

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**FICTION****Adventure and Mystery****\*The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend**

written and illustrated by Dan Santat  
(Little, Brown BFYR, \$17) 9780316199988  
Beekle sets out from his island of imaginary friends to find the child to whom he belongs. Mixed-media illustrations convey a child's-eye view of his brave journey. (5-9)

**Coyote Run**

written and illustrated by Gaetan Dorémus  
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$14.95) 978-1-59270-147-6  
In this wordless tale, coyote breaks out of jail and a wild chase ensues. Will she make her escape? Cross-hatched colored pencil illustrations. (5-7)

**\*Flora and the Penguin**

written and illustrated by Molly Idle  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-2891-7  
Ice-skating Flora discovers the joy of true friendship in a wordless tale that unfolds with flaps, fold-out pages and delicately hued illustrations. (4-7)

**Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads**

by Bob Shea, illustrated by Lane Smith  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-59643-975-7  
A seven-year-old sheriff who knows all about dinosaurs outsmarts a gang of robbers. A funny and imaginative western adventure with mixed-media art. (5-8)

**Sam & Dave Dig a Hole**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6229-5  
Two brothers and their dog dig in playful exploration. Suspend disbelief! Digital and colored pencil illustrations. (4-8)

**\*Sophie Scott Goes South**

written and illustrated by Alison Lester  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-0-544-08895-5  
Sophie, aged nine, goes on an exciting adventure to Antarctica on her dad's icebreaker. Colorful illustrations. (7-10)

**Zoe's Jungle**

written and illustrated by Bethanie Deeney Murguia  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$16.99) 978-0-545-55869-3  
Sisters Addie and Zoe have a wild, imaginative adventure during their precious last four minutes at the park. Playful pen-and-ink with watercolor illustrations. (4-8)

**Animals****Baby Bear**

written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-224172-6  
When baby bear is lost in the forest, different animals offer advice to help him find his way home. Exquisitely rendered oil paintings. (4-7)

**\*Bear Hug**

written and illustrated by Katharine McEwen  
(Templar Books/Candlewick, \$15.99)  
978-0-7636-6630-9  
In a realistic portrayal of a bear's life cycle, a cub's parents teach him to survive in his environment. Soft color collage illustrations. (5-8)

**Dolphin SOS**

by Roy Miki and Slavia Miki, illustrated by Julie Flett  
(Tradewind Books/Orca, \$17.95) 978-1-896580-76-0  
When three dolphins get trapped by ice, a community bands together to save them. Spare, textured illustrations evoke the Newfoundland winter and keep the focus on the stranded mammals. (5-8)

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**Animals, continued****Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?**

by Rita Gray, illustrated by Kenard Pak  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-544-10580-5

Why do the nesting birds remain so quiet, when all the other birds are full of sounds and songs? Delicate watercolor and digital media illustrations. (4-7)

**My Bibi Always Remembers**

by Tony Buzzeo, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-14231-8385-3  
During a severe drought, baby elephant Bibi is separated from the herd. The rumble of her grandmother leads her back to them and to water. Simple but stunning paintings. (5-7)

**\*Nest**

written and illustrated by Jorey Hurley  
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-1-4424-8971-4

A burst of lyrical illustrations highlights the single word on each page that evokes the joys of spring and a robin's life cycle. (4-7)

**The Pandas and Their Chopsticks: And Other Animal Stories**

written and illustrated by Demi  
(Wisdom Tales, \$16.95) 978-1-937786-16-8  
Ten short stories show the importance of sharing, humility, and other principles to live by. Colorful mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

**Beginning Readers****Benny and Penny in Lost and Found!**

written and illustrated by Geoffrey Hayes  
(Toon/Candlewick, \$12.95) 978-1-935179-64-1  
Big brother Benny and little sister Penny need each other's strengths and smarts to solve a lost-and-found mystery (or two). Told in cartoon format. (4-8)

**Bruno and Lulu's Playground Adventures**

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Kirstie Edmunds  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3553-8  
Two friends, a squirrel and a chipmunk, enjoy a rollicking time together, by mixing pretend play with action. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (5-7)

**Muddy, Mud, Bud**

by Patricia Lakin, illustrated by Cale Atkinson  
(Penguin Young Readers/Penguin Group, \$14.99)  
978-0-448-47990-3  
Bud, a childlike automobile, loves to jump in the mud. Bright cartoonish illustrations. (4-8)

**\*My New Friend Is So Fun! (Elephant and Piggie series)**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$8.99) 978-1-4231-7958-0  
When Piggie and Bernie Bat become friends, Elephant worries about his best friend status. That makes snake worry too. Expressively humorous illustrations. (5-8)

**Tippy and the Night Parade**

written and illustrated by Lilli Carré  
(Toon/Candlewick, \$12.95) 978-1-935179-57-3  
Tippy doesn't remember just how all these animals got into her room! Follow her sleepwalking adventure to find out. Clever digitally colored graphics. (5-7)

**Waiting Is Not Easy! (Elephant & Piggie series)**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$8.99) 978-1-4231-9957-1  
Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but waiting for it is very hard! Amusingly impatient illustrations. (6-8)

**Coming of Age****Emily's Blue Period**

by Cathleen Daly, illustrated by Lisa Brown  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-469-1  
When her parents divorce, artist Emily, inspired by Picasso, enters her "blue period." Discovering collage helps her piece her life together. Unique cartoon features and text-matching palette. (6-8)

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**Coming of Age, continued****Frances Dean Who Loved to Dance and Dance**

written and illustrated by Birgitta Sif  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7306-2  
Will shy Frances Dean learn to share her talent with others? Perhaps a new friend can help. Digitally penciled and colored illustrations. (5-9)

**My Blue Bunny, Bubbit**

written and illustrated by Maggie Smith  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-55861-5  
A little girl and her Nonni sew a special gift for the new baby, celebrating love, creativity, and (even) siblings. Pencil, fabric, and painted papers assembled digitally. (4-8)

**Concept Books****\*Before After**

written and illustrated by Anne-Margot Ramstein, and Matthias Arégui  
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-7621-6  
Thought-provoking, enchanting colorful spreads wordlessly depict changing vistas from nature, animal life, art, science, and fairy tales. (5-8)

**Take Away the A: An Alphabeast of a Book**

by Michael Escoffier, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo  
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-156-8  
A new word is created as one letter is removed from each word. Whimsical illustrations link the two words in mini adventures. (5-8)

**Fantasy****Catch That Cookie!**

by Hallie Durand, illustrated by David Small  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-525-42836-0  
A class follows clues to discover if gingerbread cookies run. Pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations. (4-8)

**The Grudge Keeper**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler  
(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-729-8  
An enormous wind storm buries Cornelius in a mess of townspeople's grudges, which he had carefully catalogued and stored. What will the townspeople do? Pen and ink and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

**The Jacket**

by Kirsten Hall, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova  
(Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) 978-1-59270-168-1  
Book's dream of being loved by a child comes true, but Book's girl also loves her dog. When the dog ruins him, Book worries that his girl won't love him anymore. Wonderfully expressive watercolors. (4-7)

**\*Lindbergh: The Tale of a Flying Mouse**

written and illustrated by Torben Kuhlmann, translated from the German by Suzanne Levesque  
(NorthSouth Books, \$19.95) 978-0-7358-4167-3  
An inventive mouse constructs a flying machine to travel from Germany to America. Could his flight have inspired Charles Lindbergh? Fascinating muted watercolors. (7-9)

**The Miniature World of Marvin & James (The Masterpiece Adventures series)**

by Elise Broach, illustrated by Kelly Murphy  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$15.99) 978-0-8050-9190-8  
Marvin, the beetle, is worried when his boy, James, goes away on vacation. A scary adventure soon cures him of his boredom. Pen-and-ink illustrations. (7-9)

**The Numberlys**

written and illustrated by William Joyce and Christina Ellis  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-7343-0  
When numbers made the world an orderly place, five friends decided that things should change -- and invented the alphabet. Illustrations change too, from somber to colorful. (4-7)

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**Fantasy, continued****Oliver and the Seawigs**

by Philip Reeve, illustrated by Sarah McIntyre  
(Random House Children's Books, \$12.99)  
978-0-385-38788-0

When Oliver's parents disappear on a roaming island, he takes up a friendship with a mermaid on an island of his own. Humorous illustrations. (6-9)

**Folk and Fairy Tales****\*Ashley Bryan's Puppets**

by Ashley Bryan, photographed by Ken Hannon,  
photographs edited by Rich Entel  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's  
Publishing, \$19.99) 978-1-424-8728-4

Found objects from the sea create a magical puppet world. Accompanying poems are told in the voices of characters from African traditions, shown in close-up photographs. (6-14)

**Beauty and the Beast**

retold by H. Chuku Lee, illustrated by Pat Cummings  
(Amistad Press/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-688-  
14819-5

A lonely creature and a caring girl create a tender and gentle retelling. Close inspection of the African-inspired brilliant watercolor and gouache paintings reveals pertinent details. (6-9)

**Brother Hugo and the Bear**

by Katy Beebe, illustrated by S. D. Schindler  
(Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5407-0  
Brother Hugo must craft another manuscript after a bear eats the original--a library book that must be returned. Ink and watercolors illustrate medieval life. (6-10)

**Chukfi Rabbit's Big, Bad Bellyache: A Trickster Tale**

by Greg Rodgers, illustrated by Leslie Stall Widener  
(Cinco Puntos Press, \$16.95; P \$7.95) 978-1-935955-26-  
9; 978-1-935955-27-6

In this Choctaw folk tale, Chukfi, the trickster rabbit, lets laziness and greed rule his choices. Humorous ink and watercolor illustrations. (4-8)

**My Grandfather's Coat**

retold by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Barbara  
McClintock  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-439-92545-7

In this variation on a Yiddish folksong, an immigrant boy makes good use of his coat. Colorful pen-and-ink and watercolor illustrations depict four generations of his loving family. (5-8)

**Two Parrots**

written and illustrated by Rashin, inspired by a tale from  
Rumi

(NorthSouth Books, \$17.95) 978-0-7358-4171-0

A clever parrot conspires with a friend to win his freedom from a Persian merchant. Vibrantly colored acrylic paintings on handmade paper. (5-8)

**Historical Fiction****\*A Dance Like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream**

by Kristy Dempsey, illustrated by Floyd Cooper  
(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-25284-6  
The first African American to dance with the  
Metropolitan Opera, in 1951, inspires a young girl from  
Harlem. Soft, mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

**\*Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla**

by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by G. Brian Karas  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-544-25230-1  
Kidnapped from his family in central Africa, a young  
gorilla finds friends and a new home after twenty-seven  
years on display in a mall. Expressive illustrations. (4-7)

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**Historical Fiction, continued****The Soccer Fence: A Story of Friendship, Hope and Apartheid in South Africa**

by Phil Bildner, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$16.99)  
978-0-399-24790-3

A young black South African wants to play soccer with the better equipped white boys, but under apartheid, it's not possible. Rich, vibrant pencil and acrylic illustrations. (6-8)

**Strongheart: The World's First Movie Star Dog**

written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-0-8050-9448-0

A German Shepherd is retrained to star in movies. Dramatic period watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations. (6-9)

**A Time to Be Brave**

by Joan Betty Stuchner, illustrated by Cynthia Nugent  
(Stepping Stone/Random House, P \$4.99)  
978-0-385-39205-1

In 1943 Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old David helps the resistance and then flees persecution by the Germans. Dramatic line drawings. (7-9)

**Holiday Stories****Chik Chak Shabbat**

by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-5528-0  
Every Sabbath, true to her grandmother's tradition, a young woman invites her neighbors to a cholent dinner, but when she becomes ill, they bring their own traditional dishes. Oil paint and collage illustrations create a folk-like atmosphere. (5-8)

**Here Comes the Easter Cat**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Claudia Rueda  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3939-0  
Cat tries to replace the Easter Bunny but discovers it's a hard job that leaves no time for naps. Cat's feelings are evident in the simple ink and color pencil illustrations. (5-7)

**Here Comes Santa Cat**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Claudia Rueda  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-4100-3  
It's December 24th, and Cat is on Santa's naughty list. Can he get on Santa's "good" list in time to get a present? Spare ink-and-color pencil illustrations. (6-8)

**I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Dreidel**

by Caryn Yacowitz, illustrated by David Slonim  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-439-91530-4  
Enjoy Chanukah fun as Grandma downs a dreidel, latkes, brisket, gelt, and a menorah. Humorous, colorful illustrations. (4-7)

**Simon and the Bear: A Hanukkah Tale**

by Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Matthew Trueman  
(Hyperion/Disney, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-4355-0  
Shipwrecked on his way to America, a boy shares the Festival of Lights with a polar bear. Colorful collages and blue acrylics. (5-8)

**\*'Twas Nochebuena**

by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, illustrated by Sara Palacios  
(Viking/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-670-01634-1  
A warm holiday tale, peppered with Spanish words, touches on traditions to be eaten, sung, and celebrated. Uplifting illustrations embellish the rituals. (5-8)



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**Humor****Bow-Wow's Nightmare Neighbors**

written and illustrated by Mark Newgarden and Megan Montague Cash

(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-640-4

Witty, weird, and wordless cartoons tell the story of Bow-Wow's attempt to rescue his stolen dog-bed from the odd cats across the street. Visual puns, puzzles. (5-9)

**The Cat, the Dog, Little Red, the Exploding Eggs, the Wolf, and Grandma**

written and illustrated by Diane Fox and Christyan Fox (Scholastic Press, \$16.99) 978-0-545-69481-0

In this comical metafiction exchange, as Cat reads a classic fairy tale she must endure Dog's constant queries. Sketch-style sparse color illustrations. (6-10)

**The Chicken Squad**

by Doreen Cronin, illustrated by Kevin Cornell (Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$12.99) 978-1-4424-9676-7

Four chicks must figure out what frightened Tail, a not-so-brave squirrel. Graphite, watercolor and digital illustrations. (7-9)

**Drop It, Rocket**

written and illustrated by Tad Hills (Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$12.99) 978-0-385-37247-3

Beloved character Rocket returns with his teacher, the little yellow bird, seeking new words to read. Gentle, expressive colored pencil and acrylic painted illustrations. (4-7)

**\*Hermelin the Detective Mouse**

written and illustrated by Mini Grey (Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99) 978-0-385-75433-0

A mouse with a typewriter secretly helps his human neighbors find lost items and rescue babies. Clever, detailed mixed-media art adds to the fun. (5-8)

**\*I'm My Own Dog**

written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein (Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6139-7

An autonomous dog adopts a lonely human, teaches him some tricks, and makes a new best friend. Expressive watercolor illustrations show who's top dog. (5-8)

**Jasper John Dooley: Not in Love**

by Caroline Adderson, illustrated by Ben Clanton (Kids Can Press, \$15.95) 978-1-55453-803-4

Jasper attempts to thwart Isabel's vocal love for him, but his plans don't go well. Black-and-white drawings. (6-8)

**Leroy Ninker Saddles Up**

by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Chris Van Dusen (Candlewick Press, \$12.99) 978-0-7636-6339-1

After acquiring a horse named Maybelline, Leroy Ninker learns that there is more to being a cowboy than just dressing the part. Whimsical gouache illustrations. (6-9)

**A Piece of Cake**

written and illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$16.99) 978-0-06-199264-3

Uh-oh! On the way to deliver a birthday cake for Little Bird, Mouse agrees to trade pieces of it for his friends' offerings, until it is all gone. Now what? Clever Little Bird finds a solution. Cartoon-like pencil and digitally colored illustrations. (4-7)

**\*Shh! We Have a Plan**

written and illustrated by Chris Haughton (Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7293-5

Three hunters are outwitted by a child and a bird in this practically wordless story. Brilliantly colored digital illustrations enhance the humor. (4-7)

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**Today****\*Abuelo**

by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Raúl Colón  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-168627-6  
Watercolor and pencil paintings illustrate the memories of a boy's days riding the pampas with his grandfather. Spanish words appear in context. (6-8)

**\*At the Same Moment around the World**

written and illustrated by Clotilde Perrin  
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-2208-3  
Journey around the world from Dakar, Senegal, to San Francisco, California, to find out what is happening at the same moment but different times. Vibrant pencil and digital illustrations. (5-9)

**\*Bad Bye, Good Bye**

by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Jonathan Bean  
(Houghton Mifflin/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-547-92852-4  
A brilliant blend of rhymed text and pen and ink illustrations, which—in a deceptively simple way—capture a child's multifaceted emotions upon moving. (5-8)

**\*Blizzard**

written and illustrated by John Rocco  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4231-7865-1  
Snowed in for days, a young boy devises a way to get to the store for supplies for his family and his neighbors. Pencil, watercolor, and digital paintings. (5-8)

**Coming Home**

written and illustrated by Greg Ruth  
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-250-05547-7  
In this nearly wordless picture book, a boy anxiously awaits a soldier's return. Handsome graphite, chalk, and watercolor illustrations stirringly capture his anticipation. (5-7)

**\*The Farmer and the Clown**

written and illustrated by Marla Frazee  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-1-4424-9744-3

When a little clown gets separated from the circus train, a reluctant farmer provides loving shelter. Warm, gentle gouache illustrations. Wordless. (5-7)

**Flo & Wendell Explore**

written and illustrated by William Wegman  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3930-7  
A sister and brother's camping adventure is depicted in droll gouache-enhanced photographs of the author's Weimaraner dogs. (4-7)

**Fly Away**

by Patricia MacLachlan  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$15.99) 978-1-4424-6008-9  
While in North Dakota helping her Aunt Frankie prepare for a possible flood, Lucy finds her voice as a poet. (7-10)

**Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin**

by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Qin Leng  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-894786-33-1  
Although her brothers tease that she is just a beginner, Hana stands out at the talent show with her own unique performance honoring her grandfather. Pencil illustrations, digitally colored (5-9)

**Louise Loves Art**

written and illustrated by Kelly Light  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-224817-6  
Louise loves art but realizes that she loves her little brother even more. Pencil and Photoshop illustrations. (5-7)

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**Today, continued****\*Miss Brooks' Story Nook: (Where Tales Are Told and Ogres Are Welcome)**

by Barbara Bottner, illustrated by Michael Emberley  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-449-81328-7

Missy learns how to construct a great story and scare her bully nemesis away. Highly expressive scanned pencil and watercolor illustrations add to the humor. (5-8)

**\*The Most Magnificent Thing**

written and illustrated by Ashley Spires  
(Kids Can Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55453-704-4  
With the help of her dog assistant, a young girl overcomes frustration to create something wonderful. Funny, digitally generated illustrations. (4-7)

**Room in My Heart**

by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Pradyut Chatterjee  
(Rosetta Press, P \$7.00) 978-1-50090823-2  
It took Nikki time to adjust to her parent's divorce. Now Daddy has a girlfriend, and Nikki has another worry: will he still love her and her sister? Black-and-white illustrations. (6-8)

**Saving Sammy**

by Eric Walters, illustrated by Amy Meissner  
(Orca, P \$6.95) 978-1-4598-0499-9  
When her dog finds a baby beaver stranded after a flood, Morgan and her family try to rescue it. Appealing black-and-white illustrations. (6-9)

**What If...?**

written and illustrated by Anthony Browne  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-7419-9  
Looking for his friend's party, Joe passes one strange house after another. Surreal gouache and crayon illustrations. (5-7)

**Where's Mommy?**

by Beverly Donofrio, illustrated by Barbara McClintock  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-375-84423-2

Maria lives upstairs, Mouse Mouse downstairs. Though their families don't know it, they are friends. Detailed illustrations in pen-and-ink, watercolor, and gouache. (4-7)

**POETRY****Dear Wandering Wildebeest: And Other Poems from the Water Hole**

by Irene Latham, illustrated by Anna Wadham  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-1232-3  
Visit a water hole on an African savannah. Poems and soft illustrations describe the animals as they gather there to drink. Glossary, bibliography, web sites. (6-9)

**\*Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons**

written and illustrated by Jon J. Muth  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-16668-3  
In twenty-six haiku, Panda cub Koo and his friends explore the changing seasons. Ink and watercolors capture the humor and imagery of the poems. (5-8)

**On the Wing**

by David Elliott, illustrated by Becca Stadlander  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-5324-8  
Witty and lyrical poems about all sorts of birds are accompanied by colorful, expressive gouache illustrations. (4-7)

**Outside the Box: A Book of Poems**

by Karma Wilson, illustrated by Diane Goode  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-8005-6  
Over 100 whimsical poems with varied styles, topics, and emotional tones speak to children's concerns, wishes, and hopes. Playful typographical and sketchy ink illustrations. (7-11)



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**POETRY, continued****Sequoia**

by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan,  
\$17.99) 978-1-59643-727-2

A giant old sequoia watches over the forest and its  
wildlife year after year throughout the changing  
seasons. Colorful gouache watercolors. (5-8)

**\*Water Rolls, Water Rises/El Agua Rueda, El Agua****Sube**

by Pat Mora, illustrated by Meilo So  
(Children's Book Press/Lee & Low, \$18.95)  
978-0-89239-325-1

These poetic tributes to water in all its moods,  
movements, and majesty inspire gratitude and awe.  
Bilingual English and Spanish text. Illustrations add  
energy, location, and beauty. (7-10)

**\*Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold**

by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-0-547-90650-8

Poems evoke the season as plants and animals respond  
to the cold. Hand-painted, digitized, layered linoleum  
cuts show nature's beauty. Vocabulary-rich information  
appears in sidebars. Glossary. (8-10)

**INFORMATION BOOKS****Animals****Ancient Animals: Saber-Toothed Cat**

by Sarah L. Thomson, illustrated by Andrew Plant  
(Charlesbridge, \$12.95) 978-1-58089-400-5  
It's 16,000 years ago, and a skilled hunter in California  
hides, awaiting his prey. A range of resources and  
illustrations of related large-toothed hunters encourage  
further research. Acrylic and gouache illustrations. (6-8)

**Lucky Dog: Twelve Tales of Rescued Dogs**

by Kirby Larson, et al.

(Scholastic Press, \$15.99) 978-0-545-55451-0

Twelve tales from a variety of authors about dogs from  
a rescue center, some told from the dogs' point of view  
and some from the new owners', will make dog lovers  
smile and weep. (7-10)

**Tuesday Tucks Me In: The Loyal Bond Between a Soldier and His Service Dog**

by Luis Carlos Montalván, with Bret Witter,  
photographed by Dan Dion

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$16.99)  
978-1-59643-891-0

Service dog Tuesday introduces her human companion,  
a wounded soldier, and describes all the different ways  
she helps him every day. Illustrated with colorful  
photographs. (6-9)

**\*What's New? The Zoo!: A Zippy History of Zoos**

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Marcellus Hall  
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-13571-9  
Royal menageries, Victorian zoos, and many scientists  
have all contributed to the development of  
contemporary animal parks. Delightful watercolors.  
(5-9)

**Arts****\*Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like the Firebird**

by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Christopher Myers  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$17.99)  
978-0-399-16615-0

An African American dancer encourages a girl who is  
unsure of herself to live her stage dreams. Dramatic,  
full-color collages capture the beauty and drama of the  
*Firebird* ballet. (5-9)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**Arts, continued****\*The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse**

by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Hadley Hooper  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan,  
\$17.99) 978-1-59643-948-1

The great French artist remembers a childhood filled with the colors and textures of plates, paint, fruit, flowers, silk, and pigeons. Brilliantly illustrated with relief prints. (5-8)

**Music Everywhere!**

by Maya Ajmera, Elise Hofer Derstine, and Cynthia Pon  
(Global Fund for Children/Charlesbridge, \$17.95)  
978-1-57091-936-7

Color photographs showcase children around the world enjoying music and playing instruments. Includes a map and simple instructions for making instruments from everyday materials. (6-8)

**\*The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life**

written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-1-4424-3571-1

Enter author Lois Ehlert's world and understand her creative collage process. Exuberant illustrations. (5-8)

**\*Viva Frida**

by Yuyi Morales, photographed by Tim O'Meara  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan,  
\$17.99) 978-1-59643-603-9

Artist Frida Kahlo, manifested both as a puppet and as an acrylic-painted figure, sees, plays, dreams, creates, and lives. Vivid, powerful colors and dynamic spreads. Bilingual. (6-10)

**What's Your Favorite Animal?**

written and illustrated by Eric Carle and Friends  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-0-8050-9641-5

The favorite animals of renowned children's book artists come to life in marvelous illustrations and sweet musings. (5-10)

**Biography and Memoir****A Boy and A Jaguar**

by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia Chien  
(Harcourt Children's Books/HMH, \$16.99)  
978-0-547-87507-1

A boy who stutters but can speak fluently to animals grows up to study and protect endangered creatures. Acrylic and charcoal pencil illustrations reflect emotions and plot. (7-9)

**In Search of the Little Prince: The Story of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

written and illustrated by Bimba Landmann  
(Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5435-3

The life of the creator of the endearing Little Prince is told whimsically with photographs, quotations, and drawings that create a world of fantasy. (7-10)

**\*Leontyne Price: Voice of a Century**

by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Raul Colón  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-375-85606-8

Following in Marian Anderson's groundbreaking footsteps, Leontyne Price sang her way from a church gospel choir to the Metropolitan Opera House. Soft mixed-media illustrations (7-10)

**\*Little Melba and Her Big Trombone**

by Katheryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison  
(Lee & Low, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-898-8

Melba Doretta Liston, an African American child prodigy, overcame the challenges faced by women and people of color of her era to share her trailblazing jazz. Lively oil paintings and insightful back matter. (6-10)

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**Biography and Memoir, continued****\*Malala, a Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal, a Brave Boy from Pakistan: Two Stories of Bravery**

written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-1-4814-2294-9

The biographies of two Pakistani children's rights activists, Malala Yousafzai and Iqbal Masih, join together in one to create a radiant whole. Flat, child-centric illustrations. (6-9)

**\*The Pilot and the Little Prince: The Life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**

written and illustrated by Peter Sís  
(Frances Foster Books/Farrar Straus & Giroux  
BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-38069-4  
A spare narrative, meaty captions, and detailed colorful illustrations depict the connections between Saint-Exupéry's life and that of *The Little Prince*. (6-9)

**\*Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos**

written and illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-59643-960-3  
Young Carl Sagan, filled with curiosity and imagination, followed his passion: studying the solar system. Colorful acrylic paints and digitally rendered collages. (5-8)

**Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything**

written and illustrated by Maira Kalman  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99)  
978-0-399-24040-9  
The life of this famous American is conveyed through verbal and visual sketches that capture his range and complexity. Vibrant paintings. (7-10)

**History****All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom**

by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E. B. Lewis  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-0-689-87376-8  
A little girl in Texas tells about the day her family finally learned that they had been freed from slavery. Evocative watercolor paintings mirror their intense emotions. (5-8)

**\*Mr. Ferris and His Wheel**

by Kathryn Gibbs Davis, illustrated by Gilbert Ford  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-0-547-95922-1  
Using the new metal, steel, George Ferris created the sensation of the 1893 World's Fair. Digital mixed-media illustrations with ink and watercolor. (6-9)

**My Country 'Tis of Thee: How One Song Reveals the History of Civil Rights**

by Claire Rudolf Murphy, illustrated by Bryan Collier  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-0-8050-8226-5  
The evolution of a song, which first celebrated a British king and which Aretha Franklin sang centuries later at Obama's inauguration, reflects US history. Dramatic watercolor and collage illustrations. Sources, bibliography, music. (7-10)

**The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art**

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary Grandpré  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-307-98748-6  
Can someone see colors as sounds and sounds as colors? Kandinsky did, and he became a famous painter of abstract art, inspired by the music he heard. Colorful, expressive illustrations. (6-9)

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**History, continued****Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation**

written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams BFYR, \$18.95) 978-1-4197-1054-4  
Sylvia Mendez was sent to a segregated school for Mexicans instead of her local public school, but her family fought back, and won, seven years before the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case. Hand-drawn, digitally colored and collaged illustrations and extensive back matter. (Note: Rather than asking for a new trial in state court as described in the book, the school district actually requested a review by an appellate court and the entire proceeding was heard in federal courts. Nonetheless the book is a superb account of this significant but little-known civil rights case.) (7-10)

**\*What's New? The Zoo!: A Zippy History of Zoos**

by Kathleen Krull, illustrated by Marcellus Hall (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, \$17.99) 978-0-545-13571-9  
Royal menageries, Victorian zoos, and many scientists have all contributed to the development of contemporary animal parks. Delightful watercolors. (5-9)

**Mathematics****\*Circle, Square, Moose**

by Kelly Bingham, illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-229003-8  
Moose and Zebra continue their playful friendship while exploring shapes. Dynamic illustrations celebrate geometry. (4-7)

**Mice Mischief: Math Facts in Action**

by Caroline Stills, illustrated by Judith Rossell (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2947-9  
Playful mice demonstrate ways to make ten as they engage in everyday work and play. Pencil, acrylic, and collage illustrations. (4-7)

**\*Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature**

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell (Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-627-8  
Gorgeous photographs accompany a simple and straightforward explanation of fractals, geometric shapes made up of smaller parts that each look like the whole shape. (7-10)

**Parenting****Grandma**

written and illustrated by Jessica Shepherd (Child's Play International, \$16.99) 978-1-84643-602-4  
Oliver learns that he can still enjoy Grandma as she becomes more forgetful and moves to a "special home." Colorful, poignant illustrations. (6-8)

**Healing the Bruises**

by Lori Morgan, illustrated by Kathy Kaulbach (Lorimer/Orca, \$16.95) 978-1-4595-0283-3  
Simple text and quasigraphic illustrations eloquently describe the escape of a girl and her mother from a physically abusive relationship to a safe home. (8-10)

**Science****Animal School: What Class Are You?**

by Michelle Lord, illustrated by Michael Garland (Holiday House, \$14.95) 978-0-8234-3045-1  
With rhythmic, rhyming text and vivid digi-woodcut illustrations, students are introduced to vertebrates. (7-10)

**Animal Teachers**

by Janet Halfmann, illustrated by Katy Hudson (Blue Apple Books, \$17.99) 978-1-60905-391-8  
How do animals learn their life skills? Simple explanations along with descriptive paintings. Additional facts. (4-8)

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**Science, continued****Animals That Make Me Say Wow!**

by Dawn Cusick

(Imagine/Charlesbridge, \$14.95) 978-1-62354-041-8

Brief text and color photographs describe how special adaptations in a variety of animals help them find food and protect themselves and their young. (7-10)

**A Baby Elephant in the Wild**

by Caitlin O'Connell, photographed by Caitlin O'Connell and Timothy Rodwell

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)

978-0-544-14944-1

Did you know that baby elephants weigh 150 pounds at birth and grow inside their mothers for two years? Follow a baby and its family for a year in Namibia. Color photographs. (7-10)

**\*Behold the Beautiful Dung Beetle**

by Cheryl Bardoe, illustrated by Alan Marks

(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) '14 978-1-58089-554-5

Three varieties of dung beetles fight over, devour, and hoard fecal matter and lay their eggs in it in a variety of ways. Dramatic watercolor and pencil illustrations. (7-9)

**\*Birds (Discover More series)**

by Penelope Arlon and Tory Gordon-Harris

(Scholastic Press, \$7.99) 978-0-545-66773-9

Fun facts about a variety of birds ranging from hummingbirds to eagles, depicted with amazing, detailed color photographs. (5-8)

**\*Buried Sunlight: How Fossil Fuels Have Changed the Earth**

by Molly Bang and Penny Chisholm, illustrated by Molly Bang

(Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, \$18.99) 978-0-545-57785-4

Fossil fuels, how humans have used them, and the effect on climate change are explained clearly from the sun's perspective. Full-page, brightly colored art. (7-10)

**Creature Features: 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$17.99)

978-0-544-23351-5

Animals explain why their faces have feathers, tusks, bright colors, long tongues, or big beaks. Colorful cut-paper collages. (6-9)

**Dear Wandering Wildebeest: And Other Poems from the Water Hole**

by Irene Latham, illustrated by Anna Wadham

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$17.95) 978-1-4677-1232-3

Visit a water hole on an African savannah. Poems and soft illustrations describe the animals as they gather there to drink. Glossary, bibliography, web sites. (6-9)

**Dolphin Dive (Scholastic Discover More Readers)**

by James Buckley, Jr.

(Scholastic Press, P \$3.99) 978-0-545-63632-2

These smart mammals live in pods, hunt and feed together, communicate, and swim fast. Color photographs above and below the water. (6-8)

**Edible Colors**

written and photographed by Jennifer Vogel Bass

(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$12.99)

978-1-62672-002-2

Well-known and very unusual vegetables and fruits are grouped by their colors with surprising results! Bright labeled photographs. (6-9)

**\*Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas**

Lynne Cox, illustrated by Brian Floca

(Schwartz &amp; Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99)

978-0-375-85888-8

An elephant seal finds a home on the Avon River in a New Zealand town. Based on a true story and illustrated in pen and ink and watercolor. Includes a photograph of Elizabeth. (5-9)



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**Science, continued****\*Galápagos George**

by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor (Harper/HarperCollins, \$15.99) 978-0-06-028793-1  
One million years ago giant tortoises migrated to the Galápagos Islands and slowly evolved into different subspecies of tortoises. Realistic watercolor paintings. (6-9)

**\*Handle with Care: An Unusual Butterfly Journey**

by Loree Griffin Burns, photographed by Ellen Harasimowicz (Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$29.26) 978-0-7613-9342-9  
Butterflies change from eggs to caterpillars to pupae under the meticulous care of workers on a farm in Costa Rica. Colorful photographs detail the stages. (6-10)

**Hurricanes: Be Aware and Prepare**

by Renée Gray-Wilburn (Capstone Press/Capstone, \$19.99) 978-1-4765-9903-8  
Rain falls in sheets and the wind howls, bends trees, and tosses objects. How do we know if it is a hurricane? Dramatic photographs. (6-8)

**\*A Mom for Umande**

by Maria Faulconer, illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3762-4  
After months of nurturing a baby gorilla, her zookeepers come up with a plan to find a true mother surrogate. Colorful oil paintings. Author's note. (5-8)

**\*Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature**

by Sarah C. Campbell, photographed by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell (Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-627-8  
Gorgeous photographs accompany a simple and straightforward explanation of fractals, geometric shapes made up of smaller parts that each look like the whole shape. (7-10)

**Nic Bishop: Lizards**

written and photographed by Nic Bishop (Scholastic Press, P \$3.99) 978-0-545-60569-4  
Spectacular photographs and clear text introduce a variety of these reptiles. Glossary and photo-index. (6-8)

**On Kiki's Reef**

by Carol L. Malnor, illustrated by Trina L. Hunner (Dawn Publications, P \$8.95) 978-1-58469-477-9  
The life cycle of the green sea turtle as it journeys from egg to adult teaches about the ocean ecosystem. Engaging illustrations, references and resources. (6-9)

**Planets (Scholastic Discover More Readers)**

by Gail Tuchman (Scholastic Press, \$3.99) 978-0-545-57270-5  
Interesting facts, photos, and diagrams introduce our solar system. (6-8)

**The Secret Galaxy**

by Fran Hodgkins, photographed by Mike Taylor (Tilbury House, \$16.95) 978-0-88448-391-5  
In its own words, the Milky Way tells about its composition, particularly of stars and black holes. Stunning photographs from different views enhance understanding. (7-9)

**The Secret Life of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar**

by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Joan Paley (Boyd's Mills Press/Highlights, \$16.95) 978-1-62091-000-9  
The life cycle of the caterpillar that becomes an Isabella Tiger Moth is described with detailed illustrations. (7-9)

**Secrets of the Seashore**

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Alyssa Nassner (Kane/Miller/EDC, \$12.99) 978-1-61067-309-9  
This clever book presents tide pools full of hidden sea creatures revealed by shining a light behind the page. Investigation is encouraged. Illustrations in color and black-and-white. (5-9)

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**Science, continued****Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Emily Sutton  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7315-4  
What living things exist everywhere, and are so small that billions are inside your body? Learn what they are and about the amazing things they do. Clear, detailed watercolors. (6-8)

**Weeds Find a Way**

by Cindy Jenson-Elliott, illustrated by Carolyn Fisher  
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-1-4424-1260-6  
A poetic exploration of how the uncelebrated weed travels and grows. Vibrant, full-page illustrations. (4-7)

**Wild about Bears**

written and illustrated by Jeannie Brett  
(Charlesbridge, \$17.95) 978-1-58089-418-0  
Learn about the similarities and differences of bear species and how to protect them. Engaging accessible text and watercolor illustrations. (6-8)

**World****\*Dear Malala, We Stand with You**

by Rosemary McCarney, with Plan International  
(Crown BFYR/Random House, \$16.99)  
978-0-553-52120-7  
Rich color photographs illustrate a composite letter to Malala Yousafzai from girls who have faced educational discrimination and were inspired by Malala's work for girls' rights. (5-8)

**Families around the World**

by Margriet Ruurs, illustrated by Jessica Rae Gordon  
(Kids Can Press, \$18.95) 978-1-894786-57-7  
Celebrate diversity as you meet fourteen families from around the world and see their different structures, religions, culture, and food. Mixed-media illustrations. (6-9)

**Goal!**

by Sean Taylor, photographed by Caio Vilela  
(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-62779-123-6  
Appealing photographs of children playing soccer in various countries are accompanied by a running text about the game and a historical note for each country. (5-8)