



POLITICS AND PROSE

Children and Teens'
Department

Highlights 2008

Picture Books

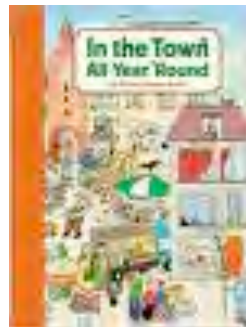


ABC3D (Roaring Brook Press, \$19.95), by **Marion Bataille**, is an elegantly simple pop-up book. It's a black, white, and red abecedarly about the very forms of the ABCs. Letters metamorphose and typography becomes

clever architecture. From the holographic cover to the stately, stand-up Z, it's a new way to look at the alphabet. *All ages.*

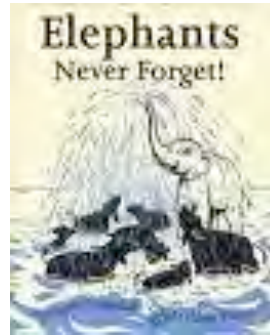
Follow people, buildings, plants and animals **IN THE TOWN ALL YEAR ROUND**

(Chronicle, \$16.99). **Rotraut Susanne Berner's** oversized wordless book is reminiscent of Richard Scarry, but set in a small town in Germany. As the four seasons pass, there are many details to pay attention to on each page: the reappearing nun with her pet penguin, the man working on his solar panels, the crow always surveying the scene, and the dentist's chair. Children will enjoy spending hours following the characters and making up stories of their own. Originally published in Germany. *Ages 2 -6.*



Celebrate the joy that babies everywhere bring to all of us, with their **TEN LITTLE FINGERS AND TEN LITTLE TOES** (Harcourt, \$16). Beloved author **Mem Fox** and author/illustrator **Helen**

Oxenbury combine their prodigious talents in this gentle picture book. The rhyming text and delightful illustrations are perfect for very young children. *Ages 1-3.*



In **ELEPHANTS NEVER FORGET** (Houghton Mifflin, \$16.00), a baby elephant gets lost in a thunderstorm, and finds a home with a pack of water buffalo. **Anushka Ravishankar's** rhyming verses convey the joys of the new friends frolicking on

land and water. They are complemented by **Christiane Pieper's** spare, linoleum print-like illustrations in black and periwinkle on a cream background. *Ages 2-5.*

Five friends hear rustling in the field, so they haltingly make their way through the pitch dark night to investigate. Turtle exclaims, "**I FEEL A FOOT!**" (Lemniscaat, \$16.95) and imagines the creature to be an enormous turtle. Bat feels a huge wing and imagines an enormous bat. Octopus feels a huge tentacle and imagines an enormous octopus. The creature is both all and none of the above. **Martijn van der Linden's** vibrant artwork on black pages beautifully illustrates **Maranke Rinck's** new twist on an old fable. *Ages 3-7.*



Smell the salt, feel the spray, and dive into the pages of **WAVE** (Chronicle, \$15.99). Using only blue, black, and white, **Suzy Lee's** wordless book tells the story of

a little girl's encounter with the ocean. She splishes and splashes, teases and taunts the waves, feeling her small self to be in control over the big blue sea...for a while. Even when the inevitable big blue wave drenches her, she is rewarded with beautiful shells—a gift from the sea. *Ages 3-7.*

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LITTLE HOOT (Chronicle, \$12.99) has a problem. He wants to go to bed early, but he is an owl, and owls are nocturnal. Poor Little Hoot has to watch his woodland friends get tucked into bed while his father insists, "I don't give a hoot what time your friends go to bed. In this family, we go to bed late." When will he ever get to sleep? Writer and illustrator team **Amy Krouse Rosenthal** and **Jen Corace's** charming new book is full of puns, jokes, and clever twists. *Ages 3-6.*



Bear has a big sign on his door that says *NO VISITORS ALLOWED*. So what to do with the bright eyed little mouse who keeps popping up, asking for a cup of tea, a bit of cheese, and a nice fire? Lovely illustrations by **Kady MacDonald Denton** set the tone, reassuring us that our determined loner will be able to make friends with **A VISITOR FOR BEAR** (Candlewick, \$16.99) by **Bonny Becker**. *Ages 3-7.*



LITTLE BALLET STAR (Dial, \$16.99) is a great story for all aspiring ballerinas. Just imagine a trip to see the ballet where Aunt Gina the ballerina takes you backstage for warm-up, make-up and wardrobe! Author **Adèle Geras** adds the perfect *pièce de résistance* when the birthday girl ends up on stage. It's a gala event for the primarily pink. *Ages 3-7.*

A few years ago, a little boy with a striped shirt and a big imagination taught us *How to Catch a Star*. Now, when he discovers a small airplane in his closet, he sets out for the moon. When he finds himself stranded there, he befriends an alien with engine trouble. Can they work together to find **THE WAY BACK HOME** (Philomel, \$16.99) by **Oliver Jeffers**? *Ages 3-7.*



SPLAT THE CAT (HarperCollins, \$16.99) is so nervous about his first day at school that his fuzzy black fur stands on end. When he can't make the day go away, he puts his best friend, Seymour, in his lunchbox and they face it together. But Seymour is a mouse, and one of the first lessons Splat learns in Mrs. Wimpydimple's class is that "cats...chase mice". The entire class takes off after Seymour, who not only escapes, but ends up saving the day. **Rob Scotton** illustrates his tale with delightful, witty drawings of felines in action, proving that, as Mrs. Wimpydimple also instructs her class, "cats are amazing." *Ages 3-7.*

Grace has her heart set on being **PRINCESS GRACE** (Dial, \$16.99) in the town parade. When her teacher and class offer to help select the perfect princess couture, Grace anticipates pink, lace, and frills. But she learns that princesses around the world are a diverse lot. Don't throw away those tiaras, but make room for skins, silk, scrolls, compasses, helmets, and riding gear. After introducing princess warriors, princess spies and a variety of royal roles and robes, author **Mary Hoffman** (*Amazing Grace*) gives a brief history of princesses around the globe. *Ages 3-8.*

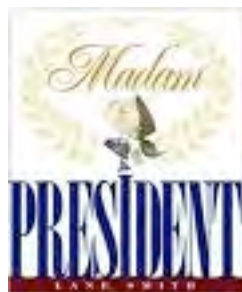




Louise, a chicken, longs for adventure. Thrice she leaves her warm cozy henhouse: first to sea where she encounters treacherous pirates; then to the circus where the jaws of a huge lion are WAY too close for comfort; and finally to a fabulous bazaar

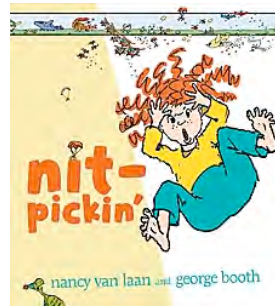
where her capture by a dark stranger leads to a very daring escape! Back in the henhouse she is finally content to settle comfortably with the girls and recount **LOUISE, THE ADVENTURES OF A CHICKEN** (HarperCollins \$17.99). **Kate DiCamillo's** prose will have your heart beating much, much too fast in your non-feathered breast and **Harry Bliss's** illustrations will make you laugh out loud. *Ages 4-7.*

The election's over, but what will the new president do all day? Check out a day in the life of **MADAM PRESIDENT** (Hyperion, \$16.99) by **Lane Smith** and find that being President is tough, but this little girl is up to the job. She tackles her duties with zeal, vetoing tuna casserole, cleaning up the Disaster Area that is her room, and negotiating a treaty between her dog and cat. *Ages 4-7.*



What does a little boy do while stuck in time-out in the corner of his classroom? According to **Bob Shea**, he makes **BIG PLANS** (Hyperion, \$17.99). He schemes about winning a pro football game, becoming a CEO, the mayor, and the president.

Lane Smith's hilarious illustrations will tickle you as much as Mr. Time-out's rants. This little fellow in the corner must have been responsible for some big trouble! *Ages 4-8.*



Scratch! Scratch! Yuk! When lice invade, they send the whole family into chaos. A little girl with curly orange hair bounces around the room, tearing at her hair and **NIT-PICKIN'** (Atheneum, \$15.99). Gramma slops a bowl of mayonnaise on her

head. Mama wraps slimy plastic around it. Gramps attacks with kerosene. Throughout the onslaught, a parallel story shows the nits as they settle in, read the newspaper, and generally make themselves at home. **Nancy Van Laan's** metered rhymes make this book a great read-aloud, and **George Booth's** illustrations will have you rolling—and scratching. *Ages 4-7.*

Join the **BATS AT THE LIBRARY** (Houghton Mifflin, \$16) by **Brian Lies** as the old bats read and discuss books and the young bats play tag and xerox themselves. Finally, they settle in for story time and enjoy old storybook favorites such as "Pippi Longbat", "Goodnight Sun", and "Make Way for Batlings." *Ages 4-8.*

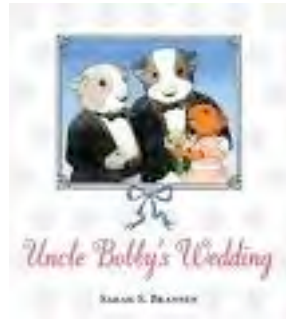


Violet, a mechanical genius, loves to play with monkey wrenches and needle-nose pliers, repairing and building contraptions in her father's junkyard. When she perfects her flying

machine, she becomes **VIOLET THE PILOT** (Dial, \$16.99) and sets out to win the annual air show. But, alas, she gets sidetracked by being a Good Samaritan. A note to readers who want to build their own flying machine: author and illustrator **Steve Breen** has included blueprints for *The Hornet* on the endpapers. *Ages 4-8.*

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When Uncle Bobby announces his engagement, everyone is happy and excited. Everyone except Chloe. If Uncle Bobby starts a new family will this be the end of the love and attention she has treasured from her very special uncle? After Chloe gets to know Bobby's partner Jamie better during several enjoyable outings with the couple, on the day of **UNCLE BOBBY'S WEDDING** (Putnam, \$15.99), by **Sarah Brannen**, she is happy and excited. Now she'll have two special uncles. *Ages 4-8.*



Jon J. Muth amazed us with his stunning illustrations and pearls of wisdom in *Zen Shorts*. In **ZENTIES** (Scholastic, \$17.99), Stillwater the panda bear returns, complete with his red tie and yoga poses, and this time his nephew Koo is visiting. Koo wears his own red bow tie, speaks only in haiku, and forms close friendships with the children Addy, Michael, and Karl. They all learn a valuable lesson from time spent with the old and cross Miss Whitaker. *Ages 4 up.*

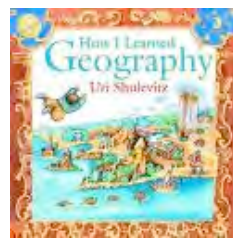


Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian in New York City, introduced Spanish language books to the public library. She helped bring the immigrant community together by producing a Spanish *Three Kings* play to give a feeling of home during the holiday season. **Lucia Gonzalez** tells Belpré's story in Spanish and English in **THE STORYTELLER'S CANDLE/LA VELITA DE LOS CUENTOS** (Children's Book Press, \$16.95) This important piece of literary history is beautifully illustrated by **Lulu Delacre**. *Ages 5-10.*

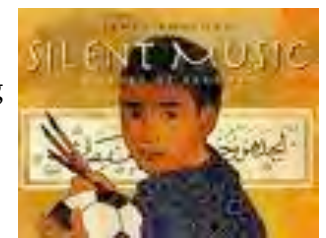


Author **Alice McGill's** great-grandmama's mama saw new slaves from Africa fly to freedom **WAY UP AND OVER EVERYTHING** (Houghton Mifflin, \$16). According to the story, the five new African slaves had barely begun to work in the cotton fields when they all stepped up into "thin air" with the master at their heels. Simple and delicate illustrations by **Jude Daly** accompany this strong-willed, yet fantastical story of the people who could fly and of those who passed that dream along. *Ages 5-8.*

When young **Uri Shulevitz** fled Warsaw, Poland with his family, he lived in poverty in Turkestan. In **HOW I LEARNED GEOGRAPHY** (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, \$16.95), he tells the story of his bitter disappointment when one night his father brought home even less food than usual because he'd purchased a map instead. Although Uri went to bed hungry, the large map filled his imagination with names, places, climates, adventures, and even art. He began to draw parts of the map over and over. The map that denied him a full stomach one night fed his soul for many nights. *Ages 4-8.*



Ali lives in present-day Baghdad and loves writing in Arabic calligraphy, filling the pages with **SILENT MUSIC** (Roaring Brook, \$17.95). When the bombs fall, he hides under the covers, practicing his calligraphy, making beautiful things with his pen. This incredibly illustrated picture book shows how creating beautiful writing helps a young Iraqi survive the horror that surrounds him. **James Rumford's** simple text and magnificent illustrations are a tribute to Arabic calligraphy and Iraqi history. *Ages 5-8.*



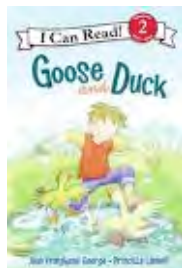
Early Reader Chapter Books



Elephant and Piggie are back in three more episodes, **I WILL SURPRISE MY FRIEND!**, **I LOVE MY NEW TOY!**, and **ARE YOU READY TO PLAY OUTSIDE?**

(Hyperion Books, \$8.99). This pair of friends experiences the full range of emotions from excited to furious to silly to sad to disappointed to excited yet again in these cartoon-like pages created by **Mo Willems**. These books are great for children who are learning to read, as read-alouds, and for parents to enjoy. *Ages 2-8.*

A hatchling baby goose imprints on a young boy. The goose then thinks the boy is his mother and does everything the boy does. Next, a hatchling duckling imprints on the goose, so the duck mimics the goose mimicking the boy. Everything goes along swimmingly until **GOOSE**

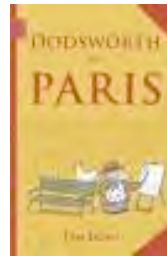


AND DUCK (HarperCollins, \$16.99) imprint on a policeman and are arrested. Nature is a funny thing, but in **Jean Craighead George's** capable hands, all creatures eventually figure out who, or what, they are. *Ages 4-8.*



What do Madagascar, Costa Rica, and the Pacific Northwest have in common? They all have **RAIN FORESTS** (Holiday House, \$15.95). Author **Nancy Smiler Levinson** and illustrator **Diane Dawson Hearn's** colorful and informative easy reader explores the habitat

of some of Earth's most fascinating plants and animals. Every page is brimming with information; plants and animals are beautifully illustrated and clearly labeled. Choose your destination from the map: would you like to visit a tropical or a temperate rain forest? Do you prefer South America, Africa, or Pacific islands? It's hard to decide. Why not visit them all? *Ages 5-10.*



Duck may look *très chic* in his acorn beret while traveling with **DODSWORTH IN PARIS** (Houghton Mifflin, \$15), but he still causes as much trouble as he did in *Dodsworth in New York*. When he flies paper airplanes made of their stash of euros off the Eiffel Tower, the two friends are really down-and-out. With his usual understated wit, **Tim Egan** has captured the essence of the City of Light, friendship, and Impressionism. *Ages 5-8.*

ANNIE AND SIMON (Candlewick, \$15.99), little sister and very big brother, share a special relationship. Simon is more patient with Annie than most parents would be. He lets her practice styling his hair, takes her canoeing in search of a loon, and lets her stay up late to watch a meteor shower. **Catharine O'Neill's** beginning chapter book will charm readers. *Ages 6-8.*



Katrina is flying around the classroom on a vacuum cleaner, Caroline's picture helps cast a spell, and clumsy Podge scores the winning goal in a soccer match. The students in Class Three at St. Barnabas School have never been happier. They love their new teacher Ms.

Wiz, and proclaim, "She's magic!" But some parents and teachers think **MS WIZ SPELLS TROUBLE** (Marshall Cavendish, \$12.99). **IN STITCHES WITH MS. WIZ** (Marshall Cavendish, \$12.99), Jack awakens from an appendectomy, and is relieved to find Ms. Wiz and her rat, Herbert, at his bedside. The doctors and nurses are not amused. These are the first two books in the British best-selling series by **Terence Blacker**, illustrated by **Tony Ross**. *Ages 6-10.*



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Our favorite dog and cat re-
turn in **James Howe's**
HOUNDSLEY AND CAT-
INA AND THE QUIET
TIME (Candlewick, \$14.99)

just in time for the grey days of
autumn and winter. When a
snowstorm disrupts their mu-
sical plans, Catina bemoans
their fate, while Houndsley ap-
proaches the matter more
philosophically. They decide to make the most of
the situation—with books, games, ginger tea, and
an odd assortment of snowmen. When their
friends arrive, shovels in paws, everyone grabs
their instruments and begins to play beautiful
music. With **Marie-Louise Gay's** soft, colorful
illustrations, here is a subtle, happy book for rainy
days that is sure to make everyone smile, snuggle
up, and sip their ginger tea. *Ages 5-8.*



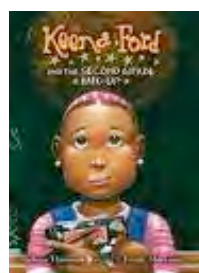
Great-grandmothers can well un-
derstand the trials and tribulations
of twelve-year-old girls, and
twelve-year-old girls can have big,
open hearts. The correspondence
between Annabelle and Gran in
GRAN, YOU'VE GOT MAIL!
(Delacorte, \$14.99) by **Jo**

Hoeslandt will charm grand-
mothers and granddaughters alike. **Aurelie**
Abolivier's delightful illustrations capture the
pixie-ish resemblance between Annabelle and
Gran. *Ages 6-10.*



Gerald Morris (*The Squire's Tales*)
has a new chapter book series,
The Knight's Tales. In **THE**
ADVENTURES OF SIR
LANCELOT THE GREAT,
(Houghton Mifflin, \$15) we dis-
cover that the greatest knight in
King Arthur's court had a great
sense of humor. Sir Lancelot can

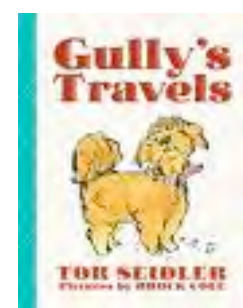
run off a challenging knight by pinging him with
acorns and singing off key. As long as his armor
stays very shiny, Lancelot is up for any knightly
quests, damsel rescues, or other knightly duties.
THE ADVENTURES OF SIR GIVRET
THE SHORT (Houghton Mif-
flin, \$15) are more humorously
cerebral. He can protect the
Queen from a huge fully armed
knight with clever misdirection.
All of Camelot's adventures are
comically illustrated by **Aaron**
Renier. *Ages 6-10.*



On Keena Ford's first day of
school, her teacher asks everyone
to write down their birthdays.
Keena reverses the numbers of her
birth date so the teacher thinks
her birthday is the next day. Now
everyone's planning a celebration
and Keena doesn't know how to
stop them. And maybe she doesn't want to, with
the promise of a sparkly crown and chocolate
cake. **Melissa Thomson's** funny first novel,
KEENA FORD AND THE SECOND
GRADE MIX-UP (Dial, \$14.99), is perfect for
beginning readers. *Ages 7-10.*

Fiction

Living at One Fifth Avenue,
Gully has the best of every-
thing, including summers in
Paris. When his owner becomes
engaged to a French woman
who is allergic to long haired
dogs, Gully is given to the
doorman who lives a much less
pampered life in Queens. Thus
begin **GULLY'S TRAVELS** (Michael di Capua,
\$16.95) to find his old life and someone who will
love him. **Tor Seidler** has created a heartwarm-
ing animal tale in an urban setting and a great fam-
ily read aloud. *Ages 5-10.*



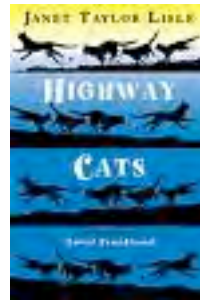


In this wickedly clever satire, four children, **THE WILLOUGHBYS** (Houghton Mifflin, \$16) who want to be orphans, manage to survive despite their neglectful parents. Gaining moral support from classic children's books, they hope for their deserved happy ending. Their parents are plotting a different fate, one inspired by Hansel and Gretel. Fans of *Lemony Snicket* will chuckle knowingly, perhaps surprised by **Lois Lowry's** rapier sense of humor, but not her excellent writing. *Ages 8-12.*

"It is going to take more than just a couple of good-hearted souls to raise this child. It will...take a graveyard." And so the living baby, Nobody (Bod) Owens, is adopted and raised by the folk of the graveyard. They grant Bod "Freedom of the Graveyard," teaching him to pass through walls and see in the dark, just like the dead do. Bod encounters adventures and dangers in the graveyard, but the greatest danger lurks just outside its gates: the man Jack murdered Bod's family and he intends to finish the job. Beloved master storyteller **Neil Gaiman** weaves a creepy tale for all ages and any time of year in **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK** (HarperCollins, \$17.99). *Ages 9 through adult.*



Like the rest of the beetles in his family, Marvin lives in a kitchen sink, feasts on dropped cereal flakes, and lives in fear of the vacuum cleaner. But when James, who lives in Marvin's apartment, receives a pen-and-ink set for his birthday, Marvin can't think about anything else. What's an art-loving beetle to do? Together, James and Marvin embark on an art adventure that includes theft, forgery, and snapping turtles. Following in the footsteps of *The Borrowers*, **Elise Broach** has created her own **MASTERPIECE** (Holt, \$16.95). *Ages 9-12.*



Mayor Blunt needs a campaign issue and creating an exit ramp off I-95 through a small wood is certainly the ticket, unless you are **HIGHWAY CATS** (Philomel, \$14.99). Tough, feral cats barely scrape out an existence in these woods. When a box of kittens lands in the midst of the busy highway and the kittens amazingly manage to cross safely, the cats take notice. These tiny creatures become the focus of the cats' battle to save the woods from destruction. Newbery Honor winner **Janet Taylor Lisle** and illustrator **David Frankland** have created a modern environmental fable full of adventure and hope. *Ages 8-12.*

With the Silent Waker Upper, the Sure Shot Paper Slinger and a myriad of other brilliant inventions, Alvin has always considered himself a genius inventor, a regular Thomas *Alvin*. Edison. But it takes many new prototypes of **THE MARVELOUS INVENTIONS OF ALVIN FERNALD** (Purple House Press, \$16.95) for Alvin, his best friend Shoie, and his little sister, the Pest to solve the mystery of Mrs. Huntley's haunted house. Luckily for this generation of middle grade readers, **Clifford Hicks'** classic has been reprinted. It's terrific fun. *Ages 8-11.*



Four sisters, a loving father, and one dog had a grand adventure last summer. Now they are back at school, starring in plays, dominating the soccer league, and swapping homework with each other. But life is never calm for **THE PENDERWICKS ON GARDAM STREET** (Knopf, \$15.99). Aunt Claire has decided that it's time for Mr. Penderwick to start dating again, which means the girls must launch a rescue mission. **Jeanne Birdsall** delights us again! *Ages 8-12.*

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Ted and Kat watch their cousin Salim board the sealed car of the huge Ferris wheel called the London Eye. But precisely one half-hour later, Salim does not debark. Parents, police, and even teenage Kat frantically try to solve **THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY** by **Siobhan Dowd** (David Sickling, \$15.99). But they are no match for Ted, who uses his detail driven Asperger's syndrome mind to bravely figure out what happened to Salim that windy London morning. *Ages 8-12.*



Two children, Victoria and Elliott, from different time periods, meet at a time portal and enter **THE FAERIE DOOR** (Harcourt, \$17.) by **B.E. Maxwell**. The Faerie Queen charges both with quests to bring back orbs of power to defeat the Shadow Knight. Flying pirate ships, dragons and wicked sorceress queens try to defeat each child. Each learns a form of magic and a strong personal trait: Elliott must learn to trust in himself and Victoria learns her craft through dance. *Ages 10-14.*



Amanda is so mixed up. At home, her mother has asked her father to leave. At school, she is writing a fictional Civil War diary of a girl whose brothers are fighting on opposite sides. In each situation, who's right and who's wrong? And how does the one African American boy in the class feel about all this discussion of slavery? Since she can't talk about things at home, through her **TOTALLY MADE UP CIVIL WAR DIARY OF AMANDA MACLEISH** (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, \$16) by **Claudia Mills**, Amanda tries to work out the complexities of domestic and national divisions. *Ages 9-12.*

Fans of **Lauren St. John's** *The White Giraffe* will rejoice in the sequel, **DOLPHIN SONG** (Dial, \$16.99). When their ocean voyage is interrupted by a storm, Martine, Ben, and several classmates are left stranded on a desert island. Old rivalries surface and Ben and Martine are shunned by the other five castaways. But the biggest challenge arises when twenty-one dolphins beach themselves on the island and the classmates must unite to rescue them. *Ages 9-13.*



Petra Kronos adores her father, Mikal, an inventor who can move metal with his mind. After the young prince of Bohemia invites Mikal to Prague to build an astronomical clock, Mikal returns home blind. The prince has stolen his eyes, enchanted them, and now wears them or keeps them in **THE CABINET OF WONDERS** (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, \$16.95). Petra is determined to sneak off to Prague, recover her father's eyes, and destroy the clock, which the prince is attempting to use for evil purposes. **Marie Rutkoski** weaves history, fantasy, politics and intrigue in her debut novel. *Ages 10-14.*

Twelve year old Jane is no longer content with her quiet existence living by the sea with her dreamy, free-spirited mother and her younger siblings in **MY ONE HUNDRED ADVENTURES** (Schwartz and Wade, \$16.99). In the midst of everyday occurrences, adventures are popping up where Jane least expects them. Her family life is suddenly peppered with the arrival of mysterious visitors from her mother's past. Delivering bibles with Preacher Phipps leads to a trip in a hot air balloon and a visit to a fortuneteller. Along the way, Jane discovers that life should always be a series of adventures. **Polly Horvath's** novel is rich with memorable characters and luminous writing that will capture the hearts of all readers. *Ages 10-14.*





Travis is a bibliophile who finds sanctuary, and mystery, in the Salinas Public Library in **STEINBECK'S GHOST** (Feiwel and Friends, \$17.95). Salinas has always been haunted by the ghost of its most famous native son, but when Travis begins to see characters from Steinbeck's novels appearing throughout the town, even he begins to wonder if he suffers from an overactive imagination. Through a blend of mystery and magical realism, **Lewis Buzbee** creates a landscape with endearing and mysterious characters that propel the story to its encouraging conclusion. *Ages 10-14.*

In **CROSSING TO**

PARADISE (Arthur A. Levine, \$17.99) a stand-alone companion to the *Arthur Trilogy*, Arthur's spit-fire best friend, Gatty, embarks on a perilous pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The immense journey will transform the pilgrims, especially Gatty, in ways they could not have foreseen. As one of the pilgrims reminds us, it is often not the destination, but the journey that bestows the most lasting rewards. **Kevin Crossley-Holland's** portrayal of the Medieval world is at once romantic and authentic, rendering both the harsh realities of the age as well as its transcendent spirit. *Ages 11-14.*



Last year, Valkyrie became protégé to the detective Skulduggery Pleasant—a sharp-dressing, smooth-talking skeleton. Now they are back, battling monsters, learning magic, saving the world, and **PLAYING WITH FIRE** (HarperCollins, \$16.99). With his unique wit, author **Derek Landy**

blends fantasy, adventure, and laugh-out-loud humor in this fantastic sequel. *Ages 11-14.*



Addie's mom has gotten divorced (again) and now they live in a trailer. Addie is often alone because her mom stays out for days at a time. Addie really wishes she lived with her half sisters and their father Dwight. Despite all of her efforts at school, things don't ever seem to turn out right there, either. Yet, endearing Addie will not stop **WAITING FOR NORMAL** (HarperCollins, \$16.99) by **Leslie Connor**. *Ages 10-14.*

Before the start of WWII, Taly's school participates in a dance contest in Bergania, a small town near Germany. While the group is still visiting, the Nazis invade Bergania. In order to gather her thoughts, Taly goes to sit by **THE DRAGONFLY POOL**



(Dutton, \$17.99). There she meets the Prince, who also often sits by the pool with his father to find peace in these unsettling times. With her usual flair, **Eva Ibbotson** has captured the period, settings and characters to weave a captivating historical novel. *Ages 12-15.*



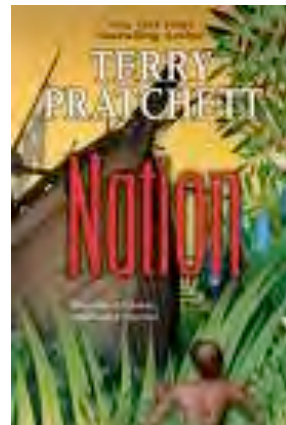
In **Simon Morden's THE LOST ART** (David Sickling, \$16.99), small pockets of pre-industrial civilizations have arisen a millennium after the great User Culture has destroyed itself through war and the unchecked plundering of natural resources. The West and old Europe remain dark, while the centers of culture have transferred to what was once Russia and the new Kenyan Islamic Empire. Science, the bane of the Users, is forbidden by the Orthodox Church, and all forms of technology are repressed. There are those who would revive the old technologies for good and evil purposes, because those who abandoned the Earth during the great Machine Wars have returned. It falls to an Orthodox monk to prevent the indestructible Books of Technology from falling into the wrong hands. But whose are the wrong hands? *Ages 12-15.*

Highlights 2008

Tristan becomes a squire to a Templar knight. He learns his duties on the Third Crusade and discovers that there is more to being a knight than he imagined; 'holy' and 'evil' often pertain to Christians and Saracens alike. When he is pressed by his dying master to guard the most holy relic in all of Christendom, **THE YOUNGEST TEMPLAR: KEEPER OF THE GRAIL** (Putnam, \$17.99) begins to question the very nature of the Crusades. **Michael P. Spradlin's** writing is a crisp blending of history and legend. *Ages 11-14.*



Mau is returning home from his manhood survival quest when he is struck by a tsunami. When he finally reaches the tropical shores of the **NATION** (HarperCollins, \$16.99), instead of the celebration he expects, he finds total devastation and not a living soul. Meanwhile, Ermintrude, a girl of noble birth, is the lone survivor when the tsunami crashes her ship into the island Nation's forest. Over the next few weeks, a motley assortment of traumatized tsunami survivors, including a native priest and a pregnant woman, arrive by canoes expecting the young people's care and support. At times deeply funny, at others clever and moving, **Terry Pratchett** has brilliantly created a stirring survival adventure, and an exploration of faith in the face of ruin. *Ages 13 through adult.*



There is something about listening to Tupac's music. On the surface the lyrics are violent and ugly, but if you listen closely, there is a deeply introspective beauty. It is this Tupac, the Tupac who wrote songs about poverty, about social injustice, about inner city crime which **Jacqueline Woodson** uses

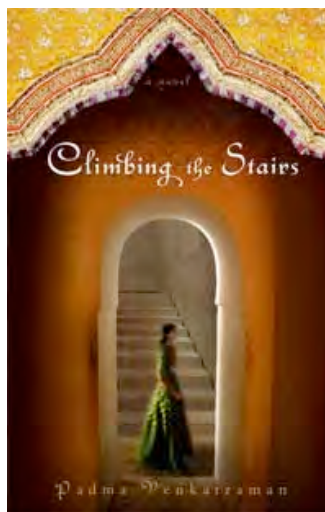


for the backdrop for her book **AFTERTUPAC & D FOSTER** (Putnam, \$15.99) At its heart this is a story of the friendship among three young girls, two best friends and a foster child who joins their lives for awhile. But it is also a look at the social conditions which draw them together and eventually push them apart. *Ages 10-14.*

Life is hard for Jock. His brother Egon is more animal than person. His sister Meredith is more TV-star than real, and his kilt-wearing, bad-mouthing, irascible Grampus is in a class by himself. During one hot summer, the three siblings work at Grampus' golf complex and learn about the horrors of life: divorce, bankruptcy, and losing at **THE BIG GAME OF EVERYTHING** (HarperCollins, \$16.99). National Book Award Finalist **Chris Lynch** is at his finest in this hilarious book. *Ages 11-15.*



Teen Fiction



Vidya is a strong-willed fifteen-year-old girl growing up in British-occupied India at the onset of World War II. After her father has a terrible accident, Vidya and her family go to live with her father's extended family whose rigid views on the traditional role of women provide numerous challenges. The only two bright spots in her new

home are Raman, who might be interested in more than friendship, and a huge library, reserved for men in the family, to which Vidya secretly gains access by **CLIMBING THE STAIRS** (Putnam, \$16.99) by **Padma Venkatraman**. *Ages 12-16.*



In Katsa's **GRACELING** (Harcourt, \$17) world, some are born with an extreme skill, or Grace. Katsa is graced with unbeatable fighting skill, and cursed with an evil uncle who uses her to enforce his tyranny over the Middluns. When she turns eighteen, Katsa rebels and chooses exile over enslavement. She never planned for

Po—who has an unusual Grace of his own—to join her, nor for the emotional battles that ensue.

Kristin Cashore's excellent first novel has original characters, deft storytelling, and romance to satisfy the most star-crossed readers. *Ages 14-18.*

Mitchell Wells and his best friend David are plodding through their junior year. Mitchell spends his time alternately trying to fit in and wondering if he even wants to bother. David knows he doesn't. Mitchell's serious yet cynical take on high school is poignant and funny. Steven Goldman's first



young adult novel, **TWO PARTIES, ONE TUX, AND A VERY SHORT FILM ABOUT THE GRAPES OF WRATH** (Bloomsbury, \$16.99) is an original, and spot-on coming-of-age story. *Ages 14-18.*



In the remains of North America, the capital Panem maintains control of the twelve outlying districts by annually staging a televised survival match reminiscent of the spectator violence staged at the Roman Coliseum. Chosen by an unfairly weighted lottery, one boy and one girl from each district are

thrown together until only one remains alive. Katniss, a sixteen-year-old from the poorest district, must add conniving, showmanship, and perhaps disloyalty to her hunting skills if she is to win **THE HUNGER GAMES** (Scholastic, \$17.99), by **Suzanne Collins**. *Ages 14-18.*

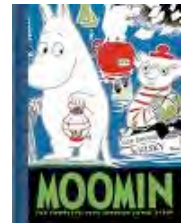


After surviving a suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Israeli teenager Tal Levine is curious about the lives of teenagers who live in occupied Gaza. She asks her brother, a soldier in the Israeli army, to throw **A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA** (Bloomsbury, \$16.95).

The bottle contains a note asking the recipient to write to Tal. Soon, she receives an angry email from "Gazaman," in which he berates Tal for her naïve and bigoted approach to peace. However, as Tal and Gazaman's correspondence develops, author **Valerie Zenatti** (*When I was a Soldier*) opens a window into the harsh realities of life in the occupied territories, and examines how some young Israelis think about peace. *Ages 13-18.*

GRAPHIC NOVELS

The eccentric **MOOMIN** (Drawn & Quarterly, \$19.95) family of Moominvalley, a fantastical group of large, sweet, loveable creatures, is faced with flood, a Martian invasion, club meetings, love woes, and more in this series of original comic strips.



Finnish author/illustrator **Tove Jansson's** earnest and silly drawings of the Moomins, first published in the 1950s, are great for a first foray into the world of comics and for comic book fans looking for something a little different. *Ages 7 and up.*



Thelonius Chipmunk's *Fog Mound* adventures continue in **SIMON'S DREAM** (Simon & Schuster, \$16.99). In their almost destroyed world where humans have long since been extinct, Thelonius and his friends explore Earth. In this third book, they discover a time machine. Chapters and cartoon

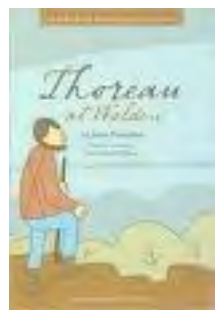
strips alternate in this exciting trilogy by **Susan Schade** and **Jon Buller**. If this series is new to you, start from the beginning with **TRAVELS OF THELONIUS** (Simon & Schuster, hardback \$16.99; paperback \$8.99). *Ages 7-14.*

Highlights 2008

Traditional fairy tale? Look again, as Rapunzel rescues *herself* from the tower using her long hair as a lasso, and then becomes the roughest and toughest cowgirl in the land. Upon learning the truth about Mother Gothel and her incredible power, Rapunzel and her con artist friend Jack set



out to find her true mother and take down Mother Gothel. **Shannon Dean** and **Nathan Hale's RAPUNZEL'S REVENGE** (Bloomsbury, \$14.99) is a graphic novel with charisma, action, and even a little romance. *Ages 9 and up.*



In 1845, Henry David Thoreau decided to move out of his village in Concord, Massachusetts, and into a small hand-built cabin in the middle of the woods. Take a break from your busy schedule and join **THOREAU AT WALDEN** (Hyperion, \$16.99).

John Porcellino's new graphic novel transforms Thoreau's world-famous writings into a visual narrative, with thought-provoking quotes from Thoreau's work and simple brown illustrations. *Ages 10-14.*

BIOGRAPHY

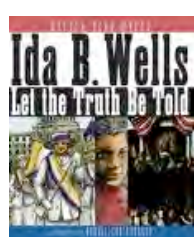
Wangari Maathai returned to her native Kenya from boarding school in the 1960s and saw great suffering. In response to the environmental destruction that was causing increasing poverty, Maathai began



PLANTING THE TREES OF KENYA (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$16.95). For her work, in 2004, Maathai became the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize. **Claire Nivola's** writing and illustrations evoke the beauty of Kenya's tree-filled landscape. *Ages 5-9.*

In **PIANO STARTS HERE: THE YOUNG ART TATUM** (Schwartz & Wade, \$16.99),

Robert Andrew Parker tells the story of one of the virtuosos of 20th-century jazz. Parker shows how Tatum's love of the piano, and lots and lots of practice, allowed this talented youngster who was born nearly blind to become a professional musician. Parker's loose and graceful pen-and-watercolor illustrations make this a lovely book to share with someone while listening to some of Art Tatum's timeless music. *Ages 6-10.*



Long before Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white man, and the Civil Rights Movement that followed, Ida B. Wells was fighting for the rights of African Americans. In 1884, Ida refused to move from her seat on a train. In

1893, Ida organized one of the first economic boycotts. In 1910, Ida helped establish the NAACP. Ida B. Wells' many accomplishments were remarkable and courageous. Award-winning author **Walter Dean Myers** and illustrator **Bonnie Christensen** bring to life this amazing woman and her important role in U.S. history in **IDA B. WELLS: LET THE TRUTH BE TOLD** (HarperCollins, \$16.99). *Ages 9-12.*

Ever heard of "Slaughter Ball," "Crossing Swords," or "Jam Pile"? If you'd grown up as one of six Scieszka boys you would have. In his hilarious autobiography,

KNUCKLEHEAD (Viking, hardback \$16.99; paperback \$12.99), National Children's Book Amba-



sador **Jon Scieszka** (*Stinky Cheese Man*, *Math Curse*) shares the trials (having to watch your younger brothers), tribulations (breaking your collar bone three times!) and triumphs (getting first dibs on the recycled Halloween costumes) of growing up in a house full of boys. *Ages 9-12.*

COOKBOOKS



Tie on an apron, roll up your sleeves, and get cooking with **THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK FOR KIDS** (Marshall Cavendish, \$18.99). **Matthew Locricchio** focuses on Brazil, Greece, Thailand, and India in his second foray into global cooking.

Learn to make your own *garam masala*, try Greek *garides saganaki* (shrimp with feta and tomatoes), and don't forget *brigadeiro* (Brazilian birthday candies). While you're waiting to eat, feast your eyes upon the crystal-clear, mouthwatering photos. *Ages 10-14.*

Jewish holiday celebrations usually revolve around food and family, so why not combine the two and let the children help? The **JEWISH HOLIDAYS COOKBOOK** (Dorling-Kindersley, \$19.99) includes recipes for traditional foods such as potato latkes and matzoh brei and less well known dishes such as Persian lentil salad and Sephardic haroset. Also included are a synopsis of each holiday and directions for keeping kosher. *Ages 8-16.*



Icing and candy artists unite and say **HELLO CUPCAKE!** (Mariner, \$15.95). Authors **Karen Tack** and **Alan Richardson** have fantastic decorating tips for individual cupcakes and cupcakes grouped to create a larger confectionary masterpiece.

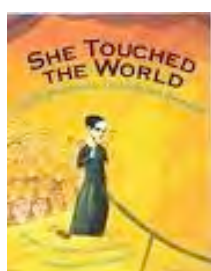
Their clever ideas include a pool cue made from blue fruit chews, Oreo dirt, a myriad of hats, and coated peanuts as a horse's head. Your child's celebrations will never be the same. *All Ages.*



Before Mark Twain became the Founding Father of American Literature, he performed one-man comedy shows in the Wild West. His advertising consisted of signs stating **THE TROUBLE BEGINS AT 8** (Greenwillow, \$18.99). **Sid**

Fleischman's biography tells how Samuel Clemens, a small-town boy, steamboat pilot, and gold-rush believer, became the sardonic, funny, master storyteller Mark Twain. Fleischman's writing provides almost as many laughs as the subject himself. *Ages 9-13.*

According to legend, in the late 1800s, a black railway worker named John Henry pitted himself against a mechanical steam driller—and won. He drilled fifteen feet while the steam driller could manage only nine. When **Scott Reynolds Nelson** began to research John Henry, he didn't know if the story was real or myth. **AIN'T NOTHING BUT A MAN** (National Geographic, \$18.95) weaves together the story of Reynolds' arduous, unpredictable research process and the momentous truth he uncovered. *Ages 9-12.*



Laura Bridgman could not see or hear, and she could barely taste or smell, but **SHE TOUCHED THE WORLD** (Clarion, \$18).

Bridgman preceded better-known Helen Keller by about fifty years, but her story is equally remarkable. In 1832, when she was barely

two years old, Laura Bridgman lost most of her senses to scarlet fever. When she was eight, Laura moved to Boston to attend the Perkins School for the Blind, where she learned to read, write, and fingerspell. In fact, Bridgman taught Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, to fingerspell. Authors **Sally Hobart Alexander** and **Robert Alexander** have written this fascinating biography of a courageous woman. *Ages 8-12.*

Highlights 2008

Sam Stern's first cookbook for teenagers, *Cooking up a Storm*, was a huge success. Whether this was due to the quality and ease of the recipes or because Sam looks and acts like a young Jamie Oliver, is open for speculation. In Sam's new cookbook, **REAL FOOD, REAL FAST** (Candlewick, 16.99), the recipes are conveniently categorized according to the amount of time each takes to prepare, which allows for a quick smoothie in the morning, a yummy 10-minute pizza style omelette for lunch, or killer kebabs for a 30-minute dinner preparation. The layout and photographs are as appealing as the food. *Ages 11-18.*



THE DAY THE WORLD EXPLODED (HarperCollins, \$22.99) in 1883, over 30,000 people were killed in the Sunda Strait in Java due to massive tsunamis following Krakatoa's eruption. Within four hours, people all around the world were following its disastrous course due to new underwater telegraphic cables. The sound from the explosion could be heard up to 1,000 miles away. This complex history of Southeast Asia under Dutch colonial rule, the explosion and its impact on the world, is adapted for children by **Simon Winchester** from his adult book *Krakatoa*. His play-by-play recounting serves as a reminder that nature is always more powerful than humans. *Ages 10-14.*



HISTORY

When a group of 15th century Chinese came upon a captured African giraffe, they took this unknown creature to be **CHEE-LIN** (Houghton Mifflin, \$17), an ancient symbol of good fortune, and bargained to have it given as a gift to their emperor. Author/illustrator **James Rumford** chronicles the life of Tweega, the giraffe, from his home in the plains of Africa and his sea voyage to India to his unexpected arrival in China. Rumford's beautifully written and illustrated book is an unusual perspective on a piece of 15th century history. *Ages 7-12.*



With a new president headed to **OUR WHITE HOUSE** (Candlewick, \$29.99), this retrospective and collaborative work of more than 100 authors and illustrators is a tribute to America's presidential home. From haunted rooms and presidential ghosts, to clips of speeches and letters written by different presidents during their stay, there are poems, stories, and photos that span the lifetime of the White House. Contributing authors and illustrators include **Jon Scieszka, Brian Selznick, Kate DiCamillo**, and **Calef Brown**, with an introduction by **David McCullough** and cover art by **David Macauley**. *Ages 9 through adult.*

Andrea and **Brian Pinkney's** latest book just begs to be read, or sung, aloud. **BOYCOTT BLUES** (Green Willow, \$16.99) follows the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott with a rhythm that carries you to the end of segregation in 1956. Jim Crow is portrayed as a big black bird constantly at work with a "peck, peck, peck" trying to weaken wills and destroy justice. The sweeping illustrations and text shift between Montgomery and Washington, DC, with the blues carrying people along to better lives. *Ages 8-12.*



SCIENCE

SISTERS & BROTHERS (Houghton Mifflin, \$16) in the animal world can have relationships as loving, and as contentious, as those among humans. They can also involve more extreme behaviors such as eating one another. **Steve Jenkins'** beautiful collage illustrations combine with **Robin Page's** lively informative text for a science book that will appeal to young animal and science lovers as well as for anyone with a sibling. *Ages 4-8.*





Learn interesting facts, such as a toad is a kind of frog, not a separate species, and that frogs breathe more than half of their oxygen through their damp skin. Nature photographer and author **Nic Bishop** includes a wealth of information with captivating photos in his new book about

FROGS (Scholastic, \$17.99). In his photos, a frog's internal organs are visible through its transparent skin. The strawberry dart poison frog is as strikingly beautiful as it is deadly. And a young red-eyed tree frog is all eyes and awkward with his post-tadpole body. Very cool! *Ages 4-8.*

As our planet's glaciers melt, treasures that have been buried for ages are revealed and scientists can study **BODIES FROM THE ICE** (Houghton Mifflin, \$17). **James Deem** (*Bodies From*



the Ash) begins his well-researched study with Otzi, a 5,300-year-old body discovered in the Austrian Alps. The riveting story includes excellent photographs and sidebars. In addition to the stories of many other human finds, the book includes a wealth of glaciological information and a discussion of the environmental impact of glacial melting. *Ages 8-12.*



SCIENCE WARRIORS: THE BATTLE AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES (Houghton Mifflin, \$17) is the latest volume in the superb *Scientist in the Field* series. Author

Sneed B. Collard III uses the cases of the brown tree snake, fire ants, melaleuca trees, and zebra mussels to show the effects of invasive species on four major ecosystems and the huge efforts of scientists to combat the problems. Excellent photographs illustrate the text. *Ages 8-14.*

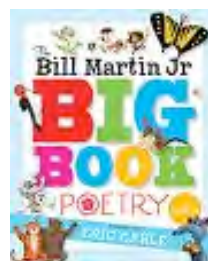


As he did for machines in *The Way Things Work*, **David Macaulay** does a masterful job explaining **THE WAY WE WORK** (Walter Lorraine, \$35). Imagining the major systems of the body as an amusement park, Macaulay starts with the body's smallest building blocks, and then shows how each of the major systems works. Once again, he gives us clear explanations, humor, and wonderful illustrations. *Ages 10 through adult.*

FOLKTALES & POETRY

In **TRICK OF THE TALE** (Candlewick, \$18.99), **John** and **Caitlín Matthews** retell well-known and less famous trickster tales from around the world.

They feature sly favorites such as rabbit, fox, raven, and spider as they compete for the smallest amount of work, the biggest portion of the meal, or basic survival from their vicious and predatory neighbors. Illustrator **Tomislav Tomic's** beautifully rendered pen-and-ink drawings offer striking visual perspectives and creatively comic facial expressions and gestures that make the animals seem to leap from the pages. And remember, even tricksters may, at times, be outsmarted. *Ages 8-12.*



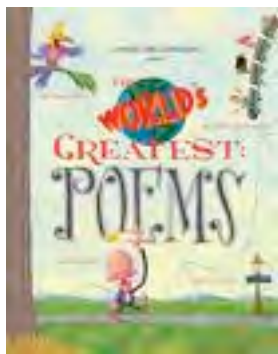
Before his death in 2004, **Bill Martin, Jr.** (*Brown Bear, Brown Bear*), collected his favorite poems. **Michael Sampson**, Martin's collaborator on *Chicka Chicka 1 2 3*, completed the anthology and had each poem illustrated by a beloved children's illustrator. The

result, **THE BILL MARTIN JR BIG BOOK OF POETRY** (Simon and Schuster, \$21) is a gorgeous treasury of children's poetry including nonsense verse and poems about people, places, food, and home. Artists include **Chris Raschka**, **Lois Ehlert**, and **Ashley Bryan**. *All Ages.*

Highlights 2008

How tall is the tallest roller coaster? What's the record for skipping stones? Where are **THE WORLD'S GREATEST: POEMS** (Chronicle, \$16.99)? They're in this clever collection.

Each poem begins with facts about the record-breaking subject, whether it's the most spinning plates or the longest time a human remained standing. **J. Patrick Lewis'** poems specialize in word play; **Keith Graves'** slightly absurd illustrations perfectly adorn the poems. *Ages 5-10.*

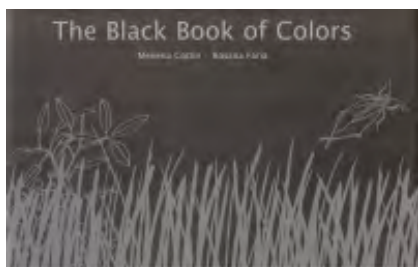


OTHER NON-FICTION

How is color experienced if one cannot *see* color?

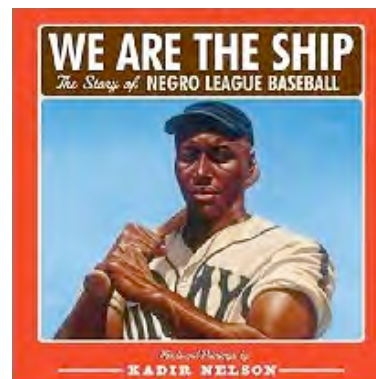
THE BLACK BOOK OF COLORS

(Groundwood, \$17.95), is a black-and-white book about color, in which each page has Braille text and raised illustrations. Descriptions of taste, smell, sound and touch bring the colors to life. Written and illustrated by **Menena Cottin** and **Rosana Faria**, this book introduces blind and sighted children to a new way of thinking about the colors that surround us. The Braille alphabet appears in the back for reference. *Ages 5 and up.*



Buy a ticket, grab a hot dog, and settle into your seat for **WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE** (Jump at the Sun, \$18.99). The richly detailed text tells the

story of the Negro Leagues in an authentic voice, accompanied by sumptuous oil paintings that capture both the excitement of the game and the injustice of segregation. Award-winning author and illustrator **Kadir Nelson** hits a home run. *Ages 10 through adult.*



THE MCELDERRY BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

(McElderry, \$21.99), retold by **Eric Kimmel**, is a wonderful companion to the more traditional *D'Aulaires*. Many of the principal Greek myths are presented here, often with a more poignant, though less complex, narrative than *D'Aulaires'*. Kimmel seeks to reveal how these myths are still vital to 21st century readers, and in doing so often humanizes the gods as well as slightly reinterpreting the myths. What truly sets this collection apart are the superb, incredibly detailed and captivating illustrations by **Pep Monteserrat**, which faithfully portray the vital humanity of Kimmel's narratives. *Ages 7-12.*

