

2018 Notable Books by American Library Association

YOUNGER

. By Thyra Heder. Illus

. By Monica Brown. Illus. by John Parra. North-South. A fictional account of the life of young artist Frida Kahlo that celebrates her connection to the animals she loved and painted. (Belpré Illustrator Honor Book)

. By Liniers. Illus. by the author. TOON. Stuffed animal Planet makes new friends and has adventures all while his owner sleeps in this gentle, engaging graphic novel for young readers.

. By Emily Jenkins. Illus. by Chris Appelhans. Random/Schwartz & Wade. Brand new friends, greyhound and groundhog, romp together through the enchantingly illustrated pages in this clever chase of words, rhythm, and shape.

. By Bob Graham. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. During a long drive home from Grandmother's in the rain, Francie and her mother discover profound beauty and comfort in ordinary moments.

. By Paul Meisel. Illus. by the author. Holiday. Youngest readers will find success in the story of a dog that is increasingly frustrated by the glass door that separates it from the things it sees outside. (Geisel Honor Book)

. By Gaia Cornwall. Illus. by the author. Candlewick. Today is the day Jabari is going to jump from the high dive and he is almost, absolutely sure he is ready.

. By Dori Hillestad Butler. Illus. by Nancy Meyers. Peachtree. King, the dog, and Kayla, his human, solve the mystery of missing dog treats and make some interesting discoveries along the way. (Geisel Honor Book)

. By Susan Middleton Elya. Illus. by Juana Martinez-Neal. Putnam. This lively, playful retelling of the classic fairy tale is set in Peru and incorporates Peruvian cultural elements. (Belpré Illustrator Award Book)

. By Jon Agee. Illus. by the author. Dial. In this sly, well-paced story, a young space explorer, certain there is life on Mars, sets out to prove it.

. By Patrick McDonnell. Illus. by the author. Little, Brown. In this engaging, unconventional book, Little Red Cat is chased across the pages and experiences all the letters of the alphabet.

. By Salina Yoon. Illus. by the author. Bloomsbury. Bold, vibrant illustrations, word recognition, and repetition make these short and hilarious stories of three friends a fun experience for early readers. (Geisel Honor Book)

. By Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss. Illus. by Tedd Arnold. Holiday. With a nod to folktales, two zany brothers named Mac and Mac (who happen to be macaroni noodles) wow audiences with their hilarity and gullibility. (Geisel Honor Book)

. By Antoinette Portis. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter. A young girl's simple joys and experiences will guide readers into appreciation of the here and now in this charmingly illustrated meditation.

. By Philip C. Stead. Illus. by Matthew Cordell. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter. Pack your fishing poles and paint buckets and embark on a quest with Sadie and Sherman to rescue Ellsworth the goldfish.

. By Lane Smith. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook. The cat, the dog, the chickadee, and the squirrel are having a perfect day until the bear shows up and invites the reader to rethink what perfect means.

. By Giovanna Zoboli. Illus. by Mariachiara Di Giorgio. Chronicle. This wordless, charming book follows Mr. Crocodile through his morning routine and commute to a job for which he is perfectly suited.

. By Carmen Agra Deedy. Illus. by Eugene Yelchin. Scholastic. The new mayor of La Paz has outlawed singing of any kind, but a rooster arrives that will just not be quiet.

. By Tina Kügler. Illus. by the author. HMH. Good friends support each other through three easy-to-read, gently humorous stories. (Geisel Honor Book)

. By Kate Klise. Illus. by M. Sarah Klise. Feiwel & Friends. A gentle tale of the warm love between a girl and her aging dog and the value of time well spent together.

. By Joanne Schwartz. Illus. by Sydney Smith. Groundwood. A miner's son thinks about his father, deep underground, with both respect for and quiet resignation about his own future.

. By Mac Barnett. Illus. by Jon Klassen. Candlewick. Triangle decides to play a mean joke on Square, but things don't quite turn out the way he hoped.

MIDDLE

. By Victoria Jamieson. Illus. by the author. Dial. Witness Imogene's growth and pride in her family and in herself as she quests for connection and identity in this graphic novel.

. By Cao Wenxuan. Illus. by Meilo So. Tr. by Helen Wang. Candlewick. While navigating the challenges of poverty in rural China in the 1970s, a mute boy named Bronze and an orphan named Sunflower develop a powerful friendship.

. By Jacqueline Briggs Martin and June Jo Lee. Illus. by Man One. Readers to Eaters. Graffiti-inspired illustrations bring to life the story of food-truck and fresh-food-movement pioneer Chef Roy Choi. (Sibert Honor Book)

. By Rita Williams-Garcia. Illus. by Frank Morrison. Amistad. Clayton idolizes his grandfather and mentor, blues legend Cool Papa Byrd. When Cool Papa dies, Clayton adventures underground and emerges with a true blues voice.

. By Bao Phi. Illus. by Thi Bui. Capstone. In this gentle, honest tale of immigrant survival, a young Vietnamese American boy and his father go on an early morning fishing trip. (Caldecott Honor Book)

. By Lauren Wolk. Dutton. In a stunningly beautiful novel, orphan Crow decides to investigate her own past and in doing so uncovers the complicated history of a nearby former leper colony.

. By Chris Barton. Illus. by Victo Ngai. Lerner/Millbrook. Stunning art nouveau–inspired illustrations showcase a little-known WWI British and U.S. military strategy of camouflaging ships with dazzling effect.

. By Pablo Cartaya. Viking. Arturo struggles to keep the family business, a Cuban restaurant, alive in the face of the gentrification of his Florida neighborhood in a fresh, often very funny novel. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

. By Frances Hardinge. Abrams/Amulet. Restless, impulsive Neverfell, with no memory of her past, finds herself in the underground city of Caverna, where faces are expressionless and her life is in incredible danger.

. By Cynthia Levinson and Sanford Levinson. Illus. Peachtree. This thought-provoking examination of the history of the U.S. Constitution gives careful consideration to how it functions today.

. By Celia C. Pérez. Viking. Malu and her “SuperMexican” mother move across the country, leaving behind the father who gets her punk identity. Through new friends and zines, she connects to her roots in an authentic way. (Belpré Author Honor Book)

. Ed. by Ellen Oh. Crown. Readers will recognize themselves in this varied collection of sometimes humorous, sometimes poignant stories.

. By Caela Carter. Harper. In a heartbreaking and lovely novel, foster-child Flora and her brother invent a past and struggle to trust their new family.

. By Erin Entrada Kelly. Greenwillow. In this story told from various viewpoints, including a bully, a deaf girl, a fortune-teller, and more, a rescue is performed, revealing bravery in the midst of fear. (Newbery Medal Book)

. By Renée Watson. Bloomsbury. Shouldering her mother's expectations, Jade enters a mentor program with an inconsistent mentor. The unfulfillment she feels galvanizes her to follow her own artistic path. (Newbery Honor Book)

. By John David Anderson. HarperCollins/Walden Pond. When their school bans cell phones, Frost and his friends communicate through Post-its instead. But when their idea catches on, a sticky-note war begins.

. By Janet Taylor Lisle. Atheneum. In this thought-provoking, eerie story, two girls from disparate backgrounds build a raft where two murders occurred nearly 80 years prior.

. By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by Eric Velasquez. Candlewick. The handsome biography of Afro-Puerto Rican Schomburg introduces his efforts to collect and correct the history of the contributions of "Africa's sons and daughters."

. By Diana Harmon Asher. Abrams/Amulet. Despite learning disabilities, Joseph joins his school's track team and discovers the value of achieving a personal best, both on and off the cross-country course.

. By Allen Say. Illus. by the author. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. The fictionalized biography of self-taught artist James Castle, who grew up deaf, mute, and autistic, and used art to express himself, is as beautiful as it is affecting.

. By David Barclay Moore. Knopf. Lolly deals with the grief of losing his older brother by escaping into the world of LEGOs in this thought-provoking coming-of-age story set in Harlem.

. By Gary Golio. Illus. by Charlotte Riley-Webb. Lerner/Millbrook. Art and text combine to recreate the discomfort and power of Billie Holiday and her iconic song "Strange Fruit."

. By Pam Smy. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook. In this cinematic, heavily illustrated novel, two stories, decades apart, come together as Ella is drawn into the dark and tragic mystery of Thornhill Hall.

. By Larry Dane Brimner. Illus. Boyds Mills/Calkins Creek. This riveting account of the 1961 Freedom Rides, when 13 civil rights activists rode buses to challenge Jim Crow practices, has visual and emotional impact. (Sibert Medal Book)

. By Steve Sheinkin. Illus. Roaring Brook. This compelling account of Native American athlete Jim Thorpe focuses on his impact on football and how his team transformed the game despite tremendous racism.

. By Kimberly Brubaker Bradley. Dial. As WWII continues, Ada discovers that her disability doesn't define her and that family takes many shapes in this stunning sequel.

. By Colin Meloy. Illus. by Carson Ellis. HarperCollins/Balzer + Bray. Loner Charlie Fisher finds himself lured into the exciting underworld of Marseille pickpockets where he finds unlikely friendships in this rollicking tale.

. By Martin W. Sandler. Illus. Candlewick. The story of an eighteenth-century slave ship, its capture by pirates, sinking, and eventual discovery off Cape Cod make for a fresh and thrilling adventure.

ALL AGES

. By Derrick Barnes. Illus. by Gordon C. James. Agate. In a vibrant, joyful tribute to the barbershop experience, a young black boy relishes in the majesty of a fresh new cut. (Newbery Honor Book & Caldecott Honor Book)

. By Jason Chin. Illus. by the author. Roaring Brook/Neal Porter. Concise explanations of natural history run in tandem with a visual story of a girl and her father hiking in this stunning depiction of the Grand Canyon. (Caldecott Honor Book & Sibert Honor Book)

. By Dave Eggers. Illus. by Shawn Harris. Chronicle. Part history and part call to action, this nonfiction picture book reminds readers of the genesis of the Statue of Liberty and its relevance today.

. By Chris Harris. Illus. by Lane Smith. Little, Brown. Hilarity and nonsense

practice lands her in the hospital, facing questions from the adults in her life. Slowly, she recovers, finds her voice, and makes new friends along the way.

. Reynolds, Jason. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. Will's brother has been shot. In this free-verse novel, Will steps into an elevator ready to head downstairs and to follow the rules he's been taught and avenge his brother's death, when he encounters the ghosts of victims of a chain reaction caused by a shooting.

. Taylor, Laini. Little, Brown. Lazlo Strange is an orphan raised by monks, and he's dedicated his life to learning. His favorite story is of Weep, the lost fairytale city that was literally removed from memory. This is the story of his search for the magical city.

. Thomas, Angie. Balzer+Bray. Starr Carter is a black girl caught between two worlds: her poor, black neighborhood, and her suburban, mostly white high school. Occupying this liminal space becomes nearly impossible when Starr witnesses, and is forced to speak out about, the fatal shooting of her unarmed friend by a white cop.

. Watson, Renee. Bloomsbury USA. Artist Jade has big dreams, but she recognizes that coming from a rough neighborhood creates barriers. She reluctantly joins Woman to Woman, a mentoring program that promises a scholarship. Her well-intentioned mentor, also black, doesn't understand Jade has no desire to be "saved." Each has things to learn from the other.

. Zappia, Francesca. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. Fellow students don't know that, when she's not at school, reclusive senior Eliza is LadyConstellation, creator of the wildly popular Monstrous Sea. New student Wallace is a huge fan of the webcomic, and he