

The New York Public Library BEST NEW BOOKS FOR KIDS

100 Titles for Reading and Sharing
2022 Edition

ABOUT THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Founded in 1895, The New York Public Library is the nation's largest public library system, with neighborhood branches throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island as well as scholarly research centers. Serving millions of patrons a year both in person and online, the Library offers free materials, classes, and programs for users of all ages.

What's your favorite book of the year?

Share your #BestBooks online with @nypl!

Plus! Check out the interactive web version of this list or print your own checklist. Scan the QR code or visit us online: nypl.org/kids2022



New York
Public
Library





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Welcome!

Every year, our expert librarians read hundreds of new titles to compile a list of the Best New Books for Kids. For more than a century, this list has sought to reflect the vibrant diversity of New York City's readership. Now, we're excited to share with New Yorkers the 2022 edition: 100 titles selected from more than 1,700 books read by our librarians—including picture books, graphic novels, poetry, chapter books, and more that embrace a wide array of stories, authors, and illustrators. We hope this list will help readers of all ages find stories to fire their imaginations and inspire them to go on more reading adventures all year round!

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play essential roles in helping a child become a confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

- **Make reading part of your family's regular routine.** 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 New Books for Kids is compiled by a committee who read and reviewed books published through December 2022.

Best Books for Kids Committee: Andrea Grassi (co-chair), Jo Henning (co-chair), Amber Moller (co-chair), Rachel Sweany (co-chair), Jennifer Allen-Williams, Heather Barnum, Anastasia Bushey, Ruth Isserman, Meghan Klaus, Melissa Koszer, Christopher Lassen, Sharon Rickson, Kayleigh Salstrand, Melina Sang, Elley Shin, Miri Shorten, Rachel Skinner-O'Neill, Lila Spitz, and Melissa Zemba.

Advisers: BookOps and Reader Services.

Happy reading to you all!

The New York Public Library

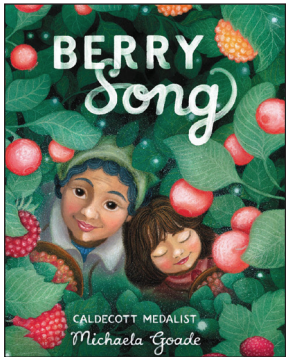
Picture Books

Abdul's Story by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose.

Abdul is faced with the challenge of expressing himself through writing. The use of primary colors in this picture book speaks to the experience of being self-conscious at school and the warmth of finding a teacher who understands.

Bathe the Cat by Alice B. McGinty, illustrated by David Roberts.

A diverse family frantically attempts to clean the house before Grandma visits. Things take a wacky turn when the family cat mixes up the chore list to avoid a dreaded bath. Playful text pairs with watercolor and pencil illustrations to tell this silly tale.



Berry Song by Michaela Goade. Breathtaking artwork and sing-song verse depict an afternoon journey of berry foraging. A lyrical celebration of family and the Indigenous custom of giving thanks, “Gunalchéesh,” to the land for what it provides.

Black: The Many Wonders of My World by Nancy Johnson James, illustrated by Constance Moore. The second installment in a series of books celebrating the spectrums of color and race (the first being *Brown: The Many Shades of Love*), illustrated

in crisp and colorful collage. A joyous ode that deliberately tackles anti-Black language in a rhyming, poetic style.

A Blue Kind of Day by Rachel Tomlinson, illustrated by Tori-Jay Mordey.

Coen is having the worst of days, and his family wants nothing more than to help cheer him up. In the end, they learn that what he really needs is for them to listen. An empathetic look at depression told with sparse yet powerful text and soft, realistic illustrations.

Daddy Speaks Love by Leah Henderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

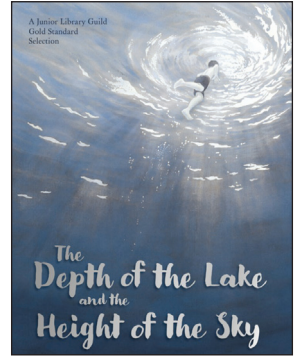
Touching portraits of all kinds of loving fathers illustrate their lasting impact on the lives of their children and the world. Written in rhythmic verse, the text addresses unity and Black Lives Matter in a gentle, kid-appropriate way.

Days Like This by Oriane Smith, illustrated by Alice Gravier.

From a beautiful poetic introduction to an ending that may pleasantly surprise readers, this charming and extraordinarily detailed picture book presents experiences in nature from two perspectives.

The Depth of the Lake and the Height of the Sky by Kim Jihyun.

A stunning, wordless picture book in deep blue watercolor depicts a summer exploration through forest, lake, and field. A calming escape from the city that children and their caregivers can make their own with every read.



Does a Bulldozer Have a Butt? by Derick Wilder, illustrated by K-Fai Steele.

On the way to school, a child and their dad walk through the city asking one of life's most important questions: what exactly has a butt? Pages filled with hidden details will have readers chuckling at every hilarious turn.

Every Dog in the Neighborhood by Philip C. Stead, illustrated by Matthew Cordell. How do you survey a neighborhood to determine if it already has enough dogs? Follow Louis and his grandma in this door-to-door adventure, where readers will discover new details and humor with every read.

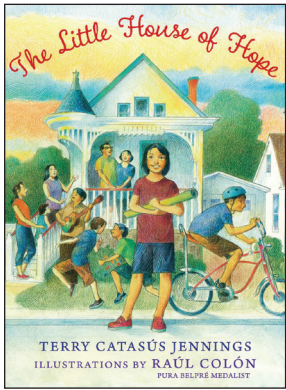
Gibberish by Young Vo. Dat struggles to adjust on his first day of school in a new country. Imaginative illustrations empathetically portray the experience of learning a new language and feeling out of place in unfamiliar surroundings.

Hot Dog by Doug Salati. Turn through brightly illustrated pages to discover what a dog and their owner do to escape the oppressive NYC heat. With as much heart as it has steam, sand, and sea, this simple travel adventure celebrates the tiny victories in life.

I Hate Borsch! by Yevgenia Nayberg. A young Ukrainian girl absolutely hates borsch, but when she grows up, she longs for it with nostalgia. A whimsical and funny look at the impact and nuance of cultural ties.



Kunoichi Bunny by Sara Cassidy, illustrated by Brayden Sato. On an outing with her dad, Saya secretly deploys her lovable stuffed bunny to keep their neighbors safe from danger. This spunky, almost-wordless graphic picture book will have readers cheering on an unassuming pair of heroes.



The Little House of Hope by Terry Catasús Jennings, illustrated by Raúl Colón. As a newly immigrated family settles into their little home, they create a space big enough to serve as a safe haven for other immigrants. Bright pastel colors add light and life to this semi-autobiographical story about compassion and community building.

Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle by Nina LaCour, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita. Missing someone can be hard. In this sweet, sentimental story, a little girl experiences

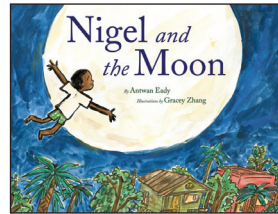
mixed emotions while Mommy is away on a business trip. A significant representation of inclusive and diverse families, relationships, and love.

My Hands Tell a Story by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Tonya Engel. Expressive and textured illustrations paint the story of a day spent baking bread. Zoe watches her grandmother knead the dough and learns of the many stories of life and love held in Grandma's guiding hands.

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My Paati's Saris by Jyoti Rajan Gopal, illustrated by Art Twink. In vibrant illustrations and joyful text, a young child helps their paati (the Tamil word for grandmother) get ready for a night of festivities while admiring and finding refuge in all the beautiful textures and patterns of her many colorful saris.

Nigel and the Moon by Antwan Eady, illustrated by Gracey Zhang. Each night, Nigel tells the moon what he dreams of being: an astronaut, a dancer, and a superhero too. With pride in where he comes from, he finds the courage and confidence to show his true self to the world.



Nothing Special by Desiree Cooper, illustrated by Bec Sloane. Photographed textile figures made from entirely repurposed materials breathe whimsy into the everyday activities PopPop and Nana share with their grandson. Join them on a timeless summer weekend on the coast of Virginia.

Our Story Starts in Africa by Patrice Lawrence, illustrated by Jeanetta Gonzales. Tante Janet takes her niece back in time, from their roots in the Caribbean to ancient African origins. This journey through African history touches on the dark days of slavery, honors the days of African warrior queens, and amplifies the importance of cultural memory and pride.

Skater Cielo by Rachel Katstaller. A relatable story of overcoming fears gets a fresh twist when Cielo and her crew meet at the local state park to practice their moves. Emerging readers and skaters will find the glossary of skate terms and lingo a welcome bonus.

Song in the City by Daniel Bernstrom, illustrated by Jenin Mohammed. Emmalene, a young blind girl, hears music in all the vibrant sounds of her busy city, but her grandma only hears noise. Follow along as Emmalene shows Grandma Jean how to be present and hear the beautiful and joyful song of their city.



Ten Blocks to the Big Wok: A Chinatown Counting Book (English and Chinese Edition) by Ying-Hwa Hu. Young Mia and Uncle Eddy stroll through Chinatown counting all the enriching cultural items in their community that embody a Chinese American experience. Told in Mandarin and English with soft watercolor illustrations, this joyous story will leave readers hungry for some dim sum!

Viva's Voice by Raquel Donoso, illustrated by Carlos Vélez. Viva, a zealous young Latina girl, admires her dad and his job as a bus driver in Los Angeles. When the transit workers go on strike, Viva accompanies her dad to a protest. Energetic illustrations depict a vivacious young voice in an important and empowering role.

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Young Readers

April & Mae and the Tea Party by Megan Dowd Lambert, illustrated by Briana Dengoue. It's teatime for April and Mae, but uh-oh! As April tries to show off a new skill, one of Mae's favorite cups is accidentally broken. Can these two best friends work through their very first disagreement?

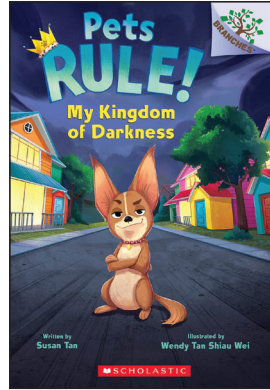
Gigi and Ojiji by Melissa Iwai. Gigi is thrilled that her grandfather is coming to live with her! But when Ojiji arrives from Japan, Gigi discovers that change can be both exciting and difficult.

The Nguyen Kids: The Secret of the Jade Bangle by Linda Trinh, illustrated by Clayton Nguyen. Through the magic of a gifted jade bangle, the spirit of Anne's late Grandma Nội materializes to help her navigate grief, explore her Vietnamese cultural identity, and confront the racism she experiences in ballet class.

Pets Rule!: My Kingdom of Darkness

by Susan Tan, illustrated by Wendy Tan Shiau Wei.

Ember, an adopted Chihuahua bent on world domination, sets about taking charge of his human minions and inspiring other pets to take on the acorn-lobbing squirrels next door in this super fun, laugh-out-loud early chapter book.



Racing Ace: Drive It! Fix It! by Larry Dane Brimner,

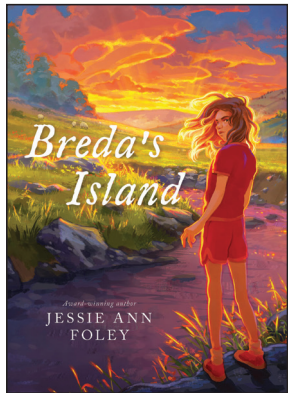
illustrated by Kaylani Juanita. Vroom! Ace is ready to race, but her car keeps breaking down! Can she fix it in time to win first place? This irresistible little hero will get readers all revved up!

Wednesday and Woof #1: Catastrophe by Sherri Winston, illustrated by

Gladys Jose. Wednesday and her support dog, Woof, run a detective agency in their backyard. When Wednesday's operatic neighbor's cat disappears, the detectives are on the case, sleuthing around their lakeside neighborhood to collect evidence and test theories.

6 Middle Grade

Aviva vs. the Dybbuk by Mari Lowe. Aviva is overwhelmed. Why? Her father's death has left her mother depressed. Aviva is stuck planning the Best Bas Mitzvah Party Ever with her ex-friend. Anti-Semitic vandalism plagues the community. To top it all off, a mischievous dybbuk haunts her home.



Breda's Island by Jessie Ann Foley. In this lushly descriptive story, rebellious Breda is sent to Ireland to stay with her cranky grandfather whom she's never met. Breda learns to love the land and Granda's Gaelic stories. Along the way, she solves more than one family mystery.

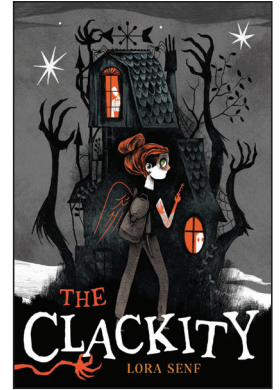
The Civil War of Amos Abernathy by Michael

Leali. Amos volunteers at a historical site with his best friend, Chloe, and his new friend (and crush!) Ben. The trio's idea for a new exhibition on local queer history upsets Ben's family and

others in the community. Who gets to decide which stories are told at the Living History Park?

The Clackity by Lora Senf, illustrated by Alfredo Cáceres.

Aunt Des has been abducted by a serial killer ghost to a terrifying otherworld. Now, Evie must make a desperate deal with The Clackity, a dreadful, conniving creature, in order to rescue her aunt.

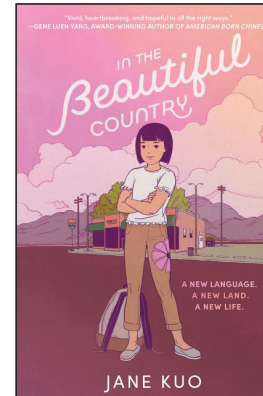


The Door of No Return by Kwame Alexander. In

this searing verse novel, Asante-born Kofi challenges his bully cousin to a swimming competition to defend his crush, Ama. Suddenly, Kofi is traumatically and violently plunged into the world of slave trafficking when he is kidnapped and sold off to an unknown fate.

A Duet for Home by Karina Yan Glaser. After the unexpected death of her father, June's family is evicted and lands in Huey House shelter. June is befriended by Tyrell and the other residents and begins to find herself again. When the shelter is threatened, June and her friends must find a way to save it.

Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson. In this atmospheric historical adventure, Homer and Ava flee slavery, leaving their mother behind. In the Great Dismal Swamp, they discover Freewater, a community of formerly enslaved people. When danger encroaches, Homer plots to save both his new friends and his mother.



In the Beautiful Country by Jane Kuo. In this novel in verse, Taiwanese-born Ai Shi becomes Anna when she immigrates to "the beautiful country." California brings unexpected difficulties: bullying, money problems, and vandalization of her family's restaurant. Can they overcome their troubles and find home?

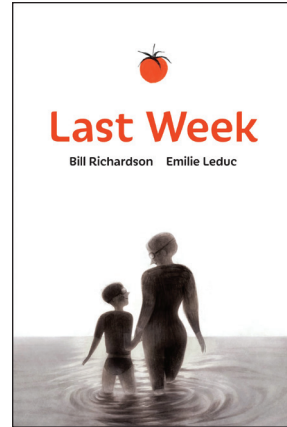
In the Key of Us by Mariama J. Lockington.

Everyone expects the only Black girls at Harmony Music Camp to be friends, but Andi and Zora couldn't be more different. When forced to spend time together, they confide in each other about performance pressure, family issues, and a self-harm secret. They discover a

spark of friendship—and maybe something more.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat. Determined to plot her own destiny, mapmaker apprentice Sai sets sail aboard a ship bound for the mythical Sunderlands. As the ship enters uncharted territory, rumored to be home to a fierce dragon and untold riches, Sai finds herself in deeper waters than she'd anticipated.

Last Week by Bill Richardson, illustrated by Emilie Leduc. This gentle novella explores a child's experience of grief, uncertainty, and questioning as they spend one last week with their beloved grandmother before her medically assisted death.

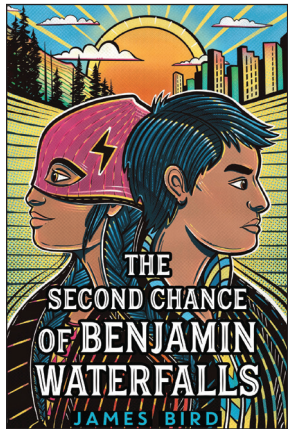


Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee. Maizy is dreading summer in Last Chance, Minnesota, where she'll help care for her ailing opa. But soon, Maizy is captivated by the history of her grandparents' restaurant, her family story, and how these narratives intertwine with the history of Chinese immigrants in America.

Moonwalking by Zetta Elliott & Lyn Miller-Lachmann. In 1980s Brooklyn, misfits JJ and Pie bond over graffiti art and punk rock while seeking a sense of belonging in this dual-narrative novel in verse.

Morning Sun in Wuhan by Ying Chang Compestine. With her father working around the clock at a hospital, Mei uses her love of cooking and computer games to help her community band together during the chaotic first weeks of the pandemic in Wuhan.

The Ogress and the Orphans by Kelly Barnhill. A shapeshifting dragon full of malicious intent and a town at odds with itself. A kindhearted ogress and a wiser-than-their-years group of orphans. Who will prevail in this compelling allegorical tale?

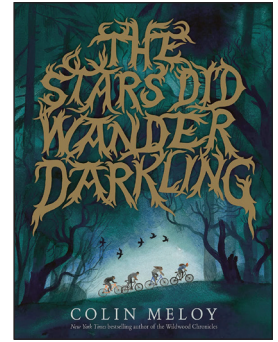


The Second Chance of Benjamin Waterfalls by James Bird. Benjamin finally gets caught stealing... a teddy bear. As punishment, he's court-ordered to "Native boot camp" with his estranged dad on an Ojibwe reservation in Minnesota. But this boot camp is run by a kid his age, the Chief's mysterious masked daughter, Niimi Waatese.

Shot Clock by Caron Butler & Justin A. Reynolds. When basketball star Dante is murdered by the police, Tony vows to carry on his friend's legacy. But Coach offers Tony only a position off-court:

team statistician. Can Tony help lead the team to victory and move forward from the tragedy that has devastated his community?

The Stars Did Wander Darkling by Colin Meloy. Ever since Archie's dad started construction on the cliffs of Seaham, the town has been beset by strange and gruesome events. Archie and his friends are the town's only hope for survival as this real-life horror film unfolds.



The Tiltersmith by Amy Herrick. Four friends in Brooklyn find themselves drawn into a parallel universe on a magical adventure to save the seasons from the diabolical Tiltersmith, who has infiltrated their school in his bid to make winter last forever.

Troublemaker by John Cho with Sarah Suk. This fast-paced, action-packed historical fiction follows Jordan as he navigates the streets of LA to his father's store on the first night of the 1992 riots sparked by the brutal police beating of Rodney King.

Tumble by Celia C. Pérez. Addie is determined to use her research smarts to find her birth father. Her mom has kept his identity hidden all of Addie's life, but discovering her lucha libre lineage leaves her wrestling with what family really means and where she might fit in with her legendary new familia.

Unfadeable by Maurice Broaddus. Young graffiti artist Bella Fades is used to flying solo and surviving on her own in urban Indianapolis. But when she suspects some local community leaders of suspicious activity, she'll need a little help—both human and canine—to take them down.



The Visitors by Greg Howard. A ghost trapped on an abandoned plantation has no recollection of his past or how he died: accident? suicide? murder? When a group of living kids shows up, the ghost joins forces with the visitors to defy the evil that binds the plantation and wake the memories of how he came to be there.

When Winter Robeson Came by Brenda Woods. Eden is excited for two weeks of harmonious fun with her cousin Winter in this novel in verse. When he arrives, Winter reveals his intention to search for his missing father, which launches the duo on a fact-finding mission in the midst of the discord of the 1965 Watts Rebellion.

Zachary Ying and the Dragon Emperor

by Xiran Jay Zhao. When Chinese American Muslim Zack meets the new kid at school, his world is turned upside down. First, an ancient Chinese emperor attempts to take over Zack's body. Then, his mom is abducted. AR gaming, myth, and history combine as Zack embarks on an epic adventure across China.

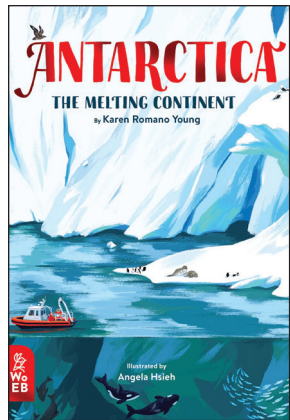


Nonfiction

Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas by Jeanne Walker

Harvey, illustrated by Loveis Wise. Pore over the life of American visual artist Alma Thomas, from her childhood through her career as a teacher to her later life as a painter and changemaker. A biography told in spare text to make space for vivid and colorful illustrations as bold and bright as their subject.

Alias Anna: A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis by Susan Hood with Greg Dawson. Young Jewish piano prodigies Zhanna and Frina outsmart the Nazis at every turn as they are forced deep into the heart of Germany during World War II. The sisters rely on surprising allies and their own wit and will to survive in this incredible true story in verse.



Antarctica: The Melting Continent by Karen Romano Young, illustrated by Angela Hsieh.

An information-packed guide to an icebound continent where scientists live and research in some of the harshest conditions on Earth. Explore a changing landscape where dinosaurs used to roam and giant sea life swims beneath the shifting ice.

Blast Off!: How Mary Sherman Morgan Fueled America into Space by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. A brightly illustrated biography of Mary Sherman Morgan,

America's first female rocket scientist. Using math, chemistry, and determination, she leads her team to develop the fuel needed to blast the first U.S. satellite into space.

Blue: A History of the Color As Deep As

the Sea and As Wide As the Sky by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter. Elegant illustrations will mesmerize younger readers, while older readers will learn something new about a familiar color—blue! A vibrant historical piece that is as poetic as it is informational.



Caves by Nell Cross Beckerman, illustrated by Kalen Chock. Spectacular illustrations of caves all over the world will enthrall budding spelunkers and armchair adventurers alike. Brave readers explore the depths and mysteries of some of nature's most hidden ecosystems.

Choosing Brave: How Mamie Till-Mobley and Emmett Till Sparked the Civil Rights Movement by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington.

A sensitive and approachable biography of Mamie, the mother of Emmett Till, told through graceful, paper-cut illustrations with bold silhouettes. Readers gain new insight into Mamie's life and how she and her son's legacy shaped the Civil Rights Movement.



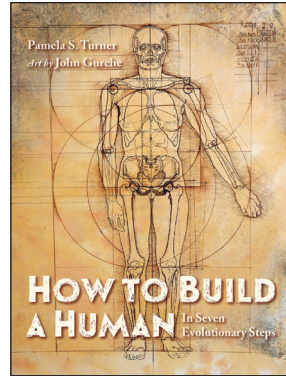
Dragon Bones: The Fantastic Fossil Discoveries of Mary Anning by Sarah Glenn Marsh, illustrated by Maris Wicks. A picture-book biography of pioneering British paleontologist Mary Anning and her glorious adventures in dinosaur fossil hunting. Sparkling illustrations and well-written prose inspire young readers to dig for their own finds!

Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by

Eric Velasquez. A poignant narrative layered with dynamic illustrations and historical materials chronicles the work of Victor Hugo Green and his creation of the Green Book, which helped Black people safely navigate the United States during the Jim Crow Era.

Good Eating: The Short Life of Krill by Matt Lilley, illustrated by Dan Tavis. Lively illustrations and a humorous voice follow one lucky krill from egg to almost whale food. Learn about the brief life cycle of one of the ocean's tiniest and most important creatures.

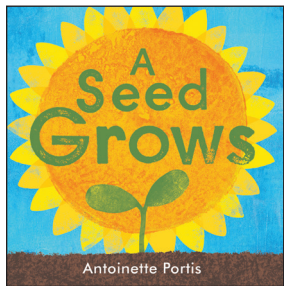
How to Build a Human: In Seven Evolutionary Steps by Pamela S. Turner, illustrated by John Gurche. Dolphins used to be the brainiest species on the planet. How did humans surpass them? Take seven steps down the evolutionary path of humanity in this riveting archaeological account.



How to Teach Grown-Ups About Pluto: The Cutting-Edge Space Science of the Solar System by Dean Regas, illustrated by Aaron Blecha. Sometimes grown-ups get it wrong! This wickedly funny guide to our recently redefined solar system equips kids with an understanding of the scientific method and all the planetary facts they need to set adults straight about Pluto.

Out of This World: Star-Studded Haiku by Sally M. Walker, illustrated by Matthew Trueman. Outer space can seem pretty big and complicated, but astonishing illustrations and celestial haiku put the cosmos within reach for young readers. Comprehensive resources provide plentiful opportunities for further exploration.

12 **Pizza!: A Slice of History** by Greg Pizzoli. Slice into the history of one of the world's favorite foods in this vibrant exploration of how pizza has been enjoyed in different ways throughout time.

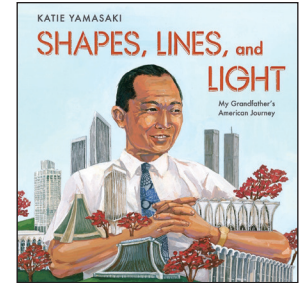


A Seed Grows by Antoinette Portis. A bold and colorful look at the life cycle of a sunflower. Clear, dynamic illustrations convey the scientific process for younger readers.

Seeking Freedom: The Untold Story of Fortress Monroe and the Ending of Slavery in America by Selene Castrovilla, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. From enslaved person to hero, self-emancipator George Scott faced many dangers during his service to the Union in the Civil War. Gripping and muted watercolor illustrations present the untold story of a crucial moment in American history.

Seen and Unseen: What Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake, and Ansel Adams's Photographs Reveal About the Japanese American Incarceration by Elizabeth Partridge, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki. An insightful look at the unjust internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II through the lenses of three important photographers.

Shapes, Lines, and Light: My Grandfather's American Journey by Katie Yamasaki. An honest yet concise and sentimental account of the life of World Trade Center architect Minoru Yamasaki. Personal touches abound in this biography authored and illustrated by his artist granddaughter.



Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler by Ibi Zoboi. A creatively written biography about African American science-fiction author Octavia Butler. This tribute from one writer to another is an innovative combination of verse and prose, a must-read for aspiring writers.

Sweet Justice: Georgia Gilmore and the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. This vividly illustrated biography celebrates the life of Civil Rights leader Georgia Gilmore, who nourished and helped fund the Montgomery Bus Boycott with both her famous Southern dishes and her dedication to the cause.

The Tower of Life: How Yaffa Eliach Rebuilt Her Town in Stories and Photographs by Chana Stiefel, illustrated by Susan Gal. Many years after her family flees their thriving Jewish community to escape the Nazis, Dr. Yaffa Eliach creates a permanent exhibition at the United States Holocaust Museum using photographs to rebuild the stories of the lost.

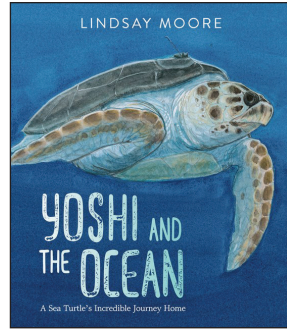
Troublemakers in Trousers: Women and What They Wore to Get Things Done by Sarah Albee, illustrated by Kaja Kajfež. A collection of boldly illustrated biographies of women through the ages and the clothes they wore to change the world.



True You: A Gender Journey by Gwen Agna and Shelley Rotner. In their own words, kids speak about the different ways to show, explore, and be who they are in this affirming photographic picture book about gender identity and self-expression.

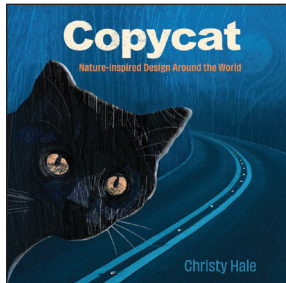
Unlawful Orders: A Portrait of Dr. James B. Williams, Tuskegee Airman, Surgeon, and Activist by Barbara Binns. A fascinating and sometimes suspenseful real-life story spanning generations from the Jim Crow era to the present. This pioneering Black American and other important but largely ignored figures creatively fight racism time and time again.

Yoshi and the Ocean: A Sea Turtle's Incredible Journey Home by Lindsay Moore. "Hello from Yoshi. I am here." Yoshi the sea turtle is rescued as a baby, but after years of rehabilitation she is tagged and released into the ocean, where she follows her instinct to her natural home. This true story features powerful images of nature and survival.



Poetry

Beauty Woke by NoNieqa Ramos, illustrated by Paola Escobar. A positive and affirming poem about family and community coming together to help a child celebrate being Boricua. Bright illustrations bring the NYC backdrop to life.



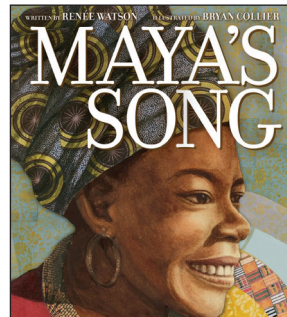
Copycat: Nature-Inspired Design Around the World by Christy Hale. Quick and witty tanka poems pair with lush illustrations and vibrant photographs to reveal the many ways that art, architecture, and design mimic the natural world.

Counting in Dog Years and Other Sassy Math Poems by Betsy Franco, illustrated by Priscilla

Tey. Fun-filled verses and imaginative illustrations add up to an accessible collection for even the most number-averse reader!

Free at Last: A Juneteenth Poem by Sojourner Kincaid Rolle, illustrated by Alex Bostic. A celebration in free verse of June 19, 1865, and the liberation of "all who live in bondage" in the United States. Exquisitely illustrated, this child-friendly history of new paths taken is full of hope and joy—a fitting ode to our national holiday.

Maya's Song by Renée Watson, illustrated by Bryan Collier. Inspiring verse and moving illustrations chronicle the legacy of Maya Angelou from youth to adulthood. Through the details of her life, readers discover the story of how she found her voice.



Graphic Novels

The First Cat in Space Ate Pizza by Mac Barnett, illustrated by Shawn Harris. A mind-bending, laugh-out-loud story about a cat, a toenail-clipping robot, and a lunar princess who are tasked with saving the moon from being eaten by a sea of rats. Will the moon be saved in time? Will the cat EVER get a slice?

The Flamingo by Guojing. A visit to Lao Lao and a found feather launch a universal story about longing, family connection, and legacy. Sparse text and evocative illustrations create space for an individual experience in fantasy storytelling that readers can make their own.

Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega, illustrated by Rose Bousamra. Marlene hates it when her mom drags her to the salon to blow out her frizzy hair. But with the help of her cool tía, Marlene learns how to embrace her curls and, ultimately, how generations of cultural judgment have influenced Mami's heady opinions of natural hair.

Housecat Trouble by Mason Dickerson. Buster's human goes on a trip, and he's left in charge of protecting the house. Sounds simple enough—until the amorphous purple spirits invade!

Isla to Island by Alexis Castellanos. Marisol must leave Cuba and her family behind to start a new life in Brooklyn as part of Operation Peter Pan. Beautiful colors accenting black-and-white illustrations communicate great spirit and emotion in this wordless graphic novel.

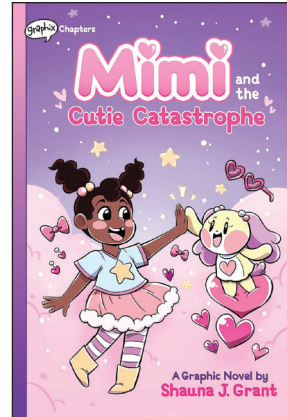
Little Monarchs by Jonathan Case. In a dystopian future, 10-year-old Elvie and her guardian track monarch migration patterns, convinced that the butterflies are the key to a vaccine for a mysterious ailment that has killed most of the world's population.

Mamo by Sas Milledge. Young witch Orla returns home after her grandmother's death and finds her town in peril. Is Mamo's disturbed spirit causing all the mayhem? An earthy palette illustrates the quest of Orla and new friend Jo as they endeavor to save the town and reconcile with Orla's past.



Mimi and the Cutie Catastrophe

by Shauna J. Grant. Mimi and her toy dog Penelope are so cute—maybe too cute to be taken seriously. And that is becoming a problem! This bubbly story in anime-style graphics shows young readers where the true source of their power lies: within!



The Real Riley Mayes

by Rachel Elliott. Starting a new school year is hard, but it's even harder when your best friend moves away! Budding comic book artist Riley tries to navigate the school year and new friendships while also guarding a secret—she might like girls.

Sir Ladybug by Corey R. Tabor. What's all the buzz about? It's Sir Ladybug, a beetle always looking for his next heroic quest!



Swim Team by Johnnie Christmas. Bree misses everything about Brooklyn, and Florida is lonely and overwhelming. When she winds up on the swim team even though she can't swim, it will take all of Bree's determination, a new community of friends, and even a few history lessons to keep her head above water.

The Tryout by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Joanna Cacao. Struggling to fit in as one of the few Asian American kids in her Texas town, Christina jumps at the opportunity to try out for the cheerleading squad with her best friend, Megan. If Christina makes it, she would finally belong... right?

Twin Cities by Jose Pimienta. Mexicali twins Teresa and Fernando choose to attend middle schools on opposite sides of the U.S.-Mexico border, a decision that brings new friends and challenges to their relationship.

The Wolf Suit by Sid Sharp. Terrified of the rumored wolves in the woods, Bellweather the sheep makes himself a wolf costume to blend in and enjoy berry picking in peace. When his plan begins to unravel, he realizes things may not be exactly what they seem.

