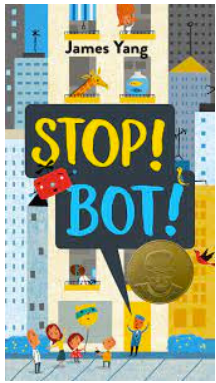




# 2021 Summer Booklist

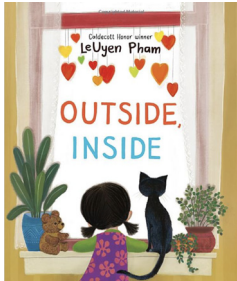
# PICTURE BOOKS



## *Stop! Bot!*

by James Yang (Preschool-Kindergarten)

Ah, the delight of a magical toy that floats in the air. Everyone who has ever lost a balloon to the sky will understand the angst of the young boy whose bot is escaping into the city skyline. But wait, at each floor of the tall apartment building there lies hope that a tenant will catch the bot as it floats on by. Cleverly designed to be tall like a skyscraper with fun cartoon like illustrations, this Theodore Seuss Geisel Award-winner will lift your spirits and make you laugh.



## *Outside, Inside*

by LeUyen Pham (Preschool-Grade 1)

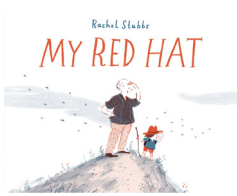
This story begins when Covid-19 was first spreading all over the world. Told in picture book format from a child's point of view, this Caldecott Honor or winner recounts (in easy to relate-to picture segments and simple text) the story of the year when almost everyone had to stay inside. It pays tribute to our health care workers and Fire and Policemen and women who stayed on the job and shows how we spent our time living indoors and continuing to work and study and play. This is a beautifully written and illustrated story told through a child's eyes. This book will become a family keepsake for all ages in years to come.



## *Two Many Birds*

by Cindy Derby (Preschool-Grade 1)

This picture book is a story about rules: whether to follow them or not, and whether the rules are too excessive. With whimsical illustration and relevant storytelling, Derby opens minds and hearts. This book may be used with older kids as well in that its messages are layered and there is a new discovery with each read.



## *My Red Hat*

by Rachel Stubbs (Preschool-Grade 2)

The hat is given to the child by her grandfather as an opportunity for adventure. The hat embodies his own sense of adventure, safety, fun, and belonging. This picture book can be as light or deep as the reader chooses. A classroom teacher may find multiple uses for this story. An art project, a writing activity about a treasured item from a beloved family member (who perhaps has passed away), anything is possible with this book.



## *Don't Feed the Coos!*

By Jonathan Stutzman; illus. by Heather Fox (Preschool-Grade 3)

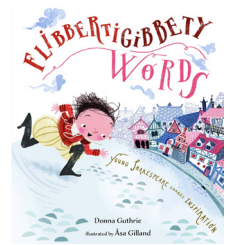
Coo. What a cute and irresistible sound. Especially when it is coming from a big-eyed, little bird with tiny feet. But you know what happens when you feed one right? "They will ALL come." They will follow you around until you are so annoyed, "you will do anything to make them leave. Nothing will work." This amusing book will have you giggling and feeling silly. Delightful.

## *Flibbertigibbety Words:*

*Young Shakespeare Chases Inspiration*

by Donna Guthrie; illus. by Åsa Gilland (Preschool-Grade 3)

Travel with William Shakespeare back in time and meet words and phrases that have fallen by the wayside. The book is filled with words like "zany" and "madcap," as well as phrases such as "parting is such sweet sorrow that I shall say good night till it be morrow" and "words without thoughts never to heaven go". English in 2021 has been filled with words like "meh," "cool," "sweet" and "whatever." This book will introduce young readers and writers to the beauty and majesty of what communication can become. Introduce young minds to the deliciousness of language with *Flibbertigibbety Words*.



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

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

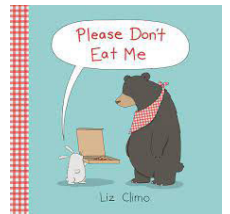
This story begins before the words kick in and one must spend time with each image to absorb it fully. Take in the father with his "paper son," clutching a bundle of papers in his hand as they pursue opportunities in America. Tyrus Wong emigrated in 1919 with his father who, "believed life in America 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.



## *Please Don't Eat Me*

by Liz Climo (Preschool-Grade 3)

A rabbit blindly digs its way under the ground and over the hills until, "aw, nuts," he meets a bear. "Please don't eat me," the rabbit pleads. But the bear is hungry and thus the rabbit must satisfy the bear. Dripping with drool (and sarcasm), the rabbit keeps trying to leave. The witty bear stops him. With a clever dance between words and pictures a lovely friendship unfolds, along with a great deal of humor.



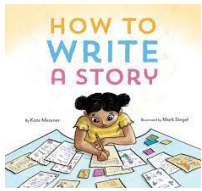
## *I'll Meet You In Your Dreams*

by Jessica Young, illustrated by Rafael López (Preschool-Grade 3)

If you have ever snuggled up with a child and shared *The Kissing Hand* or, perhaps, *I'll Love You Forever*, this delightful book should be the next title on your list. Reading it aloud is an illustrated journey inside a lullaby. Not too much, just enough to entice a youngster to travel into dreams where a parent will always be waiting for them.



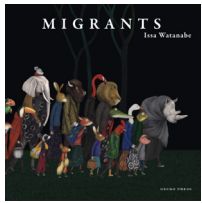
# PICTURE BOOKS



## *How to Write a Story*

by Kate Messner (Kindergarten-Grade 3)

This is a how-to book about creative writing for elementary school children. This large picture book is divided into ten steps for writing an interesting story. The intention is to encourage students to write a story that their friends will enjoy reading or listening to. The book has wonderful graphics by Mark Siegel. Not only are the writing and illustrations done well, Siegel also depicts an African American children as the main characters in the story.

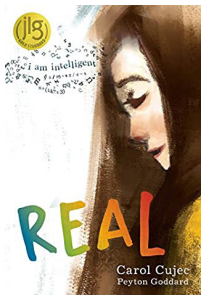


## *Migrants*

by Issa Watanabe (Kindergarten-Grade 3)

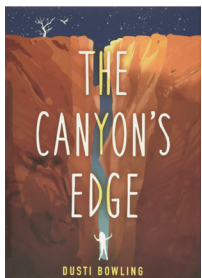
This picture book relays the story of a migrant heading for a better land. There are several themes: bravery, group support, and hope. This book is compelling because the story is told exclusively through pictures. Very young readers may need some adult direction in order to understand the story and the symbolism. The illustrations are wonderful!

# MIDDLE GRADE



## *Real* by Carol Cujec & Peyton Goddard (Grades 3-6)

Charity is a non-verbal, misunderstood girl with autism. She lives in her own mind, trying to control her body without success until she is taken out of the abusive "school" she was placed in and allowed to go to the public school. She feels she must continually prove her worth and her right to stay in this new school and is always afraid of doing something wrong. With the help of kind teachers, loving parents, and new friends she learns to type on a special machine and proves that she is intelligent and deserves to be treated like a real student. This book is co-authored by Peyton Goddard, and it is her story.



## *The Canyon's Edge*

by Dusti Bowling (Grades 3-7)

This book is the story of a father and daughter who hike in the desert and get swept away through the deep canyon in a flash flood. Both have been through a traumatic death of their wife and mother a year ago and are struggling to overcome their loss. The major themes are bravery, courage, and PTSD effects. The story is very compelling, and the poetic format is brilliant. If you like stories about strong girls, this is the perfect book.



## *Red, White and Whole*

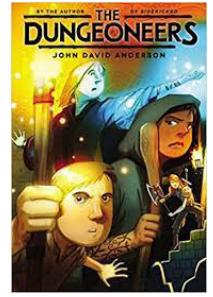
by Rajani LaRocca (Grades 3-7)

It is 1983 and Reha is a 13-year-old girl trying hard to have fun with her American classmates while still honoring her parents who have emigrated from India. Managing these two worlds is difficult enough, but then, Reha's mother gets diagnosed with leukemia and Reha declares to be the obedient daughter she thinks her parents want. This heartbreakingly poignant book, written in verse, shows how community, family and love can help to make one feel whole.

## *The Dungeoneers*

by John David Anderson (Grades 3-7)

Stealing from the rich isn't really that bad, is it? Especially when you have 8 hungry sisters and parents who work nonstop to feed them. But getting caught can land you in a whole lot of trouble because thievery is thievery. Colm Candorly discovers that the talent of his quick hands can open up a whole new world, a world of adventure, camaraderie, danger, and deception. With rogues and warriors, sorcerers and spellcasters, Colm learns to hone his skill on this fun quest for hidden treasure. Fantasy lovers will eat up this action-packed adventure that gives a nod to hero stories of all kinds.



## *The Star Outside My Window*

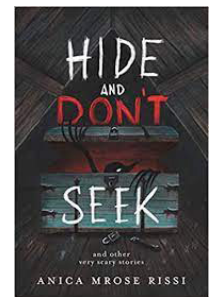
by Onjali Rauf (Grades 3-7)

This story of domestic abuse in a seemingly typical family is told through the eyes of 10-year-old, Aniyah, and her 6-year-old brother, Noah. The siblings suddenly find themselves in foster care, but their memory and understanding of what circumstances brought them there is confused. Their mother has died; Aniyah believes that when people die, their hearts burst and become stars in the heavens. Thus, when the newspapers report a bright new star hurtling through the heavens, she makes a plan win the naming contest and have the star named for her mother. This imaginative, and suspenseful story of children's love and determination will be hard to put down.



## *Hide and Don't Seek: and Other Very Scary Stories* by Anica Mrose Rissi (Grades 3-7)

"The first thing she sees is darkness. The second thing makes her close her eyes and scream." Many kids love a scary story and Rissi does not disappoint in this fun and, at times, neck tingling collection of scary stories. Did you ever wish for a "Look Like Me Doll"? Read *Beatrice* and find out about the dangers of identity theft. Ever thought about going to summer camp? Hmm... might want to read *Truly Delicious* before you decide. How powerful is a secret? How would you interact with a talking crow? Want to know the answers? Read these stories! Better yet, do it in the dark with a friend. You might want to have your flashlight handy.



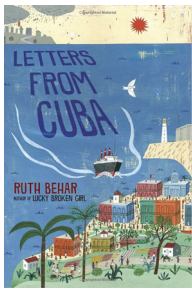
## *The Deep and Dark Blue*

by Niki Smith (Grades 3-7)

A moving tale in the form of a graphic novel of two brothers, House Sunderlay, one of the many noble families of the city. Their cousin, Mirelle, killed their grandfather. They are forced to run to the Communion of Blue, an order of strange women who spin the threads of reality to suit their own will. Under new identities, Hawke as Hannah and Grayson as Grayce, begin to hatch a plan of revenge. Hawke wishes to leave as he struggles in the new life while Grayce struggles to keep her life threads from unraveling and deciding to stay in the place that has allowed her to finally live as a girl. *Reviewed by Edie, age 12*



# MIDDLE GRADE



## *Letters From Cuba*

by Ruth Behar (Grades 5-6)

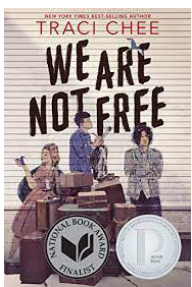
This book is about a Polish Jewish family and their struggle to escape the Nazis in 1938. The oldest daughter, Esther, arrives in Cuba where her father is working hard to earn enough money so that the rest of the family can join them. Esther learns how to sew and develops a thriving dress business that helps her father. In Cuba, she meets many diverse children and adults who help her. The themes of this book are adversity, sacrifice, tolerance, and diversity. This book is compelling because it describes a part of the 1930s pre-war era in which Cuba played a role in aiding the Jewish people. If you would like to know more about WWII history, this will add to your knowledge about Polish/Cuban relationships.



## *Fighting Words*

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley (Grades 5-7)

Della, short for Delicious, a name that attracts the wrong kind of attention, is smart, sassy, and faced with overcoming challenges that, unfortunately, too many real children are faced with. She and her sister, after experiencing something so terrible they got placed in foster care, must navigate both the foster care system and their trauma as sisters and as individuals. Della has a sharp tongue and uses curse words like nobody's business, though she does her best to replace them with "snow" and this is deftly done throughout the book. Despite her best attempts, this often lands her in trouble. Trouble she doesn't deserve. Thankfully, and finally, Della gets a responsible adult in her life who helps her, and her sister find the path to healing. The subject matter is difficult but real and this is a story that needs telling.



## *We are Not Free*

by Traci Chee (Grades 6-12)

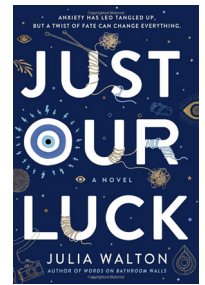
This is an account of 14 friends, almost all from Japantown, San Francisco, whose lives are disrupted and destroyed by internment. Every chapter is narrated by a different character, with a distinct voice and style. Their families have lost everything: their homes, their businesses, their freedom. Each family faces these challenges in different ways. Some renounce their Japanese heritage--and are still interred. Others renounce their American citizenship and are treated more cruelly, sent to camps with even harsher conditions. Some of the teens don't agree with their parents' stance and are forced to make even more devastating decisions.



## *Just Our Luck*

by Julia Walton (Grade 7-9)

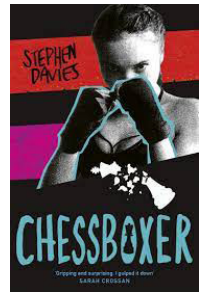
This is the story of a Greek teenage boy, Leo, who struggles with anxiety after the death of his mother. Leo's detached father presses him to participate in "manly" after-school activities which increase his anxiety. Instead, Leo knits and takes yoga. He also gets led astray by fellow schoolmates in the hopes of winning their friendships. The general themes of this book are the struggles of mental health, as well as different ways of building friendships.



## *Chessboxer*

by Stephen Davies (Grade 7-9)

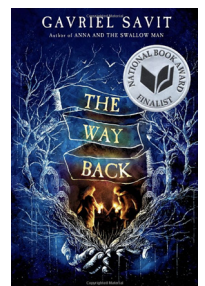
Hard to imagine a more peculiar combination than chess and boxing; they seem to be almost diametrically opposite pursuits. However, this combo exists in the real world and is the subject of a beautifully written page-turner about 19-year-old Leah who rises in the ranks of chess only to lose interest. Leaving chess, Leah becomes enthralled with the practice of "chessboxing." You neither have to be a chess player nor a boxer to appreciate this truly entertaining read. Who knows, this book along with the wonderfully entertaining TV series *The Queen's Gambit* might open a whole new world for you!



## *The Way Back*

by Gavriel Savit (Grades 7-9)

Good books have hooks and *The Way Back* will snag you right away – Jewish folklore, Shakespearean tragedy, a spoon that can erase a face, time travel, realm travel, even a snarky demon named Mamon. The stakes are high in this complex novel, and two friends, Yehuda Leib and Bluma, journey over harrowing paths in the Far Country to face off against none other than the ultimate foe, the Angel of Death. This tale of honor, bravery, yearning, and adventure is funny, rich in detail, and timeless, an excellent read for fans of Neil Gaiman and Gregory Maguire.



## *Sanctuary*

by Paola Mendoza & Abby Sher (Grades 7-9)

This novel portrays a dystopian America that is closed to immigrants and will resort to any means to eliminate and remove them from within its borders. If you don't have a chip in your wrist, you are illegal. 16-year-old Vali and her family must avoid the Deportation Forces at all costs as they make their way across the country to a place of sanctuary. This is a captivating and important story that inspires not only fear, but hope and courage as well.



# YOUNG ADULTS



## *Watch Over Me*

by Nina LaCour (Grades 9-12)

This novel is a heady read about a young woman who becomes an intern working on a Northern Californian coastal farm. This farm is a place where foster children find new lives by facing their pasts. Readers are blind to where this story was headed; however, it is such an emotional ride to learn Mila's story as well as a few of the other characters. This would make a great summer read!



## *Dear Justyce*

by Nic Stone (Grades 9-12)

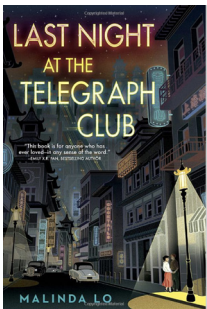
A sequel to the #1 New York Times bestseller *Dear Martin*, this story is presented through a series of letters from a Black teen, Quan who has been in a youth detention center for years. These letters are addressed to Justyce, Quan's childhood friend, and reveal the inequitable inner workings of our criminal justice system. This emotional book leads to challenging questions of truth, authority and racial bias.



## *Beauty Mark*

by Carole Boston Weatherford (Grades 9-12)

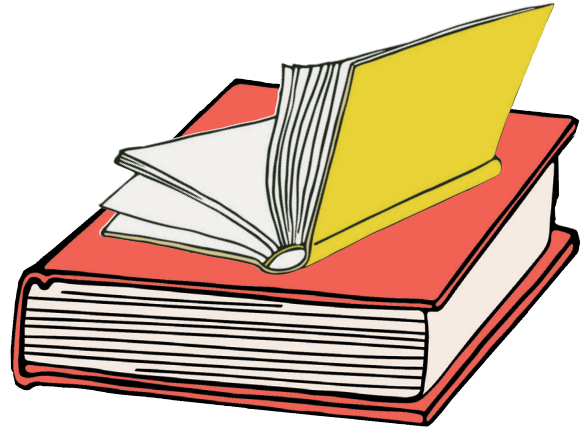
This is a book of poems written in the first person about the life of Marilyn Monroe. It presents a sad, depressing story of a movie star who struggled all her life to find her happy self. An interesting variety of poems capture her life in chronological order. The book is beautifully printed on gold shimmering paper. If you like stories about Hollywood or movie stars this may be of interest.



## *Last Night at the Telegraph Club*

by Malinda Lo (Grades 9-12)

This work of historical fiction tells the story of a senior high school student, Lily, who comes from a traditional Chinese family living in San Francisco during the 1950s. Lily explores coming out as a lesbian while her family is under watch by Joseph McCarthy during the red scare. This mix of politics and desire create tension within Lily, her family, and with her friends in sheltered Chinatown. The general theme is Asian American history in the mid twentieth century and the cultural anxiety that was prevalent during the 1950s. The book is compelling because it narrates a time in American history that is mostly unknown to the general public.



## Thank you to our Volunteer Readers!

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Ephron Catlin  
Edie Harwood  
Lisa Herrington  
Mary Highberger  
Alison Johnson  
Beverly Lamoureux  
Junia Norris  
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Helene Tuchman  
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