

Picture Book Fiction

Abrams, Stacey. “Stacey’s Remarkable Books” 2022

Stacey’s favorite day of the week is Thursday, when the whole class goes to the library and she gets to lose herself in her beloved books. On one of these special days, Stacey discovers that a new student named Julie has trouble reading in English, so they begin sharing books and stories to practice. Soon, more students start to join them. Books take the group on magical adventures and reveal other worlds and cultures – but best of all, they bring them together as friends.

E ABRAMS; LIBBY: eBook

Barnett, Mac. “John’s Turn” 2022

Every Friday, in the cafeteria, one kid gets up in front of the whole school and does a performance. Today it’s John’s turn. A lovely, empowering book about having the courage to express one’s individuality.

E BARNETT; READALONG BARNETT

Barnett, Mac. “The Three Billy Goats Gruff” 2022

Once there was a bridge and a terrible and VERY hungry troll lived underneath it. When the three Billy Goats Gruff decide to clip-clop across the bridge to get to the grassy ridge, the troll is already imagining all the ways to prepare a delicious goat dinner. But the troll underestimates those seemingly sweet but oh-so-savvy goats! This is the first in a groundbreaking new collection of fractured fairy tales crafted by one of today’s most celebrated and acclaimed authors, and brought to stunning visual life by award-winning and beloved creator of “I Want My Hat Back,” Jon Klassen.

E BARNETT; HOOPLA: eAudio

Beaty, Andrea and Vashi Harrison. “I Love You Like Yellow” 2022

Love comes in many forms. It can feel tart as lemonade, or sweet as sugar cookies. Slow as a lazy morning, or fast as a relay race. Love is there through it all – the large and small moments, the good times and bad. And at the end of the day, love settles us down to bed with a hug and kiss goodnight. This sweet and playful bedtime book reminds young readers just how loved they are.

E BEATY

Blackall, Sophie. "Farmhouse" 2022

Step inside the dollhouse-like interior of Farmhouse and relish in the daily life of the family that lives there, rendered in impeccable, thrilling detail. Based on a real family and an actual farmhouse where Sophie salvaged facts and artifacts for the making of this spectacular work, page after page bursts with luminous detail and joy. Join the award-winning, best-selling Sophie Blackall as she takes readers on an enchanting visit to a farmhouse across time, to a place that echoes with stories.

E BLACKALL

Compestine, Ying Chang. "Dragon Noodle Party" 2022

It's almost time for the party! One-by-one all the animals of the zodiac go up the hill, each one carrying an ingredient. Horse trots up the hill with a big wok. Goat strolls up the hill with wild onions. Except for snake, that is. It's his birthday! All his friends have prepared long noodles to celebrate his long and happy life. Simple text is paired with delightful, friendly art in this joyous look at the Chinese tradition of preparing long noodles to celebrate birthdays, the New Year, and other festive occasions.

E COMPESTINE

Denise, Christopher. "Knight Owl" 2022

In his author-illustrator debut, Christopher Denise's clever wordplay and detailed illustrations for "Knight Owl" give it the feel of an instant classic. Since the day he hatched, Owl dreamed of becoming a real knight — but he'll have to be creative when facing the fearsome dragon.

E DENISE

De Seve, Randall. "This Story Is Not About a Kitten" 2022

Contrary to what you may believe, this story is not about a kitten, hungry and dirty, scared and alone, needing a home. It is also not about the dog who heard the kitten meowing sadly. Even less so about the woman and child walking the dog, who stopped when their dog heard the kitten. Nor is it about the friends who brought a box for the kitten, or the man who offered it milk. No, this story is not about a kitten at all — well, maybe a little — but more importantly, it's about community and generosity.

E DE SEVE

Dorleans, Marie. "Our Fort" 2022

Three friends set out to visit their secret fort at the edge of the woods, but as they are enjoying the freedom and nature all around them, a big storm rolls in.

E DORLEANS

Eady, Antwan. "Nigel and the Moon" 2022

Young African American, Nigel, is full of hopes and dreams looking at the moon each night. But when it's Career Week at school, Nigel is too shy to share his ideas because he can't seem to find role models that resemble him. A surprise visit to his class changes everything when he realizes the best examples are right in front of him.

E EADY

Freedman Deborah. "Tiny Dino" 2022

A small but mighty bird declares it is a dinosaur, but no one believes that dinosaurs still exist. How can it be a dinosaur when it is so little? And it has feathers! Did dinosaurs actually have feathers? This tiny dino is here to explain to its animal friends that birds are, in fact, dinosaurs, and all creatures are connected to one big animal family.

E FREEDMAN

Frost, Robert. "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" 2022

Just in time for its centennial, Robert Frost's cherished poem is showcased in a beautiful keepsake edition illustrated by the award-winning P.J. Lynch. The woods are lovely, dark and deep/But I have promises to keep/And miles to go before I sleep/And miles to go before I sleep.

E FROST

Goade, Michaela. "Song" 2022

On an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea, a girl and her grandmother gather gifts from the earth. They harvest salmon from the stream, herring eggs from the ocean, and in the forest, a world of berries. Brimming with joy and gratitude, with every step of their journey, they forge a deeper kinship with both the earth and the generations that came before, joining in the song that connects us all.

E GOADE

Hahn, Sabrina. "Pineapple Princess" 2022

This misunderstood little girl is certain she's a princess — despite the protests of her family. One afternoon, she's struck by a brilliant idea. Princesses wear crowns and she knows exactly where to get one. What follows is a power rush of epic proportions and a horde of eager subjects in the form of flies. Unfortunately, her new subjects take direction ... poorly.

E HAHN

Jarvis. “The Boy with Flowers in his Hair” 2022

Everyone likes David, the boy with flowers in his hair. He’s sweet and gentle, just like his colorful petals. David and his best friend have a great time together, finding the good puddles, making up songs, and running away from the bees. One day David comes to school wearing a hat, and he is quiet. When he takes off the hat, his bright petals flutter down like butterflies. Now, where his flowers once were are prickly twigs, causing the other children to stay away. But David’s best friend has an idea to help David get his color back, wielding paintbrushes and plenty of love. Jarvis’s story invites even the youngest children to talk about difficult subjects in an age-appropriate way — and feel inspired to support others.

E JARVIS; READALONG JARVIS

John, Jory and Pete Oswald. “The Sour Grape” 2022

The Sour Grape holds grudges for every reason under the sun. Lime never returned a scarf they borrowed? Grudge! Orange never called back? Grudge! But when a friend holds a grudge against the Sour Grape without listening to an explanation, the Sour Grape realizes how unfair grudges can be. Could a bunch of forgiveness and compassion be enough to turn a sour grape sweet?

E JOHN; READALONG JOHN; LIBBY: eBook and eAudio

Heder, Thyra. “Sal Boat” 2022

As Sal builds his boat, he is certain no one understands his vision, but when he cannot get his craft afloat, he is dejected. Thankfully the friends and family he has been ignoring are still there, ready to help him launch his creation and celebrate his achievement.

E HEDER

Henkes, Kevin. “Little Houses” 2022

A young girl visiting her grandparents at the beach stays in a little house and walks along the shore gathering seashells. She wonders about the creatures who used to live in each shell, about the hidden treasures of the sea – and about the world.

E HENKES; READALONG HENKES

Higgins, Ryan. “Hey Bruce!” 2022

This latest installment in the Bruce series encourages kids to tilt and tip the book to “move” everyone’s favorite grumpy bear through the story. Great fun!

E HIGGINS

Ho, Joanna. “Eyes That Speak to the Stars” 2022

A young Asian boy notices that his eyes look different from his peers' after seeing his friend's drawing of them. After talking to his father, the boy realizes that his eyes rise to the skies and speak to the stars, shine like sunlit rays, and glimpse trails of light from those who came before – in fact, his eyes are like his father's, his *agong's*, and his little brother's, and they are visionary. Inspired by the men in his family, he recognizes his own power and strength from within. This extraordinary picture book redefines what it means to be truly you.

E HO; POP NOW E HO; READALONG HO

Hunter, Anne. “Baby Squeaks” 2022

Baby mouse has learned to squeak. And now it's squeak, squeak, squeak all day long. Baby chats with new friends and old friends, big friends and little friends, and sometimes just chats with no one at all. Poor Mama needs a break, but when Baby wanders off, Mama knows what to do: follow the squeaks! Little readers will love this chatty baby mouse, and big readers will find Mama's reactions very familiar.

E HUNTER

Kuefler, Joseph. “The Digger and the Duckling” 2022

When a lost duckling waddles onto their jobsite, Digger and his friends learn how to do more than just scoop, hoist and push, they learn to become a family. This is a beautifully illustrated, subtly paced story of love and patience. And it has big trucks!

E KUEFLER

Le, Minh and Dan Santat. “The Blur” 2022

A story about a baby with superhero-like abilities and the parents who are racing to keep up with her!

E LE

Lyall, Casey. “A Spoonful of Frogs” 2022

Children are sure to giggle at the beautifully illustrated struggle that unfolds in this delicious picture book starring a witchy cooking show host, who can't seem to wrangle the key ingredient of her signature frog soup.

E LYALL

Michalak, Jamie. “Come On In: There’s a Party in this Book!” 2022

Come on in to Lemon's world and meet a rainbow-tastical collection of friends – cats wearing boots, fruits dressed in suits, dogs made of bread, and pigeons named Fred. You can help Lemon find the party! With eye-popping art from beloved creator, Sabine Timm and bouncy rhyming text from Jamie Michalak, “Come On In” offers up a fresh take on the theme of inclusivity, and will have crafty kids and DIYers smiling, pointing, and thinking, “I bet I can make those, too!”

E MICHALAK

Penfold, Alexandra. “All Are Neighbors” 2022

Moving to a new place can be hard, but when your neighbors welcome you with open arms, there are so many things to discover and celebrate. Come along with the kids from the bestsellers of “All Are Welcome” and “Big Feelings” as they introduce the new kid to a community where everyone has a place and is loved and appreciated — no matter what.

E PENFOLD

Perdomo, Juliana. “Sometimes All I Need Is Me” 2022

Meet a young girl who loves her cozy home. It smells like cinnamon tea and feels like warm pajamas. Even when she’s away from home, and everything is different, she finds a way to become her own home. At night, when it’s too dark and her feet are cold, her room can be a little scary. But she creates her own light when she closes her eyes and thinks of the sun. This heartwarming picture book reassures children that sometimes, everything we need—courage, joy, peace, and love—is already inside us.

E PERDOMO

Rothman, Scott. “Blue Bison Needs a Haircut” 2022

Blue Bison prides himself on always looking neat, so when he goes for a haircut and discovers every place is closed, he is upset until his little sister Bubble Gum Bison’s ridiculous idea saves the day.

E ROTHMAN; POP NOW E ROTHMAN; READALONG ROTHMAN

Salati, Doug. “Hot Dog” 2022

This hot dog has had enough of summer in the city! When he plops down in the middle of a crosswalk, his owner endeavors to get him the breath of fresh air he needs. She hails a taxi, hops a train, and ferries out to the beach. Here, a pup can run! With fluid art and lyrical text that have the soothing effect of waves on sand, award-winning author Doug Salati shows us how to find calm and carry it back with us so we can appreciate the small joys in a day. Winner of the 2023 Caldecott Medal.

E SALATI; LIBBY: eBOOK

Savage, Stephen. "Moonlight" 2022

"Something is on the move" are the potent opening words of this story, which begins with a bit of mystery. Offering one red herring after another, Savage's linocuts render a moody nightscape where almost anything can happen — most nights. Splendid and tranquil.

E SAVAGE

Van Dusen, Chris. "Big Truck Little Island" 2022

Prolific author/illustrator Van Dusen tells the tale, based on a true story, of a jackknifed truck in the middle of the only road on a tiny island. While the adults seem baffled, four children agree on a plan to overcome the obstacle, demonstrating the positive message of trust in teamwork.

E VAN DUSEN

Wilder, Derek. "Does a Bulldozer Have a Butt?" 2022

On a laugh-out-loud ramble over the course of a long walk through the city, one curious kid needs to know: "Does it have a butt?" Everything from sheep to ghosts to dinosaurs to, yes, bulldozers, is subjected to this all-important question, and Dad is a never-ending source of answers. This book may change the way you see the world.

E WILDER

Wolf, Allan. "The Blanket Where Violet Sits" 2022

In a galaxy spiraling white, on a small blue planet with a moon so pretty, in a green park in a bustling city, a little girl sits on a blanket with her family, eating a sandwich, an apple and chips. Equipped with a telescope and space book, Violet gazes up into the great beyond, imagining a rocket ride to the stars and a soft, sleepy return to her blanket. Lyrical and meditative, this is the perfect picture book to savor and share during a late-night picnic under the moon — or anytime.

E WOLF

Young, Kevin. "Emile and the Field" 2022

Emile loves the field close to his home — in spring, summer, and fall, when it gives him bees and flowers, blossoms and leaves. But not as much in winter, when he has to share his beautiful, changeable field with other children ... and their sleds.

E YOUNG

Non-fiction

Beckerman, Nell Cross. "Caves" 2022

In the shade of the woods is a hill with a hole. You want to go in, but do you dare? Using evocative storytelling, Nell Cross Beckerman urges children to explore one of nature's most curious ecosystems. Dramatic, poetic language guides kids through different caves around the world while nonfiction text allows for deeper understanding.

J 551.447 BECKERMAN

Gehl, Laura. "Odd Birds" 2022

"Odd Birds" introduces babies and toddlers to unusual bird species, including the magnificent frigatebird with a bright red throat pouch and the California condor — the largest flying birds in North America. Gentle rhyming verses provide the comforting repetition that little ones crave, even as their minds are opened to new and fascinating creatures from around the world.

BOARD BOOK G

Marsh, Sarah Glenn. "Dragon Bones: The Fantastic Fossil Discoveries of Mary Anning" 2021

A picture-book biography of the 19th-century self-taught paleontologist whose discoveries were rarely given credit — until now.

J BIO ANNING

Messner, Kate. "Over and Under the Waves" 2022

Award-winning duo Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal return in this latest addition to the Over and Under picture book series, this time exploring the rich, interconnected ecosystem of the ocean. Over the waves, the sea lions bark and seagulls wheel and call. The bay is smooth and bright in the sun. Under the waves, there's a whole hidden forest, full of whales and wolf eels, sardines and sea bass, leopard sharks and luminous jellies, as well as the waving kelp that shelters them all. Discover the magical depths of the kelp forest, and all the fascinating creatures living just a paddle's length away — over and under the waves.

POP NOW E MESSNER; HOOPLA: eBook

Perival, Kari. "How to Say Hello to a Worm" 2022

The perfect first how-to guide for aspiring young gardeners. Follow a group of children as they learn to plant, care for, and harvest a garden.

J 635 PERCIVAL

Portis, Antoinette. "A Seed Grows" 2022

To understand how a seed becomes a sunflower, you have to peek beneath the soil and wait patiently as winding roots grow, a stalk inches out of the earth, and new seeds emerge among blooming petals. Leading up to a striking fold-out spread of a full-grown sunflower, the lively, bold illustrations in "A Seed Grows" offer a close-up view of each step of the growth cycle

E PORTIS

Riskin, Dan. "Fiona the Fruit Bat" 2022

This is a fun and informative picture book about bat echolocation for kids written by a scientist who works with bats in his everyday life. It's time for Fiona the fruit bat to take her very first flight, but she's scared. How will she fly when she can't see in the dark? Mama just says, "listen." But how will listening help her to see? Then she hears a mysterious sound from deep in her cave. To find out what's making that noise — and to finally fly — Fiona will have to unlock a secret hidden inside herself.

E RISKIN

Schu, John. "This Is a School" 2022

A school isn't just a building; it is all the people who work and learn together. It is a place for discovery and asking questions. A place for sharing, for helping, and for community. It is a place of hope and healing, even when that community can't be together in the same room.

E SCHU; LIBBY: eBook