

2021 Holiday

Kids' Book
Gift Guide



literacious.com



Happy Holidays!

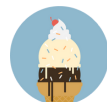
The 2021 Holiday Gift Guide is a curated list of over 100 titles for readers ranging from birth to teens (and even older). As C. S. Lewis once said, "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest."

So, regardless of a reader's age, you're sure to find something for everyone on your list! In this gift guide, you'll find everything from sturdy board books, to gorgeous picture books, and helpful easy readers. For newly independent readers, check out chapter books and for those kids who are looking for something a little more advanced, head straight to the middle grade list. And don't forget teens, they may just find a new favorite author!

With a focus on diverse, fiction titles, all of these titles were published within the past year. Whether you're buying for a reader in your life or finding a few titles for your own holiday break there's a little something for everyone.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

Laura



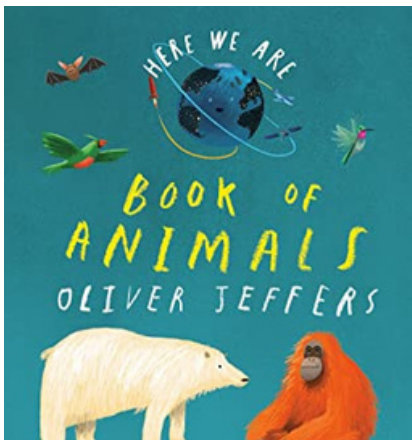
Board Books

If you're looking for gifts for the youngest readers, these durable and sturdy books made of thick cardboard pages are meant to be well-loved and well-handled.

***B is for Bison* by Greg Paprocki**

An engaging collection of illustrations showing amazing features of 26 national parks across the United States.

Features of each park include popular animals, landmarks, and scenic views. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Here We Are: Book of Animals* by Oliver Jeffers**

We share our planet with animals. They come in many shapes, sizes and colors. Inspired by the bestselling picture book, *Here We Are*, comes this irresistible alphabet book to welcome babies and toddlers to our planet. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Hidden Animals* by Mia Cassany, illustrated by Albert Corbero**

Spot the animals as you read along together in this enchanting and unique book! Learning new animals and brilliant facts with lots of things to spot while thinking about shapes and colors, this book can be read over and over again. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



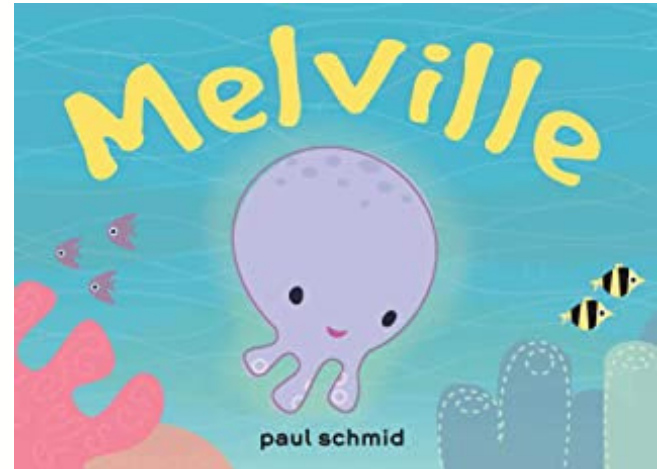


***Maybe...* by Chris Haughton**

Three little monkeys and their big monkey are sitting high on a branch. "OK, monkeys! I'm off," says the big monkey. "Remember... Whatever you do, do NOT go down to the mango tree. There are tigers down there." Mmm... mangoes! think the little monkeys. They LOVE mangoes. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Melville* by Paul Schmid**

Meet Melville, a purple, softly round, beyond-adorable sea creature who is off to "find a place for just me" only to find the perfect place is one he already knows and loves. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

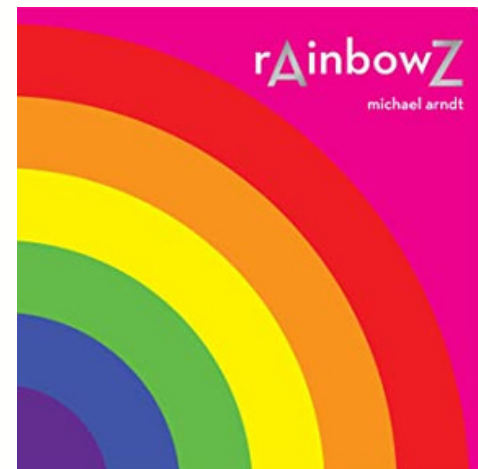


***The Night Is Deep and Wide* by Gillian Sze, illustrated by Sue Todd**

A young child comes in from picking flowers as the creatures around their home all settle down for the evening. A hush settles as times slows. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

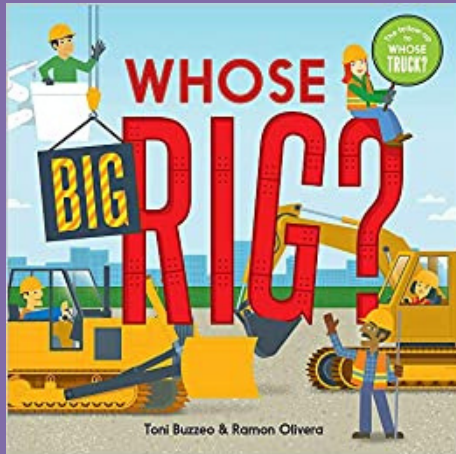
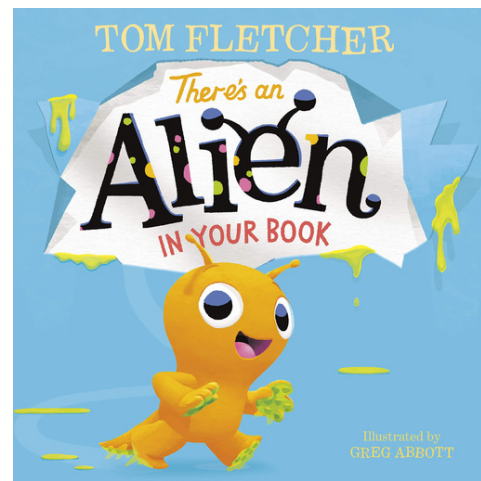
***Rainbowz* by Michael Arndt**

An alphabet board book that introduces the ABCs and ROYGBVs in vibrant rainbow colors to engage young eyes and encourage verbal and visual literacy. Glints of rainbow holographic foil make this a truly special book to behold! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***There's an Alien in Your Book* by Tom Fletcher,
illustrated by Greg Abbott**

Readers will enjoy jiggling, bouncing, and turning their book around as they try to launch Alien back up into space-- because aliens don't belong on Earth...do they?
[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

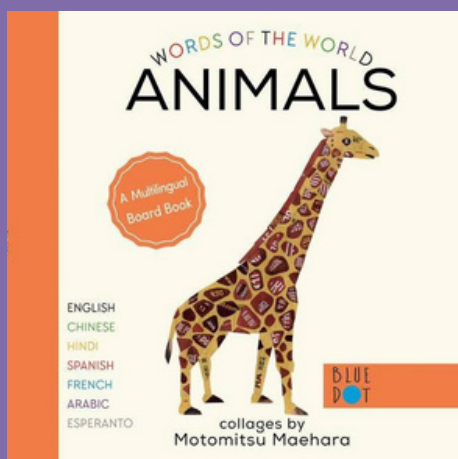
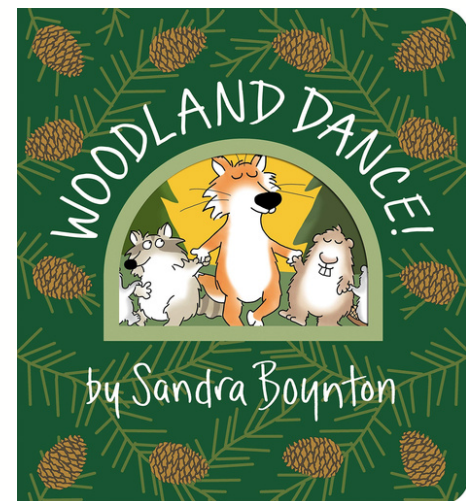


***Whose Big Rig?* by Toni Buzzeo & Ramon Olivera**

With lyrical (and factual!) rhyming text by *New York Times* bestselling author Toni Buzzeo, and the expertly stylized art of Ramon Olivera, this sturdily constructed board book is perfect for curious and playful young readers.
[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Woodland Dance!* by Sandra Boynton**

Woodland animals heed the call of the fox's bugle to join the woodland dance in a moonlit glade, dancing all night to the music of the Woodland Dance Trio. As the animals wander off to bed, the Trio plays one last piece to welcome the sun. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Words of the World: Animals* by Motomitsu Maehara**

This beautiful board book pairs gorgeous collages of eighteen types of animals with their names in six languages: English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Chinese (Mandarin), and Arabic, as well as the language of universal friendship, Esperanto. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Picture Books

Picture books make great read alouds for the whole family! Whether you're looking for funny or serious, heartfelt or goofy you're sure to find some new favorites.

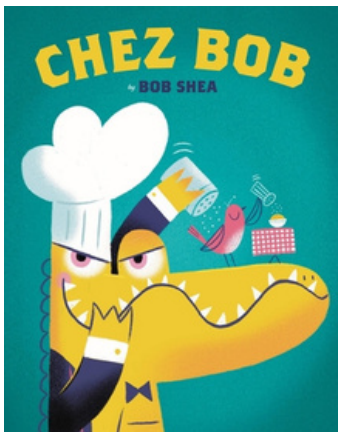
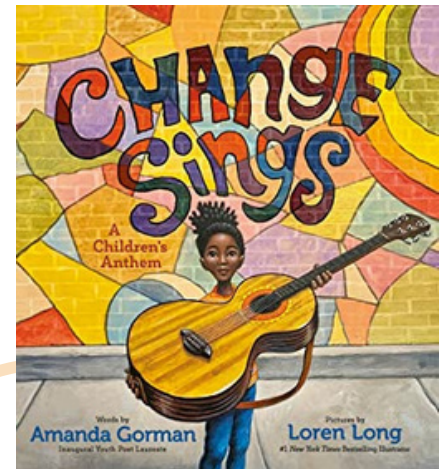


Big Feelings by Alexandra Penfold, illustrated by Suzanne Kaufman

What should we do when things don't go to plan? We may feel mad, frustrated, or overwhelmed, but by talking it through, compromising, and seeing another point of view, we can start fresh, begin anew. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long

As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Chez Bob by Bob Shea

Welcome to Chez Bob, which seems like a real restaurant... until you realize, it's on an alligator's NOSE! Bob's got a hidden plan for his customers: "Birds will come to eat, but I will eat the birds!" [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Chickens on the Loose* by Jane Kurtz, illustrated
by John Joseph**

A happy-go-plucky rhyme adventure of chickens frolicking in an urban environment as they run rampant all around town! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



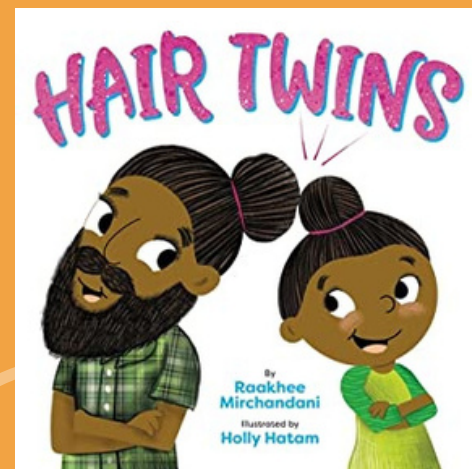
***Eyes That Kiss in the Corners* by Joanna Ho,
illustrated by Dung Ho**

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. She have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Hair Twins* by Raakhee Mirchandani, illustrated
by Holly Hatam**

A Sikh father and daughter with a special hair bond proudly celebrate and share a family tradition in this charming story perfect for fans of *Hair Love* and *I Love My Hair!* [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Hardly Haunted* by Jessie Sima**

House has a problem. She's a little spooky. She's a little cobwebby. Oh, no! What if she's haunted? She's not sure, but...her hinges creak. Her pipes bang. She tries to hold her breath and be as still as possible. If she's on her best behavior, maybe a family will move in. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

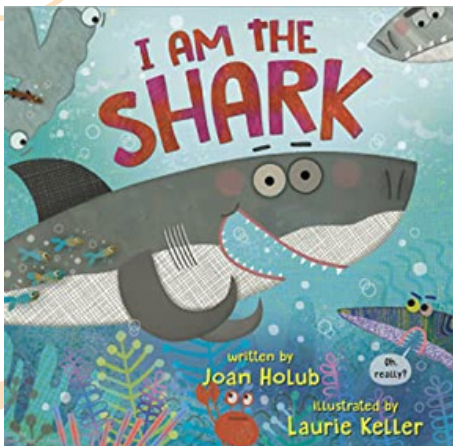
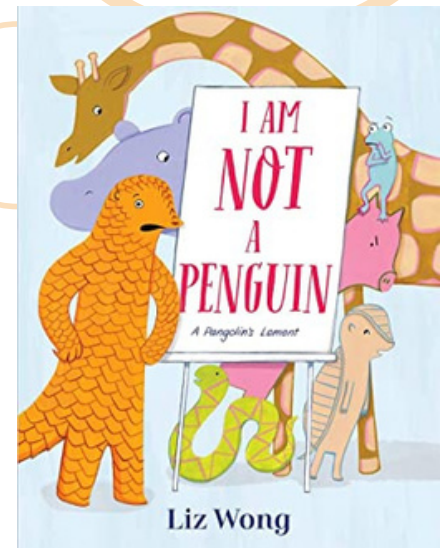


***Hello, Rain!* by Kyo Maclear, illustrated by Chris Turnham**

A picture book celebrating all the reasons to love the rain! Flowers bloom in the garden. Umbrellas bloom on the streets. There are puddles for jumping and, later, a cozy home for hot chocolate and books. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***I Am Not a Penguin: A Pangolin's Lament* by Liz Wong**

Poor pangolin-he's trying to explain who he is, but all the other animals keep getting confused. You have scales like a snake? A long tongue like a frog? A strong scent like a skunk? You can roll in a ball like an armadillo? And a name that sounds a lot like... penguin? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

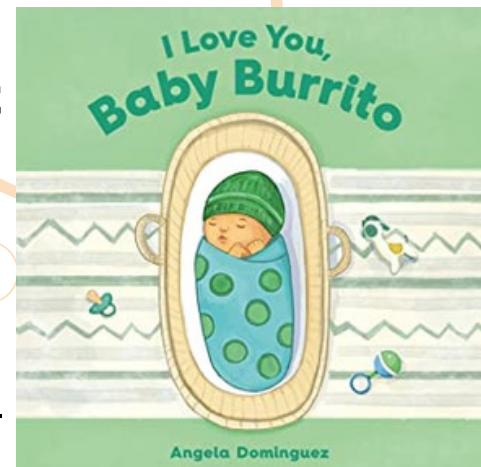


***I Am the Shark* by Joan Holub, illustrated by Laurie Keller**

What makes the great white shark (one of) the greatest fish in the sea? FIN-d out in this hilarious fish-out-of-water story that's perfect for Shark Week and all year-round! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***I Love You, Baby Burrito* by Angela Dominguez**

¡Hola, bebé! Mi hermosa, my beautiful! It's time to swaddle you--tucking in each piernita, each bracito . . . everything except your sweet carita. Welcome home, mi baby burrito. We promise to love you forever. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



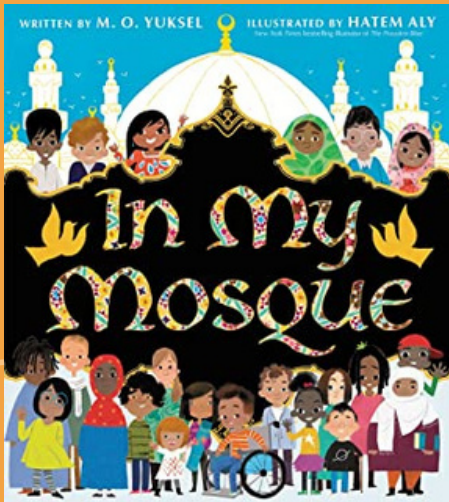
***If I Had a Unicorn* by Alex Barrow, illustrated
by Gabby Dawhay**

Have you ever given any thought to what the perfect magical pet would be? What about a unicorn? It might eat all your ice cream for breakfast, but if you get upset about that, it will feed you cotton candy! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***In My Mosque* by M.O. Yuksel, illustrated by Hatem Aly**

From grandmothers reading lines of the Qur'an and the imam telling stories of living as one, to meeting new friends and learning to help others, mosques are centers for friendship, community, and love. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



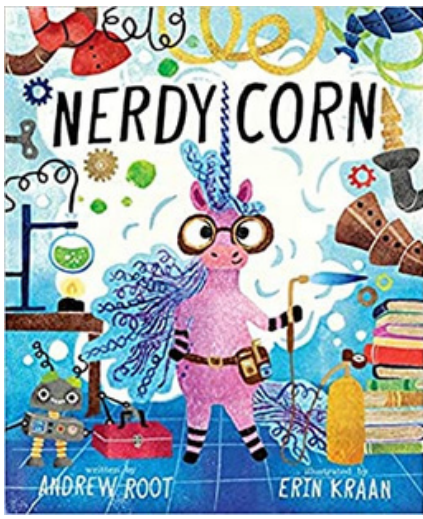
***Looking for a Jumbie* by Tracey Baptiste,
illustrated by Amber Ren**

Mama says jumbies exist only in stories. Naya sets out on an adventure to find out for herself. No such thing, say the friends she makes along the way. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Mel Fell* by Corey R. Tabor**

Readers will delight in turning their book sideways and upside down to follow Mel on her journey from downward fall to triumphant flight in this tale of self-confidence and taking a leap of faith. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

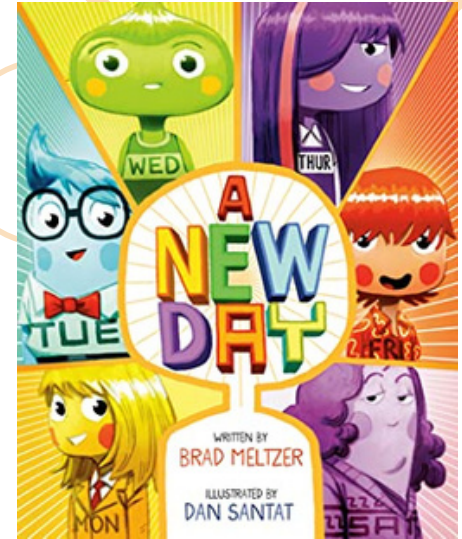


***Nerdy Corn* by Andrew Root, illustrated by Erin Kraan**

Fern isn't your usual unicorn... she loves chemistry and math more than glitter or flowers—and she refuses to change who she is in this sweet and empowering picture book about being yourself—and standing up for yourself, too! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***A New Day* by Brad Meltzer, illustrated by Dan Santat**

Sunday quit, just like that. And so the other days of the week have to advertise: "WANTED: A NEW DAY." Soon lots of hopefuls arrived with their suggestions, such as Funday, Bunday, Acrobaturday, SuperheroDay, and even MonstersWhoResembleJellyfishDay! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

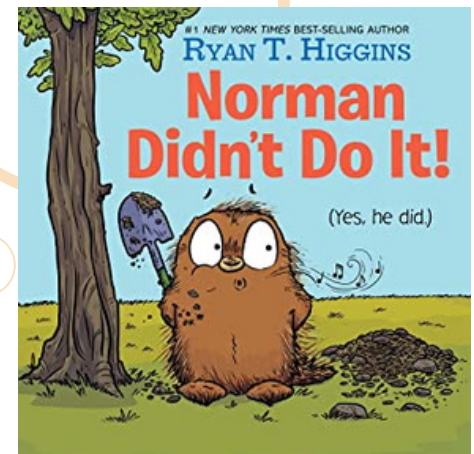


***No Pants!* by Jacob Grant**

Laugh-out-loud father-son drama in which the dad learns an important and timely lesson-pants are NOT for everyone! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

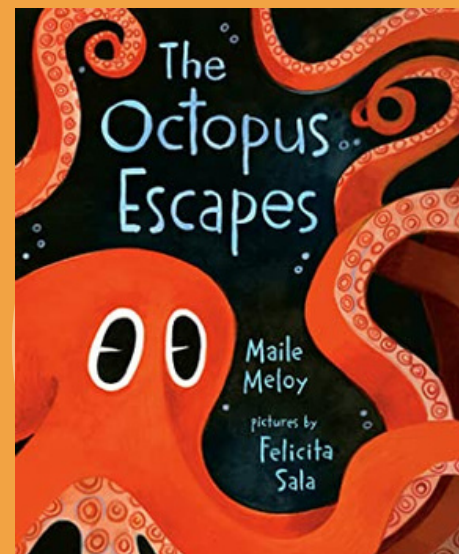
***Norman Didn't Do It! (Yes, He Did)* by Ryan T. Higgins**

Norman is a porcupine. Mildred is a tree. Norman and Mildred are best friends. Just the two of them. And only the two of them. But when a surprise pops up, life will never be the same again. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***The Octopus Escapes* by Maile Meloy, illustrated by Felicity Sala**

The octopus is happy in his undersea cave until one day, a diver captures him and takes him to live in an aquarium. Every day is the same, and the octopus soon tires of captive life. And so, under the cover of darkness, he makes his daring escape... [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



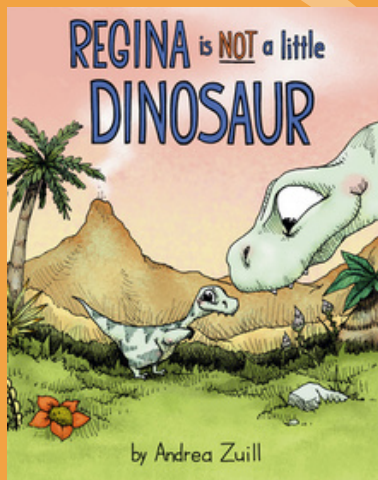
***One Earth* by Eileen Spinelli, illustrated by Rogério Coelho**

Celebrate our planet and discover easy ways to take care of it with this picture book that's perfect for budding environmentalists and nature lovers. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Oona* by Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by Raissa Figueroa**

Meet Oona. The big sea's littlest mischief maker. She and her best friend, Otto, love to search for treasure... but often find trouble instead. Messy trouble. Tricky trouble. Even shark-related trouble. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Regina Is Not a Little Dinosaur* by Andrea Zull**

When Regina's mother heads off to hunt, she tells her little dinosaur: stay in the nest and be mama's good little carnivore. But just who is she calling little?! Regina is big! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

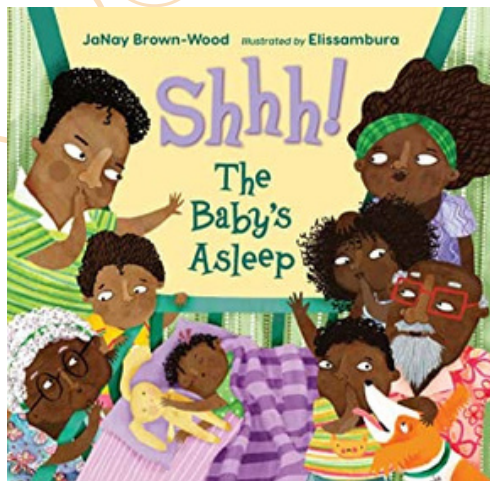
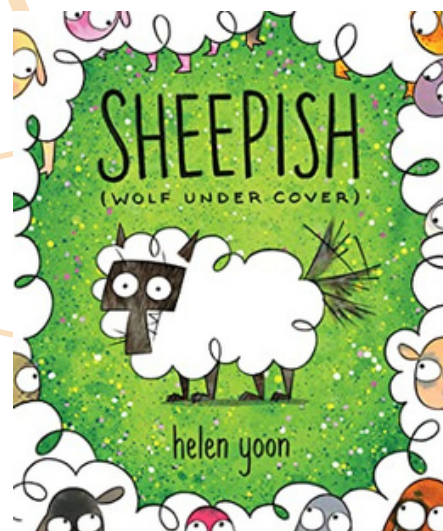


***The Runaway Pea* by Kjartan Poskitt, illustrated by Alex Willmore**

This silly and quirky dinnertime caper about a rebellious pea's adventures shows what can happen when you take your eyes off your food! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Sheepish (Wolf Under Cover)* by Helen Yoon**

Hungry Wolf disguises himself as a sheep and nobody suspects a thing! (Or do they?) [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Shhh! The Baby's Asleep* by JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated by Elissambura**

Baby is finally asleep, and Mama is trying to shush the rest of the family; but when they are all finally quiet baby wakes up--and it is up to big brother Dante to find the right book to read so everyone can get some rest. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

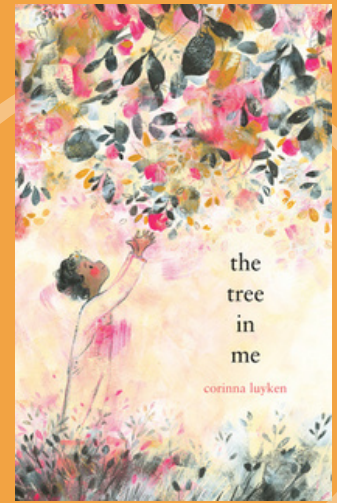
***Strollercoaster* by Matt Ringle, illustrated by Raúl the Third and Elaine Bay**

Buckle up as a toddler's tantrum is cleverly averted when a loving dad transforms an everyday neighborhood stroll into an extraordinary adventure! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***The Tree in Me* by Corinna Luyken**

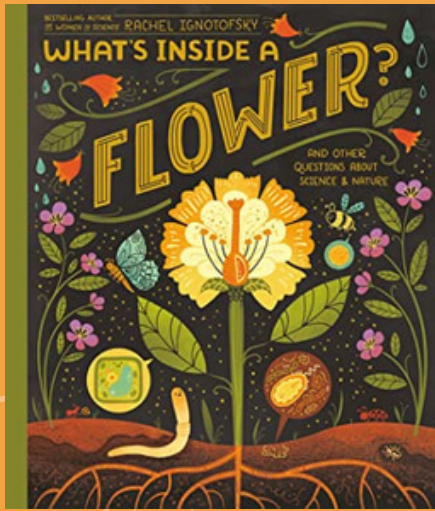
This picture book explores the various ways we as human beings are strong, creative, and connected to others. Each of us is like a tree, with roots and fruit, and an enduring link to everything else in nature. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***What's Inside a Flower?: And Other Questions about Science & Nature* by Rachel Ignotofsky**

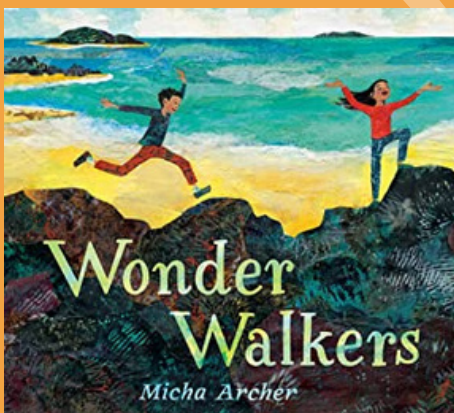
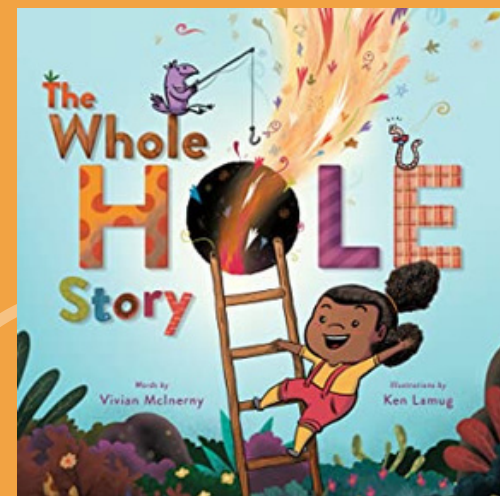
Budding backyard scientists can start exploring their world with this stunning introduction to these flowery show-stoppers from seeds to roots to blooms.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***The Whole Hole Story* by Vivian McInerney, illustrated by Ken Lamug**

Zia is used to the hole in her pocket—she frequently fills it with frogs and other objects. And as it gets bigger and bigger, she starts to wonder what might happen... if she fell right through. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

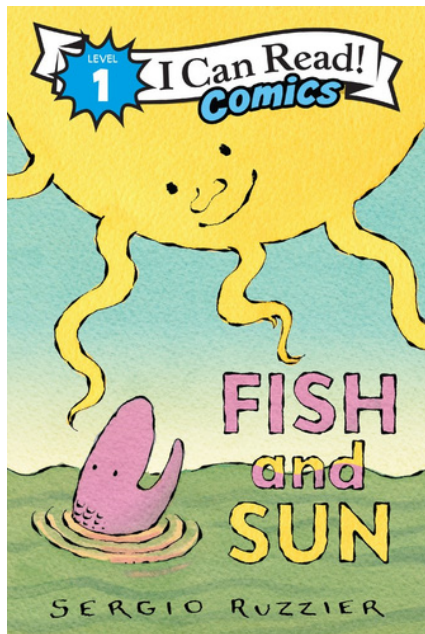


***Wonder Walkers* by Micha Archer**

When two curious kids embark on a wonder walk, they let their imaginations soar as they look at the world in a whole new light. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Easy Readers

If you've got a newly independent reader in your house, these are written for beginning readers to read and feel successful with controlled vocabulary and supporting illustrations!



***Fish and Sun* by Sergio Ruzzier**

One day, bored little Fish journeys up to the surface of the ocean where it meets Sun, and a wonderful friendship blooms...Only, right in the middle of their fun, Sun starts to set!

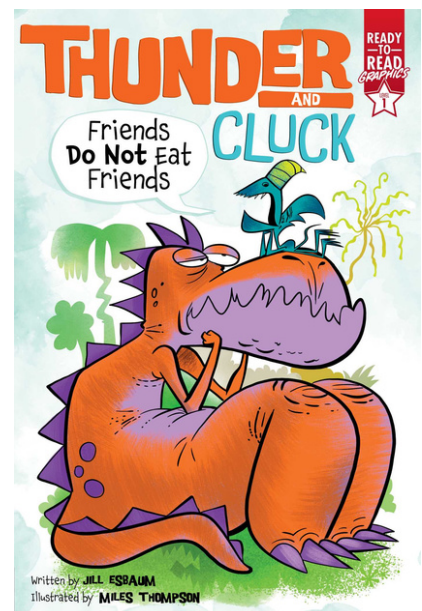
[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Friends Do Not Eat Friends* by Jill Esbaum, illustrated by Miles Thompson**

Thunder is big. Cluck is small. Thunder likes to ROAR! Cluck likes to say "hello!"

Can Thunder and Cluck be friends?

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



READY TO READ

Goat Wants to Eat



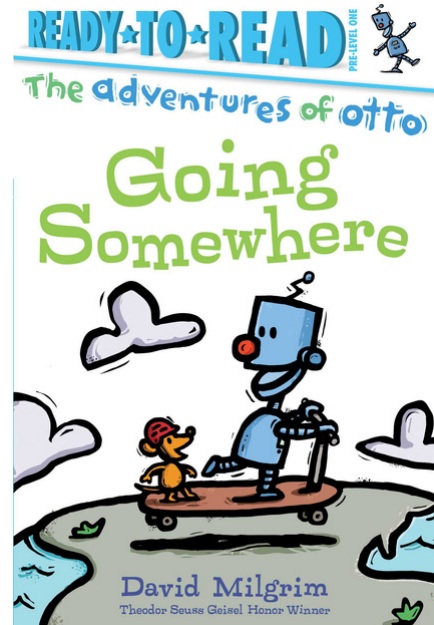
written by LAURA GEHL illustrated by FRED BLUNT
Author of One Big Pair of Underwear

Goat Wants to Eat by Laura Gehl, illustrated by Fred Blunt

Cat wants to nap, and Goat wants to eat. The problem is, every time Cat finds a cozy bed for napping, Goat eats it! When Goat feels sick from overeating and wants to take a nap himself, will Cat get revenge? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

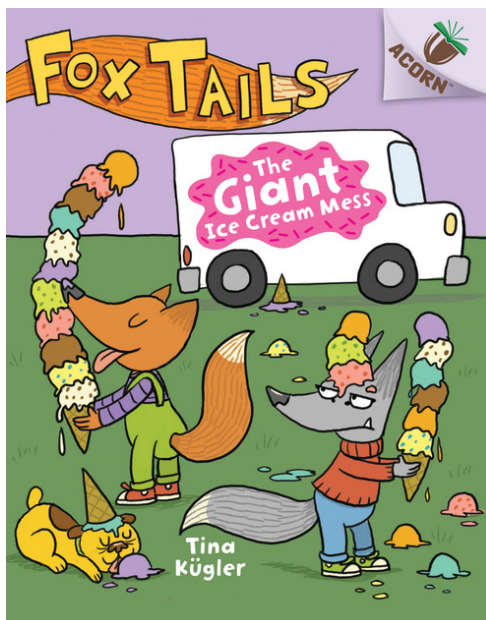
The Adventures of Otto: Going Somewhere by David Milgrim

Otto and Pip are off on an adventure. But where are they going? Are they going anywhere? And are they there yet? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Fox Tails: The Giant Ice Cream Mess by Tina Kügler

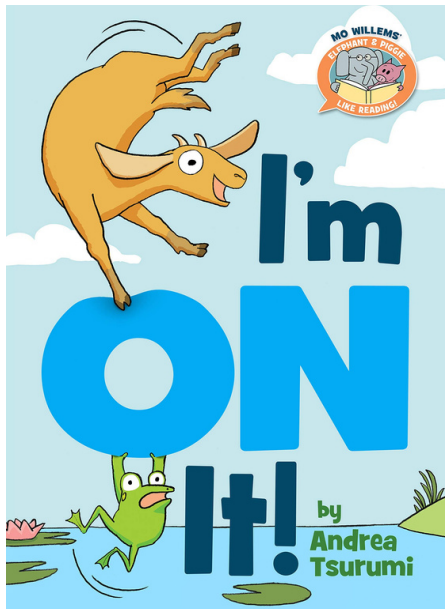
When fox siblings Fritz and Franny hear the ice cream truck, they both imagine making the sweetest treat with different flavors and toppings. But there's just one problem: Their mom says they can only have one scoop each! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Grumpy Monkey, Ready, Set, Bananas!

**by Suzanne Lang, illustrated
by Max Lang**

Jim Panzee 's plans for a quiet morning nap are interrupted by Tortoise's plea to join him in the jungle race. This makes Grumpy Monkey even grumpier but he reluctantly agrees. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

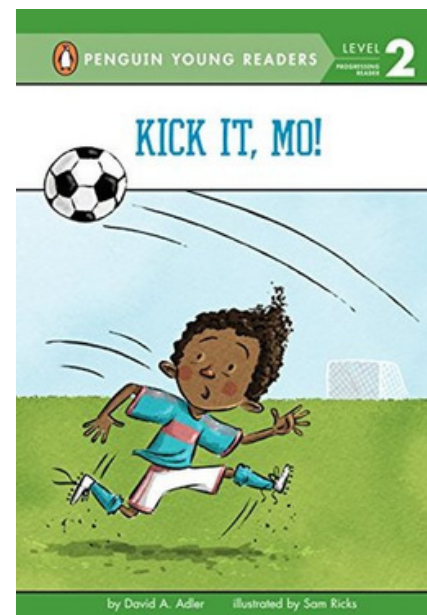


***I'm On It!* by Andrea Tsurumi**

Goat likes to lead. Goat also likes Frog to follow. When Goat jumps on it, Frog does, too. Soon Goat and Frog are on it, along it, above it, inside it, beside it, around it, and under it-phew! How can their friendship get through it? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Kick It, Mo!* by David A. Adler, illustrated by Sam Ricks**

The soccer season is starting, and Mo has been working hard on his kicking skills so he can help his team. But when he gets on the field on game day, it seems like all he gets to do is run back and forth. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



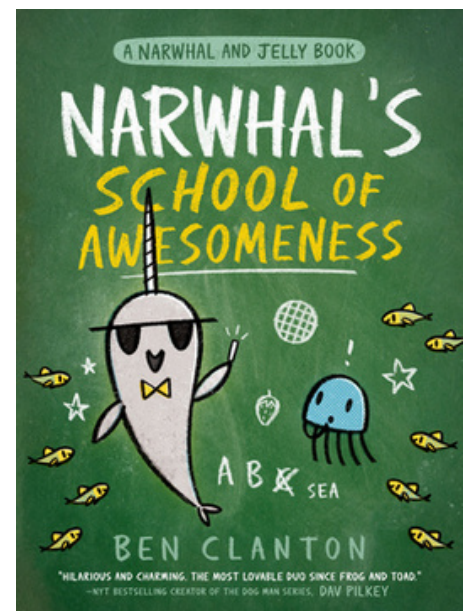


***Let's Go Swimming!* by Norm Feuti**

It's a hot day and Hedgehog wants to cool off! He knows just what to do-go swimming! He and Harry go swimming and play games in the pond. But Harry is not ready to swim underwater just yet... Can Hedgehog help his friend face his fear? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

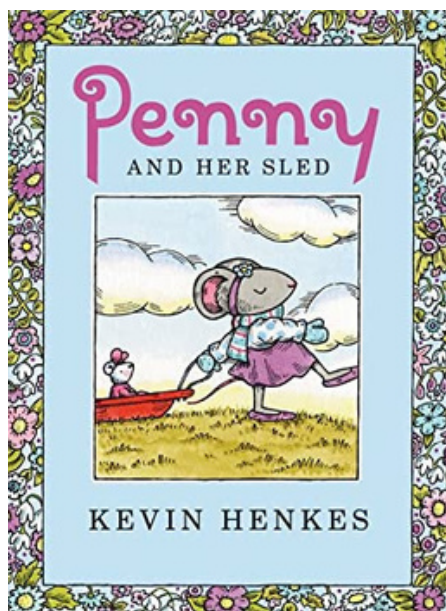
***Narwhal's School of Awesomeness* by Ben Clanton**

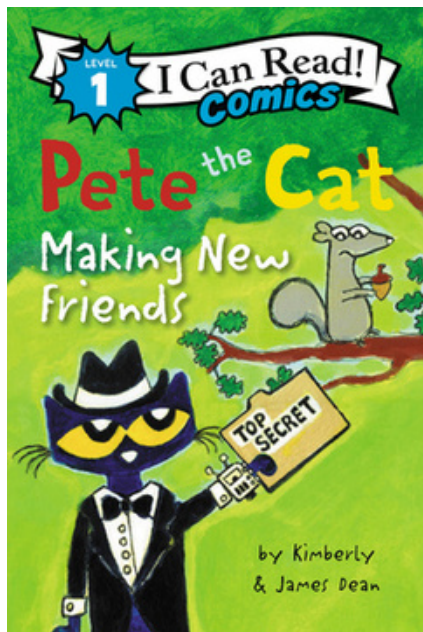
The two best friends come across an enthusiastic school of fish one morning. Unfortunately, their teacher, has come down with a cold, and class will have to be cancelled... until Professor Knowell (Narwhal) and Super Teacher (Jelly) volunteer to help out! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Penny and Her Sled* by Kevin Henkes**

When Penny looked out her bedroom window, she didn't see any snow. Penny really wanted to use her new red sled. Penny wished for snow every day. It was cold, the sky was gray, but where was the snow? Days went by. Weeks passed. Penny hoped . . . but no snow. Would the snow ever arrive? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)





***Pete the Cat: Making New Friends* by Kimberly & James Dean**

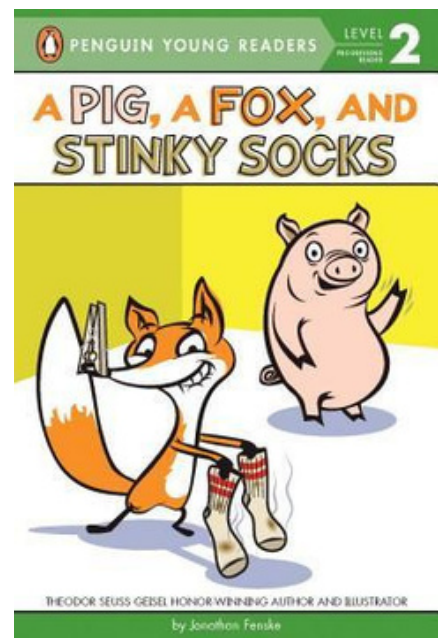
Secret Agent, Meow, also known as Pete the Cat, is ready to crack the case! Join Pete and Squirrel as they go on a mission to make new friends.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***A Pig, a Fox, and Stinky Socks* by Jonathan Fenske**

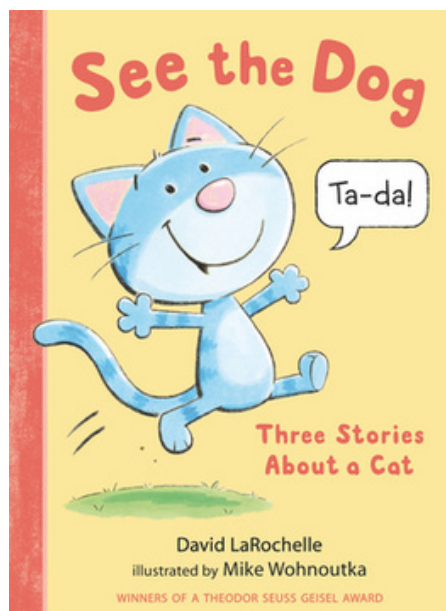
Told in a silly three-part story, it begins with a prank, with Fox -gifting- Pig with a pair of stinky socks. But what happens when his plan goes awry and the shoe (or sock!) is on the other foot?

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***See the Dog: Three Stories About a Cat* by David LaRochelle, illustrated by Mike Wohnoutka**

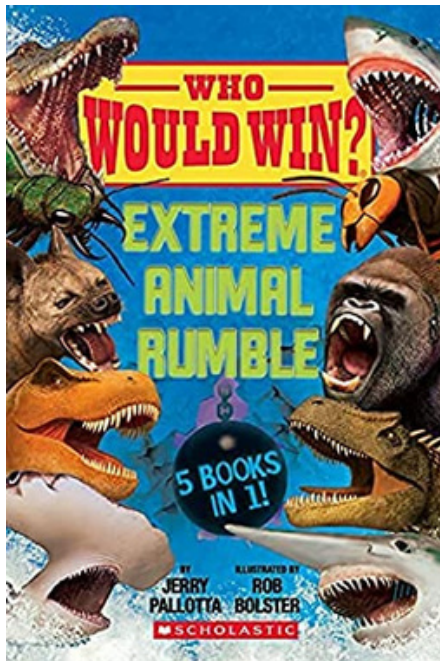
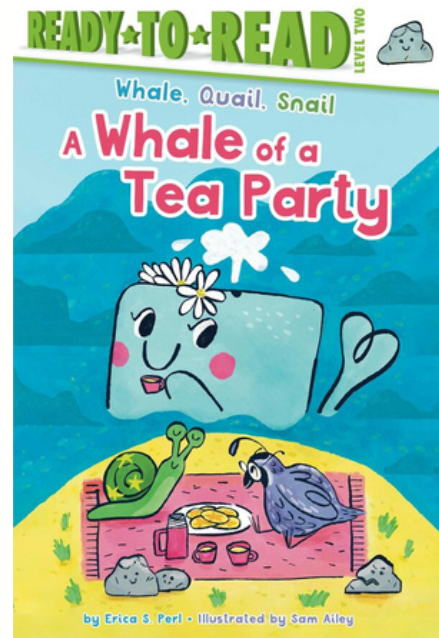
The dog is sick today, but have no fear--the cat is happy to take his place! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***A Whale of a Tea Party* by Erica S.**

Perl, illustrated by Sam Ailey

Whale spends most of her time exploring the area near Tiny Island, dreaming of a day when she'll have real friends. One day, Whale decides to throw a tea party...and it changes everything, especially when Quail and Snail show up! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



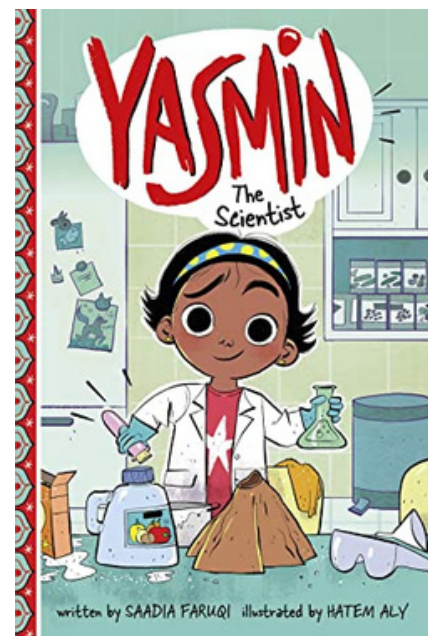
***Who Would Win? Extreme Animal Rumble* by Jerry Pallotta, illustrated by Rob Bolster**

Which dangerous animals would win in a fight? The collection features a range of mammals, sea creatures, reptiles, and dinosaurs to satisfy all kinds of animal fans. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Yasmin the Scientist* by Saadia**

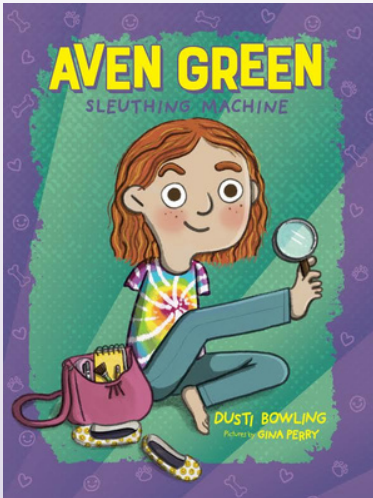
Faruqi, illustrated by Hatem Aly

Everyone seems to have an idea for the science fair except for Yasmin! After some failed experiments, Yasmin's snack break with Nani inspires an idea. Together they use kitchen science for sweet success! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Chapter Books

Typically geared toward kids ages 7-10, chapter books are the next step toward reading novels. But, kids will still find plenty of white space, larger fonts, and illustrations throughout.



***Aven Green, Sleuthing Machine* by Dusti Bowling**

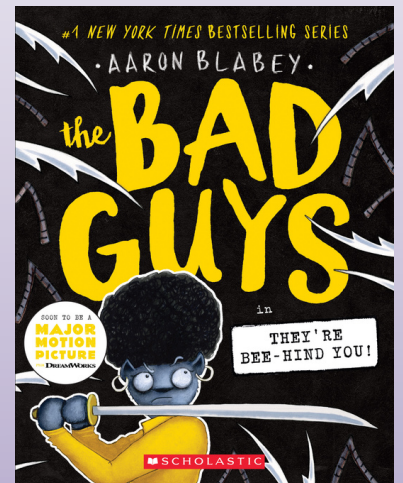
Third-grader Aven Green has been solving mysteries for a whole month—cracking such cases as The Mystery of the Cranky Mom. But can this perceptive detective solve two cases at the same time? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***The Bad Guys in They're BEE-HIND You!* by Aaron Blabey**

POP QUIZ! You are on the roof of a skyscraper. Every floor of that building has nasty things that just don't like you.

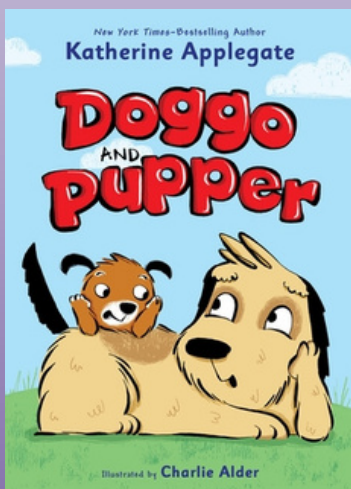
And you REALLY need to get to the basement.

Whaddaya do?! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



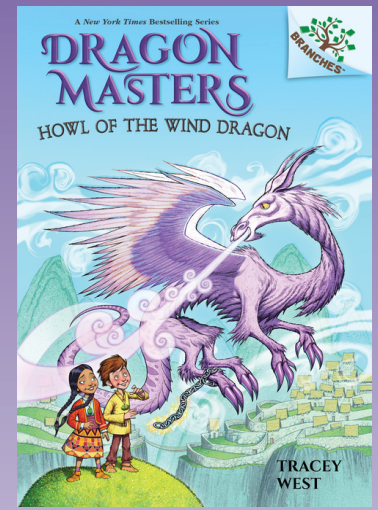
***Doggo and Pupper* by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charlie Adler**

Doggo is used to things being a certain way in his family. He likes routine. Cat says he's become boring. That is, until Pupper shows up! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Dragon Masters: Howl of the Wind Dragon* by Tracey West,
illustrated by Graham Howells**

Drake and Rori rush off to find a Wind Dragon - the final dragon needed to undo the False Life spell. But they soon learn that the Wind Dragon is being held captive! Can they rescue her and her Dragon Master, Quilla? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

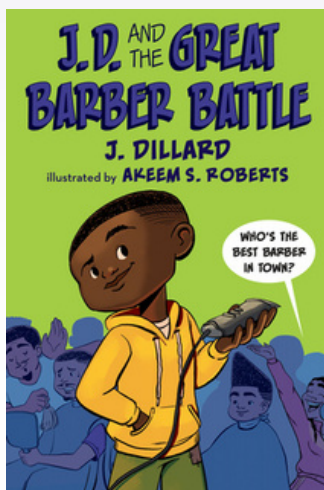
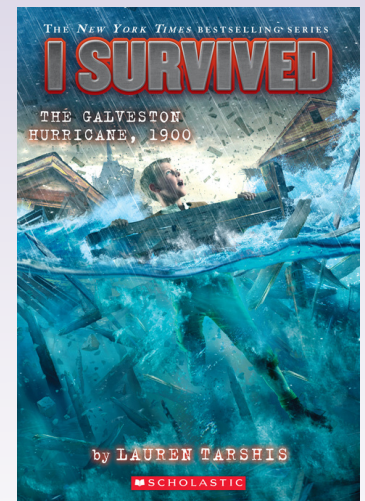


***The Hunger Heroes: Missed Meal Mayhem* by Jarrett Lerner**

A group of silly superheroes—a bean, a chip, a tomato, and a wedge of cheddar cheese—come to the rescue of a hungry kid stuck at school! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

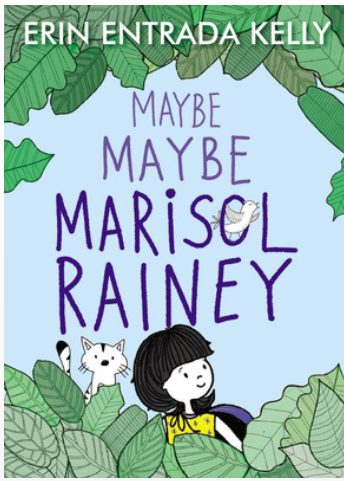
***I Survived the Galveston Hurricane, 1900* by Lauren Tarshis**

When a storm started brewing on September 8, 1900, no one believed it would be any worse than previous storms. They gathered on the beach to cheer on the wild waves. But what started as entertainment soon turned into a nightmare as those wild waves crashed into the city. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***J.D. and the Great Barber Battle* by J. Dillard, illustrated by
Akeem S. Roberts**

J.D. has a big problem--it's the night before the start of third grade and his mom has just given him his first and worst home haircut. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey* by Erin Entrada Kelly**

Marisol is the only girl in her small Louisiana town with a mother who was born elsewhere and a father who lives elsewhere (most of the time)—the only girl who's fearful of adventure and fun. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Owl Diaries: Eva's New Pet* by Rebecca Elliott**

Eva can't wait to get a new pet! But she can't decide what kind of pet to get. Her pet needs to be cute, cuddly, friendly... and, of course, get along with her bat, Baxter.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***The Scrumptious Life of Azaleah Lane* by Nikki Shannon Smith, illustrated by Gloria Felix**

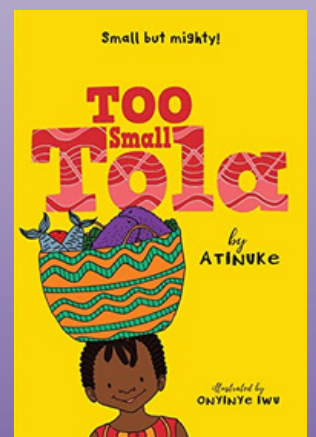
Azaleah and her sisters get to spend the weekend at Auntie Sam's. Azaleah even decides to bake cookies to surprise her parents when they return. But the cookies are a disaster! She's sure she did everything right. Can Azaleah get to the bottom of the cookie catastrophe? [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Too Small Tola* by Atinuke, illustrated by Onyinye Iwu**

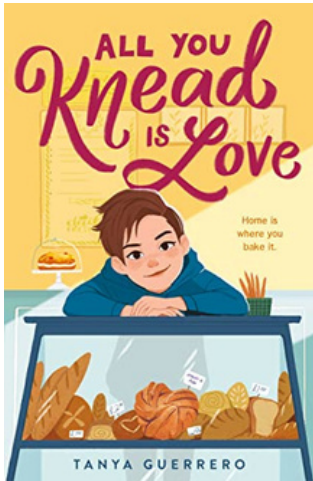
Three delightful stories about Too Small Tola, a young girl who, though small, is very determined. Tola lives in a flat in Lagos with her sister, Moji, who is very clever; her brother, Dapo, who is very fast; and Grandmummy, who is very bossy.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Middle Grade

Find something for every reader from science fiction to mystery, fantasy to realistic fiction, these books are geared for more advanced readers, ages 8-12.



All You Knead Is Love by Tanya Guerrero

Alba is surprised to find that she loves Barcelona, forming a close relationship with her grandmother, meeting a supportive father figure, and making new friends. Most of all, she discovers a passion and talent for bread baking. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Alone by Megan E. Freeman

When twelve-year-old Maddie hatches a scheme for a secret sleepover with her two best friends, she ends up waking up to a nightmare. She's alone—left behind in a town that has been mysteriously evacuated and abandoned. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



allergic



Allergic by Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Michelle Mee Nutter

Maggie loves animals and thinks a new puppy to call her own is the answer to all her problems, but when she goes to select one on her birthday, she breaks out in hives and rashes. She's severely allergic to anything with fur! [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston**

Quinton Peters was the golden boy of the Rosewood low-income housing projects, receiving full scholarship offers to two Ivy League schools. After he mysteriously goes missing, his 13-year-old sister, Amari discovers a ticking briefcase in her brother's old closet. There was far more to Quinton, it seems, than she ever knew. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids* edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith**

A collection of intersecting stories set at a powwow that bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls* by Kaela Rivera**

When a powerful desert spirit kidnaps her sister, Cece Rios must learn forbidden magic to get her back, in this own voices middle grade fantasy perfect for fans of *The Storm Runner* and *Aru Shah and the End of Time*. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Flight of the Puffin* by Ann Braden**

Four kids. Four different lives. And then... one card with a message of hope takes flight and starts a chain reaction, helping each kid summon the thing they need, whether it's bravery, empathy, or understanding. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Katie the Catsitter* by Colleen A.F. Venable, illustrated by Stephanie Yue**

Katie is dreading the boring summer ahead while her best friends are all away at camp UNLESS Katie can figure out a way to earn the money for camp herself. But when Katie gets a job catsitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, life gets interesting. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Hazel Bly and the Deep Blue Sea* by Ashley Herring Blake**

For fans of Erin Entrada Kelly and Ali Benjamin comes a poignant yet hopeful novel about a girl navigating grief, trauma, and friendship, from Ashley Herring Blake, the award-winning author of *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Hope Springs* by Jaime Berry**

Jubilee Johnson is an expert at three things: crafting, moving, and avoiding goodbyes. On the search for the “perfect place,” she and her Nan live by their Number One Relocation Rule—just the two of them is all they need. But Jubilee’s starting to feel like just two is a little too close to alone. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***How to Win a Slime War* by Mae Respicio**

Two kids face off in an epic battle to see who can sell the most slime, while navigating sticky situations with friends and family. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)





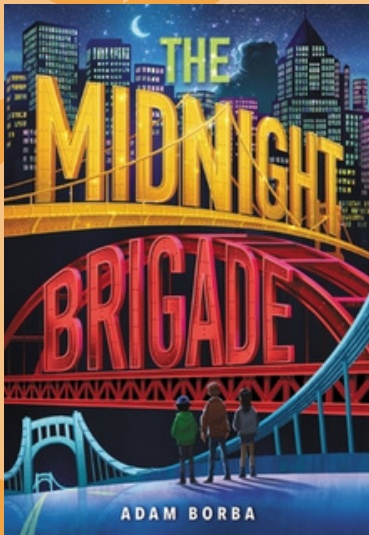
***Last Gamer Standing* by Katie Zhao**

Twelve-year-old Reyna Cheng is the up-and-coming junior amateur Dayhold gamer, competing in a VR battle royale against AI monsters and human players alike. But despite Reyna's rising popularity and skills, no one knows who she is. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***The Magical Imperfect* by Chris Baron**

Set against the backdrop of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake, this novel in verse is about a boy who is selectively mute and a girl who won't leave her house because of a skin condition and the magical Jewish clay that allows them to help each other.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



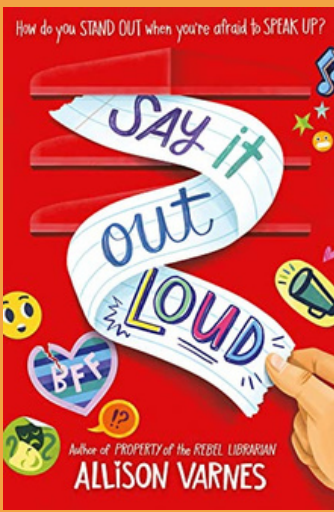
***The Midnight Brigade* by Adam Borba**

Carl Chesterfield wishes he could speak up—whether that means being honest with his father about the family's new (and failing) food truck, reaching out to a potential friend, or alerting others to the fact that monsters might be secretly overrunning his hometown of Pittsburgh. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***One Kid's Trash* by Jamie Sumner**

From the acclaimed author of *Roll with It* and *Tune It Out* comes a funny and moving middle grade novel about a boy who uses his unusual talent for decoding people's trash to try to fit in at his new school. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



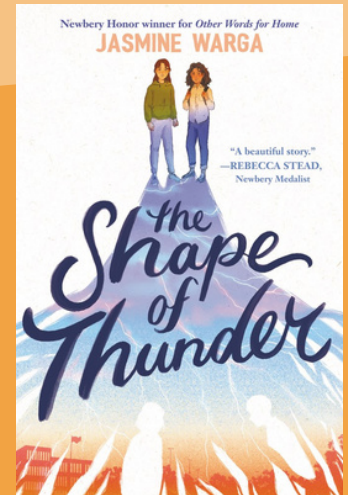


Say It Out Loud by Allison Varnes

Charlotte Andrews is perfectly fine being quiet—in fact, she prefers it. When she doesn't speak, people can't make fun of her stutter. But when she witnesses bullying on the school bus and doesn't say anything, her silence comes between her and her best friend. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga

The Shape of Thunder is a deeply moving story, told with exceptional grace, about friendship and loss—and how believing in impossible things can help us heal. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Starfish by Lisa Fipps

Ellie lives by "Fat Girl Rules" but she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. Fortunately, Ellie has allies and with their support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life—by unapologetically being her own fabulous self. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Strong as Fire, Fierce as Flame by Supriya Kelkar

In 1857 India, 12-year-old Meera escapes a life she has no say in, only to end up a servant to a British general. When a rebellion against British colonizers spreads, she must choose between relative safety in a British household or standing up for herself and her people. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Tips for Magicians* by Celesta Rimington**

After a magical muse seems to have abandoned a small Utah town, it is up to a grieving boy, his best friends, and a stray dog to find out where it has gone and how to bring it back in this lyrical and hopeful story. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Tidesong* by Wendy Xu**

Sophie is sent to practice magic with distant relatives who'd rather have her do chores. Frustrated, Sophie attempts magic on her own, but the spell goes wrong, and she accidentally entangles her magic with the magic of a young water dragon named Lir. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

***Unsettled* by Reem Faruqi**

This powerful, charming own voices immigration story follows a girl who moves from Karachi, Pakistan to Peachtree City, Georgia, and must find her footing in a new world.

[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Weird Kid* by Greg Van Eekhout**

Jake Wind is trying to stay under the radar. Whose radar? Anyone who might be too interested in the fact that he has shapeshifting abilities he can't control. Or that his parents found him as a ball of goo when he was a baby.

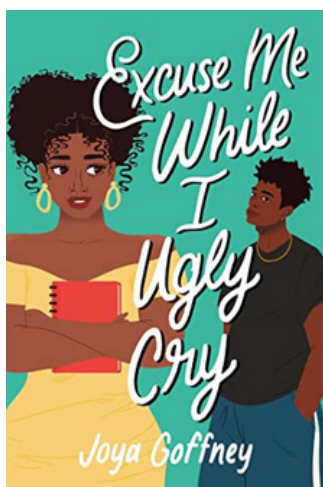
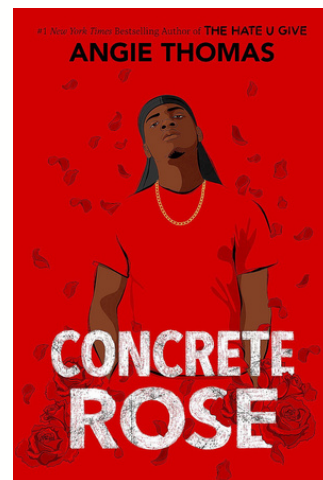
[Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

Young Adult

We can't forget teens! Your teens won't be able to put down these books filled with characters figuring out who they are and searching to find their place in the world.

***Concrete Rose* by Angie Thomas**

International phenomenon Angie Thomas revisits Garden Heights seventeen years before the events of *The Hate U Give* in this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

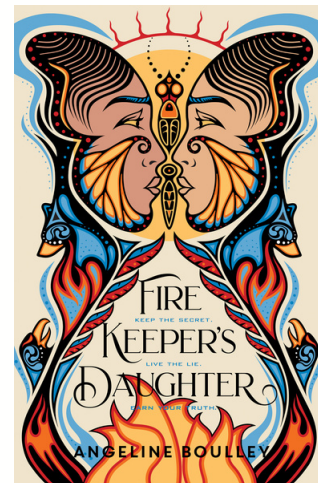


***Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry* by Joya Goffney**

Quinn keeps lists of everything—from the days she's ugly cried, to "Things That I Would Never Admit Out Loud," to all the boys she'd like to kiss. Her lists keep her sane. By writing her fears on paper, she never has to face them in real life. That is, until her journal goes missing... [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

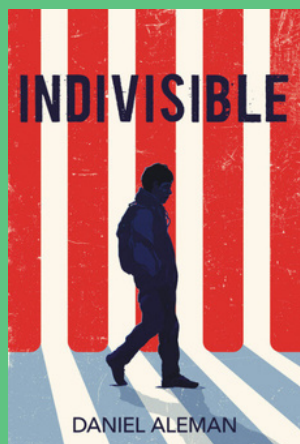
***Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley**

Debut author Angeline Boulley crafts a groundbreaking YA thriller about a Native teen who must root out the corruption in her community, for readers of Angie Thomas and Tommy Orange. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***The Gilded Ones* by Namina Forna**

Deka lives in fear and anticipation of the blood ceremony that will determine whether she will become a member of her village. Already different from everyone else because of her unnatural intuition, Deka prays for red blood so she can finally feel like she belongs. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

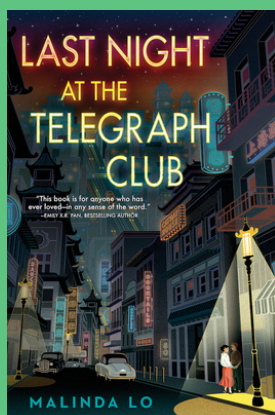


***Indivisible* by Daniel Aleman**

A remarkable story -- both powerful in its explorations of immigration in America and deeply intimate in its portrait of a teen boy driven by his fierce, protective love for his parents and his sister. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

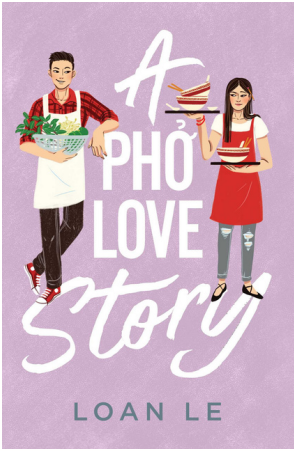
***The Last Legacy* by Adrienne Young**

When a letter from her uncle Henrik arrives on Bryn Roth's eighteenth birthday, summoning her back to Bastian, Bryn is eager to prove herself and finally take her place in her long-lost family. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



***Last Night at the Telegraph Club* by Malinda Lo**

America in 1954 is not a safe place for two girls to fall in love, especially not in Chinatown. Red-Scare paranoia threatens everyone. With deportation looming over her father, Lily and Kath risk everything to let their love see the light of day. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



A Pho Love Story by Loan Le

When Dimple Met Rishi meets Ugly Delicious in this funny, smart romantic comedy, in which two Vietnamese-American teens fall in love and must navigate their newfound relationship amid their families' age-old feud about their competing, neighboring restaurants. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

The Project by Courtney Summers

After her parents die, Lo's sister joins the elusive community called The Unity Project. As Lo uncovers more questions than answers at each turn, everything Lo thought she knew is upended. One thing doesn't change, though, and that's what keeps her going: Bea needs her. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)



Where the Rhythm Takes You by Sarah Dass

Inspired by Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, *Where the Rhythm Takes You* is a romantic, mesmerizing novel of first love and second chances. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

You Have a Match by Emma Lord

When Abby signs up for a DNA service, it's mainly to give her friend and secret love interest, Leo, a nudge. After all, she knows who she is already: Avid photographer. Injury-prone tree climber. Best friend to Leo and Connie. But she didn't know she's a younger sister. [Bookshop](#) | [Amazon](#)

