

Children's Books

100 Titles for Reading
and Sharing 2015



New York
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Library

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“What’s that I see?”

—LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET by Matt de la Peña

Children’s Books: 100 Books for Reading and Sharing 2015 is published by The New York Public Library’s Youth Education Services Department and BookOps Youth Selection Department.

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2015 edition of The New York Public Library's *100 Titles for Reading and Sharing*. Among this year's selection of noteworthy new children's books, readers of all ages are sure to discover new worlds, engage their curiosity, and spark their imaginations. This year's list contains books chosen by our librarians from the thousands published in 2015.

More than a century old, this list has always sought to reflect the diversity and beauty of New York City's readership. You'll go on a journey from a remote Mexican village to the modern labyrinths of the NYC subway system, plus meet a roller-skating dynamo and a tween with an affinity for "cat ears" along the way. You'll discover stories of young people striving to find their place in the world.

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play a critical role in supporting a child's journey from emerging reader to confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

Make reading part of your family's regular routine. Nightly bedtime stories work well for many families, but any time of day is good. It's never too early to start, and never too late to encourage your child to pick up the habit!

Talk about what you are reading. Whether your child is reading independently or together with you, discussing and retelling stories helps deepen understanding, improve reading skills, and build vocabulary.

Let your child catch you reading! Keep books, newspapers, and magazines at home and demonstrate your own love for the written word.

Keep the conversation going and visit your local library this year! Talk to a librarian today to help guide you and your children along the journey to becoming a family of lifelong readers.

Committee: Deborah Allman, Anne Barreca, Ann-Marie Braithewaite, Clarissa Cook, Meghan Kitz, Annie Lin, Anthony Murisco, Theresa Panza, Karen Phelan, Kristy Raffensberger, Ruth Rodriguez, Jacqueline Schector, Rebecca Schosha, Anna Taylor, Taylor Thomas, Amie Wright, Sue Yee.

Co-Chairs: Louise Lareau and Stephanie Whelan.

Advisors: Betsy Bird, Karen Ginman, Jeanne Lamb, Christopher Lassen.

Picture Books

(FOR CHILDREN AGES 2–8)

8: An Animal Alphabet by Elisha Cooper. *Orchard Books*. Children can search for a variety of creatures from Alpaca to Zebu with inviting watercolor illustrations.

Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Illustrated by Rafael López. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. In 1930s Cuba, a young girl defies tradition and realizes her dream of playing the drums.

Families, Families, Families by Susan & Max Lang. *Random House*. Discover that families come in all shapes, sizes, and species.

Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear by Lindsay Mattick. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. When a Canadian veterinarian adopts a bear cub on his way to Europe during WWI, he has no idea that “Winnie” will capture the hearts of millions.

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Float by Daniel Miyares. *Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers*. Follow the adventures of a boy and his paper boat in this wordless tale.

Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise by Sean Taylor. Illustrated by Jean Jullien. *Candlewick*. What will this bird of the night do (and become!) to catch his chosen prey?

If You Plant a Seed by Kadir Nelson. *Balzer & Bray*. Rabbit and Mouse eagerly wait for their garden to grow, and in turn, learn how an act of kindness can change everything.

In a Village by the Sea by Muon Van. Illustrated by April Chu. *Creston Books*. Hearth and home are strikingly depicted in this tale of a mother and child in a Vietnamese fishing village.

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña. Illustrated by Christian Robinson. *G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers*. On a bus ride through the city, a boy's grandmother teaches him to appreciate the beauty and diversity in his community.

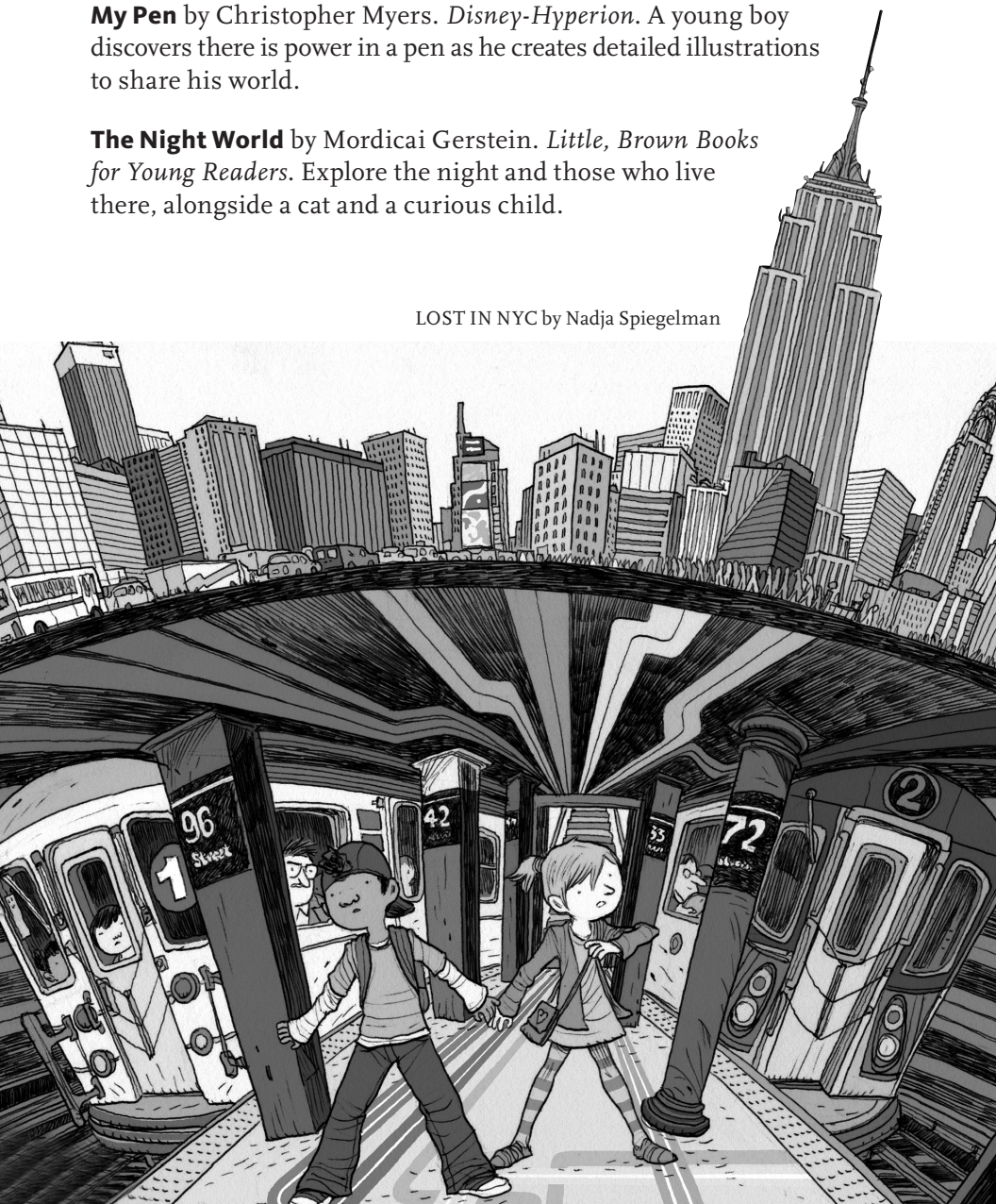
Lenny & Lucy by Philip C. Stead. Illustrated by Erin E. Stead. *Roaring Brook Press*. A small boy keeps the woods near his new home at bay with the help of some pillows and blankets.

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation by Edwidge Danticat. Illustrated by Leslie Staub. *Dial Books*. Saya and her Papa bravely enlist others to help bring Mama home.

My Pen by Christopher Myers. *Disney-Hyperion*. A young boy discovers there is power in a pen as he creates detailed illustrations to share his world.

The Night World by Mordicai Gerstein. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Explore the night and those who live there, alongside a cat and a curious child.

LOST IN NYC by Nadja Spiegelman





“Nana gave everyone a great big smile...”

—LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET by Matt de la Peña

Out in the Woods: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event

by Rebecca Bond. *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*. Man and animal come together in this account of a remarkable tale of survival.

The Princess and the Pony by Kate Beaton. *Arthur A. Levine Books*.

Pinecone’s disappointment over her birthday gift soon turns to surprise in this hilarious adventure.

Sidewalk Flowers by JonArno Lawson. Illustrated by Sydney Smith.

Groundwood Books. On a walk through the neighborhood with her father, a girl discovers that beauty lives in unexpected places.

The Tea Party in the Woods by Akiko Miyakoshi. *Kids Can Press*. A trip to grandmother's house takes a wrong turn with unexpectedly delightful results.

Waiting by Kevin Henkes. *Greenwillow Books*. A group of toys view the outside world from their windowsill. What will happen next?

Water Is Water: A Book About the Water Cycle by Miranda Paul. Illustrated by Jason Chin. *Roaring Brook Press*. Rain, fog, and snow take children on a lyrical and informative seasonal tour.

The Whisper by Pamela Zagarenski. *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*. A mysterious book helps a girl unlock the power of her imagination.

The Wolf-Birds by Willow Dawson. *Owlkids Books*. The relationship between wolves and ravens unfolds in this wilderness drama.

Wolfie the Bunny by Ame Dyckman. Illustrated by Zachariah OHora. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. When a baby wolf is adopted by her family, Dot learns that siblings come with all kinds of fur.

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Stories for Younger Readers

(FOR CHILDREN AGES 6–8)

Buckle and Squash: The Perilous Princess Plot by Sarah Courtauld. *Fievel & Friends*. Eliza and her goat, Gertrude, go on an adventure to save her sister Lavender.

Cakes in Space (A Not-So-Impossible Tale) by Philip Reeve. Illustrated by Sarah McIntyre. *Random House*. They're sweet, they're scary, and they're hungry. Young Astra must put a stop to these desserts rampaging around her spaceship.

Detective Gordon: The First Case by Ulf Nilsson. Illustrated by Gitte Spee. *Gecko Press*. Detective Gordon and his assistant Buffy solve crimes and still have time for cake.

Hamster Princess: Harriet the Invincible by Ursula Vernon. *Dial Books*. Harriet Hamsterbone enjoys adventuring, monster slaying, and cliff diving because “no good curse goes to waste.”

Lola Levine Is Not Mean! by Monica Brown. Illustrated by Angela Dominguez. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Second grade is tough. Can Lola make it through with her friends, family, and *diario*?

Piper Green and the Fairy Tree by Ellen Potter. Illustrated by Qin Leng. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Piper lives on an island and takes a boat to school. But what happens when she won't take off her earmuffs?

The Tale of Rescue by Michael Rosen. *Candlewick*. A sudden snowstorm turns an evening walk into a life or death situation.

Stories for Older Readers

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(FOR CHILDREN AGES 9–12)

Circus Mirandus by Cassie Beasley. *Dial Books*. Can Micah find the Lightbender in time to grant his dying grandfather's wish?

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate. *Feiwel & Friends*. Life begins to unravel for Jackson, and in walks a kid-sized cat.

Dream On, Amber by Emma Shevah. *Sourcebooks*. Ambra Alessandra Leola Kimiko Miyamoto isn't feeling *molto bene* as she tries to cope with middle school and an absent father.

Echo by Pam Muñoz Ryan. *Scholastic Press*. A harmonica connects the musical destiny of three children living through difficult times.

Finding the Worm by Mark Goldblatt. *Random House*. “It's not a test unless you can fail.” A tight-knit group of friends are shaken to their core when one of them is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

Fort by Cynthia DeFelice. *Farrar, Straus and Giroux*. Wyatt and Augie launch “Operation Doom” when two bullies threaten their domain.

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton. *Dial Books*. In the 1960s, science-minded Mimi struggles against gender and racial stereotypes in her small New England community.

George by Alex Gino. *Scholastic Press*. This is a triumphant story for those who know they are different, and for those brave enough to be who they are.

Gone Crazy in Alabama by Rita Williams-Garcia. *Amistad*. A trip down South reveals the Gaither sisters' complex family history in the final book of this acclaimed series.

Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead. *Wendy Lamb Books*. Navigating middle school is never easy. Beware of secrets, social landmines, and selfies.

The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste. *Algonquin Books*. Corrine La Mer isn't afraid of anything, not even monsters.

The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau. *Scholastic Press*. When a traveling cinema comes to a remote Mexican village, Esmá and Teo strike up a unique friendship against all odds.

Lilliput by Sam Gayton. *Peachtree Publishers*. Kidnapped, imprisoned, and alone in a giant-sized world, tiny Lily will never give up trying to escape and find her way home.

Look Both Ways in the Barrio Blanco by Judith Robbins Rose. *Candlewick*. When a new mentor comes into her life, Jacinta feels torn between protecting her family and pursuing her dreams.

"At outdoor cafés that look like gardens..."

—DRUM DREAM GIRL by Margarita Engle



Mars Evacuees by Sophia McDougall. *HarperCollins*. Saving the universe was not supposed to be on Alice Dare's to-do list.

The Marvels by Brian Selznick. *Scholastic Press*. Pictures and prose conjure a fantastical narrative about the Marvel theater family and one boy's search for a place to belong.

A Nearer Moon by Melanie Crowder. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. Dive into this lushly written tale about the bond between sisters—filled with love, magic, and courage.

The Nest by Kenneth Opel. Illustrated by Jon Klassen. *Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers*. Steve is haunted by strange dreams of creatures who offer him help—for a price.



"He wondered how his nana always found beautiful..."

—LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET by Matt de la Peña

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. After Arthur hits the Junk Man with a brick, he is sentenced to work for him in this tale of redemption.

Stella by Starlight by Sharon M. Draper. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. A young girl and her brother bring a community together as the first flickers of change come to Bumblebee, North Carolina.

The Tapper Twins Go to War (With Each Other) by Geoff Rodkey. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Being called Princess Farts-A-Lot in school is never a good thing. The war is on!

The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. To better understand the loss of her best friend, Suzy is willing to travel to the other side of the world to find the answer.



Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer by Kelly Jones. Illustrated by Katie Kath. *Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Former city kid Sophie discovers that the chickens on her new farm are more than just your average hens.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. *Dial Books*. World War II gives Ada the chance to have the life she's always wanted, but will she be able to keep it when the war ends?

Graphic Books

Baba Yaga's Assistant by Marika McCoola. Illustrated by Emily Carroll. *Candlewick*. "Assistant Wanted ASAP: Must have skills in hauling, obeying orders, cooking, and cleaning. Magical talent a bonus." (Ages 9–12)

Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth by Judd Winick. *Random House*. Adventures abound for D.J. in this sci-fi escapade about friendship and Earth's survival—silver underpants included. (Ages 8–12)

10 **Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure** by Nadja Spiegelman. Illustrated by Sergio García Sánchez. *Toon Graphics*. Alicia and Pablo find out there is more than one way to get to the Empire State Building. Come along for the ride! (Ages 8–12)

The Lunch Witch by Deb Lucke. *Papercutz*. Cranky witch Grunhilda puts old skills to new uses when she takes a job in the school cafeteria. (Ages 9–12)

Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales: The Underground Abductor by Nathan Hale. *Harry N. Abrams*. Discover real-life hero Harriet Tubman as you have never seen her before! (Ages 10 and up)

The Only Child by Guojing. *Schwartz & Wade*. In this wordless story, a child enters a dream-like world in the sky. (Ages 6–8)

Roller Girl by Victoria Jamieson. *Dial Books*. Astrid's roller derby dreams leave her with rink rash when her best friend ditches her for ballet camp. (Ages 10 and up)

Secret Coders by Gene Luen Yang. Illustrated by Mike Holmes. *First Second*. Hopper is at a new school in a new town filled with scary birds and mysteries to solve. (Ages 7 and up)



“The shaggy dog wiggles, wiggles, squirms and leaps.”

—FLUTTER & HUM by Julie Paschkis

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Space Dumplins by Craig Thompson. *GRAPHIX*. Saving your father (and the galaxy) from giant whale poop is much better with a junkyard alien and a genius chicken as your sidekicks. (Ages 10 and up)

Folktales and Fairy Tales

(FOR ALL AGES)

Chinese Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook by Paul Yee. Illustrated by Shaoli Wang. *Crocodile Books*. Discover entertaining tales for the whole family, served with a healthy dose of delicious recipes.

Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods by Hal Johnson. Illustrated by Tom Mead. *Workman Publishing Company*. Looking for a good scare? Here is a collection of folklore about the creepy and fantastical beasts that lurk in the dark.

The Grasshopper & the Ants by Jerry Pinkney. *Little, Brown Books for Young Readers*. Enjoy a traditional Aesop fable reimaged in stunning pen and ink watercolor.

The Iliad by Gillian Cross. Illustrated by Neil Packer. *Candlewick*. Illustration and prose perfectly capture this retelling of Homer's epic poem.

Maya's Blanket/La Manta de Maya by Monica Brown. Illustrated by David Diaz. *Lee & Low Books*. Maya's beloved blanket is given new life in this modern Latino version of a Yiddish folk song.

On the Shoulder of a Giant by Neil Christopher. Illustrated by James Nelson. *Inhabit Media*. In this humorous Inuit folktale, Inukpak adopts a hunter whom he mistakenly assumes is a small child.

Vietnamese Children's Favorite Stories by Tran Thi Minh Phuoc. Illustrated by Nguyen Thi Hop & Nguyen Dong. *Tuttle Publishing*. Beloved legends and fables from Vietnam are retold in this lushly illustrated collection.

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Poetry

(FOR ALL AGES)

Beastly Verse by JooHee Yoon. *Enchanted Lion Books*. Meet tigers, hummingbirds, and snails in this joyful collection of rhymes and captivating illustrations.

Flutter & Hum: Animal Poems/Aleteo y Zumbido: Poemas de Animales by Julie Paschkis. *Henry Holt & Company*. Flora and fauna abound in this bilingual collection.

A Great Big Cuddle: Poems for the Very Young by Michael Rosen. Illustrated by Chris Riddell. *Candlewick*. Enjoy this playful, inviting collection of energetic verse for the very young.

The King and the Sea by Heinz Janisch & Wolf Erlbruch. *Gecko Press*. A tiny monarch explores his kingdom through 21 extremely short, entertaining stories.

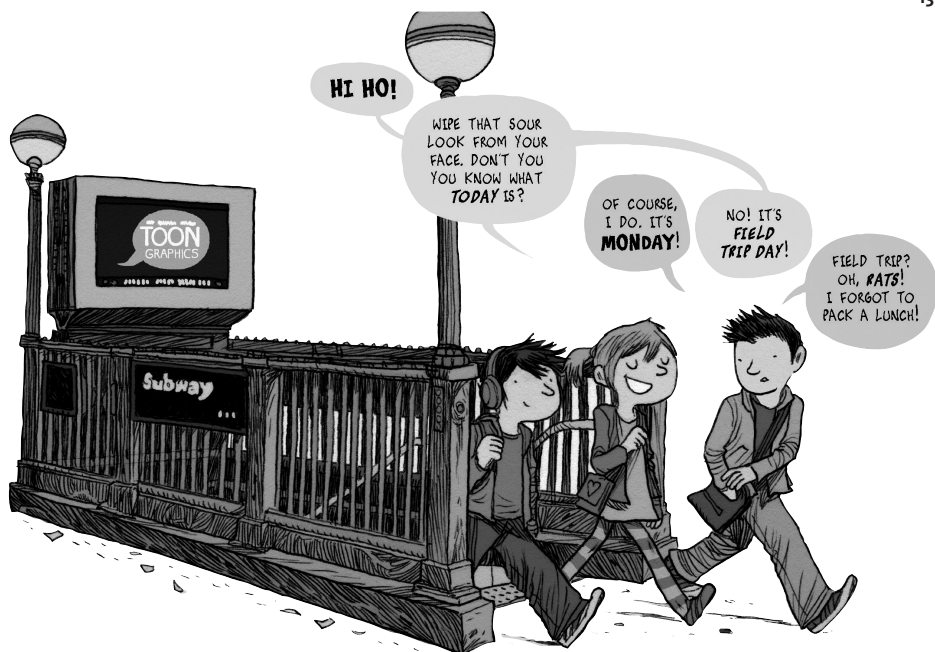
Orangutanka: A Story in Poems by Margarita Engle. Illustrated by Renée Kurilla. *Henry Holt & Company*. In tanka verse, a mischievous orangutan would rather dance hip-hop and cha-cha than take a nap.

The Popcorn Astronauts: And Other Biteable Rhymes by Deborah Ruddell. Illustrated by Joan Rankin. *Margaret K. McElderry Books*. Are you hungry? Snack on these tasty word treats.

Sail Away by Langston Hughes. Illustrated by Ashley Bryan. *Atheneum Books for Young Readers*. Vivid cut-paper collage brings to life these classic poems.

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel. *Groundwood Books*. Discover paintings and verse inspired by 12 totem animals from the Anishinaabe tradition.

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes. *Candlewick*. A young girl grows up to become “the country’s number one freedom-fighting woman.”



Nonfiction

28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World

by Charles R. Smith, Jr. Illustrated by Shane W. Evans. *Roaring Brook Press*. Meet courageous African Americans who shaped our history in this inspiring collection of poetry and prose. (Ages 8 and up)

The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch by Chris Barton. Illustrated by Don Tate. *Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*. Discover this powerfully moving biography about the life of one of the first African-American congressmen serving during Reconstruction. (Ages 8 and up)

The Blue Whale by Jenni Desmond. *Enchanted Lion Books*. How many hippos would you need to weigh the same as a single blue whale? Learn this and more! (Ages 6 and up)

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Young Readers Edition

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. *Dial Books*. An ordinary teen becomes a hero and changes his village forever when he builds a windmill to bring electricity to his Malawian community. (Ages 10 and up)

The Boys in the Boat (Young Readers Adaptation) by Daniel James Brown. *Viking Books for Young Readers*. Discover this true story of an American team's journey to win gold at the 1936 Olympics. (Ages 10 and up)

The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage by Selina Alko. Illustrated by Sean Qualls & Selina Alko. *Arthur A. Levine Books*. Would you go to jail to marry the person you love? (Ages 8 and up)

Counting Lions by Kate Cotton. Illustrated by Stephen Walton. *Candlewick*. Poetic text and stunning illustrations introduce children to some of the world's most endangered creatures. (Ages 6 and up)

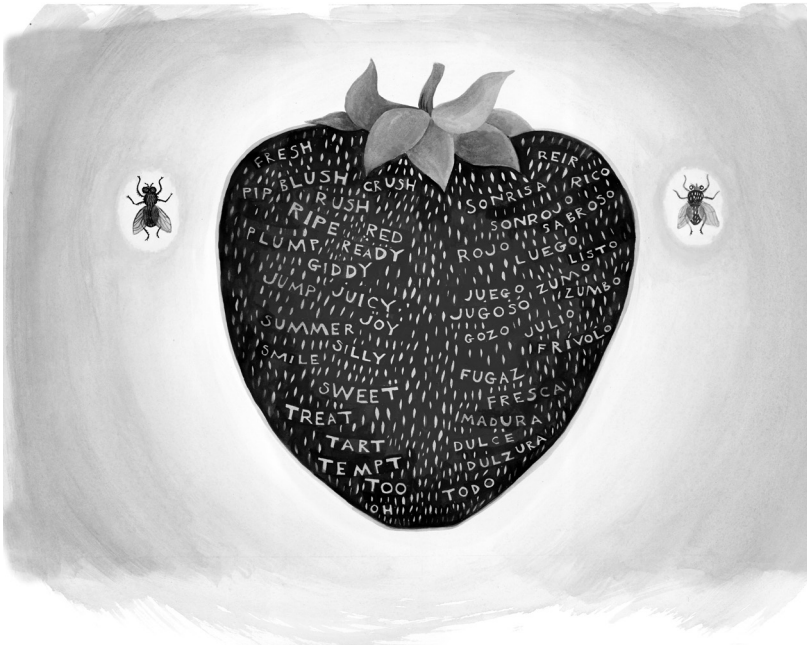
Frederick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass by Doreen Rappaport. Illustrated by London Ladd. *Jump at the Sun*. The influential life of Frederick Douglass and his passion for the rights of all is brilliantly portrayed with evocative illustrations and text. (Ages 8 and up)

Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras by Duncan Tonatiuh. *Harry N. Abrams*. Who was the person behind the creation of the *Dia de los Muertos* skeletons? (Ages 8 and up)

Gordon Parks: How the Photographer Captured Black and White America by Carole Boston Weatherford. Illustrated by Jamey Christoph. *Albert Whitman & Company*. With a simple camera, Gordon Parks chronicled the life and times of America on the cusp of the Civil Rights Movement. (Ages 8 and up)

The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins by Sandra Markle. *Lerner Publishing Group*. Join a group of bold scientists as they race to save the endangered habitats of these extraordinary creatures. (Ages 8 and up)

Hippos Are Huge! by Jonathan London. Illustrated by Matthew Trueman. *Candlewick*. Discover hippos, often known as the most dangerous animals in Africa, as you've never seen them before! (Ages 5 and up)



“They say you are what you eat...”

I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are by Bridget Heos. Illustrated by Jennifer Plecas. *Henry Holt & Company*. Put your fly swatters away and learn more about these much-maligned insects. (Ages 8 and up)

Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery That Baffled All of France by Mara Rockliff. Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. *Candlewick*. Who would you ask to solve a mystery that has all of France in an uproar? Why, Benjamin Franklin of course! (Ages 10 and up)

One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of Gambia by Miranda Paul. Illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon. *Millbrook Press*. Discover this story of how one woman's ingenuity helps to clean up her village and start a new industry. (Ages 8 and up)

Rhythm Ride: A Road Trip Through the Motown Sound by Andrea Davis Pinkney. *Roaring Brook Press*. Come along for a rollicking journey and discover the music that defined an era. (Ages 10 and up)

This Side of Wild: Mutts, Mares, and Laughing Dinosaurs by Gary Paulsen. *Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers*. See how Gary Paulsen's furry animal friends have shaped his life and writing. (Ages 10 and up)

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“He hops, stops and stares at a yellow umbrella...”

—FLUTTER & HUM by Julie Paschkis

Trapped! A Whale's Rescue by Robert Burleigh. Illustrated by Wendell Minor. *Charlesbridge*. Divers race to free a lone whale in this suspenseful tale. (Ages 6 and up)

Tree of Wonder: The Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest Tree by Kate Messner. Illustrated by Simona Mulazzani. *Chronicle Books*. Do you know how many animals can live in one tree? (Ages 5 and up)

Tricky Vic: The Impossibly True Story of the Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower by Greg Pizzoli. *Viking Books for Young Readers*. The truth can definitely be stranger than fiction. (Ages 8 and up)

Trombone Shorty by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. *Harry N. Abrams*. Take an autobiographical look at how one small boy masters one big trombone. (Ages 6 and up)

Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall by Anita Silvey. *National Geographic Children's Books*. Do you ever dream of becoming a scientist? Be inspired by the life's work of this renowned animal researcher. (Ages 10 and up)

Acknowledgments

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