

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6)

31 Ways to Change the World

We Are What We Do. Candlewick.

The premise of this book is that everyone can do their part by taking positive action toward conserving energy, recycling, helping others, helping the environment, and educating themselves on issues. This book serves as a great starting place for raising students' awareness toward making a positive difference in their world.

****Big Nate: In a Class by Himself***

Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins.

Similar in form and style to Diary of a Wimpy Kid books, the Big Nate series features a confident middle school student who finds himself in trouble over and over again. This installment is a funny, witty read.

The Billionaire's Curse

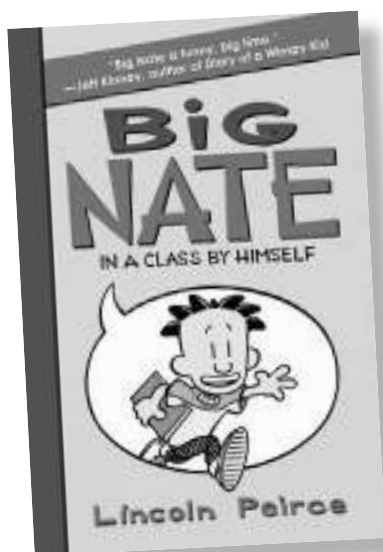
Richard Newsome. Ill. Johnny Duddle. Walden Pond.

When 13-year-old Gerald Wilkins inherits his great-aunt's fortune, he receives a letter from her saying that she was murdered. He must uncover her secrets before the killer does, or he may be the next victim.

Blindsided

Priscilla Cummings. Dutton Juvenile.

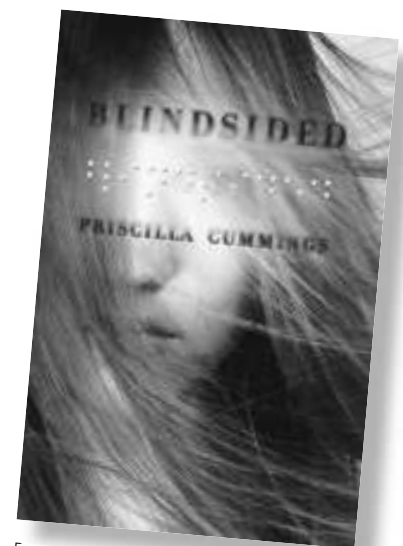
Fourteen-year-old Natalie faces many hurdles as she deals with the fact that she is going blind. The book raises awareness about a population that is often overlooked. Students can relate to Natalie's situations and will be inspired by her courage.



From *Big Nate: In a Class by Himself* by Lincoln Peirce. HarperCollins.



From *The Billionaire's Curse* by Richard Newsome. Ill. Johnny Duddle. Walden Pond.



From *Blindsided* by Priscilla Cummings. Dutton Juvenile.

Calamity Jack

Shannon and Dean Hale. Ill. Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children's.

In this graphic novel, Jack has adventures from the Wild West to the big city. He defeats the ant people, who are holding his mother hostage, and gets even with the giant from his past.

Chemistry: Getting a Big Reaction!

Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher. Kingfisher.

For easy-to-read and precise notes on chemistry, this book is a must. Simon Basher has created a format that makes chemistry fun and interesting. Whether you are a teacher or a student, this quick reference to chemistry lingo works well in any science lab, classroom, or home.

Dark Labyrinths

Michael Goodman. Bearport.

Eleven labyrinths from around the world are described using photographs and text, including the tomb of Shi Huang in Xi'an, China, the Wieliczka salt mine in Poland, and the London Underground. This book in the Scary Places series presents the stories behind the labyrinths.

The Dreamer

Pam Muñoz Ryan. Ill. Peter Sís. Scholastic.

The Dreamer is a fictional story based on the childhood of the poet Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Peace prize winner. Just like the real Neruda, the main character in the story spends his days dreaming of the world.

Explorers: Dinosaurs

Dougal Dixon. Ill. Peter Bull. Kingfisher.

Illustrations captivate the reader along with unusual dinosaur facts and timelines. Readers will be eager to continue their discovery of these creatures using the websites found in this volume.

Ghostopolis

Doug TenNapel. Graphix.

Garth, a terminally ill boy, is accidentally pulled into the ghost world without having died. In this bizarre environment, he meets good and bad characters—including his grandfather—until the mistake can be corrected and Garth can return to his own world.

The Grimm Legacy

Polly Shulman. Putnam.

Elizabeth gets a job at a library that houses the magical Grimm collection. When objects from the library's collection start to disappear, Elizabeth and her coworkers must solve the crime. Magic combs, boots, and carpets alight in this fantasy novel.



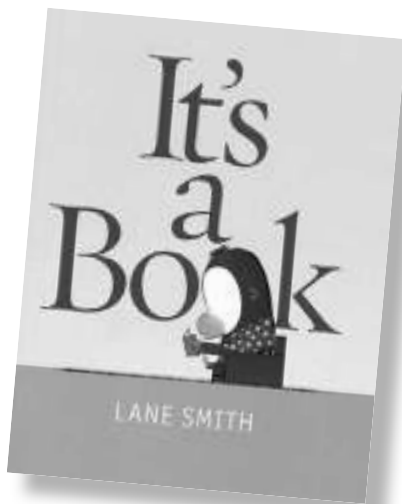
From *Calamity Jack* by Shannon and Dean Hale. Ill. Nathan Hale. Bloomsbury USA Children's.



From *Ghostopolis* by Doug TenNapel. Graphix.



From *The Grimm Legacy* by Polly Shulman. Putnam.



From *It's a Book* by Lane Smith. Roaring Brook.



From *The Line* by Teri Hall. Dial.



From *Love Puppies and Corner Kicks* by R.W. Krech. Dutton.

How I, Nicky Flynn, Finally Get a Life (and a Dog)

Art Corriveau. Amulet.

Nicky Flynn begins a new school in a new city because his parents are getting divorced. Then Reggie, an animal shelter former seeing-eye dog, comes into Nicky's life. Nicky and Reggie run away to freedom.

I Dreamed of Flying Like a Bird: My Adventures Photographing Wild Animals From a Helicopter

Robert B. Haas. National Geographic.

The amazing photos in this book take readers on a wildlife safari from the air. The narration describes the action at the moment of the photo shoot, along with thoughtful anecdotes about the animals and their place in the ecosystem. This unique book, or any of Robert B. Haas's other animal photograph books or articles, provides useful information for animal study at many different levels.

****It's a Book***

Lane Smith. Roaring Brook.

Monkey introduces the concept of a book to a tech-savvy donkey who simply can't fathom the idea. He asks, Does it tweet? blog? text? WiFi? and more. A video trailer for *It's a Book* can be viewed on Amazon.com.

Kid vs. Squid

Greg van Eekhout. Bloomsbury.

A wild adventure set in a museum of curiosities. When Thatcher meets a mysterious girl, he discovers she is from Atlantis and caught in a curse. With Thatcher's help, the two kids attempt to undue the witch's curse.

The Line

Teri Hall. Dial.

In this futuristic novel, Rachel lives on the line that divides her country from the people who live in atomic wasteland Away. Her answer to a call for help sets off a chain of events that unravels dark secrets.

Love Puppies and Corner Kicks

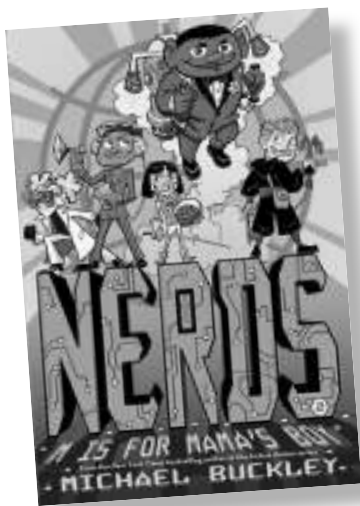
R.W. Krech. Dutton.

Andrea's passion is soccer, words, her two best friends, and her life. But a family move to Scotland upends her world. Ridiculed for stuttering, she must perform in the classroom and on the soccer field to impress her new classmates.

Lynn Visible

Julia DeVillers. Dutton.

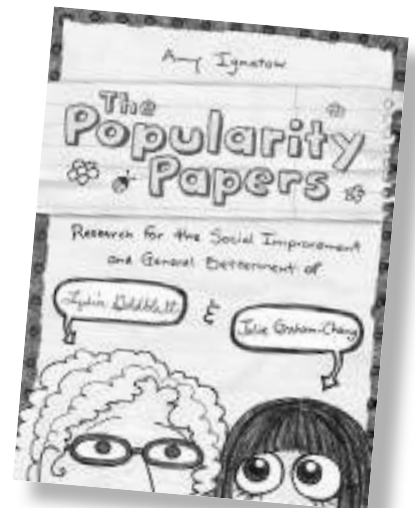
Lynn is a creative high school girl who creates her own fashions. She is often teased until her fashions become a designer hit. Readers will enjoy the fast pace of the inspirational story and relate to the high school stereotypes.



From *NERDS Book Two: M Is for Mama's Boy* by Michael Buckley. Amulet.



From *Other Goose: Re-Nurseried!! and Re-rhymed!! Children's Classics* by J. Otto Seibold. Chronicle.



From *The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang* by Amy Ignatow. Amulet.

Micro Monsters: Extreme Encounters With Invisible Armies

Kingfisher.

This lift-the-flap book introduces 20 microorganisms including the fly, head louse, influenza virus, red blood cells, mosquito, and red spider mites. An attention-grabber for students who love nonfiction!

NERDS Book Two: M Is for Mama's Boy Michael Buckley. Amulet.

This is the book comic fans fantasize about when they are supposed to be paying attention in school or doing homework. Nerd kids become super heroes triumphing over evil in a humorous and life-threatening take-over-the-world adventure.

Other Goose: Re-Nurseried!! and Re-Rhymed!! Children's Classics

J. Otto Seibold. Chronicle.

The introduction states that J. Otto Seibold modernized old rhymes, and that rhymes are important "because they stick in your head." Humpty Dumpty wears platform shoes, Jack Splat paints abstract, and Mary had a singing lamb in these fractured nursery rhymes.

Planet Earth: What Planet Are You On?

Dan Green. Created and Ill. Simon Basher. Kingfisher.

With colorful illustrations, cartoon characters and fun categories such as "The Insiders" give detailed

facts about the earth's geological composite. The witty dialogue engages students with analogies and language about scientific terms children can relate to and remember.

The Popularity Papers: Research for the Social Improvement and General Betterment of Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang

Amy Ignatow. Amulet.

Totally uncool fifth graders Lydia and Julie observe, record, and copy behaviors of the "cool" girls in their school as preparation for junior high. Lydia lives with her single mom and "pseudo-goth" sister, and Julie lives with her two dads.

****The Red Pyramid***

Rick Riordan. Disney-Hyperion.

Sadie and her brother Carter accompany their dad to the British Museum. Dad destroys the Rosetta Stone and disappears. Landing in a world of Egyptian gods, the kids learn to read hieroglyphics and find out that their task is to save humanity.

****Smile***

Raina Telgemeier. Graphix.

Smile is about a middle school girl who knocks out her teeth in a random accident. Children learn about this character dealing with dental surgeries, puberty, crushes, and family. Students love the unique full-color images and comic structure.

The Sons of Liberty

Alexander and Joseph Lagos. Ill. Steve Walker and Oren Kramek. Random House.

This graphic novel portrays history in a whole new light. The two main characters are runaway slaves who obtain superpowers from an experiment gone bad by Benjamin Franklin's son. Their adventures during the American Revolution era are exciting, fast moving, and so suspenseful that you want to keep reading.

The Strange Case of Origami Yoda

Tom Angleberger. Amulet.

If you enjoyed *Star Wars* and reading the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, you will find this story of the zany antics of middle school-aged students hilarious!

Super Human

Michael Carroll. Puffin.

A blend of ancient and modern tales comes together in this adventure. A group of boys and girls with extraordinary abilities must stop a 5,000-year-old immortal from ruling the world. Action-packed.

Tower of Treasure

Scott Chantler. Kids Can Press.

A graphic novel with a medieval-like setting and the addition of mystical creatures. Young Dessa joins a

circus act as a tightrope walker and the hidden agenda of robbing the royal treasury. Amazing graphics and intriguing story.

Turtle in Paradise

Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.

Set in 1936, 11-year-old Turtle moves to Key West Florida and discovers ways to come out of her shell and face the world. An amazing look into the 1930s, with exceptional dialogue.

Versus: Pirates

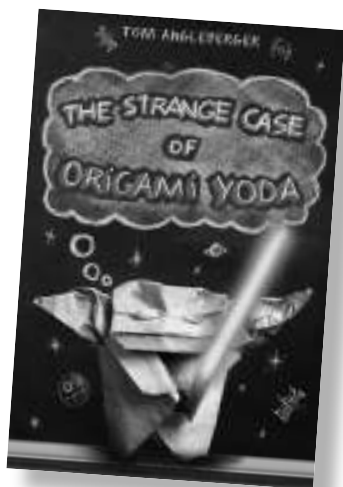
Richard Platt. Ill. Steve Stone. Kingfisher.

Each page contains historical information about pirates, such as country origins, clothes, and time periods. Children will see pictures of pirate clothes, treasure, and ocean maps while reading interesting pirate facts.

The Wimpy Kid Movie Diary: How Greg Heffley Went Hollywood

Jeff Kinney. Amulet.

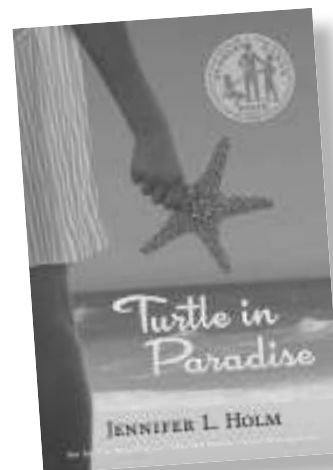
This book documents how movies are made, from creating the storyboard to actually producing the film. Using real sketches from the book and scenes from movies, it allows the reader to become the producer.



From *The Strange Case of Origami Yoda* by Tom Angleberger. Amulet.



From *Super Human* by Michael Carroll. Puffin.



From *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.

X-treme X-ray

Nick Veasey. Scholastic.

Children will be fascinated with real photographs of what objects look like under an x-ray. Objects x-rayed include animals, food, buildings, and humans. This nonfiction book gives detailed facts of the x-ray process and the object on each page.

Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker: Girl vs. Superstar

Robin Palmer. Puffin.

Lucy is an “average” girl just trying to make it through the sixth grade. She has been dumped by her BFF, and her mom is marrying the father of a TV superstar. Can things get any worse?

*Zebrafish

Peter H. Reynolds and FableVision. Atheneum.

Vita forms a new band, but is disappointed with the talent. She learns one member has leukemia and rallies the band to raise money for the hospital. This graphic novel raises awareness of a search for a cure to cancer.

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



Children’s Choices 2011 Reading List

Beginning Readers (Grades K–2)

- A Balloon for Isabel.** Deborah Underwood. Ill. Laura Rankin. Greenwillow.
- Banana!** Ed Vere. Henry Holt.
- Born Yesterday: The Diary of a Young Journalist.** James Solheim. Ill. Simon James. Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.
- City Dog, Country Frog.** Mo Willems. Ill. Jon J Muth. Hyperion.
- Daddy’s Little Scout.** Janet Bingham. Ill. Rosalind Beardshaw. Cartwheel.
- Dogs Don’t Do Ballet.** Anna Kemp. Ill. Sara Ogilvie. Simon & Schuster Children’s.
- *Even Monsters Need Haircuts.** Matthew McElligott. Walker Books for Young Readers.
- Frankie Stein Starts School.** Lola M. Schaefer. Ill. Kevan Atteberry. Marshall Cavendish.
- Furious George Goes Bananas: A Primate Parody.** Michael Rex. G.P. Putnam Juvenile.
- Hattie the Bad.** Jane Devlin. Ill. Joe Berger. Dial.
- *Hot Rod Hamster.** Cynthia Lord. Ill. Derek Anderson. Scholastic.
- *How Rocket Learned to Read.** Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.
- If You’re a Monster and You Know It.** Rebecca Emberley and Ed Emberley. Orchard.
- Is Your Buffalo Ready for Kindergarten?** Audrey Vernick. Ill. Daniel Jennewein. Balzer & Bray.
- Let’s Save the Animals.** Frances Barry. Candlewick.
- *Little Pink Pup.** Johanna Kerby. Putnam Juvenile.
- Memoirs of a Goldfish.** Devin Scillian. Ill. Tim Bowers. Sleeping Bear.
- Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don’t).** Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.
- Mr. President Goes to School.** Rick Walton. Ill. Brad Sneed. Peachtree.
- Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes.** Eric Litwin. Ill. James Dean. HarperCollins.
- Roly Poly Pangolin.** Anna Dewdney. Viking Juvenile.
- *Shark vs. Train.** Chris Barton and Tom Lichtenheld. Little, Brown.
- Taking Care of Mama.** Mitra Modarressi. Putnam Juvenile.

Young Readers (Grades 3–4)

- Adrian Peterson.** Michael Sandler. Bearport.
- Amazing Greek Myths of Wonder and Blunders.** Mike Townsend. Dial.
- Animal Rescue Team: Gator on the Loose!** Sue Stauffacher. Ill. Priscilla Lamont. Knopf.
- *Babymouse #12: Burns Rubber.** Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Random House.
- *Bad Kitty vs. Uncle Murray: The Uproar at the Front Door.** Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook.
- The Bat’s Cave: A Dark City.** Joyce Markovics. Bearport.
- Bones: Skeletons and How They Work.** Steve Jenkins. Scholastic.
- Chester’s Masterpiece.** Melanie Watt. Kids Can Press.
- Combat-Wounded Dogs.** Sonita Apte. Bearport.
- Copper.** Kazu Kibuishi. Graphix.
- Drizzle.** Kathleen Van Cleve. Dial.
- *Encyclopedia Mythologica: Gods & Heroes.** Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. Candlewick.
- *Finally.** Wendy Mass. Scholastic.
- Finn McCool and the Great Fish.** Eve Bunting. Ill. Zachary Pullen. Sleeping Bear.
- Goliath: Hero of the Great Baltimore Fire.** Claudia Friddell. Ill. Troy Howell. Sleeping Bear.
- Heart-Stopping Roller Coasters.** Meish Goldish. Bearport.
- I Survived #1: The Sinking of the Titanic, 1912.** Lauren Tarshis. Scholastic.



From *Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker: Girl vs. Superstar* by Robin Palmer. Puffin.



From *Zebrafish* by Peter H. Reynolds and FableVision. Atheneum.

***Lunch Lady and the Summer Camp Shakedown.** Jarrett J. Krosoczka. Knopf.
Miniature Horses. Natalie Lunis. Bearport.
Missile Mouse #1: The Star Crusher. Jake Parker. Graphix.
The Odious Ogre. Norton Juster. Ill. Jules Feiffer. Michael di Capua Books.
Older Than the Stars. Karen C. Fox. Ill. Nancy Davis. Charlesbridge.
Potbellied Pigs. Natalie Lunis. Bearport.
Swim! Swim! Lerch. Scholastic.
There Was an Old Monkey Who Swallowed a Frog. Jennifer Ward. Ill. Steve Gray. Marshall Cavendish.
Young Zeus. G. Brian Karas. Scholastic.
Zen Ghosts. Jon J Muth. Scholastic.

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More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2010–2011 IRA–CBC Joint Committee and review teams. The committee members were Stan F. Steiner (chair), Sherilyn J. Bennett, Lois A. Buckman, Pamela J. Farris, Michele Svihovec, Philip Tucker, and David Ward. The following review teams were responsible for the annotations:

- David Ward, Oregon—Area 1
- Sherilyn J. Bennett and Philip Tucker, Pennsylvania—Area 2
- Lois A. Buckman, Texas—Area 3
- Michele Svihovec, North Dakota—Area 4
- Pamela J. Farris, Arizona—Area 5

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/readinglists/childrenschoices or www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx.

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