

**The Paideia School  
Elementary Library**

**2020-2021 Reading Guide**



**Waddling to the library in search  
of a good book**

**Ducks Read!**



Dear Parents,

Here they are! *Suggestions* to help guide your reading. No list, however, could include all the magnificent books that speak to the hearts and minds of younger readers. As the school year progresses, students can get so busy with sports, homework and other projects that they no longer have time to read; worse, their parents get too busy to read to them. Our elementary faculty emphatically endorses reading for pleasure. Research shows that:

- Having your child read for 20-30 minutes each day increases vocabulary, spelling, comprehension and reading ability. Children need to hear and read a word many times before it becomes part of their lexicon. Reading is the best path to academic achievement, but it also inculcates empathy and depth of inner life.
- Reading aloud to your child is an essential element in creating a reader and gives even excellent readers access to higher levels of literature. It is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child, both emotionally and academically. Do it daily. Throughout elementary school, including 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Don't let it slide.
- A child who reads only an average amount falls behind avid readers by many points on standardized tests each year. By the time a child reaches high school it is extremely difficult to make up for a lack of reading during these critical years.
- Light reading (graphic novels, comic books and children's magazines) improves a child's skills dramatically if done regularly. Allowing a child to read below his or her reading level helps build skills and fluency and gives a greater sense of accomplishment than making a child struggle with a harder book. Re-reading is excellent practice for consolidating skills. It doesn't bore children.
- Graphic novels: The research is definitive: graphic novels build readers. Kids inhale them. They beg for more. They create an excitement about reading that is unprecedented. Kids suggest titles to each other. There are too many to fit into a booklet of this size but reading researchers and the Paideia elementary faculty endorse them wholeheartedly.
- Children who are familiar with their public library are among our strongest readers and proudly show off their own library cards.

This list is not divided into rigid age groups, because many books for older children are good choices for reading aloud to young students, and more and more picture books are being written for children of all ages. Come and visit the Paideia Elementary Library!

**The Caldecott Awards  
for the most distinguished American picture book for Children**

2020. Alexander, Kwame. *The Undeclared*. Stunningly illustrated poetic tribute to African Americans.
2019. Blackall, Sophie. *Hello, Lighthouse*.
2018. Cordell, Matthew. *Wolf in the Snow*.
2017. Steptoe, Javaka. *Radiant Child: The Story of Young Jean-Michel Basquiat*.
2016. Mattick, Lindsay. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*.
2015. Santat, Dan. *Beekle*.
2014. Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*.
2013. Klassen, Jon. *This Is Not My Hat*.
2012. Raschka, Chris. *A Ball For Daisy*.
2011. Stead, Philip C. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*.
2010. Pinkney, Jerry. *The Lion & the Mouse*.
2009. Swanson, Susan Marie. *The House in the Night*.
2008. Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.
2007. Wiesner, David. *Flotsam*.
2006. Juster, Norton. *The Hello Goodbye Window*.
2005. Henkes, Kevin. *Kitten's First Full Moon*.
2004. Gerstein, Mordicai. *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*.
2003. Rohmann, Eric. *My Friend Rabbit*.
2002. Wiesner, David. *The Three Pigs*.
2001. St. George, Judith. *So You Want To Be President?*
2000. Taback, Simms. *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat*.
1999. Martin, Jacqueline Briggs. *Snowflake Bentley*.
1998. Zelinsky, Paul O. *Rapunzel*.
1997. Wisniewski, David. *The Golem*.
1996. Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*.
1995. Bunting, Eve. *Smoky Night*.
1994. Say, Allen. *Grandfather's Journey*.
1993. McCully, Emily Arnold. *Mirette on the High Wire*.
1992. Wiesner, David. *Tuesday*.
1991. McCauley, David. *Black and White*.
1990. Young, Ed. *Lon Po Po*.
1989. Ackerman, Karen. *Song and Dance Man*.
1988. Yolen, Jane. *Owl Moon*.
1987. Yorinks, Arthur. *Hey, Al*.
1986. Van Allsburg, Chris. *The Polar Express*.
1985. Hodges, Margaret. *Saint George and the Dragon*.
1984. Provensen, Alice and Martin. *The Glorious Flight*.
1983. Cendrars, Blaise. *Shadow*.
1982. Van Allsburg, Chris. *Jumanji*.
1981. Lobel, Arnold. *Fables*.
1980. Hall, Donald. *Ox-Cart Man*.
1979. Goble, Paul. *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*.
1978. Spier, Peter. *Noah's Ark*.
1977. Musgrove, Margaret. *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*.
1976. Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*.
1975. McDermott, Gerald. *Arrow To the Sun*.
1974. Zemach, Harve. *Duffy and the Devil*.
1973. Mosel, Arlene. *The Funny Little Woman*.
1972. Haggroian, Nonny. *One Fine Day*

For a complete list for all the children's book awards, visit the American Library Association's website.

**The Newbery Awards**  
**for the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children**

2020. Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*.  
2019. Medina, Meg. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears*.  
2018. Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello, Universe*.  
2017. Barnhill, Kelly. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*.  
2016. De La Peña, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*.  
2015. Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*.  
2014. Kate DiCamillo. *Flora & Ulysses*.  
2013. Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Ivan*.  
2012. Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*.  
2011. Vanderpool, Clare. *Moon Over Manifest*.  
2010. Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*.  
2009. Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*.  
2008. Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village*.  
2007. Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*.  
2006. Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Criss Cross*.  
2005. Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*.  
2004. DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux*.  
2003. Avi. *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.  
2002. Park, Lynda Sue. *A Single Shard*.  
2001. Peck, Richard. *A Year Down Yonder*.  
2000. Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy*.  
1999. Sachar, Louis. *Holes*.  
1998. Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*.  
1997. Konigsberg, E.L. *The View From Saturday*.  
1996. Cushman, Karen. *The Midwife's Apprentice*.  
1995. Creech, Sharon. *Walk Two Moons*.  
1994. Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*.  
1993. Rylant, Cynthia. *Missing May*.  
1992. Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Shiloh*.  
1991. Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*.  
1990. Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*.  
1989. Fleischman, Paul. *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*.  
1988. Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*.  
1987. Fleischman, Sid. *The Whipping Boy*.  
1986. MacLachlan, Patricia. *Sarah Plain and Tall*.  
1985. McKinley, Robin. *The Hero and the Crown*.  
1984. Cleary, Beverly. *Dear Mr. Henshaw*.  
1983. Voigt, Cynthia. *Dacey's Song*.  
1982. Willard, Nancy. *A Visit to William Blake's Inn: Poems for...Travelers*.  
1981. Paterson, Katherine. *Jacob Have I Loved*.  
1980. Blos, Joan W. *A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal*.  
1979. Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*.  
1978. Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*.  
1977. Taylor, Mildred D. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.  
1976. Cooper, Susan. *The Grey King*.  
1975. Hamilton, Virginia. *M.C. Higgins, The Great*.  
1974. Fox, Paula. *The Slave Dancer*.  
1973. George, Jean Craighead. *Julie of the Wolves*.  
1972. O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*.  
1971. Byars, Betsy. *Summer of the Swans*.  
1970. Armstrong, William. *Sounder*.

## A Selection of Coretta Scott King Awards and Honor Books for Ages 5-12

### Honors African American authors and illustrators for outstanding contributions to children's and young adult literature ( = recently published)

- \*Alexander, Kwame. *The Undefeated*, illus. by Kadir Nelson.  
Alexander, Kwame. *Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*.  
Andrews, Tony and Bill Taylor. *Trombone Shorty*, illus. by Bryan Collier.  
Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*.  
Bauer, Marion Dane. *The Stuff of Stars*, illus. by Ekua Holmes.  
Bryan, Ashley. *Let It Shine. Beautiful Blackbird. ABC of African-American Poetry*.  
Caines, Jeannette. *Just Us Women*.  
Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Before She Was Harriet*.  
Collier, Bryan. *Uptown*.  
Copeland, Misty. *Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How To Dance...*  
Curtis, Gavine. *The Bat Boy and His Violin*.  
De La Peña, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*.  
Devard, Nancy. *The Secret Olivia Told Me*.  
Diakite, Baba Wague. *The Hunterman and the Crocodile*.  
Dillon, Leo & Diane. *Jazz on a Saturday Night. Rap a Tap Tap: Here's Bojangles, Think of That*.  
English, Karen. *Neeny Coming, Neeny Going*.  
Evans, Shane. *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom*.  
Fluornoy, Valerie. *The Patchwork Quilt*.  
Giovanni, Nikki. *Rosa*.  
Greenfield, Eloise. *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*.  
Grimes, Nikki. *Talkin' About Bessie: The Story of Aviator Elizabeth Coleman*.  
Hamilton, Virginia. *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book*.  
Hill, Laban Carrick. *Dave the Potter*.  
Howard, Elizabeth Fitzgerald. *Virgie Goes To School With Us Boys*.  
Hughes, Langston. *I, Too Am America*, illus. by Bryan Collier. *My People*, illus. Charles R. Smith.  
*The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, illus. by E.B. Lewis.  
Lester, Julius. *The Tales of Uncle Remus*.  
Mitchell, Margaret King. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*.  
McKissack, Patricia. *Mirandy and Brother Wind. Goin' Some Place Special*.  
Mollet, Tololwa M. *My Rows and Piles of Coins*.  
Myers, Christopher. *Black Cat. Jazz*.  
Nelson, Kadir. *Nelson Mandela. I Have a Dream*.  
Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Almost To Freedom. Bad News for Outlaws*.  
Nolen, Jerdine. *Thunder Rose*.  
Perdomo, Willie. *Visiting Langston*, illus. by Bryan Collier.  
Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Hand in Hand: 10 Black Men Who Changed America. Duke Ellington*.  
Pinkney, Jerry. *In Plain Sight*.  
Powell, Patricia Hruby. *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker*.  
Rappoport, Doreen. *Martin's Big Words*, illus. by Bryan Collier.  
Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*.  
Rockwell, Anne. *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*.  
Russell-Brown, Katheryn. *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone*.  
San Souci, Robert. *Talking Eggs. Faithful Friend. Sukey & the Mermaid*.  
Schroeder, Alan. *Minty: A Story of Young Harriet Tubman*.  
Shetterly, Margot Lee. *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*.  
Step toe, Javaka. *Radiant Child: the Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat*.  
Step toe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*.  
Thomas, Joyce Carol. *The Blacker the Berry*.  
Weatherford, Carol Boston. *Freedom in Congo Square. Before John Was a Jazz Giant*.  
Woodson, Jacqueline. *Each Kindness*.

## A Selection of Coretta Scott King Awards and Honor Books for Ages 9-12

- \*Alexander, Kwame. *Undefeated. The Crossover.*  
Bolden, Tonya. *Maritcha: A 19th Century American Girl.*  
Boyd, Candy Dawson. *Circle of Gold.*  
Bryan, Ashley. *Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives, Their Dreams, Brought To Life.*  
Christie, R. Gregory. *Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan.*  
Cline-Ransome, Lisa. *Finding Langston.*  
Collier, Bryan. *Knock Knock: My Father's Dream for Me.*  
\* Craft, Jerry. *New Kid.*  
Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton. Bud, Not Buddy. The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963.*  
Duncan, Alice Faye. *Memphis, Martin and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968.*  
English, Karen. *Francie.*  
Erskine, Kathryn. *Mama Africa! How Miriam Makeba Spread Hope With Her Song.*  
Feelings, Tom. *The Middle Passage: White Ships, Black Cargo.*  
Greenfield, Eloise. *Childtimes.*  
Grimes, Nikki. *The Road to Paris. Dark Sons.*  
Hamilton, Virginia. *Anthony Burns:... Fugitive Slave. The People Could Fly.*  
*Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales.*  
Hansen, Joyce. *The Captive. I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly.*  
Haskins, James. *Bayard Rustin: Behind the Scenes of the Civil Rights Movement.*  
Hughes, Langston. *Poetry for Young People*, ed. D. Roessel and A. Rampersand.  
Johnson, Angela. *Toning the Sweep.*  
Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance.*  
Lester, Julius. *Day of Tears. Tales of Uncle Remus.*  
Lewis, John and Andrew Ayden. *March: Book One. Book Two. Book Three.*  
Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone.*  
McKissack, Patricia. *Never Forgotten. Dark Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural.*  
McKissack, Patricia C. and Frederick L. *Sojourner Truth: Ain't I A Woman?*  
*Days of Jubilee: The End of Slavery in the United States.*  
*Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts.*  
*Christmas in the Big House, Christmas in the Quarters.*  
*Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers.*  
*Black Diamond: The Story of the Negro Baseball Leagues.*  
*A Long Hard Journey: The Story of the Pullman Porter.*  
Morrison, Toni. *Remember: The Journey to School Integration.*  
Myers, Christopher. *Jazz.*  
Myers, Walter Dean. *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary.*  
*Now Is Your Time! The African American Struggle for Freedom.*  
Nelson, Kadir. *Heart and Soul: The Story of Africans and African-Americans.*  
*We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball.*  
Nelson, Marilyn. *Carver: A Life in Poems.*  
Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore.*  
Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters.*  
Reynolds, Jason. *As Brave As You.*  
Smith, Anita Hope. *Keeping the Night Watch.*  
Taylor, Mildred D. *The Land. The Road to Memphis. The Friendship.*  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Let the Circle Be Unbroken.*  
Walter, Mildred Pitts. *Mississippi Challenge.*  
Weatherford, Carol Boston. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement.*  
Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Gone Crazy in Alabama. P.S. Be Eleven. One Crazy Summer.*  
Woods, Brenda. *The Red Rose Box.*  
Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming. Locomotion. I Hadn't Meant To Tell You This.*

For a complete list of winners and honorees, visit the website of the American Library Association.

## A Selection of Pura Belpre Awards and Honors

Honors a Latinx writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latinx cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

(\* = recently published)

### For Ages 5 and up

Andrews-Goebel, Nancy. *The Pot That Juan Bobo Built*.  
Brown, Monica. *My Name Is Gabito: The Life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez*.  
*My Name is Celia / Mi llamo Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz*. Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match.  
Deedy, Carmen Agra. *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*.  
Diaz, Junot. *Islandborn*.  
Dorros, Arturo. *Papa and Me*.  
Elya, Susan Middleton. *La Princesa and the Pea*.  
\* Engle, Margarita. *Dancing Hands: How Teresa Carreño Played the Piano for President Lincoln*.  
*Drum Dream Girl*.  
Gonzales, Maya Christina. *My Colors, My World / Mis colores, mi mundo*.  
Gonzalez, Xelena. *All Around Us*.  
Jaffe, Nina. *The Golden Flower: A Taino Myth from Puerto Rico*.  
Johnston, Tony. *My Abuelita*.  
Krull, Kathleen. *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*.  
Medina, Juana. *Juana and Lucas*.  
Medina, Meg. *Mango, Abuelita and Me*.  
Montes, Marison. *Los Gatos Black on Halloween. Juan Bobo Goes to Work*.  
Mora, Pat. *Doña Flor: A Tall Tale About a Giant Woman with a Great Big Heart*.  
Morales, Yuyi. *Dreamers. Viva Frida! Just In Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*.  
*Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book. Niño Wrestles the World*.  
Schmidt, Gary D. *Martin de Porres: The Rose in the Desert*.  
Soto, Gary. *Chato's Kitchen*.  
Thong, Roseanne. *Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors*.  
Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin. The Princess and the Warrior*.

### For ages 8 (or 9 or 10) and up

Agosin, Marjorie. *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*.  
Alvarez, Julia. *Return to Sender*.  
Behar, Ruth. *Lucky Broken Girl*.  
Bowles, David. *The Call Me Guero: A Border Kid's Poems*.  
Camper, Cathy. For illustration. *Loweriders to the Center of the Earth*.  
Canales, Viola. *The Tequila Worm*.  
\* Cervantes, Angela. *Lety Out Loud*.  
Diaz, Alexandra. *The Only Road*.  
Engle, Margarita. *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir*.  
Flores-Galbis, Enrique. *90 Miles To Havana*.  
Garza, Xavier. *Maximilian and the Mystery of the Guardian Angel: A Bilingual Lucha Libre Thriller*.  
\* Hernandez, Carlos. *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe*.  
Herrera, Juan Filipe. *Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes*.  
Peréz, Celia C. *The First Rule of Punk*.  
Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *The Dreamer. Esperanza Rising*.  
Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Funny Bones. Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras*.  
*Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*.  
*Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: : a Migrant's Tale*.  
Wood, Susan and Duncan Tonatiuh. *Esquivel! Space-Age Sound Artist*.

**PICTURE BOOKS**  
**They're not just for tots anymore**  
( \* = recently acquired)

Agee, Jon. *Life on Mars*. Droll illustrations of a young astronaut who has brought cupcakes as a gift to a possible inhabitant on Mars, where we, the reader, know way more than the astronaut. Agee is a gem. Try also *Lion Lessons*, *It's Only Stanley*, *Mr. Putney's Quacking Dog*, *Milo's Hat Trick*, *Little Santa*.

Al Abdullah, Queen Rania. *The Sandwich Swap*. Two best friends discover that it is better to be curious than judgmental about each other's lunch in this short, thoughtful and funny tale.

Alamagna, Beatrice. *The Wonderful Fluffy Little Squishy*. A 5 year old girl in France is determined to find her mother the best birthday present in the world – but what is that pink thing, anyway?

Andersen, Hans Christian. *The Emperor's New Clothes*, illus. Angela Barrett. Spectacular illustrations in an elegant 1910s European setting in this version of the story that always makes kids laugh and feel superior.

\*Anderson, Airlie. *Neither*. A world where there are only two kinds: this and that. Blue bunnies, yellow birds. But one day a creature is born who doesn't quite fit in. A longing for inclusion, where all are welcome, in a tale full of fantastic critters, like a purple butterfly cat, with vibrant colors.

Armand, Glenda. *Love Twelve Miles Long*. For older children, the story of the mother of Frederick Douglass as she walks twelve long miles to visit her son.

Arsenault, Isabelle. *Colette's Lost Pet*. How do you make friends in a new neighborhood? Colette invents an imaginary parakeet and soon all the neighborhood kids are helping search – and catching on to her fib.

Asch, Frank. *Mr. Maxwell's Mouse*. An urbane cat on his lunch break orders a live mouse and finds himself in conversation with his entree. Spoiler alert: the chatty rodent prevails.

Austrian, J.J. *Worm Loves Worm*. A celebration of love and marriage when two worms meet and fall in love. But who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? Guess what – it doesn't matter.

Ayelsworth, Jim. *The Full Belly Bowl*. In return for his kindness to a wee small man, an old man gets a magical bowl that causes joy, then problems. What item would you put in a bowl that then replicates itself?

\*Bailey, Jen. *A Friend for Henry*. Henry struggles to find a friend. His classmates are just too hard for him to cope with, and his mind works in unusual ways. Finally he meets Katie, a quiet girl who likes to read.

Baker, Keith. *LMNO Peas*. A quirky alphabet book in which busy little peas introduce their favorite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist.

Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Gets Angry*. A furious young girl learns to take the time to cool off and regain her composure. *When Sophie's Feelings Are Really Really Hurt*. For anyone who has had their feelings hurt, either with or without malevolent intent. Also: *The Paper Crane*, a magical tale of a dancing bird in Japan.

Barnes, Derrick. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*. Too many honors to list! The barbershop – it transforms boys. How do they feel? "Magnificent. Flawless. Like royalty." They come out with fresh cuts, full of self-confidence, ready to present themselves to the world.

Barnett, Mac. *Leo: A Ghost Story*. A friendly house ghost must leave home and goes in search of a friend. *The Skunk*. A man, followed by a skunk all day, finally eludes the critter only to find the tables turn. *President Taft Is Stuck in the Bath*. A hilarious and popular take on our fattest president. Also: *Moustache*.

Barnett, Mac and Jon Klassen. *The Wolf, the Duck and the Mouse*. A little mouse is swallowed by a wolf and makes a surprising discovery: a duck is already in the belly, and it's pretty nice in there, with delicious food and elegant table settings. *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*. Two boys decide to dig a hole and look for "something spectacular." *Extra Yarn*. Annabelle transforms her colorless town by knitting assorted garments for people and objects, until a selfish archduke steals her endless box of yarn in this fable: greed never pays.

Barrow, David. *Have You Seen Elephant?* A silly hide-and-seek tale where the gets the joke and the boy in the story can't find the obvious.

Bateman, Teresa. *Keeper of Soles*. A shoemaker repeatedly outwits a black-robed figure who knocks on the shoemaker's door and demands his soul. Death, befuddled, leaves with sandals, boots, but never a soul.

Battle-Lavert, Gwendolyn. *Papa's Mark*. A young boy teaches his father how to write his own name in time to vote in the local election, the first in which African-Americans are being allowed to vote.

Beaty, Andrea. *Ada Twist, Scientist*. A curious young girl asks lots of questions and performs experiments to understand the world in this rhyming story by the author of the beloved *Rosie Revere, Engineer* and *Iggly Peck, Architect*. These 3 tales of creative, inventive kids are in high demand here.

Beaumont, Karen. *I Ain't Gonna Paint No More!* A child who loves to paint everything he sees, sometimes in surprising places. We sing it. And sing it. Also: *Move Over, Rover!* and *I Like Myself!*

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*. Wordless, subtle. A young girl draws a door on her bedroom wall and enters a wondrous, dangerous world and must escape an evil emperor. 2014 Caldecott Honor.

Becker, Bonny. *A Visitor for Bear*. Bear's efforts to keep out visitors to his house are undermined by a very persistent, friendly mouse. Don't miss *Bedtime*, *Sniffles* and *Birthday for Bear*.

Bell, Cece. *I Yam A Donkey*. A poor yam tries to correct a donkey's grammar and pronunciation.

Bemelmans, Ludwig. *Madeline*. The irrepressible girl of Paris in a classic tale imbued with feminism. Not afraid of mice...or tigers...and in a most unladylike way, she shows off her battle scar!

Berger, Samantha. *Crankenstein*. An ordinary little boy transforms into grumbling Crankenstein when faced with a rainy day, a melting popsicle or bedtime...until he meets a fellow Crankenstein.

Birtha, Becky. *Lucky Beans*. During the Great Depression, a young African American boy uses his arithmetic skills to help his mother win a sewing machine.

Blackall, Sophie. *Hello, Lighthouse*. Caldecott Medal. A lighthouse keeper tends the lamp making sure ships are safe from his cozy tower. The intimacy of his daily life, from rescuing sailors to recording the birth of his baby, is a gem. *The Baby Tree*. Where do babies come from? A young boy asks an assortment of adults his burning question and gets a variety of funny answers until Mom and Dad calmly explain.

Bliss, Corinne. *The Littlest Matryoshka*. Nina, the smallest of a group of Russian nesting dolls, is separated from her sisters and swept along on a scary journey that eventually brings her back home.

Bloom, Suzanne. *A Splendid Friend Indeed*. A studious polar bear who just wants to read meets an inquisitive and persistent goose who wants to talk and talk and succumbs to friendship.

Blue, Rose. *Ron's Big Mission*. Nine-year-old Ron makes his own quiet stand against segregation when he decides to apply for his own library card. Based on the true story of Astronaut Ron McNair's experience.

Boelts, Maribeth. *A Bike Like Sergio's*. One of my favorites of the year. Ruben longs for a bike – and his family can't afford one. He eagerly pockets the dollar that flutters to the floor from a woman's purse in a store, and later realizes it's a \$100 bill. He has a hard choice to make. We've all wanted something badly.

Bottner, Barbara. *Wallace's Lists*. Devoted to making lists, Wallace the mouse discovers the joy of spontaneity when he befriends his neighbor Albert.

Brandt, Lois. *Maddi's Fridge*. How to talk about poverty and hunger with young children? With this warm and sensitive story of trust and empathy as Sophia tries to figure out how to help her hungry friend.

Brett, Jan. *Daisy Comes Home*. Daisy, an unhappy hen in China, floats down the river in a basket and has an adventure. *The Mitten*. *The Hat*. Brett's soft panel drawings with hints of events to come are beloved.

\*Broskol, Vera. *The Little Guys*. Tiny cartoon characters with acorn caps are tough and mighty; as a team they are able to conquer anything in the forest. But community is nurtured through sharing and kindness. *Leave Me Alone!* A cranky grandmother just wants to knit but is overrun by hordes of grandchildren. So she finishes her project – a gift of sweaters for them all – on the moon.

Brown, Monica. *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match*. A bi-racial, nonconformist soccer-playing pirate-princess celebrates her uniqueness.

Brown, Peter. *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*. Mr. Tiger is tired of his proper clothing and gentlemanly manner. So he gets naked! Freedom! Individuality! Lushly illustrated. Also: *My Teacher Is a Monster*. *The Curious Garden*.

Browne, Anthony. *What If...?* An anxious boy on his way to a birthday party peeks inside houses and sees strange sights. *Voices in the Park*. A simple outing described from multiple viewpoints, thought-provoking.

Brunhoff, Jean de. *The Story of Babar, the Little Elephant*. Young Babar, escaping from a hunter, goes to the city where he is befriended by a rich old Lady.

Bunting, Eve. *Fly Away Home*. A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father finds hope when he sees a trapped bird find its freedom. Also: *Christmas Cricket*, *So Far From the Sea*, many others.

Buzzeo, Toni. *One Cool Friend*. A silly tale of a friendship between a boy and a penguin – the latter secretly lives in the bathtub -- full of sly jokes and wordplay.

Campoy, F. Isabelle. *Maybe Something Beautiful*. Mira lives in a gray, hopeless urban community until a muralist arrives and inspires the community to bring color and joy to their world in this exuberant offering.

Carle, Eric. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. No child should miss this classic: colors, numbers, foods, days of the week, satiety and metamorphosis. Also *The Very Busy Spider*, *The Very Lonely Firefly*, many others.

Case, Julie. *Emma and the Whale*. Emma loves exploring the beach. One day she finds a stranded baby whale and uses all her strength to save her – thinking, feeling, empathizing with the helpless creature.

Catchpool, Michael. *The Cloudspinner*. A little boy can spin beautiful clothes out of the clouds; but when the greedy king demands too much, environmental disaster looms. It takes wisdom, courage to protect our earth.

\*Choi, Susan. *Camp Tiger*. Sometimes a person doesn't feel ready for first grade. A talking tiger may be just the thing, showing up on a family camping trip, needing to share a tent. We all need to find our inner tigers.

Clark-Robinson, Monica. *Let the Children March*. A CSK honor book. How can kids stand up for justice? These kids in Birmingham, 1963 did it: they faced dogs, water hoses and jail but were brave and determined.

\*Clarke, Maxine Beneba. *The Patchwork Bike*. We can make our own joy with a bit of ingenuity and optimism, even if “we live inside our mud-for-walls home.” A bunch of siblings build a bike using everyday items, and laugh as they whiz around, speeding past their annoyed mother and right through their home.

Clayton, Elaine. *Pup in School*. A favorite story of how to stand up against someone who is picking on you: dogs in kindergarten working it out.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Light in the Darkness*. A story of hope, determination and fear, powerfully illustrated, as an enslaved mother and daughter risk a whipping to learn how to read in a “pit school.”

Coffelt, Nancy. *Fred Stays with Me!* A dog accompanies his young mistress to both her mom’s and dad’s home, an essential comfort despite the havoc he wreaks.

Collier, Bryan. *It’s Shoe Time!* (An *Elephant & Piggie Like Reading* offering.) How to decide what shoes to wear? Vivid colors, anthropomorphic footwear, clever wordplay (“WE are not a pair!” “You are not a banana either”) and an “aha” ending of empathy and joy.

Colon, Raul. *Draw!* A wordless adventure as a bedridden boy goes into Africa and draws what he sees. Our young artists pore over the gorgeous illustrations in this one.

Conrad, Pam. *The Tub People*. A bath time tale featuring a family of wooden toys and their experience with the drain.

Cooney, Barbara. *Miss Rumphius*. A retired librarian resolves to travel the world and then to make the world more beautiful.

Cooper, Elisha. *Big Cat, Little Cat*. Caldecott honor. A pair of cats take joy in each other’s company, until the older one “had to go...and he didn’t come back.” Sadness is followed by the arrival of a new kitten and the old cat shows the new cat everything it needs to know.

Cooper, Floyd. *The Ring Bearer*. Jackson is nervous about being in his mother’s wedding – but also nervous about getting a stepfather and a stepsister. But he handles the wedding and family changes with kindness and good will.

Cordell, Matthew. *Wolf in the Snow*. Caldecott Medal. A wordless tale of a wolf pup and a little girl, both lost, who need help finding their way home through the snow. And: *Another Brother*. A sheepish take on new baby blues as Davy realizes imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Cornwall, Gaia. *Jabari Jumps*. He’s at the top of the high dive, scared but determined. Jabari pushes himself to take the big plunge into the pool in a story that prompts applause and lots of personal connection.

Cowell, Cressida. *That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown*. Emily defends her stuffed rabbit from the naughty queen who is determined to get it any way she can.

Cronin, Doreen. *Diary of a Worm*. There are some good and some bad things about being a worm. Also hilarious: *Duck for President*. *Diary of a Spider*. *Click, Clack Moo: Cows That Type*. *Wiggle*.

Cuevas, Michelle. *The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles*. A man who has spent his life delivering messages found in bottles from the sea finds one very mysterious and ultimately very satisfying message – for him.

Davies, Nicola. *The Promise*. An elderly woman lets a young thief have her bag if she promises to plant what is inside: and the bag is full of acorns. Metaphors abound. Also: *Just Ducks*. *The Ice Bear*.

Davis, Patricia Anne. *Brian’s Bird*. A blind boy learns how to take care of his new parakeet and comes to realize that his older brother is not so bad after all.

Daywalt, Drew. We cannot get enough Daywalt. *The Day the Crayons Quit*. Duncan just wants to color but his crayons have minds of their own and just...well...quit. Also: *The Day the Crayons Came Home*. Also the enormously popular and crazy *Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors*. Ever wonder where that game came from?

de la Peña, Matt. *Carmela Full of Wishes*. A tender tale of a little sister, running errands with her big brother who wishes she had stayed home – but who helps her make her wish to make things better for her family. *Love*. Do parents love a new baby? Obviously. But love is in surprising places, in stories and hugs.. *Last Stop on Market Street*. Newbery Medal! Caldecott honor! A little boy and his grandmother take a bus into a run-down part of town on a journey of appreciation and giving back.

Deedy, Carmen Agra. *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet*. The new mayor outlaws singing in the noisy town of La Paz, but a brave and plucky rooster pushes back against infringement on free speech. *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach*. *The Library Dragon*. *Tree Man*. *Agatha's Feather Bed*. Funny, punny, warm.

Del Rizzo, Suzanne. *My Beautiful Birds*. A picture book for older children. How to talk about the war in Syria? And about refugees? A young boy begins healing in a refugee camp when some birds need his care.

dePaola, Tomie. *Bill and Pete*. When William Everett Crocodile is chosen to be a suitcase, his talking toothbrush becomes his salvation. *Strega Nona*. When Strega Nona leaves him alone with her magic pasta pot, Big Anthony is determined to show the townspeople how it works. Many others.

Dewdney, Anna. *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama*. A little llama gets scared after his mother puts him to bed and turns out the light and lots of llama drama ensues. Several others in series.

\*Diaciute, Edwina. *The Fox on the Swing*. A quirky tale. Paul lives in a tree with his parents, who fly helicopters and make pottery. He meets a prickly fox offering wise advice about change and friendship.

Diggs, Taye. *Chocolate Me!* A young boy, teased because of his dark skin and curly hair, comes to see himself as beautiful with the help of his mother. Also: *Mixed Me!*, featuring a bi-racial child.

Doerrfeld, Cori. *The Rabbit Listened*. How do you help someone deal with a disaster? Taylor's block castle is destroyed. All the animals want to help but the rabbit listens, which is exactly what Taylor needs.

Donnio, Sylviane. *I'd Really Like to Eat a Child*. A young crocodile refuses the food his parents provide, wanting a tasty child instead, until a little girl gives him his comeuppance.

Dormer, Frank W. *Socksquatch*. Socksquatch, a hairy creature of few words, tries to find a replacement sock for his cold foot: "Got sock?"

Dorros, Arthur. *Abuela*. While riding on a bus with her grandmother, a little girl imagines that they are carried up into the sky and fly over the sights of NYC.

Dubuc, Marianne. *The Lion and the Bird*. A lion finds a wounded bird in his garden and cares for it through the winter in this exquisitely illustrated story of kindness and friendship.

Dyckeman, Ame. *Wolfie the Bunny*. When her parents find a baby wolf on their doorstep and decide to raise him, Dot is certain he will eat them all up until a surprising encounter with a bear changes everything.

Egan, Tim. *The Pink Refrigerator*, in which Dodsworth the mole learns to break with routine and embrace the world. Several others, *Dodsworth in New York...Paris...London...Tokyo...* featuring the deadpan mole.

Ellis, Carson. *Du Iz Tak?* Our kids laugh out loud and beg for it again and again. A group of insects, who speak in an imaginary language, turn a growing tree into a fort.

Falconer, Ian. *Olivia*. A spirited young pig plays dress up, paints on walls, builds with blocks and endures time-out. Many others by this wry cartoonist.

Fan, Terry and Eric. *The Night Gardener*. A mysterious gardener transforms the trees and shrubs of a town into topiary masterpieces, and a lonely, curious boy decides to help in the magic. Stunning illustrations.

Feiffer, Julius. *Bark, George*. A mother dog worries about the strange noises her puppy makes in this hilariously illustrated tale. Also: *By the Side of the Road*.

Fleming, Candace. *Oh, No!* Five animals are disturbed by a grinning tiger and fall into a hole, one by one, with an unlikely rescue. *Muncha! Muncha! Muncha!* Three clever bunnies manage to devour the veggies from Mr. McGreely's garden no matter how he barricades it.

Fogliano, Julie. *If You Want To See a Whale*. A rich, quiet offering: To catch sight of an elusive whale, you must cultivate patience and know what *not* to look at.

Fraustino, Lisa Rowe. *The Hickory Chair*. Louis, blind since birth, is gifted with "blind sight" that his grandmother nurtures even after her death.

Freeman, Don. *Corduroy*. A toy bear for sale wants a number of things, but when a little girl finally buys him he finds what he has always wanted most of all. A story of unconditional love.

Gag, Wanda. *Millions of Cats*. An old man searches for a pet for his lonely wife and returns with millions of cats, all claiming to be the most beautiful.

Gaiman, Neil. *Cinnamon*. A blind, mute princess with eyes of pearls learns to speak with the help of a tiger. *Chu's Day*. *Chu's First Day of School*. The most adorable panda gets into trouble when he sneezes—a lot.

Gonzales, Rigoberto. *Antonio's Card*. For Mother's Day, Antonio finds he has to decide what matters to him when his classmates make fun of the unusual appearance of his mother's partner. In English and Spanish.

Gonzalez, Marc. *Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter*. I used this one with K-4 to talk about Islam. Its vibrant illustrations are captivating. How do we fight Islamaphobia? With joyful picture books.

Gonzalez, Maya. *My Colors, My World / Mis Colores, Mi Mundo*. Intensely colored paintings introduce the colors of the desert where Maya lives.

Gonzalez, Xelena. *All Around Us*. Pura Belpré honor. A gorgeously illustrated meditation on circles, which a girl and her grandfather explore in trees, rainbows, eyes and a human life.

Goodrich, Carter. *Say Hello To Zorro!* Mr. Bud, the family dog, cherishes his routine, which is turned upside down by the arrival of the bossy dog Zorro.

Graham, Bob. *A Bus Called Heaven*. A little girl brings a community together around an old bus that is home to nesting sparrows. *How to Heal a Broken Wing*. An emotionally-resonant story of a boy who finds and tenderly cares for a wounded bird. Also: *April & Esmé*, *Tooth Fairies*. "Let's Get a Pup!," Said Kate.

Gravel, Elise. *The Fly*. *The Worm*. *The Slug*. *The Rat*. Silly, off-the-wall cartoons convey a variety of facts about disgusting creatures. Check out where the slug meets the snotty nosed baby.

Gravett, Emily. *Wolves*. When a young rabbit goes to the library and checks out a book about wolves, he learns thing he would rather not know.

Grey, Mini. *Traction Man Meets Turbodog*. Sequel to the hilarious and popular *Traction Man is Here!* Imaginative play trumps battery operated toys when Traction Man braves the evil bin things to rescue beloved Scrubbing Brush. Also: *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon*. *Ginger Bear*.

Grimard, Gabrielle. *Lila and the Crow*. Lila is new at school and kids whisper, and shout, about her dark hair, dark eyes, dark skin. But a mysterious crow wants to tell her something: and her eyes open to the beauty of difference.

Hanlon, Abby. *Ralph Tells a Story*. An endearing look at writer's block as Ralph struggles with his school assignment.

Harris Robie H. *Who's In My Family?* Charming illustrations illustrate lots of conversations in family life; there is no one 'right' kind of family, just love. *Mail Harry to the Moon!* A comic look at sibling rivalry. *Happy Birth Day!* The sweet joy of a newborn's first day in the world.

Hatke, Ben. *Julia's House for Lost Creatures*. Julia welcomes cats, trolls, ghosts and other lost or homeless creatures but realizes everybody needs to have a chore. *Nobody Likes a Goblin*. Who likes a goblin? Not the farmer. Not the innkeeper. Not the elves. But you know who loves a goblin? His friends. Kids longing for a good battle with an underdog with friends who have his back adore it.

Henkes, Kevin. *Owen*. Owen's parents try to get him to give up his blanket before he starts school; at the end, a solution is reached that pleases everyone. Also: *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*, *Chrysanthemum*, many others from an utterly essential author who understands the social and emotional concerns of young children.

Hills, Tad. *Rocket Writes a Story*, sequel to *How Rocket Learned to Read*. Our beloved pup is back, developing a friendship with an owl and writing about it. *Duck & Goose*, who learn to work together to take care of a ball that they think is an oversized egg.

Himmelman, John. *Chickens to the Rescue*. Farmer Greenstalk's unflappable fowls are (nearly) always ready to help the family and their animals recover from mishaps in this laugh-out-loud tale. Try *Pigs* and *Cows* too.

Hoban, Russell. *A Bargain for Frances*. A young badger figures out how to regain her savings after being tricked. Many others by this author, including *Bread and Jam for Frances* and *A Baby Sister for Frances*.

Hooks, Bell. *Skin Again*. How do we talk to very young children about race? This meditation helps us see that it's impossible to know who a person really is just from the color of his or her skin.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Steamboat School*. In 1847, it became illegal to teach slaves to read in Missouri, so an enterprising Reverend moved his school to a steamboat in the Mississippi River. Other historical picture books: *A Boy Called Dickens*. *A Band of Angels: ...the Jubilee Singers*. *Under the Quilt of Night*.

Horse, Harry. *Little Rabbit's New Baby*. Little Rabbit must cope with the chaos of three new siblings. *Little Rabbit Goes to School*. Little Rabbit takes his favorite toy, along for his first day of school and blames all the trouble on Charlie Horse. Also: *Little Rabbit Lost*.

Howe, James. *Brontorina*. Despite her size and not having the proper footwear, a determined dinosaur pursues her dream of becoming a ballerina. *Horace and Morris but Mostly Dolores*. Three mice friends learn that the best clubs include everyone.

Ichikawa, Satomi. *My Pig Amarillo*. Losing a beloved pet brings grief and hope to a young Guatemalan boy.

Isadora, Rachel. *Ben's Trumpet*. A young boy plays only an imaginary instrument until a neighborhood jazz musician discovers his ambition.

Jeffers, Oliver. *This Moose Belongs To Me*. “Wilfrid owned a moose. He called him Marcel. Sometimes the moose wasn’t a very good pet.” Also hilarious: *Stuck*, in which a child whose kite is stuck in a tree throws everything at it and it all sticks. Try: *Lost and Found*, *The Way Back Home*, *Once Upon an Alphabet*.

Jenkins, Emily. *That New Animal*. The lives of two dogs change radically when a new animal – a human baby – comes to live in their house. *Skunkdog*. Dumpling, a dog with no friendship, strikes up a stinky friendship in a book with rich language and funny illustrations. Also: *Water in the Park*.

Johnson, Crockett. *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Harold uses his fantastic purple crayon to draw himself some wonderful adventures in this classic that every child should know.

Johnson, D.B. *Henry Hikes to Fitchburg*. While his friend works hard to earn train fare, young Henry Thoreau walks the 30 miles through woods and fields.

\*Jory, John. *The Good Egg*. Sequel to *The Bad Seed*. Where the bad seed was rude and mean, the good egg goes around doing good deeds, such as helping an elderly woman (a curved piece of bacon) across the street. Being perfect is hard work: an egg might even “crack.”

Kang, Anna. *You Are (Not) Small*. A heated debate between two furry creatures about size with a surprise conclusion.

Kasza, Keiko. *The Dog Who Cried Wolf*. Tired of being a pet, Moka the dog moves to the mountains to be a wolf but soon misses the comforts of home. Also: *Wolf’s Chicken Stew*, *Don’t Laugh Joe*, *The Mightiest*.

Kellogg, Steven. *The Island of the Skog*. Tired of being terrorized by cats, mice sail to an island where they must defeat or befriend the resident “skog”.

Kelly, Mark. *Mousetronaut: Based on a (Partially) True Story*. A small but plucky mouse is sure that he can help the space shuttle astronauts and ends up saving the whole mission. By the astronaut.

\*Kerascoet. *I Walk With Vanessa*. Wordless books can speak to all of us, and this one is powerful. How do we help a classmate who is being treated badly? Vanessa needs allies. Small acts of kindness and inclusion can change everything. Sometimes we can be allies without saying a word.

\*Khan, Hena. *Under My Hijab*. Kahn, who came to Paideia in 2018, introduces young readers to the world of the hijab through the eyes of a young girl observing the women in her family who choose to wear them. Also: *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors*, a gorgeous and glorious way to explore the beauty of Islam. *It’s Ramadan*, *Curious George*. Ramadan – the kids noted, it’s so much like a holiday I celebrate! Khan packs a lot into a little board book and offers a way to combat ugly stereotypes.

Khan, Rukhsana. *The Big Red Lollipop*. An immigrant mother nearly wrecks her daughter’s social life by insisting her younger sister attend a birthday party in this empathetic tale of being new and fitting in.

Kirk, Daniel. *Library Mouse: A World to Explore*. Sam the library mouse returns, this time showing the intrepid explorer mouse Sara the world of reading.

Klassen, Jon. *This Is Not My Hat*. A dark, comic foray into headgear illicitly acquired, featuring a misguided tiny fish and a very big fish. *I Want My Hat Back*. A twisted offering that thrills kids with the unexpected: a bear asks one forest animal after another if they have seen his hat, then realizes he knows where his hat is – and who is wearing it. *We Found a Hat*. Two turtles find a hat in the desert and need to decide who gets it.

Klise, Kate. *Stay: A Girl, a Dog and a Bucket List*. Astrid was a newborn when she first met Eli the dog. Now Eli is getting old and Astrid and Eli realize that spending time together is the most precious gift of all. *Why Do You Cry?* Little Rabbit only wants to invite guest to his 5<sup>th</sup> birthday party that are too old to cry.

Kraus, Robert. *Leo the Late Bloomer*. A sweetly reassuring tale about a tiger cub who eventually catches up to his more accomplished animal friends.

Kraus, Ruth. *The Carrot Seed*. Despite everyone's predictions, a little boy has faith in the carrot seed he plants.

Knudsen, Michelle, *Library Lion*. An affectionate tale of resourcefulness and devotion as a friendly lion fills in for an injured librarian.

Lasser, Jon. *Grow Happy*. As Kiko digs and plants and waters a garden, she also cares for herself, making good choices, paying attention to her feelings and spending time with friends.

Lé, Minh. *Drawn Together*. A young boy visits his Thai-speaking grandfather and they both struggle with a language barrier until they start drawing and painting—wizards, warriors and dragons, “all the things we could never say come pouring out.”

Leaf, Munro. *The Story of Ferdinand*. Ferdinand loves to sit quietly and smell flowers, but when he gets stung by a bee, his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls.

Leroy, Jean. *A Well Mannered Young Wolf*. Manners matter. A young wolf follows the rule that, before he devours his prey, he must grant their last wish. A story? A song? Are you kidding? We laughed out loud.

Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. A timid rat who can't pronounce his r's becomes a hero when he outwits a bully. Also: *Tacky the Penguin* and sequels featuring a very odd bird who's good to keep around.

Levine, Ellen. *Henry's Freedom Box*. A fictionalized account of how a slave escaped by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Lichtenheld, Tom. *E-mergency!* The letter “e” is injured in a fall, but she can only get better if everyone stops using her. Things aren't the same when “o” fills in.

Lies, Brian. *The Rough Patch*. A farmer fox's beloved dog dies. The grieving farmer neglects his garden until he wins a prize for a pumpkin: \$10 or a puppy. A story of grief, empathy and recovery from loss.

Lin, Grace. *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*. How does the moon change shape? Mama and Little Star bake a giant mooncake but the girl can't help but nibble it just a little bit, each night. But Mama doesn't get mad when she notices – it's just time to make another one. Yum.

Lindenbaum, Pija. *Mini Mia and Her Darling Uncle*. Mini Mia loves hanging out with her eccentric Uncle Tommy, but she is not at all pleased when his friend Fergus comes to visit, until she learns he plays soccer.

Lionni, Leo. *Swimmy*. *Fish is Fish*. *Frederick*. Many others. Brightly illustrated, these stories are rich with humor and meaning. My personal favorite is *Swimmy*, an allegory of collective action and courage.

Logue, Mary. *Sleep Like a Tiger*. A whimsical bedtime tale of a little girl who doesn't want to go to sleep.

London, Jonathan. *Froggy* series. One of the most popular picture book series we have: Froggy the frog copes with hilarious misunderstandings and embarrassing situations with the help of his goofy parents.

Look, Lenore. *Brush of the Gods*. An ancient Chinese tale of a painter whose art fills people awe. *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding*. A Chinese American girl celebrates the festivities of her uncle's wedding customs.

Love, Jessica. *Julián is a Mermaid*. A child who has a deep deep longing to go deep deep down with the mermaids and be one of them. How do we talk about gender fluidity with young children? With this one.

\*Lukoff, Kyle. *When Aidan Became a Brother*. Everyone thought Aidan was a girl at birth. When Aidan realized he was a trans boy, his parents helped him fix things like clothes. But a new baby is coming and Aidan wants to get everything right. The most important thing, though, is to love with his whole self.

Lunde, Stein Eric. *My Father's Arms Are a Boat*. Unable to sleep, a young boy climbs into his father's arms and asks about birds, foxes, and whether his mother will ever awaken, then under a starry sky, the father provides clear answers and assurances. An intimate and indirect look at grief and connection.

Maclear, Kyo. *Spork*. Spork, a misfit in the cutlery drawer, finds his combination of spoon and fork is just right for a very messy creature that has arrived in the kitchen.

Madison, Alan. *Velma Gratch & the Way Cool Butterfly*. 1st grade does not go very well for Velma until her class takes a trip to a butterfly conservatory and a monarch demands to be her friend.

Manley, Curtis. *The Summer Nick Taught His Cats To Read*. It's not easy to teach a cat to read, but one boy tries to in this sweet and silly picture book that captures the challenges and rewards of learning to read.

Mantchev, Lisa. *Strictly No Elephants*. What do you do when they won't let you in their club? Maybe you form a club and include anyone, including those with a pet elephant or a pet skunk. Kindness. Inclusivity.

Manushkin, Fran. *The Shivers in the Fridge*. One by one, members of the Shivers family disappear from inside their chilly home.

Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Alma and How She Got Her Name*. It's hard for little Alma to put her long name on her paper: Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela. She asks her father, why such a long name? and learns of her rich family history.

Mason, Margaret. *These Hands*. An African American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory.

Marshall, James. *George and Martha*. Comic tales of friendship between two hippopotamuses.

McBratney, Sam. *Guess How Much I Love You*. A rabbit child coyly tests his father's love.

McCloskey, Robert. *Make Way for Ducklings*. *Blueberries For Sal*. Classics no child should miss.

McCutcheon, John. *Flowers for Sarajevo*. A wrenching tale, based on true events, for older children. A young boy tells of the bombing of the marketplace in Sarajevo and the cellist who played every day for 22 days in memory of the victims. "The music midst the madness, and the courage to be kind..."

McDonnell, Patrick. *Me.. Jane*. Primatologist Jane Goodall had a childhood full of the keen observation, curiosity and joy that she brought to her work as an adult.

McGhee, Alison. *Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth*. A 1st grader is frightened after hearing a rumor that her teacher is a 300-year-old alien with a purple tongue who steals baby teeth from her students.

McKissack, Patricia. *Goin' Someplace Special*. A young African-American girl braves indignities and obstacles to get to one of the few integrated places in town: the public library. Also: *Precious and the Boo Hag*, *Mirandy and Brother Wind*, *The All-I'll-Ever-Want for Christmas Doll*, many others.

McMullan, Kate. *I Stink!* An exuberant garbage truck makes his rounds. Also, *I'm Dirty!*

Medina, Meg. *Mango, Abuela and Me*. Pura Belpré honors. A little girl discovers her grandmother can't speak English and finds the perfect gift to help them both.

Middleton-Elya, Susan. *La Princesa and the Pea*. Pura Belpré award. A play, funny twist on the traditional tale of the test – is she a real princess? A rhyming tale with a Spanish twist.

\*Miller, Sharee. *Don't Touch My Hair!* Aria loves her soft, fluffy hair but is weary of all those who want to touch it: in the street (people), under the sea (a mermaid), in the jungle (monkeys). She has had enough! A way to talk about boundaries and consent in a silly, zany world featuring a girl with a healthy self-image.

Miller, William. *Richard Wright and the Library Card*. From a true story, a view of painful indignities and courage that were part of African Americans' lives.

Milway, Kate Smith. *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*. A microloan to a young boy in Ghana changed his life and that of hundreds of others in this inspiring true story. Also: *The Good Garden: How One Family Went From Hunger to Having Enough*.

Mitchell, Margaret King. *Uncle Jed's Barbershop*. A story of dreams deferred and finally realized in the segregated South, 1920s.

Monroe, Chris. *Sneaky Sheep*. Blossom and Rocky, two sneaky but dim sheep, keep trying to get away from the rest of the flock, in spite of the dangers they encounter. *Monkey With a Toolbelt*, in which Chico Bon Bon cleverly uses an array of ridiculous tools to escape from an organ grinder. Sequels. Also: *Bug on a Bike*.

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu*. Omu's stew smells so delicious that, one by one, her neighbors arrive to get a taste. And then it's all gone. But Omu gets a meal and "her heart was full of happiness and love."

Mora, Pat. *Tomas and the Library Lady*. Story of a migrant family's annual trek, and the dreams and hopes that books bring to a young boy's life.

Morales, Yuyi. *Dreamers*. A poetic immigration story of a young mother and her baby who arrive in the U.S. and discover the beauty of the library: "Books became our home. Books became our lives." *Viva Frida*. A sumptuously illustrated celebration of Frida Kahlo. Also: *Niño Wrestles the World*. *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*.

Muth, Jon J. *Zen Shorts*. *Zen Ties*. *Zen Ghosts*. Stillwater the bear tells stories of Zen wisdom and humor to three siblings, teaching them to look at the world in new ways.

Myers, Christopher *Wings*. The new boy in school is outcast because he has wings. But his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him.

Nelson, Kadir. *If You Plant a Seed*. Luminous oil paintings by a master, in a tale of kindness as a mouse and a rabbit wait patiently for the seeds they planted to grow into vegetables.

Nelson, Vaunda. *Almost to Freedom*. Story of a young girl's escape from slavery via the Underground Railroad, from the perspective of her beloved rag doll. For older children.

Novak, B.J. *The Book With No Pictures*. Everything on the page HAS to be said by the person reading it aloud. Even if the words are silly, like BLORK. Kids adore making adults look ridiculous. Go for it.

Nyeu, Tao. *Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always*. A warm and supportive friendship between two sea critters survives silly & serious disagreements.

Ogburn, Jacqueline. *The Bake Shop Ghost*. Miss Meriweather haunts her bake shop after her death, until the new owner makes a sweet deal with her. Also: *The Magic Nesting Doll*. After her grandmother dies, Katya finds herself in a kingdom where the Tsarevitch has been turned into living ice and she uses the magic nesting dolls her babushka had given her to try to break the curse.

Papp, Lisa. *Madeline Finn and the Library Dog*. Madeline hates reading, She struggles. Classmates snicker. But a wise librarian has her read to a real live dog and, with practice, one touching miracle follows another.

Parr, Todd. *It's Okay to Be Different. Underwear Do's and Don'ts. The Feelings Book*. Bright (i.e. lurid) cartoony characters reassure children about many of childhood's worries in a gently comic manner.

Patel, Sanjay. *Ganesha's Sweet Tooth*. Bold colors illustrate this comical retelling of how Ganesha the elephant breaks a tusk on a jawbreaker, and then uses the point of it to write a famous epic Hindu poem.

Peete, Holly Robinson. *My Brother Charlie*. A girl tells what it is like living with her twin brother who has autism and sometimes finds it hard to communicate, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy.

Peet, Bill. *Buford the Little Big Horn*. Goofy animals get into trouble! The story of an awkward and scrawny mountain sheep with oversized horns who escapes the hunters to become the sensation of a ski resort. Many others by this Disney animator, especially for kids in search of longer picture book stories.

Phi, Bau. *A Different Pond*. An exquisite, poetic story of a pre-dawn fishing trip with a little boy and his father, with evocative memories of the father's childhood in Vietnam and the legacy of the war.

Pilkey, Dav. *The Dumb Bunnies* and sequels. A masterpiece of really bad jokes that has enticed more children into reading than I can count. Beware: some parents don't love it, but kids do.

Pinfeld, Levi. *Black Dog*. When a huge black dog appears outside the Hope home, they all hide. Only Small, the youngest, has the courage to face the black dog, who might not be as frightening as everyone thinks.

Pinkney, Jerry. *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. No child should be deprived of Pinkney's masterful works, many adapting well-known folktales. *In Plain Sight*. A little girl and her wheelchair-bound grandfather play a game: he asks her help in finding objects in the room, and we too join in the hunt.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *Bear In Love*. A bear with a secret admirer who leaves treats outside the cave tries to repay the kindness with honey but discovers an incredibly cute, carrot-loving buddy. *The Big Orange Splot*. When a seagull drops a can of orange paint on his neat house, Mr. Plumbean gets an idea that affects his entire neighborhood. Many other whimsical and delightful titles by this author.

Pizzoli, Greg. *Good Night Owl*. Owl takes drastic measures to get a good night's sleep.

Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. A young girl overcomes her reading disability with the help of a sensitive and persistent teacher. Many others: *The Keeping Quilt, Mrs. Katz and Tush, Pink and Say, Trees of the Dancing Goats*.

Portis, Antoinette. *Now*. How do we treasure the present moment? By making it our favorite. *Wait*. On their way to catch a bus, a mother wants to hurry and her child wants to wait: and a surprise awaits them both. *Not a Box!* To an imaginative little bunny, a box is not always a box.

Poulin, Andree. *Pablo Finds a Treasure*. A spare and stunning tale of a little boy and his sister who spend their days scavenging at the local dump to help support their family. Pablo brilliantly hides a find from the fierce bully who steals "trash" from other kids.

Quintero, Isabel. *My Papí Has a Motorcycle*. Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her father, noting lots of changes in their immigrant neighborhood. With the lavishly painted sunset, she knows the love in her heart will never change.

Ramsay, Calvin A. *Ruth and the Green Book*. Ruth and her parents take a road trip from Chicago to Atlanta at a time when many hotels, gas stations and restaurants would not serve African-Americans. *The Last Mule at Gee's Bend*. A young boy learns the story of the mules from this poor town who had the sad honor of pulling Martin Luther King's casket in the funeral parade.

Rathmann, Peggy. *Officer Buckle and Gloria*. A laugh-out-loud tale of subversion and true partnership between a safety officer and a pantomiming dog. Also: *10 Minutes Till Bedtime*.

Ray, Jane. *Ahmed and the Feather Girl*. A poor orphan has his life changed forever when he finds an egg that hatches into a girl with beautiful feathers. *The Dollhouse Fairy*. Worried about her father's trip to the hospital, Rosy plays with the dollhouse he built for her and finds Thistle, a messy and mischievous fairy. *The Apple-Pip Princess*. In a land barren since the Queen's death, the King tasks his 3 daughters with making the kingdom bloom again, and discovers that small things can make a big difference.

Recorvits, Helen. *My Name Is Yoon*. A shy newcomer from Korea adjusts to life in an American school.

Reynolds, Aaron. *Dude!* A platypus and a beaver love surfing, but dude, there's a shark! *Creepy Pair of Underwear!* Jasper Rabbit, from the wildly popular *Creepy Carrots*, is back. The underwear glows. It freaks him out. But he's brave enough to tackle the problem.

\*Reynolds, Peter. *Say Something*. How can just one single voice make a difference? "If you have a brilliant idea...say something!" "If you see an injustice...say something!" Make the world better—use your voice.

Rex, Adam. *School's First Day of School*. School is worried about the first day: will the children be nice to him? Will they like School? Kids aren't the only ones who get nervous about the first day of school.

Richardson, Justin and Peter Parnell. *And Tango Makes Three*. When two male penguins make a nest in the Central Park Zoo, a zoo keeper provides them with an egg, and the pair raise baby Tango as their own.

Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*. A flight of fancy over the buildings and bridges of New York City. Also: *Bonjour, Lonnie*. *Dinner at Aunt Connie's House*.

Ringved, Glenn. *Cry Heart But Never Break*. A group of children do their best to keep the God of Death from taking their grandmother away, but soon learn that death is not something to fear.

\*Robinson, Chistian. *Another*. An imaginative, artistic and wordless dream journey. A little girl, asleep, moves into a light filled portal of a duplicate world as she and her cat move among all the colorful items in of their waking world: colorful balls, hula hoops, jump ropes and a little red mouse.

Robinson, Sharon. *Jackie's Gift*. When young Steve, who is Jewish, tells his new neighbor, Jackie Robinson, that his family does not have a Christmas tree, Jackie graciously brings one. Based on true events.

Rocco, John. *Blackout*. Caldecott Honor. When the power goes out, a city family discovers stars, neighbors and each other. We all need some digital detox now and then so we can really see each other. Also: *Blizzard*.

Rodman, Mary Ann. *My Best Friend*. Six-year-old Lily has a best friend all picked out, but unfortunately the differences between 1st-graders and 2nd-graders are sometimes very large.

Rohmann, Eric. *A Kitten Tale*. A frisky little kitten can't wait to play in the snow from the acclaimed illustrator. Also gorgeous: *My Friend Rabbit*. *Clara and Asha*. *Time Flies*. *The Cinder-Eyed Cats*.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. *Duck! Rabbit!* A line drawing can be whichever animal you decide it is. Laugh along! Also: *It's Not Fair!*, in which animals, creatures and objects complain.

Ruzzier, Sergio. *This Is Not a Picture Book*. A duckling discovers a book with no pictures and decides to give words a chance in this humorous book full of sympathy for emerging readers. *Hey, Rabbit!* Rabbit finds something inside his suitcase for each of his friends, but worries that there might not be anything left for him.

Sanna, Francesca. *The Journey*. A hauntingly beautiful picture book for older children, in which a mother and her two young children seek a new home when their country becomes too dangerous for them to stay.

Sansone, Adele. *The Little Green Goose*. Mr. Goose finds an egg, hatches it, and raises a green-skinned long-tailed chick.

Santat, Dan. *After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again*. Resilience forever! Humpty is afraid of falling again but determined to be near the birds. *The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*. An imaginary friend waits for a child to imagine him and give him a special name. 2015 Caldecott Medal.

Say, Allen. *Tree of Cranes*. A Japanese boy learns of Christmas when his mother decorates a pine tree with origami cranes. Also: *Tea with Milk*, *Grandfather's Journey*.

Scieszka, Jon, and Lane Smith. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Also: *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by A. Wolf*. Popular fractured fairy tales, beloved for their intelligence and silliness.

Selznick, Brian. *Baby Monkey Private Eye*. A detective tale for the youngest: Baby Monkey solves a series of mysteries: missing jewels, a missing pizza, a mizzing clown's nose. If only he can manage to put on his pants. Silly and sweet by a master illustrator with subtle winks embedded in the drawings.

Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*. A naughty little boy, sent to bed without his supper, sails to the land of the wild things where he becomes king; acclaimed as the best picture book of all time. *Pierre: A Cautionary Tale* in which an indifferent boy learns to care. Many others.

Seto, Loretta. *Mooncakes*. A little girl celebrates the Chinese Moon Festival with her parents, who tell her three legends about the moon while they eat mooncakes and drink tea.

\*Shannon, David. *Grow Up, David!* Hooray! He's back! In David's first appearance, he does everything wrong, from chewing food to running away from the bath – naked. His mother exclaims "No, David!" on every page but still loves him. Now he's bugging his older brother by seeking attention in absurd ways. And his brother still loves him – he wants to know if David is okay after getting hurt.

\*Shea, Bob. *Who Wet My Pants?* The most hilarious book of the year. A "cub" scout bear in a scout uniform brings donuts to his troop of animal friends. His pants are wet and he begins accusing them, but the little yellow oval between his legs tells us a lot. They are good friends, noting that "accidents can happen." A story about embarrassment, anger, compassion and forgiveness. Loaded with outrageous puns.

Shraya, Vivek. *The Boy and the Bindi*. A boy asks his mother why she wears the bindi on her forehead. She reaches out and gives him a gift of wisdom– a bindi—that allows him to become more fully himself.

Slobodkina, Esphyr. *Caps for Sale*. A band of mischievous monkeys steals every one of a peddler's caps while he takes a nap under a tree.

Soundar, Chitra. *Pattan's Pumpkin: A Traditional Flood Story from Southern India*. A vividly illustrated tale featuring people and creatures with long-lashed, twinkly eyes who float to safety in a giant pumpkin.

Spires, Ashley. *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do*. How do we tackle something hard? Lou's friends want to play up in a tree; Lou isn't sure she can climb. Compassionate friends and resilience plus a good dose of humor.

Staake, Bob. *Bluebird*. An exploration of loneliness, bullying and the importance of friendship in a captivating, profound and wordless tale of a bluebird and the boy he risks his life to save from harm.

Stead, Philip K. *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*. 2011 Caldecott Medal. The zookeeper who takes care of the animals gets a visit from them when he is ill.

Steig, William. *Zeke Pippin*. A young pig finds a magic, sleep-inducing harmonica. Also: *Dr. DeSoto*, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*, *Amos & Boris*. Rich language accompanies whimsical illustrations.

Stein, David Ezra. *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant Surprise*. Every good story has an “elephant of surprise.” A laugh-out-loud absurd sequel to the beloved...*Interrupting Chicken*. Little Chicken can’t let her papa finish a bedtime story without repeated and absurd interruptions.

Sterer, Gideon. *Not Your Nest*. A little bird builds a nest – and another animal takes it over. So the bird builds a new nest. They’re big. They’re arrogant. The poor bird mutters, “This is getting ridiculous.” And it is – until animals start to feel remorse and come up with a kind solution. Also: *The Night Knights*. Any kid who has nighttime fears needs this reassuring book: the Night Knights are there, protecting us from all the terrors that lurk in the dark. Kids beg for this one at bedtime over and over again.

\*Stevens, Janet. *The Donkey Egg*. An uproarious trickster tale. Fox fools Bear into buying a “donkey egg,” which Bear cares lovingly for while waiting for it to hatch. Surprise! But friend Hare kindly helps out.

Stewart, Sarah. *The Librarian*. What’s a girl to do? She doesn’t like dolls, she doesn’t like to skate, and she loves books. Start her own public library, that’s what! Also a beloved classic: *The Gardener*.

Stinson, Kathi. *The Man with the Violin*. The true story of renowned violinist Joshua Bell, who played in the subway but almost no one noticed – except for Dylan, who knows how to live in the present. Gorgeous.

Thopkins-Bigelow, Jamilah. *Mommy’s Kimar*. A little girl plays with her mother’s headscarves, pretending to be a queen, a superhero or a mama bird. She is part of a loving community, including a grandmother who stops by after church (“She doesn’t go to the mosque like Mommy and Daddy do”) to hug her granddaughter.

Urban, Linda. *Mouse Was Mad*. Mouse struggles to find the right way to express his anger, modeling the behavior of the other animals, only to discover that his own way may be the best way of all.

Uegaki, Chierei. *Suki’s Kimono*. A girl starts first grade by wearing the kimono that her grandmother gave her that summer. Although her sisters say it’s not cool, Suki doesn’t care. She’s determined, glad she did it.

Van Allsburg, Chris. *Jumanji*, *Two Bad Ants*, *Just A Dream*, *The Polar Express*. Classics with illustrations no child should miss.

Varon, Sara. *Chicken and Cat Clean Up*. A wordless story in which Chicken opens his own housekeeping business with Cat as his partner with comic results.

Vere, Ed. *Banana*. Two wild and crazy monkeys, two words and only one banana lead to a spectacular tantrum in this comic take on sharing.

Verde, Susan. *The Water Princess*. Based on the childhood experience of model Georgie Badiel, the story of one girl’s quest to bring clean drinking water to her village in Burkina Faso.

Viorst, Judith. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. A perpetual favorite of any kid who has ever had an awful day. Several others.

Walker, Sally M. *Freedom Song: The Story of Henry “Box” Brown*. For older children. Henry copes with slavery by singing, especially when he makes one of the most ingenious escapes ever.

Watkins, Rowboat. *Rude Cakes*. Who knew cakes could be so rude? She never says please, she takes a cupcake’s toy and terrorizes her fellow pastries. An etiquette lesson featuring a polite giant Cyclops.

Watt, Mélanie. *Scaredy Squirrel*. There are 8 that we can't keep on the shelf, hilarious tales of the little squirrel who won't take a risk...until he does. Also: *Bug in a Vacuum*. *Chester*. *Chester's Masterpiece*.

Wells, Rosemary. *Yoko*. Her classmates make fun of Yoko's sushi lunch until one tries it and discovers it is delicious. Also: Many escapades with *Max and Ruby*, the bunny siblings: one bossy, one goofily mute.

\*Wenzel, Brendan. *Hello Hello*. A preschool book with gorgeous illustrations for all ages. A chain of animals, each different from the last but linked by common traits, encounter each other in a story of diversity and connection. A follow-up to *They All Saw a Cat*. What does a cat look like if you're a fish? A fly? A cat walks through the world and is seen by others from multiple perspectives, told in simple rhythmic prose.

Wiesner, David. *Mr. Wuffles*. A cat ignores all his toys except one, which turns out to be a spaceship piloted by small green aliens. Other stunning nearly wordless books: *Flotsam*. *Sector 7*, *Tuesday*, *The Three Pigs*.

Wild, Margaret. *Harry and Hopper*. Harry is devastated at the death of his beloved dog, Hopper, in a tender and gentle story of love and loss.

Wiles, Deborah. *Freedom Summer*. Two friends are elated to learn, in 1964, that they will be allowed to swim together in the town pool--until the town fills the pool with cement to preserve segregation.

\*Willems, Mo. *The Pigeon HAS To Go To School*. Genius Mo Willems OWNS the early reading world with wild humor, joy and social skills modeling. Pigeon story #7 brings us back to the embodiment of the id: The Pigeon doesn't want to go to school. He already knows everything! And what if he learns too much? Essential Willems: All the *Pigeon* books. All the *Elephant and Piggie* series. Plus: *Knuffle Bunny* series

Williams, Vera. *A Chair for My Mother*. A young girl helps her mother save for a cozy chair to replace one lost in a fire.

Winter, Jeannette. *The Librarian of Basra*, in which librarian Alia Muhammad saves thirty thousand new and old books in her library from destruction. More important works about strong women in tough places: *Wangari's Trees of Peace*. *Nasreen's Secret School*.

Winter, Jonah. *Lillian's Right To Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965*. A 100 year old woman recalls her family's journey on their right to vote. Inspiring for older ages too, based on a true story.

Wood, Audrey. *King Bidgood's in the Bathtub*. Despite pleas from his court, a fun-loving king refuses to get out of his bathtub. Also: *The Napping House*, *Heckedy Peg*.

Woodson, Jacqueline. *The Day You Begin*. It's hard to start a new school—especially if you feel different, like Rigoberto, an immigrant. But we can each be brave, kind and welcoming. *Each Kindness*. A story of regret and isolation as one child realizes she missed the opportunity of being a friend to someone who needed one. *The Other Side*. A fence divides a neighborhood by race, but two young girls overcome the barrier and jump rope together, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. Woodson is a must.

Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. *Something Beautiful*. A little girl in a scary, inner-city neighborhood with trash and broken glass searches for something beautiful and discovers how to add beauty to her world.

Yolen, Jane. *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* Human parents tuck realistic-looking dinosaurs in bed as the "children" use typical bedtime stalling tactics. *Owl Moon*. Many others.

## EASY READERS

**Just a small sampling, with controlled vocabulary and large print especially for emerging readers.**

Adler, David. *Kick It, Mo!* 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of the smallest kid on a team. He wants to score! And learn to read!

Arnold, Tedd. *Hi Fly Guy* and many sequels. Fly Guy and Buzz! Football! Hide and Seek! A road trip!

Bang-Campbell, Monika. *Little Rat Makes Music*. She hates to practice, but hard work makes a violin recital worth it. *Little Rat Sets Sail*.

Bottner, Barbara. *Pish & Posh Wish for Fairy Wings*. Beginner fairies Pish and Posh try to make four wise wishes in order to earn their wings.

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *King & Kayla and the Lost Tooth*. What happens when you lose your tooth – twice? Call King the Dog Detective! Also narrated by King: *King & Kayla and the Case of the Missing Dog Treats*.

Bunting, Eve. *Frog Saves the Day* and series. Frog's goofy friends mistake a train for a terrible dragon and Frog rescues a baby possum after it falls into a river.

Chaconas, Dori. *Cork & Fuzz*. A funny, charming series about a friendship between a muskrat and a possum.

Crow, Melinda. *Little Lizard's First Day*. For anyone who was ever nervous about the first day of school.

Daley, Michael. *Pinch and Dash Make Soup*. Two good friends disagree over the use of pepper and hot sauce in making soup. Tantrums and threats in a comic offering.

\*Daywalt, Drew. *What Is Inside THIS Box?* First in a funny series. Monkey has a box. He tells Cake he has a cat inside, but only when the box is closed. But the box is always empty when they open it. No cat! No dino!

deGroat, Diane. *Gilbert the Surfer Dude*. A trip to the beach does not go as planned when Gilbert realizes that he forgot his bathing suit and Lola is afraid of the water.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Bink & Gollie, Two For One*. Best friends and utter opposites, two girls must use teamwork to navigate the fair. Sequel to *Bink & Gollie*, where best friends share 3 comical adventures.

Egan, Tim. *Dodsworth in Rome*. Dodsworth and the crazy deadpan duck continue their travels. 4 others.

George, Jean Craighead. *Goose and Duck*. Imprinting gone haywire: a newly hatched goose decides a young boy is its mother and vice versa.

Grant, Judyann. *Chicken Said, "Cluck!"* Chicken wants to help Earl and Pearl plant their pumpkins, but she only manages to get in the way.

Harper, Charis Meracle. *The Good For Nothing Button*. Yellow Bird has found a button that...does nothing. But that is something, right? Blue Bird and Red Bird press it and find ... it makes them happy!

Henkes, Kevin. *Penny and Her Doll*. It's love at first sight when Penny's grandmother gives her a new doll—but what to name her? Also: *Penny and Her Marble*. *Penny and Her Song*.

Hills, Tad. *Drop It, Rocket*. The playful beloved pup from picture books is back in this easy reader.

Hoff, Syd. Author of more than 50 timeless easy readers, *The New Yorker* cartoonist continues to speak to children with such works as *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Barkley*, *Chester* and others.

Howe, James. *Houndsley and Catina*. Houndsley and Catina run into trouble when they decide to prove who is best at cooking and writing.

\*Keller, Laurie. *Potato Pants*. Potato is so excited – he can buy a pair of pants at Lance Vance’s Fancy Pants Store. But there’s mean Eggplant who pushed him yesterday. How can he get those stripey pants? *We Are Growing*. Walt, a frustrated blade of grass, searches for his ‘est’ – curliest? crunchiest?

Kettner, Christine. *Oliver Cat on Planet B*. Three absurd stories in which Oliver goes fishing, has trouble choosing a game, and flies into space to find a shirt button.

Landry, Leo. *What’s Up, Chuck?* Chuck the Woodchuck is the best wood sculptor but this year in the contest faces a serious challenge from Scooter Possum.

Lin, Grace. *Ting and Ling Share a Birthday*. The twins are back, buying each other gifts and baking cakes in this sequel to *Ting and Ling: Not Exactly the Same*. Also: *Ting and Ling: Twice As Silly*.

Lobel, Arnold. *Frog and Toad* series. Tales of loyalty, friendship and humor.

Long, Ethan. *Up, Tall and High*. Silly birds demonstrate the meanings of the title words.

\*Milgrim, David. *Poof! A bot!* Zip has zapped a bot. Zip tells the bot what to do. Will the bot listen? A magician. A pie in the face. Milgrim excels in silly stories for emerging readers, featuring monkeys and robots, including *See Pip Flap*, *Swing, Otto*, *Swing, Go, Otto Go!*

Miller, Sara Swan. *Three Stories You Can Read To Your Dog*. Humorous tales for a child to read aloud with a view inside a dog’s head. Also: *Three Stories You Can Read To Your Cat*.

Minarik, Elsie. *Little Bear* series, illus. by Maurice Sendak. Timeless and beloved stories of family life.

Ruzzier, Sergio. *Fox + Chick: The Party and Other Stories*. Funny friends who don’t always agree—but there’s a wild and crazy party in the bathroom!

Rylant, Cynthia. *Henry and Mudge* series. A lonely boy finds joy in a great big dog.

\*Snyder, Laurel. *Charlie & Mouse Get Better*. The two brothers with all their goofy entrepreneurial plans are back. Let’s celebrate Mom’s birthday! Let’s decorate with snakes! Oops...let’s make a new plan!

Thiesing, Lissa. *The Aliens Are Coming!* Peggy worries when she hears that the Aliens are coming until she learns that they are a rock band. *The Viper*, a comic tale of misunderstanding.

Thomas, Jan. *A Birthday For Cow*. *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*. *What Will Fat Cat Sit On?* Hilarious even if you aren’t just learning to read, Thomas creates successful readers out of our youngest students.

Thomas, Shelley Moore. *Get Well, Good Night*. A good knight does his best to help his three ill dragon friends with a wizard's soups. Also: *Good Night, Good Knight*.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Amanda Pig and the Really Hot Day*. It’s so hot. Hot as a fried egg, hot as oatmeal. Amanda tries an assortment of strategies to cool off. Several other *Amanda* titles.

Yee, Wong Herbert. *Abracadabra! Magic With Mouse and Mole*. They’re back! Despite their different outlooks on life, the two friends share the magic in nature. Several others of *Mouse and Mole*.

Yolen, Jane. *Commander Toad* series. The intrepid crew of the space ship "Star Warts" lands on a water-covered planet inhabited by Deep Wader, a hungry monster.

## FOLK TALES, FAIRY TALES and MYTHS

NOTE: Folk tales and myths are a nourishing read for any age and stimulate creativity, imagination and courage. They are an essential component of literacy from all corners of the earth and should be part of a child's reading throughout elementary school. Browse your public library's 398.2 section for more.

Aardema, Verna. *How the Ostrich Got Its Long Neck*. A laugh-out-loud picture book by the author of *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*, a not-to-be-missed classic. Also: *Borreguita and the Coyote: A Tale from Ayutla, Mexico*. A little lamb uses her clever wiles to keep a coyote from eating her up.

Bodkin, Odds. *The Crane Wife*. A tale of mystery and tragedy with stunning Japanese-inspired illustrations.

Bruchac, Joseph. *The Boy Who Lived With the Bears and Other Stories*. A collection of six Iroquois tales, filled with humor and drama. Also: *When the Chenoo Howls: Native American Tales of Terror*. A spine-tingling collection for middle grade students.

Brucker, Meredith. *Anklet for a Princess: A Cinderella Story from India*. Rich with the culture and traditions of India and the universal values of the Cinderella story.

Byrd, Robert. *Jason and the Argonauts*. The search for the Golden Fleece, beautifully retold and illustrated.

Callahan, Sheila MacGill. *The Seal Prince*. The ruler's daughter Grainne rejects the island suitors to be with Deodatus, a seal-man she once rescued from death.

Campoy, F. Isabel. *Tales Our Abuelitas Told: An Hispanic Folktale Collection*. Retellings in accessible language of more than 10 tales, with note on variants and origins.

Climo, Shirley. *The Korean Cinderella*. One of many variants by this author, with lovely illustrations.

Cullen, Lynn. *The Mightiest Heart*. Prince Llywelyn wrongly banishes his loyal dog Gelert when he believes that the dog has attacked his son.

Daly, Niki. *Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa*. A fractured fairy tale set in Ghana featuring big, bad Mr. Dog and a clever little girl.

Dasent, George. *East o' the Sun, West o' the Moon*. A stunning picture book version of the traditional Norse tale, with horrible long-nosed trolls, as a girl travels to a magical land to free her beloved prince from a spell.

Demi. *The Firebird*. Dmitri must capture the firebird and win Vassilissa's hand. This magnificent artist has produced many stunning fairy tales: *The Emperor's New Clothes*. *The Empty Pot*. *The Girl Who Drew a Phoenix*. *The Greatest Treasure*. *The Hungry Coat*. *The Magic Pillow*. *One Grain of Rice*.

Diakit , Baba Wagua. *The Hunterman and the Crocodile*. *The Hatseller and the Monkeys*. Beautifully illustrated tales from West Africa.

Divakaruni, Chitra. *Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale*. Grandma outwits hungry animals on a trip across the jungle to visit her daughter.

Doherty, Berlie. *Fairy Tales*. A re-telling of twelve classic and beloved fairy stories of all time in accessible language, with exquisite illustrations by Jane Ray. There are many compilations—this is one of the best.

Fleischman, Paul. *Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella*. A retelling that includes elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia and many more.

Gavin, Jamila. *School for Princes: Stories from the Panchatantra*. Five traditional tales from India featuring princes who ought to be refined, wise and kind but who are rude, quarrelsome and lazy.

\*Gerstein, Mordecai. *I Am Hermes: Mischief Making Messenger of the Gods*. Hermes, on his first day of life, exclaims, "The world! It's even better than I expected! I love it! I want it all!" He's exuberant and funny. He tricks a turtle and invents the lyre and steals his brother Apollo's precious cows. He invents "the art of the deal." He's orange.

Grauer, Rita. *Vasilisa and Her Magic Doll*. Russian tale in which courageous Vasilisa uses her doll to escape from the clutches of the witch Baba Yaga.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The Girl Who Spun Gold*. A West Indian version of Rumpelstiltskin, golden illustrations.

Hodges, Margaret. *St. George and the Dragon*, a Caldecott Medal winner, with a fierce battle scene.

Hong, Lily Toy. *Two of Everything*. A poor old Chinese farmer finds a magic brass pot that doubles or duplicates whatever is placed inside it.

Huck, Charlotte. *Toads and Diamonds*. Two stepsisters receive appropriate gifts: one's words are accompanied by flowers and jewels, one by toads and snakes.

\*Hussein, Shahruch. *The Wise Fool: Fables from the Islamic World*. Entertaining tales with sparkling illustrations, featuring Nasruddin, sometimes a trickster, sometimes a judge, a 13<sup>th</sup> century Turkish mystic.

Jaffe, Nina. *The Golden Flower: A Folktale from Puerto Rico*. How a beautiful flower brought water to the world, and thus the creation of the sea and of the island of Puerto Rico.

Jenkins, Emily. *Brave Red, Smart Frog: A New Book of Old Tales*. A re-telling of seven traditional stories (*Snow White, Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel*, others) in accessible but sophisticated language.

Kajikawa, Kimiko. *Yoshi's Feast*. A feud between a fan maker and an eel broiler escalates to absurdity in this adaptation of a traditional Japanese tale.

Kimmel, Eric. *Anansi tales*. Anansi the trickster spider is always in demand here, a favorite for laughter.

Knutsen, Barbara. *Love and Roast Chicken: A Trickster Tale from the Andes Mountains*. A clever guinea pig outsmarts the fox that wants to eat him.

Laird, Elizabeth. *Pea Boy: And Stories from Iran*. Wise, funny & exotic, with whimsical illustrations. Also: *A Fistful of Pearls and Other Tales from Iraq*.

Langton, Jane. *The Queen's Necklace: A Swedish Folk tale*. A generous queen defies her greedy king by distributing the pearls of her necklace to the poor.

Lester, Julius. *Tales of Uncle Remus*. A wonderfully accessible retelling of the humorous tales, updated yet true to the original. Sequels. Also: *John Henry*.

Lunge-Larsen, Lise. *Seven Ways to Trick a Troll*. Even small children can trick a troll in this playful romp by the author of *The Troll with No Heart in His Body: And Other Tales of Trolls from Norway*. Norwegian tales featuring ugly, dimwitted giants. Also: *The Hidden Folk: Stories of Fairies, Dwarves, Selkies and Other Secret Beings*. A magical book full of "facts" to accompany the tales.

Lurie, Alison. *The Black Geese: A Baba Yaga Story from Russia*. When her little brother is taken away by the black geese belonging to the terrible witch, Baba Yaga, Elena searches for him in the great dark forest.

MacDonald, Margaret Read. *Tunjur! Tunjur! Tunjur! A Palestinian Folktale*. A childless woman's prayers are answered by the arrival of a talking pot .

Martin, Rafe. *The Rough-Face Girl*. Lushly illustrated and haunting version of the Cinderella tale from Algonquin folklore. Also: *The Shark God*, in which two Hawaiian children show kindness and courage. Both these titles are illustrated by the acclaimed David Shannon.

*The McElderry Book of... Greek Myths. ...Grimm's Fairy Tales...Aesop's Fables*. Some of the best read-aloud collections ever, especially accessible for younger children, with expressive illustrations.

McDermott, Gerald. *Musicians of the Sun*. Gloriously illustrated Aztec tale. *Zomo the Rabbit*. Wildly exuberant, full of slapstick and mischief.

Montes, Maris. *Juan Bobo Goes to Work*. Retelling of a Puerto Rican tale featuring Joan Bobo's humorous escapades and vivid Caribbean colors.

Morris, Jackie. *East of the Sun, West of the Moon*. A variant of one of the best stories ever, a courageous girl who rescues a prince under a spell by trolls, with help from the four winds. Gorgeous.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. A steamy re-telling of the Arthurian tale, full of intrigue, temptation and near-beheadings.

Mosel, Arlene, retel. *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. A little boy with a long name falls into a well and nearly drowns, leading the Chinese to give children short names.

Nanji, Shenazz. *Indian Tales*. An anthology of traditional tales from all over India.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Treasury of Egyptian Mythology*. Lyrical storytelling dramatizes stories from Ra to the Sphinx in this acclaimed compilation. *Treasury of Greek Myths*. Gorgeously illustrated retellings of classic Greek myths, sharing the stories of Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, Athena, Helen of Troy, Perseus, and Medusa.

Nunez, Shiho. *Chinese Fables: "The Dragonslayer" and Other Timeless Tales of Wisdom*. An illustrated retelling with nuggets of folk wisdom and introducing elements of Chinese culture and lore.

Olson, Arielle North and Howard Schwartz. *Ask the Bones: Scary Stories From Around the World*. I dare you to take it on your next camping trip: our older elementary students adore this one.

Orgel, Doris. *The Bremen Town Musicians and Other Animal Tales from Grimm*. Fresh retellings in which the animals are imbued with wit and humor.

Phelps, Ethel J. *The Maid of the North: Feminist Folk tales from Around the World*. Old tales of enchantment and adventure, powerfully illustrated.

Philip, Neil. *The Arabian Nights*. Jewel-toned illustrations, these stories are told in elegant fairy-tale language. Many others by this anthologist.

Pirotta, Saviour. *The McElderry Book of Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Like the other McElderry collections, colorful full-page illustrations accompany very accessible text. The best collection for ages 5-9.

Pyle, Howard. *Bearskin*. An abandoned infant, nurtured by a she-bear, grows into a brave man who rescues a princess from a dragon.

Ray, Jane. *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*, in which the young ladies mysteriously wear out their slippers each night while supposedly sleeping in their locked bedroom.

Rose, Naomi C. *Tibetan Tales for Little Buddhas*. Traditional wisdom tales, luminous illustrations.

Rylant, Cynthia. *The Beautiful Stories of Life: Six Greek Myths, Retold*. A blend of telling and interpretation in an accessible and elegant version of classics.

Sierra, Judy, retel. *Nursery Tales Around the World*. 18 international stories grouped by theme, for young children. *The Gift of the Crocodile: A Cinderella Story*. Indonesian--a girl escapes her cruel stepmother with help from Grandmother Crocodile. *Tasty Baby Belly Buttons*. A young Japanese girl outwits the evil Oni.

Steven, Kenneth. *Stories for a Fragile Planet*. Presents ten myths, traditional tales, and real-life stories speaking to the heart and mind of everyone who is concerned about our fragile planet.

Russell, William F. *Classic Myths to Read Aloud*. Collection of Greek myths that includes pronunciation guides, organized from simplest to most complex.

Sans Souci, Robert D. *The Secret of the Stones*. A childless couple discovers that the two stones they have brought home are actually two bewitched orphans. Sans Souci is a master folklorist: *The Faithful Friend*. *Cendrillon: A Caribbean Cinderella*. *The Hired Hand*. *Sukey and the Mermaid*. Many others.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Bearskinner*. A medieval tale in which a hungry ex-soldier bargains with the Devil for his own soul – and wins. Allegorical and resonant with philosophical questions.

Seeger, Pete. *Abiyoyo: Based on a South African Lullaby and Folk Story*. Banished from the town for making mischief, a boy and his father are welcomed back when they make the dreaded giant Abiyoyo disappear.

So-un, Kim. *Korean Children's Favorite Stories*. Tigers, snakes, dragons and resourceful folk abound in this collection of traditional stories with watercolor illustrations.

Souhami, Jessica. *Rami and the Demon King*. Indian folktale: Prince Rama uses a pack of fearless monkeys to rescue his wife from the clutches of the evil king Ravana. Also: *King Pom and the Fox* and *No Dinner!*

Stampler, Ann. *The Wooden Sword*. Impressed by a poor Jewish shoemaker's belief that God will ensure everything turns out as it should, a shah in Afghanistan, devises a series of hardships to test the man's faith.

Step toe, John, retel. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale*. A Cinderella variant with two beautiful but very different young women.

Storace, Patricia. *Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel*. A powerful version of the tale, suffused with rich language, in which a beautiful girl with long hair is imprisoned by an island sorceress.

Tchana, Katrin. *The Serpent Slayer and Other Stories of Strong Women*. A collection of tales of strong and resourceful women. Also: *Changing Woman and Her Sisters: Stories of Goddesses from Around the World*.

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *The Princess and the Warrior*. A Mexican legend of fidelity, courage and deception that explains the origin of two volcanoes, forever side by side.

Williams, Marcia. *The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India*. Vibrant, cartoon-style illustrations of tales told with humor and warmth.

Yep, Laurence. *The Rainbow People*. A collection of 20 Chinese folktales that were passed from the Old World to the New—some thrilling, some creepy, all with rich language.

Young, Ed. *Lon Po Po*. Three sisters are threatened by a hungry wolf disguised as their grandmother.

Zelinsky, Paul. *Rapunzel*. *Rumpelstiltskin*. Sumptuously illustrated tellings.

## LOWER and MIDDLE ELEMENTARY FICTION

( \* = recently acquired)

**A word about series books:** Many series books for this age group (*The Magic Tree House*, *Junie B. Jones*, etc.) are designed for children to read independently: the simplified syntax, controlled vocabulary and repetitive plots help emerging readers develop proficiency. Picture books, myths and folktales with sophisticated themes and rich vocabulary are still better choices to read aloud.

Abbott, Tony. *The Secrets of Droon* series. Eric, Julie and Neal discover a magic staircase to another world in the first of this fast-action series that has thrilled many *Magic Tree House* fans.

Ada, Alma Flor. *Dancing Home*. When Lupe comes from Mexico to live with her cousin Margie, each girl struggles with the change in this touching novel of immigration.

Amato, Mary. *The Riot Brothers* series: *Drooling and Dangerous*, *Snarf Attack*, and *Stinky and Successful*. *Captain Underpants* fans will love the adventures of brothers and best friends, Wilbur and Orville Riot.

Auch, Mary Jane. *I Was a Third Grade Science Project*. While trying to hypnotize his dog for the 3rd grade science fair, Brian accidentally makes his best friend Josh think he's a cat. Also: *I Was a Third Grade Spy*.

Avi. *Poppy*. A small but valiant deer mouse confronts a terrifying owl to save her family. Sequels: *Poppy and Rye*, *Ragweed*, *Ereth's Birthday*.

Banks, Lynne Reid. *I, Houdini*. Tales of an escape artist hamster. Also: *The Fairy Rebel*, *The Farthest Away Mountain*, magically fine read-alouds.

Baker, E.D. *The Frog Princess*. *Dragon's Breath*. *The Dragon Princess*. Fairy-tale series with quirky, funny characters and magical beings. How do you learn to be human again after you've been a frog?

Barnes, Derrick. *Ruby and the Booker Boys*. At last: An African-American heroine in a series! Ruby is funny, feisty, foolish and oh-so-social in her escapades with cheerleading and slumber parties.

Barnett, Mac. *The Brixton Brothers: A Case of Mistaken Identity*. 12-year-old Steve is mistaken for a real detective and eludes librarians, police, and the mysterious Mr. E as he seeks a missing quilt holding a code.

Barrows, Annie. *Ivy + Bean*, series. When 7-year-old Bean plays a trick on her sister, she finds unexpected support for her antics from Ivy, the new neighbor.

Bauer, Marion Dane. *Little Dog, Lost*. A tender tale of a boy who needs a dog, a dog who needs a boy and a grownup who needs dogs and kids, in blank verse. *Little Cat's Luck*. A little cat pushes sets out to find a special place to call her own. *Red Ghost*. Jenna purchases an old doll dressed in red velvet at a garage sale and realizes, with horror, that terrible things are happening.

Bearn, Emily. *Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures Beyond Nutmouse Hall*. Finally! Long novels suitable for reading aloud to young children. A pair of wealthy, married mice have adventures as they secretly work to help the human children of the household.

\*Beaty, Andrea. *Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants*. Our picture book heroine from *Ada Twist, Scientist* is back in a chapter book! Ada is curious and brave, and she and her good friends solve a mystery in their own backyard. This chapter book series, *The Questioners*, expands the smart, funny characters with STEM connections.

Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*. Humorous, touching graphic memoir, a story of growing up with a giant hearing aid strapped to her chest. She navigates a new school, struggles with sleepovers and finds a true friend.

Birney, Betty. *The World According to Humphrey*. Humphrey, pet hamster at Longfellow School, plays an important role in helping his classmates and teacher. And there are 3 sequels!

Blume, Judy. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. Big brother Peter has had to put up with his little brother for far too long in his hilarious start to a series, followed by *Fudge*, *Superfudge* and *Fudge-a-Mania*.

Blume, Leslie M.M. *Modern Fairies, Dwarves, Goblins and Other Nasties: A Practical Guide*. Not your usual sweet fairy book, but tongue-in-cheek tales on how to deal with magical creatures in New York.

Breathed, Berkeley. *Flawed Dogs: The Shocking Raid on Westminster*. A dachshund with a big heart gets revenge on a vicious show poodle.

Brown, Monica. *Lola Levine* series. *Lola Levine, Drama Queen*. A funny, easy-to-read series featuring Lola, who is fierce on the soccer field but is suddenly afflicted with stage fright.

Brown, Peter. *The Wild Robot*. (Great for older readers too—a comic environmental fable.) Roz, a robot programmed to learn from experiences, washes up on an island and adapts by befriending the inhabitants. *The Wild Robot Escapes*. Roz is back! She was captured but is now reunited and misses her son, Brightbill.

Buchanan, Jane. *The Berry-Picking Man*. Maggie is angry that her mom invites crazy Old Sam home but eventually accepts him.

Byars, Betsy. *Boo's Dinosaur*. When young Boo is followed home by a dinosaur that only she can see, it causes trouble for her older brother, Sammy. Also: *My Dog, My Hero*. A panel of three judges has to decide which dog out of eight finalists deserves to win the title of My Hero. And *Tornado*, a boy and his dog.

Cameron, Ann. *The Stories Julian Tells. More Stories Julian Tells*. Many others. Warm, friendly tales of mischief and love with two young brothers.

Carey, Peter. *The Big Bazoohley*. When his family needs money, 9-year-old Sam allows himself to be "borrowed" and entered into a contest to find the Perfecto Kiddo, hoping to win \$10,000.

\*Chabert, Jack. *Eerie Elementary* series. *The School Is Alive!* This is the first of nine in the creepy, funny, easy-to-read series. Sam Graves, hall monitor, needs to protect the students from...the school.

Cheng, Andrea. *Honeysuckle House*. An all-American girl with Chinese ancestors and a new immigrant from China find little in common when they meet in the 4th grade, but both are missing best friends.

Citro, Asia. *Zoey and Sassafras* series. *Dragons and Marshmallows*. How can two girls help a sick baby dragon who has appeared in their backyard barn? Magical animals with problems need help from these girls.

Cleary, Beverly. *Henry Huggins*. A lively tale about Henry and his dog Ribsy. Many others by Cleary are also beloved. *Ramona* series. The classic, enduring series of a feisty little girl, not to be missed.

Clements, Andrew. *Frindle*. Nick, a champion time-waster, faces the toughest teacher in school and invents a new language. Other subversive offerings: *No Talking, Lunch Money, The Report Card, Jake Drake* series.

Cohen, Barbara. *Molly's Pilgrim*. A young Russian immigrant struggles to overcome her feeling of alienation in her new American school.

Cole, Henry. *A Nest for Celeste*. Celeste, a little mouse with a big capacity for empathy, befriends and inspires the assistant of painter John James Audubon.

Cooper, Ilene. *Absolutely Lucy*. Bobby, age 8, has a hard time making friends – until a special birthday gift helps him connect with kids his own age as well as an elderly neighbor. We should all have a beagle like Lucy!

Coville, Bruce. *The Monster's Ring*. A timid boy, eager to frighten the school bully, gets a magic ring and the power to change himself into a hideous monster. Also: *Moongobble and Me* series. Life in the village of Pigbone is boring until an aspiring magician and his talking toad come to town and ask Edward to help them slay the Dragon of Doom. Also: *The Dragonslayers*, *Jeremy Thatcher Dragon Hatcher*.

Cronin, Doreen. *The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure*. Dirt, Sweetie, Poppy and Sugar, the chicks of the Chicken Squad, must figure out what Tail the squirrel is so afraid of. Also: *J.J. Tully Mysteries* in which a search-and-rescue dog solves mysteries and rescues chickens.

Cummings, Tony. *The Notebook of Doom: Rise of the Balloon Goon*. First in a series of humorous horror. Alexander, adjusting to a new town and a new school, must also adjust to a mysterious notebook and weird monsters and must battle an army of aggressive bendy balloons.

Dahl, Roald. *James and the Giant Peach*. A transatlantic adventure on a flying peach carrying a boy and an assortment of enormous insects. Also: *Matilda*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The BFG*, others.

Danziger, Paula. *Amber Brown* series. Feisty and resilient Amber goes through life's ups and downs in this series, by turns wistful and comic.

DiCamillo, Kate. *Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?* Baby Lincoln decides to leave her bossy older sister: she's had enough. Laugh and re-read. *Bink & Gollie: Best Friends Forever*. The two friends, opposites in so many ways, are back again in a silly winner. Gollie starts acting like a queen – she's convinced she has royal blood. How can Bink stand it? *Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon*. When she confronts a screaming raccoon that may or may not be a ghost, animal control officer Francine questions her own abilities. *Flora & Ulysses*. An absurd and engaging tale in which a girl names Flora rescues a talking squirrel named Ulysses from a near-death experience with a vacuum cleaner. The two team up to use the squirrel's superhero powers. *Mercy Watson to the Rescue*. First in a series of 6.

Dickinson, Peter. *Chuck and Danielle*. A clever story about Danielle and her dog, Chuck, whose timid world view creates many laugh-out-loud scenes.

Dominguez, Angela. *Stella Diaz Has Something To Say*. Stella misses her best friend who is in another class. When she tries to befriend a new boy in her class, she accidentally speaks Spanish. How embarrassing! She also has to do a presentation in front of her whole class. She's scared – but she's got something to say.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Phineas L. Macguire--Erupts!* Science whiz Phineas is forced to team up with the new boy on a science fair project, but the boy's quirky personality makes Phineas wonder if they have any chance of winning.

Draper, Sharon. *Sassy* series. A disastrous dinner party, a problem with a school musical and an adventure with her family stuck in an elevator are just a few dilemmas solved by this spunky heroine.

Dumon Tak, Bibi. *Mikis and the Donkey*. Mikis' quiet life on a Greek island is upended when his grandfather buys a donkey. He and the donkey show the village what it means to care for one another. *Soldier Bear*. An orphaned bear cub becomes a mischievous mascot for Polish soldiers during WWII. Based on a true story.

Eager, Edward. *Half Magic*. Four children enjoy a series of fantastic adventures by double-wishing on an ancient coin. Several others by this author.

Eaton, Maxwell. *The Flying Beaver Brothers* series. Zany wacky graphics in which beavers Bub and Ace foil a plot by evil penguins, stand up to a crew of nasty moles and defeat a team of smooth-talking baboons.

Elliott, David. *The Transmogrification of Roscoe Wizzle*. After eating constantly at a local fast food restaurant, 10-year-old Roscoe begins to turn into a giant bug.

English, Karen. *Nikki & Deja* series. Two 3<sup>rd</sup> graders deal with a disastrous substitute teacher and a plan to form an exclusive club that backfires.

Enright, Elizabeth. *The Saturdays*. Old-fashioned storytelling at its best in the first of a series. Four New York City siblings decide to pool their resources so that each can do a special thing one Saturday in four.

Erdrich, Louise. *Chickadee*. The best in the acclaimed *Birchbark* series: *Little House in the Big Woods* from the Ojibwa point of view, with a kidnapped little boy making a daring escape and a dangerous journey home.

Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*. Wanda, an immigrant girl who wears the same dress every day, suffers putdowns, and no one believes the claim that she has a hundred dresses. Also: *Ginger Pye*, the world's most lovable lost-and-found dog, and *The Moffats*, an old-fashioned family with loads of charm.

Fagan, Cary. *Wolfie & Fly*. An introverted bookish girl and a weird, wordy boy form an unlikely friendship as they create a submarine out of a cardboard box and begin a wild imaginary adventure. Friends can be fun.

\*Faruqi, Saadia. *Yasmin the Builder*. One of 12 in the set. A curious and creative second-grader with a big imagination takes on any challenge, supported by her loving multi-generational Pakistani-American family.

Fienberg, Anna. *Tashi* series. Brave Tashi outsmarts giants, ghosts, demons, and witches as he travels around the world, escaping on the back of a swan.

Finney, Patricia. *I, Jack*. Jack, a Labrador Retriever, tells about his daily life of food, the "apedogs" (people) and "funny-looking dogs" (cats), and how everything changes when a girl dog moves into the neighborhood. Hilarious and a tad racy.

Frazier, Sundee T. *Cleo Edison Oliver, Playground Millionaire*. 5<sup>th</sup> grader Cleo is passionate about her money making projects but business gets complicated when her best friend needs her and a bully teases her because she is adopted.

Funke, Cornelia. *Ghosthunters and the Gruesome Invisible Lightning Ghost*. A *Ghostbusters* style novel from the younger set. Hetty Hyssop and her assistant ghosthunters travel to a seaside hotel to investigate the appearance of one of the most dangerous ghosts in the world.

Gaiman, Neil. *Odd and the Frost Giants*. An unlucky Norwegian boy named Odd leads the bewitched Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants who have taken over Asgard.

Gannett, Ruth Stiles. *My Father's Dragon*. A beloved first chapter book. Elmer goes to rescue a captive baby dragon using lollipops, chewing gum, and his wits. Two sequels.

Gardiner, John Reynolds. *The Stone Fox*. Little Willie hopes to pay the back taxes on his grandfather's farm with the purse from a dog sled race he enters.

Gauthier, Gail. *A Girl, a Boy and a Monster Cat*. Brandon has to stay with his imaginative classmate, Hannah, and her oversized cat; then a new neighbor moves in with a ferocious chihuahua named Bucky.

Gosciny, René. *Nicholas*. Translated from the French, a beloved collection of the hilarious escapades of a boy and his classmates at an all-boys school. Sequel: *Nicholas and the Gang*.

Gravel, Elisa. *Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere*. She's an amazing scientist who loves animals and discovers a new life form which she names *olgamus ridiculus*. What does it eat? How does it poop? Graphic!

\*Grimes, Nikki. *Dyamonde Danielle*. Poet Nikki Grimes has created a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade character who takes her new neighborhood, and school, by storm in a series of friendship stories that are constantly in high demand.

Gutman, Dan. *My Weird School Daze* series. *Miss Laney Is Zany! Miss Mary Is Scary! Mr. Tony Is Full of Baloney!* At least 12 in the goofy series featuring A.J. and the strange teachers at the Ella Mentry School.

Hass, Jessie. *Bramble and Maggie: Horse Meets Girl*. A bit of negotiating as the two work to decide who gets to be the boss – and a carrot helps the negotiations. Hass has bunches of popular easy horse novels.

Harper, Cherise Mericle. *Just Grace. Just Grace Walks the Dog. Still Just Grace*. Friendships, money-making schemes, and good intentions that backfire occupy Grace in this funny, quirky series.

Hale, Bruce. *The Big Nap: From the Tattered Casebook of Chet Gecko, Private Eye*. Someone is turning students into zombies, and it's up to private eye Chet Gecko to find out who. More Chet Gecko mysteries!

Hale, Shannon. *Princess in Black* series. At last! A fab girl superhero! Princess Magnolia sneaks away to fight monsters, deal with dancing bunnies and more. She is accompanied by her unicorn, Frimplepants.

Hanlon, Abby. *Dory Fantasmagory*. A girl spends the summer pretending to be a dog, battling monsters, and generally driving her family nuts. There are more – a beloved laugh-out-loud series..

Hatke, Ben. *Zita the Space Girl* series. Graphic novels featuring Zita, who rescues her friend from an alien abduction, plots the galaxy's greatest jailbreak, and faces off with a robot doppelganger. High action fun.

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*. Billy worries he won't be smart enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and a lot of other things in this hilarious, touching exploration of what it feels like to be 7. Also: *Sun & Spoon*.

Hicks, Betty. *The Worm Whisperer*. Ellison, a lonely 5<sup>th</sup> grader, discovers a special ability to talk to insects, which helps him compete in a wild and woolly race of the caterpillars. Droll and tender.

Hill, Kirkpatrick. *The Year of Miss Agnes*. An inspirational story about Alaska and a special teacher who tosses out the textbooks and dares her students to dream.

Hobbes, Valerie. *Maggie & Oliver, or, A Bone of One's Own*. Alternating chapters tell of two characters in search of a home in early 20<sup>th</sup> c. Boston: an orphan girl and a dog whose owner has died. They *must* find each other. Heart-wrenching at first, and ultimately heart-warming, this one is tender, sincere and optimistic.

Holm, Jennifer. *Babymouse: Queen of the World*. In a funny graphic novel series, an imaginative mouse dreams of being queen of the world, but will settle for an invitation to the most popular girl's slumber party.

Howe, Deborah and James. *Bunnacula*. Told by the dog Harold, a mystery-comedy features a vampire bunny. Several sequels.

Jenkins, Emily. *Toys Go Out: Being the Adventures of a Knowledgeable Stingray, a Toughy Little Buffalo, and Someone Called Plastic*. A sparkling tale of the social and interior lives of three toys with distinct and comic personalities. Sequels.

Jennings, Patrick. *Odd, Weird and Little*. Woodrow deals with bullies. A new student, Toulouse, joins the class and is their new target. Woodrow befriends this odd classmate whose sandwiches sometimes have a tail hanging out of them...and eventually visits Toulouse's house...er..nest.

Joyce, William. *Ollie's Odyssey*. Billy loves Ollie, the stuffed animal that his mother made for him. But an evil toy clown and his army of Creeps are determined to steal something precious from within Ollie in a tale in which toys come to life and Billy deals bravely with a scary world and a big threat to his beloved Ollie.

Kerrin, Jessica Scott. *Martin Bridge, Ready for Takeoff!* Three stories in which a boy's plans for a rocket, a bus driver, and an old hamster go wrong. Series.

Kingfisher, Rupert. *Madame Pamplemousse and Her Incredible Edibles*. Forced to work in her unpleasant uncle's horrible restaurant, a Parisian girl finds comfort in a shop nearby that sells otherworldly foods prepared by a mysterious cook and her cat. Two sequels.

King-Smith, Dick. *Pigs Might Fly*. A runt piglet with puppy-like feet learns to swim with the help of a friendly otter and a duck and becomes a hero when their farm is flooded. Many others including *Lady Lollipop, The Merman, The School Mouse, A Mouse Called Wolf* and *Babe: The Gallant Pig*.

Kipling, Rudyard. *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, illus. Jerry Pinkney. A brave young mongoose saves a family living in India from the evil cobras in their garden.

Koehler-Pentacoff, Elizabeth. *Louise the One and Only*. For kids who want to reminisce about kindergarten: humorous antics of Louise as she desperately tries to fit into the school routine.

Kirshnaswami, Uma. *The Grand Plan To Fix Everything*. Although upset at having to move from Maryland to India, 11-year old Dini is full of mischievous plans to meet her favorite Bollywood actress Dolly Singh.

Kuipers, Alice. *Polly Diamond and the Magic Book*. Be careful when you wish for magic powers! Polly loves writing. She gets a book and discovers that anything she writes in actually happens. Power! Danger!

\*Lagercrantz, Rose. *Where Dani Goes, Happy Follows*. The 6th book in the funny, emotionally satisfying Swedish series, in which Dani's father goes on a trip, Dani takes a train trip and no one meets her at the station. Dani knows how to deal with the bullies that pinch her, and she knows how to sneak off to her best friend's birthday in another town. Our kids were ecstatic when this one arrived. Also: *My Happy Life, When I am Happiest, Life According to Dani, See You When I See You*. Dani is an optimist even when sad things happen.

LaReau, Cara. *Infamous Ratsos*. A pair of rat brothers try to prove they can be rough, but every time they try to show how tough they are, they end up accidentally doing good deeds instead.

Larwood, Kieran. *Longburrow* series. *Podkin One-Ear*. A young rabbit and his siblings must run when villains invade their home, then fight for their survival from iron-clad GORM in an action-packed but occasionally funny high fantasy tale.

LeGuin, Ursula. *Catwings* (and 3 others in series). Four winged kittens leave the city slums in search of a safe place to live, finally meeting two kind children.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Fairy Dust and the Quest for the Egg*. Mother Dove is quite concerned about Prilla, the newest fairy to Never Land, until they face a devastating hurricane, Captain Hook, and an evil dragon.

Levy, Dana Alison. *The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*. A family with two dads and four adopted brothers proceed, sometimes hilariously and other times touchingly, through a school year. For fans of *The Penderwicks, Ramona* and other delightful family chronicles.

Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking*. With no grownups around, Pippi is her own boss and has an inventive, outrageous approach to life. Sequels.

Lisle, Janet Taylor. *The Gold Dust Letters*. Nine-year-old Angela leaves out a letter for her fairy godmother and gets a sparkling answer.

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic To Girls, School and Other Scary Things*. In this charming start to a series, a little boy who loves superheroes and who comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything. *Ruby Lu, Brave and True*. Ruby Lu goes to Chinese school, performs magic tricks and learns to drive. Sequels.

Lowry, Lois. *Bless This Mouse*. Mouse Mistress Hildegard musters all her ingenuity to keep a large colony of church mice safe from the exterminator. *Gooney Bird Greene*. An eccentric second-grader tells tall tales to her dubious classmates in a laugh-out loud story as others join in the fun. Several hilarious ones in the series. Also: *See You Around, Sam*, and *Stay! Keeper's Story*.

MacLachlan, Patricia. *The Poet's Dog*. Two children, caught in a blizzard, are saved by a dog, Teddy, who himself was once rescued by a poet. Only poets and children can understand Teddy in this story about overcoming loss. *White Fur Flying*. A sad and silent 9 year old boy finds his voice when he moves in next door to a lively and eccentric family who rescues Great Pyrenees dogs. Dog lovers, this one's for you. *Sarah Plain and Tall*. Newbery Award. Family on the prairie gets a new mother. Sequel: *Skylark*.

Marios, Andre. *The Sandwich Thief*. How dare someone steal Marin's fabulous ham-cheddar-kale sandwich? The list of suspects grows and grows. A funny school mystery with graphic illustrations.

Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin. *The Doll People*. A family of antique porcelain dolls is taken aback when new family of plastic dolls arrives and doesn't follow The Doll Code of Honor. A feisty feminist romp. Sequels.

Mass, Wendy. *Space Taxi*. On "Take Your Kid to Work Day," 8-year-old Archie discovers that his father drives a space taxi that shuttles aliens from one area of the universe to another.

Mass, Wendy and Rebecca Stead. *Bob*. One of the oddest yet most popular read-alouds yet, a magical friendship tale. Livy returns to Australia and re-discovers Bob, a short greenish creature dressed in a chicken suit, hidden in a closet, waiting for her. He wants to go home. Livy promised to help. And she does.

McDonald, Megan. *Judy Moody* series. Feisty, funny 3<sup>rd</sup>-grader Judy can get grumpy and mad; she also gets famous, predicts the future, saves the world and more. Also: *Stink: The Incredible Shrinking Kid*, who learns all about the shortest President, James Madison. Many others in a beloved series.

McKay, Hilary. *Lulu and the Rabbit Next Door*. Animal lover Lulu (*Lulu and the Dog from the Sea, Lulu and the Duck in the Park*) is at it again, rescuing pets and making sure they are loved. Funny and fresh.

\*Medina, Juana. *Big Problemas: Juana & Lucas*. A new offering in the joyful series. A spunky girl in Colombia loves playing with her dog Lucas and just hates learning English. And now, her near-perfect world is about to change when her mami brings home a new amigo named Lucas. He's friendly and kind, and one thing never changes: her mami will always love her.

Mills, Claudia. *How Oliver Olson Changed the World*. Oliver is afraid he will always be an outsider, like the ex-planet Pluto, until he changes his overprotective parents. Also: *7 X 9 = Trouble!* Wilson struggles to learn his times tables, stay ahead of his math whiz little brother, and convince his parents that he needs a pet.

Milway, Alex. *Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey*. Picksticks must explore, as did his forepigs, and undertakes a trek to the end of the earth. But of course he has to have a helper to do the heavy lifting. Poor Harold the Hamster has to help deal with thieving goats and other obstacles.

Morris, Gerald. *The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great*. The first in a comic series of the knights of the Round Table, featuring the bravest, vainest and sleepest knight of all.

Myers, Laurie. *Surviving Brick Johnson*. Alex discovers that the classmate he fears as bully is nothing of the sort in a deftly comic easy-to-read chapter book.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Roxie and the Hooligans*. When she is trapped on an island with school bullies and murderous bank robbers, Roxie's unusual knowledge base comes in handy.

Nelson, Peter. *Herbert's Wormhole*. Alex and Herbert unexpectedly travel to the 22nd century through a space-time wormhole and encounter aliens, jet packs, and their future selves in this cartoony sci-fi offering.

Nelson, Vaunda. *Mayfield Crossing*. A group of small-town, baseball-loving friends must transfer to a new school where they face racial prejudice. Sequel: *Beyond Mayfield*.

Nesbit, E. *Melisande*. Cursed by an evil fairy at her christening, Princess Melisande grows up bald but finds herself facing another set of problems when her wish for golden hair is fulfilled. Other fine read-alouds include *Five Children and It*, *Wet Magic* and *The Enchanted Castle*.

Newman, Leslea. *Hachiko Waits*. Hachiko waits for his master at the train station every afternoon, and even after the professor has died. Based on a true story.

Nilsson, Ulf. *Detective Gordon* series. Detective Gordon, a kindly, biscuit-loving but often tired toad, hopes mysteries get solved (Who is stealing squirrel's nuts? Missing kindergarteners!) – and they do. By teamwork. Droll and dear, complete with songs and whimsical illustrations.

Nolan, Lucy. *Bad To the Bone*. Down Girl, the dog, tells how she protects her home from the enemy, Here Kitty Kitty, and how she attempts to train her master Rruff. First in a series of four.

Nye, Naomi Shihab. *The Turtle of Oman*. Spare, poetic language suffused with gentle humor tells the story of Aref, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader who doesn't want to move from Muscat, Oman to Michigan for three years; he spends his final weeks in his country going on small adventures with his grandfather, storing up memories.

O'Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*. Georgina, living in a car with her mother and brother, concocts a plan to steal a dog and collect the reward money to try to help her family's financial plight. Funny, touching.

Parr, Maria. *Astrid the Unstoppable*. Quirky, funny Astrid skis – and sings—through her little Norwegian village, uncovering secrets, annoying the cranky resort owner and restoring loving relationships. Astrid brings emotional depth as she confronts adults making mistakes. *Adventures with Waffles*. Two great friends get into great scrapes in this laugh-out-loud yet touching Norwegian caper, re-creating Noah's Ark or posting a 'husband wanted' sign for mom at the local store.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Waylon! One Awesome Thing*. 4<sup>th</sup> grader Waylon, a science fiend, has lots of ideas to make life cooler – teleportation? cupcake magnet? But dealing with social stuff at school is challenging. From the author of the delightful *Clementine* series, a modern day Pippi who is feisty, funny and fabulous.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Nuts To You*. After surviving being carried off by a hawk, a young squirrel resolves to find his way home, as his best friends begin their search for him.

Perkins, Mitali. *Rickshaw Girl*. Naimi, a young girl in Bangladesh with a talent for painting, disguises herself as a boy to help her family's finances.

Pinkwater, Daniel. *Fat Men From Space*. A silly story about a boy whose new dental filling enables him to receive radio signals in his mouth –and he learns that junk-food craving aliens are about to invade!

Potter, Ellen. *Big Foot and Little Foot*. First in a goofy series featuring a young Sasquatch, Hugo, who longs to see the world but must stay safe and hidden. His first sight of a human makes him laugh– it doesn't have red eyes or smell bad. Hugo and his new friend cope with misunderstandings and set out on adventures.

Primavera, Elisa. *Ms. Rapscott's Girls*. Girls: Are your parents TOO BUSY to take care of you? Consider enrolling in this boarding school. Your parents can mail you there in a cardboard box. To the lighthouse.

Pullman, Philip. *I Was a Rat!* A boy suddenly appears and tells a lonely old couple he was a rat footman for a pumpkin coach--and needs to be rescued by a certain princess. Also: *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*.

Rodda, Emily. *The Fairy Realm* series. Sparkling fantasy adventures--a magical world of fairies, elves, unicorns, miniature horses, and mermaids ruled by a queen in a golden palace. *Rowan of Rin* series. Adventure, a magical map, rhyming clues, a dragon and a small hero who proves braver than anyone expects, make for a fast-paced fantasy series. *Deltora Quest* series. Lief and Barda search for the seven lost stones of the Belt of Deltora, hoping to rid their land of the evil Shadow Lord, who has enslaved Deltora's people.

Roy, Ron. *A to Z Mysteries*. Dink and his detective friends solve 26 (guess why) mysteries featuring kidnappers, bank robbers, ghosts and zombies in this popular series. Several other mystery series by Roy.

Sachar, Louis. *Wayside School Is Falling Down*. The wackiest elementary school in the world is guaranteed to make kids laugh. Also, *Marvin Redpost* series, with funny twists and laconic language for new readers.

Sachs, Marilyn. *The Four Ugly Cats in Apartment 3D*. After her neighbor dies, 10-year-old Lily tries to find homes for his four ugly, noisy cats.

Scheinmel, Courtney. *Stella Batts Needs a New Name*. When a classmate makes fun of her name, 8 year old Stella picks a new one but comes to understand her old name, and her own self, are just fine. Series.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Princess Cora and the Crocodile*. A young queen-in-training must follow a strict perfectionist regimen – until her fairy godmother gives her a crocodile who upends everything. Also: *The Night Fairy*. When Flory the night fairy's wings are accidentally broken and she cannot fly, she has to learn to do everything differently. A story of humor and growing empathy.

Schneider, Josh. *Tales For Very Picky Eaters*. A father tells outlandish stories while trying to get his young son, who is a very picky eater, to eat foods he thinks he will not like.

Scieszka, Jon. *The Time Warp Trio* series, wacky tales of time travel via a magic book. Includes *2025*, *Knights of the Kitchen Table*, *The Not-So-Jolly Roger*, *Summer Reading Is Killing Me*, *Tut Tut*, and more.

Schoenberg, Jane. *The One and Only Stuey Lewis*. Stuey conquers second grade, hatches a brilliant Halloween caper and even tackles his reading problem in this comic series of linked stories.

\*Seidler, Tor. *Oh, Rats!* Seidler is one of the most perfect novelists to share with young readers. A squirrel named Phoenix is kidnapped by a hawk. Luckily the hawk drops him in New York City, where he teams up with some wharf rats to save their riverside home from being demolished and turned into a high rise. *Gully's Travels*. A snooty purebred dog named Gulliver must leave his wealthy master and cope with adorable low-life mutts and boisterous humans. *The Wainscott Weasel*. While the other young weasels dance, Bagley thinks about Bridget, a beautiful fish who needs rescuing. You never know who you might love. Also: *Mean Margaret*, in which woodchucks take a wailing human toddler into their home.

Selden, George. *The Cricket in Times Square*. Chester Cricket, accidentally brought into a NYC subway station, is befriended by a boy, a cat and a mouse.

Simon, Francesca. *Horrid Henry and the Abominable Snowman*. Horrid Henry hopes to win the snowman competition against Moody Margaret's ballerina snow girl. Goofy, funny stories.

Singh, Vandana. *Younguncle Comes to Town*. In a small town in India, 3 siblings anticipate the arrival of the eccentric Younguncle, whose tales of clever and funny adventures brighten the monsoon season.

Snyder, Laurel. *Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains*. Lucy, a milkmaid, and her best friend Wynston, a reluctant prince, adventure out in search of information about Lucy's missing mother. *Any Which Wall*. Four bored children discover a magic wall that can take them travelling through time and space.

Stilton, Geronimo. *Geronimo Stilton* series. Mouse-journalist Geronimo runs a newspaper on Mouse Island, but his true passion is writing exciting, fun-filled tales of adventure, which he shares with his readers. And don't miss the series offerings featuring Thea Stilton, Geronimo's smart and intrepid sister.

Storr, Catherine. *The Complete Polly and the Wolf*. Reissued after a long absence. Clever Polly outwits the very stupid wolf time after time as he threatens to eat her. Our kids ages 5-8 laugh uproariously at this one.

Tarshis, Lauren. *I Survived* series. Thrilling action, always in demand: *You were there! I Survived San Francisco Earthquake... Hurricane Katrina... Shark Attacks... Nazi Invasion... Japanese Tsunami* and more.

Taylor, Sydney. *All-of-A-Kind-Family*. First in a longtime favorite series about a Jewish family on New York's Lower East Side at the turn of the century.

Thomson, Melissa. *Keena Ford and the Second Grade Mix-Up*. Keena turns her honest mistake into the messiest and most embarrassing mix-up imaginable in this funny novel. Two hilarious sequels.

Urban, Linda. *Weekends with Max and His Dad*. An insightful depiction into the inner world of a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader adjusting to family changes. Max and his dad savor their weekends with pizza, spy games, exploring the new neighborhood and new ways of thinking about home.

Viorst, Judith. *Lulu and the Brontosaurus*. Lulu is a spoiled brat who throws temper tantrums to get what she wants – and this time her parents tell her she can't have a pet dinosaur. But the dinosaur wants *her*! One in a very popular series.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Young Fredle*. A young mouse cast out of his home deals with predators and allies in his quest to return to his family home.

Warner, Sally. *Only Emma*. 3rd grader Emma's life is disrupted when she has to share her tidy bedroom with whirlwind 4-year-old Anthony. Also: *Accidental Lily*: Can she handle a sleepover without wetting the bed?

Watson, Tom. *Stick Dog Craves Candy*. *Stick Dog Slurps Spaghetti*. Graphica, silly and fun, for fans of *Wimpy Kid* and *Big Nate*, in which the canine continues to pursue adventures that involve food.

Waugh, Sylvia. *Space Race*. A young boy learns that he and his father must leave England to return to their home planet, but a terrible accident separates them and Thomas must use his wits to locate his father.

Wells, Rosemary. *Lincoln and His Boys*. Brothers Willie and Tad share stories of life with father in the White House in this touching work of fiction based on a fragment of a memoir.

White, E.B. *Stuart Little*. Great read-aloud classic of the mouse born to a human family who seeks his fortune in a tiny motor car and a small canoe. Also: *Charlotte's Web*, arguably the finest work of children's literature ever.

Whybrow, Ian. *Little Wolf's Book of Badness*. Little Wolf has been behaving too courteously, so his parents send him to his uncle's Big Bad Wolf school to learn to be a proper wolf. 3 sequels.

Wong, Janet. *Me and Rolly Maloo*. An unpopular girl tries to make a friend by giving a popular girl the answers to the math test: parental and kid mayhem ensue.

Young, Jessica. *Digging for Dinos*. An easy reader with clever wordplay, in which Haggis and Tank, dog friends, search their neighborhood for dino playmates. Adventures with baseball, eggs and a volcano ensue.

## MIDDLE and UPPER ELEMENTARY FICTION

(\* = recently acquired)

Abbott, Tony. *Firegirl*. Tom, a 7th grader, is horrified by the arrival of a new girl in class who has been badly disfigured by a fire. His gradual connection with her is a moving journey of acceptance and empathy.

\*Anderson, M.T. *The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge*. A whimsical and witty fantasy in which historian, diplomat and spy Brangwain Spurge is sent from Elfland to the goblin kingdom, befriends a goblin archivist, and while sparring intellectually, they fail to realize that their nations are preparing for war.

Agosin, Marjorie. Pura Belpré Award. *I Lived on Butterfly Hill*. Celeste, age 11, has her world drastically altered when a brutal dictator seizes power in Chile, books are burned, her neighbors disappear, and she is shipped off to Maine. Gripping historical fiction.

Aiken, Joan. *The Wolves of Willoughby Chase*. Two cousins are left with an evil governess and devise a way to escape a country house besieged by wolves in this classic Gothic novel.

Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover*. 14 year old twins Josh and Jordan sizzle on and off the court in this wildly popular novel in verse. *Booked*. 12 year-old Nick loves soccer and hates books, but soon learns the power of words as he wrestles with problems at home and stands up to a bully. Not just for sports fans!

Alexander, William. *Goblin Secrets*. In a brutally run city where humans are forbidden to wear masks or perform plays, young Rowan escapes from a witch to seek his brother, last seen acting in a theater troop. Atmospheric fantasy of love, loss and risk. Winner of the National Book Award.

Almond, David. *Skellig*. Worried by his baby sister's illness and the chaos of moving, Michael retreats to the garage and finds a mysterious stranger.

Arntson, Steven. *The Wikkeling*. A creepy futuristic drama, where the children are watched by cameras day and night. Henrietta, Gary and Rose suffer from mysterious headaches and discover mysterious creatures.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. Gripping historical fiction in which Isabel, a slave, defends her sister from a cruel mistress and spies for the Patriots. Two sequels.

Angleberger, Tom. *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda*. In this hilarious tale, Tommy and his 6th grade friends must decide if the advice of an origami finger puppet can be trusted. Several sequels.

Appelfeld, Aharon. *Adam and Thomas*. Two 9-year old Jewish boys survive WWI in a forest where they learn to forage and survive. An autobiographical Holocaust novel that is brief, poetic, tender and hopeful.

Appelt, Kathi. *Maybe a Fox*. When her sister Sylvie goes missing on a snowy morning and is never seen again, Jules can't believe she is gone. Meanwhile, a fox is born with a mysterious connection to both girls. *The Underneath*. An abused hound dog protects motherless kittens while a mythical shape shifter deals out justice in this astonishing tale. Also quirky and poignant: *Keeper*. *The True Blue Scouts of Sugarman Swamp*.

\*Applegate, Katherine. *The One and Only Bob*. Thank you, Katherine! A book featuring the brave little dog Bob from one of the single best books in the library, *The One and Only Ivan*. Bob sets off on a dangerous journey to find a lost sister in a poignant survival story. *The One and Only Ivan*: A silverback gorilla caged in a mall, devises an ingenious plan to rescue a baby elephant from her nearby cage. JUST. READ. IT. *Wishtree*. A wise old oak tree tells the story of her life. Not everyone welcomes a new immigrant family, and someone even scrawls a hate message on Red's bark. Our tree is filled with animals who call her home and are determined to keep her from being hopped down. Also: *Home of the Brave*. The tender story of a refugee from Sudan living in Minneapolis who longs for his mother but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner.

\*Applegate, Katherine. *The First*, sequel to *The Last*. Byx, a young “dairne,” (a human-like canine), is the sole survivor of her species. She sets off on a quest to find others like her, along with a little wobbyk named Tobble, in a fast-paced fantasy full of courage and big ideas about extinction.

\*Arden, Katherine. *Small Spaces*. An eerie thriller in which 6<sup>th</sup> grader Ollie and her classmates, on a school field trip, encounter a sinister “smiling man” and his army of once-human scarecrows. Kids who love horror stories devour it and have demanded the sequel, *Dead Voices*.

Atkins, Jeannie. *Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science*. Historical fiction across three centuries in verse, recounting the childhood experiences of Meria Merian, who documented insect metamorphosis, Mary Anning who discovered fossils, and Maria Mitchell who discovered a new planet with a telescope. The obstacles these girls faced because of their gender is sure to provoke outrage.

Auxier, Jonathan. *Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster*. Nan is an orphaned child chimney sweep in grim Victorian London, in grave danger but comforted by a warm lump of charcoal she calls Charlie...who starts to grow and grow. Magical historical fiction. *Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes*, high fantasy featuring a blind boy who steals three pairs of magic eyes. Sequel: *Sophie Quire and the Last Story Guard*. Also: *The Night Gardener*: a pair of Irish orphans work as servants in a crumbling, cursed English manor house stalked by a mysterious stranger.

\*Avi. *The End of the World and Beyond...* sequel to *The Unexpected Life of Oliver Cromwell Pitts*. A riveting, fast adventure tale with echoes of *Oliver Twist* and *David Copperfield*. It's 1724 and young Oliver desperately needs to find his family in London—before thieves force him to do evil, before he is sentenced to death. Avi has over 60 titles, including *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *Midnight Magic*, *Seer of Shadows*, *Sophia's War*, and the Newbery winner novel of the Middle Ages, *Crispin: The Cross of Lead*.

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*. Winnie Foster enters the forest and discovers mysteries of time, a promise of eternal youth and the utter emptiness of immortality in this rich and timeless novel.

Balliett, Blue. *Hold Fast*. On a cold winter day in Chicago, Early's father disappears, sending the family into homelessness until Early can solve the mystery of her missing father and a special book. Other enthralling mysteries full of art and literature: *Pieces and Players*, *The Calder Game*, *The Wright 3*, *Chasing Vermeer*.

Banks, Kate. *Lenny's Space*. Academically gifted Lenny gets in trouble and has no friends because his unusual interests, until he meets Van, a boy his age who has leukemia. A gem of a story to build empathy.

Baptiste, Tracy. *The Jumbies*. Good vs. evil, manipulation and ancient magic, haunt this mysterious tale set in Trinidad. Corinne must rescue her father from an evil spirit that has turned him into a zombie and wants to control Corinne's mind as well. Sequel: *The Rise of the Jumbies*.

Barnhill, Kelly. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*. Newbery Award. Luna, a young girl raised by a kind witch, a swamp monster and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her. High fantasy with a feminist bent.

\*Bondor-Stone, Annabeth. *Jaclyn Hyde*. A sci-fi fantasy and an innovative twist on *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Jacklyn, a utter perfectionist, responds to a mishap by making a perfection potion, transforming her into a mean girl in a tale of destruction, sabotage and high comedy. Friends can help us deal with setbacks and return to our true, non-goblin selves. One reviewer compared it to the work of Roald Dahl.

Bauer, Joan. *Almost Home*. Sugar and her mother become homeless, but with the help of a dear little dog, a supportive teacher and a love of poetry, Sugar learns how to cope with grace and good humor.

Beatty, Robert. *Serafina and the Black Cloak*. A young girl lives in the deep basement of the Biltmore in 1899 as the chief rat catcher. She decides to capture an evil houseguest is devouring young children. An eerie

thriller—and why does Serafina’s father keep her hidden from the world? This one was a NYT bestseller. Sequels.

Behar, Ruth. *Lucky Broken Girl*. How do you mend a broken heart? And a broken body? Ruti, an immigrant to New York from Cuba, is put in a full body cast after an accident. Her struggles to get better, and her growing awareness of fragility and love, are the heart of this autobiographical tale.

Billingsley, Franny. *Well-Wished*. A lonely orphan and a wealthy disabled girl switch places through a wish made at a forbidden well in a magical fantasy. Also: *The Folk Keeper*, based on mythical seal people

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks*. Four sisters vacationing with their father in a summer cottage wreak havoc on the neighboring estate and rescue a boy in the process. A funny, old-fashioned novel with all the earmarks of a classic. Sequels!

Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*. A creepy tale featuring three friends who set out on a quest to return a china doll, putatively filled with the ashes of a dead girl, to its rightful place in a cemetery. Newbery Honor.

Bosch, Pseudonymous. *The Name of this Book Is Secret* and sequels. The intrepid Cassandra and the trepid Max-Ernest find a magician’s notebook and start to investigate the fire which burnt down his house and his mysterious “symphony of smells.”

Boyce, Frank Cottrell. *The Astounding Broccoli Boy*. Rory and his bully Tommy-Lee are suddenly hospitalized—they’ve turned bright green. Are they superheroes? A girl and a penguin join but the “Broccoli Gang” is hunted by police. Laugh. *Cosmic*. A laugh-out-loud tale of kid astronauts and subterfuge. *Sputnik’s Guide to Life on Earth*.. Prez, sent to live in a foster home, encounters a “dog” who is actually a space alien. The two of them must save the earth. Also: *Millions*, *Framed* and *The Unforgotten Coat*.

Boyd, Candy Dawson. *Circle of Gold*. Mattie is determined to get her mother a beautiful gold pin for Mother's Day, despite lack of money and loss of job.

Boylan, Jennifer Finney. *Falcon Quinn and the Black Mirror*. Falcon Quinn and his friends are whisked to a school to teach them to contain their inner monsters in this fast-paced, riveting fantasy. Sequels.

Bracken, Alexandra. *The Dreadful Tale of Prosper Redding*. A present day family with deep, tangled roots in the Salem witch trials. Young Prosper hopes to break the family curse in this paranormal mystery.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life*. It’s WWII and London is being bombed. Children are to be evacuated to the country for safety – all but Ada, whose horrible mother never lets her go outside. But Ada and her brother manage to get away. It’s dazzling. Sequel: *The War That Saved My Life*. *Jefferson’s Sons*. Imaginative historical fiction exploring the interior lives of the sons of Thomas Jefferson by his enslaved mistress Sally Hemings. What’s it like to be your own father’s slave?

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*. After Marvin, a beetle, makes a miniature drawing as an 11th birthday gift for James, a boy with whom he shares a house, the two new friends work to help recover a stolen Durer drawing.

Buckley, Michael. *The Sisters Grimm*. Orphans Sabrina and Daphne Grimm are sent to live with an eccentric grandmother whom they believed to be dead. The community is filled with fairy tale characters, Everafters, in magical disguises, running the post office, the diner. Mayor Prince Charming? Series.

Butler, Susan. *The Hermit Thrush Sings*. After worldwide disaster, Leora defies the oppressive laws of the land and joins a band of rebels trying to overthrow the government. If you liked *The Hunger Games*...

Buyea, Rob. *Because of Mr. Terupt*. An unorthodox rookie teacher transforms the lives of his 5<sup>th</sup> graders in this funny, empathetic story told from multiple viewpoints. Sequel: *Mr. Terupt Falls Again*.

Cameron, Ann. *Colibri*. Kidnapped at the age of 4, Rosa, now 12, travels the Guatemalan countryside with her “uncle” who forces her to lie and beg for money.

Carbone, Elisa. *Stealing Freedom*. A young slave girl endures all kinds of mistreatment and cruelty but eventually escapes to freedom in Canada. Also: *Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607*. *Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607*. Gripping historical fiction featuring Captain John Smith and his young page. *Storm Warriors*. In 1895, Nathan hopes to join the all-black crew at the nearby lifesaving station on the North Carolina coast. *Storm Warriors*.

Carvell, Marlene. *Sweetgrass Basket*. Two Mohawk sisters describe their lives at the Carlisle Indian School, as they try to assimilate into white culture and one of them is falsely accused of stealing.

Catmull, Katherine. *Summer and Bird*. In the world of Down, sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.

Cervantes, Angela. *Allie, First At Last*. Ever had a friend betray you? Ever felt like you were the only one in your family who wasn't perfect and hugely accomplished? Allie wants to excel at something before she leaves her elementary school.

Chalfon, Michelle. *The Treasure of Maria Mamoun*. Maria, 12, is terrorized by THE BAD BARBIES, mean girls at school, until she and her mother move to Martha's Vineyard to care for an eccentric billionaire whose estate holds secrets, including an old treasure map and an unused sailboat. For fans of *The Penderwicks*.

Chokshi, Roshani. *Aru Shah and the End of Time*. Yes! For fans of Rick Riordan's *The Lightning Thief*! It's a journey into Hindu mythology when Aru, 12, disobeys the rules and lights the Lamp of Bharata to show off to the mean kids from school. She's awoken a demon and must journey into the Kingdom of Death.

Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment and life with his autistic sister. Sequels: *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* and *Al Capone Does My Homework*.

Clements, Andrew. *The Losers Club*. One of our favorite, most hilarious and most subversive authors does it again. His stories set in school are forever popular. Alec, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, can't stop reading – and he gets in trouble for it. Forced to change, he starts a club that he hopes no one will join. Also: *No Talking*. *A Week in the Woods*. *The Report Card*. *The Janitor's Boy*. *Things Not Seen*. *School Story*. *The Landry News*. *Frindle*.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Finding Langston*. Langston wishes he could just go home to Alabama. He and his father moved to Chicago after Langston's mother died and he's dealing with a lot. The public library offers not only solace and refuge from bullies but also clues to his name – and his mother.

Cody, Matthew. *Will in Scarlet*. It's the late 1100s. Will's destiny to become the next Lord of Shackley is disrupted by a greedy evil sheriff and will finds a band of men (and one girl) in the Sherwood Forest. Including a guy named Rob. Swashbuckling action.

Collins, Suzanne. *Gregor the Overlander*. Gregor, age 11, and his 2-year-old sister fall into a strange underground world and enter an epic battle with humans, bats, rats, and cockroaches which ensues in a quest foretold by prophecy. First in a fast-paced series.

\*Connolly, MarcyKate. *Comet Rising*, sequel to the creepy *Shadow Weaver*. Toxic friendship meets the supernatural: how do you keep a secret if there's always someone at your side? Emmeline can magically weave shadows. But her own shadow, Dar, whispers sinister commands. If you liked *Serafina and the Black Cloak* or *The Night Gardener*, go for it.

\*Connor, Leslie. *The Truth As Told By Mason Buttle*. Mason, living in a struggling and grieving household, is bullied, sweaty and dyslexic. His best friend Benny died after falling from a treehouse, and the police think it's Mason's fault. He needs a friend—and the arrival of Calvin, who together with Mason builds a hideout, offers a hopeful future. This one is a tale of resilience and love and our kids have been very touched by it.

Coombs, Kate. *The Runaway Princess*. 15-year-old Princess Meg uses magic and her wits to rescue a baby dragon and escape the unwanted attentions of princes hoping to gain her hand in marriage through a contest arranged by her father.

Cooney, Caroline B. *Goddess of Yesterday*. A king's daughter becomes caught up in the events of the siege of Troy in this fast-paced mythical adventure.

Coville, Bruce. *The Skull of Truth*. Rollicking yet serious tale in which a young liar inadvertently acquires an ancient skull that forces him to speak the truth. *Into the Land of Unicorns*. Having jumped off the church roof and into the fantastic Land of Luster, Cara joins Lightfoot in the search for the Unicorn Queen. First of 3.

\*Craft, Jerry. *New Kid*. A graphic novel, winner of the Newbery Award. Jordan, the new kid at a fancy private school, must deal with assumptions about race: he gets mistaken for another black kid, there are financial complexities to navigate and more. His growing friendships with others highlight the burdens that a variety of kids cope with. Funny art – Jordan is an art student and a wry cartoonist—add empathy and high humor. One reviewer noted, “Possibly one of the most important graphic novels of the year.” The Newbery committee agreed.

Creech, Sharon. *Moo*. Reena and her family move from NYC to Maine and poor Reena has to help an old lady neighbor with her moody cow. She's funny, strong and smart. Written mostly in verse.

*Ruby Holler*. Twins escape a terrible orphanage when an eccentric older couple invites them on an adventure. Also: *Walk Two Moons* (Newbery Medal), *Bloomability*, *Chasing Redbird*, *The Wanderer*, *Love That Dog*.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963*. Kenny, age 10, spins a tale both comic and serious about a 1960s family—one of the best children's books of all time. *The Journey of Little Charlie*. Charlie, a 12 year old white sharecropper, is forced to go with the hateful Cap'n Buck to Canada to retrieve some stolen “property.” How to survive? And do the right thing, too? Curtis is a master at fusing humor, history and heart. *Bud, Not Buddy*. A boy escapes a bad foster home and sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father. Also: *Elijah of Buxton*. *The Madman of Piney Woods*. *The Mighty Miss Malone*.

Cushman, Karen. *Catherine, Called Birdy*. The 13-year-old daughter of an English knight keeps a journal, particularly about her efforts to avoid being married off. *The Midwife's Apprentice*. Newbery Medal. In medieval England, a homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world.

Dahlberg, Maurine. *The Story of Jonas*. In the mid-1800s, a slave boy dreams of escaping to freedom while on a journey from Missouri to the gold fields of Kansas Territory with his master's n'er-do-well son.

D'Adamo, Francesco. *Iqbal*. Novel of the Pakistani child who escaped from bondage in a carpet factory and went on to help liberate other children like him before being gunned down at age 13. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, posthumously.

Darnton, Kate. *Chloe in India*. Chloe, from Boston, is spending a school year in India where she meets Lakshmi, another outsider who also has trouble fitting in. An exuberant tale of friendship, wealth and poverty and learning to stand up for what is right.

DasGupta, Sayantani. *The Serpent's Secret*. Kiranmala, an ordinary 6<sup>th</sup> grader in New Jersey, suddenly deals with too much: her parents disappear and a drooling demon shows up in her kitchen. She enters a world full of winged magic, winged horses and annoying talking birds. How to save the world? Fantasy at its best.

Dashner, James. *The Journal of Curious Letters*. 13-year old Atticus begins receiving strange letters with clues leading him to the perilous 13th Reality and a confrontation with evil Mistress Jane.

de Fombelle, Thimothée. *Toby Alone*. Tiny Toby Lolness, a member of a civilization of tiny who live in an enormous oak, embarks on a quest to save himself, his family, and the Tree when corporate interests threaten to destroy them all. Sequel: *Toby and the Secrets of the Tree*.

Deans, Sis. *Racing the Past*. Ricky stops taking the school bus in order to evade bullies but gradually to improve his running speed and beat the bus home.

Deedy, Carmen Agra and Randall Wright. *The Cheshire Cheese Cat*. A community of mice and a cheese-loving cat form an unlikely alliance at London's Cheshire Cheese, an inn where Charles Dickens writes.

DeMari, Silvana. *The Last Dragon*. After his village is ruined by a flood, Yorsh, the world's last elf, realizes that in order to stop the torrential rains, he must find the only remaining dragon in this darkly comic quest.

Delaney, Joseph. *Revenge of the Witch*. Young Tom, the 7th son of a 7th son, becomes apprenticed to the village spook, whose job is to protect ordinary folk from "ghouls, boggarts, and all manner of wicked beasties" in this scary fantasy. This is the first in the popular series *The Last Apprentice*.

DeStefano, Lauren. *Dreaming Dangerous*. Dreams induced by a needle in a kid's vein? Four best friends dream in unison – how? Men and women in pink suits keep drawing their blood. Why? Horror fantasy behind the walls of the "orphanage," a school for children with special gifts. We gotta get outta here.

Diaz, Alexandra. *The Only Road*. 12 year old Jaime needs to get out of Guatemala after his cousin was murder by a drug cartel – and Jaime knows he's the next target. He makes a harrowing trek to cross the border illegally to join his older brother in Texas.

DiCamillo, Kate. *The Tale of Despereaux*. Newbery Award. The adventures of a small mouse, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to ruin them all. *Flora & Ulysses*. Newbery Medal. An absurd tale in which a girl rescues a talking squirrel from a near-death experience with a vacuum cleaner. The two team up to use the squirrel's superhero powers. *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*. A pompous porcelain rabbit is changed forever by meeting a series of kind people. Also: *Because of Winn-Dixie*, *The Magician's Elephant*, *Raymie Nightingale*.

Divakaruni, Chitra. *The Conch Bearer*. Anand, 12, is entrusted with a conch shell that possesses mystical powers and sets out on a journey to return the shell to its rightful home many hundreds of miles away. 2 sequels in this gripping quest fantasy. *Lord of the Rings*, but for kids, and in India!

Dowd, Siobhan. *The London Eye Mystery*. Ted and Kat must use their unique talents to find their cousin Salim, who has mysteriously disappeared from the London Eye ferris wheel.

Dowell, Frances O'Roark. *Falling In*. Isabelle follows a mouse's squeak into a closet and falls into a parallel universe where children believe she is a witch who has come to devour them. A fun-filled fantasy with empathy at its core. Also: *The Secret Language of Girls*. Marilyn and Kate, BFFs, start to grow apart in a poignant friendship tale. *Chicken Boy*. Dovey Coe. *Where I'd Like to Be*. *Shooting the Moon*.

Draper, Sharon. *Blended*. Draper does it again—a thought-provoking and hugely popular book. Every week, Isabella changes home, alternating between her white mom and her black dad—two very different styles. A racist attack on her best friend rocks her world. *Stella by Starlight*. When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 North Carolina, 5th-grader Stella demands change in her segregated town. *Out of My Mind*. Melody, a 5th grader with cerebral palsy, gets a device that enables her to speak in this emotionally powerful tale. Fans of *Wonder* adore this novel by a hugely gifted writer.

Dumas, Firoozeh. *It Ain't So Awful, Falafel*. Zomorod, 11, tells her story of growing up in California during the Iranian Revolution and hostage crisis of the late 1970s. A funny, sympathetic NYT bestseller.

\*Durst, Sara Beth. *Spark*. Unicorns, dragons and magic are forever in demand. A land where weather is controlled by storm beasts. Gentle, quiet Mina's storm-egg hatches into a lightning beast. They need to go to a special, magical school to learn to work together. This fantasy shows a perfect land is creating chaos for the outside world. One spark from one child can change the world.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *The City of Ember*. As mammoth underground generators slowly break down, a city begins to die, and Lina and Doon try to persuade their fellow citizens to follow them to the unknown. 3 sequels.

Eames, Brian. *The Dagger Quick*. A jaw-dropping, must-read adventure story. England. 17<sup>th</sup> century. Although Kitto, 12, seems destined for the dull life of a cooper because he is cursed with a clubfoot, his world explodes in a stunning moment of murder and intrigue, and he must ally with his notorious uncle, the pirate William Quick. *The Dagger X*. The adventures of Kitto continue in a fast-paced sequel set on a desert island: bloody battles, a shocking shark, hidden treasure (no, it's not gold) and some of the best villains ever.

Edge, Christopher. *Twelve Minutes to Midnight*. Penelope, the secret author of macabre tales in "The Penny Dreadful," Victorian London's bestselling magazine, investigates the mystery of a bizarre phenomenon occurring in the local insane asylum with hints of future catastrophes. Also: *Shadows of the Silver Screen*.

Ellis, Ann Dee. *You May Already Be a Winner*. If you loved *How To Steal a Dog*, this one's for you. Olivia, 12, wants to help her family. She sometimes has to stay home from school to take care of her little sister; her dad is gone, her mom is depressed. The solution? Enter online sweepstakes and contests. Olivia is a winner.

Engle, Margarita. *Forest World*. A novel in verse. Edver is sent from Miami to Cuba to visit the father he barely knows where he is surprised to meet a half-sister, Luza. (Read their names backwards.) A tale of tourists, poachers, climate change and family change—and threats to plants, animals and kids.

English, Karen. *Francie*. When the sixteen-year-old boy whom she tutors in reading is accused of attempting to murder a white man, Francie gets herself in serious trouble for her efforts at friendship.

Enright, Elizabeth. *The Saturdays*. Four New York City siblings decide to pool their resources so that each can do a special thing on the Saturday that is his turn to receive the combined allowance. Sequels. An old-fashioned adventure series of family life—fans of *The Penderwicks* adore this series.

Erskine, Kathryn. *The Badger Knight*. England, 1346. Adrian is small for 12 and he is an albino, so people are suspicious of him. He longs to be an archer—but war can be a lot more complicated than he imagined. Also: *The Absolute Value of Mike*. A 14 year old with a learning disability who is sent away by his father to learn about engineering learns about an eccentric elderly aunt, a homeless man and a punk rock girl instead.

Farmer, Nancy. *Sea of Trolls*. Kidnapped from their village by Viking berserkers, Jack and his sister face trolls, giants and enslavement in a humorous, gripping saga. Two sequels. *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*. A kidnapping of 3 children in 22<sup>nd</sup> century Zimbabwe sets off a dramatic chase as the children are pitted in a battle against evil. *A Girl Named Disaster*. An African girl's treacherous journey to escape a forced marriage.

Farrar, Josh. *A Song for Bijou*. Awkwa-a-ard! is how I would describe 7<sup>th</sup> grade Alex's efforts to date Bijou, a new immigrant from Haiti to Brooklyn. Middle school embarrassment and mean girl stuff mixes with a poignant tale of loss in the aftermath of the earthquake in Haiti.

Feiffer, Jules. *A Barrel of Laughs, a Vale of Tears*. Roger, a prince who can't stop making others laugh, sets off on a quest to turn himself into a sober young man, worthy of the throne. Also: *The Man in the Ceiling*.

Fenner, Carol. *Yolanda's Genius*. Fifth-grade Yolanda, strong and unafraid of bullies, is determined to prove her younger brother is a musical prodigy.

Ferris, Jean. *Once Upon a Marigold*. A young man with a penchant for inventing things leaves the quirky troll who raised him, meets an unhappy princess he has loved from afar, and discovers a plot against her and her father. Two sequels.

Fiedler, Lisa. *Mouseheart*. After escaping from the pet shop, Hopper the mouse learns he is the Chosen One of the rodents living within the subway tunnels beneath Brooklyn. He befriends the rat prince of Atlantia and struggles to decipher good and evil in the dangerous and unfamiliar underworld.

Fitzhugh, Louise. *Harriet the Spy*. Harriet enjoys spying on friends and strangers and recording their actions in a diary--until the diary is found.

Flanagan, John. *The Ranger's Apprentice*, a fast-paced fantasy series with heroes and villains that lovers of *Redwall*, *The Hobbit* and *Harry Potter* have devoured. Dark and deep.

Fletcher, Susan. *Shadow Spinner*. When a 13-year-old crippled girl joins the Sultan's harem in Persia, she gathers stories which will save the queen's life.

Flores-Galbis, Enrique. *90 Miles to Havana*. In 1961, Julian's parents send him from dangerous Cuba to the safety of Miami, not realizing the dangers of a refugee camp. Think of *Holes* but with Cuban kids in Miami.

Fogelin, Adrian. *Crossing Jordan*. Despite their families' prejudices, two 12-year-old girls of different races build a strong friendship around their talent for running and a pact to read *Jane Eyre*.

Frank, Steven B. *Armstrong and Charlie*. A tale of school desegregation from 1974, with micro- and macro-aggressions and hard-won friendship. Charlie, who is white, recently lost his brother and is full of grief. Armstrong, angry about being sent to a white school, is angry and ready for a fight. A camping trip?

Frazier, Sundee T. *Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It*. Brendan Buckley is passionate about science, identifying rocks and even measuring urine, in this comic and touching story about a biracial ten-year-old and his identity.

Funke, Cornelia. *Dragon Rider*. A dragon is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find a haven for dragons while struggling to evade an old enemy. *The Thief Lord*. Two orphaned brothers hide out in Venice where they fall in with a 13-year-old boy who leads a crime ring of street children.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Graveyard Book*. Newbery Medal. A macabre tale of a boy who must live in a graveyard among ghosts for protection from a murderer with an unexpected layer of love. *Coraline*. Coraline enters a parallel and creepy world where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three others.

Gantos, Jack. *Dead End in Norvelt*. Newbery Medal. 12-year-old Jack spends the summer of 1962 grounded, and helping an elderly neighbor with unusual chores involving the newly dead, molten wax, underage driving, typewriting, and countless bloody noses. Sequel. Also: *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. By turns comic and sad, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts acting wired. Sequels.

Gardner, Lynn. *Into the Woods*. A fairy tale novel featuring 3 sisters who are being pursued by an evil doctor for the musical pipe left them by their mother.

Gardner, Sally. *I, Coriander*. 17th c. London. Coriander, a girl who has inherited magic, must save herself from the fairy world of her mother. A dark tale dominated by accusations of witchcraft and the menacing Puritans of Oliver Cromwell's regime. When her stepmother cuts her hair and locks her up, magic ensues.

Gennari, Jennifer. *My Mixed-Up Blueberry Summer*. June, determined to win the pie contest in her Vermont town, deals with homophobia as her mom plans to marry Eva in a story about standing up for yourself.

George, Jean Craighead. *My Side of the Mountain*. An ingenious city teen learns how to survive alone in the woods. *Julie of the Wolves*. Newbery Medal. While running away from an unwanted marriage, a 13-year-old Eskimo girl is befriended by a wolf pack.

George, Jessica Day. *Tuesdays at the Castle*. Celie, a princess with flair and leadership, foils an assassination attempt with stunts like spreading manure and snipping threads to make her enemies clothes fall off. Also: *Dragon Slippers* and sequels *Dragon Flight* and *Dragon Spear*, and *Princess of the Midnight Ball*, beloved princess novels with a twist.

\*Gephart, Donna. *Lily and Dunkin*. Lily, born Timothy, is a girl—not easy. Norbert, nicknamed Dunkin, is bipolar and has a painful secret too. An emotionally powerful story of hidden inner lives and startling public lives. If you liked *Wonder* and *Counting by 7s*, this one will stay with you.

Gerber, Alyson. *Braced*. Rachel, age 12, is all set to star on the soccer team and have a cool middle school life when she is diagnosed with scoliosis. She has to wear a back brace for 23 hours a day and endure gossip and taunts – “Robo-beast” – but also gets support from her friends and her crush. She stands up for herself – she grows a spine.

Gerwitz, Adina. *The Zebra Forest*. Two kids, living secluded lives in a small town with their grandmother, are startled with an escaped convict arrives and holds them hostage. Our kids have devoured this one.

\*Gibbs, Stuart. *Lion Down*. Gibbs continues to be one of the most sought after authors in the library and a perpetual bestseller with his bizarre and funny mysteries. The new offering in the *FunJungle* series again features Teddy, investigating when a mountain lion is accused of killing a prized dog. Series includes *Pandamonium*, *Poached*, *Big Game* and *Belly Up*. His other hugely popular series, *Spy School*, features kids in training by the CIA.

Gidwitz, Adam. *The Inquisitor's Tale, or, Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog*. On a dark night in the year 1242, travelers in France tell adventure stories of three children that feature being taken captive by knights and saving the land from a farting dragon. *A Tale Dark & Grimm*. Hansel and Gretel walk out of their own story and into other Grimm (and grisly), witty and subversive tales. Sequels.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Pictures of Hollis Woods*. A young artist searches for a foster family in this lyrical and rich tale. *Lily's Crossing*. Two children spend the summer of 1944 together and share secrets, lies, and worries about the war. Also: *Nory Ryan's Song*, *Willow Run*.

Goldblatt, Mark. *Twerp*. Julian isn't a bully. He's just made a big mistake. And so his teacher requires him to write a journal of 6<sup>th</sup> grade life, including blowing up homemade fireworks and writing a love letter for his best friend (with bad results). And admitting his responsibility for an awful act.

Gonzalez, Christina Diaz. *The Red Umbrella*. In 1961 after Castro has come to power in Cuba, Lucia and her little brother are sent to the U.S. for safety and must cope with separation, uncertainty and refugee camps.

Gordon, Roderick. *Tunnels*. When Will Burrows and his friend Chester embark on a quest to find Will's archaeologist father, who has inexplicably disappeared, they are led to a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants with evil intentions toward "Topsoilers" like Will and his father.

Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library*. This one flies off the shelves. 12 year old Kyle and a group of fellow puzzle lovers spend the night in the new town library, only to discover that they must solve a series of puzzles in order to escape the next morning. Sequel, *Mr. Lemoncello's Library Olympics*.

Graff, Lisa. *Absolutely Almost*. Did you ever have trouble learning something at school? And deal with mean kids? Albie needs more than yummy donuts—and even more than his beloved *Captain Underpants*—to get some confidence. And get his parents off his back. Also: *Lost in the Sun*. *The Great Treehouse War*.

Gratz, Alan. *Refugee*. Three children, separated by time and place, seek refuge from frightening situations: Josef, from 1930s Germany; Isabel, from 1994 Cuba; and Mahmoud, from 2015 Syria. And they are all mysteriously connected. This timely novel is for older kids and utterly riveting.

Green, Tim. *Rivals*. A compelling baseball story of conspiracies, umpire bribery and hilarious banter between the two main characters. *Football Genius*. 6th grader Troy has an unusual gift for predicting football plays before they occur; if only the coach and players of the Atlanta Falcons would believe him. Also: *Football Hero* and several others.

Green, Shari. *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess*. Fans of *El Deafo* may well treasure this story of Macy, a deaf 6<sup>th</sup> grader, who must deal with her mother remarrying a man with twin daughters and must help an elderly neighbor headed for a nursing home. Odd friendships sometimes sprout warm, funny possibilities.

Grimes, Nikki. *Words With Wings*. Grimes, a major poet, gives us a novel in verse. “Pay attention!” everyone yells at Gabby. A celebration of a girl who daydreams and a teacher who can change her life. *Garvey’s Choice*. Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to play, Garvey comforts himself with food and endures bullying before joining the school chorus, where he learns how to accept himself and bond with his father. *The Road to Paris*. Paris, 9, a biracial child in search of a home, is placed with a loving foster family but separated from her brother.

Gutman, Dan. *Mission Unstoppable* from *The Genius Files* series. On a cross-country vacation with their parents, twins Coke and Pepsi, almost 13, fend off strange assassins as they try to come to terms with their being part of a top-secret government organization. Also: *Mickey & Me* others in the *Baseball Card Adventure* time travel series.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. *Found* and sequels. When 13-year-olds Jonah and Chip, who are both adopted, learn they were discovered on a plane that appeared out of nowhere, full of babies with no adults on board, they realize that they have uncovered a mystery involving time travel and two opposing forces, each trying to repair the fabric of time. Many other thrillers by this author, including the sci-fi series *Among the Hidden*.

Hale, Shannon. *Princess Academy*. While attending a strict academy for potential princesses with girls from her village, Miri, 14, discovers unexpected talents. Sequel: *The Forgotten Sisters*. Also: *The Goose Girl*. A princess is betrayed by her guards and her lady-in-waiting and must become a goose girl to survive until she can reveal her true identity.

Hardinge, Frances. *Fly By Night*. Mosca, age 12, is an orphan with a homicidal pet goose. Like Harry Potter, she must get out from under a horrible aunt and uncle and uncover strange truths in a society that bans books and controls what people can read – and think.

Harrison, Michelle. *13 Treasures*. Evil fairies torment 13 year old Tanya, so she is sent to live with her grandmother where she discovers her life is in danger. Sequel: *13 Curses*.

Harrold, A. F. *The Song from Somewhere Else*. Like *Coraline*? *Doll Bones*? Try this. Frank’s (Francesca’s) friends are gone for the summer and the odd boy Nick rescues her from bullies. In his home, she hears mysterious and beautiful music and discovers a “leechway,” a door to another world. Eerie and full of action.

\*Henkes, Kevin. *Sweeping Up the Heart*. How does it feel to be 13? Amelia wants to go Florida for spring break like everyone else, but her cranky father says no. She meets a boy and although she’s never been friends with a boy before, they set off on an emotional journey. Reminiscent of *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead and many of the poignant and rich friendship stories of Kate DiCamillo. Also: *Olive’s Ocean*. On a visit to her grandmother’s cottage, 12-year-old Martha gains perspective on the death of a classmate, her relationship with her grandmother, and her feelings for an older boy.

\*Hernandez, Carlos. *Sal & Gabi Break the Universe*. Pura Belpre Award. Sal can cause rips in the universe by transporting objects from other realms into this world. Sometimes he uses his magic skills to make others

happy, and sometimes to annoy a bully by opening a portal and making a raw chicken appear in his locker. Time travel novels, such as *A Wrinkle in Time* and the works of Rick Riordan, are...timeless.

Hesse, Karen. *Out of the Dust*. In free verse, Billie-Jo relates the hardships of life on her family's farm during the Dust Bowl years. *Witness*. A small Vermont town deals with the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.

Hiaasen, Carl. *Chomp*. Another wickedly funny environmental thriller in the Everglades featuring a zoo wrangler and a reality TV show, by the author of the hugely popular novels *Scat*, *Flush* and *Hoot*.

Hilton, Marilyn. *Full Cicada Moon*. A girl in 1969 dreams of becoming an astronaut? Mimi is told to forget it. She needs to take home economics and learn to cook like a girl should. Her mixed-race background makes fitting in hard in her new school. A coming-of-age novel in verse.

Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. It's 1947. India and Pakistan are splitting. Nisha, age 12, is half Hindu, half Muslim. How does she deal with loss and terror as her family leaves everything they've ever known? Her nightly diary entries, addressed to her long-dead mother, help her think it through. *The Whole Story of Half a Girl*. Sonia's dad is a Hindi immigrant from India and her mom is Jewish, American. She has to move to from a private school to a new public school, a school with a bigger racial divide and an all-important cheerleading team.

Hitchcock, Shannon. *Ruby Lee and Me*. It's 1969. Sarah Beth, 12, was supposed to be watching her little sister when she was hit by a car. And the first black teacher is due to start at the all-white school. Can Sarah Beth's private friendship with Ruby Lee become public? A small novel with big questions.

Hobbes, Valerie. *Defiance*. While vacationing in the country, eleven-year-old Toby, a cancer patient, learns some important lessons about living and dying from an elderly poet and her cow.

Hobbes, Will. *Go Big or Go Home*. Brady and his cousin love extreme sports, but nothing could prepare them for the aftermath of Brady's close encounter with a magical meteorite. *Far North*. After the destruction of their float plane, 16-year-old Gabe and his friend struggle to survive a winter in the wilds of Canada.

Hoffman, Alice. *Nightbird*. A long-ago witch in Massachusetts cursed Twig's family with a haunting and bizarre consequence. Twig, age 12, gets some new neighbors who are descendants of that same witch. A tale of friendship, resilience and family recovery in a strange and dreamy setting.

Holm, Jennifer L. *The Trouble with May Amelia*. By turns hilarious and heartbreaking, this sequel to *Our Only May Amelia* follows a spunky Finnish-American girl of 1900 determined to prove her father wrong when he says "Girls Are Useless." *The Fourteenth Goldfish*. With humor and a light tone, 11-year-old Ellie deals with serious issues related to family, friendships, and the cycle of life. *Turtle in Paradise*. Turtle, age 11, finds her life turned on end when she is sent to live with her aunt in Depression-era Key West. *Full of Beans*. Another quirky tale, set in Depression era Key West, in which a 10 year old schemes to make money and encounters New Dealers who think Key West could be a resort.

Horvath, Polly. *Mr. & Mrs. Bunny—Detectives Extraordinaire*. When Madeleine's parents are kidnapped by disreputable foxes, she enlists the aid of fedora-wearing Mr. & Mrs. Bunny (and a rather difficult marmot). Also comic, quirky, vocab rich and sometimes moving: *My One Hundred Adventures*. *The Pepins and their Problems*. *Everything On a Waffle*. *The Trolls*. *An Occasional Cow*.

House, Silas and Neela Vaswani. *Same Sun Here*. A 12 year girl, a new immigrant from India, becomes pen pals and then best friends with the son of a Kentucky coal miner. Their letters explore topics like race, environmental activism, immigration and the American dream.

Howe, James. *Totally Joe*. As a school assignment, a thirteen-year-old boy writes an alpha-biography, and explores issues of friendship, family, school, and the challenges of being a gay teenager.

Hyman, Fracaswell. *Mango Delight*. She breaks her friend's cell phone. She deals with a bully and big-time social drama, including a fancy, exclusive. Her ex-best friend signs her up to audition for the musical. It's hard to figure out the kind of friend you want to have – and the kind of friend you want to be.

Ibbotson, Eva. *The Abominables*. An aristocratic girl is raised by kind and gentle yetis. She teaches them English and good manners but, when she is old, she decides they must leave the Himalayas to be safe from tourists and hunters. The quest to get them to England falls to two children. A funny illustrated fantasy, a jewel by one of my all-time favorite authors. Also: *A Dog and His Boy*. What parents would “rent” a dog for their son's birthday when having a dog is the boy's fervent dream? Very rich, very clueless adults worthy of Roald Dahl. A boy and a dog on a quest, playful and joyous. *The Star of Kazan*. Orphaned Annika eventually lives happily ever after in this riveting, old-fashioned adventure set in pre-World War I Vienna. Other witty, funny fantasies: *Journey to the River Sea*. *Island of the Aunts*. *The Secret of Platform 13*.

Jackson, Linda Williams. *Midnight Without Moon*. It's summer, 1955, in Mississippi. Rose Lee Carter, 13, dreams of getting out of the cotton fields and into school. She's not the pretty one – that would be her cousin—and her own mother ditches her. I'd get out if I could. But Rose Lee sees a reason to stay. Heroine.

Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance*. Coretta Scott King Honor Award. There's a mysterious letter in a box in the attic. Candace, 12, is spending the summer in an old house that belonged to her grandmother. There's a mystery: a multimillion dollar inheritance, and the need to expose an old racial injustice. Her friend Brandon the book worm is the perfect partner.

Jones, Kelly. *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*. Sophie, 12, moves to a farm her parents have recently inherited and discovers a cranky hen with some magical powers. Funny and playful.

Jonnell, Lynne. *The Secret of Zoom*. Christina, age 10, lives a sheltered life until she discovers a secret tunnel, an evil plot to enslave orphans, and a mysterious source of energy known as zoom. *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat*. Emmy's evil nanny is trying to control the family and Emmy seeks revenge in a comic fantasy featuring life-altering potions and a despicable villain. Sequel.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *Kira-Kira*. Newbery Award. Tragedy befalls two Japanese-American sisters growing up in Georgia during the late 1950s. *Weedflower*. After Pearl Harbor, Sumiko and her family are relocated to a Japanese internment camp, where she clings to her dream of owning a flower shop. *The Thing About Luck*. 12 year old Summer spends the summer with her grandparents who work to harvest crops on a tight deadline, narrating the drama of a cute guy (OMG) and when things go wrong (“epic fail”).

Kelkar, Supriya. *Ahimsa*. What do you do when your mother joins a movement? It's India, 1942, and Gandhi is leading non-violent resistance to British rule. Anjali's mother takes it on and suddenly Anjali is burning her favorite clothes and spending time with kids in the lowest caste, the untouchables. How do we make the world a better place? Anjali shows us one way. We have to have hope.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. In central Texas in 1899, 11-year-old Callie is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from her brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather. Sequel.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *You Go First*. Did you ever sit alone at lunch? Charlotte and Ben meet online. They live 1000 miles apart and they are total opposites. But—they both need a friend and they both love to play Scrabble—online. They are funny and smart and so is this book. *Hello, Universe*. Newbery Medal. Four kids, a guinea pig, an abandoned well. Virgil is shy and feels like a misfit in his school and even his own family. Valencia is deaf, brave, smart and secretly lonely. Kaori is a psychic and Chet is a bully. They are destined to meet in the woods. This one is dazzling. *The Land of Forgotten Girls*. Abandoned by their father and living in poverty with their heartless stepmother in Louisiana, two sisters who immigrated from the Philippines learn the true meaning of family. Sisterhood and resilience prevail.

Kelly, Lynne. *Chained*. To work off a family debt, 10-year-old Hastin leaves his village in India to work as a circus elephant keeper, trying to keep Nandita, a sweet baby elephant, safe from the cruel circus owner.

Kendall, Christine. *Riding Chance*. So, you're a middle school kid who gets in trouble and for juvenile detention you get sent to take care of horses. Eww! Muck! And then the magic begins. Troy connects with the pony Chance and takes a chance – and becomes a major contender at polo. Not just for horse lovers.

Kessler, Liz. *North of Nowhere*. Mia and her mother go to a seaside village to help her grandmother after her grandfather disappears. How do you make a new friend in a strange town? There's also a weirdly uninhabited nearby island that might hold a clue to the missing grandfather. Adventures with boats and notes with clues. *The Tail of Emily Windsnap*. After convincing her mother to let her take swimming lessons, 12 year old Emily discovers an amazing personal secret. Sequels. *Philippa Fisher and the Fairy Godmother*. Another magical series with fantastic journeys, tricky wishes and complicated friendships.

Khan, Hena. *Amina's Voice*. A rich, magnificent work that inspires empathy, read by at least 100 of us at Paideia School. Amina, a Pakistani-American girl who longs to fit in at school, has a best friend who is leaving her own immigrant identity behind. She is blessed with a gorgeous voice but is reluctant to perform, and must deal with a loving but traditional family. She feels a bit on the outside except at her Islamic Center, until.... This story gives of a vision of what America can be when it is at its best and lives up to its ideals.

King, A.S. *Me and Marvin Gardens*. Obe loves the creek and exploring his family's farmland but worries about developers and the pollution they bring. He befriends the world's strangest animal, an affectionate critter that's sort of a cross between a pig and a dog whom he names Marvin Gardens and tries to protect.

Kirby, Matthew J. *Icefall*. Princess Solveig and her siblings are trapped in a hidden fortress up a frozen fjord awaiting news of the king's victory in a medieval Norse battle, but as they wait for winter's end and the ice to break, acts of treachery make it clear that a traitor lurks in their midst.

Konigsberg, E.L. *The View From Saturday*. Newbery Award. Four students develop a special bond with a paraplegic teacher who chooses them to represent their 6th-grade class in the Academic Bowl competition. *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Newbery Award. Two suburban children run away from home to live luxuriously in New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Korman, Gordon. *Ungifted*. A hilarious and heartfelt novel in which one middle-school troublemaker accidentally moves into the gifted and talented program. A goofy adventure with robot fights, school dances and statue-toppling pranks. *Chasing the Falconer* series. A page-turner thriller in which Aiden and Meg Falconer must escape from a juvenile detention center in order to prove their parents innocent of charges which would jail them for life. Korman has many gripping series.

LaFevers, R.L. *Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos*. Theodosia, who can detect ancient curses that are attached to objects in the Museum of Legends and Antiquities, discovers that a new artifact from Egypt is cursed. She must return it to its tomb before it destroys the British Empire. 2 sequels.

LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*. While living with her Gram in Vermont, Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with losing her father and sister in a car accident and being abandoned by her grieving mother. A touching story of loss and healing.

Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out and Back Again*. Newbery Honor. In verse. 10-year-old Ha and her family flee Saigon in 1975 and struggle to make a new life in Alabama, where she faces bullies and horrid American food. Touching, funny and hopeful. Also: *Listen Slowly*.

Larson, Kirby. *Code Word Courage*. It's WWII and Billie is waiting for her big brother to come visit from boot camp. He brings a friend, a Navajo named Denny, and a wounded dog. But the military needs Denny now: he's going to be a Navajo code talker. They are linked by the dog, Bear, and much more.

Law, Ingrid. *Savvy*. Mibs uses her “savvy” –her magical power that appears in her family member at age 13–in an effort to save her injured father, embarking on a series of bizarre and comic adventures. Sequels.

Lawrence, Iain. *The Giant Slayer*. When her young neighbor is stricken with polio in 1955, 11-year-old Laurie discovers that there is power in her imagination, weaving a story during her visits with him and other patients confined to iron lung machines. *The Wreckers*. After a shipwreck in 1799, young John washes ashore in a town more threatening than the sea itself in this thriller adventure.

Lemna, Don. *When the Sergeant Came Marching Home*. When his father returns from the war in 1946, a 10-year-old boy and his family move from their home in a Montana town to a run-down farm in the middle of nowhere where they work hard trying to make ends meet. Loud-out-loud episodes.

Lesczynski, Diana. *Fern Verdant and the Silver Rose*. Fern Verdant's mother, a famous botanist, is kidnapped just before Fern's 13th birthday, and when Fern discovers that she has inherited the ability to communicate with plants, she realizes that this is the only way she will be able to find and save her mother.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*. Newbery Medal. Meg Murry and her friends become involved with unearthly strangers and a search for Meg's father, who disappeared doing secret work for the government.

Liebenson, Terri. *Invisible Emmie*. Emmie, shy and quiet, is suffused with middle school angst in a world of gossip and cliques. Emmie's chapters are tiny. Katie, who is popular, confident and beautiful, has big chapters. A love note gone awry creates humiliation but ultimately, an avenue for Emmie to speak up for herself, championed by Katie. Our kids who love the graphic novels of Raina Telgemeier clamor for Emmie.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Ella Enchanted*, a Cinderella story in which Ella must learn to find her own voice. Other magical fairytale novels: *Fairest. Ever*. Also: *Dave at Night*. A young orphan explores 1930s Harlem.

Levine, Kristin. *The Lions of Little Rock*. A story of “passing” for white in 1954 Little Rock as two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring.

Lim, Celeste. *The Crystal Ribbon*. Jing, a young girl in medieval China, has a powerful destiny: an arranged marriage with a 3 year old, then to be sold as a geisha in training. Determined to get home, this is a story that interweaves fantasy, historical fiction and one of the most determined girls of all time.

Lin, Grace. *When the Sea Turned to Silver*. A companion to *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and *Starry River of the Sky*, all exquisitely written fantasies inspired by Chinese folklore. Pinmei's gentle, loving grandmother, storyteller extraordinaire, is kidnapped by soldiers of the Emperor. All three feature strong and resourceful girls. *Dumpling Days*. *Year of the Rat*. A young Chinese-American girl must cope when her best friend, the only other Asian-American in her school, moves away.

Lord, Cynthia. *A Handful of Stars*. When her blind dog slips his collar, Lily meets Salma, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for the blueberry season. As the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, they are confronted with some hard truths about migrant life and prejudice. *Rules*. 12-year-old Catherine creates rules for her autistic younger brother to help him cope and seem more normal. But what is normal?

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Newbery Medal. Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other and discovers the terrible truth about the dystopia in which he lives. Series. *Number the Stars*. Newbery Medal. Annemarie, 10, learns how to be brave when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis. *The Willoughbys*. Four siblings set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous trip, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny. *Gossamer*. A young dream giver works with an older dream giver to help an 8-year-old boy recover from nightmares stemming from abuse.

Lupica, Mike. *Heat*. A 12-year-old pitching prodigy from Cuba conceals a secret in order to keep playing on his championship Little League team. Lots more: *Travel Team*. *Miracle on 49th Street*. *Hot Hand*. *Two Minute Drill*.

Magorian, Michelle. *Good Night, Mr. Tom*. Set in England during WW II, the story of an abused child which celebrates healing, friendship and love.

Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone*. Coretta Scott King Honor Award. Caleb, 10, and Bobby Gene, 11, meet a fascinating, cool-talking new friend, Styx, age 16. Their sheltered world gets bigger as they come up with a plan to get a moped and get some excitement. It's a summer full of food, fun, laughs and surprises.

Maguire, Gregory. *The Good Liar*. Marcel recalls his childhood in German-occupied France when he and his older brother Rene befriended a young German soldier—never knowing a big, perilous secret at home.

Martin, Ann M. *Reign Rain*. Rose, who struggles with Asperger's syndrome and has a hobby of collecting homophones, shares a bond with her beloved dog. For anyone who ever loved a dog. *A Dog's Life*. Squirrel narrates the story of her life as a dog through many owners and adventures. Also: *Here Today*, in which an 11-year-old girl takes on big responsibilities when her wacko mother disappears. *Corner of the Universe*.

Marsh, Katherine. *Nowhere Boy*. Ahmed, a Syrian refugee who has lost his family, hides in the basement of a house in Brussels, Belgium. Max, an American boy who lives upstairs, discovers Ahmed and works to keep him safe at a time when people are suspicious of Muslims and refugees. Can they make it to safety? Riveting.

Mass, Wendy. *13 Gifts*. Mass nails the social and emotional lives of girls in this 3rd offering (*11 Birthdays, Finally*) in a philosophical, wryly humorous tale with a tinge of magic. Also: *The Candymakers*. Four gifted 12-year-olds are set to be contestants in a competition to determine the nation's tastiest sweet, but nobody anticipates that a friendship will form among them. Also enormously fun and popular: *Rapunzel: The One With All the Hair*. *Beauty and the Beast: The Only One Who Didn't Run Away*.

Matthews, L.S. *A Dog for Life*. John finds that his dog, Mouse, is scheduled to go to the pound and decides to run away and find his uncle, who may be able to help him keep the telepathic pet.

McAllister, M.I. *The Mistmantle Chronicles*. Book 1 in the series of 5, *Urchin of the Riding Stars*: A group of animals, led by an orphaned squirrel, learns about friendship and loyalty when they band together to defend their island kingdom against evil forces.

McCaughrean, Geraldine. *The Kite Rider*. After trying to save his widowed mother from a horrendous second marriage, 12-year-old Haoyou takes to the sky as a circus kite rider and meets the great Mongol ruler Kublai Khan.

McKay, Hilary. *The Exiles* and sequels. The irrepressible Conroy sisters are sent off for a bookless summer and learn to live in the real world in this comic romp. *Dog Friday*. A young boy overcomes his fear of dogs with the help of wild neighbor kids and an abandoned puppy.

McKissack, Patricia. *A Friendship for Today*. 12 year old Rosemary must face attending an all-white school alone after her best friend is stricken with polio.

McMann, Lisa. *The Unwants* series. In a society that purges 13-year-olds who are creative, identical twins Aaron and Alex are separated, one to attend University while the other, supposedly Eliminated, finds himself in a wondrous place where youths learn magic. "Harry Potter Meets the Hunger Games."

Medina, Meg. *Merci Suarez Changes Gears*. Newbery Medal. What's it like to be a girl on financial aid at a fancy private school? Merci has to be a "Sunshine Buddy" to help a newcomer in order to pay off her tuition. A world where "like" and "popular" have big significance: like in "like like"? Funny and powerful.

Meloy, Colin. *Wildwood*. Prue's life transforms when her baby brother is kidnapped by a murder of crows and taken into the Impassable Wilderness; she and her friend Curtis follow, encountering warring creatures, peaceful mystics, and other dark-minded, powerful figures.

Milford, Kate. *Greenglass House*. Milo, the innkeeper's adopted son, plans to relax over his winter holidays but soon guests arrive Greenglass House with strange stories that send him and Meddy on an adventure.

Miller, Jessica. *Elizabeth and Zenobia*. Gothic, spooky and compelling. Elizabeth has a best friend, Zenobia – but only Elizabeth can see her. They are polar opposites in personality, and Zenobia has convinced Elizabeth there's a ghost in the old mansion they live in. Beware of the creeping Plant Kingdom and the wallpaper in the old nursery.

Morris, Chad. *Mustaches for Maddie*. Based on a true story. Maddie, age 12, a funny kid who makes her classmates laugh, starts tripping and her hand starts curling. She goes for a CT scan and learns she has a brain tumor. And yet her tumor seems to give her superpowers: her imagination and courage are greater than she ever knew, and her compassion is about to be felt more widely than she could have foreseen.

Morris, Gerald. *The Squire's Tale*. 14-year-old Terence finds his tranquil life suddenly changed when he accompanies the young Gawain on a quest as a squire. Series: Funny, gripping variant of King Arthur tales.

Morpurgo, Michael. *Kensuke's Kingdom*. A boy and his dog are washed overboard and survive on a small island with the help of a Japanese naval doctor who has been stranded there for 40 years.

Mull, Brandon. *Five Kingdoms* series, *Sky Raiders #1*. Whisked through a portal to an in-between world, 6th-grader Cole must rescue his friends and find his way back home--before his existence is forgotten.

*Fablehaven*. Kendra and Seth find themselves in the midst of a battle between good and evil when they visit their grandparents' estate and find that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures. Also: *The Candy Shop War*.

Murdock, Catherine. *The Book of Boy*. Newbery Honor. One of the best novels of the Middle Ages ever. Boy—a humpback orphan with no other name-- is sitting in an apple tree when a stranger, the pilgrim Secundus, pulls him into an epic adventure quest to acquire relics –rib, tooth, thumb, toe, dust, skull and tomb. Mysteries: how can Boy communicate so well with animals? Why does he never eat? A perilous tale.

Murphy, Rita. *Black Angels*. The summer of 1961 brings change to 11-year-old Celli when her beloved Sophie becomes involved in the Civil Rights Movement and she learns a secret about the long-absent father.

Myracle, Lauren. *Luv Ya Bunches*. Four friends--each named after a flower--navigate the ups and downs of fifth grade. Told through text messages, blog posts, screenplay, and straight narrative. Sequels. Also popular: *Ten. Eleven. Twelve. Thirteen*.

Naidoo, Beverly. *The Other Side of Truth*. Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her brother struggle to survive as exiles in London.

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Stones in Water*. During WW II, best friends Roberto and Samuel are abducted from Italy and taken to a work camp in Munich in a gripping coming-of-age novel.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Shiloh*. When he finds a lost beagle in the hills, Marty tries to hide it from his family and the dog's real owner, a mean-spirited man known to mistreat his dogs. Two sequels. Also: The *Alice* series, comical and introspective look into a young girl's life.

Nichols, Sally. *Ways to Live Forever*. In a tender, moving, and sometimes funny narrative, 11-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

O'Brien, Robert C. *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. Having no one to help her with her problems, a widowed mouse visits the rats whose former imprisonment in a laboratory made them wise and long lived.

O'Connor, Barbara. *How to Steal a Dog*. Georgina lives with her penniless family in their car. She concocts a dog-napping scheme that results in unexpected events in a heartwarming read.

Oppel, Kenneth. *The Nest*. Gothic horror with stunning illustrations. When wasps come to Steve in a dream offering to heal his sick baby brother, he thinks all he has to do is say yes. Beware the queen.

Orlev, Uri. *The Island on Bird Street*. A Holocaust story, based on the author's own experience as a child in the Warsaw ghetto, tells how he survives in hiding with only his white mouse for company.

Palacio, R. J. *Wonder*. 10 year old Augie, born with extreme facial deformities, moves from being homeschooled into the perilous world of middle school in this absorbing, endearing and touchingly funny book of friendship and acceptance.

Park, Lynda Sue. *A Single Shard*. A 13-year-old orphan in medieval Korea longs to become a potter. *When My Name Was Keoko*. A brother and sister face the increasingly oppressive occupation of Korea by Japan. *A Long Walk To Water*. When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, 11-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with others in search of safe haven. Also: *The Kite Fighters*.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. Jesse's colorless world expands when he becomes friends with Leslie, the new girl in school in a story of love and loss. Also: *The Great Gilly Hopkins*, many others.

Patterson, James. *Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life*. When Rafe Kane enters middle school, he teams up with his best friend, "Leo the Silent," to create a game to make school more fun by trying to break every rule in the school's code of conduct.

Patron, Susan. *The Higher Power of Lucky*. Newbery Medal. 10-year-old Lucky loves eavesdropping on wild and crazy adult conversations (Alcoholics Anonymous?). She must learn to trust her young French guardian in a quirky, heartwarming (and news making) tale.

Paulsen, Gary. *Hatchet*, and 3 sequels. Gripping page turner, where 13-year old Brian, sole survivor of a plane crash, uses his ingenuity and his hatchet to survive alone in the Canadian north. *Lawn Boy* plus *Lawn Boy Returns*. Hilariously improbable tale of a 12 year old whose lawn-mowing business gets out of hand, leading to Mafia-like connections and an investment in part-ownership of a boxer. Many others.

Pearsall, Shelley. *Jump into the Sky*. In 1945, 13-year-old Levi seeks the father he has not seen in three years, going from Chicago, to segregated North Carolina, and finally to Pendleton, Oregon, where he learns that his father's unit, the all-Black 555th paratrooper battalion, has a mission. *Trouble Don't Last*. An 11-year old slave and the elderly slave who helped raise him attempt to escape to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

Peacock, Shane. *The Secret Fiend*. Fourth in the edgy, atmospheric mystery series *The Boy Sherlock*, first of which, *The Eye of the Crow*, darkly explains how the young boy came to be a detective. Now, it's 1868 and a Jew, Disraeli, is running the country, leading to paranoia; secrets and surprises erupt in London.

Peck, Richard. *Best Man*. Full of laughter and joy, the story of Archer, a boy who has four important men in his life. When two of them get married, we get a view of small town life and everyday heroes.

*The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail*. An orphaned mouse ventures out into the world where he rides in a horse's ear and falls into a punchbowl Buckingham Palace in this rodent's eye view of Queen Victoria and her Diamond Jubilee. *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*. Joey and Mary Alice spend summers with their bizarre, hilarious and larger-than-life grandmother during the Great Depression. Also: *The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in Three Parts*.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Pax*. Alternating points of view tell the story of a young boy and his pet fox who are forcibly separated but determined to find each other. Mesmerizing. *Summer of the Gypsy Moths*. Two girls bury great-aunt Louise, found dead, in the backyard to avoid being put into foster care. Comic and touching.

Pérez, Celia. *The First Rule of Punk*. Pura Belpré Honor. It's hard to start at a new school—especially if you're a 12 year old skateboarding girl who upsets the queen bee girl and violates the school dress code with a punk rock look. A tale of friendship and of learning to be true to yourself: "So what if you're a weirdo?"

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Criss Cross*. Newbery Medal. Childhood friends, now 14, face big decisions while dealing with urgent concerns about outfits, snappy retorts and crushes. Sequel to *All Alone in the Universe*. Debbie is devastated when her best friend Maureen inexplicably dumps her for another girl.

Philbrick, Rodman. *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. Homer P. Figg escapes from his wretched foster home in Maine, and sets out to find his older brother, Harold, who has been illegally sold into the Union Army. Also: *Freak the Mighty*, a must-read for fans of *Wonder*: troubling and triumphant.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *The Red Pencil*. Exquisite novel in verse. Amira, a girl in present-day Sudan, becomes a refugee when her village is attacked. Life in the camps is hard but Amira is determined to learn to read. *Bird in a Box*. In 1936, three children at the Mercy Home for Negro Orphans in New York all deal with grief and loss but are helped by a supportive staff member and the boxing matches of Joe Louis.

Potter, Ellen. *Slob*. Owen is fat. He is bullied. His Oreos keep disappearing from his lunch and his gym teacher is out to humiliate him. And he is determined to build a time machine to find out what happened to his parents two years ago. Funny and poignant.

Pratchett, Terry. *The Bromeliad Trilogy*. A group of 4-inch tall nomes discover their true nature with the help of a black box called the Thing in this satirical romp. Also: *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents*. A talking cat, intelligent rats and a boy run a con game in this delightful, comic fantasy.

Preus, Margie. *West of the Moon*. It's Norway, in the 1900s, and 14 year old Astri has been sold to a local nasty goatherder who is determined to make her his wife. But Astri is more determined, both to save her little sister and to find their father in America. Shimmering folklore and magic is interwoven into history.

Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. *The Subtle Knife*. *The Amber Spyglass*. Exquisite literary fantasy of the highest order, culminating in a battle between the forces of the Authority and those gathered by Lyra's father. *Count Karlstein*. The wicked Count plots to sacrifice his two orphaned nieces as prey for the Demon Huntsman. Also: *The Scarecrow and His Servant*. *Clockwork*.

Raskin, Ellen. *The Westing Game*. Newbery Medal. The mysterious death of an odd millionaire brings together an unlikely assortment of heirs who must uncover the circumstances of his death before they can claim their inheritance.

\*Ramee, Lisa Moore. *A Good Kind of Trouble*. Can kids stand up for social justice in the realm of police violence against black men? Shayla defies school rules by distributing protest armbands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. The principal is not sympathetic. Shayla and her two best friends call themselves "The United Nations" – and the novel addresses friendship across racial lines, academic competition and romantic longings. A good companion for *The Hate U Give*.

\*Reynolds, Jason. *Lu*. Yes! Another strong, powerful girl runner in the *Track* series, each one featuring a middle school kid, aiming to be on a track team and, maybe, the Junior Olympics. Each kid is dealing with big-time stuff: a seriously ill mother, an absent father, fitting in at a fancy school, and more. *Ghost*. *Patina*. *Sunny*. It's hard to count on others if they aren't there for you. Also: *As Brave As You*. Two brothers must spend the summer with their grandparents and make some surprising discoveries about guns and grandpa. Funny and compelling.

Rex, Adam. *The True Meaning of Smekday*. 12-year-old Gratuity "Tip" must fend for herself after Earth is colonized by aliens who abducted her mom, and must stop an alien invasion with only the help of a cat named Pig and an alien named J. Lo.

Richardson, Bill. *After Hamelin*. Penelope's sudden unexplained deafness is the only thing that saves her when the Pied Piper returns to Hamelin to claim the town's children with his magical music, leaving her free to try and rescue them.

Riordan, Rick. This author speaks to kids like few others: thrilling action, compassionate understanding of kids who struggle with learning or other hard complications of life, and high humor. Series: *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (*The Lightning Thief* and sequels), *Heroes of Olympus* (*The Lost Hero* and sequels), *The Kane Chronicles* (*The Red Pyramid* and sequels), *Magnus Chase* (*The Sword of Summer* and sequels).

Robinet, Harriette. *Walking to the Bus Rider Blues*. Alfa, his older sister, and their grandmother struggle for rent money, food, and their dignity as they participate in the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956.

Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter* series. What is there to say about the series that electrified the world of children's literature? Parents are urged to wait for their young children to discover these adventures when they reach middle elementary years, when they can appreciate complex themes of evil and suffering.

Rutkowski, Marie. *Cabinet of Wonders*. 12-year-old Petra, accompanied by her magical tin spider, goes to Prague hoping to retrieve the enchanted eyes the Prince of Bohemia took from her father, and is aided in her quest by a Roma boy and his sister. Two more in this *Kronos Chronicles* series.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *The Dreamer*. A fictionalized biography of the poet Pablo Neruda as a young, sensitive, creative boy in an elegant fusion of art, poetry and interior life. *Becoming Naomi León*. When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces, she runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and little brother in search of her father. Also: *Esperanza Rising*. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California in the Great Depression.

Sachar, Louis. Newbery Medal. *Holes*. Stanley Yelnats is sent to a hellish correctional camp in the Texas desert where he finds his first real friend, a treasure, and a new sense of himself in this timeless, popular and profoundly important novel. Also: *Fuzzy Mud*. Don't go into the woods! And it's not for the usual reasons. Two kids take a shortcut home from school, deal with a bully and discover a substance

Saeed, Aisha. *Amal Unbound*. Amal is a Pakistani schoolgirl in a small village with big dreams, until she is virtually "purchased" by a local landowner as a servant. He takes away her cellphone – this is not ancient times – and tries to control her but Amal is a determined student of history, a fierce girl with a keen mind who sees the villainous Sahib as the criminal he is. If you are a Malala fan, this one's for you.

Salisbury, Graham. *Under the Blood Red Sun*. A young boy's biggest concerns are baseball, homework, and a bully, until life with his Japanese family in Hawaii changes drastically after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

Sanderson, Branson. *Alcatraz Vs. the Evil Librarians*. On his 13th birthday, Alcatraz Smedry receives a bag of sand which is immediately stolen by the evil Librarians who are trying to take over the world. Sequels.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *Splendors and Glooms*. Three children are caught in the clutches of a wicked puppeteer and a powerful witch in this dark tale of suspense set in 1800s London. *A Drowned Maiden's Hair*. A rebellious and spunky orphan hopes to finally be loved when she is adopted by the elderly Hawthorne sisters, but she is instead roped into the family's crooked séance business.

Schmidt, Gary D. *The Wednesday Wars*. 7th-grader Holling Hoodhood is convinced his teacher hates him. Through their Wednesday afternoon Shakespeare sessions, she helps him cope with events both wildly funny and deadly serious. Other gems by Schmidt: *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy* and *Okay for Now*.

Seidler, Tor. *Toes*. After getting lost on Halloween night, an intelligent 7-toed kitten makes his way into the life of a struggling musician. Also: *Brainboy and the Death Master*. When Darryl, a 12 year-old orphan, is adopted by a technology genius, he finds himself the star of his very own life-threatening video game.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Partly in stunning drawings, partly in language. 12-year-old Hugo, an orphan living in a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter in a tale of secrets and magic. *Wonderstruck*. 12 year old Ben leaves Minnesota to seek the father he has never known and discovers an astonishing museum display, while young Rose also leaves home – from a different

time and place-- seeking to fill the void in her own life. *The Marvels*. Shipwrecks, adventure, ghosts and the theater feature in a magnificent tale starting in 1766 and ending in our own time.

Senzai, N. H. *Escape from Aleppo*. It's Aleppo, Syria, 2013. Nadia has grown up in a beautiful city with a gorgeous market, historic buildings and a bakery with the most delicious cakes. And then the bombs come and the house is destroyed. Her family gets out – but Nadia doesn't – they assume she's dead in the rubble and leave her a note. Nadia's journey to find her family is filled with kindness and hope amidst the war.

Shofner, Corabel. *Almost Paradise*. Ruby wakes up in the backseat of the car: her mother's boyfriend has decided that he, Ruby and her mom are leaving Brooklyn for parts unknown. Ruby refers to him as "Catfish" and he's sleazy...and he robs a store. Ruby's mom is on trial as an accomplice – how can Ruby help?

Simmons, Michael. *Alien Feast*. Human-eating aliens (they don't eat the feet) have kidnapped two scientists, and 12-year-old William, his elderly uncle, and the scientists' daughter Sophie set out to rescue them.

Sloan, Holly and Meg Wolitzer. *To Night Owl from Dogfish*. Two girls from opposite sides of the country who have never met find out they are going to have to go to summer camp together – because their dads have fallen in love with each other. They're furious. They hack email. They make plans via email. And they will make you laugh loudly.

Smith, Dan. *Boy X*. Fast-paced sci-fi. Ash wakes up on a tropical island with incredible physical and mental abilities. He links up with Isabel, daughter of a local scientist, and they discover that their parents were forced to develop a deadly, airborne virus. They rush to get the cure --but someone is out to get them.

Snicket, Lemony *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Tongue-in-check tale of three orphans who must depend on each other when their guardian, a distant relative, will do anything to get control of their fortune.

Snyder, Laurel. *Orphan Island*. A perfect island with abundant food, inhabited only by...children. Each year, a boat arrives with one occupant: a new little person to live on the island. But the boat must carry away the oldest child. Jinny must teach little Ess everything during her last year on the island. But why must she leave? *Bigger Than a Bread Box*. Rebecca, 12, is suddenly taken to stay with her grandmother, where she finds a magical bread box in the attic that grants wishes – at least ones that fit inside it. Funny and absorbing.

Snyder, Zilpha Keatley. *The Unseen*. Feeling angry and out-of-place in her large family, 12-year-old Xandra finds a magical key to a world of ghostly phantoms that help her see herself and her siblings more clearly. Also: *The Egypt Game*.

Sonnischen, A. L. *Red Butterfly*, Novel in verse. An abandoned little girl in China is raised by an American living in China until...the authorities decide that Kara doesn't have proper papers, like a birth certificate, and can only be adopted by an unknown family. And it doesn't help that she was born with a deformed hand.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Loser*. Even though his classmates have always considered him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff's optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself. *Maniac Magee*. After his parents die, Jeffrey Magee becomes legendary, accomplishing athletic and other feats which awe his contemporaries. *Wringer*. *Crash*. Many others.

Stanley, Diane. *The Silver Bowl*. From the age of 7 when she became scullery maid in a castle, Molly has seen visions of the future which lead her on an adventure to keep Alaric, the heir to the throne, safe from a curse. 2 sequels, high romantic fantasy. *Bella at Midnight*. A modern fairy tale as a young girl uses her powers to save the prince she loves. *Saving Sky*. Sky, living happily in New Mexico, is horrified by the mysterious arrests of Muslims and decides she needs to fight injustice by sheltering her friend Kareem.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind*. Spirited Shabanu, younger daughter of present-day Pakistani camel herders, loves her family's life, but she and her sister are betrothed to brothers. Sequels.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. A complex, time-travel mystery. 6th grade Miranda, who continuously reads *A Wrinkle in Time*, must make sense of a series of anonymous notes and struggles to maintain her friendship with her lifelong friend. Also: *Liar & Spy*. Two boys track the Mysterious Mr. X in their building.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. *The Mysterious Benedict Society*. After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected for a secret mission to foil an evil master who plans to take over the world. Series.

Stone, Phoebe. *The Boy on Cinnamon Street*. Romance plus family heartbreak. Louise has changed her name and given up gymnastics until a note from a secret admirer and her friends help her become herself again.

Stolz, Joëlle. *The Shadows of Ghadames*. In 19th century Libya, 11-year-old Malika both enjoys and feels constricted by the narrow world of women, but an injured stranger enters her home and disrupts everything.

Sullivan, Tara. *Golden Boy*. *Wonder* meets *The Hunger Games*. A young albino boy in Tanzania must elude a hunter bent on killing him and selling his skin as a good luck charm.

Sutherland, Tui. *The Dragonet Prophecy (Wings of Fire, Book 1)*. Dragonets stolen while still in their eggs hatch to a world of warring dragons and a prophecy to be fulfilled. Series.

Teague, Mark. *The Doom Machine*. When a spaceship lands in his small town, juvenile delinquent Jack and studious Isadora try to keep a group of extraterrestrials from stealing Uncle Bud's space travel machine.

Thor, Annika. *A Faraway Island*. In 1939 Sweden, two Jewish sisters wait for their parents to flee the Nazis in Austria. Nellie, age 8, settles in quickly, but Stephanie, 12, feels stranded with a cold, stern foster mother.

Timberlake, Amy. *One Came Home*. Wisconsin, 1871. Spunky, determined 13 year old Georgina sets out to find her missing sister, refusing to believe the remains wearing her sister's dress could possibly be her.

Turnage, Sheila. *Three Times Lucky*. 6<sup>th</sup> grade Spunky Mo LoBeau leads the eccentric characters of her small Southern town on a murder-mystery journey.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *Flipped*. In alternating chapters of a comic novel, two teens describe how their feelings about themselves, each other, and their families have changed over the years. *Swear to Howdy*. Two 13-year-old boys share neighborhood adventures, complaints about their older sisters, family secrets, and a terrible hidden guilt. Also: *Sammy Keyes* mystery series.

Ursu, Anne. *Breadcrumbs*. Enchanted fairy tale novel as Hazel and Jack go from Minneapolis into a world of bizarre characters with an evil ice queen in the center. *The Real Boy*. A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster and the illness that is killing the children in this magical fantasy.

Vanderpoole, Claire. *Moon Over Manifest*. Newbery Medal. Twelve-year-old Abilene, the daughter of a drifter, pries into her father's past and the secrets of a small Kansas town in 1936.

Vawter, Vince. *The Paperboy*. An 11 year old boy encounters quirky and hilarious Southern types on his paper route in Memphis, 1959 as he struggles with two huge issues: a serious stutter and a family secret.

Watson, Renee. *Piecing Me Together*. Jade, a talented collage artist, is from a poor neighborhood but attends a fancy private school on scholarship. She's aching to study abroad like others, but instead is put into a mentorship group for poor black girls. A study in privilege, being strong, and the importance of family.

Watt, Jerri. *Kizzie Ann Stamps*. Kizzie Ann is nervous about starting at a recently integrated school – but more worried that she and her dog will not be in a herding competition due to segregation. Short and sweet.

Wegelius, Jacob. *The Murderer's Ape*. Sally Jones is a gorilla who can't talk but types her tale. She moves among humans and understands all, is an engineer who can fix all. She determined to rescue her beloved Chief who is falsely jailed for murder. She's kind, frightened, smart, resourceful and profoundly empathetic.

Wenxuan, Cao. *Bronze and Sunflower*. Tr. From Chinese. Sunflower, an only child, must go with her father for forced labor, and after he drowns, she is taken in by a family with an only child who no longer speaks. They become the closest of friends in a tale of hardship and love.

Westerfeld, Scott. *Leviathan*. An alternate 1914 Europe, in which a 15-year-old Austrian prince allies with a British girl disguised as a boy; each learning to use military inventions, including genetically engineered beasts. Steampunk for mature readers.

Whelan, Gloria. *Small Acts of Amazing Courage*. A rebellious 15 year old girl is sent from India to England in 1919 to live with two aunts and become a proper English lady. *Homeless Bird*. When 13-year-old Koly is widowed, she must either suffer a destiny dictated by India's tradition or find the courage to oppose it.

Wiles, Deborah. *Revolution*. It's 1964 and the Freedom Riders are in Mississippi, helping African Americans register to vote. Sunny (who is white) begins to understand local racial polarities and politics. Essential background for *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Sequel to...*Countdown*. It's 1962, and Franny is just waiting for a nuclear bomb to fall. Meanwhile, she must deal with a crazy uncle, a friendship on the rocks and a really cute boy across the street. Also: *Love, Ruby Lavender* and *Each Little Bird That Sings*.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*. Funny & poignant. Three sisters are sent to Oakland in 1968 to meet their estranged poet-mother, who prints flyers for the Black Panthers. Also: *P.S. Be Eleven*. *Gone Crazy in Alabama*. Listed as among the top 100 books of the 2000s. Also: *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground*.

Wilson, Nathan D. *100 Cupboards*. 12-year-old Henry and his cousin Henrietta embark on a series of forays into other worlds after he discovers 100 hidden portals in the bedroom wall. Also: *Leepike Ridge*. 11-year-old Tom, presumed dead after drifting down a river, is trapped in a series of underground caves with another survivor and a dog, and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters in this quirky, comic update of *Tom Sawyer*.

Wolk, Lauren. *Beyond the Bright Sea*. Crow wants to know where she came from. She's spent her life on a beautiful island with Osh, who rescued her from a tiny boat as an infant. Who put in in that boat? Were her parents lepers from a nearby leper colony? She's funny, gutsy and fierce. *Wolf Hollow*. 12-year old Annabelle stands up to a manipulative, violent bully who targets Annabelle's family and friends.

Woods, Brenda. *Zoe in Wonderland*. Zoe is a daydreamer, with a perfect big sister and a genius younger brother, who loves time in her father's exotic plant nursery. A mysterious stranger on a quest for a rare plant changes Zoe's life. *The Red Rose Box*. In 1953, Leah Hopper dreams of leaving the poverty and segregation of her home in Louisiana, and when Aunt Olivia sends train tickets to L.A., Leah gets a first taste of freedom.

\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*. A group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders who have been bullied because of their struggles at school are given an empty classroom for an hour of safe space—with no adults present. They can talk about anything, and eventually their stories emerge: a father deported, a target of bullies, a fear of being shot, a father in jail. Woodson is an astounding poet who explores trauma and how it can be lessened with connection, understanding and love. Woodson's other works are also treasures: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. A stunning memoir in verse exploring what it means to be black in the South and in the North with an exquisite immediacy. *Locomotion*. 11-year-old Lonnie writes a series of poems in which he discusses his foster mom, his little sister and the death of his parents. *Hush*. 13-year old Toswiah finds her life changed when her family enters the witness protection program.

Wrede, Patricia C. *Dealing With Dragons* (and three others in series). An independent-minded princess rebels against an arranged marriage and seeks her fortune among the dragons.

Yelchin, Eugene. *Breaking Stalin's Nose*. Sasha, 10, accidentally damages a bust of Stalin at school; combined with the arrest of his father the night before, his world is shattered in this gripping and disturbingly plausible tale. *Arcady's Goal*. When 12-year-old Arcady is sent to a Soviet children's home after his parents are declared enemies of the state, soccer becomes a way to secure extra rations—and a way out.

Yep, Lawrence. *Dragonwings*. A Chinese-American man's dream of building an aeroplane and the help his young son, newly arrived from China, provides. Many stunning titles by this award-winning author.

Yolen, Jane. *Snow in Summer: the Twisted Tale of Sweet Snow White*. A novel fairy tale set in 1940s West Virginia, with the creepiest and nastiest stepmother ever: a snake-handler who deals in evil.

\*Youngblood, Leslie C. *Love Like Sky*. Living in the Atlanta suburbs, Georgie and her adorable little sister Peaches live in a blended family; both parents have remarried and the family dynamics are complex. Her teenage stepsister, Tangie, has no interest in the younger girls. Peaches is suddenly gravely ill and hospitalized. Georgie's guilt, resentments and awkward crush, relieved by family humor, resonate deeply.

\*Yang, Kelly. *Front Desk*. Mia's parents, recent immigrants from China to California in the 1990s, find work managing a motel, glad not to be living in their car. Mia, age 10, insists that she can help by working the front desk. Mia deals with the racist owner of the motel as well as other criminals, all the while secretly sheltering other immigrants. Mia aches for her parents' approval but the bar is high. So, why not enter a contest to fix things?

### **So many books! So little space in this booklet! Other favorites to explore:**

Barry, Dave and Ridley Pearson. *Peter and the Star Catchers*. A comic adventure prequel to *Peter Pan*.

Bell, Hilari. *The Goblin Wood*. A young Hedgewitch, an idealistic knight, and a world of magical creatures.

Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner*. Under the Taliban, an Afghan girl dresses as a boy to feed her family.

Hesse, Karen. *Letters from Rifka*. A young Jewish girl chronicles her family's flight from Russia in 1919.

Jacques, Brian. *Redwall*. A medieval fantasy series with Martin the Warrior mouse, comrades and enemies.

Jones, Diana Wynn. *Howl's Moving Castle*. A witch turns Sophie into a crone who deals with a witty wizard.

Kindl, Patrice. *Goose Chase*. Lighthearted fairy-tale spoof as Goose Girl flees dimwitted suitors.

Lasky, Katherine. *Hawksmaid*. A tale of 12th-century England as a girl falconer teams up with Robin Hood.

Medina, Meg. *Milagros: Girl From Away*. A girl escapes from war with help from mysterious sea creatures.

Moss, Marissa. *Pharaoh's Secret*. Two kids in Egypt discover the story of a lost pharaoh and a rare queen.

Nimmo, Jenny. *Midnight for Charlie Bone*. New magic powers means Charlie must go to a special school.

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon* plus 3 sequels. A 15-year-old boy in a world of dragons, elves and monsters.

Rinaldi, Ann. *An Unlikely Friendship*. Two women, best friends. One born into slavery. One, Mrs. Lincoln.

Roy, Jennifer. *Yellow Star*. In 1940s Poland, a Jewish girl and her family struggle to survive the Occupation.

Sage, Angie. *Magyk* (*Septimus Heap* series). A kidnapping, a foundling, a princess and an evil wizard.

Smiley, Jane. *The Georges and the Jewels*. Abby, 12, learns to train horses including a dangerous stallion.

Stauffacher, Sue. *Harry Sue*. Harry Sue, 11, vows to become a convict so she can find her mom in prison.

Vaught, Susan. *Things Too Huge to Fix By Saying Sorry*. A tale of history, race, mystery and Ol' Miss.

Voigt, Cynthia. *Homecoming*. Dicey and her siblings, abandoned, search for an unknown grandmother.

Walsh, Pat. *The Crowfield Curse*. A dark medieval mystery in which Will deals with Old Magic and secrets.

Wright, Barbara. *Crow*. Historical fiction set in the tense Reconstructionist period, 1898, in North Carolina.

Ylvisaker, Anne. *Dear Papa*. A 9 year old girl writes letters to her father who has died at war in 1943.

## BIOGRAPHY (\* = recently acquired)

There are too many outstanding children's biographies to be able to list them all here. Too often, children only read biographies for assignments. Read them aloud and stir curiosity! Browse the biography section of our library and your local public library. There are hundreds of gorgeously illustrated picture book biographies for young readers—parents should be sharing these aloud with children in the early grades, marveling at resilience, curiosity and accomplishment. There are also compelling series that our students devour, one after another, no matter who the biography features. Here are just a handful of favorites:

- \*Ahmed, Roda. *Mae Among the Stars*. Mae Jemison, astronaut. Gr. K-3.  
Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. *Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America*. Gr. 5+.  
\*Barton, Chris. *What Do You Do With a Voice Like That?* Barbara Jordan. Gr. K-4.  
Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*. Memoir—graphica. Gr. 2+.  
Bridges, Ruby. *Through My Eyes*.  
Coles, Robert. *The Story of Ruby Bridges*. Gr. 2+.  
Fleming, Candace. *The Family Romanov. Amelia Lost! The Lincolns. The Great & Only Barnum*. Gr. 5+.  
Freedman, Russell. *Lincoln: A Photobiography*. Gr. 4+.  
    *Abraham Lincoln and Frederic Douglass: The Story Behind an American Friendship*. Gr. 5+.  
    *The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights*. Gr. 5+.  
Hale, Shannon. *Real Friends*. Memoir—graphica. Gr. 3+.  
Harrison, Vashti. *Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History*. Gr. 3+.  
Hood, Susan. *Shaking Things Up: Fourteen Young Women Who Changed the World*. Gr. 3+.  
\*Hopkinson, Deborah. *Carter Reads the Newspaper*. Carter Woodson. Gr. K-3.  
\*Leigh, Anna. *Aly Reisman: Athlete and Activist*. Olympic gymnast. Gr. 3-6.  
Lewis, John. *March*. (Volumes 1-2-3.) Gr. 5+.  
Montgomery, Sy. *Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism*. Gr. 5+  
Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Bad News for Outlaws Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, U.S. Deputy Marshall*. Gr. 2+.  
Valdez, Patricia. *Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: the Woman Who Loved Reptiles*. Gr. K+.  
Gr. Reef, Catherine. *The Bronte Sisters: The Brief Lives of Charlotte, Emily and Anne*. Gr. 5+.  
Sheinkin, Steve. *Undeclared: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team*. Gr. 5+.  
    *Notorious Benedict Arnold*. Gr. 5+.  
Shetterly, Margot Lee. *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*. Gr. K+.  
Sidman, Joyce. *The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science*. Gr. 4+.  
Sweet, Melissa. *Some Writer: The Story of E. B. White*. Gr. 2+.  
Van Allsburg, Chris. *Queen of the Falls*. Gr. K-4.  
Wallace, Sandra Neil. *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery*. Gr. K+.  
Weatherford Boston, Carol. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*. Gr. 5+.  
Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Memoir—in verse. Gr. 4+.  
Yousafzai, Malala. *I Am Malala* (Young Readers Edition). Gr. 4+.

### Series:

- Krull, Kathleen. *Giants of Science* series, including *Marie Curie, Charles Darwin, Sigmund Freud*, others.  
Krull, Kathleen. Collective biographies with short (3 page) explorations, full of funny, juicy details:  
    *Lives of the Scientists: Experiments and Explosions (and what the neighbors thought)*.  
    *Lives of the Artists: Masterpieces, Messes (and what the neighbors thought)*.  
    *Lives of the Writers: Comedies, Tragedies (and what the neighbors thought)*.  
    *Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and what the neighbors thought)*.  
    *Lives of the Athletes: Thrills, Spills (and what the neighbors thought)*.  
Meltzer, Brad. *I Am* series, including *Neil Armstrong, Albert Einstein, Sonia Sotomayor* and many others.  
*Who Is...? And Who Was...?* series, including, *The Beatles, Maya Angelou, Walt Disney* and many others.  
*Wicked History* series, including *Catherine the Great, Genghis Khan, Rasputin* and many others.

## Fabulous Nonfiction!

Nonfiction also should be a part of every child's reading diet. Nurture an interest in science and history. Children who develop an affinity for a subject area are some of our strongest students. Recent titles:

- Alko, Selina. *The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage*. Gr. 2-6.
- Applegate, Katherine. *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*. Gr. K-6.
- Asim, Jabari. *Preaching To the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis*. Gr. 2-6.
- Aronson, Marc. *Trapped! How The World Rescued 33 [Chilean] Miners...* Gr. 4-6.
- Bang, Molly. *Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas*. Gr. K-3.
- Bishop, Nic. *Nic Bishop Butterflies & Moths. Nic Bishop Frogs*. Gr. K-3.
- Brimmer, Larry Dane. *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961. Birmingham Sunday*. Gr. 5 & up.
- Burcaw, Shane. *Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability*. Gr. 3 & up.
- Chandra, Deborah and Madeleine Comora. *George Washington's Teeth*. K-3.
- Chin, Jason. *Grand Canyon*. Gr. K-6. *Island: A Story of the Galapagos*. Gr. K-3. *Redwoods*. Gr. K-3.
- \*Clark-Robinson, Monica. *Let the Children March*. Gr. 2 and up.
- DeChristophano, Carolyn. *A Black Hole is Not a Hole*. Gr. 3-6.
- Delano, Marfe Ferguson. *Master George's People: George Washington, His Slaves...* Gr. 3-6.
- \*Duncan, Alice Faye. *Memphis, Martin and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968*. Gr. 3-6.
- Eggers, Dave. *Her Right Foot*. (The Statue of Liberty). Gr. 2 and up.
- Ellis, Deborah. *Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War*. Gr. 5-8.
- Fleming, Candace, illus. Eric Rohmann. *Giant Squid*. Gr. K-3.
- Floca, Brian. *Locomotive. Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11. Lightship*. Gr. K-3.
- Fradin, Judith Bloom. *The Price of Freedom: How One Town Stood Up to Slavery*. Gr. 2 & up.
- Goodman, Susan E. *The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial*. Gr. 3 & up.
- Harris, Robie. *Who Has What? All About Girls' Bodies and Boys' Bodies*. Gr. K-3.
- It's Not the Stork: A Book About Girls, Boys, Bodies, Babies, Families and Friends*. Gr. K-3.
- It's So Amazing...!* Gr. 3-6. *It's Perfectly Normal!...* Gr. 5 & up.
- Hatkoff (3). *Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again*.
- Leo the Snow Leopard. Owen and Mzee. Looking For Miza*. All ages.
- Henson, Heather. *Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Steven Bishop, Slave Explorer*. Gr. K-6.
- \*Jenkins, Steve. *Stinkiest: 20 Smelly Animals*. Gr. K-3. Many others.
- Kensky, Jessica. *Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship*. Gr. 1 and up.
- Khan, Kzir. *This Is Our Constitution: Discover America with a Gold Star Father*. Gr. 5 and up.
- Levinson, Cynthia. *We've Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children's March*. Gr. 5 & up.
- Mason, Adrienne. *Planet Ark: Preserving Earth's Biodiversity*. Gr. 3-6.
- Mongomery, Sy. *The Octopus Scientists (Scientists in the Field series)*. Gr. 4 & up.
- Nelson, Kadir. *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*. Gr. 3 & up.
- Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African-Americans*. Gr. 3 & up.
- O'Connell, Caitlin. *The Elephant Scientist*. Many others in the *Scientists in the Field* series. Gr. 4 & up.
- Patent, Dorothy. *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone*. Gr. 3-6.
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood up By Sitting Down*. Gr. K-6.
- Pringle, Laurence. *Billions of Years, Amazing Changes: The Story of Evolution*. Gr. 3-6.
- Roth, Susan. *Parrots Over Puerto Rico*. Gr. 2 & up.
- Ruelle, Karen Gray. *The Grand Mosque of Paris: How Muslims Rescued Jews...* Gr. 3-6.
- Sheinkin, Steve. *Bomb: The Race to Build—and Steal--the World's Most Dangerous Weapon*. Gr. 5 & up.
- Singer, Marilyn. *A Strange Place To Call Home: The World's Most Dangerous Habitats*. Gr. 5-8.
- Sisson, Stephanie. *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos*. Gr. K-3.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. *Courage Has No Color: the Triple Nickels, America's First Black Paratroopers*. Gr 5-8.
- \*Themmesh, Catherine. *Camp Panda: Helping Cuts Return to the Wild*. Gr 3-8.
- Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Separate Is Never Equal: The Story of Sylvia Mendez and Her Family*. Gr K-3.
- Tougas, Shelley. *Little Rock Girl 1957: How a Photograph Changed the Fight for Integration*. Gr. 5 & up.
- Weatherford, Carol Boston. *Freedom in Congo Square*. Gorgeous illustrations by Gregory Christie. Gr. 2-6.
- Weintraub, Robert. *No Better Friend: A Man, A Dog and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in WWII (Young Readers Edition)*. Gr. 5+.

## Poetry for Everyone

(\* = recently acquired)

This list contains only a smattering of wonderful poetry titles. Check the library's poetry section: children who can recognize and generate rhymes and appreciate imagery and metaphor become more literary readers.

\*\*\*\*Alexander, Kwame & Kadir Nelson. *The Undefeated*. One of the most acclaimed books of this year or any year. A powerful and poetic tribute to the resilience of black life in America with stunning oil paintings by one of the best artists working today. A look at historical trauma, from slavery to the amazing bravery of black troops in war, the fight for Civil Rights and the accomplishment of "the dreamers and the doers."

Adoff, Arnold. *Roots and Blues: A Celebration. Street Music: City Poems*.

Agee, Jon. *Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*. All ages.

Alexander, Elizabeth. *Miss Crandall's School for Young Ladies*.

Alexander, Kwame. *Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World... Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*.

\*Assorted poets. *The Proper Way to Meet a Hedgehog and Other How-To Poems*.

Brown, Calef. *Polka Bats and Octopus Slacks. Flamingoes on the Roof. Halloween*.

Clements, Andrew. *Dogku*.

Cox, Kenyon. *Mixed Beasts: or a Miscellany of Rare & Fantastic Creatures*. All ages.

DiTerlizzi, Tony illustrator. *The Spider and the Fly*. Caldecott Honor.

Fleischman, Paul. *Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices*.

Florian, Douglas. *Poetrees. Bow Wow, Meow Meow. Monster Motel*. Many others.

Forman, Ruth. *Young Cornrows Callin' Out the Moon*.

Frost, Robert. *Poetry for Young People*, ed. Gary D. Schmidt. Others in series.

George, Christine O'Connell. *Little Dog. Little Dog and Duncan*.

Gerber, Carole. *Seeds, Bees, Butterflies and More: Poems for Two Voices*.

Graham, Joan Bransfield. *Flicker Flash*.

Grandits, John. *Technically, It's Not My Fault*.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Brothers and Sisters: Family Poems. Night on Neighborhood Street*.

Grimes, Nikki. *One Last Word: Wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance. Tai Chi Morning. Hopscotch Love*.

Harris, Chris. *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids...*

Hoberman, Mary Ann, sel. *Forget-Me-Nots: Poems To Learn By Heart*.

Hughes, Langston. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, ill. E.B. Lewis. *The Dreamkeeper*, ill. Brian Pinkney.

Janeczko, Paul. *Firefly July. Dirty Laundry Pile: Poems in Different Voices. Brickyard Summer*.

Kirk, Daniel. *Dogs Rule!*

Latham, Irene. *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistake and Friendship*.

Levine, Gail Carson. *Forgive Me, I Meant To Do It: False Apology Poems*.

Lewis, Patrick, ed. *National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs...*

MacLachlan, Patricia. *I Didn't Do It*.

\*Medina, Tony. *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy*.

\*Miller, Rhett. *No More Poems! A Book in Verse That Just Gets Worse*.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *A Poem for Peter: Story of Ezra Jack Keats and the Creation of The Snowy Day*.

Prelutsky, Jack. Too many to list! *I've Lost My Hippopotamus. A Pizza the Size of the Sun.*

*Monday's Troll. Something Big Has Been Here. The Dragons Are Singing Tonight.*

Raczka, Bob. *Lemonade Lemonade and Other Poems Squeezed from a Single Word*.

Rex, Adam. *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*.

Salas, Laura. *Do Kids Eat Buses? Poems About School. A Fast, Fuzzy Blur: Poems About Pets*.

Schertle, Alice. *Button Up! Wrinkled Rhymes*.

Shange, Ntozake. *Freedom's a Callin' Me. We Troubled the Waters: Poems*.

Sidman, Joyce. *Swirl By Swirl: Spirals in Nature. Song of the Water Boatman*.

Sierra, Judy. *Beastly Rhymes To Read After Dark. Antarctic Antics: A Book of Penguin Poems*.

Silverstein, Shel. *A Light in the Attic. Where the Sidewalk Ends. Falling Up. Don't Bump the Glump*.

Singer, Marilyn. *Reverso Poems: Echo Echo. Follow Follow. Mirror Mirror*.

Weatherford, Carol Boston. *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen. Sugar Hill: Harlem's Historic Neighborhood*.

\*Wright, Richard. *Seeing Into Tomorrow*.