



ZERO TO SEVEN

THUNDER BOY JR.

by Sherman Alexie

illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316013727

Though his adored dad is called Thunder Boy, his son would like a name of his own in this universal story of celebrating one's own individuality and personality. Delightful, energetic illustrations bring to life the boy's wonderful imagination and warmly embracing family.

THE AIRPORT BOOK

by Lisa Brown

Roaring Brook Press

978-1626720916

India ink and bright watercolor illustrations depict a diverse group of passengers and their individual experiences in a friendly and perfect introduction to the details that surround air travel.

MAYBE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD

by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell

illustrated by Rafael López

HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544357693

A young girl inspires an artist with her joyful, colorful drawings, and together with their neighbors transform the gray sidewalks and gray buildings of their community with bright murals.

A HUNGRY LION OR A DWINDLING ASSORTMENT OF ANIMALS

by Lucy Ruth Cummins

Atheneum Books for Young Readers

978-1481448895

Twists and turns abound in this hilarious story of a collection of creatures who seem to be gradually disappearing. One particular predator seems to be at the center of things.

SLEEP TIGHT FARM: A FARM PREPARES FOR WINTER

by Eugenie Doyle

illustrated by Becca Stadtlander

Chronicle Books

978-1452129013

Winter time is rest-time for farms when instead of donning pajamas, vegetables are harvested, wood is stacked and equipment is put away for a long winter's nap. Beautiful folk-art inspired illustrations pair perfectly with this quiet, soothing book.

DU IZ TAK?

by Carson Ellis

Candlewick

978-0763665302

Delicately drawn, elegantly designed ink-and-gouache scenes depict a community of stylishly dressed insects who observe the life cycle of an exotic plant, while readers get to interpret their behavior and unusual language.



THE NIGHT GARDENER

by Eric and Terry Fan
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
978-1481439787

Colorless, downtrodden Grimloch Lane is transformed by the wonder and whimsy of magnificent animal topiaries created by a mysterious stranger.

JANE FOSTER'S FIRST WORDS

by Jane Foster
little bee books
978-1499802849

Tree, apple; flower, bird; cat, dog: simple, familiar words are introduced with eye-catching illustrations in this sturdy, beautifully designed board book. The last two pages repeat all the images for review and practice.

OWL SEES OWL

by Laura Godwin
illustrated by Rob Dunlavey
Schwartz & Wade
978-0553497823

Spare, simple language depicts Baby Owl's tentative exploration into the autumn night and return to his family's comforting nest under a dark sky gorgeously illuminated by a stars and a full moon.

THE SOUND OF SILENCE

by Katrina Goldsaito
illustrated by Julia Kuo
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
978-0316203371

Yoshio, who laughs at the sound of his own giggles as he splash-dances in Tokyo's rain, is determined to find the sound the elderly koto players says is her favorite: the elusive sound of "ma," or silence.

IN PLAIN SIGHT

by Richard Jackson
illustrated by Jerry Pinkney
Roaring Brook Press
978-1626722552

A lost and found game between Grandpa and Sophie highlights a loving relationship between the little girl and the disabled veteran. Readers are offered a challenging game of hidden pictures through the detailed pencil and watercolor illustrations.

CAT ON THE BUS

by Aram Kim
Holiday House
978-0823436477

A street cat finds a warm, cozy spot on a city bus in this tale of few words. When a passenger sits next to the cat, the cat snuggles right in and soon finds itself with a new home.

ABC DREAM

by Kim Krans
Random House Books for Young Readers
978-0553539295

This beautifully illustrated, remarkably clever, wordless ABC book offers a challenge to observant readers of all ages.



LIFE ACCORDING TO DANI

by Rose Lagercrantz
illustrated by Eva Eriksson
Gecko Press
978-1776570706

Best friends Dani and Ella's island summer includes the simple joys of childhood along with Dani's undercurrent of worry about her injured father until "happiness turns up again" in this Swedish import.

SKUNK ON A STRING

by Thao Lam
Owlkids Books
978-1771471312

Colorful, textured paper collage brings this wordless picture book to life as an ill-fated skunk tangled in balloon string floats past cityscapes and less familiar sights.

TELL ME A TATTOO STORY

by Alison McGhee
illustrated by Eliza Wheeler
Chronicle Books
978-1452119373

A father tells his son the meanings behind his various tattoos. India ink and soft cool watercolors depict a father, mother, and son while vivid warm colors enliven the memories represented by the tattoos.

GRUMPY PANTS

by Claire Messer
Albert Whitman & Company
978-0807530757

Delightful linoleum block prints and easy to read text tell a light-hearted and relatable story about a penguin who experiences, and overcomes, a spell of grumpiness.

HARE AND TORTOISE

by Alison Murray
Candlewick
978-0763687212

"I may be slow, but watch me go," says Tortoise in this brisk and funny contemporary retelling of the classic tale complete with sports announcer voice-overs and lively digital art.

CROCOPOTAMUS

by Mary Murphy
Candlewick
978-0763681029

This interactive board book invites readers to mix and match bold and colorful animal heads and tails to create a variety of silly creatures while exploring the way that words are made.



A FAMILY IS A FAMILY IS A FAMILY

by Sara O'Leary
illustrated by Qin Leng
Groundwood Books
978-1554987948

What makes a family special? A classroom full of children explore the ways that families are different and alike as they describe their homes with new babies, only children, gay parents, blended families and more.

SCHOOL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

by Adam Rex
pictures by Christian Robinson
Roaring Brook Press
978-1596439641

A newly built school is just as excited and nervous as the many students who walk through its doors for their first day of class.

BEST IN SNOW

by April Pulley Sayre
Beach Lane Books
978-1481459167

Sayre uses an unusual combination of poetry, science, and photography to reveal the secrets of snow to young readers in a nonfiction work that sparkles with fascinating detail.

THERE IS A TRIBE OF KIDS

by Lane Smith
Roaring Brook Press
978-1626720565

A boy clothed in leaves journeys from one tribe of kids (goats) to another (children) in a series of funny and poignant interactions with groups of animals and things, portrayed in finely textured paintings. In a joyful, Pan-like conclusion the child finds a home at last.

OOPS, POUNCE, QUICK, RUN!: AN ALPHABET CAPER

by Mike Twohy
Balzer + Bray
978-0062377005

A clever and original alphabet book offers a playful storyline and unexpected twists and word choices.

THE WATER PRINCESS

by Susan Verde and Georgie Badiel
illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers
978-0399172588

Everyday, a young girl from a small African village makes a long trek to the well for water. Poetic text and watercolor and gouache illustrations capture the girl's dreamy yet spirited emotions and the dry African landscape.

THEY ALL SAW A CAT

by Brendan Wenzel
Chronicle Books
978-1452150130

Bold multimedia illustrations and rhythmic repetitive text capture the separate, unique world view of each of the cat observers: a child, assorted creatures and the cat itself in a mirrored lake. Sure to produce giggles and discussion.



HOME AT LAST

by Vera B. Williams
illustrated by Chris Raschka
Greenwillow Books
978-0061349737

Lester has a new house and two new daddies but is afraid to sleep alone until Wincka the dog brilliantly solves the problem. Colorful watercolor illustrations add warmth to the story of a child's finding comfort in an adoptive home.

SEVEN TO TEN

PREACHING TO THE CHICKENS: THE STORY OF YOUNG JOHN LEWIS

by Jabari Asim
illustrated by E.B. Lewis
Nancy Paulsen Books
978-0399168567

John Lewis wanted to be a minister when he was young, and he realized that his family's flock of sixty Rhode Island Red and Dominique bantam chickens was an attentive congregation. E. B. Lewis's gentle watercolors sweetly recall John's early life on his family's busy farm.

THE WHITE CAT AND THE MONK: A RETELLING OF THE POEM "PANGUR BÁN"

by Jo Ellen Bogart
illustrated by Sydney Smith
Groundwood Books
978-1554987801

This charming version of an ancient, simple poem in which an Irish monk compares his ninth century life of study to the pursuits of his cat has memorable watercolor and ink illustrations, including a view of the manuscript he studies.

THE WILD ROBOT

by Peter Brown
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
978-0316381994

Roz emerges as the only robot to survive a shipwreck, and evolves from what the wild animals first see as terrifying monster to mother and leader in the wild. This clever allegory for community and environmental responsibility is warm and humorous.

FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE

by Ashley Bryan
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
978-1481456906

Imagining the characteristics, work roles, and dreams of eleven slaves known only through their names and prices on bill of sale from 1828, Bryan creates portraits in words and images and reveals secrets of the heart.

SMART ABOUT SHARKS

by Owen Davey
Flying Eye Books
978-1909263918

Digital illustrations in a retro color palette and tongue-in-cheek headings accompany excellent infographics and a wealth of detail about eight orders of the toothy fish.



¡OLINGUITO, DE LA A A LA Z!/OLINGUITO, FROM A to Z!

by Lulu Delacre
Children's Book Press
978-0892393275

A zoologist searches for the little new mammal species, the olinguito, in the Ecuadorian Andes. Lovely mixed media illustrations encourage the reader to look closely and add a hidden element to this poetic bilingual alphabet.

WHEN GREEN BECOMES TOMATOES: POEMS FOR ALL SEASONS

by Julie Fogliano
illustrated by Julie Morstad
Roaring Brook Press
978-1596438521

Simple joys of the natural world are captured in delicate illustrations and childlike poems that find inspiration in clouds, sunshine and sweater weather from spring through the seasons and back to spring again.

I AM PAN!

by Mordicai Gerstein
Roaring Brook Press
978-1626720350

Vibrant paintings in a graphic picture book format accompany fun-filled, laugh-out-loud stories about Pan, the god of the wild, and his wild and crazy ways.

THE FIRST STEP: HOW ONE GIRL PUT SEGREGATION ON TRIAL

by Susan E. Goodman
illustrated by E.B. Lewis
Bloomsbury USA Childrens
978-0802737397

Sarah Roberts' father sued the city of Boston for her right to go to school and paved the way toward school integration in America in this true story.

HIPPOPOTAMISTER

by John Patrick Green
First Second
978-1626722002

With their zoo in shambles Hippo and Red Panda set out for the city, where they try (and fail at) a host of human jobs in this graphic novel affirmation of personal reinvention for early elementary readers.

GARVEY'S CHOICE

by Nikki Grimes
WordSong
978-1629797403

This novel in verse uses the Japanese tanka style of five line poems to tell the story of an adolescent boy with music on his mind. Though his father wants to turn him into an athlete, Garvey loves science and reading, and finds friendship and acceptance when he joins the school choir.



BOOK UNCLE AND ME

by Uma Krishnaswami
illustrated by Julianna Swaney
Groundwood Books
978-1554988082

Nine year-old Yasmin, an avid reader, finds the courage to create a community campaign in an effort to save Book Uncle's free lending library.

I DISSENT: RUTH BADER GINSBURG MAKES HER MARK

by Debbie Levy
illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers
978-1481465595

An inspirational and lively picture book biography with a bright, appealing design will have readers cheering for the "notorious RGB" and her daring legal battles to break the barriers to women's rights.

WHEN MISCHIEF CAME TO TOWN

by Katrina Nannestad
HMH Books for Young Readers
978-0544534322

Inge Maria, orphaned in Copenhagen in 1911, ferries to an island to live with a grandmother she has never met and encounters dismaying mishaps with mud, scissors, cakes, mice, fish, and a donkey before her grandmother finally laughs.

JAZZ DAY: THE MAKING OF A FAMOUS PHOTOGRAPH

by Roxane Orgill
illustrated by Francis Vallejo
Candlewick
978-0763669546

Graphic designer Art Kane told anyone associated with jazz to meet at 126th Street in New York City on August 12, 1958, for a magazine photograph. Fifty-eight musicians, including Count Basie and Dizzy Gillespie, appeared. Vallejo's illustrations and Orgill's poetry reveal details of this memorable event.

A POEM FOR PETER

by Andrea Pinkney
illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher
Viking Books for Young Readers
978-0425287682

This ode to Ezra Jack Keats, the creator of *A Snowy Day* and its main character, Peter, is both an homage and an inspiration. Pinkney's "collage verse" echoes the joy and creativity of Keats's lighthearted illustrations.

PRAIRIE DOG SONG

by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore
Lee & Low Books
978-1620142455

Song lyrics, informational narrative, and collage tell the story of the interdependence of plants, birds, and animals on the prairie in a celebration of the prairie dogs' role in a native grassland ecosystem.



RADIANT CHILD: THE STORY OF YOUNG ARTIST JEAN-MICHEL BASQUIAT

by Javaka Steptoe

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316213882

Steptoe channels Basquiat's chaotic energy and creative genius in a picture book biography honoring the artist's spectacular rise and premature death. Vibrant colors hum on materials salvaged from Basquiat's former haunts, and detailed end notes complement the simple, heartfelt narrative.

SOME WRITER! THE STORY OF E. B. WHITE

by Melissa Sweet

HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544319592

The life of beloved children's author E.B. White, who penned *Charlotte's Web*, is artfully detailed with photographs, writings, and memorabilia in this authorized biography.

THE STORYTELLER

by Evan Turk

Atheneum Books for Young Readers

978-1481435185

In an original tale set in Morocco about the power of storytelling a parched boy slakes his thirst for water and knowledge. Intricate borders frame elaborate illustrations and the story flows with a rich sense of culture and place.

WEEKENDS WITH MAX AND HIS DAD

by Linda Urban

illustrated by Katie Kath

HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544598171

Max shares his third-grade take on his life with his dad, as he and his father adjust to a recent divorce and gradually carve out a life with new friends and traditions.

A PIECE OF HOME

by Jeri Watts

illustrated by Hyewon Yum

Candlewick

978-0763669713

Hee Jun's family uproots from South Korea to West Virginia where every difference feels daunting to him. Yum's gentle illustrations brim with emotion as Hee Jun and his family adjust to their new home. This relatable immigration journey, regardless of national origin, will also resonate among young readers simply struggling to fit in.

FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE

by Carole Boston Weatherford

illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

little bee books

978-1499801033

Enslaved and free Africans in New Orleans gathered in Congo Square on Sunday afternoons during slavery to celebrate, share and remember their African heritage. Vibrant illustrations and simple verse convey both a world of brutal work and exuberant musical communion.



TEN TO FOURTEEN

ASHES

by Laurie Halse Anderson
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
978-1416961468

In the conclusion to the Seeds of America trilogy, American and French soldiers prepare to lay siege to the British army at Yorktown as Isabel and Curzon set out to rescue Isabel's sister Ruth from slavery. The final days of the Revolution are seen through the eyes of characters readers have come to love.

MS. BIXBY'S LAST DAY

by John David Anderson
Walden Pond Press
978-0062338174

Three sixth-grade boys decide to skip school to let their teacher know how much she means to them while she's in the hospital with cancer. This book is part caper novel, as all their plans go astray, and part touching tribute to the power of a good teacher.

MY LIFE WITH THE LIARS

by Caela Carter
HarperCollins
978-0062385710

Ten days before her 13th birthday, Zylynn is plucked from *The Children Inside the Light* and made to live with a man claiming to be her father. Told through the eyes of a confused child, this is a thought-provoking story about family and cults.

IT AIN'T SO AWFUL, FALAFEL

by Firoozeh Dumas
Clarion Books
978-0544612310

Iranian immigrant Zomorod, aka "Cindy," tries to fit in at her new California middle school in the late 1970s, just as the Iranian Revolution and the hostage crisis bring fear and discrimination. But Cindy's voice is wry and true in this humorous tale of identity and acceptance.

FANNIE NEVER FLINCHED: ONE WOMAN'S COURAGE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR AMERICAN LABOR UNION RIGHTS

by Mary Cronk Farrell
Harry N. Abrams
978-1419718847

American Union organizer Frannie Sellins' biography is presented in episodic chapters, each focusing on a key moment in American labor history or on a community she helped organize. Primary sources do much of the storytelling and substantial back matter includes a timeline of select events in the American Labor Struggle between 1877-1935.

WE WILL NOT BE SILENT: THE WHITE ROSE STUDENT RESISTANCE MOVEMENT THAT DEFIED HITLER

by Russell Freedman
Clarion Books
978-0544223790

This slim book powerfully tells the story of the White Rose resistance movement in Germany. Founded by siblings Hans and Sophie Scholl, who were later arrested for treason and beheaded by the Nazi Regime, this tells the story of a group of college students who defied the Nazi Government and ended up losing everything.



VIETNAM: A HISTORY OF THE WAR

by Russell Freedman

Holiday House

978-0823436583

The complex history of the conflict is clearly laid out for any age reader. Freedman includes details on the soldiers from both sides, the history of the country and on the anti-war movement and the difficult exit. It has a useful timeline and well-chosen photos, some disturbing, along with a hopeful epilog.

LILY AND DUNKIN

by Donna Gephart

Delacorte Books for Young Readers

978-0553536744

A chance encounter, coffee, and a beloved tree bring together Lily (born Timothy) and Dunkin (Lily's nickname for new-in-town Norman), both grappling with inner struggles their exteriors belie. A tender introduction to mental health struggles and transgender identity, this dual narrative tackles weighty issues with humor and heart. The strong audio rendition holds much appeal as an alternate format for this sensitive story.

THE INQUISITOR'S TALE: OR, THE THREE MAGICAL CHILDREN AND THEIR HOLY DOG

by Adam Gidwitz

illuminated by Hatem Aly

Dutton Books for Young Readers

978-0525426165

Three unusual children and a saintly dog experience prejudice against Muslims, Jews and peasants in this funny and serious set of tales of spiritual and earthly adventure, all wrapped up in the guise of an illuminated manuscript. A great introduction to the Canterbury Tales.

FULL OF BEANS

by Jennifer L. Holm

Random House Books for Young Readers

978-0553510362

Beans Curry, an enterprising 10-year-old and leader of the Keepsies (the best marble playing gang in Depression-era Key West), invents various schemes to earn money for his struggling family. Meanwhile "New Dealers" from Washington, D.C. come to transform Key West into a tourist destination. A companion title to Turtle in Paradise.

WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER

by Grace Lin

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316125925

Pinmei must find the Luminous Stone That Lights the Night in order to ransom her beloved grandmother, the Storyteller, from the ruthless Tiger Emperor. Original stories echo traditional Chinese folktales interspersed throughout, and handsome spot art and full color illustrations celebrate the Chinese setting.

TEN DAYS A MADWOMAN

by Deborah Noyes

Puffin Books

978-0147508744

This biography of Nellie Bly takes its title from her undercover stay an insane asylum for ten days in one of her most well-known exploits in her career in investigative journalism. Sidebars along with photos and articles from the time period give a complete and entertaining picture of Nellie Bly's life and times.



THE BEST MAN

by Richard Peck
Dial Books
978-0803738393

Archer Magil's first grade started with a wedding; his sixth grade year ends with another. Archer's friendships grow and evolve along with his perception of the world and what it means to be a man in a narrative that is often poignant, laugh-out loud funny and always plausible.

PAX

by Sara Pennybacker
illustrated by Jon Klassen
Balzer + Bray
978-0062377012

A boy is made to abandon his pet fox when his father goes off to war. Both the boy and the fox must learn about survival and responsibility as they travel in new directions and forge new communities.

GHOST

by Jason Reynolds
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
978-1481450157

Ghost's natural speed helps him overtake a cocky, seasoned sprinter, so Coach convinces Ghost to give the track team a try. Ghost is insightful yet immature, and haunted by unhealed trauma from his family's past, he keeps running into trouble. Reynolds' honest, accessible writing shines in the first of a series.

AS BRAVE AS YOU

by Jason Reynolds
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy
978-1481415903

Genie and his older brother discover a world of differences from their life in Brooklyn while spending summer in rural Virginia with their grandparents. This modern classic is filled with humor, a tangible sense of place and rich characterization.

TOWERS FALLING

by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
978-0316262224

Fifth grader Deja lives in a homeless shelter with her sick father, overworked mother and two siblings. In her new school, she and her classmates learn about 911 (which happened before they were born), how it changed the world, and its continuing affect on many, including Deja's father.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PETE SEEGER

by Anita Silvey
Clarion Books
978-0547330129

The life and legacy of the legendary folk singer and activist Pete Seeger and the continuing relevance of his commitment to social and political change is respectfully conveyed in Silvey's dynamic, well-sourced biography.



GHOSTS

by Raina Telgemeier

GRAPHIX

978-0545540629

Though the coastal air will help ease her sister's struggle with cystic fibrosis, Catrina is unhappy about moving to a new town known for its fascination with ghosts in this graphic novel about family, courage, culture, and the fear of death.

SAMURAI RISING: THE EPIC LIFE OF MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE

by Pamela S. Turner

illustrated by Gareth Hinds

Charlesbridge

978-1580895842

Details of the time and culture, along with powerful illustrations, add to the value of this account of the life of one of Japan's most powerful figures and the world in which he tried to establish his birthright. End notes increase our understanding of a world that was brutal and unforgiving.

SAVE ME A SEAT

by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

Scholastic Press

978-0545846608

Ravi, new to the United States from India, has always been the top student in class while Joe has always lived in the same town and has learning problems. Their lives intersect in the first week of 5th grade when they are brought together by a common enemy, the biggest bully in class, and find friendship in their differences.

WOLF HOLLOW

by Lauren Wolk

Dutton Books for Young Readers

978-1101994825

Annabelle's quiet life, already altered by the effect of World War II on her Pennsylvania community, is further upset when a vicious "dark-hearted" new girl, disappears mysteriously and a local recluse and vagabond haunted by the World War I becomes the prime suspect. Annabelle's perceptive voice carries this grim story of unjust persecution to a hopeful end.

FOURTEEN AND UP

WOMEN HEROES OF WORLD WAR II: THE PACIFIC THEATER

by Kathryn J. Atwood

Chicago Review Press

978-1613731680

Resistance, espionage, and survival: this engaging collective biography features 15 diverse and inspiring women during WWII in the Pacific. Includes primary sources and additional reading suggestions to encourage further exploration.

THE PASSION OF DOLSSA

by Julie Berry

Viking Books for Young Readers

978-0451469922

A young gentlewoman, Dolssa, is accused of heresy during the time of the Inquisition in southern France. She is taken in by three tavern-keeper sisters who hide her, despite the danger to their entire town. This highly engaging tale is also available on audiobook.



GIRL MANS UP

by M-E Girard
HarperCollins
978-0062404176

Pen is a female gamer who dresses in loose jeans and men's t-shirts, and lately everyone seems to have an opinion on who she "should" be. In the face of souring relationships with her best friend and parents and a budding romantic relationship, it's time for Pen to "man up" and assert herself.

FRANNIE AND TRU

by Karen Hattrup
HarperTeen
978-0062410207

Frannie idolizes her cousin Tru for his charm, wit and charisma. He's come to spend the summer and Frannie sees this as her chance to impress him and break out of her naive good girl image. As Frannie gets swept up in Tru's world she discovers there's more to him than meets the eye. This powerful coming-of-age story brings the characters and the city of Baltimore to life.

BLOOD, BULLETS, AND BONES: THE STORY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO DNA

by Bridget Heos
Balzer + Bray
978-0062387622

The history and development of forensic science is organized by topic, featuring real cases from around the globe. Visual aids and clear, rich prose complement this excellent introduction to an intriguing field.

GIRL IN THE BLUE COAT

by Monica Hesse
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers
978-0316260602

Hanneke moves about the city procuring and delivering black market and other hard-to-find items in Nazi occupied Amsterdam during World War II. She puts her relative safety as a Christian on the line when she receives an unusual request to use her skill and advantages to rescue a young Jewish girl.

WE ARE THE ANTS

by Shaun David Hutchinson
Simon Pulse
978-1481449632

Henry, bullied at school and depressed over his boyfriend's suicide, wonders how he will survive. If given the opportunity to save the world, will Henry do it, or just let the world explode, putting him out of his own misery? A gripping tale of devastation and finding hope in the most unlikely places.

EXIT, PURSUED BY A BEAR

by E.K. Johnston
Dutton Books for Young Readers
978-1101994580

Popular head cheerleader Hermione Winters has everything going for her until she is drugged and raped at a party. With the help of supportive parents and a best friend, Hermione comes through an ordeal that would have broken most. This compelling story is also a highly engaging audiobook.



STILL LIFE WITH TORNADO

by A.S. King
 Dutton Books for Young Readers
 978-1101994887

At sixteen, Sarah finds that she can no longer draw. Is this an existential crisis or is something else going on? Sarah's search to find the reality inside her tornado takes us into the world of domestic violence - the depths the mind will go to in order to protect itself and the almost impossible task of finding the way out.

OUTRUN THE MOON

by Stacey Lee
 G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers
 978-0399175411

Mercy Wong is Chinese-American in 1906 San Francisco, and life at her prestigious girls' school is not as easy as she had hoped it would be. When an historic earthquake hits town, she and her classmates must work together to survive.

BURN BABY BURN

by Meg Medina
 Candlewick
 978-0763674670

Queens, NY: In the long hot summer of 1977, all minds are on serial killer Son of Sam. Cuban American Nora is balancing life with her mother and reckless younger brother Hector. Add in a blackout and a little bit of romance, and this story takes you on a true adventure.

LUCY AND LINH

by Alice Pung
 Knopf Books for Young Readers
 978-0399550485

Second generation Asian-Australian Lucy wins a scholarship to prestigious Laurinda, a private school that has rested on privilege for far too long. In this epistolary novel, the author deftly showcases thorny issues of class, race, immigration and merit, while skillfully examining Lucy's growth into a young woman.

SALT TO THE SEA

by Ruta Sepetys
 Philomel Books
 978-0399160301

Four teens flee from war-torn Nazi Germany on the ill-fated ship Wilhelm Gustloff: Joana, a Lithuanian nurse; Florian, a Prussian masquerading as a soldier; Emilia, a damaged Polish girl; and Alfred, a Nazi sailor. The haunting story of their struggle to survive and the secret each carries is told in alternating voices.

THE MEMORY OF LIGHT

by Francisco X. Stork
 Arthur A. Levine Books
 978-0545474320

16-year-old Vicky Cruz is recovering from a suicide attempt, with the help of other young patients in the hospital. The descriptions of what depression feels like are powerfully realistic and have the potential to save lives.



THE STEEP AND THORNY WAY

by Cat Winters
Harry N. Abrams
978-1419719158

In 1920s Oregon, biracial Hanalee Denny teams up with Lee, who is gay, to find the truth about the night her father was murdered in this fast-paced historical fiction set during the violent times of the KKK and eugenics for gay men.

THE LAST EXECUTION

by Jesper Wung-Sung
translated by Lindy Falk van Rooyen
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
978-1481429658

In the hours leading up to his execution, Niels, a fifteen year old Danish boy, reflects on his life while the villagers who condemned him reflect on the questions of guilt, justice, and the nature of Niels' punishment. Based on the true story of the last public execution in Denmark, which took place in 1853, the social, ethical, and even economic questions raised still have relevance in today's society.

THE SUN IS ALSO A STAR

by Nicola Yoon
Delacorte Press
978-0553496680

Natasha, a believer in science and facts, meets Daniel, a poetic soul, just hours before her family is to be deported to Jamaica. For one magical day, the teens travel around New York City together, learning about each other, themselves, and the true nature of relationships.

THE SERPENT KING

by Jeff Zentner
Crown Books for Young Readers
978-0553524024

Three misfit high school friends traverse triumphs and heartbreak in their small Tennessee town. Distinct voices, a strong sense of place, and issues of class, religion, and opportunity are explored in this brilliant debut.

AUDIOBOOK

SUMMERLOST

by Ally Condie
narrated by Phoebe Strole
Listening Library
978-0399566066

Cedar's family is still grieving deeply when they move to Iron Creek, home of a renowned theater festival. She uncovers a mystery in the untimely death of a bygone starlet, but this isn't the only problem she must resolve in this touching and thoughtfully told story. The lowkey narration echoes the sense of loss.



GRAYLING'S SONG

by Karen Cushman

narrated by Katherine Kellgren

Recorded Books

978-1501916922

A young, insecure girl is given the impossible task of freeing her domineering mother and other workers of magic from a terrible fate. Her travels bring her into contact with a myriad cast of characters, all uniquely and authentically voiced (and/or sung) by the narrator. A powerful story of finding your own voice and using it wisely.

RAYMIE NIGHTINGALE

by Kate DiCamillo

narrated by Jenna Lamia

Listening Library

978-1101917411

Raymie has decided that the only way to get her father to return home is to win the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition. What starts off as a desire to best the other girls becomes a poignant story of learning to see other people's truths. The narrator brings authenticity to Raymie's voice and her struggle between what she wants and what the other girls need.

THE SMELL OF OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES

by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

narrated by Jorjeana Marie, Erin Tripp, Karissa Vacker and Robbie Daymond

Listening Library

978-0147523716

Ruth hides a secret she can't keep for much longer, and even a cold stroke of luck may not be enough to save Dora. Alyce dreams of dancing elsewhere, while Hank, headed for safety, stumbles into serious danger. Four teenagers in rural Alaska, voiced by a quiet, alternating array of narrators, find their lives interwoven as each abandons the familiar in search of secure passage into adulthood.

BEING JAZZ: MY LIFE AS A (TRANSGENDER) TEEN

by Jazz Jennings

narrated by the author

Listening Library

978-0735207424

Jazz Jennings' transition from a boy to a girl, her true authentic self, has made headlines as she and her family fought for the right to use the girl's bathroom and to play on a girl's soccer team. Jazz narrates her own story of her struggles, triumphs, hopes and dreams with passion and insight.

KEY TO EXTRAORDINARY

by Natalie Lloyd

narrated by Kate Simses

Scholastic Inc.

978-0545910316

Emma knows she is special: her mother told her so before she died. When she finds the clue to a hidden treasure Emma knows she will fulfill her destiny. This wonderfully voiced audio is perfect for lovers of magic, traditional music, and quirky but cool characters.



TRU AND NELLE

by G Neri

narrated by Catherine Taber

Listening Library

978-0735207387

This story of the friendship between Nelle, a feckless tomboy and Tru, a quirky child being raised (somewhat absently) by distant relatives is loosely based on Harper Lee and Truman Capote. Life in their small Southern town is convincingly depicted as is their abiding affection for each other.

ANNA AND THE SWALLOW MAN

by Gavriel Savit

narrated by Allan Corduner

Listening Library

978-1101891810

When 7-year-old Anna finds herself alone in Nazi Poland, she finds companionship with the mysterious Swallow Man. As Anna grows up, the Swallow man remains her guide throughout their travels. The narrator manages to inhabit all of the characters, especially the intelligent, but knowable Swallow Man.

THE DARKEST CORNERS

by Kara Thomas

narrated by Jorjeana Marie

Listening Library

978-0147521354

Tessa's small town was victimized by a serial killer when she was a child, and now years later the killer may be back. This spookily quiet mystery builds to an explosive ending.

HIGHLY ILLOGICAL BEHAVIOR

by John Corey Whaley

narrated by Robbie Daymond and Julia Whalen

Listening Library

978-0735285798

In this hilarious and heartbreaking story, Solomon's agoraphobia keeps him happily ensconced in his home, but ambitious Lisa decides to "cure" him in hopes of earning acceptance at a prestigious psychology program. Daymond's upbeat performance brings Sol to life and pairs perfectly with Whelan's driven, but earnest portrayal of Lisa.



Capitol Choices

Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

WHO WE ARE

The first edition of Capitol Choices published in 1996, built on the work of the late Peggy Coughlan at the Children's Literature Center of the Library of Congress, who for many years edited an annual list entitled "Books for Children." The founding members of the Capitol Choices group who worked on these lists appreciated the opportunity to hone their critical skills during those years and wished to carry the work of that committee forward.

Since 1996, Capitol Choices has included librarians, teachers, booksellers, children's literature specialists, reviewers, and magazine editors who work in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in and around Washington, D.C. Most of us work directly with young people, and all of us share a passion for books and a commitment to pairing children with books.

CRITERIA

Our mission is to identify and select a yearly list of outstanding titles for children and teens. We consider books and audiobooks published in the current calendar year for readers from birth through the high school years. We look not only for those books and audiobooks that are obviously remarkable but also for those whose charm, art, information, or depth of feeling may enhance a young person's world. We especially look for books that may not find an audience without the benefit of special attention.

What does Capitol Choices mean by "the best"? "Best" of the year? "Best" by this author? "Best" of its type? Our discussions are often heated, always serious, filled with good humor and, in the end, the titles we choose meet all of these criteria. In addition to the qualities that mark good titles—clarity, accuracy, credibility, and that most elusive quality of all, distinguished writing, illustration or narration—we place special emphasis on titles which we believe appeal to and reflect the sensibilities of their intended audience.

JOIN US

We welcome you in person at our monthly meetings. Capitol Choices members are also available to present workshops on the best titles of the year, how to evaluate literature for young people, and other topics related to our passion for books and audiobooks for young readers. Please visit our website www.capitolchoices.org to schedule a workshop or find out more about joining our group.

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