

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**FICTION****Animals (Fiction)****Adventure and Mystery****\*Don't Feed the Geckos! (The Carver Chronicles series)**

by Karen English, illustrated by Laura Freeman  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$14.99) 978-0-544-5729-5  
Carlos worries about his pets and his soccer playing and about sharing Papi's affection when his cousin comes to stay with them. Line drawings. (6–9)

**\*Lost in NYC:****A Subway Adventure**

written and illustrated by Nadja Spiegelman and Sergio García Sánchez  
(Toon Books, \$16.95) 978-1-935179-81-8  
Pablo boards the wrong train but reunites with his class at the Empire State Building. Colorful panels and informative back matter showcase the subway system. Also in a Spanish language edition. (7–10)

• **Puppy Pirates series****Stowaway!** (978-0-553-51167-3)**X Marks the Spot** (978-0-553-51170-3)

by Erin Soderberg, illustrated by Russ Cox  
(Stepping Stone/Random House, P \$4.99 each)  
Wally sniffs out a band of puppy pirates and wants to join in the adventure and fun. Detailed sketches. (6–9)

**Shark Detective!**

written and illustrated by Jessica Olien  
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, \$17.99)  
978-0-06-235714-4  
A lonely shark fulfills his dream of becoming a detective like Sherlock Holmes when he spots a "Missing Kitty" poster. Bold, colorful illustrations. (5–8)

**Willy's Stories**

written and illustrated by Anthony Browne  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-7761-9  
Readers are invited to join Willy on his adventures and to guess where he's gone. Intriguing mixed-media illustrations show the world of many classic children's books. (6–10)

**Groundhog's Dilemma**

by Kristen Remenar, illustrated by Matt Faulkner  
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-600-9  
Can the anointed predictor of the arrival of spring be bribed to alter his findings to please the wishes of his friends? Detailed gouache and watercolor illustrations. (5–8)

**Ketzel, the Cat Who Composed**

by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Amy June Bates  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6555-5  
A young pianist's kitten helps him write an almost award-winning composition. Based on a true story. Pencil and watercolor illustrations. (6–8)

**Stay!**

written and illustrated by Alex Latimer  
(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-884-4  
When Ben's family goes on vacation, leaving his dog, Buster, behind, Ben lists all the things Grampa needs to know to take care Buster. Mixed-media illustrations. (5–8)

**The Tale of Rescue**

by Michael J. Rosen, illustrated by Stan Fellows  
(Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-7167-9  
In this lyrical, gentle story, a cattle dog saves a family stranded in a blizzard. Watercolor illustrations. (6–9)

**Who Wants Broccoli?**

written and illustrated by Val Jones  
(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-230351-6  
Left on the doorstep of an animal shelter, a dog with attention-getting antics and a loud bark finally finds a new home. Animated, humorous illustrations. (5–8)

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**Beginning Readers****Elephant Joe, Brave Firefighter!**

written and illustrated by David Wojtowycz  
(Random House Children's Books, P \$3.99)  
978-0-385-37406-4

How do you rescue a dragon caught in a tree? Vivid, humorous illustrations. (5-6)

**I Really Like Slop! (Elephant & Piggie series)**

written and illustrated by Mo Willems  
(Hyperion Books for Children/Disney, \$9.99)  
978-1-4847-2262-6

Piggie really wants Gerald to try some slop, but it smells awful. Will Gerald do it for Piggie's sake? Soft, colorful line drawings. (5-8)

**\*Look!**

written and illustrated by Jeff Mack  
(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-16205-3

A determined, attention-grabbing gorilla and a TV-watching boy develop a friendship over books. Told with just two words and colorful full-page mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

**Misty (Stanley & Me series)**

by Christine Dencer, illustrated by Jessica Meserve  
(Simply Read Books, \$12.95) 978-1-927018-59-0  
Will Sophie succeed in conquering her fear of her friend's dog? Lively, colorful illustrations. (6-8)

**\*Nic Bishop Frogs**

written and photographed by Nic Bishop  
(Scholastic Press, P \$3.99) 978-0-545-60570-0  
Simple text and extraordinary photographs provide clear, accessible information about more than 5,000 different kinds of amphibians. (6-8)

**Coming of Age****An A from Miss Keller**

written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/Penguin, \$17.99)  
978-0-399-16691-4

A demanding but dedicated teacher inspires young Trisha to be the best writer she can be. Colored pencil and marker illustrations. (5-8)

**The Best Friend Battle (Sylvie Scruggs series)**

by Lindsay Eyre, illustrated by Charles Santoso  
(Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, \$16.99)  
978-0-545-62027-7

Sylvie Scruggs hatches one crazy plan after another to keep her best friend Miranda from slipping away. Amusing sketches. (6-9)

**Felix Stands Tall**

written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells  
(Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-6111-3

After Fiona and Felix win the talent contest, Felix is bullied by his friends until Fiona shows him how to stand up for himself. Watercolor and pencil drawings. (5-7)

**Freedom's School**

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome  
(Jump at the Sun/Disney-Hyperion, \$17.99)  
978-1-4231-6103-5

After the Civil War, with their parents' support, two black children attend school despite facing racism. Evocative watercolors. (6-10)

**\*Mama Seeton's Whistle**

by Jerry Spinelli, illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$17.00)  
978-0-316-12217-7

As the family changes over decades, the signal to come home for dinner stays the same. Detailed period ink and watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

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**Sonya's Chickens**

written and illustrated by Phoebe Wahl  
(Tundra Books, \$19.99) 978-1-77049-789-4

When a farm girl loses one of her chickens to a fox, her father consoles her by explaining the interdependence of life in nature. Vibrant painterly illustrations. (6–8)

**Fantasy****How to Draw a Dragon**

written and illustrated by Douglas Florian  
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99)  
978-1-4424-7399-7

With humor and an observant eye, a poet invites young artists to imagine their own fanciful creatures. Bold, colorful full-page art. (5–8)

**If I Had a Triceratops**

written and illustrated by George O'Connor  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6013-0  
A boy muses about how he would take care of a triceratops and how great the experience would be. Bright cartoon-like illustrations. (4–7)

**In a Village by the Sea**

by Muon Van, illustrated by April Chu  
(Creston, \$16.95) 978-1-939547-15-6  
In a remote village, a woman waits with her baby for her fisherman husband to return safely after a storm. Detailed digitally colored pencil illustrations. (5–7)

**\*The Only Child**

written and illustrated by Guojing  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$19.99)  
978-0-553-49704-5  
In this wordless book, a young girl gets lost on the way to her grandmother's and befriends a magical creature to find her way back home. Softly rendered black-and-white pencil illustrations. (6–8)

**Wherever You Go**

by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler  
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$17.00)  
978-0-316-40002-2  
Rabbit and animal friends journey over mountain peaks, cities, and winding roads to discover the magical worlds that await. Rich ink and watercolor illustrations. (5–8)

**The Whisper**

written and illustrated by Pamela Zagarenski  
(HMH, \$17.99) 978-0-544-41686-4  
A young girl imagines stories for each lavish picture in a magical book that is missing its words. Dramatic, painterly full-page illustrations. (5–8)

**Folk and Fairy Tales****Elephant in the Dark:****Based on a Poem by Rumi**

retold by Mina Javaherbin, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-63670-4  
Is it a snake? A tree? A fan? This tale is a reminder to look at the whole picture. Brilliantly colored illustrations evoking Persian miniatures. (5–8)

**\*The Grasshopper & the Ants**

written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney  
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.00)  
978-0-316-40081-7  
In this lovely retelling of Aesop's fable, a grasshopper frolics and plays music while industrious ants prepare for winter. Beautiful watercolor paintings depict the changing seasons. (5–8)

**Jackrabbit McCabe & the Electric Telegraph**

by Lucy Margaret Rozier, illustrated by Leo Espinosa  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-385-37843-7  
Can the fastest man in the West outrun the telegraph signal? A tall tale with notes about Samuel Morse and the code he created. Exaggerated nostalgic images. (5–8)

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**Maya's Blanket/La manta de Maya**

by Monica Brown, illustrated by David Diaz, Spanish translation by Adriana Domínguez  
(Children's Book Press/Lee & Low, \$17.95)  
978-0-89239-292-6

When Maya's blanket becomes frayed, it is transformed into a skirt and then. . . A Latino version of a Yiddish folk song, told in English and Spanish. Vivid, exuberant illustrations. (6–9)

**Historical Fiction****Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear**

by Lindsay Mattick, illustrated by Sophie Blackall  
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.00)  
978-0-316-32490-8

A young boy listens to the story of the bear his great-great-grandfather placed in the London Zoo during World War I. Gentle watercolors and archival photographs. (5–7)

**Juneteenth for Mazie**

written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper  
(Capstone Young Readers/Capstone, \$15.95)  
978-1-62370-170-3

Mazie is frustrated by her lack of freedom until Dad teaches her about her ancestors. Large oil wash illustrations. (5–8)

**Mummy Cat**

by Marcus Ewert, illustrated by Lisa Brown  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-544-34082-4  
A mummy cat awakes in an Egyptian tomb and searches it for his friend, the queen. Hidden hieroglyphics and mixed-media illustrations. Back matter. (7–9)

**New Shoes**

by Susan Lynn Meyer, illustrated by Eric Velasquez  
(Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8234-2528-0  
When Ella Mae is not allowed to try on shoes at the store because she is African American, she and her cousin come up with a plan to improve things. Realistic oil paintings. (7–10)

• **Tales From Maple Ridge series**

**Logan Pryce Makes a Mess** (978-1-4814-2625-1; 978-1-4814-2624-4 [pbk])

**The Lucky Wheel** (978-1-4814-2628-2; 978-1-4814-2627-5 [pbk])

by Grace Gilmore, illustrated by Petra Brown  
(Little Simon/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$16.99; P \$5.99)  
The family's farm is failing and Logan's father is looking for work. With his talent for fixing and inventing things, can Logan help? Black-and-white pen and ink drawings. (7–9)

**Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-the-Pooh**

by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Jonathan D. Voss  
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-0-8050-9715-3

While her owner goes to war, a bear named Winnie stays in the London Zoo where she plays with a boy named Christopher Robin. Watercolor and pen and ink illustrations. (5–7)

**Holidays****Jingle Bells: A Magical Cut-Paper Edition**

by James Lord Pierpont, illustrated by Niroot Puttapipat  
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-7821-0  
Delicate cut-out shapes with black-and-white silhouettes celebrate this popular 19th-century song celebrating an old-fashioned winter pastime. Culminates in an elaborate pop-up surprise. (5–8)

**Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story**

by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Lea Lyon  
(Tilbury House, \$16.95) 978-0-88448-431-8  
Lailah is finally old enough to fast for Ramadan, but how can she explain to her teacher and classmates why she isn't eating lunch? Watercolor illustrations in a muted palette. (6–9)

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**Miracle on 133rd Street**

by Sonia Manzano, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-0-689-87887-9  
It's Christmas Eve. Everyone is grumpy and the roast won't fit in the oven. Will José's solution be the Christmas miracle everyone needs? Colorful gouache illustrations. (5-8)

**Oskar and the Eight Blessings**

by Richard Simon and Tanya Simon, illustrated by Mark Siegel (Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-949-8  
Sent to America for his safety after Kristallnacht, a boy walks up Broadway on Hanukkah to his aunt's apartment and encounters caring strangers. Soft watercolor and pencil illustrations. (5-8)

**Over the River & Through the Wood: A Holiday Adventure**

by Linda Ashman, illustrated by Kim Smith (Sterling Children's Books/Sterling Publishing, \$14.95) 978-1-4549-1024-4  
Four diverse families make their way to grandma's house by various means of transportation, but they all end up getting there the old-fashioned way. A contemporary take on the classic song. Colorful digital art. (6-8)

**The Parakeet Named Dreidel**

by Isaac Bashevis Singer, illustrated by Suzanne Raphael Berkson (Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-30094-4  
The rescue, on a cold, snowy Hanukkah, of a Yiddish-speaking parakeet results in an unexpected, happy match. Gentle cartoon watercolor illustrations. (5-8)

**Humor****\*Buddy and Earl**

by Maureen Fergus, illustrated by Carey Sookocheff (Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$16.95) 978-1-55498-712-2  
A dog and a hedgehog forge a joyous friendship and banish boredom using their imaginations. Exuberant watercolors. (5-7)

**I Don't Want to Be a Frog**

by Dev Petty, illustrated by Mike Boldt (Doubleday BFYR/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-385-37866-6  
A humorous dialogue between a young dissatisfied frog and a bespectacled adult frog comes delightfully to life with mixed-media illustrations. (4-8)

**\*It's Only Stanley**

written and illustrated by Jon Agee (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-8037-3907-9  
It's very late, and the Wimbledon family keeps being awakened by strange sounds. It's only their dog, Stanley, but what is Stanley really doing? Humorous watercolors. (5-8)

**Mother Bruce**

written and illustrated by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney-Hyperion Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4847-3088-1  
When eggs produce goslings, Bruce, the bear, has a problem. Humorous illustrations. (5-8)

**My Family Adventure (Sofia Martinez series)**

by Jacqueline Jules, illustrated by Kim Smith (Picture Window Books/Capstone, P \$4.95) 978-1-4795-5790-5  
Sofia, an outgoing seven-year-old, makes every day memorable. Three stories recount her adventures with simple Spanish words interwoven into the text. Colorful, cheerful illustrations. (5-7)

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**The Nonsense Show**

written and illustrated by Eric Carle  
(Philomel Books/Penguin, \$18.99) 978-0-399-17687-6  
Colorful tissue paper collage illustrations heighten  
engaging rhymes that capture preposterous situations.  
(5–8)

**One Word from Sophia**

by Jim Averbeck, illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's  
Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-0514-0  
Clever Sophia learns the importance of choosing the  
best word in order to make a compelling argument for  
what she wants. Watercolor and colored pencil  
illustrations. (6–9)

**Ragweed's Farm Dog Handbook**

written and illustrated by Anne Vitur Kennedy  
(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7417-5  
Ragweed gives advice on how to behave—and get  
biscuits. Colorful acrylics. (5–7)

**\*The Skunk**

by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Patrick McDonnell  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-59643-966-5  
No matter where he goes, a man is pursued by a skunk.  
Will he ever be rid of the obsessive creature? Muted,  
sketch-like illustrations. (4–7)

**\*The Story of Diva and Flea**

by Mo Willems, illustrated by Tony DiTerlizzi  
(Hyperion Books for Children/Disney, \$14.99)  
978-1-4847-2284-8  
When a cosseted, timid dog meets an intrepid stray cat,  
both their lives change for the better. Colorful,  
expressive pen and ink illustrations. (7–9)

**\*What the Dinosaurs Did Last Night: A Very Messy Adventure**

written and photographed by Refe Tuma and Susan  
Tuma  
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$17.00)  
978-0-316-33562-1  
An unexplainable mess in your house could mean an  
invasion of plastic dinosaurs. Bold colorful photographs  
of hilarious tableaux. (6–10)

**Sports (Fiction)****My New Team (Little Rhino series)**

by Ryan Howard and Krystle Howard, illustrated by  
Erwin Madrid  
(Scholastic Press, P \$4.99) 978-0-545-67490-4  
Playing baseball helps stop bullying when you have a  
good coach. Black-and-white illustrations. (7–8)

**Today****Ask Me**

by Bernard Waber, illustrated by Suzy Lee  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-547-73394-4  
A father and daughter walk through the neighborhood,  
exploring and asking each other questions as they go.  
Pencil illustrations in bold autumn colors. (5–8)

**Friends of a Feather (The Life of Ty series)**

by Lauren Myracle, illustrated by Jed Henry  
(Dutton BFYR/Penguin, \$12.99) 978-0-525-42288-4  
Seven-year-old Ty's best friend, Joseph, is out of the  
hospital and back in school. Now Ty has to reestablish  
their friendship. Simple black-and-white illustrations.  
(7–9)

**I'm New Here**

written and illustrated by Anne Sibley O'Brien  
(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-612-2  
Three children, immigrants from different lands, face  
the challenge of adjusting to school in America. Digitally  
enhanced watercolor illustrations. (6–8)

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**In a Cloud of Dust**

by Alma Fullerton, illustrated by Brian Deines (Pajama Press, \$17.95) 978-1-927485-62-2  
In a Tanzanian village, a bicycle library improves the lives of Anna and other children who have to travel far to get to school. Gentle, warm illustrations. (6–8)

**Love Is My Favorite Thing**

written and illustrated by Emma Chichester Clark (Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-399-17503-9  
Plum, the dog, loves many things, her family but most of all. Will they stop loving her because of her naughtiness? Hand-drawn and computer-generated illustrations. (5–9)

**Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation**

by Edwidge Danticat, illustrated by Leslie Staub (Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-525-42809-1  
Jailed as an undocumented immigrant, Saya's mother sends her daughter stories of her native Haiti, while Saya writes the story of her own life. Bright oil paintings. (7–9)

**Mango, Abuela, and Me**

by Meg Medina, illustrated by Angela Dominguez (Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-6900-3  
Mia's grandmother comes to live with her, and although the two of them speak different languages, they find new ways to communicate, with the help of a parrot. Ink, gouache and marker illustrations. Also in a Spanish language edition. (5–8)

**Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans**

by Phil Bildner, illustrated by John Parra (Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-2578-7  
When Hurricane Katrina floods the city they love, Cornelius and the people of New Orleans rally to revive their battered hometown. Colorful, naïve-style paintings. (6–8)

**\*My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay**

by Cari Best, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Margaret Ferguson Books/Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-38819-5  
Zulay, who is blind, loves her classroom and her friends—but not using her cane. She decides to run in a race to prove her mettle. Bright, cheerful illustrations. (5–8)

**\*The Night World**

written and illustrated by Mordicai Gerstein (Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.00) 978-0-316-18822-7  
When his cat wakes him up before dawn, a young boy discovers that his familiar house and garden look very different in the dark. Extraordinary mixed-media illustrations. (5–7)

**\*A Poem in Your Pocket (Mr. Tiffany's Classroom series)**

by Margaret McNamara, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$16.99) 978-0-307-97947-6  
Will Elinor ever find her poet's war? Colorful gouache, pencil, and acrylic illustrations. (5–8)

**Pool**

written and illustrated by JiHyeon Lee (Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-4294-4  
In this wordless story, two shy swimmers meet underwater in a crowded pool, become friends, and let their imaginations fly. Colored pencil and oil pastel illustrations. (5–7)

**See You Next Year**

by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Todd Stewart (Owlkids Books, \$16.95) 978-1-926973-99-9  
A young girl loves the comforting routine of her family's annual vacation at the beach, and this year she makes a new friend there. Illustrations in hazy summer tones. (5–8)

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**Sona and the Wedding Game**

by Kashmira Sheth, illustrated by Yoshiko Jaeggi  
(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-735-9

Sona is excited about her role in her sister's traditional Indian wedding. She is to steal the groom's shoes!  
Muted watercolors. (5-8)

**Stella Brings the Family**

by Miriam B. Schiffer, illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1190-2

Stella decides to bring her two fathers as well as other family members to a Mother's Day celebration at school. Whimsical watercolors. (5-8)

**Strictly No Elephants**

by Lisa Mantchev, illustrated by Taeun Yoo  
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99)  
978-1-4814-1647-4

Excluded from the pet club, a boy and his tiny elephant start their own inclusive club for unusual friends.  
Digitally rendered linoleum block print and pencil illustrations. (5-8)

**Sunday Shopping**

by Sally Derby, illustrated by Shadra Strickland  
(Lee & Low Books, \$17.95) 978-1-60060-438-6  
Every Sunday night Evie and Grandma read ads in the paper and go on an imaginary shopping spree. Bold mixed-media illustrations. (5-8)

**\*Two White Rabbits**

by Jairo Buitrago, translated from the Spanish by Elisa Amado, illustrated by Rafael Yockteng  
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.95)  
978-1-55498-741-2

Migrating with her father to the United States, a young girl shares the ways she occupies herself during the harrowing journey. Expressive digital illustrations. End note. (5-8)

**Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt**

by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1936-6

The flourishing plants and animals above the earth and the roots and animals in the soil below are described as grandmother and child tend a garden. Colorful, detailed illustrations. (6-9)

**\*A Wave Came through Our Window**

by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Charity Russell  
(Rosetta Press, P \$10.00) 978-1-51503352-3

Benny and her big sister cannot sleep on a hot night, so they enjoy the neighborhood sounds and smells. Soft, colored illustrations. (6-8)

**What James Said**

by Liz Rosenberg, illustrated by Matt Myers  
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan,  
\$16.99) 978-1-59643-908-5

It hurts to lose your best friend, especially through a misunderstanding. Appealing pen and watercolor illustrations. (5-7)

**When Otis Courted Mama**

by Kathi Appelt, illustrated by Jill McElmurry  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-15-216688-5

A young coyote in New Mexico learns to accept his divorced mother's suitor. Gouache illustrations portray the southwestern desert. (4-8)

**When Sophie's Feelings Are Really, Really Hurt**

written and illustrated by Molly Bang  
(Scholastic Press, \$17.99) 978-0-545-78831-1

When Sophie's painting of her favorite tree is criticized, her feelings get hurt. A caring teacher helps. Vivid, bold illustrations. (5-8)



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**POETRY****Amazing Places**

selected by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet and Christy Hale

(Lee & Low Books, \$18.95) 978-1-60060-653-3

An exquisite anthology of historic places and people represents diverse voices and fresh viewpoints of a group of notable poets. Pencil and digital illustrations. (7–10)

**Boats Float!**

by George Ella Lyon, and Benn Lyon, illustrated by Mick Wiggins

(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-0380-1

Rhyming text and colorful, digitally rendered illustrations depict many different types of boats. (4–7)

**Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems/Aleteo y zumbido: poemas de animales**

written and illustrated by Julie Paschkis

(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-1-62779-103-8

Colorful gouache illustrations and eloquent verses in Spanish and English convey the essence of snakes, herons, whales, moths, and a variety of other creatures. (7–10)

**\*Goodnight Songs: A Celebration of the Seasons**

by Margaret Wise Brown, illustrated by Peter Brown and others

(Sterling Children's Books/Sterling Publishing, \$17.95)

978-1-4549-0447-2

Twelve bedtime poems, set to music and illustrated by a variety of artists, glorify the wonders of nature throughout the year. Extensive end notes. CD. (5–8)

**My Village: Rhymes from around the World**

collected by Danielle Wright, illustrated by Mique Moriuchi, introduction by Michael Rosen

(Frances Lincoln Children's Books, \$17.99)

978-1-84780-627-7

Colorful collages illustrate traditional poems from 50 countries. (6–8)

**National Geographic Book of Nature Poetry: More than 200 Poems With Photographs That Float, Zoom, and Bloom!**

edited by J. Patrick Lewis

(National Geographic, \$24.99) 978-1-4263-2094-1

From sky to sea, in splendor and distress, nature is depicted by a wide variety of poets. Full-color photographs. (7–10)

**\*Neighbors: The Water Critters**

by George Held, illustrated by Joung Un Kim

(Filsinger & Co., \$25.00) 978-0-916754-31-0

Thirteen varied short poems combine facts and linguistic whimsy in portraying aquatic creatures. Simple collage illustrations capture their natural environments. Questions stimulate discussion. (6–9)

**One Today**

by Richard Blanco, illustrated by Dav Pilkey

(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, \$18.00)

978-0-316-37144-5

A lush and lyrical patriotic commemoration of America is enhanced by vivid acrylic and india ink illustrations. (5–8)

**Orangutanka: A Story in Poems**

by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Renée Kurilla

(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-0-8050-9839-6

Follow a lively young orangutan as she dances in a wildlife preserve. Written in the Japanese tanka style. Colorful, energetic illustrations. Back matter. (5–8)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**\*The Popcorn Astronauts: And Other Biteable Rhymes**

by Deborah Ruddell, illustrated by Joan Rankin  
(Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR,  
\$17.99) 978-1-4424-6555-8

Food-based rhymed poems centered around the seasons create an imaginary world of delectable treats. Whimsical, detailed watercolors. (6–9)

**\*Sail Away: Poems by Langston Hughes**

illustrated by Ashley Bryan  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's  
Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-3085-2

Bold vivid paper-cut collages are paired with 15 child-friendly poems, each expressing the renowned poet's personal connection with water. Look for the surprise in the endpapers. (6–9)

**\*Salsa: Un poema para cocinar/ A Cooking Poem**

by Jorge Argueta, translated from the Spanish by Elisa Amado, illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh  
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$18.95)  
978-1-55498-442-8

A young girl and her family make red salsa musically to celebrate their culture and ancestry. Flat, stylistic illustrations. Spanish and English text. (5–10)

**The Sky Painter: Louis Fuertes, Bird Artist**

by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Aliona Bereghici  
(Two Lions/Amazon Publishing, \$17.99)  
978-1-4778-2633-1

The artist and naturalist known as the father of modern bird art is described through free verse and rhyme. Watercolor illustrations. Historical note. (6–9)

**INFORMATION BOOKS****Animals (Nonfiction)****\*An Ambush of Tigers: A Wild Gathering of Collective Nouns**

by Betsy R. Rosenthal, illustrated by Jago  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-4677-1464-8  
The collective nouns for assemblages of animals are presented humorously and poetically with equally clever illustrations. Includes a glossary. (4–8)

**Big Red Kangaroo**

by Claire Saxby, illustrated by Graham Byrne  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-7075-7  
In the wilds of Australia, a male kangaroo daily feeds his mob and meets the challenges to his leadership. Arresting illustrations. (5–8)

**A Chicken Followed Me Home!: Questions and Answers about a Familiar Fowl**

written and illustrated by Robin Page  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-1028-1  
Fascinating facts about chickens and their eggs will make you want a chicken of your own. Colorful, realistic digital illustrations. Back matter includes a brief bibliography. (5–8)

**Could a Penguin Ride a Bike?: ... And Other Questions**

by Camilla de la Bédoyère, illustrated by Aleksei Bitskoff  
(QEB Publishing/Hachette, \$15.95) 978-1-60992-734-9  
Discover the facts about these popular birds by observing how they would function in everyday human activities. Humorous colorful illustrations. (5–7)

**Daylight Starlight Wildlife**

written and illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, \$17.99) 978-0-399-24662-3  
Lifelike luminous paintings reveal the variety of wild life that surrounds us while we are sleeping and when we are awake. Back matter. (5–8)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**Egg: Nature's Perfect Package**

by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)

978-0-547-95909-2

Different animals lay eggs in different sizes and in different places and store them in different ways.

Drawings and accurate collages. (7–10)

**\*High Tide for Horseshoe Crabs**

by Lisa Kahn Schnell, illustrated by Alan Marks

(Charlesbridge, \$16.95) 978-1-58089-604-7

Birds, people, and horseshoe crabs meet up each spring on the shores of Delaware Bay where the crabs come to spawn. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (6–9)

**I (Don't) Like Snakes**

by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Luciano Lozano

(Candlewick Press, \$15.99) 978-0-7636-7831-9

Will a young girl overcome her aversion to snakes when she learns more about them? Well-explained facts and detailed color illustrations. (6–9)

**Moon Bears**

written and photographed by Mark Newman

(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-0-8050-9344-5

Learn how some of Asia's rescued indigenous moon bears live, what they eat, and why their ears are round and far apart. Detailed photographs. (6–9)

**The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea**

by Brenda Z. Guiberson, illustrated by Gennady Spirin

(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99)

978-0-8050-9961-4

In beautifully illustrated two-page spreads, 12 marine animals tell why they deserve to be considered the most amazing creature in the sea. Bibliography and online resources. (7–10)

**A Nest Is Noisy**

by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long  
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-2713-2

An amazing variety of nests of diverse animals—hornets, flamingos, lampreys and more—are meticulously illustrated. (7–9)

**Primate School**

by Jennifer Keats Curtis

(Arbordale, \$17.95) 978-1-62855-555-4

Informative text and color photographs show primates in captivity and the kinds of adaptive behavior they learn from using technology and interacting with people. (6–9)

**Salamander Season**

by Jennifer Keats Curtis and J. Adam Frederick,

illustrated by Shennen Bersani

(Arbordale, \$17.95) 978-1-62855-5561-1

Father and daughter scientists discover the habitat of salamanders throughout their life cycle. Photographs and lively, detailed drawings. (6–9)

**Secrets of Winter: A Shine-a-Light Book**

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Georgina Tee

(Kane Miller/EDC, \$12.99) 978-1-61067-369-3

Shine a light behind the page to uncover hidden animals in their habitats during winter. Written in a Q and A format. Color and black-and-white illustrations. (5–7)

**Trapped!: A Whale's Rescue**

by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Wendell Minor

(Charlesbridge, \$17.95) 978-1-58089-558-3

A humpback whale, caught in fishing nets, is freed by divers. Based on a true story. Vivid gouache illustrations. (5–8)

**Weird & Wild Animal Facts**

by Jessica Loy, photographed by Jessica Loy and others  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-7945-6

Some fairly common animals have some very unusual characteristics used for defense, feeding, cleansing, and camouflage. Photographs. (5–8)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**Arts****Bird & Diz**

by Gary Golio, illustrated by Ed Young  
(Candlewick Press, \$19.99) 978-0-7636-6660-6  
When jazz greats Charlie "Bird" Parker and John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie played together, they created a new musical style called bebop. Pastel, gouache, and ink illustrations. (5–8)

**Drum Dream Girl:****How One Girl's Courage Changed Music**

by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael López  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, \$16.99)  
978-0-544-10229-3  
Though she is continually reminded that only boys play drums, a young girl in Cuba strives to become a drummer. Poetic text. Illustrated in vibrant, tropical colors. (6–9)

**Ira's Shakespeare Dream**

by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Floyd Cooper  
(Lee & Low Books, \$18.95) 978-1-62014-155-7  
African American Ira Aldridge left segregated America in the 1800s and achieved success on the stage in England. Softly hued oil wash illustrations. (7–10)

**My Pen**

written and illustrated by Christopher Myers  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4231-0371-4  
The acclaimed illustrator shares his pen and ink sketchbook and invites kids to pick up a pen and create imaginary worlds. (7–10)

**Biography and Memoir****\*Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine**

by Laurie Wallmark, illustrated by April Chu  
(Creston Books, \$17.99) 978-1-939547-20-0  
Interested in science and math, young Ada wrote what is considered to be the first computer program. Victorian style illustrations, pencil on paper then colored. (7–9)

**\*The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch**

by Chris Barton, illustrated by Don Tate  
(Eerdmans BFYR, \$17.00) 978-0-8028-5379-0  
Born a slave, Lynch became a congressman during Reconstruction in the South, experiencing its twists and hardships. Vivid language, watercolor illustrations, timeline, and bibliography. (6–10)

**Earmuffs for Everyone!: How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of Earmuffs**

written and illustrated by Meghan McCarthy  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-0637-6  
A boy from Maine with cold ears improves upon and patents his design for earmuffs. Colorful, comical illustrations. Notes and bibliography. (6–10)

**Elvis: The Story of the Rock and Roll King**

written and illustrated by Bonnie Christensen  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9447-3  
Elvis's shyness and upbringing in a poor white community as well as the mix of black and white music that moved him are narrated in simple verse. Lovely photo collages painted with oil. (6–9)

**Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah**

by Laurie Ann Thompson, illustrated by Sean Qualls  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, \$17.99)  
978-0-449-81744-5  
Born with a deformed leg, Emmanuel rides his bike 400 miles across Ghana, gaining support and proving that disabled doesn't mean unabled. Mixed-media illustrations. (5–9)

**Fab Four Friends: The Boys Who Became the Beatles**

by Susanna Reich, illustrated by Adam Gustavson  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9458-9  
John, Paul, George, and Ringo worked tirelessly and coped with pain and trauma to fulfill their dream of being rock-and-roll musicians. Warm oil illustrations. (7–10)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**\*Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass (Big Words series)**

by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by London Ladd

(Jump at the Sun/Disney-Hyperion, \$17.99)

978-1-4231-1438-3

Taken from his mother as an infant and forced to work as a slave at age six, Frederick Douglass was determined to educate himself and become a free man. Powerful illustrations. (7–10)

**Henry Aaron's Dream**

written and illustrated by Mart Tavares

(Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-7653-7

After Jackie Robinson integrated baseball, great African American athlete Henry Aaron's dream of becoming a major-league player came true. Expressive, realistic mixed-media illustrations. (7–9)

**\*Jake Makes a World: Jacob Lawrence, a Young Artist in Harlem**

by Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, illustrated by Christopher Myers

(The Museum of Modern Art, \$18.95)

978-0-87070-965-4

The colors and music of his Harlem neighborhood inspire a young boy to paint, create masks, and recreate his world. Brilliantly illustrated. Backmatter with biographical details and reproductions of seven Jacob Lawrence paintings. (6–10)

**Love Will See You Through: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Six Guiding Beliefs (as Told by his Niece)**

by Angela Farris Watkins, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport

(Simon &amp; Schuster BFYR, \$17.99) 978-1-4169-8693-5

A simple explanation provides an understanding of the complexity of history's civil rights movement. Charcoal and acrylic drawings. (6–9)

**Mahalia Jackson: Walking with Kings and Queens**

by Nina Nolan, illustrated by John Holyfield

(Amistad Press/HarperCollins, \$17.99)

978-0-06-087944-0

Born in poverty, Mahalia Jackson became a great gospel singer whose powerful voice rang out from Carnegie Hall to the March on Washington. Lush acrylic illustrations. (7–9)

**My Name Is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth**

by Ann Turner, illustrated by James Ransome

(Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-075898-1

Transforming herself after a harsh life as a slave, this legendary orator and preacher vigorously advocated abolition and women's rights in the 1800s. Lyrical watercolor illustrations. Well referenced. (6–10)

**One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia**

by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon

(Millbrook Press/Lerner, \$19.99) 978-1-4677-1608-6

When plastic bags threaten the health of her Gambian neighborhood, one woman with a crochet hook takes action. Colorful collage illustrations. Map and author's notes. (6–9)

**\* Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton**

written and illustrated by Don Tate

(Peachtree, \$16.95) 978-1-56145-825-7

The long and difficult journey from being enslaved and illiterate to becoming a free man and a published author reveals a poet's resilience. Yellow-toned illustrations. Sources and notes. (7–9)

**Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story**

written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully

(Margaret Ferguson Books/Farrar Straus Giroux

BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-374-30007-4

In the early 20th century, Lizzie Murphy proved that baseball wasn't just for men. This fictionalized account celebrates her rise to a major league career. Colorful, animated illustrations. (7–10)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova**

by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Julie Morstad  
(Chronicle Books, \$17.99) 978-1-4521-1890-1  
In Russia before World War I, a young girl who sees her first ballet knows right then what her future will be and becomes a world-famous ballerina. Mixed-media illustrations. (6–9)

**Talkin' Guitar: A Story of Young Doc Watson**

written and illustrated by Robbin Gourley  
(Clarion Books/HMH, \$16.99) 978-0-544-12988-7  
The songs and soundscape of rural Appalachia inspired young, blind Arthel Watson to become a great folk singer and bluegrass musician. Gentle watercolors. (7–9)

**History****Aaron and Alexander: The Most Famous Duel in American History**

written and illustrated by Don Brown  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99)  
978-1-59643-998-6  
Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, two powerful figures of early American history, come to blows with fatal results. Dramatic watercolors. Notes and bibliography. (6–9)

**\*The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage**

by Selina Alko, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko  
(Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, \$18.99)  
978-0-545-47853-3  
In the 1960s the Lovings successfully challenged the Virginia law that made their interracial marriage a crime. Subdued mixed-media illustrations. (6–9)

**The Founding Fathers!: Those Horse-Ridin', Fiddle-Playin', Book-Readin', Gun-Totin' Gentlemen Who Started America**

by Jonah Winter, illustrated by Barry Blitt  
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4424-4274-0  
Witty, evocative ink and watercolor illustrations enhance this lively, whimsical history of America's early leaders. Notes and sources. (6–10)

**\*Game Changer: John McLendon and the Secret Game**

by John Coy, illustrated by Randy DuBurke  
(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, \$17.99) 978-1-4677-2604-7  
In 1944 in segregated North Carolina, white players and black players broke the law to play basketball together. Muted color illustrations. (7–10)

**\*Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama**

by Hester Bass, illustrated by E. B. Lewis  
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-6919-5  
As civil rights violence rocks the nation, Huntsville, Alabama, chooses to peacefully integrate its restaurants, its movie theaters, and, finally, its schools. Warm, rich watercolors. Author's note and bibliography. (7–10)

**Whale Trails: Before and Now**

by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by G. Brian Karas  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-0-8050-9642-2  
A whale-watching trip in Cape Cod today is juxtaposed with the lucrative whaling expeditions of the 18th and 19th centuries. Gouache, acrylic, and pencil illustrations. Back matter. (6–9)

**Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)****Boy, Were We Wrong about the Human Body**

by Kathleen V. Kudlinski, illustrated by Debbie Tilley  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3792-1  
What will we find out in 20 years that will disprove what we know today? A delightful romp through medical history. Humorous watercolors. Timeline. (7–9)

**Boy, Were We Wrong about the Weather!**

by Kathleen V. Kudlinski, illustrated by Sebastia Serra  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, \$16.99) 978-0-8037-3793-8  
Throughout recorded history, people had myriad theories about weather—all wrong! Artwork created with pencil and computer graphics. Timeline. (7–9)

\* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

**If You Love Honey: Nature's Connections**

by Martha Sullivan, illustrated by Cathy Morrison (Dawn Publications, P \$8.95) 978-1-58469-534-9  
Bees make honey—but they don't do it alone. They are part of an interactive cycle that includes dandelions, ladybugs, and many other plants and animals. Colorful, detailed illustrations. (7–9)

**On the Construction Site: A Shine-a-Light Book**

by Carron Brown, illustrated by Bee Johnson (Kane Miller/EDC, \$12.99) 978-1-61067-370-9  
Shine a light behind the page to uncover hidden features of a building site. Presented in a Q and A format. Color and black-and-white illustrations. (5–8)

**Raindrops Roll**

written and photographed by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-2064-8  
Outstanding photographs and clear text reveal the science of raindrops as they land. Back matter adds details about the water cycle. (5–8)

**\*Simple Machines (Let's Read-and-Find-Out Science series)**

by D. J. Ward, illustrated by Mike Lowery (Harper/HarperCollins, \$17.99) 978-0-06-232148-0  
Learn about the six basic simple machines—levers, wheels and axels, pulleys, ramps, wedges, and screws. Humorous explanations. Pen, ink, and digital illustrations. (5–8)

**Simple Machines: Wheels, Levers, and Pulleys**

by David A. Adler, illustrated by Anna Raff (Holiday House, \$17.95) 978-0-8234-3309-4  
Did you know your teeth are simple machines? Find out how many simple machines there are in our everyday life. Useful, clear illustrations. (6–8)

**So You Want to Grow a Pizza? (Grow Your Food series)**

by Bridget Heos, illustrated by Daniele Fabbri (Amicus, \$19.95) 978-1-60753-740-3  
A humorous how-to on how to grow the ingredients for pizza sauce. Warm, colorful illustrations of the process. Recipe and resource list. (5–8)

**Sounds of the Savanna**

by Terry Catasús Jennings, illustrated by Phyllis Saroff (Arbordale, \$17.95) 978-1-62855-632-2  
From elephants trumpeting and rumbling to baboons shrieking and grunting, the animals of the savanna communicate through many different sounds. Detailed digital and oil illustrations. (7–9)

**Water Is Water:****A Book about the Water Cycle**

by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, \$17.99) 978-1-59643-984-9  
Siblings explore the many different forms that water takes during each season. Lyrical text with realistic watercolor and gouache illustrations. Back matter provides scientific facts and bibliography. (6–9)

**What in the World?: Numbers in Nature**

by Nancy Raines Day, illustrated by Kurt Cyrus (Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-0060-2  
Large-scale colorful illustrations and simple rhyming text describe birds two by two, three by three, and in other sets in nature. (6–8)

**When the Wind Blows**

by Stacy Clark, illustrated by Brad Sneed (Holiday House, \$16.95) 978-0-8243-3069-7  
From filling sails to turning windmills to produce power, wind can do many things. Poetically told with appealing illustrations. (5–7)

**World****The Way to School**

by Rosemary McCarney, with Plan International (Second Story Press, \$18.95) 978-1-927583-78-4  
Children around the world share their different and sometimes dangerous experiences going to school. Full-color photographs, (5–8)