2016
IT’S ONLY STANLEY

By: Jon Agee
Penguin (Dial/Random House)
9780803739079: $17.99, 2015
Stanley the beagle keeps his family awake at night with his noisy tinkering. The cartoon style illustrations and hilarious conclusion makes this silly picture book an experience the whole family will enjoy.

FIRE ENGINE NO. 9

By: Mike Austin
Penguin (Random House)
Firefighters jump into Fire Engine No. 9 and race to battle a blaze. Dynamic words, bold text and vibrant illustrations convey action, energy and danger.

BOATS FOR PAPA

By: Jessixa Bagley
Macmillan (Neal Porter/Roaring Brook)
9781626720398: $17.99, 2015
The boats that Buckley sends out to sea for his Papa reach someone else who loves Buckley, too.
THE SKUNK

By: Mac Barnett
Illustrated by: Patrick McDonnell
Macmillan (Roaring Brook)
9781596439665: $17.99, 2015
What is a man to do when a skunk appears on his doorstep? Follow the man’s journey as he escapes the skunk’s clutches only to search for him once again.

When Leo the ghost has to leave the house of his long-ago childhood behind he makes a new friend in the city.

THE POWER OF HENRY’S IMAGINATION

By: Skye Byrne
Illustrated by: Nic George
Abrams
9781481406260: $22.99, 2015
After Henry’s stuffed rabbit disappears, his grandfather suggests pretending it’s still there. Clothespin crocodiles, saltshaker snow, and sparkling gem collages contrast with outlined characters on butcher paper as Henry’s imagination learns to see.
THE NEW SMALL PERSON

By: Lauren Child
Candlewick
9780763678104: $17.99, 2015
Elmore Green's idyllic life as an only child changes overnight when the new small person arrives. The child's perspective is perfectly captured with expressive, child centered illustrations and large, flowing text.

MR. POSTMOUSE'S ROUNDS

By: Marianne Dubuc
Kids Can Press
9781771385725: $14.64, 2015
Readers follow a "post-mouse" through his daily deliveries to a variety of animals (real and imaginary), each with its own unique home and habitat shown in highly detailed illustrations.

LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

By: Matt De La Peña
Illustrated by: Christian Robinson
Penguin (Putnam)
CJ's Sunday afternoon—accompanying his grandmother through the city to serve at a soup kitchen—turns to happiness when he sees beauty through his Nana's eyes.
**Capitol Choices List of Noteworthy Titles, 2016**

**DRUM DREAM GIRL: HOW ONE GIRL'S COURAGE CHANGED MUSIC**

By: Margarita Engle  
Illustrated by: Rafael Lopez  
Houghton Mifflin  
9780544102293: $16.00, 2015  
A young girl in Cuba dreams of drumming, something “only boys do,” and makes her musical dreams real. Inspired by the life of Millo Zaldarriaga. Colorful, whimsical illustrations bring Cuba and its culture to life.

**THE NIGHT WORLD**

By: Mordecia Gerstein  
Little, Brown  
9780316188227: $18.00, 2015  
A child and a cat slip out of the house in the shadows before dawn and hear the chorus of animals who gather to witness the splendid rising of the sun.

**WAITING**

By: Kevin Henkes  
HarperCollins (Greenwillow)  
9780062368430: $17.99, 2015  
Five toys wait on the windowsill, but what are they waiting for? Finely crafted watercolor and colored pencil illustrations depict a charming exploration of a part of childhood that is often difficult.
SIDEWALK FLOWERS
By: JonArno Lawson
Illustrated by: Sydney Smith
Groundwood
9781554984312: $16.95, 2015
A purpose-driven dad walks city sidewalks with his daughter in this wordless graphic novel. She meanders about picking wildflowers, but readers will see she’s just as intentional as her dad. Brilliant use of black and white—and color.

POOL
By: JiHyeon Lee
Chronicle
In this wordless book, a child dives beneath a raucous crowd overfilling a pool to explore a silent underwater world filled with mesmerizing creatures that range from warmly whimsical to coolly creepy. Delightfully illustrated in graphite and pastels.

MIRACLE ON 133RD STREET
By: Sonia Manzano
Illustrated by: Marjorie Priceman
Abrams
9780689878879: $17.99, 2015
The scent of a holiday roast converts disgruntled neighbors into a celebratory group. Readers of all ages will enjoy the transformation.
IF YOU PLANT A SEED

By: Kadir Nelson
HarperCollins
9780062298898: $18.99, 2015
A mouse and a rabbit garden together but several birds want to share in the harvest in this simple fable about cooperation. The lush and exuberant full page paintings of crops and animals are outstanding.

P. ZONKA LAYS AN EGG

By: Julie Paschkis
Peachtree
9781561458196: $16.95, 2015
What good is a hen that doesn’t lay eggs? P. Zonka is as original as her name and follows her own muse. A brightly illustrated book that celebrates individuality and the artistic spirit.

THE MOON IS GOING TO ADDY’S HOUSE

By: Ida Pearle
Penguin (Dial/Random House)
9780803740549: $17.99, 2015
Beautiful illustrations and a comforting bedtime story capture a child’s fascination with the moon and will have children dreaming about dancing with the moon.
WAIT

By: Antoinette Portis
Macmillan (Roaring Brook)
A mother and preschooler have different preferred paces while walking to the bus. Readers will find much to explore with the child in rich charcoal, ink, pencil and digitally colored scenes. The tension between “Hurry!” and “Wait!” finally leads to “Yes!”

SUPERTRUCK

By: Stephen Savage
Macmillan (Neal Porter/Roaring Brook)
9781596438217: $12.99, 2015
A humble garbage truck takes becomes a superhero to clear the streets in a city brought to a halt in a blizzard. Simple text and precise illustrations make this perfect for beginning readers.

TWO MICE

By: Sergio Ruzzier
HMH (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
9780544302099: $12.99, 2015
Count up from one to three and then back down in this delightful adventure for beginning readers.

RAINDROPS ROLL

By: April Pulley Sayre
Simon & Schuster (Beach Lane/Atheneum)
9781481420648: $17.99, 2015
Poetic text and expert photography simply and eloquently illuminate the science of rain.
I USED TO BE AFRAID

By: Laura Vaccaro Seeger
Macmillan (Neal Porter/Roaring Brook)
9781596436312: $17.99, 2015
Bright, bold illustrations and subtle cut-outs show a young girl overcoming her fears. A surprise ending lets the reader know that it is okay to be afraid sometimes.

LENNY & LUCY

By: Philip C. Stead
Illustrated by: Erin E. Stead
Macmillan (Neal Porter/Roaring Brook)
9781596439320: $17.99, 2015
Moving to a new home is not easy for Peter and his dog, Harold. This story of friendship, fear and loneliness is told beautifully with striking illustrations and only the words that are necessary.

YOU NEST HERE WITH ME

By: Jane Yolen and Heidi E. Y. Stemple
Illustrated by: Melissa Sweet
Boyds Mills
9781590789230: $16.95, 2015
A child is tucked into bed, hearing about the cozy places birds nest, reassured of her own safe nest. A goodnight book of comforting, rhyming text and illustrations of cuddling birds.
SEVEN TO TEN

WHALE TRAILS: BEFORE AND NOW

By: Lesa Cline-Ransome
Illustrated by: G. Brian Karas
Macmillan (Henry Holt)
9780805096422: $17.99, 2015
A young girl of color, the first mate on her family’s sightseeing boat, explains the exciting and diverse history of human pursuit of whales—hunting in the past and watching in the present. Includes plenty of facts and detailed drawings.

GEORGE

By: Alex Gino
Scholastic Press
Fourth-grader Melissa is a girl, but her family, friends, and school community know her as George, a boy. The third-person narrator’s use of feminine pronouns throughout lends a tone of authenticity and compassion to Melissa’s coming out experience.

THE ONLY CHILD

Guojing
Penguin (Schwartz & Wade/Random House)
A young Chinese child is guided by a deer, transported through clouds to the Arctic and into the belly of a whale before returning home in this wordless adventure in soft pencil drawings and graphic panels.
THE DEATH OF THE HAT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF POETRY IN 50 OBJECTS

By: Paul B. Janeczko
Illustrated by: Chris Raschka
Candlewick
9780763669638: $17.99, 2015
Watercolor illustrations accompany fifty poems from across history and around the world that describe and celebrate familiar, tangible things and the intangible but lasting effect of poetry.

THE TERRIBLE TWO

By: Jory John and Mac Barnett
Illustrated by: Kevin Cornell
Abrams (Amulet)
9781419714917: $13.95, 2015
Miles Murphy moves to the “cow capital” of the country and hates that his lifelong efforts to be the best prankster in school may be threatened by Niles Sparks who already owns the title. Lively cartoons enhance the telling.

UNUSUAL CHICKENS FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL POULTRY FARMER

By: Kelly Jones
Illustrated by: Katie Kath
Penguin (Knopf/ Random House)
When Sophie’s non-farmer parents move to a farm, Sophie triumphs in dealing with chickens, racial issues, economic stress, and her own self awareness with humor and panache.
**MY PEN**

By: Christopher Myers  
Disney (Hyperion)  
A sketchbook of dramatic pen and ink illustrations comes alive as a young boy whose boundless imagination invites readers to let their own imaginations run wild.

**ADVENTURES WITH WAFFLES**

By: Maria Parr  
translated by Guy Puzey  
Illustrated by: Kate Forrester  
Candlewick  
9780763672812: $15.99, 2015  
Lena is so bold, daring and exciting that Trille will follow her anywhere even if it’s onto a boat with a cow or sledding down an icy hill with a chicken.

**FLUTTER AND HUM / ALETEO Y ZUMBIDO**

By: Julie Paschkis  
Macmillan (Henry Holt)  
9781627791038: $14.20, 2015  
14 playful poems about animals appear side by side in English and Spanish. These are not always direct translations, but have similar senses and are connected and surrounded by boldly colored gouache illustrations.

**WATER IS WATER: A BOOK ABOUT THE WATER CYCLE**

By: Miranda Paul  
Illustrated by: Jason Chin  
Abrams  
9781596439849: $17.99, 2015  
Luminous paintings show a biracial family and kids of all sorts enjoying the forms water takes throughout the year, while a well-crafted rhyming text highlights facts about states of water and the water cycle.
TRICKY VIC: THE IMPOSSIBLY TRUE STORY OF THE MAN WHO SOLD THE EIFFEL TOWER

By: Greg Pizzoli
Penguin (Viking)
9780670016525: $17.99, 2015
Count Victor Lustig swindled aristocrats with plots including a fake auction of the Eiffel Tower's metal. Clever mixed-media artwork evokes the gangster 1920s and '30s, and side panels highlight facts and topics for further reading.

WANGARI MAATHAI: THE WOMAN WHO PLANTED MILLIONS OF TREES

By: Franck Prévot
Illustrated by: Auréliia Fronty
Charlesbridge
9781580896269: $17.95, 2015
Dramatic, stylized artwork depicts the ecological and political contributions of Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, whose tree-planting initiatives were rooted in the sociopolitical atmosphere of colonial and newly independent Kenya.

LOST IN NYC: A SUBWAY ADVENTURE

By: Nadia Spiegelman
Illustrated by: Sergio García Sánchez
TOON Books
9781935179818: $16.95, 2015
In graphic novel format, the author and illustrator cleverly weave facts about the New York subway with a story about making new friends. Detailed illustrations packed with people and buildings convey the frenetic pace and scale of the city.
THE HOUSE THAT JANE BUILT: A STORY ABOUT JANE ADDAMS

By: Tanya Lee Stone
Illustrated by: Kathryn Brown
Jane Addams wanted to "to fix the world" and she grew up to win a Nobel Peace Prize trying to help the poor with food, clothes and education. Pen and ink illustrations tell her story.

POET: THE REMARKABLE STORY OF GEORGE MOSES HORTON

By: Don Tate
Peachtree 9781561458257: $16.95, 2015
Mixed media artwork with simple lines and soft colors perfectly illustrates the extraordinary story of George Moses Horton, a slave in North Carolina, who taught himself to read and write poetry.

EMMANUEL'S DREAM: THE TRUE STORY OF EMMANUEL OFOSU YEBOAH

By: Laurie Ann Thompson
Illustrated by: Sean Qualls
With one leg deformed, Emmanuel learned to ride a bicycle and rode to collect money for the disabled.
**FUNNY BONES: POSADA AND HIS DAY OF THE DEAD CALAVERAS**

By: Duncan Tonatiuh
Abrams 9781419716478: $18.95, 2015

Over a hundred years ago, Mexican printmaker José Posada popularized the calaveras—skull images—now popular around the world. The illustrations mix Tonatiuh’s signature style inspired by ancient Mexican art with original Posada prints.

**WINNIE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE BEAR WHO INSPIRED WINNIE-THE-POOH**

By: Sally M. Walker
Illustrated by: Jonathan D. Voss


Nostalgic watercolor illustrations and photographs accompany this straightforward biography of the orphaned bear cub, Winnie, purchased in Ontario by a World War I soldier from Winnipeg and left at the London Zoo.

**GORDON PARKS: HOW THE PHOTOGRAPHER CAPTURED BLACK AND WHITE AMERICA**

By: Carole Boston Weatherford
Illustrated by: Jamey Christoph

Although his white teacher had no faith in her students, Parks taught himself photography and became one of the leading recorders of American life.
THE STORY OF DIVA AND FLEA

By: Mo Willems
Illustrated by: Tony DiTerlizzi
Abrams
A charming story of an unlikely friendship between Diva, a small and settled dog, and Flea, a wandering alley cat. Each learns to venture from their comfort zone to experience and share their worlds. DiTerlizzi’s elegant illustrations beautifully capture the look and feel of Paris.

LILLIAN’S RIGHT TO VOTE

By: Jonah Winter
Illustrated by: Shane W. Evans
Penguin (Schwartz & Wade/Random House)
9780385390286: $17.99, 2015
Vivid mixed media illustrations in bold colors portray Lillian, a very old but very determined lady, and her metaphorical walk through the history of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as she slowly climbs the steep hill to the courthouse to vote.

THE WHISPER

By: Pamela Zagarenski
Houghton Mifflin
9780544416864: $17.99, 2015
A young reader overcomes the disappointment she feels upon discovering a special book from her teacher is wordless when a “whisper” tells her to imagine the words. Beautiful mixed media artwork sparks the imagination and magic of story.
WHY'D THEY WEAR THAT?  
FASHION AS THE MIRROR OF HISTORY

By: Sarah Albee  
National Geographic  
Albee’s chronological history of fashion covers several thousand years as well as cultures and civilizations around the world to show how clothing, armor and footwear reflect not only fashion but the economic and political circumstances of the wearers.

FINDING SERENDIPITY

By: Angelica Banks  
Illustrated by: Stevie Lewis  
Macmillan (Henry Holt)  
When her mother goes missing, Tuesday McGillicutty and her dog Baxter follow a thread to the magical place where stories come alive. There they find adventure, friendship and the truth about Baxter.

CAPITAL DAYS: MICHAEL SHINER’S JOURNAL AND THE GROWTH OF OUR NATION’S CAPITAL

By: Tonya Bolden  
Abrams  
9781419707339: $21.95, 2015  
In the 1800’s shipbuilder and slave Michael Shiner bought his freedom and educated himself. His journal gives us a unique perspective of Washington, D.C.’s history to 1880 and gives readers a view of the events and attitudes of the times.
DROWNED CITY: HURRICANE KATRINA & NEW ORLEANS
By: Don Brown
With monstrous winds and water, Hurricane Katrina overwhelmed New Orleans, flooding the whole city. Don Brown's realistic art captures the story of panic and incompetence but also of courage and heroism as it happens.

STELLA BY STARLIGHT
By: Sharon Draper
Stella recounts an emotional family journey during the Depression as her father attempts to vote for the first time in their Klan-threatened North Carolina segregated town.

ENCHANTED AIR: TWO CULTURES, TWO WINGS: A MEMOIR
By: Margarita Engle
A sensory-rich poetic memoir of a girl raised between two countries conveys the author's love of Cuba and her heartbreak when the revolution and its aftermath put an end to her regular summer visits.
SUNNY SIDE UP

By: Jennifer Holm
Illustrated by: Matthew Holm
Abrams
978054574165: $23.99, 2015
A summer in Florida should mean Disney World; instead Sunny gets boring errands with her grandfather far from her troubled family. Hopeful and humorous graphic historical fiction with a 1970s setting.

ROLLER GIRL

By: Victoria Jamieson

Penguin (Dial/Random House)
When twelve-year-old Astrid ditches ballet and her best friend to try roller derby, her relationships and ego take the real hits. A bright graphic novel debut by a derby skater about adolescence and emerging independence.

THE CURIOUS WORLD OF CALPURNIA TATE

By: Jacqueline Kelly
Macmillan (Henry Holt)
Callie Vee’s interest in animals and science, encouraged by her grandfather, is put to use when she helps save the rescued assortment of creatures brought home by her younger brother. A lively, stand-alone sequel to The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate (2009).
A HANDFUL OF STARS

By: Cynthia Lord
Scholastic (Chicken House) 9780545700276: $16.99, 2015
Lily’s aging dog wanders onto the blueberry farm where Salma’s family works each summer, and the girls make quick friends. Both girls know loss and work together to navigate life’s changes toward an optimistic future.

THE OCTOPUS SCIENTISTS

By: Sy Montgomery
Illustrated by: Keith Ellenbogen
Amazingly intelligent octopuses have personalities that charm psychologist Jennifer Mather and her team in French Polynesia as the scientists strive to learn more about the octopuses’ habits and emotions. A fascinating and well laid out book with gorgeous color photos.

BREAKTHROUGH!: HOW THREE PEOPLE SAVED “BLUE BABIES” AND CHANGED MEDICINE FOREVER

By: Jim Murphy
HMH (Clarion) 9780547821832: $18.99, 2015
The story of three medical innovators who are given the recognition they deserve: Dr. Alfred Blalock, a renowned surgeon along with Vivien Thomas, a largely self taught African-American lab assistant and Dr. Helen Taussing, a pediatrician, whose work saved babies with heart defects from certain death. Thomas faced racial prejudice, and Taussing faced sexism in the world of 1944.
MY SENECA VILLAGE

By: Marilyn Nelson
Namelos
9781608981960: $21.95, 2015
Exquisitely crafted vignettes about the 19th century community of African-American property owners in Manhattan. These fictional poems paint rich portraits based on real citizens from a lost moment of American history.

THE NEST

By: Kenneth Oppel
Simon & Schuster
Steve’s baby brother is unwell, and an eerie wasp-like creature promises to ease Steve’s anxieties. This chilling tale will grips brave readers with its palpable tension; hazy graphite illustrations enhance our unease as the story builds to frenzied conflict.

THE SEVENTH MOST IMPORTANT THING

By: Shelley Pearsall
Penguin (Knopf/ Random House)
In 1963 Washington D.C. Arthur Owens is angry and confused as he struggles to come to terms with the death of his dad and his community service with the local Junk Man. Inspired by the work of American folk artist James Hampton.
I AM PRINCESS X

By: Cherie Priest
Scholastic (Arthur A. Levine)
9780545620857: $18.99, 2015
Mini-chapters in comic format propel this mystery-thriller towards the heart pounding climax as May pursues graffiti featuring a katana-wielding heroine she and her long lost best friend dreamt up in fifth grade.

THE BLACKTHORN KEY

By: Kevin Sands
Simon & Schuster (Aladdin Mix)
9781481446518: $17.99, 2015
Join Christopher, an apothecary apprentice in 1665, as he seeks to solve the murder of his master and bringing an evil cult to justice.

THE HIRED GIRL

By: Laura Amy Schlitz
Candlewick
9780763678180: $17.99, 2015
Joan's thoughtful confessions in her diary reveal the struggles of a young farm girl working for a well-off household and her encounters with religion, romance, and friendship. A warm coming-of-age story, often funny, and filled with historical details of 1911 Baltimore.
CAPITOL CHOICES LIST OF NOTEWORTHY TITLES

THE MARVELS

By: Brian Selznick
Abrams
9780545448680: $32.99, 2015
Two stories present a journey through time. The first, about a shipwreck survivor and five generations of flourishing actors, is told through drawings. The second, told in prose, tells of a runaway who arrives at his uncle's puzzling London house—more museum than home—and begins to piece the mysteries together.

GOODBYE STRANGER

By: Rebecca Stead
Penguin (Wendy Lamb/Random House)
Seventh grade brings changes and challenges including family breakups, cell phone photography, and changing friendships. Three stories intertwine with humor and drama.

GONE CRAZY IN ALABAMA

By: Rita Williams-Garcia
HarperCollins (Amistad)
9780062215871: $17.89, 2015
The Gaither sisters are traveling again, this time to visit Big Ma. Big sister Delphine narrates a story of family bonds tested through history in a voice that is sassy and responsible. A spot-on end to a remarkable trilogy.
THE WRATH AND THE DAWN

By: Renee Ahdieh
In an exquisite retelling of *One Thousand and One Nights*, Shahrzad volunteers to be the murderous Khalid’s next bride in order to enact revenge for his murder of her best friend.

SIMON VS. THE HOMO SAPIENS AGENDA

By: Becky Albertalli
HarperCollins (Balzer + Bray) 9780062348678: $17.99, 2015
Simon forgets to log off the school computer one day, unintentionally revealing his secret email romance and his so-far undeclared sexual orientation. An aggravating, funny and poignant story of self-discovery…and love.

ALEX AS WELL

By: Alyssa Brugman
Alex, intersexed and raised as a boy, quits taking her meds in order to claim to her female side. The result: chaos within herself, her family and her school—and destructive sabotage by her mother. Alex’s voice will draw readers into her pain, struggles and hope.
SAINT ANYTHING

By: Sarah Dessen
Penguin (Viking)
Sydney’s golden-boy brother has a serious run-in with the law, which fractures the family’s dynamic. She finds respite with her new friend Layla and her family in this thoughtful novel from a perennial favorite.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN LOST AND FOUND

By: Kathryn Holmes
HarperCollins (Harper Teen)
9780062317261: $17.99, 2015
Hallelujah (Hallie) reluctantly attends a church-sponsored spring camp where Luke, the pastor’s son is a bullying liar. When Hallie and fellow campers are separated from the group and must find their way to safety in the wilderness their attention turns to survival.

THE BOYS WHO CHALLENGED HITLER: KNUD PEDERSEN AND THE CHURCHILL CLUB

By: Phillip Hoose
Macmillan (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)
Knud Pedersen was a leader of the teenage resistance movement against the Nazi occupation of Denmark during WWII. Pedersen’s own words from hours of interviews along with other primary sources offers readers a clear understanding of this little-told aspect of history.
THE PORCUPINE OF TRUTH

By: Bill Konigsberg
Scholastic (Arthur A. Levine)
9780545648936: $17.99, 2015
Carson’s summer away from New York in rural Montana, where his estranged father is dying, and on the road to discover family secrets with his new friend Aisha, offers laughs, tears and suspense.

ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES

By: Jennifer Niven
Penguin (Anchor/Knopf/Random)
9780385755887: $17.99, 2015
Violet Markey meets Theodore Finch at the top of their school’s bell tower the day they were both planning on jumping off in this heartbreaking story about love, friendship and the powerful effects of mental illness.

THERE WILL BE LIES

By: Nick Lake
Bloomsbury
9781619634404: $17.99, 2015
Just before Shelby is hit by a car a coyote tells her that there will be two lies, followed by the truth, which will be the hardest of all. A riveting combination of suspense and folklore.
SHADOWSHAPER

By: Daniel Jose Older
Scholastic (Arthur A. Levine)
9780545591614: $17.99, 2015
Sierra has to come to grips with her own supernatural abilities and the magic in her Puerto Rican heritage when her community is targeted by an outsider seeking to steal the power and use their spiritual strength against them.

OUT OF DARKNESS

By: Ashley Hope Perez
Lerner (Carolrhoda)
9781467742023: $18.99, 2015
A Mexican girl and an African American boy find love and acceptance with each other amidst the racism and other forces that seek to define them in 1937 East Texas.

THE BOY IN THE BLACK SUIT

By: Jason Reynolds
Simon & Schuster (Atheneum)
9781442459502: $17.99, 2015
Matt’s desperate attempt to handle his grief after the death of his mother, leads him to take an unlikely afterschool job in a funeral home, where he tries to make sense of his own feelings as he observes the mourning of others.
BONE GAP

By: Laura Ruby
HarperCollins (Balzer + Bray)
9780062317605: $17.99, 2015
Finn is the only witness to the abduction of his brother’s girlfriend, but he can’t properly describe the man who took her. Finn, already an outsider, becomes determined to find her in this strange, tense fantasy.

CHALLENGER DEEP

By: Neal Shusterman
HarperCollins
9780061134111: $17.99, 2015
Caden goes to school and has a family, but he also lives on a pirate ship and is in danger. This stunning, rewarding book gives the reader a glimpse through the eyes of a boy suffering from mental illness.

X: A NOVEL

By: Ilyasah Shabazz and Kekla Magoon
Candlewick
This vivid depiction of Malcolm X's life as a child and young adult follows him from the Great Depression to post World War II Harlem, as he moved from Lansing, Michigan, to Boston, Harlem and then returned to Boston, and prison.
NIMONA

By: Noelle Stevenson
HarperCollins (Harper Teen)
9780062278234: $17.99, 2015
In a full-color webcomic turned graphic novel an energetic young shapeshifting villain joins on as sidekick for the misunderstood Lord Blackheart as they attempt to stick it to the corrupt Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics.

THE WALLS AROUND US

By: Nova Ren Suma
Workman (Algonquin)
9781616203726: $17.95, 2015
Amber, locked up in a juvenile detention center, meets Ori, who was convicted of a murder she may not have committed in this examination of justice and class rendered in eerie, otherworldly prose with a touch of magical realism.

HONOR GIRL: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR

By: Maggie Thrash
Candlewick
As a young teen at a summer camp for well-to-do girls Maggie didn’t expect to win the rifle badge, but she expected even less to fall for her female counsellor.
THE UNLIKELY HERO OF ROOM 13B

By: Teresa Toten
Penguin (Delacorte /Random House)
9780553507867: $17.99, 2015
When Robyn, a fellow OCD sufferer, joins Adam's support group, there is an immediate attraction. Despite the humor and levity that pervades this novel, Adam's OCD is spiralling out of control, and his desire to fix everyone's issues may backfire spectacularly.

HOLD TIGHT, DON'T LET GO

By: Laura Rose Wagner
Abrams
9781419712043: $17.95, 2015
Life changes dramatically for cousins Magdalie and Nadine after the 2010 Haitian earthquake, with the loss of their Manman and their home in an emotional story of loss, change, survival and hope.

WE ALL LOOKED UP

By: Tommy Wallach
Simon & Schuster (BFYR)
9781481418775: $17.99, 2015
Four very different characters find their lives intertwined in unexpected ways as an asteroid appears in the sky (and may be heading to a collision with the earth).
EVERYTHING, EVERYTHING

By: Nicola Yoon
Abrams
9780553496642: $18.99, 2015

Falling in love with the boy next door sounds like a cliché but when you are Madeline, a girl “allergic to everything”, it becomes more complicated than that. Suddenly, Madeleine wants a life beyond the one she and her mother have fashioned.
**STONEWALL: BREAKING OUT IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY RIGHTS**

By: Ann Bausum  
Narrator: Tim Federle  
Penguin (Listening Library/Random House)  
9781101925621: $27.00, 2015  
In June 1969 the Stonewall bar in New York’s Greenwich Village was once again targeted by the police in an effort to harass the LGBT community. The ensuing riots marked the beginning of the coordinated push for LGBT rights. Federle’s narration brings alive the zeitgeist of the era masterfully.

**THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE**

By: Kimberly Brubaker Bradley  
Narrator: Jayne Entwistle  
Abrams  
9780553556513: $40.00, 2015  
Ada only knows her family’s one room London flat and the occasional glimpse of the outside world through her window. When Hitler threatens to bomb London, she flees with her younger brother Jamie to the county. Entwistle moves brilliantly between regional and class dialects, emotions and actions, drawing the listener into the widening world of Ada and her brother.

**THESE SHALLOW GRAVES**

By: Jennifer Donnelly  
Narrator: Kim Bubbs  
Penguin (Listening Library/Random House)  
9781101916247: $60.00, 2015  
Jo Montfort is a young woman in the 1890’s who has it all—until her father is found dead of an apparent suicide. An unforgettable combination of romance, mystery, adventure and historical fiction, impeccably paced by Bubbs.
LISTEN, SLOWLY
By: Thanhha Lai
Narrator: Lulu Lam
Blackstone Audio
9781481533218: $29.99, 2015
Mai must accompany her grandmother to Viet Nam in search of information about the grandfather who disappeared in the Vietnam War. Alternately poignant and funny, we follow Mai as she discovers the beauty of Viet Nam and rediscovers the power found in her grandmother’s stories. Lam embodies Mai maturing personality, grandmother’s lyrical stories, and expertly weaves Vietnamese and English languages.

ALL AMERICAN BOYS
By: Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
Narrator: Guy Lockard
Simon & Schuster
9781442398689: $29.99, 2015
African-American teen Rashad is accused of shoplifting and beaten by a white police officer his best friend Quinn, who is white, doesn't know how to react. He saw what happened, but does he have all the facts? Powerfully narrated in the voices of Rashad and Quinn.

CARTWHEELING IN THUNDERSTORMS
By: Katherine Rundell
Narrator: Bianca Amato
Recorded Books
9781490664347: $60.00, 2015
Will has grown up in Zimbabwe out in the bush with as much freedom as a child could want. With her mother already gone, her father’s death wreaks havoc on her life and she is sent from Zimbabwe for London and a boarding school. Unhappy from the start, Will runs away to find a way to go back home. Bianca Amata brilliantly brings the strong-willed Will alive to listeners with all of the love she has in Zimbabwe and the unhappiness she finds in London.
ECHO
By: Pam Munoz Ryan
Narrator: Mark Bramhall
Abrams
A harmonica connects three main stories set in Germany, Pennsylvania, and California during the WWII era. Music figures largely in the story and the audiobook format allows the music to be fully integrated. This audiobook takes an already strong novel to an even higher level.

MOST DANGEROUS: DANIEL ELLSBERG AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR
By: Steve Sheinkin
Narrator: Ray Porter
Penguin (Random House)
9780553552775: $45.00, 2015
When a young man’s body is found by the river and a boy disappears, Billy Zeets, a troublemaker with a kind heart decides to investigate. Hoppe’s narration of this riveting and suspenseful story is mesmerizing.

Involvement in the Vietnam War. The government was hiding the awful truth from the American public. Once he discovered Robert McNamara’s treatise on what was really happening in Vietnam, Ellsberg must decide whether he should leak the document to the press. What he decides will change the course of history. Porter’s purposeful tone throughout the narration affords the gravitas this spectacular non-fiction deserves.
A DRAGON'S GUIDE TO THE CARE AND FEEDING OF HUMANS

By: Laurence Yep and Joanne Ryder
Narrator: Susan Denaker
Abrams
9781101891582: $30.00, 2015

The voice of curmudgeonly dragon Miss Drake is outstanding in this wonderful tale of magic, loss, and friendship. Despite different assumptions, Miss Drake thinks she has a new pet human while Winnie thinks she has a new pet dragon, a friendship is forged. Winnie is a talented artist whose drawings magically crawl off the page into an unsuspecting San Francisco. Will the two friends be able to corral the creatures? A great family listen.
CAPITOL CHOICES LIST OF NOTEWORTHY TITLES
2016

Board Members 2016

Lynda Adamson
Alicia Blowers
Edie Ching
Mary Alice Garber
Todd Krueger
Kathie Meizner
Rebecca Purdy
Sylvie Shaffer
Jamie Watson