

PICTURE THIS

Recommendation List

Compiled by the WSRA Children's Literature Committee for the 2018 Convention
from titles published between September 2016-December 2017

Committee members dedicate themselves to reading widely to evaluate the newest books published each year, in order to recommend the most interesting and valuable books for educators and children to read.

Submitted and nominated titles are evaluated based on appeal for students and value for classroom use while also representing high-quality literature with a focus on diversity, authenticity, real-world awareness, thought-provoking response, engaging storytelling, artistry of writing craft, and exemplary illustrations.

Fiction

A Beetle is Shy by Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by Sylvia Long (Chronicle Books, 2016)

The award-winning duo of Dianna Hutts Aston and Sylvia Long team up again, this time creating a gorgeous look at the fascinating world of beetles. From flea beetles to bombardier beetles, an incredible variety of these beloved bugs are showcased here in all their splendor. Poetic in voice and elegant in design, this carefully researched and visually striking book is perfect for sparking children's imaginations in both classroom reading circles and home libraries.

A New School Year: Stories in Six Voices by Sally Derby (Charlesbridge, 2017)

Text and illustrations present a collection of poems in which readers meet a diverse group of six children ranging in age from Kindergarten through fifth grade. With nerves and excitement each child gears up for a new school year by hustling in the morning, meeting new teachers and new classmates during the day, and heading home with homework and relief by day's end.

A River by Marc Martin (Chronicle Books, 2017)

There's a river outside my window. Where will it take me? So begins the imaginary journey of a child inspired by the view outside her bedroom window: a vast river winding through a towering city. A small boat with a single white sail floats down the river and takes her from factories to farmlands, freeways to forests, out to the stormy and teeming depths of the ocean, and finally back to the comforts--and inspirations--of home.

A Squiggly Story by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Mike Lowery (Kids Can Press, 2016)

A young boy wants to write a story, just like his big sister. But there's a problem, he tells her. Though he knows his letters, he doesn't know many words. "Every story starts with a single word and every word starts with a single letter," his sister explains patiently. "Why don't you start there, with a letter?" So the boy tries. He writes a letter. An easy letter. The letter I. And from that one skinny letter, the story grows, and the little boy discovers that all of us, including him, have what we need to write our own perfect story.

Abigail the Whale by Davide Cali, illustrated by Sonja Bougaeva (OwlKids Books, 2016)

Abigail dreads swimming lessons. Every time she dives into the pool, she makes a big splash, and all the girls in her class shout: "Abigail's a whale!" Abigail can see that she is larger than the other girls. She feels huge, heavy, and out of place. Abigail's swimming teacher takes her aside and points out: we can change how we see ourselves. He offers a creative visualization technique she can use to feel bolder, more confident, and more accepting of herself. Abigail tries it out in challenging situations that week. The next time she's in swimming class, instead of feeling heavy, Abigail thinks sardine, eel, barracuda, shark! She starts to figure out how to draw on mindfulness, creative thinking, resilience, and positive self-esteem to embrace exactly who she is. This picture book supports social/emotional learning and serves as a perfect jumping-off point for topics like bullying, empathy, confidence, and creative problem solving.

After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again by Dan Santat (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

Everyone knows that when Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. But what happened after? Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat's poignant tale follows Humpty Dumpty, an avid bird watcher whose favorite place to be is high up on the city wall--that is, until after his famous fall. Now terrified of heights, Humpty can no longer do many of the things he loves most. Will he summon the courage to face his fear? *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* is a masterful picture book that will remind readers of all ages that Life begins when you get back up.

All the Way to Havana by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Mike Curato (Henry Holt and Company, 2017)

So we purr, cara cara, and we glide, taka taka, and we zoom, zoom, ZOOM! Together, a boy and his parents drive to the city of Havana, Cuba, in their old family car. Along the way, they experience the sights and sounds of the streets--neighbors talking, musicians performing, and beautiful, colorful cars putt-putting and bumpety-bumping along. In the end, though, it's their old car, Cara Cara, that the boy loves best. A joyful celebration of the Cuban people and their resourceful innovation.

Baabwaa and Wooliam by David Elliott, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Candlewick, 2017)

Baabwaa is a sheep who loves to knit. Wooliam is a sheep who loves to read. It sounds a bit boring, but they like it. Then, quite unexpectedly, a third sheep shows up. A funny-looking sheep who wears a tattered wool coat and has long, dreadfully decaying teeth. Wooliam, being well-read, recognizes their new acquaintance: the Wolf in Sheep's Clothing! The wolf is so flattered to discover his literary reputation precedes him that he stops trying to eat Baabwaa and Wooliam. And a discovery by the sheep turns the encounter into an unexpected friendship.

Be Quiet by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney-Hyperion, 2017)

All Rupert the mouse wants is to star in a beautiful, wordless picture book. One that's visually stimulating! With scenic pictures! And style! He has plenty of ideas about what makes a great book, but his friends just WON'T. STOP. TALKING.

Beautiful by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff (Running Press Kids, 2016)

Every girl is unique, talented, and lovable. . . Every girl is BEAUTIFUL. Much more than how one looks on the outside, true beauty is found in conquering challenges, showing kindness, and spreading contagious laughter. Beautiful girls are empowered and smart and strong! Beautiful breaks barriers by showing girls free to be themselves: splashing in mud, conducting science experiments, and reading books under a flashlight with friends. This book will encourage all girls to embrace who they are and realize their endless potential.

Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book by Patricia Hegarty, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2016)

Through a hole in the book's cover, a bee is buzzing inside a flower. Peek into this bright and lively book and discover the big ways this little insect contributes to the beauty of the environment, from pollinating colorful flowers to buzzing about the bright and beautiful meadow. With clever peekaboo holes throughout, each page reveals new flowers and plants, plus a look inside a beehive as the bees work together to help a plant grow.

Big Cat, Little Cat by Elisha Cooper (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

There was a cat who lived alone. Until the day a new cat came . . . And so a story of friendship begins, following two cats through their days, months, and years until one day, the older cat has to go. And he doesn't come back.

Blue Sky, White Stars by Sarvinder Naberhaus, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Wonderfully spare, deceptively simple verses pair with richly evocative paintings to celebrate the iconic imagery of our nation, beginning with the American flag. Each spread, sumptuously illustrated by award-winning artist Kadir Nelson, depicts a stirring tableau, from the view of the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island to civil rights marchers shoulder to shoulder, to a spacecraft at Cape Canaveral blasting off. This book is an ode to America then and now, from sea to shining sea.

Bruce's Big Move by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney-Hyperion, 2017)

After the events of *Hotel Bruce*, our favorite curmudgeonly bear shares his home with not only his four geese, but three rowdy mice besides! Fed up with their shenanigans, Bruce sets off to find a rodent-free household. But as usual, nothing goes quite according to plan. A hilarious sequel for fans of the previous Bruce books, as well as a standalone discovery for new readers, Bruce's next reluctant adventure is sure to keep kids giggling.

Cityblock by Christopher Franceschelli, illustrated Peskimo (Abrams Appleseed, 2016)

Cityblock explores city life in an exciting and unique way, from up in a high-rise building to down in the subway. Divided into three sections--things that go, things to see, and things to eat--it features 24 different aspects of city living. As with the other acclaimed books in the series, die-cut icons hint at the larger context on the next spread. Each section opens with a full city scene but gradually focuses in on the small, unique neighborhoods that make the city large and grand.

Claymates by Dev Petty, illustrated by Lauren Eldridge (Little, Brown & Company, 2017)

Meet the claymates: two balls of clay that can become anything--even best friends! What can you do with two blobs of clay? Create something amazing! But don't leave them alone for too long. Things might get a little crazy. In this photographic friendship adventure, the claymates squish, smash, and sculpt themselves into the funniest shapes imaginable. But can they fix a giant mess before they're caught in the act?

Come With Me by Holly McGhee, illustrated by Pascal Lemaitre (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017)

When the news reports are flooded with tales of hatred and fear, a girl asks her papa what she can do to make the world a better place. "Come with me," he says. Hand-in-hand, they walk to the subway, tipping their hats to those they meet. The next day, the girl asks her mama what she can do--her mama says, "Come with me," and together they set out for the grocery, because one person doesn't represent an entire race or the people of a land. After dinner that night, the little girl asks if she can do something of her own--walk the dog . . . and her parents let her go. "Come with me," the girl tells the boy across the hall. Walking together, one step at a time, the girl and the boy begin to see that as small and insignificant as their part may seem, it matters to the world.

Creepy Pair of Underwear by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Jasper Rabbit is NOT a little bunny anymore. He's not afraid of the dark, and he's definitely not afraid of something as silly as underwear. But when the lights go out, suddenly his new big rabbit underwear glows in the dark. A ghoulish, greenish glow. If Jasper didn't know any better he'd say his undies were a little, well, creepy. Jasper's not scared obviously, he's just done with creepy underwear. But after trying everything to get rid of them, they keep coming back! (Companion to ***Creepy Carrots*** by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Peter Brown, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012).

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick D. Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James (Agate Bolden, 2017)

The barbershop is where the magic happens. Boys go in as lumps of clay and, with princely robes draped around their shoulders, a dab of cool shaving cream on their foreheads, and a slow, steady cut, they become royalty. That crisp yet subtle line makes boys sharper, more visible, more aware of every great thing that could happen to them when they look good: lesser grades turn into As; girls take notice; even a mother's hug gets a little tighter. Everyone notices. A fresh cut makes boys fly. *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut* is a high-spirited, engaging salute to the beautiful, raw, assured humanity of black boys and how they see themselves when they approve of their reflections in the mirror.

Dad and the Dinosaur by Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by Dan Santat (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017)

A heartwarming father-son story about bravery and facing fears. Nicholas was afraid of the dark outside his door, the bushes where the giant bugs live, and the underside of manhole covers. His dad was not afraid of anything. Nicholas wants to be as brave as his dad, but he needs help. That's why he needs a dinosaur. After all, dinosaurs like the dark, bugs are nothing to them, and they eat manhole covers for lunch (and everything under them for dinner). With his toy dinosaur, Nicholas can scale tall walls, swim in deep water, even score a goal against the huge goalie everyone calls Gorilla. But when the dinosaur goes missing, everything is scary again. Luckily, his dad knows that even the bravest people can get scared, and it's okay to ask for help facing your fears. It's just guy stuff.

Draw the Line by Kathryn Otoshi (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

When two boys draw their own lines and realize they can connect them together--magic happens! But a misstep causes their lines to get crossed. Push! Pull! Tug! Yank! Soon their line unravels into an angry tug-of-war. With a growing rift between them, will the boys ever find a way to come together again? Acclaimed author/illustrator Kathryn Otoshi uses black and white illustrations with thoughtful splashes of color to create a powerful, multi-layered statement about friendship, boundaries, and healing after conflict.

Early Sunday Morning by Denene Millner, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton (Agate Bolden, 2017)

Love and family. These are the things that a little girl finds most special about Sunday mornings. Readers spend the weekend with June as she collects helpful pieces of advice on how to be less nervous about her big solo. Along the way, she visits the barbershop with Mommy and Troy, gets her hair done by Mommy, receives a special dress from her aunt, and shares her family ritual of getting ready for Sunday morning service. As her special moment approaches, June leans on the support of her whole family, as well as advice from her father, to conquer her fear of singing in front of the congregation.

Everyone Loves Cupcake by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Eric Wight (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016)

Cupcake dresses to impress. Her smile is brilliant. Her wave is flawless. She even wears a tiara. Everyone loves a tiara. And Cupcake wants everyone to love her. But when she tries too hard to make everyone happy, she crumbles under the pressure and realizes that sometimes just being yourself is enough.

Flowers for Sarajevo by John McCutcheon, illustrated by Kristy Caldwell (Peachtree Publishers, 2017)

Drasko helps his father sell flowers in Sarajevo, but when war threatens and his father is called to the battlefield, Drasko must take over the flower stall. One morning the boy's familiar routine is shattered when a mortar shell hits the bakery, killing twenty-two people. The next day, a cellist from the Sarajevo Opera Orchestra goes to the crater and plays the most beautiful music that Drasko can imagine. Inspired, he looks for ways to ease the sorrow of those around him. Based on real events of the Bosnian War, award-winning songwriter and storyteller John McCutcheon tells the uplifting story of the power of beauty in the face of violence and suffering.

Happy Dreamer by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books, 2017)

Peter Reynolds brings us a universally poignant celebration of the colorful spectrum of what it means to dream and the many ways to find happy! While the world tells us to sit still, to follow the rules, and to color inside the lines, Happy Dreamer celebrates all those moments in between when the mind and spirit soar and we are free to become our own true dreamer maximus! In Peter's signature voice and style, this empowering picture book reminds children of how much their dreams matter, and while life will have ups and downs, he enlists readers to stay true to who they are, to tap into their most creative inner selves, and to never ever forget to dream big!

Hello Goodbye Dog by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

For Zara's dog, Moose, nothing is more important than being with his favorite girl. So when Zara has to go to school, WHOOSH, Moose escapes and rushes to her side. Hello, Moose! Unfortunately, dogs aren't allowed at school and Moose has to go back home. Goodbye, Moose. But Moose can't be held back for long. Through a series of escalating escapes, this loyal dog always finds her way back to Zara, and with a little bit of training and one great idea, the two friends find a way to be together all day long.

Hey Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Little, Brown and Company, 2017)
Six-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and four-time Caldecott Honor recipient Bryan Collier brings this classic, inspirational poem to life, written by poet Useni Eugene Perkins.

Hey black child,
Do you know who you are?
Who really are?

Do you know you can be
What you want to be
If you try to be
What you can be?

This lyrical, empowering poem celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young people to dream big and achieve their goals.

Hotel Bruce by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney-Hyperion, 2016)

When Bruce gets home from a southern migration trip with his goslings, he is tired. He is grumpy. And he is definitely not in the mood to share his home with the trio of mice who have turned his den into a hotel. There's a possum pillow fight wreaking havoc in one room, a fox luring guests into a stew in the kitchen, and a snuggly crew of critters hogging the bed. Bruce growls and grumbles and tries to throw them all out, but the entrepreneurial mice just can't take a hint. Bruce is in a little over his head, especially once the goslings join the staff. Will this grumpy bear ever get his quiet, peaceful den back to himself?

Hooray for Books! by Brian Won (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Turtle has looked everywhere for his favorite book, but it's nowhere to be found! Maybe his book was borrowed by Zebra, Owl, Giraffe, Elephant, or Lion. As Turtle searches, his friends offer to share their own favorite stories, but other books just won't do. Or is it time for Turtle to try something different?

I Am (Not) Scared by Anna Kang, illustrated by Christopher Weyant (Two Lions, 2017)

Two fuzzy friends go to an amusement park. They try to convince each other that there are much scarier things than the roller coaster. Hairy spiders! Aliens! Fried ants! They soon discover that sometimes being scared isn't as "scary" as they thought. With expressive illustrations and simple text, this giggle-inducing tale about (not) being scared features the endearing characters from the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award winner *You Are (Not) Small*.

I Am a Story by Dan Yaccarino (HarperCollins, 2016)

From cave drawings to the invention of the printing press to our digital age, discover how a story has been told in many different ways from the past to today. It's always been around, making us happy, sad, excited, or scared and bringing people together. With simple text and delightful illustrations, Dan Yaccarino reminds us of the power of story.

I'm Silly! (My First Comics) by Jennifer L. Holm, illustrated by Matthew Holm (Random House Books for Young Readers, 2017)

In *I'm Silly!*, a new comic board-book series about feelings, a hyperactive tornado gets a bit TOO goofy and ruins his friends' tea party. A sweet, funny, and simple introduction to the impact that emotions can have on the people around you.

If Sharks Disappeared by Lily Williams (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

A healthy ocean is home to many different kinds of animals. They can be big, like a whale, tiny, like a shrimp, and even scary, like a shark. Even though sharks can be scary, we need them to keep the oceans healthy. Unfortunately, due to overfishing, many shark species are in danger of extinction, and that can cause big problems in the oceans and even on land. What would happen if this continued and sharks disappeared completely? Artist Lily Williams explores how the disappearance would affect other animals across the whole planet in this clever book about the importance of keeping sharks, and our oceans, healthy.

In the Middle of Fall by Kevin Henkes, illustrated by Laura Dronzek (Greenwillow Books, 2017)

Kevin Henkes and Laura Dronzek explore the sounds, sights, smells, and textures of a new season--fall--in this gorgeously illustrated picture book. In the middle of fall, the sky is nearly gray, the leaves have already turned, and all it takes is one gust of wind to turn the world yellow and red and orange. Kevin Henkes's layered text features striking imagery, repetition, and alliteration to introduce basic concepts of language. Laura Dronzek's expressive paintings illuminate the transformation from colorful autumn to frosty winter. This engaging and vibrant picture book is ideal for story time, classroom sharing, and bedtime reading all year long.

It is Not Time for Sleeping by Lisa Graff, illustrated by Lauren Castillo (Clarion Books, 2016)

As the day comes to an end, bedtime draws near. But the little boy in this book is quite sure it is NOT time for sleeping. As each piece of his evening routine is completed--helping with the dishes, playing with the dog, getting into pajamas, brushing teeth with Dad, being tucked in by Mom, and listening to a story--he becomes a little more certain: it is definitely not time for sleeping. The question is, when WILL it be time for sleeping? A rhythmic, cumulative text and lush twilight scenes come together to create a perfect bedtime book that will be treasured for generations to come.

It Takes a Village by Hillary Rodham Clinton, illustrated by Marla Frazee (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2017)

It Takes a Village tells the heartwarming and universal story of a diverse community coming together to make a difference. All kinds of people working together, playing together, and living together in harmony makes a better village and many villages coming together can make a better world. Together we can build a better life for one another. Together we can change our world. The book will resonate with children and families and through the generations as it encourages readers to look for a way they can make a difference. It is a book that you will surely want to read again and again, a book you will want to share and a book that will inspire.

It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk by Josh Funk, illustrated by Edwardian Taylor (Two Lions, 2017)

Jack is not fond of the bossy narrator of his fairy tale! When Jack is told to trade his beloved cow Bessie for some magic beans, throw the beans out the window, climb the ENORMOUS beanstalk that sprouts overnight, and steal from a GIANT, he decides this fairy tale is getting out of control. In fact, he doesn't want to follow the storyline at all. Who says Jack needs to enter a life of daring, thievery, and giant trickery? He takes his story into his own hands--and you'll never guess what happens next!

Jabari Jumps by Gaia Cornwall (Candlewick Press, 2017)

Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so he's not scared at all. "Looks easy," says Jabari, watching the other kids take their turns. But when his dad squeezes his hand, Jabari squeezes back. He needs to figure out what kind of special jump to do anyway, and he should probably do some stretches before climbing up onto the diving board. In a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.

La La La: A Story of Hope by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Jaime King (Candlewick Press, 2017)

"La la la . . . la." A little girl stands alone and sings, but hears no response. Gathering her courage and her curiosity, she skips farther out into the world, singing away to the trees and the pond and the reeds -- but no song comes back to her. Day passes into night, and the girl dares to venture into the darkness toward the light of the moon, becoming more insistent in her singing, climbing as high as she can, but still there is silence in return. Dejected, she falls asleep on the ground, only to be awakened by an amazing sound. . . . She has been heard. At last. With the simplest of narratives and the near absence of words, Kate DiCamillo conveys a lonely child's yearning for someone who understands. With a subtle palette and captivating expressiveness, Jaime Kim brings to life an endearing character and a transcendent landscape that invite readers along on an emotionally satisfying journey.

La Princesa and the Pea by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2017)

The Princess and the Pea gets a fresh twist in this charming bilingual retelling. El principe knows this girl is the one for him, but, as usual, his mother doesn't agree. The queen has a secret test in mind to see if this girl is really a princesa. But the prince might just have a sneaky plan, too. Readers will be enchanted by this Latino twist on the classic story, and captivated by the vibrant art inspired by the culture of Peru.

Letters to a Prisoner by Jacques Goldstyn (OwlKids Books, 2017)

Letters to a Prisoner is a wordless story about the power of hope and the written word. Inspired by Amnesty International's letter-writing campaigns to help free people who have been jailed for expressing their opinion, the book tells the story of a man who is arrested during a peaceful protest. In solitary confinement, he begins to despair--until a bird delivers a letter of support written by somebody outside the prison. Every day more missives arrive until the prisoner escapes his fate on wings made of letters.

Life by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel (Beach Lane Books, 2017)

Life begins small, then grows...There are so many wonderful things about life, both in good times and in times of struggle. Through the eyes of the world's animals--including elephants, monkeys, whales, and more--Cynthia Rylant offers a moving meditation on finding beauty around us every day and finding strength in adversity. Brendan Wenzel's stunning landscapes and engaging creatures make this an inspiring and intriguing gift for readers of all ages.

Lines by Suzy Lee (Chronicle Books, 2017)

With the lightest of touches, this masterwork blurs the lines between real and imagined, reminding us why Lee's books have been lauded around the world, recognized on New York Times Best Illustrated Books lists and nominated for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest international honor given to children's book creators. This seemingly simple story about a young skater on a frozen pond will charm the youngest of readers while simultaneously astounding book enthusiasts of any age.

Little Fox in the Forest by Stephanie Graegin (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2017)

When a young girl brings her beloved stuffed fox to the playground, much to her astonishment, a real fox takes off with it! The girl chases the fox into the woods with her friend, the boy, following close behind, but soon the two children lose track of the fox. Wandering deeper and deeper into the forest, they come across a tall hedge with an archway. What do they find on the other side? A marvelous village of miniature stone cottages, tiny treehouses, and, most extraordinary of all, woodland creatures of every shape and size. But where is the little fox? And how will they find him?

Little Red Riding Sheep by Linda Ravin Lodding, illustrated by Cale Atkinson (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017)

The beloved classic, Little Red Riding Hood, has never had a cuter, more enthusiastic star than Arnold in this witty picture book that's perfect for reading aloud. Arnold is an eager young sheep who is excited to be in his very first book. No problem-o! Except he's a bit big and fluffy to play Little Red Riding Hood, and he's a tiny bit scared of the deep dark woods. Oh, and he has a friend who would be just perfect as Granny...perhaps the author wouldn't mind a few suggestions?

Miguel and the Grand Harmony by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Ana Ramírez (Disney Press, 2017)

Inspired by the film *Coco* --La Música exists in many places and brings color and life wherever she goes, connecting people to a grand harmony. When Música discovers a boy with longing in his heart and no music in his home, she vows to help him find his passion.

Most People by Michael Leannah, illustrated by J.E. Morris (Tilbury House Publishers, 2017)

Most People is an antidote to the scary words and images kids hear and see every day. Jennifer Morris's emotive, diverting characters provide the perfect complement to Leannah's words, leading us through the crowded streets of an urban day in the company of two pairs of siblings (one of color). We see what they see: the hulking dude with tattoos and chains assisting an elderly lady onto the bus; the Goth teenager with piercings and purple Mohawk returning a lost wallet to its owner; and the myriad interactions of daily existence, most of them well intended. Most People is a courageous, constructive response to the dystopian world of the news media.

My Beautiful Birds by Suzanne Del Rizzo (Pajama Press, 2017)

Fleeing a home destroyed in the Syrian Civil War, Sami worries about the pet pigeons he left behind. Even in the relative safety of a refugee camp, the boy struggles to participate in daily activities, consumed by thoughts of safety of what he has lost. At last, when new birds need of care enter his life, Sami begins the long road to healing.

My Kicks: A Sneaker Story! by Susan Verde, illustrated by Katie Kath (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Boys love sneakers. But when a child finds that his toes have outgrown his favorite shoes, and they've gotten too dirty and smelly, his mom says it's time for a new pair. Resistant to let go, the boy reminisces about all the good times he's had with his favorite kicks on the city streets. This new picture book from the bestselling author of *I Am Yoga* explores the love and pride that kids have for their sneakers and the joy that can be found in growing up, growing out, and moving on.

Nope by Dre Sheneman (Viking, 2017)

A nurturing mama bird, a fearful baby, and a nest in a tall, tall tree. Ready, set, soar? Nope! Sweetly and humorously told, here is a sparkling debut about the joys that come from embracing new experiences, written and illustrated by nationally-syndicated cartoonist Drew Sheneman.

Not Quite Narwhal by Jessie Sima (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Growing up in the ocean, Kelp has always assumed that he was a narwhal like the rest of his family. Sure, he's always been a little bit different--his tusk isn't as long, he's not as good of a swimmer, and he really doesn't enjoy the cuisine. Then one night, an extra strong current sweeps Kelp to the surface, where he spots a mysterious creature that looks just like him! Kelp discovers that he and the creature are actually unicorns. The revelation leaves him torn: is he a land narwhal or a sea unicorn? But perhaps, if Kelp is clever, he may find a way to have the best of both worlds.

Nothing Rhymes with Orange by Adam Rex (Chronicle Books, 2017)

We all know nothing rhymes with orange. But how does that make Orange feel? Well, left out! When a parade of fruit gets together to sing a song about how wonderful they are--and the song happens to rhyme--Orange can't help but feel like it's impossible for him to ever fit in. But when one particularly intuitive Apple notices how Orange is feeling, the entire English language begins to become a bit more inclusive.

Now by Antoinette Portis (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

This is my favorite cloud. . .because it's the one I am watching. This is my favorite tree. . .because it's the one where I'm swinging. This is my favorite tooth. . .because it's the one that is missing. Follow a little girl as she takes you on a tour through all of her favorite things, from the holes she digs to the hugs she gives in *Now*, a clever and poignant picture book.

Owl Bat Bat Owl by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick (Candlewick Press, 2017)

Can two very different families find their space in the world together? A wonderful wordless picture book offers stylish art, humor, and charm. A mother owl and her three little owlets live happily on their branch. That is, until the bat family moves in. The newfound neighbors (owls up top, bats hanging below) can't help but feel a little wary of one another. But babies are curious little creatures, and that curiosity, along with a wild, stormy night, might just bring these two families together.

Poor Louie by Tony Fucile (Candlewick Press, 2017)

Louie's life is great! A walk on the leash every morning, ice cream on Sundays, snuggling in bed at night with Mom and Dad. Even the playdates with Mom's friends -- despite their little crawling creatures who pull Louie's ears -- aren't all that bad. But then things get weird: cold food on the floor, no room in the bed, and lots of new stuff coming into the house in pairs -- two small beds, two little sweaters, two seats in the stroller. Does that bode double trouble ahead, or could there be a happier surprise in store for Louie?

Professional Crocodile by Giovanna Zoboli, illustrated by Mariachiara Di Giorgio (Chronicle Books, 2017)

Mr. Crocodile loves his job. Every morning he gets up with an alarm. He brushes his teeth. He chooses the right tie to match his outfit, eats a quick slice of toast, and heads off to work on a crowded train. But what exactly is his job? The answer may surprise you! Readers will want to pore over this witty, wordless book again and again, finding new details and fresh stories with every reading.

Red & Lulu by Matt Tavares (Candlewick Press, 2017)

Red and Lulu make their nest in a particularly beautiful evergreen tree. It shades them in the hot months and keeps them cozy in the cold months, and once a year the people who live nearby string lights on their tree and sing a special song: O Christmas Tree. But one day, something unthinkable happens, and Red and Lulu are separated. It will take a miracle for them to find each other again. Luckily, it's just the season for miracles.

Renato and the Lion by Barbara DiLorenzo (Viking, 2017)

Renato loves his home in Florence, Italy. He loves playing with his friends in the Piazza della Signoria. He loves walking home by the beautiful buildings and fountains with his father in the evenings. And he especially loves the stone lion who seems to smile at him from a pedestal in the piazza. The lion makes him feel safe. But one day his father tells him that their family must leave. Their country is at war, and they will be safer in America. Renato can only think of his lion. Who will keep him safe?

Rolling Thunder by Kate Messner, illustrated by Greg Ruth (Scholastic Press, 2017)

Each Memorial Day in Washington, DC, more than a million veterans and their supporters gather for the Rolling Thunder Run, a motorcycle rally that pays tribute to the American armed forces. Following one boy's experience with his grandfather, this lyrical story, penned by Kate Messner and illustrated by Greg Ruth, honors the bravery and sacrifice of American heroes - those who have returned home, and those who haven't.

Sam & Eva by Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017)

A sweet and funny picture book about a boy and girl who must balance their creativity and figure out how to cooperate after their drawings come to life. When Sam starts drawing a super cool velociraptor, Eva decides to join in. But Sam isn't too happy about the collaboration. Soon Eva and Sam are locked in an epic creative clash, bringing to life everything from superhero marmots to exploding confetti. But when their masterpieces turn to mayhem will Sam stay stubbornly solo or will he realize that sometimes the best work comes from teamwork?

Sarabella's Thinking Cap by Judy Schachner (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Sarabella is always thinking--conjuring, daydreaming, and creating new worlds from her imagination. There is so much going on in her head that it can barely be contained. But there are times when daydreaming is decidedly not a good thing--like when you're supposed to be doing multiplication tables. Luckily, Sarabella has an understanding teacher, and with his encouragement, she comes up with her own idea to show everyone who she is.

Stay: a Girl, a Dog, and a Bucket List by Kate Klise, illustrated by Sarah M. Klise (Feiwel & Friends, 2017)

Eli the dog has been with Astrid since her parents brought her home from the hospital as a baby. Now Astrid is getting older, and so is Eli. Before he slows down too much, Astrid wants to make fun memories with him. So she makes a bucket list for Eli, which includes experiences such as eating with him in a restaurant, and taking him down a slide at the playground. But in the end, what is most important to Eli is the time he spends with Astrid,

whom he loves dearly. Sisters Kate and M. Sarah Klise have created a story that reminds readers of all ages that time with our loved ones is the most precious gift of all.

Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey by Margriet Ruurs, illustrated by Nizar Ali Badr (Orca Book Publishers, 2017)

This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, discovered by chance by Canadian children's writer Margriet Ruurs. The author was immediately impressed by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr's work, and, using many of Mr. Badr's already-created pieces, she set out to create a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. *Stepping Stones* tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging ever closer to their home. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother, Sami, set out to walk to freedom in Europe.

Stolen Words by Melanie Florence, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard (Second Story Press, 2017)

The story of the beautiful relationship between a little girl and her grandfather. When she asks her grandfather how to say something in his language - Cree - he admits that his language was stolen from him when he was a boy. The little girl then sets out to help her grandfather find his language again. This sensitive and warmly illustrated picture book explores the intergenerational impact of the residential school system that separated young Indigenous children from their families. The story recognizes the pain of those whose culture and language were taken from them, how that pain is passed down, and how healing can also be shared.

That is My Dream! by Langston Hughes, illustrated by Daniel Miyares (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2017)

Langston Hughes's inspiring and timeless message of pride, joy, and the dream of a better life is brilliantly and beautifully interpreted in Miyares' gorgeous artwork. Follow one African-American boy through the course of his day as the harsh reality of segregation and racial prejudice comes into vivid focus. The boy dreams of a different life--one full of freedom, hope, and wild possibility, where he can fling his arms wide in the face of the sun.

That Neighbor Kid by Daniel Miyares (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017)

There's a new boy in the neighborhood, and he's up to something very curious. His next door neighbor, a girl his age with two long braids, peeps around corners and watches as he scavenges wood from the fence between their houses, drags around a hammer and a bucket of nails, and reads a book about living in trees. When she finally works up the courage to say "hi," she finds herself invited to help build the private getaway every child has dreamed of: a tree house. She also finds herself with a new best friend.

The Antlered Ship by Dashka Slater, illustrated by the Fan Brothers (Beach Lane Books, 2017)

Marco the fox has a lot of questions, like: how deep does the sun go when it sinks into the sea? And why do birds have such lizardy feet? But none of the other foxes share his curiosity. So when a magnificent ship adorned with antlers and with a deer for a captain arrives at the dock looking for a crew, Marco volunteers, hoping to find foxes who are as inquisitive as he is that can answer his questions. The crew finds adventure and intrigue on their journey. And, at last, Marco finds the answer to his most important question of all: What's the best way to find a friend you can talk to?

The Bad Seed by Jory John, illustrated by Pete Oswald (HarperCollins, 2017).

This is a book about a bad seed. A baaaaaaaaaad seed. How bad? Do you really want to know? He has a bad temper, bad manners, and a bad attitude. He's been bad since he can remember! But what happens when one mischievous little seed changes his mind about himself, and decides that he wants to be--happy?

The Book of Mistakes by Corinna Luyken (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017)

One eye was bigger than the other. That was a mistake. The weird cat-cow-frog thing? Well, it made an excellent bush. And the inky smudges . . . they look as though they were always meant to be leaves floating gently across the sky. As one artist incorporates accidental splotches, spots, and misshapen things into her art, she transforms her piece in quirky and unexpected ways, taking readers on a journey through her process.

The Journey by Francesca Sanna (Flying Eye Books, 2016)

With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned.

The Legend of Rock, Paper, Scissors by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Adam Rex (Balzer+Bray, 2017)

From acclaimed, bestselling creators Drew Daywalt, author of *The Day the Crayons Quit* and *The Day the Crayons Came Home*, and Adam Rex, author-illustrator of *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, comes a laugh-out-loud hilarious picture book about the epic tale of the classic game Rock, Paper, Scissors.

The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet! by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin (Scholastic Press, 2017)

La Paz is a happy, but noisy village. A little peace and quiet would make it just right. So the villagers elect the bossy Don Pepe as their mayor. Before long, singing of any kind is outlawed. Even the teakettle is afraid to whistle! But there is one noisy rooster who doesn't give two mangos about this mayor's silly rules. Instead, he does what roosters were born to do. He sings: "Kee-kee-ree-KEE!"

The Treasure Box by Margaret Wild, illustrated by Freya Blackwood (Candlewick Press, 2017)

When the enemy bombs the library, everything burns, and only one book survives. As war rages around them, Peter and his father, alongside so many refugees, flee their home, taking with them a treasure box that holds something rarer than rubies and more precious than gold. They journey through mud and rain and long cold nights, and soon survival becomes more important than any possession. But as the years go by, Peter never forgets the treasure box, and one day he returns to find it.

The Wolf, the Duck, and the Mouse by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Candlewick Press, 2017)

When a woeful mouse is swallowed by a wolf, he quickly learns he is not alone: a duck has already set up digs, and, boy, has that duck got it figured out! Turns out it's pretty nice in there, with delicious food and elegant table settings, courtesy of the wolf's unchecked gluttony. And there's something even better: no more fear of being eaten by a wolf!

There Might Be Lobsters by Carolyn Crimi, illustrated by Laurel Molk (Candlewick, 2017)

Lots of things at the beach scare Suki. Lots. Because she is just a small dog, and the stairs are big and sandy, and the waves are big and whooshy, and the balls are big and beachy. And besides, there might be lobsters.

There's Nothing to Do by Dev Petty, illustrated by Mike Boldt (Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Frog is bored. He can't find ANYTHING to do--even when his animal friends make good suggestions, like sleeping all day, licking between his toes, or hopping around and then staring off into space. Will he find a fun and exciting way to spend his day?

Things To Do by Elaine Magliaro, illustrated by Catia Chien (Chronicle Books, 2017)

There are wonders everywhere. In the sky and on the ground--blooming in a flower bed, dangling from a silken thread, buzzing through the summer air--waiting ...waiting to be found.

This House, Once by Deborah Freedman (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Before there was this house,
there were stones,
and mud,
and a colossal oak tree--
three hugs around
and as high as the blue.

What was your home, once?

Watersong by Tim McCanna, illustrated by Richard Smythe (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2017)
In glorious onomatopoeia, Tim McCanna takes the reader on a dazzling journey as a fox seeks shelter from a rainstorm. As the rain begins, a little fox seeks shelter. But then it builds and builds into to a torrential storm. Both a visual feast and a joy to read aloud, this stunning picture book showcases the power and beauty of nature.

What a Beautiful Morning by Arthur A. Levine, illustrated by Katie Kath (Running Press Kids, 2016)
Every morning is beautiful when Noah visits his Grandparents. When Grandpa and Noah wake up, they take off singing and hardly stop: walking the dog, splashing through puddles, and eating French toast with cinnamon. But one summer Grandpa seems to have forgotten how to do the things they love. Does he even know who Noah is? Grandma steps in energetically, filling in as best she can. But it is Noah who finds the way back to something he can share with Grandpa. Something musical. Something that makes the morning beautiful again.

When We Were Alone by David Alexander Robertson, illustrated by Julie Flett (HighWater Press, 2016)
When a young girl helps tend to her grandmother's garden, she begins to notice things that make her curious. Why does her grandmother have long braided hair and beautifully colored clothing? Why does she speak another language and spend so much time with her family? As she asks her grandmother about these things, she is told about life in a residential school a long time ago, where all of these things were taken away.

Where Oliver Fits by Cale Atkinson (Tundra Books, 2017)
Oliver has always dreamed about where he will fit. Will he be in the mane of a unicorn? The tentacle of a pirate squid? The helmet of an astronaut? When he finally goes in search of his perfect place, he finds that trying to fit in is a lot harder than he thought. But like any puzzle, a little trial and error leads to a solution, and Oliver figures out exactly where he belongs.

Who Are You? by Brook Pessin-Whedbee, illustrated by Naomi Bardoff (Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2016)
An interactive three-layered wheel included in the book is a simple, yet powerful, tool to clearly demonstrate the difference between our body, how we express ourselves through our clothes and hobbies, and our gender identity.

Why Am I Me? by Paige Britt, illustrated by Selina Alko & Sean Qualls (Scholastic Press, 2017)
Have you ever wondered why you are you? Or who you would be if you were someone else? Someone taller, faster, smaller, smarter? Someone lighter, older, darker, bolder?

Windows by Julia Denos, illustrated by E.B. Goodale (Candlewick, 2017)
Walking his dog at dusk, one boy catches glimpses of the lives around him in this lovely ode to autumn evenings, exploring your neighborhood, and coming home.

Wolf in the Snow by Matthew Cordell (Feiwel and Friends, 2017)
A girl is lost in a snowstorm. A wolf cub is lost, too. How will they find their way home?

Non-Fiction: Biographies

A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: The Story of E.B. White by Barbara Herkert, illustrated by Lauren Castillo (Henry Holt, 2017)
When young Elwyn White lay in bed as a sickly child, a bold house mouse befriended him. When the time came for kindergarten, an anxious Elwyn longed for the farm, where animal friends awaited him at the end of each day. Propelled by his fascination with the outside world, he began to jot down his reflections in a journal. Writing filled him with joy, and words became his world.

Balderdash!: John Newbery and the Boisterous Birth of Children's Books by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Chronicle Books, 2017)

This rollicking and fascinating picture book biography chronicles the life of the first pioneer of children's books--John Newbery himself. While most children's books in the 18th century contained lessons and rules, John Newbery imagined them overflowing with entertaining stories, science, and games. He believed that every book should be made for the reader's enjoyment. This book about his life and legacy is as full of energy and delight as any young reader could wish.

Dumpling Dreams: How Joyce Chen Brought the Dumpling from Beijing to Cambridge by Carrie Clickard, illustrated by Katy Wu (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2017)

In this inspiring, mouthwatering story, get to know Chef Joyce Chen who is famous for popularizing Chinese food in the northeastern United States. Carrie Clickard's delectable rhymes tell the story of how Joyce Chen, a girl born in Communist China, immigrated to the United States and popularized Chinese cooking. Illustrator Katy Wu brings this inspiring story beautifully and deliciously to life.

Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code by Laurie Wallmark, illustrated by Katy Wu (Sterling Children's Books, 2017)

Who was Grace Hopper? A software tester, workplace jester, cherished mentor, ace inventor, avid reader, naval leader -- AND rule breaker, chance taker, and troublemaker. Grace Hopper coined the term "computer bug" and taught computers to "speak English." Throughout her life, Hopper succeeded in doing what no one had ever done before. Delighting in difficult ideas and in defying expectations, the insatiably curious Hopper truly was "Amazing Grace" . . . and a role model for science- and math-minded girls and boys.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers, 2016)

Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has spent a lifetime disagreeing: disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment, and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. This biographical picture book about the Notorious RBG, tells the justice's story through the lens of her many famous dissents, or disagreements.

John Ronald's Dragons: The Story of J.R.. Tolkien by Caroline McAlister, illustrated by Eliza Wheeler (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

John Ronald loved dragons. He liked to imagine dragons when he was alone, and with his friends, and especially when life got hard or sad. After his mother died and he had to live with a cold-hearted aunt, he looked for dragons. He searched for them at his boarding school. And when he fought in a Great War, he felt as if terrible, destructive dragons were everywhere. But he never actually found one, until one day, when he was a grown man but still very much a boy at heart, when he decided to create one of his own. A captivating picture book biography of a boy who imagined a world full of dragons and grew up to be beloved author J. R. R. Tolkien.

Keith Haring: The Boy Who Just Kept Drawing by Kay A. Haring, illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Dial Books For Young Readers, 2017)

This one-of-a-kind book explores the life and art of Keith Haring from his childhood through his meteoric rise to fame. It sheds light on this important artist's great humanity, his concern for children, and his disregard for the establishment art world. Reproductions of Keith's signature artwork appear in scenes boldly rendered by Robert Neubecker. This is a story to inspire, and a book for Keith Haring fans of all ages to treasure.

Malala: Activist for Girls' Education by Raphaela Frier, illustrated by Aurelia Fronty (Charlesbridge, 2017)

Malala Yousafzai stood up to the Taliban and fought for the right for all girls to receive an education. When she was just fifteen-years old, the Taliban attempted to kill Malala, but even this did not stop her activism. At age eighteen Malala became the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to ensure the education of all children around the world. Malala's courage and conviction will inspire young readers in this beautifully illustrated biography.

Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing by Dean Robbins, illustrated by Lucy Knisley (Alfred A. Knopf, 2017)

Margaret Hamilton loved numbers as a young girl. She knew how many miles it was to the moon (and how many back). She loved studying algebra and geometry and calculus and using math to solve problems in the outside world. Soon math led her to MIT and then to helping NASA put a man on the moon! She handwrote code that would allow the spacecraft's computer to solve any problems it might encounter. Apollo 8. Apollo 9. Apollo 10. Apollo 11. Without her code, none of those missions could have been completed.

Martina & Chrissie by Phil Bildner, illustrated by Brett Helquist (Candlewick, 2017)

Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert come from completely different places and play tennis in completely different ways. Chrissie is the all-American girl: practiced, poised, with perfect technique. Martina hails from Czechoslovakia, a Communist country, and her game is ruled by emotion. Everything about them is different, except one thing: they both want to be the best. But as their intense rivalry grows, something else begins to swing into place, and a friendship forms that will outlast all their tennis victories. Phil Bildner and Brett Helquist tell the engaging true story of these two masters of the court as they win title after title -- and, most importantly, the hearts of the fans.

Maya Lin: Artist-Architect of Light and Lines by Jeanne Walker Harvey, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk (Henry Holt & Company, 2017)

You may be familiar with the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial. But do you know about the artist-architect who created this landmark? As a child, Maya Lin loved to study the spaces around her. She explored the forest in her backyard, observing woodland creatures, and used her house as a model to build tiny towns out of paper and scraps. The daughter of a clay artist and a poet, Maya grew up with art and learned to think with her hands as well as her mind. From her first experiments with light and lines to the height of her success nationwide, this is the story of an inspiring American artist: the visionary artist-architect who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Mission to Space by John Herrington (Chickasaw Press, 2016)

Chickasaw astronaut, John Herrington, shares his flight on the space shuttle Endeavour and his thirteen-day mission to the international Space Station.

Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat by Javaka Steptoe (Little, Brown & Company, 2016)

Somewhere in Brooklyn, a little boy dreams of being a famous artist, not knowing that one day he would make himself a king. Jean-Michael Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful. Winner of the 2017 Randolph Caldecott Medal and winner of the 2017 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award.

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist by Jess Keating, illustrated by Marta Alvarez Miguens (Jabberwocky, 2017)

This is the story of a woman who dared to dive, defy, discover, and inspire. This is the story of Shark Lady. Eugenie Clark fell in love with sharks from the first moment she saw them at the aquarium. She couldn't imagine anything more exciting than studying these graceful creatures. But Eugenie quickly discovered that many people believed sharks to be ugly and scary--and they didn't think women should be scientists. Determined to prove them wrong, Eugenie devoted her life to learning about sharks. After earning several college degrees and making countless discoveries, Eugenie wrote herself into the history of science, earning the nickname "Shark Lady." Through her accomplishments, she taught the world that sharks were to be admired rather than feared and that

women can do anything they set their minds to. An inspiring story by critically acclaimed zoologist Jess Keating about finding the strength to discover truths that others aren't daring enough to see. Includes a timeline of Eugenie's life and many fin-tastic shark facts!

She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World by Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger (Philomel Books, 2017)

Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids who are ready to take on the world to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, persisted. Throughout American history, there have always been women who have spoken out for what's right, even when they have to fight to be heard. In this book, Chelsea Clinton celebrates thirteen American women who helped shape our country through their tenacity, sometimes through speaking out, sometimes by staying seated, sometimes by captivating an audience. They all certainly persisted. *She Persisted* is for everyone who has ever wanted to speak up but has been told to quiet down, for everyone who has ever tried to reach for the stars but was told to sit down, and for everyone who has ever been made to feel unworthy or unimportant or small. With vivid, compelling art by Alexandra Boiger, this book shows readers that no matter what obstacles may be in their paths, they shouldn't give up on their dreams. Persistence is power. This book features: Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, Clara Lemlich, Nellie Bly, Virginia Apgar, Maria Tallchief, Claudette Colvin, Ruby Bridges, Margaret Chase Smith, Sally Ride, Florence Griffith Joyner, Oprah Winfrey, Sonia Sotomayor--and one special cameo.

Swimming with Sharks: The Daring Discoveries of Eugenie Clark by Heather Lang, illustrated by Jordi Solano (Albert Whitman & Company, 2016)

Before Eugenie Clark's groundbreaking research, most people thought sharks were vicious, blood-thirsty killers. From the first time she saw a shark in an aquarium, Japanese-American Eugenie was enthralled. Instead of frightening and ferocious eating machines, she saw sleek, graceful fish gliding through the water. After she became a scientist--an unexpected career path for a woman in the 1940s--she began taking research dives and training sharks, earning her the nickname "The Shark Lady."

The Girl Who Ran: Bobbi Gibb, The First Woman to Run the Boston Marathon by Frances Poletti & Kristina Yee, illustrated by Susanna Chapman (Compendium, 2017)

In 1966, the world believed it was impossible for a woman to run the Boston Marathon. Bobbi Gibb was determined to prove them wrong.

The Legendary Miss Lena Horne by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon (Atheneum Books For Young Readers, 2017)

Celebrate the life of Lena Horne, the pioneering African American actress and civil rights activist, with this inspiring and powerful picture book from award-winning author Carole Boston Weatherford.

The Marvelous Thing that Came from a Spring: The Accidental Invention of the Toy that Swept the Nation by Gilbert Ford (Atheneum Books For Young Readers, 2016)

With magnificent dioramic illustrations, Gilbert Ford captures the joy, creativity, and determination behind the invention of an iconic, one-of-a-kind toy: the Slinky! One day, a spring fell from the desk of Richard James, an engineer and a dreamer. Its coils took a walk...and so did Richard's imagination. He knew right away that he had stumbled onto something marvelous. With the help of his wife, Betty, Richard took this ordinary spring and turned it into a plaything. But it wasn't just any old trinket--it was a Slinky, and it would become one of the most popular toys in American history.

The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist by Cynthia Levinson, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley Newton (Atheneum, 2017)

Meet the youngest known child to be arrested for a civil rights protest in Birmingham, Alabama, 1963, in this moving picture book that proves you're never too little to make a difference. Nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks intended to go places and do things like anybody else. So when she heard grown-ups talk about wiping out Birmingham's segregation laws, she spoke up. As she listened to the preacher's words, smooth as glass, she

sat up tall. And when she heard the plan—picket those white stores! March to protest those unfair laws! Fill the jails!—she stepped right up and said, I'll do it! She was going to j-a-a-ill! Audrey Faye Hendricks was confident and bold and brave as can be, and hers is the remarkable and inspiring story of one child's role in the Civil Rights Movement.

Vincent Can't Sleep by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated Mary GrandPré (Alfred A. Knopf, 2017)

A gorgeous, lyrical picture-book biography of Vincent van Gogh by the Caldecott Honor team behind *The Noisy Paint Box*. *Vincent Can't Sleep* is a stunning book that offers insight into the true meaning of creativity and commitment.

When Jackie Saved Grand Central: The True Story of Jacqueline Kennedy's Fight for an American Icon by Natasha Wing, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Before she was an iconic First Lady of the United States, Jackie Kennedy was a born-and-raised New Yorker. She loved everything about her city, from the natural beauty of the parks to the architectural history of the buildings. So when the owners of Grand Central wanted to build a skyscraper on top of the famous train station, Jackie knew they had to be stopped. She helped inspire thousands of people to come together and fight to protect the historic landmark. From letter-writing campaigns all the way to the Supreme Court, this little-known story celebrates winning in the face of immeasurable odds and how one person can make a big difference.

Non-Fiction

Animal Ark: Celebrating Our Wild World in Poetry and Pictures by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Joel Sartore (National Geographic, 2017)

A howling wolf, a stalking tiger, a playful panda, a dancing bird - pairing the stunning photography of National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore with the delicate poetry of Newbery award-winning author Kwame Alexander, this lush picture book celebrates the beauty, diversity, and fragility of the animal world. Featuring more than 40 unique animal portraits, the pages invite kids to explore each creature's markings, textures, and attributes in stunning detail, while calling on all of us to help protect each and every one. Three picture-packed gatefolds inside showcase even more familiar and exotic species. These images are part of Sartore's lifelong project to photograph every animal in the world, with special attention given to disappearing and endangered species.

Apex Predators: The World's Deadliest Hunters Past and Present by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

What does it take to be the "top dog"? In his latest book, the award-winning author and illustrator Steve Jenkins introduces readers to apex predators--the animals that are at the top of their food chains and have no natural enemies. Using his signature art style, Jenkins illustrates how these animals dominate their different ecosystems using speed, strength, and even cooperation and cunning. Take a trip through history and discover apex predators both past and present, from the earliest sea creatures to the modern African lion and giant freshwater ray, which can grow to over fifteen feet.

Bees: A Honeyed History by Piotr Socha (Abrams Books For Young Readers, 2017)

One part science, one part cultural history, and countless parts fascination, *Bees* celebrates the important role that these intriguing insects have played in our ecosystem throughout the ages. From Athena to Alexander the Great and from Egypt to Ethiopia, *Bees* explores different methods of beekeeping and uncovers the debt that humans owe this vital species. With beautifully accessible illustrations depicting everything from bee anatomy to the essentials of honey making, readers will be captivated by the endless wonders of this seemingly small speck of the animal kingdom.

Can an Aardvark Bark? by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Beach Lane Books, 2017)

From award-winning author Melissa Stewart and Caldecott honoree Steve Jenkins comes a noisy nonfiction exploration of the many sounds animals make. Can an aardvark bark? No, but it can grunt. Lots of other animals grunt too... Barks, grunts, squeals--animals make all kinds of sounds to communicate and express themselves. With a growling salamander and a whining porcupine, bellowing giraffes and laughing gorillas, this boisterous book is chock-full of fun and interesting facts and is sure to be a favorite of even the youngest animal enthusiasts.

Creatures Close Up by Gillian Watts (Firefly Books, 2016)

Philippe Martin creates his close-ups by "stacking" images inside his computer. To create one picture, he takes dozens of photographs, each time focusing the camera on a slightly different part of the subject. Then, using computer software, he combines the images into one perfectly focused composite image. Finally, he cleans up the image pixel by pixel. The result is almost three-dimensional photographs of animals and plants, with such sharpness and brilliance that they appear to leap from the page. *Creatures Close Up* includes a selection of amazing photographs of flora and fauna -- snakes, frogs, insects, spiders, lizards and other creatures. Many of these creatures are on the endangered species list in Madagascar, where Martin spent a month shooting in the rainforest. These large, hyper-realistic images bring the viewer face to face with tiny creatures and plants, where the smallest details can be examined. This is nature photography as never seen before. It will fascinate children of all ages and a wide range of interests.

Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs by Carol Murray, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Henry Holt, 2017)

A nonfiction picture book of poetry about fascinating insects with accompanying facts, notes, and illustrations by the Caldecott-winning Melissa Sweet. In addition to the playful rhyming poems, the supplementary text highlights surprising facts about bugs of all kinds--from familiar ants to exotic dragonflies, cringe-worthy ticks and magnificent fireflies. Melissa Sweet's collage-inspired mixed-media illustrations beautifully render these creatures and compliment the poems' whimsical tones. This is an enchanting and informative look at a perennial topic of interest for kids--cool bugs!

Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Kristi Valiant (Dial, 2017)

An irresistible book of poems about dancing that mimic the rhythms of social dances from cha-cha to two-step, by the acclaimed author of *Mirror Mirror*. Marilyn Singer has crafted a vibrant collection of poems celebrating all forms of social dance from samba and salsa to tango and hip-hop. The rhythm of each poem mimics the beat of the dances' steps. Together with Kristi Valiant's dynamic illustrations, the poems create a window to all the ways dance enters our lives and exists throughout many cultures. This ingenious collection will inspire readers to get up and move!

Germs: Fact and Fiction, Friends, and Foes by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome (Henry Holt, 2017)

Come meet the good, the bad, and the ugly--yes, germs! There's so much to discover about germs. Did you know that germs make your stomach growl as they break down your food? Or that they can travel the world on anything from fleas and ticks to trains and buses? Told from the perspective of Sam the Salmonella, this informative picture book introduces young readers to helpful and harmful germs, exploring their discovery; the breakout of historic diseases; the invention of pasteurization, vaccination, and penicillin; and other fascinating details about the world of microscopic organisms.

Give Bees a Chance by Bethany Barton (Viking Books For Young Readers, 2017)

An enthusiastic bee-loving narrator tries to convince a bee-phobic friend that our fuzzy, flying neighbors are our friends--we should all give bees a chance!

Grand Canyon by Jason Chin (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

Rivers wind through earth, cutting down and eroding the soil for millions of years, creating a cavity in the ground 277 miles long, 18 miles wide, and more than a mile deep known as the Grand Canyon. Home to an astonishing variety of plants and animals that have lived and evolved within its walls for millennia, the Grand Canyon is much more than just a hole in the ground. Follow a father and daughter as they make their way through the cavernous wonder, discovering life both present and past. Weave in and out of time as perfectly placed die cuts show you that a fossil today was a creature much long ago, perhaps in a completely different environment. Complete with a spectacular double gatefold, an intricate map and extensive back matter.

Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris (Chronicle, 2017)

If you had to name a statue, any statue, odds are good you'd mention the Statue of Liberty. Have you seen her? She's in New York.

She's holding a torch.

And she's in mid-stride, moving forward.

But why?

In this fascinating and fun take on nonfiction, Dave Eggers and Shawn Harris investigate a seemingly small trait of America's most emblematic statue. What they find is about more than history, more than art. What they find in the Statue of Liberty's right foot is the powerful message of acceptance that is essential of an entire country's creation.

How to Be an Elephant: Growing up in the African Wild by Katherine Roy (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

Award-winning author-illustrator Katherine Roy's *How to Be an Elephant* delves into the intricate family dynamics at play in a typical African herd. Drawing upon the latest scientific research and Roy's own expedition to Kenya, and brimming with lush watercolor illustrations and detailed diagrams, this book vividly portrays the life and development of an elephant from an uncertain newborn into a majestic adult. As informative as it is beautiful, Roy's unique portrait of an elephant's life will captivate young explorers and animal lovers alike.

I am Not a Number by Jenny Kay Dupuis & Kathy Kacer, illustrated by Gillian Newland (Second Story Press, 2016)

When eight-year-old Irene is removed from her First Nations family to live in a residential school she is confused, frightened, and terribly homesick. She tries to remember who she is and where she came from, despite the efforts of the nuns who are in charge at the school and who tell her that she is not to use her own name but instead use the number they have assigned to her. When she goes home for summer holidays, Irene's parents decide never to send her and her brothers away again. But where will they hide? And what will happen when her parents disobey the law? Based on the life of co-author Jenny Kay Dupuis' grandmother, *I Am Not a Number* is a hugely necessary book that brings a terrible part of Canada's history to light in a way that children can learn from and relate to.

I Like, I Don't Like by Anna Baccelliere, illustrated by Ale + Ale (Eerdmans Books For Young Readers, 2017)

An eye-opening introduction to an important issue. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child in the world has the right to play. Unfortunately, that universal right is not always respected. *I Like, I Don't Like* presents this reality to readers by showing how children in varying circumstances can see the same object very differently. With stark illustrations that perfectly capture the tone of the book, *I Like, I Don't Like* will inspire meaningful discussions about privilege and poverty.

Lesser Spotted Animals: The Coolest Creatures You've Never Heard Of by Martin Brown (David Fickling Books, 2016)

A hilarious, picture book about the coolest creatures you've never heard of, from the illustrator of the internationally bestselling *Horrible Histories!* Bison? They're banned! Tigers? Taboo! Say goodbye to the gnu, cheerio to the cheetah, and peace to the panda. The world of Lesser Spotted Animals STARTS HERE! Find out all about the amazing animals you need to know but never get to see, from the numbat to the zorilla, and everything in between. A non-fiction picture book with attitude, Martin Brown's *Lesser Spotted Animals* combines humor with informative breadth and gorgeous presentation.

Martin's Dream Day by Kitty Kelley, illustrated by Stanley Tretick (Atheneum, 2017)

Bestselling author and journalist Kitty Kelley combines her elegant storytelling with Stanley Tretick's iconic photographs to transport readers to the 1963 March on Washington, bringing that historic day vividly to life for a new generation. Martin Luther King Jr. was nervous. Standing at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial, he was about to address 250,000 people with what would become known as his "I Have a Dream Speech"—the most famous speech of his life. This day—August 28, 1963—was a momentous day in the Civil Rights Movement. It was the culmination of years spent leading marches, sit-ins, and boycotts across the South to bring attention to the plight of African Americans. Years spent demanding equality for all. Years spent dreaming of the day that black people would have the same rights as white people, and would be treated with the same dignity and respect. It was time for Martin to share his dream.

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner, illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal (Chronicle, 2017)

In this gorgeous companion to the acclaimed *Over and Under the Snow* Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt, Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal bring to life a secret underwater world. In this book, readers will discover the plants and animals that make up the rich, interconnected ecosystem of a mountain pond. Over the pond, the water is a mirror, reflecting the sky. But under the pond is a hidden world of minnows darting, beavers diving, tadpoles growing. These and many other secrets are waiting to be discovered...over and under the pond.

This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World by Matt Lamothe (Chronicle, 2017)

Follow the real lives of seven kids from Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia for a single day! In Japan Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda Daphine likes to jump rope. But while the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days--and this one world we all share--unites them. This genuine exchange provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as a mirror reflecting our common experiences. Inspired by his own travels, Matt Lamothe transports readers across the globe and back with this luminous and thoughtful picture book.

What Makes a Monster?: Discovering The World's Scariest Creatures (The World of Weird Animals) by Jess Keating, illustrated by David DeGrand (Alfred A. Knopf, 2017)

Monsters are real--and they're everywhere in nature! Animal Planet meets Godzilla in this nonfiction picture book that puts the "Ack!" into backyard science.

Some people think monsters are the stuff of nightmares--the stuff of scary movies and Halloween. But monsters can also be found right in your backyard. Animals like aye-ayes, goblin sharks and vampire bats may look scary, but they pose no threat to humans. Others, such as the prairie dog, seem innocent--cute, even--yet their behavior could give you goosebumps. What makes a monster? Read this book to find out, if you dare. . . .

Jess Keating and David DeGrand, the author-illustrator team behind *Pink Is for Blobfish* will have readers shrieking with laughter at this latest installment to the *World of Weird Animals* series.

What's Your Favorite Color? by Eric Carle (Henry Holt, 2017)

Everybody has a favorite color. Some like blue balloons or brown buildings or mint green ice cream cones. Others prefer sunshine yellow, Maine morning gray, or Mexican pink. Fifteen beloved children's book artists draw their favorite colors and explain why they love them. This personal collection will undoubtedly inspire readers to create favorite color drawings and stories of their own!

Where Will I Live? by Rosemary McCarney (Second Story Press, 2017)

This stunning photo essay takes a look at the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters, young refugees on the move with very little left except questions. It's hard to imagine, but the images here will help unaffected children understand not only what this must feel like, but also how very lucky they are. The final message is that children, even with uncertain futures, are resilient and can face uncertainty with optimism. With images from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.