
GUIDE BOOK TO GIFT BOOKS

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR YOUTH 2016

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE FINER GIFTS THAN BOOKS—they offer enjoyment, knowledge, and artistic stimulation. They're also gifts that go on giving without requiring any upkeep or cleanup, they're a cinch to wrap, and they're easily sent through the mail! All of these titles have been reviewed in the *Bulletin*, so they've been recommended by professionals. All were in print in the U.S. at the time of this guide's compilation, so they should be either in stock or quickly available through a special order from bookstores both brick-and-mortar and virtual.

You know your recipient better than we do, of course, so you're the best judge of a title's suitability and promise for an individual reader. We've included a broad range of styles, genres, subjects, and challenge levels (roughly divided by audience age), so whether you're looking for a cheerful picture book, an absorbing nonfiction title, or a pulse-pounding novel, there will be something here for the young person on your gift-book list.

While titles are sorted into four categories according to their most likely use—picture books for reading aloud to youngsters, books for primary-grades readers, books for middle-grades readers, and young adult titles—neither books nor readers are so easily categorizable, so we've included age/grade-range designations to help you get an idea of just who in that category is a title's likeliest audience. And since many books reach across category borders but could only be included once, you'll want to check the next category younger for titles whose audience stretches up into the higher age range.

—Deborah Stevenson, Editor
Kate Quealy-Gainer, Assistant Editor

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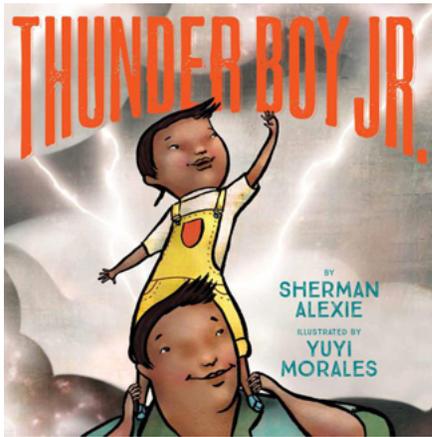


ADDERSON, CAROLINE *Norman, Speak!*; illus. by Qin Leng. Groundwood, 2014. \$17.95 5-8 yrs

A shelter dog doesn't seem to be able to learn commands, until a family learns that he is actually quite conversant, just in Chinese; retro ink and digital illustrations and ample white space reinforce the joyful, easy going vibe of the book.

ALEXIE, SHERMAN *Thunder Boy Jr.*; illus. by Yuyi Morales. Little, 2016. \$17.99 4-7yrs

As much as he loves his dad, Thunder Boy Jr. wants his own name; fortunately, his search ends with affection and affirmation in this beautifully told and joyfully illustrated book.



ANDREWS, TROY *Trombone Shorty*; illus. by Bryan Collier. Abrams, 2015. \$17.95 4-8 yrs

It's rare to get such a buoyant, detailed recollection of what led a brilliant musician to the field, but the author's voice is clearly present in this storytelling memoir.

ANTONY, STEVE *Please, Mr. Panda*; written and illus. by Steve Antony. Scholastic, 2015. \$16.99 4-6 yrs

Mr. Panda just wants animals to show some manners before he'll share; listeners who have their own strong sense of justice will appreciate this logic while also reveling in the black and white animals that set off the explosion of colors of the pastries.

APPELT, KATHI *When Otis Courted Mama*; illus. by Jill McElmurry. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

Blended families and new courtships can be tough for kids, and this accessible, amusing book, splashed with desert colors and landscapes, is a gentle introduction to the concept.

APPLEGATE, KATHERINE *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*; illus. by G. Brian Karas and with photographs. Clarion, 2014. \$17.99 6-9 yrs

The true story is pretty tragic, but Applegate keeps it accessible but still truthful in this powerful nonfiction account of Ivan, a gorilla raised in a mall until finally being moved to Zoo Atlanta.

ATTEBERRY, KEVAN *Bunnies!!!*; written and illus. by Kevan Atteberry. Tegen/Harper Collins, 2015. \$12.99 2-5 yrs

Irreverent drawings and hilarious minimal text highlight how obsessive focus with the unattainable (in this case, a monster really really wants to play with bunnies) can shift in an instant once it is gotten.

AUSTIN, MIKE *Rescue Squad No. 9*; written and illus. by Mike Austin. Random House, 2016. \$16.99 3-6 yrs

A coastal rescue squad dashes to save a stranded woman and her dog, but the real adventure for viewers is searching through the small and careful details in the bold illustrations.

BALDACCHINO, CHRISTINE *Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress*; illus. by Isabelle Malenfant. Groundwood, 2014. \$16.95 6-9 yrs

Morris loves the tangerine dress in the dress-up center of his classroom, and he won't be told otherwise in this effective and dreamily illustrated story that reinforces tolerance and inclusivity without ever becoming didactic.

BILDNER, PAUL *The Soccer Fence: A Story of Friendship, Hope, and Apartheid in South Africa*; illus. by Jesse Joshua Watson. Putnam, 2014. \$16.99 6-9 yrs

Rich acrylic paintings are paired with a gripping story of the African Cup of Nations, a soccer competition that galvanized a nation around supporting an integrated soccer team in South Africa.

BINGHAM, KELLY *Circle, Square, Moose*; illus. by Paul O. Zelinsky. Greenwillow, 2014. \$17.99 3-7 yrs

Anarchic fun disrupts what was meant to be an instructional tale about shapes; kids will revel in Moose's freneticism and joyful reinterpretation of life's rules.

BLACK, MICHAEL IAN *Naked!*; illus. by Debbie Ridpath Ohi. Simon, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$12.99 4-7 yrs

What's more fun than running around post-bath naked? This effervescent, carefully illustrated (all full frontals are cleverly obscured) book takes a look at a boy's joyful quest to keep the clothes off for as long as possible.

BLACKALL, SOPHIE *The Baby Tree*; written and illus. by Sophie Blackall. Paulsen/Penguin, 2014. \$17.99 5-8 yrs

The always tricky question of where babies come from is handled with grace in this thoughtful, gently humorous book about a boy who learns he will be a big brother but isn't quite sure how that is going to happen.

BOIGER, ALEXANDRA *Max and Marla*; written and illus. by Alexandra Boiger. Putnam, 2015. \$17.99 3-6 yrs

Soft tones of whites and blue accentuate the chilly but cozy fun Max and his pal Marla the owl have as they attempt to recreate winter Olympic sports.

BROWN, LISA *The Airport Book*; written and illus. by Lisa Brown. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2016. \$17.99 4-8 yrs

Viewers will pore over these busy illustrations, following the journeys of various passengers through the intricacies of air travel in this humorous but realistic picture book.

BYRNE, RICHARD *This Book Just Ate My Dog!*; written and illus. by Richard Byrne. Holt, 2014. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

The gutter of where the books pages meet the spine has never gotten much attention, but viewers will likely give it a cautious glance from now on after seeing it gobble up multiple items in this outlandish text.

CAMPBELL, SCOTT *Hug Machine*; written and illus. by Scott Campbell. Atheneum, 2014. \$17.99 4-7 yrs

This sweet, warm picture book about a boy who is so good at what he does that he is known as a hug machine will be the perfect tool for an adult reader who wants to encourage snuggling time with their own little one.

CHILD, LAUREN *The New Small Person*; written and illus. by Lauren Child. Candlewick, 2015. \$17.99 5-7 yrs

Once you've gotten used to being an only child, the addition of a new one can be quite the adjustment; Child's collage style and effortlessly diverse cast shine in this look at how, even with being forced to share, a new sibling can be a good thing.

CHIN, JASON *Gravity*; written and illus. by Jason Chin. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2014. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

This exceptional picture book explores the concept of gravity, and what would happen if it suddenly stopped working; dramatic illustrations offer high-impact spreads worth lingering over, giving enough time for some science to sink in as well.

CHOLDENKO, GENNIFER *Putting the Monkeys to Bed*; illus. by Kack E. Davis. Putnam, 2015. \$16.99 3-6 yrs

Audiences might not necessarily feel sleepy after this raucous tale but they'll certainly commiserate with the narrator, who's not quite ready to go to bed; playful, exaggerated illustrations amp up the humor.

CLARKSON, STEPHANIE *Sleeping Cinderella and Other Princess Mix-Ups*; illus. by Brigitte Barrager. Orchard/Scholastic, 2015. \$17.99 5-7 yrs

All the fairy-tale heroines are bored with their princess roles, so swaps galore happen, creating humorous chaos that is featured in both the retro illustrations and cheeky verse.

COAT, JANIK *Rhymoceros*; written and illus. by Janik Coat. Abrams Appleseed, 2015. \$15.95 2-5 yrs

In this rhyming concept book, stalwart rhino poses while the world changes around him, introducing readers to blurry, wired, bumpy, and other terms that they may have heard but can't quite define.

COLE, HENRY *Big Bug*; written and illus. by Henry Cole. Simon, 2014. \$14.99; e-book \$9.99 3-7 yrs

This elegantly illustrated, straightforward concept book explores size and perspective, impeccably showing young listeners how one's understanding of small and large can completely shift based on context.

COX, LYNNE *Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas*; illus. by Brian Floca. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 5-7 yrs

A wayward elephant seal who makes herself at home in the city, stylish illustrations of the urban cityscape in which Elizabeth plants herself, and a happy ending all make this fact-based tale a compelling read.

CRONIN, DOREEN *Smick!*; illus. by Juana Medina. Viking, 2015. \$16.99 2-4 yrs

Who knew how much could be accomplished with a few swooping lines (hello, dog!) and a couple dozen words? This irrepressible picture book celebrates the kinetic nature of dogs.

DE LA PENA, MATT *Last Stop on Market Street*; illus. by Christian Robinson. Putnam, 2015. \$16.99 4-8 yrs

This uplifting, gorgeous book gently presents volunteerism and community involvement as concepts to listeners who might not have done much of it yet; realistically drawn cityscapes round out the text.

DERBY, SALLY *Sunday Shopping*; illus. by Shadra Strickland. Lee & Low, 2015. \$17.95 5-8 yrs

The coziness of snuggling up with a beloved guardian for a playful weekly routine is undeniable, and the bright, cheerful illustrations reinforce the joy of this fantasy shopping trip.

DiPUCCHIO, KELLY *Everyone Loves Cupcake*; illus. by Eric Wight. Farrar, 2016. \$17.99 4-6 yrs

Puns abound in this unabashedly whimsical book about a sugary little treat and her desire to be liked by the delicacies around her.



DUBUC, MARIANNE *Mr. Postmouse's Rounds*; written and illus. by Marianne Dubuc; tr. from the French by Yvette Ghione. Kids Can, 2015. \$17.95 4-6 yrs

Fans of Richard Scarry's work will happily pore over the small details of the cutaways that reveal the goings-on in each house that Mr. Postmouse visits.

DURAND, HALLIE *Catch That Cookie!*; illus. by David Small. Dial, 2014. \$17.99 5-8 yrs

The title says it all: a cookie is on the run, and dubious Marshall is roped into helping to track it down.

DYCKMAN, AME *Wolfie the Bunny*; illus. by Zachariah O'Hara. Little, 2015. \$17.00 4-7 yrs

Sometimes, it takes someone else threatening what is yours to make you appreciate it fully, as in this whimsical take on a bunny who doesn't embrace her adopted wolf brother until a bear eyes him as lunch.

EDWARDS, GARETH *Never Ask a Dinosaur to Dinner*; illus. by Guy Parker-Rees. Scholastic, 2015. \$17.99 3-5 yrs

Well, obviously, but this creatively colored, humorous picture book details the seemingly endless reasons why large, obstreperous animals are almost always poor choices for dinner guests, living blankets, etc.

ELYA, SUSAN MIDDLETON, ad. *La Madre Goose: Nursery Rhymes for Los Niños*; illus. by Juana Martínez-Neal. Putnam, 2016. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

Elya has taken sixteen classic nursery rhymes and rewritten them with a Spanish flair; the bilingual text is accompanied by sunny, soft edged illustrations, giving the tales even more style.

ELYA, SUSAN MIDDLETON *Little Roja Riding Hood*; illus. by Susan Guevara. Putnam, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 6-9 yrs

This modern retelling offers rhyming couplets that detail a zippy Latina girl, our Little Red, who is taking soup to her grandmother; finely textured, vividly colored illustrations complement the text.

ESCOFFIER, MICHAEL *Take Away the A: An Alphabeast of a Book*; illus. by Kris Di Giacomo. Enchanted Lion, 2014. \$17.95 6-9 yrs

Teachers and parents will love the language arts curricular possibilities of this book that plays with the subtraction of key letters from words; the sly comedy will keep kids just as interested.

FARLEY, BRIANNE *Secret Tree Fort*; written and illus. by Brianne Farley. Candlewick, 2016. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

An exasperated older sister and her imaginative sibling butt heads when Mom sends them both packing outside on a beautiful, sunny day; mixed media illustrations follow the ensuing battle.

FAULCONER, MARIA *A Mom for Umande*; illus. by Susan Kathleen Hartung. Dial, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs

A baby gorilla whose mama can't care for him, expressive and direct text that evokes an emotional connection, and textured illustrations of captive gorillas all combine for a powerful look at the search for a caregiver for a baby gorilla in need.

FREEDMAN, DEBORAH *By Mouse & Frog*; written and illus. by Deborah Freedman. Viking, 2015. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

Mouse wants to tell a quiet story, Frog has huge ideas...can peace be reached between these two in this bouncy, warm picture book?

GALL, CHRIS *Dog vs. Cat*; written and illus. by Chris Gall. Little, 2014. \$17.00; e-book \$9.99 5-7 yrs

A dueling cat and dog ultimately bond over their uncertainty about the new pet in the house, a baby.

GANDHI, ARUN *Grandfather Gandhi*; by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus; illus. by Evan Turk. Atheneum, 2014. \$17.99 6-9 yrs

The stunning artwork in this picture book memoir extends the

simple, elegant story in skillful ways; the resulting look at a grandson's memories of his famous relative is haunting and memorable.

GAY, MARIE-LOUISE *Any Questions?*; written and illus. by Marie-Louise Gay. Groundwood/House of Anansi, 2014. \$19.95 6-8 yrs

Gay impressively takes something with which she has much experience, author visits to school, and draws on it to create a tutorial on the creation process from inspiration to final product in this clever book, complemented with mixed media illustrations.

GEHL, LAURA *One Big Pair of Underwear*; illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. Beach Lane/Simon, 2014. \$17.99, e-book \$10.99 2-5 yrs

You truly can't go wrong with underwear to amuse and delight youngsters, and when it's one seriously enormous pair, so much the better in this outrageous counting book.

GOODRICH, CARTER *Mister Bud Wears the Cone*; written and illus. by Carter Goodrich. Simon, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs

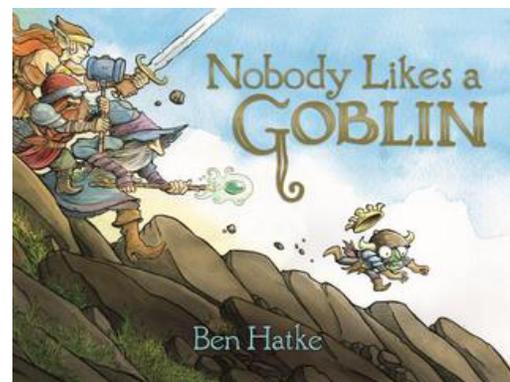
Poor Mister Bud has a hot spot that necessitates one of those dreaded dog cones; dramatically comedic illustrations keep things light and emphasize the temporary nature of this indignity.

GOLIO, GARY *Bird & Dig*; illus. by Ed Young. Candlewick, 2015. \$19.99 5-8 yrs

Parker and Gillespie have each had their own picture books, but this musical, freewheeling approach captures their energy as a remarkable duo.

GRAHAM, BOB *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*; written and illus. by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2015. \$17.99 3-6 yrs

Readers can follow the journey of the sun as it moves across the earth and touches spaces both grand and small; Graham's cozy watercolor illustrations are worth poring over.



HATKE, BEN *Nobody Likes a Goblin*; written and illus. by Ben Hatke. First Second, 2016. \$17.99 4-8 yrs

Actually, it's pretty certain that every viewer will like this particular goblin as he sets off to save his skeleton friend from marauding invaders (who look an awful like storybook heroes) in this subversive, amusing little book.

HALL, MICHAEL *Wonderfall*; written and illus. by Michael Hall. Greenwillow, 2016. \$17.99 4-6 yrs

A series of short poems, some rhyming and some not, describe activities that take place in and around a tree narrator as fall gradually changes to winter.

HOURLAN, LORI HASKINS *Next to You: A Book of Adorableness*; illus. by Sydney Hanson. Whitman, 2016. \$16.99 3-5 yrs

If you're looking for a baby shower gift, look no more; this amusingly self-aware book of doe-eyed, fuzzy, furry, cuteness earns its place in the nursery.

HYMAN, ZACHARY *The Bambino and Me*; illus. by Zachary Pullen. Tundra, 2014. \$17.99 6-9 yrs

A bonus audio version, a ballpark giveaway style treat fans will recognize, just adds to the fun of this humorous, eventful look at one boy's birthday trip to a 1927 Yankee game.

IERONIMO, CHRISTINE *A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water across the World*; illus. by Eric Velasquez. Walker, 2014. \$17.99 5-8 yrs

A girl who is adopted from Ethiopia continues to connect with her homeland through the universality of water (which is much scarcer where she comes from); startling illustrative shifts emphasize the differences between her two homes.

IMAI, AYONO *Puss & Boots*; ad. and illus. by Ayano Imai; tr. from the Japanese by Sayako Uchida; ad. by Kate Westerlund. Minedition, 2014. \$17.99 5-8 yrs

A streamlined plot and eye-catching, detailed illustrations make Puss and his shoe-driven adventures accessible to a young audience.

ISOL *The Menino*; written and illus. by Isol; tr. from the Spanish by Elisa Amado. Groundwood, 2015. \$19.95 5-8 yrs

Older siblings in particular will appreciate the dry wit of this picture book that depicts how new babies disrupt families in both bothersome and wondrous ways.

JUDGE, LITA *Born in the Wild: Baby Mammals and Their Parents*; written and illus. by Lita Judge. Roaring Brook, 2014. \$18.99 5-8 yrs

You can't go wrong with babies and their adults, and the illustrations stay firmly on the side of endearing and scruffily touchable rather than saccharine.

KARAS, G. BRIAN *As an Oak Tree Grows*; written and illus. by G. Brian Karas. Paulsen/Penguin, 2014. \$17.99 5-8 yrs

This extravagantly beautiful picture book shows the life of a tree, from an acorn in 1775 to a lightning strike in 2000.

KENNEDY, ANNE VITTUR *Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook*; written and illus. by Anne Vittur Kennedy. Candlewick, 2015. \$15.99 5-8 yrs

Viewers don't have to be of the canine family to appreciate the belly busting humor in this delightful tale of a dog who gets an A for effort...and a treat.

KIMMEL, ERIC A. *Simon and the Bear: A Hanukkah Tale*; illus. by Matthew Trueman. Disney Hyperion, 2014. \$16.99 6-8 yrs

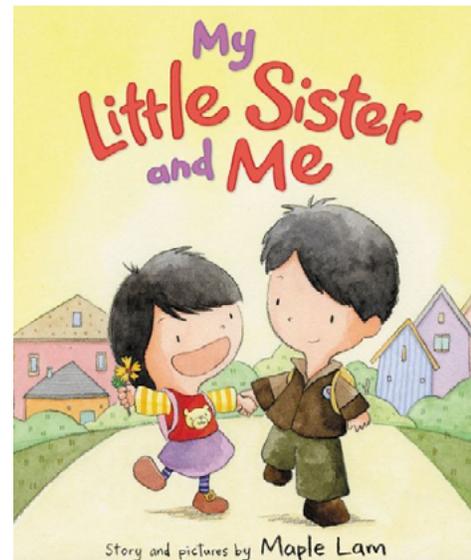
A boy experiences a Hanukkah miracle of his own when a polar bear saves him after the ship on which is traveling to America sinks in this picture book filled with shadowy blues and icy whites.

KNUDSEN, MICHELLE *Marilyn's Monster*; illus. by Matt Phelan. Candlewick, 2015. \$15.99 5-7 yrs

Monsters aside, this is one of the sweetest (but not overly so), cleverest, kindest books about belonging and the benefits of a best friend; expressive illustrations reinforce the text.

LAM, MAPLE *My Little Sister and Me*; written and illus. by Maple Lam. Harper/HarperCollins, 2016. \$17.99 3-6 yrs

The dialogue will ring true to older sibs put in charge of the littles, and the *Peanuts*-like illustrations give the book a classic feel.



LEATHERS, PHILIPPA *How to Catch a Mouse*; written and illus. by Philippa Leathers. Candlewick, 2015. \$15.99 3-6 yrs

Proof that mousing is not, perhaps, as instinctive as kittens seem to think, this winking picture book features a very clever mouse (disguises galore) and a confident, if not so astute, kitten.

LIGHT, STEVE *Boats Go*; written and illus. by Steve Light. Chronicle, 2015. \$9.99 1-4 yrs

Even the very young are often drawn to things that go, and this celebration of eight boats is a visual and sound effect feast; older children will quickly remember and be able to predict the text.

LONDON, JONATHAN *Hippos Are Huge!*; illus. by Matthew Trueman. Candlewick, 2015. \$16.99 4-8 yrs

Yup, and they're pretty incredible animals, from their poo-flinging abilities to their crocodile-battling strengths; exclamatory text and effective compositions cover everything from the peaceful to the extreme.

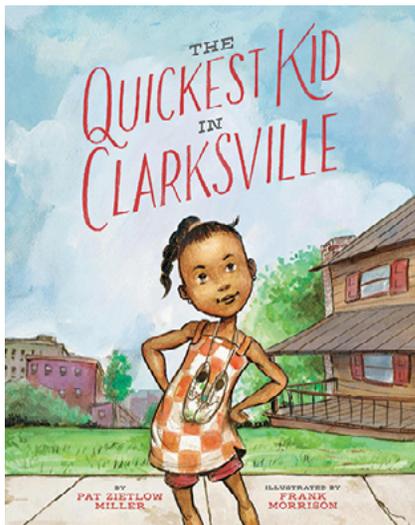
LOZANO, JOSE *Little Chanclas*; written and illus. by Jose Lozano; Spanish text by Luis Humberto Crosthwaite. Cinco Puntos, 2015. \$16.95; e-book \$7.95 5-8 yrs

This ebullient bilingual picture book highlights the obsessive attachment to a single clothing item that many kids have, and what happens when that item has finally, truly, had it.

MCCARTY, PETER *First Snow*; written and illus. by Peter McCarty. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2015. \$16.99 4-6 yrs
Colored inks and watercolors in washed out hues work perfectly to create this wintery world where a dog who is visiting canine cousins slowly learns to embrace winter.

MCCULLY, EMILY ARNOLD *Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story*; written and illus. by Emily Arnold McCully. Ferguson/Farrar, 2015. \$17.99 5-8 yrs
Young baseball fans aren't likely to know many (if any) female players by name, but they'll sure remember Lizzie after this electrifying short biography.

MILLER, PAT ZIETLOW *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*; illus. by Frank Morrison. Chronicle, 2016. \$16.99 4-8 yrs
African-American Alta, self-described quickest kid in Clarksville, gets a challenge from the new girl in the hearty tale of rivals becoming friends; the illustrations burst with serio-comic sass.



MİYARES, DANIEL *Pardon Me!*; written and illus. by Daniel Miyares. Simon, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$12.99 4-7 yrs
A grumpy parrot learns a harsh lesson about what happens when you ignore sound advice in this luminously illustrated, wryly humorous book with a surprise ending.

MURPHY, MARY *Say Hello Like This!*; written and illus. by Mary Murphy. Walker, 2014. \$12.99 2-5 yrs
This engaging concept book explores all the ways animals might say hello; listeners will cheerfully imitate and come up with their own to add to the mix.

NA, IL SUNG *A Book of Babies*; written and illus. by Il Sung Na. Knopf, 2014. \$15.99; board book \$6.99 3-5 yrs
Eight diverse animal babies are explored in all their baby glory in this (surprisingly informative) simple book that presents a swath of ways animals can grow up.

QITSUALIK-TINSLEY, RACHEL, ad. *The Raven and the Loon*; ad. by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley; illus. by Kim Smith. Inhabit, 2014. \$16.95 4-9 yrs
This appealing Inuit pourquoi tale offers a breezy look (further emphasized through the icy cool illustrations) at why Raven and Loon no longer share the same snow-white coats.

PATRICELLI, LESLIE *Toot!*; written and illus. by Leslie Patricelli. Candlewick, 2014. \$6.99; e-book \$6.99 6-36 months
What's funnier than passing gas? Not much, even to the youngest set, who will find the smiley protagonist's proclamations about where and when he "toots" to be a reassuring and joyful reminder that everyone does it.

PENNYPACKER, SARA *Meet the Dullards*; illus. by Daniel Salmieri. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2015. \$17.99 5-8 yrs
Watching paint dry and avoiding exclamation points might be enough for the parents in this astonishingly funny portrayal of a family, but their kids need more, perhaps a bit of color, wit, and even melodrama, all of which edge into the illustrations.

PORTIS, ANTOINETTE *Froodle*; written and illus. by Antoinette Portis. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 4-6 yrs
Silly wordplay and a winking irreverence for authority mark this book about a little bird who decides she has a lot more to say than just her usual peeping.

POTTER, ALICIA *Miss Hazeltine's Home for Shy and Fearful Cats*; illus. by Birgitta Sif. Knopf, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs
Shy kids will particularly appreciate this non-pushy but gently encouraging book about a quirky but much needed special home for shy cats (who end up having more spunk than they thought).

PRAP, LILA *Dinosaurs?!*; written and illus. by Lila Prap; tr. from the Slovenian. NorthSouth, 2015. \$8.95
Dinosaur fans especially will appreciate the humor of the literary device here, which has chickens being schooled by a knowledgeable red hen about their common ancestry with the extinct animals.

REX, ADAM *School's First Day of School*; illus. by Christian Robinson. Roaring Brook, 2016. \$17.99 4-7 yrs
You think kids are the only ones nervous for school? Oh no, School's got the jitters too, and his anxieties and triumphs on the first day will bolster young ones who are fretting as the end of summer approaches.

RUTH, GREG *Coming Home*; written and illus. by Greg Ruth. Feiwel, 2014. \$16.99 4-7 yrs
Get ready to sniffle as this spare look at one child's eager anticipation of a military homecoming grabs your heart; listeners will simply revel in the unadulterated joy even if they don't feel the worry beneath.

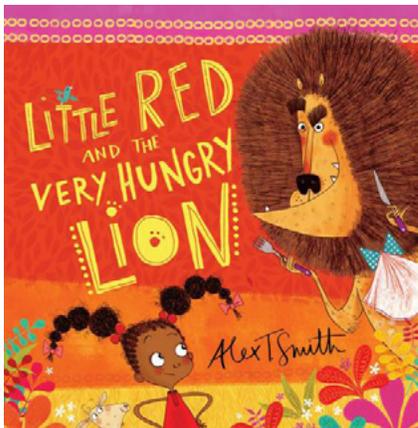
SARCONE-ROACH, JULIA *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*; written and illus. by Julia Sarcone-Roach. Knopf, 2015. \$16.99 5-8
Older readers may spot some prevaricating going on from the first page, while young listeners might miss the joke entirely; either way, this animated tale of a delicious sandwich stolen not by the dog narrator (honest!) but instead by a rogue bear is a treat.

SCHAEFER, LOLA *One Busy Day: A Story for Big Brothers and Sisters*; illus. by Jessica Meserve. Disney-Hyperion, 2014. \$16.99 3-6 yrs
Suspense on a backyard scale brings two siblings together as the older brother finally isn't too busy to join his adventuring little sister.

SCHOFIELD-MORRISON, CONNIE *I Got the Rhythm*; illus. by Frank Morrison. Bloomsbury, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 4-7 yrs
Rhythm is present in the chanting patterns, the bouncy illustrations, and in the vibe of the book itself as a girl wanders through the city she loves, finding reasons to snap, tap, and clap as she goes.

SHETH, KASHMIRA *Sona and the Wedding Game*; illus. by Yoshiko Jaeggi. Peachtree, 2015. \$16.95 5-8 yrs
This breezy look at weddings and Indian cultural traditions effortlessly informs while staying firmly on the side of girly fun.

SMITH, ALEX T., ad. *Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion*; written and illus. by Alex T. Smith. Scholastic, 2016. \$17.99 4-6 yrs
Textured, bold, and patterned art illustrate this African reboot of "Little Red Riding Hood," in which Little Red faces off with a hungry lion.



SPECTOR, TODD *How to Pee: Potty Training for Boys*; illus. by Arree Chung. Holt, 2015. \$12.99 2-4 yrs
This potty training book isn't for the faint of heart, with its wild encouragements to don a cape, fight fires, fill a riverbed, and other adventurous activities that will surely catch a toddler boy's attention, even while it might lead to quite a bit of...mess.

STANTON, KAREN *Monday, Wednesday, and Every Other Weekend*; written and illus. by Karen Stanton. Feiwel & Friends, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 4-7 yrs
The increasingly familiar shared custody situation is addressed in this ultimately joyful book about a boy who is adapting, with the help of his adorably illustrated dog, to having two homes.

STEWART, MELISSA *Feathers: Not Just for Flying*; illus. by Sarah S. Brannen. Charlesbridge, 2014. \$7.95 4-7 yrs
Even very young children will appreciate this lush, informative book about the myriad uses for feathers, and they'll linger over the stunning individual portraits of each highlighted bird.

SYMES, SALLY *Funny Face, Sunny Face*; illus. by Rosalind Beardshaw. Nosy Crow/Candlewick, 2015. \$14.99 1-3 yrs
Sunny mixed-media illustrations, multicultural kids and animals, and simple text (essentially a list of daily activities) are all elements that add up to irresistibility for young kids. Adorbs.

TRASLER, JANE *Bathtime for Chickies*; written and illus. by Jane Trasler. HarperFestival/HarperCollins, 2015. \$8.99 1-3 yrs
a trio of chicks romp through the farm trailing chaos behind them in this joyful rhyming board book.

UNDERWOOD, DEBORAH *Here Comes Santa Cat*; illus. by Claudia Rueda. Dial, 2014. \$16.99 5-7 yrs
In this seasonal picture book, Cat wants to be Santa so he can cash in by giving himself a gift, but he quickly learns that giving can actually feel just as good as getting. No, really.

VANDERWATER, AMY LUDWIG *Every Day Birds*; illus. by Dylan Metrano. Orchard/ Scholastic, 2016. \$17.99 2-6 yrs
Rhymed verses delineate characteristic of particular birds in this handy field guide for youngsters who are ready to make the animal identification leap from "bird" to "specific bird."

WAHL, PHOEBE *Sonya's Chickens*; written and illus. by Phoebe Wahl. Tundra, 2015. \$17.99 4-7 yrs
Budding naturalists will appreciate this warm but honest portrait of ecosystems that rely on predator/prey relationships.

WEILL, CYNTHIA *Animal Talk: Mexican Folk Art Animal Sounds in English and Spanish*; with sculptures by Rubi Fuentes and Efrain Broa. Cinco Puntos, 2016. \$14.95
Both bilingual and monolingual kids will enjoy Weill's latest collaboration with traditional artists—in this title, Oaxacan wood carvers—in a presentation that does double duty as concept book and art book.

ADLER, DAVID A. *Get a Hit, Mo!*; illus. by Sam Ricks. Penguin, 2016. \$14.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. K-2

A multicultural cast, a mixed-gender team, a female coach along with a serendipitous blunder are just a few modern updates to the classic baseball underdog story.

AMATO, MARY *Missing Monkey!*; illus. by Ward Jenkins. Egmont, 2014. \$4.99; e-book \$4.99 Gr. 2-4

The light, amusing text will entertain readers, even while the plentiful illustrations and large font will reassure even the youngest set that they can tackle this book about thieves, monkeys, and zoo hijinks.

ANDERSEN, HANS CHRISTIAN *The Snow Queen*; tr. from the Danish by Anthea Bell; illus. by Yana Sedova. Minedition, 2014. \$19.99 Gr. 2-5

This luxurious, dreamy book combines all seven of the original stories that make up the Snow Queen saga. *Frozen* aficionados in particular should take note.

ASTON, DIANNA HUTTS *A Nest Is Noisy*; illus. by Sylvia Long. Chronicle, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 2-4

All sorts of things live in nests, and this intricately illustrated short nonfiction entry covers everything from reptiles to fish to the expected birds.

BARDOS, MAGALI *100 Bears*; written and illus. by Magali Bardos; tr. from the French by Flying Eye Books. Flying Eye, 2014. \$19.95 Gr. 1-3

Retro graphic illustrations in vivid colors and a whole bunch of things to count marry happily in this gorgeous, silly book about bears and their party-having, hunter-evading adventures.

BARNETT, MAC *The Skunk*; illus. by Patrick McDonnell. Roaring Brook, 2015. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

Mid-century style illustrations and a formal writing style are the perfect choices for this unusual tale of a man and skunk, and some evolving questions about just who is following whom.

BECK, W. H. *Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights*; illus. by W. H. Beck and photographs. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. 17.99 Gr. K-4

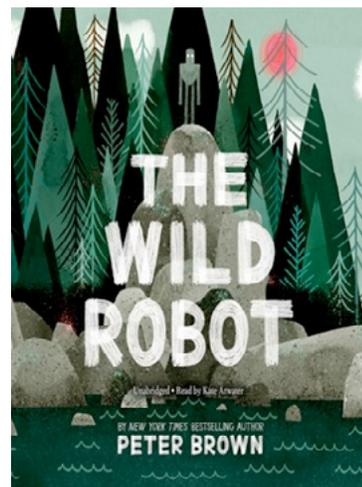
Gorgeous photos and a multi-layered text invites young readers of varying reading abilities to explore the natural phenomena of bioluminescence.

BROWN, DON *He Has Shot the President!: April 14, 1865: The Day John Wilkes Booth Killed President Lincoln*; written and illus. by Don Brown. Roaring Brook, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-6

This newest title in the Actual Times run uses the best elements of the series in the copious illustrations, fluid storytelling, and a fairly short length to tell the story of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

BROWN, GAVIN *Josh Baxter Levels Up*. Scholastic, 2016. \$12.99; e-book ed. \$12.99 Gr. 3-5

Video game references and 8-bit-like art make this story of an everyday kid trying to navigate the trials of middle school a winner for gamers, and it may even convince a non-gamer pick up that controller.



BROWN, PETER *The Wild Robot*; written and illus. by Peter Brown. Little, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

Elements of survival stories, family dramas, and animal tales combine in this elegantly told and unique story of a robot learning the ways of nature after being stranded on a lone island.

CHABERT, JACK *Poptropica: Mystery of the Map*; illus. by Kory Merritt. Amulet/ Abrams, 2016 \$12.95 Gr. 2-4

Fans of Poptropica will find much to enjoy in this graphic novel set in that world that follows the journey of Mya, Oliver, and Jorge as they stumble on a treasure map after being stranded on a desert island.

CINOTTO, LAURIE *Itty Bitty Kitty Committee*; illus. by Edward Miller; illus. with photographs by Laurie Cinotto. Roaring Brook, 2014. \$12.99 Gr. 3-6

Any cat fan will swoon over the exquisitely adorable kitten photographs, the clear and encouraging information about cat care, and the perfectly age-appropriate kitty projects that make up this gem of a feline book.

COATS, LUCY *Beast Keeper*; illus. by Brett Bean. Grosset & Dunlap, 2015. \$5.99 Gr. 2-4

This light-hearted, goofy look at what happens when a normal Greek kid suddenly learns that his dad is a god and he's been summoned to tame the beasts of Mount Olympus is sure to appeal to mythology fans.

COLOSSAL, ERIC *Rutabaga: The Adventure Chef*; written and illus. by Eric Colossal. Amulet/ Abrams, 2015. \$16.95; paperback \$9.95 Gr. 3-5

An intrepid chef arms himself with a pot and sets off to have adventures. Real recipes at the end compensate for the ones intricately drawn throughout that all feature fake ingredients.

COURTAULD, SARAH *Buckle and Squash: The Perilous Princess Plot*; written and illus. by Sarah Courtauld. Feiweil, 2015. \$14.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

Fans of Captain Underpants will be pleased to see that sort of humor and zippy pace can be captured just as well in this princess spoof.

COVERLY, DAVE *Night of the Living Worms: A Speed Bump and Sling Shot Misadventure*; written and illus. by Dave Coverly. Ottaviano/Holt, 2015. \$13.99 Gr. 2-3

The antics of Speed Bump, a sleepy bird who will do anything to beat his older brother to get the proverbial worm, will make kids giggle and remind siblings that they can still like each other without being like each other.

CRUSCHIFORM *Full Speed Ahead! How Fast Things Go*; written and illus. by Cruschiform. Abrams, 2014. \$18.95 Gr. 2-5

Who doesn't like things that go fast? Deco illustrations and well-fleshed out end matter give depth to extremely spare text.

DAUVILLIER, LOÏC *Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust*; illus. by Marc Lizano; color by Greg Salsedo; tr. from the French by Alexis Siegel. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2014. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

Both the layout of this graphic novel and the careful presentation of a grandmother's recounting of the Holocaust to her beloved granddaughter are clear and simple enough to be accessible to young readers.

DiCAMILLO, KATE *Leroy Ninker Saddles Up*; illus. by Chris Van Dusen. Candlewick, 2014. \$12.99; paperback \$5.99; e-book \$12.99 Gr. 2-4

DiCamillo returns to familiar territory for fans of the porcine Mercy Watson in this ridiculous, hilarious, slightly older look at Deckawoo Drive and the hijinks that always seem to occur there.

DOLAN, ELYS *Weasels*; written and illus. by Elys Dolan. Nosy Crow, 2014. \$17.99 Gr. 1-4

It's pretty clear that if any animal was going to be sneaky enough to take over the world, it just might be weasels, as Dolan illustrates in this snarky, detailed look at their world domination headquarters.

ENGLISH, KAREN *Skateboard Party*; illus. by Laura Freeman. Clarion, 2014. \$14.99 Gr. 3-5

This is solid, thoughtful material from an author who splendidly captures the not always flawless logic of kids, and the trouble they can get themselves into while trying to stay out of trouble.

GAIMAN, NEIL, ad. *Hansel and Gretel*; ad. by Neil Gaiman; illus. by Lorenzo Mattotti. Toon Graphic, 2014. \$16.95 Gr. 3-5

All of the creepiest, most haunting details of Hansel and Gretel are stunningly presented in this impeccably presented graphic novel/picture book hybrid.

GLASS, ANDREW *Flying Cars: The True Story*. Clarion, 2015. illus. with photographs. \$17.99 Gr.4-8

Detailed photographs, informative text, and the appealing premise of "why not?" will draw in aspiring inventors and engineers.

GOODMAN, SUSAN E. *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial*; illus. by E. B. Lewis. Bloomsbury, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 6-10 yrs

A compelling story of a black girl from Boston enrolling in an all white school nearly a century before integration, this makes clear that progress is a slow march forward, and young activists will be both in awe of and inspired by Sarah Roberts' tale.

GRANT, HOLLY *The League of Beastly Dreadfuls: Book 1*; illus. by Josie Portillo. Random House, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 3-5

This starter of a new series is a great mix of dumb humor, clever asides, and a strong narrative voice in Anastasia as she adjusts to living with her menacing but seemingly harmless great aunts.

GRAVEL, ELISE *The Fly; The Worm*; written and illus. by Elise Gravel. Tundra, 2014. \$10.99 Gr. 2-3

This series offers one key fact per page, lots of lively sidebars featuring underappreciated animals, and cartoonish illustrations, and fantastic subject matter that will appeal to kids who prefer their early readers to be nonfiction, and sometimes on the amusingly gross side.

GREEN, ROD *Giant Vehicles*; illus. by Stephen Biesty. Templar, 2014. \$15.99 Gr. 3-6

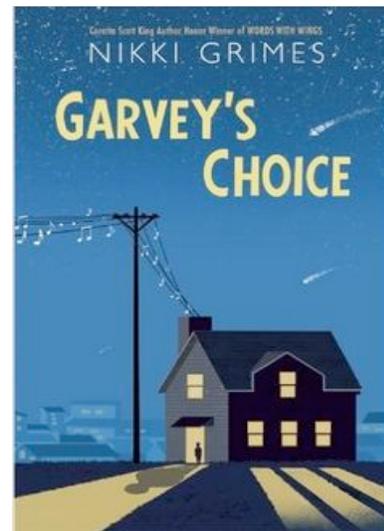
For any kid who thinks they are too old for a toy-book format, this is immediate proof that the lift-the-flap style can work well beyond early childhood; impressive facts and sophisticated artistry invite awe and multiple readings.

GRIMES, NIKKI *Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony Inspired by Historical Facts*; illus. by Michele Wood. Orchard/Scholastic, 2015. \$18.99 Gr. 3-6

This deft historical fiction novel draws from facts that are seamlessly woven into a rich, entertaining, sometimes painful look at two memorable women.

GRIMES, NIKKI *Garvey's Choice*. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2016. \$16.95; e-book ed. \$7.99 Gr. 3-5

Eloquent but simple verse follows African-American Garvey as he comes into his singing talent but still feels unloved and unwanted by his jock father.



HANLON, ABBY *Dory Fantasmagory*; written and illus. by Abby Hanlon. Dial, 2014. \$14.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 2-3

Six-year-old Dory has quite the imagination, and it is one her older siblings are willing to exploit when she won't leave them alone; kids on either side of this sibling balance will find a familiar voice herein.

HALE, SHANNON *The Princess in Black*; by Shannon and Dean Hale and illus. by LeUyen Pham. Candlewick, 2014. \$14.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 2-4

Whether they prefer pink sparkles or superhero capes, readers, especially newly independent ones, will get a kick out of PIB's exploits as she manages both tea parties and a monster invasion.

HENDRIX, JOHN *Miracle Man: The Story of Jesus*; written and illus. by John Hendrix. Abrams, 2016. \$18.95 Gr. 3-5

This retelling of three years of Jesus' public ministry unfolds with visual beauty and fluid prose.

HEOS, BRIDGET I, *Fly: The Buzz about Flies and How Awesome They Are*; illus. by Jennifer Plecas. Holt, 2015. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

Everything you ever wanted to know (and, quite frankly, did NOT want to know) about fly growth, habits, and gross-out behavior is present in this accessibly charming guide.

HOLM, JENNIFER *Comics Squad: Recess!*; ed. by Jennifer L. Holm, Matthew Holm, and Jarrett J. Krosoczka; illus. by Jennifer L. Holm, Matthew Holm, and Jarrett J. Krosoczka, et al. Random House, 2014. \$7.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 2-5

This fantastic collection of eight stories about recess gathers together some of the most impressive of writers for young readers, and adds the graphic novel format and trim size to make it a heady concoction of greatness for young readers.

JAMIESON, VICTORIA *The Great Pet Escape*; written and illus. by Victoria Jamieson. Holt, 2016. \$15.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 2-5

Class pets GW, Barry, and Boneyard the Biter all try to bust out of their elementary school prison in this appealing, accessible, and utterly hilarious graphic novel.

JANECZKO, PAUL *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems*; illus. by Melissa Sweet. Candlewick, 2014. \$16.99 Gr. 2-5

Stunning mixed-media art accompanies 36 poems, each a thoughtful pondering on the beauties of the seasons.

JENKINS, STEVE *Creature Features: 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do*; written by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page; illus. by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

A question and answer format is a brilliant way to present snippets of information about unusual animal features. Jenkins' familiar cut-paper illustrations work well to highlight the oddities in question.

JOHNSON, REBECCA L. *When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses*; illus. with photographs. Millbrook, 2014. \$29.27 Gr. 3-5

Crisp color photographs and a clean (albeit "blood"-spattered) layout make this combination of scientific investigation and gross out fun utterly appealing to fans of Shark Week and the like.

KEATING, JESS *Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals*; illus. by David DeGrand and with photographs. Knopf, 2016. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

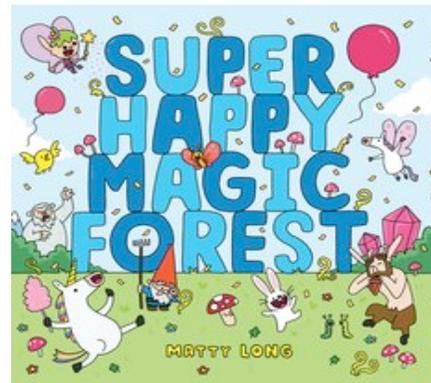
Sure, pink may have a special popularity among young girls, but it's also pretty cool in nature as the seventeen animals—from land, sea, and air—featured here demonstrate.

KID, CUBE *Diary of an 8-Bit Warrior*; illus. by Saboten. Andrews McMeel, 2016. Paperback \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

Diary of a Wimpy Kid meets video gaming in this illustrated book that will have Minecraft fans charged up.

LONG, MATTY *Super Happy Magic Forest*; written and illus. by Matty Long. Scholastic, 2016. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

Well, the forest is super happy and magical until—gasp!—the Magical Crystals of Life are stolen; a unicorn, a mushroom, a gnome, and centaur must journey to retrieve them in this delightful send-up of classic quest stories.



LYNN, SARAH *The Boulder Brothers: Meet Mo and Jo*; illus. by Pierre Collet-Derby. Blue Apple, 2014. \$12.99 Gr. K-2

Beginning readers will delight in the fact that cavemen speech is perfect for their budding skills. Add in some stinky humor and amusing illustrations and you've got literary gold.

MACLACHLAN, PATRICIA *Fly Away*. McElderry, 2014. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 2-4

A deceptively simple story illustrates the power of family and the majesty of music (both small, shared songs and larger talent), all while remaining accessible to early readers.

MATTICK, LINDSAY *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*; illus. by Sophie Blackall. Little, 2015. \$18.00 6-8 yrs

For the kid who has never quite been able to let go of their childhood love of Pooh and pals, this true story of the books' inspirations will be a true, honey-sweet treat.

MCGHEE, ALISON *Firefly Hollow*; illus. by Christopher Denise. Atheneum, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 3-5

Fans of Frog and Toad and *The Wind in the Willows* will enjoy this gentle, cozy animal fantasy that follows Firefly and Cricket as they find acceptance among new friends.

MESSNER, KATE *Marty McGuire Has Too Many Pets!*; illus. by Brian Floca. Scholastic, 2014. \$15.99; paperback \$5.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

This story about a girl who takes on way more than she can handle with an impromptu pet-sitting business is handled with grace and

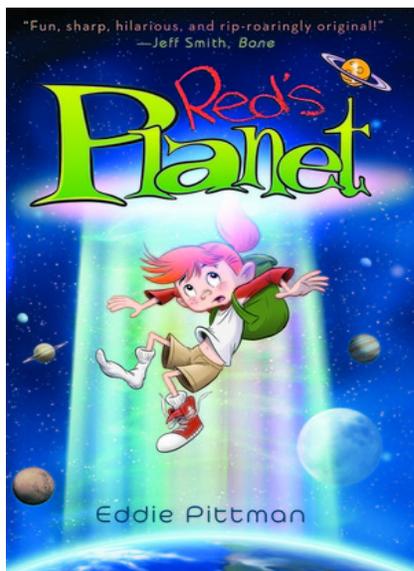
aplomb, guaranteeing reader sympathy for the protagonist; frequent illustrations break up the text effectively.

MILLS, CLAUDIA *Annika Riz, Math Whiz!*; illus. by Rob Shepperson. Ferguson/Farrar, 2014. \$15.99; paperback \$5.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

If only Annika could convince her friends that math was fun, she'd have so much to share with them; even mathphobic readers will find the cheerfully illustrated, enthusiastic story engaging and they may leave willing to try the sudoku puzzles Annika adores.

PITTMAN, EDDIE *Red's Planet*; written and illus. by Eddie Pittman. Amulet, 2015. \$19.95; paperback \$9.95 Gr. 3-5

Fans of *Zita the Spacegirl*, *Hilo*, or really any kid who's ready for some intergalactic antics will appreciate the quirky humor and thrilling adventure in this gem of a graphic novel.



NEWMAN, ALINE ALEXANDER *How to Speak Cat: A Guide to Decoding Cat Language*; by Aline Alexander Newman and Gary Weitzman, D.V.M.; illus with photographs. National Geographic, 2015. \$12.99 Gr. 5 up

Anyone who's ever been baffled by cat behavior will love this book, as it offers a heap of clear, engagingly written tips and tricks, alongside photographs of some seriously adorable felines.

ORCHARD, ERIC *Maddy Kettle: The Adventure of the Thimblewitch*; written and illus. by Eric Orchard. Top Shelf, 2014. \$14.95 Gr. 2-4 This is a perfect graphic novel for the young fans of the format, as the solid, firm text keeps the rather ominous illustrations in check, and the promise of a sequel gives them something to anticipate.

PATENT, DOROTHY HINSHAW *Super Sniffers: Dog Detectives on the Job*; illus. with photographs. Bloomsbury, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$6.99 Gr. 3-5

A photoessay format, newsy narrative style, and a straightforward

layout make this an ideal choice for young dog fans eager to learn more about what pooches can do.

PEARCE, JACKSON *Pip Bartlett's Guide to Magical Creatures*; by Jackson Pearce and Maggie Stiefvater; illus. by Maggie Stiefvater. Scholastic, 2015. \$16.99, e-book \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

Pip's well versed in Unicorn, Griffin, etc., it's just grown ups she has trouble understanding; snuggle-riffic magical creatures and a snarky narrator will guarantee returns for the promised sequel.

PILGER, SEAMUS *Fart Squad*; illus. by Stephen Gilpin. Harper/HarperCollins, 2015. \$15.99; paperback \$4.99; e-book \$4.99 Gr. 3-5

Well, there's no disguising what this book is about, but there are plenty of kids who will be elated to see it right there on the cover; spirited black and white drawings add further humor.

RACZKA, BOB *Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems*. Roaring Brook, 2016. \$17.99 Gr. 2-5

Raczka's poems pack a double punch, first with the deft shaping of the verses themselves, and secondly with visual twists built into each piece, making this a must-have for aspiring poets and artists.

REEVE, PHILIP *Pugs of the Frozen North*; illus. by Sarah McIntyre. Random House, 2015. \$12.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

The illustrations of the pop-eyed pups and their frozen follies give added quirk to Reeve's already delightful tale of Shen and his pal Sika's attempt to mush to victory in the Great Northern Race.

RHATIGAN, JOE *Inventions That Could Have Changed the World...but Didn't*; illus. by Anthony Owsley. Imagine/Charlesbridge, 2015. \$14.95 Gr. 3-6

The descriptive title sets the stage but doesn't do the cleverness of this book justice, as readers will be captivated by the numerous entries of awesome ideas that wound up being utter flops.

ROSENTHAL, BETSY R. *An Ambush of Tigers: A Wild Gathering of Collective Names*; illus. by Jago. Millbrook, 2015. \$19.99 7-10 yrs

Parents beware: you will be hearing lots of collective nouns, but at least they are fun, and the artwork is imaginative enough to invite repeat solo readings once you reach your limit of hearing what groups of wolves, hawks, moles, etc. are called.

ROY, KATHERINE *Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California's Farallon Islands*; written and illus. by Katherine Roy. Macaulay/Roaring Brook, 2014. \$17.99 Gr. 3-6

Detailed illustrations that don't skimp on the hunting part of shark life pair with conversational text about shark migrations in this action-packed gripper.

SIMPSON, DANA *Unicorn on a Roll: Another Phoebe and Her Unicorn Adventure*; written and illus. by Dana Simpson. Andrews McMeel, 2015. Paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

Phoebe and Marigold (an egocentric unicorn) have returned for another round of best friendship, witty takes on the world, and some minor school problems. *Calvin and Hobbes* fans take note!

SPIEGELMAN, NADJA *Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure*; by Nadja Spiegelman and Sergio Garcia Sanchez; illus. by Sergio Garcia Sanchez.

TOON Graphics, 2015. \$16.95 Gr. 3-6

Urban readers will be right at home with this zippy look at two kids negotiating the subway on a field trip.

STILLS, CAROLINE *Mice Mischief: Math Facts in Action*; illus. by Judith Rossell. Holiday House, 2014. \$16.95 3-6 yrs

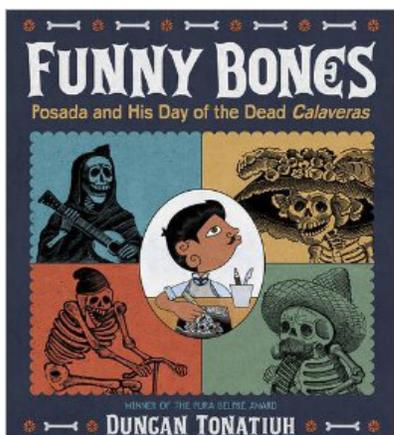
The intricate, detailed illustrations of this simple math book offer up very straightforward equations, and viewers will pore through this charmer often enough to catch the additional guidelines.

STURM, JAMES *Sleepless Knight*; written and illus. by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost. First Second, 2015. \$14.99; e-book \$14.99 Gr. 2-4

This dialogue-only story combines with cartoonish, accessible pictures to create a witty comic book style read that invites drawing experimentation once the knight finds his missing teddy.

TAVARES, MATT *Growing Up Pedro*; written and illus. by Matt Tavares. Candlewick, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 2-5

New Hall of Fame inductee Pedro Martinez gets his own picture book treatment in this high-energy, photorealistic narrative that goes from boyhood dreamer to adult baseball star.



TONATIUH, DUNCAN *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras*; written and illus. by Duncan Tonatiuh and with photographs. Abrams, 2015. \$18.95 Gr. 2-5

The playful skeletons associated with the Day of the Dead are fleshed out in this compelling look at Jose Guadalupe Posada, the nineteenth-century artist who made famous the comic cast of skeletons of the holiday's tradition.

VOAKE, STEVE *Hooy Higgins and the Tremendous Trousers*; illus. by Emma Dodson. Candlewick, 2014. \$14.99 Gr. 2-4

Fans of goofy humor will delight in this mix of exaggerated illustrations, amusing character development, and exploding pants (think cola and Mentos), a plot that can only result in delight.

WARDLAW, LEE *Won Ton and Chopstick: A Cat and Dog Story Told in Haiku*; illus. by Eugene Yelchin. Holt, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

Graphite-lined gouache art echoes the spareness of the verse while also adding humorous touches to the twelve sections that describe one cat's gradual acceptance of a new puppy.

WEING, DREW *The Creepy Case Files of Margo Maloo*; written and illus. by Drew Weing. First Second, 2016 \$15.99 Gr. 3-6

A brisk pace and witty banter elevate this graphic novel about young Charles, who's not that happy to be dragged off to Echo City and is even more dubious when Margo Maloo recruits him for monster wrangling.

WILLIS, JEANNE *Supercat vs. the Fry Thief*; illus. by Jim Field. HarperCollins, 2015. Paperback \$5.99 Gr. 2-4

This is good stuff: a french fry tinged with moldy sock is eaten by a cat who transforms into a guitar-playing superhero. Add in the skillful writing, loopy abandon of all logic, and funny as heck illustrations, and this is quite the find.

WINTER, JONAH *You Never Heard of Casey Stengel?!* illus. by Barry Blitt. Schwartz & Wade, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 2-5

Baseball fans will cheer for this appropriately playful biography of manager and self-proclaimed "goofball" who led the Yankees to seven World Series wins.

ACAMPORA, PAUL *I Kill the Mockingbird*. Roaring Brook, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-7

Three young teens decide to make the world read their late teacher's favorite book, starting with the fifty-mile radius around their town; smart characterization and compelling subplots enhance the story.

AGOSIN, MARJORIE *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*; illus. by Lee White. Atheneum, 2014. \$18.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 5-8

The fall from a charmed life, in this case triggered by political upheaval in Chile, changes a young, sheltered girl forever in this dazzlingly beautiful novel with equally stunning artwork interspersed.

ALBEE, SARAH *Bugged: How Insects Changed History*; illus. by Robert Leighton. Walker, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$12.95 Gr. 4-8

A witty, informative, newsy book about insects and all the ways, big and small, that they have impacted and altered human history.

ALBEE, SARAH *Why'd They Wear That?*; illus. with photographs. National Geographic, 2015. \$20.00 Gr. 5-9

Project Runway buffs will relish this brisk, amusing look at the history of fashion through the missteps and historical moments that changed clothing forever.

ANDERSON, JOHN DAVID *Insert Coin to Continue*. Aladdin, 2016. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Twelve-year-old Bryan's middle school has magically morphed into a video game in this quirky quest tale, one that will be a hit among gamers, especially those with a soft spot for nerd-turned-hero scenarios.

APPEL, MARTY *Pinstripe Pride: The Inside Story of the New York Yankees*; illus. with photographs. Simon, 2015. \$19.99, e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-10

In this adapted version of Yankees PR Director Appel's adult history, younger readers will find a trimmed down and peppy insider look at a team that is about as famous, and infamous, as they come.

ATKINS, JEANNINE *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science*. Atheneum, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

Vivid storytelling brings the lives of three female scientists front and center, laying out the obstacles they faced and the significant contributions they made and setting to rest the argument that math and science are a boys-only club.

AUXIER, JONATHAN *The Night Gardener*. Amulet/Abrams, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6

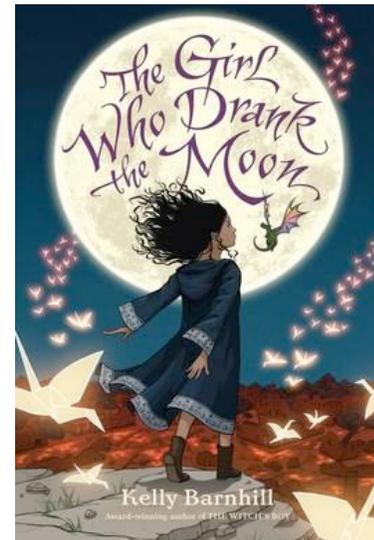
Nineteenth-century rural England provides the perfect spooky setting for this brilliant ghost story of a tree that may provide all you might wish for, but at an extraordinary cost.

BACHMANN, STEFAN *Cabinet of Curiosities: 36 Tales Brief & Sinister*; written by Stefan Bachmann, Katherine Catmull, Claire Legrand, and Emma Trevayne; illus. by Alexander Jansson. Greenwillow, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$6.99 Gr. 4-8

This spine-tingling collection of creatively organized stories offers a wide range of topics with something to amuse, and mostly terrify, any reader.

BARNHILL, KELLY *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Algonquin, 2016. \$16.95; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

Deeply emotional and highly readable, this fairy tale-like story is a unique mixture of humor (nothing's funnier than a sage but amusing swamp monster) and pathos, and it will stay with readers long after the final page.



BARNHILL, KELLY *The Witch's Boy*. Algonquin, 2014. \$16.95; paperback \$10.95; e-book \$7.95 Gr. 5-7

What happens when a sibling dies and you not only feel guilty but you also feel that most believe the wrong child died? This otherworldly novel examines desperation and loneliness with a gently optimistic view.

BAUER, JOAN *Soar*. Viking, 2016. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Baseball-crazy Jeremiah finds himself in the middle of the local scandal that erupts around the death of a star high school pitcher; a witty narrator and a brisk pace keep this one flying.

BECKER, HELAINE *Dirk Daring: Secret Agent*; illus. by Jenn Playford. Orca, 2014. \$9.95, e-book \$7.99 Gr. 4-6

This fast-paced, twist-filled middle-grades novel will keep readers on their toes, both with the sometimes challenging vocabulary but also with a (maybe) spy mystery.

BERTOZZI, NICK *Shackleton: Antarctic Odyssey*; written and illus. by Nick Bertozzi. First Second, 2014. \$16.99 Gr. 6-10

This graphic novel chronicle of Shackleton's expedition makes excellent use of the format, with gripping text and dramatic illustrations to convey the group's steely determination.

BIRDSALL, JEANNE *The Penderwicks in Spring*. Knopf, 2015. \$16.99, e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

Penderwick fans will already be pining for this book, but even kids who don't know the series will be able to dive in with this gentle, comforting look at families and all their complexities.

BIRMINGHAM, MARIA *Tastes Like Music: 17 Quirks of the Brain and Body*; illus. by Monika Melnychuk. OwlKids, 2014. \$17.95, paperback \$11.95 Gr. 4-8

There is a lot packed into this trim volume about the weird things our brains and bodies do; edgy spot art widens appeal to older readers as well.

BURNS, LOREE GRIFFIN *Beetle Busters: A Rogue Insect and the People Who Track It*; illus. with photographs by Ellen Harasimowicz. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. \$18.99 Gr. 4-7

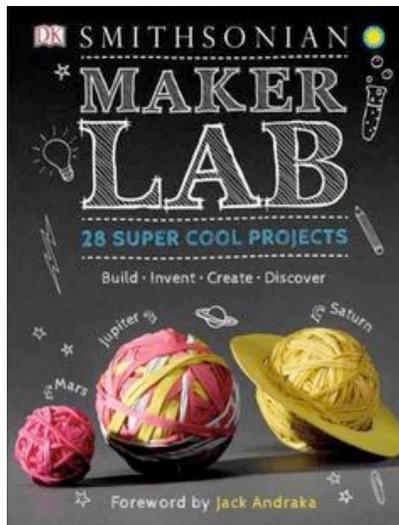
Middle grades nonfiction fans will be pleased to see such an intriguing, effectively developed book squarely in their age bracket, and budding entomologists will go nuts for the topic.

CAMPER, CATHY *Lowriders in Space*; illus. by Raul the Third. Chronicle, 2014. \$22.99; Gr. 5-9

The catchy but amiable story about friends trying to make the perfect lowrider becomes memorable gold when paired with unbelievably intricate colored pen drawings.

CASSIDY, SARA A *A Boy Named Queen*. Greenwood, 2016. \$14.96; e-book ed. \$12.95 Gr. 4-6

Queen doesn't give a hoot about what people think of him, his rainbow beads, or his shiny shorts, and it's this confidently carefree perspective that twelve-year-old Evelyn needs as she tries to find her own voice.



CHALLONER, JACK *Maker Lab*. Smithsonian/DK, 2016. \$19.99 Gr. 3-6
A slew of projects and experiments are offered here for young DIYers and aspiring scientists.

CROSSAN, SARAH *Apple and Rain*. Bloomsbury, 2015. \$17.99, e-book \$12.99 Gr. 6-9

Apple's poetry and snappy, witty dialogue round out this story of a teen and the family she dreams of as a contrast to the family she has.

DE LINT, CHARLES *Seven Wild Sisters: A Modern Fairy Tale*; illus. by Charles Vess. Little, 2014. \$18.00; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6

Lush illustrations and a traditional fairy tale format combine in this novel-length story about seven sisters and how they stop an otherworldly fairy feud.

EAGAR, LINDSAY *Hour of the Bees*. Candlewick, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 5-8

The story of twelve-year-old Carolina connecting to her Mexican American roots through the fanciful stories of her dying grandfather makes an appealing introduction to Latin American magical realism.

FAULKNER, MATT *Gaijin: American Prisoner of War*; written and illus. by Matt Faulkner. Disney Hyperion, 2014. \$19.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 4-6

Historical fiction in a graphic novel format examines the darkest undersides of Japanese relocation camps, and one teen's loss of innocence because of his time there.

FREEDMAN, RUSSELL *Because They Marched: The People's Campaign for Voting Rights That Changed America*; illus. with photographs. Holiday House, 2014. \$20.00 Gr. 5-9

Testimony, photographs, and skillful narration all come together to create a haunting and deeply engaging nonfiction account of the civil rights movement in Alabama, 1965.

FRY, MICHAEL *The Naughty List*; by Michael Fry and Bradley Jackson; illus. by Michael Fry. Harper/HarperCollins, 2015. \$12.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 4-6

Santa skeptics will find a kindred spirit in twelve-year-old Bobbie, who's decided that the legend of Old St. Nick is a farce—until she's kidnapped by elves and ends up in the North Pole in this campy, hilarious, illustrated novel.

GAVIN, ROHAN *Knightley & Son: Cracking the Code*. Bloomsbury, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$5.99 Gr. 5-7

Classic detective tropes are filtered through the mind of a kid genius, who takes over his father's detective files when his dad falls into a coma.

GIFF, PATRICIA REILLY *Winter Sky*. Lamb, 2014. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$5.99 Gr. 4-7

A realistic look at the life of the kid of a firefighter who knows her parent goes off to danger each time, made particularly poignant by the fact that this is the only parent the protagonist has left; lyrical and gripping writing moves the story from fear to hope.

GRAFF, LISA *Absolutely Almost*. Philomel, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-6

Albie just hasn't found the right fit yet for his quirky, not by the books understanding of school, life, and friendship in this intelligent, sharp portrait of an outsider's inner perspective.

GRAU, SHEILA *Dr. Critchlore's School for Minions*; illus. by Joe Sutphin. Amulet/Abrams, 2015. \$14.95; e-book \$14.95 Gr. 4-6

This rich cast of characters highlights the conflicts that arise when you're training henchmen and sidekicks.

GREEN, TIM *First Team*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$6.99 Gr. 4-6

When you mix football and undercover government dealings, and then add in a coma and identity change, you get something that sports buffs and spy fans will both appreciate.

GROVE, S.E. *The Glass Sentence*. Viking, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 5-8

Cartography is proven to be cool in this emotionally engaging, artsy novel about a world where time and location have all been shifted around, and one small group must battle against a brilliantly developed villain to save the day.

GROVE, TIM *First Flight Around the World: The Adventures of the American Fliers Who Won the Race*; illus. with photographs. Abrams, 2015. \$21.95 Gr. 4-8

Journal entries, photographs, and the intrinsic adventure of the story itself combine to make an unforgettable account of the first air race around the world.

HANNIGAN, KATE *The Detective's Assistant*. Little, 2015. \$17.00, e-book \$6.99 Gr. 4-6

The first female detective, Kate Warner, gets a fictionalized nod in this intriguing, historically sound look at a teen who wants to prove her worth to her detective aunt.

HARROLD, A.E. *The Imaginary*; illus. by Emily Gravett. Bloomsbury, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 4-6

The magnificent illustrations in this middle-grades novel about imaginary friends and what happens to them when they are outgrown are ideal for slowing the reader, opening spaces to contemplate the melancholy that hovers at the surface of this elegant novel.

HARTNETT, SONYA *The Children of the King*. Candlewick, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

This richly layered, sophisticated story about a group of English children and how they cope with war from their safe country home is a plot that appears to be familiar, though there is always more to uncover.

HAUTALA, BETH *Waiting for Unicorns*. Philomel, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-6

This is a searing, exquisitely beautiful look at grief set in an icy, frigid location that reflects the expanse of emptiness inside a girl whose mother has recently died.

HEOS, BRIDGET *It's Getting Hot in Here: The Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 5-9

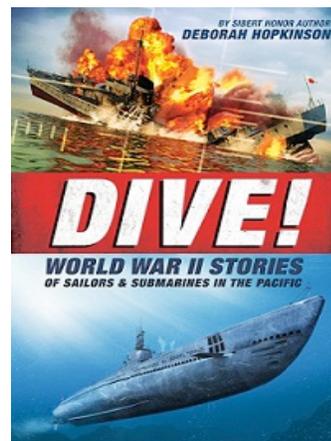
Heos's look at the climate crisis just doesn't just document its history but serves as a call to action, giving tips for kids' everyday conservation and providing organizations that readers can get involved with.

HELLISEN, CAT *Beastkeeper*. Holt, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 6-9

Family curses, beasts, and a girl caught in the middle of a long-standing feud all converge in this startling, elegant fairy/folktale that glances off "Beauty and the Beast" but mostly takes a path all its own.

HENDRIX, JOHN *Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914*; written and illus. by John Hendrix. Abrams, 2014. \$18.95 Gr. 4-6

Kids will likely not yet know this remarkable story, a day when fighting stopped during WWI, and this book presents the incident with enough historical context to make sense while also carefully honing in on the temporary truce.



HOPKINSON, DEBORAH *Dive!: World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines in the Pacific*. Scholastic, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-9

History buffs are the obvious choice to enjoy this exploration of four different Allied underwater missions, but adventure fans will be riveted by the first person accounts that make the danger and heroism even more compelling.

IBBOTSON, EVA *The Abominables*; illus. by Fiona Robinson. Amulet, 2014. \$16.95; paperback \$8.95; e-book \$8.95 Gr. 4-6

This subtle gem of a novel seems to be about yeti and humans and the places they converge but manages to work in issues of human rights and advocacy within the adventurous plot.

JAMIESON, VICTORIA *Roller Girl*; written and illus. by Victoria Jamieson. Dial, 2015. \$13.99; \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

The zippy, high energy graphic novel captures all of the excitement, danger, and kinetic frenzy of roller derby through the perspective of a newbie whose determination outstrips her talent.

JARROW, GAIL *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary*; illus. with photographs. Calkins Creek, 2015. \$16.95 Gr. 5-9

It's impossible to not have heard of Typhoid Mary, but readers are unlikely to know the full story of the woman who elucidated how deadly a carrier could be; this stunning story tells the tale.

JOBIN, MATTHEW *The Nethergrim*. Philomel, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 6-8

A spooky novel about the unlikeliest of heroes, a trio of kids each told they are not good enough, and the genuinely creepy monster they must face in order to save the day.

JOHNSON, PETER *The Life and Times of Benny Alvarez*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-7

A funny, smart novel about a seventh-grader who faces a list of everyday challenges with a perspective that is part swagger, part negativity, and part understanding, even at a fairly young age, that he is still lucky.

JOHNSON, REBECCA L. *Chernobyl's Wild Kingdom: Life in the Dead Zone*; illus. with photographs. Twenty-First Century, 2014. \$34.60 Gr. 6-10 Even if readers haven't heard of Chernobyl, this book will quickly get them up to date and then set them loose contemplating nuclear fallout, human-generated disasters, and what can survive or revive in presumed dead zones.

JOHNSON, VARIAN *The Great Greene Heist*. Levine/Scholastic, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$3.99 Gr. 5-9

A breezy, lightning-paced novel about a brilliant middle school kid who can't stop searching for the next big heist.

KEPLINGER, KODY *The Swift Boys & Me*. Scholastic, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.49 Gr. 4-6

A warm, complex tale of one girl's summer and all the ways her life changes during it, from friendship to family turmoil, and back to amiable summer ambling by the end.

LATHAM, IRENE *Dear Wandering Wildebeest and Other Poems From the Water Hole*; illus. by Anna Wadham. Millbrook, 2014. \$17.95 Gr. 3-6 Fifteen poems capture the denizens of the African watering hole, with mixed media art further enhancing the immersive experience of the evocative poetry.

LA VALLEY, JOSANNE *The Vine Basket*. Clarion, 2013. \$16.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 5-8

The ability to make beautiful woven baskets may hold all of the opportunities of which Mehrgul, a fourteen-year-old Chinese girl, has long dreamed in this emotional, spare story of hope.

LEGRAND, CLAIRE *Some Kind of Happiness*. Simon, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

Any kid labeled "sensitive" will take heart from this tender yet magical story that follows eleven-year-old Finley and the fantastical stories she creates to deal with overwhelming emotions.

LEVINE, GAIL CARSON *Writer to Writer: From Think to Ink*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2014. \$16.99, paperback \$6.99 Gr. 6-12

Writers to be, take note! In blog entries expanded and compiled, Levine offers excellent advice from the practical to the philosophical on how to move from vague aspiration to being a writer.

LIEB, JOSH *Ratscalibur*; illus. by Tom Lintern. Razorbill, 2015. \$16.99; \$8.99; \$10.99 Gr. 4-6

As if learning the streets of New York isn't hard enough, this poor seventh-grader gets turned into a rat and must now undergo a life-altering quest to get himself re-humanized.

LOWERY, LYNDA BLACKMON *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*; as told to Elspeth Leacock and

Susan Buckley; illus. by PJ Loughran and with photographs. Dial, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-9

Kids who want to ask someone who grew up in this era will likely be addressed in this personal narrative, accented with photographs well-chosen for the audience.

MARTIN, GEORGE R.R. *The Ice Dragon*; illus. by Luis Royo. Tor Teen, 2014. \$14.99, e-book \$9.99 Gr. 5-8

The author's name will surely grab attention, and this folkloric, startling novel about a girl and an ice dragon merits it.

MARTIN, ANN M. *Rain Reign*. Feiwel, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

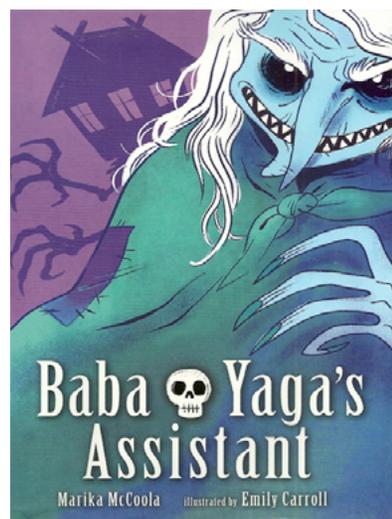
Rose is a kid that readers would like to get know, even with her need to have everyone follow the rules and her obsessive love for homonyms; offer this in particular to kids who know peers on the spectrum.

MATEO, JOSÉ MANUEL *Migrant*; illus. by Javier Martínez Pedro; tr. from the Spanish by Emmy Smith Ready. Abrams, 2014. \$17.95 Gr. 5-8

A nameless narrator describes the experience of an undocumented migration in this title; the unusual Aztec-inspired ink illustration on an accordion-fold codex makes the physical object of the book itself as intriguing as the content.

MCCOOLA, MARIKA *Baba Yaga's Assistant*; illus. by Candlewick, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

Folktales brushes up against modern life when a teen decides to choose magic over reality in this brilliantly designed graphic novel.



MONTGOMERY, SY *The Octopus Scientist; Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk*; illus. with photographs by Keith Ellenbogen. Houghton Mifflin, 2015. \$18.99 Gr. 5-8

Older kids will likely already know a few cool facts about the astonishing octopus, but this nonfiction title goes well beyond the well-known stuff, not only detailing more about the mollusk but also presenting a startlingly high-intensity account of research on them.

MORRISON, MEGAN *Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel*. Levine/Scholastic, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$14.99 Gr. 5-8

In this version, Rapunzel doesn't think she needs to be rescued, but her carefully constructed life begins to fall apart once she exits the tower.

NAGAI, MARIKO *Dust of Eden*. Whitman, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$6.99 Gr. 4-7

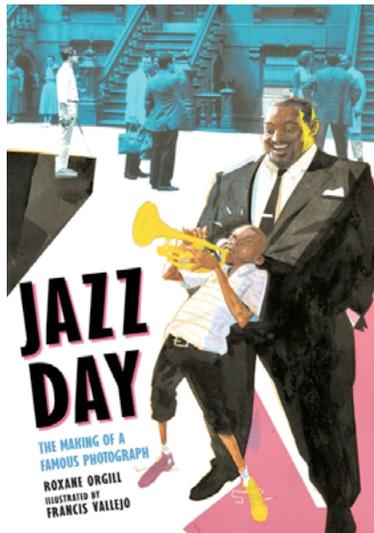
Gripping free verse offers insight into the mind of a Japanese-American girl who is moved from her Seattle home to a relocation center during WWII.

NOYES, DEBORAH *Ten Days a Madwoman: The Daring Life and Turbulent Times of the Original "Girl" Reporter Nellie Bly*. Viking, 2016. \$18.99; paperback \$8.00; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

This fascinating biography of a woman who snubbed the norms of her time as an investigative reporter will delight aspiring journalists and any reader looking for an exciting "you are there" read.

ORGILL, ROXANE *Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph*; illus. by Francis Vallejo. Candlewick, 2016. \$18.99 Gr. 5-8

Orgill's verse creates a freewheeling, wonderfully entertaining vision of the creation of an iconic photograph of the New York jazz scene.



PENNYPACKER, SARA *Pax*; illus. by Jon Klassen. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 4-7

Dual narration follows Peter and his pet fox in their desperate search for each other after the two are separated by war; animal lovers will find this a powerful, moving read (and might need a few tissues for the tear-jerking ending).

PETRUCK, REBECCA *Steering Toward Normal*. Amulet/Abrams, 2014. \$16.95; e-book \$16.95 Gr. 6-10

A warm, carefully developed novel about two young teens who discover that they are bonded by more than their individual but similar losses: they are actually half-brothers.

PHELAN, MATT *Snow White*; written and illus. by Matt Phelan. Candlewick, 2016. \$19.99 Gr. 4-6

The gritty graphic novel that resets Snow White and her story in 1920s New York will find a welcome home with fairy-tale fans who have outgrown the Disney version but still find the tale compelling.

POWELL, PATRICIA HRUBY *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker*; illus. by Christian Robinson. Chronicle, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$12.99 Gr. 2-5

This jazzy, lively biography of Josephine Baker embodies the determination, beauty, and free spirit of the woman herself.

PRATCHETT, TERRY *Dragons at Crumbling Castle and Other Tales*; illus. by Mark Beech. Clarion, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 4-6

Given the fact that these fourteen stories were all written by Pratchett as a teenager, the genius, eye for the absurd, and pithiness present is even more remarkable.

QITSUALIK-TINSLEY, RACHEL *Skrælings*; written by Rachel and Sean Qitsualik-Tinsley; illus. by Andrew Trabbold. Inhabit, 2014. \$10.95 Gr. 4-6

This compelling story of an Inuit hunter who stumbles upon a Viking invasion, and whose life is changed forever when he decides to help, is a warm stew of fiction, nonfiction, and legend.

RIORDAN, RICK *The Sword of Summer*. Disney Hyperion, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

Riordan fans will be thrilled by the author's new series featuring Norse gods; terrific plotting, an appealing cast, and the author's ever successful mix of humor and adventure make this a must have.

RUBIN, SUSAN GOLDMAN *Freedom Summer: The 1964 Struggle for Civil Rights in Mississippi*; illus. with photographs. Holiday House, 2014. \$18.95; paperback \$14.95 Gr. 6-10

This searing account of the summer of 1964 and civil rights struggles in Mississippi is told with impeccable storytelling ability, first-person accounts and photographs, and extensive, compelling end matter.

RUNDELL, KATHERINE *The Wolf Wilder*. Simon, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

A wise and witty narrator guides readers through this folkloric tale that follows one headstrong girl and her wolves as she tries to find her missing mother during Russia's 1917 February Revolution.

RYAN, PAM MUNOZ *Echo*; illus. by Dinara Mirtalipova. Scholastic, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$19.99 Gr. 6-9

A harmonica is the central thread that ties together multiple stories set in different locations and historical eras; the idea that music transcends boundaries is effectively presented here.

SAUNDERS, KATE *Five Children on the Western Front*. Delacorte, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

Fans of E. Nesbit's *Five Children and It* won't want to miss Saunders' homage, in which the sand fairy's magic provides both wonder and comfort to the now older children as they cope with the harsh realities of World War I.

SELZNICK, BRIAN *The Marvels*; written and illus. by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 2015. \$32.99

A family legacy unfolds in this melancholy but warm novel that combines text with Selznick's characteristically stunning hatched pencil illustrations.

SENZAI, N. H. *Saving Kabul Corner*. Wiseman/Simon, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

A smart, layered mystery takes place in a multicultural suburban region, and two preteen girls will be changed for the better because of it.

SIS, PETER *The Pilot and the Little Prince: The Life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry*; written and illus. by Peter Sis. Foster/Farrar, 2014. \$18.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 4-8

Sis is perhaps the ideal person to tackle such a project, as his dreamy, otherworldly, artistic style pervades both the illustrations and the story format, resulting in a rich, stunning glimpse into the life of the man who created an iconic book.

SKYE, OBERT *Witherwood Reform School*; illus. by Keith Thompson. Ottaviano/Holt, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6
Lemony Snicket fans will appreciate this bleakly humorous cautionary tale about the fate of rascal kids who push their long-suffering parents too far.

SMITH, RONALD L. *Hoodoo*. Clarion, 2015. \$16.99; \$9.99 Gr. 5-8

The straightforward plot and creepy atmosphere give both an accessibility and a chill to this story that follows twelve-year-old Hoodoo's battle with a demon in 1930s Alabama.

SONNICHSEN, A. L. *Red Butterfly*; illus. by Amy June Bates. Simon, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 5-7

This startling verse novel about international adoption, and the ways in which illicit or informal channels can make home a transient, temporary element long after the heart has settled, will haunt readers long after the final page.

SPINELLI, EILEEN *Another Day as Emily*; illus. by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff. Knopf, 2014. \$12.99; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 4-6

This free-verse examination of the trickiness of being a tween elegantly captures the drama and humor of a girl who declares herself Emily Dickinson after a series of exasperating events makes her tired of being herself.

STEAD, REBECCA *Goodbye Stranger*. Lamb, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

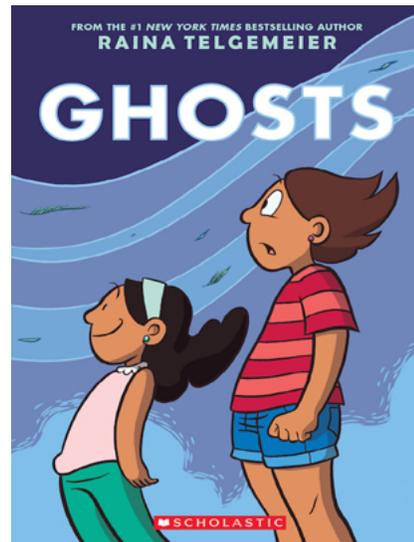
Stead carefully weaves three narratives together to create a thoughtful, compassionate look at the changing friendships, new identities, and shifting relationships that all must be navigated in middle school.

STEWART, TRENTON LEE *The Secret Keepers*; illus. by Diana Sudyka. Tingley/Little, 2016. \$18.99; e-book ed. \$9.99 Gr. 5-7

Fans of the Mysterious Benedict Society series will be thrilled by Stewart's latest story, offering up a bit of dystopia, a bit of maritime mystery, a bit of magic, and centered around a lonely kid who deserves the good that finally comes to him.

TELGEMEIER, RAINA *Ghosts*; written and illus. by Raina Telgemeier. Graphix/Scholastic, 2016. Gr. 4-6 \$24.99; paper ed. \$10.99; e-book \$10.99

In this spirited but emotive graphic novel, Cat worries over her sister's struggle with cystic fibrosis as the residents of her new town prepare for the Day of the Dead celebrations.



THOMPSON, CRAIG *Space Dumplings*; written and illus. by Craig Thompson. Graphix/Scholastic, 2015. \$24.99; paperback \$14.99; e-book \$14.99

Readers who have graduated from Ben Hatke's *Zita the Spacegirl* will find this a delightful step up that focuses on a kid who tackles space, aliens, and her own insecurities.

TOLSTIKOVA, DASHA *A Year Without Mom*; written and illus. by Dasha Tolstikova. Groundwood, 2015. \$19.95; e-book \$16.95 Gr. 5-8

This beautifully illustrated novel blends events large and small during a pivotal year in twelve-year-old Dasha's life as she stays with her grandparents in Moscow in 1991.

TOOR, RACHEL *Misunderstood: Why the Humble Rat May Be Your Best Pet Ever*. Farrar, 2016. \$17.99 Gr. 6-9

Rats are gross, right? Well, not according to Toor, and she uses a series of personal anecdotes and scientific research to try to convert the rat-averse into potential rat-lovers—or at least rat conservationists.

TRIPP, BEN *The Accidental Highwayman*; written and illus. by Ben Tripp. Tor, 2014. \$17.99, e-book \$9.99 Gr. 6-9

Gaiman and *The Princess Bride* fans will find much to delight in with this story of spell casting, sword fighting, and adventure.

UNSWORTH, TANIA *Brightwood*. Algonquin, 2016. \$16.95; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-7

Eleven-year-old Daisy has never stepped foot outside the sprawling, crumbling estate of Brightwood Hall, but when her mom goes missing, Daisy is forced to reckon with her family's tragic past.

VERNON, URSULA *Castle Hangnail*. Dial, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 4-6

Castle Hangnail needs a new master or mistress to wrangle its minions and twelve-year-old Molly may be just the one for the job in this humorous outing reminiscent of Eva Ibbotson's works.

VOLPONI, PAUL *Game Seven*. Viking, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 6-9

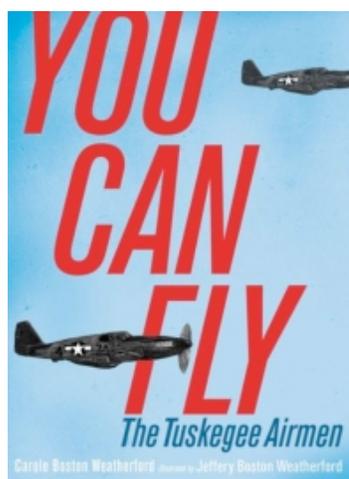
Volponi is a genius with sports stories that have intense heart, and this story about a baseball star in the making who leaves his Cuban homeland for the chance of better things is his newest strong outing.

WALLACE, RICH *Babe Conquers the World: The Legendary Life of Babe Didrickson Zacharias*; by Rich Wallace and Sandra Neil Wallace. Calkins Creek, 2014. \$16.95 Gr. 5-9

Babe was a true athletic force, and this gripping biography is up to the task of identifying her incredible talents while not shying away from her less admirable traits.

WEATHERFORD, CAROLE BOSTON *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen*; illus. by Jeffery Weatherford. Atheneum, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

The compelling narrative voice of this poetry collection addresses readers directly, inviting them to imagine themselves into the groundbreaking role of the first black U.S. military pilots.



WIERSBITZKY, SHANNON *What Flowers Remember*. Namelos, 2014. \$18.95; e-book \$9.95 Gr. 5-7

When a girl loses a key older figure in her life, she struggles through mourning and toward a new understanding of him; tender, thoughtful passages will resonate with readers who have experienced loss.

WILLIAMS, MARCIA *Lizzy Bennet's Diary: 1811-1812*; written and illus. by Marcia Williams. Candlewick, 2014. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

A bit of Austen for the young set in this diary written by a young Elizabeth Bennet from *Pride and Prejudice*; wry humor and a scrapbook-type format with ephemera from her life pasted in add to the historical fun.

WILLIAMS-GARCIA, RITA *Gone Crazy in Alabama*. Amistad/HarperCollins, 2015 \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 5-8

This final volume in a realistic fiction trilogy that perfectly captures the messy joy of family will be warmly welcomed by fans, and will be a brilliant and irresistible introduction for newbies.

WILSON, N.D. *Boys of Blur*. Random House, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 5-8

Using Beowulf as inspiration, this tale examines two cousins in a Florida swamp town and the dramatic odds against them in this sharp thriller.

WINCHELL, MIKE, ed. *Been There, Done That: Writing Stories from Real Life*. Grosset & Dunlap, 2015. \$17.99 Gr. 5-8

Twenty accomplished authors reveal some of their writing techniques when they use memories from their own lives to then create fictional short stories—of all genres—in this collection that's perfect for aspiring writers.

WINDSOR, M.L. *Jack Death*; illus. by Chris Ewald. Creston, 2016. \$12.99 R Gr. 4-6

The offspring of Death and the child of Mother Earth take on a whole bunch of bad guys in this opener to a new series.

WINICK, JUDD *Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth*; written and illus. by Judd Winick. Random House, 2015. \$13.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6
To use Hilo's favorite word, this is an "outstanding" story of a boy from another realm who crashes to earth and proceeds to run around in silver underwear and eventually save the day.

WOODS, BRENDA *Zoe in Wonderland*. Paulsen/Penguin, 2016. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

Fans of Jacqueline Kelly's Calpurnia Tate books and of Rita Williams-Garcia's trilogy about the Gaither sisters will find a worthy companion in African American Zoe as she tries to save her family's plant nursery.

ALEXANDER, KWAME *The Crossover*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 6-9

Poems with a pulsing, athletic beat mix with quieter, more introspective verses in this startlingly beautiful and tragic verse novel about teen twin boys, their stubborn father, and basketball.

ALBERTALLI, BECKY *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12
Anyone who has wondered if it is truly possible to fall in love online will appreciate this exploration of the vulnerability that is required to trust a face you've never seen.

ALONGE, LJ *Blacktop: Justin*. Grosset & Dunlap, 2016. Paperback \$6.99 Gr. 8-12

A winning combination of interest and accessibility, this follows Justin and the ragtag team he creates to challenge the Ghosttown ballers who threaten to rule the courts in his Oakland neighborhood.

ANDREA, MARIA E. *The Secret Side of Empty*. Running Press, 2014. \$16.95; paperback \$10.95; e-book \$10.95 Gr. 7-10

Teens demoralized by their options for a future will find reflection and comfort in this painful but ultimately uplifting novel about an undocumented girl and the ways in which her limited choices expand.

ANDREWS, ARIN *Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen*; by Arin Andrews with Joshua Lyon; illus. with photographs. Simon, 2014. \$17.99, paperback \$11.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 8-12

This rare insider look into a teen who was able to have gender reassignment surgery is honest and raw, while also being very much like any teen's memoir would be in the occasional angst and hyperbole used to express strong emotions.

ANGEL, ANN, ed. *Things I'll Never Say: Stories about Our Secret Selves*. Candlewick, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 10-12

This collection of short stories, filled with pathos and honesty, highlights all of those secrets that shape us but that we hope will never be revealed.

BARAKIVA, MICHAEL *One Man Guy*. Farrar, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-10

What happens when political and cultural identity, questions about sexuality, and a desire to please one's parents all converge? This is a frothy and intelligent romance between two boys who, in spite of it all, are splendidly matched.

BARDUGO, LEIGH *Six of Crows*. Holt, 2015. \$18.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

This thrilling heist story, with a fully realized fantasy setting and six unforgettable characters, will intrigue, challenge, and break the hearts of readers.

BAUSAUM, ANN *Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights*. Viking, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

The Stonewall riots are here given due space as a key moment in the GLBTQ rights movement, while Bausum ably demythologizes it as the beginning of it all, placing it in a much larger context.

BENINCASA, SARA *Great*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

A luxuriant and sophisticated nod to *The Great Gatsby*, this novel tracks Naomi, who typically just follows her famous mother around but has now embarked on a summer when she will be an active participant in her life.

BERGIN, VIRGINIA *H2O*. Sourcebooks Fire, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 8-10

What if the world ends via poisoned rain? This stunning diary-style novel follows one party girl whose entire life, and the lives of the world, come to a screeching, horrifying halt when it starts raining.

BLACK, HOLLY *The Darkest Part of the Forest*. Little, 2015. \$18.00; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

Making deals with the Fae (or any fairy folk for that matter) is never a great idea, and in this threatening, brilliant novel, Hazel's realization of this fact comes too late.

BLUMENTHAL, KAREN *Tommy: The Gun that Changed America*. Roaring Brook, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

Descriptions of infamous gangsters and crimes are balanced with a detailed look at the inventor, and his misgivings about what he created.

BRADLEY, JOHN ED *Call Me By My Name*. Atheneum, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-12

While the race relations, both historical and contemporary, may spark the most discussion and reflection from this novel, the core of a young man's own coming of age and struggle toward enlightenment is a powerful feature as well.



BROCKENBROUGH, MARTHA *The Game of Love and Death*. Levine/Scholastic, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 8-10

This sweeping, epic tale of Love and Death (both philosophical and literal, as they are personified) examines risk, loss, and what connection is worth through one romance, on which high stakes have been placed.

BOX, BROWN *Tetris*; written and illus. by Box Brown. First Second, 2016. Paperback \$19.99 Gr. 5-12

Box applies his considerable talents and expertise to explore the intriguing cultural background to the classic game in this trim, effervescent graphic novel history; gamers, get ready to level up.

CAINE, RACHEL *Prince of Shadows: A Novel of Romeo and Juliet*. New American Library, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12

This irresistible reconceptualization of the star-crossed lovers offers a strong setting, lush language, and a complex, well-developed cast centered on the key two protagonists.

CARROLL, EMILY *Through the Woods*; written and illus. by Emily Carroll. McElderry, 2014. \$21.99; e-book \$10.92 Gr. 7-10

Five graphic horror stories explore the underside of fairy tales and folklore, taking familiar tropes and characters to truly grim places.

CÓRDOVA, ZORAIDA *Labyrinth Lost*. Sourcebooks Fire, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

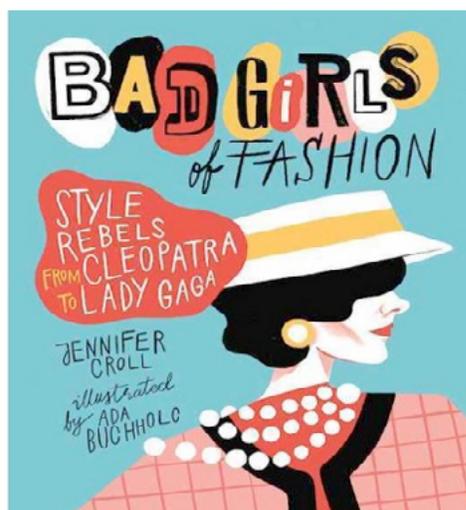
A reckless act lands Alejandra, her maybe/sorta girlfriend, and an annoyingly broody guy in the land of Los Lagos, filled with fire forests, terrifying saberskins, grisly giants, and the Devourer; hand this to the reader looking for an engaging diverse otherworldly adventure.

COYLE, KATIE *Vivian Apple at the End of the World*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 8-12

Vivian, our intrepid narrator, is sharp, sardonic, funny as heck, and also pretty clueless about what she's going to do now that it appears her parents (and a select small number of others) have been Raptured.

ROLL, JENNIFER *Bad Girls of Fashion: Style Rebels through the Ages*; illus. by Ada Buchholz and with photographs. Annick, 2016. \$24.95; paperback \$16.95 Gr. 7-10

Lady Gaga draped in meat, Pussy Riot fans holding forth in a rainbow of balaclavas, and Madonna's—well, all of Madonna's getups—are fodder for this treat of a book that looks at fashion history and legend.



CROW, MATTHEW *The Brilliant Light of Amber Sunrise*. Simon Pulse, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12

There is a surprising amount of raucous humor and exuberance in this book that is ostensibly about a teen dying, but Francis is determined to grab life fully before it is gone.

DEACON, ALEXIS *Geis: A Matter of Life & Death*; written and illus. by Alexis Deacon. Nobrow, 2016. \$18.95 Gr. 7-10

This stunning graphic novel encompasses visual and narrative layers as fifty applicants compete to the death as ordered by the sorceress Niobe.

DE FOMBELLE, TIMOTHÉE *Vango: Between Sky and Earth*; tr. from the French by Sarah Ardizzone. Candlewick, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

This multi-layered mystery with a historical fiction bent will grab any readers interested in either unpacking a complex story or learning more about 1934 European and Russian history.

DEWOSKIN, RACHEL *Blind*. Viking, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-12

Life is rich and complex, which Emma is beginning to realize after being blinded in an accident and finding the ways in which she is changed and the same, and knowing how much awaits her still.

DUYVIS, CORRINE *Otherbound*. Amulet/Abrams, 2014. \$17.95; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-12

A diverse cast of characters, nuanced explorations of power and privilege, and a sharp adventure plot paired with a mystery...it's a heady mix for this intelligent novel to offer.

EASTON, T.S. *Boys Don't Knit*. Feiwel, 2015. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

Boys DO knit if they have to for community service, and then discover they love it. This quirky British book gently pushes at all sorts of assumptions with wry humor.

FLEMING, CANDACE *The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia*. Schwartz & Wade, 2014. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-12

Not only is this nonfiction title impeccably researched and brimming with first-person narratives and photographs, but it is also so compellingly written that even teens who insist they aren't drawn to nonfiction for their aesthetic reading will be drawn in instantly.

FREEDMAN, RUSSELL *We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler*. Clarion, 2016. \$17.99 Gr. 6-9

Freedman's compelling narration ably conveys the passion and necessary recklessness that drove the five Scholl siblings to form resistance cells against the Hitler regime.

GANTOS, JACK *The Trouble in Me*. Farrar, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Readers who may have outgrown the Joey Pigza series, but found him to be a kindred spirit, will find both humor and poignancy in Gantos' recounting of his teen years.

GARDNER, SCOT *The Dead I Know*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Powerful storytelling, perfectly toned writing, and memorable characters make this story of a teen who starts work in a funeral home transcendently memorable.

GILES, L. R. *Fake ID*. Amistad/Harper Collins, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Nick wearies of Witness Protection, but he knows this is his lifeline, which makes him all the more determined to solve a risky mystery in his new hometown; cutting dialogue and impeccable character development add to the mix.

GRIFFIN, BETHANY *The Fall*. Greenwillow, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

A retake on Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" is just as creepy, elegantly written, and hauntingly memorable as the original.

GRIFFIN, PAUL *Adrift*. Scholastic, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

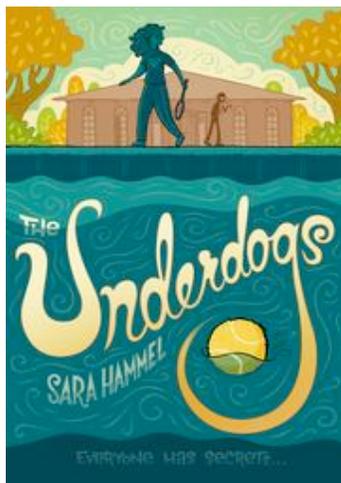
Survival story fans will find exactly what they want in this story of five teens who are stranded on a boat in the middle of the ocean; death, madness, and romance ensue.

GOLDSMITH, CONNIE *Bombs Over Bikini: The World's First Nuclear Disaster*; illus. with photographs. Twenty-First Century, 2014. \$34.60 Gr. 7-12

This is a treasure trove of information that builds a complete picture of what happened on the Marshall Islands; the author combines photographs, interviews, historical context, and environmental analysis to create this powerful text.

HALL, MAGGIE *The Conspiracy of Us*. Putnam, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

Readers seeking heart-pounding action, adventure, and romance will be grabbed early on as a girl is forced onto a private plane, opening up a world of opulence, assassins, and mystery.



HAMMEL, SARA *The Underdogs*. Farrar, 2016. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

This is an entertaining old-fashioned murder mystery, full of shady characters and false leads, and only the dogged determination of narrator Chelsea and her pal Evie can track down the killer of their tennis club's golden girl.

HARDINGE, FRANCES *Cuckoo Song*. Amulet/Abrams, 2015. \$17.95; paperback \$9.95; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

Hardinge is a masterful writer, and in her hands the shift from horror tale to an impactful family tale of regret, forgiveness, and loss is seamlessly handled.

HEALY, NICK, ed. *Love & Profanity: A Collection of True, Tortured, Wild, Hilarious, Concise, and Intense Tales of Teenage Life*; ed. by Nick Healy, with Kristen Mohn, Nate LeBoutillier and Lindsay O'Brien. Switch, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12

You really can't get more descriptive than this title, but it's also important to note that this impressive collection contains 43 entries by some of the biggest names in YA and children's fiction.

HEPPERMANN, CHRISTINE *Poisoned Apples*; illus. with photographs by Regina Belmonte, Ashley Gosiengfiao, Lissy Laricchia, et al. Greenwillow, 2014 \$17.99; e-book \$12.95 Gr. 10 up

Disturbing poetry with clear narrative voices and stylized, piercing photographs marry in this short, powerful volume of fairy-tale inspired verse.

HOOSE, PHILLIP *The Boys who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club*. Farrar, 2015. \$19.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Movie ready, edge-of-your-seat narration describes how teens managed to strike back against Hitler, even if their country of Denmark was officially reluctant to do so.

HOSIE, DONNA *The Devil's Intern*. Holiday House, 2014. \$16.95; paperback \$7.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 9-12

At least if you're going to be in Hell, you should be surrounded with some great friends, and Mitchell is reasonably content even before a time travel possibility suggests he might be able to change his fate.

HOWE, KATHERINE *Conversion*. Putnam, 2014. \$18.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12

One teen's cool, academic approach to life begins to crumble as her core high-achieving goals get waylaid by bizarre health issues that suddenly impact her exclusive school.

HUBBARD, JENNY *And We Stay*. Delacorte, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

Drawing inspiration from Emily Dickinson, this novel features a girl seeking redemption, escape, and closure through her own poetry; smooth and effective movement from dark to light keeps the heavy topics manageable.

JOHNSTON, E.K. *The Story of Owen: Dragon Slayer of Trondheim*. Carolrhoda Lab, 2014. \$17.95; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-10

In true bardic tradition, a rich quest is told by a girl with a way for words about her friend, a dragon slayer in this alternate earth where (all-too-prevalent) carbon emissions attract the giant beasts.

KEPHART, BETH *Going Over*. Chronicle, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$13.99 Gr. 8-12

Love becomes epic as it is physically divided by the Berlin Wall in this painful, compelling novel set in 1980s Germany.

KUKLIN, SUSAN *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*; written and with photographs by Susan Kuklin. Candlewick, 2014. \$22.99; e-book \$22.99 Gr. 9-12

The remarkable variety in the cultural, social, and sexual identities of the six teens highlighted is impressive, but more key for readers will be their honest, nuanced, and engaging personal stories.

LAMARCHE, UNA *Like No Other*. Razorbill, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

An unlikely romance between two teens from very different backgrounds becomes the impetus both need to break from cultural and social limitations that have become oppressive in this unusual love story with a female Hasidic narrator.

LARBALESTIER, JUSTINE *Razorburst*. Soho Teen, 2015. \$18.99; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

This sharp-edged, sometimes gory, always enthralling look at the 1930s Australian underworld is sexy, frightening, and haunting, particularly in the hands of the talented Larbalestier.

LAUER, BRETT FLETCHER, ed. *Please Excuse This Poem: 100 New Poets for the Next Generation*; ed. by Brett Fletcher Lauer and Lynn Melnick. Viking, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12

You can't get much more diverse than this collection, which crosses multiple boundaries to bring together 100 poems from teen poets.

LEVITHAN, DAVID *Two Boys Kissing*. Knopf, 2013. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9 up

This elegant, thoughtful, well-rounded look at a multicultural group of young men on the GLBTQ spectrum will likely resonate with readers long after they read it.

LONGO, JENNIFER *Up to This Pointe*. Random House, 2016. \$17.99; e-book ed. \$10.99 Gr. 8-12

It's always tempting to run away from your problems, and Harper takes that idea literally when she goes to the ends of the earth to work as a biology researcher in Antarctica after her ballet career takes an unexpected turn.

LYNCH, CHRIS *Hit Count*. Algonquin, 2015. \$17.95; \$9.99; e-book \$ Gr. 8-12

Fans and players of football will be equal parts horrified and fascinated by this gritty account of one player's three years of high school football (he is forced out by his own injuries by senior year).

KING, A. S. *Glory O'Brien's History of the Future*. Little, 2014. \$18.00; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

King's use of magical realism makes this coming-of-age story of a teen girl attempting to reconcile her past with her present both unique and fascinating.

MABRY, SAMANTHA *A Fierce and Subtle Poison*. Algonquin, 2016 \$17.95; e-book \$15.95 Gr. 8-12

Set in Old San Juan with sixteen-year-old Luke stumbling into a local legend, this is a coming-of-age story set against the mystic and the tragic, and it will likely leave a mark on readers for days.

MAY, ELIZABETH *The Falconer*. Chronicle, 2014. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

Teens open for an adventure will find plenty in this Scottish steampunk battle quest that offers faeries, revenge plots, and a steamy romance.

MCLEMORE, ANNA-MARIE *The Weight of Feathers*. Dunne/St.Martin's Griffin, 2015. \$18.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr.8-12

Fantasy combines with realism in this elegantly told tale of a decades old rivalry between two families and the forbidden relationship that develops between Lace and Cluck as they defy their families' traditions.

MCMAMEE, GRAHAM *Defender*. Lamb, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99

After finding the decades old bones in the basement of her apartment, Tiny sleuths around her urban neighborhood to find answers in the highly readable and entirely engaging book.

MOORE, PETER *V Is for Villain*. Hyperion, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 8-10

This fantastic novel about good guys, bad guys, and all the places they intersect pits one boy against his own brother as both pursue their powers for what they believe to be the greater good.

MONNINGER, JOSEPH *Whippoorwill*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-12

Not just a dog story, this tale of grieving Clair, desperate Danny, and the abused dog that brings them together manages to be poignant but realistic.



MOSKOWITZ, HANNAH *Not Otherwise Specified*. Simon Pulse, 2015. \$19.99; paperback \$11.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Labels suck, especially when you don't fit neatly into any of them, and seventeen-year-old Etta is discovering this over and over again as she struggles with just about every area of her life.

NAPOLI, DONNA JO *Dark Shimmer*. Lamb/Random House, 2015. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12

A sumptuous and dark retelling of "Snow White," this will appeal to fans of Cokal's *Kingdom of Little Wounds*.

NELSON, BLAKE *The Prince of Venice Beach*. Little, 2014. \$18.00; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

A dreamy, surf-influenced detective story features a memorable protagonist, Cali, and his slow move toward adulthood and responsibility.

NELSON, MARILYN *How I Discovered Poetry*; illus. by Hadley Hooper. Dial, 2014. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-12

This slender, searing verse novel portrays a dramatic range of struggles that the author and her family endured during the civil rights movement.

NESS, PATRICK *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99

A clever send up of YA scifi and fantasy tropes, this story celebrates the heroism of everyday kids who manage both compassion and humor in difficult situations.

NIX, GARTH *Clariel*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2014. \$18.99 Gr. 8-10
Nix fans will be thrilled for this prequel to his popular fantasy trilogy that features the not always likeable but perpetually fascinating Clariel.

PARKER, NATALIE C. *Beware the Wild*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2014. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

The folksy novel examines family dynamics and the ways in which setting can shape a person as much as the people around them.

PRINCE, LIZ *Tomboy*; written and illus. by Liz Prince. Zest, 2014. \$15.99 Gr. 7-12

This graphic memoir centering on gender identity has a pleasing accessibility in its comic book like-styling, and it will likely strike a chord with those readers who chafe under gender norms.

PUNG, ALICE *Lucy and Linb*. Knopf, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12

Part *Mean Girls*, part *Lord of the Flies*, and part *Special Topics in Calamity Physics*, this well-observed novel follows fifteen-year-old Lucy after she receives a scholarship to Melbourne's prestigious Laurinda Academy.

QUINTERO, ISABEL *Gabi: A Girl in Pieces*. Cinco Puntos, 2014. \$17.95; paperback \$11.95; e-book \$11.95 Gr. 9-12

Gabi is a memorable character, and her Spanglish-inflected thoughts on everything from the mundane to the lyrically profound are worth hearing; readers will spot themselves or their own musings somewhere in all of her observations.

ROSEN, MICHAEL J. *Place Hacking: Venturing Off Limits*; illus. with photographs. Twenty-First Century, 2015 \$24.99 Gr. 8-10

This brief but lively introduction to urban trespass might inspire all sorts of illicit behavior, but it will also grab older teens instantly and keep them interested until the last page, and that's probably worth a bit of place hacking.

RABB, MARGO *Kissing in America*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-10

Romance obsessed Eva Roth discovers that love come in many forms in this moving and poignant novel that follows her relationship with her mother in the wake of the death of Eva's father.

ROSEN, SURI *Playing with Matches*. ECW, 2014. \$10.95; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 7-10

Matchmaking in observant Jewish communities will likely not be a familiar concept to those outside of the faith, but this book deftly presents enough background while focusing closely on the bumbling but sweetly earnest Raina, who just wants to fix her mess of a life.

RUTKOSKI, MARIE *The Winner's Curse*. Farrar, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

A sumptuous Greco-Roman setting and a steamy romance mark this stylish novel about the ways one must sometimes sacrifice personal needs for the greater cultural good.

SAVIT, GAVRIEL *Anna and the Swallow Man*; illus. by Laura Carlin. Knopf, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

The atrocities of World War II background this story of unconventional and unconditional love as readers follow Anna through her childhood under the care of the enigmatic Swallow Man.

SHUSTERMAN, NEAL *Scythe*. Simon, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12
Forbidden love, mass murders, cool philosophical musings, and fantastic world building make this tale of two Scythes in training entirely absorbing.



SELZER, ADAM *Just Kill Me*. Simon, 2016. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 9-12
Mystery, macabre, and Chicago history combine to create a coming of age tale of eighteen-year-old Megan, whose quirkiness is met with even more eccentricity when she gets a job as a ghost tour guide.

SHABAZZ, ILYASAH X; by Ilyasah Shabazz with Kekla Magoon. Candlewick, 2015. \$16.99 Gr. 8-12

This bold look at the adolescent life of Malcolm X is a mix of fiction and nonfiction, as his daughter wrote this by blending family memory and speculation to create this compelling biographical novel.

SHARPE, TESS *Far From You*. Hyperion, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

While the core of this novel is a murder mystery, the nuanced, detailed exploration of grief and regret of a surviving teen, the good friend of the victim, is as compelling and memorable as the death itself.

SHEINKIN, STEVE *The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights*. Roaring Brook, 2014. \$19.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7 up

With gripping first-hand accounts and a commanding narrative voice, this nonfiction piece recounts a historical injustice that remains unresolved: the supposed mutiny of fifty African-American seamen after a horrific tragedy.

SMITH, MATT *Barbarian Lord*; written and illus. by Matt Smith. Clarion, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$12.99 Gr. 6-9

A little bit of Nordic and Viking lore, a whole lot of battle scenes, and humorous nods to fantasy tropes all combine in this graphic novel about Barbarian Lord and his epic quest to clear his maligned name.

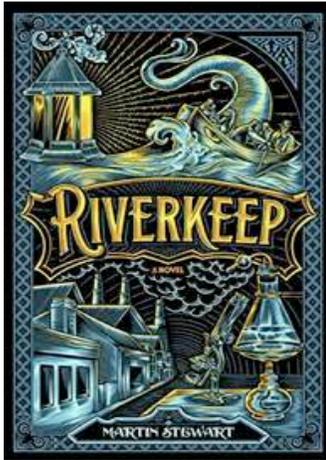
STEVENSON, NICOLE *Nimona*; written and illus. by Nicole Stevenson. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$12.99 Gr. 7-10

This impeccable graphic novel offers poignancy, mystery, adventure, superheroes, shapeshifting, and stunning illustrations, not to mention one of the most troubled and memorable protagonists around.

STARMER, AARON *Spontaneous*. Dutton, 2016. \$17.99 Gr. 9-12

Plenty of dark humor runs through this gore-filled tale of teens spontaneously combusting, but there's also a subtle exploration of identity, love, and loss.

STEWART, MARTIN *Riverkeep*. Viking, 2016. \$17.99; e-book 10.99 Gr. 8-10
An immersive world (complete with its own dialect) draws readers in to young Wull's quest to save his father from demon possession; horror buffs, adventure seekers, and fans of folklore will all find something to like here.



STRUYK-BONN, CHRIS *Whisper*. Orca, 2014. \$12.95; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 9-12

This unusual novel blends a dystopian backdrop, an innate musical talent coming to bear, and a pseudo-historical analysis of the ways in which physical deformities are cause for isolation and discrimination in society.

SUMA, NOVA REN *The Walls Around Us*. Algonquin, 2015. \$17.95; paperback \$9.95; e-book \$9.95 Gr. 9-12

This juicy, crafty mystery suggests the supernatural, the humanly evil, and the simply misguided all at once as two alternating narrations describe how cellmates got into a detention center.

TAMAKI, MARIKO *This One Summer*; illus. by Jillian Tamaki. First Second, 2014. \$21.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

A poignant graphic novel highlights the painful, joyful, sometimes frightening moments between childhood and adolescence, and one girl's summer on the cusp.

TAN, SHAUN, ed. *The Singing Bones*; ed. and illus. by Shaun Tan. Levine/Scholastic, 2016. \$24.99

Stunning sculptures by the artist and titillating snippets of Grimm fairy tales that inspired the creations come together under Tan's adept hand, making a piece of art that is dark and absorbing.

TINGLE, TIM *House of Purple Cedar*. Cinco Puntos, 2014. \$16.95; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 10 up

Lyrical, fearless writing marks this exploration into a Choctaw boarding school from the late 1800s, and the brutal community life in the surrounding region.

TUCHOLKE, APRIL GENEVIEVE, ed. *Slasher Girls & Monster Boys*. Dial, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-10

Pop culture references inspire this collection of fourteen horror stories that abound with dark humor, cleverness, and of course, thrills and chills.

TURNER, PAMELA S. *Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*, illus. by Gareth Hinds. Charlesbridge, 2016. \$16.95; e-book ed. \$10.99 Gr. 5-10

It's not often that "biography" and "page-turner" come together, but Turner's tale of the twelfth-century warrior Minamoto Yoshitsune is just the work to draw samurai fans from the manga and movie aisles into the nonfiction shelves.

WATSON, RENEE *This Side of Home*. Bloomsbury, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

Friends Nikki, Maya, and Essence must sort out how race plays out privately and publicly in this powerful picture of the complications of the contemporary African American experience, especially when it rubs up againsts the hipster white middle class.

WEINGARTEN, LYNN *Suicide Notes from Beautiful Girls*. Simon Pulse, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99

This taut, sophisticated thriller about a toxic friendship will find an audience with teens who appreciate labyrinthine plots and ambiguous endings.

WEST, CARLY ANNE *The Bargaining*. Simon Pulse, 2015. Gr. 8-12

While readers raised on the gore and "gotcha" scares of *The Ring*, *The Grudge*, etc. will find plenty to thrill to here, they'll be equally haunted by the story's reflection of the depths and limits of parental love.

WOODSON, JACQUELINE *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Paulsen/Penguin, 2014. \$16.99; paperback \$10.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-12

Budding writers will find much inspiration in this lyrical, layered memoir that traces Woodson's life and family from before she was born onward.

WYNNE-JONES, TIM *The Emperor of Any Place*. Candlewick, 2015. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

A web of secrets and suspicions that spans three generations is untangled in this haunting portrait of a young man coming to terms with his father's death and his grandfather's emotional distance.

YANG, GENE LUEN *The Shadow Hero*; illus. by Sonny Liew. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2014. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 7-12

This tour de force graphic novel takes a little-known Asian character from 1940s comic books and gives him a brilliantly told modern story.

YOON, NICOLA *The Sun Is Also a Star*. Delacorte, 2016. \$18.99; e-book \$18.99

A poet and a self-proclaimed realist spend one fated day together in this romance that eschews traditional tropes and manages a love story that is smart without being cynical.

YOUNG, SUZANNE *Hotel Ruby*. Simon Pulse, 2015. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

Hotel Ruby, a strange, elegant hostelry in the middle of nowhere, welcomes readers looking for a ghostly and heartbreaking read. Stay awhile, won't you?

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