POETRY


George, Kristine O'Connell. *Toasting marshmallows: camping poems*, New York: Clarion Books, c2001. Reading these poems, you will feel the heat of the campfire, walk through whispering grass, sleep under the starry sky, and get a glimpse of deer disappearing into the woods: “A silent shiver/fading into dusk.”

Engle, Margarita. *Bravo! Poems about amazing Hispanics*, New York: Godwin Books/Henry Holt and Co., 2017. *Bravo!* provides a poetic introduction to 18 Latinos from various backgrounds and origins who lived in the U.S. or its territories—an intriguing jumping off point for further investigation into these interesting lives. Brief biographical notes are included.


Singer, Marilyn. *Echo echo: reverso poems about Greek myths*, New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015. One of several collections of “reverso” poems by this talented poet which, read forward and then backward, provide witty and surprisingly different viewpoints. See also her other collections of reverso poems: *Follow Follow* and *Mirror Mirror* as well as additional collections of poetry by this author.

FOLKLORE/MYTHS

Osborne, Mary Pope. *The one-eyed giant*, New York: Hyperion Books for Children, c2002. This is the first in a series of slender, action-packed volumes, each of which tells one of the adventures of the legendary Odysseus as he fights monsters and defies the gods on his way home from the Trojan War.


Sierra, Judy. *Silly and sillier: read-loud tales from around the world*, New York: Knopf, 2002. A wonderful collection of 20 funny stories from all over the world. Meet the Toontoony bird from Bangladesh, Clever Mandy from the Bahamas, the Mighty Caterpillar from South Africa, and Bear Squash-You-All-Flat from Russia.
This lovely book chronicles three separate visits by Becca to her Gran's house on a remote Canadian island. Becca fears being lonely with no one her age on the island, but various adventures and a multitude of quirky relatives and neighbors keep life interesting.

"An epic fantasy about a young girl raised by a witch, a swamp monster, and a Perfectly Tiny Dragon, who must unlock the powerful magic buried deep inside her." (Provided by publisher.) There is also an ancient and tragic mystery to solve and a powerful hidden evil to defeat.

Brockington, Drew. *CatStronauts: mission moon*. April 2017. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 2017. (Graphic Novel) At a time when the world is rapidly running out of power, the Catstronauts are called on a crucial mission to the moon to solve the crisis.

Gregor and his baby sister, Boots, fall through an open grate and into a strange underground world where giant rats are at war with the humans. Some of the humans' allies—huge bats, spiders and cockroaches—prove more reliable than others. This book, first of a series, features great action and adventure.

Radish isn't the easiest pony to ride, but he is a very good teacher. Unfortunately, his owners keep getting bigger while he stays the same size. This book is one of many lovely titles about horses by this author.

Obe Devlin spends a lot of his time cleaning up the creek that runs through what little is left of his family's once extensive farmland, and worrying about what the developers are doing nearby and the pollution it is causing—but one day he finds a strange creature by his creek that eats plastic, and soon the animal he calls Marvin Gardens becomes his personal secret... (LC)

Things to know about Alvin: he's afraid of many things, including elevators, airplanes, kimchi, and school; he loves explosions and superheroes, and he has never spoken a word in school. Second grade is beginning, and some of those things are about to change. Try the rest of the series and Look's Ruby Lu series, too.

The Webster children love to explore their grandmother's attic and listen to her stories about the things they find. This time, a baseball signed by Josh Gibson and Satchel Paige brings back the glory days of the Negro Leagues.

Milo is just finishing his homework and getting ready to enjoy a relaxing winter vacation from school when a bell rings, signaling that a guest has come to Greenglass House, the smuggler's inn owned by his adoptive parents. There are usually no guests at this time of year; Milo, who likes routine, is not happy about this unexpected event. Astonishingly, the bell rings again and again as a series of mysterious and odd guests with ulterior motives all arrive and a blizzard settles in. Mysteries old and new swirl around Milo and a new friend as they attempt to piece together the many clues and motives into a coherent picture—like the magnificent stained glass windows of the inn itself. This would be an excellent read-aloud or read-together.

Third grader Wilson is having a hard time learning the times tables, and it definitely doesn't help when his 5-year-old brother learns them without even trying. This author has written numerous other good books. Try also: *Mason Dixon Pet Disasters*. 
Robertson, Keith. *Henry Reed, Inc.*
Henry Reed keeps a journal of his small town (Princeton New Jersey) summer adventures in which he describes establishing "Henry Reed Inc., Research" and carrying out a series of humorously unpredictable business ventures involving turtles, pigeons, earthworms and other animals.

School has started, and that means the six Herdman kids are back and creating their inimitable brand of destruction and mayhem. This classic series begins with *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and continues with *The Best Halloween Ever.* In this instance, it is fine to start out of order.

Six of the king’s seven sons go out to seek their fortune and do not return. The seventh son, Prince Fred, goes out to rescue them, encountering a bold princess and a troll with no heart in his body. See also the folk tale collection featuring a traditional version of this story, listed above.

11-year-old Tom, floating sleepily downriver on a makeshift raft, finds himself trapped in a series of underground caves and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters. Resolute in his determination to survive, Tom fights total darkness, tight quarters, and rising waters. High adventure beneath the earth.

NON-FICTION

It was becoming dangerous to ride bicycles on the increasingly car-filled streets of Amsterdam until a coalition of adults and children came together with demonstrations and “good ideas to allow bikes, people and cars to all share the streets peacefully.” A moving example of dedicated and successful “people power.”

Survival rope, crushable cup, wearable water bottle holder, instant ice pack—it’s all here, ready to help you survive. Don’t miss the other entries in this series: *Duct Tape Fashion, Duct Tape Costumes,* and *Duct Tape Animals.*

Challenged by autism and food aversions, Chase developed his process “Check It Out, Get Up and Go, Make It Happen,” to study cooking by watching cooking shows, traveling, and developing his own versions of recipes. His recipes feature straightforward ingredients and instructions. Take his advice, follow his process, and enjoy the delicious results!

Mix together one part cultural influence, one part literary and other artistic fantasy, and one heaping portion of science to discover the origins and real world potential of some of our most iconic monsters: Frankenstein, Vampires, Bigfoot, Zombies, Werewolves, and Sea Monsters.

A biography of American labor activist Fannie Sellins. “Fannie dreamed that America could achieve its ideals of equality and justice for all, and she sacrificed her life to help that dream come true.” (Dust jacket copy.) Includes fascinating period photos, primary documents, and a timeline.

Finger, Brad. *13 skyscrapers children should know.* Munich : Prestel, [2016].
Profiles thirteen famous skyscrapers around the world, from the Woolworth Building to the Burj Khalifa (and Willis Tower). Includes important information like height, architectural style, number of floors and the name of
the designer/architect as well as historical timelines to give context to the date the buildings’ construction.
Features color photographs, and an attractive graphic layout.

Beautifully designed and delightful to explore, “This large-format book examines the history of the world, starting with the big bang and continuing to the 2010s. Each spread covers a different time period, with renderings of the culturally or geologically significant aspects and a short paragraph of text. Exploration, including space, is also covered. Notes abound throughout the illustrations, explaining different facets and interjecting interesting facts. There is a Eurocentric focus, especially once more modern history is reviewed.”
(School Library Journal)

Vivien Thomas, was a brilliant African-American surgical technician and researcher who pioneered the procedure used to treat babies with a heart defect known as ‘blue baby syndrome.’ His groundbreaking contributions were often downplayed in his lifetime, but are deservedly celebrated here.

Ives, Rob. *Break the siege: make your own catapults*. Minneapolis: Hungry Tomato, [2017].
Who knew it was possible to make such cool launchers out of insignificant items you are likely to have around your house or can easily and inexpensively acquire? Rob Ives kindly fills us in. See other entries in the series: *Break the Siege: Make Your Own Catapults* and *Castle Attack: Make Your Own Medieval Battlefield*.

Jenkins, Steve, 1952-. *Flying frogs and walking fish: leaping lemurs, tumbling toads, jet-propelled jellyfish, and more surprising ways that animals move*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, [2016].
Fascinating and sometimes peculiar methods of animal locomotion are illustrated with Jenkins’ unique collage and arresting graphic design. “The vampire bat folds its wings and tiptoes up to a cow or other large mammal for a drink of blood.” “A red-lipped batfish waddles across the sea floor on its fins, searching for small sea creatures...” Simple facts, beautifully presented.

Growing up in a time when women were discouraged from becoming professionals, Ruth Bader Ginsburg defied expectations to become a lawyer, legal professor and judge defending equality. This sophisticated picture book biography paints a compelling picture of the spirit and determination of the supreme court judge. Creative use of display fonts, occasional caricature-like portraits and retro design elements enliven the illustrations.

It’s wild. It’s wacky. It’s full of incredible characters. It’s the true story of the 1904 Olympic marathon at the St. Louis World’s Fair.

Root, Phyllis. *Plant a pocket of prairie*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, [2014]. Author Phyllis Root describes how “Once prairie stretched for thousands of miles, an ocean of flowers and grasses, a sea of sky, a home for bison and...butterflies.” She suggests that those who wish “to see what a prairie might be” can begin by planting in containers on a balcony or in a piece of boulevard or backyard. Expanding the scope and conjuring visions of native plants, she details the myriad of animals that they attract and offers a portrait of “the prairie coming home.” Not a gardening book per se, but certainly inspirational.

Turner, Pamela S. *Crow smarts: inside the brain of the world’s brightest bird*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, [2016].
The crows in New Caledonia not only use tools, they make them! See how researchers set brain puzzles for the crows to solve. Find out how crow intelligence compares to a human child’s!

---submitted by Irene Fahrenwald, Lower School Librarian
NON-FICTION

125 Wacky Roadside Attractions: See All the Weird, Wonderful and Downright Bizarre Landmarks from Around the World!. 2016.

Would you like to go on a road trip and visit some of the wackiest landmarks in the U.S.? Then you should definitely read this book. It features 125 of the wackiest roadside attractions not only in the U.S. but from around the world.


African Americans have a long history of struggle. This is a story that isn’t often written about. African Americans both free and enslaved fought with America and Great Britain during the Revolutionary War. The thirteen stories in this book give you a glance into their world. Why did they make the choice to fight, did it help them and how did their efforts change the world? These are the stories of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.


Are you into social justice and social change? Well this is the book for you. The author gives ideas, examples and tips on how to create groups and small companies that promote change and support different causes.


Have you ever heard the term “human computers”? Well, from the 1940s through the 1970s, hundreds of women, many of whom were African American, worked as mathematicians for NASA. This is the story of how five African-American women who were considered “human computers” helped to get John Glenn and Neil Armstrong in space. Without their dedication, commitment and brains, this couldn’t have happened. This is a story that needed to be told!
This Land is Our Land: A History of American Immigration by Linda Barrett Osborne. 2016.

This Land is Our Land explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups have evolved throughout United States history and the fundamental ways in which immigration forms an essential part of the American identity. The book also recounts the experiences of three centuries of immigrants in their own words.

(Annotation from the book’s flap)


This a unique book with animals and poetry. The illustrations are vibrant and alive. Each poem is uniquely matched with a photograph of nature. The table of content lets you explore different parts of nature that might pique your interest. The book features poets like Emily Dickinson, Langston Hughes and Williams Butler Yeats. It also features contemporary poets and never-before-published poets. The book is curated by former U.S. Poet Laureate J. Patrick Lewis.


This book provides step-by-step instructions for recycling cardboard by making creative projects. The instructions are simple and easy to follow. Each finished project is reflected with a picture. This is a great way to help the environment and to have some fun!

Splat!: The Most Exciting Artists of All Time by Mary Agnes Richards. 2016.

From Van Gogh to Warhol, Splat gives you the biographical background for over 20 of the most famous artists. Additionally, it delves into the historical background of the art styles that each artist used.

What was the March on Washington? by Kathleen Krull. 2013.

This is a look at the famous 1963 March on Washington. Why did people march? Who joined in the marches? How does it feel to be separate and not equal? The book conveys that there is power in marching. There are exceptional primary source photographs!

Ruthie is new to America but has mastered the language and has been able to settle in to this new life. Unfortunately, she is involved in an accident and she has to be in the hospital for months. Not only does she have to be in the hospital, she has to lie in bed in a full body cast. She thinks she has the worst luck. Things slowly change by visits from different people who bring stories and gifts that give her hope.


This is a very heartfelt and emotional book. It deals with grief, hope, love and lots of baseball. Baseball player, Quinnen, is trying to cope with the loss of her sister who was her biggest fan. She feels lots of anger and guilt. Each chapter is told by alternating summers: last summer.. how it used to be and this summer.. how it is NOW! If you like books that are happy, sad and funny, give this one a try.


Siblings Flora and Julian have been in so many foster homes and don't believe they were born. Even now that they've been adopted Person, they are struggling with the fear of being left alone. Their new adoptive mom tries to find the answers that the two are looking for. Discover the meaning of having a true family.


"Eleven-year-old Alex Petroski, along with his dog, Carl Sagan, makes big discoveries about his family on a road trip and he records it all on a golden iPod he intends to launch into space"—Provided by publisher.


Long ago the dam formed, the lively river turned into a swamp, and the wasting illness came to Luna's village, and now that her little sister is sick Luna will do anything to save her. She will even offer herself to the creature that lives in the swamp on the day of the nearer moon.

Everything is going great for a couple who has won the lottery and has seven adopted and biological children. They have a big house that was purchased from lottery proceeds that is called Camelottery. It was supposed to let the family live in harmony, and it has until the grumpy grandfather comes to live with them and disrupts their lives. He doesn’t approve of the family’s lifestyle. The grandfather brings up issues from the past. How do these issues get resolved? Did I mention that the couple is of Jamaican, Mohawk, Indian, and Scottish decent?


In late 1800s Minnesota, 13-year-old Ben Ward goes to work with his father in a lumber camp and signs up for a log drive with his friend Nevers, where together they endure freezing weather, dangerous rapids, logjams, storms, floods, and pioneer life in general.


Filled with action, adventure, and humor, Fajardo’s brightly colored graphics brings new life to the classic, epic poem. A prologue, Beowulf’s family tree, and additional backmatter helps put the story and characters into context. Recommended for fans of mythology.

Foster, Stewart. *Bubble*. 2017. Joe has an autoimmune disease and he has to live in the hospital. His sister, the medical staff and a friend who lives in the hospital with him (he happens to have the same disease) are the only people he communicates with. Did I mention he was orphaned or that he wants to be a superhero?


Julia is short! She secretly listens from the stairs as her parents discuss her “shortness” and blames it on her grandma “Mittens” as if it were a crime. That was the moment she realized that her size was a problem for them. Julia’s mom insists that she audition for part a in the local theater company’s play. She gets in. Her part? She has to play the part of a munchkin in the Wizard of Oz. Taking this part opens up a different world for Julia. She meets a great cast of characters who help her discover her true self.
Preferring science and reading to the sports his father wants him to play, Garvey comforts himself with food and endures bullying before joining the school chorus, where he learns how to accept himself and bond with his father.

"A group of kids discovers they were cloned from the DNA of some of the greatest criminal masterminds in history for a sociological experiment"—Provided by publisher.

Geniuses and orphans Jack, Ava and Matt travel to Antarctica for a prestigious science competition when thing go awry. The trio try to solve the mystery of the missing scientist. If you like a good mystery, read this book! Lots of scientific jargon fit for kids. It's written by none other than Bill Bye the Science Guy.

Rorby, Ginny. How to Speak Dolphin. 2015.
Following her mother's death, twelve-year-old Lily is forced into caring for her severely autistic half-brother, Adam, because her stepfather, Don, refuses to acknowledge that Adam needs professional help. Adam has always been fascinated with dolphins and echolocation, so when Don, an oncologist, hears about a dolphin in captivity seeking treatment for cancer, he offers to help and brings Adam and Lily along. Though Adam develops an instant bond with Nori the dolphin, Lily is confronted with another dilemma; supporting her family or getting Nori to freedom.

Chronicles the life and career of samurai Minamoto Yoshitsune, discussing his exile as a child, running away as a teenager, becoming a military genius and more.

Farah and her best friends are sucked into the Gauntlet of Blood and Sand game. They must unravel the mystery of her brother's disappearance, figure out the Rubik's Cube like game and defeat its creator. But how do they do that while battling the likes of camel spiders, red scorpions, grease monkeys and sand cats? With help from two unlikely allies, they may be able to come out on top.
Cammie, aka Cannonball, just wants a mother. Her father is the warden of the Hancock County Prison and they live in an apartment above the prison. She’s been taken care of by inmates all of her life. Her mother died when she was a baby. She was killed by a milk truck trying to save Cammie’s life. Cammie has decided that a mother is what she wants and she wants it now. This summer Cammie will learn that you don’t always get what you want when you want it.

These are books that should be visited and revisited again and again...