

PICTURE THIS

Recommendation List

Compiled by the WSRA Children's Literature Committee for the 2019 Convention
from titles published between September 2017-December 2018
www.wsra.org/children-s-literature

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 Big Mooncake For Little Star by Grace Lin (Little, Brown Books For Young Readers, 2018)

“Pat, pat, pat. Little Star's soft feet tiptoed to the Big Mooncake.” Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble? In this stunning picture book that shines as bright as the stars in the sky, Newbery Honor author Grace Lin creates a heartwarming original story that explains phases of the moon. A 2019 Caldecott Honor book.

A Different Pond by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui (Capstone Young Readers, 2017)

An unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new. As a young boy, Bao and his father awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam. Thi Bui's striking, evocative art paired with Phi's expertly crafted prose has earned this powerful picture books six starred reviews and numerous awards. A 2018 Caldecott Honor book.

A Gift From Abuela by Cecilia Ruiz (Candlewick, 2018)

The first time Abuela holds Nina, her heart overflows with tenderness. And as Nina grows up, she and Abuela spend plenty of time together. Abuela can't help thinking how much she'd like to give Nina a very special treat, so she saves a little bit of her money every week - a few pesos here, a few pesos there. When the world turns upside down, Abuela's dream of a surprise for Nina seems impossible. Luckily, time spent together - and the love Abuela and Nina have for each other - could turn out to be the very best gift of all. With a soft and subtle hand, author-illustrator Cecilia Ruiz draws from her own history to share a deeply personal tale about remembering what's most important when life starts to get in the way.

Adrian Simcox Does Not Have a Horse by Marcy Campbell, illustrated by Corinna Luyken (Dial Books, 2018)

Adrian Simcox tells anyone who will listen that he has a horse--the best and most beautiful horse anywhere. But Chloe does NOT believe him. Adrian Simcox lives in a tiny house. Where would he keep a horse? He has holes in his shoes. How would he pay for a horse? The more Adrian talks about his horse, the angrier Chloe gets. But when she calls him out at school and even complains about him to her mom, Chloe doesn't get the vindication she craves. She gets something far more important. Written with tenderness and poignancy and gorgeously illustrated, this book will show readers that kindness is always rewarding, understanding is sweeter than judgment, and friendship is the best gift one can give.

Albie Newton by Josh Funk, illustrated Ester Garay (Sterling Publishing, 2018)

Meet Albie Newton: child genius. He's a whiz at inventing things. But is he inventive enough to figure out how to make friends? When precocious inventor Albie Newton enters a new school, he concocts the perfect plan for making friends. Unfortunately, it involves stealing the hamster's wheel, snatching the wings off of Dave's toy airplane, and generally making a giant mess. Now everyone's angry at Albie! Will his new invention delight the other kids enough to make everything right--and finally win their friendship?

Alfie (The Turtle That Disappeared) by Thyra Heder (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Nia loves Alfie, her pet turtle. But he's not very soft, he doesn't do tricks, and he's pretty quiet. Sometimes she forgets he's even there! That is until the night before Nia's seventh birthday, when Alfie disappears! Then, in an innovative switch in point of view, we hear Alfie's side of the story. He didn't leave Nia--he's actually searching for the perfect birthday present for his dear friend. Can he find a gift and make it back in time for the big birthday party?

All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman (Random House, 2018)

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year. *All Are Welcome* lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.

All Around Us by Xelena González, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia (Cinco Puntos Press, 2017)

Grandpa says circles are all around us. He points to the rainbow that rises high in the sky after a thundercloud has come. "Can you see? That's only half of the circle. That rest of it is down below, in the earth." He and his granddaughter meditate on gardens and seeds, on circles seen and unseen, inside and outside us, on where our bodies come from and where they return to. They share and create family traditions in this stunning exploration of the cycles of life and nature. A 2018 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor & a 2018 American Indian Youth Literature Award Picture Book Honor book.

Allie All Along by Sarah Lynne Reul (Sterling, 2018)

Poor Allie! She's in a rage, throwing a tantrum, and having a fit! Her emotions have built and built and now they just burst. Is there a sweet little girl hiding somewhere under all the angry layers? And can her big brother find a way to make things all right again? *Allie All Along* explores simple ways kids can center themselves in the face of overwhelming emotions. The illustrations' varying hues and vibrant colors capture the powerful feelings that young children can't always express in words.

Alma and How She Got Her Name by Juana Martinez-Neal (Candlewick, 2018)

If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; Jose, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes, too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all -- and realizes that she will one day have her own story to tell. A 2019 Caldecott Honor book.

Be A King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream And You by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by James Ransome (Bloomsbury, 2018)

You can be a King. Stamp out hatred. Put your foot down and walk tall. You can be a King. Beat the drum for justice. March to your own conscience. Featuring a dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life alongside a modern class as the students learn about him, Carole Weatherford's poetic text encapsulates the moments that readers today can reenact in their own lives. See a class of young students as they begin a school project inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn to follow his example, as he dealt with adversity and never lost hope that a future of equality and justice would soon be a reality. As times change, Dr. King's example remains, encouraging a new generation of children to take charge and change the world . . . to be a King.

Be Kind by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Jen Hill (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

When Tanisha spills grape juice all over her new dress, her classmate contemplates how to make her feel better and what it means to be kind. From asking the new girl to play to standing up for someone being bullied, this moving and thoughtful story explores what a child can do to be kind, and how each act, big or small, can make a difference--or at least help a friend.

Bear and Wolf by Daniel Salmieri (Enchanted Lions Books, 2018)

Bear and Wolf become unlikely companions one winter's evening when they discover each other out walking in the falling snow. They're young and curious, slipping easily into friendship as they amble along together, seeing new details in the snowy forest. Together they spy an owl overhead, look deep into the frozen face of the lake, and contemplate the fish sleeping below the surface. Then it's time to say goodbye: for Bear to go home and hibernate with the family and for Wolf to run with the pack.

Bowwow Powwow by Brenda J. Child, illustrated by Jonathan Thunder (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2018)

When Uncle and Windy Girl and Itchy Boy attend a powwow, Windy watches the dancers and listens to the singers. She eats tasty food and joins family and friends around the campfire. Later, Windy falls asleep under the stars. Now Uncle's stories inspire other visions in her head: a bowwow powwow, where all the dancers are dogs. In these magical scenes, Windy sees veterans in a Grand Entry, and a visiting drum group, and traditional dancers, grass dancers, and jingle-dress dancers--all with telltale ears and paws and tails. All celebrating in song and dance. All attesting to the wonder of the powwow.

Brave by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated Joanne Lew-Vriethoff (Running Press Kids, 2017)

An empowering picture book for all kids that demonstrates to children that they can be real-life superheroes and that all kids have what it takes to be brave. Superheroes seek adventure, never give up, and stay calm when others are afraid. Superheroes are brave. But they aren't the only ones. Kids are brave every day. When they are told they are too little, but accomplish something big. When they check for monsters under the bed, just in case. When they face something uncertain, whether a thunderstorm or a hospital visit. When they stand up for what's right, even when it means facing consequences. Like superheroes, brave kids can save the world, just by being brave.

Brave Enough For Two by Jonathan D. Voss (Henry Holt & Company, 2018)

Fans of Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin, George and Martha, and Frog and Toad are sure to fall for best friends Hoot & Olive in Jonathan Voss's winning author-illustrator debut. Filled with bold, captivating illustrations, *Brave Enough for Two* is a touching story about a girl, her imaginary owl friend, and the warm, supportive friendship they share. Jonathan's sweet story is sure to appeal to any child who counts a stuffed animal as a close friend.

Cancer Hates Kisses by Jessica Reid Sliwerski, illustrated by Mika Song (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Author Jessica Reid Sliwerski was diagnosed with breast cancer four months after giving birth to her daughter. And through all the stages of treatment--surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, losing her hair--she thought about how hard it would be to talk to your child about cancer while coping with it. She wrote this picture book to give other parents and their children an encouraging tool for having those conversations--a lovingly upbeat book that is also refreshingly authentic and straightforward. With its simple text and heartwarming illustrations, *Cancer Hates Kisses* is relatable to any type of cancer.

Cece Loves Science by Kimberly Derting, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (Greenwillow Books, 2018)

Cece loves science! In this STEM-themed picture book, Cece asks one of life's most pressing questions: Do dogs eat vegetables? Cece and her best friend, Isaac, head to the lab to find out. This picture book is perfect for fans of *Ada Twist, Scientist*, and anyone who enjoys asking questions.

Dear Girl by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, illustrated by Holly Hatam (Harper, 2017)

Dear Girl, is a remarkable love letter written for the special girl in your life; a gentle reminder that she's powerful, strong, and holds a valuable place in the world.

Don't Touch My Hair by Sharee Miller (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

An entertaining picture book that teaches the importance of asking for permission first as a young girl attempts to escape the curious hands that want to touch her hair. It seems that wherever Aria goes, someone wants to touch her hair. In the street, strangers reach for her fluffy curls; and even under the sea, in the jungle, and in space, she's chased by a mermaid, monkeys, and poked by aliens...until, finally, Aria has had enough!

Drawn Together by Minh Lê, illustrated by Dan Santat (Disney-Hyperion, 2018)

When a young boy visits his grandfather, their lack of a common language leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But as they sit down to draw together, something magical happens - with a shared love of art and storytelling, the two form a bond that goes beyond words. The 2019 Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature Picture Book Winner.

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales (Neal Porter Books, 2018)

In 1994, Yuyi Morales left her home in Xalapa, Mexico and came to the US with her infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn't come empty-handed. She brought her strength, her work, her passion, her hopes and dreams...and her stories. Caldecott Honor artist and five-time Pura Belpré winner Yuyi Morales's gorgeous new picture book *Dreamers* is about making a home in a new place. Yuyi and her son Kelly's passage was not easy, and Yuyi spoke no English whatsoever at the time. But together, they found an unexpected, unbelievable place: the public library. There, book by book, they untangled the language of this strange new land, and learned to make their home within it. The 2019 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award Winner.

Dude! By Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Dan Santat (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

A platypus and a beaver head out for a day of surfing, and despite the warning signs posted on the rocky shore and an unexpected addition to their duo, they have a hilarious and rollicking adventure using just one word, over and over: Dude. The consummately entertaining story line encourages not judging a book by its cover (nor a shark by its fins), and recalls all the summer sweetness of making a new friend at the beach. And then there's the art. Caldecott medalist Santat makes the book shine with great skill in pacing and perspective, and the characters' expressions, the action-packed layout, and the dynamic fonts are a win-win-win. It's incredible how much emotion can be milked from a single well-illustrated word. They range from a thin black-lined "dude?" to a rainbow-colored "DUUDE!" and the drama, humor, personalities, conflicts, and resolutions come through fantastically. From spot art on white pages to full-bleed spreads to comic-style panels, there's a lot to see, multitudes of meaning in a single syllable, a plethora of educational applicability, and oh so much fun to be had, dude.

Festival of Colors by Kabir Sehgal & Surishtha Sehgal, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (Beach Lane Books, 2018)

It is spring and Chintoo and Mintoo are excited; it is time to prepare for Holi, the Indian festival of colors. Together, the brother and sister roam their verdant garden, collecting the flowers they will turn into brightly colored powders. "They gather hibiscus flowers, because hibiscus flowers make red." Orchids, marigolds, and irises come next. Chintoo and Mintoo dry the flowers before separating the petals and finally pressing them into powder. Once their petal powders are complete, it's time to celebrate. All dressed in white, the siblings join their parents, friends, and neighbors outside where the powders will be tossed about. The Sehgals—a mother-and-son duo—use short, repetitive sentences and color-coded words, which nicely pair with Harrison's genial scenes emphasizing the vibrant, sunny colors of the festival and the delight of getting ready with family. This lively, informational read reinforces primary and secondary colors and showcases this jovial Hindu festival as a time to celebrate fresh starts, friendship, and forgiveness, and have lots of fun in the process. An authors' note offers more context.

Friends Stick Together by Hannah E. Harrison (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Rupert is a rhinoceros of refined sensibilities. Levi, the new tickbird in class, is not. He burps the alphabet, tells corny jokes, and does really embarrassing air guitar solos. Worse, he lands right on Rupert and is determined to be Rupert's symbiotic best pal! Rupert wants him gone. But when Levi finally does bug off, Rupert finds the peace and quiet a little boring. It turns out, Rupert could really use a friend like Levi.

Giraffe Problems by Jory John, illustrated by Lane Smith (Random House, 2018)

Can you guess what's making this giraffe self-conscious? Could it be . . . HIS ENORMOUS NECK?? Yes, it's exactly that--how on earth did you figure it out? Edward the giraffe can't understand why his neck is as long and bendy and, well, ridiculous as it is. No other animal has a neck this absurd. He's tried disguising it, dressing it up, strategically hiding it behind bushes--honestly, anything you can think of, he's tried. Just when he has exhausted his neck-hiding options and is about to throw in the towel, a turtle swoops in (well, ambles in, very slowly) and helps him understand that his neck has a purpose, and looks excellent in a bow tie.

Harriet Gets Carried Away by Jessie Sima (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Harriet loves costumes. She wears them to the dentist, to the supermarket, and most importantly, to her super-special dress-up birthday party. Her dads have decorated everything for the party and Harriet has her most favorite costume all picked out for the big day. There's just one thing missing--party hats! But when Harriet dons her special penguin errand-running costume and sets out to find the perfect ones, she finds something else instead--real penguins! Harriet gets carried away with the flock. She may look like a penguin, but she's not so sure she belongs in the arctic. Can Harriet manage her way back to her dads (and the party hats!) in time for her special day?

Hello Hello by Brendan Wenzel (Chronicle Books, 2018)

In this follow up to the Caldecott Honor-winning *They All Saw a Cat*, author Brendan Wenzel presents a chain of animals of dazzling variety. Each one is different from the last, yet each is also linked by at least one common trait: some obvious, some more subtle. As colors and patterns mix and mingle, and as paws and snouts meet, each unexpected encounter celebrates the magnificent diversity of our world - and ultimately paints a story of connection. Joyous, rhythmic text and Wenzel's exuberant art encourage readers of all kinds to delight in nature's infinite differences, and to look for - and marvel at - its gorgeous similarities. It all starts with a simple 'Hello.'

Hello Lighthouse by Sophie Blackall (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

Watch the days and seasons pass as the wind blows, the fog rolls in, and icebergs drift by. Outside, there is water all around. Inside, the daily life of a lighthouse keeper and his family unfolds as the keeper boils water for tea, lights the lamp's wick, and writes every detail in his logbook. The 2019 Caldecott Award Winner.

Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community by Susan Verde, illustrated by John Parra (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

There is a wall in Angel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone. Told in elegant verse by Susan Verde and vibrantly illustrated by John Parra, this inspiring picture book celebrates the power of art to tell a story and bring a community together.

How Are You? ¿Cómo estás? By Angela Dominguez (Henry Holt and Company, 2018)

When two giraffe friends find a baby ostrich, they have some questions. Is baby ostrich hungry? Shy? Tired? Ostrich says no! So how does she feel? Friendship awaits in this book about feelings, expressed both in English and Spanish.

How to Code a Sandcastle by Josh Funk, illustrated by Sara Palacios (Viking, 2018)

All summer, Pearl has been trying to build the perfect sandcastle, but out-of-control Frisbees and mischievous puppies keep getting in the way! Pearl and her robot friend Pascal have one last chance, and this time, they're going to use code to get the job done. Using fundamental computer coding concepts like sequences and loops, Pearl and Pascal are able to break down their sandcastle problem into small, manageable steps. If they can create working code, this could turn out to be the best beach day ever!

I Am Loved by Nikki Giovanni, illustrated by Ashley Bryan (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2018)

There is nothing more important to a child than to feel loved, and this gorgeous gathering of poems written by Nikki Giovanni celebrates exactly that. Hand-selected by Newbery honoree Ashley Bryan, he has, with his masterful flourish of color, shape, and movement, added a visual layering that drums the most important message of all to young, old, parent, child, grandparent, and friend alike: You are loved. You are loved. You are loved. As a bonus, one page is mirrored, so children reading the book can see exactly who is loved--themselves!

I Love My Purse by Belle DeMont, illustrated by Sonja Wimmer (Annick Press, 2017)

Charlie loves the bright red purse that his grandmother let him have. One day, he decides to take it to school. First his father, then his friends, and even the crossing guard question him about his "strange" choice. After all, boys don't carry purses. They point out that they, too, have things they like, but that doesn't mean they go out in public wearing them. But Charlie isn't deterred. Before long, his unselfconscious determination to carry a purse starts to affect those around him. His father puts on his favorite, though unconventional, Hawaiian shirt to go to work; his friend Charlotte paints her face, and the crossing guard wears a pair of sparkly shoes. Thanks to Charlie, everyone around him realizes that it isn't always necessary to conform to societal norms. It's more important to be true to yourself.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About A Simple Act of Kindness by Kerascoët (Schwartz and Wade Books, 2018)

This simple yet powerful picture book tells the story of an elementary school girl named Vanessa who is bullied and a fellow student who witnesses the act and is at first unsure of how to help. *I Walk with Vanessa* explores the feelings of helplessness and anger that arise in the wake of seeing a classmate treated badly, and shows how a single act of kindness can lead to an entire community joining in to help. With themes of acceptance, kindness, and strength in numbers, this timeless and profound feel-good story will resonate with readers young and old.

I'm Scared by Jennifer L. Holm, illustrated by Matthew Holm (Random House, 2017)

In *I'm Scared*, Chilly the snowflake is a real worrywart. He is scared of everything! The reassuring narrator in this very simple, comic book-style board book gently shows Chilly that sometimes, to have fun, it is important to face your fears and try something new!

imagine by Juan Felipe Herrera, illustrated by Lauren Castillo (Candlewick Press, 2018)

Have you ever imagined what you might be when you grow up? When he was very young, Juan Felipe Herrera picked chamomile flowers in windy fields and let tadpoles swim across his hands in a creek. He slept outside and learned to say good-bye to his amiguitos each time his family moved to a new town. He went to school and taught himself to read and write English and filled paper pads with rivers of ink as he walked down the street after school. And when he grew up, he became the United States Poet Laureate and read his poems aloud on the steps of the Library of Congress. If he could do all of that . . . what could you do?

Imagine! By Raúl Colón (Paula Wiseman Books, 2018)

After passing a city museum many times, a boy finally decides to go in. He passes wall after wall of artwork until he sees a painting that makes him stop and ponder. Before long the painting comes to life and an afternoon of adventure and discovery unfolds, changing how he sees the world ever after.

Izzy Gizmo by Pip Jones, illustrated by Sara Ogilvie (Peachtree Books, 2018)

Izzy Gizmo's inventions are marvelous, magnificent . . . and often malfunction. But when she finds a crow with a broken wing, she has to help! Izzy tries again and again to build a new pair of wings, but nothing is working. Can Izzy overcome her failures? Or is her friend destined to live as a crow who can't fly?

Let The Children March by Monica Clark-Robinson, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018)

In 1963 Birmingham, Alabama, thousands of African American children volunteered to march for their civil rights after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak. They protested the laws that kept black people separate from white people. Facing fear, hate, and danger, these children used their voices to change the world. A 2019 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor book.

Lost in The Library: A Story of Patience and Fortitude by Josh Funk, illustrated by Stevie Lewis (Henry Holt and Company, 2018)

Steadfast Fortitude and curious Patience are waiting every morning to greet visitors of the Library. That is until, one early morning, when Fortitude finds Patience is missing. The city is about to awake, and the lions absolutely must be in their places before the sun rises. Now, Fortitude must abandon his own post to find his best friend in the Library's labyrinthine halls. With clever rhyme and vibrant art, *Lost in the Library* introduces young readers to a pair of unforgettable lions, as well as the famed New York Public Library, and includes bonus material loaded with facts about Patience, Fortitude, and the NYPL's history.

Lovely by Jess Hong (Creston Books, 2017)

Big, small, curly, straight, loud, quiet, smooth, wrinkly. *Lovely* explores a world of differences that all add up to the same thing: we are all lovely!

Misunderstood Shark by Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Scott Magoon (Orchard Books, 2018)

The filming of an underwater TV show goes awry when the crew gets interrupted by a... SHARRRK! Poor Shark, he wasn't trying to scare them, he's just misunderstood! Then he's accused of trying to eat a fish. Will Shark ever catch a break? After all, he wasn't going to eat the fish, he was just showing it his new tooth! Or was he? Explosively funny, extraordinarily clever, and even full of fun shark facts, this surprisingly endearing story gets to the heart of what it feels like to be misunderstood by the people around you. With a surprise twist ending, our *Misunderstood Shark* will have kids rolling with laughter!

Mixed: A Colorful Story by Arree Chung (Henry Holt and Company, 2018)

In the beginning, there were three colors . . . Reds, Yellows, and Blues.

All special in their own ways, all living in harmony--until one day, a Red says "Reds are the best!" and starts a color kerfuffle. When the colors decide to separate, is there anything that can change their minds? A Yellow, a Blue, and a never-before-seen color might just save the day in this inspiring book about color, tolerance, and embracing differences.

Mommy's Khimar by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (Salaam Reads, 2018)

A khimar is a flowing scarf that my mommy wears. Before she walks out the door each day, she wraps one around her head. A young girl plays dress up with her mother's headscarves, feeling her mother's love with every one she tries on. Charming and vibrant illustrations showcase the beauty of the diverse and welcoming community in this portrait of a young Muslim American girl's life.

My Hair is A Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera (Albert Whitman, 2018)

After a day of being taunted by classmates about her unruly hair, Mackenzie can't take any more and she seeks guidance from her wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie. Using the beautiful garden in the backyard as a metaphor, Miss Tillie shows Mackenzie that maintaining healthy hair is not a chore nor is it something to fear. Most importantly, Mackenzie learns that natural black hair is beautiful.

Nimoshom and His Bus by Penny M. Thomas, illustrated by Karen Hibbard (Highwater Press, 2018)
Children riding the school bus learn from their driver, Nimoshom ("my grandfather"), who speaks to them in their own language--Cree. *Nimoshom and His Bus* is a welcoming, simple story with inviting illustrations.

Ocean Meets Sky by The Fan Brothers (Simon & Schuster, 2018)

It's a good day for sailing. Finn lives by the sea and the sea lives by him. Every time he looks out his window it's a constant reminder of the stories his grandfather told him about the place where the ocean meets the sky. Where whales and jellyfish soar and birds and castles float. Finn's grandfather is gone now but Finn knows the perfect way to honor him. He'll build his own ship and sail out to find this magical place himself! And when he arrives, maybe, just maybe, he'll find something he didn't know he was looking for.

Off & Away by Cale Atkinson (Disney-Hyperion, 2018)

How would you get mail if you lived in the middle of the sea? It's Jo's dad's job to deliver it, taking bottles wherever they need to go. He always comes home with exciting stories to tell-but Jo is far too afraid to go out on the ocean herself. Until Dad gets a bad sea cold, that is. With no one but Jo to deliver the bottles, she must find her courage and set sail alone. As she embarks on her mission, her fears just might be replaced with new friendships... and grand stories of her own.

Pearl by Molly Idle (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

Sometimes the tiniest light can shine the brightest! Like the other mermaids of the deep, Pearl longs to care for the endless beaches, coral reefs, and towering kelp forests of her vast ocean world. So when her mother asks her to tend to a mere grain of sand, Pearl is heartbroken. It takes all her patience and determination to discover how even the littlest mermaid can transform the world.

Pie is For Sharing by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard, illustrated Jason Chin (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

A picnic, a beach, a pie cut into pieces and shared with good friends. Pie is for sharing. It starts off round, and you can slice it into as many pieces as you want. What else can be shared? A ball, of course. A tree? What about time?

Quiet Please, Owen McPhee! By Trudy Jean Ludwig, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Owen McPhee doesn't just like to talk, he LOVES to talk. He spends every waking minute chattering away at his teachers, his classmates, his parents, his dog, and even himself. But all that talking can get in the way of listening. And when Owen wakes up with a bad case of laryngitis, it gives him a much-needed opportunity to hear what others have to say.

Rock What Ya Got by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Kerascoët (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

A child reminds everyone to embrace their own special something in this joyful expression of self-love. When a drawing of a little girl comes to life, she boldly declares that she doesn't want to be erased, or put into a picture that doesn't feel like her true self. Instead, she decides to speak up in a powerful way. And she has some words of advice: embrace what you have, love yourself, and "rock what ya got."

Saffron Ice Cream by Rashin Kheiriyeh (Arthur A. Levine, 2018)

Rashin is excited about her first visit to the beach in her family's new home. On the way there, she remembers what beach trips were like in Iran, the beautiful Caspian Sea, the Persian music, and most of all the saffron ice cream she shared with her best friend, Azadeh. But there are wonderful things in this new place as well -- a subway train, exciting music... and maybe even a new friend...!

Shelter by Céline Claire, illustrated by Qin Leng (Kids Can Press, 2017)

As a big storm approaches, two strangers arrive in the forest. All the animal families, safe in their homes, are worried. They wonder, What are they doing there? What do they want? So, as the pair knocks at the door of one home after another asking for shelter, all the animals turn them away, leaving them to fend for themselves. But then an accident suddenly forces the fox family out into the snow and the wind, and the foxes find they must ask these outsiders for help. Will they find it in their hearts to give it?

Sir Simon: Super Scarer by Cale Atkinson (Disney-Hyperion, 2018)

Meet Sir Simon, Super Scarer. He's a professional ghost who has been transferred to his first house. And just in time! He was getting tired of haunting bus stops and forests and potatoes. And to top it off, this house is occupied by an old lady - they're the easiest to haunt! But things don't go as planned when it turns out a KID comes with this old lady. Chester spots Simon immediately and peppers him with questions. Simon is exasperated... until he realises he can trick Chester into doing his ghost chores. Spooky sounds, footsteps in the attic, creaks on the stairs - these things don't happen on their own, you know! After a long night of haunting, it seems that maybe Chester isn't cut out to be a ghost, so Simon decides to help with Chester's human chores. Turns out Simon isn't cut out for human chores either.

Small Things by Mel Tregonning (Pajama Press, 2018)

In this wordless graphic picture book, a young boy feels alone with his worries. He isn't fitting in well at school. His grades are slipping. He's even lashing out at those who love him. The boy's worries manifest as tiny beings that crowd around him constantly, overwhelming him and even gnawing away at his very self. The striking imagery is all the more powerful when, overcoming his isolation at last, the boy discovers that the tiny demons of worry surround everyone, even those who seem to have it all together.

Someone New by Anne Sibley O'Brien (Charlesbridge, 2018)

Are you new here? Do you know someone new? In *I'm New Here* and *Someone New*, young readers explore the immigrant experience through both "windows" and "mirrors." In *I'm New Here*, readers meet three recent immigrants trying to adjust to a new country and school. In *Someone New*, the same story is told from the perspective of the students who welcome the newcomers. An honest and heartwarming look at diversity, inclusion, and friendship.

Stumpkin by Lucy Ruth Cummins (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Stumpkin is the most handsome pumpkin on the block. He's as orange as a traffic cone! Twice as round as a basketball! He has no bad side! He's perfect choice for a Halloween jack-o-lantern. There's just one problem--Stumpkin has a stump, not a stem. And no one seems to want a stemless jack-o-lantern for their window. As Halloween night approaches, more and more of his fellow pumpkins leave, but poor Stumpkin remains. Will anyone give Stumpkin his chance to shine?

The Big Umbrella by Amy June Bates, Co-written with Juniper Bates (Paula Wiseman Books, 2018)

By the door there is an umbrella. It is big. It is so big that when it starts to rain there is room for everyone underneath. It doesn't matter if you are tall. Or plaid. Or hairy. It doesn't matter how many legs you have. Don't worry that there won't be enough room under the umbrella. Because there will always be room.

The Breaking News by Sarah Lynne Reul (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

When devastating news rattles a young girl's community, her normally attentive parents and neighbors are suddenly exhausted and distracted. At school, her teacher tells the class to look for the helpers--the good people working to make things better in big and small ways. She wants more than anything to help in a BIG way, but maybe she can start with one small act of kindness instead . . . and then another, and another. Small things can compound, after all, to make a world of difference. Both timely and timeless, this charmingly illustrated debut picture book from Sarah Lynne Reul touches on themes of community, resilience, and optimism with an authenticity that will resonate with readers young and old.

The Day War Came by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Rebecca Cobb (Candlewick Press, 2018)

Imagine if, on an ordinary day, after a morning of studying tadpoles and drawing birds at school, war came to your town and turned it to rubble. Imagine if you lost everything and everyone, and you had to make a dangerous journey all alone. Imagine that there was no welcome at the end, and no room for you to even take a seat at school. And then a child, just like you, gave you something ordinary but so very, very precious.

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018)

There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look, talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.

The Field by Baptiste Paul, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcántara (NorthSouth Books, 2018)

The world's most popular and inclusive sport has found its spirited, poetic, and authentic voice in Baptiste Paul's debut picture book--highlighting the joys of the game along with its universal themes: teamwork, leadership, diversity, and acceptance. Creole words (as spoken in St. Lucia, the author's birthplace island in the Caribbean) add spice to the story and are a strong reminder of the sport's world fame.

The Greatest Adventure by Tony Piedra (Arthur A. Levine, 2018)

Where does true adventure come from? A young Latino boy and his grandfather find the true answer together. Eliot imagines sailing wild rivers and discovering giant beasts, right there on his block! But he wishes his adventures were real. Eliot's grandpa, El Capitan, once steered his own ship through dangerous seas, to far-off lands. But he can't do that anymore. Can Eliot and El Capitan discover a real adventure... together? Come find out! All aboard The Greatest Adventure!

The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC'S (The Hard Way) by Patrick McDonnell (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

It starts with an ALLIGATOR and a BEAR chasing a CAT. When a DRAGON (and a chicken and an egg!) join in pursuit, things start to get REALLY interesting. A wild and wacky chase through snow and ice, and to jungles and over mountaintops, leads the whole crew to a wonderful realization: They're better off as friends.

The One Day House by Julia Durango, illustrated by Bianca Diaz (Charlesbridge, 2017)

Wilson dreams of all the ways he can help improve his friend Gigi's house so that she'll be warm, comfortable, and happy. One day, friends and neighbors from all over come to help make Wilson's plans come true. Everyone volunteers to pitch in to make Gigi's house safe, clean, and pretty.

The Patchwork Bike by Maxine Beneba, illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd (Candlewick Press, 2018)

When you live in a village at the edge of the no-go desert, you need to make your own fun. That's when you and your brothers get inventive and build a bike from scratch, using everyday items like an old milk pot (maybe Mum is still using it, maybe not) and a used flour sack. You can even make a license plate from bark if you want. The end result is a spectacular bike, perfect for whooping and laughing as you bumpetty bump over sand hills, past your fed-up mum and right through your mud-for-walls home.

The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld (Dial Books, 2018)

When something terrible happens, Taylor doesn't know where to turn. All the animals are sure they have the answer. The chicken wants to talk it out, but Taylor doesn't feel like chatting. The bear thinks Taylor should get angry, but that's not quite right either. One by one, the animals try to tell Taylor how to process this loss, and one by one they fail. Then the rabbit arrives. All the rabbit does is listen, which is just what Taylor needs.

The Remember Balloons by Jessie Oliveros, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte (Simon & Schuster, 2018)

James's Grandpa has the best balloons because he has the best memories. He has balloons showing Dad when he was young and Grandma when they were married. Grandpa has balloons about camping and Aunt Nelle's poor cow. Grandpa also has a silver balloon filled with the memory of a fishing trip he and James took together. But when Grandpa's balloons begin to float away, James is heartbroken. No matter how hard he runs, James can't catch them. One day, Grandpa lets go of the silver balloon--and he doesn't even notice! Grandpa no longer has balloons of his own. But James has many more than before. It's up to him to share those balloons, one by one. The 2019 Schneider Family Book Award for Young Children Honor book.

The Rough Patch by Brian Lies (Greenwillow Books, 2018)

Evan and his dog do everything together, from eating ice cream to caring for their award-winning garden, which grows big and beautiful. One day the unthinkable happens: Evan's dog dies. Heartbroken, Evan destroys the garden and everything in it. The ground becomes overgrown with prickles and thorns, and Evan embraces the chaos. But beauty grows in the darkest of places, and when a twisting vine turns into an immense pumpkin, Evan is drawn out of his misery and back to the county fair, where friendships--old and new--await. A 2019 Caldecott Honor book.

The Stuff of Stars by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Ekua Holmes (Candlewick Press, 2017)

Before the universe was formed, before time and space existed, there was . . . nothing. But then . . . BANG! Stars caught fire and burned so long that they exploded, flinging stardust everywhere. And the ash of those stars turned into planets. Into our Earth. And into us. In a poetic text, Marion Dane Bauer takes readers from the trillionth of a second when our universe was born to the singularities that became each one of us, while vivid illustrations by Ekua Holmes capture the void before the Big Bang and the ensuing life that burst across galaxies. A seamless blend of science and art, this picture book reveals the composition of our world and beyond -- and how we are all the stuff of stars. The 2019 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner.

The Survivor Tree by Gaye Sanders, illustrated by Pamela Behrend (The RoadRunner Press, 2018)

A family plants an American elm on the Great Plains of Oklahoma just as the capital city is taking root -- the little tree grows as Oklahoma City grows until 9:02 a.m. on April 19, 1995, the day America fell silent at the hands of one of its own. With her branches torn and tattered and filled with evidence from the bombing, the charred elm faces calls from some that she be cut down. In the end, as the rubble of the Alfred P. Murrah Building is cleared, this solitary tree remains -- but only because of a few who marvel that, like them, she is still there. The next spring when the first buds appear proving the tree is alive, the word spreads like a prairie wildfire through the city and the world. And the tree, now a beacon of hope and strength, is christened with a new name: *The Survivor Tree*.

The Very Last Castle by Travis Jonker, illustrated by Mark Pett (Abrams, 2018)

A curious little girl watches the man who guards the last castle in town. Every time she passes by him, she tries to catch his eye. While the other townspeople fear what may be locked up inside the mysterious castle, the girl finally gets up the courage to knock on the door and find out what's really behind the gate. A story about overcoming fear of the unknown, trying new things, and reaching out to make new friends,

The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books, 2018)

In this extraordinary new tale from Peter H. Reynolds, Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him - short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower.

This is a Good Story by Adam Lehrhaupt, illustrated by Magali Le Huche (Paula Wiseman Books, 2017)

As a child takes her pencil and begins to draw pictures for a story, the narrator takes her and the reader through a rollicking sequence of events in this classic tale of bad guys and townsfolk and dungeons. With simplicity and flair, Adam tells a story and then a meta-story of the parts of the story at once! *This Is a Good Story* is a wonderful primer on the parts of a story and an imaginative way to encourage creative thinking, writing, and storytelling.

Tilly and Tank by Jay Fleck (Tundra Books, 2018)

Tilly the elephant is taking her morning stroll when she notices something strange on the horizon. Is it another elephant? The newcomer has a trunk and tail, but he's a very curious shade of green. Tank, on the other hand, notices an odd-looking creature approaching. It has a barrel and a turret, like Tank, but is a curious shade of blue. Is it a new enemy tank? Tank's alarm sounds and he goes BOOM, scaring Tilly off. But when Tilly returns with a flower, Tank begins to understand that she might not be an enemy at all.

Unplugged by Steve Antony (Scholastic Press, 2018)

Blip is always plugged into her computer--until one day a blackout forces her outdoors, and she discovers that the real world is a lot more interesting than she realized.

We Don't Eat Our Classmates by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney-Hyperion, 2018)

It's the first day of school for Penelope Rex, and she can't wait to meet her classmates. But it's hard to make human friends when they're so darn delicious! That is, until Penelope gets a taste of her own medicine and finds she may not be at the top of the food chain after all. . . .

What Can A Citizen Do? By Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris (Chronicle Books, 2018)

Across the course of several seemingly unrelated but ultimately connected actions by different children, we watch how kids turn a lonely island into a community--and watch a journey from what the world should be to what the world could be. This is a book about what citizenship--good citizenship--means to you, and to us all.

What If... by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Mike Curato (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

This girl is determined to express herself! If she can't draw her dreams, she'll sculpt or build, carve or collage. If she can't do that, she'll turn her world into a canvas. And if everything around her is taken away, she'll sing, dance, and dream...

Winter Dance by Marion Dane Bauer, illustrated by Richard Jones (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Snow is coming, and it's time to get ready! The squirrel gathers nuts, the geese soar south, and the snowshoe hare puts on its new white coat. But what should the fox do? Each animal advises the fox that its own plan is best, but the fox thinks otherwise--yet it's not until he meets a golden-eyed friend that he finds the perfect way to celebrate the snowfall.

With My Hands: Poems About Making Things by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater, illustrated by Lou Fancher and Steve Johnson (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Building, baking, folding, drawing, shaping . . . making something with your own hands is a special, personal experience. Taking an idea from your imagination and turning it into something real is satisfying and makes the maker proud.

Words and Your Heart by Kate Jane Neal (Feiwel and Friends, 2017)

This book is about your heart (the little bit inside of you that makes you, you!). The words we listen to can affect how we feel. Some words can do amazing things and make us happy. And some words can really hurt us (we all know what sort of words those are). Our words have power, and we can choose to use them to make the world a better place.

You Hold Me Up by Monique Gray Smith, illustrated by Danielle Daniel (Orca Books, 2017)

This vibrant picture book, beautifully illustrated by celebrated artist Danielle Daniel, encourages children to show love and support for each other and to consider each other's well-being in their every-day actions.

Non-Fiction

A Place For Pluto by Stef Wade, illustrated by Melanie Demmer (Capstone Editions, 2018)

Pluto got the shock of his life when he was kicked out of the famous nine. His planet status was stripped away, leaving him lost and confused. Poor Pluto! On his quest to find a place where he belongs, he talks to comets, asteroids, and meteoroids. He doesn't fit it anywhere! But when Pluto is about to give up, he runs into a dwarf planet and finally finds his place in the solar system. This feel-good picture book combines a popular science topic with character education themes of self discovery, acceptance, and friendship. It has bonus material in the back matter to support curriculum.

Adventures to School: Real-Life Journeys of Students from Around the World by Baptiste Paul and Miranda Paul, illustrated by Isabel Muñoz (Little Bee Books, 2018)

Children all around the world go to school. Whether they're from Japan, Ukraine, Ethiopia, or the United States, all students have the desire to learn about the world and shape the future. In Bhutan, children walk for three hours to make it to school, and in Pakistan, children travel by rickshaw. Some children in China must climb a heaven ladder, while children in Nepal must walk over a wire bridge. The treks of these students are unique, extraordinary, and even dangerous, and they signify the common determination, perseverance, and sense of adventure shared by young people around the world.

Before She Was Harriet by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James Ransome (Holiday House, 2017)

We know her today as Harriet Tubman, but in her lifetime she was called by many names. As General Tubman she was a Union spy. As Moses she led hundreds to freedom on the Underground Railroad. As Minty she was a slave whose spirit could not be broken. As Araminta she was a young girl whose father showed her the stars and the first steps on the path to freedom. An evocative poem and stunning watercolors come together to honor a woman of humble origins whose courage and compassion make her a larger than life hero.

Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went From the Football Field to the Art Gallery by Sandra Neil Wallace, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

When Ernie Barnes was growing up in North Carolina in the 1940s, he loved to draw. Even when he played as a boy with his friends he drew with a stick in the mud. And he never left home without a sketchbook. He would draw families walking home from church, or the old man on the sofa. He drew what he saw. But in the segregated south, Ernie didn't know how to make a living as an artist. Ernie grew tall and athletic and became a football star. Soon enough the colleges came calling. Still, in his heart Ernie longed to paint. Would that day ever come? The 2019 NCTE Orbis Pictus Award Winner.

Charlie Takes His Shot: How Charlie Sifford Broke the Color Barrier in Golf by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by John Joven (Albert Whitman & Company, 2018)

Charlie Sifford loved golf, but in the 1930's only white people were allowed to play in the Professional Golf Association. Sifford had won plenty of black tournaments, but he was determined to break the color barrier in the PGA. In 1960 he did, only to face discrimination from hotels that wouldn't rent him rooms and clubs that wouldn't let him use the same locker as the white players. But Sifford kept playing, becoming the first black golfer to win a PGA tournament and eventually ranking among the greats in golf.

Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by Liz Amini-Holmes (Albert Whiman & Company, 2018)

As a young Navajo boy, Chester Nez had to leave the reservation and attend boarding school, where he was taught that his native language and culture were useless. But Chester refused to give up his heritage. Years later, during World War II, Chester--and other Navajo men like him--was recruited by the US Marines to use the Navajo language to create an unbreakable military code. Suddenly the language he had been told to forget was needed to fight a war. This powerful picture book biography contains backmatter including a timeline and a portion of the Navajo code, and also depicts the life of an original Navajo code talker while capturing the importance of heritage.

Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets: A Muslim Books of Shapes by Hena Khan, illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini

From a crescent moon to a square garden to an octagonal fountain, this breathtaking picture book celebrates the shapes - and traditions - of the Muslim world. Sure to inspire questions and observations about world religions and cultures, *Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets* is equally at home in a classroom reading circle and on a parent's lap being read to a child.

Cute as an Axolotl by Jess Keating, illustrated by David DeGrand (Alfred A. Knopf, 2018)

The Internet pretty much runs on cute animal photos, but "cute" is so much more than clickbait kittens and insta-pups. Cute is for feathery-gilled axolotls (pronounced- ax-uh-LOT-ulz), shy pygmy hippos, poisonous blue dragons, and armored pangolins. All of these animals are cute, but they've also adapted remarkable ways to survive in their unique environments.

Danza! Amelia Hernandez and El Ballet Folklórico de Mexico by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2017)

Danza! is a celebration of Hernandez's life and of the rich history of dance in Mexico. As a child, Amalia always thought she would grow up to be a teacher, until she saw a performance of dancers in her town square. She was fascinated by the way the dancers twirled and swayed, and she knew that someday she would be a dancer, too. She began to study many different types of dance, including ballet and modern, under some of the best teachers in the world. Hernandez traveled throughout Mexico studying and learning regional dances. Soon she founded her own dance company, El Ballet Folklórico de Mexico, where she integrated her knowledge of ballet and modern dance with folkloric dances. The group began to perform all over the country and soon all over the world, becoming an international sensation that still tours today.

Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years by Stacy McAnulty, illustrated by David Litchfield (Henry Holt and Company, 2017)

"Hi, I'm Earth! But you can call me Planet Awesome. I've been around for almost 4.6 billion years. Someone needs to give you the facts, and I'm the best planet for the job. Take a look inside and explore the world of-well, the world!" *Earth!* is filled to the brim with eye-opening, kid-friendly facts about our planet, all brought to life with vibrant art by award-winning illustrator David Litchfield.

Free as a Bird: The Story of Malala by Lina Maslo (Balzer & Bray, 2018)

When Malala Yousafzai was born, people shook their heads because girls were considered bad luck. But her father looked into her eyes and knew she could do anything. In Pakistan, people said girls should not be educated. But Malala and her father were not afraid. She secretly went to school and spoke up for education in her country. And even though an enemy tried to silence her powerful voice, she would not keep quiet. Malala traveled around the world to speak to girls and boys, to teachers, reporters, presidents, and queens--to anyone who would listen--and advocated for the right to education and equality of opportunity for every person. She would shout so that those without a voice could be heard. So everyone could be as free as a bird.

From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom, collected by Eric Walters (Tundra Books, 2018)

A collection of African wisdom gorgeously illustrated by artists from Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada, the United States and more. Aphorisms are universal. They give guidance, context and instruction for life's issues, and they help us understand each other and the world around us. We use them every day, yet never think about where they came from or why they exist.

Fur, Feather, Fin - All of Us Are Kin by Diane Lang, illustrated by Steph Laberis (Beach Lane Books, 2018)
Come along on a rhyming tour through the amazing animal kingdom--from mammals to millipedes and everything in between--with this engaging picture book about how all creatures are connected! There are so many wild and wonderful animals in our world. Some have fur, some have feathers, some have fins, but all are connected. This fact-filled rhyming exploration of the diversity of the animal kingdom celebrates mammals, birds, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and more! It's a perfect match for budding naturalists and animal enthusiasts everywhere.

Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Harper, 2018)

Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden were good at math...really good. They participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, like providing the calculations for America's first journeys into space. And they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they worked hard. They persisted. And they used their genius minds to change the world.

If Polar Bears Disappeared by Lily Williams (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

The freezing ecosystem in the far north of the globe is home to many different kinds of animals. Unfortunately, the endangered polar bear is threatened with extinction due to rapid climate change that is causing the ice where it hunts/lives to melt at an alarming rate. *If Polar Bears Disappeared* uses accessible, charming art to explore what would happen if the sea ice melts, causing the extinction of polar bears, and how it would affect environments around the globe.

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Dragons by Patricia Valdez, illustrated by Felicita Sala (Alfred A. Knopf, 2018)

Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, young Joan Procter entertained the most unusual party guests--slithery and scaly ones, who turned over teacups and crawled past the crumpets.... While other girls played with dolls, Joan preferred the company of reptiles. She carried her favorite lizard with her everywhere--she even brought a crocodile to school! When Joan grew older, she became the Curator of Reptiles at the British Museum. She went on to design the Reptile House at the London Zoo, including a home for the rumored-to-be-vicious komodo dragons. There, just like when she was a little girl, Joan hosted children's tea parties--with her komodo dragon as the guest of honor.

Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai, illustrated by Kerascoët (Little, Brown and Company, 2017)

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

Manjhi Moves a Mountain by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Danny Popovici (Creston Books, 2017)

Dashrath Manjhi used a hammer and chisel, grit, determination, and twenty years to carve a path through the mountain separating his poor village from the nearby village with schools, markets, and a hospital. *Manjhi Moves a Mountain* shows how everyone can make a difference if their heart is big enough.

Meet My Family! Animal Babies and their Families by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Stephanie Fizer (Millbrook Press, 2018)

What kind of families do animal babies have? All different kinds! Charming text and sweet illustrations introduce a wolf pup cared for by the pack, a young orangutan snuggling with its mother high in a tree, a poison dart frog tadpole riding piggyback on its dad, and more. Featuring rhyming verse and informational text, this book lets you discover just how diverse the animal kingdom really is!

Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability by Shane Burcaw (Roaring Brook Press, 2017)

Shane Burcaw was born with a rare disease called spinal muscular atrophy, which hinders his muscles' growth. As a result, his body hasn't grown bigger and stronger as he's gotten older--it's gotten smaller and weaker instead. This hasn't stopped him from doing the things he enjoys (like eating pizza and playing sports and video games) with the people he loves, but it does mean that he routinely relies on his friends and family for help with everything from brushing his teeth to rolling over in bed. A 2018 Sibert Medal Honor book.

Peaceful Fights For Equal Rights by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Jared Schorr (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Protesting. Standing up for what's right. Uniting around the common good--kids have questions about all of these things they see and hear about each day. Through sparse and lyrical writing, Rob Sanders introduces abstract concepts like "fighting for what you believe in" and turns them into something actionable. Jared Schorr's bold, bright illustrations brings the resistance to life making it clear that one person can make a difference. And together, we can accomplish anything.

Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers: Celebrating Animal Underdogs by Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Steph Laberis (Peachtree, 2018)

Written with a lively, playful voice, *Pipsqueaks, Slowpokes, and Stinkers* introduces young readers to a variety of animal underdogs and explains how characteristics that might seem like weaknesses are critical for finding food and staying safe in an eat-or-be-eaten world.

Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag by Rob Sanders, illustrated by Steven Salerno (Random House, 2018)

In this deeply moving and empowering true story, young readers will trace the life of the Gay Pride Flag, from its beginnings in 1978 with social activist Harvey Milk and designer Gilbert Baker to its spanning of the globe and its role in today's world.

Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica Kensky, illustrated by Scott Magoon

Rescue thought he'd grow up to be a Seeing Eye dog -- it's the family business, after all. When he gets the news that he's better suited to being a service dog, he's worried that he's not up to the task. Then he meets Jessica, a girl whose life is turning out differently than the way she'd imagined it, too. Now Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. And it turns out that Rescue can help Jessica see after all: a way forward, together, one step at a time. An endnote from the authors tells more about the training and extraordinary abilities of service dogs, particularly their real-life best friend and black lab, Rescue. The 2019 Schneider Family Book Award for Young Children Winner.

Sewing the Rainbow: The Story of Gilbert Baker and the Rainbow Flag by Gayle E. Pitman, illustrated by Holly Clifton-Brown (Magination Press, 2018)

A picture book biography of Gilbert Baker, a gay rights activist and designer of the rainbow flag.

The Boo-Boos That Changed the World: A True Story About an Accidental Invention (Really!) by Barry Wittenstein, illustrated by Chris Hsu (Charlesbridge, 2018)

Did you know Band-Aids were invented by accident?! And that they weren't mass-produced until the Boy Scouts gave their seal of approval? 1920s cotton buyer Earle Dickson worked for Johnson & Johnson and had a klutzy wife who often cut herself. The son of a doctor, Earle set out to create an easier way for her to bandage her injuries. Band-Aids were born, but Earle's bosses at the pharmaceutical giant weren't convinced, and it wasn't until the Boy Scouts of America tested Earle's prototype that this ubiquitous household staple was made available to the public. Soon Band-Aids were selling like hotcakes, and the rest is boo-boo history.

The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs: The Story of Ken Nedimyer and the Coral Restoration Foundation by Kate Messner, illustrated by Matthew Forsythe (Chronicle Books, 2018)

All it takes is one: one coral gamete to start a colony, one person to make a difference, one idea to change the world. The ongoing efforts to save and rebuild the world's coral reefs--with hammer and glue, and grafts of newly grown coral--are the living legacy of Ken Nedimyer, founder of the Coral Restoration Foundation.

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin by Julia Finley Mosca, illustrated by Daniel Rieley (The Innovation Press, 2017)

Includes bibliographical references and filmography. A brief rhyming account of the childhood and work of Temple Grandin, an animal scientist who lives with high-functioning autism.

The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca, illustrated by Daniel Rieley (The Innovation Press, 2018)

A brief rhyming account of the childhood and work of United States Naval Engineer, Raye Montague who had to deal with prejudices and racial inequality to create the first computer generated rough draft of a U.S. Naval ship and also was the first female program manager of ships in the United States Navy.

The Roots of Rap: 16 Bars on the 4 Pillars of Hip-Hop by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison (Little Bee Books, 2019)

Explore the roots of rap in this stunning, rhyming, triple-timing picture book! The roots of rap and the history of hip-hop have origins that precede DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flash. Kids will learn about how it evolved from folktales, spirituals, and poetry, to the showmanship of James Brown, to the culture of graffiti art and break dancing that formed around the art form and gave birth to the musical artists we know today.

The United States v. Jackie Robinson by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen, illustrated by Gregory R. Christie (Balzer+Bray, 2018)

A moving and inspiring nonfiction picture book about Jackie Robinson's court martial trial--an important lesser-known moment in his lifetime of fighting prejudice with strength and grace--from author Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen and award-winning illustrator R. Gregory Christie. Jackie Robinson broke boundaries as the first African American player in Major League Baseball. But long before Jackie changed the world in a Dodger uniform, he did it in an army uniform. As a soldier during World War II, Jackie experienced segregation every day--separate places for black soldiers to sit, to eat, and to live. When the army outlawed segregation on military posts and buses, things were supposed to change. So when Jackie was ordered by a white bus driver to move to the back of a military bus, he refused. Instead of defending Jackie's rights, the military police took him to trial. But Jackie would stand up for what was right, even when it was difficult to do.

Water Land: Land and Water Forms Around the World by Christy Hale (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

A lake turns into an island. A cozy bay into a secluded cape. A gulf with sea turtles transforms into a peninsula surrounded by pirate ships. This unique information book for the very young switches between bodies of water and corresponding land masses with the simple turn of a page. Readers will delight as the story unfolds and will see just how connected the earth and the water really are.

We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frane Lessac (Charlesbridge, 2018)

The word *otsaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. Written by a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, this look at one group of Native Americans is appended with a glossary and the complete Cherokee syllabary, originally created by Sequoyah. A 2019 Sibert Medal Honor book & A 2019 NCTE Orbis Pictus Award Honor book.

What Is Hip Hop? By Eric Morse, illustrated by Anny Yi (Black Sheep/Akashic Books, 2017)

Illustrations made using claymation. Introduces young readers to hip-hop music through rhyming verse and three dimensional clay illustrations. Offers a guided tour visiting legendary hip-hop figures such as Run D.M.C., LL Cool J, Beastie Boys, Salt-N-Pepa, Tupac, and more.

Who Am I? An Animal Guessing Game by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

Five clues for each animal are illustrated with artwork that focuses attention on very specific parts of its body. The clues include a range of pertinent facts about each creature, such as their physical characteristics, adaptive features, habitat, diet, and social habits. Readers will be challenged to activate prior knowledge while learning something new about common species. Additional facts about each animal are provided in a summary in the end matter.

Who Says Women Can't Be Computer Programmers? The Story of Ada Lovelace by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman (Christy Ottaviano Books, 2018)

In the early nineteenth century lived Ada Byron: a young girl with a wild and wonderful imagination. The daughter of internationally acclaimed poet Lord Byron, Ada was tutored in science and mathematics from a very early age. But Ada's imagination was never meant to be tamed and, armed with the fundamentals of math and engineering, she came into her own as a woman of ideas--equal parts mathematician and philosopher. From her whimsical beginnings as a gifted child to her most sophisticated notes on Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine, this book celebrates the woman recognized today as the first computer programmer.