

❖ 4th & 5th Grade ❖

Best Books of 2017

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.*

***5 Giraffes* – Anne Innis Dagg**

+599.638 Dag

5 Giraffes profiles five unique giraffes from both captivity and the wild. Includes information on their diet, social life, and chapters on some of their more unique aspects.

***5 Worlds: The Sand Warrior (series)* – Mark Siegel**

+Siegel Graphic Novel

Five imperiled worlds will be rendered extinct unless five ancient and mysterious beacons can be lit in the wake of erupting wars, during which three unlikely heroes make surprising discoveries about their homes and themselves.

***Ahimsa* – Supriya Kelkar**

+Kelkar

Gandhi asks for one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when ten-year-old Anjali's mother is jailed for doing so, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

***All's Faire in Middle School* – Victoria Jamieson**

+Jamieson Graphic Novel

Homeschooled by Renaissance Fair enthusiasts, eleven-year-old Imogene has a hard time fitting in when her wish to enroll in public school is granted.

***Amina's Voice* – Hena Khan**

+Khan

A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community.

***Beyond the Bright Sea* – Lauren Wolk**

+Wolk; +CD-Audio Book Wol*

Set adrift on the ocean in a small skiff as a newborn, twelve-year-old Crow embarks on a quest to find the missing pieces of her history.

***The Big Bad Fox* – Benjamin Renner**

+Renner Graphic Novel

A not-too-tough fox in a henhouse comes away with more than he bargained for.

***The Book of Heroines: Tales of History's Gutsiest Gals* – Stephanie Warren Drimmer**

+920.72 Dri

Discover true stories of superstars, war heroes, world leaders, gusty gals, and everyday women who changed the world. From Sacagawea to Mother Teresa, Annie Oakley to Malala Yousafzai, these famous women hiked up their pants and petticoats and charged full-speed ahead to prove girls are just as tough as boys...maybe even tougher.

***Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* – Rita Williams-Garcia**

+Williams-Garcia

Feeling most alive when he's playing the blues with his grandfather, Clayton is devastated when his grandfather dies and his mother forbids him from playing music, losses that compel him to run away and join bluesmen on the road.

***Death and Douglas* – J. W. Ocker**

+Ocker

Generations of Douglas' family have run the Mortimer Family Funeral Home. One day an extraordinary murder victim is brought to the funeral home and others soon follow. Will Douglas solve the mystery before the serial killer strikes again?



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***Diego and the Rangers of the Vastlantic (series)* – Armand Baltazar**

+Baltazar

In a world where past, present, and future have collided, Diego and his friends must rescue Diego's father from an evil group of renegades, otherwise their whole existence is threatened.

***A Dog Like Daisy* – Kristin O'Donnell Tubb**

+Tubb

Given 10 weeks to prove her usefulness, a rescued pit bull trains to follow commands and tolerate a leash so that she can become an assistance animal to a military veteran struggling with PTSD.

***The First Rule of Punk* – Celia C. Pérez**

+ Pérez

12-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

***Flying Lessons & Other Stories* – various authors**

+Flying*

From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, this anthology, written by award-winning children's authors, celebrates the uniqueness and universality in all of us.

***Grand Canyon* – Jason Chin**

+557.9 Chi

An exploration of the Grand Canyon on a grand scale, as only Jason Chin can illustrate and explain.

***The Great Treehouse War* – Lisa Graff**

+Graff

Fifth-grader Winnie, with notes from her friends, writes of turning her treehouse into an embassy after her newly-divorced parents become unreasonable, where she is joined by nine others with complaints.

***Guys Read: Heroes & Villains* – various authors**

+Guys Read; +CD-Audio Book Guys Read

Presents a collection of humorous stories featuring an array of characters with and without capes.

***Lucky Broken Girl* – Ruth Behar**

+Behar*

In 1960s New York, fifth-grader Ruthie, a Cuban-Jewish immigrant, must rely on books, art, her family, and friends in her multicultural neighborhood when an accident puts her in a body cast.

***NewsPrints* – Ru Xu**

+Xu Graphic Novel

Blue is an orphan disguised as a newsboy. There's a war going on, and girls are expected to help the economy by selling cookies. Blue struggles with her secret, and worries that if her friends and adopted family find out, she'll lose everything.

***Nightlights* – Lorena Alvarez Gomez**

+Alvarez Graphic Novel

Every night, tiny stars appear out of the darkness in Sandy's bedroom. She catches them and creates wonderful creatures to play with, and in the morning brings them back to life in the whimsical drawings that cover her room.

***Orphan Island* – Laurel Snyder**

+Snyder; +CD-Audio Book Sny*

On an island where one child is delivered each year while the eldest is taken away, nine children live under the leadership of new elder Jinny, who trains the latest newcomer and wonders what will happen when her own departure occurs.



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***Pablo & Birdy* – Alison McGhee**

+McGhee

Pablo, nearly ten, has many questions about his origins and how he arrived at Isla as a baby, but finding the answers may mean losing his lifetime companion, Birdy the parrot.

***The Player King* – Avi**

+Avi*

In 1486 England, a penniless kitchen boy named Lambert Simnel is told by a mysterious friar that he, Lambert, is actually Prince Edward, the true King of England, setting him on a dangerous course to regain the throne. Based on a true story.

***Prisoner of Ice and Snow* – Ruth Lauren**

+Lauren

When 13-year-old Valor is arrested, she could not be happier. Demidova's prison for criminal children is exactly where she wants to be. Valor's sister Sasha is already serving a life sentence for stealing from the royal family, and Valor is going to help her escape . . . from the inside.

***Race to the Bottom of the Sea* – Lindsay Eagar**

+Eagar

Fidelia is still mourning the death of her marine scientist parents when she is kidnapped by pirate Merrick the Monstrous. Fidelia, a shark enthusiast and brilliant inventor, must complete her underwater breathing device, the Water-Eater, or die retrieving Merrick's treasure from deep in the sea.

***Real Friends* – Shannon Hale**

+Hale Graphic Novel*

Shannon and Adrienne have been best friends ever since they were little. But one day, Adrienne starts hanging out with Jen, the most popular girl in class and the leader of a circle of friends called The Group. Everyone in The Group wants to be Jen's #1, and some girls would do anything to stay on top ... even if it means bullying others. Now every day is like a roller coaster for Shannon. Is she in The Group -- or out?

***Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library* – Carole Boston Weatherford**

+921 Sch

In graceful free verse, Weatherford delivers a remarkable tribute to Arturo Schomburg, the Afro-Puerto Rican historian, collector, and activist who unearthed the hidden history and achievements of "Africa's sons and daughters."

***The Secret of Nightingale Wood* – Lucy Strange**

+Strange; +CD-Audio Book Str

1919. Mama is ill. Father has taken a job abroad. All alone, with only stories for company, Henrietta discovers that Hope House is full of secrets: a forgotten attic, ghostly figures, mysterious firelight that flickers in the trees beyond the garden. One night she ventures into the darkness of Nightingale Wood. What she finds there will change her whole world.

***See You in the Cosmos* – Jack Cheng**

+Cheng*

Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space.

***Siren Sisters* – Dana Langer**

+Langer

Lolly Salt's three sisters are sirens--young women who lure ships to their doom--and as Lolly's 13th birthday approaches she's about to become one too. But when it becomes clear that someone in town knows the Salt girls secret, Lolly sets out to learn how this happened to her family and if she can prevent it.

***Smithsonian Children's Illustrated Animal Atlas* – Jamie Ambrose**

+590 Amb

An around-the-globe tour of animal habitats and locations provides information about more than six hundred creatures, from whales to termites.

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***Snow & Rose* – Emily Winfield Martin**

+Martin; +CD-Audio Book Mar*

A reimagining of the classic fairy tale features two sisters whose life of privilege gives way after their father's disappearance and their mother's descent into sorrow before they embark on a magical adventure in an enchanted wood to break a set of terrible spells.

***Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees* – Mary Beth Leatherdale**

+325.25 Lea

This slim book opens with a staggering statistic: "Sixty million of the world's seven billion people . . . have been forced to leave their homes because of war, persecution, or natural disasters." Five refugee teens are profiled here.

***Survivors: Extraordinary Tales from the World and Beyond* – David Long**

+613.6 Lon

A collection of survival tales includes the story of a teenager who fell two miles from an airplane and trekked through the Amazon jungle to safety and a woman who was trapped under freezing water for so long that her heart stopped.

***Take Your Pick of Disgusting Foods* – G. G. Lake**

+641.3 Lak

Describes pairs of foods that are eaten in different parts of the world, but that most readers in the United States would find distasteful, and asks readers which one they would prefer to try.

***The Tea Dragon Society* – Katie O'Neill**

+O'Neill Graphic Novel

After discovering a lost Tea Dragon in the marketplace, apprentice blacksmith Greta learns about the dying art form of Tea Dragon caretaking from the kind tea shop owners.

***This is How We Do it: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World* – Matt Lamothe**

+305.23 Lam

Follows the daily lives of seven children from around the world, including such places as Japan, India, Uganda, and Italy, and discusses how schools, meals, and play can be different or similar in different places in the world.

***Tumble & Blue* – Cassie Beasley**

+Beasley; +CD-Audio Book Bea*

In order for Tumble Wilson and Blue Montgomery to fix their ancestors' mistakes and banish the bad luck that has followed them around for all of their lives, they must face Munch, the mysterious golden alligator who cast the curse centuries ago.

***The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* – Karina Yan Glaser**

+Glaser

Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages four to twelve, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.

***Wishtree* – Katherine Applegate**

+Applegate; +Digital Audio Player App*

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk.

***The Wizards of Once* – Cressida Cowell**

+Cowell*

Young wizard Prince Xar, who has no magic, and Warrior Princess Wish, an outcast, team up on an adventure that brings them to witches long believed to be extinct.

