks of color. He made an incredible discovery: he could alter the entire mood of a painting just by changing the way he combined the colors! Josef spent his entire life studying color, and what he found revolutionized the way people look at art. (us.macmillan.com)

**Winters, Kay, *Colonial Voices: Hear Them Speak***

It’s December 16, 1773, and Boston is about to explode! King George has decided to tax the colonists’ tea. The Patriots have had enough. Ethan, the printer’s errand boy, is running through town to deliver a message about an important meeting. As he stops along his route— at the bakery, the schoolhouse, the tavern, and more— readers learn about the occupations of colonial workers and their differing opinions about living under Britain’s rule. This fascinating book is like a field trip to a living history village. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

**Yezerski, Thomas F., *Meadowlands: A Wetlands Survival Story***

The 20,000 acres of wetlands in New Jersey now known as the Meadowlands were once home to hundreds of species of plants and animals. But in the four hundred years since European explorers first arrived in the Meadowlands, people have dammed up, drained, built over, and polluted this formerly vibrant ecosystem—and all but destroyed it. Still, signs of life remain—under bridges, on the edges of parking lots, and beside train tracks. Slowly but surely, with help from activist groups, government organizations, and ordinary people, the resilient creatures of the Meadowlands are making a comeback, and the wetlands are recovering. (us.macmillan.com)
Yolen, Jane, Letting Swift River Go

Relates Sally Jane's experience of changing times in rural America, as she lives through the drowning of the Swift River towns in western Massachusetts to form the Quabbin Reservoir.

(hachettebookgroup.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 often carries 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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