2018 Notable Children’s Books

YOUNGER

The reader gets both sides of the story in this clever tale of a lost pet and the search for a perfect birthday gift.

_**All Around Us.**_ By Xelena González. Illus. by Adriana M. Garcia. Cinco Puntos (9781941026762).  
A young girl and her grandfather explore the world around them and discover how circles are relevant to and shape their experiences. (Belpé Illustrator Honor Book)

_**All the Way to Havana.**_ By Margarita Engle. Illus. by Mike Curato. Henry Holt (9781627796422).  
In this beautifully illustrated book, a family drives to Havana, Cuba, in their well-worn car, experiencing the sights and sounds of the streets.

In a vibrant Nigerian marketplace, mama shops while baby delights the various vendors, picking up a few unexpected items along the way.

_**Big Cat, Little Cat.**_ By Elisha Cooper. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook (9781626723719).  
Distinctly expressive lines, boldly contrasting illustrations, and minimal text draw the reader into this beautifully poignant story of love, learning, and loss. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Strikingly beautiful paintings and just a few words invite readers to rethink the meaning of patriotic phrases and ideas.

Stunning illustrations illuminate the creative process about how mistakes are not always negative and can open the door to a bigger picture.

A young boy faces a moral choice when a whale gets caught in the family fishing net.

Charlie and Mouse, two hilarious brothers, talk to bed lumps, plan a spontaneous neighborhood party, sell rocks, and invent new bedtime traditions. (Geisel Award Book)

A fictional account of the life of young artist Frida Kahlo that celebrates her connection to the animals she loved and painted. (Belpé Illustrator Honor Book)

_**Good Night, Planet.**_ By Liniers. Illus. by the author. TOON (9781943145201).  
Stuffed animal Planet makes new friends and has adventures all while his owner sleeps in this gentle, engaging graphic novel for young readers.
Brand new friends, greyhound and groundhog, romp together through the enchantingly illustrated pages in this clever chase of words, rhythm, and shape.

During a long drive home from Grandmother’s in the rain, Francie and her mother discover profound beauty and comfort in ordinary moments.

**I See a Cat.** By Paul Meisel. Illus. by the author. Holiday (9780823436804).
Youngest readers will find success in the story of a dog that is increasingly frustrated by the glass door that separates it from the things it sees outside. (Geisel Honor Book)

Today is the day Jabari is going to jump from the high dive and he is almost, absolutely sure he is ready.

King, the dog, and Kayla, his human, solve the mystery of missing dog treats and make some interesting discoveries along the way. (Geisel Honor Book)

This lively, playful retelling of the classic fairy tale is set in Peru and incorporates Peruvian cultural elements. (Belpre Illustrator Award Book)

**Life on Mars.** By Jon Agee. Illus. by the author. Dial (9780399538520).
In this sly, well-paced story, a young space explorer, certain there is life on Mars, sets out to prove it.

**The Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC’s (the Hard Way).** By Patrick McDonnell. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown (9780316502467).
In this engaging, unconventional book, Little Red Cat is chased across the pages and experiences all the letters of the alphabet.

**My Kite Is Stuck! And Other Stories.** By Salina Yoon. Illus. by the author. Bloomsbury (9781619638877).
Bold, vibrant illustrations, word recognition, and repetition make these short and hilarious stories of three friends a fun experience for early readers. (Geisel Honor Book)

**Noodleheads See the Future.** By Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Illus. by Tedd Arnold. Holiday (9780823436736).
With a nod to folktales, two zany brothers named Mac and Mac (who happen to be macaroni noodles) wow audiences with their hilarity and gullibility. (Geisel Honor Book)

**Now.** By Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter (9781626721371).
A young girl’s simple joys and experiences will guide readers into appreciation of the here and now in this charmingly illustrated meditation.

**The Only Fish in the Sea.** By Philip C. Stead. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter (9781626722828).
Pack your fishing poles and paint buckets and embark on a quest with Sadie and Sherman to rescue Ellsworth the goldfish.
The cat, the dog, the chickadee, and the squirrel are having a perfect day until the bear shows up and invites the reader to rethink what perfect means.

This wordless, charming book follows Mr. Crocodile through his morning routine and commute to a job for which he is perfectly suited.

The new mayor of La Paz has outlawed singing of any kind, but a rooster arrives that will just not be quiet.

Snail & Worm Again. By Tina Kügler. Illus. by the author. HMH (9780544792494).
Good friends support each other through three easy-to-read, gently humorous stories. (Geisel Honor Book)

A gentle tale of the warm love between a girl and her aging dog and the value of time well spent together.

A miner’s son thinks about his father, deep underground, with both respect for and quiet resignation about his own future.

Triangle decides to play a mean joke on Square, but things don’t quite turn out the way he hoped.

A young girl shows great courage as she takes on adult tasks and waits for her mother to come home from the factory.

Dapper wolf Edmond Bigsnout attempts to eat a fellow city-dwelling rabbit but is thwarted at every turn by the bunny and his neighbors. (Batchelder Honor Book)

A child clamors to know the answer to the most important question of all in this cheerful celebration of self.

On a walk through the neighborhood, a child invites readers to imagine what might be happening behind the windows he passes every day.

In this wordless picture book, a girl and a wolf pup, both lost in a snowstorm, need help from each other to find their way home. (Caldecott Medal Book)
A mouse and duck discover that there are upsides to being swallowed by a wolf.

Cause and effect is explored in this imaginative and unexpected tale of a rose, a cat, a gardener, and a broken heart. (Batchelder Honor Book)

The 1963 Birmingham protest was successfully accomplished by youth. The youngest, nine-year-old Audrey Faye Hendricks, proved that even the smallest voice makes a difference.

MIDDLE

Witness Imogene’s growth and pride in her family and in herself as she quests for connection and identity in this graphic novel.

While navigating the challenges of poverty in rural China in the 1970s, a mute boy named Bronze and an orphan named Sunflower develop a powerful friendship.

Graffiti-inspired illustrations bring to life the story of food-truck and fresh-food-movement pioneer Chef Roy Choi. (Sibert Honor Book)

Clayton idolizes his grandfather and mentor, blues legend Cool Papa Byrd. When Cool Papa dies, Clayton adventures underground and emerges with a true blues voice.

In this gentle, honest tale of immigrant survival, a young Vietnamese American boy and his father go on an early morning fishing trip. (Caldecott Honor Book)

Expressive and immersive illustrations invite readers to witness the miracle of a newborn elephant learning how to walk, smell, communicate, and eat.

Readers meet the scientists who study asteroids past and present and work to protect our planet in the future.


Older than Dirt: A Wild but True History of Earth. By Don Brown and Mike Perfit. Illus. by Don Brown. HMH (9780544805033). Packed with 14 billion years of history, this slim and entertaining science comic explains the formation of our planet, from the big bang to the present day.


Wishtree. By Katherine Applegate. Illus. by Charles Santoso. Feiwel and Friends (9781250043221). Red, a quiet wishing tree, is the recipient of neighborhood hopes and dreams. When an immigrant family is harassed in the community, Red is motivated to act.

OLDER

Amina’s Voice. By Hena Khan. Simon & Schuster/Salaam Reads (9781481492065). A Pakistani American Muslim middle-school girl attempts to blend her family’s traditions and her experience in school to be accepted.

Armstrong and Charlie. By Steven B. Frank. HMH (9780544826083). A strong friendship develops between two boys from different economic and racial environments.

Ashes to Asheville. By Sarah Dooley. Putnam (9780399165047). Two sisters set off without adults on an impromptu road trip to scatter their mother’s ashes in this moving, sensitive novel.
**Beyond the Bright Sea.** By Lauren Wolk. Dutton (9781101994856).
In a stunningly beautiful novel, orphan Crow decides to investigate her own past and in doing so uncovers the complicated history of a nearby former leper colony.


**The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora.** By Pablo Cartaya. Viking (9781101997239).
Arturo struggles to keep the family business, a Cuban restaurant, alive in the face of the gentrification of his Florida neighborhood in a fresh, often very funny novel. (Belpre Author Honor Book)

**A Face Like Glass.** By Frances Hardinge. Abrams/Amulet (9781419724848).
Restless, impulsive Neverfell, with no memory of her past, finds herself in the underground city of Caverna, where faces are expressionless and her life is in incredible danger.

This thought-provoking examination of the history of the U.S. Constitution gives careful consideration to how it functions today.

**The First Rule of Punk.** By Celia C. Pérez. Viking (9780425290408).
Malu and her “SuperMexican” mother move across the country, leaving behind the father who gets her punk identity. Through new friends and zines, she connects to her roots in an authentic way. (Belpre Author Honor Book)

**Flying Lessons & Other Stories.** Ed. by Ellen Oh. Crown (9781101934593).
Readers will recognize themselves in this varied collection of sometimes humorous, sometimes poignant stories.

**Forever, or a Long, Long Time.** By Caela Carter. Harper (9780062385680).
In a heartbreaking and lovely novel, foster-child Flora and her brother invent a past and struggle to trust their new family.

**Hello, Universe.** By Erin Entrada Kelly. Greenwillow (9780062414151).
In this story told from various viewpoints, including a bully, a deaf girl, a fortune-teller, and more, a rescue is performed, revealing bravery in the midst of fear. (Newbery Medal Book)

**Isaac the Alchemist: Secrets of Isaac Newton, Reveal’d.** By Mary Losure. Illus. Candlewick (9780763670634).
Discover the life and times of Isaac Newton, an alchemist who brilliantly transformed and advanced scientific understanding of chemistry.

**Life on Surtsey: Iceland’s Upstart Island.** By Loree Griffin Burns. Illus. HMH (9780544687233).
Burns chronicles the fascinating birth and evolution of Surtsey, the youngest island on Earth, and one researcher’s almost 50-year study of the environs.

**The List.** By Patricia Forde. Sourcebooks/Jabberwocky (9781492647966).
In this compelling and terrifying science fiction novel, Letta, the wordsmith of the city of Ark, learns of a horrific plan to control and censor the language of her people.
**Long Way Down.** By Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy (9781481438254). Will descends in an elevator carrying his murdered brother’s gun. This novel in verse explores Will’s struggle with avenging his brother’s death. (Newbery Honor Book)

**Louis Undercover.** By Fanny Britt. Illus. by Isabelle Arsenault. Tr. by Christelle Morelli and Susan Ouriou. Groundwood (9781554988594). In this poignant graphic novel, Louis struggles to make sense of his father’s alcoholism and parents’ separation while secretly pining for a beautiful girl at school.

**Lucky Broken Girl.** By Ruth Behar. Penguin/Nancy Paulsen (9780399546440). In this emotionally charged tale, Ruthie is uprooted from Cuba to NYC. An unexpected accident traps her in a body cast, which leads her to find freedom through art. (Belpre Author Award Book)

**Midnight without a Moon.** By Linda Williams Jackson. HMH (9780544785106). In the summer of 1955, Rose Lee Carter dreams of life beyond her Mississippi cotton fields. Emmett Till’s murder places her on a new trajectory.

**The Murderer’s Ape.** By Jakob Wegelius. Tr. by Peter Graves. Delacorte (9781101931752). Determined to clear her friend, the Chief, of murder, remarkable ape Sally Jones sets off on an epic journey and meets a fascinating cast of characters. (Batchelder Award Book)

**Orphan Island.** By Laurel Snyder. HarperCollins/Walden Pond (9780062443410). Jinny lives on an idyllic, secluded island with eight other children. The fundamental mystery of the island’s rules is exposed amid distress and anxiety.

**Patina.** By Jason Reynolds. Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy (9781481450188). Patty’s triad of home, track, and school lives forces her to become reliant on others while altering her self-confidence and core values.

**Piecing Me Together.** By Renée Watson. Bloomsbury (9781681191058). Shoulndering her mother’s expectations, Jade enters a mentor program with an inconsistent mentor. The unfulfillment she feels galvanizes her to follow her own artistic path. (Newbery Honor Book)

**Posted.** By John David Anderson. HarperCollins/Walden Pond (9780062338204). When their school bans cell phones, Frost and his friends communicate through Post-its instead. But when their idea catches on, a sticky-note war begins.

**Quicksand Pond.** By Janet Taylor Lisle. Atheneum (9781481472227). In this thought-provoking, eerie story, two girls from disparate backgrounds build a raft where two murders occurred nearly 80 years prior.

**Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library.** By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Eric Velasquez. Candlewick (9780763680466). The handsome biography of Afro-Puerto Rican Schomburg introduces his efforts to collect and correct the history of the contributions of “Africa’s sons and daughters.”

**Sidetracked.** By Diana Harmon Asher. Abrams/Amulet (9781419726019). Despite learning disabilities, Joseph joins his school’s track team and discovers the value of achieving a personal best, both on and off the cross-country course.

**Silent Days, Silent Dreams.** By Allen Say. Illus. by the author. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine (9780545927611).
The fictionalized biography of self-taught artist James Castle, who grew up deaf, mute, and autistic, and used art to express himself, is as beautiful as it is affecting.

Lolly deals with the grief of losing his older brother by escaping into the world of LEGOs in this thought-provoking coming-of-age story set in Harlem.

Art and text combine to re-create the discomfort and power of Billie Holiday and her iconic song "Strange Fruit."

**Thornhill.** By Pam Smy. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook (9781626726543).
In this cinematic, heavily illustrated novel, two stories, decades apart, come together as Ella is drawn into the dark and tragic mystery of Thornhill Hall.

This riveting account of the 1961 Freedom Rides, when 13 civil rights activists rode buses to challenge Jim Crow practices, has visual and emotional impact. (Sibert Medal Book)

**Undefeated: Jim Thorpe and the Carlisle Indian School Football Team.** By Steve Sheinkin. Illus. Roaring Brook (9781596439542).
This compelling account of Native American athlete Jim Thorpe focuses on his impact on football and how his team transformed the game despite tremendous racism.

**The War I Finally Won.** By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Dial (9780525429203).
As WWII continues, Ada discovers that her disability doesn't define her and that family takes many shapes in this stunning sequel.

Loner Charlie Fisher finds himself lured into the exciting underworld of Marseille pickpockets where he finds unlikely friendships in this rollicking tale.

The story of an eighteenth-century slave ship, its capture by pirates, sinking, and eventual discovery off Cape Cod make for a fresh and thrilling adventure.

### ALL AGES

In a vibrant, joyful tribute to the barbershop experience, a young black boy relishes in the majesty of a fresh new cut. (Newbery Honor Book & Caldecott Honor Book)

Concise explanations of natural history run in tandem with a visual story of a girl and her father hiking in this stunning depiction of the Grand Canyon. (Caldecott Honor Book & Sibert Honor Book)

**Her Right Foot.** By Dave Eggers. Illus. by Shawn Harris. Chronicle (9781452162812).
Part history and part call to action, this nonfiction picture book reminds readers of the genesis of the Statue of Liberty and its relevance today.

*I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups*. By Chris Harris. Illus. by Lane Smith. Little, Brown (97803162666574). Hilarity and nonsense characterize this illustrated poetry collection, which engages the reader in a lively conversation between the writer and illustrator.

*Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask about Having a Disability*. By Shane Burcaw. Illus. by Matt Carr. Roaring Brook (9781626727717). Candidly addressing questions about his disability and its impact on his life, Burcaw offers readers an opportunity to develop empathy for what it means to be “different.” (Sibert Honor Book)

*Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*. By Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth. Illus. by Ekua Holmes. Candlewick (9780763680947). In this bold homage, the authors emulate the style of their favorite poets. Stunning collages illuminate this joyful celebration of poetry.

*The Street beneath My Feet*. By Charlotte Guillain. Illus. by Yuval Zommer. Quarto/words & pictures (9781682971369). This beautiful, sturdy foldout book digs right down to the center of the Earth.

2018 Notable Children’s Books Committee

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