

2021 Children's Literature:

Books, Lists and Articles

1.



Juan Hormiga (May 2021)

By: Roldan, Gustavo

Inspired by stories of his grandfather's exploits, the laziest ant in the anthill sets out on his own adventure.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

2.



Olu & Greta (Jan 2022), Forthcoming

By: Ejaita, Diana

Two cousins--one in Lagos, Nigeria, and the other in Milan, Italy--have different lives, but they share a dream of meeting and being together.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

3.



Love is for roaring (Jan 2022), Forthcoming

By: Kerr, Mike, (Art instructor)

With help from his friend Mouse, Lion explores different and sometimes unconventional ways to express his love. In this unconventional exploration of the many ways to show our love, a fierce and grumpy lion, who has no time for hugs, kisses and lovey-dovey stuff, learns how to express what he loves.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

4.

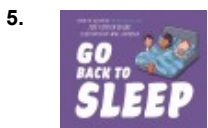


Mina (Feb 2022), Forthcoming

By: Forsythe, Matthew, 1976-

Mina the mouse is very upset when her father brings home a pet "squirrel" that she is certain is a cat.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction



Go back to sleep (Dec 2021), Forthcoming

By: Blake, Zoe Foster, 1980-

Finn spends the entire night putting his parents back to sleep.

Roles are reversed in this silly bedtime story that follows poor Finn as he keeps having to put his parents back to bed, wondering if--and when--they will ever sleep through the night!

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction



Slug in love (Dec 2021), Forthcoming

By: Bright, Rachel

In this adorable rhyming picture book that is perfect for Valentine's Day, Doug the lonesome slug searches for love and learns that there truly is a friend for everyone.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

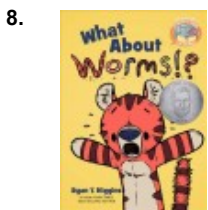


Ben and Emma's big hit (Dec 2021), Forthcoming

By: Newsom, Gavin Christopher, 1967-

"An empowering picture book about a young boy with dyslexia who discovers a new way to look at reading"--.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction



What about worms!? (May 2020)

By: Higgins, Ryan T.

A big, tough tiger who is riotously afraid of worms sends a letter to readers warning them that worms are everywhere and might even be inside the book.

Series: Elephant & Piggie like reading!, 7

Lexile: 310 **Lexile:** 310 Adult-directed text **Accelerated Reader:** IL: LG, BL: 1.6, AR Pts: 0.5

Popularity: ★★★★★ Ages 0-8 Fiction



The Me Tree (Nov 2021)

By: Belote, Ashley

"Bear just wants to live alone. By himself. With no one else.

So he finds a cozy tree, just for him. He calls it "The Me Tree." But it turns out The Me Tree may have a number of surprise guests . . . Can Bear learn to live with others?"--

Provided by publisher.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

10.



See the dog: three stories about a cat (Sep 2021)

By: LaRochelle, David

"The dog is sick today, but have no fear--the cat is happy to take his place! But when the book (who is very bossy) tells her to dig a hole, the dirt-averse cat finds a way to accomplish the task while keeping her fur pristine. And when the book demands that she fetch a stick (in the water!) or guard a sheep (from a wolf!), the cat responds in very un-doglike ways. Can the book and the cat reach a happy ending?"--.

Accelerated Reader: IL: LG, BL: 1.3, AR Pts: 0.5

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 0-8** Fiction

11.



Magic candies (Sep 2021)

By: Baek, Heena

"Tong Tong could never have imagined what everyone around him was thinking. But when he gets hold of some magic candies, suddenly there are voices everywhere.... It turns out, these voices in Tong Tong's life have A LOT to say! Is Tong Tong ready to hearit?"--.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 0-8** Fiction

12.



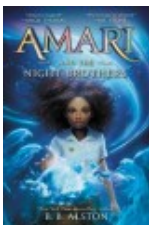
Garlic and the vampire (Sep 2021)

By: Paulsen, Bree

Garlic must believe in herself to confront a bloodthirsty vampire who has moved into a nearby castle, in this humorous and heartwarming story that reminds readers that strangers are not always as scary as they seem.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** Fiction

13.



Amari and the night brothers (Jan 2021)

By: Alston, B.B

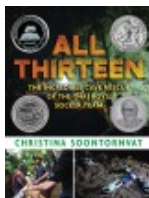
Thirteen-year-old Amari, a poor Black girl from the projects, gets an invitation from her missing brother to join the Bureau of Supernatural Affairs and join in the fight against an evil magician.

Series: Amari, 1

Accelerated Reader: IL: MG, BL: 4.9, AR Pts: 14

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** Fiction

14.



All thirteen: the incredible cave rescue of the Thai boys' soccer team (Oct 2020)

By: Soontornvat, Christina

Combines firsthand interviews with scientific and cultural insights in a middle grade account of the 2018 Thai cave rescue of the Wild Boars soccer team and the critical, sophisticated engineering operation that saved the lives of 13 young people.

Lexile: 1020 **Lexile:** 1020 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 7.2, AR

Pts: 7

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Nonfiction**

15.



The graphic canon of children's literature: the definitive anthology of kid's lit as graphics and visuals (Nov 2014)

"The original three-volume anthology The Graphic Canon presented the world's classic literature--from ancient times to the late twentieth century--as eye-popping comics, illustrations, and other visual forms. In this follow-up volume, young people's literature through the ages is given new life by the best comics artists and illustrators. Fairy tales, fables, fantastical adventures, young adult novels, swashbuckling yarns, your favorite stories from childhood and your teenage years. they're all here, in all their original complexity and strangeness, before they were censored or sanitized"--.

Series: Graphic canon, 4

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Adult** **Fiction**

16.



Listen, Layla (Nov 2021)

By: Abdel-Magied, Yassmin, 1991

Exploring the diaspora experience, race, politics and identity, Listen, Layla by Yassmin Abdel-Magied is an own voices novel for young readers, which bursts with passion, humour and truth. Layla has ended the school year on a high and can't wait to spend the holidays hanging out with her friends and designing a prize-winning Grand Designs Tourismo invention. But Layla's plans are interrupted when her grandmother in Sudan falls ill and the family rush to be with her. The last time Layla went to Sudan she was only a young child. Now she feels torn between her Sudanese and Australian identities. As political tensions in Sudan erupt, so too do tensions between Layla and her family. Layla is determined not to lose her place in the invention team, but will she go against her parents' wishes? What would a Kandaka do?

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Teen Fiction

17.



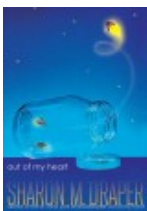
A snake falls to Earth (Nov 2021)

By: Badger, Darcie Little

"Nina is a Lipan girl in our world. She's always felt there was something more out there. She still believes in the old stories. Oli is a cottonmouth kid, from the land of spirits and monsters. Like all cottonmouths, he's been cast from home. He's found a new one on the banks of the bottomless lake. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth, and a strange sickness that befalls Oli's best friend, will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries. And there are some who will kill to keep them apart"--.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Teen Fiction

18.



Out of my heart (Nov 2021)

By: Draper, Sharon M. (Sharon Mills)

To face her fear of horses head on, Melody decides to sign up for a summer camp that includes horseback riding but wonders if the camp will welcome a kid with cerebral palsy, in the stunning sequel to the acclaimed New York Times best-selling novel, Out of My Mind.

Series: Out of my mind, 2

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

19.



Otto: a palindrama (Oct 2021)

By: Agee, Jon

Brilliant and hilarious, this graphic novel told entirely in palindromes follows Otto as he is led into a weird and perplexing world while searching for his dog Pip, where everything is the same forward and backward.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

20.



Cold-blooded Myrtle (Oct 2021)

By: Bunce, Elizabeth C.

Twelve-year-old Young Lady of Quality and Victorian amateur detective Myrtle Hardcastle returns, and now she is on the trail of a serial killer in her hometown of Swinburne.

Series: Myrtle Hardcastle mystery, 3

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

21.



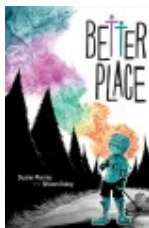
Between shades of gray: the graphic novel (Oct 2021)

By: Donkin, Andrew

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Teen Fiction

22.



Better Place (Oct 2021)

By: Murray, Duane

This sidekick misses his superhero... After hearing that his grandfather has gone to a better place, a boy sets off on a grand adventure to find him, dressed as his favourite comic book character.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

23.



Never open it: the taboo trilogy (Oct 2021)

By: Niimura, Ken

Never Open It: The Taboo Trilogy is a collection of three stories from Ken Niimura that are rooted in well-known Japanese folk tales, such as Urashima Taro and The Crane Wife. Each story delves into the concept of the taboo, asking questions such as “Why are these rules meant to be followed?” and “Who and why sets these rules?”.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Teen Fiction

24.



Once upon a camel (Sep 2021)

By: Appelt, Kathi, 1954-

In 1910, Zada the camel treks across the West Texas desert to save two baby kestrels from an approaching haboob, a mountain-sized storm. sharing adventures from her youth in Turkey to keep them calm.

Accelerated Reader: IL: MG, BL: 5.6, AR Pts: 6

Popularity: ★★★★★ Ages 9-12 Fiction

25.



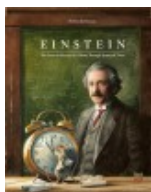
The monsters of Rookhaven (Sep 2021)

By: Kenny, Padraig

When two orphans break through the magic shield that is keeping an extraordinary family of monsters safe from those who would do them harm, they are all put in grave danger.

Popularity: ★★★★★ Ages 9-12 Fiction

26.



Einstein: the fantastic journey of a mouse through space and time (Sep 2021)

By: Kuhlmann, Torben, 1982-

"When an inventive mouse misses the biggest cheese festival the world has ever seen, he's determined to turn back the clock. But what is time, and can it be influenced? With the help of a mouse clockmaker, a lot of inventiveness and the notes of a certain famous Swiss physicist he succeeds in traveling back in time. But when he misses his goal by eighty years, the only one who can help is an employee of the Swiss Patent Office, who turned our concept of space and time upside down"--.

Series: Mouse adventures

Popularity: ★★★★★ Ages 9-12 Fiction

27.



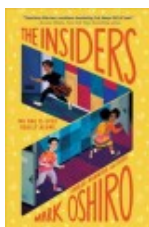
A terrible tide: a story of the Newfoundland tsunami of 1929 (Sep 2021)

By: Meade, Suzanne, 1973-

"Based on the true story of an earthquake that shook Newfoundland's Burin Peninsula, A Terrible Tide tells the tale of this forgotten disaster from the point of view of a young girl whose life is turned upside down. November 18th, 1929. In her small village in Newfoundland, Celia is setting the table for her 13th birthday celebration when the house starts to shake. It's an earthquake, rumbling under the Atlantic Ocean. A few hours later, the sea water disappears from the harbor, only to rush back in a wave almost 30 feet high, destroying nearly everything in its path."-- Provided by publisher.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

28.



The insiders (Sep 2021)

By: Oshiro, Mark

Twelve-year-old Hector Muñoz, fleeing from bullies, discovers a magical closet that not only provides him sanctuary, but also unites him with two other kids facing similar problems at their own schools, helping them find friendship and strength in each other.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

29.



Pax, journey home (Sep 2021)

By: Pennypacker, Sara, 1951-

It has been a year since newly orphaned Peter and his pet fox Pax, now a protective father, have seen each other, but their paths cross again when Pax's kit falls desperately ill forcing him to turn to the one human he knows he can trust.

Series: Pax, 2

Lexile: 750 **Lexile:** 750 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 5.2, AR Pts: 6

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

30.



The last cuentista (Aug 2021)

By: Higuera, Donna Barba

"Habâia una vez... There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But Petra's world is ending. Earth has been destroyed by a comet, and only a few hundred scientists and their children--among them Petra and her family--have been chosen to journey to a new planet. They are the ones who must carry on the human race. Hundreds of years later, Petra wakes to this new planet--and the discovery that she is the only person who remembers Earth. A sinister Collective has taken over the ship during its journey, bent on erasing the sins of humanity's past. They have systematically purged the memories of all aboard--or purged them altogether. Petra alone now carries the stories of our past, and with them, any hope for our future. Can she make them live again?"--.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

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31.



Black boy joy: 17 stories celebrating Black boyhood (Aug 2021)

Featuring contributions from such critically acclaimed Black authors as Jason Reynolds, Jerry Craft and Kwame Mbalia, this celebration of Black boyhood is told through a brilliant collection of stories, comics and poems.

Lexile: 710 **Lexile:** 710 **Accelerated Reader:** IL: MG, BL: 4.6, AR Pts: 8

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

32.



Escape from Atlantis (Dec 2021), Forthcoming

By: O'Hearn, Kate

Shipwrecked on Atlantis, a place beyond imagination, cousins Riley and Alfie soon discover that beneath this mythical land lurks dangerous secrets that are the key to both finding their parents—and finding their way home.

Series: Atlantis (Kate O'Hearn), 1

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

33.



Girl Giant and the jade war (Dec 2021),

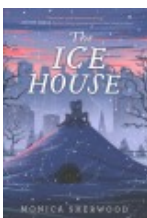
Forthcoming

By: Hoang, Van

"Thom Ngoh thought the Monkey King was her friend--he taught her to control her super strength and to stand up for herself. But really he was just using her. He tricked her into stealing from the Heavens and releasing him from his 500-year prison. Now the Monkey King is waging a war against the Heavens and Thom must do everything in her power to fix the mess she made. Determined to prevent a war, Thom and her dragon friend Kha set off on an adventure across the Heavens to search for allies. But with the stakes higher than ever, the price for help may be more than Thom is willing to pay"--.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

34.



The ice house (Nov 2021)

By: Sherwood, Monica

To escape the grief plaguing their homes after being trapped for months due to a climate disaster, Louisa and Luke build a massive snow fort that unexpectedly sends them on a mission to restore the universe to its rightful order.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

35.



Love in the library (Jan 2022), Forthcoming

By: Tokuda-Hall, Maggie

In this elegant love story that sheds light on a dark chapter of American history after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Tama works in a prison library where she befriends a man who also seeks solace in pages bursting with color and light.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

36.



On the move: home is where you find it (Jan 2022), Forthcoming

By: Rosen, Michael

In this companion book to *The Missing: The True Story of My Family in World War II*, the author presents 49 poems exploring the themes of migration and displacement through the lens of his childhood in the shadow of World War II.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Nonfiction**

37.



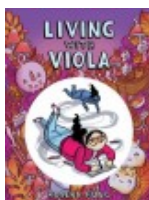
Rabbit, soldier, angel, thief (Oct 2021)

By: Nannestad, Katrina

Award-winning writer Katrina Nannestad transports us to Russia and the Great Patriotic War and into the life of Sasha, a soldier at only six years old... Wood splinters and Mama screams and the nearest soldier seizes her roughly by the arms. My sister pokes her bruised face out from beneath the table and shouts, 'Run, Sasha! Run!' So I run. I run like a rabbit. It's spring, 1942. The sky is blue, the air is warm and sweet with the scent of flowers. And then everything is gone. The flowers, the proud geese, the pretty wooden houses, the friendly neighbours. Only Sasha remains. But one small boy, alone in war-torn Russia, cannot survive. One small boy without a family cannot survive. One small boy without his home cannot survive. What that small boy needs is an army. From the award-winning author of *We Are Wolves* comes the story of a young boy who becomes a soldier at six, fighting in the only way he can - with love. But is love ever enough when the world is at war?

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

38.



Living with Viola (Oct 2021)

By: Fung, Rosena

Lexile: 310 **Lexile:** 310

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

39.



The school between Winter and Fairyland (Oct 2021)

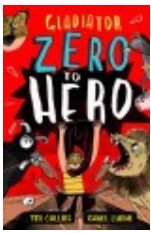
By: Fawcett, Heather (Heather M.)

Twelve-year-old Autumn, the beastkeeper at Inglenook School for Magicians, befriends Cai Morigan the young magician prophesied to destroy the dragon suspected of devouring Autumn's twin brother, and together they uncover the dark truth that lies at the heart of Inglenook School.

Lexile: 740 **Lexile:** 740

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Fiction

40. **Gladiator** (Nov 2021)



By: Collins, Tim, 1975-

This series of hilarious fictional diaries put us inside the heads of hapless figures from history. Marcus is a 15-year-old boy living in Pompeii in 79 AD. During a trip to Rome with his merchant dad, he finds himself tricked into becoming a gladiator and forced to fight deadly warriors in the arena. Will Marcus manage to escape his imprisonment? And will he learn to fight and distinguish himself as a gladiator... or will he just run away screaming? "Get Real" fact boxes featured throughout, as well as a timeline, historical biographies and a glossary in the endmatter, provide historical context and further information.

Series: Long-lost secret diary of the world's worst--

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

41. **A kind of spark** (Oct 2021)



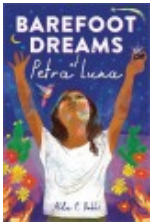
By: McNicoll, Elle

When she discovers that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, a neurodivergent girl who sees and hears things others cannot refuses to let them be forgotten.

Lexile: 580 **Lexile:** 580

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

42. **Barefoot dreams of Petra Luna** (Sep 2021)



By: Dobbs, Alda P.

"Based on a true story, the tale of one girl's perilous journey to cross the U.S. border and lead her family to safety during the Mexican Revolution"-- Provided by publisher.

Accelerated Reader: IL: MG, BL: 4.8, AR Pts: 7

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages 9-12** **Fiction**

43. **Why we fly** (Oct 2021)



By: Jones, Kimberly (Kimberly Latrice)

When her best friend, who is Black, is the only student suspended for taking a knee at the season's first football game, Eleanor must decide whether or not she wants to jeopardize her new relationship with the star quarterback by protesting the school's actions.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Teen** **Fiction**

44.



The boy and the elephant (Oct 2021)

By: Blackwood, Freya

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

45.



I am Hava: a song's story of love, hope & joy (Nov 2021)

By: Lewkowicz, Freda

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

46.



The paper bird (Dec 2021), Forthcoming

By: Anchin, Lisa

When criticism causes Annie's creative spark to fade, quite literally, to gray, she must learn to find the beauty in imperfections and celebrate the joy of creation for creations sake.

Popularity: ★☆☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

47.



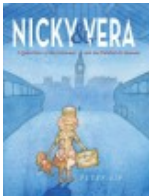
The big bath house (Nov 2021)

By: MacLear, Kyo, 1970-

Soon after a young girl arrives in Japan, she, her grandmother, her aunties, and some cousins celebrate cultural traditions together while visiting a bath house.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 0-8 Fiction

48.



Nicky & Vera: a quiet hero of the Holocaust and the children he rescued (Jan 2021)

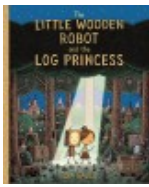
By: Sis, Peter, 1949-

In 1938, twenty-nine-year-old Nicholas Winton saved the lives of almost 700 children trapped in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. One of the children he saved was a young girl named Vera, whose family enlisted Nicky's aid when the Germans occupied their country. As the war passes and Vera grows up, she must find balance in her dual identities- one her birthright, the other her choice.

Accelerated Reader: IL: LG, BL: 3.7, AR Pts: 0.5

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ Ages 9-12 Nonfiction

49.



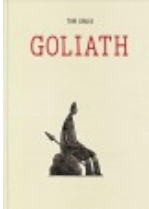
The little wooden robot and the log princess (Aug 2021)

By: Gauld, Tom

To save his sister, an enchanted log princess, after she is accidentally carted off to parts unknown, a little wooden robot must summon all his courage to bring her back home.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Ages** 0-8 **Fiction**

50.



Goliath (Feb 2012)

By: Gauld, Tom

Offers a graphic presentation of the David and Goliath story seen from Goliath's side of the Valley of Elah.

Popularity: ★★☆☆☆ **Adult** **Fiction**