PICTURE BOOKS

Cherry, Matthew. *Hair Love*
Zuri needs a special hairstyle for a special day, so it’s Dad to the rescue! Matthew Cherry, a Chicago native and former NFL wide receiver, created this warm family story.

Eland, Eva. *When Sadness Is at Your Door*
It’s hard to know what to do when sadness arrives. Should you ignore it? Hide from it? This gentle book suggests that sometimes it might help to sit and listen to it instead.

Fan, Terry. *Ocean Meets Sky*
Winner in both the Best Illustrations and Best Overall categories of the Zena Sutherland Awards (Lab’s own picture book award program), this story, about a boy’s magical journey in honor of his late grandfather, is a visual feast.

Khan, Hena. *Under My Hijab*
A young Muslim girl notices that there are many ways the women in her life wear their hijabs, or head coverings. How might she wear hers one day?

Lam, Thao. *Wallpaper*
A gorgeous wordless story about a child who has left everything familiar and is struggling to adjust. Peeling at a loose bit of wallpaper in her room reveals a fantastical new world, which just might help her in the real one.

McAnulty, Stacy. *Max Explains Everything: Soccer Expert*
Max hasn’t been playing soccer very long but he is already an expert on many aspects of the game, like warming up and cheering on his teammates. He may need a little more practice, however, on remembering to kick the ball!

Mora, Oge. *Thank You, Omu!*
Omu’s stew smells so delicious, it brings all of her neighbors to her door in hopes of a taste. Beautiful collage illustrations bring to life this story of generosity and good cooking.

Willems, Mo. *Because*
Because of a chain of events ranging from the momentous (“because a man named Ludwig wrote beautiful music”), to the serendipitous (“because someone’s uncle had a cold, someone’s aunt had an extra ticket”), to the easily-overlooked (“because workers checked the lights and the seats and swept the floors”), a young girl attends her first symphony, a life-changing experience.

Some favorite picture book authors to try: Anthony Browne; Andrea Beaty; John Burningham; Bryan Collier; Diane and Leo Dillon; Mem Fox; Deborah Hopkinson; Bell Hooks; Patricia McKissack; Faith Ringgold.
COMICS/GRAPHIC NOVELS

Something for everyone! Kids will find ideas and tips for everything from drawing faces, to showing emotion and personality, to using panels and borders, to experimenting with perspective and point of view. Adults will find information about how to share comics with kids to nourish a love for reading.

Cathon. *Poppy & Sam and the Leaf Thief*
Someone in this cozy garden community is stealing bits of Basil’s leaves while she sleeps! Poppy, a small child who lives in a pumpkin house, and her friend Sam, a young panda, are on the case in this easy-to-read graphic mystery.

The little monsters in Dr. Cosmic’s class learn a lot from their highly eccentric, orange-haired teacher (perhaps a cousin of Ms. Frizzle?) and his very hands-on science lessons.

O'Neill, Katie. *Aquicorn Cove*
While on a visit to a storm-ravaged seaside town, Lana discovers a colony of tiny seahorse-like creatures with magical powers whose home, the coral reef, is being threatened. An unusual story, blending fantasy, family drama, and environmental fable.

Spires, Ashley. *Gordon: Bark to the Future*
Gordon is the only able-bodied space pet left in the midst of an alien invasion! Surely nothing can go wrong if he just uses the time machine to go back 5 years… A spinoff from the hilarious *Binky the Space Cat* series.

Tetri, Emily. *Tiger vs. Nightmare*
Tiger has a monster living under her bed, but she’s not afraid of it--this monster protects her from nightmares! That is, until one night when a nightmare comes along that’s so scary Tiger realizes Monster can’t do the job alone.

BEGINNING READERS

Adler, David. *Get a Hit, Mo!*
Mo is younger and smaller than the other players on his team, but he’s got heart! You can cheer him on in this book, as well as in *Don’t Throw It to Mo!, Pass The Ball, Mo! and Kick It, Mo!*

Butler, Dori Hillestad. *King & Kayla and the Case of Found Fred*
The latest in a delightful series about a girl detective, Kayla, narrated by her dog, King. King is just as good a detective as Kayla… if only she could understand what he’s trying to tell her.

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Cover and inside illustrations are from: *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk, illus. by Sara Palacious
Daywalt, Drew. *Monkey & Cake: What Is Inside this Box?*
Just because you can’t see something doesn’t mean it isn’t there. Just ask best friends Monkey and Cake what is inside the big box and you might be surprised by the answers.

Pham, LeUyen. *The Itchy Book*
Just try reading this book without scratching—we dare you! This is one of Elephant and Piggie’s favorite stories, so you know it will be funny. Check out the others in this growing spin-off series, *Elephant and Piggie Like Reading*.

Ruzzier, Sergio. *Fox + Chick: The Quiet Boat Ride and Other Stories*
Noisy, impulsive, full-of-ideas Chick sometimes disrupts the plans of his quieter friend Fox, but that doesn’t stop them from having a good time together.

Tabor, Corey R. *Fox the Tiger*
Fox thinks Tigers are much cooler than foxes, and then he figures out a way to become one!

**Look for these beginning reader series, old and new:** *Urgency Emergency* (Archer), *Fly Guy* (Arnold), *Minnie and Moo* (Cazet), *Dodsworth* (Egan), *Ling and Ting* (Lin), *Fox* (Marshall), *Nate the Great* (Sharmat), *Ballet Cat* (Shea)

**CHAPTER BOOK FICTION**

§ Easier reading ★ More difficult reading

Beaty, Andrea. *Ada Twist and the Perilous Pants*
Will Ada and her friends be able to save Uncle Ned from his own invention, helium pants? The second in a new chapter book series by Lab’s recent guest author, Andrea Beaty, starring the same inventive, mechanically-minded kids from her popular picture books.

★ Greenfield, Amy. *Ra the Mighty: Cat Detective*
Ra, the pampered, lazy pet cat of the pharaoh, is really not interested in much besides snacks and naps, but when a servant girl is falsely accused of stealing an amulet, his scarab beetle sidekick shames him into using his knowledge of the royal palace to help find the real thief.

§ Kline, Suzy. *Horrible Harry Says Goodbye.*
It’s the end of an era! Third grade is coming to a close, but Harry, Doug and the rest of the kids must say goodbye for more than just the summer because Harry’s family is moving away. The finale (#37!) to a beloved, long-running series.

Medina, Juana. *Juana & Lucas: Big Problemas*
Usually, Juana loves her life in Bogotá, Colombia, with her *mami* and her *perro*, Lucas. Lately, though, Mami has been doing her hair differently, singing all the time, and spending A LOT of time with her friend Luis, and Juana is not happy. A sequel to *Juana & Lucas*. 

Cover and inside illustrations are from: *How to Code a Sandcastle* by Josh Funk, illus. by Sara Palacios
Shurtliff, Liesl. *Grump: The (Fairly) True Tale of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*
Unlike other dwarves, Borlen has always hated being underground, so at first, the prospect of living up on the Surface working for Queen Elfrieda Veronika Ingrid Lenore (E.V.I.L.) seems like a dream come true… Try Shurtliff's other fractured fairy tales, *Jack, Red, and Rump*.

Snyder, Laurel. *Charlie and Mouse: Even Better*
Number three in a delightful easy-to-read series about the funny, everyday adventures of two brothers.

Stauffacher, Sue. *Animal Rescue Team* series
If you like animals, you might think Keisha and her family have the perfect job--running an urban animal rescue organization. Whether there’s an alligator in the community pool or a crow dive-bombing the mail carrier, there are always interesting problems to solve.

**Fun chapter book series to try:** *Lola Levine* (Brown), *Chicken Squad* (Cronin), *Carver Chronicles* (English), *Treehouse Books* (Griffiths), *Dory Fantasmagory* (Hanlon), *Frank Einstein* (Scieszka), *Justin Case* (Vail), *Dragonbreath and Hamster Princess* (Vernon), *Stick Dog and Stick Cat* (Watson), *Dragon Masters* (West), *Bea Garcia* (Zemke)

**NONFICTION**

Brown, Don. *Up and Down: The Adventures of John Jeffries, First American to Fly*
The very funny true story of the unlikely adventures of the first balloonists to try to cross the English Channel.

Funk, Josh. *How to Code a Sandcastle*
Summer heat making you too lazy to build a sandcastle? Just learn to code and program your trusty robot to do it for you!

Gerstein, Mordicai. *I Am Hermes!*
As he did in his previous *I Am Pan!* Gerstein uses a comic book format to tell a rollicking version of the story of this Greek god.

Manley, Curtis. *Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet*
Conditions are just right on Earth for human life--not too hot, not too cold, enough water, enough oxygen, etc., so is it possible that by looking for an exoplanet (one orbiting a different star than our sun) with those just-right conditions we might discover another planet with life on it?

Mercer, Bobby. *The Racecar Book*
Do you want to build a model car that goes fast using inexpensive materials? These 25 easy-to-build racecars are built with recycled/repurposed materials and powered by mousetraps, rubber bands and science.
Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. *Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-Ins*
Clara Luper may not be as famous as some other civil rights activists, but her story is a fascinating one. In 1958, she led a dozen Black children, aged 6 to 17, in a series of sit-ins at a segregated lunch counter. In the face of great hostility, they persisted until they won.

Stewart, Melissa. *Seashells: More Than a Home*
Did you know that some seashells can rise and sink like a submarine, or pry like a crowbar, or wear disguises like a spy, or send out a warning like the signal from a lighthouse? If you visit a beach this summer, this book will give you a whole new perspective on the shells you find.

**POETRY AND STORY COLLECTIONS**

Fleischman, Paul. *Fearsome Giant, Fearless Child: A Worldwide Jack and the Beanstalk Story*
Stories can travel just like people do! The author found stories from countries all around the world that are like Jack and the Beanstalk and combined them into a rich tapestry of a tale about a small, brave child’s triumph over evil. Check out this book’s companion—*Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal: A Worldwide Cinderella Story.*

Greenfield, Eloise. *Thinker: My Puppy Poet and Me*
A boy named Jace and his puppy, Thinker, are both poets! Together they try out different forms of poetry, telling us about their world in verse. By the author of the classic poetry collections *Honey, I Love* and *Night on Neighborhood Street.*

Mayo, Margaret. *Magical Tales from Many Lands*
A wonderful collection of stories from around the world, including several that are told in the library. It’s out of print now, but look for it in your public library or find a used copy.

Rosetti, Christina. *Blooming Beneath the Sun* (illustrations by Ashley Bryan)
Ashley Bryan chose his favorite poems by 19th century poet Christina Rosetti and illustrated them with his playful cut paper creations. Check out Bryan’s other wonderfully illustrated collections of poems by Nikki Giovanni and Langston Hughes.