



BIRTH TO AGE SEVEN

THE WALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK

Agee, Jon

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0525555452

A knight discovers that his side of a seemingly impenetrable brick wall is not as safe as he once presumed. The ogre on the other side might not be that bad either.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GARDEN

Buitrago, Jairo & Rafael Yockteng

House of Anansi Press - Greenwood Books

978-1554989836

Natalie feels abandoned at her grandmother's house until a talking owl, frog and mouse lead her on a moonlit journey. Digital scratchboard-effect illustrations evoke the mysteries of nocturnal life and the struggles in a young heart.

THE DAY WAR CAME

Davies, Nicola

Rebecca Cobb, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536201734

War came and took everything from the child narrator, and her new country doesn't seem to have room for her. Still, the clear, child-friendly illustrations and poetic text offer a hopeful ending.

MARWAN'S JOURNEY

de Arias, Patricia

Laura Borrás, Illustrator

minedition

978-9888341559

Marwan's memories of the sights, sounds, and smells of his homeland accompany him as walks with other refugees across the desert to a new and unknown home. Full-page illustrations capture the beauty of Marwan's past, fearful present, and hopeful future.



ZOLA'S ELEPHANT

de Sève, Randall

Pamela Zagarenski, Illustrator

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-1328886293

The young narrator would like to get to know Zola, the new girl next door, but is sure she already has an elephant keeping her company. Warm, colorful, detailed illustrations depict the fun she imagines while contrasting, cool blue page spreads show what Zola is really doing alone.

GRAINS OF SAND

Delacroix, Sibylle

OwlKids

978-1771472050

When her vacation is over, a girl plants the remaining grains of sand in her shoes to create joyful memories. Spare text and black and white pencil sketches with splashes of blue and yellow celebrate the power of imagination.

A HOUSE THAT ONCE WAS

Fogliano, Julie

Lane Smith, Illustrator

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1626723146

Two children investigating an abandoned, dilapidated house speculate about the former occupants who might have left behind the artifacts inside. The paint and collage illustrations are dreamy and nostalgic.

EVERY COLOR SOUP

Hurley, Jorey

Simon & Schuster - Paula Wiseman Books

978-1481469999

A simple, one word per opening, picture book introduces colors, numbers, vegetables and the joy of making soup. The bold, bright illustrations work well to share with a group or as a lap book.

THE FUNERAL

James, Matt

House of Anansi Press - Groundwood Books

978-1554989089

Great uncle Frank's funeral at a country church on a beautiful spring day lets young Norma spend some time with a favorite cousin and contemplate some of life's mysteries in a series of sweet and quietly humorous observations.



I WALK WITH VANESSA: A STORY ABOUT A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS

Kerascoet

Penguin Random House - Schwartz & Wade Books (Random House)

978-1524769550

The morning after a student witnesses her classmate, Vanessa, being bullied she is joined by others who support Vanessa by walking her to school. Bright colors and single hues reveal the emotions of the characters in this wordless comic book style story.

NATSUMI!

Lendroth, Susan

Priscilla Burris, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0399170904

Natsumi has a lively personality, high energy and enthusiasm. She likes to do things BIG (even if her adults tell her to do them smaller) and she finds the perfect way to do things in her own way during her town's Japanese arts festival.

JULIAN IS A MERMAID

Love, Jessica

Candlewick

978-0763690458

Julian loves mermaids and finds a way with a special gift from his abuela to transform himself into his daydream. Brilliant mixed media illustrations, perfectly paired with minimal text, illuminate this tale of acceptance and imagination.

A MOST UNUSUAL DAY

Mallery, Sydra

E. B. Goodale, Illustrator

HarperCollins - Greenwillow Books

978-0062364302

Soft acrylic and watercolor art illustrates the story of preschooler Caroline's distracting day as she anticipates a surprise at the end of school--the arrival of a new baby, her sister.

DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR!

Miller, Sharee

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316562584

Aria's beautiful hair, "up or down, styled or wild" seems to be a temptation to others who want to touch it until Aria discovers the power of standing up for herself and setting personal boundaries.



INKY'S AMAZING ESCAPE: HOW A VERY SMART OCTOPUS FOUND HIS WAY HOME

Montgomery, Sy

Amy Schimler-Safford, Illustrator

Simon & Schuster - Paula Wiseman Books

978-1534401914

Inky's inquisitive nature takes him from his ocean home to: a lobster trap, the aquarium and then—amazingly—back to his saltwater den. Appealing illustrations and appended facts will delight and inform young readers. Based on a true story.

DREAMERS

Morales, Yuyi

Holiday House - Neal Porter Books

978-0823440559

In this richly poetic and visually lyrical work artist and author Morales tells the story of coming from Mexico to the United States with a baby in her arms, and of the role that the public library played in their lives.

THANK YOU, OMU

Mora, Oge

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316431248

Omu looks forward to her dinner of thick red stew until its delicious scent brings repeated knocks to her door, with everyone hoping for a taste. Rhythmic language and warm, mixed-media collage illustrations mirror the generosity of Omu's spirit. Delectable!

WE ARE BROTHERS

Nadon, Yves

Claverie, Jean, Illustrator

Creative Editions

978-1568462929

A young boy, lovingly encouraged by his older brother, jumps from the top of a boulder into the swimming hole in this depiction of sibling affection and the power of imagination. The simple language and gentle palette eloquently express fear, suspense, triumph and joy.



BENJI, THE BAD DAY, AND ME

Pla, Sally J.

Ken Min, Illustrator

Lee & Low Books

978-1620143452

It's been the worst day ever for Sammy, but his brother Benji, who has autism, wraps him in a blanket like a burrito and makes him feel better. Sammy realizes they will always be there for each another.

DUDE!

Reynolds, Aaron

Dan Santat, Illustrator

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1626726031

A platypus and beaver—and eventually a shark—enjoy an action-packed surfing adventure narrated with a single word: “Dude!” A perfect choice for beginning readers who will also delight in the hilarious pictures.

FOX + CHICK: THE PARTY AND OTHER STORIES.

Ruzzier, Sergio

Chronicle

978-1452152882

A careful fox and a spontaneous chick could not possibly be more different, but they are still very good friends in this charming three-story anthology.

BEAR AND WOLF

Salmieri, Daniel

Enchanted Lion Books

978-1592702381

Bear and Wolf meet in a snowstorm, enjoy a companionable walk, and part ways until the following year. Dazzling nature scenes rendered in gouache and watercolor make this tale of friendship between two unlikely characters something special.

BLUE

Seeger, Laura Vaccaro

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1626720664

The few words naming shades of blue in these lovely, warmly evocative paintings tell the story of a lifelong friendship between a child and a beloved dog.



BABY MONKEY, PRIVATE EYE

Selznick, Brian & David Serlin

Scholastic - Scholastic Press

978-1338180619

In this chapter book for new readers, Baby Monkey, an accomplished crime solver and gifted young detective, solves several mysteries before naptime with aplomb, though he does have some trouble putting on his pants.

MOMMY'S KHIMAR

Thompkins-Bigelow, Jamilah

Ebony Glenn, Illustrator

Simon & Schuster - Salaam Reads

978-1534400597

When a young American Muslim girl wears her Mommy's khimar, a brightly-colored flowing scarf, she imagines herself a shooting star, a bird, a queen, the sun, and she feels close to her mother even when they are apart.

TOESY TOES

Tsiang, Sarah

Orca Book Publishers

978-1459813427

Babies will be charmed by this sturdy board book with its colorful photographs of other babies delighting in their toes.

SEVEN TO TEN

HELLO LIGHTHOUSE

Blackall, Sophie

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316362382

Vivid watercolor and ink illustrations provide a peek into the life of a lighthouse keeper and his family before the installation of electric lamps. Exquisite scenes of the lighthouse shining in all kinds of weather foster an appreciation for a lost era.

LET THE CHILDREN MARCH

Clark-Robinson, Monica

Frank Morrison, Illustrator

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544704527

This account of the Children's Crusade of 1963 is told from the point of view of a child who joins in the march in Birmingham after hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr speak. Oil-on-canvas illustrations show a range of emotions of the protesters and their families—fear, sadness, and courage in the face of hate.



THE ELEPHANT

Desmond, Jenni

Jenni Desmond, Illustrator

Enchanted Lion Books

978-1592702640

A young boy falls asleep and dreams himself into the elephants' world, learning important facts. An exceptionally appealing introduction, beautifully illustrated and seamlessly interweaving facts about elephant habitats, anatomy, diet, and behavior.

THE FOX ON THE SWING

Daciute, Evelina

Ausra Kiudulaite, Illustrator

Thames & Hudson

978-0500651568

Paul's family has moved from their old tree home and he misses his old park and his friend, a philosophical fox, who eventually turns up in the new neighborhood. This surreal tale from Lithuania about real issues features challenging dialog, delightful details, and vibrant mixed media.

ISLANDBORN

Diaz, Junot

Leo Espinosa, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0735229860

Lola is upset that she can't remember her first home for a school assignment, so her family and neighbors describe the colors, tastes, sounds, and spirit of the Island. Vibrant digital and mixed media illustrations offer manageable representations of more painful memories alongside a celebration of community and cultural heritage.

STELLA DIAZ HAS SOMETHING TO SAY

Dominguez, Angela

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1626728585

This timely middle grade novel draws on the author's own experiences, as third grade Stella struggles to find her place while navigating new and old friendships, two languages and understanding what her immigrant status means.



SHAKING THINGS UP: 14 YOUNG WOMEN WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

Hood, Susan

Various Illustrators

HarperCollins - HarperCollins Children's Books

978-0062699459

Short poetic biographies of famous and lesser-known inspirational women are accompanied by illustrations by children's book artists.

RESCUE & JESSICA: A LIFE-CHANGING FRIENDSHIP

Kensky, Jessica and Patrick Downes

Scott Magoon, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-0763696047

This gentle look at people with acquired disabilities and the service dogs who help them tells the real-life story of the inspiring partnership between Rescue, a new service dog, and Jessica, a new amputee and the way forward they find together.

BOB

Mass, Wendy

Rebecca Stead, Author

Macmillan - Feiwel & Friends

978-1250166230

Ten-year-old Livy doesn't remember the last time she visited her grandmother in Australia, but Bob has been eagerly awaiting her return for five years. With a mix of magic and friendship Livy helps the quirky little green creature dressed in a chicken suit find his way home.

THE BRILLIANT DEEP: REBUILDING THE WORLD'S CORAL REEFS

Messner, Kate

Matthew Forsythe, Illustrator

Chronicle

978-1452133508

Captivating underwater landscapes accompany the story of Ken Nedimyer's passion for the ocean and his innovative work to restore the threatened Florida Keys coral reefs.



THIRTY MINUTES OVER OREGON: A JAPANESE PILOT'S WORLD WAR II STORY

Nobleman, Marc Tyler

Melissa Iwai, Illustrator

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544430761

Japanese pilot Nobuo Fujita dropped bombs over Oregon forests during WWII and returned twenty years later to offer his apologies. This remarkable true story of reconciliation is accompanied by beautiful, moving watercolor illustrations.

GIRL RUNNING : BOBBI GIBB AND THE BOSTON MARATHON

Pimentel, Annette Bay

Micha Archer, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin)

978-1101996683

This account of Bobbi Gibb's quest to participate in the Boston Marathon even though she was denied entry just because she was a girl is accompanied by collage-style illustrations that mark milestones along the route.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ALICE! THE THRILLING TRUE ADVENTURES OF THE FIRST WOMAN FILMMAKER

Rockliff, Mara

Simona Ciraolo, Illustrator

Chronicle

978-1452141343

Alice Guy-Blache was creating talkies in France while silent films were still the norm in America. This picture book biography captures her talent and drive, and her disappointment in seeing recognition pass her by. Back matter directs readers to websites where they can view some of her films.

OTIS AND WILL DISCOVER THE DEEP: THE RECORD-SETTING DIVE OF THE BATHYSPHERE

Rosenstock, Barb

Katherine Roy, Illustrator

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316393829

Two scientists in the 1930s team up to explore unknown parts of the ocean by creating a deep-diving tank. Detailed watercolors and a suspenseful text, with photographs and additional information in the back, make this a fascinating look at invention and exploration.



THE SECRET KINGDOM: NEK CHAND, A CHANGING INDIA AND A HIDDEN WORLD OF ART

Rosenstock, Barb

Claire A. Nivola, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-0763674755

After fleeing from his village during the Partition of India, Nek Chand Saini used discarded materials to create the Rock Garden of Chandigarh, his secret art landscape. Gentle watercolor and gouache illustrations lead up to a fold-out photograph spread showing the impressive scale of Nek Chand's work.

THE CARDBOARD KINGDOM

Sell, Chad

Penguin Random House - Alfred A. Knopf (Random House)

978-1524719371

A group of diverse children battle mythical monsters, traverse magical quests, and let their imaginations run wild...all without leaving their neighborhood in this graphic novel told in interconnected chapters.

HIDDEN FIGURES: THE TRUE STORY OF FOUR BLACK WOMEN AND THE SPACE RACE

Shetterly, Margot Lee

Laura Freeman, Illustrator

HarperCollins - HarperCollins Children's Books

978-0062742469

In a time when racial segregation and sexism was the norm, four African-American mathematicians worked as human computers for NASA. Richly detailed illustrations accompany these brief biographies of each woman and the story of their contributions to the field.

PASS GO AND COLLECT \$200: THE REAL STORY OF HOW MONOPOLY WAS INVENTED

Stone, Tanya Lee

Steven Salerno, Illustrator

Macmillan - Henry Holt Books for Young Readers

978-1627791687

Lizzie Magie laid the groundwork in 1903 for the board game "Monopoly" with her invention of a game showing the injustice of landlord-tenant relationships. This clever women's history story is deftly told and appealingly illustrated, with back matter that includes trivia and "Monopoly Math."



TIGER VS. NIGHTMARE

Tetri, Emily

Macmillan - First Second

978-1626725355

Tiger and his friend Monster work together to battle a particularly scary nighttime visitor. The watercolor illustrations in graphic novel style are gentle—but a little spooky, too.

ROAD TRIP WITH MAX AND HIS MOM

Urban, Linda

Katie Kath, Illustrator

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544809123

Max and his mother take to the road for a family reunion in an amusement park in this novel about life lessons. Like the explorer Ernest Shackleton, Max takes the challenges in life, from a school report to his first roller coaster, in stride.

NEW SHOES

Varon, Sara

Macmillan - First Second

978-1596439207

Francis the Donkey meets unfamiliar creatures and rescues his friend Nigel when he journeys into the jungle of Guyana to find material to make shoes for his idol, calypso queen Miss Manatee in this charming graphic novel/picture book/early reader hybrid.

LIBBA : THE MAGNIFICENT MUSICAL LIFE OF ELIZABETH COTTEN

Veirs, Laura

Tatyana Fazlalizadeh, Illustrator

Chronicle

978-1452148571

Libba Cotten learned as a child to play her guitar “upside down and backwards.” She was a grandmother when a job as housekeeper with the musical Seeger family led to sharing her gift with the world. The soft, graphite artwork in this picture book biography feels historical and warm.

FROM THE HEART OF AFRICA

Walters, Eric

Various Illustrators

Penguin Random House Canada - Tundra Books

978-1770497191

Full-page illustrations by a variety of artists accompany this visually stunning collection of 15 proverbs from many different African countries, reflecting universal human experiences.



TEN TO FOURTEEN

THE ASSASSINATION OF BRANGWAIN SPURGE

Anderson, M.T.

Yelchin, Eugene, co-author and illustrator

Candlewick

978-0763698225

The secret transmissions of Elf ambassador Brangwain Spurge describe the horrors of the kingdom of goblins—but the illustrations tell a different story. A surprising tale of intrigue and a lesson in prejudice.

SMALL SPACES

Arden, Katherine

Penguin Random House - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0525515029

A field trip to a farm in rural Vermont goes horribly wrong when the chilling tale from Ollie's old book begins to unfold in real life. Ollie and two classmates flee to the woods, where sinister things await.

SWEEP

Auxier, Jonathan

Abrams - Abrams Books for Young Readers

978-1419731402

Grit, gumption, and memories of the loving Sweep who raised chimney climber Nan Sparrow help her survive. After a chimney fire, Nan finds a gift from the Sweep transformed, and a new friend by her side.

IVY ABERDEEN'S LETTER TO THE WORLD

Blake, Ashley Herring

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316515467

Someone keeps putting pages from Ivy's secret notebook, lost when a tornado destroyed her home, in her school locker—pages that reveal Ivy dreams of holding hands with a girl. Ivy questions multiple strands of her identity, and where she fits in her friend-group and in her family of five.

BE PREPARED

Brosgol, Vera

Macmillan - First Second

978-1626724457

Russian-American graphic novelist Brosgol tells her own humorous and poignant story about attending a Russian summer camp for the first time at age 10. Readers will relate to Vera's experience of just wanting to "fit in."



FINDING LANGSTON

Cline-Ransome, Lesa

Holiday House

978-0823439607

11-year-old Langston is teased about his Southern ways and misses his dead mother and the rich family life left behind in Alabama when he and his father came north as part of the Great Migration. Langston finds refuge in the local library where he learns about his namesake and his mother's past.

ILLEGAL

Colfer, Eoin and Andrew Donkin

Giovanni Rigano, Illustrator

Sourcebooks Jabberwocky

978-11492662143

Ebo, a young Ghanaian refugee, overcomes despair and exploitation in a perilous journey to Italy. Alternating time lines effectively reveal his challenges traversing land and sea in this compelling graphic novel, about hope and determination.

THE TRUTH AS TOLD BY MASON BUTTLE

Connor, Leslie

HarperCollins - Katherine Tegen Books

978-0062491435

Large, sweaty, learning disabled Mason Buttle grieves for his best friend Benny. Mason and new friend Calvin, bullied by neighborhood boys, create an underground space for themselves, but when Calvin disappears Mason is under suspicion.

LOUISIANA'S WAY HOME

DiCamillo, Kate

Candlewick

978-0763694630

Everything turns upside down for Louisiana Elefante the night her grandmother abruptly moves them away from everything she knows and loves. This gently told story is filled with unforgettable characters, a search for identity, and resiliency and forgiveness amidst confusion.

THE NIGHT DIARY

Hiranandani, Veera

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0735228511

Nisha, whose father is Hindu, chronicles her family's displacement during the 1947 Partition of India through letters to her deceased Muslim mother. The resilience of the human spirit triumphs in this lyrical, emphatic novel.



ATTUCKS! OSCAR ROBERTSON AND THE BASKETBALL TEAM THAT AWAKENED A CITY

Hoose, Phillip

Macmillan - Farrar Straus & Giroux for Young Readers

978-0374306120

In 1955 the Crispus Attucks Tigers with the dazzling Oscar Robertson became the first all-black basketball team to win a state championship tournament when a group of impoverished teenagers overturned segregationist assumptions in Indianapolis and shattered the myth of black inferiority in sports.

THE MISCALCULATIONS OF LIGHTNING GIRL

McAnulty, Stacy

Penguin Random House - Random House Books for Young Readers (Random House)

978-1524767570

In this funny and tender story neuro-diverse Lucy, a 12-year-old gifted with exceptional math ability, navigates the “soft skills” of socializing while trying to keep her math skills a secret from her middle-school peers.

THE FLIGHT OF SWANS

McGuire, Sarah

Lerner Publishing Group - Carolrhoda Books

978-1512440270

In this fairy tale retelling, Andaryn must persevere for six years of silence in order to save her six brothers, who were turned into swans by an evil queen.

NOWHERE BOY

Marsh, Katherine

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1250307576

American Max and Ahmed, a Syrian refugee, both unhappy to be in Belgium, become unexpected friends in this timely novel that draws parallels to a WWII Belgian hero who died protecting Jewish children.

MERCI SUÁREZ CHANGES GEARS

Medina, Meg

Candlewick

978-0763690496

Merci loves her complicated family as she tries to find her place as a soccer player and as the token scholarship child in her privileged school.



INKLING

Oppel, Kenneth

Sydney Smith, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Alfred A. Knopf (Random House)

978-1524772819

When Ethan befriends an ink blob that escapes from the pages of his dad's sketchbook the whole family finds what they've been searching for—but magic can't be kept secret. Illustrations bring this action-packed, laugh-out-loud novel about creativity, family, and grief to life.

MARTIN RISING: REQUIEM FOR A KING

Pinkney, Andrea Davis

Pinkney, Brian, Illustrator

Scholastic - Scholastic Press

978-0545702539

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final months and a remembrance of his assassination and legacy are celebrated magnificently through Andrea Davis Pinkney's poetry and Brian Pinkney's powerful art. Photographs, a timeline, and reflections from both author and illustrator are included.

GHOST BOYS

Rhodes, Jewell Parker

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316262286

Guided by the ghost of Emmett Till, 12-year-old Jerome lingers after his death to understand what happened when he was shot and killed by a police officer—and to comprehend the shooting's devastating impact on his family, and the potential for the living to be catalysts for change.

THE GIRL WHO DREW BUTTERFLIES: HOW MARIA MERIAN'S ART CHANGED SCIENCE

Sidman, Joyce

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-0544717138

This meticulously researched and gorgeously crafted illustrated biography of 17th century entomologist and naturalist Maria Merian includes poetic captions from Maria's original scientific illustrations. Included are a glossary, timeline, source notes, bibliography, and suggestions for further reading.



THE PRINCE AND THE DRESSMAKER

Wang, Jen

Macmillan - First Second

978-1626723634

Sebastian, a young French prince who leads a secret double life as a fashion icon named Lady Crystallia, meets talented dressmaker Frances. Vibrant expressive illustrations in this graphic novel draw the reader into the relationship between these two complex characters.

FRONT DESK

Yang, Kelly

Scholastic - Arthur A. Levine Books

978-1338157796

The Tang family become caretakers at a hotel owned by the tyrannical, racist Mr. Yao, and 10-year-old Mia Tang learns to stand up for her family and the diverse friends living in the margins of her new community.

FOURTEEN AND UP

THE GRAND ESCAPE

Bascomb, Neal

Scholastic - Arthur A. Levine Books

978-1338140347

A compelling non-fiction narrative filled with photos, illustrations, and maps details the ingenuity of captured Allied pilots to plan and execute the biggest prison break of the twentieth century from a German camp during World War I.

GIRL MADE OF STARS

Blake, Ashley Herring

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-1328778239

When Mara's twin brother is accused of rape, she must question all that she knows, loves, and trusts and face her own trauma from a past assault.

THE UNWANTED: STORIES OF THE SYRIAN REFUGEES

Brown, Don

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-1328810151

Bombed, jailed, tortured, and shot, Syrians fled their country. This meticulously sourced graphic nonfiction novel is based on personal accounts and depicts the refugees' horrific journey and their steely determination to find a better life.



VOTES FOR WOMEN!: AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS AND THE BATTLE FOR THE BALLOT

Conkling, Winifred

Workman - Algonquin Young Readers

978-1616207342

Suffragists' letters, other writings, and photos are used to depict the decades-long struggle for the right to vote and the often-ignored racism that existed within the movement.

BRIGHTLY BURNING

Donne, Alexa

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-1328948939

In this science fiction retelling of Jane Eyre, seventeen-year-old Stella, both an engineer and a teacher, is hired to work on a privately owned spaceship where she encounters mysterious occurrences as well as unexpected romance.

PICTURE US IN THE LIGHT

Glibert, Kelly Loy

Disney (Hyperion)

978-1484726020

Danny Cheng uncovers something that threatens to unravel everything his immigrant family has built. With well-developed characters and a subtle handling of tough issues, Gilbert's poignant coming-of-age love story travels into the world of family secrets and why some are meant to be kept.

THE WAR OUTSIDE

Hesse, Monica

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316316699

Margot and Haruko form a friendship under the most unlikely of circumstances: as German and Japanese enemies of the state held in the multi-ethnic Crystal City, Texas internment camp during WWII.

MONDAY'S NOT COMING

Jackson, Tiffany D.

HarperCollins - HarperTeen

978-0062422699

Sometimes Claudia feels like she is the only one who cares about her friend Monday Charles, especially when Monday's own mother is evasive about her daughter's whereabouts. Will anyone help Claudia find Monday?



TRULY DEVIOUS

Johnson, Maureen

HarperCollins - Katherine Tegen Books

978-0062338051

Stevie Bell arrives at prestigious Ellingham Academy with plans to solve the decades-old case of the kidnapping of the founder's wife and daughter. But just as her investigation gets underway things turn deadly.

DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OKAY

Khorram, Adib

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers (Penguin)

978-0525552963

Darius, an awkward tea-loving teen, struggles with life and depression when a family trip to Iran brings something unexpected. This touching novel delves into the stigma of depression, the complexities of family, and how a true friend can make life sublime.

DEAR RACHEL MADDOW

Kisner, Adrienne

Macmillan - Feiwel & Friends

978-1250146021

Brynn's life seems meaningless ever since her brother died and her girlfriend dumped her, but her emails to Rachel Maddow and one cruel injustice help her to keep going. In this epistolary novel told solely in emails, one small, yet loud, voice fights for the little guy in hopes to make a difference.

HEY, KIDDO

Krosoczka, Jarrett J.

Scholastic - Graphix

978-0545902489

With his mother in and out of rehab and his father's identity a mystery, Jarrett's headstrong grandparents raise him and nurture the love of art that ultimately saves him. Notable comics creator Jarrett J. Krosoczka's graphic memoir reflects on his family and complicated upbringing with raw frankness and impressive attention to historical detail.

I AM STILL ALIVE

Marshall, Kate Alice

Penguin Random House - Viking Children's Books (Penguin)

978-0425290989

In this unique and suspenseful survival story, Jess's past and present slowly come together as she fights for her life in the wilderness and prepares to take revenge against the men who caused her father's death.



BLOOD WATER PAINT

McCullough, Joy

Penguin Random House - Dutton Books for Young Readers

978-0735232112

Based on true events, this novel in verse offers a bold portrait of Artemesia Gentileschi, a young woman who challenged society's values and the role of women in 17th century Italy. Raped by her tutor, Artemesia convinces her father to pursue legal prosecution on her behalf, all the while hiding the secret of her artistic talent behind paintings signed with her father's initials.

WHAT I LEAVE BEHIND

McGhee, Alison

Simon & Schuster - Atheneum

978-1481476560

Will is trying to deal with both his father's suicide and the rape of a good friend. But he is also filled with the small joys of a day as he works at a dollar store, and befriends and gives back to the people he passes as he walks to his job.

AFTER THE SHOT DROPS

Ribay, Randy

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH Books for Young Readers

978-1328702272

For Bunny, the chance to play basketball at a private school means more than a chance at the championship. It's a path to escape his low-income community and find a future filled with possibility. But Nasir sees Bunny's sudden departure as a betrayal of their lifelong friendship, and a choice that threatens to cost him and his family much more than a basketball title.

HOUSE OF DREAMS: THE LIFE OF L.M. MONTGOMERY

Rosenberg, Liz

Julie Morstad, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-0763660574

A comprehensive biographical look at Lucy Maud Montgomery 's growth as a writer, her failings, her struggle with depression and her love of Prince Edward Island offer a new understanding of the woman behind *Anne of Green Gables*.



WHAT THE NIGHT SINGS

Stamper, Vesper

Penguin Random House - Alfred A. Knopf (Random House)

978-1524700386

Gerta and her father, both talented musicians, are discovered and sent to Bergen-Belsen by the Nazis. The teenager is liberated at the end of the war, but the aftermath of what came next for the survivors is the true heart of this book. The author/artist's haunting, full-page illustrations complete the striking package.

CHASING KING'S KILLER: THE HUNT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S ASSASSIN

Swanson, James L.

Scholastic - Scholastic Press

978-0545723336

Swanson explores the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his assassin, James Earl Ray, and expertly builds tension, calling upon the reader to delve deeper into the story to understand the fullness of King's legacy and the motivations of King's killer.

CHECK, PLEASE

Ukazu, Ngozi

Macmillan - First Second

978-1250177957

Eric "Bitty" Bittle and his hockey team experience their first and second years at Samwell University in this engaging, cheekily illustrated graphic novel. Witty dialogue, a subtle gay romance, and lots of references to Bitty's baking examine bro culture and serve to demolish toxic masculinity.

AUDIOBOOKS

CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE

Adeyemi, Tomi

Bahni Turpin, Narrator

Macmillan - Young Listeners

978-1427295514 (CD)

Zelie embarks on a journey to return magic to her people. The narration of this beautiful and exciting story brings the listener into the plot.



DREAD NATION

Ireland, Justina

Bahni Turpin, Narrator

HarperCollins - Balzer + Bray

978-0062822956 (CD)

The dead began to rise at Gettysburg and elsewhere—and black and Native Americans like young shambler-hunter Jane McKeene are forced into combat in this alternate history with zombies.

AMAL UNBOUND

Saeed, Aisha

Priya Ayyar, Narrator

Penguin Random House - Listening Library (Audio)

978-0525632115 (Digital Audio)

Amal's ordinary life in Pakistan is upended when she must pay down her family's debt to a ruthless landlord via indentured servitude.

HOPE IN THE HOLLER

Tyre, Lisa Lewis

Catherine Taber, Narrator

Penguin Random House - Books on Tape (Audio)

978-0525589747 (CD)

Wavie is sent to live with a greedy, mean aunt when her mother dies, but with the help of friends in Conley Holler she may find something for which to hope.



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.

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.

JOIN US

We welcome you in person at our monthly meetings. Capitol Choices members are also available to present workshops on the best titles of the year, how to evaluate literature for young people, and other topics related to our passion for books and audiobooks for young readers. Please visit our website www.capitolchoices.org to schedule a workshop or find out more about joining our group.

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