

St. Hilda's & St. Hugh's  
C.V. Starr Library & Learning Center



Summer Reading Suggestions 2021  
Entering Grade 2

## Tips for Parents

*“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift.”*  
— Kate DiCamillo, Newbery author of *Because of Winn-Dixie*

Here is a selection of books for you and your family to enjoy over the summer months and a few simple tips to help parents and caregivers nurture a child’s love of reading.

**Make it a family value.** Children are expert observers. Whether you prefer to read books, blogs, manuals or magazines, let your child see your enjoyment of your own reading.

**Make it a shared activity.** Talk with your child about what she or he is reading, or what you have read together. Discussing and retelling stories is a way to broaden your child’s understanding of the world. It also improves reading skills, builds vocabulary and fosters parent-child bonding.

**Make it part of your summer routine.** Try to share at least one book a day with your child. You can make reading a part of your child’s bedtime routine, or perhaps a breakfast read-aloud works better for your family. The goal is to encourage your child to pick up the habit of reading.

Many of these titles can be found at your local public library and may also be available in eBook or audiobook formats. You and your child may also want to refer to this list throughout the year when borrowing books from Sora, the school’s online eBook collection as well as the school library.

## Choosing A “Just Right Book”

One key to student success is ensuring the student’s reading level, comprehension ability, and the difficulty level of the text are aligned. One quick way to assess whether a book is at the appropriate level is to use the “five finger rule.” The student should choose a book that he or she wants to read. Open to any page and begin reading. As the child comes to words he or she can’t pronounce or doesn’t understand, put up a finger. If the reader puts up five fingers, put the book back and set it aside as something to read later on.

## Suggested Libraries and Children’s Bookstores

St. Hilda’s & St. Hugh’s  
C. V. Starr Library & Learning Center  
Librarian: Angela Perna  
aperna@sthildas.org

SHSH Sora eBook Library  
<https://soraapp.com/welcome>

The New York Public Library  
[www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org)

Book Culture  
<https://www.bookculture.com>

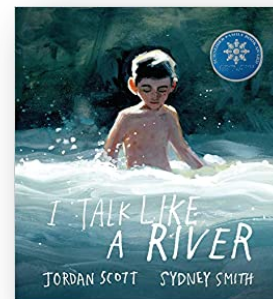
Books of Wonder  
<http://booksof wonder.com>

Bibliography compiled and arranged by Angela Perna, librarian, St. Hilda’s & St. Hugh’s. Annotations are courtesy of the American Library Association, Junior Library Guild, the Library of Congress, and The New York Public Library cataloging-in-publication notes.

## 2021 Children's Literary Award Winners

Awarded by the American Library Association, the 2021 children's book awards include:

- Asian/Pacific American Award (★winner ★honor)
- Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award (★winner ★honor)
- Pura Belpré Illustrator Award (★winner ★honor)
- Randolph Caldecott Medal (★winner ★honor)
- Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- Schneider Family Book Award (★winner ★honor)
- The Sydney Taylor Book Award (★winner)



Additional young people's literary awards:

- ❖ 2021 Amelia Bloomer List (honoring children's books with feminist themes)
- ✚ Audie Audiobook Award Winner
- ✧ Freeman Book Award awarded by The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia at Columbia University
- ∞ Outstanding Science Trade Books selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)
- ✚ Orbis Pictus Award (recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children)

New and notable titles for 2020-21

\*Listed throughout and identified with an asterisk preceding the title.

- ★ **All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything** – Annette Bay Pimentel  
A powerfully illustrated biography of Jennifer Keelan's life and activism which helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ★ **The Cat Man of Aleppo** – Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha; illustrated by Yuko Shimizu  
War-torn Aleppo is given hope from Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel's humanitarian efforts to care for the deserted cats in the city.
- ★ **Danbi Leads the School Parade** – Anna Kim  
A story of a girl on her first day of school in the United States after immigrating with her family from South Korea.
- ★★ ❖ **Exquisite: The Poetry and Life of Gwendolyn Brooks** – Suzanne Slade; illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera  
The biography of Pulitzer-winning poet Gwendolyn Brooks reveals her childhood dreams and inspirations, her challenges with race, gender, and poverty, and her desires to share stories through poetry.
- ★ **How We Got to the Moon: The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure** – John Rocco  
This ambitious nonfiction book chronicles one of the most exciting and miraculous accomplishments in American history—the 1969 lunar landing.

★ **I Talk Like a River** – Jordan Scott

A young person with a stutter feels isolated. His father helps him understand that his speech moves like the ebb and flow of the river, giving him a new understanding of his way of speaking.

★ **Itzhak: A Boy who Loved the Violin** – Tracy Newman

Tells the early life story of Itzhak Perlman. His early love of music, contracting polio, and his fame from appearing on the Ed Sullivan show.

★ **Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration** – Samara Cole Doyon;

illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Joyful young narrators celebrate feeling at home in one's own skin.

★ ★ **Me & Mama** – written and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera

Lyrical prose and captivating paintings chronicle a day in the life of a mother and daughter and celebrate their special bond.

★ **Outside In** – Deborah Underwood; illustrated by Cindy Derby

This picture book explores the ever-present lure of the outdoors as it appears at our windows and tempts us with sounds and fragrances, even as we spend most of our time inside.

★ **Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist** – Julie Leung

As a boy, Wong Geng Yeo assumed a fake identity to immigrate to the U.S., eventually becoming a Disney artist.

★ **A Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart** – Zetta Elliott; illustrated by Noa Denmon

Illustrations and easy-to-read text express a child's awareness of being filled with deep emotions, from joy to sorrow and anger to compassion, but above all, love.

★ **R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul** – Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Frank Morrison

With words that sing and art that shines, this vibrant portrait of Aretha Franklin pays her the R-E-S-P-E-C-T this Queen of Soul deserves.

★ **Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello** – Monica Brown

This bilingual biography traces the life of Julio C. Tello, from a curious, young boy to an accomplished archaeologist who elevated Peru's indigenous history.

★ ¡ **Vamos! Let's Go Eat** – Raúl Gonzalez

Follow Little Lobo and his dog Bernabe on a journey to the market, where they see many friends who sell candy, comic books, and puppets in this enthralling bilingual story.

★ **We Are Water Protectors** – Carole Lindstrom; illustrated by Michaela Goade

An indigenous girl explains why water is sacred and that the "Black Snake" (pipelines) will destroy the earth. She takes up a rallying cry with her people to defend water and the planet.

★**Welcoming Elijah: A Passover Tale with a Tail** – Lesléa Newman

Inside the house, a boy prepares for the Passover ritual of welcoming Elijah—meanwhile, outside the house, a kitten lingers in the cold.

## Audiobooks: 2021 Audie Award Winner (🇺🇸) and Finalists

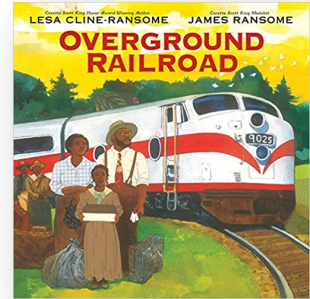
**Going Down Home with Daddy**, written by Kelly Starling Lyons, narrated by Daxton Edwards, published by Dreamscape Media LLC.

🇺🇸 **The Overground Railroad**, written by Lesa Cline-Ransome, narrated by Shayna Small and Dion Graham, published by Live Oak Media.

**Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou**, written by Bethany Hegedus, narrated by Cherise Boothe, published by Live Oak Media.

**Say Something**, written and narrated by Peter H. Reynolds, published by Weston Woods Studios.

**Stuck**, written by Chris Grabenstein, narrated by Mark Sanderlin, Elizabeth Hess, Oliver Wyman, Farah Bala, Rita Wolf, Caroline Grogan, Cynthia Darlow, Mateo D'Amato, J.J. Myers, Neil Hellegers, Genesis Oliver, and Chris Grabenstein, published by Audible Originals.



## Chapter Books for Reading Aloud

\***King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table** – Roger Lancelyn Green (Puffin Classic Series)

From the magical moment when Arthur releases the sword in the stone to the quest for the Holy Grail and the final tragedy of the Last Battle, Roger Lancelyn Green brings the enchanting world of King Arthur stunningly to life.

**Matilda** – Roald Dahl

Matilda, a brilliant, sensitive little girl, uses her talents and ingenuity to seek revenge on her crooked father, lazy mother, and the terrifying Miss Trunchbull, her wicked headmistress, and save her beloved teacher, Miss Honey.

**Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane** – Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

**The Mouse and the Motorcycle** – Beverly Cleary

A reckless young mouse named Ralph makes friends with a boy in room 215 of the Mountain View Inn and discovers the joys of motorcycling.

**\*Skunk and Badger** – Amy Timberlake

The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk! Soon everything in Badger's quiet and ordered life studying rocks is turned upside down (and where on earth did all the chickens come from)--but after he drives Skunk and his chickens away, Badger starts to miss his roommate and sets out to find him and make amends.

**\*Telephone Tales** – Gianni Rodari

In this classic from Italy, a travelling salesman calls his daughter nightly to share a whimsical story. Sixty-seven playful tales humorously recount ice cream palaces, educational candy, and roads paved with chocolate.

## Chapter Books: Suggested Titles and Authors

- 🕒 Early Reader
- 🍏 Transitional Chapter Book
- ❖ Independent Reading
- ⌘ Series

### Animal Adventures

**Adventures of Sophie Mouse: A New Friend** – Poppy Green

Sophie Mouse is excited to return to school after the long winter break, but there is a new student—a snake—and Sophie and the other animals are afraid to sit near him, much less ask him to play with them, because they have heard snakes are awful. 🍏 ⌘

**Bramble and Maggie** – Jessie Haas

Bramble the horse gets bored giving riding lessons, but regains her enthusiasm when she goes to live with a girl named Maggie. 🕒 ⌘

**Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet** – Jacqueline Kelly

Callie Vee, Travis, and Dr. Pritzker help animals big and small in this chapter book series for younger readers. 🕒 ⌘

**Digby O'Day in the Fast Lane** – Shirley Hughes

Digby O'Day and Percy are best friends. This daring canine duo can find adventure anywhere—even entering an All-Day Race! 🕒 ⌘



**Dodsworth in...(London, New York, Rome, Tokyo)** – Tim Egan

Readers will love the slapstick humor and the odd-couple friendship between Dodsworth and the duck. 🕒 ⌘

**Henry and Mudge** – Cynthia Rylant

Henry, feeling lonely on a street without any other children, finds companionship and love in a big dog named Mudge. 🕒 ⌘



**Lulu and the Duck in the Park** – Hilary McKay

When Lulu finds a duck egg that has rolled out of its nest, she takes it to class to keep it safe. Lulu isn't allowed to bring pets to school. But she's not really breaking the rules because it's just an egg. Surely nothing bad will happen... ❖🌀

**Magic Bone: Follow That Furball** – Nancy Krulik

Sparky is off to Rome! Will he be able to outsmart the cunning Italian cat that has stolen his bone, or will he have to stay in Rome forever? ❖🌀

**Make a Difference Mouse Scouts** – Sarah Dillard

Mouse Scouts feverishly try to earn their merit badges by competing in community projects. 🍏🌀

**Owl Diaries** – Rebecca Elliott

Presents the adventures of Eva Wingdale, an owl who likes writing in her diary, making cool crafts, and hanging out with her friends in Treetopolis. 🍏🌀

**Family and Friends**

**\*Ana and Andrew** – Christine Platt

Ana & Andrew are always on an adventure! They live in Washington, DC with their parents, but with family in Savannah, Georgia and Trinidad, there's always something exciting and new to learn about African American history and culture. 🍏🌀

**Anna Hibiscus** – Atinuke

Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa. She lives with her whole family and there is always somebody to laugh or play with. But more than anything else in the world, Anna Hibiscus would love to see snow. ❖🌀

**\*Ballet Bunnies** – Swapna Reddy

Peek behind the curtain and find the Ballet Bunnies in this new full-color chapter book series featuring the most darling dancers you will ever meet! ❖🌀

**Book Uncle and Me** – Uma Krishnaswami

Yasmin's cherished free lending library is about to be shut down. A voracious reader, she must unite her friends, family and fellow Indian neighbors in a political campaign to keep Book Uncle's library going. ❖

**Charlie and Mouse** – Laurel Snyder

Join Charlie and Mouse in their very first book as they talk to lumps, take the neighborhood to a party, sell some rocks, and invent the bedtime banana. 🍏🌀

**Heidi Hecklbeck** – Wanda Coven

With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, the Heidi Heckelbeck chapter books are perfect for emerging independent readers. 🍏🌀

**Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up** – Melissa Thomson

Keena Ford chronicles her many mishaps as she begins second grade. 🍏🌀

**Leroy Ninker Saddles Up: Tales from Deckawoo Drive, Volume One** – Kate DiCamillo

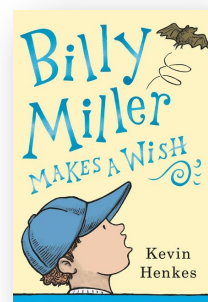
Leroy Ninker has a hat, a lasso, and boots. What he doesn't have is a horse—until he meets Maybelline, and then it's love at first sight. 🍏🌀

**The Life of Ty: Penguin Problems** – Lauren Myracle

Seven-year-old Ty gets into mischief and big-hearted schemes while navigating second grade and becoming a big brother. ❖🌀

**Ling and Ting: Not Exactly the Same!** – Grace Lin

They have the same brown eyes. They have the same pink cheeks. They have the same happy smiles. Ling and Ting are identical twins—but whether they get haircuts, perform magic, make dumplings, or tell stories, it's plain to see that they are not *exactly* the same. 🍏🌀



**Meet Yasmin** – Saadia Faruqi

Pakistani American second grader Yasmin learns to cope with the small problems of school and home, while gaining confidence in her own skills and creative abilities. 🍏🌀

**Mostly Monty** – Johanna Hurwitz

Because he suffers from asthma, Monty is nervous about starting school but he soon learns to cope with his illness and use his special talents to make friends. 🍏🌀

**My Life in Pictures** – Deborah Zemke

When budding artist Bea Garcia's best friend moves to Australia and a loud, rambunctious boy moves into her old house, Bea must learn to make new friends. 🍏🌀

**Pinky and Rex** – James Howe

Rex and Pinky, each the proud possessor of 27 stuffed animals, find their visit to the museum and its gift shop complicated by Pinky's little sister Amanda. 🍏🌀

**Polly Diamond and the Magic Book** – Alice Kuipers

Polly loves words, and writing, so when she finds a fancy book on her doorstep labeled "Special Delivery from the Writing and Spelling Department for Polly Diamond" she is thrilled; and when she finds that anything she writes in it actually happens she is really excited—but Polly soon realizes that she has to be very careful what she writes because that kind of power can be dangerous. ❖🌀

**Sofia Martinez** – Jacqueline Jules

Growing up in a big family, young Sofia Martinez is used to fighting for attention. Her outgoing personality, mixed with her confidence and fiery passion for everything she does, gets her that attention—even if it's sometimes mixed with trouble. 🍏🌀

**Stink and the Incredible Super-Galactic Jawbreaker** – Megan MacDonald

Stink Moody discovers that he can get free samples by writing letters to candy companies and plans a surprise for his best friend's birthday. 🍏🌀



**\* Ways to Grow Love** – Renée Watson

Ryan Hart and her family are back in another installment of stories about a Black girl finding her way and her voice as she grows through change and challenges. ❖☞

**\*Billy Miller Makes a Wish** – Kevin Henkes

On his eighth birthday, Billy Miller wishes for something exciting to happen. None of his wishes are answered the way he expects, but he does have lots of surprises--and the final one is possibly the best one ever. ❖☞

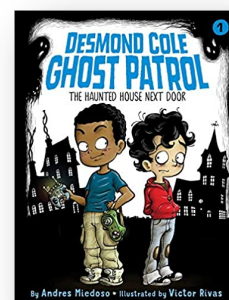
## Fantasy, Science Fiction, Spooky, and the Supernatural

**\*Desmond Cole, Ghost Patrol: The Haunted House Next Door** – Andres Miedoso

When supernatural things start happening in the house timid Andres and his parents just moved into, next-door-neighbor Desmond Cole, eight, comes to the rescue. 🍏☞

**\*Diary of an Ice Princess: Snow Place Like Home** – Christina Soontornvat

Princess Lina has a life any kid would envy. She lives in a massive palace in the clouds. Everyone in her family has the power to control the wind and weather. On a good day, she can even fly! There's just one thing Lina wants: to go to regular, non-magical school with her best friend Claudia. She promises to keep the icy family secret under wraps. What could go wrong? 🍏☞



**Dragon Masters** – Tracey West

The Dragon Stone has chosen Drake, Ana, Rori, and Bo. They live in King Roland's castle in the Kingdom of Bracken. There, they learn how to connect with the dragon they have been paired with. With the help of Griffith, a wizard, they must uncover their dragons' special powers. ❖☞

**Eerie Elementary: The School is Alive!** – Jack Chabert

Sam Graves discovers that his elementary school is alive and plotting against the students, and, as hall monitor, it is his job to protect them--but he will need some help from his friends. 🍏☞

**Freddie Ramos Takes Off** (*Zapato Power* series) – Jacqueline Jules

Freddie finds a mysterious package outside his apartment containing sneakers that allow him to run faster than a train, and inspire him to perform heroic deeds. ❖☞

**\*Geeger the Robot Goes to School**– Jarrett Lerner

An adventure of Geeger, a robot who goes to school for the very first time, in the first story in a new, fun-to-read Aladdin QUIX chapter book series that's perfect for emerging readers! 🍏☞

**Hazy Bloom and the Tomorrow Power** – Jennifer Hamburg

When Hazel "Hazy" Bloom starts seeing visions of things that will happen one day in the future, she hopes to use her power to prevent doom but ends up creating more than a few disasters instead. ❖☞

**The Hidden Stairs and The Magic Carpet** (*Secrets of Droon* series) – Tony Abbott

Underneath the steps leading down to the basement is a hidden storage space that leads Eric, Julie, and Neal down into the mysterious land of Droon. 🍏🌀

**Isadora Moon Goes to School** – Harriet Muncaster

Isadora Moon, a vampire fairy, has to decided which school she wants to go to—vampire or fairy. ❖🌀

**The Magic Tree House** – Mary Pope Osborne

Eight-year-old Jack and his seven-year-old sister, Annie, find a magic tree house filled with books that could transport them to the places described in the books. 🍏🌀

**Monsters Don't Scuba Dive** (*Bailey School Kids* series) – Debbie Dadey

The Bailey School kids go to camp to investigate a camp director who looks like a werewolf and a swimming teacher who just might be the Loch Ness monster. 🍏🌀

**My Father's Dragon** – Ruth Stiles Gannet

A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon that is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. ❖

**Rabbit & Robot and Ribbit** – Cece Bell

In this follow-up to the Geisel Honor winning *Rabbit and Robot: The Sleepover*, Rabbit gets jealous of Robot's new friend, Ribbit. 🕒🌀

## Humor

**Amelia Bedelia** – Peggy Parish

Meet Amelia Bedelia, the unflappable maid who does everything literally. 🕒🌀

**The Bad Guys** – Aaron Blabey

The Bad Guys, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Shark, Mr. Snake, and Mr. Piranha, want to be heroes, and they decide that the way to do it is free the 200 dogs in the city dog pound—but their plan soon goes awry. 🕒🌀

**\*Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom** – Matthew Swanson

Eight-year-old Ben takes a fortune cookie literally, and believing he has only one day left to live, tries to do everything he has always wanted to before nightfall. ❖🌀



**The Chicken Squad** – Doreen Cronin

Dirt, Sweetie, Poppy, and Sugar might be chicks, but they sure aren't chicken. They're the Chicken Squad, and it's up to them to figure out what Tail, the not-so-brave squirrel, is so afraid of. 🍏🌀

**George Brown Class Clown** – Nancy Krulik

George cannot wait to go on his first camping trip with the Beaver Scouts, but once in the wilderness his magical super burp returns, awakening animals including, perhaps, the Ferocious Furry Frog. ❖🌀

### **Hi! Fly Guy** – Tedd Arnold

Boy and fly meet and so begins a beautiful friendship. Using hyperbole, puns, slapstick, and silly drawings, bestselling author/illustrator Tedd Arnold creates an easy reader that is full of fun. 🍏🌀

### **My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish** – Mo O'Hara

When Tom's big brother decides to become an evil scientist, his first experiment involves dunking Frankie the goldfish into toxic green gunk. Tom knows that there is only one thing to do: Zap the fish with a battery and bring him back to life! But there's something weird about the new Frankie. He's now a big, fat zombie goldfish with hypnotic powers ... and he's out for revenge. ❖🌀

### **Stick Dog** – Tom Watson

Stick Dog and his four friends - Stripes, Mutt, Poo-Poo and Karen - will do anything to steal some sweet-smelling hamburgers from a family at Picasso Park! ❖🌀

### **The Treehouse Books** – Andy Griffiths

Life would be perfect for Andy and Terry if it wasn't for the fact that they have to write their next book, which is almost impossible because there are just so many distractions in their multistoried treehouse, including flying cats, giant bananas, sea monsters pretending to be mermaids, and dangerous burp gas-bubblegum bubbles! ❖🌀

## Mystery

### **A to Z Mystery** – Ron Roy

This series features three smart kids who solve crimes and mysteries. 🍏🌀

### **Box Car Children** – Gertrude Chandler Warner

The Aldens begin their adventure by making a home in a boxcar. Their goal is to stay together, and in the process, they find a grandfather. ❖🌀

### **Bradford Street Buddies: Backyard Camp-Out** – Jerdine Nolen

While preparing for a backyard campout, Jada and Jamal Perkins join their friends Josh Cornish and Carlita Garcia in a search for Mrs. Mason's lost cat, Daisy. 🍏🌀



### **Cam Jansen: The Mystery of the Stolen Diamonds** – David A. Adler

The Cam Jansen books are perfect for young readers who are making the transition to chapter books. 🍏🌀

### **Can Do, Jennie Archer** – Ellen Conford

Attempting to win a can-collecting contest, the winner of which will direct a class movie, Jenny risks losing her best friend. 🍏🌀

### **Clubhouse Mysteries** – Sharon Draper

Best friends Ziggy, Rashawn, Jerome, and Rico decide to form a clubhouse, complete with secret codes, meetings, and special treasures. 🍏🌀

### **Encyclopedia Brown** – Donald Sobol

Detective stories about 10-year-old Leroy (nicknamed Encyclopedia) Brown. ❖🌀

**Geronimo Stilton** – Geronimo Stilton

Geronimo is a nervous, mild-mannered mouse who would like nothing better than to live a quiet life, but he keeps getting involved in far-away adventures. ❖⌘

**Hardy Boys Clue Book series** – Franklin W. Dixon

Frank and Joe are on a mission to track down a thief in the first book in an all-new, interactive Hardy Boys chapter book mystery series. 🍏⌘

**Hilde Cracks the Case** – Hilde Lysiak

Hilde Lysiak is an aspiring reporter with her own newspaper, and she is investigating break-ins and missing baked goods—and with the help of Zeus, a little dog with a big bark, she intends to track down the thief who is trying to steal a win in the Bake-Off Bonanza, one of Selinsgrove's biggest events. ❖⌘

**Jigsaw Jones Mystery** – James Preller

Missing hamsters, lost coins, and haunted houses—Jigsaw Jones solves the case! 🍏⌘

**Marty Frye Private Eye** – Janet Tashjian

When a friend's poodle goes missing, Marty comes to the rescue! 🍏⌘

**Nancy Drew and the Clue Crews** – Carolyn Keene

Eight-year-old Nancy Drew has her first case to crack! 🍏⌘

**Nate the Great** – Marjorie Weinman Sharmant

Nate the Great, boy detective and pancake lover, is on a case; who stole Annie's painting of her dog, Fang? 🍏⌘

**Nonfiction: Arts, Biography, History, and Religion**

**DK Readers** – Published by Dorling Kindersley

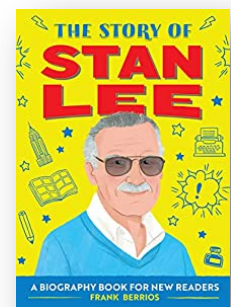
Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects, with emphasis on natural sciences.

**Magic Tree House Nonfiction Companions** – Random House Books for Young Readers

Filled with up-to-date information, photographs, illustrations, and tidbits from Jack and Annie, the Magic Tree House Fact Trackers are the perfect way for kids to find out more about the topics they discover in their favorite Magic Tree House adventures.

**Ordinary People Change the Word** – Brad Meltzer

Each book in the series tells the story of one of America's icons in an entertaining, conversational way that works well for the youngest readers.



**\*The Story Of: A Biography Series for New Readers** – Published by Rockridge Press

Take an exciting stroll through history with this new illustrated biography series for newly independent readers.

**You Should Meet...**...early reader bios. – Published by Simon & Schuster

Introduce readers to extraordinary individuals who made and continue to make a real difference. Includes a wide range of people, from astronaut Mae Jemison to ballet dancer Misty Copeland to Duke Kahanamoku, who is regarded as the father of modern surfing.

## Sports

**Ballpark Mysteries** – David A. Kelly

Team up with baseball super-fans Mike and Kate as they knock their mystery cases out of the park! 🍎🌀

**Eliza Bing Is (Not) a Star** – Carmella Van Vleet

Eliza wants her gold belt in taekwondo. She also wants to be friends with stage-obsessed Annie. Can she learn how to break a leg in the school play and break a board in the dojang? 💎🌀

**Izzy Barr, Running Star** – Claudia Mills

Star athlete Izzy doesn't have a running-coach dad like her rival Skipper. In fact, her dad has really let her down. Will Izzy and Dad make up in time for the big 10K race? 💎🌀

**Kickers** – Rich Wallace

Nine-year-old Ben is new to soccer, but he's excited to play on the Bobcats. If he can only work around his obnoxious teammate Mark, the ball hog, Ben is sure he'll score his first goal. 💎🌀

**Most Valuable Players: A Rip & Red Book** – Phil Bildner

Tired of standardized tests, Rip, Red, and their friends protest; in retaliation, the school bans them from its anniversary gala and, worse, from playing on any school team. 💎🌀

Books written by **Jake Maddox**

His books range from the most popular team sports to outdoor activities to survival adventures and even to auto racing. 💎🌀

## Notable Fiction and Nonfiction Picture Books for 2021

❖2021 Amelia Bloomer List (honoring children's books with feminist themes)

✦Freeman Book Award awarded by The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia at Columbia University

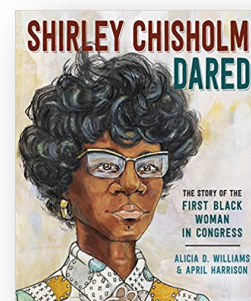
✦Orbis Pictus Award (recognizing excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children)

✦**Above the Rim: How Elgin Baylor Changed Basketball** – Jen Bryant

In the midst of the Black Civil Rights movement, NBA Hall of Famer Elgin Baylor made an impact on and off the basketball court in Jim Crow 1950s and 1960s.

\***America, My Love, America, My Heart** – Daria Peoples-Riley

America, do you love me? A single question from a single child multiplies across the country with every page turn, inviting in more and more children of color—and their questions.



**\*A Boy Named Isamu: A Story of Isamu Noguchi** – James Yang

Imagines a day in the boyhood of Japanese American artist, Isamu Noguchi, while wandering through an outdoor market, through the forest, and then by the ocean, seeing things Isamu sees through the eyes of a young artist.

❖ **Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away** – Meg Medina

In a tender picture book that acknowledges loss and the power of friendship, two best friends spend one last afternoon playing together in their families' apartments before Evelyn moves away.

**\*The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee** – Julie Leung

An inspiring picture book biography about Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for the US military.

**\*Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of The Oldest Person to Ever Run A Marathon** – Simran Jeet Singh

The inspiring true story of Fauja Singh, who broke world records to become the first one hundred-year-old to run a marathon, shares valuable lessons on the source of his grit, determination to overcome obstacles, and commitment to positive representation of the Sikh community.

**\*The Floating Field: How a Group of Thai Boys Built Their Own Soccer Field** – Scott Riley

On a tiny Thai island without room for a soccer field, a group of resourceful teen boys gathers scraps and works together to build a floating field so they can play the game they love.

❖ **For Spacious Skies: Katharine Lee Bates and the Inspiration for "America the Beautiful"** – Nancy Churnin

Inspired by the beauty of the country during a long trip, Katherine Lee Bates wrote the poem that would become "America the Beautiful."

**\*The Highest Tribute: Thurgood Marshall's Life, Leadership, and Legacy** – Kekla Magoon

A picture book portrait of the first Black justice on the Supreme Court, presented by two Coretta Scott King Honor winners, includes coverage of Thurgood Marshall's upbringing in segregated Baltimore, achievements with the NAACP and contributions to landmark equality rulings.

❖ **Ice Breaker: How Mabel Fairbanks Changed Figure Skating** – Rose Viña

Repeatedly turned away from public ice rinks for the color of her skin, Mabel Fairbanks pursued her dream of figure skating and broke barriers for herself and her students.

**\*If You Come to Earth** – Sophie Blackall

In this picture book, a boy writes a letter to an imagined alien, explaining all the things he will need to know about Earth and the people who live here--and adding a postscript asking what the alien might look like.

**\*In My Mosque** – M. O. Yuksel

No matter who you are or where you're from, everyone is welcome here. From grandmothers reading lines of the Qur'an and the imam telling stories of living as one, to meeting new friends and learning to help others, mosques are centers for friendship, community, and love.



**\*Memory Jars – Vera Brosgol**

Freda uses jars to save everything from a chocolate chip cookie to the full moon, just as her grandmother saves summer blueberries. Includes a recipe for blueberry jam.

**\*The Musician – Xuefeng Liu**

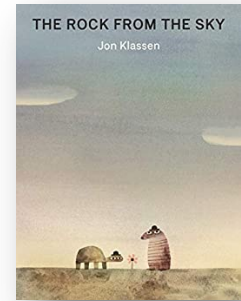
Elegant and evocative, this culturally authentic folktale beautifully conveys the powerful bonds of music and friendship.

**\*The Night Walk – Marie Dorléans**

Embark on a midnight adventure in this special book about family togetherness and the beauty of the natural world.

**❖❖The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story – Tina Cho**

Dayeon wants to be a haenyeo diver just like her grandmother, but is afraid of the deep ocean. With encouragement from her grandmother, they dive together in search of treasure.



**\*The Ode to the Goddess of the Luo River – Ye Luying**

In this retelling of an ancient Chinese poem, a writer imagines the doomed love between the earthly and heavenly.

**\*Ohana Means Family – Ilima Loomis**

Told in the cadence of "The House that Jack Built," we follow the growing process on a taro root farm through the lens of Hawaiian culture, concluding with the Hawaiian ohana sharing a pot of poi.

**\*The Ramble Shamble Children – Christina Soontornvat**

Five siblings worry that their shabby old house isn't 'proper' enough, but come to see that it's perfect just the way it is.

**\*The Rock from the Sky – Jon Klassen**

A hilarious meditation on the workings of friendship, fate, shared futuristic visions, and that funny feeling you get that there's something off somewhere, but you just can't put your finger on it.

**❖Ritu Weds Chandni – Ameya Narvankar**

Ayesha is thrilled that her cousin, Ritu, is marrying her girlfriend, Chandni. Some, however, do not want to see them together. Can Ayesha find a way to help them celebrate?

**❖Ruth Objects: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg – Doreen Rappaport**

From her lace collars to her incredible work ethic, this picture book biography chronicles the hard work and dedication of RBG to become a Supreme Court Justice.

**\*Salma the Syrian Chef – Danny Ramadan**

Salma misses her mother's smile and laughter and hopes making her favorite Syrian dish will bring back her smile. When preparing the dish doesn't go as planned, Salma's community comes together to help finish the dish and celebrate her success.

**\*Shirley Chisholm Dared: The Story of the First Black Woman in Congress** – Alicia D. Williams

Discover the inspiring story of the first black woman elected to Congress and to run for president in this picture book biography from a Newbery Honor-winning author and a Coretta Scott King-John Steptoe New Talent Award-winning illustrator.

**\*The Tale of the Mandarin Duck: A Modern Fable** – Bette Midler

Inspired by the real-life rainbow-colored Mandarin Duck who appeared in New York's Central Park in 2018, this modern fable by Bette Midler celebrates the connections people make with each other and the world around them.

**❖A Thousand Glass Flowers: Marietta Barovier and the Invention of the Rosetta Bead** – Evan Turk

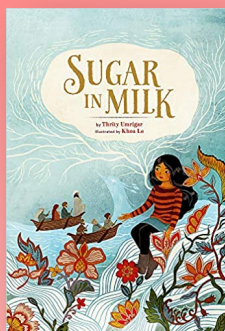
Despite being told that girls can't blow glass, Marietta learns the artform of glassblowing from her father and rediscovers the technique of creating rosettas.

**\*Sugar in Milk** – Thrity Umrigar

This clever picture book reaches back to an Ancient Persian legend to help a young immigrant girl the courage to make friends in her new country.

**\*Welcome Flower Child: The Magic of Your Birth Flower** – Brigette Barrager

This book reveals the qualities of babies born in each month of the year, and the accompanying flower that blooms in each birth month.



**Keep Picture Books in the Picture**

“When it comes to books, with a few exceptions, a child is never really too old for anything. That goes double and triple for picture books...with the assumption a parent will be reading them aloud, many picture books contain more sophisticated language than your newly independent reader can handle at this point; a reader who can manage “higher” level books on his own may still have trouble reading certain picture books himself.”

Paul, Pamela, and Maria Russo. “How to Raise a Reader.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, [www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader](http://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader)

## Poetry Picks: 2021 Young People's Poet Laureate Naomi Shihab Nye

Each month, Young People's Poet Laureate, Naomi Shihab Nye recommends a book of poetry for children. Selections include classics of children's literature, adult collections that are well suited to children, as well as newly published books.

For more information: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/young-peoples-poet-laureate>

# S.T.E.M.: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

∞Outstanding Science Trade Books selected by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA). Annotations borrowed from Outstanding Science Trade Books. NSTA. 2021. <https://www.nsta.org/ostb-2021>.

❖2021 Amelia Bloomer List (honoring children's books with feminist themes)

## ∞Animal Homes – Mary Holland

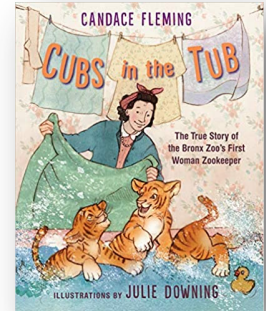
Take a home tour of selected bugs, birds, and mammals. Beautiful, full-page photos complement descriptions, materials, and uses of animals' homes.

## ∞Bones: An Inside Look at the Animal Kingdom – Jules Howard

Dive into this book to discover how the structure of an animal's bones can tell us much about what it eats, how it moves, where it lives, and where it came from.

## ∞Born Curious: 20 Girls Who Grew Up to Be Awesome Scientists – Martha Freeman

This collection of short biographies of twenty ground-breaking female scientists from different backgrounds and life experiences shares how curiosity drove them to pursue careers in science.



## ∞Bright Dreams: The Brilliant Inventions of Nikola Tesla – Tracy Dockray

This book follows Nikola Tesla from being a young child desiring to be an inventor through his adult life persevering to become an inventor who changed electricity for all.

## \*Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals – Katy S. Duffield.

This nonfiction picture book explores the variety of accommodations built around the world so that animals can safely access areas encroached upon by humans.

## ❖Cubs in the Tub – Candace Fleming

Readers are told the story of Helen Martini's care for lion and tiger cubs, and her emergence as the Bronx Zoo's first woman zookeeper.

## ∞Dinosaur Lady: The Daring Discoveries of Mary Anning, the First Paleontologist – Linda Skeers

Follow Mary Anning on her fearless exploring and thirst for knowledge that led to the formation of paleontology as a scientific field of study.

## \*First Friend: How Dogs Evolved from Wolves to Become Our Best Friends – Kersten Hamilton

*First Friend* is an exploration of how the wild wolves became dogs, and how we learned to communicate and grow alongside the creatures we love.

## ∞Grow: Secrets of Our DNA – Nicola Davies

This book introduces readers to DNA in a clear, engaging manner, beginning with plants and animals, then connecting to humans.

★+Honeybee: **The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera** – Candace Fleming

Get up close and personal with Apis, one honeybee, as she embarks on her journey through life, complete with exquisitely detailed illustrations.

★How We Got to the Moon: **The People, Technology, and Daring Feats of Science Behind Humanity's Greatest Adventure** – John Rocco

This ambitious nonfiction book chronicles one of the most exciting and miraculous accomplishments in American history—the 1969 lunar landing.

+∞ **If You Take Away the Otter** – Susannah Buhrman-Deever

What happens to an entire habitat when a single element is depleted by hunters? Through striking illustrations, the role of sea otters over time in the Pacific Coast of North America is explored in detail.

∞JUMBO: **The Making of the Boeing 747** – Chris Gall

For the 50th anniversary of the Boeing 747's first commercial flight, a picture book about the development of the iconic passenger plane and how it changed the history of air travel.



∞Marjory Saves the Everglades: **The Story of Marjory Stoneman Douglas** –

Sandra Neil Wallace

This book is a beautifully illustrated biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas who advocated for designating the Florida Everglades as a national park. Her lifelong environmental activism helped save the diverse animal and plant species living in the Florida Everglades.

∞North Pole / South Pole: **From Pole to Pole: A Flip Book** – Michael Bright

North Pole? South Pole? Are they really that different? With this fact-filled and engaging flip book, you can discover and compare the natural and human environments in both places.

∞Old Enough to Save the Planet – Loll Kirby

This empowering book shares the stories of twelve young climate activists who are raising awareness in their communities and the world at large to save the planet from the devastating effects of global warming.

\*Outside You Notice – Erin Alladin

In *Outside, You Notice*, a meditative thread of child-like observations (*How after the rain / Everything smells greener*) is paired with facts about the habits and habitats of animals, insects, birds, and plants (*A tree's roots reach as wide as its branches*).

∞The Polio Pioneer: **Dr. Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine** – Linda Elovitz Marshall

*The Polio Pioneer* is an inspiring story of Dr. Jonas Salk and how his hard work and dedication to the field of medicine helped discover a vaccine for polio.

∞Pretty Tricky: **The Sneaky Ways Plants Survive** – Etta Kaner

An amazing look at the insidious, thieving, and downright deceptive ways that plants obtain resources and protect themselves to survive the challenges of life.

**\*Outdoor School: Spot and Sticker (Birds, Animals, Plants)** – Published by Odd Dot

Finally--a sticker book for the curious and the adventurous! *The Outdoor School Sticker* series delivers the natural wonders of the world in gorgeous, scientifically-accurate stickers. Peel and place each sticker once you've seen each bird--or simply decorate your surroundings to make a bird-spotter's paradise.

**∞What Do Scientists Do All Day?** – Jane Wilsher

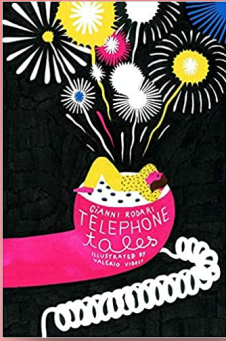
Discover the daily actions of different scientists on a visual tour of fourteen different places, from a nature reserve to an energy plant.

**\*Your Place in the Universe** – Jason Chen

A nonfiction introduction to the massive scale of the known universe.

### Additional S.T.E.M Resources

- **Disgusting Critters** – Elise Gravel  
A hilarious illustrated nonfiction series about disgusting creatures, perfect for beginning readers.
- **DK Readers** – Published by Penguin Random House  
Lots of photographs and facts on various subjects, with emphasis on natural sciences.
- **Junior Field Guides for Children** – Peterson, Audubon, National Geographic, or Simon & Schuster
- **The Magic School Bus** – Joanna Cole  
These books combine fun stories with neat facts, humor, illustrations and they all feature the fabulous Ms. Fizzle!
- **National Geographic Kids** – Published by National Geographic Children  
This high-interest, educationally vetted series features the magnificent images of National Geographic, accompanied by texts written by experienced, skilled children's book authors.
- **Rookie Read-About Science** series – Allan Fowler  
Full-color photos and just the right amount of text, this series immediately involves young readers as they discover intriguing facts about the fascinating world around them.
- **Scholastic True or False** – Published by Scholastic  
A science series in a fun question-and-answer format.
- Science level readers by author **Seymour Simon**  
With fascinating facts and amazing images, Simon presents an irresistible invitation to growing readers to question, explore and discover the exciting world around them.
- **Tell Me Why Series** – Leokum Arkady  
Question-and-answer format books.
- **A True Book** – Published Scholastic  
Provides the perfect introduction to various nonfiction subjects.



### My child is an independent reader. Should I keep reading aloud to her?

“Don’t abruptly withdraw your reading services. Being read to is an enormous comfort and part of your bond, and you don’t want to convey to your child that becoming an independent reader jeopardizes that together time. Continue reading aloud picture book favorites — and some more-sophisticated books they can’t read on their own yet, like Roald Dahl’s “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” or Kate DiCamillo’s “The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.”

Paul, Pamela and Maria Russo. “How to Raise a Reader.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, [www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader](http://www.nytimes.com/guides/books/how-to-raise-a-reader)

## Wellness Building Blocks: Social-Emotional Learning

### \*All Because You Matter – Tami Charles

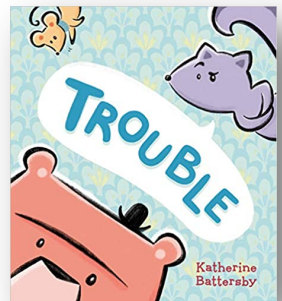
In a beautiful ode to generations of Black sacrifice, happiness, and love, a family tells the story that brought a young boy into being and emphasizes his inherent worth.

### \*Alone Together: A Tale of Friendship and Hope – Julia Seal

This heart-warming story highlights the importance of friendship and community during these challenging times.

### \*Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope – Jodie Patterson

Just before his fifth birthday, Penelope lets his mother know he is a boy and, with her support and his ninja powers, faces the rest of his family and his classmates. Drawn from the author's memoir, *The Bold World*.



### \*Big Feelings – Alexandra Penfold

A group of kids express a multitude of feelings and discover they are not alone.

### \*Eyes That Kiss in the Corners – Joanna Ho Bradshaw

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. Drawing from the strength of these powerful women in her life, she recognizes her own beauty and discovers a path to self-love and empowerment

### \*I Am Every Good Thing – Derrick Barnes

This first-person affirmation celebrates Black boys and validates their right to be proud of themselves and deserving of respect, love, and joy.



**\*The Sorry Life of Timothy Shmoe** – Stephanie Simpson McLellan

A wonderful book that offers the spotlight to children who are sometimes misunderstood for their lack of impulse control, and reminds us of the redeeming power of acceptance.

**\*Trouble** – Katherine Battersby

A thoughtful and entertaining children's parable about prejudice, starring a captivating trio of squirrel, mouse, and bear!

**\*Trying** – Kobi Yamada

Written by New York Times best-selling author Kobi Yamada, this captivating book celebrates the way failure is the just the beginning of the journey.

## Suggested Resource for Parents and Caregivers

**How to Raise a Reader** – Pamela Paul and Maria Russo

Combining clear, practical advice with inspiration, wisdom, tips, and curated reading lists, *How to Raise a Reader*, from the authors of the original and viral New York Times Books feature, shows you how to instill the joy and time-stopping pleasure of reading.

## Suggested Magazines

**Chickadee**

Features colorful photos and stories emphasizing funny, unusual and true information about animals and people.

**Click**

Introduces young minds to the wonders of science, art and nature.

**National Geographic Kids**

Focuses on geography, adventure, wildlife and science issues.

**Ranger Rick**

Suitable for children interested in learning about wildlife.

**Spider**

Contains age-appropriate stories, articles, poems, drawings, cartoons and letters.