

* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

FICTION

Adventure and Mystery



Because Amelia Smiled

written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4169-6
How does one little girl affect the world? This celebration of our human connection is decorated by pencil, water soluble crayon, and watercolor illustrations. (4-8)



Every Cowgirl Loves a Rodeo

by Rebecca Janni, illustrated by Lynne Avril
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3734-1
Will Nellie Sue beat the Bicycle Rodeo King and win the blue ribbon? Watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

The Giant Seed

written and illustrated by Arthur Geisert
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-115-5
Detailed colored pen and ink drawings tell the tale of a volcano that erupts after pigs plant a giant seed. A wordless story. (5-7)



Giants Beware!

by Jorge Aguirre, illustrated by Rafael Rosado,
(First Second/Macmillan, \$14.99) 978-1-59643-582-7
Young Claudette, her timid brother, and a ladylike friend hunt down a giant. A full-color graphic novel. (7-10)

Pumpkin Countdown

by Joan Holub, illustrated by Jan Smith
(Albert Whitman, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-6660-2
A numerical countdown of a class trip celebrates diversity of pumpkins and people. Brightly colored illustrations enliven the experience. (5-9)

Royal Princess Academy: Dragon Dreams

by Laura Joy Rennert, illustrated by Melanie Florian
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3750-1
With the support of her best friend, Rapunzel, Emma finds her way as a princess who likes action. Gentle black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)

There's a Fly Guy in My Soup

written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold
(Cartwheel/Scholastic, \$6.99) 978-0-545-31284-4
What happens when a boy's hungry pet fly must fend for himself while the family eats at a fancy restaurant? Droll cartoon illustrations. (5-8)

Traction Man and the Beach Odyssey

written and illustrated by Mini Grey
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86952-5
Traction Man is back! This time he is joined by unexpected silk-scarf-clad heroines who share the adventure. Detailed, bold illustrations. (4-7)

Bear Despair

written and illustrated by Gaëtan Dorémus
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-125-4
Colorful cross-hatched line illustrations tell the wordless story of Bear, who gobbles up a series of thieves who stole his teddy bear. (4-8)

Animals (Fiction)

***Bear Has a Story to Tell**

by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Erin E. Stead
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-59643-745-6
Bear bids farewell to his animal friends as they prepare for winter. Soft, impressionistic illustrations. (4-7)

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Animals (Fiction), continued**Charlie and the Christmas Kitty**

by Ree Drummond, illustrated by Diane deGroat
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-199657-3
Charlie is an established ranch dog; a soft, furry new Christmas gift takes him some getting used to. Playful watercolor and digital art. (5-9)

Dog in Charge

by K. L. Going, illustrated by Dan Santat
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3479-1
Can this "good, smart, very best dog" control five mischievous cats? Beautifully illustrated. (5-7)

Homer

written and illustrated by Elisha Cooper
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-201248-7
Homer is a dog who knows what is important—his beloved family and his home. Watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-7)

It's All about Me-Ow

written and illustrated by Hudson Talbott
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99)
978-0-399-25403-1
Amusing watercolors and ink illustrations help explain how cats manage to charm their humans. (5-8)

It's Milking Time

by Phyllis Alsdurf, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
(Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86911-2
A girl works closely with her dad in the milking process from field to table. Full-page illustrations. (4-8)

Mossy

written and illustrated by Jan Brett
(Putnam/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-25782-7
A turtle with a garden growing on her shell is caught and put in a nature museum. Realizing that she is sad, Tory arranges for her to go back to her Lilypad Pond. Watercolor and gouache illustrations. (6-9)

Obi, Gerbil on a Mission

written and illustrated by M. C. Delaney
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3727-3
Jealous when Kenobi, a puppy, joins the household, Obi tricks him into leaving the house alone. But when Kenobi gets lost, a guilt-stricken Obi sets out to find him. Black-and-white cartoonlike illustrations. (7-9)

Oh, No!

by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Eric Rohmann
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-84271-9
After some animals fall down a hole, a tiger thinks he will have a tasty feast—but will he? Lovely whimsical relief prints. (5-7)

Seababy: A Little Otter Returns Home

by Ellen Levine, illustrated by Jon Van Zyle
(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-0-8027-9808-4
A baby otter gets separated from its mother in a storm but is rescued and adopted by a human and a new sea otter mother. Appealing colorful acrylics. (5-8)

Too Tall Houses

written and illustrated by Gianna Marino
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01314-2
Friendship quickly turns to competition between friends when Rabbit's garden blocks out Owl's view. Expressive gouache and pencil illustrations. (5-7)

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Beginning Readers**Annie and Snowball and the Surprise Day**

by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Suçie Stevenson (Simon Spotlight/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-3944-3
Dad takes Annie and her pet bunny on a road trip that is filled with fun and adventure. Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

Butterfly Garden (Robin Hill School series)

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Mike Gordon (Simon Spotlight/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-3643-5
Mrs. Connor's first graders watch as caterpillars slowly emerge as butterflies. Lively illustrations and clear text explain the transformation. (5-7)

Carl and the Sick Puppy

written and illustrated by Alexandra Day (Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-1-250-00152-8
Daddy Dog's puppy needs someone to watch him. Carl does a good job. Bright, colorful drawings. (4-6)

**Chick & Chickie Play All Day!**

written and illustrated by Claude Ponti (Toon/Candlewick, \$12.95) 978-1-935179-14-6
In this hilarious graphic novel, two chicks have fun making masks and playing with the letter A. Vibrantly colored illustrations. (5-7)

Excuse Me, I'm Trying to Read

by Mary Jo Amani, illustrated by Lehla Eldridge (Mackinac Island Press/Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-934133-51-4
A young girl is repeatedly interrupted by the antics of wild animals. Amusing, expressive illustrations add to the fun. (5-7)

Freddie Ramos Makes a Splash! (Zapato Power series)

by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Miguel Benitez (Albert Whitman, \$14.99) 978-0-8075-9485-8
Freddie Ramos is back! This time his zapatos—a very special pair of sneakers—help him overcome the neighborhood bully and even enjoy summer camp. Black-and-white cartoonlike illustrations. (6-8)

Molly the Pony: A True Story

written and photographed by Pam Kaster (Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-1-250-00433-8
A small pony survives Hurricane Katrina and the loss of a leg to become a therapy animal. (6-9)

Pearl and Wagner: Five Days till Summer

by Kate McMullan, illustrated by R. W. Alley (Penguin Young Readers, \$14.99) 978-0-8037-3589-7
As the school year ends, Pearl begins to worry about the next one—especially about her new teacher. Expressive mixed-media illustrations. (6-8)

***Penny and Her Doll**

written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-208199-5
Penny must decide on the perfect name for the new doll that her grandma sends her. Gentle illustrations in a pastel palette. (5-7)

Penny and Her Song

written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes (Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-208195-7
Penny has a new song for her parents, but they worry she will wake the babies. Will she find the right time to sing it? Exuberant pen and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

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Beginning Readers, continued**Summer Treasure (Robin Hill School series)**

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Mike Gordon (Simon Spotlight/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-3646-6
When Hannah goes to the beach, she is surprised to see her first-grade teacher lying in the sun, as if she were an ordinary person. Colorful illustrations. (5-7)

Trains!

by Susan E. Goodman, photographs by Michael J. Doolittle (Random House, P \$3.99) 978-0-375-86941-9
Photographs and straightforward text describe trains, from steam-powered to solar-powered and beyond. (6-8)

Welcome to the World, ZooBorns!

by Andrew Bleiman, photographs by Chris Eastland (Simon Spotlight/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-4376-1
Simple text and close-up photographs introduce beginning readers to a variety of baby zoo animals. (6-8)

Coming of Age**The Best Bike Ride Ever**

by James Proimos, illustrated by Johanna Wright (Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3850-8
Join Bonnie as her imagination takes her to wonderful places during her first time on a bike. Rich acrylic paintings in a pastel palette. (4-8)

Bramble and Maggie

by Jessie Haas, illustrated by Alison Friend (Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-4955-5
An early chapter book explores the relationship of a horse with attitude and a girl who figures out how to handle him. Vivid watercolor illustrations. (7-10)

Garmann's Secret

written and illustrated by Stian Hole (Eerdmans, \$12.75) 978-0-8028-5400-1
Garmann befriends Hannah's twin, Johanna, and together the friends explore the woods, learning about themselves and the world. Inventive mixed-media collages. (6-10)

**Grammy Lamby and the Secret Handshake**

by Kate Klise, illustrated by M. Sarah Klise (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9313-1
Larry the Lamb gains insights into his eccentric Grammy when a storm hits and she stays to help. Gentle acrylic illustrations convey the warmth of the family. (5-9)

Horsefly and Honeybee

written and illustrated by Randy Cecil (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9300-1
Horsefly and Honeybee fight when they first meet but soon realize that being friends is much easier. Bright oil on paper illustrations. (5-7)

John Jensen Feels Different

by Henrik Hovland, illustrated by Torill Kove (Eerdmans, \$16.00) 978-0-8028-5399-8
Why does John feel different? And if so, does it really matter? Colorful, humorous illustrations. (5-8)

Kindred Souls

by Patricia MacLachlan (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, \$14.99) 978-0-06-052297-1
This elegiac story of Grandpa's eighty-eighth summer reveals the devotion of a boy and a dog as the family rebuilds the sod house of Grandpa's youth. (7-10)

Living with Mom and Living with Dad

written and illustrated by Melanie Walsh (Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5869-4
Simple acrylics with slip boxes show life in two homes in this gentle exploration of a child's life when parents divorce. (4-6)

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Coming of Age, continued**Morgan and the Dune Racer**

by Ted Staunton, illustrated by Bill Slavin
(Formac, P \$5.95) 978-0-88780-965-1
This lively first novel deals with friendship, a quasi-bully, a favorite toy, and a birthday party. Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

**Peter Is Just a Baby**

written and illustrated by Marisabina Russo
(Eerdmans, \$16.00) 978-0-8028-5384-4
A big sister is impatient for her baby brother to grow and pirouette with her. Gouache illustrations of bear characters in action. (4-8)

Sadie and Ratz

by Sonya Hartnett, illustrated by Ann James
(Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-5315-6
Hannah's hands, Sadie and Ratz, help her deal with her frustrations as an older sister. Engaging charcoal illustrations. (5-8)

**The Scariest Thing of All**

written and illustrated by Debi Gliori
(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-0-8027-2391-8
Pip, the smallest rabbit, has a long, long list of things that scare her. When he has to confront a big fear, he learns a bigger lesson. Watercolor and ink illustrations. (4-7)

A Song For My Sister

by Lesley Simpson, illustrated by Tatjana Mai-Wyss
(Random House, \$16.99) 978-1-58246-427-5
Waaaa! seems to be the only sound Mira's new baby sister can make, until a sister song reaches her ears. Lovely illustrations support the lyrical language. (5-9)

**Tallulah's Solo**

by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-33004-4
Tallulah's little brother follows in her footsteps and takes ballet. Will she still get a starring role in the recital? Creative, humorous watercolor illustrations. (5-9)

Third Grade Angels

by Jerry Spinelli, illustrated by Jennifer A. Bell
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$15.99)
978-0-545-38772-9
Suds explores not just what it means to be good but also why it matters. Textured black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)

Toppling

by Sally Murphy, illustrated by Rhian Nest James
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5921-9
The world of John and the other fifth graders is upended when a friend contracts cancer. Evocative pen and watercolor illustrations. (6-9)

**The Unruly Queen**

written and illustrated by E. S. Redmond
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3445-2
The fifty-third Nanny in fifty-three weeks works magic with the mischievous Minerva. Witty verse and watercolors. (5-8)

The Velveteen Rabbit

retold and Illustrated by Komako Sakai, translated from the Japanese by Yuki Kanekoby, based on the story by Margery Williams
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-128-5
Being loved makes the Velveteen Rabbit real, warm, and beautiful. The illustrations bring to life the retelling of this classic book. (6-10)

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Fantasy**Ballerina Swan**

by Allegra Kent, illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2373-6
Sophie the swan is serious about ballet class, but will she be cast in Swan Lake? Watercolors accurately portray the world of aspiring dancers. (5-8)

Dinosaur Pet

Lyrics by Marc Sedaka, performed by Neil Sedaka, illustrated by Tim Bowers (Imagine/Charlesbridge, \$17.95) 978-1-936140-36-7
Amusing, lively illustrations support the witty lyrics about a boy and his unusual pet. CD includes two additional songs. (5-8)

East Dragon, West Dragon

by Robyn Eversole, illustrated by Scott Campbell (Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-0-689-85828-4
Two dragons live on opposite sides of the world until an old map and a king and his knights bring them together. Detailed watercolors. (4-7)

Extra Yarn

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-195338-5
Annabelle transforms her town with her knitted gifts and her generosity. Mixed-media sepia-toned illustrations become multicolored with the addition of Annabelle's yarn. (5-8)

***King Arthur's Very Great Grandson**

written and illustrated by Kenneth Kraegel (Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5311-8
Young Henry seeks a battle, a "test of might and courage" versus four terrible monsters. Could friendship ensue? Humorous watercolor and ink illustrations. (5-9)

The Land of Neverbelieve

written and illustrated by Norman Messenger (Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-6021-5
Take a guided tour of a wondrous, magical island inhabited by strange trees, creatures, houses, and people. Lush vibrant illustrations. (6-9)

Magritte's Marvelous Hat

written and illustrated by D. B. Johnson (Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-55864-6
In this homage to the surrealist painter, the creativity of a dog who paints flourishes after he acquires a special hat. Mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

Randy Riley's Really Big Hit

written and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen (Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4946-3
Randy usually strikes out, but when a meteor threatens his town, he hits a very important home run. Rhyming text and gouache illustrations. (5-7)

Vivaldi and the Invisible Orchestra

written and illustrated by Stephen Costanza (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-7801-5
Soft, flowing pastel pictures help tell this story of Vivaldi's work with the orphans of Venice, including Young Candida, who copies his music for each player and adds her own daydreams. (6-9)

Folklore and Fairy Tales**The Cloud Spinner**

by Michael Catchpool, illustrated by Alison Jay (Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-87011-8
A cloud-spinning lad is intimidated by a greedy king who upsets his country's ecology. Alkyd paint and crackle varnish illustrations. (6-8)

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Folklore and Fairy Tales, continued**Fox Tails: Four Fables from Aesop**

written and illustrated by Amy Lowry
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2400-9
A single narrative follows Fox through a busy day of tricking and being tricked. Gouache and pencil drawings. Author's note with the morals. (5-8)

Hans My Hedgehog: A Tale From the Brothers Grimm

retold by Kate Coombs, illustrated by John Nickle
(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-1533-1
Lonely Hans—half boy, half hedgehog—finds happiness through a magical fiddle and the love of a true-hearted princess. Vivid acrylic illustrations evoke old-fashioned fairy tales. (6-9)

A Hen for Izzy Pippik

by Aubrey Davis, illustrated by Marie Lafrance
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-243-8
Shaina stands up to her townsfolk and protects Izzy Pippik's beautiful lost hen until Izzy can return for her—but will he? Gentle, humorous illustrations. (4-8)

**Hit the Road, Jack**

by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Ross MacDonald
(Abrams, \$17.95) 978-1-4197-0399-7
Rhythmic text takes us along on a journey across America in the spirit of Jack Kerouac. Watercolor and pencil crayon illustrations. (4-8)

**Jack and the Baked Beanstalk**

written and illustrated by Colin Stimpson
(Templar/Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5563-1
This twist on the classic tale includes a kind giant and a look at progress. Stimpson's experience as an animator adds to the digital illustrations. (6-12)

No Bears

by Meg McKinlay, illustrated by Leila Rudge
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5890-8
A princess is in danger because of a cameo appearance by a bear. Playful digital illustrations. (5-9)

***Puss in Boots**

written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
(Dial/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-1642-1
Magnificent watercolor illustrations accompany this engaging folk tale of a quite clever and loyal cat. (5-7)

Snow Dance

as told by James and Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by Jeff Newman
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3270-4
In this Iroquois tale, Rabbit insists on doing his snow dance, even though it is summer and the other animals warn him not to. Watercolor, gouache, and ink drawings. (5-8)

The Tooth Mouse

by Susan Hood, illustrated by Janice Nadeau
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-565-1
Is Sophie brave, honest, and wise enough to become the new Tooth Mouse, who brings French children money for their baby teeth? Pencil and watercolor illustrations. (5-9)

The Wooden Sword

by Ann Redisch Stampler, illustrated by Carol Liddiment
(Albert Whitman, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-9201-4
Can an Afghani shah shake the faith of a poor Jewish shoemaker who meets all his challenges with optimism? Expressive, richly colored illustrations. (6-9)

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Historical Fiction**Baby Flo**

by Alan Schroeder, illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-410-2
The spunk and talent of Florence Mills, an early 20th century black entertainer, is expressed in vibrant text and watercolors. Author's note included. (6-9)

Ellen's Broom

by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Daniel Minter
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$16.99)
978-0-399-25003-3
Discovering the history behind a family broom inspires Ellen to celebrate the past and create a new tradition. Linoleum block print illustrations. (6-10)

Flood Warning

by Jacqueline Pearce, illustrated by Leanne Franson
(Orca, P \$6.95) 978-1-4598-0068-7
In Canada in 1948 when the Fraser River floods his community, Tom acts with ingenuity to rescue his family's cows. Expressive pencil and watercolor illustrations. (7-9)

**The Forgiveness Garden**

by Lauren Thompson, illustrated by Christy Hale
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-312-62599-3
A girl refuses to get revenge after being hurt by an enemy villager and wants to make a forgiveness garden instead. Soft mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

**Heroes of the Surf**

by Elisa Carbone, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-06312-3
Sailing on the Pliny in 1882, two young boys make friends and experience a dramatic sea rescue. Based on a true story. Textured illustrations that capture details of the era. (7-10)

Laundry Day

written and illustrated by Maurie J. Manning
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-24196-8
An immigrant shoeshine boy seeks the owner of a brilliant red cloth. Digital pencil, watercolor, and pastel illustrations. (6-9)

Molly, by Golly!: The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter

by Dianne Ochiltree, illustrated by Kathleen Kemly
(Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills, \$16.95)
978-1-59078-721-2
In the early 1800s, Molly Williams joins a crew of firefighters in this remarkable adventure. Watercolor illustrations. Rich back matter. (6-10)

The Secret Chicken Society

by Judy Cox, illustrated by Amanda Haley
(Holiday House, \$15.95) 978-0-8234-2372-9
When Daniel's family takes on the five "hens" his third grade class raised, they all learn a lot about the trouble involved in caring for chickens. Amusing black-and-white illustrations. (7-10)

**The Secret of the Village Fool**

by Rebecca Upjohn, illustrated by Renne Benoit
(Second Story, \$18.95) 978-1-926920-75-7
The children of a Polish Jewish family who survived World War II tell the story of how they were saved—and who saved them. Historical photos and warm illustrations. (7-9)

***When Grandmama Sings**

by Margaree King Mitchell, illustrated by James E. Ransome
(Amistad/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-688-17563-4
An eight-year-old African American girl accompanies her grandmother on a singing tour in the segregated South. Realistic watercolors capture the feeling of the era. (5-8)

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Humor**Bad Kitty for President**

written and illustrated by Nick Bruel
(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$13.99)
978-1-59643-669-5
It's time to choose a new president of the neighborhood Cat Club. Bad Kitty runs for the office and learns about the electoral process. Comical black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)

Bailey at the Museum

written and illustrated by Harry Bliss
(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-23345-3
On the class trip, Bailey experiences adventure, surprises, and challenges and makes a new friend. Colorful cartoon illustrations. (7-10)

Betty Bunny Wants Everything

by Michael B. Kaplan, illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3408-1
Betty's parents say she can only choose only one thing at the toy store. What will she do? Colorful, humorous mixed-media drawings. (4-7)

Big Mean Mike

by Michelle Knudsen, illustrated by Scott Magoon
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4990-6
He's big. He's tough. But a group of fluffy bunnies help us see another side of him. Expressive digital illustrations. (4-8)

**Bink & Gollie: Two for One**

by Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee; illustrated by Tony Fucile
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-3361-5
At the state fair, two girls display their friendship during their trying but humorous adventures. Energetic illustrations. (6-8)

C. R. Mudgeon

by Leslie Muir, illustrated by Julian Hector
(Simon & Schuster, \$15.99) 978-1-4169-7906-7
Will the grumpy hedgehog ever adapt to the sights, smells, and noise of his new adventurous squirrel neighbor? Colorful watercolor and charcoal illustrations. (4-7)

Can I Bring Woolly to the Library, Ms. Reeder?

by Lois G. Grambling, illustrated by Judy Love
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-281-0
Would a woolly mammoth make a good library helper—or be a disaster? You'd be surprised! Colorful, humorously detailed illustrations. (6-8)

• **Captain Awesome (series)****Captain Awesome and the New Kid****Captain Awesome to the Rescue****Captain Awesome vs. Nacho Cheese Man**

by Stan Kirby, illustrated by George O'Connor
(Little Simon/S&S, \$14.99) 978-1-4424-4200-0; 978-1-4424-4090-6; 978-1-4424-4091-3
Eugene isn't a second grader at a new school—he's Captain Awesome! Early chapter books with cartoonlike illustrations. (6-9)

The Chandeliers

written and illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch
(FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-374-39898-9
Clever, humorous illustrations detail the antics of a stage family of giraffes whose youngest member, Rufus, helps the show go on. (5-7)

Ellray Jakes Walks the Plank

by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper
(Viking/Penguin, \$14.99) 978-0-670-06306-2
Third-grader Ellray becomes known as the kid who messes up, until a knowing teacher challenges that reputation. Black-and-white illustrations. (7-10)

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Humor, continued**Florentine and Pig**

by Eva Katzler, illustrated by Jess Mikhail
(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-847-2
Uh oh! Florentine planned a picnic, but Pig ate the last apple. Will they be able to have the outing anyway? Pig bravely saves the day. Action-supporting art in mixed media. (5-8)

Goldilocks and Just One Bear

written and illustrated by Leigh Hodgkinson
(Nosy Crow/Candlewick, \$15.99)
978-0-7636-6172-4
A bear gets lost in a noisy city and goes into Snooty Towers. Up on the seventeenth floor, he finds porridge to eat, a bed for a nap—and lots of surprises. Mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs

written and illustrated by Mo Willems
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-210418-2
Three hungry dinosaurs set a chocolate pudding trap for an impetuous little girl in this rollicking takeoff. Bold cartoonlike illustrations. (7-10)

***The Hero of Little Street**

written and illustrated by Gregory Rogers
(Neal Porter/Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-1-59643-729-6
An irrepressible little boy tries to hide in London's National Gallery, slipping into a Vermeer painting. Will he escape a fearsome gang? A wordless book with inventive graphic art. (5-8)

Hoey Higgins and the Shark

by Steve Voake, illustrated by Emma Dodson
(Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-5782-6
Three boys set out to catch a shark, hoping to raise funds for a massive chocolate egg. Playful illustrations. (6-10)

Hubble Bubble Granny Trouble

by Tracey Corderoy, illustrated by Joe Berger
(Nosy Crow/Candlewick, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-5904-2
When a young girl tries to change her eccentric grandmother she realizes that being normal isn't for everyone. Lively illustrations in a purple palette. (6-8)

I Need My Own Country!

by Rick Walton, illustrated by Wes Hargis
(Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-1-59990-559-4
A girl plagued by her younger brother explains the best way to declare independence. Sly text and humorous energetic illustrations. (6-8)

Jasper John Dooley: Star of the Week

by Caroline Adderson, illustrated by Ben Clanton
(Kids Can Press, \$15.95) 978-1-55453-578-1
When his classmates are more interested in a new friend's baby sibling than in Jasper's lint collection, he is afraid that his week as class star will not be all he hoped. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

Just Grace and the Flower Girl Power (Just Grace series)

written and illustrated by Charise Mericle Harper
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$15.99)
978-0-547-57720-3
Although Grace is not asked to be her dear neighbor Augustine Dupre's flower girl, Grace still enlists her friends to pull off a sweet wedding surprise. Cartoonlike black-and-white illustrations. (7-10)

Larf

written and illustrated by Ashley Spires
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-701-3
A seven-foot hairy vegetarian Sasquatch sets out to discover if others of his kind exist, with surprising results. Humorous ecofriendly mixed-media illustrations. (6-8)

* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

Humor, continued**Lawn Mower Magic**

by Lynne Jonell, illustrated by Brandon Dorman (Random House, \$12.99) 978-0-375-86661-6
Money is tight and Dad can't fix the the power motor. Then magic touches the Willow family and the unexpected happens. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

The Leprechaun under the Bed

by Teresa Bateman, illustrated by Paul Meisel (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2221-0
An enterprising leprechaun, Brian O'Shea, makes friends with the interloper who builds a cottage over his home. Humorous acrylic and watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

Lester's Dreadful Sweaters

written and illustrated by K. G. Campbell (Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-770-9
Lester's strange Cousin Clara appears out of nowhere and knits 24/7, producing horrifying sweaters that he must wear. Amusing colored crayon drawings. (6-8)

Look...Look Again

written and illustrated by John O'Brien (Boyd's Mills, \$18.95) 978-1-59078-894-3
Expect the unexpected in this witty cartoon collection, which turns familiar predictable situations involving farmers, knights, clowns, and others into brain-teasing surprises. Detailed illustrations. (7-10)

Lulu and the Duck in the Park

by Hilary McKay, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont (Albert Whitman, \$13.99) 978-0-8075-4808-0
Lulu, who is "famous for animals," rescues a duck egg and sneaks it into Class Three. Warm black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)

Lulu Walks the Dogs

by Judith Viorst, illustrated by Lane Smith (Atheneum/S&S, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-7579-7
Bad-tempered Lulu resists helpful Fleischman's assistance with her job walking three dogs, until she realizes her business venture will not succeed without him. Stylized black-and-white pencil illustrations. (6-10)

The New Sweater (The Hueys series)

written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel/Penguin, \$10.99) 978-0-399-25767-4
The Hueys all look the same, think the same, and act the same—until one day Rupert does something different. Humorous illustrations. (6-8)

The No-Dogs-Allowed Rule

by Kashmira Sheth, illustrated by Carl Pearce (Albert Whitman, \$14.99) 978-0-8075-5694-8
Ishan and his brother Sunil want a puppy, but their efforts to convince their mother result in one mess after another. Includes a few words of Hindi and a taste of Indian foods. Illustrated with pencil drawings. (6-8)

The Obstinate Pen

written and illustrated by Frank W. Dormer (Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9295-0
What happens when a pen has a mind of its own? Humorous watercolors depict its journey to its rightful owner. (5-7)

**The Other Side of Town**

written and illustrated by Jon Agee (Michael di Capua/Scholastic, \$17.95) 978-0-545-16204-3
A taxi driver in New York City picks up an unusual fare, which leads to a strange adventure. Word play and puns abound. Cartoonlike illustrations. (5-7)

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Humor, continued**Sophie's Fish**

by A. E. Cannon, illustrated by Lee White
(Viking/Penguin, \$15.99) 978-0-670-01291-6
Jake agrees to babysit for his classmate's fish for a weekend. Then he panics. Humorous illustrations. (5-7)

Squid and Octopus: Friends for Always

written and illustrated by Tao Nyeu
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3565-1
Two best friends have silly adventures together. Clever illustrations. (4-7)

Stuey Lewis against All Odds: Stories from the Third Grade

by Jane Schoenberg, illustrated by Cambria Evans
(Margaret Ferguson/FSG, \$15.99)
978-0-374-39901-6
From outer space to the class pet show, resourceful, imaginative Stuey has lots of adventures. Black-and-white illustrations add to the fun. (7-9)

What Will You Be, Grandma?

by Nanette Newman, illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6099-4
Lily's imaginative suggestions about what occupations Grandmother might pursue when she grows up elicit playful responses. Delicately detailed watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-7)

***Wolf Won't Bite!**

written and illustrated by Emily Gravett
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99)
978-1-4424-2763-1
Three pigs capture a wild wolf for their circus. Simple, repetitive language and slyly expressive watercolor and oil-based pencil illustrations. (5-8)

Working Mummies

by Joan Horton, illustrated by Drazen Kozjan
(FSG/Macmillan, \$12.99) 978-0-374-38524-8
Puns abound in this rhyming verse about mothers in various occupations. Scary but funny neon-bright artwork. (5-8)

Today**Amber Brown Is Tickled Pink**

by Bruce Coville and Elizabeth Levy, based on the character created by Paula Danziger, illustrated by Tony Ross
(Putnam/Penguin, \$14.99) 978-0-399-25656-1
Nine-year-old Amber can't wait for her mother to marry Max, but money problems mean no wedding reception. And will her dad stop acting so snarky? Black-and-white illustrations. (7-11)

Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic

by Ginnie Lo, illustrated by Beth Lo
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-442-3
An extended Chinese-American family in the Midwest enjoy their new life in the United States but really miss family and foods left behind. Cheery illustrations painted on ceramic plates. (6-9)

**Ava and the Real Lucille**

by Cari Best, illustrated by Madeline Valentine
(Margaret Ferguson Books/FSG/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-374-39903-0
Two sisters write a poem to win a dog. But what if the prize pet is a bird? Soft, detailed illustrations. (4-8)

B is for Brooklyn

written and illustrated by Selina Alko
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9213-4
Take a visual tour of the treasures of Brooklyn, past and present. Vibrant gouache and collage illustrations. (5-8)

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Today, continued**Because Your Mommy Loves You**

by Andrew Clements, illustrated by R. W. Alley
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-25522-4
One mother realizes that sometimes helping her little one means letting him find his own way. A camping journey depicted in ink, watercolor, and acrylic paint. (4-8)

A Bus Called Heaven

written and illustrated by Bob Graham
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5893-9
An abandoned bus brings new life to Stella's street as her neighbors make it a community hub. Warm watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

Calvin Coconut: Man Trip

by Graham Salisbury, illustrated by Jacqueline Rogers
(Wendy Lamb/Random House, \$12.99)
978-0-385-73964-1
An encounter with a huge marlin on a deep-sea fishing trip provides excitement and gives Calvin new respect for nature. Black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)

Crafty Chloe

by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Heather Ross
(Atheneum/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-2123-3
Chloe has an idea for the perfect birthday gift for a friend, but another classmate buys it first. Now what? Expressive, digitally colored pencil drawings. (5-8)

A Day without Sugar/Un día sin azúcar

by Diane de Anda, illustrated by Janet Montecalvo
(Piñata/Arte Público, \$17.95)
978-1-55885-702-5
To help Tito, who is at risk for diabetes, Aunt Sofia shows him and his cousin how food can be delicious without sugar. Gouache illustrations painted on textured paper. (6-8)

Duck for a Day

by Meg McKinlay, illustrated by Leila Rudge
(Candlewick, \$12.99) 978-0-7636-5784-0
When Abby carefully prepares her yard so that she can take home the class pet duck, she has unexpected adventures. Black-and-white pencil illustrations. (7-9)

***Each Kindness**

by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99)
978-0-399-24652-4
When Chloe is given some advice about how small kindnesses can make a difference, she regrets a missed opportunity for friendship. Evocative watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

Happy Like Soccer

by Marybeth Boelts, illustrated by Lauren Castillo
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-4616-5
Her auntie works on the day that Sierra's soccer games are held, but when a match is rescheduled due to rain, Sierra takes a bold step. Subdued ink and watercolor drawings. (6-9)

Held Up by Trees

by Ted Kooser, illustrated by Jon Klassen
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5107-7
Time moves on in this poetic story, as a house, once new and now abandoned, is lifted and reclaimed by nature. Delicate illustrations amplify the text. (5-9)

I Like Old Clothes

by Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Patrice Barton
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)
978-0-375-86951-8
Donning her hand-me-downs creatively, a girl muses about the lives of the past owners. Gentle rhyme. Exuberant mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

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Today, continued**Lost and Found**

by Bill Harley, illustrated by Adam Gustavson
(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-628-4
When Justin loses the hat his grandmother knitted for him, he needs to visit the lost and found—a scary idea. Expressive illustrations. (7-9)

Maggie's Chopsticks

by Alan Woo, illustrated by Isabelle Malenfant
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-619-1
Maggie's new chopsticks present a challenge until she learns that her own individual style is the most successful. Full-page watercolors. (5-7)

A Path of Stars

written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien
(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-57091-735-6
When Dara's grandmother, a Cambodian refugee and wonderful storyteller, faces a tragic loss, Dara finds a way to comfort her. Oil, watercolor, and crayon illustrations. (6-9)

**Room for the Baby**

by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by Jana Christy
(Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-87090-3
A family prepares space in the once crowded sewing room as the Jewish holidays are celebrated and a baby grows. Bright illustrations. (5-9)

**Snowman Magic**

by Katherine Tegen, illustrated by Brandon Dorman
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-201445-0
Young George has a snow day due to a big storm. When his snowman is completed, his adventures become even more exciting. Illustrations capture the realism and magic of the story. (4-8)

So You Want To Be a Rock Star

by Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Kirstie Edmunds
(Walker/Bloomsbury, \$16.99) 978-0-8027-2092-4
Calling all aspiring young rock musicians! What does it take to hit the big time? Imagination comes alive with pencil and digital painted illustrations. (5-7)

Stuck with the Blooz

by Caron Levis, illustrated by Jon Davis
(Harcourt/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-74560-2
Whimsical illustrations and spare, thought-provoking text chronicle a girl's attempt to rid herself of "the blooz." Digital painting. (5-7)

Welcome to Silver Street Farm

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Katharine McEwen
(Candlewick, \$12.99) 978-0-7636-5831-1
Can three friends turn an abandoned train station into a city farm—or will developers succeed in building a parking lot there? Expressive black-and-white illustrations. (7-9)

The Year of the Book

by Andrea Cheng, illustrated by Abigail Halpin
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$15.99)
978-0-547-68463-5
Books and crafts help Chinese-American Anna navigate the challenge of family, friends, and fourth grade. Pen and ink illustrations. (An error in the Chinese on page 43, noted by a committee member, will be corrected by the publisher in the next printing.) (7-10)

POETRY**The Arrow Finds Its Mark: A Book of Found Poems**

edited by Georgia Heard, illustrated by Antoine Guilloppé
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-59643-665-7
With words both found and created, well-known poets offer readers and writers a source of inspiration. Black-and-white illustrations. (6-12)

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POETRY, continued**Bug Off!: Creepy, Crawly Poems**

by Jane Yolen, photographs by Jason Stemple
(Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, \$16.95)

978-1-59078-862-2

Clever verse and scientific information combine in appreciation of these tiny insects. (5-8)

Every Little Thing

based on the song "Three Little Birds" by Bob Marley, adapted by Cedella Marley, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

(Chronicle, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-0697-7

This version of the popular reggae song demonstrates the value of family and friends. Fun, lively digital mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

Go, Go Grapes!: A Fruit Chant

written and photographed by April Pulley Sayre
(Beach Lane/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-3390-8
Persimmons, guavas, currants, and much more—this rhyming celebration of fruit will make your mouth water. Colorful, bright photographs. (4-8)

***I, Too, Am America**

by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Bryan Collier
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-2008-3
Expressive, mixed-media illustrations bring Langston Hughes's assertion of a hopeful future for African Americans to life. A short essay by Collier explains the Pullman porter subplot of his illustrations. (4-8)

In the Land of Milk and Honey

by Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Floyd Cooper
(Amistad/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-025383-7

A young girl and her family travel by train from Oklahoma to California in 1948. Told in rhyme and free verse. Soft, rich full-color illustrations. (6-9)

***In the Sea**

by David Elliott, illustrated by Holly Meade
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4498-7
Spare verse, rich language, and strong, colorful wood-block prints capture the essence of a variety of marine animals—from the sea horse to the shark, from the urchin to the whale. (6-9)

***Nasty Bugs**

selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Will Terry
(Dial/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3716-7
Sixteen accomplished poets zoom in humorously on beetles, mosquitos, ants, and more. Brightly colored humorous and grotesque illustrations. Additional facts included. (5-7)

***National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: 200 Poems with Photographs That Squeak, Soar, and Roar!**

edited by J. Patrick Lewis
(National Geographic, \$24.95) 978-1-4263-1009-6
A plethora of outstanding poems—old and new—are arranged thematically. Resources, writing tips, and breathtaking photographs. (7-14)

Out of This World: Poems and Facts about Space

by Amy E. Sklansky, illustrated by Stacey Schuett
(Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)
978-0-375-86459-9
Clever, simple poems about planets, stars, rockets, and more, accompanied by vivid illustrations provide an inspiring introduction to our universe. Additional information provided for those who want to explore the subject further. (7-9)

**Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek**

by Marianne Berkes, illustrated by Jill Dubin
(Dawn Publications, P \$8.95) 978-1-58469-163-1
Can the animals in the forest teach numbers? Yes, they can! Rhyming verse enhanced with cut-paper illustrations. (5-7)

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POETRY, continued

Poem Runs: Baseball Poems and Paintings

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian
(Harcourt/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-68838-1
Wit, whimsy, and wisdom bring the game of baseball to life. Imaginative gouache watercolors compliment the text. (6-10)

Take Two!: A Celebration of Twins

by J. Patrick Lewis and Jane Yolen, illustrated by Sophie Blackall
(Candlewick, \$17.99) 978-0-7636-3702-6
From womb to adulthood, a parade of 44 playful, insightful twosome poems are paired with captivating mixed-media illustrations. Information about twins included. (4-8)

UnBeelievable: Honeybee Poems and Paintings

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian
(Beach Lane/S&S, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-2652-8
Celebrate the lives of bees in delightful rhyme. Scientific information is included for each poem. Mixed-media illustrations. (7-9)

The Year Comes Round: Haiku through the Seasons

by Sid Farrar, illustrated by Ilse Plume
(Albert Whitman, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-8129-2
Delightful, warmly humorous haiku are enhanced by crisply clear watercolor illustrations. (5-9)

INFORMATION BOOKS

Activities

Create with Maisy: A Maisy First Arts-and-Crafts Book

written and illustrated by Lucy Cousins
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6122-9
Clear instructions encourage children to make attractive crafts projects. Enticing full-color illustrations. (4-7)

Funny Food: 365 Fun, Healthy, Silly, Creative Breakfasts

by Bill and Claire Wurtzel, photographed by Bill Wurtzel
(Welcome Books, \$19.95) 978-1-59962-111-1
There's a strawberry face in my oatmeal! Humorously arranged nutritious ingredients invite children to create their own breakfasts. Yum! Colorful photographs. (5-12)

Ralph Masiello's Halloween Drawing Book

written and illustrated by Ralph Masiello
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-57091-541-3
Step-by-step illustrations guide the young artist in drawing pumpkins, bats, cats, and other visual Halloween treats. (5-8)

Animals (Nonfiction)

Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs

by Michaela Muntean, photographs by K. C. Bailey and Stephen Kazmierski
(Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-23497-9
Ten abandoned dogs and one injured acrobat create a circus act based on love and understanding. (5-9)

*Waiting for Ice

by Sandra Markle, illustrated by Alan Marks
(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-255-1
Captivating watercolor illustrations and lyrical text chronicle an orphaned polar bear's fight for survival in the Arctic. Author's note and additional facts included. (6-9)



The World's Greatest Lion

by Ralph Helfer, illustrated by Ted Lewin
(Philomel/Penguin, \$17.99)
978-0-399-25417-8
A lion born in Zambia is rescued after the death of his parents and is brought to a California Reserve where he appears in many movies. Dramatic illustrations. (6-9)

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Architecture**Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building**

written and illustrated by Christy Hale
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-651-9
Simple buildings constructed by children are compared to imaginative structures of creative professionals. Colorful illustrations. (6-9)

Arts***Andrew Drew and Drew**

written and illustrated by Barney Saltzberg
(Abrams, \$15.95) 978-1-4197-0377-5
Unlike Harold, whose purple crayon drew him into adventure, for Andrew drawing itself is the adventure. Die-cut pages show where Andrew's pencil takes him. (6-9)

The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau

Michelle Markel, illustrated by Amanda Hall
(Eerdmans, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5364-6
Self-taught, Henri Rousseau died in poverty but lives on in his powerful, imaginative paintings. Watercolor and acrylic illustrations. (5-9)

Look! Look! Look! at Sculpture

written and illustrated by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace with Linda K. Friedlaender
(Marshall Cavendish, \$17.99) 978-0-7614-6132-6
Three friends explore the ways of viewing and thinking about sculpture, and of creating their own. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

Me and Momma and Big John

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by William Low
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-4359-1
John is proud of his mother, who works as a stonecutter at New York's Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Luminous digital painting. (6-8)

Biography**Barnum's Bones: How Barnum Brown Discovered the Most Famous Dinosaur in the World**

by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Boris Kulikov
(FSG/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-30516-1
A paleontologist's dream comes true when he makes an extraordinary discovery: the skeleton of one of the largest land carnivores. Zany, expressive illustrations. Bibliography and author's note. (6-9)

A Boy Called Dickens

by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by John Hendrix
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86732-3
The hardships and dreams of a young British boy foreshadow his great literary achievements. Haunting pen and ink and acrylic illustrations. (7-9)

Colorful Dreamer: The Story of Artist Henri Matisse

by Marjorie Blain Parker, illustrated by Holly Berry
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3758-7
A lyrical account of the life of the world famous French Impressionist Henri Matisse includes vibrant illustrations in his style. (6-9)

Dream Big: Michael Jordan and the Pursuit of Olympic Gold

by Deloris Jordan, illustrated by Barry Root
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4424-1269-9
The mother of the great basketball star offers a glimpse into his childhood and the values leading to his success. Expressive watercolor and gouache illustrations. (4-7)

Emily and Carlo

by Marty Rhodes Figley, illustrated by Catherine Stock
(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-274-2
Emily Dickinson's life with her constant canine companion, black Newfoundland Carlo, is depicted with soft watercolors. (7-10)

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Biography, continued**The Extraordinary Music of Mr. Ives: The True Story of a Famous American Composer**

written and illustrated by Joanne Stanbridge
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99)
978-0-547-23866-1

Charles Ives wrote his music relating to the sounds all around him---but it was rarely played in public until after his death. Sensitive illustrations. (5-8)

Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills

by Renée Watson, illustrated by Christian Robinson
(Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-375-86973-0
Born in 1896, Florence overcame extreme prejudice and became a world-renowned singer. Colorful, bold line drawings. (6-9)

**Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller**

by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Matt Tavares
(Hyperion/Disney, \$17.99) 978-0-7868-0890-8
Helen's life emerged from blind/deaf isolation to great wisdom and renown on the world stage through the teaching and support of her teacher Annie Sullivan. Warm watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations. (6-10)

Here Come the Girl Scouts!

by Shana Corey, illustrated by Hadley Hooper
(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-34278-0
Celebrating their 100th anniversary, the Girl Scouts began as the idea of the adventurous Juliette Gordon Low and grew to be an organization with millions of members nationwide. Warm mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

Looking at Lincoln

written and illustrated by Maira Kalman
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99)
978-0-399-24039-3
Did you know that Abraham Lincoln kept his notes in his hat? Or that he had a dog named Fido? Whimsical gouache illustrations. (6-8)

***Noah Webster & His Words**

by Jeri Chase Ferris, illustrated by Vincent X. Kirsch
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-39055-0
The author of the first *American Dictionary of the English Language*, Webster also wrote spelling, grammar, and reading books. Expressive, humorous illustrations. (6-9)

A Picture Book of Sam Houston

by David A. Adler and Michael S. Adler, illustrated by Matt Collins
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2369-9
The first president of the Republic of Texas defended his beloved future state in battle and words, inspiring many with his tenacious courage. Realistic digital art. (6-8)

A President from Hawai'i

by Dr. Terry Carolan and Joanna Carolan, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
(Candlewick, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5230-2
Lokahi, kokua, 'ohana and other Hawaiian values influenced Barack Obama as he grew up in the Aloha state. In rhyming text with direct quotes by the president. Photographs and oil and collage illustrations. (6-9)

Rachel Carson and Her Book that Changed the World

by Laurie Lawlor, illustrated by Laura Beingessner
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2370-5
Her passion for the natural world and skill in observing it led this pioneering environmentalist to challenge the chemical industry. Delicate tempura and ink illustrations. Meticulously researched and sourced. (7-9)

Seed by Seed: The Legend and Legacy of John "Appleseed" Chapman

by Esmé Raji Codell, illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, \$16.99)
978-0-06-145515-5
Johnny Appleseed planted good deeds, one apple tree at a time. Expressive watercolor and gouache illustrations. (5-7)

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Biography, continued**Susan B. Anthony**

written and illustrated by Alexandra Wallner
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-1953-1
The famous suffragette fought tirelessly throughout her life for women's rights, especially the right to vote. Folk art-style paintings. (7-9)

Timeless Thomas: How Thomas Edison Changed Our Lives

written and illustrated by Gene Barretta
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-8050-9108-3
Without Edison, who gave us the telegraph, the light bulb, cement, alkaline batteries, and much more, we would be in the dark. Watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

Words Set Me Free: The Story of Young Frederick Douglas

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome
(Simon & Schuster, \$16.99) 978-1-4169-5903-8
The famous antislavery leader narrates the tale of his early life as a slave. Strong acrylic and oil illustrations. (7-9)

Write On, Mercy!: The Secret Life of Mercy Otis Warren

by Gretchen Woelfle, illustrated by Alexandra Wallner
(Calkins Creek/Boyd's Mills, \$16.95)
978-1-59078-822-6
The Revolutionary War-era author overcame obstacles and paved the road for future generations of women writers. Gouache illustrations. Timeline, bibliography, web sites. (6-8)

Ecology**City Chickens**

by Christine Heppermann
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99)
978-0-547-51830-5
What happens to abandoned chickens? The lucky ones end up in places like Chicken Run Rescue and often in loving homes where they make good pets. Engaging photographs. (6-12)

**Happy Birthday, Tree!: A Tu B'Shevat Story**

by Madelyn Rosenberg, illustrated by Jana Christy
(Albert Whitman, \$15.99) 978-0-8075-3151-8
Joni and her neighbor Nate find ways to celebrate her big tree's birthday, reminding everyone of the promise to the earth. Joyful, "green" illustrations. (5-10)

Molly's Organic Farm

by Carol L. Malnor and Trina L. Hunner, illustrated by Trina L. Hunner
(Dawn Publications, P \$8.95) 978-1-58469-167-9
A homeless cat finds a new place to live on a special farm. Information about growing vegetables and other resources. Realistic watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

***Out on the Prairie**

by Donna M. Bateman, illustrated by Susan Swan
(Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-58089-377-0
Unusual cut-paper illustrations enhance this rhyming tale of life on the prairie. Notes on the flora and fauna augment the poems and the art. (5-9)

Secrets of the Garden: Food Chains and the Food Web in Our Backyard

by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld, illustrated by Priscilla Lamont
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-517-70990-0
A family plants a garden, and as it grows they learn about relationships—plant, animal, insect, and human. Watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

Ecology, continued**A Warmer World: From Polar Bears to Butterflies, How Climate Change Affects Wildlife**

by Caroline Arnold, illustrated by Jamie Hogan
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-266-7
Learn how warmer weather alters ecosystems and forces animals to adapt—or become extinct. Charcoal, pastel and collage illustrations. Glossary and resources included. (6-8)

History**The Camping Trip that Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and Our National Parks**

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3710-5
An excursion by a president and a naturalist led to the protection of the American wilderness. Vivid illustrations, author's note, and sources. (7-10)

The House That George Built

by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Rebecca Bond
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-262-9
George Washington's projects included the planning and building of a special house fit for the Presidents of the United States. Lighthearted watercolors. Author's note and sources. (6-10)

I Have a Dream: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., illustrated by Kadir Nelson
(Schwartz & Wade/Random House, \$18.99)
978-0-375-85887-1
The words of Martin Luther King's speech are interpreted in richly detailed oil illustrations. (7-10)

***Those Rebels, John & Tom**

by Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham
(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-22268-6
A lively and humorous account of how Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson struggled for independence for America. Cartoonlike, expressive illustrations. (8-10)

We March

written and illustrated by Shane W. Evans
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-1-59643-539-1
A mother, father, and their two children get up early to join the historic 1963 March on Washington and hear Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. give his famous speech. Watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-7)

Holidays**Daddy Christmas & Hanukkah Mama**

written and illustrated by Selina Alko
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-375-86093-5
Blended family traditions of these two winter holidays are celebrated in this vibrant mix of words and images. Gouache, collage, and colored-pencil artwork. (5-10)

The Easter Bunny's Assistant

written and illustrated by Jan Thomas
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$12.99) 978-0-06-169286-4
Decorating Easter eggs is always exciting—even when a skunk tries to help. Simple, bright illustrations. (5-8)

The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale

by Linda Leopold Strauss, illustrated by Alexi Natchev
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-1911-1
Will a trivial incident threaten a lifelong friendship, mar their seder, and destroy a long-hoped-for marriage between their children? Woodcut illustrations. (6-9)

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Holidays, continued**How Do Dinosaurs Say Merry Christmas?**

by Jane Yolen, illustrated by Mark Teague
(Blue Sky/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-41678-8
A playful exploration of Yuletide do's and don'ts for prehistoric reptiles. Vibrant, humorous illustrations. (4-7)

Jeremy's Dreidel

by Ellie Gellman, illustrated by Maria Mola
(Kar-Ben/Lerner, P \$7.95) 978-0-7613-7507-4
As children create their own Hanukkah dreidels, one boy carves the letters in braille for his blind father. Pastel-colored illustrations. (5-9)

Just Right for Christmas

by Birdie Black, illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw
(Nosy Crow/Candlewick, \$15.99)
978-0-7636-6174-8
Is there more than one present hidden in the soft, red cloth that becomes a princess's cloak? Warm mixed-media illustrations. (5-7)

Red, White, and Boom!

by Lee Wardlaw, illustrated by Huy Voun Lee
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99)
978-0-8050-9065-9
Parades, picnics, fireworks—it's fun to celebrate the Fourth of July! Colorful, detailed cut-paper collages. (5-7)

Mathematics**How Many Jelly Beans?**

by Andrea Menotti, illustrated by Yancey Labat
(Chronicle, \$18.99) 978-1-4521-0206-1
Using jelly beans, a boy and a girl explore numbers. Bold illustrations with lots of counting to be done. (5-8)

Infinity and Me

by Kate Hosford, illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska
(Carolrhoda/Lerner, \$16.95) 978-0-7613-6726-0
Children and adults explore the concept of things that go on forever. Whimsical illustrations. (6-8)

**Seeing Symmetry**

written and illustrated by Loreen Leedy
(Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2360-6
Though it is all around us in many different forms, it is all explained in a brightly illustrated format. (5-8)

**The Wing Wing Brothers Math Spectacular!**

written and illustrated by Ethan Long
(Holiday House, \$15.95) 978-0-8234-2320-0
Five duck brothers perform acrobatic feats and include explanations for comparative math, addition and subtraction. Clever and appealing. Lively, humorous illustrations. (5-7)

Zero the Hero

by Jean Holub, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, \$16.99) 978-0-8050-9384-1
Underappreciated by the other numbers, Zero proves that their value is diminished without him. Funny, lively text and hilarious, colorful cartoonlike illustrations. (6-9)

Parenting**My Father's Arms Are a Boat**

by Stein Erik Lunde, illustrated by Øyvind Torseter,
translated by Kari Dickson
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$15.95) 978-1-59270-124-7
A taut text and stark cut-paper illustrations convey a father and son's devastating loss. Tender and reassuring. (4-8)

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Reference

Aunt Ant Leaves through the Leaves: A Story with Homophones and Homonyms

written and illustrated by Nancy Coffelt
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2353-8
Monkey needs help baking a banana cake, but only Ant offers—though the other animals are willing to help eat it. Challenging wordplay. Colorful illustrations. (6-8)

Fish on a Walk

written and illustrated by Eva Muggenthaler
(Enchanted Lion, \$16.95) 978-1-59270-116-2
Whimsical animals demonstrate the concept of opposites, both simple and more abstract. Lush, detailed illustrations. (5-7)

Religion

***Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors**

by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini
(Chronicle, \$17.99) 978-0-8118-7905-7
A young Muslim presents the traditions of Islam. Simple rhyming text and Islamic art illustrations. (6-9)

Martín de Porres: The Rose in the Desert

by Gary D. Schmidt, illustrated by David Diaz
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-61218-8
Follow this saint, who was born in poverty and canonized in the 1500s, on his gentle journey of service. Mixed-media illustrations. (6-10)

Science

Animal Babies (Scholastic Discover More series)

by Andrea Pinnington and Tory Gordon-Harris
(Scholastic, \$7.99) 978-0-545-36568-0
Beautiful color photographs and simple easy-to-read text explain how animals are alike and different. Glossary and index. (5-7)

Apples A to Z

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by Jake Parker
(Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-72808-9
Fascinating facts about apples, with inviting animal characters, are presented with full-page harvest-colored illustrations. (4-8)

The Beetle Book

written and illustrated by Steve Jenkins
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-68084-2
Stunning cut-paper illustrations and captivating text capture the fascinating diversity of beetles. (6-10)

The Big Green Book of the Big Blue Sea

by Helaine Becker, illustrated by Willow Dawson
(Kids Can Press, \$15.95) 978-1-55453-746-4
Follow these experiments with water and learn about ocean science. Color illustrations, drawings and photos. (6-8)

Bird Talk: What Birds Are Saying and Why

written and illustrated by Lita Judge
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, \$17.99)
978-1-59643-646-6
Birds from around the world communicate with sounds, motions, and mimicry. Glossary, references, and web site invite further study. Lush watercolors. (4-8)

Bugs (Scholastic Discover More series)

by Penelope Arlon and Tory Gordon-Harris
(Scholastic, P \$12.99) 978-0-545-36574-1
Bugs help us by spinning silk, making honey, and eating cow dung—but they also spread disease and sting. Meet every kind of bug, all presented with detailed color photographs. (7-10)

Farm (Scholastic Discover More series)

by Penelope Arlon and Tony Gordon-Harris
(Scholastic, \$7.99) 978-0-545-36571-0
Brief captions and appealing photographs explain how animals and crops are raised and sent to market. (6-8)

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Science, continued***First Peas to the Table: How Thomas Jefferson Inspired a School Garden**

by Susan Grigsby, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell (Albert Whitman, \$16.99) 978-0-8075-2452-7
Maya is determined to win the "first peas" contest in her class, following the directions in Thomas Jefferson's *Garden Book*. Watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

Frogs!: Strange and Wonderful

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Meryl Henderson (Boyd's Mills, \$16.95) 978-1-59078-371-9
Realistic watercolor illustrations illuminate the fascinating exploration of the similarities and differences among the many and varied species of these amphibians. (7-9)

Ladybugs

written and illustrated by Gail Gibbons (Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-2368-2
These beetles live on six of the seven continents. The physical characteristics, stages of development, and habitats come to life in bright, labeled illustrations. (4-8)

A Leaf Can Be . . .

by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Violeta Dabija (Millbrook, \$17.95) 978-0-7613-6203-6
A poetic text describes all the things leaves can do throughout the seasons. Notes, glossary, list for further reading. Warm illustrations. (4-6)

Monkey Colors

by Darrin Lunde, illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne (Charlesbridge, \$15.95) 978-1-57091-741-7
Meet mandrills, macaques, and more. Realistic watercolor and ink illustrations. (5-7)

My Body (Scholastic Discover More series)

by Andrea Pinnington and Penny Lamprell (Scholastic, \$7.99) 978-0-545-34514-9
What happens to food in your stomach? Where is your femur? Photographs and diagrams help answer these questions and many others. (6-8)

National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Space

by Catherine D. Hughes, illustrated by David A. Aguilar (National Geographic, \$14.95) 978-1-4263-1014-0
Explore the universe in this captivating introduction to astronomy. Colorful illustrations and photographs. (6-10)

***Ocean Sunlight: How Tiny Plants Feed the Seas**

by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, illustrated by Molly Bang (Blue Sky/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-27322-0
Enticing illustrations and simple text explain how the sun supports life, even in the depths of the ocean. Extensive notes. (5-10)

***Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Mark Hearld (Candlewick, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-5549-5
Some children look but don't really SEE! With its colorful mixed-media illustrations and the author's vivid observations (in poetry and prose), this book will inspire children's curiosity. (4-8)

Planets (Scholastic Discover More)

by Penelope Arlon and Tory Gordon-Harris (Scholastic, P \$12.95) 978-0-545-33028-2
Clear text in attractive layout with plentiful photographs introduces readers to our solar system and beyond. (6-9)

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Science, continued***Puffing Patrol**

written and illustrated by Ted and Betsy Lewin
(Lee & Low, \$19.95) 978-1-60060-424-9
On an island off Iceland, children rescue baby puffins trying to reach the sea. Watercolors and field sketches. (5-8)

Saving Yasha: The Incredible True Story of an Adopted Moon Bear

by Lia Kvatum, photographs by Liya Pokrovskaya
(National Geographic, \$16.95) 978-1-4263-1076-8
Two young Russian scientists follow an orphaned Moon Bear. Photographs, map, and notes. (7-11)

What to Expect When You're Expecting Hatchlings: A Guide For Crocodilian Parents (and Curious Kids)

by Bridget Heos, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch
(Millbrook, \$25.26) 978-0-7613-5860-2
Learn everything you need to know to be well prepared when crocodile babies arrive. Hilarious question-and-answer format, brightly colored illustrations, and references. (7-10)

What to Expect When You're Expecting Joeys: A Guide for Marsupial Parents (and Curious Kids)

by Bridget Heos, illustrated by Stephane Jorisch
(Millbrook, \$25.26) 2011 978-0-7613-5859-6
Colorful illustrations and conversational text provide a humorous explanation of marsupial development. (7-10)

Sports (Nonfiction)**Brothers at Bat: The True Story of an Amazing All-Brother Baseball Team**

by Audrey Vernick, illustrated by Steven Salerno
(Clarion/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-38557-0
Many brothers play baseball together, but few form their own semipro team. In 1938 the twelve Acerras stepped up to the plate and kept swinging for fourteen years. Mixed-media illustrations evoke an earlier era. (7-9)

Just As Good: How Larry Doby Changed America's Game

by Chris Crowe, illustrated by Mike Benny
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5026-1
In 1948 a black family eagerly follows the World Series as the first African American in the American League helps his team win. Lush, acrylic illustrations. (7-9)

There Goes Ted Williams: The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived

written and illustrated by Matt Tavares
(Candlewick, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-2789-8
The life of the legendary Red Sox slugger is depicted with watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations. (7-9)

Technology**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind**

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer, pictures by Elizabeth Zunon
(Dial/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3511-8
The true story of fourteen-year-old William Kamkwamba, who taught himself to build a windmill, thereby bringing electricity to his drought-stricken Malawi village. Oil and cut-paper illustrations. (5-9)

World***Mrs. Harkness and the Panda**

by Alicia Potter, illustrated by Melissa Sweet
(Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)
978-0-375-84448-5
A courageous widow endures a harrowing journey to complete her husband's expedition to find a panda in the snowy mountains of China. Descriptive watercolors and collage. (7-10)