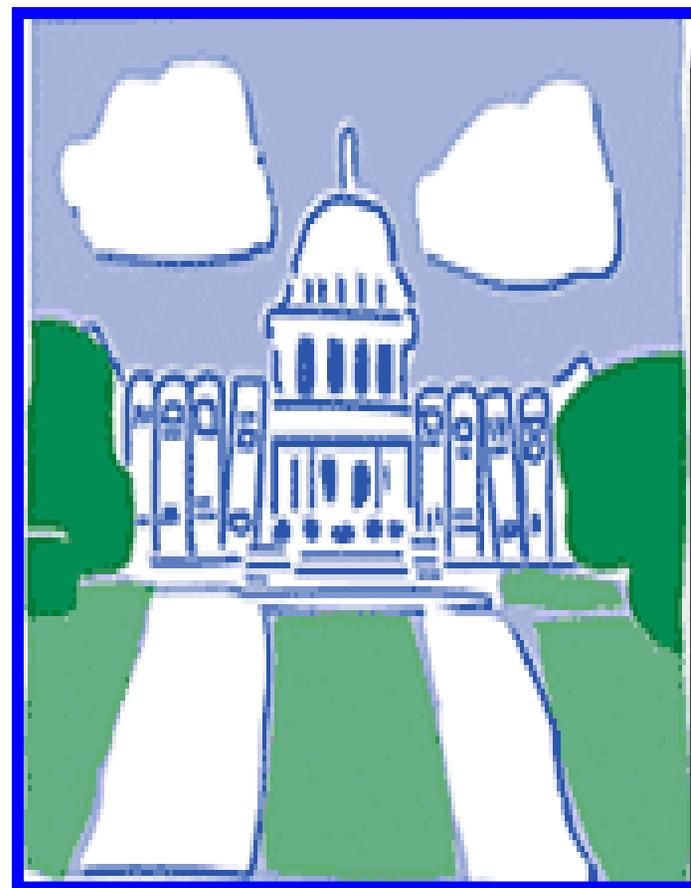


Jackie Gropman, Young Adult Literature Specialist, Burke, VA
Anne Harlan, St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, Washington, DC
Bridget Harvey, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Spotsylvania, VA
Denise Johnson, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA
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Capitol Choices

*Noteworthy Titles for
Children and Teens
2011*

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.

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.

JOIN US

This year we have launched our new website at www.CapitolChoices.org, offering more opportunities for interaction among members plus a blog to find book-related news and events from Capitol Choices. We welcome your visit in person at our monthly meetings, or online via our website, where you can find schedules and directions. Capitol Choices members are also available to present workshops on the best titles of the year, how to evaluate books and audiobooks for young people, and other topics related to our passion for literature for young and teen readers. Please email us at rpurdy@crrl.org to book a workshop or find out more about joining our group.

Capitol Choices 2011

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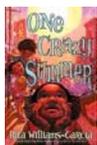
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Mary Alice Garber, Politics and Prose, Washington, DC
Lena Gonzalez Berrios, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, VA

Audiobooks



Ward, Rachel
Narrated by Sarah Coomes
NUMBERS
Brilliance Audio
Trade: 9781423396307; \$69.97

Fifteen-year-old Jem doesn't have many friends because, when she looks into other people's eyes, she sees the date they will die. When the London Eye explodes, she finds herself on the run with Spider, another outsider. Coomes' beautifully-voiced cockney accent will thrill listeners right up to the last sentence.



Williams-Garcia, Rita
Narrated by Sisi Aisha Johnson
ONE CRAZY SUMMER
Recorded Books
Trade: 9781449821968; \$46.75

Sisi Aisha Johnson's youthful voice perfectly embodies earnest twelve-year-old Delphine whose strong sense of self and big-sister responsibilities help her understand more about their absentee mother and about the Black Panther Party she supports. Nimbly adjusting her inflection, Johnson also personalizes the other characters in this lively production.



Wood, Maryrose
Narrated by Katherine Kellgren
THE INCORRIGIBLE CHILDREN OF ASHTON PLACE: THE MYSTERIOUS HOWLING
Listening Library
Trade: 9780307711229; \$ 45.00

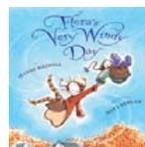
Ashton Place is full of mysteries: Why does the coachman lurk? Where does the master go? Will those children ever stop chasing squirrels? Adopting a plummy British voice for the narrator, Kellegren quickly sketches the rest of this oddly assorted cast: prim Miss Penelope Lumley, the would-be governess; languid Lady Constance, her too-young employer; the over-weight, out-of-breath housekeeper, Mrs. Clarke . . . and the Incurrignibles themselves whose half-human howls land just this side of unintelligible.

Up to Seven



Baker, Keith
L M N O PEAS
Beach Lane
Trade: 9781416991410; \$16.99
From acrobat to zoologist,

hardworking peas romp through the alphabet to show various occupations. Each lively vegetable depicts a different job with humor and personality while a "hidden" ladybug adds to the fun on every page.



Birdsall, Jeanne
Illustrator Matt Phelan
FLORA'S VERY WINDY DAY
Clarion
Trade: 978061898676; \$16.00

Flora longs to rid herself of pesky little brother Crispin, but when she gets the perfect opportunity, will she really want to say goodbye? The swirling, tumbling ink, watercolor, and pastel illustrations skillfully embody the whirlwind of sibling emotions.



Browne, Anthony
ME AND YOU
Farrar, Straus & Giroux
Trade: 9780374349080; \$16.99
Dun-colored Goldilocks inhabits

an ashy urban neighborhood while the bears live in a colorfully manicured one. Caught trespassing in their upscale turf, the now thoroughly golden-tressed girl flees to her sketchy neighborhood into her mother's arms.



Burningham, John
THERE'S GOING TO BE A BABY
Illustrator Helen Oxenbury
Candlewick

Trade: 9780763649074; \$16.99
A little boy's questions become more pointed as Mommy's tummy becomes rounder. Retro cartoon illustrations mix with delicate contemporary scenes to highlight what big brother imagines about the new arrival.



Elliott, David
Illustrator Holly Meade
IN THE WILD
Candlewick

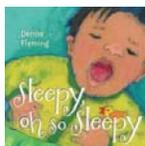
Trade: 9780763644970; \$16.99
Meet the elephant, "powerful, yet delicate as lace," the panda, "a bear in silk pajamas," and twelve other wild animals that come to life through colorful verse and bold watercolor and woodcut illustrations.



Fleming, Candace
CLEVER JACK TAKES THE CAKE
Illustrator G. Brian Karas
Schwartz & Wade
Trade: 9780375849794; \$17.99

An accidental invitation to a royal birthday party has poor but resourceful Jack bargaining his meager possessions for cake ingredients fit for a princess. In route, however, he encounters folkloric gluttons that deconstruct his gift leaving only a "story" fit for a royal ear.

Up to Seven



Fleming, Denise
SLEEPY, OH SO SLEEPY

Holt
Trade: 9780805081268; \$16.99

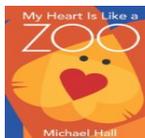
Just like wild animal babies—the panda and the penguin, the orangutan and the otter—a tiny human child drifts off to sleep while a loving parent asks, “Where’s my sleepy baby?” A warm and rhythmic story to read at bedtime.



Guy, Marie-Louise
ROSLYN RUTABAGA AND THE BIGGEST HOLE ON EARTH

Groundwood
Trade: 9780888999948;
\$16.95

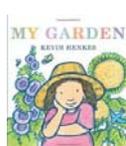
A worm, a mole, and a dog all try to dissuade Roslyn, a rabbit, from digging a hole to the South Pole . . . but matter-of-fact Dad gently supports his determined daughter. Torn paper illustrations float through lots of white space, the perfect combination for this firmly grounded fantasy.



Hall, Michael
MY HEART IS LIKE A ZOO

Greenwillow
Trade: 9780061915109; \$16.99

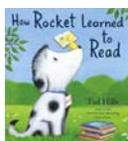
Vibrant pages of colorful animals created with heart shapes illustrate a playful rhyme that imagines how love can be many different things: eager as a beaver, steady as a yak, or silly as a seal. A preschool story time gem.



Henkes, Kevin
MY GARDEN

Greenwillow
Trade: 9780061715174; \$17.99

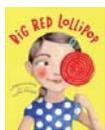
A young girl imagines what wonders she could grow in a garden all her own: chocolate bunnies, tomatoes the size of beach balls, and a jelly bean bush. A pastel palette and softly outlined watercolors make this a perfect choice for spring.



Hills, Tad
HOW ROCKET LEARNED TO READ

Schwartz & Wade
Trade: 9780375858994; \$17.99

Captivated by an unfinished story, Rocket the dog is introduced to the “wondrous, mighty, gorgeous alphabet” by a little yellow bird. Young children will identify with Rocket’s initial reluctance to learn as well as his eventual love of books.



Khan, Rukhsana
Illustrator Sophie Blackall
BIG RED LOLLIPOP

Viking

Trade: 9780670062874; \$16.99
Rubina’s mother does not understand American customs and forces her to bring her little sister to a birthday party. Khan subtly shows the role a child plays in assimilating an immigrant family into American culture.

Audiobooks



Holm, Jennifer
Narrated by Becca Battoe
TURTLE IN PARADISE

Listening Library
Trade: 9780307738301; \$25.00

See the annotation under books for "Ten to Fourteen."



Paulsen, Gary
Narrated by Danny Campbell
WOODS RUNNER

Listening Library
Trade: 9780307710321; \$25.00

In 1776, British troops tear apart Samuel's comfortable wilderness life when they raid his Pennsylvania settlement and take his parents prisoner. The thirteen-year-old comes of age as he travels east to save his parents and discovers a world different from his remote home in the woods. Sensitive narration and a steady pace draw readers into this gripping tale of courage and self-reliance.



Ruiz Zafon, Carlos
Narrated by Jonathan Davis
THE PRINCE OF MIST

Hachette
Trade: 9781607883722; \$24.98

An original musical score and sound effects enhance Jonathan Davis's grave, confiding voice in this account of a young boy who moves to a small coastal village and realizes that something is wrong with his new home. When he and his sister befriend a local boy, the boy reveals their eerie connection to a nearby shipwreck and a sinister secret that threatens their lives.



Sachar, Louis
Narrated by Louis Sachar
THE CARDTURNER: A NOVEL ABOUT A KING, A QUEEN, AND A JOKER

Listening Library
Trade: 9780307712134; \$34.00

See the annotation under books for "Fourteen and Up."

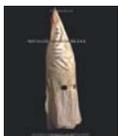


Stork, Francisco
Narrated by Ryan Gesell
THE LAST SUMMER OF THE DEATH WARRIORS

Listening Library
Trade: 9780307706997; \$37.00

Shades of Don Quixote abound as two teens set out on “impossible” quests. Seventeen-year-old Pancho Sanchez seeks his sister’s killer, and D.Q. hopes to find the meaning of life before he succumbs to brain cancer. Ryan Gesell’s seamless transitions between Anglo and Hispanic accents add life to this tender, vibrant, and sometimes funny novel.

Audiobooks



Bartoletti, Susan Campbell
Narrated by Dion Graham
**THEY CALLED THEMSELVES
THE KKK: THE BIRTH OF AN
AMERICAN TERRORIST
GROUP**

Brilliance Audio
Trade: 9781441871558 \$29.99

Narrator Dion Graham's softly-cadenced voice is the perfect foil for the tumultuous events of post-Civil War Reconstruction. Carefully differentiating Bartoletti's narrative from the first-hand accounts of freed slaves, former owners, and Confederate generals, Graham paints a disturbingly human picture of the Southern culture that gave birth to the KKK and its white supremacy movement.



Cottrell Boyce, Frank
Narrated by Kirby Heyborne
COSMIC
Harper Audio

Trade: 9780061967481; \$15.99

Twelve-year-old Liam is "not exactly" on a school trip to the Lake District. He's "more, sort of" masquerading as the supposedly adult chaperone for four younger children on a space ship orbiting the moon. Narrator Kirby Heyborne expresses all the humor, longing, and loneliness in Liam's voice as he records a mobile phone message to his parents explaining how this all came about.



Fisher, Catherine
Narrated by Kim Mai Guest
INCARCERON
Listening Library
Trade: 9780307707079; \$48.00

In this steampunk nightmare, fear and desperation pervade Incarceron, the inescapable, hellish prison that holds Finn, while "protocol" smothers Claudia, the warden's daughter, in the manufactured paradise outside. Narrator Kim Mai Guest clearly differentiates the voices of each character and mimics the intensity and emotional resonance of both worlds as a plot unfolds that leaves listeners longing for the sequel. The text also creates this surprising place through intriguing imagery and appropriate figurative language.



Frank, Anne
Narrated by Selma Blair
**ANNE FRANK: THE DIARY OF
A YOUNG GIRL**
Listening Library
Trade: 9780739368169; \$40.00

With a bright blend of exasperation and theatricality mixed with gathering dread and despair, Selma Blair narrates the now-familiar story of Anne, the Annex, and her diary. Despite knowing the story's end, listeners will hang on every word as they feel the restless angst of a teen trapped in an attic wondering about her future. This definitive edition contains new passages not included in the 1947 book.

Up to Seven



Lee, Suzy
SHADOW
Chronicle
Trade: 9780811872805; \$15.99

Click! A little girl creates shadows when she turns on the light . . . or do the shadows create her? Clever use of the gutter and semi-transparent pages transform a pile of junk into an eerie black, white, and yellow world.



McCarty, Peter
HENRY IN LOVE
Balzer + Bray
Trade: 9780061142888; \$16.99
Henry's normal school day

becomes extraordinary when the teacher reassigns him to a seat right next to Chloe, "the loveliest girl in his class." Charming ink and watercolor illustrations set the tone in this anthropomorphic tale of young love.



Rodriguez, Bèatrice
THE CHICKEN THIEF
Enchanted Lion

Trade: 9781592700929; \$14.95

Bear and friends go to great lengths pursuing Hen, who has been abducted by Fox. Humorous pen and watercolor illustrations culminate in a totally unexpected ending for this wordless picture book.



Seabrooke, Brenda
Illustrator Liz Callen
WOLF PIE
Clarion
Trade: 9780547044033; \$16.00

Meet the Pygg brothers! That's what Wilfong the wolf wants to do, too . . . but in this clever, colorful early chapter book, it's not for the reason you'd think! Plenty of huffing and puffing, but riddles and surfing, too.



Slodovnick, Avi
Illustrator Manon Gauthier
THE TOOTH
Kane/Miller
Trade: 9781935279723; \$14.99

Subtle colors and sketch-like simplicity convey young Marissa's visit to the dentist and, at the same time, gently and thought-provokingly introduce the concept of homelessness to young readers.



Stead, Philip Christian
Illustrator Erin E. Stead
**A SICK DAY FOR AMOS
MCGEE**

Neal Porter

Trade: 978159643402; \$16.99

When zookeeper Amos comes down with a cold, his own special charges take charge, hop the cross town bus, and gather at his bedside. A muted palette and delicate line drawings coalesce in a wistful and satisfying accompaniment to this tender tale.

Up to Seven



Thomson, Bill
CHALK
Marshall Cavendish

Trade: 9780761455264; \$15.99

In this wordless picture book, children draw with enchanted chalk to make the sun, butterflies, and a tyrannosaurus rex come alive. Realistic acrylic and colored pencil illustrations create exaggerated facial expressions that emphasize the excitement of this extraordinary adventure.



Underwood, Deborah
Illustrator Renata Liwska
THE QUIET BOOK
Houghton Mifflin

Trade: 9780547215679; \$12.95

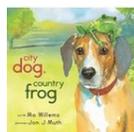
"There are many kinds of quiet . . ." Some familiar—"Sleeping sister quiet." Some more subtle—"Best friends don't need to talk quiet." Softly colored pencil drawings and a small size make this gentle book all the more intimate.



Weisner, David
ART & MAX
Clarion

Trade: 9780618756636; \$17.99

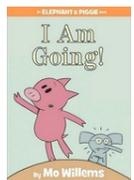
In this exploration of creativity, Wiesner deconstructs art itself—layer by layer and line by line—with the help of two lizards, a fan, a vacuum cleaner, and a whole lot of havoc.



Willems, Mo
Illustrator Jon J. Muth
CITY DOG, COUNTRY FROG
Hyperion

Trade: 9781423103004; \$17.99

Dog and Frog meet in the golden-green days of spring and embark on an unlikely friendship. Spare, poignant text and lush, seasonal watercolors take the reader from the joyful exuberance of summer to the bleakest days of winter and then back to "spring again.



Willems, Mo
I AM GOING!

Hyperion

Trade: 9781423119906; \$8.99

Hurray! Piggie and Elephant are back and up to their usual hilarious antics. In this installment, Elephant's anxiety is assuaged when he discovers Piggie is only going to get lunch, and a picnic ensues. Another perfect beginning reader about this mercurial friendship.

Fourteen and Up



Reinhardt, Diana
THE THINGS A BROTHER KNOWS

Wendy Lamb

Trade: 9780375844553; \$16.99

Levi's older brother Boaz

returns after service overseas as a Marine. Since Boaz has become withdrawn and secretive, Levi attempts to reconnect with him as they begin a puzzling journey together.



Sachar, Louis
THE CARDTURNER: A NOVEL ABOUT A KING, A QUEEN, AND A JOKER

Delacorte

Trade: 9780385736626; \$17.99

While reluctantly driving his blind, cynical, and verbally abusive great uncle to bridge tournaments and turning cards for him, Alton, 17, discovers the strategies of bridge along with the subtleties of family relationships and romance in this humorous and moving novel. Sacher's narration of the audio captures Alton's mixed emotions about his family and his slowly awakening awareness that he enjoys learning how to play bridge.



Shusterman, Neal
BRUISER

Harper Teen

Trade: 9780061134081; \$16.99

Bruiser, the guy voted "most

likely to go to jail," actually has a hidden gift: the power to absorb both physical and emotional pain from others. When Tennyson's twin sister Bronte starts dating the hulking loner, her protective brother decides he should take action.



Teller, Janne
NOTHING

Atheneum

Trade: 9781416985792; \$16.99

In this existential Danish import, one student taunts his classmates by saying that nothing has meaning. When the other students decide to "create meaning," the results are chilling. Their decisions will resound with readers long after this tightly-written, disturbing twenty-first century fable is over.



Yovanoff, Brenna
THE REPLACEMENT

Razorbill

Trade: 9781595143372; \$17.99

Although he has survived in

the human world for sixteen years, Mackie Doyle must confront ominous secrets that pervade his home town in order to save people he loves. Intriguing characters, including bizarre creatures, inhabit this dark, exciting tale.

Fourteen and Up



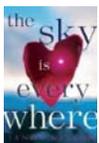
Matson, Morgan
AMY & ROGER'S EPIC DETOUR
 Simon & Schuster BFYR
 Trade: 9781416990659; \$16.99

Two teens begin an adventure during which they find mutual understanding and romance. Evocative settings, strong characterization, and sparkling writing make this road-trip debut stand out.



McBride, Lish
HOLD ME CLOSER, NECROMANCER
 Holt
 Trade: 9780805090987; \$16.99

College dropout and fast-food worker Sam encounters the creepy Douglas only to discover he's met a necromancer who raises the dead for cash. Douglas gives Sam an ultimatum, and Sam soon becomes an unwilling participant in a gruesome new profession.



Nelson, Jandy
THE SKY IS EVERYWHERE
 Dial
 Trade: 9780803734951; \$17.99

Devastated when her older sister Bailey dies suddenly, Lennie's life becomes even more complicated when she finds she has feelings for both her sister's grieving boyfriend and the new boy in town. She expresses her confusion in poems that she scatters everywhere.



O'Brien Caragh M.
BIRTHMARKED
 Roaring Brook
 Trade: 9781596435698; \$16.99

Gaia lives in the Enclave helping her midwife mother deliver the monthly baby quota. After the Enclave arrests her mother, Gaia begins to wonder whether she can remain loyal and continue to serve the Enclave's demands.



Oliver, Lauren
BEFORE I FALL
 Harper
 Trade: 9780061726804; \$17.99

Popular Samantha has a perfect life until she dies in a car crash. When she awakens the next morning in her own bed, she relives the fatal day seven times. Each instance reveals new perspectives about herself and the people she has known.



Pratchett, Terry
I SHALL WEAR MIDNIGHT
 Harper
 Trade: 9780061433047; \$16.99

The rollicking adventures of Tiffany Aching and her unpredictable "Wee Free Men" conclude as she takes on the malevolent dark force she may have mistakenly awakened and tries to regain the trust of the people of Chalk Hills.

Seven to Ten



Angleberger, Tom
THE STRANGE CASE OF ORIGAMI YODA
 Amulet
 Trade: 9780810984257; \$12.95

Does Dwight's paper finger puppet, Origami Yoda, have mystical powers, or does it merely allow Dwight to use a funny voice? Tommy has his own ulterior motive for wanting the truth as he investigates his classmates' comments.



Baker, Jeannie
MIRROR
 Candlewick
 Trade: 9780763648480; \$18.99
 With striking collages

constructed of natural and manmade materials, Baker binds two wordless books into one that follows the progress of an Australian and a Moroccan family simultaneously going to their markets. A hand-woven carpet connects the stories.



Bishop, Nic
NIC BISHOP LIZARDS
 Scholastic
 Trade: 9780545206341; \$17.99

Astonishing photographs from around the world and text on two levels capture the secret lives of lizards. Bishop's lively afterword describing his methods will surely ignite curiosity and sharpen the eyes of young scientists.



Bowen, Fred
 Illustrator Charles S. Pyle
NO EASY WAY: THE STORY OF TED WILLIAMS AND THE LAST .400 SEASON
 Dutton
 Trade: 9780525478775; \$16.99

In the last two games of the 1941 World Series, Ted Williams had to decide between preserving his .400 batting average by sitting out or jeopardizing it by playing. The book's design recalls old-fashioned baseball cards, but its ethical question remains relevant today.



Croza, Laurel
 Illustrator Matt James
I KNOW HERE
 Greenwood/House of Anansi

Trade: 9780888999238; \$18.95
 Facing a move from rural Saskatchewan to Toronto, a girl decides to draw what she will miss. Off-beat pen and acrylic illustrations coupled with sensory prose evocatively explore feelings of a child facing a scary move to an unknown new place.



Engle, Margarita
 Illustrator Julie Paschkis
SUMMER BIRDS: THE BUTTERFLIES OF MARIA MERIAN
 Holt
 Trade: 9780805089370; \$16.99

Medieval Europeans thought butterflies came from mud, but 13-year-old Maria Merian captures and observes them, chronicling and

Seven to Ten

painting their life cycles and dispelling the mystery around animal metamorphoses. Fanciful oil paintings complement this appealing story.



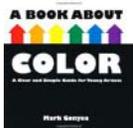
Fox, Karen C.
Illustrator Nancy Davis
OLDER THAN THE STARS
Charlesbridge
Trade: 9781570917875; \$15.95

A catchy, hand-lettered cumulative rhyme and imaginative, energetic illustrations introduce the big bang theory of the origin and development of the universe along with the idea that humans—and everything else—are made of star stuff.



Glaser, Linda
Illustrator Claire A. Nivola
EMMA'S POEM: THE VOICE OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY
Houghton Mifflin
Trade: 9780547171845; \$17.00

The last lines of Emma Lazarus's poem about the plight of immigrants written for the campaign to fund the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty now grace a plaque at the statue's entrance. Watercolors contrast scenes of Emma's upper-class New York with those of newly-arrived immigrants.



Gonyea, Mark
A BOOK ABOUT COLOR: A CLEAR AND SIMPLE GUIDE FOR YOUNG ARTISTS
Henry Holt
Trade: 9780805090550; \$19.99

Vibrant color, geometric shapes, simple pictures, and clear language combine to introduce color theory: primary, secondary, warm, cool, complementary, and analogous colors as well as value and saturation. Informative and fun.



Greenberg, Jan, and Sandra Jordan
Illustrator Brian Floca
BALLET FOR MARTHA: MAKING APPALACHIAN SPRING
Neal Porter
Trade: 9781596433380; \$17.99

Strong watercolor compositions and authentic dialog convey the collaboration among Martha Graham, Aaron Copland, and Isamu Noguchi that led to the ground-breaking ballet, *Appalachian Spring*. Compelling end notes further define the artists and the movement, music, and set design.



Hill, Laban Carrick
Illustrator Bryan Collier
DAVE THE POTTER: ARTIST, POET, SLAVE
Little, Brown
Trade: 9780316107310; \$16.99

Dave, a nineteenth-century slave, made beautiful clay pots, on which he often inscribed poems. The simple prose and earth-toned watercolor and collage illustrations lovingly evoke his strong hands, his care, his craft, and some hidden secrets for readers to discover.

Fourteen and Up



Donnelly, Jennifer
REVOLUTION
Delacorte
Trade: 9780385737630; \$18.99
Donnelly interweaves the mesmerizing stories of two

girls, one a contemporary musician mourning the death of her younger brother and the other a companion to Louis-Charles, son of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, before the French Revolution.



Engle, Margarita
THE FIREFLY LETTERS: A SUFFRAGETTE'S JOURNEY TO CUBA
Holt
Trade: 9780805090826; \$16.99

Based on a diary of Swedish feminist Fredrika Bremer, this verse novel movingly portrays the plight of three women from diverse backgrounds struggling to find freedom in the midst of Cuban oppression in 1851.



Fisher, Catherine
INCARCERON
Dial
Trade: 9780803733961; \$17.99
See the annotation under "Audiobooks."



Green, John, and David Levithan
WILL GRAYSON, WILL GRAYSON
Dutton
Trade: 9780525421580; \$17.99

Two males, both named Will Grayson, meet in a Chicago adult bookstore where their lives intertwine through their shared love of larger-than-life Tiny Cooper. Both humor and pathos enhance this story of a group of slightly "hip," slightly "nerdy" teens.



King, A. S.
PLEASE IGNORE VERA DIETZ
Knopf
Trade: 9780375865862; \$16.99

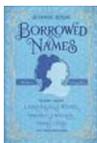
Vera's ex-best friend Charlie has died, and Vera has decided to survive high school by melting into the background and learning how to avoid her parents' lifestyle. She keeps a tenuous hold on life while disaster waits for her in unexpected places.



Marchetta, Melina
FINNIKIN OF THE ROCK
Candlewick
Trade: 9780763643614; \$18.99

After an impostor king seizes Lumatere, an impassable wall surrounding the kingdom keeps exiled survivors outside. Ten years later, the mysterious Evanjalín cajoles Finnikin to return. This epic fantasy unfolds in a detailed world full of unpredictable and unsettling discoveries.

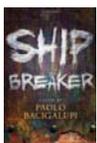
Fourteen and Up



Atkins, Jeannine
BORROWED NAMES: POEMS ABOUT LAURA INGALLS WILDER, MADAM C.J. WALKER, MARIE CURIE, AND THEIR DAUGHTERS

Henry Holt
 Trade: 9780805089349; \$16.99

Poems about three very different women born in 1867 who defied the rules of their time—Laura Ingalls Wilder, Madame C. J. Walker, and Marie Curie—explore their special and sometimes difficult relationships with their daughters—Rose Wilder Lane, A'Leia Walker, and Irène Joliot-Curie.



Bacigalupi, Paolo
SHIP BREAKER

Little, Brown
 Trade: 9780316056212; \$17.99

In a harsh dystopia, Nailer receives an unexpected chance for adventure when he gambles his life to rescue a shipwrecked girl. Believable characters inhabit an intriguing world of superstition, violence, and risk.



Caletti, Deb
THE SIX RULES OF MAYBE

Simon Pulse
 Trade: 9781416979692; \$16.99

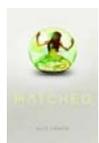
Scarlett's older sister returns home full of surprises including that she is married and pregnant. Lyrical writing develops main and secondary characters in this view of a non-traditional family.



Christopher, Lucy
STOLEN

Chicken House
 Trade: 9780545170932; \$17.99
 Gemma's letter to her handsome

kidnapper, Ty, relates her feelings after being abducted from the Bangkok airport, her surprise that he has stalked her since childhood, and her growing acceptance of him and the harsh Australian outback where he has imprisoned her.



Condie, Ally
MATCHED
 Dutton

Trade: 9780525423645; \$17.99

The Society plans and monitors everything from Cassia's sleep, food choices, and exercise to her marriage. Relieved at first to be matched to lifelong friend Xander, she begins to question her lack of choice when she sees Ky's handsome, disturbing face.

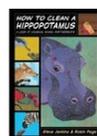


Crowley, Cath
A LITTLE WANTING SONG
 Knopf

Trade: 9780375860966; \$16.99

The alternate viewpoints of Charlie and Rose present different perspectives of one summer in an Australian country town. Rose desperately plans her escape to the city while Charlie longs for new friends and music to assuage her grief after the deaths of her mother and grandmother.

Seven to Ten



Jenkins, Steve, and Robin Page
HOW TO CLEAN A HIPPOPOTAMUS: A LOOK AT UNUSUAL ANIMAL PARTNERSHIPS

Houghton Mifflin
 Trade: 9780547245157; \$16.00

Striking collage illustrations presented in sequential panels demonstrate symbiotic relationships between a variety of animals, including plovers and crocodiles in Egypt. Perfect for browsers, this title also includes rich back matter with additional information.



Kerley, Barbara
 Illustrator Edwin Fotheringham
THE EXTRAORDINARY MARK TWAIN (ACCORDING TO SUSY)
 Scholastic

Trade: 9780545125086; \$17.99

Both factual and humorous, this brief but perceptive biography contains Twain's daughter's diminutive journal entries tipped into stylishly illustrated pages. An ending primer on researching and writing family memoirs invites readers to try their own.



McCarthy, Meghan
POP! THE INVENTION OF BUBBLE GUM

Paula Wiseman
 Trade: 9781416979708; \$16.99

Chew on this! Acrylic paintings of pop-eyed characters enliven facts about chewing gum history and the story

of accountant Walter Diemer's remarkable discovery of the magic formula for Dubble Bubble Gum in 1928.



O'Connor, Barbara
THE FANTASTIC SECRET OF OWEN JESTER

Frances Foster
 Trade: 9780374368500; \$15.99

Third-grader Owen and his nosy friend Viola have two problems during their hot Georgia summer: what to do with a sick giant bullfrog and how to move the amazing submersible that fell off a passing train to nearby Graham Pond for launching.



Pinkney, Andrea Davis
 Illustrator Brian Pinkney
SIT-IN: HOW FOUR FRIENDS STOOD UP BY SITTING DOWN

Little, Brown
 Trade: 9780316070164; \$16.99

Bright watercolors punctuated with jaunty black lines and quotations from Dr. Martin Luther King depict the growth and success of the movement to end racial segregation in public places that four African-American college students in Greensboro, NC, sparked by staging the first restaurant sit-in.



Raczka, Rob
 Illustrator Peter H. Reynolds
GUYKU: A YEAR OF HAIKU FOR BOYS

Houghton Mifflin
 Trade: 9780547240039; \$14.99

Seven to Ten

Artwork and text align to express the inquisitive, mischievous, and playful nature of all children in a delightful collection of Haiku poems that takes the reader through the seasons and into the heart of childhood.



Ramsey, Calvin Alexander
Illustrator Floyd Cooper
RUTH AND THE GREEN BOOK
Carolrhoda
Trade: 9780761352556; \$16.95

An African-American family from Chicago uses the "green book" to find restaurants, hotels, and restrooms while traveling south to Alabama in 1952. Realistic sepia-toned oil paintings evoke the era and reveal the ways that "Jim Crow" affected lives.



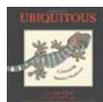
Resau, Laura
STAR IN THE FOREST
Delacorte
Trade: 9780385737920; \$14.99

After her illegal-immigrant father is deported to Mexico, eleven-year-old Zitlally believes that protecting a skinny stray dog she calls Star will keep her father safe, too. But Star disappears. Can Zitlally's trailer-park neighbor, Crystal, help?



Schlitz, Laura Amy
Illustrator Angela Barrett
THE NIGHT FAIRY
Candlewick
Trade: 9780763636746; \$16.99

When a bat damages Flora's young wings, she must rely on her wits by bargaining with a squirrel, battling a praying mantis, and rescuing Aa hummingbird's eggs to survive in the Giant's garden. Shimmery watercolors illuminate the action and the landscape.



Sidman, Joyce
Illustrator Beckie Prange
UBIQUITOUS: CELEBRATING NATURE'S SURVIVORS
Houghton Mifflin
Trade: 9780618717194; \$17.00

From bacteria and cockroaches to humans, varied poems and informational text invite young readers to consider life forms that have survived and flourished for millennia. Hand-colored linocuts and a sinuous timeline on the endpapers support and extend the text.



Singer, Marilyn
Illustrator Josée Masse
MIRROR MIRROR
Dutton
Trade: 9780525479017; \$16.99

When read in different directions, the witty "reverso" poems in this collection offer contrasting views of events in familiar fairy tales. Vibrant stylized artwork, with its mirror imagery, hints at the paired characters' identities.

Ten to Fourteen



Sonnenblick, Jordan
AFTER EVER AFTER
Scholastic
Trade: 9780439837064; \$16.99

Cancer survivor Jeffrey, fellow survivor Tad, and cute new girl Lindsey, face eighth-grade challenges with honesty, humor, and hope in this companion to *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*.



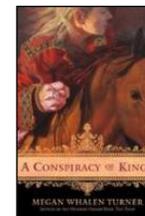
Telgemeier, Raina
SMILE
Graphix
Trade: 9780545132053; \$21.99

Raina trips in sixth grade, loses her two front teeth, and starts a series of dental repairs that includes surgery, implants, braces, and headgear. This graphic novel will reassure any middle schooler dreading dental work.



Tunnell, Michael
CANDY BOMBER: THE STORY OF THE BERLIN AIRLIFT'S "CHOCOLATE PILOT"
Charlesbridge
Trade: 9781580893367; \$18.95

When Gail Halvorsen was stationed in Berlin at the end of World War II, he dropped candy bars for the children as he flew overhead. Letters and drawings from these children illustrate how much his kindness meant to this war-damaged city.



Turner, Megan Whalen
A CONSPIRACY OF KINGS
Greenwillow
Trade: 9780061870934; \$16.99

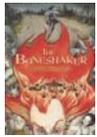
In this fourth installment, Sophos, the reluctant heir to the Sounis throne, reunites Eugenides, the queen of Eddis, and the semi-classical world of Attolia as he becomes a king and overcomes political intrigue to save his country from rebellion.



Williams-Garcia, Rita
ONE CRAZY SUMMER
Amistad
Trade: 9780060760885; \$15.99

Shipped off to spend time with their estranged poet-activist mother in Oakland, California, three young girls encounter the Black Panthers in this funny, wise, and ultimately life-affirming narrative about being young, Black, and proud in the 1960s

Ten to Fourteen



Milford, Kate
THE BONESHAKER
Clarion

Trade: 9780547241876; \$17.00

Elements of steampunk, horror, and folklore reveal the connection between a strange traveling medicine show that arrives in tiny Arcane, Missouri, in 1913 and events that took place at the crossroads on the outskirts of town 100 years earlier.



Montgomery, Sy
Illustrator Nic Bishop
**KAKAPO RESCUE: SAVING THE
WORLD'S STRANGEST PARROT**
Houghton Mifflin

Trade: 9780618494170; \$18.00

The flightless kakapo, which weighs up to nine pounds, faces extinction on its remote New Zealand island. Stunning photographs and an informal narrative introduce the world's rarest and heaviest parrot as well as the scientists who are trying to save it.



Mulligan, Andy
TRASH
David Fickling

Trade: 9780385752145; \$16.99

In a nameless but brutal third-world country, three boys, subsisting as trash pickers, have their lives transformed when one finds a valuable but puzzling item buried in the debris. This story of mystery and survival pits government corruption against personal integrity.



Preus, Margi
HEART OF A SAMURAI
Amulet

Trade: 9780810989818; \$15.95

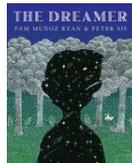
This fictional account of Manjiro, the 14-year-old Japanese boy whom whalers rescued in 1841, is filled with hardship and adventure as well as an outsider's perspective on nineteenth-century American culture. Gritty details and authentic illustrations evoke the period.



Reeve, Philip
FEVER CRUMB
Scholastic

Trade: 9780545207195; \$17.99

Fever, a foundling raised by the wizard-like Order of Engineers, seeks the source of her odd memory flashes in an action packed, alternately humorous and scary prequel to the steampunk *Hungry City Chronicles*.



Ryan, Pam Muñoz
Illustrator Peter Sís
THE DREAMER

Scholastic

Trade: 9780439269704; \$17.99

Poetic language and magical illustrations combine in this fictional biography that captures the wonder, passion, and pain of Pablo Neruda's early life. Printed in Neruda's signature green ink, the beautifully crafted book includes representative poems, author notes, and sources.

Seven to Ten



Vail, Rachel
Illustrator Matthew Cordell
**JUSTIN CASE: SCHOOL,
DROOL, AND OTHER DAILY
DISASTERS**

Feiwel & Friends

Trade: 9780312532901; \$16.99

Justin's journal reflects the normal worries of a third grader such as rope-climbing anxiety, shaky friendships, and school embarrassments. But his family supports the introspective boy in subtle and satisfying ways.



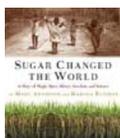
Weeks, Sarah
AS SIMPLE AS IT SEEMS

Laura Geringer

Trade: 9780060846633; \$15.99

Eleven-year-old Verbena, angry at learning of her adoption along with other family secrets, befriends a gullible neighbor boy by pretending to be a ghost. Although a near-disaster reveals Verbie's deceit, it also cements an enduring friendship.

Ten to Fourteen



Aronson, Marc, and Marina Budhos
SUGAR CHANGED THE WORLD: A STORY OF MAGIC, SPICE, SLAVERY, FREEDOM, AND SCIENCE

Clarion

Trade: 9780618574926; \$20.00

Crisp archival illustrations, photographs, maps, and extensive back matter complement an absorbing, well-woven narrative revealing how humanity's desire for sugar enriched many, enslaved millions, and ultimately fueled revolutions and a new concept of "freedom". A thought-provoking history.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell



THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE KKK: THE BIRTH OF AN AMERICAN TERRORIST GROUP

Houghton Mifflin

Trade: 9780618440337; \$19.00

This dispassionate, well-researched history filled with powerful archival images and individual stories from the members as well as the victims of this terrifying group offers invaluable insight into human nature. Appended material including a bibliography, source notes, and time line underscore the author's meticulous scholarship.



Bow, Erin
PLAIN KATE

Arthur A. Levine

Trade: 9780545166645; \$17.99

Fearful and superstitious townsfolk

drive orphaned Kate from her home. Alone except for Taggle, her cat, she joins the Roamers in a desperate quest to reclaim her shadow, having traded it to the dangerous witch, Linay, in exchange for the unspoken desire of her heart.



Brimner, Larry Dane
BIRMINGHAM SUNDAY

Calkins Creek

Trade: 9781590786130; \$17.95

In 1963, someone killed four little girls in a racially-motivated bomb attack. Who were they, and what events led to that tragic day? Black and white photos, thorough research, and a moving narrative provide context for this chronological account of a horrific event.



Burns, Loree Griffin
 Illustrator Ellen Harasimowicz
THE HIVE DETECTIVES

Houghton Mifflin

Trade: 9780547152318; \$18.00

Because agriculture depends on bees to pollinate crops, a sudden drop in the bee population alarmed scientists and bee keepers. They began studying "colony collapse disorder," a phenomenon where bees mysteriously disappear from their hives. Excellent color photographs enhance this clear demonstration of the scientific process.

Ten to Fourteen



Draper, Sharon M.
OUT OF MY MIND

Trade: 9781416971702; \$16.99

Not until she receives a communication board does Melody

reveal her brilliant mind, silenced since birth by cerebral palsy. This poignant novel explores the challenges and triumphs of living with a disability as she deals with the prejudices and convictions of others.



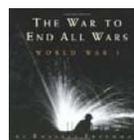
Erskine, Kathryn
MOCKINGBIRD

Philomel

Trade: 9780399252648; \$15.99

Caitlin is a fifth grader with

Asperger's Syndrome. The death of her older brother in a school shooting launches her on a journey not only to identify her emotions but also to feel them so that she and her grieving father can find closure.



Freedman, Russell
THE WAR TO END ALL WARS: WORLD WAR I

Clarion

Trade: 9780547026862; \$22.00

Historical photographs and vignettes of German and Allied soldiers with excerpts from their letters and diaries unflinchingly and elegantly portray the senseless waste and horror of war in the first global conflict to use modern weapons.



Freedman, Russell
LAFAYETTE AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Holiday House

Trade: 9780823421824; \$24.95

Vivid period reproductions and primary source documents lend an exciting immediacy to this portrait of the young, idealistic Lafayette who matured into a savvy tactician and passionate ambassador for freedom. Appended timeline, source notes, and bibliography inspire further acquaintance with this dashing figure.



Holm, Jennifer L.
TURTLE IN PARADISE

Random

Trade: 9780375836886; \$16.99

Tough and practical Turtle finds a

family she never knew she had—including her boy cousins Beans, Kermit, and Buddy—and discovers a lost treasure in this funny and moving tale set in Key West during 1935. Becca Battoe captures Turtle's distinctive voice perfectly in the audio version.



McCaughrean, Geraldine
DEATH-DEFYING PEPPER ROUX

Harper

Trade: 9780061836657; \$16.99

Pepper's aunt has doomed him to die by his fourteenth birthday, but he disappoints her by living. The book's memorable characters and vivid, quirky prose offer a look at 1930s France during Pepper's series of hilarious misadventures as he outruns death.