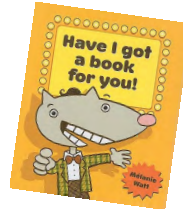
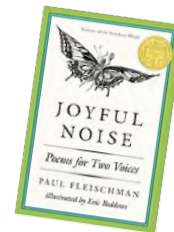
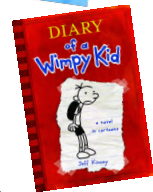


Mrs. Soldavini's



Book of Books



November 2011

Dear Students,

You might be asking yourself, what is a "Book of Books" and why would Mrs. S. take the time to write it? Well, it started out as a school project. Yes, an assignment for one of my classes on the road to becoming a librarian. But then I thought, "Wow! This might just be a great way to share book ideas with the students." There is a lot of diversity in here. Books for boys, books for girls, books by authors of many races and ethnicities, and of course a diversity of interests in both fiction and nonfiction. You'll find science books and history books. You'll see poetry books and mystery books. There is so much more, I hope you'll take the time to look through all of the book blurbs to find one (or a few) that appeal to you.

You'll find a lot of mysteries in here, even in the science and social studies section. I love a great mystery -- real life or fiction! One thing that might surprise you, Harry Potter is only in the website section, because you all already know that I've read, and love, Harry. There are three books in this collection that I read a few years ago. They are the first books in a series, but I've read the latest in each series just recently. I describe the first book for you, because I'd hate for you to start in the middle. I do mention all the books in the series. The rest of this bibliography is a collection of great books that I have read in the past six months. A few of the picture books are classics that I re-read because I found them just that important to share.

If you are browsing this book of books sometime after the 2011-12 school year, ask me for more! I hope to keep a bibliography of every book I read to share with all of my students -- you know how important reading is to me. It's the number one thing you can do to "get smarter" and "do better" in all of your school subjects! I want all of you to live up to your full potential and I know (and all the research shows) the surest way for that to happen is for you to be reading books that interest you. So, I figure if I put it in writing, right here, right now, that I want to keep going with more to this bibliography, you all will keep me motivated to do so.

And finally, be sure to see the very last pages for ideas on where to look for even more books based on your interests. I've included a list of annual book awards and favorite Dewey Decimal areas in the library. Remember my only reading rule - if you don't like it, put it down and find another book!

Keep Reading,

Mrs. Soldavini

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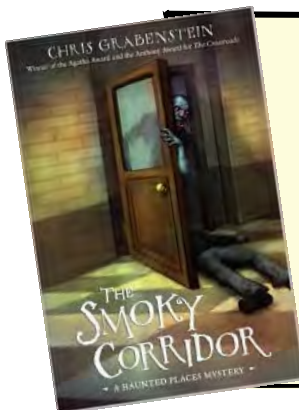
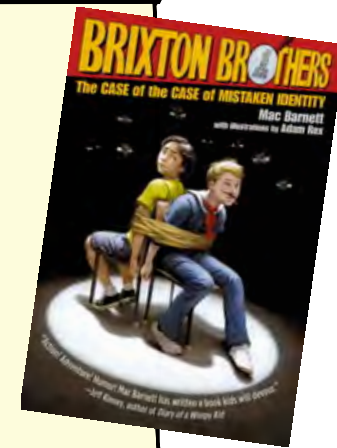
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Maryland Black-Eyed Susan 2011 Award Nominees

Barnett, Mac. **The Case of the Case of Mistaken Identity: Brixton Brothers, Book One.** New York: Simon and Schuster. 2009.

Steve Brixton loves mysteries and sleuths and has memorized most of the Bailey Brothers Detective Handbook - and he doesn't have a brother. He does have to do a report on early American needlework, which puts him in the library when the trouble begins. Imagine librarians as front for the most secret secret agency in the world. More extensive than the FBI, more discreet than the CIA. But are The Librarians really the good guys? How can you solve a mystery when your mom keeps bringing around her annoying new boyfriend, Rick? Who has kidnapped Steve's friend Dana - and why? This is a fast-paced mystery and adventure full of humor - and a bookmobile.



Grabenstein, Chris. **The Smoky Corridor: A Haunted Mystery.** New York: Random House. 2010.

Zack Jennings can see and talk to ghosts. He's the new kid in school, which is problem enough. Throw in an assistant principal out to get him for stuff Zack's dad did 22 years ago; the class nerd but loyal friend, Malik, who needs protection from the Snertz bullies; the pyromaniac, ghost Donnelly brothers; pocket-watch collecting ghosts; live criminals hunting buried treasure; and a brain-eating zombie; well, it might not be just a normal day at Pettimore Middle School.

Holm, Jennifer L. **Turtle in Paradise**. New York: Random House. 2010.

It's the Great Depression and her mother's new employer does not like children, so Turtle is being sent to live with overworked Aunt Minnie in Key West, FL. Her cousin Beans and his Diaper Gang do not like girls. Her cousin Kermit has a heart condition and needs to nap each day. Little Buddy cannot get the hang of potty training. A grumpy Nana Philly, a fisherman named Slow-poke, and Ernest Hemingway round out the characters Turtle meets and begins to form a family around. Oh yes – there's buried treasure, too!



Singer, Marilyn. **Mirror, Mirror**. Illus. Josée Masse. New York: Penguin Group. 2010.

"A beauty I'll be? Look at me -- / plain to see," or "Plain to see -- / look at me. / A beauty I'll be!" It all depends if you read from bottom to top or top to bottom. A clever twist on poetry, presenting each fairy tale in two ways. Is this the conflict or the happily ever after? Perhaps each situation depends on just how you look at it!

From MASL.org: "The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award is a children's choice award for the state of Maryland. Each year since 1992, the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award has been given to authors and/or illustrators of outstanding books chosen for the award by Maryland students.

Students who vote for the winning titles must have followed the "Guidelines for School Participation" before voting. Students may cast one vote for the book they consider to be the most outstanding book in each of the categories. All votes from schools across the state of Maryland are submitted to the Black-Eyed Susan Book Award committee to be tallied in order to determine the winners."



Fiction

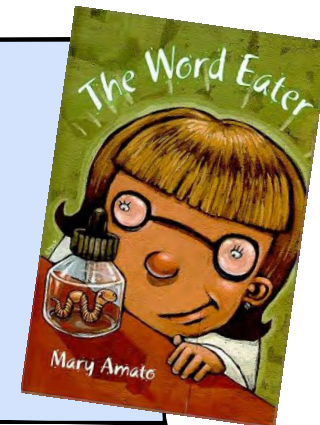


Illustration from *The Doll People*

Middle Readers Fiction

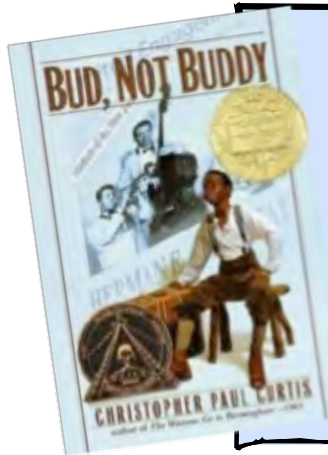
Amato, Mary. **The Word Eater**. New York: Holiday House. 2000.

Fip the worm, liked to eat words instead of dirt. Lerner Chanse, a new student at Cleveland Park Middle School, notices Fip's strange tastes. Problem is (or is it a good thing?) all the stuff represented by that word disappears when Fip devours the word. As Lerner tries desperately to fit into her new school, she tries to harness Fip's ability for her own good. The cafeteria's spinach soufflé, the glass on a vending machine, and an exam are just some of the things Fip "eats and erases." But can this power get out of control? What about the word "oxygen?"



Clements, Andrew. **The Report Card**. New York: Simon and Schuster. 2005.

Nora has a plan. A genius plan. It starts with getting all D's on her report card. How is that genius? Well, Nora wants to prove that grades and test scores matter too much and stress kids out too much. Unfortunately, this doesn't go over very well with Nora's parents, teachers, or principal. It really starts to get messy when a lot more kids join into the plan. Can her best "normal, average" friend Stephen, and Ms. Byrne, the librarian, help her "do the next good thing" and get out of one BIG mess?

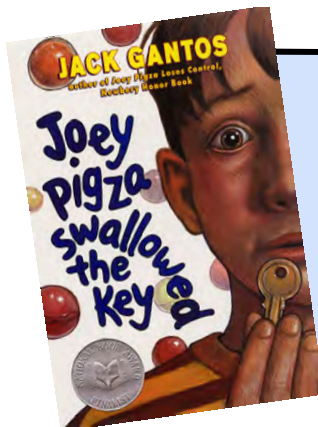


Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy.** New York: Delacorte Press. 1999.

After just one night of abuse in his new foster home, ten-year-old Bud decides to “go on the lamb” and run away in search of his father. Bud (do not call him Buddy) lost his mother four years ago and has been living in an orphanage ever since. Convinced that jazz band flyers his mom used to bring home will lead him to his father, Bud sets out on foot 120 miles from Flint to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Hunger, tiredness, and vampires cannot stop him. With a little help along the way from a librarian, a family in the soup kitchen line, Lefty Lewis, and Ms. Thomas, Bud discovers grouchy band leader Herman E. Calloway. Not exactly the dream dad he’s imagined, but just maybe Calloway holds the key to home.

Gaiman, Neil. **The Graveyard Book.** Illus. Dave McKean. New York: HarperCollins Children’s Books. 2008.

Ghosts in the graveyard are raising Nobody Owens, better known as Bod. When Bod’s entire family is stabbed to death, little eighteen-month-old Bod wanders off in the confusion and toddles down a path to a graveyard. Now a young teen, Bod has only been educated in the graveyard and begins to wander outside. The magic of the graveyard can only protect Bod within its walls, and a man named Jack is looking to finish a job started long ago. Funny and scary at once, this one will keep you turning pages to solve the



Gantos, Jack. **Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key.** New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 1998.

Joey knows the rules; he just forgets to follow them. He’s got “the dud meds.” Joey’s mom has returned after leaving him with his grandma for years. Joey tries so hard, but accidents follow him everywhere. When Joey’s next accident seriously hurts a classmate, will he finally get the help he needs or will he be sent to the “special” school forever? I think all teachers should read this one, too. Let me know if you agree.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Among the Hidden**. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1998.

In a society where each family is allowed only two children, Luke is the third son. His family must keep him hidden to avoid the population police. With new houses replacing the woods behind his home, Luke must now also stay inside and out of rooms that have windows. When he spies another third child in one of the new homes he risks his life and his family's freedom to arrange a meeting. Can the Shadow Children fight the government?

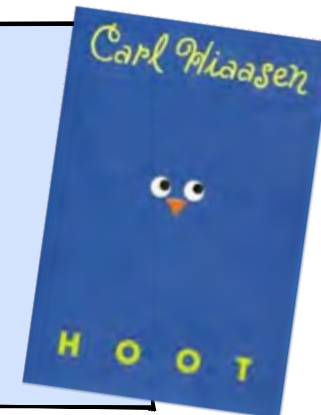


Hahn, Mary Downing. **The Ghost of Crutchfield Hall**. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2010.

Florence has lived at an orphanage since her parents died in a boating accident when she was five. Now twelve, Florence has been found by her uncle and is going to live at Crutchfield Hall. Excited to meet family – including a young cousin, Jamie – Florence is not expecting a ghost. Will she share family, books, games, and secrets? Or will she find something much more sinister in a lost cousin?

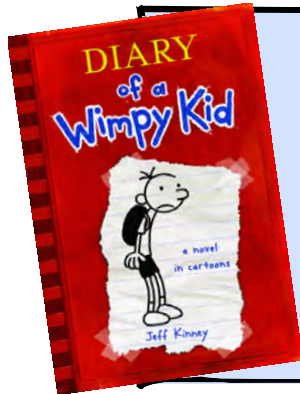
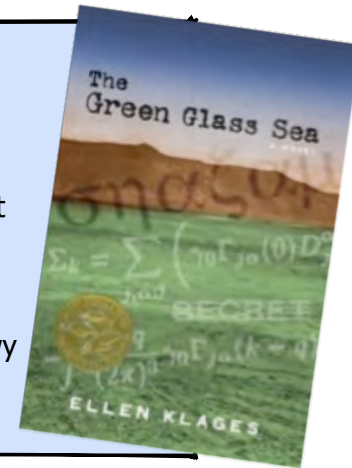
Hiaasen, Carl. **Hoot**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 2002.

Roy Eberhardt's family moves around. A lot. Making him forever the new kid and the target of bullies. While dodging bullies, Roy notices a mysterious "running boy" and begins an adventure trying to figure out why this boy is in the wilderness of Florida alone. Along the way, Roy encounters a different set of bullies – a large corporation, led by Chuck Muckle, which may destroy the habitat of a tiny burrowing owl. If you like zany characters, funny lines, and a mystery, this book is for you!



Klages, Ellen. **The Green Glass Sea**. New York: Viking. 2006.

Dewey finally gets to move back with her father, an American scientist working on a top-secret project during World War II. There are security restrictions, but Dewey doesn't care. She's with her dad, can read all she wants, and can visit the dump to get parts for her own mechanical projects. Dewey really likes to hang out around the scientists; it's girls her own age that she doesn't understand. Dewey has found her place until dad has to go across the country to Washington, DC leaving Dewey to stay with another family on the base and their daughter, Suze, a bully who calls her "Screwy Dewey" and makes her life miserable. Can brainy Dewey and rough Suze ever be friends as the top-secret war project is completed and changes the world forever?



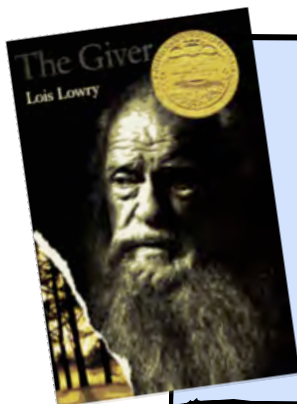
Kinney, Jeff. **The Diary of a Wimpy Kid: A Novel in Cartoons**. New York: Amulet Books. 2007.

"This is a JOURNAL, not a diary...this was MOM's idea, not mine." Greg Heffley does not want to be considered a sissy. In this first book of the series, Greg has just entered middle school and life is tough. His brother Roderick, the "cheese touch," playing the part of a tree in the Wizard of Oz, and a pink barbie shoe up the nose only add to Greg's troubles. Can he and best friend, Rowley Jefferson, make it to the seventh grade? If you like this one there is a series of five (so far!).

Lord, Cynthia. **Rules**. New York: Scholastic. 2006.

Most kids figure out the "rules" of behavior by observing others. But twelve-year-old Catherine's younger brother, David, is autistic. Catherine keeps a book of rules for David in the hope that he will stop embarrassing her, "a boy can take off his shirt to swim, but not his shorts." Between feeling like her parents expect too much of her, trying to impress the new girl next door, Kristi; and keeping ahead of the neighborhood bully, Ryan; Catherine has little time to enjoy her summer. Will she find time to make a surprising new friend?



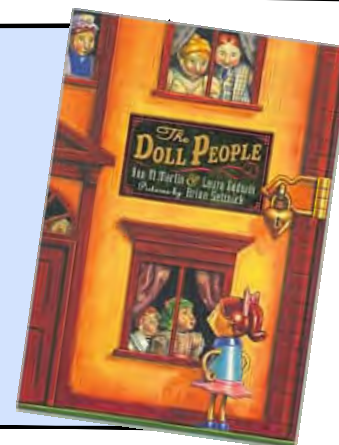


Lowry, Lois. **The Giver.** New York: Houghton Mifflin. 1993.

Things are wonderful in Jonas' community. Each community member is studied carefully and their jobs and families are chosen for them. No one is fired, divorced, or abandoned – children are loved and the elderly are cared for and respected. Jonas is looking forward to his "Ceremony of Twelve" where he will be given his job assignment. Jonas' assignment is one of the most respected: the receiver of memories. What memories? What do the memories reveal to Jonas? Is peace and perfection really something to strive for, and at what cost?

Martin, Ann. **The Doll People.** Illus. Brian Selznick. New York: Hyperion. 2000.

Annabelle Doll is eight years old, but she's had a hundred-year life. Not much changes inside the dollhouse. Outside the dollhouse, girls grow up and their daughters move into the real bedroom where the dollhouse sits. But this year is different for Annabelle, the new plastic Funcraft dolls and their house move into the real little sister's bedroom. Annabelle's modern friend, Tiffany helps her on a mission to find missing Aunt Sarah. They need to avoid being seen - or else they'll be turned into "doll state" and be frozen. They also need to stay out of the way of the cat, Captain. Did you ever wonder what really happens when you close your bedroom door and leave your toys behind?



Sage, Angie. **Magyk: Septimus Heap, Book One.** New York: Harper Collins. 2005.

Are you sad the Harry Potter has come to the end? Give these books a try! Silas Heap finds an abandoned baby in the snow, and returns home with her only to discover his own newborn son has died. Who is baby Jenna, really, and who would leave her in the snow? This is book one in a series full of magical creatures and fantasy that help Jenna find her true self. Madam Marcia, the mysterious Boy 412, Aunt Zelda, and Nicko all help Jenna discover that "all things are meant to be part of the living whole." The ending is sure to leave you ready to read the rest of the series: Flyte, Physik, Queste, Syren, and Darke - with one more to go, I am hooked!



Schmidt, Gary D. **Okay for Now**. New York: Clarion Books. 2011.

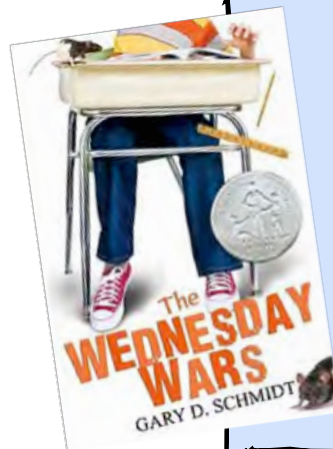
Eighth grader, Doug Swieteck had to move because his dad mouthed off to his employer and lost his job. Moving is the least of his problems. Doug quickly makes enemies with the gym teacher, and his principal has that annoying quality of referring to himself in the third person. Doug gets a delivery job at his friend's restaurant, but Doug's brother becomes a suspect in a robbery there. Doug's biggest secret is he doesn't know how to read, spending time in the library he begins drawing pictures from the Audubon book. The librarian is selling off the pages to keep the library running! Can Doug save the book and the library?

Schmidt, Gary D. **Straw into Gold**. New York: Clarion Books. 2001.

Why did Rumplestiltskin want the baby in the first place? This is the tale of what happens after Rumplestiltskin takes the baby away. "What fills a hand fuller than a skein of gold?" That's the riddle young Tousele must solve to save his life and the lives of others. He also must learn about the role set for himself long ago. The ending comes as a surprise, and the lessons Tousele learns may not be the ones you predict!



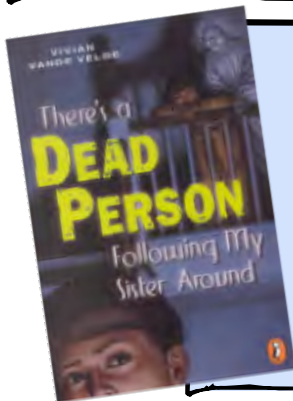
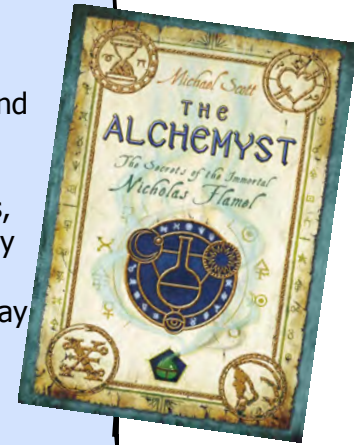
Schmidt, Gary D. **The Wednesday Wars**. New York: Houghton Mifflin. 2007.



"I never thought being in 7th grade would lead to so many death threats," says Holling Hoodhood. Holling's just a kid trying to get through. He's trapped each Wednesday for two hours with his teacher, Mrs. Baker because he's the only kid that doesn't go to a religious class. She's not happy either, and makes him read Shakespeare. Zany events follow leading to death threats from Holling's big sister, Heather; Doug Swieteck's big brother; Mrs. Baker; classmate Danny Hupfer; Meryl Lee, that girl that has had a crush on him since third grade; and even Mai Thi, the new girl from Vietnam. Oh, he also had to meet his idol, Mickey Mantle, while wearing yellow tights with feathers on his backside. How does that happen? You just have to read to find out, but be prepared to laugh out loud if you've ever had a bad day – or many bad days – in middle school!

Scott, Michael. **The Alchemist.** New York: Delacorte Press. 2007.

Twins Sophie and Josh Newman take summer jobs in San Francisco, Josh at a bookstore, and Sophie at the coffee shop across the street. But the bookstore is owned by 700 year-old Nicolas Flamel and Josh and Sophie may find their own secret past, if they can outlive the mysterious John Dee that's trying to kill them! Meet Joan of Arc, Virginia Dare, werewolves, vampires, and mythological creatures. This fantasy series combines Percy Jackson and Harry Potter. It's good to have a search engine beside you to look up historical facts, myths, and legends while you read - the author did a lot of research and ties them all in to a modern day fast paced adventure, combining real-world locations with magic and myths. Cliffhanger endings lead you into the series: The Magician, The Sorceress, The Necromancer, and The Warlock. I am eagerly awaiting The Enchantress coming out next summer!



Vande Velde, Vivian. **There's a Dead Person Following My Sister Around.** New York: Harcourt. 1999.

What do you do when there is an angry ghost following around your sister and her new imaginary friend? When your parents don't believe you, your older brother sits on you to gain control of the TV remote, your cousin starts dressing in black and despising you, and you have a Social Studies project due in two days? Ted finds help in a journal in the attic. But when the ghost starts slamming doors and moving boxes, will Ted be able to convince his family he's telling the truth in time to save himself and his sister?

Vanderpool, Clare. **Moon Over Manifest.** New York: Delacorte Press. 2010.

Abilene's dad sends her away for the summer of 1936 to stay with an old friend, Pastor Shady Howard, in a town called Manifest. Abilene finds an old cigar box filled with strange mementos and a letter from 1917 warning about a spy in town named "The Rattler." This is a tale told in two times – Abilene's story in 1936 and Ned & Jinx's story in 1917. With the help of her new friends, Ruthann and Lettie, and a strange diviner named Miss Sadie, Abilene uncovers the story of Ned and Jinx, reveals "The Rattler," and learns surprising history much closer than she knew.



Picture Books

The publishing term "Picture Book" refers to format, not reading level. Picture Books are in here for the ART, they are not "baby books." Although some are in fact "easy readers," many have more difficult text. Some have no words at all! They are to be enjoyed by all ages, but especially by us here at the Creative & Performing Arts School!



Illustration from
The Invention of Hugo Cabret

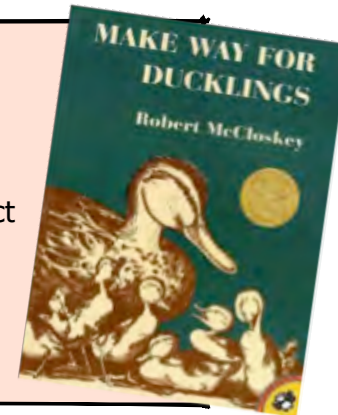


Auch, Mary Jane. **The Plot Chickens.** Illus. Herm Auch. New York: Holiday House. 2009.

Eggshilarated and full of puns, Henrietta loves to read & one day decides to write her own book. The other hens feel a chicken cannot write, but Henrietta persists. Will her novel get great reviews (and does that matter?) An outline of the writing rules & the fans that REALLY matter.

McCloskey, Robert. **Make Way for Ducklings.** New York: The Viking Press. 1941.

Finding a home is never an easy task, but Mr. & Mrs. Mallard finally choose the perfect spot and begin their family. See the city of Boston from a duck's eye-view! Can city streets be safe for ducklings? Only if a kindly police officer helps out!



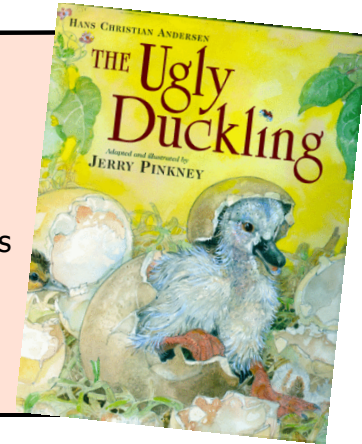


Pinkney, Jerry. **The Lion & The Mouse**. New York: Little, Brown, and Company. 2009.

Sometimes a little friend can do big things for you. A picture really IS worth a thousand words in this book of pictures. The story is based on Aesop's Fable and is told through beautiful illustrations.

Pinkney, Jerry. **Hans Christian Andersen: The Ugly Duckling**. New York: Morrow Junior Books. 1999.

Who gets to define ugly and how much we can blossom as we grow? Rich watercolors illustrate the classic story of the Ugly Duckling. The pictures here should be studied closely so you don't miss the detail!



Rathmann, Peggy. **Officer Buckle and Gloria**. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 1995.

Officer Buckle has a lot of safety rules. It's pretty boring to listen to them all, until Gloria begins to demonstrate! Officer Buckle begins to feel unneeded, but this book proves how nobody can do it alone. "Always stick with your buddy!"



Sabuda, Robert. **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum: A Commemorative Pop-up.** New York: Little Simon. 2000.

Art and engineering literally combine to bring this magical book to life. Intricate pop-ups complete with the twisting tornado, melting witch, and flying emerald balloon are just some of the surprises waiting to jump out at you as you read the classic story.

Scieszka, Jon. **The True Story of the Three Little Pigs.** Illus. Lane Smith. New York: Viking Juvenile. 1989.

Have you ever wondered how the wolf felt? Is it fair to call him big and bad? Always consider point-of-view, even when reading fairy tales! This is a new twist on an old tale, and a fresh way to look at a situation that you thought you had all figured out.

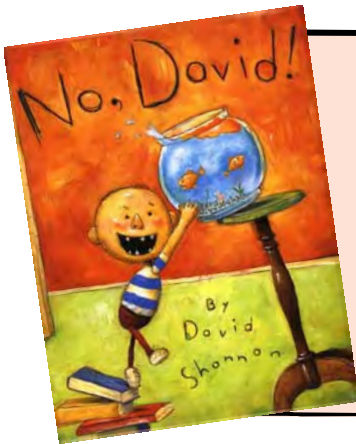


Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret.** New York: Scholastic Press. 2007.

Is this a graphic novel, a picture book, or a chapter book? It's a new twist on all three. Don't let the thickness scare you - the book is FULL of hundreds of drawings. The drawings are clues to Hugo's mysterious world of keeping clocks and keeping secrets. Magic tricks and machinery both have pieces that must fall into place to work as intended. Can Hugo order his life the same way? When he meets Isabelle, Hugo must decide if she is a friend or an obstacle. She's keeping some secrets of her own...

Sendak, Maurice. **Where the Wild Things Are.** New York: Harper & Row. 1963.

Max is sent to his room without his supper. He escapes by boat to the land Where the Wild Things Are with their big claws and yellow eyes. Can Max out-stomp and out-stubborn the Wild Things?

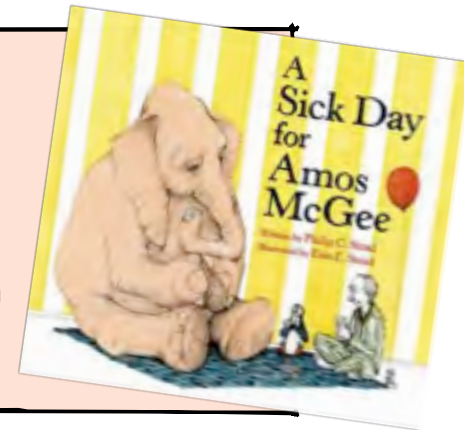


Shannon, David. **No! David.** New York: The Blue Sky Press. 1998.

David hears "NO!" a lot. This funny book illustrates just why. From jumping on the bed to coloring on the walls...just what will David think up next? And how many of these things have you done, or wanted to do before you heard, "NO!"

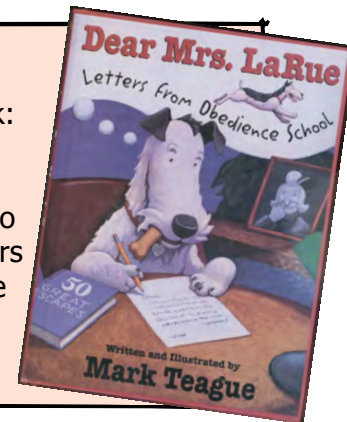
Stead, Phillip C. **A Sick Day for Amos McGee.** Illus. Erin E. Stead. New York: Roaring Brook Press. 2010.

There is no zookeeper quite like Amos McGee. He always makes time for each animal, sharing their favorite activities. When he doesn't show up one day, elephant, tortoise, penguin, rhinoceros, and owl catch the city bus to check on Amos, and repay his kindness on his sick day!



Teague, Mark. **Dear Mrs. LaRue: Letters from Obedience School.** New York: Scholastic. 2002.

"Dear Mrs. LaRue, By the time you read this, I will be gone." Ike has been sent to obedience school, and he is not happy. Why? You'll find out as you read his letters home to his owner, Mrs. LaRue. Consider the point of view of the victims and the perpetrators - wait! - which is which?

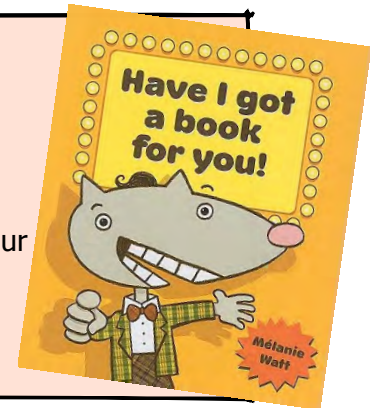


Van Allsburg, Chris. **The Polar Express.** Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 1985.

Do you hear the true magic of Christmas? Having a hard time falling asleep on Christmas Eve? Travel to the North Pole on the Polar Express where there is hot chocolate "as rich as melted chocolate bars." Witness the magic as hundreds of children send Santa off on his big night.

Watt, Melanie. **Have I Got a Book for You!** Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press. 2009.

There is no stopping with the propaganda techniques in this book! Logos, Ethos, Pathos - they are all there, can you discover them all? Mr. Al Foxwood is guaranteed to increase your happiness - or at least your silliness - level with his persuasive techniques.





Wiesner, David. **Tuesday**. New York: Clarion Books. 1991.

"Tuesday evening, around eight." The events begin like a news report; flying frogs are out and about in this picture book with an imaginative plot line. Stay tuned for the surprise end-twist!

Willems, Mo. **We Are in a Book!** New York: Hyperion Books for Children. 2010.

Imagine what it is like to be read. As **you** read **them**, Gerald and Piggie interact with you, the reader, in this laugh out loud book. Banana! I dare you not to giggle.



Yolen, Jane. **Owl Moon**. Illus. John Schoenherr. New York: Philomel Books. 1987.

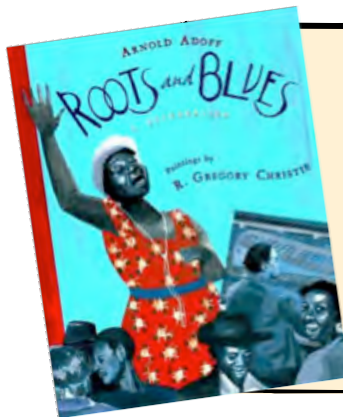
A young girl is finally old enough to go owling with her father, just like her older brothers before her. The trees can throw shadows, the night can be cold; will she be rewarded? Imagery is rich in this book.

Nonfiction

Poetry



Illustration from Poetrees



Adoff, Arnold. **Roots and Blues: A Celebration.** Illus. R. Gregory Christie. New York: Clarion Books. 2011.

Alliteration and onomatopoeia are two poetic devices that make these poems sing to your ear like a blues record. The African American experience from villages to slave ships to hot, humid southern slavery and oppression. From tenant farms, families, ancestors, to the Blues Clubs of Memphis, Detroit, and Chicago. And the rhythmic music that underscored it all.

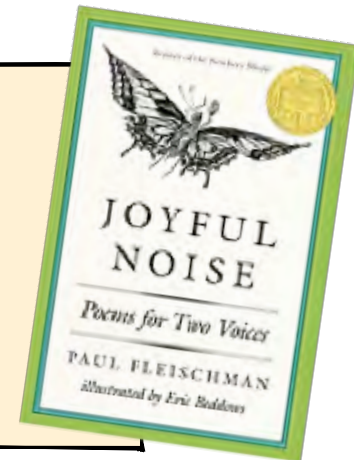
Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. **César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can.** Illus. David Diaz. Tarrytown, NY: Marshall Cavendish. 2004.

The story of César Chávez told through free verse poetry. A boy born just before the Great Depression, who had to attend over thirty schools because the family moved around for work; Chávez became a modern-day hero that organized migrant farm workers to fight for their rights, protested poor working conditions, and organized Americans to fight against the use of pesticides on their food. Although the book is poetry, the glossary, timeline, and biography page in the back help students research Chávez's life.



Fleischman, Paul. **Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices**. Illus. Eric Beddows. New York: Harper Trophy. 1988.

Just as the title reads, it takes "Two Voices" to read this book of poetry. It is meant to be heard. "Hear" moths, crickets, bees and beetles; mayflies and even book lice – poetry in the voice of insects resonating with the sounds of insects – plenty of onomatopoeia! This one you'll want to read aloud, with a friend!



Florian, Douglas. **Poetrees**. New York: Beach Lane Books. 2010.

Complete with a "Glossatree" at the end, this is a book of concrete poems about trees. Trees you know, like the Oak, and exotic trees, like the Monkey Puzzle: "Ex-seed-ingly old. / Ex-seed-ingly tall. / And all from a seed so / Ex-seed-ingly small." Once you read this, you'll want to try writing one of your own.

Hudson, Wade. **Pass It On: African American Poetry for Children**. Illus. Floyd Cooper. New York: Scholastic. 1993.

Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, and Gwendolyn Brooks are just a few of the African American poets represented in this collection. Culture, history, and rhythmic prose tie the collection together.

"Dance! Whirl! Whirl! / Till the quick day is done. / Rest at pale evening... / A tall, slim tree... / Night coming tenderly / Black like me" ~Langston Hughes



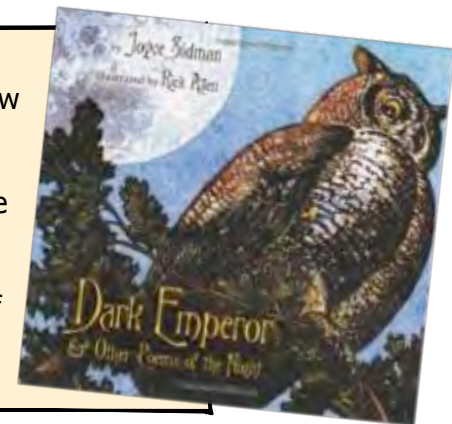


Myers, Walter Dean. **We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart.** Illus. Christopher Myers. New York: Collins. 2011.

A portrait - in poetry and painting - of America. This is a tribute written to the country considering the impact on history after the grief of September 11, 2001. The free verse poetry is written by Walter Dean Myers, author of The Glory Field. The portraits are painted mural style by his son, Christopher Myers, and depict Americans famous and not-so-famous. Included on each page are quotes from Americans of all walks of life.

Sidman, Joyce. **Dark Emperor & Other Poems of the Night.** Illus. Rick Allen. New York: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 2010.

"The night's a feast of sound and spark, the night's a wild, enchanted park. Welcome to the night!" in this book of poetry about nocturnal animals, plants and their nights. Each poem is accompanied by facts about the plants or the animals like primrose moths, baby porcupettes, and the title Dark Emperor owl. The illustrations are full of camouflaged surprises!



Zahares, Wade. **Big, Bad and a Little Bit Scary: Poems that Bite Back.** New York: Viking. 2001.

The illustrator collects poems about wildlife and adds pastel on paper art that is just "a little bit scary." Do you dare come this close to the eel, viper and barracuda? How about the shark, alligator, and lion?

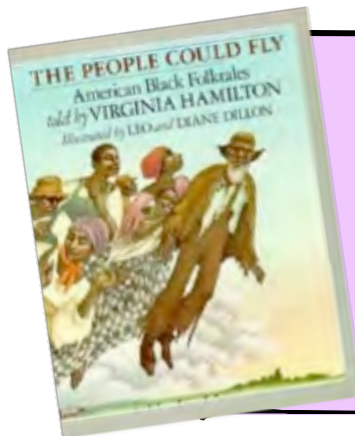


Illustration from
*More Scary Stories to
Tell in the Dark*

Folk & Fairy Tales

Bryan, Ashley. **The Story of Lightning & Thunder.** New York: Atheneum. 1993.

Thunder and Lightning did not always live in the sky, but on the west coast of Africa, back when Africa was called Alkebu-lan. This is the folk story of the trouble the young ram, Lightening, caused and how he and his mother were banished to the sky.

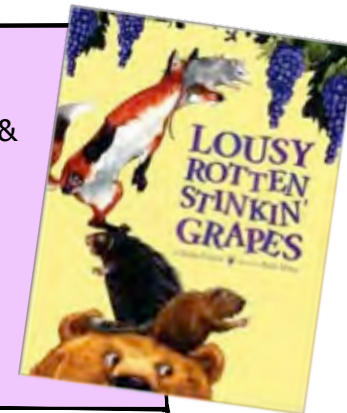


Hamilton, Virginia. **The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales.** Illus. Leo and Diane Dillon. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. 1985.

"No amount of hard labor and suffering could suppress [the slave's] powers of imagination." Virginia Hamilton has collected here twenty-four folk tales from African and Black Portuguese slaves and free immigrants. After each tale, Hamilton gives a brief history of the background and versions of the story. There are tales with lessons, tales with riddles, and tales about the road to freedom.

Palatini, Margie. **Lousy Rotten, Stinkin' Grapes.** Illus. Barry Moser. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2009.

This is the folktale of fox & grapes, with a twist. Sometimes we can make things too complicated by trying to be "sly, clever, and smart." The answer that seems too simple might really be the way to go. Be sure to look closely at the animals' facial expressions!



Schwartz, Alvin. **More Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark.** Illus. Stephen Gammell. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books. 1984.

To tell in the dark – not to read in the dark – well, at least not alone! A collection of short, one-to-two page, urban legends, ghost stories, and folktales guaranteed to creep you out. This book is a must around your next campfire! What's the easiest way to change a suit on a corpse? Are you sure you want to be in the starting lineup? Why is it important to drive your date all the way home and see her to the door? How do you know if you are really dead? Strange questions with creepier answers!

Stevens, Janet. **Old Bag of Bones: A Coyote Tale.** New York: Holiday House. 1996.

Age is what you make of it. Will Old Coyote be tired, hungry, and in poor eyesight or will he gain youth, strength and power by tricking a young buffalo? Is there wisdom, respect, and experience to be had, or is the trick on Old Coyote?



Science



Illustration from *Hip Pocket Papa*



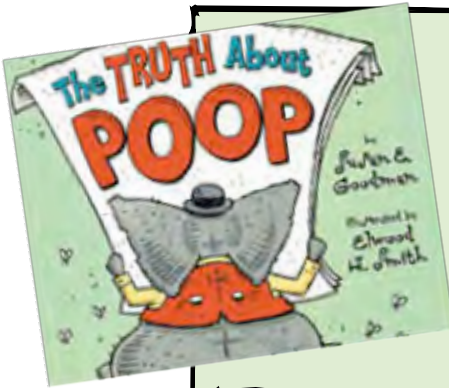
Bishop, Nic. **Frogs**. New York: Scholastic. 2008.

Big frogs (as big as a human baby), small frogs (as small as your fingertip), old frogs (36 years!) and young frogs. Meet them all in this book full of weird frog facts about the unique ways frogs are suited to their natural habitats. Some fly, some freeze. Don't miss the last pages where the author describes just how he got the frogs to cooperate for their photos!

Bishop, Nic. **Lizards**. New York: Scholastic. 2010.

Basilisk lizards can walk on water. See-through scales cover some lizard's eyes. Some lizards have tails that break away to escape predators. Sticky lizards, flying lizards, desert lizards, jungle lizards, dip into this book to see action-photos and weird facts about all types of lizards, an animal that has been on earth since the time of the dinosaurs!



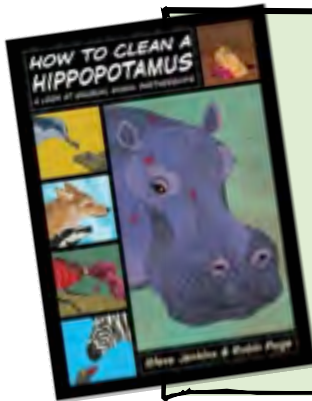


Goodman, Susan E. **The Truth About Poop.** Illus. Elwood E. Smith. New York: Viking. 2004.

Everybody does it, why not learn all about it? You'll find thousands of great tidbits on poop (and really funny illustrations). How do animals poop? Why do we poop? How do we clean it up? How does the sewer system operate? Poop in space, poop as energy, poop as food... This book has more than you ever wanted to know!

Haas, Robert B. **I Dreamed of Flying Like a Bird: My Adventures Photographing Wild Animals from a Helicopter.** Washington, DC: National Geographic. 2010.

The author/photographer hung out of a low-flying aircraft in a safety harness, and the pictures are like none you've seen. Each page is accompanied with scientific facts about the animals, their interactions, and their environment. Across oceans and continents, view exotic animals like flamingos, buffalo, sharks, whales, bears, and more in places that humans could not access by foot!



Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page. **How to Clean a Hippopotamus: A Look at Unusual Animal Partnerships.** New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2010.

"Why does a plover [bird] stroll right into a crocodiles mouth?" Have these and other questions answered about symbiosis, when each animal helps the other. In this interesting book about working together you'll find many strange, but smart, pairings. Even dogs and humans! Hint: the Egyptian plover is sometimes called the toothpick bird...

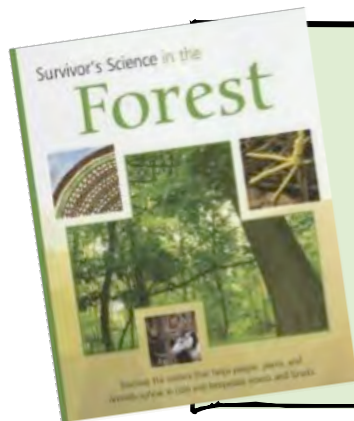


Markle, Sandra. **Hip-Pocket Papa**. Illus. Allan Marks. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 2010.

The adult hip-pocket frog is smaller than a human thumbnail. Mom and Dad both guard the eggs, but once the tadpoles hatch, they hide in the father frog's "pockets." An Australian story of predator-prey, drought, and other dangers, with determination the father frog raises the tadpoles to froglets ready to venture out on their own.

Montgomery, Sy. **Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot**. Photo. Nic Bishop. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 2010.

This New Zealand Parrot weighs in over 8 lbs, lives underground, plays like a kitten, and only comes out at night. Once humans brought predators to the birds' native island in the 1700's, the Kakapo came very close to extinction. There are only eighty-eight Kakapo left on two small islands off the New Zealand coast. This is the story of the team of scientists trying to save them, incubating, feeding, cleaning, studying, and loving. 2011 recipient of the Robert F. Sibert Medal.



Riley, Peter D. **Survivor's Science in the Forest**. Chicago: Raintree. 2005.

Instructions included for surviving in the forest. Learn about forests and the weather and wildlife found there as you travel through this book full of survival techniques, crafts, and experiments. Tie a knot, build a safe campfire, and know what animals to avoid. Create shelter, find your way, and learn what to eat, drink and wear. This book is chock full of all this and more for surviving and exploring in the forest.

Rotner, Shelley and Anne Woodhull. **The Buzz on Bees: Why Are They Disappearing?** New York: Holiday House. 2010.

Since 2004, Honeybees are disappearing without a trace. No dead bees, no live bees – missing bees. This book explains why honeybees are so important to our food supply (one out of every three bites you take!), and offers eleven theories on what might be happening to the bees. Learn what you can do to help solve the mystery and to help save the bees.



Schwartz, David M. and Yael Schy. **What in the Wild? Mysteries of Nature Concealed...and Revealed.** Photo. Dwight Kuhn. New York: Tricycle Press. 2010.

Mystery, science, poetry, and photography all in one! The clues to each nature mystery is a poem and a close-up photograph. Can you use the clues to figure out what each is about? Once you give your best guess, flip open the page to reveal the answers – complete with more great photographs and factual information on each. Nature is full of mystery! My favorite? The Star-Nosed Mole.

Thomas, Isabel. **Fireworks! Chemical Reactions.** Chicago: Raintree. 2007.

Everybody loves to watch fireworks, but did you ever wonder just how they do that? This book answers the chemistry and history to all the questions: How do they get so high before everything explodes? How do they shoot across the sky? How do we get different shapes, colors, and sounds? Fabulous pictures, too!



Biography & History



Illustration from
Wheels of Change

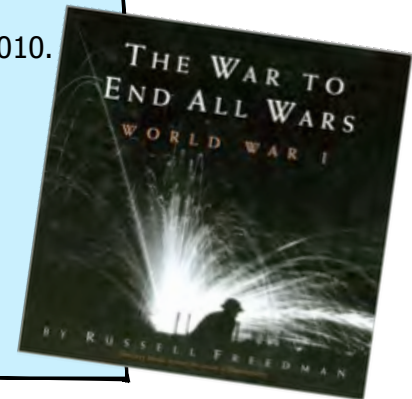


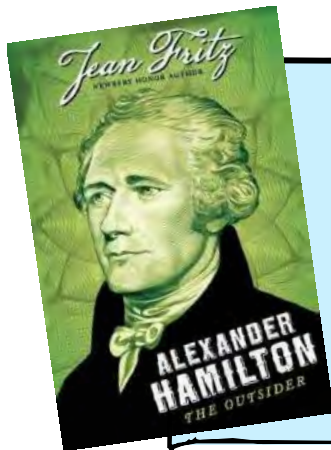
Freedman, Russell. **Lafayette and the American Revolution.** New York: Holiday House. 2010.

Still a teenager, Lafayette ignored an order of the King of France and secretly set sail to help win the American Revolution. Quickly becoming a close friend to Washington and the youngest General of the Continental Army, Lafayette later sailed back to France with Benjamin Franklin to secure help from the French. Lafayette and his troops played a major role at Yorktown, the battle that effectively ended the Revolutionary War. Find out what inspired this young man to run away to fight for a cause that was not his own.

Freedman, Russell. **The War to End All Wars: World War I.** New York: Clarion Books. 2010.

Dynamite, repeating rifles, poison gas, tanks, flame-throwers, and submarines are among the terrifying weapons first used in World War I. Called the "War to End All Wars" because of the belief that humans would never again let something so horrible happen. At the wars end, British sergeant major Richard Tobin remarked, "I should have been happy. I was sad. I thought of the slaughter, the hardships, the waste and the friends I had lost." His words are among the many first-hand accounts and photographs that enhance Russell Freedman's story of the savage First World War.





Fritz, Jean. **Alexander Hamilton: The Outsider.** New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. 2011.

He may be best known for his death. At age 49, Alexander Hamilton died of complications from a gunshot wound inflicted the day before in a duel with Aaron Burr. You often look right at his portrait – Hamilton is the guy on the ten-dollar bill. Learn here about his life: his birth and childhood in the West Indies, his schooling in New York, his role as an aide-de-camp to General Washington during the Revolutionary War, and his role as founding father and statesmen to our country.

Hughes, Susan. **Case Closed? Nine Mysteries Unlocked by Modern Science.** Illus. Michael Wandelmaier. Toronto, ON: Kids Can Press. 2010.

Science takes on the “missing” case files for five individuals, an entire race of people, a city, an airplane, and one submarine. Covering almost 3500 years (Hatshepsut was last seen around 1457_{bce} and the INS Dakar Israeli submarine was last seen January 25, 1968), many clues are tackled in these famous mysteries. What does S-T-E-N-D-E-C mean in a Morse-code distress call? How can a body missing 50 years be found almost perfectly preserved? Did jewels sewn into a dress save a royal princess? Read on to find out if we can now say “Case Closed!”



Kerby, Mona. **Amelia Earhart: Courage in the Sky (Women of Our Time).** Illus. Eileen McKeating. New York: Puffin Books. Kindle Edition. 1990.

“Because I can.” That’s the reason Amelia gives for doing things that seem strange for a girl. Long before her first flight in a plane, read about Amelia’s other “flights” – on a homemade roller coaster, a sled, a cross-country car trip. Learn about Amelia Earhart as a child and young girl, and then discover the events that led up to one of the biggest real-life mysteries of all time!



Krull, Kathleen and Kathryn Hewitt. **Lives of the Presidents: Fame, Shame (and What the Neighbors Thought) Updated.** Boston: Harcourt Children's Books. 2011.

Presidents are people, too. Sometimes that's hard to remember – but not with this gossip collection of quick biographies. Can you guess which president was the first to wear long pants? Was a terrible speller? Married his teacher? Had a pet herd of elephants? Wrote poetry in his journal? Well, find out the answers to these secrets and many more by reading Lives of the Presidents!

Lange, Karen E. **Nevermore: A Photobiography of Edgar Allan Poe.** Washington, D.C.: National Geographic Society. 2009.

Sometimes truth is weirder than fiction, even when compared to horror stories. Learn about Edgar Allan Poe's tragic life and strange death. Maybe you'll come to understand the mind of the man that invented the psychological thriller!



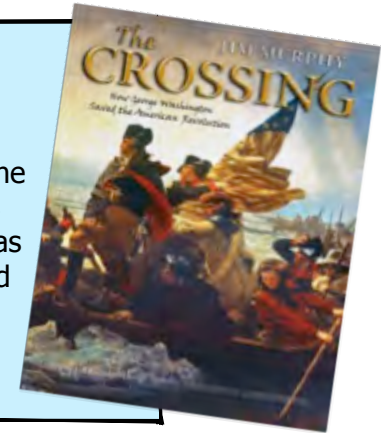
Macy, Sue. **Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way).** Washington, DC: National Geographic. 2011.

Although some feared it would take women and girls "into paths that lead directly to sin," the bicycle came along in the 1880's and changed the lives of women. Restrictive fashion of long skirts, corsets, and petticoats was changed to make the new popular activity easier for women. Bicycling was one of the first racing sports with serious women competitors. The bicycle gave women a convenient mode of independent transportation. This book is full of fascinating primary sources and first-hand stories. A new perspective on women's history, it is Mrs. Soldavini's #1 pick in nonfiction.



Murphy, J. **The Crossing: How George Washington Saved the American Revolution.** New York: Scholastic. 2010.

"A few days ago they had given up the cause for lost. Their late successes have turned the scale, and now they are all liberty mad again." Jim Murphy quotes a British Loyalist in his story of this critical point in American history. George Washington did not begin the war as a brilliant commander. This story describes the journey from leading an overwhelmed and forlorn army to the victorious leader of the battles of Trenton and Princeton -- major turning points in the American Revolution. Includes a list of internet sources to war sites that have travel and visiting information as well as virtual tours.



Rubin, Susan Goldman. **Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein.** Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 2011.

You've got the talent, genius even, but your father is against it. Young Leonard Bernstein had to fight his entire life to get his love of music appreciated by his father. Overcoming this obstacle to become one of the 20th century's best and youngest American composer, conductor, and performer, Leonard Bernstein's (West Side Story) motto and advice to all artists was, "Relax. Invent. Perform. Have Fun." Full of family stories shared by his siblings and friends.

Scieszka, Jon. **Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka.** New York: Viking. 2008.

Complete with a "not your usual index" that includes "poop," "puke," and "urine," author Jon Scieszka writes an auto-biography of his childhood as the second of six boys. Hilarious memories of broken bones, melted army men, hand-me down clothing, catholic school, brotherhood, and car rides: "the whole pile of us six squirmy boys were smashing, poking, and punching each other," will sound familiar to most boys – and help girls to understand them (well, maybe). At least everyone will be laughing after reading this bio.



Magazines

Cartoon from Dig



Dig. Cobblestone Publishing. Petersborough, NH. 2011.

Archaeology is not just old and dusty dinosaur bones. Learn about recent finds and ancient artifacts. Complete with jokes and readers submissions, too. Full of resources about archaeology and web sites to visit.

National Geographic for Kids. National Geographic Society. Washington, DC. 2011.

If you have an interest in animals and ecology, this is the magazine for you! Explore by reading about familiar and not-so-familiar animals of all types each month. Read about nature in your backyard and nature across the world. Learn about kids just like you getting out and being active. Be sure to also visit kids.NationalGeographic.com for even more: games, photos, and videos.





Ranger Rick. National Wildlife Foundation. Reston, VA. 2011.

Learn about wildlife and protecting their environment for all areas of our planet. See amazing photographs of animals – from the cute to the ferocious. Read about real kids making a real difference. Go beyond your own backyard!

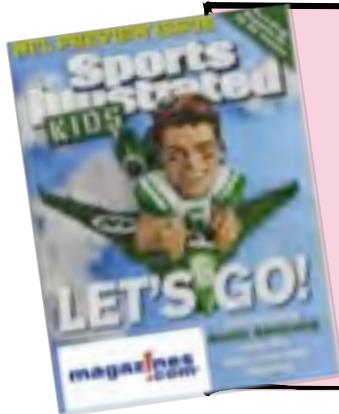
Shonen Jump. VIZ Media. San Francisco. 2011.

New manga monthly! Is YuGiOh your passion? Each issue features full-length manga stories alongside strategy articles for your cards and gaming. Keep up with the adventures had by Ichigo, Kabuto, Luffy, and more. When you've read each month's edition follow up at shonenjump.com for more manga, awards, and games!



Sports Illustrated for Kids. Time Inc. New York. 2011.

Preview the upcoming professional sports season. Get all the news on your favorite players. Each month comes with collectible sports cards and articles on kids like you that are doing great things in sports. Amazing action photos from the month in sports. Also visit SIKids.com for interactive games, recent blogs, and videos.



Now
Showing



Movies

Because of Winn-Dixie. Dir. Wayne Wang. 20th Century Fox, 2005. FIOS TV Video On Demand. 13 Nov. 2011.

Moving all the time is hard, but when your dad's the preacher that is what happens. Opal, abandoned by her mother seven years earlier, misses her old friends and has trouble finding new ones – until she discovers a raggedy stray dog causing trouble at the local grocery. Opal claims the dog (much to her dad's dismay) and names him Winn-Dixie after the store. Winn-Dixie helps Opal makes friends with Otis, the pet store musician; Miss Franny, the librarian; and the local "witch," Gloria Dump.



Inkheart. Dir. Iain Softley. New Line Studio, 2009. FIOS TV Flex View. 12 Nov. 2011.

Meggie Folchart discovers her father, Mo, has a very strange gift. He is a Silvertongue and can read characters out of books. One night, he read a villain out, and her mother fell in. Nine years later he finally finds another copy of the novel to try and read Meggie's mother back to them. But Capricorn, the villain, does not want to go back and will do everything possible to thwart their attempts. With help from some storybook heroes, can this family be reunited?

Tale of Despereaux. Dir. Sam Fell. Universal Studios, 2008. FIOS TV Video On Demand. 13 Nov. 2011.

Despereaux is not your normal mouse. He's not afraid, does not scamper, does not cower. But this is not just his tale. Roscuro the rat is banished for accidentally killing the queen, Mig the servant girl is jealous of the princess, the motherless princess is moody and this gets her kidnapped. Can Despereaux rescue the princess? Can Roscuro redeem his name? Can Mig find love? Will the princess survive?



A Wrinkle in Time. Dir. John Kent Harrison. Disney Films, 2003. Netflix. Web. 12 Nov. 2011.

Meg Murray and her brother, Charles Wallace, search for their missing father. Their friend Calvin joins them on a time-bending adventure to strange planets with guides Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who, and Mrs Which. They must learn to control the tesseract and defeat the power of IT. Perhaps the kids have held the answer all along.

Be careful with movies based on books! They are fun to watch, but try to read the book, too! I always try to read the book *first*, so that the movie-makers do not interfere with my own imagination!



Websites



Illustration from
Pottermore



Cyberchase. PBSKids.org. New York Public Media WNET Thirteen. 2011. Web. 16 Nov. 2011.

Tons of math games, activities, and explanations. Based on the PBS show by the same name, Mrs. Soldavini's daughter claims she learned more math from this show than in all her years in MCPS elementary schools... My favorites are the tasty real recipes that teach measurement and the brainteasers like the "Gotcha Game."

Grammar Ninja. Kwarp.com. 2010. Web. 16 Nov. 2011.

Test your parts-of-speech ninja skills! This is not your old school sentence diagramming. Play at beginner, skilled, or master level, and there is even a Wii-compatible version. Improve your writing skill without picking up a pencil!





KidsClick.org. Kent State University School of Library and Information Science. 2011. Web. 16 Nov. 2011.

Kidsclick is a search engine for kids, with sites that are "engaging and enlightening" for kids, owned and maintained by librarians and library students at Kent State University. A few cool sites from a search and click: "Hero Machine Classic Superhero Generator," "How to Play the Harmonica," "Skateboard Science," and "The Bug Club" but there is soooo much more! Click and explore.

Myths and Legends. East of England Broadband Network. 2006. Web. 16 Nov. 2011.

Myths and Legends has a collection of myths and legends from all over the world. There are games & history sections. In the "create your own story" section, you can write or record your own – and post. You can read other student's creations. If you enjoy strange happenings, fables, and urban legends – this is definitely a site you should check out.



Pottermore by JK Rowling. Pottermore Limited. 2011. Web. 16 Nov. 2011.

Pottermore is an exciting, interactive reading experience that is not quite like anything you've seen. Pick up a Harry Potter book to sit by your side as you go through this site. Story details are explained, clues are given, back story is added and at times JK Rowling pops up to speak directly to you about why she wrote the scenes. You get to be sorted into your house – just like Harry. As of this printing, Pottermore is in Beta testing, meaning it is not yet available to the public. They hope to go live by the end of 2011. Stay tuned.

Celebrating Diversity

In this bibliography, I've tried to select books that represent a wide variety of reading levels, topics, and cultures. Below is a list of award and notable book lists that you can check each year for more great books! I've included a bit about each award and mention which books in this bibliography are currently on the list:

The Coretta Scott King Award: Author and Illustrator Awards

Given to African American authors and illustrator for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions.

Award Winners in this bibliography:

Books:

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Authors

Walter Dean Myers
Virginia Hamilton
Christopher Paul Curtis
Ashley Bryan

Illustrators

Leo & Diane Dillon
Christopher Myers
Jerry Pinkney

<http://www.ala.org/emiart/cskbookawards/>

The Pura Belpré Award: Author and Illustrator Awards

Given to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

Award Winners in this bibliography:

Books:

César: ¡Sí, Se Puede! Yes, We Can! by
Carmen T. Bernier-Grand and illustrated
by David Diaz.

Recommended Authors - we read many
of their short stories in class:

Julia Alvarez
Pat Mora
Pam Muñoz-Ryan
Nancy Osa
Gary Soto

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/>

More Award Links

Use these links to find award-winning book lists:

Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Award <http://www.maslmd.org/>

Given to authors and/or illustrators of outstanding books chosen for the award by Maryland students.

Caldecott Medal <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecottmedal>

Awarded annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Newbery Medal <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberymedal>

Awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal>

Given to the most distinguished informational book published in the United States in English during the preceding year.

NCTE Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction <http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus>

An award promoting and recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children.

Notable Books

Many of the books in this bibliography appear on the **2011 Notable Books List of the American Library Association**. In parenthesis are any additional awards the book has won:

- **Hip-Pocket Papa**, by Sandra Markle.
- **A Sick Day for Amos McGee**, by Phillip C. Stead. (Caldecott Medal)
- **We Are in a Book!**, by Mo Willems. (Geisel Honor Book)
- **How to Clean a Hippopotamus**, by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page.
- **Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot**, by Sy Montgomery. (Sibert Medal)
- **Lizards**, by Nic Bishop.
- **Turtle in Paradise**, by Jennifer L. Holm. (Newbery Honor Book)
- **Lafayette and the American Revolution**, by Russell Freedman. (Sibert Honor Book)
- **Moon Over Manifest**, by Clare Vanderpool. (Newbery Medal)
- **Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night**, by Joyce Kilmer. (Newbery Honor Book)
- **Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse**, by Marilyn Singer

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb>

Favorite Dewey Decimals

Here is a list of areas, popular with students, that you may wish to visit next time you are in the library...
Visit www.KidsClick.org to explore all the Dewey Decimal topics!

000 – Computer science, information, and general

- 000 - Computer science, knowledge, and systems
- 030 - World Record Books
- 050 - Magazines, journals, and serials

100 – Philosophy and psychology

- 130 - The Paranormal
- 150 - Psychology & Optical Illusions

200 – Religion

- 290 - Mythology

300 – Social sciences

- 310 - Almanacs
- 390 - Folklore & Fairy Tales

400 – Language

- 410 - Sign Language
- 490 - Hieroglyphics

500 – Science

- 510 - Math
- 520 - Planets and Stars
- 550 - Dirt, Rocks, & Sand
- 560 - Fossils and Dinosaurs
- 570 - Biology

- 580 - Plants
- 590 - Animals

600 – Technology

- 620 - Trains, Cars, Trucks
- 640 - Cookbooks

700 – Arts and recreation

- 700 - Arts
- 720 - Architecture
- 730 - Sculpture, ceramics, and metalwork
- 740 - Drawing and decorative arts
- 750 - Painting
- 760 - Graphic arts
- 770 - Photography and computer art
- 780 - Music
- 790 - Sports, games, and entertainment

800 – Literature

- 811 - Poetry
- 812, 822 - Drama & Plays

900 – History and geography

- 900 - US History
- 910 - Travel Books
- 920 - Biography
- 930-999 - History of Other Countries