CHILDREN’S CHOICES
2020 Reading List
What Is the Children’s Choices Reading List?

Each year, 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children’s trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children’s Choices, selected from more than 900 titles, can be counted on as books children really enjoy reading. This list, a project cosponsored by the International Literacy Association (ILA) and the Children’s Book Council (CBC), is designed for use not only by educators, librarians and media specialists, administrators, and booksellers but also by families and caregivers and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

Beginning Readers
(Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)

The Babysitter From Another Planet
Stephen Savage. Holiday House/Neal Porter Books. When their parents head out to the movies and the babysitter arrives, the children say, “She took some getting used to.” Fun, colorful illustrations take over from that point, delighting readers with an out-of-this-world babysitter experience.

Bear Came Along
Richard T. Morris. Ill. LeUyen Pham. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. The river was flowing quietly along until Bear pushes a tree over and falls in. Froggy soon joins Bear on his log, the Turtles come next, and pretty soon many animals have joined Bear on an adventure down the river. With engaging text and beautiful illustrations, this book demonstrates how each member of the party can be a valued contributor.

Bruno, the Standing Cat
Nadine Robert. Ill. Jean Jullien. Random House Children’s Books/Random House BFYR. Bruno the Cat is anything but ordinary. He rides skateboards, serves tea, and even stands like a human. His owner, Peter, is overjoyed to have a pet cat. Friends begin to inquire about Bruno’s odd behaviors, but true friendship will prevail.
**Dandy**  

Sweetie finds a dandelion on the lawn, names it Charlotte, and tells Daddy it is her best friend. Daddy and the neighbors want this weed removed. When Sweetie is at her swim lessons, Daddy cuts the weed before he sees Sweetie’s painting of it. Sweetie is devastated, but Daddy saves the day by spreading the seeds and letting new Charlottes grow.

**Field Trip to the Moon**  
John Hare. Holiday House/Margaret Ferguson Books.

An imaginative yet easily distracted child astronaut takes a field trip to the moon with class. Drawing pad and crayons in hand, the child daydreams while the class explores the moon. What will happen when the class leaves without the child? This wordless picture book will open readers’ imagination to new worlds.

**Goldilocks for Dinner: A Funny Book About Manners**  

Troll and Goblin decide to head to town for a cup of tea. They hope to avoid any “wretched children” who they think are smelly, gross, and rude! After discussing the need for manners, the two decide to have the rudest child that they encounter for dinner—none other than Goldilocks. Readers will delight in the results of the dinner invitation.

**The Good Egg**  

In this delightful story with engaging illustrations, Good Egg finds out that he cannot change all the bad eggs in the carton—he begins cracking when he tries! So he takes time to heal. Once he returns to the carton with his friends, he has a new attitude: He does not need to be perfect. This is a great story for children and adults alike.

**I Am a Tiger**  

Children will love this laugh-out-loud book about a mouse who believes it is a tiger. The mouse convinces other animals that because of its “Grrr,” ability to climb trees, and need to hunt for lunch that it is indeed a tiger. Isolating each animal’s characteristics, the mouse dubs each as something else, including calling the raccoon a caterpillar.
I Am Love: A Book of Compassion
This is a simple yet powerful text that will have an impact on readers of all ages. Verde’s well-paced and relatable words leave readers with a sense of empowerment to show compassion for everyone. Reynolds’s illustrations bring heart to the text and provide guidance for even the youngest of readers.

If I Built a School
Chris Van Dusen. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.
Jack has lots of amazing ideas for a school. From hover desks to a trampoline basketball court, Jack’s school is superior in every way! After all, “learning is fun in a place that’s fun,” right? This fantastic story will engage young readers’ imaginations and have them wondering if they could build a school too.

I’m Worried
Potato and Flamingo are worried about the future. Once their friend points out that their worries are in the past and should no longer be a worry, their thinking is changed. Big, bold illustrations add to the charm of this book.

It’s Not Hansel and Gretel
This is not the Hansel and Gretel you know. These two siblings are questioning everything about their story, from the wasted food crumbs left on the ground to the idea that their story is called “Hansel and Gretel” and not “Gretel and Hansel”! Readers will delight and laugh as these characters decide to retell their story their way.

*Little Taco Truck
Little Taco Truck finds the perfect place to serve his customers, but what will he do when another truck parks in his spot? Vivid colors and a great lesson about communicating with others when there are problems will have readers cheering for the little taco truck.

The Luckiest Snowball
Elliot Kreloff. Holiday House.
Izzy and his dog are enjoying winter when they make Larry, a snowball that talks. Larry is introduced to Izzy’s mom and takes up residence in the freezer. Each season, Larry meets several new freezer items and is taken outside to experience the season until he yells, “Help, I’m melting!” Children will love the interactive nature of the book.
**My Teacher Is a Robot**

Clearly Fred’s teacher is a robot. Why else would Mr. Bailey not be able to go outside in the rain? Why else would he give another test? Fred’s imagination and antics, as well as the vivid and colorful illustrations, will entertain young readers of any age.

**No Place Like Home**
Ronojoy Ghosh. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.

George, a misplaced polar bear, is grumpy because he cannot remember where his home is. He decides to find his home by traveling to many different climates. When he finally arrives in an icy, cold area, he no longer feels grumpy. He realizes “there is no place like home.”

**Peanut Butter & Santa Claus: A Zombie Culinary Tale**

There’s an emergency in Quirkville—Christmas is canceled! Reginald, Abigail Zink, and Zarfon load up the spaceship to rescue Santa from the snowstorm. But when they arrive at the North Pole, marshmallow cream has Santa and his elves stuck inside. With their peanut butter, and some creativity, they must find a way to turn this disaster around.

**The Perfect Sofa**
Fifi Kuo. Little Bee Books.

Panda has decided that he and Penguin need a new sofa. When they go shopping, they look at all different types and colors of sofas, but none seem just right. So they walk home saddened. Kids will be drawn to the playful decision making as well as the colorful, simple illustrations.

**The Sad Little Fact**

There once was a fact that could not tell a lie. It was sad because no one believed the truth. The authorities locked up the little fact and buried it underground with many other facts. The world grew dark and troubled until some very determined fact finders went on a mission to find the facts and set them free.

**The Second Sky**

Gilbert wants to fly, but he keeps falling on his face, back, and bottom. Other penguins tell him to give it up, but he will not. When he sees an albatross flying above him, he heads to a cliff, jumps off, and tumbles into the sea. There, Gilbert learns that penguins can fly, but in their own special way.
Sleepover at the Museum
Mason is celebrating his birthday with a sleepover at his favorite place: the Museum of Natural History. Given a map and headlamp, Mason and his friends are guided through a scavenger hunt. Each illustration gives details, showing more about the exhibits, while the hidden clues lead to a birthday party and a great place to sleep.

*Snack Attack!
Terry Border. Penguin Young Readers/Philomel Books.
A cheese doodle, pretzel stick, and cookie all escape from their packages to join forces on a little adventure in the outside world. They soon discover a note on the counter from Mom and realize they were left as snacks for her kiddo! Will they be able to hatch a plan to outsmart this monster kid?

*Snowmen at Halloween
Snow came early on Halloween day, and the children have fun building snowmen and dressing them up for that night. When the kids leave to go trick-or-treating, guess who comes alive, makes their own parade, gets treats, and leaves a special message for the kids to see the next day? Readers will have fun discovering hidden pictures on each page.

Superbuns! Kindness Is Her Superpower
Diane Kredensor. Simon & Schuster/Aladdin.
A new kind of superhero, Superbuns, shows the world that kindness is in fact a superpower. Buns’s sister, Blossom, is annoyed with her for always taking time to help others out. Can Buns not see that this is just making them late? Then, Superbuns’s power ends up saving the day. By the end, Blossom and all agree that kindness is a superpower.

Take Your Pet to School Day
The Maple View School students get to bring their pets to school. And what an assortment of animals the students arrive with! Chaos breaks out as a result. Whose idea was that anyway? Young readers will enjoy the mayhem in this story and the detail of the pictures.
*There Are No Bears in This Bakery*
Muffin the cat stumbles across some surprising guests at the bakery shop. New sights and sounds will make readers suspicious but also ready for some innocent indulgence. Readers will also love the featured sweet treats and the similes, which vividly paint the night shift at the bakery.

**Unicorn Day**
Happy Unicorn Day! The unicorns are all celebrating by showing off their horns, fluffing up their hair, dancing, and having fun, fun, fun! They soon realize one of their friends is not a unicorn but a horse. He turns to go, but the unicorns stop him, realizing that keeping a friend is more important.

**Vlad the Rad**
Vlad the vampire stays in trouble at Miss Fussbucket’s School for Aspiring Spooks, not because he is practicing his “spookiness” but because he just loves his skateboard. Vlad takes it too far one day and gets detention, so he has to figure out a way to continue to both skateboard and spook.

**When Pencil Met Eraser**
Pencil and Eraser may be inseparable now, but that was not always the case. At the beginning, Pencil was a solo artist, and then Eraser came along and made improvements to his work. Pencil challenges Eraser daily until one day Pencil makes a mistake and Eraser helps him out. From that day on, Eraser and Pencil are the dynamic duo we all know and love.

**Wordy Birdy Meets Mr. Cougarpants**
Wordy Birdy and his friends are onto another adventure: This time they are going on a camping trip. Our favorite chatty bird is all ready for a big night under the stars until Mr. Cougarpants comes to the site. Can Wordy Birdy talk himself out of danger?
Young Readers
(Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories: An Acorn Book (Mister Shivers)
Max Brallier. Ill. Letizia Rubegni. Scholastic.
Do you know what is under the bed? Mister Shivers does! This collection of stories is sure to thrill young readers of horror everywhere! With authentically vivid details and beautifully gothic-style characters and illustrations to match, these tales will give readers a light scare and something to tell their friends.

Catwad: It’s Me
Jim Benton. Scholastic/Graphix.
Catwad is a bit of a grouch. His best friend is a dim-witted cat named Blurmp who can see the bright side of anything. He has a different take on just about everything, and he is not afraid to share it. This graphic novel is the first in the Catwad series.

*Chapter Two Is Missing
An investigation is launched to find the missing chapter. Milo, the book’s janitor, offers to help, but he ends up not really helping. This comical mystery is a favorite that will prompt readers to talk to the book in order to help solve the mystery.

The Crayon Man: The True Story of the Invention of Crayola Crayons
Edwin Binney loved color. During the industrial age, he found that there was far too much black and gray in the world. He teamed up with Harold Smith, listened to his family about improvements, and never gave up. A story of perseverance, American ingenuity, and a dream come together to make this colorful and inspiring story.
Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson’s Journal
Jeff Kinney is at it again, but this time, we are seeing the Wimpy Kid world through the eyes of Rowley Jefferson. Friendships can be tricky, but being friends with Greg Heffley is challenging. Rowley starts a journal to document his life, but Greg has different plans. Will their friendship last through disagreements, force fields, and frequent pranks?

Dinosaur Feathers
This beautifully illustrated book walks readers poetically through the beginning of dinosaurs to the evolution of the animals we know today. At the back of the book is a visual guide depicting the evolution of animals over millions of years.

*Does It Fart? A Kid’s Guide to the Gas Animals Pass
Have you ever wondered if animals fart? Or how gas can even pass? Well, wonder no more! This entertaining and humorous nonfiction book will keep you guessing. Does a horse fart? How about a sea lion? An octopus? You will have to read this book to find out.

*The Eternal Soldier: The True Story of How a Dog Became a Civil War Hero
Sallie, a dog gifted to the 11th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, goes to war with the soldiers, leading them into battle. After the fighting ended at Gettysburg, Sallie guarded the dead and wounded until help could find them. Readers will enjoy this true story of Sallie, a brave soldier of the Civil War.

Fairy in Waiting (Fairy Mom and Me #2)
Ella Brook and her fairy mom are back! Ella is ready to be a fairy, but despite helping her mom with magic codes, she just has not finished growing up yet. What is a young fairy in waiting to do to prove she is ready? This book will thrill new readers and fans alike with the characters’ funny antics and cute, quirky illustrations.
For Whom the Ball Rolls (Dog Man #7)
Dav Pilkey. Scholastic/Graphix.
The Supa Buddies, Li’l Petey and 80-HD, try and help Dog Man control his dog-like habits. Dog Man also finds himself being chased by a new supervillain as Petey the Cat is released from jail. This is a new book in the Dog Man series that emphasizes the importance of doing good.

The Girl Who Named Pluto: The Story of Venetia Burney
One day, Venetia Burney’s grandfather reads aloud about a new discovery. With the help of her grandfather and his friend at London’s Royal Astronomical Society, Venetia gets her chance to give the planet a name. After a vote, the scientists unanimously agree: Pluto is the perfect name for the dark, cold planet.

Glitch
Sarah Graley. Scholastic/Graphix.
Izzy can secretly enter her new video game world. There, she meets Rae, a robot who tells Izzy to save the video world. How can she do that and live in the real world with school, family, and her best friend, Eric? This action-packed comic is perfect for adventure lovers and gaming fans.

How to Be Cheeri (Team Taekwondo #3)
Cheeri is a hardworking perfectionist. Baeoh would rather have fun than work hard. When Master Jahngsoo pairs them together for their next-level challenge, Cheeri is not happy. In this brightly colored graphic novel, these two opposites must figure out how to work together to achieve their goals and be successful.

If You Played Hide-and-Seek With a Chameleon
What if kids entered into competition with animals? Who would win? Although children will probably never enter a pie-eating contest with a hippo or compete in a long-jump event with a kangaroo or play tag with a porcupine, by reading this book they will find out many interesting facts about some amazing animals.

The Immortal Jellyfish
This book tells the touching story of a grandfather and a grandson. The grandfather journeys to the Life Transfer City where the young boy learns about reincarnation. He meets several people and animals who are choosing their next life. This is a story about the circle of life and how our loved ones can live on through memories even after they pass.
*The Karate Kid*
Daniel is new in town and a bit nervous. When he is threatened by bullies at his new school, he discovers Mr. Miyagi’s karate skills. Mr. Miyagi agrees to teach Daniel karate, but Daniel must first promise to learn. Readers will enjoy the illustrations that help bring the details of the lessons in the story alive.

*Me and the Sky: Captain Beverley Bass, Pioneering Pilot*
Beverly started to practice flying at a very young age by jumping off of the washing machine with arms spread wide. From that time on, she worked toward her dream of becoming a commercial airline pilot, and she succeeded. The backstory at the end of the book helps readers to understand what a pioneer Beverley Bass was.

*Moth: An Evolution Story*
This book is an explanation of evolution, through adaptation and survival. For readers to better understand such a complex and deeply interconnected topic, Thomas uses the simplicity of a peppered moth. The illustrations draw readers into the story with detailed beauty of light and dark.

*The Moviemaking Magic of Marvel Studios: Heroes and Villains*
Eleni Roussos. Abrams Books for Young Readers.
This is a comprehensive text featuring the heroes and villains within the Marvel universe. Each character is described with a backstory, while costume design and concept ideas are described using interactive flap pages. These will entertain and engage the youngest of readers, and the encyclopedia format is appropriate for more advanced readers—making the book perfect for superhero fanatics of all ages.

*Mr. Posey’s New Glasses*
Mr. Posey is feeling gloomy and decides he needs new glasses. With the help of his young neighbor, Andy, he goes to the Cheer Up Thrift Store looking for new glasses. Each pair tried on brings a different experience. But when Andy makes a simple observation, Mr. Posey’s view opens to a whole new world, where finally things are brighter and exciting.
**My Dog Made Me Write This Book**
Elizabeth Fensham. Sourcebooks Young Readers.
This is a story about a boy named Eric and his dog, Ugly. The problem is that Ugly does not give Eric the time of day. Ugly is a growing puppy and is becoming quite a nuisance. When Eric and Ugly are faced with an ultimatum, Eric must figure out a way to get his dog under control.

**Noodleheads Fortress of Doom**
The Noodleheads are back again, and what are they up to this time? Building a fortress of doom, of course. The question is if they will be able to stop fighting each other long enough to finish it. Readers will enjoy finding out in this fantastically illustrated and funny graphic novel.

**Rumple Buttercup: A Story of Bananas, Belonging, and Being Yourself**
Rumple Buttercup has five crooked teeth, three strands of hair, green skin, and a left foot that is slightly bigger than his right. He is weird. Join him and Candy Corn Carl (his imaginary friend made of trash) as they learn the joy of individuality as well as the magic of belonging.

**Science You Can Eat: 20 Activities That Put Food Under the Microscope**
Stefan Gates. DK Publishing.
This book answers questions about how cooking is like chemistry. Part science and part cookbook, it contains edible science experiments and interesting recipes that help readers understand what is happening with our food and why. Eye-catching illustrations, photographs, and clear labels capture readers’ attention, making the book easy to follow.

**The Seekers: The Legend of the Silver Fox and the Fire Wolf**
Hari Panicker and Deepti Nair. Random House Children’s Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.
Mio and Nao are siblings who go on a journey to save their village. The themes of conservation, community, and our relationship with the natural world are interspersed throughout this beautifully illustrated text. The hand-cut, colored paper illustrations are amazing, with details that will have you looking at the page long after you are done reading it.
**Sofia Valdez, Future Prez**  
Sofia Valdez is a second grader who takes on the challenge of making a difference in the world. She works to change a trash pile, Mount Trashmore, into a park. The rhyming and wrapping text, as well as the message that one person can make a difference, will delight readers.

**Superpower Dogs**  
Cosmic. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.  
Beautiful photographs give readers a glimpse into the lives of five superhero dogs from around the world. The dogs and their trainers work to rescue people, give them emotional support, and find poachers in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Isiolo, Kenya. Readers will have many new facts to share about superhero dogs after reading this book.

**The Undefeated**  
This poem is an ode to the persistence and grit displayed by black Americans and a tribute to those who have succeeded as activists, artists, and athletes. It is a way to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is the story of overcomers and dreamers. Alexander calls the book “a love letter to America. To black America.”

**WeirDo**  
Anh Do. Scholastic.  
Weir Do is a third grader and the new kid in school. With an unforgettable name, a crazy family, and some seriously weird habits, fitting in will not be easy—but it will be funny! This tale will keep young readers laughing as Weir and his friends survive elementary school and their families.

**Who Am I? A Peek-Through-Pages Book of Endangered Animals**  
Tim Flach. Abrams Books for Young Readers.  
Readers can guess each animal’s identity by reading a clue and looking at part of a photograph of the animal. Younger kids love guessing the animals, which range from easy (polar bear) to exotic (crowned sifaka). Animal lovers will find profiles at the end of the book explaining how each animal is endangered.
Advanced Readers
(Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

**Apocalypse Taco**
Eleven-year-old twins Axl and Ivan and their friend, Sid, make a late-night fast food run for the theater team. Then the food from the restaurant transforms into strange beasts that attack the kids. A multiarmed graduate student takes them into an alternative world created by evil bioengineered squid-bees. Kids will enjoy the silly details and twisted events along the way.

**Back to the Drawing Board (Making Friends #2)**
Kristen Gudsnuk. Scholastic/Graphix.
Danny is enjoying the beginning of a new school year with her best friend, Madison, and her magic sketch book. However, when Danny decides to double herself with a little magic, it makes more than a little trouble for her and her friends. Readers will be kept on their toes and will relate to the middle school woes throughout this graphic novel.

**Best Babysitters Ever**
Twelve-year-old best friends Malia, Bree, and Dot need to earn enough money for their 13th birthday bash. After reading *Kristy’s Great Idea*, a book about a babysitters club, Malia decides to use the idea with her friends. Although babysitting sounds great, the three find it to be much different from what they imagined.

**Camp**
In this story about navigating friendships, Olive and her best friend, Willow, go off to sleepaway camp. Olive is sure that this will be the best time ever, but she soon realizes that Willow is not enjoying herself. Willow is not as outgoing as Olive and becomes dependent on Olive. Will this end their friendship?

**Click**
Olive has many friends in her fifth-grade class. But when the annual talent show is announced, she finds herself feeling left out by all the cliques. She wants to be included, but she also wants to stay true to herself. With the help of her cool Aunt Molly, she finds out exactly how she can “click” with her friends.
**The Crossover (Graphic Novel)**
Twelve-year-old basketball phenoms Josh and Jordan are “moving & grooving, bopping and rocking” on the court in this graphic novel written in verse. Their incredible basketball skills, family life, and girlfriend jealousy make for a fast-paced read that shows readers life is not all about winning.

**Earth: By the Numbers**
A small book filled with big facts about Earth’s geographical features, it contains interesting and well-illustrated information about the Earth’s surface, its deepest places, its many disruptions (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tornadoes), and its dangers (lightning, extreme temperatures, and changing continents) as well as an extensive timeline and glossary.

**From an Idea to Disney: How Imagination Built a World of Magic**
This book offers a historical look at how Disney World came to be and the man behind it all, Walt Disney. Part biography and part history lesson, this book takes children on a journey through the development of one of the most well-known and beloved brands. Children will be sure to enjoy the quotes and appreciate the more challenging vocabulary.

**Guest: A Changeling Tale**
Mollie’s baby brother, Thomas, has been stolen and switched with a mean, ugly changeling. If Mollie had not taken the locket for herself that was meant to protect Thomas, none of this would have happened. Determined to get her baby brother back, Mollie embarks on a dangerous quest to the Dark Lands.

**Guts**
Raina Telgemeier. Scholastic/Graphix.
Raina grapples with her fear of vomit, which might come from the stomach flu again. On top of that, there are bullies, hormones, and middle school to cope with. Readers will relate to the many topics in this graphic novel.
Hicotea: A Nightlights Story
On a school field trip to the river, Sandy wanders away from her classmates and discovers an empty turtle shell. Peeking through the dark hole, she suddenly finds herself within a magical realm. Filled with sculptures, paintings, and books, the turtle’s shell is a museum of the natural world. But one painting is incomplete, and the turtle needs Sandy’s help to finish it.

Hilo #5: Then Everything Went Wrong
Hilo is a superpowered robot that looks like a regular boy. He takes a trip to his home planet of Jannus along with D.J. and Gina, his best friends. This graphic novel is filled with strange creatures, fantastic giant robots, elementary humor, and lots of action. A wide audience of early readers, struggling readers, and middle schoolers will find this book appealing.

Hotel Dare
Terry Blas. Ill. Claudia Aguirre. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!
What better summer vacation plan than spending it in Mexico with your long-lost abuela? Olive, Charlotte, and Darwin are bored helping out their grandmother, but they soon discover her rundown hotel is full of secrets and adventures. Behind each door lies a new adventure and the children embrace it while strengthening their family bond in this engaging graphic novel.

Just Jaime
Jaime and Maya have been best friends for forever. While Maya is annoyed that Jaime acts too babyish, Jaime has noticed that her friend group has been excluding her. Written in two voices, this graphic novel showcases the rollercoaster of emotions that can occur in middle school friendships, as two friends navigate peer pressures and the desire to fit in.

The Lost Heir: A Graphix Book (Wings of Fire Graphic Novel #2)
Tui Sutherland. Ill. Mike Holmes. Scholastic/Graphix.
This eagerly awaited graphic novelization of the second book in the popular Wings of Fire series about young dragons on a quest to bring peace to a world at war is a faithful adaptation sure to please fans of the novels. The engaging artwork, exciting action sequences, and heartfelt dialogue will surely win over new followers.
**Max and the Midknights**  
Max, an apprentice to Uncle Budrick, a traveling troubadour, always wanted to be a knight. Uncle Budrick is kidnapped by King Gastley, giving Max and a band of misfits a chance to prove, through magic and misadventure, that anyone can be a knight. The plot twists and humor in this hybrid book will keep readers turning pages from beginning to end.

**New Kid**  
Gifted young artist Jordan Banks struggles to fit in as one of the few kids of color in a prestigious, predominantly white private school in the Bronx. Like life in middle school, the story is both awkward and funny. The consistent, varied instances of racism on campus are especially poignant—an eye-opener for some readers, whereas others will certainly identify with Jordan’s struggles.

**Not If I Can Help It**  
Carolyn Mackler. Scholastic Press.  
Willa has sensory processing disorder, so she likes things a certain way. Her best friend, Ruby, is easygoing and loves new adventures. The friendship is strained when Ruby’s mother and Willa’s father decide to get married. This is a sweet coming-of-age story for elementary students about accepting change.

**Out to Get You: 13 Tales of Weirdness and Woe**  
Allen’s 13 short tales tell of odd and scary occurrences that happen to ordinary kids. This book will give readers spooky stories to retell around a campfire or during a sleepover or to frighten their friends. From the spooky to bizarre, this book delights!

**Pandora’s Legacy**  
Kara Leopard. Ill. Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!  
While on a family vacation, three curious kids discover how their family’s history ties into the turmoil inside a mythological world. Readers will be drawn to the details in the storytelling and the illustrations that bring together Greek mythology with a modern-day twist.

**Pilu of the Woods**  
Willow’s emotions are depicted as tiny monsters that emerge even when she does not want them to. In a fit of anger, she runs away in the woods and meets a little friend with similar woes. Readers will learn valuable coping skills right alongside these magnificent characters. This book touches on grief, forgiveness, and the importance of family.
The Red Maze (5 Worlds #3)
This book finds Oona Lee continuing her dangerous quest to save the galaxy. Her task, with the aid of her friends Jax and An Tzu, is to reach and light the red beacon stopping the evil force working to rule the 5 Worlds. This graphic novel will hold readers’ interest to the very end.

*Rising Water: The Story of the Thai Cave Rescue
Marc Aronson. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum Books for Young Readers.
Twelve members of the Wild Boars soccer team and their coach became trapped in a cave complex in Thailand. A sudden downpour flooded the tunnels, leaving the group with no way out. After eight days of searching and three days of rescue diving, the team and coach make it out of the cave. Nonfiction fans will enjoy this fact-filled read.

Sea Sirens (A Trot & Cap’n Bill Adventure, Book 1)
Trot, a Vietnamese American surfer girl, and Cap’n Bill, her cranky one-eyed cat, catch too big a wave and wipe out. They are sucked down into a magical underwater kingdom where an ancient deep-sea battle rages: The beautiful Sea Siren mermaids are under attack from the Serpent King and his slithery minions. Trot and her feline become dangerously entangled in this war of tails and fins.

Stig and Tilde: Vanisher’s Island
Keeping with a local tradition, Stig and Tilde hop on a dinghy and head to a desert island to survive alone without adult supervision. However, an unexpected detour leads them to the wrong island. This one looks like it is inhabited by something that is not too fond of guests.

Sunny Rolls the Dice
According to the Groovy Quiz, Sunny is not groovy. Deb, Sunny’s best friend, is totally groovy. She is into boys, fashion, and makeup. However, Sunny would rather be playing Dungeons & Dragons in her basement with the neighborhood boys than saving money for cool new jeans. Over time, Sunny realizes she must find her own kind of groovy to be happy.
*Survivors of the Holocaust: True Stories of Six Extraordinary Children*
Edited by Kath Shackleton. Ill. Zane Whittingham. Sourcebooks eXplore.
Heinz, Trude, Ruth, Martin, Suzanne, and Arek were sent to concentration camps by the Nazis during World War II. They tell of their experiences with the “dearest wish that no one should suffer as they did…and that we always show respect for each other.” Although some pictures are upsetting, this graphic novel depicts the reality of the children’s experiences.

*Unplugged and Unpopular*
Mat Heagerty. Ill. Tintin Pantoja and Mike Amante. Oni Press.
Erin Song loses her screen privileges because of a poor choice at school. Walking through the library, she sees a strange creature that no one else notices. Erin discovers that aliens are using mind control through everyone’s screens and have hatched an evil plot to take over Earth. Now, Erin must team up with her grandmother to save the world!

*White Bird: A Wonder Story*
Grandmère Sara’s story comes to light as she describes her life as a young Jewish girl during Nazi times. While hiding in a Nazi-occupied French village, she tells the tale of how a boy once shunned by classmates became her best friend.

*The Woods*
Set in the 1940s, 12-year-old Lenora is taken in by her Uncle Richard and told to stay away from the woods. However, a familiar voice lures her into the woods where she meets a magical creature named Bela. Lenora desperately wants to reunite her uncle with his son, but can she save her cousin without dooming herself?

*Titles that received the most votes*
Children’s Choices 2020 Reading List

**Beginning Readers (Grades K–2, Ages 5–8)**


*Field Trip to the Moon.* John Hare. Holiday House/Margaret Ferguson Books.


*If I Built a School.* Chris Van Dusen. Penguin Young Readers/Dial BFYR.


*No Place Like Home.* Ronojoy Ghosh. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.


*The Perfect Sofa.* Fifi Kuo. Little Bee Books.


*There Are No Bears in This Bakery.* Julia Sarcone-Roach. Random House Children’s Books/Alfred A. Knopf BFYR.


**Young Readers (Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)**


*Catwad.* It’s Me. Jim Benton. Scholastic/Graphix.


*For Whom the Ball Rolls* (Dog Man #7). Dav Pilkey. Scholastic/Graphix.


*Glitch.* Sarah Graley. Scholastic/Graphix.


*My Dog Made Me Write This Book.* Elizabeth Fensham. Sourcebooks Young Readers.


*My Dog Made Me Write This Book.* Elizabeth Fensham. Sourcebooks Young Readers.


(continued)
Children’s Choices 2020 Reading List (Cont’d)

Weirdo. Anh Do. Scholastic.

Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)
Back to the Drawing Board (Making Friends #2). Kristen Gudsnuk. Scholastic/Graphix.
Hotel Dare. Terry Blas. Ill. Claudia Aguirre. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

Pandora’s Legacy. Kara Leopard. Ill. Kelly Matthews and Nichole Matthews. BOOM! Studios/KaBOOM!

*Titles that received the most votes

To learn more about the Children’s Choices project, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.

About the Children’s Book Council

The Children’s Book Council (CBC) is the largest nonprofit trade association for children’s book publishers in North America. The CBC offers children’s publishers, from smaller independent presses to large international houses, the opportunity to work together on issues of importance to the industry at large, including educational programming, diversity in employment and books, and literacy advocacy. For more information, visit cbcbooks.org.
Thank You to the 2019–2020 Children’s Choices Teams

Project cochairs: Michele Owen, Bryant, AR, and Amy Vessel, Ruston, LA

AREA 1
Karen Gabino (team leader), Tucson, AZ
Butterfield Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ▪ Coyote Trail Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ▪ DeGrazia Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ▪ Los Amigos Elementary School (Tucson, AZ) ▪ Twin Peaks K–8 School (Tucson, AZ)

AREA 2
Terrilyn Lebel Cheney (team leader), Hampstead, NH
Atkinson Academy (Atkinson, NH) ▪ Danville School (Danville, NH) ▪ Hampstead Central School (Hampstead, NH) ▪ Hampstead Middle School (Hampstead, NH) ▪ Pollard School (Plaistow, NH) ▪ Timberlane Middle School (Plaistow, NH) ▪ Sandown Central School (Sandown, NH) ▪ Sandown North School (Sandown, NH)

AREA 3
Lark West (team leader), Bryant, AR, and Pamela Jill Green (team leader trainee), Covington, LA
Bayou Woods Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ▪ Bethel Middle School (Alexander, AR) ▪ Bryant Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ▪ Collegeville Elementary School (Bryant, AR) ▪ Episcopal Collegiate School (Little Rock, AR) ▪ Florida Avenue Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ▪ Lancaster Elementary School (Madisonville, LA) ▪ Parkway Elementary School (Alexander, AR) ▪ Riverside Elementary School (Pearl River, LA) ▪ Salem Elementary School (Benton, AR) ▪ Sixth Ward Elementary School (Pearl River, LA) ▪ Whispering Forest Elementary School (Slidell, LA) ▪ Woodlake Elementary School (Mandeville, LA)

AREA 4
Nan Brandenbergerpayne (team leader), Missoula, MT
Bonner Elementary School (Bonner, MT) ▪ Chief Charlo Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Franklin Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Hawthorne Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Jeannette Rankin School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Lewis and Clark Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Paxson Elementary School (Missoula, MT) ▪ Russell Elementary School (Missoula, MT)

AREA 5
Michelle Fish (team leader), Elkhart, IN
Battell Elementary School (Mishawaka, IN) ▪ Bethel University Lab Kindergarten (Mishawaka, IN) ▪ Clay International Academy (South Bend, IN) ▪ Concord East Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord Intermediate School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord Ox Bow Elementary (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord South Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN) ▪ Concord West Side Elementary School (Elkhart, IN)