

PICTURE THIS

2020 Recommendation List

Compiled by the WSRA Children's Literature Committee
from titles published between September 2018-December 2019
www.wsra.org/children-s-literature

Committee members dedicate themselves to reading widely to evaluate the newest books published each year, in order to recommend the most interesting and valuable books for educators and children to read.

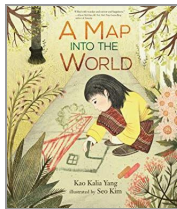
Submitted and nominated titles are evaluated based on appeal for students and value for classroom use while also representing high-quality literature with a focus on diversity, authenticity, real-world awareness, thought-provoking response, engaging storytelling, artistry of writing craft, and exemplary illustrations.

Fiction



A Big Bed for Little Snow by Grace Lin (Little, Brown and Company, 2019)
When winter comes, Mommy makes a soft bed for Little Snow to sleep on, but each night he cannot resist jumping on the bed, causing tiny feathers to fly down.

A Boy Like You by Frank Murphy, illustrated by Kayla Harren (Sleeping Bear Press, 2019)
Encourages every boy to embrace all of the things that make him unique, and to be curious, brave, kind, thoughtful, and more.

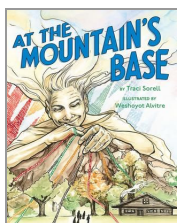


A Map Into The World by Kao Kalia Yang, illustrated by Seo Kim (Carolrhoda Books, 2019)
Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl, spends a busy year with her family in their new home, and seeks a way to share the beauty of the world with a grieving neighbor.

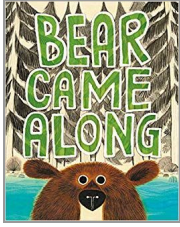
A Plan For Pops by Heather T. Smith, illustrated by Brooke Kerrigan (Orca Book Publishers, 2019)
A child helps his grandparents cope with a difficult change in abilities.

Anya's Secret Society by Yevgenia Nayberg (Charlesbridge, 2019)
Born in Russia, where left-handers are frowned upon, Anya learns to use her right hand, except when she draws with her imagined secret society of famous artists--then when she moves to America, everything is different.

Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max (Candlewick Press, 2019)
The stars are the limit for a little girl who acts out her wish to be an astronaut.



At The Mountain's Base by Traci Sorrell, illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre (Kokila, 2019)
At the mountain's base sits a cabin under an old hickory tree. And in that cabin lives a Native American family -- loving, weaving, cooking, and singing. The strength in their song sustains them through trials on the ground and in the sky, as they wait for their daughter/sister/granddaughter/niece, a pilot, to return from war

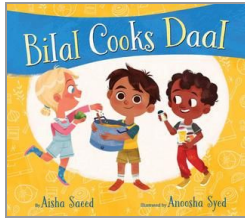


Bear Came Along by Richard T. Morris, illustrated by LeUyen Pham (Little, Brown Books For Young Readers, 2019)

An assortment of animals living separate lives discover they need each other when they have a chance encounter on a river.

Benji, The Bad Day, and Me by Sally Pla, illustrated by Ken Min (Lee & Low Books Inc., 2018)

Sammy is having a very bad day at school and at home until his autistic brother, Benji, finds a way to make him feel better.



Bilal Cooks Daal by Aisha Saeed, illustrated by Anoosha Syed (Salaam Reads, 2019)

Bilal and his father invite his friends to help make his favorite dish, daal, then all must wait patiently for it to be done.

Bitter and Sweet by Sandra V. Feder, illustrated by Kyrsten Brooker (Groundwood Books, 2018)

When Hannah's family has to move, her grandmother tells her how she felt leaving the old country--it was both bitter and sweet, a concept embraced in their Jewish culture. As Hannah leaves her friends behind and tries to get used to a new house, she only feels bitterness. Was her grandmother wrong about the sweetness?

Blue by Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Roaring Brook Press, 2018)

Artist Laura Vaccaro Seeger turns her attention to the ways in which color evokes emotion, and in doing so tells the story of one special and enduring friendship.

Bruce's Big Storm by Ryan T. Higgins (Disney Hyperion, 2019)

Grumpy Bruce the bear does not like neighbors, but is forced to help when a big storm draws them all to his home.

Carl and The Meaning of Life by Deborah Freedman (Viking Books For Young Readers, 2019)

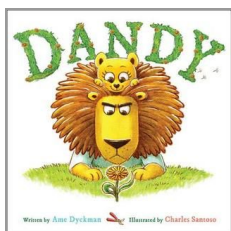
When a field mouse asks Carl the earthworm why he tunnels through the dirt, Carl doesn't have an answer, so he sets off to find out

Count on Me! by Miguel Tanco (Tundra Books, 2019)

A young girl sees the world differently through math, including the concentric circles a stone makes in a lake, the curve of a slide, the geometric shapes in the playground.

Dad's Camera by Ross Watkins, illustrated by Liz Anelli (Candlewick Press, 2018)

A moving portrayal of love and loss captures who -- and what -- we leave behind once we're gone.



Dandy by Ame Dyckman, illustrated by Charles Santoso (Little, Brown Books For Young Readers, 2019)

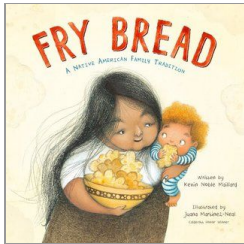
Although Sweetie has named and is caring for the sole dandelion on his perfect lawn, Daddy, with his friends' urging, does all he can to get rid of the weed before it spreads.

First Laugh Welcome, Baby! By Rose Ann Tahe, Nancy Bo Flood, illustrated by Jonathan Nelson (Charlesbridge, 2018)

A Navajo family welcomes a new baby into the family with love and ceremony, eagerly waiting for that first special laugh. Includes brief description of birth customs in different cultures.

Found by Jeff Newman, illustrated by Larry Day (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018)

While Jenn is seeking Prudence, her big, sleek and shiny, black and white dog, she meets and falls in love with Roscoe, a scruffy little golden dog. A wordless picture book.

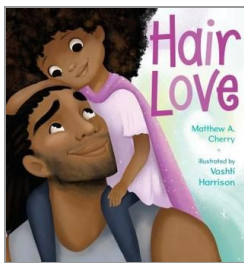


Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal (Roaring Brook Press, 2019)

Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family as they make fry bread and celebrate their culture. Vibrantly illustrated by Pura Belpre Award winner and Caldecott Honoree Juana Martinez-Neal.

Goodbye, Friend! Hello, Friend! by Cori Doerrfeld (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019)

Two best friends understand that saying goodbye to one experience means saying hello to the next, but that does not make it easier when one friend has to move away.

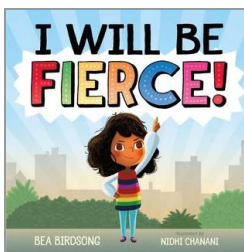


Hair Love by Matthew E. Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (Kokila, 2019)

A little girl's daddy steps in to help her arrange her curly, coiling, wild hair into styles that allow her to be her natural, beautiful self.

Hands Up! by Breanna J. McDaniel, illustrated by Shane W. Evans (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019)

A young girl lifts her hands up in a series of everyday moments before finally raising her hands in resistance at a protest march.



I Will Be Fierce by Bea Birdsong, illustrated by Nidhi Chanani (Roaring Brook Press, 2019)

It's a brand-new day, and a young girl decides to take on the world like a brave explorer heading off on an epic fairytale quest. From home to school and back again, our hero conquers the Mountain of Knowledge (the library), forges new bridges (friendships), and leads the victorious charge home on her steed (the school bus).

I Wonder by K.A. Holt, illustrated by Kenard Pak (Random House, 2019)

A story about the curious questions that children ask.

I'm Worried by Michael Ian Black, illustrated by Debbie Ridpath Ohi (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019)

Potato is worried about what might happen in the future, causing Flamingo to worry, too, but their friend, a little girl, encourages them to focus on enjoying the present, instead.

It's (Not) Hansel & Gretel by Josh Funk, illustrated by Edwardian Taylor (Two Lions, 2019)

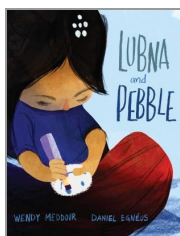
Hansel and Gretel will not listen to their storyteller. For one thing, who leaves a trail of breadcrumbs lying around, when there are people starving? Not Hansel, that's for sure! And that sweet old lady who lives in a house made of cookies and candy? There's no way she's an evil witch! As for Gretel, well, she's about to set the record straight--after all, who says the story can't be called Gretel and Hansel? It's time for these wacky siblings to take their fairytale into their own hands.

Leila in Saffron by Rukhsanna Guidroz, illustrated by Dinara Mirtalipova (Salaam Reads, 2019)

Shy and unsure of herself, Leila discovers all the things that make her special with the loving help of her Naani.

Lion of The Sky: Haiku for All Seasons by Laura Purdie Salas, illustrated by Merce Lopez (Millbrook Press, 2019)

Haiku meet riddles in this wonderful collection from Laura Purdie Salas. The poems celebrate the seasons and describe everything from an earthworm to a baseball to an apple to snow angels, alongside full-color illustrations.

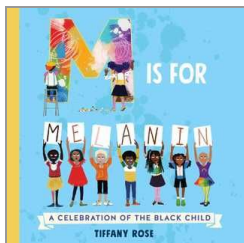


Lubna and Pebble by Wendy Meddour, illustrated by Daniel Egnéus (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019)

In an unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that gives her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty.

Lulu & Rocky in Milwaukee by Barbara Joose, illustrated by Renée Graef (Sleeping Bear Press, 2018)

Lulu and Rocky explore the city of Milwaukee.



M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child by Tiffany Rose (Little Bee Books, 2019)

Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro, to F is for Fresh, to W is for Worthy. This book teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin that they're in.

Maybe Tomorrow? by Charlotte Agell, illustrated by Ana Ramírez González (Scholastic Press, 2019)

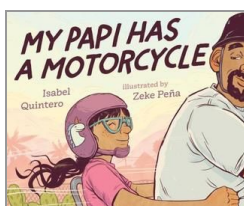
Elba carries the black block of grief and sadness wherever she goes--until Norris comes along and helps her to let go of the block and enjoy life again.

Me and My Fear by Francesa Sanna (Flying Eye Books, 2018)

When a young girl has to move countries and start at a new school, her Fear tells her to be alone and afraid.

My Heart by Corinna Luyken (Dial Books for Young Readers, 2019)

From moments of great joy and exuberance to necessary times of quiet contemplation, your heart is your guide.

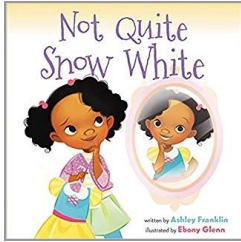


My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabella Quintero, illustrated by Zeke Peña (Kokila, 2019)

When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her.

My Shoes and I / Mis Zapatos y Yo: Crossing Three Borders / Cruzando Tres Fronteras by Rene Colato Lainez, illustrated by Fabricio Vanden Broeck (Pinata Books, 2019)

Young Rene's mother has sent him a new pair of shoes from the United States. He loves his new shoes. As Rene and his Papa travel from El Salvador to the United States to be reunited with Mama, his wonderful new shoes help to distract him from the long and difficult journey.



Not Quite Snow White by Ashley Franklin, illustrated Ebony Gleen (Harper, 2019)

Once upon a time, there was a girl who wanted nothing more than to play Snow White in her school's musical. Excitedly, Tameika dances and sings her way through the halls. But on the day of the auditions, she overhears some kids suggesting that she is not princess material. Tamika suddenly doesn't feel quite right enough to play a perfectly poised princess.

Ogilvy by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by T.L. McBeth (Godwin Books, 2019)

When Ogilvy moves to a new town, he discovers that bunnies who wear dresses play ball and knit socks, and bunnies in sweaters make art and climb rocks, and Ogilvy must figure out a way to do it all

Ojichan's Gift by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Genevieve Simms (Kids Can Press, 2019)

A young girl finds a way to give the gift of a traditional Japanese garden back to her beloved grandfather and accept a difficult change.

One Dark Bird by Liz Garton Scanlon, illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon (Beach Lane Books, 2019)

A single starling is joined by hundreds more, and together they dance across the sky, finally settling into the trees.

Our Favorite Day by Joowon Oh (Candlewick Press, 2019)

Charmingly detailed illustrations help tell a touching tale of the bond between grandparent and grandchild in a quiet yet powerful debut.

Penny and Penelope by Dan Richards, illustrated by Claire Almon (Imprint, 2019)

Penny and Penelope are very different dolls. Penelope is a sweet princess, while Penny is a fierce secret agent. Penelope wants to ride her pony through the countryside, while Penny wants to wrestle alligators. How can they possibly get along playing in an imaginary kingdom? Luckily, Penny and Penelope are more than their packaging. After all, you can't judge a doll by its outfit.

Remarkably You by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Patrice Barton (Harper, 2019)

Children learn to be themselves and accept their different personalities.



Saturday by Oge Mora (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019)

When all of their special Saturday plans go awry, Ava and her mother still find a way to appreciate one another and their time together.

Say Something by Peter H. Reynolds (Orchard Books, 2019)

A story that explores the ways a single voice can make a difference.

Sing a Song: How Lift Every Voice and Sing Inspired Generations by Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrated by Keith Mallett (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019)

Illustrations and easy-to-read text follow a family through five generations as each is inspired by the song written in 1900 to honor Abraham Lincoln. Includes author's note on the history of the song and its meaning in her family.



Spencer's New Pet by Jessie Sima (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019)
Spencer excitedly takes his new pet to the park, the veterinarian's office, and a birthday party, but for a pet balloon, those places are full of danger.

Stormy: A Story About Finding a Forever Home by Guojing (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019)

In this wordless picture book, a woman visits a park and discovers a pup hiding under a bench--scruffy, scared, and alone. With gentle coaxing, the woman tries to befriend the animal, but the dog is too scared to let her near. With perseverance and patience a tentative friendship begins. But it's not until a raging storm forces the two together that a joyous and satisfying friendship takes hold.

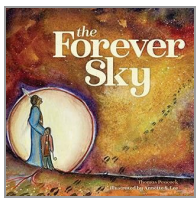
Sulwe by Lupita Nyong'o, illustrated by Vashti Harrison (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2019)
When five-year-old Sulwe's classmates make fun of her dark skin, she tries lightening herself to no avail, but her encounter with a shooting star helps her understand there is beauty in every shade.

Thank You, Omu! By Oge Mora (Little, Brown and Company, 2018)

When the aroma of Omu's homemade stew fills the air, her neighbors arrive, one by one, for a taste until all is gone except for her generous spirit.

The Bell Rang by James E. Ransome (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2019)

A young slave girl witnesses the heartbreak and hopefulness of her family and their plantation community when her brother escapes for freedom in this brilliantly conceived picture book by Coretta Scott King Award winner James E. Ransome.

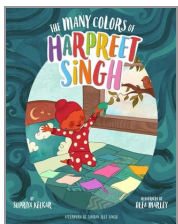


The Forever Sky by Thomas Peacock, illustrated by Annette S. Lee (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2019)

Two young Ojibwe brothers, Niigaanii and Bineshiinh, look to the stars and spin stories, some inspired by Uncle and some of their own making, as they remember their grandmother.

The King of Kindergarten by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Nancy Paulsen Books, 2019)

Starting kindergarten is a big milestone--and the hero of this story is ready to make his mark! He's dressed himself, eaten a pile of pancakes, and can't wait to be part of a whole new kingdom of kids. The day will be jam-packed, but he's up to the challenge, taking new experiences in stride with his infectious enthusiasm! And afterward, he can't wait to tell his proud parents all about his achievements--and then wake up to start another day.



The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh by Supriya Keller, illustrated by Alea Marley (Sterling Children's Books, 2019)

Harpreet Singh has a different color for every mood and occasion, from pink for dancing to bhangra beats to red for courage. He especially takes care with his patka--his turban--smoothing it

out and making sure it always matches his outfit. But when Harpreet's mom finds a new job in a snowy city and they have to move, all he wants is to be invisible.



The Perfect Seat by Minh Lê, illustrated by Gus Gordon (Disney Hyperion, 2019)

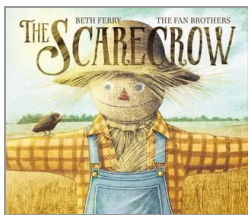
This cozy picture book by *Drawn Together* author Minh Le takes readers through various opposites as his characters search for just the right spot. Adorable art by acclaimed illustrator Gus Gordon invites adults and children to giggle all the way through to the heartwarming ending, when the answer falls right into their laps.

The Pigeon HAS to Go to School by Mo Willems (Hyperion Books for Children, 2019)

The pigeon must go to school, but frets about math, learning the alphabet, heavy backpacks, and what the teacher and other birds will think of him.

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S.K. Ali, illustrated by Hatem Aly (Little, Brown and Company, 2019)

Faizah relates how she feels on the first day her sister, sixth-grader Asiya, wears a hijab to school. Paired with Hatem Aly's beautiful, whimsical art, S.K. Ali bring readers an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.



The Scarecrow by Beth Ferry, illustrated by the Fan Brothers (Harper, 2019)

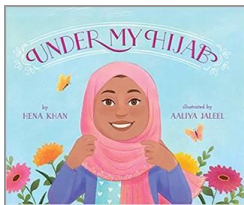
All the animals know not to mess with old Scarecrow. But when a small, scared crow falls from midair, Scarecrow does the strangest thing. He saves the tiny baby crow. Soon a loving bond grows between the two unlikely friends. But is it strong enough to weather the changing of the seasons?

The Very Impatient Caterpillar by Ross Burach (Scholastic Press, 2019)

A caterpillar learns to be patient while trying to metamorphosize.

Truman by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummings (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019)

He may be slow but Truman the turtle is determined to find his girl Sarah, who has boarded a city bus on her way to preschool.



Under My Hijab by Hena Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel (Lee & Low Books Inc., 2019)

As a young girl observes that each of six women in her life wears her hijab and hair in a different way, she considers how to express her own style one day.

Up the Mountain Path by Marianne Dubuc (Princeton Architectural Press, 2018)

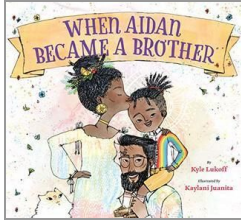
Mrs. Badger, an avid collector and naturalist, takes a weekly journey up to Sugarloaf Peak, greeting her friends on the way and sharing her discoveries with them. One day she meets Lulu, a very small cat, who wants to come with her to the top of the mountain. On the way, Lulu learns to take care of the natural world, help those in need, and listen to her heart

Vamos! Let's Go To The Market by Raul Gonzalez III, illustrated by Elaine Bay (Versify, 2019)

Little Lobo, a Mexican American, and Bernabe, his dog, deliver supplies to vendors at the Mercado, a busy border town market.

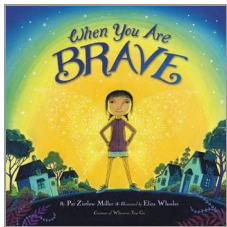
We Are (Not) Friends by Anna Kang, illustrated by Christopher Weyant (Two Lions, 2019)
A story about two fuzzy creatures who want to play together until a third fuzzy creature comes along.

What Is Given From The Heart by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by April Harrison (Schwartz & Wade Books, 2019)
Despite their own poverty since Daddy died, Mama tells nine-year-old James Otis they need to help Sarah, seven, whose family lost everything in a fire.



When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita (Lee & Low Books Inc, 2019)
Aidan, a transgender boy, experiences complicated emotions as he and his parents prepare for the arrival of a new baby.

When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree by Jamie L.B. Deenihan, illustrated by Lorraine Rocha (Sterling Children's Books, 2019)
When Grandma gives you a lemon tree, definitely don't make a face! Care for the tree, and you might be surprised at how new things, and new ideas, bloom.



When You Are Brave by Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Eilza Wheeler (Little, Brown and Company, 2019)
Relates how to find your courage and use it when life seems frightening or you start something new.

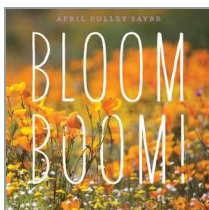
Where Are You From? By Yamile Saied Méndez, illustrated by Jamie Kim (Harper, 2019)
When a girl is asked where she's from--where she's really from--none of her answers seems to be the right one. Unsure about how to reply, she turns to her loving abuelo for help.

Why? By Laura Vaccaro Seeger (Neal Porter Books, 2019)
Illustrations and simple text reveal that, even when a pesky rabbit annoys his bear friend with too many questions, their friendship remains strong.

Non-Fiction

Billie Jean!: How Tennis Star Billie Jean King Changed Women's Sports by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2019)
As a top women's tennis player, Billie Jean fought for fairness in women's sports, and when she faced off against Bobby Riggs in the Battle of the Sexes, the most famous tennis match in history, she showed the world that men and women--and boys and girls--are equal on and off the court.

Birth of the Cool: How Jazz Great Miles Davis Found His Sound by Kathleen Cornell Berman, illustrated by Keith Henry Brown (Page Street Kids, 2019)
This biography explores the childhood and early career of Miles Davis as he finds his voice and shapes a new musical sound. Follow his progression from East St. Louis to rural Arkansas, from Julliard and NYC jazz clubs to the prestigious Newport Jazz Festival



Bloom Bloom! by April Pulley Sayre (Beach Lane Books, 2019)

Includes bibliographical references and index. An illustrated introduction to flowers that bloom in the spring.

Borrowing Bunnies: The Surprising True Tale of Fostering Rabbits by Cynthia Lord, illustrated by Hazel Mitchell (Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2019)

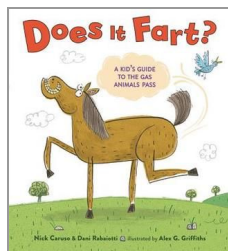
A heartwarming true story of the author's own journey in fostering two amazing bunnies, illustrated with photos and drawings

Brave Ballerina: The Story of Janet Collins by Michelle Meadows, illustrated by Ebony Glenn (Henry Holt & Company, 2019)

Janet Collins wanted to be a ballerina in the 1930s and 40s, a time when racial segregation was widespread in the United States. From her early childhood lessons to the height of her success as the first African American prima ballerina in the Metropolitan Opera, this is the story of a remarkable pioneer.

Daring Dozen: The Twelve Who Walked on the Moon by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Alan Marks (Charlesbridge, 2019)

Author and engineer Suzanne Slade reveals how the Apollo missions (1969-1972) built upon one another and led to important discoveries about our nearest neighbor in space.



Does it Fart? A Kid's Guide to the Gas Animals Pass by Nick Caruso & Dani Rabaiotti, illustrated by Alex G. Griffiths (Little, Brown and Company, 2019)

In this gaseous guide to kids' favorite animals (and some they've probably never heard of), young readers will discover not only which animals pass gas, but also which have the stinkiest farts, which fart the most, and where all this smelly stuff comes from.

Dream Big, Little One by Vashti Harrison (LB Kids, 2019)

Featuring 18 trailblazing black women in American history, Dream Big, Little One is the irresistible board book adaptation of Little Leaders: Bold Women in Black History.

Girls with Guts!: The Road to Breaking Barriers and Bashing Records by Debbie Gonzales, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon (Charlesbridge, 2019)

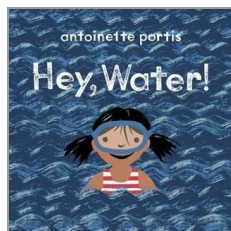
Girls with Guts! keeps score with examples of women athletes from the late 1800s up through the 1970s, sharing how women refused to take no for an answer, and how finally, they pushed for a law to protect their right to play, compete, and be athletes

Guitar Genius: How Les Paul Engineered the Solid Body Electric Guitar and Rocked the World by Kim Tomsic, illustrated by Brett Helquist (Chronicle Books, 2019)

This inspiring true story of rock and roll legend Les Paul teaches lessons of perseverance, overcoming obstacles, and following your dreams.

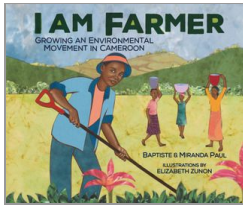
Her Fearless Run: Kathrine Switzer's Historic Boston Marathon by Kim Chaffee, illustrated by Ellen Rooney (Page Street Kids, 2019)

This narrative biography follows Kathrine from running laps as a girl in her backyard to becoming the first woman to run the Boston Marathon with official race numbers in 1967.



Hey, Water! By Antoinette Portis (Neal Porter Books, 2019)

This latest work from award-winning author/illustrator Antoinette Portis is an engaging, aesthetically pleasing nonfiction picture book, complete with accessible backmatter on the water cycle, water conservation, and more.

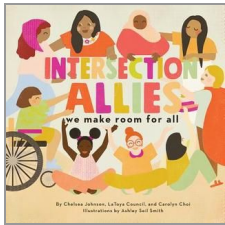


I Am Farmer: Growing an Environmental Movement in Cameroon by Baptiste & Miranda Paul, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon (Milbrook Press, 2019)

Relates the true story of how environmentalist Farmer Tantoh is transforming the landscape in his home country of Cameroon. When Tantoh Nforba was a child, his fellow students mocked him for his interest in gardening.

Inky's Amazing Escape: How a Very Smart Octopus Found His Way Home by Sy Montgomery, illustrated by Amy Schimler-Safford (Paula Wiseman Books, 2019)

The story of how in April 2016, Inky the octopus escaped from the New Zealand aquarium and became an international sensation.



Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, Carolyn Choi, illustrated by Ashley Smith (Dottir Press, 2019)

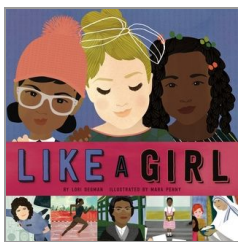
A celebration of solidarity, allyship, and community...A welcoming resource for conversations about equality and social justice that shows readers how identities are made up of myriad influences.

Just Like Rube Goldberg: The Incredible True Story of the Man Behind the Machines by Sarah Anderson, illustrated by Robert Neubecker (Beach Lane Books, 2019)

A biographical picture book that describes how Rube Goldberg followed his dreams to become an award-winning cartoonist, inventor, and even an adjective in the dictionary.

Lights! Camera! Alice! The Thrilling True Adventures of the First Woman Filmmaker by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Simona Ciralo (Chronicle Books, 2018)

Meet Alice Guy-Blache. She made movies--some of the very first movies, and some of the most exciting. Mara Rockliff tells the story of a girl who grew up loving stories and became an acclaimed storyteller and an inspiration in her own right.



Like a Girl by Lori Degman, illustrated by Mara Penny (Sterling Children's Books, 2019)

In every walk of life, girls are demonstrating their creativity, perseverance, and strength. From civil rights activist Rosa Parks, who stood up for her beliefs by staying seated, to astronaut Sally Ride, the 24 women profiled here took risks, broke barriers, and transformed the world.

Lovely Beasts: The Surprising Truth by Kate Gardner, illustrated by Heidi Smith (Balzer + Bray, 2018)

A stunning debut picture book that encourages kids to look beyond first impressions by sharing unexpected details about seemingly scary wild animals like gorillas, rhinoceroses, and more.

Martin & Anne, The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank by Nancy Churnin, illustrated by Yevgenia Nayberg (Creston Books, LLC, 2019)

Anne Frank and Martin Luther King Jr. were born the same year a world apart. Both faced ugly prejudices and violence, which both answered with words of love and faith in humanity. This is the story of their parallel journeys to find hope in darkness and to follow their dreams.

Mary, Who Wrote Frankenstein by Linda Bailey, illustrated by Julia Sarda (Tundra Books, 2018)

A riveting and atmospheric picture book about the young woman who wrote one of the greatest horror novels ever written and one of the first works of science fiction, *Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein* is an exploration of the process of artistic inspiration that will galvanize readers and writers of all ages.

Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968 by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie (Calkins Creek, 2018)

This historical fiction picture book presents the story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final stand for justice before his assassination--when her father, a sanitation worker, participated in the protest.

Moonshot: the Flight of Apollo 11 by Brian Floca (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019)

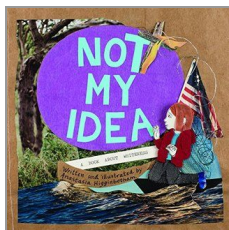
An illustrated account of the flight of Apollo 11 in 1969, the first manned mission to land on the moon. Expanded for the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing.

My Grandma and Me by Mina Javaherbin, illustrated by Lindsey Yankey (Candlewick Press, 2019)

In a true tale of a young girl in Iran and her grandmother, this beautiful ode to family celebrates small moments of love that become lifelong memories.

Nine Months: Before a Baby is Born by Miranda Paul, illustrated by Jason Chin (Neal Porter Books, 2019)

As a baby grows in her mother's tummy, a soon-to-be big sister and her family spend nine months preparing for the newest member of the family to arrive.



Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham (Dottir Press, 2018)

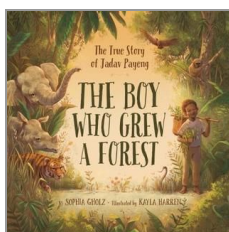
A white child sees a TV news report of a white police officer shooting and killing a black man. 'In our family, we don't see color,' his mother says, but he sees the colors plain enough. An afternoon in the library's history stacks uncover the truth of white supremacy in America. Racism was not his idea and he refuses to defend it.

Pies from Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott by Dee Romito, illustrated by Laura Freeman (Little Bee Books, 2018)

Shares the story of Georgia Gilmore who worked together with a group of women called the Club from Nowhere to supply food for civil rights workers, and to raise money for gas and cars during the bus boycotts in Montgomery, Alabama.

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré by Anika Aldamuy Denise, illustrated by Paola Escobar (Harper, 2019)

An inspiring picture book biography of storyteller, puppeteer, and New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, who championed bilingual literature. Informative backmatter and suggested further reading included.



The Boy Who Grew a Forest: The True Story of Jadav Payeng by Sophia Gholz, illustrated by Kayla Harren (Sleeping Bear Press, 2019)

A picture book biography of Jadav Payeng who as a boy was distressed by the destruction deforestation and erosion in India's Brahmaputra River region, so he began planting trees.

What began as a small thicket of bamboo, grew into a thriving 1,300 acre forest filled with native plants and animals.

The Boy Who Touched the Stars / El niño que alcanzó las estrellas by José M. Hernández, illustrated by Steven James Petruccio (Pinata Books, 2019)

The boy who touched the stars Relates the inspirational story of Jose M. Hernandez, son of Mexican American migrant workers, who achieved his dream of becoming an astronaut in 2009 when he embarked on a fourteen-day mission aboard the space shuttle Discovery.

The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons by Natascha Biebow, illustrated by Steven Salerno (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019)

Celebrating the inventor of the Crayola crayon! This gloriously illustrated picture book biography tells the inspiring story of Edwin Binney, the inventor of one of the world's most beloved toys.

The Sea Book by Charlotte Milner (DK Publishing, 2019)

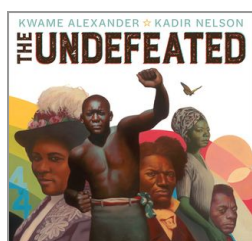
The Sea Book explores a wealth of incredible marine animals and their habitats, from up on the ice, down to colorful coral reefs, underwater forests, and right down to the deepest darkest depths where the weird and wonderful lurk.

The Spacesuit: How a Seamstress Helped Put Man on the Moon by Alison Donald, illustrated by Ariel Landy (Maverick Arts Publishing LTD, 2019)

There is a competition to make the spacesuit for the first moon landing! Ellie, an ordinary woman, is asked to lead a team of other talented seamstresses. No one believes they can win, but they are determined to try.

The Sun Is Kind of A Big Deal by Nick Seluk (Orchard Books, 2018)

This funny and factual picture book explains every part of the Sun's big job: keeping our solar system together, giving Earth day and night, keeping us warm, and more. In fact, the Sun does so much for us that we wouldn't be alive without it.

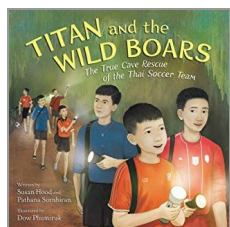


The Undeclared by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Versify, 2019)

This poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. The text is also peppered with references to the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, and others, offering deeper insights into the accomplishments of the past, while bringing stark attention to the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present.

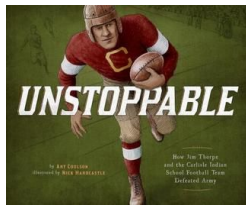
Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story by Marc Tyler Nobleman, illustrated by Melissa Iwai (Clarion Books, 2018)

In this important and moving true story of reconciliation after war, beautifully illustrated in watercolor, a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII--the only enemy ever to do so--and comes back 20 years later to apologize.



Titan and The Wild Boars: The True Cave Rescue of The Thai Soccer Team by Susan Hood & Patthana Sornhiran, illustrated by Dow Phumiruk (Harper, 2019)

Shares the story of the Thai soccer team of twelve boys and their coach trapped in a flooded cave miles underground for three weeks. Including the team's time in the cave, failed plans and mistakes from the rescue team, and the mission that saved them.

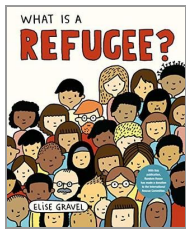


Unstoppable: How Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team Defeated the Army by Art Coulson, illustrated by Nick Hardcastle (Capstone Editions, 2018)

In the autumn of 1912, the football team from Carlisle Indian Industrial School took the field at the U.S. Military Academy, home to the bigger, stronger, and better-equipped West Points Cadets. Billed the game as a sort of rematch, pitting against each other the descendants of U.S. soldiers and American Indians who fought on the battlefield only 20 years earlier. But for lightning-fast Jim Thorpe and the other Carlisle players, that day's game was about skill, strategy, and determination.

What Do You Do with a Voice Like That?: The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan by Chris Barton, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes (Beach Lane Books, 2018)

Growing up in the Fifth Ward of Houston, Texas, Barbara Jordan stood out for her big, bold, booming, crisp, clear, confident voice. It was a voice that made people sit up, stand up, and take notice. Barbara took her voice to places few African American women had been in the 1960s: first law school, then the Texas state senate, then up to the United States congress. Throughout her career, she persevered through adversity to give voice to the voiceless and to fight for civil rights, equality, and justice.



What is a Refugee? By Elise Gravel (Schwartz & Wade, 2019)

Who are refugees? Why are they called that word? Why do they need to leave their country? Why are they sometimes not welcome in their new country? In this relevant picture book for the youngest children, author-illustrator Elise Gravel explores what it means to be a refugee in bold, graphic illustrations and spare text. This is the perfect tool to introduce an important and timely topic to children.

Who Are You Calling Weird?: A Celebration of Weird and Wonderful Animals by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Paul Daviz (Words & Pictures, 2018)

Celebrate the weird, wonderful, and the downright bizarre in this compelling compendium of unusual animals. From the green fur of a three-toed sloth, to the pink and wiggly appendage of the star-nosed mole, there's something new to marvel at on every page.

Wilma's Way Home: The Life of Wilma Mankiller by Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Linda Kukuk (Disney-Hyperion, 2019)

A picture book biography of Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation. This beautiful addition to the Big Words series will inspire future leaders to persevere in empathy and thoughtful problem-solving, reaching beyond themselves to help those around them.