

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

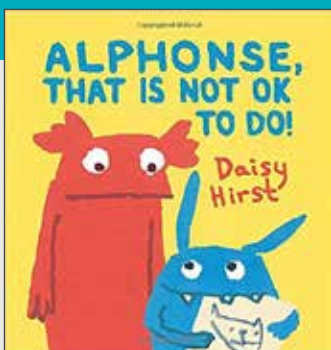
CHILDREN'S CHOICES

2018 Reading List

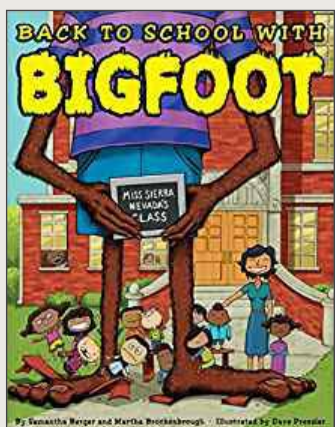


What Is the Children's Choices Reading List?

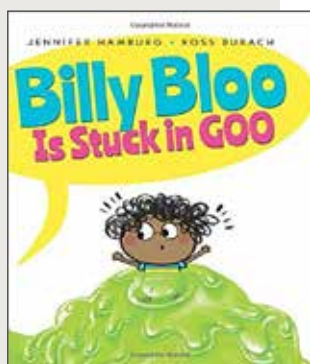
Each year, 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children's and young adults' trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 800 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. Cosponsored by the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Children's Book Council (CBC), this reading list is designed for use not only by educators, librarians and media specialists, administrators, and booksellers but also by parents and families, caregivers, and anyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.



Alphonse, That Is Not Ok to Do!
Daisy Hirst. Candlewick.



Back to School With Bigfoot.
Samantha Berger and Martha Brockenbrough. Ill. Dave Pressler.
Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.



Billy Bloo Is Stuck in Goo.
Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Ross Burach. Scholastic Press.

Beginning Readers (Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

Alphonse, That Is Not Ok to Do!

Daisy Hirst. Candlewick.

Monster Alphonse and his sister Natalie are enjoying each other's company as all brothers and sisters do, until Alphonse starts eating her favorite book. Well, that is not OK! Natalie decides to take a bath and ignore her brother. Read the book to see what happens next! The heartwarming ending will make you smile. Elementary students will relate to this sibling rivalry with hilarious scenes.

**Back to School With Bigfoot*

Samantha Berger and Martha Brockenbrough. Ill. Dave Pressler. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

Bigfoot is nervous about starting a new school year. He struggles to find clothes and shoes that fit. He suffers through a haircut that literally takes all day. He decides the idea of returning to school is just too stressful until he thinks about all the potential fun that a new school year can bring. Elementary students will relate to Bigfoot's worries.

**Billy Bloo Is Stuck in Goo*

Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Ross Burach. Scholastic Press.

This cumulative, rhyming tale is a humorous story of Billy Bloo stuck in goo as passersby try to help free him. Unfortunately, each person who tries to help him joins him. Will Billy ever get out? Who will help him?

Bonaparte Falls Apart

Margery Cuyler. Ill. Will Terry. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Bonaparte the skeleton keeps falling apart. Bonaparte's friends, Franky Stein, Black Widow, and Mummicula, all have some boneheaded ideas to help pull him together; luckily, they end up helping their friend in time for school.

Books That Drive Kids Crazy: Did You Take the B From My _ook?

Beck and Matt Stanton. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

The authors of this book love the letter B, but suddenly it disappears from the story! Kids love this conversation between the reader and the authors that provides a ton of laughter.

Boo Who?

Ben Clanton. Candlewick.

It is hard to be new, especially when you are a shy ghost who can't play any of the others' games. Luckily, Boo meets new friends who help him fit right in.

Danny McGee Drinks the Sea

Andy Stanton. Ill. Neal Layton. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

Danny swallows all sorts of things, ultimately swallowing everything. At that point, Fannie, his sister, reminds him that he didn't swallow her. She proceeds to swallow him, and the story ends with "little brothers can be so annoying sometimes." Children with younger siblings will relate easily to this whimsical story.

Dog on a Frog?

Kes and Claire Gray. Ill. Jim Field. Scholastic Press.

Frog is changing the rules: Dog will sit on a log! Through silly statements of assigning seats to characters, Frog is determined to get a proper spot. Elementary students will enjoy the nonsense rhymes and repetitive patterns throughout the book.

***An Elephant and Piggie Biggie!**

Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.

Five wildly popular and award-winning Elephant and Piggie stories are bound into one book. Children transitioning to chapter books will find this thick book a boost to their reading confidence.

Go Sleep in Your Own Bed!

Candace Fleming. Ill. Lori Nichols. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

This is a delightful story with many farm animals trying to settle down for the night. As each animal finds its bed, it must chase off another animal settled in the wrong bed. A heartwarming ending will find pet owners smiling.

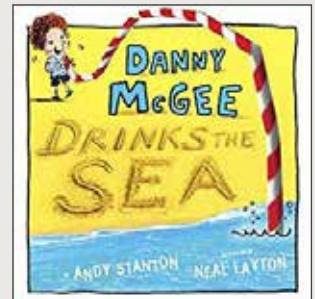
Great, Now We've Got Barbarians!

Jason Carter Eaton. Ill. Mark Fearing. Candlewick.

What really happens if you continue to forget to clean up your mess? For one boy who failed to listen to his mom, the consequences were enormous...barbarians, that is! It's a great thing mom knows who to call...the exterminator, of course!



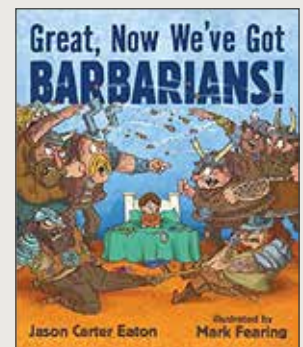
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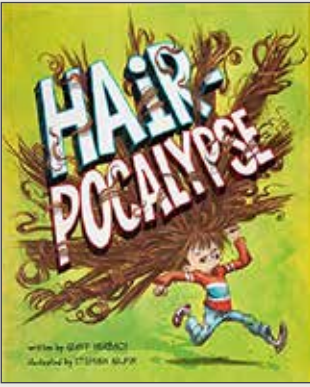
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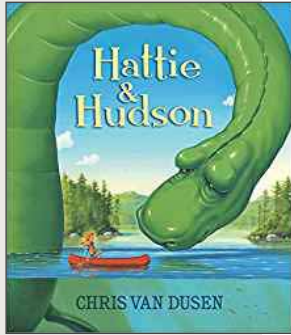
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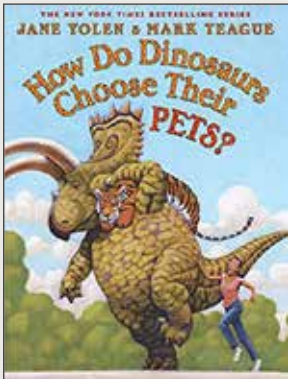
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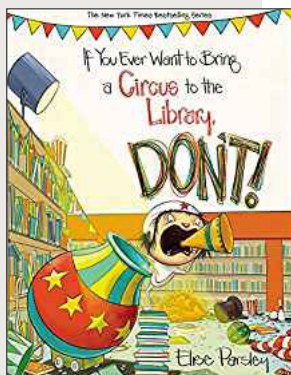
Hair-pocalypse. Geoff Herbach. Ill. Stephen Gilpin. Picture Window/Capstone.



Hattie & Hudson. Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick.



How Do Dinosaurs Choose Their Pets? Jane Yolen. Ill. Mark Teague. Blue Sky/Scholastic.



If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't! Elise Parsley. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Green Pants

Kenneth Kraegel. Candlewick.

Jameson's obsession with wearing only green pants gives him confidence to do many things. When offered a ring bearer job in his cousin's wedding, he must decide to wear or not wear his green pants with the tuxedo.

*Hair-pocalypse

Geoff Herbach. Ill. Stephen Gilpin. Picture Window/Capstone.

This outrageously funny picture book takes a bad hair day to a whole new level. Aidan Allen's hair isn't just bad, it's mad! Over the course of one crazy day, Aidan's hair takes its revenge. After yelling at and fighting with his hair, Aidan finally has a calm conversation with the unruly mop and works out a deal.

Harry the Hairy Fairy

Pace Clinkcales. Ill. Ügo & Toby. Club Drive Group.

Harry the Hairy Fairy is not like the other fairies. He has a massive beard, cannot fly, and moves very slowly. He sets out on a mission to make it to Fairy Dust Island and encounters many problems. This quirky story will keep readers guessing and wondering what will happen to Harry the Hairy Fairy next.

Hattie & Hudson

Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick.

Hattie McFadden is a born explorer, paddling out in her canoe and singing a little song. When her singing draws out from the depths a huge, mysterious beast, everyone in town is terrified—except Hattie. Hattie and the creature, whom she names Hudson, come up with a plan to show the townsfolk that Hudson is a friendly, caring creature.

How Do Dinosaurs Choose Their Pets?

Jane Yolen. Ill. Mark Teague. Blue Sky/Scholastic.

This is a hilarious take on how dinosaur boys and girls would choose their pets, if they could. Kids will love the rhyming text and clever illustrations and will be excited to share their own experiences with choosing a pet.

If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't!

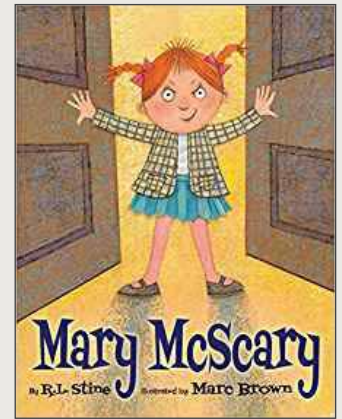
Elise Parsley. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

There is a poster in the library that says, "You can do ANYTHING at the Library!" So surely bringing a circus to the library would be OK, right? This is the story of a young girl who finds out that some activities are better suited for the library than others. Lower elementary students will enjoy this silly book and come to appreciate the quiet activities that libraries can offer.

Mary McScary

R.L. Stine. Ill. Marc Brown. Orchard/Scholastic.

Mary scares everyone except her cousin Harry. No matter what she tries, Harry remains unafraid until Mary gives up, giving Harry a consolatory kiss. Children love the ending where Harry shrieks and runs away from the kiss in fright.



Mary McScary. R.L. Stine. Ill. Marc Brown. Orchard/Scholastic.

Monster's New Undies

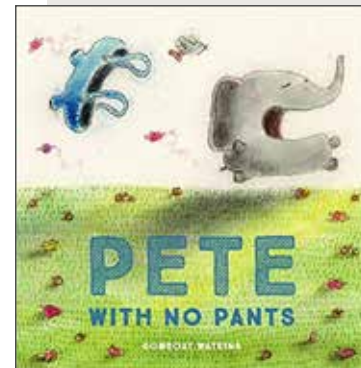
Samantha Berger. Ill. Tad Carpenter. Orchard/Scholastic.

Poor Monster. His favorite, worn pair of undies has finally seen its last moments. Mama monster has to take him shopping, but how can you find something as good as the perfect pair of underwear? This lovely rhyming book with humor and wit is a delight to children in grades K–2.

Morris Mole

Dan Yaccarino. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Morris Mole is a little bit different from his big brothers. When the moles are running low on food, it's up to Morris to save the day by thinking of something unusual. With a little help from an unexpected friend, Morris learns that even the smallest creatures can do big things.



Pete With No Pants. Rowboat Watkins. Chronicle.

Pete With No Pants

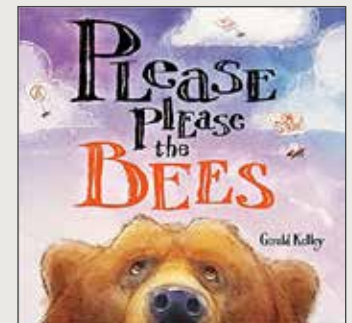
Rowboat Watkins. Chronicle.

This is a lighthearted story of self-identity. The unique format draws readers deeper into the illustrations as they tell the story in a playful collaboration. This young elephant, through the guidance of his mom, discovers himself by exploring his surroundings.

Pig the Winner

Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press.

Pig the pug must be declared the winner of EVERYTHING! Even if it is not a competition, he makes it one. He cheats and throws temper tantrums to ensure he gets to win. Elementary students will enjoy the rhymes while learning about playing fairly and losing graciously.



Please Please the Bees. Gerald Kelley. Albert Whitman.

Please Please the Bees

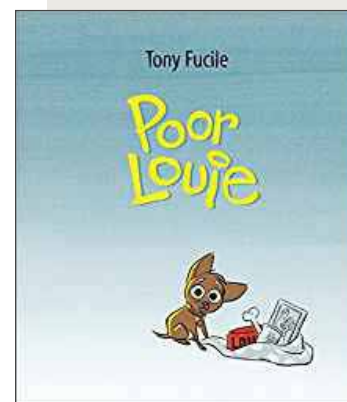
Gerald Kelley. Albert Whitman.

A wonderful lesson on giving back is realized by Benedict the bear when the bees go on strike. Benedict learns that caring for the bees by enhancing their environment pays dividends of honey. Readers learn the balance of give and take.

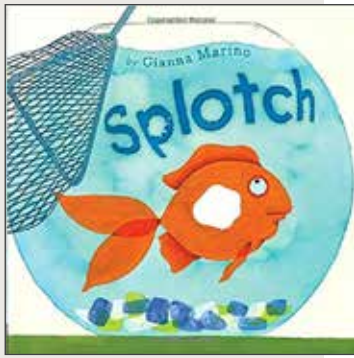
*Poor Louie

Tony Fucile. Candlewick.

Life is perfect for Louie. He goes on walks and Mom and Dad dote upon him. Then, Mom's belly starts to grow and suddenly things are changing. Will this be it for Louie? This is a great story for growing families that any big sister or brother can relate to! The minimal text and expressive illustrations make this book a winner for early elementary readers.



Poor Louie. Tony Fucile. Candlewick.



Splotch. Gianna Marino. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

Pup the Sea Otter

Jonathan London. Ill. Sean London. Graphic Arts.

Readers learn about the life of sea otters in this nonfiction book collaboration between father and son. Wonderful illustrations capture otter's adventures in the kelp beds in the Pacific Ocean. The book provides a great STEM connection to oceans and conservation.

Splotch

Gianna Marino. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

When a boy's "runaway" goldfish returns with its signature splotch in a new place, hilarity ensues as his mother seeks to protect him from the truth of what really happened to his pet. Young readers love watching the story evolve through the illustrations. Words are just a pleasant accompaniment. Students enjoyed spotting the differences in the goldfish pictures.



This Book Is Magic. Ashley Evanson. Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin Young Readers.

This Book Is Magic

Ashley Evanson. Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin Young Readers.

We all have a bit of magic in our fingertips. Readers are encouraged to try their hands and words at magic. Turning the page reveals a surprise. The interactive nature and feeling of empowerment bring smiles to children's faces.



This Book Will Not Be Fun. Cirocco Dunlap. Ill. Olivier Tallec. Random House Books for Young Children/Random House Children's Books.

This Book Will Not Be Fun

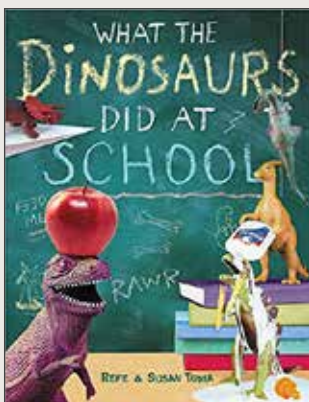
Cirocco Dunlap. Ill. Olivier Tallec. Random House Books for Young Children/Random House Children's Books.

A no-nonsense mouse keeps telling us that "This book will not be fun." Readers will delight as this charming yet uptight mouse is challenged and subverted by a Word-Eating Flying Whale, a glow-in-the-dark worm, and other craziness.

Triangle

Mac Barnett. Ill. Jon Klassen. Candlewick.

Triangle pulls a sneaky trick on Square. Square retaliates with a sneaky trick of his own. The illustrations as well as the author's question about Square's trick generate lively conversations about the book.



What the Dinosaurs Did at School. Reife and Susan Tuma. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

What the Dinosaurs Did at School

Reife and Susan Tuma. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

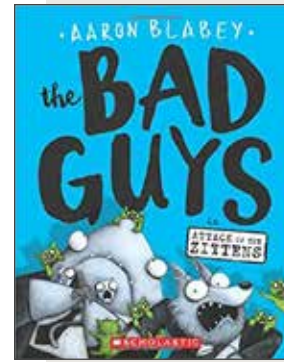
Imagine: dinosaurs loose in the school! They can't make trouble or they'll end up in the "drawer of no return!" That doesn't stop them from adventuring throughout the school building, making messes while having fun. Kids love the photographs and silly antics the dinosaurs get into—invisibility potion anyone?

Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

The Bad Guys in Attack of the Zittens (The Bad Guys #4)

Aaron Blabey. Scholastic.

The Bad Guys are back and are out to save the world from Dr. Marmalade’s Zombie Kittens. Will they find the antidote in time? Packed with hilarious cartoon illustrations, fans of Captain Underpants will be thrilled with this series.



The Bad Guys in Attack of the Zittens (The Bad Guys #4). Aaron Blabey. Scholastic.

Creepy Schools

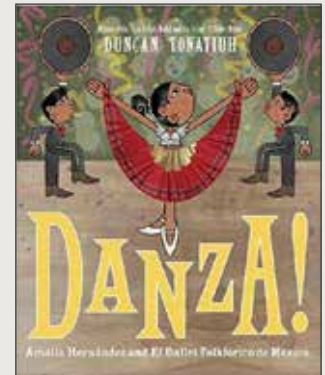
Kathryn Camisa. Bearport.

Is it your imagination, or is the school haunted? Four spine-tingling tales tempt readers to turn the page for more terror, if they dare! Full of simple, nonfiction text narratives, the stories will hook reluctant readers and thrill-seekers alike.

Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México

Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Using illustrations inspired by the ancient art of the Mixtecs, this story tells of the founding of Amalia Hernández’s world-famous dance company. This book ties together her knowledge and training with traditional dances of Mexico.

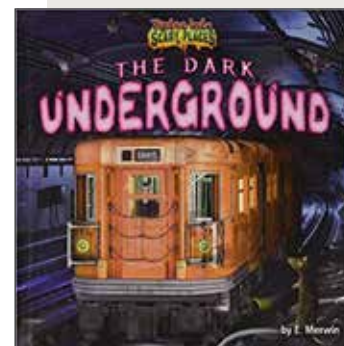


Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México. Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

The Dark Underground

E. Merwin. Bearport.

In this installment of the Scary Places series, they’re exploring historical underground places such as the subway, cellars, and catacombs. The photographs give kids an idea of just how creepy these places are! The book includes history and photographs, engaging readers further. This is a creepy and thrilling book for third and fourth graders.

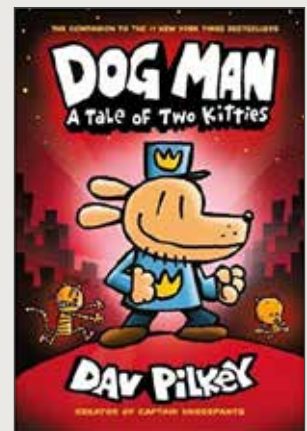


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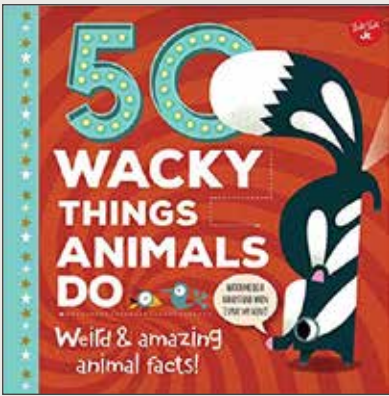
****Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties***

Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.

In the third title in the Dog Man graphic novel series, our hero must save the day as Petey decides he needs a clone to further his evil plans. When his clone arrives, Petey is shocked and dismayed to discover that Lil’ Petey has no desire to be evil. Petey soon abandons his clone only to realize he misses the little guy. Unfortunately, Dog Man discovered the orphaned tike and they have become fast friends. Elementary students will enjoy this story of good versus evil from the creator of Captain Underpants.



Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties. Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.



50 Wacky Things Animals Do. Tricia Martineau Wagner. Ill. Carles Ballesteros. Walter Foster, Jr./Quarto.

Eugenia Lincoln and the Unexpected Package

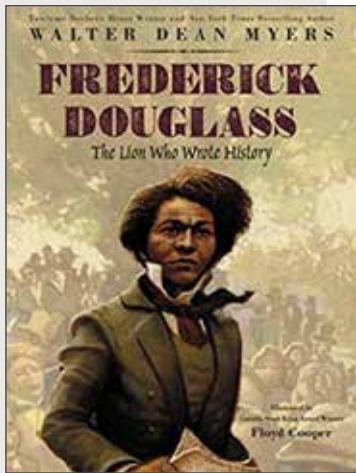
Kate DiCamillo. Ill. Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick.

Eugenia Lincoln is a no-nonsense, practical, no-time-for-frivolity person. However, the arrival of a mysterious package changes everything. Music can change attitudes, and Eugenia realizes an undiscovered talent for playing the accordion in this merrymaking read.

50 Wacky Things Animals Do

Tricia Martineau Wagner. Ill. Carles Ballesteros. Walter Foster, Jr./Quarto.

Readers are fascinated by the weird and amazing things that animals can do. This simplistic format is very motivating to even the most reluctant reader, with brief descriptions of the wacky behaviors of animals from around the world.



Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History. Walter Dean Myers. Ill. Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins Children's Books.

Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History

Walter Dean Myers. Ill. Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins Children's Books.

This biography tells the story of Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey. Once free from slavery, he became Frederick Douglass, a man who helped shape America's history. Readers are inspired by one man's drive to make meaningful change for his country.

The Great Art Caper

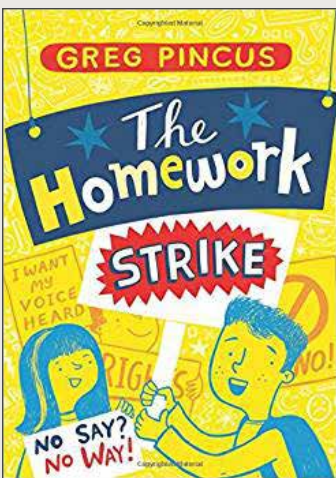
Victoria Jamieson. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

G.W. the Hamster is a classroom pet at Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary. His favorite student, Corina, has been chosen to present her artwork in The Juried Art Show. G.W. discovers that Harriet the Mouse and her minions are out to sabotage the art show. Worse, their plan frames G.W. and will surely land him in St. Bart's Obedience School for Unruly Pets. Can G.W. and his friends stop Harriet in time? Lower elementary students will enjoy this clever story of friendship as three class pets do all they can to save the day.

***The Homework Strike**

Greg Pincus. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

Middle schooler Gregory thinks the homework load is just too much. Despite wanting to do well in school, he is appalled at how much time he and his friends are spending on homework. He decides to make a point and go on a homework strike. Will he end up changing the system or just doing poorly in school? A great read for kids in upper elementary school or just beginning middle school.



The Homework Strike. Greg Pincus. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

How to Survive as a Shark

Kristen Foote. Ill. Erica Salcedo. Innovation.

Upset that when you were born your mom swam away and left you on your own? Don't cry me an ocean. A shark friend will lead you through this book, sharing how to use all six senses and why you can never stop moving. This unique take on ocean science contains a hilariously illustrated story accompanied by fun facts hidden throughout. Photos of great white sharks and a glossary add to this book.

Kobee Manatee: Shipwreck Sea Friends

Robert Scott Thayer. Ill. Lauren Gallegos. Thompson Mill.

In this installment in the Kobee Manatee series, history meets adventure and science as the friends explore a shipwreck from the Spanish-American War circa 1898. Students will learn about Caribbean Sea animals alongside this important part of history. It's not all learning, though—Kobee's adventure adds elements of fun and excitement that keep students engaged.

Labyrinth

Theo Guignard. Wide Eyed Editions/Quarto.

Fourteen colorful mazes of "the world" challenge readers to find objects imbedded in each two-page spread. As the book progresses, the mazes become more challenging, keeping students engaged to the very end.

*The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors

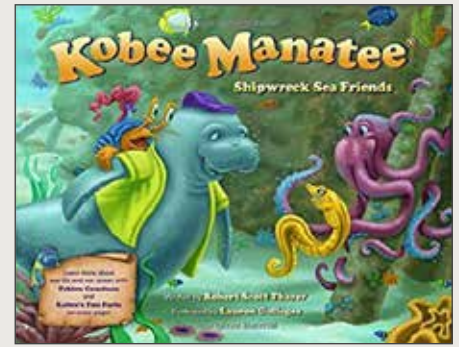
Drew Daywalt. Ill. Adam Rex. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.

If you are wondering where the worldwide game of Rock Paper Scissors started, look no further. This fantasized version has a unique ending where everyone is a winner. Reading this book will surely boost an interest in playing the game.

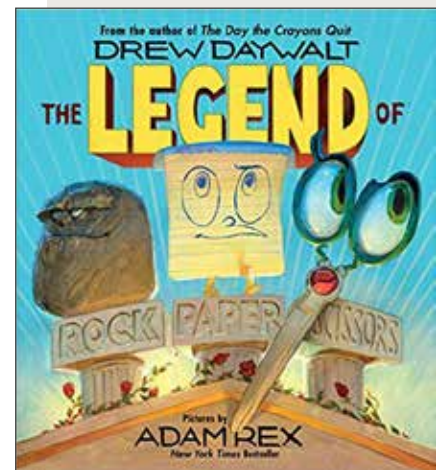
Lesser Spotted Animals

Martin Brown. David Fickling/Scholastic.

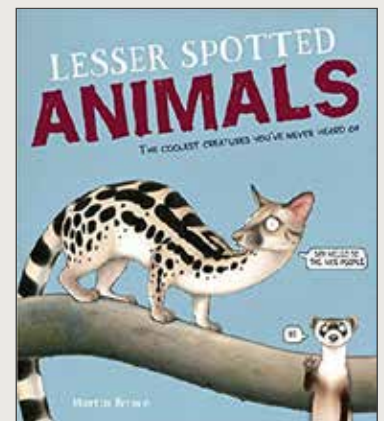
Find fun and important facts about less familiar animals in this alternative to traditional works. Special features include pictures in the contents and an extinction guide in the glossary. Elementary students are sure to enjoy the author's clever descriptions of the animals' sizes compared with traditional forms of measurement.



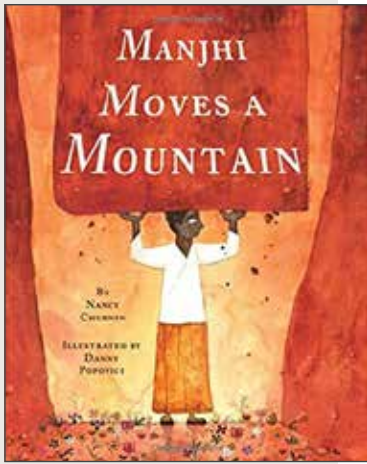
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Manjhi Moves a Mountain. Nancy Churnin. Ill. Danny Popovici. Creston.

Manjhi Moves a Mountain

Nancy Churnin. Ill. Danny Popovici. Creston.

The true story of Dashrath Manjhi, who used a chisel and a hammer to carve a 360-foot-long road through a mountain that separated his village from hospitals, schools, and jobs. After witnessing the despair of his village for many years, Manjhi decided to shorten the distance and thus lessen the difficulty of reaching opportunities from the town on the other side of the mountain. This story of perseverance and determination will inspire students of all ages.

Moby Dick

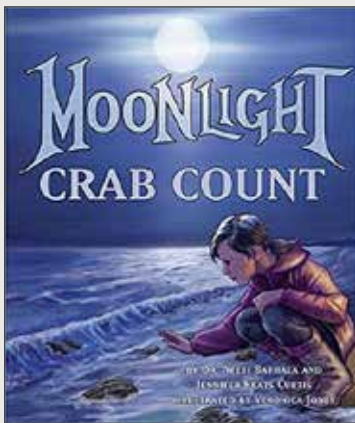
Herman Melville, retold by Philip Edwards. Ill. Adam Horsepool. Flowerpot.

The classic tale gets a makeover in this illustrated version of the 1851 original. The themes remain the same with simpler language and illustrations, making this 10-minute classic a real gem. The writers also highlighted and defined important words to support readers while expanding their vocabulary. This is a solid version of a true classic that brings the timeless tale of man versus beast to a younger audience.

Moonlight Crab Count

Dr. Neeti Bathala and Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Veronica V. Jones. Arbordale.

Each summer, Leena and her mom count the horseshoe crabs that visit their beach. With their dog, Bobie, at their sides, the duo spends a night on the shore observing and surveying horseshoe crabs that have come to mate and lay eggs. This picture book highlights the fact that anyone can be a scientist.



Moonlight Crab Count. Dr. Neeti Bathala and Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Veronica V. Jones. Arbordale.

Noodleheads See the Future

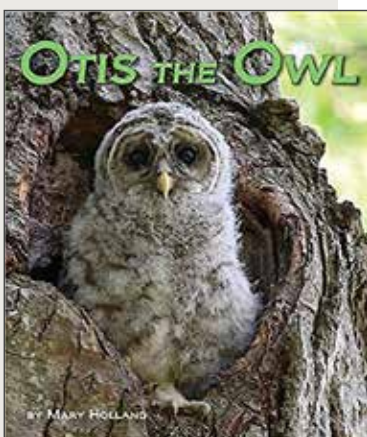
Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Ill. Tedd Arnold. Holiday House.

Students will be delighted to discover that Mac and Mac, the two brothers in the story, have nothing in their "noodle." Students will enjoy the book's idioms and humor, like cousin Meatball easily tricking the siblings.

***Otis the Owl**

Mary Holland. Arbordale.

This nonfiction text provides beautiful photography of the beginning months of a barred owl's life. Readers will love the detailed illustrations that support a rich, descriptive vocabulary.



Otis the Owl. Mary Holland. Arbordale.

Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets

Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth. Ill. Ekua Holmes. Candlewick.

Colorful mixed media collages surround many poems celebrating the style of 20 great poets, with poems written by the authors. The poem "Snapshots" sums up the book beautifully: "poetry is remembering the things that matter...the ones you love..." Students will enjoy the lyrical poems.

Pinto the Chisholm Pony

Stella Dutton. Ill. Sergio Drumond. 405 Storybook.

Join Pinto the Chisholm Pony as he endures obstacles on the rugged Chisholm Trail of 1869 while searching for his owner. This is a commemorative book in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Chisholm Trail. Readers will delight in this heartwarming tale.

***The Robo-Battle of Mega Tortoise vs. Hazard Hare**

Stephanie Peters. Ill. Fernando Cano. Stone Arch/Capstone.

Shelly the Tortoise is determined to beat Hunter the Hare in a robot battle! This is a modern-day graphic novel twist on the classic Aesop fable.

Rosie Revere's Big Project Book for Bold Engineers

Andrea Beaty. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Rosie Revere challenges future engineers to explore their surroundings and experience big, bold discoveries through simple challenges in a highly engaging, interactive journal format. Over 40 things can be invented, drawn, or created. It's a wonderful profession for readers to ponder.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality

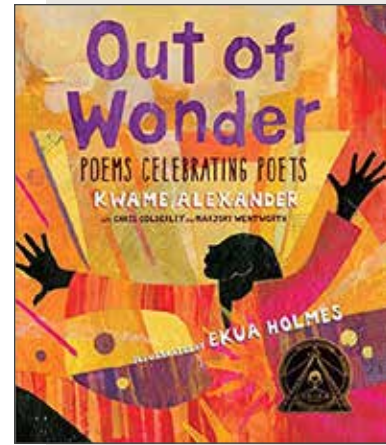
Jonah Winter. Ill. Stacy Innerst. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

This biography boldly shares the story of a woman who encountered injustices throughout her life. The gorgeous gouache and ink illustrations clearly portray childhood and life struggles Ginsburg overcame. Straightforward text shares fascinating facts without overwhelming readers.

The Secret Project

Jonah Winter. Ill. Jeanette Winter. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster.

This eloquently written story for children is about the Manhattan Project and the development of the atom bomb. Detailed author's notes at the end of the story provide more truths and thoughts for young people to ponder in today's world.



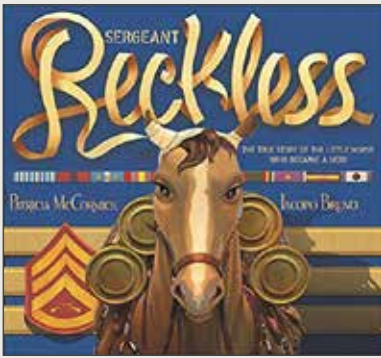
Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets. Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth. Ill. Ekua Holmes. Candlewick.



The Robo-Battle of Mega Tortoise vs. Hazard Hare. Stephanie Peters. Ill. Fernando Cano. Stone Arch/Capstone.



The Secret Project. Jonah Winter. Ill. Jeanette Winter. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster.



Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero. Patricia McCormick. Ill. Iacopo Bruno. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.

Sergeant Reckless: The True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero

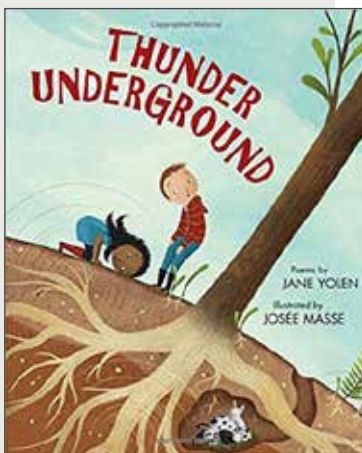
Patricia McCormick. Ill. Iacopo Bruno. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.

Sergeant Reckless is the true story of the only animal to ever hold an official military rank. U.S. Marines are struggling to haul ammunition up the steep inclines of the “Reckless” cannon during the Korean War. A mare is enlisted to help with the loads. This story will steal the hearts of children of all ages. The determination and bravery of a small mare named Reckless celebrates the true meaning of Semper Fidelis.

Spooky Libraries

Jessica Rudolph. Bearport.

The book tells the history of four libraries that are believed to be haunted. The stories include hauntings by deceased family members of those who constructed the libraries, people who died untimely deaths, and disturbed graveyards. Students in second grade and up will enjoy these chilling stories of haunting events as well as the histories behind these present-day libraries.



Thunder Underground. Jane Yolen. Ill. Josée Masse. Wordsong/Highlights.

Thunder Underground

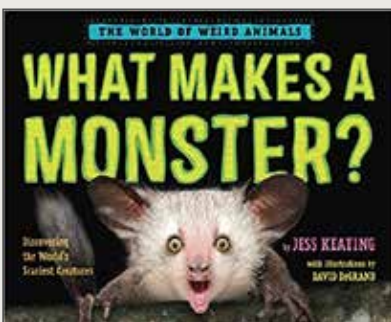
Jane Yolen. Ill. Josée Masse. Wordsong/Highlights.

For the love of where all things begin and end, readers open their eyes to what may not immediately be seen underground through this lovely collection of poems. The deepest discovery may be the true meaning of the book—thunder underground.

What Makes a Monster? Discovering the World's Scariest Creatures

Jess Keating. Ill. David DeGrand. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

This informational book offers a two-page spread for each creature considered. Species include brain-eating fungi, human beings, prairie dogs that carry fleas with the bubonic plague, and more. Students will enjoy examining the various creatures and the dangers they present to our planet.



What Makes a Monster? Discovering the World's Scariest Creatures. Jess Keating. Ill. David DeGrand. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

Beyond the Bright Sea

Lauren Wolk. Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers.

An unusual story set on a Massachusetts island in the 1920s, Crow was rescued and raised by Osh, an introverted painter. Events lead Crow to become curious about her history and begin a dangerous and mysterious journey. Students will find this book to be very engaging and will be unable to put it down.

Bone Jack

Sara Crowe. Philomel/Penguin Random House.

Ash is training for the town's annual Stag Race. He runs for his father, who has returned from war with PTSD, and for his ex-best friend, who is suffering from seeing his father's suicide. As Ash trains, mythical creatures haunt him, making the line between what is real and what is not hard to discern. The creepy myths and magic keep readers engaged to the very end.

Clayton Byrd Goes Underground

Rita Williams-Garcia. Ill. Frank Morrison. Amistad/HarperCollins.

Clayton Byrd, a young aspiring bluesman, idolized Cool Papa Byrd and is always asking him, when? When can he play with the Bluesmen? The special relationship between grandfather, Cool Papa Byrd, and grandson, Clayton Byrd, is felt from the beginning to the end of this beautiful story that will be appreciated and enjoyed by readers.

Cyclone

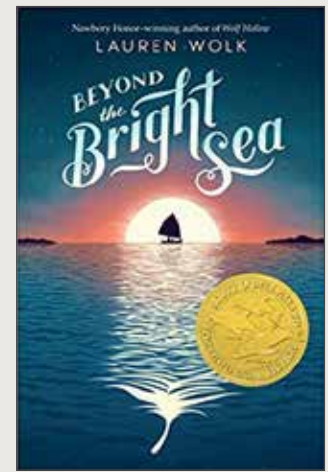
Doreen Cronin. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Nora blames herself when her cousin, Riley, goes into a coma after Nora blackmailed her into riding the Cyclone rollercoaster. As Riley recovers, Nora deals with the fear of losing a loved one, frustration at Riley's slow recovery, and a guilty conscience. Kids who are learning to work through conflict with their friends will see themselves in the characters. The author uses Nora's voice to explain medical terms that might otherwise be confusing.

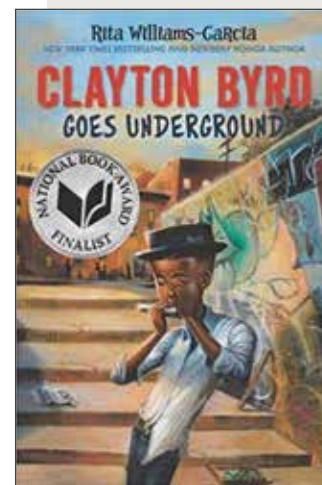
****Disaster Diaries: Spiders!***

R. McGeddon. Imprint/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Sam, Arty, and Emmie, all self-proclaimed heroes, take on one challenge after another in this slapstick humorous fight to save the community of Sitting Duck from giant spiders. This is one book in the wildly popular Disaster Diaries series.



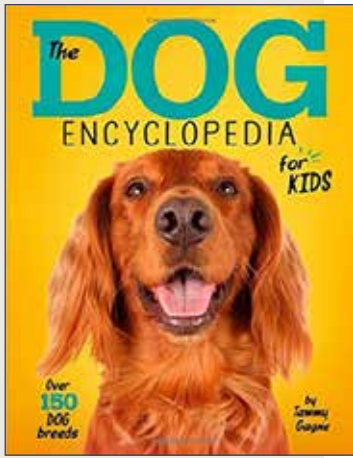
Beyond the Bright Sea. Lauren Wolk. Dutton Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers.



Clayton Byrd Goes Underground. Rita Williams-Garcia. Ill. Frank Morrison. Amistad/HarperCollins.



Disaster Diaries: Spiders! R. McGeddon. Imprint/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



The Dog Encyclopedia for Kids.
Tammy Gagne. Capstone Young Readers.

The Dog Encyclopedia for Kids

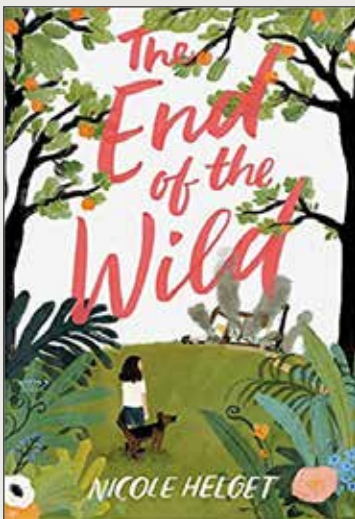
Tammy Gagne. Capstone Young Readers.

Thinking about getting a dog? Check out over 150 breeds in this amazing nonfiction book on dogs. Great photos, identifying facts, country of origin, personality traits, training notes, and information on care are included.

The End of the Wild

Nicole Helget. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Fern explores the woods around her home as both a place of comfort after the loss of her mom and a place to find food for her poor family. When a natural gas company initiates a plan to begin fracking in the woods, Fern's heart is torn between the job possibilities it could bring and the loss of her sanctuary. The author handles the subjects of poverty, loss, mental illness, and conservation with hope. Readers will connect with Fern as she searches to find out the kind of adult she hopes to be.



The End of the Wild. Nicole Helget.
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Family Game Night and Other Catastrophes

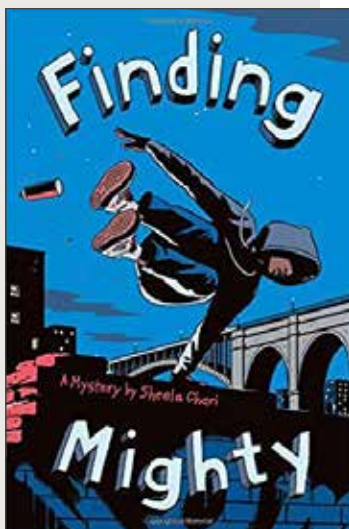
Mary E. Lambert. Scholastic Press.

Anabelle's family is being torn apart by her mother's hoarding issues. In spite of the seriousness of the topic, readers will connect with Anabelle's gutsy humor. Without being judgmental, the author discusses hoarding and the necessity of asking for help. Readers will be drawn in by the characters and be left with hope by the ending.

***Finding Mighty**

Sheela Chari. Amulet.

The lives of two individuals intersect in surprising ways as they seek to uncover the mystery of some missing diamonds. Sixth grader Myla enjoys her life but often feels overlooked by others or trapped by her own fears. She purchases an unusual necklace at a flea market to boost her self-confidence. As it turns out, her neighbor, Peter, has one just like it, and there's a strange connection between the two necklaces. Peter's deceased father left behind notes in a black book that just might help the two youngsters solve this mystery.



Finding Mighty. Sheela Chari.
Amulet.

The Football Fanbook: Everything You Need to Become a Gridiron Know-It-All

Gary Gramling. III. Colin Hayes. Liberty Street/Time.

This is the encyclopedia of football! From NFL teams to players to coaches, it's a fact-finding, informational text filled with lingo, trivia, stats, and skills. This one book can make any reader a gridiron expert.

How to Be a Scientist

Steve Mould. DK.

Readers will be inspired to learn more about how to think and act like these famous scientists while uncovering deep scientific knowledge they can apply through fun-filled science projects.

In Darkling Wood

Emma Carroll. Delacorte Books for Young Readers/
Random House Children's Books.

Alice's life is turned upside down when a family emergency causes her to stay at her estranged grandma's house far from home. Unhappy with her circumstances, she finds a retreat in the distant woods and an unexpected friendship ensues. Readers will love the mystery as they follow the unknown in the Darkling Wood.

Kate Warne: Pinkerton Detective

Marissa Moss. Ill. April Chu. Creston.

This nonfiction picture book is an account of Kate Warne, the first American female detective. Her first case was the Adams Express Case. This case not only made a name for the Pinkerton Detective Agency but also gave Warne her start. She later became Women's Division Supervisor for the agency.

Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout; Dance, Spin & Turn It Out! Games, Songs, and Stories From an African American Childhood

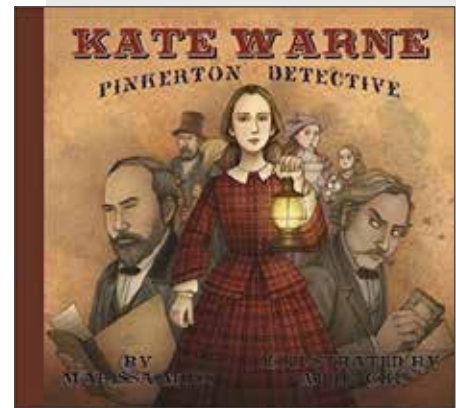
Patricia C. McKissack. Ill. Brian Pinkney. Schwartz & Wade/
Random House Children's Books.

This is a collection of classic playtime games and songs to share with children and adults alike. McKissack shares memories from her childhood in the American South. Her book is greatly influenced by her African American heritage, which she shares through story, games, and songs. The diversity of play and information would be useful to many groups of educators and interesting to children of all ages.

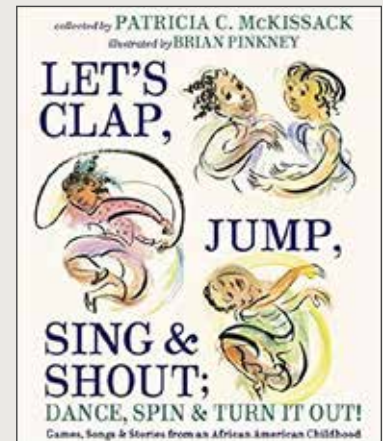
*The Losers Club

Andrew Clements. Random House Children's Books/
Penguin Random House.

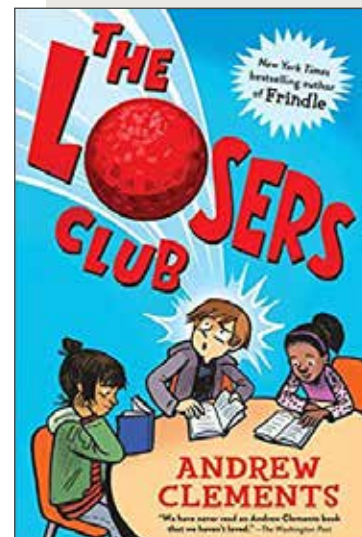
Alec is always in trouble...for reading! He loves reading so much, he does it anywhere and everywhere, which usually ends with him in the principal's office. The principal gives him an ultimatum: Pay attention in class, or spend the summer in a study skills program. Alec creates The Losers Club for himself as a way to keep reading but is surprised about who the club attracts and how sixth grade actually develops. This is the perfect book for the bookworm in your life.



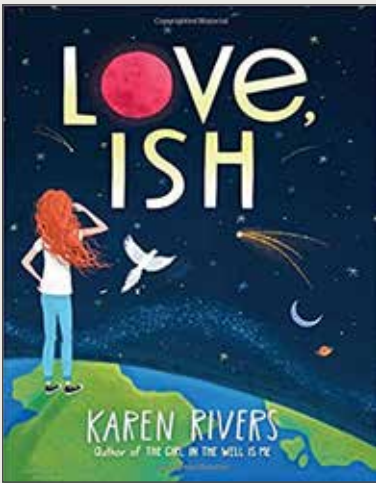
Kate Warne: Pinkerton Detective. Marissa Moss. Ill. April Chu. Creston.



Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout; Dance, Spin & Turn It Out! Games, Songs, and Stories From an African American Childhood. Patricia C. McKissack. Ill. Brian Pinkney. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.



The Losers Club. Andrew Clements. Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House.



Love, Ish. Karen Rivers. Algonquin Young Readers.

Love, Ish

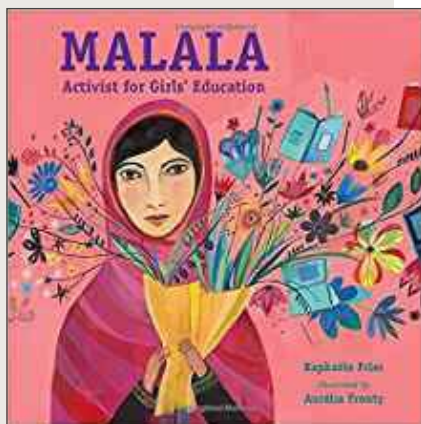
Karen Rivers. Algonquin Young Readers.

Ish (Mischa) dreams of colonizing Mars because she doesn't seem to fit in on Earth. On the first day of sixth grade, she passes out at school and soon learns that a brain tumor is the cause. This coming of age and overcoming hardships novel will appeal to kids who feel like social outcasts.

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal: The Stone Cold Age

Jeffrey Brown. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Present-day kids meet the Neanderthal Era in this hilarious series. Factual side notes bolster the fictionalized dialogue and beliefs of this past era. Students will love the humor and will benefit from the scientific facts interwoven into the stories.



Malala: Activist for Girls' Education. Raphaële Frier. Ill. Aurélie Fronty. Charlesbridge.

Malala: Activist for Girls' Education

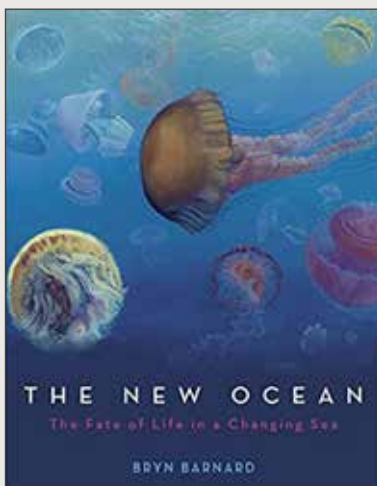
Raphaële Frier. Ill. Aurélie Fronty. Charlesbridge.

Malala Yousafzai stood up to the Taliban and fought for the right of all girls to receive an education. When she was 15, the Taliban attempted to kill Malala, but even this did not stop her activism. At age 18, Malala became the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ensure the education of all children around the world. This biographical picture book tells the story of the young girl's educational activism in Pakistan.

The New Ocean: The Fate of Life in a Changing Sea

Bryn Barnard. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

This book discusses the impact global warming and pollution are having on the world's oceans. Six sea dwellers are showcased: jellyfish, orcas, sea turtles, tuna, coral, and blue-green algae. Facts are given about each, followed by how people and a changing world are affecting the organisms' survival. Upper elementary students will begin to realize how everyday choices to recycle, conserve electricity, and properly dispose of waste can have a great impact on our future world.



The New Ocean: The Fate of Life in a Changing Sea. Bryn Barnard. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Race to the Bottom of the Sea

Lindsay Eagar. Candlewick.

Merrick the Monstrous, a pirate who kidnaps Fidelia for her marine know-how, takes her on an adventure to find a treasure lost on the ocean floor. A scientist, an inventor, a huge shark, a librarian, and the Royal Navy are all part of a story that keeps readers wondering how they are all connected and why a dying pirate is so intent on finding his lost treasure.

***The Red Bandanna**

Tom Rinaldi. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

Welles Crowther always kept a red bandanna with him, a gift from his father. Little did he know how that bandanna would help him in a time of crisis, during the fall of the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Readers will be fascinated by the story of an ordinary man who did extraordinary work to save lives of others while sacrificing his own.

Refugee

Alan Gratz. Scholastic Press.

Alan Gratz has written another poignant realistic fiction book that will grip readers from start to end. This story chronicles the journeys of three young people fleeing for their lives: Josef from the Nazi regime in 1939, Isabel from Castro's Cuba in 1994, and Mahmoud from Aleppo, Syria, in 2015. The story is told in alternating chapters, and it may be easier to read one character's story from start to finish. This is a must-read for upper elementary and middle school students.

Sticker Girl Rules the School

Janet Tashjian. Ill. Inga Wilmink. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Being a middle school student means trying to fit in. When Martina's magic stickers come alive, she is amazed. Her best friend joins in the sticker fun, and together they attempt to be elected class officers. When her sticker, Craig the Cupcake, nominates her for class president, the fun begins. Students will love the adventure, as it will "stick" with them for a long time.

***This Is Just a Test**

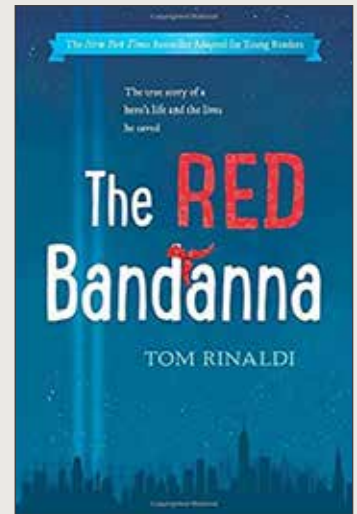
Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. Scholastic Press.

David Da-Wei Horowitz is a Chinese Jewish American caught between chaos in his family and his friendships. A story filled with cultural sensitivity, it touches on real-world issues of the 1980s, from bar mitzvahs to the Cold War to arguing grandmothers.

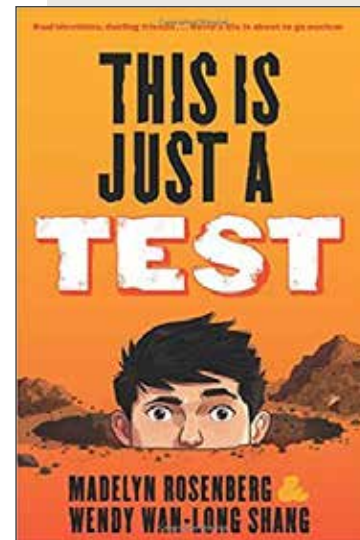
The Trials of Apollo: The Dark Prophecy (Book 2)

Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.

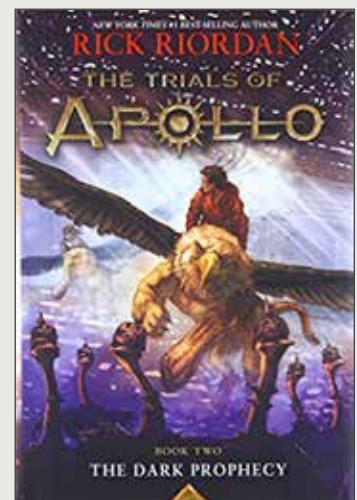
The Dark Prophecy is a continuation of the adventure of Apollo, who has been cast out of Mount Olympus and stripped of his godly powers. The challenge of finding and restoring the oracles, and the comedy of Apollo learning to use his new human body, will delight fans. Readers will love revisiting Camp Half-Blood and many of Riordan's characters from the Percy Jackson series.



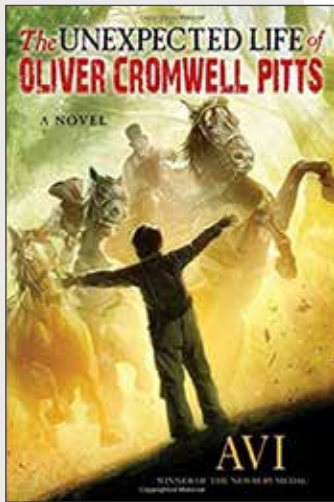
The Red Bandanna. Tom Rinaldi. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.



This Is Just a Test. Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. Scholastic Press.



The Trials of Apollo: The Dark Prophecy (Book 2). Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.



The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts. Avi. Algonquin Young Readers.

The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts

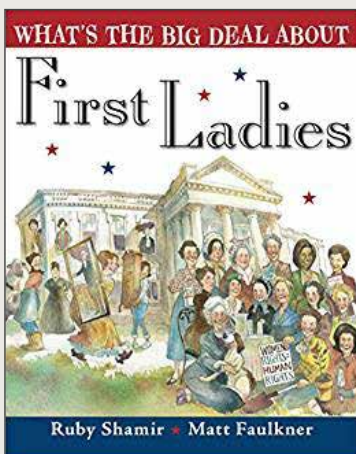
Avi. Algonquin Young Readers.

Oliver is left on his own after a terrible storm hits his English community in 1724. High adventure and near disasters meet Oliver as he tries to make his way to London to find his sister, Charity. Once in London and reunited with Charity, life does not calm down. Avi leaves readers hanging—will they survive? Readers must read book two to find out!

The Warden's Daughter

Jerry Spinelli. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Filled with an ongoing anger at being motherless, 13-year-old Cammie spends time with incarcerated women in Hancock County Prison. Although she is compassionate, Cammie's friend Reggie is fixated on an inmate who is a murderer, which disgusts Cammie. Two inmates help draw Cammie out of her deep depression.



What's the Big Deal About First Ladies. Ruby Shamir. Ill. Matt Faulkner. Philomel/Penguin Young Readers.

What's the Big Deal About First Ladies

Ruby Shamir. Ill. Matt Faulkner. Philomel/Penguin Young Readers.

Everything you've wanted to know about the position of First Lady is in this book. Questions such as, Why do we have first ladies?, What if the president's wife didn't want the job?, and more are answered in this informative text structured with questions and answers. Students get a glimpse of the inner workings of the U.S. government in this illustrated, engaging book.

What's the Big Deal About Freedom

Ruby Shamir. Ill. Matt Faulkner. Philomel/Penguin Young Readers.

Using accessible language for students and approachable illustrations, this book highlights the Revolutionary War, slavery, voting rights, workers' rights, and how we can continue to spread and celebrate American freedom. By including common features of nonfiction texts such as a timeline, sidebars, and a who's who of America's leaders, students are able to learn about the content and structure of a nonfiction book.



The Wizard's Dog. Eric Kahn Gale. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

The Wizard's Dog

Eric Kahn Gale. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Nosewise is rescued by the wizard Merlin from a life on the streets with other dogs. He loves his new life as a pet, working hard to please his owner by learning magic and tricks like sit and stay. Readers who love dogs will be sure to enjoy this humorous book of adventure, magic, and a talking dog.

*Titles that received the most votes

Titles listed in orange are finalists for the Children's Choice Book Awards.

Children's Choices 2018 Reading List

Beginning Readers (Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

- Alphonse, That Is Not Ok to Do!* Daisy Hirst. Candlewick.
- **Back to School With Bigfoot*. Samantha Berger and Martha Brockenbrough. Ill. Dave Pressler. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.
- **Billy Bloo Is Stuck in Goo*. Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Ross Burach. Scholastic Press.
- Bonaparte Falls Apart*. Margery Cuyler. Ill. Will Terry. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.
- Books That Drive Kids Crazy: Did You Take the B From My Book?* Beck and Matt Stanton. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
- Boo Who?* Ben Clanton. Candlewick.
- Danny McGee Drinks the Sea*. Andy Stanton. Ill. Neal Layton. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.
- Dog on a Frog?* Kes and Claire Gray. Ill. Jim Field. Scholastic Press.
- **An Elephant and Piggie Biggie!* Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
- Go Sleep in Your Own Bed!* Candace Fleming. Ill. Lori Nichols. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.
- Great, Now We've Got Barbarians!* Jason Carter Eaton. Ill. Mark Fearing. Candlewick.
- Green Pants*. Kenneth Kraegel. Candlewick.
- **Hair-pocalypse*. Geoff Herbach. Ill. Stephen Gilpin. Picture Window/Capstone.
- Harry the Hairy Fairy*. Pace Clinkscapes. Ill. Ügo & Toby. Club Drive Group.
- Hattie & Hudson*. Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick.
- How Do Dinosaurs Choose Their Pets?* Jane Yolen. Ill. Mark Teague. Blue Sky/Scholastic.
- If You Ever Want to Bring a Circus to the Library, Don't!* Elise Parsley. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.
- Mary McScary*. R.L. Stine. Ill. Marc Brown. Orchard/Scholastic.
- Monster's New Undies*. Samantha Berger. Ill. Tad Carpenter. Orchard/Scholastic.
- Morris Mole*. Dan Yaccarino. HarperCollins Children's Books.
- Pete With No Pants*. Rowboat Watkins. Chronicle.
- Please Please the Bees*. Gerald Kelley. Albert Whitman.
- Pig the Winner*. Aaron Blabey. Scholastic Press.
- **Poor Louie*. Tony Fucile. Candlewick.
- Pup the Sea Otter*. Jonathan London. Ill. Sean London. Graphic Arts.
- Splotch*. Gianna Marino. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.
- This Book Is Magic*. Ashley Evanson. Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin Young Readers.
- This Book Will Not Be Fun*. Cirocco Dunlap. Ill. Olivier Tallec. Random House Books for Young Children/Random House Children's Books.
- Triangle*. Mac Barnett. Ill. Jon Klassen. Candlewick.
- What the Dinosaurs Did at School*. Reife and Susan Tuma. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

- The Bad Guys in Attack of the Zittens (The Bad Guys #4)*. Aaron Blabey. Scholastic.
- Creepy Schools*. Kathryn Camisa. Bearport.
- Danza! Amalia Hernández and El Ballet Folklórico de México*. Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.
- The Dark Underground*. E. Merwin. Bearport.
- **Dog Man: A Tale of Two Kitties*. Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.
- Eugenia Lincoln and the Unexpected Package*. Kate DiCamillo. Ill. Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick.
- 50 Wacky Things Animals Do*. Tricia Martineau Wagner. Ill. Carles Ballesteros. Walter Foster, Jr./Quarto.
- Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History*. Walter Dean Myers. Ill. Floyd Cooper. HarperCollins Children's Books.
- The Great Art Caper*. Victoria Jamieson. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.
- **The Homework Strike*. Greg Pincus. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.
- How to Survive as a Shark*. Kristen Foote. Ill. Erica Salcedo. Innovation.
- Kobee Manatee: Shipwreck Sea Friends*. Robert Scott Thayer. Ill. Lauren Gallegos. Thompson Mill.
- Labyrinth*. Theo Guignard. Wide Eyed Editions/Quarto.
- **The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*. Drew Daywalt. Ill. Adam Rex. Balzer+Bray/HarperCollins.
- Lesser Spotted Animals*. Martin Brown. David Fickling/Scholastic.
- Manjhi Moves a Mountain*. Nancy Churnin. Ill. Danny Popovici. Creston.
- Moby Dick*. Herman Melville, retold by Philip Edwards. Ill. Adam Horsepool. Flowerpot.
- Moonlight Crab Count*. Dr. Neeti Bathala and Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Veronica V. Jones. Arbordale.
- Noodleheads See the Future*. Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Ill. Tedd Arnold. Holiday House.
- **Otis the Owl*. Mary Holland. Arbordale.
- Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*. Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth. Ill. Ekua Holmes. Candlewick.
- Pinto the Chisholm Pony*. Stella Dutton. Ill. Sergio Drumond. 405 Storybook.
- **The Robo-Battle of Mega Tortoise vs. Hazard Hare*. Stephanie Peters. Ill. Fernando Cano. Stone Arch/Capstone.
- Rosie Revere's Big Project Book for Bold Engineers*. Andrea Beaty. Ill. David Roberts. Abrams Books for Young Readers.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality*. Jonah Winter. Ill. Stacy Innerst. Abrams Books for Young Readers.
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- Spooky Libraries*. Jessica Rudolph. Bearport.
- Thunder Underground*. Jane Yolen. Ill. Josée Masse. Wordsong/Highlights.
- What Makes a Monster? Discovering the World's Scariest Creatures*. Jess Keating. Ill. David DeGrand. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

(continued)

Children's Choices 2018 Reading List (Cont'd)

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

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The End of the Wild. Nicole Helget. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Family Game Night and Other Catastrophes. Mary E. Lambert. Scholastic Press.

**Finding Mighty.* Sheela Chari. Amulet.

The Football Fanbook: Everything You Need to Become a Gridiron Know-It-All. Gary Gramling. Ill. Colin Hayes. Liberty Street/Time.

How to Be a Scientist. Steve Mould. DK.

In Darkling Wood. Emma Carroll. Delacorte Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Kate Warne: Pinkerton Detective. Marissa Moss. Ill. April Chu. Creston.

Let's Clap, Jump, Sing & Shout; Dance, Spin & Turn It Out! Games, Songs, and Stories From an African American Childhood. Patricia C. McKissack. Ill. Brian Pinkney. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

**The Losers Club.* Andrew Clements. Random House Children's Books/Penguin Random House.

Love, Ish. Karen Rivers. Algonquin Young Readers.

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal: The Stone Cold Age. Jeffrey Brown. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Malala: Activist for Girls' Education. Raphaële Frier. Ill. Aurélia Fronty. Charlesbridge.

The New Ocean: The Fate of Life in a Changing Sea. Bryn Barnard. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

Race to the Bottom of the Sea. Lindsay Eagar. Candlewick.

**The Red Bandanna.* Tom Rinaldi. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

Refugee. Alan Gratz. Scholastic Press.

Sticker Girl Rules the School. Janet Tashjian. Ill. Inga Wilpink. Henry Holt Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

**This Is Just a Test.* Madelyn Rosenberg and Wendy Wan-Long Shang. Scholastic Press.

The Trials of Apollo: The Dark Prophecy (Book 2). Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.

The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts. Avi. Algonquin Young Readers.

The Warden's Daughter. Jerry Spinelli. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

What's the Big Deal About First Ladies. Ruby Shamir. Ill. Matt Faulkner. Philomel/Penguin Young Readers.

What's the Big Deal About Freedom. Ruby Shamir. Ill. Matt Faulkner. Philomel/Penguin Young Readers.

The Wizard's Dog. Eric Kahn Gale. Crown Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

*Titles that received the most votes

More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2017–2018 ILA/CBC Children's Choices chair, team leaders, and review teams. The project member was Michelle Owen (chair). Team leaders in the field test were Nan Brandenbergerpayne (trainee), Pamela Farris, Terrilyn Lebel, Stan Steiner, Michele Svihovec, Amy Vessel, and Lark West (trainee).

To learn more about the Children's Choices project, including how to participate and access to previous years' reading lists, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

About the Children's Book Council

The Children's Book Council (CBC) is the largest nonprofit trade association for children's book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children's publishers, from smaller independent presses to large international houses, the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, diversity in employment and books, and literacy advocacy. For more information, visit cbcbooks.org.