



Children's

Choices
2011



Logo illustration © by Tomie dePaola

What Is the Children's Choices Project?

Each year 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children's and young adults' trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children's Choices, selected from more than 500 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. This list, a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and The Children's Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

See page 15 for the Children's Choices 2011 Reading List bookmark!

Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

A Balloon for Isabel

Deborah Underwood. Ill. Laura Rankin.
Greenwillow.

Isabel, a porcupine, wants a balloon for graduation but the teacher says no. She tries several amusing ways to get one until she is successful.

Banana!

Ed Vere. Henry Holt.

Comical illustrations paired with two keywords, *banana* and *please*, provide a message about sharing. The banana-colored cover featuring a bug-eyed, all-arms-and-tail monkey provides a humorous, attractive backdrop for exploring appropriate times to shout and to use kind words.

Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist

James Solheim. Ill. Simon James. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

This is a witty and insightful sibling tale told from a whole new perspective. A baby starts a journal and describes his view of the world.

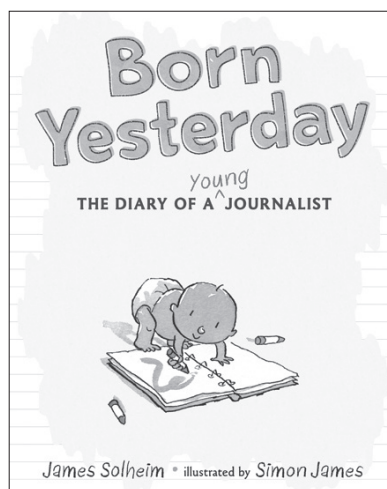
City Dog, Country Frog

Mo Willems. Ill. Jon J Muth. Hyperion.

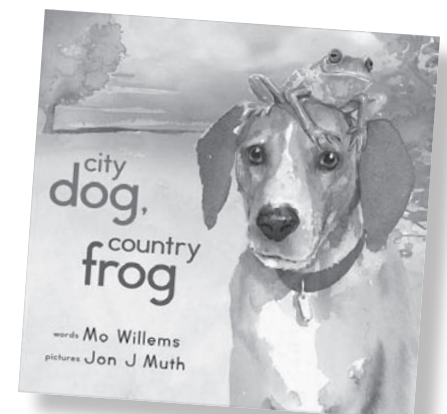
A country frog befriends a city dog that is new to the country. They go through the seasons together sharing each other's games. In winter, country frog doesn't return. City dog carries on the tradition with a new country friend.



From *Banana!* by Ed Vere. Henry Holt.



From *Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist* by James Solheim. Ill. Simon James. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.



From *City Dog, Country Frog* by Mo Willems. Ill. Jon J Muth. Hyperion.

Daddy's Little Scout

Janet Bingham. Ill. Rosalind Beardshaw. Cartwheel.

It is springtime, and Little Fox sets out with Daddy Fox to search for a new home. Along their journey, they visit their friends Mrs. Finch, Mr. Mole, and the rabbit family to see their new homes.

Dogs Don't Do Ballet

Anna Kemp. Ill. Sara Ogilvie. Simon & Schuster Children's.

Biff the dog yearns to be a ballerina, but no one believes that dogs can do ballet. Young readers enjoy Biff's determination and will applaud with the crowd when Biff gets a break and performs flawlessly at the ballet.

****Even Monsters Need Haircuts***

Matthew McElligott. Walker Books for Young Readers.

This story peaks children's interest when a young barber begins his adventure on a full moon night. As he prepares his dad's barber shop the reader soon realizes that this is not an ordinary shop, but a shop for monsters!

Frankie Stein Starts School

Lola M. Schaefer. Ill. Kevan Atteberry. Marshall Cavendish.

Frankie's first night at Miss Wart's Academy for Ghouls & Goblins gets him teased for being different, but he shows them that he can be scary, too. Students will identify with Frankie's odd and silly performing behaviors!

Furious George Goes Bananas: A Primate Parody

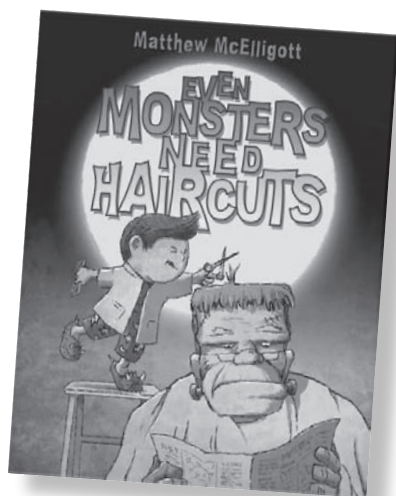
Michael Rex. G.P. Putnam Juvenile.

In contrast to the Curious George books, the man with the funny hat in this story is all about exploiting George the ape. George goes along with it at first, but this innocent victim becomes increasingly infuriated about his plight away from the jungle and being forced to do things against his will.

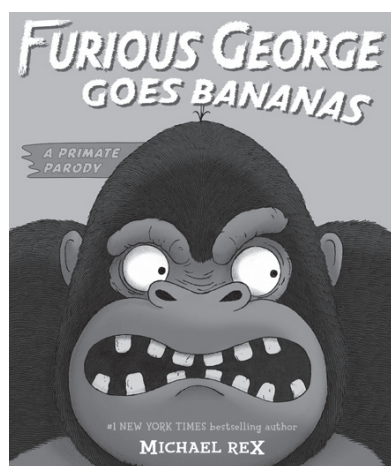
Hattie the Bad

Jane Devlin. Ill. Joe Berger. Dial.

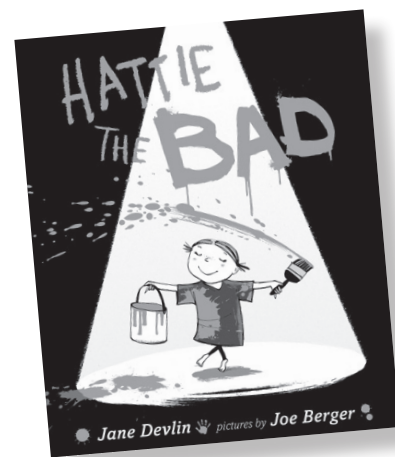
Color splashes the pages of this playful, silly, and naughty little book, along with Hattie's misdemeanor behavior. When Hattie decides to be good, she surprises everyone around her. She even wins the best child ever contest—until she shows her underpants at the winning ceremony.



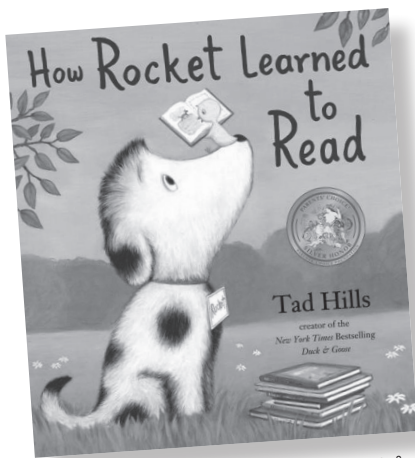
From *Even Monsters Need Haircuts* by Matthew McElligott. Walker Books for Young Readers.



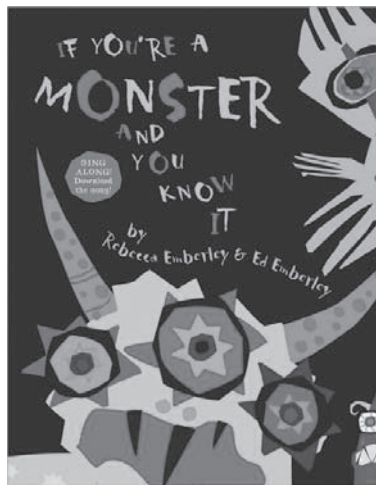
From *Furious George Goes Bananas: A Primate Parody* by Michael Rex. G.P. Putnam Juvenile.



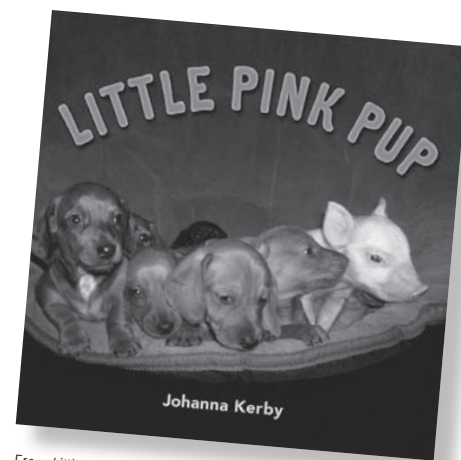
From *Hattie the Bad* by Jane Devlin. Ill. Joe Berger. Dial.



From *How Rocket Learned to Read* by Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.



From *If You're a Monster and You Know It* by Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Orchard.



From *Little Pink Pup* by Johanna Kerby. Putnam Juvenile.

****Hot Rod Hamster***

Cynthia Lord. Ill. Derek Anderson. Scholastic.

Children love the humorous junkyard illustrations and rhythmic text, which offer them (and the hamster!) a variety of car parts and styles to answer the repeated question, “Which would you choose?”

****How Rocket Learned to Read***

Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.

Rocket just wants to take a nap, but one little yellow bird has other plans for him. In time, Rocket learns the alphabet and runs around spelling everything he sees.

If You're a Monster and You Know It

Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Orchard.

This is a delightful parody of “If You're Happy and You Know It” in which children are invited to snort, growl, smack, stomp, twitch, wiggle, and roar.

Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?

Audrey Vernick. Ill. Daniel Jennewein. Balzer & Bray.

This entertaining picture book includes questions about whether the buffalo is prepared for school, to which students can relate! This special guest in kindergarten is sure to rouse laughter.

Let's Save the Animals

Frances Barry. Candlewick.

The semi-elliptical shape of this book and gorgeous collages of animals in their habitat, interspersed with facts and action-oriented text, perfectly combine to present animal protection and activism to young children. Several child-centered activism activities found at the end of the book are helpful for exploring the interconnectedness of our world.

****Little Pink Pup***

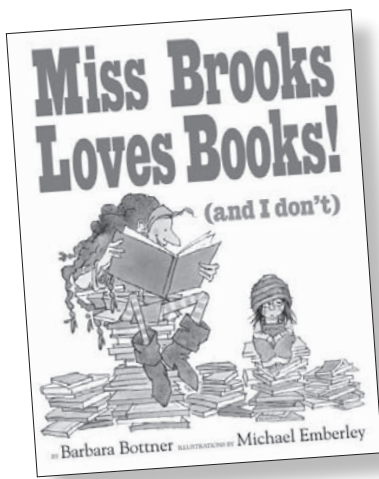
Johanna Kerby. Putnam Juvenile.

A cute pink piglet that is the runt of the litter is adopted by a dachshund mom and raised with the rest of her litter. This true story with real photographs makes this attractive to young children.

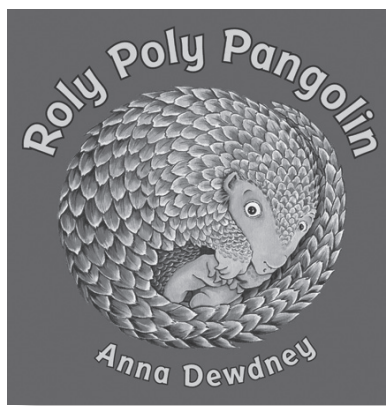
Memoirs of a Goldfish

Devin Scillian. Ill. Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear.

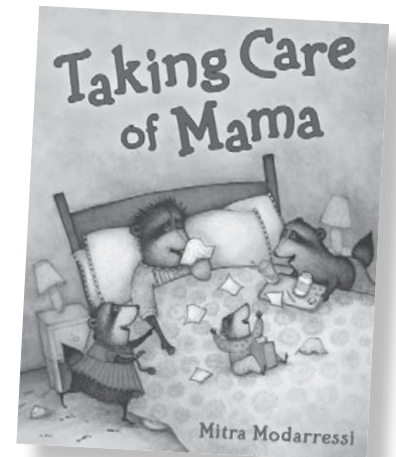
Children will love meeting all of the quirky characters in this fish bowl, but Goldfish is overwhelmed—until the day he finds himself plopped into a bowl all alone, and he begins to miss his friends.



From *Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)* by Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.



From *Roly Poly Pangolin* by Anna Dewdney. Viking Juvenile.



From *Taking Care of Mama* by Mitra Modarressi. Viking Juvenile.

Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't)

Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.

"I'll never love a book the way you do," I tell Miss Brooks. "Don't be so sure," she says. Miss Brooks can convince even her most reluctant reader. Delightful descriptions (too flowery, too yippity, too clickety) from a young reader with a hopeful ending.

Mr. President Goes to School

Rick Walton. Ill. Brad Sneed. Peachtree.

When Mr. President needs a break from solving world problems, he disguises himself and joins Mrs. Applegate's classroom. Kids will hang on every word and picture as the President enters their world, learning to solve world problems kid-style!

Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes

Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins.

Pete loves his new white shoes and sings about them as he walks down the street only to step into strawberries. Deciding that red shoes are equally cool, he sings about red shoes, then blue, brown, and white again.

Roly Poly Pangolin

Anna Dewdney. Viking Juvenile.

When frightened, pangolins (scaled, anteater-like animals) roll up into a ball. That's exactly what happens to little Roly Poly when he hears a strange sound coming from the forest. Young readers will empathize with Roly's familiar childhood fears.

****Shark vs. Train***

Chris Barton and Tom Lichtenheld. Little, Brown.

Children will laugh and be entertained as Shark and Train compete with one another to see who is better and stronger. The book makes wonderful comparisons of Shark and Train as they try to win the competition.

Taking Care of Mama

Mitra Modarressi. Putnam Juvenile.

A raccoon family tells the sick mother to stay in bed while they take care of the house. They realize taking care of a family is hard work. Children will enjoy the story's humor and simple rhymes.

Young Readers (Grades 3-4)

Adrian Peterson

Michael Sandler. Bearport.

Football-loving children will tackle the colorful photos, captions, and text to learn about NFL star Adrian Peterson. Be inspired by Peterson's work ethic, big dreams, and service projects while reading from the series Football Heroes Making a Difference.

Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders

Mike Townsend. Dial.

Common Greek myths become accessible and fun in this graphic format. The colors are vivid and the comic characters are funny, while following the action of the original myths.

Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose!

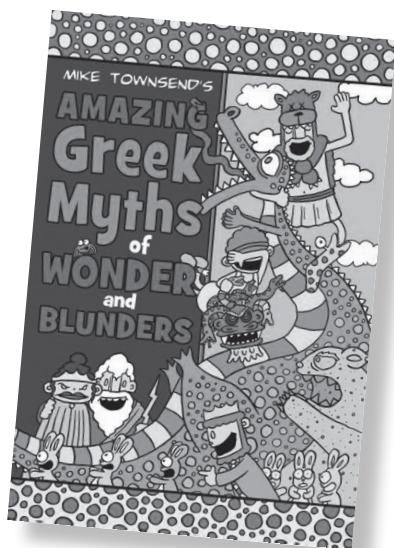
Sue Stauffacher. Ill. Priscilla Lamont. Knopf.

Keisha Carter, her friends, family, and neighbors work together at Carters' Urban Rescue to find an alligator a new home when it turns up in a swimming pool.

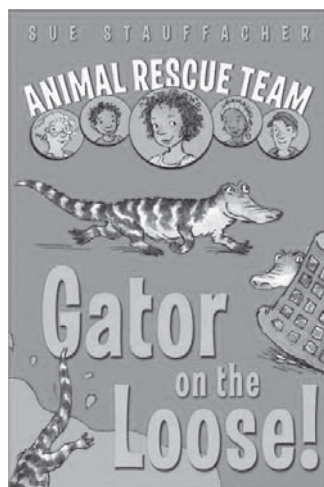
****Babymouse #12: Burns Rubber***

Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Random House.

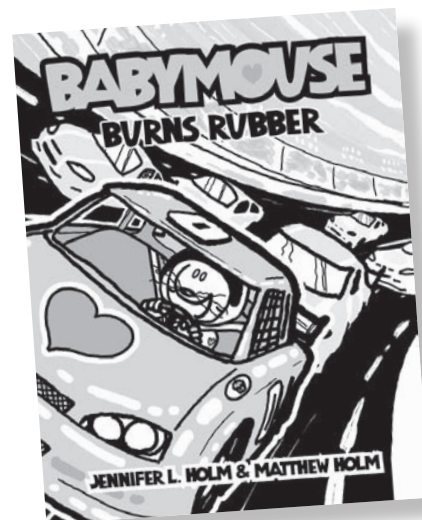
Wilson helps Babymouse build a car and enter the Soap Box Derby. When Wilson's car falls apart at the last minute, Babymouse has to choose between friendship and her daydreams of glory. Children will enjoy reading another Babymouse adventure.



From *Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders* by Mike Townsend. Dial.



From *Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose!* by Sue Stauffacher. Ill. Priscilla Lamont. Knopf.



From *Babymouse #12: Burns Rubber* by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Random House.

****Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray: The Uproar at the Front Door***

Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.

When Kitty's owners go on a trip leaving Uncle Murray in charge, Bad Kitty shows how bad she can really be. Things get progressively worse until Uncle Murray can't take it anymore and leaves.

The Bat's Cave: A Dark City

Joyce Markovics. Bearport.

Capturing attention right away with the San Antonio's Bracken Bat Cave, the largest in the world, this book continues to fascinate with its wonderful photographs and information.

Bones: Skeletons and How They Work

Steve Jenkins. Scholastic.

This informational, nonfiction text explains the basics of how skeletons work. Children will enjoy the comparisons made between human and animal skeletons. There are a lot of pictures, and some bones are shown in actual size.

Chester's Masterpiece

Mélanie Watt. Kids Can Press.

Chester is determined to write his own book, so he takes all of Mélanie's writing tools and hides them in his litter box.

Combat-Wounded Dogs

Sonita Apte. Bearport.

There are over 2,500 canine soldiers in the U.S. military. The medical needs of these heroes are chronicled through photographs and text in this title from the Dog Heroes series.

Copper

Kazu Kibuishi. Graphix.

In this funny graphic novel by the author of the popular Amulet series, a boy named Copper and his thoughtful dog, Fred, encounter one adventure after another as they both try to make sense of their world.

Drizzle

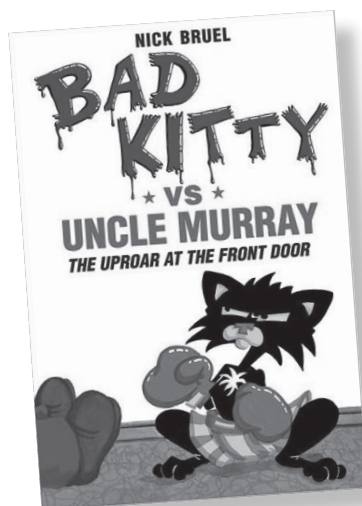
Kathleen Van Cleve. Dial.

Can Polly find the power to save the farm—and her family—before it's too late? This coming-of-age novel will enthrall readers who love magic.

****Encyclopedia Mythologica: Gods & Heroes***

Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. Candlewick.

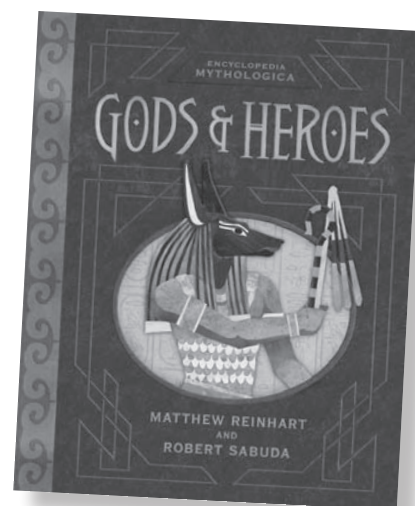
Six spectacular pop-up spreads share a glimpse into mythology from around the world. In addition to the dramatic paper sculptures are tiny booklets that reveal tidbits about the gods and heroes. Children will devote hours to this exquisitely illustrated text.



From *Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray: The Uproar at the Front Door* by Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.



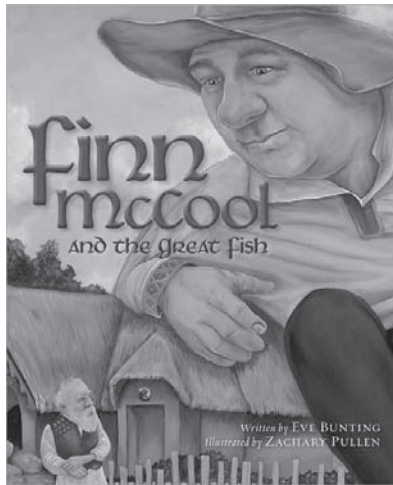
From *Drizzle* by Kathleen Van Cleve. Dial.



From *Encyclopedia Mythologica: Gods & Heroes* by Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. Candlewick.



From *Finally* by Wendy Mass. Scholastic.



From *Finn McCool and the Great Fish* by Eve Bunting, Ill. Zachary Pullen. Sleeping Bear.



From *Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown* by Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Knopf.

***Finally**

Wendy Mass. Scholastic.

Rory has a long list of all she wants to accomplish when she turns 12. But when the birthday finally arrives, her wishes do not turn out to be all that she expected. A funny, pleasant read.

Finn McCool and the Great Fish

Eve Bunting, Ill. Zachary Pullen. Sleeping Bear.

In Ireland, Finn is a generous, kind-hearted giant who helps his friends. He is well-loved by his friends, but they don't think he is very smart. Finn must find a special great fish that will help him gain wisdom.

Goliath: Hero of the Great Baltimore Fire

Claudia Friddell, Ill. Troy Howell. Sleeping Bear.

Vivid details tell the story of the Baltimore Fire of 1904 and the heroes who made a difference. Goliath, a giant fire horse, was one of those heroes. Children will respond to the drama, heroics, and the remarkable horses.

Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters

Meish Goldish. Bearport.

Hang on tight as you imagine yourself on the best roller coaster rides in the world. This engaging book in the World's Biggest series offers photos, statistics, a brief narrative, and suggested books and websites for further exploring amusement parks and roller coaster rides.

I Survived #1: The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912

Lauren Tarshis. Scholastic.

Ten-year-old George is traveling back home with his family on the *Titanic*. He is always getting into trouble exploring the great ship. When the *Titanic* sinks, he is stranded and alone. George's fight for survival changes him forever.

****Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown***

Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Knopf.

Lunch Lady and the Breakfast Bunch Kids are looking forward to a fun summer at a sleepaway camp. Slime Monster disrupts their fun, and Lunch Lady must restore order in this new installment to the Lunch Lady series.

Miniature Horses

Natalie Lunis. Bearport.

Part of the Peculiar Pets series, this informational book covers the care, training, and habits of miniature horses, and includes information on famous miniature horses.

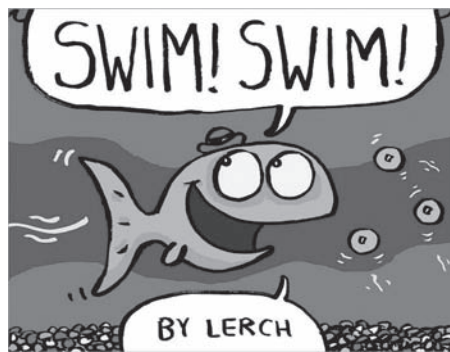
Missile Mouse #1: The Star Crusher

Jake Parker. Graphix.

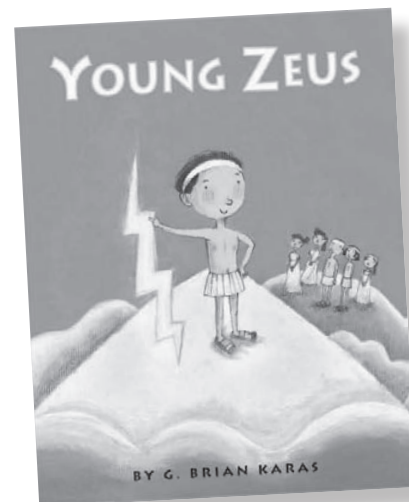
Is secret agent Missile Mouse's super strength and strong will enough to save the universe? Move over Mighty Mouse. This action-packed graphic novel



From *The Odious Ogre* by Norton Juster. Ill. Jules Feiffer. Michael di Capua Books.



From *Swim! Swim!* by Lerch. Scholastic.



From *Young Zeus* by G. Brian Karas. Scholastic.

with updated science fiction space travel is a good match for male reluctant readers in this age group.

The Odious Ogre

Norton Juster. Ill. Jules Feiffer. Michael di Capua Books.

Ogre has a terrible reputation. He easily devours anything or anyone in his path, until he meets someone who is kind to him. Children will enjoy the Ogre's adventures and will respond to the surprising way this bully is stopped.

Older Than the Stars

Karen C. Fox. Ill. Nancy Davis. Charlesbridge.

Children will explore atoms, stars, planets, and the development of sea creatures and animal life on Earth while reading this cumulative rhyme. Fascinating illustrations enrich the text and help children understand the "big bang theory."

Potbellied Pigs

Natalie Lunis. Bearport.

From the Peculiar Pets series, this informational book explores the world of potbellied pigs. The book design and table of contents are child-friendly.

Swim! Swim!

Lerch. Scholastic.

Lerch is a goldfish with personality, but he can't find a friend. Children are drawn to the bold, bright graphic illustrations in comic strip format and to following Lerch as he finds a friend.

There Was an Old Monkey Who Swallowed a Frog

Jennifer Ward. Ill. Steve Gray. Marshall Cavendish.

Children will love the rhythm of language and humor in this rhyming book. The colorful characters with their big eyes and animated facial expressions will entertain all readers. This book is great for shared reading in the classroom.

Young Zeus

G. Brian Karas. Scholastic.

With a splash of humor, Karas simplifies volumes of Greek mythology surrounding the life of Zeus and his family into an interesting and captivating picture book. This book serves as a great place to begin exploration into the Greek gods.

Zen Ghosts

Jon J Muth. Scholastic.

This is a Zen soul story told within a Halloween context. The illustrations move with Muth's mystic colors and black and white sketches.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

31 Ways to Change the World

We Are What We Do. Candlewick.

The premise of this book is that everyone can do their part by taking positive action toward conserving energy, recycling, helping others, helping the environment, and educating themselves on issues. This book serves as a great starting place for raising students' awareness toward making a positive difference in their world.

****Big Nate: In a Class by Himself***

Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins.

Similar in form and style to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* books, the Big Nate series features a confident middle school student who finds himself in trouble over and over again. This installment is a funny, witty read.

The Billionaire's Curse

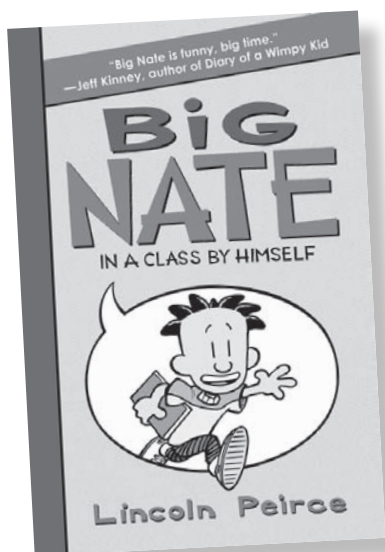
Richard Newsome. Ill. Johnny Duddle. Walden Pond.

When 13-year-old Gerald Wilkins inherits his great-aunt's fortune, he receives a letter from her saying that she was murdered. He must uncover her secrets before the killer does, or he may be the next victim.

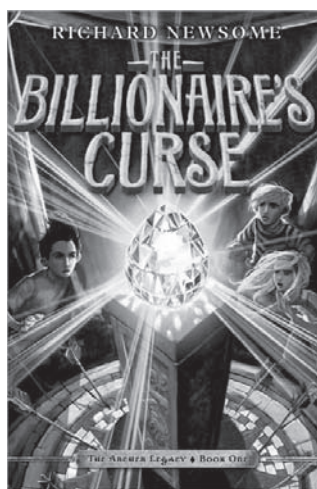
Blindsided

Priscilla Cummings. Dutton Juvenile.

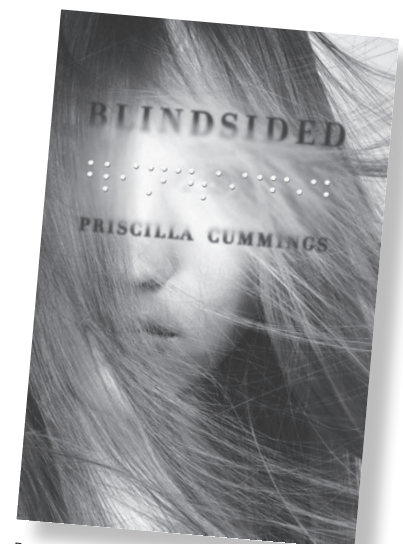
Fourteen-year-old Natalie faces many hurdles as she deals with the fact that she is going blind. The book raises awareness about a population that is often overlooked. Students can relate to Natalie's situations and will be inspired by her courage.



From *Big Nate: In a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins.



From *The Billionaire's Curse* by Richard Newsome. Ill. Johnny Duddle. Walden Pond.



From *Blindsided* by Priscilla Cummings. Dutton Juvenile.

Calamity Jack

Shannon and Dean Hale. Ill. Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children's.

In this graphic novel, Jack has adventures from the Wild West to the big city. He defeats the ant people, who are holding his mother hostage, and gets even with the giant from his past.

Chemistry: Getting a Big Reaction!

Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher. Kingfisher.

For easy-to-read and precise notes on chemistry, this book is a must. Simon Basher has created a format that makes chemistry fun and interesting. Whether you are a teacher or a student, this quick reference to chemistry lingo works well in any science lab, classroom, or home.

Dark Labyrinths

Michael Goodman. Bearport.

Eleven labyrinths from around the world are described using photographs and text, including the tomb of Shi Huang in Xi'an, China, the Wieliczka salt mine in Poland, and the London Underground. This book in the Scary Places series presents the stories behind the labyrinths.

The Dreamer

Pam Muñoz Ryan. Ill. Peter Sís. Scholastic.

The Dreamer is a fictional story based on the childhood of the poet Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Peace prize winner. Just like the real Neruda, the main character in the story spends his days dreaming of the world.

Explorers: Dinosaurs

Dougal Dixon. Ill. Peter Bull. Kingfisher.

Illustrations captivate the reader along with unusual dinosaur facts and timelines. Readers will be eager to continue their discovery of these creatures using the websites found in this volume.

Ghostopolis

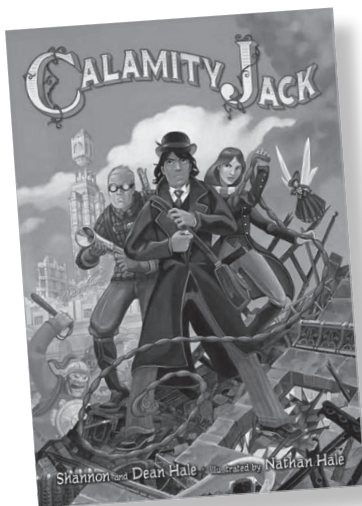
Doug TenNapel. Graphix.

Garth, a terminally ill boy, is accidentally pulled into the ghost world without having died. In this bizarre environment, he meets good and bad characters—including his grandfather—until the mistake can be corrected and Garth can return to his own world.

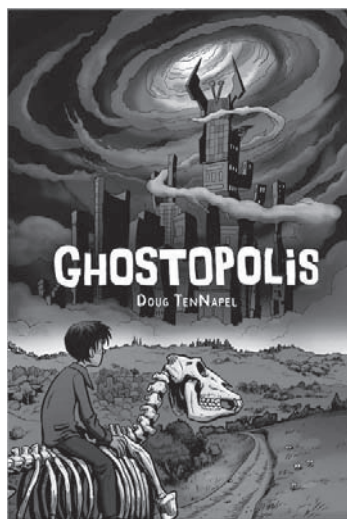
The Grimm Legacy

Polly Shulman. Putnam.

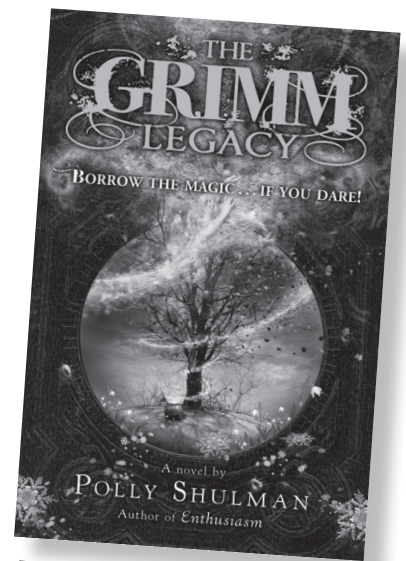
Elizabeth gets a job at a library that houses the magical Grimm collection. When objects from the library's collection start to disappear, Elizabeth and her coworkers must solve the crime. Magic combs, boots, and carpets alight in this fantasy novel.



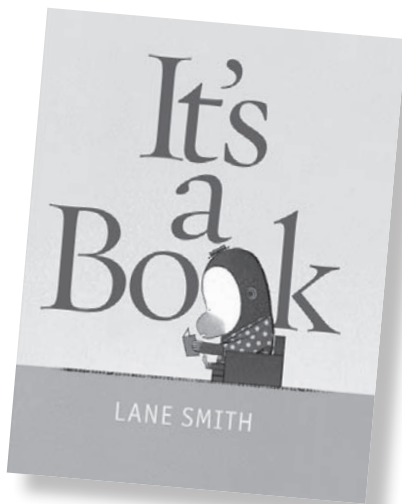
From *Calamity Jack* by Shannon and Dean Hale. Ill. Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children's.



From *Ghostopolis* by Doug TenNapel. Graphix.



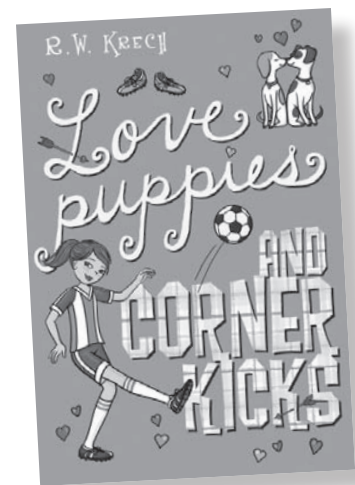
From *The Grimm Legacy* by Polly Shulman. Putnam.



From *It's a Book* by Lane Smith. Roaring Brook.



From *The Line* by Teri Hall. Dial.



From *Love Puppies and Corner Kicks* by R.W. Krech. Dutton.

How I, Nicky Flynn, Finally Get a Life (and a Dog)

Art Corriveau. Amulet.

Nicky Flynn begins a new school in a new city because his parents are getting divorced. Then Reggie, an animal shelter former seeing-eye dog, comes into Nicky's life. Nicky and Reggie run away to freedom.

I Dreamed of Flying Like a Bird: My Adventures Photographing Wild Animals From a Helicopter

Robert B. Haas. National Geographic.

The amazing photos in this book take readers on a wildlife safari from the air. The narration describes the action at the moment of the photo shoot, along with thoughtful anecdotes about the animals and their place in the ecosystem. This unique book, or any of Robert B. Haas's other animal photograph books or articles, provides useful information for animal study at many different levels.

****It's a Book***

Lane Smith. Roaring Brook.

Monkey introduces the concept of a book to a tech-savvy donkey who simply can't fathom the idea. He asks, Does it tweet? blog? text? WiFi? and more. A video trailer for *It's a Book* can be viewed on Amazon.com.

Kid vs. Squid

Greg van Eekhout. Bloomsbury.

A wild adventure set in a museum of curiosities. When Thatcher meets a mysterious girl, he discovers she is from Atlantis and caught in a curse. With Thatcher's help, the two kids attempt to undue the witch's curse.

The Line

Teri Hall. Dial.

In this futuristic novel, Rachel lives on the line that divides her country from the people who live in atomic wasteland Away. Her answer to a call for help sets off a chain of events that unravels dark secrets.

Love Puppies and Corner Kicks

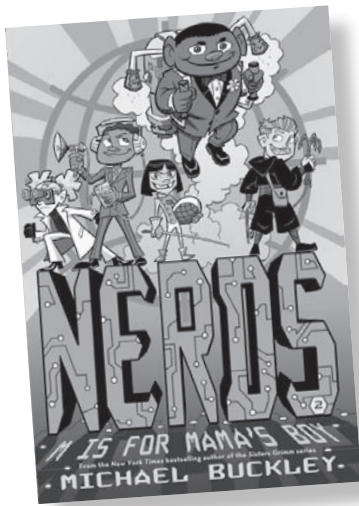
R.W. Krech. Dutton.

Andrea's passion is soccer, words, her two best friends, and her life. But a family move to Scotland upends her world. Ridiculed for stuttering, she must perform in the classroom and on the soccer field to impress her new classmates.

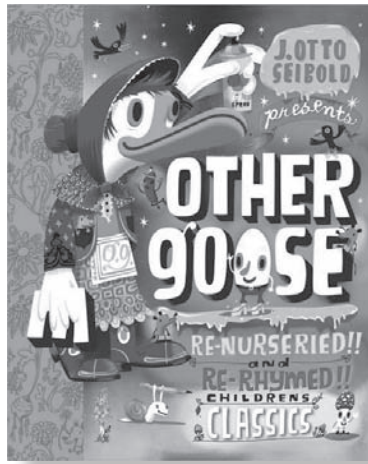
Lynn Visible

Julia DeVillers. Dutton.

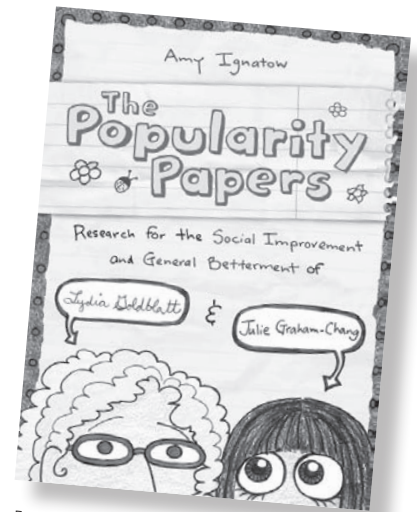
Lynn is a creative high school girl who creates her own fashions. She is often teased until her fashions become a designer hit. Readers will enjoy the fast pace of the inspirational story and relate to the high school stereotypes.



From *NERDS Book Two: M Is for Mama's Boy* by Michael Buckley. Amulet.



From *Other Goose: Re-Nurseried!! and Re-rhymed!! Children's Classics* by J. Otto Seibold. Chronicle.



From *The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang* by Amy Ignatow. Amulet.

Micro Monsters: Extreme Encounters With Invisible Armies

Kingfisher.

This lift-the-flap book introduces 20 microorganisms including the fly, head louse, influenza virus, red blood cells, mosquito, and red spider mites. An attention-grabber for students who love nonfiction!

NERDS Book Two: M Is for Mama's Boy

Michael Buckley. Amulet.

This is the book comic fans fantasize about when they are supposed to be paying attention in school or doing homework. Nerd kids become super heroes triumphing over evil in a humorous and life-threatening take-over-the-world adventure.

Other Goose: Re-Nurseried!! and Re-Rhymed!! Children's Classics

J. Otto Seibold. Chronicle.

The introduction states that J. Otto Seibold modernized old rhymes, and that rhymes are important "because they stick in your head." Humpty Dumpty wears platform shoes, Jack Splat paints abstract, and Mary had a singing lamb in these fractured nursery rhymes.

Planet Earth: What Planet Are You On?

Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher.

Kingfisher.

With colorful illustrations, cartoon characters and fun categories such as "The Insiders" give detailed

facts about the earth's geological composite. The witty dialogue engages students with analogies and language about scientific terms children can relate to and remember.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang

Amy Ignatow. Amulet.

Totally uncool fifth graders Lydia and Julie observe, record, and copy behaviors of the "cool" girls in their school as preparation for junior high. Lydia lives with her single mom and "pseudo-goth" sister, and Julie lives with her two dads.

****The Red Pyramid***

Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.

Sadie and her brother Carter accompany their dad to the British Museum. Dad destroys the Rosetta Stone and disappears. Landing in a world of Egyptian gods, the kids learn to read hieroglyphics and find out that their task is to save humanity.

****Smile***

Raina Telgemeier. Graphix.

Smile is about a middle school girl who knocks out her teeth in a random accident. Children learn about this character dealing with dental surgeries, puberty, crushes, and family. Students love the unique full-color images and comic structure.

The Sons of Liberty

Alexander and Joseph Lagos. Ill. Steve Walker and Oren Kramek. Random House.

This graphic novel portrays history in a whole new light. The two main characters are runaway slaves who obtain superpowers from an experiment gone bad by Benjamin Franklin's son. Their adventures during the American Revolution era are exciting, fast moving, and so suspenseful that you want to keep reading.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

Tom Angleberger. Amulet.

If you enjoyed *Star Wars* and reading the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, you will find this story of the zany antics of middle school-aged students hilarious!

Super Human

Michael Carroll. Puffin.

A blend of ancient and modern tales comes together in this adventure. A group of boys and girls with extraordinary abilities must stop a 5,000-year-old immortal from ruling the world. Action-packed.

Tower of Treasure

Scott Chantler. Kids Can Press.

A graphic novel with a medieval-like setting and the addition of mystical creatures. Young Dessa joins a

circus act as a tightrope walker and the hidden agenda of robbing the royal treasury. Amazing graphics and intriguing story.

Turtle in Paradise

Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.

Set in 1936, 11-year-old Turtle moves to Key West Florida and discovers ways to come out of her shell and face the world. An amazing look into the 1930s, with exceptional dialogue.

Versus: Pirates

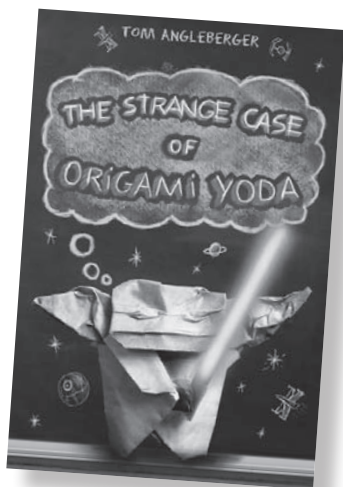
Richard Platt. Ill. Steve Stone. Kingfisher.

Each page contains historical information about pirates, such as country origins, clothes, and time periods. Children will see pictures of pirate clothes, treasure, and ocean maps while reading interesting pirate facts.

The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: How Greg Heffley Went Hollywood

Jeff Kinney. Amulet.

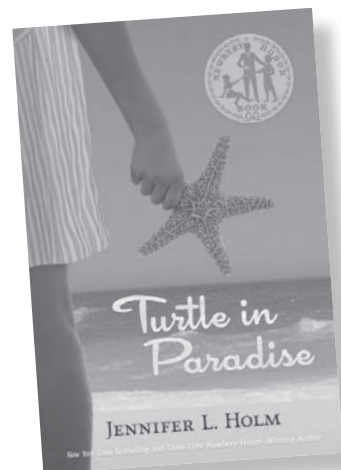
This book documents how movies are made, from creating the storyboard to actually producing the film. Using real sketches from the book and scenes from movies, it allows the reader to become the producer.



From *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger. Amulet.



From *Super Human* by Michael Carroll. Puffin.



From *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.

X-treme X-ray

Nick Veasey. Scholastic.

Children will be fascinated with real photographs of what objects look like under an x-ray. Objects x-rayed include animals, food, buildings, and humans. This nonfiction book gives detailed facts of the x-ray process and the object on each page.

Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker: Girl vs. Superstar

Robin Palmer. Puffin.

Lucy is an “average” girl just trying to make it through the sixth grade. She has been dumped by her BFF, and her mom is marrying the father of a TV superstar. Can things get any worse?

*Zebrafish

Peter H. Reynolds and FableVision. Atheneum.

Vita forms a new band, but is disappointed with the talent. She learns one member has leukemia and rallies the band to raise money for the hospital. This graphic novel raises awareness of a search for a cure to cancer.

*Books that received the highest Children’s Choices team votes.



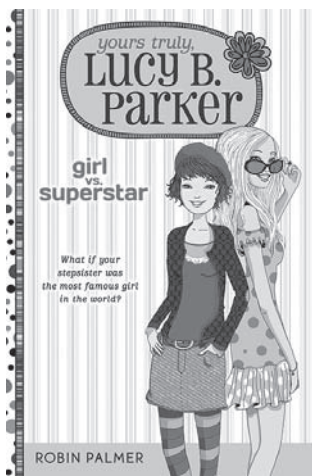
Children’s Choices 2011 Reading List

Beginning Readers (Grades K–2)

- A Balloon for Isabel.** Deborah Underwood. Ill. Laura Rankin. Greenwillow.
- Banana!** Ed Vere. Henry Holt.
- Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist.** James Solheim. Ill. Simon James. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.
- City Dog, Country Frog.** Mo Willems. Ill. Jon J Muth. Hyperion.
- Daddy’s Little Scout.** Janet Bingham. Ill. Rosalind Beardshaw. Cartwheel.
- Dogs Don’t Do Ballet.** Anna Kemp. Ill. Sara Ogilvie. Simon & Schuster Children’s.
- *Even Monsters Need Haircuts.** Matthew McElligott. Walker Books for Young Readers.
- Frankie Stein Starts School.** Lola M. Schaefer. Ill. Kevan Atteberry. Marshall Cavendish.
- Furious George Goes Bananas: A Primate Parody.** Michael Rex. G.P. Putnam Juvenile.
- Hattie the Bad.** Jane Devlin. Ill. Joe Berger. Dial.
- *Hot Rod Hamster.** Cynthia Lord. Ill. Derek Anderson. Scholastic.
- *How Rocket Learned to Read.** Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.
- If You’re a Monster and You Know It.** Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Orchard.
- Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?** Audrey Vernick. Ill. Daniel Jennewein. Balzer & Bray.
- Let’s Save the Animals.** Frances Barry. Candlewick.
- *Little Pink Pup.** Johanna Kerby. Putnam Juvenile.
- Memoirs of a Goldfish.** Devin Scillian. Ill. Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear.
- Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don’t).** Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.
- Mr. President Goes to School.** Rick Walton. Ill. Brad Sneed. Peachtree.
- Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes.** Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins.
- Roly Poly Pangolin.** Anna Dewdney. Viking Juvenile.
- *Shark vs. Train.** Chris Barton and Tom Lichtenheld. Little, Brown.
- Taking Care of Mama.** Mitra Modarressi. Putnam Juvenile.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4)

- Adrian Peterson.** Michael Sandler. Bearport.
- Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders.** Mike Townsend. Dial.
- Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose!** Sue Stauffacher. Ill. Priscilla Lamont. Knopf.
- *Babymouse #12: Burns Rubber.** Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Random House.
- *Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray: The Uproar at the Front Door.** Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.
- The Bat’s Cave: A Dark City.** Joyce Markovics. Bearport.
- Bones: Skeletons and How They Work.** Steve Jenkins. Scholastic.
- Chester’s Masterpiece.** Melanie Watt. Kids Can Press.
- Combat-Wounded Dogs.** Sonita Apte. Bearport.
- Copper.** Kazu Kibuishi. Graphix.
- Drizzle.** Kathleen Van Cleve. Dial.
- *Encyclopedia Mythologica: Gods & Heroes.** Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. Candlewick.
- *Finally.** Wendy Mass. Scholastic.
- Finn McCool and the Great Fish.** Eve Bunting. Ill. Zachary Pullen. Sleeping Bear.
- Goliath: Hero of the Great Baltimore Fire.** Claudia Friddell. Ill. Troy Howell. Sleeping Bear.
- Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters.** Meish Goldish. Bearport.
- I Survived #1: The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912.** Lauren Tarshis. Scholastic.



From *Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker: Girl vs. Superstar* by Robin Palmer. Puffin.



From *Zebrafish* by Peter H. Reynolds and FableVision. Atheneum.

***Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown.** Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Knopf.
Miniature Horses. Natalie Lunis. Bearport.
Missile Mouse #1: The Star Crusher. Jake Parker. Graphix.
The Odious Ogre. Norton Juster. Ill. Jules Feiffer. Michael di Capua Books.
Older Than the Stars. Karen C. Fox. Ill. Nancy Davis. Charlesbridge.
Potbellied Pigs. Natalie Lunis. Bearport.
Swim! Swim! Lerch. Scholastic.
There Was an Old Monkey Who Swallowed a Frog. Jennifer Ward. Ill. Steve Gray. Marshall Cavendish.
Young Zeus. G. Brian Karas. Scholastic.
Zen Ghosts. Jon J Muth. Scholastic.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

31 Ways to Change the World. We Are What We Do. Candlewick.
***Big Nate: In a Class by Himself.** Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins.
The Billionaire's Curse. Richard Newsome. Ill. Johnny Duddle. Walden Pond.
Blindsided. Priscilla Cummings. Dutton Juvenile.
Calamity Jack. Shannon and Dean Hale. Ill. Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children's.
Chemistry: Getting a Big Reaction! Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher. Kingfisher.
Dark Labyrinths. Michael Goodman. Bearport.
The Dreamer. Pam Muñoz Ryan. Ill. Peter Sís. Scholastic.
Explorers: Dinosaurs. Dougal Dixon. Ill. Peter Bull. Kingfisher.
Ghostopolis. Doug TenNapel. Graphix.
The Grimm Legacy. Polly Shulman. Putnam.
How I, Nicky Flynn, Finally Get a Life (and a Dog). Art Corriveau. Amulet.
I Dreamed of Flying Like a Bird: My Adventures Photographing Wild Animals From a Helicopter. Robert B. Haas. National Geographic.
***It's a Book.** Lane Smith. Roaring Brook.
Kid vs. Squid. Greg van Eekhout. Bloomsbury.
The Line. Teri Hall. Dial.
Love Puppies and Corner Kicks. R.W. Krech. Dutton.
Lynn Visible. Julia DeVillers. Dutton.
Micro Monsters: Extreme Encounters With Invisible Armies. Kingfisher.
NERDS Book Two: M Is for Mama's Boy. Michael Buckley. Amulet.
Other Goose: Re-Nurseried!! and Re-Rhymed!! Children's Classics. J. Otto Seibold. Chronicle.
Planet Earth: What Planet Are You On? Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher. Kingfisher.
The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang. Amy Ignatow. Amulet.
***The Red Pyramid.** Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.
***Smile.** Raina Telgemeier. Graphix.
The Sons of Liberty. Alexander and Joseph Lagos. Ill. Steve Walker and Oren Kramek. Random House.
The Strange Case of Origami Yoda. Tom Angleberger. Amulet.
Super Human. Michael Carroll. Puffin.
Tower of Treasure. Scott Chantler. Kids Can Press.
Turtle in Paradise. Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.
Versus: Pirates. Richard Platt. Ill. Steve Stone. Kingfisher.
The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: How Greg Heffley Went Hollywood. Jeff Kinney. Amulet.
X-treme X-ray. Nick Veasey. Scholastic.
Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker: Girl vs. Superstar. Robin Palmer. Puffin.
***Zebrafish.** Peter H. Reynolds and FableVision. Atheneum.

*Books that received the highest Children's Choices team votes.

For over 50 years, the International Reading Association has been the trusted provider of ongoing professional development for teachers. IRA is committed to advancing worldwide literacy by improving reading instruction, disseminating research and information about reading, and encouraging the lifetime reading habit. Additional information about IRA can be found at www.reading.org.


INTERNATIONAL
Reading Association
 800 BARKSDALE ROAD, PO BOX 8139
 NEWARK, DE 19714-8139, USA
www.reading.org

More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2010–2011 IRA–CBC Joint Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stan F. Steiner (chair), Sherilyn J. Bennett, Lois A. Buckman, Pamela J. Farris, Michele Svihovec, Philip Tucker, and David Ward. The following review teams were responsible for the annotations:

- David Ward, Oregon—Area 1
- Sherilyn J. Bennett and Philip Tucker, Pennsylvania—Area 2
- Lois A. Buckman, Texas—Area 3
- Michele Svihovec, North Dakota—Area 4
- Pamela J. Farris, Arizona—Area 5

For more information on the CBC and IRA, or on how to become involved in the IRA/CBC Children's Choices project, visit www.cbcbooks.org/readinglists/childrenschoices or www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx.

INTERNATIONAL
Reading Association

www.reading.org