

◆ Slade, Suzanne. *Countdown: 2979 Days to the Moon*. Peachtree Publishers. In 1961, President Kennedy announced that the United States would try to land a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. During the 2,979 days that followed his speech, 18 astronauts climbed into spaceships; 3 of them died before even leaving the ground. 8 rockets soared into space. And 400,000 people -- engineers, technicians, scientists, mathematicians, and machinists -- joined Project Apollo in hopes of making the dream a reality. A powerful story of the successes, failures, triumphs, tragedies, and lessons learned.

◆ Grimes, Nikki. *Between the Lines*. Nancy Paulsen Books. Darrian dreams of writing for the New York Times. To hone his skills and learn more about the power of words, he enrolls in Mr. Ward's class, known for its open-mic poetry readings and boys vs. girls poetry slam. Everyone in class has something important to say, and in sharing their poetry, they learn that they all face challenges and have a story to tell.

Grades 9-12

◆ Albertelli, Becky. *What If It's Us?* Harper Teen. Arthur is waiting for a whirlwind romance and Ben just wishes people would mind their own business. When they meet in a New York city post office something sparks between them, but they can't quite get the timing right, and then they can't quite get out of their own heads about it all. Will it work out, or won't it?

◆ Ali, S.K. *Saints and Misfits*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. In Janna Yusuf's world there are the saints, the people giving back to their community and the misfits, like herself, who feel torn between two cultures. Then there are the monsters, and sometimes they wear the mask of saints. This is the story of how Janna deals with a monster in her life that everyone else thinks is a saint.

◆ Brodsky, Demetra. *Dive Smack*. Tor Teen. Theo Mackey, dive team captain, straight A student, accidental arsonist with tragic repercussions. All he wants is to leave the past behind, but an assignment at school forces him to dig through old memories. Memories are fallible however, and he begins to question what really happened on the night of the fire.

◆ Brown, Don. *The Unwanted: Stories of Syrian Refugees*. HMH Books for Young Readers. This full color, non-fiction graphic novel shows the life of a refugee fleeing Syria. From dangerous travel to cramped camps, the illustrations and text vividly bring to light both the hopes and the horrors in the lives of very real people.

◆ Chanani, Nidhi. *Pashmina*. First Second. This graphic novel, soon-to-be Netflix series, tells the story of Priyanka Das, who is desperate to reconnect with India, the country her mother left behind, and the father that was left there too. While her mother won't say anything about her time there, a magical pashmina shawl transports her to the world she craves to see, and there she can find the truth she has been seeking.

◆ Cronn-Mills, Kristin. *Original Fake*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. Frankie Neumann has a really weird family: his sister wears tutus casually and his parents are Frank Sinatra impersonators, meanwhile he's just a guy that makes pizza. He has artistic aspirations, but so far he's kept them on the back burner, until one night after a shift at the pizza shop when he meets the assistants for a Banksy-style street artist. After that Frankie gets to showcase his talent, but before long things go off the rails.

◆ Dinerstein, Eric. *What Elephants Know*. Disney-Hyperion. Protected by wild dogs on the outskirts of Nepal, Nandu is found at 2 years old and sent to the King's elephant stable. There he is raised by an unlikely pair: the head of the stable, and a female elephant. Ten years later the government threatens to close the stable, and Nandu must plan a way to save his small family. For his home and community to stay intact, he must quest back into the wilds and bring back a bull elephant.

◆ Herback, Geoff. *Hooper*. Katherine Tegen Books. Basketball has been a saving grace in Adam Reed's life. Adopted from a Polish orphanage Adam came to live in Minnesota. There his skills at the game are noticed, and he is asked to play on a high profile team. At first this seems like his way to a great life: friends, a girlfriend, and a dream of the future, but an incident with the police threatens to derail everything. Adam is left having to choose between sport and family.

◆ Lee, Mackenzi. *Ladies Guide to Petticoats and Piracy*. Katherine Tegen Books. A sequel that stands alone, the Ladies Guide follows Felicity Montague on her quest to become a female physician in the 1700's when such a thing was utterly unheard of. In her desire to achieve this goal she gets mixed up with thieves and pirates, reunites with a long lost friend, and figures out how to make her own way in the world. As wise as it is funny, Felicity's circumstances are as meaningful today as they were in the 1700's.

◆ Menon, Sandhya. *When Dimple Met Rishi*. Simon Pulse. Dimple Shah's traditional Indian parents love that she is a smart, talented programmer, but they still want to arrange a marriage with a good Indian boy for her. Dimple wants nothing more than to go to Stanford and create life changing apps. Rishi Patel's parents love that he is a good Indian boy willing to be set up with a good Indian Girl. Unfortunately, that good Indian girl is Dimple and she doesn't know their parents set them up. This is the story of how they met, and then what happened.

◆ Saedi, Sara. *Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. Sara Saedi is a typical teen who wants to get rid of her acne, get a car and go to Prom. What is not typical about her is something she didn't learn until later: she is an undocumented immigrant from Iran. Suddenly, she is plagued by the fear that she could be deported at anytime. Sara then adds green card to the list of things she wants. This book follows her progress

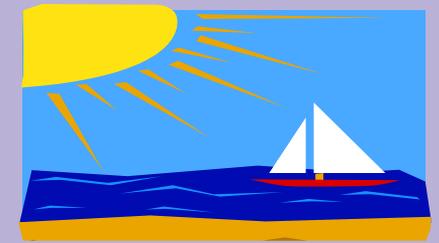
toward achieving that goal; soon be made into a TV series on ABC.

◆ Stiefvater, Maggie. *All the Crooked Saints*. Scholastic Press. In Bicho Raro, Colorado there are three cousins, who are part of a miracle granting family. There is Beatriz, who is cold and analytical, Daniel who will grant miracles to everyone but himself, and Joaquin the radio broadcasting rebel. Everyone who comes to Bicho Raro wants a miracle, but when they get there they find it's not what they expect.

◆ Summers, Courtney. *Sadie. Macmillan*. This is the gritty tale of Sadie, a young woman who disappeared after her sister, Mattie, was found dead. Sadie basically raised her sister after their junkie mom left them, and protected her before then from her mother's bad boyfriends. This story is told partly in Sadie's voice, and partly in the voice of podcast host West McCray, who is piecing together the clues Sadie's disappearance left behind.

◆ Olson, Norah. *Before Now*. HarperCollins Publishers. A love story that starts at the tragic ending unfolds backwards through time to the start where Atty and Cole discover they are meant to be together. Written as Atty's journal, she tells us the story of how she and Cole got together and why he never wanted to be apart from her. The way the past catches up to them is revealed, as is the tragedy that sent on an escape trajectory from Minneapolis. This is a suspenseful, emotional story written in a fresh new way.

◆ Turner, Pamela. *Samurai Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*. Charlesbridge. A story that reads like an action movie, Samurai Rising tells the story of YoYoshitsune, the greatest samurai in Japanese history. Early in his life, his father was killed by a rival samurai clan and he was sent to live in a monastery with peaceful monks. Though he was small in stature, Yoshitsune escapes the monastery and starts training to be a warrior. Despite a very late start to his training he achieves his goal, and when clan Minamoto needs him he rises to the call and into legend.



Summer Reading for Kids 2019

These books have been selected by VSLA (Vermont School Library Association) and are recommended for summer reading for children and young adults. For more recommendations, see your school or public librarian.

2019 Award Winners

Caldecott Medal—for most distinguished American picture book: **Hello Lighthouse** written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Little, Brown and Company

Newbery Medal—for most outstanding contribution to children's literature: **Merci Suárez Changes Gears** by Meg Medina. Candlewick Press

Robert F. Sibert Award—for most distinguished informational book: **The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science** by Joyce Sidman. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Coretta Scott King Author Award—recognizing an African American author of outstanding books: **A Few Red Drops: The Chicago Race Riot of 1919** by Claire Hartfield. Clarion Books

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award—recognizing an African American illustrator of outstanding books: **The Stuff of Stars** illustrated by Ekuia Holmes; written by Marion Dane Bauer. Candlewick Press

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award—for most distinguished beginning reader: **Fox the Tiger** written and illustrated by Corey R. Tabor. Balzer + Bray

Michael L. Printz Award—for excellence in literature written for young adults: **The Poet X** by Elizabeth Acevedo. HarperTeen

Vermont Red Clover Award Books: The Red Clover Award promotes the reading and discussion of the best of contemporary picture books. 2019-2020 Master list available at: tinyurl.com/redcloveraward2019

Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award: The Dorothy Canfield Children's Book Award, first given in 1957, honors excellence in children's literature targeted for readers grades 4-8. 2019-2020 Master list available at: tinyurl.com/dcfaward2019

Green Mountain Book Award: A Vermont reader's choice award for students in grades 9-12. 2019-2020 Master list available at: tinyurl.com/gmba2019

Kindergarten - 4th Grade Picture Books and Emergent Readers

◆ Arnold, Marsha Diane. *Galápagos Girl*. Children's Book Press. Galapagos girl Valentina Cruz spends her days observing the natural world around her. She greets the sea lions splashing on the shore, scampers over lava rocks with Sallylightfoot crabs, and swims with manta rays. But Valentina also understands the fragility of this wondrous world, and she makes a solemn promise to protect the islands and her animal friends. Based on a true story.

◆ Butler, Delacroix, Sibylle. *Grains of Sand*. Owlkid Books. On the last day of vacation, a little girl is as blue as the sea, and her shoes are filled with sand. What should she do with all of this sand? Together, she and her brother decide to plant the grains of sand, and imagine what will grow. A field of beach umbrellas, to wave hello to the sun? Or a forest of windmills, to fill the sails of a boat? Before drifting off to sleep, the girl has her dad promise they'll go back for new grains of sand next year.

◆ DiCamillo, Kate. *Good Rosie!* Candlewick. Rosie is a good dog and a faithful companion to her owner, George. One day George takes Rosie to the dog park, but the park is full of dogs that Rosie doesn't know. When big, loud Maurice and small, yippy Fifi bound over and want to play, Rosie's not sure how to respond. Is there a trick to making friends? And if so, can they all figure it out together? Illustrated by Vermont cartoonist Harry Bliss.

◆ Eggers, Dave. *Tomorrow Most Likely*. Chronicle Books. "Tomorrow most likely there will be a sky. And chances are it will be blue. Tomorrow most likely there will be a squirrel. And chances are his name is Stu." A creative and thoughtful take on the bedtime story; rather than focusing on going to bed, it contemplates the next day and all of the wonderful, dreamy, and silly things that are to come. "You might ride a whale. You could eat a cloud." This is a book readers will ask for again and again.

◆ Latimer, Alex. *Am I Yours?* Peachtree Publishers. A group of friendly dinosaurs helps a lost egg search for its parents after it's been blown out of its nest. But if the little egg is to be reunited with its family, first they must discover what kind of dinosaur lies inside. What does that egg look like inside its shell? Surely, there must be a way to tell! This fun and unique tale will keep dinosaur lovers and fans of *Are You My Mother?* enthusiastically following along and guessing who is inside the shell.

◆ Lin, Grace. *A Big Mooncake for Little Star*. Little, Brown and Company. Pat, pat, pat... Little Star's soft feet tiptoed to the Big Mooncake. Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet! What happens when she can't resist a nibble? A gorgeous picture book that tells a whimsical origin story of the phases of the moon. A perfect companion read to moon and star gazing on a summer night!

◆ Martinez-Neal, Juana. *Alma and How She Got her Name*. Candlewick Press. What's in a name? If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; Jose, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes, too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all -- and realizes that she will one day have her own story to tell.

◆ Meddour, Wendy. *Lubna and Pebble*. Dial Books for Young Readers. Lubna's best friend is a pebble. Pebble always listens to her stories. Pebble always smiles when she feels scared. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna realizes that he needs Pebble even more than she does. An unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that gives her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty.

◆ Medina, Juana. *Juana & Lucas*. Candlewick Press. Juana loves many things: drawing, living in Bogota, Colombia, and especially her dog, Lucas, the best amigo ever. She does not love wearing her itchy school uniform, solving math problems, or learning the English. Why is it so important to learn a language that makes so little sense? Hilarious, energetic, and utterly relatable, Juana will win over los corazones (the hearts) of readers everywhere.

◆ Messner, Kate. *The Brilliant Deep: Rebuilding the World's Coral Reefs: The Story of Ken Nedimyer and the Coral Restoration Foundation*. Chronicle Books. "It starts with one." A picture book biography of Ken Nedimyer and his groundbreaking efforts to restore the Florida Keys coral reefs by growing staghorn corals in "live rock" farms and transplanting them to dying reefs. An inspiring message for budding naturalists and innovators.

◆ Milgrim, David. *The Adventures of Otto: See Pip Flap*. Simon Spotlight. Otto and his friends are back! Pip the mouse wants to fly. See Tweet fly. Fly, Tweet, fly. Pip wants to fly too--flap, flap, flap! Can Otto help Pip find a way to soar in the sky? Bright illustrations and minimal text are perfect for the true emergent reader.

◆ Mora, Oge. *Thank you, Omu!* Little, Brown and Company. Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself? A heartwarming story of sharing and community.

◆ Newman, Jeff. *Found*. Simon and Schuster Books. Jenn's beloved dog was lost sometime ago. Long enough that she has given up the search. But she still misses her friend. One day she finds a lost dog. She takes him in and despite a rocky start, she grows to love him. Until she spots his picture on a

missing poster. His name is Roscoe, and he's someone else's best friend. Jenn knows she should return Roscoe, but she really doesn't want to. Will Jenn do the right thing? Or will she keep this new dog she's grown to love so much?

◆ Rubin, Adam. *High Five*. Dial Books for Young Readers. Discover the lost art of the high five and improve your slapping skills just in time for the annual high five contest! From hand-limbering stretches to lessons on five-ing with finesse, readers are guided through a series of interactive challenges, each goofier than the next. A one-of-a-kind, laugh-out-loud book that kids will beg to read again and again.

◆ Ruzzier, Sergio. *Fox + Chick: The Party and Other Stories*. Chronicle Books. Fox and Chick are unlikely friends, but somehow they seem to get along together, even though Fox is calm and thoughtful, and chick is hyperactive and flighty. Despite the antics ensuing from their opposite personalities, this contradictory duo always manages to find a happy center where they appreciate their differences in three rollicking stories that blend graphic novel and emerging reader formats.

◆ Tetri, Emily. *Tiger vs. Nightmare*. First Second. Tiger is a lucky kid: She has a monster living under her bed. This monster arrived when Tiger was just a baby. It was supposed to scare her--after all, that's what monsters do. But Tiger was just too cute! Now, Tiger and Monster are best friends. But Monster is a monster, and it needs to scare something. So every night, Monster stands guard and scares all of Tiger's nightmares away. This arrangement works out perfectly, until a nightmare arrives that's too big and scary for even Monster. Only teamwork and a lot of bravery can chase this nightmare away.

Middle Grades

◆ Blake, Ashley Herring. *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*. Little, Brown and Company. When a tornado rips through town, twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed and her family is displaced. Ivy feels invisible and ignored in the aftermath of the storm--and what's worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings has gone missing...

◆ Hiranandani, Veera. *The Night Diary*. Dial Books for Young Readers. It's 1947, and India has been separated into two countries- Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore. A heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

◆ Johnson, Varian. *The Parker Inheritance*. Arthur A. Levine Books. When Candice finds a letter in an old attic, she isn't sure she should read it. It's addressed to her grandmother, who left the town in shame. But the letter describes a young woman. An injustice that happened decades ago. A mystery unfolding its writer. And the fortune that awaits the person who solves the puzzle.

◆ Magoon, Kekla. *The Season of Styx Malone*. Wendy Lamb Books. Caleb and Bobby Gene meet new neighbor Styx Malone. Styx is sixteen and oozes cool. Styx promises the brothers that together, the three of them can pull off the Great Escalator Trade--exchanging one small thing for something better until they achieve their wildest dream. But as the trades get bigger, the brothers soon find themselves in over their heads. Styx has secrets--secrets so big they could ruin everything.

◆ Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. *The Book of Boy*. Greenwillow Books. With a hump on his back, a mysterious past, and a tendency to talk to animals, Boy is often mocked by others in his town--until the arrival of a shadowy pilgrim named Secundus. Secundus engages Boy as his servant, pulling him into an action-packed and suspenseful expedition across Europe to gather seven precious relics of Saint Peter. They are stealing the relics and accumulating dangerous enemies in the process. But Boy is determined to see this pilgrimage through until the end--for what if St. Peter has the power to make him the same as the other boys?

◆ Respicio, Mae. *The House That Lou Built*. Wendy Lamb Books. Lou has the ultimate summer DIY project. She's going to build her own "tiny house," 100 square feet all her own. She longs for a place where she can escape her crazy but lovable extended Filipino family. Lou discovers it's not easy to build a house. But she won't give up; with the help of friends and relatives, her dream begins to take shape, and she learns the deeper meaning of home and family.

◆ Thimmesh, Catherine. *Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Roughly a thousand years ago, an estimated 23,000 pandas roamed wild and free through their native China. But within the past forty years, more than fifty percent of the panda's already shrinking habitat has been destroyed by humans, leaving the beautiful and beloved giant panda vulnerable to extinction. Despite the seemingly insurmountable odds--poaching, habitat destruction, pollution, human overpopulation, and global climate change--the panda is making a comeback.

◆ West, Jacqueline. *The Collectors*. Greenwillow Books. Even the smallest wish can be dangerous. That's why the Collectors are always keeping watch. Van uncovers an underground world full of wishes and the people who collect them. Apparently not all wishes are good and even good wishes often have unintended consequences--and the Collectors have made it their duty to protect us. But they aren't the only ones who have their eyes on the world's wishes--and they may not be the good guys, after all.

◆ Graham-Felsen, *Sam. Green*. Random House. In 1992 Boston, David Greenfield hates being one of the few white kids in his middle school where even his former best friend bullies him. He connects with a boy from the projects, but competition cause a rift in their blossoming friendship. A timely historical fiction, Green explores race, class, minority status, and the daily injustices of middle school life.