

# 2019 Winter Booklist

# PICTURE BOOKS



## *King Alice*

by Matthew Cordell (Preschool-Kindergarten)  
Alice is stuck indoors with her family on a snowy day. How is she supposed to entertain herself and her family all day long? Through stories, of course! King Alice (as she prefers to be called) plans to write a book filled with tales of Alice the king, a damsel in distress, pirates and more. Kids will delight in Alice's adventures and parents will relate to the grown-ups, who endure her antics during a long day stuck indoors.

## *Winter is Here*

by Kevin Henkes; illus. by Laura Dronzek (Preschool-Grade 1)

Winter is beautiful, but it can be tough. Everything is coated in pretty white powder, but it takes a while to get dressed to go outside. Animals frolic in the freshly fallen snow, but the wind howls loudly through the night. This beautiful story perfectly captures the two sides of the season, one that involves building snowmen but also brings gray and dreary days. Kids will love following the little brown dog through winter and all the way into spring.

## *Got to Get to Bear's*

by Brian Lies (Preschool-Grade 2)

The day of a snowstorm, Izzy the chipmunk gets a note from Bear asking Izzy to come right away. Since Bear never asks for anything, Izzy has to get there – and quick! But as the snow piles up, Izzy has trouble crossing through the woods. One by one, her other friends the squirrel, duck and raccoon help her get to Bear's through the storm. Once they arrive, Izzy gets quite the surprise! A sweet story about counting on and celebrating friends.

## *Howard and the Mummy: Howard Carter and the Search for King Tut's Tomb*

by Tracey Fern; illus. by Boris Kulikov (Preschool-Grade 2)

"Howard Carter adored mummies," the story begins. He was also a complainer, not very proper, and was known for hollering "Tommyrot!" at those who disagreed with him. He was also, however, a determined, hard-working, self-taught excavator and archeologist. His persistence paid off when he discovered the tomb that held King Tut's mummy. The illustrations are so rich you may want to read the story without the words first. Boris Kulikov brings Carter to life. A fabulous picture book biography for those hungry for history.

## *Me and Annie McPhee*

by Olivier Dunrea; illus. by Will Hillenbrand (Preschool-Grade 2)

"In the middle of the sea, as far as the eye could see, there was nothing to see but sea." And so be-

gins this quirky and fun counting book. Two little monkeys "me and Annie McPhee," discover more and more creatures who live on their tiny island in the middle of the sea. The illustrations provide clues throughout the book that kids will delight in discovering. This is not your ordinary counting book, but one that is sure to be a repeat request.

## *Dinosaur Feathers*

by Dennis Nolan (Preschool-Grade 2)

A book that rhymes the Latin names of dinosaurs! Not only that, it also holds in its glossy pages beautiful illustrations of well-known and lesser-known dinosaurs, along with common and exotic birds. Why these two types of animals in one book? Because they are uniquely connected by time and evolution! A must-have for dinosaur fans, and a great read for anyone who loves the sounds of language, colorful renditions of prehistoric life, and an expansive perspective on time and transition.

## *Hello*

by Aiko Ikegami (Preschool-Grade 2)

A wordless picture book whose interpretation lies in the perspective of the reader. The characters take the reader through myriad emotions, both happy and sad and the illustrations are so rich that words aren't necessary.

## *Birdsong*

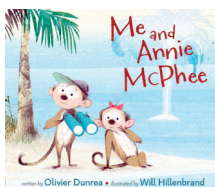
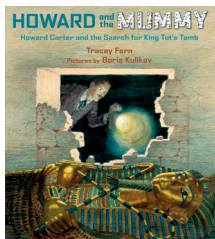
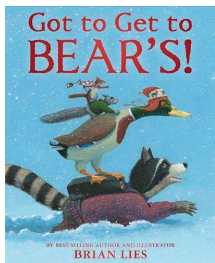
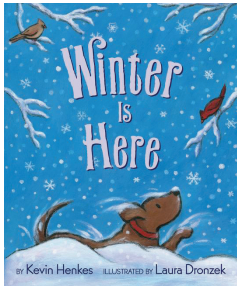
by Julie Flett (Preschool-Grade 3)

This warm, quiet picture book is told by Katherena, who moves from the city (with one tree outside her bedroom window) to the country (on a hill with two trees). When Katherena feels lonely, her mother encourages her to meet the elderly neighbor, Agnes. Their growing friendship is inspired by a shared appreciation of nature and art. When Agnes grows weak and cannot leave her bed, Katherena thinks of a way to bring the outside inside through her drawings, creating a "poem for her heart." Rich, simple illustrations support a feeling of connection in the face of change.

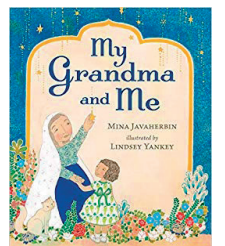
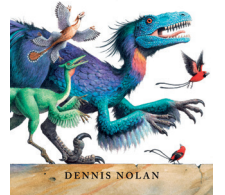
## *My Grandma and Me*

by Mina Javaherbin; illus. Lindsey Yankey (Preschool-Grade 3)

The story of a girl living with her grandmother in Iran, their relationship and diverse neighborhood community. The grandmother is a lovely example of a caring woman from whom the girl learns many life lessons. The beautiful illustrations steal the show; it's a wonderful book about the love and connections between a grandmother and her granddaughter that shows us it doesn't matter where you are; love is the same worldwide and differences shouldn't matter between friends.



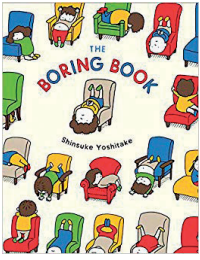
## *Dinosaur Feathers*



# PICTURE BOOKS

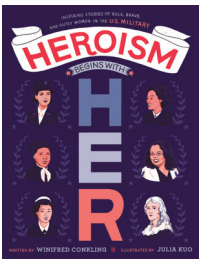
## *The Boring Book*

by Shinsuke Yoshitake (Kindergarten-Grade 3)  
"I'm bored. So bored!" What parent hasn't heard that line from their child? With humorous illustrations, Shinsuke explores what it means to be bored. "Is being stuffed in a donut boring?" "I wonder what the world's most boring amusement park is like?" "Maybe it's boring when things don't go as planned." Parents and children alike will find boredom to which they relate with the wonderful illustrations that decorate each page. According to 7-year-old Addy, "it makes you look at boring stuff and think it's not really boring, and look at fun stuff and think it might be boring!"



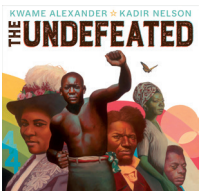
## *Heroism Begins with HER*

by Winifred Conkling; illus. by Julia Kuo (Grades 3-7)  
This book featuring 80 profiles of women who made significant contributions throughout U.S. military history would make a great addition to home libraries that already feature *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls*. These inspiring stories of American women heroes are very detailed and interesting.



## *The Undefeated*

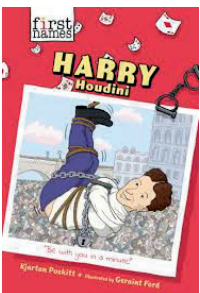
by Kwame Alexander; illus. by Kadir Nelson (Grades 3 and up)  
"This is for the unforgettable. The swift and sweet ones who hurdled history and opened a world of possible." A poem originally written for Alexander's daughter days after Barack Obama was first elected president in 2008, his words combined with Nelson's evocative illustrations make a stunning combination that grips the reader by the collar to look deeply into the eyes of those who stare back with grit, determination, hope and love. A gorgeous tribute to those who endured the unendurable and spoke out against the unspeakable and helped build this country. This is an incredibly moving work of art and a must read for old and young alike.



# CHAPTER BOOKS & MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS

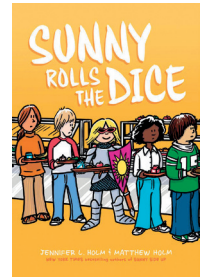
## *Harry Houdini*

by Kjartan Poskitt; illus. by Geraint Ford (Grades 3-5)  
This early chapter book is among the "First Names" series about notable people throughout history. It is a fun, fast-paced read that uses both text and illustrations to tell the life history of the famous magician – and even gives clues to his magic tricks! An exciting book for new readers.



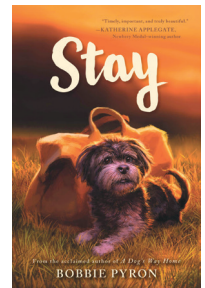
## *Sunny Rolls the Dice*

by Jennifer L. Holm; illus. by Matthew Holm (Grades 3-7)  
It's the 1970's: A new game called D&D has captured the country while teen magazines give tips on how to be super groovy. Middle-schooler Sunny isn't sure why her best friend suddenly seems interested in nothing but make-up, designer jeans, and boys. When a new group of friends welcomes Sunny into weekly adventures of swordplay and monster slaying, tough decisions need to be made. What do you do when what brings you joy, makes your best friend feel totally "un-groovy?" *Sunny Rolls the Dice* proves that no matter the decade, middle school is a challenge and friends are worth fighting for.



## *Stay*

by Bobbie Pyron (Grades 3-7)  
While adjusting to a move with her family to a homeless shelter in a new city, 11-year-old Piper meets Jewel and her small dog, Baby. When a health challenge separates Jewel and Baby, Piper tracks down information that leads to Jewel's recovery. She enlists her family, new friends and the community, and learns about the power of helping. Chapters are written from varying perspectives including Baby's which focuses on smells and love for his person. *Stay* touches on uplifting themes of empathy, storytelling, hope and trying to "see the doughnut instead of the hole."



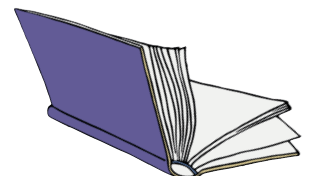
## *Stargazing*

by Jen Wang (Grades 3-7)  
This graphic novel touches on many social anxieties that kids experience and the author shows us how different personalities work their way through, with and without parental and school influences. We watch as two girls become close friends but also how circumstances can sometimes create hard feelings and cause friendships to go in uncertain directions.



## *White Bird: A Wonder Story*

by R. J. Palacio; illus. by Kevin Czap (Grades 3-7)  
It seems we all have an elder friend or relative who has lived through war and doesn't want to relive it. But we also know that hearing those stories is vital to understanding the past. This historical fiction graphic novel begins in present-day with young Julian asking his Grandmère to recount her experiences as a Jewish child growing up in France during WWII. The narrative and illustrations envelop the reader in emotions and is a great introduction to a dark and time in human history. Though connected to the character Julian in *Wonder*, this story stands alone.



# CHAPTER BOOKS & MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS

**Cilla Lee-Jenkins:**  
*Future Author Extraordinaire*  
by Susan Tan (Grades 4-7)



This story centers on a verbally precocious only child, Priscilla. She prefers Cilla, a name that defines her very independent nature. Cilla narrates her two-culture family during her first three years in school, during which her baby sister is born, and Cilla learns about family and school dynamics. She paints detailed word pictures of her two sets of grandparents: one a bit too concerned about dress and manners, the other, a very loving Chinese immigrant couple, who keep the old country food and customs in their granddaughter's life.

**Each Tiny Spark**  
by Pablo Cartaya (Grades 4-7)



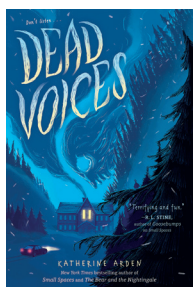
From the author of *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* comes a new hopeful and heartwarming story, this time about an energetic, passionate girl named Emilia Rose, who faces daily challenges such as her ADHD diagnosis, her father's return from deployment, her mother's work absences, her friends not getting along, and – on top of all that – how national immigration laws affect her local community. Plus, she wants to learn how to weld metal in the auto body shop, so she has to find protective gear in her size! Is it all too much for one girl to handle?

**Girls Think of Everything:**  
*Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women*  
by Catherine Thimmesh; illus. by Melissa Sweet (Grades 4-7)



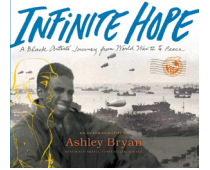
This book busts wide open the stereotype against women being significant contributors to the field of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) by profiling both women and girls inventing things that made major changes to our way of life – from windshield wipers to Kevlar to a method for turning plastic into fuel. One of the most surprising stories features Jordan Reeves, a 10-year-old girl, born without a left forearm or hand, who designed and 3D printed her own prosthetic that shoots out glitter!

**Dead Voices**  
by Katherine Arden (Grades 5-6)



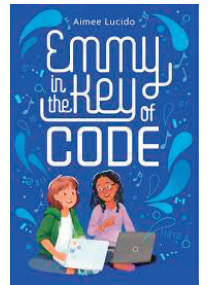
Ollie, Coco, and Brian are looking forward to a fun ski trip at the newly renovated Mount Hemlock Lodge. Soon, strange figures start appearing, nightmares feel real, and something doesn't seem right about those stuffed creatures in the lobby. After narrowly escaping the smiling man in the cornfield just a few months prior, Ollie, Coco, and Brian will need to rely on their quick wit and fierce friendship to survive what the lodge holds in store. A terrifying and fun follow-up to *Small Spaces*, reuniting with the three tweens and their supernatural encounters is a pure delight.

**Infinite Hope: A Black Artist's Journey from WWII to Peace**  
by Ashley Bryan (Grades 5-6)



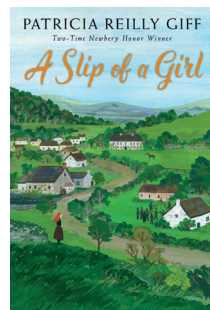
The last line of Ashley's latest book, an autobiography and art gallery of his war experiences, reads: "what is life if not a voyage of endless discovery." All of us who have been privileged to be in his presence know that this man is full of love and life, inspired to share his discoveries and creations. But until now readers of Ashley's award-winning poetry, legends, and illustrated books for children and adults have known little of his time in the Army. Ashley takes us with him on that long-past journey, when he encounters segregation for the first time, through his time as a stevedore in Scotland to Omaha Beach on D-Day. He sketched constantly during this time, sketches presented in the book, along with letters and text, to give readers a closeup of his fellow soldiers, others he encountered, and himself, best of all.

**Emmy in the Key of Code**  
by Aimee Lucido (Grades 5-7)



Emmy is the daughter of two musicians, but she has no musical ability. When her family relocates to San Francisco, she struggles to find her place until she lands in the intro to computer science elective. With the encouragement of her teacher and new best friend, Emmy begins to hit her stride. But when secrets and bad news arise, Emmy must summon her courage and strength to hold on to her newfound happiness. This wonderful story blends coding, music, and poetry in an innovative way that is sure to delight all readers.

**A Slip of a Girl**  
by Patricia Reilly Giff (Grades 5-9)



Anna tries to save her family's farm as their British landlords want to drive small Irish farms out so they can raise the more profitable sheep. Her older siblings emigrate to America but Anna stays to fulfill a promise to her dying mother to fight to keep the farm. She takes care of her special needs younger sister as they struggle with starvation, cold and exhaustion, as well as the British. Written in free verse, this is the story of a strong girl during the Irish Land War of the late 19th century.

**Broken Strings**  
by Eric Walters and Kathy Kacer (Grades 5-9)



This young adult book tells the story of middle-school students about to practice the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* when their drama teacher has a car accident and can't continue helping. Shirli, one of the stars of the show, is Jewish with a loving, musical grandfather with a dark WWII history. The book's theme is both about teen relationships and the effects of the Holocaust on another generation. A touching reminder that the past is still with us.

# YOUNG ADULTS

## Free Lunch

by Rex Ogle (Grades 6-9)

School is no longer where Rex can escape from his life of poverty and abuse. His mother signed him up for free lunch and since the cafeteria cashier is half-deaf, he has to announce "free lunch" for all to hear. Rex Ogle, the author, tells his own story of these daily indignities of a poor, middle school boy. However, there is hope in some relationships and a change in economic circumstances. He also learns that money does not mean happiness.



## Cheshire Crossing

by Andy Weir, illus. by Sarah Andersen (Grades 7-9)

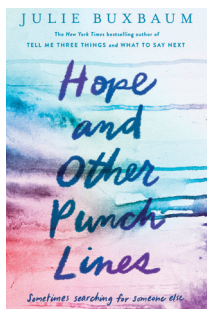
Wendy Darling of *Peter Pan*, Dorothy of *Wizard of Oz*, and Alice of *Wonderland* fame combine forces to take on rivals from their past, none other than the Queen of Hearts, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Captain Hook (believe it or not, those last two are a couple!). Traversing through different worlds is no small superpower, and these three clever high schoolers learn how to use these surreal past chapters of their lives to their ultimate advantage. Bring on the flying monkeys! It may even inspire young writers to make their own stories using characters from their favorite books. Contains mature humor.



## Hope and Other Punch Lines

by Julie Buxbaum (Grades 7-9)

An outstanding book with a timely plot for a teen audience. After a photo taken of Hope on her first birthday – Sept. 11, 2001 – "Baby Hope" became the face of the 9/11 tragedy. Fifteen years later she goes by her first name, Abbi, as she tries to escape being recognized as Baby Hope, since she suffers extreme survivor's guilt. After learning of her secret, a new friend, Noah, convinces her to help him look for the others in the photo for a school newspaper article. But is his reason for the project deeper than just a school project? Heavy themes, but an ultimately uplifting story about the youngest generation affected by this tragedy. Contains mature language.



## Color Me In

by Natasha Díaz (Grades 8 and up)

It becomes obvious pretty quickly that this story is deeply rooted in first-hand experiences. An examination of the identity struggles of a light-skinned teenage girl born to a Jewish father and a black mother that is so much more than that. It's the story of self-exploration complicated by social anxiety, family drama, depression, racial tensions, creative spirit, and acceptance. Readers have an opportunity to gain understanding of a perspective that might be unfamiliar to them. This book is a gift to readers young and old.



## American Royals

by Katharine McGee (Grades 9 and up)

What if the forefather George Washington had been America's first king instead of its first president? And what if Washington's ancestor, Beatrice 19-years-old in the modern America, was set to inherit his throne? This novel is all about Beatrice's struggle with her intense role, how it impacts her brother and sister and everyone in her life, and what it means to have such a massive duty to uphold. It's also a romance novel, and brings its characters to life through love both embraced and unrequited. A page-turner and a fun thought experiment into how U.S. history could have been different. For mature readers only.



## With the Fire on High

by Elizabeth Acevedo (Grades 9 and up)

After getting pregnant her freshman year of high school, Emoni Santiago has made plenty of tough choices and sacrifices in order to do what is right by her daughter and her abuela. Where Emoni is most herself is the kitchen. She clearly has a gift and the drive to one day run her own kitchen. But with responsibilities on her plate, Emoni can only think of cooking as an impractical dream. That is until a culinary arts class is offered with an apprentice experience in Spain. Emoni is a character you cannot help but immediately love. A fantastic sophomore offering from one of 2018's award-winning YA authors.



## Patron Saints of Nothing

by Randy Ribay (Grades 10 and up)

High school senior Jay Ruggiero doesn't have much to worry about; he's graduating soon and will head off to nearby University of Michigan in the fall, something his Filipino father is disappointed by since it's not Harvard. But Jay feels unmoored to his future. Just before spring break, Jay learns that his 17-year-old cousin Jun has been killed in the Philippines by police as part of President Duterte's violent war on drugs. Shaken by the news, Jay travels to Manila to uncover the truth behind Jun's death where he learns about the country of his birth and the family he left behind. A powerful story about truth, the complexities of family, injustice and cultural divides. Longlisted for the 2019 National Book Award for Young People.



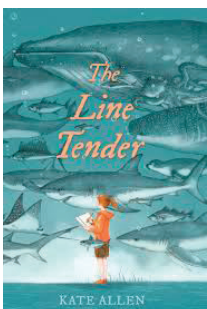
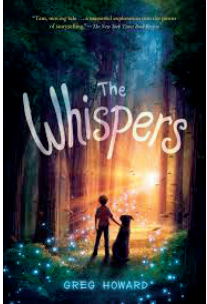
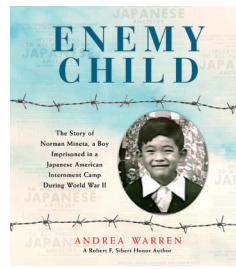
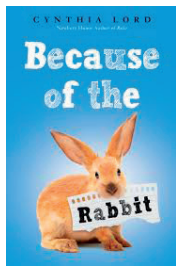
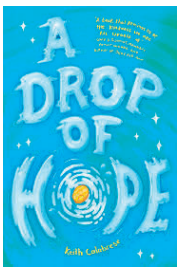
## Volunteer Readers

Jenna Beaulieu  
Ephron Catlin  
Matt Cornish  
Mary Beth Dorsey  
David Evans  
Jean Evans

Terry Fairchild  
Sallie Findlay  
Melissa Haas  
Mary Highberger  
Alison Johnson  
Beverly Lamoureux

Beth Longcope  
Taylor Mace  
Tamie O'Hara  
Helen Tuchman

To become a volunteer reader, contact us at [info@islandreadersandwriters.org](mailto:info@islandreadersandwriters.org)!



# MORE GREAT READS!

## MOCK NEWBERY BOOKLIST

Fifth and sixth graders at Pemetic Elementary School participating in the IRW Mock Newbery Club are reading their way through this list of middle grade titles chosen by our volunteers. Read along with them and let us know what you'd pick as your Mock Newbery winner!

*A Drop of Hope* by Keith Calabrese

*Because of the Rabbit* by Cynthia Lord

*Beverly, Right Here* by Kate DiCamillo

*Enemy Child* by Andrea Warren

*Far Away* by Lisa Graff

*How High the Moon* by Karyn Parsons

*Just South of Home* by Karen Strong

*Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds

*More to the Story* by Hena Khan

*New Kid* by Jerry Craft

*Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga

*Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Gary Schmidt

*Right as Rain* by Lindsay Stoddard

*Ruby in the Sky* by Jeanne Zúlick Ferruolo

*Sweeping Up the Heart* by Kevin Henkes

*The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman

*The Line Tender* by Kate Allen

*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart

*The Whispers* by Greg Howard

*To Night Owl, From Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer

*We're Not from Here* by Geoff Rodkey

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