

Picture This!

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature Committee for 2015 Convention
from titles published between September 2013-December 2014

A Baby Elephant in the Wild by Caitlin O'Connell (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

In this account of a journey into the scrub desert of Namibia, readers meet a newborn elephant and her family. Children learn about Liza's early accomplishments: walking within hours, keeping up with the herd as they travel, and learning how to use her trunk and what is safe to eat. Grades K-3

A Catfish Tale by Whitney Stewart (AV2 by Weigl, 2014).

Deep in the bayou, a Cajun fisherman named Jack catches a magic fish that offers to grant wishes in exchange for being set free. Jack doesn't have a lot of wishes, but his wife, Jolie, sure does. Grades K-3

A Dance Like Starlight by Kristy Dempsey (Philomel Books, 2014).

A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s, whose mother cleans and stitches costumes for a ballet company, dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day, and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina. Grades K-3

****A is for Awesome*** by Dallas Clayton (Candlewick Press, 2014).

Alliterative and rhyming words of wisdom surrounded by all new art fill this energetic alphabet book by Dallas Clayton. Bursting with color and life, each spread offers a rhythmic phrase and abundance of artwork illustrating the featured letter. The message of dreaming big and life to its fullest permeates every page, inviting readers to "learn some new letters that you can use to make magical words and share big ideas. Grades PK-2

A Perfectly Messed-Up Story by Patrick McDonnell (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Louie becomes angry when the story in which he appears is ruined by messes from jelly, peanut butter, and other things that do not belong in books. Grades PK-1

Animal Teachers by Janet Halfmann, illustrated by Katy Hudson (Blue Apple Books, 2014).

Short entries portray how 12 different animals are taught various "lessons." Chicks learn to peck to get their bellies full; a prairie dog pup learns how to spot and warn others about predators; a bottlenose dolphin learns how to recognize its mother's signature call! Grades PK-3

****Aviary Wonders, Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual*** by Kate Samworth (Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

In a future when deforestation and other environmental factors have caused many bird species to go extinct, businessman Alfred Wallis offers a catalog of parts for creating replacements, from hand-carved beaks to Italian-leather feet. Grades 4-7

****Baby Bear*** by Kadir Nelson (Balzer + Bray, 2014).

As Baby Bear tries to find his way home through the forest, he asks many different woodland creatures for help and finds that much of their advice is more comforting than helpful. Grades PK-3

****Bad Bye, Good Bye*** by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Jonathan Bean (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

Illustrations and simple, rhyming text follow a family as they move to a new town. Grades PK-3

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***Baseball Is...** by Louise Borden, illustrated by Raúl Colón (Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2014). The ultimate celebration of an all-American sport, this picture book captures the joy and the history of baseball—and knocks it out of the park! Grades 3-6

***Big Bug** by Henry Cole (Little Simon, 2014). Beginning with a bug, various objects are revealed as being big and small in comparison with other objects on a farm under a big, big sky. Grades PK-2

Blizzard by John Rocco (DisneyHyperion Books, 2014). After a massive blizzard, a boy becomes a hero when he manages to walk to the local store and bring supplies back to his neighborhood which has been snowed in for days. Based on the author's childhood experience. Grades PK-K

Breathe by Scott Magoon (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014). A young whale enjoys it's first day of independence. Grades PK-3

Chengdu Could Not, Would Not, Fall Asleep by Barney Saltzberg (DisneyHyperion, 2014). High in the trees in the middle of the night, all of the pandas are sleeping expect for Chengdu, who tries everything and still cannot fall asleep until he finds the perfect spot - atop his brother, Yuan. Includes 2 fold-out pages, a half-page and a quarter-page. Grades PK-K

Creature Features: Twenty-Five Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014). Text and illustrations examine unusual animal facial features and how they help the animals survive. Grades K-3

Digger Dog by William Bee, illustrated by Cecilia Johansson (Nosy Crow, 2014). Digger Dog loves to dig up bones - the bigger the better. But the biggest bone in the world, what will Digger Dog need? The biggest digger in the world, of course! All through the story, the diggers get bigger, the hole gets deeper and there is the most fantastic fold-out surprise at the end! Grades PK-2

Draw! by Raúl Colón (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2014). Based on his own childhood, beloved and award-winning artist Raúl Colón's wordless book is about the limitless nature of creativity and imagination. Grades PK-2

Drop It, Rocket! by Tad Hills (Schwartz & Wade, 2014). Rocket loves to collect words for his word tree with his teacher, the little yellow bird. Watch as the pup finds new words like leaf, hat, star, boot, and many more. Grades PK-K

***Duck Duck Moose** by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones (DisneyHyperion, 2014). Duck and Duck busily prepare for a party, while their housemate, Moose, only gets in the way. Grades PK-1

***Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas** by Lynne Cox, illustrated by Brian Floca (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2014). Here is the incredible story of Elizabeth, a real-life elephant seal who made her home in the Avon River in the city of Christchurch, New Zealand. When Elizabeth decides to stretch out across a two-lane road, the citizens worry she might get hurt or cause traffic accidents. Grades K-3

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Emily's Blue Period by Cathleen Daly, illustrated by Lisa Brown (Roaring Brook Press, 2014). After her parents get divorced, Emily finds comfort in making and learning about art. Grades 1-3

****Extraordinary Jane*** by Hannah E. Harrison (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014). Jane the dog doesn't have a unique talent in the circus like the rest of her family, until the ringmaster discovers what is truly special about her. Grades PK-1

Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World by Steve Jenkins (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014). In his latest eye-popping work of picture book nonfiction, author-illustrator Steve Jenkins explains how for most animals, eyes are the most important source of information about the world in a biological sense. Grades 3-6

Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Sweet, illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen (Charlesbridge, 2014). Young naturalists meet sixteen birds in this elegant introduction to the many uses of feathers. Grades K-3

Fiona's Lace by Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014). Emigrating from Ireland to America, Flora's family settles in Chicago, where Fiona's handmade lace keeps the family together during a devastating fire. Grades K-3

Firebird by Misty Copeland, illustrated by Christopher Myers (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2014). American Ballet Theater soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student, with brown skin like her own, by telling her that she, too, had to learn basic steps and how to be graceful when she was starting out, and that some day, with practice and dedication, the little girl will become a firebird, too. Grades 2-6

Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems by Paul B. Janeczko, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Candlewick Press, 2014). A selection of short American poems dealing with the four seasons and the different weather events and animal patterns that can occur within each. Grades K-4

Flashlight by Lizi Boyd (Chronicle Books, 2014). In this story without words, a boy explores the woods after dark with a flashlight. Grades PK-1

****Flight School*** by Lita Judge (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014). Little Penguin, who has the "soul of an eagle," enrolls in flight school. Grades K-2

Flora and the Penguin by Molly Idle (Chronicle Books, 2014). In this wordless, lift-the-flap picture book, Flora and her new friend, the penguin, dance on the ice together and learn to treat each other with respect and kindness. Grades PK-K

Fly Guy's Amazing Tricks by Red Arnold (Cartwheel Books, 2014). Fly Guy has learned a lot of new tricks, but when he shows off at dinner time he and Buzz get into trouble--though later they prove useful. Fourteenth book in ***Fly Guy*** series. Grades PK-3

Following Papa's Song by Gianna Marino (Viking, 2014). Little Blue, a young humpback whale, has never made the long migration up the coast, and he is worried about his first long journey with Papa. Grades PK-3

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***Froodle** by Antoinette Portis (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).

One day, amidst the usual chirps, tweets, and caws, a little brown bird decides to try singing a new song and sets off an interesting reaction. Grades PK-K

Galápagos George by Jean Craighead George, illustrated by Wendell Minor (HarperCollins, 2014).

An introduction to Pinta Island saddleback tortoises, describing how they came to be and why the species became extinct in 2012. Grades K-3

***Going Places** by Paul A. Reynolds (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Rafael has looked forward to the Going Places contest and builds his go-cart from a kit in record time, but his neighbor, Maya, has a much more interesting and creative idea for her entry and Rafael decides to help. Grades K-2

Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi & Bethany Hegedus, illustrated by Evan Turk (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson tells the story of how his grandfather taught him to turn darkness into light. Grades K-3

Gravity by Jason Chin (Roaring Book Press, 2014).

Color illustrations and simple text explain what would happen without gravity. As in his previous books, *Redwoods*, *Coral Reefs*, and *Island*, Jason Chin has taken a complex subject and made it accessible to young readers. Grades 2-5

***Have You Seen My Dragon?** by Steve Light (Candlewick, 2014).

In the heart of the city, among the taxis and towers, a small boy travels uptown and down, searching for his friend. Readers will certainly spot the glorious beast, plus an array of big-city icons they can count. Is the dragon taking the crosstown bus, or breathing his fiery breath below a busy street? Maybe he took a taxi to the zoo or is playing with the dogs in the park. Grades K-2

***Help! We Need a Title!** by Hervé Tullet (Candlewick, 2014).

The characters within the author's book are not ready to be read about yet because the book does not have a title, but the reader is encouraged to help figure one out. Grades 1-3

Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons by Jon J. Muth (Scholastic Press, 2014).

Contains twenty-six illustrated haikus about the four seasons written by an adorable panda. Grades K-4

Hippos Can't Swim: And Other Fun Facts by Hannah Eliot & Laura Lyn DiSiena, illustrated by Pete Oswald (Little Simon, 2014).

A book of fun facts about animals of all sizes, shapes, and species. Grades PK-2

Hooray for Hat! By Brian Won (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Elephant wakes up in a grumpy mood, but a present on his doorstep--a hat--cheers him and he sets out to greet his neighbors who all, it seems, need hats of their own. Grades PK-K

Hungry Johnny by Cheryl Minnema, illustrated by Wesley Ballinger (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2014).

At the community feast, observing the bounty of festive foods and counting the numerous elders yet to be seated, Johnny learns to be patient and respectful despite his growling tummy. Grades PK-2

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Hunters of the Great Forest by Dennis Nolan (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).

A band of tiny hunters goes off on a mysterious but worthwhile expedition, evading predatory birds and animals along the way, in this wordless picture book. Grades PK-1

I Am Abraham Lincoln by Brad Meltzer, illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Follows Abraham Lincoln from his childhood to the presidency, showing how he spoke up about fairness and eventually led the country to abolish slavery. Grades K-2

I Am Amelia Earhart by Brad Meltzer, illustrated by Christopher Eliopoulos (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Presents the life of the first female pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, who mysteriously disappeared in 1937 while attempting to fly around the world. Grades K-2

****I Hatched!*** by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Jon Corace (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

A bird pecks its way out of its shell, then spends a day discovering new things about the world and itself. Grades PK-1

I'm a Frog! by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2013).

Piggie introduces her reluctant friend, Gerald the elephant, to the wonderful world of pretend. Grades 1-3

If You Were A Dog by Jamie Swenson, illustrated by Chris Raschka (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014).

Easy to read text invites the reader to imagine life as a dog, a cat, a fish, a bird, even a dinosaur. Grades PK-1

In New York by Marc Brown (Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Beloved children's illustrator Marc Brown takes readers on a tour of New York City with this lovingly crafted tribute that also serves as a handy travel guide. Grades PK-1

****Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of The Shopping Mall Gorilla*** by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Clarion Books, 2014).

The true story of Ivan, known as the Shopping Mall Gorilla, who lived alone in a small cage for almost 30 years before being relocated to the gorilla habitat at Zoo Atlanta. Grades PK-3

Knock Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me by Daniel Beaty, illustrated by Bryan Collier (Little Brown and Company, 2013).

A boy wakes up one morning to find his father gone. At first, he feels lost. But his father has left him a letter filled with advice to guide him through the times he cannot be there. Grades PK-1

Little Elliot, Big City by Mike Curato (Henry Holt and Company, 2014).

Elliot the little elephant has a hard time with a lot of things in the city he loves until he meets Mouse, who is even smaller--and hungrier. Grades PK-3

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Little Roja Riding Hood by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Susan Guevara (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2014).

A rhyming twist on the classic fairy tale in which a little girl saves her grandmother from a wolf. Includes glossary of Spanish words. Grades K-3

****Louise Loves Art*** by Kelly Light (Balzer + Bray, 2014).

After drawing a masterpiece of her cat, a young girl searches for the perfect place to hang her masterpiece. Grades PK-3

Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz, illustrated by AG Ford (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2013).

A biography of Malcolm X that focuses on his childhood and the events that influenced later choices and actions in his life. Grades 1-5

Mama Built a Little Nest by Jennifer Ward, illustrated by Steve Jenkins (Beach Lane Books, 2014). Illustrations and simple, rhyming text introduce different kinds of birds' nests, from the scrapes falcons build on high, craggy ledges to the underground nests burrowing owls dig. Includes brief facts about each kind of bird. Grades PK-3

****Maple*** by Lori Nichols (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014).

A nature-loving little girl's favorite playmate is her maple tree, until the day she's surprised with a baby sister. Grades PK-K

Mix It Up! by Hervé Tullet (Handprint Books, 2014).

Using no special effects other than the reader's imagination, simple directions lead the reader to experiment with mixing and changing colors on the printed page. Grades PK-K

****Mr. Tiger Goes Wild*** by Peter Brown (Little Brown and Company, 2013).

Bored with city life and the proper behavior it requires, Mr. Tiger has a wild idea that leads him to discover his true nature. Grades PK-1

My Grandfather's Coat by Jim Aylesworth, illustrated by Barbara McClintock (Scholastic Press, 2014).

A tailor's very old overcoat is recycled numerous times over the years into a variety of garments and other uses. Grades PK-3

My New Friend Is So Fun! by Mo Willems (DisneyHyperion, 2014).

Gerald the elephant and Snake fear that Piggie and Brian Bat will have so much fun together they will no longer need their best friends. Grades 1-3

My Pet Book by Bob Staake (Random House, 2014).

A boy's search for the perfect pet leads him to the bookstore, where he finds a bright red book that becomes his best friend. Grades PK-2

****My Teacher is a Monster! (No, I Am Not.)*** by Peter Brown (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Bobby thinks his teacher, Ms. Kirby, is horrible, but when he sees her outside of school and they spend a day in the park together, he discovers she might not be so bad after all. Grades PK-3

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Mysterious Patterns: Finding Fractals in Nature by Sarah C. Campbell, photographs by Sarah C. Campbell & Richard P. Campbell (Boyd's Mills Press, 2014).

Everyone recognizes circle, squares, triangles, and other geometric shapes in the world around them. But what about trees or lightening or even broccoli? Campbell introduces kids to the discovery of Benoit Mandelbrot. Grades 2-6

****Naked!*** by Michael Ian Black, illustrated by Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).

A child discovers that the only thing more fun than being naked is wearing nothing but a cape. Grades PK-3

Nana in the City by Lauren Castillo (Clarion Books, 2014).

A young boy is frightened by how busy and noisy the city is when he goes there to visit his Nana, but she makes him a fancy red cape that keeps him from being scared as she shows him how wonderful a place it is. Grades PK-1

****Ninja Red Riding Hood*** by Corey Rosen Schwartz, illustrated by Dan Santat (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2014).

In this twist on "Little Red Riding Hood," a certain wolf trains to be a ninja in order to catch his prey, but he is not the only one mastering a martial art. Grades PK-K

****Ninja!*** by Arree Chung (Henry Holt and Company, 2014).

A ninja must be strong, courageous, and silent! He creeps through the house on a secret mission. There may be obstacles! But have no fear--a true ninja can overcome all challenges. Grades PK-2

****Number One Sam*** by Greg Pizzoli (DisneyHyperion Books, 2014).

A competitive race-car driving dog learns that some things are more important than being number one. Grades PK-K

Oh No! A Fox! by Janet Morgan Stoeke (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Rooster Sam unwittingly saves the hens of Loopy Coop Farm. Grades PK-1

Oliver and His Egg by Paul Schmid (DisneyHyperion, 2014).

When Oliver finds an egg, he imagines the amazing adventures they will have together. Grades PK-K

Once Upon an Alphabet by Oliver Jeffers (Philomel Books, 2014).

From an Astronaut who's afraid of heights, to a Bridge that ends up burned between friends, to a Cup stuck in a cupboard and longing for freedom, this series of interconnected stories and characters explores the alphabet. Grades K-2

****One Big Pair of Underwear*** by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Beach Lane Books, 2014).

Progressively larger groups of animals try to share a limited number of scooters, cookbooks, nap mats, and underwear. Grades PK-K

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One Busy Day by Lola M. Schaefer, illustrated by Jessica Meserve (DisneyHyperion, 2014).
Mia's big brother Spencer never seems to have time to play with her. But with a little imagination and lot of love, Mia shows Spencer it's a lot more fun to be busy together. Grades PK-1

Over There by Steve Pilcher (DisneyHyperion, 2014).
When Shredder, a little shrew who lives alone, overcomes his worry and sets out to explore what lies beyond the forest, he finds himself in trouble and discovers a new friend. Grades PK-K

****Pardon Me!*** by Daniel Miyares (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).
A bird tries to keep his spot to himself only to discover that his spot is not safe. Grades PK-3

Pirate, Viking and Scientist by Jared Chapman (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).
A pirate and viking fight to become the very best friend of a kid scientist, who meanwhile devises the perfect formula for all three friends to play happily together. Grades PK-1

Poor Doreen: A Fishy Tale by Sally Lloyd-Jones, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2014).
A fish named Doreen gets into all sorts of trouble on the way to see her cousin. Grades PK-3

Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine by Gloria Whelan, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).
Inspired by a true story, when Queen Victoria is unable to go swimming without her subjects glimpsing her in a swimming suit, her husband, Prince Albert, comes up with an innovative solution so his wife can indulge in the healthy exercise. Grades K-3

Quest by Aaron Becker (Candlewick Press, 2014).
A king emerges from a hidden door in a city park, startling two children sheltering from the rain. No sooner does he push a map and some strange objects into their hands than he is captured by hostile forces that whisk him back through the enchanted door. The children are caught up in a quest to rescue the king and his kingdom from darkness. Grades K-3

****Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*** by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen (Candlewick Press, 2014).
Sam and Dave are sure they will discover something exciting if they just keep digging their hole. Grades PK-3

Sequoia by Tony Johnston, illustrated by Wendell Minor (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).
Standing tall above the tree line, Sequoia stretches his ancient arms and gathers clouds to him. He watches as days, seasons, years pass by. Beneath his broad canopy, a world grows. This is his story, told in poetic verse and painted illustrations. Grades K-3

****Soccer Star*** by Mina Javaherbin, illustrated by Renato Alarcao (Candlewick, 2014).
Paulo, a poor Brazilian boy, dreams of being a soccer star and when his team is short a player his little sister steps in to help them win the game. Grades K-3

Some Bugs by Angela Diterlizzi, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel (Beach Lane Books, 2014).
From butterflies and moths to crickets and cicadas, a rhyming exploration of backyard-bug behavior. Grades PK-3

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Sparky! by Jenny Offill, illustrated by Chris Appelhans (Schwartz and Wade, 2014).

A child takes a sloth named Sparky as a pet, a pet who has more to offer than meets the eye. Grades K-3

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos by Stephanie Roth Sisson (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record. Grades 1-3

Superworm by Julia Donaldson, illustrated by Axel Scheffler (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2014).

Never fear -- Superworm is here! And he's wiggling to the rescue! But when Superworm is captured by a wicked Wizard Lizard, will his friends find a way to help their favorite superhero escape?

Grades PK-3

Tap, Tap, Boom, Boom by Elizabeth Bluemle, illustrated by G. Brian Karas (Candlewick, 2014).

It's a mad dash for shelter as rain sweeps into an urban neighborhood. Where to go? The subway! It's the perfect place to wait out the wind and weather. Strangers share smiles and umbrellas and take delight in the experience of a city thunderstorm. PK-3

Telephone by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jen Corace (Chronicle Books, 2014).

In this picture book a string of birds on a telephone wire plays a game of telephone, with the usual mixed up results. Grades K-3

****The Adventures of Beekle: The Unimaginary Friend*** by Dan Santat (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

An imaginary friend waits a long time to be imagined by a child and given a special name, and finally does the unimaginable--he sets out on a quest to find his perfect match in the real world. Grades K-3

The Bear's Sea Escape by Benjamin Chaud (Chronicle Books, 2014).

Still looking for a place to hibernate, Papa Bear follows Baby Bear to a cruise ship, and winds up on a tropical island. Grades PK-2

****The Book with No Pictures*** by B.J. Novak (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

In this book with no pictures, the reader has to say every silly word, no matter what. Grades K-3

The Farmer and the Clown by Marla Frazee (Beach Lane Books, 2014).

A nearly wordless picture book in which a farmer rescues a baby clown who has bounced off the circus train, and takes very good care of him until he can reunite the tot with his clown family. Grades PK-3

The Fly by Elise Gravel (Tundra Books, 2014).

The first in a series of humorous books about disgusting creatures, *The Fly* is a look at the common housefly. It covers such topics as the hair on the fly's body (requires a lot of shaving), its ability to walk on the ceiling (it's pretty cool, but it's hard to play soccer up there), and its really disgusting food tastes (garbage juice soup followed by dirty diaper with rotten tomato sauce, for example). Although silly and off-the-wall, *The Fly* contains real information that will tie in with curriculum. Grades K-3

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The Girl and the Bicycle by Mark Pett (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2014).
A wordless picture book in which a girl sees a bicycle she wants to buy, works hard for a kindly neighbor to earn the money for it, then gets a pleasant surprise. Grades K-3

The Hula-Hoopin Queen by Thelma Lynne Godin, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Lee & Low Books, 2014).

Kameeka yearns to continue her hula hooping competition with her rival, Jamara, rather than help prepare for Miz Adeline's birthday party, and "the itch" almost ruins the party before the girls learn who the real winner is. Grades K-3

The Iridescence of Birds: A Book About Henri Matisse by Patricia MacLaughlin, illustrated by Hadley Hooper (Roaring Brook Press, 2014).

If you were a boy named Henri Matisse who lived in a dreary town in northern France, what would your life be like? Would it be full of color and art? Full of lines and dancing figures? Find out in this picture book about one of the world's most famous and influential artists. Grades PK-3

The Lion and the Bird by Marianne Dubuc (Enchanted Lion Books, 2014).

A lion finds a wounded bird in his garden and decides to care for it through the winter. When spring arrives, the bird's flock returns. The bird goes off with its flock. Lion is sad. But autumn brings a wonderful surprise. Grades K-3

****The Most Magnificent Thing*** by Ashley Spires (Kids Can Press, 2014).

A girl works to create the most magnificent thing. She knows how it will work, all she has to do is make it, but trying to make it leads to repeated failures. Eventually, the girl gets really, really mad. She is so mad, in fact, that she quits. But she will eventually see why perseverance is important. Grades K-2

The Noisy Paintbox: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary GrandPre (Alfred A. Knopf, 2014).

Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experience colors as sounds and sounds as colors. Grades K-3

The Pigeon Needs a Bath by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2014).

The Pigeon is dirty and he needs a bath, but he won't go willingly. Grades PK-1

****The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School*** by Deborah Diesen, illustrated by Dan Hanna (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2014).

Mr. Fish recalls how, on his very first day of school, he anxiously went to one classroom after another watching students do things he could not, until Miss Hewitt showed him to the room that was right for beginners. Grades K-3

****The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus*** by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2014).

For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. Grades 1-5

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***The Scraps Book: Notes From a Colorful Life** by Lois Ehlert (Beach Lane Books, 2013).

Lois Ehlert always knew she was an artist. Her parents encouraged her from a young age by teaching her how to sew and saw wood and pound nails, and by giving her colorful art supplies. They even gave her a special spot to work that was all her own. Today, many years and many books later, Lois takes readers and aspiring artists on a delightful behind-the-scenes tour of her books and her book-making process. Grades K-5

The Troublemaker by Lauren Castillo (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014).

After playing a trick on his sister by stealing her toy rabbit, a mischievous little boy wonders who the new troublemaker is when his toy raccoon disappears. Grades PK-2

The Worm by Elise Gravel (Tundra Books, 2014).

The second in a series of humorous books about disgusting creatures, *The Worm* is a look at the earthworm. It covers such topics as the worm's habitats (sometimes they live inside other animals), its anatomy (its muscle tube is slimy and gross), and its illustrious history (worms have been on earth for 120 million years). Although silly and off-the-wall, *The Worm* contains real information that will tie in with curriculum. Grades K-3

***This Book Just Ate My Dog** by Richard Byrne (Henry Holt and Company, 2014).

When her dog disappears into the gutter of the book, Bella calls for help. But when the helpers disappear too, Bella realizes it will take more than a tug on the leash to put things right. Grades PK-1

***This is a Moose** by Richard T. Morris, illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

Director Billy Waddler is trying to film a documentary about moose, but the moose in question has no intention of spending his life in the woods and his animal friends, who have dreams of their own, help him prove his point. Grades PK-1

***Three Bears in a Boat** by David Soman (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014).

Afraid to face their mother after breaking her beautiful blue seashell, three bears set out on a high seas adventure to try to find a replacement. Grades PK-1

Trains Can Float and other fun facts by Laura Lyn Disiena, illustrated by Pete Oswald & Aaron Spurgeon (Little Simon, 2014).

A book of fun facts about all sorts of vehicles and transportation. Grades K-3

Violet and Victor Write the Best-Ever Bookworm Book by Alice Kuipers, illustrated by Bethanie Deeney (Little, Brown and Company, 2014).

When Violet decides to write a book, she insists that her twin brother help because he has good ideas, but Victor would rather count his pet worms. Grades PK-1

Washday by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Brad Sneed (Holiday House, 2014).

One sunny Saturday in 1889, Lizzie helps her grandmother scrub, boil, rinse, and hang loads of laundry, although she would rather be having a tea party with her best friend, Lucy, and their dolls, Amelia Cordelia and Belinda Lavinia. Grades K-3

* indicates committee favorite

^If Library of Congress cataloging data was not available, descriptions were adapted from publisher info or Titlewave.

Weasels by Elys Dolan (Candlewick Press, 2014).

When a group of weasels plot to take over the world, they encounter some technical difficulties.

Grades 1-4

Wednesday by Anne Bertier (Enchanted Lion Books, 2014).

Wednesday is about Little Round and Big Square, two friends that get together to play every

Wednesday. Grades PK-2

Weeds Find A Way by Cindy Jenson-Elliott, illustrated by Carolyn Fisher (Beach Lane Books, 2014).

Describes some of the ways that weeds live and grow in the most hostile environments, such as a tangle of tree roots or a crack in the cellar of an old house, where other plants cannot thrive. Grades K-2

What Do You Do With An Idea? by Kobi Yamada, illustrated by Mae Besom (Compendium, 2013).

This is the story of one brilliant idea and the child who helps to bring it into the world. As the child's confidence grows, so does the idea itself. And then, one day, something amazing happens. Grades K-3

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