

Intermediate Readers

Grades 3-5, Ages 8-11

Bag in the Wind

Ted Kooser. Ill. Barry Root. Candlewick.

This book showcases environmental awareness through the travels of a plastic shopping bag. People in the United States use 100 billion plastic shopping bags per year. This book could be used for sequence lessons. After reading this story, you will definitely think differently about using plastic shopping bags.

The Buffalo Are Back

Jean Craighead George. Ill. with paintings Wendell Minor. Dutton.

Incorporating history and environmental awareness, we learn what happens when the prairie environment is decimated and nearly all buffalo are killed. A herd of 300 buffalo survive to begin the renewal of the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, a protected patch of land, in Kansas. Thanks to this assertive effort, there are more than 200,000 buffalo in existence today. Brilliant watercolor illustrations illustrate this story.

Mockingbird

Kathryn Erskine. Philomel.

Told from the point of view of 10-year-old Caitlin, we learn firsthand what it is like to deal with Asperger's syndrome. A shooting in middle school took the life of her beloved older brother. Now Caitlin searches for closure for herself and her dad.

Muddy as a Duck Puddle and Other American Similes

Laurie Lawlor. Ill. Ethan Long. Holiday House.

Similes compare two things using *like* or *as*. This ABC format uses a different simile for each letter of the alphabet. The author's note at the back of the book details each expression, many of which have been passed down from one generation to the next.

Out of My Mind

Sharon M. Draper. Simon & Schuster.

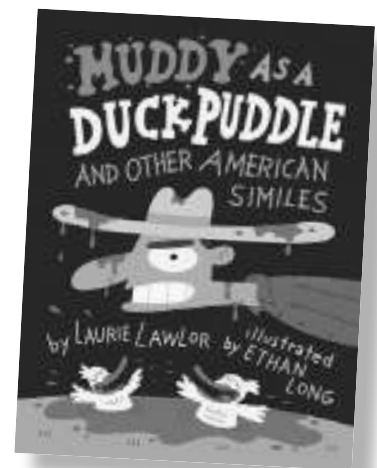
Born with cerebral palsy, 10-year-old Melody has never spoken a word. The author shows Melody



From *The Buffalo Are Back* by Jean Craighead George. Ill. Wendell Minor. Dutton.



From *Mockingbird* by Kathryn Erskine. Philomel.



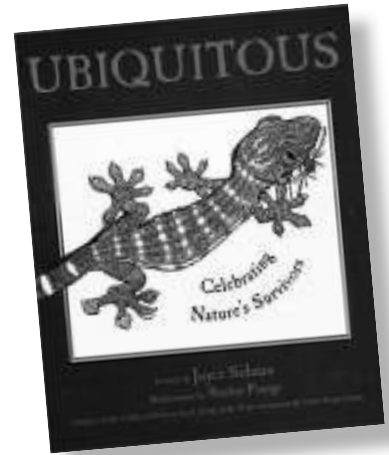
From *Muddy as a Duck Puddle and Other American Similes* by Laurie Lawlor. Ill. Ethan Long. Holiday House.



From *Stand Straight, Ella Kate* by Kate Klise. Ill. Sarah Klise. Dial.



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



From *Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors* by Joyce Sidman. Ill. Beckie Prange. Houghton Mifflin.

making a transition from a special education classroom into a regular classroom. It highlights the misconceptions surrounding students with disabilities.

Stand Straight, Ella Kate

Kate Klise. Ill. M. Sarah Klise. Dial.

This fictionalized picture book, told in first person, shows how one lady deals with being 8 feet tall. At a time when many young women had no opportunities to travel, Ella embraced her height and appeared in museums, exhibitions, traveling circus shows, and even a world's fair. This is an excellent choice for students who have to deal with being "different."

Survival at 40 Below

Debbie S. Miller. Ill. Jon Van Zyle. Walker & Company.

The tundra is fascinating for all—how can anything survive at 40 degrees below zero? Yet a wide variety of animals do. The illustrations bring to life the survival mode for many animals. Global warming is affecting the habitat of these animals. A temperature chart at the back of the book details the highs and lows for this forbidding climate.

Turtle in Paradise

Jennifer L. Holm. Random House.

Turtle's mom finds a job as a live-in housekeeper. When she discovers her employer does not like

children, she sends Turtle away to live with relatives. Set in 1935 during the Depression era in the United States, the humorous family dramas are relevant to families today.

Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors

Joyce Sidman. Ill. Beckie Prange. Houghton Mifflin.

Why have some species survived and others have not? Some sharks could be as much as 375 million years old! There are beetles that could be 265 million years old! The combination of poems, dynamic illustrations, and scientific facts makes this a rare book indeed. A sampling of species in sequential order shows the steps of evolution.

World War II: Fighting for Freedom, 1939–1945: The Story of the Conflict That Changed the World

Peter Chrisp. Scholastic.

Peter Chrisp, a British children's author, provides photographs and factoids to give insight on World War II. A glossary at the back of the book details war terminology. This book shows how the war led to advances in medicine and technology. Fantastic photos provide realism as to what it was like to live during this time.

Advanced Readers

Grades 6-8, Ages 11-14

After Ever After

Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic.

Jeffrey and his best friend, Tad, are in eighth grade and dealing with common adolescent issues such as school and girls. What makes these boys unique is that they are both cancer survivors.

Bamboo People

Mitali Perkins. Charlesbridge.

Set in modern day Burma amidst civil and military unrest, this coming-of-age novel tells the story of two boys whose unexpected encounter challenges their loyalties and courage.

FDR's Alphabet Soup: New Deal America, 1932-1939

Tonya Bolden. Knopf.

Filled with primary source material, this reference book reveals an insider's look at Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his plan to bring the United States out of the Great Depression.

Forge

Laurie Halse Anderson. Atheneum.

The sequel to *Chains*, this historical novel of the Revolutionary War follows Curzon to Valley Forge. Graphic details reveal the hardships faced by soldiers.

Henry Aaron's Dream

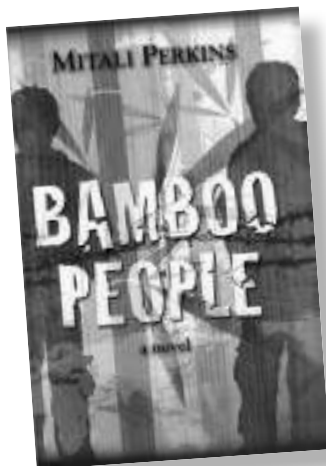
Matt Tavares. Candlewick.

Lavish illustrations accompany this biography of baseball legend, Hank Aaron, from his days of playing sandlot ball to the Negro Leagues to the Atlanta Braves.

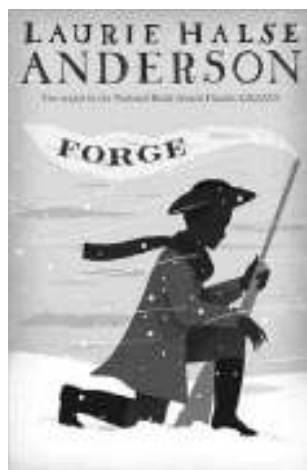
Lafayette and the American Revolution

Russell Freedman. Holiday House.

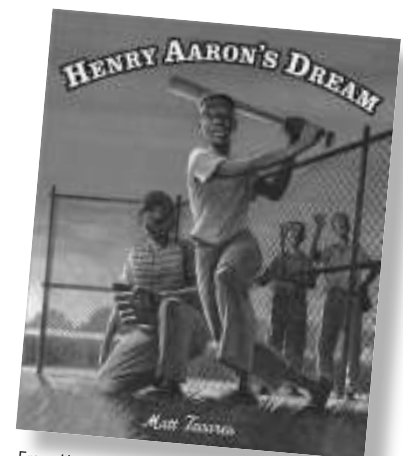
The Marquis de Lafayette was just 19 years old when he defied his family and the king of France to come to the United States to join the patriots.



From *Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins. Charlesbridge.



From *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson. Atheneum.



From *Henry Aaron's Dream* by Matt Tavares. Candlewick.

Palace Beautiful

Sarah DeFord Williams. Putnam.

Two sisters and their new friend learn about the influenza epidemic of 1918 after they find a diary written by a girl who experienced it firsthand.

The Red Umbrella

Christina Diaz Gonzalez. Random House.

Fourteen-year-old Lucia and her younger brother are sent to Nebraska when their parents fear they are in danger in their native Cuba, shortly after Fidel Castro has come into power.

Shooting Kabul

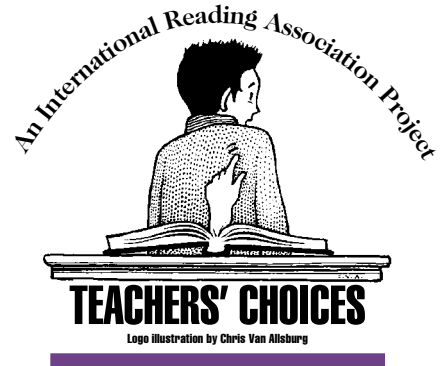
N.H. Senzai. Simon & Schuster.

Fadi's family flees to California from Taliban-ruled Afghanistan just prior to the September 11th attacks in New York City. Fadi must adapt to his new home and find a way to return to Afghanistan to retrieve his sister, who was accidentally left behind.

Woods Runner

Gary Paulsen. Random House.

The horrors of the Revolutionary War are seen through the eyes of 13-year-old Samuel, who must rescue his parents after they are kidnapped by British soldiers and Iroquois Indians.



Teachers' Choices 2011 Reading List

Primary Readers: Grades K-2, Ages 5-8

Back of the Bus. Aaron Reynolds. Ill. Floyd Cooper. Philomel.

The Brothers Kennedy: John, Robert, Edward. Kathleen Krull. Ill. Amy June Bates. Simon & Schuster.

Chalk. Bill Thomson. Marshall Cavendish Children's.

The Falling Raindrop. Neil Johnson and Joel Chin. Tricycle.

How Rocket Learned to Read. Tad Hills. Schwartz & Wade.

Lily's Victory Garden. Helen L. Wilbur. Ill. Robert Gantt Steele. Sleeping Bear.

Miss Brooks Loves Books! (And I Don't). Barbara Bottner. Ill. Michael Emberley. Knopf.

My Brother Charlie. Holly Robinson Peete and Ryan Elizabeth Peete. Ill. Shane W. Evans. Scholastic.

Seed Soil Sun. Cris Peterson. Photog. David R. Lundquist. Boyds Mills.

The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez. René Colato Láinez. Ill. Tom Lintern. Tricycle.

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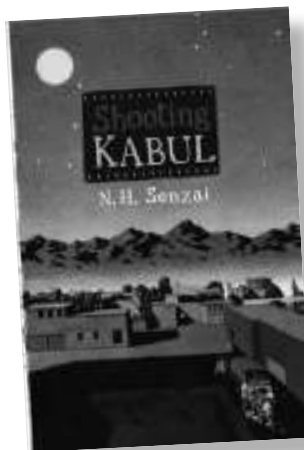
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Stand Straight, Ella Kate. Kate Klise. Ill. M. Sarah Klise. Dial.

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