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Of Cabbages and Kings: Reviews of Books for Children

Authors

Nicole Armstrong, Shannon Dusute, Julie Kayganich, Tara Mulvany, Nicole Podsiadlik, Katie Renner, Rhonda Turner, Maggie Wunderlich, and Melanie Zamborowski

Of Cabbages and Kings: Reviews of Books for Children

by Nicole Armstrong, Shannon Dusute, Julie Kayganich, Tara Mulvany, Nicole Podsiadlik, Katie Rener, Rhonda Turner, Maggie Wunderlich, and Melanie Zamborowski

Amani, M. (2012). *Excuse me, I'm trying to read!* (Ill. by L. Eldridge). Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1-934133-52-1. (Paperback); \$7.95.

It is easy to see why this picture book won the NAESP Children's Book of the Year. The main character is a young African girl who is friends with wild animals. She tries to read a book, but there is one problem: the animals keep interrupting her in silly ways. The lion purrs and puts his paw on her head. The elephant sprays her face. By the end of this amusing story, she falls asleep on the savanna and wakes up to find that the animals are now gathered around the book – trying to read! The detailed illustrations highlight finer points, such as the book in the girl's hands is the same as the one in the reader's hands. This book would be perfect for lower elementary grades because it promotes reading in a humorous and repetitive way, which appeals to younger readers. A portion of the book's sales go toward funding mobile and school libraries in rural villages in Mozambique. – MW



Arlon, P., & Gordon-Harris, T. (2012). *Bugs*. New York: Scholastic. 80 pp. ISBN: 978-0-545-36574-1. (Hardcover); \$12.99.

Arlon, P., & Gordon-Harris, T. (2012). *Dinosaurs*. New York: Scholastic. 80 pp. ISBN: 978-0-545-36572-7. (Hardcover); \$12.99.

Did you know that 97% of the world's animals are invertebrates? Looking to learn some fun and interesting new facts about bugs and dinosaurs? If so, these two books serve as amazing resources; they're easy to read and full of large, vibrant pictures. Each book includes a useful table of contents page, glossary, and index. I love how the authors titled each page and incorporated more pictures than text. The beautiful, realistic photos help the reader visualize and see different types of bugs and dinosaurs. Both of these amazing books also include a free digital book download. – MZ

Arnold, C. (2012). *A warmer world*. (Ill. by J. Hogan). Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc. 32 pp ISBN:978-1-58089-267-4. (Paperback); \$7.95.

Arnold takes the complicated topic of global warming and explains it in kid-friendly terms by turning it into a story. She explains how our world is becoming warmer and all of the effects of a warmer climate. Arnold explains how warmer temperatures are melting the ice caps, and how polar bears, along with other animals, are having a difficult time adapting to the changes. Animals are struggling to find enough food and shelter. Even animals living closer to the equator are having a difficult time because their climate is becoming too warm for them to live. Arnold includes many fascinating facts and interesting stories. Adults will enjoy reading and learning about climate change with children. The glossary, website, and additional list of book suggestions is very helpful for readers who are researching climate change or simply looking to learn more about the topic. – MZ

Bauer, M. (2012). *My first biography: Abraham Lincoln*. (Ill. by L. Dubois). New York: Scholastic. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0545342940. (Paperback); \$3.99.

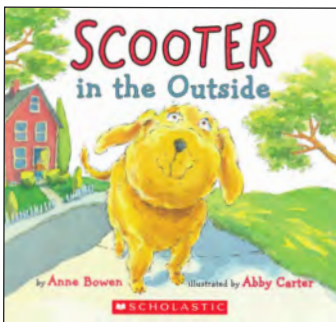
This concise and simple biography takes readers through the life of President Abraham Lincoln. Easy enough for early readers to understand, this book also reflects a good amount of information for young readers to use as a reference. Colorful illustrations are paired with meaningful and lyrical text in this inspirational portrayal of one of America's finest. Other books in the *My First Biography* series feature Benjamin Franklin, Martin Luther King, Jr., Christopher Columbus, and Harriet Tubman. This wonderful collection of books serves as a great introduction to historical figures. – KR

Blechman, N. (2013). *Night light*. New York: Orchard Books. 48 pp. ISBN: 978-0545462631. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Night Light is a book that will keep young children guessing, while also helping them learn and build counting skills. Alternating between black pages are small die-cuts of increasing number and multiple sizes where a question is posed, "3 lights late at night?" Children then have the opportunity to look at the die-cut hole and try to deduce what that object on the next page will be. A bus? A helicopter? A tug-boat? You'll have the flip through the pages to find out! Children will enjoy the mystery of the pages to come and the die-cuts and shapes on each page. This interactive book would be a great tool to help students build reading and counting skills, or to serve as a fun silent read for beginning readers. – KR

Boudreau, H. (2013). *I dare you not to yawn*. (Ill. by S. Bloch). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0763650704. (Hardcover); \$15.99.

What does a yawn mean? So many things. After that surprising moment when it slips out, the domino effect begins. It starts with a request to put on your PJs and march upstairs for a bedtime story. And then, "Before you know it, you're tucked into a bed, snug as a bug, and wondering...how did I get here?" Boudreau and Bloch team up to create a humorous story to relate the effects of yawning from a child's perspective. Our young main character also tries to caution readers from yawning by avoiding such things as: sleepy-time songs, droopy-eyed baby orangutans, and others who appear tired. Can you stifle a yawn? Be careful, they're sneaky. – KR

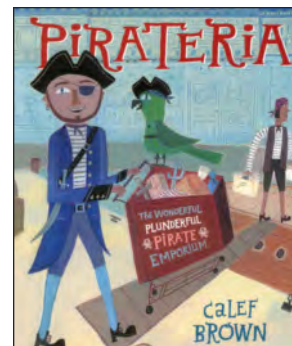


Bowen, A. (2012). *Scooter in the outside*. (Ill. by A. Carter). New York: Holiday House. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8234-2326-2. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Dog lovers, get ready to fall in love with Scooter, the "SLOPPITY SLURP" adventure-loving main character. Scooter loves to go on walks with Lucy, but dreams of going past the corner of the block. One day, he gets his chance and dashes off. He crosses the street and frolics in the grass in cheerful bliss. Ah! But then he sees and hears strange and scary sounds. Bowen, who is a former language arts teacher, uses onomatopoeia and other word play to delight elementary students. The watercolor illustrations give Scooter human-like facial expressions that bring out his feelings and personality. The soft colors are pleasing, yet bright enough to complement the storyline's playfulness. What will happen to Scooter now? Will he ever see Lucy again? You must get this book in your "SLOPPITY SLURP" hands and find out! – MW

Brown, C. (2012). *Pirateria: The wonderful plunderful pirate emporium!* New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. ISBN: 9781416978787. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Aarrggghhh mateys! Are you yearning for some deep-sea pirate voyages? Then you have spotted the right book. Brown does a fantastic job depicting the necessities of every pirate's existence from peg legs to pantaloons. Discover all of the items that a pirate may need out in the deep blue sea and just where to purchase them in this humorous story; the Pirateria shop is sure to have them all in stock! Brown's illustrations will have you lost in a new world and you will love every minute of it. This book has a fun rhyme scheme that proves easy to read. So, if you've ever wanted to earn your sea legs and get your pirate lingo on, pick up a copy of *Pirateria* for a whale of a good time! – NP



Brown, L. (2013). *Volcanoes: Run for your life!* New York: Scholastic Inc. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-545-53378-2. (Paperback); \$3.99.

Explore the world of volcanoes in this nonfiction text packed with remarkable photographs, true-to life illustrations, and incredible facts. Take an up-close look at the remains of the people of Pompeii, learn about real volcano heroes, and see photos taken just moments before the eruption of Mount St. Helens. This book contains hot facts, debates, timelines, and awesome records of famous volcanic evidences. There's even a special code included that accesses a free digital book with quizzes, fun activities and cool projects. – RT

Cleary, B. (2013). *Butterfly, flea, beetle, and bee: What is an insect?* (Ill. by M. Goneau). Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1467703369. (Paperback); \$7.95.

Cleary, B. (2013). *Dolphin, fox, hippo, and ox: What is a mammal?* (Ill. by M. Goneau). Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1467703383. (Paperback); \$7.95.

Cleary has composed a rich and educational series titled *Animal Groups are CATegorical*. Each of these focuses on a specific group of animals and introduces kids to them in a fun and colorful way. The flowing language will engage readers and entice them to keep exploring and learning. As the text moves through the pages, readers discover animals' eating habits, which are born from an egg, which have lungs, etc. Children will enjoy exploring through these facts as they are presented in a bright and creative manner. – KR

Cobb, R. (2013). *Missing mommy.* (Ill. by R. Cobb). New York: Henry Holt and Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8050-9507-4. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

This picture book is a tender and beautifully illustrated story about bereavement, seen through the eyes of a young boy. The crayon and colored pencil illustrations help the reader feel the boy's emotions because they portray a childlike quality, despite the serious theme. At first, the child is confused as to where his mommy has gone. Then, he experiences fear, anger, guilt, and sadness that she is not coming back. At last, he finds comfort in his grieving daddy's arms. The story ends with a positive message that he is part of a caring family and together they will cherish memories of his mommy. Death is never an easy subject to talk about with a small child, especially when it is the death of a parent. Fortunately, this lovely and compassionate book can help approach this difficult topic. – MW

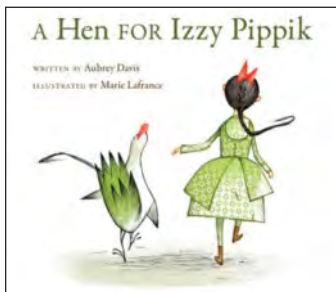
Curtis, J. K. (2012). *Seahorses.* (Ill. by C. Wallace). New York: Henry Holt and Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0805092394. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

This descriptive and vividly colored book will fascinate readers as they discover one of the ocean's tiniest creatures—the seahorse. At the beginning of the book is a glossary to help students understand some of

the physical features of the seahorse that they may be unfamiliar with, such as the pectoral and dorsal fin. Students can easily use this book as a resource for projects because it provides a well-rounded source of information. The book captures the daily life of the seahorse, including their habitat and how they hide from predators. Additionally, facts about their physical appearance, coloration, diet, and reproduction are discussed as well. The illustrations in this book add to the students' learning experience because they are extremely detailed and portray a very accurate picture of what ocean life looks like. – JK

Daugherty, J. (2013). *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman & Co. 48 pp. ISBN: 978-0807545508. (Hardcover); \$19.99.

Daugherty's book provides an illustrated version of the speech to help readers picture the concepts discussed by the President during this historic occasion. On each page, detailed and colorful illustrations correspond with passages of the speech printed at the bottom of the pages. Daugherty's book includes a breakdown of each illustration and a deeper meaning of the individual passages at the conclusion of the book. This would be a wonderful resource for any classroom. – KR



Davis, A. (2012). *A hen for Izzy Pippik*. (Ill. by M. LaFrance). New York: Kids Can Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1-55453-243-8. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Davis is a famous storyteller throughout the U.S. and Canada. Here he weaves a poignant tale, inspired by Jewish and Islamic traditional texts. The beautiful, subdued, colored-pencil illustrations depict a quaint town that experiences tough economic times, yet comes together and prospers because of an honest girl named Shaina. The tale begins when Shaina finds a "marvelous" hen, which inadvertently fell off Izzy Pippik's truck.

Despite the hungry townspeople's pressures and anger, Shaina safeguards the hen and its growing number of offspring. Young Shaina stubbornly stands up to the townspeople for several months, in the belief that Izzy Pippik will come back for the hen. Eventually, hundreds of roaming chickens become part of the community and attract busloads of outsiders, who open up their wallets and boost the economy. This multicultural and profound story can serve as a great springboard for discussions in classrooms across America where families were affected by unemployment. Students can discuss how to do the right thing, even in hard economic times. – MW

DeFelice, C. (2013). *Nelly May has her say*. (Ill. by H. Cole). New York: Margaret Ferguson Books. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-374-39899-6. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Never enough food to feed her family of fifteen, Nellie decides to earn her own keep and go to work cooking and cleaning for the eccentric Lord Pinkwinkle. Not only must Nellie meet the enormous task of keeping up Lord Pinkwinkle's castle, she must also succumb to the ridiculous names he has given common objects. Faced with a dilemma that nearly burns down the castle, Nellie decides that she has had enough! Based on an old, English folktale, the whimsical wordplay and expressive illustrations will keep children amused throughout the story. – RT

Gerber, C. (2013). *Seeds, bees, butterflies, and more!: Poems for two voices*. (Ill. by E. Yelchin). New York: Henry Holt and Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0805092110. (Hardcover); \$17.99.

This colorful book is a collection of poems about nature and could easily be integrated into language arts or science cross-curricular lessons. The eighteen poems by Carole Gerber feature the voices of plants and animals, such as sunflowers, bees, ladybugs, and even roots. Gerber includes instructions at the begin-

ning of the book to inform the reader that these poems should be read by two readers, resulting in a call-and-response effect in the poems. The fun vocabulary and overall upbeat mood of this book allow students to have an entertaining and interactive experience while discovering new facts about nature and poetry. The vibrant illustrations add to the descriptions and overall appeal of the poems. – JK

Geser, G. (2013). *One bright ring*. New York: Henry Holt & Co. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0805092790. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

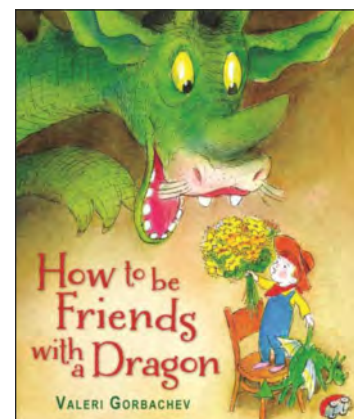
Geser has composed a charming tale about a brave girl searches the man who dropped a diamond engagement ring. The young girl is faced with obstacles and distractions, yet through it all continues to count her way to the man who has a tiny hole in his pocket, tugging her mother through the city to return the lost ring. Finally, she sees the man proposing marriage to a young woman, then frantically searching his pocket nine times. What will the little girl do? – KR

Goodrich, C. (2012). *Zorro gets an outfit*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 48 pp. ISBN: 9781442435353. (Hardcover); \$15.99.

Have you ever been forced to wear an outfit that you felt embarrassed or silly wearing? If so, then Zorro knows exactly how you feel! Read along as Goodrich wonderfully writes and illustrates this story about Zorro and his trials of his new outfit. Along the way, he gains acceptance and makes new friends who help him become more comfortable and even proud of his new outfit. This book is a Junior Library Guild selected book and is the second story in the series featuring two friends, Zorro and Mister Bud. Goodrich is fairly new to writing children's literature, but he is not new to the illustrating scene. His work has been featured in many well loved Pixar and DreamWorks movies and his illustrations in *Zorro* are simply perfect and will have any child falling in love with this captivating dog. – NP

Gorbachev, V. (2012). *How to be friends with a dragon*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0807534328. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Simon absolutely loves everything about dragons. His greatest wish is to meet one and befriend it. He tells his sister this crazy wish and she informs him of the long list of rules for being friends with a dragon. Dragons can be tricky animals and if Simon is going to be friends with one, he must be prepared! His sister's list of rules includes protocol for almost everything dragon-related. Simon takes all of these rules to heart, but doesn't follow every single one of them. Read to discover which rules Simon choose to follow and not to follow in this colorful book written and illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev. – JK



Grant, J. (2013). *Gabby*. (Ill. by J. Dolby). Brighton, MA: Fitzhenry & Whiteside. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1554552504. (Hardcover); \$18.95.

Adorable redhead, glasses-clad Gabby has a problem – just as she is almost done finishing tidying her playroom, one of her books falls off the shelf and the letters spill out all around the room! As she retrieves the letters, she sounds them out and forms words such as cat, pillow, and bird. This book is an ideal selection for a read-aloud for beginning readers because it allows readers to sound out the words with Gabby. This interactive experience will keep readers engaged while listening to the story and looking at the colorful and comical illustrations by Jan Dolby. – JK

Hart, C. (2013). *The princess and the peas*. (Ill. by S. Warburton). Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0763665326. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Hart and Warnurton deliver a delightful and meaningful tribute to the classic tale, *The Princess and the Pea*. This semi-modernized take on the tale focuses on sweet and polite Lily-Rose May, who will not eat her peas. Her father does whatever he can think of to help her eat these tasty and healthy green delights. Though he creates scrumptious smoothies, shakes, and cupcakes, Lily-Rose May can always tell peas are present and turns her nose up to the dishes. When her stomach begins to turn at the sight of peas, her father takes her to the doctor, who comes to a startling conclusion: her sickness to peas, her charm, and politeness must mean that she is a princess. He diagnoses her with an incurable case of princess-itus and sends Lily –Rose May to live at the palace. Will she be content to live apart from her father and immerse into the world of royals? Or will she come to learn that everything needs a second chance? Hart and Warburton’s charming tale is filled with delightful illustrations and rhythmic language to engage the readers eyes and ears. – KR



Heos, B. (2013). *Mustache baby*. (Ill. by J. Ang). New York: Clarion Books. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-0547773575. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

When little Billy is born, he appears to be different from typical babies; the wee babe is born with a mustache. “What does this mean?” his mother asked. ‘Well, it depends,’ the nurse said. ‘You’ll have to wait and see whether it is a good-guy mustache or a bad-guy mustache.’” In this comical tale, readers follow Billy as he grows into his good-guy cowboy mustache. Heos’ clever writing and Ang’s expressive artwork come together to illustrate the puns in Heos’ story. Readers watch as Billy grows out of his cowboy mustache and into a variety of other good-guy mustache occupations: a ringleader, a Spanish painter, a sword fighter, and a man of the law. As Billy gets older, his mustache grows bigger and begins

to curl into a bad-guy mustache. What will become of Billy? – KR

Hillenbrand, W. (2012). *Kite day: A bear and mole story*. New York: Holiday House. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0823416035. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Author/illustrator Will Hillenbrand tells the delightful tale of Bear and Mole’s adventures on kite day. Readers who have ever flown a kite before will easily relate to this book concerning the trials and tribulations of trying to fly a kite. This book would be a wonderful addition to a language arts lesson on onomatopoeia because of the their repetition throughout the book. Almost every page contains some sort of fun sound effect in a repeated manner, encouraging listeners of the story to chant along with the reader. Additionally, the warm and inviting illustrations give Bear and Mole personality, adding to the book’s charm. – JK

Jagel, J. & McMullen, B. (2012). *Hang glider & mud mask*. San Francisco, CA: McSweeney’s Mcmullen. 38pp. ISBN: 9781554537488. (Paperback); \$12.99

This parallel collection of stories shows the journey of two people who are trying to get to one another. The book’s two sides meet in the middle and complete each other. The simple illustrations paired with the text leave readers to imagine each character’s story. This is a great text to use as a story starter for creative writing. Students could write prequels for each character or write about what happened after the characters met in the middle. – TM

Janzon, L. (2012). *How long can a fly fly?: 175 answers to possible and impossible questions about animals.* (Translated by L. Lijenstrom). New York: Sky Horse Publishing. 205 pp. ISBN: 978-162087-0655. (Paperback); \$12.95.

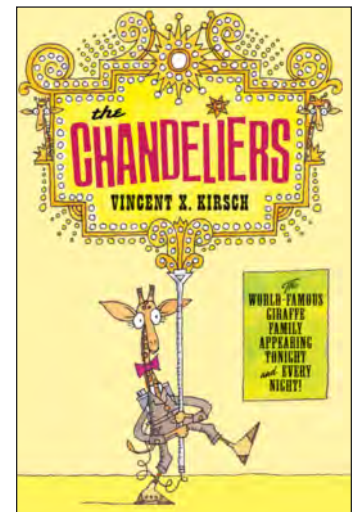
Do grasshoppers have ears? Why do spiders spin webs? Are bats dangerous? Do fish drink water? If a mosquito is hit by a drop of water, will it die? These questions and more are explained in Janzon's fascinating book. Students are always full of questions, some of them on topic, others random. This book is for students who are the "what if..." and "why?" question askers. The creative and to-the-point verbiage Janzon uses will make readers feel like they are having a conversation with a well-versed friend. The concepts and questions explored are both practical and random. – KR

Jeffers, O. (2012). *This moose belongs to me.* New York: Philomel. 32 pp. ISBN: 9780399161032. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Growing up, most kids have a pet dog, or cat, or even a pet rock, but never a pet moose! Wilfred claims that a moose he comes across in the woods is his pet. Students in kindergarten to second grade will love to hear about the joys and challenges of having a pet moose. The winner of the Blue Peter Book of the Year, the Irish Book Awards Children's Book of the year, and several other awards, Oliver Jeffers has written another amusing book that will definitely make kids giggle and yearn to read more. – SD

Kirsch, V. (2012). *The chandeliers.* New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 36 pp. ISBN: 978-0374398989. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Little Rufus Chandelier is part of "the greatest show in town." However, Rufus is told that he is too little to be in the show. One night everything goes terribly wrong. Mr. Maximilian could not remember his lines, Grandma Chandelier almost went on stage with her wig on backwards, and the power went out. Despite every obstacle that occurs that night, it's Rufus to the rescue to make things right! He helps every member of the show and make sure the audience leaves feeling that they have truly witnessed "the greatest show in town." Kirsch's pleasurable tale reminds readers about the benefits of helping others; sometimes you may even get to take a bow yourself. – KR



Kittinger, J. (2012). *The house on dirty-third street.* (Ill. by T. Gonzalez). Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1-56145-619-2. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Kittinger takes the reader on a journey with this picture book. It is told through the eyes of a young girl as she and her mother move to a dilapidated house because it is all they can afford. This is timely because many families today are struggling due to tough economic times. As the mother and daughter begin to feel overwhelmed by the enormity of cleanup and repairs the house needs, the young girl asks for prayers at church. In response, churchgoers and neighbors show up at the house and get to work. Within days, the house goes from a rundown house into a beautiful home. This transformation is seen through the gorgeous pastel and colored pencil illustrations. In the beginning of the story, the colors are drab and subdued. As the story progresses, so does the color palette and, by the end of the story, the colors are vibrant and match the joyful mood of the characters. Students who read this book can see how a community can come together to help someone in need. – MW

Klausmeier, J. (2013). *Open this little book*. (Ill. by S. Lee). San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8118-6783-2. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

What fun! The title beckons one to open the book, but it does not stop there. This unique and imaginative flipbook continues to reveal yet another book and another book. Each book is on different-sized pages, which depict colorful pencil and watercolor illustrations of whimsical animals that like to read. There's adorable Ladybug, who sits on a tiny mushroom and reads "Little Green Book" about smiling Frog, who leaps in his top hat. Then Frog reads a "Little Orange Book" about Rabbit, and so on and so on. This book is sure to be a delight to book lovers of all ages and promotes reading as a fun activity. – MW



Kraegel, K. (2012). *King Arthur's very great grandson*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-0763653118. (Hardcover); \$15.99.

Henry Alfred Gummorson is the great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandson of the noble King Arthur. On the morning of his sixth birthday, he jumps out of bed, eats a hearty breakfast, and with his trusted donkey, Knuckles, is off to discover adventure. With rumors of monsters afoot in the area, Henry Alfred Gummorson sets out to conquer them and bring peace to the land. But what is a young knight to

do when the monsters won't cooperate? The dragon just wants to blow smoke rings around the knight; the Cyclops only wants to have a staring contest; the Griffin wants to play checkers. How is a young knight supposed to slay the monsters when all they want to do is play? This endearing tale speaks of a quest that unfolds within itself and helps young readers understand that everything is not always what meets the eye. Sometimes, everyone just needs a friend. – KR

Leathers, P. (2013). *The black rabbit*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-0763657147. (Hardcover); \$14.00.

It is a simple and new morning when Rabbit wakes up and steps out of his burrow. Ready to start his day he ventures out into the world when something catches his eye. He turns and realizes he is not alone. Rabbit is stunned to see a giant black rabbit looking back at him. As Rabbit tries hiding and dodging this shadowy figure, he comes to realize that he is always there when Rabbit looks over his shoulder. When faced with a scary creature in the dark, Rabbit runs away only to find that the Black Rabbit is there. Will Rabbit ever come to understand the Black Rabbit? – KR

Leedy, L. (2012). *Seeing symmetry*. New York: Holiday House. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8234-2360-6. (Hardcover); \$17.95.

Illustrations overflow the pages in Leedy's picture book about the math topic of symmetry. Leedy helps readers recognize that symmetry is everywhere around us in our everyday lives. In a special "notes" section near the end of her book Leedy includes additional information about symmetry. For example, page 12 discusses how many of the capital letters of the alphabet have lines of symmetry. In the "notes" section, there are actual pictures to show the capital letters of the alphabet along with their lines of symmetry. A fun activity to use along with this book might be to list and discuss the symmetrical items you see around in your everyday life. Students might even draw pictures of the items and add in the lines of symmetry. – MZ

Maclear, K. (2013). *Mr. Flux*. (Ill. by M. Stephens). New York: Kids Can Press. 32 pg. ISBN: 978-1554537815. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Martin is a boy who doesn't embrace change. He lives in a neighborhood where everything stays the same and rides his old red bicycle because his new one is too scary. Everything in Martin's life is going fine until Mr. Flux moves in and shakes up the routine of the block. This would be a good tool to discuss change in behavior, attitude, habits, or any other change in routine. Maclear's story also introduces and broadens the reader's understanding of the 1960s art movement known as Fluxus, which was Maclear's inspiration for this witty tale. Mr. Flux and his sometimes-wacky ideas help Martin realize that not all change has to be scary. – KR

Morrisette, S. (2012). *Toads and tessellations*. (Ill by P. O'Neill). Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1-58089-355-8. (Paperback); \$7.95.

Morrisette takes a creative approach with introducing the math topic tessellations. This easy read is a very fun book to include with a math lesson about tessellations. After reading the book, students could then illustrate a tessellation of their very own. Morrisette includes a glossary along with math notes. She also includes 26 tessellations within the story for children to find. Students will love going back and searching for them. – MZ

Murphy, S. (2012). *Freda stops a bully*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1580894678. (Paperback); \$6.95.

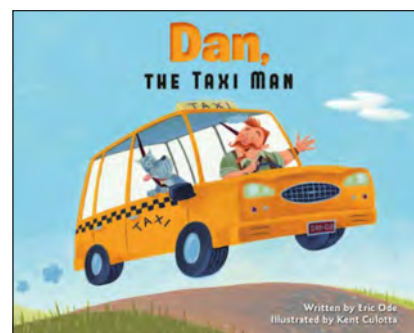
What can Freda do to stop a bully who is making fun of her new pink shoes? When she gets home from school, Freda tries to hide them in her closet. Her mother questions her actions and Freda proceeds to tell her about what happened in school that day. Her mother gives her some good advice on how to deal with bullying situations. First, Freda can choose to not listen to unkind words; second, Freda can get help if the bullying continues; lastly, she can say stop. This book will help children understand what constitutes bullying and how they can deal with problems they face in a safe and proactive manner. – KR

Nelson, R. (2012). *Start to finish: From cocoa bean to chocolate*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications. 24 pp. ISBN: 978-1580139656. (Hardcover); \$6.95.

Mention the word "chocolate" to your group of students and chances are you're bound to turn a few heads, if not all of them. This book explores the process of how a cocoa bean is transformed into tasty chocolate. Nelson takes young readers on a step-by-step tour through the food production cycle. Bright and big photographs accompany the text and allow children to gain a visual understanding of the process. Children will delight in learning how one of their favorite things is made. – KR

Ode, E. (2012). *Dan, the taxi man*. (Ill. by K. Culotta). La Jolla, CA: Kane Miller. 30pp. ISBN: 978-1610670722. (Hardcover); \$14.99.

The vibrant illustrations in this book will catch the reader's attention along with the rhythmic flow of the text. Readers will immediately get involved as they, "Climb inside while *they* still can with Dan. Beep Beep! The Taxi Man." Filled with onomatopoeia, this story is great for chorale reading and dramatic interpretations. This is a fantastic book to use with early grade students. – TM

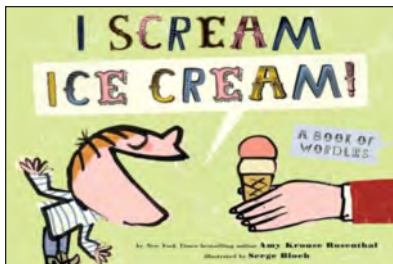


Penn, A. (2012). *Chester the brave*. (Ill. by B. Gibson). Terre Haute, IN: Tanglewood. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1933718798. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Audrey Penn's charming books for children have helped so many young ones understand and overcome different obstacles they face in their life. Chester's mother shares with him the story of a little bird that is afraid to have flying lessons in front of his friends. Mrs. Raccoon conveys to Chester that being brave does not mean that you aren't scared; rather, it means not letting that fear stop yourself from doing things. Mrs. Raccoon gives her son a key strategy, "Think-Tell-Do." When Chester believes he is afraid, he must think he can do it, tell himself that he can do it, and then he perseveres and does it. Penn and illustrator Gibson includes the trademark of the kissing hand symbol to help little Chester through his hard time. This is a relatable book to young readers as well as a sweet and encouraging story. – KR

Pippin-Mathur, C., (2013). *Maya was grumpy*. Brooklyn, NY: Flashlight Press. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1-9362611-3-0. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

I thoroughly enjoy watching my students smile and giggle along with me as we read a silly story together and I can't wait to share this one with them! I love the rich vocabulary and beautiful illustrations Pippin-Mathur uses as she tells her story about a grumpy girl. For example, the girl's mood is described as "crispy, cranky, grumpy, grouchy." Every time the reader turns the page, s/he can see the grumpy girl's crazy hair in a new way. I would use this book as a fun, entertaining read, and also when I introduce students to suffixes. – MZ



Rosenthal, A. K. (2013). *I scream you scream!: A book of wordles*. (Ill. by S. Bloch). San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-1452100043. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

What is a wordle you ask? Read *I Scream You Scream!* to find out. This interactive and creative picture book is fun for readers of all ages because it is a guessing game. As the reader looks at the pictures and reads the caption, they have to use their word skills to try and guess the next page. For example, "heroes" can turn into "he rows."

The innovative illustrations in this book add to its quirkiness and ensure an amusing experience for the reader. – JK

Sauer, T., (2013). *Nugget & fang*. (Ill by M. Slack) New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Co. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-0-547-85285-0. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

Can a shark convince a minnow to be his friend even after the minnow learns what sharks eat for dinner? This adorable story shows what true friendship is all about. I would use this book with young students learning about friendship and how it is okay for friends to have differences. It is also a great way to teach students about stereotypes and show them that they are usually not true. – MZ

Sebe, M. (2013). *100 animals on parade!* New York: Kids Can Press. 24 pp. ISBN: 978-1554538713. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Masayuki Sebe has composed a bright and joyful tale that kids will beg to read again and again. This delightful book follows a parade of 100 animals that march off to a festival. Sebe's tale includes a continuing narrative with tidbits of questions and text on each page. Children will enjoy the playful illustrations, counting, and reading clues and questions to find the animals and objects that match. This book is full of details and pictures that will keep readers intrigued throughout multiple reads. – KR

Shannon, G. (2013). *Who put the cookies in the cookie jar?* (Ill. by J. Paschkis). New York: Henry Holt and Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-8050-9197-7. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

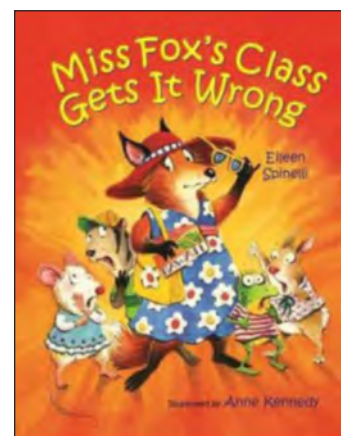
A great spin on a traditional song, this rhyming picture book focuses not on who “takes the cookie from the cookie jar,” but on how many hands it takes to put the cookie *into* the cookie jar. The vibrant gouache-painted illustrations depict diverse people from around the world, including North America, India, Asia, Africa, and Mexico, as they do their part to lovingly contribute each needed ingredient. When these ingredients come together, the real magic happens and a cookie is created. It is a great metaphor for the good things that can happen when people from different cultures work together to help others; it promotes cultural diversity in a fun and an easy to understand way. This sweet book would be a fine addition in any classroom because of its deliciously rhyming text. – MW

Sparrow, G. (2012). *Night sky: Watching the universe outside your window.* New York: Scholastic. ISBN: 978-0545383745. (Hardcover); \$15.99.

This book is a brilliant introduction to the night sky and a guide for stargazing targeted at young readers. It is broken down into chapters featuring the topics: watching the night sky; searching for stars; discovering amazing planets; and galaxies and the universe. Sparrow has crafted the pages to not only be educational, but easy for children to pick out facts and see stunning illustrations and photos. Sparrow’s informational work is a superb teaching tool and also comes with the code for a digital companion book. This online resource allows students to explore star charts, read in-depth night sky encyclopedia entries, and look up night-sky words. – KR

Spinelli, E. (2012). *Miss Fox’s class gets it wrong.* (Ill. by A. Kennedy). Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0807551653. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

One day, Miss Fox has Officer Blue Fox come to school to discuss safety with the students. After he leaves, the students begin to see Officer Blue Fox and Miss Fox together often – at the grocery store, in the park, and even walking into the police station! The students begin to talk, and soon a rumor is started that Miss Fox is going to go to jail. When they see a brochure for a trip to Hawaii on her desk one day, the rumor grows and the students decide that Miss Fox must be running away to Hawaii. When Office Blue Fox comes to school shortly after, the students fear for the worst. This book is a simple example for students as to why they should not spread rumors and should always seek out the facts first in any situation. – JK



Steele, P. (2012). *I wonder why countries fly flags: And other questions about people and places.* New York: Kingfisher. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0-7534-6793-0. (Paperback); \$6.99.

The Kingfisher publishing group has composed a wonderful collection for questioning kids in their *I Wonder Why* series. A compilation of authors have worked to compose books to answer questions such as: *I wonder why the Sahara is cold at night?* *I wonder why Romans wore togas?* as well as *I wonder why pirates wore earrings?* This is an extensive series that explores many topics in a fun and creative way. Steele’s book focuses on the topic of flags as well as questions relating to cultures and places. Steele presents a great variety of questions many people probably never thought to ask. His book is colorful and friendly to young readers. The *I wonder why* collection is a great resource and a fun way for children to get an answer to the timeless question of, “Why...” – KR

Stewart, S. (2012). *The quiet place*. (Ill. by D. Small). New York: Farrar Straus Giroux. 44 pp. ISBN: 978-0374325657. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

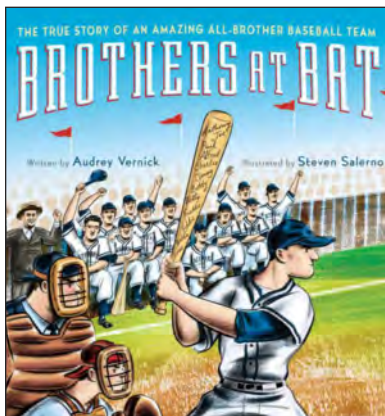
It is 1957 and Isabel is writing to her beloved Aunt Lupita back in Mexico. This epistolary story is told through the letters of Isabel and her perspective of coming to America and beginning a new life with her family. The soft and flowing illustrations help portray Isabel's journey and feelings throughout the pages of Stewart's endearing story. In a land of unfamiliar sights and languages, Isabel searches for someplace she feels comfortable, and finds it in a cardboard box. As the story unfolds, the box transforms, reflecting Isabel's growing comfort and happiness in her new life. This is a relatable story to children who may be searching for a way to fit in or feel accepted. Stewart's book is a wonderful portrayal of cultural differences and how people can come to appreciate each other for who they are. – KR

Twist, C. (2012). *Cleopatra: Queen of Egypt*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 30 pp. ISBN: 978-0763660956. (Hardcover); \$19.99.

Cleopatra is a lady of legend and is one of the most famous women in history. Twist's book is a vibrant and informational portrayal of the queen's life and allows readers to explore facts in an engaging manner. Pictures flip and reveal interesting evidence, quotes, maps, and facts pertaining to Cleopatra and her time. This is a wonderful resource for students to independently explore or to utilize in small groups to uncover information. – KR

Verde, S. (2013) *The museum*. (Ill. by P. Reynolds). New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-1419705946. (Hardcover); \$16.95.

Verde and Reynolds have teamed up to produce a tale flourishing with creativity. Follow a curious and fun little girl as she twirls and dances through an art museum. She pauses at each brilliant piece and conveys her reaction in a rhyming melody pleasing to the eye and ear. This would be a wonderful book to read to a class before venturing to a museum, as it relays a variety of different feelings that can be evoked while looking at art. This book makes you excited and makes you want to find the closest piece of art to evaluate and wonder about. Verde has a smooth way with words, and paired with Reynolds's amazing art, this book is bound to be a hit in any classroom! – KR

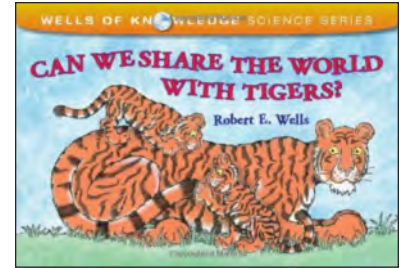


Vernick, A. (2012). *Brothers at bat: The true story of an amazing all-brother baseball team*. (Ill. by S. Salerno). New York: Clarion Books. 40 pp. ISBN: 978-0547385570. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

In the 1930s, it was not uncommon for families to have many children. The Acerran family had sixteen children with twelve of them being boys. What do you do with twelve boys in one family? Start your own baseball team of course! They even had enough players to rotate some on the bench. The oldest nine brothers formed their own semi-pro team in 1938 and played against other New Jersey teams. A wonderful feature to this story is the emphasis on how the brothers worked together as a team to help accomplish their goal. When one of their brothers is injured, how will the others band together? How will World War II change things for them? Salerno's creative artwork will capture the reader's eye and readers will be fascinated by this true tale of hard work, loyalty, and fun. – KR

Wells, R. E. (2012). *Can we share the world with tigers?*. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0807510551. (Hardcover); \$16.99.

This is a wonderful source for students to learn about global warming and the effects it has on animals and plants in our environment, especially tigers. The cartoon-like illustrations also add appeal to the book and really focus on showcasing the tigers' reactions to the environmental changes around them. The book's factual and statistical information contribute to its reliability as a resource to assist students in their research about a variety of topics related to wildlife preservation. This book includes a glossary, making the vocabulary age-appropriate. – JK



Wyeth, S.D. (2013). *The granddaughter necklace*. (Ill. by Bagram Ibatoulline). New York: Arthur A. Levine Books. 32 pp. ISBN: 978-0545081252. (Hardcover); \$12.67.

Many times as educators when Black History Month rolls around, we find ourselves scrambling for read-aloud materials that somehow paint a picture of Black culture and enlighten our students about the impact of influential African-Americans. Yet sometimes, there are some simple aspects of African-American culture, like traditions and the art of storytelling, that go unnoticed. Sharon Dennis Wyeth brings that to light in *The Granddaughter Necklace*. This story is told through the eyes of Sharon as she takes us through a fictional landscape of her family's legacy using a crystal necklace. With each page, we learn how a family heirloom served as a symbol of remembrance, love, pride, kindness, and hope for these powerful women. These women are unique in their own right, yet forever bonded through blood and by their connections to the priceless gift of the necklace, which symbolizes their love for one another. When you read this story, you discover not only the importance of knowing your family's history, but also the importance of starting new traditions. Sharon's words envelope you like a warm blanket on a cold night. Ibatoulline's illustrations are magnificent and allow the reader to get a richer sense of the lives of these women. *The Granddaughter Necklace* would be a perfect read-aloud for teaching culture and traditions, as a mentor text for narratives told from first person point-of-view, or introducing your students to African-American authors. Reading this book awakened in me a sense of curiosity to know where my lineage began and if there are any crystal necklaces in my family that I may have overlooked. – NA

Reviewer's Spotlight: Barefoot Books

by Katie Renner

Barefoot Books embodies the essence of imagination and education. Founded in 1993 by Tessa Strickland and Nancy Traversy, the press carefully selects writers and illustrators with a unique flare for honing their creativity and expressing their writing and art in a way that will captivate readers of many ages. What began as a business out of the founders' homes has grown into titles shared around the world. Each book is geared toward sparking imagination and sharing with children aspects of life and different cultures. Many of the books include a CD with music or a reading of the printed work. One of the press' core values states, "We offer books that are an authentic alternative to the commercialization of childhood. We encourage children to make time for make-believe, let their imaginations run wild and free, while never forgetting that childhood is a time for fun." The first time I opened a Barefoot Book, I knew

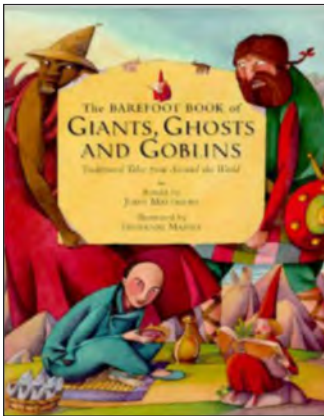
there was something special about it and I have since sought out many of their works because I share their desire to “help children explore other cultures, our planet, and themselves, providing them with ways to follow their imaginations on extraordinary journeys, both inner and outer.” Their publications are truly captivating and a joy to share. For more information and to understand what it means to begin living barefoot, I encourage you to check out some of their books and to visit their website: www.barefootbooks.com.

Casey, D. (2008). *The Barefoot book of earth tales*. (Ill. by A. Wilson). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 96 pp. ISBN: 978-1846862243. (Hardcover); \$19.99.

Casey presents a wonderful anthology of folktales for young readers, who will learn the ways different cultures around the world live in balance with nature. There are creative activities that complement each story to help children understand eco-friendly steps they can take to tread lightly on earth. This book contains stories such as the Kingdom of Benin within the Nigerian rainforest; readers will learn how these people consume less and conserve more. This fascinating collection of folk tales and creation myths from different cultures encourages readers to live a more harmonious life with nature.

Doyal, M. (2005). *The Barefoot book of fairy tales*. (Ill. by N. Ceccoli). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 160 pp. ISBN: 978-1841487984. (Hardcover); \$23.99.

With excellent illustrations and stories from nine different countries, Doyal and Ceccoli present a delightful collection of fairy tales for young readers to enjoy. This collection is composed of familiar tales, such as *Cinderella*, while also presenting readers with the chance to learn about lesser-recognized tales such as *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*, a tale from Ukraine.



Matthews, J. (2008). *The Barefoot book of giants, ghosts, and goblins*. (Ill. by J. Manna). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 80 pp. ISBN: 978-1846862359. (Hardcover); \$21.99.

Matthews' collection of unusual tales brings young readers into the mystic world of giants, ghosts, and goblins. From the Norwegian tale, *The Giant with No Heart in His Body*, to the Irish tale, *The Lass Who Couldn't Be Frightened*, this book is brimming with anticipation and adventure. The colorful and unique illustrations help to bring the words to life and guide readers through the stories. An historical sources note is included at the end of the book, which helps to enlighten readers as to the origin of these many unfamiliar tales.

Ryan, P. (2011). *Shakespeare's storybook*. (Ill. by J. Mayhew). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 112 pp. ISBN: 978-1846865411. \$12.99.

Did you know that Shakespeare was inspired by myths, folklore, ballets, and fairy tales? Ryan's book briefly explores the history behind seven of Shakespeare's well-known works before diving into the tales that inspired each. Shakespeare's play *Taming of the Shrew* was inspired by *The Devil's Bat*, the story of a shrewish wife and a devilish water spirit. Readers will be able to recognize aspects of Shakespeare's works within these tales while also enjoying reading these unfamiliar, to most, tales. These stories would be a wonderful addition to any classroom and serve as a rich introduction to Shakespeare.

Stemple, H., & Yolen, J. (2009). *The Barefoot book of ballet stories*. (Ill. by R. Guay). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 80 pp. ISBN: 978-1846862625. (Hardcover); \$23.99.

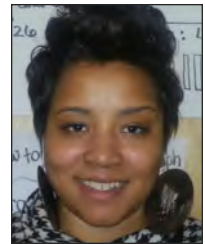
Stemple and Yolen beautifully retell six classic ballets: Coppelia, Swan Lake, Cinderella, The Nutcracker, The Sleeping Beauty, and Daphnis and Chloe. These tales flow with familiar details of stories from childhood, yet the artwork and descriptions bring each story alive in new ways. Also included in this text is a concise yet detailed history of classical ballet. From the front cover to the last page, this enchanting book will memorize readers with its lovely illustrations and charm them with each turn of the page.

Walker, R., & Whelan, O. (2008). *The Barefoot book of pirates*. (Ill. by R. Hope). Cambridge, MA: Barefoot Books. 64 pp. ISBN: 978-1846862373. (Hardcover); \$15.99.

Venture into this exciting tale and meet swashbuckling pirates from around the world—seven different pirate tales without the blood and gore sometimes associated with these sea stories. Follow Robin Hood during his holiday away from Sherwood Forest to Scarborough and see what escapades await him. See what troubles and trials spirited Grace O'Malley gets herself into. Each tale is sure to keep young readers wanting more.

Reviewers

Nicole Armstrong is a native Detroiter with 9 years experience teaching in lower elementary students in high-performing urban schools. She obtained her bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan and master's from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. When she's not teaching, she loves to read, write, and skate. Her favorite children's authors are Eric Carle, David Shannon and James Marshall.



Armstrong

Shannon Dusute is a senior at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan studying Elementary Education and Spanish.

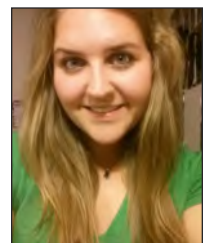
Julie Kayganich is a senior at Madonna University studying language arts for elementary education. Julie will be student teaching in January and completing her degree in May 2014. She currently serves as the Editorial Assistant for the MRJ and is a student of Dr. van Belle's at Madonna University. Julie enjoys reading and reviewing children's titles for the journal, as well as sharing her favorites with students with whom she works.



Kayganich

Tara Mulvany has a master's degree in literacy education from Madonna University and is currently in her seventh year of teaching. She teaches at Our Lady of Refuge Catholic School in Orchard Lake.

Nicole Podsiadlik is an early childhood education student at Madonna University.



Podsiadlik

Katie Rener is a recent graduate of Madonna University and the former Editorial Assistant for the MRJ. As an English major, she is passionate about supporting students' creativity as readers and writers. She believes that books can open up a new world for students and is always looking for another great read to dive into. Currently, she is working as a long-term sub for Plymouth-Canton Schools in Plymouth, Michigan.



Rener

Rhonda Turner is an educator for Battle Creek Public Schools. She graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor's degree in science and has been a classroom teacher for 15 years.

*Maggie Wunderlich is a paraprofessional who helps teach English as a second language to a diverse group of students in Plymouth Canton, Michigan. She has written a middle grade novel titled *Visibly Every After*. As an undergraduate student at Madonna University, she is pursuing a teaching certificate in elementary education with a language arts major and an emphasis on supporting English language learners. She is happiest when she can combine her passion for teaching children and for writing.*

Melanie Zamborowski is a first grade teacher and certified reading specialist at Our Lady of Sorrows School in Farmington, Michigan. She holds a master of arts in Teaching Literacy Education from Madonna University.



OFFICIAL BALLOT for the 2013-2014 GREAT LAKES GREAT BOOKS AWARD

Have your class vote in the 2013-14 election! Students should read, or have read to them, as many books from their grade level as possible. To participate in the election, each student votes for his or her favorite book. (Be sure to include the total vote count for each book from your grade level.)

Completed ballots must be received by
January 20, 2014, and should be mailed to:

Lynette Marten Suckow
Great Lakes Great Books
604 Mesnard Street
Marquette, MI 49855

Or faxed to: **(906) 226-1783**

Teacher Name:	_____
School Name:	_____
School Address:	_____
City/State/Zip:	_____
E-mail Address:	_____
Phone Number:	_____

Votes	Title	Author	Publisher/Copyright
	Grades K - 1st		
	Z is for Moose	Kelly Bingham	Greenwillow Books, 2012
	Little Dog Lost	Monica Carmesi	Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012
	A Hen for Izzy Pippik	Aubrey Davis	Kids Can Press, 2012
	Boy + Bot	Aime Dyckman	Alfred A. Knopf, 2012
	A Warm Winter Tail	Carrie A. Pearson	Sylvan Dell Publishing, 2012
	Bear Has a Story to Tell	Philip C. Stead	Roaring Brook Press, 2012
	The Princess and the Pocket of Frozen Peas	Tony Wilson	PeachTree Publishers, 2012
	Penguin and Pinecone	Salina Yoon	Walker Publishing Company, 2012
	Grades 2nd - 3rd		
	Goofballs: The Crazy Case of Missing Thunder	Tony Abbott	Egmont USA, 2012
	A Rock is Lively	Dianna Hurts Aston	Chronicle Books, 2012
	Ocean Sunlight	Molly Bang	Blue Sky Press, 2012
	Lost and Found	Bill Harley	PeachTree Publishers, 2012
	H.O.R.S.E. A Game of Basketball and Imagination	Christopher Myers	Egmont USA, 2012
	Dogs on Duty	Dorothy Hinshaw Patent	Walker Publishing Company, 2012
	The Camping Trip That Changed America	Barb Rosenstock	Dial Books for Young Readers, 2012
	The Cow	Nadja Spiegelman	TOON Books, 2012
	Grades 4th - 5th		
	Prairie Evers	Ellen Airgood	Nancy Paulsen Books, 2012
	The One and Only Ivan	Katherine Applegate	HarperCollins Children's Books, 2012
	The Mighty Miss Malone	Christopher Paul Curtis	Wendy Lamb Books, 2012
	Abraham Lincoln & Frederick Douglass	Russell Freedman	Clarion Books, 2012
	Hunter Moran Saves the Universe	Patricia Kelly Giff	Holiday House, 2012
	Mr. and Mrs. Bunny - Detectives Extraordinaire!	Polly Horvath	Schwartz & Wade Books, 2012
	Edgar Allan Poe's Pie	J. Patrick Lewis	Harcourt Children's Books, 2012
	Blizzard of Glass	Sally M. Walker	Henry Holt & Company, 2011
	Grades 6th - 8th		
	Jefferson's Sons	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	Dial Books for Young Readers, 2011
	Hidden	Heleen Frost	Frances Foster Books, 2011
	Page by Page	Laura Lee Gullledge	Amulet Books, 2011
	Temple Grandin	Sy Montgomery	Houghton Mifflin Books, 2012
	Wonder	R. J. Palacio	Alfred A. Knopf, 2012
	Bomb	Steve Sheinkin	Flash Point, 2012
	Liar & Spy	Rebecca Stead	Wendy Lamb Books, 2012
	Soldier Bear	Bibi Duman Tak	Eerdmans Books, 2011
	Grades 9th - 12th		
	The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	Dutton Books, 2012
	Never Fall Down	Patricia McCormick	Balzer + Bray, 2012
	The Letter Q	Sarah Moon, Editor	Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012
	No Crystal Stair	Vaunda Micheaux Nelson	Carolrhoda Books, 2012
	Divergent	Veronica Roth	Katherine Tegen Books, 2011
	This is Not a Test	Courtney Summers	St. Martin's Press, 2012
	Code Name Verity	Elizabeth Wein	Hyperion, 2012
	Blood Red Road	Maira Young	Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2011

The Great Lakes Great Books program is brought to you by the Michigan Reading Association.
For more information visit: www.michiganreading.org.