

Grades K-2

***Snail and Worm Again* by Tina Kugler**

The dynamic duo are back for more fun and giggles in three new comic shorts brimming with quirky humor and unflappable friendship. At turns clever and sweet, these laugh-out-loud stories are perfect for readers coming out of their own shells and making the transition between picture books and chapter books. (beginning chapter book)

***Chicken in Mittens* by Adam Lehrhaupt**

When you have a pair of warm mittens and a great imagination, a snowy day is an invitation to explore and have fun. So Zoey the daring chicken and Sam the loyal pig are headed to the North Pole! This book is perfect for children learning to sound out words and sentences. (beginning reader)

***There's a Giraffe in My Soup* by Ross Burach**

What if you found a giraffe in your soup, an alligator in your entrée, an elephant on the table, or even an ostrich in your dish? In this book, an assortment of hairy, scary animals pop out from under the lid at a restaurant! (picture book)

***Can I Be Your Dog?* by Troy Cummings**

This picture book shares the tale of Arfy, a homeless mutt who lives in a box in an alley. Arfy writes to every person on Butternut Street about what a great pet he'd make. But no one wants him. Won't anyone open their heart--and home--to a lonesome dog? Readers will be happily surprised to learn just who steps up to adopt Arfy. (picture book)

***Frog on a Log?* by Kes Gray**

The frog does not want to sit on a log. Doing his best to find an alternative place to sit, the frog asks the cat a litany of questions. For every answer the cat has, the frog has another question--until the frog finds out what dogs sit on! (picture book)

***The Water Princess* by Susan Verde**

With its wide sky and warm earth, Princess Gie Gie's kingdom is a beautiful land. But clean drinking water is scarce in her small African village. And try as she might, Gie Gie cannot bring the water closer; she cannot make it run clearer. This book is inspired by the actual childhood of Georgie Badiel in Burkina Faso. It sheds light on this struggle that continues all over the world today, instilling hope for a future when all children will have access to clean drinking water. (picture book)

***Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy**

What good can a splash of color do in a community of gray? As Mira and her neighbors discover, more than you might ever imagine! Based on the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California, *Maybe Something Beautiful* reveals how art can inspire transformation—and how even the smallest artists can accomplish something big. Pick up a paintbrush and join the celebration! (picture book)

Grades 2-4

***If I Built a House* by Chris Van Dusen**

Jack is ready to build the house of his dreams, complete with a racetrack, flying room, and gigantic slide. Jack's limitless creativity and infectious enthusiasm will inspire budding young inventors to imagine their own fantastical designs. (picture book)

***Hello, Lighthouse* by Sophie Blackall**

Watch the days and seasons pass as the wind blows, the fog rolls in, and icebergs drift by. Outside, there is water all around. Inside, the daily life of a lighthouse keeper and his family unfolds as the keeper boils water for tea, lights the lamp's wick, and writes every detail in his logbook. (picture book)

***Binky the Space Cat* by Ashley Spires**

Binky is a space cat - at least in his own mind. He's really a house cat who has never left the family "space station." Unlike other house cats, Binky has a mission: to blast off into outer space (outside), explore unknown places (the backyard) and battle aliens (bugs). Binky must undergo rigorous training so he can repel the alien attacks that threaten his humans. As he builds his spaceship, he must be extremely careful with his blueprints—the enemy is always watching. (graphic novel)

***Wolfie & Fly* by Cary Fagan**

Renata Wolfman (Wolfie) does everything by herself. Friends just get in the way, and she only has time for facts and reading. But friendship finds her in the form of Livingston Flott (Fly), the slightly weird and wordy boy from next door. Before she knows it, Wolfie is motoring through deep water with Fly as her second in command in a submarine made from a cardboard box. (simple chapter book)

***Creature of the Pines* by Adam Gidwitz**

Elliot Eisner isn't exactly thrilled with the first day at his new school. His class is going on a field trip to a creepy forest called the Pine Barrens. The trip is being led by Professor Fauna, the weirdest teacher Elliot has ever met. And the only kid who will talk to Elliot, Uchenna Devereaux, isn't afraid of danger. She *likes* danger. Elliot and Uchenna are about to become part of a secret group of adventurers, The Unicorn Rescue Society, whose goal is to protect and defend the world's mythical creatures. Together with Professor Fauna, Elliot and Uchenna must help rescue a Jersey Devil from a duo of conniving, greedy billionaires, the Schmoke Brothers. (fantasy novel)

Grades 3-6

***Alexander Graham Bell Answers the Call* by Mary Ann Fraser**

Naturally inquisitive and inclined to test his knowledge, young Alexander Graham Bell was the perfect person to grow up in the Age of Invention. As a kid he toyed with sound vibrations and began a life of inventing. This in-depth look at the life and inspiration of the brilliant man who invented the telephone is sure to fire up the imaginations of young readers who question why and how things work. (NF biography picture book)

***The Big Bad Fox* by Benjamin Renner**

Who's afraid of the Big Bad Fox? No one, it seems. The fox dreams of being the terror of the barnyard. But no one is intimidated by him, least of all the hens—when he picks a fight with one, he always ends up on the losing end. Even the wolf, the most fearsome beast of the forest, can't teach him how to be a proper predator. It looks like the fox will have to spend the rest of his life eating turnips. But then the wolf comes up with the perfect scheme. If the fox steals some eggs, he could hatch the chicks himself and raise them to be a plump, juicy chicken dinner. Unfortunately, this plan falls apart when three adorable chicks hatch and call the fox Mommy. (graphic novel)

***Wedgie and Gizmo* by Suzanne Selfors**

Wedgie is a bouncy, barky dog who is so excited, he can't stop barking. He LOVES treats! He LOVES having new siblings! He LOVES his new friend Gizmo the guinea pig! But Gizmo is an evil genius who wants to take over the world and make all humans feel his wrath. He does NOT want to share his loyal human servant with a rump-sniffing beast! He does NOT want to live in a pink Barbie Playhouse. And he definitely does NOT want to be kissed and hugged by the girl human. Gizmo must complete his mission to take over the world and destroy his archenemy, Wedgie, once and for all! (novel)

***Finding Gobi* by Dion Leonard**

This is the incredible true story of Dion Leonard, who was befriended by a stray dog while running an ultramarathon in China. The dog became Dion's closest companion for 77 miles of the 155-mile race. The scrappy little pup ran mile after mile alongside Dion, through treacherous conditions and across raging rivers. He let her sleep in his tent and share his food, and eventually, his focus shifted from winning to the newfound friendship he and Gobi shared. Dion decided to bring Gobi home to Scotland, but just before they were about to leave, Gobi disappeared. In a town of more than 3 million people, the search seemed hopeless, but this tale of friendship will surprise and delight you as you find out what happens! (narrative nonfiction)

***I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups* by Chris Harris**

This hilarious collection of poems molds wit and wordplay, nonsense and oxymoron, and visual and verbal sleight-of-hand in masterful ways that make you look at the world in a whole new wonderfully upside-down way. This book offers a surprise around every corner, from the ongoing rivalry between the author and illustrator, to the mysteriously misnumbered pages that can only be deciphered by a certain code-cracking poem, to the rhyming fact-checker in the footnotes who points out when "poetic license" gets out of hand. Adding to the fun: Lane Smith, bestselling creator of beloved hits like *It's a Book* and *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, has spectacularly illustrated this extraordinary collection with nearly one hundred pieces of appropriately absurd art. It's a mischievous match made in heaven! (poetry)

***Catching a Storyfish* by Janice N. Harrington**

For Keet, the only good thing about moving away from her Alabama home is that she'll live near her beloved grandfather. When Keet starts school, the kids tease her about her southern accent, and suddenly Keet, who can "talk the whiskers off a catfish," doesn't want to open her mouth. Slowly, though, while fishing with her grandfather, she learns the art of listening. Gradually, she makes her first new friend. But just as she's beginning to settle in, her grandfather has a stroke. Even though he's still nearby, he suddenly feels ever-so-far-away. Keet is determined to reel him back to her by telling him stories, and in the process, she finds her voice and her grandfather again. This lyrical and deeply emotional book celebrates the power of story and of finding one's individual voice. (realistic novel-in-verse)

Grades 5-8

***Finding Vera* by Patricia Polacco**

In 1962, a seaman named Dave Bunch was mopping the floor when he found a stray dog under a pile of boxes in a Coast Guard warehouse. It was love at first sight. At first the men decided to hide the pup from the Commander, thinking she wouldn't be allowed. But soon enough all of the men in the barracks—including the Commander—fell hard for the little dog. Then one day when high waves challenged another vessel at sea, it was Vera's fierce determination and natural swimming ability that brought the life preserver and safety line to the sinking boat. Vera became a hero and the beloved pet and mascot of the San Francisco Coast Guard. (non-fiction picture book)

***Mighty Jack* by Ben Hatke**

Jack might be the only kid in the world who's dreading summer. But he's got a good reason: summer is when his single mom takes a second job and leaves him at home to watch his autistic kid sister, Maddy. It's a lot of responsibility, and it's boring, too, because Maddy doesn't talk. Ever. But then, one day at the flea market, Maddy does talk—to tell Jack to trade their mom's car for a box of mysterious seeds. It's the best mistake Jack has ever made. He plants the seeds, and what starts as a normal little garden out back behind the house quickly grows up into a wild, magical jungle with tiny onion babies running amok, huge, pink pumpkins that bite, and, on one moonlit night that changes everything...a dragon. (fantasy graphic novel)

***Shaking Things Up* by Susan Hood**

This is a poetic and visual celebration of persistent women throughout history. You will meet Mary Anning, who was just thirteen when she unearthed a prehistoric fossil. You'll meet Ruby Bridges, the brave six year old who helped end segregation in the South. And Maya Lin, who at twenty-one won a competition to create a war memorial, and then had to appear before Congress to defend her right to create. And those are just a few of the young women included in this book. The book includes artwork by a variety of current notable artists. (poetry biographical picture book)

***Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan**

Amina is a Pakistani-American Muslim girl who struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. She has never been comfortable in the spotlight. Mostly she just likes hanging out with her best friend, Soojin, except now that she's in middle school, everything feels different. Soojin is suddenly hanging out with Emily, one of the "cool" girls in the class, and even talking about changing her name to something more "American." Does Amina need to start changing too? Or hiding who she is to fit in? While Amina grapples with these questions, she is devastated when her local mosque is vandalized. This book highlights the many ways in which one girl's voice can help bring a diverse community together to love and support each other. (realistic fiction)

***Restart* by Gordon Korman**

Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't, in fact, remember *anything*. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again, starting with his own name. He knows he's Chase. But who *is* Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was...and who he's going to be. (realistic fiction)

***The Van Gogh Deception* by Deron R. Hicks**

Dan Brown meets Jason Bourne in this riveting middle-grade mystery thriller. When a young boy is discovered in Washington DC's National Gallery without any recollection of who he is, so begins a high-stakes race to unravel the greatest mystery of all: his identity. As the stakes continue to rise, the boy must piece together the disjointed clues of his origins while using his limited knowledge to stop one of the greatest art

frauds ever attempted. Digitally interactive, this breathtaking museum mystery offers QR codes woven throughout the book that bring renowned paintings to readers' fingertips. (mystery/suspense)

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz**

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world...

ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America...

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe...

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end. This action-packed novel tackles topics both timely and timeless: courage, survival, and the quest for home. (historical/realistic fiction)

Middle School

NOTE: This section is supplemental to the main reading list and will only be made available to the students in grades 7 and 8.

***The Word Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds**

Jerome discovers the magic of the words all around him -- short and sweet words, two-syllable treats, and multisyllable words that sound like little songs. Words that connect, transform, and empower. From the creator of *The Dot* and *Happy Dreamer* comes a celebration of finding your own words -- and the impact you can have when you share them with the world. (picture book)

***The Nameless City* by Faith Erin Hicks**

Every nation that invades the City gives it a new name. But before long, new invaders arrive and the City changes hands once again. The natives don't let themselves get caught up in the unending wars. To them, their home is the Nameless City, and those who try to name it are forever outsiders. Kaidu is one such outsider. He's a Dao born and bred--a member of the latest occupying nation. Rat is a native of the Nameless City. At first, she hates Kai for everything he stands for, but his love of his new home may be the one thing that can bring these two unlikely friends together. Let's hope so, because the fate of the Nameless City rests in their hands. (fantasy graphic novel)

***Lost in the Amazon* by Tod Olson**

Peru, Christmas Eve, 1970. It was supposed to be a routine flight, carrying 86 passengers across the Andes Mountains and home for the holiday. But high above the Amazon rainforest, a roiling storm engulfs the plane. Lightning strikes. A deafening whoosh sweeps through the cabin. And suddenly, 17-year-old Juliane Koepcke is alone. The plane has vanished. She is strapped to her seat and plunging 3,500 feet to the forest floor.

On Christmas Day, she wakes. She is injured, covered in mud, but strangely--miraculously--alive. And now, in a remote corner of the largest rainforest on Earth, the real battle for survival begins. (narrative nonfiction)

***Last Day on Mars* by Kevin Emerson**

It is Earth year 2213—but, of course, there is no Earth anymore. Not since it was burned to a cinder by the sun, which has mysteriously begun the process of going supernova. The human race has fled to Mars, but this was only a temporary solution while we have prepared for a second trip: a one-hundred-fifty-year journey to a distant star, our best guess at where we might find a new home. Liam Saunders-Chang is one of the last humans left on Mars. The son of two scientists who have been racing against time to create technology vital to humanity's survival, Liam, along with his friend Phoebe, will be on the last starliner to depart before Mars, like Earth before it, is destroyed. Or so he thinks. Because before this day is over, Liam and Phoebe will make a series of profound discoveries about the nature of time and space and find out that the human race is just one of many in our universe locked in a dangerous struggle for survival. (science fiction novel)

***Greetings from Witness Protection!* by Jake Burt**

The marshals are looking for the perfect girl to join a mother, father, and son on the run from the nation's most notorious criminals. After all, the bad guys are searching for a family with one kid, not two, and adding a streetwise girl who knows a little something about hiding things may be just what the marshals need. Nicki swears she can keep the Trevor family safe, but to do so she'll have to dodge hitmen, cyberbullies, and the specter of standardized testing, all while maintaining her marshal-mandated B-minus average. As she barely balances the responsibilities of her new identity, Nicki learns that the biggest threats to her family's security might not lurk on the road from New York to North Carolina, but rather in her own past. (suspense/action novel)

***Not if I Save You First* by Ally Carter**

Maddie thought she and Logan would be friends forever. But when your dad is a Secret Service agent and your best friend is the president's son, sometimes life has other plans. Before she knows it, Maddie's dad is dragging her to a cabin in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness. No phone. No Internet. And not a single word

from Logan. Maddie tells herself it's okay. After all, she's the most popular girl for twenty miles in any direction. (She's also the only girl for twenty miles in any direction.) She has wood to cut and weapons to bedazzle. Her life is full. Until Logan shows up six years later . . . And Maddie wants to kill him. But before that can happen, an assailant appears out of nowhere, knocking Maddie off a cliff and dragging Logan to some unknown fate. Maddie knows she could turn back- and get help. But the weather is turning and the terrain will only get more treacherous, the animals more deadly. Maddie still really wants to kill Logan. But she has to save him first. (mystery/suspense/survival novel)