night. Jasper takes him to his secret glade, where Charlie witnesses Jasper’s horrible discovery. With his secret like a brick in his belly, Charlie is pushed and pulled by a town closing in on itself in fear and suspicion. For mature middle school readers.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. CURVEBALL: THE YEAR I LOST MY GRIP. Scholastic. Meet Peter Friedman, high school freshman. Talented photographer. Former baseball star. When a freakish injury ends his pitching career, Peter has some major things to figure out. Is there life after sports? Why has his grandfather suddenly given him thousands of dollars worth of camera equipment? And is it his imagination, or is the super-hot star of the girls’ swim team flirting with him, right in front of the amazing new girl in his photography class? Sometimes, the greatest comebacks take place far away from the ball field.

Uehashi, Nahoko. MORIBITO: GUARDIAN OF THE SPIRIT. Scholastic. Balsa was a wanderer and warrior. Then she rescued a boy, Prince Chagum, on his quest to deliver the great egg of the water spirit to its source in the sea. As they travel across the land of Yogo and discover the truth about the spirit, they find themselves hunted by two deadly enemies: the egg-eating monster Rarunga . . . and the prince’s own father.

Grades 9-12

Amir and Kahlil. ZAHRA’S PARADISE. First Second Books. Set in the aftermath of Iran’s fraudulent elections of 2009, Zahra’s Paradise is a graphic novel depiction of the search for Mehr, a sixteen-year-old woman given up for dead by her family.

Brogal, Vera. ANYA’S GHOST. First Second Books. Anya could really use a friend. But her new BFF isn’t kidding when she tells Anya that she tsukihou, a sixteen-year-old cat who sets out to discover who in her small town is responsible. This atmospheric mystery mines the secrets of a tightly knit Southern community and examines the strength of will it takes to go against everyone you know in the name of justice. Kirkus Reviews calls this gritty novel “raw, realistic and compelling.” For mature readers.

Carson, Rae. THE GIRL OF FIRE AND THORNS. Greenwillow Books. Once a century, one person is chosen for greatness. Elisa is the chosen one. But she is also the younger of two princesses. The one who has never done anything remarkable, and can’t see how she ever will. But the king needs her. And he’s not the only one who seeks her. Savage enemies, seething with dark magic, are hunting her; a daring, determined revolutionary, too. Elisa could be everything to those who need her most. If the prophecy is fulfilled. If she finds the power deep within herself. If she doesn’t die young. Most of the chosen do.

Cohen, Joshua. LEVERAGE. Dutton Books. A timely book about bullies, their victims, and a high school football team where winning is the only thing that matters. This intense novel will strike a chord with those who have followed the tragic football stories that broke in 2011. At Oregrove High, there’s an extraordinary prize for victory, paid both on and off the football field, and it claims its victims without mercy. When the unthinkable happens, an unlikely friendship is at the heart of an increasingly violent, steroid-infused power book that will stay with readers long after they turn the last page.

King, A.S. EVERYBODY SEES THE ANTS. Little, Brown. Lucky Linderman didn’t ask for his life. He didn’t ask his grandfather not to come home from the Vietnam War. He didn’t ask for a father who never got over it. He didn’t ask for a mother who keeps pretending their dysfunctional family is fine. And he didn’t ask to be the target of Nader McMillan’s relentless bullying, which has finally gone too far. But Lucky has a secret, one that helps him wade through the daily mundane torture of his life. A powerful novel about learning to cope with the shrapnel life throws at you and taking a stand against it.

Myracle, Lauren. SHINE. Amulet Books. When her best guy friend Patrick is savagely beaten and left for dead, Andie thinks that a victory for the twelve-year-old Cat sets out to discover who in her small town is responsible. This atmospheric mystery mines the secrets of a tightly knit Southern community and examines the strength of will it takes to go against everyone you know in the name of justice. Kirkus Reviews calls this gritty novel “raw, realistic and compelling.” For mature readers.

Ness, Patrick. A MONSTER CALLS. Candlewick Press. At seven minutes past midnight, thirteen-year-old Conor has had enough. But Anya’s normal life might actually be worse. She’s embarrassed by the egg-eating monster Rarunga . . . and the prince’s own father. A new friend, even a ghost, is just what she needs. Or so she thinks. Graphic Novel format.

Stiefvater, Maggie. THE SCORPIO RACES. Scholastic Press. Some race to win. Others race to survive. It happens at the start of every November: the Scorpio Races. Riders attempt to keep hold of their water horses long enough to make it to the finish line. Some riders live. Others die. Sean is the returning champion. He is a young man of few words, and if he has any fears, he keeps them buried deep, where no one else can see them. Puck Connolly is different. She never meant to ride in the Scorpio Races. But fate hasn’t given her much of a choice. So she enters the competition, the first girl ever to do so. She is in no way prepared for what is going to happen.

Taylor, Laini. DAUGHTER OF SMOKE AND BONE. Little, Brown. Around the world, black handprints are appearing on doorways, scorched there by winged strangers who have crept through a slit in the sky. In a dark and dusty shop, a devil’s supply shop grows dangerously low. And in the tangled lanes of Prague, a young art student is about to be caught up in a brutal otherworldly war. Meet Karou. She fills her sketchbooks with monsters that may or may not be real; she’s prone to disappearing on mysterious “errands”; she speaks many languages—not all of them human. Who is she? That is the question that haunts her, and she’s about to find out.

Wilson, Daniel H. ROBOPOCALYPSE: A NOVEL. Doubleday. Not far into our future, the devastating technology that runs our world turns against us. Controlled by a childlike—yet massively powerful-artificial intelligence known as Archos, the global network of machines on which our world has grown dominant suddenly becomes an implacable, deadly foe. What will happen at Zero Hour, when the robots attack?

This booklist was edited by Shannon Walters, Teacher Librarian at C. P. Smith Elementary School in Burlington, and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, in addition to being a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, and presented by the Vermont-Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) Award.


Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Evans, Shane W. UNDERGROUND: FINDING THE LIGHT TO FREEDOM. Roaring Brook Press.

Geisel Award: Schneider, Josh. TALES FOR VERY PICKY EATERS. Houghton Mifflin.

Michael L. Printz Award: Whaley, John Corey. WHERE THINGS COME BACK. Atheneum Books.


Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

Bently, Peter. KING JACK AND THE DRAGON. Dial Books. Jack, Zack, and Caspar build a castle fort, then spend a day fighting dragons and beasts. But when Caspar and Zack are taken inside by King Jack and his court, Jack's son feels himself a bit less brave—especially when he hears a “thing” approaching.

Chin, Jason. CORAL REEFS. Roaring Brook Press. During an ordinary visit to the library, a girl pulls a not-so-ordinary book from the shelves. As she turns the pages in this book about coral reefs, the city around her slips away and she finds herself surrounded by the coral cities of the sea and the mysterious plants and animals that live, hunt, and hide there. The flap of a vulture’s wing. How can we measure time? The lives of a mayfly. These increments of time may sound a bit strange, but they are all fascinating ways in which we can think about time. But what exactly is time? Unique ways to think about time beyond the hands we see every day on a ticking clock.

Jenkins, Steve. SCHUBERT, LEDA. Reading to Peanut. Holiday House. A young with a mother who works at the library and a father who is away a lot. She finds herself surrounded by the coral cities of the sea and the mysterious plants and animals that live, hunt, and hide there. The flap of a vulture’s wing. How can we measure time? The lives of a mayfly. These increments of time may sound a bit strange, but they are all fascinating ways in which we can think about time. But what exactly is time? Unique ways to think about time beyond the hands we see every day on a ticking clock.

Klassen, Jon. I WANT MY HAT BACK. Candlewick. A cumulative tale with a mischievous twist... The bear’s hat is one that he can’t help but wear. And when the hat is taken, the bear takes things into his own hands to get it back. The bear’s hat is one that he can’t help but wear. And when the hat is taken, the bear takes things into his own hands to get it back.

Meisel, Paul. SEE ME RUN. Holiday House. Happiness is a day in the park for this pack of joyful canines. They run, chase, jump in mud, and dig, dig! Their doggy days become even more wonderful when they discover a moreover of bones! But when the bones magically arrange themselves as a T-Rex, the dogs find themselves running once again, this time away from the giant skeleton!

Ray, Mary Lyn. STARS. Beach Lane Books. “A star is one you can see one, there’s another, and another. And the dark that comes doesn’t feel so dark. What if you could have a star?” A quiet exploration of stars both near and far.

Rocco, John. BLACKOUT. Disney Hyperion. One hot summer night in the city, all the power goes out. The air conditioner stops, the TV shuts off; a boy walks. His sister can no longer use her phone, Mom can’t work on her computer, and Dad can’t finish cooking dinner. What’s a family to do? Going up to the roof to escape the blackout, the kids find the lights, in stars that can be seen for a change, and so many neighbors it’s like a block party in the sky! Go off the grid, inspired by this delightful summertime—anytime—read.

Schubert, Leda. READING TO PEANUT. Holiday House. The flap of a vulture’s wing. How can we measure time? The lives of a mayfly. These increments of time may sound a bit strange, but they are all fascinating ways in which we can think about time. But what exactly is time? Unique ways to think about time beyond the hands we see every day on a ticking clock.

Wiesner, David. THE THREE PIGS. Clarion. The Three Little Pigs (of straw house, stick house, and brick house fame) escape the Big Bad Wolf by going into another world where they meet the cat and the fiddle, the cow that jumped over the moon, and a dragon. A delightful retelling of a familiar favorite.

Willem’s, Mo. SHOULD I SHARE MY ICE CREAM? Hyperion. Best friends Gerald and Piggie are complete opposites but still manage to have tons of fun together. Gerald has a big decision to make. But will he make it in time? He thinks, “Sharing a flavor Piggie does not want would mean that she’s not my friend.”

Dyamonde Daniel is excited about the chance to win one hundred dollars...just think what they could do with that money! But first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the prize is one hundred dollars...just think what they could do with that money! But first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the message; Thomas might be more important than he could imagine. The prize is one hundred dollars...just think what they could do with that money! But first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the message; Thomas might be more important than he could imagine.

Brinner, Larry Dane. BLACK AND WHITE. Calkins Creek. In the 1950s and early 60s, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as “Bombingham.” At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends of the conflict, were Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and Eugene Bull Connor. One man committed to ending segregation, and one just as determined to see it maintained. Relying on court documents, police and FBI reports, newspapers, interviews, and photographs, the author first covers each man’s life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change.

Dashner, James. THE MAZE RUNNER. Delacourt. When Thomas wakes up, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he’s not alone. Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids in The Glade, a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like they’re trapped. And just like they’re going to have to escape to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened; every night they have closed. And with a new message; Thomas might be more important than he could ever guess. If only he could unlock the dark secrets buried within his mind. Fans of The Hunger Games will race through this first book in an action-packed trilogy.

Deen, Sarah. WHAT HAPPENED TO GOODBEY? Viking. Who is the real McLean? Since her partner’s bitter divorce, McLean and her dad, a restaurant consultant, have been on the move: four towns in two years. Estranged from her dad and with nothing left when a live one would be so much better? Fans of this will be easier to read the brand-new title Marty McGuire Digs Worms!

Hunt, Elizabeth Singer. SECRET AGENT JACK STALWART: THE ALLOSOUR TOE. Hyperion. Nine-year-old secret agent Jack Stalwart travels the world in search of his lost brother as he solves thrilling international crimes. This popular series begins with a bold and beautiful picture storybook filled to the brim with fascinating facts about the coral reefs.

Grimes, Nikki. RICH: A DYAMONDE DANIEL BOOK. Putnam Juvenile. Dyamonde Daniel is excited about the chance to win one hundred dollars...just think what they could do with that money! But first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the message; Thomas might be more important than he could imagine. The prize is one hundred dollars...just think what they could do with that money! But first sign Lucy draws a picture of Dad, and Dad writes the message; Thomas might be more important than he could imagine.

Brinner, Larry Dane. BLACK AND WHITE. Calkins Creek. In the 1950s and early 60s, Birmingham, Alabama, became known as “Bombingham.” At the center of this violent time in the fight for civil rights, and standing at opposite ends of the conflict, were Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and Eugene Bull Connor. One man committed to ending segregation, and one just as determined to see it maintained. Relying on court documents, police and FBI reports, newspapers, interviews, and photographs, the author first covers each man’s life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change.

Napoli, Donna Jo. TREASURE OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY: CLASSIC STORIES OF GODS, GODDESSES, HEROES AND MONSTERS. National Geographic. Timeless stories of Greek myths, in a beautiful new volume. Zeus, Aphrodite, Apollo, and Athena and heroes and monsters such as Helen of Troy, Perseus, and Medusa are brought to life with fascinating and engaging imaginations. On the lighter side, mythology fans may also enjoy Oh My Gods!: A Look-it-Up Guide to the Gods of Mythology from the Mythopedia series.

Shanzer, Rosalyn. WITCHES! THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE TALE OF DISASTER IN SALEM. Amulet Books. Look up in Oh My Gods! Motherhood is a lot of work—crying babies, meal preparation, and photographing the author first covers each man’s life and then brings them together to show how their confrontation brought about significant change.

Silvey, Craig. JASPER JONES. Alfred A. Knopf. Caleb Funklin, a boorish thirteen year old, is startled one summer night by an urgent knock on his bedroom door. His visitor is Jasper Jones, an outcast in their small mining town, and he has come to ask for Charlie’s help. Terribly afraid but desperate to impress, Charlie follows him into the