

K-5 Picture Books

List by Julie Danielson

My Top Ten:

1. *My Papi Has a Motorcycle*, written by Isabel Quintero and illustrated by Zeke Peña; Kokila, May 2019.
2. *Going Down Home with Daddy*, written by Kelly Starling Lyons and illustrated by Daniel Minter; Peachtree, April 2019.
3. *The Patchwork Bike*, written by Maxine Beneba Clarke and illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd; Candlewick Press, September 2018.
4. *A Stone Sat Still*, written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel; Chronicle, August 2019.
5. *Crab Cake: Turning the Tide Together*, written and illustrated by Andrea Tsurumi; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, February 2019.
6. *Another*, written and illustrated by Christian Robinson; Simon & Schuster, March 2019.
7. *The Important Thing About Margaret Wise Brown*, written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Sarah Jacoby; Balzer + Bray, May 2019.
8. *The Undeclared*, written by Kwame Alexander and illustrated by Kadir Nelson; Versify, April 2019.
9. *Nine Months: Before a Baby Is Born*, written by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Jason Chin; Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, April 2019.
10. *You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks*, written and illustrated by Evan Turk; Atheneum, June 2019.

Notable Mentions:

- *Bear Came Along*, written by Richard T. Morris and illustrated by LeUyen Pham; Little, Brown, June 2019.
- *Daniel's Good Day*, written and illustrated by Micha Archer; Nancy Paulsen Books, May 2019.
- *The Bell Rang*, written and illustrated by James E. Ransome; Caitlyn Dlouhy Books/Atheneum, January 2019.
- *Good Boy*, written and illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier; Atheneum, February 2019.
- *Hands Up!*, written and illustrated by Breanna J. McDaniel and illustrated by Shane W. Evans; Dial, January 2019.
- *Hey, Water!*, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis; Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, March 2019.
- *Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons*, written by Laura Purdie Salas and illustrated by Mercè López; Millbrook, April 2019.
- *Moth: An Evolution Story*, written by Isabel Thomas and illustrated by Daniel Egnéus; Bloomsbury, June 2019.
- *My Heart*, written and illustrated by Corinna Luyken; Dial, January 2019.
- *A Normal Pig*, written and illustrated by K-Fai Steele; Balzer + Bray, June 2019.
- *Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival*, written and illustrated by Lindsay Moore; Greenwillow, January 2019.
- *Two Brothers, Four Hands: The Artists Alberto and Diego Giacometti*, written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan and illustrated by Hadley Hooper; Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, April 2019.
- *¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market*, written and illustrated by Raúl the Third III; Versify, April 2019.
- *What Is Given from the Heart*, written by Patricia C. McKissack and illustrated by April Harrison; Schwartz & Wade Books, January 2019.
- *When Aidan Became a Brother*, written by Kyle Lukoff and illustrated by Kaylani Juanita; Lee & Low, May 2019.
- *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*, written and illustrated by Grace Lin; Little, Brown, August 2018.
- *Dreamers*, written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales; Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, September 2018.
- *The Rough Patch*, written and illustrated by Brian Lies; Greenwillow, August 2018.
- *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, written by Traci Sorell and illustrated by Frané Lessac; Charlesbridge, September 2018.

Best of the Best (So Far), 2019 Edition

High Interest Books for Grades 3-6 by Lisa Meidl

Apocalypse Taco, written by Nathan Hale. Amulet Books, 2019.

Sid, Axl, and Ivan volunteer to make a late-night fast-food run for the high school theater crew, and when they return, they find themselves. Not in a deep, metaphoric sense: They find copies of themselves onstage. As they look closer, they begin to realize that the world around them isn't quite right. Turns out, when they went to the taco place across town, they actually crossed into an alien dimension that's eerily similar to their world. The aliens have made sinister copies of cars, buildings, and people—and they all want to get Sid, Axl, and Ivan. Now the group will have to use their wits, their truck, and even their windshield scraper to escape! But they may be too late. They may now be copies themselves . . .

The Boy, the Bird & the Coffin Maker, written by Matilda Woods. Philomel Books, 2018.

Alberto lives alone in the town of Allora where fish fly out of the sea and everyone knows everybody's business. There he makes coffins for the great and small, but being the only coffin maker in town can be lonely. That is until a little boy and a magical bird enter his life and change it forever.

DidiDodo Future Spy: Recipe for Disaster, written by Tom Angleberger. Amulet Books, 2019.

In this series opener, Koko Dodo the cookie chef has a big problem. Today is the day of the royal cookie contest, and someone has stolen his top-secret fudge sauce! Luckily, a spy enters the scene just in time (or rather, crashes in on her roller skates): Didi Dodo! This might be Didi's first case ever, but she has a daring plan to help Koko.

Dragon Masters: Eye of the Earthquake Dragon, written by Tracey West. Branches Scholastic, 2019.

This series is part of Scholastic's early chapter book line, Branches, aimed at newly independent readers. With easy-to-read text, high-interest content, fast-paced plots, and illustrations on every page, these books will boost reading confidence and stamina.

Dream Within a Dream, written by Patricia MacLachlan. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2019.

When Louisa is sent to stay with her grandparents for the summer, she's *not* looking forward to it. While her brother is determined to find a way to stay on Deer Island forever, Louisa would rather be off having adventures with their globetrotting ornithographer parents. She's a writer, and there's nothing on all of Deer Island to write about—right? Louisa quickly discovers that *small* doesn't necessarily mean *quiet*, and the island has plenty of scope for the imagination. It also has George, the boy who helps her see the world in a whole new light. The end of summer is coming fast, and Louisa must decide what she really wants: travel the world with her parents, or stay on Deer Island with the people she's only just learning to love?

Glitch, written by Sarah Graley. Scholastic Books, 2019.

From comics rising star Sarah Graley, a fresh and funny middle-grade graphic novel featuring a girl who must save a virtual world... and her own!

Jedi Academy: Revenge of the Sis, written by Jarrett Krosoczka & Amy Ignatow. Scholastic Books, 2019.

An all-new adventure at an all-new Jedi Academy campus. The first ever Jedi Academy story to be narrated by Christina Starspeeder. As told through a mix of comics, doodles and journal entries, Christina takes us on a new adventure at an all-new Jedi Academy campus!

King and Kayla and the Mystery of Found Fred, written by Dori Hillestad Butler. Peachtree Publishing, 2019.

King, Kayla, and Grandma find a dog who has lost his human family. What does Kayla know? —This dog doesn't have a collar or any tags. He can sit, lie down, and shake hands. No one around here knows who he is. What does King know? —The dog's family is staying at a campground. Can they figure out who he is and where his family is?

Mighty Meg and the Melting Menace, written by Sammy Griffin. Little Bee Books, 2019.

In book 2 of the Mighty Meg series, Meg must save her school from a frozen phenomenon! Strange things are happening in Plainview. When Meg sees a wall of ice holding back a mountain of stones, she knows once the warm,

spring weather comes and melts the ice, the stones are going to come crashing down. It's up to Mighty Meg to save the day!

Odd Gods: Misfit Myths From Mount Olympus Middle School, written by David Slavin. Harper Books, 2019. Diary of a Wimpy Kid meets Percy Jackson in *Odd Gods*, the first book in a hilarious illustrated series about the most unlikely, unusual Gods ever to grace the halls of Mount Olympus Middle School.

Operatic, written by Kyo Maclear. Groundwood Books, 2019.

"Somewhere in the universe, there is the perfect tune for you." This evocatively illustrated graphic novel brilliantly captures the high drama of middle school by focusing on the desire of its finely drawn characters to sing and be heard.

Pay Attention, Carter Jones, written by Gary Schmidt. Clarion Books, 2019.

This evocatively illustrated graphic novel brilliantly captures the high drama of middle school by focusing on the desire of its finely drawn characters to sing and be heard. Sparkling with humor, this insightful and compassionate story will resonate with readers who have confronted secrets of their own.

Penguin Days, written by Sara Leach. Pajama Press, 2018.

Lauren and her family drive to a farm in North Dakota to visit relatives and celebrate her Auntie Joss' wedding. But Lauren finds to her dismay that she is expected to do more than meet adults who hug her and invade her personal space. Lauren is going to be—horror of all horrors—a flower girl. Lauren has Autism Spectrum Disorder, and she sees the world a little differently from other kids. What makes her comfortable are her routines and her coping mechanisms for her anxiety, which can get out of control in no time. So it is a challenge to deal with her rambunctious cousins, try on scratchy dresses, and follow impossible directions about going down aisles slowly-but-not-like-a-sloth and tossing pretend flowers around. Is it any surprise that Lauren flips her lid more than once? But while having an extended family seems like a lot of trouble at first, she's about to learn just how much they can care for one another.

The Questioners: Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants, written by Andrea Beaty. Amulet Books, 2019.

In *Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants*, Ada must rely on her curious mind, her brave spirit, and her best pals Rosie Revere and Iggy Peck to solve a mystery in her own backyard.

Sam Wu is NOT afraid of SHARKS, written by Katie and Kevin Tsang. Sterling Children's Books, 2018.

Brilliantly funny new young series about the bravest scaredy-cat in the world Sam Wu is NOT a scaredy-cat (except when he is). And when a shark TOTALLY tries to eat him at the local aquarium, he decides he's not going to take any more chances. So at his friend's birthday party at the beach, Sam refuses to dip even a toe in the water. Nothing could go wrong now, could it?

Super Sons, Book 1: The Polarshield Project, written by Ridley Pearson. DC Comics, 2019.

Jon Kent and Damian "Ian" Wayne are opposite in every way except one—they are the sons of the World's Greatest Heroes! To uncover a global conspiracy, this unlikely dynamic duo will need to learn to trust each other and work together to save the Earth. But who is the mysterious Candace, and what secrets does she hold that could be the key to everything?

Supers, A Little Star Past Cassiopeia, written by Frederic Maupome. Top Shelf Books, 2018.

Matt, Lily, and Benji aren't from around here. Abandoned on planet Earth, hiding far from their home; they can't even use their powers in public, for fear of being discovered. Starting at a new school is hard enough already....

The Totally Secret Diary of Dani D: New School, New Me! Written by J.M. Klein. West 44 Books, 2019.

Dani's parents have just separated and she moved with her mom to a new town. Not only does she live with her grumpy grandparents now, she also has to start at a new school. Dani pretends that she was a popular drama club star at her old school and starts to attract new, cool friends. Can she keep up her lies forever, or will she totally blow her cover?

A Story Like the Wind, written by Gill Lewis. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2017.

In a small boat spinning out on the sea sits a group of refugees, fleeing their war-stricken homes. They have nothing - except their memories, their stories, and their music. An unforgettable tale of displacement, hope, and the search for freedom.

Dear Justice League, written by Michael Northrop. DC Zoom, August 2019.

Ben Slisby texts Superman and asks him if he's always been "super" or if he's ever messed up "big time" because he has. Superman is reading this text and flying, runs smack into a wall that leads to a chain of wacky events which answers that question. Wonderful coloration, lots of onomatopoeia.

Best STEM Books for Young Readers

Kristin Rearden, University of Tennessee, krearden@utk.edu

What makes a great STEM book? From NSTA's Best STEM Book criteria listed in NSTA's *Science & Children*, 2018, 7), p. 93:

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is an integrated and creative approach to discovering and applying knowledge about our world to solve problems that utilizes one or more of the content areas. Trade books that deliver background and model the practices of STEM provide context and inspiration to readers. Recognizing the best publications in this field can help guide their use and provide direction to publishers.

The best STEM trade books must invite STEM-like thinking by:

- Modeling real-world innovation
- Embracing real-world design, invention, and innovation
- Connecting with authentic experiences
- Showing assimilation of new ideas
- Illustrating teamwork, diverse skills, creativity, and cooperation
- Inviting divergent thinking and doing
- Integrating interdisciplinary and creative approaches
- Exploring multiple solutions to problems
- Addressing connections between STEM disciplines
- Exploring Engineering Habits of Mind
- Systems thinking
- Creativity
- Optimization
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Ethical considerations
- Critical thinking

The best STEM trade books might represent the practices of science and engineering by:

- Asking questions, solving problems, designing, and redesigning
- Integrating STEM disciplines
- Showing the progressive changes that characterize invention and/or engineering by:
- Demonstrating designing or redesigning, improving, building, or repairing a product or idea
- Showing the process of working through trial and error
- Progressively developing better engineering solutions
- Analyzing efforts and making necessary modifications along the way
- Illustrating at points that failure might happen and that is acceptable, providing reflection and learning occurs.

List of STEM Books

*Bardoe, C. (2018). *Nothing stopped Sophie: The story of unshakable mathematician Sophie Germain*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Intermediate level narrative informational book that chronicles the life of Sophie Germain, a French mathematician born in the 18th century. Author's note about Sophie, notes from the author and illustrator, bibliography, additional resources.

*Fisher, V. (2018). *Now you know it works: Pictures and answers for the curious mind*. Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc.

Intermediate or middle grades level non-narrative informational book that depicts the inner workings and designs of common objects such as paper airplanes, soap, crayons, and zippers. Labeled photos and diagrams, glossary.

*Fulton, K. (2018). *When sparks fly: The true story of Robert Goddard, father of US rocketry*. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry Books.

Best of Best K-5 Book Lists 2019

Primary or intermediate level narrative informational book that chronicles the life of Robert Goddard, whose rocket design is still used today. Cartoon-style illustrations, author's note, works cited.

*Harris, R. H. (2018). *Crash! Boom! A math tale*. Candlewick Press.

Pre-school or early primary level story book about an elephant who tries to create a tower as tall as he is. Counting up to 8, cartoon illustrations with photograph images of wooden blocks.

*Johnson, S. (2018). *How we got to now: Six innovations that made the modern world (Young Readers Edition)*. Viking Books.

Intermediate to middle level non-narrative informational chapter book that focuses on six innovations: glass, cold, sound, clean, time and light. Captioned photos, bibliography, additional resources, index.

*PBS Learning Media Series: How we got to now

<https://tnlearn.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/f8a890f6-515f-4a8c-999b-3cd31343d433/how-we-got-to-now/>

*Jones, P. (2018). *Izzy Gizmo*. Peachtree Books.

Primary story book about an inventive girl who strives to help an injured crow fly again.

*McDowell, P. (2018). *Salamander rescue*. Orca Books.

Intermediate chapter story book that describes the contributions of a herpetologist and local Canadian children who seek to find ways for migrating salamanders to reach their destination safely. Black and white illustrations, epilogue.

*Messner, K. (2018). *The brilliant deep: Rebuilding the world's coral reefs*. Chronicle Books.

*Mosca, J. F. (2018). *The girl with a mind for math: The story of Raye Montague*. The Innovation Press.

Primary or intermediate narrative informational book that uses rhyming text to chronicle the life of Raye Montague, an African-American mathematician who provided innovative submarine designs to the US Navy. Cartoon-style illustrations, additional information about Raye, interview excerpts, timeline, bibliography of articles books, videos and websites.

*Respicio, M. (2018). *The house that Lou built*. Wendy Lamb Books.

Middle grades chapter story book that weaves together cultural aspects of Filipino family and community life in the San Francisco area with the engineering escapades of Lucinda, the main character who strives to build a "tiny house" on her family's property.

*Rosenstock, B. (2018). *Otis and Will discover the deep: The record-setting dive of the bathysphere*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Intermediate narrative informational book that chronicles the lives of Otis Barton and William Beebe, who worked together to create the bathysphere for deep-sea exploration. Cartoon-style illustrations, author's note with photographs, illustrator's note, note from former assistant Constance Carter, sources.

*Sisson, S. R. (2018). *Spring after spring: How Rachel Carson inspired the environmental movement*. Roaring Brook Press.

Primary narrative informational book that chronicles the life of environmentalist Rachel Carson. Cartoon-style illustrations, author's note, additional notes, bibliography.

*Slade, S. (2018). *Countdown: 2979 days to the moon*. Peachtree Publishers.

Best of Best K-5 Book Lists 2019

Intermediate or middle grades narrative informational chapter book that chronicles the astronauts and missions of Apollo 1 through 11. Author's and illustrator's notes, bibliography, source notes. Written in prose with full-page spread of each mission's astronauts. Mix of watercolor illustrations, captioned photos.

*Slader, E., & Thompson, B. (2018). *The Wright Brothers: Nose-diving into history (Epic Fails #1)*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Roaring Brook Press.

Intermediate or middle level chapter narrative informational book that chronicles the history of flight innovations, with a focus on the lives of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Cartoon-style black-and-white illustrations, photographs, diagrams, timeline, index.

*Stemple, H. E. (2018). *Counting birds: The idea that helped save our feathered friends*. The Quarto Group/Seagrass Press.

Primary or intermediate level book that describes the adult life of Frank Chapman, curator at the AMNH in NYC and editor of Bird Lore which eventually became the Audubon Magazine. Additional information about Chapman, information about Audubon chapters for citizen science bird counting opportunities, author's note. Visit the Great Backyard Bird Count at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

*Swanson, J. (2018). *Astronaut, aquanaut*. National Geographic.

Intermediate to middle grades non-narrative informational text that compares and contrasts explorations of space and the Earth's oceans. Timelines, captioned pictures and illustrations, glossary, index.

*Valdez, P. (2018). *Joan Procter, dragon doctor*. Alfred A. Knoff Books.

Primary or intermediate level narrative informational book that chronicles the life of Joan Procter, an English herpetologist who worked at the London Natural History Museum and was the curator of reptiles at the London Zoo in the 1920s. Cartoon-style illustrations, additional information, bibliography.

*Walker, S. M. (2018). *Champion: The comeback tale of the American chestnut tree*. Macmillan Children's Publishing Group/Henry Holt and Co.

Middle grades level narrative informational chapter book that describes the plight and subsequent attempts to restore the blight-stricken American chestnut tree. Black-and-white photographs, some color photographs, author's note, sources. Watch an oral history about the American chestnut tree blight's effect on the southern Appalachian region at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TfrVtFs00aU&list=PLY-f9JFAzG9OwaGY3JdRxF19B2jthZtOa>

*Wittenstein, B. (2018). *The boo-boos that changed the world: A true story about an accidental invention (really!)*. Charlesbridge.

Primary or intermediate narrative informational picture book about how Earle Dickson invented the Band-Aid. Cartoon-style illustrations, author's note, time line, other medical inventions of the early 20th century, additional resources.

Best of the Best Children's Picture Books for Social Studies Grades K-5

Presenter: Dr. Susan Groenke, sgroenke@utk.edu

Cultural Customs and Celebrations

***Alma and How She Got Her Name*, by Juana Martinez-Neal.** Candlewick, 2018. Grades PK-3. What's in a name? For one little girl, her very long names tells the vibrant story of where she came from—and who she may one day be. In her author-illustrator debut, Juana Martinez-Neal opens a treasure box of discovery for children who may be curious about their own origin stories or names. *2019 Caldecott Honor Book; Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***First Laugh Welcome, Baby!* By Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood. Illustrated by Jonathan Nelson.** Charlesbridge, 2018. Grades PK-K. In Navajo families, the first person to make a new baby laugh hosts the child's First Laugh Ceremony. The First Laugh Ceremony is a celebration held to welcome a new member of the community. As everyone—from Baby's *nima* (mom) to *nadi* (big sister) to *cheii* (grandfather)—tries to elicit the joyous sound from Baby, readers are introduced to details about Navajo life and the Navajo names for family members. Back matter includes information about other cultural ceremonies that welcome new babies and children, including Man Yue celebration (China), Sanskaras (Hindu) and Aquiqua (Muslim). *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, by Traci Sorell and Frane Lessac.** Charlesbridge, 2018. Grades PK-2. The Cherokee community is grateful for blessings and challenges that each season brings. The word *otsaliheliga* (oh-jah-LEE-hay-lee-gah) is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in the summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. This is modern Native American life as told by an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Includes a glossary and the complete Cherokee syllabary. *2019 Sibert Honor Book; 2019 Orbis Pictus Honor Book; Kirkus Reviews Best Books of 2018; Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Mommy's Khimar*, by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow. Illustrated by Ebony Glenn.** Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PreK-3. A young Muslim girl spends a busy day wrapped up in her mother's colorful headscarf in this sweet and fanciful picture book debut. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Under My Hijab*, by Hena Khan. Illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel.** Lee & Low Books, 2019. Grades 1-2. Grandma wears it clasped under her chin. Auntie pins hers up with a beautiful brooch. Jenna puts it under a sun hat when she hikes. Zara styles hers to match her outfit. As a young girl observes six very different women in her life who each wear the hijab in a unique way, she also dreams of the rich possibilities of her own future, and how she will express her own personality through her hijab. Written in sprightly rhyme and illustrated by a talented newcomer, *Under My Hijab* honors the diverse lives of contemporary Muslim women and girls, their love for each other, and their pride in their culture and faith.

***When Mama Braids My Hair*, by Monique Duncan.** Sweet Pea Books, 2018. Grades K-3. This is a beautiful tribute to the tradition of African hair braiding and the bond it can create between mother and daughter. Come join Nikki on an adventure as she is transformed into an Egyptian queen, a Nigerian goddess, a Zulu warrior, and a Maasai girl. While young girls throughout the African Diaspora can relate to getting their hair braided in intricate styles, it is also an ancient ritual that is a large part of their history. Readers will enjoy learning about the origins of popular braided hairstyles worn today.

***My Hair is a Garden*, by Cozbi A. Cabrera.** Albert Whitman & Company, 2018. Grades K-3. After a day of being taunted by classmates about her unruly hair, Mackenzie can't take it anymore and she seeks guidance from a wise and comforting neighbor, Miss Tillie, who helps Mackenzie learn that natural black hair is beautiful.

***Don't Touch My Hair!* by Sharee Miller.** Little, Brown, & Company, 2018. PreK-3. Aria loves her hair. It's soft and bouncy, and grows up toward the sun like a flower. But what will Aria do when curious hands can't resist touching her curls? Author-illustrator Sharee Miller tells a colorful and hilarious story about the importance of personal boundaries and asking for permission first.

First Day-of-School Community Building/Acceptance/Kindness

***Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters.** Rock the Boat, 2019. Grades 4-5. A powerful story told through linked poems which raise questions of race and identity in an honest and tangible way for younger readers.

***Friends and Foes: Poems About Us All*, Douglas Florian.** Beach Lane Books, 2018. Grades PreK-5. In the tradition of Shel Silverstein, celebrated picture book poet Douglas Florian offers an honest, touching, and often humorous collection of twenty-three poems about relationships—both good *and* bad!

***Best Friends in the Universe*, by Stephanie Watson and Leuyen Pham.** Orchard Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. Louie and Hector are the best friends in the universe. Get ready to laugh out loud as the two boys fall in and out and eventually back into their best friendship ever through a series of funny secrets that neither one was supposed to reveal. Louie and Hector's comical dialogue will have kids howling!

***Phone Call with a Fish*, by Silvia Vecchini. Illustrated by Sualzo.** Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades K-4. A story for anyone who has felt like a fish out of water. There's a boy in class who doesn't say anything. He doesn't yell when a student steps on his foot, and he writes his answers to the teacher's questions on the board. One of his classmates is trying to understand why he's so quiet, but she can't figure it out. But then one day the class goes to the science museum, and she discovers a phone with an aquarium full of fish on the other end of the line. And the fish, as it turns out, aren't silent after all—they just have their own way of communicating. This empathy-building story will encourage readers to approach others with compassion and understanding. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***When the Cousins Came*, by Katie Yamasaki.** Holiday House, 2018. Grades PK-3. Inspired by the author's own large, diverse family, this is a sensitive story about insecurity, hosting family, and friendship. Katie Yamasaki's tale, paired with bright mixed-media art, reminds children that negative thoughts and anxiety over exclusion don't always translate to reality, and that even when plans go wrong you can still have a good time together.

***All Are Welcome*, by Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman.** Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. A warm, welcoming picture book that celebrates diversity and gives encouragement and support to all kids. Follow a group of children through their school day, where all kids—kids in patkas, hijabs, baseball caps, and yarmulkes—are welcomed with open arms. Students learn from each others' traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year. *New York Times bestseller and Amazon Best Children's Book of the Year.*

***Marvelous Maravilloso: Me and My Beautiful Family*, by Carrie Lara. Illustrated by Christine Battuz.** Magination Press, 2018. Grades PK-3. This story is told from the viewpoint of a bi-racial girl, as she navigates the colorful world around her. As she is coming into her own identity and exploring what this means for her, she comes to appreciate how all families are uniquely beautiful. Includes a note to parents and caregivers with more information about how children notice and respond to skin color at different ages, and advice for talking about it with them. *International Latino Book Awards Finalist; NCSS 2019 Notable Social Science Trade Book for Young People; 2018 National Parenting Product Award Winner (NAAPA)*

***The Day You Begin*, by Jacqueline Woodson. Illustrated by Rafael López.** Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. Grades K-3. (Also available in Spanish, as *El Día En Que Descubres Quién Eres*). Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling

art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

***Imagine*, by Juan Felipe Herrera and Lauren Castillo.** Candlewick, 2018. Grades K-4. Have you ever imagined what you might be when you grow up? With this illustrated poem of endless possibility, Juan Felipe Herrera and Lauren Castillo breathe magic into the hopes and dreams of readers searching for their place in life. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Dreamers*, by Yuji Morales.** Neal Porter Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. (Also available in Spanish as *Soñadores*). In 1994, Yuyi Morales left her home in Mexico and came to the US with her infant son. Her gorgeous picture book is about making a home in a new place. Together, mother and son found an unexpected, unbelievable place: the public library. There, book by book, they untangled the language of this strange new land, and learned to make their home within it. Included are a brief autobiographical essay about Yuyi's own experience, a list of books that inspired her, and a description of the images, textures, and mementos she used to create this book. *2019 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book; Kirkus Reviews Best Book of 2018; 2019 Pura Belpré Illustrator Award; Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Aunt Luce's Talking Paintings*, by Francie Latour. Illustrated by Ken Daley.** Groundwood Books, 2018. Grades PK-2. Every winter, a young girl flies to Haiti to visit her Auntie Luce, a painter. The moment she steps off the plane, she feels a wall of heat, and familiar sights soon follow — the boys selling water ice by the pink cathedral, the tap tap buses in the busy streets, the fog and steep winding road to her aunt's home in the mountains. The girl has always loved Auntie Luce's paintings — the houses tucked into the hillside, colorful fishing boats by the water, heroes who fought for and won the country's independence. Through Haiti's colors, the girl comes to understand this place her family calls home. And when the moment finally comes to have her own portrait painted for the first time, she begins to see herself in a new way, tracing her own history and identity through her aunt's brush. Includes an author's note and a glossary. *2019 Outstanding International Books for Young People.*

***Mustafa*, by Marie-Louise Gay.** Groundwood Books, 2018. Grades K-3. Mustafa and his family traveled a long way to reach their new home. Some nights Mustafa dreams about the country he used to live in, and he wakes up not knowing where he is. Then his mother takes him out to the balcony to see the moon — the same moon as in their old country. In the park, Mustafa sees ants and caterpillars and bees — they are the same, too. He encounters a "girl-with-a-cat," who says something in a language that he can't understand. He watches an old lady feeding birds and other children playing, but he is always looking in from the outside and he feels that he is invisible. But one day, the girl-with-the-cat beckons to him, and Mustafa begins to become part of his new world.

***Marwan's Journey*, by Patricia de Arias. Illustrated by Laura Borràs.** Minedition, 2018. Grades K-2. This beautiful, heartfelt story gives a human face to the plight of refugees all over the world. Marwan's journey is everyone's journey. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019; 2019 Outstanding International Books for Young People.*

***I Walk With Vanessa: A Story about a Simple Act of Kindness*, by Kerascoët.** Schwartz & Wade, 2018. Grades PreK-3. This simple yet powerful picture book—from a *New York Times* bestselling husband-and-wife team—tells the story of one girl who inspires a community to stand up to bullying. Inspired by real events, *I Walk with Vanessa* explores the feelings of helplessness and anger that arise in the wake of seeing a classmate treated badly, and shows how a single act of kindness can lead to an entire community joining in to help. By choosing only pictures to tell their story, the creators underscore the idea that someone can be an ally without having to say a word. With themes of acceptance, kindness, and strength in numbers, this timeless and profound feel-good story will resonate with readers young and old.

***Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community*, by Susan Verde. Illustrated by John Parra.** Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. One creative boy. One bare, abandoned wall. One BIG idea. There is a wall in Ángel's neighborhood. Around it, the community bustles with life: music, dancing, laughing. Not the wall. It is bleak. One boy decides to change that. But he can't do it alone. Told in elegant verse by Susan Verde and vibrantly illustrated by John

Parra, this inspiring picture book celebrates the power of art to tell a story and bring a community together. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

***The Wall in the Middle of the Book*, by Jon Agee.** Dial Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. There's a wall in the middle of the book, and our hero—a young knight—is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side—like an angry tiger and giant rhino, and worst of all, an ogre who would gobble him up in a second! But our knight doesn't seem to notice the crocodile and growing sea of water that are emerging on his side. When he's almost over his head and calling for help, who will come to his rescue? An individual who isn't as dangerous as the knight thought—from a side of the book that might just have some positive things to offer after all! *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

****What Is Given from the Heart*, by Patricia C. McKissack. Illustrated by April Harrison.** Schwartz & Wade, 2019. Grades PK-3. This final, magnificent picture book from three-time Coretta Scott King Award winner and Newbery Honor author Patricia McKissack is a poignant and uplifting celebration of the joy of giving.

***Thank You, Omu!* By Oge Mora.** Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself? Debut author-illustrator Oge Mora brings to life a heartwarming story of sharing and community in colorful cut-paper designs as luscious as Omu's stew, with an extra serving of love. An author's note explains that "Omu" (pronounced AH-moo) means "queen" in the Igbo language of her parents, but growing up, she used it to mean "Grandma." This book was inspired by the strong female role models in Oge Mora's life. *2019 Caldecott Honor Book; Winner of the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award; Boston Globe Best Children's Book of 2018*.

***Outside My Window*, by Linda Ashman. Illustrated by Jamey Christoph.** Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. Children living in different parts of the world see very different things when they gaze out of their windows. One child looks out over a boulevard lined with palm trees, another sees a train whistling past snow-capped mountains, and another waves to her father as he tends to their garden. But while their lives may seem different, there's something important that they all share. This beautiful book will spark readers' curiosity and imagination with its celebration of global diversity.

***Someone New*, by Anne Sibley O'Brien.** Charlesbridge, 2018. Grades K-3. The new kids seem different...who will be their friends? Maria is new. She's from Guatemala. Jesse can't understand her very well. Jin is new. He's from Korea. Jason can't read his writing. Fatimah is new. She's from Somalia. Emma can't see anything they have in common. Eventually—with a little courage and curiosity—Jesse, Jason, and Emma reach out to their classmates. Maybe making a new friend isn't so tricky after all. (Pair with *I'm New Here*, by Sibley O'Brien). *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

***Another*, by Christian Robinson.** Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019. Grades PK-3. What if you...encountered *another* perspective? Discovered *another* world? Met *another* you? What might you do? In his eagerly anticipated debut as author-illustrator, Caldecott and Coretta Scott King honoree Christian Robinson brings young readers on a playful, imaginative journey into another world.

Biography

***Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World*, by Susan Hood. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall, Emily Winfield Martin and 11 other artists.** HarperCollins, 2018. Grades PK-3. Fresh, accessible, and inspiring, *Shaking Things Up* introduces fourteen revolutionary young women—each paired with a noteworthy female artist—to the next generation of activists, trail-blazers, and rabble-rousers. From the award-winning author of *Ada's Violin*, Susan Hood, this

Best of Best K-5 Book Lists 2019

is a poetic and visual celebration of persistent women throughout history. *2019 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People*.

Turning Pages: My Life Story, by Sonia Sotomayor. Illustrated by Lulu Delacre. (Also available in Spanish, as *Pasando Páginas: La historia de mi vida*). Philomel Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. As the first Latina Supreme Court Justice, Sonia Sotomayor has inspired young people around the world to reach for their dreams. But what inspired her? For young Sonia, the answer was books! They were her mirrors, her maps, her friends, and her teachers. They helped her to connect with her family in New York and in Puerto Rico, to deal with her diabetes diagnosis, to cope with her father's death, to uncover the secrets of the world, and to dream of a future for herself in which anything was possible. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

No Truth Without Ruth: The Life of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, by Kathleen Krull. Illustrated by Nancy Zhang. HarperCollins, 2018. Grades PK-3. The story of "Ruthless Ruthie," a warrior for equality, a tireless defender of justice, and an inspiring trailblazer for girls everywhere. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

What Do You Do With a Voice Like That? The Story of Extraordinary Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, by Chris Barton and Ekoa Holmes. Beach Lane Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. Congresswoman Barbara Jordan had a big, bold, confident voice—and she knew how to use it! Learn all about her amazing career in this illuminating and inspiring picture book biography of the lawyer, educator, politician, and civil rights leader. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

Libba: The Magnificent Musical Life of Elizabeth Cotton, by Laura Veirs and Tatyana Fazlalizadeh. Chronicle Books, 2018. Grades K-3. This lyrical, loving picture book from popular singer-songwriter Laura Veirs and debut illustrator Tatyana Fazlalizadeh tells the story of the determined, gifted, daring Elizabeth Cotton—one of the most celebrated American folk musicians of all time. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

Game Changers: The Story of Venus and Serena Williams, by Lesa Cline-Ransome and James E. Ransome. Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. With vibrant mixed media art, nonfiction superstars Lesa Cline-Ransome and Coretta Scott King Honor winner James E. Ransome share the inspirational story of two tennis legends who were fierce competitors on the courts, but close sisters above all. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

Girl Running, by Annette Bay Pimentel. Illustrated by Micha Archer. Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018. Grades K-3. Because Bobbi Gibb is a girl, she's not allowed to run on her school's track team. But after school, no one can stop her—and she's free to run endless miles to her heart's content. She is told no yet again when she tries to enter the Boston Marathon in 1966, because the officials claim that it's a man's race and that women are just not capable of running such a long distance. So what does Bobbi do? She bravely sets out to prove the naysayers wrong and show the world just what a girl can do. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

The Flying Girl: How Aida de Acosta Learned to Soar, by Margarita Engle. Illustrated by Sara Palacios. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. In this beautiful picture book filled with soaring words and buoyant illustrations, award-winners Margarita Engle and Sara Palacios tell the inspiring true story of Aída de Acosta, the first woman to fly a motorized aircraft.

Library on Wheels: Mary Lemist Titcomb and America's First Bookmobile, by Sharlee Glenn. Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades 3-7. Realizing its limitations and inability to reach the county's 25,000 rural residents, including farmers and their families, Titcomb set about to change the library system forever with the introduction of book-deposit stations throughout the country, a children's room in the library, and her most revolutionary idea of all—a horse-drawn Book Wagon. Soon book wagons were appearing in other parts of the country, and by 1922, the book wagon idea had received widespread support. The bookmobile was born! *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019*.

***Martin and Anne: The Kindred Spirits of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Anne Frank*, by Nancy Churnin and Yevgenia Nayberg.** Creston Books, 2019. Grades 3-7. Anne Frank and Martin Luther King Jr. were born the same year a world apart. Both faced ugly prejudices and violence, which both answered with words of love and faith in humanity. This is the story of their parallel journeys to find hope in darkness and to follow their dreams.

Civil Rights History

***Memphis, Martin, and the Mountaintop: The Sanitation Strike of 1968*, by Alice Faye Duncan. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.** Calkins Creek, 2018. Grades 4-7. This historical fiction picture book presents the story of nine-year-old Lorraine Jackson, who in 1968 witnessed the Memphis sanitation strike--Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final stand for justice before his assassination--when her father, a sanitation worker, participated in the protest. *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Book; Kirkus Reviews Best Children's Book; Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*, by Andrea Davis Pinkney and Brian Pinkney.** Scholastic Press, 2018. Grades 4-7. In a rich embroidery of visions, musical cadence, and deep emotion, Andrea and Brian Pinkney convey the final months of Martin Luther King's life -- and of his assassination -- through metaphor, spirituality, and multilayers of meaning. Classroom plays of *Martin Rising* can be performed by using the "Now Is the Time" history and the 1968 timeline at the back of the book as narration -- and adding selected poems to tell the story! *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Be a King: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You*, by Carole Boston Weatherford. Illustrated by James E. Ransome.** Bloomsbury USA, 2018. Grades PK-3. Featuring a dual narrative of the key moments of Dr. King's life alongside a modern class as the students learn about him, Carole Weatherford's poetic text encapsulates the moments that readers today can reenact in their own lives. See a class of young students as they begin a school project inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and learn to follow his example, as he dealt with adversity and never lost hope that a future of equality and justice would soon be a reality.

***Pies from Nowhere: How Georgia Gilmore Sustained the Montgomery Bus Boycott*, by Dee Romito. Illustrated by Laura Freeman.** Little Bee Books, NY, 2018. Grades K-3. When the bus boycott began in 1955 in Montgomery, AL, after Rosa Park's arrest, Georgia Gilmore organized a group of women, the Club from Nowhere, who cooked and baked to fund-raise for the boycott. Their name came from Georgia's reply to anyone who asked where the money came from: "Nowhere." This picture book highlights a hidden figure of the civil rights movement.

***Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-Ins*, by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich. Illustrated by Jade Johnson.** Seagrass Press, 2018. Grades 3-5. How will you stand against something you know is wrong? One way is to follow the lessons of bravery taught by civil rights pioneers like Clara Luper. As a child, Clara saw how segregation affected her life. Her journey famously led her to Oklahoma, where she and her students desegregated stores and restaurants that were closed to African-Americans. With courage and conviction, Clara Luper led young people to "do what had to be done." This moving title includes additional information on Clara Luper's extraordinary life, her lessons of nonviolent resistance, and a glossary of key civil rights people and terms.

Civics

***Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, by Rob Sanders. Illustrated by Jared Andrew Schorr.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. Protesting. Standing up for what's right. Uniting around the common good--kids have questions about all of these things they see and hear about each day. Through sparse and lyrical writing, Rob Sanders introduces abstract concepts like "fighting for what you believe in" and turns them into something actionable. Jared Schorr's bold, bright illustrations brings the resistance to life making it clear that one person can make a difference. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***What's the Big Deal About Elections*, by Ruby Shamir and Matt Faulkner.** Philomel Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. From ballots to bonfires, from suffrage to stumping, this kid-friendly picture book filled with fun facts and historical trivia shows why voting is so important and why America gets to call its government a body of, by, and for the people.

***Americans*, by Douglas Wood. Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles.** Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2018. Grades PK-3. Americans are different from one another in many ways. And despite these differences, Americans share certain ways of doing and being that hold us all together. From the Fourth of July to the Bill of Rights, Douglas Wood and Elizabeth Sayles share the story of what it is to be American.

***Ellie May on President's Day*, by Hillary Homzie. Illustrated by Jeffrey Ebbeler.** Charlesbridge, 2018. Grades 1-4. Quirky and funny, second-grader Ellie May enjoys learning about US presidents. But she absolutely *loves* the idea of being class flag leader during the week before Presidents' Day. Tired of not being chosen to hold the flag, she makes it her mission to finally get picked. Just how far will Ellie May go to be chosen as class flag leader during the exciting week leading up to Presidents' Day?

***Have You Heard About Lady Bird? Poems About Our First Ladies*, by Marilyn Singer. Illustrated by Nancy Carpenter.** Disney-Hyperion, 2018. Grades 1-3. Incisive poetry by Marilyn Singer and energetic art by Nancy Carpenter provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of women—from Martha Washington to Eleanor Roosevelt to Lady Bird Johnson—who variously embraced the position and shied away from it, craved the spotlight and fiercely guarded their privacy, took controversial stands and championed for the status quo. Detailed back matter includes short biographies, quotations, and more. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story about Racial Injustice*, by Marianne Celano, Marietta Collins, and Ann Hazzard. Illustrated by Jennifer Zivoin.** Magination Press, 2018. Grades PK-3. *Something Happened in Our Town* follows two families — one White, one Black — as they discuss a police shooting of a Black man in their community. The story aims to answer children's questions about such traumatic events, and to help children identify and counter racial injustice in their own lives. Includes an extensive Note to Parents and Caregivers with guidelines for discussing race and racism with children, child-friendly definitions, and sample dialogues. Free, downloadable educator materials (including discussion questions) are available at www.apa.org. *National Parenting Product Award Winner; Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

Little-Known American History

***Spooked!: How a Radio Broadcast and the War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America*, by Gail Jarrow.** Calkins Creek, 2018. Grades 5-9. On the night of October 30, 1938, thousands of Americans panicked when they believed that Martians had invaded Earth. What appeared to be breaking news about an alien invasion was in fact a radio drama based on H. G. Wells's *War of the Worlds*, performed by Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre players. Some listeners became angry once they realized they had been tricked, and the reaction to the broadcast sparked a national discussion about fake news, propaganda, and the role of radio. In this compelling nonfiction chapter book, Gail Jarrow explores the production of the broadcast, the aftermath, and the concept of fake news in the media.

***Pass Go and Collect \$200: The Real Story of How Monopoly Was Invented*, by Tanya Lee Stone. Illustrated by Steven Salerno.** Macmillan Children's Publishing Group, 2018. Grades K-4. In the late 1800s lived Lizzie Magie, a clever and charismatic woman with a strong sense of justice. Waves of urban migration drew Lizzie's attention to rising financial inequality. One day she had an idea: create a game that shows the unfairness of the landlord-tenant relationship. But game players seemed to have the most fun pretending to be wealthy landowners. Enter Charles Darrow, a marketer and salesman with a vision for transforming Lizzie's game into an exciting staple of American family entertainment. Features back matter that includes "Monopoly Math" word problems and equations. Excellent STEM connections and resources. *A Kirkus Best Book of the Year; An NCTE Orbis Pictus Honor Book; An NCSS Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People*

Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot's World War II Story*, by Marc Tyler Nobleman. Illustrated by Melissa Iwai.** Clarion Books, 2018. Grades 1-4. In this important and moving true story of reconciliation after war, beautifully illustrated in watercolor, a Japanese pilot bombs the continental U.S. during WWII—the only enemy ever to do so—and comes back 20 years later to apologize. *An Orbis Pictus Honor Book for Outstanding Nonfiction 2019.* (Pair with ***My Grandfather's War, by Glyn Harper and Jenny Cooper).

***The United States v. Jackie Robinson*, by Sudipta Bardhan-Qualen. Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie.** Balzer & Bray, 2018. Grades PreK-3. Jackie Robinson broke boundaries as the first African American player in Major League Baseball. But long before Jackie changed the world in a Dodger uniform, he did it in an army uniform. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

An Inconvenient Alphabet: Ben Franklin and Noah Webster's Spelling Revolution*, by Beth Anderson and Elizabeth Baddeley.** Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2018. Grades PK-3. Do you ever wish English was *eez-ee-yer* to spell? Ben Franklin and Noah Webster did! Debut author Beth Anderson and the *New York Times* bestselling illustrator of *I Dissent*, Elizabeth Baddeley, tell the story of two patriots and their attempt to revolutionize the English alphabet. (Pair with ***What a Wonderful Word, by Nicola Edwards; ***The Word Collector***, by ; and ***P is for Pterodactyl***, by).

***Thomas Jefferson and the Mammoth Hunt: The True Story of the Quest for America's Biggest Bones*, by Carrie Clickard and Nancy Carpenter.** Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2019. Grades PK-3. In this rhyming, hilarious romp about a little-known facet of American history, Thomas Jefferson tries to disprove a French theory that those in the New World are puny and wussy by going in search of mammoth bones.

***Irving Berlin: The Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing*, by Nancy Churnin. Illustrated by James Rey Sanchez.** Creston Books, 2018. Grades 2-5. Irving Berlin came to the United States as a refugee from Tsarist Russia, escaping a pogrom that destroyed his village. Growing up on the streets of the lower East Side, the rhythms of jazz and blues inspired his own song-writing career. Starting with his first big hit, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Berlin created the soundtrack for American life with his catchy tunes and irresistible lyrics. With "God Bless America," he sang his thanks to the country which had given him a home and a chance to express his creative vision. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019.*

***The Colors of History: How Colors Shaped the World*, by Clive Gifford. Illustrated by Marc-Etienne Peintre.** Quarto Publishing, 2018. From black to white, and all the colors in between, every shade has a story to tell. Each color group is introduced with a stunning and interpretive double-page spread illustration, followed by illustrated entries exploring the 'colorful' history of particular shades. With vivid, thought-provoking illustrations and engaging bite-sized text, this book is a feast for the eyes and the mind, ready to enthral budding artists and historians alike. *Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People 2019; 2019 Outstanding International Books for Young People.*

***Peace and Me*, by Ali Winter. Illustrated by Mickaël El Fathi.** Lantana Publishing, 2018. Grades K-5. How did the Nobel Prize originate, and who have been its winners? What did peace mean to them? What does it mean to you?

YA Novels for Older/Tween Readers (Grades 5-7)

- ***The Parker Inheritance*, Varian Johnson**—modern-day teens uncover secrets about African-American life in the South in the 1950s
- ***Blended*, Sharon Draper**—a story about divorce and racial identity
- ***Finding Langston*, Lesa Cline-Ransome**--Langston's new home has one fantastic thing: the Chicago Public Library. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him.
- ***Front Desk*, Kelly Yang**—immigration, poverty, strong female protagonist
- ***Lifeboat 12*, Susan Hood**—for middle grade Titanic fans

Best of Best K-5 Book Lists 2019

- ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears, Meg Medina***—the confusion of middle school tempered by a strong, loving family
- ***The Season of Styx Malone, Kekla Magoon***--"Heartening and hopeful, a love letter to black male youth grasping the desires within them, absorbing the worlds around them, striving to be more otherwise than ordinary."—Kirkus Reviews

**Depth and Breadth of the Power of Text Sets:
Supporting Background Knowledge and Content Area Learning
Grades K-5**

Note: This Best of the Best session was adapted by a session originally put together by Dr. Deborah Wooten of the University of Tennessee by the Center for Children’s and Young Adult Literature’s graduate research assistants, Arianna Banack (abanack@vols.utk.edu) and Caitlin Metheny (cmetheny@vols.utk.edu). Contact Arianna or Caitlin with any questions.

I. Synoptic Text Sets

How books work together to gain a deeper understanding about one theme, or events. Synoptic texts are great resources to discuss author craft, literary elements, and differences in illustration. Ask students: *why did each author include certain facts? How is the story presented? How do the illustrations reflect the story?*

Ada Lovelace: The first Computer Programmer

Vegara, Isabel Sanchez. (2017). *Little People, Big Dreams: Ada Lovelace*. Minneapolis, MN: Lincoln, Children’s Books.

Stanley, Diane. (2016). *Ada Lovelace: Poet of Science: The First Computer Programmer*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster.

Robinson, Fiona. (2016). *Ada’s Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, The World’s First Computer Programmer*. New York, NY: Abrams Books

Wallmark, Laurie. (2015). *Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*. Berkeley, CA: Creston Books.

Selected content areas and themes these texts address:

- Social Studies/History
 - Historical Context
 - Role of Women during the 1800s
 - Diversity (Gender)
 - Industrial Revolution
- Math
- Science

Irving Berlin (Considered to be one of America’s greatest song writers)

Kimmelman, L. (2018). *Write On, Irving Berlin!*. Ann Arbor, MI: Sleeping Bear Press.

Churnin, N. (2018). *Irving Berlin: The Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing*. Jackson, TN: Baker & Tyler and Ingram.

Nichi, A. (2018). *God bless America: The Story of an Immigrant Named Irving Berlin*. New York, NY: Hyperion.

Selected content areas and themes these texts address:

- Social Studies/History
 - Historical Context
 - WWI and WWII
 - Immigration
 - Discrimination based on religion
 - Poverty
 - American Dream
 - Music (Self-taught)

II. Complementary Text Set:

How books work together to gain an understanding about themes and characteristics about people and events.

The below books provide the true stories of three different men who made sacrifices to become artists.

Best of Best K-5 Book Lists 2019

Wallace, Sandra Neil. (2018). *Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery*. NY, NY: Simon & Schuster.

Rosenstock, B. (2018). *Through the Window: Views of Marc Chagall's Life and Art*. New York, NY: Knopf.

Bryant, J. (2013). *A splash of red: The life and art of Horace Pippin*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Selected content areas and themes these texts address:

- Social Studies/History (Context)
 - WWI
 - WWII
- Discrimination
 - Segregated South
- Art
- Sports

The below biographies work together to tell the stories of women who overcame adversity and gender stereotypes to become successful in the fields of math and science.

Dougherty, R. (2019). *Secret Engineer: How Emily Roebling Built the Brooklyn Bridge*. New York, NY: Roaring Brook Press.

Mosca, J. (2018). *The Girl with a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague*. Seattle, WA: The Innovation Press.

Becker, H. (2018). *Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13*. New York, NY: Macmillan.

Robbins, D. (2017). *Margaret and the Moon: How Margaret Hamilton Saved the First Lunar Landing*. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf.

Wallmark, L. (2015). *Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine*. Berkeley, CA: Creston Books.

Selected content areas and themes these texts address:

- History (Context)
- Math
- Science
- Gender stereotypes/ Discrimination
- Overcoming adversity