

**The Best of the Best (So Far), 2016 Edition**  
**The Center for Children's & Young Adult Literature**  
**& Knox County Public Library**  
**Friday, July 15, 2016 (East)**  
**Tuesday, July 19, 2016 (West)**  
**MORNING SESSION**

**Picturebooks – presented by Julie Danielson**

***8: An Animal Alphabet***, written and illustrated by Elisha Cooper. 2015, Orchard Books. Each letter of the alphabet features a variety of animals, but one special animal is drawn eight times – and there's a fun fact about that animal in a special section of the book.

***The Airport Book***, written and illustrated by Lisa Brown. 2016, Roaring Brook Press. This book for the youngest travelers in the family details what goes on with airports and flying, and includes a sort of nod to Knufflebunny, in the form of a sock puppet who also makes the trip.

***The Artist and Me***, by Shane Peacock; illustrated by Sophie Casson. 2016, Owlkids Books. Vincent van Gogh was ostracized by those living around him, including the narrator who was a young man in Arles at the time van Gogh was painting there. But years later, things change.

***Beatrix Potter and the Unfortunate Tale of a Borrowed Guinea Pig***, by Deborah Hopkinson; illustrated by Charlotte Voake. 2016, Schwartz & Wade. An artist needs models, and Beatrix Potter was no exception. But when a borrowed pet dies on the job, what will she do?

***Bloom***, by Doreen Cronin; illustrated by David Small. 2016. Atheneum. When the glass kingdom begins cracking, the king and queen fail in their quest to get help from the fairy Bloom, who can work great magic but was banished because of her muddy boots and messiness, so they send Genevieve, an ordinary girl who will do what it takes to save the day. (CIP)

***Come Home, Angus*** (July 2016), by Patrick Downes; illustrated by Boris Kulikov. 2016, Orchard Books. Little Angus wakes up angry and decides to run away from home when his mother scolds him for being rude – but he is very soon lost, hungry, and more than a little frightened. (CIP)

***Emma and Julia Love Ballet***, written and illustrated by Barbara McClintock. 2016, Scholastic Press. A story that follows the everyday life of two dancers, one a professional ballerina, the other a very young student, both of whom love ballet. (CIP)

***Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear***, by Lindsay Mattick; illustrated by Sophie Blackall. 2015, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

A bedtime story from the great-granddaughter of the real owner of the real Winnie the Pooh, Winnipeg the bear, frames the history of this special bear and how she came to belong to the world.

***The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial***, by Susan E. Goodman; illustrated by E. B. Lewis. 2016, Bloomsbury USA Childrens.

Sarah Roberts was a student at the Otis School, and then she wasn't – they sent her home because she was Black. This is the backstory to the historic court case over equality in education.

***Flutter & Hum / Aleteo y Zumbido: Animal Poems / Poemas de Animales***, written and illustrated by Julie Paschkis. 2015, Henry Holt and Company.

Poetry in English and Spanish explore animal flutters, hums, and dances.

***Frank and Lucky Get Schooled***, written and illustrated by Lynne Rae Perkins. 2016, Greenwillow Books.

There is plenty to learn about biology, chemistry, and even math outside the classroom. Frank and his new dog Lucky enjoy learning together.

***Freedom in Congo Square***, by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. 2016, little bee books.

An extended poem describing the daily life of slaves, and the joy they experienced on Sundays, when they could go to New Orleans's Congo Square market for a bit of release.

***I Am a Bear***, written and illustrated by Jean-François Dumont. 2015, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

A homeless bear living in a city has a hard time getting by, but when a little girl makes friends with him, his life becomes brighter. (CIP)

***I Hear a Pickle: (And Smell, See, Touch, and Taste It, Too!)***, written and illustrated by Rachel Isadora. 2016, Nancy Paulsen Books.

Children explore their five senses, learning what they can see, smell, hear, touch, and taste. (CIP)

***Ideas Are All Around***, written and illustrated by Philip C. Stead. 2016, Roaring Brook Press.

In search of writing ideas, an author takes a walk with his dog around the neighborhood. (CIP)

***I'm a Girl!***, written and illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail. 2016, Bloomsbury USA Childrens.

This celebration of individuality features a young critter who is unafraid to be herself, no matter where her interests take her, or what people think.

***Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph***, by Roxane Orgill; illustrated by Francis Vallejo. 2016, Candlewick.

A poetry collection giving readers a glimpse behind staging the famous “*Harlem, 1958*,” Esquire photo done by graphic designer Art Kane.

***The King and the Sea***, by Heinz Janisch; illustrated by Wolf Erlbruch. 2015, Gecko Press. Twenty-one very short stories portray a little king and his interactions with, among other things, his subjects, a cloud, a star, and the sea.

***Little Red***, written and illustrated by Bethan Woollvin. 2016, Peachtree Publishers, Ltd. Not your traditional Little Red Riding Hood, this Little Red isn’t fooled for one minute by any old wolf – even if he does dress up like her grandma!

***Nobody Likes a Goblin***, written and illustrated by Ben Hatke. 2016, First Second. Goblin is happy in his home with his friend Skeleton but, when a bunch of human marauders steal his stuff – including Skeleton – Goblin must brave the world to right the wrong.

***The Nonsense Show***, by Eric Carle. 2015, Philomel Books. Ducks growing out of bananas? A mouse catching a cat? What’s wrong with this book? Yes, there’s something strange, something funny and even downright preposterous on every page of this book. But it’s not a mistake – it’s nonsense! And it’s also surrealism. (Publisher)

***One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree***, by Daniel Bernstrom; illustrated by Brendan Wenzel. 2016, Katherine Tegen Books.

This catchy verse is an updated version of “There Was an Old Lady,” featuring a sneaky yellow snake, and a very smart young boy – and of course, the Eucalyptus tree!

***The Only Child***, written and illustrated by Guojing. 2015, Schwartz & Wade. (all ages) In this wordless graphic novel, a young girl traveling from her city apartment to her grandmother’s country home becomes lost and enters a fantastical world in the clouds. (CIP)

***Robo-Sauce***, by Adam Rubin; illustrated by Daniel Salmieri. 2015, Dial Books. What if there was a secret sauce that could turn humans into robots? What could go wrong with that?

***The Secret Subway***, by Shana Corey; illustrated by Red Nose Studio. 2016, Schwartz & Wade.

In 1870, Alfred Ely Beach invents New York’s first underground train. (Publisher)

***Snapsy the Alligator (Did Not Ask to Be in This Book!)***, by Julia Falatko; illustrated by Tim Miller. 2016, Viking Books for Young Readers.

Snapsy is enjoying a typical day filled with typical activities, until a friend (?) decides to have some fun deliberately misinterpreting his every move.

***School's First Day of School***, written by Adam Rex and illustrated by Christian Robinson. 2016, Roaring Brook Press.

Children are not the only ones with first-day jitters, in this book about beginning the school year as the new school in town.

***Sonya's Chickens***, written and illustrated by Phoebe Wahl. 2015, Tundra Books.

When Sonya receives baby chicks from her dad, she raises them and learns a difficult lesson about the food chain; but the ending balances a death with a birth and a new beginning.

***Swan: The Life and Dance of Anna Pavlova***, by Laurel Snyder; illustrated by Julie Morstad. 2015, Chronicle Books.

A poetic and atmospheric selective biography of famous ballet dancer Anna Pavlova.

***The Storyteller***, written and illustrated by Evan Turk. 2016, Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

In a time of drought in the Kingdom of Morocco, a storyteller and a boy weave a tale to thwart a djinn and his sandstones from destroying their city. (CIP)

***Tell Me a Tattoo Story***, by Alison McGhee; illustrated by Eliza Wheeler. 2016, Chronicle Books.

A father and son share time together as the father relates the stories behind his tattoos; from his favorite book, to meeting his wife, to the day his son was born.

***There Is a Tribe of Kids***, written and illustrated by Lane Smith. 2016, Roaring Brook Press.

A creative young boy encounters all sorts of interesting items (including animals), as he takes an imaginary trip, and also learns the fun names for groups of various kinds: unkindnesses, colonies, smacks, bands, and so on.

***This is My Home, This is My School***, written and illustrated by Jonathan Bean. 2015, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

A unique look into a family's daily experiences with homeschooling.

***This Is Not a Picture Book!***, written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier. 2016,

At first two friends are dismayed to find a book that they can't read, but their imagination and perseverance eventually pay off with a love of words and images.

***Thunder Boy, Jr.***, by Sherman Alexie; illustrated by Yuyi Morales. 2016, Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

A young Native American boy, frustrated by his name, works with his dad to find one he likes much better.

***Tough Guys (Have Feelings Too)***, written and illustrated by Keith Negley. 2015, Flying Eye Books.

Everyone has a range of emotions, even people with really tough jobs – and exteriors, and working through them is something everyone must do.

***Twenty Yawns***, by Jane Smiley; illustrated by Lauren Castillo. 2016, Two Lions.  
When Lucy wakes in the night to go in search of her bear, Molasses, she feels like she's the only one awake in the world, but scary though it may temporarily seem, she's able to fall back to sleep along with her faithful companion.

***Two White Rabbits***, by Jairo Buitrago; illustrated by Rafael Yockteng; translated by Elisa Amado. 2015, Groundwood Books.  
Counting is a way to pass the time as a little girl and her father travel toward a new somewhere.

***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement***, by Carole Boston Weatherford; illus. by Ekua Holmes. 2015, Candlewick Press. (all ages)  
Twenty-one poems of various lengths, some including direct quotes from Hamer, explore the life of this hero of the civil rights movement.

***Waiting***, written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes. 2015, Greenwillow Books.  
An owl, puppy, bear, rabbit, and pig wait for marvelous things to happen. (CIP)

***Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems***, written by Bob Raczka. 2016, Roaring Brook Press.  
Twenty-one poems celebrate the art and concept of concrete poetry.

***When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons***, by Julie Fogliano; illustrated by Julie Morstad. 2016, Roaring Brook Press.  
A series of poems, over the course of a year, explore seasons and reflective thoughts about the days.

***The White Cat and the Monk***, by Jo Ellen Bogart; illustrated by Sydney Smith. 2016, Groundwood Books.  
A white cat and a monk keep each other company while they pursue their individual interests and problems. Based on a 9<sup>th</sup> century Irish poem.

***Worm Loves Worm***, by J. J. Austrian; illustrated by Mike Curato. 2016, Balzer + Bray.  
Worm and Worm fall in love and decide to marry, but their well-meaning friends keep trying to take over the ceremony. But it doesn't matter who wears what or is what, love is love.

**Books for Grades 1-3/Ages 5-8 – presented by Lisa Meidl**

***The Astounding Broccoli Boy***, by Frank Boyce Cottrell. 2015, Walden Pond Press. How can a kid suddenly turn green – and stay that way? Even worse, Rory Rooney's arch-bully, Tommy-Lee, has the same problem, landing them in shared quarantine in a London hospital. But what if it isn't a virus, what if this is the start of their superhero careers?

***Blazing Courage: Animal Rescues #1***, by Kelly Milner Halls, illustrated by Phil Parks. 2015, Darby Creek Publishing. Annie has worked hard to earn money to buy a horse, but she ends up with more than she expects, as Top Tier Stables is being sabotaged and Annie has to deal with bullies of the horse and human variety.

***Boy Were We Wrong About the Human Body!***, by Kathleen Kudlinski; illustrated by Debbie Tilley. 2015, Dial Books for Young Readers. (Nonfiction) Science and medicine continue to learn and improve our care, and this book outlines some of the weird medical thinking and treatments we now know are wrong.

***Captain Awesome and the Mummy's Treasure***, by Stan Kirby; illustrated by George O'Connor. 2015, Little Simon. One of a Captain Awesome series, this book follows the adventures of the Captain and his Sunnyview Superhero Squad as they solve a mystery at the Sunnyview Museum involving a mummy and an ancient carved stone.

***Digby O'Day and the Great Diamond Robbery***, by Shirley Hughes; illustrated by Clara Vulliamy. 2015, Candlewick Press. More action from Digby O'Day and his friend Percy, as they try to take a seaside vacation but instead end up tracking down pop star Peaches Meow's missing diamond necklace.

***Eerie Elementary: Recess is a Jungle***, by Jack Chabert; illustrated by Sam Ricks. 2016, Branches/Scholastic. This is the fourth entry in the Eerie Elementary series, and this time the school grounds are coming alive, trying to trap Sam, Antonio, and Lucy, as they work to save the rest of the student body.

***Fala: Dog Diaries #8***, by Kate Klimo; illustrated by Tim Jessell. 2016, Random House Books for Young Readers. The popular series returns with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's dog Fala, and her story about her life before and during his presidency.

***A Friend for Lakota, the Incredible True Story of a Wolf Who Braved Bullying***, by Jim and Jamie Dutcher. 2015, National Geographic for Kids. (Nonfiction)  
Bullies exist in the animal world too, and Lakota (the youngest and smallest of the litter) has to fend for himself in the pack, until he finds an ally. Based on a real wolf pack raised in a natural preserve by the authors.

***Koala Hospital***, by Suzi Esterhas. 2015, Owlkids Books. (Nonfiction)  
The story of the work with koalas at a rescue center in Australia, from the threats, to healing and rehabilitation.

***Lola Levine Is Not Mean!***, by Monica Brown; illustrated by Angela Dominguez. 2015, Little Brown and Company.  
Second-grader Lola has a wonderful family, a great teacher, and the best friend ever, Josh, and they all help her feel better after she is teased and forbidden to play team sports at recess for having accidentally hurt classmate Juan during a soccer game. (CIP)

***Lost in the Blizzard (Tales From Maple Ridge)***, by Grace Gilmore; illustrated by Petra Brown. 2015, Simon and Schuster.  
Drew is the man of the house while his father heads is on a business trip, but when younger brother Logan gets caught in a blizzard, the outcome is anything but certain.

***Mouse Scouts, Make a Difference***, by Sara Dillard. 2016, Knopf Books for Young Readers.  
The Mouse Scouts are back for another badge. Violet, Tigerlily, and their friends are determined to earn their 'Make a Difference' badge. (Publisher)

***Nelson Mandela, From Prisoner to President***, by Suzy Capozzi; illustrated by Nicole Taddell. 2016, Random House (Level 4 Reader). (Nonfiction)  
An accessible view of how Nelson Mandela made a difference in his native South Africa.

***On the Shoulder of a Giant, an Inuit Folktale***, by Neil Christopher; illustrated by James Nelson. 2015, Inhabit Media.  
A human hunter is befriended by a giant, Inukpak, who is so large he thinks the human is a child. As the man comes to accept that he cannot escape, they share the giant's world together.

***Otters Love to Play***, by Jonathan London, illustrated by Meilo So. 2016, Candlewick Press. (Nonfiction)  
Otter pups frolic through the seasons as they learn and grow.

***Peppermint Patty Goes to Camp***, by Charles M. Schulz; adapted by Maggie Testa; illustrated by Vicki Scott. 2016, Simon Spotlight.

Peppermint Patty and Marcie have different experiences at camp, and when they discover Charlie Brown is at the boy's camp across the lake, Peppermint Patty is determined to go for a visit.

***Princess in Black and the Perfect Princess Party***, by Shannon and Dean Hale; illustrations by LeUyen Pham. 2015, Candlewick Press.

Princess Magnolia's birthday party is supposed to be perfect, but her alter ego, the Princess in Black, keeps being called to fight monsters!

***Princess Posey and the Crazy Lazy Vacation***, by Stephanie Greene; illustrated by Stephanie Roth Sisson. 2016, G. P. Putnam's Sons.

First-grader Posey is concerned that her spring vacation will be boring compared to her friends' travels, but her mother's plan to take each day as it comes turns out to be full of excitement. (CIP)

***Rainbow***, by Marion Dane Bauer; illustrated by John Wallace. 2016, Simon Spotlight. Rainbows are a "surprise in the sky," but where do they come from, how do they happen?

***Sparky and Tidbit***, by Kathryn O. Galbraith; illustrated by Gerald Kelley. 2015, Simon Spotlight.

After receiving a K-9 badge for his birthday, Sparky is eager to prove himself a hero but the only one he can find in trouble is Tidbit, a puppy who just needs help with his reading. (CIP)

***Tale of Rescue***, by Michael Rosen; illustrated by Stan Fellows. 2015, Candlewick Press.

A terrible blizzard traps a family outside, and it takes an intrepid cattle dog to come to their rescue.

***Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice and Hope in a New Land***, by John Coy; illustrated by Wing Young Huie. 2016, Carolrhoda Books. (Nonfiction)

Text and photographs illuminate the lives and contributions of 21<sup>st</sup> century immigrants.

***The Tin Snail***, by Cameron McAllister; illustrated by Sam Usher. 2016, Delacorte Press.

A thirteen-year-old French boy tries to save his father's job by inventing a special kind of car, but it isn't easy – especially when the Nazis are planning to steal his design. (Publisher)



***The Tortoise and the Soldier, A Story of Courage and Friendship in World War I,***

written and illustrated by Michael Foreman. 2015, Henry Holt and Company.

(Nonfiction)

Based on actual events, Henry Friston finds an unlikely comrade in the middle of the deadly battle at Gallipoli, during World War I.

***Tru and Nelle,*** by G. Neri. 2016, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.

In their small town of Monroeville, Alabama, in 1930, misfits Tru and Nelle strike up a friendship and find a mystery to solve when someone breaks into the drugstore and steals some candy and a fancy brooch. (Tru and Nelle are Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee!)

## **Books for Grades 4-6/Ages 9-11 – presented by Lara Marler**

***Crenshaw***, by Katherine Applegate. 2015, Feiwel & Friends.  
Jackson and his family are having a tough time, and Crenshaw, a seven-foot tall talking (imaginary) cat shows up to help Jackson get through it all.

***The Door by the Staircase***, by Katherine Marsh. 2016, Disney-Hyperion.  
Happy to be adopted at last, twelve-year-old orphan Mary Hayes soon learns a terrifying secret about her new mother, the mysterious Madame Z. (CIP)

***Ancient Earth Journal: The Early Cretaceous: Notes, Drawings, and Observations from Prehistory***, by Juan Carlos Alonso & Gregory S. Paul. 2015, Quarto Publishing Group USA, Inc. (Nonfiction)  
Twenty-one dinosaurs and flying creatures are described and placed in the flora of their cretaceous time.

***Firefly Hollow***, by Alison McGhee; illustrated by Christopher Denise. 2015, Atheneum Books for Young People.  
Because their dreams of daring adventures go against the cautious teachings of their nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own, finding a home with kindly Vole, and together help a grieving “miniature giant” named Peter. (CIP)

***Forest of Wonders (Wing & Claw Series)***, by Linda Sue Park. 2016, HarperCollins.  
Raffa Santana is a young apothecary with an ability to determine whether herbs will hurt or help. He rescues and treats an injured bat, but the treatment gives the bat the power of speech. When other side effects appear, he knows he must find a way to stop others from using the mysterious red vine.

***Full Cicada Moon***, by Marilyn Hilton. 2015, Dial Books for Young Readers. (gr. 4-8)  
In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi’s mixed-race background and interest in “boyish” topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider. (CIP)

***The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins***, by Sandra Markle. 2015, Millbrook Press. (Nonfiction)  
Golden lion tamarins (monkeys) were near to extinction when a group of scientists, zoos, and citizen groups came together to launch a decades-long attempt to save them.

***How to Swallow a Pig: Step-By-Step Advice from the Animal Kingdom***, by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page; illustrations by Steve Jenkins. 2015, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Publishing Company. (Nonfiction)  
Learn to trap fish like a humpback whale, sew like a tailorbird, woo a ewe like a mountain sheep, among other things, in this book of animal how-they-do-its.

***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse***, by Joseph Marshall III. 2015, Abrams.

Jimmy, a light haired, blue-eyed Lakota boy, takes a trip with his Grandpa Nyles, and learns that not fitting in can sometimes be a strength – as in the case of the great Lakota leader, Crazy Horse.

***The Last Kids on Earth***, by Max Brallier. 2015, Viking.

After a monster apocalypse hits town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg. (Publisher)

***My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey***, by Lesa Cline-Ransome; illus. by James E. Ransome. 2015, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. (Nonfiction)

Young Robert Battles overcame childhood difficulties and a late start in dancing, and created his own dance company on his way to becoming the artistic director of the prestigious Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

***A Nearer Moon***, by Melanie Crowder. 2015, Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Long ago the dam formed, the lively river turned into a swamp, and the wasting illness came to Luna's village, and now that her little sister is sick, Luna will do anything to save her, even offer herself to the creature that lives in the swamp on the day of the nearer moon. (CIP)

***Pax***, by Sara Pennypacker; illustrated by Jon Klassen. 2016, Balzer + Bray.

A boy and his pet fox are separated by war, but each undergoes a challenging personal journey to find the other.

***Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People***, by S.D. Nelson. 2015, Abrams. (Nonfiction)

A first-person fictionalized biography traces Sitting Bull's life from youth through his death in 1890, and is authored by an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

***The Wolf Wilder***, by Katherine Rundell. 2015, Simon & Schuster Books for Young People.

In the days before the Russian Revolution, twelve-year-old Feodora sets out to rescue her mother when the Tsar's Imperial Army imprisons her for teaching tamed wolves to fend for themselves. (CIP)

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**Friday, July 15, 2016 (East)**  
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**AFTERNOON SESSION**

**Books for Ages 12 and up – Speculative Fiction (Fantasy, Sci-fi, and Horror) – presented by Alison Varnes**

***An Ember in the Ashes***, by Sabaa Tahir, 2015, Razorbill.

Elias and Laia face unthinkable challenges: if he is to free his people from 500 years of tyranny, he must fight and kill his best friend; she must make herself a spy in a hostile place in order to save her beloved brother. And then there are the feelings they have for each other. Will they triumph, or will evil win the day?

***Glass Sword***, by Victoria Aveyard. 2016, HarperTeen.

Picking up where *Red Queen* leaves off, Mare Barrow and her allies in the Scarlet Guard attempt to win a kingdom back from the people who want to take her talents and use them against the innocent.

***How to Hang a Witch***, by Adriana Mather. 2016, Knopf.

Follows fifteen-year-old Samantha Mather, who has moved to Salem with her stepmother 300 years after her family hanged witches there, to find she is ostracized by the witch descendants at school, as she unravels the lost secrets of the hangings and her family. (CIP)

***Illuminae***, by Amy Kaufman and Jay Kristoff. 2015, Knopf.

High school students Kady and Ezra have just broken up with each other when their planetary home is suddenly attacked. In the initial scramble after the attack, they find themselves together as they try to get off-planet, but are eventually separated and end up on two different space vessels trying to outrun one remaining BeiTech Corporation dreadnaught, united in their desire to escape destruction, exact revenge, and maybe give each other a second chance.

***Rebel of the Sands***, by Alwyn Hamilton. 2016, Viking.

Sixteen-year-old (recently) orphaned Amani is determined to take her sharpshooter skills and escape the dead end that is the town of Dustwalk, where she may be given – or taken – in marriage by her Uncle. As she escapes, she rescues the mysterious Jin, and in the course of their travels, Amani must decide if she is willing to take a stand for her country.

***Six of Crows***, by Leigh Bardugo. 2015, Henry Holt and Company.

Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz' crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction – if they don't kill each other first. (Publisher)

***Slasher Girls and Monster Boys***, edited by April Genevieve Tucholke and A.G. Howard. 2015, Dial Books.

Fourteen chilling and suspenseful tales from outstanding young adult authors explore inspirations from all sorts of media. The inspirations are revealed by the author at the end of each story.

***Steeplejack***, by A.J. Hartley. 2016, Tor Teen Book.

Seventeen-year-old Anglet Sutonga, the only female steeplejack on the Seventh Street Gang, gets caught up in an unsanctioned unofficial murder investigation. Anglet is convinced the murder and theft are connected and she is secretly hired by a rich politician to find evidence before civil war erupts in the city.

***We are the Ants***, by Shaun David Hutchinson. 2016, Simon Pulse.

Henry's life is pretty sucky at the moment: his boyfriend just committed suicide, his grandmother is slipping away through Alzheimers, he's bullied – oh, and there's that thing about repeatedly being abducted by aliens. When those aliens give him a choice about saving Earth, Henry has to really think about it.

***The Weight of Feathers***, by Ann-Marie McLemore. 2015, St. Martin's Press.

Lace, Paloma has been warned since birth to avoid her family's arch rivals, the Corbeaus. When Corbeau son Lucien saves Lace's life, she begins seeing him from another perspective and the warnings just don't seem as important.

***Wink, Poppy, Midnight***, by April Genevieve Tucholke. 2016, Dial Books.

Wink is the odd, mysterious neighbor girl, wild red hair and freckles. Poppy is the blond bully and the beautiful, manipulative high school queen bee. Midnight is the sweet, uncertain boy caught between them. Wink. Poppy. Midnight. Two girls. One boy. Three voices that burst onto the page in short, sharp, bewitching chapters, and spiral swiftly and inexorably toward something terrible or tricky or tremendous. (Publisher)

## **Books for Ages 12 and up – Contemporary Fiction – presented by Stacey Reece**

***Code of Honor***, by Alan Gratz. 2015, Scholastic Press.

When Iranian-American Kamran Smith learns that his big brother, Darius, has been labeled a terrorist, he sets out to piece together the codes and clues that will save his brother's life and his country from a deadly terrorist attack. (CIP)

***Drag Teen***, by Jeffery Self. 2016, Push/Scholastic.

After a humiliating public debut in drag, in his high school's talent show, JT is reluctant to follow his boyfriends advice to enter the Miss Drag Teen pageant in New York City, but Seth prevails and the two, along with buddy Heather, make a spring break trip to NYC that will change them all forever.

***The Fixer***, by Jennifer Lynn Barnes. 2015, Bloomsbury Children's Books.

When her grandfather develops dementia, sixteen-year-old Tess, who has been keeping his Montana ranch going, is whisked away to Washington DC, by a sister she barely knows and thrown into a world of politics, power, wealth, love triangles, and family secrets. (CIP)

***Highly Illogical Behavior***, by John Corey Whaley. 2016, Dial Books.

Agoraphobic sixteen-year-old Solomon has not left his house in three years, but Lisa is determined to change that – and to write a scholarship-winning essay based on the results. (CIP)

***If I Was Your Girl***, by Meredith Russo. 2016, Flatiron Books.

Andrew's family moves to Tennessee to help her make a new start as Amanda, her true trans self, and she takes care to safeguard her secret until she falls in love. With all the trials of being – literally – the new girl, can she find people who will honor who she really is?

***The Memory of Light***, by Francisco X. Stork. 2016, Scholastic.

When Victoria Cruz wakes up in the psychiatric ward of a Texas hospital after her failed suicide attempt, she still has no desire to live, but as the weeks pass, and she meets Dr. Desai and three of the other patients, she begins to reflect on the reasons why she feels like a loser compared with the rest of her family, and to see a path ahead where she can make a life of her own. (CIP)

***The Serpent King***, by Jeff Zentner. 2016, Crown Books for Young Readers.

The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee, without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self. (CIP)

***Violent Ends: A Novel in Seventeen Points of View***, by various authors. 2015, Simon Pulse.

Relates how one boy – who had friends, enjoyed reading, played saxophone in the band, and had never been in trouble before – became a monster capable of entering his high school with a loaded gun and firing on his classmates, as told from the viewpoints of several victims. (CIP)

***With Malice***, by Eileen Cook. 2016, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Books for Young Readers. A senior trip to Italy turns tragic, but eighteen-year-old Jill Charron doesn't remember what happened. She wakes up in an American hospital, with a need for a lawyer and a mystery that only she can solve.

***You Know Me Well***, by Nina LaCour and David Levithan. 2016, St. Martin's Griffin. Mark and Kate, two gay teens who find each other by accident after ducking out on their friends in San Francisco, come to terms with each other, their relationships, and the whole idea of falling in love.

***You Were Here***, by Cori McCarthy. 2016, Sourcebooks, Inc. On the anniversary of her daredevil brother's death, Jaycee attempts to break into Jake's favorite hideout, the petrifying ruins of an insane asylum, where her eccentric band of friends challenge her to do the unthinkable: reveal the parts of herself that she buried with her brother. (CIP)

## **Books for Ages 12 and up – Graphic Novels – presented by Brooke Cunningham**

***Awkward***, by Svetlana Chmakova. 2015, Yen Press. (Ages 11-15)

Socially anxious Peppi Torres trips in the hall on her first day of school, and is so embarrassed she pushes away the only hand reaching to help her. Things only get worse when she discovers a rivalry between her art club and his science club that threatens the school fair.

***Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls Are Used in War***, by Jessica Dee Humphreys and Michel Chikwanine. Illus by Claudia Dávila. 2015, Kids Can Press. (Ages 11-15)

When he was five years old, Michel Chikwanine was taken from his family and forced to become a soldier, fighting for a local militia. He relates his journey in this graphic novel.

***Compass South***, by Hope Larson; illustrated by Rebecca Mock. 2016, Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers. (Ages 11-18)

An adventure set in 1860 that starts out with twin twelve-year-olds Alex and Cleo searching for their father, and ends up with them searching for each other after Alex is shanghaied and, by the way, the twins are pursued by pirates seeking the key to a lost treasure.

***Dare to Disappoint: Growing Up in Turkey***, by Ozge Samanci. 2015, Farrar Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers. (Ages 13-18)

Growing up in Turkey in the 1980s meant restrictions and limitations on every side, especially for girls like Ozge, who were expected to follow their family's decisions. But this is a stubborn and imaginative girl and she is determined to make her own way.

***Honor Girl: A Graphic Memoir***, by Maggie Thrash. 2015, Candlewick. (Ages 15-18)

Maggie's summers mean a return to the Christian camp, Camp Bellflower for Girls, and she goes along, reluctantly, until one summer when she falls in love with a surprising person – who might just have feelings for her, too. Do you follow your heart or follow the rules?

***The Marvels***, by Brian Selznick. 2015, Scholastic Press. (Ages 11-18)

What could the story of a theatrical family, the Marvels, whose history spans over a hundred years on the London stage, have to do with thirteen-year-old Joseph, in the 1990s, whose Uncle Albert is strenuously guarding the Marvel family's historical remains?

***Monster: A Graphic Novel***, by Walter Dean Myers; adapted by Guy A. Sims; illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile. 2015, Armistad. (Ages 13-15)

A graphic novel adaptation of the story of Steve Harmon, sitting in jail awaiting trial for a murder and robbery that he may or may not have done.

***The Nameless City***, by Faith Erin Hicks; contributed to by Jordie Bellaire. 2016, First Second. (Ages 11-18)

The Nameless City is called that because it doesn't stay in one group's hands for long. Kaidu, of the most recent captors, and Rat, a girl who is native to the Nameless City, discover that if they are to save their city, they must capitalize on that shared goal and



unite instead of fight.

***Paper Girls Vol. 1***, by Brian K Vaughan; illustrations by Jared K. Fletcher, Matthew Wilson, and Cliff Chiang. 2016, Image Comics, Inc. (Ages 16-18)

The first of a series, this graphic novel introduces three 12-year-old newspaper delivery girls who, together, must save their world. This book combines the first five issues of the Paper Girls comix.

***Princess Jellyfish Vol. 1***, by Akiko Higashimura. 2016 (Ages 15-18)

When demolition targets their all-women's apartment building in Tokyo, a newcomer suggests the ladies band together to generate enough money to save it.

***Sunny Side Up***, by Jennifer L. Holm & Matthew Holm. 2015, Graphix/Scholastic. (Ages 11-13)

Sunny is sent to spend the summer in her grandfather's senior citizens home, and finds fun, friendship, and healing about a family issue.

***Thor Vol. 1: The Goddess of Thunder***, by Jason Aaron; illustrated by Russell Dauterman and Jorge Molina. 2016, Marvel. (Ages 15-18)

When Thor is unable to retrieve his mighty hammer from the moon, a new mysterious female stranger steps in and saves the day. But Thor soon wants to return to action and he wants his hammer back. This is a compilation of the first five issues.

***The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl Vol. 1: Squirrel Power***, by Ryan North; illustrated by Erica Henderson. 2015, (Ages 11-18)

Starting college and living with a new roommate are the least of Doreen Green's problems, since super-villain Galactus is threatening earth, and Green must call on her alter ego, Squirrel Girl, to come to the rescue! This is a compilation of the first five issues.

Diversity is important in books for young readers and here's a blog that provides a longer list of Black graphic novel protagonists:

Webcomics w/ Black Leads - various ages.

<http://joamettegil.tumblr.com/post/129254047960/webcomics-w-black-leads>

## **Books for Ages 12 and up – Nonfiction – presented by Katie Thomas**

***Alamo All Stars: Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales***, written and illustrated by Nathan Hale. 2015, Abrams. (Grades 6-9)

The latest in Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series, this graphic novel depicts the Texas revolt against Mexico and includes maps, descriptions of military actions, and notorious personalities. Nathan Hale continues to weave his comedic genius with factual information to help us all "Remember the Alamo!"

***Breakthrough! How Three People Saved Blue Babies and Changed Medicine Forever***, by Jim Murphy. 2015, Clarion Books. (Grades 5-7)

A biographical novel of Vivien Thomas, and his creation of the precursor to open heart surgery. It also details, with primary sources, his struggle to gain knowledge in a racially segregated setting; one that would only label him as a janitor, despite his contributions to the medical professions.

***Drowned City***, by Don Brown. 2015, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers. (Grades 6-9)

This graphic novel captures the events surrounding Hurricane Katrina and the drowning of New Orleans, in which many lost their lives and the clean-up has cost over 100 billion dollars, making it one of the worst natural disasters in US history.

***Enchanted Air***, by Margarita Engle; illustrated by Edel Rodriguez. 2015, Atheneum Books for Young People. (Grades 6-9)

Engle writes her memoir in beautiful verse, telling the story of her childhood and the tensions which arise from two countries she loves; her mother's homeland, Cuba and the family's current home in America. She struggles to reconcile the love she has for the two oppositional countries through her love of books and her own poetry, illustrating the importance of words in her own life.

***Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras***, by Duncan Tonitui. 2015, Abrams. (Grades 5-7)

*Funny Bones* shares the story of how Jorge Guadalupe Posada created his Day of the Dead skeletons. The biographical information shares how Posada used his Calaveras to make political commentaries on the Mexican Revolution. A Sibert Information Book Medalist.

***Jars of Hope: How One Woman Helped Save 2,700 Children During the Holocaust***, by Jennifer Roy; illustrated by Meg Owenson. 2015, Capstone Young Readers. (Grades 5-7)

Irena Sendler is a name we don't often hear connected with the Holocaust, but she is a hero, nonetheless. Helping to smuggling thousands of children into hiding, she recorded information about each child and hid the papers in jars, which she buried, hoping to reunite the children with their families. This book is part of the Encounter Narrative Nonfiction series, which is a delightful, yet accessible way to introduce readers to important historical figures.

***Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War***, by Steve Sheinkin. 2015, Roaring Brook Press. (Grades 7 and up)

Sheinkin brings us the story of whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg and the events leading up to the secret release of the Pentagon Papers, detailing deceptions about the Vietnam War for over 20 years before the conflict even began. Raising ethical questions about government representatives and vilification of whistleblowers, this well-researched book shares primary sources and challenges the meaning of patriotism, liberty, and nationalism.

***Steve Jobs: Insanely Great***, written and illustrated by Jesse Heartland. 2015, Schwartz & Wade. (Grades 6-9)

This graphic biography challenges the genre known as graphic biographies. Told with hand-drawn images and handwriting-like font, this biography shares the life, successes, and failures of one of America's most famous businessmen.

***Symphony for the City of the Dead***, by M.T. Anderson. 2015, Candlewick. (Grades 7-9)

This is a layered story of the siege at Leningrad and the biography of Dmitri Shostakovich, and how his seventh symphony rallied the citizens of Leningrad and the allied forces. At the heart of the story is the power of music and the meaning and influence music can have on all of us.

***Terrible Typhoid Mary: The True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America***, by Susan Campbell Bartoletti. 2015, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt Books for Young Readers. (Grades 6-8)

A riveting biography of Mary Mallon, or Typhoid Mary as she came to be known by the media. This biography shares the events of Mary's forced quarantine and raises questions about ethical behaviors, access to healthcare, and media interpretations.

***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer***, by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Ekua Holmes. 2015, Candlewick Press. (Grades 6-9)

Known as the "Voice" or the "Spirit" of the Civil Rights Movement, Fannie Lou Hamer shares her voice in this beautiful picture book. Told in verse and set against beautiful collages, Hamer's words bring power and passion to the injustices of the Civil Rights Movement in this picture book for older readers. A Sibert Informational Book Honor Medalist.

***Will's Words***, by Jane Sutcliffe; illustrated by John Shelley. 2016, Charlesbridge. (Grades 6-8)

Shakespeare's words are everywhere! This clever picture book for older readers not only creates a visual depiction of Elizabethan times through the illustrations, but also shares how Shakespeare is responsible for many of the phrases we use today. The original source of common phrases such as, "wild goose chase" are found here, including the original meaning and how the meaning has changed over time.

***You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen***, by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Jeffery Boston Weatherford. 2016, Atheneum Books for Young Readers. (Grades 5-9)

Beginning with the first recruits at the Tuskegee Institute, this verse novel shares the experiences of the Tuskegee Airmen as they trained and fought for a country that denied them basic civil rights.