

KEYSTONE TO READING ELEMENTARY BOOK AWARD LISTS

2022-2023

Annotated Preschool List

Animals Go Vroom! by Abi Cushman

Hiss! Screech! Roar! It's a noisy day in Bumperville! But are the sounds what you *think* they are? This inventive book hints at what is making the sound, but with each page turn, it's an eye-opening surprise in an unfolding story that is part guessing game and part giggle-inducing caper.

Best Day Ever! by Marilyn Singer and Leah Nixon

A playful puppy thinks she's having the best day ever and doesn't even realize that she's being a little naughty. But then her friend scolds her, and suddenly things change. Will puppy be able to make amends and turn their day back around?

Blue Ridge Babies 1, 2, 3 by Laura Sperry Gardner and Stephanie Fizer Coleman

Explore the Blue Ridge Mountains through the frame of the engaging folk song "Over in the Meadow." Amongst budding dogwood trees, crooked creeks, mountains fading to heaven, and other stunning settings, animal mothers and their young all play a part in the great wide wilderness.

Can I Sit With You? by Sarah Jacoby **PA Author/Illustrator**

Lyrical text and beautiful illustrations show the power of friendship in the face of change. A small dog narrates this story of loyalty and love.

Chase the Moon, Tiny Turtle: A Hatchling's Daring Race to the Sea by Kelly Jordan and Sally Walker

Young readers will witness a rare and extraordinary natural event as a baby loggerhead hatches from its shell. With nothing but the light of the moon to act as a guide, readers will follow the newborn turtles' harrowing attempts to outpace a series of predators on their march toward the glistening shore.

If You Were an Elephant by Leslie Staub and Richard Jones

Chock-full of amazing facts, this book invites readers to learn about one of the world's most remarkable creatures in this playful introduction to the daily sights, sounds, and activities of a young elephant in the wild.

Night Creatures: Animals That Swoop, Crawl, and Creep While You Sleep by Rebecca E. Hirsch and Sonia Possentini **PA Author**

As the sun sets, night creatures awaken. In their rural backyard, a parent and child camp out, watching as fireflies flicker, bats flap, and rabbits race. Includes information on all the animals in the back matter.

T. Rexes Can't Tie Their Shoes by Anna Lazowski and Steph Laberis

A funny and encouraging alphabetic book about all the things animals CAN'T do but kids CAN!

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Annotated Primary List

A Friend Like You by Frank Murphy, Charnaie Gordon, and Kayla Herren **PA Author**

There's nothing in the world like a wonderful friend. Friends are there to laugh with you, hug you, or have adventures with you. In this book, celebrate ALL the marvelous ways to be a friend!

Just You and Me: Remarkable Relationships in the Wild by Jennifer Ward and Alexander Vidal

Celebrate perfect partnerships in nature with this fascinating rhyming picture book exploring symbiosis with vibrant illustrations and fun facts that will delight young animal enthusiasts.

My School Stinks! by Becky Scharnhorst and Julia Patton

A back-to-school story told through journal entries about a boy who finds himself at a new school where the other students are REAL animals.

Rissy No Kissies by Katey Howes **PA Author**

Rissy's friends and family wonder if she's sick, confused, or rude. But kisses make Rissy uncomfortable. This book carries the message that "your body and your heart are yours, and you choose how to share". A note at the end provides further information for kids, parents, and educators about body autonomy, consent, and different ways to show affection.

Summertime Sleepers: Animals That Estivate by Melissa Stewart and Sarah S. Brannen

Everyone knows about animals that hibernate in the winter. But it's time to discover animals that sleep all summer long! From the ladybug to the salamander, from the lungfish to the desert hedgehog, twelve estivating animals and their habits--both when sleeping and awake--are explained through clear text and elegant watercolor illustrations.

Ten Beautiful Things by Molly Beth Griffin and Maribel Lechuga

Lily and her grandmother search for ten beautiful things as they take a long car ride to Iowa and Lily's new home with Gran. At first, Lily sees nothing beautiful, but soon she learns to find beauty in unexpected places. A furious rainstorm mirrors Lily's anxiety, but as it clears Lily discovers the tenth beautiful thing: Lily and Gran and their love for each other.

The Color Collector by Nicholas Solis and Renia Metallinou

When a boy notices the new girl picking up debris and litter on their walks home from school he wants to know why. So she shows him the huge mural she's created in her room that reminds her of the home she left behind. In the process, they both find how wonderful it is to make a new friend.

The Elephants Come Home: A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship

by Kim Tomsic and Hadley Hooper

This book tells the story of two conservationists and their lifelong bond with a herd of elephants at Thula Thula animal reserve in South Africa. It is the story of a friendship and the way that love given freely will return—greater and more wonderful than it began.

The Stars Beckoned: Edward White's Amazing Walk in Space by Candy Wellins and Courtney Dawson

A lyrical picture book biography of Edward White, the first American to walk in space--and an ode to the beauty and wonder of the stars that brought him there.

When Langston Dances by Kaija Langley and Keith Mallett

Ever since he saw the Alvin Ailey Dance Company perform, Langston longs to dance. This work is an exuberant, buoyant picture book celebrating the beauty of dance.

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Annotated Intermediate List

30, 000 Stitches: The Inspiring Story of the National 9/11 Flag by Amanda Davis and Sally Wern Comport

Discover the inspiring story of the American flag that flew over Ground Zero, traveled across all fifty states as it was repaired, and returned to New York as a restored symbol of unity.

Dr. Fauci: How a Boy From Brooklyn Became America's Doctor by Kate Messner and Alexanra Bye

This is the definitive picture book biography of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and one of the most crucial figures in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flip! How the Frisbee Took Flight by Margaret Muirhead and Adam Gustavson

Fred Morrison's invention quest began in 1932 after tossing a tin popcorn lid around the backyard. For more than twenty years, Fred and his wife, Lu, tried and failed to perfect a flying-disc concept. Eventually they created what we know today as the Frisbee.

Once Upon a Camel by Kathi Appelt and Eric Rohmann (Middle Grade Illustrated Novel)

Zada is a camel with a treasure trove of stories to tell. But those stories were from *before*. Now, Zada wanders the desert as the last camel in Texas. But she's not alone. Two tiny kestrel chicks are nestled in the fluff of fur between her ears, and a dust storm the size of a mountain is taking Zada on one more grand adventure. And it could lead to this achy old camel's most brilliant story yet.

Sprouting Wings: The True Story of James Herman Banning, the First African-American Pilot to Fly Across the United States by Louisa Jagger, Shari Becker, and Floyd Cooper **PA Illustrator**

In a journey that would span 3,300 miles, take twenty-one days, and inspire a nation, James Herman Banning proved that you can't put barriers on dreams.

Stella by McCall Hoyle (Middle Grade Novel)

Told from Stella's perspective, this story is about a special dog who must find the courage to overcome her fears in order to help save a young girl with epilepsy.

The Eyeball Alphabet Book by Jerry Pallotta and Shennen Bersani

The eyes have it! Laugh as you learn by staring right into the eyes of familiar and not-so-familiar animals. Each page defines an idiom that includes the word "eye"!

Waiting for a Warbler by Sneed B. Collard III and Thomas Brooks

As Owen and his sister search for returning birds, a group of birds leaves the mountain slopes of the Yucatan peninsula for their summer nesting grounds. One of them is a Cerulean warbler. Owen's family watches televised reports of a great storm over the Gulf of Mexico, fearing what it may mean for migrating songbirds. The back matter includes a North American bird migration map, birding information for kids, and guidance for how native plantings can transform yards into bird and wildlife habitats.

We Are Still Here! Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell and Frané Lessac

Twelve Native American kids present historical and contemporary laws, policies, struggles, and victories in Native life, each with a powerful refrain: *We are still here!*

Woof! The Truth About Dogs by Annette Whipple **PA Author**

In this second book in THE TRUTH ABOUT series, the author answers many questions about dogs, and even adds some extra information provided by the dogs themselves.