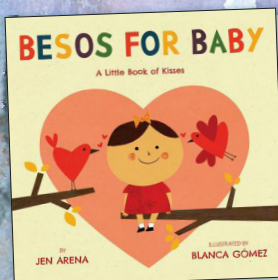


Illustration from *Winter Is Coming*, copyright 2014 with permission from Simon & Schuster

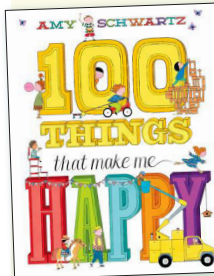
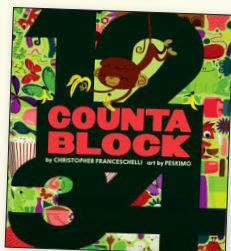
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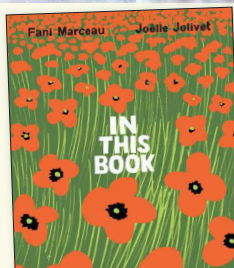
even the family perro [dog] have ***Besos for Baby*** (Little, Brown, \$6.99). Author **Jen Arena** will charm readers with her simple, lyrical sentences, paired with contrasting colors by illustrator **Blanca Gomez**. This bilingual book is a beautiful addition to a baby's first library. *Ages 0-3. KLG*

Author **Christopher Franceschelli** and illustrator **Peskimo** tackle numeric territory in ***Countablock*** (Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95), an interactive journey from one to 100. The book's cut-out numbers will entice little hands, and its durable pages can withstand months of preschool exploration. Numbers one to 10 receive two-page spreads, and each page turn reveals an exciting transformation: One acorn becomes one tree! Three boxes become three forts! The cause-and-effect play continues as the text counts by 10s to 100. The occasional silly subversion of expectations—40 eggs become 39 chicks and one dinosaur—will appeal to young and old. Though the book will inspire frequent re-reading, adults need not fear: **Peskimo's** distinctive retro style is a pleasure to peruse again and again. *Ages 2-5. ACD*



favorite things, from city lights and starry nights—each of which covers an entire page—to pony rides/shiny slides and submarines/jelly beans, playing across a single page. Children will enjoy this colorful tribute to many things they recognize, and look forward to visiting their favorites again and again. *Ages 2-5. HWP*

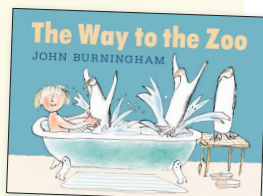
What makes you happy? You're bound to find something in **Amy Schwartz's** new picture book, ***100 Things That Make Me Happy*** (Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95). Using simple rhymes and vibrant illustrations, **Schwartz** shares her



text to make comparisons in size: "I am in the web, said the spider," and situation: "I am in the dark, said the child." Occasional two-page layouts accentuate the grandiosity of particular animals, such as a mighty tiger in the jungle and a whale in the vast ocean. ***In This Book*** will not disappoint those who may recognize **Joelle Jolivet's** vibrant color-block illustrations from an earlier endeavor, the over-sized *Zoology*. *Ages 3-5. RBB*

One night, Sylvie notices a door in the wall of her bedroom that she has never seen before. How utterly enticing! Author and illustrator **John Burningham**, two-

time winner of the Kate Greenaway medal, leads readers on ***The Way to the Zoo*** (Candlewick, \$15.99). Once Sylvie realizes that she has a secret passage to the zoo, she starts bringing creatures home who may or may not be able to sleep in her bed with her. All goes well until one morning she wakes to the realization that she forgot to close the door. Find out about the ensuing chaos in this special read-aloud accompanied by Burningham's trademark muted pen and pencil drawings with watercolor accents. *Ages 3-6. KLP*



neighbor is Owl and the two neighbors are on completely opposite schedules. The bright colors and cheerfully simple illustrations by **Jun Takabatake** provide the perfect counterpoint to the clever story of Chicken and Owl determinedly trying to meet even as they seem doomed to repeatedly miss each other. Children will root for this endearingly mismatched pair, each struggling to make a new friend. *Ages 4-7. CEB*

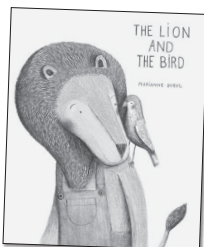
Chicken doesn't mind living alone out in the middle of the woods, but when someone moves into the house next door, he's excited to find out ***Who's Next Door?*** (Owlkids, \$16.95) in this charming new picture book by **Mayuko Kishira**. Unfortunately, Chicken's new



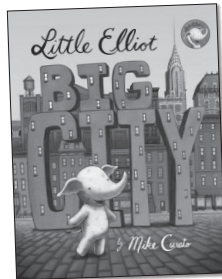
Language and elegance come together in **Firebird** (Putnam, \$17.99), a poetic story of dance, hardship, and success by prima ballerina **Misty Copeland**. A young girl watches

Copeland soar as the iconic Firebird and dreams of finding her own feet dancing on that stage. Copeland encourages the young dancer, telling her, and the reader, the story of her struggle to the top. Together with award-winning illustrator **Christopher Myers**, Misty Copeland artfully guides readers through a world of dance, poetry, and breathtaking beauty. *Ages 4-7. ARW*

This sweet and simple picture book, written and illustrated by **Marianne Dubuc** (translated from the French by Claudia Z. Bedrick), celebrates true friendship, and its flexibility. **The Lion and the Bird** (Enchanted Lion Books, \$17.95) meet in autumn,



when the bird's wing is injured and he can't fly south with his flock. The lion takes him in and nurses him back to health and they spend a winter together staying warm, becoming friends. When spring returns, the bird's flock flies through and he migrates with them. The lion, though sad to see him go, wishes his friend well on his journey. As the book moves through the seasons, Dubuc's sparse text and evocative illustrations beautifully convey the emotions of the two animals. When autumn returns, so does the bird, and the two friends spend another winter together, staying warm. *Ages 4-7. ENR*



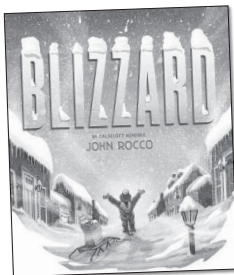
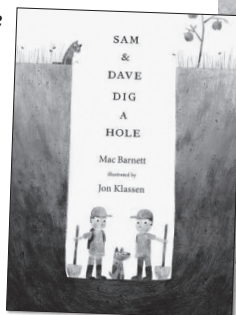
Being small can be a challenge, especially in a place as large as New York City. Elliot is a petite elephant, a bit unlike the others you may know, with polka dots and a big appetite for sweet treats. He takes the difficulties he faces daily in stride, rarely allowing minor inconveniences to

dampen his kind-hearted spirit. However, when Elliot is unable to purchase a cupcake because he can't reach the counter, he feels downtrodden until he meets someone even smaller than he and learns a valuable lesson about friendship and hope. Debut author and illustrator **Mike Curato** shows readers that the smallest creatures can have the biggest hearts. **Little Elliot, Big City** (Henry Holt, \$16.99) is a delight, with charming illustrations and a classical feel. *Ages 4-7. KLG*



are: the littlest one has a different idea that might have more successful results. Author-illustrator **Chris Haughton** uses a combination of collage and digital artwork with stunning results. His bold use of shades of blue and indigo with splashes of reds, yellows and greens to depict the brilliant and gorgeous birds makes this picture book both remarkable and accessible. And if they don't manage to catch any birds, well, there are always squirrels. *Ages 4-7. KLP*

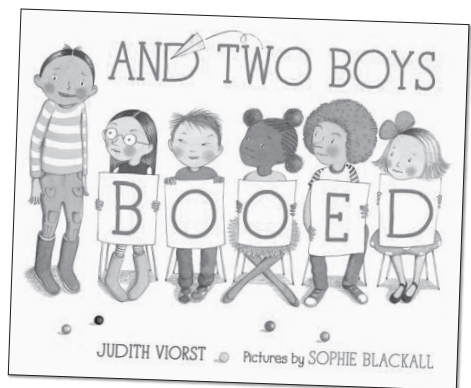
On Monday, **Sam and Dave Dig a Hole** (Candlewick, \$16.99), determined not to stop until they discover something "spectacular". Aided by their faithful pooch, the pair plows into the earth until the hole is taller than they are. Thinking that they're going nowhere fast, they start digging sideways instead of down, hoping this change of direction will lead them to something great. Every so often they switch their angle of approach again, but with no better luck. Author **Mac Barnett** and illustrator **Jon Klassen**—with help from Sam and Dave's dog—show readers that spectacle is often just out of reach and can be found in the most unexpected of places. *Ages 4-8. ARW*



Based on his experience in the winter of 1978, **John Rocco**'s latest picture book recounts the days of a great **Blizzard** (Hyperion, \$17.99) and the heroism it inspires in the young protagonist. Furiously falling snow overtakes a small town, yet no plows appear. Initially, the deep snow is thrilling. The narrator and his sister scramble out windows into drifts, digging tunnels and secret rooms. But as supplies dwindle and cabin fever mounts, the intrepid narrator must develop a plan of action. With a little ingenuity and some tennis racquets, he takes care of the neighborhood's needs. Rocco's text recreates the suspense of a storm, and his illustrations' attention to detail and color build a wondrous world, in which a hero still stops to make snow angels. *Ages 4-8. ACD*



We can smell it in the air and see it in the changing colors of the leaves: **Winter is Coming** (Simon & Schuster, \$17.99). In this beautifully illustrated picture book, a young artist and budding naturalist observes changes in nature during autumn from her treetop perch. She watches as wild animals search for food and prepare for the coming cold. Each page of **Tony Johnston's** story reads like a poem to nature and its wonders. **Jim LaMarche's** stunning illustrations vividly capture the colors, the wind, and the animals' lives in autumn. Ages 4-8. KLP



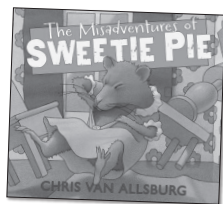
On the day of the class talent show a boy is excited to perform. He's practiced and practiced, so he isn't the least bit nervous. The children before him juggle balls, dance, and do handstands with ease. As the line shortens, the boy becomes more alarmed, gradually curling into a ball, until only his cowlick is visible over the neck of his sweater. When he finally stands up in front of his classmates he gets all jumbled up, "reading [his] toes" and "dancing [his] hands," before managing to sing his song. In **And Two Boys Booped** (Farrar Straus Giroux, \$16.99) veteran author **Judith Viorst** creates another lovable character, while illustrator **Sophie Blackall** perfectly captures the stage fright the boy feels. With clever lift-the-flaps, readers will laugh, cheer, and be encouraged by the boy's ultimate success. Ages 4-8. KLG

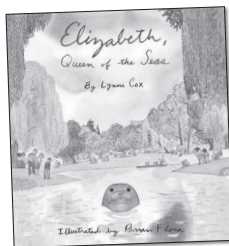
Hana signs up to play the violin in her school's talent show. Her older brothers find this hilarious; she is a beginner! But Hana doesn't expect to play like a concertmaster, she just wants to honor her grandfather, who was once a professional musician in a great symphony orchestra. At the performance, the audience may expect Bach or Mozart from **Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin** (Kids Can, \$16.95) but what they hear, and enjoy, are the unique sounds of nature that Hana remembers from a recent trip to Japan, and reproduces on her instrument. Author **Chieri Uegaki** and illustrator **Qin Leng** collaborate on this delightful story of honor and dedication. Ages 5-8. RBB



Bespectacled Roger Trotter and his horse, **Jumping Jack** (Chronicle, \$17.99), are show-jumping champions. Or rather, were show-jumping champions. Suddenly, Jumping Jack is unable to clear a single hurdle, and stumbles in the most undignified manner. A consultation with the veterinarian finds he suffers from nothing more severe than "mere boo-boos" and a trip to the psychologist is equally unsuccessful. At the most important competition of the year, after another ungainly fall, Roger Trotter's glasses land precisely on Jumping Jack's nose, and they're off like champions once more. Jumping Jack was just nearsighted! Author **Germano Zullo's** fresh prose and **Albertine's** hilarious illustrations will make this picture book an absolute favorite for children and adults. Ages 5-8. RBB

The last hamster left for sale, Sweetie Pie is determined to be loveable enough that a child will take him home. However, when he finally succeeds, he discovers that things aren't as friendly as he imagined outside the pet store. He's roughhoused and neglected and passed from kid to kid until he ends up a classroom pet. Finally loved and cared for, Sweetie Pie still isn't content. Stuck on the classroom windowsill, he wants nothing more than a life outside. Acclaimed author and illustrator **Chris Van Allsburg** brings his trademark care and detail to **The Misadventures of Sweetie Pie** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99), which are many and varied, but after struggling through them, Sweetie Pie may just get a chance at the life he's always dreamed of. Ages 5-8. ARW





Do elephant seals have homing radars? That's what you'll be wondering after reading **Lynne Cox's *Elizabeth, Queen of the Seas*** (Schwartz & Wade, \$17.99)—or you would be, if you weren't

overwhelmed by the heart-warming tenacity of the ungainly seal. Based on the true story of an elephant seal that found a favorite sunning spot in the middle of a city street in Christchurch, New Zealand, this picture book shows the lengths to which a community will go to protect one of its own—even if she is a different species—as well as the amazing results of a determination to return home. **Brian Floc'a's** delicate, muted illustrations allow Elizabeth's almost unbelievable story to shine. *Ages 5-9. SB*

On the bright orange cover of ***Once Upon an Alphabet***

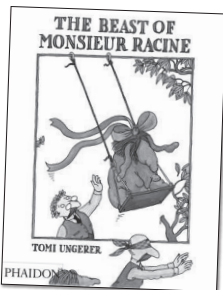
(Philomel, \$26.99) an astronaut floats above the title, and a zeppelin hovers below it, hinting at the absolutely zany fun to come. **Oliver Jeffers** has written and illustrated short, short stories for each letter of the alphabet. They range from jokey ('A Yeti, a Yak, and a Yo-Yo') to surreal ('The Jelly Door'), or sometimes even wistful ('A Puzzled Parsnip'). Some characters appear throughout the book, such as the intriguing duo of the problem-solving owl and octopus, and Edmund the astronaut solves his fear of heights by the last tale. The very amusing drawings are in quick ink lines and washes, with perfect spots of colors, and Jeffers's recognizable crayoned lettering. The book is tall, slim yet hefty, and lots and lots of fun. *Ages 5-9. ANG*



Who better to document history than a pachyderm with ***The Memory of An Elephant*** (Chronicle Books, \$18.99)? That prodigious memory occupies the pages of this book, first published in France by **Sophie Strady**

and whimsically illustrated by **Jean-François Martin**. Children who enjoy facts alongside their fantasy will marvel at the contents of this oversized picture book. Marcel, who enjoys a fabulous life filled with delicacies, fashion, world travel and birthday celebrations, also shares facts on a variety of topics, from elephants to architecture to musical instruments, creating a delightful encyclopedia. *Ages 6-9. KLP*

Someone—or something—has stolen the prize pears from Monsieur Racine's garden. Upon investigation, Monsieur Racine discovers very strange footprints, and soon, an even stranger creature. But it's friendly, tame, and playful. It especially enjoys cookies, chocolate, and ice cream, which Monsieur Racine has delivered in large quantities. As it turns out, ***The Beast of Monsieur Racine*** (Phaidon, \$16.95) makes a wonderful companion. But when Monsieur Racine travels to Paris to present his discovery to the Academy of Sciences, he and its members are dumbstruck when the beast reveals its true self. **Tomi Ungerer's** 1972 picture book features his signature unorthodox wit, and illustrations full of details that children and observant adults will appreciate. *Ages 7-10. HWP*



Samuel's clumsiness makes Hamza so angry that Hamza lashes out with a terrible insult. Samuel hopes his father, the grand vizier, will chastise Hamza. Instead, the vizier tells his son that he must make sure that Hamza never says a mean word again. Samuel has

several ideas about how to punish Hamza, visiting him every day with a new scheme. But Hamza misinterprets Samuel's intent, turning each one into a game. Soon the boys become friends, ensuring that Hamza will ***Never Say a Mean Word Again*** (Wisdom Tales, \$16.95). **Jacqueline Jules's** adaption of a tale from medieval Spain teaches readers to make friends of their enemies. **Durga Yael Bernhard's** clear and decorative illustrations evoke that time and place. *Ages 6-9. HWP*



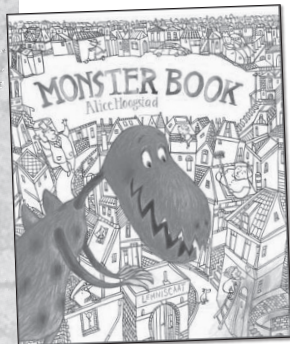
With an ominous tone, **Neil Gaiman** introduces us to his take on ***Hansel & Gretel*** (TOON Books, \$16.95). His creepy and unnerving word craft is perfectly complemented by forbidding and dark two-page spreads by acclaimed Italian artist and illustrator **Lorenzo Mattotti**.

Not for the very young, but enticing to readers over the age of eight, Gaiman's stark writing draws us in and doesn't let go. Mattotti's pitch-black India ink paintings share equal footing with Gaiman's storytelling, fully demonstrating the power of image to affect mood. *Ages 8 and up. KLP*

WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS



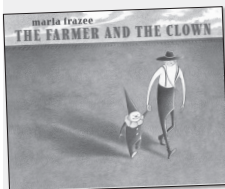
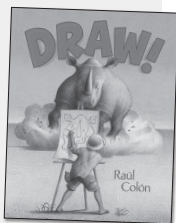
Lizi Boyd's magical night-time adventure is wordless perfection, and will reward many "readings." A youngster is outside, exploring the woods by **Flashlight** (Chronicle, \$16.99). As the child wanders through the book, Boyd brilliantly uses two techniques to show the profusion of activity in the dark. First, the pages are matte-black, her folk-like drawings done in subtle gray lines, and the only color is in the cone of light where the child aims the flashlight. Secondly, there are small die-cut holes to reveal even more mysteries as you turn each page. There is a lot to be discovered—bats, beavers, an owl, a raccoon, a fox and some porcupines are very busy. When the child trips, the flashlight goes flying, but help is on the way, for a gentle, satisfying end to the journey. *Ages 3-7. ANG*



A small town—drawn in black-and-white ink—is full of folks going about their day. On the first of 12 two-page spreads, a little girl draws a long red line ending in a heart-shaped balloon on a wall. Next, she draws a monster on the pavement, which comes to colorful life. As she summons more

of the rambunctious creatures, they cavort and dance, then start to wield crayons, too. Several citizens of the now-colorful town are displeased. After some scrubbing (and a rainstorm), the town reverts back to its old look—or does it? **Alice Hoogstad's** delightful **Monster Book** (Lemniscaat, \$17.95) vividly shows the power of inspiration and creative fun. *Ages 3-8. ANG*

A boy in bed is reading about African wildlife—with pith helmet and binoculars ready. Setting the book aside, he picks up a big pad and begins to **Draw!** (Simon and Schuster, \$17.99) Imagining his adventures on the savannah, he draws an elephant (who appreciates the portrait). They travel together on a sketching safari as the young artist sets up his easel before zebras, giraffes, lions, hippos, a gorilla, and a rhino (look out!). In a sweet reversal, a group of gibbons draws the boy, and shares his sandwiches. As the sun sets, the boy and the elephant (and a friendly oxpecker bird) say goodbye, and he's back in his bedroom. **Raúl Colón's** rich, Prismacolor pencilwork (with his characteristic wavy "scratches") brings the story—inspired by his own beginnings as an artist—to glowing life. *Ages 4-8. ANG*

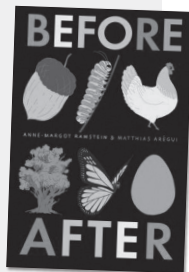


A bearded farmer is working his fields on a typical morning when a colorful circus train passes by and a small figure falls from the back. Worried, the farmer hurries over to the

tracks and finds a young clown, frightened and alone. The farmer brings the clown home and gives him a place to stay for the night, although he's a bit grumpy about it. Despite his irritability, **The Farmer and the Clown** (Beach Lane, \$17.99) form an incipient bond and exchange a heartfelt goodbye when the train returns the next day. Author and illustrator **Marla Frazee** shows us that emotions can be expressed in many ways in this touching and wordless journey about acceptance, friendship, and embracing home. *Ages 4-8. ARW*

Before After (Candlewick, \$19.99) by **Anne-Margot Ramstein and Matthias Aréguí** is fun for all ages. Its 176 pages, illustrated with pastel line drawings reminiscent of *Tintin*, have a sly approach, featuring a subtle rhythmic sequencing of before-and-after images. Yes, an egg before a chicken, but also, a chicken

before an egg. A recurring theme is time itself—whether seasonal, historical, or human-scale (a rocking horse and then a rocking chair). Readers will enjoy multi-page sequences where sprouts become a jungle, cranes create skyscrapers, a gorilla in the jungle leads to King Kong on top of skyscrapers. Images reappear in different contexts (ingredients turn into a cake; a few pages later that cake has been eaten). This clever book is more delightful each time through. *Ages 4 and up. ANG*



EARLY READERS

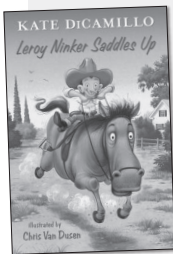
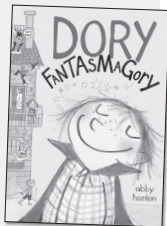


Princess Magnolia does everything that a princess should. She sleeps in a tower, wears glass slippers, and serves tea to her esteemed guests, but Princess Magnolia has a secret. While entertaining Duchess Wigtower, the Princess's glitter stone monster alarm goes off and she must become

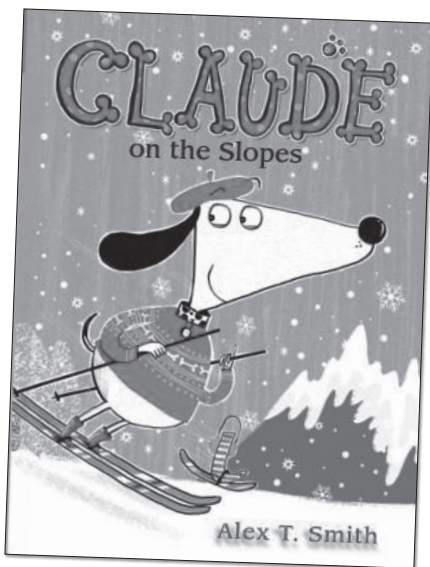
The Princess in Black

(Candlewick, \$14.99). Since princesses don't wear black, no one suspects Magnolia's secret identity, thus allowing her to fight monsters with her signature "twinkle twinkle little SMASH" move. Beloved author **Shannon Hale** and husband **Dean Hale** prove that princesses as well as other little girls don't fit in any box and illustrator **LeUyen Pham** brings Magnolia's story to life. This is truly a read for the whole family. *Ages 5-8. ARW*

Six-year-old Dory can't convince her older brother and sister to let her play with them, or answer her questions, or have any respect for her imaginary friend/under-the-bed monster, Mary. Instead, they call Dory "Rascal" and try to scare her out of acting like a baby by telling her about Mrs. Gobble Gracker, who is five hundred and seven years old, has sharp teeth, and robs baby girls. When Mrs. Gobble Gracker walks into the house, Dory uses her wits, bravery, and Mary to defend herself. **Abby Hanlon's** charming, heavily illustrated ***Dory Fantasmagory*** (Dial, \$14.99) will draw new readers in with its charm and humor, or delight the whole family as a read-aloud. *Ages 6-8. EAE*



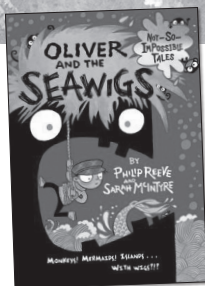
Leroy Ninker is tired of sitting idly by taking notes from the cowboy westerns he watches while working at the local drive-in. He knows deep down that he is meant to be a cowboy, meting out justice and maintaining order. He even has a ten-gallon hat, a lasso, and boots. But Leroy is missing one essential element—a horse. It's Leroy's lucky day, because in this first volume of his adventures, a neighbor happens to be giving away a horse. With a "yippie-i-oh," **Leroy Ninker Saddles Up** (Candlewick, \$12.99) and is ready to fulfill his destiny. However, it takes a lot to keep his new horse, Maybelline, happy, including loads of sweet-talking charm and spaghetti. Author **Kate DiCamillo** and illustrator **Chris Van Dusen** (Mercy Watson) are back again for a whole new set of tales, with familiar faces that readers know and love, and new cowboy hijinks sure to entertain. *Ages 6-9. KLG*



The latest installment in British author and illustrator **Alex T. Smith's** series of books about Claude, a very fashionable dog, is a charming introduction to avalanches and their consequences. Keep an eye out for ***Claude on the Slopes*** (Peachtree, \$12.95), as he's a bit of a reckless skier. But, together with his best friend Sir Bobblysock, Claude helps rescue skiers stranded by dangerous snowfalls, pulling the necessary tools from his snazzy red beret. Retro and lively illustrations decorate this book about an adorable dog's winter adventures. *Ages 6-9. KLP*

What if your mom went back to work, and hired a nanny to watch you? What if she was no ordinary nanny, but someone who made peanut butter and anchovy sandwiches (yuck!), and talked into diapers (weird!), and—it turns out—is part of the little-known covert agency NAP: Nanny Action Patrol. Well, if you're anything like Jake and Ali and your nanny is like ***Nanny X*** (Holiday House, \$16.95), your life would be about to get a lot more exciting! Local author **Madelyn Rosenberg** has written a thrilling and hilarious chapter book, enlivened by illustrator **Karen Donnelly's** off-the-wall illustrations, about a couple of Northern Virginia kids whose home life starts to resemble the double life of a secret agent. *Ages 7-10. EAE*

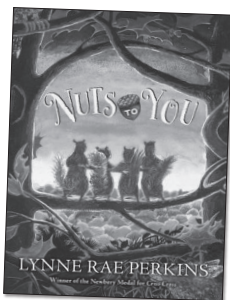




Oliver's parents are finally resigned to settling down, under the impression that there's nothing left to explore. They haven't even unpacked into their home in Deepwater Bay when something strange appears—actually, several strange things: islands. Mr.

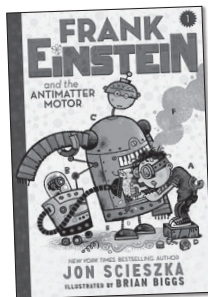
and Mrs. Crisp are immediately hauling the inflatable dinghy to the water to go and explore the new islands. Within hours the islands disappear, along with Oliver's parents, so he sets out to find them. Along the way, he befriends a near-sighted mermaid, a feisty albatross, and one of the living Rambling islands, Cliff. They're headed to the Hallowed Shallows for the Seawigs contest. Will Oliver rescue his parents from a wicked sea captain and his army of sea monkeys? And can he help Cliff win the Seawigs contest? Author **Philip Reeve** and illustrator **Sarah McIntyre's** *Oliver and the Seawigs* (Random House, \$12.99) is not your typical high seas adventure. *Ages 7-10. HWP*

Newbery Medal author **Lynne Rae Perkins** intertwines the adventures of four squirrels in a gleeful, tall tale richly told with zany, informative asides and footnotes. Jed, a quick-thinking squirrel, talked his way out of the talons of a hawk and is now "realms" away from home and in a land of reddish squirrels who speak a regional dialect. At the same time, Jed's friends are preparing to follow the "buzzpaths" and "frozen spiderwebs" to rescue him. Black and white drawings with fascinating details complete this extravagant yarn. In the language of squirrels, *Nuts to You* (Greenwillow, \$16.99) translates to "WOW." *Ages 8-11. MAG*



Stay
in touch
wherever your
travels take you.

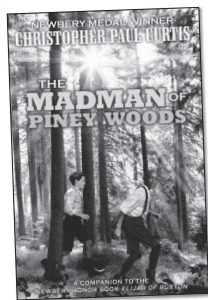
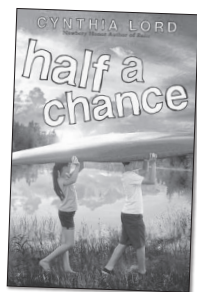
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Jon Scieszka is making us laugh once again, this time in partnership with the talented **Brian Biggs**. Frank Einstein, a kid, an inventor, and a genius, sets out to win Midville's science prize in *Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor* (Amulet, \$13.95). However, there's a lot standing between

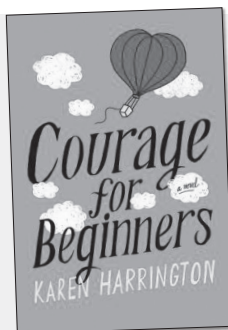
Frank and first place, including his mischievous robots Klink and Klank and a nemesis named T. Edison. The book is filled with Scieszka's contagious humor, which is amplified by Biggs' cartoonish illustrations. Kids will love the story and parents will love the way in which science is made fun and accessible. *Ages 8-12. KLP*

In the newest novel from Newbery Honor author **Cynthia Lord**, Lucy's family moves to a house on a lake. Lucy is an aspiring photographer, inspired by her father, a famous photographer, and she turns her lens on their new home. When she finds out that her father is judging a photography contest, she enters anonymously to try to win his approval. All she needs is *Half a Chance* (Scholastic, \$16.99). While finding subjects for her photographs, Lucy befriends her neighbor, Nate, and learns more about herself along the way. *Ages 9-11. CEB*



just who is *The Madman of Piney Woods* (Scholastic, \$16.99)? A monster? An ex-slave? Part lion? Rumors abound in two small 1900s Canadian towns. Slowly, the truth is revealed through the eyes of dual narrators: Red, an Irish-Canadian boy whose passion for science is rivaled only by his fear of his bitter

cane-swinging grandmother, and Benji, an African-Canadian woods-loving prankster whose aspirations alternate between being a hermit and being the world's youngest newspaperman. Told against the backdrop of families and places healing from the injustices of history, the story depicts the growing friendship between two boys. A deep study of character, **Christopher Paul Curtis's** companion to *Elijah of Buxton* revisits the same geographical territory, exploring human reactions to fear and trauma while weaving a suspenseful tale of adventure and community. *Ages 9-12. ACD*



Mysti Murphy loves stories and creating them. However, her imagination cannot assuage the challenges she faces at home and school: keeping the secret that her mother is agoraphobic has become a greater burden since her dad was hospitalized with a severe head injury; she is relegated to the "loser island" during

lunch since her best friend deserted her. However, an unexpected friendship and conquering her own fears provides Mysti with **Courage for Beginners** (Little, Brown, \$17) as she maneuvers the rocky terrains of home and middle school. **Karen Harrington** packs humor and heart into this rewarding story of family and friendship. *Ages 9-12. MAG*

Gabriel Finley is a twelve-year-old boy with a penchant for riddles. They remind him of the word games he used to play with his father, who disappeared three years ago. In **George Hagen's Gabriel Finley & the Raven's Riddle** (Schwartz & Wade, \$16.99), he starts to learn the story behind that disappearance—he and his family are caught up in a long battle against evil, stretching back to Odin and his two ravens, Munnin and Huginn. Gabriel meets some curious allies on his search for answers, including a raven. It's a good thing, too, because Gabriel's going to need all the help he can get to save the world from his evil uncle Corax. *Ages 9-12. SB*



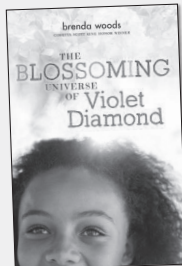
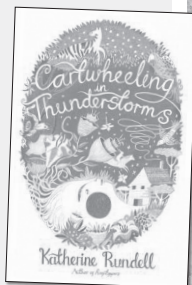
The Family Fletcher is a wild crowd, and you don't want to miss their story. In **The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher** (Delacorte, \$15.99) Sam, Eli, Jax, and Frog are facing a new school year full of big decisions. To be or not to be a thespian? How do you deal with a new neighbor who isn't very neighborly? With the help of their dads—and

the funny and wise notes they leave on the fridge—the Fletcher boys find the answers to these questions and more, growing along the way. **Dana Alison Levy's** expert balancing act celebrates the energy of childhood and how parents manage to keep up. *Ages 9-12. SB*



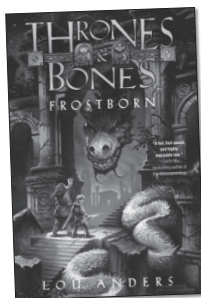
with her empathetic uncle—until her dad brings home a stray dog. In keeping with her love of homonyms, Rose names the dog, **Rain Reign** (Feiweil & Friends, \$16.99). When Rain goes missing after a storm, Rose's ability to be flexible and her sense of fairness are tested. Newbery Honor award winner **Ann M. Martin's** incisive, heartrending story of a resilient girl is ultimately one of hope. *Ages 9-12. MAG*

Twelve-year-old Wilhelmina (Will) relishes her free and wild life on a farm in the "hottest corner of Zimbabwe." She spends her days riding horses across the dusty African landscape, baking her food over open fires, and stealing bananas right from the tree for herself and her monkey. When Will's beloved father dies of malaria and her house is sold, she is sent to boarding school halfway around the world, though it might as well be another planet entirely. The girls at the elite London school call her a savage and take every opportunity to humiliate her. But a curious boy and his understanding grandmother teach Will that having the courage to face new challenges is like **Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms** (Simon & Schuster, \$16.99). **Katherine Rundell** deftly weaves the Shona language into her lyrical prose, which illustrator **Melissa Castrillon** brings to life. *Ages 9-12. HWP*



The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond (Nancy Paulsen, \$16.99) is a tricky and fascinating place. Readers will root for Violet as she perseveres in this story of family and self-discovery, confronting racism and stereotypes along the way. Featuring an unforgettable cast of characters, **Brenda Woods's** novel is a heartwarming tribute to family. *Ages 9-12. CEB*

Violet is biracial, brown skinned in a family of blonds. Her father died before she was born, and she has never known her African-American relatives. Eleven years old and abandoned by her best friend for the summer, Violet decides it's time to explore her roots and sets out to meet her father's side of the family. **The**



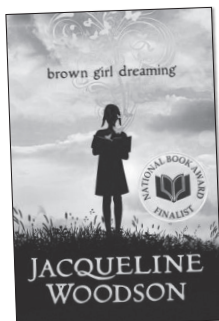
Neither Karn nor Thianna, the two heroes of **Thrones and Bones: Frostborn** (Crown, \$16.99), really fits into their world. Karn is a merchant's son who would rather be playing his favorite board game than learning how to haggle. Thianna is a half-giantess who is mocked by her peers for her comparatively short stature.

When their paths cross at the annual market of the humans and the giants, however, they start to recognize their strengths. That is, when they aren't on the run, trying to survive duplicitous uncles, clever dragons, undead kings, and even fouler beasts. They make an unlikely duo, but author **Lou Anders** makes them, and their world of trolls and wyverns, gripping and emotionally resonant. *Ages 9-13. ENR*

Marah is one of the **Sparkers** (Viking, \$16.99), or non-magicals, in a world ruled by a magical elite. As a member of the lower caste, her exceptional gifts with languages and the violin are not enough to provide her with standing in society. When a plague strikes the city of Ashara, turning the eyes of its victims black before they ultimately weaken and die, Marah stumbles upon a possible cure in an ancient, untranslated text. To make the cure, Marah must break the law, befriending a rich magician as they race against time to beat the illness that threatens their loved ones. **Eleanor Glewwe's** debut novel is a beautifully drawn and suspenseful story sure to captivate readers. *Ages 10-13. CEB*



In a profoundly moving memoir, multi-award winning author **Jacqueline Woodson** reflects on her childhood, living both in South Carolina and New York during the 1960's and 1970's. Laden with stories of life with a loving family and pierced by the realities of the time, this is the journey of a **Brown**

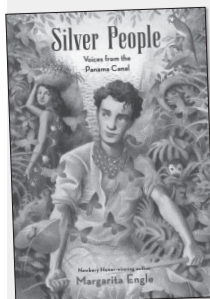


Girl Dreaming (Nancy Paulsen, \$16.99) as she discovers her voice as a writer. This beautiful reflection told through stirring verse is complemented with a family tree, pictures, and notes from the author, and is handsomely crafted with deckled pages. It is a tour de force—not to be missed. *Ages 10 and up. MAG*



His twin brother Jordan is also a "baller" but is recently distracted by another equally engrossing game: girls. Alexander's verse weaves, pump fakes, and slam dunks across the page, adding visual excitement to this "running gunning / shooting" story of sibling rivalry and, ultimately, brotherly love. *Ages 11-14. RBB*

The smugglers who frequent Milo's parents' inn usually give his family Christmastime off, but not this holiday season. In **Kate Milford's Greenglass House** (Clarion, \$17.99), Milo tries to figure out what has brought not one, not two, but five strangers to his home. In the process, he confronts his insecurities about being adopted, learns more about the history of his house, and makes friends with a ghost. This tale will warm readers with its wise meditations on family, friendship, and the feeling of belonging. *Ages 11-14. SB*



howling, flapping, shrieking, and falling? Although **Margarita Engle's** powerful book is a tribute to the low-wage workers known as **The Silver People** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99), the book contains all of these voices from the Panama Canal. Using free verse, Engle expertly weaves the distinct voices into a compelling historical narrative. *Ages 12-15. HWP*

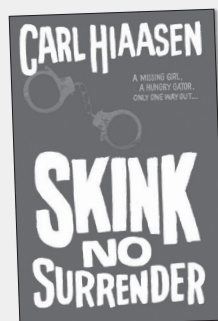
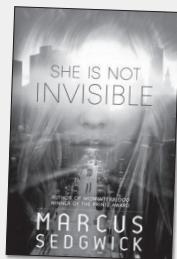
Basketball and verse? An unexpected collaboration of subject and literary composition, but **Kwame Alexander** delivers with **The Crossover** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$16.99). Josh Bell—known as Filthy McNasty—is always "agitating / combining / and elevating" his game.

Who dug the Panama Canal, sacrificing their homelands, families, and safety, and risking mudslides and malaria? Who made the rules, assigning jobs based on skin color, ensuring unequal wages, hours, sanitation, clothing and food? Who witnessed the destruction of their rainforest home,



It's 1892 and Abigail Rook is off to seek her fortune. After discovering archeology isn't quite as interesting as she'd imagined, she finds herself in New England in need of a job. Fortunately, that's when she meets the peculiar **Jackaby** (Algonquin, \$16.95), a man with a gift for seeing the supernatural. He's a detective by trade, but his talent for spotting fairy nests and troll droppings means he sometimes misses the more mundane, but still crucial, details. That's where Abigail comes in. It's not even her first day as Jackaby's assistant when they find themselves on the trail of a serial killer, who may be a little more than human. **William Ritter's** first novel is a clever and ghoulish take on the tried-and-true detective narrative. *Ages 12-16. ENR*

In **Marcus Sedgwick's** unique thriller, ***She is Not Invisible*** (Roaring Brook, \$16.99), Laurenth is sure that her father is missing, even if the rest of her family isn't convinced. He's taken off for New York City to research his newest novel, and back home in England, Laurenth starts to gather evidence about his disappearance and put the pieces together. Something has gone horribly wrong. With the help of her 7-year-old brother, Laurenth hops a plane to New York, hoping to rescue her dad, who may be on the brink of insanity. For any 16-year-old, entering an unfamiliar city on a high-stakes adventure is scary enough. For Laurenth, everything is twice as risky because she's blind. *Ages 12-17. ARW*



Richard and his cousin Malley are best friends, so when Malley takes off with a loser she met online to escape boarding school, Richard is desperate to find her. Luckily, it's just then that he meets Skink. Some readers may recognize this curious character as the soldier/ex-governor/eco-terrorist/drifter

featured in author **Carl Hiaasen's** adult novels. Well, Skink is back! For a vagabond, he's surprisingly well-connected and resourceful, and it isn't long before the unlikely duo is hot on Malley's trail. ***Skink—No Surrender*** (Knopf, \$18.99) is full of adventure with an environmentally conscious twist, but what really drives it is the special relationship between the cousins and their idiosyncratic ally. *Ages 12 and up. RBB*

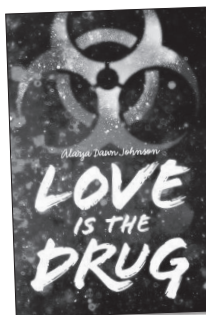


When two temperamental and creative personalities such as Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera marry, the relationship is sure to be tumultuous. The biography ***Frida and Diego: Art, Love, Life*** (Clarion, \$18.99) reads like a good novel, chronicling their dramatic union while informing readers of the art scene and political issues of the mid-twentieth century. Author **Catherine Reef** includes numerous photographs, which portray Kahlo's introspective style, found in her symbolic self-portraits and Rivera's robust technique, exhibited in his powerful and expansive murals. This story of turbulent love and extraordinary artistic talent is both gripping and inspiring. *Ages 12 and up. RBB*

What if England won the Revolutionary War? In her latest novel, Author **Andrea Cremer** imagines a world where that came to pass. Armed with mechanical creations beyond imagination, England has tirelessly tracked and destroyed all supporters of the Revolution, forcing them into hiding and their descendants into years of indentured servitude. The rebellion continues to stir beneath the surface, however, and sixteen-year-old Charlotte is impatiently waiting to join the resistance. When she finds a young man in the woods, with no memory, everything Charlotte knew to be true is called into question. Not sure whom to trust, with secrets lurking all around her, Charlotte discovers that ***The Inventor's Secret*** (Philomel, \$18.99) could change the outcome of the revolution. *Ages 13-16. KLG*



Years after the conclusion of **Garth Nix's** iconic fantasy trilogy, Nix makes a fast-paced and thrilling return to the world of the Old Kingdom. More than just a prequel, this new novel broadens Nix's world, introducing a conflicted and fascinating new heroine in ***Clariel: The Lost Abhorsen*** (HarperCollins, \$18.99) and an earlier setting swirling with dark magic. Something is afoot in the Old Kingdom: a dangerous Free Magic creature stalks the city; there is a plot against the king; and Clariel is drawn into the turmoil against her will. Fans of Nix's Old Kingdom series and newcomers alike will delight in this tale of necromancy and intrigue. *Ages 13-18. CEB*

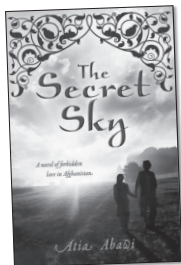
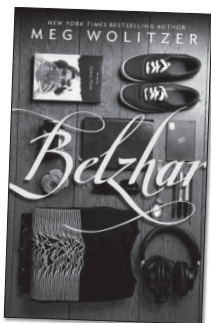


Emily Bird wakes up in a hospital with the world crumbling around her. The West Coast has been struck by the deadly v-flu—rumored to be a biochemical attack—and her hometown of Washington, D.C. is under a strict quarantine. If only Bird could remember what happened to her the night she ended up in

the hospital, the night she was drugged at a party with her elite prep school friends by a Homeland Security Agent, maybe she could make sense of what's going on. **Alaya Dawn Johnson's** thriller, *Love is the Drug* (Arthur A. Levine, \$17.99) is not just a gripping tale of intrigue, but also a story about finding yourself against all odds. *Ages 14-17. ENR*

Meg Wolitzer's

first young adult novel, *Belzhar* (Dutton, \$17.99), is inspired by Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*. tenth-grader Jam Gallahue has lost the love of her life and fallen into an overwhelming depression. In desperation, her parents have sent her to a boarding school for those deeply affected by personal losses. Wolitzer's tale is grounded in reality, with an element of the fantastic. At the school, Jam is selected for a special course which requires journal-keeping in a unique diary, provided by the teacher. Jam and her fellow students forge friendships and share the strange experiences they have while writing in their journals, which ultimately reveal much about the tragedies they have suffered. *Ages 14-18. KLP*



The Secret Sky (Philomel, \$17.99) is a tale of forbidden love set in author **Atia Abawi's** native Afghanistan. Fatima, a Hazara, is a questioning, ambitious, yet still obedient young woman. When her childhood friend, Samiullah, a Pashtun, returns home from his religious studies a romance

kindles between the two. However, tremendous religious, tribal, and cultural barriers threaten to keep the two apart. Violence is sparked by the response of the insecure, jealous and bitter Rashid, Samiullah's cousin, who uncovers their illicit relationship. Abawi sprinkles the text with Dari and Pashto words included in a glossary and has added a note on the complexities of life in modern Afghanistan. *Ages 14-18. KLP*

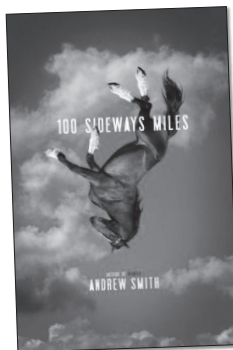


Jandy Nelson's second book, *I'll Give You the Sun* (Dial, \$17.99), is a linguistic feast. Narrated alternately by twin siblings Noah and Jude, at ages thirteen and sixteen, respectively, Nelson's novel is emotionally captivating. At thirteen the twins were incredibly close, but three years later a

number of tragedies have befallen them, and their family is torn apart. Jumping back and forth in time, Nelson reveals the twins' story piece by piece in narrative voices so distinct and original you'll be reading sentences over just to enjoy them a second time. *Ages 14 and up. ENR*

In *Bombay Blues* (Push, \$18.99), the companion novel to *Born Confused*, **Tanuja Desai Hidier** revisits the adventures of Dimple Lala, now 19. Dimple is going back to India for the first time since her grandfather died, and seeking closure. She hoped she'd get to explore what India means to her with boyfriend Karsh, but it seems like life has other plans.

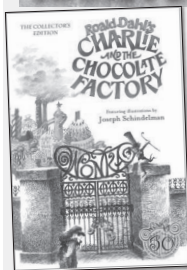
Hidier's lyrical language is a mix of teenage slang, music, and poetry. This stunning novel is as beautiful for its prose as its story. *Ages 15 and up. SB*



When life flies past you in miles instead of minutes, sometimes it takes **100 Sideways Miles** (Simon and Schuster, \$17.99) to make sense of it all. Finn Easton's life hasn't been normal since his mother was killed by a falling horse, the same accident that left Finn with unpredictable epileptic blackouts. To top it all off,

Finn's father writes a popular work of science fiction that incorporates all of Finn's symptoms. The only person who keeps Finn grounded is his best friend Cade. That is, until Julia Bishop moves to town. With her arrival Finn begins to see that life needn't always be ordinary. **Andrew Smith's** newest work is the perfect balance of absurdity and heart that will have readers rooting for Finn's success. *Ages 16-18. KLG*

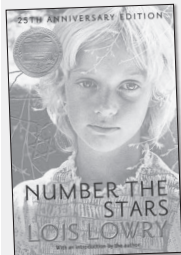
ANNIVERSARIES



Great Scott! Gadzooks! A chocolate river, hair toffee, lickable wallpaper. With language as zany and energetic as its plot, and characters readers will love and love to despise, **Roald Dahl's** classic *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Knopf, \$17.99) is as good on its tenth reading as its first. The

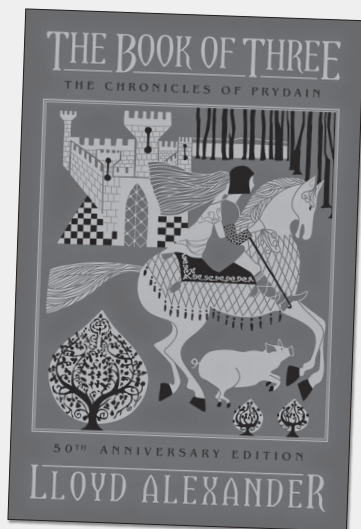
newly issued 50th-anniversary collector's edition features **Joseph Schindelman's** original illustrations, cross-hatched sketches that emphasize the humanity of Charlie's family, the eccentricity of Willy Wonka, and the fatal cartoonish flaws of Charlie's greedy peers. It's both a theatrically satisfying read-aloud and an engrossing independent read, and there isn't a child—or adult—who won't find fun in the outlandish exploits of Willy Wonka and the well-deserved luck of the unsuspecting hero Charlie. *Ages 8-11. ACD*

Although *The Pushcart War* (NYRB, \$15.95) lasted only a few months, the book that chronicles it is now 50 years old. **Jean Merrill's** original and memorable story of the war between New York City's truck drivers and its pushcart peddlers involves colorful characters, shady politicians, brilliant strategy, and lots of pea shooters. It is 2026, and traffic in New York City is abysmal. The three largest trucking companies blame the peddlers who sell their wares from wooden pushcarts. When the truckers literally start pushing the peddlers around, the peddlers organize, and devise a clever plan of action. Soon the "pushcart war" is making headlines. This anniversary edition includes **Ronni Solbert's** original illustrations. *Ages 8-12. HWP*

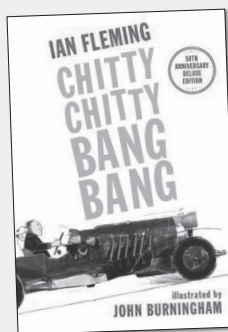


It is 1943 in Copenhagen, and Annemarie's life is simple. She enjoys playing with her closest friend, Ellen, and has the same troubles as any other ten-year-old girl. Then one day Nazi soldiers stop and question her and Ellen on the street. Annemarie notices that families are disappearing and suddenly, her dear friend Ellen,

a Jew, is caught in the midst of the trouble. Newbery Award-winning author **Lois Lowry's** *Number the Stars* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99), has been reissued in a gorgeous 25th-anniversary edition. Its introduction of the Holocaust to young readers in an appropriate, yet heart-wrenching, way is as relevant today as it was when it was first printed. *Ages 9-12. ARW*

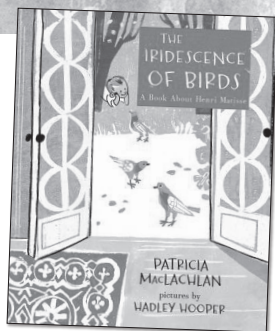


Pigs abound in children's literature: *Charlotte's Web*, *Winnie-the-Pooh*, *Mercy Watson*... Hen-Wen the oracular pig, who was introduced to the world fifty years ago in the first book of **Lloyd Alexander's** *Chronicles of Prydain*, *The Book of Three* (Holt, \$24.99), is one of the most interesting of the lot. When Hen-Wen runs off, and there are signs of the return of Arawn the Death-Lord, blundering Assistant Pig-Keeper, Taran, finds himself in the center of a fight to save the kingdom of Prydain. Drawing on Celtic mythology, Alexander weaves an entirely unique story. This 50th-anniversary edition is beautifully clothbound, and features a wonderful introduction by Shannon Hale. *Ages 9-12. SB*



It's hard to believe that the adventures of **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** (Candlewick, \$22) are turning fifty. The travels of the Potts family and their flying, floating, and just plain fabulous automobile have delighted generations and still feel fresh and exciting. This new 50th anniversary edition features the

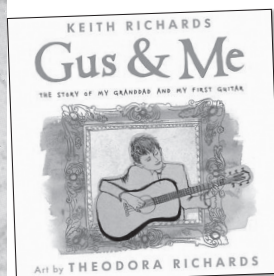
original illustrations by **John Burningham** that depict the family's exploits and beautifully complement the amusingly casual storytelling of British author **Ian Fleming**. Keep in mind there is no terrifying "child-catcher" in this original version of the story. This traditional family favorite makes a wonderful and humorous read-aloud. *Ages 9-12. RBB*



Henri Matisse's surroundings were colorless. Rain-drenched weather plagued his hometown, with only gray skies for miles around. But inside his home his mother made sure color flowed through their lives. Their curtains and rugs were of varying hues, hand-painted plates adorned the walls, and there was always ***The Iridescence of Birds*** (Roaring Brook, \$17.99) on the window ledge, not far from Henri's sight. Newbery award-winning author, **Patricia MacLachlan** explores what might have inspired this great artist to paint such vivid images. Coupled with vibrant illustrations by **Hadley Hooper**, this book is sure to make readers yearn to know more about Matisse and his colorful works of art. *Ages 4-8. KLG*

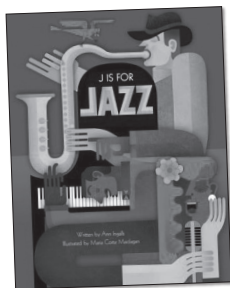


Melba Doretta Liston was a trailblazing jazz musician, one of the first women to become a renowned trombone player and composer, but this picture book biography starts before all that, when it was just ***Little Melba and Her Big Trombone*** (Lee & Low Books, \$18.95). Melba was born in 1926 in Kansas City, "where you could reach out and feel the music." Author **Katheryn Russell-Brown** traces Melba's story from teaching herself to play the ungainly instrument and playing on the local radio station at eight, to the struggles she faced touring in the South with Billie Holiday. Illustrator **Frank Morrison's** rich oil paintings bring Melba's story to life, and for the readers eager to hear Melba's sound for themselves, or do some further reading, there are a Discography and Bibliography included in the end notes. *Ages 4-8. ENR*



Famed rock and roller **Keith Richards** makes his first foray into children's literature with ***Gus and Me*** (Little, Brown, \$18), the charming story of his own introduction to the guitar. As a boy,

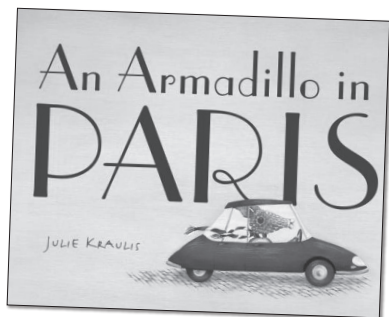
Keith idolized his grandfather, Gus, and was fascinated by his guitar, which he'd been forbidden to touch until he was older. When he's finally old enough, his grandfather brings the guitar down and presents it to him, unaware of the impact the instrument will have on Keith's life. Together with his daughter **Theodora Richards's** simple yet evocative artwork, Richards's story emphasizes his own love of music, as well as the magically childlike feeling of discovery. *Ages 4-8. CEB*



Start "frisking the whiskers," we're going to "hit on all sixes" and learn our ABC's! ***J is for Jazz*** (Bright Connections Media, \$16.99) begins with a "ducky" introduction to jazz and ends with the "bee's knees" of a glossary of jazz slang. Using individual letters, the body of the picture

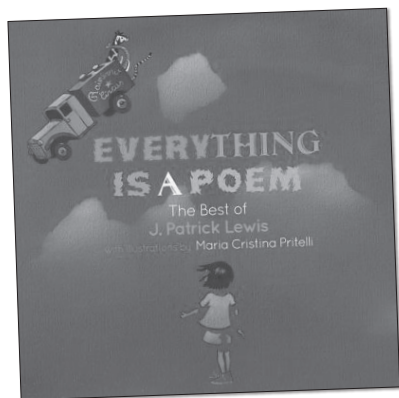
book acquaints budding musicians with the history and elements of this celebrated musical genre, including G is for Benny Goodman and his "licorice stick" (clarinet) and M is for Miles Davis, one cool cat! Author **Ann Ingalls** packs her latest with "solid" information, and illustrator **Maria Corte Maidagan's** bright geometrical figures are a perfect complement. "Get a wiggle on" and don't miss this great book! *Ages 5-7. RBB*

Join our Book-a-Month Club and booksellers will select one book every month based on the preferences of the child or teen in your life (tiny.cc/891ufx)



If you want to visit an amazing city, you should join Arlo, **An Armadillo in Paris** (Tundra Books, \$17.99).

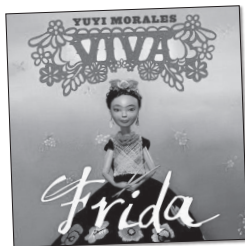
Using his grandfather Augustin's journal as a guide, Arlo sets off to explore the city's art, history, and life, with an eye toward finding his grandfather's favorite thing in Paris, the Iron Lady. Each place Arlo visits holds a clue about the Iron Lady. Cafe Gustave, where Arlo enjoys a croissant, is named after her architect. The Louvre displays posters from the 1889 World's Fair where the Iron Lady was the "official greeter." After spending a day traversing the city, learning about the Iron Lady, Arlo finds himself standing in front of her, gazing up in amazement. Author and illustrator **Julie Kraulis** notes that Paris is Arlo's first adventure. Here's hoping he has many more. *Ages 5-8. HWP*



When you look at the world just the right way, **Everything is a Poem** (Creative Editions, \$24.99).

Poet **J. Patrick Lewis** teams up with illustrator **Maria Cristina Pritelli** to show readers that the key is recognizing the beauty in little things. Lewis delivers humor, action, and even peace to the youngest readers of and listeners to poetry, writing about everything from animals and sports to epitaphs and postcards. *Ages 6-10. ARW*

In the late 19th century, no one believed in **Mr. Ferris and His Wheel** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99). But George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr., an ambitious young mechanical engineer, knew that his idea for a star attraction at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair could rival the Eiffel Tower. **Gilbert Ford's** ink and watercolor drawings illustrate **Kathryn Gibbs Davis's** story of an inventor whose determination and perseverance turned skeptics into believers. After the first group braved the 20-minute ride, word quickly spread that the Monster Wheel was safe. During the 19 weeks the wheel was in operation, 1.5 million passengers rode it. Constructed of steel, powered by steam engines, and adorned with 3,000 electric light bulbs, the Monster Wheel, soon renamed the Ferris wheel, was a modern wonder. *Ages 7-10. HWP*



With dramatic, visual story-telling and bilingual text, Pura Belpre author and artist **Yuyi Morales** pays tribute to the inimitable Frida Kahlo. Morales uses posed puppets and acrylic paintings to portray

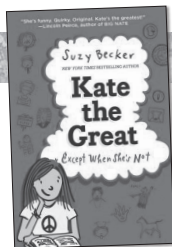
Kahlo across double-page spreads. Different perspectives on Morales's art, photographed by **Tim O'Meara**, accentuate the extraordinary nature and experiences of the artist. This introduction for elementary age children includes a personal summary of Kahlo's life by Morales, whose own development as an artist was influenced by Kahlo. Share **Viva Frida** (Roaring Brook, \$17.99) with all who extol art. *Ages 7-10. MAG*

Editor **John N. Serio's**

collection of poems encourages readers to notice the distinct pleasures of each season. The selections are accompanied by a brief biography of the poet and **Robert Crockett's** evocative paintings, which

reflect the essence of the poems. Whether it's Nikki Giovanni conjuring memories of Southern summers with vivid descriptions of food and people, or Langston Hughes comparing hope to a warmth that keeps out the chill of winter, **Poetry for Young People: The Seasons** (Sterling, \$14.95) reminds us of the importance of seasons in our lives. *Ages 10 and up. SB*





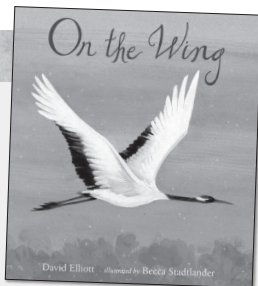
Fifth grade is looking good for Kate: her best friend is in her class, she's excited for a new round of scouts, and she's the top flute player in the band. But then Kate's crabby neighbor, Nora, starts showing up wherever Kate is. In ***Kate the Great, Except When She's Not*** (Crown, \$12.99), author and illustrator **Suzy Becker** creates laugh-out-loud fun, giving readers a glimpse into Kate's diary, where she doodles and writes about her daily adventures. With the help of her closest friend and her supportive family, Kate makes it her mission to get Nora to smile, and maybe even become friends along the way. **Ages 8-11. ARW**

Cece is a new kid at school. She's also the only deaf kid. Young readers will recognize and identify with Cece's struggles to fit in and make friends, and while her additional challenge may be unfamiliar, readers will certainly still empathize. **Cece Bell's** graphic novel memoir—filled with bright illustrations and rabbit characters—starts by showing how she lost her hearing and acquired a clunky hearing aid called the Phonic Ear. The real action begins when Cece straps the Phonic Ear to her chest, finds herself imbued with super hearing, and becomes ***El Deafo*** (Amulet, \$21.95 HB / \$10.95 PB). Not only does the Phonic Ear amplify the teacher's voice in the classroom, but Cece can also hear her teacher throughout the entire school. Although superheroes' unique abilities make them awesome, they're often lonely. Things start looking up, however, when Cece's classmates learn of her unique superpower and she makes a true friend. **Ages 8-12. HWP**

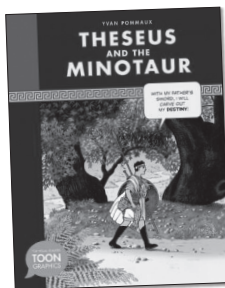


SCIENCE

Take flight with 15 different avian species and discover what there is to find ***On the Wing*** (Candlewick, \$16.99). Award-winning author **David Elliott's** clever poems provide remarkable insights into many different types of birds, from the exotic to the common. Complemented by the gorgeously layered artwork of illustrator **Becca Stadtlander**, this is an entertaining and educational read. Perfect for budding bird watchers and the more casually intrigued alike, this new picture book provides a diverting and insightful look into the details of the avian world. **Ages 4-7. CEB**



GRAPHIC NOVELS



Retold in graphic novel form by the French comic artist **Yvan Pommaux**, the tale of ***Theseus and the Minotaur*** (TOON Books, \$16.95) is an enthralling adventure story set against the fascinating backdrop of Greek mythology. The retelling comes alive in Pommaux's detailed and intricate art. Complete with historical information about the world of the ancient Greeks, as well as a variety of maps and character lists, this is a rich addition to the library of any mythology lover. **Ages 9-12. CEB**

Sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never hurt me. In ***The Shadow Hero*** (First Second, \$17.99), **Gene Leon Yang** (American Born Chinese, *Boxers and Saints*) and **Sonny Liew's** Sticks and Stones are tongs that literally break Hank's bones, while he attempts to defend his dad from their extortion schemes in a 1940s Chinatown. At his mother's insistence, he becomes a superhero who tries to bring American justice to old-world Chinese thugs, all the while attempting to keep his dignity as cops sling racist words at him. This is a classic golden-era superhero tale, with the spirit guardians of China lurking in the shadows. **Ages 12-18. EAE**



There is nothing in the world like the boundless curiosity of small children. And **Nicola Davies**, in her usual informative manner, has written a delightful book to help growing and quizzical minds comprehend ***Tiny Creatures: The World of Microbes*** (Candlewick, \$15.99). A fabulous tool for parents and teachers alike, this book explains the existence of microbes, puts their size into perspective, and talks about their role in our bodies and on our planet. **Emily Sutton's** illustrations are equally bright, cheerful, and informative. Any children with inquiring minds—and isn't that all of them?—will enjoy learning what the microbes living on their skin and in their stomachs do, how many microbes can fit on an ant's antenna, and many other intriguing tidbits. **Ages 4-8. KLP**

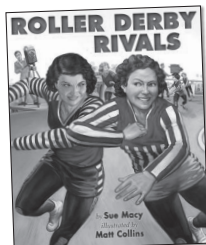
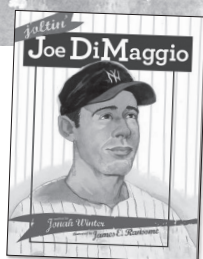


SPORTS

Few baseball fans can resist Yankee pinstripes, especially when they cover a new picture book about **Joltin' Joe DiMaggio**

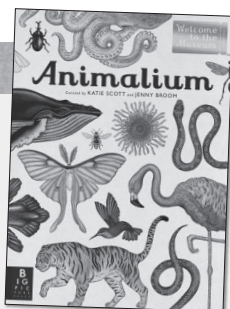
(Atheneum, \$17.99). With casual, folksy prose and **James E. Ransome's**

detailed illustrations, author **Jonah Winter** portrays DiMaggio's early years, living near the San Francisco waterfront. DiMaggio's baseball prowess led to a meteoric rise to fame as the New York Yankee's center-fielder. His quiet demeanor added to his mystique, and Joe handled his stardom with great dignity, even after setting a record of hitting safely in 56 consecutive games. This record still endures today, along with the respect for this American legend. *Ages 4-8. RBB*

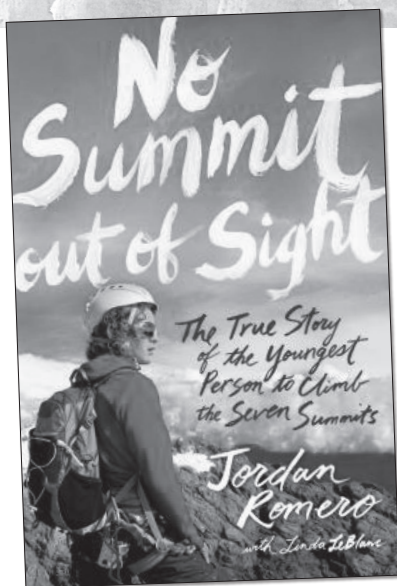


It's 1948, and on the track Midge "Toughie" Brasuhn and Gerry Murray are **Roller Derby Rivals** (Holiday House, \$16.95). Off the track, it's a different story. The two women are good friends who play up their roles as competitors to feed the crowds' frenzy. **Sue**

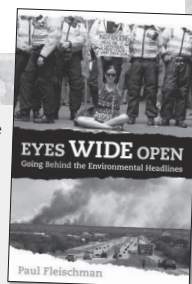
Macy imagines what a bout between these two players and their respective teams might have been like in this exciting picture book. **Matt Collins's** detailed and vivid illustrations make readers practically hear the roar of the crowd—nearly 5,000 strong. This book gives an illuminating peek into an era of sports history that is often forgotten, and includes detailed resources for the curious reader who wants to do some further digging. *Ages 5-8. ENR*



Welcome, one and all, to the **Animalium** (Big Picture Press, \$35), a marvelously rich and enchanting Natural History Museum of a book. Presenting different species and subspecies of animals in the same meanderingly linear manner that one might find wandering through exhibits at a museum, **Jenny Broom's** new animal encyclopedia is engagingly original. Illustrator **Katie Scott's** art is strikingly gorgeous and layered, and scientific in its detail. Bursting with facts that range from the general to the more obscure, this is a book that demands and deserves hours upon hours of attention. *Ages 8-12. CEB*

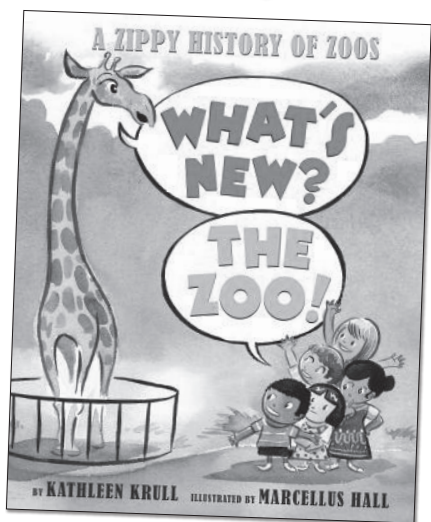


Young Californian **Jordan Romero** found **No Summit Out of Sight** (Simon and Schuster, \$17.99), literally. As a nine-year-old, he set out to climb the highest mountain on all seven continents, including Mt. Everest, a feat known as climbing the Seven Summits. With the support of his parents, professional endurance competitors who accompanied him every step of the way, he achieved his goal by the time he was 15. Though this memoir is an exciting read, it also educates young readers about the geography and cultures of the various summit locations. More importantly, in Jordan's words, it encourages one to dream big and "find your Everest." *Ages 12 and up. RBB*



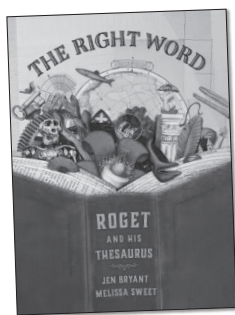
Environmental degradation and climate change pose one of the biggest threats to humanity today, but the issues are complex and often confusing, making it difficult to know how to take meaningful action against such large problems. In **Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines** (Candlewick, \$17.99), **Paul Fleischman** presents the environmental issues we are confronting in a manageable way, explaining the dangers they pose, and offering a variety of ways to make a difference. The unimposing language and conversational tone make his writing approachable without over-simplifying the issues at stake, making this a great resource both for those new to the topic and those with some science background. *Ages 14-18. CEB*

HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, AND BIOGRAPHY



What's New? The Zoo! (Arthur A Levine, \$17.99).

Or maybe not, as we quickly come to learn in this engaging account of zoos throughout history. From ancient to modern days, and all around the world, one thing is clear: zoos have been around for a very long time. Highlighting a different historical zoo on each page, and packed with fascinating facts about the animals each contained, **Kathleen Krull's** new history is anything but dry. With playful illustrations by **Marcellus Hall** to match the off-beat text, this is sure to be a favorite, and even includes a shout-out to our own National Zoo, the first to state as its mission the preservation of endangered species. *Ages 5-8. CEB*

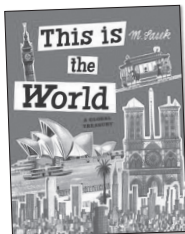


Thanks to Peter Roget, you can always find **The Right Word** (Eerdmans, \$17.50). Born in 1799, Englishman Peter Mark Roget spent his childhood making and organizing lists of words. As an adult, Roget was passionate about the power of words and literacy for everyone, from

doctors to fishmongers. His compulsion to collect and organize words resulted in the publication of the first thesaurus in 1852. It has remained in print ever since. Thesaurus means "treasure house," and collaborators **Jen Bryant** and **Melissa Sweet** (*A Splash of Red, A River of Words*) have built one in this picture-book biography. Woven into Sweet's stunning collage illustrations are words, vintage images and fonts. Young readers will celebrate this Renaissance man who above all loved language and learning. *Ages 6-10. HWP*

What do a Nobel Prize winner, a Supreme Court justice, and a baseball legend have in common?

According to **Juan Felipe Herrera**, they are the heroes of marginalized history: that of Hispanic Americans. In **Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes** (Dial Books, \$19.99), Herrera works to correct this. Enriched by **Raúl Colón's** beautiful paintings, each of Herrera's heroes get a fun and informative entry. Readers learn that Adelina Otero-Warren—the first *Hispana* to run for congress—conducted lessons for her eleven younger siblings despite having only two years of formal schooling herself. And that the Navy created the rank of admiral especially for David Glasgow Farragut—the first person to say "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead." This book presents an often overlooked cast of heroes to inspire children. *Ages 8-12. SB*

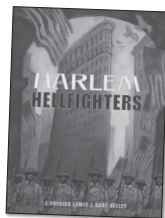


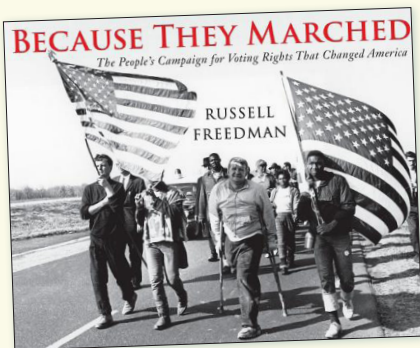
Travel books have a reputation for being humorless, information-laden bores. For more than half a century, however, **Miroslav Sasek's** classic travelogues have provided an antidote with broad appeal. **This is the World** (Universe, \$35) is a selection of the best moments from his

This Is... series of books. In Sasek's hands, the travel book is aimed neither at children nor at adults, but has broad appeal. Witty descriptions of the culture and sites of different cities and countries pair with illustrations ranging from impressionistic cartoons to ultra-realistic renditions. With this book in hand, you can make a trip around the world from your couch. *Ages 8 and up. SB*

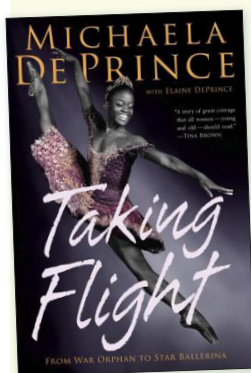
At a time fraught with racial inequalities and a raging war overseas, 2,000 black American men from New York answered their country's call to arms. Regarded as men "playing [soldier]" by many of their American peers, the Germans would later rename these brave men the **Harlem Hellfighters** (Creative Editions, \$18.99).

J. Patrick Lewis uses free verse poems to convey the important role these men played in the history of World War One, while giving readers a more intimate look at the role jazz band leader Big Jim Europe played in recruitment, morale, and the unity of the regiment. **Gary Kelley's** illustrations have a haunting reverence that complements Lewis's free verse, making this a beautiful, important, and educational book not to be missed. *Ages 9-12. KLG*



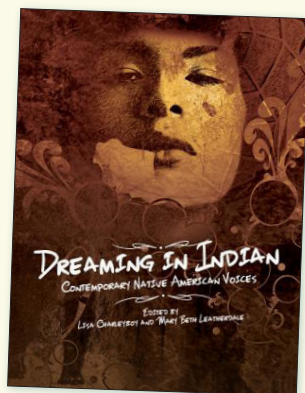


To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, **Russell Freedman** has crafted a compelling history of that movement and the freedoms we gained ***Because They Marched*** (Holiday House, \$20). Freedman depicts the hard work that went into the slow progression from social injustice to legal victory, focusing primarily on Selma, but giving insight into how communities across America moved to address the issues of economic and civil injustices. This book provides a great launching pad for discussing how these issues are still relevant today. *Ages 10-14. SB*

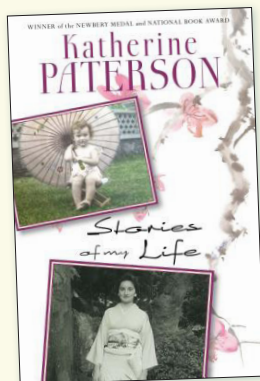


The path to becoming a prima ballerina is difficult for anyone. To begin this endeavor as a starving orphan in war-torn Sierra Leone makes the obstacles to this dream appear nearly insurmountable. After enduring a horrific early childhood, quite graphically described in ***Taking Flight*** (Knopf, \$16.99), Michaela is adopted by a remarkable

American family. With incredible drive and her family's unwavering support, Michaela overcomes the racial inequality found in the competitive world of professional ballet. **Michaela DePrince's** memoir, penned with the help of her mother **Elaine DePrince**, aims to inspire young dancers of all ethnicities and backgrounds. *Ages 12 and up. RBB*



Bold and forthright, ***Dreaming in Indian: Contemporary Native American Voices*** (Annick Press, \$19.95) provides a vibrant panorama of what it means to be young and native in North America. With dramatic graphic design and layout, the book showcases the works of established and emerging artists and addresses the struggle of moving forward while remaining true to one's culture. Edited by **Lisa Charleyboy** and **Mary Beth Leatherdale**, this welcome anthology confronts stereotypes of native people and never shies from difficult topics. *Ages 13 and up. MAG*



Legendary, multi-award winning author and national ambassador for young people's literature, **Katherine Paterson** shares ***Stories of My Life*** (Dial, \$17.99), a remarkable collection for devotees of children's literature and lovers of storytelling. Filled with family photographs, personal letters and a helpful timeline, Paterson's book recounts many memories, among them, growing up with missionary parents in China, her life in Japan, and finding time for writing as she raised her family. Full of humor and love of family and life, these stories are a gift for all readers. *Ages 14 and up. MAG*

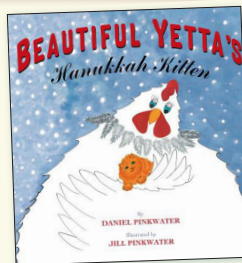
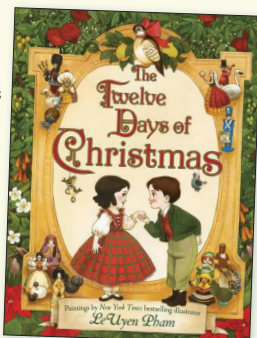
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HOLIDAY/RELIGIOUS



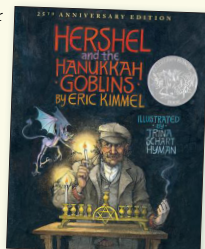
travel with far-reaching stories set in locales like Mexico City or Northern Scandinavia, this international collection of 19th- and 20th- century tales celebrates the brighter moments of the season. Edited by **Noel Daniel**, these handsomely illustrated, memorable stories add a bit of magic to frosty evenings. *All ages.* **MAG**

"On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me..." begins the traditional Christmas song. **LeUyen Pham** has illustrated this holiday classic with bright, colorful paintings which hearken to another time. As the song progresses, children and parents alike will appreciate the multi-cultural depictions of nine ladies dancing, ten lords a-leaping, eleven pipers piping and twelve drummers drumming from all over the world. For readers who want to sing along, sheet music is included, as well as a few pages on the history of **The Twelve Days of Christmas** (Doubleday, \$17.99). This is sure to be a holiday favorite. *Ages 3-6.* **KLP**



\$17.99) finds friendship and a holiday treat in this warm return of the sweetest chicken in Brooklyn. Author **Daniel Pinkwater** and illustrator **Jill Pinkwater** have crafted another funny crowd-pleaser that both models kindness and introduces young readers to a simple Hanukkah custom. Written trilingually (with a pronunciation guide) and rife with dialogue, the story begs readers to enact it with gusto—and perhaps accompany it with latkes. *Ages 3-7.* **ACD**

Hershel arrives in town just in time for the first night of Hanukkah, expecting the townspeople to greet him with latkes, and the flame on the first candle of the menorah to be dancing brightly. But Hanukkah has been canceled! Troublesome goblins have taken possession of the synagogue and blown out the menorah candles. Hershel of Ostropol vows to save Hanukkah and plans to outsmart the goblins. Will Hershel be able to save the Festival of Lights? Re-visit the beloved holiday classic and Caldecott honor book, **Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins** (Holiday House, \$17.95) in this special 25th anniversary edition by author **Eric Kimmel**. Brought to life by **Trina Schart Hyman's** detailed illustrations, this re-issue is not to be missed. *Ages 5-9.* **KLG**



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