NON-FICTION
(see also “Memoir/Biography” later in the list)

*Backyard Science*, by Shar Levine and Leslie Johnstone (2005). Find out what happens in your yard when you are asleep, experiment with seedlings, make your own sundial--this book is filled with fun projects to do outside. Many activities can be done even if you don’t have a yard of your own! (80 pages.)

*Calling All Minds: How to Think and Create Like an Inventor*, by Temple Grandin; with Betsy Lerner (2018). Have you ever wondered what makes a kite fly or a boat float? Have you ever thought about why snowflakes are symmetrical, or why golf balls have dimples? Have you ever tried to make a kaleidoscope or build a pair of stilts? In *Calling All Minds*, world-renowned autism spokesperson, scientist, and inventor Temple Grandin explores the ideas behind all of those questions and more. (288 pages.)

*Campfire Chef: Mouthwatering Campfire Recipes*, by Tyler Omoth (2017). Make them at your campsite--or at home--these recipes are delicious! From the Kids Can Cook! Series. (32 pages.)


*City Atlas: Travel the World with 30 City Maps*, by Georgia Cherry, illustrated by Martin Haake (2015). Whether you are an “armchair traveler,” or out exploring the world, you’ll enjoy these illustrated maps introducing you to fascinating cities, including Lisbon, Portugal; Sydney, Australia; Montréal, Quebec; Mumbai, India; and Istanbul, Turkey. The playful illustrations bring the character of the cities to life. (64 pages.)

*Guide to Genealogy*, by Tamara J. Resler (2018). Interested in your family’s history? This book presents tips and techniques for doing genealogical research, offering insight into immigration and major internal migrations throughout U.S. history, providing hands-on activities, and sharing advice on avoiding the problems that stump genealogists. (National Geographic Kids series) (160 pages.)
A History of Pictures for Children: From Cave Paintings to Computer Drawings, by David Hockney and Martin Gayford, illustrated by Rose Blake (2018). A fascinating printed conversation between artist David Hockney and art critic Martin Gayford explores the history of pictures and how they have been made, revealing fascinating and unexpected insights. Journey with them from cave paintings through painting and photography, moving pictures, and video games. Gorgeous reproductions and illustrations. (128 pages)

How We Got to Now: Six Innovations That Made the Modern World, by Steven Johnson; adapted by Sheila Keenan (2018). Did you drink a glass of water today? Did you turn on a light? Did you think about how miraculous either one of those things is when you did it? This adaptation of New York Times bestselling author Steven Johnson’s adult book and popular PBS series explores the fascinating and interconnected stories of innovations--like clean drinking water and electricity--that changed the way people live. (152 pages.)

Itch!: Everything You Didn’t Want to Know About What Makes You Scratch, by Anita Sanchez, illustrated by Gilbert Ford (2018). “Skin! Lice! Flea! Plants! Mosquito! Tarantula! Fungus! Bedbugs!” Those are just the chapter headings. Watch out! They may give you an itch to read this attractively and humorously illustrated book! (74 pages.)

Kids’ Guide to Camping: All You Need to Know About Having Fun in the Outdoors, by Cherie Winner (2017). This introduction to camping is filled with useful tips and includes ideas for choosing where to go, how to choose gear, how to make camp, etc. (96 pages.)

Magic Tricks with Coins, Cards and Everyday Objects, by Jake Banfield (2017). Learn more than fifty magic, card, and coin tricks! Excellent step-by-step instructions and photographs. (120 pages.)

Otis and Will Discover the Deep: the Record-Setting Dive of the Bathysphere, by Barb Rosenstock, illus. by Katherine Roy (2018). What if you wanted to see the deep, mysterious zones of the ocean, but there was no way to do it? If you were like Otis Barton and Will Beebe, you’d build your own hollow metal submersible mechanism and descend the dangerous depths! Join them as they brave life-threatening dangers in this beautifully illustrated story of scientific discovery. Don’t miss the cool photos and fun facts in the author’s note at the end. (Unpaged.)

Smithsonian Stem Lab: 25 Super-Cool Projects: Build, Invent, Create, Discover, by Jack Challoner. Build a wind-up car, levitate a ball, make a wave machine. Create and explore the science of forces and motion, liquids and reactions, shapes and structures, as well as light and sound. This is the latest book by Challoner, others include Maker Lab: 28 Super Cool Projects..., and Maker Lab Outdoors: 25 Super Cool Projects… (160 pages.)

Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees, by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Eleanor Shakespeare (2017). Travel from pre-World War II Europe right to present-day North Africa, and experience the harrowing real journeys of young people who fled their homes, risking their lives on the open seas to seek refuge elsewhere. 5 anecdotes. Includes resources and a timeline. (56 pages.)
They Lost Their Heads!: What Happened to Washington’s Teeth, Einstein’s Brain, and Other Famous Body Parts, by Carlyn Beccia (2018). From the kidnapping of Einstein's brain to the end of Louis XIV's heart, the mysteries surrounding some of history's most famous body parts range from medical to macabre. Explore the misadventures of noteworthy body parts through history as well as topics such as forensics, DNA testing, brain science, organ donation, and cloning. (182 pages.)

Titanosaur: Discovering the World’s Largest Dinosaur, by Dr José Luis Carballido and Dr Diego Pol, illustrated by Florencia Gigena (2019). One day, a man in Argentina was out with his dog looking for a lost sheep, when he found: THE TITANOSAUR—well, its fossil remains, anyway. Through a combination of photographs and illustrations, this picture book shows how scientists discovered exciting facts as they uncovered the giant dinosaur’s fossilized bones. (40 pages.)

You Are Mighty: a Guide to Changing the World, by Caroline Paul, illustrated by Lauren Tamaki (2018). This guide features change-maker tips, tons of DIY activities, and stories about the kids who have paved the way. So, make a sign, write a letter, volunteer, sit-in, or march! There are lots of tactics to choose from, and you're never too young to change the world. (114 pages.)

FICTION

The Ambrose Deception, by Emily Ecton. Three unlikely students--Melissa, Wilf, and Bondi--are invited to compete for a ten thousand-dollar scholarship. Racing around Chicago to solve the set of riddles that will allow them to claim victory, each begins to suspect that all is not as it seems. Test your Chicago trivia I.Q., solve the riddles, and untangle the mystery! (359 pages.)

Amina’s Voice, by Hena Khan. Amina is starting middle school, and finds herself struggling to overcome her shyness and cope with the changes that surround her. Her long-time best friend, Soojin, seems to want to befriend a girl who has always been mean to them. Her religious uncle is coming to visit from Pakistan and disapproves of Amina’s passion for music. Will Amina be strong enough to manage? Author Hena Khan is scheduled to visit Lab in the fall. (197 pages.)

Aru Shah and the End of Time, by Roshani Chokshi. Aru is a spunky girl who doesn’t quite manage to fit in at her private school. When fellow students confront her at the Museum of Ancient Indian Art and Culture, where she and her mother have an apartment, she is pressured into accepting a dare. Aru lights an ancient lamp, releasing a powerful demon and beginning a high stakes adventure. The second book in the series, Aru Shah and the Song of Death, has just been released. These books are in the new “Rick Riordan Presents” series. (355 pages.)
Bob, by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead. A cloud seems to obscure Livy’s memory of her previous visit to her grandmother’s house in Australia when she was five. It seems that there was something about chickens...When she finds a short, green creature in a chicken costume in the closet, she is reminded of a long-forgotten promise. Popular authors Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead work magic together in this tale of friendship, discovery, and the curious presence of unexpected magic. (201 pages.)

The Book of Boy, by Catherine Gilbert Murdock. It is the Middle Ages, and an unusual Boy is trying to live without drawing attention to himself on an estate that has become unbalanced by illness and misfortune. Suddenly, a mysterious traveler arrives and whisks Boy away on a journey filled with secrets, surprises, and exciting--and dangerous--adventures. (A Newbery Honor book.) (278 pages.)

The Collectors, by Jacqueline West. Van, a hearing-impaired boy, has always been an outsider. Most people don’t notice him. But he notices them. And he notices the small trinkets they drop, or lose, or throw away—that’s why his collection is full of treasures. Then one day, Van notices a girl stealing pennies from a fountain, and everything changes. (376 pages.)

Countdown, by Deborah Wiles. Eleven-year-old Franny Chapman just wants some peace. But that's hard to get when her best friend is feuding with her, her sister has disappeared, and her uncle is fighting an old war in his head. It's 1962, and it seems that the whole country is living in fear. When President Kennedy goes on television to say that Russia is sending nuclear missiles to Cuba, it only gets worse. Features historic quotations and photographs. First in a trilogy about the 1960’s: Revolution (about Freedom Summer, 2014); Anthem (about the Vietnam War, due out September 3). (377 pages.)

--For another perspective on the relationship between the United States and Cuba, read Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings; a Memoir, by Margarita Engle.

Dragons in a Bag, by Zetta Elliot. Jax’s mother goes to court to fight eviction from their Brooklyn apartment, leaving him with Ma—a grouchy woman who helped raise her—but Jax has never met. He quickly discovers Ma is a witch and is drawn into an adventure involving a suspiciously wiggling package he finds sitting on her kitchen counter. (154 pages.)

Every Soul a Star: a Novel, by Wendy Mass. The lives of three very different teenagers—Ally, Bree, and Jack—intersect at Moon Shadow, an isolated campground, where they meet to watch a total solar eclipse. Told in three alternating voices, the story follows Ally, Bree, and Jack as they begin to learn a great deal about themselves, each other, and the universe. (322 pages.)
Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White Spiders! or, To Saturn’s Rings and Back!: a Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space, by Philip Reeve. In an alternate Victorian England, young Arthur (Art) Mumby and his irritating sister Myrtle live with their father in the huge and rambling house, Larklight, travelling through space on a remote orbit far beyond the Moon. Life is quiet until an unusual guest arrives, and a Dreadful and Terrifying (and Marvellous) adventure begins. First of a trilogy: *Starcross* (2007); *Mothstorm* (2008). (399 pages.)

*Lenny and Mel’s Summer Vacation*, by Erik P. Kraft. Their big plan for the summer? To do as little as possible. Yet, somehow, Lenny and Mel discover “clam clapping,” pesto toothpaste, instant individual swimming pools, and a memorable road trip before summer’s end. (58 pages.)

*The Mad Gasser of Bessledorf Street*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. *Mad Gasser* is the first book in Naylor’s Bessledorf Hotel Series, which features mysteries occurring around an atmospheric old hotel owned by the family of the hero, Bernie Magruder. (Alternative title: *Bernie Magruder and the Case of the Big Stink.*) (138 pages.)

*Merci Suárez Changes Gears*, by Meg Medina. Strong willed and confident, Merci Suárez nevertheless has some challenges at her fancy middle school. She is assigned to be a Sunshine Buddy for a new student—a boy. Even worse, bossy queen bee Edna Santos actually has a crush on him. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately -- forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. No one in her family will tell Merci what's going on. What can she do? (Winner of the 2019 Newbery Award.) (355 pages.)

*The Monster’s Ring*, by Bruce Coville. Russell unexpectedly comes across a mysterious store and is led to buy a strange ring with a magical inscription. Following the ring's instructions can have monstrous results! A fun-to-read entry in the “Magic Shop” series, in which Mr. Elives has a magic shop that appears in unexpected places just when it’s needed. Readers may also enjoy Coville’s series, “My Teacher is an Alien.” (87 pages.)

*The Nine Pound Hammer*, by John Claude Bemis. Twelve-year-old Ray, an orphan, is haunted by the strangest memories of his father, whom Ray swears could speak to animals. Drawn by the lodestone his father gave him years before, Ray travels south, meeting along the way various characters from folklore who are battling against an evil industry baron known as the Gog. First of 3 in the Clockwork Dark series: *The Wolf Tree* (2010); *The White City* (2011). (357 pages.)

*Power Forward: Zayd Saleem, Chasing the Dream*, by Hena Khan. Fourth-grader Zayd yearns to play basketball on the Gold Team, but when he skips orchestra rehearsal to practice, his parents forbid anything basketball-related. Will he miss the Gold Team tryouts? This is the first book in a series. The author, Hena Khan, will be visiting Lab this October! (126 pages.)

*Randoms*, by David Liss. Twelve-year-old Zeke Reynolds comes from a long line of proud science fiction geeks. So, it’s a dream come true when he learns that he’s one of four children chosen to spend a year on a massive alien space station, selected as a “random” candidate. Zeke finds life in space more challenging than he’d imagined, and his knowledge of science fiction might be the only thing that can save himself, his new alien friends, and Earth itself. First in a series of 3: *Rebels* (2017) and *Renegades* (2018). (485 pages.)
Riding Freedom, by Pam Munoz Ryan. Charley (Charlotte) was the best horseback rider at the orphanage. When banished to the kitchen, a "more appropriate place" for girls, she strikes out on her own. Based on the life of Charlotte Parkhurst, legendary stagecoach driver and the first woman to vote in California. (138 pages.)

Strongheart, Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen, By Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann. Love dogs? Then you will love this book about the extraordinary life and adventures of an amazing German Shepherd. Pictures woven into the text enrich the tale. Based on the story of a real life canine movie star. (245 pages, but a quick read.)

The Sword in the Tree, by Clyde Robert Bulla. In an adventure set during the time of King Arthur, a boy fights to save his castle from his evil uncle. Bulla has written many additional books of adventure and historical fiction that are also wonderful to read. (113 pages.)

Uprising, by Margaret Peterson Haddix. In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences of the tragedy at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in New York City, which claimed the lives of 146 young immigrant workers on March 25, 1911, and brought attention to the labor movement in America. Told through the alternating points of view of three very different young women: Bella, who has just emigrated from Italy and doesn't speak a word of English; Yetta, a Russian immigrant and crusader for labor rights; and Jane, the daughter of a wealthy businessman. Includes historical notes. (346 pages.)

Willa of the Wood, by Robert Beatty. Move without a sound. Steal without a trace. Willa, a twelve-year-old nightspirit of the Great Smoky Mountains in the late 1880’s, is her Faeran clan's best thief. She creeps into the homes of day-folk in the cover of darkness and takes what they won't miss. But when Willa's curiosity leaves her hurt and stranded in a day-folk man's home, everything she thought she knew about her people—and their greatest enemy—is forever changed. By the author of the Serafina series. (376 pages.)
**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

*New Kid*, by Jerry Craft (2019). Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Sophisticated issues in an engaging package laced with humor. (249 pages.)

*Suee and the Shadow*, by Ginger Ly, illustrated by Molly Park (2017). When Suee transfers to the dull and ordinary Outskirts Elementary, she doesn't expect to hear a strange voice speaking to her from the darkness of the school's exhibit room, and she definitely doesn't expect to see her shadow come to life--and have a will of its own. (235 pages.)

*Tiger vs Nightmare*, by Emily Tetri (2018). Tiger is a very lucky kid: she has a monster living under her bed. Every night, Tiger and Monster play games until it's time for lights out. Of course, Monster would never try to scare Tiger--that's not what best friends do. But Monster needs to scare someone--it's a monster, after all. So, while Tiger sleeps, Monster scares all of her nightmares away. But waiting in the darkness is a nightmare so big and mean that Monster can't fight it alone. (62 pages.)

**MEMOIR/BIOGRAPHY**

*Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went From the Football Field to the Art Gallery*, by Sandra Neil Wallace, illustrated by Bryan Collier (2018). Discover the true story of NFL star Ernie Barnes, a boy who followed his dreams and grew up to become one of the most influential artists of his generation. Picture book biography. (Unpaged.)

*Lights! Camera! Alice!: the Thrilling True Adventures of the First Woman Filmmaker*, by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by Simona Ciraolo (2018). Don't miss this fascinating picture book biography of a long-overlooked innovator. You'll be amazed at the things she discovered! (Unpaged.)

*Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings; a Memoir*, by Margarita Engle (2016). In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle, the first Latina woman to receive a Newbery Honor, tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War. When the hostility between Cuba and the United States erupts at the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Margarita’s worlds collide in the worst way possible. How can the two countries she loves hate each other so much? And will she ever get to visit her beautiful island again? Told in verse form. (192 pages.)

For another perspective on the relationship between the United States and Cuba, read *Countdown* by Deborah Wiles (details in the fiction section of this list).

First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great, by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace, illus. by Agata Nowicka (2018). Discover immigrants who have helped America become stronger, including their courage, achievements, and determination to make a change. Brief profiles of a diverse set of “heroes of the first generation.” (95 pages.)
POETRY

I Am Loved: a Poetry Collection, by Nikki Giovanni, illustrations by Ashley Bryan (2018). Giovanni’s poems celebrating being loved are nestled cozily in the richly colored, vibrant illustrations by celebrated author/illustrator Ashley Bryan. (Unpaged.)

Seeing Into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright, by Richard Wright, biography and illustrations by Nina Crews (2018). Twelve of the famous author’s haiku are collected here, with Crews’ photos inventively expanding his vision. (Unpaged.)

The 20th Century Children’s Poetry Treasury, edited by Jack Prelutsky. This collection includes poems from Carl Sandburg, Eve Merriam, Judith Viorst, Gwendolyn Books, John Ciardi, Roald Dahl, Eleanor Farjeon, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, and more--yet is slim and brightly illustrated. When you’ve finished this book, look up more collections by each of these amazing poets! (94 pages.)

SHORT STORIES

Flying Lessons & Other Stories, edited by Ellen Oh. Explore different slices of life presented in a wide variety of styles and settings in this collection of 10 stories by award-winning children’s authors. From basketball dreams and family fiascos to first crushes and new neighborhoods, whether funny or poignant, painful or hopeful (and most are a combination, because life is like that), these stories remind us that everyone’s voice matters—everyone has a story. (218 pages.)

ALSO

Keep in mind classics such as Around the World in 80 Days, Journey to the Center of the Earth, and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, all by Jules Verne; and Moby Dick, by Herman Melville (the abridged edition presented by Jan Needle, illustrated by Patrick Benson (2006) is particularly good).