

BEST

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Books for Great Kids

The Chicago Public Library recommends the following books as some of the best published in 2008 for kids. For suggestions of more outstanding books available at your neighborhood library, please check out our website, chipublib.org or ask your librarian for assistance. And be sure to look inside for additional books to inspire healthy living and healthy reading. Best of the Best is a part of the Kraft Great Kids Initiative. **Read, Learn, Discover!**

Books for Toddlers

Alphabet

By Matthew Van Fleet

Simon & Schuster, Ages 1-6

This alphabetic menagerie, from alligators to zorillas—that's right, zorillas!—is an interactive delight with flaps, pull-tabs and touchable textures for young hands and imaginations.

***My Family: Mi Familia* series**

By Pat Mora, illustrated by

Maribel Suárez

HarperCollins/Rayo, Ages 1-6

Let's Eat/A Comer

Sweet Dreams/Dulces sueños

These charming books follow Hispanic families through many different activities in their busy and loving lives.

***My Very First Bilingual* series**

By Eric Carle

Grosset & Dunlap, Ages 1-6

Animals/Animales

Colors/Colores

By sliding pictures back and forth, children can learn important names and facts in both English and Spanish.

Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes

By Mem Fox, illustrated by

Helen Oxenbury

Harcourt, Ages Birth-2

No matter where in the world they live, babies have a lot in common, most importantly lots of love.

Picture Books

Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend)

By Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by

John Hendrix

Schwartz & Wade, Ages 6-9

If it wasn't for Benjamin Austin Gollaher somebody else would have been our sixteenth president and you'll soon see why in this folksy, edge-of-your-seat tale from America's early days.

Big Chickens Fly the Coop

By Leslie Helakoski, illustrated by

Henry Cole

Dutton, Ages 4-8

The four scared and googly-eyed birds from *Big Chickens* are back and feeling "cooped up," so they set off on a series of hilarious misadventures in an attempt to visit the farmhouse.

Born to Read

By Judy Sierra, illustrated by

Marc Brown

Knopf, Ages 4-8

Everybody is born to read, and this fun, rhyming romp shows lots of things you can do with a book from basketball playing to outer space flying.

Buster Goes to Cowboy Camp

By Denise Fleming

Holt, Ages 5-8

Off to Sagebrush Kennels for the weekend whether he likes it or not, Buster soon discovers that he's become a real canine buckaroo.

The City Kid & the Suburb Kid

By Deb Pilutti, illustrated by Linda Bleck

Delacorte, Ages 4-8

You'll flip for this twice-told contemporary version of Aesop's fable, as two cousins visit one another over the summer and enjoy the same things together, but in the end decide each is happiest at home.

A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever

By Marla Frazee

Harcourt, Ages 5-8

In this tongue-in-cheek story of close friends who spend a week at a grandparent's beach house, the hilarious illustrations tell quite a different story of their experiences with Nature camp, waffles and video games.

Our White House: Looking Out, Looking In

Edited by The National Children's Book and Literary Alliance

Candlewick, Ages 9 & up

From presidents to parrots and grandchildren to ghosts, many have lived, worked and made history at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, and here more than 100 authors and illustrators provide a one-of-a-kind tour of The People's House.

Sea Queens: Women Pirates Around the World

By Jane Yolen, illustrated by

Christine Joy Pratt

Charlesbridge, Ages 9-12

"The most successful pirate in the world," Madame Ching, is only one of the seafaring ladies you'll meet in this dramatic and swashbuckling biography.

Trick of the Tale: A Collection of Trickster Tales

By John Matthews and Caitlín Matthews, illustrated by Tomislav Tomić

Candlewick, Ages 9-12

Whether from Ireland, Russia, Micronesia or Ghana, these tales all have one thing in common: they're great for reading and sharing, and that's no trick!

The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West

By Sid Fleischman

Greenwillow, Ages 9-12

This new biography channels the voice of Samuel Longhorn Clemens himself to share the tales of the many adventures he enjoyed and the trouble he got into during his time.

Washington at Valley Forge

By Russell Freedman

Holiday House, Ages 9-13

The next time you're cold or hungry, this insightful book can help you see right into what it was like for those fighting for America's independence during this most famous of winters.

The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body

By David Macaulay

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 10 & up

This masterpiece really gets under your skin to provide a fascinating and unique guide to what's inside each of us and how it helps us do what we do.

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

By Kadir Nelson

Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, Ages 8 & up

This book provides an amazing play-by-play of an incredible history with beautiful art and wonderful words.

Who's Haunting the White House?: The President's Mansion and the Ghosts Who Live There

By Jeff Belanger, illustrated by

Rick Powell

Sterling, Ages 9-12

Does the Obama family have some unexpected housemates?

Yes We Can: A Biography of President Barack Obama

By Garen Thomas

Feiwei and Friends, Ages 9-13

Filled with photos and inspirational quotes, this must-read will tell you everything there is to know about the Chicagoan who is now the 44th President of the United States.

NatureConnections

10 Things I Can Do to Help My World: Fun and Easy Eco-Tips

By Melanie Walsh

Candlewick, Ages 3-6

This 100% recycled book shows how easily even the youngest citizens of Earth can read green and live green every day.

Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails

By Betsy Franco, illustrated by

Steve Jenkins

Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McEldery, Ages 3-7

The shapes and geometry of living creatures is captured in this compelling look at nature's patterns and symmetry.

Eggs

By Marilyn Singer, illustrated by

Emma Stevenson

Holiday House, Ages 6-10

This superbly illustrated look at many different types of animal eggs is a beautiful marriage of nature, drawing, poetry and text.

***Face to Face With Animals* series**

Various authors

National Geographic, Ages 7-11

This series, which brings readers into the world of all kinds of amazing animals, is told with riveting detail and captivating photography.

***Fold Out and Find Out* series**

By Frances Barry

Candlewick, Ages 3-6

Big Yellow Sunflower Little Green Frogs

Preschool scientists will enjoy unfolding the mysteries of growing sunflowers and tadpole lifecycles in these brightly illustrated books.

Frogs

By Nic Bishop

Scholastic, Ages 8-12

Get up close and very personal with Bishop's astounding photography and fun and odd facts in this fascinating look at the quirky realm of frogs.

Goose and Duck

By Jean Craighead George, illustrated by

Priscilla Lamont

HarperCollins, Ages 5-8

A boy happens upon a goose egg and becomes its mother, which in turn happens on a duck egg and becomes its mother, in this simple look at imprinting and the cycle of life.

Grow: A Novel in Verse

By Juanita Havill

Peachtree, Ages 9-12

Kate works alongside her neighbors to build a garden and a community, but when a parking garage is planned for the garden site, can they save their dream or will it all fall apart?

Hornets: Incredible Insect Architects

By Sandra Markle

Lerner, Ages 9-12

With thorough research and documentation accompanied by sharp photos and diagrams, Markle has built an effective and fascinating look inside the nest.

Scoot!

By Cathryn Falwell

Greenwillow, Ages 3-8

Falwell's incredible paper collages illustrate this energetic animal romp at a pond filled with strong rhyme, colorful vocabulary, buoyant illustrations... and six very silent turtles.

Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

By Jeanette Winter

Harcourt, Ages 5-9

A picture book biography of the Nobel Peace Prize winning Kenyan woman whose inspirational dream to replant the forests of her homeland covered the earth with green.

Fit to Read: Books to Inspire Healthy Living

The Busy Body Book: A Kid's Guide to Fitness

By Lizzy Rockwell

Dragonfly, 2008; Ages 3-7

Eat Right!: How You Can Make Good Food Choices

By Matt Doeden

Lerner, 2008; Ages 10-13

Get Cooking

By Sam Stern

Candlewick, 2009; Ages 12 & up

Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition

By Lizzy Rockwell

Collins, 2009; Ages 5-9

***How to Be Healthy!* series**

By Amanda Tourville Doering,

illustrated by Ronnie Rooney

Picture Window, 2008; Ages 4-7

The Human Machine: An Owner's Guide to the Body

By Richard Walker

Oxford, 2008; Ages 10-13

The Monster Health Book: A Guide to Eating Healthy, Being Active & Feeling Great for Monsters and Kids

By Edward Miller

Holiday House, 2008; Ages 8-11

The Way We Work: Getting to Know the Amazing Human Body

By David Macaulay

Houghton Mifflin, 2008; Ages 10 & up

Dog and Bear: Two's Company

By Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, Ages 3-7

Best friends Dog and Bear are back in three stories, told as conversations between this dachshund and teddy bear, which touch on feelings that young children can share.

The House In The Night

By Susan Swanson, illustrated by

Beth Krommes

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 3-7

In this simple cumulative tale, the child reader is taken up into the skies and back to his comforting home, both of which are illuminated with light.

Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book

By Yuyi Morales

Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, Ages 4-8

On his way to Grandma Beetle's birthday party, Señor Calavera, a Day of the Dead skeleton, collects gifts alphabetically with the help of Zelmira the Ghost, in an effort to find "the thing she would love the most."

A Kitten Tale

By Eric Rohmann

Knopf, Ages 3-7

Since these four kittens have never seen snow before, three of them are very anxious but one just "can't wait."

The Little Matador

By Julian Hector

Hyperion, Ages 3-7

Introduce yourself to this brave young man who, in the great peace-loving tradition of *Ferdinand*, would rather draw a picture than draw a sword.

Madam President

By Lane Smith

Hyperion, Ages 5-8

A young girl imagines herself as Madam President for a day and describes the duties truly from a child's point-of-view appointing a toy cabinet, approving and vetoing school lunches, and dealing with a Disaster Area—her own messy room.

My Preschool

By Anne F. Rockwell

Holt, Ages 3-5

Follow this boy's day at one of his favorite places, Preschool, and join in the familiar activities of circle time, water play, block building and snack time.

Old Bear

By Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, Ages 3-6

As Old Bear hibernates, he revisits each season in his dreams as a bear cub.

One Boy

By Laura Vaccaro Seeger

Roaring Brook/Neal Porter, Ages 5-8

Peek through the die cut pages to count from 1 to 10 and find the words hidden within other words as one boy paints the story.

Phillis's Big Test

By Catherine Clinton, illustrated by

Sean Qualls

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 6-9

In 1773 a young slave named Phillis Wheatley became the first published African American poet—but first she had to pass a test to prove her worth.

Sipping Spiders Through A Straw:

Campfire Songs For Monsters

By Kelly DiPucchio, illustrated by

Gris Grimly

Scholastic, Ages 6-9

Prepare to be grossed out as you sing along to these 18 familiar tunes with silly and disgusting lyrics adapted ideally for little monsters.

Smash! Crash!

By Jon Scieszka, illustrated by David

Shannon, Loren Long & David Gordon

Simon & Schuster, Ages 3-7

Buddies Jack Truck and Dump Truck Dan spend their day doing what they do best—smashing and crashing—with some surprisingly helpful results in this first book in the new *Trucktown* series.

Steel Town

By Jonah Winter, illustrated by

Terry Widener

Atheneum, Ages 7-10

This chronicle of a day in the life of a 1930's steel town takes readers through smoke, heat, grime and tremendous hard work, where at the end of the long shift workers return to their homes, neighbors and well-deserved rest.

Truck Stuck

By Sallie Wolf, illustrated by

Andy Robert Davies

Charlesbridge, Ages 4-7

As more and more vehicles get caught in a traffic jam it's up to the neighborhood kids to figure out how to get everyone unstuck and on their way.

Turtle's Penguin Day

By Valeri Gorbachev, illustrated by

Terry Widener

Knopf, Ages 3-7

After hearing a bedtime story about penguins, Little Turtle is joined by his classmates the next day in pretending to act like penguins.

A Visitor For Bear

By Bonny Becker, illustrated by

Kady MacDonald Denton

Candlewick, Ages 3-7

Ignoring the "No Visitors Allowed" sign, a persistent mouse wears Bear down and joins him by the cozy fire for cheese, tea and company.

Willie and the All-Stars

By Floyd Cooper

Philomel, Ages 7-9

Willie scores tickets to an exhibition game between All-Stars from the Negro League and the Major League at Wrigley Field in 1942 and the excitement and dreaming are contagious.

Yoko Writes Her Name

By Rosemary Wells

Hyperion, Ages 3-7

As she writes her name and numbers in Japanese, Yoko is mocked by her classmates for scribbling and worries that she will not graduate kindergarten.

Fiction for Younger Readers

The 39 Clues series

Scholastic, Ages 9-12

The Maze of Bones By Rick Riordan
One False Note By Gordon Korman

This new series features books by your favorite authors which tell the story of the world's most powerful family, and readers can get the adventure underway with these first two titles and by joining in the search for clues at www.the39clues.com.

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School,

and Other Scary Things

By Lenore Look, illustrated by

LeUyen Pham

Schwartz & Wade, Ages 6-10

Second-grader Alvin Ho is so afraid of school he can't even speak once he enters the building, but when he brings his dad's Johnny Astro action figure to school, his life changes dramatically.

Basketball Bats

By Betty Hicks, illustrated by

Adam McCauley

Roaring Brook, Ages 6-10

This first book in the *Gym Shorts* series introduces Henry and the rest of the "Basketball Bats" as they attempt to defeat Tough Guy and the "Tigers."

Bird Lake Moon

By Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, Ages 8-12

Twelve-year-old Mitch and ten-year-old Spencer spend the summer at Bird Lake Moon, each with a secret that could keep them from truly becoming friends.

Cork and Fuzz: The Collectors

By Dori J. Chaconas, illustrated by

Lisa McCue

Viking, Ages 6-9

In this easy reader, Cork, a short muskrat, and his best friend Fuzz, a tall possum, like to collect shiny stones, however what they end up collecting is trouble.

Down Girl & Sit: Bad to the Bone

By Lucy Nolan, illustrated by

Mike Reed

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 6-9

Down Girl, along with her best friend Sit, have a difficult time training her human, Ruff, and defending her yard from squirrels and the neighbor's cat, Here Kitty Kitty.

Elephant and Piggie series

By Mo Willems

Hyperion, Ages 5-8

Are You Ready to Play Outside?

I Love My New Toy!

I Will Surprise My Friend!

Elephant and Piggie build reading skills and tickle funny bones in each of these hilarious adventures.

Highway Cats

By Janet Taylor Lisle, illustrated by

David Frankland

Philomel, Ages 9-11

A group of many highway cats come together and learn the meaning of community after the arrival of three discarded kittens.

Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time

By James Howe, illustrated by

Marie-Louise Gay

Candlewick, Ages 6-9

With the first snow of winter, Catina discovers the joy of "the quiet time" with her friend Houndsley.

Julia Gillian (and the Art of Knowing)

By Alison McGhee, illustrated by

Drazen Kozjan

Scholastic, Ages 7-12

Julia Gillian, who is not much of a reader, finally finds a book she thinks she might like and, when she begins to worry that it won't have a happy ending, learns that it is better to know than to hide from your fears.

Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-up

By Melissa Thomson, illustrated by Frank Morrison

Dial, Ages 7-10

When the school decides to put boys and girls in separate classrooms, Keena wonders why her best friend Eric gets to have all of the fun.

Masterpiece

By Elise Broach

Holt, Ages 9-12

Part *The Cricket in Times Square*, part *Chasing Vermeer* and all wholly original, this tale filled with adventure, friendship, mystery and art will satisfy anyone who's ever felt invisible.

Minn and Jake's Almost Terrible Summer

By Janet S. Wong, illustrated by Geneviève Côté

FSG/Frances Foster, Ages 7-10

Jake thinks that this summer will be the best ever, but things go downhill fast when his old friends have no time for him, he throws up in front of the girl he's had a crush on since kindergarten and his new best friend's visit doesn't turn out exactly as planned.

More Bones: Scary Stories from Around the World

Selected and retold by Arielle North Olson and Howard Schwartz, illustrated by E. M. Cist

Viking, Ages 8-12

Do you dare to read these twenty-two bone rattling tales in the dark?

The Tales of Beedle the Bard

By J.K. Rowling

Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine, Ages 9-12

Translated from Ancient Runes by Hermione Granger, with commentary by Professor Albus Dumbledore, these tales have been passed down to young witches and wizards for thousands of years.

The Willoughbys

By Lois Lowry

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 9-12

The four Willoughby children aspire to be "worthy and deserving" orphans in this satire of classic children's literature.

Nonfiction for Younger Readers

Abe's Honest Words

By Doreen Rappaport, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Hyperion, Ages 4-8

Lincoln's struggles, joys and most abiding beliefs are imparted through authoritative and powerful prose enhanced with captivating and commanding illustrations.

Art from Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter

By Kathy Whitehead, illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Putnam, Ages 4-8

This is an inspiring and captivating biography of a self-taught artist, descended from slaves, who found a way to capture and celebrate the beauty found in lives of hardship.

Before John Was a Jazz Giant

By Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Sean Qualls

Holt, Ages 5-9

This look at how John Coltrane listened, heard and made music is accompanied by illustrations evoking his powerful and mysterious compositions.

Boy, Were We Wrong About the Solar System!

By Kathleen Kudlinski, illustrated by John Rocco

Dutton, Ages 6-11

We have long speculated, theorized and created stories about space and the solar system, and this entertaining book shows how scientific study has changed those notions and beliefs.

Cinco de Mayo

By Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith, photographs by Lawrence Migdale

Holiday House, Ages 8-10

Come along with Rosie, a beautiful Mexican American girl, as she and her family celebrate Cinco de Mayo and learn about the history and traditions surrounding this important day.

First Food Fight This Fall and Other School Poems

By Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa

Sterling, Ages 8-11

The fun, games and culture of school are brought to life by the funny, touching and all-too-true words of this acclaimed poet.

The Fisherman and the Turtle

By Eric Kimmel, illustrated by Martha Aviles

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 4-8

In this Aztec version of the classic fairy tale, Kimmel and Aviles colorfully bring to life the story of a wish giving turtle and a husband whose wife goes too far with her greedy demands.

Fun with Roman Numerals

By David Adler, illustrated by Edward Miller III

Holiday House, Ages 4-8

Adler again makes accessible a complex math concept to young readers in this engaging look at how to use and understand roman numerals, which are all around us.

Hamsters, Shells, and Spelling Bees: School Poems

Edited by Lee Bennett Hopkins, illustrated by Sachiko Yoshikawa

HarperCollins, Ages 5-8

Twenty simple poems for the youngest readers describe the many aspects of the school year.

Mazes Around the World

By Mary Lankford, illustrated by Karen Dugan

Collins, Ages 7-10

Readers will puzzle out the complex patterns that have been repeated around the world for thousands of years in this absorbing look at these beautiful and mysterious labyrinths.

Missing Math: A Number Mystery

By Loreen Leedy

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 3-8

When all the numbers in town vanish mysteriously, it affects everyone in countless ways: no TV channels, no shoe sizes and no one knows when their library books are due!

On the Road

By Wade Cooper

Scholastic/Cartwheel, Ages 4-8

Perfect for the emerging reader, this combines bright, colorful photographs with fun and informational text about various forms of transportation that will have readers racing to the next page.

Senses In The City

By Shelley Rotner

Millbrook, Ages 3-6

Captivating photographs invite young readers to experience a day in the city through their five senses.

Sisters & Brothers: Sibling Relationships in the Animal World

By Robin Page, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 7-9

If you think your house is full of wild animals, take a look at what it's like in these families as brothers and sisters grow, learn and eat together (and sometimes each other!).

Way Up and Over Everything

By Alice McGill, illustrated by Jude Daly

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 5-10

A wish for freedom, this famous story of African slaves flying up and away is retold in a spare and dignified style which is sure to inform and inspire.

What To Do About Alice?

By Barbara Kerley, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham

Scholastic, Ages 6-11

Irrepressible and exuberant, Alice Roosevelt was as fun loving and free-spirited as this gorgeous picture book about her life and trademark carefree spirit.

Wish: Wishing Traditions Around The World

By Roseanne Thong, illustrated by Elisa Kleven

Chronicle, Ages 4-8

Whether you're putting a penny in your shoe, blowing on a dandelion or casting your hopes onto a dashing weasel, this worldwide collection with charmingly beautiful pictures will make your wishes for a wonderful book come true.

Fiction for Older Readers

1001 Cranes

By Naomi Hirahara

Delacorte, Ages 10-13

Twelve-year-old Angela Kato does not want to spend the entire summer making paper cranes with her Grandmother and helping her Grandfather in his flower shop while her parents decide if they will stay together.

After Tupac and D Foster

By Jacqueline Woodson

Putnam, Ages 12 & up

Three friends, girls who call themselves Three the Hard Way, try to figure out their Big Purpose and make sense of the complicated world they inhabit through the music of Tupac Shakur.

Brooklyn Bridge

By Karen Hesse

Feiwel & Friends, Ages 11-14

In Brooklyn at the turn of the century, fourteen-year-old Joe would rather explore Coney Island or play stickball with his friends than to help his parents with the teddy bears they've invented.

Chains

By Laurie Halse Anderson

Simon & Schuster, Ages 10 & up

As the Revolutionary War begins, a thirteen-year-old African American slave, Isabel, is determined to win freedom for herself and her younger sister, no matter what it takes.

The Graveyard Book

By Neil Gaiman

HarperCollins, Ages 10 & up

To escape the murderer who has killed his family, a toddler wanders into a graveyard where he is raised and protected by the ghosts and other creatures who find him there.

The Hunger Games

By Suzanne Collins

Scholastic, Ages 12 & up

The post-apocalyptic United States has been redrawn into a new nation where each year selected kids and teens must fight to the death in the ultimate reality television show.

Keeping Score

By Linda Sue Park

Clarion, Ages 9-12

With her friend Jim drafted to fight in the Korean War and her beloved Brooklyn Dodgers losing season after season, Maggie searches for a way to make a difference in the world during the early 1950's.

Keeping the Night Watch

By Hope Anita Smith

Holt, Ages 10-14

Told through a series of poems, this is the story of thirteen-year-old C.J. who, when his father returns home, has a hard time forgiving and forgetting the hurt caused by his long absence.

Melting Stones

By Tamora Pierce

Scholastic, Ages 12 & up

Stone mage Evvy finds herself on a journey with her mentor and her best friend when she discovers a powerful stone magic unlike anything she has encountered before, but which could prove disastrous for all.

My One Hundred Adventures

By Polly Horvath

Schwartz & Wade, Ages 9-12

More than anything else, Jane longs for adventure and, over her twelfth summer, the adventures keep coming, often in ways she never could have guessed.

Nick of Time: An Adventure Through Time

By Ted Bell

St. Martin's Griffin, Ages 10 & up

If anyone you love loves Harry Potter, Long John Silver, Indiana Jones or all three, then this is the book for them!

Savvy

By Ingrid Law

Dial, Ages 9-12

On her thirteenth birthday, Mibs will discover what her special power—her "savvy"—is when her father's accident leads her on a road trip filled with new friends, discoveries and hope for the future.

The Seer of Shadows

By Avi

HarperCollins, Ages 9-12

New York City, 1872: Horace has been raised to believe in rationality, until his photographs unleash a vengeful spirit in this ghost story.

The Smell of Old Lady Perfume

By Claudia Martinez

Cinco Puntos, Ages 9-12

Chela can't wait to start sixth grade, but nothing goes the way she had imagined, especially when her beloved father has a stroke and her grandmother comes to stay.

Smiles to Go

By Jerry Spinelli

HarperCollins/Joyanna Cotler, Ages 10-14

Twelve-year-old Will loves science and order, but it takes a near tragedy to teach him that life cannot be neatly mapped out—and that it's better that way.

Trouble

By Gary D. Schmidt

Clarion, Ages 12-18

Racial tensions erupt after fourteen-year-old Henry's brother is accidentally killed by a Cambodian immigrant, forcing him to learn that sometimes *Trouble* must be met head-on.

The Underneath

By Kathi Appelt

Atheneum, Ages 9-12

Magic combines with realism in this powerful story of the family made by an old dog, a cat and her kittens.

Waiting for Normal

By Leslie Connor

HarperCollins, Ages 10 & up

Addie finds herself in challenging, even bleak, circumstances but takes control of her own life and destiny with hope and optimism.

Well Witched

By Frances Hardinge

HarperCollins, Ages 9-12

When they need some money for a bus, Ryan, Josh and Chell do what any kid might—they take a few coins from a wishing well. After all, who will notice? The Well Witch might!

White Sands, Red Menace

By Ellen Klages

Viking, Ages 10-14

As the story of *The Green Glass Sea* continues, it's 1946 and Dewey has moved with Suze and her family to New Mexico where Suze's dad works on rockets, her mother works against the Bomb she helped develop and the girls try to adapt to eighth grade.

Nonfiction for Older Readers

Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry

By Scott Reynolds Nelson with Marc Aronson

National Geographic, Ages 10-14

This superb first person history follows the trail blazed by African American railroad workers to discover if the legendary man truly existed.

All About Sleep from A to Zzzz

By Elaine Scott, illustrated by

John O'Brien

Viking, Ages 10-13

These fascinating facts will really open your eyes to how you spend one third of your entire life.

Eat Right!: How You Can Make Good Food Choices

By Matt Doeden

Lerner, Ages 10-13

Take a bite out of this book and discover how to live better by eating better. Other healthy living titles in the Health Zone series include *Keep Your Cool!*, *Stay Clear!*, *Stay Fit!*, *Stay Safe!* and *Take a Stand!*

The Girl Who Helped Thunder and Other Native American Folktales

Retold by James Bruchac and Joseph

Bruchac, illustrated by Stefano Vitale

Sterling, Ages 9-13

From the "Folktales of the World" series comes a collection of twenty-four illuminating, instructive and entertaining stories.

Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher

By Marfé Ferguson Delano

National Geographic, Ages 10-13

Helen's greatest gift was to have such a special teacher.

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka

By Jon Scieszka

Viking, Ages 8-12

There was never a dull day at the Scieszka house (sound familiar?) so take a funny peek into the lives of these six brothers and find out how one of them grew up to be a rich and famous author and the first National Ambassador for Young People's Literature.

Lincoln Shot!: A President's Life Remembered

By Barry Denenberg, illustrated by

Christopher Bing

Feiwel and Friends, Ages 9 & up

As they celebrate Lincoln's 200th birthday, young history buffs will devour this big book designed to look like an old fashioned newspaper which is crammed full of stories from an amazing life.

The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary

By Candace Fleming

Schwartz & Wade, Ages 10 & up

You may think you know everything about Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, but you've never seen them like this before.

My Dog May Be a Genius

By Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by

James Stevenson

Greenwillow, Ages 9-12

Get to know the sneezing Ozzie Snozzer, the talented Burt the Burper and the grumpy Beezil B. Bone in this hilarious new collection of playful and priceless poems.

2009 Award Winners

NEWBERY AWARD

The Graveyard Book

By Neil Gaiman

HarperCollins, Ages 10 & up

CALDECOTT AWARD

The House in the Night

By Susan Marie Swanson, illustrated
by Beth Krommes

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 3-7

SIBERT MEDAL

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

By Kadir Nelson

Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, Ages 8 & up

THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

Are You Ready To Play Outside?

By Mo Willems

Hyperion/Disney Book, Ages 5-8

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD FOR TEXT

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

By Kadir Nelson

Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, Ages 8 & up

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATION

The Blacker the Berry

By Joyce Carol Thomas, illustrated
by Floyd Cooper

HarperCollins/Amistad, Ages 4-8

PURA BELPRÉ AWARD FOR TEXT

The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom

By Margarita Engle

Henry Holt, Ages 12 & up

PURA BELPRÉ AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATION

Just in Case: A Trickster Tale and Spanish Alphabet Book

By Yuyi Morales

Roaring Press/Neal Porter, Ages 4-8

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