



# Youth Staff Picks

July 2021

## *Straw into Gold*

by Gary D. Schmidt – j Sch | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Fairytale Retold

Tousle heads into town with his Da. It's a special day to see the King and Queen. But the festivities end with a crowd of prisoners, traitors to the King. Tousle does what he thinks is right, but it puts his life on the line. To save himself, he must solve a riddle in 7 days' time. Escaping with the horrifically blinded Innes, the two boys head out on the quest of a lifetime. An excellently retold Rumpelstiltskin story. (AE)

## *Nixie Ness, Cooking Star*

by Claudia Mills – JE Red Mil | First Chapter Book | [After-School Superstars Series](#)

Best friends Nixie and Grace spend every day together after school. When Nixie's mom gets a new job, it means Nixie will start going to after-school camp, and Grace will go to another classmate's house. Nixie has more fun at camp than she expected, but quickly becomes worried that she's losing her best friend to the new friend, Elyse. Is their friendship over forever? Or will things turn out even better than she expected? Read this book to find out! (EK)

## *Grandpa Across the Ocean*

by Hyewon Yum – E Yum | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Picture Book

In the summer, a little boy goes to visit his grandpa who lives in South Korea (across the ocean) and everything seems strange to him, including his grandfather. Soon afterward, the boy and his grandpa become inseparable. (EM)

## *The Stuff Between the Stars*

by Sandra Nickel – j 921 Rub | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Biography, Astronomy

Vera Rubin was a determined and courageous astronomer. For years, she studied the movements of galaxies, especially the stars at the edges. She came to realize that the movements of the stars were influenced by the space in between them. Her calculations showed that more than 80 percent of the matter in the universe was a mysterious dark matter. She pursued her passion in spite of discrimination and found a way to do it all while raising a family. (LD)



### ***Let Me Finish***

by Minh Le’ — E Min | Picture Book

Ahhh! Nothing quite like finding the perfect spot to read a good book! Until... some nosey birds tell the ending without saying “spoiler alert!” In this fun story book, the young reader tries and tries again to start AND finish books that he has been waiting forever to read, but each time someone spoils the ending! FINALLY, here is the place! Or is it? Maybe he should have listened to the others about the surprise ending to THIS book! (JL)

### ***The Entirely True Story of the Unbelievable FIB***

by Adam Shaughnessy — j Shau | ebook and audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fantasy, Mythology

Two kids follow a series of clues to a great secret: Viking gods live in their town and are at war with one another. Only the lost Eye of Odin can stop the war and save the world. Only Pru and ABE (his initials) can find the Eye—with the help of Mr. Fox, FIB agent, and Ratatosk, the messenger squirrel to the gods. Vol. 2 is also available. (PS)

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### ***I’m On It!***

by Andrea Tsurumi — JE Yellow Tsu | First Reader

Goat and Frog decide to have some fun, which turns into a friendly, silly and increasingly outrageous competition! Read and laugh with this silly pair, as they attempt to out-do each other and learn some direction prepositions at the same time! (EK)

### ***Amina’s Song***

by Hena Khan – j Kha | Contemporary Fiction

Amina has finally had a chance to visit her family in Pakistan and really get to know them and their country. When she goes back to her life in America, she wants to keep them a part of her life and introduce them to her American friends. She finds that in doing so, she gains an important perspective on who she wants to be. She finds the courage to follow her dreams with both new friends and old. (LD)

### ***Cars, Signs, and Porcupines!***

by Ethan Long – E Lon | Picture Book | [Happy County Series](#)

There’s never a dull moment in Happy County! In this 3rd book in the series, when a water tower springs a leak and floods Pauly and Polly’s Porcupine Playground, the very playful little porcupines have a frolicking time escaping and exploring Happy County. Lots of details, lots of fun. (AE)



### ***The Dog Encyclopedia for Kids***

by Merriam Garcia – j 636.7 Gar | Nonfiction, Dogs

Are you thinking about getting a dog? This encyclopedia highlights over 70 different kinds of dogs and includes the history, appearance, and behavior of each breed. Nice color photos! (EM)

### ***The Best Friend Plan***

by Stephanie Calmenson — JE Red Cal v.1 | First Chapter Book | [Adventures of Allie and Amy Series](#)

Allie and Amy are the very best of friends and they have big plans for the summer, as a matter of fact they have created a list so they don't waste a single minute! The first thing on the list is to have their fortune told, and Madame Lulu predicts they are going on a fun trip with lots of activities. Boy, is she ever wrong the girls thought, but was she? Does something happen that could ruin all of their summer plans or does it end up being the best summer ever? (JL)

### ***The Forest of Stars***

by Heather Kassner — j Kas | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fantasy

A black and gold ticket sends 12-year-old Louisa to the Carnival Beneath the Stars, a place full of mystery and wonders. Louisa fits right in—the girl whose feet, strangely, never touch the ground! Magic, danger and discovery are all part of this fantasy. (PS)

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### ***The Lost Package***

by Richard Ho – E Ho | Picture Book

This beautiful book follows a package from sender to recipient. The illustrator lets you see the steps that a package goes through from the post office into the sorting warehouse and beyond. In this case, a little extra help is needed from a small hero who rescues the lost package. The author was inspired by his father's years with the postal service. (LD)

### ***Sprouting Wings***

by Louisa Jaggar and Shari Becker – j 629.13 Jag | Nonfiction, Airplanes, Pilots

From the time he was a boy, James Manning was enraptured and inspired by flying, and he resolved to one day fly himself. He did. This is the true story of how a farm boy built his own airplane and became the 1st African American to fly across the U.S.A., soaring past societal norms, supported by thousands. (AE)



### ***Pete the Cat: Rocking Field Day***

by Kimberly and James Dean – JE Blue Dea | Beginning Reader

Everyone’s favorite cool cat is back again with his friends in this early reader, and this time it’s field day in their community! Pete and his friends compete in lots of fun field day activities, like water balloon toss and relay races. Will they bring home a victory? What will Pete learn about the importance of teamwork? Read this book to find out! (EK)

### ***Skunk and Badger***

by Amy Timberlake — j Tim | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) and [OVERDRIVE](#) | Animal Fiction

Badger lives a happy-ordered life on his own in Aunt Lula’s borrowed house. Then Skunk moves in and life is turned upside-down. This is a wonderful read-aloud or read-alone, filled with rich language, good humor, and some gentle lessons about friendship. (PS)

### ***War and Millie McGonigle***

by Karen Cushman – j Cus | Historical Fiction, WWII

In 1941, Millie McGonigle lives in San Diego, California, during WWII. She struggles with the loss of her grandmother, worries about death and war, and is jealous of the attention her sickly, younger sister receives. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, she is forced to care for her siblings when her mother takes on a new job. Can Millie find happiness in her current situation? Will the carefree days of her youth ever return? (EM)

### ***The Couch Potato***

by Jory John — E Joh | Picture Book

Has your mom ever said you are becoming a couch potato? The little spud in this story is certain he has absolutely everything he could ever need right there on his cushion (that, by the way, is perfectly shaped to his back side!) – a bunch of shiny screens, plus his phone, which is how he easily spends “quality time” with his buds. Uh oh! What do you think happens when he loses electricity? Well, it starts with him stumbling in the dark to a window and flinging back the curtains! Could there possibly be something better than what he sees on his screens? Check out this book to find the answer! (JL)

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### ***The Great Big Enormous Book of Tashi***

by Anna and Barbara Fienberg — j Fie | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fantasy, Short Stories

Who or what is Tashi? It’s hard to say. Jack’s new pointy-capped friend is full of wild stories of meetings with dragons, giants, trolls, genies and more. The 34 stories in this illustrated collection are full of humor and wordplay. It’s a great one to read together or read alone! (PS)



### ***Doggo and Pupper***

by Katherine Applegate – JE Blue App | Beginning Reader

Doggo lives with Cat. They live with their humans. It's a busy life, especially when the humans leave the house. But same old, same old. The humans think Doggo is bored. They have an idea. Oh boy. A truly fun easy reader about the lives of pets. (AE)

### ***Let's Go for a Drive!***

by Mo Willems — JE Yellow Wil | First Reader

Elephant and Piggie are best friends. Piggie is carefree and comes up with an excellent idea to go for a drive. What could go wrong? Well, Elephant thinks of a lot of things that could ruin their drive and comes up with a long list of things they might need along the way! Piggie happily gathers all the items on his list, except for one very important thing! It could ruin everything! But when you have your best friend to help come up with plan "B," there is really no need to worry! (JL)

### ***Max's Story: A Dog's Purpose Puppy Tale***

by W. Bruce Cameron — j Cam | audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) and [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Dogs

Max is a fierce little dog who is determined to show everyone he's the boss. His personality makes it difficult for him to get adopted until one day he meets CJ, the perfect owner. CJ and Max learn about life together in the big city, but Max continues to show troublesome behavior. Will CJ be able to keep him? (EK)

### ***Aven Green: Sleuthing Machine***

by Dusti Bowling – JE Red Bow | First Chapter Book, Mystery

Aven Green, who was born without arms, is determined to solve two mysteries. First, discover the culprit who is stealing food at her school, and second, find her great grandmother's missing dog. An amusing book! (EM)

### ***No Place Like Home***

by Ronojoy Ghosh — E Gho | Picture Book

George is grumpy. He is a polar bear who is having a hard time being happy. Nothing in his life seems quite right. He lives in a crowded city in a house which is too small. He wants to go back to his real home, but he can't remember where that is. He embarks on a search for his perfect place. He knows he has finally found it when he doesn't feel grumpy anymore. (LD)