



Youth Staff Picks

June 2021

My First Day

by Nguyen Quang Phung – E Phu | Picture Book

An is a young Vietnamese boy who is heading off to school by himself for the first time. Mama and Papa have decided that he is old enough to make the journey alone through the highways of the river. He pays close attention to the route to make the journey less forbidding and to enjoy the beauty of nature around him. What a wonderful journey! (LD)

The Many Mysteries of the Finkel Family

by Sarah Kapit — j Kap | Fiction

After twelve-year-old Lara starts her own detective agency, her sister Caroline, who speaks by using a tablet, wants to be involved too, but Lara refuses to include her. (Both sisters are autistic.) When Lara starts to investigate her own family members, she discovers some big secrets and has a hard time keeping them private – which causes conflicts in the family. Can her family members forgive her for snooping and tattling on them? (EM)

Kristy's Great Idea

by Ann M. Martin — j Mar | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction

The first book in the ever popular *Baby-Sitters Club* series tells the story of the club's beginning, when Kristy has a great idea to help the parents in their neighborhood out with an organized group of babysitters! Fans of the recently published graphic novels will love reading the origin story of this famous group and there is plenty of nostalgia in a re-read for those that enjoyed this series in their childhood! (EK)

Tears

by Sybille Delacroix — E Del | Picture Book

Simple lines express the varied ways and reasons we all cry, big or little. Without too much analysis, the author presents different types of crying as a natural, cleansing process through which to move forward into “new adventures.” As in her *Grains of Sand*, Delacroix uses a strategic palette with amazing results. Not to be missed! (AE)



The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio

by Lloyd Alexander — j Ale | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Fantasy

Only a daydreamer would follow a treasure map he found in an old book given to him by a mysterious merchant in the bazaar, but that's how Carlo Chuchio finds himself trekking across the deserts of Keshavar. He's accompanied by the world's worst camel-puller, a broken-down donkey, and a ragamuffin of a girl with plans of her own. It's a terrific combination of humor and adventure. (PS)

The Secret Life of the Sloth

by Lawrence Pringle — j 599.3 Pri | Nonfiction, Animals

Perezoso the sloth spends most of her life camouflaged high up in a tree of the rainforest. But did you know that sloths' back legs are very weak, so they can't walk upright? Or that they are excellent swimmers? This beautifully illustrated non-fiction book is the life story of Perezoso, from how she finds her home to how she cares for her baby and more! (JL)

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Mr. Brown's Bad Day

by Lou Peacock — E Pea | Picture Book

Mr. Brown is a businessman with very busy days, but he always takes time to eat lunch in the park. One fateful day, his very important briefcase goes on an adventure from the park with some schoolchildren. Mr. Brown has quite an adventure getting it back. What do you think is in that briefcase that is so very important to Mr. Brown? (LD)

Unplugged

by Gordon Korman — j Kor | ebook [OVERDRIVE](#) | Contemporary Fiction

Jett Baranov, son of the most famous tech billionaire, is sent by his father to a wellness camp in Arkansas called the Oasis where he is stripped of his technology, forced to eat vegetarian food, and made to meditate daily. After Jeff and a group of kids find a lizard they call "Needles," they secretly hide and feed him (no pets are allowed there). Meanwhile, the adults at the camp are acting strange, and Jeff is determined to discover why. (EM)

***Shadows of Sherwood* and the [Robyn Hoodlum Adventure](#) series**

by Kekla Magoon — j Mag | Fiction, Suspense

In a futuristic variation on Robin Hood, Robyn Loxley finds herself on the run from a corrupt governor who overtook the government and is set on getting rid of all dissidents, including Robyn's parents. Guided by a handful of things her father left her, Robyn forges ahead to explore the rebellion's members, its destiny, and her role within it. (AE)



Bindu's Bindis

by Supriya Kelkar — E Kel | Picture Book

Bindu loves her Nani, and they like everything matching, including Bindis. These are little decorations worn between the eyebrows for religious reasons or just because they are pretty! Nani gives Bindu all different kinds, and she loves wearing them, until she is at school and is embarrassed to be different from the others. Will she ever be brave enough to wear the lightning bolt bindi and dance with her Nani in front of her classmates? (JL)

Outside, Inside

by LeUyen Pham — E Pha | Picture Book

As spring was on the horizon in early 2020, something very unusual happened. Seemingly in a moment, everyone who had been outside, suddenly went inside. Except for the people who couldn't, the heroes who courageously continued on while it felt like everything was falling apart and changing. Through beautiful words and emotion-filled illustrations, this book describes the many ways people and the world were impacted and shaped by this event while sharing hope for a brighter future. (EK)

Night of the Howling Dogs: A Novel

by Graham Salisbury — j Sal | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Suspense, Survival

A Scout campout on an isolated Hawaiian beach takes a terrifying turn when an earthquake is followed by a tsunami. Each member of the group will be challenged. This page-turning survival story is based on an actual 1975 event. (PS)

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Starfish

by Lisa Fipps — j Fip | Contemporary Fiction

Except for a handful of people, twelve-year-old Splash is seen only by the weight she carries. Teased, bullied, and harassed by family members, classmates, and strangers who feel like they have the right to judge her only by her appearance, she almost begins to believe that she deserves nothing else. Luckily, there are good people who call her Ellie and help her gain a renewed sense of self-respect. A powerful story. (AE)

There Goes Patti McGee!

by Tootie Nienow — j 796.21 Nie | Nonfiction, Sports Biography

One day Patti sees a group of boys zip past her house on their skateboards, and she decides to try it herself. After many crashes and bruises, she decides to enter the 1964 National Skateboard Championship in which she earns a perfect score for doing her rolling handstand trick. She becomes the first-ever professional female skateboarder. (EM)



Where Is Stonehenge?

by True Kelley — j 936.2 Kel | Nonfiction, Archeology

For more than one thousand years, this magnificent and gigantic formation of stones, known as Stonehenge, has remained a massive mystery! Where did it come from? If it was built, how did humans manage it, without the modern tools and machinery we have today? If humans didn't build it, was magic involved? This exciting installment in the “*Where Is*” series is packed with information on the discovery, history and theories around Stonehenge and other impressive discoveries nearby! (EK)

Blood Oath

by Dan Scott — j Sco v.1 | Historical Fiction

Lucius's father disappeared after being accused of treason against Roman Emperor Titus. Now Lucius works as a servant at his uncle's gladiator school and his brother is training as a gladiator, with the status of a slave. Lucius fears for his brother's life. He also knows his father is innocent, but who is the real traitor? Full of details of Roman life and gladiatorial training (often gory), this is fast-moving historical fiction with a mystery at its core. (PS)

The Mysterious Benedict Society

by Trenton Lee Stewart — j Ste v.1 | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction, Mystery

An odd ad in the newspaper for extraordinary children who want special opportunities is the beginning of the biggest adventure of Reynie's life! Along with his intelligence being tested, also tested are his honesty, his ability to trust and be a friend. This first in a series book is an exciting read with characters that you'll love and cheer for along the way! (JL)

Road Trip! : A Whiskers Hollow Adventure

by Steve Light – E Lig | Picture Book

Bear needs a new headlight for his truck, so he gathers his friends to help him find one. Rabbit, Mouse, and Donkey go with him on a road trip to Elephant's Old Junk Tree. They find what they are looking for and have a lot of fun along the way because they are together! Charming illustrations. (LD)

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Tesla's Attic

by Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman — j Shu | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Science Fiction

When Nick chooses the junk-filled attic for his room in his family's new house, he clears it out with a giant garage sale. Then he learns that all that junk holds the key to immense power, and a secret organization wants that key. Can Nick and his odd assortment of friends reassemble the junk collection and stop evil physicists from taking over the world? (PS)



I Want to Dance

by Makiko Toyofuku – E Toy | Picture Book

A little rabbit and her friends love to watch the girls in the ballet school and dream of dancing with them. When they gather the courage to knock on the door and ask if they may join, the ballerinas welcome them into their classes. What will happen when it comes time for the big recital? (LD)

Shh! We Have a Plan

by Chris Haughton — E Hau | Picture Book

As these four little explorers walk through the woods they come across a beautiful bird! One says “Hello Birdie” the others yell at him to be quiet because they have a plan! As each of their plans fall through, see how the first, quiet, observant explorer had a plan of his own. (JL)

Wild River: A Novel

by W.R. Philbrick — j Phi | audiobook [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Suspense, Survival

Five kids from totally different backgrounds are on a white-water rafting trip in Montana, when the dam breaks. The kids make it to higher ground, but the adults are swept away in the rushing waters. Left with very little food and supplies, the kids struggle to survive, and tensions arise over who the leader is. Can they work together, or will they destroy each other? (EM)

Stella

by McCall Hoyle — j Hoy | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Dogs

Stella, a beagle, and her handler worked together every day to keep people safe with Stella’s special training and powerful sense of smell. When a tragedy occurs, Stella finds herself without her beloved handler and with so much anxiety, she can’t work anymore. Hope seems lost until one day Stella finds herself with a new person. A child, Cloe, who smells of cookies and books and something else mysterious. Before long, Stella finds herself with a new kind job, protecting Cloe. An incredible story, told from Stella’s perspective, about the bond between a dog and human. (EK)

The Wisdom of Trees: How Trees Work Together to Form a Natural Kingdom

by Lita Judge — j 582.16 Jud | Nonfiction, Ecosystems, Poetry

A tree is so much more than roots, a trunk, branches, and leaves. Trees interact with fungi and “talk” using the language of chemistry; mother trees help daughter trees, strong trees help trees in distress; they create microclimates. This is a lushly illustrated, cross-curriculum book with plenty of information, plus poems from the trees’ perspectives. To be read, pored over, and re-read. (AE)

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Unicorn Island

by Donna Galanti — j Gal | Fiction, Fantasy

Sam can't believe her mom sent her to stay in boring Foggy Harbor all summer, with an uncle she barely knows. When she and a new friend uncover hints about the seemingly never ending fog that lies over the harbor, things take a very mysterious and magical turn and are suddenly not as boring as they had seemed. (EK)

Mel Fell

by Corey R. Tabor — E Tab | Picture Book

Mama is away, and Mel the baby bluebird has decided that today is the day she is going to fledge and learn to fly. Scared? Yes, but she has wings. Down, down, down she falls, passing others who live in the tree. And then what? To find out, you'll have to flip the pages of the book in creative ways! (AE)

The Age of Dinosaurs: The Rise and Fall of the World's Most Remarkable Animals

by Steve Brusatte — j 567.9 Bru and j CDAB 567.9 Bru | Nonfiction

For 150 million years, dinosaurs were among the most successful animals on earth. This is their story, and it's a fascinating one. This is also the story of the scientists who have pieced it together, one fossil at a time. Paleontologist Steve Brusatte explains it in 228 immensely readable pages. (PS)

Bridge of Souls

by Victoria Schwab — j Sch | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Paranormal

Cassidy and her best friend, Jacob, who just happens to be a ghost, are in New Orleans with her parents to film another episode of their TV show. Ghosts seem to follow Cass around, but this place is different, and the thing hunting her down is way scarier than a normal ghost. Cassidy must find help and fast! You must read this to find out how she fights the Emissary of Death and if it means she will have to give up someone who is very special to her! (JL)

Alone!

by Barry Falls — E Bar | Picture Book

A boy named Billy McGill lives on the top of a hill all by himself and claims that he "always will." But soon his quiet life changes when a mouse shows up in his house. He gets a cat to get rid of the mouse, a dog to chase the cat, a bear to scare the dog, and before long he has a houseful of unwanted guests. Will Billy ever have peace and quiet again? (EM)

Simon B. Rhymin'

by Dwayne Reed – E Ree | Picture Book

Simon is the youngest in his family, trying to find his way in life and in fifth grade. He gains confidence when he researches his first assignment and learns that he is not the first one to struggle with finding his voice. In helping others, he finds a way to be himself. (LD)