

2014 National Reading Recovery & K-6 Classroom Literacy Conference

Top 40: Best New Books Grades 3-6

Lisa Patrick, Ph.D. (Follow my book boards on Pinterest)

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A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

Tan, Shaun. *The Bird King: An Artist's Notebook*.

GRAPHIC LITERATURE

Brown, Don. *The Great American Dust Bowl*. (historical nonfiction)

Castellucci, Cecil. *Odd Duck* (Sara Varon). (animal fantasy)

Hale, Nathan. *Donner Dinner Party* (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales Book 3). (historical fiction)

FICTION CHAPTER BOOKS

Early Reader Books

DiCamillo, Kate & Alison McGhee. *Bink and Gollie: Best Friends Forever* (Tony Fucile).

Henkes, Kevin. *Penny and her Marble*.

Pearson, Susan. *Mouse House Tales* (Amanda Shepherd).

Early Chapter Books

Branford, Anna. *Violet Mackerel's Outside-the-Box-Set* (Elanna Allen). (Series of Four Books)

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine and the Spring Trip* (Marla Frazee).

Modern Fantasy Novels

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* (K.G. Campbell).

Kelley, Jane. *The Desperate Adventures of Zeno & Alya*.

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Screaming Staircase* (Lockwood & Co. #1).

Realistic Fiction Novels

Angleberger, Tom. *The Surprise Attack of Jabba the Puppet* (Origami Yoda Book 4).

Art2-D2's Guide to Folding and Doodling: An Origami Yoda Activity Book

Grimes, Nikki. *Words with Wings* (novel in verse).

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting By 7's*.

FICTION PICTUREBOOKS

Bookplay/Metafiction

Gravett, Emily. *Again!*

Klausmeier, Jesse. *Open This Little Book* (Suzy Lee).

Scieszka, Jon & Mac Barnett. *Battle Bunny* (Matthew Myers).

Fathers and Grandfathers

Beaty, Daniel. *Knock, Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* (Bryan Collier).

Fleischman, Paul. *The Matchbox Diary* (Bagram Ibatoulline).

Lunde, Stein Erik. *My Father's Arms are a Boat* (Øyvind Torseter) (Kari Dickson, translator).

Wordless Wonders

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*.
Timmers, Leo. *BANG*.
Wehrli, Ursus. *The Art of Clean Up*.

Writing Mentor Texts

Fogliano, Julie. *If you Want to See a Whale* (Erin E. Stead).
Laden, Nina. *Once Upon a Memory* (Renata Liwska).
Morstad, Julie. *How to*.

NONFICTION & POETRY PICTUREBOOKS

Biographies

Berne, Jennifer. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* (Vladimir Radunsky).
Nelson, Kadir. *Nelson Mandela*.
Stone, Tanya Lee. *Who says Women Can't be Doctors?* (Marjorie Priceman).

History

Bates, Katharine Lee. *America the Beautiful: Together we Stand* (10 children's book artists).
Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*.
Markel, Michelle. *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909* (Melissa Sweet).

Science

Huber, Raymond. *Flight of the Honey Bee* (Brian Lovelock).
Lester, Alison. *Sophie Scott goes South*.
Schaefer, Lola M. *Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives* (Christopher Silas Neal).

Poetry

Prelutsky, Jack. *Stardines Swim High Across the Sky: And Other Poems* (Carin Berger).
Singer, Marilyn. *Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems* (Josée Masse).
Wheeler, Lisa. *The Pet Project: Cute and Cuddly Vicious Verses* (Zachariah OHora).

TEACHER RESOURCES

Nonfiction for Older Readers

DK. *Where on Earth?: The Ultimate Atlas of What's Where in the World*.
Downer, Ann. *Wild Animal Neighbors: Sharing our Urban World*.
Jenkins, Steve. *The Animal Book: A Collection of the Fastest, Fiercest, Toughest, Cleverest, Shyest – and Most Surprising – Animals on Earth*.
Kidd, Chip. *Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design*.
McClafferty, Carla Killough. *Fourth Down and Inches: Concussions and Football's Make-or-Break Moment*.
Montgomery, Sy. *The Tapir Scientist: Saving South America's Largest Mammal* (Nic Bishop).
Rusch, Elizabeth. *Eruption! Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives* (Tom Uhlman).
Sandler, Martin W. *Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans During World War II*.
Stone, Tanya Lee. *Courage has no color: The True Story of the Triple Nickles: America's First Black Paratroopers*.
Thimmesch, Catherine. *Scaly, Spotted, Feathered, Frilled: How do we know what dinosaurs really looked like?*
Turner, Pamela S. *The Dolphins of Shark Bay* (Scientists in the Field).

Read Alouds

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* (K.G. Campbell).

Henkes, Kevin. *The Year of Billy Miller*.

Kelley, Jane. *The Desperate Adventures of Zeno & Alya*.

Reluctant Readers

Angleberger, Tom. *The Surprise Attack of Jabba the Puppet* (Origami Yoda Book 4).

Hale, Nathan. *Donner Dinner Party* (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales Book 3). (historical fiction)

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Screaming Staircase* (Lockwood & Co. #1).

Top Ten

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*.

Berne, Jennifer. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* (Vladimir Radunsky).

Laden, Nina. *Once Upon a Memory* (Renata Liwska).

Lunde, Stein Erik. *My Father's Arms are a Boat* (Øyvind Torseter) (Kari Dickson, translator).

Pearson, Susan. *Mouse House Tales* (Amanda Shepherd)

Schaefer, Lola M. *Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives* (Christopher Silas Neal).

Scieszka, Jon & Mac Barnett. *Battle Bunny* (Matthew Myers).

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting By 7's*.

Timmers, Leo. *BANG*.

Wheeler, Lisa. *The Pet Project: Cute and Cuddly Vicious Verses* (Zachariah OHora).

HONORABLE MENTION

Biographies

Heiligman, Deborah. *The Boy who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos* (LeUyen Pham).

Krull, Kathleen & Paul Brewer. *The Beatles Were Fab (and They Were Funny)* (Stacy Innerst).

Olshan, Matthew. *The Mighty Lalouche* (Sophie Blackall).

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song* (Brian Pinkney).

Early Chapter Books

Kurtz, Chris. *Adventures of a South Pole Pig: A Novel of Snow and Courage* (Jennifer Black Reinhardt).

MacLachlan, Patricia. *The Truth of Me*.

McKay, Hilary. *Lulu and the Cat in the Bag & Lulu and the Dog from the Sea*.

Early Reader Books

Archer, Dosh. *Urgency Emergency! Big Bad Wolf*.

Archer, Dosh. *Urgency Emergency! Itsy Bitsy Spider*.

Michalak, Jamie. *Joe and Sparky go to School* (Frank Remkiewicz).

Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter & Tabby Drop the Ball* (Arthur Howard).

Schneider, Josh. *The Meanest Birthday Girl*.

Willems, Mo. *A Big Guy Took my Ball! & I'm a Frog!*

Graphic Literature

Duffy, Chris (Ed.). *Fairy Tale Comics: Classic Tales Told by Extraordinary Cartoonists*.

Holm Jennifer & Matthew Holm. *Extreme Babymouse*. (Babymouse #17)

Kibuishi, Kazu. *Amulet: Three Book Collection*. (Box Set of Books 1-3)

O'Connor, George. *Poseidon* (Olympians #5) & *Aphrodite* (Olympians #6).

Realistic Fiction Novels

Appelt, Kathi. *The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp*.
Black, Holly. *Doll Bones*.
Burg, Ann E. *Serafina's Promise*. (novel in verse)
Federle, Tim. *Better Nate than Ever*.
Gewirtz, Adina Rische. *Zebra Forest*.
Grabenstein, Chris. *Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library*.
Riordan, Rick. *The House of Hades*. (The Heroes of Olympus #4)
Shurtliff, Liesl. *Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin*.
Ursu, Anne. *The Real Boy*.
Vanderpool, Clare. *Navigating Early*.
Vawter, Vince. *Paperboy*.

Text Sets

Animal Rescue

Cooke, Lucy. *A Little Book of Sloth*.
Holland, Jennifer S. *Unlikely Loves: 43 Heartwarming True Stories from the Animal Kingdom*.
Rose, Deborah Lee. *Jimmy the Joey: The True Story of an Amazing Koala Rescue* (Susan Kelly).

Baseball

Abbott, Bud & Lou Costello. *Who's on First?* (John Martz).
Tavares, Matt. *Becoming Babe Ruth*.
Winter, Jonah. *You Never Heard of Willie Mays?!* (Terry Widener).

Dogs

Newman, Aline Alexander & Gary Weitzman. *How to Speak Dog: A Guide to Decoding Dog Language*.
Watson, Tom. *Stick Dog AND Stick Dog Wants a Hot Dog*.
Worth, Valerie. *Pug: And Other Animal Poems* (Steve Jenkins).

Melissa Sweet's Red Trio

Bryant, Jen. *A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* (Melissa Sweet).
Holub, Joan. *Little Red Writing* (Melissa Sweet).
Sweet, Melissa. *Carmine: A Little More Red*.

TEACHER READERS

Poetry for Teacher Readers

Kennedy, Caroline (Ed.). *Poems to Learn by Heart* (Jon J. Muth).
Lewis, J. Patrick. *World Rat Day: Poems About Real Holidays You've Never Heard Of* (Anna Raff).
Rampersad, Arnold & Marcellus Blount (Eds.). *Poetry for Young People: African American Poetry* (Karen Barbour).
Rylant, Cynthia. *God got a Dog* (Marla Frazee).
Sidman, Joyce. *What the Heart Knows: Chants, Charms & Blessings* (Pamela Zagarenski).

Young Adult Novels for Teacher Readers

de la Peña, Matt. *The Living*.

Gardner, Sally. *Maggot Moon*

King, A.S. *Reality Boy*.

Murdoch, Emily. *If you Find Me*.

Quick, Matthew. *Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock*.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Eleanor & Park*.

BOOK SOURCES

Book Blogs

100 Scope Notes

A Fuse #8 Production

Heavy Medal

The Horn Book: Calling Caldecott

Nerdy Book Club

Read, Write, Reflect

Seven Impossible Things Before Breakfast

Book Review Journals

Booklist

The Hornbook Magazine

Kirkus Reviews

Publishers Weekly

School Library Journal

Book Review Website

Goodreads

TOP 40 ONLINE BOOK RESOURCES

A BEAUTIFUL BEGINNING

Tan, Shaun. *The Bird King: An Artist's Notebook*.

<http://www.shauntan.net/>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/8080/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/55955-q-a-with-shaun-tan.html>

GRAPHIC LITERATURE

Brown, Don. *The Great American Dust Bowl*. (historical nonfiction)

<http://www.booksbybrown.com/>

Castellucci, Cecil. *Odd Duck* (Sara Varon). (animal fantasy)

<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/57247-q-a-with-cecil-castellucci-and-sara-varon.html>

Hale, Nathan. *Donner Dinner Party* (Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales Book 3). (historical fiction)

<http://hazardoustales.blogspot.com/>

FICTION CHAPTER BOOKS

Early Reader Books

DiCamillo, Kate & Alison McGhee. *Bink and Gollie: Best Friends Forever* (Tony Fucile).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sd3cXLHzcHA>

<http://www.publishersweekly.com:8080/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/44412-q-a-with-kate-dicamillo-and-alison-mcghee.html>

Henkes, Kevin. *Penny and her Marble*.

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1svvJgo9LJg>

Pearson, Susan. *Mouse House Tales* (Amanda Shepherd).

<http://www.etsy.com/shop/amandashepherd#>

Early Chapter Books

Branford, Anna. *Violet Mackerel's Outside-the-Box-Set* (Elanna Allen). (Series of Four Books)

<http://annabranford.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJW7m2VQJ6k>

Kevin Henkes. *The Year of Billy Miller*.

<http://www.kevinhenkes.com/book/the-year-of-billy-miller/>

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine and the Spring Trip* (Marla Frazee).

<http://www.sarapennypacker.com/pennypacker-clementine.htm>

Modern Fantasy Novels

DiCamillo, Kate. *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* (K.G. Campbell).

<http://www.katedicamillo.com/books/flora.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6cdkkJvgaA>

Kelley, Jane. *The Desperate Adventures of Zeno & Alya*.

<http://www.janekelleybooks.com/Home.html>

Stroud, Jonathan. *The Screaming Staircase* (Lockwood & Co. #1).

<http://www.jonathanstroud.com/lockwoodandco.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEQ1d-rKn9Q>

Realistic Fiction Novels

Angleberger, Tom. *The Surprise Attack of Jabba the Puppet* (Origami Yoda Book 4).

Art2-D2's Guide to Folding and Doodling: An Origami Yoda Activity Book

<http://origamiyoda.com/>

<http://origamiyoda.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frAnm1bNHSA>

Grimes, Nikki. *Words with Wings* (novel in verse).

<http://www.nikkigrimes.com/books/bkwordswithwings.html>

Sloan, Holly Goldberg. *Counting By 7's*.

<http://hollygoldbergsloan.com/aboutcountingby7s.html>

FICTION PICTUREBOOKS

Bookplay/Metafiction

Gravett, Emily. *Again!*

<http://www.emilygravett.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvC7FpeTtqE>

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowingsite/watch.php?authorid=10>

Klausmeier, Jesse. *Open This Little Book* (Suzy Lee).

<http://www.jesseklausmeier.com/>

<http://www.suzyleebooks.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK-avLXb8es>

Scieszka, Jon & Mac Barnett. *Battle Bunny* (Matthew Myers).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzWbWFfM9g>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5tcdZJQx0>

<http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=2584>

<http://www.rarshare.com/battle-bunny-by-jon-scieszka-mac-barnett-matthew-myers-pdf/>

Fathers and Grandfathers

Beaty, Daniel. *Knock, Knock: My Dad's Dream for Me* (Bryan Collier).

<http://www.bryancoillier.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eYH0AFx6yI#t=17>

Fleischman, Paul. *The Matchbox Diary* (Bagram Ibatoulline).

<http://www.bagramibatoulline.com/#!/The-Matchbox-Diary/zoom/mainPage/image1on9>

Lunde, Stein Erik. *My Father's Arms are a Boat* (Øyvind Torseter) (Kari Dickson, translator).

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2013/04/12/my-fathers-arms-are-a-boat/>

Wordless Wonders

Becker, Aaron. *Journey*.

<http://www.storybreathing.com/>

<http://www.storybreathing.com/journey-trailer/>

<http://www.storybreathing.com/the-making-of-journey/>

Timmers, Leo. *BANG*.

<http://www.leotimmers.com/>

Wehrli, Ursus. *The Art of Clean Up*.

http://www.ted.com/talks/ursus_wehrli_tidies_up_art.html

Writing Mentor Texts

Fogliano, Julie. *If you Want to See a Whale* (Erin E. Stead).

<http://erinstead.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfTNRGCy60>

<http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/julie-fogliano-interview/>

Laden, Nina. *Once Upon a Memory* (Renata Liwska).

<http://www.ninaladen.com/>

<http://www.renataliwska.com/>

Morstad, Julie. *How to*.

<http://juliemorstad.com/>

NONFICTION & POETRY PICTUREBOOKS

Biographies

Berne, Jennifer. *On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein* (Vladimir Radunsky).

<http://www.jenniferberne.com/>

<http://www.vladimirradunsky.com/>

<http://www.brainpickings.org/index.php/2013/12/30/on-a-beam-of-light-albert-einstein-radunsky/>

Nelson, Kadir. *Nelson Mandela*.

<http://www.kadirnelson.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd2HFHShnYk>

Stone, Tanya Lee. *Who says Women Can't be Doctors? The Story of Elizabeth Blackwell* (Marjorie Priceman).

<http://www.tanyastone.com/>

History

Bates, Katharine Lee. *America the Beautiful: Together we Stand* (10 children's book artists).

<http://www.publishersweekly.com:8080/978-0-545-49207-2>

Floca, Brian. *Locomotive*.

<http://www.brianfloca.com/Locomotive.html>

<http://www.slj.com/2013/09/standards/curriculum-connections/full-steam-ahead-with-brian-floca-interview/>

Markel, Michelle. *Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909* (Melissa Sweet).

<http://melissasweet.net/>

<http://www.michellemarkel.com/books.html>

Science

Huber, Raymond. *Flight of the Honey Bee* (Brian Lovelock).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaZ6DB2Uxc8>

<http://www.raymondhuber.co.nz/honey-bees-free-book-life-cycle-honey-stings-crisis-myths/>

Lester, Alison. *Sophie Scott goes South*.

<http://www.alisonlester.net/>

Schaefer, Lola M. *Lifetime: The Amazing Numbers in Animal Lives* (Christopher Silas Neal).

<http://www.lolaschaefer.com/>

<http://redsilas.com/>

Poetry

Prelutsky, Jack. *Stardines Swim High Across the Sky: And Other Poems* (Carin Berger).

<http://jackprelutsky.com/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuRxHvNb7Xg>

Singer, Marilyn. *Follow, Follow: A Book of Reverso Poems* (Josée Masse).

<http://marilynsinger.net/>

<http://www.joseemasse.com/>

<http://www.hbook.com/2013/04/authors-illustrators/five-questions-for-marilyn-singer/>

Wheeler, Lisa. *The Pet Project: Cute and Cuddly Vicious Verses* (Zachariah OHora).

<http://zohora.com/>

<http://www.lisawheelerbooks.com/LW/home.html>