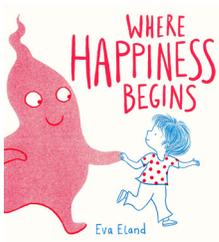




2020 Winter Booklist

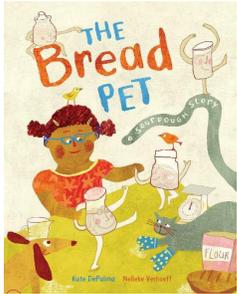
PICTURE BOOKS



Where Happiness Begins

by Eva Eland (Preschool and up)

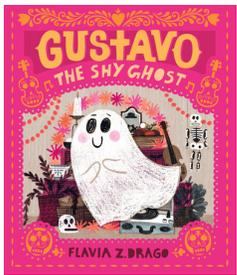
"Happiness" is the main character of this story: Where do you find happiness, or where don't you find happiness? It's a novel way to explore ways to find happiness, instead of feeling sad, angry, lost, or hurt. All ages can benefit from this shift in perspective; let's look for happiness rather than sadness – it's out there!



The Bread Pet

by Kate DePalma and Nelleke Verhoeff (Preschool-Grade 2)

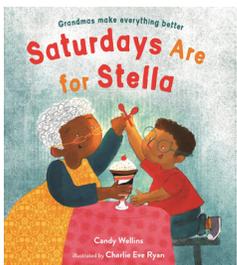
Cora and her moms enjoy a simple life in their small home. That is, until uncle JB stops by with a special request: take care of his bread pet while he's traveling. Having never cared for a sourdough starter before, Cora's family is swiftly buried in bubbling, growing bread pets. A story that subtly reinforces the importance of representation and community, while teaching basic baking skills, *The Bread Pet* is sure to delight your whole family...and maybe inspire you to create a bread pet of your own.



Gustavo, the Shy Ghost

by Flavia Z. Drago (Preschool-Grade 2)

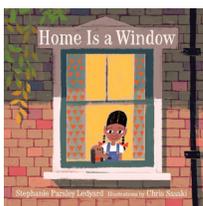
This is a fun Halloween story, but as you delve into it, many themes emerge. Gustavo is very shy, and misses out on many things, which depicts how we relate to one another, how to help a friend, how to be accepting of others, and how to celebrate one another. The book also features the Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead, introduced to encourage further exploration. There is a bit of Spanish used as well, along with translations. The illustrations are phenomenal!



Saturdays Are for Stella

by Candy Wellins (Preschool-Grade 3)

Stella is grandma to young George. Every Saturday they have a tremendous adventure, whether it is actually going someplace or just being together, these two are joined at the hip. Sadly, Stella passes away which puts George into a tailspin. He is angry, hurt, sad, and has no idea how to deal with these feelings – that is until a new Stella arrives in the form of his baby sister. Suddenly, he is caught up in helping his new Stella know about life. A delightful and tender story of love, dedication, loss, and resilience.



Home is a Window

by Stephanie Parsley Ledyard; illus. by Chris Sasaki (Preschool-Grade 3)

This is one of the best stories about moving to hit the picture book scene. "Home is a doorway, a rug, a basket for your shoes." Home is where you and your family are. Home is your comfort zone. But those aspects of home can move with you and even change. The colorful illustrations match the poetic language and a patched-up quilt ties it all together with love.

Small in the City

by Sydney Smith (Preschool-Grade 3)

"I know what it's like to be small in the city," the main character announces, but not until you have been lured into life in the city through illustrations that truly set the scene. The child is independent but we feel their anxiety even as they provide advice on how to stay safe. The reader is unaware at first of who the advice is meant for and we'll let that reveal come with your reading. There is great subtlety in the art work so be sure to pause and take in all that the illustrations reveal. *Winner of the 2019 Ezra Jack Keats Award.*



Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist

by Julie Lueng; illus. by Chris Sasaki (Preschool-Grade 3)

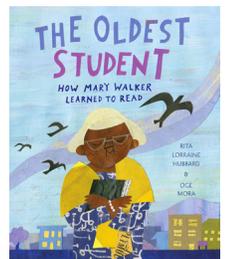
This story begins before the words kick in and one must spend time with each image to absorb it fully. Take in the father with his "paper son," clutching a bundle of papers in his hand as they pursue opportunities in America. Tyrus Wong emigrated in 1919 with his father who, "believed life in America could be like a blank paper." Working his way from a child painting with water on newspaper to working for Walt Disney, Tyrus combined styles of East and West, past and present to create images. His work inspired the landscape scenes in "Bambi," but received little to no recognition. This is a story of persistence, and a reminder of the importance of the immigrant story.



The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read

by Rita Lorraine Hubbard; illus. by Oge Mora (Preschool-Grade 3)

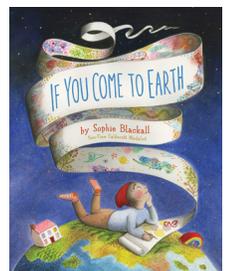
Mary Walker was born a slave and spent her early life working various jobs for little pay. She was given a Bible at one point but being unable to read, could only marvel "at the squiggles inside." The most she could do was make her "mark" on the page. She outlived her entire family and was alone living in a retirement home at age 114 when she declared, "No more waiting. Time to learn," and signed up for a reading class. After much hard work and perseverance she had finally done it. In 1964 she was recognized by the US Department of Education who pronounced her the oldest student. This picture book biography is one for all ages.



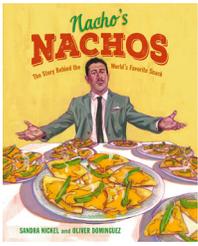
If You Come to Earth

by Sophie Blackall (Grades K-3)

Imagine writing a letter to someone from outer space: What things would you include to explain how things work here on Earth? *If You Come to Earth* is a heartfelt look at what it means to live on the "greeny-blue" planet, all presented through the eyes of a child. With her intricately detailed illustrations, we glimpse the differences in homes, clothing, emotions, animals and landscapes across the world, but we can also see the similarities and how this is our time to share and take care of each other and our amazing home. This book is a must-read book to be celebrated.



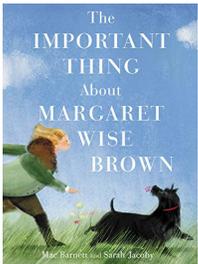
PICTURE BOOKS



Nacho's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Favorite Snack

by Sandra Nickel; illus. by Oliver Dominguez (Grades K-5)

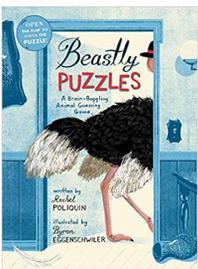
Whether at a ballgame, movie theater, restaurant or your own kitchen, chances are, you've eaten nachos. But have you ever thought about where they came from? This picture book biography tells the story of Ignacio "Nacho" Anaya and his signature dish, which he first whipped up in 1940 at The Victory Club in Piedras Negras, Mexico. The book's illustrations will take readers back to another time, while Nacho's story – plus his original recipe – will add some history and meaning to this culinary delight.



The Important Thing About Margaret Wise Brown

by Mac Barnett; illus. by Sarah Jacoby (Grades 1-5)

Sarah Jacoby's whimsical illustrations offset what can be a somewhat dark biography of a very legendary literary figure. "The important thing about Margaret Wise Brown," as Barnett repeats several times throughout the book, is that she wrote books, and that she was very much her own person. Jacoby delightfully uses bunnies, which Margaret loved, to illustrate the story. There is a nod to her retreat in Maine, where "she swam naked in the cold waters," one of the many ways in which the author describes why people thought Margaret was strange. Barnett asks the reader their thoughts about what is "strange" and what they think will happen in the story of Margaret's life, engaging readers as her story evolves. Barnett names those who worked hard to ban Margaret's "strange" books, and those who encouraged and delighted in them – all 100 of them – and that is the most important thing about Margaret Wise Brown.



Beastly Puzzles:

A Brain Boggling Animal Guessing Game
by Rachel Poliquin;

illus. by Byron Eggenschwiler (Grades 2-5)

All ages will be delightfully entertained by *Beastly Puzzles*. Daring us to guess an animal purely through descriptions of its parts, Eggenschwiler immerses us in a fanciful world that unfolds on double-page spreads with information about each animal hidden under a flap. The information is authentic without being onerous or overly academic. With beauty in the presentation and creative illustration, the story subtly encourages us to think differently about everyday items and animals. After learning about a baker's dozen of assorted creatures, Rachel Poliquin ties it all up nicely with an end note and glossary. Enjoy this one with or without a child by your side!



CHAPTER BOOKS & MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS

One Last Shot

by John David Anderson (Grades 3-7)

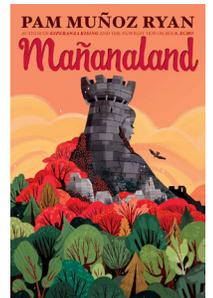
Malcolm isn't much of an athlete, much to the dismay of his sports-loving father. He feels caught between his arguing parents, and never feels like he is quite good enough. Until one day, Malcolm and his dad visit a miniature golf course, complete with whacky themes and trick holes. It turns out Malcolm excels at the game. Of course, his dad can't just let Malcolm enjoy playing; he hires Malcolm a coach so he can enter tournaments. Anderson perfectly captures the middle-grader's interior monologue, as he learns how to enjoy and accept himself, while discovering that grown-ups don't always have the answers.



Mañanaland

by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Grades 3-7)

Twelve-year-old Max lives with his Papa and Buelo in a town named Santa Maria, and wants to spend the summer with his pals practicing for the fútbol (soccer) tryouts in the fall. His dream is to play on the town team, just like his Papa and Buelo. Max becomes less focused on fútbol, and turns his attention to helping a friend find his long-gone Mama. It's a beautiful journey through this small community and beyond, as they search for the magical place called Mañanaland. Themes of perseverance, kindness, caring, challenge, honesty, strength of character, integrity are in abundance here.



Black Brother, Black Brother

by Jewell Parker Rhodes (Grades 3-7)

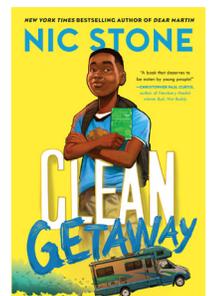
This book tells the story of a multiracial family in which one son has dark skin and the other has light skin. Both boys go to a private school and are treated very differently. After one brother gets suspended, he begins to explore the game of fencing to refocus his anger. The general themes of the book are patience, racism, family and community. Besides being well written, it teaches the reader about challenges that span multiple generations.



Clean Getaway

by Nic Stone (Grades 3-7)

William, aka "Scoobs," and his G'ma head out on an unplanned road trip in her new Winnebago through the American South. G'Ma has a colorful past and has to come to terms with her many mistakes, which Scoobs discovers by surprise, events that have him questioning everything he ever knew about his grandma. But this 12-year-old boy also gets some first-hand experience with racism, forcing him to realize things are not always what they seem. The story is entertaining and complex, with historical elements woven throughout, including their use of the "Green Book."



CHAPTER BOOKS & MIDDLE GRADE NOVELS



The List of Things That Will Not Change by Rebecca Stead (Grades 3-7)

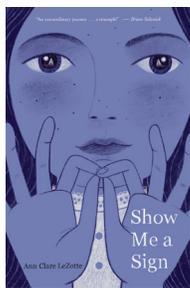
When Bea's parents tell her they are getting a divorce, they give her a notebook. In it, they have started a list of things that will not change for her after her father moves out. She now has to navigate all the things that will change: two homes, her new schedule, her Dad's new boyfriend, his daughter, the reactions of other people and her own emotions in this new family situation. Bea is also keeping a secret that she needs to face. Rebecca Stead captures Bea in all her moods with kindness, respect and insight into the life of a young girl.



Chirp

by Kate Messner (Grades 3-7)

Mia and her parents are moving back to Vermont to help her grandmother after a stroke. The grandmother owns a cricket farm that is going through hard times financially. Once fearless, Mia is now struggling with anxiety over a bad fall that severely broke her arm during gymnastics. All she wants to do is watch television this summer, but her parents make her sign up for day camp where she makes friends and gets an idea to help save her grandmother's farm. Before the summer is over, she learns that her young cousin will be taking gymnastics with the same abusive coach she had back in Boston. Mia must make a decision to finally speak up and stop the man from hurting anyone else.



Show Me a Sign

by Ann Clare LeZotte (Grades 3-7)

This historical fiction story tells the tale of a deaf girl, Mary Lambert, living on Martha's Vineyard in 1805 in a community where nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. She never has felt isolated until a young scientist arrives hoping to discover the origin of the island's prevalent deafness. An adventure ensues that tests Mary's tenacity, and stirs up other controversies in the community. *Show Me a Sign* will introduce readers into the deaf community and little-known part of New England history.



When Stars are Scattered

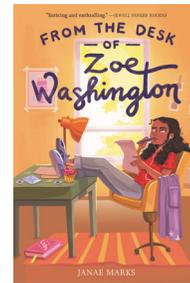
by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed (Grades 4-7)

This graphic novel tells the true story of two young boys living in a refugee camp in Kenya after being separated from their parents in Somalia. Life is a struggle there with very little food, a bedroll on the ground, and no medical care for the younger brother who has seizures. Opportunity awaits through education, but it is a long wait. The

themes of the book are hope, perseverance, and devotion. The illustrations enhance the wrenching story of refugee life. *2020 National Book Award finalist.*

From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks (Grades 5-6)

Zoe has never met her father; he's been in jail ever since she was born. She's never heard from him either, but on her twelfth birthday, a letter arrives that changes everything – not only has he finally reached out, he sounds like a really nice man. He also made it seem like this letter was one of many he had sent over the years. Where had those letters gone? Zoe is worried about what might happen if she tries to find out more about her dad and why he is in jail. But once she learns what it means to be "wrongfully convicted," there's no holding her back.



Echo Mountain

by Lauren Wolk (Grades 5-8)

Because of the Great Depression, Ellie's life has drastically changed, and to make matters devastating and worse, her father, seriously injured in an accident, is stuck inside a coma. Ellie, shouldering the blame for the accidents, watches as her family wrestles with their feelings about the incident. When Ellie discovers a love of the natural world, she feels a quick and close kinship with "the hag," a mountain woman who lives alone in a cabin, heals with herbs, and knows what it's like to lose. This story will give you hope, and inspire you to try to heal hearts, starting with your own.



The Tornado

by Jake Burt (Grades 5-9)

"Only a force of nature can stop this bully." Bell Kirby has been the target of "the most diabolical bully" his school has seen for years and navigates his school days with precision to avoid the worst troubles. He keeps a notebook, much like an athletic playbook, to manage his hallway time and know when it's safe to get a drink at the water fountain, and whether or not it's safe to be on the playground. But when Daelynn Gower "touches down like a tornado," Bell's systems are disrupted. When the target shifts from Bell to Daelynn he is faced with inner turmoil and tough decisions. This story will ring true for many and highlight why it is so important to share stories like this.



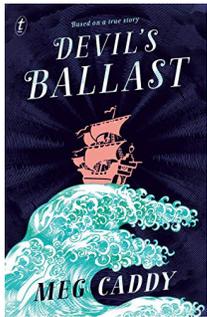
YOUNG ADULTS



Displacement

by Kiku Hughes (Grades 7 and up)

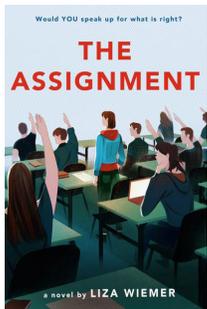
This graphic novel blends historical fact and science fiction through the eye-opening adventures of 16-year-old Kiku. She is on vacation in San Francisco when she is whisked back in time to a 1940's internment camp, where her grandmother was forced to live when she was a teenager. Since Kiku hasn't learned much about her family's background, or this part of US history, she has no idea what is going to happen to her. Kiku makes friends in the camp, and worries about their fate. What will happen to them if they stand up against the injustice of their imprisonment?



Devil's Ballast

by Meg Caddy (Grades 7-9)

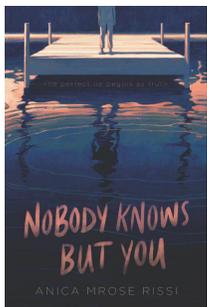
Anne Bonny was one of the most famous pirates of all time. While the fact and fiction of Bonny's life are sometimes intricately interwoven, *Devil's Ballast* opens a door into a possible beginning to her life of piracy. Fleeing her abusive husband as the lover of Calico Jack Rackham, Bonny spends her life in chest bindings hiding her true nature from Rackham's men. Eventually her life catches up with her, along with the Pirate Hunter Jonathan Barnet. An adventure that is simultaneously rife with violence and rich with compassion, *Devil's Ballast* is not to be missed.



The Assignment

by Liza Wiemer (Grades 7-9)

High school seniors Logan and Cade face what becomes a life-changing decision: Do they accept the assignment that their favorite teacher has made, or do they follow their instincts that asking them and their school mates to act out the Nazi Conference that started the Holocaust is wrong? Their decision to suggest an alternative assignment divides their school mates, teachers, and community (not to mention their principal), but their parents' support and, eventually, that of most of their community settles the matter. This book is especially topical, given the divisions that are present in our country today.



Nobody Knows But You

by Anica Mrose Rissi (Grades 8 and up)

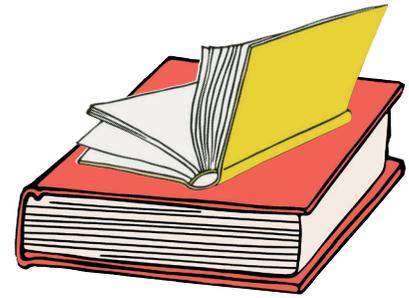
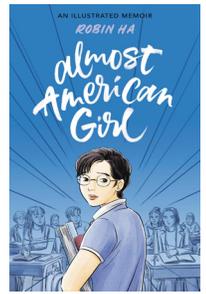
Kayla and Lainie are cabinmates at a summer camp and develop that close friendship where just a look and an eyeroll connects them when everyone around them is oblivious. You've been there, right? The inside jokes, the knowing smirks. But what happens when the strength of that bond gets tested? What happens when love interferes? Presented by a single narrator but interspersed with letters, texts, and news stories, you will find yourself squirming as you question what you are being led to believe.

Almost American Girl:

An Illustrated Memoir

by Robin Ha (Grades 8 and up)

This graphic memoir gives the reader a sense of what young people experience when they leave their home country and have to integrate into a mostly white, American school system. It's painful to see how these individuals are treated and how few services are provided to ease their transitions. Ha illustrates the language barrier and how foreign students like her need to have others in this country with whom to share their stories. A great story to encourage students to build empathy for those who speak a different language.



Volunteer Readers

Jenna Beaulieu
Matt Cornish
David Evans
Ruth Feldman
Mary Highberger
Lisa Herrington
Alison Johnson
Beverly Lamoureux
Taylor Mace
Tamie O'Hara



Island Readers & Writers