

**Center for Children's and Young Adult Literature (CCYAL)**  
**Best of the Best (thus far) 2013 Workshop**  
**Friday, July 19, 2013**

**Morning Session: Books for Birth through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

***Picturebooks – Julie Danielson***

**Bear and Bee** – Ruzzier, Sergio {IL K-3, -E-} – Disney Hyperion books, c2013, RL 0.9, 40p  
A hungry bear discovers that bees are not terrible monsters who never share their honey.

**Ben Rides On** – Davies, Matt [KIR\*] {ILK-3, -E-} – Roaring Brook Press, c2013, RL 3.4, 32p  
Ben rides his new bicycle the very, very long way to school but Adrian Underbite, perhaps the world's largest third-grader, takes the bike anyway and later, when Ben finds Adrian in trouble, he must decide whether or not to help the larcenous bully.

**Bluebird** – Staake, Bob [BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2013, 32p  
A wordless picture book about the inspiring friendship that develops between a bluebird and a young boy.

**The Boy and the Airplane** – Pett, Mark [BKL+ KIR+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} – Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2013, 36p  
A wordless picture book in which a boy comes up with an inventive solution for getting his toy airplane down from the roof.

**The Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos** – Heiligman, Deborah; Pham, LeUyen, illus. [BKL\*, KIR\*, PW\*, SLJ\*] {IL K-3} – Roaring Brook Press, c2013, RL 1.8, 37p  
With a simple, lyrical text and richly layered illustrations, this is a beautiful introduction to the world of math and a fascinating look at the unique character traits that made "Uncle Paul" a great man.

**Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909** – Markel, Michelle; Sweet, Melissa, illus. [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ KIR\* PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 331.892} -- Balzer + Bray, c2013, RL 3.6, 32p  
Describes how immigrant Clara Lemlich, fought back against the poor treatment of her fellow factory workers and led the largest walkout of women workers in the country.

**Brick by Brick** – Smith, Charles R., Jr.; Cooper, Floyd, illus. {IL K-3, 975.3} – Amistad, c2013, RL 3.9, 40p  
Looks at the people who built the White House, including several slaves, who were able to buy their freedom after learning a trade through this work. Includes bibliographical references.

**Brush of the Gods** – Look, Lenore; So, Meilo, illus. [BKL\* KIR\* PW\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3 -E-} – Schwartz & Wade Books, c2013, RL 3.0, 34p

During the Tang dynasty, master painter Wu Daozi creates an extraordinary mural for the emperor.

**Building Our House** – Bean, Jonathan, 1979- [BKL+ BUL+ HRN\* KIR\* NYT+ PWK+ SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2013, RL 2.9, 41p

A young girl narrates her family's move from the city to the country, where they have bought a piece of land and live in a trailer while they build a house from the ground up, with help from relatives and friends.

**Busy-busy Little Chick** – Harrington, Janice N.; Pinkney, Brian, illus. [BKL+ BCCB+ HRN+ KIR+ PWK+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} – Farrar Straus Giroux, c2013, RL 1.8, 32p

Mama Nsoso knows her chicks need a warm new house, but each day when they set out to collect sticks and mud she is distracted by good things to eat, while Little Chick stays busy gathering the building materials himself.

**Cheer Up, Mouse!** – Henry, Jed {IL K-3, -E-} – Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, c2012, RL 1.8, 32p

Mouse's friends try everything to keep their friend from feeling low – flapping and fluttering in the sky, splashing and paddling in the water, leaping and loping in the grass – but nothing seems to cheer him up.

**Chloe and the Lion** – Barnett, Mac; Rex, Adam, illus. [SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} – Disney/Hyperion Books, c2012, RL 2.9, 46p

Mac, the author, fires Adam, the illustrator, over their artistic differences about Chloe, the main character of their book, until Mac realizes both of their talents are needed and they must work together or their story about Chloe will never be finished.

**Creepy Carrots!** – Reynolds, Aaron; Brown, Peter, illus. [BKL+ BUL+ CALH KIR\* LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012, RL 2.3, 34p

The carrots that grow in Crackenhopper Field are the fattest and crispiest around and Jasper Rabbit cannot resist pulling some to eat each time he passes by, until he begins hearing and seeing creepy carrots wherever he goes.

**The Dark** – Snicket, Lemony; Klassen, Jon, illus. [BKL\* HRN\* KIR+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Little, Brown, 2013, RL 4.1, 34p

Laszlo is afraid of the dark, which lives in the same big, creaky house as him, until one night the dark pays him a visit.

**Each Kindness** – Woodson, Jacqueline; Lewis, E.B., illus. [BKL\* CKAH HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Nancy Paulsen Books, c2012, RL 2.8, 32p

When Ms. Albert teaches a lesson on kindness, Chloe realizes that she and her friends have been wrong in making fun of new student Maya's shabby clothes and refusing to play with her.

**Electric Ben: The Amazing Life and Times of Benjamin Franklin** – Byrd, Robert [BKL\* HRN\* HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* RFSH] {IL 5-8, 973.3} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012, RL 7.7, 40p

An illustrated biography of founding father and inventor Benjamin Franklin.

**Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle** – Raschka, Christopher [BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, 2013, RL 1.7

A father teaches his daughter all about bicycle riding, from selecting the right bike to trying again after a fall.

**Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington** – Asim, Jabari; Collier, Bryan, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR\* PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 370} -- Little, Brown, 2012, RL 4.6, 40p

An illustrated introduction to the life of Booker T. Washington that focuses on his hard work and determination to earn a college degree.

**Flora and the Flamingo** – Idle, Molly Schaar [KIR+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Chronicle Books, c2013, 34p

In this wordless book, a friendship develops between a girl named Flora and a graceful flamingo, as they learn to dance together.

**Follow Follow : A Book of Reverso Poems** – Singer, Marilyn; Masse, Josee, illus. [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 811} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2013, RL 5.4, 32p

A collection of poems in which characters from familiar tales relate their side of the story.

**Frog Song** – Guiberson, Brenda Z; Spirin, Gennady, illus. [BKL+ KIR+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 597.8} -- Henry Holt, c2013, RL 3.9, 33p

Discusses the songs of many different frogs from all parts of the globe.

**Gandhi: A March to the Sea** – McGinty, Alice B.; Gonzalez, Thomas, illus. [BKL+ KIR+ PW+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, 954.03} – Amazon Children's Pub, c2013, RL 5.0, 40p

Recounts the March to the Sea in which Mohandas Gandhi and seventy protesters marched from Ahmedabad to Dandi, in twenty-four days, to protest the laws and taxes that Great Britain put on salt. Includes bibliographical references.

**The Girl with a Brave Heart: A Tale from Tehran** – Jahanforuz, Rita; Mintzi, Vali, illus. [KIR+ PW+] {IL K-3 398.2} – Barefoot Books, c2013, RL 3.5, 40p

Translation of Lev shel Shiraz. After showing kindness to a strange old woman, Shiraz receives the gift of beauty but her lazy and unkind stepsister, Nargues, suffers a less pleasant fate in this adaptation of the Grimm's fairy tale, Mother Hulda, reset in Tehran, Iran.

**Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs** – Willems, Mo [BKL\* BUL+ HRN\* HRN+ KIR+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012, RL 5.9, 34p

A spin on the traditional tale with dinosaurs who visit Norway as the main characters.

**Harlem's Little Blackbird** – Watson, Renee; Robinson, Christian, illus. [BKL\* KIR+ LMC+ NYT+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Random House, c2012, RL 3.5, 34p

Illustrations and text relate the life story of Florence Mills, touching on her family history, and describing her accomplishments as a singer during the Harlem Renaissance.

**Hello! Hello!** – Cordell, Matthew [HRN+ KIR\* LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Disney/Hyperion Books, c2012, 52p

A child seeks a way to communicate with parents and a brother who are busy with their electronic devices.

**Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution** – Brown, Don [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ PWK+ SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 973.3} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2013, RL 3.3, 32p

Presents an illustrated account of how bookseller Henry Knox moved 59 cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to Boston during the Revolutionary War, helping Americans to make a pivotal victory.

**I Have a Dream** – King, Martin Luther, Jr.; Nelson, Kadir, illus. [KIR\*, PW\*, SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, 323} – Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012, RL 7.2, 32p

Presents illustrations and text of the speech given by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on August 28, 1963, at the Lincoln Memorial, in which he described his visionary dream of equality and brotherhood for humankind.

**I'm Bored** – Black, Michael Ian; Ohi, Debbie Ridpath, illus. [BUL+ HRN+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012, RL 1.6, 32p

When a bored girl meets a potato who finds children tedious, she tries to prove him wrong by demonstrating all of the things they can do, from turning cartwheels to using their imaginations.

**if you want to see a whale** – Fogliano, Julie; Stead, Erin, illus. [BKL\* KIR\* PW\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} – Roaring Brook Press, c2013, RL 4.2, 32p

Advises the reader about what to do, and not do, in order to successfully spot a whale, such as wrapping up in a not-too-cozy blanket, ignoring the roses, and especially, being patient.

**Jimmy the Greatest!** – Buitrago, Jairo; Yockteng, Rafael, illus. [BKL\* BUL\* HRN\* HRN+ KIR\* LMC+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2012, RL 2.9, 48p

Don Apolinar urges Jimmy, who lives in a small Caribbean town where there is not much to do, to start training at the boxing gym and to read about Muhammad Ali. Jimmy begins to realize that he is a good boxer and finds that he would be happy running the gym and improving his hometown.

**Lucky Ducklings** – Moore, Eva; Carpenter, illus. [BCCB\*, PW\*, SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} – Orchard Books, c2013, RL 2.4, 32p

While following their mother through town, five little ducklings fall into a storm drain. (“This rescue happened in June of 2000 in the town of Montauk, New York ...”, T.p verso)

**The Might Lalouche** – Olshan, Matthew; Blackall, Sophie, illus. [BKL\* PW\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3 – E-} – Schwartz & Wade Books, c2013, RL 2.8, 34p

In Paris, France, more than a hundred years ago, a small man named Lalouche is let go from his job as a mail carrier and discovers that he has great skill as a fighter.

**Monsieur Marceau** – Schubert, Leda; DuBois, Gérard, illus. [ BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* LMC+ PWK+ SLJ\* ] {IL K-3, 792.3} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 3.7, 40p

An illustrated biography of the famous French mime, Marcel Marceau.

**My Father's Arms are a Boat** – Lunde, Stein Erik; Torseter, Øyvind, illus. [HRN\* KIR\* PWK+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Enchanted Lion Books, 2012, RL 2, 32p

Unable to sleep, a young boy climbs into his father's arms and asks about birds, foxes, and whether his mother will ever awaken, then under a starry sky, the father provides clear answers and assurances.

**National Geographic Book of Animal Poetry: With Favorites from Robert Frost, Jack Prelutsky, Emily Dickinson, and More: 200 Poems with Photographs that Squeak, Soar, and Roar!** – Lewis, J. Patrick, ed. [HRN+ KIR\* PWK\* SBF+ SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 808.81} -- National Geographic, c2012, RL 3.1, 183p

Full-color photographs accompany two hundred poems about animals.

**Nelson Mandela** – Nelson, Kadir [BKL+ BUL+ KIR\* PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, 968.06} -- Katherine Tegen Books, c2013, 40p

Text and illustrations presents a biography of the former South African president best known for his political activism and fight to end apartheid.

**Nino Wrestles the World** – Morales, Yuyi [KIR+ PW\* SLJ+] {IL K-3 –E-} – Roaring Brook Press, c2013, RL 2.3, 32p

Lucha Libre champion Nino has no trouble fending off monstrous opponents, but when his little sisters awaken from their naps, he is in for a no-holds-barred wrestling match that will truly test his skills.

**Oliver and His Alligator** – Schmid, Paul [KIR\*] {IL K-3, -E-} – Disney Hyperion Books, c2013, RL 2.1, 36p

Nervous about the first day of school, Oliver brings an alligator to school for protection.

**On a Beam of Light: A Story of Albert Einstein** – Berne, Jennifer; Radunsky, Vladimir, illus. [BKL\* KIR\* PW+ SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 530} – Chronicle Books, c2013, RL 3.4, 51p

A follow-up to *Manfish*, this picture book biography of Albert Einstein chronicles his development from a boy riding his bicycle through sunbeams to the man who created the Theory of Relativity and whose name would become synonymous with “genius.”

**Open This Little Book** – Klausmeier, Jesse; Lee, Suzy, illus. [KIR\* PWK+ SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Chronicle Books, c2013, 32p

Die-cut pages open to reveal different animals, each opening a book of a different color and reading about the next.

**Phoebe and Digger** – Springstubb, Tricia; Newman, Jeff, illus. {IL K-3, -E-} – Candlewick, c2013, RL 2.3, 31p

When Mama gets a new baby, Phoebe gets a new Digger and she plays with Digger when Mama is busy with the baby, but a trip to the park makes Phoebe realize that Mama is still there when she needs her.

**The Quiet Place** – Stewart, Sarah; Small, David, illus. [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ KIR\* LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012, RL 3.5, 34p

A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.

**Rabbit's Snow Dance: A Traditional Iroquois Story** – as told to James & Joseph Bruchac; Newman, Jeff, illus. {IL K-3} – Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012, RL 2.7, 32p

Rabbit, who loves winter, performs a snow dance using a traditional Iroquois drum and song, and despite the opposition of the other animals, Rabbit continues to dance, causing more snow to fall.

**Rain!** -- Ashman, Linda; Robinson, Christian, illus. [KIR\* NYT+ PWK+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2013, RL 1, 32p

As an old man grumbles his way through a rainy morning, spreading gloom, his neighbor, a young child, spreads cheer while hopping through puddles in frog-themed rainwear.

**Seed by Seed: The Legend and Legacy of John "Applesseed" Chapman** – Codell, Esme Raji; Perkins, Lynne Rae, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+ TEL+] {IL K-3, 634} -- Greenwillow Books, c2012, RL 2.8, 32p

Text and mixed-media illustrations chronicle the life of the man who came to be known as Johnny Applesseed and reveal the five principles he followed that led to his legendary status in American history.

**The Sky of Afghanistan** – de Eulate, Ana A.; Wimmer, Sonja, illus.; Brokenbrow, Jon, trans. {IL K-3, -E-} – Cuento de Luz, c2012, RL 4.1, 28p (Spanish version available)

Translation of El cielo de Afganistan. An Afghan girl dreams of peace for her country as it is destroyed by war.

**Sleep Like a Tiger** – Logue, Mary; Zagarenski, Pamela, illus. [BKL\* BUL+ CALH HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, c2012, RL 2.6, 34p

At bedtime a young girl asks, "Does everything in the world go to sleep?"

**Spirit Seeker: John Coltrane's Musical Journey** – Golio, Gary; Gutierrez, Rudy, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR\* LMC+ NYT+ SLJ\*] {IL 5-8, 788.7} -- Clarion Books, 2012, RL 5.6, 39p

Describes the spiritual journey jazz musician John Coltrane took in his life and the way that it is reflected in his music.

**A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin** – Bryant, Jennifer [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 759.13} -- Alfred A. Knopf, c2013, RL 3.1, 34p

An illustrated biography of African American painter, Horace Pippin.

**Super Hair-O and the Barber of Doom** – Rocco, John [BKL+ KIR+ PW+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-}  
– Disney Hyperion Books, c2013, RL 3.0, 32p

A boy fears that he has lost his super powers after a villain captures him and cuts the hair that he believes is the source of his strength.

**This is NOT a Good Idea** – Willems, Mo [BKL+ KIR+ NYT+ PW\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} –  
Balzer & Bray, c2013, RL 1.9, 42p

Illustrations that resemble a silent film tell the story of a plump mama goose who is invited to dinner by a hungry fox while her babies try to warn her that it is a bad idea.

**This Is Not My Hat** – Klassen, Jon [BKL\* BUL\* CALW HRN\* KIR\* LMC\* NYT+ PWK\*  
SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012, RL 2, 32p

A tiny fish wearing a blue hat hopes not to wake up the trouble that might be following close behind.

**Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great** – Shea, Bob [BKL\* KIR\* PW+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} –  
Disney Hyperion Books, c2013, RL 1.9, 32p

Envy turns to admiration and finally to friendship for Goat and Unicorn.

**Unspoken: A Story from the Underground Railroad** – Cole, Henry [BKL+ HRN+ KIR\*  
PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2012, 40p

In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corncrib in the barn and decides to help him.

**Water in the Park: A Book about Water and the Times of the Day** – Jenkins, Emily;  
Graegin, Stephanie, illus. [BKL\* KIR\* NYT+] {IL K-3, -E-} – Schwartz & Wade Books, c2013,  
RL 2.1, 34p

Relates how the water in a park is used in different ways throughout the day by the human and animal inhabitants of a neighborhood.

**When Stravinsky Met Nijinsky: Two Artists, their Ballet, and One Extraordinary Riot** –  
Stringer, Lauren [BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, 781.5} -- Harcourt Children's  
Books, 2013, RL 5.3, 32p

Describes the ballet collaboration of dancer Vaslav Nijinsky and composer Igor Stravinsky.

**World Rat Day: Poems about Real Holidays You've Never Heard Of** – Lewis, J. Patrick;  
Raff, Anna, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ PW+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, 811} – Candlewick Press, c2013,  
RL 2.5, 34p

Presents a collection of poems about holidays that are not well known.

**You are Stardust** – Kelsey, Elin; Kim, Soyeon, illus. [BKL+ KIR\* RSL+ SBF+] {IL K-3,  
304.2} -- Owlkids Books, c2012, RL 3.1, 32p

Poetic text and diorama art promote the understanding of the innate relationship between humans and nature and the idea that every atom in a human came from a star that exploded.

## ***Chapter Books/Novels for Emerging/Transitional Readers – Lisa Meidl***

### **Realistic Fiction**

**My Happy Life** – Lagercrantz, Rose [BKL\* KIR+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Gecko Press, 2013, c2012, RL 2.1, 134p

Best friends Ella and Dani do everything together, but when things change Dani is not prepared.

**Lulu and the Dog From the Sea** – McKay, Hilary; LaMont, Patricia, illus. [BKL+ BCCB+ HRN+ KIR+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Albert Whitman, c2013, RL 4.5 108p

Seven-year-old Lulu and her cousin think their vacation house is the most perfect place ever until they find a trouble-prone, stray dog living on the beach.

**The Secret Chicken Society** – Cox, Judy; Haley, Amanda, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ SLJ+] {IL 3.6, -FIC-} – Holiday House, c2012, RL 3.2, 88p

When Daniel's third-grade class raises baby chicks for a class project and he takes the five chickens home for the summer, he is surprised when one of them turns out to be a rooster.

**On the Run** – Bourreau, Clara [HRN+ KIR+ PW+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Delacorte Press, c2012, RL 4.0, 120p

Fourth-grader Anthony has always been told that his father is traveling, so when he finds out that he is in jail awaiting trial Anthony is upset and confused, but when his father escapes and takes Anthony with him life becomes really complicated. Translation of 2009 *En Cavale* (French).

**White Fur Flying** – MacLachlan, Patricia [BKL+ KIR\* PWK+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Margaret K. McElderry Books, c2013, RL 2.9, 112p

A sad and silent nine-year-old boy finds his voice when he moves next to a family that rescues dogs.

**Road Trip** – Paulsen, Jim and Gary Paulsen [BKL+ KIR+ PWK\*] {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Wendy Lamb Books, c2013, RL 4, 114p

A father and son embark on a road trip to a distant animal shelter to save a homeless border collie puppy.

**Tua and the Elephant** – Harris, R. P. (Randal Perry); Yoo, Taeun, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Chronicle Books, c2012, RL 5.8

In Chiang Mai, Thailand, nine-year-old Tua releases an abused elephant from its chains, but it will be a challenge to get the elephant to refuge without getting caught.

**Letters to Leo** – Hest, Amy; Denos, Julia, illus. [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Candlewick Press, c2012, RL 3.3, 154p

When Annie Rossi's father lets her get a dog, she loves spending time with her new pet Leo, especially reading him stories she writes about the people and events she encounters each day.



**Like Bug Juice on a Burger** – Sternberg, Julie; Cordell, Matthew, illus. [BCCB+ HRN+ KIR+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Amulet Books, c2013, RL 3.3, 165p

As the days go on, nine-year-old Eleanor realizes that maybe being at summer camp isn't so bad after all, and is full of special surprises. (publisher)

**The Critter Club, All About Ellie** – Barkley, Callie; Riti, Marsha, illus. [SLJ+] {IL K-3, -FIC-} – Little Simon, c2013, RL 2.9, 112p

When she wins the lead role in a school play, second-grader Ellie neglects her friends in the Critter Club and their new animal shelter.

### **Folktales**

**Stickman Odyssey, The Wrath of Zozimos** – Ford, Christopher [BKL+ HRN+ KIR+ SLJ+] {IL5-8, 741.5} – Philomel Books, c2012, RL 3.1, 228p

Zozimos efforts to reclaim the Sticathan royal throne from his stepmother leads him out to sea, where he faces new obstacles in the forms of mercenary centaurs and giant boar gods.

**Heroes in Training, Poseidon and the Sea of Fury** – Holub, Joan; Williams, Suzanne, illus. [SLJ+] {IL K-3, -FIC-} – Aladdin, c2012, RL 3.4, 110p

Zeus, Hera, and Poseidon continue on their quest to find a magical trident.

**Mouse Bird Snake Wolf** – Almond, David; McKean, Dave, illus. [BKL\* KIR\* PW\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Candlewick Press, c2013, RL 4.4

Using sticks, leaves, and clay, Little Ben makes a mouse, Sue, a bird, and Harry, a snake, but when they create a terrifying wolf that turns on them, Little Ben must summon the courage to save them.

**Rudyard Kipling's How the Camel Got His Hump, The Graphic Novel** – Retold by Simonson, Louise; Rodriguez, Pedro, illus. [SLJ+ HRN+] {IL 3-6, 741.5} – Stone Arch Books, c2012, RL 2.9, 39p

This graphic novel adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's tale relates how a djinn punished the camel's laziness by giving him a hump.

### **Fantasy**

**The Big Bad Wolf Goes on Vacation** – Perret, Delphine [KIR\* SLJ+] {IL K-3, -E-} -- Sterling Children's Books, c2012, RL 2.3

When Bernard, the Big Bad Wolf, joins Louis and his grandfather on their annual trip to the beach, getting there is half the fun.

**Troll Hunters, Dark Tower Rising** – Dahl, Michael; Kovar, Ben, illus. [LMC+ HRN+] {IL 5-8, -FIC-} – Stone Arch Books, c2012, RL 3.8, 105p

On the morning after the troll attack, Pablo and his friends wake to find that a dark tower is rising from the ground, and that only they can stop the army of evil that is about to invade Zion Falls.

**Heidi Heckelbeck Casts a Spell** – Coven, Wanda; Burris, Priscilla, illus. [HRN+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -FIC-} – Little Simon, c2012, RL 3.1, 118p

Second-grade witch Heidi Heckelbeck wants revenge against Melanie, the meanest girl in school, so she decides to cast a forgetting spell on her right before the start of the school play.

**Royal Princess Academy, Dragon Dreams** – Rennert, Laura; Florian, Melanie, illus. [HRN+ PW+ SLJ+] {IL K-3, -FIC-} – Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012, RL 3.7, 102p

Attending her first year at the Royal Princess Academy, Emma prefers soccer to ballroom dancing and dreams of one day riding a dragon.

**A Boy and a Bear in a Boat** – Shelton, Dave [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ LMC+ PWK+] {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- David Fickling Books, 2012, RL 5.4, 293p

A boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukulele, for a short trip but soon their boat encounters "unforeseeable anomalies," strange storms, a terrifying sea monster, and the rank remains of The Very Last Sandwich.

**The Cats of Tanglewood Forest** – De Lint, Charles; Vess, Charles, illus. [BKL+ KIR+ LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2013, RL 5.6, 285p

Twelve-year-old Lillian, an orphan who loves roaming the woods looking for fairies when her chores are done, is bitten by a deadly snake and saved through the magical forest creatures.

### **Magical Realism**

**Gingersnap** – Giff, Patricia Reilly [BKL+ BCCB+ HRN+ KIR+ NYT+ PW+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Wendy Lamb Books, c2013, RL 3.2, 149p

When her brother Rob, a Navy cook, goes missing in action during World War II, Jayna, desperate for family, leaves upstate New York and their cranky landlady, accompanied by a turtle and a ghost, to seek their grandmother, whom Rob believes may live in Brooklyn. Includes soup recipes.

### **Graphic Novels**

**Potterwookie, The Creature From My Closet** – Skye, Obert [BKL+ KIR+ PW+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Henry Holt & Company, c2012, RL 4.7, 256p

The latest creature to emerge from Rob's closet is a cross between Chewbacca from Star Wars and Harry Potter. Rob names him 'Potterwookie' ('Hairy' for short) and soon Rob finds himself treading water as he tries to figure out how to care for his mixed-up friend. (publisher's blurb)

**The Captive Prince** – Chantler, Scott [BKL+ KIR+] {IL 5-8, 741.5} – Kids Can Press, c2012, RL 3.0, 116p

Dessa, Topper, and Fisk, still searching for Dessa's missing twin brother, find themselves in a mess after Dessa accidentally rescues a prince.

**Tommysaurus Rex** – Tennapel, Doug [BKL+ KIR+ PW+] {IL 3-6, 741.5} – Graphix, c2013, RL 3.9, 136p

To help him get over the death of his dog, Ely's parents send him to Grandpa's farm for the summer, but when Ely discovers a Tyrannosaurus Rex trapped in a cave on the farm, he tries to tame the dinosaur and convince the whole town that his new pet is not a threat. Author nominated for two Eisner Awards

### **Mystery**

**The Platypus Police Squad, The Frog Who Croaked** – Krosoczka, Jarrett [PW+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Walden Pond Press, c2013, RL 4.9, 226p

Platypus detectives Corey O'Malley and Rick Zengo are on the case of a missing teacher.

Recommended by Dav Pilkey, Creator of Captain Underpants

**Ghost Writer, Return to the Library of Doom** – Dahl, Michael {IL 5-8, -FIC-} – Stone Arch Books, c2012, RL 2.7 62p

The Librarian does battle against the shadow of Harry Gibbon, a bestselling author who finds a unique way of avenging himself for the critical comments some people made about his skills as a writer. Edgar Award-winning author.

## ***Best Books for Grades 3-6 – Beth Jackson***

### **Nonfiction**

**Bon Appetit!: The Delicious Life of Julia Child** – Hartland, Jessie [BKL\* BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ NYT+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 641.5} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012, RL 5, 50p  
Biography of Julia Child, the famous chef. (publisher's blurb)

**The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales from Ancient India** – Williams, Marcia [BKL+ BUL+ HRN+ KIR+ LMC+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 398.2} -- Candlewick Press, 2012, RL 3.9, 32p

Draws eight stories from well-known collections of Indian folktales--Hitopadesha tales, Jataka tales, and Panchantra tales--and presents them with cartoon-like illustrations.

**Human Body Factory** – Green, Dan [HRN+ KIR+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 612} -- Kingfisher, c2012, RL 5.4, 47p

Explains the body's essential processes with color illustrations and facts.

**Last Laughs: Animal Epitaphs** – Lewis, J. Patrick [BKL\* BUL+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 818} - Charlesbridge, c2012, RL 3, 31p

An illustrated collection of humorous epitaphs about animals, featuring puns and rhymes.

**Planet Ark: Preserving Earth's Biodiversity** – Mason, Adrienne [BKL+ KIR+ PWK\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 577} -- Kids Can Press, c2013., RL 6.3, 32p

Explains why biodiversity is important to the earth and its inhabitants and why it's our obligation to protect.

**Shimmer and Splash: the Sparkling World of Sea Life** – Arnosky, Jim [PW\* SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, 591.77} – Sterling Children's Books, c2013, RL 6.8, 41p

Profiles different kinds of sea life, including jellyfish, sharks, coral reefs, and more.

**Sneaky Art: Crafty Surprises to Hide in Plain Sight** – Jocelyn, Marthe [BKL\* KIR+ RSL+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, 745.5} -- Candlewick Press, 2013, RL 4.9, 53p

Provides instructions for creating playful art projects to surprise others, including a tiny party banner, paper fortune cookies, and message bookmarks.

### **Fiction**

**Dog Called Homeless** – Lean, Sarah [BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Katherine Tegen Books, c2012, RL 5.2, 202p

Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates. Schneider Family book Award 2013

**Doll Bones** – Black, Holly; Wheeler, Eliza, illus. [BKL\* BCCB\* KIR\* NYT+ PW\* SLJ\*] {IL 5-8, -FIC-} – Margaret K. McElderry Books, c2013, RL 5.4, 244p

Zach, Alice, and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. (graphic novel)

**Duke** – Larson, Kirby [KIR\*] {IL3-6 -FIC-} – Scholastic Press, c2013 (September 1), 240p

A poignant World War II story about a boy and his dog and his dad, and the many meanings of bravery.

**Elvis and the Underdogs** – Lee, Jenny [BKL\* PW+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Balzer & Bray, c2013, RL 4.7, 300p

All his life Benji, now ten, has been sickly and he has long been targeted by the school bully, but after a seizure Benji gets a therapy dog that is not only big enough to protect him, it can also talk.

**Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** – Grabenstein, Chris [BKL\* KIR\* PW+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Random House, c2013, RL 5.2, 291p

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape. (publisher's blurb)

**The Hypnotists, Book 1: Hypnotize Me** – Korman, Gordon [KIR+ PW+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Scholastic Press, c2013 (August 1), 240p

Opus Jackson has always been persuasive, but he doesn't know that he's descended from the two most powerful hypnotist bloodlines on the planet. He's excited to be accepted into a special program at the Sentia Institute – but when he realizes he's in over his head, Jackson will have to find a way to use his powers to save his friends, his parents, and his government. (publisher's blurb)

**Liar & Spy** – Stead, Rebecca [BKL+ BUL\* HRN\* HRN+ KIR\* LMC\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\* TEL+ VOY+] {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Wendy Lamb Books, c2012, RL 3.8, 180p

Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

**Mouse with the Question Mark Tail** – Peck, Richard [BKL\* KIR\* PW\* SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Dial Books for Young Readers, c2013, RL 4.6, 223p

A very small mouse of unknown origins runs away from school in the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace shortly before the celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee, celebrating her sixty years on the British throne.

**Navigating Early** – Vanderpool, Clare [BKL\* HRN+ KIR\* NYT+ PWK\* SLJ\*] {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Delacorte Press, c2013, RL 6.2, 306p

Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. (publisher's blurb)

**Odd Duck** – Castellucci, Cecil; Varon, Sara, illus. [BKL+ KIR\* NYT+ PW+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – First Second, c2013, RL 4.0, 87p  
Theodora and Chad, two odd ducks, form a unique friendship between them.

**One and Only Ivan** – Applegate, Katherine; Castelao, Patricia, illus. [BKL+ BCCB\* HRN+ KIR\* PW+SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Harper, c2012, RL 3.6, 305p  
When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life. Newbery Medal, 2013.

**Paperboy** – Vawter, Vince [BKL\* KIR\* PW\* SLJ\*] {IL 5-8, -FIC-} – Delacorte Press, c2013, RL 5.5, 224p  
When an eleven-year-old boy takes over a friend's newspaper route in July, 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month.

**Romeo Blue** – Stone, Phoebe [BKL\* KIR+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Arthur A. Levine Books, c2013, RL 4.2, 346p  
During World War II, Felicity Bathburn is living in Bottlebay, Main, with her eccentric relatives and their foster child Derek, whom she has grown to love, but when a man claiming to be Derek's true father arrives and starts asking all sorts of strange questions Felicity becomes suspicious of his motives.

**Spirit Animals: Book 1, Wild Born** – Mull, Brandon [PW+] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Scholastic Inc, c2013 (September 10), 224p  
Four children separated by vast distances all undergo the same ritual, watched by cloaked strangers. Four flashes of light erupt, and from them emerge the unmistakable shapes of incredible beasts – a wolf, a leopard, a panda, a falcon. Suddenly the paths of these children – and the world – have been changed forever.

**A Tangle of Knots** – Graff, Lisa [BKL\* KIR\* PWK+ SLJ+] {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Philomel Books, c2013, RL 4.5, 230p  
Destiny leads 11-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever. (publisher's blurb) Includes cake recipes.

**Year of the Baby** – Cheng, Andrea [KIR+ SLJ\*] {IL 3-6, -FIC-} – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt for Children, c2013, RL 3.5, 162p  
Fifth-grader Anna is concerned that her baby sister Kaylee, adopted from China three months ago, is not thriving so she and her best friends, Laura and Camille, create a science project that may save the day.