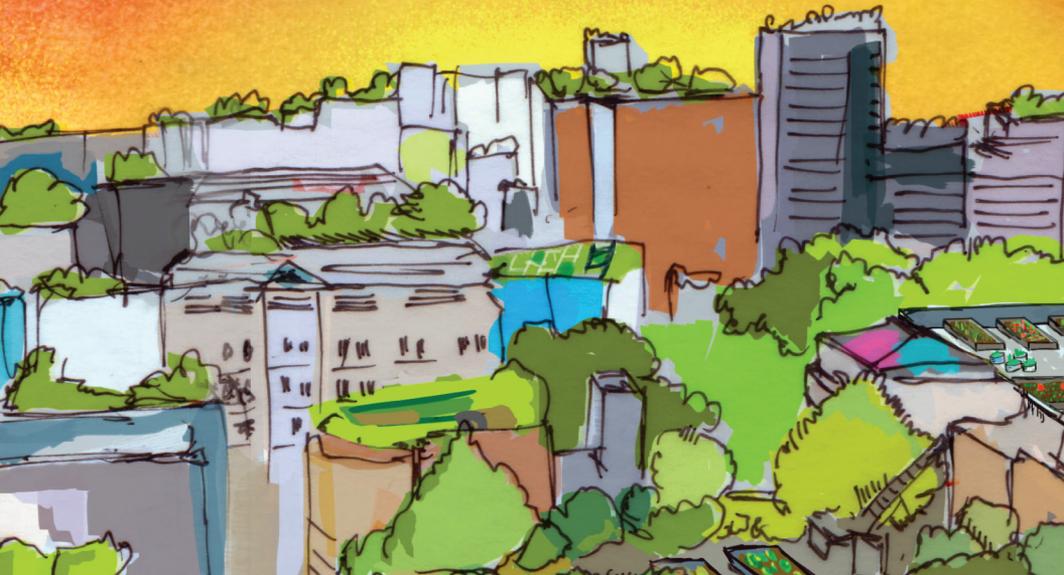


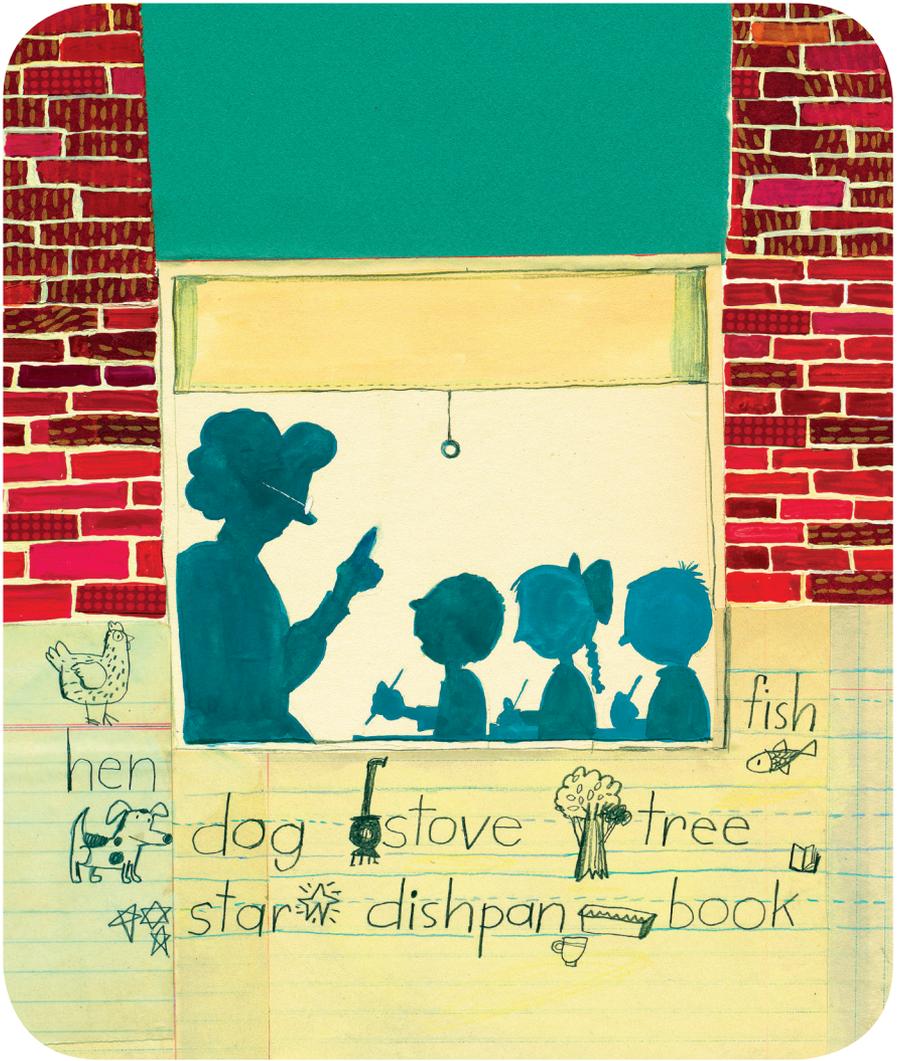
Children's Books

100 Titles for Reading
and Sharing **2013**



New York
Public
Library





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Introduction

This has been another outstanding year in the world of children's book publishing. Authors and illustrators, both veteran and novice, enchanted children with a breathtaking diversity of fantastic tales. A group of librarians from The New York Public Library read more than a thousand titles this year, shared countless stories with the children who visit their branches, and compiled this list of the very best children's books for toddlers through sixth graders. Consider it a snapshot of titles NYPL's librarians thought book lovers of all ages might like to know.

Readers will find plenty of variety in this list—from stories that reveal feats of bravery to quests for justice and redemption to friendships lost and found. Many of the stories are centered on classic themes that never grow old. In the pages of these books, heroes and heroines find ways to slay dragons, right wrongs, and prevail against all odds. They offer reassurance and inspiration in a world that can sometimes seem strange and dangerous.

For those who enjoy unraveling mysteries, *A Girl Called Problem*, *Wild Boy*, or *The Water Castle* might do the trick. *The Other Side of Free* and *Africa Is My Home* shine a light on lesser-known events from the early history of the United States. In this fast-paced, media-saturated world, stories that take a moment to peer more closely at individual feats of bravery attract attention. The travails and courage of real people who are an integral part of our country's tapestry have great appeal. To that end, you will not want to miss *Courage Has No Color*, *The True Story of the Triple Nickles*; *The Boy on the Wooden Box*; or *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin*. And for those who are looking for a dash of humor but don't want to indulge a sweet tooth, *Battle Bunny* could be just the thing.

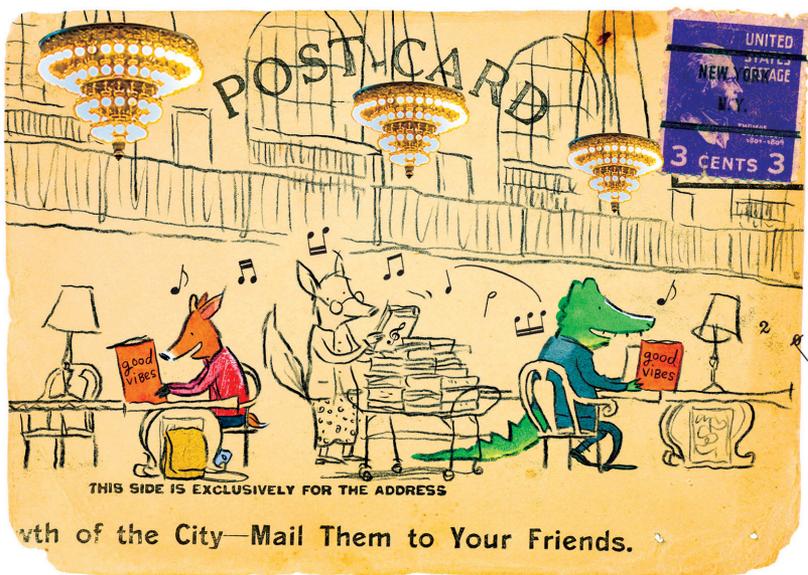
In the days ahead, keep in mind this relatively small sample of the many delightful stories that await today's inveterate readers, and be sure to step out and explore the many wonderful books published this year.

Committee

Deborah Allman, Elizabeth Bird, Helen Broady, Sandra Farag, Ruth Guerrier-Pierre, Tiffany James, Jeanne Lamb, Aihui Liu, Theresa Panza, Karen Phelan, Mary Pyrak, Jill Rothstein, Robyn Shtadtlander, Anna Taylor, Stephanie Whelan, Amie Wright, and Sue Yee. Ryan Donovan and Rebecca Gueorguiev, chairs.

Picture Books

FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-6



2

Ah Ha! by Jeff Mack. *Chronicle Books*. A frog has a series of narrow escapes in this lively romp written using only two letters.

Battle Bunny by Jon Scieszka and Mac Barnett. Illustrated by Matthew Myers. *Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers*. What's a boy to do when he receives a syrupy sweet story as a gift? Transform it into an epic fight between the forces of good and evil, of course!

The Blessing Cup by Patricia Polacco. *Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books*. "This tea set is magic. Anyone who drinks from it has a blessing from God." The story of the author's great-grandmother and the people who helped her escape from Russia.

Flora and the Flamingo by Molly Idle. *Chronicle Books*. A wordless, lift-the-flap story of two very different dancers who find a way to overcome their differences through balletic movement.

Hank Finds an Egg by Rebecca Dudley. *Peter Pauper Press*. Lovingly crafted figures set in a gentle forest tell the tale of Hank and the hummingbird egg he comes to care for. A wordless charmer.

Herman and Rosie by Gus Gordon. *Roaring Brook Press*. City life can be busy, bustling...and lonely. Two musicians find a satisfying friendship in this musical journey set in New York City.

How to Train a Train by Jason Carter Eaton. Illustrated by John Rocco. *Candlewick Press*. Want a puppy? Why not consider a train instead? A guide to capturing a locomotive of your very own.

Journey by Aaron Becker. *Candlewick Press*. Luminous illustrations chart an ordinary child's adventure through an extraordinary world.

Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me by Daniel Beaty. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. A moving portrait of a child in the wake of an absent parent, told against the backdrop of New York City.

The Matchbox Diary by Paul Fleischman. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. *Candlewick Press*. Small mementos capture entire stories in this remarkable journey of an immigrant grandfather's life.

Monday by Adam Rex. *Hyperion*. Hush now—the moon has come down to Earth, the sun is nowhere to be seen...and now the tide is rising. A tale for dozy times with glimmering nighttime scenes.

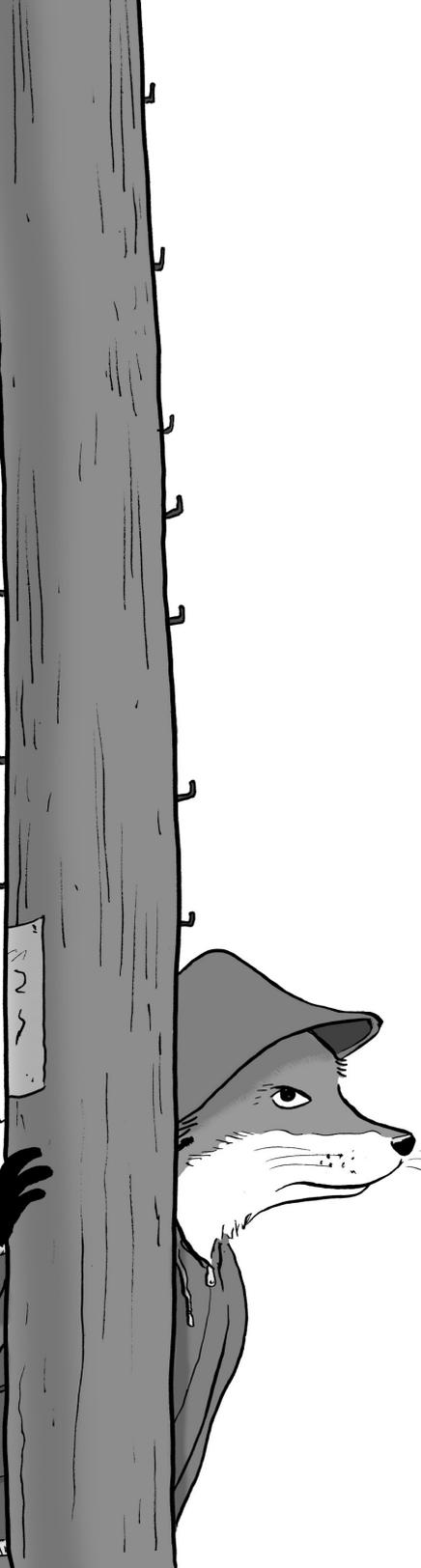
Mr. Tiger Goes Wild! by Peter Brown. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Uptight society is in for a change when Mr. Tiger goes back to his jungle instincts. It's Wilderness vs. City. Which will win?

My Cold Plum Lemon Pie Bluesy Mood by Tameka Fryer Brown. Illustrated by Shane Evans. *Viking Juvenile*. Jamie goes from gentle green and hungry yellow to moody black and stormy gray in a single day.

Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales. *Roaring Brook Press*. Fwap! Slish! Bloop! Krunch! A young boy imagines himself wrestling and defeating out-of-this-world contenders, but when it comes to *las hermanitas*, he may have finally met his match.

No Fits, Nilson! by Zachariah OHora. *Dial*. A toddler tames her gorilla friend in this sweet tale of tantrums, tears, and banana ice cream.

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale by Duncan Tonatiuh. *Abrams Books for Young Readers*. A young rabbit sets out on a mission north to find his missing father, and crosses paths with a hungry coyote.



Picture a Tree by Barbara Reid. *Albert Whitman & Company*. “There is more than one way to picture a tree.” A lushly illustrated ode to trees in all their glorious forms.

The Silver Button by Bob Graham. *Candlewick Press*. From a soldier’s goodbye to a blackbird’s lunch on a path, Graham shows all that can happen in a single moment in time.

The Story of Fish and Snail by Deborah Freedman. *Viking Juvenile*. An uptight snail and an adventurous fish start a new story together in this warmhearted tale of friendship.

Take Me Out to the Yakyu by Aaron Meshon. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. Whether you call it baseball or yakyu, the fun of the game is the same. Join one boy as he enjoys a day at the diamond on opposite sides of the world.

This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by James Ransome. *Nancy Paulsen Books*. An intergenerational tale that follows a family as they move from rural South Carolina to Brooklyn.

Unicorn Thinks He’s Pretty Great by Bob Shea. *Hyperion*. Goat used to think he was pretty cool until that Unicorn came along. But how can you compete with a guy who can make it rain cupcakes?

Water in the Park: A Book About Water and the Times of Day by Emily Jenkins. Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin. *Schwartz & Wade*. Water, water everywhere—to swim, to splash, to drink. One day in the life of a park, told with aquatic flair.

Folktales and Fairy Tales

Aesop in California by Doug Hansen. *Heyday*. Dynamic retellings and richly written American nature scenes give new life to 15 lesser-known and familiar fables.

Can't Scare Me! by Ashley Bryan. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. This rhythmic read-aloud tells the story of a wild and fearless little boy who boldly faces down his two- and three-headed giant foes. An exuberantly illustrated trickster tale.

Demeter and Persephone by Hugh Lupton and Daniel Morden. Illustrated by Carole Henaff. *Barefoot Books*. Classic Greek stories get new life in these lyrically written early chapter tales. Rich, bold colors reference ancient Grecian art. See also: *Theseus and the Minotaur* and *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

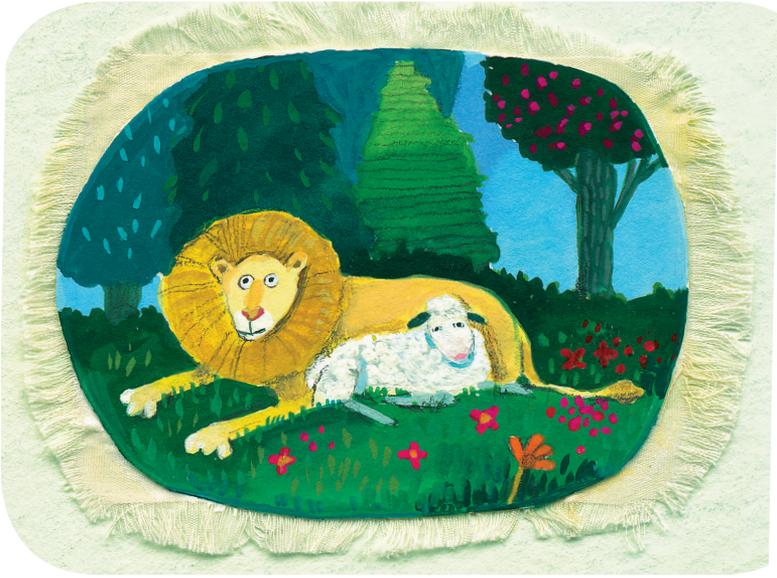
Grandma and the Great Gourd: A Bengali Folktale by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. Illustrated by Susy Pilgrim Waters. *Roaring Brook Press*. Leaving home to visit her daughter on the other side of the jungle, a cunning grandmother must use her wits to escape the jaws of hungry jungle beasts. Vivid illustrations bring this classic tale to life.

5

Grim, Grunt and Grizzle-Tail: A Story from Chile by Fran Parnell. Illustrated by Sophie Fatus. *Barefoot Books*. A harried king turns his naughty daughters into oranges for a year and a day, but when monsters try to steal the tasty fruit can the princesses save themselves?

Hansel and Gretel by The Brothers Grimm. Illustrated by Sybille Schenker. *minedition*. Follow two clever siblings through these intricately designed, translucent pages. A classic Grimm Brothers tale gets an all-new look in this stunning retelling.

Nasreddine by Odile Weulersse. Illustrated by Rébecca Dautremer. *Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*. The villagers always find something new to scold Nasreddine and his father about each week on their way to market. How can one boy please everyone, yet still stay true to himself?



6 **Whiskers, Tails and Wings: Animal Folktales from Mexico** by Judy Goldman. Illustrated by Fabricio VandenBroeck. *Charlesbridge*. From Señor Puma's grand battle to the high purpose of fleas, this brilliant collection covers folktales from all over Mexico, illuminating the rich heritage of several of the country's diverse civilizations.

Poetry

Digger, Dozer, Dumper by Hope Vestergaard. Illustrated by David Slonim. *Candlewick Press*. Watch these mighty machines as they plow, excavate, and clean up the city. Colorful cartoon illustrations feature trucks of both genders.

Forest Has a Song: Poems by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater. Illustrated by Robbin Gourley. *Clarion Books*. Stop. Pause. Take a closer look at a forest through the seasons as you spy all kinds of flora and fauna. Soft watercolors show us the diversity of this woodland ecosystem.

Stardines Swim High Across the Sky and Other Poems by Jack Prelutsky. Illustrated by Carin Berger. *Greenwillow Books*. Meet the Jollyfish, who are always happy, and the Panteaters, who have a hankering for tasty trousers. Unusual dioramas of mishmashed creatures draw readers into a hilarious world of words and ideas.

We Go Together!: A Curious Selection of Affectionate Verse by Calef Brown. *Houghton Mifflin Books for Children*. Inventive verse and sweetly bizarre illustrations showcase poems of love and friendship.

What the Heart Knows: Chants, Charms and Blessings by Joyce Sidman. Illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski. *HMH Books for Young Readers*. Lyrical poems take on the big and small moments in kids' lives. Illuminated with whimsical drawings, the verses highlight moments of grief, hope, and gym class.

When Thunder Comes: Poems for Civil Rights Leaders by J. Patrick Lewis. *Chronicle Books*. A group of accomplished artists illustrates inspiring stories of protest and change from around the world. Meet 17 uncommon activists of the past and present, including Sylvia Mendez and Harvey Milk.

Your Skeleton Is Showing: Rhymes of Blunder from Six Feet Under by Kurt Cyrus. *Hyperion*. "Freddie picked his nose and now he's dead, dead, dead." Poetry bound to get stuck inside your head, head, head.

Stories for Younger Readers

FOR CHILDREN AGES 6–8

Call Me Oklahoma! by Miriam Glassman. *Holiday House*. Paige Turner has decided that this year she's going to be different. From now on, she's going to be brave! She's going to be talented! She's going to be...Oklahoma!

Fortunately, the Milk by Neil Gaiman. Illustrated by Skottie Young. *HarperCollins*. Returning from the store in time for breakfast can be tricky when you're facing vengeful aliens, volcanic sacrifices, and a time-traveling stegosaurus. Hang on to that milk!

The Gumazing Gum Girl!: Chews Your Destiny by Rhode Montijo. *Hyperion*. Gabby Gomez loves gum, but after a bubble hits a power line and bursts, she becomes Gum Girl! Just try to pull yourself away from this stretchy, sticky comic adventure.

The Meanest Birthday Girl by Josh Schneider. *Clarion Books Books*. When a boy that Dana taunts gives her a white elephant as a gift, she comes to realize that sometimes the best gifts need to be shared.

Mysterious Traveler by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. Illustrated by P.J. Lynch. *Candlewick Press*. Can a blind desert guide and his adopted granddaughter save three lost travelers who face a coming sand storm? Stunning art captures the beauty and vastness of the Sahara.

S.W.I.T.C.H.: Spider Stampede by Ali Sparkes. Illustrated by Ross Collins. *Darby Creek Publishing*. Josh and Danny Phillips are twins who have nothing in common. But when their mad scientist neighbor accidentally turns them into spiders, they'll have to learn how to work as a team.

The Truth of Me by Patricia MacLachlan. *Katherine Tegen Books*. Robbie's eccentric grandmother eats doughnuts for dinner and gets along with the woodland animals. With her wit and wisdom, Robbie comes to understand himself and his emotionally distant mother.

8 Stories for Older Readers

FOR CHILDREN AGES 9–12

Africa Is My Home: A Child of the Amistad by Monica Edinger. Illustrated by Robert Byrd. *Candlewick Press*. Margru becomes entangled in the debate surrounding the institution of slavery. A historically inspired fictional memoir that follows this kidnapped child from the west coast of Africa to New England and back again.

Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel by Diana López. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. When her mother is diagnosed with breast cancer, Erica Montenegro's world is turned upside down. A family's struggles handled with humor and sensitivity.

Better Nate Than Ever by Tim Federle. *Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers*. Thirteen-year-old Nate yearns for the bright lights of the theater. What he's got is small town Pennsylvania, where nobody understands his dream. An open casting call for a Broadway musical just might be his big break...if he can make it to the stage on time.



The Boy Who Swam with Piranhas by David Almond. Illustrated by Oliver Jeffers. *Candlewick Press*. When his ambitious (and slightly unhinged) uncle turns his home into a fish canning factory, Stanley Potts runs away to join a traveling fair and discovers his destiny.

Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan. *Dial*. Willow Chance is a 12-year-old genius who loves her gardens, diagnosing medical conditions, and counting by 7s. When Willow is orphaned, she's set adrift in a world of events that she doesn't completely understand.

9

Doll Bones by Holly Black. *Margaret K. McElderry Books*. A creepy china doll, a quest to lay its ghost to rest, and three friends on the verge of growing up go on their last childhood adventure together.

A Girl Called Problem by Katie Quirk. *Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*. In this 1967 Tanzanian mystery, 13-year-old Shida's village votes to join a larger community. When somebody starts sabotaging their new home, Shida must discover who's behind the mayhem.

Handbook for Dragon Slayers by Merrie Haskell. *HarperCollins*. Tilda never imagined herself as the adventurous type. But when an ambitious cousin tries to imprison her, she escapes with her friends on a quest that will show that this reluctant princess has mettle.

How to Catch a Bogle by Catherine Jinks. *HMH Books for Young Readers*. What dark things lurk in the shadows of Victorian London? It's all in a day's work for young Birdie, who draws out monsters for her master to kill. But not all monsters are supernatural, and when children start going missing, Birdie must put a stop to it.

Lockwood & Co.: The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud.

Hyperion. When the dead haunt the living in ghost-laden England, call on Lockwood & Co.! Lucy Carlyle is the newest member of the young group of spooky spirit hunters, but the trio is about to embark on its most hair-raising case ever!

One Came Home by Amy Timberlake. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Everyone thinks Georgie's sister Agatha is dead except Georgie. But when she heads out into the 1871 wilderness of Wisconsin with her trusty gun, she discovers that the truth may turn out to be a whole lot more complicated than she ever dreamed.

The Other Side of Free by Krista Russell. *Peachtree Publishers*. Before slaves escaped north, they escaped south to Florida. It's 1739 and 13-year-old Jem wants to fight for the Spanish king. But when the fighting comes to him, it's nothing at all like what he expected.

Platypus Police Squad: The Frog Who Croaked by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. *Walden Pond Press*. Something's rotten in Kalamazoo City, and it's not just the illegal fish. Join hotshot rookie Rick Zengo on his first case as he takes on an uncommonly clever crime kingpin.

The Real Boy by Anne Ursu. *Walden Pond Press*. Eleven-year-old Oscar likes the quiet routine of working for the local magician, Master Caleb. But when a plague strikes the city and a new type of magic affects the island, Oscar's world shatters. Now one small boy may hold the answers to saving the city.

Salt: A Story of Friendship in a Time of War

by Helen Frost. *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*.

Two boys (Anikwa, a member of the Miami tribe, and James, a trader's son) are friends living near the border of the American and British territories. On the eve of the War of 1812 their worlds are about to clash—and things will never be the same.

Serafina's Promise by Ann E. Burg.

Scholastic Press. A young girl in rural Haiti dreams of becoming a doctor. But can she overcome extreme poverty and a devastating earthquake to make that dream come true?



Sky Jumpers by Peggy Eddleman. *Random House Books for Young Readers*. In the post–World War III settlement of White Rock, invention is a way of life. Yet for Hope Torielli, even her best ideas go wrong. When bandits invade, Hope must save her community and discover where her true talents lie.

The Spotted Dog Last Seen by Jessica Scott Kerrin. *Groundwood Books*. Stuck on cemetery duty for community service, Derek Knowles-Collier never expected to be tracking down clues scrawled in the margins of mystery novels. As he makes new discoveries, will he be able to put his own haunted memories to rest?

Strike Three, You're Dead by Josh Berk. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Twelve-year-old Lenny's chance to be a real baseball announcer goes off the rails when a major league pitcher drops dead on the mound. Is it just a coincidence—or is it murder?

The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp by Kathi Appelt. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. Raccoon brothers Bingo and J'miah are facing a heap o' trouble. It's up to them to wake up the mythical Sugar Man and save the swamp from wild hogs and gator wrestling arenas. The problem? No one knows where he is.

11

The Water Castle by Megan Frazer Blakemore. *Walker Books for Young Readers*. What mysteries will Ephraim, Mallory, and Will uncover at the Appledores' ancestral home? Hidden tunnels, covert experiments, and old feuds await when they unravel the secrets of the past.

Wild Boy by Rob Lloyd Jones. *Candlewick Press*. He might be part of a Victorian freak show, but he has a deductive mind worthy of Sherlock Holmes. When Wild Boy is framed for a brutal murder, he must put all his sleuthing skills to the test to clear his name and uncover the real killer.

Will in Scarlet by Matthew Cody. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Will escapes from the Manor after the murder of his uncle, and his life is irrevocably changed. When he's captured by outlaws in nearby Sherwood Forest, can he enlist their aid in his quest for revenge?

Written in Stone by Rosanne Parry. *Random House Books for Young Readers*. After her parents die, Pearl struggles to survive and learn more about her Northwest Coastal Makah heritage. When a supposed "art collector" from New York arrives with a devastating agenda, Pearl must find a way to protect the best interests of her tribe.

The Year of Billy Miller by Kevin Henkes. *Greenwillow Books*. How hard can second grade be? Four heartwarming vignettes illustrate the challenges and surprises of Billy's school year, from diorama drama to writing poetry in honor of his mother.

Graphic Books

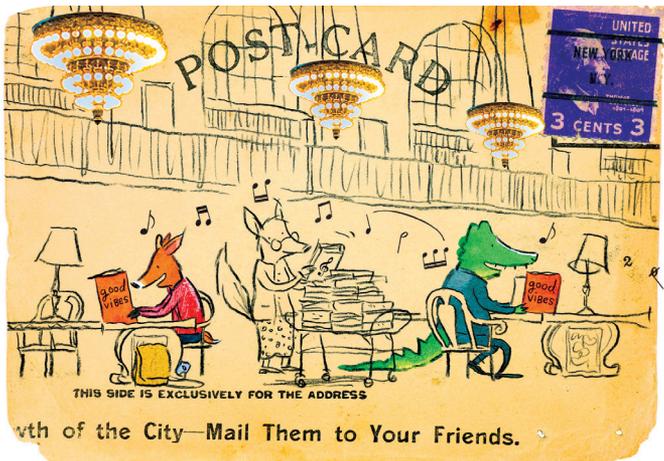
Bluffton by Matt Phelan. *Candlewick Press*. When his town becomes the summer retreat for a troupe of vaudevillians, a young boy befriends 12-year-old Buster Keaton, who will one day become a legendary silent film star.

Fairy Tale Comics: Classic Tales Told by Extraordinary Cartoonists edited by Chris Duffy. *First Second*. Graphic artists such as Charise Mericle Harper, Brett Helquist, and Raina Telgemeier inventively reimagine such classics as *Snow White*, *Puss in Boots*, and more.

Hilda and the Bird Parade by Luke Pearson. *Flying Eye Books*. A country girl moves to the big city and meets a magical creature while trying to find her way back to her new home. Gorgeous autumnal hues and panoramic streetscapes pull you into her strange new world.

12

Jane, the Fox & Me by Fanny Britt. Illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault. *Groundwood Books*. The drab world of sad, bullied H el ene takes on fresh life and color thanks to a friendly, bright red fox and *Jane Eyre*. Colors added to black-and-white ink-wash illustrations reflect H el ene's rising confidence.



Monster on the Hill by Rob Harrell. *Top Shelf Productions*. The only thing worse than living in Stover-on-Avon is being Rayburn, the depressed creature responsible for terrorizing it. With the help of a disgraced scientist, a plucky newsboy, and a “successful” behemoth, Rayburn sets out to be the best worst monster he can possibly be.

Nathan Hale’s Hazardous Tales: Donner Dinner Party by Nathan Hale. *Harry N. Abrams*. Come for the cannibalism, stay for the individual stories and relentless, ridiculous bad luck. Savor this delicious adventure, based on a true story, peppered with juicy details and slapstick wit.

The Silver Six by A. J. Lieberman. Illustrated by Darren Rawlings. *Graphix*. A group of seemingly unconnected orphans sets out to fight an evil interplanetary corporation in this story filled with twists, turns, and clues galore.

Star Wars: Jedi Academy by Jeffrey Brown. *Scholastic, Inc.* Young Roan Novachez is starting school, where he learns to expect the unexpected. Read this book, you must. Become a Jedi, you will.

Nonfiction

13

The Boy on the Wooden Box: How the Impossible Became Possible... on Schindler’s List by Leon Leyson. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. The youngest Holocaust survivor on Oskar Schindler’s famous list tells his story at last—bringing a child’s perspective to the Nazi occupation of Kraków and the remarkable courage needed to live through those horrifying times.

The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdős by Deborah Heiligman. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. *Roaring Brook Press*. Awkward outsider Paul Erdős became one of the most influential mathematicians of his time. Complex illustrations show us the world as Paul saw it—with math everywhere!

Breakfast on Mars and 37 Other Delectable Essays edited by Rebecca Stern and Brad Wolfe. *Roaring Brook Press*. Some of your favorite authors take on the dreaded essay assignment. Once you read about time travel, video games, and the afterlife, you’ll never fear this onerous task again.

Brick by Brick by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. *Amistad*. Did you know that slaves helped build the White House? This poignant, visually compelling work told in verse chronicles what went into constructing one of the most famous buildings in the world, piece by piece...brick by brick.

The Case of the Vanishing Honeybees: A Scientific Mystery

by Sandra Markle. *Millbrook Press*. Without honeybees, we would be eating only oats, rice, and corn. Now bees are disappearing in large numbers each year. Investigate why.

Courage Has No Color, The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers by Tanya Lee Stone. *Candlewick Press*. An expertly researched and deftly written account of soldiers who fought for their country in spite of segregation on the home front and among their ranks.

Daredevil: The Daring Life of Betty Skelton by Meghan McCarthy. *Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books*. If it could go fast, Betty June Skelton was there. Meet one woman who never said no to adventure.

14

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin. Illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin. *Readers to Eaters*. No space? No problem. Poor soil? We'll find a solution. A former basketball star turns an empty lot into a garden—and doesn't stop there.

Frog Song by Brenda Z. Guiberson. Illustrated by Gennady Spirin. *Henry Holt and Co*. Gorgeously detailed, color-saturated illustrations bring to life all kinds of frog species, from the scarlet-sided pobblebonk to others that carry babies in their mouths.

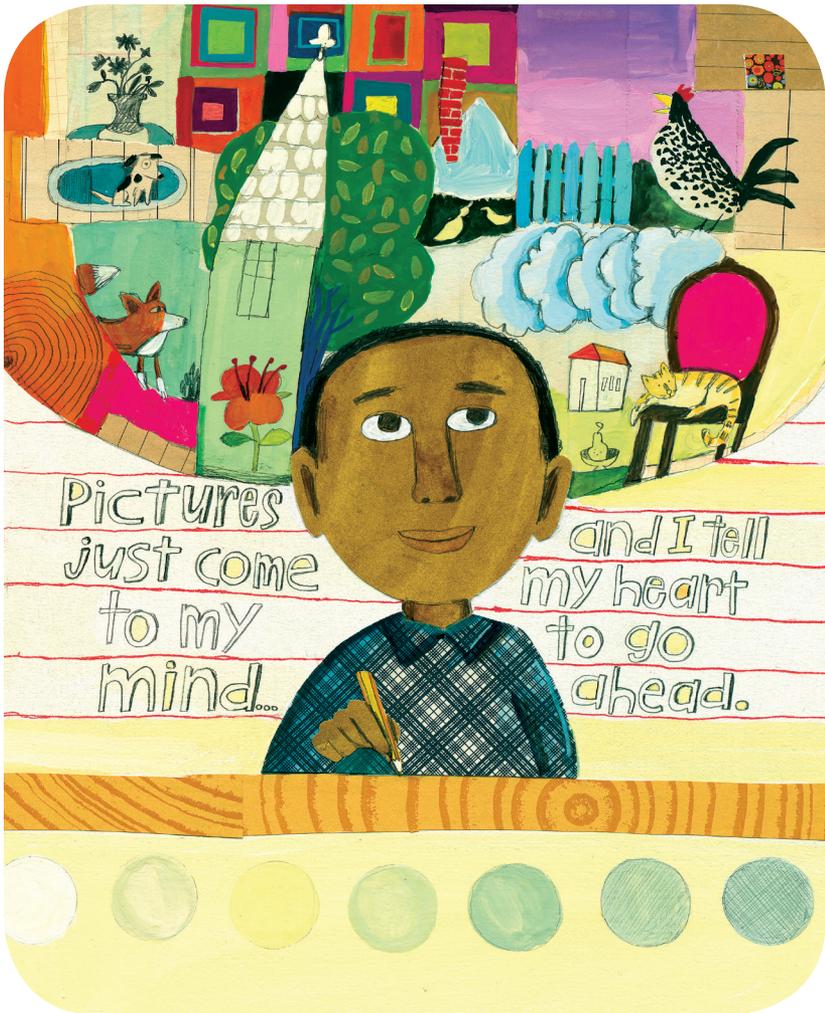
How Big Were Dinosaurs? by Lita Judge. *Roaring Brook Press*. They were really small—and really big! And superstar T. rex wasn't even the biggest. How would dinosaurs stack up to the animals of today?

Ick! Yuck! Eew!: Our Gross American History by Lois Miner Huey. *Millbrook Press*. Take a trip to colonial America but make sure you pack soap, toilet paper, a toothbrush, and hand sanitizer. Life was smelly, dirty, and buggy!

Locomotive by Brian Floca. *Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books*. A family travels along the steel rails of the newly opened transcontinental railroad. Hear the sounds, see the sights, and take an amazing journey over mountains, through plains, and finally to the sea.

Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song by Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illustrated by Brian Pinkney. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Spoken-word-style prose evokes the lives of these two greats. From their childhoods to the historic March on Washington, Pinkney's art conveys the feeling of the times.

Master George's People: George Washington, His Slaves, and His Revolutionary Transformation by Marfe Ferguson Delano. *National Geographic Children's Books*. Photos of modern reenactors enliven another side of America's first president in this account of George Washington's change from slave owner to abolitionist sympathizer.



Miracle Mud: Lena Blackburne and the Secret Mud That Changed

Baseball by David A. Kelly. Illustrated by Oliver Dominguez. *Millbrook Press*. “What’s the secret to the perfect baseball? You just need a little mud...”

On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein by Jennifer Berne.

Illustrated by Vladimir Radunsky. *Chronicle Books*. Young Albert Einstein didn’t talk until he was three, but the gift of a compass taught him to question everything. Find out how he grew up to become an internationally celebrated scientist!

Pluto’s Secret: An Icy World’s Tale of Discovery by Margaret

Weitekamp and David DeVorkin. Illustrated by Diane Kidd. *Abrams Books for Young Readers*. Once a planet, always a planet? Maybe not. Just ask Pluto.

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant.

Illustrated by Melissa Sweet. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. African-American artist Horace Pippin became a full-time painter after he was injured in World War I. A colorful account of Pippin’s life and work.



To Dare Mighty Things: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt by Doreen Rappaport. Illustrated by C.F. Payne. *Hyperion*. A small, sickly boy grows up to become a visionary president who approached all things with energy, enthusiasm and an eye toward benefiting all.

The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever by H. Joseph Hopkins. Illustrated by Jill McElmurry. *Beach Lane Books*. Follow science teacher Kate Sessions on her search for plants that would prosper in San Diego's harsh desert climate.

Volcano Rising by Elizabeth Rusch. Illustrated by Susan Swan. *Charlesbridge*. Mixed-media art captures the explosive power of a volcano as it creates underwater mountains and newly fertile islands.

Wild Animal Neighbors: Sharing Our Urban World by Ann Downer. *Twenty-First Century Books*. Flying foxes in the park? A coyote in a sandwich shop? Find out what happens when nature's creatures decide to adapt to city life.

Acknowledgments

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