

Best New Children's Books of 2023

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November 22, 2023

presented by Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission



Picture Books

Barnett, Mac *TWENTY QUESTIONS*

Illus. By Christian Robinson unp. Candlewick Press 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1513-7

Barnes, Derrick *LIKE LAVA IN MY VEINS* ✓

Illus. by Shawn Martinbrough Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-525-51874-7

Bontigao, Lynnor *SARI-SARI SUMMERS*

Unp. Candlewick Press 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2614-0

Calvert, Howard *THE FASTEST TORTOISE IN TOWN*

Illus. by Karen Obuhanych unp. Candlewick Press \$18.88 ISBN 978-1-5362-2835-9

Capalia, Faith *MELVINA WHITMOORE (More or Less a Horror Story)*

Unp. HarperCollins 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-324782-6

Capucilli, Alyssa Satin *LIBRARY FISH LEARNS TO READ*

Illus. by Gladys Jose unp. Simon & Schuster 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-5344-7707-0

DiTerlizzi, Angela & Tony *A VERY CRANKY BOOK* ✓

Unp. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-320667-0

Ferry, Beth ***THE UMBRELLA***

Illus. by Tom Lichtenheld unpub. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-35-844772-6

Fleming, Meg ***I LIVE IN A TREE TRUNK***

Illus. by Brandon James Scott unpub. HarperCollins 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-320521-5

Henkes, Kevin ***THE WORLD AND EVERYTHING IN IT***

Unpub. Greenwillow (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-324564-8

John, Jory ***THE BIG CHEESE*** ✓

Illus. by Pete Oswald unpub. HarperCollins 2023 ISBN 978-0-06-332950-8

June, Jason ***NEVER FORGET ELEANOR***

Illus. by Loren Long unpub. HarperCollins 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-303962-9

Kerbel, Deborah ***NEXT DOOR***

Illus. by Isaac Liang unpub. Kids Can Press 2023 \$21.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0658-7

Kuefler, Joseph ***THE DIGGER AND THE BUTTERFLY***

Unpub. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-323794-0

Lee, Chiquita Mullins & Carmella Van Vleet ***YOU GOTTA MEET MR. PIERCE***

Illus. by Jennifer Mack-Watkins unpub. Kokila (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40650-2

Mills, Julia ***I AM STUCK*** ✓

Unpub. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-35-869533-2

Pierczynski, Heather S. ***A CREATURE WAS STIRRING***

Illus. by Skylar Hogan unpub. Katherine Tegen Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-323074-3

Raczka, Bob ***YOU ARE A STORY***

Illus. by Kristen & Kevin Howdeshell unpub. Neal Porter Books (Holiday House) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-8234-4914-9

Raúl the Third ; ***VAMOS! LET'S GO READ***

Colors by Elaine Bay unp. Versify (HarperCollins) 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-35-853936-0

Rex, Adam ***OH NO, THE AUNTS ARE HERE***

Illus. by Lian Cho unp. Chronicle Books 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-7972-0794-0

Rivera, Lid'ya C. ***I ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY LOVE MY SPOTS***

Illus. by Niña Mata unp. HarperCollins 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-311997-0

Saltzberg, Barney ***A DELICIOUS STORY***

Unp. Hippo Park (Asta Books) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-6626-4016-2

Tabor, Corey R. ***SIMON AND THE BETTER BONE***

Unp. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-327555-3

Takeuchi, Chihiro ***WHOSE DINOSAUR BONES ARE THOSE?***

Unp. Candlewick Press 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3069-7

Winters, Kari-Lynn ***WHAT IF I'M NOT A CAT?***

Illus. by Kelly Collier unp. Kids Can Press 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0553-5

Yeh, Kat ***JUST ONE LITTLE LIGHT***

Illus. by Isabelle Arsenault unp. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-309496-3

Yolen, Jane ***THE HORSEBACK LIBRARIANS***

Illus. by Alexandra Badiu unp. Albert Whitman & Co. 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-8075-6291-8

Beginning Readers

Cooper, Jay ***STYX AND SCONES IN THE STICKY WAND***

Unp. Simon Spotlight (Simon & Schuster) \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-3537-1; \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-6659-3536-4

Dean, Kimberly & James ***PETE THE KITTY'S OUTDOOR ART PROJECT***

32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-297432-7; \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-297431-0

Derting, Kimberly & Shelli R. Johannes **VIVI LOVES SCIENCE: WIND AND WATER**
Illus. by Joelle Murray 40p. HarperCollins 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-311660-3; \$4.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-311659-7

Dubois, Liz Goulet **I LIKE THIS COLOR**
33p. Sourcebooks 2023 \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-7282-7198-9

George, Kallie **DOT THE LADYBUG: DOT DAY** ✓
Illus. by Stephanie Fizer Coleman 32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-313747-9; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-313746-2

Iwai, Melissa **GIGI AND OJJI: What's in a Name?**
32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-320809-4; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-320808-7

Iwai, Melissa **GIGI AND OJJI: Food for Thought**
32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-320812-4; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-320811-7

LaRochelle, David **SEE THE GHOST: Three Stories About Things You Cannot See**
Illus. by Mike Wohnoutka unpaginated. Candlewick Press 2023 \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1982-1

Medina, Juana **ELENA RIDES**
Unpaginated. Candlewick Press 2023 \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1635-6

Otheguy, Emma **REINA RAMOS MEETS A BIG PUPPY**
Illus. by Andrés Landazábal 32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-322315-8; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-322313-4

Raúl the Third **TACOS TODAY**
Unpaginated. Versify (HarperCollins) 2023 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-35-853937-7

Ruzzier, Sergio **FISH AND WORM**
48p. HarperCollins 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-329035-8

Nonfiction Picture Books

Alexander, Kwame & Deanna Nikaido **HOW TO WRITE A POEM**
Illus. by Melissa Sweet unpaginated. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-306090-6

Bolden, Tonya ***ROCK, ROSETTA, ROCK! ROLL, ROSETTA, ROLL!***

Illus. by R. Gregory Christie unpaginated. HarperCollins 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-299438-7

Buckley, Patricia Morris ***THE FIRST WOMAN CHEROKEE CHIEF: Wilma Pearl Mankiller***

Illus. by Aphelandra 48p. Random House (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$14.99 (PLB) ISBN 978-0-593-56851-4; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-56850-7

Cohen, Tziporah ***ON THE CORNER OF CHOCOLATE AVENUE***

Illus. by Steven Salerno Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2022 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-35-857875-8

Janeczko, Paul B. ***WHERE I LIVE: Poems About My Home, My Street, and my Town***

Illus. by Hyewon Yum 41p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-0094-2

Jenkins, Steve & Robin Page ***THE BIRD BOOK***

41p. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2022 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-35-832569-7

Ketner, Carla ***TED KOOSER: More Than a Local Wonder***

Illus. by Paula Wallace unpaginated. U. of Ne Press 2023 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-4962-3677-7

Lerwill, Ben ***STONE AGE BEASTS*** ✓

Illus. by Grahame Baker-Smith 47p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3134-2

Lindstrom, Carole ***MY POWERFUL HAIR***

Illus. by Steph Littlebird unpaginated. Abrams 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-5943-7

Magoon, Kekla ***KETANJI: Justice Jackson's Journey to the U.S. Supreme Court***

Illus. By Laura Freeman unpaginated. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-329616-9

Saxby, Claire ***GREAT WHITE SHARK*** ✓

Illus. by Cindy Lanr 29p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2503-7

Teckentrup, Britta ***BIRDS EVERYWHERE***

Unpaginated. Big Picture Press 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2973-8

Thundercloud, Ria **FINDING MY DANCE**

Illus. by Kalila J. Fuller unp. Penguin Workshop (Penguin Random House) 2022 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-09389-4

Early Chapter Books

Atinuke **ANNA HIBISCUS**

Illus. by Lauren Tobia 105p. Candlewick Press 2022 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2519-8; \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-2523-5

Atinuke **HOORAY FOR ANNA HIBISCUS**

Illus. by Lauren Tobia 105p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2520-4; \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-2525-9

Bailey, Jenn **HENRY, LIKE ALWAYS**

Illus. by Mika Song 43p. Chronicle Books 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-7972-1389-7

Ferry, Beth **CRAB & SNAIL: The Evil Eel**

Illus. by Jared Chapman 62p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-0-06-296219-5; \$8.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-296220-1

Jarvis **BEAR AND BIRD: The Picnic and Other Stories**

62p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2832-8

Jarvis **BEAR AND BIRD: The Stars and Other Stories** ✓

62p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3138-0

Klassen, Jon **THE SKULL: A Tyrolean Folktale** ✓

103p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2336-1

Larson, Kirby **SHERMY & SHAKE, THE NOT-SO-NICE NEIGHBOR**

Illus. by Shinji Fujioka 86p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1942-5

Lord, Cynthia **DAZZLE MAKES A WISH**

Illus. by Stephanie Graegin 66p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1356-0, \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3241-7

Maddox, Jake ***SURFING SHAKE-UP***

Illus. by Katie Wood 65p. Stone Arch Books (Capstone)2023 \$25.99 ISBN 978-1669007111; \$6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-66900-707-4

McDonald, Megan ***IZZY AZUMI, F.D.O. (FUTURE DOG OWNER)***

Illus. by Erwin Madrid 60p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2472-6; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-2473-3

Soundar, Chitra ***A SLIVER OF MOON AND A SHARD OF TRUTH***

Illus. by Uma Krishnaswamy 97p. Candlewick Press \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2515-0

Spires, Ashley ***BURT THE BEETLE LIVES HERE!***

63p. Kids Can Press 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-1011-9

Spooks, Avery ***FREDDIE MCFRIGHT'S CHILLING NIGHT***

Illus. by Mariano Epelbaum 72p. Jolly Fish Press (North Star Editions) \$7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1631637490

Stohler, Lauren ***GNOME AND RAT***

65p. Alfred A. Knopf (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$10.99 ISBN 978-0-593-48782-2

Windness, Kaz ***WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS***

64p. Simon Spotlight (Simon & Schuster) 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-2001-8

Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Anderson, John David ***THE GREATEST KID IN THE WORLD***

358p. Walden Pond Press (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-298603-0

Brown, Peter ***THE WILD ROBOT PROTECTS*** ✓

273p. Little, Brown & Co. 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-6694102

Coelho, Joseph ***TEN WORD TINY TALES***

Illus. by 21 artists unp. Candlewick Press 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3135-9

DiCamillo, Kate ***THE PUPPETS OF SPELHORST*** ✓

Illus. by Julie Morstad 148p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1675-2

LaRonde, Sandra ***SHE HOLDS UP THE STARS***

185p. Annick Press 2022 \$17.95 ISBN 978-1-77321-066-7; \$9.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-77321-065-0

Lloyd, Megan Wagner ***SQUISHED***

Illus. by Michelle Mee Nutter 246p. Graphix (Scholastic) 2023 \$24.99 ISBN 978-1-338-56894-3; \$12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-338-56893-6

Ogle, Rex ***FOUR EYES***

Illus. by Dave Valeza 220p. Graphix (Scholastic) \$24.99 ISBN 978-1-338-57497-5; \$12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-338-57496-8

Oh, Ellen ***HARU, ZOMBIE DOG HERO*** ✓

159p. HarperCollins 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-327229-3

O'Neill, K. ***THE MOTH KEEPER***

257p. Random House Graphic 2023 \$13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-18226-0

Pennypacker, Sara ***LEEVA AT LAST***

Illus. by Matthew Cordell 305p. Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-311442-5

Pham, Thø & Sandra McTavish ***THE CRICKET WAR***

160p. Kids Can Press 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0655-6

Rex, Michael ***LOW POWER*** (Your Pal Fred, # 2)

267p. Viking (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$22.99 ISBN 978-0-593-20635-5; \$13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-20638-6

Saeed, Aisha, ed. ***GROUNDDED***

257p. Amulet Books (Abrams) 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-6175-1

Schmidt, Gary D. ***THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL*** ✓

347p. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-358-65963-1

Shawl, Nisi ***SPECULATION***

232p. Tu Books (Lee & Low) 2023 \$19.95 ISBN 978-1-62014-959-1

Smith, Brian “Smitty” ***OFFICER CLAWSOME: Lobster Cop***
Illus. By Chris Giarrusso 236p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2023 \$12.99 ISBN 978-0-06-313636-6

Standish, Ali ***THE IMPROBABLE TALES OF BASKERVILLE HALL***
310p. HarperCollins 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-327557-7

Stowell, Louie ***LOKI: A BAD GOD’S GUIDE TO TAKING THE BLAME***
270p. Walker Books (Candlewick Press) 2023 \$15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2630-0

Sumner, Jamie ***TIME TO ROLL***
197p. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster) 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-1859-6

Tang, Betty C. ***PARACHUTE KIDS***
282p. Graphix (Scholastic) 2023 \$24.99 ISBN 978-1-338-83269-3; \$12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-338-83268-3

Tavares, Matt ***HOOPS*** ✓
217p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$22.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-0136-9; \$12.99 (pbk) 978-1-5362-3195-3

Van Eekhout, Greg ***THE GHOST JOB*** ✓
199p. HarperCollins 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-325333-9

Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Alexander, Kwame ***AN AMERICAN STORY***
Illus. by Dare Coulter unp. Little, Brown & Co. 2023 \$18.99 ISBN 978-0-316-47312-5

Mole, Simon ***STOMP AND CHOMP: My First Book of Dinosaurs*** ✓
Illus. by Matt Hunt 71p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3124-3

Montgomery, Sy ***THE BOOK OF TURTLES***
Illus. by Matt Patterson unp. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-35-845807-4

Pinkney, Jerry ***JUST JERRY***
146p. Little, Brown & Co. 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-38385-1

Todd, Traci N. ***HOLDING HER OWN: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes***

Illus. by Shannon Wright unp. Orchard Books (Scholastic Inc.) 2023 \$21.99 ISBN 978-1-338-30590-6

New Titles in Popular Series

Beginning Readers

Kügler, Tina ***SNAIL & WORM OF COURSE*** (Book #4)

Unp. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2023 \$19.99 ISBN 978-0-35-852120-4

Lyons, Kelly Starling ***TY'S TRAVELS: Camp-Out***

Illus. by Nina Mata 32p. HarperCollins 2023 \$17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-308366-0; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-308365-3

Early Chapter Books

Gutman, Dan ***MISS BANKS PULLS LOTS OF PRANKS***

Illus. by Jim Paillot 103p. HarperCollins 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-06-320692-2; \$5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-320691-5

Early Nonfiction

Meltzer, Brad ***I AM JOHN LEWIS*** (Ordinary People Change the World)

Illus. by Christopher Eliopoulos unp. Rocky Pond Books (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40594-9

Meltzer, Brad ***I AM TEMPLE GRANDIN*** (Ordinary People Change the World)

Illus. by Christopher Eliopoulos unp. Rocky Pond Books (Penguin Random House) 2023 \$16.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40597-0

Fiction for Grades 2 – 5 or so:

McDonald, Megan ***STINK: Superhero Superfan***

Illus. by Peter H. Reynolds 150p. Candlewick Press 2023 \$14.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-1507-6

Abbreviations Note:

(pbk) – paperback edition

(PLB) – public library binding edition

✓ means the title was added to the list since the CPLS Biennial Conference on 10/19/23



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