

BEST

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CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Books for Great Kids

The Chicago Public Library recommends the following books as some of the best published in 2007 for kids. For some suggestions of outstanding books available at your neighborhood library, please check our web site at chicagopubliclibrary.org or ask your librarian for assistance.

Best of the Best is made possible by a generous grant from Kraft Foods.

Read, Learn, Discover!

Books for Toddlers

Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You See?

By Bill Martin Jr., illustrated by Eric Carle

Holt, Ages 1-4

Baby bear sets off to find his mama and on the way meets a cast of North American animals in this final collaboration between picture book masters Martin and Carle.

Baby Can

By Eve Bunting, illustrated by Maxi Chambliss

Boyd's Mills, Ages 2-5

As his parents exclaim over the accomplishments of his new baby brother, James receives reassurance, especially from the toddling baby, that he is truly loved.

The Birthday Box

By Leslie Patricelli

Candlewick, Ages 2-5

What could be more fun and imaginative than sharing a gift box with the gift that is inside?!

Dog

By Matthew Van Fleet, photographs by Brian Stanton

Simon & Schuster/Wiseman, Ages 1-5

This sturdy interactive book introduces action words and concepts, and features many different breeds like Pugs and Chihuahuas (not to mention one cat).

Global Babies

By Global Fund for Children

Charlesbridge, Ages Birth-2

Simple text and the captivating colored-photographs of individual babies from various countries convey a universal love for children everywhere.

Look at You!: A Baby Body Book

By Kathy Henderson, illustrated by Paul Howard

Candlewick, Ages 1-4

Using their five senses and interacting with wiggles and wobbles, babies explore their world.

Only You

By Robin Cruise, illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine

Harcourt, Ages 2-5

With gentle rhyme this celebration of a parent's love for a child notes the qualities that make each child special and unique.

Picture Books

1 2 3: A Child's First Counting Book

By Alison Jay

Dutton, Ages 1-8

Practice counting from one to ten and back again as a sleeping girl travels from fairy tale to fairy tale by way of beautifully illustrated dreams.

Badger's Fancy Meal

By Keiko Kasza

Putnam, Ages 4-7

Badger has a taste for some gourmet food, but it seems as though the ingredients he's after are hungrier (and quicker) than he is.

Bear Feels Sick

By Karma Wilson, illustrated by Jane Chapman

Simon & Schuster/McElderry, Ages 3-7

Too sick to play, Bear's friends use tender loving care to make him feel better and as Bear later proves, that is just what friends do when friends are sick.

Beetle Bop

By Denise Fleming

Harcourt, Ages 4-8

Beetles are all around us, in the city and on every page of this colorful and informative guide for fans of read alouds and entomology alike.

The Boy Who Painted Dragons

By Demi

Simon & Schuster/McElderry, Ages 7-10

Ping's brilliant paintings of dragons appear to be a symbol of respect, but when he is charged with obtaining the wisdom of the dragons, he must confront his deepest fears.

The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

By Janice N. Harrington, illustrated by Shelley Jackson

FSG/Melanie Kroupa, Ages 4-8

Charming country collages paired with a story of a smart young girl trying hard every day to get her hands on a mama hen will have readers of this book squawking for more.

City Lullaby

By Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Carll Cneut

Clarion, Ages 4-8

From page to page, follow the sleeping baby in the red stroller as it travels through this city symphony of sounds only to finally awaken to one tiny tweet.

Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners

By Laurie Keller

Holt, Ages 5-8

When new neighbors move in, Mr. Rabbit is worried about how they will get along, but it turns out that they are very polite and pun-ny.

Fiona's Luck

By Teresa Bateman, illustrated by Kelly Murphy

Charlesbridge, Ages 7-11

Anyone who gets to enjoy this delightful original Irish story is as lucky as a leprechaun.

Firefighters: Speeding! Spraying! Saving!

By Patricia Hubbel, illustrated by Viviana Garofoli

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 3-7

A rhyming chant welcomes interaction as it details the drama of a fire crew, accompanied by dalmatian Spot, as they execute a successful, but noisy, rescue.

A Friend for All Seasons

By Julia Hubery, illustrated by Mei Matsuoka

Atheneum, Ages 4-8

In his woodland home, Robbie Raccoon loves Father Oak most of all, and he worries as the tree begins to lose its leaves. The changes of the seasons unfold and Robbie delights in seeing what five planted acorns yield in the spring.

A Good Day

By Kevin Henkes

Greenwillow, Ages 2-5

What begins as a bad day for a bird, a puppy, a fox and a squirrel turns into a very good one for each of them and their young neighbor.

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad

By Ellen Levine, illustrated by Kadir Nelson

Scholastic, Ages 4-8

This is the inspiring true story of Henry "Box" Brown, a famous runaway slave who mailed himself in a wooden crate from Virginia to freedom in Philadelphia

I Don't Like to Read!

By Nancy Carlson

Viking, Ages 5-9

Henry likes first grade and listening to stories, but he says reading is boring and dumb. That is, until a little extra help at school and home make the letters and words around him begin to make sense and he soon becomes an eager reader

Jazz Baby

By Lisa Wheeler, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

Harcourt, Ages 3-7

A tap and a snap and baby's hands going clap-clap-clap start the whole neighborhood singing and dancing as the bouncin' baby bebops and the rhythm and the jazz sounds nearly leap off the pages.

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity

By Mo Willems

Hyperion, Ages 3-7

Trixie and her Knuffle Bunny are back and ready for school, but they're not the only ones . . .

Llama Llama Mad at Mama

By Anna Dewdney

Viking, Ages 4-8

Waiting in lines, trying on clothes and shopping for groceries lead to a little Llama temper tantrum that will be familiar to most children and parents. Agreeing to be a team, Llama Llama and Mama turn the day around to end on a sweet note.

Motherbridge of Love

By Xinran, illustrated by Josée Masse

Barefoot, Ages 4-8

Spoken directly to a listening child, this lyrical poem presents in a thoughtful and well balanced manner the two separate loving roles of adoptive and birth mother in shaping the life of a child.

Mouse Shapes

By Ellen Stoll Walsh

Harcourt, Ages 2-6

All it takes is some circles, squares, triangles and imagination for these three mice to outsmart the cat.

Mrs. O'Leary's Cow

By Mary Ann Hoberman, illustrated by Jenny Mattheson

Little, Brown; Ages 3-8

Did the poor old cow do it? Sing along to find out!

My Grandma/Mi Abuelita

By Ginger Foglesong Guy, illustrated by Viví Escrivá

HarperCollins/Rayo, Ages Birth-5

Described with simple bilingual words, many children will recognize the trip this father and his two children take from the city to visit a grandmother in the country far away.

Night Shift

By Jessie Hartland

Bloomsbury, Ages 4-8

From street sweepers to bridge painters to window dressers, this book peeks in on workers during the wee hours of the night.

Nothing

By Jon Agee

Hyperion, Ages 4-8

In this twist on *The Emperor's New Clothes*, buying "nothing" really becomes something in this town.

Papi's Gift

By Karen Stanton, illustrated by René King Moreno

Boyds Mills, Ages 5-8

Because her father lives in a different country, he can only wish Graciela *feliz cumpleaños* over the phone, but that doesn't mean they don't love each other very much.

Penguins, Penguins, Everywhere!

By Bob Barner

Chronicle, Ages 2-6

All 17 species of penguins come out to play in this rhyming, diving, waddling good time, with fun facts included, such as the answer to why they are all black and white.

Punk Farm on Tour

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Knopf, Ages 3-7

Watch the wheels of the tour van go 'round and 'round as these musical farm animals rock and roll all over America.

Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend

By Mélanie Watt

Kids Can, Ages 4-8

Scaredy Squirrel is so afraid of being bitten that he won't risk making a friend. But after creating a plan to befriend a 100% safe goldfish, he is waylaid by an animal who just wants to be friends, too.

Treasure

By Suzanne Bloom

Boyds Mills, Ages 4-8

"X" marks the spot for treasure—or does it?—as Bear and Goose make a discovery about friendship.

Who Likes Rain?

By Wong Herbert Yee

Holt, Ages 2-6

A little girl playfully explores a new season, Spring, while discovering who likes rain—and who doesn't.

Fiction for Younger Readers

Annie and Snowball and the Dress-Up Birthday

By Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Suçie Stevenson

Simon & Schuster, Ages 5-7

Meet Henry and Mudge's favorite cousin, Annie, as she ventures out on her own to experience and solve her own mysteries.

The Aurora County All-Stars

By Deborah Wiles

Harcourt, Ages 8-12

Mix in baseball quotes, Walt Whitman's poetry, a town's 200th anniversary, a mysterious recluse, summer in a small town and a baseball team in need of their star pitcher and you have the framework for the story that is House Jackson's and the characters that make up the town of Aurora County.

The Cat on the Mat is Flat

By Andy Griffiths, illustrated by Terry Denton

Feiwel & Friends, Ages 4-8

Reminiscent of the rhymes, rhythm and mayhem of the Dr. Seuss stories, Andy Griffiths shares nine humorous stories with his young readers.

A Crooked Kind Of Perfect

By Linda Urban

Harcourt, Ages 8-12

Imagine being a piano prodigy: Carnegie Hall, gorgeous gowns, heart-warming applause and the adoring audience and you will meet ten-year-old dreamer, Zoe Elias. Can her dreams be fulfilled with the Perfectone D-60 wheeze-bag of an organ?

Elephant and Piggie series

By Mo Willems

Hyperion, Ages 4-8

Just as Piggie is confident about flying, this wonderful new series will increase the confidence of beginning readers. Series titles include *Today I Will Fly!* and *My Friend is Sad*.

Elijah of Buxton

By Christopher Paul Curtis

Scholastic, Ages 9-13

As the first child in his family born into freedom, 11-year-old Elijah finds the courage to leave the safety of his Canadian home to travel to the American South to right a wrong.

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree

By Lauren Tarshis

Dial, Ages 9-12

Surrounded by illogical and emotional seventh-grade classmates the intellectually gifted and social outcast Emma-Jean decides to use her analytical mind to solve her peers' problems with puzzling results.

Fred and Ted Like to Fly

By Peter Eastman

Random House, Ages 4-8

These small and tall friends are taking off in their red and green airplanes for a new adventure.

A Friendship for Today

By Patricia C. McKissack

Scholastic, Ages 8-12

When her best friend gets polio and she has to face the first day of school alone, Rosemary learns that school integration can be scary, exciting and ultimately rewarding.

Igraine the Brave

By Cornelia Funke

Scholastic/Chicken House, Ages 8-12

This feisty and honorable heroine proves that the age old Rules of Chivalry may need to be slightly adjusted to read "A knight can never lose **her**" honor in a fair fight."

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

By Brian Selznick

Scholastic, Ages 9-13

This truly original creation blends pictures and words as never before to present the mystery of a Parisian orphan who hides himself and his big secret from the outside world.

Lawn Boy

By Gary Paulsen

Random House/Wendy Lamb, Ages 9-12

Life changes for an enterprising twelve-year-old when he takes grandpa's old riding mower and starts his own lawn business eventually leading him to dabble in the stock market and to own a prizefighter.

Middle School is Worse Than Meatloaf: A Year Told Through Stuff

By Jennifer L. Holm, illustrated by

Elicia Castaldi

Simon & Schuster/Ginee Seo, Ages 8-12

What can receipts, horoscopes, poems, comic strips, announcements, instant messages, post cards, quizzes, letters and bank statements possibly tell you about a person? Stand in Ginny Davis' shoes to view how this "stuff" presents you with the ups and downs of a year in her life.

The Mysterious Benedict Society

By Trenton Lee Stewart

Little, Brown; Ages 10-13

The ad for "gifted children looking for special opportunities" intrigues 11-year-old Reynie as he begins his quest through distant places where he and his friends must fight against forces leading children to take over the world.

Neddiad: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood, and Saved Civilization

By Daniel Pinkwater

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 9-13

Join the saga of Neddie Wentworthenstein as he leaves his beloved hometown of Chicago, travels with his family on the Super Chief, is abandoned in Flagstaff, encounters a Native American Shaman, hooks up with a ghost bellhop and ventures through mishaps and swashbuckling fun with a movie star and his son. But will the ancient totem that he acquires and protects him from Sholmos Bunyip preserve the fate of the world?

Not in Room 204

By Shannon Riggs, illustrated by Jaime Zollars

Whitman, Ages 6-9

Mrs. Salvador's sensitive presentation to her class about "stranger danger" empowers her student Regina Lillian Hadwig to reveal her secret to her teacher and seek her assistance.

Paint the Wind

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

Scholastic, Ages 9-12

Sent to live with relatives she doesn't know in a place she's never been, Maya finds a new life and a love for horses in Wyoming in this sure-to-be-a-classic story about love, adventure and wide-open places.

The Talented Clementine

By Sara Pennypacker, illustrated by Marla Frazee

Hyperion, Ages 8-10

Clementine may not be a very good Elvis impersonator, and bottle cap tap dancing may not be her strongest skill, but through it all she is a very funny, fantastic (and talented!) third grader.

Way Down Deep

By Ruth White

FSG, Ages 9-12

Way Down Deep was just the kind of town to take in a founding without asking a lot of questions and Miss Arbutus, proprietress of the Roost, the local boardinghouse, was just the right person to raise Ruby, but now that she is turning twelve strange events and characters upset her sweet life.

When Heaven Fell

By Carolyn Marsden

Candlewick, Ages 8-12

Reach into the life of nine-year-old Binh to discover and experience her difficult life in Vietnam and her dashed hopes that her newly discovered half-American Aunt can bring wealth to her Vietnamese family.

Wiggle and Waggle

By Caroline Arnold, illustrated by Mary Peterson

Charlesbridge, Ages 5-8

Written in five easy chapters, readers will enjoy the lively antics and episodes that reveal the life of two wormy friends as they dig in dirt, enjoy singing, relish picnics and delight in swimming. The stories are followed with true facts about worms.

Fiction for Older Readers

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel

By Michael Scott

Delacorte, Ages 12-15

Records show that Nicholas Flamel died over 700 years ago, yet his tomb is empty. After meeting him, 15-year-old twins, Sophie and Josh, find themselves in the middle of a legend and learn they may hold powers greater than they've ever imagined.

Book of a Thousand Days

By Shannon Hale

Bloomsbury, Ages 12-15

Dashti records adventure, fear, deception, hope and even romance in her journal after she is imprisoned in a tower with her mistress for seven years.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

By Jeff Kinney

Abrams/Amulet, Ages 9-12

As an undersized weakling, Greg just hopes to survive middle school in this hilarious illustrated novel.

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

By J.K. Rowling

Scholastic/Levine, Ages 10 and up

Harry faces his final battle with Voldemort in this exciting conclusion to the immortal series.

Home of the Brave

By Katherine Applegate

Feiwel & Friends, Ages 10-15

When Kek comes from Africa to Minnesota, hope and friendship help him adjust to a new life in a strange land.

I Am Not Joey Pigza

By Jack Gantos

FSG, Ages 10-14

Just when he thinks everything is under control, Joey's good-for-nothing dad returns with a new identity and plans for the whole family.

Kimchi & Calamari

By Rose Kent

HarperCollins, Ages 9-13

Born to Korean parents and adopted as an infant by an Italian-American family, Joseph Calderaro tries to discover who he really is after an assignment that asks: who are your ancestors.

The Land of the Silver Apples

By Nancy Farmer

Atheneum, Ages 12-15

13-year-old bard-in-training Jack must rescue his little sister after she is kidnapped by the Lady of the Lake as the story of *The Sea of Trolls* continues.

M is for Magic

By Neil Gaiman

HarperCollins, Ages 11-15

Magical, fantastic short stories—inhabited by ghosts, grails, trolls, and more—are sure to enchant young readers.

The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World

By E.L. Konigsburg

Simon & Schuster/Gineeo Seo, Ages 10-15

As they help prepare Mrs. Zender's estate sale, Amedo and William stumble upon secrets and lost stories waiting to be told.

Nobody's Princess

By Esther Friesner

Random House, Ages 12-15

Before she became Helen of Troy, Helen of Sparta was a sassy princess determined to live life on her own terms.

Revolution is Not a Dinner Party

By Ying Chang Compenstine

Holt, Ages 10-14

Beginning in 1972, 9-year-old Ling grows and blossoms even as she and her family struggle to survive during China's Cultural Revolution.

The Wednesday Wars

By Gary D. Schmidt

Clarion, Ages 10-14

Holling Hoodhood handles Shakespeare, a teacher who's out to get him, pressure over the family business, first love, the Vietnam War and more during one memorable school year.

Folk & Fairy Tales

Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella

By Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Julie Paschkis

Holt, Ages 6-9

More than a dozen cultures come together in the pages of this beautiful book to collectively tell one of the best known and loved stories in the world.

Mother Goose Numbers on the Loose

By Leo and Diane Dillon

Harcourt, Ages 1-6

You can count on lots of charm as you make your way through these delightful rhymes, some of which will be familiar and others not, while savoring the fantastical illustrations and enjoying the rhythm and rhyme of numbers.

Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa

By Niki Daly

Clarion, Ages 4-8

After being tricked by Mr. Dog in this amusing variation on the familiar cautionary story, Salma will never talk to another stranger again.

Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel

By Patricia Storace, illustrated by Raúl Colón

Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, Ages 6-12

Just as waves come for the sand, so did Madame Fate steal away the little girl known as Sugar Cane, confining her to a sad and lonely life in an island tower until the waters brought the young lady's true love to rescue her.

The Three Cabritos

By Eric A. Kimmel, illustrated by Stephen Gilpin

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 3-7

With only the Chupacabra standing between them and a good time at a Mexican fiesta, three young goats put their talents to the test and find that being able to overcome any challenge put in their way is music to their ears.

Three Snow Bears

By Jan Brett

Putnam, Ages 4-7

With amazingly detailed art and a deep admiration for the Inuit culture, Brett sets Goldilocks in a colder climate and finds that it's still the smallest of things which are always just right.

The Twelve Dancing Princesses

By Rachel Isadora

Putnam, Ages 4-7

This color- and pattern-drenched retelling of the classic story of beautiful, fun-loving (and sneaky) princesses is given an African setting that will take your breath away and beg to be read again and again.

Poetry

Animal Poems

By Valerie Worth, illustrated by Steve Jenkins

FSG, Ages 8-12

Dozens of poems crawl, fly, slither, swim and hop their way across these pages.

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems

By John Grandits

Clarion, Ages 12 and up

Wearing blue lipstick may be a mistake, but *reading* it is definitely a good idea as these ingenious words and shapes hold a mirror up to the life of Jessie, a high schooler with definite opinions of her own.

Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars: Space Poems and Paintings

By Douglas Florian

Harcourt, Ages 7-11

There's a lot of space out there and the stellar Florian trains his poetic and artistic telescope on all of it, even poor Pluto.

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village

By Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd

Candlewick, Ages 10-14

Come meet 22 new friends—be they sniggler, mud slinger or half-wit—as each takes turns sharing the story of their lives in England almost 800 years ago in this unique, useful and insightful collection of poetic monologues.

Good Sports: Rhymes about Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More

By Jack Prelutsky, illustrated by Chris Raschka

Knopf, Ages 6-11

When the Children's Poet Laureate and a Caldecott Medalist team up, they're sure to hit one out of the park, and this book doesn't fumble at all.

Here's a Little Poem: A Very First Book of Poetry

Collected by Jane Yolen and Andrew Fusek Peters, illustrated by

Polly Dunbar

Candlewick, Ages 1-5

These more than 60 delicious selections will create the newest poetry fans as youngsters play with the rhythm and rhyme of language and love.

Jabberwocky

By Lewis Carroll, illustrated by Christopher Myers

Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, Ages 8-12

"'Twas brillig" on the basketball court as Myers reimagines the classic nonsensical poem as an epic urban struggle with allusions to Mesoamerican culture, in turn creating a fabulously joyful celebration of sport and sound.

Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals

By Ashley Bryan

Atheneum, All Ages

Gorgeous and colorful cut paper illustrations unlike anything you've ever seen bring these traditional and celebratory songs to life.

Today and Today

By Kobayashi Issa, illustrated by G. Brian Karas

Scholastic, Ages 6-9

The beautiful words of this traditional Japanese poet gently illuminate the many moments in the seasons of one family which are reflected in evocative mixed-media art.

Today at the Bluebird Café: A Branchful of Birds

By Deborah Ruddell, illustrated by Joan Rankin

Simon & Schuster/McElderry, Ages 4-9

These fanciful, fun and free-flying poems pay worthy tribute to our fine feathered friends.

Yum! ¡MmMm! ¡Qué Rico!: America's Sproutings

By Pat Mora, illustrated by Rafael López

Lee & Low, Ages 5-9

Chew into this juicy collection of haiku and feast on facts about indigenous American food from cranberries and corn to papaya and peanuts.

Nonfiction

Chicago History for Kids: Triumphs and Tragedies of the Windy City

By Owen Hurd

Chicago Review, Ages 9-12

The geography and stories that make up our fair city come alive in this richly illustrated history for kids. Timelines, resource guides and fun activities to expand learning augment a fast-paced text.

A Little Peace

By Barbara Kerley

National Geographic, Ages 5 and up

This beautiful photo-essay empowers us all to look at the simple ways we can create peace: through a smile, a hello or lending a hand. Through lush color photographs shared acts of peace from around the world are celebrated.

On My Journey Now: Looking at African-American History Through the Spirituals

By Nikki Giovanni

Candlewick, Ages 11 and up

A passionate text illuminates the power that sacred songs had and still have in relating the human experience of a life in bondage. With the text of spirituals woven into the narration, this book becomes a celebration of and testament to the human spirit.

Ox, House, Stick: The History of Our Alphabet

By Don Robb, illustrated by Anne Smith

Charlesbridge, Ages 8-11

With insightful prose and bold illustrations, this book looks at the reasons why written language was developed and illuminates the transformation letters have had from their origin to modern day.

Sneeze

By Alexandra Siy and Dennis Kunkel

Charlesbridge, Ages 6-9

We all do it, but what causes a sneeze? Through magnified photographs and a chatty text, readers take close-up peeks and learn all about the nine pesky reasons we sneeze.

Spiders

By Nic Bishop

Scholastic, Ages 5-9

Stunning color photography and a lively text pair well to introduce readers to the ethereal, fascinating, and sometimes gory world of the spider.

Up Close biography series

Viking, Ages 10-14

Frank Lloyd Wright

By Jan Adkins

Explore the wild and creative world of Midwesterner Frank Lloyd Wright, whose creative genius informed modern architecture across the country in this highly readable and easily accessible biography.

Oprah Winfrey

By Ilene Cooper

Delving into her painful childhood and adolescence, Cooper adeptly shows the triumph of this Chicagoan's spirit and will which helped turn her into an important media figure, philanthropist and worthy of being termed a notable 'twentieth century life.'

Venom

By Marilyn Singer

Darby Creek, Ages 8-12

Animals guard themselves in many ways, and making venom is particularly effective. Explore the myriad of animals from bugs to snakes and gain a newly heightened respect for the animals who make and use biotoxins to protect themselves.

War, Women, and the News: How Female Journalists Won the Battle to Cover World War II

By Catherine Gourley

Atheneum, Ages 10-14

Fascinating stories of women who fought for the right to report on World War Two—from the front lines.

What's Eating You?: Parasites—the Inside Story

By Nicola Davies

Candlewick, Ages 7-11

Readers explore a new habitat: themselves! Learn about the organisms that live on and in other organisms in this easily accessible view of the parasitic world.

Wired

By Anastasia Suen, illustrated by

Paul Carrick

Charlesbridge, Ages 6-9

This rhyming text thrums with energy as it breaks down the concept of electricity into easily understandable parts.

The World Made New: Why the Age of Exploration Happened and How It Changed the World

By Marc Aronson and John W. Glenn

National Geographic, Ages 10-14

A beautifully illustrated account of events in the Age of Reason, the dramatic writing of this book is sure to broaden the world perspective of the reader.

NatureConnections

Apples

By Jacqueline Farmer, illustrated by

Phyllis Limbacher Tildes

Charlesbridge, Ages 5-8

Take a bite into this easy to understand and informative book about apples—complete with information about grafting and growing, nutrition and, of course, an apple pie recipe!

Arctic Thaw: The People of the Whale in a Changing Climate

By Peter Lourie

Boyd's Mills, Ages 8-12

An inside look at the effects of climate change on animal and human ecologies, this work, which is peppered with intriguing photography, focuses on the impact of global warming on the Inupait people's lives and economy.

Birdsongs

By Betsy Franco-Feeney, illustrated by

Steve Jenkins

Simon & Schuster/McElderry, Ages 4-8

A counting song and a nature walk combined, readers are led through a day of birdsongs in this book which is luxuriantly illustrated through Jenkin's signature paper-cut collages.

Buzz

By Caroline Bingham

DK, Ages 4-8

Captivating photos and fascinating facts flit across the pages in this book guaranteed to make kids go "buggy".

Coral Reefs

By Gail Gibbons

Holiday House, Ages 4-8

Travel into the one-of-a-kind world of coral reefs in this clear and descriptive look at one of the world's most interesting, special and complex forms of sea life.

The Down-To-Earth Guide to Global Warming

By Laurie David and Cambria Gordon

Scholastic/Orchard, Ages 8-14

For kids and teens concerned about the environment and the earth's temperature, this dynamic book features important information and practical tips on reducing their carbon footprint.

Living Color

By Steve Jenkins

Houghton Mifflin, Ages 4-8

With his celebrated cut-paper collages bringing animals of all hues to life, the text of this gorgeous, rainbow-colored book explains why animals use color to flirt, fit in and, ultimately, to survive.

A Seed Is Sleepy

By Dianna Hutts Aston, illustrated by

Sylvia Long

Chronicle, Ages 6-9

Gentle and clear language, along with pleasing watercolor drawings, illustrates the secrets and miracles of various types of seeds.

Toad by the Road: A Year in the Life of These Amazing Amphibians

By Joanne Ryder, illustrated by Maggie

Kneen

Holt, Ages 5-10

Short poems create an "ode to the toad" and additional information creates a fascinating backdrop sure to leave readers with a new appreciation for our amphibian friends.

Tracks of a Panda

By Nick Dowson, illustrated by Yu Rong

Candlewick, Ages 4-8

One of the world's most endangered species, a tiny baby Panda and its giant mother seek out a safe habitat in this lushly illustrated journey. The expressive text is peppered with interesting facts about pandas.

Vulture View

By April Pulley Sayre, illustrated by Steve

Jenkins

Holt, Ages 5-8

The world from a turkey vulture's perspective is a stinky and rotten place full of tasty food, and it's shown here with rhymes and cut-paper collage illustrations which are just gross enough.

2008 Award Winners

NEWBERY AWARD

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies!: Voices from a Medieval Village

By Laura Amy Schlitz, illustrated by Robert Byrd

Candlewick, Ages 10-14

CALDECOTT AWARD

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

By Brian Selznick

Scholastic, Ages 9-13

SIBERT MEDAL

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

By Peter Sis

FSG/Frances Foster, Ages 11 and up

THEODOR SEUSS GEISEL AWARD

There is a Bird on Your Head!

By Mo Willems

Hyperion, Ages 4-8

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD FOR TEXT

Elijah of Buxton

By Christopher Paul Curtis

Scholastic, Ages 9-13

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATION

Let It Shine: Three Favorite Spirituals

By Ashley Bryan

Atheneum, All Ages

PURA BELPRÉ AWARD FOR TEXT

Frida: ¡Viva la vida! Long Live Life!

By Carmen T. Bernier-Grand

Marshall Cavendish, Ages 12 and up

PURA BELPRÉ AWARD FOR ILLUSTRATION

Los Gatos Black on Halloween

By Marisa Montes, illustrated by Yuyi Morales

Holt, Ages 4-8

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City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor



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