



# Youth Staff Picks

January 2022

## *The Cookie Maker of Mavin Road*

by Sue Lawson; illustrated by Liz Anelli - E Law | Picture Book

When old Mr. Stanley realizes his neighbors are too busy to notice one another, he starts baking cookies for special occasions and delivering them (anonymously) to neighbors' doorsteps. Now people are talking!— but what happens when the cookie maker gets sick and no cookies appear? Here's a heartwarming story for all of us. (PS)

## *Aaron Slater Illustrator*

by Andrea Beaty – E Bea | Picture Book

Aaron loves to hear his family tell stories and he loves to draw. One day he will write a story of his own, but when he gets into school learning to read is so much harder for him than other kids and he feels discouraged. And then the absolute worst thing happens, his teacher assigns the class to write and tell their own story. How can he when letters look all jumbled up? Will he be able to finish this project and stand in front of the class and read it? Read this to find out how he WOWs his teacher! (JL)

## *The Mitten: A Ukrainian Folktale*

by Jan Brett – E Bre | Picture Book

This literary classic tells the tale of Nicki, a boy who unknowingly loses his mitten. One by one, animals make their way into the mitten to stay warm. Will Nicki find his mitten? Read to find out! (MG)

## *How to Find a Fox*

by Kate Gardner; photos by Ossi Saarinen – j 599.775 Gar | Nonfiction | Animals

Learn about where foxes live, what they eat, what their tracks look like, the sounds they make, and much more. Stunning photographs throughout the book! Animal lovers will love this one! (EM)

## *Hapless Hero Henrie*

by Petra James – j Jam | Fiction

Henrie has never met her parents and her aunt won't talk about it. Henrie thinks that she is a disappointment because she is a girl and there are no girls in the family hero business. How sad! Henrie has a funny and courageous voice and a lot of random facts at her disposal. You will enjoy the journey with her as she searches for answers about her family and her destiny. (LD)



### ***The Last Cuentista***

by Donna Barbra Higuera – j Hig | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Science Fiction

*Habia una vez...* There lived a girl named Petra Peña, who wanted nothing more than to be a storyteller, like her abuelita. But what happens when the world ends and you have to leave with your scientist family for a new planet? Hundreds of years into the future Petra wakes to new faces and new trials. Can Petra keep the stories and traditions of the past alive, or will she forget like everyone else inside the collective? (NBS) **NOTE: Newbery Award 2022!**

### ***A-Okay***

by Jarad Greene – j Graphic Novel Gre | Graphic Fiction | Middle School

Middle school can be tough for anyone, but try developing severe acne that is resistant to over-the-counter treatments, then try taking a medicine which cures the acne but causes horrible side effects. Could Jay's eighth grade year get any worse? (SP)

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### ***Chloe and the Lion***

by Mac Barnett – E Bar | Picture Book

Mac and his friend the illustrator are having a disagreement about the story in their new picture book about a girl named Chloe. With the help of Chloe, they realize that they need each other to do the best job. She saves them from a huge lion and then takes them to the merry-go-round. Teamwork is the best! This is a funny book that involves the reader in the struggles of both the creators and the characters. (LD)

### ***The Snowy Day***

by Ezra Keats – E Kea | Picture Book

What activities do you like to do in the snow? Join Peter in this classic winter tale as he makes snowmen, snow angels, and imagines he's a mountain climber. (MG)

### ***Mercy Watson to the Rescue***

by Kate DiCamillo – JE Blue DiC | Early Reader Chapter Book

Mercy is the pride and joy of Mr. and Mrs. Watson. They love to sing to her at bedtime and then tuck her in. On this night she felt afraid after the lights went out, so she got into bed with the Watson's. A horrible cracking sound wakes them all and their only hope is that Mercy is running off to get help. Read this fun story and find out what Mercy is up to and how she saves her family! (JL)



### ***Turn Left at the Cow***

by Lisa Bullard – j Bull | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) and on [HOOPLA](#) | Mystery

Travis visits his grandmother in Minnesota when he learns that his father, who he never knew, robbed a bank and was never heard from again. Rumors are that the money had never been found. After Travis receives a threatening note, he convinces his new friends to help him search for the missing money, which ends up getting them way in over their heads! (EM)

### ***Our Only May Amelia***

by Jennifer L. Holm – j Hol | ebook on [HOOPLA](#) | Historical Fiction

Inspired by the diary of the author's great aunt, Amelia May is a miracle. As the *only* girl in a family of seven brothers, May Amelia Jackson resents being expected to act like a lady while growing up in Washington State in 1899. All she wants is to go fishing and never wear skirts like she is supposed to. Acting like a lady has never come easy since the dawn of time; follow May Amelia as she learns what it means to be grown in a confusing time. (NBS)

### ***The Children of the Fox: a Thieves of Shadow Novel***

by Kevin Sands - j San | Fiction | Fantasy

Five young thieves are hired to steal a magical object from a terrifyingly powerful sorcerer. Each has remarkable skills, but one of them has something else: Shuna the Fox, patron spirit of thieves, talks to him. Will this make them successful? More importantly, will it keep them alive? First of a new series. (PS)

### ***Animal Knowledge Genius!***

by Stevie Derrick – j 590 Der | Nonfiction | Animals

This encyclopedia has a special twist to help you strengthen your animal identification skills: each page has photos of a variety of animals with a glossary to test yourself. (SP)

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### ***Inside a Zoo in the City***

by Alyssa Satin Capucilli – E Cap | Picture Book

It all starts with a squawking parrot who then wakes a bunch of other creatures which fills the morning with squawks, barks, chattering and a lot of other fun animal sounds, and ends with all the animals going to the zoo! This story is told with picture words so that a young reader can help tell the story. (JL)



### *What If, Pig?*

by Linzie Hunter – E Hun | Picture Book

Pig worries about lots of things, including everything that could go wrong at a party he decides to throw for his friends. Sometimes, all it takes is a friend like Mouse to help us stay positive. This book is a must-read for kids and adults alike! (MG)

### *Escape from Falaise*

by John Flanagan – j Fla | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction | Fantasy

This latest book in the *Ranger's Apprentice Royal Ranger* series continues the adventures of Maddie and her mentor Will, who are now held captive in a dungeon in Gallica. Their mission is to rescue a prince and return home. Intrigue abounds and nothing is as it seems. Familiar characters come to help and bring a successful conclusion. If you like action and intrigue, this series provides plenty. (LD)

### *Across the Desert*

by Dusti Bowling – j Bow | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Fiction | Survival

After Jolene, a twelve-year-old, watches her online friend, Addie, crash her ultralight plane in the Arizona desert while livestreaming, no one will believe her story, including her mother who is a drug addict. Determined to rescue her friend, Jolene travels alone to find Addie and meets Marty, a seventeen-year-old, who joins her in the search. (EM)

### *My Own World*

by Mike Holmes – j Graphic Novel Hol | Graphic Novel

What would you do to keep the world at arms length? Nine-year-old Nathan just wants to spend his summer vacation watching *Raiders of the Lost Ark* with his brother and exploring the woods. After overhearing a conversation between his parents and running away Nathan finds a hidden realm inside a collapsed lighthouse. A Place where he is in control and can keep his fears at bay; but how long until it all catches up with him and how long can he keep running? (NBS)

### *Hooky*

by Míriam Bonastre Tur – j Graphic Novel Tur | Graphic Fiction | Fantasy

When twin witch brother and sister Dani and Dorian miss the bus to their magic school, they get swept up in a mysterious scandal that involves a prophecy about the future of witchkind. (SP)



### ***Boardwalk Babies***

by Marissa Moss; illustrated by April Chu | j 618.92 Mos | Nonfiction | Babies

Tiny babies as an exhibit? Yes! It took incubators at Coney Island to convince hospitals that premature babies could be saved. One of the strange-but-true wonderful success stories of medicine is told in picture book format, with engaging text and illustrations. Don't miss this! (PS)

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### ***Our Little Kitchen***

by Jillian Tamaki – E Tam | Picture Book

Have you helped prepare a meal before? In Tamaki's book, through stunning illustrations, readers learn the importance of helping those in need, working as a team, and how to make something out of what seems like nothing. This is a must-read for every family! (MG)

### ***Words to Make a Friend: a Story in Japanese and English***

by Donna Jo Napoli; illustrated by Naoko Stoop – E Nap | Bilingual | Japanese language

Two little girls—one speaking only English, one speaking only Japanese—discover there is no language barrier when the snow falls! (PS)

### ***Something Good***

by Marcy Campbell; illus. by Corinna Luyken – E Cap | Picture book

After someone writes something bad on the girl's bathroom wall at school, the students come together to paint something beautiful on it instead, and they write poems focusing on the good things of this world as a way of healing the hurt. (EM)

### ***Willow Run***

by Patricia Reilly Giff – j Gif | Historical Fiction

During World War II, after moving with her parents to Willow Run, Michigan, when her father gets a job in the B-24 bomber-building factory, eleven-year-old Meggie learns about different kinds of bravery from all of the people around her. Set in the living quarters of Willow Run Village, where the walls are thin and neighbors are friendly, join Meggie as she learns the true meaning of bravery. (NBS)

### ***The Orpheus Plot***

by Christopher Swiedler – j Swi | Science Fiction

Lucas and his adopted sister Tali are Belters. They grew up with the stigma of not being from Earth. Both of them are pilots who want to join the Navy, but Belters rarely get the chance. When both are accepted into the academy, it seems like their dreams have come true. Everything is not as it seems. (LD)



### ***Dear Mr. Dickens***

by Nancy Churnin – j 823.8 Chu | J Nonfiction | History

Eliza had read something that made her sad and she felt the words written were unfair. The thing was, it was written by one of her favorite authors, Charles Dickens. She liked how he used his gift of storytelling to help others. Eliza had a pen and she decided to write to Mr. Dickens and tell him how his words had hurt her and how they were hurting others! She sent a letter! Did Dickens, who had a very big heart, change the way he portrayed her people after he read her letter, did he write her back, and was he angry? This is a great story of how people can make changes by sharing their feelings. (JL)

### ***Black Heroes of the Wild West***

by James Otis Smith – j Graphic Novel 978.02 Smi | ebook on [OVERDRIVE](#) | Graphic Nonfiction | History

In this beautifully illustrated graphic novel, learn about three lesser-known historical figures in the 19th century. The book also includes information about the differences between the cowboys we see in movies and the way real cowboys looked and acted. (SP)

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### ***Off-Limits***

by Helen Yoon – E Yoo | Picture Book

Though she knows it's off-limits, a girl goes into her father's office and finds creative uses for the office supplies inside. But what will her father say when he sees it? (SP)

### ***Dino-Gro***

by Matt Myers – E Mye | Picture book

Cole's new toy dinosaur grows when it is watered, but soon grows too big to fit indoors and must sleep outside. When a rainstorm blows in, Dino-Gro comes to the rescue! (EM)

### ***This Little Piggy An Owner's Manual***

by Cyndi Marko – JE Red Mar | Early Reader Chapter book

Have you ever wanted a pet more than anything in the world but your mom keeps saying "No"? Well this brother and sister duo come up with a plan that will convince mom, but along the way they realize that being responsible for a pet is hard work. Will they be successful? Will mom finally see how great a pet can be or should they just give up? (JL)



### ***View from Pagoda Hill***

by Michaela MacColl | j Mac | Historical Fiction | Immigrants | Chinese Americans

Daughter of a Chinese mother and an American father, Ning does not fit into her mother's world in Shanghai. When her parents decide to send her to her father's family in America, Ning discovers she doesn't fit there, either. This is a heart-breaking but ultimately hopeful story of a 19th century immigrant girl who struggles to find her place in both her family and the larger world. (PS)

### ***Garlic and the Vampire***

by Bree Paulsen – j Graphic Novel Pau | Graphic Novel

Garlic must believe in herself to confront a bloodthirsty vampire who has moved into a nearby castle, in this humorous and heartwarming story that reminds readers that strangers are not always as scary as they seem. Can Garlic be brave enough to meet her new neighbor and protect her town when all she wants to do is garden and sleep in? (NBS)

### ***The Curse of the Mummy: Uncovering Tutankhamun's Tomb***

by Candace Fleming – j 932 Fle | audiobook on [HOOPLA](#) | Non-Fiction | Archaeology

This book tells the story of King Tutankhamun and the people involved in discovering and opening his tomb. It also discusses the speculation about a curse on the tomb which started when the patron of the dig died several months after the tomb's opening. (LD)

### ***Lunar New Year***

by Hannah Eliot – j 394.26 Eli | J Nonfiction | Holidays

What is Lunar New Year and how is it celebrated? During this time of year, people spend time with their families, light lanterns, dance with dragons, and set off fireworks to ring in the new year. What Lunar New Year traditions do you have or will you create with your family? (MG)