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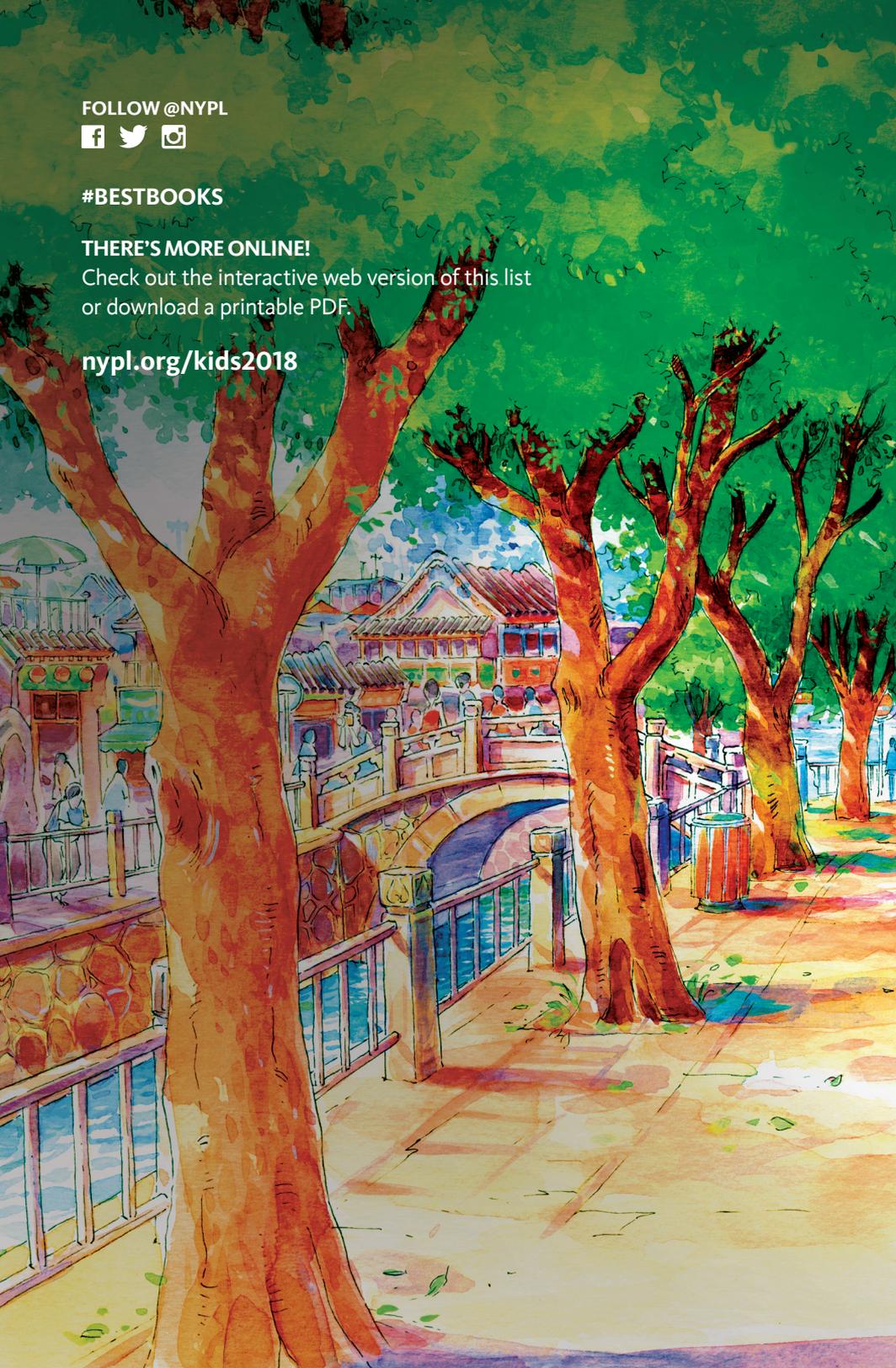


#BESTBOOKS

THERE'S MORE ONLINE!

Check out the interactive web version of this list
or download a printable PDF.

nypl.org/kids2018



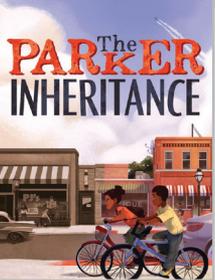
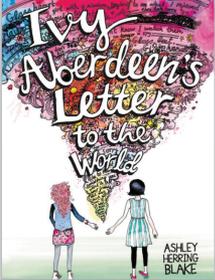
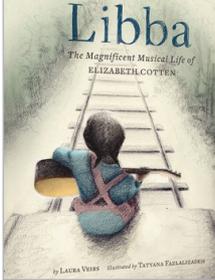
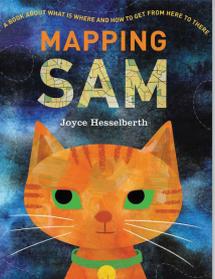
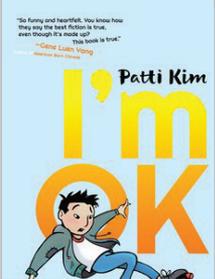
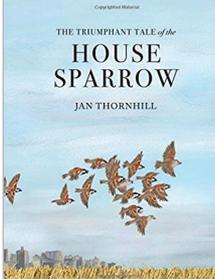
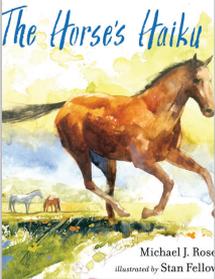
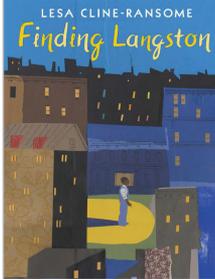
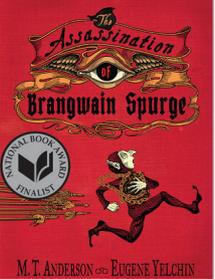
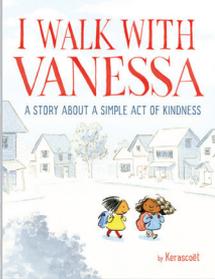
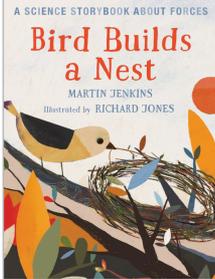
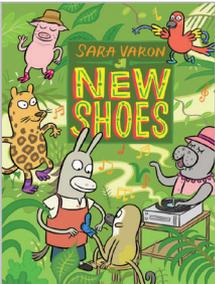
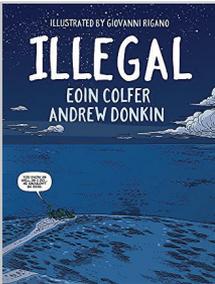
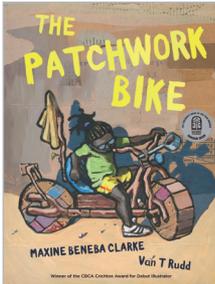
The New York Public Library

BEST BOOKS FOR KIDS 2018

100 Titles for Reading and Sharing



New York
Public
Library



Welcome!

We're excited to share the 2018 edition of The New York Public Library's *Best Books for Kids: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing*. Each year, our expert librarians read thousands of newly published children's books and choose their favorites for you and your family to enjoy. Readers of all ages will find stories that kindle their curiosity, ignite their imaginations, and stir their sense of wonder.

For more than a century, this list has sought to reflect the vibrant diversity of New York City's readership. In this year's books, you'll dive deep into the ocean and blast off into space. You'll travel to distant countries or times, and engage with other cultures and languages. Adventures await on every page.

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play a critical role in helping a child grow into a confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

- **Make reading part of your family's regular routine.** Nightly bedtime stories work well for many families, but any time of day is good. It's never too early to start, and never too late to encourage your child to pick up the habit!
- **Talk about what you are reading.** Whether your child is reading independently or together with you, discussing and retelling stories helps deepen understanding, improve reading skills, and build vocabulary.
- **Let your child catch you reading!** Keep books, newspapers, and magazines at home and demonstrate your own love for the written word.

The New York Public Library's *Best Books for Kids 2018: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing* is published by:

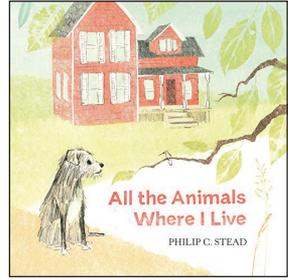
Picture Book Committee: Jessica Agudelo (co-chair), Jessica Cline (co-chair), Maggie Craig, Rebecca Gueorguiev, Marisa Hall, Jessica Dawn Jackson, Leah Labrecque, Amber Moller, Wayne Walters, Rachael Wettenstein

Fiction Committee: Ruth Guerrier-Pierre (co-chair), Sue Yee (co-chair), Alessandra Affinito, Clarissa Cooke, Annie Lin, Anthony Murisco, Rachel Sweany, Tara Thomas, Douglas Varney, Grace Zell

Advisers: BookOps & Readers Services

Picture Books

All the Animals Where I Live by Philip C. Stead. Charming sketches invite readers on a meandering stroll through the sights and sounds of country life. A quiet pastoral reflection on memory and storytelling.



Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal. A young girl is empowered as she discovers the family history behind her many names. Softly colored drawings fit this gentle tale perfectly.

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin. Little Star can't stop sneaking bites of mooncake, but when it's all gone, Mama can make more. Lovely as the night sky, this sweet story is impossible to resist.

A Busy Creature's Day Eating! by Mo Willems. Zany illustrations take readers on a culinary romp through the day's menu in this unexpected alphabet book with a bite.

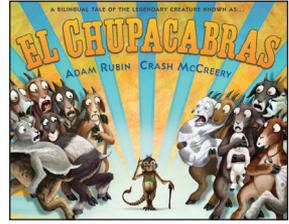
- 2 **Captain Starfish** by Davina Bell; illustrated by Allison Colpoys. An encounter with a kindred spirit at the aquarium encourages Alfie to cope with his anxieties. Soothing illustrations accompany this heartfelt glimpse into the life of a boy with some big fears.



“Little Star!...You ate the Big Mooncake again, didn't you?”

— A BIG MOONCAKE FOR LITTLE STAR by Grace Lin

El Chupacabras by Adam Rubin; illustrated by Crash McCreery. The modern-day monster is brought to life by cinematic illustrations in this quirky bilingual tale.



The Dam by David Almond; illustrated by Levi Pinfold. Folk music and memories combine with majestic illustrations to create an uplifting tale about how a valley was transformed by the building of a dam.

Drawn Together by Minh Lê; illustrated by Dan Santat. A boy and his grandfather struggle to communicate until their shared love of art creates a bond that transcends words.

First Laugh—Welcome, Baby! by Rose Ann Tahe & Nancy Bo Flood; illustrated by Jonathan Nelson. “Baby! We wait...When will we hear your very first laugh?” A Navajo family continues the tradition of celebrating a joyful milestone.



The Funeral by Matt James. Textured illustrations vividly capture the perspective of a young girl and her cousin as they attend the funeral of a distant relative.

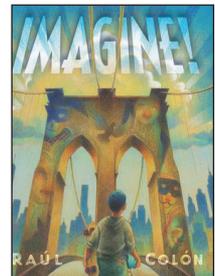
A Gift from Abuela by Cecilia Ruiz. Inventive art inspired by the colors and patterns of Mexican pesos illustrates the creative way that Niña and Abuela reaffirm their bond amid personal and economic changes.

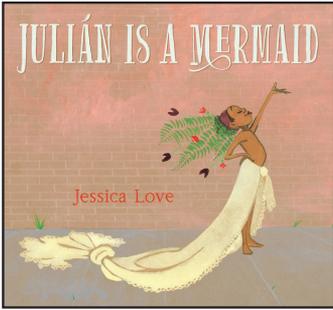
Grains of Sand by Sibylle Delacroix; translated by Karen Li. Graceful drawings in a luminous palette evoke an imaginative daydream as two siblings remember their beach vacation.

Hello, Door by Alastair Heim; illustrated by Alisa Coburn. A wily fox greets everything he sees as he sneaks through the home of the Three Bears snatching their treasures. Brisk, rhyming text offsets detailed illustrations in this humorous heist.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness by Kerascoët. Bright illustrations tell a powerful story about empathy and the courage to step up as an ally.

Imagine! by Raúl Colón. The wordless adventure of a boy inspired to bring art outside museum walls and into the streets of New York City is animated with kinetic illustrations.





Jerome by Heart by Thomas Scotto; illustrated by Olivier Tallec; translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick & Karin Snelson. In this tender depiction of friendship, a child is unafraid to express his affection—even if it gives his parents pause.

Julián Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love. A young boy is enchanted by the costumed mermaids he sees while riding the New York City sub-

way. Flowing watercolors complement the spare language in this poignant tale of self-expression and acceptance.

My Pillow Keeps Moving! by Laura Gehl; illustrated by Christopher Weyant. A man's shopping trip leads to unexpected antics when he encounters furry friends in search of a home. Cartoon illustrations and silly dialogue will produce giggles.

Night Job by Karen Hesse; illustrated by G. Brian Karas. Muted art and gently rhythmic text follow a father and son as they go about an ordinary, but always special, routine.

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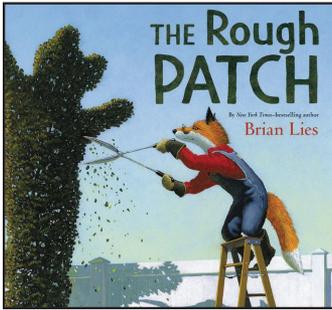
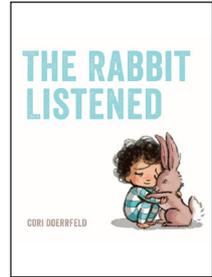


“Carla rode her bicycle across the whole farm para buscar a la cabra.”

— EL CHUPACABRAS by Adam Rubin; illustrated by Crash McCreery

The Patchwork Bike by Maxine Beneba Clarke; illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd. Siblings zoom through their village on their homemade bike while their fed-up mom looks on. Vibrant paintings on cardboard enliven this spirited ode to childhood ingenuity.

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld. This simple and sweetly illustrated story reminds readers that no one else can tell you what to feel. Sometimes, all we need is someone (or some rabbit) who will listen.



The Rough Patch by Brian Lies. A farmer fox harvests hope after a great loss. Lush, dramatic imagery conveys his journey from grief to new beginnings.

Seven Bad Cats by Moe Bonneau. Count the clever cats as they cause chaos for an intrepid sailor in this rhyming tale set on rolling watercolor seas.

They Say Blue by Jillian Tamaki. A swirl of colors carry a curious child through the natural world as she ponders the changing seasons.

5

Wallpaper by Thao Lam. A layered fantasy world unfolds under the wallpaper of a new house. Lively paneled collages detail a wordless escapade that leads a shy girl to new friendships.

Whale in a Fishbowl by Troy Howell; illustrated by Richard Jones. From the middle of the city, Wednesday longs for the blue beyond her bowl.

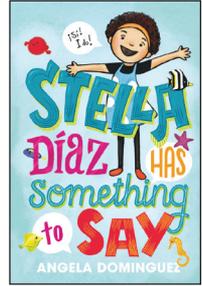


Early Chapter Books

Big Foot and Little Foot by Ellen Potter; illustrated by Felicita Sala. Hugo, a young Sasquatch, longs to see the world. Boone, a young boy, longs to make a friend. When their worlds collide, a wild woodland adventure unfolds.

Pocket Pirates #1: The Great Cheese Robbery by Chris Mould. A ragtag family of itty-bitty buccaneers catapults into a comic caper when evil mice kidnap their cat.

Stella Díaz Has Something to Say by Angela Dominguez. A tongue-tied, bilingual third-grader finds her voice with the help of family, new friends, her pet betta fish, and Jacques Cousteau.

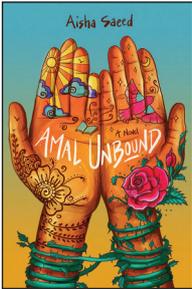


They Didn't Teach THIS in Worm School! by Simone Lia. To avoid becoming a bird's breakfast, a smooth-talking worm agrees to be her navigator. An unlikely friendship is formed as they travel to faraway lands.

Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School by Julie Falatko; illustrated by Colin Jack. Jump into the minds of the well-meaning, yet hopelessly goofy Sassy and Waldo, a canine duo determined to find out where their boy disappears to every day.

Fiction

6



Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed. In modern-day Pakistan, a life-altering mistake leaves strong-willed Amal an indentured servant. Will her determination lead her back to freedom?

The Assassination of Brangwain Spurge by M.T. Anderson & Eugene Yelchin; illustrated by Eugene Yelchin. A goblin and an elf must put differences aside to save their kingdoms. Their alternating perspectives are revealed through witty text and intricate drawings.

Betty Before X by Ilyasah Shabazz & Renée Watson. Abused by her birth mother, Betty finds a loving home with neighbors who encourage her interest in social justice.

Bob by Wendy Mass & Rebecca Stead; illustrated by Nicholas Gannon. Bob's a little green zombie in a chicken suit! But where did he come from? And who is he really? Livy is determined to figure it out.



The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker by Matilda Woods; illustrated by Anuska Allepuz. In the magical seaside town of Allora, where fish fly, a lonely coffinmaker and a boy on the run strike up an unlikely friendship.

Dactyl Hill Squad by Daniel José Older. A group of dinosaur-riding orphans fight for freedom in New York City during the American Civil War.



Finding Langston by Lesa Cline-Ransome. Torn from everything familiar when his father moves them from Alabama to Chicago, Langston finds refuge and solace in the poetry of another Langston.

Flight of Swans by Sarah McGuire. Forced into silence, Princess Andaryn risks everything to save her family from the evil enchantress who transformed her seven brothers into swans.



Front Desk by Kelly Yang. Mia must help her parents navigate the intricacies of running a small motel while pursuing her dream of becoming a writer. Can her power with words help her family succeed?

The House in Poplar Wood by K.E. Ormsbee. A deal with Death and Memory separates a family. Can twin brothers break the contract and bring the family together?

I'm Ok by Patti Kim. In a series of darkly funny schemes, Ok Lee plans his escape from bullies, bills, and mom's new boyfriend. But things are beginning to look increasingly desperate.

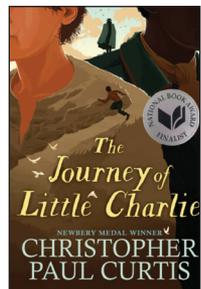
Inkling by Kenneth Oppel. An inkblot escapes his sketchbook prison and alters Ethan's life for the better.

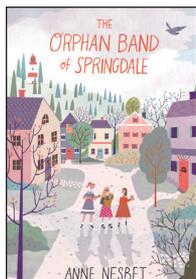
Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake. In the aftermath of a tornado, Ivy befriends June and feels the stirrings of a first crush.

The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis. Little Charlie realizes that he isn't just helping Cap'n Buck, "a stanking piece of human filth," recover stolen money—he's unwittingly become a fugitive slave catcher. For older readers.

Knockout by K.A. Holt. Levi discovers the advantage of being "small but fast" in a boxing ring. Will health problems and an overprotective family TKO his ambition?

Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina. As if middle school wasn't enough of an uphill battle, with frenemies and frizzy hair, Merci must also keep her abuelo's secret.





The Orphan Band of Springdale by Anne Nesbet. One French horn. One orphanage. One family secret. They all come together when Augusta is sent to live with her grandmother in a small Maine town in 1941.

The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson. An old letter sends two kids searching the past and the present to find a \$40 million treasure.

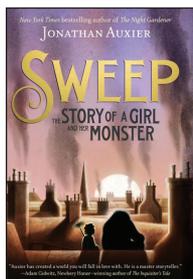
Speechless by Adam P. Schmitt. Life is complicated, and it turns out death is too. Jimmy's recently deceased cousin Patrick gets the last laugh when Jimmy is told he will be delivering the eulogy. For older readers.

Stanley Will Probably Be Fine by Sally J. Pla; illustrated by Steve Wolfhard. Stanley must summon his inner strength to battle overwhelming situations when he enters the city-wide scavenger hunt to win tickets to Comic Fest.



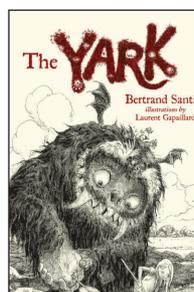
Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen by Candace Fleming; illustrated by Eric Rohmann. A former police dog becomes an unlikely but sensational silent movie star. When accused of a crime he didn't commit, will the renowned canine sniff out the truth?

Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster by Jonathan Auxier. Nan Sparrow, a chimneysweep in Victorian London, befriends a mysterious magical creature in this fairy tale of monsters and great escapes.



The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle by Leslie Connor. Benny died falling out of a treehouse. Everyone in town thinks his best friend, Mason Buttle, knows more than he's saying. What will it take to prove his innocence?

Wed Wabbit by Lissa Evans. Fidge is transported into the land of Wimble Woos, who insist she is the champion they have been waiting for. Will she be able to free them from the tyrannical rule of Wed Wabbit?



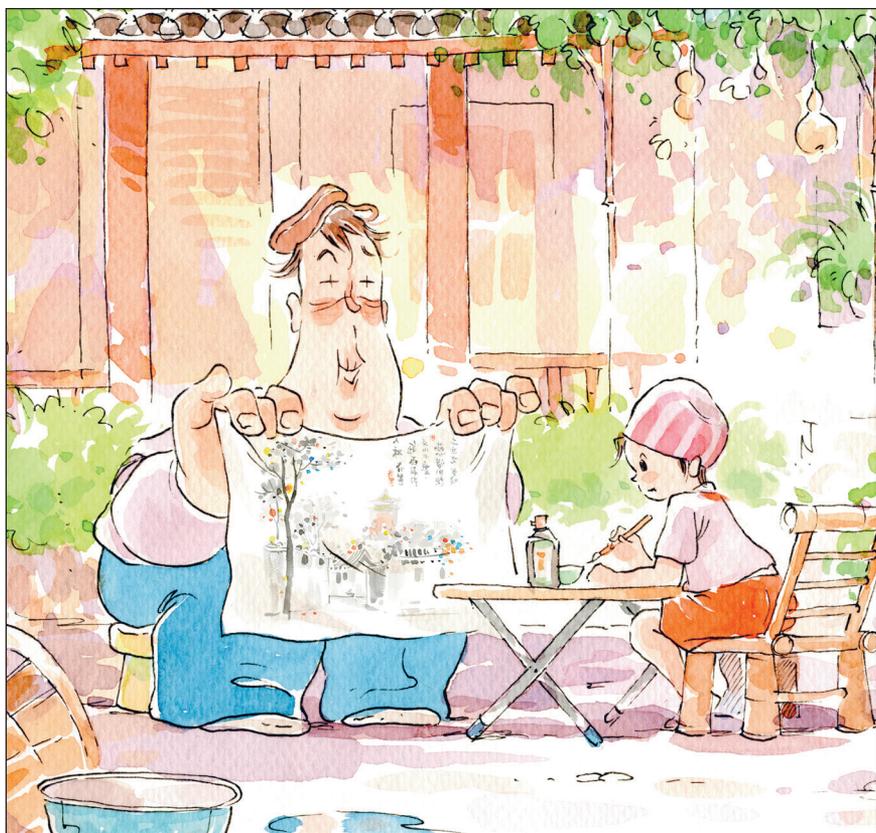
The Yark by Bertrand Santini; illustrated by Laurent Capillaud; translated by Antony Shugaar. Good behavior will only get you eaten in this thrilling tale of an insatiable child-eating monster.

Graphic Novels

Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol. Bunkmates, mosquitos, and...borscht? Russian summer camp is not what Vera expected. An earthy color palette and captivating voice draw readers into this story of growth and self-acceptance.

Cardboard Kingdom by Chad Sell. Eighteen imaginative neighborhood kids have an unforgettable summer defending their recycled realm as heroes, villains, monsters, and robots.

Fake Blood by Whitney Gardner. It's a new school year, but nothing changes for AJ until he gets picked to work on a project about Transylvania with his vampire-obsessed crush. Now's his chance to show her that he's her type.



“In this little hutong, all the boys and girls have their own big dreams.”

— MY BEIJING by Nie Jun



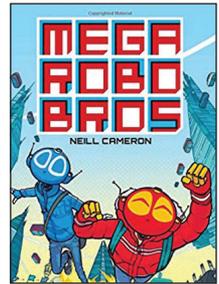
“Here’s to the insects of Bug Paradise—may they always sing so joyfully!”

— MY BEIJING by Nie Jun

Illegal by Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin; illustrated by Giovanni Rigano.

Ebo must embark on a harrowing journey through desert, ocean, and rat-infested sewers for the chance at a better life. A gripping narrative for older readers.

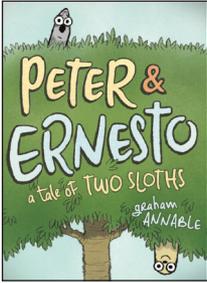
Mega Robo Bros by Neill Cameron. Even the most powerful robot kids on Earth deal with bullies and fitting in. To make matters worse, a sinister plot is underway to shut them down and destroy the world they protect.



My Beijing: Four Stories of Everyday Wonder

by Nie Jun; translated by Edward Gauvin. Watercolor illustrations transport the reader to the hutongs of Beijing where Yu'er and her grandfather embark on whimsical adventures.

New Shoes by Sara Varon. Francis the donkey is thrilled when he gets the chance to make shoes for his favorite calypso singer. But there's just one problem: he needs more tiger grass, which can only be found deep in the jungle.



Peter and Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths by Graham Annable. This hilarious duo tests the strength of their friendship when Ernesto sets out on an exciting expedition and leaves homebody Peter behind.

Sci-Fu by Yehudi Mercado. In 1980s Brooklyn, young DJ Wax takes to the turntables and accidentally summons a UFO that whisks him and his crew away to the robot planet Discopia.

Tom's Midnight Garden: A Graphic Adaptation of the Philippa Pearce Classic by Edith. Tom's summer with his aunt and uncle in the country becomes anything but boring when night falls and he discovers a mysterious new friend in a beautiful hidden world.

Folktales and Fairy Tales

11

The Frog Prince by the Brothers Grimm; illustrated by Sybille Schenker. Striking silhouette artwork infuses this classic story with magic.

Myth Match by Good Wives and Warriors. Create your own mythical creature by mixing and matching the dazzling illustrations in this interactive bestiary.

Old Misery by James Sage; illustrated by Russell Ayto. Pencil illustrations convey dark humor in this allegory of why misery exists.



Red Sky at Night by Elly MacKay. The origins of traditional sayings used to forecast the weather are accompanied by dreamy paper dioramas.



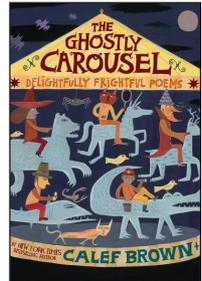
“[Airavata] was born in an ocean of churning milk, and creates clouds and rain.”

— MYTH MATCH by Good Wives and Warriors

Poetry

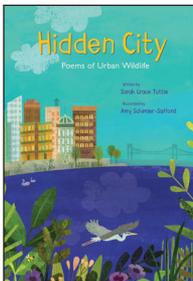
The Ghostly Carousel: Delightfully Frightful Poems

by Calef Brown. Zombie family reunions, vengeful canaries, and insect pie! A procession of creepy characters and gross-out delights sure to make you say “ew!”



Go Show the World by Wab Kinew;

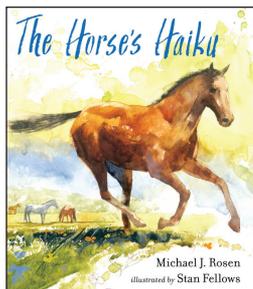
illustrated by Joe Morse. Lavish illustrations and uplifting verse celebrate the diversity of indigenous peoples and their contributions to North American culture.



Hidden City: Poems of Urban Wildlife by Sarah Grace

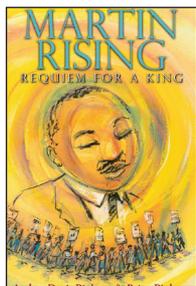
Tuttle; illustrated by Amy Schimler-Safford. Uncover secrets of the natural world in unlikely places with this warmly illustrated collection.

The Horse's Haiku by Michael Rosen; illustrated by Stan Fellows. Beautiful watercolors blend seamlessly with charming traditional haiku to convey the grace and power of horses.



In the Past by David Elliott; illustrated by Matthew Trueman. Dinosaur lovers will dig the blend of poetry, science, and jaw-dropping art in these odes to prehistoric creatures.

Jabberwalking by Juan Felipe Herrera. How can you be a Jabberwalker? A United States Poet Laureate takes you on a mind-melting journey in this part memoir, part how-to guide that's like nothing you've ever seen.



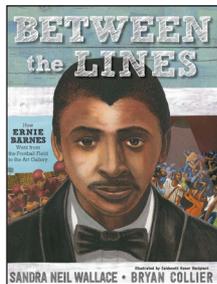
Martin Rising: Requiem for a King by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Evocative brushwork and emotional, musical poems explore the tumultuous last months of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life.

Seeing into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright, biography and illustrations by Nina Crews. Photo collages paired with Wright's timeless haiku speak to themes of childhood and the natural world.

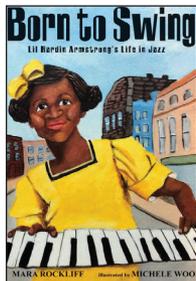
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Nonfiction

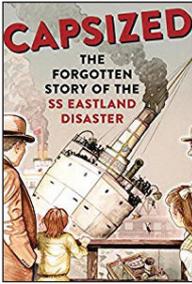
Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery by Sandra Neil Wallace; illustrated by Bryan Collier. The unlikely story of a reluctant athlete who became a renowned artist.



Bird Builds a Nest by Martin Jenkins; illustrated by Richard Jones. This deceptively simple picture book about nest-building is really a lesson in physics for the very young.



Born to Swing: Lil Hardin Armstrong's Life in Jazz by Mara Rockliff; illustrated by Michele Wood. Bright acrylic illustrations evoke the unforgettable charm and vivacity of a pioneering jazz musician.



Capsized!: The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster by Patricia Sutton. An engrossing account that perfectly captures the palpable fear and loss on one tragic day in 1915.

Crash: The Great Depression and the Rise and Fall of America by Marc Favreau. This multifaceted look at the Great Depression immerses the reader in this pivotal time in American history through a wealth of first-hand

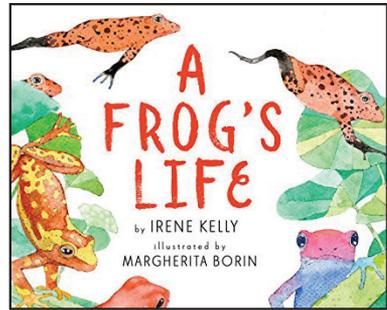
accounts of the era and historical images.

Curiosity: The Story of the Mars Rover by Markus Motum. Get a robot's-eye view of the process involved in space travel, starting with scientists' blueprints and ending with a courageous landing on Mars.

The Eye That Never Sleeps: How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln by Marissa Moss; illustrated by Jeremy Holmes. Sharp-eyed sleuth Allan Pinkerton uncovers an early plot to assassinate President Lincoln in 1861. Art inspired by antique maps and newspapers portrays the historic details of this intriguing investigation.

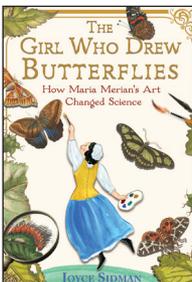
14 **A Frog's Life** by Irene Kelly; illustrated by Margherita Borin. Intricate illustrations depict different species of frogs and their unique traits.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams by Lesa Cline-Ransome; illustrated by James E. Ransome. "Tennis filled their dreams." Hard work and family bonds fuel the Williams sisters' success.



The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed

Science by Joyce Sidman. A gorgeous examination of a self-taught artist, entomologist, and the first to document the metamorphosis of butterflies. Merian's original artwork is showcased throughout.



How Mamas Love Their Babies by Juniper Fitzgerald; illustrated by Elise Peterson. Heartfelt prose and retro photo collages remind us that no matter the job, mamas love their little ones and work to give them better lives.

Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotton by Laura Veirs; illustrated by Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. From humble origins to worldwide acclaim, Libba never gave up on her dream. Subtle graphite drawings reflect her life and most famous work.

Look at the Weather by Britta Teckentrup; translated by Shelley Tanaka. Atmospheric illustrations and lyrical writing combine in this meditative study of weather.



Lovely Beasts: The Surprising Truth by Kate Gardner; illustrated by Heidi Smith. Charcoal drawings highlight surprising contrasts, revealing the softer side of beasts with bad reputations.

Mapping Sam by Joyce Hesselberth. Follow a cat on her nightly stroll around the neighborhood through maps, diagrams, and charts of all kinds.

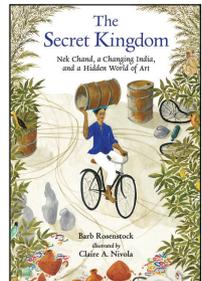
Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein by Linda Bailey; illustrated by Julia Sarda. Moody and gothic illustrations bring to life the birth of Mary Shelley's masterpiece and its iconic monster.

15

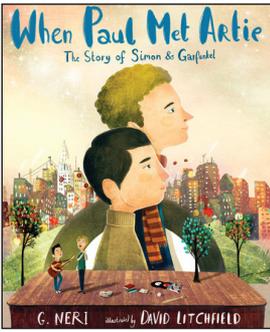
Midnight Teacher: Lilly Ann Granderson and Her Secret School by Janet Halfmann; illustrated by London Ladd. An enslaved woman secretly taught herself to read and risked her life to share this knowledge with others.

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record Setting Dive of the Bathsphere by Barb Rosenstock; illustrated by Katherine Roy. A suspenseful story of two explorers whose determination and teamwork plunged them into previously uncharted ocean depths.

The Secret Kingdom: Nek Chand, a Changing India, and a Hidden World of Art by Barb Rosenstock; illustrated by Claire A. Nivola. History, storytelling, and art converge in this immersive biography of a visionary Indian folk artist who never stopped creating.



The Triumphant Tale of the House Sparrow by Jan Thornhill. Intriguing narrative and detailed illustrations relate the surprising history of the humble house sparrow, which has lived alongside humans since ancient times.



Water Land: Land and Water Forms Around the World by Christy Hale. Appealing die-cut pages and bold colors introduce topographical terms in this highly accessible primer for budding explorers.

When Paul Met Artie: The Story of Simon and Garfunkel by G. Neri; illustrated by David Litchfield. A true New York origin story of two teenage musicians from Queens and their rise to international stardom.

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