

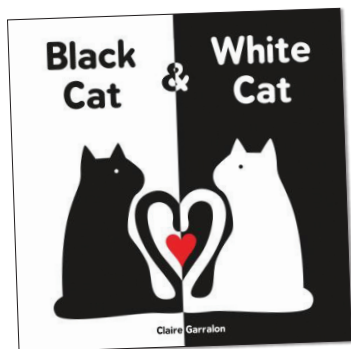
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# 2016

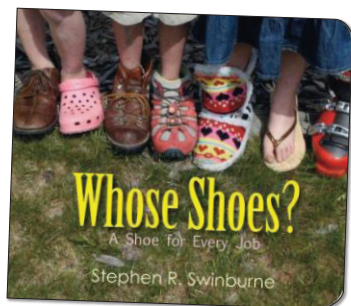
## Children and Teens Department Favorites



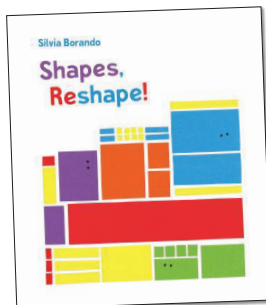
# PICTURE BOOKS



**Black Cat & White Cat** (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, \$7.99) are neighbors. Black Cat lives in a white house, while White Cat lives in a black house. Both can be easily seen when they're at home... but what happens when they each visit the other's abode? They become invisible! While that's fine during hide-and-seek, it makes playing any other game quite difficult. The colorful solution to this quandary rewards the cats with a new and vibrant environment. **Claire Garralon's** bold, simple shapes and succinct text, presented in a sturdy board book, will both engage young children and sustain the interest of the adults in their lives. Ages 1-3. *Maria Salvatore*

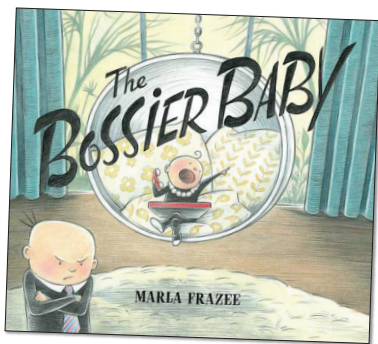


New in board book for the tiniest of toes, **Whose Shoes? A Shoe for Every Job** (Boyd's Mill, \$7.99) discusses not only the importance of covering feet of all sizes, but the variety of ways to do so as well. What do we wear when we are small? When it's hot outside? Cold? What might our favorite pair look like? After providing several examples, author/photographer **Stephen R. Swinburne** gives readers a chance to test their footwear knowledge by zooming in on a pair of shoes, then revealing the wearer on the very next page. From ballet slippers to construction boots, there certainly is a shoe for every job. Ages 1-4. *Allison Witten*



What happens when shapes reshape? A stacked collection of various rectangles morphs into snakes, "sneakily slithering," or "pinchy" crabs, "nip-your-nose nipping." Though ostensibly a counting book, decreasing

from ten to one, **Silvia Borando's** clever **Shapes, Reshape!** (Candlewick, \$14) features wordplay as rich and playful as its rectangular rearrangements. Young readers will adore contributing the repeated phrase "what could they be?" and predicting what animal appears next based on clues like "clucky" and "roary." This nimble picture book works well as a read-aloud in early-childhood classrooms as well as at home, offering infinite possibilities to the geometrically, linguistically, and artistically inclined. Ages 3-5. *Amy Dickinson*



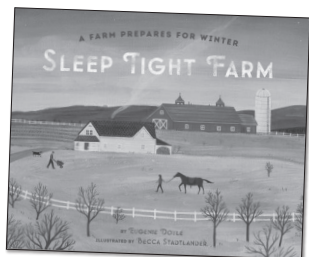
The organization that **The Boss Baby** (Little Simon, \$7.99) has been overseeing for his entire life has experienced a shocking upheaval. His staff, commonly known as "parents," are distracted and focused on their latest bundle of joy, **The Bossier Baby** (Beach Lane, \$17.99). This new, take-charge CEO, attired in a black onesie and pearls, demands and commands attention from everyone around her. Even outrageous action on the part of the Boss Baby does not elicit a response from his rogue staff. Two-time Caldecott Honor recipient **Marla Frazee** combines text with pencil and gouache illustrations to perfection in this satirical sequel. As the new boss in town ultimately wins over her big brother, their newfound bond will warm the hearts of everyone in the family. Ages 3-6. *Mary Alice Garber*



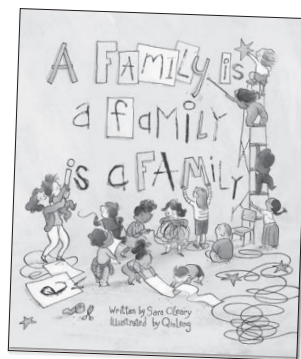


There isn't anything better than going for a bike ride in the forest on a beautiful day, especially when you stop in the forest café for a cup of acorn coffee or clover blossom tea. Join twins **Chirri & Chirra** (Enchanted Lion, \$15.95) as they pedal through a sylvan wonderland, enjoying lunch at a bakery and a dip in a nearby pond. The refreshments offered at the forest's dining establishments are as charming as the animals who frequent them; with mulberry jam sandwiches on honey bread for a bear and little cups of sweet violet tea for the honeybees, there is sure to be something for anyone who happens to drop by. **Kaya Doi** is a beloved Japanese author and illustrator whose warm-toned pencil, pastel, and crayon illustrations invite readers to step into an enchanted and cozy world where everything is open to exploration. Ages 3-6. *Heidi Powell*

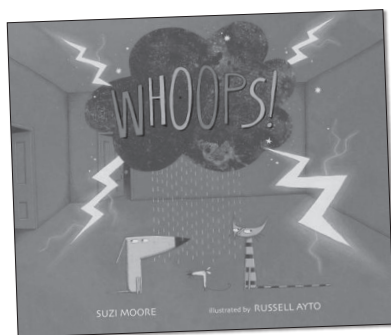
With vibrant colors and nostalgic imagery, the pages of **Sleep Tight Farm** (Chronicle, \$16.99) feature a cornucopia of autumnal delights. A rural family moves through the careful process of "putting the farm to bed" for the winter: harvesting and canning fruits and vegetables, ensuring the safety and comfort of the farm animals, and preparing the family home for the winter chill and holiday celebrations. **Eugenie Doyle**'s simple descriptions pair with **Becca Stadtlander**'s charmingly intricate illustrations to turn mundane chores into pleasant family rituals. The narrator wishes a short, but very sweet "good night" to the characters and settings in each vignette, enticing little readers to "sleep tight" with their own loved ones nearby. Ages 3-7. *Renée Bosco*



When a teacher asks a diverse group of schoolchildren to describe what makes their families special, one child blushes and tucks her arms beneath her desk, fearful that her family is unlike anyone



else's. But as she listens to classmates describe their families—new babies, grandparents, single parents, blended families, two moms, and even a bunch of "terrible singers"—she comes to realize that **A Family Is a Family Is a Family** (Groundwood, \$17.95), simultaneously unique and similar in love. **Sara O'Leary**'s warm, humorous dialogue couples seamlessly with **Qin Leng**'s lively illustrations to create a big-hearted, highly affecting look at families. Ages 3-8. *Amy Dickinson*



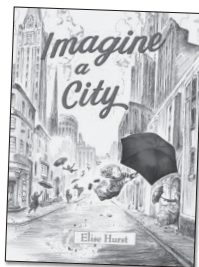
What do you do when you're a cat who cannot "meow," or a dog who cannot "bowwow," or even a mouse who cannot "squeak"? Visit the magical "old lady in the tumbledown house," of course! Perhaps, suggests a wise owl to his woefully mixed-up friends, she has a magical spell to alleviate their problems. But alas! When cat, dog, and mouse visit this mysterious woman with crazy blue hair and a silly book of spells, she doesn't quite get the correct combination of words and—**WHOOPS!** (Templar, \$16.99)—everything goes amiss. With streamlined mixed-media illustrations and bold backgrounds by illustrator **Russell Ayto**, this laugh-out-loud riot of a picture book will have children and adults giggling. Author **Suzi Moore** has created a wonderful, rhyming, superbly silly tale that is perfect for any family. Ages 4-6. *Kasie Griffitts*



What makes time seem to fly by in some instances, but crawl in others? **Somin Ahn** translates a seemingly complex concept into a relatable and fascinating subject for tiny tots just beginning their journeys

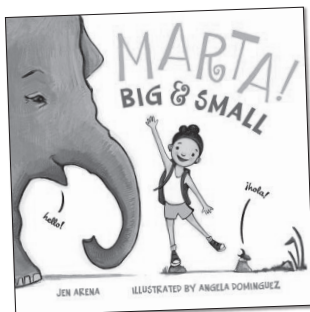
through the weeks, months, and years of their lives. Set in the picturesque English seaside town of Brighton, this charmingly illustrated picture book describes the myriad things that can happen in just *One Minute* (Chronicle, \$15.99) through the eyes of a little girl. Sixty seconds spent with best friends, for example, seem like no time at all; in the dentist's chair, on the other hand, they can stretch on forever. This ingeniously conceived book is a perfect way to start a conversation with children about what makes a minute seem long or short to them. *Ages 4-6. Janet Minichiello*

A mother prompts her children to *Imagine a City* (Doubleday, \$16.99) where impossible feats are everyday sights: friendly lions frequent libraries, children fly with their umbrellas on rainy days, fish soar in the clouds like birds, and butterflies fly from a book's pages. **Elise Hurst** creates this fantastical world with grey pencil and spare prose. The picture book's novel loveliness lies in the space left blank between the short, yet dreamy sentences and the monochromatic illustrations, giving young readers room to fill in the gaps with their own dreams. *Ages 4-6. Delaney Eubanks*



"Pit, pit, pit," the snow falls. Bundle up, put on your warm outside clothes, and "shhh...let's go," because it's the *First Snow* (Chronicle, \$16.99). Author/illustrator **Bomi Park** details the

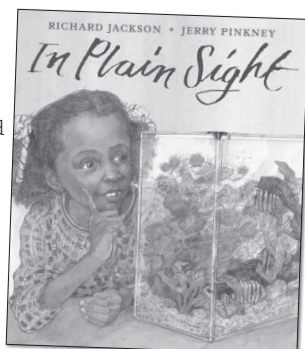
delight of a little girl's first experience of the most magical part of winter, from the wonder of the first flake to waking up the next morning to see the world blanketed in white. After grabbing her winter essentials, she heads outside with her puppy companion and steadily builds a snowman, "slow, slow, slow." With arresting yet intimate black-and-white illustrations that invite readers to lose themselves in the quiet beauty of the pages, this picture book is sure to be a winter favorite. *Ages 4-6. Kasie Griffiths*



Follow Marta as she descends her from her tree house, ready to explore the wildlife inhabiting the fanciful "jungle" of her backyard. Using over 16 Spanish vocabulary

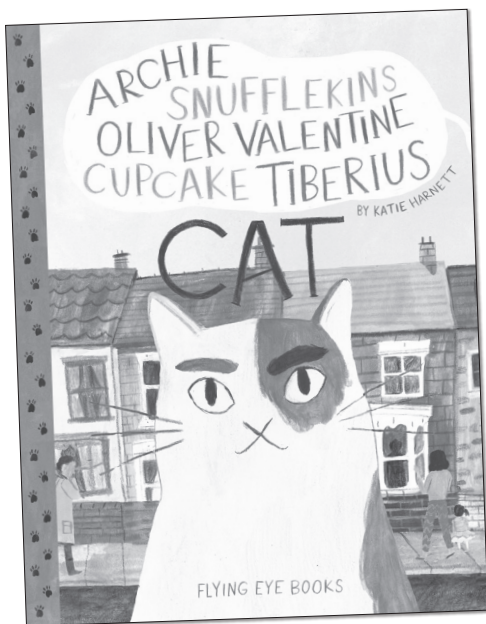
words alongside their English counterparts, author **Jen Arena** captures various perspectives of each encounter: "To a bug, Marta is grande. Big, very big." Readers will delight in **Angela Dominguez's** colorful illustrations as suspense builds to a thrilling climax. In the end, young readers will breathe a sigh of relief, relax, and spend time with Marta inside her tree house, reflecting on the day's adventures and revisiting the new vocabulary they learned throughout the story. Destined to be a family favorite, *Marta! Big & Small* (Roaring Book, \$16.99) is sure to be requested for story time over and over again. *Ages 4-7. Donna Wells*

Every day when Sophie comes home, she looks in on her wheelchair-bound grandfather and asks how his day has been. His answer always prompts a game of hide-and-seek, in which Sophie eagerly



hunts for an object her grandfather pretends to have misplaced. Eventually, she finds the missing paperclip, rubber band, paintbrush, or lemon drop. *In Plain Sight* (Roaring Brook, \$17.99). Readers will enjoy searching world-renowned illustrator **Jerry Pinkney's** detailed watercolors for these everyday items, which are hidden among a wealth of mementoes that provide opportunities for Grandpa to tell Sophie stories about his full life. **Richard Jackson's** simple text combines with Pinkney's delightful illustrations to create an engaging seek-and-find book as well as a story exuding the love and warmth between grandparent and grandchild. *Ages 4-7. Margaret Orto*

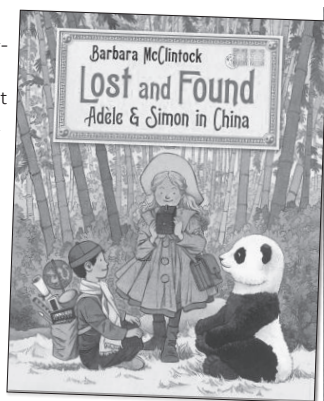




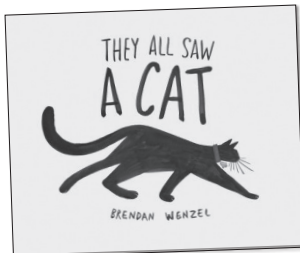
Everyone on Blossom Street has a cat... or so they think. Mr. Green cooks with Archie, Madame Betty snuggles with Snufflekins, Miss Fernandez paints with Valentine—but in reality, they're all the companions of the very same animal. This astute feline keeps busy by visiting almost everyone on the street! When he calls on lonely Mrs. Murray at number eleven for the first time, however, everything changes. Days later, the rest of the neighborhood goes looking for **Archie Snufflekins Oliver Valentine Cupcake Tiberius Cat** (Flying Eye, \$16.95); when they finally locate him at number eleven, they realize that their beloved pet has at last found his true home. **Katie Harnett's** charming story celebrates the simultaneous cunning and caring of one very special cat, and his ability to bring together a whole community of humans. *Ages 4-7. Janet Minichiello*



Our favorite turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup>-century world travelers are at it again! Last seen crossing the United States by train, Adèle and Simon's wanderlust now takes them to the Far East, exploring major cities and attractions in



China. Once again, Simon just can't seem to keep track of his belongings, all of which are **Lost and Found** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$17.99) along the way. Author/illustrator **Barbara McClintock** exposes children to exciting new destinations in a way so clever young readers won't realize they're getting history and geography lessons during their vicarious travels. Expanded descriptions of the sights Adèle and Simon see on their journey just might entice parents and grandparents to embark on their own adventures! *Ages 4-8. Renée Bosco*



A cat always walks through the world with whiskers, ears, and paws, but what do different individuals see when they

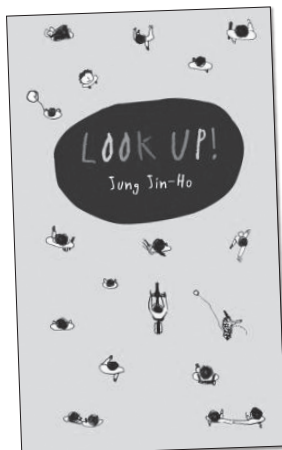
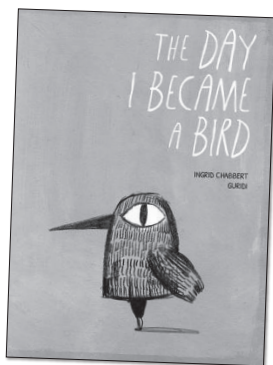
look at it? **They All Saw a Cat** (Chronicle, \$16.99), that's for sure, but what each creature perceives is starkly different. To the child, the cat is smiley, soft, and loving. To the flea, it is hairy and vast. To the mouse, it is enormous, threatening, and terrifying. **Brendan Wenzel's** simple narrative and unique illustrations, whose colors and patterns shift dramatically with each new set of eyes that gazes upon this fascinating feline, show readers that perhaps perception really is relative. *Ages 4-8. Allison Witten*



Overlooking the bustling crowds in Mexico City are two volcanoes, Popocatepetl and Iztaccíhuatl. For generations these two giants have been

revered and admired by many, inspiring dozens of myths about their origin. In ***The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes*** (Abrams, \$16.95), author/illustrator **Duncan Tonatiuh** recounts one of these ancient stories. The beautiful princess Izta falls in love with brave warrior Popoca because he loves her for who she is, not her position of power. The emperor agrees to give Popoca his daughter's hand in marriage on one condition: he must defeat the kingdom's greatest enemy, Jaguar Claw. But Jaguar Claw tricks the couple, leading them to transform into the volcanoes we see today. This spellbinding story and its Aztec-inspired illustrations will take the reader on a fascinating trip back in time. *Ages 5-8. Emi London*

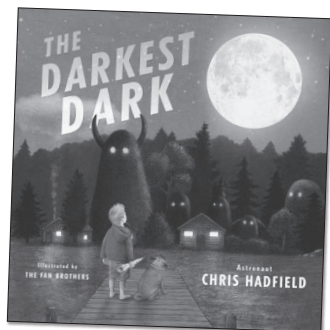
The cover of this picture book, featuring a soft pencil sketch of a small person wearing an enormous bird costume, immediately invites curiosity; the juxtaposition of scale is so whimsical and poignant that one wonders what story this character has to tell. ***The Day I Became a Bird*** (Kids Can, \$16.95) reveals itself to be a tale of first love: our young protagonist falls for classmate Sylvia, "who only has eyes for birds." He constructs his giant costume to win her attention—and, though we see the small indignities that befall him, our hero is focused solely on catching Sylvia's eye. **Guridi's** spare drawings, in which the book's brown-egg-colored pages wonderfully offset the white highlights of the bird costume's eyes and Sylvia's chalk sketches, perfectly complement French author **Ingrid Chabbert's** sweet, simply told romance. *Ages 5-8. András Goldinger*



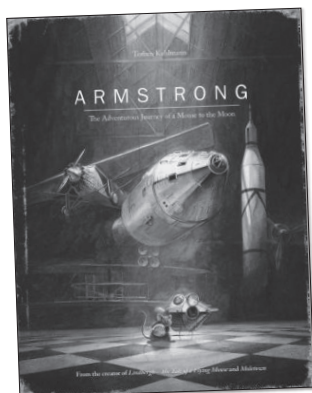
Far above a city street, a wheelchair-bound girl peeks over her balcony to gaze upon the scene below. She can only see the tops of the pedestrians' heads, and calls repeatedly for them to **Look Up!** (Holiday House, \$16.95). The young girl's calls are ignored until a boy finally spots her and responds. When he lies down on the sidewalk so that she can see his face, he begins to attract attention from those around him. When they realize what the boy is doing, nine other people (and a dog!) join him on the ground. Isolation turns to community as the girl and those below interact. Author/illustrator **Jung Jin-Ho** offers a unique perspective on loneliness, friendship, and the importance of being seen with visually sophisticated drawings and spare text that unite to leave a lasting impression. *Ages 5-8. Margaret Orto*

Little Chris loves imagining himself in a rocket on his way to Mars, exploring space. But as brave an explorer as he is in his daydreams, Chris is afraid of the dark

that surrounds him at bedtime. Only when he watches the 1969 moon landing does he realize that outer space is ***The Darkest Dark*** (Little, Brown, \$17.99), and that amazing discoveries await him in that infinite obscurity. Astronaut **Chris Hadfield** movingly shares his own story with the help of accomplished children's author **Kate Fillion**, and shows that sometimes, all you need to vanquish your fears is a new perspective. **The Fan Brothers** use a highly detailed, almost photographic style in their graphite illustrations that flawlessly matches the nature of the text. *Ages 5-8. Sharat Buddhavarapu*





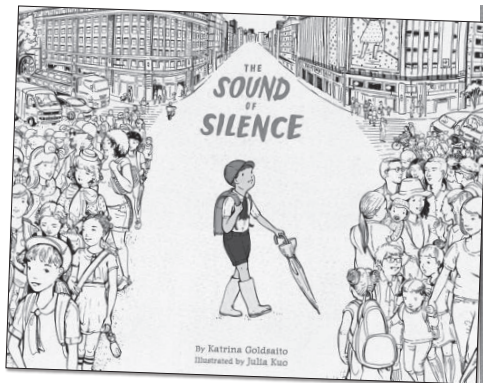


Following in the tailwinds of *Lindbergh* (NorthSouth, \$19.95), **Torben Kuhlmann's** latest book shares the story of a mouse with a dream beyond this world: that is, to be the first mouse on the moon. Armed with notes taken

from the Smithsonian, the mouse works in secret to design, build, and test his own rocket designs—though not without failures along the way. But each letdown only motivates him more, until he finally succeeds and lands among the stars, paralleling the process human scientists used to accomplish what was once thought impossible. Handsome illustrations in a sepia palette give the story a vintage feel, throwing the reader back in time. Be it in man or mouse, ***Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon*** (NorthSouth, \$19.95) celebrates the power of courage, persistence, and innovation in the name of scientific discovery. *Ages 5-8. Emi London*



Each night after being tucked into his cozy bed, Lester gets up and tiptoes into his new parents' room. One night, an exhausted Daddy Rich loses his temper, but calms down just as quickly as he and Daddy Albert help Lester tell them that he is afraid to sleep alone because he worries that someone will come and take him away. Luckily, the family dog, Wincka, knows just what to do: she assigns herself a guard post at the foot of Lester's bed, letting him know that he is truly ***Home at Last*** (Greenwillow, \$17.99). Before her death in 2015, author/illustrator **Vera B. Williams** called upon her friend and Caldecott Medalist **Chris Raschka** to complete this frank, moving adoption story. Luminous illustrations effectively portray the devoted family and their full range of emotions. *Ages 6-8. Maria Salvatore*



Yoshio is walking through Tokyo on his way to school when he comes across an elderly woman playing the koto, a Japanese stringed instrument. When he asks what her favorite sound is, she replies that it is ***The Sound of Silence*** (Little, Brown, \$17.99). **Katrina Goldsaito's** text tracks Yoshio as he searches for this silence all day long amidst the bustling Tokyo streets, where thoughtfully placed bursts of color accentuate **Julia Kuo's** evocative pen-and-ink drawings. After a day of searching, Yoshio discovers that silence, or *ma*, exists in and around all the other sounds, and he, too, comes to appreciate its value. *Ages 6-8. Sharat Buddhavarapu*

Thanks to the release of a beautifully illustrated edition, the time is right to share one of **Hans Christian Andersen's** classic tales with the children in your life. Follow the travails of heroine Gerda as she searches for her friend Kay, who has been poisoned by an evil goblin and captured by

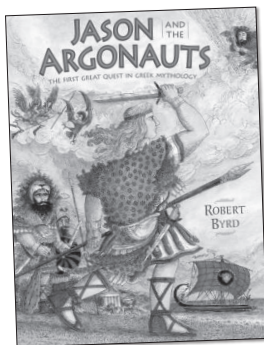


***The Snow Queen*** (A-Ba-Ba Haus, \$19.95). Gerda searches high and low for him, putting herself in danger countless times. Ultimately, it is her love for Kay that proves to be the key to his rescue. **Vladyslav Yerko's** visual interpretation of this classic tale is rich in color and detail, jeweled and shining like the eponymous Snow Queen herself. *Ages 7-10. Sharat Buddhavarapu*



Author/  
illustrator  
**Francesca Sanna**  
has succeeded  
in an intricate  
balancing  
act, creating  
a heartfelt,  
beautifully

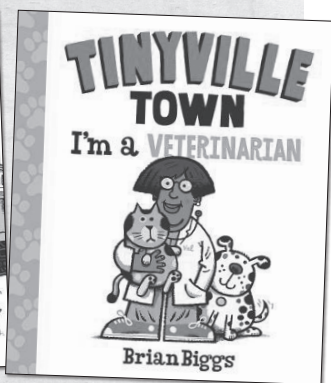
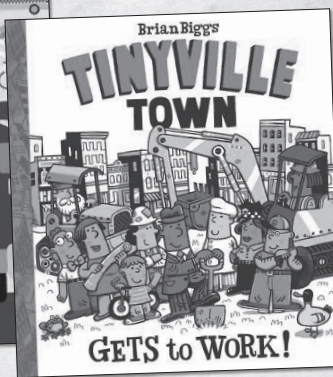
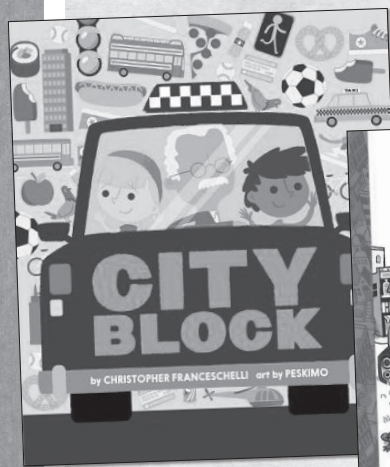
illustrated fable about a refugee family's harrowing flight. **The Journey** (Flying Eye, \$17.95) that takes two children and their widowed mother step by dangerous step away from war—and home—brings them closer to a more peaceful land, but walls and security guards stand in their way. Two-page spreads propel the story forward with cinematic force, while dramatic turns of the page show sudden losses and dangers as well as a hopeful ending. Sanna's vividly colored illustrations, which include hidden animal witnesses, are full of magic and help to tell an all-too-timely story with remarkable sensitivity. Ages 7-10. *András Goldinger*



Lore of Greek gods and tales of the impossible have captured the attention of countless generations of young readers; with his fresh retelling of a classic myth, author/illustrator **Robert Byrd** offers today's children

an exciting new door into this awe-inspiring world. Regarded as one of the earliest recorded chronicles of Greek mythology, the hunt for The Golden Fleece is on and **Jason and the Argonauts** (Dial, \$17.99) set off on an epic journey for the prized Fleece and the reclamation of Jason's throne. Told through vivid narration and detailed illustrations accompanied by informative side panels, Jason's story is one of magic, adventure, and glory and should not be missed. Ages 8-10. *Allison Witten*

## Urban Highlights

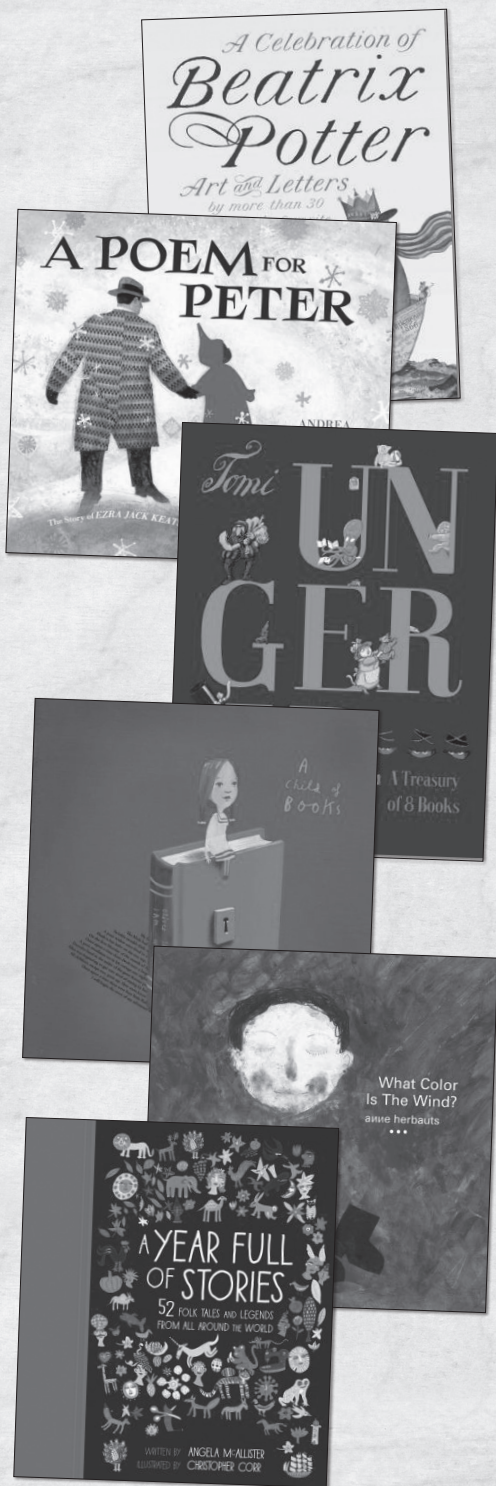


Subways, sushi, bakers, and stonemasons: urban personalities and adventures await young city dwellers in a set of new board and picture books. A multigenerational team jaunts through colorful retro illustrations and the diverse wonders of metropolitan life in **Cityblock** (Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95), the latest offering from author/illustrator duo **Christopher Franceschelli** and **Peskimo**. Though smaller in size, **Brian Biggs's** **Tinyville Town** swells with spirit. When residents of the town encounter a dramatic problem (yikes! traffic jam!), **Tinyville Town Gets to Work!** (Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95), enlisting the help of its citizens to construct a solution. An attendant board book, **Tinyville Town: I'm a Veterinarian** (Abrams Appleseed, \$7.95), digs deeper into the profession of one good-hearted resident as she cares for animals from sunup to sundown. Certain to capture the attention and hearts of city kids, the books also highlight universal elements of community and will appeal to readers regardless of zip code. Ages 2-5. *Amy Dickinson*



## Unique Gifts

When you're looking for something truly special to give, try one of these distinctive new volumes. Any children's literature aficionado would treasure three new books that commemorate titans of the genre: **A Celebration of Beatrix Potter** (Warne, \$25) contains excerpts from nine of Potter's most beloved tales, which serve as inspiration for testimonials and creative new illustrations from luminaries such as **David Wiesner** and **Rosemary Wells**. **Andrea Davis Pinkey** pays tribute to Ezra Jack Keats and his classic *The Snowy Day* with **A Poem for Peter** (Viking, \$18.99), illustrated by **Lou Fancher** and **Steve Johnson**. Or why not revisit **Tomi Ungerer's** most beloved stories, including *The Three Robbers*, with **Tomi Ungerer: A Treasury of 8 Books** (Phaidon, \$49.95)? This stunning collector's edition includes bonus features such as previously unpublished material and an exclusive interview with the master himself. Book lovers big and small, meanwhile, will adore the collaboration of author/illustrator **Oliver Jeffers** with typographic artist **Sam Winston** that gave birth to **A Child of Books** (Candlewick, \$17.99), a little girl who climbs up mountains and sleeps on clouds made of blocks of quotations from classic children's novels as she gives a new friend a tour of the myriad worlds to be discovered through reading. **Anne Herbauts** experiments not only with type, but with format, texture, and more in **What Color Is The Wind?** (Enchanted Lion, \$19.95), a poetic exploration of how people can experience the same thing in different ways. Finally, make 2017 **A Year Full of Stories** (Frances Lincoln, \$19.99): tales from around the world gathered and retold by **Angela McAllister** and illustrated by **Christopher Corr** symbolize important holidays throughout the year, with the Iroquois legend "How the Bear Clan Learned to Heal" marking World Health Day and the Arabic "The Boots of Hunain" celebrating Ramadan. Each of these titles will fill a particular niche on your favorite bookworm's shelves. *Various ages. Janet Minichiello*



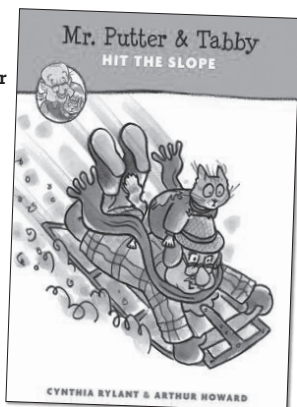
## EARLY READERS



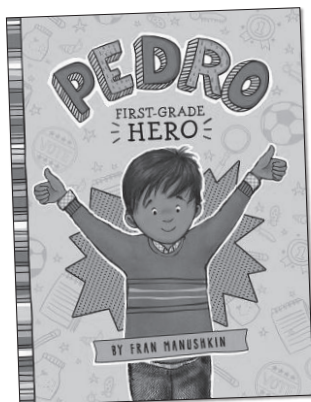
Elderly Eugenia Lincoln has always bossed around her younger sister, still known only as Baby. When Baby ends a lifelong tradition of obedience and declares she is taking “a necessary journey” against Eugenia’s wishes, the latter

can only demand, **Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln?** (Candlewick, \$14.99). On board a train, Baby meets three strangers who help her see that the world is full of joy and possibility. Despite this fulfilling journey, Baby misses her sister and soon discovers that Eugenia has missed her, too. Two-time Newbery Medalist **Kate DiCamillo**’s latest installment of Tales from Deckawoo Drive extols the value of both independence and family as **Chris Van Dusen**’s dynamic illustrations convey the story’s warmth and humor. *Ages 5-8. Mary Alice Garber*

Author **Cynthia Rylant** and illustrator **Arthur Howard** have joined forces one last time to create the final installment of the beloved Mr. Putter & Tabby series. In their last escapade, Mr. Putter and his cat Tabby become a bit



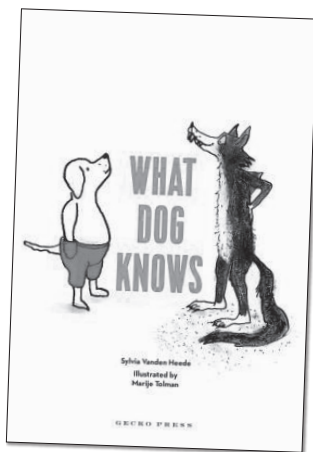
restless during the winter months: “things [are] a little slow,” and their favorite napping place, the hammock, is buried under a pile of snow. Luckily, with the help of their daring neighbor Mrs. Teaberry and her dog Zeke, **Mr. Putter & Tabby Hit the Slope** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$14.99) and find a way to enjoy the cold in this delightful winter read. *Ages 5-8. Kasie Griffiths*



with his friends, and even running for class president. If anyone can do it, **Pedro, First-Grade Hero** (Picture Window, \$4.95), can! **Fran Manushkin**’s latest book has short chapters that act as self-contained vignettes, which are simple enough for young readers to digest but full of fun. **Tammie Lyon**’s colorful and expressive illustrations help tell the story and bring it to life. *Ages 6-8. Marc Villa*

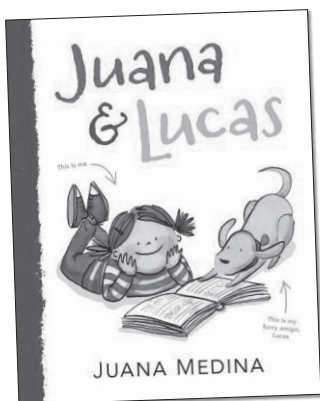
In the delightfully quirky sequel to *Wolf and Dog*, Wolf decides to get a new book from the library to show that he is smarter than his canine friend. It turns out, however, that **What Dog Knows** (Gecko, \$16.99) is vast. Fact and fiction merge in

this comical mixture of story, information, and comprehension quizzes. With topics ranging from bones to pirates, Dog and Wolf go back and forth from one subject to the next with their signature hijinks and humor. Author **Sylvia Vanden Heede** and illustrator **Marjole Tolman** have created another wonderfully unique chapter book for emerging readers. *Ages 6-9. Kasie Griffiths*



Pedro is one very busy student: he is collecting bugs for a school project (and hoping that his little brother doesn’t let them all go), trying out for goalie of his soccer team, forming a mystery club



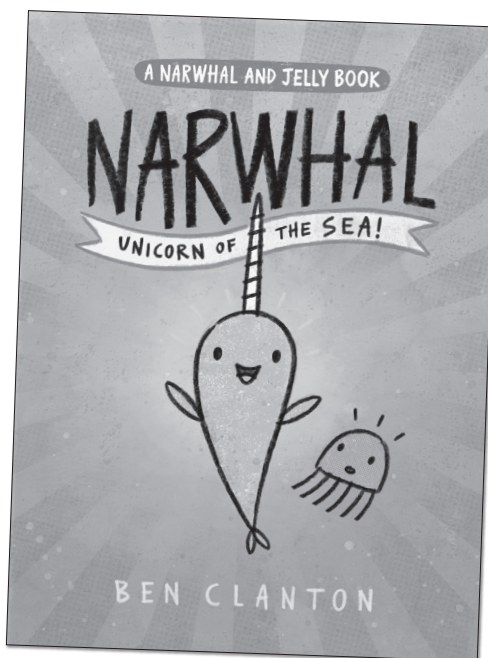
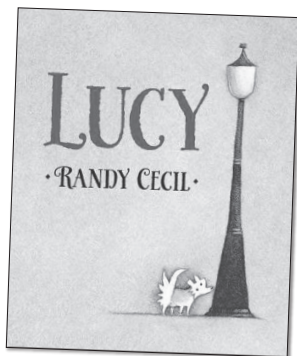


Juana loves her native city of Bogotá, Colombia, maybe even as much as she loves her canine “furry amigo” Lucas. Not only does this amazing *perro* know how to be a *fútbol* goalie; he

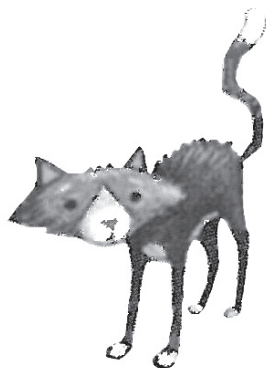
can also sense when Juana has had a bad day, such as when she learns that she has to take English lessons in school. She doesn’t see the point of trying to learn this confusing new language—until her grandparents promise her a trip to the Spaceland amusement park in Florida. It’s time to show *inglés* who’s boss! Local author/illustrator **Juana Medina**’s charming autobiographical story and endearing illustrations guarantee that ***Juana and Lucas*** (Candlewick, \$14.99) will make many friends among young readers. *Ages 6-9. Janet Minichiello*

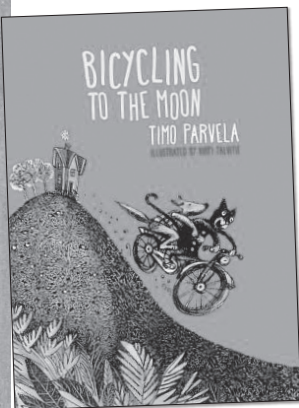
As soon as a little stray dog awakens, she runs through the streets of Bloomville to stand in front of the apartment building where Eleanor and her would-be juggler father, Sam, reside.

How that small dog comes to be known as **Lucy** (Candlewick, \$19.99), find a home, forge a lasting friendship with Eleanor, and help Sam gain the confidence to achieve his dream is told in four acts. Author/illustrator **Randy Cecil**’s detailed, monochromatic art enhances the book’s theatrical format: the circular illustrations surrounded by white space on each page create the illusion of action occurring in a spotlight. Together, text and illustration present a sweet, attractive, and satisfying story. *Ages 6-9. Maria Salvatore*



Meet ***Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea!*** (Tundra, \$12.99 HB/\$7.99 PB) as he and new best bud Jelly deliver a promising start to a new series of graphic novels for beginning readers. While the happy-go-lucky-whale and the slightly cynical jellyfish each doubt that the other really exists—you’d probably think you were imagining things, too, if you’d never seen a narwhal before!—it’s not long before they develop a true and lasting friendship. Each mini-chapter in **Ben Clanton**’s adorably zany adventure is a story unto itself; book lovers young and old will especially appreciate the cleverness of the final tale, in which Narwhal shows Jelly that all you need to make a bunch of blank pages into the best book ever is a little bit of imagination. *Ages 6-9. Janet Minichiello*





Purdy and Barker are a cat and a dog who live together in a house atop a hill. Purdy is a lazy feline with an outsized imagination that has him dreaming of ***Bicycling to the Moon*** (Gecko, \$16.99); Barker is a down-to-earth dog and finds great pleasure in farm work and

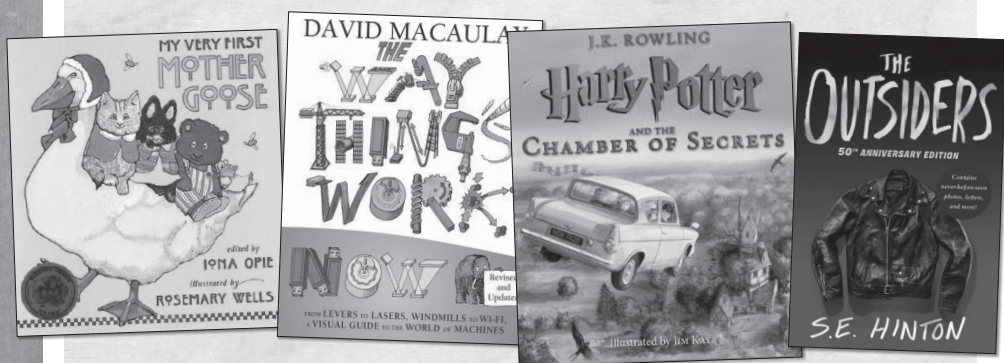
fishing. **Timo Parvela**, courtesy of **Ruth Urbom's** translation, shows that different personalities can make the best of friends and housemates. Each chapter is a self-contained story, delightfully illustrated by **Virpi Talvitie**, and together they paint a complete portrait of a beautiful friendship. *Ages 7-10. Sharat Buddhavarapu*



city requires Book Uncle to purchase a permit he cannot afford, Yasmin is determined to find a solution. With the help of her friends and several adults, Yasmin takes up this important cause just in time for the mayoral election. In her most recent book, ***Book Uncle and Me*** (Groundwood, \$14.95), **Uma Krishnaswami** shows young readers that they can have a voice and an impact even before they have a vote. *Ages 8-11. Heidi Powell*

In all of India, there is no better lending library than Book Uncle's. With a panoply of volumes spread out on planks of wood, a small tin can for donations, and a sign that reads: *Books. Free. Give one. Take one. Read-Read-Read*, Yasmin cannot resist a daily visit. So when the

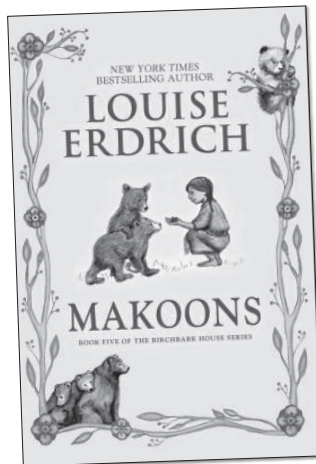
## New Editions of Childhood Favorites



Enjoy four classics of young people's literature afresh with these new editions. For the littlest book lovers, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of ***My Very First Mother Goose*** (Candlewick, \$24.99) is a surefire hit: it contains the same classic tales, collected by folklorist **Iona Opie**, and time-tested illustrations by **Rosemary Wells** in a fresh new case and cover and includes a note from Opie about Mother Goose's influence through the ages. **David Macaulay**, meanwhile, has released a gloriously updated version of his classic ***The Way Things Work***. ***The Way Things Work Now*** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$35) features updated information and entire new sections, including one entitled "The Digital Domain." Wizards and Muggles alike will adore **Jim Kay's** sumptuously illustrated version of ***Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*** (Arthur A. Levine, \$39.99), the second installment of **J.K. Rowling's** blockbuster series, while the generations of readers who loved **S.E. Hinton's** ***The Outsiders*** (Penguin, \$20) will revel in the extensive bonus material—from some of Hinton's personal photographs to original review clippings—included in this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition. *Various ages. Janet Minichiello*

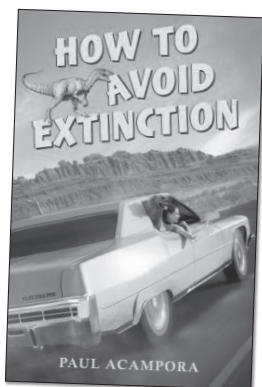


# ELEMENTARY FICTION

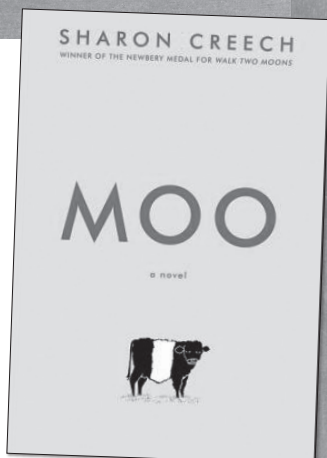


Based on her family's history, acclaimed author/illustrator **Louise Erdrich** continues the story of the Ojibwe in 19<sup>th</sup>-century America and their move onto the Great Plains of the Dakota Territory. **Makoons** (HarperCollins,

\$16.99), the twin brother of past protagonist Chickadee, has recovered from his illness but has a vision that both joy and sorrow will come to his family. Beautifully paced, this intergenerational story of daily life on the plains follows the boys' adventures, the hunt of the buffalo, and the family's care of the natural land as the modern world encroaches. This delicately illustrated volume is the fifth in the Birchbark House series, but can also be read as a single volume; its map and glossary of Ojibwe terms provide helpful historical and cultural context. *Ages 8-11. Mary Alice Garber*

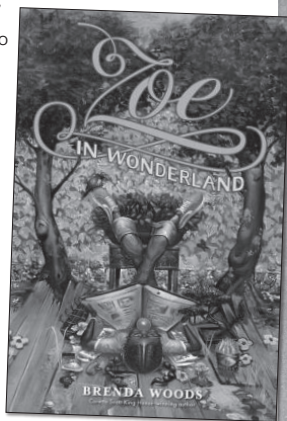


A cross-country road trip in a 1973 Buick Electra to Utah's Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry is Leo's grandmother's way of learning **How to Avoid Extinction** (Scholastic, \$16.99). Embarking on the trip she had planned with her late husband, Gram assures Leo that the best adventures are "always the ones you don't want." Accompanied by his cousin Abby, an aspiring paleontologist, and her golden retriever, Leo is about to discover some long-kept family secrets. Bursting with laugh-out-loud lines and sprinkled with literary references, **Paul Acampora's** tender comedy is filled with endearing characters. Fasten your seatbelts for a joyful read. *Ages 9-12. Mary Alice Garber*



Rural Maine is a long way from the big city that Reena is used to, both in mileage and familiarity. Reena is excited about the change, however, and ends up embracing the opportunity to care for a cow named Zora under the supervision of an elderly and very particular neighbor. The bond that girl and cow form is undeniable, but when the prospect of entering Zora into the local agricultural fair arises, Reena isn't sure that either of them is ready. But with the help of neighbors, friends, and family, perhaps anything is possible. Told in **Sharon Creech's** striking and unforgettable verse, **Moo** (HarperCollins, \$16.99) brings readers on a satisfying and heartwarming journey. *Ages 9-12. Allison Witten*

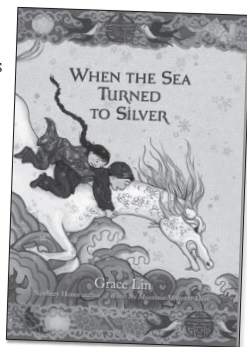
As a "perfectly plain" middle child with two remarkable siblings, Zoe G. Reindeer feels as though she is destined to blend into the background forever. Although she cultivates contentment by tending the plants at her father's nursery, Doc Reindeer's Exotic Wonderland, Zoe finds herself slipping more and more often into daydreams about the exploits of her perfect alter ego, Imaginary Zoe, who has all the confidence, talent, and beauty that real Zoe can't seem to find in herself. The reader, however, knows better: from the very first page of **Brenda Woods's** novel, Zoe's sparkling personality and evident wit leap off the page. Join **Zoe in Wonderland** (Nancy Paulsen, \$16.99) and discover how something as small as a baobab seed can change the lives not only of Zoe, but also of her tight-knit, chaotic, and loving family. *Ages 9-12. Janet Minichiello*





Emmaline lives in a mansion that once was home to a beautiful princess, but as a result of World War II became a hospital for children with tuberculosis. 20-year-old Thomas, who tends the farm and the garden, seems to understand and trust Emmaline, who says she has seen **The Secret Horses of Briar Hill** (Delacorte, \$16.99) reflected in the hospital's mirrors. When the mysterious Horse Lord deposits Foxfire, an injured white-winged horse, in the walled sundial garden near the hospital, Emmaline vows to protect her from dark and sinister Black Horse. Are these animals only a figment of Emmaline's imagination? Or is Thomas the real Horse Lord? **Megan Shepherd's** original story reads like a classic, shrouded in mystery and open to interpretation. *Ages 9-12. Heidi Powell*

When the brutal Tiger Emperor takes Pinmei's grandmother Amah from their village, the young girl and her friend Yishan mount a quest to rescue the older woman by bringing a Luminous Stone to the Emperor. **Grace Lin** has crafted a beautifully illustrated epic, replete with magical creatures including a snow-white dragon horse and mussels that turn into birds. As with previous works *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* and *Starry River of the Sky*, the reimagined Chinese legends so seamlessly interwoven into the narrative contain clues to unlocking the greater mysteries of the girls' adventure. This is an elegant and majestic, yet action-filled and thrilling tale for readers young and old—and it all started **When the Sea Turned to Silver** (Little, Brown, \$18.99). *Ages 9-12. Marc Villa*



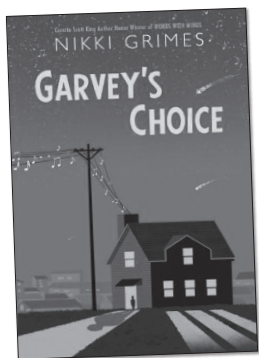
In **Jennifer L. Holm's** hilarious and heartwarming companion to *Turtle in Paradise*, Beans Curry is used to dealing with lying adults and making his own luck—even if that means breaking a rule or two (or three or four). As the leader of a gang of barefoot and hungry kids in Depression-era Key West, Beans even becomes a sort of role model. When a group of men in straw hats shows up to turn Key West into a tourist destination, Beans is perfectly placed to recruit other children to help spruce up the deteriorating community. **Full of Beans** (Random House, \$16.99) is a wildly entertaining tale about finding hope in the stickiest of situations. *Ages 9-12. Allison Witten*



Reuben is an adventuresome loner who enjoys exploring the dark corners and ominous alleyways of his hometown, New Umbra. While avoiding the menacing strongmen working for The Smoke, the city's omnipresent evil ruler, Reuben finds a unique pocket watch with extraordinary powers. This chance discovery sets off a fast-paced and dangerous chain of events. He must stay one step ahead of his malevolent pursuers to protect his mother, his new friend Penny, and her family of fellow **Secret Keepers** (Little, Brown, \$18.99). Fans of **Trenton Lee Stewart's** Mysterious Benedict Society series will be thrilled with this author's smart new adventure. *Ages 9-12. Renée Bosco*

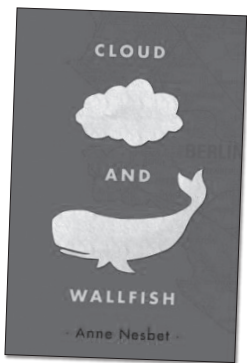
Imagine a place where color is currency, up can also be down, and topsy-turvy adventure is almost required. This is a world known as **Furthermore** (Dutton, \$17.99), and it's where 12-year-old Alice must go if she wishes to find her missing father. With her sole companion, a young guide named Oliver with his own quirky secrets, it'll take all her wits to return home to Ferenwood in one piece. Inspired by literary classics such as *Alice in Wonderland*, **Teherh Mafi** has woven a new fairy tale that's full of fast-paced fun and unexpected friendship. *Ages 9-13. Emi London*





Garvey is a thoughtful and sensitive young man who's interested in space exploration, music, and math. It hurts that he's a disappointment to his dad, who's constantly on him to play sports, and it doesn't help that Garvey is overweight and a bit awkward. When Garvey's best friend Joe encourages him to audition for chorus, a new club at school, Garvey has to decide whether to take a risk regardless of what others might think. What will **Garvey's Choice** (WordSong, \$16.95) be? **Nikki Grimes's** beautifully crafted novel in verse is a tribute to the kids who march to the beat of a different drummer and the parents who finally accept them. *Ages 9-13. Heidi Powell*

Imagine your parents picking you up from school one day and announcing that you weren't heading home, but to the airport. What if they told you that your name wasn't really your name? This is what befalls Noah Keller on the day



in 1989 when he and his parents leave for East Berlin. There, Noah begins his new life as Jonah Brown behind the Iron Curtain, where there are dictums like "they are always listening," and his only friend is a secretive girl he calls Cloud-Claudia, thanks to his Astonishing Stutter. **Anne Nesbet's** haunting novel **Cloud and Wallfish** (Candlewick, \$16.99) makes a series of incredible events, separated from our time by the fall of the Berlin Wall, seem achingly real and dangerously close to home. *Ages 10-13. Janet Minichiello*

Middle schooler Archer Magill has experience with weddings: he begins his story with a laugh-out-loud account of his disastrous turn as a ring bearer at age six, moving on to explain how he recently came to be

**The Best Man** (Dial, \$16.99) in another, more poignant wedding. Above all, this is a tale of how his role models—his dad, his Uncle Paul, his Grandpa Magill, and his student teacher, Mr. McLeod—have influenced his view of masculinity. **Richard Peck** provides insight into friendships, relationships, and family with warmth and wit. As the latest newlyweds drive off on their honeymoon, Archer knows that he is indeed growing into the kind of man he longs to be. *Ages 10-13. Maria Salvatore*

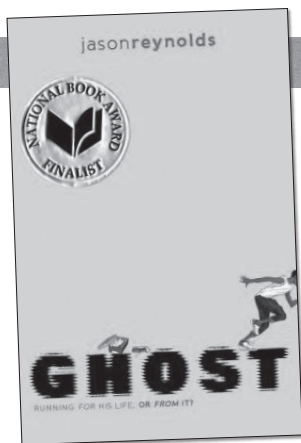


A beautiful young woman. An evil, jealous stepmother. Seven...boys? **Matt Phelan's** brilliantly original graphic rendition of **Snow White** (Candlewick, \$19.99) is not for the faint-hearted. Set in 1920s New York City, Snow's father is a stockbroker and her stepmother a Broadway star known as Queen of the Follies; a stock ticker replaces the omniscient mirror; and a Macy's holiday window becomes the glass coffin. The Art Deco font used for the title and chapter headings reflects the era, and Phelan's primarily black-and-gray pencil, ink, and watercolor illustrations provide a stark contrast to the occasional burst of red and the full-color, happily-ever-after ending. *Ages 10-14. Heidi Powell*

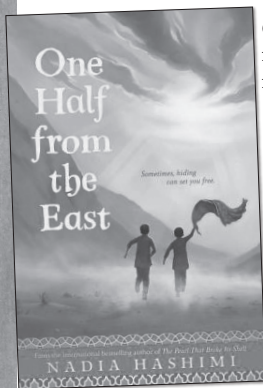
Each year, inhabitants of the Protectorate offer the village's youngest baby to the witch of the forest in order to avoid her wrath. Little do they know that the witch, Xan, is actually kind and gentle, finding a loving home for each child and feeding them starlight. When she accidentally gives one child moonlight instead, Xan decides that she must care for the "enmagicked" child herself. And so **The Girl Who Drank the Moon** (Algonquin, \$16.95) grows up with Xan, a swamp monster, and a dragon, never knowing that one of the young men who once left her in the forest is now out for the witch he believes to be so evil. **Kelly Barnhill's** spectacular fairytale is full of magic, heart, humor, and wonder. *Ages 11-14. Allison Witten*







Castle "Ghost" Cranshaw likes sunflower seeds, basketball, and has a lot of "scream inside." Running fast isn't something he's ever had to practice; it's just something he's known how to do ever since the night he and his mom had to run for their lives. He doesn't give this talent a second thought—until the day he crashes a track team practice and the coach asks him to join the lineup. From the first sentence of *Ghost* (Atheneum, \$16.99), the first book in the highly anticipated *Track* series, **Jason Reynolds** brings the reader into the fast-paced and impactful story of a young teen chasing his dream while struggling to keep his emotions in check and navigate the consequences of his decisions. *Ages 10-14.* Donna Wells



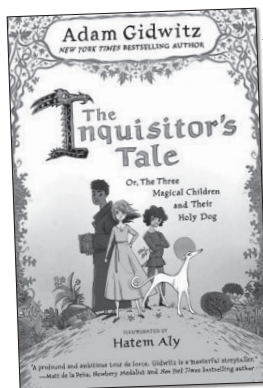
Obayda can never forget the day her father lost his leg in a car bombing. Because he is no longer able to work as a policeman, the family moves from Kabul to a rural village to live with extended family. There, Obayda becomes Obayd, a *bacha posh*—a girl dressed as a boy—to bring luck and greater opportunity to the family. As Obayd, she experiences adventure, freedom, and friendship. Too soon, however, she must return to her family in order to prepare for marriage. Obayda now feels like she is only *One Half from the East* (HarperCollins, \$16.99). **Nadia Hashimi** explores the role of women in her family's homeland in vivid prose, with rich descriptions bringing people and place into riveting focus. *Ages 11-14.* Maria Salvatore

## TEEN FICTION

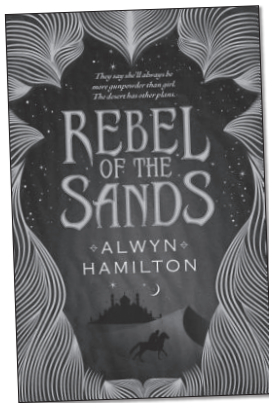
In *Lion Island* (Atheneum, \$16.99), the final volume in what award-winning author and poet **Margarita Engle** describes as a "loosely linked group of historical verse novels about the struggle against forced labor in nineteenth-century Cuba," we meet historical figure Antonio Chuffat. This



young, freeborn courier of African and Chinese descent becomes known as Cuba's "warrior of words" thanks to his recording and collecting of laborers' personal testimonies. Engle mirrors this accomplishment in her story, interweaving the fictional Chinese-American refugee twins Wing and Fan's perspectives with Chuffat's. As African slaves, Chinese indentured laborers, and Chinese Californians struggle to find freedom during Cuba's own fight for independence from Spain, Engle once again demonstrates the power of words—not only those of Chuffat, but of her own as well. *Ages 11-14.* Heidi Powell

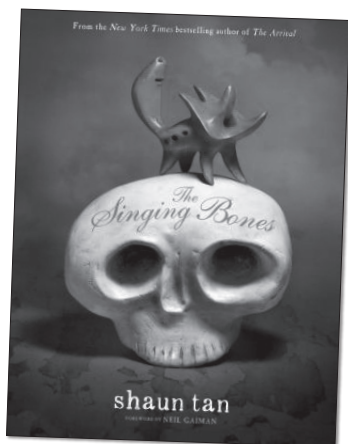


A group of travelers staying at the same inn amuse themselves by telling each other stories about three very special children and their supposedly resurrected greyhound. Little do the raconteurs know that the man quietly listening to their tales is on a mission for King Louis of France, who is waging a crusade. *The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* (Dutton, \$17.99) imparts stories of miracles, dragons, religion, and more to reveal a mysterious world "full of wonders—and endlessly maddening," but always amazing. Although younger readers may miss the echoes of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, they will be engrossed by **Adam Gidwitz's** clever presentation of the Middle Ages. **Hatem Aly's** illustrations evoke illuminated manuscripts and enhance this striking and satisfying adventure. *Ages 11-14.* Maria Salvatore



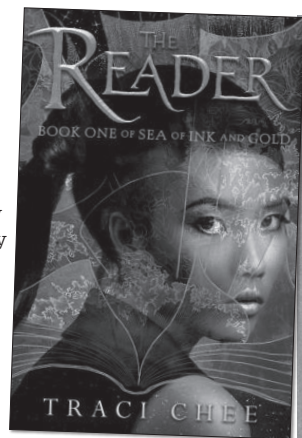
Miraji is an unforgiving place, where monsters roam the sands and djinn perform magic. Amani has survived thus far by the barrel of her gun: she's a sharpshooter with perfect aim, and dreams of escaping the town of Dustwalk. When she meets Jin, a rakish

foreigner, in a shooting contest, she finally sees a way out. It turns out, however, that meeting him is just the start of Amani's adventure. The Middle East meets the Wild West in **Alwyn Hamilton's** debut fantasy. With heart-stopping action, gorgeous world building, and characters as fiery as the desert setting, ***Rebel of the Sands*** (Viking, \$18.99) makes for a wickedly fun read. Ages 12-15. *Emi London*

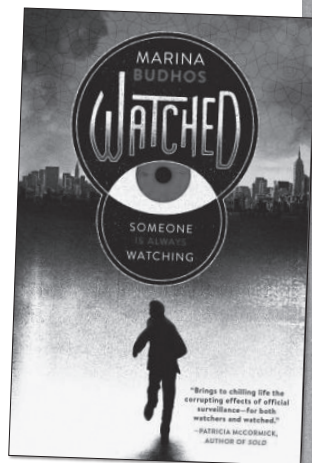


Master illustrator **Shaun Tan** (*The Arrival*) has now turned to sculpture to capture the essence of 75 of the Grimms' most famous fairy tales. The photographed tableaux in ***The Singing Bones*** (Arthur A. Levine, \$24.99) harken back to the campfires and hearths where tales were once told and retold. Inspired by Inuit and pre-Columbian art, Tan's small sculptures are spooky, wondrous, and whimsical. As Neil Gaiman notes in his foreword, these talismanic objects have a tactile quality; they seem to invite the reader to reach through the page and touch them. Excerpts from the Grimms' tales translated by **Jack Zipes** accompany each tableau and are summarized in a paragraph at the end of the book. Ages 12 and up. *András Goldinger*

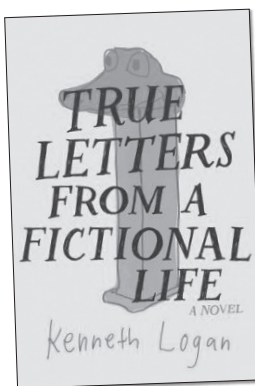
Sefia has been on the run from her father's assassins for years with only her Aunt Nin for company. When Nin is captured and Sefia suddenly finds herself utterly alone, she decides that learning more about the mysterious object she carries with her that her pursuers so desperately desire might help her rescue Nin and avenge her father. Teens will be amused by Sefia's puzzlement over the rectangular object with patterns of black lines printed on its pages, easily recognizable as a book. In her debut novel ***The Reader*** (Putnam, \$19.99), **Traci Chee** weaves Sefia's tale with that of other characters to provide a full picture of a world in which words are magic, literacy is nonexistent, and the powerful want to keep it that way. Ages 13-16. *Sharat Buddhavarapu*



Naeem was in middle school when he moved to New York from Bangladesh. Now 18 and in the final quarter of his senior year, his grades have slipped and, like many teenagers, he's made more than a few mistakes. Threatened with arrest and presented with a choice by local police, Naeem believes he's being provided an opportunity to switch from victim to hero—but in a time of uncertainty, deception, cultural differences, and constant surveillance, who is truly worthy of his trust? **Marina Budhos** has crafted a thrilling coming-of-age story that provides a glimpse into the complexities of perception versus reality. Raising more questions than answers, ***Watched*** (Wendy Lamb, \$17.99) ultimately demands that the reader consider one last query: What would you do? Ages 14-18. *Donna Wells*







James Liddell's life should be easy: he's smart, athletic, and well liked; he has a tight-knit group of friends, a loving family, and a beautiful sort-of girlfriend. His mom even tells him how glad she is that he's "normal"—unlike his classmate

Aaron, the victim

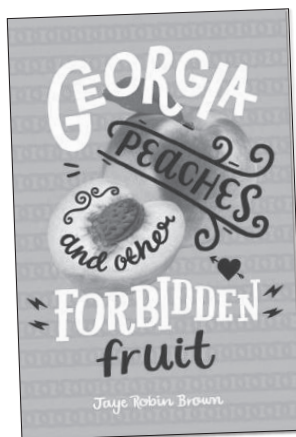
of homophobic violence. What no one seems to realize is that James doesn't want the life, or the girlfriend, that could so easily be his: his heart is stirred by boys. When someone steals the never-to-be-sent letters that James has secretly been writing to the people closest to him to express this hidden part of himself, however, it's clear that everyone is about to discover his secret.

**Kenneth Logan's *True Letters from a Fictional Life*** (Harper Teen, \$17.99) is a beautifully complex portrayal of one teenager's journey out of the closet and into his nonfiction reality. *Ages 14-18.*

*Janet Minichiello*

Amanda Hardy is the new girl in school and wants nothing more than to make friends and fit in. But she's also keeping a secret, one that makes her afraid to get close to anyone: until three years ago, she used to be Andrew. Her plans to lie low are thwarted when she finds kindness in a group of girls— and when she meets a boy named Grant, their chemistry quickly blossoms into Amanda's first love.

Hesitant to tell them of her past, she eventually learns that sometimes, courage is the definition of being yourself. Alternating between the past and the present, Amanda's honest narrative explains the pain and prejudice that transgendered people face. ***If I Was Your Girl*** (Flatiron, \$17.99) by **Meredith Russo** is an important coming-of-age novel and a strong reminder that life can—and does—get better. *Ages 14-18.* *Emi London*



Joanna Gordon has been out for years. When her father, a famous evangelist, remarries and moves the family down to conservative Georgia, however, he asks her to lie low for the rest of her senior year. Jo reluctantly agrees, and at

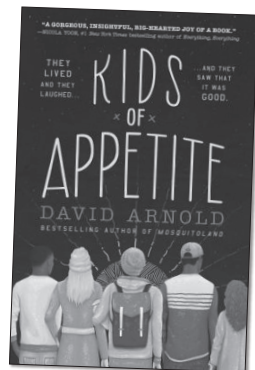
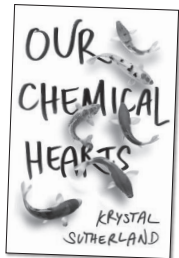
first, life as a straight girl is actually easy. But then she meets Mary Carlson, and as their friendship deepens Jo realizes the promise she made to her father might not be so easy to keep. **Jaye Robin Brown** presents a set of realistic and likeable characters trying to navigate the complexities of queer and Southern culture simultaneously. With candid dialogue and themes of faith and honesty throughout, ***Georgia Peaches and Other Forbidden Fruit*** (HarperTeen, \$17.99) is a must-read for anyone looking for a heartwarming romance. *Ages 14-18.* *Emi London*

In September 1970, 15-year-old Anna boards what she expects will be just another flight taking her away from her military family, currently stationed in Bahrain, and towards her British boarding school. It turns out, however, that she couldn't be more wrong:

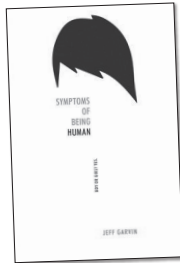
terrorists belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine hijack her plane and divert it to the Jordanian desert. They hold all of the passengers and crew hostage for four seemingly interminable days, during which food and water slowly dwindle as a terrible uncertainty looms over the captives' heads. **Miriam Moss's** own experience as a ***Girl on a Plane*** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99) hijacked by the PFLP imbues this heart-stopping novel with heightened realism and depth. *Ages 14-18.* *Janet Minichiello*



Henry Page has never been in love—at least, not until Grace Town walks into his classroom. What with her baggy boys' clothes, walking cane, and obvious chip on her shoulder, she's not your typical romantic heroine, but none of that matters as the two begin what quickly reveals itself to be a doomed relationship. Henry can't help trying to "fix" Grace as he learns more about her complicated past and present, but he's about to learn that there are some things even love can't cure. Told with plenty of humor and refreshingly contemporary dialogue, **Krystal Sutherland's** heartbreakingly smart debut *Our Chemical Hearts* (Putnam, \$17.99) teaches readers the difficult lesson that sometimes, loving means letting go. *Ages 14–18. Emi London*



When Vic Bennucci arrives in Hackensack, New Jersey with little more than an urn filled with his father's ashes, his prospects are not very bright. But then he meets Mad, a scarred girl with her own secrets, who initiates him into a group of semi-homeless young people with traumatic histories. As the *Kids of Appetite* (Viking, \$18.99) help their newest member carry out his father's wishes regarding the scattering of his ashes, Vic falls hard for Mad—and another of their number is falsely accused of murder. **David Arnold's** latest novel is a gripping look at what happens when innocent young people fall through the cracks of society. *Ages 14 and up. Janet Minichiello*

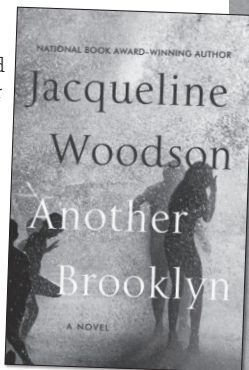


Riley Cavanaugh is gender fluid, but isn't out yet: between transferring schools and dealing with a congressman father running for reelection, they (Riley's preferred pronoun) aren't inclined to share their secret. Instead, with the encouragement of their therapist, Riley starts a blog to vent their feelings, sharing what it's really like to identify as a girl on some days and as a boy on others. But when the blog goes viral, will Riley's secret be revealed? **Jeff Garvin's** debut is smart and realistic, explaining the complex issues of gender fluidity with clarity and compassion. Many readers will relate to Riley's feeling of being both different from and the same as everyone else—one of the many *Symptoms of Being Human* (Balzer + Bray, \$17.99). *Ages 14–18. Emi London*

Daniel's heart lies in poetry, but the only way to live up to his parents' high expectations is to attend Yale and become a doctor. Natalie, meanwhile, views the world through the lens of scientific fact and numbers—and it's a fact that her family is 12 hours away from being deported back to Jamaica. Then, these two souls from two different walks of life are brought together by chance. Is one day enough to change everything? Told from multiple perspectives, *The Sun is also a Star* (Delacorte, \$18.99) by **Nicola Yoon** is an artfully woven story about coincidence, fate, and the difference one moment can make. *Ages 14–18. Emi London*



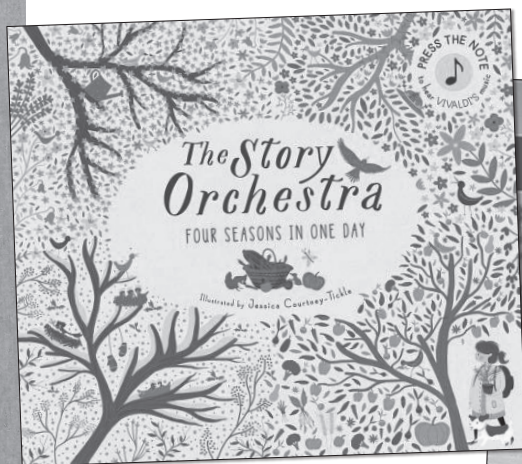
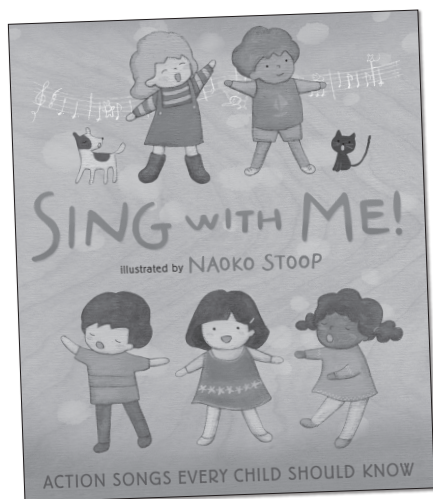
As her father's funeral and a chance encounter cause a Brooklynite named August to look back on her youth, she reflects upon her relationship with best friends Sylvia, Angela, and Gigi. The playfulness and innocence of their childhood stand in stark contrast to the backdrop of emotion, anxiousness, and ever-present danger inherent in growing up girl in 1970s Brooklyn. **Jacqueline Woodson** uses her signature lyrical prose and deft storytelling to show how we sometimes live one story while remembering another. Contemplate your own memories, both real and perceived, while enjoying this truly original coming-of-age story and experiencing the music, family, friendships, tragedies, and triumphs of *Another Brooklyn* (Amistad, \$22.99). *Ages 14 and up. Donna Wells*



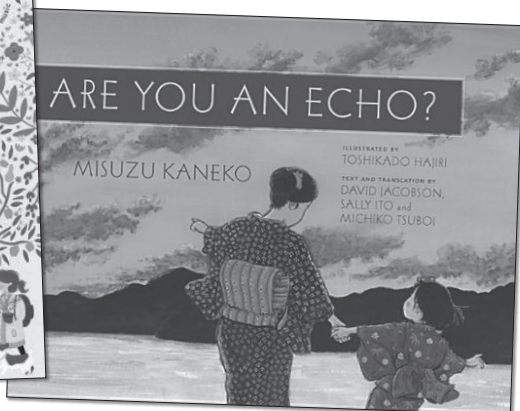


## ART, POETRY, &amp; MUSIC

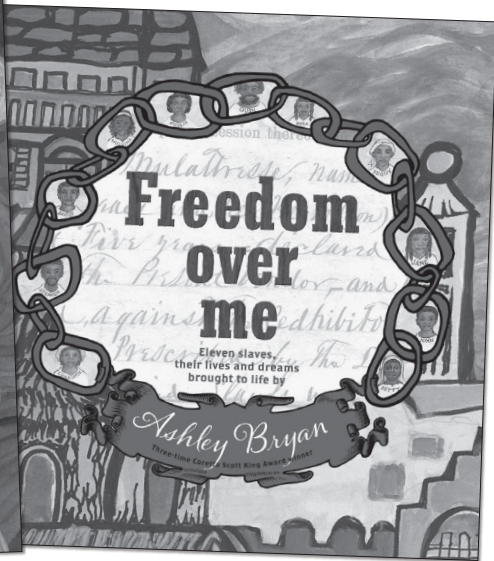
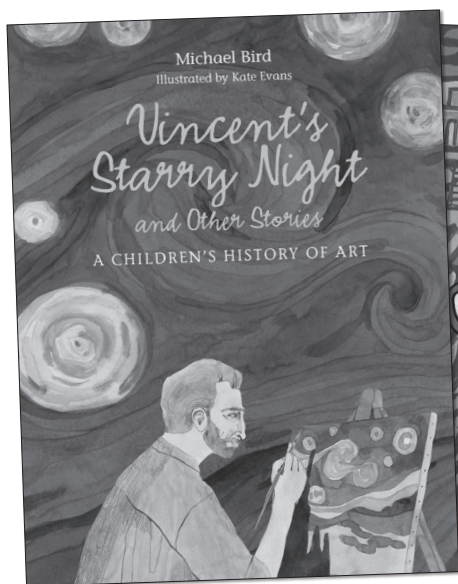
Even those who know every word to “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” will benefit from a copy of ***Sing with Me!*** (Henry Holt, \$16.99), a collection of traditional nursery songs. These tried-and-true songs have gotten a breath of new life thanks to interactive finger plays accompanying each song and **Naoko Stoop’s** cheerful illustrations, in which even the itsy-bitsy spider sports an itsy-bitsy smile. A subtle wood-grain backdrop gorgeously offsets the simple lines of Stoop’s characters, while newsprint collage peeks through bits of the painting to create a dreamy, textured effect. Thanks to its classic songs, innovative finger plays, and incomparable illustrations, *Sing with Me!* is a lovely gift for new parents, toddlers, and early childhood educators. *Ages 1-4. Amy Dickinson*



**Jessica Courtney-Tickle’s** gorgeous visual interpretation of Antonio Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons* begins as a sleeping girl named Isabelle awakens. She collects a tiny apple tree and her puppy, Pickle, and embarks upon an accelerated journey through the seasons that takes only a single day. Beginning with spring and an unexpected shower, Isabelle and Pickle then travel through summer, autumn, and winter in turn. “Press Here” music notes on every page play brief selections from Vivaldi’s *Four Seasons*. ***The Story Orchestra: Four Seasons in One Day*** (Frances Lincoln, \$22.99) is an ingenious and accessible way to introduce young children to some of the most enduring music ever composed. *Ages 5-8. Kasie Griffiths*



Seeking a thoughtful biography? Striking illustrations? Children’s poems that wake you up to the world around you? You’re in luck: ***Are You an Echo?: The Lost Poetry of Misuzu Kaneko*** (Chin Music, \$19.50) weaves all these elements into a harmonious whole. **Michiko Tsuboi** and **Sally Ito** have translated a selection of Kaneko’s poems, accompanied by the original Japanese text, into English for the first time, while **David Jacobson** provides a compelling account of her short but eventful life. With warmhearted illustrations from **Toshikado Hajiri**, this volume digs deeply into the empathy, sorrow, and joy that define life as we know it. *Ages 6-11. Amy Dickinson*



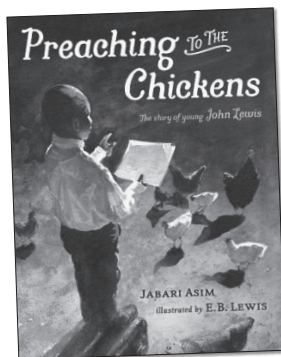
Take a trip through the history of art with this cohesive and accessible volume of awe-inspiring variety. Beginning with cave paintings and ending with artists still living today, **Vincent's Starry Night and Other Stories** (Laurence King, \$29.95) spans thousands of years in 68 chronologically arranged tales. **Michael Bird** recounts the life stories of a number of artists and imagines what they might have thought and said about their own creative journeys, while **Kate Evans's** evocative watercolors include both original compositions and appealing reproductions of the famous works that Bird discusses. Warranting multiple reads from cover to cover, this is a perfect way to expose children to the wonders of human creativity through the ages. *Ages 9-14. Allison Witten*

Bacus. Mulvina. Athelia. Qush. Dora. Peggy. Jane. John. Betty. Charlotte. Stephen. These names don't sound familiar for a reason: they belong to slaves whose stories were lost in the oblivion of hatred, inhumanity, and racism—until three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner **Ashley Bryan** came into possession of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century document that listed them as property for sale. In **Freedom Over Me** (Atheneum, \$17.99), Bryan pays tribute to each of these individuals with a portrait and two poems, one to describe the reality of life on the plantation and one to give voice to dreams that never came true. This is a deeply moving book that will carry the names of these now-unforgotten souls into the hearts of readers young and old. *Ages 10-14. Janet Minichiello*

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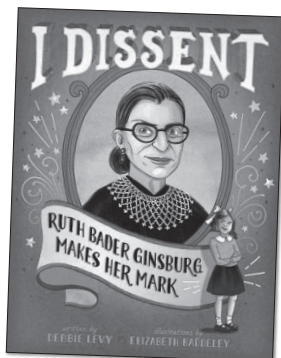
## HISTORY &amp; BIOGRAPHY



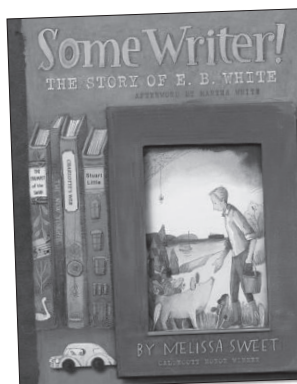
As a child, legendary congressman John Lewis was in charge of the chickens on his family's sprawling Alabama farm. He got up early every morning to feed them dried corn, line their nests with straw,

and talk to them. Inspired by the music and ministers of his family's church, John also began ***Preaching to the Chickens*** (Nancy Paulsen, \$17.99). He didn't mind that his brothers and sisters mockingly called him Preacher: he hoped that one day his words really would move people to action. **Jabari Asim** provides a glimpse into the roots of Lewis's activism, which began with the civil rights movement and continues today. **E.B. Lewis's** watercolor and gouache illustrations gloriously emphasize the lighting of each scene and perfectly match the tone and mood of this simple yet prophetic story. *Ages 5-8. Heidi Powell*

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is perhaps as well known for her objections as she is for her dedication to fairness and equality. ***I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes her***



**Mark** (Simon and Schuster, \$17.99) documents Ginsburg's lifelong ease with raising concerns about the status quo. From academics to hobbies and family life, she didn't believe in adhering to restrictive social norms for girls and minorities, a conviction that made history as she ascended to the bench of the highest court in the United States. **Debbie Levy** narrates **Elizabeth Baddeley's** comic-book-like illustrations to tell this amusing and inspirational tale, with a refreshing emphasis on the fact that constructive disagreement is a vital part of life. *Ages 7-10. Allison Witten*

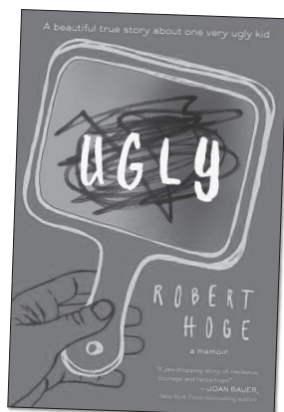


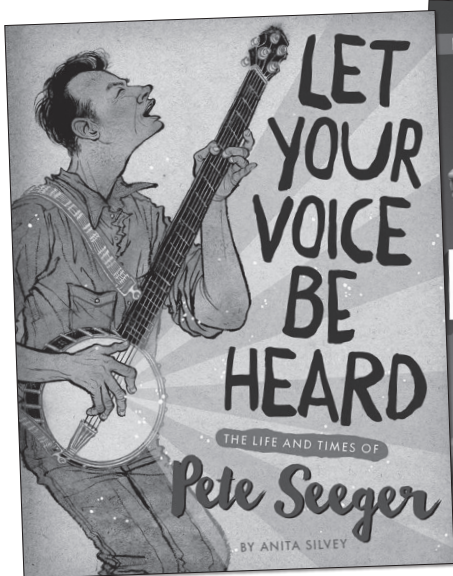
"Some pig!" famously declared Charlotte the spider in E.B. White's classic novel *Charlotte's Web*. Now, acclaimed author/illustrator **Melissa Sweet** admiringly proclaims

that White was ***Some Writer!*** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99) in her picture-book biography of the beloved author. The cleverly executed scrapbook-like format allows room for photos, memorabilia, personal letters, and manuscripts, as well as numerous quotations that reveal White's inner character. Tidbits such as how White added two eyes and three hairs to Garth Williams's drawing of Charlotte to complete it, or how the story of *Stuart Little* came to White in a dream on a train, will make fans of all ages agree that this is some book! *Ages 8 and up. Margaret Orto*

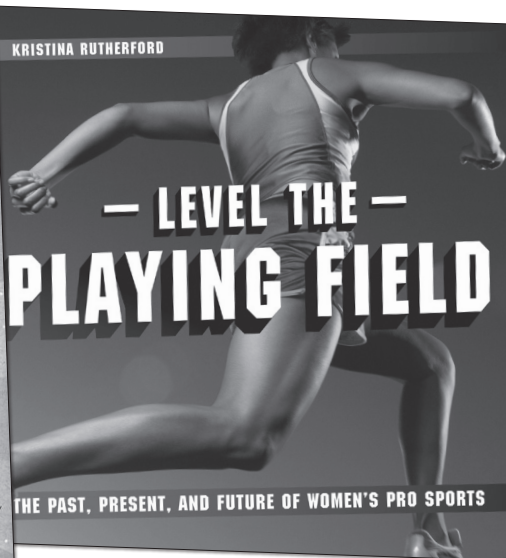
With this account of his early years, **Robert Hoge**, born with a facial tumor, deformed legs, and bent toes, has created an inspirational and frank memoir. Subjected to numerous and life-threatening surgeries to create a "friend-friendly face," he is

invariably viewed as ***Ugly*** (Viking, \$16.99)—and people see his perceived ugliness as a reason to doubt his intelligence and abilities. Told with honesty and humor through accessible prose and **Keith Robinson's** black-and-white illustrations, this is the story of an ordinary life with extraordinary obstacles. Ultimately, the young Hoge stops believing that there is something missing or wrong about him and accepts ownership of who he is. *Ages 9-12. Mary Alice Garber*



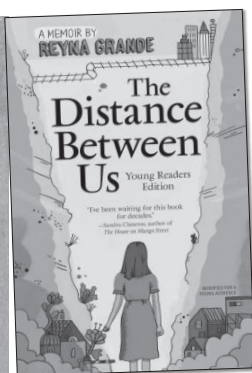


Although Pete Seeger was born to musician parents, he still had to work hard to convince his mother to let him play something other than classical music. When he found happiness and success as a folk musician, then, he wasn't about to be silenced—especially when it came to expressing his beliefs. Children's literature expert **Anita Silvey** delivers a fascinating account of the many challenges and triumphs in Seeger's life, from his decade-long battle against the House Un-American Activities Committee to his work with Martin Luther King, Jr. Seeger's own life story is a powerful testament to the power of music and, above all, how important it is to **Let Your Voice Be Heard** (Clarion, \$17.99). Ages 10-13. *Janet Minichiello*



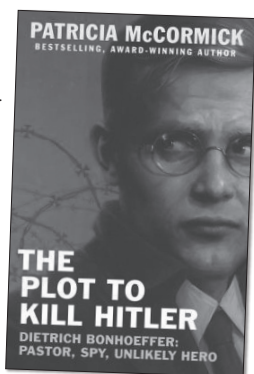
Young people now have a golden opportunity to learn about the past struggles that female athletes endured in an attempt to **Level the Playing Field** (Owlkids, \$16.95). Author **Kristina Rutherford** describes the progress made in developing athletic opportunities with the enactment of Title IX in 1972, which allowed for a potential expanded fan base and the possibility of making a career in sports financially viable for women. Interviews with and references to famous athletes, including tennis phenomenon Serena Williams, WNBA players Maya Moore and Elena Delle Donne, and Little League star Mo'ne Davis, make this historical account clearly relevant to young athletes, male and female alike. Ages 10-14. *Renée Bosco*

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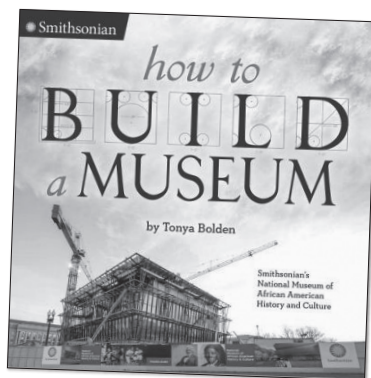


With *The Distance Between Us* (Aladdin, \$17.99) in today's divisive political climate, author **Reyna Grande** felt compelled to share her personal experience of the problems that all too many immigrant families face. As children, Reyna and her siblings were left to endure a life of

lonely deprivation with their hostile extended family in Mexico while both parents worked in the United States. Eventually, Reyna's father returned to lead the children on a harrowing journey across the border so that they could reunite with their mother and begin a new life together in Los Angeles. Despite the constant strain that their immigrant status put on the family, Reyna persevered and became the first family member to graduate from college. The young readers' edition of Grande's inspiring memoir will help children appreciate the courage and fortitude of immigrants from all countries. *Ages 10-14. Renée Bosco*

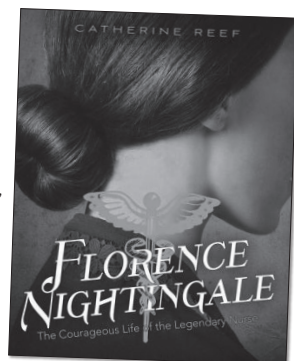


Dietrich Bonhoeffer was not your average conspirator. A renowned German theologian, pastor, and pacifist, he seemed destined for a life of quiet contemplation—until World War II destroyed his peaceful future. Although Bonhoeffer had escaped to the United States in 1938 after being arrested by the Gestapo, he was so distraught at the thought of all he could be doing to help fight fascism back home that he returned to Germany on the last ocean liner to cross the Atlantic before war was declared. Bonhoeffer then became part of *The Plot to Kill Hitler* (Balzer + Bray, \$18.99) in an attempt to stop the mass murder that the Führer was perpetrating. **Patricia McCormick's** clear-eyed and riveting account of Bonhoeffer's life is a quick read, but one that will remain in readers' thoughts long after they turn the last page. *Ages 11-14. Janet Minichiello*



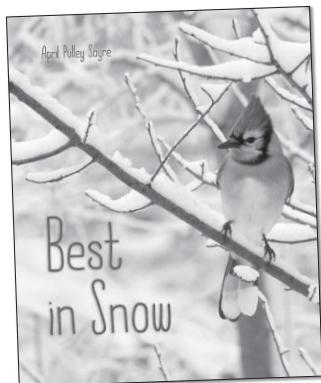
Over the last few years, inhabitants of Washington and its environs have witnessed the new National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) slowly rising from the ground. Now, budding historians can get an inside look at *How to Build a Museum* (Viking, \$17.99) thanks to **Tonya Bolden's** fascinating account. The NMAAHC's recent opening marked the realization of more than a century of petitioning, fundraising, and planning, but the first step was very simple: as the opening chapter title attests, it was to dream. Learn how this dream became a reality in a fascinating tale of Americans coming together to create a truly vital institution. *Ages 11-14. Janet Minichiello*

What would a hospital be without nurses? How could an army go into battle without them? Before *Florence Nightingale* (Clarion, \$18.99) appeared on the scene, such was the case in British military hospitals. Although she gained her greatest fame for shattering this particular glass ceiling during the Crimean War, however, Nightingale's accomplishments extended far beyond the end of the war. She braved severe family opposition to answer what she understood to be a call from God to serve, a vocation she continued to perform in myriad ways for the rest of her long life. Noted biographer **Catherine Reef's** latest book provides a fascinating glimpse into how one woman's intelligence and grit changed the world forever, as well as a reminder of the essential and courageous work that nurses continue to do today. *Ages 12-15. Janet Minichiello*



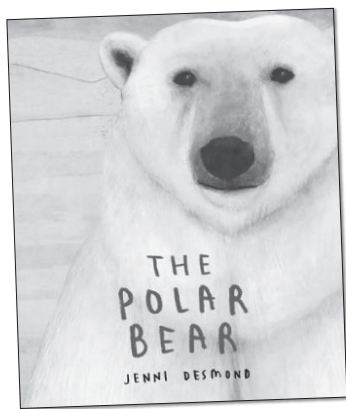


# SCIENCE

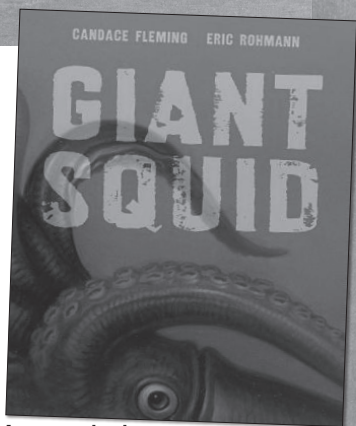


Take a tour of the **Best in Snow** (Beach Lane, \$17.99) with **April Pulley Sayre**. Her deceptively simple verses are not only charming in their own right; as a helpful

section at the end of the book explains, they are also a poetic interpretation of scientific facts about snow. The real stars of this show, however, are Sayre's breathtaking photographs: images of ice-covered trees are truly dazzling, while forest critters shown in the midst of a winter wonderland will rob readers of the ability to say anything but "awwww." Thanks to this sprightly volume, book lovers can enjoy the beauty of winter even after the snow has melted. Ages 3-7. *Janet Minichiello*

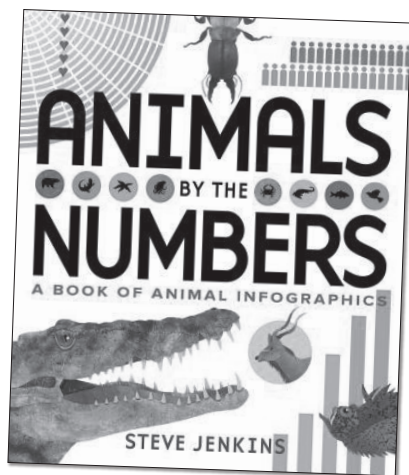


With rising global temperatures melting away the polar ice caps, a beloved animal is in danger of disappearing forever. **Jenni Desmond** takes a poetic look at the solitary life of **The Polar Bear** (Enchanted Lion, \$17.95), using beautiful mixed-media illustrations to capture the emotion of this noble creature and its frigid environment. In her engaging and easily comprehensible text, surprising facts about everything from the bears' hunting behaviors to their migration patterns will fascinate young readers and leave a lasting impression of the bears, whose very existence is threatened by the humans who so revere them. Ages 5-8. *Emi London*



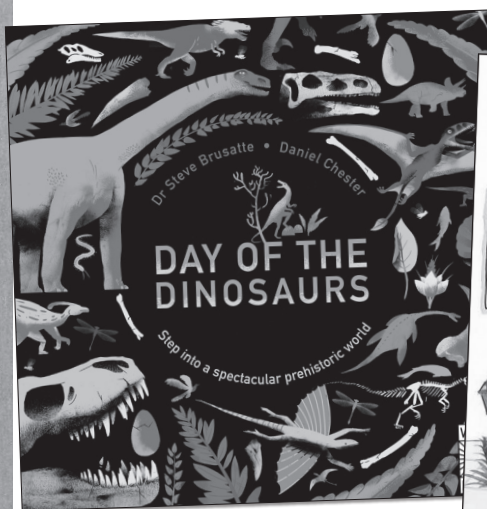
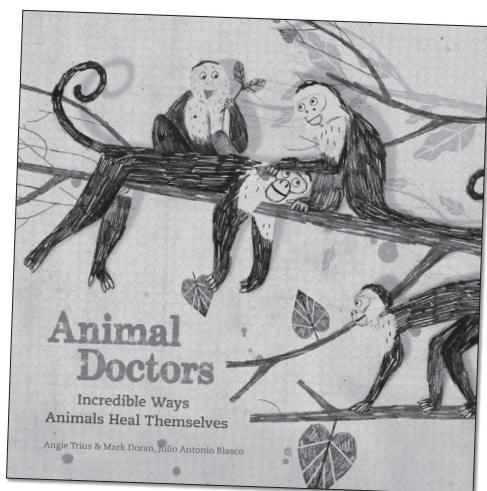
In the darkest depths of the ocean lurks a sea creature the size of a bus. Yet, despite its size, nobody had even captured a photograph of this beast until 2012.

Author **Candace Fleming** and illustrator **Eric Rohmann** take the reader below the surface to learn about one of the ocean's most elusive creatures, the **Giant Squid** (Roaring Brook, \$18.99). Well-researched prose effectively educates the reader as fittingly murky illustrations capture the mysterious atmosphere of the ocean. Close-ups of the giant squid tease the reader as each page reveals more about the species until—POOF!—it disappears in a cloud of ink, leaving the curious reader inspired to learn more. Ages 5-9. *Emi London*

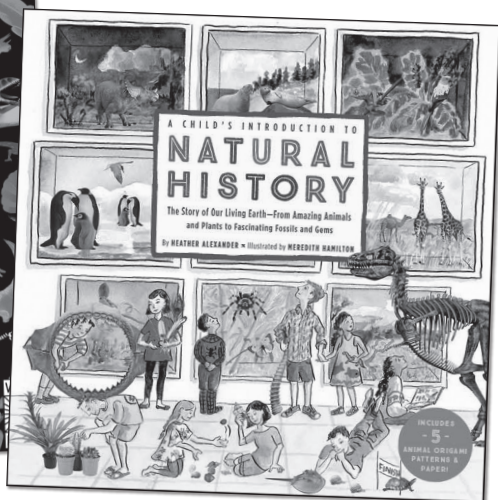


Beloved award-winning author and illustrator **Steve Jenkins** is back with **Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$17.99)! Enticing and accessible information is awaiting readers, this time with a variety of animal statistics. Including charts, numbers, and graphs galore, Jenkins has yet again created a factual and fascinating book for a wide audience. This informational picture book is another must for classrooms and non-fiction lovers. Ages 7-10. *Kasie Griffiths*

**Angie Trius** and **Mark Doran** take a fascinating look at the way animals use the tools available to them in nature to maintain or restore their health in ***Animal Doctors: Incredible Ways Animals Heal Themselves*** (Laurence King, \$15.95). From the insect-repelling scrub that brown bears make to the gut-cleansing leaves that chimpanzees eat, the tricks of the animal kingdom's medical trade are as varied as the species themselves. **Julio Antonio Blasco**'s illustrations bring a quirky atmosphere to the book, while flaps with "doctor's notes" on each page make for an interactive experience. Anyone interested in the whys and wherefores of animal behavior will find this an intriguing read. *Ages 8-11. Emi London*



"Put away your preconceptions, turn the page, and step back" into the ***Day of the Dinosaurs: Step into a spectacular prehistoric world*** (Wide Eyed, \$22.99)! **Dr. Steve Brusatte** has compiled a compendium of fascinating dinosaur information. Starting with the Triassic period and ending with the Cretaceous period, when the Tyrannosaurus Rex reigned supreme, readers will learn about the herbivores, predators, and sea creatures of each era; a helpful scale on each page shows how big each dinosaur was compared to a human being. Illustrator **Daniel Chester** has coupled fact-filled text with bold illustrations and eye-popping colors that will immediately draw young people into this fascinating volume. *Ages 8-11. Kasie Griffiths*



Whether you are an avid naturalist, a mere dabbler in natural history, or a newcomer to the field, you will find ***A Child's Introduction to Natural History: The Story of Our Living Earth—From Amazing Animals and Plants to Fascinating Fossils and Gems*** (Black Dog & Leventhal, \$19.99) an enthralling read. Opening the book is like stepping into a natural history museum; feel free to dip into "exhibits" on microlife, reptiles, or tundra, or devote yourself to taking a comprehensive tour from cover to cover. Author **Heather Alexander** and illustrator **Meredith Hamilton** have created an engaging format using sidebars, illustrations, and photographs to introduce fascinating facts, famous naturalists, scientific vocabulary, and even exciting experiments to budding scientists. *Ages 9-12. Heidi Powell*

Flight has always fascinated mankind; we've looked at birds with envy for millennia, but it wasn't until recently that we managed to turn our desire to fly into reality. Two new books help explain how we got there in captivating histories of humanity's quest for flight. After reading **Rowland White's** "ultimate book of flight," the simple phrase ***Cleared for Takeoff*** (Chronicle, \$21.99) will always contain a little bit of magic. National Air and Space Museum educator **Tim Grove**, meanwhile, explains why hot-air balloons, cardboard boxes, and even *Star Trek's* USS *Enterprise* were all ***Milestones of Flight*** (Abrams, \$21.95). *Ages 10-14. Sharat Buddhavarapu and Allison Witten*



Did you know that crows are one of the smartest species on Earth? That's what author **Pamela S. Turner** and photographer **Andy Comins** discovered as they documented scientist Gavin Hunt's studies of New Caledonian crows. These oft-maligned birds possess the intelligence necessary to solve complex problems, evinced by their ability to manufacture and manipulate simple tools in order to obtain food! How did they get these ***Crow Smarts*** (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$18.99)? Do the parents teach their young how to perform these tasks, or are they simply naturally gifted? Turner's compelling, easy-to-read narrative addresses these and other questions in a fascinating exploration of these amazing creatures. *Ages 11-14. Marc Villa*



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