



Youth Staff Picks

October 2021

Out Into the Big Wide Lake

by Paul Harbridge – E Har | Picture Book

Kate has been invited to spend the summer with her grandparents. She helps deliver groceries by motor boat to residents along the shoreline. Kate has never done anything like this before, but “why not?” is the refrain from Grandma and Grandpa. When Grandpa suddenly takes ill, Kate takes the helm in a most amazing way. A heartwarming story. (AE)

The Capybaras

by Alfredo Soderguit – E Sod | Picture Book | ebook on [HOOPLA](#)

The hens and chicks are comfortable in their home where everything always stays the same. When the Capybaras show up, things change. Even though they are unwanted guests, they can't go home because it's hunting season. After the Capybaras scare off a dog trying to attack a chick, the chickens realize it is good to have them around. (EM)

Bear Bottom

By Stuart Gibbs – j Gib | Contemporary Fiction, Mystery

Teddy and his girlfriend Summer are on vacation near Yellowstone National Park with their families. In this latest entry in the Funjungle series, there is another mystery for Teddy and Summer to solve and lots of adventure along the way with missing bison and a very large bear! It's an enjoyable read whether you have read the previous entries in the series or not. *Funjungle Series #7* (LD)

Into the Wild

by Erin Hunter – j Hun | Fantasy

Rusty the housecat is tired of the “kittypet” lifestyle: living with humans, or “two legs,” eating boring kibble, and restrained to only a small garden in the backyard. He dreams of living like a wildcat! He wants to catch his own prey and explore the woods. Will he pursue his dream to live like a wildcat or stay loyal to his two legs and kittypet friends? Read to find out! (MG)

Being Clem

by Lesa Cline-Ransome – j Cli | Historical Fiction

How can Clem ever live up to his dad's name? Clem Sr. was in the Navy, but Clem's afraid to get in the water. His father was a WWII sailor who died in the infamous Port Chicago Disaster: in 1944, 320 Navy men were killed in an explosion because they had not been properly trained. Most, like Clem's father, were Black. Now the Thurber family is trying to get along without Clem Sr. It's not easy, but Clem is determined to do it, and to make his father proud of him. (PS)

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The Little Blue Bridge

by Brenda Maier – E Mai | Picture Book, Modern Folktale

This is an uplifting variation on the three billy goats gruff folktale, featuring a very resourceful little sister to three older brothers. Not only does Ruby figure out how to cross the creek to get to the berries, she also offers a way for the bridge bully to show a new side. Win-win all around, thanks to one smart, spunky girl! (AE)

Negative Cat

Sophie Blackall – E Bla | Picture Book

After begging for 247 days, a boy's dream finally comes true: he can get a cat! However, Max the Cat doesn't turn out to be what the boy and his family were expecting. He stares at the wall, eats plants, and doesn't seem to enjoy their company. Will they find a way for Max to continue to be a part of their family? (MG)

Diner Dogs

by Eric Seltzer – JE Yellow Sel | Beginning Reader

Diner dogs love to work at the Bow Wow Diner! They look forward to every day because they work as a team to make great food for everyone who comes in (even space cows). Would you like chili or hot dogs; coffee or tea? The choice is yours at the Bow Wow Diner. (LD)

Linked

by Gordon Korman – j Kor | Contemporary Fiction, Mystery

Someone at the middle school has painted a swastika on the wall. Who would do such a thing? As more swastikas show up on the walls, the students and the town work together to make a paper chain with six million links attached to honor the Holocaust victims. Meanwhile, Link, a popular kid, finds out his grandmother was a Holocaust survivor. Furthermore, as a Youtuber gets ahold of the story about the swastikas, more gruesome details come to light about the town's history. Will the police be able to find the culprit who painted the racist swastikas on the walls, and will they understand the severity of their actions? (EM)

The Bells on Finland Street

by Lyn Cook – j Coo | Historical Fiction

Readers learn a great deal about skating and about immigrant life in early 20th century Sudbury in this warm family story (a Canadian classic). Eleven-year-old Elin longs for figure-skating lessons, but her Finnish immigrant parents can't afford them. Elin finds a job and the lessons are nearly within her grasp when a family situation puts them out of reach again. Her grandfather's visit from Finland helps put everything in perspective, and her skating dreams come true in an unexpected way. . (PS)

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Scary Stories to Tell In The Dark

by Alvin Schwartz – j 398.25 Sch | Picture Book

Including classics such as “The Big Toe,” “The Walk,” and “The Thing,” these twenty-nine tales are sure to have you spooked this Halloween. Make sure to have a blanket and some popcorn with you to immerse yourself in these spine-chilling tales! (MG)

I am the Shark

by Joan Holub – E Hol | Picture Book

The Great White Shark in this book thinks he is the biggest, fastest, smartest, well you get the picture, he thinks he is the best! Until, one by one, different sharks show him why they are bigger, faster, smarter and so on! He now thinks he should change his name to “not-so-great” shark. Thankfully, one of his shark friends reminds him to just be happy to be yourself and keep smiling that great smile!! (JL)

The Chance to Fly

by Ali Stroker – j Sto | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Contemporary Fiction

Thirteen year old Natalie has just moved from California to New Jersey. When she finds out the local theater is running a summer production of *Wicked*, she decides to trade wheelchair track for theater. Will she be able to convince the director and cast that she can participate as fully as everyone else in spite of her wheelchair? (LD)

The Last Bear

by Hannah Gold – J Gol | ebook and audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Contemporary Fiction

April and her emotionally distanced father are living on an Arctic island scientific outpost, but they are not alone. A stranded polar bear is there, too. April befriends the bear and vows to return him to his own kind. The relationship between girl and bear is not realistic, but the background facts are true in an exciting and touching story about making connections and saving the world, one bear at a time. (PS)

Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero

by Kelly J. Baptist – j Bap | audiobook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Contemporary Fiction

Isaiah needs to be a hero, a superhero. He wants to get out of The Smoky Inn; he wants Mama to be happy again and get a job; he wants money, so he can help his family. Ever since Daddy passed away, Isaiah leans on the love he finds in Daddy’s notebooks and in his community to live through a tragic and ultimately passing phase in his family’s life. Readers will root for ‘Saiah the whole way through. (AE)

The Big, Fun Kids Baking Book: 110+ Recipes for Young Bakers

by Food Network Magazine – j 641 | Non-Fiction | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#)

Easy-to-make sweet treat recipes for kids to make from the Food Network Magazine. Yummy desserts with great pictures! (EM)



Vampenguin

by Ruth Cummins – E Cum | Picture Book

When the Dracula family visits the zoo, baby Dracula slips out of his stroller and switches places with a small penguin at the exhibit without his family realizing it. A silly book! (EM)

The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything

by Linda Williams – E Wil | Picture Book

This classic Halloween tale tells the story of a little old lady's walk through the woods.

Clomp, shake, and clap along as you follow this spooky and silly journey. Who will the old lady encounter on her journey? What will she do about it? Read this book to find out! (MG)

Rocket and the Perfect Pumpkin

By Tad Hills – JE Yellow Hil | Beginning Reader

Rocket and his friend Bella have a wonderful day searching for the perfect pumpkin. When it rolls away down a hill, they wonder whether they will ever see it again. They decide that being with friends and making new ones makes them even happier than the most perfect pumpkin of all! (LD)

Devil's Donkey

by Bill Brittain; drawings by Andrew Glass – j Bri | Fantasy

Everyone in Coven Tree knows that you don't take superstitions lightly and you don't get on the wrong side of Old Magda (she's a witch). Unfortunately, Dan'l didn't grow up in Coven Tree and when he upsets Old Magda, she turns him into a donkey. Told in folktale style, this is a fine choice for unsettling Halloween reading. (PS)

The In-Between

by Rebecca K.S. Ansari – j Ans | Contemporary Fiction

Cooper is struggling with some tough issues. He feels very alone and angry at everyone, including his little sister, Jess, ever since his dad left. Gus is the new kid at school and he and Cooper become fast friends when they realize they have similar stories, they both feel invisible. Gus, Copper, and Jess decide to solve the long forgotten mystery of missing child and the strangeness going on in the house across the street which are somehow related! This mystery adventure has plot twists that keep you guessing and a deeper message of the invisible people around us. (JL)

Just Be You: Ask Questions, Set Intentions, Be Your Special Self, and More

by Mallika Chopra – j 158 Cho | Nonfiction, Personal Growth

As the subtitle suggests, upper elementary students can explore various ways to understand and practice mind/body exercises that could lead to calm, self-awareness, and new actions in everyday life. An inspiring book that encourages everyone to live a healthy, happy, good life. Companion books: [*Just Breathe*](#) and [*Just Feel*](#). (AE)