

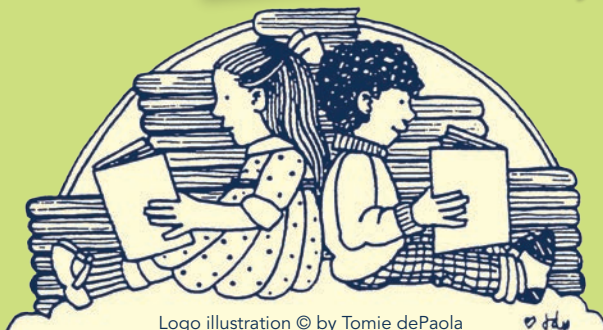
## What Is the Children's Choices Project?

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

See page 15 for the  
Children's Choices  
2014 Reading List  
bookmark!

# Children's

# Choices 2014



Logo illustration © by Tomie dePaola

# Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

## **\*Alphabet Trucks**

Samantha R. Vamos. Ill. Ryan O'Rourke.  
Charlesbridge.

This great alphabet book uses different types of work trucks to get from A to Z. Children learn what each work truck does.

## **Amelia Bedelia's First Library Card**

Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. Greenwillow.

Is it possible to get in trouble on a field trip to the library? Amelia Bedelia does by accidently disposing her juice box in the book return. After an unfortunate accident with her library book, she learns that librarians are understanding and have a sense of humor! This is a perfect book to share with young readers on their first visit to the library.

## **Amy's Three Best Things**

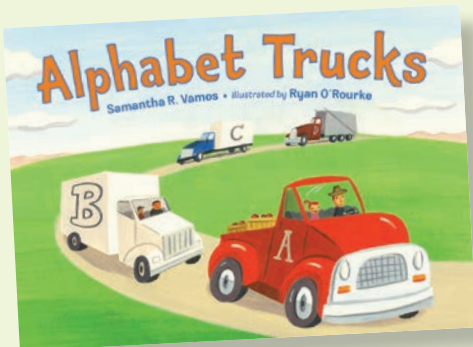
Philippa Pearce. Ill. Helen Craig. Candlewick.

Young Amy bravely decides to spend three days away from home. Although she has fun during the day, at night she misses home. Luckily she packed three heart-warming things that reminded her of home.

## **\*Bear and Bee**

Sergio Ruzzier. Disney-Hyperion.

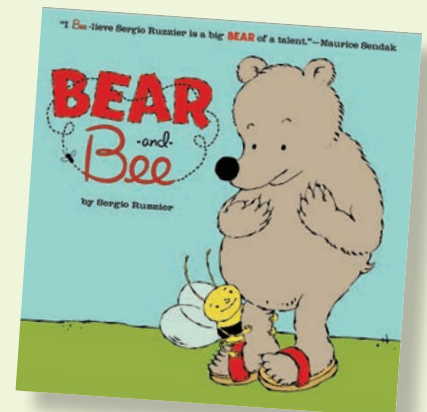
After a winter's nap, Bear is hungry for honey. When Bear meets Bee, he thinks bees are monsters that hoard honey. Bee wants to be friends. Can Bear accept the offer? Children will enjoy the sweet tale of friendship.



From *Alphabet Trucks* by Samantha R. Vamos. Ill. Ryan O'Rourke.  
Charlesbridge.



From *Amy's Three Best Things* by Philippa Pearce. Ill. Helen Craig.  
Candlewick.



From *Bear and Bee* by Sergio Ruzzier. Disney-Hyperion.



### ***A Big Guy Took My Ball***

Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.

An elephant and piggy adventure takes a fun look at different perspectives of big and little. A perceived big bully whale is really a nice guy in search of playmates. Children will enjoy the clever ending that highlights the relativity of size.

### ***A CatFish Tale***

Kathy Brodsky. Ill. Cameron Bennett.

Helpingwords.

A read aloud about the endearing friendship of a penguin, a cat, and their fish. Children will find humor in the rhyming patterns and delightful illustrations. Discussion questions that address major themes from the book are provided.

### ***\*Chamelia and the New Kid in Class***

Ethan Long. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Chamelia, who loves being the center of attention, faces troubles when the new kid in class takes her spotlight. It's up to her to decide whether to be the competition or learn to share the limelight. This is a charming book about friendship!

### ***Charlie Goes to School***

Ree Drummond. Ill. Diane deGroat. HarperCollins.

Charlie, the ranch dog, opens his own school to educate the other farm animals. Exhausted by his uncooperative students, Charlie abandons teaching and shifts his focus to his well-honed skill of napping. Children are charmed by this lazy, lovable hound.

### ***Cheer Up, Mouse!***

Jed Henry. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.

Mouse is feeling gloomy. His animal friends attempt unsuccessfully to raise his spirits by flipping, fluttering, wading, and climbing. In the end, all it takes is a hug. Sparse text and beautiful illustrations draw young readers into this heart-warming tale.

### ***Cinderelephant***

Emma Dodd. Arthur A. Levine Books.

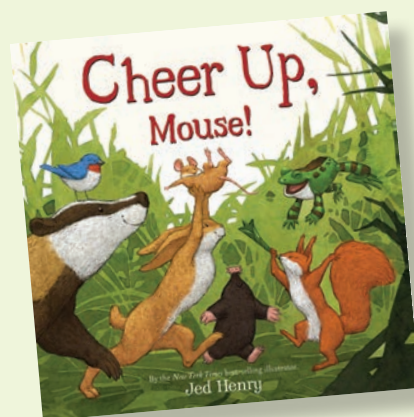
The Warky sisters keep their cousin busy. They will not let poor Cinderelephant go to Prince Trunky's ball. Furry Godmouse outmatches the warthog duo to help Cinderelephant. In the delightful classic tale twist, Cinderelephant dances her way into children's hearts.



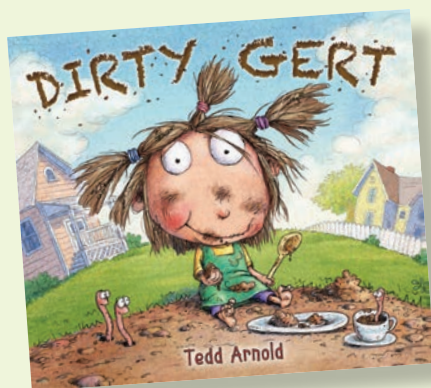
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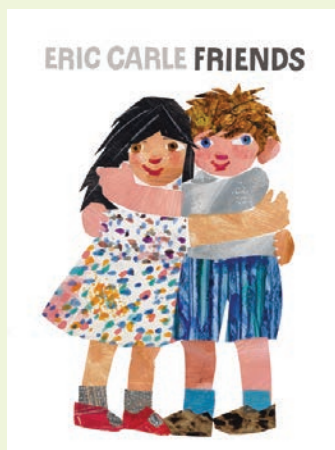
From *Chamelia and the New Kid in Class* by Ethan Long. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.



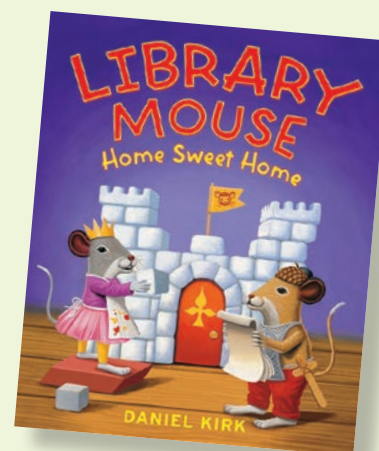
From *Cheer Up, Mouse!* by Jed Henry. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers.



From *Dirty Gert* by Tedd Arnold. Holiday House.



From *Friends* by Eric Carle. Philomel.



From *Library Mouse: Home Sweet Home* by Daniel Kirk. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

### ***Clark the Shark***

Bruce Hale. Ill. Guy Francis. HarperCollins.

A read-aloud with fun rhymes and lessons as well. Clark the shark loves life and is so enthusiastic until he realizes that his friends are shying away from him. With help he learns how to tone it down.

### ***\*The Day the Crayons Quit***

Drew Daywalt. Ill. Oliver Jeffers. Philomel.

Duncan opens his crayons to find letters written by the crayons. The colors are all upset by the way they are always used. Some colors won't speak to each other. Perhaps it's time to find new ways to use color.

### ***Dirty Gert***

Tedd Arnold. Holiday House.

So what if you eat dirt? For Dirty Gert it becomes a life saver with a bit of help from her parents. The large detailed pictures and patterned vocabulary make this book a special experience to read.

### ***Emeraldalicious***

Victoria Kann. HarperCollins.

With love as the major ingredient, a wand and a poem make Peter and Pinkalicious creators of something beautiful from the ugly. Creative ideas in pictures and words make this book a treasure for life.

### ***Friends***

Eric Carle. Philomel.

When a young boy's best friend moves away, he is determined to find her. He braves the elements, crosses rivers and climbs mountains, and is finally reunited with his buddy. This is a story of friendship and perseverance.

### ***I Spy Pets***

Edward Gibbs. Templar.

This interactive book invites readers to use texture clues, visible through die cut holes, and an image of the animal's eye to guess which pet will be revealed on the following page. Also featured are clues about the pets' diets.

### ***Library Mouse: Home Sweet Home***

Daniel Kirk. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

What do you do when your house is destroyed? Two mice experiment with a variety of architectural styles as they try to rebuild theirs before finally returning to their true home. Any reader will create a home of this clearly illustrated book.

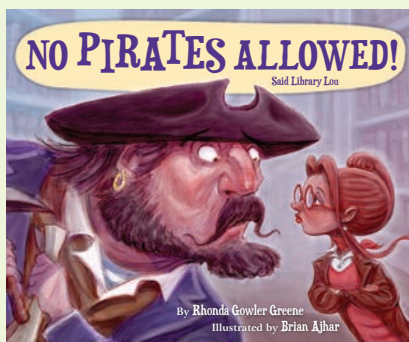
### ***Lion vs. Rabbit***

Alex Latimer. Peachtree.

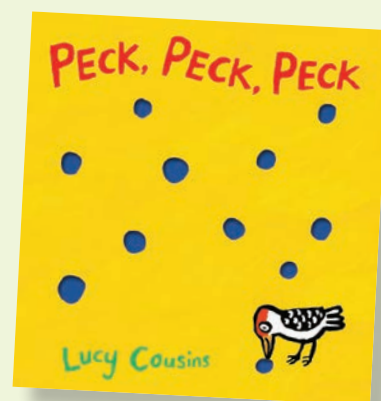
Lion is mean to everyone! Various animals try to stand up to Lion, but fail. And then a rabbit arrives. Can such a small, gentle animal defeat Lion?



From *Mustache Baby* by Bridget Heos. Ill. Joy Ang. Clarion.



From *No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou* by Rhonda Gowler Green. Ill. Brian Ajhar. Sleeping Bear.



From *Peck, Peck, Peck* by Lucy Cousins. Candlewick.

### ***\*Mustache Baby***

Bridget Heos. Ill. Joy Ang. Clarion.

When Billy is born with a mustache, his family wonders if it will be a good-guy or a bad-guy mustache. Realizing that anyone can have a bad day and thrilled by the surprise ending, children beg to “read it again!”

### ***My New Teacher and Me!***

Al Yankovic. Ill. Wes Hargis. HarperCollins.

Billy returns to delight readers in a quick-paced story. On the first day of school, Billy vexes his new teacher, Mr. Booth. To the delight of students, he spins stories as he and his teacher engage in creative word play.

### ***No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou***

Rhonda Gowler Green. Ill. Brian Ajhar. Sleeping Bear.

Pete wants to find where X marks the treasure. Library Lou insists he bathe, mind his manners, and learn his letters. A fun book inspiring any pirate to learn how to read and find a treasure in books.

### ***Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite***

Nick Bromley. Ill. Nicola O’Byrne. Nosy Crow/Candlewick.

When a crocodile hijacks a bedtime story, a gentle retelling of *The Ugly Duckling* turns in to an interactive and laugh-out-loud time.

### ***Peck, Peck, Peck***

Lucy Cousins. Candlewick.

Woodpecker’s dad teaches him how to peck a hole in a tree. Thus, one hole appears in the book. The little woodpecker’s success becomes evident as the number of holes increase. Children can’t resist this sweet story of fatherly love.

### ***Splat and the Cool School Trip***

Rob Scotton. HarperCollins.

Splat the Cat is excited for the field trip to the zoo. He’ll get to see his favorite animal, the penguin. But something happens that ruins his plans. Will a friend save the day?

### ***The Tortoise & The Hare***

Jerry Pinkney. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

Stunning illustrations! An Aesop favorite that shows how even the slowest tortoise can defeat the quickest hare. This amazing story provides the lesson that slow and steady wins the race. It shows how perseverance can out do confidence and ridicule.

### ***What If You Had Animal Teeth?***

Sandra Markle. Ill. Howard McWilliam. Scholastic.

Imagine eating with walrus teeth, cutting with bat teeth, or never brushing hippopotamus teeth! In a fun-filled manner, children explore different animal teeth. Facts help children learn about the importance of teeth and how to take care of their own.



# Young Readers (Grades 3–4)

## ***Adventures in Cartooning: Characters in Action!***

James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexi Frederick-Frost. First Second.

The knight and Edward the Horse meet the renowned director, Otto Aire, who has taken over the king's castle to make a movie. Learn how to draw cartoon characters and tell your own story!

## ***Albert Is NOT Scared***

Eleanor May. Ill. Deborah Melmon. Kane.

Do you like amusement park rides that go up, down, across, around, right, left, under, or through? Albert doesn't think he likes any of them until he finds just the right ride. Discover all of the fun directions you can go in this fun story about a mouse in an amusement park.

## ***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night***

Lenore Look. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

Alvin's most recent adventures include something more frightening than talking in school, playing hockey, and the rash of burglaries in his hometown. His mother is having a baby! Alvin's hysterical reactions, including a sympathetic pregnancy, are certain to amuse readers.

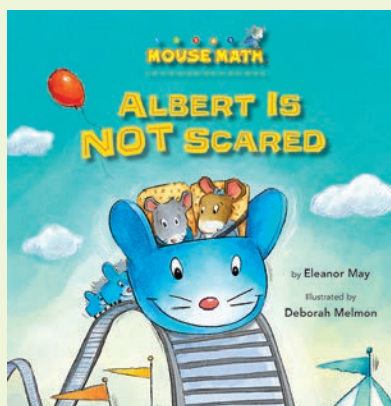
## ***Amelia Bedelia Means Business***

Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. HarperCollins.

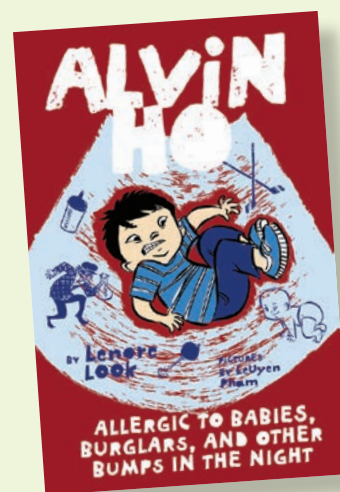
Amelia wants a new bike; however, she must first earn the money. She decides to sell lemonade and encounters unexpected, humorous results. Despite mishaps and lemon-loving dogs, Amelia's unique perseverance shines in yet another fun-loving Amelia adventure.



From *Adventures in Cartooning: Characters in Action!* by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, Alexi Frederick-Frost. First Second.



From *Albert Is NOT Scared* by Eleanor May. Ill. Deborah Melmon. Kane.



From *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night*. Lenore Look. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

### ***Amelia Bedelia Unleashed***

Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril. HarperCollins.

Amelia yearns for a dog and sets out to find her perfect canine companion. She helps with dog walking, grooming, and a dog show. The literal word play and humor make the book a must read for Amelia Bedelia lovers.

### ***Animal Control Officers to the Rescue***

Meish Goldish. Bearport.

From finding and catching a 10-foot boa constrictor to rescuing abused animals, animal control officers devote their careers to protecting animals and keeping people safe. This book tells true stories of what happens behind the scene.

### ***Bad Kitty School Daze***

Nick Bruel. Square Fish.

Kitty, a puppy, and a baby spell disaster! For Kitty, it means attending obedience school with dogs and an attention-seeking rabbit. Will Kitty learn manners and graduate from school? Follow Kitty's antics in another delightful Bad Kitty story.

### ***\*Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball***

Charise Mericle Harper. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

Bean Dog and Nugget are playing a game of catch with a favorite ball. When the ball gets stuck in the bushes they must use their problem-solving skills to get their ball back.

### ***Bean Dog and Nugget: The Cookie***

Charise Mericle Harper. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

A story of the innocent shenanigans of two silly characters who banter about an invisible donut and how to share an odd number of cookies. Children will be attracted to the comic book panels, callouts, and open space that complement the storytelling.

### ***\*Bugs in My Hair!***

David Shannon. The Blue Sky.

Caution: This book will make you itchy as it details what it is like for a child who gets head lice. The book shows that it can happen to anyone, and that no one should be teased because of it.

### ***\*Cougar: A Cat With Many Names***

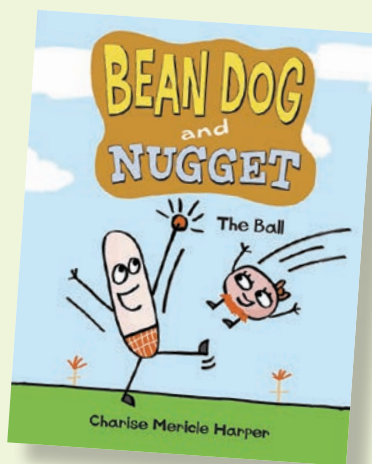
Stephen Person. Bearport.

Learn more about cougars: where they live, how they hunt, and how they grow. Cougars are one of America's hidden treasures, and there are groups who are trying to save them from extinction. Color photos and facts about cougars are included.

### ***Deadly! The Truth About the Most Dangerous Creatures on Earth***

Nicola Davies. Ill. Neal Layton. Candlewick.

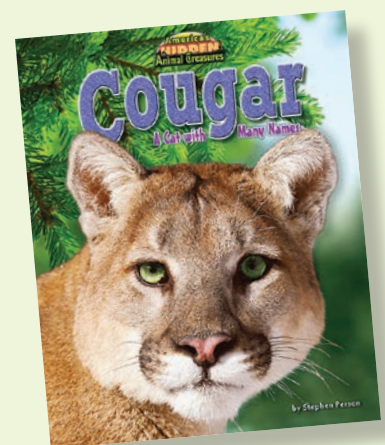
Watch out! Don't be an unlucky victim. Jaws, razor-sharp claws, lethal speed, 500 volts of shocking electricity, toxic tentacles, and poison are what animals use to kill their prey.



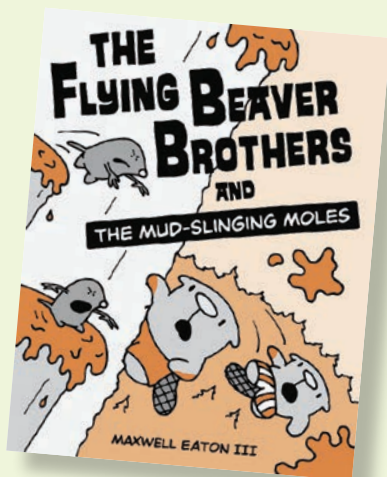
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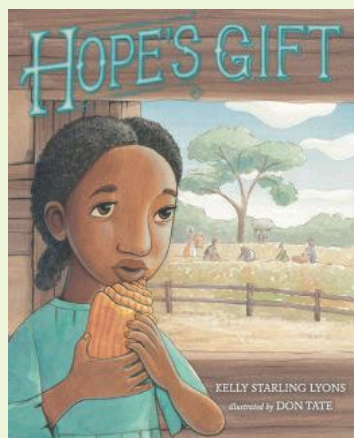
From *Bugs in My Hair!* by David Shannon. The Blue Sky.



From *Cougar: A Cat With Many Names* by Stephen Person. Bearport.



From *The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Mud-Slinging Moles* by Maxwell Eaton III. Knopf Books for Young Readers.



From *Hope's Gift* by Kelly Starling Lyons. Ill. Don Tate. Putnam.



From *A Long Way Away* by Frank Viva. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

### ***Extreme Baby Mouse***

Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Random House Books for Young Readers.

In another great story, Baby Mouse is determined to master snowboarding without breaking any whiskers. Baby Mouse has snowy mishaps but finally realizes that a new skill takes time. She decides practice and hot chocolate is better than peer pressure.

### ***The Flying Beaver Brothers: Birds vs. Bunnies***

Maxwell Eaton III. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

After uncovering the scheme that caused the birds and bunnies to be at war, Bub and Ace literally blow a familiar villain off the island. Humor, intense action, and good prevailing over evil make this a quick and fun read!

### ***The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Mud-Slinging Moles***

Maxwell Eaton III. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

The Flying Beaver Brothers are at it again in this graphic novel. This time they uncover a plot to steal dirt from their island in order to make mole island bigger. Can the brothers save the island?

### ***Hope's Gift***

Kelly Starling Lyons. Ill. Don Tate. Putnam.

On Christmas night, Papa wakens Hope and her little brother, Henry. He is leaving the plantation to join the war. Giving Hope a conch shell, Papa says to listen to the swoosh, swoosh to remember that freedom is coming soon. Hope keeps praying her Papa will come home safely, and then one day a soldier in a blue uniform with a bright smile comes walking up the lane. Freedom has arrived.

### ***John Cena***

Michael Sandler. Bearport.

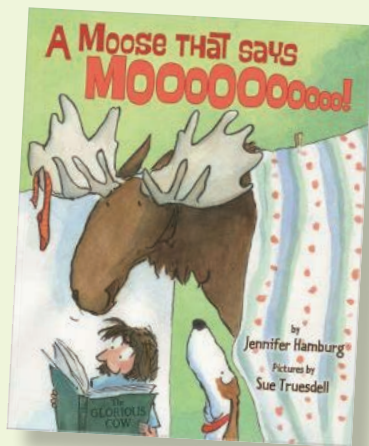
This inspirational biography captures the transformation of a skinny kid into one of the world's greatest wrestlers and an entertainment star. Referencing several prominent WWE wrestlers, this book fuels children who dream of someday being discovered by a talent scout.

### ***A Long Way Away***

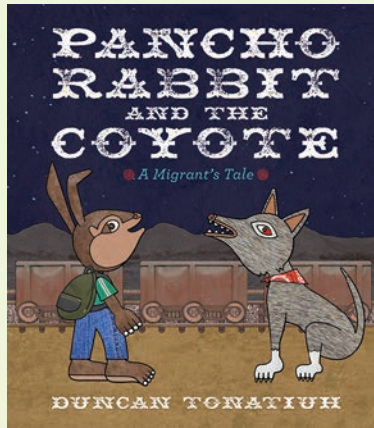
Frank Viva. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

This book is cleverly written and is actually two stories in one! No matter which journey you decide to take, the octopus/alien takes the reader on a delightful adventure weaving through a maze of moons, astro-dogs, airplanes and sky divers or exotic fish, retro submarine, and deep sea divers. Although there are few words, there is plenty of meaning through the pictures that embellish the story.

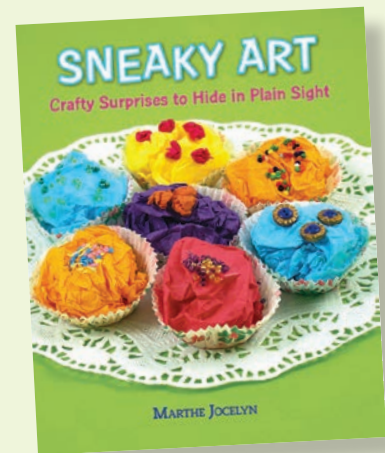




From *A Moose That Says Moo* by Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Sue Truesdell. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers.



From *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote* by Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.



From *Sneaky Art: Crafty Surprises to Hide in Plain Sight* by Marthe Jocelyn. Candlewick.

### ***\*The Matchbox Diary***

Paul Fleischman. Ill. Bagram Ibatoulline. Candlewick.

An immigrant's journey from Italy and his life growing up in America is tenderly related to his great-granddaughter through his collection of mementos and matchboxes. Beautifully illustrated, this story relates the importance of learning to read and write.

### ***Memoirs of a Hamster***

Devin Scillian. Ill. Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear.

Seymour the hamster has it good—plenty of sunflower seeds, a wheel for exercise, and even yogurt drops from Little Girl. But when Pearl the cat convinces him to escape and go in search of the heavenly sounding Sunroom, he finds that the world outside is full of danger, with not a yogurt drop in sight. Will he ever find his way back to the safety of his cage?

### ***A Moose That Says Moo***

Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Sue Truesdell. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers.

A little girl imagines a zoo with no cages and animals that do amazing and silly things. See what happens when the animals' antics start to get out of control!

### ***Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote***

Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

A thought-provoking story depicts hopes, obstacles, and dangers of illegal migrant farm workers. Pancho searches for his father along the perilous route el Norte. Child-friendly characters help raise awareness of social justice issues and humanize the complex issue of immigration.

### ***Poppy the Pirate Dog***

Liz Kessler. Ill. Mike Phillips. Candlewick.

Poppy wants to be a pirate. She gets her chance when she goes on a vacation to the ocean with her family. She has the right attire, but she needs to find the right boat.

### ***Ringtail: Miner's Cat***

Joyce Markovics. Bearport.

A part of America's Hidden Animal Treasures series, this book will teach readers more about ringtail cats such as they aren't even really cats! Learn about where they live, what they hunt, and how they grow through colorful photos and facts about these amazing animals.

### ***The Rock***

Michael Sandler. Bearport.

This is an account of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson's acting career and successful return to the wrestling ring in 2011 and 2012. Readers will be entertained by the photo-filled pages and straightforward text of this short biography.

### ***Sneaky Art: Crafty Surprises to Hide in Plain Sight***

Marthe Jocelyn. Candlewick.

Step-by-step directions guide readers through the creation of several art projects that can be made from easily accessible materials. Suggestions for publicly displaying these projects in playful and surprising ways inspire artists who delight in making people look and laugh!

### ***Soldiers' Dogs***

Meish Goldish. Bearport.

This informational text highlights the heroics and companionship of Military Working Dogs (MWD). True accounts of dogs finding hidden explosives, searching out enemy combatants, saving lives, and helping soldiers recover from post-traumatic stress will captivate the young reader.

### ***Stink and the Freaky Frog Freakout***

Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick.

After Stink is licked by a mutant blue frog, he begins to exhibit frog tendencies. Readers will be unlikely to notice that they are learning about frogs and an important environmental concern as they laugh hysterically at Stink's latest adventure.

### ***Surf Dog Miracles***

Meish Goldish. Bearport.

This latest in the Dog Hero series finds service dogs riding the ocean waves, helping people with disabilities and using their surfing skills to raise money for worthy causes. Children will enjoy reading about the amazing abilities of man's best friend.

### ***The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever***

H. Joseph Hopkins. Ill. Jill McElmurry. Beach Lane.

When Kate sees the bare, dry hills of San Diego, she envisions planted trees of all kinds to make them beautiful. Her endless love of trees makes millions of people happy as she works to fulfill her dream.

### ***Troy Polamalu***

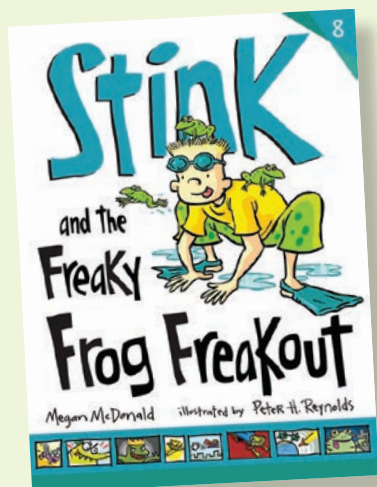
Mari C. Schuh. Bearport.

Young football fans will be inspired by defensive player Troy Polamalu. Quick on the field and an expert at making interceptions, Troy is an invaluable member of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Even his long hair is famous as he has starred in commercials for shampoo. Troy and his wife have established a foundation to build homes for families in American Samoa.

### ***What Floats in a Moat?***

Lynne Berry. Ill. Matthew Cordell. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

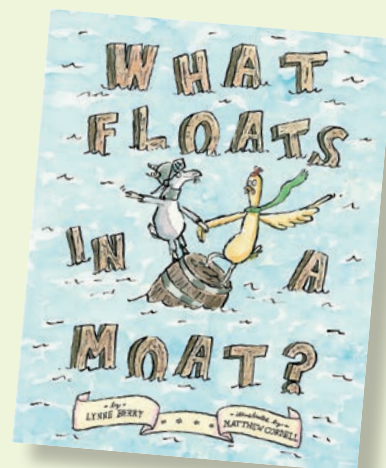
The queen needs several barrels of buttermilk. How can Archie the goat get it across the moat? This fun story is also a science lesson in buoyancy.



From *Stink and the Freaky Frog Freakout* by Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick.



From *The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever* by H. Joseph Hopkins. Ill. Jill McElmurry. Beach Lane.



From *What Floats in a Moat?* by Lynne Berry. Ill. Matthew Cordell. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

# Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

## ***9 Lives of Alexander Baddenfield***

John Bemelmans Marciano. Ill. Sophie Blackall. Viking Juvenile.

Alexander, a horrible boy, has the crazy idea of transplanting the nine lives of his cat to himself. It is not until he has only one life left that he realizes he has been reckless with his other eight lives.

## ***\*Battling Boy***

Paul Pope. First Second.

A young demigod leaves his home in the sky to prove his worth fighting monsters on Earth. Armed with a suitcase full of magical objects, Battling Boy takes on numerous villains and learns of his own powers to become the hero of Acropolis. This graphic novel is beautifully illustrated with clever details that will reward repeat readers.

## ***Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty***

Russell Freedman. Holiday House.

Franklin's biography begins in 1723 as a poor teenager in Philadelphia. Franklin is remembered as a publisher, scientist, community organizer, statesman, and writer. He helped write the Declaration of Independence and promoted abolishing slavery. Primary sources, paintings, and engravings included.

## ***Bluffton: My Summers With Buster Keaton***

Matt Phelan. Candlewick.

Tightrope walkers and exotic animals: Is there a better way for Henry and his friends to spend a summer? Henry gets to know the vaudeville performers and becomes friends with Buster Keaton.

## ***Case File 13: Zombie Kid***

J. Scott Savage. Ill. Doug Holgate. HarperCollins.

Three best friends, Nick, Carter, and Angelo, love monsters. In their zeal, Nick is turned into a zombie when he finds a cursed amulet. Carter and Angelo must try to help undo the curse.

## ***A Dog and His Girl Mysteries #1: Play Dead***

Jane B. Mason and Sarah Hines-Stephens. Scholastic Paperback.

Twelve-year-old Cassie and her retired police dog, Dodge, relish a good mystery. When a millionaire is missing, the duo pursues the clues to find the truth. A new detective team is unleashed in a quick-paced story recounted from different viewpoints.

## ***Far World: Air Keep***

J. Scott Savage. Shadow Mountain.

The latest in the Farworld series traces the heroics and time travel experiences of Marcus and Kyja but ends with new uncertainty as Kyja must leave Marcus behind. Discussion questions prompt readers to apply story themes to their own lives.

## ***Game On!***

Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Random House Books for Young Readers.

This fifth installment in the Squish series finds our amoeba hero obsessed with a new video game. Will he be able to put the game away long enough to focus on what's really important? Children will love the simple illustrations and gross humor in this graphic novel.



## ***Half-Human Monsters and Other Fiends***

Ruth Owen. Bearport.

This nonfiction picture book explores various unexplained sightings, from Bigfoot to the Mongolian Death Worm. Students who are intrigued by supernatural and paranormal explanations will love this, as while the author offers possible scientific explanations, she acknowledges that the mystery ultimately remains unsolved.

## ***Hit the Road, Helen!***

Kate McMullan. Capstone.

Did Helen truly launch the Trojan War? Hades explains the true story in a narrative of brotherly rivalry. Older readers will enjoy the modernized language and point of view as they meet the cast of characters from Greek mythology.

## ***\*Hokey Pokey***

Jerry Spinelli. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

Hokey Pokey is the place where children can roam as they wish and live free! Bikes are sacred creatures and adults are nonexistent. Everything is safe for Jack until his bike, Scramjet, comes up missing. Now everything has changed.

## ***It Can't Be True!***

DK Publishing.

Full of the answers to questions you'd never even think of, this fact-filled volume is a ton of fun. In

these pages, you'll find out how many Earths would fit inside of Jupiter (1,320), how much the Great Pyramid weighs (over 5 million tons), and a host of other interesting trivia. It all comes with gorgeous layouts and beautiful full-color illustrations.

## ***Janitors: Curse of the Broomstaff***

Tyler Whitesides. Shadow Mountain.

In the third of the Janitors' series, Spencer and the small group of rebels must stop the Bureau of Education Maintenance and destroy the source of Glop. Pursued by monster toxites, the rebels race to find the secret landfill.

## ***\*Lawless***

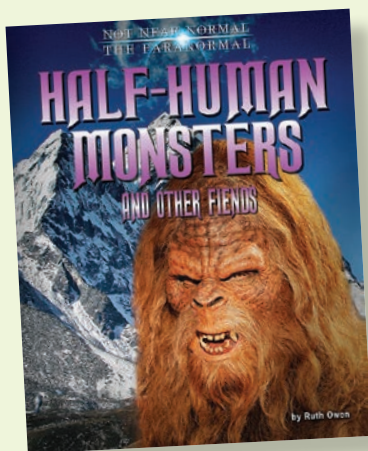
Jeffrey Salane. Scholastic.

M. Freeman has spent her life being homeschooled and unknowingly trained to be a criminal. When her first real-world heist goes wrong, she wonders: Is there truly honor among thieves?

## ***The Lost Boy***

Greg Ruth. GRAPHIX.

In this graphic novel, Nate discovers a tape recorder and note addressed to him under the floorboards of his bedroom. With Tabitha, he tries to solve the mystery of the lost boy who went missing many years ago.



From *Half-Human Monsters and Other Fiends* by Ruth Owen. Bearport.



From *It Can't Be True!* DK Publishing.



From *Janitors: Curse of the Broomstaff* by Tyler Whitesides. Shadow Mountain.

## ***Lost Cities***

Natalie Lunis. Bearport.

One might expect stories of flood, fire, and other disasters that caused the loss of 11 cities to be gloomy. Instead, exciting and bone-chilling tales invite readers to experience these crumbling ruins and the ghosts who may still lurk within.

## ***The Meanest Birthday Girl***

Josh Schneider. Clarion.

Who would guess that life lessons can be learned with an innocent gift? On her birthday, Dana is given a white elephant and learns a lesson about treating people with kindness and how to be a good friend.

## ***A Midsummer Night's Scream***

R.L. Stine. Feiwel & Friends.

Sixty years after the production of the movie *Mayhem Manor* was halted because of actors dying, Claire and her friends have the go-ahead to start filming again. But soon, talk of curses turns into a series of horrible accidents.

## ***Midwinterblood***

Marcus Sedgwick. Roaring Brook.

In 2073 on the island of Blessed, no one ages. When a visiting writer and a local woman are murdered, it mirrors the murder long ago of a king and his queen. This book is really seven stories twined together.

## ***Mind Benders: Brain-Boggling Tricks, Puzzles, and Illusions***

DK Publishing.

Readers can challenge their mind and body with this collection of brainteasers. Children will be drawn to the fun and maddening collection of puzzles that test their problem-solving skills.

## ***The Misadventures of the Magician's Dog***

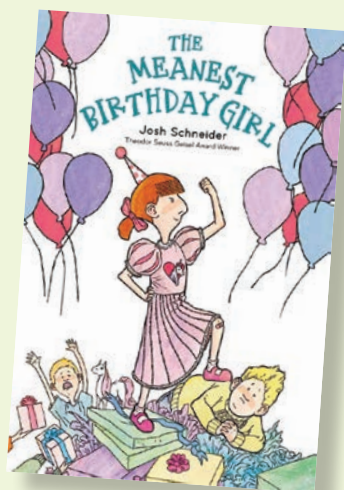
Frances Sackett. Holiday House.

Peter's 12th birthday is tomorrow, and his mother is asking him what he wants. Mostly he wants things money can't buy—like having his dad come home from his latest Middle Eastern deployment or not to be so lonely. For some unknown reason, Peter blurts out that he wants a dog. The dog that Peter adopts is no ordinary canine and leads him and his two younger sisters into wild and magical adventures involving a battle with an evil magician.

## ***The Mouse With the Question Mark Tail***

Richard Peck. Ill. Kelly Murphy. Dial.

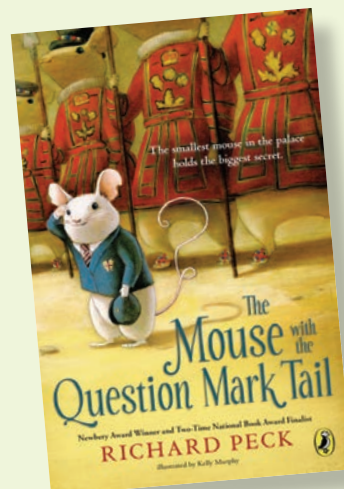
A small mouse with an unusual tail shaped like a question mark finds himself on a quest to discover his identity. Rescued at birth by his Aunt Marigold, Mouse Minor breaks the two most important rules: running away from school and showing himself to a human while in uniform. The mouse finds himself in an audience with Queen Victoria and her words lead him to the truth about his heritage.



From *The Meanest Birthday Girl* by Josh Schneider. Clarion.



From *The Misadventures of the Magician's Dog* by Frances Sackett. Holiday House.



From *The Mouse With the Question Mark Tail* by Richard Peck. Ill. Kelly Murphy. Dial.

## ***Mummy Lairs***

Michael Burgan. Bearport.

Spooky tales of 11 mummies who were uncovered from their secret resting places provide mysterious and shocking details about the complex process involved in preserving these corpses. Students discover how bodies dead for thousands of years can appear amazingly alive!

## ***National Geographic Kids Almanac 2014***

National Geographic Children's Books.

An almanac packed full of facts and short quizzes about animals, adventure, nature, science, history, geography, and more. Children will keep coming back to this quick reference for core information and interesting trivia.

## ***National Geographic Kids Everything Money***

Kathy Furgang. National Geographic Children's Books.

Traces the history of money, its many forms across different civilizations, how it is made and protected, and how to earn it, save it, spend it, or steal it. Lots of brief and interesting facts hold the readers' attention.

## ***National Geographic Kids Everything Pets***

James Spears. National Geographic Children's Books.

A photo-filled history of pets, from the scaly to the furry. Readers will learn fun and interesting facts about the unique characteristics of common and unusual pets and delight in the cute pictures on display.

## ***National Geographic Kids Myths Busted!***

Emily Krieger. National Geographic Children's Books.

Everyone knows that pigs are filthy, or that it takes 7 years to digest a piece of gum—right? WRONG! Find out how the zaniest urban legends hold up to scientific scrutiny in this funny fact book.

## ***\*Prince Puggly of Spud and the Kingdom of Spiff***

Robert Paul Weston. Razorbill/Penguin Books for Young Readers.

This is a fun story written in rhyme. Prince Puggly certainly does not dress like a prince! When he's invited to a fancy ball, will he find a way to be accepted by lords and ladies?



From *National Geographic Kids Almanac 2014*.  
National Geographic Children's Books.



From *National Geographic Kids Myths Busted!* by Emily Krieger. National Geographic Children's Books.



From *Prince Puggly of Spud and the Kingdom of Spiff* by Robert Paul Weston. Razorbill/Penguin Books for Young Readers.



## The School for Good and Evil

Soman Chaina. Ill. Iacopo Bruno. HarperCollins.

The gray area between good and evil bewitches readers as they follow Sophie and Agatha on their surprising placements in The School for Good and Evil. Filled with heroism, romance, and humor, students find this reinvented fairy tale truly enchanting.

## Smash: Trial by Fire

Chris A. Bolton Ill. Kyle Bolton. Candlewick.

Andrew, a fifth grader, inherits superpowers and becomes Smash. Will he learn how to control his own powers in time to stop the evil Magus? The comic book art and fast-paced story hooks readers in the first of a new series.

## A Tangle of Knots

Lisa Graff. Philomel.

Cady's talent is baking the perfect cake that matches a person. When a thief threatens to steal her talent and destroy her family, she learns how to handle fate. This charming story is interspersed with authentic cake recipes and told from multiple viewpoints.

## Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made

Stephan Pastis. Candlewick.

Timmy Failure and his assistant, a polar bear named Total, have formed a detective agency named Total Failure, Inc. Despite the obstacles of school, his mother, and his "idiot friend," Timmy describes his self-proclaimed "brilliant" solutions to several hilarious cases.

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



From *A Tangle of Knots* by Lisa Graff. Philomel.



From *Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made* by Stephan Pastis. Candlewick.



## Children's Choices 2014 Reading List

### Beginning Readers (Grades K-2)

*\*Alphabet Trucks.* Samantha R. Vamos. Ill. Ryan O'Rourke.

Charlesbridge.

*Amelia Bedelia's First Library Card.* Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril.

Greenwillow.

*Amy's Three Best Things.* Philippa Pearce. Ill. Helen Craig. Candlewick.

*\*Bear and Bee.* Sergio Ruzzier. Disney-Hyperion.

*A Big Guy Took My Ball.* Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.

*A CatFish Tale.* Kathy Brodsky. Ill. Cameron Bennett. Helpingwords.

*\*Chamelia and the New Kid in Class.* Ethan Long. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

*Charlie Goes to School.* Ree Drummond. Ill. Diane deGroat.

HarperCollins.

*Cheer Up, Mouse!* Jed Henry. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

*Cinderelaphant.* Emma Dodd. Arthur A. Levine.

*Clark the Shark.* Bruce Hale. Ill. Guy Francis. HarperCollins.

*\*The Day the Crayons Quit.* Drew Daywalt. Ill. Oliver Jeffers. Philomel.

*Dirty Gert.* Tedd Arnold. Holiday House.

*Emeraldalicious.* Victoria Kann. HarperCollins.

*Friends.* Eric Carle. Philomel.

*I Spy Pets.* Edward Gibbs. Templar.

*Library Mouse: Home Sweet Home.* Daniel Kirk. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

*Lion vs. Rabbit.* Alex Latimer. Peachtree.

*\*Mustache Baby.* Bridget Heos. Ill. Joy Ang. Clarion.

*My New Teacher and Me!* Al Yankovic. Ill. Wes Hargis. HarperCollins.

*No Pirates Allowed! Said Library Lou.* Rhonda Gowler Green. Ill. Brian Aijhar. Sleeping Bear.

*Open Very Carefully: A Book With Bite.* Nick Bromley. Ill. Nicola O'Byrne. Nosy Crow/Candlewick.

*Peck, Peck, Peck.* Lucy Cousins. Candlewick.

*Splat and the Cool School Trip.* Rob Scotton. HarperCollins.

*The Tortoise & The Hare.* Jerry Pinkney. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

*What If You Had Animal Teeth?* Sandra Markle. Ill. Howard McWilliam. Scholastic.

### Young Readers (Grades 3-4)

*Adventures in Cartooning: Characters in Action.* James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexi Frederick-Frost. First Second.

*Albert Is NOT Scared.* Eleanor May. Ill. Deborah Melmon. Kane.

*Alvin Ho: Allergic to Babies, Burglars, and Other Bumps in the Night.* Lenore Look. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Schwartz & Wade/Random House Children's Books.

*Amelia Bedelia Means Business.* Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril.

HarperCollins.

*Amelia Bedelia Unleashed.* Herman Parish. Ill. Lynne Avril.

HarperCollins.

*Animal Control Officers to the Rescue.* Meish Goldish. Bearport.

*Bad Kitty School Daze.* Nick Bruel. Square Fish.

*\*Bean Dog and Nugget: The Ball.* Charise Mericle Harper. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

*Bean Dog and Nugget: The Cookie.* Charise Mericle Harper. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

*\*Bugs in My Hair!* David Shannon. The Blue Sky.

*\*Cougar: A Cat With Many Names.* Stephen Person. Bearport.

*Deadly! The Truth About the Most Dangerous Creatures on Earth.* Nicola Davies. Ill. Neal Layton. Candlewick.

*Extreme Baby Mouse.* Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Random House Books for Young Readers.

*The Flying Beaver Brothers: Birds vs. Bunnies.* Maxwell Eaton Ill. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

*The Flying Beaver Brothers and the Mud-Slinging Moles.* Maxwell Eaton Ill. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

*Hope's Gift.* Kelly Starling Lyons. Ill. Don Tate. Putnam.

*John Cena.* Michael Sandler. Bearport.

*A Long Way Away.* Frank Viva. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

*\*The Matchbox Diary.* Paul Fleischman. Ill. Bagram Ibatoulline. Candlewick.

*Memoirs of a Hamster.* Devin Scillian. Ill. Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear.  
*A Moose That Says Moo.* Jennifer Hamburg. Ill. Sue Truesdell. Farrar,  
Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers.

*Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote.* Duncan Tonatiuh. Abrams Books for  
Young Readers.

*Poppy the Pirate Dog.* Liz Kessler. Ill. Mike Phillips. Candlewick.

*Ringtail: Miner's Cat.* Joyce Markovics. Bearport.

*The Rock.* Michael Sandler. Bearport.

*Sneaky Art: Crafty Surprises to Hide in Plain Sight.* Marthe Jocelyn.  
Candlewick.

*Soldiers' Dogs.* Meish Goldish. Bearport.

*Stink and the Freaky Frog Freakout.* Megan McDonald. Ill. Peter H.  
Reynolds. Candlewick.

*Surf Dog Miracles.* Meish Goldish. Bearport.

*The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman  
Changed a City Forever.* H. Joseph Hopkins. Ill. Jill McElmurry.  
Beach Lane.

*Troy Polamalu.* Mari C. Schuh. Bearport.

*What Floats in a Moat?* Lynne Berry. Ill. Matthew Cordell. Simon &  
Schuster Books for Young Readers.

## Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

*9 Lives of Alexander Baddenfield.* John Bemelmans Marciano. Ill.  
Sophie Blackall. Viking Juvenile.

*\*Battling Boy.* Paul Pope. First Second.

*Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light  
the Flame of Liberty.* Russell Freedman. Holiday House.

*Bluffton: My Summers With Buster Keaton.* Matt Phelan. Candlewick.

*Case File 13: Zombie Kid.* J. Scott Savage. Ill. Doug Holgate.  
HarperCollins.

*A Dog and His Girl Mysteries #1: Play Dead.* Jane B. Mason and  
Sarah Hines-Stephens. Scholastic Paperback.

*Far World: Air Keep.* J. Scott Savage. Shadow Mountain.

*Game On!* Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm. Random House Books  
for Young Readers.

*Half-Human Monsters and Other Fiends.* Ruth Owen. Bearport.

*Hit the Road, Helen!* Kate McMullan. Capstone.

*\*Hokey Pokey.* Jerry Spinelli. Knopf Books for Young Readers.

*It Can't Be True!* DK Publishing.

*Janitors: Curse of the Broomstaff.* Tyler Whitesides. Shadow  
Mountain.

*\*Lawless.* Jeffrey Salane. Scholastic.

*The Lost Boy.* Greg Ruth. GRAPHIX.

*Lost Cities.* Natalie Lunis. Bearport.

*The Meanest Birthday Girl.* Josh Schneider. Clarion.

*A Midsummer Night's Scream.* R.L. Stine. Feiwel & Friends.

*Midwinterblood.* Marcus Sedgwick. Roaring Brook.

*Mind Benders: Brain-Boggling Tricks, Puzzles, and Illusions.* DK  
Publishing.

*The Misadventures of the Magician's Dog.* Frances Sackett. Holiday  
House.

*The Mouse With the Question Mark Tail.* Richard Peck. Ill. Kelly  
Murphy. Dial.

*Mummy Lairs.* Michael Burgan. Bearport.

*National Geographic Kids Almanac 2014.* National Geographic  
Children's Books.

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Geographic Children's Books.

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*The School for Good and Evil.* Soman Chaina. Ill. Iacopo Bruno.  
HarperCollins.

*Smash: Trial by Fire.* Chris A. Bolton Ill. Kyle Bolton. Candlewick.

*A Tangle of Knots.* Lisa Graff. Philomel.

*Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made.* Stephan Pastis. Candlewick.

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



## More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2013–2014 IRA/CBC Children's Choices  
cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project  
members were Diana Porter (cochair) and Sherilyn Tucker  
(cochair). Team Leaders in the field test were

- Area 1—Terri Schmidt
- Area 2—Dr. Philip Tucker
- Area 3—Anita Hernadez
- Area 4—Nancy Baumann
- Area 5—Diana Porter

For more information on the CBC and IRA, or on how to  
become involved in the IRA/CBC Children's Choices  
project, visit [www.cbcbooks.org/childrens-choices/](http://www.cbcbooks.org/childrens-choices/) or  
[www.reading.org/resources/booklists/childrenschoices.aspx](http://www.reading.org/resources/booklists/childrenschoices.aspx).

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