### Best Children’s Books of the Year

**Under Five**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher/Price</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| All Fall Down                              | by Mary Brigid Barrett, illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
(Candlewick, $6.99) 978-0-7636-4430-7,  
978-0-7636-4358-4 | Diverse groups of joyful children have fun exploring textures of everyday objects and building smashable structures. Lively gouache, watercolor, and ink pictures. (0-3) |
| Pat-a-Cake                                 | by Suzanne Bloom                        | (Boyds Mills Press/Highlights, $16.95) 978-1-62091-736-7 | Bear wants some time alone. Goose and Fox approve. Will Bear get what he wants? Spare text and glorious pastels. (3-4) |
| Baby Animal Farm                           | by Karen Blair                          | (Candlewick Press, $6.99) 978-0-7636-7069-6 | Five very cute toddlers follow animals and hear their sounds. Simple watercolors. (1-3) |
| Bears in the Bath                          | by Shirley Parenteau, illustrated by David Walker  
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-6418-3 | Will Big Brown Bear outsmart four resistant grimy bears when luring them into the bathtub? Rhyming text with vivid action verbs. Soft, animated acrylic illustrations. (2-5) |
| Big Rig                                    | by Jamie A. Swenson, illustrated by Ned Young  
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-6330-5 | Bright, colorful illustrations. (2-6) |
| Build, Dogs, Build: A Tall Tail           | written and illustrated by James Horvath  
(Harper/HarperCollins, $15.99) 978-0-06-218967-7 | Lively, humorous text and pictures detail the work of construction dogs as they demolish an old building and raise a skyscraper. (4-6) |
| By Day, By Night                           | by Amy Gibson, illustrated by Meilo So  
(Boyds Mills Press/Highlights, $16.95) 978-1-59078-991-9 | Wander through the day with the world’s children as they perform everyday routines. Lively pencil and watercolor vignettes. Benefit for the Global Orphan Project. (3-6) |
| Chengdu Could Not, Would Not Fall Asleep   | written and illustrated by Barney Saltzberg  
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4231-6721-1 | A young panda has difficulty sleeping. Simple rhythmic text with charcoal illustrations. An engaging read-aloud. (3-6) |
| Chu’s First Day of School                  | by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Adam Rex  
(Harper/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-222397-5 | A nervous panda faces the first day of school hoping to be liked. Oil and mixed-media illustrations. (3-6) |
| Construction                               | by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock  
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-7325-3 | A rhythmic text and colorful ink drawings depict the construction of a new library. (3-6) |

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Children’s Book Committee  
Bank Street College of Education
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<tr>
<th><strong>Best Children’s Books of the Year</strong></th>
<th><strong>Under Five</strong></th>
<th><strong>2015 Edition</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*= Outstanding Merit</td>
<td>✏ Read Aloud</td>
<td>(2-4) Suggested age range</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Demolition**
by Sally Sutton, illustrated by Brian Lovelock
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-6493-0
A poetic format describes the sounds and movements of a building's razing. Dramatic pigmented-ink illustrations. (2-5)

**Doug Unplugs on the Farm**
written and illustrated by Dan Yaccarino
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $17.99) 978-0-385-75328-9
What happens when Doug, a city robot, becomes unplugged and experiences farm life? Brush-and-ink and computer-generated illustrations. (3-6)

**Duck & Goose Go to the Beach**
written and illustrated by Tad Hills
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, $17.99) 978-0-385-37235-0
Duck takes reluctant Goose on an adventure to the beach, but when they get there, it is Goose who leads the way. Expressive, humorous oil paintings. (4-6)

**Extraordinary Jane**
written and illustrated by Hannah E. Harrison
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3914-7
Jane, the dog, wishes she had a special talent equal to the rest of her circus-performer family. Will the ringmaster recognize it? Colorful acrylic illustrations. (4-6)

**Flashlight**
written and illustrated by Lizi Boyd
(Chronicle Books, $16.99) 978-1-4521-1894-9
Wonders of the dark unfold as a boy lights up various plants and animals and then becomes the subject of the beams himself. A wordless book illuminated by a black background which highlights gray-blue figures. (3-6)

**Found**
written and illustrated by Salina Yoon
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, $14.99) 978-0-8027-3559-1
A young bear finds a lost stuffed bunny, rescues it, and even finds its home. Digitally created, child-friendly illustrations. (3-6)

**Fox’s Garden**
written and illustrated by Princesse Camcam
(Enchanted Lion Books, $14.95) 978-1-59270-167-4
On a snowy night a fox wanders into a garden and is seen by a little boy in this wordless book. Soft, muted, cut-paper illustrations. (3-5)

**Froodle**
written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-922-1
Little Brown Bird’s “froodle sproodle” song encourages the other birds to invent their own silly calls. Illustrations in pencil, charcoal, ink, and digital color. (3-6)

**George in the Dark**
written and illustrated by Madeline Valentine
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $16.99) 978-0-449-81334-8
George is very brave except...in the dark. When his beloved toy bear is missing, George must act despite his fears. Gouache, graphite, and colored pencil illustrations. (4-6)

**Global Baby Boys**
by Maya Ajmera
(Charlesbridge, $6.95) 978-1-58089-440-1
Expressive color photographs represent kind, curious, smart, and joyful baby boys from around the world. (0-4)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

* = Outstanding

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Format</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I Got the Rhythm</td>
<td>by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison</td>
<td>Bloomsbury Children's Books</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I Had a Raptor</td>
<td>written and illustrated by George O'Connor</td>
<td>Candlewick</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td>3-6</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Jack</em></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Tomie DePaola</td>
<td>Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>board book</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Letter for Leo</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier</td>
<td>Clarion Books/HMH</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>board book</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Library Book for Bear</td>
<td>by Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton</td>
<td>Candlewick Press</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>4-6</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion Lion</td>
<td>by Miriam Busch, illustrated by Larry Day</td>
<td>Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>The Little Bear Book</em></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Anthony Browne</td>
<td>Candlewick Press</td>
<td>$15.99</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Elliot, Big City</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Mike Curato</td>
<td>Henry Holt and Co.</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
<td>2-5</td>
<td>board book</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Have You Seen My Dragon?**
written and illustrated by Steve Light
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6648-4
A boy scours New York City in search of his dragon amid an increasing number of objects on each double-page spread. Detailed pen-and-ink drawings with colored pencil highlights. (3-6)

**Hug Machine**
written and illustrated by Scott Campbell
It’s lots of fun to hug everyone and everything in sight, from people to rocks, evoking a wide range of reactions. Spare, expressive watercolors. (3-5)

**I Got the Rhythm**
by Connie Schofield-Morrison, illustrated by Frank Morrison
(Bloomsbury Children's Books, $16.99) 978-1-61963-178-6
A young girl on a neighborhood walk with her mother finds rhythmic sounds that lead her and other children to break into dance. Vibrant oil paintings. (3-6)

**If I Had a Raptor**
written and illustrated by George O’Connor
(Candlewick, $15.99) 978-0-7636-6012-3
An African American girl loves her “teensy and tiny” baby raptor—even when it gets bigger. Cartoonish illustrations smoothly blend fantasy and realistic elements in a pleasing read-aloud. (3-6)

**A Letter for Leo**
written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
(Clarion Books/HMH, $16.99) 978-0-544-22360-8
As Leo, a weasel, delivers the mail, he finds a new friend. Will the little bird fulfill Leo’s hope for a letter of his own? Pen-and-ink and gentle watercolors. (3-5)

**A Library Book for Bear**
by Bonny Becker, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-4924-1
Bear is sure that he has all the books he needs until Mouse insists on a trip to the library. Expressive watercolor and gouache illustrations. (4-6)

**Lion Lion**
by Miriam Busch, illustrated by Larry Day
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-227104-4
A boy and a lion enjoy a playful, imaginative interchange. Humorous watercolor illustrations support the text. (3-5)

**The Little Bear Book**
written and illustrated by Anthony Browne
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-7007-8
A little bear with a pencil distracts fierce-looking predators by drawing what they need. Colorful watercolor and ink illustrations. (3-5)

**Little Elliot, Big City**
written and illustrated by Mike Curato
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9825-9
Elliot feels small living in a big city, until he finds good things come in small packages. Gentle illustrations in soft earth tones. (2-5)
### Lost for Words
written and illustrated by Natalie Russell
(Peachtree, $16.95) 978-1-56145-739-7
All of his friends are busy writing, but Tapir just can’t think of the right words until he finally finds the way to express himself. Exuberant, colorful silkscreen illustrations. (4-6)

### Maple
written and illustrated by Lori Nichols
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16085-1
The tree planted in her honor is Maple’s best friend, and when she becomes a big sister, another little sprig appears. Gentle pencil and digitally colored illustrations. (3-5)

### Maple & Willow Together
written and illustrated by Lori Nichols
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16283-1
Even the closest sisters can fight occasionally. Muted, digitally colored pencil illustrations. (3-5)

### Mia’s Thumb
written and illustrated by Ljuba Stille, translated from the German by Anja Mundt
(Holiday House, $16.99) 978-0-8234-3067-3
Little Mia sucks her thumb even though everyone tries to make her stop—except Grandma. Artistic cut-paper collages. (3-6)

### The Midnight Library
written and illustrated by Kazuno Kohara
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-985-6
In this library, open only at night, a little librarian knows how to please all the animals who enter. Yellow and blue art outlined in black. (4-6)

### Number One Sam
written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4231-7111-9
Sam deals with losing a race after being a winner. Silkscreen and digital collages. (4-6)

### Oliver’s Tree
written and illustrated by Kit Chase
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25700-1
Oliver cannot tag his playmates when they hide in trees until they figure out a way to play together. Appealing watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations. (3-5)

### One Busy Day: A Story for Brothers and Sisters
by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jessica Meserve
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4231-7112-6
More than anything else, Mia wants to play with her busy big brother. Can she show him that togetherness is fun? Thick-lined, bold, digitally colored illustrations. (4-6)

### The Orchestra Pit
written and illustrated by Johanna Wright
When a snake wanders into the wrong pit by mistake, he encounters the instruments in an orchestra, to the consternation of the young musicians. Mixed-media illustrations. (3-5)

### Out of the Blue
written and illustrated by Alison Jay
(Barefoot Books, $16.99) 978-1-78285-042-7
A day at the beach is interrupted by a big storm, but afterward the ocean leaves a surprise behind. Wordless with crackled oil paintings that reveal real sea creatures. (2-6)
**Peggy: A Brave Chicken on a Big Adventure**
written and illustrated by Anna Walker
(Clarion Books/HMH, $16.99) 978-0-544-25900-3
When a gust of wind drops her in a big city, Peggy, a hen, has an adventure and makes some new friends. Ink and photo collage illustrations. (3-5)

*A Pet for Fly Guy*
written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-31615-6
Can Fly Guy and Buzz find the perfect pet for Fly Guy? Bold, colorful, digitally created illustrations. (4-6)

**Pig and Small**
written and illustrated by Alex Latimer
(Peachtree, $15.95) 978-1-56145-797-7
Despite the differences in their sizes, friends Pig and Bug find many things they can do together. Digitally enhanced colored pencil drawings. (4-6)

**Ping Wants to Play**
written and illustrated by Adam Gudeon
(Holiday House, $14.95) 978-0-8234-2854-0
Pong comes to the rescue when his friend Ping needs help. Energetic, digitally colored illustrations. (4-6)

**Planes Go**
written and illustrated by Steve Light
(Chronicle Books, $9.99) 978-1-4521-2899-3
Bold, double-paged illustrations depict the sounds made by different types of planes as they take off. (2-5)

**Row, Row, Row Your Boat**
written and illustrated by Jane Cabrera
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-3050-5
In this clever rewrite, rowers meet animals on their trip down the river to home. Each chorus invites participation. Bright, whimsical acrylic illustrations. (3-5)

**Stanley the Builder**
*Stanley’s Garage*
written and illustrated by William Bee
(Peachtree, $14.95) 978-1-56145-801-1, 978-1-56145-804-2
Watch as Stanley, the hamster, helps his driver friends and builds a house for Myrtle. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (3-5)

**Swim, Duck, Swim**
by Susan Lurie, photographed by Murray Head
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-250-04642-0
Little duckling is afraid to swim, but encouraged by his parents and others, he works up the courage to jump into the water. Bold, color photographs. (2-5)

**Three Bears in a Boat**
written and illustrated by David Soman
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $17.99) 978-0-8037-3993-2
After breaking their mother’s prize seashell, three bear cubs set out on the high seas to replace it, with resulting arguments and reconciliation. Detailed watercolors. (3-6)

**Tugboat**
written and illustrated by Michael Garland
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-2866-3
Graphite and digital illustrations and simple text tell the story of tugboats. A picture glossary helps to explain terms. (3-6)

**Vanilla Ice Cream**
written and illustrated by Bob Graham
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-7377-2
A sparrow’s journey far from home allows Edie to get her first taste of vanilla ice cream. Expansive ink and watercolor illustrations show how. (4-6)
Best Children’s Books of the Year

Under Five

2015 Edition

*= Outstanding Merit

Read Aloud (2-4) Suggested age range

Graphic format

Board Book

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Animals (Fiction)

*[Outstanding Merit Read Aloud (2-4) Suggested age range Graphic format Board Book]

**The Way to the Zoo**
written and illustrated by John Burningham
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-7317-8
When Sylvie finds a door in her room leading to the zoo, animals come to spend the night with humorous results. Droll pen, pencil, pastel, and watercolor illustrations. (2-5)

**Who Says That, Cat the Cat?**
written and illustrated by Mo Willems
Imitate the sounds and sleep habits of familiar animals and get ready for bed . . . except for the one animal that is different. Bold outlines of humorous animal figures. (2-4)

**Yoko Finds Her Way**
written and illustrated by Rosemary Wells
(Disney/Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4231-6512-5
Leaving for Japan, Yoko proudly guides her mother through the airport by following posted signs. But coming back from the restroom, she loses her way. Shimmering, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

**YOU ARE MY BABY**

Garden
Ocean
Pets
Woodland

written and illustrated by Lorena Siminovich
(Chronicle Books, $8.99) 978-1-4521-2649-4, 978-1-4521-2650-0, 978-1-4321-3430-7, 978-1-4521-3431-4
Maternal bonds between animal mothers and their babies grow close in the garden, ocean, home, and woods. Gouache collages. (0-3)

**Cat & Dog**
written and illustrated by Michael Foreman
(Andersen Press/Lerner, $16.95) 978-1-4677-5124-7
When a stray cat gets separated from her kittens, a stray dog cares for them until she returns. Realistic watercolor and pastel illustrations. (4-6)

**Following Papa’s Song**
written and illustrated by Gianna Marino
(Viking/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-670-01315-9
Little Blue follows Papa through the ocean and learns to listen for the whale’s song. Lush, gouache illustrations. (3-5)

**Little Ducks Go**
written and illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully
(Holiday House, $14.95) 978-0-8234-2941-7
When Mother Duck’s six ducklings are washed down a grate, a cast of characters comes to their aid. Expressive pen and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

**Little Owl’s Day**
written and illustrated by Divya Srinivasan
(Viking/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-670-01650-1
Usually up at night, Little Owl is awakened in the morning and visits all the strange, wonderful creatures and places he has never seen before. Bold, bright illustrations. (3-5)

**Nat the Cat Can Sleep Like That**
by Victoria Allenby, illustrated by Tara Anderson
(Pajama Press, $19.95) 978-1-927485-52-1
Can the orange tabby cat sleep through all the antics of a kitten? Playful mixed-media illustrations express surprise, curiosity, affection, and sleep. (2-5)
Animals (Fiction), continued

**The Storm Whale**
written and illustrated by Benji Davies
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9967-6
A lonely boy’s rescue of a beached whale helps to strengthen the boy’s relationship with his father. Comforting illustrations. (4-6)

**Who Can Jump?**
**Who Can Swim?**
written and illustrated by Sebastien Braun
(Candlewick Press, $6.99) 978-0-7636-6753-5, 978-0-7636-6752-8
Guess which animals can jump or swim. Lift the sturdy flaps to see who they are. Boldly outlined, colorful mixed-media illustrations. (1-3)

**Winston & George**
by John Miller, illustrated by Giuliano Cucco
(Enchanted Lion Books, $17.95) 978-1-59270-145-2
The strong friendship between a crocodile and his crocodile bird is seriously tested when the bird plays one too many pranks. Vibrant illustrations. Information page included. (3-5)

Concept Books

**Colors**
**Shapes**
written and illustrated by Sophie Pelham
(Price Stern Sloan/Penguin, $6.99) 978-0-8431-7242-3, 978-0-8431-7240-9
Counting, tracing, and other activities make identifying colors and shapes interesting. Bold, colorful illustrations. (4-6)

**Colors versus Shapes**
written and illustrated by Mike Boldt
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-210303-1
At a contest to determine which is better, a surprising thing happens. Bold, colorful digital illustrations. (4-6)

**Creature Baby Animals**
**Creature Colors**
**Creature Sounds**
written and photographed by Andrew Zuckerman
Realistic photos, creative text, and generous use of white space brings this collection of concept books alive. (1-3)

**Early Bird**
written and illustrated by Toni Yuly
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $15.99) 978-1-250-04327-6
A bird sets out on an early morning journey and encounters a breakfast surprise. Simple language emphasizes action, with bright, pen-and-ink and digital media. (2-5)

**Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site**
by Sherri Duskey Rinker, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
(Chronicle Books, $12.99) 978-1-4521-2824-5
Hear the sounds of the construction site at work and at rest in this enhanced interactive version of the 2011 book. Symbols tell which buttons to push for the sounds, and richly colorful illustrations add character to the machines. (3-5)

**Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors**
by Roseanne Greenfield Thong, illustrated by John Parra
(Chronicle Books, $16.99) 978-1-4521-0203-0
Colors are explored through natural and cultural objects in a rhyming text studded with Spanish words. Stylized, colorful paintings. (3-6)
**Concept Books, continued**

- **Little Blue Truck's Christmas**  
  by Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry  
  (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $14.99)  
  978-0-544-32041-3  
  After Little Blue Truck delivers all his Christmas gifts to his friends, he finds a twinkly surprise at home. Colorful, wintery illustrations. (3-5)

- **Little Green Peas: A Big Book of Colors**  
  written and illustrated by Keith Baker  
  (Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99)  
  978-1-4424-7660-8  
  Playful, mischievous little green peas show up to explain the array of colors. Find the hidden, repeated objects on each page. Bright, digital illustrations. (2-5)

- **Love You More**  
  by Susan Musgrave, illustrated by Esperanca Melo  
  (Orca, $9.95) 978-1-4598-0240-7  
  Rhymes, rhythm, and colorful illustrations lead to warm celebrations of a parent’s love for a child throughout each month of the year. (3-5)

- **Mix It Up**  
  written and illustrated by Hervé Tullet, translated from the French by Christopher Franceschelli  
  (Handprint Books/Chronicle, $15.99)  
  978-1-4521-3735-3  
  Readers lend a helping hand as blobs of color, big and small, create new colors. Vibrant, painted illustrations. (2-5)

- **My Bus**  
  written and illustrated by Byron Barton  
  (Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)  
  978-0-06-228736-6  
  As each cat and dog passenger is picked up and dropped at a specific destination, readers have the opportunity to practice basic math concepts. Brightly colored, computer-generated art. (3-5)

**Holiday Stories**

- **Tap Tap Boom Boom**  
  by Elizabeth Bluemle, illustrated by G. Brian Karas  
  (Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-5696-6  
  Words that evoke the sounds of rain and thunder capture the excitement of a rainstorm in the city. Evocative collage, gouache, and pencil illustrations. (3-6)

- **We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers**  
  written and illustrated by Julie Flett  
  (Native Explore, $12.00) 978-1-5547-6398-6  
  Aunties laugh, fireflies flicker, and owls burrow. Children have plenty to count in this gentle celebration of Cree language and culture. Smooth, soft illustrations. (0-5)
**Holiday Stories, continued**

*Wickle Woo Has a Halloween Party*
illustrated by Jannie Ho
(Nosy Crow/Candlewick, $7.99) 978-0-7636-7400-7
Wickle Woo is having a Halloween party. Pull the tabs to help him find the costumed friends he invited. Illustrated in seasonal colors. (1-3)

**Humor**

*Fly Guy’s Amazing Tricks*
written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold
(Cartwheel Books/Scholastic, $6.99) 978-0-545-49329-1
Will Fly Guy’s strategy succeed in helping Buzz perform his newly learned tricks without causing havoc when confronted with a bully? Colorful, humorous illustrations match the snappy dialogue. (4-6)

*Hopper and Wilson Fetch a Star*
written and illustrated by Maria van Lieshout
(Philomel Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25772-8
Two friends set out on their paper airplane to find the perfect star. Whimsical, mixed-media illustrations. (3-6)

*Is There a Dog in This Book?*
written and illustrated by Viviane Schwarz
(Candlewick Press, $16.91) 978-0-7636-6991-1
In this humorous mystery for very young children, three cats become friends with a dog. Flaps and bright, energetic pen-and-ink illustrations. (2-5)

*Max and the Won’t Go to Bed Show*
by Mark Sperring, illustrated by Sarah Warburton
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-70822-7
A very small ringleader performs all his creative tricks to delay bedtime. Spritely, dazzling illustrations. (3-5)

*Naptime*
written and illustrated by Iris de Mouy, translated from the French by Shelley Tanaka
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, $16.95) 978-1-55498-487-9
The animals on the savannah offer a variety of familiar excuses for not taking a nap. Then a bossy young girl offers a solution. Simple appealing watercolors. (2-5)

*The Pigeon Needs a Bath!*
written and illustrated by Mo Willems
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-9087-5
Pigeon insists, “I don’t really need a bath.... I took one last month!” Hilarity ensues, but Pigeon emerges squeaky-clean. Cartoonish, dynamic illustrations. (3-6)

*Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale*
by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, $17.99) 978-0-375-86918-1
On a trip to visit her second cousin twice removed, a fish is totally unaware of the dangers that she encounters. Comic evocative text and watercolor illustrations. (4-6)

*The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School*
by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Hanna
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-374-36095-5
A rhythmic tale of a little fish on his first day at school follows him as he finds a wonderful teacher and realizes he can learn. Humorous illustrations. (4-6)

*Underpants Dance*
by Marlena Zapf, illustrated by Lynne Avril
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3539-2
Lily loves to dance and show her frilly underpants, much to the chagrin of her older sister. Engaging gouache illustrations. (4-6)
Science

Can You See Me?
written and illustrated by Ted Lewin
(Holiday House, $14.95) 978-0-8234-2940-0
Animals are hard to spot in the Costa Rican rain forest, but one creature stands out—a red poison dart frog. Beautifully illustrated in shimmering pencil and watercolor. (3-5)

*Swamp Chomp
by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Paul Meisel
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-2407-8
Vibrant, detailed double-page spread illustrations with simple action-verb text introduce young readers to the life and food chain of a swamp. Endnotes. (2-6)

*Daytime Nighttime
written and illustrated by William Low
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9751-1
Do grasshoppers, rabbits, frogs, and fireflies appear by day or by night? Vibrant, full-page color illustrations. (3-6)

I Hatched!
by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Jen Corace
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-3688-7
A killdeer chick is traced from birth through its development in clear, amusing rhymes and engaging watercolors. (4-6)

Plants Feed Me
written and illustrated by Lizzy Rockwell
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-2526-6
Learn how plants grow and about the many parts of plants that we can eat. Simple language and gouache illustrations. (3-6)

Some Bugs
by Angela DiTerlizzi, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel
(Beach Lane Books/ Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99) 978-1-4424-5880-2
Rhyming verses explore busy bugs and insects that hop, glide, swim, or hide. Colorful collages illustrate a busy backyard world. (3-6)