



Youth Staff Picks

March 2021

Kondo and Kezumi Visit Giant Island

by David Goodner — JE Red Goo v. 1 | First Chapter Book

Best friends Kondo and Kezumi live happily on an island that has everything they need. One day they find a bottle washed up on the shore and it has a map inside! Should they follow the map to adventure? It could be fun, or it could be dangerous. Read about their exciting adventures in this 1st of a series book. (JL)

The Boy Who Saved Cleveland: Based on a True Story

by James Cross Giblin — JE Red Gib | First Chapter Book, Historical Fiction

In 1798, Seth Doan's is one of three families that make up the settlement of Cleveland, Ohio. When the settlers contract malaria one by one, only ten-year-old Seth is healthy enough to make the daily four-mile round trip to the mill, for his family and the other families as well. He's on foot, hauling heavy bags of corn and cornmeal, traveling alone through forests filled with wild animals – but he's the only one who can do it. Here's a true tale of courage in a scary time. (PS)

Alone in the Woods

by Rebecca Behrens — j Beh | Fiction, Survival | ebook [HOOPLA](#)

Former best friends Jocelyn (Joss) and Alex are going on their annual family trip to the Wisconsin Northwoods. While Joss has hopes to repair their friendship, Alex wants nothing to do with her. When the family goes on a tubing trip, both girls end up lost in the woods and must put aside their differences in order to survive. (EM)

The Kid's Book of the Elements

by Theodore Gray – j 546 Gra | Nonfiction, Chemistry

In this beautiful book, you get an introduction to every known element. Did you know that Silly Putty's moldable nature and ability to bounce comes from the fact that it contains boron (B)? There are many interesting facts, including the reasons for the names. This may make the periodic table easier to understand! (LD)



Last Stop on Market Street

by Matt De La Peña — E DeL & Kit E Del | Picture Book | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | multiple formats on [HOOPLA](#)

CJ and his Nana travel across town on the way to their stop. The little boy wishes for things he doesn't have, and his grandmother points out all of the wonderful things in their world, so he doesn't miss them. A beautiful story about appreciating everything. (EK)

Just Like That

by Gary D. Schmidt — j Sch | Realistic Fiction | audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#)

After a traumatic summer (1968) during which Meryl Lee's best friend suddenly died, her parents decide that for her own mental health, Meryl Lee should spend 8th grade at a private all-girls boarding school on the coast of Maine. Race and class divisions are rampant; and the Vietnam War is always in the periphery. Like a nor'easter, the headmistress is a force to be reckoned with. She has taken in a runaway boy... and just like that, things start to change – for all involved. Meaningful, suspenseful, poignant, funny. This book has it all. (AE)

The Peacemaker

by Joseph Bruchac — j Bru | Historical Fiction, Native American Own Voices

The five tribes of the Iroquois have been at war with each other for so long hardly anyone can imagine anything different. People live in fear of the angriest, strongest warlord of them all. But Okwaho's parents and a few others decide to separate and start a quiet, hidden way of life. And then a messenger appears with a message that is almost too good to be true. This is a moving retelling of how the Great Iroquois Confederacy came to be, intertwined with Iroquois culture and a clear message of nonviolence. (AE)

The Lion Queens of India

by Jan Reynolds – JE 599.75 Re | Nonfiction, Animal Conservation

The Asiatic lion once roamed from Greece to India. By the early 1900s, at a population of 20 they were almost extinct. With the creation of a sanctuary in Western India, the population has increased to about 500. Recently, many female park rangers have joined the park. They are called Lion Queens by their coworkers and help to track and protect the lions and keep the area safe for all. (LD)

Izzy Gizmo

by Pip Jones — E Jon | Picture Book

Izzy is an inventor! But sometimes her inventions flop. When she finds a crow who has a broken wing, she decides to help him fly again, but after many unsuccessful attempts she is ready to quit. Her Grandfather encourages her to try again and again, until success has been achieved. Does she listen to him? Will the crow fly again? (JL)



Pity Party: Stories

by Kathleen Lane — j Lan | Contemporary Fiction

The strangeness and mystery of middle school life is explored in this episodic collection of short stories, “messages from our sponsor,” *Choose-Your-Own-Catastrophe* pages, occasional quizzes, and much more. Darkly funny and frequently ridiculous, it will strike a chord with anyone whose self-confidence has ever flagged, whose face has ever broken out, whose best friend has ever suddenly turned into someone else. (That would be a lot of us.) No answers are provided; it’s definitely peculiar; and you might enjoy it! (PS)

Switched at Birthday

by Natalie Standiford – j Sta | Fiction

Lavender and Scarlet share the same birthday, but that is all they have in common. On their thirteenth birthdays, they both make a wish and wake up in each other’s bodies. As both are thrown into a new life, they begin to see each other in a different light. (EM)

H is for Home: A Sesame Street Guide to Homes around the World

by Karen Latchana Kenney — E Ses | Picture Book | ebook on [HOOPLA](#)

Our familiar friends from Sesame Street take us around the world to explore the many different types of homes people live in, while sharing the important message that home is where you are loved. (EK)

The Great Escape

by Alan Katz – JE Red Kat | First Chapter Book

After second grader Milton Worthy finds out the pet ferret in his school classroom has a plan to take over the world, he and his mother (the substitute teacher) work together to save Beacher Elementary and the world. A very funny book and the first in a new series, “S.O.S., Society of Substitutes”! (EM)

Pinky Pye

by Eleanor Estes — j Est | Family Fiction, Pets | ebook and audiobook on [HOOPLA](#)

Travel back to the early 20th century and meet the delightful Pye family as they spend the summer on Fire Island, N.Y. Papa, Mama, Rachel, Jerry, and Uncle Benny (age 3, going on 4) have also brought Gracie the Cat and Ginger Pye, the dog (who got his own book in the Pye series). Now a third animal has been added: Pinky, a tiny, abandoned kitten with a big personality. Something interesting is always going on – including a mystery: WHAT do Pinky and Gracie think is in the attic? It’s a summer vacation without leaving your chair! (PS)



Prairie Lotus

by Linda Sue Park — j Par | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#)

After the death of her mother, Hanna and her father attempt to settle into a new life in the Dakota Territory in the late 1800's. Hanna is a young half-Asian girl who dreams of receiving an education and becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, the first of its kind in their new town. Hanna longs for friendship and acceptance amidst the racism and resistance of the townspeople. (EK)

A House in the Sky and Other Uncommon Animal Homes

by Steve Jenkins — JE 591.56 Jen | Non-Fiction | Animal Habitats

Who do you suppose could live in a house made completely of bubbles? Discover 14 unique animal homes in the sky, underwater or on land. This book explores unusual homes where animals sleep, stay safe, and raise families. (JL)

A Polar Bear in the Snow

by Mac Barnett — E Bar | Picture Book

This is a visual treat about one polar bear's day. In the white of the Arctic, he is difficult to spot. The illustrator uses cut white paper and ink in innovative ways to simulate the look of a white polar bear in the white environment. Invent your own story about what the polar bear will do with the rest of his day after he leaves the story in the book. Where will he go next? (LD)

Understanding Economics

by Lara Bryan — j 330 Bry | Nonfiction, Economics

In comic book format, potentially complex economic concepts are laid out in a clear yet light-hearted manner. Challenge yourself by answering thought-provoking questions that appear throughout, such as: Why is there competition? How much profit is ethical? At what cost? What choices do governments, businesses, leaders, and average people have? Another excellent addition to Usborne's other titles in this series: *Understanding Politics & Government*, *Understanding Money*, *Understanding Business*. (AE)

Kiki's Delivery Service

by Eiko Kadono — j Kad | Fiction

As is the custom for young witches, Kiki leaves home at age 13 to start life on her own. Magic is fading in Japan, and most witches have only one or two talents. Thus it is with Kiki: she's a great (broomstick) flyer; and this is the talent she parleys into a delivery service. Her first year of independence is filled with adventure, new friendships, and fun. Best known as an animated film, the original story was published in 1985, but was translated for English-reading audiences for the first time in 2020. (PS)



The Runaway No-Wheeler

by Peter Stein – E Ste | Picture Book

Tony, an 18-wheeler truck, has an important delivery to make, but he keeps losing tires along the way. Will Tony have enough tires left to make it to his destination on time? (EM)

Lost Cities

by Giles Laroche – j 930.1 Lar | Nonfiction, Ancient Cultures

The author/illustrator has created beautiful illustrations using a combination of paint and paper relief. His colorful pictures take you back in time and around the world to see what it looked like in thirteen ancient towns and locations. Read about the history and imagine that you are there! (LD)

The Tiger Rising

by Kate DiCamillo — j DiC | Fiction | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#)

Rob is a quiet boy, lost in his grief and emotionally alone. He is stunned one day to come across a magnificent tiger pacing back and forth in a rusty cage. On the same day, he meets a new girl, grieving too, but in a much more outspoken way. Together, they must decide what to do with this incredible discovery. This book artistically weaves a connection between the feelings and circumstances of each character. (EK)

The Invisible Alphabet

by Joshua David Stein — E Ste | Picture Book, Alphabet

How do you make an alphabet book for children with things not visible? Author Stein and internationally recognized illustrator Ron Barrett have teamed up to create a fun ABC book that builds vocabulary, offers up so much to talk about with your little listener, and tickles the brain, too. A pleasure for all ages! (AE)

Flashlight

by Lizi Boyd — E Boy | Picture Book

While you are cozy inside a tent, what is happening outside? It might be dark and scary, but not if you have your flashlight. Follow a child as he explores the night and discovers all kinds of interesting things in this wordless picture book. (JL)



Fossil Hunters

by Tristan Poehlmann – j 560 Poe | Nonfiction, Archeology

Are you interested in fossils and discovering more about the historical timeline of man? Scientists are doing DNA analyses of ancient hominid bones to try to track the evolution of the species. This book has details about some of the most interesting digs in recent years in all different parts of the world as well as information about some early pioneers. (LD)

The Beast and the Bethany

by Jack Meggitt-Phillips — j Meg | Fiction

Bethany is a beastly child at the orphanage, but when Ebenezer Tweezer adopts her, she decides to try and behave. She is completely unaware that the reason he took her home was to feed her to the beast living in his attic! Ebenezer was certain she deserved to be eaten (she is thoroughly rotten, after all), but Bethany is full of surprises. Does she change Ebenezer's mind when he starts to think of her as a friend? You will just have to read it! (JL)

Hattie Big Sky

by Kirby Larson – j Lar | Historical Fiction

After sixteen-year-old Hattie travels to Montana to claim the homestead that her uncle has given her, she becomes determined to prosper and make a new home for herself, even though she keeps running into obstacles. (EM)

The Monster Who Lost His Mean

by Tiffany Strelitz Haber — E Hab | Picture Book

One day, a M-O-N-S-T-E-R loses his letter M! Everyone knows the M in monster stands for MEAN! How in the world can he be a monster now? Since he doesn't feel much like being mean to the human kids anymore, he might as well work on being nice to them. Quickly, he discovers how much better it feels to be nice and friendly rather than crabby and mean all of the time! (EK)

Moose, Goose, and Mouse

by Mordicai Gerstein and Jeff Mack — E Ger | Picture Book

A resoundingly gleeful picture book from the late, great Gerstein. In a style reminiscent of Seuss's early readers, three co-housing friends – Moose, Goose, and Mouse – climb a caboose that gets loose, and it leads them to a surprisingly perfect new house. (AE)

Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years

by Stacy McAnulty; illustrated by David Litchfield — j 550 McA | Nonfiction, Astronomy

Presented as a goofy autobiography, this introduction to the history of Planet Earth is actually full of interesting facts and gives a quick overview of the highlights. Back matter



includes some lesser-known information, such as the five major extinction events that have occurred thus far. Three more titles in the “Our Universe” series: *Sun! One in a Billion*; *Ocean! Waves for All*; *Mars! Earthlings Welcome*. (PS)