CHOICES
2017 READING LISTS
Children’s Choices
Teachers’ Choices
Young Adults’ Choices
When it comes to engaging students with reading, we know the importance of choice. We know that when students can select the books they want to read, with topics in which they are truly interested, they are more likely not only to read them, but also to understand and to reflect upon them.

With that in mind, we are delighted to bring to you the 2017 Choices Reading Lists—Children’s Choices, Teachers’ Choices, and Young Adults’ Choices. These highly anticipated lists come just in time, whether you’re looking to squeeze in some summer reading of your own or with your children, to build up your classroom library for the fall, or to add new favorites to your curriculum.

The best part is these annual lists are chosen by students and educators themselves, so you know they will please children from our youngest readers to our most selective teenagers.

We know this because choice matters—and it can make all the difference.

Marcie Craig Post
Executive Director

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What Is the Children’s Choices List?
Each year, 12,500 school children from different regions of the United States read newly published children’s and young adults’ trade books and vote for the ones they like best. These Children’s Choices, selected from more than 800 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 teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

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

Are We There Yet?
Dan Santat. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers/Hachette.
Most kids can relate to a road trip that seems to last forever. Caldecott Medal–winning illustrator Dan Santat takes readers on a rollicking ride, featuring a time travel trip to Grandmother’s like no other. A little imagination literally goes a long way.

Big Cat: An I Like to Read Book
Ethan Long. Holiday House.
This lighthearted book shares all the wonderful things Big Cat can do. The writing is simple, using repetition and early sight words that make this a great beginning book for young readers. The pictures are clean and add to the story.

Big Friends
Two imaginative best friends, Birt and Etho, like to play with cardboard boxes. One day, another boy asks to join them, which causes a problem. Elementary students will find this dilemma familiar and enjoy how the boys figure out how to play together.

Bug Zoo
Andy Harkness. Disney-Hyperion.
Ben loves armored, teeny, leggy, greenie bugs! He decides to create a “bug zoo” of his own. Although it’s not a successful venture, Ben learns an important lesson about wild creatures. The descriptive language in the text is engaging, and the illustrations are colorful and inviting.

Cat in the Night
Rusty is a bold feline with an adventurous spirit. In the night, he travels around the neighborhood in search of another cat he senses is intruding on his territory. Full of interesting facts about cats, this book also highlights several unique abilities that cats possess.

Cat on the Bus
A stray cat walks around the neighborhood. The cat watches the buses roll by and decides to slip quietly onto one of them. While on the bus, the stray cat curls up next to a new friend, who becomes one of the cat’s most treasured companions.

*Don’t Wake Up the Tiger
In this clever story, Britta Teckentrup’s word choices get students eagerly anticipating what might happen if Tiger is disturbed from her nap. Each animal uses a balloon to cross over sleeping Tiger, but Stork’s mishap creates a surprise ending for all.

Douglas, You Need Glasses!
Douglas is a fun-loving dog with a big problem—he needs glasses! This book shares the challenges those who are nearsighted face in a humorous way. Elementary students of all ages will enjoy Douglas’s journey to getting the perfect pair of glasses.

Emma and Julia Love Ballet
Barbara McClintock. Scholastic Press.
A delightful tale about one beginner and one professional ballerina living parallel lives as portrayed through warm, inviting illustrations and storyline. Children and dancers alike will love the realistic nature of this story, especially the heartwarming embrace that takes place backstage.

Frankencrayon
Children will love solving the mystery of who made the scribble in this story and how these school supplies work together to solve it. The story has beautiful illustrations, and young readers will love the surprise at the end.

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Go to Sleep, Monster!

Have you ever feared a monster under your bed? You’re not alone! George can’t sleep because of the monster under his bed, and his brave sister Anna helps him get to the bottom of the problem—literally! Turns out, everyone (and every monster) is afraid of something!

*The Grumpy Pets*

Billy is a bit cranky and moody and can’t seem to find a pet to suit him. Luckily, Billy finds a dog at the pet store that has the same grumpy demeanor as he does. In the end, Billy and the dog go home together, and readers learn that there is someone out there for everyone.

Hector and Hummingbird
Nicholas John Frith. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

Hummingbird and Hector are the best of friends. Although they truly love each other, Hummingbird’s seemingly boundless energy drives his friend crazy, leading Hector to take off for some alone time. Will this be the end of the duo?

If You Ever Want to Bring a Piano to the Beach, Don’t!

Magnolia has big ideas, determination, and a heavy upright piano that she takes to the beach. In a humorous series of events, she learns that the piano doesn’t mix well with the sand, sun and, especially, the seagulls.

It’s Not Easy Being Number Three

This clever math-integrated book is about the significance of the number three. After many attempts at another job, Three realizes being himself is best. Kids love searching for threes throughout the book and coming up with new ways for the number three to be used.

King Baby
Kate Beaton. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

King Baby rules his world and his subjects, demanding and getting whatever he needs or wants. Alas, all good things must end, and a new ruler enters the house—Queen Baby.

Madeline Finn and the Library Dog
Lisa Papp. Peachtree.

Madeline is a struggling reader who doubts herself and her ability to succeed. She meets Bonnie at the local library. Bonnie quietly encourages Madeline and helps her find her voice as a reader. Readers will be touched by their friendship and how Madeline learns to believe in herself.

Maxi the Little Taxi

A fun story about a taxi’s venturing forth into the city for the first time. Maxi encounters lots of problems including a sloppy appearance necessitating a trip to the car wash. This book provides a great introduction to onomatopoeia.

Mighty Truck

Clarence, a dirty work truck, gets zapped with super powers while going through the car wash! He saves his friends, strangers, and more from danger. A great story about a superhero and the truck behind the power.

NanoBots
Chris Gall. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers/Hachette.

The invention of tiny robots with special super powers makes for an adventure that children won’t forget. The world’s smallest robots save the day by helping the biggest robot of them all. Readers will discover that even the tiniest of creatures can make the biggest difference.

Never Follow a Dinosaur
Alex Latimer. Peachtree.

Sally and Joe are convinced that the mysterious footprints they find belong to a dinosaur. They discover more and more about the dinosaur that eventually needs help baking and eating goodies.

Ninja Bunny: Sister vs. Brother

Younger siblings can get in the way of your best Ninja plans. Persistent little Ninja Sister won’t be ignored and shows her size comes in handy to capture “The Golden Carrot of Awesomeness.” Students with siblings have an easy time relating to this funny story.
101 Reasons Why I’m Not Taking a Bath
The little boy gives multiple reasons why he cannot take a bath; however, he ends up needing to give reasons not to get out of the bath in the end.

Panda Pants
A humorous story about a young panda that has many reasons for wanting pants. Could pants end up saving the day? Parents and elementary students will relate to the battle of “what to wear” in this enjoyable story.

*Peep and Egg: I’m Not Hatching
Author Laura Gehl perfectly relates Egg’s fear of new experiences to those of many children. Happily, by the end of the story, Peep has cracked Egg’s stubborn fear. The bold, colorful illustrations, along with humorous dialogue, will charm young readers.

Prissy & Pop: Big Day Out
These adorable piggies are sure to capture the hearts of young readers. This adventure is the story of a big day out for the two pigs that dress for each occasion. The story structure is easily accessible to children and contains adventures they can relate to.

Rules of the House
This is the story of a brother and a sister who could not be more opposite. One follows the rules, whereas the other always breaks them. Find out why Ian believes there should be a rule about having to save your sister from monsters.

*The Thank You Book
Mo Willems. Disney-Hyperion.
This is Mo Willems’s final book in the Elephant and Piggie series. Piggie and Gerald thank everyone for all the fun things they have done—even their readers and each other.

This Is My Book!
Mark Pett uses a rollicking approach to explain the making of a book. The humorous buildup takes hold as unsolicited characters work their way into the storyline. Kids like the unexpected illustrations and implicit ideas for making their own creative book interesting.

When Spring Comes
Snow piles melt and bare trees grow leaves. In Henkes’s inimitable style, children are encouraged to compare seasons and wait for spring with happy anticipation. Beautiful, bright illustrations add joy to this charming book about seasonal change.

Where My Feet Go
Little Panda wonders where his feet might go in this sweet story that shares the joy of a child’s imagination. Young readers will be inspired to share where their feet might go after reading this enchanting book.

Woodpecker Wants a Waffle
Benny the Woodpecker just wants a waffle, but all he gets is sent away! Brave Benny challenges the notion that waffles are not for woodpeckers despite popular belief. What’s a woodpecker gotta do to get a waffle around here? Read this delightful story to find out!

*You Are Not a Cat!
Duck thinks he is a cat. Cat follows him to try to convince him otherwise, but Duck’s mind cannot be changed. Readers will be entertained by this quirky book that encourages children to think for themselves and stay true to who they choose to be.
Young Readers
(Grades 3–4, Ages 8–10)

*After A While Crocodile: Alexa’s Diary*
Dr. Brady Barr and Jennifer Keats Curtis. Ill. Susan Detwiler with photographs. Arbordale.
Alexa goes to school in Costa Rica. Her school is raising two different types of crocodiles. She records many things about the crocodiles in this book, including how to take care of a baby crocodile.

*The Ant and the Grasshopper*
Retold by Carl Sommer. Ill. Ignacio Noe. Advance.
This age-old story promoting the importance of work before play gets a fresh look through elegantly detailed, dynamic artwork. This story has become a classic because of its timeless, moral message about balancing work with play and treating others fairly.

*Bad Kitty Goes to the Vet*
Nick Bruel. Roaring Brook/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.
Sick Kitty needs the vet. Sedated Kitty dreams of doggie paradise and wants to avoid it. Rotten tooth removed, Awake Kitty performs a sincere act of kindness toward the dog and finds a friend.

*A Child of Books*
Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston. Candlewick.
A young girl protagonist sets sail on her raft across a sea of words. She meets a small boy and whisks him away on an adventure of a lifetime. Full of magic and adventure, this book is sure to be enjoyed by everyone.

*Dog Pilkey: From the Creator of Captain Underpants (Dog Man #1)*
Dav Pilkey. Graphix/Scholastic.
Dav Pilkey does it again with a graphic novel guaranteed to delight elementary school readers. The story chronicles the adventures of Dog Man, a crime-fighting canine with a great sense of humor and ingenuity. Interactive flipbook pages make this book a must read.

*A Duck on a Tractor*
David Shannon. Blue Sky/Scholastic.
Duck trades his bike for a big, red tractor. As Duck drives around the farm, other animal friends climb aboard for a ride. What will happen when Duck drives the tractor full of animals through the middle of town? Children will enjoy this farm animal adventure.

*The Eagle and the Chickens*
Retold by Carl Sommer. Ill. Ignacio Noe. Advance.
A fable about an eagle that falls from his nest and joins the chickens on a farm. They tell the eagle to act scared of everything; however, he goes against advice and becomes a soaring eagle in the end. This is a great story of self-esteem, perseverance, and courage.

*Excellent Ed*
Ed is a family dog that feels he is not very good at anything. His family is excellent at one or more things, but Ed feels he is terrible at everything. Throughout the book, his family helps Ed realize how excellent he is at many things.

*Fortune Falls*
Jenny Goebel. Scholastic Press.
In Fortune Falls, superstitions are real and people are deemed lucky or unlucky. Sadie Bleeker’s lucky younger brother always escapes the broken mirrors and black cats, but Sadie can’t seem to shake her bad luck. With the help of her new friend Jinx, will she change her fortune?

*Ghosts*
Raina Telgemeier. Graphix/Scholastic.
In this graphic novel, Cat is able to combat her fears through the power of family, friendship, and culture. Ghosts addresses the topics of disease and death in an honest way and is sure to please preteen readers.

*Groovy Joe: Ice Cream and Dinosaurs*
Groovy Joe the dog discovers a new brand of ice cream and uses quick wit to entertain his unexpected dinosaur visitors. There is nothing better than Haagen Dazs Doggy Ice Cream and sharing. Readers can also download the song for free.

*The Hole Story of the Doughnut*
This is the true story of Captain Hanson Gregory and how the tasty treat we call doughnuts came about in a very peculiar and unique way. Children will love the colorful illustrations and the facts that bring this sweet story to life.

*If You Are a Kaka, You Eat Doo Doo: And Other Poop Tales From Nature*
If you don’t like to talk about “poo poo,” this might not be the story for you. Some animals shoot their poop out very far to trick other animals. Another animal rubs poop on its legs to cool down. This book celebrates a natural process and is sure to be an eye opener.
Just My Luck

Benny faces many uphill battles throughout this inspiring chapter book. His brother has autism and his father is in the hospital, but Benny focuses on helping others in order to overcome his pain. Children will learn about coping with adversity and developing inner strength.

The Kid From Diamond Street: The Extraordinary Story of Baseball Legend Edith Houghton

Edith Houghton became a professional baseball player at the age of 10 and traveled to Japan to compete with her team at the age of 13. The story depicts Edith’s adventures abroad and her return home. Facts and images of Edith are found in the author’s notes.

Meet the Bobs and Tweets (Bobs and Tweets #1)

This delightful early chapter book is about two families: the sloppy Bobs and the neat Tweets. However, one member in each family doesn’t quite fit in. When the families move to the same street, disaster happens. Despite the chaos, the two odd members connect and become friends.

“My Dog’s a Chicken

Lula Mae wants a puppy, but she lives on a chicken farm, and her family can’t have another mouth to feed. So she employs a chicken as her puppy. Will he become the best puppy ever? Or stay banished to the yard with the other chickens?

Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn’t Sit Still

Olympic gold medalist Nadia Comaneci’s journey to the Olympics started as a young girl climbing trees in Romania. Her journey is filled with energy and determination that will inspire young readers to follow their dreams too.

Never Insult a Killer Zucchini

This humorous account of a school science fair will make you laugh. Killer Zucchini plots revenge against the science fair judge after a misunderstanding. No science project is safe! Facts about each type of experiment are located in the backmatter.

Noodlehead Nightmares

In this book, noodleheads Mac and Mac rationalize one silly decision after another. The laughter coming from children reading this book will have them calling for more.

Odell Beckham Jr.

This biography on football great Odell Beckham, Jr. highlights his career from high school to the NFL with the New York Giants. In his 2014 rookie year, he set an NFL record as the first player to top 1,000 yards after missing the first four games.

Once Upon an Elephant

Many animals and plants are dependent upon the habits of the elephant in order to live. Specific ways the elephant helps are depicted through beautifully detailed pictures and thought-provoking words.

The Poet’s Dog

Newbery Medal–winning author Patricia MacLachlan crafts a beautiful and heartwarming story told through the voice of a poet’s dog. Teddy, the Irish wolfhound, saves two children in a snowstorm. Children can relate to the smart and heroic actions by two kids and a dog.

Poptropica: Mystery of the Map

A hot-air balloon ride and three kids stranded on mysterious unknown islands are just the start of this clever graphic novel. As the heroes try to find their way home, intrigue and adventure hook the reader, especially gaming fans.

Superhero Instruction Manual

Do you have what it takes to be a superhero? This book has everything you need to know about how to be a superhero in seven easy steps. Start by choosing a superhero name. Before you know it, you’ll be saving the world!

Terror in the Underground Tunnel

Emma and David get to go to work with their mother who is a movie director. They find a girl who is lost and looking for her mother in an abandoned subway station. Is the girl really there, or is she a ghost?
This Is My Dollhouse
This is a story about two girls and their dollhouses. One is made of cardboard and is full of homemade items. The second came from a fancy store. The dollhouse made of cardboard ultimately lets the girls use more of their imagination in their play.

The Ugly Princess
When you’ve had a warm, affectionate upbringing and hear hurtful words for the first time, it can be painful. Isabella, the most loving princess, learns how to overcome jealousy and bullies. Students can relate to being bullied and finding positive solutions.

Who Wants a Tortoise?
A laugh-out-loud story of a child who got a tortoise for her birthday. Readers will enjoy information about tortoises as the pet wins the heart of its owner.

*The Wish Tree
Charles and his sled Boggan set out on an adventure to find a wish tree that his brother and sister insist does not exist. Along the way, they find animal friends in the forest. A quiet story that captures the belief of the most popular toys ever. This book is both entertaining and motivating.

*Wolf Camp
Homer is a dog…or could he be a wolf? In this comical story, readers follow Homer to Wolf Camp in his quest to become a wolf and the challenges that come with his new identity.

Advanced Readers
(Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)

*Booked
Soccer-loving Nick has a lot on his mind including his big game, his parents, and school bullies. This is another book told in verse from the author of The Crossover.

City Atlas: Travel the World With 30 City Maps
Georgia Cherry. Ill. Martin Haake. Wide Eyed Editions/Quarto.
This book provides you with great travel tips to 30 cities. Imagine a travel guide written and illustrated for children chock-full of pictures, places, and suggested events. Now all you have to work on are ways to get there. The child-centric focus is a winner.

Curse of the Boggin (The Library, Book 1)
Middle school students who love eerie and creepy reads will love D.J. MacHale’s newest series. Marcus begins seeing apparitions who urge him to find a key. His search leads him into bone-chilling adventures with the undead as well as clues to what happened to his deceased parents.

A Dragon’s Guide to Making Your Human Smarter
Miss Drake, a dragon, has arranged to send her dear pet Winnie, a human, to The Spriggs Academy—an extraordinary school for humans and magicals alike. A plot to kidnap Winnie from her home is soon uncovered. Miss Drake and Winnie team up for Winnie’s safety.

The Extincts
A funny and unusual story of a boy who gets a job at a farm with extinct animals and mystical creatures. Add an evil taxidermist to the plot, and you have an entertaining read for middle-grade students.

Far From Fair
Odette Zyskowski knows what is fair and what isn’t, and much in her teenage life is just not fair these days. However, Odette soon realizes that complaining about her brother, having to share a cell phone, and living in an RV are trivial compared with what life can throw at us.
Fuzzy
Tom Angleberger and Paul Dellinger. Amulet/Abrams.
Fuzzy the robot is enrolled as a new student in the seventh grade and becomes fast friends with Max. They unlock the hidden secrets behind the Robot Integration Program and work together to outsmart the Vice Principal and shut down the operating system that could cost Fuzzy his life.

Garvey’s Choice
Nikki Grimes. Wordsong/Boyds Mills.
Garvey is a rotund boy dealing with his father’s disappointment and schoolmates’ name calling. He stumbles until he meets Manny, a boy with albinism, who explains that the choices Garvey makes are the ones that matter most. This book is written in Tanka poems.

Girls’ Night In: Four Friends Reveal the Secrets of the Ultimate Girls’ Night In!
Planning a sleepover or party with your best girlfriends should be nothing but fun. This how-to book is full of great ideas for party themes and instructions on making it happen. Readers like this book because the activities are doable and inexpensive.

Gorillas Up Close
An informational book examining the lives of gorillas living both in the wild and in the Lincoln Park Zoo. An excellent middle-school read designed to hold readers’ interest with more than 40 short chapters, all including amazing photos.

Hilo Book 2: Saving the Whole Wide World
Fuzzy the robot is enrolled as a new student in the seventh grade and becomes fast friends with Max. They unlock the hidden secrets behind the Robot Integration Program and work together to outsmart the Vice Principal and shut down the operating system that could cost Fuzzy his life.

The Inn Between
A suspenseful mystery that will keep you guessing the whole read through. Best friends Quinn and Kara decide to take one last trip before Kara moves away. Can the girls solve the mystery of Kara’s family’s disappearance and save her family? Will they be stranded at the Inn Between forever?

Jubilee
Since her mother left the island years ago, Judith, or Jubilee, has not spoken to anyone. Jubilee communicates through gestures, drawings, and tapping. But this year, she is about to face some changes that just might help her find her voice.

Just Like Me
Nancy J. Cavanaugh. Sourcebooks Jabberwocky.
Adopted from China, Julia is struggling with her heritage. She is sent to summer camp to learn to become friends with her “Chinese sisters.” Through many mishaps, she comes to terms with her life story.

The Last Fifth Grade of Emerson Elementary
Emerson Elementary is closing its doors and is due to be replaced by a shopping mall. Not everyone in this multicultural fifth-grade class feels the same about the school’s imminent closure. The variety of expressive writing styles for each character makes this book unique.

Lazy Crafternoon
Stella Fields. Capstone Young Readers.
Middle school students will love the fun, easy crafts outlined in this book. The colorful photographs and simple five-step directions make these crafts a breeze. Materials needed are common household supplies or easily found at craft stores.

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal
This graphic novel is filled with irony. Life as a Neanderthal has its challenges as a family experiences the daily ancient life in the Stone Age. Meeting humans confounds the status quo and takes the Neanderthals into a different world, but is it a better one?

*Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects: Build • Invent • Create • Discover
Jack Challoner. DK.
This DIY informational book takes science and art projects to the next level. Make a DNA model from tape, highlighters, and paper or easily found at craft stores. This how-to book is full of great ideas for party themes and instructions on making it happen. Readers like this book because the activities are doable and inexpensive.
“Marvel: Absolutely Everything You Need to Know…”
Adam Bray, Lorraine Cink, and John Sazaklis. DK.
Readers learn about the different heroes, villains, and teams that make up the characters of the Marvel comics. Readers will marvel at the use of onomatopoeia and dialogue that bring the characters and their super powers to life.

The Misadventures of Max Crumbly, Book 1: Locker Hero
Previously homeschooled, Max Crumbly is having a hard time adjusting to life at his new public school. His biggest problem is a bully who traps him in his locker. Inspired by a comic book hero’s courage, Max ends up escaping, foiling a robbery, and saving the school’s new computers!

Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics
Humor, mystery, and mind-bending book references coupled with floating library ladders and librarian holograms are all a part of Mr. Lemoncello’s Library Olympics. Teams compete for full-tuition scholarships and learn life lessons about cooperation.

Pete Milano’s Guide to Being a Movie Star
This spin-off from the Charlie Joe Jackson series will keep middle school students giggling as Pete’s pranks get him into trouble and, later, onto a movie set. Readers will get a humorous look at how difficult it is to balance Hollywood dreams with reality.

*The Rat Prince
A new twist to an old fairy tale. When Cinderella’s frightful stepmother Wilhelmina has control of the manor, nobody is safe, including the rats that she wants poisoned. Cinderella and Prince Char devise a plan to end Wilhelmina’s tyranny.

Raymie Nightingale
Kate DiCamillo. Candlewick.
As the Little Miss Central Florida Tire competition approaches, loneliness, loss, and unanswerable questions draw Raymie Clark and her two competitors into an unlikely friendship—and challenge each of them to come to the rescue in unexpected ways.

Red’s Planet
Eddie Pittman. Amulet/Abrams.
Red is a 10-year-old girl who longs to get away from her foster family and dreams of the day she will live somewhere exciting. One night, a UFO kidnaps her, taking her to another planet filled with friends and also enemies. Will she ever feel at home again?

Red: The True Story of Red Riding Hood
Another fractured fairy tale from the author of Rump and Jack. Red tackles the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Red meets Goldie and the two friends set out to save Red’s Granny. It seems the only way to save her is with magic, which is the one thing Red is afraid of.

Soar
Joan Bauer. Viking Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.
Jeremiah is a 12-year-old heart transplant recipient who loves baseball but cannot play after his operation. Jeremiah’s town loves baseball, but is ready to throw in the towel on the sport after a scandal. Can Jeremiah get the team back on the field?

Sunborn Rising: Beneath the Fall
Barra finds her late father’s hidden journal and reads about the old world and mysterious plague her father believed destroyed it. Together with her two best friends, Barra will explore every bark, wood, and leaf of the Great Forest of Cerulean to relight her world and complete her father’s story.

Superheroes Don’t Eat Veggie Burgers
Magic powers or no magic powers, Charlie Burger must deal with bullies, pesky siblings, an overbearing mother, a screaming coach, and his best friend’s changing looks. In this humorous coming-of-age book, Charlie discovers words are his greatest power.

The Terrible Two Get Worse
Following the Prankster’s Oath, Milo and Niles fill an otherwise boring life playing practical jokes. When trouble finally catches up to them, Principal Barkin gets the last laugh. Middle school students will love the humor as well as the fun illustrations.
Terror at Bottle Creek
Watt Key. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.

Fans of Gary Paulsen’s Hatchet will love this exciting story of adventure and survival set in the midst of a hurricane in the Alabama swamp. Suspense is built through quickly rising action and short chapters with cliffhanger endings. Reluctant readers are sure to be ensnared by this book.

The Trouble With Twins

Arabela and Henrietta are twins and best friends, even though Arabela is far more popular. One day, plain and quiet Henrietta gets into mischief, causing her to be banished to Great Aunt Priscilla’s, with her black cats and fish head stew. This dark comedy and its resolution are sure to hook even the most reluctant poet. With poems in the shape of their subject (e.g., a poem about a clock, in the shape of a clock), his language brings new depth to everyday objects.

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems

Raczka’s unconventional poems smack of e.e. cummings’s style and are sure to hook even the most reluctant poet. With poems in the shape of their subject (e.g., a poem about a clock, in the shape of a clock), his language brings new depth to everyday objects.

When Mischief Came to Town

After losing her mom, Inge Maria travels across the Baltic Sea to a little new life together in Denmark in 1911 and how Inge seems to find a*Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems

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Children's Choices 2017 Reading List (Cont’d)


Advanced Readers (Grades 5–6, Ages 10–12)


More About Children's Choices

Thank you to the 2016–2017 ILA/CBC Children's Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project member was Michele Owen (chair). Team leaders in the field test were Pamela Farris, Terrilyn Lebel, Michele Owen, Stan Steiner, Michele Sivovhovce, and Amy Vessel.

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.
What Is the Teachers’ Choices List?

For teachers looking for the best new titles to add to their classroom library, the Teachers’ Choices list is the place to start. Not only is it where they’ll find the best books for ages 5 through 14, but also they’ll know it comes from a source they can rely on—fellow educators. Since 1989, the International Literacy Association’s Teachers’ Choices project has identified outstanding trade books published in the last year that teachers, librarians, and reading specialists choose as being exceptional for curriculum use. Parents also will find the list invaluable, as it provides excellent choices for reading aloud or for helping answer important questions prompted by children’s experiences as they grow up.

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

**A Beetle Is Shy**
Detailed and colorful illustrations highlight a variety of beetles, their habits, and their habitats. Poetic descriptions make the scientific vocabulary accessible to young readers.

**Best in Snow**
April Pulley Sayre. Beach Lane/Simon & Schuster Children’s Publishing Division.
Vivid photographs and gently rhyming text bring a winter wonderland to life. Endnotes provide the scientific explanation for how snow forms, travels, accumulates, and melts.

**Daniel Finds a Poem**
Micha Archer. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Young Readers.
When young Daniel sees an advertisement for “Poetry in the Park,” he elicits help from various animals to help him understand what poetry is. Cleverly, he combines all the animals’ insights into an original poem.

**Dear Dragon: A Pen Pal Tale**
George and Blaise become pen pals and exchange rhyming letters over the course of a year. Despite many differences in lifestyle, they discover that friendship can blossom from unexpected relationships.

**The Water Princess**
An African mother and her young daughter must walk long distances every day to get water for their family, yet they find joy and reward in their journey. Endnotes provide more information about the importance of clean water in developing nations.

**Frank and Lucky Get Schooled**
Using the real-life explorations shared between a boy and his adopted dog, this humorous and insightful picture book offers a new twist on the subjects a child learns each day in school.

**Over on the Farm**
Rollicking, rhyming text introduces counting with farm animals. Endnotes go beyond common knowledge about these animals to provide supplemental ideas for curriculum involvement with this content.

**A Squiggly Story**
Inspired by his big sister’s love of reading and writing, a young boy learns that, too, can write stories that others appreciate and enjoy. This book will encourage emergent writers to become authors and storytellers.

**Whose Hands Are These? A Community Helper Guessing Book**
Colorful illustrations and rhyming lyrical text combine to highlight a variety of community helpers and the important role they play in everyday life. Children will enjoy the guessing game format, and endnotes provide more information about the careers mentioned.
Intermediate Readers
(Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

**Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Animal Infographics**

Torn- and cut-paper collages create visually exciting infographics that reveal fascinating facts about the animal kingdom. This book is ideal for teaching visual literacy, and it will engage animal lovers of all ages.

**Cook Me a Story: A Treasury of Stories and Recipes Inspired by Classic Fairy Tales**

In a perfect combination of food and fairy tales, the author has created clever and easy-to-follow recipes to accompany favorite stories. The recipes are based on simple ingredients, and a magic wand symbol indicates where adult supervision might be needed.

**Counting Thyme**
Melanie Conklin. G. P. Putnam’s Sons Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers.

Eleven-year-old Thyme is uprooted from her home in San Diego when the family moves to New York City to seek medical care for her younger brother, who is suffering from a rare cancer. Thyme must negotiate all the change in her life, but in the process, she finds hope, courage, and love.

**50 Things You Should Know About American Presidents**
Tracey Kelly. Ill. with photographs. Quarto.

This vibrant book features facts about the U.S. presidents and the major events in history that shaped their terms in office.

**The First Step: How One Girl Put Segregation on Trial**

In 1847, an African American girl named Sarah Roberts was told that she could no longer attend her neighborhood school because it was for white children only. Her legal case became the first one to challenge segregated schools in the United States.

**Maxi’s Secrets (Or What You Can Learn From a Dog)**
Lynn Plourde. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Young Readers.

Dog lovers of all ages will fall in love with Maxi, a Great Pyrenees puppy who is also deaf. Maxi helps her middle school owner, Timminy, navigate his way through the challenges of early adolescence in a new school and neighborhood.

**Seven and a Half Tons of Steel**

In this dramatic picture book, readers will learn how a beam from the World Trade Center became the bow of a Navy ship called the USS New York. Endnotes provide more facts about the ship and its symbolic design.

**Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White**

This lavishly illustrated biography details the life of beloved children’s author E. B. White. Readers will delight to learn that White’s most famous books arose from moments in his own childhood. A timeline and interview with White’s granddaughter accompany the text.

**Tru & Nelle**

Long before they became famous writers, Truman Capote and Nelle Harper Lee were friends in a small Alabama town in the 1930s. Despite being misfits, they struck up a friendship based on a mutual love of mysteries and adventures.

**Under Water, Under Earth**
Aleksandra Mizielinska and Daniel Mizielinski. Big Picture/Candlewick.

This cleverly formatted, calendar-style book features sparse text and detailed illustrations. One side of the book opens to reveal natural and manmade features that can be found under water; the other side showcases elements found under the earth.
Advanced Readers
(Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

*Ashes (The Seeds of America Trilogy)*

In this conclusion to the Seeds of America Trilogy, escaped slaves Isabel and Curzon venture to Charleston, South Carolina, to retrieve Isabel’s little sister, Ruth, who was stolen from her years before. A detailed appendix provides historical facts and suggestions for further reading.

*Beautiful Blue World*

Twelve-year-old Mathilde is recruited to help the war effort in the fictitious country of Sofarende. While living away from her family and all that is familiar to her, she discovers skills and strengths she didn’t know she had. A promised sequel will continue Mathilde’s story.

*Booked*

Newbery Medal winner Kwame Alexander has created another sports-themed novel-in-verse. This time, the focus is on soccer, but 12-year-old Nick also learns some valuable life lessons through his interactions with family, peers, and a beloved school librarian.

*The Boy at the Top of the Mountain*

After young Pierrot is orphaned, he must leave his home in Paris to live with a German aunt who happens to be the housekeeper at Adolf Hitler’s mountain retreat. Pierrot, whose name is changed to Pieter, is greatly influenced by Hitler’s domineering personality and zealous ideology.

*Grover Cleveland, Again! A Treasury of American Presidents*

Ken Burns, the acclaimed documentary filmmaker, has created an invaluable resource for social studies teachers and budding historians alike. This compendium features fascinating facts about the first 44 U.S. presidents. Watercolor illustrations bring the tales to life.

*Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph*

The poems in this book were inspired by Art Kane’s photograph *Harlem 1958*. The author tells about some of the players and the circumstances surrounding that famous photo shoot. Endnotes provide facts about the musicians and suggestions for further exploration.

*Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor’s Story*
Caren Stelson. Carolrhoda/Lerner.

Sachiko Yasui was only 6 years old when an atomic bomb exploded a half mile from her home. Even though she survived, she faced a life of physical and emotional hardships until she ultimately made peace with the destruction she witnessed. Extensive endnotes supplement the text.

*Salt to the Sea*

In lyrical prose, four narrators and several secondary characters tell of the greatest maritime disaster ever: the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, an overloaded military ship that was evacuating civilians and soldiers from Prussia at the end of World War II. This little-known piece of history comes to life through the eyes of these memorable characters.

*Things Too Huge to Fix by Saying Sorry*

Dani Bean is a typical middle school girl, but when her grandmother begins a downward spiral into Alzheimer’s disease, Dani becomes involved in a mystery surrounding the desegregation of Ole Miss. Can Dani uncover the truth about her grandmother and the racism and prejudice of the past?

*Wolf Hollow*
Lauren Wolk. Dutton Children’s Books/Penguin Young Readers.

Set in western Pennsylvania in 1943, this historical novel centers on young Annabelle’s encounters with a classroom bully and a local hermit who suffers from PTSD because of his battleground experiences in World War I. Annabelle confronts issues of prejudice, fear, and social justice in this coming-of-age story.

*Books that received the highest number of reviews*
More About Teachers’ Choices

Thank you to the 2016–2017 ILA Teachers’ Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Joyce Gulley (cochair) and April Hoving (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Kim Fairbanks, Jennifer Fox, Margo Frizzell (trainee), Julie Greenberg, Sunni Johnson, Heather Jones, Alicia Pruitt (trainee), and Cathy Voelker.
What Is the Young Adults’ Choices List?

The Young Adults’ Choices project began in 1986, funded by a special grant given to the International Literacy Association, and was supervised by the Association’s Literature for Young Adults Committee. The goals of the project are to encourage young people to read, to make teens, teachers, librarians, and parents aware of new literature for young adults; and to provide middle and secondary school students with an opportunity to voice their opinions about books being written for them. The value of young adult literature is certainly not something new, but it is true that it’s more popular than ever. And we believe it’s safe to say the books included on this enclosed list are going to keep those stats high.

The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century

The latest in-depth study of the evidence surrounding a century-old murder mystery. Who killed Andrew and Abby Borden in 1892? Could Lizzie Borden brutally murder her father and stepmother with an ax and then convince everyone in the community that she didn’t do it? Read this compelling narrative and find out!

Falling Over Sideways
Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic Press.

Nick spends his time thinking about soccer, dodging bullies, and trying to impress the girl of his dreams. His voice comes alive in this novel-in-verse as he misses his mother and struggles to connect with his strict father. With the help of a special librarian, he finds new hope within the pages of books.

The Darkest Hour
Caroline Tung Richmond. Scholastic Press.

In this World War II thriller, 16-year-old Lucie is a recruit of the Covert Ops. Her mission: Do whatever she can to take down Hitler. Deployed to German-occupied France, Lucie must track down a Nazi traitor to find and dismantle a weapon that could change the course of the war and the future—forever.

The Distance Between Us (Young Readers Edition)

This compelling memoir, retold for a young adult audience, tells the story of Reyna, who spent her childhood torn between two parents and two countries. Reyna and her siblings must live with her overburdened and stern grandmother when her parents find work in the United States. When her alcoholic father eventually rescues her, Reyna faces many challenges to succeed.

*Booked*

Kwame’s latest novel is a brand new verse novel. 14-year-old Nick must try to impress the girl of his dreams. As he deals with missing his mom and boarders, he finds a way to express himself through verse.

The Girl I Used to Be

When a charming new administrator also sets his sights on Olivia, both girls end up on a dangerous path neither may survive.

The Girl I Used to Be (Young Readers Edition)

When a charming new administrator also sets his sights on Olivia, both girls end up on a dangerous path neither may survive.

Wendy Mills.

Two stories interweave in this heartrending yet ultimately hopeful story that explores the pivotal events of September 11, 2001. On that day, Travis and Alia are tragically caught in the terror attack. Fifteen years later, Jesse begins to unravel the hurt and to heal from her brother’s death. The darkness of hate and ignorance are overcome by love, compassion, and friendship.

Beware That Girl

Kate schemes her way into New York City’s exclusive Waverly School. She then sets her sights on Olivia, a classmate with money and prestige—just the connection she needs to advance in this elite world. When a charming new administrator also sets his sights on Olivia, both girls end up on a dangerous path neither may survive.

Falling Over Sideways
Jordan Sonnenblick. Scholastic Press.

Claire’s eighth-grade year is not going as she hoped. Mean girls, boys, changing friendships; she doesn’t think it can get any worse…until it does. Her father suffers a stroke, and everything changes instantly. Now Claire must find the strength to handle both the pressures of middle school and an uncertain future.

Genius: The Game
Leopoldo Gout. Feiwel and Friends/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.

This series starter follows the lives of three teenage geniuses: Rex, an ace coder and the son of illegal Mexican immigrants; Tunde, an impoverished, self-taught Nigerian engineering prodigy; and Painted Wolf, a middle-class Chinese girl with a talent for ferreting out corruption. Best friends who have met only online, they get caught up in The Game, an international competition.

The latest in-depth study of the evidence surrounding a century-old murder mystery. Who killed Andrew and Abby Borden in 1892? Could Lizzie Borden brutally murder her father and stepmother with an ax and then convince everyone in the community that she didn’t do it? Read this compelling narrative and find out!
Goldfish
Filled with slapstick antics, this lighthearted story of 15-year-old Louise Brown, a down-on-her-luck swimmer, makes a splash with readers. Gangly and unpopular, Louise loses her chance at Olympic stardom. Now she must start a new school year without her best friend Hannah (who did qualify for Olympic training) and deal with her former coach, who treats her like a pariah.

Gutless
Brock, a talented athlete, doesn’t like to take hits on the football field. When he is cut from the team, he and his friend Richie experience cruel bullying by quarterback Hunter Gates. When the bullying goes too far, Brock must confront his fears with bravery. Plenty of football action and realistic dilemmas make this a winner.

*Lady Midnight*
In this glitzy, enticing series opener, Emma Carstairs grows into a woman determined to discover who killed her parents. Along with her parabatai Julian, she investigates a complex demonic plot in Los Angeles, California. Then Mark’s unsettling return from the faeries brings more questions than answers. Treacherous secrets of betrayal, obsession, and revenge are revealed in an action-packed quest for truth.

The Last Boy and Girl in the World
Knowing they must leave their town forever, Keeley and her friends decide to party and enjoy the final times they have together. Believing that she has nothing to lose, Keeley pursues Jesse, the boy she’s loved for a long time. When risks are taken and truths are spoken, the results are life changing.

The Lovely Reckless
Frankie Devereux’s boyfriend is murdered, and her mother, in an effort to remove her from the danger as well as her own destructive behaviors, sends Frankie away from her privileged life to live with her father. Then she meets tough and sexy Marco. Despite the new location, danger is far from gone.

Macbeth #killingit
Written in a series of text messages with emojis, photo postings, and characters checking in at various locations, Carbone continues telling Shakespeare’s plays in an unconventional manner. Surely Shakespeare would approve—at least, he was the king of wordplay!

The Pact
Amanda West Lewis. Red Deer/Fitzhenry & Whiteside. May 1939. Peter Gruber, a 10-year-old German boy, deals with the drowning death of his closest friend. Sensitive and intelligent, Peter grapples with the cruel truth of World War II’s Hitler Youth. When the path and peril his country is on becomes clear, how should Peter respond to the propaganda of the Nazis?

Passenger
Alexandra Bracken. Disney-Hyperion.
Etta and Nick leave on a peril-filled journey across centuries and continents on a quest for a stolen object. They must piece together clues from a mysterious traveler. As the truth of their search is revealed, the deadly game of the Ironwoods threatens to separate Etta from Nick and ultimately their path home—forever.

P.S. I Like You
Kasie West. Point/Scholastic.
Love shows up when Lily least expects it. When she scribbles her favorite song lyrics on a desk, Lily finds a mysterious someone adds to the lyrics, along with a message. Could this intrigue go beyond sharing secrets and recommending bands to a deep, meaningful relationship? In this warm, witty novel, Lily learns that matters of the heart bring wonderful changes.

Salt to the Sea
Near the end of World War II, as the Russians advance on East Prussia, six refugees band together on an arduous winter journey West hoping to board an evacuation ship. Here, Sepetys weaves together their personal stories with a gripping narrative of the little-known tragedy of the Wilhelm Gustloff.
Somebody Jessie so desperately needs? this a helpful classmate or a hoax? What if this Nobody is exactly the Jessie receives a mysterious e-mail from “Somebody/Nobody.” Is she must move to Los Angeles, California, and attend a prestigious prep school. While trying to navigate this intimidating new world, Jessie receives a mysterious e-mail from “Somebody/Nobody.” Is this a helpful classmate or a hoax? What if this Nobody is exactly the Somebody Jessie so desperately needs?

The Sun Is Also a Star
Poetic Daniel is reluctantly hurrying to an appointment important to the career path set by his South Korean parents. Scientific Natasha is desperately hurrying to an appointment vital to her Jamaican family’s deportation status. Meeting by chance, they fall in love and “steal” the day. With what consequences?

Tell Me Three Things

23 Minutes
Vivian Vande Velde. Boyds Mills/Highlights.
Blue-haired Zoe is a social outcast. She encounters a deadly bank robbery that leaves two people dead, including a friendly young man who shields Zoe from a bullet. But 15-year-old Zoe has a special ability to turn back the clock 23 minutes just by saying “playback,” allowing her to change the outcome of events. She has only 10 tries to get it right.


Tell Me Three Things.

The Twelve Days of Dash & Lily
After Lily’s grandfather has a heart attack, she is not in the mood to celebrate Christmas. Dash, her boyfriend, is concerned about their relationship and Lily’s apathetic attitude toward her favorite holiday. Dash and Lily’s friends have only 12 days until Christmas. Will that be enough to save Christmas and their relationship?

This Is Where It Ends
Marieke Nijkamp. Sourcebooks Fire.
As the traditional assembly opening the new semester at Opportunity High School ends, students prepare to leave, only to find the auditorium doors locked, trapping them inside. Then, someone starts shooting. The 54 minutes of horror that follow are presented from four perspectives, revealing despair, heartbreak, heroism, and unexpected truths.

Two Summers
Aimee Friedman. Point/Scholastic.
Summer’s life splits into parallel worlds as she experiences two unforgettable summers. One choice leads her to France, with all the romance that can be imagined in far-flung destinations. The other leaves her in an ordinary, suburban world. In parallel summers, she both finds love and discovers herself. But is it truth Summer needs the most?

A World Without You
In this heartbreaking yet ultimately hopeful story, Bo's friend and love Sofia cannot escape deep depression and commits suicide. To process his grief, psychotic and delusional Bo becomes convinced that Sofia is not really dead but only stuck in time. Will Bo try to "save" her or face the reality of his mental illness?

*Books that received the highest number of reviews
More About Young Adults’ Choices
Thank you to the 2016–2017 ILA Young Adults’ Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were Stephanie Burdic (cochair) and Lisa Morris-Wilkey (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Jill Bellomy (trainee), Beth Brendler, Rose Brock, Patricia Evans, Cheryl McCall, Kimberly Powers (trainee), Kerry Townsend, and Marney Welmers.
About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers, and experts across 75 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught, and evaluated. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather, and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices, and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students, and inform policymakers. ILA publishes The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy, and Reading Research Quarterly, which are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit literacyworldwide.org.