

4-2018

2018 List of Cream of the Crop for Children's and Young Adult Literature

Maine Regional Library System Book Review Group

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Recommended Citation

Maine Regional Library System Book Review Group, "2018 List of Cream of the Crop for Children's and Young Adult Literature" (2018). *Library Documents*. 130.
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Cream of the Crop

Total books: 103

KEY

L	Library binding	[GN]	Graphic Novel
R	Reinforced trade binding	[M]	Maine Author, Illustrator, Setting
T	Trade binding		

PICTURE BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: 21]

Alemagna, Beatrice. *On a Magical Do-Nothing Day*. HarperCollins. 978-006-265760-2, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). A boring day turns into an adventure when a girl is encouraged by her mother to do something else besides play video games. Forced outside in "this boring wet place," the child clings to the comfort of the video game controller until it falls into the water and she begins to discover the beauty of her surroundings. Upon returning indoors, the child sees everything a little differently. A beautiful tale of how the simple beauties in nature can be overlooked. The child is always the brightest color on the page, drawing your attention to the awakening of her senses as she discovers the world around her. A magical story that serves to remind kids to put down the electronics and get outside!

Barnett, Mac. *The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse*. Candlewick Press. 978-076-367754-1, R \$17.00 (PreK-Grade 3). Barnett has created an original pourquoi tale and Jon Klassen has brilliantly illustrated it. Mouse is swallowed by Wolf and once inside Wolf's stomach, he meets Duck, who has been swallowed but has no intention of being eaten. Together, they quite enjoy the safety of living in Wolf's stomach; however, Wolf is quite uncomfortable. When a hunter hears Wolf's moaning and thinks to take a shot at him, Duck and Mouse band together to defend their "home" and Wolf is so grateful that he asks how he can repay the two. The book ends with the poor Wolf baying at the moon, "Oh, woe!" Klassen uses his recognizable mixed media style and palette of dark browns and grays to bring the story to life and Barnett uses his gift for storytelling and humor to breathe life into this wry folktale that feels like it always existed.

Brenner, Tom. *And Then Comes Summer*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-6071-0, R \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 3). The author of *And Then Comes Halloween* and *And Then Comes Christmas* brings the reader an ode to Summer. Brenner takes the reader through summer with a "when" and "then" text. "When you hear the lawn mower" "then you get your bike out." Illustrator Jaime Kim complements the text with soft, kid-friendly illustrations that convey the sights and sounds of summer. This is the first book to read right after Memorial Day or the last book to read before readers are sent free to enjoy all the summer season has to offer.

Browne, Christopher. *Marlo*. Balzer + Bray. 978-006-244113-3, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). Marlo is a pup who needs a bath and is not too happy about it. Once in the tub, Marlo's imagination takes over and an amazing underwater adventure ensues. This endearing little pit bull will remind children of that age-old dilemma: not wanting to take the bath and then, once there, not wanting to get out of the bath. The artwork is stunning throughout with deep rich colors and imaginative, quirky sea life and readers will pour over each page.

Daywalt, Drew. *The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0062438898, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). The story of how Rock, Paper, and Scissors came to meet, battle, and spread the joy of their competition to the world. From its blazing cover to its thrilling conclusion, this book demands to be read aloud, at full volume, with voices, and then followed by a rousing game of, what else, Rock Paper Scissors! Humor, excellent characters, epic battles, and glorious illustrations by Adam Rex all make this collaboration first-rate. This is the type of book that keeps kids engaged during a story time/read aloud and the type of book that they will ask to check out again and again.

Denos, Julia. *Windows*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-9035-9, R \$15.99 (PreK-Grade 3). This book is an evening walk through a neighborhood by a boy and his dog. It is filled with small details that the observant reader/listener will return to again and again. It is both a winding down/bedtime story with its quiet sparse text, and a jumping off point for a discussion about windows into people's lives. The illustrations are set at dusk, with windows big and small, lit and dim with people eating, doing yoga, or lying empty. They are soft and quiet as is the text. It is a gentle, effective book that is filled with discovery. Recommended for any general library collection.

DiCamillo, Kate. *La La La*. Candlewick Press. 978-076-365833-5, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). DiCamillo's text, simply "la la la," takes the reader through Jaime Kim's simple, soft, yet expressive, illustrations of watercolor and ink following a girl along on a journey to find a friend. The reader and the listener need to take time to take in the story and enjoy the journey. Might want to have a tissue handy.

Dunn, Jancee. *I'm Afraid Your Teddy is in Trouble Today*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-7537-0, R [M] \$15.99 (PreK-Grade 3). The reader is met by police officers in the opening of this fun-filled read. They have been called to the house because of loud and wild

behavior. As the story proceeds, the reader learns of a party that began shortly after the owner left for school. And who are the raucous partiers? The stuffed animals living in the house...and their leader is Teddy! This is a wild read and Scott Nash's bright colored, action-filled illustrations will draw in young readers. There is a surprise ending that will warm the readers' hearts.

Elliott, David. *Baabwaa and Wooliam*. Candlewick Press. 978-0763660741, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 3). A fun story that incorporates fairy tale elements into a tongue-in-cheek tale of two bored sheep, Wooliam and Baabwaa (whose favorite past times are knitting and reading). The two decide that they are ready for an adventure. Suddenly a sheep, in wolf's clothing, about whom Wooliam has read in his books, approaches them and declares that "he" will be their adventure. Turns out the wolf can't read and when Wooliam offers to teach him, he is appalled by the bad reputation of fairy tale wolves and decides to clean up his rep. Readers will enjoy the dry wit and humor. A wonderful, hilarious tale featuring the expressive, detailed, and eye-catching illustrations of Melissa Sweet.

Graegin, Stephanie. *Little Fox in the Forest*. Schwartz & Wade. 978-80553537895, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). A wordless picture book that uses Graegin's illustrations to tell the story of a girl whose stuffed fox has been taken by a real fox and whisked into the forest. As she follows him in an attempt to rescue her beloved stuffed animal, a magical world filled with forest animal families and the treasured stuffed animals of the animal children emerges. What begins with a muted blue/green palette bursts into a colorful, active village. This is a book to spend time with, a book with lots to look at, to talk about, to think about. It is a book to be read over and over. It is a book the reader can put a story to each time it is opened. It is beautifully crafted and illustrated.

Hood, Morag. *Carrot & Pea an Unlikely Friendship*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-544-86842-7, T \$16.99 (Preschool) Using simplistic illustrations, Carrot & Pea teaches us that our differences can be wonderful. Featuring a Pea named Lee and Carrot named Colin, we first learn how Colin doesn't fit in with Lee and his pea friends. But then we see all the ways that Colin's differences are beneficial. The illustrations were made using collaged plastic grocery bags, which is incredible to look at the texture and the vibrant colors. The book has a simple and beautiful message. A must purchase for all libraries.

Jay, Alison. *Bee and Me*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-9010-6, R \$15.99 (PreK-Grade 3). In this engaging wordless book, we meet a girl who befriends a gentle bumble bee. Not able to "swat" the insect, she begins a friendship that takes them on many adventures as the bee grows larger and larger. It is a story of pure imagination mixed with factual information. Jay has used a color palette of soft blues, creams, and sage to enlist a dreamy atmosphere while giving the reader detailed pictures to pore over. No words are needed in this story. Factual information introduces the reader to the care and feeding of bees so this selection can be used as part of a unit on insects.

Joosee, Barbara. *Sail Away Dragon*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-7313-0, R \$15.99 (Grade K-3). "Once there was a girl, a very little girl. And there was a dragon, a very big dragon. They were friends..." thus begins another adventure with Forever, Girl and Forever, Dragon in search for the far-est Far Away. The soothing poetic, repetitive text is just right for bedtime. Illustrations in shades of grays, greens, and blues pull the reader into the world of Bad Hats, Viking warriors, and an owl playing tunes to the man in the moon. This is the third book about Forever, Girl and Forever, Dragon. Readers will want to read the others. A story that will engage both reader and listener in a story of old-fashioned imagination.

Kuntz, Doug and Amy Shrodes. *Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey*. Crown Books for Young Readers. 978-1524715472, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). A story of loss, love, fear, heartache, and the bravery of immigrants. The lavish illustrations of Sue Cornelison beautifully accompany the well-written text. This story utilizes Kankush the cat to highlight a family's flight from Mosul through Turkey and Greece to Norway. When Kunkush is lost along the trip and the family fears him gone forever, he is the symbol of a life lost. Then he is found and the reunion completes a circle of love and provides hope for the future, not only of this family, but of other immigrant families. This is a wonderful book showing the reality and hardships of losing shelter and homeland done with a gentle hand.

Reynolds, Peter. *Happy Dreamer*. Orchard Books. 978-0545865012, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). From the shiny cover showing a joyful child to the whimsical endpapers to the colorful, exuberant illustrations on each page, this picture book is a love note to all of those lovely, dreamy, different kids, the ones who don't always sit still or color in the lines. Reynolds struggled with being a dreamer as a child; fortunately, he was supported by his parents, but not all adults appreciated his "zig zaggy brain," so this book is also for adults who work with or love dreamers. It is a delightful read-aloud and kids will relate to the message.

Silvestro, Annie. *Bunny's Book Club*. Doubleday. 978-0-553-53758-1, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Bunny loves books. After coming upon a storytime outside the library, he has fallen for the power of story. His wish for more stories grows as storytime moves inside. Bunny's eagerness to obtain stories for both himself and his friends will engage a reader's imagination. The text flows smoothly and is complimented by illustrations from Tatjana Mai-Wyss both whimsical and detailed done in soft, muted watercolors that lend a quietness to the story of friends reading together. Use this to promote a love of reading.

Spires, Ashley. *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do*. Kids Can Press, 978-1-77138-727-9, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). A story for those who face something they think they can't do. Lou is good at lots of things, adventures and such, but when the adventure includes climbing a tree, the adventure stops. Lou can't climb a tree, or thinks she can't for she resists trying. Friends offer encouragement but in the end, it is Lou who must decide to try. But what if she fails? A story of the power of trying and failing and then trying again. Spires's illustrations have many details and white space for the viewer to fill. It is a great follow-up to *The Most Important Thing*.

Staake, Bob. *The Book of Gold*. Schwartz & Wade. 978-0553510775, T \$17.99 (K-Grade 5). A gorgeous love letter to the power of books, this story follows young Isaac Gutenberg who shows little interest in reading despite book-loving parents. When a strange shopkeeper shares the story of the Book of Gold with Isaac, a book that will give you everything that you desire upon opening it, Isaac is determined to find this item. His entire life is dedicated to this quest but, slowly, his burning desire for material wealth transforms into a thirst for knowledge and an intellectual curiosity. The final scene of the book is powerful, as an elderly Isaac passes down the legend to a bored youngster pouting in the New York Public Library. This book will surely be beloved by librarians, teachers, and parents and is a recommended read-aloud for back-to-school lessons and introductions to research lessons.

Tavares, Matt. *Red & Lulu*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-7733-6, T [M] \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Soon to be a Christmas classic, this is the story of a pair of nesting cardinals who are driven from their fir tree when it is cut down to become the Christmas tree for Rockefeller Center. While Lulu stays with the nest, Red must follow to see where his family has been taken. This is a twofold story: one of Red never giving up on finding his family, and one about how the tree is selected for Christmas in New York City. Maine author/illustrator Tavares's illustrations are like paintings. They are detailed, bright, and carry the text. A must for libraries, both school and public.

Van Dusen, Chris. *Hattie and Hudson*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-6545-6, T [M] \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 3). Young Hattie is at camp with her family. She sets out in the morning on a canoe ride, singing on the way and her song attracts a mysterious creature from the depths of the lake. She names him Hudson and the two become friends. When other townspeople react to Hudson with fear, the two friends devise a plan to let others see how gentle he is. With gorgeous illustrations, Van Dusen's first non-rhyming book is a wonderful, gentle story about compassion and acceptance of things that are different. Use in discussion about prejudice. A fantastic read-aloud.

Wild, Margaret and Freya Blackwood. *The Treasure Box*. Candlewick Press. 978-0763690847, R \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). In the midst of war, Peter and his father are forced to flee their home taking only a book in an iron box with them. After Peter's father dies, and the journey becomes more difficult, Peter decides to bury the book by a tree where it will be safe from bombs and fire. As a man, Peter returns for the book and brings it back to the city where he places it on a shelf in the new library. No specifics are necessary about the war or the specific refugees as this tale touches your heart about all those who have had to flee their beloved country. The end papers appear to be collages of books that were destroyed in the fire, as do some of the illustrations throughout the book. This is a very powerful tale that needs to be shared with all ages about the devastation of war.

PICTURE BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: 18]

Adler, David. *Magnets Push Magnets Pull*. Holiday House. 978-0-8234-3669-9, T \$16.95 (Grade K-3). Magnets and magnetism are all around us: in computers, doorbells, televisions, and cell phones to name just a few. Adler explains what magnets are, how they are used, and the two basic forms of magnetism in this easy and fun book. Anna Raff's big, well-defined, friendly illustrations support the text and gives visuals to the concept. The author has also included some activities and a simple glossary for the reader, including making your own magnet! This is the book for the beginning scientist, simple in text yet clear and informative. This is an ideal book for your STEAM collection.

Baker, Kate. *Secrets of the Sea*. Big Picture Press. 978-0-7636-9839-3, R \$24.99 (Grade K-6). "Oceans, places where all life on Earth began, yet they are one of the least understood places on the planet." This is the opening line of an exquisite book that takes the reader from the ocean shallows to the darkest depths. It introduces creatures that may be familiar and others that humans never knew existed. It is filled with information but does not overwhelm the reader - enough to capture the interest of anyone reading the book. What makes this selection stand out is the fantastic illustrations! Eleanor Taylor's renderings are large, detailed with a soft touch to them. She captures the creature and the reader. It defines STEAM, information for the young scientist and illustrations to capture the lover of art.

Christelow, Eileen. *Robins! How they Grow Up*. Clarion Books. 978-0-544-44289-4, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Narrated by two robin brothers, this picture book is the story of the lifecycle of one of America's most recognized birds. Offered in comic book panels, the author follows these two young robins from egg to adulthood giving the young naturalist a look at these harbingers of spring. Lots of facts easily understandable for young readers, this is a book for your STEAM collection. This can be paired with *Birds Make Nests* by Michael Garland, *You Nest Here with Me* by Jane Yolen, *Birds* by Kevin Henkes, and *For the Birds; The Life of Roger Tory Peterson*.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. ***Before She was Harriet***. Holiday House. 978-0-8234-2047-6, T \$17.95 (Grade K-6). There are many stories of Harriet Tubman, this one takes a journey of her life in reverse. As the story begins we see Tubman as an elderly woman and then move back in time illustrating her brave roles as suffragette, spy, nurse, aunt, and daughter, just to name a few. With beautiful, clear watercolor illustrations, one per page, the Ransoms capture the essence of Tubman and how extraordinary she really was. This book will be a wonderful addition to a library's picture book collection.

Davies, Nicola. ***MANY: The Diversity of Life on Earth***. Candlewick Press. 978-0763794838, R \$15.99 (Grade K-3). Davies and Emily Sutton team up once again (Tiny Creatures, 2014) to celebrate the diversity of life on Earth. The focus here is on the vast biodiversity on the planet Earth. Davies's clear and simple prose tells about the many creatures and plants inhabiting the planet, and Sutton's well-drawn illustrations show this diversity. Sutton's amazing illustrations crowd the pages; readers will pour over them. The message of this book is timely, necessary, and so well-crafted that a reader of any age can understand the immediacy needed to protect our world so that many does not dwindle down to one. A fantastic book for use in a biology, art, or ecology class, or for an ecological read-aloud.

Engle, Margarita. ***Bravo!: Poems About Amazing Hispanics***. Henry Holt and Co. 978-0-8050-9876-1, T \$18.99 (Grade K-6). Engle and Lopez have created a beautiful, necessary book highlighting amazing Latinos and their contributions to the world. As Engle says, these Hispanic are not the most famous nor were all of their contributions flashy or Earth-shattering, but each person followed a passion and strove to make her or his corner of the world better. Ranging across professions, fields, and time periods, all are honored with Engle's simple, lyrical poems and Lopez's bright, bold illustrations. The poems offer snippets of a person's life and Lopez adds a moving portrait.

Frier, Raphaële. ***Malala: Activist for Girls' Education***. Charlesbridge. 978-1580897853, R \$17.99 (Grade 3-5). The story of Malala Yousafzai, beginning with her birth and continuing through her current humanitarian work. A translated work from the 2015 *Malala: Pour le Droit des Filles a L'Education*. Fronty's illustrations capture the designs and patterns of Islamic/Middle Eastern art and perfectly accompany the harrowing, inspirational story of the girl who refused to be silenced. Frier's text is bold and doesn't shy away from the fear and danger of the rise of the Taliban in Pakistan nor the actual shooting of Malala (illustrated with a striking yellow starburst against a dark page). The end matter of the book is extensive. A top-notch biography/informational text that can be used in many classes, or as a read-aloud about strength and persistence in the face of grave danger and overwhelming odds.

Jenkins, Martin. ***Exploring Space, From Galileo To the Mars Rover and Beyond***. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-8931-5, T \$17.99 (Grade 3-6). The night sky has called to the human race for centuries: What is deep space like? Now we have begun to find out. This book details the challenges humans have met in their quest for answers. Walks readers through the very earliest explorations, getting into space, landing on the Moon, surviving in space, the Mars Rover, and what is next in the future of space exploration. What sets this book apart is not just the informative yet easy to understand text, but the cutout drawings. Each page offers at least one drawing and many include these cutout detailed drawings so the reader can really see and get a feel for the structures being explained. For space enthusiasts, tech people, engineering geeks, and those who have a casual curiosity about space, this exemplifies STEAM at its finest.

Markle, Sandra. ***The Great Leopard Rescue: Saving the Amur Leopards***. Millbrook Press. 978-1-4677-9247-9, L \$30.65 (Grade K-6). In 2007, only 30 Amur leopards lived in the wild! Markle introduces the reader to the reasons why the rarest of the big cats is so endangered: found only in the Russian Taiga, leopards have been losing ground due to habitat loss, hunting, and diminished food sources. Now scientists from around the world are coming together to save these precious few from extinction. Written in an understandable format, with stunning photographs to support the text, Markel lays out the problems and possible solutions for those budding naturalists. Perhaps some of those reading this book will one day be part of the solution to saving this animal and others on the same path. Markle's STEAM offerings fit into units about endangered animals, climate change, and how scientists are coming together for a greater good. This title is an important book to be shared by readers everywhere.

McAlister, Caroline. ***John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.R. Tolkien***. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-62672-092-3, T \$18.99 (Grade 4 and up). As a young boy, John Ronald loved Dragons. He would look at the clouds and see dragons; he would look at the trees and envision dragons. He also loved making up imaginary languages. As hard as John looked for a real dragon, he never found one, that is until as an adult he created one of his own, a dragon named Smaug. This well-written and beautifully illustrated biography of J.R.R Tolkien has much to give the reader, whether or not they are a fan of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

McCormick, Patricia. ***Sergeant Reckless, the True Story of the Little Horse Who Became a Hero***. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-06-229259-9, T \$17.99 (Grade K-6). During the Korean War, a group of U.S. Marines were in need of a packhorse to carry ammunition too heavy for soldiers to haul. They come upon a little red mare in need of food and a home, thus begins the story of Reckless, the only mare to become a Marine and officially hold a military rank. For her bravery and courage, she received two Purple Hearts and retired with full military honors. For animal lovers, military enthusiasts, and units on animals at war this is the perfect book. Iacopo Bruno's

illustrations are large and use military hues rendered in pencil and colored digitally. They give an added feel of the war Reckless fought and allow the reader to feel, see, and hear the language of war.

Milway, Katie. *The Banana-Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World*. Kids Can Press. 978-177-138331-8, T \$18.95 (Grade 1-4). Another title in the excellent CitizenKid series, this story shows how play can be a strategy for connection, cooperation and acceptance. One night a young boy, Deo, flees his East African village. Though he finds a place in a refugee camp, he is without his family and almost without hope as gangs of bullies make life difficult for many. Through the game of soccer, Deo finds friendship and meaning. Shane Evans's bold, bright illustrations show how play can improve the human condition. Based on a true story, this book is an excellent addition to any library.

Murray, Carol. *Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs*. Christy Ottaviano Books. 978-0-8050-9818-1, R [M] \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 3). This addition to the poetry collection is certain to be loved by future entomologists. It informs, entertains, and surprises those who declare their dislike of bugs. All twenty-five entries have their moment as Murray captures their habits with humor. With Maine illustrator Melissa Sweet's signature illustrations to complement the text, this book can work in poetry units as well as in units on insects. This is an excellent example of STEAM, science working with art.

Myers, Walter Dean. *Frederick Douglass: The Lion Who Wrote History*. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-027709-3, R \$17.99 (Grade K-3) This is a powerful picture book biography for children. Douglass' moving life story includes teaching himself to read, escaping slavery, speaking out as a leading abolitionist, advocating for women's rights, urging President Lincoln to enlist black soldiers into the Union army, and serving in the government after the Civil War. Readers learn of some of the terrible struggles of life as a slave adding to the appreciation of what Douglass achieved in his lifetime. When teachers and parents ask for books about perseverance and grit, here is a book you can share with them.

Newman, Patricia. *Sea Otter Heroes: The Predators that Saved an Ecosystem*. Millbrook Press. 978-1-5124-2631-1, R \$31.97 (Grade 3-6). There is an inlet on the coast of California where the seagrass grows healthy and strong. The question is "why" given that the water draining into the inlet is full of nutrients from fertilizers that normally encourage the growth of algae which, in turn, would coat the seagrass and prevent it from photosynthesizing, thereby causing the seagrass to die. Biologist Brent Hughes set out to solve this mystery and found the unlikeliest reason: the sea otter, an apex predator helping maintain the balance. Set up in chapters that flow easily into one another, and with photos to support the material so the future scientist can understand, this is the scientific method at its best. Use with units on plants, pollution, sea animals, and how to solve problems of science.

Sanchez, Anita. *Karl, Get Out of the Garden! Carolus Linnaeus and the Naming of Everything*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-58089-606-1, T \$17.99 (All Ages). This wonderful story of how plants, animals, and insects got their names springs to life with the most extraordinary watercolor and ink illustrations done by Catherine Stock. Karl greatly disliked staying inside learning Greek and Latin, so every chance he got he would sneak out to his father's garden to spend time among the plants, watching the insects, and trying to learn what they were called. Back in those times a plant could have several different names, such as the dandelion, which was also known as blowball or swine's snout, so Karl decided to get things organized and make order out of the chaos. This is a great book for introducing animal and plant classification, from elementary through middle school.

Smith, Matthew Clark. *Lighter than Air*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-7732-9, T [M] \$16.99 (Grade K-3). The story of Sophie Blanchard, the first woman pilot is expertly written and beautifully illustrated by Matt Tavares. This wonderful story that is part biography, part history of early flight, will appeal to readers interested in stories of little-known, strong women in history, and those enamored of stories about the engineering of flight. It can be used in biographical studies in class, or for discussions on perseverance (since Sophie never gave up despite strong opposition to her flying).

Tekavec, Heather. *Different? Same!* Kids Can Press. 978-1-77138-565-7, T \$16.95 (PreK-Grade 3). Tekavec presents four seemingly unrelated species from the animal world and challenges the reader to find the common denominator. Each page asks the reader to look past the differences and find the same. Pippa Curnick's somewhat comic illustrations add to the fun of the search. This engaging and informative STEAM selection introduces the concept of same and different, and invites the reader to REALLY look at each offering.

CHAPTER BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: 19]

Alexander, Kwame. *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in the This Game Called Life*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-5445-7097-9, T \$14.99 (Grade 4-12). Accompanied by stunning black & white photographs by Thai Neave, Alexander weaves his personal narrative of the power of sport in his life with wisdom from phenomenal coaches, athletes, and activists. The book centers around the concept of giving your best and never giving up. Much like a game, the book starts with a Warm-Up (a story from Alexander's life) and moves into the four quarters of the game, with a pause for half-time and, of course, like a truly exciting game of

well-matched competitors, ends with Overtime. Each quarter features a personal story from a well-known athlete (Wilma Rudolph, LeBron James, Pele, the Williams sisters) as well as a heading: Grit, Motivation, Passion, Teamwork, and Tenacity. This book can be appreciated by many types of reader, but it will particularly resonate with readers across the ages who have played and loved sport.

Aronson, Marc and Marina Budhos. *Eyes of the World: Robert Capa, Gerda Taro, and the Invention of Modern Photojournalism*. Henry Holt & Co. 978-0-8050-9835-8, L \$22.99 (Grade 7-12). This gorgeous non-fiction text sweeps readers up into the love story of Robert Capa and Gerda Taro, two innovative photographers and adventurers who revolutionized photojournalism. Crafted storytelling and riveting photographs bring the Spanish Revolution to life. Gerta is the dreamer and the brains of the operation and Robert is the artist, and together the two create modern photojournalism, each supplying a strength that the other lacks.

Behnke, Alison Marie. *Racial Profiling: Everyday Inequality*. Twenty-First Century Books. 978-1-5124-0268-1, L \$35.22 (Grade 7-12). This book is a must-have for libraries serving teens. It can be used for research or to inspire youth activists. Tamir Rice, Rodney, King, Freddie Gray, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, the Flint water crisis, Islamophobia, and the Black Lives Matter Movement are all covered in this 140-page book. The author succinctly traces the political policies throughout history that have created our current culture. Laws and rights are well explained clearly in both words and colorful charts and graphs. The supporting pictures will grab the reader's attention. A Glossary, Source Notes, a Selected Bibliography, suggested Further Information, and an Index is included.

Bergreen, Laurence. *Magellan: Over the Edge of the World*. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-6267-2120-3, T \$19.99 (Grade 7-9). An account of Magellan's trials and tribulations as he attempted to circumnavigate the world, a quest he did not live to see come to pass. This book is a young adult adaptation of the title *Over the Edge of the World: Magellan's Terrifying Circumnavigation of the Globe* published in 2003. The illustrations are reproductions of maps, paintings, drawings, and photographs that are strategically placed throughout. Each chapter focuses on a different topic of his trip: the horrible conditions of life at sea, the politics of the times, and early Chinese and Arabic trade routes. There is extensive, excellent backmatter that includes well-organized source notes. A great addition to resources on Magellan, the first circumnavigation of the world, ancient trade routes, and life at sea during the Age of Discovery.

Brown, Don & Mike Perfit. *Older Than Dirt: A Wild but True History of the Earth*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-544-80503-3, T [GN] \$18.99 (Grade 4-6). Offered in graphic novel form, a knowledgeable groundhog and very clever earthworm discuss the origins of Earth, following the history of its formation to the present. Brown's panels are informative yet casual so that all the information offered is done so budding scientists can follow. Sprinkle in wisecracks and jokes so that the material isn't overwhelming, this is STEAM at its best for future earth scientists. It invites both scientist geek and reluctant reader to take a look.

Burns, Loree Griffin. *Life on Surtsey: Iceland's Upstart Island*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-544-68723-3, T \$18.99 (Grade 4-6). The Scientists in the Field series never fails to amaze, and this latest edition is no exception. Off the coast of Iceland in 1963, a volcano erupted and from it a brand-new island was formed. This offers scientists of all disciplines a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: to study the hows and whys and whens and from where life begins on a piece of rock devoid of everything. With photos to accompany the text this is not just another science book.

Doeden, Matt. *The Negro Leagues: Celebrating Baseball's Unsung Heroes*. Millbrook Press. 978-1-5124-2753-0, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-7). Separated into five short chapters, this book is perfect for readers who are interested in delving further into a piece of sports history. Many young readers might not realize that baseball hasn't always been an integrated sport and that there had been a period of time in which black players were denied entry into Major League Baseball; a time when the National Negro League was formed and in which many of baseball's great players were forced to play due to the color of their skin. Players like Satchel Paige, Josh Gibson and Jackie Robinson got their starts in the Negro Leagues. Doeden provides historical perspective, short biographies of many of the major players of the NNL, and touches upon the legacy of these players in modern-day baseball.

Gonzales, Andrea & Sophie Houser. *Girl Code: Gaming, Going Viral, and Getting it Done*. HarperCollins. 978-0-062-47250-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). The authors met in 2014 at a Girls Who Code summer program at the age of 17 and started with only a basic knowledge of coding. They worked on their final project together, creating the web game *Tampon Run*, which garnered worldwide notice due to its taboo topic of menstruation, as well as the fact that it was coded by girls. The two procured speaking engagements about their game and their coding experiences. The book is formatted with alternating segments written by Gonzales and Houser. The book offers encouragement for girls interested in coding, and the author voices are open and easy to relate to. The back matter includes some easy-to-follow beginner coding lessons, term definitions, and websites for further lessons/information in coding.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers*. Godwin Books. 978-0-8050-9339-1, T \$19.99 (Grade 10 - 12/Adult/Professional). As teenagers, Vincent and Theo made a pledge to each other that they would always be close. This artfully written book explores their love for each other, their dreams, their complicated lives, and the pain they both suffered due to mental illness. The author used hundreds of letters that Vincent wrote to Theo and many other sources to bring insight to the brothers' relationship. Color plates of paintings and black and white sketches are included. The back matter includes an epilogue, dates of events, an author's note, bibliography, websites, endnotes, and an extensive index. Give to lovers of biography or art.

Hirsch, Rebecca E. *Climate Migrants: On the Move in a Warming World*. Twenty-First Century Books. 978-1-4677-9341-4, R \$30.21 (Grade 6-12). "2015 was the hottest year on record for the planet. By 2015, thirteen of the hottest years on record have occurred since 2000. Climate change is like a speeding train. It has so much momentum that even slamming on the brakes won't instantly bring it to a stop." Climate change is real and is affecting the planet each minute of each day. Rebecca Hirsch has laid it all out: the history, the causes, the effects, and the ways humans must learn to live with climate change. She offers two solutions: adapt and/or migrate. This slim book is an important book read for all, not to be taken lightly, and would be great for discussion. Backmatter is thorough and helpful for directing readers to further sources on the topic.

Jones, Patrick. *Teen Incarceration: From Cell Bars to Ankle Bracelets*. Twenty-First Century Books. 978-1-4677-7572-4, L \$37.32 (Grade 7-12). This book details the causes of criminal behavior of today's youth -- poverty, drugs, and domestic violence. Jones addresses the criminal justice system and how it has dealt with adolescent crimes in the past to understanding there are better methods of justice that will not leave permanent scars. Includes easy-to-follow chapters, sidebars containing both information on individual youth who have committed crimes and on various laws and amendments, and other useful and interesting information pertaining to the subject. All legal terms are defined within the text of the book. Great book to add to shelves on social issues, and useful for students and educators doing research on juvenile crimes, behavior, and penalties for these crimes.

Kops, Deborah. *Alice Paul and the Fight for Women's Rights*. Calkins Creek. 978-1-8297-9323-8, T \$17.95 (Grade 7-12). Alice Paul was known for social activism and the fight for women's rights. Born a Quaker in 1885, Paul was an educated and active child. After college, she traveled to England where she became active in social work and eventually the suffrage movement. Her return to the US increased her involvement in social activism, and she became the organizer and spokesperson for the National Woman's Party. The author uses Paul's correspondence and journal entries to reinforce the magnitude of her impact on social activism and the fight for women's right to vote. Well-written and easy to follow, there is extensive back matter which includes a "Who Is Who" section that gives a brief biography of women who were important to the movement. A great resource for any student interested in US History.

Losure, Mary. *Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Revealed*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-7063-4, R \$19.99 (Grade 4-9). This well-written biography explains what life was like for Newton growing up in a time when magic and science blurred. He was born in 1642. As a boy, he lived away from his family above an apothecary's shop. He was fascinated with alchemy, the stars, mathematics, and how the world worked. Readers will quickly be drawn into this engaging narrative about one of the world's greatest scientists. His laws of motion changed how people looked to mathematics, not magic, for explanations. The book has an attractive layout with numerous black and white illustrations, including some pages from Newton's notebooks. The author uses primary sources in this well-researched book, including source notes, a bibliography, image credits, and an index.

Lourie, Peter. *Jack London and The Klondike Gold Rush*. Christy Ottaviano Books. 978-0-8050-9757-3, T \$18.99 (Grade 4-9). Young Jack London did not find much gold in the Klondike, but he did find an abundance of material for his writing. This fascinating biography includes a wealth of information about his preparation for the Klondike adventure. The numerous black and white photographs and sketches enhance this account of the Klondike gold rush. There is an introduction, an afterword, timeline, glossary, bibliography, and extensive index.

Paquette, Ammi-Joan & Laurie Ann Thompson. *Two Truths and a Lie: It's Alive*. Walden Pond Press. 978-0-06-241879-1, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-6). Budding scientists will find this book irresistible. Presented in nine chapters with three stories offered in each, two of which are true and one that is completely made up, a lie! But even the lie has small bits of truth and some of the truths are hard to believe. Not only are the stories challenging, the presentation is fun with colorful fonts, informational sidebars, a research guide, an answer guide, bibliography, and a monkey scientist to assist the reader.

Reef, Catherine. *Florence Nightingale: The Courageous Life of the Legendary Nurse*. Clarion Books. 978-0-544-53580-0, T \$18.99 (Grade 7-12). A fascinating biography on the life and times of Florence Nightingale. Born in a time period where women were expected to center their life around the family and home life, Florence's parents supported education for women but were less supportive of their daughter's desire to become a nurse. This biography covers her strengths and weaknesses, providing a realistic, well-rounded account of her life. The background stories on the many who touched her life, from family and friends to colleagues to her beloved pet owl, provide plenty of interesting tidbits. An outstanding, well-written portrait of a powerful woman who made changes in the medical world that saved many lives. A must-have selection for both public and school libraries.

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Girl Rising: Changing the World One Girl at a Time*. Wendy Lamb Books. 978-0-5535-1146-8, T \$22.99 (Grade 4-9/All Ages). Working with the producers of the documentary by the same title, Stone has included more than thirty girls to illustrate the ways that societies around the world prevent girls' education. Each girl reveals her individual stress, challenges and success. This book portrays the abuse that powerful men, governments, and families inflict upon young girls and cultural norms like child marriage, slavery, and human trafficking. Back pages continue to educate and expand the storyline. A lengthy bibliography is useful for future readings and shows the depth of research. The message: freedom of education can end the plight of these girls.

Uwiringiyimana, Sandra. *How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child*. Katherine Tegen Books. 978-0-0624-7014-0, L \$19.99 (Grade 10-12). This memoir is a powerful narrative of survival, strength, and courage. The story begins the night her sister and others are massacred by rebels in a UN refugee camp. The narrative then flips back to Uwiringiyimana's early life in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the tensions that forced her family to flee. The family ends up in Rochester, NY as part of a UN replacement program. In addition to dealing with usual teenage issues, Uwiringiyimana must work through her grief, as well as the trauma of a sexual assault. During her junior year of high school, she creates a nationally recognized photo exhibit that helps others understand the pride and strength of her people. Uwiringiyimana offers a strong female voice to the growing body of war and immigrant memoirs.

Vance, Ashlee. *Elon Musk & The Quest for a Fantastic Future*. HarperCollins. 978-0-0624-6328-9, T \$16.99 (Grade 7-12). An outstanding and invigorating book on Elon Musk and his need to right the wrongs of mankind by bettering society with tech advancements. His perseverance and enthusiasm will fascinate readers. The book centers on Musk's quest to "guard man's fate in the universe by turning humans into space colonizers" - the ultimate dream. No presence of TOC, glossary or index. There are some photos of Musk at various stages of his life along with people who have worked and continue to work closely with him. Recommended for anyone who is fascinated with Tesla, SpaceX, and the technologies and advancements made by Musk.

CHAPTER BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: 45]

Anderson, John David. *Posted*. Walden Pond Press. 978-0-062-33820-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-9). When cellphones are banned from Branton Middle School, online bullying materializes in the form of post-it notes that are plastered throughout the school. A group of friends come up with this method of communication, and it quickly catches on. The post-its are left on lockers, books, and doors; inevitably some students start misusing them. Hurtful messages are soon being left around the school. The friends do their best to stay out of the drama, but when a new girl named Rose enters the group, things quickly change and loyalties are tested along the way; the friends may not be the same when the war is over. Would be a wonderful read aloud to address issues of bullying.

Arnold, Elana K. *What Girls Are Made Of*. Carolrhoda Lab. 978-1-5124-1024-2, L \$18.99 (Grade 10-12). Nina's mother tells her that all love is conditional, particularly the love of a man. Nina believes that a man's love is determined by her beauty, her willingness to have sex, and anything else the man decides will make her worthy. When Nina enters into her first serious relationship with Seth, he calls all the shots and leaves Nina when she does not prove to be as fun and adventurous as he would like. After their break up, Nina must confront her pregnancy without the help of her mother. An honest exploration of coming-of-age and female sexuality. Birth control and abortion options are explicit and informative. Scenes that describe sex and masturbation are detailed and sometimes uncomfortable but not gratuitous.

Blakemore, Megan Frazer. *Good and Gone*. HarperTeen. 978-0-06-234842-5, T [M] \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). This YA road-trip novel by a Maine author tackles tough issues of depression and sexual abuse. A missing pop star is the impetus for siblings Lexi and Charlie, along with neighbor, Zack, to venture away from home. Each one has a secret and as the miles pass truths are revealed. Edgy but vulnerable Lexi narrates, and through a series of flashbacks, the reader learns that she was raped by her boyfriend and has never told anyone. Each chapter begins with a unique touch - a piece of a fairy tale to complement the narrative.

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. *Sputnik's Guide to Life on Earth*. Walden Pond Press. 978-0-0626-4362-9, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-9). After his grandfather's dementia worsens, Prez is sent to live with the noisy, loving Blythes family on a farm in the country for the summer, where he comes face-to-face with Sputnik, who wears goggles, a yellow backpack and a kilt. Sputnik is an alien who is able to read Prez's mind. He is on a mission to help Prez find ten reasons to save the planet. Sputnik, who appears as a dog to everyone else, creates mischief and mayhem as gravity is bent, front loaders become light-year speed vehicles, hay bales float, and TV remotes change the time continuum. Underlying Sputnik's comical antics and the witty discourse of the Blythes is a heartfelt story about finding a voice and a home connection when life's circumstances provide otherwise.

Coville, Katherine. *Ivy*. Alfred A. Knopf. 978-0553539730, T \$16.99 (Grade 2-6). This is a charming folktale about a little girl, Ivy, and her grandmother, Meg (known as a healer of all, and well-loved for it), and a contest for the tidiest town in the kingdom. Broomsweep, so called because all residents sweep their doorsteps twice a day, seems like a shoe-in for the prize. However, Meg's house is the one untidy spot in the town with an overgrown garden and mischievous, mythical creatures that keep turning up. Can the town still win the prize if one house is less-than-perfect? With its manageable length, large font, predictable, linear plot, and touches of humor and fantasy, this is an excellent choice for emerging readers. And with its message that what matters most is the kindness you show rather than your outward appearance, a good choice for young readers navigating issues of friendship and acceptance.

Foley, Jessie Ann. *Neighborhood Girls*. HarperTeen. 978-0-0625-7185-4, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Wendy Boychuck is friends with the three most popular girls at Chicago's Academy of the Sacred Heart, an all girls' Catholic school that is closing its doors after Wendy's junior year. Wendy's popularity provides her with a wall of protection after her father was suddenly arrested and convicted for torture and abuse of suspects. Wendy decides to become friends with three social elites in an attempt to outrun her father's reputation by

creating a reputation for herself. Characters in this novel are realistic, and Wendy remains a likable character throughout the story even though she makes bad choices. The number of tragic events is definitely high, but the novel is overall compelling and relatable.

Freeman, Ruth. ***One Good Thing About America***. Holiday House. 978-082-343695-8, R [M] \$16.95 (Grade 3-6). This epistolary novel deftly captures the triumphs and travails of Anaïs, called Annie, a Congolese refugee who has immigrated to the U.S. with her mother and brother, leaving, among others, her beloved grandmother behind. Anais writes to her Oma, describing the struggles of assimilating into a school, a culture, a world that is so very different from home. Freeman is a Maine educator working with many ESL students and brings an authentic voice to Anais's feelings of displacement. A fantastic novel to show perspective and to explore the immigrant voice.

Gemeinhart, Dan. ***Scar Island***. Scholastic Press. 978-1-3380-5384-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-9). Jonathan has been sent to the Slabhenge Reformatory School for Troubled Boys run by the Admiral, a tyrant who believes that the boys in his care are scabs to be ripped from society so their rottenness can be cut out of them. Built on a remote island that once housed an insane asylum, Slabhenge is as dire as Jonathan feels he deserves. He has been convicted of a horrible crime, and he bears the physical scars as a memento. But the scars on his heart and mind hurt far more, and he must learn to forgive himself to survive his stay, especially when a freak accident leaves the boys, deemed too horrible to mix with regular society, on their own in a scene straight out of Fielding's *Lord of the Flies*.

Glazer, Karen Yan. ***The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-544-87639-2, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-9). Given the news that their lease will not be renewed, the Vanderbeeker family must leave their apartment home right after Christmas. The five children, ages four to twelve, could handle the news in one of several ways: anger, revenge, giving up, OR they could come together and change the mind and heart of their reclusive landlord. This is a story of a family that has what is important: love and respect for one another and the knowledge they will survive and be okay. Readers will form a relationship not only with this plucky family, but with their neighbors and friends, and will root for a happy outcome. Fans of the Penderwicks should add this title to their reading list.

Gratz, Alan. ***Refugee***. Scholastic Press. 978-0-5458-8083-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-12). The story of three young people in three different political times, Josef from Nazi Germany in 1938, Isabel from 1994 Cuba, and Mahmoud from 2015 Aleppo, and tells of their harrowing journeys to freedom. Each face exceptional challenges throughout the story that make you feel their plight. Very moving and serious, this culturally-diverse book is a must for library shelves. A great resource on each political time period and how it affected the people who lived then. An Author's Note provides more detail for each main character's background history. Also included is information to better help the reader understand the plight of refugee children and what they can do to help.

Grine, Chris. ***Time Shifters***. Graphix. 978-0-545-92659-1, T [GN] \$12.99 (Grade 4-6). Luke and his brother Kyle run into a gang of bullies on afternoon while playing in the woods. The encounter causes an accident in which Kyle dies. A year after Kyle's death, Luke sees a mysterious light coming from the forest behind his house. He finds himself in possession of a strange device and is chased by a mummy, vampire Napoleon, and a skeleton astronaut. However, Luke is saved by a time-traversing group comprised of a ghost, dinosaur, robotic Abraham Lincoln, and the scientist who invented the multiverse shifting device. In order to unlock the device from Luke's arm, the group hides out in an alternate dimension of giant spiders in the Wild West. Luke is a great protagonist, and the eclectic bunch of characters are all interesting and well rounded. A great title for readers who loved Ben Hatke's "Mighty Jack" series.

Harrison, Rory. ***Looking for Group***. HarperTeen. 978-0-0624-5307-5, L \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Sixteen-year-old Dylan has just learned he is in sudden remission from the childhood cancer he thought would kill him. As he looks to a future he never expected to see, Dylan embarks on a journey with a friend he's only met on the internet while playing *World of Warcraft*. This friend, who was born David, now lives as Arden and her family struggles to accept their transgender daughter. To escape the troubles of his family life (a mom who uses Dylan's cancer status to get money for drugs, etc.), Dylan sets off to meet Arden in real life, and together they go on a cross-country adventure similar to those they had taken together online.

Hautman, Pete. ***Slider***. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-9070-0, T \$16.99 (Grade 6-8). David Miller made a huge mistake when he put \$2,000 on his mom's credit card. Terrified of being grounded, he decides to enter a pizza-eating contest hoping for the \$5,000 prize money. Qualifying rounds and formidable opponents, both amateur and pro, stand in his way. The character's in *Slider* are authentic and well-rounded; David's interactions with his autistic younger brother Mal (though the word "autistic" is banned from family vocabulary) are sweet and natural.

Hicks, Deron. ***The Van Gogh Deception***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-5447-5926-6, L \$16.99 (Grade 4-9). A clever and thrilling mystery adventure. Twelve-year-old Art's amnesia means he knows more about works of art than his own backstory. He is found alone at the National Museum of Art in Washington, DC with no memory of how he got there. The adventure begins as Art remembers parts of his past and realizes he needs to save his father, who is about to expose some art collectors as frauds. Hicks cleverly uses QR codes throughout the text to reveal images of actual works that Art considers along the way as he works to solve the mystery. The book reads like a Dan Brown novel for upper elementary and lower middle-level audiences.

High, Linda Oatman. ***One Amazing Elephant***. HarperCollins. 978-006-245583-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). Upon her beloved grandfather's death, Lily Rose Pruitt must confront the circus that is her family. Literally. Her long-absent mother is a trapeze artist and her grandpa was an elephant trainer. At the funeral, Lily attempts to reconnect with her mother and get over her fear of her grandpa's elephant, the Amazing Queenie Grace. Told in alternating chapters, elephant and girl, the book touches on friendship, the power of art to heal, and doing the best you can with what you have, all while weaving the treatment of circus animals throughout the story. Simultaneously heartbreaking and uplifting, give this book to fans of *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate, *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo, or *Chained* by Lynn Kelly.

Hinds, Gareth. ***Poe: Stories and Poems: A Graphic Novel Adaptation***. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-8112-8, T [GN] \$22.00 (Grade 7-12). Gareth Hinds adds another to his classic graphic novel adaptations. Choosing seven of Poe's creepiest and most compelling works, Hinds adds gothic representations to each-- the solitary raven, the swinging of the pendulum and bells that will never seem to be the same. Title page includes a key to the main themes and year of publication with the endnotes contain a brief biography of Edgar Allan Poe and the author's background notes on the works chosen and the reasons behind the choice. Can be easily worked into units of study on Poe and other great literature. Also, a good way to introduce Poe's works to those who are unfamiliar with them.

Jackson, Linda Williams. ***Midnight Without a Moon***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-054-478510-6, T \$16.99 (Grade 8-12). Set in Mississippi in 1955 at a time before voting protections and the Civil Rights Movement, and told through the eyes of 13-year-old Rose Lee, the story follows Rose's family: poor, black sharecroppers who work the land of a white plantation owner in a deeply segregated southern town. The NAACP is on the rise and "stirring up trouble." With the haunting facts of the Emmett Till case at their doorstep, Rose starts to see that things are not right with the world, and that a shift in the world order could be coming. This book is made more powerful by discussion and is one of those MG titles that would also benefit adults. It is an intense read that does not sugar coat the reality for a black person in America during this time. There are mentions of shootings, lynchings, teen pregnancy, and domestic abuse - all well within the context of the story, but could be tough for a sensitive reader. A stellar debut from Jackson!

Johnson, Jaleigh. ***The Quest to the Uncharted Lands***. Delacorte Press. 978-110-193312-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). To be with her scientist parents, Stella stows away on an airship that is heading to an uncharted area of her world. Once on the airship, Stella discovers that she is not the only one trying to stow away. A boy named Cyrus is doing the same thing. But there is something about him that's different, something that doesn't feel right. This book is a terrific steampunk adventure. Both of the main characters draw the reader in right away, especially mysterious Cyrus. Stella is a strong female character who is clever but with enough flaws to make her believable. This is the 3rd story by the author that takes place in Solace, but stands alone. Great read for fantasy and steampunk/sci-fi fans.

Kirby, Matthew. ***A Taste for Monsters***. Scholastic Press. 978-0-5458-1784-4, T \$18.99 (Grade 7-12). Set in 1888 London during the horrific reign of Jack the Ripper. Evelyn is a disfigured match girl who hides from the world as a maid in a hospital. She tends to John Merrick, the Elephant Man. Evelyn and Merrick both experience the pain of loss and loneliness, making them divining rods for the ghosts of Ripper's victims. Historical facts about the plight of the match girls who worked with disfiguring phosphorous, the precarious survival of the working class, and the last year of Merrick's life merge in this spine-chilling paranormal read.

Korman, Gordon. ***Restart***. Scholastic Press. 978-1-3380-5377-7, L \$16.99 (Grade 4 up). What happens when you fall from a great height, recover and haven't a clue to who you are when you wake up? Thirteen-year-old Chace has an opportunity to right the wrongs of his past -- a bully and a jerk -- even his younger stepsister is afraid of him. Second chances do not come along often and Chace is going to change for the better, because to be honest he doesn't remember his past and he's finding it hard to believe what is being told to him by others. Well-developed characters and plot. Written with Korman's usual sense of humor and believability of his characters. A great read aloud to start a discussion on bullying and reputations, particularly with older elementary-aged readers/listeners.

Larwood, Kieran. ***Podkin One-Ear***. Clarion Books. 978-110-93312-1, T 16.99\$ (Grade 3-6). The story of a rabbit named Podkin, the son of a warrior chief, who is forced to flee his warren after an attack by the vicious Gorm. The animal adventure will appeal to fans of Erin Hunter's Warrior series and include exquisite black and white drawings. The story is at times suspenseful, humorous, and action-packed. Told by a rabbit bard, which slows down the story just enough to let the reader experience the full tale. Like the magic sword that Podkin strives to protect, this story will slice its way into the hands of readers.

Lasky, Kathryn. ***Night Witches: A Novel of World War II***. Scholastic Press. 978-0-5456-8298-5, R \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Nazis have surrounded Stalingrad where sixteen-year-old Valya wants to join her older sister, Tatyana, a fighter pilot with the Night Witches, regiment of female fighter pilots assigned to fly missions against Nazi targets. Valya and her sister learned to fly from their father who is now missing. When their mother and grandmother are killed by a sniper, Valya has the opportunity to prove herself in spite of her young age. The relationships between the characters are intense.

Lawrence, Mike. ***Star Scouts***. First Second. 978-1-62672-280-4, T [GN] \$14.99 (Grade 2-6). This graphic novel is the story of Avani a girl who is a member of a scout troop in which she doesn't quite fit, so when given the opportunity to join an alien scout troop she goes and finds it more interesting. Lawrence's illustrations capture the humor and the action in the story. Avani is by no means a perfect

character, making her character more believable. With its non-stop action and terrific illustrations, this fun read is suited to younger GN readers. Give to readers who enjoy Ben Hatke's *Zita the Space Girl* or Judd Winick's *Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth*.

Lee, Mackenzi. *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice & Virtue*. Katherine Tegen Books. 978-006-238280-1, T \$18.99 (Grade 9-12). Two friends on a grand tour of 18th-century Europe stumble across a magical artifact that leads them from Paris to Venice in a dangerous manhunt shaped by pirates, highwaymen, and their growing attraction to one another. Lots of steamy scenes and references to alcohol.

Mac, Carrie. *10 Things I Can See from Here*. Alfred A. Knopf. 978-0-399-55625-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). Maeve suffers from anxiety, and she tends to run evil statistics of all the things that could go wrong at any given moment. Maeve's mom is going to Haiti with her boyfriend Raymond for six months, and Maeve will have to go stay with her dad and his family in Vancouver. There Maeve feels she has plenty to be anxious about, from her stepmother's home-birth plan to the possibility her father might start drinking and using again. But when already-out Maeve meets Salix, a violin-busking "friend of Dorothy," and their mutual attraction grows, she begins to find unexpected happiness in Vancouver. Mac crafts a beautifully awkward and affecting budding relationship between Maeve and Salix—one that neither miraculously cures Maeve nor leaves her entirely unchanged. Maeve provides a realistic portrayal of the ways that anxiety can affect all relationships and aspects of life, and her story is a mirror for anxious queer girls everywhere.

McGhee, Holly M. *Matylda, Bright and Tender*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-76368951-3, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Fourth graders Sussy and Guy have been friends since kindergarten. Neither has siblings or has ever had a pet, so they decide to purchase one together. Enter Matylda, the gecko. She takes to Guy instantly, but Sussy and Matylda have to work on their relationship. When tragedy strikes, Sussy and Matylda must grieve together and come to terms with loss. Told in Sussy's voice, the friendship she and Guy have is real and tender. Her grief is heartbreaking and takes many forms. How will she and Matylda navigate life without their friend?

Miller, Darcy. *Roll*. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-246122-3, R \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Lauren, he prefers "Ren" has recently moved to the countryside, leaving his best and only friend. He is out for a run and sees what looks like pigeons falling from the sky! Sutton, the owner of said birds explains that these are Birmingham Rollers and she is training them for competition. A friendship begins. This is an insightful read about finding out about yourself and where you belong. The narration is real and humorous. Ren's outlook, opinions, and observations ring true. Not only a great read, but the facts about Roller Pigeons will have you researching the breed.

Miller, Sam J. *The Art of Starving*. HarperTeen. 978-0-062-45671-7, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). Matt, a Jewish, white, gay teenager, is writing a guidebook on starving, yet he refuses to admit he has an eating disorder to the reader. He believes restricting his food gives him supernatural powers such as following scents and reading minds, and he turns his newfound skills towards the bullies who he thinks are behind his sister's disappearance. One of these boys is Tariq, whom Matt and his sister both had a crush on. As Matt continues to restrict food, his powers seem to grow, but will he really find the answers when he's so blind to the other possibilities around him? The witty and snarky tone of Matt's narration will keep readers rooting for him and his recovery. Though seemingly strange at first, Matt's supernatural abilities add an aspect to Matt's eating disorder and his journey to seeing things as they really are.

Mosier, Paul. *Train I Ride*. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-245573-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 7-12). After witnessing her mother's death from a drug overdose, being sent to live with her chain smoking grandmother, and then finding her grandmother dead, Rydr is being sent to Chicago via Amtrak to live with an elderly uncle that she has never met. Broke and extremely hungry, she finds ways, not always legally, to fend for herself. On the train, she befriends several employees and passengers. Dorothea, her Amtrak escort, is constantly reminding her of the right way; Neal, a service vendor, overlooks her petty theft in order to fend off starvation; Carlos, a traveling poet, shows her how to see things in a different light and Tenderchunks, a Boy Scout, shares his vulnerabilities and his precious copy of "Howl" by Allen Ginsberg. Along the journey, she finally lets go of the box that she is carrying and the burden that it represents -- her mother's ashes.

Nix, Garth and Sean Williams. *Have Sword, Will Travel*. Scholastic Books. 978-0545259026, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). Odo and Eleanor are eel-fishing in a river that is inexplicably running dry when they stumble across a magical, talking sword. The sword knights Odo, to the disappointment of heroically-minded Eleanor, and sends the pair on a quest to find the source of the river's blockage, rumored to be a giant dragon. Along the way, Odo and Eleanor encounter adventures that require them to use every bit of their skills. There are as many women in positions of power as there are men (it is Eleanor, not Odo, who longs to be knight). Eleanor's dexterity and wit are given equal importance as Odo's strength and kindness. Several twists keep the reader engaged and guessing to the end. This magnificent book will appeal to a broad cross-section of readers and have them clambering for more.

O'Brien, Anne Sibley. *In the Shadow of the Sun*. Arthur A. Levine Books. 978-054-590574-9, T [M] \$17.99 (Grade 4-10). Mia and her older brother, Simon, are on the run in North Korea after their father has been arrested. The siblings use all of their survival skills and Mia's limited knowledge of Korean (acquired in Korean school, which she attends on weekends in her home state of Connecticut) to stay one step ahead of the government officials/soldiers who are undoubtedly pursuing them. Touching on issues of identity, family, politics, international relations, and the things that unite us, this book illuminates a part of the world about which few American readers might have knowledge and it does it really well.

O'Reilly, Jane. *The Notations of Cooper Cameron*. Carolrhoda Books. 978-151-240415-9, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-8). When Cooper's grandfather passes away, his world shatters. His life becomes dictated by rituals meant to keep his family safe, especially since he is burdened with the self-inflicted blame of his grandfather's death. When his new behaviors create tension within his family, his mother takes him and his sister, Caddie, to their grandfather's cabin for the summer. Faced with the painful memories that sparked his OCD, Cooper struggles to reclaim normalcy in his life. As his relationship with his father nears a breaking point, he finds strength in his sister's firm but gentle guidance, acceptance in his mother's love, and friendship in new acquaintances. The layers of pain in this novel, from Cooper's daily inner conflict, to his mother's anguish at the changes in her family, are a prelude to the triumphant ending. O'Reilly's style of prose is poignant and descriptive, masterfully creating a sharp contrast between the lush and relaxing backdrop of summer in the mountains with Cooper's urgent, structured world.

Ostertag, Molly. *Witch Boy*. Graphix. 978-133-808951-6, T [GN] \$12.99 (Grade 4-8). Aster is from a magical family. The men practice shape shifting and the women are witches and never do the genders roles switch. Aster is changing shapes but finds that he is fascinated by spells; he listens in on the lessons for girls and realizes that he has aptitude for witchcraft. When boys start disappearing, Aster must make a choice to use what he knows and loves and risk the judgement of his community. A familiar and engaging storyline (proving your society's rules are flawed), but the subtext dealing with identity and gender expectations make this a stand-out graphic novel. Ostertag's bright, detailed artwork will appeal to readers of graphic novels. The content will appeal to readers of fantasy and those seeking out or willing to explore gender roles.

Paterson, Katherine. *My Brigadista Year*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-9508-8, L \$15.99 (Grade 4-9). In 1961 Havana, 13-year-old Lora joins Castro's movement to end illiteracy by deploying volunteers to teach all Cubans to read. With a spirit of adventure and a sense of kindness, the novel covers a little-known part of Cuba's historic fight against illiteracy. It is also a coming-of-age novel as Lora learns more about the people outside of Havana, makes new friends, and faces dangerous situations. Includes an author's note, a map, and a timeline of Cuban history. This book might be of interest to readers of *The Red Umbrella* by Christian Gonzalez.

Pla, Sally J. *The Someday Birds*. HarperCollins. 978-0-06-244576-6, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Charlie's world is orderly, structured and controlled. However, since his dad, wounded in Afghanistan, is being transferred to a VA hospital across the country, his world is in chaos! Though he and his siblings are to stay at home until their dad is settled, his older sister and her boyfriend, along with his twin brothers decide to make the trip to their father. This is not going to end well, especially for a boy like Charlie. What keeps him going is a list of birds he and his father have compiled, a wish list of birds. This is a story of a family struggling to hold onto some kind of normal and of a boy trying to keep his world as it has always been, only to discover life is messy and cannot be controlled. Readers will laugh and cry as Charlie navigates this chaos. If you enjoyed *Counting by 7's* and *Fish in a Tree*, make this your next read.

Podos, Rebecca. *Like Water*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-062-37337-3, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Savannah Espinoza had grand plans to swim for a college team and leave her small New Mexico town, but after her father is diagnosed with Huntington's Disease her plans grind to a halt. Secretly fearing that she, too, inherited the disease, Savannah (Vanni) spends the summer after her graduation working in her family's restaurant and hooking up with boys. When she meets Leigh Clemente, a white girl from Boston, things begin to change for Vanni. An unsteady relationship begins, and Vanni is forced to choose between staying with her family and pursuing a life of her own.

Pullman, Philip. *The Adventures of John Blake: Mystery of the Ghost Ship*. Graphix. 978-1-3381-4912-8, L [GN] \$19.99 (Grade 7-12). Legend states that if you look into John Blake's eyes, you will die, but when Serena falls overboard during her family's sailing around the world, John Blake and his ghost ship save her. Due to an experiment gone wrong, John and his crew sail through centuries trying to find a way home and to stop the corrupt Dahlberg Corporation. Fans of the Alex Rider novels and graphic novels will be sure fans of Blake as well. This graphic novel by Philip Pullman is an addictive mix of sci-fi and adventure. This time-bending tale jumps between time and place, but the clever writing and illustrations make the story easy to follow.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Princess Cora and the Crocodile*. Candlewick Press. 978-076-364822-0, T \$16.99 (Grade 1-3). Princess Cora is fed up! She has had enough of the royal routine, all work and no play. She does what any princess would do and wishes for her Godmother to bring her a pet. Enter a cream-puff-loving crocodile who offers to take her place for a day, giving her a respite from all of the chores (and baths). In a series of laugh-out-loud scenes the crocodile proceeds to put everyone in their places by making them endure what Cora does. And Cora thoroughly enjoys a day of unfettered childhood. When she returns to the castle, she is able to advocate for herself and bring about some changes. Brian Floca's watercolor illustrations are lovely--evocative of an early British time period, but the point is the same: the necessity of balance in childhood, and life. And it shows that if you calmly talk about how you are feeling, people are more likely to listen. A thought-provoking read-aloud and, with the right crocodile voice, a fun one too.

Snyder, Laurel. *Orphan Island*. Walden Pond Press. 978-0-0624-4341-0, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). Only nine orphans are allowed to live together at one time on Orphan Island. Each year a boat mysteriously floats onto the shore of the island bringing one new orphan. At this point the most senior orphan must depart. No one on the island knows where the boat comes from nor do they know its destination. The eldest orphan remaining on the island is responsible for teaching the newest orphan the rules and regulations of living on the island. Jinny, the protagonist, is terribly conflicted when it's her turn to leave. This wonderful coming of age story, with an imaginative, unique setting on a wild and beautiful island, will quickly draw readers into its mystique.

Standish, Ali. *The Ethan I Was Before*. HarperCollins. 978-006-2433-38-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). A gorgeous middle grade novel dealing with loss. Ethan and Kacey are best friends, the kind of easy friends that don't remember NOT being friends, the kind that

intuitively and completely connect. There is a tragic accident leaving Ethan grieving, living in two pieces, the Ethan he is now - broken, overwhelmed by memories and sadness - and the Ethan he was before the accident. Blaming himself, sure he can see Kacey one more time and fix her as she lays in a coma, Ethan's parents move him to Georgia for a change of scenery in the hope of helping him heal and forgive himself. Details of the accident flash in and out of the narrative. When Ethan meets Coralee, he is drawn to her affable, charismatic personality, but he wonders if he deserves another friend. Fantastic characters propel the plot as Ethan navigates a new school, family tension, and heart-wrenching, suffocating sadness into the reality of a future with no Kacey. With a dramatic climax that offers Ethan a chance at redemption, this book is a well-written debut that will linger in the reader's heart long after the last page.

Wiesner, David & Donna Jo Napoli. *Fish Girl*. Clarion Books. 978-0-547-48393-1, T [GN] \$17.99 (Grade 4-12). Rather than living in the sea, a young mermaid spends her days in an aquarium where she performs daily for visitors. Performing with her is Neptune, the King of the Sea. Neptune is also the owner of the show and is of questionable character. Fish Girl's life starts to change when she makes friends with a young human girl and starts to question many of the elements of her living situation, including the truth about controlling Neptune; his true identity and character are revealed. The story is riveting and readers will have a hard time putting the book down until they find out how the young mermaid's quest for freedom turns out. Will she and her fish friends find a new life outside their watery prison? A strong coming-of-age story featuring a strong female character. A great addition for any library.

Williams, Nicole. *Trusting You & Other Lies*. Crown Books for Young Readers. 978-0-5534-9877-6, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). Phoenix hadn't planned to spend the summer of her Senior year at Camp Kismet, but family issues force her and her younger brother, Harry, into a world that will have an effect on not only them, but their parents. Then there is Callum, the absolutely adorable Head Counselor and her boss for the summer. Will idyllic Camp Kismet change what is all wrong? Mature, well-developed characters with a plot that is realistic for a coming-of-age story. The story focuses on Phoenix's protectiveness of her younger brother, her anger at and the struggles she has with her parents and the family's conscious effort to regain their finances, trust and understanding of what it is like to be a family.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*. Amistad. 978-006-221591-8, T \$16.99 (Grade 3-6). A story of a boy and his grandpa and the music that binds them more deeply than an E chord. Clayton loves his Cool Papa and the blues music that emanates from Papa's guitar and his very soul. When Cool Papa unexpectedly passes, Clayton's mother sells almost every last thing of Papa's. Grief-stricken, Clayton pockets his blues harp and hits the road. His big plan is to join Papa's gang of musicians, the Bluesmen, and show them the music in him and go on the road playing the blues. It's not the most thought-out plan, but Clayton is desperate for some connection to Cool Papa's world. Unsurprisingly, things don't go as Clayton hopes. In the end, there is a rescue, both of Clayton and by Clayton (his love for his Papa thaws his mother's heart). Like a good blues song, this book runs you through the gamut of emotions from sadness to anger to fear to wistfulness finally depositing you at the doorstep of hope with a thrum and a twang.

Xu, Ru. *Newsprints*. Graphix. 978-054-580312-0, T [GN] \$12.99 (Grade 3-9). Set in the fictional world of Nautilene, which is at war with Grimmera, this graphic novel follows newsie Blue, an orphan with a secret. Blue is really a girl, but since girls are not allowed to sell newspapers, she has to hide her true identity. When Blue stumbles upon the hideout of an engineer named Jack, who is building a mysterious machine, he agrees to take her on as an apprentice. But who is Jack and what is going on in the war? And who is Blue's new friend Crow and what does he have to do with the navy? The book delves into the issues surrounding wartime. Xu's illustrations are fantastic, full of energy and motion, and reminiscent of Japanese anime. The palette is muted with lots of sepia and, of course, blue. The action starts at the title page and doesn't stop until the last page. And there is the promise of a sequel. An excellent debut and one that will thrill graphic novel readers from 3rd grade up.

Zahler, Diane. *The Marvelwood Magicians*. Boyds Mill Press. 978-162-979724-3, R \$16.95 (Grade 3-6). Mattie and her family have real magical powers. Her mother can tell the future, her father can make things appear, her brother can disappear, and her baby sister can lift off the ground. Eleven-year-old Mattie can tell what people are thinking. To be safe, the family has kept it secret that their powers are genuine. They work together in fairs and circuses. At a circus they have recently joined the ringmaster has a secret of his own; his is dangerous. This is a well-crafted story that keeps the reader guessing right up to the end. The well-developed characters are believable even though magic is involved. A novel about family, friendships, magic, and mystery.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREAM OF THE CROP COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Andersen, School Librarian, Westbrook High School
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2018 National Award Winners

Award books listed here may or may not be included in the “Cream of the Crop” list.

* indicates a title that appears in more than one category.

Caldecott Medal – Awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Winner: Cordell, Matthew. *A Wolf in the Snow*

Honors: Bui, Thi. *A Different Pond*. Bao Phi, author *

Chin, Jason. *Grand Canyon* *

Cooper, Elisha. *Big Cat, Little Cat*

James, Gordon C. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. Derrick Barnes, author *

Charlotte Zolotow Award – Awarded to the best picture book text published in the United States.

Winner: Phi, Bao. *A Different Pond* *

Honors: Atinuke. *Baby Goes to Market*. Illustrated by Angela Brooksbank

Cornwall, Gaia. *Jabari Jumps*

Hest, Amy. *Buster and the Baby*. Illustrated by Polly Dunbar

Raczka, Bob. *Niko Draws a Feeling*. Illustrated by Simone Shin

Rylant, Cynthia. *Herbert's First Halloween*. Illustrated by Steven Henry

Coretta Scott King Award – Recognizes outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

CSK Author Award

Winner: Watson, Renee. *Piecing Me Together* *

Honors: Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* *

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down* *

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give* *

CSK Illustrator Award

Winner: Holmes, Ekua. *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*. Kwame Alexander, Chris Colderly, and Marjory Wentworth, authors

Honors: James, Gordon C. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. Derrick Barnes, author *

Ransome, James E. *Before She Was Harriet: The Story of Harriet Tubman*. Lesa Cline-Ransome, author

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award:

Moore, David Barclay. *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award:

Palmer, Charly. *Mama Africa! How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope with Her Song*. Kathryn Erskine, author

Coretta Scott King/ Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Eloise Greenfield

Katahdin Award – A lifetime achievement award given by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association to recognize an outstanding body of work of children's literature in Maine by one author or illustrator. The award may be given annually but may not necessarily be given each year.

Sharon Creech

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award – Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. Awarded every other year.

Jacqueline Woodson, whose award-winning works include *Brown Girl Dreaming*, which won the Newbery Medal in 2015, and *Each Kindness*, the recipient of the Charlotte Zolotow Medal in 2013.

Lupine Award – Presented annually by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association, to recognize an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Maine.

Picture Book

Winner: Tavaras, Matt. *Red and Lulu*

Honor: Elliott, David. *Baabwaa and Wooliam*. Illustrated by Melissa Sweet

J/YA

Winner: French, Gillian. *Grit*

Honor: Philbrick, Rodman. *Who Killed Darius Drake?*

Margaret A. Edwards Award – Recognizes an author and his/her body of work for outstanding contribution to young adult literature.

Angela Johnson whose books include *Heaven*, *Looking for Red*, *The First Part Last*, *Sweet, Hereafter*, *Bird*, and *Toning the Sweep*.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award – Awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.

Winner: Wegelius, Jakob. *The Murderer's Ape*. Translated from Swedish by Peter Graves. Originally published in Sweden as *Mordarens Apa*

Honors: Frier, Raphaelae. *Malala: Activist for Girls' Education*. Illustrated by Aurelia Fronty. Translated from the French by Julie Cormier

Naumann-Villemin, Christine. *When A Wolf is Hungry*. Illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo. Translated from the French by Eerdmans Books for Young Readers

Mello, Roger. *You Can't Be Too Careful*. Translated from the Portuguese by Daniel Hahn

Newbery Medal – The most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Winner: Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*

Honors: Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. Illustrated by Gordon C. James *

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down* *

Watson, Renee. *Piecing Me Together* *

Printz (Michael L.) Award – Awarded for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.

Winner: LaCour, Nina. *We Are Okay*

Honors: Heiligman, Deborah. *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* *

Reynolds, Jason. *Long Way Down* *

Taylor, Laini. *Strange the Dreamer*

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give* *

Pura Belpre – Presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

Author Award

Winner: Behar, Ruth. *Lucky Broken Girl*

Honors: Cartaya, Pablo. *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*

Perez, Celia C. *The First Rule of Punk*

Illustrator Award

Winner: Martinez-Neal, Juana. *La Princesa and the Pea*. Susan Middleton Elya, author

Honors: Garcia, Adriana M. *All Around Us*. Xelena Gonzalez, author

Parra, John. *Frida Kahlo and Her Animalitos*. Monica Brown, author

Robert F. Sibert Medal – Honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature.

Winner: Brimmer, Larry Dane. *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961*

Honors: Burcaw, Shane. *Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability*. Illustrated by Matt Carr

Chin, Jason. *Grand Canyon* *

Martin, Jacqueline Briggs and June Jo Lee. *Chef Roy Choi and the Street Food Remix*. Illustrated by Man One

Newman, Patricia. *Sea Otter Heroes: The Predators That Saved an Ecosystem*

Schneider Family Book Award – Honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

Children's (birth - age 8): Say, Allen. *Silent Days, Silent Dreams*

Middle (age 9 -13): Green, Shari. *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess*

Teen (age 13 -18): Gardner, Whitney. *You're Welcome, Universe*

Stonewall Book Award - Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award – Given annually to English language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience.

Winners: Colbert, Brandy. *Little & Lion*

Slater, Dashka. *The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives*

Honors: Gillman, Melanie. *As the Crow Flies*

Lee, Mackenzi. *The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – Honors the author of the most distinguished contribution to the body of American children's literature known as 'beginning reader books' published in the United States during the preceding year.

Winner: Snyder, Laurel. *Charlie & Mouse*. Illustrated by Emily Hughes

Honors: Arnold, Tedd, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. *Noodleheads See the Future*. Illustrated by Tedd Arnold

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *King & Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats*. Illustrated by Nancy Meyers

Kugler, Tina. *Snail & Worm Again*

Meisel, Paul. *I See a Cat*

Yoon, Salina. *My Kite is Stuck! And Other Stories*

William C. Morris Award – Honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature.

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give* *

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults – Honors the best nonfiction book published for young adults ages 12-18.

Heiligman, Deborah. *Vincent and Theo: The Van Gogh Brothers* *