

KEYSTONE TO READING ELEMENTARY BOOK AWARD LISTS
2021-2022

Annotated Preschool List

Being Frog by April Pulley Sayre

This book provides a photographic look at the everyday lives of fascinating frogs. Follow them from egg to tadpole to young frog crawling up onto land for the first time and learn how frogs are unique beings with lives of their own.

Green on Green by Dianne White and Felicita Sala

Rhyming text and vivid artwork combine to create a heartfelt celebration of family, nature, seasons, colors, and the wonder and magic of them all.

Library Books Are Not For Eating by Todd Tarpley and Tom Booth

It's time for school, but Ms. Bronte has one small problem...she *really* loves eating books. This fun rhyming book is perfect for a read aloud and will have you wondering if Ms. Bronte will ever be able to curb her page-turning appetite.

Looking for Smile by Ellen Tarlow and Lauren Stringer

Bear and Smile are always together. They wake up together, swim by the waterfall together, and eat honey together. But one day, Bear wakes up and Smile is nowhere to be found. With the help of his woodland friends, will Bear be able to find his Smile again?

One Little Lot: The 1-2-3s of an Urban Garden by Diane C. Mullen and Oriol Vidal

Count all the ways (one to ten) an urban community unites to clean up an abandoned lot. From building planter boxes to pulling weeds to planting seeds, everyone works together to transform the lot into a bountiful vegetable garden.

Soaked! by Abi Cushman

It looks like a wet and dreary day for grumpy Bear and his trio of friends. But Badger, Rabbit, and Moose don't seem to mind. In fact, Moose can still hula hoop! In this story, fun is not dependent on sunshine and blue skies.

You Matter by Christian Robinson

In this book, readers are invited to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.

Woodland Dreams by Karen Jameson and Marc Boutavant

This book pairs familiar bedtime routines with nonfiction elements. Young readers say goodnight to beloved woodland animals as they prepare to sleep.

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Annotated Primary List

A Girl Like You by Frank Murphy, Carla Murphy, and Kayla Herren **PA Authors**

Encourages girls to embrace what makes them unique, to choose kindness, and to be their own advocates. Companion to *A Boy Like You*.

Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away by Meg Medina and Sonia Sánchez

Evelyn and her best friend Daniela spend one last afternoon together playing among the boxes until it's time to say their good-byes. A bittersweet story about two friends who will always be each other's número uno.

I Am the Storm by Jane Yolen, Heidi E.Y. Stemple, and Kristen and Kevin Howdeshell

This is a story about resilience in a tornado, a blizzard, a wildfire, and a hurricane. Young readers will be comforted by just enough information to feel safe and empowered.

Madeline Finn and the Therapy Dog by Lisa Papp **PA Author/Illustrator**

Madeline Finn and Star are off to a retirement community where Star will take his tests to become a therapy dog. They make their way through a variety of challenges and meet several new friends. But Madeline Finn can't stop thinking about an elderly man in a wheelchair who never smiles. What can she and Star do to help?

Our Favorite Day of the Year by A.E. Ali and Rahele Jomepour Bell

This book follows a group of boys from different backgrounds throughout the school year as they become the best of friends and celebrate their differences.

Our Friend Hedgehog: The Story of Us by Lauren Castillo **PA Author/Illustrator** (Chapter Book)

Hedgehog lives on a teeny-tiny island with only her stuffed dog, Mutty. When a great storm carries Mutty away, she embarks on a quest to find her friend. Following the trail of clues Mutty left behind, brave Hedgehog meets many friends who join in to help. There's nothing that can stop this team from finding Mutty, but along the way they discover something even more important: each other.

Play Like an Animal: Why Critters Splash, Race, Twirl, and Chase by Maria Gianferrari and Mia Powell

Exuberant text celebrates all the different ways animals play, from rhinos taking mud baths to kangaroos boxing. Additional text explains how playing benefits animals. Includes back matter.

Tails from the Animal Shelter by Stephanie Shaw and Liza Woodruff

Using poetic back stories and informative text, this book shines a spotlight on the good work of community animal shelters. Ten different fictional animals represent the millions of pets brought to shelters every day. The book highlights the caring work of animal shelters everywhere.

Whooo Knew? by Annette Whipple **PA Author**

How do owls see in the dark? Can owls spin their heads all the way around? Why do owls puke? These and other questions are answered by an owl expert, along with some extra information provided by the owls themselves!

Your Name Is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and Luisa Uribe **PA Author**

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of many names. This book is a celebration to remind all of us about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.

KEYSTONE TO READING ELEMENTARY BOOK AWARD LISTS

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Annotated Intermediate List

Butterflies Belong Here: A Story of One Idea, Thirty Kids, and a World of Butterflies by Deborah Hopkinson and Meilo So

In this moving story of community conservation, a girl finds a home in a new place and a way to help other small travelers, monarch butterflies. Nonfiction material is interspersed throughout. Contains additional back matter.

Crossings: Extraordinary Structures for Extraordinary Animals by Katy S. Duffield and Mike Orodán

This powerful nonfiction picture book explores wildlife crossings around the world and how they are helping save thousands of animals every day.

Dream Builder: The Story of Architect Philip Freelon by Kelly Starling Lyons and Laura Freeman

This book celebrates a contemporary black STEAM role model, a man whose quiet work enabled the creation of an iconic building reflecting America's past and future.

Freedom Bird by Jerdine Nolen and James E. Ransom

In the antebellum South, two siblings shelter a large, mysterious, wounded bird and eventually follow it west toward freedom.

If You Come to Earth by Sophie Blackall

This book was inspired by the many children Sophie Blackall has met around the world. It is a guide to our home planet and reminds readers that we need to take care of our planet and each other.

Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice by Nikki Grimes and Laura Freeman

Told in verse and featuring gorgeous illustrations, this picture book biography brings to life a story that shows all young people that the American dream can belong to all of us if we fight for one another.

Mother Jones and Her Army of Mill Children by Jonah Winter and Nancy Carpenter **PA Author**

This book tells the story of Mother Jones, an Irish immigrant who was essential in the fight to create child labor laws. Well into her sixties, Mother Jones had finally had enough of children working long hours in dangerous factory jobs and decided she was going to do something about it.

No Voice Too Small: Fourteen Young Americans Making History edited by Lindsay H. Metcalk, Keila V. Dawson, and Jeanette Bradley; illustrated by Jeanette Bradley

Get to know fourteen young activists who have stepped up to make change in their community and in the United States. Fourteen poems honor these young activists. Additional text goes into detail about each youth activist's life and how readers can get involved.

The Mess That We Made by Michelle Lord and Julia Blattman

A cumulative tale that portrays the impact of trash on the ocean and marine life, inspiring us to make changes. Includes back matter.

Willa and the Whale by Chad Morris and Shelley Brown (Middle Grade Novel)

After losing her mom, Willa is grieving and having a hard time living with her dad and his new family on an island off the coast of Washington State. While whale watching, Willa discovers she can talk to a whale that she names Meg. Meg offers sound advice Willa needs about dealing with a nemesis at school and trying to figure out why her friend Marc is keeping secrets about his family life. It will take all of Willa's courage and connections to tackle a problem that's as big as a blue whale!