

The Best of the Best (So Far), 2015 Edition
The Center for Children’s & Young Adult Literature
& Knox County Public Library
Friday, July 17, 2015 – MORNING SESSION

Picturebooks – presented by Julie Danielson

Anna Banana and the Chocolate Explosion!, written by Dominique Roques and illustrated by Alexis Dormal

When Anna and her stuffed animals decide to bake a cake, things get out of hand.

Ballet Cat: The Totally Secret Secret, written and illustrated by Bob Shea

Ballet Cat and best friend Sparkles can’t agree on what to do, but when friendship is on the line, compromise is the way to go.

The Bear Ate Your Sandwich, written and illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach

When a sandwich goes missing, it seems a bear is the likely culprit. (CIP)

Bird & Diz, written by Gary Golio and illustrated by Ed Young

When Charlie “Bird” Parker and Dizzie Gillespie get together, the music is “Be-bop-a-skoodley/Doo-wa!”

Boats for Papa, written and illustrated by Jessixa Bagley

Buckley and his mother cope with the loss of their father/husband by sailing small wooden boats, built by Buckley, off into the waves. (CIP)

The Bus is for Us, written by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Gillian Tyler

There are all kinds of transportation, but, “the best is the bus./The bus is for us.”

The Death of the Hat: A Brief History of Poetry in 50 Objects, compiled by Paul B.

Janeczko and illustrated by Chris Raschka

Fifty poems celebrate a miscellany of objects in a variety of time periods, from the Middle Ages through present day.

Drum Dream Girl, written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael López

Illustrations and poetic text follow a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba. (Based on the real life of Milla Castro Zaldarriaga.)

The Farmer and the Clown, written and illustrated by Marla Frazee

A baby clown is accidentally bounced out of the circus train and taken in by a reluctant farmer. As they spend time together, they discover things they have in common.

Firebird, written by Misty Copeland and illustrated by Christopher Myers
American Ballet Theatre soloist Misty Copeland encourages a young ballet student, with brown skin like her own, by telling her that she, too, had to learn basic steps and how to be graceful when she was starting out, and that someday, with practice and dedication, the little girl will become a firebird, too. (CIP)

The Flat Rabbit, written and illustrated by Bárður Oskarsson
A dog and rat try to decide the best way to respect their dead neighbor, and come up with an imaginative solution.

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America, written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Jamey Christoph
African-American photographer Gordon Parks got his first camera from a pawnshop, but his talent and creativity made him a well-respected photographer who captured the tall and small, both Black and white.

Haiti, My Country – poems by Haitian schoolchildren, illustrated by Rogé
Haitian teens create poetry to accompany paintings of their younger peers.

Home, written and illustrated by Carson Ellis
All manner of homes are showcased, from a home for a moonie to wigwams and shoes, but the final question is, “Where is your home/where are you?”

The Iridescence of Birds, written by Patricia MacLachlan and illustrated by Hadley Hooper
When you see how Henri Matisse grew up, you can see how he became the artist he was.

It's Only Stanley, written and illustrated by Jon Agee
Very strange noises that keep awakening the Wimbledon family one night have an even stranger source. (CIP)

Jessica's Box, written and illustrated by Peter Carnavas
Jessica's attempts to make new friends in her new school aren't going well until she gives up and makes friends accidentally.

Kid Sheriff and the Terrible Toads, written by Bob Shea and illustrated by Lane Smith
The Toad Brothers are wreaking havoc in Drywater Gulch when a boy with no experience but immense knowledge of dinosaurs rides into town on his tortoise and declares himself the new sheriff. (CIP)

Last Stop on Market Street, written by Matt de la Peña and illustrated by Christian Robinson
A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. (CIP)

Leo: A Ghost Story, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Christian Robinson
Leo is a ghost and when a new family moves into his home and misunderstands his attempts at friendship, he leaves to find a new friend – which he does, when he meets Jane.

Little Melba and her Big Trombone, written by Katheryn Russell-Brown and illustrated by Frank Morrison
Overcoming gender and ethnic bias, talented trombone player Melba Doretta Liston brings her own touch to jazz.

Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery That Baffled All of France, written by Mara Rockliff and illustrated by Iacopo Bruno
Ben Franklin uses the scientific method to solve the “science” behind Dr. Mesmer and his mind control.

My Grandfather’s Coat, written by Jim Aylesworth and illustrated by Barbara McClintock
A tailor’s very old overcoat is recycled numerous times over the years into a variety of garments and other uses. (CIP)

My Pen, written and illustrated by Christopher Myers
Acclaimed author and illustrator Christopher Myers uses rich black-and-white illustrations to bring a sketchbook to life, showing that with a simple pen, a kid can do anything!
(Publisher)

Once Upon an Alphabet, written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers
“In this menagerie we have stories, made of words, made FOR all the LETTERS.”

One Word from Sophia, written by Jim Averbeck and illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail
All Sophie wants for her birthday is a pet giraffe, but as she tries to convince different members of her rather complicated family to support her cause, each tells her she is using too many words until she finally hits on the perfect one. (CIP)

Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton, written and illustrated by Don Tate
A moving picture book biography of poet George Moses Horton, who was a slave but was also the first African-American poet to be published in the South.

Portraits of Hispanic-American Heroes, written by Juan Felipe Herrera and illustrated by Raúl Colón
Twenty Hispanic American artists, scientists, athletes, activists and political leaders are profiled in this stunning picture book, complete with inspirational quotes and distinctive expressionist portraits. (Publisher)

Raindrops Roll, written by April Pulley Sayre (with photographs from Sayre, too)
In her latest gorgeously photo-illustrated nonfiction picture book, celebrated author April Pulley Sayre sheds new light on the wonders of rain, from the beauty of a raindrop

balanced on a leaf to the amazing, never-ending water cycle that keeps our planet in perfect ecological balance. (Publisher)

Red, written and illustrated by Jan De Kinder

In this poignant story, a girl finds it funny when her classmate starts blushing on the school playground. Her friends laugh along with her, but one student takes the teasing too far. Torn between her sympathy for her classmate and her fear of the bully, the girl must make a difficult choice. (Publisher)

Red: A Crayon's Story, written and illustrated by Michael Hall

A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. (Publisher)

Rude Cakes, written and illustrated by Rowboat Watkins

A story about rude cake who never says please or thank you or listens to his parents, and a giant cyclops who is polite. (Publisher)

Seeds of Freedom: The Peaceful Integration of Huntsville, Alabama, written by Hester Bass and illustrated by E.B. Lewis

In the 1960s, the people of Huntsville, Alabama, persistently, quietly, and peacefully work toward freedom for all.

Shooting at the Stars: The Christmas Truce of 1914, written and illustrated by John Hendrix

A moving story of a young British soldier on the front lines during World War I who experiences an unforgettable Christmas Eve, where the soldiers on both sides lay down their arms for the night, but then await order in the morning.

Sidewalk Flowers, written by JonArno Lawson and illustrated by Sydney Smith

In this wordless picture book, a little girl collects wildflowers while her distracted father pays her little attention. Each flower becomes a gift, and whether the gift is noticed or ignored, both giver and recipient are transformed by their encounter. (Publisher)

The Skunk, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell

A man is followed by a skunk all day until the tables turn. (Publisher)

Smick!, written by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Juan Medina

Can friendship bloom between a dog and a chick? (CIP)

Special Delivery, written by Philip C. Stead and illustrated by Matthew Cordell

A little girl goes on a long journey to deliver an elephant to her great aunt. (Publisher)

Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos, written and illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson

A biography of Carl Sagan focusing on his childhood and culminating in the Voyager mission and the Golden Record. (Publisher)

Stick and Stone, written by Beth Ferry and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld
When Stick rescues Stone from a prickly situation with a Pinecone, the pair become fast friends. But when Stick gets stuck, can Stone return the favor? (Publisher)

The Storm Whale, written and illustrated by Benji Davies
A small beached whale becomes a way for a father and son to learn to talk and listen to each other.

Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova, written by Laurel Snyder and illustrated by Julie Morstad
A childhood visit to the ballet changes Anna's life forever; this is a picture book biography of the famous ballerina, Anna Pavlova.

The Wren and the Sparrow, written by J. Patrick Lewis and illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg
A young student rescues the hurdy-gurdy of her teacher, who has presumably befallen a terrible fate, and later, a young boy finds the instrument and intends to pass it – and the importance of remembering – on to his future grandchildren. (Publisher)

This is Sadie, written by Sara O'Leary and illustrated by Julie Morstad
Sadie's imagination, fed by books and stories, can take her to anywhere she wants to go.

Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower, written and illustrated by Greg Pizzoli
Robert Miller, a.k.a. "Count Victor Lustig," is famous for "selling" the Eiffel Tower not once but twice!

Two Mice, written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier
Two mice friends share their day by counting up to and down from three.

Viva Frida, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales
A picture book biography of celebrated artist Frida Kahlo.

Wait, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis
A simple, sweet picture book about the joys of waiting and taking in what is around you. (Publisher)

Waiting, written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes
An owl, a puppy, a bear, a rabbit and a pig – all toys arranged on a child's windowsill – wait for marvelous things to happen. (Publisher)

Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle, written by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Jason Chin
A spare, poetic picture book exploring the different phases of the water cycle in surprising and engaging ways. (Publisher)

Water Rolls, Water Rises, written by Pat Mora and illustrated by Meilo So
Bi-lingual free verse presents portraits of water, from peaceful to powerful.

Winter Bees & Other Poems of the Cold, written by Joyce Sidman and illustrated by Rick Allen

An exploration, in poems, of the plants and wildlife Sidman sees out her Vermont winter window.

Yard Sale, written by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Lauren Castillo
Sophie gets a little nervous at her family's yard sale when she hears her father declare, "Everything must go." Does that include her, too?

You Are (Not) Small, written by Anna Kang and illustrated by Christopher Weyant
Two fuzzy creatures can't agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all. (Publisher)

Books for Grades 1-3/Ages 5-8 – presented by Miranda Clark

A Chicken Followed Me Home!: Questions and Answers about a Familiar Fowl by Robin Page

Why did the chicken cross the road? To follow you home! Learn all about a not-so-basic bird in this delightful nonfiction picture book. (Publisher)

A New Friend (The Adventures of Sophie Mouse, Book 1) by Poppy Green, Illustrated by Jennifer A. Bell

Eight-year-old Sophie Mouse is excited to return to school after the long winter break, but there is a new student – a snake – and Sophie and the other animals are afraid to sit near him, much less ask him to play with them, because they have heard snakes are awful. (CIP)

Adventures with Waffles by Maria Parr

Hardly a day passes without Trille and Lena inventing some kind of adventure that often ends in trouble ... But when Lena has to move away and Auntie Granny leaves the world, it sometimes seems like nothing will ever be right again. (Publisher)

Anna, Banana, and the Friendship Split by Anica Mrose Rissi, Illustrated by Meg Park
Anna and Sadie have always been best friends so when Sadie suddenly starts being mean, Anna is very sad and seeks support from her dog, Banana, and classmate Isabel, as well as advice from her brother, Chuck, and her parents. (CIP)

Buried Sunlight by Molly Bang

An exploration of how plant materials are changed over time to become fossil fuels.

Cody and the Fountain of Happiness by Tricia Springstubb, Illustrated by Eliza Wheeler
Despite her family's problems, Cody is intent on making the summer a good one and when she finds a new friend and a runaway cat, she's well on her way.

Completely Clementine (Clementine, series ender) by Sara Pennypacker; illustrated by Marla Frazee

Third grade is ending and although there are new beginnings aplenty in her life, Clementine isn't quite ready to say goodbye and move on.

Detective Gordon: The First Case by Ulf Nilsson

Some is stealing nuts from the forest, and it's up to Detective Gordon to catch the thief! If only he had an assistant to help him. (Publisher)

Dory and the Real True Friend by Abby Hanlon

When Dory starts school she's looking for a real – rather than imaginary – friend, but when she finds a good prospect, it takes time to seal the deal.

Elvis: The Story of the Rock and Roll King by Bonnie Christiansen

Elvis got his start singing in church and his music was a force that brought all kinds of people together.

Emma and the Blue Genie by Cornelia Funke

Eight-year-old Emma and her little dog, Tristan, take a magic carpet ride to the distant land of Barakash to help a genie recover his stolen magical nose ring. (CIP)

Eva's Treetop Festival (Owl Diaries, Book 1) by Rebecca Elliott

Having a Bloomtastic Festival at school to celebrate spring is a great idea – but Eva Wingdale, a young owl, discovers that it is also a lot of work, and there is nothing wrong with asking her friends for help. (CIP)

Finley Flowers by Jessica Young

Finley's best friend Henry is about to turn nine, and Finley has a major problem: she has no idea what to give him for his birthday. He already owns all of her best creations! The school cook-off might be the perfect solution. The grand prize is a year's worth of Flying Pie Pizza – Henry's favorite. But coming up with something original and tasty is harder than it looks. As one crazy concoction leads to another, Finley discovers that cooking is just like the rest of life – things don't always turn out as planned and friendship is the real prize. (Publisher)

Full Steam Ahead by Paul Reynolds, Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

Twins Sydney and Simon learn about the water cycle and use science, technology, engineering, arts, and math to solve the problem of their stuck window and thirsty flowers. (CIP)

The Ghastly McNastys: The Lost Treasure of Little Snoring (The Ghastly McNasty's, Book 1) by Lyn Gardner

Friends Tat and Hetty must use all their wits to keep the McNasty pirate captains Gruesome and Grisly from getting the buried treasure in Little Snoring.

The Ghost and Max Monroe: Case 1, The Magic Box by L.M. Falcone; illustrated by Kim Smith

Max and his ghostly Uncle Larry set out to solve a case together – and to prove that Uncle Larry wasn't as bad a detective as he thought he was (when he was alive!).

Humphrey's Really Wheely Racing Day (Humphrey's Tiny Tales series) by Betty G. Birney

When class pet Humphrey spends the weekend at Mandy's house he sees the wheely-car Mandy's hamster has and wishes he could have one of his very own.

I'm Trying to Love Spiders by Bethany Barton

Lots of good spider facts are cleverly folded into this appealing story of an unseen narrator trying to come to terms with a fear of spiders.

Kate the Great Except When She's Not by Suzy Becker

Fifth-grader Kate faces a challenge when her mother asks her to be especially nice to Nora, a classmate and fellow flute-player who is sometimes mean. (CIP)

Leroy Ninker Saddles Up (Tales from Deckawoo Drive, Volume 1) by Kate diCamillo

Leroy, movie concession stand worker, gets a horse of his very own, the lovely Maybelline.

Logan Pryce Makes a Mess (Tales from Maple Ridge, Book 1) by Grace Gilmore, Illustrated by Petra Brown

When his father is hired for a temporary job at the general store, farm boy Logan can't wait to lend a hand. But his eagerness may cause his dad to lose this job. Can Logan's mistake be fixed in time? (Publisher)

The Lost Stone (The Kingdom of Wrenly, Book 1) by Jordon Quinn

Prince Lucas and his best friend Clara are determined to find the Queen's lost emerald and claim the reward from King Caleb.

Louise Trapeze is Totally 100% Fearless* *almost (Louise Trapeze, Book 1) by Micol Ostow, Illustrated by Brigette Barrager

On the eve of her seventh birthday, Louise Trapeze, daughter of circus performing parents, must decide whether or not to face her fears and step up to the big time in the big tent.

Misty (Stanley & Me series) by Christine Dencer, Illustrated by Jessica Meserve

Misty and Stanley are best friends, despite the fact that Stanley has a dog – which scares Misty, who is not fond of them. When Stanley is hurt and Misty has a get-well card to deliver, she has to decide what is more important, being afraid or being a friend.

Mr. Putter and Tabby Turn the Page (Mr. Putter and Tabby) by Cynthia Rylant; illustrated by Arthur Howard

Mr. Putter is excited to bring his Tabby (his cat) to the library for a special story hour and he shares the opportunity with his neighbor, Mrs. Teaberry, who decides to bring along her not-so-quiet dog, Zeke.

My New Team (Little Rhino, Book 1) by Ryan Howard and Krystle Howard

When Little Rhino's grandfather signs him up for a baseball league, the second grader learns that there can be complications even with things you love.

Nnews: Escape from the Lizzarks by Doug TenNapel

Herk, a young Nnewt, loses his parents in a Lizzarks attack on their home village and must take care of himself and find a way to defeat the evil Snake Lord to save his people.

Pedro and George by Delphine Perret

If you don't know the difference between a crocodile and an alligator, then take this educational journey with cousins Pedro and George, who try to teach some youngsters the difference.

Pigsticks and Harold and the Incredible Journey by Alex Milway

Pigsticks, an adventuresome pig, and his new hamster sidekick, Harold, attempt to find their way to the Ends of the Earth.

Princess Posey and the First Grade Ballet (Princess Posey, Book 9) by Stephanie Greene, Illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson

Valentine's Day is coming! Posey is so excited about her special ballet recital and giving cards to everyone at school. Then she learns that one of her classmates doesn't have any valentines to give. (Publisher)

Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story by Emily Arnold McCully

A picture book biography about Lizzie Murphy, the first woman to play in a major league exhibition game and the first person to play on both the New England and American leagues' all-star teams. (Publisher)

The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle by Jude Isabella

Leo loves his red bike but he outgrows it and, rather than junk it, he donates it to an organization that gives it a second – and even third – life in Africa.

Rhinos Don't Eat Pancakes by Anna Kemp, Illustrated by Sara Ogilvie

Daisy's parents are always too busy to listen, even when she tries to get them to notice the big purple rhino that has apparently come to stay.

Roller Girl by Victoria Jameson

What is supposed to be a shared summer between friends becomes a solo adventure in finding new friends and staying on your feet in the rough and tumble world of roller derby.

Ruby Goldberg's Bright Idea by Anna Humphrey

Ruby is determined to win the gold with her fifth-grade science fair project, a Rube Goldberg machine to help her grandfather, but the real prize turns out to be something completely unexpected. (CIP)

Stink Moody in Master of Disaster (Judy Moody and Friends) by Megan McDonald,

Illustrated by Erwin Madrid

Stink Moody keeps missing the good stuff: first a comet and then an asteroid, but big sister Judy has a plan to help him connect with the heavens.

Stone Giant: Michelangelo's David and How He Came to Be by Jane Sutcliff, Illustrated by John Shelley.

A huge discarded stone is passed over or abandoned by everyone, until Michelangelo sees the figure hidden within.

Talking Guitar: A Story of Young Doc Watson by Robin Gourley

A picture book biography of the beginnings of talented, blind bluegrass/country music great Arthel "Doc" Watson.

Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes by Nicola Davies; illustrated by Emily Sutton

Find out how the smallest things on the planet do some of the biggest jobs. (Publisher)

Tough Guys Have Feelings Too by Keith Negley

A boldly illustrated picture book read-aloud about how everyone gets sad – ninjas, wrestlers, ninjas, superheroes, everyone ... even daddies have emotions! (Publisher)

Trash Mountain by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Chris Monroe

When the gray squirrels kill his parents, a young red squirrel vows revenge, finding unlikely allies in the rats and gulls of Trash Mountain. (CIP)

Waiting is Not Easy (an Elephant and Piggie book) by Mo Willems

Piggie has a surprise for Gerald, but he must learn to be patient in order to receive it.

Welcome Home! (Marguerite Henry's Misty Inn, Book 1) by Kristin Earhart; illustrated by Serena Geddes

Willa Dunlap is having a hard time settling into her new home, which happens to be Chincoteague Island, location of all her favorite "Misty" books.

Whatever Happened to My Sister by Simona Ciarolo

A touchingly sweet illustrated portrayal of the transience of childhood and the mystifying experience of watching a sibling grow up. (Publisher)

Wild and Tame Animals by Dahlov Ipcar

Ipcar presents a wealth of feral and fierce animals trained by our early ancestors to the tame animals we know today! (Publisher)

Wisha Wozzariter by Payal Kapadia

Ten-year-old Wisha wishes to be a writer. When she meets Bookworm, she stops wishing and starts writing. With him, she rides on the Thought Express to the Marketplace of Ideas, the Superhero Salon and the Bargain Bazaar, and encounters a motley crew of characters. (Publisher)

Women Who Broke the Rules: Sacajawea by Kathleen Krull

Sacajawea was only sixteen when she made one of the most remarkable journeys in American history ... Without her, the Lewis and Clark expedition might have failed. Two hundred years later, we still can see how her unique journey demonstrated the strength and value of women. (Publisher)

Books for Grades 3-5/Ages 8-11 – presented by Beth Jackson

Fiction

Another Day as Emily, by Eileen Spinelli

Susie is jealous when her brother is deemed a town hero, so she finds solace in the poetry and reclusive lifestyle of Emily Dickinson. (Publisher)

Book Scavenger, by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman

Just after twelve-year-old Emily and her family move to San Francisco, she teams up with new friend James to follow clues in an odd book they find, hoping to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, solve the mystery or come after the friends. (CIP)

Brown Girl Dreaming, by Jacqueline Woodson

Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. (Publisher)

Catch You Later, Traitor: A Novel, by Avi

It's 1951, and twelve-year-old Pete Collison is a regular kid in Brooklyn, New York, who loves Sam Spade detective books and radio crime dramas. But when an FBI agent shows up at Pete's doorstep, accusing Pete's father of being a Communist, Pete is caught in a real-life mystery. Could there really be Commies in his family? As Pete follows the quickly accumulating clues, he begins to wonder if the truth could put his family's livelihood—and even their freedom—at risk. (Publisher)

Circus Mirandus, Cassie Beasley

When he realizes his grandfather's stories of an enchanted circus are true, Micah Tuttle sets out to find the mysterious Circus Mirandus – and to use its magic to save his grandfather's life. (Publisher)

Dear Hank Williams, by Kimberly Holt

Assigned to write to a pen pal, eleven-year-old Tate, who lives in Rippling Creek, Louisiana, in 1948, writes to her favorite country singer, sharing her dream of becoming a singer and revealing that her mother is in prison. (CIP)

El Deafo, by Cece Bell

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. (Publisher)

Fish in a Tree, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike. (Publisher)

Finding Serendipity, by Angelica Banks

When Tuesday McGillycuddy and her beloved dog Baxterr discover that Tuesday's mother – the famous author Serendipity Smith – has gone missing, they set out on a magical adventure. In their quest to find Serendipity, they discover the mysterious and unpredictable place that stories come from. (Publisher)

The Fourteenth Goldfish, by Jennifer Holm

Ellie's scientist grandfather has discovered a way to reverse aging, and consequently has turned into a teenager – which makes for complicated relationships when he moves in with Ellie and her mother, his daughter. (CIP)

Gone Crazy in Alabama, by Rita Williams-Garcia

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible. (Publisher)

A Handful of Stars, by Cynthia Lord

When her blind dog slips his collar, twelve-year-old Lily meets Salma Santiago, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family is in Maine for the blueberry-picking season, and, based partly on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship while painting bee boxes for Lily's grandfather – but as the Blueberry Queen pageant approaches, Lily and Salma are confronted with some of the hard truths of prejudice and migrant life. (CIP)

The Island of Dr. Libris, by Chris Grabenstein

A twelve-year-old boy, worried that his parents may divorce, discovers that an island in the middle of the lake where he is spending the summer is the testing grounds of the mysterious Dr. Libris, who may have invented a way to make the characters in books come alive. (CIP)

Lucky Strike, by Bobbie Pyron

Nathaniel Harlow lives with his grandfather in a trailer park in Franklin County, Florida, and he has always been unlucky – but when he is struck by lightning on his eleventh birthday and survives, it seems like his luck starts to change. (CIP)

Moonpenny Island, by Tricia Springstubb

Moonpenny is a tiny island in a great lake. When the summer people leave and the ferries stop running, just the tried-and-true islanders are left behind. Flor and her best, her perfect friend, Sylvie, are the only eleven-year-olds for miles and miles—and Flor couldn't be happier. But come the end of summer, unthinkable things begin to happen. Sylvie is suddenly, mysteriously, whisked away to school on the mainland. Flor's mother leaves to take care of Flor's sick grandmother and doesn't come back. Her big sister has a secret, and Flor fears it's a dangerous one. (Publisher)

Ms. Rapscott's Girls, by Elise Primavera

At Great Rapscott School for Girls of Busy Parents, Ms. Rapscott teaches her students How to Get Lost on Purpose, resulting in a series of fantastical adventures that make each learn a little something about courage, strength, bravery, and teamwork. (Publisher)

Nightmares, by Jason Segel

Charlie is having trouble sleeping because his nightmares are getting more and more real, to the point that he finds himself crossing over into Nightmare World, a place ruled by President Fear, who is determined to unlock reality to all the worst creatures from his world.

Rain (Reign), by Ann M. Martin

Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different - not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father. When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search. (Publisher)

The Terrible Two, by Mac Barnett

It's prankster against prankster in an epic war of trickery, until the two, Miles and Niles, finally decide to join forces and pull off the biggest prank ever seen: a prank so huge that it would make the members of the International Order of Disorder proud. (Publisher)

Nonfiction

The Death of the Hat: A Brief History of Poetry in 50 Objects, by Paul B. Janeczko

Fifty poems celebrate a miscellany of objects in a variety of time periods, from the Middle Ages through present day.

Inventions that Could Have Changed the World ... But Didn't, by Joe Rhatigan

The fascinating stories of inventions that could have changed the world, should have made a difference, or would have astounded us all, but for one reason or another, didn't. Some inventions were too wacky, weird, or unwieldy. Other simply didn't work. And still others

may be the next big thing . . . some day. Learn about the inventors, what they thought they would accomplish, and what—if anything—they did accomplish. (Publisher)

The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art, by Barb Rosenstock

“With his noisy paint box, Vasya Kandinsky created something entirely new – abstract art.”

The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus, by Jen Bryant and Melissa Sweet

For shy young Peter Mark Roget, books were the best companions -- and it wasn't long before Peter began writing his own book. But he didn't write stories; he wrote lists. Peter took his love for words and turned it to organizing ideas and finding exactly the right word to express just what he thought. His lists grew and grew, eventually turning into one of the most important reference books of all time. (Publisher)

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatuih

Almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a “Whites only” school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California. (Publisher)

Trash Talk: Moving Toward a Zero-Trash World, by Michelle Mulder

Our landfills are overflowing, but with some creative thinking, stuff we once threw away can become a collection of valuable resources just waiting to be harvested. Trash Talk digs deep into the history of garbage, from Minoan trash pits to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, and uncovers some of the many innovative ways people all over the world are dealing with waste. (Publisher)

... and to be released on August 4, 2015: ***Fuzzy Mud***, by Louis Sachar!

Best of the Best (So Far), 2015 Edition
The Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature
& Knox County Public Library
Friday, July 17, 2015 – AFTERNOON SESSION

Books for Ages 12 and up – presented by Emily Davenport

Contemporary/Realistic Fiction

Mosquitoland, by David Arnold

When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane. (Publisher)

The Fixer, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes

When sixteen-year-old Tess Kendrick is sent to live with her older sister, Ivy, she has no idea that the infamous Ivy Kendrick is Washington D.C.'s #1 "fixer," known for making politicians' scandals go away for a price. No sooner does Tess enroll at Hardwicke Academy than she unwittingly follows in her sister's footsteps and becomes D.C.'s premier high school fixer, solving problems for elite teens. (Publisher)

Love Letters to the Dead, by Ava Dellaira

When Laurel starts writing letters to dead people for a school assignment, she begins to spill about her sister's mysterious death, her mother's departure from the family, her new friends, and her first love. (CIP)

I'll Meet You There, by Heather Demetrios

Skylar Evans, seventeen, yearns to escape Creek View by attending art school, but after her mother's job loss puts her dream at risk, a rekindled friendship with Josh, who joined the Marines to get away then lost a leg in Afghanistan, and her job at the Paradise Motel lead her to appreciate her home town. (CIP)

Saint Anything, by Sarah Dessen

Sydney's charismatic older brother Peyton, has always been the center of attention in the family but when he is sent to jail, Sydney struggles to find her place at home and in the world until she meets the Chathams, including gentle, protective Mac, who makes her feel seen for the first time. (CIP)

None of the Above, by I.W. Gregorio

When Kristin Lattimer is voted homecoming queen, it seems like another piece of her ideal life has fallen into place. She's a champion hurdler with a full scholarship to college and she's madly in love with her boyfriend. In fact, she's decided that she's ready to take things to the next level with him. But Kristin's first time isn't the perfect moment she's planned—something is very wrong. A visit to the doctor reveals the truth: Kristin is intersex, which

means that though she outwardly looks like a girl, she has male chromosomes, not to mention boy "parts." Dealing with her body is difficult enough, but when her diagnosis is leaked to the whole school, Kristin's entire identity is thrown into question. As her world unravels, can she come to terms with her new self? (Publisher)

The Last Time We Said Goodbye, by Cynthia Hand

After her younger brother, Tyler, commits suicide, Lex struggles to work through her grief in the face of a family that has fallen apart, the sudden distance between her and her friends, and memories of Tyler that still feel all too real. (CIP)

The Truth Commission, by Susan Juby

As a project for her 'creative non-fiction module' at a school for the arts, Normandy Pale chronicles the work of the Truth Commission, through which she and her two best friends ask classmates and faculty about various open secrets, while Norm's famous sister reveals some very unsettling truths of her own. (CIP)

The Improbable Theory of Ana and Zak, by Brian Katcher

When Ana Watson's brother ditches a high school trip to run wild at Washington, type-A Ana knows that she must find him or risk her last shot at freedom from her extra-controlling parents. In her desperation, she's forced to enlist the last person she'd ever want to spend time with—slacker Zak Duquette—to help find her brother before morning comes. But over the course of the night, while being chased by hordes of costumed Vikings and zombies, Ana and Zak begin to open up to each other. Soon, what starts as the most insane nerdfighter manhunt transforms into so much more. (Publisher)

All the Bright Places, by Jennifer Niven

Told in alternating voices, when Theodore Finch and Violet Markey meet on the ledge of the bell tower at school – both teetering on the edge – it's the beginning of an unlikely relationship, a journey to discover the 'natural wonders' of the state of Indiana, and two teens' desperate desire to heal and save one another. (Publisher)

Vanishing Girls, by Lauren Oliver

Two sisters inexorably altered by a terrible accident, a missing a nine-year-old girl, and the shocking connection between them. (Publisher)

The Boy in the Black Suit, by Jason Reynolds

Soon after his mother's death, Matt takes a job at a funeral home in his tough Brooklyn neighborhood and, while attending and assisting with funerals, begins to accept death and his responsibilities as a man. (CIP)

Challenger Deep, by Neal Shusterman

Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench. *Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior.* Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence to document the journey with images. *Caden Bosch pretends to join the school*

track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head. Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny. (Publisher)

Every Last Word, by Tamara Ireland Stone

Samantha McAllister looks just like the rest of the popular girls in her junior class. But hidden beneath the straightened hair and expertly applied makeup is a secret that her friends would never understand: Sam has Purely-Obsessional OCD and is consumed by a stream of dark thoughts and worries that she can't turn off. (Publisher)

Fantasy, Science Fiction, and Magical Realism

The Game of Love and Death, by Martha Brockenbrough

In Seattle in 1937 two seventeen-year-olds, Henry, who is white, and Flora, who is African-American, become the unwitting pawns in a game played by two immortal figures, Love and Death, where they must choose each other at the end, or one of them will die. (CIP)

Undertow, by Michael Buckley

A sixteen-year-old girl is caught in an epic clash of civilizations when a society of undersea warriors marches out of the ocean and into modern-day Coney Island. (CIP)

Ink and Bone (The Great Library, Book 1), by Rachel Caine

Ruthless and supremely powerful, the Great Library is now a presence in every major city, governing the flow of knowledge to the masses. Alchemy allows the Library to deliver the content of the greatest works of history instantly—but the personal ownership of books is expressly forbidden. Jess Brightwell believes in the value of the Library, but the majority of his knowledge comes from illegal books obtained by his family, who are involved in the thriving black market. Jess has been sent to be his family's spy, but his loyalties are tested in the final months of his training to enter the Library's service. (Publisher)

Armada, by Ernest Cline

Zack tells himself, he knows the difference between fantasy and reality. He knows that here in the real world, aimless teenage gamers with anger issues don't get chosen to save the universe. And then he sees the flying saucer. No, Zack hasn't lost his mind. It's Zack's chance, at last, to play the hero. But even through the terror and exhilaration, he can't help thinking back to all those science-fiction stories he grew up with, and wondering: Doesn't something about this scenario seem a little...familiar?

The Cracks in the Kingdom (The Colors of Madeleine, Book 2), by Jaclyn Moriarty

Princess Ko's been bluffing about the mysterious absence of her father, desperately trying to keep the government running on her own. But if she can't get him back in a matter of weeks, the consequence may be a devastating war. So under the guise of a publicity stunt she gathers a group of teens -- each with a special ability -- from across the kingdom to crack the unsolvable case of the missing royals of Cello. (Publisher)

Shadowshaper, by Daniel José Older

When the murals painted on the walls of her Brooklyn neighborhood start to change and fade in front of her, Sierra Santiago realizes that something strange is going on – then she discovers her Puerto Rican family are shadowshapers and finds herself in a battle with an evil anthropologist for the lives of her family and friends. (CIP)

Bone Gap, by Laura Ruby

Eighteen-year-old Finn, an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town, is the only witness to the abduction of town favorite Roza, but his inability to distinguish between faces makes it difficult for him to help with the investigation, and subjects him to even more ridicule and bullying. (CIP)

More Happy Than Not, by Adam Silvera

The Leteo Institute's revolutionary memory-relief procedure seems too good to be true to Aaron Soto ... But Aaron can't forget how he's grown up poor or how his friends aren't always there for him ... Then Thomas shows up. He has a sweet movie-watching setup on his roof, and he doesn't mind Aaron's obsession with a popular fantasy series. There are nicknames, inside jokes. Most importantly, Thomas doesn't mind talking about Aaron's past. But Aaron's newfound happiness isn't welcome on his block. Since he's can't stay away from Thomas or suddenly stop being gay, Aaron must turn to Leteo to straighten himself out, even if it means forgetting who he is. (Publisher)

The Alex Crow, by Andrew Smith

The story of Ariel, a Middle Eastern refugee who lives with an adoptive family in Sunday, West Virginia, is juxtaposed against those of a schizophrenic bomber, the diaries of a failed arctic expedition from the late nineteenth century, and a depressed bionic reincarnated crow. (CIP)

Blue Lily, Lily Blue (The Raven Cycle, Book 3), by Maggie Stiefvater

Blue Sargent has found things. For the first time in her life, she has friends she can trust, a group to which she can belong. The Raven Boys have taken her in as one of their own. Their problems have become hers, and her problems have become theirs. The trick with found things, though, is how easily they can be lost. Friends can betray. Mothers can disappear. Visions can mislead. Certainties can unravel. (Publisher)

An Ember in the Ashes, by Sabaa Tahir

In a world inspired by ancient Rome and defined by brutality, seventeen-year old Laia has grown up with one rule for survival: Never challenge the Empire. But when Laia's brother Darin is arrested for treason, she leaves behind everything she knows, risking her life to try and save him. She enlists help from the rebels whose extensive underground network may lead to Darin. Their help comes with a price, though. Laia must infiltrate the Empire's greatest military academy as a spy. (Publisher)

The Martian, by Andy Weir

Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars. Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there. (Publisher)

Graphic Fiction and Non-Fiction

Through the Woods, by Emily Carroll

These are fairy tales gone seriously wrong, where you can travel to “Our Neighbor’s House”—though coming back might be a problem. Or find yourself a young bride in a house that holds a terrible secret in “A Lady’s Hands Are Cold.” You might try to figure out what is haunting “My Friend Janna,” or discover that your brother’s fiancée may not be what she seems in “The Nesting Place.” And of course you must revisit the horror of “His Face All Red,” the breakout webcomic hit that has been gorgeously translated to the printed page. (Publisher)

Trinity: A Graphic History of the First Atomic Bomb, by Jonathan Fetter-Vorn

The power of the atom was harnessed in a top-secret government compound in Los Alamos, New Mexico, by a group of brilliant scientists led by the enigmatic wunderkind J. Robert Oppenheimer. Focused from the start on the monumentally difficult task of building an atomic weapon, these men and women soon began to wrestle with the moral implications of actually succeeding. (Publisher)

Battle Lines: A Graphic History of the Civil War, by Jonathan Fetter-Vorn and Ari Kelman

Battle Lines showcases various objects from the conflict (a tattered American flag from Fort Sumter, a pair of opera glasses, a bullet, an inkwell, and more), along with a cast of soldiers, farmers, slaves, and well-known figures, to trace an ambitious narrative that extends from the early rumblings of secession to the dark years of Reconstruction. (Publisher)

Ms. Marvel series, by G. Willow Wilson

Follow the exploits of Kamala Khan, an “ordinary” girl from Jersey City, who suddenly finds herself in possession of extraordinary gifts.

Historical Fiction

Audacity, by Melanie Crider

A historical fiction novel in verse detailing the life of Clara Lemlich and her struggle for women’s labor rights in the early 20th century in New York. (Publisher)

Under a Painted Sky, by Stacey Lee

In 1845, Sammy, a Chinese American girl, and Annamae, an African American slave girl, disguise themselves as boys and travel on the Oregon Trail to California from Missouri. (Publisher)

X: A Novel, by Illyash Shabazz and Kekla Magoon

Malcolm Little’s parents have always told him that he can achieve anything, but from what he can tell, that’s a pack of lies—after all, his father’s been murdered, his mother’s been taken away, and his dreams of becoming a lawyer have gotten him laughed out of school. There’s no point in trying, he figures, and lured by the nightlife of Boston and New York, he

escapes into a world of fancy suits, jazz, girls, and reefer. But Malcolm's efforts to leave the past behind lead him into increasingly dangerous territory. Deep down, he knows that the freedom he's found is only an illusion—and that he can't run forever. (Publisher)

Non-Fiction

I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives, by Martin Ganda and Caitlyn Alifirenka

In this compelling dual memoir, Caitlin and Martin recount how they became best friends -- and better people--through their long-distance exchange. (Publisher)

Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek (A Memoir), by Maya Van Wagenen
Stuck near the bottom of the social ladder at “pretty much the lowest level of people at school who aren't paid to be here,” Maya has never been popular. But before starting eighth grade, she decides to begin a unique social experiment: spend the school year following a 1950s popularity guide, written by former teen model Betty Cornell. The real-life results are hilarious, painful, and filled with unexpected surprises. Told with humor and grace, Maya's journey offers readers of all ages a thoroughly contemporary example of kindness and self-confidence, along with a better understanding of what it means to be popular. (Publisher)

Unlikely Warrior: A Jewish Soldier in Hitler's Army, by Georg Rauch; translated from the German by Phyllis Rauch

As a young adult in wartime Vienna, Georg Rauch helped his mother hide dozens of Jews from the Gestapo behind false walls in their top-floor apartment and arrange for their safe transport out of the country. His family was among the few who worked underground to resist Nazi rule. Then came the day he was drafted into Hitler's army and shipped out to fight on the Eastern front as part of the German infantry--in spite of his having confessed his own Jewish ancestry. Thus begins the incredible journey of a nineteen year old thrust unwillingly into an unjust war, who must use his smarts, skills, and bare-knuckled determination to stay alive in the trenches, avoid starvation and exposure during the brutal Russian winter, survive more than one Soviet labor camp, and somehow find his way back home. (Publisher)

Popular Series (Current & Future)

Meg Cabot. Royal Wedding (*The Princess Diaries*, Book 11) June 2, 2015

Susan Ee. *End of Days* (*Penryn and the End of Days*, Book 3) May 12, 2015

Jenny Han. P.S. I Still Love You (*To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, Book 2) May 26, 2015

Erika Johansen. The Invasion of the *Tearling*. (*The Queen of the Tearling*, Book 2) June 9, 2015

Maureen Johnson. *The Shadow Cabinet* (*Shades of London*, Book 3) February 10, 2015

Marie Lu. *The Rose Society* (*The Young Elites*, Book 2) October 13, 2015

Sarah Maas. *Queen of Shadows*. (*Throne of Glass*, Book 4). September 1, 2015

Marissa Meyer. *Winter* (*The Lunar Chronicles*, Book 4). November 10, 2015
Mary Pearson. *The Heart of Betrayal*. (*The Remnant Chronicles*) July 7, 2015
Sherry Thomas. *The Immortal Heights*. (*The Elemental Trilogy*, Book 3) October 13, 2015

COMING SOON!

Libba Bray. *Lair of Dreams* (*The Diviners*, Book 2)
David Levithan. *Another Day* (companion novel to *Every Day*)
Patrick Ness. *The Rest of Us Just Live Here*
Rainbow Rowell. *Carry On* (spinoff of *Fangirl*)
Gene Luen Yang. *The Shadow Hero*.
Nicola Yoon. *Everything, Everything*.

Books for Ages 12 and up – presented by Angela Hoffman

Fantasy

The Wrath and the Dawn (The Wrath and the Dawn, #1), by Renee Ahdieh

A variation of the Sheherazade story, Sherzade offers herself as the next wife of the king, but has revenge in mind – until she finds herself falling for him.

Red Queen (Red Queen Trilogy, #1), by Victoria Aveyard

Mare Barrow's world is divided by blood – those with common, Red blood serve the Silver – the blooded elite, who are gifted with superhuman abilities. Mare is a Red, scraping by as a thief in a poor rural village, until a twist of fate throws her in front of the Silver court. Before the king, princes, and all the nobles, she discovers she has an ability of her own. (Publisher)

A Court of Thorns and Roses* (A Court of Thorns and Roses, #1), by Sarah J. Maas

Dragged to a treacherous magical land she knows about only from stories, Feyre discovers that her captor is not an animal but Tamlin, a High Lord of the faeries. As her feelings toward him transform from hostility to a fiery passion, the threats against the faerie lands grow. Feyre must fight to break an ancient curse, or she will lose Tamlin forever. (CIP)

The Accidental Highwayman: Being the Tale of Kit Bristol, His Horse Midnight, a Mysterious Princess, and Sundry Magical Persons Besides (Adventures of Kit Bristol, #1), by Ben Tripp

In eighteenth-century England, young Christopher “Kit” Bristol is the unwitting servant of notorious highwayman Whistling Jack. One dark night, Kit finds his master bleeding from a mortal wound, dons the man's riding cloak to seek help, and changes the course of his life forever. (Publisher)

Supernatural/paranormal

Trial by Fire (Worldwalker, #1), by Josephine Angelini

This world is trying to kill Lily Proctor. Her life-threatening allergies make it increasingly difficult to live a normal life ... Suddenly Lily finds herself in a *different* Salem, one overrun with horrifying creatures and ruled by powerful women – including Lillian, this world's version of Lily ... How can she be the savior of this world when she is literally her own worst enemy? (Publisher)

Compulsion (The Heirs of Watson Island, #1), by Martina Boone

All her life, Barrie Watson has been a virtual prisoner in the house where she lived with her shut-in mother. When her mother dies, Barrie promises to put some mileage on her stiletto heels. But she finds a new kind of prison at her aunt's South Carolina plantation instead--a

prison guarded by an ancient spirit who long ago cursed one of the three founding families of Watson Island and gave the others magical gifts that became compulsions. (Publisher)

Beware the Wild (Beware the Wild, #1), by Natalie C. Parker

A teenaged girl and her boyfriend must find her older brother after he wanders into their town's swamp and a mysterious girl appears in his place. (CIP)

Afterworlds, by Scott Westerfeld

In alternating chapters, eighteen-year-old Darcy Patel navigates the New York City publishing world and Lizzie, the heroine of Darcy's novel, slips into the "Afterworld" to survive a terrorist attack and becomes a spirit guide. (CIP)

Science fiction

The Cage (*Cage*, #1), by Megan Shepherd

When Cora Mason wakes in a desert, she doesn't know where she is or who put her there. As she explores, she finds an impossible mix of environments—tundra next to desert, farm next to jungle, and a strangely empty town cobbled together from different cultures—all watched over by eerie black windows. And she isn't alone. (Publisher)

Dystopian/post-apocalyptic

The Glass Arrow, by Kristen Simmons

Aya has spent her whole life in the mountains, looking out for her family and hiding from the world, until the day the Trackers finally catch her. Stolen from her home, and being groomed for auction, Aya is desperate to escape her fate and return to her family, but her only allies are a loyal wolf she's raised from a pup and a strange mute boy who may be her best hope for freedom . . . if she can truly trust him. (Publisher)

Realistic Fiction, Contemporary

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda, by Becky Albertalli

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out—without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met. (Publisher)

Weightless: A Novel, by Sarah Bannan

Carolyn Lessing isn't prepared for the reaction she gets when she moves from New Jersey to Alabama; she goes from popular new girl to slut to bully's victim in the blink of an eye.

Emmy & Oliver, by Robin Benway

Best friends in elementary school, Oliver suddenly disappears from Emmy's life and when he just as suddenly returns in high school, he's hard to get to know – he's hiding a secret about his disappearance that makes it hard to let people in.

The Carnival at Bray, by Jessie Ann Foley (2015 Morris YA Debut Award honoree & 2015 Printz Award honoree)

Sixteen-year-old Maggie Lynch is uprooted from big-city Chicago to a windswept town on the Irish Sea. Surviving on care packages of *Spin* magazine and Twizzlers from her rocker uncle Kevin, she wonders if she'll ever find her place in this new world. When first love and sudden death simultaneously strike, a naive but determined Maggie embarks on a forbidden pilgrimage that will take her to a seedy part of Dublin and on to a life-altering night in Rome to fulfill a dying wish. Through it all, Maggie discovers an untapped inner strength to do the most difficult but rewarding thing of all, live. (Publisher)

The Distance Between Lost and Found, by Kathryn Holmes

Sophomore Hallie Calhoun, her former friend Jonah, and new friend Rachel leave a church youth group hike in the Great Smoky Mountains and become lost for five days, struggling to survive as Hallie finally speaks about the incident that made her a social pariah and Jonah admits why it hurt him so much. (CIP)

Things We Know by Heart, by Jessi Kirby

After Quinn's boyfriend, Trent, dies in an accident their junior year, she reaches out to the recipients of his donated organs in hopes of picking up the fragments of her now-unrecognizable life. But whoever received Trent's heart has mysteriously remained silent. The essence of a person, Quinn has always believed, is in the heart. If she finds Trent's, then in a way she still has a piece of him. (Publisher)

I'll Give You the Sun, by Jandy Nelson (2015 Printz Award winner)

Jude and her twin brother, Noah, are incredibly close. At thirteen, isolated Noah draws constantly and is falling in love with the charismatic boy next door, while daredevil Jude cliff-dives and wears red-red lipstick and does the talking for both of them. But three years later, Jude and Noah are barely speaking. Something has happened to wreck the twins in different and dramatic ways . . . until Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy, as well as someone else—an even more unpredictable new force in her life. (Publisher)

Daughter of Deep Silence, by Carrie Ryan

At fourteen, Frances survived a slaughter that claimed the lives of her parents and best friend, Libby, but she took on Libby's identity and wealth while plotting revenge against the powerful Wells family and now, at age eighteen, is ready to destroy them, including her first love, Grey. (CIP)

Written in the Stars, by Aisha Saeed

Naila's conservative immigrant parents have always said the same thing: She may choose what to study, how to wear her hair, and what to be when she grows up—but they will

choose her husband ... When Naila breaks their rule by falling in love with Saif, her parents are livid. Convinced she has forgotten who she truly is, they travel to Pakistan to visit relatives and explore their roots. But Naila's vacation turns into a nightmare when she learns that plans have changed—her parents have found her a husband and they want her to marry him, now! (Publisher)

All the Rage*, by Courtney Summers

Romy Grey knows that popular sheriff's son Kellan Turner is not all he appears to be, but his popularity prevents anyone from believing her. When a series of assaults occurs, Romy must decide if her continued silence is still an option.

My Best Everything*, by Sarah Tomp

When her father loses her college tuition money, Lulu works with Mason, a local boy, making and selling moonshine but their growing romance may mean giving up her dream of escaping her small Virginia hometown. (CIP)

Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti, by Laura Rose Wagner

In the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Nadine goes to live with her father in Miami while her cousin Magdalie, raised as her sister, remains behind in a refugee camp, dreaming of joining Nadine but wondering if she must accept that her life and future are in Port-au-Prince. (CIP)

Additional Recommended Titles, Realistic Fiction

- *Like It Never Happened*, Emily Adrian (friend drama)
- *Every Last Promise*, Kristin Halbrook (rape)
- *Little Peach*, Peggy Kern (sex trafficking)
- *There Will Be Lies*, Nick Lake (unreliable narrator)
- *The Start of Me and You*, Emery Lord (romance)
- *Althea and Oliver*, Cristina Moracho (romance and illness)
- *The Summer of Chasing Mermaids*, Sarah Ockler (romance, retelling)
- *Gracefully Grayson*, Ami Polonsky (middle school transgender)
- *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B*, Teresa Toten (mental illness – OCD)
- *My Heart and Other Black Holes*, Jasmine Warga (suicide)

High-Demand Sequels/Series

- *The Heir* (The Selection, #4), Kiera Cass
- *Shadow Scale* (Seraphina, #2), Rachel Hartman
- *Rumble*, Ellen Hopkins
- *Mortal Heart* (His Fair Assassin, #3), Robin LaFevers
- *Fairest* (The Lunar Chronicles, #3.5), Marissa Meyer

Sequels or Companion Novels to Titles Highlighted in Previous Years

- *The Apple Throne* (The United States of Asgard, #3), Tessa Gratton
- *Crimson Bound* (follow-up to *Cruel Beauty*), Rosamund Hodge
- *The Heart of Betrayal* (The Remnant Chronicles, #2), Mary E. Pearson
- *The Winner's Crime* (The Winner's Trilogy, #2), Marie Rutkoski
- *A Cold Legacy* (The Madman's Daughter, #3), Megan Shepherd

TV and Movie Tie-In Titles

- *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, Jesse Andrews
- Mortal Instruments series (*City of Bones*, etc.), Cassandra Clare
- *Paper Towns*, John Green
- *Divergent*, *Insurgent*, and *Allegiant*, Veronica Roth
- *The 5th Wave* and *The Infinite Sea*, Rick Yancey

* = Upper YA, best recommended for ages 16+.

Books for Ages 12 and up – presented by Dr. Susan Groenke

Middle Grades

***Ruby on the Outside*, by Nora Raleigh Baskin**

Eleven-year-old Ruby Danes has a real best friend for the first time ever, but agonizes over whether or not to tell her a secret she has never shared with anyone – that her mother has been in prison since Ruby was five – and over whether to express her anger to her mother. (CIP)

***El Deafo*, by Cece Bell**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid. (Publisher)

***The War that Saved My Life*, by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (historical fiction)**

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. (CIP)

***Stella by Starlight*, by Sharon Draper (historical fiction)**

When a burning corss set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. (CIP)

***Moon at Nine*, by Deborah Ellis**

Fifteen-year-old Farrin has grown up with secrets: ten years after the overthrow of the Shah, her aristocratic mother is still working against Iran's conservative revolutionary government. But when Farrin befriends Sadira, the intriguing and outgoing new student at her school for gifted girls, her own secret is even more dangerous. Because the girls discover their relationship is more than just friendship – and in Iran, being gay is punishable by death. (CIP)

***Ink and Ashes*, by Valynne E. Maetani**

Claire Takata has never known much about her father, who passed away ten years ago. But on the anniversary of his death, she finds a letter from her deceased father to her stepfather. Before now, Claire never had a reason to believe they even knew each other. Struggling to understand why her parents kept this surprising history hidden, Claire combs through anything that might give her information about her father . . . until she discovers that he was a member of the yakuza, a Japanese organized crime syndicate ... The race to outrun her father's legacy reveals secrets of his past that cast ominous shadows, threatening Claire, her friends and family, her newfound love, and ultimately her life. (Publisher)

The Red Pencil, by Andrea Davis Pinckney; illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Life in Amira's peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to dig deep within herself to find the strength to make the long journey-- on foot-- to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind-- and all kinds of possibilities. (Publisher)

When I Was the Greatest, by Jason Reynolds

Ali lives in Bed-Stuy, a Brooklyn neighborhood known for guns and drugs, but he and his sister, Jazz, and their neighbors, Needles and Noodles, stay out of trouble until they go to the wrong party, where one gets badly hurt and another leaves with a target on his back. (CIP)

This Side of Home, by Renée Watson

Twins Nikki and Maya Younger always agreed on most things, but as they head into their senior year they react differently to the gentrification of their Portland, Oregon, neighborhood and the new - white - family that moves in after their best friend and her mother are evicted. (CIP)

Gone Crazy in Alabama, by Rita Williams-Garcia (historical fiction)

Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother, Big Ma, and her mother, Ma Charles. Across the way lives Ma Charles's half sister, Miss Trotter. The two half sisters haven't spoken in years. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping the sisters apart. But when tragedy strikes, Delphine discovers that the bonds of family run deeper than she ever knew possible. (Publisher)

High School

Lumberjanes #1, by Noelle Stevenson, Grace Ellis, and Brooke Allen (graphic novel)

Five best friends spending the summer at Lumberjane scout camp...defeating yetis, three-eyed wolves, and giant falcons...what's not to love?! Friendship to the max! Jo, April, Mal, Molly and Ripley are five best pals determined to have an awesome summer together...and they're not gonna let any insane quest or an array of supernatural critters get in their way! (Publisher)

Half Bad, by Sally Green (supernatural/paranormal)

In modern-day England, where witches live alongside humans, Nathan, son of a White witch and the most powerful Black witch, must escape captivity before his seventeenth birthday and receive the gifts that will determine his future. (CIP)

How It Went Down, by Kekla Magoon

When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds, his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white.

In the aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up. Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth. Tariq's friends, family, and community struggle to make sense of the tragedy, and to cope with the hole left behind when a life is cut short. In their own words, they grapple for a way to say with certainty: This is how it went down. (Publisher)

How to Build a Girl: A Novel, by Caitlin Moran

It's 1990. Johanna Morrigan, fourteen, has shamed herself so badly on local TV that she decides that there's no point in being Johanna anymore and reinvents herself as Dolly Wilde—fast-talking, hard-drinking Gothic hero and full-time Lady Sex Adventurer. ... But what happens when Johanna realizes she's built Dolly with a fatal flaw? Is a box full of records, a wall full of posters, and a head full of paperbacks, enough to build a girl after all? (Publisher)

On a Clear Day, by Walter Dean Myers

In 2035, Dahlia Grillo, a sixteen-year-old math whiz, joins with six other American teens traveling to England to meet with groups from around the world in hopes of stopping C8, the companies that control nearly everything for their own benefit. (CIP)

Knockout Games, by g. neri

For Calvin Barnes, the only thing that comes close to the rush of playing the knockout game is watching videos of the knockout game. Calvin's crew always takes videos of their KOs, but Calvin wants more--something better. That's where Erica comes in. She's new in town. Awkward. Shy. White. But she's got a good camera and a filmmaker's eye. She could learn. For a while, Calvin's knockouts are strangers. For a while, Erica can ignore their suffering in the rush of creativity and Calvin's attention. Then comes the KO that forces her eyes open, that makes her see what's really happening. (Publisher)

Gabi, A Girl in Pieces, by Isabel Quintero

Sixteen-year-old Gabi Hernandez chronicles her senior year in high school as she copes with her friend Cindy's pregnancy, friend Sebastian's coming out, her father's meth habit, her own cravings for food and cute boys, and especially the poetry that helps forge her identity. (CIP)

Multicultural Non-Fiction

Some Assembly Required: The Not-So-Secret Life of a Transgender Teen, by Arin Andrews

Seventeen-year-old Arin Andrews shares all the hilarious, painful, and poignant details of undergoing gender reassignment as a high school student in this winning teen memoir. (Publisher)

Rethinking Normal: A Memoir in Transition, by Katie Rain Hill

In this young adult memoir, a transgender girl shares her personal journey of growing up as a boy and then undergoing gender reassignment during her teens. (Publisher)

Bayard Rustin: Invisible Activist, by Jacqueline Houtman, Walter Naegle, and Michael G. Long

When A. Philip Randolph needed the best organizer on the planet, he turned to Bayard Rustin to bring 250,000 people to the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Illustrated with over sixty photos, this book is the product of a unique collaboration between three authors: Bayard's partner of ten years, a professor of religious studies, and a children's book author. (Publisher)

Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out, by Susan Kuklin

Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference. Portraits, family photographs, and candid images grace the pages, augmenting the emotional and physical journey each youth has taken. (Publisher)

March: Book Two, by John Lewis, (graphic novel)

After the success of the Nashville sit-in campaign, John Lewis is more committed than ever to changing the world through nonviolence — but as he and his fellow Freedom Riders board a bus into the vicious heart of the deep south, they will be tested like never before. Faced with beatings, police brutality, imprisonment, arson, and even murder, the movement's young activists place their lives on the line while internal conflicts threaten to tear them apart. (Publisher)

How I Discovered Poetry, by Marilyn Nelson; illustrated by Hadley Hooper (verse novel memoir)

Looking back on her childhood in the 1950s, Newbery Honor winner and National Book Award finalist Marilyn Nelson tells the story of her development as an artist and young woman through fifty eye-opening poems. (Publisher)

Tomboy: A Memoir, by Liz Prince (graphic novel)

Growing up, Liz Prince wasn't a girly girl, dressing in pink tutus or playing Pretty Pretty princess like the other girls in her neighborhood. But she wasn't exactly one of the guys either, as she quickly learned when her Little League baseball coach exiled her to the outfield instead of letting her take the pitcher's mound. Liz was somewhere in the middle, and *Tomboy* is the story of her struggle to find the place where she belonged. (Publisher)

Rad American Women A-Z: Rebels, Trailblazers, and Visionaries who Shaped Our History ... and Our Future!, by Kate Schatz; illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl

The alphabet provides a frame for getting acquainted with the lives and contributions of twenty-six incredible American women.