



# **Capitol Choices**

**Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens**

**2015**

## CRITERIA

Our mission is to identify and select a yearly list of outstanding titles for children and teens. We consider books and audiobooks published in the current calendar year for readers from birth through the high school years. We look not only for those books and audiobooks that are obviously remarkable but also for those whose charm, art, information, or depth of feeling may enhance a young person's world. We especially look for books that may not find an audience without the benefit of special attention.

What does Capitol Choices mean by "the best"? "Best" of the year? "Best" by this author? "Best" of its type? Our discussions are often heated, always serious, filled with good humor and, in the end, the titles we choose meet all of these criteria. In addition to the qualities that mark good titles—clarity, accuracy, credibility, and that most elusive quality of all, distinguished writing, illustration or narration—we place special emphasis on titles which we believe appeal to and reflect the sensibilities of their intended audience.

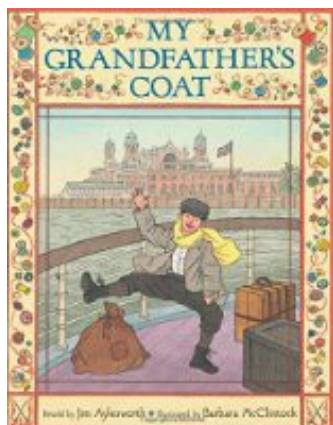
## WHO WE ARE

The first edition of Capitol Choices published in 1996 built on the work of the late Peggy Coughlan at the Children's Literature Center of the Library of Congress, who for many years edited an annual list entitled "Books for Children." The founding members of the Capitol Choices group who worked on these lists appreciated the opportunity to hone their critical skills during those years and wished to carry the work of that committee forward.

Since 1996, Capitol Choices has included librarians, teachers, booksellers, children's literature specialists, reviewers, and magazine editors who work in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in and around Washington, D.C. Most of us work directly with young people, and all of us share a passion for books and a commitment to pairing children with books.

## JOIN US

Our website at [www.CapitolChoices.org](http://www.CapitolChoices.org) offers more opportunities for interaction among members plus a blog to find book-related news and events from Capitol Choices. We welcome your visit in person at our monthly meetings or online via our website, where you can find schedules and directions. Capitol Choices members are also available to present workshops on the best titles of the year, how to evaluate books and audiobooks for young people, and other topics related to our passion for literature for young and teen readers. Please email us at [rpurdy@crri.org](mailto:rpurdy@crri.org) to book a workshop or find out more about joining our group.

**MY GRANDFATHER'S COAT**

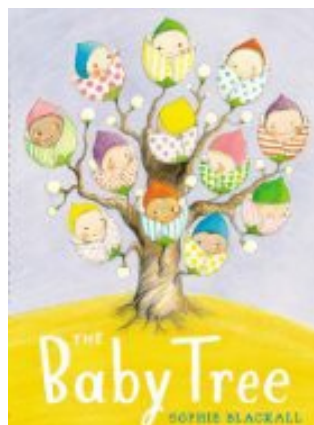
By: Jim Aylesworth  
 Illustrated by: Barbara McClintock  
 Scholastic  
 9780439925457 \$17.99

A new version of the Yiddish folk tale in exhilarating repetitive rhyme joyfully portrays the events in a life of a new immigrant to America. Lively, sharp illustrations enhance and extend the text for the careful reader.

**SAM & DAVE DIG A HOLE**

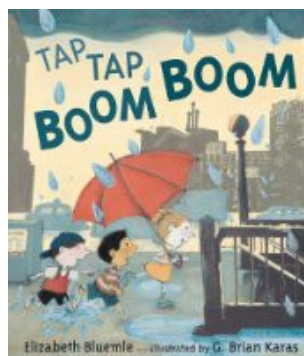
By: Mac Barnett  
 Illustrated by: Jon Klassen  
 Candlewick  
 9780763662295 \$16.99

Two boys and their dog dig with determination to find something amazing and, unexpectedly, something pretty spectacular happens. Digital and colored pencil illustrations provide subtle clues about the outcome of their project.

**THE BABY TREE**

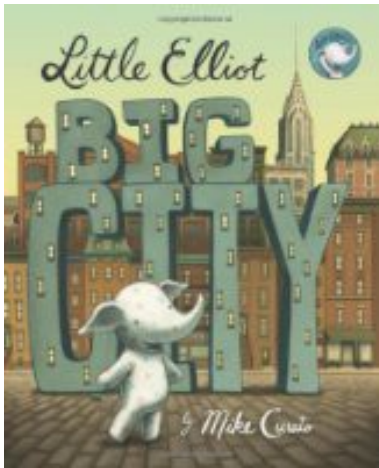
By: Sophie Blackall  
 Nancy Paulsen  
 9780399257186 \$17.99

A young boy has good reason to ask, "Where do babies come from?" but is confused by the variety of answers he receives. Chinese ink and watercolor illustrations humorously depict this story for new big brothers and sisters, with age appropriate answers provided in the end.

**TAP TAP BOOM BOOM**

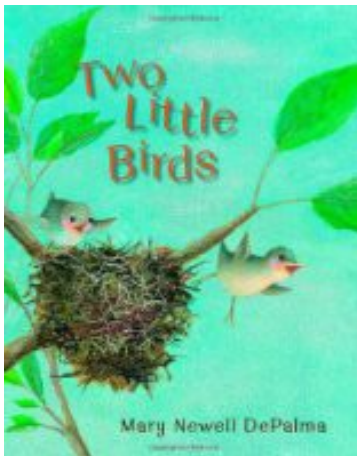
By: Elizabeth Bluemle  
 Illustrated by: G. Brian Karas  
 Candlewick  
 9780763656966 \$16.99

A thunderstorm threatens overhead and the words from the title pulse through the story, as a multi-cultural crowd takes shelter in the subway. Winsome gouache and pencil caricatures and collage elements show a cozy community forming around pizza, music, dogs, and a dazzling surprise.

**LITTLE ELLIOT, BIG CITY**

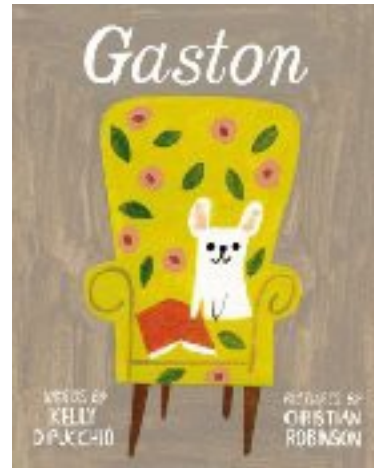
By: Mike Curato  
Henry Holt  
9780805098259 \$16.99

A small, polka dotted, cupcake-loving elephant finds an unexpected friend as he tries to navigate a big city. Stunning 1940's style illustrations beautifully convey the perspective of a small child in this deceptively simple tale.

**TWO LITTLE BIRDS**

By: Mary Newell DePalma  
Eerdmans  
9780802854216 \$16.00

Very young readers will follow the simple, lively story about two little birds who hatch, feed, frolic, and eventually migrate south. Colorful, textured, collage illustrations make this book soar.

**GASTON**

By: Kelly Dipucchio Illustrated by: Christian Robinson  
Simon & Schuster BFYR  
9781442451025 \$16.99

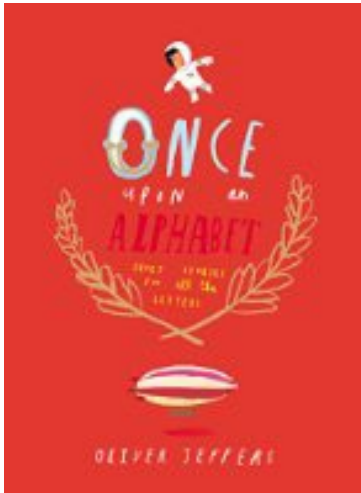
French Poodle and Bulldog pups learn what it means to be yourself even when there doesn't seem to be anywhere you fit in just right.

**SOME BUGS**

By: Angela DiTerlizzi  
Illustrated by: Brendan Wenzel  
Beach Lane  
9781442458802 \$17.99

Young bug enthusiasts will delight in poring over Wenzel's detailed illustrations and finding the ladybug in every illustration. True devotees will delight in identifying all the bugs on the last two-page spread.

## ONCE UPON AN ALPHABET: SHORT STORIES FOR ALL THE LETTERS



By: Oliver Jeffers  
Penguin  
978039916791 \$26.99

The letters of the alphabet are presented here in twenty-six very brief stories. Odd, silly and occasionally poignant, these letter tales are short in length, but long on creative absurdity: a memorable alphabet experience.

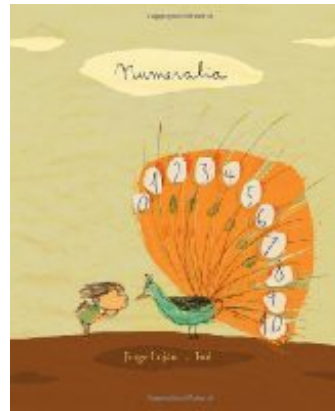
## WINTER IS COMING



By: Tony Johnston  
Illustrated by: Jim LaMarche  
Simon & Schuster BFYR  
9781442472518 \$17.99

A young girl watches with respect and wonder as the days change from golden autumn to gray winter and the forest and woodland animals around her prepare for the change of season.

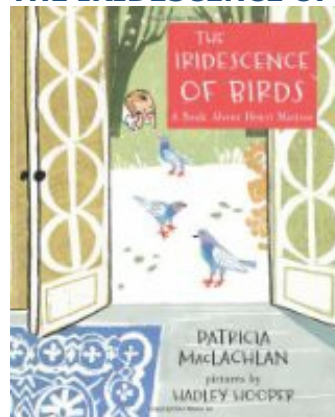
## NUMERALIA



By: Jorge Lujan  
trans. Susan Ouriou Isol  
Groundwood  
9781554984442 \$18.99

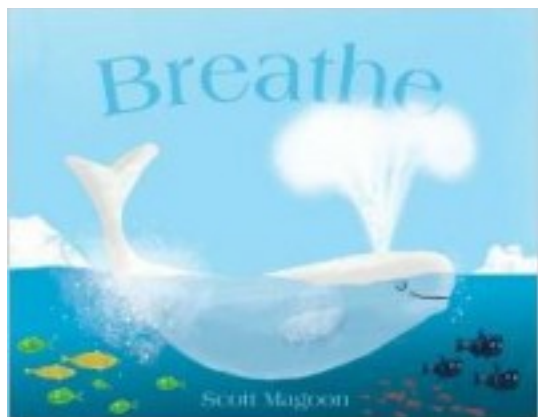
Wondrously strange digital and colored pencil scenes and short, descriptive phrases invite enjoyment in numeral hunting and counting: look, for instance, for the three musketeers who become six as their reflections appear in a lake. Quirky fun.

## THE IRIDESCENCE OF BIRDS



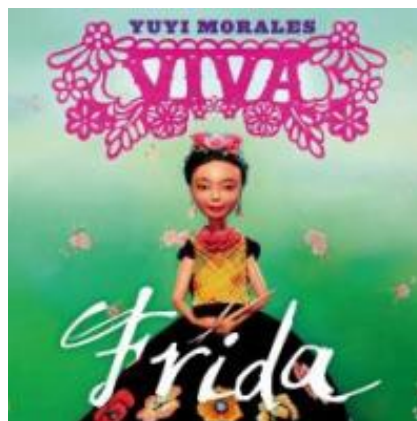
By: Patricia MacLachlan  
Illustrated by: Hadley Hooper  
Neal Porter Book/Roaring Brook Press  
9781596439481 \$17.99

A relief printing technique creates images reminiscent of Henri Matisse's paintings, while a simple poetic text introduces everyday events in his childhood. Was it any surprise that Matisse became an acclaimed artist? Certainly not!

**BREATHE**

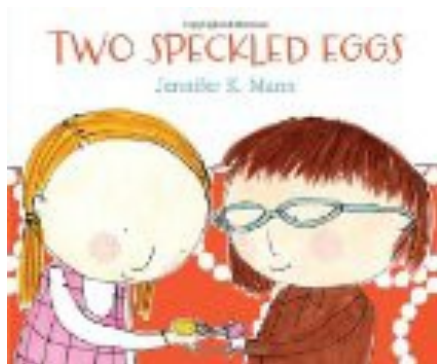
By: Scott Magoon  
Simon & Schuster BFYR  
9781442412583 \$16.00

Like any human toddler, a baby beluga whale actively and enthusiastically explores his world. With dreamy illustrations and no more than seven words per two-page spread, this gentle book provides a perfect bedtime reading experience for very young children.

**VIVA FRIDA**

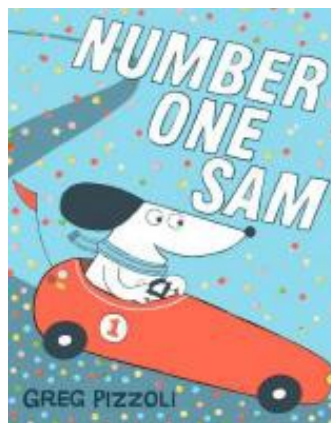
By: Yuyi Morales  
Photographed by: Tim O'Meara  
Neal Porter Book/Roaring Brook Press  
9781596436039 \$17.99

Morales uses a range of artistic media—from puppets to collage to photographic and digital manipulations—to create this spare and dreamy emotional landscape that imagines artist Frida Kahlo's interior life.

**TWO SPECKLED EGGS**

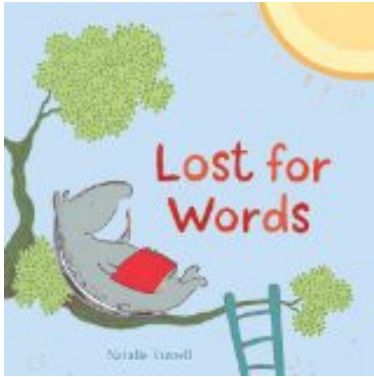
By: Jennifer K. Mann  
Candlewick  
9780763661687 \$14.99

A birthday party leads to an unlikely friendship for two young girls. The simple and sweet illustrations are infused with digital collage elements.

**NUMBER ONE SAM**

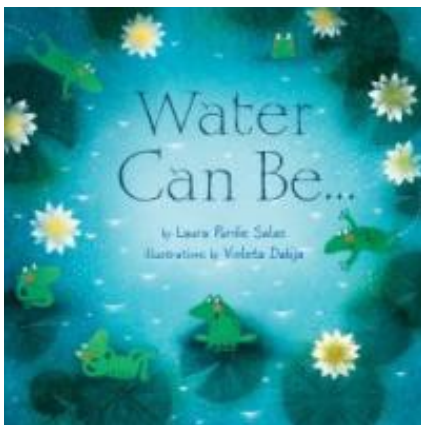
By: Greg Pizzoli  
Disney Hyperion  
9781423171119 \$17.99

Disappointed when he loses his first auto race, Sam the dog soon learns that sometimes doing the right thing is more important than winning. Printed in four spot colors, Sam's tale will inspire beginning readers and young listeners alike.

**LOST FOR WORDS**

By: Natalie Russell  
 Peachtree  
 9781561457397 \$16.95

In a charming ode to creativity and communication, Tapir longs to fill the pages of his notebook with rich stories and songs, like those of his animal friends. After many failed efforts at writing, he finds an ideal way to express himself—not with words, but with pictures.

**WATER CAN BE**

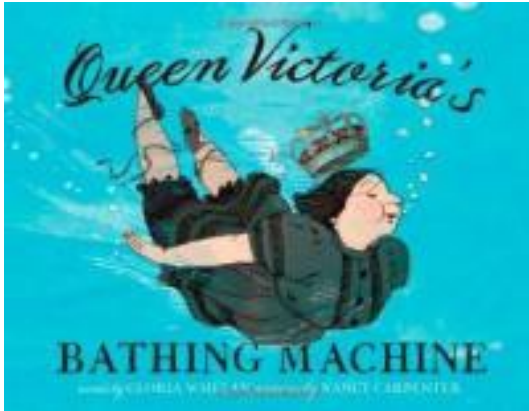
By: Laura Purdie Salas  
 Illustrated by: Violeta Dabija  
 Millbrook  
 9781467705912 \$12.92

Readers will feel the water rushing, floating, and storming in this atmospherically illustrated, imaginative and poetic introduction to the forms water can take through the seasons. Supplemental information and a glossary are included.

**THE MOST MAGNIFICENT THING**

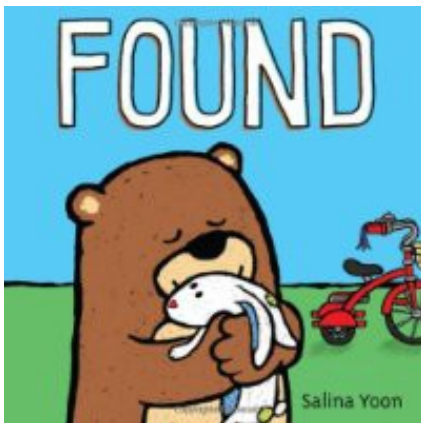
By: Ashley Spires  
 Kids Can Press  
 9781554537044 \$16.95

Inventive language and simple, evocative illustration tell the story of a young tinker who experiences all of the stages of creation: idea, gathering materials, hard work, frustration, anger, distraction and finally: voila! success with the help of a loyal and intelligent assistant.

**QUEEN VICTORIA'S BATHING MACHINE**

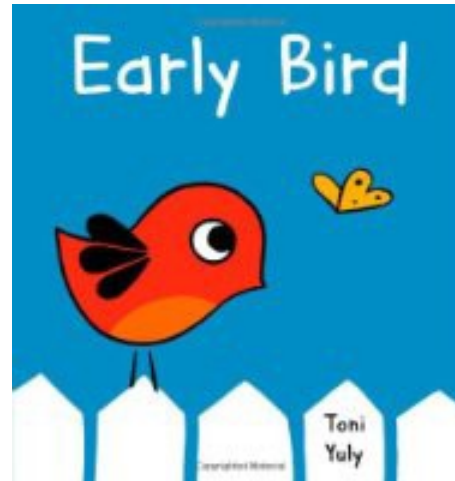
By: Gloria Whelan  
 Illustrated by: Nancy Carpenter  
 Simon & Schuster BFYR  
 9781416927532 \$13.49

Rhyming text and amusing pen and watercolor illustrations tell a quirky, royal history inspired tale about a day at the beach. Included is a photo of the actual invention designed by the Queen's loving husband Prince Albert.

**FOUND**

By: Salina Yoon  
 Bloomsbury  
 9780802735591 \$14.99

Bear encounters a lost toy bunny in the forest, brings it home and immediately goes to work trying to find the owner. When the bunny's owner comes forward, Bear's emotions tug in two directions, until a resolution is reached.

**EARLY BIRD**

By: Toni Yuly  
 Feiwel & Friends  
 9781250043276 \$15.99

Simple lines, bold colors and economical text perfectly convey a little bird's exuberance as she wakes at dawn, travels through the lightening sky, avoids danger and arrives at a pretty garden to share a surprising breakfast with another early riser.



**EL DEAFO**

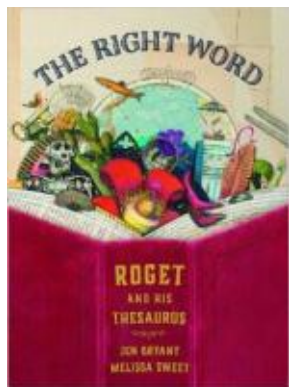
By: Cece Bell

Illustrated by: Lasky David

Amulet

9781419710209 \$21.95

Starting a new school is difficult enough, but it's even harder if you're the only one wearing hearing aids. Creating a superhero persona helps, but CeCe soon realizes she can't always hide behind a cape, even an imaginary one.

**THE RIGHT WORD: ROGET AND HIS THESAURUS**

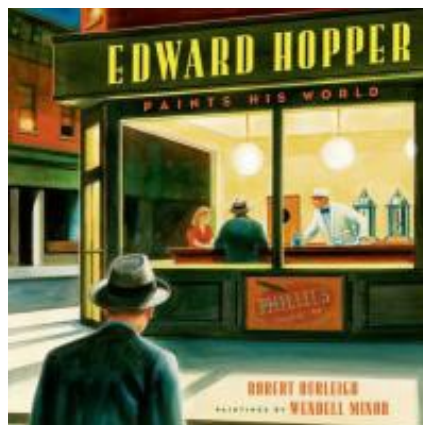
By: Jen Bryant

Illustrated by: Melissa Sweet

Eerdmans

9780802853851 \$17.50

This extraordinary collaboration between author and artist presents Roget's fascination with word classifications. Vibrant illustrations filled with color, images, word bubbles, and lists underscore both the value of his thesaurus and his surprisingly interesting life.

**EDWARD HOPPER PAINTS HIS WORLD**

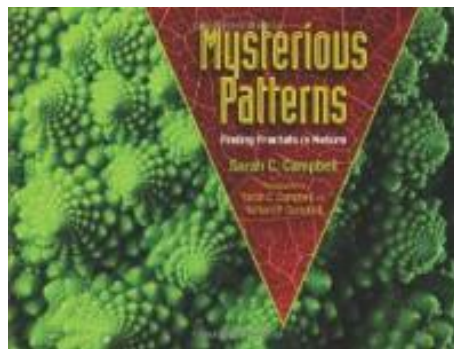
By: Robert Burleigh

Illustrated by: Wendell Minor

Henry Holt

9780805087529 \$17.99

Hopper painted pictures filled with quiet emotion that eventually attracted thoughtful viewers. Minor's beautiful paintings of Edward Hopper's subjects in his own style complement Burleigh's narrative about Hopper's quest.

**MYSTERIOUS PATTERNS: FINDING FRACTALS IN NATURE**

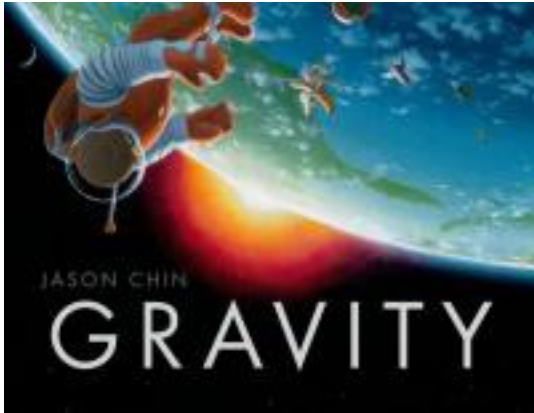
By: Sarah C. Campbell

Illustrated by: Richard C. Campbell

Boyd's Mills

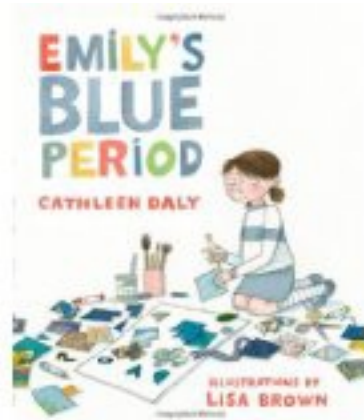
9781620916278 \$16.95

Straightforward text and eye-catching photographs of the natural world work together to introduce a complex mathematical idea, showing examples of what fractals (patterns with repeating similar parts that diminish in size) are and what they are not.

**GRAVITY**

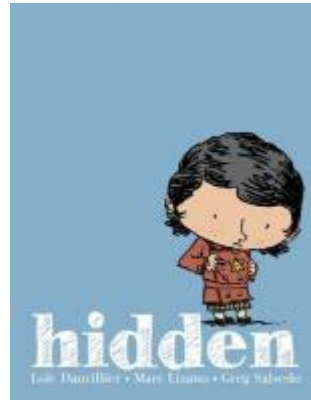
By: Jason Chin  
Roaring Brook  
9781596437173 \$16.99

Chin's spare text and stunning, out-of-this-world paintings juxtapose humor, science and adventure to illustrate the basic scientific principles behind this fundamental force.

**EMILY'S BLUE PERIOD**

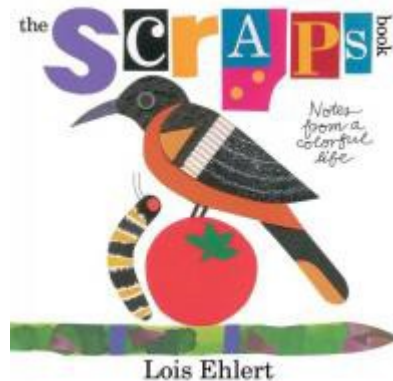
By: Cathleen Daly  
Illustrated by: Lisa Brown  
Neal Porter Book/Roaring Brook Press  
9781596434691 \$17.99

Learning about the colorful mixed up artwork of Pablo Picasso helps young Emily deal with her newly mixed up family. A lovely tale of coping and growing.

**HIDDEN: A CHILD'S STORY OF THE HOLOCAUST**

By: Loic Dauvillier & Marc Lizano  
Illustrated by: Greg Salsedo  
First Second  
9781596438736 \$16.99

A grandmother recounts her childhood in Paris, forced to wear the Star of David and dependent on the kindness of strangers during World War II in this moving and powerful graphic novel.

**THE SCRAPS BOOK: NOTES FROM A COLORFUL LIFE**

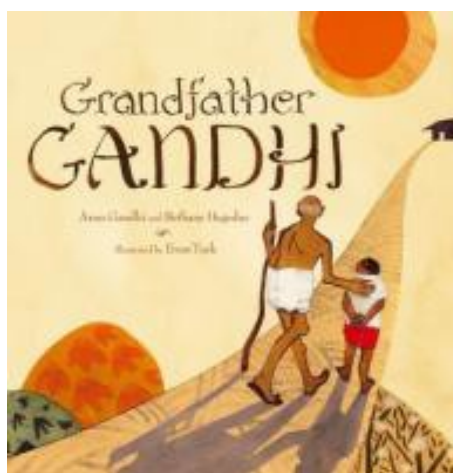
By: Lois Ehlert  
Beach Lane  
9781442435711 \$17.99

Ehlert takes the reader on a visual journey of the process of her art from early creative attempts to the end products we know and love. It is a celebration of her inspiration and her encouragement to future "book makers."

**THE FARMER AND THE CLOWN**

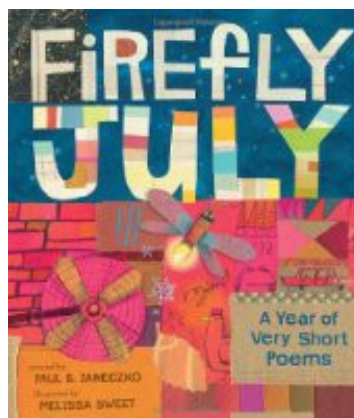
By: Marla Frazee  
Beach Lane  
9781442497443 \$17.99

Multiple interpretations are possible for this wordless encounter between a dour farmer and a small clown who tumbles from a train. Black pencil and gouache illustrations in muted colors convey their emotions and growing bond.

**GRANDFATHER GANDHI**

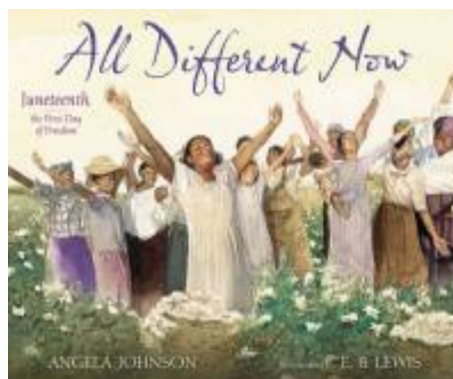
By: Arun Gandhi & Bethany Hegedus  
Illustrated by: Evan Turk  
Atheneum  
9781442423657 \$17.99

Mahatma Gandhi's grandson reminisces about the times they spent together, conversations shared, and lessons learned. Unique fabric and paper collage recreate village life in 1947 India.

**FIREFLY JULY: A YEAR OF VERY SHORT POEMS**

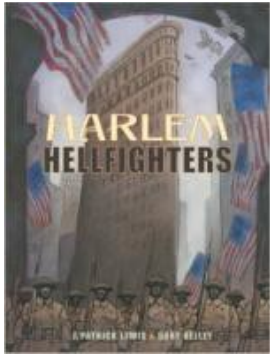
By: Paul B. Janeczko  
Illustrated by: Melissa Sweet  
Candlewick  
9780763648428 \$16.99

Sweet's stunning, vibrantly-colored illustrations stylistically shift to complement and enliven each of these short poems representing the seasons.

**ALL DIFFERENT NOW: JUNETEENTH, THE FIRST DAY OF FREEDOM**

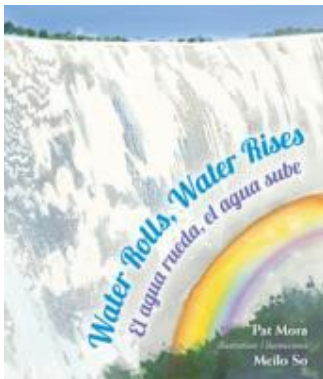
By: Angela Johnson  
Illustrated by: E.B. Lewis  
Simon & Schuster  
9780689873768 \$17.99

Lewis' watercolor illustrations add a layer of expression and emotion to Johnson's simple, engaging and powerful story of the first Juneteenth as one African American girl discovers slavery has ended.

**HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS**

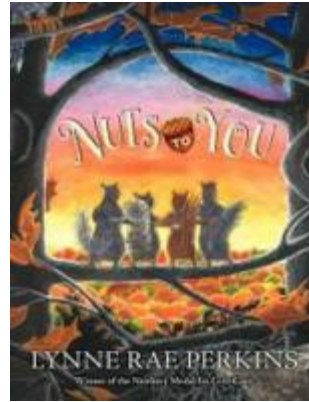
By: J. Patrick Lewis  
 Illustrated by: Gary Kelley  
 Createspace  
 9781568462462 \$18.99

Free verse and haunting pastel illustrations tell how "Big Jim" Reese Europe and the Harlem Hellfighters fought racism at home and the enemy abroad in WWI. Jazz played an integral part in this little-known aspect of African-American history.

**WATER ROLLS, WATER RISES; EL AQUA RUEDA, EL AQUA SUBE**

By: Pat Mora  
 Illustrated by: Meilo So  
 Children's Book Press  
 9780892393251 \$18.95

Here is a global celebration of water as it splashes, ripples and flows in all its forms and glory. The language, in English and Spanish, is as vibrant, poetic and powerful as the illustrations of the rivers, steams and canals progressing through the seasons.

**NUTS TO YOU**

By: Lynne Rae Perkins  
 Illustrated by: Lynne Rae Perkins  
 Greenwillow  
 9780060092757 \$16.99

A squirrel scooped up by a hawk manages to trick the hawk into dropping him and thus begins his eventful journey home. Accompanied by charming line drawings that bring the characters to life, this clever and amusing adventure is told from the squirrel's perspective.

**A WALK IN PARIS**

By: Salvatore Rubbino  
 Candlewick  
 9780763669843 \$16.99

The main character and her grandfather tour the City of Lights in a charming picture book full of informative trivia. Endpapers provide an index of sights and a general map so you can follow along.

**LITTLE MELBA AND HER BIG TROMBONE**

By: Kathryn Russell-Brown  
 Illustrated by: Frank Morrison  
 Lee & Low  
 9781600608988 \$18.95

Seven-year old Melba chose the most beautiful instrument of them all, the trombone. Unable even to lift it, she blew and blew until the music in her bones resounded through her mighty horn. Stylized, oil paints illustrate the joy and struggles of jazz musician Melba Liston.

**KID SHERIFF AND THE TERRIBLE TOADS**

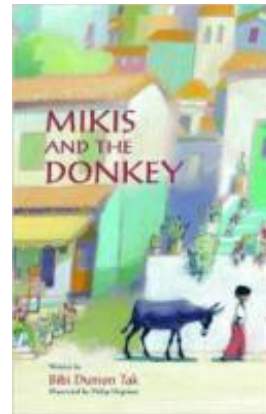
By: Bob Shea  
 Illustrated by: Lane Smith  
 Roaring Brook  
 9781596439757 \$17.99

Kid Sheriff outsmarts the Terrible Toad gang of outlaws, then rides ever so slowly into the sunset on his tortoise. The emphatic font and sepia toned, cartoonish drawings offer a perfect cliché of the Wild West.

**STAR STUFF: CARL SAGAN AND THE MYSTERIES OF THE COSMOS**

By: Stephanie Roth Sisson  
 Roaring Brook  
 9781596439603 \$17.99

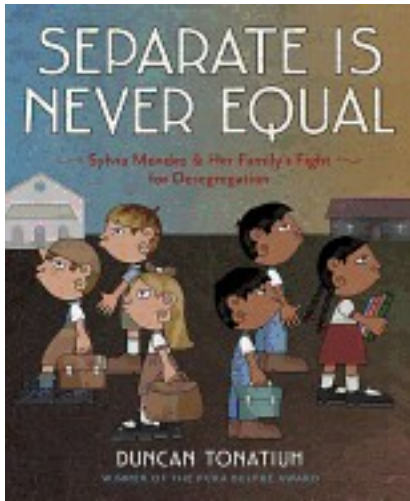
Follow a young Carl Sagan as he pursues his curiosity about space and our place in it. A timely picture book biography for fans of the TV documentary, *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*. Thorough back matter for readers who want to learn more.

**MIKIS AND HIS DONKEY**

By: Bibi Dumon Tak, Laura Watkinson (trans)  
 Illustrated by: Philip Hopman  
 Eerdmans  
 9780802854308 \$13.00

When Mikis's grandfather gets a donkey to help carry firewood down from their olive groves, boy and donkey become fast friends. Pencil drawings add to the strong sense of place in this lovely depiction of Greek island life.

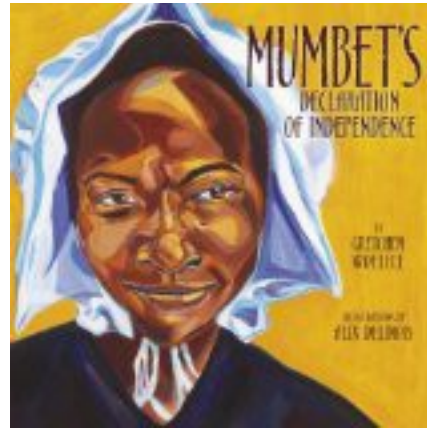
**SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL: SYLVIA MENDEZ & HER FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR DESEGREGATION**



By: Duncan Tonatiuh  
Abrams  
9781419710544 \$18.95

Tonatiuh highlights the Latino-American struggle for equality and integration through this incredibly accessible retelling of Sylvia Mendez's school experiences. His unique illustrations add rich and compelling texture to the story.

**MUMBET'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**



By: Gretchen Woelfle  
Illustrated by: Alix Delinois  
Carolrhoda  
9780761365891 \$17.95

The inspiring story of one woman's struggle for freedom against the backdrop of the American Revolution beautifully personalizes an important aspect of American history. Big bold illustrations help set the tone and depth of the book.

**THE CROSSOVER**

By: Kwame Alexander  
 HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
 9780544107717 \$16.99

Twins Josh and and JB inherited their basketball skills from their dad, who played professionally before his health forced him off the court. Poems ranging from free verse to hip-hop rhymes by turns propel the plot and moderate the cadence of the storytelling in this tale of love, basketball, music, and family.

**THE NIGHT GARDENER**

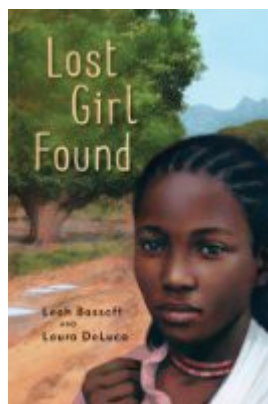
By: Jonathan Auxier  
 Amulet 9781419711442  
 \$16.95

Quick-witted storyteller Molly and her younger brother Kip, who won't let his crippled leg slow him down, seek servants' work at a ramshackle English Manor house where they uncover a mysterious and deliciously creepy curse.

**THE WITCH'S BOY**

By: Kelly Barnhill  
 Algonquin  
 9781616203511 \$16.95

In a land full of dangerous and conniving magic, the surviving son of the witch and the daughter of the bandit king unite to save the kingdom. Rich details, vivid characters and an unpromising hero to root for make this a wonderful take on classic fairy tales.

**LOST GIRL FOUND**

By: Leah Bassoff & Laura DeLuca  
 Greenwood  
 9781554984169 \$16.95

Poni, one of the Lost Girls of the Sudan, flees her bombed out village for a refugee camp as others die around her, then must flee the camp or face a forced marriage. She finds shelter and a chance for education in a Nairobi convent. All royalties from this title donated to Africare.org.

**CAMINAR**

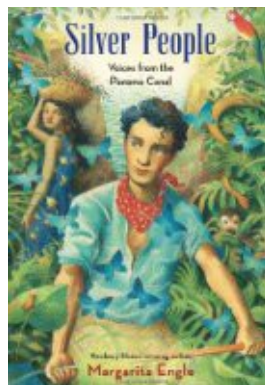
By: Skila Brown  
Candlewick  
9780763665166 \$15.99

Carlos, a young boy in Guatemala, follows his mama's orders and hides in the trees when soldiers tear his world apart. Carlos fights to survive in the forest amidst soldiers and rebels and struggles to become a man in this historical fiction told in verse.

**VANGO: BETWEEN SKY AND EARTH**

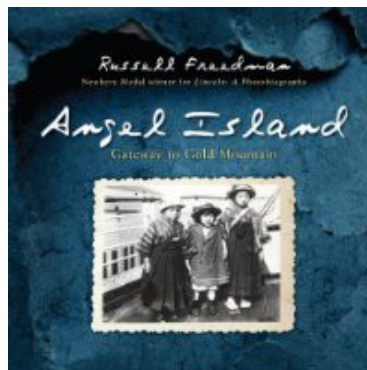
By: Timothee de Fombelle  
Candlewick  
9780763671969 \$17.99

A man-hunt for a young would-be priest falsely accused of murder, an invisible monastery, dare-devil exploits, the Graf Zeppelin, and the rise of Nazi Germany feature in a rip-roaring adventure spanning continents and time. First in a trilogy.

**SILVER PEOPLE: VOICES FROM THE PANAMA CANAL**

By: Margarita Engle  
HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
9780544109414 \$17.99

Free verse voices of young Mateo from Cuba, justice-seeking Henry from Jamaica, and beautiful Anita and the flora, fauna and creatures of "The Land of Many Butterflies," express the struggles attendant on the building of the Panama Canal.

**ANGEL ISLAND: GATEWAY TO GOLD MOUNTAIN**

By: Russell Freedman  
Clarion  
9780547903781 \$17.99

From 1892 through 1940, over a million Asian immigrants passed through Angel Island, an immigration station off the California coast where they carved their stories on the walls. Freedman uses primary sources to retell their stories of struggle against racism and anti-immigration.



**ABSOLUTELY ALMOST**

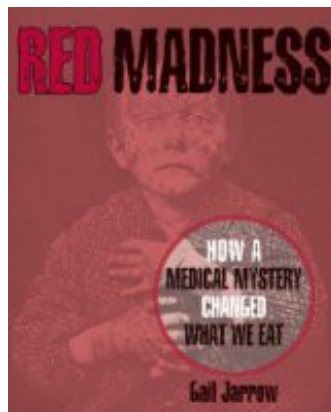
By: Lisa Graff  
Philomel  
9780399164057 \$16.99

Ten year old Albie is kind and thoughtful but has never been the best at anything in school as his parents desire him to be. His new nanny, Calista helps him recognize his strengths and accept himself.

**THE FOURTEENTH GOLDFISH**

By: Jennifer Holm  
Random House  
9780375870644 \$16.00

Ellie's grandfather is a teenager, again. Even more humorous than dealing with newfound everlasting youth are the struggles of attending middle school. Science and philosophy on life and death are seamlessly woven into this lighthearted tale.

**RED MADNESS: HOW A MEDICAL MYSTERY CHANGED WHAT WE EAT**

By: Gail Jarrow  
Calkins Creek  
9781590787328 \$16.95

Thousands of people succumbed to a disfiguring, sometimes deadly illness that spread across the South in the early 1900s. How pellagra, its cause, and its cure were discovered is presented in dramatic photographs and gripping narrative.

**RAIN REIGN**

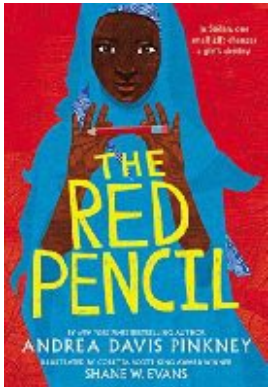
By: Ann M. Martin  
Feiwel & Friends  
9780312643003 \$16.99

Lonely and misunderstood because of her obsessive behaviors and unconventional interest in homonyms, Rose finds welcome companionship with the dog her father brings home—and her tenacity and sense of fairness ultimately triumph.

**GREENGLASS HOUSE**

By: Kate Milford  
 Illustrated by: Jaime Zollars  
 Houghton Mifflin  
 9780544052703 \$17.99

Multiple guests, each with a secret, arrive at Milo's house—the Smugglers' Inn—at same time as a blizzard hits. This snowed-in mystery includes theft, hidden treasure, people who are not what they seem, and adopted Milo's discovery that he's more than he ever thought he could be.

**THE RED PENCIL**

By: Andrea Davis Pinkney  
 Illustrated by: Shane Evans.  
 Little, Brown  
 9780316247801 \$17.00

Twelve-year-old Amira's greatest desire is to become educated. Learning to hope again in a refugee camp after militants destroy her village in Darfur and kill her father, Amira is given the gift of a paper tablet and a red pencil.

**WEST OF THE MOON**

By: Margi Preus  
 Amulet  
 9781419708961 \$16.95

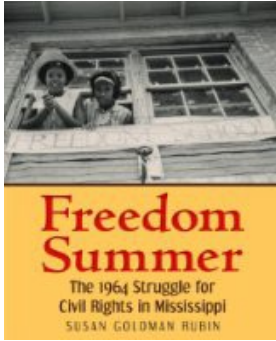
Daring Astri rescues herself and a mysterious companion from a cruel "goatman" before leading her sister through the Norwegian mountainside and a boat to America. This suspenseful adventure fuses 19th century folk tales with thorny questions of morality in desperation.

**FRIDA & DIEGO: ART, LOVE, LIFE**

By: Catherine Reef  
 HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)  
 9780547821849 \$18.99

Reef discusses social conscience and politics as well as artistic styles in this well-researched look at the complex, pain-filled life of Frida Kahlo and her husband/nemesis Diego Rivera. Includes photographs not previously seen.

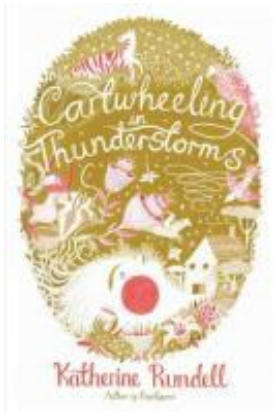
### FREEDOM SUMMER: THE 1964 STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN MISSISSIPPI



By: Susan Goldman Rubin  
 Holiday House  
 978823429202 \$18.95

The murder of three courageous, idealistic student volunteers while working to register black voters in Mississippi in the face of violent resistance is presented through a compelling narrative accompanied by photographs and documents bringing the Civil Rights struggle into focus.

### CARTWHEELING IN THUNDERSTORMS



By: Katherine Rundell  
 Simon & Schuster  
 9781442490611 \$16.99

Vivid prose renders Wilhelmina "Wildcat" Silver as fierce and true as the vast beauty of the Zimbabwe farm where she lives with her father. Tragedy and removal to a "land of commonsense" force her to find the strength to cartwheel "into the wind."

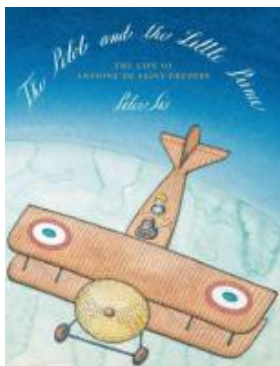
### THE PORT CHICAGO 50: DISASTER, MUTINY, AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS



By: Steve Sheinkin  
 Roaring Brook  
 9781596437968 \$19.99

A 1944 munitions explosion at Port Chicago caused mass casualties among primarily African-American sailors, fifty of whom were convicted of mutiny for refusing to return to work. Sheinkin's meticulously researched narrative and gripping primary sources unveil institutional racism and unjust—and illegal—treatment of African-Americans during WWII.

## THE PILOT AND THE LITTLE PRINCE: THE LIFE OF ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY



By: Peter Sis  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux  
9780374380694 \$18.99

The poet and pioneer aviator who was the author of *The Little Prince* was himself a young, romantic, wealthy and well-connected adventurer. His lifelong pursuit of wind and stars makes him a fascinating subject for the richly evocative art in this biographical portrait.

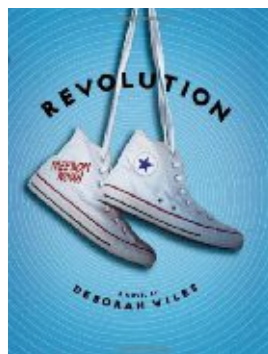
## THIS ONE SUMMER



By: Mariko Tamaki & Jillian Tamaki  
First Second  
9781626720947 \$17.99

The adult world of worries and challenges seems closer than ever this year as Rose and her younger friend Windy reconnect at their summer homes by the sea. A moving, often funny, graphic novel.

## REVOLUTION



By: Deborah Wiles  
Scholastic  
9780545106078 \$19.99

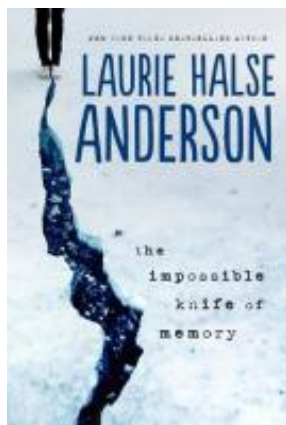
Warned to stay away from the northern invaders who have come to Mississippi in the Freedom Summer of 1964 to help African Americans register to vote, Sunny's curiosity pulls her in the other direction—to search for them.

## BROWN GIRL DREAMING



By: Jacqueline Woodson  
Nancy Paulsen  
9780399252518 \$16.99

In poems of varying length the author describes growing up with 3 siblings in a loving family relationship that varied between New York And South Caroline. While civil rights issues were part of her experience this is a coming of age story of any child who has loving and involved grandparents, some learning difficulties, a dream (to be a writer), family expectations (especially about religion) and a strong sense of the natural world. A wonderful read.

**THE IMPOSSIBLE KNIFE OF MEMORY**

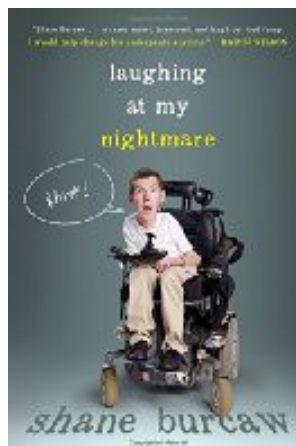
By: Laurie Halse Anderson  
Penguin  
9780670012091 \$18.99

After five years on the road Hayley must deal with her own painful memories as the daughter of a veteran and struggles to balance senior year in high school, graduation and new romance along with taking care of her father.

**ONE MAN GUY**

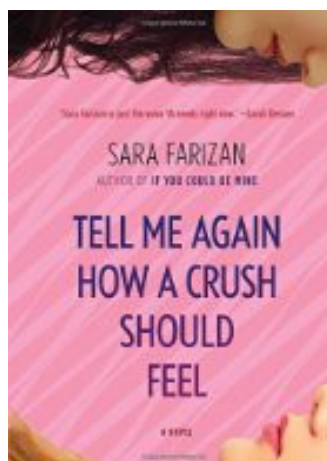
By: Michael Barakiva  
Farrar, Straus & Giroux  
9780374356453 \$17.99

Alek's strict Armenian parents send him to summer school where he meets cute bad boy Ethan. Their misadventures are both hilarious and poignant.

**LAUGHING AT MY NIGHTMARE**

By: Shane Burcaw  
Roaring Brook  
9781626720077 \$17.99

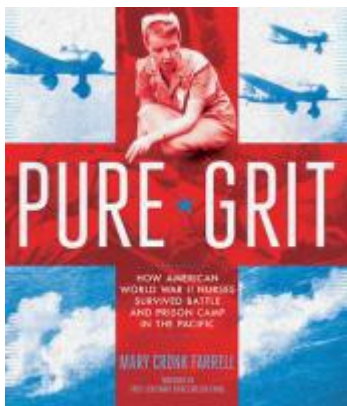
Burcaw's witty collection of blog posts turned essays about living with spinal muscular atrophy are sharp and hilarious, moving but not one bit sappy.

**TELL ME AGAIN HOW A CRUSH SHOULD FEEL**

By: Sara Farizan  
Algonquin  
9781616202842 \$16.95

No one, not even her Persian family, knows that Leila is a lesbian. This coming-of-age/coming-out story is notable for its warm and matter-of-fact portrayal of ethnicity, class and sexual orientation.

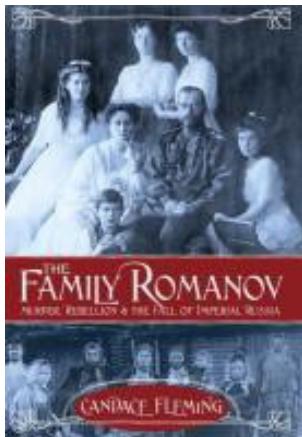
### **PURE GRIT: HOW AMERICAN WORLD WAR II NURSES SURVIVED BATTLE AND PRISON CAMP IN THE PACIFIC**



By: Mary Farrell  
Abrams  
9781419710285 \$24.95

The amazing women who enlisted and served in the Philippines during World War II came with nursing skills, ball gowns and golf clubs. They provided invaluable medical assistance to the US troops, and suffered alongside them during internment in Japanese POW camps.

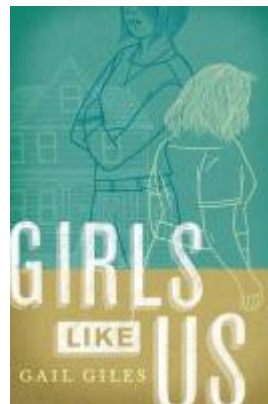
### **THE FAMILY ROMANOV: MURDER, REBELLION, AND THE FALL OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA**



By: Candace Fleming  
Schwartz & Wade  
9780375867828 \$18.99

See the annotation under 'Audiobooks.'

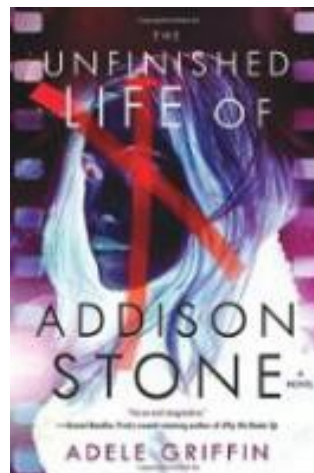
### **GIRLS LIKE US**



By: Gail Giles  
Candlewick  
9780763662677 \$16.99

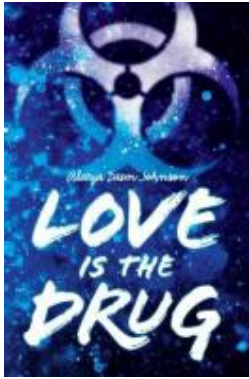
In this hard-hitting, emotional tale Quincy and Bidy, special ed high school graduates with unique voices, are placed together as roommates where they form a bond cemented by the traumas they endure.

### **THE UNFINISHED LIFE OF ADDISON STONE**



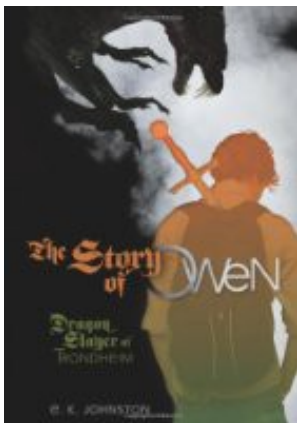
By: Adele Griffin  
Soho Teen  
9781616953607 \$17.99

Artwork, email trails and "interviews" with those who knew her add to the appeal of this very contemporary story exploring the reasons for the tragic death of a teenage artist, Addison Stone.

**LOVE IS THE DRUG**

By: Alaya Dawn Johnson  
 Arthur A. Levine  
 9780545417815 \$17.99

Emily Bird, a senior at an elite D.C. prep school, believes that she has uncovered shocking secrets about her government scientist parents' work with a nation-wide flu epidemic—if only she could remember them. Sophisticated and suspenseful.

**THE STORY OF OWEN: DRAGON SLAYER OF TRONDHEIM**

By: E. K. Johnston  
 Carolrhoda  
 9781467710664 \$17.95

Siobhan McQuaid is the bard who tells this tale of her friend Owen Thorskard the Dragon Slayer, who must fight to save the town from dragons and still keep up his grades. A great combination of alternative history, fantasy and teen friendship.

**THE GOSPEL OF WINTER**

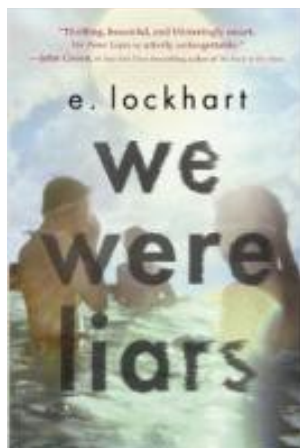
By: Brendan Kiely  
 Margaret K. McElderry  
 9781442484894 \$27.99

16-year-old Aidan is being abused by his priest, Father Greg, a man Aidan has long admired. Hauntingly tragic and appropriately claustrophobic, Kiely's beautifully written novel on a difficult subject is geared for older teens.

**GLORY O'BRIEN'S HISTORY OF THE FUTURE**

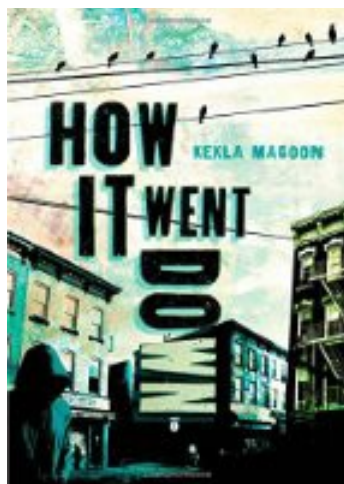
By: A. S. King  
 Little, Brown  
 9780316222723 \$18.00

When Glory and her friend Ellie develop an ability to see the past and future of others, their visions reveal a disturbing world at war and women's freedom in the balance.

**WE WERE LIARS**

By: E. Lockhart  
Delacorte  
9780385741262 \$17.99

Cadence struggles to remember what happened her fifteenth summer two years ago when an accident occurred to change everything on her wealthy family's private island off of Cape Cod. A captivating mystery.

**HOW IT WENT DOWN**

By: Kekla Magoon  
Henry Holt  
9780805098693 \$17.99

Many voices share their perspectives on the life and death of Tariq, an unarmed African American teen shot by a white man, in this nuanced and relevant story with few easy answers.

**THE FREEDOM SUMMER MURDERS**

By: Don Mitchell  
Scholastic  
9780545477253 \$18.99

Mitchell offers a searing look at the events of June 1964, including vivid portraits of the three young adults who lost their lives attempting to secure the vote for all, a look at the decades-long investigations and trials, and an examination of the evolution of racism in Mississippi to the present day.

**I'LL GIVE YOU THE SUN**

By: Jandy Nelson  
Dial  
9780803734968 \$17.99

At sixteen, formerly inseparable twins Noah and Jude have stopped speaking to each other after a horrific accident. Their alternating voices tell how they begin to heal by sharing their lives and art again. A powerful story of sibling love and rivalry.



**TOMBOY**

By: Liz Prince  
Zest Books  
9781936976553 \$18.99

Prince addresses gender roles and stereotypes with wry humor in her funny and accessible graphic memoir about growing up as a tomboy

**GABI, A GIRL IN PIECES**

By: Isabel Quintero  
Cinco Puntos  
9781935955948 \$17.95

Gabi Hernandez chronicles the highs and lows of her senior year in high school: a best friend is pregnant, another has just come out and been kicked out, her father wrestles with a meth addiction and Gabi is just trying to figure out how to be enough. Mexican enough. Thin enough. And smart enough to know herself and express herself honestly.

**WHEN I WAS THE GREATEST**

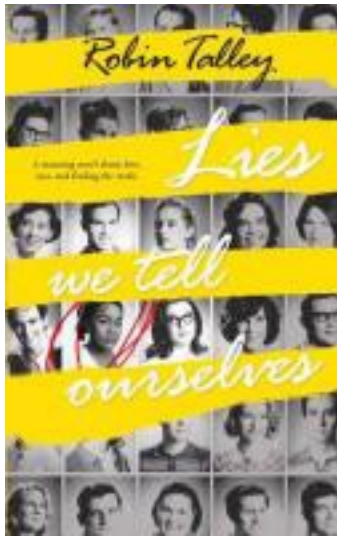
By: Jason Reynolds  
Atheneum  
9781442459472 \$17.99

See annotation under "Audiobooks."

**GRASSHOPPER JUNGLE**

By: Andrew Smith  
Dutton  
9780525426035 \$18.99

The end of the world starts in Ealing, Iowa when giant man-eating bugs are unleashed on the town in this endlessly entertaining apocalyptic tale written from the point of view of a 16-year-old boy.

**LIES WE TELL OURSELVES**

By: Robin Talley  
 Harlequin Teen  
 9780373211333 \$17.99

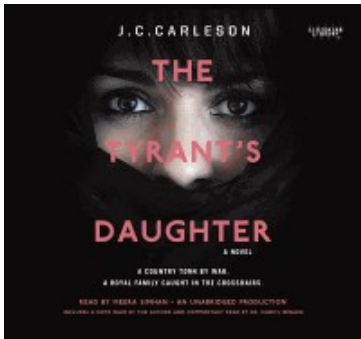
One of 10 black students, selected by an NAACP project to integrate an all-white high school in a small Virginia town in 1959, Sarah deals with name calling, physical violence and ongoing harassment in and out of the school building—and also begins to question her sexual orientation.

**NOGGIN**

By: John Corey Whaley  
 Atheneum  
 9781442458727 \$17.99

Five years after freezing his head before death, Travis Coates is back with someone else's body. He's ready to restart his life, but...everyone else kept living. A humorous story about losing your head and getting it back again.

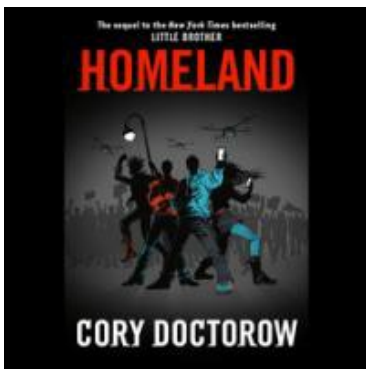
**THE TYRANT'S DAUGHTER**



By: J. C. Carleson  
 Narrator: Meera Shimhan  
 Listening Library  
 9780804167048 \$45.00

After her father’s assassination in a bloody coup, 15-year-old Laila must adapt to American life and reconcile her memories of privilege with an opposing worldview. An afterword by the author, a former undercover CIA agent, follows Siman and Benard’s expert narration of the story.

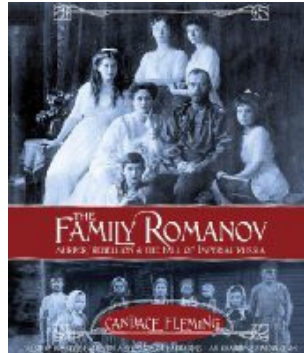
**HOMELAND**



By: Cory Doctorow  
 Narrator: Wil Wheaton  
 Blackstone Audio  
 9781483020310 \$15.00

Wil Wheaton narrates this companion, part suspenseful thriller, part instruction guide, to *Little Brother* (Random House Audio, 2010). Marcus Yallow’s hacktivist past finds him in the form of a trove of Wikileaks-type documents about everything from the financial crisis to Homeland Security.

**THE FAMILY ROMANOV: MURDER, REBELLION & THE FALL OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA**



By: Candace Fleming  
 Narrator: Kimberly Farr  
 Listening Library  
 9780553395303 \$50.00

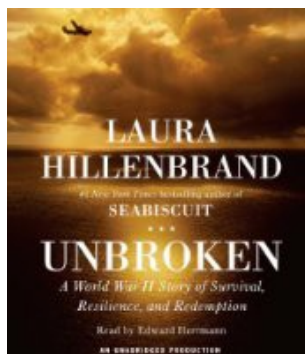
History at its best: a riveting account of the lives of Nicholas and Alexandra. Farr’s superb narration conveys the remarkable story of their opulent lives, the abject poverty of their people, the influence of Rasputin and the beginning of Communism.

**HALF BAD**



By: Sally Green  
 Narrator: Carl Prekopp  
 Penguin Audiobooks  
 9780670016785 \$17.95

Nathan’s life is full of contradictions in this fantastical mystery. Prekopp’s skillfully paced narration introduces Nathan’s white witch mother and black witch father, his oldest sister's hatred and brother's love through a rollercoaster of shifting settings and emotions.

**UNBROKEN**

By: Laura Hillenbrand  
 Narrator: Edward Herrmann  
 Listening Library  
 9780553397130 \$29.95

Former Olympian Louis Zamperini's fortitude and sheer willpower were lifesaving during his Japanese POW experiences. Hermann conveys with unsentimental gravitas Zamperini's heroism as he endures torture and deprivation at the hands of a vicious Japanese commandant.

**THE MISADVENTURES OF THE FAMILY FLETCHER**

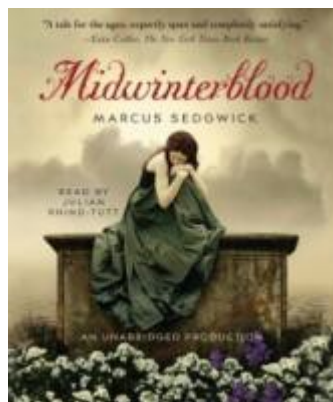
By: Dana Levy  
 Narrator: Dan Woren  
 Listening Library  
 9780804168649 \$35.00

Spend a year with the Fletcher family (two dads, four sons, and assorted real and imaginary pets) at school, on the soccer field, and with a grumpy new neighbor. Full of humor and love, this is a great family road-trip book!

**WHEN I WAS THE GREATEST**

By: Jason Reynolds  
 Narrator: J. B. Adkins  
 Listening Library  
 9780553395716 \$44.99

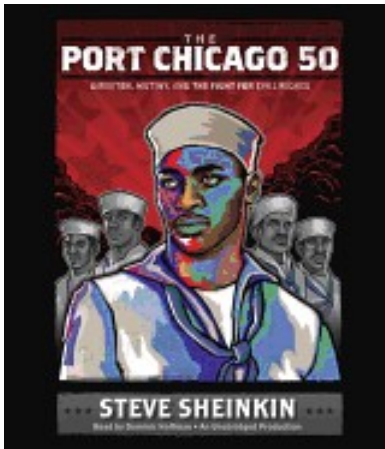
When a hip party gets out of hand and his friend Noodles is severely beaten Ali—who has always managed to stay above the fray in his Bedford Stuyvesant neighborhood—is caught in the middle. Adkins' narration brings the grit of Ali's world to life.

**MIDWINTERBLOOD**

By: Marcus Sedgwick  
 Narrator: Julian Rhind-Tutt  
 Listening Library  
 9780553552133 \$44.99

This saga that takes place across many years is so expertly narrated that listeners know exactly where they are in this complex and compelling novel. Intertwining tales set on the Isle of the Blessed are beautifully told making the slightly unnerving story a rare treat.

**THE PORT CHICAGO 50; DISASTER, MUTINY, AND THE FIGHT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**



By: Steve Sheinkin  
 Narrator: Dominic Hoffman  
 Listening Library  
 9780804167444 \$18.00

See annotation under "Ten to Fourteen."

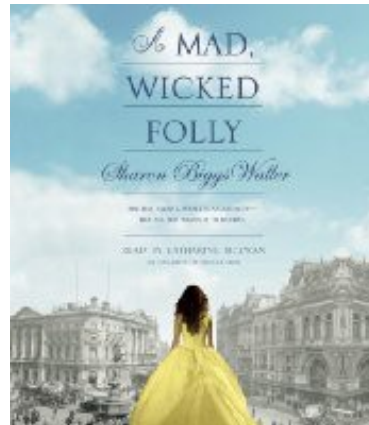
**THE WHISPERING SKULL**



By: Jonathan Stroud  
 Narrator: Katie Lyons  
 Listening Library  
 9780804123204 \$50.00

The psychic detectives at Lockwood & Co. find their pursuit more dangerous than expected – especially when a mysterious talking skull starts sharing its secrets. Lyons’ audio is enthralling and this sequel to *The Screaming Staircase* (Random House Audio, 2013) stands on its own.

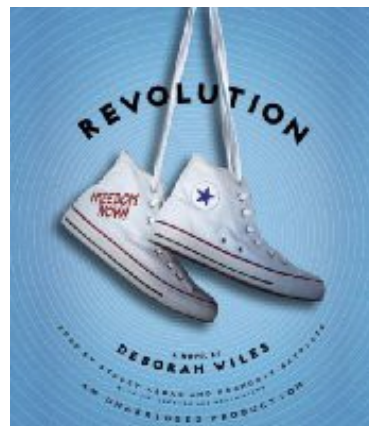
**A MAD, WICKED FOLLY**



By: Sharon Biggs Waller  
 Narrator: Katharine McEwan  
 Listening Library  
 9780804167567 \$55.00

A passionate young lady of the Edwardian Era, Darling wants to be an artist but her parents are opposed. She’s engaged to an upper crust fellow but falls in love with a poor constable. Will she marry? Will she go to school? Impeccable pacing and a lovely voice are features of McEwan’s exquisite narration.

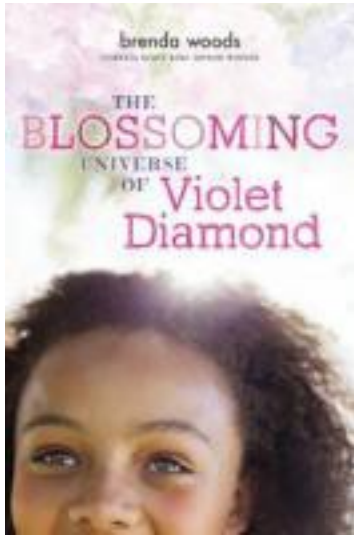
**REVOLUTION**



By: Deborah Wiles  
 Narrator: Stacey Aswad  
 Listening Library  
 9780804168724 \$50.00

See annotation under "Fourteen and Up."

## THE BLOSSOMING UNIVERSE OF VIOLET DIAMOND



By: Brenda Woods  
 Narrator: Sisi Aisha Johnson  
 Recorded Books  
 9781490614557 \$46.75

Eleven-year-old Violet, who has grown up in a small town with her white mother and sister meets her African-American paternal grandmother for the first time. Johnson realistically captures the characters' varied voices in this warm and often humorous story about belonging.

## BROWN GIRL DREAMING



By: Jacqueline Woodson  
 Narrator: Jacqueline Woodson  
 Audible  
 9780553397260 \$38.00

Woodson shares her life and influences as she grew from a child in South Carolina to a young woman in Brooklyn in a remarkable, lyrical memoir. It is stories that sustain her all along and foreshadow the brilliant career that awaits her. Woodson's mellifluous voice complements her text perfectly and makes the poetry soar.

[www.capitolchoices.org](http://www.capitolchoices.org)

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## MEMBERS

Kit Ballenger, The Reading Connection, Chevy Chase, MD  
Colleen Beaupre, Internationale Schule, Frankfurt, Frankfurt, Germany  
Alicia Blowers, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Alexandria, VA  
Brijin Boddy, District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, DC  
Teresa Cain, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, VA  
Tony Carmack, Rocklin Library, Rocklin, CA  
Darcie Caswell, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, VA  
Ruth Anne Champion, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD  
Blair Christolon, Prince William Public Library System, Manassas, VA  
Ruth Compton, St. Patrick's School, Washington, DC  
Lisa Cosgrove-Davies, Arlington County Public Library, Arlington, VA  
Gretchen Crowley, Alexandria City Public Library, Alexandria, VA  
Valerie Diamond, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD  
Julie Dietzel-Glair, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD  
Jane Dorfman, Montgomery County Public Library, Bethesda, MD  
Jane Drabkin, Prince William Public Library, Prince William, VA  
Sondra Eklund, Fairfax County Public Library, Centreville VA  
María Gentle, Arlington County Public Library, Arlington, VA  
Jackie Gropman, Young Adult Literature Specialist, Burke, VA  
Serena Hamm, Washington Latin Public Charter School, Silver Spring, MD  
Cayce Hoffman, Baltimore County Public Library, Woodlawn, MD  
Kathy Isaacs, Children's Literature Specialist, Pasadena, MD  
Wendy Lukehart, District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, DC  
Yukari Matsuyama, Bethesda, MD  
Joy McIntire, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Fredericksburg, VA  
Michelle Miller, Arlington County Public Library, Arlington, VA  
Kathleen Neil, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD  
Elizabeth Nolan, Woodridge Neighborhood Library, Washington, DC  
Karen Sullivan, Arlington Public Library, Arlington, VA  
Elissa Webber, Young Adult Literature Specialist, Silver Spring, MD  
Anne Womack, Arlington Public Library, Arlington, VA

### Facilitators

Micki Freeny, District of Columbia Public Library, Washington, DC  
Bridget Harvey, Central Rappahannock Regional Library, Spotsylvania, VA  
Todd Krueger, Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, MD  
Carolyn LaChance, Fairfax County Library, Burke, V  
Paula Langsam, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA

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