

# From The Bookshelf

*Notes and Updates from the Lower School/Upper School Libraries*

Vol. 1 Special

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## Readers are Leaders Program

2024-2025

### LAMB'S LIST FOR GRADES 1-2

1. ***Cornbread & Poppy at the Carnival***, by Matthew Cordell. Poppy LOVES scary movies. Cornbread does not. Poppy ADORES runny cheese. Cornbread does not. Poppy can't WAIT to try a roller coaster. Cornbread...can. Their day promises to include fun games, yummy snacks, and big, big rides. What new things will these mice try?
2. ***How Birds Sleep***, by Sarah Pedry and David Obuchowski. Have you ever seen a bird sleep? Or wondered just when it is that migrating cranes find the time to catch Z's as they cross the ocean? From the parrots of Thailand to the ostriches of Australia and even the pigeons of New York City, every bird sleeps—but they do it in ways that will surprise and delight you.
3. ***How to Eat in Space***, by Helen Taylor. First, be patient: Preparing a meal without gravity's help takes time. Second, avoid crumbs: They get everywhere! Third, clean up after yourself: Today's stray snack could become tomorrow's smelly surprise. Once you learn the dos and don'ts, you'll be eating like an astronaut in no time!
4. ***Just Like Millie***, by Lauren Castillo. In a gentle story from Caldecott Honoree Lauren Castillo, a shy young girl finds exploring her new city and making friends overwhelming—until a rescue dog helps her uncover the bravery that was always in her.
5. ***Log Life***, by Amy Hevron. When old trees fall to the forest floor, they can take centuries to decompose, becoming home to all sorts of organisms along the way. With snappy text and lush illustrations, this book invites curious readers to step into a tiny ecosystem that's truly like no other.
6. ***Lucky Me***, by Lawrence Schimel. Bruno's friend Sanjay has his own room and a pet iguana. Bruno's brother, Mateo, who is visually impaired, has a dog named Rocco who helps him get around, and Mateo is a fantastic storyteller. Bruno doesn't have a pet, and he has to share his room, but he still feels like the luckiest of all to have such a great brother and amazing friend.
7. ***Luigi, the Spider Who Wanted to Be a Kitten***, by Michelle Knudsen. When a woman finds a spider under her couch, she mistakes him for a kitten...an animal she has been wanting! Life as a kitten is very nice for the spider, but can he keep up the charade of being something he's not? Will he lose everything if the woman finds out what he really is?

8. *Rise to the Sky*, by Rebecca E. Hirsch. Trees are the tallest living things on Earth. But how do they grow to be so tall? This book is a poetic introduction to the tree life cycle. Accompanied by Mia Posada's detailed collage illustrations, this book features the tallest tree species from around the world..

9. *Rosie Woods: Little Red Writing Hood*, by Maya Myers. Rosie is a good writer, but she can't come up with a single story idea. Meanwhile, her friend Wolfie has a million ideas. Rosie wants her story to be really great--and that means giving it a surprise ending. Then Wolfie himself unwittingly inspires the perfect "twist" Rosie's been looking for. But will using it make her story better or ruin her friendship with Wolfie? **\*Second Grade ONLY\***

10. *The Ocean Gardener*, by Clara Anganuzzi. Ayla lives on a beautiful tropical island surrounded by a coral reef. One day, Ayla notices that many of the fish have disappeared, and the once-vibrant corals have turned pale. She and her mom set out to save the corals--but is it too late?

11. *The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish*, by Chloe Savage. Dr. Morley absolutely loves jellyfish. Her entire life, she has been fascinated by one specific species, a legendary creature that no one has ever seen. Does the giant Arctic jellyfish even exist? After years of research, Dr. Morley and her crew set off to icy northern waters in hopes of finding the mysterious creature.

12. *The Wonderful Wisdom of Ants*, by Philip Bunting. This book is all about ants and how hard they work. It gives us a detailed understanding of ant society, how they live, what they eat and what a day looks like in the life of an ant. Bunting's ability to turn non fiction into fantastic, stick-in-your-brain-forever fun meaning is perfect for kids!

13. *Trim Sets Sail*, by Deborah Hopkinson. When Trim trips over a napping dog, little does he know that soon he'll set sail and begin learning how to be a ship's cat. With the assistance of Captain Flinders, Penny the ship's dog, and Will the ship's artist, Trim learns new skills, tests his limits and abilities, and finds a way to contribute to life onboard. **\*\*First Grade ONLY\*\***

## LION'S LIST FOR GRADES 3-4

1. ***A Grand Idea: How William J. Wilgus Created Grand Central Terminal***, by Megan Hoyt. This thoughtful STEM picture book biography about the brilliant architect of Grand Central Terminal is a celebration of resilience in the face of adversity, creative problem solving, and, of course, trains!
2. ***Cactus Queen***, by Lori Alexander. How did the Joshua Tree National Park in California come to be? Meet Minerva Hamilton Hoyt, an artist, activist, and environmentalist, whose determination saved the desert and helped to create the park.
3. ***Great Carrier Reef***, by Jessica Stremer. This incredible story brings young readers along on the journey of the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany—the Mighty O—as it gets stripped down to a steel shell for a new life below the waves.
4. ***How It Happened: The Cool Stories and Facts Behind Every Slice***, by Paige Towler. This fact-filled book delivers the deep dish on pizza culture, history, and science. Whether you like thin crust or Sicilian-style, this book is one that pizza lovers won't want to miss!
5. ***Hummingbird Season***, by Stephanie Lucianovic. Archie's life--and the whole world--is turned upside down. Suddenly there are no more Friday night dinners out, no more going to school, no more hanging out with friends . . . no leaving the house *at all*. This is a healing novel in verse documenting the early days of the pandemic and the things that bring us together when circumstances keep us apart.
6. ***Lucky Duck***, by Chris Kurtz. Between his unusually giant feet and early hatching, Frank is notably different from his siblings Darryl and Darlene. And despite his efforts, Frank seems drawn to un-duckly pursuits. When the pond community is threatened by a fox, Frank is the one to venture into the forest where danger—and discoveries—lurk at every turn on his quest to save his home.
7. ***The Truth About Parrots***, by Maxwell Eaton III. Did you know there are about 360 different species of parrots? Did you know parrots can see ultra-violet light? Did you know parrots can identify colors using human language? Impress your friends (and teacher) with these facts and many more from this hilarious and information-packed book.
8. ***The Great Lakes: Our Freshwater Treasure***, by Barb Rosenstock. The Great Lakes—Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior—are five blue jewels set a bit off center in a belt across North America's middle. Follow along as a drop of water in this enormous system and uncover its dramatic journey from lake to river to lake, over Niagara Falls to lake and river again, and finally into the Atlantic Ocean.
9. ***They Hold the Line: Wildfires, Wildlands, and the Firefighters Who Brave Them***, by Dan Paley. This book delivers a dramatic inside look at the work of the highly trained first responders who risk their lives to fight wildfires. From hotshot hand crews to those who support them, wildland firefighters serve as stewards of the land, managing the health of our forests and the safety of our communities.
10. ***Wind Riders: Rescue on Turtle Beach***, by Jen Marlin. Max and Sofia are ordinary kids whose lives are changed when they discover an abandoned sailboat. They're given the chance to make a real impact when the boat magically brings them to a different corner of the world to help other kids save their environment! Their first mission? Rescuing baby sea turtles in the beautiful waters of Hawaii.

## Lantern List for Grades 5-6

1. ***A Horse Named Sky***, by Roanne Parry. Young wild colt Sky must find his way over rough terrain to rejoin his family after being captured for the Pony Express.
2. ***All the Small Wonderful Things***, by Kate Foster. In an endearing story about an autistic boy and his steadfast furry pal, Alex is convinced that winning a trophy at the dog show will help him make a real friend at last.
3. ***Always, Clementine***, by Carlie Sorosiak. Clementine is different from other mice: she can calculate the speed of light and she dreams in Latin. The scientists say she's a genius and put her through test after test. Clementine is proud of being a good lab mouse, but she's lonely.
4. ***Book Scavenger***, by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman. When 12-year-old Emily teams up with James to follow clues in an odd book, they hope to figure out its secrets before the men who attacked Emily's hero, publisher Garrison Griswold, come after them.
5. ***Light and Air***, by Mindy Nichols Wendell. Halle and her mother are diagnosed with TB and sent to a hospital in upstate New York where Halle discovers joy, family and friendship, until a setback throws the family's entire future into question.
6. ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers Edition)***, by William Kamkwamba. When William, a Malawian teen, began building a windmill from scraps and claimed the machine would generate electricity, everyone in his village thought he was crazy.
7. ***The Keeper: The Unguarded Story of Tim Howard (Young Readers Edition)***, by Tim Howard. In this Young Reader's Edition, soccer player Tim Howard recounts his life and career, discussing childhood struggles with hyperactivity and Tourette's syndrome and being raised with a love of sports and a Christian faith.
8. ***The Lost Library***, by Rebecca Stead. When a mysterious little free library appears overnight in Martinville, Evan and his best friend, Rafe, quickly discover a link between one of the old books and a long-ago event that none of the grown-ups want to talk about.
9. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***, by Shelley Pearsall. In 1963, thirteen-year-old Arthur is sentenced to community service helping the neighborhood Junk Man after Arthur throws a brick at the old man's head in a moment of rage, but the junk he collects might be more important than he suspects.
10. ***Untamed: The Wild Life of Jane Goodall***, by Anita Silvey. This biography for children traces Goodall's life. Each chapter also focuses on two or more of the chimpanzees that she observed, with information in sidebars about these particular animals.

## Lighthouse List for Grades 7-8

1. ***A First Time for Everything***, by Dan Santat. Dan's always been a good kid. He listens to his teachers, helps his mom with shopping and stays out of trouble. But being a good kid doesn't stop him from being bullied and feeling like he's invisible.
2. ***Brown Girl Dreaming***, by Jacqueline Woodson. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Jacqueline Woodson felt halfway home in each place. Through free verse, she shares what it was like to grow up as a Black child in the 1960s and 1970s.
3. ***Chasing Lincoln's Killer***, by James Swanson. Based on James Swanson's bestselling adult book MANHUNT: THE 12-DAY CHASE FOR LINCOLN'S KILLER, this young adult version is an accessible look at the assassination of a president and describes Abraham Lincoln, the man, the father, and the husband
4. ***City of Ember***, by Jeanne DuPrau. In the year 241, twelve-year-old Lina trades jobs on Assignment Day to be a messenger, to run to new places in her decaying but beloved city, perhaps even to glimpse Unknown Regions.
5. ***Slugfest***, by Gordon Korman. Forced to take Physical Education Equivalency, aka "Slugfest," in summer school so he can maintain his star spot on the JV football team, Yash recruits his fellow PE rejects to train with him
6. ***The First State of Being***, by Erin Entrada Kelly. For twelve-year-old Michael Rosario, life at Fox Run Apartments in Red Knot, Delaware, is as ordinary as ever. Then Michael meets a mysterious boy who changes his life forever.
7. ***The Lost Year***, by Katherine Marsh. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew discovers a shocking secret about his great-grandmother's past as he learns about her life during the Holodomor famine in Soviet Ukraine.
8. ***The Misfits: A Royal Conundrum***, by Lisa Yee. An elite group of underdogs trained to fight crime must save their unique school from shutting down.
9. ***The Mona Lisa Vanishes***, by Nicholas Day. This is a narrative nonfiction book about how the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre, how the robbery made the portrait the world's most famous artwork, and how the painting should never have existed at all.
10. ***Uprising***, by Jennifer Nielsen. This book is based on the remarkable true story of Lidia Durr, a Polish girl who lived through the Warsaw uprising and took a stand for freedom.

(Summaries provided by publishers)