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Welcome!

We’re excited to share the 2021 edition of The New York Public Library’s Best Books for Kids: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing. This year, our expert librarians read more than 1,600 titles and searched out a wide array of stories, authors, and illustrators. Readers of all ages will find stories that kindle their curiosity, ignite their imaginations, and stir their sense of wonder.

For more than a century, this list has sought to reflect the vibrant diversity of New York City’s readership. In this year’s books, you’ll learn about other countries and cultures, imagine fantastical worlds and futures, and delve into history. Every book contains a new adventure!

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play a critical role in helping a child grow into a confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

• **Make reading part of your family’s regular routine.** Nightly bedtime stories work well for many families, but any time of day is good. It’s never too early to start, and never too late to encourage your child to pick up the habit!

• **Talk about what you are reading.** Whether your child is reading independently or together with you, discussing and retelling stories helps deepen understanding, improve reading skills, and build vocabulary.

• **Let your child catch you reading!** Keep books, newspapers, and magazines at home and demonstrate your own love for the written word.

The New York Public Library’s Best Books for Kids 2021: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing is compiled by a committee who read and reviewed books published through December 2021.

**Best Books for Kids Committee:** Olisha James (co-chair), Kevin Kelley (co-chair), Christy Lau (co-chair), Jennifer Minehardt (co-chair), Sallie Baron, Stevie Feliciano, Andrea Grassi, Krystina Humbert, Esther Jackson, Michael Kirby, Christopher Lassen, Katelynne Lawson, Kaitlin Messina, Derek Milan, Jesse Moskowitz, Rachel Roseberry, January Sanalak, Teresa Silva, Kelly Smith, Rachel Sweany, Geraldine Villatoro, Sarah West

**Advisers:** BookOps & Reader Services
**Picture Books**

**Anita and the Dragons** by Hannah Carmona; illustrated by Anna Cunha. In this softly illustrated story, Anita imagines herself a princess of her beloved Dominican Republic, where she watches “dragons” roar as they pass overhead. One day she must come face to face with them when she journeys to her new home, far away from everything she’s known.

**The Big Bath House** by Kyo Maclear; illustrated by Gracey Zhang. Honoring body positivity and intergenerational family connections, this heartwarming story radiates the communal joy of a Japanese onsen.

**The Capybaras** by Alfredo Soderguit. A charming tale about forging an unlikely friendship, forming a community, and embracing each other’s differences. This light-hearted story, translated from Spanish, features predominantly black-and-white illustrations with a pop of color on each page.

**Dad Bakes** by Katie Yamasaki. When Dad gets home from a full day of baking, he bakes again—this time with his daughter. Readers see their tender relationship in loving focus while waiting for the bread to rise. An intimate story with bright illustrations, this book is a warm snapshot of family connection.

**I Dream of Popo** by Livia Blackburne; illustrated by Julia Kuo. A young girl who emigrates from Taiwan to the United States maintains a connection to her grandmother despite being an ocean apart. A vibrant color palette helps bring the author’s and illustrator’s experiences to life.

**The Longest Storm** by Dan Yaccarino. A single father of three braces for a big storm. While stuck inside, the family struggles then finds ways to come together. With bold illustrations, this timely story offers a conversation starter about facing fears, balancing conflict, and discovering strength in togetherness.

**Magic Candies** by Heena Baek; translated by Sophie Bowman. Aided by a jar of magical candies, Tong Tong can hear the voices of people and objects around him. Hilarious and heartbreaking, this inventive picture book from acclaimed South Korean author and illustrator Heena Baek will change the way readers view their world.

**The Midnight Fair** by Gideon Sterer; illustrated by Mariachiara Di Giorgio. A group of woodland animals takes over a fairground at night in this enchanting wordless picture book illustrated in glowing jewel tones. Join them for an exhilarating night of nocturnal mischief and fun!

**Mii maanda ezhi-gkendmaanh/This Is How I Know** by Brittany Luby; illustrated by Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley. Explore the four seasons in this lyrical bilingual picture book, illustrated in the Woodland Art style. Written in both Anishinaabemowin and English, this story takes readers on a familiar journey in an exciting new way.

**Milo Imagines the World** by Matt de la Peña; illustrated by Christian Robinson. Vivid illustrations and rich text tell the story of Milo, who, while riding the NYC subway, envisions the lives of his fellow passengers through his drawings. When someone exits at the same stop as he does, Milo learns you can’t always know a person just by looking at them.

**Mole in a Black and White Hole** by Tereza Sediva. This charming and cleverly designed picture book is a modern fable that encourages readers to move past their comfort zone in order to see the beauty that surrounds them.

**My Day with the Panye** by Tami Charles; illustrated by Sara Palacios. With lively illustrations and descriptive text, this beautiful coming-of-age story set in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, showcases the tradition of carrying the panye, a large basket, to market.

**My First Day** by Phùng Nguyên Quang and Huynh Kim Liên. The first day of school can be challenging, especially along the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. Rich and poetic text complements whimsical and imaginative art on a journey you won’t forget.

**My Two Border Towns** by David Bowles; illustrated by Erika Meza. Through a young boy’s eyes, readers follow a father and son’s Saturday ritual as they travel from Texas to Tamaulipas. Bilingual language and vibrant illustrations guide readers to see el otro lado (the other side) in a new light.

**Nathan’s Song** by Leda Schubert; illustrated by Maya Ish-Shalom. Nathan leaves his home in Russia to study opera, but after getting on the wrong boat, he accidentally sets sail to New York City. Digital art and striking primary colors bring to life this joyful tale of Jewish immigration in the early 20th century.
The Night Is Deep and Wide by Gillian Sze; illustrated by Sue Todd. The high-contrast illustrations of this board book engage the youngest readers, while the soft, soothing lines of the repetitive lullaby wrap readers in a deep and dreamy song.

The Night Walk by Marie Dorléans. This stunning book, translated from French, portrays the magic of a family trip and the beauty at the end of a nighttime journey. Dazzling illustrations capture the extraordinary nature of light at night as a family connects with nature.

The Old Boat by Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey. A grandmother and her grandson set off fishing in their beloved boat. Sparse text and stamped illustrations reveal the passage of time and the impact that human hands have had on the environment. As the young boy grows, he looks to his community to turn the tide.

On the Trapline by David A. Robertson; illustrated by Julie Flett. Moshom shows his grandson the land his family used to hunt and live off of—a trapline. Cree words are highlighted and defined on each page, and the muted illustrations allow readers to reflect on the places and stories that give life to memory and ancestry.

Over the Shop by JonArno Lawson; illustrated by Qin Leng. Readers will experience joy and wonder while exploring the exquisite pages of this wordless narrative touching on queer pride, chosen family, and what goes into building a place to call home.

Time Is a Flower by Julie Morstad. In this standout text, whimsical and colorful pages illustrate the abstract nature of time. The incredible use of metaphor is sure to kindle the imagination of young readers.

Watercress by Andrea Wang; illustrated by Jason Chin. Masterfully illustrated, this autobiographical picture book depicts a Chinese American family divided by struggles that a younger generation grapples to understand. This emotional story shows how the past can illuminate the present and bridge the divide.

We All Play by Julie Flett. Cree words are coupled with their English translations in this sweeping picture book that celebrates animals and nature. Kids will see themselves in the different scenes of play.

When Lola Visits by Michelle Sterling; illustrated by Aaron Asis. Experience the vibrant sights, sounds, and smells of summer alongside a girl and her grandmother, Lola, in this colorful and evocative picture book. But what happens when summer ends and Lola returns to the Philippines?

When My Cousins Come to Town by Angela Shanté; illustrated by Keisha Morris. Ever wanted a cool nickname? Every summer, a young girl waits to earn her nickname. This year, she’s certain the wait is over. Accompanied by warm collage-style art, this story takes readers on a joyful adventure as the young girl discovers why it’s important to be yourself.

Wishes by Mượn Thị Văn; illustrated by Victo Ngai. In this visually stunning and heartbreaking story, a young girl and her family leave home in search of safer shores. This title is a touching tribute to the author’s own journey from Vietnam to Hong Kong.

Wonder Walkers by Micha Archer. Two inquisitive kids head off on a “wonder walk” where they ask each other questions about nature. Archer’s ink-and-collage illustrations provide a perfect background for the poetic and vocabulary-enriching text.

Young Readers

Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson; illustrated by Robbi Behr. With expressive illustrations and endearing humor, Ben Yokoyama takes on his fortune cookie’s words to “live each day as his last” quite literally. He arms himself with a to-do list that grows zanier with each new addition.

J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard; illustrated by Akeem S. Roberts. Third-grader J.D. spins a bad haircut on its head by creating a thriving business. Now his competition wants to battle it out. Buzzing with humor and pop-culture references, this joyful read is a delightful introduction to a new series. May the best barber win!
Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey by Erin Entrada Kelly. With her amazing imagination (and a little help from her best friend), Marisol learns that even though life throws us obstacles, we need to celebrate all the small victories!

Simon B. Rhymin’ by Dwayne Reed. Mic check! Meet Simon, a shy fifth-grader with a passion for rhyming. An unlikely friendship helps him overcome his stage fright, and Simon learns that appearances don’t always tell the whole story.

Stuntboy, in the Meantime by Jason Reynolds; illustrated by Raúl the Third. When Portico transforms into his alter-ego, Stuntboy, he can handle anything, whether his anxiety or his archnemesis. But when his parents start arguing, not even Stuntboy’s valiant tricks make them stop. Portico’s imagination makes everyday situations feel larger than life.

Tag Team by Raúl the Third. This bilingual early reader introduces El Toro and La Oink Oink, the perfect tag team, as they clean up the stadium from last night’s wrestling match. Stylized comic book illustrations will absorb readers on this clean-up adventure!

Too Small Tola by Atinuke; illustrated by Onyinye Iwu. Join small but mighty Tola on her everyday adventures in Lagos, Nigeria. These charming and funny short stories about Tola and her neighbors will resonate with readers of any age.

Middle Grade

Amari and the Night Brothers by B.B. Alston. After the disappearance of her brother Quinton, Amari Peters is recruited into a hidden magical society. As she trains to become a junior agent, will she be able to uncover the truth of what happened to her brother?

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith. In this joyful celebration of First Nations heritage, 16 Indigenous authors share original, interwoven stories, all culminating at the Dance for Mother Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Barakah Beats by Maleeha Siddiqui. Nimra, a young Muslim girl desperate to fit in at her new school, accepts an invitation to join a popular eighth-grade boy band. Worried that her parents will find out, she intends to drop out before the big talent show, but acting on that plan proves harder than she imagined.

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna by Alda P. Dobbs. Petra has dreams of going to school and learning to read. Instead, she must lead her grandmother and younger siblings to safety from the army of Federales during the Mexican Revolution. Through her resilience, can Petra both save her family and make her dreams a reality?

Black Boy Joy: 17 Stories Celebrating Black Boyhood edited by Kwame Mbalia. A euphoric celebration of Black boyhood featuring 17 stories by contemporary Black male and non-binary authors. Sampling popular genres and formats like Afrofuturism, realistic fiction, comics, and verse, these uplifting stories about Black male youth are not to be missed.

Burying the Moon by Andrée Poulin; illustrated by Sonali Zohra. In this vibrantly illustrated novel in verse, Latika bravely confronts the problem of inadequate sanitation in her rural Indian village, a global issue with a dangerous impact on women and girls.

Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls by Kaela Rivera. Things are not easy for Cece. Her family is experiencing domestic violence, and now her sister has disappeared. Cece has to learn forbidden magic in order to rescue her sister.

The Dreamweavers by G.Z. Schmidt. Twins Mei and Yun must embark on a magical adventure to save their grandfather after a mysteriously spoiled batch of his mooncakes earns a prince’s wrath. To succeed, they must break a poet’s vengeful curse—with or without the guidance of the Jade Rabbit.

The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera. Twelve-year-old Petra is put in stasis on a shuttle bound for an uninhabited planet. Centuries later, she wakes as one of the few surviving travelers, and the only one not reprogrammed by the menacing Collective that has taken over the ship. Can her cuentas save them all?
Pencilvania by Stephanie Watson; illustrated by Sofia Moore. In a fit of grief after losing her mom, Zora destroys her art with a thick scribble. The scribble retaliates by pulling Zora and her sister into Pencilvania, a magical realm where her drawings have come to life. Zora must find the courage to save her sister and her art.

A Place to Hang the Moon by Kate Albus. Three orphaned siblings are evacuated from London to the English countryside at the dawn of WWII. As the siblings bounce between billets, they’re unsure if they will ever find the perfect home. Heartwarming and perfect for fans of classic children’s literature.

Red, White, and Whole by Rajani LaRocca. Reha is trying to find a balance between wanting to be American like her friends at school and pleasing her traditional immigrant parents at home. When her mother gets sick, Reha is determined to make her feel better by being the perfect daughter.

Root Magic by Eden Royce. In 1963 South Carolina, twins Jezebel and Jay are learning traditional Gullah rootwork. What looks like simple remedies are soon discovered to contain very powerful magic. Facing natural and supernatural threats, will the twins learn enough to save their family and heal their town?

Starfish by Lisa Fipps. Ellie is constantly bullied for her weight and, as a result, writes her own “Fat Girl Rules.” With the help of a new friend, Ellie embarks on an empowering journey toward body positivity and reclaiming her self-worth.

Thanks a Lot, Universe by Chad Lucas. Brian feels like a social misfit, and his anxiety worsens after his mom engages in self-harm. He finds solace in a budding friendship with his popular basketball teammate, Ezra. What will Ezra’s friends say when they find out he has a crush on Brian?

Too Bright to See by Kyle Lukoff. Bug feels different from others. As Bug grieves the death of a beloved uncle, can the ghosts in their old house guide Bug on their journey of self-discovery?
Graphic Novels

**Allergic** by Megan Wagner Lloyd; illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter. Maggie wants to stop feeling like the odd girl out and is convinced that a puppy will help. A newly discovered allergy stands in the way of her puppy dreams, but does that rule out all animals?

**Another Kind** by Cait May and Trevor Bream. Cryptid kids with strange powers and “irregularities” are on the run from their high-security government facility, nicknamed the Playroom. In finding a new place to call home, they must evade the elusive Collector or risk being collected themselves.

**Artie and the Wolf Moon** by Olivia Stephens. Artie finds her place when her mom confesses that they’re werewolves and introduces her to their estranged werewolf community. But before Artie can hit her stride, her newly discovered pack comes under attack by an old enemy: vampires.

**Garlic and the Vampire** by Bree Paulsen. Garlic worries that she can’t get anything right. When a vampire moves into a nearby castle, Garlic’s vegetable folk village agrees that she is the obvious choice to drive him away. Will Garlic find the courage to believe in herself?

**The Girl from the Sea** by Molly Knox Ostertag. In this coming-of-age tale, Morgan meets a selkie, Keltie, after nearly drowning. When Morgan gives Keltie an impulsive kiss, they quickly become inseparable. Morgan has always kept her feelings for girls hidden, and Keltie also has a secret of her own.

**The Golden Hour** by Niki Smith. Manuel uses photography to stay grounded after witnessing gun violence at school. When he teams up with his classmates Caysha and Sebastian for a county fair project, the new friends learn to open up, confront fear, and even find love.

**Living with Viola** by Rosena Fung. Livy doesn’t feel like she belongs anywhere, and Viola just makes it worse. But who’s Viola? She’s Livy’s anxiety, ready to do anything to bring Livy down. Can Livy find a way to be stronger than Viola and be true to herself?

**No One Returns from the Enchanted Forest** by Robin Robinson. The Enchanted Forest is forbidden, but feisty Pella can’t stay away. Her distraught older sister Bix must gather the strength to find her. This fantasy adventure is about overcoming fear when you have something to fight for.

**Pawcasso** by Remy Lai. During summer vacation, Jo spots a dog shopping alone. Amazed by the sight, she decides to follow him and is mistaken for his owner. Her tiny lie grows into a great deal of trouble involving the whole town!

**Power Up** by Sam Nisson; illustrated by Darnell Johnson. When teamed up online, Miles and Rhys are BFFs and a force to be reckoned with. Offline, they are strangers, despite attending the same school. As Miles chases his classmates’ approval and Rhys evades his classmates’ scrutiny, will their friendship be able to cross the digital divide?

**Tiny Tales: Shell Quest** by Steph Waldo. Slug notices new friends that look a lot like her, except they have shells! Slug decides she needs one too, but finding one is a lot harder than she expected.

Poetry

**Dear Treefrog** by Joyce Sidman; illustrated by Diana Sudyka. Moving can be hard, but with the help of a friendly treefrog, one lonely girl learns how to connect to the natural world around her.

**The Dirt Book: Poems About Animals That Live Beneath Our Feet** by David L. Harrison; illustrated by Kate Cosgrove. There’s an entire world beneath the dirt! Nature-loving readers will enjoy these lively poems that celebrate the many creatures living underground. The vertical format of the book creates an engaging reading experience.

**Infinity** by Pablo Bernasconi. With fanciful mixed-media illustrations, Argentine author Bernasconi invites young readers to dip their toes into a thought-provoking journey that explores the concept of infinity.
**Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance** by Nikki Grimes. In this feminist collection, Grimes connects the works of underappreciated women poets of the Harlem Renaissance, her own poems created with the Golden Shovel method, and illustrations by contemporary Black women artists.

**Niños: Poems for the Lost Children of Chile** by María José Ferrada; illustrated by María Elena Valdez. Through this extraordinary collection, Chilean author Ferrada gives voice to the 34 children lost during Pinochet’s dictatorship in the 1970s and 80s. The poems explore imagined futures full of joy, illustrating the magnitude of the loss and reminding us of the preciousness of life.

**The People Remember** by Ibi Zoboi; illustrated by Loveis Wise. Using the principles of Kwanzaa, this powerful collection takes readers through the history of African Americans. Bringing Black history to life, this lyrical free verse collection is compelling, elegantly written, and partnered with dynamic illustrations.

## Nonfiction

**The 1619 Project: Born on the Water** by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson; illustrated by Nikkolas Smith. This gripping book, with its soul-stirring illustrations and lyrical verse, evocatively traces the African American lineage, chronicling the origins and impact of slavery in America while underlining the lives of African ancestors before slavery began.

**African Icons: Ten People Who Shaped History** by Tracey Baptiste. This compendium of short biographies richly details the lives of 10 historical people who not only lived, but thrived, in ancient Africa. With beautiful portraits woven among concise essays, this book guides young readers through a look at Africa’s oft-ignored past.

**Bartali’s Bicycle: The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy’s Secret Hero** by Megan Hoyt; illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. “Some medals are pinned to your soul, not your jacket.” This is the riveting and untold story of how Italy’s 1938 Tour de France champion Gino Bartali saved countless Jewish families during WWII’s darkest days by doing what he did best: cycling.

**Black Hole Chasers: The Amazing True Story of an Astronomical Breakthrough** by Anna Crowley Redding. How do you take a picture of a black hole? Learn about the incredible teamwork, personalities, and innovations that accomplished this recent scientific feat. Replete with kid-friendly metaphors, this phenomenal book will inspire young physicists!

**The Boy Whose Head Was Filled with Stars: A Life of Edwin Hubble** by Isabelle Marinov; illustrated by Deborah Marcero. American astronomer Edwin Hubble asks: how many stars are in the sky? How did the universe begin? Where did it come from? Mesmerizing nightscapes paired with simple text offer an engaging account of Hubble’s life and findings. Sure to inspire readers to look up!

**Chasing Bats and Tracking Rats: Urban Ecology, Community Science, and How We Share Our Cities** by Cylita Guy; illustrated by Cornelia Li. Written by an ecologist, this nonfiction book opens readers’ eyes to the flora and fauna of cities, while highlighting how urban areas, wildlife, and social justice intersect.

**Escape at 10,000 Feet: D.B. Cooper and the Missing Money** by Tom Sullivan. Would you believe that someone hijacked a plane, escaped with the ransom money by parachute, and was never caught? This daring true story captured headlines in the 1970s and is retold with primary source materials and plenty of panache. Kids will devour this rollicking story!

**The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee** by Julie Leung; illustrated by Julie Kwon. In a time when women weren’t encouraged to fly, Hazel Ying Lee was undetered and set her sights on the sky. An elegantly illustrated and powerfully moving account of the determination that propelled a Chinese American pilot’s aspirations despite racial and gender barriers.
**From the Tops of the Trees** by Kao Kalia Yang; illustrated by Rachel Wada. Kalia only knows of life in the Ban Vanai Refugee Camp in Thailand. She asks her father what is beyond the fence, and they climb the tallest tree to find out. Evocatively beautiful, this book provides a snippet of Hmong refugee camp life and a father’s dream for his daughter beyond its confines.

**Hear My Voice/ Escucha mi voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States** compiled by Warren Binford. This bilingual book features the true words of children that are and have been detained at the U.S. border due to their immigration status. Illustrated by Latinx artists using a variety of artistic styles, these testimonies are powerful, moving, and unforgettable.

**I Am Smoke** by Henry Herz; illustrated by Mercè López. Soft watercolor and naturalistic illustrations bring the voice of smoke to life as it shares its cycle of existence. Learn about the fascinating and helpful ways it has been used by civilizations for millennia.

**King of Ragtime: The Story of Scott Joplin** by Stephen Costanza. Filled with colorful illustrations and rhythmic text, this picture book biography celebrates African American composer Scott Joplin, whose ragtime music opened the door for jazz.

**Living Ghosts and Mischievous Monsters: Chilling American Indian Stories** by Dan SaSuWeh Jones; illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre. Seeking short stories to send shivers down your spine? These creepy ancestral tales and modern accounts of American Indian ghosts and monsters will haunt you long after you’ve closed the book.

**Nina: A Story of Nina Simone** by Traci N. Todd; illustrated by Christian Robinson. Follow the transformation of Eunice Waymon into singer and activist Nina Simone in this lovely picture book biography. Simone’s voice and message is remembered as nothing short of a triumph and this book and its dynamic illustrations honor it.

**One Million Oysters on Top of the Mountain** by Alex Nogué; illustrated by Miren Asiain Lora; translated by Lawrence Schimel. Through stylish illustrations and a genuine sense of curiosity and wonder at the facts of the natural world, this title clearly and captivatingly explains geologic history for a young audience.

**Opening the Road: Victor Hugo Green and His Green Book** by Keila V. Dawson; illustrated by Alleanna Harris. In the 1930s, New Yorker Victor Hugo Green published the Green Book, a guide that empowered Black Americans to travel safely across the nation. Discover how the most popular travel guide within the African American community was created and distributed.

**The People’s Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art** by Cynthia Levinson; illustrated by Evan Turk. Mimicking the social realist style of Lithuanian-born artist Ben Shahn, this biography tells the story of how one man was able to use his art to create a more equitable and just society for working class people.

**Stamped (for Kids): Racism, Antiracism, and You** by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi; illustrated by Rachelle Baker; adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul. Presented in a warm and sensitive voice, the difficult conversation about the history of racist ideas in America and the anti-racist movements that emerged in response is made accessible for young readers. An essential adaptation of the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You*.

**Summertime Sleepers: Animals That Estivate** by Melissa Stewart; illustrated by Sarah Brannen. You’ve heard about hibernation, but what about estivation? In this eye-opening, fact-filled book, discover what a myriad of small creatures do during the hottest months of the year. Don’t sleep on this one!
Ten Animals in Antarctica: A Counting Book by Moira Court. This collage-style illustrated book introduces young readers to 10 amazing land and sea animals from Antarctica. The text uses both alliteration and internal rhyme to describe the animals’ traits and habitats. Don’t count this one out!

Two Grooms on a Cake: The Story of America’s First Gay Wedding by Rob Sanders; illustrated by Robbie Cathro. Told from the perspective of two wedding cake toppers, this is the story of the first same-sex couple in America to be legally wed on September 3, 1971. Sweet, vintage-style illustrations present this overlooked piece of LGBTQ history.

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Floyd Cooper. This monumental picture book depicts the tragic events of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre. The sepia-toned illustrations show the prosperous Black community of the Greenwood district of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the devastation it endured at the hands of a white mob.

Welcome to Your Period! by Yumi Stynes and Dr. Melissa Kang; illustrated by Jenny Latham. This inclusive, conversational guide to periods celebrates body positivity and includes firsthand accounts from menstruators. All your questions, no matter how awkward, are answered within these pages!

While I Was Away by Waka T. Brown. When Waka is sent to Tokyo to improve her Japanese, she’s not excited to live with her strict grandmother. Eventually, she figures out that it might not be so bad after all. A touching memoir about a young girl finding home across two cultural worlds.

The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom by Lita Judge. Did you know that trees interact with each other and other creatures? This nonfiction poetry book examines the hidden communities and networks of trees with lush illustrations and pages brimming with details. Don’t “leaf” this book behind.