

The background of the cover is a dark, starry night sky. A young girl with dark hair in a braid, wearing a yellow shirt, is shown from the back, looking up at the stars. The sky is filled with white and orange stars, and there are faint, wispy clouds or nebulae. The overall style is artistic and illustrative.

The New York Public Library

BEST NEW BOOKS FOR KIDS

100 Titles for Reading
and Sharing

¡Más!
Los mejores
libros nuevos
para pequeños

2023
Edition



Introduction

Every year, our expert librarians read hundreds of new titles to compile a list of the Best New Books for Kids. For more than a century, this list has sought to reflect the vibrant diversity of New York City's readership. We're excited to share with New Yorkers the 2023 edition: 100 titles selected from nearly 2,000 books read by our librarians—including picture books, graphic novels, poetry, chapter books, and more that embrace a wide array of stories, authors, and illustrators.

The 2023 edition also features a new section, *Los mejores libros para pequeños*. Beginning on page 11, this list highlights 20 of the best books for children published in Spanish this year, as selected by our committee.

We hope this list will help readers of all ages find stories to fire their imaginations and inspire them to go on more reading adventures all year round!

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play essential roles in helping a child become a confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

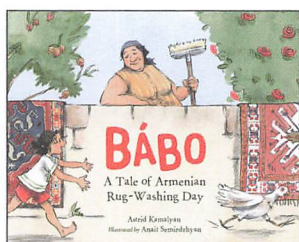
- **Make reading part of your family's regular routine.** Bedtime stories work well for many families, but any time of day is good. It's never too early to start, and never too late to encourage your child to pick up the habit!
- **Talk about what you are reading.** Whether your child is reading independently or together with you, discussing and retelling stories helps deepen understanding, improve reading skills, and build vocabulary.
- **Let your child catch you reading!** Keep books, newspapers, and magazines at home and demonstrate your own love for the written word.

Happy reading to you all!

The New York Public Library

Picture Books

At the Drop of a Cat by *Élise Fontenaille*, illustrated by *Violeta Lópiz*, translated by *Karin Snelson and Emilie Robert Wong*. In this heartwarming story translated from French, lush illustrations provide a verdant backdrop as a young child lovingly speaks about his grandfather. Luis, a Spanish refugee living in France, never learned to read or write, nonetheless his grandson admires his many talents.

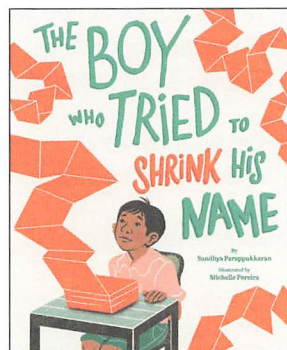


Bábo: A Tale of Armenian Rug-Washing Day by *Astrid Kamalyan*, illustrated by *Anait Semirdzhyan*. It's rug washing day! Tato and her siblings help Bábo soak, soap, and wash the family rugs in a story filled with lively action words that shows doing chores can be fun! Backmatter, including a glossary of Artsakh Armenian words, gives more detail on this family tradition.

Big by *Vashti Harrison*. A young girl transcends opinions of her to hold space for herself and own the person she is both inside and out. Powerful, full-page illustrations and striking use of color push the limits of the picture book form.

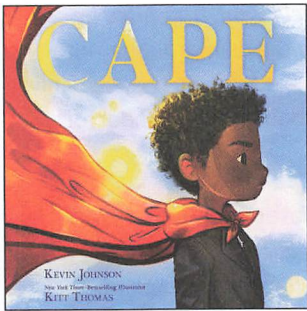
Big Tune: Rise of the Dancehall Prince by *Alliah L. Agostini*, illustrated by *Shamar Knight-Justice*. Shane brings his Jamaican American community together after a broken speaker threatens to end their weekly dancehall parties. Told in colorful collage illustrations, this is an exuberant story filled with joy that highlights one of NYC's most dynamic enclaves.

The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name by *Sandhya Parappukaran*, illustrated by *Michelle Pereira*. Zimdalamashkermishkada starts at a new school and is afraid others will have trouble pronouncing his name. He tries many ways to shrink his name until his friends help him see it from a new perspective.



Breaking to the Beat! by *Linda J. Acevedo*, illustrated by *Frank Morrison*. Manolo, a shy Puerto Rican boy, discovers confidence that he never knew existed when he joins a break dancing team in the Boogie Down Bronx. Bold illustrations highlight the energetic dance moves of Manolo and his crew in this historical fiction about the birth of hip-hop.

Bunny and Tree by *Balint Zsako*. Bunny is separated from its colony and turns to a shape shifting tree for help. Through nine wordless, thoughtfully illustrated acts they brave predators, sail across oceans, and fly through the sky in search of Bunny's new home.



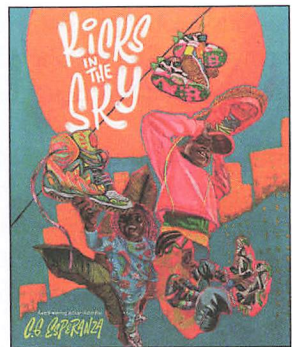
Cape by *Kevin Johnson*, illustrated by *Kitt Thomas*. A young Black child draws strength from their beloved superhero cape after the death of a loved one. Evocative and immersive illustrations and gentle text convey the experience of grief from a child's perspective.

Do You Remember? by *Sydney Smith*. A boy and his mother reflect on the past to bring themselves comfort through a major life change.

Poignantly illustrated vignettes depict the memories of birthdays, picnics, and heartfelt moments that help calm their spirits on their first night in a new home.

Just Like Grandma by *Kim Rogers*, illustrated by *Julie Flett*. In this warmly illustrated tale about a Native American family, Becca admires her grandmother's traditional beading and Fancy Shawl dancing, while Grandma appreciates Becca's basketball skills. Together, they realize that they have more in common than they thought.

Kicks in the Sky by *C.G. Esperanza*. Ever wonder how those sneakers got on the power line? In this exuberant, energetic, and neon-hued story, a group of city kids develop skills beyond their wildest dreams as they search for an answer that "only the birds know."



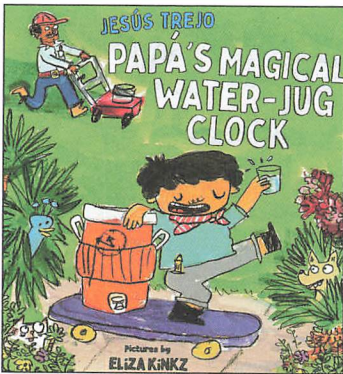
Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar by *Mojdeh Hassani and Samira Iravani*, illustrated by *Maya Fidawi*.

Samira is overwhelmed by the sights and sounds of the bazaar in Tehran. Through the fantastical lens of her grandmother's imagination and the comfort of her chador, Samira sees the joys and wonders of her bustling community and discovers that sometimes a little whimsy goes a long way.

Mr. S by *Monica Arnaldo*. A group of students arrive on the first day to find an impressive looking sandwich seated at the teacher's desk. Baffled, they wonder, could this be their teacher? Hilarity ensues in this silly and unexpected story.

My Baba's Garden by *Jordan Scott*, illustrated by *Sydney Smith*. Tender illustrations tell the story of a young child and their grandmother. Despite the fact that they speak two different languages, they connect as they care for a garden together and, in the process, create a deep and lasting bond.

9 Kilometers by *Claudio Aguilera*, illustrated by *Gabriela Lyon*, translated by *Lawrence Schimel*. Detailed acrylic illustrations convey the daily arduous journey that a young Chilean child makes in order to receive the education they so richly deserve. Extensive backmatter includes information about trips to school for children of other cultures.

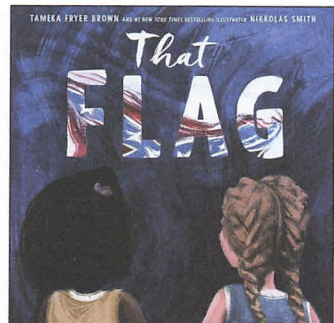


Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock by *Jesús Trejo*, illustrated by *Eliza Kinkz*. Jesús is excited to go to work with Papá! Papá explains that when the water jug is empty, their work is done, so clever Jesús hatches a plan to distribute all the water by midday. Told through distinct, hand-drawn art, this story presents a balanced lesson about patience and ingenuity.

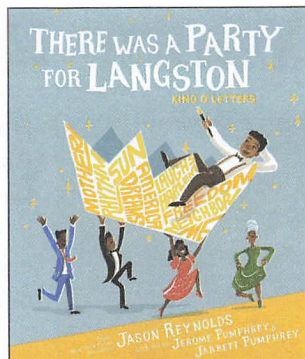
Rainbow Shopping by *Qing Zhuang*. A recently emigrated Chinese family is usually too busy working to dine together. Textured illustrations provide a feeling of home as they take a long train ride to Chinatown to gather colorful ingredients for a meal that will bring them all together.

Roll, Roll, Little Pea by *Cécile Bergame*, illustrated by *Magali Attiogbé*, translated by *Angus Yuen-Killick*. When one little pea escapes its bowl, an adventure begins. Chant along through the interactive text and vibrant art as the little pea narrowly escapes a cat that will crunch, a pig that will munch, and a wolf that will devour it!

That Flag by *Tameka Fryer Brown*, illustrated by *Nikkolas Smith*. Keira and Bianca are best friends—but only at school. At home, Bianca's family flies a Confederate flag, and the girls' differing perspectives on the flag's meaning cause conflict. When a tragedy occurs in their community, they must grapple with the flag's impact and racist history.



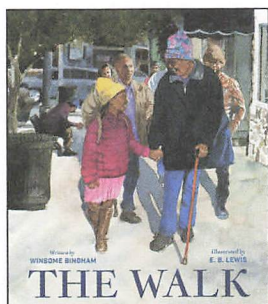
There Was a Party for Langston by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey. There's a party at the Schomburg Center and everyone's invited! Through a cast of famous luminaries of the 20th century, this beautiful and moving celebration of the life and work of Langston Hughes is told through handmade stamped illustrations and poetic text.



These Olive Trees by Aya Ghanameh. A young Palestinian girl is forced to leave her home at a refugee camp, along with the precious olive trees her family has cultivated there. In pages of moving prose and distinctive illustrations, she finds a way to continue her family's legacy and sustain a connection to her homeland.

To the Other Side by Erika Meza. As they travel in search of safety, a young girl invents a game to help her and her brother endure the long, hard journey across the border to asylum in a new home. Despite fears of monsters and unknowns, the refugee children remain motivated and resilient, even when the game is no longer fun.

The Train Home by Dan-ah Kim. When a girl grows tired of her loud and crowded apartment, she takes a magical subway ride to fantastical destinations throughout the city.

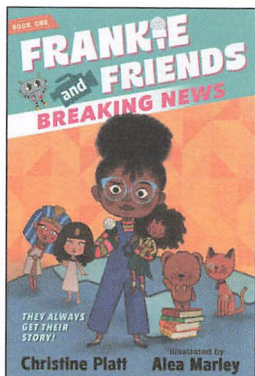


The Walk by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by E.B. Lewis. A young girl and her neighbors walk together to participate in an important act of democracy: voting! Photorealistic illustrations modeled after a real-life town highlight how the difficult journey to the polls can be made easier through the power of community.

When You Can Swim by Jack Wong. Beautifully rendered warm pastel and watercolor illustrations depict diverse families enjoying swimming in the outdoors. Lyrical prose affirms that all children have a safe, joyful place in nature.

Window Fishing by DK Dyson, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez. When a boy hangs a paperclip on a string out of his window, the artist downstairs draws a colorful fish for the boy to reel in. Whimsical, brightly colored art illustrates how their clever idea catches on and spreads delight throughout their East Harlem neighborhood.

Young Readers



Frankie and Friends: Breaking News by Christine Platt, illustrated by Alea Marley. When Frankie's mom leaves to cover a breaking news story, Frankie copes by creating her own news show with the help of some imaginary pals and a furry friend. Can this news crew discover the source of the mysterious crying?

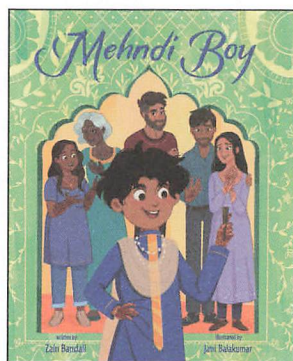
Ghost Girl by Brooke Carter, illustrated by Alyssa Waterbury. While visiting their grandmother, 10-year-old Sly discovers the trapped spirit of a long-lost relative. Using their quick wit and intuition, Sly must decipher clues to free both their distant cousin and

their grandmother from an eternity behind a mysterious mirror.

José and El Perro by Susan Rose and Silvia López, illustrated by Gloria Félix. José tries to give the new family dog commands, but Feliz just won't obey—that is, until José realizes that his dog doesn't understand Spanish. He is determined to make Feliz as bilingual as the rest of the family.

Link + Hud: Heroes by a Hair by Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey. Imaginative brothers Lincoln and Hudson Dupré may have met their match when their parents hire a new, no-nonsense babysitter. Will Ms. Joyce put the boys in their place, or will Link and Hud retire yet another sitter?

Mehndi Boy by Zain Bandali, illustrated by Jani Balakumar. Tehzeeb loves creating beautiful mehndi designs for his family and friends. When his uncle insists it's for girls, will Tez still enjoy practicing mehndi?



The Party Diaries: Awesome Orange Birthday by Mitali Banerjee Ruths, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel. Contemplative Priya and her extroverted best friend plan a color-themed birthday party for Priya's aunt.

Salma Makes a Home by Danny Ramadan, illustrated by Anna Bron. Salma's father is finally reuniting with their family in Canada, but she fears he won't love their new home as much as he loves Damascus.

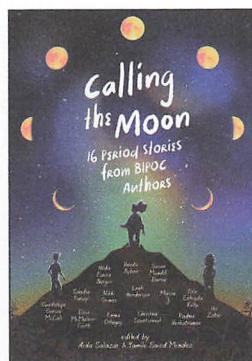
The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale by *Jon Klassen*. Otilia stumbles upon a dark castle where a lonely talking skull resides. A true friendship can be found in the most unlikely of places.

Middle Grade

Aniana del Mar Jumps In by *Jasminne Mendez*. Recently diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis, Aniana must navigate the dual obstacles of chronic pain and the familial trauma that keeps her mother stubbornly opposed to the young athlete's dreams of life as a professional swimmer.

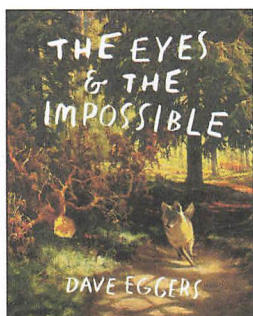
Calling the Moon: 16 Period Stories from BIPOC

Authors edited by *Aida Salazar and Yamile Saied Mendez*. This empowering collection of short stories written by authors of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds shares the joy, gravity, and humor of menstruation from an array of perspectives.



Dear Mothman by *Robin Gow*. Through letters written to the mysterious Mothman of local lore, Noah explores the grief of losing his best friend and what it means to be trans.

Deephaven by *Ethan M. Aldridge*. Something sinister lurks in the halls of Deephaven Academy. Amid new friendships and rivalries, young nonbinary inventor Nev quickly discovers that the school contains dark secrets that put every student in peril.

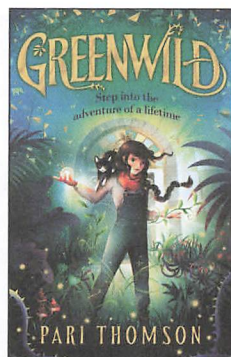


The Eyes and the Impossible by *Dave Eggers*, illustrated by *Shawn Harris*. In a wildlife park ruled by a cast of quirky animals, Johannes, a charismatic free dog and the appointed Eyes of the park, narrates a story that dips into the philosophical and humorous while exploring themes of loss, community, love, and hope.

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by *Sally J. Pla*.

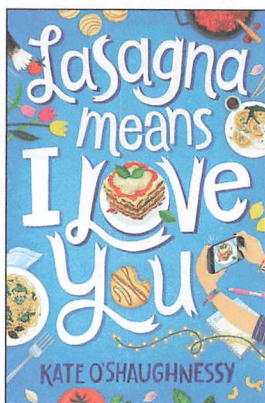
Neurodivergent Maudie settles into a small California town after wildfires force her to evacuate her dad's. As she learns to express herself through surfing, Maudie struggles with whether to confide in her dad about the physical and emotional abuse she experiences at her mom's house.

Greenwild: The World Behind the Door by *Pari Thomson*. Before Daisy's mother disappeared, she instructed her daughter to seek help in London's Kew Gardens should something go wrong. Now that everything has fallen apart and Daisy is on her own, she must travel to a magical world to find her mother, herself, and the many meanings of family.



Hands by *Torrey Maldonado*. Twelve-year-old Trev just wants to protect his family. When he learns his violent stepfather is scheduled to be released from jail, Trev feels torn between using his hands to fight or to make art. Compelling prose and complex characters create a story that hits hard.

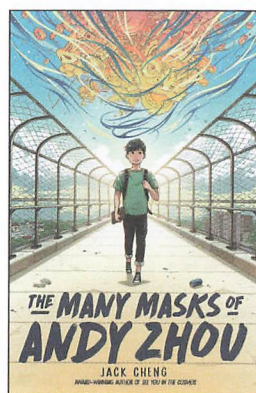
The House That Whispers by *Lin Thompson*. Between growing family tension, an increasingly forgetful grandma, and being called a name that feels all wrong, Simon is miserable on a would-be fun trip to Nanaleen's. When a ghost hunting game gets too real, Simon must fix everything before his life completely falls apart.



Lasagna Means I Love You by *Kate O'Shaughnessy*. Feeling disconnected from her roots when she finds herself in the New York City foster care system, Mo begins writing letters to her late grandmother. Inspired by a stolen cookbook, Mo builds a website and connects with others to share recipes and find her relatives.

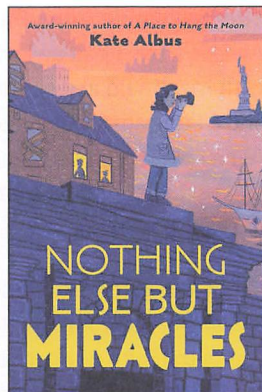
The Lost Year by *Katherine Marsh*. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Matthew's Ukrainian American great-grandmother moves in. When Matthew discovers letters exchanged between cousins during the famine in 1930s Ukraine, his relationship with GG and understanding of her life and true identity are permanently altered.

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou by *Jack Cheng*. Andy has a lot on his plate: middle school, changing friendships, complicated family, and his own anxiety. Through a budding passion for art, Andy finds ways to help others in his life and discovers who he wants to be in this contemporary slice-of-life story.



Mascot by *Charles Waters and Traci Sorell*. A broad range of emotions, opinions, and cultures are on display when seventh graders at Rye Middle School debate the implications of their school's racially charged mascot.

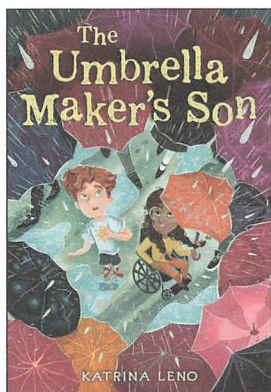
Nothing Else but Miracles by *Kate Albus*. Pop has gone off to fight in World War II. With no mother to keep them in line, Dory and her brothers rely upon the kindness of their Lower East Side community and their own ingenuity to outsmart a nosy landlord, solve a mystery, and hold things together until Pop comes home.



Remember Us by *Jacqueline Woodson*. It's summer in "The Matchbox" Bushwick, and seventh-grader Sage just wants to play basketball. But outside the game, there's a world of changing friendships, sudden deaths, and homes lost and found. A gritty but lyrical look at what "once was" in 1970s Brooklyn.

Ruby Lost and Found by *Christina Li*. It's the worst punishment 13-year-old Ruby could imagine: being forced to spend the summer at her grandmother's senior center. As Ruby delves deeper into her Chinese American community, she grapples with her grandfather's death and concern for Nai-Nai's fading memory.

Sisters of the Lost Marsh by *Lucy Strange*. Six sisters beset by one curse. Young Willa isn't about to let superstition dictate her family's fate, nor her cruel father, the mysterious Full Moon Fayre, or even the Shadow Man.

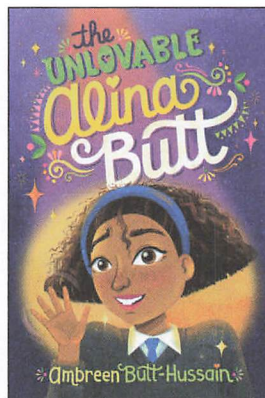


The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels by *Beth Lincoln*, illustrated by *Claire Powell*. The Swift family reunion gives young Shenanigan an opportunity to hunt for Grand Uncle Vile's hidden treasure. But when someone shoves Arch-Aunt Schadenfreude down the stairs, things take a dark and deadly turn, and Shenanigan employs her relatives' help to track down the killer.

The Umbrella Maker's Son by *Katrina Leno*. In a city of unending rain, Oliver Buckle is expected to follow in his father's footsteps of umbrella-making. Fate, however, has different plans that will plunge Oliver and his best friend into a wild adventure on their way to the heart of a weather conspiracy.

The Unlovable Alina Butt by *Ambreen Butt-Hussain*.

Alina is a misfit: an awkward tween from Pakistan with frizzy hair, a nose she hasn't quite grown into, and a last name that is the "butt" of every joke. As Alina navigates new friendships and stands up to bullies, her confidence and self-understanding begin to take shape.

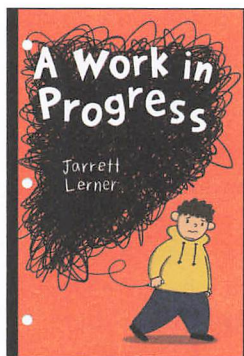


What Happened to Rachel Riley? by *Claire Swinarski*.

Aspiring investigative journalist Anna Hunt wants to figure out her new school dynamics and why no one talks to Rachel Riley. Anna dives in and uncovers an iceberg of issues, including Rachel's ostracization, pressure to remain silent, and sexual harassment disguised as a game.

Where the Lockwood Grows by *Olivia A. Cole*. In this skillfully spun futuristic story, two sisters set out to uncover the sinister truth behind the vines that keep their town in never-ending darkness.

Will on the Inside by *Andrew Eliopoulos*. Amid the challenges of middle school, Will receives a diagnosis of Crohn's disease that may mean the end of soccer. His friendships, social standing, and identity suddenly feel a lot more complicated, and he must embrace who he is, both inside and out.



A Work in Progress by *Jarrett Lerner*. Told through verse, prose, and illustration, this intimate and powerful novel tackles bullying, eating disorders, and self-esteem issues from the perspective of a middle school boy on the road to healing and self-acceptance.

The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet by *Jake Maia Arlow*. The last thing Al Schneider wants to do is talk about her stomach problems, but after a diagnosis of Crohn's disease, that's all anyone wants her to do! When Al joins a support group and meets Mina, suddenly it's more than

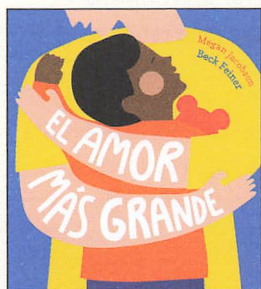
just Crohn's causing the butterflies in her stomach.

You Are Here: Connecting Flights edited by *Ellen Oh*. In this series of interwoven short stories by AAPI authors, Asian American families find themselves stranded in an airport during a storm. While they wait it out, these characters resist, resolve, and find solidarity against racism to show the world that they belong.

Los mejores libros nuevos para pequeños

¡Sección nueva!

Nuestro personal bibliotecario experto ha leído cientos de libros para encontrar los mejores libros nuevos infantiles de 2023. Echa un vistazo a los siguientes 20 títulos, luego visita la Biblioteca en línea para tomar prestados libros, así como encontrar libros en otros idiomas y formatos accesibles.



El amor más grande de Megan Jacobson, ilustrado por Beck Feiner, traducido por Luis Amavisca y Ude AutumnLeaf. El amor de un padre hacia su hijo es más grande que una ciudad y más grande que una galaxia. El amor es aun más grande que el infinito.

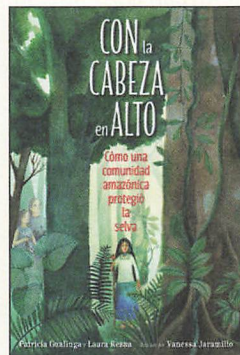
Benita y las criaturas nocturnas de Mariana Llanos, ilustrado por Cocoretto. Cuando Benita comienza a leer su nuevo libro, recibe la visita de criaturas

monstruosas. Pero en lugar de asustarla, los espeluznantes visitantes aprenden el placer de perderse en un buen libro. Esta historia divertida presenta de manera juguetona monstruos del folclor peruano.

Campamento bosque salvaje de Sarah Glenn Marsh, ilustrado por Ana Gómez. Es el primer día de campamento para Dragón, y su guía no puede esperar a mostrarle todas las actividades. Aunque al principio las cosas no van bien, pronto sucede algo que hace que todos se den cuenta de lo especial y único que es Dragón.

Con calma, aquí y ahora de Laura Brand, ilustrado por Freya Hartas, traducido por Diego de los Santos. Respira. En momentos difíciles, a veces ayuda enfocarse en la naturaleza. Hasta las criaturas más minúsculas pueden enseñarnos a celebrar pequeñas victorias cotidianas.

Con la cabeza en alto: Cómo una comunidad amazónica protegió la selva de Patricia Gualinga y Laura Resau, ilustrado por Vanessa Jaramillo. Únase a Paty y la comunidad de Sarayaku mientras luchan contra viento y marea para defender sus bosques sagrados de las compañías petroleras. Basada en una historia real de organización comunitaria y protesta.





¡El Cucuy también tiene miedo! de Donna Barba Higuera, ilustrado por Juliana Perdomo, traducido por Renata Somar. Ramón y El Cucuy hacen una pareja dispareja al descubrir que comparten los mismos miedos y una fuerte aversión al cambio.

Donde el corazón te lleva: La historia de Dindim y Joao de Irma Gold, ilustrado por Susannah Crispe, traducido por Ana Pániker. Un pingüino llega a la orilla del mar y hace un amigo humano, Joao, que cuida de él. Incluso después de regresar con sus compañeros

pingüinos, no puede olvidar a Joao y emprende un largo viaje para reunirse.

Una habitación muy ruidosa de Alicia Acosta, ilustrado por Lucía Serrano. A Pepino le cuesta dormir. Un día, deja la ruidosa ciudad por el campo, ¡qué resulta no ser tan tranquilo! Su vecina le ofrece soluciones absurdas para ayudarlo a descansar. ¿Conseguirá por fin dormir en paz?

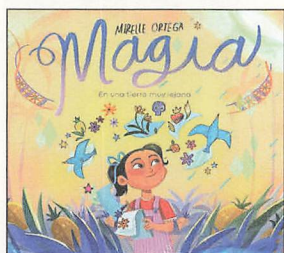
Historia de una nube de Eleonora Garriga, ilustrado por Ana Gómez. Nuestra esponjosa protagonista nos lleva a una gira mundial para conocer las diferentes formas de ser una nube. Durante su viaje, se topa con nubes buenas, malas y tormentosas.



Juego de libertad: Mestre Bimba y el arte de la capoeira de Duncan Tonatiuh. ¡Patada! ¡Golpe!

¡Salto! ¡Axé! La capoeira es una combinación de artes marciales, acrobacias, danza y música. Descubre cómo estos movimientos rítmicos fueron inicialmente prohibidos y luego se convirtieron en una nueva tradición brasileña.

El libro de las habilidades olvidadas de Natalie Crowley y Elaine Batiste, ilustrado por Chris Duriez, traducido por Chiara Ferronato. Practica habilidades olvidadas como preparar limonada o hacer una fogata. Siente la satisfacción de crear con tus propias manos. Instrucciones ilustradas fáciles de seguir brindan horas de diversión sin fin.



Magia: En una tierra muy lejana de Mirelle Ortega. Una niña que crece en una finca de piñas en México aprende el verdadero significado de la palabra magia y como esta puede encontrarse tanto en los momentos alegres y brillantes así como en los tristes y oscuros.

¿Me ayudas a dibujar un pato? de Jose Carlos Andrés, ilustrado por Pupé. Matías necesita ayuda al dibujar un pato. Grita a todo pulmón una vez, dos veces y una vez más, cada vez en un chillido. Mamá se apresura a ayudarlo con su dibujo una vez, dos veces y una vez más, ¡pero ahora está rendida y agotada!



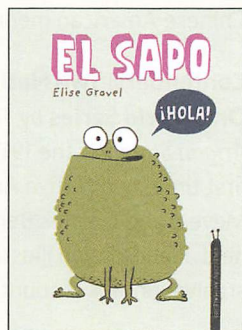
Mil mariposas blancas de Jessica Betancourt-Perez y Karen Lynn Williams, ilustrado por Gina Maldonado, traducido por Carlos E. Calvo. Isabella acaba de mudarse de Colombia a los Estados Unidos y está entusiasmada con su primer día de clases. ¡Oh no! La escuela está cerrada debido a una tormenta de nieve. Con la ayuda de una amiga, ¿puede Isabella encontrar alegría en este nuevo clima?

Nena, y Roberta ¿dónde está? de Marie Biskai. Una conmovedora historia sobre una abuela y su nieta en una misión para rescatar momentos olvidados. A lo largo de su aventura, aprenden que aunque a veces la memoria se desvanece, el amor persiste.

Nuestro techo es azul de Sara E. Echenique, ilustrado por Ashley Vargas. Después de que un huracán destruye su hogar en Puerto Rico, Antonio y su familia recurren a utilizar una lona azul como techo improvisado. Esta historia narra como dos hermanos encuentran consuelo tejiendo cuentos inspirados en el dosel azul que los cubre.

El rebaño de Margarita del Mazo, ilustrado por Guridi. Cuando una oveja traviesa se niega a hacer su trabajo en ayudar a un niño a dormir comienza la comedia.

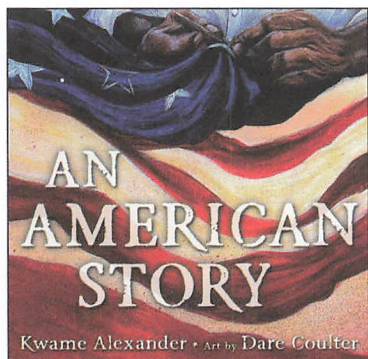
El sapo de Elise Gravel, traducido por Salvador Figueirido. ¿Cuánto sabes sobre los sapos? Sumérgete en este divertido libro lleno de datos re-salta-ntes y anécdotas que te harán brincar de la risa.



Valiente como un león de Erika Meza. Leonora supera sus miedos con la ayuda de su amigo león. Pero cuando el dúo prueba una resbaladilla nueva, le toca a ella ser valiente.

Wepa de J de la Vega. Mia no es como los demás: es creativa e inteligente. Algunos dicen que es demasiado desordenada o demasiado ruidosa. No es ella, es su wepa. ¿Podrá Mia encontrar un lugar donde quepa su wepa? Una historia que celebra el TDAH y la individualidad.

Nonfiction



An American Story by Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dare Coulter. A teacher struggles to tell the story of American slavery in a society reluctant to grapple with its past atrocities. Mixed media illustrations and potent text convey the story of a people's strength, struggle, and resilience.

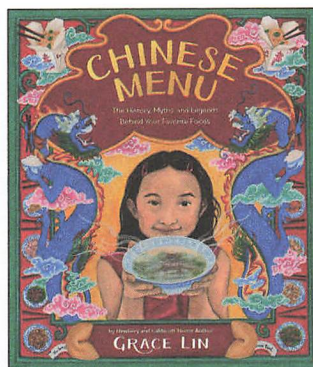
Ancestry: The Mystery and Majesty of Ancient Cave Art by Hannah Salyer.

Luminous illustrations guide readers through the history and mystery of ancient art from the caves of Papua New Guinea to the deserts of North America.

Chef Edna: Queen of Southern Cooking, Edna Lewis by Melvina Noel, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera. Meet Chef Edna Lewis, who introduced the flavors and traditions of southern cooking to New York City and the broader world. Lushly textured illustrations and evocative text tell the story of Edna's delicious success.

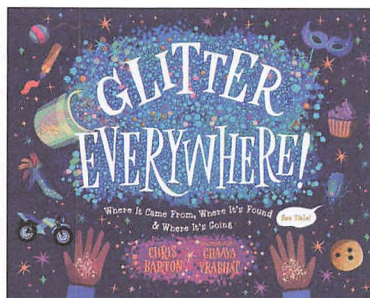
Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods by Grace Lin. From dumplings to fortune cookies, delectable short stories tell the origin legends of Chinese American menu staples.

Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Arigon Starr. It's the 1911 World Series! For the first time, two Native American players, John Meyers and Charles Bender, are facing off on the field. Hand-drawn illustrations inspired by Cahuilla and Ojibwe art and archival photos recount their lives and the racism they experienced.



From Here to There: A First Book of Maps by Vivian French, illustrated by Ya-Ling Huang. Learn how to use and draw maps in everyday life! With child-friendly illustrations and a warm father-daughter bond, this book is a fun journey into the world of cartography.

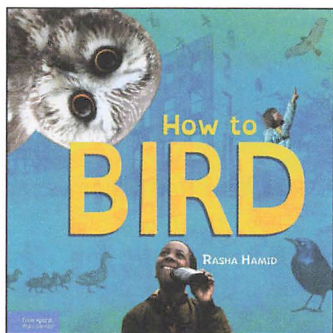
Glitter Everywhere! Where It Came From, Where It's Found and Where It's Going by *Chris Barton*, illustrated by *Chaaya Prabhat*. From flitter to slivers to glitter: an engaging and wide-ranging look into the history, future, and impact of the sparkly stuff that has fascinated people for ages.



Great Carrier Reef by *Jessica Stremmer*, illustrated by *Gordy Wright*. Dive deep to see new life flourish as a former aircraft carrier is transformed into the world's largest artificial reef.

Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes by *Traci N. Todd*, illustrated by *Shannon Wright*. Explore the life and legacy of Black cartoonist Jackie Ormes through joyful illustrations that reflect her evolving art style. This story draws attention to an oft-overlooked artist whose significant accomplishments broke down barriers of her time.

How the Sea Came to Be: And All the Creatures in It by *Jennifer Berne*, illustrated by *Amanda Hall*. Travel back to the beginning of time and to the bottom of the sea in this captivating journey with vivid art and engaging verse that chronicles how life in our oceans has evolved over time.

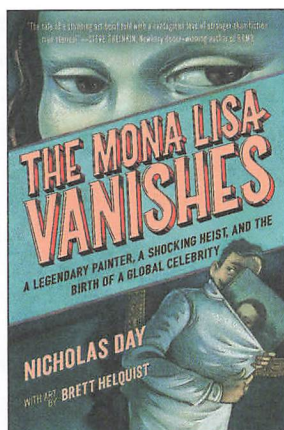


How to Bird by *Rasha Hamid*. Discover the joy of birding in the heart of the city! This approachable and inclusive guide for children introduces birdwatching strategies that make nature accessible.

Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider by *Jessica Lanan*. Think, feel, move, JUMP! Discover the world from a bug's eye view in this immersive and informative look at a day in the life of an amazing arachnid.

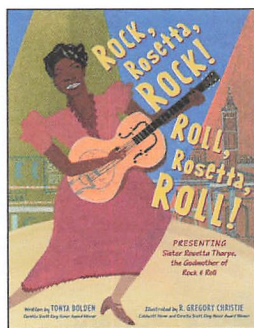
The Lion Queen: Rasila Vadher, the First Woman Guardian of the Last Asiatic Lions by *Rina Singh*, illustrated by *Tara Anand*. A compelling story of the first woman charged to protect India's Gir Forest and the endangered Asiatic lions that live there. Learn how her courage to pursue her dream inspired other women to do the same.

The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity by Nicholas Day, illustrated by Brett Helquist. The Mona Lisa has gone missing from the Louvre! Was it a daring thief, a famous painter, or someone else? Experience early 1900s Paris, meet legendary detectives, and contemplate the strange life of Leonardo da Vinci in this thrilling exploration of art, history, and fame.



The Monkey Trial: John Scopes and the Battle over Teaching Evolution by Anita Sanchez. Meet John Scopes, who was arrested in 1925 for daring to teach about evolution. A narrative rich in primary sources vividly portrays the clash between science and religion, the intense media scrutiny, and the bravery of a teacher who challenged convention.

My Indigo World: A True Story of the Color Blue by Rosa Chang. From seed to plant to the bluest blue of all, learn how indigo dye is crafted in community through a practice inspired by traditional jjok dyeing in Korea.



Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll!: Presenting Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Godmother of Rock and Roll by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Sister Rosetta Tharpe rock and rolled her way to stardom from a young age and became a major genre-crossing musical influence. Tharpe's story is illustrated in blocky colors as bold as her playing.

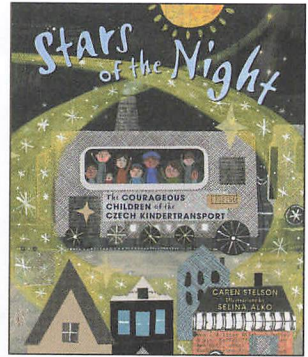
Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path by Amy Seto Forrester, illustrated by Andy Chou Musser. Go on a deep-sea dive in this pick-your-path adventure! Readers choose a team, submarine, and route on their quest to spot an elusive giant squid.

Shipwrecked!: Diving for Hidden Time Capsules on the Ocean Floor by Martin W. Sandler. Plunge into the depths of seven famed shipwrecks around the world and learn how they've contributed to our understanding of the past.

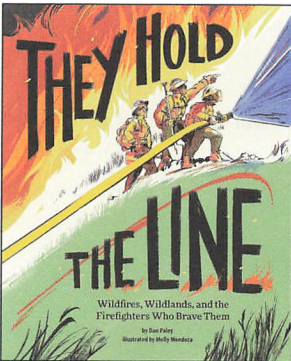
The Sky Is Not the Limit by Jérémie Decalf. Lyrical text and minimalist art guide budding astronomers on a journey with Voyager 2 over more than four decades of space exploration.

Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport by *Caren Stelson*, illustrated by *Selina Alko*.

Follow the perilous journey of a group of children from Czechoslovakia at the outset of World War II to safety in England and their relentless search for family in the aftermath. Poignant and layered art illustrates a gripping tale of survival and defiance.



Thank a Farmer by *Maria Gianferrari*, illustrated by *Monica Mikai*. Meet a diverse group of farmers that provide us with the food we eat every day. Told through colorful illustrations with text that begs to be read aloud.



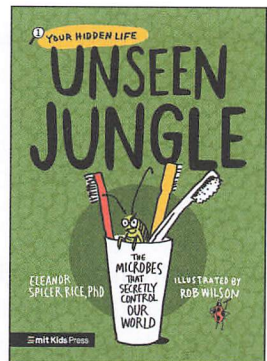
They Hold the Line: Wildfires, Wildlands, and the Firefighters Who Brave Them by *Dan Paley*, illustrated by *Molly Mendoza*. Lightning strikes, a spark ignites, smoke billows, and danger lurks! Vivid art and powerful text highlight the complex job of firefighters who battle fierce wildfires.

Total Garbage: A Messy Dive into Trash, Waste, and Our World by *Rebecca Donnelly*, illustrated by *John Hendrix*. Where does the garbage we make go, and what happens to it once it gets there? Learn

how our choices and those of the people and companies around us contribute to global waste and what we can do to lessen our impact.

Unseen Jungle: The Microbes that Secretly Control Our World by *Eleanor Spicer Rice*,

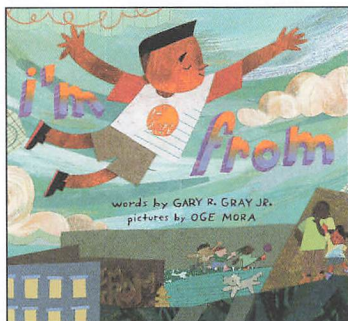
illustrated by *Rob Wilson*. Discover all the icky, silly, and DISGUSTING facts about the microbial world. From mind-controlling microbes to fart-saving termites, this is a truly engrossing adventure for the science-curious.



Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem

by *Melissa Stewart*, illustrated by *Rob Dunlavey*. What happens when a whale dies? One creature's end brings a new beginning as the whale becomes a feast for deep sea dwellers and a home to nourish all kinds of organisms from zombie worms to microbes.

Poetry



I'm From by Gary R. Gray, Jr., illustrated by Oge Mora. A glimpse into the daily life of a young Black boy as he recognizes his place within his family and community and affirms: "I come from / somewhere."

Remember by Joy Harjo, illustrated by Michaela Goade. A contemplative reminder of our universal connection to the earth and to each other, grounded in Mvskoke tradition.

Dreamlike illustrations evoke Tlingit creation stories and landscapes in this new presentation of Harjo's acclaimed poem.

You So Black by Theresa tha S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D., illustrated by London Ladd. A racially charged insult is reclaimed for Black pride and power through bold mixed-media collage and affirming text.

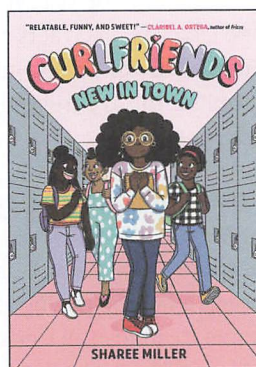
Graphic Novels

Cross My Heart and Never Lie by Nora Dåsnes, translated by Matt Baggeley. In this sweetly sensitive graphic diary, 12-year-old Tuva navigates the difficulties that come with being a tween: balancing kid stuff with growing up and exploring relationships and first crushes, all while figuring out who she is and what she wants.

Curlfriends: New in Town by Sharee Miller.

Twelve-year-old military kid Charlie Harper is no stranger to being the new kid. Middle school means a fresh start, and she is convinced this is her chance to be cool. However, Charlie feels like fitting in might mean pretending to be someone she isn't.

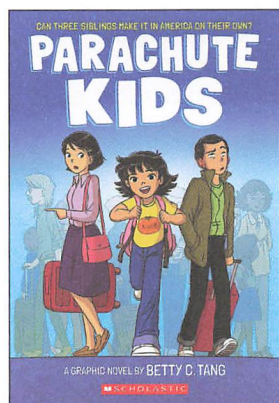
Doodles from the Boogie Down by Stephanie Rodriguez. In the Bronx circa 2000, it's time for eighth-grader Steph to apply to high school. Will she pick the private Catholic school chosen by her protective Dominican mother or LaGuardia, where she can pursue her own dreams of becoming an artist?



Eerie Tales from the School of Screams by *Graham Annable*. Emily and Davis don't want to tell a spooky story... but their classmates do! Creepy tales of ghosts, aliens, and other fantastical creatures will scare and delight.

Hoops by *Matt Tavares*. When Title IX creates funding for a girls' basketball team, Judi gives up her spot on the cheer squad to join the Lady Bears. With enough determination and hard work, can the team earn their rights to equal treatment and climb their way to the championship?

Mexikid by *Pedro Martín*. As the first kid in his family to be born in the U.S., Pedro often feels more American than Mexican. While on a family roadtrip to bring his abuelito from Mexico to live in California, Pedro reconnects with his roots and learns more about the place his family calls home.



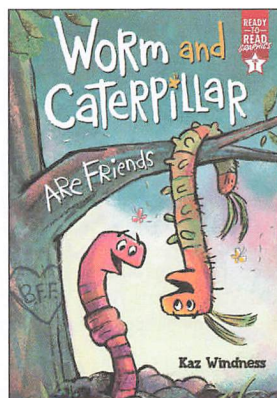
Parachute Kids by *Betty C. Tang*. When their mom's visa extension is denied, the Lin kids must stay behind in the U.S. while Mama travels back to Taiwan. With support from family friends, they must learn how to live in this new country, lean on each other, and handle tough life lessons together.

Saving Sunshine by *Saadia Faruqi, Shazleen Khan*. Muslim twins Zara and Zeeshan can't seem to get along! While on a family trip, they find an ailing sea turtle and realize they must work together, both to save its life and unite against the prejudice they face.

Things in the Basement by *Ben Hatke*. Milo ventures into the labyrinthian depths beneath his new house and discovers a world of adventure he never anticipated.

Two Tribes by *Emily Bowen Cohen*. Since her Muskogee father and Jewish mother separated when she was three, Mia is constantly caught in between—out of place in her Jewish school and disconnected from her Indigenous roots. Can she find a way to forge an identity of her own and embrace all parts of herself?

Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends by *Kaz Windness*. Worm and Caterpillar are best friends! They have so much in common. Can their friendship survive some big changes?



About Best Books at NYPL

Every year, librarians and staff at The New York Public Library select noteworthy new books for readers of all ages and recommend them as our “Best Books” of the year. The Best Books for Kids and Los mejores libros para pequeños lists are compiled by committees that read and review children’s books published in English and Spanish through December 2023.

Best Books for Kids Committee: Jo Henning (co-chair), Chris Lassen (co-chair), Jennie Mayfield (co-chair), Amber Moller (co-chair), Urbana Anam, Erickson “EJ” Anupol, Angelina Anzalone, Susannah Aziz, Heather Barnum, Grace Dwyer, Kimberly Filmore, Jay Garfinkel, Rachel Hanig, Meghan Klaus, Jennifer Morris, Emily Petit, Sharon Rickson, Rebecca Roman, Angela Sepulveda, Elley Shin, and Stephanie Whelan.

Mejores Libros para Pequeños Committee: Carmen Penas-Barrio (co-chair), Ruth Rodriguez (co-chair), Arturo Aguero, Louise Lareau, Caroline Magee, Katrina Ortega, Camryn Pillay, Arlene Soto Vargas, Sarah Suriel, and Jenelin Ynfante.

Advisers: BookOps and Reader Services.

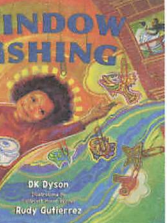
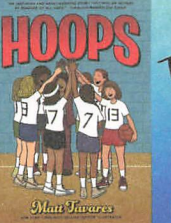
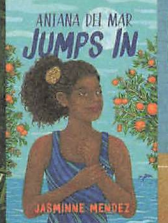
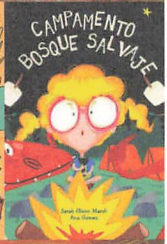
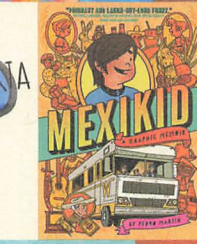
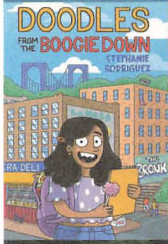
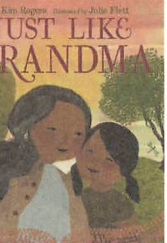
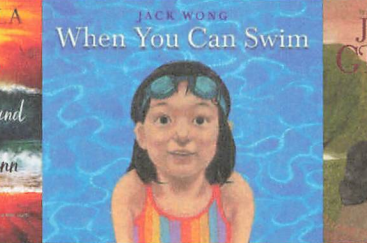
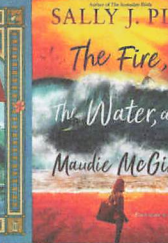
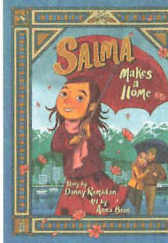
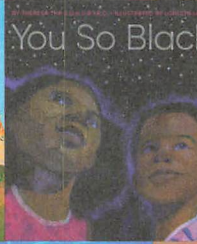
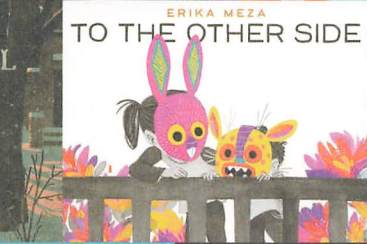
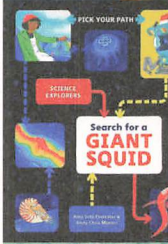
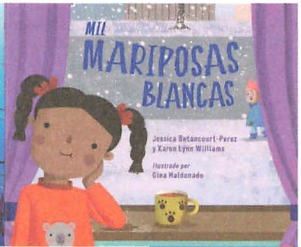
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Major support for children’s and young adult programming is provided by the Andreas C. Dracopoulos Family Endowment for Young Audiences.



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Founded in 1895, The New York Public Library is the nation's largest public library system, with neighborhood branches throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island as well as scholarly research centers. Serving millions of patrons a year both in person and online, the Library offers free materials, classes, and programs for users of all ages.

What's your favorite book of the year?

Share your #BestBooks online with @nypl!



Plus! Check out the interactive web version of this list or print your own checklist. Scan the QR code or visit us online: nypl.org/kids2023



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