

INTERNATIONAL
LITERACY
ASSOCIATION

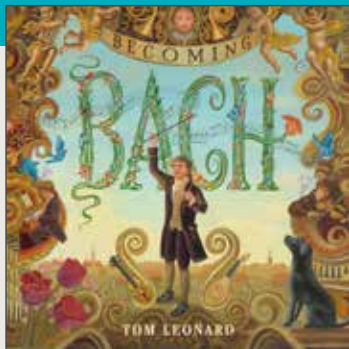
TEACHERS' CHOICES

2018 Reading List

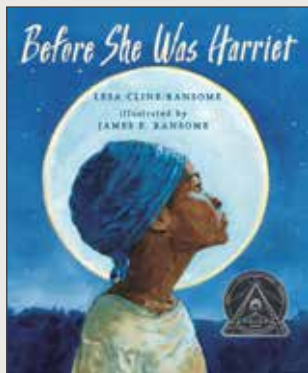


What Is the Teachers' Choices Reading List?

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 outstanding books for ages 5 to 14, but also they'll know it comes from a source they can rely on—their fellow educators. Since 1989, the International Literacy Association's Teachers' Choices project has identified trade books that teachers, librarians, and literacy specialists choose as being exceptional for both curriculum use and encouraging young people to read. Parents and families will also find the list invaluable, as it provides excellent choices for reading aloud or for help answering important questions prompted by children's experiences as they grow up.



Becoming Bach. Tom Leonard. Roaring Brook/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.



Before She Was Harriet. Lesa Cline-Ransome. Ill. James E. Ransome. Holiday House.



Blue Sky White Stars. Sarvinder Naberhaus. Ill. Kadir Nelson. Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers Group.

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

Becoming Bach

Tom Leonard. Roaring Brook/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

In this first-person narrative, the young musician explains how the patterns he saw and the music he felt in his mind and heart became his musical quest to make magic. The result is Johann Sebastian's story of earning the acclaimed title of Bach.

Before She Was Harriet

Lesa Cline-Ransome. Ill. James E. Ransome. Holiday House.

This lyrical poem tells the courageous story of Harriet Tubman, describing her life through various names. Many people were saved through her courageous efforts as she acted as conductor, suffragist, spy, and liberator, among others.

Blue Sky White Stars

Sarvinder Naberhaus. Ill. Kadir Nelson. Dial Books for Young Readers/Penguin Young Readers Group.

In this text, the same words describe both the fabric of America and the Star-Spangled Banner. Beautiful illustrations coupled with sparse text make this seemingly simple book meaningful and thought-provoking as readers weave their way through the history of the nation and its flag.

Give Bees a Chance

Bethany Barton. Viking/Penguin Young Readers Group.

Learn all about why bees are important in this fun-filled book of facts, drawings, and quotes. You'll laugh at and empathize with the main character as the narrator bee tries to convince him to just give bees a chance to show their true colors.

Rivers, Seas and Oceans

Mack van Gageldonk. Clavis.

Photographs and childlike doodles bring the wonder of water to life in this nonfiction text. Describing the water cycle, differences in fresh and salt water, marine life, and more, this book is bound to whet every reader's appetite to learn all about this life-sustaining substance.

Robins! How They Grow Up

Eileen Christelow. Clarion.

Through witty banter between two young robins, this text reveals the ups and downs of a robin's first year of life from egg to independence. Realistic descriptions of everything from building nests to scouting for food to running from predators are sure to fascinate young learners.

Rolling Thunder

Kate Messner. Ill. Greg Ruth. Scholastic Press.

Stunning illustrations and rhyming text spotlight the emotions of the annual Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom, a journey dedicated to honoring America's veterans. This touching look at an honorable tradition from treasured author Kate Messner is sure to inspire many classroom discussions.

***She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World**

Chelsea Clinton. Ill. Alexandra Boiger. Philomel/Penguin Random House.

From ballerina Maria Tallchief to media mogul Oprah Winfrey, author Chelsea Clinton features the stories of 13 women who overcame obstacles to become successful in their fields. Ultimately, these women paved the way for others to persist and have a positive impact on the world.

This Is a Good Story

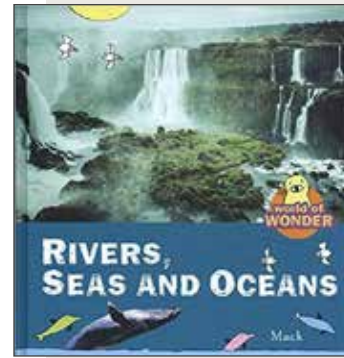
Adam Lehrhaupt. Ill. Magali Le Huche. Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

The reader of this book playfully becomes the narrator who encourages the young writer and illustrator featured on the pages to write the story as each element is revealed from the beginning, when the hero and heroine are introduced, all the way to The End.

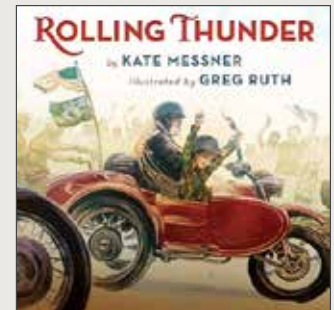
We're All Wonders

R.J. Palacio. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.

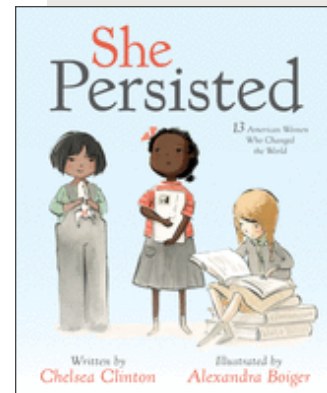
Well-known Wonder Auggie describes his day from riding a bike to eating ice cream. Even though Auggie looks different, he wants people to know that "the Earth is big enough for all kinds of people." Learn through this simple, poignant story how we should all #ChooseKind.



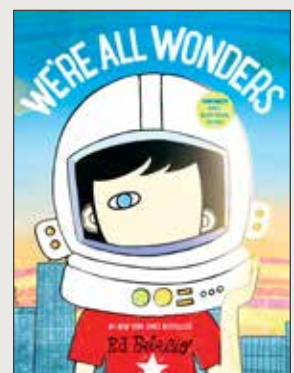
Rivers, Seas and Oceans. Mack van Gageldonk. Clavis.



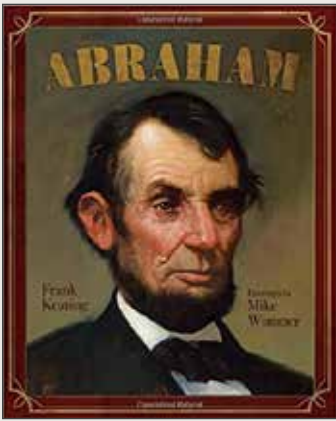
Rolling Thunder. Kate Messner. Ill. Greg Ruth. Scholastic Press.



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We're All Wonders. R.J. Palacio. Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books.



Abraham. Frank Keating. Ill. Mike Wimmer. Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Intermediate Readers (Grades 3–5, Ages 8–11)

Abraham

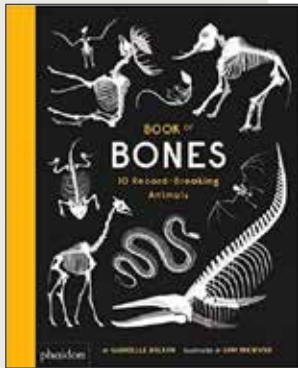
Frank Keating. Ill. Mike Wimmer. Paula Wiseman/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

This first-person account of Abraham Lincoln’s story from childhood to the U.S. presidency is depicted through remarkable paintings and Lincoln’s own words. The use of high-level vocabulary elevates this biography of the man who brought freedom to all and united the country.

Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals

Gabrielle Balkan. Ill. Sam Brewster. Phaidon.

Fun clues and crazy facts highlight this guessing-game text. Ten record-breaking animals, such as those with the biggest, longest, and thinnest bones, are revealed in their natural habitats with raised touch-and-feel skeletons.

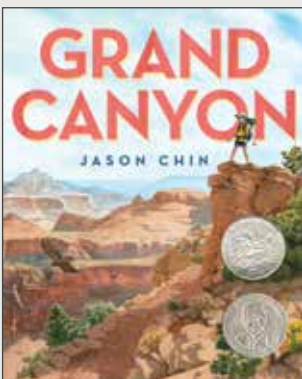


Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals. Gabrielle Balkan. Ill. Sam Brewster. Phaidon.

The Elephant Keeper: Caring for Orphaned Elephants in Zambia

Margriet Ruurs. Ill. Pedro Covo. Kids Can.

Beautiful illustrations accent the true story of Aaron, who unexpectedly saves drowning elephant Zambezi, leading to a new life caring for orphaned elephants. Interspersed photos and informational text show elephants in their natural habitats and describe how others can help these endangered animals.



Grand Canyon. Jason Chin. Roaring Brook/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.

Grand Canyon

Jason Chin. Roaring Brook/Macmillan Children’s Publishing Group.

Follow a father and daughter through time as they explore the geology, wildlife, and waters of the Grand Canyon. Die cuts show fossils from long ago followed by pages that explain the findings. Beautiful watercolor and pen-and-ink illustrations make the canyon come to life.

Her Right Foot

Dave Eggers. Ill. Shawn Harris. Chronicle.

The history and significance of the Statue of Liberty is portrayed through entertaining drawings and amusing facts. However, the focus shifts to the seemingly insignificant placement of Lady Liberty’s right foot in mid-stride, symbolizing the movement of immigrants whom she continues to welcome to the land of the free.



Her Right Foot. Dave Eggers. Ill. Shawn Harris. Chronicle.

Martin's Dream Day

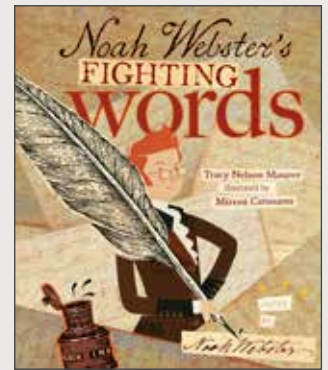
Kitty Kelley. Ill. Stanley Tretick. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Through one-of-a-kind photographs, this text describes the events leading up to and culminating in the most famous speech of Martin Luther King Jr.'s life.

Noah Webster's Fighting Words

Tracy Nelson Maurer. Ill. Mircea Catusanu. Millbrook/Lerner Publishing Group.

With each illustration an interesting collage of facts and Webster's own interjected comments, readers will be engaged in this lively but factual account of how the Americanized dictionary came to be. Webster's strong opinions and bold ideas paved the way to document America's unique version of the English language.

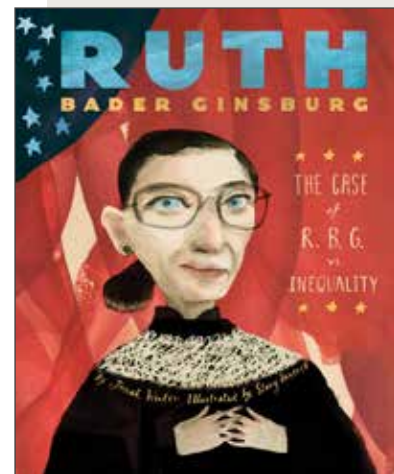


Noah Webster's Fighting Words. Tracy Nelson Maurer. Ill. Mircea Catusanu. Millbrook/Lerner Publishing Group.

****Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality***

Jonah Winter. Ill. Stacy Innerst. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

Presented like a court case, this biography of Ginsburg focuses on her journey through life on her way to the U.S. Supreme Court as she experiences religious and gender discrimination at every turn. However, through hard work and determination, "RBG" is successful and has "become a symbol of justice in America."



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Writing Radar: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories

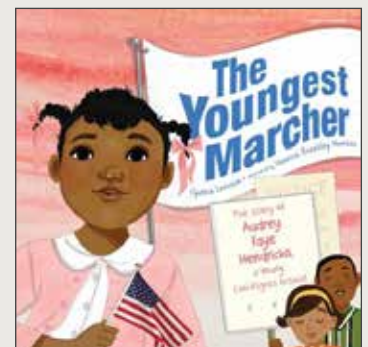
Jack Gantos. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

This text is about so much more than keeping a writer's notebook and filling it with ideas. To inspire others to find their own inner writing radar, Gantos uses tips, illustrations, and comedy to entertain readers with his antics, memories, and crazy journey of becoming a writer.

The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist

Cynthia Levinson. Ill. Vanessa Brantley Newton. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

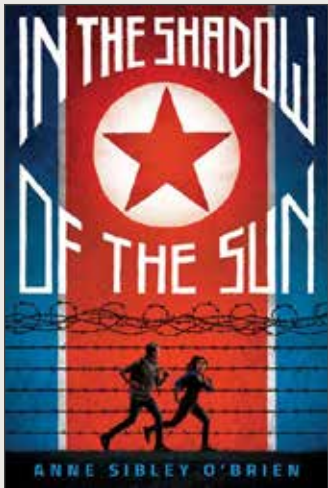
In 1963, Audrey, age 9, was one of the youngest marchers in the Birmingham Children's Crusade. Even though she spent time in jail for demonstrating against segregation laws, her faith never wavered that one day freedom would be granted to all.



The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist. Cynthia Levinson. Ill. Vanessa Brantley Newton. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.



Genevieve's War. Patricia Reilly Giff. Ill. Becca Stadtlander. Holiday House.



In the Shadow of the Sun. Anne Sibley O'Brien. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.



Patina. Jason Reynolds. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Advanced Readers (Grades 6–8, Ages 11–14)

The Exact Location of Home

Kate Messner. Bloomsbury Children's Books.

As Zig attempts to find his dad with clues found through geocaching, his life is turned upside down with new friends, new feelings, and a stint in a homeless shelter. Through success and disappointment, he learns that there is much more to home than an address.

Genevieve's War

Patricia Reilly Giff. Ill. Becca Stadtlander. Holiday House.

After spending a summer in France at her grandmother's farm, Genevieve stays, not knowing World War II would soon break out across Europe. Even after a Nazi officer commandeers the farmhouse, she continues to be brave by helping those in trouble. This text is a companion to Giff's Newbery Honor book *Lily's Crossing*.

**In the Shadow of the Sun*

Anne Sibley O'Brien. Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic.

What began as a vacation in North Korea for Mia, Simon, and their father turns into a nightmare as Mia's father is arrested and Mia finds horrendous labor camp images on a cell phone gifted to her. Mia and Simon experience difficult terrain, injuries, and hunger while on the frightening journey north to help free their father.

Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers' Edition)

Saroo Brierley. Puffin/Penguin Random House.

When Saroo Brierley was 5 years old, he lost his way on a train in India, leading to life on the streets of Calcutta, hungry and in constant fear. After being adopted by loving Australian parents, Saroo used Google Earth to find his way home.

Patina

Jason Reynolds. Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Patina, often called Patty, runs every race to prove she "ain't no junk." She runs for her Ma, her sister Maddy, her teammates, and her survival at her new middle school. Through it all, she overcomes obstacles and trials with support from those who love her and believe in her.

Refugee

Alan Gratz. Scholastic Press.

Switching perspectives from Josef in 1939 Germany to Isabel in 1994 Cuba and Mahmoud in 2015 Syria, three intertwining stories personalize historic tragedies and spotlight the perseverance and courage it takes to find hope in a world that seems hopeless.

Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz

Michael Bornstein and Debbie Bornstein Holinstat. Farrar, Straus and Giroux Books for Young Readers/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Amid Germany's 1939 invasion of Poland, a Jewish family's choices saved the life of young Michael Bornstein, who became one of the youngest survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Told through his eyes with the help of his daughter's pen, this shocking story of love and survival is one that all readers need to hear.

This Is Our Constitution

Khizr Khan. Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

Pakistani immigrant Khizr Khan came to the United States seeking the freedom promised in our country's founding documents. Along with his personal journey shared through side notes, Khan explains each section of the Constitution in relatable terms, giving background information and connected details to help young readers understand the "blessings of liberty."

Walking With Miss Millie

Tamara Bundy. Nancy Paulsen/Penguin Random House.

Angry about moving to her mama's hometown of Rainbow, Georgia, Alice unexpectedly finds a new friend in Miss Millie when she is tasked with walking her dog, Clarence. Through Miss Millie's stories of family, segregation, and heartache, Alice discovers good people come in all colors and sizes.

Wishtree

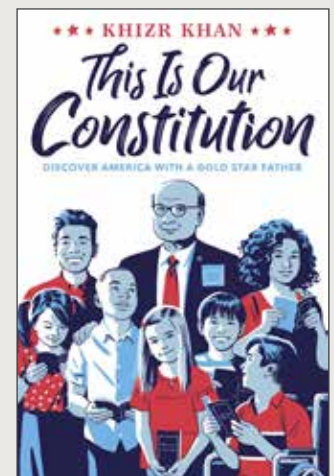
Katherine Applegate. Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

Red is the neighborhood wishtree who sees all. When a new Muslim family moves into the community and faces discrimination, Red helps bring people together to learn all about acceptance, bravery, and friendship.

*Titles that received the most votes



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More About Teachers' Choices

Thank you to the 2017–2018 ILA Teachers' Choices cochairs, team leaders, and review teams. The project members were April Hoying (cochair) and Jennifer Fox (cochair). Team leaders in the field test were Kelly Blair (trainee), Kim Fairbanks, Julie Greenberg, Heather Jones, Alicia Pruitt, Colleen Shuler, and Cathy Voelker.

To learn more about the Teachers' Choices project, including how to participate and access to previous years' reading lists, please visit literacyworldwide.org/choices.