



❖ Preschool - 1st Grade ❖

Best Books of 2020



Best Books lists from previous years may be obtained by request at the Youth Services desk.

**Additional formats available from other libraries and/or downloadable from OverDrive.*

Auxier, Jonathan – *The Fabled Stables: Willa the Wisp* +Auxier, Fiction; +Aux, CD-Audio Books

At the Fabled Stables, a magical building filled with one-of-a-kind creatures, it's Auggie's job to take care of the animals and rescue a new creature from danger.

Bailey, Linda – *Princesses Versus Dinosaurs* ++Bailey, Picture Books

Is this a princess book or a dinosaur book? Maybe it is a book for everyone!

Barnaby, Hannah Rodgers – *Monster and Boy* +Barnaby, Fiction

When Monster (who lives under the bed) meets Boy (who sleeps in the bed), the boy starts to scream--and Monster promptly swallows him. It's the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

Barnes, Derrick – *I Am Every Good Thing* ++Barnes, Picture Books

Illustrations and easy-to-read text pay homage to the strength, character, and worth of a child.

Bell, Cece – *Chick and Brain: Egg or Eyeball?* +Bell, Graphic Novels*

Oh, oh, oh! Look what Brain found. Chick and Spot say it is an egg. Brain says it is an eyeball. Is it an egg or an eyeball?

Ben-Barak, Idan – *There's a Skeleton Inside You!* ++Ben-Barak, Picture Books

A hilarious, interactive picture book that takes a look inside our bodies to show what humans are made of.

Bissonette, Aimée M. – *When Winter Comes: Discovering Wildlife in Our Snowy Woods* ++Bissonette, Picture Books

This story focuses on wildlife and the joy of being outdoors during winter.

Cabrera, Cozbi A. – *Me & Mama* ++Cabrera, Picture Books*

For a little girl on a rainy day, the best place to be is with Mama.

Castillo, Lauren – *Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us* +Castillo, Fiction

When a storm separates Hedgehog from her lifelong friend, Muttu, she bravely sets out to find him and makes some very good new friends in the process. For fans of Winnie the Pooh.

Clanton, Ben – *Rot, the Bravest in the World!* ++Clanton, Picture Books

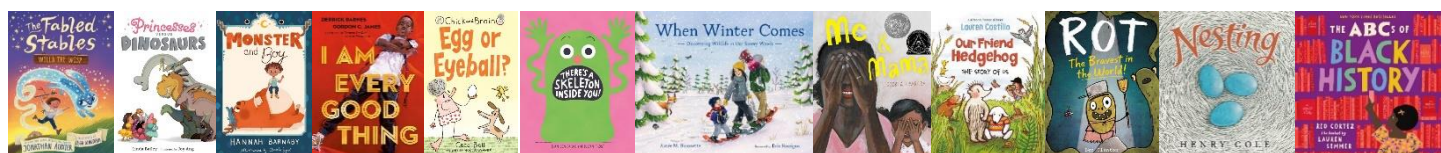
Rot the mutant potato must find a way to face his fear after his big brother, Snot, tells him there may be a dangerous Squirm in the magnificent mud pit he found.

Cole, Henry – *Nesting* ++Cole, Picture Books*

Two robins build a nest together and raise their chicks, navigating a year of changing seasons and serpentine predators.

Cortez, Rio – *The ABCs of Black History* ++Cortez, Picture Books*

A beautiful alphabet picture book that presents key names, moments, and places in Black history with text lyrically written by poet Rio Cortez.



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Cushman, Abi – *Soaked!*

A hula-hooping moose, a badger with a bumblebee umbrella, and a rabbit in a cashmere sweater show their grumpy bear friend that a day of fun does not have to depend on sunshine and blue skies.

++Cushman, Picture Books

Dahl, Sophie – *Madame Badobedah*

Who is Madame Badobedah? Mabel sets out to prove that an eccentric new hotel guest is really a supervillain.

++Dahl, Picture Books

Dairman, Tara – *Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy*

Two families flee extreme weather in India and come together on a mountaintop.

++Dairman, Picture Books

Drago, Flavia Z. – *Gustavo: The Shy Ghost*

A shy ghost pursues a secret love for playing the violin while trying to bond with monster friends who cannot see him.

++Drago, Picture Books; +Dra, Read-Alongs*

Fan, Terry – *The Barnabus Project*

In a world built for Perfect Pets, Barnabus is a Failed Project, half mouse, half elephant, kept out of sight until his dreams of freedom lead him and his misfit friends on a perilous adventure.

++Fan, Picture Books

Fang, Vicky – *Layla and the Bots: Happy Paws*

Layla and the Bots are in an awesome rock band! They also use problem-solving and creativity to build cool inventions.

++Fang, Early Readers

Ferry, Beth – *Swashby and the Sea*

No-nonsense Captain Swashby is used to the sea meeting all of his needs and when, after his retirement, new neighbors disturb his solitary life, the sea helps in just the right way.

++Ferry, Picture Books

Finison, Carrie – *Dozens of Doughnuts*

A generous bear makes batch after batch of doughnuts for her woodland friends without saving any for herself.

++Finison, Picture Books

Fleming, Candace – *Honeybee: The Busy Life of Apis Mellifera*

Take to the sky with Apis, one honeybee, as she embarks on her journey through life!

+595.799 Fle, Non-Fiction

Fogliano, Julie – *My Best Friend*

Two girls quickly become best friends even before they learn one another's names.

++Fogliano, Picture Books*

Fox, Jennifer – *Friday Night Wrestlefest*

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's Friday night, and these kids are ready to wrestle! Join Dangerous Daddoo as he dishes out some serious moves to get the kids ready for bed. But what happens when Flying Mom Bomb gets home from work?

++Fox, Picture Books

Gaiman, Neil – *Pirate Stew*

Pirate stew! Pirate stew! Pirate stew for me and you! Eat it and you won't be blue. You can be a pirate too!

++Gaiman, Picture Books

Gordon, Gus – *Finding François: A Story About the Healing Power of Friendship*

Alice sends a message in a bottle that travels the River Seine and lands with François, who helps her heal.

++Gordon, Picture Books

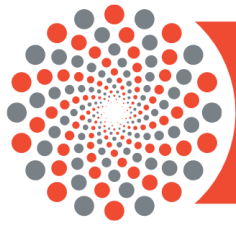


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Hatke, Ben – *Julia’s House Moves On*

++Hatke, Picture Books

Julia's house is restless. Julia and her family of lost creatures are ready to move on. But where will they go?

Higgins, Ryan T. – *What About Worms!?*

++Higgins, Early Readers

Tiger unwittingly helps some worms overcome their fear of tigers, but will a wormy hug aid a fearful Tiger?

Hische, Jessica – *Tomorrow I’ll Be Kind*

++Hische, Picture Books

An uplifting story that encourages kids to use the opportunities of a new day to spread compassion, hope, and positivity.

Hoang, Zara González – *A New Kind of Wild*

++Hoang, Picture Books

When Ren moves to Ava's city, he feels lost without the green and magic of his home, but not everything in the city is what meets the eye and Ren discovers that nothing makes you feel at home quite like a friend.

Hood, Morag – *Brenda is a Sheep*

++Hood, Picture Books

Brenda, a wolf, is preparing a great sheep feast, but the sheep have a different menu up their wooly sleeves.

John, Jory – *The Couch Potato*

++John, Picture Books*

The Couch Potato has everything he needs within reach of his sunken couch cushion. But when the electricity goes out, Couch Potato is forced to peel himself away from the comforts of his living room and venture outside.

Judge, Lita – *When You Need Wings*

++Judge, Picture Books

Illustrations and easy-to-read text advise the reader to seek self-confidence on the wings of imagination.

Karg, Michael – *I Am the Wind*

++Karg, Picture Books

Celebrate the world all around us through the unique perspective of the wind. Journey through the frozen forests and bayou bogs, wonder at the northern lights, and meet unique animals like wolverines and olinguitos along the way.

Kim, Anna – *Danbi Leads the School Parade*

++Kim, Picture Books

On Danbi’s first day at her new school in America, she learns to navigate her two cultures and her world opens up.

LaRochelle, David – *See the Cat: Three Stories About a Dog*

++LaRochelle, Early Readers

See Max. Max is not a cat, Max is a dog. But much to Max’s dismay, the book keeps instructing readers to see the cat.

Lê, Minh – *Lift*

++ Lê, Picture Books

The fantastic tale of a magical elevator that will lift your spirits--and press all the right buttons!

Levis, Caron – *This Way, Charlie*

++Levis, Picture Books

Jack, an introverted goat, and Charlie, a blind horse, meet at Open Bud Ranch, an animal rehabilitation center, and form an unlikely friendship that grows stronger in the face of adversity. Based on a real-life animal relationship.

Lindstrom, Carole – *We Are Water Protectors*

++Lindstrom, Picture Books

When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource. Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America.



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Litchfield, David – *Lights on Wonder Rock*

++Litchfield, Picture Books

E.T. meets The Giving Tree in this stunningly illustrated picture book about friendship, family, wonder, and magic that shows how, sometimes, the things we're searching for have been right in front of us all along.

Love, Jessica - *Julián at the Wedding*

++Love, Picture Books

Julián makes a new friend at a wedding. It's not long before they set off for some magic and mischief of their own, and when things take an unexpected turn, the pair learns that everything is easier with a good friend by your side.

Lovell, Patty – *Speak Up, Molly Lou Melon*

++Lovell, Picture Books

Molly Lou's mother encouraged her to speak up when something is wrong, for those who can't, and even when it's hard, and all of that comes into play when a bully picks on a new kid at school.

Lyons, Kelly Starling – *Ty's Travels: Zip, Zoom!*

++Lyons, Early Readers*

Ty loves his new scooter. When he has a hard time learning and wants to quit, a new friend encourages him to try again.

MacLachlan, Patricia – *Prairie Days*

++MacLachlan, Picture Books

In this nostalgic idyll set on the American prairie, a young girl describes summertime farm life as she and the other children ride horses, take a trip into town for penny candy, swim in a pond, and play kick-the-can until dark.

Manzano, Sonia – *A World Together*

+307 Man, Non-Fiction

Combines lyrical text with National Geographic photography of people around the world to celebrate our differences.

Maynor, Megan – *Helga Makes a Name for Herself*

++Maynor, Picture Books

A small but fierce Viking girl, along with her wolverine sidekick, is determined to become a warrior, just like her hero.

McAnulty, Stacy – *Ocean!: Waves for All*

+551.46 McA, Non-Fiction*

Ocean is incredible. Not part of any nation, his waves are for all. And under those waves, man, he holds so many secrets.

Medina, Meg – *Evelyn Del Rey is Moving Away*

++Medina, Picture Books*

Best friends Evelyn and Daniela do everything together, but Evelyn is moving away. They play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because their friendship will always be special.

Muller, Gerda – *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*

+398.2 Mul, Non-Fiction

When Goldilocks gets lost in the woods, she discovers a pretty house where everything comes in three sizes; big, medium and very little! A new and beautifully illustrated edition of a classic.

Naylor-Ballesteros, Chris – *The Suitcase*

++Naylor-Ballesteros, Picture Books

When a weary stranger arrives one day with nothing but a suitcase, his new neighbors ask nervous questions about who he is and where he comes from before they are challenged to trust the newcomer or take the risk of not believing him.

Neal, DeShanna – *My Rainbow*

++Neal, Picture Books

A dedicated mom puts love into action as she creates the perfect rainbow-colored wig for her transgender daughter, based on the real-life experience of mother-daughter advocate duo Trinity and DeShanna Neal.



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Neilson, Emily – *Can I Give You a Squish?*

++Neilson, Picture Books

A merboy loves to share hugs, but learns that some friends prefer fin bumps, tail claps, tentacle shakes, or claw pinches.

Newson, Karl – *A Bear is a Bear (Except When He's Not)*

++Newson, Picture Books

When Bear wakes up early from his hibernation, he can't remember what he is! Is he a bird? Or a moose? Maybe a fox? Just when it seems like Bear won't be able to figure it out, he finds his cave and decides another nap might help.

Pimm, Nancy Roe – *Fly, Girl, Fly!: Shaesta Waiz Soars Around the World*

+921 Wai, Non-Fiction

The story of how Shaesta Waiz became the youngest woman in history, and the first woman from Afghanistan, to fly around the world in a single-engine aircraft.

Pinkney, Jerry – *The Little Mermaid*

++Pinkney, Picture Books

In this reinvention of Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale, a little mermaid trades her voice for legs and makes a new friend on land, but must return to the sea to save her family.

Pizzoli, Greg – *Baloney and Friends*

+Pizzoli, Graphic Novels

Meet Baloney! He's a pig. This book is about him. And also Peanut, his best friend. There's Bizz, too, of course. And Krabbit. He'd rather not be here, but what can you do?

Rayner, Catherine – *Arlo: The Lion Who Couldn't Sleep*

++Rayner, Picture Books

Unable to get comfortable enough to fall asleep in spite of exhaustion, Arlo the lion gratefully follows the advice of a clever owl who shares helpful recommendations based in balance and mindfulness.

Rex, Adam – *Unstoppable!*

++Rex, Picture Books

When a bird and a crab team up to combine the advantages of flight and claws, it gives them an idea: why not expand the team to include other animals who have a special trait--and soon they all set out to rescue their lake.

Rex, Michael – *Facts Vs. Opinions Vs. Robots*

++Rex, Picture Books

Robots try to figure out the difference between facts and opinions.

Robinson, Christian – *You Matter*

++Robinson, Picture Books; ++Rob, Read-Alongs

Illustrations and easy-to-read text remind the reader that no matter what happens or how one feels, they matter.

Sima, Jessie – *Jules Vs. the Ocean*

++Sima, Picture Books*

Determined to build "the biggest, fanciest, most excellent sandcastle" to impress her sister, Jules is foiled by the ocean.

Song, Mika – *Donut Feed the Squirrels*

+Song, Graphic Novels

Belly and Norma are the best of squirrels . . . or so they think! After discovering donuts for the first time, they are determined to get some for themselves, even if they have to outsmart the food truck driver to do it!

Soosh – *Mermaid and Me*

++Soosh, Picture Books

A girl and a mermaid become best friends as they figure out how to enjoy their favorite things together, but when the shore becomes unsafe Mermaid must leave, promising to return.



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Tabor, Corey R. – *Snail Crossing*

++Tabor, Picture Books

Determined to make his way to a plump, crisp cabbage across the road, Snail risks speeding cars and hungry crows during a long and slow journey, before getting lost while helping a crew of ants escape a rainstorm.

Theule, Larissa – *A Way with Wild Things*

++Theule, Picture Books

Poppy loves bugs and is more comfortable outdoors than with people until a special bug lands on Grandma's cake.

Tsarfati, Einat – *Sandcastle*

++Tsarfati, Picture Books*

Building a grand sandcastle which attracts visiting royals from fairy-tale worlds, an imaginative young girl is dismayed by the constant sand that gets into everything, from the royal almond strudel and fig milk bath to the crocodile moat.

Underwood, Deborah – *Every Little Letter*

++Underwood, Picture Books

In a world where all the letters of the alphabet live in separate cities surrounded by walls, little h and small i's newfound friendship inspires all the divided communities to connect and form such words as courage, cooperate, and kindness.

Underwood, Deborah – *Outside In*

++Underwood, Picture Books

Reveals ways nature affects our everyday lives, such as providing food and clothing, and showing when to go to bed.

Wahl, Phoebe – *The Blue House*

++Wahl, Picture Books

Leo and his father are sad when their old house is torn down, but they find a way to make their new house a home.

Watkins, Rowboat – *Mabel*

++Watkins, Picture Books

A picture book about a mermaid named Mabel, who unlike the rest of her family, does not have a moustache, and the seven-armed octopus who becomes her friend and helps her see that she is just right the way she is.

Willan, Alex – *Unicorns are the Worst*

++Willan, Picture Books

A grumpy goblin hates having unicorns as neighbors, but when dragons threaten his home and the unicorns come to the rescue, he has to admit that maybe unicorns are not so bad after all.

Willems, Mo – *I Want to Sleep Under the Stars!*

++Willems, Early Readers

Squirrel pals get a bit overenthusiastic in their efforts to help Zoom Squirrel fulfill his dream of sleeping under the stars.

Winter, Jonah – *Welcome to Bobville: City of Bobs*

++Winter, Picture Books

In Bobville, everyone is named Bob and everything is exactly the same, until one day when one Bob decides to be Bruce.

Yolen, Jane – *I Am the Storm*

++Yolen, Picture Books

As the climate shifts, a family experiences weather emergencies, including a tornado, a blizzard, a forest fire, and a hurricane, finding joy in preparedness and resilience.

Young, Jessica – *Fairylight Friends: A Magic Spark*

++Young, Early Readers

Ruby, Iris, and Pip first met on their first day of fairy school, and they immediately became best friends, testing their wings, and enjoying their magical adventures--but sometimes it takes a little time for a fairy to find her true magic spark.



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