



Youth Staff Picks

December 2021

It Fell from the Sky

by The Fan Brothers — E Fan | Picture book

It was amazing, remarkable but it didn't taste good and it was too heavy to move, agreed all the bugs that saw it land! Then Spider came along and decided it was definitely his, since it fell right into his web. What is to be done with this wonderful thing? Can Spider get rich, will everyone get a chance to see it? Then as mysteriously as it appeared, it was scooped up by a large creature. And then it was gone. Spider watched and hoped something else would fall from the sky, and you know he will be ready for it when it does! (JL)

Chez Bob

by Bob Shea –E She | Picture Book | Humor

Bob, the alligator, works hard at being lazy. In the meantime, he devises a plan to open a birdseed restaurant on his nose to attract birds so he can gobble them up, but soon becomes a part of their community and has second thoughts about eating them. A sweet and funny book! (EM)

The Christmas Pig

by J.K. Rowling — j Row | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction | Fantasy | Christmas

Sad and alone because he has lost his favorite toy, Jack is astonished to find that his old toys have come to life on Christmas Eve, the evening of miracles and lost causes. He is taken to the dangerous Land of the Lost. Will he find his old toy and a way back home? He makes a lot of friends (including Santa) and learns a lot about love and hope along the way. (LD)

The Story of Hanukkah

by David Adler- j 296.435 Adl |

Want to learn more about Hanukkah or just need a quick review? This beautifully illustrated book tells readers about the origins of Hanukkah in an effective way for early readers and their families alike. (MG)

Bloomability

by Sharon Creech - j Cre | ebook and audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction

When her aunt and uncle take her from New Mexico to Lugano, Switzerland, to attend an international school, thirteen-year-old Dinnie discovers an expanding world and her place within it. Learning to love and thrive where you are planted, Dinnie inspires you to grow and move forward as she reluctantly accepts new friends and has new experiences. (NBS)



Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword

by Barry Deutsch - J Graphic Novel Deu | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Graphic Novel | Fantasy
Mirka would rather be off fighting dragons than doing her boring math homework. But first, she'll need a sword. Unfortunately, her Orthodox Jewish community doesn't think sword chasing and dragon fighting are appropriate pursuits for an 11-year-old girl. This graphic novel is the first in the three-book Hereville series. (SP)

*

A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story About Knitting and Love

by Michelle Edwards- E Edw | Picture Book

While Mrs. Goldman is busy knitting hats for everyone in the neighborhood, Sophia realized that Mrs. Goldman could use a hat! But no matter how hard she tries, she just can't make the perfect hat, until she comes up with an idea to make the most beautiful hat Mrs. Goldman has ever seen! Read the book to find out how Sophia makes the perfect hat for Mrs. Goldman. (MG)

Zoey and Sassafras: Bips and Roses

by Asia Citro— JE Red Cit | Early Reader | ebook on [HOOPLA](#)

Zoey and her cat, Sassafras, are always excited to hear the barn doorbell ring because it means a magical creature is out there in need of help! Today it is Pip, their talking frog friend, and he knows that the baby hippogriffs will not be able to fly if the magic roses they eat are all dead! They will be hatching in 3 or 4 days, will Zoey be able to figure out a plan to save the roses and thus save the hippogriffs? This is the 8th in a series that doesn't need to be read in order. (JL)

What's in Your Pocket? Collecting Nature's Treasures

by Heather L. Montgomery – j 508 Mon | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Nonfiction | Life Science

Have you ever found an interesting object on the ground and put it in your pocket? You may be a scientist! This nonfiction picture book shows famous scientists when they were children collecting natural objects in their pockets, then details how their curiosity helped them change the world through scientific discovery. (SP)

Interrupting Chicken: Cookies for Breakfast

by David Ezra Stein – E Ste | Picture Book | Humor

Chicken is back for more stories with Papa, but this time, it's early on Saturday and Papa just wants a little more sleep. Chicken persuades him to read her some nursery rhymes. Of course, there is a Chicken version of each one, with a distinct interest in cookies! The illustrations are always wonderful. (LD)



The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne

by Jonathan Stroud – j Stro v.1 | Science Fiction | Dystopias

Scarlett is a young and dangerous criminal who accidentally saves Albert, the victim of a strange accident. She agrees to accompany him to safety in the Free Isles—but who or what is he running from? Set in a post-apocalyptic Britain, this is a wild adventure with numerous twists and turns, most appropriate for older readers. (PS)

Big Book of Dinosaurs: A Visual Exploration of the Creatures Who Rule the Earth

by Big Book – j 567.8 Big | Nonfiction | Dinosaurs

Read about the many dinosaurs that roamed the Earth. Learn about fossils and where fossils have been found. Book includes theories, timelines, facts, charts, and much more. Also, a 2-page quiz is included at the end of the book. Great realistic pictures! (EM)

*

Time for Bed, Old House

by Janet Costa Bates - E Bat | Picture Book | Intergenerational | Bedtime

At his first sleepover at Grandpop's house, Isaac isn't tired at all. But that's okay, because Grandpop needs help putting the house to bed. As they go through the house's bedtime rituals, Isaac might just get a little sleepy after all. This picture book is great for reading together at bedtime. (SP)

Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story

by Tommy DePaola – E DeP | Picture book

After the death of her mother and father, Adelita is badly mistreated by her stepmother and stepsisters until she finds her own true love at a grand fiesta. A missing shawl and a compassionate heart at the center of this tale reminds us that beauty is only skin deep. Giving us the happily ever after we all love most at the very end. (NBS)

My Footprints

by Bao Phi – E Phi | Picture Book | Families | Bullying

Thuy doesn't like being different from other kids, she's "double different." Because of her heritage and two mothers, she gets bullied quite a lot at school. However, it takes just one little bird and her moms to take her on an adventure to change her perspective. Dare to be different! (MG)

The Octopus Escapes

by Maile Meloy – E Mel | Picture Book

After an octopus is captured and taken to an aquarium, he soon tires of the same routine day after day and longs to return to the ocean. One evening, he climbs out of his tank and returns to the ocean home he loves. Bright illustrations! (EM)



Billie B. Brown: The Hat Parade

by Sally Rippin – JE Blue Rip | Early Reader

Billie and her best friend Jack are going to make silly hats from boxes! She is sure she will win the best hat award at this year's parade. Jack will help make them but he is too embarrassed to wear them, until the day of the parade when Billie is too sick to go to school, Jack wears one of her best hats and even though they didn't win best hat, he does win another award, can you guess what it is? (JL)

Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen

by Kate McGovern – j McG | Contemporary Fiction | School stories

Back to fifth grade, that is: Maple has been held back because she's not reading well-enough to do sixth-grade work. It's embarrassing and upsetting, and hard to explain to her best friends from past years. She convinces her new classmates that she's actually there as a special teacher's assistant, but that will be a hard fiction to maintain. Readers will cheer her on as she makes her way through a challenging year. (PS)

Never Get Bored : Cut, Fold, and Stick

by James Maclaine – j 745.54 Mac | Nonfiction | Crafts

This book has a wealth of information about fun things to do with paper, foil, egg cartons, and other materials that you have at home. You can learn how to make castanets, jumping frogs, mosaics, and many other interesting things. Have fun! (LD)

*

Five Little Monkeys Looking for Santa

by Eileen Christelow – E Chr | Picture Book | Christmas

The Five Little Monkeys can't sleep because it's Christmas Eve. Each time they hear a noise, they think it's Santa, and they won't rest until they see him! (EM)

What About X?

by Anne Marie Houppert - E Hou | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Picture Book | Alphabet

X is going camping for the first time with the rest of the alphabet. Everyone is bringing something, but X doesn't know what to bring. A was bringing apples and F was bringing fishing poles. X just doesn't know how to help until his friends tell him that the best thing that he can do is to bring himself! (LD)



Einstein: The Fantastic Journey of a Mouse through Space and Time

by Torben Kuhlmann— j Oversize Kuh | j Fiction

In this beautifully illustrated storybook, Mouse asks the question “What is time?”. He had missed the Great Cheese Fair by a whole day and wanted to go back in time. After a bump on the head he discovered the answers and now needs the help of a famous scientist, Einstein! Now the question is did Einstein help Mouse or did Mouse help Einstein? (JL)

A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story of Christmas

by Charles Dickens- j Dic | ebooks and audio on [OVERDRIVE](#) and [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction | Christmas

In this Christmas classic, Ebenezer Scrooge is known as the greediest man in town. He refuses to donate money to people in need, pays his employees measly wages, and has lost all respect from the most important people in his life. That is, until he meets the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. Will he turn his life around before it’s too late or will he face the consequences of his actions? (MG)

The Midwife’s Apprentice

by Karen Cushman - j Cus | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) and [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction

Winner of the Newbery medal, opening in medieval England, a nameless, homeless girl is taken in by a sharp-tempered midwife, and in spite of obstacles and hardship, eventually gains the three things she most wants: a full belly, a contented heart, and a place in this world. Follow Alyce, formerly Beetle, as she learns a trade and discovers the person she truly wants to be, a girl with a name and a home she can call her own. (NBS)

The Story That Cannot Be Told

by J. Kasper Kramer - j Kra | Fiction | Historical Fiction

Ileana lives with her family under the oppressive communist regime in Romania in 1989. When her family decides the city is too dangerous, she is sent to live in the country with only her imagination and beloved fairy tales to keep her company. (SP)

Germ Science: the Sick Truth about Getting Sick (and Staying Healthy)

by Edward Kay; illus. by Mike Shiell | j 579 Kay | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Nonfiction | Health | Diseases

An amusing and informative introduction to germs includes the good, the bad and the disgusting facts about microbes and how they affect our world at large and our bodies in particular. Cartoon illustrations bring everything to revolting life. Enjoy! (PS)

*



My First Kwanzaa Book

by Deborah Chocolate- j 394.268 Cho |

No matter if you know everything there is to know about Kwanzaa or would like to know more, this book has it all! Chocolate describes the purpose of Kwanzaa and how this young boy and his family celebrate, all with beautiful illustrations to boot. To learn more, read this book! (MG)

The Power of Yet

by Maryann Cocca-Leffler- E Coc | Picture book

One small piglet who has been told “not yet” so many times that she asks “How do I get to yet?” She finds out that with patience, courage and trying over and over again, not to mention asking for help, comes grit and eventually “yet” will arrive! (JL)

Except Antarctica

by Todd Sturgell — E Stu | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Picture Book

Turtles are found on every continent except Antarctica. One turtle is astonished by that fact and decides to make the trip. As he travels, a snake, a beetle, an owl, a bee, a mouse and a frog all decide to join him on the journey. The cold isn't quite what they expected, but they are glad that they made friends along the way (maybe more than they realized). This book is an enjoyable, funny read. (LD)

Bud, not Buddy

by Christopher Paul Curtis - j Cur | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction

Winner of the Newbery medal in 2000, the story of Bud (not Buddy) and his journey escaping his foster home to find the man that he believes is his father. Set in Great Depression era Flint, Michigan, you will find a heart-warming adventure about finding and being found. (NBS)

Ms. Bixby's Last Day

by John David Anderson – j And | Contemporary Fiction | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) & audiobook on [HOOPLA](#)

After their beloved teacher announces that she will not finish out the school year because she has cancer, three 6th grade boys decide to do something special for her. When things don't go as planned, the boys tell their story of how Ms. Bixby changed their lives for the better. This helps them with their grief and loss. A sweet and moving story! (EM)



The Weirdstone of Brisingamen* and *The Moon of Gomerath

by Alan Garner – j Gar | ebooks on [OVERDRIVE](#) | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction | Fantasy
Sent to stay on a Welsh farm, Susan and Colin find themselves aligned with dwarfs, elves and a wizard against an ancient evil which has awakened and threatens both the mortal and magical worlds. Much of this will seem familiar: Welsh mythology has provided the basis for many outstanding fantasy series. Alan Garner's books are now six decades old, but the magic holds. (PS)

Math Maker Lab: 27 Super-Cool Projects: Build, Invent, Create, Discover

j 510 Mat | Nonfiction | Math | DIY/Crafts | Science Projects

Using the basic mathematical concepts of numbers, shapes, and measurements, this book shows you how to make awesome crafty projects, like dream catchers, friendship bracelets, and most importantly of all -- pizza to share! (SP)