



Youth Staff Picks

September 2021

Planet Ocean

by Patricia Newman, photography by Annie Crawley – j 551.46 New | Oceanography, Environment

Even though humans have named areas of the ocean as if they were separate bodies of water, author Newman says: “The truth is there is only one ocean.” She explores 3 different waters – tropical, arctic, and a Pacific sea. She interviews people who are advocates for ocean health. She claims that when you are ignorant about $\frac{3}{4}$ of what sustains life on earth as we know it, you treat it and use it detrimentally. This book is a great start to understanding the awesome watery world that covers nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of Planet Earth. (AE)

Noah's Seal

by Layn Marlow – E Mar | Picture Book

As Noah's grandma fixes their sailboat, he waits patiently to see the seals, but soon decides to make his own seal out of sand. Shortly after, a storm blows in and Noah worries if his seal will survive the storm. (EM)

Ray and Me

by Dan Gutman — j Gut | Fiction, Sports, Time travel

13-year-old Stosh has some unique gifts – he not only is one of the best baseball players on his team, he can also travel back in time with the help of old baseball cards. After getting hit in the head with a batted ball, he decides to travel back to 1920 and try to save the only ball player in history to die of a hit to the head with a pitched ball. Is he successful? You don't need to be a sports fan to enjoy this book! (JL)

The Last Mirror on the Left

by Lamar Giles – j Gil | Science Fiction, Adventure

The Legendary Alston Boys of Logan County Virginia are back for another adventure. Cousins Otto and Sheed are surprised by a message from someone talking to them from their bathroom mirror! They are thrown into an adventure in another world that looks a lot like theirs, but not quite. Will they be able to get back to Grandma in one piece, or will they be stuck in this alternate universe forever? (LD)

Black Hearts in Battersea

by Joan Aiken — j Aik | Fiction, Mystery, Adventure

Arriving in London for art school, Simon discovers his friend, Dr. Field, is missing, and Simon's landlord may know something about the disappearance. Set in a 19th century



England that never existed, this adventure has it all: orphans, wolves, shipwrecks, plots against the king, escape by hot-air balloon! It's part of the "Wolves Chronicles," but can be read as a stand-alone. (PS)

The Giving Tree

by Shel Silverstein – E Sil | Picture Book

Do you have someone in your life who does a lot for you? In this literary classic, readers are introduced to a boy and a tree who loves the boy very much – so much that she is willing to give her apples, branches, and trunk for him. Does the boy give the tree anything in return? Read the book to find out! (MG)

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Da Vinci's Cat

by Catherine Gilbert Murdock — j Mur | Fiction, Time Travel

11-year-old Federico and Bee are the most unlikely friends. Federico is a 16th century Roman political hostage and Bee lives in present day New Jersey. With the help of a friendly cat and a mysterious cabinet the two meet and the adventure begins! Bee realizes the cabinet can help her travel in time, she gets Federico to help her save a friend back in Jersey and Federico gets a much needed friend. This fantasy story is a little bit of historical fiction mixed with time travel and a lot of fun! (JL)

Dream Dancer

by Jill Newsome – E New | Picture Book

Do you like to dance? Lily does! In fact, she dances all the time; even in her dreams. However, when Lily falls from a tree and breaks her foot, her plans to become a ballerina are doomed... until she meets a very special friend that gives her the hope she needs to get back up again (MG).

Patty Hits the Court

by Patty Mills with Jared Thomas — j Mil v.1 | Fiction, Sports | **Game Day!** series

If you like sports stories with lots of play-by-play action, give this series a try. NBA star Patty Mills tells the story of his introduction to basketball in fifth grade. Patty usually excels at sports, so he's shocked when he is NOT great at basketball. Thanks to a good coach, encouraging parents, and lots of practice, he turns that around just as his team gets to the finals. Will they win? That would be telling! (PS)

The Mysterious Disappearance of Aidan S. (as told to his brother)

by David Levithan – j Lev | Contemporary Fiction



One day, Lucas' older brother just disappeared. For 6 traumatic days, an all-out search was conducted, and everyone in the community was involved – from classmates to police. And then, just as incomprehensibly, he reappeared. Lucas was the one who found him. Aidan had an unbelievable explanation. Who believes in the truth, if there is such a thing? (AE)

The Perfect Sofa

by Fifi Kuo – E Kuo | Picture Book

Panda and Penguin decide that perhaps they need a new sofa, so they go shopping. They sit on a lot of different sofas, but none of them seems just right. In frustration, they go home and realize that what they wanted was there all along! (LD)

The Search for Salt

by Shalini Vallepur – JE 664.4 Val | Nonfiction

Find out where salt comes from, how it is cleaned, the different kinds of salt, and its uses. (EM)

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Arnold the Super-ish Hero

by Heather Tekavec – E Tek | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Picture Book

Arnold works in his family's superhero office, answering the phone and writing messages in very neat printing. Will he ever discover his superpower? One day, when he answers a call for a superhero, he discovers that he has a talent for making people happy and solving problems. Perhaps he has found his superpower after all! (LD)

Thornwood

by Leah Cypess – j Cyp v. 1 | Fiction, Fantasy

I'm sure you've heard the story about the beautiful, cursed princess who pricks her finger on the spinning wheel and falls asleep until awakened by the prince's kiss. But what if that's not the whole story? What if there's a little sister who uncovers that there's more danger behind the curse than anyone else realizes? Briony will fill you in on real princes, selfish fairies, and more. (And so begins a new series.) (AE)

Free Fall

by David Wiesner — E Wie | Picture Book, Wordless Book

One night, a boy falls asleep with an open book. As he dreams, ordinary objects from his surroundings reshape themselves into an extraordinary landscape and fantastic adventures. This completely wordless Caldecott Honor book encourages poring over the pages and multiple readings. (PS)

Throwback



by Peter Lerangis — j Ler v. 1 | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#), ebook and audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction, Time Travel | [Throwback](#) series

Corey's friends tell him he has a big imagination, but he finds out what he has is a special gift. Like his Papou, he can time travel, but – unlike his grandfather – he can change past events, which makes him something called a “Throwback.” Even though this newfound gift makes his life dangerous, he sees the opportunity to change some past wrongs! This is an exciting story from start to finish! (JL)

[Branches of Hope: The 9/11 Survivor Tree](#)

by Ann Magee – j 973.931 Mag | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Nonfiction, History

Weeks after 911, a rescue worker spots a pear tree still alive amongst all the rubble of Ground Zero, signifying hope in the midst of hardship. The tree was rescued, rehabilitated, and then replanted at the 9/11 Memorial site in 2011. (EM)

[If You Give A Cat A Cupcake](#)

by Laura Joffe Numeroff – E Num | Picture Book

If you give a cat a cupcake, you will most definitely go on a crazy adventure! Follow along as this silly, busy kitty goes from making cupcakes to building sandcastles on the beach. Be sure to have some sprinkles handy... (MG)

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[Much Ado About Baseball](#)

by Rajani LaRocca – j LaR | Fiction

Twelve-year-old Trish and Ben are rivals in both baseball and math. The narrative is told from both perspectives and shows the challenges that they face in learning to work together and in being accepted at school, at home, and on the field. Can they put aside their differences to help their team win the season? (LD)

[Swashby and the Sea](#)

by Beth Ferry – E Fer | Picture Book

Old Captain Swashby loved the sea, so when he retired, it was to a small house right on the beach. Life was just the way he liked it, until some neighbors moved in. They made the beach different. He left messages in the sand for those neighbors to read and take note of. But the sea loved Swashby, too, so she fiddled with those messages to give him what he really needed. A charming story. (AE)

[Dirt](#)

by Denise Gosliner Orenstein – j Ore | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Fiction



After Yonder's mother dies, her father starts drinking, and she stops talking. When she is bullied at school, she quits going, and then a social worker shows up at her door. Meanwhile, she befriends a one-eyed Shetland pony who lives nearby and finds out he is about to be sold for horsemeat. She becomes determined to save him. (EM)

Best Day Ever!

by Marilyn Singer — E Sin | Picture book

This playful puppy is having the ***best day ever!*** Always something to get into, like mud and stinky fish and chasing cats. Then somehow it turns into the ***worst day ever.*** His owner is angry and yells at him. How could this day ever end happily? Read it to find out! (JL)

Almost There and Almost Not

by Linda Urban — j Urb | Fiction

California Poppy has been dumped on first one relative and then another. Now she's with Great-Aunt Monica, in a house with a ghostly dog (Dog) and a ghostly aunt (Great-Great-Great Aunt Eleanor). Using Eleanor's famous book, *Proper Letters for Proper Ladies*, as a guide, Callie begins writing letters of her own as she tries to find a place of her own. Funny and touching, with a heroine to love. (PS)

Hardly Haunted

by Jessie Sima – E Sim | Picture Book

In this story, we meet a house who doesn't want to be haunted. Her doors creak, she's covered in cobwebs, her pipes rattle, and no one wants to move in. No matter how hard she holds her breath or tries to hold still, she just can't seem to become less spooky! Will she find a way to attract new residents? Read the book to find out! (MG)

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Six Feet Below Zero

by Ena Jones – j Jon | Contemporary Fiction, Humorous

Great-Grammy has keeled over, but she has left a thorough plan in place for orphans Rosie and Baker to manage things until best Aunt Tilly returns from her undercover travels (and so that Grim Gram Hesper doesn't get the evil upper hand). #1 in Great Grammy's plan: Move me to the freezer. What, a dead body?! (AE)

I'm Not A Girl

by Maddox Lyons – j 306.76 Lyo | Nonfiction

Based on true events, Lyons tells the story of Hannah, a boy who is determined to reveal to the world who he really is. This story of acceptance and embracing your true self, written by



the twelve-year-old transgender Lyons, is not only a must-read, but a necessary stepping stone in children’s learning and acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community. (MG)

Long Lost

by Jacqueline West – j Wes | Fiction, Supernatural

Fiona’s family has moved to a small town for the sake of her sister’s skating career. Lonely and missing her old home, she finds solace in the town’s local library, which is housed in an old mansion. As she begins to explore, she becomes intrigued with the town’s history and the story of the woman who donated the house to the town. (LD)

Not Quite Narwhal

by Jessica Sima — E Sim | Fiction

Deep in the ocean little Kelp was born. He was different from the other Narwhals, but they didn’t seem to mind and neither did he. One day, a strong current carried him far away and close to land. When he surfaced he saw a glittering creature, and it looked just like him! Did he belong with these creatures on land or in the deep sea with his Narwhal friends? (JL)

Kensy and Max: Breaking News

by Jacqueline Harvey — j Har v.1 | Fiction, Mystery | [Kensy and Max](#) series

Life has gone topsy-turvy for the Grey twins. They’ve been moved to London, their parents are missing, their “manny” disappears as well, their new school is very strange, someone is trying to harm them, and the twins may have clues to solving a bold art robbery. First in a series; good choice for fans of *Spy School*. (PS)

Jenny Mei is Sad

by Tracy Subisak – E Sub | Picture Book

Jenny Mei has days when she is sad, so her friend decides the best way to be a good friend is by being supportive, because that is what friends are for! (EM)