

Carpe Libros!

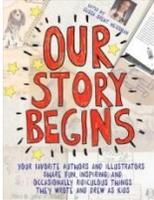
2017 NAIBA Conference Middle-grade Recommendations

Banna Rubinow, the river's end bookstore, Oswego, NY

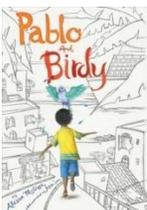
Atheneum



Finding Wonders: Three Girls Who Changed Science – Jeannine Atkins, ages 10 and up, ISBN 9781481465663, 9/19/17 Three girls from three different eras, fascinated by science, follow their passion in this triple biography told in verse. What an appealing way to help girls see themselves in science and history – and to encourage the boys to see those fields more inclusively.

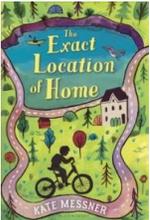


Our Story Begins: Your Favorite Authors and Illustrators Share Fun, Inspiring, and Occasionally Ridiculous Things They Wrote and Drew as Kids – Alyssa Brent Weissman, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781481472081, 7/4/17 This charming collection may inspire kids to keep on writing and drawing once they see that some of their heroes had less-than-stellar beginnings, yet went on to become celebrated writers and illustrators.

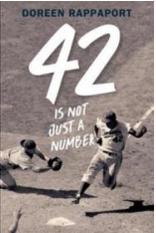


Pablo and Birdy – Alison McGhee; Ana Juan, illustrator, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781481470261, 8/22/17 A boy and a parrot wash ashore on the seaside town of Isla. Ten years later, the boy is determined to solve the mystery of his – and the bird's – history; magical realism and a tender interspecies friendship.

Bloomsbury UK



Exact Location of Home – Kate Messner, ages 8-12, ISBN 9781681195483, 9/12/17 This book will be an eye-opener for kids unacquainted with homelessness and/or the longing for an absent parent. The importance of family and hope propel the story upward.



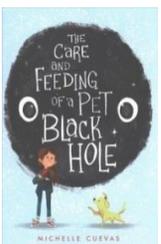
Candlewick Press

42 Is Not Just a Number: of Jackie Robinson, American Hero – Doreen Rappaport, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780374303853, Candlewick, 9/5/17 Jackie Robinson's story can't be told and retold often enough. Finding a way through the morass of discrimination, learning how and when to speak up are lessons we all need to keep learning.

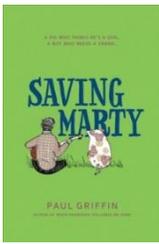
Dial Books



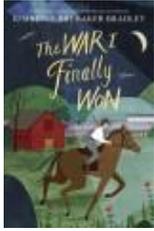
All's Faire in Middle School – Victoria Jamieson, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780525429999, 9/5/17 Formerly homeschooled, Impy must now navigate the choppy waters of middle school while belonging to a family of Renaissance-Fair players ripe for tween ridicule. Stick with her as she finds strength in her ability to make difficult choices.



The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole – Michelle Cuevas, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780399539138, 9/12/17 Who among us hasn't wished for a black hole to swallow all manner of things inconvenient or annoying? Even better if they swallowed grief, too. Add a science-loving girl and a journey of self-discovery, and you have this winner.

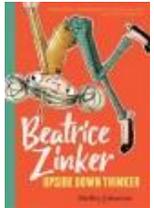


Saving Marty – Paul Griffin, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780399539077, 9/19/17 Not since Wilbur and Fern has there been such an endearing pig-and-child pair. Lorenzo has raised Marty from birth but now, Lorenzo’s mother insists that he must go. Lorenzo’s best friend, Paloma, a Korean-American girl, and his grandfather help him arrive at a rousing satisfying conclusion.



The War I Finally Won – Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780525429203, 10/3/17 Oh, dear God. I can’t say enough good things about this amazing follow-up to *The War that Saved My Life*. Everything wonderful in that book is here, too, plus more.

Disney-Hyperion



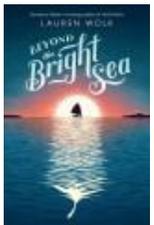
Beatrice Zinker, Upside Down Thinker – Shelley Johannes, ages 8-9, ISBN 9781484767382, 9/19/17 There’s never been a kid so charmingly determined to untie the knotty problems of friendship or so imaginative in her outside-the-box problem-solving efforts. Be prepared to discover that Beatrice is your new best friend.

Doubleday



The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine – Mark Twain and Philip Stead; Erin Stead, illustrator, ages 9-11 (and up), ISBN 9780553523225, 9/26/17 Like nothing else. This astonishing combination of art and story, long-dead author and 21st century author, is a wonderful gift – for yourself or anyone else.

Dutton Books

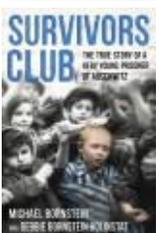


Beyond the Bright Sea – Lauren Wolk, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781101994856, 5/2/17 I just love this book. Crow, Osh, and Miss Maggie are more real to me than some people I actually know. Accompanying Crow on the journey to discover her origins took my breath away. An especially good choice for children of color and adoptees – but for everyone else, too.

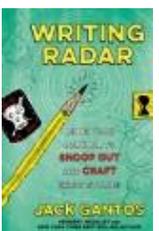


Farrar, Straus & Giroux

I Love You, Michael Collins – Lauren Baratz-Logsted, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780374303853, 6/12/17 A remarkable epistolary novel that connects national – and outer space – events in 1969 with a 10-year-old girl’s attempts to make sense of her disjointed family and multiple losses. Hopeful and upbeat, despite Mamie’s many challenges.



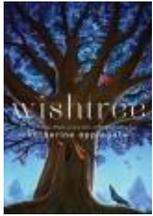
Survivors Club: The True Story of a Very Young Prisoner of Auschwitz – Michael Bornstein, Debbie Bornstein Holinstat, ages 12-14, ISBN 9780374305710, 3/7/17 Don’t let the many excellent Holocaust books for young people keep you away from this memoir written by a survivor and his daughter, a story of incredible persistence and hope in the face of horror and despair.



Writing Radar: Using Your Journal to Snoop Out and Craft Great Stories – Jack Gantos, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780374304560, 8/29/17

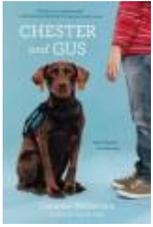
The incomparable Jack Gantos gives inspiration and guidance to kids who love to write – and to kids who find it overwhelmingly burdensome.

Feiweil & Friends



Wishtree – Katherine Applegate; Charles Santoso, Illustrator, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781250043221, 9/26/17 The premise sounds a bit twee – the story’s narrator is an oak tree who houses an assortment of talking animals and helps a lonely refugee child make a friend – but in the hands of Katherine Applegate it’s pure magic.

HarperCollins

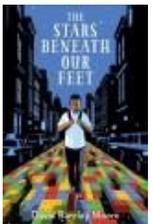


Chester and Gus – Cammie McGovern, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780062330680, 4/4/17 A pup whose fear of loud sounds derails his dogged (sorry, I couldn’t help it) determination to become a therapy dog is taken in by a couple to be a companion to their son, who has autism. The boy couldn’t care less. Boy and dog learn to connect in this gorgeous, powerful novel.



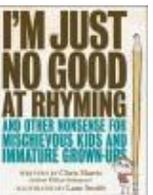
Toto: The Dog-Gone Amazing Story of the Wizard of Oz – Michael Morpurgo; Emma Chichester Clark, illustrator, ages 7-8, ISBN 9780008252564, 9/12/17 A shift in perspective can give a well-known story a whole new life: *The Wizard of Oz*, as seen through the eyes of Toto. Chichester Clark’s delightful illustrations are a real plus.

Alfred A. Knopf



The Stars Beneath Our Feet – David Barclay Moore, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781524701246, 9/19/17 Set in a Harlem that embraces an almost dizzying amount of diversity, this is a tale of a young boy finding his way to cope with loss, threats, and change by means of Legos and the embrace of caring people who help him create a safety net.

Little, Brown



I’m Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups – Chris Harris; Lane Smith, illustrator, ages 8-12, ISBN 9780316266574, 9/26/17 Ogden Nash meets John Grandits, and even kids who think they hate poetry will be laughing out loud and not putting this terrific book down until they’ve finished. And then going right back to page one.

Margaret K. McElderry Books



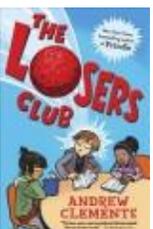
The Glass Town Game – Catherynne M. Valente, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781481476966, 9/5/17 A wild ride: fantasy, wordplay, history, literary allusion, and imagination. On top of that, young readers are introduced to the four Brontë siblings. Kids will enjoy it just as is, but wouldn’t it be wonderful if it led them to the work of Charlotte, Emily and Anne?!

Quirk Books



Kid Authors: True Tales of Childhood from Famous Authors – David Stabler; Doogie Horner, illustrator, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781594749872, 10/10/17 Following their earlier depictions of athletes, artists, and presidents as children, Stabler and Homer remind kids that their favorite authors were once children, too. I’m in favor of anything that humanizes authors and leads kids to think, “I could do that, too!”

Random House



The Losers Club – Andrew Clements, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780399557552, 8/1/17 Alec, a true bibliophile, must participate in an after-school program that requires him to join a club. To get more reading time, he creates a club and dubs it The Loser’s Club to keep other kids away; problem solved. And yet. . . . Clements has done it again, and passionate readers will cheer!

Roaring Brook Press



Thornhill – Pam Smy, ages 10-14, ISBN 9781626726543, 8/29/17 Two interwoven stories – one in the present, one in 1982 – involving an orphanage and a mystery (two perennial favorites for young readers!), plus gorgeous, creepy illustrations are a recipe for a gripping read.

Running Press



Caleb and Kit – Beth Vrabel, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780762462230, 9/12/17 All kids struggle with independence – how much is too much? – but for Caleb, who has cystic fibrosis, the challenge is more difficult and potentially life-threatening. When he meets Kit, who has her own baggage and who encourages Caleb to take on greater and greater risk, the path becomes much harder.

Scholastic

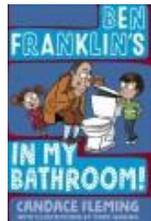


Refugee – Alan Gratz, ages 9-12, ISBN 9780545880831, 7/25/17 Here are three must-read stories for kids trying to make sense of all the news coverage of refugees to the U.S. and elsewhere. Joseph is fleeing the Holocaust; Isabel tries to get from Cuba to the U.S., and Mahoud's family is desperate to get from Syria to Germany. Three kids, three crises, one terrific book.



The Secret Sheriff of Sixth Grade – Jordan Sonnenblick, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780545863209, 8/29/17 Maverick, about to start sixth grade, longs to be a hero like his father, who died in Afghanistan. But he's got to surmount a lot of obstacles: he's really short, his mother drinks and has an abusive boyfriend, their refrigerator is often empty, and he's the victim of persistent bullying. He has a lot of heart and a great sense of humor; kids will relate to him and cheer him on.

Schwartz & Wade



Ben Franklin's in My Bathroom – Candace Fleming; Mark Fearing, illustrator, ages 8-12, ISBN 9781101934067, 9/26/17 One way to hook kids on history is with humor, and it abounds in this book. There's just enough of each to capture and intrigue kids – and who hasn't fantasized about introducing someone from the past to the 21st century? Franklin is a particularly jovial and instructive companion.

Simon & Schuster



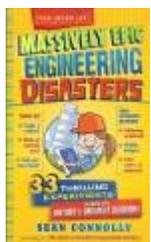
Karma Khullar's Moustache – Kristi Wientge, ages 9-11, ISBN 9781481477703, 8/15/17 All the familiar starting-middle-school tropes, but with some new twists: Karma's father is an Indian Sikh and her mother's a white Methodist. And all the familiar twee-girl-body-image issues, but a twist here, too: Karma's developing a moustache, compounding all her other problems. Her supportive family and immense likeability turn a spunky heroine into the reader's pal.

Starscape Books



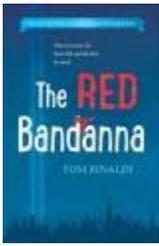
Ban This Book – Alan Gratz, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780765385567, 8/21/17 Amy Anne has more on her plate than most fourth graders: this African American protagonist has a chaotic family life with overstretched, stressed (though loving) parents, not a lot of money, and rambunctious twin little sisters. She copes by being the quiet "good girl." But her favorite book removed from the school library, it's time to speak up and to act. Vitally important issue, great role model; great story.

Workman Publishing

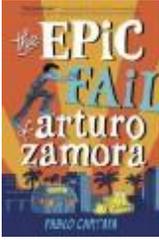


The Book of Massively Epic Engineering Disasters: 33 Thrilling Experiments Based on History's Greatest Blunders – Sean Connolly, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780761183945, 9/5/17 Massive and very public screw-ups: what a great way to yank kids into learning science and history without realizing it! One of the best take-aways is that failure leads to learning leads to success.

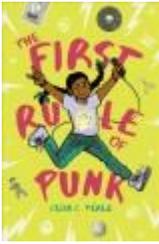
Viking Books



The Red Bandanna (Young Readers Adaptation) – Tom Rinaldi, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780425287620, 9/5/17 Kids are fascinated by 9/11; they're too young to have memories of it. And kids are hungry for role models and heroes. The story of Welles Crowther is a fine choice on both counts. Rinaldi shows us Crowther the hero, but makes sure we see him as a three-dimensional, immensely likeable and relatable human being, too.



The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora – Pablo Cartaya, ages 10 and up, ISBN 9781101997239, 5/16/17 Here's multiculturalism, family, and community at their most embracing. At 13, Arturo's expectations of an easy, fun-filled summer are threatened by a sleazy, conniving developer who could destroy his family's restaurant and erode the intricate web of his community. Spanish words and phrases, as well as the poetry of José Martí provide extra seasoning to an inspiring story.



The First Rule of Punk – Celia C. Pérez, ages 9-11, ISBN 9780425290408, 8/22/17 Malú must deal with all the confusion and quest for identity that being 12, biracial, and a punk rock fan entail. It's not going to be easy, but in Malú's company it's certainly going to be fun! Wit and high spirits go a long way toward subtracting the angst from middle school.