

# 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

## BIRTH TO AGE FIVE

### **10 CATS**

Gravett, Emily

Boxer Books

9781914912580

Mama cat and her nine mischievous kittens make a mess with spilled paint in this colorfully illustrated counting book.

### **BIG**

Harrison, Vashti

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

9780316353229

A beautifully illustrated, emotionally powerful story of a small girl with a tender heart and a big body and her journey to loving and accepting herself just as she is.

### **BOOM!**

Meisel, Paul

Holiday House

9780823448579

What happens to a playful cat and a timid dog alone at home during a thunderstorm? This simple, hilarious graphic novel for early readers offers a look.

### **CAPE**

Johnson, Kevin

Kitt Thomas (illustrator)

Roaring Brook Press

9781250840509

A heart-wrenching story about a young boy who experiences a significant loss and how he uses his cape as protection from his grief.

### **CITY BEET**

Cohen, Tziporah

Udayana Lugo (illustrator)

Sleeping Bear Press

9781534112711

A diverse community of friends and community helpers work together to harvest a giant beet from their urban garden in a clever, humorous take on an old folktale.

### **ELENA RIDES**

Medina, Juana

Candlewick Press

9781536216356

A young elephant balances precariously while learning to ride a bike, and the simple sound effect words that accompany every fall beg to be read aloud. Perfect for beginning readers.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **EVERGREEN**

Cordell, Matthew  
Feiwei and Friends  
9781250317179

When her mom asks timid Evergreen to take an acorn bowl of soup to her ailing grandmother on the other side of Buckthorn Forest, the young, anxious squirrel learns that she's braver than she thought. A tale of courage and love destined to become a classic.

### **FINDING PAPA**

Krans, Angela Pham  
Thi Bui (illustrator)  
HarperCollins  
9780063060968

After Papa leaves Vietnam to find a home in America, young Mai and her mother make the harrowing journey via foot and boat in this vibrantly illustrated, powerful story of migration. The serious mood is lightened by the repeated crocodile chant—*chomp chomp*—that Papa shared.

### **THE FLOCK**

del Mazo, Margarita  
Raúl Nieto Guridi (illustrator)  
NubeOcho  
9788419253262

Counting a flock of sheep becomes complicated when sheep number four goes missing and Mike can't count his sheep to go to sleep! A gentle bedtime story about being true to yourself.

### **GREAT CARRIER REEF**

Stremer, Jessica  
Gordy Wright (illustrator)  
Holiday House  
9780823452682

A decommissioned aircraft carrier is sunk to become the world's largest artificial reef. Scientific, informative, entertaining, and accessible with vibrant artwork and useful back matter.

### **THE HOSPITAL BOOK**

Brown, Lisa  
Holiday House  
9780823446650

A child's hospital experience is realistically portrayed in a way that will put children (along with their adults) at ease. Child friendly illustrations accompany understandable explanations, and the emotions depicted feel authentic.

### **HOW TO COUNT TO ONE: (AND DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT BIGGER NUMBERS!)**

Salmon, Caspar  
Matt Hunt (illustrator)  
Nosy Crow  
9798887770246

This interactive picture book subverts expectations for counting books in fun ways, inviting readers to notice all the things that there are ONE of (and some will be unable to resist counting higher).

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **IN THE TREE**

Millard, Will  
Rachel Qiuqi (illustrator)  
Abrams / Magic Cat  
9781419765940

This inviting board book uses flaps to show basic concepts of how an oak tree grows and how a variety of animals relate to the tree.

### **KITTY & CAT: OPPOSITES ATTRACT**

Hokkanen, Mirka  
Candlewick Press  
9781536223675

This simple concept book depicts the relationship between an older tired grumpy cat and a younger playful energetic kitty. The illustrations are bold and bright, and a surprise ending will delight young learners.

### **MAMA'S SLEEPING SCARF**

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi writing as Nwa Grace-James  
Joelle Avelino  
Alfred A. Knopf  
9780593535578

Chino likes the feel of the green scarf with red and blue circles that her mother wears on her hair at night. A simple, cheerful, boldly illustrated intergenerational story of everyday life.

### **MR. S**

Arnaldo, Monica  
Katherine Tegen Books  
9780063003958

Inside a kindergarten classroom, the children and the big sandwich on the table (could that be the teacher?) get on with the school day. Meanwhile, out in the parking lot, a grown-up battles the elements to rescue his car. How these two plotlines connect is unexpected and hilarious.

### **MY BABA'S GARDEN**

Scott, Jordan  
Sydney Smith (illustrator)  
Holiday House  
9780823450831

A boy and his grandmother speak different languages but have a loving, close relationship, expressed through food, music, touch, and attentiveness.

### **NIGHT IN THE CITY**

Downing, Julie  
Holiday House  
9780823452064

Eight night workers (nurse, baker, taxi driver, firefighter, etc.) begin their day in a busy city while the rest of us sleep. Bold, colorful, detailed illustrations invite multiple readings and closer looks.

### **THE NIGHT TENT**

Blair, Landis  
Holiday House  
9780823450985

When he can't sleep, Watson discovers another world under the covers. Reminiscent of Maurice Sendak's work, the illustrations are fantastical, creepy, detailed, and a delight to pour over.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **SIMON AND THE BETTER BONE**

Tabor, Corey R.

Balzer + Bray

9780063275553

Lively colored pencil illustrations arranged in a clever, inventive format tell the story of a determined dog who fights with and ultimately befriends his own reflection.

### **SOME OF THESE ARE SNAILS**

Higgins, Carter

Chronicle Books

9781797220185

Beautiful, colorful graphic design, playful rhymes, and open-ended questions introduce young readers to early math concepts of sorting and classifying.

### **SOMETHING GREAT**

Bradley, Jeanette

Levine Querido

9781646141715

This diverse picture book, with its mixed media illustrations and depiction of enjoyment of the simple things in life, is all about finding that person who gets you.

### **SOMETIMES IT'S NICE TO BE ALONE**

Hest, Amy

Philip Stead (illustrator)

Holiday House

9780823449477

What might an elephant, horse, whale, bear, or dinosaur have in common? The joys of being alone, being with a friend, and being alone with a friend are celebrated in a thoughtfully crafted book about imaginative play and creativity.

### **WATCH OUT FOR THE LION**

Hartman, Brooke

Anna Süsbauer (illustrator)

Page Street Kids

9781645676287

Is there a lion in this book? This teaser of a story with big, bold, colorful illustrations is just rip-roaring fun. Perfect for reading aloud.

### **YOU GO FIRST**

Bernstein, Ariel

Marc Rosenthal (illustrator)

Simon & Schuster / Paula Wiseman Books

9781665911511

A common childhood fear—climbing up the playground slide's ladder—is examined with sensitivity and humor. Bright caricatures and clever dialog reveal Duck's excitement and Cat's anxiety, while the satisfying resolution speaks to the depth of their friendship.

EST. 1996

CAPITOL  
CHOICES

# 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

## AGES SIX TO NINE

### **THE APARTMENT HOUSE ON POPPY HILL**

LaCour, Nina  
Sònia Albert (illustrator)  
Chronicle Books  
9781797213736

Nine-year-old Ella's welcome to new neighbors sparks a chain of events that uncovers the mystery about the previously unseen occupants of the top floor. First in a series.

### **AWESOME ORANGE BIRTHDAY**

Ruths, Mitali Banerjee  
Aaliya Jaleel (illustrator)  
Scholastic  
9781338799613

Diary-like entries make for a breezy, colorfully illustrated page-turner as Priya's community comes together to help her concoct the perfect celebration for one of her aunts. Activities are included for budding party planners. First in a series.

### **BENEATH**

Doerrfeld, Cori  
Little, Brown and Company  
9780316312264

A grandfather encourages a heartbroken child to look beneath the surface to recognize hidden treasures in nature and in people in this gentle intergenerational story, rich in emotional intelligence.

### **BIG TREE**

Selznick, Brian  
Scholastic Press  
9781338180633

The story of Merwin and Louise, two sycamore seeds looking for a place to set down roots, is magnificently told and illustrated in Selznick's familiar pencil style. Intriguing and imaginative, with themes of mystery, danger, and hope.

### **BUTT OR FACE?: CAN YOU TELL WHICH END YOU'RE LOOKING AT?**

Lavelle, Kari  
Sourcebooks eXplore  
9781728271170

Zoomed-in photography puts readers up close and personal with the tops and bottoms of different animals in this oddball, highly engaging nonfiction title. Can they decipher which end they're looking at?

### **FRANK AND THE MASKED CAT**

Brockenbrough, Martha  
Jon Lau (illustrator)  
Levine Querido  
9781646142422

A cat, a dog, and a visiting parrot discuss love in a sweet and funny story about misunderstandings. The cat is smitten, the parrot is an "expert," and the dog is a bit confused.

EST. 1996

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### **HENRY, LIKE ALWAYS**

Bailey, Jenn  
Mika Song (illustrator)  
Chronicle Books  
9781797213897

Henry feels best when everything is always the same, and overwhelmed when they are not. He and his teacher work beautifully together to handle the changes that happen in Classroom Ten.

### **HIDDEN HOPE: HOW A TOY AND A HERO SAVED LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST**

Boxer, Elisa  
Amy June Bates (illustrator)  
Abrams Books for Young Readers  
9781419750007

Young social worker Jacqueline bicycled around 1940s Paris with a yellow toy duck containing forged documents and papers to help Jewish families escape the Nazis. A true story of resistance, perseverance, and heroism.

### **IS IT OKAY TO PEE IN THE OCEAN? THE FASCINATING SCIENCE OF OUR WASTE AND OUR WORLD**

Schwartz, Ella  
Lily Williams (illustrator)  
Bloomsbury Children's Books  
9781681195131

A humorous, scientific take on urination, sea pollution, and the magical worlds inside our bodies and seas, this non-fiction title also features science experiments, historical side bars, and the right level of illustration to bring the concepts to life.

### **THE LAST PLASTIC STRAW: A PLASTIC PROBLEM AND FINDING WAYS TO FIX IT**

Romito, Dee  
Ziyue Chen (illustrator)  
Holiday House  
9780823449491

From a history of the purpose and evolution of straws, to why they can cause issues in the ecosystem, this well-illustrated work allows readers to understand how making a simple change can have beneficial consequences.

### **LEEVA AT LAST**

Pennypacker, Sara  
Matthew Cordell (illustrator)  
Balzer + Bray  
9780063114425

Calling fans of Matilda! Leeva contends with crazy villains, dreadful parents, and delightful friends when she escapes the confines of home to find out, *What are people for?*

### **MY POWERFUL HAIR**

Lindstrom, Carole  
Steph Littlebird (illustrator)  
Abrams Books for Young Readers  
9781419759437

A young Indigenous girl celebrates her beautiful, long hair, evidence of triumph and empowerment after the decades of trauma, boarding schools, and colonization experienced by her family. Gorgeous, dynamic illustrations.

EST. 1996

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **OUR ROOF IS BLUE**

Echenique, Sara E.  
Ashley Vargas (illustrator)  
Charlesbridge  
9781623542337

Antonio loves to tell his older sister stories, but his voice goes silent after Hurricane Maria hits their Puerto Rico home. A blue tarp—and imagination—help them to survive and heal. Published in English and Spanish.

### **SCHNOZZER & TATERTOES: TAKE A HIKE!**

Stromoski, Rick  
Union Square Kids  
9781454948315

A pair of adventurous dogs on a quest to find one of their birth mothers encounter some familiar fairy tale characters. Fast-paced wordplay, appealing illustrations from a comics veteran, and a tight friendship make for a very funny, highly entertaining graphic novel. First in a series.

### **SEARCH FOR A GIANT SQUID: PICK YOUR PATH**

Forrester, Amy Seto  
Andy Chou Musser (illustrator)  
Chronicle Books  
9781797213934

Imagine yourself in a submersible in the depths of the ocean, searching for a giant squid. This fun, choose-your-own-path story is perfect for kids who love science and adventure.

### **SEE THE GHOST: THREE STORIES ABOUT THINGS YOU CANNOT SEE**

LaRochelle, David  
Mike Wohnoutka (illustrator)  
Candlewick Press  
9781536219821

A dog and a cat contend with the unseen in this laugh-out-loud book that invites in new readers with silly illustrations and situations, with plenty of white space and repetition.

### **SKELEANOR THE DECOMPOSER**

Ettliger, Emily  
Penguin Workshop  
9780593519448

In this sweet, lightly spooky graphic novel, music-loving Skeleanor wants nothing more than to perform in the annual festival, but she scares the townsfolk in her attempts to fit in. Fortunately, her friend Batima comes to the rescue.

### **THE SKULL: A TYROLEAN FOLKTALE**

Klassen, Jon  
Candlewick Press  
9781536223361

Otilla, a young girl, runs away from danger in the dark only to find a spooky house inhabited by a talking skull. Loosely adapted from a Tyrolean folktale, Klassen combines his unique humor and signature illustration style to paint a story that is eerie and unsettling but ultimately memorable and thoughtful.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **THE STORY OF GUMLUCK THE WIZARD**

Rex, Adam

Chronicle Books

9781797213231

Small, hapless wizard Gumluck and his exasperated sidekick, Helvetica the Raven, go on a quest that helps Gumluck realize his powers. Hilarious and heartfelt in equal measure.

### **STRANDED! A MOSTLY TRUE STORY FROM ICELAND**

Benediktsson, Ævar Þór

Anne Wilson (illustrator)

Barefoot Books

9781646869916

A pair of explorers—the author’s grandfather and a friend—are nearly barbecued by a volcano. Plenty of facts about volcanoes, some droll commentary, and one untrue thing for readers to find make for great fun.

### **THERE WAS A PARTY FOR LANGSTON**

Reynolds, Jason

Jerome Pumphrey & Jarrett Pumphrey (illustrators)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers

9781534439443

Here is a celebration of music, dance, books, life, and laughter, inspired by the 1991 opening of the Langston Hughes Auditorium at the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. Bold, joyful illustrations jam wonderfully with the the bebop text.

### **TOMFOOLERY!: RANDOLPH CALDECOTT AND THE RAMBUNCTIOUS COMING-OF-AGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS**

Markel, Michelle

Barbara McClintock (illustrator)

Chronicle Books

9780811879231

This picture book biography shows and tells how Randolph Caldecott was a trailblazer in children's book illustration, adding movement and humor to what was previously a staid artform. Every spread has motion, and the artist incorporates Caldecott's own illustrations.

### **WE ARE BRANCHES**

Sidman, Joyce

Beth Krommes (illustrator)

Clarion Books

9780358538189

Intricately detailed, carefully labeled illustrations of the natural world's many branches accompany a simple text. This basic shape in nature, from tiny to large, from the simple to more complex and unexpected, is gracefully, elegantly, and simply explained visually and in the thought-provoking, poetic narrative.

### **WOMBATS ARE PRETTY WEIRD: A [NOT SO] SERIOUS GUIDE**

Cushman, Abi

Greenwillow Books

9780063234437

Wombats are weird....it's true....and this book has a silly side. But it is loaded with facts and will entice young readers to learn more about this strange species.

EST. 1996



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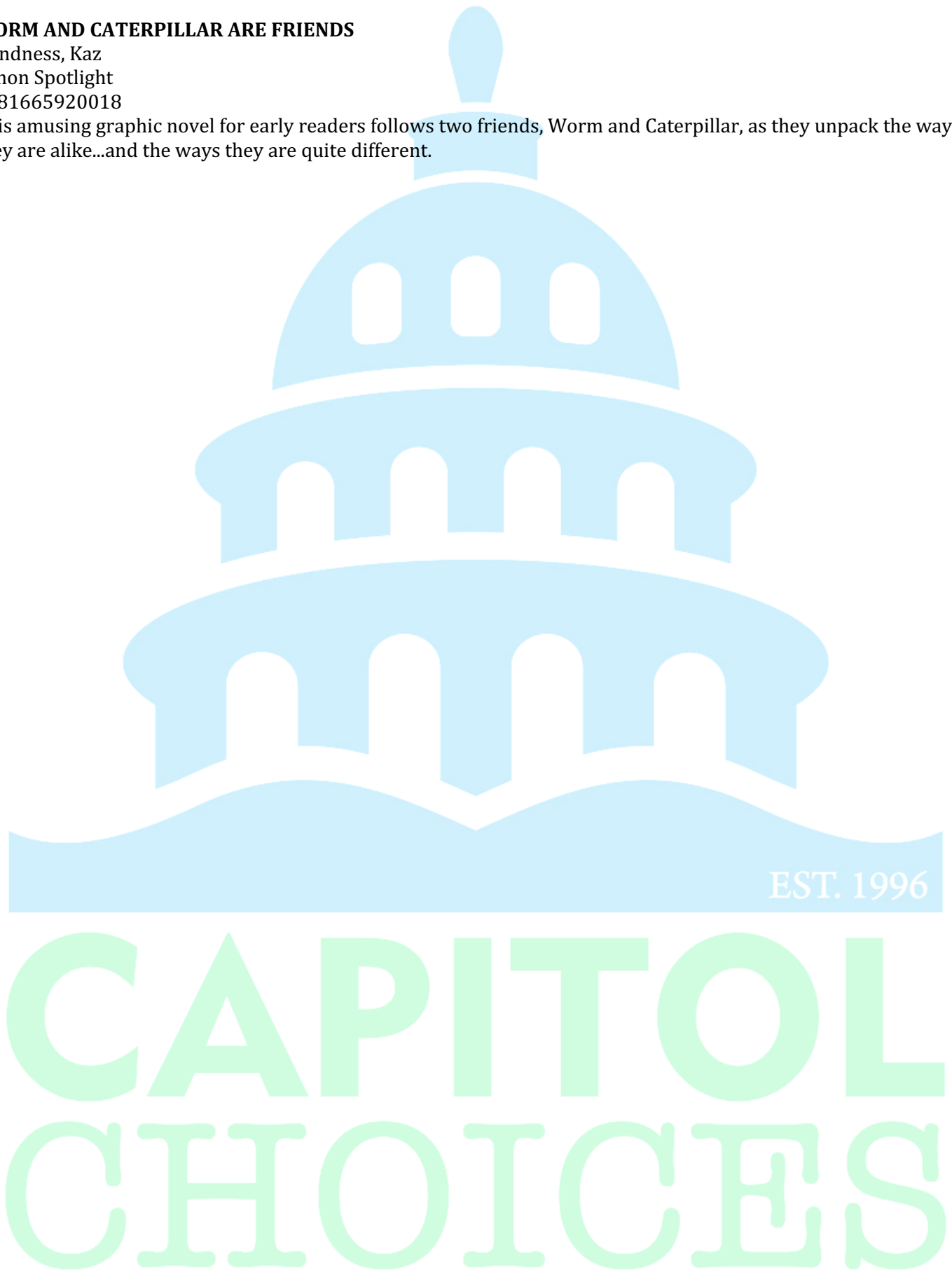
### **WORM AND CATERPILLAR ARE FRIENDS**

Windness, Kaz

Simon Spotlight

9781665920018

This amusing graphic novel for early readers follows two friends, Worm and Caterpillar, as they unpack the ways they are alike...and the ways they are quite different.



# 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

## AGES TEN TO FOURTEEN

### **ABENI'S SONG**

Clark, P. Djèlí

Starscape

9781250825827

Abeni's unexpected apprenticeship with a witch may be the only thing that can save her village from the ghost ships. The world in this West African fantasy is filled with adventure and a side of spookiness.

### **ANIANA DEL MAR JUMPS IN**

Méndez, Jasminne

Dial Books for Young Readers

9780593531815

Aniana's whole life revolves around swimming. When she is diagnosed with juvenile arthritis, she works to balance her chronic illness and her love of the water.

### **THE DEADLANDS: HUNTED**

Melki-Wegner, Skye

Henry Holt Books and Company

9781250827692

What would have happened if the asteroid didn't wipe out the dinosaurs but made them human-level smart? This thriller is full of action, adventure, and friendships to keep you on the edge of your seat.

### **DEAR MOTHMAN**

Gow, Robin

Rebecca Harry (illustrator)

Amulet Books

9781419764400

Autistic transgender sixth-grader Noah feels lost and alone after his best friend Lewis dies in a car accident. Noah fears he will never find another person he connects with in the same way, and he begins writing to Mothman, Lewis' cryptid obsession, in search of comfort and connection.

### **THE FIREFLY SUMMER**

Matson, Morgan

Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781534493353

When Ryanna receives an invitation to join her estranged maternal grandparents at their summer camp in the Poconos, she isn't sure what to expect. At camp, she embarks on a scavenger hunt to discover the mother she never knew and finds a connection with the family she didn't know she was missing.

### **A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING: A TRUE STORY**

Santat, Dan

First Second

9781626724150

First love, a first taste of Fanta, and getting lost while riding a bicycle in Germany are just some of Dan's adventures in his summer before high school. An extensive author's note, photographs, and drawings complete this memorable graphic novel memoir.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **HAZEL HILL IS GONNA WIN THIS ONE**

Horne, Maggie  
Clarion Books  
9780358664703

Ambitious loner Hazel finds unexpected connections and strength when she teams up with a former nemesis to stop a popular boy's online harassment. This exploration of gender, power, and social media in middle school is as observant and entertaining as its sharp protagonist.

### **THE JAKE SHOW**

Levy, Joshua S.  
Katherine Tegen Books  
9780063248199

Tired of pretending to be the son he isn't for his divorced and polarized parents, twelve-year-old Jake stages an elaborate bluff with friends to attend a Jewish summer camp where he finally can be himself.

### **THE LABORS OF HERCULES BEAL**

Schmidt, Gary D.  
Clarion Books  
9780358659631

Seventh-grader Hercules Beal, grieving for his dead parents, is tasked with performing modern versions of the twelve labors of Hercules. As he works through the assignment, he discovers new friends (human and animal) and finds he may not have to go it alone.

### **LASAGNA MEANS I LOVE YOU**

O'Shaughnessy, Kate  
Alfred A. Knopf  
9781984893871

After the death of her grandmother, Mo is cast into New York City's foster care system and begins to search intently for family through heirloom recipes and blog posts.

### **A LONG TIME COMING: A LYRICAL BIOGRAPHY OF RACE IN AMERICA FROM ONA JUDGE TO BARACK OBAMA**

Shepard, Ray Anthony  
R. Gregory Christie (illustrator)  
Calkins Creek  
9781662680663

Six notable freedom fighters - Ona Judge, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Barack Obama - are celebrated in verse in these caring and compelling portrayals.

EST. 1996

### **THE LOST YEAR**

Marsh, Katherine  
Roaring Brook Press  
9781250313607

Matthew, stuck at home and bored due to COVID lockdowns, discovers the family secrets his century-old great grandmother has been keeping about her childhood in 1930s Soviet Ukraine. This historical mystery, told through alternating timelines, examines the lines that divide, the ties that bind, and the struggle to survive.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **THE MANY ASSASSINATIONS OF SAMIR, THE SELLER OF DREAMS**

Nayeri, Daniel

Daniel Miyares (illustrator)

Levine Querido

9781646143030

A monk delivers a memorable account of the trials and tribulations of the would-be merchant and scallywag who rescued him while traveling on the Silk Road. Their banter is lively, their adventures livelier, and the life lessons memorable.

### **MEXIKID: A GRAPHIC MEMOIR**

Martin, Pedro

Dial Books for Young Readers

9780593462294

Pedro's parents decide to take the whole family (eleven altogether) to Mexico in a Winnebago to bring his legendary Abuelito back to live with them in California. A clever, hilarious, and heartwarming graphic memoir.

### **NELL OF GUMBLING: MY EXTREMELY NORMAL FAIRY-TALE LIFE**

Steinkellner, Emma

Labyrinth Road

9780593570692

Along with her two best friends—a fairy with too-small wings and a thumbkin named Gil—Nell navigates life's challenges and sets out to save their beloved home of Gumbling from being turned into a fancy resort. A perfect, cozy graphic novel adventure.

### **NIKHIL OUT LOUD**

Pancholy, Maulik

Balzer + Bray

9780063091924

Nikhil's life changes quickly when he goes from being a celebrity voice actor in California to just another middle schooler in Ohio. Friendships and self-expression help him navigate struggles with perfectionism, homophobia, and tensions in his Gujarati American family.

### **ONCE THERE WAS**

Monsef, Kiyash

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

9781665928502

Marjon learns that magical animals are real and that she has a special connection with them after her veterinarian father is murdered. Now she is expected to take his place, despite many dangers.

### **A ROVER'S STORY**

Warga, Jasmine

Balzer + Bray

9780063113923

Res, a Mars Rover, and Fly, his drone, prepare for their time on Mars. With letters from the lead engineer's daughter to Res sprinkled throughout, this story will capture the attention of fans of space, sci-fi stories, and real adventures.

## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **SIMON SORT OF SAYS**

Bow, Erin

Disney Hyperion

9781368082853

Simon and his unconventional parents move to a National Quiet Zone following a horrific incident at Simon's elementary school. A heartbreaking and simultaneously hilarious take on trauma, grief, new friendships, and how one family copes in the aftermath of unimaginable loss.

### **SPARKLE**

Wilson, Lakita

Viking

9780593465752

Sparkle wants to be a star just like her famous father. When she starts to lose her hair and is diagnosed with alopecia, Sparkle tries to figure out how to keep shining brightly.

### **THE SPIRIT GLASS**

Chokshi, Roshani

Disney Hyperion

9781368093392

This fantastic stand-alone adventure quest is based on Filipino mythology and includes a blood-thirsty gecko sidekick who steals the show.

### **THE SWIFTS: A DICTIONARY OF SCOUNDRELS**

Lincoln, Beth

Claire Powell (illustrator)

Dutton Children's Books

9780593533239

A killer, a long-lost treasure, and a family with names chosen from the dictionary all play a part in a mystery full of twists, turns, and a unique cast of characters.

### **WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT VAGINAS: AN IMPORTANT BOOK ABOUT VULVAS, PERIODS, PUBERTY AND SEX!**

Rodgers, Allison K.

Annika Le Large (illustrator)

Neon Squid

9781684492848

In straightforward text and illustrations, the authors present factual information that young women might be afraid to discuss openly, including vaginal care and healthy sexual activity.

EST. 1996

### **WHAT HAPPENED TO RACHEL RILEY?**

Swinarski, Claire

Quill Tree Books

9780063213098

A mix of texts, emails, podcast transcripts, passed notes, and traditional texts will have you on the edge of your seat as this mystery about the formerly most popular girl at middle school unfolds.

### **THE YEAR MY LIFE WENT DOWN THE TOILET**

Arlow, Jake Maia

Dial Books for Young Readers

9780593112960

Between her recent Crohn's diagnosis and her first big crush, middle school just keeps getting more mortifying for Al. Anyone who has been overwhelmed by the weird, messy reality of having a body will connect with this funny and poignant novel.

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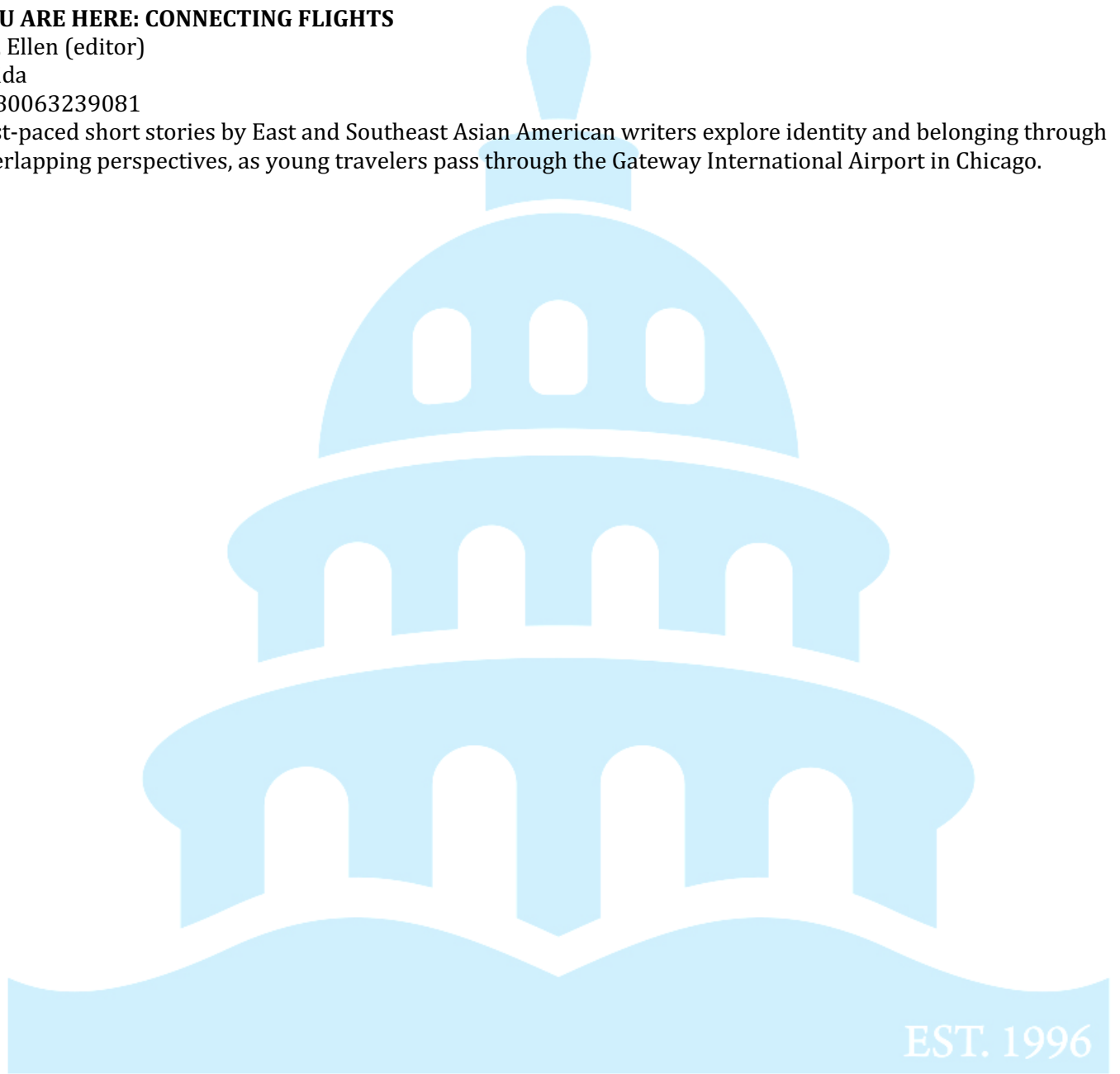
### **YOU ARE HERE: CONNECTING FLIGHTS**

Oh, Ellen (editor)

Allida

9780063239081

Fast-paced short stories by East and Southeast Asian American writers explore identity and belonging through overlapping perspectives, as young travelers pass through the Gateway International Airport in Chicago.



# CAPITOL CHOICES

# 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

## AGES FIFTEEN AND UP

### **ACCOUNTABLE: THE TRUE STORY OF A RACIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT AND THE TEENAGERS WHOSE LIVES IT CHANGED**

Slater, Dashka

Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers

9780374314347

Slater used three years of interviews with dozens of subjects as well as court records, social media, and a variety of other sources to craft this incredibly compelling and urgent story about the struggles of growing up in the age of social media.

### **ALL THE FIGHTING PARTS**

Sawyerr, Hannah V.

Amulet Books

9781419762611

Amina stands up for herself and for what she believes. When an unthinkable act of violence shatters her sense of self, Amina must rely on the people she loves to gain strength to share her truth.

### **THE BLACKWOODS**

Colbert, Brandy

Balzer + Bray

9780063091597

A multi-generational saga set between present day and early 1940s-1960s Black Hollywood. When Blossom Blackwood, star of the silver screen and matriarch of the Blackwood family, passes away, exposing painful family secrets, each family member struggles to cope with the pressures of fame in a different way.

### **BONESMITH**

Pau Preto, Nicki

Margaret K. McElderry

9781665910590

Three intriguing characters make their way, thwarted by the undead, in a world where adults think they are little more than pawns. A daring rescue, an incredibly cool magic system, and a touch of romance make this an outstanding fantasy.

### **CHASING PACQUIAO**

Pulido, Rod

Viking

9780593526736

Bobby, a gay Filipino teen, takes up boxing like his hero Manny Pacquiao, but what happens when your hero doesn't turn out to be that heroic?

### **DIFFERENT FOR BOYS**

Ness, Patrick

Tea Bendix (illustrator)

Walker Books

9781536228892

Four boys deal with sexuality, masculinity, and friendship, while asking a lot of questions and breaking the fourth wall along the way. A thought-provoking and poignant exploration of identity and acceptance, as well as the complexities of teenage relationships.

EST. 1996

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### **THE DO-OVER**

Painter, Lynn

Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers

9781534478862

After the perfectly planned Valentine's Day is a disaster, Emilie just wants to move on. But when she gets stuck in a time loop of that same day, does she have the chance to fix it? And what does the perfect day really mean?

### **ENTER THE BODY**

McCullough, Joy

Dutton Books

9780593406755

Shakespeare's female characters take back their stories from under the stage in this wonderfully written novel in verse, which reimagines some of the most famous tragic plays and how the characters themselves would have done things differently. Full cast audiobook.

### **THE FALL OF WHIT RIVERA**

Maldonado, Crystal

Holiday House

9780823452361

Whit is excited to chair her school's Homecoming Week festivities until her nemesis Zay is assigned to be her co-chair. This cozy romcom is a refreshing installment to the genre and features diverse and robust characters.

### **FOR LAMB**

Cline-Ransome, Lesa

Holiday House

9780823450152

In this powerful historical novel, an attempted interracial friendship between two teenaged girls sets off a tragic chain of events in the Jim Crow South.

### **FORGIVE ME NOT**

Baker, Jennifer

Nancy Paulsen Books

9780593406847

Violetta begins her freshman year of high school as the girl who killed her baby sister while drunk driving. Her older brother, Vince, is known as the perfect eldest son, but deals with his own secret: addiction. The siblings navigate the juvenile justice system and tackle the idea of forgiveness.

EST. 1996

### **GATHER**

Cadow, Kenneth M.

Candlewick Press

9781536231113

Ian has his hands full with a single mom with no job and an adopted pup at home. When tragic events send Ian and his dog on the run, all he can do is survive. This novel tells the beautiful tale of a teen's resilience when faced with hardships.

### **GIVE ME A SIGN**

Sortino, Anna

G.P. Putnam's Sons Books

9780593533796

Lilah, a teen with hearing loss, becomes a junior counselor at a camp for deaf and blind kids in this heartwarming story about fitting in, finding your community, falling in love, and what it means to find your voice in a society that doesn't want to listen.



## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **HIDDEN SYSTEMS: WATER, ELECTRICITY, THE INTERNET, AND THE SECRETS BEHIND THE SYSTEMS WE USE EVERY DAY**

Nott, Dan

Random House Graphic

9781984896049

We use the Internet, electricity, and water every day, but probably don't stop to consider how they work. Easy-to-follow panels and deceptively simple illustrations explore these complex systems and invite readers to re-imagine them in pursuit of a more equitable world.

### **I'LL TAKE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE**

Klise, James

Algonquin Young Readers

9781616208585

Joe, a naive farm boy, explores both the big city of Chicago and his queerness in 1934. The voices and vocabulary of the characters feel historically accurate in this refreshingly different teen book, featuring believable situations and characters wrestling with moral quandaries.

### **LION'S LEGACY**

Rosen, L.C.

Union Square & CO.

9781454948056

Seventeen-year-old Tennessee Russo isn't thrilled to be back with his dad, a famous archaeologist, but finding the Rings of the Sacred Band of Thebes is a queer adventure of a lifetime. This adventurous novel is filled with wit, charm, and queer joy.

### **THE MINUS ONE CLUB**

Magoon, Kekla

Henry Holt and Company

9781250806208

After losing his sister in a car accident, Kermit notices how everyone refuses to look at him in the hallways and doesn't know what to say at the lunch table. A mysterious note invites him after school to join the Minus One Club—a group of students who, on paper, would never hang out normally except that they've all experienced a significant loss.

### **THE OTHER PANDEMIC: AN AIDS MEMOIR**

Curlee, Lynn

Charlesbridge Teen

9781623543501

A raw and compelling account of the AIDS epidemic from the first illness to what is now managed care, written by someone who was there. Chronicles the deaths, uncertainties, ending of lives too soon, and lack of action by the government for its most vulnerable citizens.

### **THE PRINCESS AND THE GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH**

Muniz, Deya

Little, Brown and Company

9780316538725

This beautiful graphic novel uses a unique setting to explore issues we all face. Secret identities, romance, and grilled cheese sandwiches abound, along with a tasty helping of cheesy puns.

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## 2024 Capitol Choices Noteworthy Books for Children and Teens

### **PROMISE BOYS**

Brooks, Nick  
Henry Holt and Company  
9781250866974

When Principal Moore is murdered on the campus of Urban Promise Prep, everyone thinks J.B., Ramon, or Trey must have pulled the trigger. The boys' investigation into the truth will keep readers guessing until the very end. Full cast audiobook.

### **THE QUEENS OF NEW YORK**

Shen, E.L.  
Quill Tree Books  
9780063237957

Best friends Jia, Ariel, and Everett are separating from each other for the first time this summer, each on a different path, with adventure, uncertainty, dreams, and changes in plans. Full cast audiobook.

### **THE REUNION**

Frick, Kit  
Margaret K. McElderry Books  
9781665921466

Eleven members of the Mayweather clan gather together for a relaxing family vacation in Cancun, but only ten return home, in this fun, breezy, suspenseful, gripping thriller. Full cast audiobook.

### **ROYAL BLOOD**

Carter, Aimée  
Delacorte Press  
97800593485897

Evan finally gets to meet her father—the King of England. When she arrives at Windsor Castle, she finds herself in the middle of a murder investigation. A fast-paced first volume of a new series about secret royals.

### **STAR SPLITTER**

Kirby, Matthew J.  
Dutton Children's Books  
9780735231665

In this fast-paced sci-fi thriller, seventeen-year old Jessica Mathers awakes on a starship that was supposed to find her reunited with her parents who have been on an exploratory mission for the past six years, but something on the ship is very, very wrong.

### **THOSE PINK MOUNTAIN NIGHTS**

Ferguson, Jen  
Heartdrum  
9780063086210

A group of First Nations teens find comfort and community while working at their local pizza parlor. While navigating new friendships, they work together to solve the mystery of a missing girl, a cousin to one of the main characters, and stop the looming closure of their beloved restaurant. Full cast audiobook.

### **WARRIOR GIRL UNEARTHED**

Boulley, Angeline  
Henry Holt and Company  
9781250766588

Perry Firekeeper-Birch is ready for a summer of doing nothing, but a fender bender forces her to work in her tribe's museum cataloging artifacts. This thriller expertly combines adventure, mystery, and the power of reclaiming your stolen history.

EST. 1996