

NONFICTION

Something Rotten: a Fresh Look at Roadkill

Nonfiction J591.714 MON

When wildlife researcher Heather Montgomery sees a rattlesnake flattened on the side of the road, her first instinct is to pick it up and dissect it. A fascinating insight into the scientific research process.

Bomb: the Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon



Nonfiction J623.4511 SHE

Recounts the scientific discoveries that enabled atom splitting, competing military intelligence operations in rival countries, and the work of brilliant scientists hidden at Los Alamos.

A History of Pictures for Children: From Cave Paintings to Computer Drawings

Nonfiction J709 HOC

From cave paintings to video games, this book shows the how and why pictures have been made, linking art to the human experience.

Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes and Friendship



Nonfiction J811.6 LAT

Irene Latham, who is white, and Charles Waters, who is black, present paired poems about topics including family dinners, sports, recess, and more. This relatable collection explores difference experiences of race in America.

How They Choked: Failures, Flops, and Flaws of the Awfully Famous

Nonfiction J920 BRA

Fourteen famous achievers are knocked off their pedestals to reveal the human side of history.

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories about Growing Up Scieszka



Biography JB Scieszka

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny? He grew up as one of six brothers with Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with me to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows and jokes told at family dinner.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World



Biography JB Yousafzai

This inspiring memoir by a Nobel Peace Prize winner details her experiences as an advocate for education in Pakistan both before and after she became a target of the Taliban.

GRADES 4&5

CHAPTER BOOKS

The One and Only Ivan



Fiction

J Applegate

When Ivan, a gorilla that has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing (series)



Fiction

J Blume

Peter finds his demanding two-year-old brother an ever increasing problem who gets away with everything. When he walks off with Peter's pet turtle, it's the last straw.

The Wild Robot (series)



Fiction

J Brown

Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963



Fiction

J Curtis

The interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

The Witches



Fiction

J Dahl

A young boy and his Norwegian grandmother, who is an expert on witches, together foil a witches' plot to destroy the world's children by turning them into mice.

Because of Winn-Dixie



Fiction

J DiCamillo

Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all of the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn-Dixie.

BEST BOOKS BEST BOOKS

Available as a downloadable audiobook

Available as a CD audiobook

Available as an Ebook

Updated May 2020

Makoons (series)**Fiction****J Erdrich**

Named for the Ojibwe word for life bear, Makoons and his twin brother Chickadee travel across the plains in search of buffalo with their family in the 1860s. Based on the author's own family history.

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key (series)**Fiction****J Gantos**

To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription meds wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.

My Side of the Mountain (series)**Fiction****J George**

A young boy relates his adventures during the year he spends living alone in the Catskill Mountains including his struggle for survival, animal friends, and ultimate realization that he needs human companionship.

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street (series)**Fiction****J Glaser**

Told that they will have to move out of their Harlem brownstone just after Christmas, the five Vanderbeeker children, ages 4 to 12, decide to change their reclusive landlord's mind.

Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library (series)**Fiction****J Grabenstein**

Twelve-year-old Kyle gets to stay overnight in the new town library, designed by his hero (the famous gamemaker Luigi Lemoncello), with other students but finds that come morning he must work with friends to solve puzzles in order to escape.

Scary Stories for Young Foxes**Fiction****J Heidicker**

A collection of six connected stories that follows a group of fox kits as they fight to survive in an unforgiving wilderness. Heavy, violent and thought-provoking, this is the rare horror story that's also heartwarming.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon (series)**Fiction****J Lin**

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bring life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.

Number the Stars**Fiction****J Lowry**

In 1932, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.

Sideways Stories from Wayside School (series)**Fiction****J Sachar**

Humorous episodes from the classroom on the thirtieth floor of Wayside School, which was accidentally built sideways with one classroom on each story.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures**Fiction****J Selznick**

Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on anonymity. But when he meets a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life is put in jeopardy.

Other Words for Home**Fiction****J Warga**

Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises in this novel in verse.

Front Desk**Fiction****J Yang**

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. She is a 10-year-old Chinese American immigrant girl who manages the front desk of a motel while her parents clean the rooms. But her biggest secret may be that she wants to be a writer although English is not her first language.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal (series)**Graphic Novels****J GN Brown**

The adventures of Stone Age siblings Lucy and Andy include cave paintings and a mammoth hunt. But what will happen when they encounter a group of humans?

Lowriders in Space (series)**Graphic Novels****J GN Lowriders**

Lupe, Flapjack, Elino customize their car into a low rider for the Universal Car Competition to win the cash prize that will enable them to buy their own garage.

Secret Coders (series)**Graphic Novels****J GN Secret**

Welcome to Stately Academy, a school which is crawling with mysteries to be solved as its founder left many clues and puzzles to challenge the students. Using their wits and budding skills with coding, Hopper and her friend Eni are determined to solve them all no matter what it takes.

Hilo: The Boy Who Crashed to Earth (series)**Graphic Novels****J GN Winick**

When a mysterious boy falls from the sky, friends D.J. and Gina must discover the secrets of his identity and help him save the world.