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# GUIDE BOOK TO GIFT BOOKS

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## AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR YOUTH 2018

**I**T'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 younger category for titles whose audience stretches up into the higher age range.

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

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**BARBA, ALE** *Time Out!*; written and illus. by Ale Barba. Philomel, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 3-6 yrs

Kids will know how to make their next banishment to their room an exciting adventure after watching our piglet protagonist journey to the moon and back during his five-minute time out.

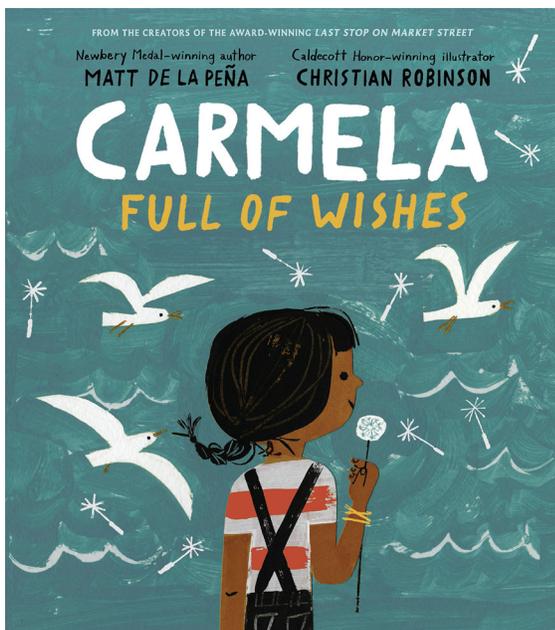
**CLINE-RANSOME, LESA** *Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams*; illus. by James E. Ransome. Wiseman/Simon, 2018. \$17.99 e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs

This picture book biography celebrates the tennis star sisters, the difficulties they faced, and the glory they earned.

**CORNWALL, GAIA** *Jabari Jumps*; written and illus. by Gaia Cornwall. Candlewick, 2017. \$15.99 3-6 yrs

With a little support from his dad, young Jabari climbs his way up and takes the leap off the high dive in this reassuring tale.

**DAYWALT, DREW** *The Epic Adventures of Huggie & Stick*; illus. by David Spencer. Philomel, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 4-8 yrs  
Huggie, a blue stuffed animal, and Stick, well, a stick, have two very different perspectives on their unexpected journey around the globe; Spencer's illustrations humorously relay another aspect of the tale, making for a satisfying picture book romp.



**DE LA PEÑA, MATT** *Carmela Full of Wishes*; illus. by Christian Robinson. Putnam, 2018. \$17.99 5-7 yrs

On a trip to the laundromat with her bossy older brother, Carmela finds a dandelion puff and wonders what to wish for in this sweet story of sibling dynamics; stylized papel picado pair with a cozy palette to lend visual interest to their walk through the neighbor.

**DENOS, JULIA** *Windows*; illus. by E. B. Goodale. Candlewick, 2017. \$15.99 4-8 yrs

There's something magical about an evening walk, and our protagonist meanders through his neighborhood as the bustle of the day settles down into a nighttime lull in this cozy, charming book that will no doubt inspire a few sunset strolls.

**DORMER, FRANK W.** *Firefighter Duckies!*; written and illus. by Frank W. Dormer. Atheneum, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 3-6 yrs

They're firefighters, they're duckies, they're cute as all get out; is there really more to say?

**ELYA, SUSAN MIDDLETON** *La Princesa and the Pea*; illus. by Juana Martinez-Neal. Putnam, 2017. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

Lively rhyming text and illustrations that echo Peruvian textiles give this recast of "The Princess and the Pea" charming appeal, and visual clues will engage readers as the Prince stealthily gives help to his future wife unbeknownst to his mother.

**FENSKE, JONATHAN** *Plankton Is Pushy*; written and illus. by Jonathan Fenske. Scholastic, 2017. \$14.99 3-5 yrs

Plankton is indeed pushy, berating poor Mister Mussel for not speaking—but when Mussel does finally open his mouth, well, Plankton is in for surprise; hand this to kids who like a bit of sly edge to goofy humor.

**FOGLIANO, JULIE** *When's My Birthday?*; illus. by Christian Robinson. Roaring Brook, 2017. \$17.99 4-6 yrs

The anticipation of the big day is perfectly captured by Fogliano's playful poetry and Robinson's childlike compositions; gift this to the birthday kid for something to assuage the stress of the next 364 days.

**GHAHREMANI, SUSIE** *Stack the Cats*; written and illus. by Susie Ghahremani. Abrams Appleseed, 2017. \$14.95; e-book \$14.95 3-5 yrs

A counting book featuring Pusheen-like cats is perfect for feline fans looking for an interactive read.

**GONZALES, MARK** *Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter*; illus. by Mehrdokht Amini. Salaam Reads/Simon, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 6-9 yrs

In this poetic address to his daughter, the author explores the challenges of having a complicated identity in a world that often asks "What are you?", while the illustrations provide a visual love song to two strands of heritage.

**GRAEGIN, STEPHANIE** *Little Fox in the Forest*; illus. by Stephanie Graegin. Schwartz & Wade, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs

In this wordless story, a little girl follows a fox that has taken her beloved stuffed toy and finds herself in a fantastical forest village; viewers will want repeat looks at this one, as the illustrations are packed with delightful Easter egg details.

**GRAHAM, BOB** *Home in the Rain*; written and illus. by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2017. \$16.99 4-8 yrs

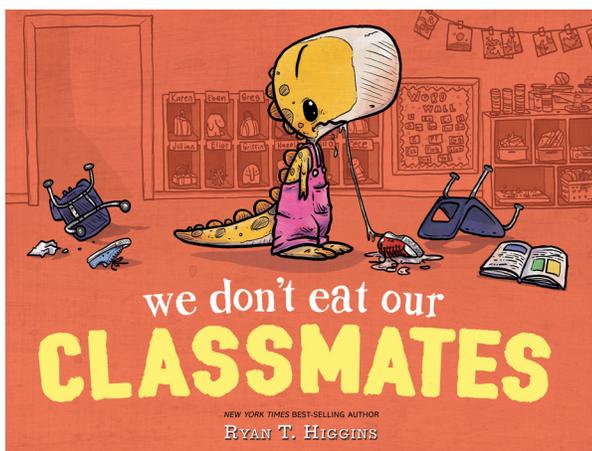
Graham focuses on the small details in this story of a mother and daughter's long drive home; cozy lyricism and cheerful but nuanced art may inspire kids to look at that oh-so-boring ride to the store in a different light.

**HESSE, KAREN** *Night Job*; illus. by G. Brian Karas. Candlewick, 2018. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

On Friday nights, our young narrator and his father get on Dad's motorcycle and head out to Dad's janitorial job at a school where kiddo hangs out as Dad cleans; Karas' friendly artwork makes the most of the nighttime atmosphere and dramatic spills of artificial light.

**HIGGINS, RYAN T.** *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*; written and illus. by Ryan T. Higgins. Disney Hyperion, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 3-5 yrs

In this offbeat, quirky tale, Penelope Rex can't quite stop eating her classmates—until a goldfish chomps on her; with big eyes, pink overalls, and a guilty face, Penelope looks more cuddly than vicious, and kids will giggle at the story's silly premise.



**JENKINS, MARTIN** *Bird Builds a Nest: A First Science Storybook*; illus. by Richard Jones. Candlewick, 2018. \$16.99 3-6 yrs

A lesson on science and physics is stealthily deployed in this visual treat featuring a mama bird and her efforts to build a comfy nest for her little ones.

**KRULL, KATHLEEN** *Starstruck: The Cosmic Journey of Neil deGrasse Tyson*; by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer; illus. by Frank Morrison. Crown, 2018. \$17.99 5-9 yrs

Youngsters with their eyes to the sky—who may or may not have heard of Tyson—will find inspiration in this story of a kid who transformed his childhood wonder into a lifelong career.

**KURTZ, JANE** *What Do They Do with All That Poo?*; illus. by Allison Black. Beach Lane, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 3-8 yrs

This is an obvious sell to kids invested in potty humor, but it also offers some scientific fun wrapped in rhyming verses; Black's toylike animals, with anthropomorphic grins, hold appeal for young and old viewers alike.

**KYUNG, HYEWON** *Bigger Than You*; written and illus. by Hyewon Kyung. Green willow/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99 3-5 yrs

Kyung effortlessly brings principles of simple machines to the preschool level in this engaging tale of dinosaurs teeter-tottering on a prehistoric playground.

**LADITAN, BUNMI** *The Big Bed*; illus. by Tom Knight. Farrar, 2018. \$16.99 5-7 yrs

Youngsters still wanting to snuggle with Mom at night could do well to take a few tips from this book's sassy, opinionated protagonist as she sits her dad down to discuss her preferred sleeping arrangements.

**LIN, GRACE** *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*; written and illus. by Grace Lin. Little, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 2-5 yrs

This folkloric pourquoi tale follows Little Star as she gives in to temptation and nibbles on the Big Mooncake her mother set into the night sky to cool; cozy, realistic figures float against an inky black background creating dreamy atmosphere.

**LOVE, JESSICA** *Julián Is a Mermaid*; written and illus. by Jessica Love. Candlewick, 2018. \$16.99 4-8 yrs

Kids who revel in dress-up and costume will find a kindred spirit in Julián, whose pretend play is inspired by three women dressed as mermaids he sees on the subway; illustrations glow with Afro-Caribbean flair as detailed patterns and vibrant colors set the scene.

**MCCARDIE, AMANDA** *Our Very Own Dog*; illus. by Salvatore Rubbino. Candlewick, 2017. \$15.99 5-8 yrs

An effective blend of you-are-there pet companionship and informative details about man's best friend, this follows our young narrator and her adventures with Sophie, the shelter dog she adopts.

**MILLER, SHAREE** *Princess Hair*; written and illus. by Sharee Miller. Little, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 4-7 yrs

Bouncy rhythm and gleaming illustrations make up this merry celebration of the diversity of Black girlhood and Black girls' hair.

**MORALES, YUYI** *Dreamers*; written and illus. by Yuyi Morales. Porter/Holiday House, 2018. \$18.99 5-9 yrs

In this narrative addressed to her son, the author-illustrator describes the experience of coming to the U.S. with him when he was just a baby; Morales frames her story of hope, creativity, and love of books with luminous mixed-media illustrations, perhaps inspiring viewers to artistically tell their story as well.

**MURGUIA, BETHANIE DEENEY** *Do You Believe in Unicorns?;* written and illus. by Bethanie Deeney Murguia. Candlewick, 2018. \$14.99 3-6 yrs

Hm, why is that white horse wearing a tall hat in the middle of its forehead? Surely, it's not a unicorn . . . right? The invitation to believe the impossible will inspire kids to make up their own fantasy stories in this gleefully tongue in cheek tale.

**RASCHKA, CHRIS** *New Shoes;* written and illus. by Chris Raschka. Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99 2-4 yrs

Cheerful watercolor art keeps the perspective clearly kid-centered, focusing on the our protagonist's little piggies as the preschooler heads out for new shoes with Mom.

**REINHARDT, JENNIFER BLACK** *Blue Ethel;* written and illus. by Jennifer Black Reinhardt. Ferguson/Farrar, 2017. \$17.99 3-6 yrs

An accidental roll in a chalked sidewalk turns black and white cat Ethel into a pale blue, humiliated mess, but when white kitten Fluffy shows up covered in pink dust, the pair decides the more color the better and are soon strutting their stuff as flashy, multihued felines.

**REYNOLDS, AARON** *Creepy Pair of Underwear!;* illus. by Peter Brown. Simon, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 5-8 yrs

Young Jasper Rabbit experiences some serious buyer's remorse after pleading with his mom to purchase him a pair of glow in the dark underpants, whose glow, he soon finds out, is more frightening than fun; a nice blend of humor and horror (just a bit), this will resonate with young scare seekers.

**SANTAT, DAN** *After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again;* written and illus. by Dan Santat. Roaring Brook, 2017. \$17.99 4-7 yrs

Humpty's shell might be put back together, but his spirit isn't, as he is now afraid of heights; fortunately, he eventually overcomes his fear and spreads his wings (quite literally) in this thoughtful, diverting take on the old tale.

**STOTT, ANN** *Want to Play Trucks?;* illus. by Bob Graham. Candlewick, 2018. \$15.99 4-6 yrs

Two pals bicker over trucks or dolls as their focus of play, but ice cream always makes for a good solution; Graham's characteristically gentle illustration emphasize the kid-centered world.

**REX, ADAM** *Are You Scared, Darth Vader?;* written and illus. by Adam Rex. Disney/Lucasfilm, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 6-10 yrs

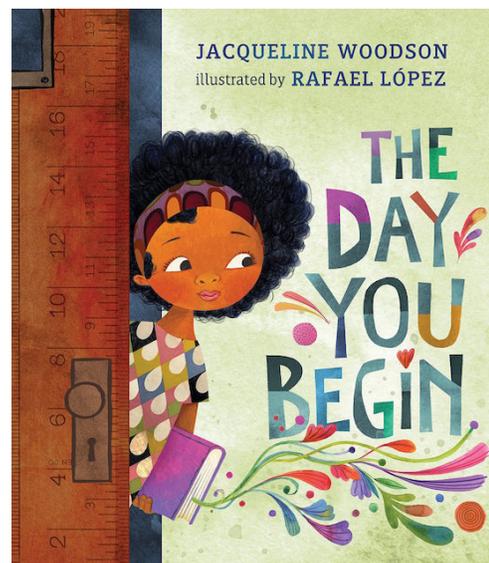
The infamous Star Wars villain is afraid of nothing from werewolves to witches to ghosts, but kids? Yep, youngsters strike the fear in the heart of Darth in this deliciously snarky take on the typical interactive book.

**TABOR, COREY R.** *Fox and the Bike Ride;* written and illus. by Corey R. Tabor. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2017. \$17.99 4-6 yrs

The "Annual Tour de Tip-Top, Slow-and-Steady, There-and-Back bike ride (plus snacks)" is jazzed up a bit when Fox decides to soup up his friends' bikes in this cleverly goofy picture book.

**WOODSON, JACQUELINE** *The Day You Begin;* illus. by Rafael López. Paulsen/Penguin, 2018. \$18.99; e-book \$10.99 6-9 yrs

This book directly addresses its audience in describing the experience of starting out at a new school, offering comfort to children who find themselves in new situations and reassuring them of their worth and value; creative compositions emphasize the perspectives of individual kids.



**ARNOLD, ELANA K.** *A Boy Called Bat*; illus. by Charles Santoso. Walden Pond/HarperCollins, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

Compassionate, warm, and funny, this story follows third-grader Bat and his efforts to convince his veterinarian mom that an orphaned baby skunk would make an excellent pet.

**ASHLEY, JONATHAN** *Lily & Kosmo in Outer Outer Space*; written and illus. by Jonathan Ashley. Simon, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 3-6

Fed up with her parents' demands, Lily cuts her hair short like her favorite space adventurer and runs off with her baby brother and a Spacetronaut in this goofy and affectionate sendup of the sci-fi pulp and space operas.



**BAILEY, LINDA** *The Tiny Hero of Ferny Creek Library*; illus. by Victoria Jamieson. Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

In this warm, funny tribute to the power of books and stories, little bug Eddie, resident of Ferny Creek Elementary School (for human kids), thwarts a new teacher's plan to destroy the library; readers will see anew the magic of libraries.

**BARNETT, MAC** *Mac B., Kid Spy: Mac Undercover*; illus. by Mike Lowery. Orchard, 2018. \$12.99; e-book \$7.99 Gr. 2-5

Fans of Jon Scieszka and Dav Pilkey are the target audience for Barnett's jubilantly bombastic new series about his (fictional) childhood gig as the Queen of England's go-to spy.

**BROWN, MARTIN** *Lesser Spotted Animals: The Coolest Creatures You've Never Heard Of*; written and illus. by Martin Brown. Fickling/Scholastic, 2017. \$18.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 2-5

The Cuban solenodon, the desert sand cat, Speke's pectinator—readers may not yet be familiar with these lesser known critters, but after reading this breezy, informative text, youngsters'll be ready for animal trivia night.

**CLINE-RANSOME, LESA** *Finding Langston*. Holiday House, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

Books and book lovers are celebrated in this story of young Langston, who finds comfort in the writings of Langston Hughes and begins writing poetry himself.

**CREECH, SHARON** *Saving Winslow*. Cotler/HarperCollins, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

Ten-year-old Louie cares for a sickly newborn donkey in a tale that will surely satisfy animal lovers and anyone in need of a good (happy) cry.

**DAYWALT, DREW** *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*; illus. by Adam Rex. Balzer + Bray, 2017. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

The origin story of the playground game is told in epic comedic fashion as warriors Rock from the Kingdom of the Backyard, Paper from the Empire of Mom's Home Office, and Scissors from the Kitchen Realm search for worthy opponents.

**DOWELL, FRANCES O'ROARK** *Sam the Man & the Rutabaga Plan*; illus. by Amy June Bates. Dlouhy/Atheneum, 2017. \$15.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 2-3

Sam gets stuck with the seemingly boring rutabaga for a science class project but soon has a change of heart in this standout chapter book.

**GREENFIELD, A.B.** *Ra the Mighty: Cat Detective*; illus. by Sarah Horne. Holiday House, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

Humor and history combine to make a goofy but highly readable story as Pharaoh's beloved (and quite spoiled) cat teams up with a dung beetle to find the culprit behind the theft of a valuable royal amulet.

**HALL, KIRSTEN** *The Honeybee*; illus. by Isabelle Arsenault. Atheneum, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 8-12 yrs

That buzzing sound might bring more wonder than fear after kids journey with Hall's apian protagonist, as poetic text and luminous images bring readers into the busy life of a busy bee

**HARRIS, NEIL PATRICK** *The Magic Misfits*; by Neil Patrick Harris and Al A. Kazam, illus. by Lissy Marlin. Little, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5

Kids looking for quick, friendly reads will happily follow orphaned Carter as he makes a new family with the Vernons, illusionists and owners of a magic shop.

**HEOS, BRIDGET** *Shell, Beak, Tusk: Shared Traits and the Wonders of Adaptation*; illus. with photographs. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 2-4

Naturalists and aspiring biologists will find delight and, well, wonder in this stunningly photo-illustrated exploration of why similar traits show up in different species.

**JUN, NIE** *My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder*; written and illus. by Nie Jun; tr. by Edward Gauvin. Graphic Universe/Lerner, 2018. \$30.65 Gr. 3-5

There's a comfy humor in these four short stories told in graphic novel format that tell of Yu'er's adventures with her grandfather and her hijinks with the local kids in her Beijing neighborhood.

**LONG, ETHAN** *Dance, Dance, Dancel!*; written and illus. by Ethan Long. Holiday House, 2018. \$14.95; paperback \$6.99; e-book \$14.95 Gr. K-2

Googly-eyed Horse marches to the beat of his/her own drummer, and the steed tries to convince horsefly friend Buggy to dance along in this joyful tale of mismatched pals; repetition and simple text make it easy for young readers to join the dancing fun.

**LEWIS, J. PATRICK** *Keep a Pocket in Your Poem: Classic Poems and Playful Parodies*; illus. by Johanna Wright. Wordsong/Highlights, 2017. \$17.95 Gr. 2-5

Rhyme-writing kids will enjoy this unusual collection, in which former children's poet laureate Lewis takes thirteen poems by well-known poets and pairs them with his own verses that echo and respond to the originals with humor and creativity.

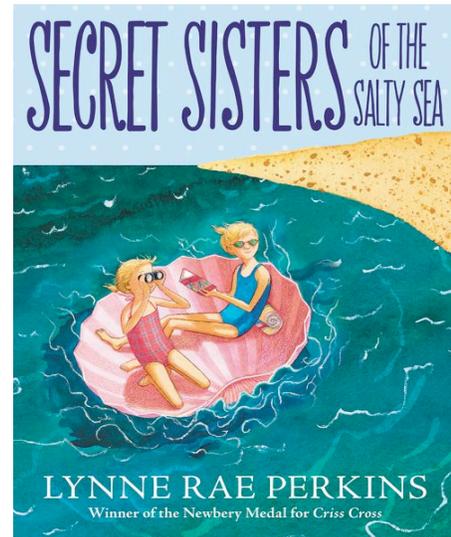
**MASS, WENDY** *Bob*; by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead; illus. by Nicholas Gannon. Feiwel, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 3-5  
Good humor pairs with childhood whimsy in this intriguing tale of ten-year-old Lizzie's friendship with a greenish, zombie-ish, chicken-ish creature called Bob.

**PASCHKIS, JULIE** *Vivid: Poems & Notes about Color*; written and illus. by Julie Paschkis. Godwin/Holt, 2018. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

Artists and poets alike will find pleasure in these lyrical poems about colors partnered with factual prose tidbits, while science-minded kids will appreciate the information about color and perception.

**PATENT, DOROTHY HINSHAW** *Made for Each Other: Why Dogs and People Are Perfect Partners*; illus. with photographs by William Muñoz. Crown, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 2-4

This is obviously an easy pick for dog lovers, but the accessible layout and appealing photos may perk up the ears of reluctant readers—just expect some resulting pleas to head to the shelter.



**PERKINS, LYNNE RAE** *Secret Sisters of the Salty Sea*; written and illus. by Lynne Rae Perkins. Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

Readers will long to feel the sand beneath their toes and hear softly lapping waves after spending time with young Alix while on her summer vacation; eight accessible chapters recall beach days, yummy sweets, and family time with a sense of wonder and appreciation.

**PIZZOLI, GREG** *The Quest for Z: The True Story of Explorer Percy Fawcett and a Lost City in the Amazon*; written and illus. by Greg Pizzoli. Viking, 2017. \$17.99 Gr. 3-5

Pizzoli balances optimism and tragedy in this account of Fawcett's doomed expedition; armchair adventurers and fans of unsolved mysteries will appreciate the dramatic tension, the detailed information, and the wealth of back matter.

**POWELL, PATRICIA HRUBY** *Struttin' with Some Barbecue: Lil Hardin Armstrong Becomes the First Lady of Jazz*; illus. by Rachel Himes. Charlesbridge, 2018. \$18.99 Gr. 3-5

Kids don't need to be jazz aficionados to enjoy this account of Lil Hardin's career, from her childhood in Memphis to her spot in the Creole Jazz Band to her eventual management of the legendary Louis Armstrong.

**QUALEY, MARSHA** *Gracie LaRoo at Pig Jubilee*; illus. by Kristyna Litten. Capstone, 2018. \$15.99; paperback \$5.95 Gr. 1-3

The exploits of the mega-talented pig Gracie LaRoo (swimming, singing, acting, speech-writing, she does it all) are related in this humorous early reader, and youngsters will find her a welcoming introduction to solo reading.

**RENNER, BENJAMIN** *The Big Bad Fox*; written and illus. by Benjamin Renner, tr. from the French by Joe Johnson. First Second, 2017. \$15.99 Gr. 3-6

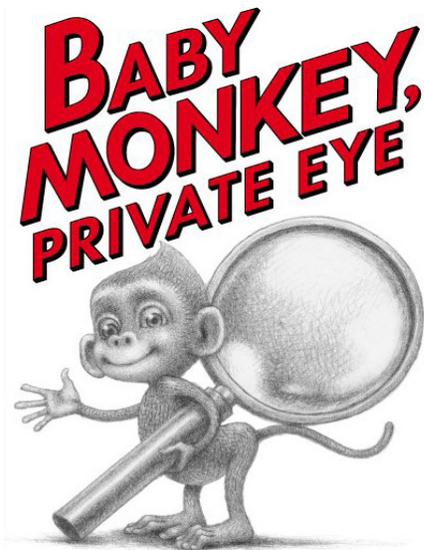
Both snarky and emotionally savvy, this graphic novel follows the Big Bad Fox (he's not quite as big and bad as the Wolf) as he falls in parental love with the three chicks that were meant to be his dinner.

**RILEY, ANDY** *King Flashypants and the Evil Emperor*; written and illus. by Andy Riley. Holt, 2017. \$13.99; e-book \$9.44 Gr. 2-4

Sure to please fans of the Captain Underpants and Lunch Lady series, this goofy royal romp features nine-year-old Edwin, a.k.a King Flashypants, whose kingdom is threatened by Emperor Nurbison and his fearsome dragon (really a cow with wings, candles, and other crafty additions).

**SELZNICK BRIAN** *Baby Monkey, Private Eye*; written by Brian Selznick and David Serlin; illus. by Brian Selznick. Scholastic, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 1-3

Baby Monkey has got some culprits to track down, and he does so adorably in this low-word-count, high-drama chapter book that will appeal to youngster just moving past picture books (they'll be delighted by Selznick's illustrations) and older readers, who will feel a true sense of accomplishment as they hunt down clues along with the adorable sleuth.



Brian Selznick and David Serlin

**TETRI, EMILY** *Tiger vs. Nightmare*; written and illus. by Emily Tetri. First Second, 2018. \$17.99 Gr. 2-4

This slim early graphic novel will have readers cheering as Tiger and her imaginary pal banish her bad dreams for good, making a cheerful, reassuring story for anxious kids while stealthily building decoding and literacy skills.

**TUTTLE, SARAH GRACE** *Hidden City: Poems of Urban Wildlife*; illus. by Amy Schimler-Safford. Eerdmans, 2018. \$17.00 Gr. 2-5

Twenty-eight free-verse poems treat the often underappreciated flora and fauna of cities, from bats and pigeons to squirrels and rabbits to dandelions and earthworms; both city and country kids will revel in the book's vivid, luminous illustrations.

**WILLEMS, MO** *I Lost My Tooth!*; written and illus. by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2018. \$12.99 Gr. 1-2

Teachers, parents, and new readers ready to level up after the Elephant and Piggie series will celebrate Willems' new series, shaped in the style of a variety show and featuring a cast of goofy squirrels, acorn comedians, and a fair number of facts about little ones' choppers.

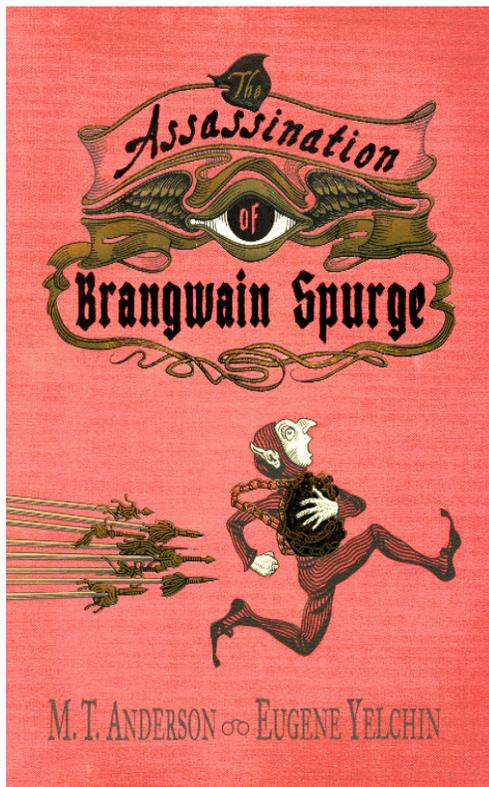
**ZHANG, KAT** *The Emperor's Riddle*. Aladdin, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 3-5

In this fast-paced mystery, Mia is excited to be spending a month in China with her aunt, but she's soon flung into a search for a long-lost treasure when an odd man comes to visit and her aunt then goes missing.

**ALEXANDER, KWAME** *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*; by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth; illus. by Ekoa Holmes. Candlewick, 2017. \$16.99 Gr. 5-12

Taking inspiration from twentieth-century poets, the authors offer their own tribute poems, accompanied by stunningly elegant collage illustrations; hand this to aspiring poets and artists alike.

**ANDERSON, M. T.** *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*; illus. by Eugene Yelchin. Candlewick, 2018. \$24.99 Gr. 5-8  
Cultures clash when elfin historian Brangwain Spurge is sent as a broker of peace to the goblin kingdom; detailed illustrations, rich world building, sly humor, and epistolary elements make this a tale to take time with.



**BEASLEY, KATE** *Lions & Liars*; illus. by Dan Santat. Farrar, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-7

Absurd humor pairs with an earnest exploration of identity as bullied Frederick tries to make a new name for himself as a cool kid when he arrives at Camp Omigoshsee.

**BOLDEN, TONYA** *Pathfinders: The Journeys of 16 Extraordinary Black Souls*; illus. with photographs. Abrams, 2017. \$24.95; e-book \$18.65 Gr. 4-7

While familiar faces show up in this collective biography, Bolden broadens her reach beyond the well-known to include an opera singer, an illusionist, a mathematician, among others, making this appealing to readers with a wide range of interests.

**CARTAYA, PABLO** *Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish*. Viking, 2018 \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

An extended family reunion is source of both drama and joy when Marcus' mom brings him and his brother Charlie to Puerto Rico; Cartaya's easygoing mashup of English and Spanish adds to the atmosphere.

**CASSIDY, SARA** *A Boy Named Queen*. Groundwood, 2016. \$14.96; e-book \$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.

**CHANANI, NIDHI** *Pashmina*; written and illus. by Nidhi Chanani. First Second, 2017. \$21.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 6-9

This graphic novel follows Priyanka as she learns about her mother's past and her family history when a magical pashmina takes her on journeys through India and to the goddess Shakti.

**COWELL, CRESSIDA** *The Wizards of Once*; written and illus. by Cressida Cowell. Little, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6

The author of the popular *How to Train Your Dragon* books returns here with a clever and fresh new series that explores a magical world where warriors and wizards are at odds.

**DiCAMILLO, KATE** *Louisiana's Way Home*. Candlewick, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

Readers of DiCamillo's *Raymie Nightingale* will recognize twelve-year-old Louisiana, and they'll be intrigued by her story of losing and finding family when her short stay in Georgia ends up more permanent than she imagined.

**DURST, SARAH BETH** *The Stone Girl's Story*. Clarion/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

The journey of a girl made from stone makes for a thoughtful exploration of how the stories told about us shape our lives.

**ENGLE, MARGARITA** *Jazz Owls: A Novel of the Zoot Suit Riots*; illus. by Rudy Gutierrez. Atheneum, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 6-10

In this verse novel chronicling the Zoot Suit Riots, teen sisters Marisela and Lorena and their younger brother Ray find life in World War II Los Angeles complicated as their nights of jazz and dance out on the town become increasingly dangerous.

**GOLDSTONE, LAWRENCE** *Higher, Steeper, Faster: The Daredevils Who Conquered the Skies*; illus. with photographs. Little, 2017. \$18.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 5-8

Thrillseekers and history buffs will appreciate Goldstone's chronicle of the breathtaking stunts of early aviators and the innovation that went into making their aircraft.

**GONZALES, ANDREA** *Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting It Done*; by Andrea Gonzales and Sophie Houser. Harper/HarperCollins, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 6-9

In this humorous and accessible nonfiction account, the authors describe how a small project at a Girls Who Code summer camp became a popular hit.

**HALE, SHANNON** *Real Friends*; illus. by LeUyen Pham; color by Jane Poole. First Second, 2017. \$21.99; paperback \$12.99; e-book \$9.22 Gr. 4-6

In this graphic-novel memoir about the making, keeping, and losing of friends, young Shannon moves from kindergarten to sixth grade, relaying her struggles with anxiety and bullies as well as her joyful discovery of friends.

**HOOSE, PHILLIP** *Attucks!: Oscar Robertson and the Basketball Team That Awakened a City*; illus. with photographs. Farrar, 2018. \$19.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 6-10

You don't need to be a basketball diehard to be utterly entranced by Hoose's breathless recounting of the 1950s state championship run of Attucks High School in Indianapolis, a team that captivated the city with its players' skills but divided it on issues of race and segregation.

**JANOWITZ, JESSIE** *The Doughnut Fix*. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Twelve-year-old amateur baker Tristan relates his ambitious project to start a business selling his town long-lost chocolate cream doughnuts; foodies will appreciate the included recipes.

**JAMES, GREG** *Kid Normal*; by Greg James and Chris Smith; illus. by Erica Salcedo. Bloomsbury, 2018. \$13.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-6

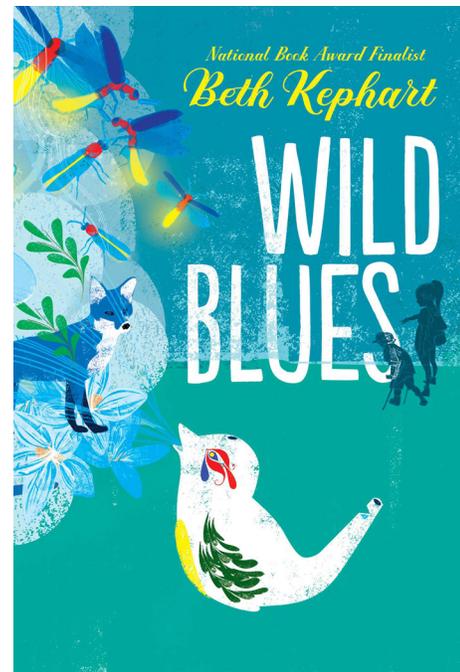
As the title states, Greg is just a normal kid, so he's having a hard time fitting in at his school for superheroes; sly satire and affectionate silliness infuses the story, making the hefty page count worth the read.

**JARROW, GAIL** *Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America*. Calkins Creek, 2018. \$18.95 Gr. 6-10

In a sea of modern "fake news," readers may be intrigued by Jarrow's recounting of one of the most successful and certainly original attempts by media to pull the wool over their audience's eyes.

**JOHNSON, VARIAN** *The Parker Inheritance*. Levine/Scholastic, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 5-7

Fans of *The Westing Game* and other puzzling mysteries such as Balliett's *Chasing Vermeer* will appreciate the twists and turns of this meaningful tale as twelve-year-old Candice on a treasure hunt to discover millions of dollars and family secrets.



**KEPHART, BETH** *Wild Blues*; illus. by William Sulit. Dlouhy/Atheneum, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 5-8

Lizzie's summer at her uncle Davy's cabin turns alarming when her friend and her uncle go missing and may have been kidnapped by escaped convicts; Lizzie heads out into the forest to save them, but at what risk to herself?

**LARSON, HOPE** *All Summer Long*; written and illus. by Hope Larson. Farrar, 2018. \$21.99; paperback \$12.99 Gr. 5-8

This easygoing graphic novel follows rising eighth-grader Bina through her summer vacation as she makes surprising new pals and deals with the changing social dynamics between her and her boy best friend.

**LEVINE, GAIL CARSON** *Ogre Enchanted*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 5-8

A companion book to *Ella Enchanted*, this tale follows young Evie as she tries to get back into human form after she's cursed by mischievous fairy Lucinda.

**MOORE, DAVID BARCLAY** *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*. Knopf, 2017. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

With insightful observations and quiet but clever humor, Lolly narrates his life after his brother's death as he navigates the gangs of New York city and finds solace by building large-scale Lego kingdoms.

**MONTGOMERY, SY** *How to Be a Good Creature*; illus. with photographs. Houghton, 2018. \$20.00; e-book \$20.00 Gr. 5-10 Prolific nonfiction writer Montgomery turns inward, discussing the relationships she has had with animals at home and abroad; animal lovers will appreciate the acknowledgment of the way connections with animals can bring important meaning to human lives.

**ORMSBEE, K. E.** *The House in Poplar Wood*. Chronicle, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

This supernatural, almost folkloric, tale sees personified Death, Memory, and Passion battling it out with little concern for the three young teens that work for them.

**PARR, MARIA** *Astrid the Unstoppable*; tr. from the Norwegian by Guy Puzey. Candlewick, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

Fans of classic literary heroines such as Anne of Green Gables or Pippi Longstocking will delight in the domestic adventures of bold and resilient Astrid, who pals around with an elderly neighbor and causes all sorts of mischief.

**SELL, CHAD** *The Cardboard Kingdom*; by Chad Sell, David DeMeo, and Jay Fuller et al.; illus. by Chad Sell. Knopf, 2018. \$18.99; paperback \$12.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 4-7

A ragtag group of kids uses their crafting skills to transform their humdrum neighborhood into a world of fantasy, complete with monsters, magic, and superheroes in this heartening and bubbly graphic novel sure to inspire some serious cosplay.

**SIDMAN, JOYCE** *The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science*; illus. with photographs by Joyce Sidman et al. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 5-8

Naturalists and budding bug experts will discover a wealth of information here, from detailed period artwork, to Merian's own illustrations and boxed quotations, to photographs of insect metamorphosis, all packaged in an accessible text that describes the life of the 18th century artist and amateur scientist.

**SIY, ALEXANDRA** *Voyager's Greatest Hits: The Epic Trek to Interstellar Space*; illus. with photographs. Charlesbridge, 2017. \$18.99 Gr. 4-8

Siy enthusiastically guides readers through the development of spacecraft Voyager I and Voyager II from conception to execution, providing both history and science in an accessible, streamlined text with just the right amount of humor.

**SMITH, RONALD L.** *Black Panther: The Young Prince*. Marvel/Disney, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-6

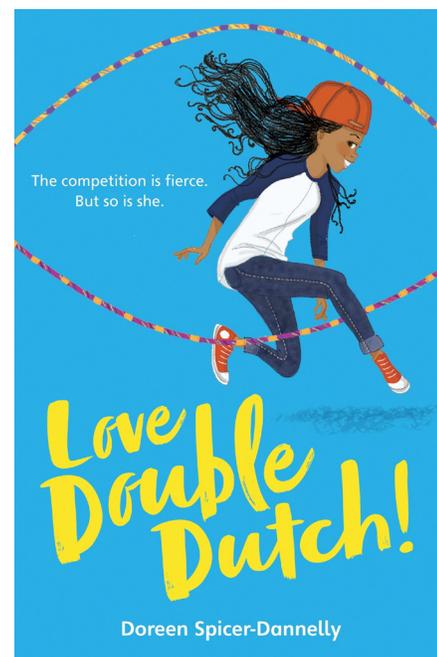
Fans of the Marvel universe are an easy sell here, but even the comic-book averse will appreciate Smith's no-nonsense, accessible storytelling.

**SMY, PAM** *Thornbill*; written and illus. by Pam Smy. Roaring Brook, 2017. \$19.99; e-book \$9.99

Two parallel storylines, one told in text, the other in illustrations, follow Ella as she befriends the girl she finds in an abandoned orphanage; this will give even veteran scary story fans chills.

**SPICER-DANNELLY, DOREEN** *Love Double Dutch!* Random House, 2018. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

Thirteen-year-old MaKayla holds the record for speed in double Dutch in Brooklyn, but now family drama sends her to South Carolina, where the competition is just as fierce; flawless descriptions make of rope-handling will keep readers hooked.

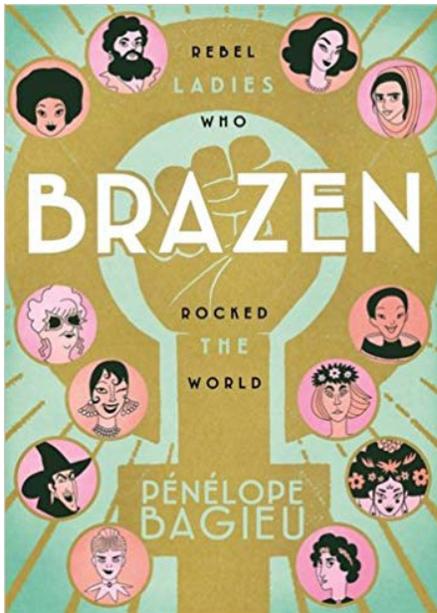


**WEISSMAN, ELISSA BRENT**, ed. *Our Story Begins: Children's Authors and Illustrators Share Fun, Inspiring, and Occasionally Ridiculous Things They Wrote and Drew as Kids*. Atheneum, 2017. \$16.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 4-7

Aspiring writers will revel in this collection that offers snapshots of the artistic starts of twenty-six writers and illustrators; each entry includes a childhood picture, a reminiscence, and a sample of the contributor's juvenile efforts.

**ALEXANDER, KWAME** *Rebound*; illus. by Dawud Anyabwile. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10  
Readers of Alexander's *The Crossover* are the target audience for this prequel chronicling Charlie's struggle in the wake of his father's death; free verse combines with Charlie's illustrations, offering insightful reflections on love, art, and basketball.

**ANDERSON, JODI LYNN** *Midnight at the Electric*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10  
Readers follow three girls—one from 1919 England, another from 1934 Oklahoma, and one from 2065 Kansas—through journal entries and letters in an ultimately hopeful account of humanity's rebirth in a new world.



**BAGIEU, PÉNÉLOPE** *Brazen: Rebel Ladies Who Rocked the World*; written and illus. by Pénélope Bagieu. First Second, 2018. \$24.99; paper \$17.99 Gr. 8-12

This snazzy graphic novel collective biography introduces readers to a wide range of female pioneers, from a midwife in fourth century BCE Athens, to an early transgender celebrity, to Dominican sisters martyred for anti-Trujillo activism; the brief chapters and quippy narration entice young readers to want to know more.

**BARDUGO, LEIGH** *Wonder Woman: Warbringer*. Random House, 2017. \$18.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10  
Wonder Woman is the epitome of the kick-butt female warrior, and Bardugo does her justice as the book follows Diana and her journey into the mortal world with Alia, a human girl fated to bring about the end of humanity.

**BLUMENTHAL, KAREN** *Bonnie and Clyde: The Making of a Legend*; illus. with photographs. Viking, 2018. \$19.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-12

Blumenthal pulls back the curtain on the oft-romanticized outlaw couple, revealing the circumstances and personalities that drove them to a life of crime and the personal tragedies behind the bold heists and daring getaways.

**CASHORE, KRISTIN** *Jane, Unlimited*. Dawson/Penguin, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-12

The different effects of Jane's decision around a single moment play out in five sections; fans of nearly every genre will find something to love in Cashore's multilayered story.

**CLAYTON, DHONIELE** *The Belles*. Freeform/Disney, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Opulence and glamor disguise failing society in Clayton's world where Belles are revered for their beauty but are still beholden to the manipulative royals and their political machinations.

**DE FOMBELLE, TIMOTHÉE** *The Book of Pearl*; tr. from the French by Sarah Ardizzone and Sam Gordon. Candlewick, 2018. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Familiar fairy-tale motifs blend with history to make this a haunting tale of first love, in which the readers follow the narrator through storybook lands and World War II to find a bittersweet ending.

**ELLIOTT, DAVID** *Bull*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. \$17.99 Gr. 9-12

Reveling in mythology's violence and lust, Poseidon narrates in free verse with a hip-hop cadence, while other characters add their poetic takes in bawdy retread of the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur.

**ERNSHAW, SHEA** *The Wicked Deep*. Simon Pulse, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-12

A chilly atmosphere, an insular town, and a centuries-old curse are key ingredients in this solid ghost story; add in a complex romance, a few heartbreaking surprises, and a passionate act of sacrifice, and this becomes a haunting choice for fans of Kali Wallace and Samantha Mabry.

**FRENCH, GILLIAN** *The Lies They Tell*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

French creates a breathless thriller in which Pearl is looking to clear her father's name of the death of a local rich boy but instead discovers a web of lies and deceit.

**GILES, LAMAR**, ed. *Fresh Ink*. Crown, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

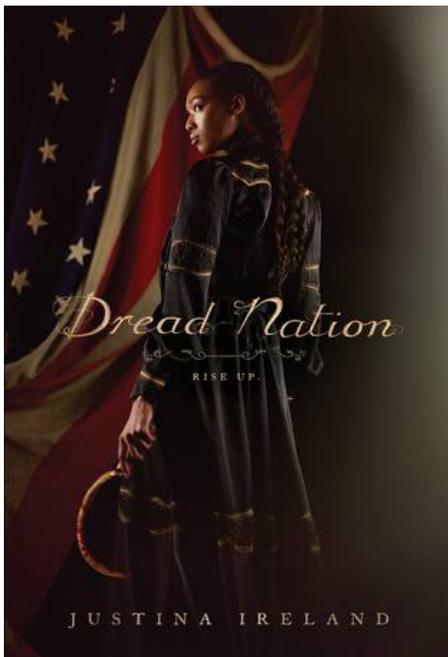
Fourteen authors supporting the We Need Diverse Books movement offer up twelve short stories, spanning genres and forms from romance to urban fantasy to historical fiction to contemporary realism to graphic narrative.

**HEILIGMAN, DEBORAH** *Vincent and Theo*. Holt, 2017. \$19.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-12

Readers might know about the starry nights and the severed ear, but they'll likely be unfamiliar with the moving, intense bond between Vincent Van Gogh and his younger brother Theo, and how without Theo, there would have never been any sunflowers or poppy fields.

**HESSE, MONICA** *The War Outside*. Little, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

The story of Haruko and Margot, two girls finding tentative friendship behind the barbed wire fence of a family internment camp, will thrill fans of *Code Name Verity* with its historical drama and stunning reveals.



**IRELAND, JUSTINA** *Dread Nation*. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

This genre-blending treasure is set in a reimagined American Reconstruction Era, complete with zombies and Black girls tasked to kill them, and features the quick-witted, zombie-slaying, and ever-intelligent Jane McKeene as an irresistible heroine.

**JACKSON, TIFFANY D.** *Monday's Not Coming*. Tegen/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

Teenaged Claudia searches for her missing friend, Monday, in a story subtle in tension until it unleashes a stunning twist; Jackson effortlessly weaves elements of suspense and issues of race, class, and gender together into a thrilling narrative.

**JENSEN, KELLY**, ed. *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World*; illus. by Laura Palese. Algonquin, 2017. \$16.95 Gr. 6-12

In this compilation, over forty writers, academics, actors, politicians, etc., contribute their ideas, concerns, and thoughts on feminism; this makes an excellent introduction to a complicated movement based on a simple concept of equality.

**KAUFMAN, CAROLINE** *Light Filters In: Poems*; illus. by Yelena Bryksenkova. Harper/HarperCollins, 2018. \$14.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Teenaged author Kaufman is probably better known as Instagram celebrity @poeticpoison, and here she poetically chronicles her path through a difficult adolescence and offers warmth and acknowledgement to teens trying to make sense of internal chaos.

**LEGRAND, CLAIRE** *Sawkill Girls*. Tegen/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Elements of folklore, science, fiction, and social commentary come into play as three very different girls deal with a malevolent force on Sawkill Island.

**OH, ELLEN**, ed. *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings: 15 Retellings of Asian Myths and Legends*; ed. by Ellen Oh and Elsie Chapman. Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$8.99 Gr. 6-12

Oh and Chapman bring together fifteen authors with Asian roots to reinterpret stories from throughout Asia, creating a collection that varies in style and genre but still explores the traditional folktale motifs; fans of traditional fairy tales and those looking for more modern takes will be pleased.

**PARTRIDGE, ELIZABETH** *Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam*; illus. with photographs. Viking, 2018. \$22.99; e-book \$11.99 Gr. 7-12

The political is made deeply personal in this collection of edited interviews with American military personnel interspersed with chapters about the presidents and top brass during the Vietnam War; social justice activists and history buffs will ponder over the book's connections between the past and present.

**PRAGER, SARAH** *Queer, There, and Everywhere: 22 People Who Changed the World*; illus. by Zoë More O'Ferrall. Harper/HarperCollins, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

In this breezy, informative collection, Prager offers twenty-two biographies of individuals who have challenged heteronormative assumptions; chapters are packed with direct quotes, sardonic authorial asides, and pro-love messages.

**REED, AMY**, ed. *Our Stories, Our Voices*. Simon Pulse, 2018. \$18.99 Gr. 6-10

In essays that range from the overtly political to the acutely personal, twenty-one YA authors explore what it means to be female in the wake of the 2016 U.S. presidential election and call readers to action with resources regarding social justice activism.

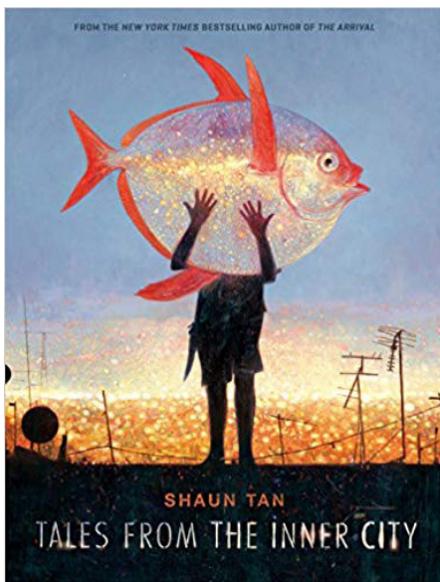
**REYNOLDS, JASON** *Miles Morales*. Marvel/Disney, 2017. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Fans of Spider-Man will find a unique origin story in Reynolds' treatment of Miles Morales, a young African American who struggles with the subtle racism daily thrown his way even as he battles more overt supervillains.

**SAEDI, SARA** *Americanized: Rebel without a Green Card*; illus. with photographs. Knopf, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-12  
Saedi's bubbly, quippy memoir covers the high and low points of growing up in the 1980s and 1990s as simultaneously an undocumented Iranian immigrant and an all-American girl.

**STEWART, MARTIN** *The Sacrifice Box*. Viking, 2018. \$17.99; e-book \$10.99 Gr. 8-12

Stewart crafts a story that is horror at its best, with blood, gore, murderous dolls, reanimated corpses, a tale of past tragedies, and a touch of campy humor to round it out—you know who to give this to.



**TAN, SHAUN** *Tales from the Inner City*; written and illus. by Shaun Tan. Scholastic, 2018. \$24.99 Gr. 7-12

Tan brings quiet wonder to the urban landscape with twenty-five brief, fantastical tales based on different animals and their intersection with human-made society; each story is accompanied by Tan's characteristically enigmatic art, making this a title for readers and artists alike to linger over.

**THOMAS, ANGIE** *The Hate U Give*. Balzer + Bray, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this story of African-American Starr and her run-in with a police officer that leaves her friend dead makes the political personal as it portrays the everyday truths behind all too familiar headlines.

**THOMAS, LEAH** *When Light Left Us*. Bloomsbury, 2018. \$17.99 Gr. 7-12

Fans of magical realism and especially A. S. King will find themselves utterly taken by this story of the three Vasquez siblings, who are recovering from their time with what may have been a parasitic alien.

**WALLACE, KALI** *The Memory Trees*. Tegen/HarperCollins, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 8-12

Fans of family dramas played out over generations will find Sorrow Lovegood's tale a page turner, as she navigates long held feuds, well cloaked secrets, and the possibility of dark magic in her family's history.

**WHITE, ELLEN EMERSON** *A Season of Daring Greatly*. Greenwillow, 2017. \$17.99; e-book \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Jill Cafferty breaks the glass ceiling of professional baseball when her 90mph pitch has the Pittsburgh Pirates calling, but she struggles with her surprising newfound fame along with the unsurprising sexism and misogyny in this story that will reach well beyond sports story fans.

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## THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, founded in 1945, is published monthly except August; it is devoted entirely to the review of current books for children and young adults, and is one of the nation's leading journals of literature for youth. In addition to providing concise summaries and critical evaluations, each review gives information on the book's content and reading level.

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GUIDE BOOK TO GIFT BOOKS:  
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