

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

BIRTH TO AGE SEVEN

AMOS MCGEE MISSES THE BUS

Stead, Philip C.

Erin E. Stead, Illustrator

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1250213228

Friendly zookeeper Amos stays up late to plan a surprise outing for his animal friends that makes him late the next morning. The plan is rescued when his companions help out. Charming illustrations make this memorable.

BIRD SHOW

Stockdale, Susan

Peachtree Publishing Company

978-1682631287

The fashion world of birds, wearing their bright “jackets,” “aprons,” and “headdresses,” is vividly illustrated with a short rhyming text. Both familiar and lesser known birds are shown. Endnotes name each bird and its habitat and include a fun game.

CAT DOG

Fox, Mem

Mark Teague, Illustrator

Simon & Schuster - Beach Lane Books

978-1416986881

What ruins a lazy day for cat and dog? Mouse, of course. Imagination runs wild in this simple, humorous call-and-response story.

DISHWASHER'S BIG JOB

Weinberg, Steven

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1250753229

The *how* and *why* of household appliances is humorously explained in this three title series of board books with a keen sense for the audience. That Dishwasher will give a “sippy cup a shower” perfectly describes its job to clean. (Also in this series: **Washer and Dryer’s Big Job; Fridge and Oven’s Big Job**)

DON'T HUG DOUG: (HE DOESN'T LIKE IT)

Finison, Carrie

Daniel Wiseman, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

978-1984813022

Doug likes harmonica bands, his rock collection, and giving high fives, but not hugs. Colorful drawings of jaunty figures both imaginary and human complement this affirming message of consent. Don't worry, Doug likes you, he just doesn't like hugs.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

EVERYBODY IN THE RED BRICK BUILDING

Wynter, Anne

Oge Mora, Illustrator

HarperCollins - Balzer + Bray

978-0062865762

Residents of an apartment building are awakened by a baby's "WaaaAAH!" The resulting cumulative story, illustrated in colorful collages, moves forward with a series of raucous sounds and concludes with the sweet soft sounds of nighttime until everyone is back asleep. Great for reading aloud.

FOURTEEN MONKEYS: A RAIN FOREST RHYME

Stewart, Melissa

Steve Jenkins, Illustrator

Simon & Schuster - Beach Lane Books

978-1534460393

Beautiful collage illustrations and a lovely rhyme demonstrate how different species of monkeys live at different levels in the same Peruvian rain forest. Excellent back matter augments this science story.

FRED GETS DRESSED

Brown, Peter

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316200646

Fred loves to be naked, but when he tries on his parents' clothes, jewelry, and makeup, he learns that dressing up can be fun, too.

THE HAPPINESS OF A DOG WITH A BALL IN ITS MOUTH

Handy, Bruce

Hyewon Yum, Illustrator

Enchanted Lion Books

978-1592703517

Sometimes it takes the experience of another emotion—like fear—to know what happiness is. Here is a beautifully illustrated offering of myriad simple things that elicit happiness for all of us.

HURRICANE

Rocco, John

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0759554931

When a boy's neighborhood dock—his favorite spot—is badly damaged in a storm, he finds that helping others repair their houses is the first step toward healing. Beautifully illustrated, emotionally nuanced story of community and recovery.

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I EAT POOP: A DUNG BEETLE STORY

Pett, Mark

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1250785633

Dougie the Dung Beetle is afraid for the kids at his bug school to know that he subsists on poop, but when his secret gets out, he learns that everyone's got something a bit "weird" about them. Detailed illustrations portray the glorious strangeness of the insect kingdom.

I IS FOR IMMIGRANTS

Alko, Selina

Macmillan - Henry Holt Books for Young Readers

978-1250237866

Each letter of the alphabet offers multiple concepts about things like sports, food, culture, clothing, and celebrations that reflect the rich and diverse gifts that immigration brings to America. Vibrant collage and gouache illustrations along with lively fonts invite extended study.

I LOVE YOU, BABY BURRITO

Dominguez, Angela

Macmillan - Roaring Brook Press

978-1250231093

A new baby is welcomed home with lots of love. English words are presented in a plain font and Spanish words in a green and bold one in this sweet, comforting story for the very young. A glossary and translations are included.

IN MY MOSQUE

Yuksel, M.O.

Hatem Aly, Illustrator

HarperCollins - HarperCollins Children's Books

978-0062978707

A young boy visits his mosque to see old friends and make new ones. There are prayers and study, chanting, and time for doing good in the community. A message of peace, love, and joy suffuses this beautifully illustrated introduction.

IT'S SO QUIET: A NOT-QUITE-GOING-TO-BED BOOK

Rinker, Sherri Duskey

Tony Fucile, Illustrator

Chronicle Books

978-1452145440

In a twist on the traditional bedtime story, Little Mouse can't sleep because it's too quiet. When the sounds of night become disruptive, he bellows out the window for...QUIET. Delightful rhyming text and illustrations evoke the nighttime.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

JOSIE DANCES

Lajimodiere, Denise

Angela Erdrich, Illustrator

Minnesota Historical Society Press

978-1681342078

Young Eagle Woman, Josie, makes her powwow debut—whirling, twisting, and swirling in her beaded shawl outfit. Colorful watercolor illustrations beautifully depict many aspects of Ojibwe culture and tradition.

THE LITTLE WOODEN ROBOT AND THE LOG PRINCESS

Gauld, Tom

Holiday House- Neal Porter Books

978-0823446988

When a misunderstanding sends two unusual siblings on a series of adventures, they must rely on each other and the kindness of strangers to find their way back home. Innovative and charming.

MILO IMAGINES THE WORLD

de la Peña, Matt

Christian Robinson, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

978-0399549083

During a long and important subway journey with his big sister, Milo creates drawings that reflect the lives he imagines for those around him. Milo's sense of surprise as they reach their destination is a gentle reminder about expectations and assumptions.

MY FIRST DAY

Quang, Phung Nguyen

Huynh Kim Lien, Co-author & Illustrator

Random House Children's Books- Make Me a World

978-0593306260

A child, complete with backpack, navigates floodwaters in an open boat to get to the first day of school during the rainy season on the Mekong Delta. Magnificent illustrations offer glimpses of an unfamiliar landscape.

NEGATIVE CAT

Blackall, Sophie

Penguin Random House - Nancy Paulsen Books

978-0399257193

A child's long-awaited first pet turns out to be a very grumpy cat. But the child discovers a way to make friends with Max and help other kids and shelter cats in this heartwarming story about the power of reading.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

THE PASSOVER GUEST

Kusel, Susan

Sean Rubin, Illustrator

Holiday House- Neal Porter Books

978-0823445622

This adaptation of I. L. Peretz' story of "The Magician" set in Washington, D. C. tells of the miracle the prophet Elijah brings to a family during the Great Depression. Beautifully written and gorgeously illustrated; destined to become a Passover classic.

SAKAMOTO'S SWIM CLUB: HOW A TEACHER LED AN UNLIKELY TEAM TO VICTORY

Abery, Julie

Chris Sasaki, Illustrator

Kids Can Press

978-1525300318

A little known sports story celebrates the Three-Year Swim Club, whose members went from practicing in Hawaiian sugar cane irrigation ditches on Maui to the Olympic podium. Told with simple verse and vibrant illustrations. An author's note fills in the details.

SATURDAY AT THE FOOD PANTRY

O'Neill, Diane

Brizida Magro, Illustrator

Albert Whitman & Company

978-0807572368

When Molly and her mom feel their hunger "growl" they visit the food pantry. During their visit Molly meets a friend who is embarrassed to be there. But together they draw pictures, make everyone happy, and learn that it's okay—everyone needs help sometimes.

SUNDAY FUNDAY IN KOREATOWN

Kim, Aram

Holiday House

978-0823444472

Yoomi's Sunday is not turning out to be as much fun as she expected. One thing after another seems to go wrong, but Grandma has a way of helping turn disappointments around. A recipe for Kimbap is included.

THREE WAYS TO BE BRAVE: A TRIO OF STORIES

Clark, Karla

Jeff Östberg, Illustrator

Penguin Random House- Rise X Penguin Workshop

978-0593222423

A thunderstorm, a first day of school, and a visit to the doctor are all experiences that sometimes call for being brave. Three stories in rhymed couplets look at the different forms that bravery takes.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

WATERCRESS

Wang, Andrea

Jason Chin, Illustrator

Holiday House- Neal Porter Books

978-0823446247

The author remembers a time when her family of four stopped the car to gather watercress near a roadside in Ohio. Her mother explained that the watercress was a reminder of famine and the loss of her brother back in China. A gentle, autobiographical look at first-generation children and their parents.



2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

SEVEN TO TEN

THE 1619 PROJECT: BORN ON THE WATER

Hannah-Jones, Nikole & Renée Watson

Nikkolas Smith, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Kokila

978-0593307359

A conversation between grandmother and granddaughter tells the ancestral story of many Black Americans, whose roots in West Africa were disrupted but not destroyed by the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Beautiful illustrations and fluid narrative poetry powerfully honor the rich legacy of survival, resistance, and pride.

ALLERGIC: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

Lloyd, Megan Wagner

Michelle Mee Nutter, Illustrator

Scholastic - Graphix

978-1338568905

Maggie was promised a puppy for her 10th birthday but while visiting the animal shelter learns that she's allergic to fur. Her dreams upended, Maggie depends on family and friends to weather her heartache, muster her resilience, and find the perfect pet.

AUDREY L AND AUDREY W: BEST FRIENDS-ISH

Higgins, Carter

Jennifer K. Mann, Illustrator

Chronicle

978-1452183947

Suddenly Audrey is "Audrey L." Second grade seemed less fun than First even before new classmate "Audrey W" showed up. But caution and loneliness melt away in small moments in this sweet, funny school story for emerging readers about new friendships.

THE BEATRYCE PROPHECY

DiCamillo, Kate

Sophie Blackall, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536213614

In a time of endless war, Beatryce is sheltered by a monk and a wily goat. Beatryce, along with a monk who loves beauty, a boy who sings, and a king who abandoned his throne, save a kingdom ruled by a despot in a beautifully illustrated tale that feels like a celebration of the written word.

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CAPITOL
CHOICES

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

FATIMA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Tariq, Ambreen

Stevie Lewis, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Kokila

978-1984816955

After a hard week at school, Fatima takes comfort in her family's first camping trip, setting up their tent, sharing samosas and halal bacon, and falling asleep to the sounds of the forest.

FOX & CHICK: THE SLEEPOVER: AND OTHER STORIES

Ruzzier, Sergio

Chronicle

978-1452183381

Early readers will enjoy the warm banter presented in speech bubbles and the silly moments between friends in three funny, episodic chapters that continue this endearing odd couple series.

FRANKLIN ENDICOTT AND THE THIRD KEY: TALES FROM DECKAWOO DRIVE, VOLUME SIX

DiCamillo, Kate

Chris Van Dusen, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536201819

Audiobook

William Jackson Harper, Narrator

Listening Library

978-0525633075

Franklin goes with Eugenia Lincoln to have a key copied and ends up with a mysterious third key. Though he is battling anxiety and fearfulness, can Franklin solve the mystery? The narrator of the audiobook gives voice to Frank's cautious, thoughtful nature.

GARLIC & THE VAMPIRE

Paulsen, Bree

HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books

978-0062995094

A community of anthropomorphic vegetables in fashionable farm attire misjudge a newcomer's intentions before Garlic sees beyond his bloodthirsty exterior. Atmospheric world-building and an unlikely heroine distinguish this graphic novel.

HARRY VERSUS THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

Jenkins, Emily

Pete Oswald, Illustrator

Penguin Random House - Anne Schwartz Books

978-0525644712

Harry's first-grade adventure includes new friends, new rules, new words to spell, and 100 days of new things to learn in this close-up look at those first amazing weeks of big-kid school.

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HEAR MY VOICE/ ESCUCHA MI VOZ: THE TESTIMONIES OF CHILDREN DETAINED AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES

Binford, Warren

Various illustrators

Workman - Algonquin Young Readers

978-1523513482

Powerful illustrations by 17 renowned artists reflect and interpret the authentic, gut-wrenching stories of children separated from their families and detained at the United States' border with Mexico. Text in both English and Spanish.

THE HIGHEST TRIBUTE: THURGOOD MARSHALL'S LIFE, LEADERSHIP, AND LEGACY

Magoon, Kekla

Laura Freeman, Illustrator

HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books

978-0062912510

This oversize picture book captures the towering figure who was the first Black Supreme Court justice. A straightforward chronology of Marshall's life and accomplishments is complemented by clear illustrations that depict the times and the cases he argued or presided over.

KING OF RAGTIME: THE STORY OF SCOTT JOPLIN

Costanza, Stephen

Simon & Schuster - Atheneum

978-1534410367

A joyful look at the African-American composer who patched together the "OOM-pah in his left hand ... and the raggedy-jaggedly syncopations in his right" to become the king of ragtime. Collage illustrations underscore the magnificent quilt of his life.

LITTLE WITCH HAZEL: A YEAR IN THE FOREST

Wahl, Phoebe

Penguin Random House Canada - Tundra Books

978-0735264892

Little Witch Hazel's cozy seasonal adventures among woodland creatures are both timeless and fresh. Richly detailed and beautiful oversized pages and lyrical text encourage readers to slow down and enjoy the story at the forest's pace.

MAYBE MAYBE MARISOL RAINEY

Kelly, Erin Entrada

HarperCollins - Greenwillow Books

978-0062970428

Timid Marisol longs to be less anxious, but she's afraid of many things, including climbing the tree in her yard. In this series introduction, Marisol's best friend Jada helps her find the courage. Marisol is sweet, quirky (naming everything around her, i.e., house, bike, tree), kind, and inadvertently funny.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

THE MIDDLE KID

Weinberg, Steven

Chronicle

978-1452181806

Does the middle kid have the roughest time? You decide. The ups and downs, frustrations and joys of being a middle child are depicted with humor, straight from the artist's experience.

NICKY & VERA: A QUIET HERO OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE CHILDREN HE RESCUED

Sís, Peter

W. W. Norton - Norton Young Readers

978-1324015741

Working quietly and without recognition, British businessman Nicholas Winton helped over 600 children escape from Prague just before the Nazis arrived. Winton's monumentally heroic acts came to light only decades later. A gorgeous, heart-wrenching yet uplifting look at a tough moment in history.

PAWCASSO

Lai, Remy

Macmillan - Henry Holt Books for Young Readers

978-1250774484

The web of lies that Jo weaves, claiming ownership of an independent, friendly local dog ("Pawcasso"), isn't easy to untangle.

THE PEOPLE'S PAINTER: HOW BEN SHAHN FOUGHT FOR JUSTICE WITH ART

Levinson, Cynthia

Evan Turk, Illustrator

Abrams - Abrams Books for Young Readers

978-1419741302

Ben Shahn arrived in America from Europe as an eight-year-old in 1906. He was involved with social justice causes and creating art for them throughout his life. The author's poetic text melds perfectly with Turk's wonderful illustrations that honorably mimic Shahn's style.

THE SECRET OF THE MAGIC PEARL

Sabatinelli, Elisa and Iacopo Bruno

Christopher Turner, Illustrator

Red Comet Press

978-1636550060

On his first underwater dive, Hector finds the remarkable magic pearl that protects the divers and fisherfolk of his Italian coastal community. Vivid descriptions, glorious illustrations, and delightful details accompany this tale of a courageous child who must confront the greed of others.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

A SHOT IN THE ARM!: BIG IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD #3

Brown, Don

Abrams - Amulet Books

978-1419750014

Brown distills comprehensive research on the history of vaccines and the struggle to protect people from infectious disease, from smallpox to COVID-19, including the origins of the anti-vax movement, in a graphic novel narrative that is informative, accurate, and even funny at times.

SONA SHARMA, VERY BEST BIG SISTER?

Soundar, Chitra

Jen Khatun, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536214826

With everyone in her extended family thinking about the baby-to-be, Sona and her best friend Elephant feel left out. Siblings to be will find much to connect with in this extensively illustrated chapter book showcasing Indian culture.

TOO SMALL TOLA

Atinuke

Onyinye Iwu, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536211276

Tola, a young resident of Lagos, Nigeria, proves that she is small, but also mighty! Three short chapters with short sentences and plenty of humorous black and white illustrations are filled with levity, enthusiasm, and keen observations.

UNSOLVED CASE FILES: ESCAPE AT 10,000 FEET: D.B. COOPER AND THE MISSING MONEY

Sullivan, Tom

HarperCollins - Balzer + Bray

978-0062991522

Using a combination of sharp text and stylish infographics, this series opener introduces kids to the mysterious thief D.B. Cooper. Clues and theories are presented to allow readers to come to their own conclusions.

UNSPEAKABLE: THE TULSA RACE MASSACRE

Weatherford, Carole Boston

Floyd Cooper, Illustrator

Lerner - Carolrhoda Books

978-1541581203

White residents of Tulsa, Oklahoma, attacked the nearby affluent Black community of Greenwood in 1921, murdering these neighbors and virtually destroying the town. The measured, clear-eyed prose and muted oil paintings depict the “before” of a thriving community and what was lost in the massacre.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

WE ARE STILL HERE!: NATIVE AMERICAN TRUTHS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Sorell, Traci

Frané Lessac, Illustrator

Charlesbridge

978-1623541927

A classroom of students prepares reports for the school's "Indigenous People's Day," introducing concepts like termination, assimilation, and self-determination. The echoed refrain in each, "We are still here!" emphasizes the resilience of Indigenous communities and culture and language.

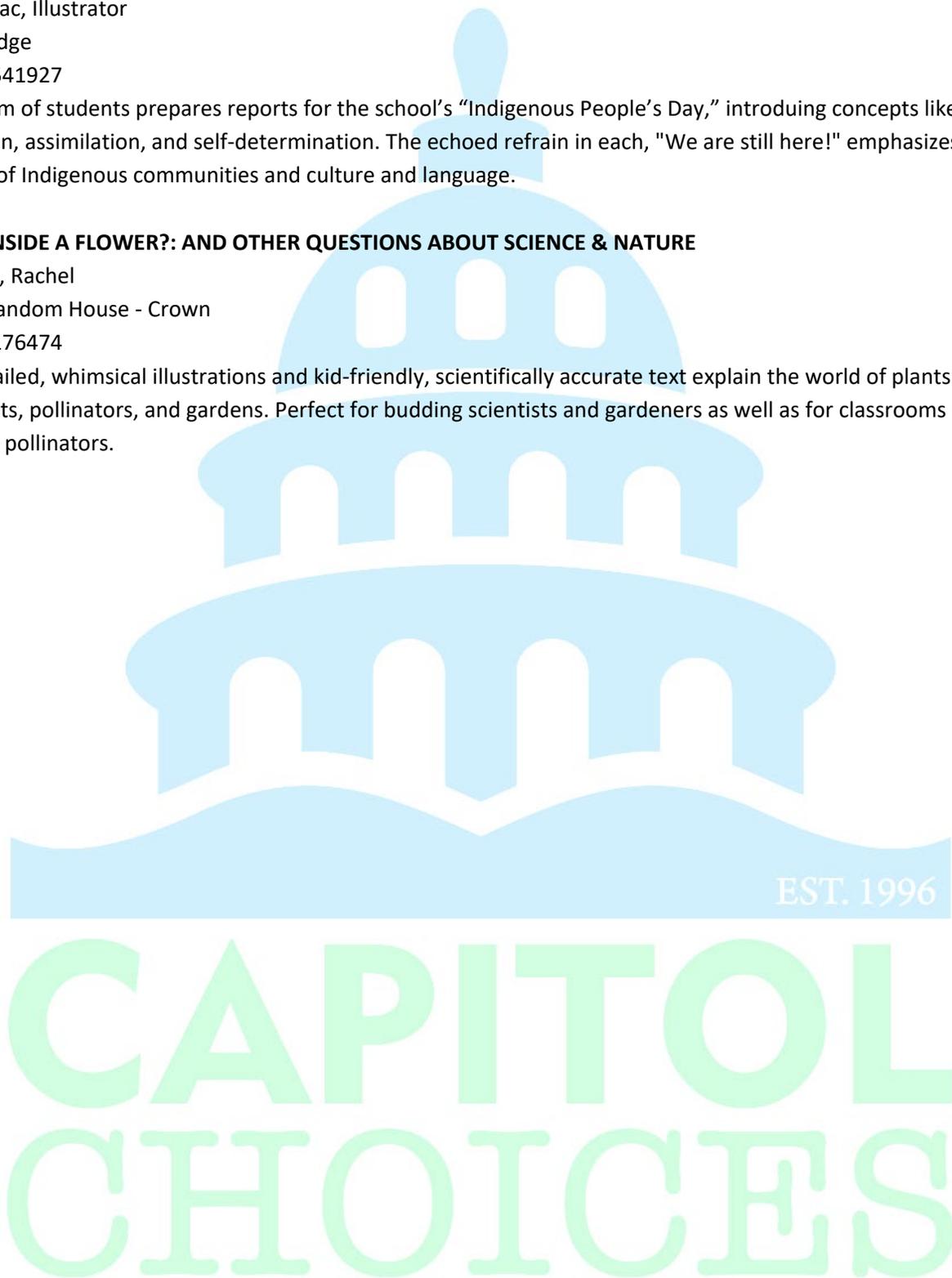
WHAT'S INSIDE A FLOWER?: AND OTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT SCIENCE & NATURE

Ignatofsky, Rachel

Penguin Random House - Crown

978-0593176474

Finely detailed, whimsical illustrations and kid-friendly, scientifically accurate text explain the world of plants—seeds, stems, fruits, pollinators, and gardens. Perfect for budding scientists and gardeners as well as for classrooms studying plants and pollinators.



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TEN TO FOURTEEN

AMARI AND THE NIGHT BROTHERS

Alston, B. B.

HarperCollins - Balzer + Bray

978-0062975164

When Amari accepts a magical invitation from her missing brother to train at the Bureau for Supernatural Affairs, she must face down prejudice, learn to wield magic, and thwart the evil plans of a powerful magician.

AMBER & CLAY

Schlitz, Laura Amy

Julia Iredale, Illustrator

Candlewick

978-1536201222

Figures from Ancient Greece, including the Gods and Socrates, form a chorus of sorts in this tale of the unlikely friendship between Melisto, an aristocratic daughter of privilege (and a ghost), and a young boy, Rhaskos, the son of a slave. Slavery, the creation of art, the role of the Gods, and the striving to be true to oneself all are part of this very original story.

BARAKAH BEATS

Siddiqui, Maleeha

Scholastic - Scholastic Press

978-1338702064

Nimra struggles to find her place in a conventional middle school after spending her life attending Islamic school. Though it goes against her religious beliefs, she accepts an invitation to join the school's popular boy band and finds herself questioning her friendships and faith.

BORDERS

King, Thomas

Natasha Donovan, Illustrator

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316593069

A boy and his mother spend several days in limbo when, having identified themselves as Blackfoot citizens, neither the Canadian nor the U.S. Customs agents will allow the pair to pass through their borders.

BOY FROM BUCHENWALD

Waisman, Robbie

Susan McClelland, co-author

Bloomsbury Children's Books

978-1547606009

Romek Waisman survived a horrifying childhood in Buchenwald during World War II. His story as a feral child who heals and learns to trust people again shows an amazing resilience of spirit.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

CLUES TO THE UNIVERSE

Li, Christina

HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books

978-0063008885

Ro likes science; Benji likes art. Two unlikely friends help each other find ways to connect with their fathers in this realistic novel set in the 1980s.

CUBA IN MY POCKET

Cuevas, Adrianna

Macmillan - Farrar Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers

978-0374314675

Life in Cuba is paradise, with its warm weather and great food. But when Castro consolidates his power and begins conscripting 13-year-olds to be soldiers, Cumba's loving family sends him to safety in Miami, all on his own.

DAWN RAID

Smith, Pauline Vaeluaga

Mat Hunkin, Illustrator

Levine Querido

978-1646140411

13-year-old New Zealander Sophia's diary entries chronicle an eventful five months in 1976 as she embraces her Samoan heritage and participates in a social justice movement connected to her wider Pasifika community.

FRANKIE AND BUG

Forman, Gayle

Simon & Schuster - Aladdin

978-1534482531

Revelations about identity and community over the summer of 1987 shift Bug's entire understanding of her loved ones and her found family, and present the challenge of finding justice in a world that isn't always fair.

THE GENIUS UNDER THE TABLE: GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN

Yelchin, Eugene

Candlewick Press - Walker Books US

978-1536215526

Through humorous anecdotes and lively pen and ink illustrations, the author describes growing up in Soviet Russia when there was worry about defections (which he confused with defecation), families crammed into one room "apartments," neighbors who were informants, and relatives cut out of family photographs.

GONE TO THE WOODS: SURVIVING A LOST CHILDHOOD

Paulsen, Gary

Macmillan - Farrar Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers

978-0374314156

Gary Paulsen tells how he got his adventurous start, from learning to hunt mushrooms in the woods at five years old to learning to survive alone in a city at thirteen, where a kindly librarian urged him to write down his stories.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

IN THE SHADOW OF THE FALLEN TOWERS: THE SECONDS, MINUTES, HOURS, DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS, AND YEARS AFTER THE 9/11 ATTACKS

Brown, Don

HMH/Clarion-Etch

978-0358223573

Multiple facets of the 9/11 events, including witness accounts, are masterfully detailed in a gripping, well-researched, and comprehensive look at an unforgettable, moving piece of history.

THE LION OF MARS

Holm, Jennifer L

Penguin Random House - Random House Books for Young Readers

978-0593121818

Bell is an ordinary 11-year-old, except that he lives on Mars. When the adults in their settlement get sick, it's up to Bell and the other kids to save the colony in this adventure with a thoughtful cast of characters in an intriguingly scientific setting.

ONLY IF YOU DARE: 13 STORIES OF DARKNESS AND DOOM

Allen, Josh

Sarah J. Coleman, Illustrator

Holiday House

978-0823449064

What scares you? Here are some topics: The Perfect Girl? A Snowman that doesn't melt? The Substitute (teacher)? Thirteen captivating short stories, ranging from chilling to terrifying, are masterfully told with the help of some scary black and white illustrations. Just right for a frightening read.

PETER LEE'S NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Ahn, Angela

Julie Kwon, Illustrator

Penguin Random House Canada - Tundra Books

978-0735268241

Peter Lee, an aspiring paleontologist, and his genius little sister must use skills of observation and a knowledge of the scientific method to help their family.

PITY PARTY

Lane, Kathleen

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0316417365

Part collection of short stories, part quirky personality tests, part Choose Your Own Catastrophe, this title is for anyone who has ever felt socially awkward. The delightfully dark tales of middle school are relatable and humorous.

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PONY (audio)

Palacio, R. J.

Ian M. Hawkins and R. J. Palacio, Narrators

Penguin Random House - Alfred A. Knopf/Listening Library

978-0593505410

12-year-old Silas takes off on a remarkable ride to rescue his Pa from a gang of counterfeiters. Silas's lifelong ghostly companion accompanies him, and the other ghosts he meets along the way both hinder and help in his epic adventure.

RED, WHITE, AND WHOLE

LaRocca, Rajani

HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books

978-0063047426

Reha, the only Indian-American girl in her school, is caught between two cultures in the 1980s. Her struggle becomes even worse when she is told that her mother has been diagnosed with leukemia. This emotional novel in verse grapples with grief, hope, and growing up.

SOUL LANTERNS

Kuzki, Shaw

Emily Balistreri, Translator

Penguin Random House - Delacorte Press

978-0593174340

Twenty-five years after the bombing of Hiroshima, a group of elementary school students put together an art festival to highlight the stories of friends and families who suffered loss during that tragic day, weaving art and memory together to tell the story.

STARFISH

Fipps, Lisa

Penguin Random House - Nancy Paulsen Books

978-1984814500

Fat-shamed since childhood, a counselor and a new neighbor help Ellie see her self-worth and stand up to her biggest bully: her mom. Told in verse, this body-positive story helps readers to self-advocate and empathize.

TAKE BACK THE BLOCK

Giles, Chrystal D.

Penguin Random House - Random House Books for Young Readers

978-0593175170

When a real estate developer makes an offer to buy his whole neighborhood, Wes Henderson and his friends try to figure out how to fight to keep their homes, while the grown-ups argue.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

THE SHAPE OF THUNDER

Warga, Jasmine

HarperCollins - Balzer + Bray

978-0062956675

After a devastating school shooting, former best friends and neighbors Cora and Quinn struggle with how to move on—or perhaps to unlock the secret to time travel to stop the life-altering event from ever happening.

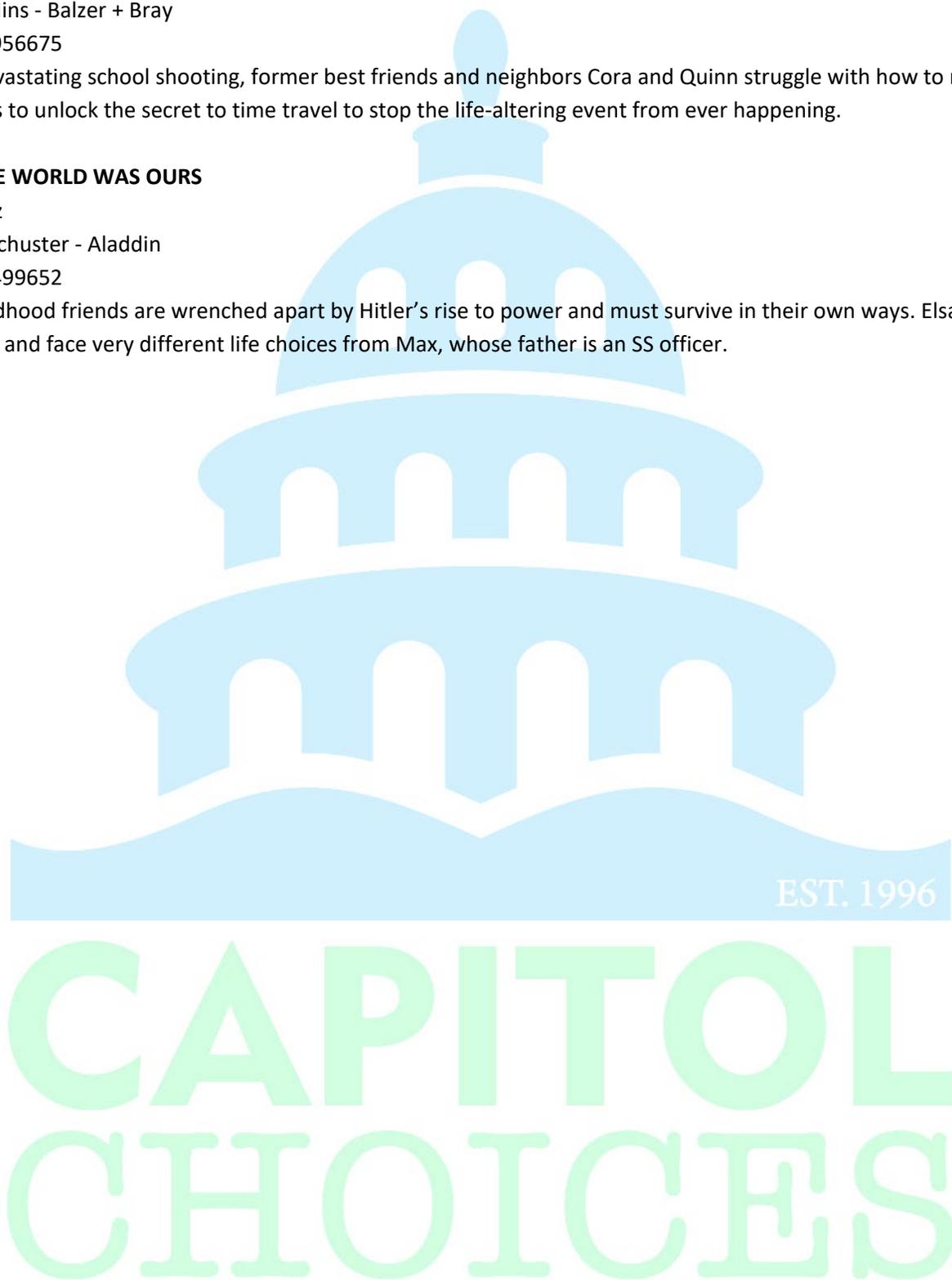
WHEN THE WORLD WAS OURS

Kessler, Liz

Simon & Schuster - Aladdin

978-1534499652

Three childhood friends are wrenched apart by Hitler's rise to power and must survive in their own ways. Elsa and Leo are Jewish and face very different life choices from Max, whose father is an SS officer.



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FOURTEEN AND UP

BE DAZZLED

La Sala, Ryan
Sourcebooks Fire
978-1492682691

Raffy must convince his uptight mother and himself that he belongs in the professional world of cosplay in this creative exploration of belonging. He's determined to win the competition at his local con, but when he's teamed up with his ex (who stole his looks!), he struggles to keep his eye on the prize.

BLACKOUT: A NOVEL

Clayton, Dhonielle
With Tiffany D. Jackson, Nic Stone, Angie Thomas, Ashley Woodfolk, and Nicola Yoon
HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books
978-0063088092

Short stories by six Black women writers feature BIPOC teen couples, hetero and queer, living and loving in New York City during a hot summer blackout. The stories both stand alone and weave together in a humorous, romantic narrative.

BOYS RUN THE RIOT VOL 1

Gaku, Keito
Kodansha Comics
978-1646512485

A transgender teen finds an escape from the pressures of his daily life in the world of street fashion, in this personal, heartfelt story from a transgender manga creator.

CHLORINE SKY

Browne, Mahogany L.
Penguin Random House - Listening Library (Audio)
978-0593343784

Sky loves basketball and swimming, and does not love the messiness of acknowledging that her closest friend may not be the best person to keep close. Growing up and living in your own skin is hard, and Sky's experiences and voice are genuine and engaging. Narrated by the author.

COOL FOR THE SUMMER

Adler, Dahlia
Natalie Naudus, Narrator
Macmillan Audio
978-1250803498

When Lara's summer fling shows up on the first day of school she begins to question everything, including who she really is and what/who she really wants.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

EXCUSE ME WHILE I UGLY CRY

Goffney, Joya

HarperCollins - HarperTeen

978-0063024793

When her private journal of secret fears goes missing, Quinn is afraid that someone else will read her lists of things that worry her. But when an anonymous Instagram account posts one of the lists for the whole world to see, Quinn is in a race to find who's behind it before her world crashes. Funny and romantic.

FALLOUT: SPIES, SUPERBOMBS, AND THE ULTIMATE COLD WAR SHOWDOWN

Sheinkin, Steve

978-1250149015

Audiobook

Roy Samuelson, Narrator

Penguin Random House - Listening Library (Audio)

978-0593154908

This account of one of the most dangerous times America has faced in the recent past is told with riveting narration and an unquestionable depth of research. This book reads like fiction but is, in fact, a brilliant portrayal of Cold War events and key players. And if you want more, the print edition is full of photos and extensive references and citations.

FAT CHANCE, CHARLIE VEGA

Maldonado, Crystal

Holiday House

978-0823447176

Charlie Vega truly wants to love herself and experience the kind of romance she only reads and writes about. It's hard when she feels inferior to her best friend and fat-shamed and bullied by her mother. Full of emotion, honesty, and self-realization.

FIREKEEPER'S DAUGHTER

Boulley, Angeline

Isabella Star LaBlanc, Narrator

Macmillan Audio

978-1250779519

When a series of drug-related tragedies ravage the Ojibwe reservation, Daunis puts her college plans on hold to stay close to family and is drawn into an FBI investigation that reveals potentially devastating truths. The narrator deftly handles Ojibwe vocabulary and switches seamlessly between characters.

GIRL FROM THE SEA: A GRAPHIC NOVEL

Ostertag, Molly Knox

Scholastic - Graphix

978-1338540574

This queer coming of age story encompasses friendships, first love, and environmental activism. Bold colors and whimsical design complement the characters.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

THE GIRLS I'VE BEEN

Sharpe, Tess

Penguin Random House - G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers

978-0593353806

When Nora, her girlfriend, and her ex-boyfriend go to the bank, Nora worries that it will be the most awkward part of her day. But when the bank gets held up, things get so much worse. Nora uses everything she knows to save herself and her friends from danger. Chaotic energy, gut-punching emotions, and thrilling plot.

HUDA F ARE YOU?

Fahmy, Huda

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers

978-0593324301

Huda shares her experiences with high school trials and tribulations, along with serious messages about identity, Islamophobia, and microaggressions, in an irreverent, lighthearted, fictionalized memoir.

INCREDIBLE DOOM

Bogart, Matthew and Jesse Holden

HarperCollins - HarperAlley

978-0063064942

Teens of an earlier generation discover that the internet offers connection and community, plus possibilities for escape from loneliness, abuse, and bullying. Deceptively simple line art packs an emotional punch in this graphic novel about finding allies in the dawning digital age.

INDIVISIBLE

Aleman, Daniel

Little, Brown & Company - Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

978-0759556058

Mateo's family is torn apart when his parents get picked up by ICE, leaving him and his little sister all alone in New York City. This title explores what it means to find your place in a world that doesn't want you.

EST. 1996

LOVE IS FOR LOSERS

Brueggemann, Wibke

Macmillan – Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers

978-0374313975

Phoebe doesn't like to deal with emotions and will never fall in love, she thinks. All that changes when she meets a new friend who makes her stomach flutter—but also has her taking a long look at those around her and the feelings they provoke.

CAPITOL CHOICES

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

LYCANTHROPY AND OTHER CHRONIC ILLNESSES

O'Neal, Kristen

Penguin Random House – Quirk Books

978-1683692348

Priya and Brigid both suffer from chronic illnesses—but only one of them is a werewolf. They become friends in a support group on Discord in an encouraging story that addresses real issues of people living with chronic illness.

PUNCHING BAG

Ogle, Rex

W. W. Norton - Norton Young Readers

978-1324016236

Ogle follows his earlier memoir, *Free Lunch*, with a look at his adolescent years, his volatile, abusive family, and the survival techniques he employed to get through. Short, episodic chapters and visceral writing make this a gripping read.

RUN: BOOK ONE

Lewis, John with Andrew Aydin

L. Fury and Nate Powell, Illustrators

Abrams- ComicArts

978-1419730696

In this book, completed before Congressman John Lewis's death, the civil rights hero looks at the development of voting rights and social justice after the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, as new activists took on leadership roles and continued to push for change.

A SITTING IN ST. JAMES

Williams-Garcia, Rita

HarperCollins - Quill Tree Books

978-0062367297

In the summer of 1860, when Madame Sylvie Guilbert insists on having her portrait painted, her painstakingly constructed Louisiana plantation life at Le Petit Cottage comes apart at the seams. This sweeping saga shows the brutal costs of slavery for lives both Black and White and opens a window on queer history.

SQUAD

Tokuda-Hall, Maggie

Lisa Sterle, Illustrator

HarperCollins- HarperAlley

978-0062943156

Becca can hardly believe her luck when the most popular girls at her new school adopt her into their clique. She soon discovers that the girls are actually werewolves who go to parties and turn would-be sexual predators into prey—and she joins the pack.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

THE PASSING PLAYBOOK

Fitzsimons, Isaac

Penguin Random House - Dial Books for Young Readers

978-1984815408

When Spencer, 15, transfers to a progressive school for a fresh start, he plans to keep secret the fact that he is transgender. After the discrepancy on his birth certificate lands him on the bench, Spencer shares his truth with soccer teammates, including his new boyfriend, Justice, and publicly confronts Ohio's discriminatory laws. An engaging and heart-warming story of identity, family, sports, love, and self-discovery.

TOKYO EVER AFTER

Jean, Emiko

Macmillan - Flatiron Books

978-1250766601

Izumi learns that her birth father is the Crown Prince of Japan and is swept away to meet him and become a member of the royal family. A fast-paced romance that takes readers into a palace not open to many.

WAKE: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF WOMEN-LED REVOLTS

Hall, Rebecca

Hugo Martínez, Illustrator

Simon & Schuster

978-1982115180

Historian Hall uses in-depth archival research and a measured use of historical imagination to reconstruct the likely pasts of women rebels who fought for freedom during the Middle Passage. Beautifully illustrated in black and white.

YESTERDAY IS HISTORY

Jackson, Kosoko

Sourcebooks Fire

978-1492694342

A liver transplant from a time-traveling donor has Andre navigating between Black queer history in the past and love in the present.

YOLK

Choi, Mary H. K.

Simon & Schuster - Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

978-1534446007

Korean sisters Jayne and June traverse high highs and low lows yet always remain a team in this novel for older teens that proves there is more than one way to embark on your life's journey.

2022 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

WHO WE ARE

The first edition of Capitol Choices published in 1996, built on the work of the late Peggy Coughlan at the Children's Literature Center of the Library of Congress, who for many years edited an annual list entitled "Books for Children." The founding members of the Capitol Choices group who worked on these lists appreciated the opportunity to hone their critical skills during those years and wished to carry the work of that committee forward.

Since 1996, Capitol Choices has included librarians, teachers, booksellers, children's literature specialists, reviewers, and magazine editors who work in cities, suburbs, and rural areas in and around Washington, D.C. Most of us work directly with young people, and all of us share a passion for books and a commitment to pairing children with books.

CRITERIA

Our mission is to identify and select a yearly list of outstanding titles for children and teens. We consider books and audiobooks published in the current calendar year for readers from birth through the high school years. We look not only for those books and audiobooks that are obviously remarkable but also for those whose charm, art, information, or depth of feeling may enhance a young person's world. We especially look for books that may not find an audience without the benefit of special attention.

What does Capitol Choices mean by "the best"? "Best" of the year? "Best" by this author? "Best" of its type? Our discussions are often heated, always serious, filled with good humor and, in the end, the titles we choose meet all of these criteria. In addition to the qualities that mark good titles—clarity, accuracy, credibility, and that most elusive quality of all, distinguished writing, illustration or narration—we place special emphasis on titles which we believe appeal to and reflect the sensibilities of their intended audience.

JOIN US

We welcome you in person at our monthly meetings. Capitol Choices members are also available to present workshops on the best titles of the year, how to evaluate literature for young people, and other topics related to our passion for books and audiobooks for young readers. Please visit our website www.capitolchoices.org to schedule a workshop or find out more about joining our group.

MEMBERS

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