

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



Summer Reading Suggestions 2021  
Entering Grade 1

## 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)  
Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal (★winner ★honor)

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.

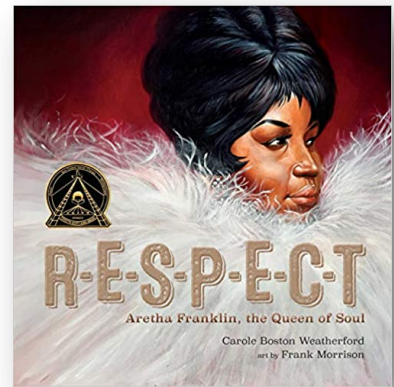
- ★ **All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything** – Annette Bay Pimentel  
A powerfully illustrated biography of Jennifer Keelan's life and activism which helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- ★ **The Bear in My Family** – Maya Tatsukawa  
Living with a loud, messy, and bossy bear seems impossible, but it turns out they can be the best part of the family.
- ★ **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.

★ **See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog** – David LaRochelle

In a laugh-out-loud story that keeps instructing readers to “see the cat,” Max the Dog must interact with the text to prove to the narrator and a cast of zany characters that he is indeed canine.

★ **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.

★**Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom** – Kelly Starling Lyons

With the help of a new friend, Ty beats the temptation to give up and masters the use of his brand-new scooter.

★**¡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.

★**What About Worms!?** – Ryan T. Higgins

Tiger is big, brave, and not afraid of anything—except worms; and the worms are just as afraid of him...until they come across a book and learn more about tigers!

★**Where's Baby?** – Anne Hunter

Can you find baby fox? Readers will enjoy following father's journey as he looks over, under, around, and into things, discovering all sorts of other animals, until he finally gets a hint from mother fox.

## Audiobooks: 2021 Audie Award Winner (🏆) and Finalists for Young Listeners Category

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

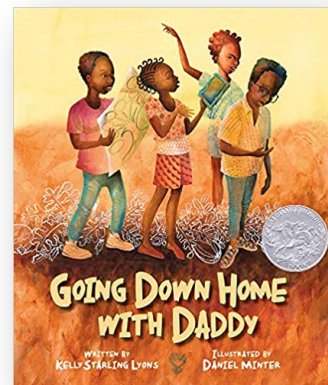
🏆 **The Overground Railroad**, written by Lesa Cline-Ransome, narrated by Shayna Small and Dion Graham, published by Live Oak Media.

**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.

**The Sesame Street Podcast with Foley and Friends** by Sesame Workshop, narrated by Lindsey Briggs, Tyler Bunch, Ryan Dillon, and a full cast, published by Audible 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

### **Ramona the Pest** – Beverly Cleary

Ramona meets lots of interesting people in kindergarten class, like Davy whom she keeps trying to kiss and Susan whose springy curls seem to ask to be pulled.

### **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** – Charlie Mackesy

Enter the world of Charlie's four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most important life lessons.

### **James and the Giant Peach** – Roald Dahl

Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach.

### **Juana & Lucas** – Juana Medina

A spunky young girl from Colombia loves playing with her canine best friend and resists boring school activities, especially learning English, until her family tells her that a special trip is planned to an English-speaking place.

### **Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle** – Betty MacDonald

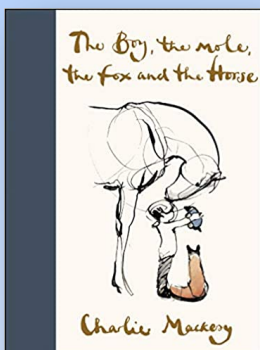
From her upside-down house, the eccentric Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle issues to parents her marvelous cures for such common children's diseases as Won't-Put-Away-Toys-itis, Answerbackism, and Fighter-Quarrelitis.

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

The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk, but since the house does not belong to him he does not have a choice; and 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.



### Importance of Reading Aloud with Your Child

“Children learn to love the sound of language before they even notice the existence of printed words on a page. Reading books aloud to children stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world. It helps them develop language and listening skills and prepares them to understand the written word.”

“Reading with Your Child.” *Reading Rockets*, 17 Nov. 2013,  
[www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child](http://www.readingrockets.org/article/reading-your-child).

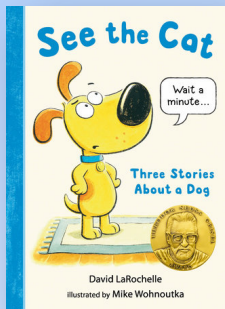
## Early Readers Series

- **Amanda and Oliver Pig** – Van Leeuwen
- **Amelia Bedelia** – Peggy Parish
- **Benjamin Bear in Brain Storms!** – Philippe Coudray
- **Bink and Gollie** – Kate DiCamillo
- **A Birthday for Bear** – Bonny Becker
- Books by **Dr. Seuss**
- **Dodsworth in Tokyo** – Tim Egan
- **Elephant and Piggie** – Mo Willems
- **Elephant and Piggie Like Reading!** – various authors
- **Frog and Toad** – Arnold Lobel
- **Gus and Grandpa** – Cynthia Rylant
- **Henry and Mudge** – Cynthia Rylant
- **Hi! Fly Guy** – Tedd Arnold
- **Houndsley and Catina** – James Howe
- **I Like the Farm** – Shelley Rotner
- **Lost My Tooth** – Mo Willems
- **It's Shoe Time!** – Bryan Collier
- **\*A Jack Book** – Mac Barnett
- **JoJo and Daddy Bake a Cake** – Jane O'Connor
- **Katie Woo** – Fran Manushikin
- **Kick It, Mo!** – David A. Adler
- **Lana's World: Let's Go to the Moon!** – Erica Silverman
- **Lily's New Home** – Paula Yoo
- **Mercy Watson** – Kate DiCamillo
- **Mr. Putter and Tabby** – Cynthia Rylant
- **A Narwhal and Jelly Book** – Ben Clanton
- **Nate the Great** – Marjorie W. Sharmat
- **Pass the Ball, Mo** – David Adler
- **Penny and Her Marble** – Kevin Henkes
- **Poof! A Bot!** – David Milgrim
- **Poppleton and Friends** – Cynthia Rylant
- **Princess in Black** – Shannon Hale
- **Rabbit & Robot and Ribbit** – CeCe Bell
- **Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot** – Dav Pilkey
- **Robin Hill School** – Margaret McNamara
- **See Pip Flap** – David Milgrim
- **Snail and Worm** – Tina Kügler
- **Sofia Martinez: My Family Adventure** – Jacqueline Jules
- **Space Cows** – Eric Seltzer
- **That's My Book! And Other Stories** – Salina Yoon
- **There's a Pest in the Garden** – Jan Thomas
- **Toon Books** – various authors
- **Upstairs Mouse, Downstairs Mouse** – Herbert Wong Yee

## Early Readers Series by publisher

Look for selections of stories that have large print with inviting illustrations.

- **Dive Into Reading** – Lee & Low Books
- **Easy to Read** books – Puffin
- **“I Can Read”** books – Harper
- **I Like to Read** – Holiday House
- **Just for You!** – Scholastic
- **National Geographic Kids** readers series. – National Geographic
- **Step Into Books** – Little Brown & Company
- **We Both Read** – Treasure Bay



### How to Support Your Emerging Reader?

“Mix it up. When children start to pick out words, allow them to read to you some of the time, but reading time shouldn’t be strained, exhausting or feel like a test. At first, try pointing to words you know your child will recognize and have him or her read them. When your child knows more words, try reading alternating pages.”

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).

## Notable Fiction and Nonfiction Picture Books for 2021

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

✦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.



**\*Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon** – Kelly Starlings Lyons

Depicts the life of Philip Freelon who would eventually build the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

**\*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.

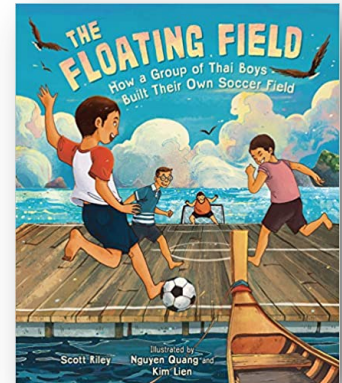
**\*The Fearless Flights of Hazel Ying Lee** – Julie Leung

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.

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

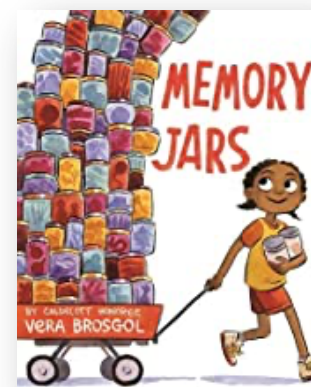
Tells the early life story of Itzhak Perlman. His early love of music, contracting polio, and his fame from appearing on the Ed Sullivan show.

\* **Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion** – Alex T. Smith

An amusing safari riff on Red Riding Hood features a very young girl outwitting a scheming lion.

\* **Max on the Farm** – Kyle Lukoff

White, transgender boy Max and his friend Teresa, a cisgender girl of color, love making messes together. This picture book/early reader hybrid captures the playful, innocent spirit of two friends testing the boundaries of the world around them as Teresa's spontaneity encourages Max outside of his comfort zone.



\* **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.

\* **Milo Imagines the World** – Matt de la Peña

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives.

\* **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.

❖ **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

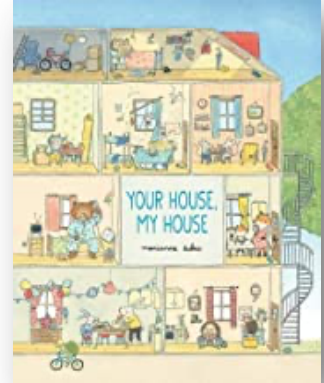
A hilarious meditation on the workings of friendship, fate, shared futuristic visions, and that funny feeling you get that there's something off somewhere, but you just can't put your finger on it.

❖ **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.

\* **Sato the Rabbit** – Yuki Aino

In this surreal collection of short vignettes, we are transported to the world of Sato the Rabbit: a world very much like our own, yet one that is imbued with an added dimension of wonder and curiosity, in which ordinary objects and everyday routines become magical encounters.

\* **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.

\* **Time for Kenny** – Brian Pinkney

During his busy day, Kenny gets dressed, fights his fear of the vacuum cleaner, gets a soccer lesson from his sister, and prepares for bed, with his loving family always nearby.

\* **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.

\* **Swashby and the Sea** – Beth Ferry

Swashby has retired to a quiet life by his beloved sea. When a girl and her granny move in nearby, his lifestyle changes--for better.

\* **We All Play** – Julie Flett

Animals and kids love to play! This wonderful book celebrates diversity and the interconnectedness of nature through an Indigenous perspective, complete with a glossary of Cree words for wild animals at the back of the book, and children repeating a Cree phrase throughout the book.

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

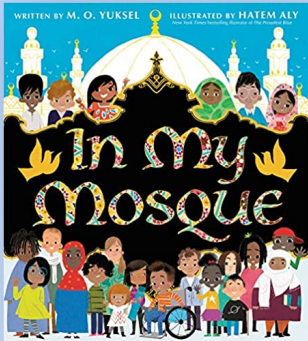
This book reveals the qualities of babies born in each month of the year, and the accompanying flower that blooms in each birth month.

**\*Your House, My House** – Marianne Dubuc

Welcome to an apartment building where the fun never ends! It's Little Rabbit's birthday, and he's having a party, but that's not the only thing going on here. The Cat family is moving in upstairs. The Fox family is having a new baby. Mr. Owl is trying to sleep. There's so much happening inside (and outside) this lively building, it's hard to keep track!

**\*Zonia's Rain Forest** – Juana Neal-Martinez

Explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures.



**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.

∞ **The Big Bang Book** – Asa Stahl

This book provides a simple and accurate story of how the universe came to be and our place in that universe for young readers.

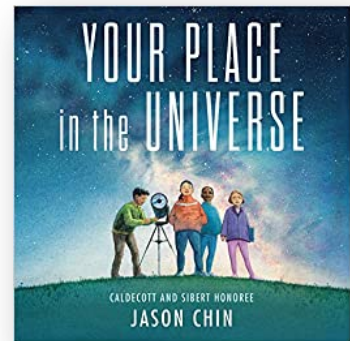
∞ **Bones: An Inside Look at the Animal Kingdom** – Jules Howard

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.



\* **The Boy Whose Head Was Filled with Stars: A Life of Edwin Hubble** – Isabelle Marinov

How many stars are in the sky? How did the universe begin? Where did it come from? This is the story of Edwin Hubble, a boy fascinated by the stars who surmounted many hurdles to follow his dreams of becoming an astronomer.

\* **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.

∞ **Nesting** – Henry Cole

Through beautiful text and illustrations, learn about the life of a hatch of robins as its parents support the robins' survival.

∞ **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.

\***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.

\***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*).

∞ **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.

∞ **What Do You Do If You Work at the Zoo?** – Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Discover what zookeepers do with different animals in a zoo through this beautifully illustrated book presenting how various animals are cared for in zoos around the world.

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

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

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

- ✚ **The Magic School Bus** series – Joanna Cole  
These books combine fun stories with neat facts; humor, illustrations and they all feature the fabulous Ms. Fizzle!
- ✚ **National Geographic Little Kids First Big Books** series – Published by National Geographic Children  
A child-friendly format helps young readers discover many facts about their everyday world through questions and answers.
- ✚ **Ordinary People Change the Word: Picture Book Biographies** – 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.
- ✚ 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

## 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

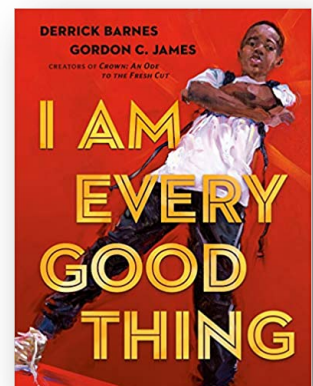
This heart-warming story highlights the importance of friendship and community during these challenging times.

### \*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.

**\*Jabari Tries** – Gaia Cornwall

Jabari is making a flying machine all by himself, but when it doesn't work the way he imagined, he learns about perseverance and problem-solving.

**\*Lulu the One and Only** – Lynnette Mawhinney

Lulu gets help from her brother, Zane, to respond to other people's confusion about her racial identity by using a "power phrase" to declare who she is, rather than what.

**❖My Hair is Magic** – M. L. Marroquin

A confident Black child loves and defends her natural hair, even as others question why it's so big, messy, frizzy, kinky, wild, and complicated.

**\*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

### **Click**

Introduces young minds to the wonders of science, art and nature. Ages 5-7.

### **Ladybug**

Filled with enchanting stories and poems. Ages 3-7.

### **Ranger Rick**

Suitable for children interested in learning about wildlife. Ages 3-7.

### **Spider**

Includes age-appropriate stories, articles, poems, drawings, cartoons and letters. Ages 3-7.