

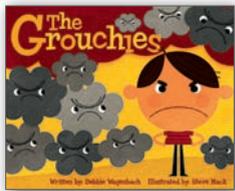
Kirkus Reviews

Kirkus Supplements • Vol. 5, No. 10 • November 15, 2009



New from magination press

Self-Help Books for Kids...and the Adults in Their Lives



The Grouchies

Debbie Wagenbach • Illustrated by Steve Mack

Through engaging rhyme and colorful illustrations, this fun, easy-to-read story shows kids how to chase away their grumpy mood. Children will learn how to recognize and understand the effect negativity

can have on others, how to change grumpy behavior, and what outcomes might result from positive thinking. 32 pages. 10" x 8". Full-color illustrations. Ages 4–8.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0543-1



Do You Sing Twinkle?

A Story About Remarriage and New Family

Sandra Levins • Illustrated by Bryan Langdo

Told from a young boy's point of view, the book sensitively addresses many questions that children may have while adjusting to remarriage and joint-custody situations. Kids and parents will learn good and easy ways to stay connected all around helping kids to feel special and loved. A "Note to Parents" is included. 32 pages. 10" x 8". Full-color illustrations. Ages 4–8.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0539-4



Kate, The Ghost Dog

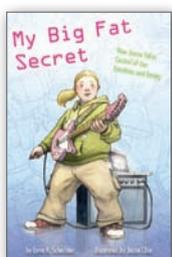
Coping With the Death of a Pet

Wayne L. Wilson • Illustrated by Soud

After the death of her beloved dog, Kate, Aleta tries to cope with her sadness. She lashes out against her family, even making her brother believe Kate's returned as a ghost, and isolates herself from her friends. But with the help of her loved ones, Aleta learns that in opening up about her sadness and honoring Kate's memory, she can deal with her grief and remember her dead dog with happiness. 48 pages. 6" x 9". Full-color illustrations. Ages 8–13.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0554-7



My Big Fat Secret

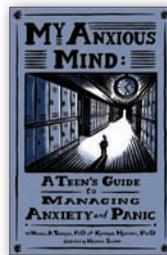
How Jenna Takes Control of Her Emotions and Eating

Lynn R. Schechter, PhD • Illustrated by Jason Chin

Jenna is having a tough time in middle school—she hates gym, she's overweight, and she can't stop herself from eating too much junk food. Plus some kids are just so mean to her! Through a series of e-mails between Jenna and her family and friends, readers see Jenna learn how to create an action plan to stop overeating, deal with her emotions, take better care of her body and mind, and feel like her rocking 12-year-old self again! 48 pages. 6" x 9". Full-color illustrations. Ages 8–12.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0540-0



My Anxious Mind

A Teen's Guide to Managing Anxiety and Panic

Michael A. Tompkins, PhD,

and Katherine A. Martinez, PsyD

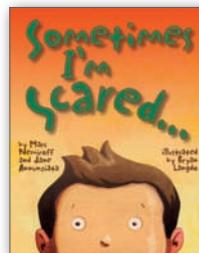
Illustrated by Michael Sloan

My Anxious Mind helps teens take control of their anxious feelings by providing cognitive-behavioral strategies to tackle anxiety head-on and to feel more confident and empowered in the process. It also offers ways for teens with anxiety to improve their inter-personal skills, manage stress; handle panic attacks; use diet and exercise appropriately; and decide whether medication is right for them. 196 pages.

5 1/2" x 8 1/2". Black & white illustrations. Ages 12–18.

Paperback: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0450-2



IPARENTING MEDIA AWARD

Sometimes I'm Scared

Jane Annunziata, PsyD, and Marc Nemiroff, PhD

Illustrated by Bryan Langdo

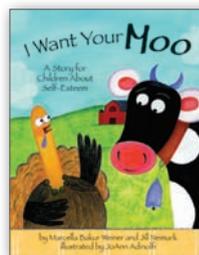
Kids can be afraid of lots of different things—the dark, spiders, dogs, clowns, monsters—and for those children who have common childhood fears, *Sometimes I'm Scared* is for them. It

outlines easy steps kids can use to deal with their everyday fears, and get back to the business of being a kid.

32 pages. 8" x 10". Full-color illustrations. Ages 4–8.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0449-6



I Want Your Moo

A Story for Children About Self-Esteem
SECOND EDITION

Marcella Bakur Weiner, EdD, PhD,

and Jill Neimark

Illustrated by JoAnn Adinolfi

Toodles, a turkey, just doesn't like herself at all! So she goes in search of a new voice, thinking it will bring her happiness. In this goofy, fun-filled quest, Toodles discovers that she's just the way she's meant to be.

I Want Your Moo is a silly and funny lesson in self-acceptance and self-esteem. And it's perfect to read aloud to kids! This new edition contains a "Note to Parents" that provides practical ways to help parents help their kids feel great about themselves. 32 pages.

8" x 10". Full-color illustrations. Ages 4–8.

Hardcover: \$14.95

ISBN 978-1-4338-0542-4

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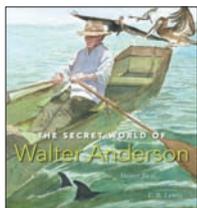


AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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The year opened with a glorious first novel about a boy coming of age and into his vocation on an Oregon sheep farm (*Heart of a Shepherd* by Rosanne Parry) and closed with a rip-roaringly thrilling debut about a girl making her way through post-apocalypse Britain (*Raiders' Ransom* by Emily Diamand). But, as this look back on the Best Children's Books of 2009 shows, there were plenty of other outstanding titles along the way. Brian Floca brought readers to the moon and back in breathtaking style in *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*. Jerry Pinkney took us to the African savannah for a wordlessly perfect retelling in his version of *The Lion and the Mouse*. Jeanne Willis and Gwen Milward illuminated a magical bluebell wood in *The Bog Baby*. Jonah Winter talks about his amazingly adaptable voice, as he demonstrated this year in *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?! and Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude*. And we take a look at Amsterdam's Anne Frank House and their outreach to kids with books such as *The Search* and *A Family Secret*, twin graphic novels about the Holocaust, and *Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures*, an intimate album of the famed diarist's short life. Enjoy.

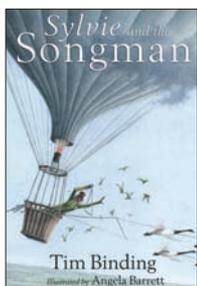
– The Editors



The Secret World of Walter Anderson

Hester Bass
Illustrated by E.B. Lewis
Candlewick / September / 9780763635831 / \$17.99

"There once was a man whose love of nature was as wide as the world," begins this picture-book biography that *Kirkus* called, in a starred review, "a gorgeous chronicle of a versatile Southern American artist." He was also "the most famous American artist you've never heard of," according to the narrative. "I've been sharing Walter Anderson's work like a secret among friends for over 25 years," says Hester Bass. "He kept much of his work hidden during his lifetime, locked in a little room, and I wrote the book to offer readers a key, so they could unlock the door and experience the joy of discovering his work for themselves." E.B. Lewis' glorious realistic watercolors re-create Horn Island, the retreat where Anderson went to paint and study nature. The art nicely counterpoints Anderson's Fauvist renderings, reproduced in the book's back matter. Newbery medalist Paul Fleischman brought Bass to editorial director and associate publisher Liz Bicknell's attention. "I was enchanted by her evocative descriptions of the barrier island where Walter lived part of the time, by her passion for a man who lived a life outside the norms of society and who had found peace in nature and creating art," says Bicknell. (Ages 6-10)



Sylvie and the Songman

Tim Binding
Illustrated by Angela Barrett
David Fickling/Random / August / 9780385751575; 9780385751599 (Lib. Ed.) / \$15.99; \$18.99

British adult novelist Tim Binding thought writing a book for kids would be easy—that is, until he sat down to do it. "I found it very difficult... I'd written two adult novels on the trot and was quite tired," he says. "I thought very foolishly that I'd write a children's book and give myself a rest. I discovered I was quite wrong." Despite Binding's laborious struggle to find the right tone and language, *Sylvie and the Songman* bursts with melodious prose—fitting for a book that features music and sound. The winning heroine is Sylvie, who lives with her father, an inventor of strange musical instruments, and a dog, Mr. Jackson. But when her father fails to return home one night, Sylvie is thrust into a fantastical underworld of dark, mystical happenings to rescue him—and music in general. In a novel overflowing with charm and creativity, Binding's best feat may be the menagerie of talking animals that aid Sylvie in her quest. But the author shrugs off his status as a sort of modern-day animal whisperer. "Every creature has a song," says Binding. "I just wondered what the animals could say." (Ages 10-14)

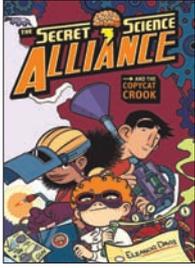


Wild Things

Clay Carmichael
Front Street/Boyd's Mills / May / 9781590786277 / \$18.95

This first novel brims with "wild things" and unfolds through the alternating perspectives of two of them—nearly 12-year-old Zoë, who has recently come to live with her Uncle Henry after her mother's suicide, and a feral cat living under the man's porch. Zoë provides consistency and nourishment for the cat, just as her Uncle Henry does for Zoë, and their parallel journeys provide a through line of humor and poignancy to the story. Avid readers will find a kinship with Zoë, who seeks solace in books like *Because of Winn-Dixie* and *Anne of Green Gables*. "The book's primary muse, a cat, strayed into my yard filthy, sick, starving and completely wild," says Clay Carmichael. "In time he came to trust me, as the cat in the book comes to trust Zoë, who has huge trust issues of her own. The real-life model for Zoë's sculptor-uncle Henry saw me at a party, danced me across the terrace and married me six months later—proof that muses are everywhere." In a starred review, *Kirkus* said, "Zoë Royster, peer to the literary heroines she so loves, is as memorable in her own way as the Great Gilly Hopkins, Opal Buloni and Anne Shirley." (Ages 9-11)

Correction: In the Sept. 1 Reference Supplement, the price for a subscription to the World Book School and Public Library Editions was incorrectly listed as \$300 for 30 days. Subscriptions start at \$300 for a year. There is also only one edition, not two, of the *L'Encyclopédie Découverte*.

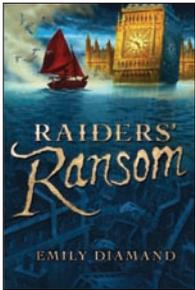


The Secret Alliance and the Copycat Crook

Eleanor Davis

Bloomsbury / September / 9781599901428; 9781599903965 (paper) / \$18.99; \$10.99

They are a secret alliance of young scientists because, well, it's cool to be underground. The group is comprised of a jock, a notorious bad girl and a nerd who's camouflaging, albeit rather poorly, his smarts so as to blend in at his new junior high school. Geisel Honor winner Eleanor Davis has fashioned empathetic characters of psychological depth and outfitted them with an utterly neat, device-filled, underground laboratory. "For *The Secret Science Alliance*, I tried to write the most exciting, adventurous story about the smartest kids I possibly could," says Davis. "When you're a kid, you believe you are capable of doing anything. So even though Greta, Julian and Ben's hide-out is totally wild and the inventions they make are fantastical, if I was a kid reading the book for the first time I would have believed in it 100 percent." The story pivots around a gratifyingly evil scientist who hates kids, though he doesn't mind stealing their brainstormers. Davis' comic panels are high both in narrative energy and visual detail, with all manner of asides, minutiae and word bubbles that bleed off the page into mumbles. With their pranksterish inventions and sense of fun and justice, the alliance makes using your brain a thing of sheer brilliance. (Ages 10-14)



Raiders' Ransom

Emily Diamand

Chicken House/Scholastic / December / 9780545142977 / \$17.99

In 13-year-old Lilly Melkun's coastal village, the people still make their living on the sea and honor a seacat's special powers. Many a boy grumbled when Cat chose Lilly—especially because Granny won't allow Lilly to be "a fisher" since Grampy "went down," and Lilly's ma and pa were also "lost at sea." When Lilly and Cat return from a day of boating to find the village pillaged, Granny murdered and the prime minister's daughter, Alexandra, kidnapped by raiders, Lilly's life takes an unforeseen turn. The PM's sister, who acted as Alexandra's guardian, possesses a "jewel" that may be enough to serve as ransom. Lilly purloins the jewel and sets sail with her seacat to restore the sanctity of the village. But both jewel and seacat have far greater import than she'd ever imagined. The author plants clues to "the Collapse," in which technology was rendered useless, and readers discover that they are traveling with Lilly into an unknown future. Diamand's story won Chicken House's first new writers' competition. "Emily puts real children into the kind of global catastrophe we hope isn't imminent," says publisher Barry Cunningham, "then spins a wonderful adventure yarn that had me turning the pages like I was 12 years old all over again." (Ages 8-12)



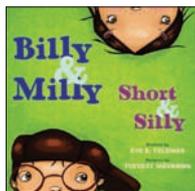
Once Upon a Twice

Denise Doyen

Illustrated by Barry Moser

Random House / August / 9780375856129; 9780375956126 (Lib. Ed.) / \$16.99; \$19.99

In the inspired silly style of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear, first-time author Denise Doyen teams up with award-winning illustrator Barry Moser to unveil the delightful cautionary tale of a wayward mouse who dawdles in the moonlight and almost doesn't live to warn others of his folly. Told in tightly rhymed verse peppered with wonderfully inventive words like *riskarascal*, *scoutaprowl*, *qui-etiquette* and set alongside Moser's lush watercolor renderings of the nocturnal mouseling world, Doyen's frisky nonsense poem begs for numerous rereadings. "I think children are uniquely open to nonsense verse," she says. "They make up their own words, and they pick up new vocabulary daily, so they are used to guessing at the meaning of things." Moser, who was "mesmerized" by the wit of Doyen's language, says his artistic background as a printmaker made him well suited to depict a tale set largely at night. "I am a printmaker, an engraver, by nature," he says. "My job is to reduce the image, black out of white," so he felt "very comfortable working in the darker registers of the palette." Children and adults alike will appreciate this duo's nonsensical feast for eye, ear and mind. (Ages 4-7)



Billy & Milly, Short & Silly

Eve B. Feldman

Illustrated by Tuesday Mourning

Putnam / June / 9780399246517 / \$16.99

Thirteen vignettes perfect for beginning readers use solo rhyming words to tell a series of two-to-three-page stories. A well-timed turn of the page heightens suspense or elongates the punch line. For the opening tale, an entire drama unfolds in three pages: The word "Stoops" appears with the image of two children on the steps of next-door row houses, a boy with a basketball and a girl relaxing. On the page opposite, the boy attempts a basket ("Hoops") while the girl licks an ice-cream cone ("Scoops"). Another turn reveals the climax, "Oops," in which the ball lands on the girl's cone, much to her horror. Font size, color and Tuesday Mourning's illustrations create a brilliant choreography around Eve B. Feldman's ingeniously simple text. "My self-imposed rules required that each story have more than just rhyme: spelling consistency, ability to be pictured visually, easily understood by even young children," says Feldman. "To be included, each story needed the same elements of prediction and resolution that any story whether short story, novel or film must have. Humor was the final requirement, the sillier the better." In a starred review, *Kirkus* called this "a wonderfully playful introduction to language, rhyme and storytelling." (Ages 5-7)

CHRONICLE SHINES IN 2009



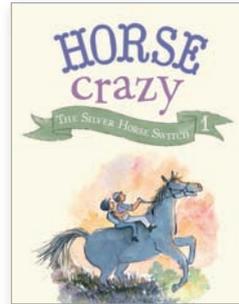
LOST AND FOUND

By Jim LaMarche

"...children who love dogs (especially those who long for a canine companion) will find this a touching triad." —Kirkus

"the winsome artwork superbly captures both the action and the emotion of these heartwarming stories." —Booklist

\$17.99 HC • 978-0-8118-6401-5 • AGES 4-8



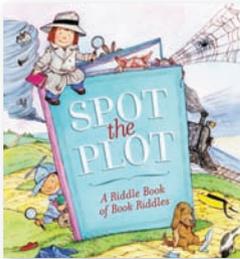
HORSE CRAZY

By Alison Lester
Illustrated by Roland Harvey

"Saddle Club, step aside." —Kirkus

"...winning..." —Booklist

\$4.99 PB • 978-0-8118-6554-8 • AGES 5-8



SPOT THE PLOT

By J. Patrick Lewis
Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger

"Lots of fun..." —The Book Horn

\$15.99 HC • 978-0-8118-4668-4 • AGES 4-8

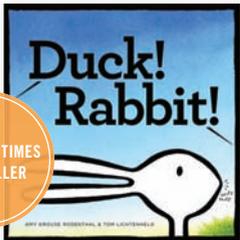


DINOSAURS ROAR, BUTTERFLIES SOAR!

By Bob Barner

"Combining pastels with cut and torn papers, Barner's collages introduce a bright and dynamic world... Barner's text is also engaging, featuring two levels of information that address different degrees of comprehension and interest." —Booklist

\$16.95 HC • 978-0-8118-5663-8 • AGES 4-8



DUCK! RABBIT!

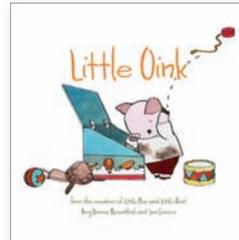
By Amy Krouse Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld

"How cute is this? Really, really cute." ★ Booklist

"...[a] modern twist on a classic form... Once youngsters solve this puzzle, they'll be clamoring for the next." —Kirkus

"Funny by any standard" —The New York Times

\$16.99 HC • 978-0-8118-6865-5 • AGES 3 & UP



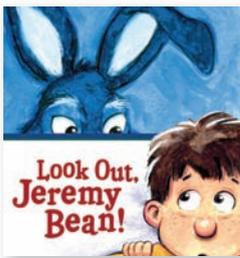
LITTLE OINK

By Amy Krouse Rosenthal

"Young children... will be delighted." —Kirkus Reviews

"... what red-blooded 5-year-old isn't going to crack up...?" —The New York Times

\$14.99 HC • 978-0-8118-6655-2 • AGES 3 & UP

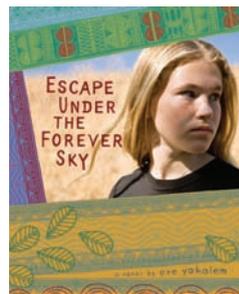


LOOK OUT, JEREMY BEAN

By Alice Schertle
Illustrated by David Slonim

"Librarians will welcome the return of this popular character... Here's hoping Jeremy will soon collect some more." ★ Kirkus

\$14.99 HC • 978-0-8118-5609-6



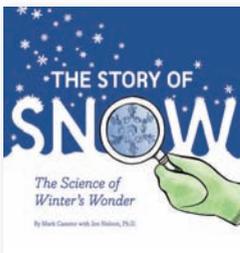
ESCAPE UNDER THE FOREVER SKY

By Eve Yohalem

"The story should appeal to all with a sense of adventure." —Publishers Weekly

"Teens itching to read about life on another continent will relish Yohalem's exciting debut novel." —Kirkus

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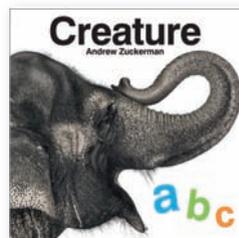


THE STORY OF SNOW

By Mark Cassino with Jon Nelson, Ph.D.

"Sure to get young scientists outside in the cold..." —Kirkus

\$16.99 HC • 978-0-8118-6866-2 • ALL AGES



CREATURE ABC

By Andrew Zuckerman

"Children will marvel at the portraits... the large format will make for fantastic lap-sit sessions." —Kirkus

"This is a first choice for libraries, and it should be a welcome suggestion to parents seeking ideas for holiday shopping." —The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

\$19.99 HC • 978-0-8118-6978-2

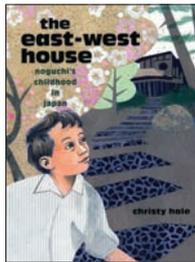
CHRONICLEKIDS.COM • TO ORDER CALL 800.759.0190



Zero Is the Leaves on the Tree

Betsy Franco
Illustrated by Shino Arihara
Tricycle Press / August / 9781582462493 / \$15.99

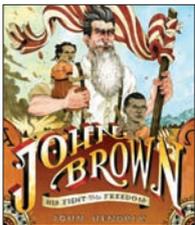
The title of veteran Betsy Franco's latest venture sounds as much an existential treatise for adults as educational exploration of the number zero for younger readers. Movingly depicted by Shino Arihara in vibrant gouache, the familiar images of Franco's spare poem—"Zero is... / the bikes in the rack / on the last day of school. / 0 bikes / Zero is... / the ripples in the pool / before the first swimmer jumps in. 0 ripples"—imbue the abstract concept of nothingness with a dynamic positivism sure to capture any child's attention. Arihara says that she "loved" illustrating "zero" because "we often talk about the concept of 'mu' (nothing, null, none) in Zen Buddhism, and I've always been interested in that concept." "I love it when my math-oriented books pique kids' interest," says Franco, who excels in making the intangible accessible and compelling. "And they don't even realize they are about math." When she recently read the book to kindergartners who were then asked to describe what they don't see, she happily says, "Kids shouted out examples such as 'zero monkeys in the classroom.'" (*Ages 3-7*)



The East-West House: Noguchi's Childhood in Japan

Christy Hale
Lee & Low / August / 9781600603631 / \$17.95

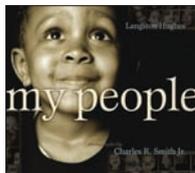
"One of the things that fascinated me about Isamu Noguchi was that he never felt he belonged any place or had a place in the world. He devoted his life to creating spaces for other people to share," says Christy Hale, whose picture-book biography of the artist marks her debut as an author. Hale, already a renowned illustrator, put on both hats this time to portray the emotionally moving history of Noguchi's youth. The largely unknown biracial sculptor moved to Japan with his American mother at age three. Soon after, they were abandoned by Noguchi's Japanese father for his Japanese family. Hale's abstract yet fluid prose fills the small spaces left in the shadow of her majestic and vibrantly colored illustrations, which incorporate elements from both Eastern and Western artistic traditions. The author found herself inspired by her subject's work and was eager to introduce him to another generation. "It's kind of been my instinct all along to introduce kids to artists," says Hale. "Artists are my heroes in a lot of ways. The world is very diverse and...art is the best preparation to study different cultures. Art lets people of different cultures and different colors find heroes that speak to them." (*Ages 5-10*)



John Brown: His Fight for Freedom

John Hendrix
Abrams / October / 9780810937987 / \$18.95

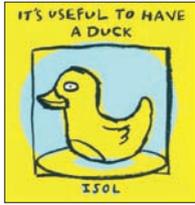
It has been said, by Abraham Lincoln no less, that the Civil War was John Brown's raid on a gigantic scale. Brown—insurrectionist, romantic, prophet, avenger—is a pivotal, challenging historical figure. "John Brown seems like such an unwieldy character to present in a picture-book format," says John Hendrix. "But I am a believer in speaking up to your audience, especially children. The great books for children use complex narratives and complex visual language. There is no reason why children, when old enough, can't manage moral complexity." Brown's profound vision is served raw for the reader to ponder: his radical abolitionist thought, his scheme for an army of emancipation, his part in Bleeding Kansas and Harpers Ferry's unfortunate denouement. "The life of John Brown is a great vessel to discuss the vital skill of discernment," says Hendrix. "We all know that slavery was not just wrong, but an intolerable horror. Still, how far should we go to oppose evil that plants itself on our doorstep?" The story itself is vibrant, but readers won't overlook Hendrix's illustrations, with their artful blend of homespun and iconic images. They steer readers toward an understanding that, says Hendrix, "however flawed, we should admire Brown's unwillingness to make a truce with repression." (*Ages 8-12*)



My People

Langston Hughes
Illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr.
Ginee Seo/Simon & Schuster / January / 9781416935407 / \$17.99

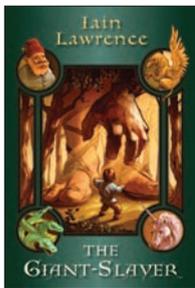
In his first book using digital prints and the iris-printing process, photographer/poet/author Charles R. Smith Jr. uses sepia-toned photos that, when paired with the classic Langston Hughes poem "My People," create an intense and nuanced montage. "The images are printed on a watercolor paper," says Smith, who trained at the Brooks Institute of Photography. "This gives...a great richness and adds a little texture to the highlights." The subjects of the photos are drawn from Smith's personal world. "My kids are featured in my books whenever I can use them," he says. "The older gentleman...trains with me in boxing...the older women take kickboxing classes...a few of the kids belong to parents in the gym, my sister-in-law helped me 'recruit' a few of the younger ones." Each are paired with the 33 words of the timeless Hughes poem. "The trickiest part in re-interpreting another poet's work is who will get what line," says Smith. "All of the models have great energy, and I knew if they allowed me to photograph them, all I had to do was let that energy come through." Permeated with a sense of pride and celebration, the book satisfies and enriches. (*Ages 4 & up*)



It's Useful to Have a Duck/It's Useful to Have a Boy

Isol
Groundwood / March / 9780888999276 / \$10.00

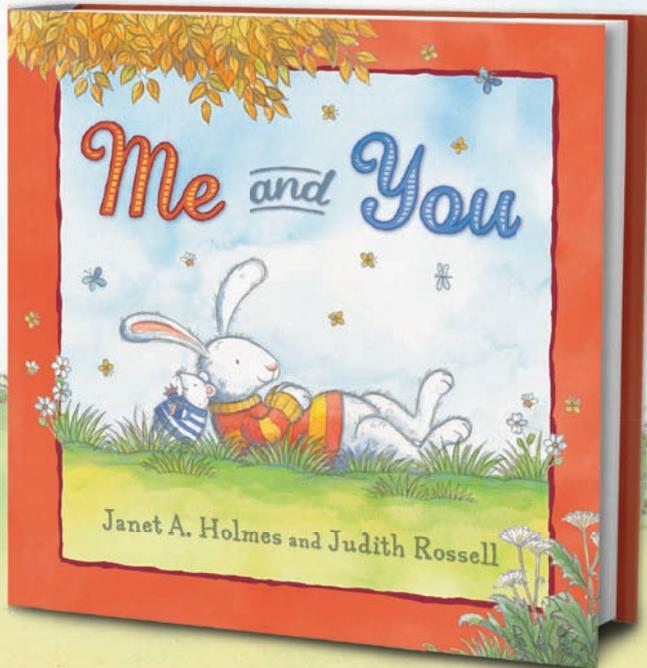
A novelty item that's worth the effort, *It's Useful to Have a Duck/It's Useful to Have a Boy* is a double-sided accordion that reverses on itself to tell two stories, one from a boy's point of view and one from a duck's, a Mobius strip of evolving perspectives. "In this work, I enjoyed showing that one image can contain multiple stories and playing with the concept of the subjectivity," says Argentine artist Isol. "I think that being able to move out of our comfortable habits of thought to include other ways of seeing is the principle that underlies creativity and learning. It's also a game that is a lot of fun." The interplay between the text and pictures is playfully weird. Start with the boy's side of the story, with its disarmingly minimal line work set against an eye-rattling yellow background. "I found a duck and I picked him up... / I use him for a hat... / I use him for a nose...." But just because this duck is rubber doesn't mean it doesn't have something to say. Playing against a robin's-egg-blue backdrop, the duck sees itself not as a nose, but as a gargoyle; not as a hat, but upon a perch with a view. A simple-seeming book that applies a pin to vanity's bubble—gently. (Ages 3 & up)



The Giant-Slayer

Iain Lawrence
Random House / November / 9780385733762; 9780385903936 (Lib. Ed.) / \$16.99; \$19.99

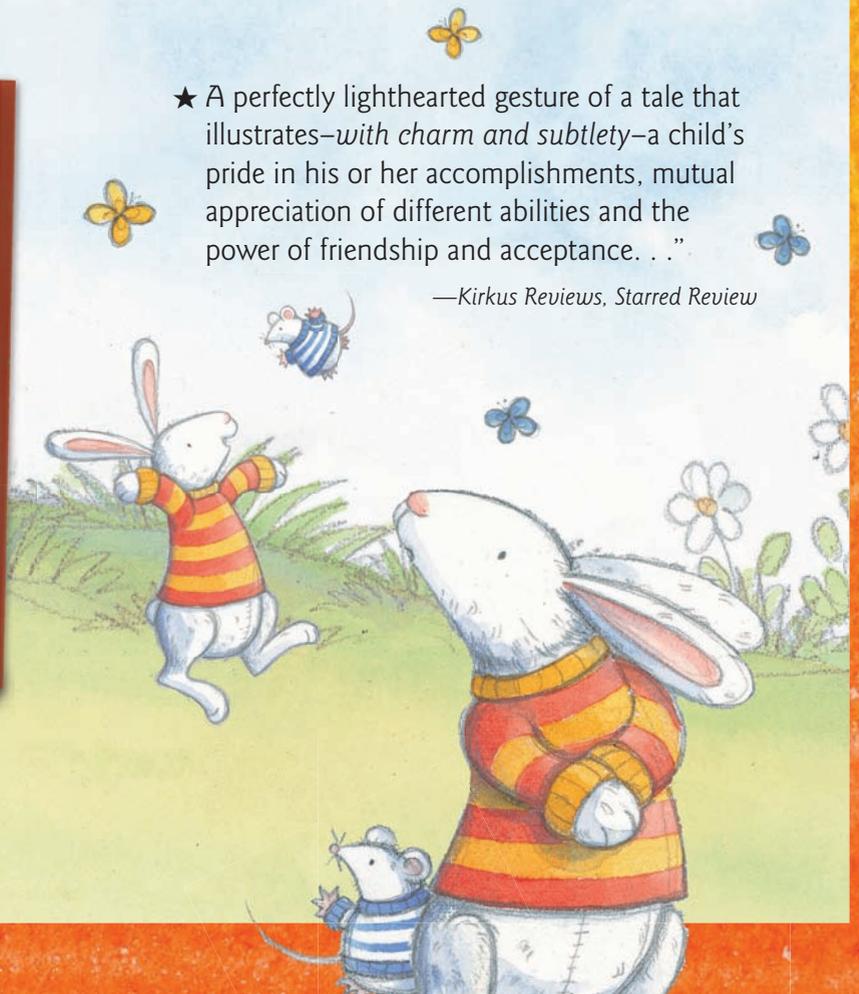
Iain Lawrence, famous for his *Wreckers* series, invents a page-turner of a different nature as he takes readers inside Bishop's Memorial hospital in 1955, at the height of the polio epidemic. There 11-year-old Laurie Valentine visits her friend, Dickie Espinosa, who's encased in an iron lung. Dickie is Laurie's only friend, and they have always told each other stories. The story she spins on the polio ward during her weekend visits is the only thing that Dickie and the other children trapped there have to look forward to every week. Soon they begin to see themselves in Laurie's story of unlikely giant-slayer Jimmy, a swamp witch and a mysterious unicorn hunter. Lawrence interweaves details on the ward (how the polio victims were bathed and exercised) as Laurie spins her engrossing tale. "It's not hard to imagine, in these days of swine flu, just how frightening polio was," he says. "As easy to catch, but more deadly by far, it left thousands of children paralyzed, encased in iron lungs. I tried to imagine how those children passed the time and thought they must have told stories endlessly to themselves and each other. From that idea came *The Giant-Slayer*, the story of a story that might have been told in a polio ward." (Ages 8-12)

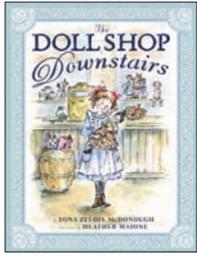


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—Kirkus Reviews, Starred Review



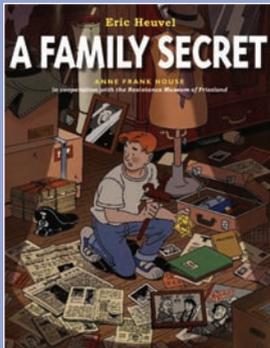


The Doll Shop Downstairs

Yona Zeldis McDonough
Illustrated by Heather Maione
Viking / September / 9780670010912 / \$14.99

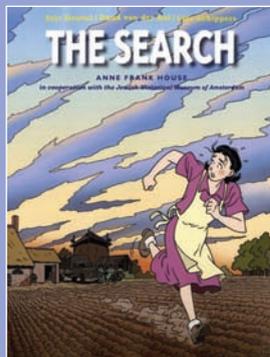
In this heartwarming story inspired by the family that originated the Madame Alexander Dolls, Anna, the middle daughter of a doll repairman and seamstress, helps her family's small New York City business overcome obstacles and finds her place within it along the way. World War I has erupted, making it impossible for Breittlemann's Doll Shop to obtain the German-made parts necessary for repairs. Money is tight, and the whole family feels the pressure until Anna swoops in and saves the day. "Mix one part Rumer Godden's *The Story of Holly and Ivy* and many parts Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind Family* and you create a standout family-and-doll story," said *Kirkus* in a starred review. The turbulent but tender relationship between Anna and her sisters is at the forefront. "Family is our very first narrative and the template for all the stories that we use to understand our lives," says Yona Zeldis McDonough. Young girls will easily relate to both Anna's plight and the comfort she finds in her doll. McDonough shares that she wrote this story to speak to the girl who still resides within her. "It is precisely the kind of book that I would have adored as a child," she says. Readers will share in this adoration. (Ages 8-12)

Amsterdam's Anne Frank House: A Global Reach



A Family Secret

Eric Heuvel
Translated by Lorraine T. Miller
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
October / 9780374322717;
9780374422653 (paper)
\$18.99; \$9.99 (Ages 9-12)



The Search

Eric Heuvel, Ruud van der Rol,
Lies Schippers
Translated by Lorraine T. Miller
Farrar, Straus and Giroux
October / 9780374365172;
9780374464554 (paper)
\$18.99; \$9.99 (Ages 9-12)

The Anne Frank House and two Macmillan U.S. imprints have partnered on the release of three outstanding books about the Holocaust this fall, but that's just one facet of its varied Holocaust-education activities.

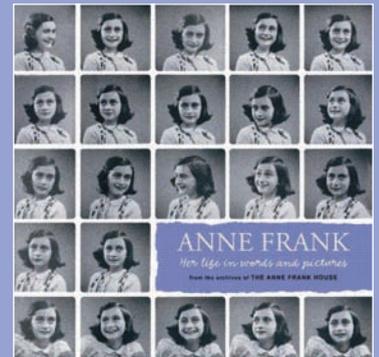
Packaged in an intimate seven-by-seven-inch albumlike format, *Anne Frank: Her Life in Words and Pictures*, "really feels like a visit to the house," says Simon Boughton, publisher of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, First Second and Roaring Brook Press. The book's high-resolution photographs present spreads from Anne Frank's diary and also the interior and exterior of the Annex where she hid from the world to write it. "There's a whole host of photographs I'd never seen before," says Boughton.

Menno Metselaar says that in addition to being "entrusted with the care of the Secret Annex," the mission of Amsterdam's Anne Frank House is also to "do our utmost to educate as many children and grown-ups about Anne Frank, the Holocaust and the Second World War... and keep trying to find new and alternative ways to do this."

First featured in *Kirkus'* Graphic Spotlight, *A Family Secret* and *The Search* are two examples of those new ways. Taken together, the graphic novels tell two sides of a friendship between Esther, who fled Germany after Kristallnacht with her Jewish family to the Netherlands, and her gentle friend Helena, whose father is a guard at the time of the Nazi invasion. "We were hesitant at first—is a 'comic book' about the Second World War or about the Holocaust a good idea?" says Metselaar. "But the very positive international reactions to both books have encouraged us greatly to keep finding these new ways."

Other methods of outreach include a collaboration with the BBC on the five-part documentary *The Diary of Anne Frank* that aired last spring and re-aired in September in the United Kingdom. The House's reach extends to branches in Berlin, London, Austria and New York. For the third year in a row, the Anne Frank Center USA, located in New York's SoHo, is offering a graphic-novel story-writing program centered on *The Search* and *A Family Secret*, according to the center's director Maureen McNeil. Students visit the center for a 90-minute program and meet a Holocaust survivor.

"We teach [Anne Frank's diary] as literary art and a Holocaust work," says McNeil. "These kids really start thinking about their own lives, and the comics they create are based on instances [of] acts of discrimination and bullying and anti-Semitism, [and] in some cases, having diverse friends or being teased for having diverse friends, and being teased as 'the other.' It's a great tool for kids."



Anne Frank:

Her Life in Words and Pictures

Menno Metselaar and Ruud van der Rol
Translated by Arnold J. Pomerans
Flashpoint/Roaring Brook / September
9781596435469; 9781596435476
(paper) / \$19.99; \$12.99
(Ages 10 & up)



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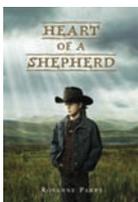
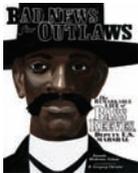
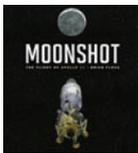
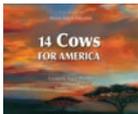
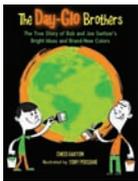
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SECOND LOOK

Our recap of previously featured books that also represent
The Best of 2009



The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand-New Colors

Chris Barton
Illustrated by Tony Persiani
Charlesbridge / July / 9781570916731 / \$18.95

First featured in the Fall Preview, Chris Barton breaks down the story behind the discovery of Day-Glo colors in this tale of two brothers—one practical, one creative—who worked together to develop the neon brights that forever changed the world. The book required extensive research, as Barton delved into one brother's notes and interviews with the family to re-create the story. The effort was well worth it. "The final pages explode in Day-Glo radiance," said the *Kirkus* review. "Rendered in 1950s-cartoon style, with bold lines and stretched perspectives, these two putty-limbed brothers shine even more brightly than the paints and dyes they created." (Ages 4-8)

14 Cows for America

Carmen Agra Deedy with Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah
Illustrated by Thomas Gonzalez
Peachtree / August / 9781561454907 / \$17.95

The outpouring of goodwill for Americans after 9/11 is gloriously captured in this "stirring, heartwarming tale," according to *Kirkus*. Hailing from the Maasai tribe in Kenya, Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah was studying medicine in the United States on that horrific day. He returned to his homeland, and when asked for stories about America, he told his people that he had only one—one that "burned a hole in his heart"—then asked his elders to bless his cow as an offering. Naiyomah's act inspired other villagers to bless their cows, which are considered sacred, for America, a gesture beautifully articulated here. Featured in the BEA/ALA guide, *14 Cows* shows that compassion and understanding need know no boundaries. (Ages 4-8)

Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11

Brian Floca
Richard Jackson/Atheneum / April / 9781416950462 / \$17.99

Brian Floca had wanted to portray the *Apollo* mission for years and has the "stack of bad first drafts to prove it." Practice must have made perfect. In a book that *Kirkus* called "breathtaking" and "thrilling," Floca masterfully recaptures the beauty, wonder and awe surrounding that pivotal point in American history. His words are spare, but deliberate, providing the rhythm to carry readers throughout the larger-than-life full-spread paintings of the moon, the rocket and the astronauts at work. First appearing in the Spring & Summer Preview, it's an account so compelling that one astronaut on that mission, Michael Collins, said that the book gave him "the feeling I was back up in space." (Ages 7-12)

Emmaline and the Bunny

Katherine Hannigan
Greenwillow/HarperCollins / March / 9780061626548 / \$14.99

"I wanted to write about a child who would long for woods and meadows and especially bunnies, and how she might be so determined and caring and courageous that she would create a safe place for all kinds of creatures," says Katherine Hannigan about her inspiration for Emmaline—and her character's quest to adopt a bunny. As a resident of Neataspin, however, where anything the mayor considers messy (even trees!) is banned, getting a bunny seems to be out of the question. But Emmaline's desire for a pet sets in motion some changes for a town that needs a healthy dose of dirt. Featured in the Spring & Summer Preview, *Kirkus* called the book a "sweet, funny story that respectfully maps the warrens of a child's psyche as it celebrates the glorious mess that is nature." (Ages 6-10)

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate

Jacqueline Kelly
Henry Holt / May / 9780805088410 / \$16.99

Texas 1899 isn't exactly the best place for a budding 11-year-old scientist, but that's exactly what Jacqueline Kelly portrays in *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*, which was first selected as an outstanding novel in the Fall Preview. Calpurnia, or Callie Vee, is the only daughter in a family of seven kids. While other girls her age are encouraged to sew and cook, Callie Vee discovers a love for examining insects, an interest that is fostered by her grandfather, a nature-loving recluse who revels in examining plants and fermenting pecans for whiskey. Their kinship, along with Callie Vee's interest in all things Darwin, set the tone for a story about a very unlikely girl indeed. (Ages 12 & up)

Everything for a Dog

Ann M. Martin
Feiwel and Friends / September / 9780312386511 / \$16.99

Appearing in the BEA/ALA guide and what *Kirkus* called "the perfectly crafted canine tale," Ann M. Martin's latest again delves into dog territory—this time focusing on Bone, brother to Squirrel from her award-winning *A Dog's Life*. But here, Martin weaves Bone's tale with the stories of two boys—one who is dealing with the death of his brother, and the other whose best friend has moved away. As difficult as it sounds, Martin deftly brings together the three seemingly disparate stories into one "heartwarming and satisfying finale." (Ages 9-12)

Bad News for Outlaws: The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshal

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
Carolrhoda / November / 9780822567646 / \$17.95

Who doesn't love a good western? Vaunda Micheaux Nelson tackles the story of Bass Reeves, one of the first black deputy U.S. marshals west of the Mississippi. Born a slave in Texas, Reeves escaped during the Civil War and headed West—to live and learn from Native Americans how to ride, shoot, track and more—all skills that helped him become a gun-slinging hero. Nelson's style, as much "tall tale" as biography, alongside R. Gregory Christie's rich, stirring portraits of the action, do this remarkable story—first featured in the BEA/ALA guide—justice. "Here, children can saddle up with a genuine western hero in a narrative that is hits the bull's-eye," said *Kirkus*. (Ages 7-10)

The Small Adventure of Popeye and Elvis

Barbara O'Connor
Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus and Giroux / September / 9780374370558 / \$16.99

Living in the country is such a drag for Popeye. He's stuck in rural South Carolina with nobody but his dog, Boo, and his Grandmother Velma to keep him company. One summer, it seems like it's been raining forever, but when it finally stops, Popeye and Boo go exploring and find a Holiday Rambler, those shiny, silver motor homes, stuffed with the Jewell family. While the motor home stays stuck in the mud, the wild Jewell kids—all six of them—Popeye and Boo take off on some adventures they'll never forget. "Fast-paced, short and easy to read...and abounding with quirky, likable characters, this small gem has the power to keep readers entranced," said *Kirkus* of this romp which was first featured in the Fall Preview. (Ages 8-12)

Heart of a Shepherd

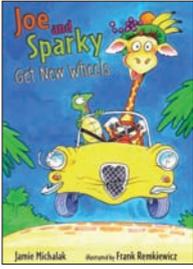
Rosanne Parry
Wendy Lamb/Random House / January / 9780375848025; 9780375948022
(Lib. Ed.) / \$15.99; \$18.99

Interviewed in the Religion issue, Rosanne Parry brings the life of an 11-year-old boy, Ignatius "Brother" Alderman, trying to step in and fill the shoes of his father after being called to Iraq, to the page. The sparse background of an eastern Oregon sheep farm sets the stage for the everyday challenges Brother faces in keeping the family farm going, a tough road for anyone—adult or child—to hoe. *Kirkus* called it "at once a gripping coming-of-age novel and a celebration of rural life, quiet heroism and the strength that comes from spirituality...an unassuming, transcendent joy." (Ages 10 & up)

The Circus Ship

Chris Van Dusen
Candlewick / September / 9780763630904 / \$16.99

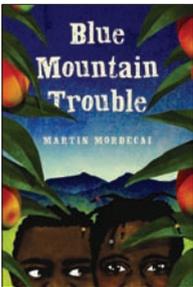
"Children will pore over panoramic spreads that invite them to find each of the 15 animals and celebrate a denouement that serves up Mr. Paine's just deserts," said the *Kirkus* review of Chris Van Dusen's bright, energetic tale about a circus-boat shipwreck, which was featured in the BEA/ALA guide. Mr. Paine, the circus boss, is "terribly demanding," so much so that he drives the ship's captain to steer through a dangerous fog en route to a show. But the ship runs afoul, and everyone is overboard. While Mr. Paine is rowed to safety, he leaves the animals to fend for themselves. And fend they do, swimming ashore and settling in a nice village. Based on a real shipwreck from 1836 that suffered much more disastrous results, Van Dusen's take on *The Royal Star* and its passengers' fates has resulted in a book that *Kirkus* summed up as "splendid." (Ages 4-8)



Joe and Sparky Get New Wheels

Jamie Michalak
Illustrated by Frank Remkiewicz
Candlewick / March / 9780763633875 / \$15.99

Dynamic duos have a proud history, and the new early reader from Jamie Michalak and Frank Remkiewicz introduces a new odd couple that's part Bert and Ernie and part Thelma and Louise. Joe is a brash giraffe eager to stretch his neck into the world. Sparky is a cautious, content turtle. But when Joe believes he's won a sports car from a mail-in contest, he coaxes Sparky out of his shell for a madcap adventure fueled by coincidences and misunderstandings. "Who doesn't like to ride in a sports car, go shopping and eat fast food?" says Remkiewicz, whose whimsical watercolors drive the story forward, with giraffe-print endpapers to complete a fully conceived book design. Michalak created Joe and Sparky during a visit from her terminally ill sister, Julie. "She couldn't really do anything too physical," says Michalak. "So we just wrote the story for our own entertainment." And once Remkiewicz came aboard as illustrator, Michalak knew the story was in good hands. "He has a great sense of humor, and his sensibility is perfect for the story," she says. "And Julie loved his work too." (Ages 4-8)



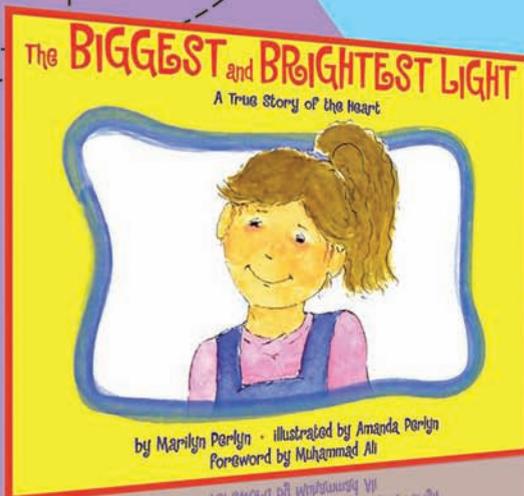
Blue Mountain Trouble

Martin Mordecai
Levine/Scholastic / April / 9780545041560 / \$16.99

A former print journalist who served a stint in the foreign service for his native Jamaica, Martin Mordecai reinvents himself again as a children's novelist with a debut set in his homeland. The book had been worming around under the author's skin for nearly three decades. "This started as a bedtime story I told my youngest son when he was seven or eight. He just celebrated his 35th birthday," says Mordecai. *Blue Mountain Trouble* tells the tale of a set of 11-year-old fraternal twins, Pollyread and Jackson, as they prepare to leave home for the first time to attend school in town. But before they do, they are determined to figure out what's behind a series of mysterious occurrences in their remote mountain village, Top Valley. Mordecai's lyrical prose truly evokes a sense of the landscape and its inhabitants, who speak a dizzying dialect of Jamaican Creole. There's also a dash of the occult, violence and drugs, but Mordecai didn't feel the need to shy away from such serious subject matter. "None of these things are celebrated, but these are facts of life," he says. "Children aren't immune to awareness of these things, nor should they be. The focus of the book is how the characters deal with these problems." (Ages 10-14)



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■ **Art Johnson, Ph.D.**, Superintendent, Palm Beach School District

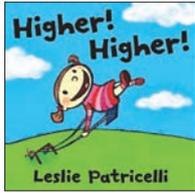
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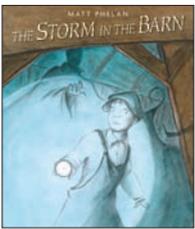




Higher! Higher!

Leslie Patricelli
Candlewick / March / 9780763632410 / \$15.99

An ordinary day becomes extraordinary when a little girl on her swing demands to be pushed ever “Higher! Higher!” The playground disappears as she waves to other children on a rooftop, a mountaintop and an airplane, a monkey in a spaceship and, finally, an alien child, who is also on a swing, who gives her a high-five on her way down. As in any good adventure, the heroine returns safely to earth ready to go “Again!” The swing set comes from real life. Leslie Patricelli was pushing her daughter on a swing when she got the idea for the book. As for the alien? “I guess it came from outer space, where most of my ideas come from,” she says. With the broad lines of a coloring book, Patricelli makes it look easy to craft the story into a picture book, but she actually used a high-tech stylus to sketch her designs onto her computer monitor before painting them on a canvas. The work was well worth the effort—*Kirkus* praised “the simple design, minimalist details and bright colors” of her illustrations. (Ages 2-5)



The Storm in the Barn

Matt Phelan
Candlewick / September / 9780763636180 / \$24.99

Matt Phelan’s debut graphic novel is part thriller, part historical fiction and part coming-of-age story. Long obsessed with the photographs of Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans that chronicled the Dust Bowl, Phelan was eager to introduce a new generation to one of the most storied eras in American history. “Any kid is going to be blown away by the starkness and the amazing spectacle of dust,” says Phelan. “The drama of the environment catches their imagination.” *The Storm in the Barn* tells the story of Jack Clark, 11, who lives in Kansas in 1937, in the heart of the Dust Bowl. As Jack and others around him try to make sense of the war that the environment is waging against them, Phelan wields his mighty watercolor brush to evoke life in a haunting palate of browns that transport the reader back in time. “By limiting the palette, I had more control over the use of color as a tool in the storytelling,” says Phelan. Ironically, the artist chose to work with watercolor. “With watercolor you don’t know what you’re going to get,” he says. “You stick your brush in the water and see what happens. I had a medium that I couldn’t control, just like the dust, which was going to go where it was going to go.” (Ages 10 & up)

FINDING THE RIGHT VOICE

Each of Jonah Winter’s picture-book biographies takes on a voice unique to its subject. This year’s pair may demonstrate his widest range yet, with the poetic Stein-esque narrative of *Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude* contrasting wildly with the incredulous tone of *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!* Here, Winter tells us how he discovers the right storytellers for his subjects.

Photo courtesy of Random House Children's Books



How do you choose your subjects?

Through the years, various Gertrude Stein fans have asked, “When will you write a book about Gertrude Stein?” And I thought, “Yeah right, a book about Gertrude Stein for kids.” But there’s such a childlike quality about her, something in her spirit and also in her writing that I thought kids could relate to. Partially I wanted to get one of my role models out there for kids. I also wanted to present her relationship with Alice B. Toklas—it’s one of the most important relationships of the 20th century—in a way that didn’t make a big deal of it.

Sandy Koufax is a little simpler. I’m a huge fan of baseball and thought he was a very intriguing character and that his story could make a very good subject for a children’s book.

When you do research, are you looking for details of interest to children?

I’m looking for a story line first of all. In any adult life, you could tell an almost endless series of stories. But what is the story line that kids would most be able to relate to and what would be most illustratable? I’m plowing through the entirety of facts to find what’s most engaging and entertaining for kids. What voice do I use, what structure? What’s the approach going to be? What is the thing that’s best summed up in 32 pages?

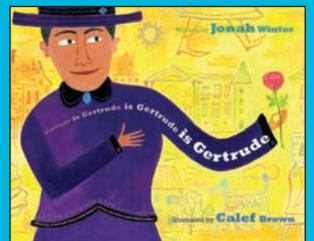
How do you arrive at the narrative voice?

Sometimes I have an idea in advance of how I want to tell it, [which] makes the research easier. With both the Stein and the Koufax, I was less certain. For Gertrude Stein, it’s hard for me to believe that I didn’t immediately figure out how to tell that story. When I finally did, it was like I was clubbed over the head. Then the story came pretty quickly. With Koufax, I was really unsure and went back many times with my editor Anne Schwartz. It was sort of a challenge—he hated being interviewed and was very private. Then I thought, “Maybe I can make the fact that I don’t know who he is the topic of the story.” Once I figured that out, I came up with a Ring Lardner voice, which I pulled hook, line and sinker to tell that story.



You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!

Jonah Winter
Illustrated by André Carilloho
Schwartz & Wade/Random
February / 9780375837388;
9780375937385 (Lib. Ed.)
\$17.99; \$20.99
(Ages 5-8)



Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude is Gertrude

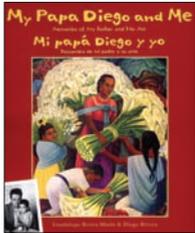
Jonah Winter
Illustrated by Calef Brown
Atheneum / February
9781416940883 / \$16.99
(Ages 5-8)



The Lion & the Mouse

Jerry Pinkney
Little, Brown / September / 9780316013567 / \$16.99

A picture may be worth a thousand words, but it was still an inspired idea for Jerry Pinkney to let his artwork, which has always been highly expressive, do the talking in this classic Aesop's fable. "I have very clear and fond memories of being told the Aesop's fables in my growing-up years," says Pinkney, "and 'The Lion and the Mouse' has always been a favorite. When I first began working on *The Lion & the Mouse* my intention was to add text. It was only after completing the drawings in a dummy book and feeling satisfied with it that I realized I had actually told the story without words." Pinkney's illustrations hold the eye like glue—there is so much detail, yet the work is light on the page, the lines both sure and delicate. He has set the fable on the African savannah and had a merry time painting a wild company of creatures along with the lion and the mouse. As well as the gladdening camaraderie between those two, Pinkney has added a widening sense of family and community, where acts of kindness, even the smallest, will have a butterfly effect. (*Ages 3 & up*)



My Papa Diego and Me / Mi papá Diego y yo

Guadalupe Rivera Marín & Diego Rivera
Children's Book Press
August
9780892392285
\$17.95

Guadalupe Rivera Marín, the daughter of acclaimed Mexican artist Diego Rivera, reveals a little-known side of her father through some of his most evocative work. "The book is not so much about Diego Rivera as it is about the theme of childhood in his work and Guadalupe's reminiscences," says Dana Goldberg, executive editor at Children's Book Press. "She has led a very interesting life even apart from her relationship with her father, but she has so many memories tied up in these paintings. They were done when she was very young, but she still has strong memories of modeling for him." Rivera Marín selected paintings that best represented her father's portrayals of children and childhood, including many portraits of herself and her sister, to accompany her touching, personal recollections. Her prose is offered in a bilingual edition that her publishers hope has broad appeal. "It was a privilege to hear her," says Goldberg. "She's so warm and has the most amazing sense of humor. Our books always take a lot of work and care, but this was an effort on a whole new level for us." (*Ages 6 & up*)

★ **“Irresistible.”***

STICK MAN

JULIA DONALDSON AXEL SCHEFFLER

By the bestselling creators of Room on the Broom

By Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler

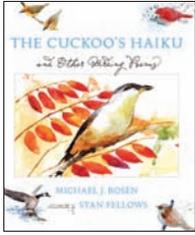
Ages 9–13 • 224 Pages • 0-545-10795-4 • \$16.95

★ “Rhyming text and repeated refrains make this a winning read-aloud that will stick around long after the holiday season.”—**Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

★ “The team behind *Room on the Broom* and *The Gruffalo* find a roundabout route to Christmas in this bouncy tale....rhymes never skip a beat...witty.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

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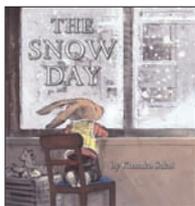
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The Cuckoo's Haiku: And Other Birding Poems

Michael J. Rosen
Illustrated by Stan Fellows
Candlewick / March / 9780763630492 / \$17.99

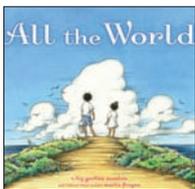
For Michael J. Rosen, haiku and bird watching are “kindred arts: The subject of both is often a fleeting impression—a snatched glimpse.” *The Cuckoo's Haiku*, a celebration of 24 common American birds, exalts the art of looking closely at the commonplace in order to see something wonderfully new. “Birds are so familiar in a way,” says Rosen, “that I wanted to make them strange again.” By phrasing his observations in the terse, image-rich form of haiku, Rosen wants to “draw half of a circle in the air, hoping that a reader’s imagination will complete the other half.” Rosen’s avian observations are brought elegantly to life by the artwork of Stan Fellows. “We wanted *The Cuckoo's Haiku* to be a notebook of watercolors that a birder might be creating in the field—vibrant, accurate yet loose sketches, and handwritten notes about key features or curious observations,” he says. The resulting work invites readers to join Rosen in the practice of looking carefully. “To me, the idea is that practice *makes*. That’s all. It doesn’t make perfect, it just *makes*...makes things, makes you do things you otherwise might not, makes experiences richer, more beautiful and worth sharing.” (Ages 8-12)



The Snow Day

Komako Sakai
Levine/Scholastic / January / 9780545013215 / \$16.99

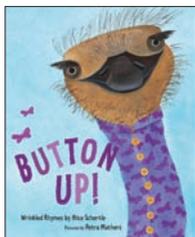
Excited about a day off from kindergarten, the brown rabbit narrator dashes for a pair of boots to greet the mounting snow. But Mommy says, “You can’t go out until it stops snowing.” So while Mommy washes dishes, the small rabbit sneaks onto their apartment balcony to form a little snow dumpling. With textured layers of paints and pastels, Komako Sakai’s illustrations perfectly capture a sterling-gray and marshmallow-white day. She pans to the blizzard outside their apartment building where nary a creature stirs (“Mommy, we are all alone in the world”), then zooms in on an intimate scene of mother and child playing cards in the living room. There they wait for the snow to halt—and for snowbound Daddy’s flight to bring him home. And even though it’s bedtime when the snow finally stops, mother and child venture out into the night. The jet-black sky creates a dramatic contrast to the bunny’s subtle footprints and bulging snow monsters on a field of white, as it promises Daddy’s safe return. “Translated from the Japanese, Sakai’s story reveals the universality of human wonder at seeing the world transformed,” said Cheryl Klein, senior editor at Arthur A. Levine Books. (Ages 3-5)



All the World

Liz Garton Scanlon
Illustrated by Marla Frazee
Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster / September / 9781416985808 / \$17.99

Spare and poetic, *All the World* is far-reaching in its intimacy rather than its geography. “You never inhabit ‘all the world’—none of us do,” says Marla Frazee. She set Liz Garton Scanlon’s poetry in the context of a single community, with the central coast of California providing much of the imagery. “I put in things that mean something to me,” she says, from her favorite old cars to a giant oak tree like those her grandfather used to plant. Rained out of the park, several families take shelter in the neighborhood cantina for a meal before going home. Though they sit at separate tables, they are united by the shared experience of spending time with family and the simple contrast between cold rain and hot soup. There are only a few words to read but a lot to understand. “There’s been a lot of discussion [within the publishing industry] about books that may be too quiet for the child audience,” says Scanlon, but children have “a bigger capacity for emotional breadth and understanding as readers and as pre-readers than we sometimes give them credit for.” (Ages 3-7)

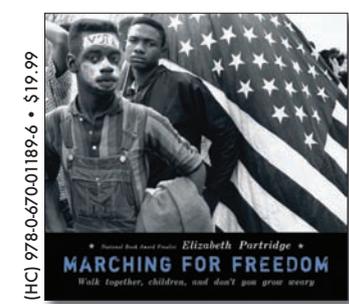


Button Up!

Alice Schertle
Illustrated by Petra Mathers
Harcourt / April / 9780152050504 / \$16.00

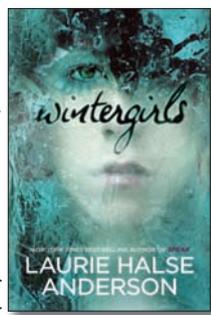
“Kids are the best audience in the world for poetry or prose,” says Alice Schertle. “When they like what they hear, they get into it in a way most adults can only remember. And they love to laugh.” Schertle loves to laugh too and says that writing for children about talking hats and undies and T-shirts lets her “indulge a silly streak without feeling I have entered a period of serious regression.” Though the poems in *Button Up!* are connected thematically, each is an individual gem, distinct in rhyme scheme, meter and tone. Schertle’s poetry is further enhanced by Petra Mathers’ whimsical illustrations of various animals adorned with the bike helmets, galoshes and jammies personified in the poems. Though the book is a delight to read, Schertle reports that it wasn’t always particularly easy to write. Poetry, she finds, is a “hair-puller...But there’s something intriguing and completely absorbing about peeling away the extraneous and getting down to the core of a thought or an idea in a few carefully chosen words.” (Ages 3-7)

The Best Books of 2009 from Penguin Young Readers Group



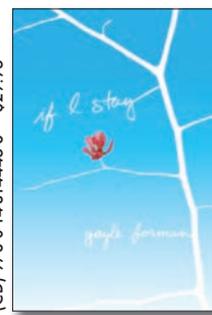
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★★★★★
 Booklist
 The Horn Book Magazine
 Kirkus Reviews
 Publishers Weekly
 School Library Journal
 VOYA



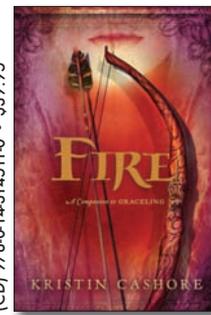
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★★★★★
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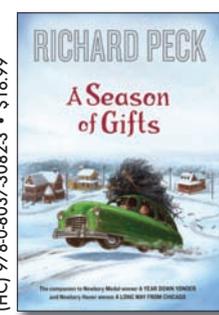
(HC) 978-0-525-42103-0 • \$16.99
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 Publishers Weekly
 School Library Journal
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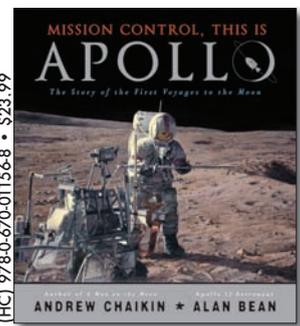
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 (CD) 978-0-14-314511-0 • \$39.95

★★★★★
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 School Library Journal



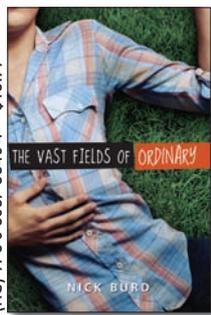
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 The Horn Book Magazine
 Kirkus Reviews
 Publishers Weekly
 School Library Journal



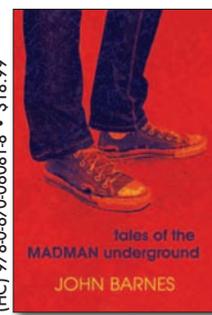
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★★★★★
 Booklist
 The Horn Book Magazine
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★★★★★
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 Kirkus Reviews
 School Library Journal
 VOYA



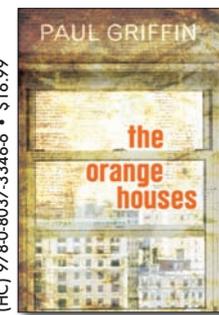
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★★★★
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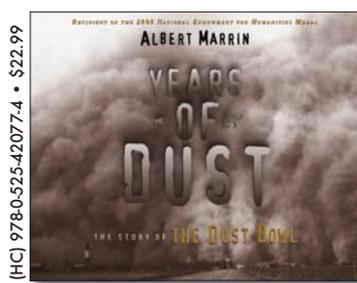
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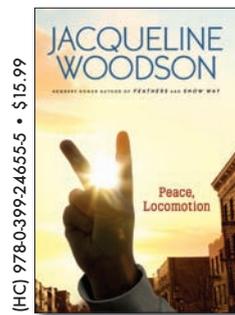
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★★★★
 Booklist
 Publishers Weekly
 VOYA



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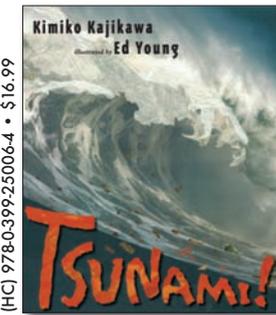
(HC) 978-0-399-24655-5 • \$15.99

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 Publishers Weekly
 School Library Journal
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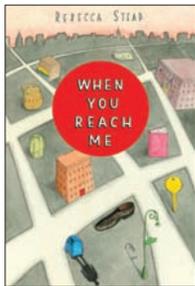
★★★★
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 Publishers Weekly
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 Kirkus Reviews
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 School Library Journal





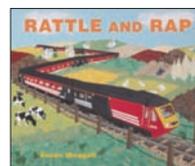
When You Reach Me

Rebecca Stead

Wendy Lamb/Random / July / 9780385737425; 9780385906647 (Lib. Ed.) /\$15.99; \$18.99

A science-fiction tale firmly rooted in reality, *When You Reach Me* is the written correspondence between Miranda, a latchkey kid growing up in New York City during the 1970s, and the time traveler she has yet to meet. In order to prevent a tragedy Miranda must tell the truth about her sixth-grade year. “You won’t be yourself when you reach me,” Miranda writes to the mysterious stranger, “but you will get the job done.” Rebecca Stead successfully reveals two important portals to the future—time travel and preadolescence. “It’s kind of a special time,” says Stead, when kids realize, “life is so much more complicated than I thought—and it’s not all about me.” Like the heroine of her favorite book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, Miranda struggles just as much with immaturity as she does with the laws of physics. With issues ranging from her mom’s embarrassing wardrobe to her sudden estrangement

from her friend Sal, Miranda learns that growing apart is part of growing up. “A lot of my strongest memories about friendship come from the making and the breaking and the discovering,” says Stead. Like all preadolescents, she said, Miranda discovers the “ability to look at people from a slightly wiser point of view.” (*Ages 10-14*)



Rattle and Rap

Susan Steggall

Frances Lincoln

July

9781845077037

\$15.95

“When my kids were little, we used to go on train rides, even if we didn’t have anywhere to go, just because they loved the train,” says U.K.-based author and illustrator Susan Steggall. Her familiarity with railway travel and her textured torn-paper collages that fill the broad pages of the book create a vivid panorama that rewards closer inspection. As a train and its passengers journey from one station to another—passing through city, country and seaside; over bridges and through tunnels—the scenes yield subtle treats such as a distant flock of birds following a plowing tractor, the coffee sipped from a tipped cup or simply following the primary-colored passengers in the different stages of travel, from boarding to disembarking. Steggall worked from photographs and models to capture the architectural and mechanical nuances of her subjects, spending up to a month creating each collage, sometimes making her own paper by pulping oddments of paper, newsprint and egg cartons. With that level of diligence going into the art, the former graphic designer keeps the narration minimalist and onomatopoeic. “I make sure there’s a story in the pictures,” she says. (*Ages 2-6*)

SOME SECRETS ARE BEST KEPT BENEATH THE SURFACE.

★ “Warman’s achingly realistic scenes and characters transcend cliché, and with rare, refreshing honesty and flashes of wry humor, she writes about . . . the small, mysterious, imperfect moments that add up to love in all its forms.”

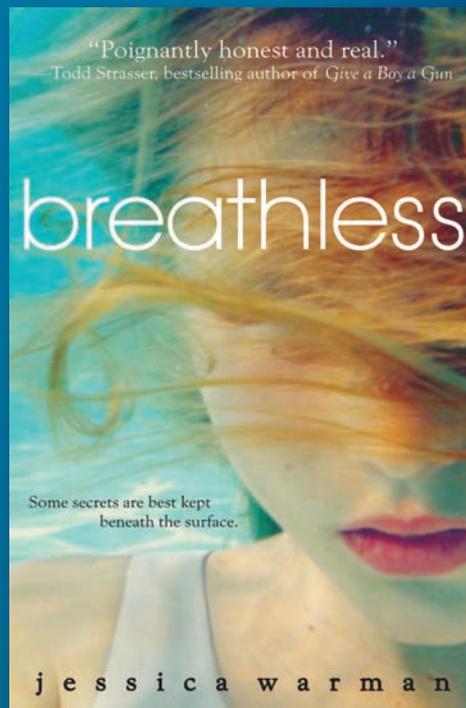
—*Booklist*, starred review

★ “Readers will find the boarding-school experience enviable, the family situation poignant, and Katie a protagonist they’ll understand, support, and forgive.”

—*The Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books*, starred review

★ “Warman treats Will’s schizophrenia with stark honesty as seen through his sister’s eyes. This novel provides an important look at an extremely difficult illness and its effects on a family.”—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“Warman draws out Katie’s emotions and her complex life and family with immediacy.”—*Kirkus Reviews*



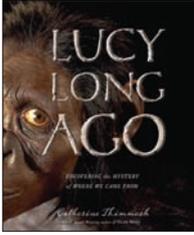
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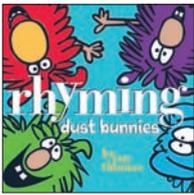
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Lucy Long Ago: Uncovering the Mystery of Where We Came From

Catherine Thimmesh
Houghton Mifflin / May / 9780547051994 / \$18.00

She is 3.2 million years old and her name is Lucy. This is the thrilling tale that captured Sibert Award winner Catherine Thimmesh's attention when she first read about the discovery of the skeleton of a previously unknown hominid—*Australopithecus afarensis*—in Ethiopia in 1974. "I think that this whole story, when you look at the broader picture, is a mystery," says Thimmesh. "I looked at what was available in schools about the search for human origins, and there really wasn't much. I tried to make it clear that the story of evolution is, itself, still evolving." To tell Lucy's story, Thimmesh not only digs deep into the first discovery of the bones by anthropologist Donald Johanson but also explains what these delicate remains reveal. She also tells the fascinating story of the dramatic full-body reconstruction created by paleo-artist John Gurche, which graces the book's cover. "For me, Lucy's story begs the question: What did this creature look like?" says Thimmesh. "In this book in particular, the images really helped to clarify and make that picture of Lucy very vivid, even for reader for whom the subject is completely foreign." (*Ages 10-14*)



Rhyming Dust Bunnies

Jan Thomas
Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster / January / 9781416979760 / \$12.99

"I think about dust bunnies a lot," says Jan Thomas. "I live in a dusty town with two furry dogs, I'm not the best housekeeper... I was just looking down one day and noticed these dust bunnies and thought, 'hmm...'" The result is classic Thomas—a laugh-out-loud story aimed at the preschool crowd but entertaining to all ages. Next to his rhyming companions Ed, Ned and Ted, dust bunny Bob appears idiosyncratic and eccentric. He peers out over the shoulder of the reader, missing every verbal cue while his buddies focus on fun and wordplay. While mature readers may note such details, youngsters will concentrate on the bigger picture—the familiar, colorful figures outlined in black for which Thomas is known, the simple rhymes, the humor, the sudden ending all accomplished with amazing brevity. "I generally start pretty small, I have a real 'less is more' approach, but even so I'm constantly stripping things down," says Thomas. "In my head I always picture having kids in front of me as I'm working... I know if I don't keep it rolling along they'll just get up and walk away." Readers of all ages will stick around for this one. (*Ages 3-7*)

New YA Nonfiction

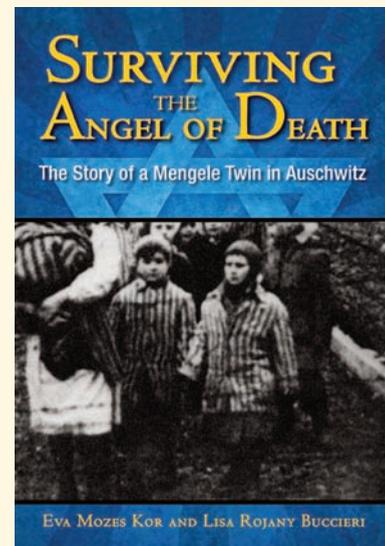
"Eva Mozes Kor has written a very moving and vivid account of an extraordinary and horrific experience. It is an important document showing the strength of the human spirit and the capacity to forgive."

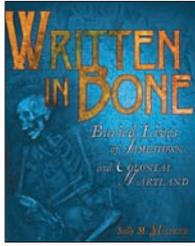
– Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"[This story] redefined my understanding of suffering. That one so young could triumph over such grotesque evil and still celebrate life and goodness is both a mystery and an inspiration. If this book doesn't move you, nothing will."

– Philip Gulley, Author of *Front Porch Tales* and *Harmony* series

ISBN 978-1-933718-28-6 | Ages 12+ | Cloth | \$14.95





Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland

Sally M. Walker
Carolrhoda / February / 9780822571353 / \$22.95

Sometimes history can lead us from one amazing experience to another. That was the case with Sibert Award winner Sally M. Walker, who parlayed her experience in storytelling and archeology into this companion piece to a new Smithsonian Institute exhibit exploring the forensic evidence of 17th-century colonial America. For research, Walker worked closely with scientists on excavations and other scientific inquiries. "It was a very moving experience," says Walker. "I personally helped excavate the remains of a baby and a young man who died violently. I had never done anything like it, and I was so captivated by their bones." Through scientific descriptions and imaginative speculation, Walker paints a vivid picture of life in Virginia more than a century before the American Revolution. "I was trying to bring those colonial settlers, for whom we now only have these sets of skeletons, back to life again," she says. "I wanted to tell their story in a way that would hold the reader, make them feel some of the pains these people experienced, and understand that coming to this country was not a romantic journey. It took courage and perseverance to stick it out here." (Ages 10-14)



Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom

Eric Wight
Simon & Schuster / May / 9781416964841 / \$9.99

Like the book he is bound in, Frankie Pickle is a hybrid. During the comic-book sequences, he is a swashbuckling superhero, an Indiana Pickle. In the chapter-book segments of the story, Frankie is your standard grade-schooler, who finds himself in an increasingly sour pickle. Frankie's mother is done with hectoring. "If you don't want to clean your room, you don't have to," she says—music to Frankie's clueless ears, but she warns, "You have to deal with the consequences"—music beyond Frankie's range of hearing. Between fantasy episodes of graphic heroic activity and snapshots of accumulating filth, time passes. Frankie's room and self—really, why bother bathing?—come to project a certain bottom-feeding something in the sulfur family. Eric Wight administers the exact balance of word and image to entice hesitant readers while catching the wicked fun. "The challenge became weaving the words and illustrations into a singularly immersive reading experience," he says. "One of the benefits of being both author and illustrator was that even after the interior of book was designed, I could rewrite the prose and adjust the drawings to make the transitions between fantasy and reality as seamless as possible." Greatest fantasy of all—Frankie cleans his room. All it takes is a nightmare. (Ages 7-11)



The Bog Baby

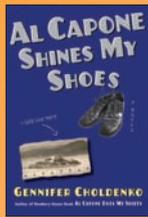
Jeanne Willis
Illustrated by Gwen Millward
Schwartz & Wade/Random / October / 9780375861765; 9780375961762 (Lib. Ed.) / \$16.99; \$19.99

"Do you believe in Bog Babies?" asks this enchanting tale by Jeanne Willis and Gwen Millward. While on a secret fishing trip to the magical pond in Bluebell Wood, two sisters discover a blue, boggly-eyed creature with mouselike ears and a spiky tale. The girls decide to keep him for their own—until their Bog Baby becomes ill and they have no choice but to return him to the wild. The tale stresses the importance of believing in magic, something author Willis believes is "essential" at any age. "Secret and Wonder are the mother and father of magic, and childhood should be magical," she says. "Hey, adulthood should be magical too." Willis says that this story is largely true, as she and her sister had gone on a similar fishing adventure when they were young. A starred *Kirkus* review credits Millward with creating "one of the most inviting forests ever illustrated in children's literature." She says that her inspiration for the forest was taken directly from the one surrounding her childhood home in North Wales. "I've always wanted to draw it and use it in a book," she says. "It's a very magical place." (Ages 4-7)

The Best of '09 Continuing series



Winter Wood
Steve Augarde



Al Capone Shines My Shoes
Jennifer Choldenko



Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano
Peggy Gifford



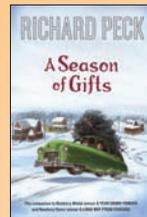
Benny and Penny in The Big No-No!
Geoffrey Hayes



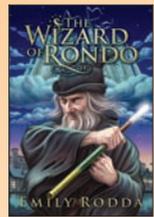
Albert Einstein
Kathleen Krull



Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters
Lenore Look



A Season of Gifts
Richard Peck



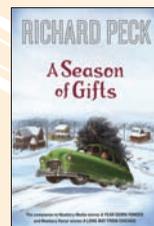
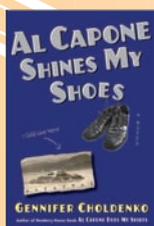
The Wizard of Rondo
Emily Rodda

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(Check out the online Best Children's supplement where a special addition will be inserted between pages 18 & 19)

The Best of '09

Continuing series



Winter Wood

Steve Augarde
David Fickling/Random / May / 9780385750745; 9780385750752
(Lib. Ed.) / \$17.99; \$20.99

The conclusion to *The Touchstone Trilogy* finds *The Various*—the tiny people who inhabit the brambles of Mill Farm—in mortal peril, and it's up to 12-year-old Midge to find the magical *Orbis* entrusted to her great-great aunt Celandine. Celandine is still alive, but she has no memory of the little people or the *Orbis*. *Kirkus* called this a “perfectly paced, beautifully crafted and moving end to a memorable fantasy.” (Ages 10-14)

Al Capone Shines My Shoes

Gennifer Choldenko
Dial / September / 9780803734609 / \$17.99

In *Al Capone Does My Shirts* (2004), the notorious mobster did Moose Flanagan a favor by getting his autistic sister Natalie into a boarding school that could help her thrive. In this sequel to the Newbery Honor-winning favorite, the gangster calls in that favor. What's a more-or-less rule-abiding kid like Moose to do? Gennifer Choldenko takes readers to the Alcatraz of 1935, immense research effortlessly holding up what *Kirkus* called “a solid-gold sequel that will not disappoint.” (Ages 10-14)

Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Practicing the Piano

Peggy Gifford
Illustrated by Valorie Fisher
Schwartz & Wade/Random / August / 9780375844881; 9780375966880
(Lib. Ed.) / \$12.99; \$15.99

In this “hilarious and very nearly believable glimpse into a day in Maxwell family life,” according to *Kirkus*, the redoubtable Moxy prepares for her piano recital. Her costume—a pink gobs-of-glitter dress, her silver tap shoes, her crown and the cape her Granny George made—is almost ready; all she needs to do is make some fake-ermine fur for her cape. How can she possibly find time to practice? Moxy's third outing proves she's got staying power, even if her mother doesn't. (Ages 7-11)

Benny and Penny in The Big No-No!

Geoffrey Hayes
TOON Books/Little Lit Library / May / 9780979923890 / \$12.95

Mom says that a new kid has moved in next door, but the only thing mouse siblings Benny and Penny can agree on is that it's no kid—it's a monster and a pail-thieving one at that. Which leads them to the “Big No-No”—climbing over the fence to recover the stolen pail. *Kirkus* said that “Hayes psychologically develops the suburban jungle masterfully, with a keen understanding that, to the small child, next door is as exotic as Inner Mongolia.” A Big Yes to more Benny and Penny. (Ages 4-9)

Albert Einstein

Kathleen Krull
Illustrated by Boris Kulikov
Viking / October / 9780670063321 / \$15.99

Having brought Leonardo da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Sigmund Freud and Marie Curie to lucid life for young readers, Kathleen Krull moves on to her latest Giant of Science—Albert Einstein. Boris Kulikov's playful illustrations match the wit of their subject, even as Krull explores the life and career of the 20th century's gold standard of brilliance, once again displaying her knack for making abstract, complex concepts understandable to children. As *Kirkus* said, “Another standout in a uniformly stellar series.” (Ages 10 & up)

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters

Lenore Look
Illustrated by LeUyen Pham
Schwartz & Wade/Random / June / 9780375857058; 9780375957055 (Lib. Ed.)
/ \$15.99; \$18.99

When his father suggests a camping trip—“It would be good for you to be in the great outdoors”—Alvin Ho has one response: “Gulp.” Brother Calvin helps by ordering great quantities of survival gear off the Internet with their father's emergency credit card, and so does Uncle Dennis, with a series of wily tricks, but that doesn't stop Alvin from drawing up his will against his certain doom. “Another triumph for Alvin Ho,” said the *Kirkus* review. (Ages 6-10)

A Season of Gifts

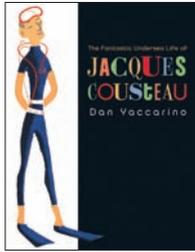
Richard Peck
Dial / September / 9780803730823 / \$16.99

Grandma Dowdel, brought so vividly to readers in the Newbery Honor-winning *A Long Way from Chicago* (1998) and Newbery Award-winning *A Year Down Yonder* (2000), returns in this tender romp that finds the Barnharts, a young minister and his family, newly moved in next door to the legendary lady. By the end of that Christmas season in 1958, each of the Barnharts has been touched by Dowdel. *Kirkus* called this “one of Peck's best novels yet—and that's saying something.” (Ages 10-14)

The Wizard of Rondo

Emily Rodda
Scholastic / October / 9780545115162 / \$16.99

Rondo, the world inside Leo's music box, is populated by remarkable beings animal, vegetable and even mineral, and Leo and Mimi's return there is marked with the same sense of magic and adventure that distinguished the first book in the series. With references to fairy tales and nursery rhymes abounding, the tale exhibits a keen respect for the child reader. According to *Kirkus*, “[familiarity] with *The Key to Rondo* (2008) is the only prerequisite for loving...this wondrous world.” (Ages 9-12)



The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau

By Dan Yaccarino

Knopf / March / 9780375855733; 9780375955730 (Lib. Ed.) / \$16.99; \$19.99

Layers of translucent paint escort readers into the ocean's deeps, or the strange, beguiling world of Jacques Cousteau. "I'd been playing around with a new illustration technique and kept coming up with underwater images," says Dan Yaccarino. "After a while, a scuba diver began to appear, which triggered memories of growing up watching *The Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau*." The artwork is highly atmospheric, teeming geometric, stylized sea creatures, leaving readers little mystery why Cousteau would be so smitten by such a place. This biography is an easeful introduction—the early years when swimming was his physical therapy, his growing enchantment with the sea world as he invented ever-more-sophisticated devices to stay underwater, the various means he used to bring life in the ocean to a worldwide audience. "I thought that today's young readers should be aware that Jacques Cousteau dedicated his life to our planet in hopes that one of them will take up where he left off," says the author. Yaccarino makes it clear that, like Rachel Carson, Cousteau was not just in the right place at the right time—he helped make it the right time for an environmental awareness of the ocean's fragility. The ocean worked its wonder on Cousteau, and he worked it on us. (Ages 5-8)



Hook

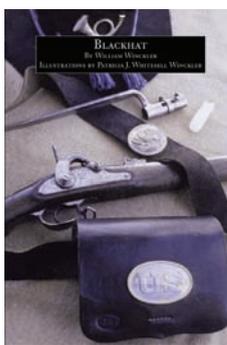
Ed Young

Roaring Brook / April / 9781596433632 / \$17.95

Hook is a masterful work, with its artful, elemental complement of word and image. A young Southwest Native American boy finds an egg on the loose, no nest or guardian in sight. He leaves the egg in a hen's care, but it is evident, upon hatching, that this is no chicken, with its serious talons and arched beak—Hook is an eagle. So begins, set against a big-sky, ochre-dominated landscape, Hook's bumpy road to identity, a road that is smoothed by the loving and encouraging hands of others. "I have had *Hook* for over 14 years under other titles, renditions and rejects. None seemed to work—wrong editors, wrong publishers and wrong timing," says Caldecott Medalist Ed Young. "Meanwhile, I had adopted a child from China and enlisted her education to a Rudolph Steiner school, called Waldorf, under the loving care of a remarkable teacher. At their graduation this past summer when *Hook* was published, I sat among all the graduating parents at the ceremony and watched from their eyes, each of their own eaglets turned eagle taking flight. The right time at last." As composed and wise as the tale may be, however, it also has dramatic pacing—a dash of spice for a savory story. (Ages 3-6)

Bookmarks

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Camille Matthews

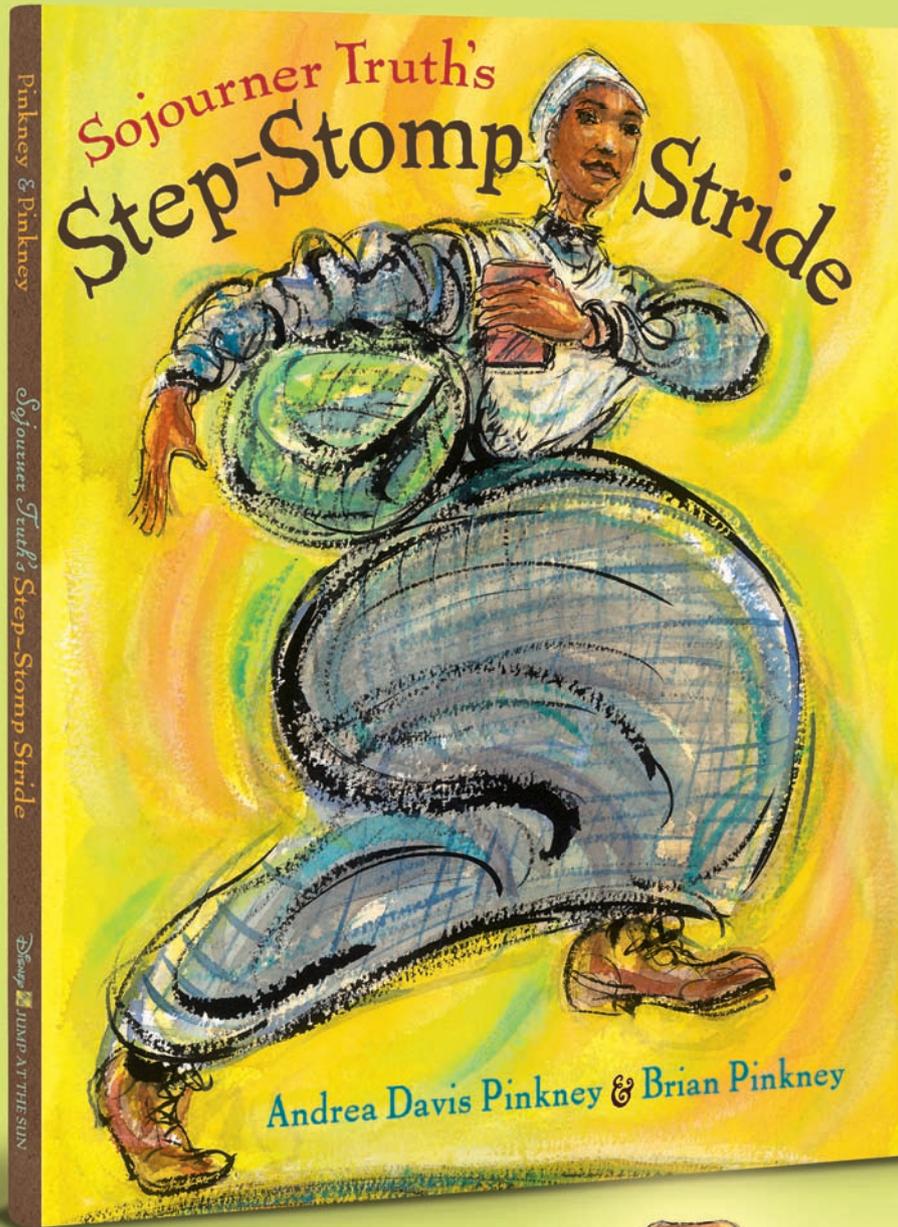
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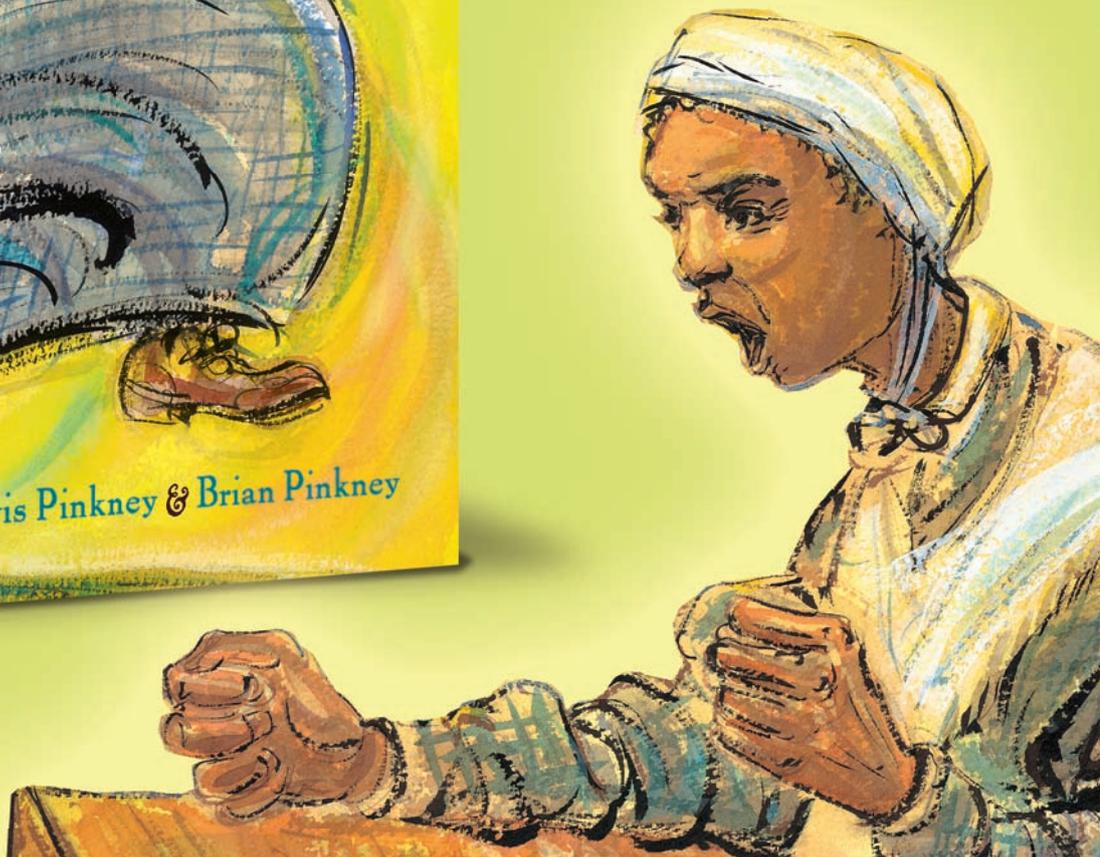
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—*School Library Journal*, (for Duke Ellington)



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