

IRW Booklist

SUMMER 2024



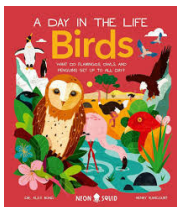
THIS SUMMER, we invite you to read with the children in your life, explore local libraries, and have adventures with books! The Booklist is packed with 35 great titles for kids pre-K–grade 8. And, if you're local to Mt. Desert Island, you can stop in to one of five participating libraries (Bass Harbor Library, Jesup Memorial Library, Northeast Harbor Library, Southwest Harbor Library and Somesville Library) to pick up a copy of Read Around MDI—your calendar of free, book-based events for kids in summer 2024.

You can support the Booklist by using IRW's affiliate link on [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) to purchase any of the books on the Booklist—10% of your purchase will support our programming! [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) is an online bookseller that supports independent bookstores and nonprofits. [BOOKSHOP.ORG](https://www.bookshop.org)

HAPPY READING!

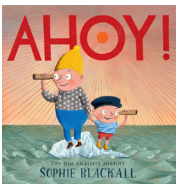
KELSEY E. MOORE BUCKLEY, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT

PICTURE BOOKS



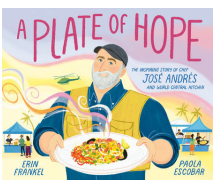
A Day in the Life of Birds: What Do Flamingos, Owls and Penguins Get Up to All Day? by Dr. Alex Bond
Illustrated by Henry Rancort

From the dawn chorus back to the burrow, we learn how some birds rise and shine to meet the day by building nests or dancing in large numbers. Did you know “an ostrich egg weighs more than 250 chicken eggs?” Kids hungry for facts will gobble this one up with its bright illustrations and fact filled pages. This is a great springboard book to prompt further inquiry into the world of birds.



*****Ahoy!**
by Sophie Blackall

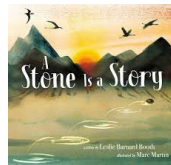
Ahoy! is a celebration of the relentless and wide imagination of a child determined to play, despite whatever chores may need doing, and how irresistible make-believe can be, even for grownups. Sophie invites us to put down the phone and the boring grownup business, let the living room be transformed into a ship upon the sea. Told entirely through dialogue and delightful vignettes, you'll want to don a knit cap, grab a line (jump rope), and be on the lookout for the giant squid (vacuum cleaner).



****A Plate of Hope**
by Erin Frankel
Illustrated by Paola Escobar

This vivid picture book biography follows Chef Jose Andres from his childhood in Spain to establishing the

World Central Kitchen. Interspersed with Spanish, and rich with illustrations of the food that continued to inspire Jose, this is a warm, inspiring book. Messages of kindness, comfort, and a reminder to help one another—*We the people! All are welcome!*—are strong throughout. This is a great picture book for upper elementary classrooms—be sure to check out the charming endpapers and backmatter!



A Stone is a Story
by Leslie Barnard Booth
Illustrated by Marc Martin

Beautiful and poetic, this book takes us on a journey through time with a stone. It helps us imagine all the things a stone can be, all the places it can go and how it can change through time. There is great back matter and a website for teachers or caregivers that want to dive deeper into geology.



Beulah has a Hunch
by Katie Maeika
Illustrated by Caroline Bonne-Muller

What if you had the ability to imagine things in extreme detail? (hyperphantasia) But also saw colors for numbers and musical notes? (synesthesia) And you were only taught lessons in poetry, music, etiquette, and elocution but not math or science? What would you do? Daydream and invent things like Beulah Louise Henry. From snap on umbrellas to spring-limbed stuffed animals, Beulah was an inventor securing patents during a time when many thought women couldn't learn complex math or science. A truly inspiring picture book biography.

*Maine Authors & IRW Alumni

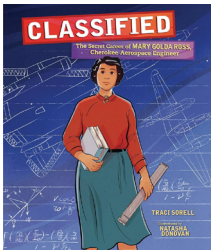
IRW seeks out books by authors and illustrators who live in or have strong connections to Maine, and keeps our readers up to date on new books from the authors & illustrators we work with.

**Our Top Picks for the Whole Book Approach

The Whole Book Approach asks children to look at books in their whole art form, including examining the endpapers, the jacket, the cover, backmatter, typography, and more. By asking open-ended questions about the book and its visuals, we can create an interactive, rich learning experience.

***Wonderfully Wordless

We love wordless books! They're a rich opportunity to practice visual literacy, spark our curiosity, and are perfect for inspiring writing.



Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer

by Traci Sorell
Illustrated by Natasha Donovan
“Teenage girls in the 1920’s weren’t expected to enjoy or excel in math or science.” And yet we keep

learning about women in history who broke those norms and blazed trails for the rest of us. Mary Ross was one who quietly and humbly used her engineering and design smarts to research satellites and design spacecrafts that helped put men on the moon! She was the first known Native American female engineer and she spoke up so others could find success as well. This is a wonderful picture book biography with rich back matter for further investigation!

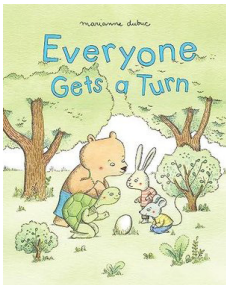


Dear Street

by Lindsay Zier-Vogel
Illustrated by Caroline Bonne-Mülle

In this creative celebration of the beauty and joy of one’s own neighborhood, a child teaches us to look at the positives of what can often be seen as only annoyances.

How does she do this? Through writing love notes to her street, the local park, the trees, along with other cherished things in her community. Tucking these notes into places like a leaf pile or on a bench, her neighbors come across them, finding words of gratitude. They are moved by her thoughtfulness and join in, writing their own notes to share. One day when the child is feeling not so happy herself, she finds a note reminding her of the joy around her. With a lively community of diverse characters, the illustrations are rich, warm, and expressive. Learn about The Love Lettering Project in the author’s note!



Everyone Gets a Turn

by Marianne Dubuc

A heartwarming story about a nurturing community of four animal friends who take turns caring for an egg they find in the woods. Little Egg travels from house to house, where each animal has a different lesson or gift to impart. . . and eventually Little Egg (or rather, Little Bird at this point) has her own ideas to offer! This book is

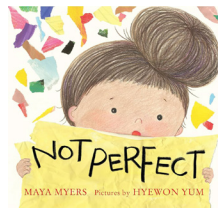
a celebration of friendship and sharing our unique talents with one another. Pastel-toned illustrations with charming details make for a cozy read.

****Glitter Everywhere!**



by Chris Barton
Illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat
Who would think the history of glitter would be so fascinating? It’s tiny. It’s colorful. It’s clingy. (We’ve all had it stuck on our face before right?) But it’s also iridescent: “When light and

color seem to shape-shift across a surface.” This picture book has it all, glitter and glam, science and history, and thoughts on the environmental impact of all those tiny specks and where they end up. With good back matter one can dive deep into this sparkly, shimmery, twinkly, dazzling book.

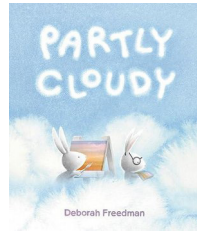


*****Not Perfect**

by Maya Myers
Illustrated by Hyewon Yum

Dot, our heroine from *Not Little* is back! She’s good at many things and tries very hard. . . but she’s not perfect. How frustrating! With the help of her

charming friend Sam, Dot learns that she has many other virtues, a wonderful friendship, and that something imperfect can still be beautiful. Colorful, clever and heartfelt, *Not Perfect* is indeed a perfect sequel!

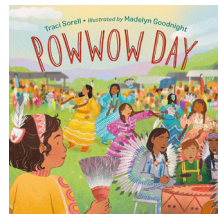


Partly Cloudy

by Deborah Freedman

Two bunnies—one imaginative, one science-minded—disagree on what they see in the clouds: “Whipped cream!” “Stratocumulus,” “Jellyfish!” “Those are virga.” A scary storm experienced together helps the bunnies appreciate each other’s point of view,

showing how imagination plus science increases wonder. Brimming with factual content, the book introduces readers to different types of clouds, offering the perfect springboard for a science lesson or an art project. The soft watercolor illustrations are dreamy and captivating. Back matter provides information about how clouds form, the ten main types of clouds, and the water cycle.

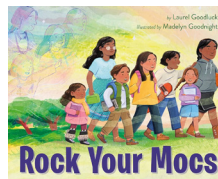


PowWow Day

by Traci Sorell
Illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

Powwow day is a special day for River and her tribal community, so when she falls ill and can’t dance and participate as she’d like to, it makes for an emotionally challenging day. But with support from her friends and family, the “BAH-dum. BAH-dum. BAH-dum.

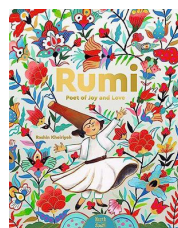
BAH-dum.” of the drums, the swirling circle of dancers, River can’t help but be drawn in. Feeling the drum fully in her heart, she knows next year she will dance.



Rock Your Mocs

by Laurel Goodluck & Illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

In 2011 Native Americans & Indigenous peoples came together virtually to celebrate “Rock Your Mocs” day which takes place in November, during National Native American Heritage Month. This sweet picture book is a nod to “...stepping out and kicking it up. . .” “Who says moccasins are for special occasions only? Mocs “connect us to our past” to “honor our deep-rooted traditions.” Explore the variety of tribes and their moccasin stories. There’s great back matter to support further learning!

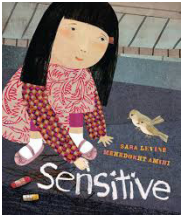


Rumi—Poet of Joy and Love

by Rashin Kheiriyeh

Rashin Kheiriyeh, “one of the most outstanding Iranian illustrators working today,” wrote this book to celebrate Rumi’s 750th birthday. Rumi lived in the 11th century, but his poetry is still loved by people all over the world. This book, featuring vibrant illustrations, is a wonderful introduction

to the poet, describing his early life, his role as a teacher, his struggles, and the peace and joy he found through writing. Rumi is known as a religious figure, and although his relationship with God is discussed, it’s not the main focus of the book. A more detailed biography is included at the end of the book.



Sensitive

by Sara Levine

Illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini

When you are told you are too sensitive, thin skinned and over reactive, it is easy to internalize these words. The girl in this book by Sara Levine, is able to switch the narrative by finding things she enjoys and taking the time she needs to turn what some think of as weaknesses into her affirmations and maybe even her superpowers. This important book is beautifully illustrated using mixed media and collage to capture the metaphor brilliantly.

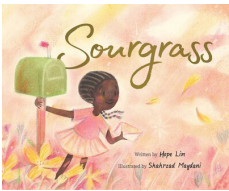


****Small Things Mended***

by Casey W. Robinson

Illustrated by Nancy Whitesides

This sweet story of kindness follows Cecil, a kind neighbor with a broken heart. When children begin bringing him things to mend—a pocket watch, a music box, and stuffed animal— he comes to learn that community and gathering together are where the mending of the heart truly happens. Soft illustrations make this a cozy read, and Cecil’s ever-present little dog (with a happy ending his own) is just too cute.

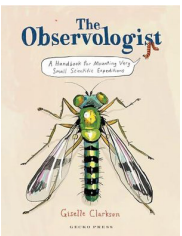


Sourgrass

by Hope Lim

Illustrated by Shahrzad Maydani

Sofia and May have been used to playing together all the time as best friends and neighbors. When May has to move away, Sofia becomes concerned that May has forgotten her. Through the lost art of snail mail, these childhood friends stay connected. From the story’s last page, a new neighbor has moved in next to Sofia which hints at a new friendship forming. A story of childhood friends, connecting with nature, and inevitable changes in life, readers will be left with hope and perhaps inspiration to write letters to those dear to them. Chalk pastel and watercolor illustrations invoke the beauty and warmth of Summer, nature, and special friendships.



The Observologist

by Giselle Clarkson

Take a detailed deep dive into the world of observing. A charmingly illustrated guide to noticing the worlds around you, *The Observologist* is an excellent resource for young people interested in exploring the smaller details in life. This guide brings to life the fact that

all you need is to slow down and truly look in order to mount a fruitful scientific expedition. This is a picture book that is great for older readers or for nature enthusiasts!

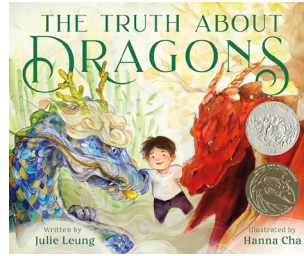


The Storyteller

by Lindsay Bonilla & Noar Lee Naggan

Illustrated by Noar Lee Naggan
The Storyteller by Lindsay Bonilla is a magical tale giving a unique perspective of how stories are passed down from one generation to the next to

keep a legacy alive. Some quotes from my students include: “Isn’t she just telling fairy tales?,” “Is that ‘Little Red Ridinghood’?,” and “It’s a story within a story.”



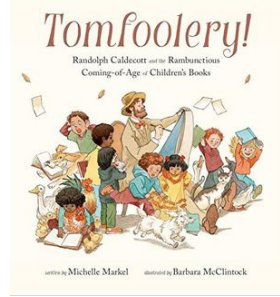
The Truth About Dragons

by Julie Leung

Illustrated by Hannah Cha

It’s the year of the Dragon in the Chinese Zodiac and this picture book is a wonderful portal into the imagination and the different cultural myths around dragons.

“Dragons are fearsome and fire-breathing, my child, with wings like a bat, and the body of a lizard,” shares one grandma. “Dragons are majestic creatures of air and fire,” says another. Which one resonates with you? Or can you navigate more than one path and learn to dwell in both realms? Read on to find out.



Tomfoolery!

by Michelle Markel

& Illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Come on in. A whole World lives and breathes inside these pages. What a wonderful invitation that echoes the sentiment of quality picture books on children’s bookshelves everywhere. But

how did the joyful sense that picture books have today come to be? Through the vision of Randolph Caldecott, for whom the Caldecott Medal is named, clarity and whimsy replace stiffness and cluttered scenery as depicted in this wonderfully told and illustrated picture book biography.



When You Have to Wait

by Melanie Conklin

Illustrated by Leah Hong

Waiting can seem like forever, especially as a child! In this story, children will relate to various examples of having to wait for exciting things like going swimming on a hot day or riding a bigger bike. There’s also waiting for a loved one to come home from being away for a while. Readers are

encouraged to see the gifts in the waiting - making a friend in line, making your own lunch, and observing cool things in nature. Soft, expressive illustrations capture the various feelings happening when being patient is a challenge and when the wait is finally over. Check out the delightful endpapers and under the dust jacket depicting how animals, too, have to wait.

EARLY READERS & CHAPTER BOOKS

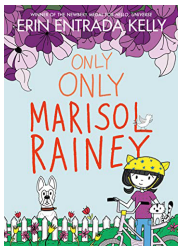


******The First Day of May***

by Henrique Coser Moreira

This wordless little picture book is a delight! Bold colors, playful characters, and clever vignettes bring to life the first beautiful day of the year after a long winter. *The First Day of May* shows us a soft, welcoming world, perfectly suited for play and imagination. Simple but sophisticated, this book could truly

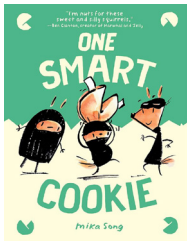
be enjoyed by a reader of any age.



Only Only Marisol Rainey

by Erin Entrada Kelly

Marisol Rainey is a very anxious second grader. As the narrator of the story, Marisol freely shares her emotions and concerns. While Marisol and her best friend Jada love riding their bikes together, Marisol is very frightened of a large neighborhood dog who lives behind a big white fence—Gregory (nicknamed “Daggers” by Marisol)—especially when he goes missing! As Marisol helps a younger friend, Felix, learn to ride a bike, she hopes that Felix’s ability to talk to animals will be helpful in protecting her. Thankfully, Felix shares some ideas that help Marisol overcome her fright. Marisol is also very fortunate to have a supportive mother who exudes safety and love in helping her with life situations. This delightful, refreshing story lends itself to positive discussions between first through second graders and their teachers or other important adults in their lives. It is the third in the series by author/illustrator Erin Entrada Kelly—hopefully, we can look forward to hearing more from Marisol Rainey!



One Smart Cookie

by Mika Song
Who gets to write the fortunes inside fortune cookies and what might their motivations be? If you are nutty squirrels like Norma and Belly, writing fortunes is the fastrack to free cookies. Gramps and Little Bee are co-conspirators as they embark on a mission to hijack the Mr. Fortune cookie factory. Simple yet hilarious the characters in part four of Mika Songs graphic novel series for early readers will win your heart.

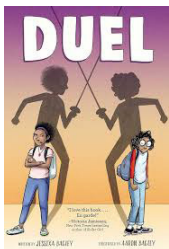


Orris and Timble: The Beginning

by Kate DiCamillo
Illustrated by Carmen Mok

This sweet story for young readers is the tale of an unlikely friendship, and the first installment in a new series. In a barn, two animals encounter one another when one is caught in a trap. What will happen when a story-loving owl, Timble, needs help from the storytelling rat, Orris? Kate DiCamillo’s heartfelt and accessible prose never misses, and Carmen Mok’s illustrations are charming. Remember, even a rat can make a good and noble choice!

GRAPHIC NOVELS



Duel

by Jessixa Bagley
Illustrated by Aaron Bagley

This year, sisters Gigi and Lucy are in middle school together and things couldn’t go worse for both. When Gigi trips her little sister in the cafeteria, Lucy challenges her to a duel to prove who’s the better fencer. The underlying conflict stems from jealousy over attention their fencing coach Father paid to each before he died. There’s no going back when word gets out and the whole school is taking sides. With chapter headings that come from an old fencing manual, this fantastic graphic novel is great for anyone interested in sibling rivalry, fencing, or the loss of a loved one.



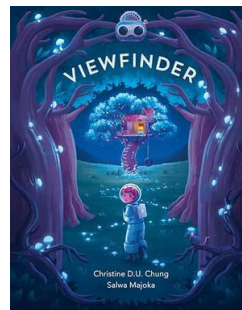
Parachute Kids

by Betty C. Tang
When Feng-Li’s family visits California from Taiwan, she’s excited for a family vacation and to visit Disneyland—until her parents tell her that she’s staying there for good, with her brother and sister. Forced to go home due to expired visas, Feng-Li’s parents must trust the siblings to navigate their new American life, complete with chores, school, and managing their budget, all on their own. The siblings face bullying, language barriers, and so much more while they struggle to find their place and make good choices. A genuine and heartfelt book for older readers that doesn’t shy from the challenges faced by these three young immigrants.



Squished

by Megan Wagner Lloyd
Illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter
Avery Lee has lived in the same town for all 11 years of her life. She’s one of seven kids and life with that many siblings is a bit crazy and squishy! She wants her own room for a bit of peace and quiet but also loves watching her siblings grow and meet milestones. She tries to earn money to redo the basement as her own but family responsibilities get in the way. When a big change comes for the family, she must find a way to accept things while being true to herself.



***** Viewfinder

illustrated by Christine D.U. Chung & Salwa Mojoka

Imagine traveling back to Earth from the far reaches of the universe, long after it’s been abandoned by humans. What might you find there? *Viewfinder* is a wordless graphic novel in which a brave young astronaut explores a beautiful, post-apocalyptic Earth, where a mysterious, bioluminescent fungus has taken over, and friendly animals abound. Through a viewfinder, our explorer gets snapshots of what life on Earth was once like. Gorgeous illustrations take us along on this open-to-interpretation adventure. *Viewfinder* is a book like no other, and will doubtless inspire discussion, writing, and art from inquisitive readers!

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



* A Little Bit Super

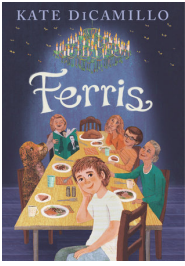
by Gary Schmidt & many other authors

Illustrated by Pam Munoz Ryan

Short story collection, including a contribution from IRW’s friend Gary Schmidt as well as Nikki Grimes and Meg Medina

“A little superpower is better than none.” It’s true!

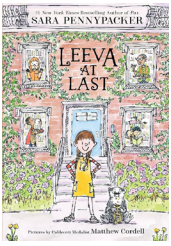
This collection of short stories include sections told through poems or graphic novel format, and each is about a kid who is just a little bit super. Not super enough to save cities or be transported to another galaxy, but just enough to make the world a little bit better. A funny, punchy collection that has limitless potential to inspire writing prompts and is written by some of our finest middle grade authors.



Ferris by Kate DiCamillo

5th grader Emma—or “Ferris” to her family and friends (nicknamed for the amusement park ride where she was born)—is experiencing change all around her. Her uncle is living in her family’s basement, trying to paint the history of the world. Her little sister’s main ambition in life is to become an outlaw, so she can have her own Wanted poster and her grandmother is seeing ghosts.

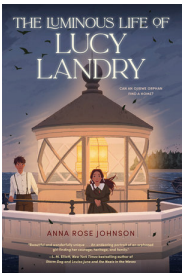
What can Ferris do to help? The relationship between Ferris and her grandmother is especially touching. Ferris has an understanding that her grandmother won’t be around forever (is that why she’s seeing ghosts?) but being on the cusp of change, without being able to see what’s on the other side, is scary. Fans of DiCamillo will enjoy this story of family and friendship.



Leeva At Last by Sara Pennypacker
Illustrated by Matthew Cordell

Leeva has a whole lot of talent and spunk even though her parents lack in everything. Her mother, the mayor, wants nothing but fame. Her father, the town treasurer, wants only money. Leeva makes do with very little. She creates everything the family needs from newspapers and her father’s favorite meal, Cheesaroni. When Leeva breaks

through the hedge one day she finds the library, which opens many doors, not just from the books she borrows but in the form of an unconventional pet and new friends. She must save the town from her parents before people figure out who she is. This book is humorous and fun and just might remind you of another unlikely hero named Matilda.



The Luminous Life of Lucy Landry
by Anna Rose Johnson

When her guardian passes away, French-Ojibwe orphan Lucy is sent to live with the Martins, a large family managing a lighthouse on a tiny island in Lake Superior. Lucy must navigate the personalities of the Martin children and her fear of the water as she strives to find belonging - and a fabled ruby necklace lost in a shipwreck years ago. Readers will fall in love with winsome Lucy

and her flourishing imagination, her desperation to be loved, and her uncanny ability to get into scrapes. A timeless, uplifting work of historical fiction, perfect for fans of *Anne of Green Gables*.



The Night Raven
by Johan Rundberg

The Night Raven tells the story of Mina, a 12 year old orphan living in Stockholm in the late 1800s. She’s lived in an orphanage her entire life and has long since given up any hope of finding a family. After a crime spree in the winter of 1880, aspiring detective Mina’s clear observations lead her to information that might help

solve the case. Detective Hoff gives her a chance and lets her work the case with him. It turns out that Mina has a knack for solving mysteries, but can she solve her own mystery--why was she given up for adoption? Readers will have to wait for the next book in the series to find out. This book is gritty and doesn’t hold back any of the realities of trying to survive winter in the 1800s. It reads like a Swedish mystery written for adults with a young protagonist.

**A special thanks to our team of
volunteer Booklist Reviewers:**

Molly Calder, Kim Campbel, Jean & David Evans,
Melissa Haas, Lisa Herrington, Alison Johnson,
Becky Lloyd, Celine Martin, Abby Morrow,
Lauren White

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