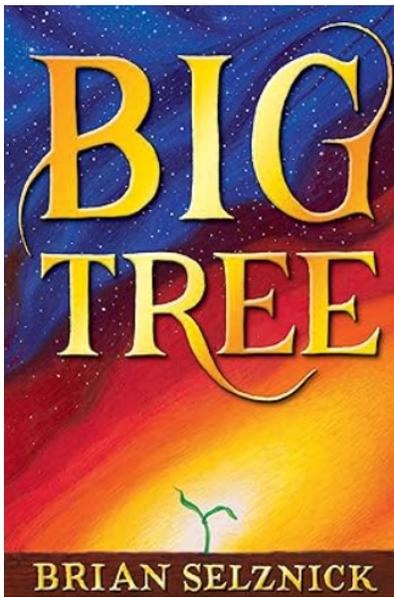




METAIRIE PARK COUNTRY DAY

2024 Suggestions for 3rd/4th Grade Summer Reading



Third and fourth graders should read thirty minutes each day and keep track of what they have read in the provided reading log. They should read texts from at least two different genres: realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction/fantasy, graphic novels, short stories, and nonfiction. *The books on this list are merely suggestions; they may choose other titles to complete the requirements*

ALL LOWER SCHOOL SUMMER READ:

Orris and Timble: The Beginning by Kate DiCamillo. This is a story that we hope to have all our Lower School students read this summer as a shared student read. We plan to start our year off with a discussion and activities from this beautiful book!

“BEST BOOKS OF 2023-20234”

Books from at least one list of “best” books, which were compiled by The American Library Association and leading journals in the field of children’s literature.

Anderson, M.T. **ELF DOG AND OWL HEAD.** This humorous and wondrous adventure of a boy and his magical dog is a timeless coming-of-age story marked by masterful world-building. (*A Newbery honor book.)

Applegate, Katherine. **THE ONE AND ONLY RUBY.** Ruby, a young elephant, worries about growing up with her adopted herd at a wildlife sanctuary. (**The One and Only series.*)

Benediktsson, Evar Por. **STRANDED!: A MOSTLY TRUE STORY FROM ICELAND.** The narrator recounts the story of his grandfather who got stuck on a volcanic island. Can you figure out which part is false?

Brown, Peter. **THE WILD ROBOT PROTECTS.** The emotionally intelligent robot, Roz, takes on the fight against environmental pollution. (**The Wild Robot Series.*)

Chantler, Scott. **SQUIRE AND KNIGHT.** A blowhard knight and a cursed town are rescued by an undervalued, brainy squire and a misunderstood dragon.

Davies, Jacqueline. **THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF DERELICTION.** As Alice fixes up an abandoned house, she discovers ghostly inhabitants and makes it her mission to help them become happily settled in the afterlife.

DiCamillo, Kate. **THE PUPPETS OF SPELHORST.** Five puppets—a girl, a boy, a king, a wolf, and an owl—live their dreams in a play within a story.

Dimopoulos, Elaine. **THE REMARKABLE RESCUE AT MILKWEED MEADOW.** Butternut, a rabbit, is supposed to stay close to home. Piper, a robin, persuades her to venture out to help a hurt fawn.

Eggers, Dave. **THE EYES AND THE IMPOSSIBLE.** This artistically illustrated novel shares a hero’s journey of Johannes, a free dog, as he learns about friendship and living in the wider world. (***The Newbery 2024 Medal Winner.**)

Forrester, Amy. **SEARCH FOR A GIANT SQUID: PICK YOUR PATH.** An expedition into deep sea waters to research giant squids in their habitat has various outcomes, depending on the reader’s choices.

Gianferrari, Maria. **FUNGI GROW.** Mushrooms grow everywhere on earth: some are edible, some medicinal, and some help trees and other plants thrive. Stunning detailed, colorful illustrations.

Harbinger, Esperanza. **YOUR BRAIN IS AMAZING: HOW THE HUMAN MIND WORKS.** Humorous illustrations, clear text, and supportive activities make this comprehensive exploration of the body’s most complex organ accessible and engaging.

Hatke, Ben. **THINGS IN THE BASEMENT.** In this imaginative graphic novel, a lost sock prompts an amazing journey through a dream-like world in the basement.

Kashiwaba, Sachiko. **THE HOUSE OF THE LOST ON THE CAPE.** Helped by creatures from Japanese folklore, three generations of women create a found family in the wake of tragedy and defend their village from evil threats. (*A Batchelder Honor Book.)

Klassen, Jon. **THE SKULL: A TYROLEAN FOLKTALE.** Haunting winter scenes accompany this strange and spooky tale about a bold girl who befriends and protects an unusual character.

Larson, Kirsten. **THE FIRE OF STARS: THE LIFE AND BRILLIANCE OF THE WOMAN WHO DISCOVERED WHAT STARS ARE MADE OF.** Parallel journeys of a luminous point in the sky and Cecelia Payne, the astrophysicist who reshaped our understanding of stars, are depicted in this awe-inspiring book with excellent back matter.

Lin, Grace. **CHINESE MENU: THE HISTORY, MYTHS, AND LEGENDS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE FOODS.** A delectable collection of tales that detail the history and origins of foods found on an American Chinese restaurant menu.

Lincoln, Beth. **THE SWIFTS: A DICTIONARY OF SCOUNDRELS.** In this British country house mystery, Shenanigan Swift must solve a murder at a family reunion.

Mendoza, Molly. **JAVITA WORE PANTS: THE STORY OF A MEXICAN FREEDOM FIGHTER.** This picture book biography tells the story of Javita Valdovinas who, defying her father's and society's rules, joined the fight for religious freedom in Mexico's Cristero Revolution. (*A Caldecott Honor Book.)

Miyares, Daniel. **THE MANY ASSASSINATIONS OF SAMIR, THE SELLER OF DREAMS.** With the hope of attaining his own freedom, a servant boy saves his master's life multiple times as they travel the Silk Road. (*A Newbery Honor Book.)

Molebash, Wes. **TRAVIS DAVENTHORPE: FOR THE WIN!** Travis, an 11-year-old genius robotic engineer, is an outcast until he discovers a multiverse. Now, its survival depends on him, a wizard, and his sentient robot. (*Travis Daventhorpe series.)

Murray, Lily. **HOW OLD IS A WHALE? ANIMAL LIFE SPANS FROM THE MAYFLY TO THE IMMORTAL JELLYFISH.** From mayfly to immortal jellyfish, this book explores the lifespans of animals, focusing on what each creature achieves during their time on Earth.

O'Shaugnessy, Kate. **LASAGNA MEANS I LOVE YOU.** When her Nan dies, Mo goes into foster care and discovers the power of food and found family through cooking and sharing recipes.

Pinkney, Jerry. **JUST JERRY: HOW DRAWING SHAPED MY LIFE.** A famous illustrator candidly remembers his passion for creating art, his unidentified dyslexia, and his youth in a Black neighborhood in 1940s and 1950s Philadelphia.

Rex, Adam. **THE STORY OF GUMLUCK THE WIZARD.** Helvetica, a wise raven, narrates a week in the life of Gumluck, the friendly wizard whose help is often sought yet rarely appreciated by the townspeople.

Ruiz-Flores, Lupe. **PIECE BY PIECE: ERNESTINE'S GIFT FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.** During the Great Depression, a Mexican-American girl gratefully creates a special gift for the president, using wood from government food boxes. Based on a true story.

Selznick, Brian. **BIG TREE.** In the final days of the dinosaurs, two sycamore seedlings search for a safe place to grow in an unsafe world. Extensive notes on the science.

Tidholm, Thomas. **TO THE ICE.** When the ice of the creek on which they are playing cracks, Ida, Max, and Jack float out to the river and then to the sea for an adventurous journey.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **HOW DO YOU SPELL UNFAIR?: MACNOLIA COX AND THE NATIONAL SPELLING BEE.** Despite prejudice and discrimination, MacNolia Cox makes a name for herself in the world of competitive spelling. (*A Coretta Scott King Honor Book.)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Avi. **THE TRUE CONFESSIONS OF CHARLOTTE DOYLE.** Thirteen-year-old Charlotte Doyle, a passenger on a 1832 voyage from England to America, must fend for herself when she learns the captain is murderous.

Bartone, Elisa. **PEPPE THE LAMPLIGHTER.** This is the story of Peppe, who becomes a lamplighter to help support his immigrant family in turn-of-the-century New York City, despite his papa's disapproval. Peppe's family is very poor, and though he is just a boy he needs to find work. Being a lamplighter is not the job his father had dreamed of for Peppe, but when Peppe's job helps save his little sister, he earns the respect of his entire family.

Bryan, Ashley. **FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE.** Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful picture book that contrasts the monetary value of a person with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. **THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM.** The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Hood, Susan. **LIFEBOAT 12.** In the tradition of *The War That Saved My Life* and *Stella By Starlight*, this poignant novel in verse based on true events tells the story of a boy's harrowing experience on a lifeboat after surviving a torpedo attack during World War II.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. **WE DREAM OF SPACE.** Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly's novel is a work of historical fiction that pulses with contemporary relevance. *We Dream of Space* chronicles the lives of three siblings during the month leading up to the Challenger space shuttle explosion in 1986.

Krishnaswami, Uma. **STEP UP TO THE PLATE, MARIA SINGH.** Nine-year-old Maria Singh longs to play softball in the first-ever girls' team forming in Yuba City, California. It's the spring of 1945, and World War II is

dragging on. Miss Newman, Maria's teacher, is inspired by Babe Ruth and the All-American Girls' League to start a girls' softball team at their school. In this fascinating middle-grade novel, award-winning author Uma Krishnaswami sheds light on a little-known chapter of American history set in a community whose families made multicultural choices before the word had been invented.

Lai, Thanhha. **INSIDE OUT AND BACK AGAIN.** In a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. (2012 Newbery Honor Book.)

Levine, Ellen. **HENRY'S FREEDOM BOX.** A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Luqman-Dawson. **FREEWATER.** Debut author Amina Luqman-Dawson pens a lyrical, accessible historical middle-grade novel about two enslaved children's escape from a plantation and the many ways they find freedom. (***2023 Newbery Award Winner**)

Morpurgo, Michael. **THE PUFFIN KEEPER.** A lifelong friendship starts when a boy, who will grow up to found Penguin Books, is rescued from a shipwreck by a lighthouse keeper on Puffin Island. Historical novel based on true events!

Philbrick, Rodman. **THE MOSTLY TRUE ADVENTURES OF HOMER P. FIGG.** A Newbery Honor Book, this warm, funny, & heart-wrenching Civil War novel introduces readers to the Battle of Gettysburg & "Little Round Top," one of the most famous feats of bravery in U.S. history!

Yang, Kelly. **FRONT DESK.** Ten-year-old Mia and her parents have fled communist China in the early 1990s, hoping to create a better life for themselves in America.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. **ONE CRAZY SUMMER.** Set during one of the most tumultuous years in recent American history, *One Crazy Summer* is the heartbreaking, funny tale of three girls who travel to

Oakland, California, in 1968 in search of the mother who abandoned them. (2011 Newbery Honor Book.)

REALISTIC FICTION

Alexander, Kwame. **THE CROSSOVER**. The Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award–winning middle grade bestseller! Basketball and heartache share the court in this slam-dunk novel in verse.

Albus, Kate. **A PLACE TO HANG THE MOON**. A heartwarming story about three siblings, evacuated from London to live in the countryside, looking for a permanent home—and a new meaning for family.

Atinuke. **TOO SMALL TOLA**. Three delightful tales from a renowned Nigerian storyteller introduce a chapter-book heroine who is every bit as mighty as she is small.

Barrows, Annie. **IVY AND BEAN**. The moment they saw each other, Bean and Ivy knew they wouldn't be friends. But when Bean plays a joke on her sister, Nancy, and has to quickly hide and Ivy comes to the rescue, proving that sometimes the best of friends are people never meant to like each other. Vibrant characters and lots of humor make this a charming and addictive introduction to the Ivy and Bean Book Series. (1st in a series.)

Henkes, Kevin. **THE YEAR OF BILLY MILLER**. Award-winning, nationally bestselling author Kevin Henkes introduces second-grader Billy Miller in this fast-paced and funny story about friendship, sibling rivalry, and elementary school. *The Year of Billy Miller* includes black-and-white art by the author.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. **HELLO, UNIVERSE**. Lives of four misfits are intertwined when a bully's prank lands shy Virgil at the bottom of a well and Valencia, Kaori, and Gen band together in an epic quest to find and rescue him. (2018 Newbery Medal Winner.)

Kelly, Erin Etrada. **MAYBE MARISOL RAINEY**. An illustrated novel about summer, friendship, and overcoming fears, told with warm humor and undeniable appeal. Fans of *Clementine*, *The Year of Billy Miller*, and *Ramona the Pest* will be thrilled to meet Marisol.

Lin, Grace. **THE YEAR OF THE DOG**. When

Pacy's mom tells her that this is a good year for friends, family, and "finding herself," Pacy begins searching right away. As the year goes on, she struggles to find her talent, deals with disappointment, makes a new best friend, and discovers just why the Year of the Dog is a lucky one for her after all. (1st in a series.)

Lord, Cynhia. **RULES**. Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

McDonald, Megan. **STINK: THE INCREDIBLE SHRINKING KID**. The shortest kid in the second grade, James Moody, also known as Stink, learns all about the shortest president of the United States, James Madison, when they celebrate Presidents' Day at school.

McKay, Hilary. **LULU AND THE DUCK IN THE PARK**. 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. (1st in a series.)

Medina, Meg. **MERCI SUAREZ CHANGES GEARS**. Merci Suárez begins the sixth grade and knows things will change, but she did not count on her grandfather acting strangely, not fitting in at her private school, and dealing with Edna Santos' jealousy. (2019 Newbery Medal Winner.)

O'Connor, Barbara. **WISH**. A touching, New York Times–bestselling story about a girl and her dog, perfect for young animal lovers.

Pennypacker, Sara. **PAX**. From bestselling and award-winning author Sara Pennypacker comes a beautifully wrought, utterly compelling novel about the powerful relationship between a boy and his fox. *Pax* is destined to become a classic, beloved for generations to come.

Pennypacker, Sara. **WAYLON! ONE AWESOME THING!** Waylon has lots of ideas for making life more awesome through science, like teleportation, human gills, and attracting cupcakes by controlling gravity. But it's impossible for him to concentrate on his inventions when he's experiencing his own personal Big Bang. (1st in a series.)

Robertson, David. **ON THE TRAPLINE.** A heartfelt picture book about memory, imagination and intergenerational connection that perfectly captures the experience of a young child's wonder as he is introduced to places and stories that hold meaning for his family.

Reynolds, Jason. **STUNTBOY.** From Newbery Medal honoree and #1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds comes a hilarious, hopeful, and action-packed middle grade novel about the greatest young superhero you've never heard of, filled with illustrations by Raúl the Third.

Weeks, Sarah. **SAVE ME A SEAT.** Ravi has just moved to the United States from India and has always been at the top of his class; Joe has lived in the same town his whole life and has learning problems—but when their lives intersect in the first week of fifth grade they are brought together by a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and the need to take control of their lives.

Woodson, Jacqueline. **EACH KINDNESS.** This unforgettable book is written and illustrated by the award-winning team that created *The Other Side* and the Caldecott Honor winner *Coming On Home Soon*. With its powerful anti-bullying message and striking art, it will resonate with readers long after they've put it down.

Yee, Lisa. **MAIZY CHEN'S LAST CHANCE.** Twelve year-old Maizy discovers her family's Chinese restaurant is full of secrets in this irresistible novel that celebrates food, fortune, and family. (2023 Newbery Honor Book.)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Burks, James.. **AGENT 9: FLOOD-A-GEDDON!** From the creator of the Bird & Squirrel graphic novel series, comes this hilarious and action-packed new series which follows a feline secret agent who will do whatever it takes to save the world—even if it means destroying a few things along the way.

Clanton, Ben. **NARWHAL: UNICORN OF THE SEA.** Narwhal is a happy-go-lucky narwhal. Jelly is a no-nonsense jellyfish. The two might not have a lot in common, but they do they love waffles, parties and adventures. Join Narwhal and Jelly as they discover the whole wide ocean together..

Christmas, Johnnie. **SWIM TEAM.** Bree can't wait for her first day at her new middle school until she's stuck with the only elective that fits her schedule, the dreaded Swim 101. The thought of swimming makes Bree more than a little queasy, yet she's forced to dive headfirst into one of her greatest fears. A splashy graphic novel!

Craft, Jerry. **THE NEW KID.** Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. (2020 Newbery Medal Winner.)

Feuti, Norm. **UNLIKELY FRIENDS. (BEAKY AND ALLY #1)** An early reader graphic novel series about finding friendship in unexpected places! This fun and funny buddy comedy is perfect for fans of Narwhal & Jelly, emerging readers, and all kids who love comics. (*series)

Hale, Shannon. **REAL FRIENDS.** Newbery Honor author Shannon Hale and New York Times bestselling illustrator LeUyen Pham join forces in this graphic memoir about how hard it is to find your real friends—and why it's worth the journey.(1st in a series.)

Hatke, Ben. **MIGHTY JACK.** Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made.(1st in a series.)

Holm, Jennifer L. **SUNNY SIDE UP.** Sunny Lewin is sent to live with her grandfather for the summer in Florida, where she befriends Buzz, a boy completely obsessed with comic books, and faces the secret behind why she is in Florida in the first place. (1st in a series.)

Lai, Remy. **PAWCASSO.** A delightful graphic novel about friendship and belonging, starring the world's most adorable dog, perfect for fans of Raina

Telgemeier's *Guts*.

Laperla, Artur. **SUPER POTATO**. After Doctor Malevolent turns him into a potato, Super Max must learn how to fight crime as a vegetable.

Ortega, Claribel A. **FRIZZY**. The story of Marlene, a young Dominican girl whose greatest enemy is the hair salon! Through her struggles and triumphs, this heartwarming and gorgeous middle-grade graphic novel shows the radical power of accepting yourself as you are, frizzy curls and all.

Paulsen, Bree. **GARLIC AND THE VAMPIRE**. An enchanting graphic novel starring an unusual heroine who is braver than she realizes, for middle grade readers looking for a cozy, adventuresome read in the vein of *Witch Boy* or *Be Prepared*.

Palacio, R.J. **WHITE BIRD**. From the bestselling author of *Wonder* comes *White Bird*: an unforgettable Second World War story about bravery, friendship and the power of kindness.

Pilkey, Dan. **DOGMAN**. Dog Man is the crime-biting canine who is part dog, part man and all hero. Perfect for reluctant and voracious readers alike, this series follows the adventures of Dog Man as he claws after crooks and rolls over robbers! (1st in a series.)

Telgemeier, Raina. **SMILE**. Raina just wants to be a normal sixth grader. But one night after Girl Scouts she trips and falls, severely injuring her two front teeth. What follows is a long and frustrating journey with on-again, off-again braces, surgery, embarrassing headgear, and even a retainer with fake teeth attached. And on top of all that, there's still more to deal with: a major earthquake, boy confusion, and friends who turn out to be not so friendly. (1st in a series.)

Venable, Colleen AF. **KATIE THE CATSITTER**. In this fun graphic novel, twelve-year-old Katie's dreading the boring summer ahead, until she realizes the mysterious neighbor who hired her to catsit is one of the city's greatest supervillains.

Wagner Lloyd, Megan. **SQUISHED**. From the Eisner-nominated duo behind the instant bestseller *Allergic* comes a graphic novel about finding your own space... especially when you're in a family of nine!

Winick, Judith. **HILO: THE BOY WHO CRASHED TO EARTH**. When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world. Will appeal to fans of *Dog Man* and *Big Nate*. (1st in a series.)

FANTASY/SCIENCE FICTION

Applebaum, Kirsty. **THE MIDDLEL**. Eleven-year-old Maggie, a middle-born child where only the eldest are valued, has her world turned upside-down by forbidden friendship with Una, a wanderer girl from outside the boundaries of Fennis Wick.

Applegate, Katherine. **WILLOWDEEN**. From #1 New York Times bestseller Katherine Applegate, a singular middle-grade novel about a girl who risks everything to help a handmade creature who comes to life.

Barnhill, Kelly Regan. **THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON**. In a fantastical realm, a baby is left in the forest, according to an annual tradition of sacrifice. (2017 Newbery Medal Winner.)

Brown, Peter. **THE WILD ROBOT**. Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.(1st in a series.)

DiCamillo, Kate. **FLORA AND ULYSSES**. Rescuing a squirrel after an accident involving a vacuum cleaner, comic-reading cynic Flora Belle Buckman is astonished when the squirrel, Ulysses, demonstrates astonishing powers of strength and flight after being revived.

DuPrau, Jeanne. **THE CITY OF EMBER**. Ember is the only light in a dark world. But when its lamps begin to flicker, two friends must race to escape the dark. (1st in a series.)

Keller, Tae. **WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER.** When Lily, her sister Sam, and their mother move in with her sick grandmother, Lily traps a tiger and makes a deal with him to heal Halmoni. (2021 Newbery Medal Winner.)

Lewis, C.S. **THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE.** Four adventurous siblings - Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie - step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change...and a great sacrifice. (Series.)

Lin, Grace. **WHERE THE MOUNTAIN MEETS THE MOON.** This stunning fantasy inspired by Chinese folklore is a companion novel to *Starry River of the Sky* and the New York Times bestselling and National Book Award finalist *When the Sea Turned to Silver*.

Maguire, Gregory. **CRESS WATERCRESS.** In the timeless spirit of E. B. White and *The Wind and the Willows*—yet thoroughly of its time—this read-aloud and read-alone gem for animal lovers of all ages features an unforgettable cast. This tender meditation on coming-of-age invites us to flourish wherever we find ourselves.

Scieszka, John. **FRANK EINSTEIN AND THE ANTIMATTER MOTOR.** In his Grandpa Al's garage workshop, child genius Frank Einstein tries to invent a robot that can learn on its own, and after an accident brings wisecracking Klink and overly expressive Klank to life, they set about helping Frank perfect his Antimatter Motor until his archnemesis, T. Edison, steals the robots for his doomsday plan.

Soontornvat, Christina. **THE LAST MAPMAKER.** A high-seas adventure set in a Thai-inspired fantasy world. Christina Soontornvat explores a young woman's struggle to unburden herself of the past and chart her own destiny in a world of secrets. (2023 Newbery Honor Book.)

Sutherland, Tai T. **WINGS OF FIRE: THE**

DRAGONET PROPHECY. Clay and the other four MudWing dragonets were stolen from their homes while they were still in their eggs and hidden for years in order to fulfill a prophecy claiming that the dragonets would end the war between the dragon tribes, but not all of the dragonets want their destiny. (1st in a series.)

NONFICTION

Alexander, Lori. **A SPORTING CHANCE: HOW LUDWIG GUTTMAN CREATED THE PARALYMPIC GAMES.** Telling the inspiring human story behind the creation of the Paralympics, this young readers biography artfully combines archival photos, full-color illustrations, and a riveting narrative to honor the life of Ludwig Guttmann, whose work profoundly changed so many lives.

Bryan, Ashley. **FREEDOM OVER ME.** Using original slave auction and plantation estate documents, Ashley Bryan offers a moving and powerful picture book that contrasts the monetary value of a person with the priceless value of life experiences and dreams that a slave owner could never take away.

Chin, Jason. **THE UNIVERSE IN YOU: A MICROSCOPIC JOURNEY.** Explore the infinitesimal particles-cells, atoms, molecules, and those that we can't even yet measure-that make up all the world's physical matter. Well researched and captivating!

Donnelly, Rebecca. **TOTAL GARBAGE.** Rebecca Donnelly tackles the extraordinary, the icky, and the everyday, helping us see how our choices, personal and societal, impact our world and our planet—and encouraging us to make a change. Fact-filled and fascinating!

Dunlap, Julie. **I BEGIN WITH SPRING: THE LIFE AND SEASONS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU.** Formatted like a nature notebook, this exploration of seasonal changes in Thoreau's day is also a visual story of his life and times and a gentle introduction to climate change.

Emberly, Michael. **THE MESSAGE: THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF AN ORDINARY TEXT MESSAGE.** Follow as a text message travels at near light speed around the

world in this illuminating picture book about how our messages get from one phone to another, and connections they create between both people.

Hoose, Phillip. **MOONBIRD: A YEAR ON THE WIND WITH GREAT SURVIVOR B95**. Documents the survival tale of an intrepid shorebird who has endured annual migrations between Argentina and the Canadian Arctic throughout the course of a long lifetime while his species continues to decline.

Latham, Irene. **THE CAT MAN OF ALEPPO**. The true story of Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, who in the midst of a Syrian Civil War offered safe haven to Aleppo's abandoned cats.

McGinty, Alice B. **THE WATER LADY: HOW DARLENE ARVISO HELPS A THIRSTY NAVAJO NATION**. This inspiring picture book tells the true story of a woman who brings desperately needed water to families on the Navajo reservation every day.

Novesky, Amy. **GIRL ON A MOTORCYCLE**. A picture book biography by an award-winning team about the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world.

Soontornvat, Christina. **ALL THIRTEEN: THE INCREDIBLE CAVE RESCUE OF THE THAI BOYS' SOCCER TEAM**. A unique account of the amazing Thai cave rescue told in a heart-racing, you-are-there style that blends suspense, science, and cultural insight.

Wade, Jess. **NANO: THE SPECTACULAR SCIENCE OF THE VERY SMALL**. Acclaimed physicist and debut picture-book author introduces readers to the tiny building blocks that make up the world around us. Elegant, friendly text and stylish illustrations explain atoms, the elements, and other essential science concepts and reveal how very (very) small materials are manipulated to create self-washing windows; stronger, lighter airplanes; and other wonders of nanotechnology.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **UNSPEAKABLE: THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE**. Celebrated author Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrator Floyd Cooper provide a powerful look at the 1921 Tulsa race massacre, one of the worst incidents of violence in our nation's history.

Silvey, Anita. **UNTAMED: THE WILD LIFE OF JANE GOODALL**. Jane Goodall, one of the most recognized scientists in the Western world, became internationally famous because of her ability to observe and connect with another species. continues to leave the modern world with an extraordinary legacy and has changed the scientific community forever.

Sis, Peter. **NICKY & VERA: A QUIET HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHILDREN HE RESCUED**. Caldecott Honoree and Sibert Medalist Peter Sís honors a man who saved hundreds of children from the Nazis. In 1938, twenty-nine-year-old Nicholas Winton saved the lives of almost 700 children trapped in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia--a story he never told and that remained unknown until an unforgettable TV appearance in the 1980s reunited him with some of the children he saved.

POETRY

Alexander, Kwame. **THE UNDEFEATED**. Originally performed for ESPN's The Undeclared, this poem is a love letter to black life in the United States. It highlights the unspeakable trauma of slavery, the faith and fire of the civil rights movement, and the grit, passion, and perseverance of some of the world's greatest heroes. (2020 Caldecott Medal Winner.)

Cooper, Susan. **THE SHORTEST DAY**. In this seasonal treasure, Newbery Medalist Susan Cooper's beloved poem heralds the winter solstice, illuminated by Caldecott Honoree Carson Ellis's strikingly resonant illustrations.

Harris, Chris. **MY HEAD HAS A BELLYACHE AND MORE NONSENSE FOR MISCHIEVOUS KIDS AND IMMATURE GROWN-UPS**. Inventive, humorous, and thoughtful poems in multiple forms are accompanied by cartoon-style illustrations.

Kooser, Ted. **MARSHMALLOW CLOUDS. TWO POETS AT PLAY AMONG FIGURES OF SPEECH**. Thirty free verse poems about fire, water, air, and earth play imaginatively with words, imagery, similes, and metaphors.

Prelutsky, Jack. **HARD BOILED BUGS FOR BREAKFAST AND OTHER TASTY POEMS**. A new collection from the celebrated first Young People's Poet Laureate and bestselling poet Jack Prelutsky, featuring more than one hundred original poems!

Raczka, Bob. **LEMONADE AND OTHER POEMS SQUEEZED FROM A SINGLE WORD**. Part anagram, part rebus, part riddle--these poems capture a scene from a child's daily life and present a puzzle to solve. Sometimes sweet and sometimes funny, but always clever, these poems are fun to read and even more fun for kids to write.

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