

FICTION

Banbury, Steven. "The Pumpkin Princess and the Forever Night" 2024

Banbury weaves a cozy tale in this thoroughly delightful debut reminiscent of "The Graveyard Book" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The growing bond between Eve and the Pumpkin King is tender and inspiring as the grumpy gourd-headed guardian does his best to rear his unsure yet headstrong daughter.

J FIC BANBURY; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Benway, Robin. "The Girls of Skylark Lane" 2024

This heartwarming slice-of-life novel showcases the importance of friendship, family, and forgiveness in helping tweens navigate the awkwardness and uncertainty of early adolescence.

J FIC BENWAY; LIBBY: eBook

Chantler, Scott. "Three Thieves" 2025

This is a classic action story filled with character-driven lore that will entertain middle graders and older readers, too.

J GN CHANTLER

Cho, Tina. "The Other Side of Tomorrow" 2024

Told from their alternating perspectives in welcoming, conversational verse, Yunho's and Myunghee's harrowing journeys provide readers with a realistic and devastating portrayal of life under one of the most oppressive regimes in the world. Triumphant, moving, and unforgettable.

J GN CHO

Chung, Christine. "Viewfinder" 2025

Arriving on an Earth devoid of people, a young space traveler discovers a viewfinder that reveals how the planet used to be. Striking a balance between whimsical adventure and wistful contemplation, this title underscores the beauty and fragility of life on our planet.

On order

Escobar, Melba. "Johnny, the Sea, and Me" 2024

Tender, funny, and stamped with psychological truth, "Johnny, the Sea, and Me" offers the thrills of pirate adventures and the rich cultural history of the Caribbean, along with strong characters and a satisfying and moving portrait of an unusual friendship. **J FIC ESCOBAR**

Farmer, Craig Kofi. "Kwame Crashes the Underworld" 2024

A grand tale, funny and terrifying in turns, is steeped in Ghanaian spirituality and folklore, and wrapped around themes of identity, obligation, true friendship, and devastating loss.

J FIC FARMER; J PLAYAWAY FARMER

Feiffer, Jules. "Amazing Grapes and the Lost Dimension" 2024

A traumatized family heals most of its cracks as it bumbles from Meanyopolis to Truphoria in this surreal, almost Dalí-esque journey reminiscent of "The Phantom Tollbooth" which Feiffer illustrated, or "Coraline."

J GN FEIFFER

Gutman, Dan. "The (Mostly) True Story of Cleopatra's Needle" 2024

Readers will be drawn into the mystery of why and how an ancient Egyptian artifact stands in Central Park. They'll marvel at the feats of engineering and learn tidbits of history through the clear, detailed text and plentiful photos and illustrations. Vividly and accessibly resuscitates an ancient monument's forgotten history.

J FIC GUTMAN; J PLAYAWAY GUTMAN

Hautman, Pete. "Answers to Dog" 2024

When an accident sends the kennel's owner to the hospital, Evan finds himself, alongside new friend Hana, responsible for the dogs left behind. Alternating between Evan's and the dog's perspectives, the narrative follows the pair as they learn to trust each other and discover new joy and meaning in their lives. Evan and Hana's compassion, as well as Samarkand's endless tail-wagging, inspire hope for dog lovers and all readers.

J FIC HAUTMAN

Henkes, Kevin. "Still Sal" 2024

With gentle support from parents and teachers, Sal comes to understand that her life might change, but she is still Sal.

J FIC HENKES

Hewitt, Nicole M. "Song of Orphan's Garden" 2025

A Human girl and a Giant boy must find a way to break free of the centuries-old battle between their people in order to save a magical garden — their last hope of surviving a world devastated by eternal winter.

J FIC HEWITT

Hicks, Josh. "Minecraft: Out of Order " 2025

"After a weird cult rampaged through their town stealing supplies, and trampling their home, Riley and their friends set out on a mission to pull off a heist that will balance the score.

A great starting point for kids new to Minecraft, that is sure to entertain fans as well.

On order

McKinnon, Kate. "The Millicent Quibb School of Etiquette for Young Ladies of Mad Science" 2024

A perfectly quirky tale for young readers who feel like they don't belong as madcap misadventures ensue within a plot that's loaded with self-aware asides and wry humor.

J FIC MCKINNON; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Myklusch, Matt. "Imagine Nation" 2025

A young warrior battles inner ghosts and a rival to the throne in this briskly paced, expertly crafted tale stocked with surprising twists and nuanced characters.

J GN MYKLUSCH

Nguyen, Mai K. "Anzu and the Realm of Darkness" 2024

An enchanting fantasy about finding the confidence to take up space in the world. The fascinating and original spirit world is inspired by Nguyen's family's mix of Vietnamese and Japanese cultures and elements of Shintoism and Buddhism.

J GN NGUYEN

Park, Linda Sue. "Gracie Under the Waves" 2024

Using high-energy prose and high-stakes plotting, Park delivers a splashy tale ferried by an undercurrent of compromise, climate activism, and earnest love for the natural world.

J FIC PARK; J PLAYAWAY PARK; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Phillips, Stephanie. "Forecast from Stonehenge" 2024

This adaptation of the classic R.A. Montgomery "Choose Your Own Adventure" is a relatively quick read, however keen kids will enjoy retrying the adventure over and over to achieve different outcomes.

J GN CHOOSE

Preller, James. "Shaken" 2024

Preller's careful pacing matches the fuzziness and slow healing of Kristy's brain, introducing readers to the realities of the pain, loss, and feelings of isolation that dedicated athletes often experience when they can no longer play. The somber tone of the story is lightened by the presence of two minor characters who bring levity and humor. Strong themes of healing (both physical and emotional), family, and friendship abound.

J FIC PRELLER; LIBBY: eBook

Reintgen, Scott. "The Last Dragon on Mars" 2024

In the world of the story, each celestial body has its own dragon avatar. The backstory is fairly well developed, and the short chapters are packed with action – fast-paced dragon flights and mid-space fights — plus underdog heroes who are easy to root for.

J FIC REINTGEN; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Reno, Ginger. "Find Her" 2024

Wren, who is white and Cherokee, is "good at finding things for people." She starts a business locating lost pets, calling upon her strength as a member of the Wolf Clan, the "protectors," for help. This novel lends itself to discussion of many complex topics: missing and murdered Indigenous people, child abuse, bullying, grief, historic events such as the Trail of Tears; and on the positive side, Native American religions and traditions, the Cherokee language and its revitalization, and tribal sovereignty. It's also simply a good murder mystery, with suspense, foreshadowing, allusion, and believable plot points (and even some humor), successfully walking the line between an authentic portrayal of the dark side of human nature and accessible writing for tweens and young teens.

J FIC RENO; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Rundell, Katherine. "Impossible Creatures" 2024

Employing plotting reminiscent of works by Ursula Le Guin and Philip Pullman, Rundell deploys fresh language, epic stakes, bonds both tender and devastating, and fierce kid characters. It's a thoughtfully lore-informed narrative about the kinship of living things and the marvels of being alive — a story that, above all, takes children seriously.

J FIC RUNDELL; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook

Sepetys, Ruta. "The Bletchley Riddle" 2024

Shared narrative duties between the siblings effectively juxtapose the measured Jakob with the spirited Lizzie. The authors introduce and carefully explain a variety of decoding methodologies, inspiring readers to attempt their own. A thoughtful and entertaining historical note identifies the key figures who appear in the book, such as Alan Turing, as well as the real-life bases for the

fictional characters. Interspersed photos and images of ephemera help situate the narrative's time period. A rich, enthralling historical mystery that engages and educates.

J FIC SEPETYS

Steinke, Aron Nels. "Speechless" 2025

Exaggerated cartooning highlights Mira's emotions, blending humor and vulnerability in a heartwarming and visually enticing graphic novel that lauds imagination and self-expression.

On order

Stewart, Erin. "The Forgotten Magic of Zoey Turner" 2025

When [Zoey] procures a new pencil that seems to make the stories she writes a reality, she endeavors to write her way out of her anxiety. This emotional narrative skillfully informs readers about anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder and will comfort anyone facing challenges similar to the main characters', reminding them to look for the pockets of joy in every day and inspiring them to discover their own forgotten magic.

J FIC STEWART

Stuart, Dean. "Cassi and the House of Memories" 2025

Cassi loves spending time with her grandfather. His games, songs, and stories have always brought her endless joy. This visit with him, though, is different: Grandpa seems to be losing track of things, including everything from the stories they're sharing to who Cassi herself is. So when he goes missing after wandering off from his own backyard, Cassi knows she has to figure out where he's gone.

J GN STUART

Tarshis, Lauren. "I Survived the Black Death, 1348" 2024

Elsie and her best friend, Humphrey, discover a chest filled with stolen treasures — and a dangerous secret. At last Elsie has a chance to prove that she's as brave as any knight. Little does she know that a deadly illness — the Black Death — has begun its attack on England. It's already killed millions around the world. And now it's come for Elsie.

J PAPERBACK TARSHIS; LIBBY: eBook, Audiobook; HOOPLA: Audiobook

Tracy, Taylor. "Murray Out of Water" 2024

When Murray is forced to move inland, she loses her magical connection with the ocean. But, with the help of a newly found friend with magic of their own maybe she can reconnect in this heartfelt examination of queer identity through the lens of one lovable kid.

J FIC TRACY

Wendig, Chuck. "Monster Movie" 2024

In this gleefully off-kilter ode to late-night B movies and classic kids' horror tales like "Goosebumps," Wendig skillfully tempers terrifying events with a tint of absurdity, playing them against Ethan's all-too-relatable worries. It's a fast-paced and intense adventure that never loses sight of its human elements.

J FIC WENDIG

Wibowo, Jes. "Lunar Boy" 2024

Indu, a boy from the moon, feels like he doesn't belong. He hasn't since he and his adoptive mom disembarked from their spaceship — their home — to live on Earth with their new

blended family. In a moment of loneliness, Indu calls out to the moon, begging them to take him back. **J GN WIBOWO; LIBBY: eBook**

NONFICTION

Alexander, Lori. "Seeds of Discovery" 2025

Celebrating the power of curiosity and the rewards of tenacity, this engaging and highly illustrated biography introduces young readers to the field of genetics and its founder Barbara McClintock, a female botanist in early 20th-century America.

J 576.5092 ALEXANDER

Auld, Mary. "Close Up & Far Out: Seeing the World Differently" 2024

Two natural philosophers — now known as scientists — used similar tools but saw the world very differently. Antoine van Leeuwenhoek looked close-up at drops of water, while Galileo Galilei looked far out into the universe. What they discovered shook the foundations of human understanding and led to innovations in both microscopes and telescopes.

On order

Buckley, James. "A Kids' Guide to the National Baseball Hall of Fame: The Greatest Players from Hank Aaron to Derek Jeter to Cy Young" 2024

Baseball's newest fans can take in all the glorious moments from the game's storied history in one beautiful book designed and written just for them. This kid's edition presents profiles of the best and most memorable players and all the up-to-date facts and figures young baseball enthusiasts want to know, along with new photos.

J 796.357 BUCKLEY

Burk, Rachelle. "The Story of Taylor Swift" 2024

This uplifting biography follows the early years of the record-breaking entertainer, revealing how she went from being a kid growing up on a Christmas tree farm to a famous singer, songwriter and entertainer.

J BIO SWIFT

Chiu, Amy. "Usborne Big Book of Facts" 2024

Crammed with nearly 100 eye-catching, fascinating, statistics filled infographics about just about any topic imaginable: from history, to ologies, to linguistics, ISA and Semaphore. Sure to snag the attention of curious minds.

J 031.02 CHIU; HOOPLA: eBook

Curtis, Kenny. "Greeking Out: Heroes & Olympians" 2024

These tongue-in-cheek tales from Greek mythology are sure to elicit some hearty guffaws as kids learn about ancient Greece and the heroic victories, perilous adventures and age-old antics of their favorite (and least favorite) characters.

J 292.13 CURTIS

DK Publishing. "Timelines of Extraordinary Lives" 2024

This edition focuses on the incredible biographies of myriad movers and shakers across millennia. Children will be fascinated by the lives of a diverse array of kings and queens, humanitarians, scientists, inventors, explorers, activists, writers, artists, and more.

J 920 TIMELINES

Drimmer, Stephanie Warren. "Beyond Infinity" 2024

Breathtaking photos with kid-friendly captions introduce readers to NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, showing them how it works, the science behind it and how it is unlocking the mysteries of space.

J 522.291 DRIMMER

Edwards, Robert. "What Was the Renaissance?" 2025

Discover all there is to know about the Renaissance, a cultural movement that spread throughout Europe and affected art, science, technology, politics and thought as scholars started to question what they knew and looked to develop new ideas.

On order

Hannigan, Kate. "Rachel Carson's Wonder-filled World: How the Scientist, Writer, and Nature Lover Changed the Environmental Movement" 2025

Substantial quoted passages from several of Carson's works that ably capture her eloquent style are tucked into Hickey's equally lyrical views of the young naturalist taking nature walks alone or with her young grandnephew (later co-author) Roger, wading in shallows, or sitting at her writing desk generating images of ocean wildlife in splashy floods. Her environmental concerns have only grown more cogent with time.

On order

Jackson, Tom. "The New Science Encyclopedia" 2025

This tome focuses on "hard science" including chemistry, physics, and biology. A good choice for readers ready to move beyond "The Berenstain Bears' Big Book of Science and Nature" but who still appreciate their information to be accompanied by rich visuals.

J 503 JACKSON

Leavitt, Amie Jane. "Nellie Bly: Intrepid Reporter" 2025

A detailed chronicle of the career of the late 1800s trailblazing investigative reporter as she tackled tough societal issues, unheard of from woman in those days. Full of period photographs and original documents, this entry in the "Famous Women in History" series is a great find for young readers serious about history.

J BIO BLY

Leopard, Bones. "Who Was Raised to Be the Queen of France?" 2024

Discover how Marie Antoinette navigated the pressures and obstacles that came with preparing to marry the future king of France, Louis XVI. A story of political maneuvering, royal expectations, and determined resolve, this graphic novel immerses readers in the lesser-known teenage years of France's most infamous queen.

J GN WHO

Mata, Nina. "Girls to the Front" 2025

A strong overview of a wide range of Asian American icons who have helped, and are helping, to shape the world, these snapshots of inspirational women show the value of standing out, over fitting in.

J 973.0495 MATA

McMahon, Sharon. "Our Country's Presidents" 2025

Beyond providing vital statistics and factoids on the presidents themselves, the leaders are organized into periods to help provide greater context: establishment, westward expansion, reconstruction, global influence, stabilization, new millennium. This authoritative and illustrated reference includes information about the 2024 election results, profiles of former presidents and thematic spreads with topics such as voting rights.

J 973.099 OUR

Mills, Andrea. "My Encyclopedia of Very Important Myths and Legends" 2024

Immersing readers in a fantastical world of heroes, villains, quests, magic and mysteries, this visual guide to myths and legends from an array of different cultures combines fun facts with colorful illustrations, encouraging readers to let their imaginations run wild.

J 398.203 MILLS

Orr, Nicole. "Sybil Ludington: Messenger for Independence" 2025

"The harrowing tale of a 16-year girl who rode horseback through the dark of night warning of an impending British attack on the town of Danbury, Connecticut, and summoning the 7th Regiment of the Dutchess County Militia to assemble near her family home.

J BIO LUDINGTON

Potter, William. "Our World in Numbers Dinosaurs & Other Prehistoric Life: An Encyclopedia of Fantastic Facts" 2024

This visually stunning tour of the prehistoric world is packed with a whopping number of numerical facts and stats; from the fastest, biggest and deadliest creatures to the size of dinosaurs' hearts, brains, tails and scales.

J 567.9 POTTER

Robinson, James. "Whale Eyes: A Memoir About Seeing and Being Seen" 2025

Told through an experimental mix of intimate anecdotes and interactive visuals, this book immerses readers in James's point of view, allowing them to see the world through his disabling eye conditions. James's story equips readers of all ages with the tools to confront their discomfort with disability and turn confused, blank stares into powerful connections.

On order

Tak, Bibi Dumon. "My Presentation Today is About the Anaconda" 2025

This is a book of oral presentations given by animals, for us animals, and about us animals. The cleaner fish will talk about his friend the shark and his sharp teeth. The zebra will get to tell you about all the black-and-white animals in the world. The mole knows everything there is to know about the daddy longlegs.

On order