



# Youth Staff Picks

August 2021

## *The Lion of Mars*

by Jennifer L. Holm – j Hol | Science Fiction

Eleven-year-old Bell lives on Mars in an American settlement with some older kids, a cat, and adult staff isolated from the other colonies. After a virus infects the adults and they become seriously ill, Bell and the other kids must reach out to the other colonies for help – even if it is forbidden. A fast read! (EM)

## *Too Small Tola*

by Atinuke – JE Red Ati | First Chapter Book

Meet Tola, the youngest in her household. There's also very book smart Moji and very athletic Dapo and no-nonsense Grandmommy. They all live in a rundown apartment in Lagos, Nigeria. A charming, spunky heroine in an everyday world very different from ours. So interesting, so captivating! (Atinuke is a stellar storyteller.) (AE)

## *The Rescuer of Tiny Creatures*

by Curtis Manley, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins – E Man | Picture Book

Have you ever caught a tiny creature in your home? Follow Roberta on her journey to rescue all the tiny creatures she can find. She shows us step by step how to save these creatures and all the places they like to hide, including mud puddles and windowsills. Rescuing tiny creatures is a special job. Will you help Roberta on her mission? (MG)

## *My America*

by Karen Katz – E Kat | Picture Book

Another amazing Karen Katz picture book shares the stories of children from all over the world and their experiences both in their old home and their new one, including some of the things that are special to them and their families. A wonderful story of the people that make America beautiful. (EK)

## *Ahmed Aziz's Epic Year*

by Nina Hamza — j Ham | Realistic Fiction

Ahmed's dad needs a transplant and has moved the family back to his own hometown. It's a long way—in many ways—from Hawaii to Minnesota. Minnesota weather is very different. Ahmed's usual method of doing as little schoolwork as possible doesn't work when the teacher is his dad's good friend. Here, Ahmed isn't just "the new kid." He's also the only brown kid, and the class bully is making his life miserable. Can this year be saved? Count on it! (PS)



### ***Summer Camp Critter Jitters***

by Jory John – E Joh | Picture Book

Everyone is packing for Camp Super Fun, worrying about what it will be like and whether they will make friends. When their counselor gets stuck in a tree, the critters work together to solve the problem and learn a lot about each other along the way. Camp Super Fun is going to be fun after all! (LD)

### ***My Father's Dragon***

by Ruth Stiles Gannett — j Gan | audiobook and ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) and [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction

A young boy becomes friends with a stray cat, and the cat tells him a story of a poor baby dragon who is chained up on an island of wild animals that make him work for them. The boy and the cat decide to rescue him, and so starts the young boy's grand adventure to the Wild Island! Don't worry, he has it all planned! (JL)

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### ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears***

by Meg Medina – j Med | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | audiobook in Spanish on [HOOPLA](#) | Contemporary Fiction

Starting 6th grade at a new, private school on scholarship is the least of Merci's challenges. Following in the footsteps of a very gifted older brother and being on the receiving end of a wealthy, bossy, jealous classmate don't help the circumstances. This Newbery winner (2019) depicts an authentic kid growing stronger with the challenges she faces in everyday life. Definitely a winner. (AE)

### ***Bodies Are Cool***

by Tyler Feder – E Fed | Picture Book

You have an amazing, growing, and changing body; a body that is uniquely you! From crooked teeth to stubby fingers, Feder has included it all. The fun, colorful design and representation of different body types make this book a must-read in your home. *Bodies are cool!* (MG)

### ***Stick Insects: An Augmented Reality Experience***

by Sandra Markle – j 595.72 Mar | Nonfiction, Insects | [Creepy Crawlers in Action](#) Series

Readers will learn all about a super cool insect that looks just like the natural world around it – the stick bug! Detailed descriptions and cool photography will help you become a stick-insect expert in no time. This series takes the learning a step further with an app download and special pages that can be scanned and give the reader an augmented reality experience! (EK)



### ***Happy Dreams, Little Bunny***

by Leah Hong — E Hon | Picture Book

Little Bunny is having trouble falling asleep. His mother helps him to use his imagination to turn his thoughts into dreams. While planning all of the interesting dreams that he could be having, he finds that falling asleep isn't so hard anymore. (LD)

### ***A Night Divided***

by Jennifer Nielsen – j Nie | ebook & audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) |  
Historical Fiction

When the Berlin Wall is put up to divide the east from the west in Germany, Gerta, her mother, and her brother Fritz become separated from their father and brother who are on the western side. After receiving a secret drawing from her father about tunneling under the wall, Gerta and her brother decide to dig underneath it to escape East Germany and to reach the freedom that they have never known. (EM)

### ***Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend***

by Dawn Quigley; illustrated by Tara Audibert — JE Red Qui | First Chapter Book

First grade is full of ups and downs for Jo Jo. Her very best friend (Mimi the cat) isn't allowed at school, her best at-school friend might have changed her mind, and adults never seem to understand things clearly. At least it's never dull! This first book about a spunky girl living on an Ojibwe reservation will be appreciated by fans of Beverly Cleary, Barbara Park, and Lauren Child. (PS)

### ***The Camping Trip***

by Jennifer K. Mann — E Man | Picture Book

Ernestine has been invited to go on her very first camping trip with her aunt and cousin and she is very excited! She has packed everything she needs and that's a lot of stuff. She loves to swim at the pool, but the lake has fish, and she walks to school every day but the forest has lots of hills, and then when it's time for bed she realizes just how dark it is and she starts to miss her dad! With the help and encouragement from her cousin and Aunt, she overcomes all her fears and has so much fun that she wants to go again! (JL)



### ***Flint Water Crisis***

by Julie Knutson – j 363.6 Knu | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Nonfiction, Environment, Health

After the new water system was put into place in Flint, Michigan, many people began to complain about the water. The water was yellow in color and had a strong smell and taste. Also, many people got rashes, lost their hair, had headaches, and developed other symptoms. Find out more about what went wrong in one of Michigan's biggest human disasters. (EM)

### ***How to Test a Friendship***

by Theanne Griffith – JE Red Gri | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | [Magnificent Makers](#) Series

On the first day of third grade Pablo, Violet, and Deepak have a big adventure at school. They are chosen to enter a Magic Maker Maze while the rest of their class gets frozen until they solve a challenge. (LD)

### ***Kiyoshi's Walk***

by Mark Karlins, illustrated by Nicole Wong – E Kar | Picture Book

Where do poems come from? Kiyoshi learns about the power of poems through his grandfather Eto. We follow them both on a walk through their town (beautifully illustrated) to understand where poems can come from and how we ourselves can become inspiring poets. What is the key to writing the perfect poem? Read this book to find out! (MG)

### ***The Greedy Goat***

by Petr Horacek — E Hor | Picture Book

When Goat gets tired of eating herbs and grass, what will she eat next? EVERYTHING! Brightly colored, double-page mixed-media spreads and a brief, lively text will make this a family favorite. (PS)

### ***Surprising Stories Behind Everyday Stuff***

by Stephanie Warren Drimmer – j 032.02 Dri | Nonfiction, Trivia

From spatulas to soda pop, from ancient sporting events to white-out liquid paper -- if you enjoy all kinds of miscellaneous information about tons of stuff, this book is for you. Classic, bright yellow National Geographic design and quality. (AE)

### ***I'm a Hare, So There!***

by Julie Rowan-Zoch — E Row | Picture book

Did you know there is a difference between a rabbit and a hare? Well, in this book, Jack is upset that everyone calls him a rabbit! So, a little angrily, he explains the difference between the two! And in the end gets angry with a Jackal, or is it a Coyote? (JL)



### *The Giver*

by Lois Lowry – j Low | j CDAB Low | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) and [HOOPLA](#) | Dystopian Fiction

In Jonas’s world, life is very predictable and very planned. Sameness is of utmost importance. At the ceremony of one, all children are given a name and a family. At the age of nine, they receive a bicycle. At the age of twelve, they receive their life assignment, carefully chosen after years of observation. When Jonas receives his assignment, suddenly, nothing is the same and he will have to decide what to do with the tremendous knowledge he now possesses. (EK)

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### *Whale Fall Café*

by Jacquie Sewell; illustrated by Dan Tavis — j 577.7 Sew | Nonfiction, Marine Ecology

Whale fall: “the carcass of a whale on the deep ocean floor.” This fascinating (but not for the squeamish) book shows how the death of a whale in the deep ocean gives life to thousands of other creatures. The text is both scientific and humorous. Watercolor, ink, and digital illustrations provide a glimpse into the mostly unseen ocean depths. (PS)

### *The Secret Fawn*

by Kallie George – E Geo | Picture Book

A little girl, the youngest in her family, feels like she’s missing out on things, like seeing shooting stars (she goes to bed early) or the deer in the yard (she was getting herself dressed). Practicing independence, this little girl comes up with a gem of an experience! The illustrations seem radiant with sunshine. (AE)

### *The Horse Encyclopedia for Kids*

by Ethan Pembroke – j 636.1 Pem | Nonfiction, Animals

Are you totally horse-crazy or do you want to learn more about these magnificent animals? If so, this book is for you! This equine edition of the [Encyclopedias for Kids](#) series has everything you’d want to know about horses! Well organized chapters and beautiful photography teach us about many different breeds of horses and what makes them unique! Learn things like breed history, colors and patterns, foals, training and so much more! An excellent book for all things horses! (EK)

### *A Kitten Called Moonlight*

by Martin Waddell — E Wad | Picture Book

Charlotte always wants her mom to tell her favorite story, the one about how they found Moonlight, the kitten. It is an exciting story about how they rescued him and gave him a “fur-ever” home. Charlotte loves this little lost kitten and the story they share! (JL)



### ***They Only See the Outside***

by Kalli Dakos – j 811.54 Dak | Poetry

Sometimes we feel emotions that can only be seen on the inside. Dakos shows us through a wide range of poetry how we can express these emotions and not feel so alone. Some of our inner feelings are joyful while others are upsetting. Dakos touches on feelings that aren't easy to talk about, but we've all experienced them. Be sure to share your favorite poems from this book with your household! (MG)

### ***The How and the Wow of the Human Body***

by Mindy Thomas – j 612 Tho | Nonfiction, Anatomy and Physiology

Based on a podcast series for kids, this is a fun and silly book full of facts about the human body. Did you know that no two human tongues are alike? Have you ever thought about comparing a whale's tongue to a human's? Blue whales have the largest tongues on earth, weighing as much as an elephant! (LD)

### ***Bark Park***

by Brandi Dougherty – JE Red Dou | First Chapter Book

Scout, the little dog, loves to solve mysteries that involve her friends. First, she must solve the case of the popped ball; secondly, she needs to figure out why Rocky has a cone around his neck; and finally, she must find Gus's missing bone. (EM)