

GUIDE BOOK TO GIFT BOOKS

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BOOKS FOR YOUTH 2010

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE FINER GIFTS THAN BOOKS—they offer enjoyment, knowledge, and artistic stimulation. They're also gifts that go on giving without requiring any upkeep or cleanup, they're a cinch to wrap, and they're easily sent through the mail! All of these titles have been reviewed in the *Bulletin*, so they've been recommended by professionals. All were in print in the U.S. at the time of this guide's compilation, so they should be either in stock or quickly available through a special order from bookstores both brick-and-mortar and virtual.

You know your recipient better than we do, of course, so you're the best judge of a title's suitability and promise for an individual reader. We've included a broad range of styles, genres, subjects, and challenge levels (roughly divided by audience age), so whether you're looking for a cheerful picture book, an absorbing nonfiction title, or a pulse-pounding novel, there will be something here for the young person on your gift-book list.

While titles are sorted into four categories according to their most likely use—picture books for reading aloud to youngsters, books for primary-grades readers, books for middle-grades readers, and young adult titles—neither books nor readers are so easily categorizable, so we've included age/grade-range designations to help you get an idea of just who in that category is a title's likeliest audience. And since many books reach across category borders but could only be included once, you'll want to check the next category younger for titles whose audience stretches up into the higher age range.

—Deborah Stevenson, *Editor*

A LOOK INSIDE

PICTURE BOOKS 2

BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS
GR. 1-3, 6-8 YRS 8

BOOKS FOR MIDDLE READERS
GR. 4-6, 9-11 YRS. 13

BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS
GR. 7-12, 12-18 YRS. 20



AGEE, JON *The Retired Kid*; written and illus. by Jon Agee. Hyperion, 2008. \$16.99 6-9 yrs

Kids and grandparents alike will appreciate this drolly illustrated tale of a kid who tires of the daily grind and retires to a busy Florida senior citizens' community.

ALALOU, ELIZABETH *The Butter Man*; written by Elizabeth and Ali Alalou; illus. by Julie Klear Essakalli. Charlesbridge, 2008. \$14.95 7-10 yrs

When Nora becomes impatient for dinner, her father tells her a story of his youth in Morocco, and a time when his mother cleverly distracted her own hungry offspring.

AMATO, MARY *The Chicken of the Family*; illus. by Delphine Durand. Putnam, 2008. \$16.99 6-9 yrs

Teased by her older sisters that she is actually a chicken, young Henrietta resists at first but then turns the tables on her sibs by not only accepting but championing the idea; lively, goofily appealing art adds further entertainment to the funny story.



AYLESWORTH, JIM, ad. *The Mitten*; illus. by Barbara McClintock. Scholastic, 2009. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

A lost mitten provides warmth and comfort to a series of delightfully bright-eyed woodland creatures in this melodic, cozy adaptation of a Ukrainian folktale.

BECKER, BONNY *A Visitor for Bear*; illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Candlewick, 2008. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

Bear doesn't like visitors, but a "small and gray and bright-eyed" mouse wins him over with humble and cunning persistence in this charming picture book.

BLACKFORD, HARRIET *Elephant's Story*; illus. by Manja Stojic. Boxer, 2008. \$14.95 3-6 yrs

This inviting picture book uses gentle humor and glowing yet cozy artwork to describe the birth and development of a baby elephant.

BOTTNER, BARBARA *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (and I Don't)*; illus. by Michael Emberley. Knopf, 2010. \$17.99 5-7 yrs

This sparkling, funny tale of a reluctant reader who comes to embrace the wonder of the library is pleasingly free of the heavy-handed messaging of most pro-librarian titles.

BROWN, MONICA *Pelé: King of Soccer/Pelé, El Rey del Fútbol*; Spanish text by Fernando Gayesky; illus. by Rudy Gutiérrez. Rayo/HarperCollins, 2009. \$17.99 5-9 yrs

In this bilingual picture-book biography, art and text do full credit to the dynamism of the Brazilian soccer champ.

BILDNER, PHIL *The Hallelujah Flight*; illus. by John Holyfield. Putnam, 2010. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

With tall-tale aplomb, this fictionalized account retraces the historic 1932 flight by the first African-American pilot to fly across the continental United States.

BROACH, ELISE *Gumption!*; illus. by Richard Egielski. Atheneum, 2010. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

A young boy accompanies his explorer uncle on an arduous African safari and gets some much-needed assistance from a few friendly jungle creatures in this vibrantly illustrated tale replete with hapless adults and mischievous animals.

CLARK, EMMA CHICHESTER, ad. *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*; ad. and illus. by Emma Chichester Clark. Candlewick, 2010. \$14.99 2-5 yrs

British illustrator Clark breathes new life into the classic tale in her delicious, spirited, yet respectful adaptation.

COOPER, ELISHA *Beaver Is Lost*; written and illus. by Elisha Cooper. Schwartz & Wade, 2010. \$17.99 4-7 yrs

Luminous watercolors tell the story in this nearly wordless picture book that follows a young beaver as he takes a detour through the hustle and bustle of the big city.

CRIMI, CAROLYN *Where's My Mummy?*; illus. by John Manders. Candlewick, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$7.99 4-6 yrs

Youngsters who prefer the creepy to the cuddly will appreciate this bedtime story of a little baby mummy being urged to bed by a sequence of horror-film monsters.

CRUM, SHUTTA *Thunder-Boomer!*; illus. by Carol Thompson. Clarion, 2009. \$16.00 5-8 yrs

Evocative description is the hallmark of this picture-book tale of a sudden thunderstorm that brings a farm family a surprise in its wake.

CUTBILL, ANDY *The Cow That Laid an Egg*; illus. by Russell Ayto. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

When her kind barnyardmates try to give Marjorie the cow a sense of achievement by convincing her she's laid an egg, a PR pandemonium breaks loose.

DARBYSHIRE, KRISTEN *Put It on the List!*; written and illus. by Kristen Darbyshire. Dutton, 2009. \$16.99 4-6 yrs

A chaotic family of anthropomorphized chickens can't seem to plan for their daily needs, resulting in grocery-store emergencies and shortages familiar to many a busy human family in this cheerfully absurd yet wittily knowing picture book.

DiPUCCHIO, KELLY *Grace for President*; illus. by LeUyen Pham. Hyperion, 2008. \$15.99 5-8 yrs

When ginger-skinned, dreadlocked Grace runs for school office, the result is a microcosm of the good, bad, and realistic of the political process in this relevant and inviting electoral picture book.

DODD, EMMA *I Love Bugs!*; written and illus. by Emma Dodd. Holiday House, 2010. \$16.95 3-6 yrs

Wee animal lovers whose tastes extend to the creepy and crawly will especially appreciate this celebratory, rhythmic introduction to all manner of multi-legged critters.



DOYLE, MALACHY *Horse*; illus. by Angelo Rinaldi. McElderry, 2008. \$16.99 3-6 yrs

Idyllic oil paintings bring silky manes and velvety muzzles up close in this simple tale of a foal's growth from leggy newborn to riding mount.

ELLIOT, DAVID *Knitty Kitty*; illus. by Christopher Denise. Candlewick, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$4.99 3-5 yrs

This story of a cat lovingly knitting togs for her three adorable offspring is warm and fuzzy but never saccharine.

ELLIOTT, DAVID *On the Farm*; illus. by Holly Meade. Candlewick, 2008. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

Compact, attractive poems treat the various animal denizens of a well-stocked farm as rustic woodcuts depict their bucolic surroundings.

EVANS, FREDDI WILLIAMS *Hush Harbor: Praying in Secret*; illus. by Erin Bennett Banks. Carolrhoda, 2008. \$16.95 5-9 yrs

Slaves find power and spirituality in a forbidden prayer meeting in this dramatic picture-book tale of faith in difficult circumstances.

FLEMING, DENISE *Sleepy, Oh So Sleepy*; written and illus. by Denise Fleming. Holt, 2010. \$16.99 1-3 yrs

A tour of adorable baby animals at the edge of sleep will encourage even the most fractious toddler to join them for a little shut-eye.

FRAZEE, MARLA *A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever*; written and illus. by Marla Frazee. Harcourt, 2008. \$16.00 6-9 yrs

Frazee captures the joys of a summer vacation with a friend, with the best times turning up where you find them rather than where they're planned, in this picture-book account of two obstreperous boys' week at Nature Camp.

FUCILE, TONY *Let's Do Nothing!*; written and illus. by Tony Fucile. Candlewick, 2009. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

Springy, airy illustrations that recall Jules Feiffer add to the humor in this tale about two energetic boys who attempt to rise to the challenge of doing absolutely nothing—and fail, with hilarious results.

HARPER, CHARISE MERICLE *Pink Me Up*; written and illus. by Charise Mericle Harper. Knopf, 2010. \$16.99 4-6 yrs

When her mother can't make it for a special girly outing, little bunny Violet transforms her father into a suitably decorative companion for the "Pink Girls Pink-nic" in this comedic yet sweet picture book.

HILLS, TAD *What's Up, Duck?: A Book of Opposites*; written and illus. by Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade, 2008. \$6.99 2-3 yrs

Hills' Duck and Goose, with two birdie friends in brief hop-on roles, offer nine terse but grandly effective studies in contrast for this board-book concept treatment.

HORÁČEK, PETR *Beep Beep; Choo Choo*; written and illus. by Petr Horáček. Candlewick, 2008. \$5.99 1-3 yrs

Get out of town literarily with these two sturdy board books replete with transportation noises; *Beep Beep* chronicles a family's trip to Grandma's house, while *Choo Choo* follows a group of kids heading to the beach via an old-fashioned steam engine.

Ji, ZHAOHUA *No! That's Wrong!*; written and illus. by Zhaohua Ji and Cui Xu. Kane/Miller, 2008. \$15.95 3-6 yrs

Despite the helpful efforts of an unseen narrator, a sequence of animals persists in wearing bright red underpants every way but the correct one, a confusion that will leave young listeners giggling.

JOCELYN, MARTHE *Same Same*; illus. by Tom Slaughter. Tundra, 2009. \$15.95; board book \$7.95 3-6 yrs

Bold graphics, an inventive design, and an accessible concept make for an attractive romp through pre-math concept skills.

JOOSSE, BARBARA *Sleepover at Gramma's House*; illus. by Jan Jutte. Philomel, 2010. \$17.99 2-5 yrs

In this ebullient readaloud, the joy of spending time with a grandparent is celebrated as our little elephantine narrator prepares for a night with her beloved Gramma.

KARAS, G. BRIAN *The Village Garage*; written and illus. by G. Brian Karas. Ottaviano/Holt, 2010. \$16.99 4-8 yrs

There's no rest for the weary in this small-town public works department, where each season brings different machinery out to keep the roads clear and safe—and a young spectator fascinated.

KEANE, DAVE *Bobby Bramble Loses His Brain*; illus. by David Clark. Clarion, 2009. \$16.00 6-9 yrs

Goofiness abounds in this punny picture book that follows Bobby Bramble, who finally, as his parents have warned, loses his brain when he cracks his head open, requiring his family and friends to pursue and catch the escaping brain and reunite it with poor Bobby.

KELLEY, TRUE *The Dog Who Saved Santa*; written and illus. by True Kelley. Holiday House, 2008. \$16.95 5-8 yrs

Kids will howl at this Yuletide comedy about Santa's hardworking pooch, Rodney, who whips the formerly lazy St. Nick into the beloved and diligent figure he is now.

KIMMEL, ERIC A. *Stormy's Hat: Just Right for a Railroad Man*; illus. by Andrea U'Ren. Farrar, 2008. \$16.95 5-8 yrs

A hardworking train engineer needs a suitable hat, but none of the ones he tries works until his wife finally devises the classic cap; kids will be tickled to find that there's truth underlying this picture-book tale of invention and problem-solving.

KNAPMAN, TIMOTHY *Guess What I Found in Dragon Wood*; illus. by Gwen Millward. Bloomsbury, 2008. \$16.95 4-7 yrs

Kids will enjoy the inversion in this picture-book account of a dragon who finds a strange biped creature and introduces the human visitor to his dragon world and ways.

KUDLINSKI, KATHLEEN V. *Boy, Were We Wrong about the Solar System!*; illus. by John Rocco. Dutton, 2008. \$15.99 6-10 yrs

Kudlinski demonstrates the evolution of scientific thought in this lively exploration of the way our view of the solar system keeps changing.

LERMAN, JOSH *How to Raise Mom & Dad: Instructions from Someone Who Figured It Out*; illus. by Greg Clarke. Dutton, 2009. \$16.99 6-9 yrs

An older sister offers tongue-in-cheek yet kid-authentic narration about the important skills of parent-training, such as begging for things ("Today we're going to ask for a puppy") and tiring parents out thoroughly at bedtime in this irreverent picture book.

LLOYD-JONES, SALLY *How to Get Married—by Me, the Bride*; illus. by Sue Heap. Schwartz & Wade, 2009. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

This fanciful and humorous guide to marriage for the young and wedding-besotted cheerfully broadens the concept to include marrying "your best friend or your teacher or your pet or your daddy," so long as there's joy in the imagined tying of the knot.

LONG, ETHAN *Duck's Not Afraid of the Dark!*; written and illus. by Ethan Long. Little, 2009. \$10.99 3-6 yrs

Loudmouthed Duck reluctantly admits he can't sleep without a light on in this lively nighttime tale that puts viewers literally in charge of the light switch.

MACLACHLAN, PATRICIA *I Didn't Do It*; written by Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan Charest; illus. by Katy Schneider. Tegen/HarperCollins, 2010. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

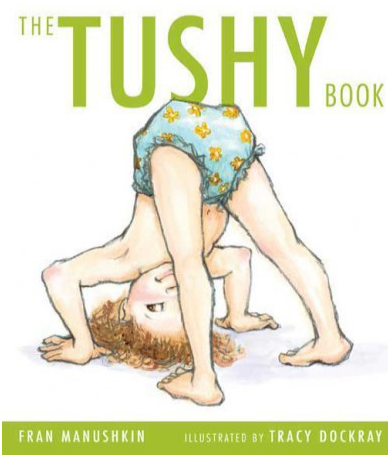
This kennelmate to *Once I Ate a Pie* (BCCB 6/06) offers fourteen more appealing poems in various doggy voices.

MAHY, MARGARET *Bubble Trouble*; illus. by Polly Dunbar. Clarion, 2009. \$16.00 6-9 yrs

The lively verse is as bubbly as the plot in this whimsical story about a baby who takes a bubble-borne voyage and leads his family on a merry chase.

MANSFIELD, HOWARD *Hogwood Steps Out: A Good, Good Pig Story*; illus. by Barry Moser. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2008. \$16.95 4-7 yrs

Kids will snicker at the mayhem in this picture-book tale wherein 600-pound pig Christopher Hogwood goes on a spontaneous spring outing, treating gardens, lawns, and construction digging as creations for his pleasure.



MANUSHKIN, FRAN *The Tushy Book*; illus. by Tracy Dockray. Feiwel, 2009. \$14.99 3-6 yrs

The tushy finally gets the attention, if not necessarily respect, it deserves in this lively rhymed picture book that hilariously celebrates the blessings of the bottom ("Where would you put underwear/ if your tushy wasn't there?").

MCCARTHY, MEGHAN *Astronaut Handbook*; written and illus. by Meghan McCarthy. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99 4-7 yrs

Plenty of kids dream of making it into space, and McCarthy's compact overview of prep, training, and the voyage itself will whet their astronomical appetites.

MCCARTHY, MEGHAN *Pop!: The Invention of Bubble Gum*; written and illus. by Meghan McCarthy. Wiseman/Simon, 2010. \$15.99 5-8 yrs

Bubble gum is the ultimate combination of food, toy, and adult-annoying-mess potential, and McCarthy's high-spirited picture-book account of its origin will charm chewers and non-chewers alike.

MCCARTY, PETER *Henry in Love*; written and illus. by Peter McCarty. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2010. \$16.99 3-5 yrs

McCarty, of *Hondo and Fabian* fame, tries his hand at romance in this sweetly funny story of Henry and his attempts to capture the attention of a fellow classmate with cartwheels and blueberry muffins.

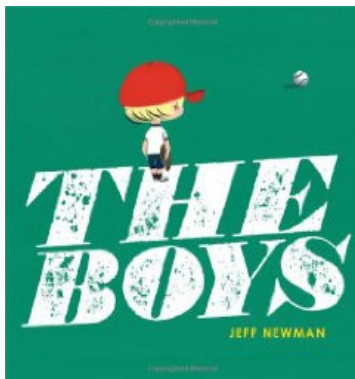
MCCLEMENTS, GEORGE *Night of the Veggie Monster*; written and illus. by George McClements. Bloomsbury, 2008. \$14.95 5-8 yrs
Every Tuesday night, the narrator must face off against a plateful of peas when he sits down to dinner, resulting in wild overreaction from him and sardonic commentary from his parents in this food fight that will send kids into giggles.

MCCORMACK, CAREN MCNELLY *The Fiesta Dress: A Quinceañera Tale*; illus. by Martha Avilés. Cavendish, 2009. \$17.99 5-8 yrs
Lolo, the baby of the family, is used to getting lots of positive attention, but she suddenly finds herself out of the spotlight in this affectionate tale of family closeness and a perky nose temporarily out of joint.

MCGILL, ALICE, ad. *Way Up and Over Everything*; illus. by Jude Daly. Houghton, 2008. \$16.00 5-8 yrs
In this picture book, McGill adds her own family touches to her retelling of the classic African-American folktale "The People Could Fly," describing the magical escape of a mysterious group of slaves.

MILGRIM, DAVID *Santa Duck*; written and illus. by David Milgrim. Putnam, 2008. \$16.99 5-8 yrs
Clothes apparently make not only the man but the duck: when Nicholas Duck puts on the Santa suit and hat he found at his front door, he's immediately assumed to be Santa and given hopeful requests by all the animals he meets.

MORALES, YUYI *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book*; written and illus. by Yuyi Morales. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2008. \$17.95 6-9 yrs
Skeleton Señor Calavera is back, this time preparing to attend Grandma's birthday party, but first he must work his way through an alphabet of strange and funny gifts in this picture book that combines a jaunty charm with magically realistic art about the protagonist's post-mortem adventures.



NEWMAN, JEFF *The Boys*; written and illus. by Jeff Newman. Simon, 2010. \$15.99 6-9 yrs
This nearly wordless picture book follows a little blond tyke as a richly characterized quartet of old guys take him under their wing in the park, build up his social and ball-playing confidence, and become his cheering section as he finally joins his age-mates on the field.

NYEU, TAO *Bunny Days*; written and illus. by Tao Nyeu. Dial, 2010. \$16.99 3-6 yrs
Controlled old-fashioned art recalls Crockett Johnson while poker-faced humor provides gentle silliness in this picture book following the misadventures of a flock of toylike bunnies and the tender assistance of their friend Bear.

PATERSON, KATHERINE *The Light of the World: The Life of Jesus for Children*; illus. by François Roca. Levine/Scholastic, 2008. \$17.99 4-8 yrs
In language both plainspoken and graceful, noted author Paterson retells the story of Jesus, emphasizing his roles of teacher and healer, accompanied by full-page paintings that complement Paterson's tone with stark simplicity.

PATRICELLI, LESLIE *Baby Happy Baby Sad; No No Yes Yes*; written and illus. by Leslie Patricelli. Candlewick, 2008. \$6.99 1-3 yrs
This appealing duet of board books treats the vagaries of baby life; *No No* is a study in toddler etiquette, with dos and don'ts (humorous and realistic) on facing pages, while *Baby Happy* features kid-pleasing and kid-thwarting contrasts to comic and enjoyable effect.

PHILLIPPS, J. C. *Wink: The Ninja Who Wanted to Be Noticed*; written and illus. by J. C. Phillipps. Viking, 2009. \$15.99 6-9 yrs
Young Wink is thrilled to join the Summer Moon School for Young Ninjas, but his tendency to holler "Look at me!" and wear brightly flowered outfits suggests he hasn't quite grasped the concept in this laugh-out-loud title suitable for reading alone as well as aloud.

PICHON, LIZ *Penguins*; written and illus. by Liz Pichon. Orchard/Scholastic, 2008. \$12.99 4-6 yrs
Zoo-dwelling penguins turn shutterbugs when a young visitor drops a camera into their enclosure.

RAY, MARY LYN *Christmas Farm*; illus. by Barry Root. Harcourt, 2008. \$17.00 5-8 yrs
In a book that combines math problem, ecological exploration, and charming holiday story, Wilma and her young neighbor, Parker, plant, tend, and finally sell a multitude of Christmas-tree conifers.

REYNOLDS, AARON *Metal Man*; illus. by Paul Hoppe. Charlesbridge, 2008. \$15.95; paperback \$7.95 6-9 yrs
A boy's fascination with a local artist, who welds junk into sculpture, gives him a chance to demonstrate his own talent in this tough yet comradely picture book.

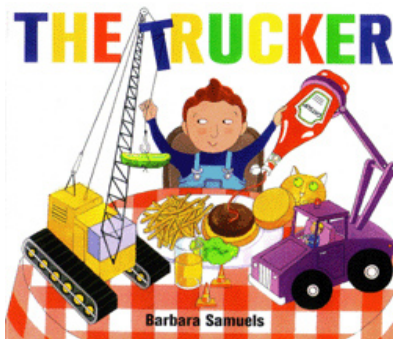
RODMAN, MARY ANN *Surprise Soup*; illus. by G. Brian Karas. Viking, 2009. \$15.99 4-7 yrs
A friendly bear family sounds awfully human as Dad, older brother Josh, and narrator Kevin try to negotiate sibling rivalry and general ineptitude in preparing a meal in Mama's absence.

ROOT, PHYLLIS *Flip, Flap, Fly!*; illus. by David Walker. Candlewick, 2009. \$14.99 18-36 months
Sweet rhyming verse tells of a sequence of animal babies and moms on the move in a gentle turn-the-page guessing-game format that's sure to entice toddlers.

ROSS, TONY, comp. *Three Little Kittens and Other Favorite Nursery Rhymes*; comp. and illus. by Tony Ross. Holt, 2009. \$16.95 2-5 yrs
This collection of nearly fifty classic nursery verses features noted British illustrator Ross' usual rumply, comfortable, personable line and watercolor in friendly period scenes with some clever elements, making this a stalwart anthology.

RYDER, JOANNE *Panda Kindergarten*; illus. with photographs by Katherine Feng. Collins/HarperCollins, 2009. \$17.99 3-6 yrs
The gentle and descriptive text fills in the spaces, but the real draw here is the gallery of irresistible close-ups of the baby pandas at China's Wolong Nature Preserve.

SAKAI, KOMAKO *The Snow Day*; written and illus. by Komako Sakai. Levine/Scholastic, 2009. \$16.99 4-6 yrs
You can feel the hushed wonder of a snow-covered world in this Japanese import featuring a little bunny spending an intimate and unexpected day with her mother when the weather closes school.



SAMUELS, BARBARA *The Trucker*; written and illus. by Barbara Samuels. Farrar, 2010. \$16.99 3-6 yrs
In an attempt to get her truck-obsessed son more in touch with his feminine side, Leo's mom presents him with a sweet, fluffy kitten only to be surprised by the results.

SAY, ALLEN *The Boy in the Garden*; written and illus. by Allen Say. Houghton, 2010. \$17.99 6-9 yrs
This spare, mystically touched picture book follows a lonely Japanese boy as he happens into a folktale-based world and tries heroically to make the story come out with a better ending.

SCANLON, LIZ GARTON *All the World*; illus. by Marla Frazee. Beach Lane/Simon, 2009. \$17.99 4-8 yrs
Softly poetic verse pointing out human connection provides the frame for a detailed visual story featuring branches of an interracial family coming together for a family holiday.

SCHWARZ, VIVIANE *There Are Cats in This Book*; written and illus. by Viviane Schwarz. Candlewick, 2008. \$16.99 3-6 yrs
Young viewers become part of the story by responding to the text's requests and lifting flaps to progress the action in this gentle and light-hearted account of a cat trio's domestic adventures.

SCIESZKA, JON *Robot Zot!*; illus. by David Shannon. Simon, 2009. \$17.99 4-8 yrs
In this larger-than-life comedy of chaotic misunderstanding, diminutive Robot Zot, attacking from another planet, fights his way through an average human home and finds his true love in a cell phone.

SCOTTON, ROB *Splat the Cat*; written and illus. by Rob Scotton. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99 5-8 yrs
Hilariously energetic illustrations take the humor over the top in this tale of new student Splat the Cat, who changes feline opinion on his first day of school when he brings his beloved pet mouse for moral support.

SEEGER, LAURA VACCARO *What If?*; written and illus. by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2010. \$15.99 3-6 yrs
A trio of nearly wordless scenarios, depicted in softly textured, beachy golds and blues, invites young audiences to figure out how three seals can cooperate in playing together.

SHEA, BOB *Dinosaur vs. Bedtime*; written and illus. by Bob Shea. Hyperion, 2008. \$15.99 2-4 yrs
Nothing can stop this fierce little dinosaur, who emerges victorious against foes such as a bowl of spaghetti, a couple of talking grownups, and toothbrush and toothpaste, but is he a match for bedtime? Vigorous visuals and repeated phrases make this a roaring good time.

SMEE, NICOLA *Jingle-Jingle*; written and illus. by Nicola Smee. Boxer, 2008. \$14.95; board book \$6.95 1-3 yrs
When a seasonally bedecked Mr. Horse takes Cat, Dog, Pig, and Duck for a ride in his sleigh, the result is joyous mayhem.

SMITH, LANE *Madam President*; written and illus. by Lane Smith. Hyperion, 2008. \$16.99 6-10 yrs
Katy charges through her day as self-proclaimed President of the United States, treating family as staff, passersby as constituents, and school as the Executive Office in this zany governmental comedy.

SNYDER, BETSY *Sweet Dreams Lullaby*; written and illus. by Betsy Snyder. Random House, 2010. \$15.99 2-4 yrs
Gentle rhythms and charming illustrations invite listeners to join a baby bunny as he nods off and "dreams of comforts all around" in this perfect choice for a bedtime readaloud.

SOLHEIM, JAMES *Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist*; illus. by Simon James. Philomel, 2010. \$15.99 6-9 yrs
In this hilarious picture book, our infant narrator carefully documents the novelty and indignities of being a brand new human.

THOMAS, JAN *A Birthday for Cow!*; written and illus. by Jan Thomas. Harcourt, 2008. \$12.95 4-6 yrs
In this goofily entertaining picture book, Pig and Mouse try to whip up a birthday cake for their friend, Cow, and block their pal Duck's persistent attempts to add turnips to the confection.



THOMAS, JAN *Can You Make a Scary Face?*; written and illus. by Jan Thomas. Beach Lane/Simon, 2009. \$12.99 2-5 yrs

Lively audience participation is the order of the day in this energetic let's-pretend that leads viewers through an encounter with a fictional ladybug and a lot of funny faces.

TURNER-DENSTAEDT, MELANIE *The Hat That Wore Clara B.*; illus. by Frank Morrison. Farrar, 2009. \$16.95 5-8 yrs

Young fans of fancy dress will sympathize with Clara B., who yearns after her grandmother's fine pink church hat and yearns to try on the lovely item.

UNDERWOOD, DEBORAH *Granny Gomez & Jigsaw*; illus. by Scott Magoon. Disney/Hyperion, 2010. \$16.99 4-6 yrs

Young fans of slapstick humor will delight in this clever tale of Granny Gomez and her "special pet" Jigsaw, a perky little pig with a nose for mischief.

URBANOVIC, JACKIE *Duck Soup*; written and illus. by Jackie Urbanovic. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

Culinary artiste Max the duck works on his own original soup recipe, but his animal friends mistakenly conclude that Max has become his soup's main ingredient in this slapstick picture book of misunderstanding.

VERE, ED *Banana!*; written and illus. by Ed Vere. Holt, 2010. \$12.99 2-4 yrs

This nearly wordless picture book features two monkeys, two words ("Please" and "banana"), and one banana in a spirited, funny story about sharing.

VERNICK, AUDREY *Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?*; illus. by Daniel Jennewein. Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2010. \$16.99 4-6 yrs

Underneath the comical guide to kindergarten-readiness for oversize mammals ("Does your buffalo have a backpack? Well, then. He's definitely ready for kindergarten!") lies some genuine reassurance and information about the realities of kindergarten.

WALSH, ELLEN STOLL *Balancing Act*; written and illus. by Ellen Stoll Walsh. Beach Lane/Simon, 2010. \$16.99 3-6 yrs

Cut-paper mice work through the physics and group dynamics of sharing a teeter-totter in this enjoyable picture book.

WEILL, CYNTHIA *Opuestos: Mexican Folk Art Opposites in English and Spanish*; illus. with photographs by Sergio A. Gómez. Cinco Puntos, 2009. \$14.95 4-8 yrs

This triple-faceted gem shines as a concept book, a bilingual vocabulary primer, and an appealing introduction to Oaxacan folk art.

WILLEMS, MO *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*; written and illus. by Mo Willems. Hyperion, 2009. \$16.99 5-9 yrs

Wilbur may be a naked mole rat, but he can't resist a natty shirt and tie, much to the dismay of his fellow rats in this hilarious story about nonconformity.

WILLIS, JEANNE *The Bog Baby*; illus. by Gwen Millward. Schwartz & Wade, 2009. \$16.99 5-8 yrs

An air of delicate mystery informs this gently playful story of sisters who find a very, very special baby animal and try to take care of it.

WOOD, AUDREY *Piggy Pie Po: 3 Little Stories*; illus. by Audrey and Don Wood. Harcourt, 2010. \$16.99 2-4 yrs

Three little rhyming stories focused on porker Piggy Pie Po treat youngster-appealing topics (dressing, learning, eating) with all the bouncy personality of nursery rhymes.

ZUCKERMAN, ANDREW *Creature ABC*; written and illus. with photographs by Andrew Zuckerman. Chronicle, 2009. \$19.99 2-8 yrs

The alphabetical entries sport not only the relevant letters and words but also some of the most vivid and delectable color animal photographs an alphabet book could offer.

AGEE, JON *Orangutan Tongues: Poems to Tangle Your Tongue*; written and illus. by Jon Agee. Hyperion/Disney, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6
Thirty-four poems celebrate, imitate, and revivify tongue-twisters in verse form in this collection sure to have kids trying their linguistic luck.

AGEE, JON *Mr. Putney's Quacking Dog*; written and illus. by Jon Agee. di Capua/Scholastic, 2010. \$16.95 Gr. 2-4
This loosely themed series of "What do you call . . . ?" riddles, all featuring animal friends of the titular Mr. Putney and punchlined with punny portmanteaux ("Who wakes Mr. Putney up in the morning? An alarmadillo"), will tickle readers and readaloud audiences.

ASHMAN, LINDA *Come to the Castle*; illus. by S. D. Schindler. Flash Point/Roaring Brook, 2009. \$17.95 Gr. 3-6
This rollicking rhymed take on the Middle Ages follows the hasty and not always diligent labors of the Earl of Daftwood's servants as they prepare the estate for a tournament.

ASHMAN, LINDA *M Is for Mischief: An A to Z of Naughty Children*; illus. by Nancy Carpenter. Dutton, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5
Twenty-six poems showcase a collection of troublesome tykes in alphabetically themed verse, with the enjoyably awful protagonists often meeting a deliciously disastrous end.

BEARN, EMILY *Tumtum & Nutmeg: Adventures beyond Nutmouse Hall*; illus. by Nick Price. Little, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5
This gentle animal fantasy chronicles the humorous escapades of two mice, Tumtum and Nutmeg Nutmouse, who live comfortably in the well-appointed Nutmouse Hall, hidden inside a dilapidated cottage inhabited by an absent-minded inventor and his two children.



BEATY, ANDREA *Attack of the Fluffy Bunnies*; illus. by Dan Santat. Amulet/Abrams, 2010. \$12.95 Gr. 3-5
Exaggerated illustrations, interspersed mini-comics, and frenetic, dorky middle-grades humor will draw readers into this goofy tale of a camp invaded by a trio of alien bunnies bent on world domination.

BISHOP, NIC *Nic Bishop Lizards*; written and illus. with photographs by Nic Bishop. Scholastic, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 3-6
In the hands of master nature documentarian Bishop, lizards are both gorgeous and fascinating.

BRUEL, NICK *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath*; written and illus. by Nick Bruel. Porter/Roaring Brook, 2008. \$14.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 2-4
Snarky interpolations and illustrations featuring a maniacal kitty adorn this tale of grim hilarity about the difficulty of bathing a bad, bad cat.

BOELTS, MARIBETH *The PS Brothers*. Harcourt, 2010. \$15.00 Gr. 3-5
There's comedy, industry, and a heartfelt story about learning to trust in this accessible chapter book about Russell and his best buddy, Shawn, who try to earn the money for a dog by running a puppy-poop-scooping business but find themselves caught in an ethical animal-welfare dilemma.

BOLGER, KEVIN *Zombiekins*; illus. by Aaron Blecha. Razorbill, 2010. \$10.99 Gr. 3-6
Gruesome hilarity reigns in this story of Stanley, whose creepy-cute stuffed toy called Zombiekins undergoes reanimation and brings on a zombie uprising.

COLLINS, ROSS *Medusa Jones*; written and illus. by Ross Collins. Levine/Scholastic, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5
School's tough enough for Medusa, with her head full of snakes (difficult to style and vengeful when squished under hats), but then she and her centaur and minotaur friends are beset by bullies in this clever combination of mythology and school story.

COULOMBIS, AUDREY *Jake*. Random House, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 3-5
This tender yet unsentimental story follows ten-year-old Jake as he discovers the strength of his extended and somewhat makeshift family after his mother breaks her leg prior to Christmas.

CRUM, SHUTTA *Thomas and the Dragon Queen*; illus. by Lee Wildish. Knopf, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 3-5
Early fantasy readers will find themselves absorbed in this lively story of Thomas, a small-in-size but big-in-heart squire charged with saving a princess from the formidable dragon queen.

CUMMINS, JULIE *Women Daredevils: Thrills, Chills, and Frills*; illus. by Cheryl Harness. Dutton, 2008. \$17.99 Gr. 3-6
More than a dozen women who performed heart-stopping feats at the turn of the last century are featured here in brief but lively profiles.

DEEM, JAMES M. *Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past*. Houghton, 2008. illus. with photographs \$17.00 Gr. 5-8
This examination of human remains uncovered by shifting glaciers boasts Deem's signature balance of delightful shivers and solid science, enhanced by informative and not-for-the-faint-hearted color photographs.

DOHERTY, BERLIE *The Goblin Baby*; illus. by Lesley Harker. Random House, 2009. \$11.99; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 2-4
Allusions to the folktale "Tam Lin" and lively depictions of the faery world enhance this easy reader about a boy thrown into a fantasy quest when his little sister is swapped for a goblin.

DOWNARD, BARRY, ad. *The Race of the Century*; ad. and illus. by Barry Downard. Simon, 2008. \$15.99 Gr. 2-4

Outrageous digitally created photocollages of the animal cast turn this retelling of "The Tortoise and the Hare" into an entertaining modern comedy.

DRAPER, SHARON M. *Sassy: Little Sister Is Not My Name*. Scholastic, 2009. \$14.99; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 2-4

Nine-year-old Sassy may be fighting for recognition in her family, but with her near-magical handbag and sparkly tastes and personality, she'll be a star to young readers.

DUBOSARSKY, URSULA *The Word Snoop*; illus. by Tohby Riddle. Dial, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 4-9

Word-loving kids will relish this relaxed, browsable, and entertaining exploration of various aspects of the English language.

DYER, HEATHER *Ibby's Magic Weekend*; illus. by Peter Bailey. Chicken House, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

In this light-hearted, easy-reading fantasy, Ibby visits her cousins and finds that her uncle has been dabbling with a magic kit gone awry and that he's disappeared.

EHLERT, LOIS *Oodles of Animals*; written and illus. by Lois Ehlert. Harcourt, 2008. \$17.00 Gr. 2-4

Ehlert's usual vivid cut-paper graphics here pair with over sixty pithy, clever poems about animals.

ENGLISH, KAREN *Nikki & Deja: Birthday Blues*; illus. by Laura Freeman. Clarion, 2009. \$15.00; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 2-4

Friends Nikki and Deja prepare for Deja's eighth birthday, but when Deja finds family disappointment and peer competition undercutting her big day, she, her beloved Auntie Dee, and Nikki will have to find a way to solve the problems and deliver a satisfactory celebration.

FLEISCHMAN, PAUL *The Dunderheads*; illus. by David Roberts. Candlewick, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

Witty and subversive, playfully illustrated with art recalling Edward Gorey, this follows a group of kids maligned by their horrible teacher as "dunderheads" as they concoct a caper to retrieve their confiscated treasures from her lair.

FLOCA, BRIAN *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*; written and illus. by Brian Floca. Jackson/Atheneum, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 2-5

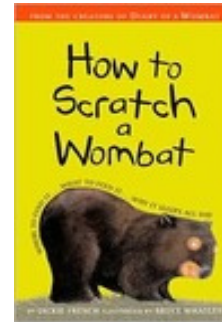
Poetic text that fairly begs to be read aloud partners with line-and-watercolor art that moves smoothly from homey to luminous in this stellar (lunar?) account of the first moon landing.

FLORIAN, DOUGLAS *Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings*; written and illus. by Douglas Florian. Simon, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 2-5

A renowned poetic chronicler of the natural world, Florian returns here with a score of new poems about the legendary great and gone of the animal world; luminous illustrations pair effectively with the clever, funny, and rhythmic verses.

FRENCH, JACKIE *How to Scratch a Wombat*; illus. by Bruce Whatley. Clarion, 2009. \$16.00 Gr. 3-6

Australian author French tells real-life tales of her coexistence with the wild wombats who live near—and sometimes under—her house in this appealing real-life animal story.



GAIMAN, NEIL *The Dangerous Alphabet*; illus. by Gris Grimly. HarperCollins, 2008. \$17.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 3-6

Noted author Gaiman joins forces with the humorously ghoulish Grimly for a ghoulish rhyming alphabet that also tells an adventure story.

GREENE, STEPHANIE *Princess Posey and the First Grade Parade*; illus. by Stephanie Roth Sisson. Putnam, 2010. \$12.99 Gr. 1-2

Readers anxiously awaiting a new school year will find a kindred spirit in Posey as she overcomes her first-day jitters in this pleasingly quiet early chapter book.

GREY, MINI *Traction Man Meets Turbodog*; written and illus. by Mini Grey. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 2-4

Animated action figure Traction Man returns here in a thrilling, hilarious, and oddly poignant quest to save his sidekick Scrubbing Brush from the garbage.

GRIMES, NIKKI *Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel*; illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Putnam, 2009. \$10.99; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 2-3

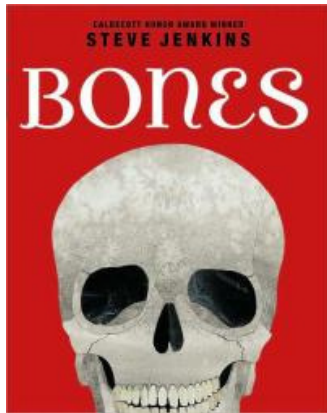
Lively language and zesty illustrations enliven this easy-reading story of African-American third-grader Dyamonde, who's busting at the seams with self-confidence yet still struggling to make friends at her new school until she finds commonality with another new kid, a boy named Free.

HELMAN, ANDREA *Hide and Seek: Nature's Best Vanishing Acts*; illus. with photographs by Gavriel Jecan. Walker, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 2-4

Clever photographs of animals in their natural habitats provide some real-life search-and-find action while demonstrating the effectiveness of the creatures' natural camouflage.

JENKINS, STEVE *How to Clean a Hippopotamus: A Look at Unusual Animal Partnerships*; by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page; illus. by Steve Jenkins. Houghton, 2010. \$16.00 Gr. 3-6

Jenkins and Page, veteran chroniclers of the natural world, employ a combination of comic-strip format and dramatic cut-paper collage art to tell the true stories of animals that depend on cross-species partnerships for advantage and even survival.



JENKINS, STEVE *Bones: Skeletons and How They Work*; written and illus. by Steve Jenkins. Scholastic, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6
Kids who've never looked much further than the bones in their chicken wings will find much to marvel at in this clear and inventive visual overview that demonstrates how similar all of us vertebrates are on the inside.

JOUBERT, BEVERLY *Face to Face with Elephants*; by Beverly Joubert and Dereck Joubert; illus. with photographs by Beverly Joubert. National Geographic, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 3-5
This personally involved account of African elephant life gains its real power from its spectacular color photography of the magnificent and immensely photogenic animals.

KELLY, DAVID A. *Babe Ruth and the Baseball Curse*; illus. by Tim Jessell. Random House, 2009. \$11.99; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 2-4
Baseball maniacs not quite ready for full-length biographies will relish this approachable chapter book on the legendary Red Sox curse that lingered for more than eight agonizing decades following Ruth's sale to the Yankees.

KERBY, MONA *Owney: The Mail-Pouch Pooch*; illus. by Lynne Barasch. Foster/Farrar, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 2-4
This lively picture-book-style history documents the life and fame of Owney, who rose from stray mutt to the toast of the nineteenth-century postal service as a result of his mascot position in Albany and his international travels.

KRULL, KATHLEEN *Fartiste*; by Kathleen Krull and Paul Brewer; illus. by Boris Kulikov. Simon, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6
The story may be told in rollicking verse, but there's little embellishment of this account of the legendary French stage performer who rode to fame on a wave of gas.

LARIOS, JULIE *Imaginary Menagerie: A Book of Curious Creatures*; illus. by Julie Paschkis. Harcourt, 2008. \$16.00 Gr. 3-6
An enticing gallery of mythical animals are featured in elegant verse and dramatic, stylized illustrations.

LAROCHE, GILES *What's Inside?: Fascinating Structures around the World*; written and illus. by Giles Laroche. Harcourt, 2009. \$17.00 Gr. 3-6
A guessing-game structure and fabulously detailed collages offer some surprising revelations about building use and architecture in this work that will intrigue fans of Biesty and Macaulay.

LAYTON, NEAL *The Mammoth Academy*; written and illus. by Neal Layton. Holt, 2008. \$16.95; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 2-4
Layton's young mammoths successfully embark on a school career and have an entertaining encounter with Ice Age humans in this warm, quirky easy chapter book.

LEWIS, JOSH *Super Chicken Nugget Boy and the Furious Fry*; illus. by Douglas Holgate. Disney/Hyperion, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 2-4
This quirky, fast-paced superhero satire is sure to please fans of Captain Underpants and Franny K. Stein as it recounts the beginnings of Super Chicken Nugget Boy and his gigantic, lightning-fast amphibian sidekick.

LIN, GRACE *Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!*; written and illus. by Grace Lin. Little, 2010. \$14.99 Gr. 1-2
Six compact chapters, suitable for reading aloud or alone, introduce twin sisters Ling and Ting in everyday-life adventures that have an inviting, plausible silliness.

LOOK, LENORE *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping, Hiking, and Other Natural Disasters*; illus. by LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 2-4
Anxious primary-grader Alvin Ho isn't an outdoors kind of guy, so he's got serious misgivings about a jolly, male-bonding camping trip with his father in this comedic yet sympathetic story.

LONG, ETHAN *Rick & Rack and the Great Outdoors*; written and illus. by Ethan Long. Blue Apple, 2010. \$10.99 Gr. 1-3
One of the new Balloon Toons series, this sequence of three short, self-contained stories introduces the easygoing friendship between two very different pals, Rick the raccoon and Rack the deer.

MCDONALD, MEGAN *The Hinky-Pink: An Old Tale Retold*; illus. by Brian Floca. Jackson/Atheneum, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 2-4
Pitch-perfect storytelling language and lively illustrations mark this tale of Anabel, a poor young seamstress struggling to make "a dress fit for a princess" as she's beset by the demands of the small supernatural Hinky-Pink.

MCDONOUGH, YONA ZELDIS *Louisa: The Life of Louisa May Alcott*; illus. by Bethanne Andersen. Ottaviano/Holt, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 3-5
This attractively formatted and prettily illustrated introduction to the classic author will be an appealing stepping stone as well as accompaniment to *Little Women*.

MILGRIM, DAVID *My Dog, Buddy*; written and illus. by David Milgrim. Cartwheel/Scholastic, 2008. Paperback \$3.99 Gr. K-2
Restricted vocabulary doesn't restrict the liveliness of the story in this tale of an obstreperous pet who disobeys everyone ("Mom says 'STOP, STOP, STOP!' Buddy goes, goes, goes") except the narrator.

MILLS, CLAUDIA *How Oliver Olson Changed the World*; illus. by Heather Maione. Farrar, 2009. \$15.95 Gr. 2-4

The fate of the ex-planet Pluto and the independence of helicopter-parented third-grader Oliver Olson are brilliantly tied together in this hilarious, perceptive, and understanding story.

MOFFETT, MARK W. *Face to Face with Frogs*; written and illus. with photographs by Mark W. Moffett. National Geographic, 2008. \$16.95; paperback \$6.95 Gr. 3-5

Amphibian aficionados will rejoice at *National Geographic* contributor Moffett's photo-rich, personally chatty yet informative account of froggy lives.

MORRIS, GERALD *The Adventures of Sir Lancelot the Great*; illus. by Aaron Renier. Houghton, 2008. \$15.00; paperback \$4.99 Gr. 3-5
Affection and irreverence combine in this witty chronicle of the great knight's adventures aimed at early graders.

MORSE, SCOTT *Magic Pickle*; written and illus. by Scott Morse. Graphix/Scholastic, 2008. Paperback \$9.99 Gr. 2-4

This splendidly ludicrous graphic novel features young Jo Jo, who's happy to assist the heroic Magic Pickle that lives under her bedroom floor in his efforts to thwart an evil vegetable uprising.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN *Ida B. Wells: Let the Truth Be Told*; illus. by Bonnie Christensen. Amistad/HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 2-5

Esteemed author Myers traces the career of early African-American activist Ida B. Wells with compact effectiveness.

NELSON, MARILYN *Snook Alone*; illus. by Timothy Basil Ering. Candlewick, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

A bouncy, rat-chasing terrier finds himself eking out a living alone on an unpopulated island when bad weather separates him from his master; Nelson's flowing, humor-touched text and Ering's springy, sweeping art make this picture-book-styled survival story a winner.

NIRGIOTIS, NICHOLAS *Killer Ants*; illus. by Emma Stevenson. Holiday House, 2009. \$17.95 Gr. 3-6

Nirgiotis offers an introduction to four fearsome insects you wouldn't want to meet in a dark alley—army ants, fire ants, driver ants, and bulldog ants—in dense but zesty text accompanied by detailed and menacing illustrations.

NOBLEMAN, MARC TYLER *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*; illus. by Ross MacDonald. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

This trim picture-book biography uses the visual idiom of the hero comic to explore the often unhappy lives of the creators of Superman.

O'CONNOR, BARBARA *The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester*. Foster/Farrar, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 3-5

Under O'Connor's sure touch, this tale of small-town kid Owen, who wrestles with peer dynamics, an ethical struggle over his newly captured frog, and the irresistible opportunity presented by a found mini-submarine, shines with tenderness and matter-of-fact understanding.



PATENT, DOROTHY HINSHAW *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone*; illus. with photographs by Dan and Cassie Hartman. Walker, 2008. \$17.95 Gr. 3-5

Young environmentalists will appreciate this carefully crafted natural photo-history that documents the important role of wolves in the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem by looking at the ripple effects of their removal and return on other park species.

REX, ADAM *Frankenstein Takes the Cake*; written and illus. by Adam Rex. Harcourt, 2008. \$16.00 Gr. 3-7

Sixteen monstrously funny poetic entries range in subject from the Headless Horseman's blog to Edgar Allan Poe's struggles to write a poem to the Frankenstein monster's upcoming nuptials, partnering with amazingly varied styles of art in a versatile collection that will serve well for reading aloud as well as alone.

ROBERTS, KEN *Thumb and the Bad Guys*; illus. by Leanne Franson. Groundwood, 2009. \$17.95 Gr. 3-6

While twelve-year-old Thumb and his friend Susan do solve a quirky little mystery, the real pleasure here is the affectionately humorous depiction of everyday life in their tiny, isolated, and eccentric Canadian fishing village.

ROSEN, MICHAEL *Red Ted and the Lost Things*; illus. by Joel Stewart. Candlewick, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 2-3

Mixing traditional picture-book formatting with graphic-novel-styled panel narrative, this tender story follows a left-behind teddy bear as he tries to find his way back to his beloved mistress.

ROVETCH, GERDA *There Was a Man Who Loved a Rat and Other Vile Little Poems*; illus. by Lissa Rovetch. Philomel, 2008. \$14.99 Gr. 3-6

These fourteen poems aren't so much vile as matter-of-factly odd and startling in their rhymed chronicles of disaster; the author's daughter provides sly illustrations.

RUDELL, DEBORAH *A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk: A Forest of Poems*; illus. by Joan Rankin. McElderry, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 3-5

Crisp yet thoughtful poems in a variety of rhyme schemes focus largely on animal dwellers of the natural world, and their wit and aptness invite recitation as well as reading.

SALISBURY, GRAHAM *Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet*; illus. by Jacqueline Rogers. Lamb, 2009. \$12.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 2-4
Fourth-grader Calvin Coconut, growing up in Kailua, Hawaii, has a penchant for the problematic, and the series of jams he gets in and out of combine to make an entertaining picture of Calvin's lively world.

SCHULMAN, JANET *Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City*; illus. by Meilo So. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

Red-tailed hawk Pale Male made his nest outside the penthouse window of a New York skyscraper, and Schulman describes his unusual life in this fluidly illustrated picture book.

SIDMAN, JOYCE *Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors*; illus. by Pamela Zagarenski. Houghton, 2009. \$16.00 Gr. 3-5

Gifted poet Sidman turns her attention to the colors of the seasons in this image-rich collection illustrated with cleverly crafted mixed-media art in appropriately glowing hues.

SINGER, MARILYN *Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse*; illus. by Josée Masse. Dutton, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 3-6

Fourteen "reversos," poems that reveal something quite different when the free-verse lines are reversed bottom to top, provide ingenious, compact takes on famous folktales.

SPINELLI, EILEEN *The Dancing Pancake*; illus. by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff. Knopf, 2010. \$12.99 Gr. 3-6

Cozy, accessible free verse poetry adds to the charm of this tale of friendship in the face of adversity as sixth grader Bindi is forced to deal with her anger over her parents' separation.

SPIRES, ASHLEY *Binky the Space Cat*; written and illus. by Ashley Spires. Kids Can, 2009. \$16.95; paperback \$8.95 Gr. 3-6

Compact, wryly funny text pairs with contemporary, slightly odd, elegantly controlled artwork in this graphic novel about a cat's hopes of taking one large step for cat-kind—if he can bear to leave his humans behind.

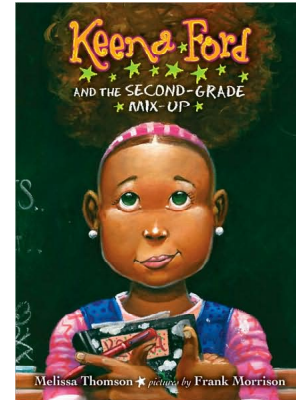
STURM, JAMES *Adventures in Cartooning*; written and illus. by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost. Center for Cartoon Studies/First Second/Roaring Brook, 2009. Paperback \$12.99 Gr. 2-5

A story, itself in comic-book form, tells of a princess who wants to create her own comics, and in the process she and her readers learn the nuts and bolts of the craft of comic-making.

THOMAS, JAN *Rhyming Dust Bunnies*; written and illus. by Jan Thomas. Atheneum, 2009. \$12.99 Gr. K-2

The titular dust bunnies goof around with one-syllable rhymes, save for Bob, who initially seems not to be grasping the game but then turns out to be sounding an alarm in this funny picture-book story eminently suitable for beginning readers.

THOMAS, LYN *100% Pure Fake*; illus. by Boris Zaytsev and with photographs by Cheryl Powers. Kids Can, 2009. \$16.95 Gr. 3-6
Even kids who didn't know they liked how-to will be unable to resist this well-crafted "cookbook" for grossout and scary tricks ranging from very realistic fake barf through exciting faux-scarring to your classic mock dog poo.



THOMSON, MELISSA *Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up*; illus. by Frank Morrison. Dial, 2008. \$14.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 2-3

Pell-mell Keena loves second grade, but her enthusiasm brings her mishaps as well as fun in this easy reader about a lively, strong-minded heroine.

WEATHERFORD, CAROLE BOSTON *I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer*; illus. by Eric Velasquez. Walker, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 3-5

Matthew Henson is both the subject and narrator of this lyrical picture-book account of his bold and unconventional life as an African-American explorer alongside Robert Peary.

ABBOTT, TONY *The Postcard*. Little, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 6-9

This atmospheric Floridian mystery combines family history, 1950s pulp serial fiction, and local landmarks as reluctant visitor Jason and local girl Dia attempt to uncover secrets about Jason's grandmother's romantic past.

ALBEE, SARAH *Poop Happened!: A History of the World from the Bottom Up*; illus. by Robert Leighton. Walker, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 5-9

What sounds like a keen grossout gimmick is actually an original and interesting premise explored in breezy text and invitingly lively formatting, as Albee traces social history, mostly European and American, through its sanitation practices and the consequences and benefits thereof.

AMATO, MARY *Invisible Lines*; illus by Antonio Caparo. Egmont, 2009. \$18.99 Gr. 5-8

Trevor Musgrove, an underdog struggling to find a place in his low-income housing, privileged school, and beloved soccer team makes an endearing hero in this high-interest, easily readable sports and school story.

AVI *The Seer of Shadows*. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 4-7

Nineteenth-century photography, fraudulent spiritualism, and a real ghost combine in this adventurous period romp by master storyteller Avi.

BASKIN, NORA RALEIGH *The Truth about My Bat Mitzvah*. Simon, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 5-8

The death of her grandmother leaves Caroline not only grief-stricken but contemplating the Judaism that was central to her grandmother's life yet peripheral to her own.

BECCIA, CARLYN *The Raunchy Royals: Test Your Royal Wits: Crack Codes, Solve Mysteries, and Deduce Which Royal Rumors Are True*; written and illus. by Carlyn Beccia. Houghton, 2008. \$17.00 Gr. 4-8

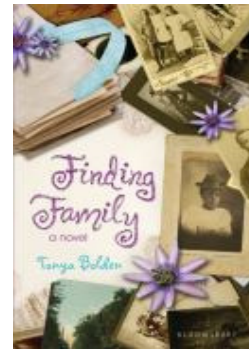
Thirteen beliefs about rulers receive an acerbic and irreverent interrogation in this compact blend of royal-watching and skeptical investigation in a lively, browsable format.

BLACKWOOD, GARY *The Great Race: The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908*. Abrams, 2008. \$19.95 Gr. 5-8

Period photographs spice up this already dramatic account of the adventurous and pitfall-ridden race to publicize the motorcar.

BOND, VICTORIA *Zora and Me*; by Victoria Bond and T. R. Simon. Candlewick, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

This folklore-based story of Southern crime, intrigue, and secrets effectively features a young Zora Neale Hurston as a lively, determined, and yarn-spinning protagonist.



BOLDEN, TONYA *Finding Family*. Bloomsbury, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 4-7
Inspired by century-old photographs collected from various sources, this story of an early twentieth century African-American girl unraveling the mystery of her heritage will appeal to fans of historical fiction and family drama.

BOWERS, RICK *Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement*. National Geographic, 2010. \$16.95 Gr. 6-10

A true-crime tone, short, well-focused chapters, and an arresting subject combine in this dramatic exploration of Mississippi's official State Sovereignty Commission, which investigated and infiltrated civil rights groups in a concerted effort to preserve segregation.

BRANDEIS, GAYLE *My Life With the Lincolns*. Holt, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-7

When an attempt to save her parents' failing marriage goes awry, twelve-year-old Mina finds herself in the middle of Chicago's equal housing movement in this touching coming-of-age story that captures both a moment in history and a moment in adolescence.

BRASHARES, ANN *3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows*. Delacorte, 2009. \$18.99 Gr. 6-9

Middle-school girls familiar with the famous Sisterhood develop their own tight friendship in this younger counterpart to Brashares' bestseller.

BRUCHAC, JAMES, ad. *The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales*; ad. by James Bruchac and Joseph Bruchac; illus. by Stefano Vitale. Sterling, 2008. \$14.95 Gr. 4-8

Bruchacs father and son produce a handsome collection of smoothly retold Native American folktales, drawn from a wide geographical range and soundly supported with historical and cultural notes.

BRUCHAC, JOSEPH *March toward the Thunder*. Dial, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 5-9

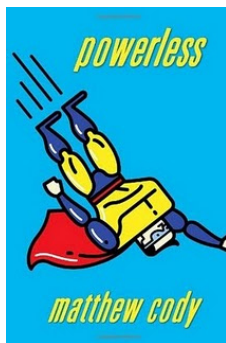
Abenaki teen Louis Nolette joins the Union to fight in the Civil War, finding more meaning in the bonding of the men in his mismatched brigade than in the cause itself in this intriguing historical novel.

CADNUM, MICHAEL *Peril on the Sea*. Farrar, 2009. \$16.95 Gr. 6-10
Want drama on the high seas in Elizabethan England? Join Sherwin Morris, who's saved by a marauding privateer and included in his crew on the condition that he compose a flattering ballad about the captain's exploits—but little does Sherwin know that he'll be undergoing plenty of exploits of his own.

CATANESE, P. W. *Happenstance Found*. Aladdin, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8
Happenstance can't remember where he came from or why he has these strange supernatural talents, but after being taken under the wing of buoyant adventurer, inventor, and entrepreneur Umber, he discovers he's bringing danger to his new friend.

CHEN, DA *Sword*. Geringer/HarperCollins, 2008. (Forbidden Tales) \$16.99 Gr. 5-7

Folktale and martial arts blend together in this story of Miu Miu, who discovers on her fifteenth birthday that her destiny is to avenge her father's death by killing the emperor with a sword crafted from magical iron.



CODY, MATTHEW *Powerless*. Knopf, 2009. \$15.99 Gr. 4-6

When twelve-year-old Daniel moves to Nobles Green, he quickly discovers that his preteen superhero neighbors are the reason his new town is called "The Safest Place on Earth." Soon, however, his fantastic friends are threatened, and ordinary Daniel must use his own set of skills to save the day.

DOWD, SIOBHAN *The London Eye Mystery*. Fickling/Random House, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$7.50 Gr. 6-9

Richard, who looks at the world a little differently, joins with his older sister to solve the mystery of their visiting cousin's disappearance.

DUNKLE, CLARE B. *The House of Dead Maids*; illus. by Patrick Arrasmith. Holt, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 6-8

This spooky prequel to *Wuthering Heights* offers a taste of the drama to come for the youthful Heathcliff as well as a ghost story all its own.

DOWELL, FRANCES O'ROARK *The Kind of Friends We Used to Be*. Atheneum, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 5-7

This standalone sequel to *The Secret Language of Girls* sees Kate and Marylin starting their seventh-grade year and beginning to develop their own identities in a story remarkable for its blend of accessibility and sympathetic perception.

EDWARDSON, DEBBY DAHL *Blessing's Bead*. Kroupa/Farrar, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 6-9

This two-tiered historical novel treats an Inupiaq family in 1917 and 1989, tenderly depicting the transmission of values, strengths, and frailties down the generations as they struggle with the changes to their lives.

ELISH, DAN *The Attack of the Frozen Woodchucks*; illus. by Greg Call. Geringer/HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

Loopy science fiction and entertaining absurdity are the hallmarks of this tale of ten-year-old Jimmy, who wants his abducted father back from the extraterrestrial woodchucks and has to save the planet to do it.

FAGAN, DEVA *The Magical Misadventures of Prunella Bogthistle*. Holt, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 4-6

Hints of Southern folklore echo throughout Fagan's easygoing yet atmospheric tale of failed young witch Prunella Bogthistle, who embarks on a quest through the supernaturally populated swamplands in the hope of earning her way back into her family's good graces.

FLEISCHMAN, SID *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West*. Greenwillow, 2008. \$18.99 Gr. 5-9

Adults looking to interest young readers in the classic author will find Fleischman's savvy and appreciative biography, which celebrates Twain's talent for humbuggery as well as literature, an inviting introduction.

GEORGE, JESSICA DAY *Princess of the Midnight Ball*. Bloomsbury, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 6-10

Sweet romance and a quick-moving plot will engage readers in this novel-length exploration of the Grimms' "The Twelve Dancing Princesses."

GEPHART, DONNA *How to Survive Middle School*. Delacorte, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 5-8

Despite his recent ascent into online stardom as the host of his own online talk show, middle-schooler David Greenberg finds his offline existence increasingly chaotic as his best friend ditches him, his mother takes off, and his hormones have him suddenly interested in those notorious queens of confusion, girls.

GRAFF, LISA *Umbrella Summer*. Geringer/HarperCollins, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 4-7

After losing her older brother to a freak accident, Annie attempts to deal with life's uncertainties by protecting herself from all possible risks—until a new friend brings her a different perspective.

GRATZ, ALAN *The Brooklyn Nine: A Novel in Nine Innings*. Dial, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 5-9

From the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries, baseball has run in the veins of the Schneiders, and nine short stories follow successive generations of the family as they follow their favorites, play their own game, and find that it provides a thread that links the generations together.

HAHN, MARY DOWNING *All the Lovely Bad Ones: A Ghost Story*. Clarion, 2008. \$16.00; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 4-7

Pranksters Travis and his younger sister, Corey, arrive at their grandmother's inn planning to fake its haunting, but they're in for a shock when their fakes arouse a host of real ghosts that they must now lay to rest.

HARDINGE, FRANCES *Well Witched*. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 6-9

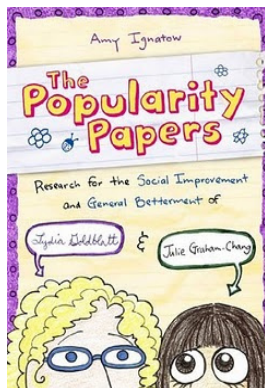
When Ryan, Josh, and Chelle raid a wishing well for bus fare, they find themselves cursed to fulfill the wishes linked to the coins they stole in this vividly created and creepy fantasy.

HOOSE, PHILLIP *Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*. Kroupa/Farrar, 2009. illus. with photographs \$19.95 Gr. 5-10

Rosa Parks may be famous, but teenager Claudette Colvin did it first; this biography explores both her initial act of civil disobedience and the reasons why Parks' refusal to give up her seat and not Colvin's became the spark for the Montgomery bus boycott.

IBBOTSON, EVA *The Dragonfly Pool*; illus. by Kevin Hawkes. Dutton, 2008. \$17.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 5-8

A group of traveling British schoolkids champion the cause of the young king of (fictional) Bergania against Hitler in this old-fashioned and appealing adventure.



IGNATOW, AMY *The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang*; written and illus. by Amy Ignatow. Amulet/Abrams, 2010. \$15.95 Gr. 4-6

This charming, comic, and surprisingly wise scrapbook-like fictional journal documents Lydia and Julie on their scientifically plotted plan for junior-high popularity.

JINKS, CATHERINE *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*. Harcourt, 2009. \$17.00; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 6-10

This classy comedy sends up vampire enthusiasm along the way, following young-ish (seeming fifteen, really fifty) Nina as she assists the poor endangered vampires now stalked by murderous anti-vampire forces.

JONES, DIANA WYNNE *Enchanted Glass*. Greenwillow, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-7

With a delightful balance of wit, danger, and magic, Jones' latest fantasy follows a befuddled magician and his orphan charge as they attempt to defend their magical estate against the ghostly beasties who would use it for less than pleasant purposes.

KADOHATA, CYNTHIA *Outside Beauty*. Atheneum, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 6-9

Shelby, twelve in the summer of 1983, is the second of the four girls her gorgeous mother had with four different men, but this tight feminine world is challenged when their mother's hospitalization means that Shelby must at last get to know her father.

KELLY, JACQUELINE *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. Holt, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

This story of a small-town Texas girl looking into the twentieth century with a thirst for science and a wonder about what the future will hold for her is a winning blend of humorous family story and natural-history exploration that recalls memoirs by Sterling North, Farley Mowat, and Gerald Durrell.

KELLEY, JANE *Nature Girl*. Random House, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Eleven-year-old Megan's a sulking city girl dragged to the country, but she's determined to prove her spirit by hiking thirty miles along the Appalachian train with only her dog for company in this involving, middle-grades-friendly survival story.

KELSEY, ELIN *Not Your Typical Book about the Environment*; illus. by Clayton Hanmer. Owlkids, 2010. \$10.95 Gr. 4-8

This upbeat, creative, wide-reaching exploration gives kids a broader, more nuanced view of the challenges of environmental responsibility and the directions in scientific innovation in a lively, cartoon-illustrated format.

KIMMEL, ELIZABETH CODY *Spin the Bottle*. Dial, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

New seventh-grader Phoebe is thrilled that she can finally join the Drama Club and act in a real play, but she's thrown by the prospect of the opening-night tradition of a game of Spin the Bottle; Kimmel's zesty comedy and authentic anxiety make the story believable as well as memorable.

KRIEG, JIM *Griff Carver, Hallway Patrol*. Razorbill, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 4-7

Griff Carver, fabled hallway monitor and loose cannon, has gotten a whiff of something rotten in the rough-and-tumble corridors of Rampart Middle School and suspects a counterfeit-hall-pass ring in this clever nod to police procedurals and crime noir.

LARSON, HOPE *Chiggers*; written and illus. by Hope Larson. Seol/Atheneum, 2008. \$17.99; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 5-9

This graphic novel authentically captures the experience of summer camp, with protagonist Abby torn between new and old friends and crushing on a boy.

LIN, GRACE *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*; written and illus. by Grace Lin. Little, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6

In this folklore-inspired fantasy, a young Chinese girl journeys from her poor village in the Fruitless Mountain to change her family's fortunes and meets an enchanting cast of characters along the way.

LOWRY, LOIS *The Willoughbys*; written and illus. by Lois Lowry. Lorraine/Houghton, 2008. \$16.00; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 4-7

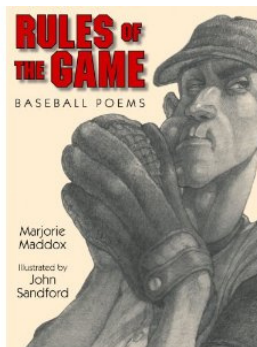
Well-read youngsters will get a particular kick out of this novel that wryly burlesques conventions of orphan and adventure stories even as it offers its own family and travel dramas.

LYON, ANNABEL *All-Season Edie*. Orca, 2008. Paperback \$8.95 Gr. 5-7

Intense, authentic, and ruefully humorous interactions between eleven-year-old Edie and her older sister, Dexter, mark this novel chronicling a year of change and growth in Edie's life.

MADDOX, MARJORIE *Rules of the Game: Baseball Poems*; illus. by John Sandford. Wordsong/Boyd's Mills, 2009. \$16.95 Gr. 6-10

There's real muscle and technical knowledge in these thirty-eight poems about America's favorite pastime.



MARGOLIS, LESLIE *Boys Are Dogs*. Bloomsbury, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 4-7

In this witty but thoughtful and perceptive story, sixth-grader Annabelle, adjusting to a new school, finds it particularly difficult to deal with the troublemaking boys who hassle her until she comes up with the inspired idea of applying her new dog-training skills to her obstreperous classmates.

MCCOY, CHRIS *Scurvy Goonda*. Knopf, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

In this refreshingly original underdog caper, fourteen-year-old Ted finds himself in the middle of a rather unforeseeable situation after he begins taking medicine to help him stop seeing Scurvy Goonda, the pirate who has been his imaginary companion since childhood.

MITCHELL, SAUNDRA *Shadowed Summer*. Delacorte, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 6-9

"Where y'at, Iris?" whispers a ghost into Iris' ear, and suddenly fourteen-year-old Iris' enduring game of spirit-hunting with her friend Collette takes on a frightening reality in this classic yet contemporary ghost story.

MONTGOMERY, SY *Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot*; illus. with photographs by Nic Bishop. Houghton, 2010. \$18.00 74p (Scientists in the Field) Gr. 5-9

An awkward yet strangely beautiful flightless green bird found only on one small island off New Zealand is the subject of a dedicated preservation effort—and this arresting and informative photoessay.

MURPHY, GLENN *Why Is Snot Green?: And Other Extremely Important Questions (and Answers)*; illus. by Mike Phillips. Flash Point/Roaring Brook, 2009. Paperback \$9.95 Gr. 4-7

The title clues readers in to the breezy and irreverent approach in this Q&A-format treatment of popular science topics.

NATHAN, AMY *Meet the Dancers: From Ballet, Broadway, and Beyond*. Holt, 2008. \$22.95 Gr. 4-8

Nathan compactly showcases sixteen working dancers, chronicling their youthful dance experience, the rigors they endure, and the rewards that they find in this fascinating overview of a demanding profession.

NELSON, KADIR *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball*; written and illus. by Kadir Nelson. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2008. \$18.99 Gr. 4-8

Dramatic portraiture and compelling narration make this faux-memoir into a gripping history.

NEWSOME, RICHARD *The Billionaire's Curse*; illus. by Jonny Duddle. Walden Pond/HarperCollins, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

After inheriting a rather large fortune from his great-aunt, thirteen-year-old Gerald Wilkins finds himself in danger up to his newly tailored suit shoulders in this adventure-packed mystery that will appeal to fans of *The 39 Clues*.

NICHOLLS, SALLY *Ways to Live Forever*. Levine/Scholastic, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

Matter-of-fact authenticity enhances this poignant story about eleven-year-old Sam, whose leukemia has stopped responding to treatment and who watches the turmoil of those around him as he works through the things he wants to do before the end.

OLSON, TOD *How to Get Rich in the California Gold Rush: An Adventurer's Guide to the Fabulous Riches Discovered in 1848*; illus. by Scott Allred. National Geographic, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 4-7

This clever tongue-in-cheek approach to history focuses on a fictional adventurer to create a guidebook for survival in the goldfields and elsewhere in 1848 California.

PATT, BEVERLY *Best Friends Forever: A World War II Scrapbook*; illus. by Shula Klinger and with photographs. Cavendish, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 5-7

This fictional scrapbook offers a picture of an era and of a friendship as it follows fourteen-year-old Louise Krueger during World War II as she attempts to maintain a friendship with her BFF Dottie, a Japanese-American girl now living in an internment camp.

PHILBRICK, RODMAN *The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg*. Blue Sky/Scholastic, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

On a quest to find his brother, who was illegally conscripted into the Union Army as a result of the machinations of the boys' nasty uncle, Homer experiences a series of wild adventures before coming face to face with the realities of the Civil War in this high-action historical romp with a serious side.

POTTER, ELLEN *The Kneebone Boy*. \$16.99 Feiwel, 2010. Gr. 4-7

Fans of gothic mysteries will find this darkly witty recount of the Hardscrabble children and their trials and tribulations just to their liking.

PRELUTSKY, JACK *Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem*. Greenwillow, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$5.99 Gr. 4-6

The children's poet laureate combines highly practical advice for writing with sample poems and entertaining stories of his life and writing inspirations.

PRIESTLEY, CHRIS *Tales of Terror from the Black Ship*; illus. by David Roberts. Bloomsbury, 2008. \$12.99 Gr. 5-8

A creepy frame story about two lonely children provides the perfect backdrop for this series of frightening and ghastly stories told by a visiting seafarer.

REEVE, PHILIP *Fever Crumb*. Scholastic, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 5-7

It's a prequel to the fabulous *Hungry Cities Chronicles*, and it's delightful in its own right—do you really need to know more?

RICH, SUSAN, ed. *Half-Minute Horrors*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2009. \$12.99 Gr. 4-7

Drive-thru drama is the name of the game with this collection of over seventy speedy stories of the supernaturally or naturally threatening, most under a page long.

RIORDAN, RICK *The Red Pyramid*. Disney/Hyperion, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 5-8

After their archeologist father blows up the Rosetta Stone, siblings Carter and Sadie Kane must take on ancient Egyptian gods in this zany but nonetheless thrilling start to the Kane Chronicles.

RODDA, EMILY *The Key to Rondo*. Scholastic, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 5-9

A magical music box sucks sensible Leo and his impetuous cousin into a strange fantastical world, where they get a chance to right some wrongs and save their family's honor.

RODMAN, MARY ANN *Jimmy's Stars*. Farrar, 2008. 16.95 Gr. 4-6

When Ellie's beloved older brother enlists to stop Hitler in his tracks, the eleven-year-old girl begins to realize that war may take a personal toll on their family.

RUPP, REBECCA *Octavia Boone's Big Questions about Life, the Universe, and Everything*. Candlewick, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 5-8

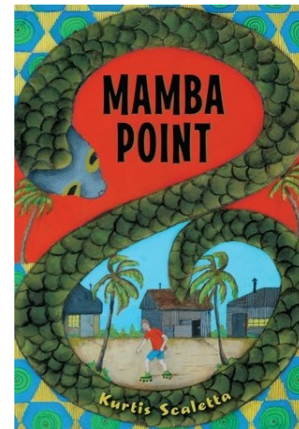
A careful blend of humor and hope infuses this tale of one girl's struggle to come to terms with the new dynamics of her family after her mother takes off to find enlightenment.

RYAN, PAM MUÑOZ *The Dreamer*; illus. by Peter Sis. Scholastic, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 5-8

Budding poets will appreciate this elegantly written fictional account of Pablo Neruda's childhood.

SANDERS, SCOTT LORING *The Hanging Woods*. Houghton, 2008. \$16.00 Gr. 6-9

What initially seems like a story of small-town buddyhood stealthily turns into a tale of human desperation and tragedy in this dark story of a trio of friends in post-Vietnam Alabama.



SCALETTA, KURTIS *Mamba Point*. Knopf, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-9

Plagued by anxiety and panic attacks, seventh-grader Linus Tuttle sees his family's move to Liberia as an opportunity to remake himself, especially when he realizes he has a strange connection to one of Africa's most deadly reptiles.

SCOTT, ELAINE *Mars and the Search for Life*. Clarion, 2008. illus. with photographs \$17.00 Gr. 4-7

Scott ably chronicles Mars in folklore and in the fascinating details of recent Martian explorations.

SEAR, JOANN *Little Vampire*; written and illus. by Joann Sfar; tr. by Alexis Siegel and Edward Gauvin. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2008. Paperback \$13.99 Gr. 4-7

This collection of three funny yet wise short graphic novels features *Little Vampire*, who lives in a luridly gruesome but loving household and deals with everyday issues that will be familiar to young mortals.

SIDMAN, JOYCE *Dark Emperor & Other Poems of the Night*; illus. by Rick Allen. Houghton, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Sidman produces another stellar volume of nature poetry, here following the activities of nocturnally active organisms from raccoons to snails to mushrooms; crisp, intricate linocut prints trace the journey from dusk to dawn and entice readers to hunt for featured creatures in their backgrounds.

SMELCER, JOHN *The Great Death*. Holt, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8
This taut and dramatic survival story follows a pair of native Alaskan sisters, whose village has been wiped out by European-brought disease and who must find some remaining human settlement on their own.

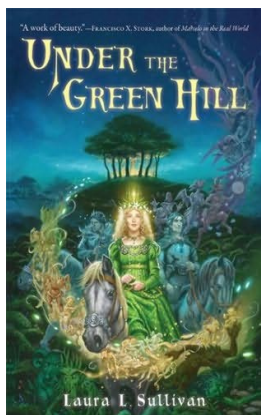
SMITH, HOPE ANITA *Keeping the Night Watch*; illus. by E. B. Lewis. Holt, 2008. \$18.95 Gr. 5-8
This spare yet dramatic poem sequence evocatively describes the reservations of a teenaged boy when his abandoning father returns to the family.

SOTO, GARY *Facts of Life: Stories*. Harcourt, 2008. \$16.00 Gr. 5-8
Ten original stories offer crisp, varied portrayals of what it's like to be young and Latino in Fresno, California.

SOTO, GARY *Partly Cloudy: Poems of Love and Longing*. Harcourt, 2009. \$16.00 Gr. 5-8
Romance of the earliest variety is chronicled in this series of accessible poems divided into one section for the girl's point of view and another for the boy's.

SPINNER, STEPHANIE *Damosel: The Lady of the Lake*. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 6-9
The old story of King Arthur's rise to power is made new in this compact story told through the alternating narratives of Damosel, a Lady of the Lake, and Twixt, a sagacious and world-weary dwarf "in a world where difference can be deadly."

STEAD, REBECCA *When You Reach Me*. Lamb, 2009. \$15.99 Gr. 4-7
Miranda begins to receive strange notes that seem to predict the future in this intriguing and original book that adds a big surprise to a seemingly familiar everyday-life story.



SULLIVAN, LAURA L. *Under the Green Hill*. Holt, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8
Kin to classic British fantasies, this atmospheric tale follows four siblings sent to the home of relatives in the English countryside who find themselves involved in the Midsummer War between the beautiful Seelie and the much more threatening Host.

SWINBURNE, STEPHEN R. *Wiff and Dirty George: The Z.E.B.R.A. Incident*. Front Street, 2010. \$17.95 Gr. 4-7
London in 1969 is the perfect setting for the kooky adventures of twelve-year-old Wiff and his pal Dirty George when they attempt to save the Queen from a mad inventor in this absurdly quirky caper.

TASHJIAN, JANET *My Life As a Book*; illus. by Jake Tashjian. Ottaviano/Holt, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 4-6
Young fans of the Wimpy Kid series will no doubt recognize a bit of themselves in twelve-year-old Derek Fallon as he fends off his parents' attempts to add "educational value" to his summer and embarks on an adventure of his own.

TAYLOR, SARAH STEWART *Amelia Earhart: This Broad Ocean*; written and illus. by Sarah Stewart Taylor and Ben Towle. Center for Cartoon Studies/Disney/Hyperion, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 5-9
This compelling graphic-novel account explores the life of Amelia Earhart through the eyes of young Grace, a fictional resident of the small Newfoundland village from where Earhart and her pilot hope to begin a transatlantic flight in 1927.

TOWNSEND, MICHAEL, ad. *Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders*; ad. and illus. by Michael Townsend. Dial, 2010. \$14.99 Gr. 4-8
The illustrations in this graphic-novel-styled narrative are rendered with runaway goofiness, giving a humorous, even slightly satiric touch to these nine snappy retellings of classic Greek myths.

STUTT, RYAN *The Skateboarding Field Manual*. Firefly, 2009. illus. with photographs \$29.95; paperback \$19.95 Gr. 5-10
This appealing title, rife with glossy glamour shots, offers a wealth of instruction and an older-brotherly approach that will boost the confidence and ability of novices.

TRONDHEIM, LEWIS *Kaput & Zösky*; tr. by Edward Gauvin; illus. by Eric Cartier. First Second, 2008. Paperback \$13.95 Gr. 4-6
The absurd misadventures of the daring Kaput and Zösky, space explorers and hapless would-be conquerors, appear in brief, full-color installments that, when combined, form a graphic novel detailing several attempts at planet takeovers and a complete glimpse into the humorously bizarre psyches of the two comic protagonists.

TRUEMAN, TERRY *Hurricane*. HarperCollins, 2008. \$15.99 Gr. 4-7
When Hurricane Mitch hits the tiny Honduran *pueblo* of thirteen-year-old José Cruz, he must help his mother and neighbors to survive in the aftermath of the disaster.

URREA, LUIS ALBERTO *Mr. Mendoza's Paintbrush*; illus. by Christopher Cardinale. Cinco Puntos, 2010. \$16.95 Gr. 6 up
A vivid portrayal of a small, closed-minded Mexican town underpins this humorous, magical-realism-touched graphic novel about two mischief-prone young guys, their exploits, and the mysterious "Graffiti King," Mr. Mendoza.

VAIL, RACHEL *Lucky*. HarperTeen, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 6-9

This tale of Phoebe, who's threatened with social ostracism when her mother's job loss spells trouble for their family's plush lifestyle, is witty yet sympathetic.

VAN CLEVE, KATHLEEN *Drizzle*. Dial, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 4-7

Life on Polly's magical farm, where her best friend is a warm-hearted chocolate rhubarb plant and where there's a regularly scheduled supernatural rainfall, seems to be losing its enchantment, so Polly must figure out the secret of her beloved home's survival.

VANDERPOOL, CLARE *Moon over Manifest*. Delacorte, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 5-8

This solid historical novel follows Abilene Tucker, who in 1936 finds a box of letters from 1918 that begin to shed light on long-simmering family and town secrets.

WALLACE, RICH *Sports Camp*. Knopf, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 5-7

Sports-story stalwart Rich Wallace spins an appealing yarn with this tale of eleven-year-old Riley and his experiences away from home at sports camp.

WALTERS, ERIC *Splat!* Orca, 2008. \$16.95; paperback \$9.95 Gr. 6-10

This quick-moving read offers the comedic chronicle of mischievous buddies Keegan and Alex, who take over the Tomato Toss at their small town's Tomato Festival with riotous results.

WARWICK, ELLEN *Everywear*; illus. by Bernice Lum. Kids Can, 2008. \$14.95 Gr. 5-8

There's genuine sleepover appeal in this collection of over a dozen DIY projects from jewelry to hair adornments to purses.

WEATHERILL, CAT *Wild Magic*. Walker, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 5-8

This reinterpretation of the tale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin combines fairy-tale elements and a family story in an accessible fantasy.

WEITZMAN, DAVID *Skywalkers: Mohawks on the High Steel*. Flash Point/Roaring Brook, 2010. \$19.99 Gr. 5-9

Social history, architectural history, and engineering case studies mingle in this involving account of the Kahnawake Mohawk of southern Quebec, who became famed high-steel workers instrumental in the creation of New York's skyscrapers.

WEST, JACQUELINE *The Shadows*; illus. by Poly Bernatene. Dial, 2010 241p (The Books of Elsewhere) \$16.99 Gr. 5-7

Eleven-year-old Olive, newly moved into an atmospheric old house, finds that it holds more than she expects in this delightful concoction of classic fantasy elements ranging from talking cats to animated paintings.

WHITNEY, KIM ABLON *The Other Half of Life: A Novel Based on the True Story of the MS St. Louis*. Knopf, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 5-8

This compelling fact-based novel tells the tale of Jewish immigrants attempting to flee Germany for Cuba in the 1930s.

WILLARD, ELIZA *Totally Crushed*. Scholastic, 2008. Paperback \$5.99 Gr. 5-7

This breezy middle-school romance stars Annabel, whose Valentine's Day turns into chaos when romantic wires get crossed, and who finds out that she likes somebody else entirely.

WILLIAMS-GARCIA, RITA *One Crazy Summer*. Amistad/HarperCollins, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 5-8

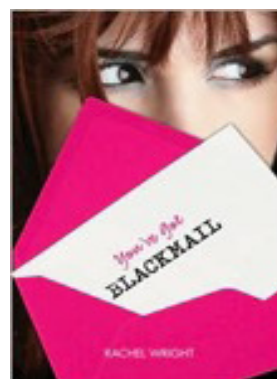
It's 1968, and eleven-year-old Delphine reexamines her family and values when she and her little sisters spend the summer in Oakland with their estranged mother, now a poet involved with the Black Panther movement.

WILSON, DANIEL *Bro-jitsu: The Martial Art of Sibling Smackdown*; illus. by Les McClaine. Bloomsbury, 2010. \$12.99 Gr. 5-8

You may need to shut your eyes to the practice, but this guide to sibling annoyance (the Basic Hair Pull, Wet Willy, and Doll Mutilation are some familiar examples) will have young readers gleefully poring over the pages and planning mayhem.

WOODSON, JACQUELINE *Peace, Locomotion*. Putnam, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 5-8

In this tender epistolary novel, twelve-year-old Lonnie Collins Motion tries to stay connected to his beloved little sister as the two grow apart in their separate foster homes.



WRIGHT, RACHEL *You've Got Blackmail*. Putnam, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 6-9

Froth and menace enjoyably combine in this effervescent British mystery starring likeable Lauren, known as Lizzie.

YEP, LAURENCE *The Dragon's Child: A Story of Angel Island*; by Laurence Yep and Dr. Kathleen S. Yep. HarperCollins, 2008. \$15.99 Gr. 4-6

At the beginning of the twentieth century, ten-year-old Gim Lew is thrilled by his father's return to China from America, but he's more daunted than excited by the news that he will be joining his father on his next trip to the United States.

ABEL, JESSICA *Drawing Words & Writing Pictures: Making Comics: Manga, Graphic Novels, and Beyond*; written and illus. by Jessica Abel and Matt Madden and with photographs. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2008. Paperback \$29.95 Gr. 9 up

This exhaustively comprehensive, wittily instructive guide to creating comics features fifteen individual lessons that take readers from concept to finished product.

ALCOTT, LOUISA MAY *Little Vampire Women*; ad. by Lynn Messina. Harper Teen, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 7-12

To be sure, all the old familiars are here, including Amy, Beth, Jo, and Laurie—they're just a bit more, ahem, bloodthirsty in this particular version. What's not to love?

ANDERSON, LAURIE HALSE *Chains*. Simon, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 7-10

In this nuanced novel of history and loyalty, Isabel, kept as a slave in Revolutionary War America despite technically being freed, seeks to find her way to liberty through spying for the Patriots.

BADOE, ADWOA *Between Sisters*. Groundwood, 2010. \$16.95 Gr. 7-10

This absorbing tale of sixteen-year-old Gloria, a Ghanaian girl who's thrilled yet overwhelmed by life in the fast lane when she moves into a relative's urban home, conveys local detail as it explores universal teen issues.

BARNES, JENNIFER LYNN *The Squad: Perfect Cover*. Laurel-Leaf/Random House, 2008. Paperback \$6.99 Gr. 7-10

Deliciously campy adventure ensues in this book about a cheerleading squad that's a cover for an elite team of government operatives.

BAUER, JOAN *Peeled*. Putnam, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-10

Hildy Biddle, ace high-school reporter, uses all her journalistic powers to fight against land developers using underhanded tactics to try to buy up property in Hildy's little apple-growing community.

BEAUFRAND, MARY JANE *The River*. Little, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

Veronica is stunned and grief-stricken at the death of her ten-year-old neighbor, who had helped Veronica adjust to her new small-town life, so she turns sleuth in this haunting, atmospheric mystery.

BENWAY, ROBIN *Audrey, Wait!* Razorbill, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

When Audrey dumps her boyfriend, he turns their breakup into a hit song, making Audrey into a pop-culture phenomenon and her life into a roller-coaster ride in this witty and knowing comedy.

BRADBURY, JENNIFER *Shift*. Atheneum, 2008. 17.99 Gr. 9-12

Win and Chris' post-graduation cross-country bicycle trip turns to mystery when Win disappears, and Chris must piece the clues together in this road trip story with a difference.

BRENNAN, SARAH REES *The Demon's Lexicon*. McElderry, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Murderous magicians, demons on the attack, and brothers whose

relationship may not be all it seems—what more can a fan of supernatural chills ask for?

BUNCE, ELIZABETH C. *A Curse Dark as Gold*. Levine/Scholastic, 2008. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

This ingenious novel takes the tale of "Rumpelstiltskin" for its inspiration, focusing on a young eighteenth-century Englishwoman attempting to keep the family woollen mill afloat who finds assistance from a mysterious visitor.



BUNCE, ELIZABETH C. *Starcrossed*. Levine/Scholastic, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Impeccable suspense marks this deliciously intriguing tale of Digger, a young thief drawn into a web of political scheming after she masquerades as a noblewoman's lady-in-waiting.

CADNUM, MICHAEL *The King's Arrow*. Viking, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 7-12

William II, son of William the Conqueror, met his death on a hunting expedition in New Forest in 1100, but was it an accident or murder? Cadnum explores the mystery in this richly peopled, smoothly paced historical novel.

CALETTI, DEB *The Fortunes of Indigo Skye*. Simon, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 9-12

In this rich and thought-provoking novel, Indigo has been happy with her simple life revolving around family, boyfriend, and waitressing job, and she's stunned by how much it affects her when a customer leaves her a \$2.5 million dollar tip.

CASHORE, KRISTIN *Graceling*. Harcourt, 2008. \$17.00; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 8-10

Katsa is one of a rare few born with a special ability called a Grace; her special talent, however, is killing, which has been used by her uncle the king to his advantage—until Katsa finally finds an opportunity to rebel and atone.

COLLINS, SUZANNE *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic, 2008. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

When Katniss' younger sister is selected to be a tribute in the Hunger Games, a televised fight to the death between twenty-four teens (one girl and boy from each of the twelve districts), Katniss spares her sibling by taking on the responsibility herself in this haunting, futuristic novel.

DAVIS, TANITA S. *A La Carte*. Knopf, 2008. \$15.99 Gr. 7-10
Professional drive and relationship naïveté sit side by side in Lainey, who's dreaming of being the first female African-American celebrity chef—but she'll have to figure out her feelings for Simeon first.

DAVIS, TANITA S. *Mare's War*. Knopf, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

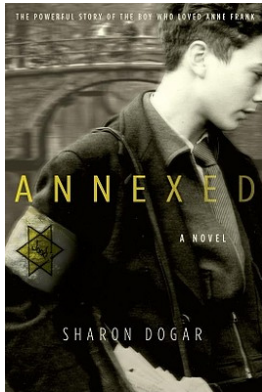
Octavia and Tali are dreading driving cross-country with their grandmother, Mare, but the experience gives them a new window on Mare's life when she reveals her tough and hard-working past, especially her service in the 6888th African American Battalion in the World War II Women's Army.

DAY, SUSIE *My Invisible Boyfriend*. Scholastic, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

In this effervescent British comedy, Heidi invents her perfect boyfriend and then finds that keeping the fiction going among her friends is more trouble than she expected.

DE LA PEÑA, MATT *Mexican WhiteBoy*. Delacorte, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

Shy Danny Lopez struggles to connect with his Latino father's family despite his Anglo upbringing, and it looks like his prodigious baseball skills may be the key.



DOGAR, SHARON *Annexed*. Houghton, 2010. \$17.00 Gr. 7-10

This fictionalized account of the experiences of Peter van Pels, who hid in the famous annex with Anne Frank, provides a moving, accessible, and original approach that intersects effectively with the famous diary.

DONNELLY, JENNIFER *Revolution*. Delacorte, 2010. \$18.99 Gr. 7-10

When Andi, staying with her father in Paris after her brother's death, finds the diary of one of the French Revolution's victims, she finds herself obsessed with the two-hundred-year-old tragedy and its resonance with her own grieving in this rich, original, and compelling story.

ENGLER, MARGARITA *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. Holt, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

This moving free-verse historical novel tells the tale of thirteen-year-old Daniel, a Jewish refugee who escapes Nazi Germany in 1939 in

hopes of finding safety abroad and then must struggle to find stability and security in Cuba.

EPHRON, DELIA *The Girl with the Mermaid Hair*. HarperTeen, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

This thoughtful realistic novel has a delicate touch of the supernatural as it follows teenaged Sukie, who thinks everything in her life is perfect, until her parents' shifting dynamics causes her to consider what's going on below the surface.

FERSHLEISER, RACHEL, ed. *I Can't Keep My Own Secrets: Six Word Memoirs by Teens Famous & Obscure*; edited by Rachel Fershleiser and Larry Smith. HarperTeen, 2009. Paper ed. \$8.99 Gr. 7 up

This weird, wonderful, and nearly irresistible collection contains over 600 incredibly brief autobiographical revelations that range from grateful to poignant, heartbreaking to hilarious.

FORD, JOHN C. *The Morgue and Me*. Viking, 2009. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Eighteen-year-old Christopher Newell, part-time morgue cleaner, teams up with a beautiful young journalist to get to the bottom of a mystery involving a corpse in the cooler and likely coroner bribery in this heady whodunit.

FRANCO, BETSY, ed. *Falling Hard: 100 Love Poems by Teenagers*. Candlewick, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 9 up

This varied collection of deftly crafted poems isn't impressive merely because of the authors' ages, it's just plain impressive.

GILL, DAVID MACINNIS *Black Hole Sun*. Greenwillow, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12

Movie-ready doesn't even begin to describe this lightning-paced action novel about a group of teen mercenaries out to make a living on a hardscrabble Mars and, if it's financially rewarding, save a few lives along the way.

GILL, DAVID MACINNIS *Soul Enchilada*. Greenwillow, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Bug, an eighteen-year-old half-black, half-Tejana girl living on her own, discovers she's been an unwitting cosigner to a deal with the Devil, and supernatural intrigue flows fast and clever (and gross) as she wheels and deals her way out of her plight.

GOTO, HIROMI *Half World*; illus. by Jillian Tamaki. Viking, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12

In this elegant, compelling, and vivid fantasy, fourteen-year-old Melanie discovers that she was actually born in the realm known as Half World, and she returns to its grotesque, terrifying futility to rescue her mother and right the balance between the worlds.

GOODMAN, ALISON *Eon: Dragoneye Reborn*. Viking, 2008. \$19.99 Gr. 7-10

Eon—secretly a girl, named Eona—hopes to be selected by one of the twelve energy dragons as an apprentice in this compelling story drawing on Asian history and folklore and spicing it up with martial arts and otherworldly battles.

GREEN, JOHN *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*; by John Green and David Levithan. Dutton, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 9-12

Told in alternating chapters, this story tells the tale of two Will Graysons and their search for friendship and love—and one stellar high school musical.

HARRIS, JOANNE *Runemarks*. Knopf, 2008. \$18.99; paperback \$10.99 Gr. 7-10

Fourteen and shunned by her village because of her magical ability, Maddy finds her life irrevocably changing when she's sent on a quest to find a powerful object that will help tip the balance in the brewing battle between good and evil in this dramatic and compelling fantasy.



HARTINGER, BRENT *Project Sweet Life*. HarperTeen, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

Fifteen-year-old Dave and his friends Victor and Curtis fight parental insistence that they get summer jobs with organized slackerdom that leads them to a local mystery in this high-spirited outing.

HAUTMAN, PETE *Blank Confession*. Simon, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

This ably plotted reverse mystery story and effective quick-pick read opens with a murder confession by sixteen-year-old Shayne Blank, and as the novel unfolds, readers piece together the circumstances of the crime and its victim.

HOGAN, MARY *Pretty Face*. HarperTeen, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Basically *Enchanted April* for YAs, this lush travel tale features Hayley, an uncertain American teen whose idyll in the Italian countryside brings her perspective on her family, a new appreciation of her own body, and a handsome local boyfriend.

HWA, KIM Dong *The Color of Earth*; tr. from the Korean by Lauren Na; written and illus. by Kim Dong Hwa. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2009. Paperback \$16.95 Gr. 7-10

In this first graphic novel of a trilogy based on the author's mother's youth and set in rural Korea, Ehwa grows from a naïve six-year-old girl to a lovely young teenager, learning from her beautiful young mother along the way.

JINKS, CATHERINE *Babylonne*. Candlewick, 2008. \$18.99 Gr. 7-12

Rebellious medieval teenager Babylonne, a member of the anti-Catholic Cathars in what's now Southern France, finds both her plans and her beliefs shaken when she runs away and encounters a kindly Catholic priest who takes her under his wing.

KARIM, SHEBA *Skunk Girl*. Farrar, 2009. \$16.95 Gr. 8-12

Nina, growing up in a conservative Pakistani Muslim family in small-town America, has a wry, witty take on her attempts to avoid the shadow of her brilliant older sister, negotiate a social life despite her family's strictures, and get the new boy to notice her.

KESSLER, CRISTINA *Trouble in Timbuktu*. Philomel, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Set in contemporary Mali, this novel follows thirteen-year-old twins Ayisha and Ahmed on their quest to protect their country's national treasures from a conniving pair of American tourists.

KLAM, CHERYL *The Pretty One*. Delacorte, 2008. \$12.99; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Accustomed to living in the shadow of her glamorous older sister, Megan finds herself in a new world when post-accident plastic surgery turns her into the school beauty.

LEVITHAN, DAVID *How They Met, and Other Stories*. Knopf, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$9.99 Gr. 7-10

Both the hopeful and the lucky will appreciate this collection of eighteen stories that offer varied looks at the start of love.

LIBBY, ALISA M. *The King's Rose*. Dutton, 2009. \$17.99 Gr. 7-10

Fans of *The Tudors* will particularly appreciate this title, the story of literal teen queen Catherine Howard, fifth wife of Henry VIII of England, who in this conception fails to realize just how out of her depth she really is as she marches unknowingly toward doom.

LINKER, JULIE *Crowned*. Simon Pulse, 2008. Paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

Linker doesn't stint on the details of the weird and wonderful world of Southern pageantry in this funny, enjoyable tale of pageant queen Presley, whose rivalry with longterm nemesis Megan kicks into high gear when Presley's boyfriend turns his attentions to Megan.

LOYD, SACI *The Carbon Diaries 2015*. Holiday House, 2009. \$17.95; paperback \$8.95 Gr. 9-12

After enduring a series of ecodisasters, Great Britain introduces carbon rationing, and sixteen-year-old Laura and the rest of her family find their own ways to cope and adapt—or not.

LOMBARDI, TOM *My Summer on Earth*. Simon Pulse, 2008. Paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

An alien tracking down another of his species ends up in California passing as a hot teen beach boy who doesn't quite get the way things work in this funny, satiric look at the life we take for granted.

LYNCH, CHRIS *Hothouse*. HarperTeen, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 8-12

Russell, whose firefighter father has just died in a conflagration along with his best buddy, finds that the firefighter culture he's grown up in hides some secrets in this moving story of heroism, community opinion, the evanescence of reputation, and father-son love.

MAGOON, KEKLA *The Rock and the River*. Aladdin, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 7-10

In this dramatic historical exploration set in Chicago in 1968, two brothers, sons of an associate of Martin Luther King, Jr., struggle to find their activist path amid the growth of the Black Panther movement.

MCBRIDE, LISH *Hold Me Closer, Necromancer*. Holt, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 8-12

In this surprisingly nuanced, emotional, and witty supernatural horror story (yes, that's right), amiable fast-food worker Sam finds his life thrown into bloody chaos when he meets sinister necromancer Douglas.

MCCAUGHREAN, GERALDINE *The Death-Defying Pepper Roux*. Harper/HarperCollins, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 6-9

Despite his aunt's prediction that he would die before he turned fourteen, Paul (Pepper) Roux manages to survive his fateful birthday and embarks on a series of misadventures on his father's merchant ship in this exuberant tale infused with a bit of philosophy.

MCLAUGHLIN, LAUREN *Cycler*. Random House, 2008. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Jill's a typical high-school girly girl—except for four days out of every month, when she turns into testosterone-laden Jack, in this funny but genuinely thoughtful exploration of gender identity.

MCNAMEE, GRAHAM *Bonechiller*. Lamb, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-12

In this splendidly taut and literally chilling supernatural thriller, Danny's marked by a huge supernatural monster as its prey, and he and his new friends in small-town Ontario must find a way to destroy the historic monster to prevent Danny's doom.

MECHNER, JORDAN *Solomon's Thieves*; illus. by LeUyen Pham and Alex Puvilland; color by Hilary Sycamore. First Second/Roaring Brook, 2010. Paper ed. \$12.99 Gr. 9-12

There's swashbuckling adventure aplenty in this historical graphic novel focusing on knight Templar Martin of Troyes, who with the aid of trusty companions defends his beleaguered fellow knights and their historic treasure from the corrupt French king.

MICHAEL, TED *The Diamonds*. Delacorte, 2009. \$11.99 Paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

The Diamonds are the four A-list girls who rule the school, and when they're drafted into the mock-trial team the result is popular power gone amuck—until a former Diamond decides it's smackdown time.

MONNINGER, JOSEPH *Hippie Chick*. Front Street, 2008. \$16.95 Gr. 9-12

In a survival story that focuses more in internal realization than Robinsonian ingenuity, fifteen-year-old Lolly, thrown off her capsized boat in the Florida Keys, finds support for her survival from a trio of manatees.

MOSS, JENNY *Shadow*. Scholastic, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 6-9

With its dashing knights, pretentious queen, and put-upon protagonist, this story starts out like any other garden-variety fairy tale but soon takes a turn for a darkly compelling world of pagan religions and political scheming.

MYERS, WALTER DEAN *Sunrise over Fallujah*. Scholastic, 2008. \$17.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-12

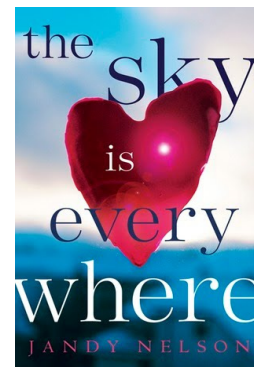
After growing up on family stories of the Vietnam War, Robin Perry ends up in Iraq after he enlists in the army in 2003, and he finds the situation there grimmer and less triumphant than he had expected.

NA, AN *The Fold*. Putnam, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

This thoughtful novel explores cultural, familial, and individual identity as Korean-American Joyce contemplates whether or not to accede to her aunt's wishes and undergo the popular cosmetic surgery that will give her eyes a Caucasian fold.

NELSON, JANDY *The Sky Is Everywhere*. Dial, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 8-12

In this touching, authentic tale of grief, family, and romance, eleventh-grader Lennie struggles to redefine her identity after the death of her vivacious older sister, even as she finds the possibility of love with a talented fellow musician.



NICHOLS, TRAVIS *Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-to Guide for DIY, Punk, Indie, and Underground Bands*; written and illus. by Travis Nichols. Flash Point/Roaring Brook, 2008. Paperback \$12.95 Gr. 7-12

This offbeat, humorous nonfiction how-to, decked with lively line drawings, gives wise and genuinely helpful advice on rock necessities ranging from types of bandmates to survival on road trips to making and marketing merchandise.

NOYES, DEBORAH, ed. *The Restless Dead: Ten Original Stories of the Supernatural*. Candlewick, 2007. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-9

An array of stellar authors offer their takes on the long dead, the undead, and the reluctantly dead in this spooko collection.

NYE, NAOMI SHIHAB, ed. *Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets under 25*. Greenwillow, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7 up

Over a hundred poems by gifted young poets treat family, the craft of writing, and other subjects in moving, memorable verse suitable for reading aloud or alone, in quick browses or in one absorbing read.

OCKLER, SARAH *Twenty Boy Summer*. Little, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 8-12

Sad longings and bittersweet possibilities fill the tale of Anna, whose secret romance with her best friend's older brother was cut short by his shocking death, and who now yearns to share the truth with her friend as the two share a summer beach vacation and encounter new romantic possibilities.

OSTERLUND, ANNE *Aurelia*. Speak/Penguin, 2008. Paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

Someone is trying to prevent Aurelia, the crown princess of the fictional feudal land of Tyralt, from inheriting the throne, and it's up to her childhood friend Robert to keep her safe without alerting her to her danger in this intersection of period drama, romance, and mystery.



PEARCE, JACKSON *Sisters Red*. Little, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 8-12
Dark, gritty, and superbly suspenseful, this modern-day sequel to *Little Red Riding Hood* follows a pair of sisters who hunt the werewolf-like Fenris.

PEET, MAL *Exposure*. Candlewick, 2009. \$18.99 Gr. 10-12
This dramatic novel uses *Othello* as a template but brings it to contemporary South America, where soccer star Otello falls for pop singer Desmerelda, unaware that he's being manipulated by his Machiavellian agent into disaster.

PERKINS, MITALI *Secret Keeper*. Delacorte, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 7-12
This novel set in India in the mid-1970s is told from the perspective of Asha, a smart, impulsive girl who pours her heart into the pages of her diaries as she and her family stay with relatives while waiting to hear from her father about his new fortunes in America.

PRATCHETT, TERRY *Nation*. HarperCollins, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10
When a tidal wave devastates Mau's island just as he comes into his manhood, he must negotiate a partnership with a stranded and strong-minded English girl, lead and heal a new society of rag-tag survivors, and question the implication of this event for the island's faith.

QUINTERO, SOFIA *Efrain's Secret*. Knopf, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12
In this compelling look at inner-city life, honor student Efrain Rodriguez hopes to leave the crime-ridden Bronx for college in the Ivy League, but desperation makes him risk his dreams when he takes a job dealing drugs with his best friend.

REEVE, PHILIP *Here Lies Arthur*. Scholastic, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10
There's a clever pun concealed in the title of this novel, which recasts the Arthurian legend as a triumph of PR and storytelling engineered by Myrddin (Merlin) and his young assistant, Gwyna.

REEVES, DIA *Bleeding Violet*. Simon Pulse, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 9-12
This lush and mysterious fantasy follows teenager Hanna, who seeks a new life with her estranged mother only to find herself threatened both by the devouring monsters that prey on the townspeople and by her own chaotic mental state.

ROY, JENNIFER *Mindblind*. Cavendish, 2010. \$15.99 Gr. 6-9
In this compellingly voiced novel, fourteen-year-old Nathaniel Clark knows he's super-smart, but his Asperger's syndrome renders him much more comfortable cocooned in his own world than interacting with others.

RUNHOLT, SUSAN *The Mystery of the Third Lucretia*. Viking, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 7-10
Good old-fashioned teen mystery joins with art and feminism in this tale of a girl and her best friend who track a cunning art forger across Europe.

SCOTT, ELIZABETH *Stealing Heaven*. HarperTeen, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10
In this enjoyable and well-crafted romance, eighteen-year-old Danielle is her mother's loyal partner in a career of carefully managed theft, but her world comes crashing down around her when her mother falls ill and Danielle begins to get attached to a young man—who happens to be a cop.

SMITH, SHERRI L. *Flygirl*. Putnam, 2009. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-12
In this gripping and thoughtful historical novel, a young black woman in 1940s New Orleans doesn't have a prayer of getting a pilot's license, so when America enters World War II Ida Mae decides to enlist in the Women Airforce Service Pilots—which will require her to pass as white.

STROUD, JONATHAN *Heroes of the Valley*. Hyperion, 2009. \$17.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10
Halli lives in a valley steeped in stories of the legendary heroics of his ancestors, and as he attempts to live in the spirit of those glorious tales, he discovers that there's both magic and storytelling lurking behind what he's learned as history.

TAMAKI, MARIKO *Skim*; illus. by Jillian Tamaki. Groundwood, 2008. \$18.95; paperback \$12.95 Gr. 9-12
Sympathy and authenticity infuse this thoughtful graphic-novel account of a young Canadian girl's high school ups and downs.

TOMLINSON, HEATHER *Toads and Diamonds*. Holt, 2010. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10
With a vividly imagined landscape rife with beauty, power, and plague, this India-set retelling of a lesser-known Perrault tale is sure to please fans of Shannon Hale.

TRACY, KRISTEN *Crimes of the Sarahs*. Simon, 2008. Paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-12
This absorbing blend of adventure and psychological drama focuses on the Sarahs, a quartet of high-school girls whose tight-knit bond involves modest crime sprees, careful manipulation of others, and anxiety about inclusion.

VOORHEES, COERT *The Brothers Torres*. Hyperion, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12
Things aren't going too badly for high-school sophomore Frankie Torres, but when his older brother Steve falls into bad company and insists that his little bro's manhood depends on heading for trouble, Frankie may lose it all in this taut family drama.

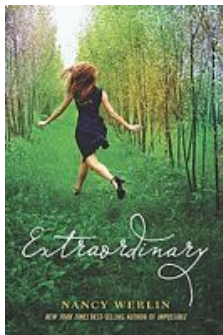
VALENTINE, JENNY *Broken Soup*. HarperTeen, 2009. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10
Since the death of her older brother, Jack, Rowan is the one holding her family together; her burden is lightened when she makes a new friend and finds a new romance, but they also lead her to a family secret in this poignant novel.

WALLACE, RICH *Perpetual Check*. Knopf, 2009. \$15.99; paperback \$6.99 Gr. 7-10

Brotherly rivalry and an overbearing father make this account of a chess tournament as taut and compelling as any contest on gridiron or field.

WATERS, DANIEL *Generation Dead*. Hyperion, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9-12

Goth girl Phoebe doesn't share the usual prejudice against the undead students attending her school—in fact, she has a crush on their unofficial leader—but she's nonetheless caught up in the factional tensions in this snarky and satirical novel about high-school differences.



WERLIN, NANCY *Extraordinary*. Dial, 2010. \$17.99 Gr. 8-12

A surprising friendship between two high-school girls proves to be just the opening gambit in a cunning setup to secure an appropriate sacrifice to pay off a centuries-old supernatural debt in this complex and nuanced fantasy.

WHITCOMB, LAURA *The Fetch*. Houghton, 2009. \$17.00; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 9 up

In this unusual, genre-crossing ghost story, Calder is a Fetch, a “death escort” who guides the dying person out of life, and his noninterference policy crumbles when he falls for the beautiful young Anastasia Romanov and crosses into the living world to help her.

WOOD, JAMIE MARTINEZ *Rogelia's House of Magic*. Delacorte, 2008. \$15.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 8-10

Three fifteen-year-old Latinas try to learn magic from a wise *curandera* and find power in the bonds of friendship and family as well as in the supernatural.

YOO, DAVID *Stop Me If You've Heard This One Before*. Hyperion, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$8.99 Gr. 7-10

In this funny yet touching story of offbeat romance, outsider Albert Kim embarks on a romance with Mia, the most popular girl in school, which founders when Mia's glamorous ex, who seemed her inevitable match, develops cancer and wants Mia by his side.

YOO, PAULA *Good Enough*. HarperTeen, 2008. \$16.99 Gr. 7-10

Scholar, musician, and churchgoer Patti Yoon appears to be the Perfect Korean Daughter, but inside she's yearning for more possibilities than her parents are willing to allow in this warm and funny novel.

YOUNG, E. L. *Storm: The Infinity Code*. Dial, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 7-10

Step aside, James Bond: a fourteen-year-old multimillionaire software guru pulls together a team of genius teenagers to fight the adult-caused

evil in the world with their brilliance, their audacity, and real-life high-tech gadgetry.

ZARR, SARA *Sweethearts*. Little, 2008. \$16.99; paperback \$7.99 Gr. 9-12
Jenna, who remade herself into a popular mainstream girl after years of outsiderhood, finds herself questioning her identity when her best friend from childhood reenters her life, bringing old secrets to the surface.

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