Table of Contents

Frontlist
2
Tilbury House Spotlight
7
Recently Published
10
Reimagined Masterpieces
44

Henry & Friends
45
Tilbury House Nature Books
46
Stories in 50
48
Backlist Highlights
49

MAY

BIG PROBLEMS
LITTLE PROBLEMS

JUNE

Pina
Elif Yemenici

AUGUST

LION LIGHTS
My Invention That Made Peace With Lions

The illustration on the front cover of this catalog is from Pina, illustrated by Elif Yemenici.
In this charming picture book story distilled from Ben Feller’s own experience as a single parent, a dad counsels his son not to sweat the small stuff, and the next day the boy gives that counsel right back to his panicky dad. This is a children and dads story about a secret handshake, life’s daily challenges, the wisdom of kids, and love conquering frustration.

"Illuminates one of the sublime joys of parenting: when our kids help us better understand the lessons we are so intent on teaching them."
—Josh Earnest, former White House Press Secretary for President Barack Obama

"A heartwarming tale about a father and son who conquer life's frustrations together with perspective and patience."
—Ron Fournier, author of Love That Boy

"Focuses on a vital lesson that’s rarely seen in a father-themed resource: the bidirectional aspect of a quality relationship between a dad and his child in which they learn from each other."
—Christopher Brown, President of the National Fatherhood Initiative

"Where was Ben Feller when I was raising little kids?! We could have used his warm and lovingly delivered lessons on patience, perspective, and the difference between big and little problems."
—Jim Axelrod, Senior National Correspondent for CBS News and author of In the Long Run: A Father, A Son, and Unintentional Lessons In Happiness

In this charming picture book story distilled from Ben Feller’s own experience as a single parent, a dad counsels his son not to sweat the small stuff, and the next day the boy gives that counsel right back to his panicky dad. This is a children and dads story about a secret handshake, life’s daily challenges, the wisdom of kids, and love conquering frustration.

Ben Feller is a former award-winning former chief White House correspondent for the Associated Press, the largest news organization in the world. During his years of covering Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, he led the White House press corps, traveled aboard Air Force One hundreds of times, and was honored as a “master of deadline reporting.” Now he is writing about his personal passion: being a dad.

Mercè López graduated from Llotja Art School in Barcelona and has illustrated for design, theater, and film as well as twenty children’s books for Spanish and international book publishers. In a starred review of I Am Smoke (page 17), Kirkus called her illustrations “lustrous” and “exquisitely beautiful.” In his “100 Scope Notes” column for School Library Journal, Travis Jonker called I Am Smoke “One of the most astonishingly unconventional children’s books of 2021. Here’s to children’s books that expand our assumptions of what a children’s book can be.” I Am Smoke was named one of the 150 Most Anticipated Books of Fall 2022 by Kirkus.
Pina
Written and illustrated by Elif Yemenici
Translated by Sidney Wade, poet and professor of creative writing, University of Florida

Distinctive multimedia illustrations create rich visual storytelling and demand to be noticed.

Pina lived in a tiny warm house. His house was snug, and he liked to wrap himself in layers and layers of soft blankets. His whole world fit inside his little home. He didn’t need any other worlds.

The walls of his house protected him. Oh, how he wished he could stay inside forever.

Pina explores the haunted country of the imagination where children struggle to place themselves in the big scary world. Pina’s fear to venture out of his little house into the wide world will resonate with timid kids. The techniques he uses to overcome his fear—mindful breathing, thinking of his favorite things, carrying a familiar, comforting object with him when he leaves the house—will prove useful to many children.

It took the author two years to sculpt little Pina (named after the author’s cat, which she named after German-born choreographer Pina Bausch), build his shadow-box home, photograph the book’s scenes, and add Photoshop layers to create the book’s arresting illustrations. Pina offers safe access for young readers to the scary territory explored by Coraline, The Nest, The Night Gardener, and other stories for older kids.

Elif Yemenici (Istanbul, Turkey) has illustrated since her childhood, when she painted the songs she composed on her organ, then sang songs to her pictures. She has illustrated more than 80 books to date. Eyvah Kalbim Kırıldı! (Oops, My Heart Is Broken!), which she wrote and illustrated, was selected for The White Ravens list of the world’s most important children’s books and has been widely translated. Visit Elif at www.elifyemenici.com.

This is a rhyming picture-book celebration of the ordinary people—grownups and kids—who hold our world together with their daily lives and work. We celebrate cops, firefighters, and soldiers, and rightly so. But let’s also celebrate teachers, bus drivers, grocery clerks, mail carriers, and the other folks who give a community its core identity. And let’s give a nod to kids, too—kids who are kind and brave and help each other. They’re heroes too.

In structure, flow, and pitch, They’re Heroes Too is very much like Pat Brisson’s Before We Eat, one of our bestselling picture books. Brisson excels in creating captivating poems of thanks for young kids.

Elif Yemenici

They’re Heroes Too
A Celebration of Community
Pat Brisson
Illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan

It really does take a village!

Most heroes aren’t the super kind with capes, who fly through air. They’re people we see every day, who always show they care. . . .

This is a rhyming picture-book celebration of the ordinary people—grownups and kids—who hold our world together with their daily lives and work. We celebrate cops, firefighters, and soldiers, and rightly so. But let’s also celebrate teachers, bus drivers, grocery clerks, mail carriers, and the other folks who give a community its core identity. And let’s give a nod to kids, too—kids who are kind and brave and help each other. They’re heroes too.

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Pat Brisson (Phillipsburg, NJ) has written 20 books for young readers, including The Summer My Father Was Ten; Sometimes We Were Brave; Before We Eat (page 58); Common Critters (page 54); and Tummy Time Friends (page 25). She is a former schoolteacher, school librarian, and public librarian.

Anait Semirdzhyan was born in Kazakhstan, grew up in Armenia, and immigrated to the US nine years ago. She lives in the Seattle area with her husband and twin daughters and is the illustrator of The Arabic Quilt (page 53), The Cottonwood Tree (page 28), and other works at www.anaiarts.com.
Lion Lights
My Invention That Made Peace with Lions
Richard Turere, with Shelly Pollock
Illustrated by Sonia Possentini

What is that sound? Is it the wind rustling the tall grass, or is it what I fear most? Lions! Lions lurking . . . waiting to leap and kill my father’s cows.

This is Richard Turere’s true story of growing up on a farm in Kenya. A Maasai boy, Richard attended school when he could but more often was needed to herd his family’s cattle. Richard’s challenge was to protect the cows from the lions who prowled the night and were a constant threat to cattle. Desperate ranchers often killed lions, even though lions are at the core of Kenya’s tourist trade and are protected. Richard noticed that lions stayed away when he was outside with a flashlight.

At age 12, using salvaged electrical components, he surrounded the stockade with blinking lights, and the lions stayed away! His Lion Lights are now used on three continents to protect farm animals without harming predators.

Richard Turere is an undergraduate student at the African Leadership University, where he is studying Global Challenges with a focus on wildlife conservation. Richard shared his Lion Lights with the world at the TED Global Stage in California. He received a special commendation from Africa Leadership Awards for his critical role in protecting and creating awareness around the crisis facing lions in Kenya. He is recognized as Kenya’s youngest patent inventor, and in 2018, received the Anzisha prize award. In 2020 he became a National Geographic Young Explorer, and he was a finalist in the Future for Nature awards in 2021.

Shelly Pollock taught remedial reading and math to children and adults in the US for twenty-five years. She hopes that Lion Lights, her debut picture book, will inspire children everywhere to realize that no matter how young they are or how big their challenges, they can accomplish anything.

Sonia Maria Luce Possentini is an award-winning illustrator in Modena, Italy, and a professor of illustration at the International School of Comics in Reggio Emilia. She has illustrated thirteen children’s books, including Night Creatures (2021) and Hold On to Your Music (2021).
Magnificent Homespun Brown

A Celebration

Samara Cole Doyon • Illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Magnificent Homespun Brown is an exploration of the natural world and family bonds through the eyes of young, mixed-race heroines—a living, breathing, dazzlingly multifaceted, exuberant masterpiece, firmly grounded in a sense of self-worth and belonging. This is a story—a poem, a song, a celebration—about feeling at home in one’s own beloved skin.

“Absolutely lovely.”
—Jacqueline Woodson, author of Brown Girl Dreaming and Another Brooklyn

“A magnificent paean to a varied hue.”
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“Brown is never dreary or drab in this poetic exploration of its many expressions.”
—San Francisco Chronicle

“A stunning and resonant story. A gift to read. It is a celebration of all shades of brown and the faces and families whose deep, secret brown, whose feathery brown, whose amber brown, whose radiant brown, whose magnificent, homespun brown is part of what makes them so magnificent.”
—Matthew Winner, The Children’s Book Podcast

“Absolutely lovely.”
—Jackie Woodson

“This celebration makes magic out of the everyday joys of being in the world.”
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Whether this delightful book is a mirror or a window for a child, it is a must-read for its celebration of love for oneself and one’s family.”
—School Library Journal (starred review)

“There is pure joy in the illustrations that matches the positivity of the text.”
—Waking Brain Cells

“Inspiring and heartwarming.”
—Youth Services Book Review

$16.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-797-5 • 9 x 10 • 32 pages
Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 8 to 12 • F&P level V • PICTURE BOOK/POETRY

CBC Recommended Book • School Library Journal Best Book of the Year • New York Public Library Best Picture Book of 2020 • Black Caucus of the American Library Association Best of the Best Book for 2020 • Boston Globe Best Book of the Year • Selected for Oprah Daily’s Twenty Diverse Kids’ Reads

Deep, secret brown . . . like my eyes.
The Short Life of Krill
Good Eating

Follow one krill among billions as it pursues its brief existence, eating and eating while metamorphosing from one thing into another and trying to avoid being eaten.

Krill are the largest animals able to catch and eat phytoplankton, and they in turn are eaten by the largest animals ever to live on earth—blue whales—as well as by seals, penguins, and a host of others. In other words, krill are really good at eating, and they make really good eating. And that makes them the most important animals in the high-latitude oceans.

As in The Whale Fall Café, Dan Tavis’s illustrations combine scientific accuracy with Nemo liveliness and humor. Our star krill is so good at gorging up phytoplankton that he turns green, so we can pick him out from the crowd racing to live on earth—blue whales—as well as by seals, penguins, and a host of others. And that makes them the most important animals in the high-latitude oceans.

A Revealing Glimpse of a Rarely Studied Link in the Oceanic Food Chain.
―Booklist

“This unique title joins the ranks of nonfiction works about unpleasant animals, including Pink Is for Blobfish and What Do They Do with All That Poo?”
―School Library Journal

One medium-size whale carcass delivers as much food to the dark, cold ocean depths as 4,000 years of sinking food particles. When a dead whale arrives, the café opens for business, and who better than Dan Tavis to show us the bizarre deep-ocean diners who show up? Hagfish, zombie worms, sleeper sharks—this group of patrons is stranger than the denizens of the Mos Eisley Cantina in Star Wars. A fish in a lab coat, piloting a deep-sea submersible, is our guide to the weirdly fascinating goings-on miles beneath the ocean surface.

“A revealing glimpse of a rarely studied link in the oceanic food chain.”
―Booklist

“This unique title joins the ranks of nonfiction works about unpleasant animals, including Pink Is for Blobfish and What Do They Do with All That Poo?”
―School Library Journal

Whale Fall Café
Jacquie Sewell
Illustrated by Dan Tavis
A Junior Library Guild Selection

“Young whale enthusiasts will lap this up, and primary-grade science teachers will have the crown jewel of the next marine life unit.”
―Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books

$18.95 hardcover
ISBN 978-0-88448-848-4
9 x 11 • 40 pages
PICTURE BOOK/NONFICTION
Ages 7 – 11 • F&P level V; Lexile 920
**This or That**
A Story About Choosing
Kell Andrews
Illustrated by Hector Borlasca

What kid doesn’t struggle to learn the art of making choices? Alexander’s indecision will resonate!

Alexander’s dad is an umpire and makes instant decisions. His mom is a judge and makes decisions deliberately. But Alexander has trouble making any choices at all, and he misses a lot of good stuff. He can’t decide on a Halloween costume, so he winds up as a pumpkin; he can’t decide what to wear to school, so he misses the bus; he can’t decide what school lunch to eat, so he winds up with tuna casserole.

Alexander’s breakthrough comes on his birthday, when he asks for a sundae with everything but then realizes that chocolate swirl is all he wants. After that, Alexander finds his own decision-making style: not as deliberate as his mother or as quick to decide as his father, but somewhere in between. And when he tells his mom he wants a baby brother, he learns that sometimes “you get what you get, and that can be OK too.”

Few picture books explore decision-making skills. This book will find wide classroom use.

“`A marvelous life survey of a perennially relevant historical figure.”
— Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

**I Begin with Spring**
The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau
Julie Dunlap
Illustrated by Megan Elizabeth Baratta

I Begin with Spring weaves natural history around Thoreau’s life and times in a richly illustrated field notebook format that can be opened anywhere and invites browsing on every page. Beginning each season with quotes from Thoreau’s schoolboy essay about the changing seasons, I Begin with Spring follows him through the fields and woods of Concord, the joys and challenges of growing up, his experiment with simple living on Walden Pond, and his participation in the abolition movement, self-reliance, science, and literature.

The book’s two organizing themes—the unfolding of Thoreau’s life and the seasonal cycle beginning with spring—interact on every spread, suggesting the correspondence of human seasons with nature’s.

“Julie Dunlap follows the seasons of the year and the seasons of Thoreau’s life to show the deep interconnectedness of the human and natural worlds. I Begin with Spring introduces us to the importance of close observation and reflection—and how only through such personal connection to the world around us can we learn to love, protect, and preserve our world.”
— Jeffrey S. Cramer, editor of The Portable Thoreau

“I Begin with Spring weaves the story of Thoreau’s life with the progression of plant and animal milestones through the seasons and years. Accessible and inviting, it gracefully explores how Thoreau’s demand for social justice in his time can inform the drive for environmental justice and climate action in ours.”
— Theresa Crimmins, director, USA National Phenology Network

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“A marvelous life survey of a perennially relevant historical figure.”
— Kirkus Reviews (starred review)
Acadia Greene, budding scientist, does science with flair. In these five stories of fall, each followed by Acadia’s science notebook pages with her simple explanations and lively, whimsical drawings of natural phenomena, she campaigns to let kids discover for themselves what it’s like to be curious about the world and to satisfy that curiosity with scientific thinking.

“A melting snowman leads Acadia to explore climate change and how to reduce her carbon footprint. The helium balloons at her eleventh birthday party beg questions of molecular structure, and sight gags on every page reward repeated readings and will make this book the first one that parents want us to know, is Gato. To underline the story’s message of empowerment and self-identity, the back cover and background include photos of the real Gato (Winter Miller’s cat) doing everything he claims and more. Signs on walls, headlines in newspapers, New Yorker cartoon homages, and sight gags on every page make mincemeat of our first impressions. He wears a sweater and a leash, so is he a dog? He runs in pastures, so is he a horse? He likes flowers, so is he a bee? He swims, so is he a duck? He has flown in airplanes and ridden in subways, so is he a person? Maybe he’s all those things, but what he truly is, he wants us to know, is Gato.

"You will love Not a Cat. This is a friend in a cat suit!"
—Gloria Steinem

"Gato is my Yoda. I love this book."
—Jessica Love, author of Julián Is a Mermaid

"What a fun, absolutely gorgeous book. It will invite young readers to open up their perspectives. I’m in love with Gato!"
—Maulik Pancholy, actor and Stonewall Honor—winning author of The Best At It

$18.95 hardcover
ISBN 978-0-88448-879-8
9 x 11 • 32 pages
Illustrated in color throughout
Ages 5 – 8
PICTURE BOOK/FICTION

A funny, expansive, affirming story with a powerful message of self-identity.

Between his opening greeting and the bookend closing page on which he stalks away after taking no questions, Gato wants to make one thing perfectly clear: Although he has four legs, two ears, and a long, long tail, the word “cat” does not define him. His identity is his alone to describe and determine. With the help of Danica Novgorodoff’s laugh-out-loud illustrations, he takes us on a tour of his adventures, accomplishments, and daily activities that makes mincemeat of our first impressions. He wears a sweater and a leash, so is he a dog? He runs in pastures, so is he a horse? He likes flowers, so is he a bee? He swims, so is he a duck? He has flown in airplanes and ridden in subways, so is he a person? Maybe he’s all those things, but what he truly is, he wants us to know, is Gato.

Not a Cat
A Memoir

As told to Winter Miller
Illustrated by Winter Miller

“I want something too technical. ”
—Katie Coppens, an award-winning middle-school teacher who is a Science Scope (the magazine of the National Science Teachers Association), bestselling illustrator of Dear Girl.

“An excellent series that will help its audience look at the world in a new way.”
—Foreword Reviews

“Accessible and approachable, a useful tool for science learning.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“Outstanding series. Unreservedly recommended.”
—Midwest Book Reviews

“If you are looking for an educational fun book, this is the book for you.”
—Kid’s Book Buzz (starred review)

“Perfect for children who enjoy science but do not want something too technical.”
—Youth Services Book Review

“A great book that shows readers how scientific thinking can be applied to everyday life.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“An excellent series that will help its audience look at the world in a new way.”
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—Youth Services Book Review
Coral reefs are the gardens of the sea, and fish are the gardeners. Join two kids and a sea turtle for a journey through a fragile, beautiful ecosystem.

“A journey of discovery that will educate and inspire.”
—Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute, and UN Messenger of Peace

Keepers of the Reef
Dr. Sharon Wismer
Illustrated by Alice Wong

Sharon Wismer—reef ecologist and mom—is the best tour guide a kid could have for a visit to the underwater world of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef. Alice Wong’s richly detailed, accurate watercolors take a boy and girl snorkeling to see the fishes that maintain the ecological balance between the corals and their main competitor, algae. Without the fish species that brush, crop, scrape, excavate, and browse the algae, coral reefs would die. A coral reef is a brilliant and colorful example of how a complex ecosystem functions and why its keystone species are critical to its health.

The Great Barrier Reef is one of Earth’s most celebrated natural treasures. Here children discover why the reef is threatened and what we can all do to help protect it. Keepers of Reef is the rare children’s book combining cutting-edge science with narrative and pictorial magic. Thorough backmatter sources and resources are included.

“I lack a mouth, but I can speak…. I lack hands, but I can push out unwanted guests…. I’m gentler than a feather, but I can cause harm….”

By turns playful, challenging, and devious, smoke boasts of the ways it has helped human civilization advance: coaxing seeds to sprout; driving out termites and rodents; sending signals over long distances; preserving and flavoring foods; soothing bees; mixing medicines; aiding religious ceremonies. But smoke tells us that it can also cause harm and will never be tamed. Smoke has been borne aloft from flames, and its elements returned to earth, since before recorded time; its cycles never end.

Henry Herz’s spare, riddling narrative finds its ideal complement in Mercè López’s illustrations, which she created by holding art paper over smudgy burning candles to capture swirls of smoke. She then extended and deepened these textures with watercolors and finished in Photoshop, and the results are mesmerizing.

Backmatter about the uses of smoke through history enhances the book for STEM learning.

“I twirl in dark dance from every campfire. I am smoke.”

One of the 150 Most Anticipated Fall 2021 Books selected by Kirkus Reviews

“Lustrous illustrations and meditative text. Exquisitely beautiful. Smoke dissipates quickly, but this poetic text will linger.”
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Lustrous illustrations and meditative text. Exquisitely beautiful. Smoke dissipates quickly, but this poetic text will linger.”
—Elizabeth Bird, Fuse 8 Productions, SLJ

“I lack a mouth, but I can speak…. I lack hands, but I can push out unwanted guests…. I’m gentler than a feather, but I can cause harm….”

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I Am Smoke
Henry Herz
Illustrated by Mercè López

“One of the most astonishingly unconventional children’s books of 2021. Here’s to children’s books that expand our assumptions of what a children’s book can be.”
—Travis Jonker, 100 Scope Notes, SLJ

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“I twirl in dark dance from every campfire. I am smoke.”
Crying is Like the Rain
Heather Hawk Feinberg
Illustrated by Chamisa Kellogg

“A story of coping with anxiety and sadness.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“Useful and purposeful.”
—Publishers Weekly

“‘A reliable entrée for adults to support young readers’ emotional processing.’”
—School Library Journal

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“‘A reliable entrée for adults to support young readers’ emotional processing.’”
—School Library Journal

“With captivating, luminously colorful illustrations and a vintage feel, the story serves as an apt allegory in how each individual instrument holds value in the force of music’s power.”
—School Library Journal (starred review)

In My Neighborhood
Oscar Loubriel
Illustrated by Rogério Coelho

“A search for identity in a city of musical instruments.”

Feelings come and go like the weather, and crying is like the rain. The words of this gentle book elaborate this soothing, encouraging theme, while the pictures tell a story of a little boy tearfully bound for his first day of school in the company of his older, wiser sister. In back matter, Feinberg sets forth her tested methods for helping children cope with sadness, frustration, and fear.

“This empowering book is a tool for caregivers and teachers wanting to explore social emotional learning with the very young.”
—School Library Journal

“For children ages 5–8, this is a story of mindfulness and feelings, a search for identity in a city of musical instruments, and an exploration of how to cope with sadness, frustration, and fear.”
—Youth Services Book Review

“With captivating, luminously colorful illustrations and a vintage feel, the story serves as an apt allegory in how each individual instrument holds value in the force of music’s power.”
—School Library Journal (starred review)

“With captivating, luminously colorful illustrations and a vintage feel, the story serves as an apt allegory in how each individual instrument holds value in the force of music’s power.”
—School Library Journal (starred review)
The third book in Ben Rothery’s extraordinary series, Ocean Planet is the first to show us ocean life: Pacific walrus, king penguins, narwhals, great white sharks, squid, seahorses, moray eels, humpback whales, manta rays, orcas, and many more, rendered in exquisite, dramatic detail. Rothery also includes shore dwellers who depend on the sea: polar bears and otters of course, but also ring-tailed lemurs, Bengal tigers, and British Columbia wolves. He explores tropical reefs and polar seas, islands and open oceans, surface waters and the ocean abyss, kelp forests and mangroves. Like its predecessor volumes, Ocean Planet is not only gorgeous but probing and substantive.

$29.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-916-0 • 11 x 15 • 80 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 9 and up • NONFICTION/ART/NATURAL SCIENCES • Territory: US
Tamen longs to see the stars, but none are visible in the light-polluted sky above the fire escape of his apartment building. Even in the neighborhood park, the stars are hidden by city lights. So his mom, a nightshift nurse, finds a way to take him camping. For one magical night on the shore of a wilderness pond, the Milky Way in all its glory belongs to them.

Backmatter about dark-sky activism and national park programs complement the story for STEM learning.

“The perfect book for a school or class library.” —NSTA Recommends

“As educational as it is enthralling, a choice pick for grade school and public library children’s collections.” —Children’s Bookwatch

With lyrical writing and outstanding underwater photography, this picture book follows a day in the life of the denizens lurking in the cold, tide-swept waters beneath a remote pier on the shore of a northern sea. A wolf fish munching a sea urchin, a hermit crab switching shells, a sea slug arming itself with stinging cells stolen from an anemone, a starfish thrusting its stomach through its mouth to digest its prey, exotic basket stars straining the water for food, a 35-pound hundred-year-old lobster guarding his domain, and other creatures take us from dawn to darkness. Panoramic paintings show the bigger picture, including the eyes of nighttime predators and the creatures who are missing the following morning. An appendix of macro-photos shows the tiny animals that are critical to the food web.

The Pier at the End of the World
Paul Erickson
Photographs by Andrew Martinez

A CBC/NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book

Correlations to the Next Generation Science Standards and the Common Core ELA Standards available online at www.tilburyhouse.com

Paul Erickson (Newburyport, MA) creates exhibits, websites, guides, and videos for zoos, museums, and aquariums including the New England Aquarium, the Houston Zoo, ZooMiami, the Friends of the Los Angeles River, the Museum of Science and Discovery, and many others. He has authored or co-authored numerous magazine articles and three books about undersea life. He is the author of Don’t Mess with Me: The Strange Lives of Venomous Sea Creatures (page 19). Andrew Martinez (Danbury, MA) travels the world to photograph sea life.
This child’s poem of praise and affection for the sea is now a BOARD BOOK too.

$9.95 board book • ISBN 978-0-88448-917-7 • 8 x 6.5 • 28 pages
Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 0 – 4 • BOARD BOOK/VERSE

LITTLE BLUE HOUSE BESIDE THE SEA
Jo Ellen Bogart • Illustrated by Carme Lemniscates

The little blue house in this board book could be overlooking any ocean, and the narrator could be any child anywhere, gazing out over the waters, thinking about all the places she could go and imagining other little blue houses on other shores, with other children gazing back. This book’s bright primary colors are perfect for babies, and its rhymed couplets are perfect for read-aloud magic.
Reproduced from Audubon Kids Books, 2018

Blowholes, Book Gills and Butt-Breathers

The Strange Ways Animals Get Oxygen

Doug Wechsler

“An admirable series.” — Kirkus Reviews

“Available in hardcover and paperback editions, the newest book in the HOW NATURE WORKS series.”

All animals need oxygen to live, and some have developed bizarre ways of getting it. Weird and wonderful (as only nature can be), and with spectacular photography, this book explores the methods whales, snakes, birds, salamanders, horsehoe crabs, jellyfish, and other animals have evolved to breathe. One species of water beetle dives underwater with an air bubble that it uses like a scuba tank. Some maggots living in mud or sewage make snorkels for breathing. And yes, damsel fly larvae and at least one species of turtle breathe through their butts.

“A breath of fresh air for stale science shelves.” — Booklist

吹出孔, 书鳃, 以及屁股呼吸

Strange Ways Animals Get Oxygen

Doug Wechsler

“An admirable series.” — Kirkus Reviews

“Available in hardcover and paperback editions, the newest book in the HOW NATURE WORKS series.”

All animals need oxygen to live, and some have developed bizarre ways of getting it. Weird and wonderful (as only nature can be), and with spectacular photography, this book explores the methods whales, snakes, birds, salamanders, horsehoe crabs, jellyfish, and other animals have evolved to breathe. One species of water beetle dives underwater with an air bubble that it uses like a scuba tank. Some maggots living in mud or sewage make snorkels for breathing. And yes, damsel fly larvae and at least one species of turtle breathe through their butts.

“A breath of fresh air for stale science shelves.” — Booklist

吹出孔，书鳃，以及屁股呼吸

Strange Ways Animals Get Oxygen

Doug Wechsler

“An admirable series.” — Kirkus Reviews

“Available in hardcover and paperback editions, the newest book in the HOW NATURE WORKS series.”

All animals need oxygen to live, and some have developed bizarre ways of getting it. Weird and wonderful (as only nature can be), and with spectacular photography, this book explores the methods whales, snakes, birds, salamanders, horsehoe crabs, jellyfish, and other animals have evolved to breathe. One species of water beetle dives underwater with an air bubble that it uses like a scuba tank. Some maggots living in mud or sewage make snorkels for breathing. And yes, damsel fly larvae and at least one species of turtle breathe through their butts.

“A breath of fresh air for stale science shelves.” — Booklist

Scorpions and rattlesnakes are fine as far as they go, but they’ve got nothing on venomous sea creatures. Octopi, stingrays, stonefish, urchins—you can choose your poison in the ocean. Banded sea snakes wriggle into underwater caves to prey on vicious moray eels. Lion’s mane jellies dangle tentacles like poisonous curtains as they drift through midnight seas, trolling the depths for prey. Delicate-looking anemones paralyze and ingest passing sea urchins, spines and all. Corals and fireworms and snails, oh my! How did these venomous animals evolve?


“Perfect for kids making their way into more advanced nonfiction.” — Booklist

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“Perfect for kids making their way into more advanced nonfiction.” — Booklist
The Cottonwood Tree
Serena Mangus • Illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan

Cottonwood trees grow throughout North America and play a critical role in their ecosystems, yet little has been written about them. In this “autobiography,” a cottonwood tree tells its life story beginning when it is only a seed in a bed of fluff, floating over a river somewhere in the American heartland, and ending more than 80 years later when it is toppled by a fierce storm. Along the way the seed grows into a majestic tree, spreading its life-giving branches to birds, insects, and animals.

The tree recounts its visits over the years by a special human who was born in the same year. As a boy, this human climbs the cottonwood’s branches to watch the river and dream. As a father, he brings his daughter to visit. As an old man he grieves to see the tree knocked down but rejoices when he sees new sprouts emerging from the stump. He knows the tree is not done yet!

Captions throughout the book relate the natural histories of animals in and around the tree, and the backmatter offers further resources.

“A reassuring reminder of life’s eternal cycles. All members of this riparian ecosystem—and the visiting humans—come alive. Sincere and life-affirming.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“Sweet and simply charming. Excellent storytelling. Even the informational text is engaging. Enchanting. Do not miss this one.”
—Manhattan Book Review

“A wonderful story for budding naturalists.”
—Youth Services Book Review

How better to foster an understanding of these magnificent trees than to let a tree tell its own story?

$18.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-856-9 • 9 x 12 • 40 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 6 – 9 • F&P level R • PICTURE BOOK/CREATIVE NONFICTION
The story of the one-and-only incomparable Moofy, which, very slyly, introduces young readers and writers to the figures of speech.

There’s a monster under my bed who changes like a chameleon. He can be motionless, like a rock with a tail, or he can strike with blinding speed, like a lightning bolt with claws.

My monster’s name is Moofy. His ears are as pointy as tortilla chips and his tongue is as pink as bubblegum, but his teeth are as sharp as swords.

By day, Moofy is a fur rug in the sunshine. By night, he’s a pair of glowing lights in the darkness.

With those opening lines, we’ve already encountered similes using like, similes using as, and metaphors. Personifications, idioms, hyperboles, allusions, and much more lie ahead. But this isn’t a writing guide, it’s a picture book story about a little monster who oozes personality. The first pages leave us guessing, but kids will soon figure out, to their delight, that Moofy’s a cat. And what else could this furball of mischief be?

Fun is the order of the day, but an unobtrusive banner on each page lets interested readers know which figure of speech is being featured. This is a book a young reader and future writer can grow with.

“An excellent resource for an elementary language-arts classroom or an ideal gift for a young, budding writer. A delightful picture-book introduction to poetic devices.”
—Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Should help children develop sensitivity to linguistic devices and be better able to notice them in the wild.”
—Wall Street Journal

“If I gave out stars, this savvy picture book would get many. A literary triumph.”
—Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Forgive and be forgiven. It sounds so appealing—why doesn’t it happen every day? Finding herself forgiven on a rain-scrubbed morning after a difficult day, Melena seizes her fresh start and shares the song in her heart with her family and friends. It’s a day of new beginnings. It’s Melena’s jubilee. Melena is thoroughly appealing and so is this Own Voices story.

Born in Canada, Zetta Elliott moved to the U.S. in 1994 and now lives in Evanston, IL. Her poetry has been published in several anthologies, and her plays have been staged in New York, Chicago, and Cleveland. Her essays have appeared in The Huffington Post, School Library Journal, and Publishers Weekly. She is the author of more than twenty books for young readers, including the award-winning picture books Bird and Say Her Name. Three of her books have been named Best Children’s Books of the Year by the Bank Street Center for Children’s Literature.

Aaron Boyd is the illustrator of 25 children’s books including Luigi and the Barefoot Races, Babu’s Song, Daddy Goes to Work, and the Panda Goes to School series. His pop-up Storybook Year won a Clio Top 4 award and was inducted into the Smithsonian Rare Books collection. He has also received Children’s Africana Book, Choices Sports, Notable Children’s Book, and Hermes Creative awards, and his advertising graphics have received Addy Gold and Graphis awards.

Two is not a lot of pennies, but it is a lot of smelly skunks. Ten is not a lot of popcorn pieces, but it is a lot of chomping dinosaurs. Joey’s questions and his mom’s artful answers transform an ordinary car ride into a magical odyssey through the land of numbers.

Annie Watson is an Assistant Professor of Education at Northern Arizona University and prior to that was a high school English teacher for nine years. She is the author of My Monster Moofy (page 6), and when not teaching or writing enjoys exploring the outdoors with her husband and two children.

Rebecca Evans worked for nine years as an artist and designer before returning to her first love: children’s book illustration and writing. Her books include Someday I’ll Fly; Friends in Fur Coats; The Shopkeeper’s Bear; Naught Nana; Mei Ling in China; Masterpiece Robot (page 44); and Finding the Speed of Light (page 42). She lives in Maryland with her husband and four young children, teaches art at the Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts, and works from her home studio whenever time permits. Rebecca’s own boundless imagination enjoys free rein at www.rebeccaevans.net.
The First Blade of Sweetgrass
Story by Suzanne Greenlaw and Gabriel Frey
Illustrations by Nancy Baker

In this Own Voices Native American picture book, a modern Wabanaki girl is excited to accompany her grandmother for the first time to harvest sweetgrass for basket making. She must overcome her impatience while learning to distinguish sweetgrass from other salt marsh grasses, but slowly the spirit and peace of her surroundings speak to her, and she gathers sweetgrass as her ancestors have done for centuries, leaving the first blade she sees to grow for future generations. This sweet, authentic story from a Maliseet mother and her Passamaquoddy husband includes backmatter about traditional basket making and a Wabanaki glossary.

A Junior Library Guild Selection

“A sweet story, deeply personal, thoughtfully detailed.”
—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

“This lyrical tale shows how careful observation and the respect of nature can provide unexpected gifts.”
—Kirkus Reviews

Musqon got down on her knees and was enveloped by grass. She could see her grandmother’s head through the tips of the tall grass. The air felt cooler close to the ground, and the thin whine of the mosquitoes grew distant.

Musqon looked for the purple-stemmed sweetgrass, but all the grasses looked the same. Frustrated, she started to pull at any stems she could reach. Some broke off where she tugged. Others pulled out of the soil.

An Own Voices Native American story.

$18.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-760-9 • 9 x 10 • 32 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 5 – 9 • F&P level R • PICTURE BOOK/FICTION/NATIVE AMERICAN
Have I Ever Told You
Black Lives Matter?

Shani Mahiri King
Illustrated and designed by Bobby C. Martin Jr.

“The pages are wonderfully alive with electric hues. The book’s narrative rhythms portray time as a river of swirling currents as opposed to points on a straight line. King’s long view of history connects the past strongly to the present, and vice versa.”
—New York Times Book Review

“Black history and culture come alive in this celebratory biography, whose fresh, pop-art style bursts with color and creatively sized and set sans-serif font. This book powerfully reflects current events and attitudes while raising up Black Americans past and present.”
—Booklist (starred review)

“The litany is rhythmic and powerful. The historical and contemporary examples of Black excellence effectively build up a sense of confidence and indisputable value before the Black lives cut short by violence are named, so that these acts of violence are seen in proper context as wrongful denial of a birthright.”
—Kirkus Reviews

“Testament to how beautiful typography can influence a book’s design. A combination of bright colors, silhouettes, and names decorate the pages, inviting the reader to take it all in. The text is magnificent. It could be used and studied all year long. Absolutely required reading in middle school classrooms.”
—The Tiny Activist

Shani Mahiri King (Miami, FL) is a law professor at the University of Florida, where he is director of the Center on Children and Families and an Associate Director of the Center on Race and Race Relations. Shani teaches and writes in the areas of international human rights, children’s rights and family law, immigration law, and legal ethics. He is the father of a nine-year-old daughter and a six-year-old son, for whom he wrote the picture book Have I Ever Told You? (see page 50).

Bobby C. Martin Jr (Brooklyn, NY) is co-founder of Champions Design, a branding and design agency in New York City, and faculty member of the graduate design program at the School of Visual Arts, where he earned an MFA in 2003. Bobby’s son was born in 2019 and inspired him to take on this project.

$17.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-889-7 • 7 x 9.5 • 64 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 8 – 12 • F&P level Y; Lexile 1010 • NONFICTION
From the author of Most People, here is a timely reminder of the wonders around us.

$17.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-727-2 • 9 x 10 • 32 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 3 – 8 • F&P level N; Lexile 600 • PICTURE BOOK / FICTION

Most Days
Michael Leannah • Illustrated by Megan Elizabeth Baratta

Named to Kirkus Best 100 Picture Books of 2021
Named to Kirkus Nine Best 2021 Picture Books Celebrating Community

★★ “Guaranteed to help readers of all ages find wonder each day.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Most Days is a gentle reminder that the ‘here and now’ still carries tremendous value and fascination.” —School Library Journal

This is a book about paying attention to what's around us. About celebrating a wonderful moment. About enjoying the extraordinary unfoldings of an ordinary day. Moving from morning to night, the narrator becomes by turns a boy or girl of ever-changing ethnicity and ability, inhabiting city, country, or suburb. They are all children everywhere, opening their eyes to the gift of time.

From morning to night, the narrator becomes by turns a boy or girl of ever-changing ethnicity and ability, inhabiting city, country, or suburb. They are all children everywhere, opening their eyes to the gift of time.

A splash of sunlight plays on the kitchen floor. Voices murmur. I smell toast, hear a spoon in a cereal bowl. It's a plain old ordinary day.

But wait! The plant on the windowsill had six leaves yesterday, and today there are seven.

Outside, bees drone. A dog barks. A car door shuts. Everything is the same. Or is it? That spiderweb wasn’t there yesterday, and the puddle I splashed in is gone.

"Most Days is a gentle reminder that the ‘here and now’ still carries tremendous value and fascination.” —School Library Journal

Recommended Book—NCTE

Most People
Michael Leannah
Illustrated by Jennifer E. Morris
Recommended Book—NCTE

Most People is an antidote to the scary words and images kids hear and see every day. Jennifer Morris’s emotive characters provide the perfect complement to Michael Leannah's words, leading us through the crowded streets of an urban day to witness the myriad well-intended interactions of daily existence.

"Perfectly pitched for its young audience." —New York Times

“A great book.” —CNN

“Heartwarming.” —Brightly

“Very highly recommended.” —Midwest Book Review

“Reminds kids that, although there are many scary events and images in the world, there are also countless examples of goodness.” —HuffPost

$9.95 paperback • ISBN 978-0-88448-555-1 • $16.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-554-4 • 9 x 10 • 36 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 4 – 7 • F&P level M • PICTURE BOOK / FICTION

Additionally available:

Most People
Michael Leannah
Illustrated by Jennifer E. Morris
Recommended Book—NCTE

Most People is an antidote to the scary words and images kids hear and see every day. Jennifer Morris’s emotive characters provide the perfect complement to Michael Leannah’s words, leading us through the crowded streets of an urban day to witness the myriad well-intended interactions of daily existence.

"Perfectly pitched for its young audience." —New York Times

“A great book.” —CNN

“Heartwarming.” —Brightly

“Very highly recommended.” —Midwest Book Review

“Reminds kids that, although there are many scary events and images in the world, there are also countless examples of goodness.” —HuffPost

$9.95 paperback • ISBN 978-0-88448-555-1 • $16.95 hardcover • ISBN 978-0-88448-554-4 • 9 x 10 • 36 pages • Illustrated in color throughout • Ages 4 – 7 • F&P level M • PICTURE BOOK / FICTION

From the author of Most People, here is a timely reminder of the wonders around us.
Waiting for a Warbler
Sneed B. Collard III • Illustrated by Thomas Brooks

“For kids who enjoy observing birds, here’s an informative introduction to bird-watching.” —Booklist

Owen’s family has planted native shrubs, trees, and perennials around their house, providing food and habitat for the birds Owen loves. He hopes to see a rare Cerulean warbler—perhaps the same one that visited last year.

In early April, as Owen and his sister search the hickories, oaks, and dogwoods for returning birds, a huge group of birds leaves the misty mountain slopes of the Yucatan peninsula for the 600-mile flight across the Gulf of Mexico to their summer nesting grounds. One of them is a Cerulean warbler. He will lose more than half his body weight even if the journey goes well. Aloft over the vast ocean, the birds encourage each other with squeaky chirps that say, “We are still alive. We can do this.”

Owen’s family watches televised reports of a great storm over the Gulf of Mexico, fearing what it may mean for migrating songbirds. In alternating spreads, we wait and hope with Owen, then struggle through the storm with the warbler.

This moving story with its hopeful ending appeals to us to preserve the things we love. The back-matter includes a North American bird migration map, birding information for kids, and guidance for how native plantings can transform yards into bird and wildlife habitat.

North American songbird populations have declined by 3 billion since 1970. In this story, a family transforms their yard to make a refuge for birds.

Science writer Sneed B. Collard III (Missoula, MT; www.sneedbcollardiii.com) is the author of more than 80 children’s books, including One Iguana, Two Iguanas and Catching Air (see page 14). He has received the Washington Post Children’s Book Guild Nonfiction Award for his body of work, and his books are featured regularly in the Junior Library Guild, NSTA/CBC Outstanding Science Trade Book lists, and other best-of lists.

Thomas Brooks (Rockland, ME) illustrates natural history and wildlife subjects in a variety of mediums, with a focus on combining digital and traditional methods of image making. He has been an exhibit artist and scientific illustrator for several regional parks and nature centers and loves projects that combine education and fine art.
Starting Over in Sunset Park
José Pelaez and Lynn McGee
Illustrated by Bianca Diaz

“This book doesn’t sugarcoat anything, but it also ends on a hopeful note.”
—A Fuse #8 Production (An SLJ Blog)

“A new thread in the ever-growing tapestry of immigration stories in picture books. The Afro-Caribbean experience is seldom seen in children’s books, and cultural insiders will appreciate the text’s references to the Dominican Republic and its inclusion of Spanish language.”
—Booklist

“A story full of vitality and compassion, Starting Over in Sunset Park will speak to all readers but will resonate most strongly with anyone who has ever made a home in a new country.”
—BookPage

“Pelaez and McGee sketch vivid portraits of the family’s culture. Detailed, marker-bright illustrations by Diaz effectively employ comics-style panels and speech bubbles, successfully reflecting one child’s gradual journey of adaptation.”
—Publishers Weekly

Brooklyn is a strange, intimidating place for a girl who speaks no English when she steps off her very first plane after a flight from the Dominican Republic. Jessica and her mom, Camila, must live in their cousins’ crowded apartment until Camila finds work making holiday decorations and they can afford their own place. Isolated on the playground and baffled in class, Jessica is intensely homesick. But little by little, things get better. She begins to learn English, and she loves the cats she and her mom care for to earn extra money. Left behind by traveling owners, the cats make the best of their situation, inspiring Jessica to do the same.

José Pelaez (Brooklyn, NY) founded Kitty, an agency that provides temporary homes to the pets of traveling New Yorkers. Starting Over in Sunset Park explores issues he himself experienced while adjusting to a new life in America.

Lynn McGee (Bronx, NY) has taught adult literacy to immigrants and has led poetry workshops in New York City elementary schools as an artist-in-residence with the Teachers and Writers Collaborative.

Bianca Diaz (Brooklyn, NY), a granddaughter of Mexican immigrants, grew up in Pilsen, a Mexican American neighborhood in Chicago. Bianca is a 2018 Ezra Jack Keats Book Award nominee for her illustrations for The One Day House.

Caring for resilient cats helps eight-year-old Jessica, a newly arrived immigrant, adapt to life in New York City.

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—Children’s Book Council

“Those interested in art are going to be thrilled.”
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—Booklist

“An inviting introduction to a range of important painters.”
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**If Picasso Painted a Snowman**
Amy Newbold
Illustrated by Greg Newbold

How does an artist’s imagination summon magic from a prosaic subject? Greg Newbold’s chameleon-like artistry shows us how Roy Lichtenstein’s snow hero saving the day, Georgia O’Keeffe’s snowman blooming in the desert, Claude Monet’s snowmen among haystacks, Grant Wood’s American Gothic snowman, Jackson Pollock’s snowman in ten thousand splats, Salvador Dalí’s snowmen dripping like melty cheese, and snowmen as they might have been rendered by J. M. W. Turner, Gustav Klimt, Paul Klee, Marc Chagall, Georges Seurat, Pablo Picasso, Piet Mondrian, Sonia Delaunay, Jacob Lawrence, and Vincent van Gogh.

If Monet Painted a Monster
Amy Newbold
Illustrated by Greg Newbold


If DaVinci Painted a Dinosaur
Amy Newbold
Illustrated by Greg Newbold

The Newbolds show us Edgar Degas’ dinosaur ballerinas, Cassius Coolidge’s dinosaurs playing poker; Hokusai’s dinosaurs surfing a giant wave, and dinosaurs smelling flowers in Mary Cassatt’s garden; grazing in Grandma Moses’ green valley; peeking around orchids in Frida Kahlo’s portrait; tip-toeing through Basili’s tiny Indiana; and cavorting, stampeding, or hiding in canvases by Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, Diego Rivera, Franz Marc, Harrison Begay, Alma Thomas, Aaron Douglas, Mark Rothko, Lois Mailou Jones, Marguerite Zorach, and Edward Munsh. And, of course, striking a Mona Lisa pose for Leonardo Da Vinci.

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Written by trailblazing elementary-school mindfulness educator Linda Ryden (www.TeachPeaceofMind.com), the HENRY & FRIENDS storybook series is a kid-tested resource for social and emotional learning.

**TYAJA USES THE THINK TEST**
A Story About the Power of Words
Linda Ryden
Illustrated by Shearry Malone

When Ms. Snowden introduces the THiNK Test, she tells her students that T = True, H = Helpful, N = Necessary, and K = Kind. If what they’re about to say isn’t any of these things, they shouldn’t say it. Later that day, when Tyaja is about to criticize her friend Dhaivi’s new haircut, she is stopped by four little elves sporting the letters T, H, N, and K, who reinforce Ms. Snowden’s lesson. Tyaja learns that she is the “TH" in THiNK!

“I adore this book.”—Dr. Elizabeth Hoffman, neuroscientist

“A great book to share with children for social-emotional learning.”—Kirkus Reviews

$16.95 hardcover • 978-0-88448-733-7 • 9 x 10 • 32 pages
PICTURE BOOK/FICTION/STEAM • Ages 5 – 10 • F&P level N; Lexile 640

**Sergio Sees the Good**
The Story of One Not So Bad Day
Linda Ryden
Illustrated by Shearry Malone

Good things happen even on a terrible day, and Sergio’s day starts to look a lot better when his mom shows him a simple way to tally those good things. Backmatter explains the Negativity Bias and how Sergio’s simple balancing exercise for home or classroom can put things in perspective.

“Provides readers with an easy-to-engage method that will help them put bad days and experiences in perspective.”—Kirkus Reviews

$16.95 hardcover • 978-0-88448-731-9 • 9 x 10 • 32 pages
PICTURE BOOK/FICTION/STEAM • Ages 5 – 10 • F&P level M; Lexile 510

**Henry is Kind**
A Story of Mindfulness
Linda Ryden
Illustrated by Shearry Malone

Most of Ms. Snowden’s students love doing their Kindness Project, but poor Henry is close to tears when he can’t think of any kind things he’s done. Fortunately his classmates come to the rescue, reminding him of the many small kindnesses he’s shown. Young readers will be inspired to use the simple mindfulness practices taught in this book to develop their own capacities for kindness.

“A heartfelt, useful book.”—Kirkus Reviews

“Henry is Kind: A wonderful way to introduce mindfulness.”—Youth Services Book Review

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Ages 6 – 9 • F&P level O; Lexile 700

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Kimberly Ridley
Illustrated by Rebekah Raye
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Ages 6 – 11 • F&P level N; Lexile 1100

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Terry Pierce • Illustrated by Carol Heyer
"Beautiful life-like endangered animal illustrations.” — Youth Services Book Review
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Ages 4 – 6 • F&P level M

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R. Lynn Ruelfs
Illustrated by Jamie Hogan
"Gentle and lovely. An informative and delightful addition.”
— School Library Journal
“A lovely book.” — Youth Services Book Reviews
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Green Earth Book Award
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Terry Pierce
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Andrea Cheng
Illustrated by Joline McFadden
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Ages 7 – 12 • F&P level O

TILBURY HOUSE NATURE BOOKS  46

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What do the Piltdown Man, Keely Motor Company, and Ponzi Scheme have in common? They were all famous hoaxes, carefully designed and bolstered with false evidence. This book guides us through a rogues’ gallery of hustlers, liars, swindlers, impostors, scammers, pretenders, and cheats.

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Refusing to quit, overcoming obstacles and self-doubt to finish a long run, the resolute narrator of I Am Darn Tough realizes that she is strong inside and out. This beautifully illustrated story can inspire any child, anytime, who wants to run toward greater confidence in herself.

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One hot summer day, Luke and his friends decide to play their favorite game of war, using sticks for guns and pinecones for bombs. But Sameer, who is new to their neighborhood, doesn’t want to join in. When the kids learn that Sameer lost his family in a real war, they realize that war is not a game. The gracefulness of their response and the power of friendship are the real stories here.

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Joshua and his grandfather love being together. But Grandpa gets sick and is in the hospital a long time. When he gets out, he and Joshua share one more fishing adventure, and Grandpa promises Joshua that he will always be near. “Think of it this way,” Grandpa says. “Today, you and I are like two fish swimming together in this lake. When I die, things will be different. I won’t be a fish anymore, but I’ll become something even better. My love will be like the water in the lake. You might think I’m not with you, but we’ll be closer than ever because you’ll be surrounded by my love.” Long after Grandpa dies, Joshua comes to understand that Grandpa kept his promise—and that love and its memory survive death.

“A moving story of a grandfather’s love for his grandson. They share a special bond of fishing together. As he grows older and becomes ill, the two share an intimate discussion on dying, which is a wonderful way to explain to young children how someone they care for deeply will always be with them through their memories.”

—Kirkus Reviews

GLORIA’S BIG PROBLEM
Sarah Stiles Bright
Illustrated by Mike Deas
A CBC Recommended Book
Gloria loves to sing, dance, and act in her bedroom, but not in public. No way. Gloria’s big problem makes sure of that, following her wherever she goes and constantly reminding her that she’s anxious and frightened, that she’s not good enough, and that everyone will laugh at her. Until one day, Gloria summons all her courage to try out for a community theater production. She marches herself to the audition, and her big problem marches behind her. She gets up on stage, and her big problem laughs at her from the front row. And then at last she yells “STOP!”, and her big problem shrinks to a little problem, and Gloria wins a part in the play.

Gloria’s Big Problem reassures kids that anxieties are common, not weird, and that being brave doesn’t mean having no fear—it means overcoming the fears we have.

“There’s a lot of empathy and solidarity in these pages.”

—Publishers Weekly

“A clever story for young people to help them overcome their fears and insecurities.”

—Kids’ BookBuzz
COMMON CRITTERS
The Wildlife in Your Neighborhood
Poems by Pat Brisson
Illustrated by Dan Tavis

Common Critters celebrates neighborhood wildlife in verse. A familiar cast of characters—caterpillars, ladybugs, robins, houseflies, spiders, squirrels, skunks, and others—crawls, runs, buzzes, and flies through these lively poems, which show how exotic these seemingly ordinary creatures really are. Dan Tavis’s humorous illustrations crank up the delight, and a child wanting to learn more will find it in the natural-history backmatter. Pat Brisson employs a variety of verse forms in the book, and she shows how it’s done in a back-of-book feature called “A Peek into the Poet’s Toolkit.” Common Critters is a three-tool STEAM book with delightful reading, natural history, and language skills rolled into one.

“The poems are light and fun, while the entertaining illustrations will draw in readers.”
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Backlist Highlights
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### INDEX OF TITLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACADIA FILES, THE</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Always Mom, Forever Dad</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana and the Sea Star</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic Quilt, The</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronaut Annie</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bees in the City</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before We Eat (board book)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before We Eat (hardcover)</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEN ROTHERY NATURE SERIES</td>
<td>20-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Problems, Little Problems</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blowholes, Book Gills, and Butt Breathers</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat of Dreams</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Bench, The</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Gets the Last Word</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribou Alphabet, A</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catching Air</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte's Roses</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Fish, Country Fish</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Critters</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottonwood Tree, The</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crying Is Like the Rain</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daddy Played the Blues</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Mess with Me</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Survivors</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye of the Whale, The</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Far Side of the Moon, The</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finding the Speed of Light</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Blade of Sweetgrass, The</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria’s Big Problem</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Eating</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I Ever Told You?</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handel’s Promise</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HENRY AND FRIENDS</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry It Kind</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hidden Planet</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW NATURE WORKS</td>
<td>26-27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Am Darn Tough</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Am Coyote</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Am Smoke</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I Begin with Spring</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Da Vinci Painted a Dinosaur</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Monet Painted a Monster</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If Picasso Painted a Snowman</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If You Are a Kaka, You Eat Doo Doo</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ll Be the Water</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigrant Architect</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In My Neighborhood</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is 2 a Lot?</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keepers of the Reef</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kunji Basket</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalith’s Lunchbox</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemonade Hurricane, The</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Under Ice</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lion Lights</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Blue House Beside the Sea</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luigi and the Barefoot Races</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Thief, The</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnificent Homingpun Brown</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterpiece Robot</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melinda’s Julive</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Pekelthen’s Purse</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument Maker</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must Day</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must People</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mouth and Wrap, Soil and Ocean</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mother Earth’s Lubaby</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskrat Will Be Swimming</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Busy Green Garden</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My Monster Moody</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT! I Won’t Go to School</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a Cat</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean Planet</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Iguana, Two Iguanas</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Friendship Rules</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass the Pandowdys, Please</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pier at the End of the World</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pico 4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing War</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Read This Book If You Don’t Want a Story</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Sisters Pretend</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMASTERED MASTERSPIES</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubio and Jaqueline</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Say Something</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season of Flowers, A (board book)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season of Flowers, A (hardcover)</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secret Bay, The</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secret Galaxy, The</td>
<td>55</td>
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<td>Secret Pool, The</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sensational Butterflies</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>Sergio Saves the Good</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyscraper</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soda Bottle School, The</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Over in Sunset Park, The</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STORY IN 50 SERIES</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of Ambition in 50 Houses, A</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of Civilization in 50 Disasters, A</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of Medicine in 50 Discoveries, A</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of Travel in 50 Vehicles, A</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvia Rose and the Cherry Tree</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talking Walk</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thanks to the Animals</td>
<td>56</td>
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<td>They’re Happier Too</td>
<td>5</td>
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<td>This or That?</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Lost Seeds</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>TILBURY HOUSE NATURE BOOKS</td>
<td>40-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tummy Time Friends</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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<td>Two Men and a Cat</td>
<td>57</td>
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<td>Tyoga Uses the THINK Test</td>
<td>45</td>
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<td>Waiting for a Warbler</td>
<td>40</td>
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<td>Welcoming Babies</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>Whole Fish Café</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>When the Beck Fly Home</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>When the Earth Shook</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who Belongs Here?</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Never Sleeps, The</td>
<td>46</td>
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Note: Any children's book with an F&P designation in its metadata has been officially leveled using the F&P Text Level Gradient™ Leveling System.