**FICTION**

**Adventure and Mystery**

**Book Scavenger**
by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman, illustrated by Sarah Watts
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-62779-115-1
When sinister developments threaten the online game Book Scavenger, Emily and James join a dangerous race to discover one special book. Black-and-white illustrations. (10–12)

**The Book That Proves Time Travel Happens**
by Henry Clark, illustrated by Terry Fan and Eric Fan (Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $17.00) 978-0-316-40617-8
During time travel, Ambrose and his friends find a historical connection between Morse code and ancient Chinese I-Ching hexagrams. Spot illustrations. (8–13)

**Finders Keepers**
by Shelley Tougas
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-59643-990-0
Can Al Capone’s loot save Christa’s summer cabin after her father loses his job? She and new friend Alex are detectives with pluck and wit. (9–12)

**The Girl with the Glass Bird**
by Esme Kerr
(Chicken House/Scholastic, $16.99) 978-0-545-69984-6
Planted in a boarding school as a spy, Edie unravels the mystery of threats against a wealthy classmate, daughter of a Russian prince. (9–12)

**Gooseberry Park and the Master Plan**
by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Arthur Howard
(Beach Lane Books/Simon & Schuster, $16.99) 978-1-4814-0449-5
A stouthearted dog, a funny, generous bat, a motherly squirrel, and a wise hermit crab come to the rescue during a terrible drought. Whimsical black-and-white illustrations. (8–10)

**Nooks & Crannies**
by Jessica Lawson, illustrated by Natalie Andrewson
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99) 978-1-4814-1921-5
In 1907 England, Tabitha Crum is summoned, with five others, to the home of a countess. There Tabitha unlocks a mystery, changing her life forever. Expressive black-and-white drawings. (8–12)

**Old Wolf**
by Avi, illustrated by Brian Floca
(Richard Jackson Books/Atheneum BFYR/Simon & Schuster, $16.99) 978-1-4424-9921-8
An old wolf and his starving pack, a mocking raven, and a boy with bow and arrow all collide in the Colorado mountains. Evocative pen and ink drawings. (9–12)

**The Poe Estate**
by Polly Shulman
(Nancy Paulsen Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16614-3
When Sukie goes with her parents to live with Cousin Hepzibah in the haunted Thorne Mansion, she meets an array of odd characters. (9–12)

**The Sign of the Cat**
written and illustrated by Lynne Jonell
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-8050-9683-5
With the help of cats and a tiger, Duncan discovers his true identity. Well-drawn characters, vivid, detailed settings, and finely detailed spot illustrations. (9–12)
Smashie McPerter and the Mystery of Room 11
by N. Griffin, illustrated by Kate Hindley
(Candlewick Press, $15.99) 978-0-7636-6145-8
The substitute teacher may be the culprit, but if so, how? Pen and pencil drawings. (8–11)

Wonder at the Edge of the World
by Nicole Helget, illustrated by Marcos Calo
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $17.00) 978-0-316-24510-4
In the mid-1850s, an adolescent girl, left in charge of her father’s artifacts, travels from Kansas to Antarctica with a shrunken head. Spot illustrations. (9–12)

Anthologies and Collections

Terrifying Tales (Guys Read series)
edited by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Gris Grimly
(Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-238558-1
Ten stories by a variety of authors and illustrators go beyond ghouls and gore to explore the frightening supernatural. Black-and-white illustrations. (8–12)

Coming of Age

Auggie & Me: Three Wonder Stories
by R. J. Palacio
Three new Auggie tales explore redemption, childhood relationships, and the meaning of friendship. (8–12)

Blackbird Fly
by Erin Entrada Kelly, illustrated by Betsy Peterschmidt
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-223861-0
A Filipino immigrant, bullied by boys for her Asian looks, dreams of running away to New Orleans and finding a new life as a musician. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (9–12)

Fort
by Cynthia DeFelice
(Farrar Straus Giroux BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-0-374-32427-8
Two 11-year-olds spend the summer building a fort, confronting two bullies, and befriending a boy with disabilities. (8–12)

*Genuine Sweet
by Faith Harkey
(Clarion Books/HMH, $16.99) 978-0-544-28366-4
A 12-year-old uses her magic to empower others to create positive changes in their communities and then in her own life. (9–12)

George
by Alex Gino
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-81254-2
George knows she is a girl trapped in a boy’s body. If she can be Charlotte in the school play, maybe her mom will understand. (9–12)

*Gone Crazy in Alabama
by Rita Williams-Garcia
(Harper/HarperCollins, $16.99) 978-0-06-221587-1
Three Brooklyn sisters spend the summer of 1969 with kinfolk in Alabama, discovering their complicated family history and facing the aftermath of a dangerous tornado. (9–12)

Listen, Slowly
by Thanhha Lai
Mai’s grandfather died in the war in Vietnam. When she travels there to help her grandmother fully accept his death, Mai gains a broader view of her own life. Helpful map. (9–12)

Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco
by Judith Robbins Rose
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-7235-5
When 12-year-old Jacinta, child of illegal immigrants, confronts the world outside the barrio, she faces opportunities, challenges, and confusion. (10–13)
Moonpenny Island
by Tricia Springstubb, illustrated by Gilbert Ford
(Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-211293-4
Her best friend leaves, her parents fight, her big sister acts strange, and Flor doesn’t know how she will survive as the only eleven-year-old left on the island. Black-and-white spot illustrations. (8–12)

Paper Things
by Jennifer Richard Jacobson
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6323-0
After their parents die, 11-year-old Ari and her older brother leave their guardian and attempt to live independently, with unfortunate consequences. (9–12)

The Penderwicks in Spring
by Jeanne Birdsall
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-375-87077-4
Part of a family with many secrets, talents, and relationships, Batty reaches her 11th birthday and learns to accept herself. (10–13)

*Sunny Side Up
written and illustrated by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm, color by Lark Pien
(Graphix/Scholastic, $23.99; P $12.99) 978-0-545-74165-1; 978-0-545-74166-8 (pbk)
On a summer trip to her grandfather in Florida, Sunny discovers comic book heroes, swamp alligators, and how to cope with family problems. Humorous graphic illustrations. (9–12)

*The Truth about Twinkie Pie
by Kat Yeh
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $17.00)
978-0-316-23662-1
Armed with her mom’s recipe book and her big sister’s support, brainy 12-year-old GiGi moves from a trailer park in South Carolina to attend a private school in New York. (10–13)

Fantasy

Alistair Grim’s Odditorium
by Gregory Funaro, illustrated by Vivienne To
(Disney-Hyperion Books, $16.99) 978-1-4847-0006-8
In the London of the 1800s, a 12-year-old chimney sweep ends up living with Alistair Grim in his magical building and fighting the evil Prince Nightshade. Spot black-and-white illustrations. (9–12)

Confessions of an Imaginary Friend: A Memoir by Jacques Papier
written and illustrated by Michelle Cuevas
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-525-42755-1
After discovering he is imaginary, Jacques asks to be released and embarks on a journey of self-discovery. Spot black-and-white line drawings. (8–11)

Crenshaw
by Katherine Applegate
(Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan, $16.99) 978-1-250-04323-8
When fifth-grader Jackson’s family runs into money problems and faces homelessness, his old imaginary friend returns to help him through it—again. (9–12)

Diary of a Mad Brownie (The Enchanted Files series)
by Bruce Coville, illustrated by Paul Kidby
(Random House Children’s Books, $16.99)
978-0-385-39247-1
Angus, a brownie, and 11-year-old Alex embark on an adventure in the Enchanted Realm to break her family’s curse. Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (9–11)

The Imaginary
by A. F. Harrold, illustrated by Emily Gravett
(Bloomsbury Children’s Books, $16.99)
978-0-8027-3811-0
Rudger likes being Amanda’s imaginary friend. When she begins to forget him, he is determined not to fade away. Whimsical black-and-white illustrations. (9–12)
The Jumbies
by Tracey Baptiste
(Algonquin Young Readers/Workman Pub., $15.95)
978-1-61620-414-3
When a strange woman puts her father under an evil spell, Corinne, 11, finds a way to stop her from taking over their Caribbean island home. (9–12)

Lilliput
by Sam Gayton, illustrated by Alice Ratterree
(Peachtree, $16.95) 978-1-56145-806-6
Kidnapped from her beloved home in Lilliput, three-inch-tall Lily finds herself Gulliver’s prisoner. Will she escape? Black-and-white pencil and watercolor illustrations. (9–12)

*A Nearer Moon
by Melanie Crowder
Sisterly love unfolds in two intertwined fantasies. Exquisite prose. (9–12)

The Nest
by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Jon Klassen
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99) 978-1-4814-3232-0
Steve has nightmares about a swarm of wasps as he worries about his sick baby brother. Graphite illustrations. (9–11)

Rules for Stealing Stars
by Corey Ann Haydu
(Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins, $16.99)
978-0-06-235271-2
Coping with their mother’s alcoholism and their father’s inability to connect with the world, four sisters discover a magical way to get what they need. (9–12)

Folk and Fairy Tales

*Hiawatha and the Peacemaker
by Robbie Robertson, illustrated by David Shannon
(Abrams BFYR, $19.95) 978-1-4197-1220-3
Hiawatha, a Mohawk warrior, translates and disseminates the Peacemaker’s message to unite the Iroquois nations during the 14th century. Oil paintings. CD included. (9–12)

On the Shoulder of a Giant:
An Inuit Folktale
retold by Neil Christopher, illustrated by James Nelson
(Inhabit Media, $16.95) 978-1-77227-002-0
The giant Inukpak adopts a human hunter as a son and takes him on his travels. Dramatic digital illustrations. (8–10)

The Treasury of Norse Mythology: Stories of Intrigue, Trickery, Love, and Revenge
by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit
(National Geographic, $24.99) 978-1-4263-2098-9
Meet Thor the thunder god, Loki the trickster, Freyja the magician, and other Norse gods. Lavish, colorful illustrations. (10–14)

Historical Fiction

Adam & Thomas
by Aharon Appelfeld, translated from the Hebrew by Jeffrey M. Green, illustrated by Philippe Dumas
(Triangle Square BFYR/Seven Stories Press, $18.95) 978-1-60980-634-7
Impending deportation from the ghetto forces two Jewish mothers to leave their sons in a forest. The boys survive due to their friendship and ingenuity. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (9–11)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

Anastasia and Her Sisters
by Carolyn Meyer
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99)
978-1-4814-0326-9
The final years of Russia’s Romanov dynasty are recounted by the last czar’s youngest daughter. (10–13)

The Blackthorn Key
by Kevin Sands
(Aladdin/Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99)
978-1-4814-4651-8
Why is a secret cult murdering apothecaries? Apprentice Christopher mourns the death of his master and, with his friend Tom, tries to solve the murders. (9–12)

The Boy Who Fell off the Mayflower, or John Howland’s Good Fortune
written and illustrated by P. J. Lynch
(Candlewick, $17.99) 978-0-7636-6584-5
Joining the Pilgrims as an indentured servant, teenager John Howland endures the rigors of an ocean voyage and the creation of a new colony. Watercolor and gouache illustrations. Bibliography. (9–12)

Chasing Freedom: The Life Journeys of Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony Inspired by Historical Facts
by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Michele Wood
(Orchard Books/Scholastic, $18.99) 978-0-439-79338-4
In an imaginary 1904 meeting, Harriet Tubman and Susan B. Anthony talk about their life’s work and their achievements. Folk-art style illustrations. (8–11)

Chasing Secrets
by Gennifer Choldenko
In 1900, when San Francisco is threatened with the plague, Chinese immigrants are blamed. A doctor’s daughter tries to save those she loves. (9–13)

**Nine to Twelve**

*The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*
by Jacqueline Kelly
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)
978-0-8050-9744-3
A spirited, inquisitive girl shares both her love for science and animals and her thoughts about family relationships and the effects of traumatic historical events. (9–12)

Currents
by Jane Petrlik Smolik
(Charlesbridge, $16.95) 978-1-58089-648-1
A message put in a bottle by an 11-year-old slave in Virginia reaches two other young girls and transforms their lives. (10–13)

*The Detective’s Assistant*
by Kate Hannigan
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $17.00)
978-0-316-40351-1
In 1859 a lively orphan helps her aunt, the first female detective for Pinkerton’s, recover stolen money and thwart an assassination. Based on true events. (9–12)

Finding Someplace
by Denise Lewis Patrick
(Henry Holt and Co. BFYR/Macmillan, $16.99)
978-0-8050-4716-5
In New Orleans at the time of Hurricane Katrina, a young teen experiences challenges in her community, her family, and her life. (9–12)

*Full Cicada Moon*
by Marilyn Hilton
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $17.99) 978-0-525-42875-6
In 1969 Mimi moves to Vermont with her Japanese mother and black father. Passionate about the space program, she follows her heart and stands up for her beliefs. Told in free verse. (9–12)
### Best Children’s Books of the Year

#### Nine to Twelve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Illustrator(s)</th>
<th>Publisher/Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Granddaddy’s Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box</strong></td>
<td>Michael S. Bandy and Eric Stein</td>
<td>James E. Ransome</td>
<td>Candlewick Press, $16.99</td>
<td>A grandson recalls the day his grandfather tried to vote for the first time in the segregated South. Expressive watercolors. (8–11)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Half a Man</strong></td>
<td>Michael Morpurgo</td>
<td>Gemma O’Callaghan</td>
<td>Candlewick Press, $16.99</td>
<td>Michael, 12, learns how his grandfather was disfigured in the war and about the lonely, isolated life he led afterwards. Muted ink and screen-printed illustrations. (9–12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Iliad</strong></td>
<td>Homer, retold by Gillian Cross</td>
<td>Neil Packer</td>
<td>Candlewick Press, $19.99</td>
<td>After Paris abducts Menelaus’s wife, Helen, the Greeks and Trojans battle for 10 years, each aided by the gods and goddesses. Striking mixed-media illustrations. (10–13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Night on Fire</strong></td>
<td>Ronald Kidd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Albert Whitman, $16.99</td>
<td>In 1961, after witnessing violent attacks on the peaceful Freedom Riders in her home town of Anniston, Alabama, Billie, a white 13-year-old girl, bonds with Jarmaine, a black girl. They travel together to Montgomery to join the fight against segregation. (9–13)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Safest Lie</strong></td>
<td>Angela Cerrito</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday House, $16.95</td>
<td>During World War II, nine-year-old Anna’s life changes completely. With a new non-Jewish identity, she is sent out of the Warsaw ghetto, first to a Catholic orphanage and then to a foster home. (9–13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stella by Starlight</strong></td>
<td>Sharon M. Draper</td>
<td></td>
<td>Atheneum BFYR/Simon &amp; Schuster Children's Publishing, $16.99</td>
<td>In 1932, when the Ku Klux Klan returns to Bumblebee, North Carolina, Stella, 11, deals with prejudice in a time of change. (9–12)</td>
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Children’s Book Committee
Bank Street College of Education
### Best Children’s Books of the Year

**Walking Two Worlds (Pathfinders series)**  
by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by David Fadden  
(7th Generation/Book Publishing Co., P $9.95)  
978-1-939053-10-7  
This fictional account portrays the early life of Ely Parker, a Seneca chief who became leader of the Iroquois nation in the mid-1800s. (8–11)

*The Way to Stay in Destiny*  
by Augusta Scattergood  
(Scholastic Press, $16.99) 978-0-545-53824-4  
Theo, 12, wants a home, a friend, and a piano, and he’s found them all in the town of Destiny. Unfortunately, Uncle Raymond has other plans for him. (9–12)

**The Wolf Wilder**  
by Katherine Rundell  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99) 978-1-4814-1942-0  
With the help of a band of children and half-wild wolves, Feo sets out to free her mother from a czarist prison. (10–13)

### Humor

**The Doldrums**  
written and illustrated by Nicholas Gannon  
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, $17.99)  
978-0-06-232094-0  
Archer feels trapped in his boring life until he and two friends decide to go looking for his grandparents, lost on an exploration. Droll, painterly illustrations. (9–12)

**The Ghastly McNastys: The Lost Treasure of Little Snoring**  
by Lyn Gardner, illustrated by Ros Asquith  
(Kids Can Press, $16.95) 978-1-77138-128-4  
Can best friends Tat and Hetty outwit ruthless, repulsive pirates and find the buried treasure? Grossly funny black-and-white illustrations. (8–10)

### Science Fiction

*The Boy Who Crashed to Earth (Hilo series)*  
by Judd Winick, color by Guy Major  
(Random House Children’s Books, $13.99) 978-0-385-38617-3  
After Hilo falls from the sky, Gina and 10-year-old D. J. join him in his quest to save the world. Brightly colored graphics. (8–12)

**The Flinkwater Factor (The Flinkwater Chronicles series)**  
by Pete Hautman  
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99) 978-1-4814-3251-1  
In her high tech town, 13-year-old Ginger searches for a way to help the comatose victims of an epidemic caused by viewing computer screens. (9–12)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

**Nine to Twelve**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read Aloud</th>
<th>Mature Content</th>
<th>2016 Edition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>(10 - 14) Suggested Age Range</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fuzzy Mud**
by Louis Sachar
(Delacorte Press/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-385-74378-5
Taking a shortcut to avoid a bully, two middle schoolers uncover the threat of an environmental disaster. (8–12)

**Sports (fiction)**

**Game Seven**
by Paul Volponi
(Viking Juvenile/Penguin, $17.99) 978-0-670-78518-6
Sixteen-year-old Julio’s father, an ace pitcher, has defected from Cuba. Will that damage Julio’s chance to play for Cuba’s national baseball team? (9–12)

**Roller Girl**
written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $12.99) 978-0-8037-4016-7
A trip to a roller derby inspires Astrid to leave her predictable life and attend roller derby boot camp. Colorful, dynamic, expressive panels. (9–12)

**Today**

**Another Kind of Hurricane**
by Tamara Ellis Smith
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, $16.99) 978-0-553-51193-2
A lucky marble connects the lives of Zavion, 10, who loses everything in Hurricane Katrina, and of 10-year-old Henry in Vermont, who loses his best friend. (9–12)

**Footer Davis Probably Is Crazy**
by Susan Vaught
(Simon & Schuster BFYR, $16.99) 978-1-4814-2276-5
Footer and her friend Peavine decide to help solve the mystery of two kids missing after a house fire, though Footer worries that she might be becoming sick like her bipolar mother. (9–13)

**Lost In The Sun**
by Lisa Graff
(Philomel Books/Penguin, $16.99) 978-0-399-16406-4
Twelve-year-old Trent struggles with guilt and anger after a fatal accident, but then class outcast Fallon befriends him. (9–12)

**My Tata’s Remedies/Los remedios de mi Tata**
by Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford, illustrated by Antonio Castro L
(Cinco Puntos Press, $8.95) 978-1-935955-89-4
Tata (Grandpa) uses herbs to cure illness. Full-page colored illustrations and glossary of medicinal herbs and remedies. In English and Spanish. (8–11)

**The Thing about Jellyfish**
by Ali Benjamin
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $17.00) 978-0-316-38086-7
Suzy, 12, sets out to meet a jellyfish expert in Australia to prove that an Irukandji sting caused her best friend’s death. (9–12)

**Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer**
by Kelly Jones, illustrated by Katie Kath
(Alfred A. Knopf/Random House, $16.99)
978-0-385-75552-8
Moving from Los Angeles to a farm is a difficult adjustment for Sophie and her multiethnic family. Handling supernatural chickens is an even greater challenge. Detailed black-and-white illustrations. (10–13)

**POETRY**

**Dreams of Freedom: In Words and Pictures**
edited by Janetta Otter-Barry, foreword by Michael Morpurgo
( Frances Lincoln Children’s Books in association with Amnesty International, $18.99) 978-1-84780-453-2
The words of Harriet Tubman, Malala Yousafzai, and other activists and writers express the many freedoms that all people have the right to enjoy. Powerful color illustrations by numerous artists. (10–13)
Beastly Verse
written and illustrated by JooHee Yoon
(Enchanted Lion Books, $18.95) 978-1-59270-166-7
These 16 child-friendly animal-themed poems—by
Ogden Nash, Lewis Carroll, William Blake, and others—
range from nonsensical to sublime. Dazzling colored
illustrations, including four foldouts. (8–10)

The Maine Coon’s Haiku and Other Poems for Cat Lovers
by Michael J. Rosen, illustrated by Lee White
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-6492-3
Spare haiku verse and digitally created illustrations
convey the unique characteristics of 20 breeds of cats.
Notes provide additional facts and explain the history of
each breed. (8–12)

Poems in the Attic
by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
(Lee & Low Books, $19.95) 978-1-62014-027-7
While visiting her grandmother, a young girl discovers
poems her mother wrote when her father was in the Air
Force. Mixed-media illustrations. (8–11)

*Should You Be a River: A Poem about Love
written and illustrated by Ed Young
(Little, Brown and Company/Hachette, $18.00)
978-0-316-23089-6
How many ways are there to say “I love you”? A
breathtaking visual journey in verse. Evocative
illustrations combining collage, photographs, and
calligraphy, (8–10)

Activities

101 Things to Do before You Grow Up
by Laura Dower, edited by Alexandra Koken, Gemma
Barder, and Fay Evans, illustrated by Dan Bramall and
Katie Knutton
(Walter Foster Jr./Quarto Pub., $12.95)
978-1-63322-003-4
Learn how to make a compass, write a spooky story,
and much more. Includes materials and complete,
clearly illustrated instructions. 8–11

The Nitty-Gritty Gardening Book: Fun Projects for All Seasons
by Kari Cornell, photographed by Jennifer S. Larson
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $26.65) 978-1-4677-2647-4
Learn all about gardening, including what you need and
how and when to do each step of the process.
Descriptive photographs. (8–12)

Arts

*Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras
written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh
(Abrams BFYR, $18.95) 978-1-4197-1647-8
In the 19th century, a Mexican printer created political
cartoons depicting humorous skeletons that have
become synonymous with the Day of the Dead festival.
Stylized art captures the spirit of the holiday. Back
matter. (8–11)

The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem’s Greatest Bookstore
by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson, illustrated by R. Gregory
Christie
(Carolrhoda Books/Lerner, $17.99) 978-0-7613-3943-4
The inspiring story of Harlem’s National Memorial
African Bookstore, as told from the point of view of
the son of its founder Lewis Michaux, is illustrated with
dramatic paintings that incorporate Michaux’s proverbs.
(8–10)
Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip through the Motown Sound
by Andrea Davis Pinkney
(Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $22.99)
978-1-59643-973-3
Ride along with the Groove and follow the exciting history of the music and performers of Detroit, from Diana Ross to the Jackson 5. Illustrated with photographs. (10–13)

Biography and Memoir

*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings, a Memoir
by Margarita Engle
A young girl reflects on her love of her Cuban family and heritage as the rest of America fears an atomic war. (9–12)

Enormous Smallness: A Story of E. E. Cummings
by Matthew Burgess, illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo
(Enchanted Lion Books, $17.95) 978-1-59270-171-1
From early childhood, Cummings wove words and imagination into poetry. Textured illustrations perfectly picture his life. Back matter includes a chronology, four poems, and an author’s note. (8–10)

Fur, Fins, and Feathers: Abraham Dee Bartlett and the Invention of the Modern Zoo
written and illustrated by Cassandra Maxwell
(Eerdmans BFYR, $17.00) 978-0-8028-5432-2
In the late 1800s, the self-taught superintendent of the London Zoo worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the animals in his care. Realistic cut-paper collage illustrations. Time line, sources, bibliography. (8–11)

Growing Up Pedro
written and illustrated by Matt Tavares
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6824-2
Growing up in the Dominican Republic, Pedro Martínez worshipped his older brother, Ramón, and followed him to an extraordinary baseball career. Colorful gouache illustrations. Also in a Spanish language edition. (9–12)

The House That Jane Built: A Story about Jane Addams
by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Kathryn Brown
(Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt BFYR/Macmillan, $17.99) 978-0-8050-9049-9
Opened in Chicago by Jane Addams in 1889, by 1907 Hull House grew to a 13-building complex providing services and opportunities to poor immigrant families. Gentle watercolor and pen and ink illustrations. Bibliography and author’s note. (9–12)

The Inker’s Shadow
written and illustrated by Allen Say
(Scholastic Press, $19.99) 978-0-545-43776-9
Overcoming indifference and hostility and reaping the benefits of unexpected kindness, a boy who loves to draw becomes a professional artist. Ink and watercolor illustrations. (10–13)

My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle’s Journey to Alvin Ailey
by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome
(Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster BFYR, $17.99) 978-1-4814-2221-5
Bowlegged as a child, Robert Battle became a dancer, choreographer, and artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Warm pastel illustrations. Bibliography. (8–11)

The Rain Wizard: The Amazing, Mysterious, True Life of Charles Mallory Hatfield
by Larry Dane Brinner
(Calkins Creek/Highlights, $16.95) 978-1-59078-990-2
In the early 1900s, Charles Mallory Hatfield promised to bring rain drought-stricken San Diego. Notes, bibliography, archival photographs. (9–12)

Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower
written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli
(Viking Juvenile/Penguin, $17.99) 978-0-670-01652-5
Robert Miller spent a lifetime bilking rich people by appealing to their avarice. Mixed-media artwork. Glossary and bibliography. (9–12)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

**Nine to Twelve**

**2016 Edition**

**Ecology**

**The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle**
by Jude Isabella, illustrated by Simone Shin
(Kids Can Press, $18.95) 978-1-77138-023-2
This engaging tale of global sharing raises awareness of our actions in the world. Supportive back matter and playful illustrations. (9–13)

**Trash Talk!: Moving toward a Zero-Waste World**
by Michelle Mulder
(Orca Footprints/Orca, $19.95) 978-1-4598-0692-4
People create prodigious amounts of garbage. How can we clean up our towns and our planet? (9–12)

**History**

**28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World**
by Charles R. Smith, Jr., illustrated by Shane W. Evans
(Neal Porter Books/Roaring Brook Press/Macmillan, $18.99) 978-1-59643-820-0
Great African American men and women are praised in both poetry and prose. Striking mixed-media illustrations. (8–12)

**The Impossible Voyage of Kon-Tiki**
written and illustrated by Deborah Kogan Ray
(Charlesbridge, $16.95) 978-1-58089-620-7
In 1947 Norwegian anthropologist Thor Heyerdahl set out to prove, by replicating their journey, that the Incans had voyaged by raft to the South Pacific islands. Dramatic watercolors. (10–13)

**Trombone Shorty**
by Troy (“Trombone Shorty”) Andrews, illustrated by Bryan Collier
(Abrams BFYR, $17.95) 978-1-4197-1465-8
When he finds a broken trombone, a young boy in New Orleans fulfills his wish of becoming a musician like his dad and brother. Stunning watercolors and collages. (8–10)

**Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall**
by Anita Silvey, foreword by Jane Goodall
(National Geographic, $18.99) 978-1-4263-1518-3
Outstanding photographs enhance this discussion of Goodall and her work with chimpanzees. (9–12)

**Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement**
by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ekua Holmes
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-6531-9
Born into extreme poverty in Mississippi in 1917, African American activist Fannie Lou Hamer fought tirelessly for voting rights and social justice. Told in free verse with vibrant collages. (10–13)

**Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees**
by Franck Prévot, illustrated by Aurélia Fronty
(Charlesbridge, $17.95) 978-1-58089-626-9
Maathai, a Kenyan environmentalist and activist, won the Nobel Prize for contributions to sustainable forest management, tribal peace, and democracy. Lush, colorful illustrations. Extensive back matter. (9–12)

**What’s the Buzz?: Keeping Bees in Flight**
by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox
(Orca Book Publishers, $19.95) 978-1-4598-0960-4
Colorful photographs accompany information about the life of bees, their role as pollinators, and how we can help to protect them. (8–11)
Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,500 Children during the Holocaust
by Jennifer Roy, illustrated by Meg Owenson
(Capstone Press/Capstone, $14.95) 978-1-62370-425-4
Irena Sendler, a Polish social worker, smuggled nearly 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw Ghetto before she was arrested. Atmospheric digitally created illustrations. (9–12)

Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery That Baffled All of France
by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno
(Candlewick Press, $17.99) 978-0-7636-6351-3
On a visit to Paris, Franklin used the scientific method to prove that Dr. Mesmer’s magic wand really had no power. Digitally colored pencil illustrations. Resources. (8–10)

Swing Sisters: The Story of the International Sweethearts of Rhythm
by Karen Deans, illustrated by Joe Cepeda
(Holiday House, $16.95) 978-0-8234-1970-8
Despite encountering racism and sexism, an integrated, all-female jazz band performed successfully throughout the United States in the 1930s and ’40s. Acrylic and oil illustrations offer a jazzy palette of color. (8–10)

Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March
by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, as told to Elspeth Leacock and Susan Buckley, illustrated by PJ Loughran
(Dial BFYR/Penguin, $19.99) 978-0-8037-4123-2
Lowery recounts her experiences as the youngest participant in the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Photographs and cartoon-like illustrations. (9–12)

Reference
United States Encyclopedia: America’s People, Places, and Events
by Julie Beer, Mark H. Bockenhauer, Stephan F. Canha, and Michelle Harris
(National Geographic, $24.99) 978-1-4263-2092-7
Entries about each of the 50 states include information about people, cultural sites, and history. Photographs, maps, timeline, and copies of historical documents. (10–13)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
Be a Beach Detective
written and illustrated by Peggy Kochanoff
(Nimbus Publishing, $14.95) 978-1-77108-267-9
Can dead jellyfish still sting you? Learn the answer and much more information about common sea creatures and plants. Detailed, well-labeled illustrations. Glossary, references. (8–11)

The Call of the Osprey (Scientists in the Field series)
by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, photographed by William Muñoz
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $18.99) 978-0-544-23268-6
In Montana’s mining areas, researchers study ospreys’ gigantic nests and close family relations to monitor the effects of mercury contaminants on these fish-catching birds. Vivid photographs. (9–12)

Counting Lions: Portraits from the Wild
by Katie Cotton, illustrated by Stephen Walton
(Candlewick Press, $22.00) 978-0-7636-8207-1
This nontraditional counting book lyrically describes the behaviors and habitats of 10 endangered animals. Realistically detailed charcoal illustrations. (8–12)
**Best Children’s Books of the Year**

### Nine to Twelve

#### 2016 Edition

**Read Aloud**  
**Mature Content**  
(10 - 14) Suggested Age Range  
**Graphic Format**

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**Curious Critters: Marine**  
written and photographed by David FitzSimmons  
(Wild Iris Pub., $16.95) 978-1-936607-72-3  
Twenty North American ocean inhabitants share their unique stories. Breathtaking photographs. Back matter. (8–11)

**The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins**  
by Sandra Markle  
(Millbrook Press/Lerner, $22.99) 978-1-4677-8030-8  
Scientists use unique strategies to save Brazil’s golden lion tamarin monkeys from the brink of extinction. Gorgeous color photos. (8–10)

**Human Body Theater**  
written and illustrated by Maris Wicks  
(First Second/Co. $19.99) 978-1-62672-277-4  
Friendly, cartoon-like body parts and components are the characters in this comprehensive, humorous overview of human physiology. Helpful diagrams. (9–12)

**I See a Pattern Here**  
by Bruce Goldstone, photographed by Bruce Goldstone and others  
(Henry Holt and Co. $17.99) 978-0-8050-9209-7  
Look at diverse patterns in nature, artwork, and more and explore the secrets behind them. Instructions for making your own patterns. Colorful photographs. (8–10)

**The Kids’ Book of Simple Machines: Cool Projects & Activities That Make Science Fun**  
by Kelly Doudna  
(Mighty Media Kids, $14.95) 978-1-938063-59-6  
Use everyday items to learn about and build simple machines. Activities have step-by-step instructions. Concepts are well illustrated with photographs. (8–12)

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**The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk (Scientists in the Field series)**  
by Sy Montgomery, photographed by Keith Ellenbogen  
(Houghton Mifflin Harcourt BFYR, $18.99) 978-0-544-23270-9  
Researchers on the island of Moorea, near Tahiti, search for the elusive octopus and uncover some of its fascinating secrets. Color photographs. Index, bibliography. (8–12)

**Octopuses: Strange and Wonderful**  
by Laurence Pringle, illustrated by Meryl Henderson  
(Boyds Mills Press/Highlights, $16.95) 978-1-59078-928-5  
Learn all about these solitary, highly intelligent mollusks who can change color and shape in a fraction of a second and perform complex tasks. Finely detailed watercolor illustrations. Glossary, bibliography, index. (8–11)

**The Queen’s Shadow: A Story about How Animals See**  
written and illustrated by Cybèle Young  
(Kids Can Press, $16.95) 978-1-894786-60-7  
The science of eyesight is woven into a clever whodunit involving a haughty queen. Scientific notes. Digitally colored pen and ink illustrations. (8–12)

**Sand Swimmers: The Secret Life of Australia’s Desert Wilderness**  
written and illustrated by Narelle Oliver  
(Candlewick Press, $16.99) 978-0-7636-6761-0  
An astonishing variety of wildlife has adapted to the extremely harsh conditions in the desert of Central Australia. Meticulously detailed mixed-media illustrations. (8–12)

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Children’s Book Committee  
Bank Street College of Education
Small Wonders: Jean-Henri Fabre & His World of Insects
by Matthew Clark Smith, illustrated by Giuliano Ferri
(Two Lions/Amazon Publishing, $17.99)
978-1-4778-2632-4
Admired by Darwin, this little-known naturalist observed insects in the wild, made important discoveries, and published more than 200 works. Detailed watercolors. Sources, time line. (8–11)

Spidermania: Friends on the Web
by Alexandra Siy, photographed by Dennis Kunkel
(Holiday House, $17.95) 978-0-8234-2871-7
Learn about spider anatomy, behavior, and habitats. Dramatic SEM (scanning electron microscope) photographs. Glossary, sources, bibliography. (8–12)

• STEM Trailblazer Biographies
  Aerospace Engineer Aprille Ericsson
  by Laura Hamilton Waxman, 978-1-4677-6118-5
  Computer Engineer Ruchi Sanghvi
  by Laura Hamilton Waxman, 978-0-4677-6119-2
  SpaceX and Tesla Motors Engineer Elon Musk
  by Matt Doeden, 978-1-4677-6116-1
  Theoretical Physicist Brian Greene
  by Matt Doeden, 978-1-4677-6115-4
  (Lerner Publications, P $7.99 each)
  Meet scientists, technologists, engineers, and mathematicians whose passion for discovery and innovation are changing the world and our understanding of it. Photographs. (10–12)

The Story of Life: A First Book about Evolution
by Catherine Barr and Steve Williams, illustrated by Amy Husband
(Frances Lincoln Children's Books, $18.99)
978-1-84780-485-3
From the hot noisy world of volcanoes four billion years ago to the furry animals that became humans, evolution is explained in clear simple text with helpful illustrations. (8–11)