**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

**Nine to Twelve**

**2015 Edition**

**Read Aloud**

**FICTION**

**Adventure and Mystery**

**The Book of Secrets (Mister Max series)**  
by Cynthia Voigt, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno  
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $16.99)  
978-0-307-97684-0  
Max, the Solutioneer, continues to use his theater background to solve mysteries while also trying to reunite with his missing parents. Illustrated with line drawings. (10-13)

**Cast Away on the Letter A: A Philemon Adventure**  
written and illustrated by Fred (Frederic Othon Aristides), translated from the French by Richard Kutner  
(TOON Books/Candlewick Press, $16.95)  
978-1-935179-63-4  
When teenager Philemon falls down a well into a parallel world of islands, he and a new companion must find their way home. Classic comic book illustrations. (7-12)

**Dangerous Deception**  
by Peg Kehret  
(Dutton BFYR/Penguin, $16.99)  
978-0-525-42652-3  
Sixth grader Emmy’s admirable determination to help a needy family gets her in trouble. (9-11)

**Dreamwood**  
by Heather Mackey, illustrated by Teagan White  
(Putnam Juvenile/Penguin, $16.99)  
978-0-399-25067-5  
Twelve-year-old Lucy Darrington and her friend Pete search for her missing “ghostologist” father in the Pacific Northwest, hoping also to find the powerful “Dreamwood” tree. Beautifully detailed black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

**Manhunt**  
by Kate Messner  
(Scholastic Press, $16.99)  
978-0-545-41977-2  
Three junior members of the Silver Jaguar Society solve the mystery of an art heist. But which society member is a double agent? (8-12)

**Once Upon a Midnight Eerie (The Misadventures of Edgar & Allan Poe series)**  
by Gordon McAlpine, illustrated by Sam Zuppardi  
(Viking Juvenile/Penguin, $16.99)  
978-0-670-78493-6  
The Poe twins are back, and this time they’re teamed up with Em and Milly Dickinson as they try to solve a ghostly mystery in New Orleans. Black-and-white illustrations. (9-11)

**Saving Kabul Corner**  
by N. H. Senzai  
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99)  
978-1-4424-8494-8  
An eleven-year-old Afghan-American girl, her cousin, and her best friend investigate the vandalism of her family’s store and a rival one. Includes a glossary and bibliography. (9-12)
Adventure and Mystery, continued

**The Time of the Fireflies**
by Kimberley Griffiths Little
(Scholastic Press, $18.99) 978-0-545-16563-1
When fireflies transport twelve-year-old Larissa to her family’s tormented past in Louisiana’s bayou, she heals their age-old conflicts. (9-12)

**The Escape (Horses of the Dawn series)**
by Kathryn Lasky
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-39716-2
Born in the hold of a ship sailing to the New World, the foal Estrella becomes the leader of a small group of horses determined to escape their captors and survive. (8-12)

**The Lion Who Stole My Arm**
by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Annabel Wright
(Candlewick Press, $14.99) 978-0-7636-6620-0
Pedro loses one arm in a lion attack, but learns to compensate and coexist with animals around his village. Although the exact location is not specified, the story is based on a real East African conservation project. Black-and-white illustrations. (8-12)

**Nuts to You**
written and illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-009275-7
A squirrel tells the story of his friends who band together to save their colony from destruction. Pen and ink drawings. (8-11)

**Coming of Age**

**Absolutely Almost**
by Lisa Graff
(Philomel Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16405-7
A wonderful babysitter and two good friends help ten-year-old Albie, painfully aware of his weaknesses, discover his strengths. (9-12)

**Circa Now**
by Amber McRee Turner
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-7639-8
When eleven-year-old Circa’s photographer father dies, she copes with her grief by imagining that his photographs are magical. Illustrated with several intriguing photographs. (10–12)

**The Crossover**
by Kwame Alexander
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $16.99) 978-0-544-10771-7
In rhythmic free verse, twelve-year-old Josh Bell describes life with his twin, Jordan, on and off the basketball court. When Jordan starts dating and Dad’s health deteriorates, Josh has to figure out his priorities. (9-12)

**Gracefully Grayson**
by Ami Polonsky
(Hyperion/Disney, $16.99) 978-1-4231-8527-7
When Grayson, a transgender twelve-year-old, gets the female lead in a school play, she finds support as well as opposition and bullying. (10-14)

**The Great Greene Heist**
by Varian Johnson
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-52552-7
Jackson Greene has given up scheming. But when his friend Gaby’s run for school president is in jeopardy, Jackson and his team deliver. (10-14)

**Half a Chance**
by Cynthia Lord
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-03533-0
When twelve-year-old Lucy’s family moves to New Hampshire, she develops wonderful friendships, joins the Loon Patrol to protect the species, and enters a photography contest. (9-12)
**Coming of Age, continued**

**The Key that Swallowed Joey Pigza**  
by Jack Gantos  
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)  
978-0-374-30083-8  
In this series-concluding story, a stronger and more confident Joey gets help from an old friend as he copes with a very difficult family situation. (8-12)

**Life on Mars**  
by Jennifer Brown  
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, $16.99)  
978-1-61963-252-3  
Twelve-year-old Arty is upset at his family’s imminent move and worried about its affect on his search for life on Mars. Then he becomes friends with a surly retired astronaut. (9-12)

**The Meaning of Maggie**  
by Megan Jean Sovern  
(Clarion Books/HMH, $16.99)  
978-0-618-37492-9  
With humor, insight, and a distinctive voice, Maggie narrates the changes in herself and her family as they cope with her father’s illness. (10-12)

**Mr. Wayne’s Masterpiece**  
written and illustrated by Patricia Polacco  
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin, $17.99)  
978-0-399-16095-0  
Shy Trisha faces reciting in public. With the help of her drama teacher, she is able to conquer her fears. Emotions vividly expressed in dramatic illustrations. (8-11)

**Odd, Weird & Little**  
by Patrick Jennings  
(Egmont USA, $15.99)  
978-1-60684-374-1  
Woodrow, a much bullied middle schooler, befriends a very strange new student, also the target of bullies. (8-11)

**The Perfect Place**  
by Teresa E. Harris  
(Clarion Books/HMH, $16.99)  
978-0-547-25519-4  
When twelve-year-old Treasure and her sister are relocated to great-aunt Grace’s home in Virginia, Treasure redefines her ideas of family and perfection. (10-13)

**Sisters**  
written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier  
(Scholastic Press, $18.99)  
978-0-545-54069-0  
Life on a road trip with Mom and younger sister and brother is fraught with tension, adventure, and even some fun and bonding. Crisp, vivid illustrations in a graphic novel format pump up the humor and sibling tensions. (8-12)

**Sorry You’re Lost**  
by Matt Blackstone  
(Farrar Straus and Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $15.99)  
978-0-374-38065-6  
Struggling with the death of his mother, seventh grader Denny discovers that he cannot ease his pain with jokes and schemes. (10-12)

**Fantasy**

**Backwards Moon**  
by Mary Losure  
(Holiday House, $16.95)  
978-0-8234-3160-1  
Two cousin witchlings, Nettie and Bracken, with the help of a couple of human “Witch Friends” and a raccoon, manage to save their coven from human invasion. (8-11)

**The Boundless**  
by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Jim Tierney  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99)  
978-1-4424-7288-4  
Murder, theft, Sasquatch, and traveling circus are a part of Will’s steampunk adventure on an epic train. Black-and-white sketches suggest clues. (10-13)
The Cat at the Wall
by Deborah Ellis
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, $16.95)
978-1-55498-491-6
After dying in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, thirteen-year-old Clare is transformed into a cat in Bethlehem on the West Bank, where events between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians oddly mirror her former life. (9-12)

Centaur Rising
by Jane Yolen
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9664-4
Born the year after a shooting star appears to have landed on their horse farm, a baby centaur affects Arianne’s troubled family in surprising ways. (9-12)

The Children of the King
by Sonya Hartnett
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6735-1
Evacuated to the countryside in World War II, twelve-year-old Cecily and ten-year-old May meet two mysterious boys in a ruined castle who seem to be from another time. (9-12)

*Fleabrain Loves Franny
by Joanne Rocklin
(Amulet Books/Abrams, $16.95) 978-1-4197-1068-1
In 1952, as Franny slowly recovers from polio, she is befriended by a brilliant, erudite flea with superpowers who takes her on amazing adventures. (8-12)

Frostborn (Thrones and Bones series)
by Lou Anders, illustrated by Justin Gerard
(Crown BFYR/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-385-38778-1
When twelve-year-old Karn meets Thianna, half-giantess and half-human, their special talents shape their destiny. Elegant black-and-white spot art. (10-14)

Gabriel Finley & the Raven’s Riddle
by George Hagen, illustrated by Scott Bakal
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-385-37103-2
As evil ravens seek to conquer the world, an eleven-year-old boy searches for his missing father. Will Gabriel’s talent for answering riddles help him succeed? Stark black-and-white illustrations. (8-11)

The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing
by Sheila Turnage
(Kathy Dawson Books/Penguin, $16.99)
978-0-8037-3671-9
Mo and Dale of the Desperado Detective Agency must interview a ghost or flunk history. Do they have a ghost of a chance? (9-12)

The Islands of Chaldea
by Diana Wynne Jones, completed by Ursula Jones
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $17.99)
978-0-06-229507-1
Twelve-year-old Aileen’s talent as a magic maker blossoms as she accompanies her powerful Aunt Beck on a mission for the King. (9-12)

Lost Children of the Far Islands
by Emily Raabe
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-375-87091-0
Twins Gus and Leo and their little sister Ila discover unknown powers as they embark on a sea adventure to save their family from an evil force. (9-12)

Magic in the Mix
by Annie Barrows
(Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, $16.99)
978-1-61963-482-4
If magic sets things right, why are twins Molly and Miri traveling in time back to 1935 and 1918 to save their twin brothers stuck in the Civil War? (8-12)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author/Editors</th>
<th>Publisher/Price</th>
<th>Suggested Age Range</th>
<th>Graphic Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Night Gardener</td>
<td>by Jonathan Auxier</td>
<td>(Amulet Books/Abrams, $16.95) 978-1-4197-1144-2</td>
<td>(9-12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(siblings Molly and Kip were warned about the isolated manor where they work and the “sour woods” around it. Could the legend of the Night Gardener be true?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nightingale’s Nest</td>
<td>by Nikki Loftin</td>
<td>(Razorbill/Penguin, $16.99) 978-1-59514-546-8</td>
<td>(10-12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Twelve-year-old Little John meets Gayle, whose magical voice heals physical and emotional damage, and is so affected by her that he is matured and changed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operation Bunny (Wings &amp; Co. series)</td>
<td>by Sally Gardner, illustrated by David Roberts</td>
<td>(Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $12.99) 978-0-8050-9892-1</td>
<td>(8-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emily discovers fairies, talking animals, and magical shops as she tries to escape her cruel parents and outwit the evil Harpella. Detailed, whimsical line drawings.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Timid, realistic Ophelia unwillingly helps a boy find his magical sword while coping with her mother’s death and her own asthma. Decorative black-and-white illustrations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Orphan and the Mouse</td>
<td>by Martha Freeman, illustrated by David McPhail</td>
<td>(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-3167-0</td>
<td>(8-12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Eleven-year-old Caro befriends mice, discovers a criminal element, and locates an infant sold by the head of the Cherry Street Orphanage. Black-and-white spot illustrations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules of Summer</td>
<td>written and illustrated by Shaun Tan</td>
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</table>

Fantasy, continued
### Best Children’s Books of the Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read Aloud</th>
<th>Mature Content</th>
<th>Suggested Age Range</th>
<th>Graphic Format</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Thicket: A Path Begins</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>(10 - 14)</td>
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<tr>
<td>by J. A. White, illustrated by Andrea Offermann (Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-225724-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years after her mother was executed for witchcraft, Kara must care for her brother and overcome the grimoire that awakens her own magical abilities. Black-and-white illustrations. (10-13)</td>
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<td><em><strong>WinterFrost</strong></em></td>
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<tr>
<td>by Michelle Houts (Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6565-4</td>
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<td>When their parents leave to tend to older relatives and baby Pia disappears, twelve-year-old Bettina must venture into the world of the mischievous, gnome-like nisse. (8-11)</td>
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<td><strong>The Witch’s Boy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>by Kelly Barnhill (Algonquin Young Readers/Workman, $16.95) 978-1-61620-351-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>When his mother is away and a bandit tries to steal her magic, young Ned must defend and save it, with help from a bandit’s daughter. (9-12)</td>
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### Folk and Fairy Tales

|  |  |  |  |
| ***Ashley Bryan’s Puppets*** |  |  |  |
| Find objects from the sea create a magical puppet world. Accompanying poems are told in the voices of characters from African traditions, shown in close-up photographs. (6-14) |  |  |  |

### Nine to Twelve

|  |  |  |  |
| **Hansel & Gretel** |  |  |  |
| Chillingly expressive black-and-white illustrations intensify this eerie yet straightforward retelling of the traditional Grimm tale. (8-12) |  |  |  |
| **Theseus and the Minotaur** |  |  |  |
| written and illustrated by Yvan Pommaux, translated from the French by Richard Kutner (Toon Books/Candlewick Press, $16.95) 978-1-935179-61-0 |  |  |  |
| In the full-color pencil and ink illustrations of this graphic novel, Athenians are sacrificed every year to the half-bull, half-human Minotaur in his maze in Minos. Can Theseus end the sacrifices by destroying the creature? (9-12) |  |  |  |

### Historical Fiction

|  |  |  |  |
| **The Badger Knight** |  |  |  |
| by Kathryn Erskine (Scholastic Press, $17.99) 978-0-545-46442-0 |  |  |  |
| In England in 1346, small, sickly, twelve-year-old Adrian follows his best friend to war against the Scots and proves his courage, wisdom, and loyalty. (9-12) |  |  |  |
| **Dare the Wind: The Record-Breaking Voyage of Eleanor Prentiss and the Flying Cloud** |  |  |  |
| by Tracey Fern, illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully (Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-0-374-31699-0 |  |  |  |
| In 1851 Eleanor Prentiss navigated a clipper ship from New York City to San Francisco in record time, reading the sea and daring the wind. Watercolor illustrations. Maps and glossary. (8-12) |  |  |  |
### Historical Fiction, continued

**Dash**  
by Kirby Larson  
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-41635-1  
When eleven-year-old Mitsi is sent to a Japanese Internment Camp in 1942, she must leave her beloved dog, Dash, with a kind neighbor. (9-12)

**Hidden: A Child’s Story of the Holocaust**  
by Loïc Dauvillier, illustrated by Marc Lizano, color by Greg Salsedo, translated from the French by Alexis Siegel  
(First Second/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-873-6  
As a young girl in Paris, Dounia was hidden from the Nazis by neighbors and friends when her parents were sent to concentration camps; she survived to tell the story to her granddaughter in this subtly colored graphic novel. (8-10)

**The Magician of Auschwitz**  
by Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland  
(Second Story Press, $18.95) 978-1-927583-46-3  
When young Werner arrives in Auschwitz, his bunkmate teaches him magic to help him survive. Years later, Werner learns the true identity of the man. Dark, foreboding watercolors. (8-11)

**Nest**  
by Esther Ehrlich  
(Wendy Lamb Books/Random House, $16.99) 978-0-385-38607-4  
In 1972, when her mother is diagnosed with MS and depression, eleven-year-old Chirp desperately tries to keep her world from falling apart. (10-13)

### Revolution (The Sixties Trilogy, Book 2)  
by Deborah Wiles  
(Scholastic Press, $19.99) 978-0-545-10607-8  
Civil rights activism in Mississippi in 1964 is viewed from the perspective of two young people, one white and one African American. A documentary novel containing many source materials and copious photographs. (10-13)

**A Taste of Freedom: Gandhi and the Great Salt March**  
by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel, illustrated by Giuliano Ferri  
(Walker BFYR/Bloomsbury Children's Books, $17.99) 978-0-8027-9467-3  
A young boy joins Gandhi on a march for freedom. Watercolor and colored pencil illustrations. (9-12)

### Humor

**Alvin Ho: Allergic to the Great Wall, the Forbidden Palace, and Other Tourist Attractions**  
by Lenore Look, illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, $15.99) 978-0-385-36972-5  
Alvin is back! This time he is on a family trip to China to visit relatives. Will he survive the plane trip and other scary adventures? Lively black-and-white ink illustrations. (8-10)

**Charlie Joe Jackson’s Guide to Making Money**  
by Tommy Greenwald, illustrated by J. P. Coovert  
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $13.99) 978-1-59643-840-8  
When his weekly allowance isn’t enough, Charlie invents some dubious ways to make money. Black-and-white drawings. (9-12)

**Just Jake**  
by Jake Marcionette, illustrated by Victor Rivas Villa  
(Grosset & Dunlap/Penguin, $11.99) 978-0-448-46692-7  
In a journal-style presentation, sixth grader Jake relates the trials of going to a new school. Hilarious text by a twelve-year-old author with entertaining illustrations. (8-12)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**  

*Humor, continued*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher &amp; Edition</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Kate the Great: Except When She's Not</em></td>
<td>Suzy Becker</td>
<td></td>
<td>Crown BFYR/Random House, $12.99</td>
<td>978-0-385-38742-2</td>
<td>Quirky fifth-grader Kate deals with teachers, friends, siblings, and parents in this humorous story, generously illustrated with cartoon sketches showcasing Kate’s artistic talent. (8-12)</td>
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**Science Fiction**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Fourteenth Goldfish</td>
<td>Jennifer L. Holm</td>
<td>Tad Carpenter</td>
<td>Random House Children's Books, $16.99</td>
<td>978-0-375-87064-4</td>
<td>When a strange boy shows up at her house and turns out to be her grandfather, eleven-year-old Ellie’s life changes and her interest in science grows. Cheerful black-and-white illustrations of goldfish. (9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor</td>
<td>Jon Scieszka</td>
<td>Brian Biggs</td>
<td>Amulet Books/Abrams, $13.95</td>
<td>978-1-4197-1218-0</td>
<td>Frank is confident that he’ll win the $100,000 science prize and save his Grampa Al’s repair shop—but his rival, Edison, has a devious scheme to thwart him. Bold, detailed two-color illustrations. (8–12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Space Rocks!</td>
<td>Tom O’Donnell</td>
<td></td>
<td>Razorbill/Penguin, $16.99</td>
<td>978-1-59514-713-4</td>
<td>When alien Chorkle encounters human kids on his planet, they all learn about peacemaking and cultural understanding. (8-12)</td>
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</tbody>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annika Riz, Math Whiz (Franklin School Friends series)</td>
<td>Claudia Mills</td>
<td>Rob Shepperson</td>
<td>Margaret Ferguson Books/Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $15.99</td>
<td>978-0-374-30335-8</td>
<td>Can Annika win the sudoku contest and convince her best friends that math is really cool? Black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond</td>
<td>Brenda Woods</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99</td>
<td>978-0-399-25714-8</td>
<td>Eleven-year-old Violet is biracial but has never met her African American family. When she gets to know them, will she finally feel complete? (9-12)</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eddie Red Undercover: Mystery on Museum Mile</td>
<td>Marcia Wells</td>
<td></td>
<td>Harcourt Children’s Books/HMH BFYR, $16.99</td>
<td>978-0-544-23833-6</td>
<td>Because sixth grader Edmund has a photographic memory and excellent drawing skills, the NYPD enlists him to help capture an art thief. Digital illustrations. (9-12)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Illustrator</th>
<th>Publisher &amp; Edition</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justin Case: Rules, Tools, and Maybe a Bully</td>
<td>Rachel Vail</td>
<td>Matthew Cordell</td>
<td>Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99</td>
<td>978-1-250-03978-1</td>
<td>Fourth grade is challenging—a tough teacher, old and new friends who don’t get along, and other worries. How is Justin going to make it? Black-and-white doodle-like spot art. (8-10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher</td>
<td>Dana Alison Levy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Delacorte Press/Random House, $15.99</td>
<td>978-0-385-37652-5</td>
<td>The Fletchers—two dads, four ethnically diverse adopted sons, one invisible cheetah—face the challenges and rewards of school and life with a grouchy new neighbor. (9-12)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
My Cousin’s Keeper  
by Simon French  
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6279-0  
Eleven-year-old Kieran wants to fit in at school, and so he goes along with the bullies who target his weird cousin. But when they go too far, he finally does the right thing. (10-12)

New Kid  
by Tim Green  
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-220872-9  
After years of relocating whenever his father says so, twelve-year-old Brock is finally feeling at home with baseball, his coach, and a good friend. Then the family moves again. (8-12)

Outside In  
by Sarah Ellis  
(Groundwood/House of Anansi Press, $16.95) 978-1-55498-367-4  
Lynn’s conventional eighth-grade world collides with her new friend’s antimaternalistic, off-the-grid family and creates conflict between maintaining old friendships and embracing new alliances. (10-13)

*Rain Reign  
by Ann M. Martin  
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-312-64300-3  
Twelve-year-old Rose, diagnosed with high-functioning autism, steps out of her comfort zone of homonyms, rules, and prime numbers to find her dog, lost in a storm. (9-12)

*Rhyme Schemer  
by K. A. Holt  
(Chronicle Books, $15.99) 978-1-4521-2700-2  
Bully at school and bullied at home, Kevin comes to terms with his problems with the help of an older brother and a librarian and by writing poetry. Told in verse. (9-12)

The Secret Hum of a Daisy  
by Tracy Holczer  
(Putnam Juvenile/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16393-7  
After her mother dies, twelve-year-old Grace, must live with the grandmother she doesn’t know or trust and resents for a life-altering decision made years ago. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (9-12)

The Turtle of Oman  
by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Betsy Peterschmidt  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-201972-1  
Preparing to move from Oman to Michigan, Aref must say goodbye to all he loves there, especially his beloved grandfather. (8-10)

Under the Egg  
by Laura Marx Fitzgerald  
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-8037-4001-3  
Just before he dies, her grandfather tells thirteen-year-old Theo that he has left her a treasure. Could he mean a stolen work of art? (9-12)

Unfriended  
by Rachel Vail  
(Viking/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-670-01307-4  
Six narrators experience middle school friendships, budding romance, and bullying. (10-13)

Zane and the Hurricane: A Story of Katrina  
by Rodman Philbrick  
(Blue Sky/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-34238-4  
In New Orleans, twelve-year-old Zane and his dog, Bandy, experience the horrors of Hurricane Katrina. (10-13)
### INFORMATION BOOKS

#### Arts

**Edward Hopper Paints His World**  
by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Wendell Minor  
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-0-8050-8752-9  
Learn about the artistic influences on the work of this American realist painter and about the psychology that shaped his artistic vision. Gouache watercolor illustrations and pencil sketches. (9-12)

**Photos Framed: A Fresh Look at the World's Most Memorable Photographs**  
by Ruth Thomson  
(Candlewick Press, $18.99) 978-0-7636-7154-9  
Point of view is explored through a selection of twenty-seven famous historical photographs. Includes biographies of the photographers and a glossary. (10-14)

**Stone Giant: Michelangelo’s David and How He Came to Be**  
by Jane Sutcliffe, illustrated by John Shelley  
(Charlesbridge, $16.95) 978-1-58089-295-7  
In Renaissance Florence, Michelangelo transforms a block of marble into the magnificent statue of David. Detailed color drawings. (8-11)

#### Biography and Memoir

**Brown Girl Dreaming**  
by Jacqueline Woodson  
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-25251-8  
Through a series of poems, the author Jacqueline Woodson tells the story of growing up in Ohio, South Carolina, and New York during the turbulent Civil Rights era, and of becoming a writer. (10-14)

**The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus**  
by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet  
(Eerdmans BFYR, $17.50) 978-0-8028-5385-1  
Paul Roget loved making lists of just the right words to express something. Eventually, his lists grew into a book called a thesaurus. Watercolor illustrations combined with vintage images throughout. (8-11)
### Biography and Memoir, continued

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<tr>
<td>Influenced by his Mohawk heritage and his rock-and-roll heroes, Robbie Robertson becomes a world famous musician with The Band. Realistic oil paintings. (8-12)</td>
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<td><strong>Stand There! She Shouted: The Invincible Photographer Julia Margaret Cameron</strong></td>
<td>by Susan Goldman Rubin, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-5753-6</td>
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<td>In the early days of photography, a young woman is derided for her sentimental images but ultimately receives the fame she deserves. Finely detailed, colorful acrylic gouache illustrations. Bibliography, source notes, photographs. (9-13)</td>
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<td><strong>The Streak: How Joe DiMaggio Became America’s Hero</strong></td>
<td>by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Terry Widener</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Calkins Creek/Highlights, $16.95) 978-1-59078-992-6</td>
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<td>At a time when the nation was looking for heroes, “Joltin’ Joe” stepped up to the plate—and made a hit a record-breaking fifty-six times in a row. Lush acrylic paintings. (9-12)</td>
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<td><strong>Twenty-Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank</strong></td>
<td>by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Jamel Akib</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Lee &amp; Low, $18.95) 978-1-60060-658-8</td>
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<td>As a child in Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus grieved for the poverty around him and was determined to help. He studied economics and grew up to create the Grameen Bank. Loose, atmospheric pastels. (8-12)</td>
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### Ecology

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<tr>
<td><strong>Aviary Wonders Inc.: Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual</strong></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Kate Samworth</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Clarion Books/HMH, $17.99) 978-0-547-97899-4</td>
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<td>As the real birds are becoming extinct, this futuristic catalog would allow the reader to design, order, and build artificial ones. A cautionary fable with detailed oil illustrations. (9-12)</td>
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<td>*<strong>Plastic Ahoy!: Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch</strong></td>
<td>by Patricia Newman, photographed by Annie Crawley</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $22.95) 978-1-4677-1283-5</td>
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<td>The causes of the vast swaths of plastic floating in the Pacific Ocean, and the dangers they pose, are well explained and photographed. Extensive sources and recommendations for further reading. (8-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Skydiver: Saving the Fastest Bird in the World</strong></td>
<td>written and illustrated by Celia Godkin</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Pajama Press, $19.95) 978-1-927485-61-3</td>
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<td>Follow the efforts of scientists intent upon saving an endangered peregrine falcon as it develops from egg to adult. Muted, soft illustrations. (8-11)</td>
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### History

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<tr>
<td>*<strong>Angel Island: Gateway to Gold Mountain</strong></td>
<td>by Russell Freedman</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Clarion Books/HMH, $17.99) 978-0-547-90378-1</td>
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<td>Chinese immigrants who arrived at the “Ellis Island of the West”—Angel Island, in San Francisco Bay—provide accounts of the difficulties they faced. Photographs, reproductions of immigrants’ poetry, notes, and bibliography. (9-13)</td>
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**History, continued**

*At Home in Her Tomb: Lady Dai and the Ancient Chinese Treasures of Mawangdui*
by Christine Liu-Perkins, illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen
(Charlesbridge, $19.95) 978-1-58089-370-1
The discovery of the tomb of a well-preserved noblewoman of the Han Dynasty reveals the era’s customs, daily life, and treasures. Delicate watercolor illustrations; maps and photographs. (9-12)

**The History of Money: From Bartering to Banking**
by Martin Jenkins, illustrated by Satoshi Kitamura
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6763-4
The development of money from pre-historic times to the present is described in a clear and amusingly straightforward way. Humorous watercolors. (9-13)

**Shackleton’s Journey**
written and illustrated by William Grill
(Flying Eye Books/Nobrow, $24.00) 978-1-909263-10-9
Clear writing accompanied by maps, cheerful pencil sketches, and meticulous illustrations describe Ernest Shackleton’s attempt to cross the Antarctic continent. (8-12)

**Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I’s Bravest Dog**
by Ann Bausum
(National Geographic Children’s Books, $17.99) 978-1-4263-1486-5
Period photographs and amazing documents enhance the true story of an exceptional stray dog and his soldier partner who heroically supported American troops in France during World War I. (9-12)

**The White House Is Burning: August 24, 1814**
by Jane Sutcliffe
(Charlesbridge, $19.95) 978-1-58089-656-6
The infamous day in August, 1814, when the British burned most of Washington, D.C., had profound repercussions. Careful research and annotations with archival illustrations. (10-14)

**Fractions in Disguise**
by Edward Einhorn, illustrated by David Clark
(Charlesbridge, $16.95) 978-1-57091-773-8
Mr. Factor, who loves fractions, goes on an exciting adventure to gain a prized possession. Humorous ink and watercolor illustrations. (8-11)

**Shapes in Math, Science and Nature: Squares, Triangles and Circles**
by Catherine Sheldrick Ross, illustrated by Bill Slavin
(Kids Can Press, $24.95) 978-1-77138-124-6
Activities with the three basic geometric shapes demonstrate their importance in the real world. Instructions, diagrams, and drawings provided. (10-14)

**Science**

**Animalium**
by Jenny Broom, illustrated by Katie Scott
(Big Picture Press/Candlewick, $35.00) 978-0-7636-7508-0
This “museum” of the animal kingdom matches incredible colorful illustrations with informative text introducing the tree of life, the theory of evolution, and biodiversity. (9-13)

**The Case of the Vanishing Little Brown Bats: A Scientific Mystery**
by Sandra Markle
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $29.27) 978-1-4677-1463-1
Before it is too late, scientists must find out what is killing little brown bats, which are essential in keeping insects under control. Color photographs. (8-12)

**Cat Champions: Caring for Our Feline Friends**
by Rob Laidlaw
(Pajama Press, $19.95) 978-1-927485-31-6
Young people find humane ways to care for lost, abandoned, and neglected cats. Color photographs, resources, glossary, and links. (8-12)
### Science, continued

**Hello from 2030: The Science of the Future and You**  
by Jan Paul Schutten, translated from the Dutch by Ilse Craane  
(Aladdin/Beyond Words/Simon & Schuster BFYR, $15.99) 978-1-58270-474-6  
What will be different in 2030? Possibilities are discussed, based on the technology that we now possess, and issues are considered. Color photographs. (9-13)

**Neighborhood Sharks: Hunting with the Great Whites of California’s Farallon Islands**  
written and illustrated by Katherine Roy  
(David Macaulay Studio/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-1-59643-874-3  
All of the necessary conditions—from their anatomy to their environment—that enable sharks to capture their food are described. Striking, yet muted, color illustrations. (8-12)

**The Next Wave: The Quest to Harness the Power of the Oceans (Scientists in the Field series)**  
by Elizabeth Rusch  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $18.99) 978-0-544-09999-9  
The power created by ocean waves offers a source of clean energy. Join the scientists working in the field to make this happen. Glossary, photographs, notes, and sources. (10-14)

**Our Solar System**  
by Seymour Simon  
(Harper/HarperCollins, $17.99) 978-0-06-233379-7  
A well-written photo-essay about our solar system includes dramatic full color photographs and spacecraft images. (9-12)

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**Park Scientists: Gila Monsters, Geysers, and Grizzly Bears in America’s Own Backyard (Scientists in the Field series)**  
by Mary Kay Carson, photographed by Tom Uhlman  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $18.99) 978-0-547-79268-2  
Discover ways to study animal life and plant growth in Yellowstone, Sagaro, and Great Smoky Mountain National Parks. Profusely illustrated with photographs, maps, and diagrams. (10-13)

**Picture This! Animals**  
by Margaret Hynes, illustrated by Andy Crisp  
(Kingfisher/Macmillan, $12.99) 978-0-7534-6887-6  
A wide range of fundamental topics about the animal kingdom is covered in a visually appealing and easy-to-read format. Clean, often humorous, illustrations. Helpful introduction, glossary, and index. (8-12)

**Sea Turtle Scientist (Scientists in the Field series)**  
by Stephen R. Swinburne  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $18.99) 978-0-547-36755-2  
Scientist Kimberly Stewart leads the fascinating study of the life cycle and behavioral habits of an ancient and endangered species as well as efforts to save it. Vivid photos. (10-13)

**When Lunch Fights Back: Wickedly Clever Animal Defenses**  
by Rebecca L. Johnson  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $29.27) 978-1-4677-2109-7  
How do certain creatures fight off predators? Read about the weird and wild defenses they use. Photographs, notes, bibliography. (8-11)
**Super Sniffers: Dog Detectives On the Job**
by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
(Bloomsbury USA Children's Books, $17.99)
978-0-8027-3618-5
Because of their supersensitive sense of smell, dogs are used to detect many different things: disaster victims, human remains, explosives, dangerous allergens, and even cancer. Color photographs. (9-12)

**Take Shelter: At Home around the World**
by Nikki Tate and Dani Tate-Stratton
(Orca, $19.95) 978-1-4598-0742-6
An informative presentation of traditional and innovative forms of housing from many cultures. Color photographs, resources, and index. (8-12)