

2009 Best of the Best (... so far...)
Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature
July 31, 2009

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Dr. Cindy Welch, Assistant Professor
School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee

Agee, Jon. *Orangutan Tongues: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*. Disney/Hyperion, ISBN-13: 978-1-42310315-8. Gr. 1-5, SLJ
Calisthenics for your tongue, fun for your brain!

Allen, Thomas B.; illus. by Roger MacBride Allen. *Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War*. National Geographic, ISBN-13: 978-1-4263-0379-1. Gr. 5 and up, BL, SLJ
Subtitle, "How the north used the telegraph, railroads, surveillance balloons, ironclads, high-powered weapons, and more to win the Civil War."

Arnosky, Jim. *Crocodile Safari*. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-90356-1. Gr. 2-5
Everything you wanted to know about American crocodiles!

Arnosky, Jim. *Slither and Crawl: Eye to Eye with Reptiles*. Sterling Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1-4027-3986-6. Gr. 2-4, BCCB
Life-size foldout pages intersperse plenty of facts about lizards, snakes, turtles, crocodiles and alligators.

Auch, Mary Jane; illus. by Mary Jane and Herman Auch. *The Plot Chickens*. Holiday House. ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2087-2. Gr. 1-3
Henrietta the chicken loves to read so much that she decides to write a book herself, but first no one will publish a book written by a chicken, and then, when she publishes it herself and it gets a terrible review in "The Corn Book," Henrietta is devastated. (CIP)

Aylesworth, Jim; illus. by Barbara McClintock. *Our Abe Lincoln*. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-92548-8. Pre-K to Gr. 3, Biography, PW, SLJ
Rhythmic verse based on an old Lincoln campaign song tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's life, from his impoverished childhood in the wilderness of Kentucky and Indiana to his famous achievements as president. (Scholastic)

Bang, Molly and Penny Chisholm; illus. by Molly Bang. ***Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life***. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-04422-6. Gr. 1-4, Nonfiction, BL

"This is a book about life – about how life works. It is also a book about how our sun gives us life through photosynthesis, the most important process on Earth."

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. ***Anything But Typical***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-6378-3. Gr. 4-7

Twelve-year-old Jeremy develops a friendship with Rebecca through a writer's Web site, but worries about her reaction to his autism when he learns she is coming to the same writing conference he is attending.

Berger, Samantha; illus. by Bruce Whatley. ***Martha Doesn't Say Sorry***. Little, Brown Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-316-06682-2. Ages 3-6, BCCB

Young Martha learns that she must apologize for her bad behavior if she wants people to cooperate with her. (CIP)

Bishop, Nic. ***Nic Bishop Butterflies and Moths***. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-87757-2. Gr. 3-6, Nonfiction

Stunning full-color photography showcases the wonder of butterflies and moths.

Black, Michael Ian; illus. by Kevin Hawkes. ***Chicken Cheeks***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-4864-3. Ages 3-7

Illustrations and simple text describe the back ends of various animals. (CIP)

Catanese, P.W. ***Books of Umber: Happenstance Found***. Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-7519-9. Gr. 5-8, PW

Young Happenstance, "Hap," awakes suddenly in a dark and foreign place, and discovers he has no memories of a former life. Lord Umber takes him up and Hap finds himself immersed in a world of mysteries, danger and magic.

Chaikin, Andrew & Victoria Kohl; illus. by Alan Bean. ***Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01156-8. Gr. 6-10, BL, HB, SLJ

Brief profiles of the Apollo missions, accompanied by artwork done by Apollo Twelve pilot Alan Bean.

Clements, Andrew. ***Extra Credit***. Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-4929-9. Gr. 4-7

As letters flow back and forth – between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides – sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-

old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to one another. (CIP)

Cook, Michelle; various illustrators. *Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration of Rosa, Barack, and the Pioneers of Change*. Bloomsbury Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-418-4. Gr. K-6, Biography, BL
Change happens over time, and each person's accomplishments build on those who have gone before us.

Daly, Niki. *Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-30753-0. Gr. 4-7, BL
A controversial new teacher at Bayside Preparatory School introduces the exciting world of art to aspiring artist Bettina Valentino and her fifth-grade classmates, encouraging them to see everyday life in a different way. (CIP)

Darbyshire, Kristen. *Put it On the List!* Dutton/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-525-47906-2. Pre-K to Gr. 1, BCCB
What happens when a family forgets to help make up the grocery list?

Davies, Jacqueline; illus. by S.D. Schindler. *Tricking the Tallyman*. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-83909-2. Gr. 1-4, SLJ
In 1790, the suspicious residents of a small Vermont town try to trick the man who has been sent to count their population for the first United States Census. (CIP)

De Paola, Tomie. *The Song of Francis*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25210-5. Pre-K to Gr. 1, Biography, K, SLJ
Francis, the Little Poor One, is so filled with the love of God that he bursts into song, and he is joined by birds of every color. (CIP)

Dee, Barbara. *Solving Zoe*. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-6128-4. Gr. 4-6
Zoe's sixth-grade year at a Brooklyn school for gifted students is marked by changing relationships with her fellow students and teachers, recognition of her talent for cryptography, and a greater awareness of her passion. (CIP)

Dempsey, Kristy; illus. by Christopher Denise. *Me With You*. Philomel/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25017-0. Ages 2-4
A little girl describes her relationship with her beloved grandfather. (CIP)

Ebbitt, Carolyn Q. *The Extra-Ordinary Princess*. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-340-8. Gr. 5-8

Although Amelia, the youngest of the four princesses in Gosling, seems in all ways ordinary, she discovers that she has an important role to play in saving her kingdom from destruction. (CIP)

Emberley, Rebecca and Ed Emberley. *Chicken Little*. Roaring Brook Press, ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-464-6. Ages 3-7

Father and daughter team Emberley retell the classic tale, with a twist!

Feldman, Eve B.; illus. by Tuesday Mourning. *Billy & Milly, Short & Silly*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24651-7. 2-4 yrs., SLJ

Relates the adventures of Billy and Milly in brief rhyming text and illustrations. (CIP)

Fern, Tracey E.; illus. by Pau Estrada. *Pippo the Fool*. Charlesbridge, ISBN-13: 978-1-57091-655-7. Gr. 2-4, CCBC, SLJ

In fifteenth-century Florence, Italy, a contest is held to design a magnificent dome for the town's cathedral, but when Pippo the Fool claims he will win the contest, everyone laughs at him. Based on a true story. (CIP)

Florian, Douglas. *Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings*.

Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-7978-4. K-3, BL, PW, SLJ

Clever catchy poems capture the essence of these prehistoric beasts.

Fox, Mem; illus. by Steve Jenkins. *Hello Baby!* Beach Lane Books, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-8513-6. Ages 2-4, PW

A baby encounters a variety of young animals, including a clever monkey, a hairy warthog, and a dusty lion cub, before discovering the most precious creature of all. (CIP)

French, Jackie; illus. by Bruce Whatley. *How to Scratch a Wombat*. Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-86864-3. Gr. 1-4

... Where to find it... what to feed it ... why it sleeps all day ...

Gerstein Mordicai. *A Book*. Roaring Brook Press, ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-251-2. Gr. K-4, BL, SLJ

A young girl living within a book finds that she doesn't have a story so she sets off in search of one.

Gold, August; illus. by Wendy Anderson Halperin. *Thank You, God, for Everything*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24049-2. Gr. K-2, BL

As Daisy watches her parents thanking God every day, she begins to look at everything around her and realizes she is also thankful for many things. (CIP)

Gutman, Dan, ed. ***Recycle This Book: A Hundred Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green***. Yearling Books, ISBN-13: 978-0385737210. Gr. 5-8

Popular authors such as Ann Brashares, Laurie Halse Anderson and Bruce Coville, among others, share tips for youth on going green.

Gravett, Emily. ***The Odd Egg***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-6872-6. Ages 3-7, CCBC

When all her feathered friends have eggs, Duck goes in search of one for herself. Her friends laugh at the one she finds, but they'll be sorry later!

Hannigan, Katherine. ***Emmaline and the Bunny***. Greenwillow Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-06-162654-8. Gr. 1-3, BL

Everyone and everything in the town of Neatasapin is tidy, except Emmaline, who likes to dig dirt and jump in puddles, and wants to adopt an untidy bunny. (CIP)

Harris, Lewis. ***A Taste for Red***. Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-547-14462-7. Gr. 4-6

When some of her classmates disappear, sixth-grader Svetlana, along with her new friends, goes in search of the missing students using her newfound ability as an Olfactive, one who has heightened smell, hearing, and the ability to detect vampires. (CIP)

Hegamin, Tonya Cherie; illus. by Cozbi A. Cabrera. ***Most Loved in All the World***. Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-41903-6. Gr. 2-4

Even though Mama is an agent on the Underground Railroad, in order to help others she must remain a slave, she teaches her daughter the value of freedom through a gift of love and sacrifice. (CIP)

Hest, Amy; illus. by Anita Jeram. ***Little Chicken***. Candlewick Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2890-1. PreK-Gr. 2, BCCB, SLJ

Here are three gentle stories about Little Chick, who is very patient, and tries very hard, and stretches very high - all with the help of her wise Old-Auntie. (Jacket copy)

Hoose, Phillip. ***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-31322-7. Gr. 5-8, BL, SLJ

Claudette Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white person, a year **before** Rosa Parks did the same.

Horstman, Lisa. ***Squawking Matilda***. Marshall Cavendish Children's; ISBN-13: 978-0-7614-5463-2. Ages 4-8. Knoxville Author!

Mae likes starting projects but never seems to finish them, and so when Aunt Susan asks her to take care of a feisty chicken Mae is soon distracted, then must find a way to make up for her neglect before Aunt Susan's visit. (CIP)

Houts, Michelle. ***The Beef Princess of Practical County***. Delacorte/Random House, ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73584-1. Gr. 6-9

Twelve-year-old Libby experiences love, loss and a beauty pageant during her year raising two calves.

Hughes, Ted; illus. by Tracey Campbell Pearson. ***My Brother Bert***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-39982-5. Ages 3-6, BL

Illustrations and rhyming text portray a hobby gone awry, as Bert's collection of exotic pets seem on the verge of breaking into a quarrel, and perhaps a rumpus, as well. (CIP)

Isadora, Rachel. ***The Ugly Duckling***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25029-3. Pre-K to Gr. 1

Isadora, Rachel. ***Hansel and Gretel***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25028-6. Pre-K to Gr. 1

Two classic Andersen tales are given an African makeover.

Janeczko, Paul B.; illus. by Chris Raschka. ***A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout***. Candlewick Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-0663-3. Gr. 2-6, BL, PW, SLJ

More than thirty poems, for a variety of voices and languages, and in a variety of forms.

Jenkins, Steve. ***Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea***. Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-96636-3. Gr. 3-5

A scale along the right-hand side of each page indicates the depth at which the featured creatures live and prosper, as we head for the bottom of the sea.

Josse, Barbara; illus. by Jan Jutte. ***Roawr!*** Philomel/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24777-4. Pre-K to Gr. 1, SLJ

When Liam hears a loud roar in the middle of the night, he must use all his ingenuity to protect his sleeping mother from a hungry bear. (CIP)

Kajikawa, Kimiko; illus. by Ed Young. **Tsunami!** Philomel/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25006-4. Gr. 2-4, K, PW, SLJ

A wealthy man in a Japanese village, whom everyone calls Ojisan, which means grandfather, sets fire to his rice fields to warn the innocent people of an approaching tsunami. (CIP)

Kimmel, Eric A.; adapted from story by I.L. Peretz; illus. by Jill Weber. **Even Higher!** Holiday House, ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2020-9. Gr. 1-3

A skeptical visitor to the village of Nemirov finds out where its rabbi really goes just before the Jewish New Year, when the villagers claim he goes to heaven to speak to God. (CIP)

LaFleur, Suzanne. **Love, Aubrey.** Random House, ISBN-13: 978-0-385-73774-6. Gr. 5-7, BL

While living with her Gram in Vermont, eleven-year-old Aubrey writes letters as a way of dealing with tragic losses in her family. (CIP)

Lane, Kathleen; concept by Cabell Harris; illus. by Sarah Horne. **Nana Cracks the Case!** Chronicle Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-8118-6258-5. Gr. 1-4

Eufala and Bog's very feisty grandmother takes a job with the Crispy County Police Department, searching for a candy thief.

Larsen, Andrew; illus. by Irene Luxbacher. **The Imaginary Garden.** Kids Can Press; ISBN-13: 978-1-55453-279-7. Gr. K-2, BL

Young Theo is sad that her grandfather must move from his house with its beautiful garden into an apartment. Between the two of them, they bring the garden to his new home.

Liu, Cynthea. **Paris Pan Takes the Dare.** G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25043-9. Gr. 5-8

Friendless because of her family's frequent moves, twelve-year-old Chinese American Paris Pan wants very much to fit in with the seemingly friendly girls in her new school, even if it means taking a dare to spend the night in a spooky woods, reputedly haunted by the ghost of a girl who died there years ago. (CIP)

Markle, Sandra; various photographers. **How Many Baby Pandas?** Walker & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-8027-9783-4. Pre-K to Gr. 2

A counting book featuring young pandas from the Wolong Giant Panda Breeding Center in China.

Marlow, Layn. ***Hurry Up, and Slow Down***. Holiday House, ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2178-7. Pre-K to Gr. 2, SLJ

Hare likes to hurry through the day, unlike Tortoise, but manages to slow down for his favorite bedtime story. (CIP)

Mass, Wendy. ***11 Birthdays***. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-05239-9. Gr. 4-7
After celebrating their first nine same-day birthdays together, Amanda and Leo, having fallen out on their tenth and not speaking to each other for the last year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthday separately but peculiar things begin to happen as the day of their birthday begins to repeat itself over and over again. (CIP)

McElligott, Matthew. ***The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving Cake and Eating it, Too***. Walker & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-8027-9768-1. K-3, SLJ

Ant is honored to receive an invitation to lion's annual dinner party, but is shocked when the other guests behave rudely and then accuse her of thinking only of herself. (CIP)

McGinty, Alice B.; illus. by Mary Azarian. ***Darwin: With Glimpses into His Private Journal & Letters***. Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-99531-8. Gr. 3-5, BL, SLJ

"What began for Charles Darwin as scribbled thoughts in a secret notebook led to ideas that have forever changed how we see the world."

McKinnon, Hannah Roberts. ***Franny Parker***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-32469-8. Gr. 5-8, SLJ

Through a hot, dry Oklahoma summer, twelve-year-old Franny tends wild animals brought by her neighbors, hears gossip during a weekly quilting bee, befriends a new neighbor who has some big secrets, and learns to hope. (CIP)

Messmer, Kate. ***The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z.*** Walker Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-8027-9842-8. Gr. 4-7

Gianna has less than one week to complete her leaf project if she wants to complete in the upcoming cross-country sectionals, but issues like procrastination, disorganization – and her grandmother's declining health – seem destined to keep her from finishing. (CIP)

Mills, Claudia; illus. by Heather Maione. ***How Oliver Olson Changed the World.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-33487-1. Gr. 2-4, BCCB
Afraid he will always be an outsider like ex-planet Pluto, nine-year-old Oliver finally shows his extremely overprotective parents that he is capable of doing great things without their help while his class is studying the solar system. (CIP)

Patricelli, Leslie. ***Higher! Higher!*** Candlewick Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-3241-0. PreSchool-Gr. 1, BL, SLJ
A young girl in a swing goes higher and even higher, passing buildings and planes and even astronauts before returning to earth for another push from her father.

Paul, Ann Whitford; illus. by Kurt Cyrus. ***Word Builder.*** Simon & Schuster; ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-3981-8. Gr. K-3
Text explains how putting letters into words, words into sentences, sentences into paragraphs, paragraphs into chapters, ends up creating a book. (CIP)

Paulsen, Gary. ***Mudshark.*** Random House, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-89255-4. Gr. 3-7
Principal Wagner confidently deals with a faculty washroom crisis, a psychic parrot, and a terrorizing gerbil, but when sixty-five erasers go missing, he enlists the help of the school's best problem solver and locator of lost items, twelve-year-old Lyle Williams, aka Mudshark. (CIP)

Phillipps, J.C. ***Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to be Noticed.*** Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01092-9. Gr. K-3, SLJ
Although ninjas should be silent with stealth, Wink finds his enthusiasm gets him into trouble with his teacher until he finds the perfect way to express both emotions. (CIP)

Rappaport, Doreen; illus. by Gary Kelley. ***Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt.*** Disney/Hyperion, ISBN-13: 978-0-7868-5141-6. Gr. 3-8, BL, SLJ
Selected quotes from Eleanor, fleshed out by illustrations and brief text, outline the life of this generous and forthright woman.

Rockwell, Anne; illus. by R. Gregory Christie. ***Open the Door to Liberty: A Biography of Toussaint L'Ouverture.*** Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-60570-5. Gr. 4-7, Biography, SLJ
Once a slave, Toussaint eventually rose to lead a successful revolution and becoming the Governor-General of the island of St. Domingue (now called Haiti). Although beloved by his people, who called him Papa Toussaint, he was kidnapped by the French and died alone in a French prison cell.

Rodman, Mary Ann; illus. by G. Brian Karas. **Surprise Soup.**
Kevie, his big brother and their dad prepare a special soup for mom and the new baby she's bringing home.

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. **Duck! Rabbit!** Chronicle Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-8118-6865-5. Gr. K-2
Two unseen characters argue about whether the creature they are looking at is a rabbit or a duck. (CIP)

Ruddell, Deborah; illus. by Joan Rankin. **A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk.** Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-4211-5. Gr. 1-3, BCCB
Take a lighthearted romp through four seasons in the forest with these whimsical poems. (Jacket copy)

Russell, Natalie. **Moon Rabbit.** Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01170-4.
Pre-K to Gr. 1, BL
Lonely Little Rabbit finds a friend in the park.

Say, Allen. **Erika-San.** Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-88933-4. Gr. 2-5, PW
After falling in love with Japan as a little girl, Erika becomes a teacher and fulfills her childhood dream by moving to a remote Japanese island. (CIP)

Sayre, April Pulley; illus. by Huy Voun Lee. **Honk, Honk, Goose!: Canada Geese Start a Family.** Henry Holt, ISBN-13: 978-0-8050-7103-0. K-2, BL, SLJ
Two Canadian geese are starting a family, and each of them has a role.

Shields, Carol Diggory; illus. by Sophie Backall. **Wombat Walkabout.** Dutton Children's/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-525-47865-2. Ages 3-5, SLJ
Six woolly wombats take a walk and quick thinking saves them from becoming a dingo's dinner.

Shipton, Jonathan; illus. by Francesca Chessa. **Baby Baby Blah Blah Blah!** Holiday House, ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2213-5. Pre-K to Gr. 2
When her parents tell her that they are expecting a baby, Emily sets to work on a list of pros and cons. (CIP)

Slate, Joseph; illus. by E.B. Lewis. **I Want to Be Free.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24342-4. Gr. K-4, BL
Based on a sacred Buddhist tale as related in Rudyard Kipling's novel "Kim," tells of an escaped slave who rescues an abandoned baby from slave hunters. (CIP)

St. George, Judith. ***The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01124-7. Gr. 3-5, Nonfiction, SLJ
Judith St. George reveals how these two men's lives were intertwined for some twenty-five years, with their resentments and misunderstandings culminating in the tragic duel ... one died and one became a fugitive. (Copy from jacket flap)

Stadler, John. ***Wilson and Miss Lovely***. Random House, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-84478-2. Gr. 1-3

Wilson gets himself up, off to school, and even does his classwork, before he learns an interesting surprise from his favorite teacher, Miss Lovely.

Staines, Bill; illus. by Kadir Nelson. ***All God's Critters***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-0-689-86959-4. Ages 2 and up

Big ... small ... quiet ... loud ... feathered, flippered, or furred ... All God's Critters have a place in the choir! (Jacket flap copy.)

Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women to Dared to Dream***.

Candlewick Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-3611-1. Gr. 5-8, K, SLJ

In 1961, at a time when women couldn't rent their own cars or get their own bank loans, thirteen women went through the same tests as the famous Mercury 7 astronauts in order to make a case for women to join the space program.

Sturm, James, and Andrew Arnold and Alexis Frederick-Frost. ***Adventures in Cartooning***. First Second/Roaring Brook Press, ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-369-4.

Gr. 1-3, BL

The (real) Center for Cartoon Studies provides pointers for budding cartoonists - of any age, really.

Turner-Denstaedt, Melanie; illus. by Frank Morrison. ***The Hat That Wore Clara B.*** Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-32794-1. Ages 3-8

In church on Mothers' Sunday when all the older ladies dress in white and wear their most beautiful hats, Clara B.G., sitting in the pew behind her grandmother and admiring her every move, determines to find a way to wear her grandmother's hat. (CIP)

Van Lieshout, Maria. ***Peep: A Little Book about Taking a Leap***. Feiwel and Friends, ISBN-13: 978-0-312-36915-6. Pre-K to Gr. 2, SLJ

Big challenges face a little chick as he goes adventuring with his family.

Vernon, Ursula. ***Dragonbreath***. Dial/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3363-3.

Gr. 4-7, K

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea serpent cousin, encountering a giant squid and mako sharks – and learn about standing up to bullies in the process. (CIP)

Walker, Paul Robert. ***Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories***. National Geographic, ISBN-13: 978-1-4263-0402-6. Gr. 4-8, SLJ
Chronicles the struggles of the "Little Rock Nine" to get into and get through the first year of integrated school at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Walker, Rob D.; illus. by Leo & Diane Dillon. ***Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons***. Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-93208-0.
Gr. K-4, PW
Affirmations in English, Cherokee, Korean, Quechua and other languages offer guidance from mothers to sons.

Wayland, April Halprin; illus. by Stephanie Jorsch. ***New Year at the Pier***. Dial/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3279-7. Gr. K-3
On Rosh Hashanah, Izzy and his family make lists of the wrongs they have committed over the past year, and after they have apologized, they throw pieces of bread into the water to "clean their hearts" in a ceremony called Tashlich. (CIP)

Whitaker, Suzanne George; illus. by Catherine Stock. ***The Daring Miss Quimby***. Holiday House, ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-1996-8. Gr. 1-4, Knoxville author!
The story of the first American woman to earn her pilot's license – in 1911!

Winter, Jonah; illus. by André Carrilho. ***You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!*** Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-83738-8. Gr. 2-6, Biography, BL, PW, SLJ
From 1961 to 1966, left-handed pitcher Sandy Koufax was the guy nobody could hit, and then he retired at the peak of his game.

Yep, Laurence. ***City Trilogy 1: City of Fire***. Starscape/Tom Doherty Associates, ISBN-13: 978-0-7653-1924-1. Gr. 5-8
An unlikely band of allies tracks an evil and grasping entrepreneur across the lava fields and floes of Hawaii.

Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn; illus. by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy. ***Steady Hands: Poems about Work***. Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-618-90351-1. Gr. 4-7, PW
Poems about work, from bank tellers to welders, including a good selection of non-traditional jobs.

Books Organized by (Suggested) Grade/Age Levels

Ages 2-4 Picture Books

- Aylesworth, Jim; illus. by Barbara McClintock. *Our Abe Lincoln*.
- Berger, Samantha; illus. by Bruce Whatley. *Martha Doesn't Say Sorry*.
- Black, Michael Ian; illus. by Kevin Hawkes. *Chicken Cheeks*.
- Darbyshire, Kristen. *Put it On the List!*
- De Paola, Tomie. *The Song of Francis*.
- Dempsey, Kristy; illus. by Christopher Denise. *Me With You*.
- Emberley, Rebecca and Ed Emberley. *Chicken Little*.
- Feldman, Eve B.; illus. by Tuesday Mourning. *Billy & Milly, Short & Silly*.
- Fox, Mem; illus. by Steve Jenkins. *Hello Baby!*
- Gold, August; illus. by Wendy Anderson Halperin. *Thank You, God, for Everything*.
- Gravett, Emily. *The Odd Egg*.
- Hest, Amy; illus. by Anita Jeram. *Little Chicken*.
- Hughes, Ted; illus. by Tracey Campbell Pearson. *My Brother Bert*.
- Isadora, Rachel. *The Ugly Duckling*.
- Isadora, Rachel. *Hansel and Gretel*.
- Joosse, Barbara; illus. by Jan Jutte. *Roawr!*
- Marlow, Layn. *Hurry Up, and Slow Down*.
- Patricelli, Leslie. *Higher! Higher!*
- Rodman, Mary Ann; illus. by G. Brian Karas. *Surprise Soup*.
- Russell, Natalie. *Moon Rabbit*.
- Shields, Carol Diggory; illus. by Sophie Backall. *Wombat Walkabout*.
- Shipton, Jonathan; illus. by Francesca Chessa. *Baby Baby Blah Blah Blah!*
- Staines, Bill; illus. by Kadir Nelson. *All God's Critters*.
- Turner-Denstaedt, Melanie; illus. by Frank Morrison. *The Hat That Wore Clara B*.
- Van Lieshout, Maria. *Peep: A Little Book about Taking a Leap*.

Kindergarten to Gr. 3

- Agee, Jon. *Orangutan Tongs: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*.
- Arnosky, Jim. *Crocodile Safari*.
- Arnosky, Jim. *Slither and Crawl: Eye to Eye with Reptiles*.
- Auch, Mary Jane; illus. by Mary Jane and Herman Auch. *The Plot Chickens*.
- Aylesworth, Jim; illus. by Barbara McClintock. *Our Abe Lincoln*.
- Bang, Molly and Penny Chisholm; illus. by Molly Bang. *Living Sunlight: How Plants Bring the Earth to Life*.
- Bishop, Nic. *Nic Bishop Butterflies and Moths*.

Cook, Michelle; various illustrators. *Our Children Can Soar: A Celebration of Rosa, Barack, and the Pioneers of Change.*

Davies, Jacqueline; illus. by S.D. Schindler. *Tricking the Tallyman.*

Fern, Tracey E.; illus. by Pau Estrada. *Pippo the Fool.*

Florian, Douglas. *Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings.*

French, Jackie; illus. by Bruce Whatley. *How to Scratch a Wombat.*

Gerstein Mordicai. *A Book.*

Hegamin, Tonya Cherie; illus. by Cozbi A. Cabrera. *Most Loved in All the World.*

Hannigan, Katherine. *Emmaline and the Bunny.*

Horstman, Lisa. *Squawking Matilda.*

Janeczko, Paul B.; illus. by Chris Raschka. *A Foot in the Mouth: Poems to Speak, Sing, and Shout.*

Jenkins, Steve. *Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea.*

Kajikawa, Kimiko; illus. by Ed Young. *Tsunami!*

Kimmel, Eric A.; adapted from story by I.L. Peretz; illus. by Jill Weber. *Even Higher!*

Lane, Kathleen; concept by Cabell Harris; illus. by Sarah Horne. *Nana Cracks the Case!*

Larsen, Andrew; illus. by Irene Luxbacher. *The Imaginary Garden.*

Markle, Sandra; various photographers. *How Many Baby Pandas?*

McElligott, Matthew. *The Lion's Share: A Tale of Halving Cake and Eating it, Too.*

McGinty, Alice B.; illus. by Mary Azarian. *Darwin: With Glimpses into His Private Journal & Letters.*

Mills, Claudia; illus. by Heather Maione. *How Oliver Olson Changed the World.*

Paul, Ann Whitford; illus. by Kurt Cyrus. *Word Builder.*

Phillipps, J.C. *Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to be Noticed.*

Rappaport, Doreen; illus. by Gary Kelley. *Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt.*

Rosenthal, Amy Krouse; illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. *Duck! Rabbit!*

Ruddell, Deborah; illus. by Joan Rankin. *A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk.*

Say, Allen. *Erika-San.*

Sayre, April Pulley; illus. by Huy Voun Lee. *Honk, Honk, Goose!: Canada Geese Start a Family.*

Slate, Joseph; illus. by E.B. Lewis. *I Want to Be Free.*

Stadler, John. *Wilson and Miss Lovely.*

Sturm, James, and Andrew Arnold and Alexis Frederick-Frost. *Adventures in Cartooning.*

Walker, Rob D.; illus. by Leo & Diane Dillon. *Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons.*

Wayland, April Halprin; illus. by Stephanie Jorsch. *New Year at the Pier.*

Whitaker, Suzanne George; illus. by Catherine Stock. *The Daring Miss Quimby.*

Grades 4-6

- Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything But Typical*.
- Clements, Andrew. *Extra Credit*.
- Daly, Niki. *Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club*.
- Dee, Barbara. *Solving Zoe*.
- Gutman, Dan, ed. *Recycle This Book: A Hundred Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green*.
- LaFleur, Suzanne. *Love, Aubrey*.
- Liu, Cynthia. *Paris Pan Takes the Dare*.
- Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays*.
- Messmer, Kate. *The Brilliant Fall of Gianna Z*.
- Paulsen, Gary. *Mudshark*.
- Rockwell, Anne; illus. by R. Gregory Christie. *Open the Door to Liberty: A Biography of Toussaint L'Ouverture*.
- St. George, Judith. *The Duel: The Parallel Lives of Alexander Hamilton & Aaron Burr*.
- Vernon, Ursula. *Dragonbreath*.
- Winter, Jonah; illus. by André Carrilho. *You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax?!*
- Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn; illus. by Megan Halsey and Sean Addy. *Steady Hands: Poems about Work*.

Grades 6-8

- Allen, Thomas B.; illus. by Roger MacBride Allen. *Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War*.
- Catanese, P.W. *Books of UMBER: Happenstance Found*.
- Chaikin, Andrew & Victoria Kohl; illus. by Alan Bean. *Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*.
- Ebbitt, Carolyn Q. *The Extra-Ordinary Princess*.
- Harris, Lewis. *A Taste for Red*.
- Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*.
- Houts, Michelle. *The Beef Princess of Practical County*.
- McKinnon, Hannah Roberts. *Franny Parker*.
- Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women to Dared to Dream*.
- Walker, Paul Robert. *Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories*.
- Yep, Laurence. *City Trilogy 1: City of Fire*.

BCCB = Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books (U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana), BL = *Booklist*, CCBC = Cooperative Center for Children's Books (U. of Wisconsin, Madison) K = *Kirkus*, SLJ = *School Library Journal*, PW = *Publisher's Weekly*, BBYA = YALSA Best Books nomination, VOYA = *Voice of Youth Advocates*

2009 Best of the Best (... so far...)
Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature
July 31, 2009

YOUNG ADULT – GRADES 6-12
Dr. Cindy Welch, Assistant Professor
School of Information Sciences, University of Tennessee

The List (Alphabetical)

Abbott, Ellen Jensen. *Watersmeet*. Marshall Cavendish, ISBN-13: 978-0-7614-5536-3. Gr. 7-12

Fourteen-year-old Abisina escapes the escalating violence, prejudice, and religious fervor of her hometown, Vranille, and sets out with a dwarf, Haret, to seek the father she has never met in a place called Watersmeet. (CIP)

Allen, Thomas B.; illus. by Roger MacBride Allen. *Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War*. National Geographic, ISBN-13: 978-1-4263-0379-1. Gr. 5 and up, BL, SLJ
Subtitle, "How the north used the telegraph, railroads, surveillance balloons, ironclads, high-powered weapons, and more to win the Civil War."

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01110-0. Gr. 9-12, BL, BCCB, K, SLJ
Eighteen-year-old Lia comes to terms with her best friend's death from anorexia as she struggles with the same disorder. (CIP)

Barnes, John. *Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973*. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-06081-8. Gr. 9-12, BL, K, SLJ
Karl Shoemaker narrates his first week of school, including making, losing and re-making friends, falling in love, getting out of the school therapy group – and then back into it (on purpose), and just generally getting by in the 1970s.

Bausum, Ann. *Denied, Detained and Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*. National Geographic, ISBN-13: 978-1426303326. Gr. 6-12, BL, SLJ
A revealing series of snapshots from the dark side of immigration history including:
Immigrants Denied: *The St. Louis*, a ship filled with Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany sought refuge in American ports and was turned away, condemning many of its passengers to ultimately perish in the Holocaust. Immigrants Detained: Japanese-Americans were rounded up during World War II and placed in detention centers—regardless of their patriotism—for security reasons. Immigrants Deported: Emma Goldman was branded a dangerous extremist and sent back to Russia in 1919, after living 30 years in the United States. (Amazon product description)

Beil, Michael D. ***The Red Blazer Girls***. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-84814-8. Gr. 5-8, BL
Catholic-schooled seventh-graders Sophie, Margaret, Rebecca and Leigh Ann help an elderly neighbor solve a puzzle her father left for her estranged daughter twenty years ago. (CIP)

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T.; illus. by David Diaz. ***Diego: Bigger than Life***. Marshall Cavendish, ISBN-13: 978-0-7614-5383-3. Gr. 7-10, BL
The life and work of the artist Diego Rivera is told through chronological poems that capture salient points in his life. (Publisher)

Bryant, Jen. ***Kaleidoscope Eyes***. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-84048-7. Gr. 5-7, K, PW.
In 1968, while the Vietnam War rages, thirteen-year-old Lyza inherits a project from her deceased grandfather, who was using his knowledge of maps and the geography of Lyza's New Jersey hometown to locate the lost treasure of Captain Kidd. (CIP)

Burd, Nick. ***The Vast Fields of Ordinary***. Dial Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3340-4. Gr. 9-12
The summer after graduating from an Iowa high school, eighteen-year-old Dade Hamilton watches his parents' marriage disintegrate, ends his long-term, secret relationship, comes out of the closet, and savors first love. (CIP)

Burg, Ann E. ***All the Broken Pieces***. Scholastic Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-08092-7. Gr. 6-8, BL
Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind, and now, in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past. (CIP)

Calcines, Eduardo F. ***Leaving Glorytown: One Boy's Struggle Under Castro***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-34394-1. Gr. 7-10, SLJ
Young Eduardo Calcines and his family face scary and seemingly interminable delays to their change at leaving Cuba and immigrating to the United States.

Chaikin, Andrew & Victoria Kohl; illus. by Alan Bean. ***Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01156-8. Gr. 6-10, BL, HB, SLJ
Brief profiles of the Apollo missions, accompanied by artwork done by Apollo Twelve pilot Alan Bean.

Chaltas, Thalia. ***Because I Am Furniture***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-06298-0. Gr. 8-12.
The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected because her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action. (CIP)

Clayton, Emma. ***The Roar***. Chicken House/Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-92593-8. Gr. 5-9
In an overpopulated world where all signs of nature have been obliterated and a wall has been erected to keep out plague-ridden animals, twelve-year-old Mika refuses to believe that his twin sister was killed after being abducted, and continues to search for her in spite of the dangers he faces in do so. (CIP)

De la Cruz, Melissa. ***Girl Stays in the Picture***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-6096-6. Gr. 8-10

On a movie set in Saint Tropez, France, several teenage members of the Hollywood elite come together in an explosion of scenes shot and reshot, friendships formed and cast aside, and romances begun and destroyed, all duly reported by paparazzi. (CIP)

Dessen, Sarah. ***Along for the Ride***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01194-0. Gr. 9-12, K

The summer between high school and college is a full one, for Auden West, as she comes to understand her parents' divorce, finds new friendships at a new job, and falls in love.

Ellis, Deborah. ***Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees***. Greenwood Books, ISBN-13: 978-0888999078. Gr. 6-12, BL

Deborah Ellis interviews twenty displaced Iraqi youth, letting their voices provide a human side to the conflict.

Fantaskey, Beth. ***Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side***. Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-15-206384-9. Gr. 9-12, PW, VOYA

Seventeen-year-old Jessica, adopted and raised in Pennsylvania, learns that she is descended from a royal line of Romanian vampires and that she is betrothed to a vampire prince, who poses as a foreign exchange student while courting her. (CIP)

Ford, John C. ***The Morgue and Me***. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01096-7. Gr. 9-12, PW

Eighteen-year-old Christopher, who plans to be a spy, learns of a murder cover-up through his summer job as a morgue assistant and teams up with Tina, a gorgeous newspaper reporter, to investigate, despite great danger. (CIP)

Forman, Gayle. ***If I Stay***. Dutton/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-525-42103-0, Gr. 9-12, BL, PW, SLJ, VOYA

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death. (CIP)

Garsee, Jeannine. ***Say the Word***. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-333-0. Gr. 9-12, BL
After the death of her estranged mother, who left Ohio years ago to live with her lesbian partner in New York City, seventeen-year-old Shawna Gallagher's life is transformed by revelations about her family, her best friend, and herself. (CIP)

George, Jessica Day. ***Princess of the Midnight Ball***. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-322-4. Gr.

A retelling of the tale of twelve princesses who wear out their shoes dancing every night, and of Galen, a former soldier now working in the king's gardens, who follows them in hopes of breaking the curse. (CIP)

Goldbach, Veronica. ***Deep in the Heart of High School***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-32330-1. Gr. 6-9

Three friends, Olivia Silverstein, Fatima Garcia, and Vanessa Reynolds, help one another through family troubles, romantic crushes, and the perils of freshman year at a San Antonio, Texas, high school. (CIP)

Griffin, Paul. ***The Orange Houses***. Dial/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3346-6. Gr. 10-12, BL

Tamika, a fifteen-year-old hearing-impaired girl, Jimmi, an eighteen-year-old veteran who stopped taking his antipsychotic medication, and sixteen-year-old Fatima, an illegal immigrant from Africa, meet and connect in their Bronx, New York, neighborhood, with devastating results.

Gutman, Dan, ed. ***Recycle This Book: A Hundred Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green***. Yearling Books, ISBN-13: 978-0385737210. Gr. 5-8

Popular authors such as Ann Brashares, Laurie Halse Anderson and Bruce Coville, among others, share tips for youth on going green.

Hahn, Mary Downing. ***Closed for the Season***. Clarion Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-547-08451-0. Gr. 5-8

When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer. (CIP)

Halpern, Jake & Peter Kujawinski. ***Dormia***. Houghton Mifflin, ISBN-13: 978-0-547-07665-2. Gr. 5-8

After learning that he is a descendent of Dormia, a hidden kingdom in the Ural Mountains whose inhabitants possess the ancient power of "wakeful sleeping," twelve-year-old Alfonso sets out on a mission to save the kingdom from destruction, discovering secrets that lurk in his own sleep. (CIP)

Han, Jenny. ***The Summer I Turned Pretty***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-6823-8. Gr. 6-9

Belly spends the summer she turns sixteen at the beach just like every other summer of her life, but this time things are very different. (CIP)

Headley, Justina Chen. ***North of Beautiful***. Little, Brown & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-316-02505-8. Gr. 7-12, BL

Terra, a sensitive, artistic high school senior born with a facial port-wine stain, struggles with issues of inner and outer beauty with the help of her Goth classmate Jacob. (CIP)

Herbsman, Cheryl Renee. **Breathing**. Viking/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-670-01123-0. Gr. 7-10

With a new boyfriend, asthma attacks that come when least expected, and a pesky younger brother, fifteen-year-old Savannah's summer vacation takes many unexpected twists and turns. (CIP)

Hiaasen, Carl. **Scat**. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-83486-8. Gr. 5-9, SLJ

Nick and his friend Marta decide to investigate when a mysterious fire starts near a Florida wildlife preserve and an unpopular teacher goes missing. (CIP)

Hoban, Julia. **Willow**. Dial/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3356-5, Gr. 8-12

Sixteen-year-old Willow, who was driving the car that killed both of her parents, copes with the pain and guilt by cutting herself, until she meets a smart and sensitive boy who is determined to help her stop. (CIP)

Holmes, Elizabeth Ann. **Tracktown Summer**. Dutton/Penguin, ISBN-13: 978-0-525-47946-8. Gr. 5-8

Spending the summer with his father at a run-down house between a railroad track and a polluted section of a lake, twelve-year-old Jake gets involved with a fourteen-year-old neighbor who is hiding a secret with his home. (CIP)

Hoose, Phillip. **Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-31322-7. Gr. 5-8, BL, SLJ

Claudette Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white person, a year **before** Rosa Parks did the same.

James, Brian. **The Heights**. Feiwel and Friends, ISBN-13: 978-0-312-36853-1. Gr. 8-12
Contemporary retelling of Hardy's *Wuthering Heights*.

Jones, Carrie. **Need**. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-338-5. Gr. 7-12

Depressed after the death of her stepfather, high school junior Zara goes to live with her grandmother in a small Maine town, where new friends tell Zara the strange man she keeps seeing may be a pixie king, and that only "were" creatures can stop him from taking souls. (CIP)

Karim, Sheba. **Skunk Girl**. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-37011-4. Gr. 7-10
Nina Khan is not just the only Asian or Muslim student in her small-town high school in upstate New York, she also faces the legacy of her "Supernerd" older sister, body hair, and the pain of having a crush when her parents forbid her to date. (CIP)

Larbalestier, Justine. **Liar**. Bloomsbury Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-305-7. Gr. 9-12.
Micah Wilkins is a compulsive liar, by her own admission, so when she says she didn't kill her classmate, and when she shares that she is a wolf, we believe her, don't we?

Magoon, Kekla. ***The Rock and the River***. Aladdin Paperbacks/Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-7582-3. Gr. 6-10, BL

In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African-Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party. (CIP)

Marino, Peter. ***Magic and Misery***. Holiday House, ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2133-6. Gr. 7-12, BL

TJ, a sturdy teenaged girl with little self-confidence, becomes best friends with a new, gay student in her high school, and when he is bullied and she tries to convince him to tell the authorities, he refuses. (CIP)

Meminger, Neesha. ***Shine, Coconut Moon***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-5495-8. Gr. 7-10

In the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Samar, who is of Punjabi heritage but has been raised with no knowledge of her past by her single mother, wants to learn about her family's history and to get in touch with the grandparents her mother shuns. (CIP)

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Dope Sick***. Amistad/HarperTeen/HarperCollins, ISBN-13: 978-0-06-121477-6. Gr. 7-12, SLJ, PW

Seeing no way out of his difficult life in Harlem, seventeen-year-old Jeremy "Lil J" Dance flees into a house after a drug deal goes awry and meets a strange man who shows him different turning points in his life where he could have made better choices. (CIP)

Oaks, J. Adams. ***Why I Fight***. Atheneum, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-1177-7, Gr. 8-12, BL

After his house burns down, twelve-year-old Wyatt Reaves takes off with his uncle, and the two of them drive from town to town for six years, earning money mostly by fighting, until Wyatt finally confronts his parents one last time. (CIP)

Ockler, Sarah. ***Twenty Boy Summer***. Little, Brown & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-316-05159-0. Gr. 9-12

While on vacation in California, sixteen-year-old best friends Anna and Frankie conspire to find a boy for Anna's first kiss, but Anna harbors a painful secret that threatens their lighthearted plan and their friendship. (CIP)

Osborne, Linda Barrett. ***Traveling the Freedom Road: From Slavery and the Civil War Through Reconstruction***. Abrams Books, ISBN-13: 978-0810983380. Gr. 6-9, BL, SLJ

This gripping visual feast provides insights into the lives of African-American slaves, using materials from the Library of Congress, and including first-person accounts, clippings, and photographs.

Ottaviani, Jim and Zander Cannon and Kevin Cannon. ***T-Minus: Race to the Moon***.

Aladdin/Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-8682-9. Gr. 5-9

A black and white graphic novel presentation of the tensions and triumphs that went into putting a man on the moon.

Peck, Dale. ***Sprout***. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-160-2. Gr. 9-12
Moving from Long Island to Kansas after his mother dies, a teenaged boy nicknamed Sprout is surprised to find new friends, a fascinating landscape, and romantic love. (CIP)

Rallison, Janette. ***My Fair Godmother***. Walker & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-8027-9780-3. Gr. 6-9
High school sophomore Savannah wants to find the perfect prom date after her boyfriend breaks up with her to date her older sister, but when a godmother who is only fair becomes involved, Savannah finds herself in trouble in the Middle Ages, along with a boy who would like to be her charming prince. (CIP)

Sanchez, Alex. ***Bait***. Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-3772-2. Gr. 8-12
Diego keeps getting in trouble because of his explosive temper until he finally finds a probation officer who helps him get to the root of his anger so that he can stop running from his past. (CIP)

Scaletta, Kurtis. ***Mudville***. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-85579-5, Gr. 5-8
For twenty-two years, since a fateful baseball game against their rival town, it has rained in Moundville, so when the rain finally stops, twelve-year-old Roy, his friends, and foster brother Sturgis dare to face the curse and form a team. (CIP)

Sensel, Joni. ***The Farwalker's Quest***. Bloomsbury, ISBN-13: 978-1-59990-272-2. Gr. 5-8
When twelve-year-old Ariel and her friend Zeke find a mysterious artifact the like of which has not been seen in a long time, it proves to be the beginning of a long and arduous journey that will ultimately reveal to them their true identities. (CIP)

Smith, Sherri L. ***Flygirl***. G.P. Putnam's Sons, ISBN-13: 978-0-399-24709-5. Gr. 6-12, BL
During World War II, a light-skinned African American girl "passes" for white to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots. (CIP)

Soto, Gary. ***Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing***. Harcourt, ISBN-13: 978-0-15-206301-6. Gr. 6-9
Alternating chapters capture the poetic voices of two teens moving in and out of love.

Spires, Elizabeth. ***I Heard God Talking to Me: William Edmondson and His Stone Carvings***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-33528-1. Gr. 6-12.
More than twenty poems accompany as many photographs of the carved art done by Nashville native William Edmondson.

Stiefvater, Maggie. ***Shiver***. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-12326-6. Gr. 8-12
Grace's preoccupation with a yellow-eyed wolf from the pack that roams the woods near her house becomes something much stronger after she finds him in human form, wounded, on her porch.

Stone, Tanya Lee. ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women to Dared to Dream***. Candlewick Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-3611-1. Gr. 5-8, K, SLJ

In 1961, at a time when women couldn't rent their own cars or get their own bank loans, thirteen women went through the same tests as the famous Mercury 7 astronauts in order to make a case for women to join the space program.

Stork, Francisco X. ***Marcelo in the Real World***. Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-05474-4. Gr. 9-12, BL, PW, SLJ

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. (CIP)

Van Diepen, Allison. ***Raven***. Simon Pulse, ISBN-13: 978-1-4169-7899-2. Gr. 8-12
New York City breakdancer Nicole loves fellow dancer Zin, who harbors a dark secret. (CIP)

Vivian, Siobhan. ***Same Difference***. Push/Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-545-00407-7. Gr. 6-9
Feeling left out since her long-time best friend started a serious relationship, sixteen-year-old Emily looks forward to a summer program at the Philadelphia College of Art but is not sure she is up to the challenges to be faced there, including finding herself and learning to balance life and art. (CIP)

Walker, Paul Robert. ***Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories***. National Geographic, ISBN-13: 978-1-4263-0402-6. Gr. 4-8, SLJ
Chronicles the struggles of the "Little Rock Nine" to get into and get through the first year of integrated school at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Walker, Sally M. ***Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland***. Carolrhoda/Lerner Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-0-8225-7135-3. Gr. 6-10, BL, SLJ
American Colonial settlers' graves, from the 17th and 18th centuries, were excavated and the remains examined (forensic anthropology) for clues about how they lived and died.

Warman, Jessica. ***Breathless***. Walker & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-80279-849-7. Gr. 9-12
At boarding school, Katie tries to focus on swimming and becoming popular instead of the painful memories of her institutionalized schizophrenic older brother. (CIP)

Warren, Andrea. ***Under Siege!: Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-31255-8. Gr. 5-8, BL
War is again humanized through the stories of three youth: ages ten, eleven and twelve, and one of them the son of General Ulysses S. Grant.

Whitney, Kim Ablon. ***The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis***. Knopf, ISBN-13: 978-0-375-75219-0. Gr. 7-10
In 1939, fifteen-year-old Thomas sails on a German ship bound for Cuba with more than nine hundred German Jews expecting to be granted safe haven in Cuba. (CIP)

Williams-Garcia, Rita. ***Jumped***. HarperTeens/HarperCollins, ISBN-13: 978-0-06-076091-5. Gr. 8-10, BL, PW

The lives of Leticia, Dominique and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved. (CIP)

Wyatt, Melissa. ***Funny How Things Change***. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, ISBN-13: 978-0-374-30233-7. Gr. 8-12, K

Remy, a talented, seventeen-year-old auto mechanic, questions his decision to join his girlfriend when she starts college in Pennsylvania after a visiting artist helps him to realize what his family's home in a dying West Virginia mountain town means to him. (CIP)

Yee, Lisa. ***Absolutely Maybe***. Arthur Levine/Scholastic, ISBN-13: 978-0-439-83844-3. Gr. 7-10

When living with her mother, an alcoholic ex-beauty queen, becomes unbearable, almost seventeen-year-old Maybelline "Maybe" Chestnut runs away to California, where she finds work on a taco truck and tries to track down her birth father. (CIP)

Yohalem, Eve. ***Escape Under the Forever Sky***. Chronicle Books, ISBN-13: 978-0-8118-6653-8. Gr. 5-8

As a future conservation zoologist whose mother is the United States Ambassador to Ethiopia, thirteen-year-old Lucy uses her knowledge for survival when she is kidnapped and escapes. (CIP)

Zink, Michelle. ***Prophecy of the Sisters***. Little, Brown & Company, ISBN-13: 978-0-316-02742-7. Gr. 8-10

In late nineteenth-century New York State, wealthy sixteen-year-old twin sisters Lia and Alice Milthorpe find that they are on opposite sides of an ancient prophecy that has destroyed their parents and seeks to do even more harm. (CIP)

Books by Category

“Boy” Books

Holmes, Elizabeth Ann. *Tracktown Summer*.
Oaks, J. Adams. *Why I Fight*.
Scaletta, Kurtis. *Mudville*.
Wyatt, Melissa. *Funny How Things Change*.

“Girl” Books

De la Cruz, Melissa. *Girl Stays in the Picture*.
Dessen, Sarah. *Along for the Ride*.
Forman, Gayle. *If I Stay*.
George, Jessica Day. *Princess of the Midnight Ball*.
Goldbach, Veronica. *Deep in the Heart of High School*.
Han, Jenny. *The Summer I Turned Pretty*.
Headley, Justina Chen. *North of Beautiful*.
Herbsman, Cheryl Renee. *Breathing*.
James, Brian. *The Heights*.
Ockler, Sarah. *Twenty Boy Summer*.
Rallison, Janette. *My Fair Godmother*.
Vivian, Siobhan. *Same Difference*.
Yee, Lisa. *Absolutely Maybe*.

Diversity

Griffin, Paul. *The Orange Houses*.
Karim, Sheba. *Skunk Girl*.
Magoon, Kekla. *The Rock and the River*.
Meminger, Neesha. *Shine, Coconut Moon*.
Myers, Walter Dean. *Dope Sick*.
Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*.
Yohalem, Eve. *Escape Under the Forever Sky*.

GLBTQ

Burd, Nick. *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*.
Garsee, Jeannine. *Say the Word*.
Marino, Peter. *Magic and Misery*.
Peck, Dale. *Sprout*.

Social Issues and Current Events

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Wintergirls*.
Hoban, Julia. *Willow*.
Sanchez, Alex. *Bait*.
Warman, Jessica. *Breathless*.
Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Jumped*.

Biographies

Bernier-Grand, Carmen T.; illus. by David Diaz. *Diego: Bigger than Life*.
Calcines, Eduardo F. *Leaving Glorytown: One Boy's Struggle Under Castro*.
Hoose, Phillip. *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*.

Fantasy & Sci-Fi

Abbott, Ellen Jensen. *Watersmeet*.
Clayton, Emma. *The Roar*.
Halpern, Jake & Peter Kujawinski. *Dormia*.
Sensel, Joni. *The Farwalker's Quest*.

Historical Fiction

Barnes, John. *Tales of the Madman Underground: An Historical Romance, 1973*.
Bryant, Jen. *Kaleidoscope Eyes*.
Smith, Sherri L. *Flygirl*.
Whitney, Kim Ablon. *The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis*.

Mysteries

Beil, Michael D. *The Red Blazer Girls*.
Ford, John C. *The Morgue and Me*.
Hahn, Mary Downing. *Closed for the Season*.
Hiaasen, Carl. *Scat*.

Vampires, Werewolves and Other Gotchas in the Night

Fantaskey, Beth. *Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side*.
Jones, Carrie. *Need*.
Larbalestier, Justine. *Liar*.
Stiefvater, Maggie. *Shiver*.
Van Diepen, Allison. *Raven*.
Zink, Michelle. *Prophecy of the Sisters*.

Playing with Format (Poetry/Blank Verse, Short Stories, GNs, etc)

Burg, Ann E. *All the Broken Pieces*.
Chaltas, Thalia. *Because I Am Furniture*.
Ottaviani, Jim and Zander Cannon and Kevin Cannon. *T-Minus: Race to the Moon*.
Soto, Gary. *Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing*.
Spires, Elizabeth. *I Heard God Talking to Me: William Edmondson and His Stone Carvings*.

Nonfiction

Allen, Thomas B.; illus. by Roger MacBride Allen. *Mr. Lincoln's High-Tech War*.
Bausum, Ann. *Denied, Detained and Deported: Stories from the Dark Side of American Immigration*.
Chaikin, Andrew & Victoria Kohl; illus. by Alan Bean. *Mission Control, This is Apollo: The Story of the First Voyages to the Moon*.

Ellis, Deborah. *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees*.
Gutman, Dan, ed. *Recycle This Book: A Hundred Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green*.
Osborne, Linda Barrett. *Traveling the Freedom Road: From Slavery and the Civil War Through Reconstruction*.
Stone, Tanya Lee. *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women to Dared to Dream*.
Walker, Paul Robert. *Remember Little Rock: The Time, the People, the Stories*.
Walker, Sally M. *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*.
Warren, Andrea. *Under Siege!: Three Children at the Civil War Battle for Vicksburg*.

Also watch for ...

Abrahams, Peter. *Reality Check*
Brennan, Sarah Rees. *The Demon's Lexicon*
Brown, Jennifer. *Hate List*
Crawford, Brent. *Carter Finally Gets It*
Foxlee, Karen. *The Anatomy of Wings*
Hernandez, David. *No More Us for You*
Livingston, Leslie. *Wondrous Strange*
Lloyd, Saci. *Carbon Diaries, 2015*
McCormick, Patricia. *Purple Heart*
Runyon, Brent. *Surface Tension: A Novel in Four Parts*
Sandler, Martin W. *Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering*
Smithson, Ryan. *Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI*
Stroud, Jonathan. *Heroes of the Valley*
Tan, Shaun. *Tales from Outer Suburbia*

BCCB = *Bulletin for the Center for Children's Books* (U. of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana), BL = *Booklist*, CCBC = *Cooperative Center for Children's Books* (U. of Wisconsin, Madison), HB = *Horn Book*, K = *Kirkus*, SLJ = *School Library Journal*, PW = *Publisher's Weekly*, BBYA = YALSA Best Books nomination, VOYA = *Voice of Youth Advocates*