

# Green Acres School

## Reading Suggestions for 4th Graders

Updated June 2019

(The books recommended below are part of the Green Acres Library collection.  
Reading levels and interests vary greatly, so you may want to look also at  
**Reading Suggestions for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Graders** and **Reading Suggestions for 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Graders.**)

### This list includes:

- Fiction
- Poetry and Short Stories
- Biography and Memoir
- Other Nonfiction

Graphic books are denoted with the  symbol.

## FICTION

 **Aguire, Jorge.**

*Dragons Beware!*

"When a wicked wizard threatens her city, Claudette decides it's once again her job to save the day." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Alice, Alex; transl. from French by Anne Smith and Owen Smith.**

*Castle in the Stars: The Space Race of 1869*

"In ... this lavishly illustrated graphic novel, Alex Alice delivers a historical fantasy adventure set in a world where man journeyed into space in 1869, not 1969." Graphic steampunk/Historical fantasy. (Publisher)

**Allen, Crystal; illus. by Eda Kaban.**

*The Magnificent Mya Tibbs: Spirit Week Showdown* (series)

"Nine-year-old Mya Tibbs has a great best friend, a cool brother, and a plan for winning the Spirit Week challenges... Things go very wrong when Mya is paired up with ... a bully ... Over the week, however, Mya discovers things aren't what they appear, and she has to make a decision about what kind of friend she wants to be." Fiction. (*Common Sense Media*) The sequels are *The Wall of Fame Game* and *Mya in the Middle*.

**Auxier, Jonathan.**

*Sweep: The Story of a Girl and Her Monster*

"A young chimney sweep gathers an unusual family around her in this bittersweet historical fantasy of love and loss." Historical fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bauer, Joan.**

*Almost Home*

"Through months of homelessness and her mother's breakdown, sixth-grader Sugar Mae Cole and her puppy, Shush, demonstrate what it means to be sweet." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Beckhorn, Susan.**

*The Wolf's Boy*

"Sometime in prehistory, a crippled boy and his wolf companion face coming-of-age challenges. ... This bracing, well-told story, laced with themes of self-responsibility, compassion, and honor, is both vital and nourishing." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker.**

*Jefferson's Sons: A Founding Father's Secret Children*

"This story of Thomas Jefferson's children by one of his slaves, Sally Hemings, tells a darker piece of America's history from an often unseen perspective-that of three of Jefferson's slaves-including two of his own children. As each child grows up and tells his story, the contradiction between slavery and freedom becomes starker, calling into question the real meaning of 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'" Historical fiction. (Publisher)

**Brown, Gavin.**

*Josh Baxter Levels Up*

"A video game-obsessed middle schooler tackles his third new school in two years. Smartly paced and emotionally engaging, a book even those who have never held a controller will enjoy." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Brown, Peter.**

*The Wild Robot*

"A sophisticated robot—with the capacity to use senses of sight, hearing, and smell—is washed to shore on an island, the only robot survivor of a cargo of 500. ... Thought-provoking and charming." Science fiction/Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Burgis, Stephanie; Illus. by Freya Hartas.**

*The Dragon with a Chocolate Heart*

Aventurine, a brave young dragon whose family doubts her readiness to explore the world beyond the family's mountain cave, shows her worth by capturing a human, who then tricks her into drinking enchanted hot chocolate. Fantasy.

**Crowder, Melanie.**

*Three Pennies*

"As tectonic plates shift underneath San Francisco, 11-year-old Marin rearranges the spaces in her own heart for the woman who wants to be her mother." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Donoghue, Emma; illus. by  
Caroline Hadilaksono.**

*The Lottery Plus One*

After winning the lottery, two same-sex couples – one male and one female – retire and create a large, diverse family through birth and adoption. The riotously, exuberantly loving Lotterys live in an urban Toronto neighborhood and consist of four parents and seven home-schooled children (all named for trees), plus assorted pets. Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Emerson, Kevin.**

*Last Day on Mars*

"All remaining humans are leaving Mars for a distant planet, but departure day goes sideways. ... Enigmatic enemies, sabotage, space travel, and short, bone-racking bits of time travel make for a banging adventure." Science fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Engle, Margarita; illus. by Aleksey and  
Olga Ivanov.**

*Mountain Dog*

"An absorbing story of an 11-year-old boy from Los Angeles who, when his mother is incarcerated for organizing pit-bull dogfights, moves in with his forest-ranger great-uncle and his chocolate Lab in their remote cabin high in the Sierra Nevadas. ... Poignant and memorable." Verse fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Fajardo, Alexis.**

*Kid Beowulf: The Blood-Bound Oath*

"'Beowulf' reimagined. ... What Rick Riordan did for the Greek gods, Fajardo has done for 'Beowulf': magnificent." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Fleming, Candace; illus. by Eric Rohmann.**

*Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen*

"Before Rin Tin Tin and Lassie there was Strongheart, the first canine movie star, whose real-life career serves as the basis of this fast-paced, dramatic story from Fleming and Rohmann." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Forester, Victoria.**

*The Girl Who Could Fly*

"With homespun charm, Forester focuses on the extraordinary Piper McCloud, daughter of an elderly couple who worry that revealing her gift of flight will put her in danger—with good reason." Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Gemeinhart, Dan.**

*Some Kind of Courage*

"Twelve-year-old Joseph Johnson searches the Northwest frontier for his missing horse and a new family. ... Poignant and real." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Graff, Lisa.**

*Absolutely Almost*

"In a tale about not being good enough, Graff introduces readers to a young hero who struggles to measure up. ... Achingly superb, Albie's story shines." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Grimes, Nikki.**

*Garvey's Choice*

"Written in poignantly poetic tanka verse, Grimes' newest follows a young black boy searching for his own unique voice, lost among his father's wishes and society's mischaracterizations." Verse novel. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Hale, Nathan.**

*Lafayette! A Revolutionary War Tale.*

"The eighth entry in Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales tackles the early life of the Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution." Graphic historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Harrington, Janice N.**

*Catching a Storyfish*

"A gentle-spirited book about a black girl who almost gives up her gift but for love and friendship." Verse novel. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Harris, Teresa E.**

*The Perfect Place*

"A spirited, stubborn and loyal girl finds the perfect place exactly where she doesn't want it." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Hashimi, Nadia.**

*One Half from the East*

"Obayda's family moved to a rural village after a Kabul bomb blast took her father's leg and the family's livelihood; in a bid to attract good fortune, relatives persuade her mother to transform Obayda, 10, youngest of four daughters, into a *bacha posh*: a boy." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Hatke, Ben; illus. by Ben Hatke, Alex Campbell, and Hilary Sycamore.**

*Mighty Jack and the Goblin King*

"Jack and Lilly return in a new adventure in which they must navigate a fantastic and foreign land to save Jack's autistic sister, Maddy." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Hilton, Marilyn.**

*Full Cicada Moon*

"Hilton offers readers the indelible character of Mimi, a half-Japanese, half-black seventh-grader who "travels with her mom, Emiko, from their old home in Berkeley, California, to Vermont, where her dad, James, works as a college professor. She's the new kid at her school during the second half of the 1969 school year—around the time the U.S. starts withdrawing troops from Vietnam and lands on the moon. As Mimi hitches her career dreams to the lunar landing, microaggressions—those daily intentional and unintentional slights, snubs, and insults aimed at people solely because they belong to a marginalized group like Mimi and her interracial family—drag her back to Earth." Verse historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Holm, Jennifer L. and Matthew Holm; illus. by Jennifer Holm, Matthew Holm, and Lark Pien.**

*Swing It, Sunny*

"A home-centered sequel to *Sunny Side Up* (2015), with incidents joyful and otherwise in a middle schooler's life. ... Another radiant outing." Graphic historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Jamieson, Victoria.**

*All's Faire in Middle School*

"A home-schooled squireling sallies forth to public school, where the woods turn out to be treacherous and dragons lie in wait." Graphic fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Jacques, Brian.**

*Redwall: The Graphic Novel*

"What can the peace-loving mice of Redwall Abbey do to defend themselves against Cluny the Scourge and his battle-seasoned army of rats? If only they had the sword of Martin the Warrior, they might have a chance. But the legendary weapon has long been forgotten--except, that is, by the bumbling young apprentice Matthias, who becomes the unlikeliest of heroes. Teeming with riddles, humor, unforgettable characters, and high-bounding adventure..." (Publisher)

**Jones, Kelly.**

*Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*

"Through a series of letters, Sophie Brown, age twelve, tells of her family's move to her Great Uncle Jim's farm, where she begins taking care of some unusual chickens with help from neighbors and friends." Fantasy. (Publisher)

**Klages, Ellen.**

*Out of Left Field*

"Katy's such a good pitcher that she is accepted as one of the boys on the local sandlot in 1957 San Francisco. ... A grand slam in every way." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Krishnaswami, Uma; illus. by Julianna Swaney.** *Book Uncle and Me*

"When her source of books is threatened, so is 9-year-old Yasmin's goal of reading a book a day 'forever.'" Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Larson, Kirby.**

*Duke* (and other books in the Dogs of World War II series)

In 1944 Hobie Hanson's father is flying B-24s in Europe, so Hobie decides to donate his beloved German shepherd, Duke, to Dogs for Defense in the hope that he can help end the war sooner. When he learns that Duke is being trained for combat, he is shocked, frightened, and determined to get his dog back. Historical fiction.

**Levy, Dana Alison.**

*The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*

Relates the adventures of a family with two fathers, four adopted boys, and a variety of pets as they make their way through a school year in Kindergarten through sixth grade and deal with a grumpy new neighbor. Fiction.

**Lewis, Gill; Illus. by Yuta Onoda.**

*Wild Wings*

"Striving to protect the osprey nesting on his family's farm in Scotland, 11-year-old Callum McGregor watches the bird throughout summer, uses a computer to follow her migration to Africa and sets in motion a remarkable chain of events." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Libenson, Terri.**

*Invisible Emmie*

"This is the story of two totally different girls—quiet, shy, artistic Emmie, popular, outgoing, athletic Katie—and how their lives unexpectedly intersect one day, when an embarrassing note falls into the wrong hands." Graphic fiction. (Publisher)

**G Libenson, Terri.**

*Positively Izzy*

"Libenson captures middle-school dramas—family, friendships, crushes, stereotypes, grades, self-discovery—with candor, fast pacing, and authentic, relatable characters. Positively satisfying." Graphic fiction. (*The Horn Book*)

**Lin, Grace.**

*Starry River of the Sky* (and other books by this author)

"An innkeeper's chore boy discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky." Fantasy. (Publisher)

**Mafi, Tahereh.**

*Furthermore*

"A 12-year-old girl who doesn't fit into her own world embarks on a harrowing quest with a boy she doesn't trust to find her missing father. ... An original new Alice confronts her own wonderland in this smashing fantasy." Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*) The sequel is *Whichwood*.

**Martin, Ann M.**

*Everything for a Dog*

"In this poignant companion to *A Dog's Life* (2005), Martin pursues her story of two homeless puppies from male puppy Bone's perspective, adding canine-related stories from two boys, Charlie and Henry." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Martin, Ann M.**

*Rain Reign*

"Literal-minded Rose finds joy in discovering homophones (words that sound the same but have different meanings). Diagnosed with Asperger's, Rose struggles when rules are broken, making her an outcast in school and straining the tenuous relationship with her impatient and verbally abusive father. A surprising bond with a stray dog and the loving support of her Uncle Weldon help Rose discover hidden strengths." Fiction. (*School Library Journal*)

**McAnulty, Stacy.**

*The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl*

"Four years ago, 12-year-old Lucy Callahan was struck by lightning. The strike left her with brain damage, resulting in acquired savant syndrome and a 'supercomputer brain.' ... Unique and utterly satisfying." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Morpurgo, Michael.**

*Kensuke's Kingdom*

"When Michael is washed up on an island in the Pacific after falling from his parent's yacht, the *Peggy Sue*, he struggles to survive on his own. But he soon realizes there is someone close by, someone who is watching over him and helping him to stay alive." Historical fiction. (*Goodreads*)

**Morpurgo, Michael.**

*The Butterfly Lion*

"A runaway schoolboy finds a magnificent monument to a magnificent animal in this ghost story, at once marvelous and matter-of-fact, from Morpurgo." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Ostertag, Molly Knox.**

*The Witch Boy* (The Witch Boy, #1)

"Thirteen-year-old Aster is of age to find the animal that will deem him worthy to take its shape as a shape-shifter. There's just one problem. Aster doesn't want to shape-shift—he wants to do witchery, which is forbidden for boys." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Ostertag, Molly Knox.**

*The Hidden Witch* (The Witch Boy, #2)

"After fighting the darkness that consumed his great-uncle, young witch Aster must now help him heal. ... An absolutely bewitching sequel." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Pennypacker, Sara; illus. by Marla Frazee.**

*One Awesome Thing*

"Fourth-grader Waylon Zakowski is struggling to navigate change. ... An upbeat celebration of lively imagination, friendship, family, community, and the exuberance of childhood." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Pla, Sally J.; illus. by Steve Wolfhard.**

*Stanley Will Probably Be Fine*

"Superheroes can be found in unlikely places. ... Add to the growing list of intelligent books about kids whose brains operate outside the norm." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Rhodes, Jewell Parker.**

*Sugar*

"Rhodes' book elegantly chronicles the hope of one 10-year-old girl seeking a bigger world in post-Civil War America." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola and  
Audrey Vernick.**

*Two Naomis*

"Two girls named Naomi build an unlikely friendship after their parents begin dating each other." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Riazi, Karuna.**

*The Gauntlet*

A 12-year-old Bangladeshi-American hijabi girl, her brother, and her friends are trapped in a mysterious board game called The Gauntlet of Blood and Sand. Fantasy.

**Rundell, Katherine.**

*Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms*

"Even a life on the untamed plains of Africa can't prepare Wilhelmina for the wilds of an English boarding school in this 'gripping, magical, and heartwarming tale of resilience, friendship, and hope.'" Fiction. (*Publishers Weekly*).

**Ruurs, Margriet; illus. by Nizar Ali Badr;  
transl. from Syrian by Falah Raheem.**

*Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey*

"An astonishing book that allows the humanity of refugees to speak louder than politics and introduces readers to one of Syria's incredible artists." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Sachar, Louis.**

*Fuzzy Mud*

"When fifth-grader Tamaya Dhilwaddi and seventh-grader Marshall Walsh cut through the woods to avoid school bully Chad Hilligas, they unwittingly set off a chain of events that threatens global catastrophe." Speculative fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Sanna, Francesca.**

*The Journey*

"A timely, powerful picture book about refugees." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Scaletta, Kurtis.**

*Rooting for Rafael Rosales*

"A young man grows up in the Dominican Republic with ambitions to play baseball and a 12-year-old girl in a white, middle-class family in Minnesota finds the world both bigger and more encouraging when she becomes his fan." Fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Schrefer, Eliot; illus. by Emilia Dziubak.**

*Mez's Magic* (The Lost Rainforest series)

"When the magical rainforest of Caldera is threatened by a terrible evil, four young animal friends must overcome their differences to save the rainforest from destruction. ... Magic with depth in this new series stunner." Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Selfors, Suzanne.**

*Smells Like Treasure* (Smells Like Dog series)

"Farm boy Homer Pudding receives a mysterious note emblazoned with the letters L.O.S.T. and knows that it is time to meet the society of Legends, Objects, Secrets, and Treasures, take his Uncle's place, and hunt for treasure." Adventure/Fiction. (Publisher)



**Sell, Chad, ed.**

*The Cardboard Kingdom*

"Comics creator and illustrator Sell teams up with 10 different authors to create an extraordinary linked anthology, seamlessly interweaving stories of unabashed joy and friendship. ... A breath of fresh air, this tender and dynamic collection is a must-have for any graphic-novel collection." Graphic fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Selznick, Brian.**

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret*

"... employs what can easily be called cinematic techniques, melding text and illustration to tell the story of an orphan who lives by his wits in a Paris train station in the 1930s. ... Hugo's obsession with trying to reconstruct a mechanical man that is his only link to his father brings him into contact with the old man whose mechanical toys mysteriously provide Hugo with the parts he needs." Historical fiction. (*The Los Angeles Times*)

**Selznick, Brian.**

*Wonderstruck*

"As in *Hugo Cabret*, artwork tells much of the story, two independent threads of visual and prose narrative weaving in and out, eventually coming together as the protagonists meet and their stories join. Young Ben's prose narrative begins in 1977, at Gunflint Lake, Minnesota, and young Rose's visual narrative begins in 1927, in Hoboken, New Jersey. ... Ben's mother has died, and his journey takes him to New York City in search of the father he never knew. Rose is deaf and her parents are protective, but she, too, is lured by the big city." Historical fiction. (bookpage.com)

**Shane, Wendy Wan-Long.**

*The Great Wall of Lucy Wu*

"Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months, shattering her plans for a perfect sixth grade year." Fiction. (Publisher)

**Shevah, Emma; illus. by Helen Crawford-White.**

*Dara Palmer's Major Drama*

When 11-year-old Dara, who was adopted as a baby from Cambodia, doesn't get a role in the school production, she begins to think it's because she doesn't look like the other girls in her class. Irrepressible, she comes up with a plan to change her school and the world, too. Fiction. (*Goodreads*)

**Stanley, Diane.**

*Joplin, Wishing*

"Stanley's fantasy offers an enticing blend of suspense, an ancient curse, a lonely girl, a hint of romance, and a fairy-tale trope." Fantasy. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Rose, Caroline Starr.**

*May B.*

"As unforgiving as the western Kansas prairies, this extraordinary verse novel—Rose's debut—paints a gritty picture of late-19th-century frontier life from the perspective of a 12-year-old dyslexic girl named Mavis Elizabeth Betterly... May B. for short. ... If May is a brave, stubborn fighter, the short, free-verse lines are one-two punches in this Laura Ingalls Wilder-inspired ode to the human spirit." Verse historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Tarpley, Natasha.**

*The Harlem Charade*

The lives of three kids of color in Harlem intersect in a mystery involving the history of 1960s Harlem artists and different approaches to justice for inner-city residents. Mystery.

**Turnage, Sheila.**

*Three Times Lucky; The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing; The Odds of Getting Even*

In this mystery trilogy set in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, spunky Mo LoBeau – who was washed ashore as a baby – and her best friend Dale solve mysteries involving a murder charge against the amnesiac Colonel, the identity of a ghost inhabiting a haunted inn, and the involvement of Dale's father in a kidnapping. Mystery.

**Weeks, Sarah and Gita Varadarajan.**

*Save Me a Seat*

"Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common—but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week." Fiction. (*Scholastic Press*)

**Williams-Garcia, Rita.**

*One Crazy Summer; P.S. Be Eleven; Gone Crazy in Alabama*

In this historical fiction trilogy, three African American sisters spend the summer of 1968 in Oakland, California with their mother and the Black Panthers, return home to Brooklyn to find changes large and small, and travel to the rural South to visit their grandmother. Historical fiction.

**Woods, Brenda.**

*Saint Louis Armstrong Beach*

"This gripping addition to the growing body of fiction portraying Katrina's profound effect on children and families pits an 11-year-old boy, a neighborhood dog and an elderly woman against the hurricane and subsequent devastating flood." Historical fiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Woods, Brenda.**

*The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*

"Coretta Scott King Honor winner Brenda Woods' moving, uplifting story of a girl finally meeting the African American side of her family explores racism and how it feels to be biracial and celebrates families of all kinds..." Fiction. (Publisher)

 **Yang, Gene Luen.**

*Secret Coders* (series)

"Hopper's first day at Stately Academy goes terribly until her '7'-shaped earrings trigger a code in a robot bird, commanding it to display three eyes." Graphic mystery. (*Kirkus Reviews*) Other books in the series are *Secret Coders: Secrets & Sequences*; *Secret Coders: Robots & Repeats*; *Secret Coders: Paths & Portals*; *Secret Coders: Potions & Parameters*.

**Collaborating Authors\*.**

*39 Clues* series

Four series of adventure novels (*39 Clues*, *Cahills vs. Vespers*, *Unstoppable*, *Doublecross*) follow the quests of two siblings, 14-year-old Amy and 11-year-old Dan Cahill, who discover that their family has been influential in shaping history and who travel the world to seek clues to the source of their family's power. Adventure/Fiction.

**\*Rick Riordan, Gordon Korman, Peter Lerangis, Jude Watson, Patrick Carman, Linda Sue Park, Margaret Peterson Haddix, Roland Smith, David Baldacci, Jeff Hirsch, Natalie Standiford, C. Alexander London, and Jenny Goebel**

**Collaborating Authors\*.**

*Spirit Animals* series

"Separated by vast distances, Conor Abeke, Meilin, and Rollan have each summoned a beast of legend – a spirit animal. Now their fate is set. ... The four young heroes and their animals must band together on a quest to find legendary talismans – before they fall into enemy hands." Fantasy. (Publisher)

**\*Brandon Mull, Maggie Stiefvater, Garth Nix, Sean Williams, Shannon Hale, Tui T. Sutherland, Eliot Schrefer, Marie Lu, and Victoria Schwab**

## Poetry and Short Stories

**Alexander, Kwame, Chris Colderley,  
and Marjory Wentworth; illus. by Ekuia Holmes.**

*Out of Wonder: Poems Celebrating Poets*

"A magnificent exploration of the poetic imagination." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Argueta, Jorge; illus. by Alfonso Ruano;  
transl. from Spanish by Elisa Amado.**

*Somos como las nubes / We Are Like the Clouds*

"With tenderness and humanity, this bilingual book describes the hopes, fears, and uncertainties of the thousands of displaced children that arrive every year at the southern border of the United States." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bird, Betsy, ed.**

*Funny Girl: Funniest. Stories. Ever.*

"The 28 short stories, autobiographical essays, and comic strips in this entertaining anthology are meant to prove that females can be funny, and they succeed." Anthology. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Bryan, Ashley.**

*Freedom over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams  
Brought to Life*

"Bryan gives voices to the voiceless and presents the dreams of slaves who went to the grave without living them." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Latham, Irene and Charles Waters; illus.  
by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko.**

*Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship*

"A fresh approach to exploring interracial communication." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Levine, Gail Carson; illus. by Matthew Cordell.** *Forgive Me, I Meant to Do It: False Apology Poems*  
Inspired by William Carlos Williams' famous poem "This Is Just to Say," these ironic apology poems imagine how tricksters really feel about the mischief they make. Poetry.

**Orgill, Roxane; illus. by Francis Vallejo.** *Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph*  
"In 21 poems, Orgill introduces Art Kane's iconic 1958 Harlem photograph to young readers, spotlighting many of the 57 jazz musicians pictured." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis; illus. by Brian Pinkney.** *Martin Rising: Requiem for a King*  
"The multiaward-winning Pinkneys' requiem lovingly explains in a set of 'docu-poems' the events surrounding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, particularly the Memphis sanitation workers' strikes that brought him to the city where he eventually died." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Scieszka, Jon, ed.** *Guys Read series*  
Tales, stories, and essays to engage even the most reluctant reader. Choose from *Funny Business, Heroes & Villains, Other Worlds, Sports Pages, Thriller, True Stories, and Terrifying Tales*. [Title aside, this is a wonderful series for everyone!]

**Smith, Charles Jr.** *28 Days: Moments in Black History That Changed the World*  
"Three pivotal Supreme Court cases, one amendment, and 25 great men and women make for memorable entries." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Vardell, Sylvia and Janet Wong.** *Here We Go: A Poetry Friday Power Book*  
"A story in poems and a writing journal designed to help kids think about social change." Poetry. (Publisher)

**Weatherford, Carole Boston; illus. by Jeffery Boston Weatherford.** *You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen*  
"The story of the struggles and achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen is told in vivid informational poetry. ... A masterful, inspiring evocation of an era." Poetry. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

## Biography and Memoir

 **Bell, Cece.** *El Deafo*  
The author recounts her experiences with hearing loss at a young age, including using a bulky hearing aid, learning how to lip read, and determining her "superpower." Graphic memoir.

**Dunbar, Erica Armstrong and Kathleen Van Cleve.** *Never Caught, the Story of Ona Judge: George and Martha Washington's Courageous Slave Who Dared to Run Away*  
"A young enslaved woman successfully escapes bondage in the household of George and Martha Washington. ... Ona made her escape by ship to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, setting up years of attempts by allies of Washington to return Ona to slavery. Despite poverty and hardship, Ona Judge remained free, thwarting the most powerful man in America." Biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

 **Gill, Joel Christian.** *Bessie Stringfield*  
"An incredible true story that has as much power as Bessie and the motorcycles she rode. ... Being the first woman to ride a motorcycle across the United States did not satisfy Bessie Stringfield; she did it eight times!" Graphic biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Green, Michelle Y.**

*A Strong Right Arm: The Story of Mamie "Peanut" Johnson*

A biography of Washingtonian Mamie Johnson, one of three women who played in the Professional Negro League, discusses the challenges she faced as a black woman to make her way into professional baseball. Biography.

**G Hale, Shannon; illus. by LeUyen Pham.** *Real Friends*

"A painful and painfully recognizable tale of one girl's struggle to make and keep 'one good friend.'" Graphic memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**G Hartland, Jessie.** *Steve Jobs: Insanely Great*

Presents the story of the ultimate American entrepreneur, who brought us Apple Computer, Pixar, Macs, iPods, iPhones and more. Graphic biography.

**Montgomery, Sy.** *Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*

This biography of Dr. Temple Grandin describes her life with autism, how she overcame key disabilities through education and the support of her mother, and her groundbreaking work as a scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities. Biography.

**Sheinkin, Steve.** *The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery*

"Sheinkin sees Arnold as America's 'original action hero' and succeeds in writing a brilliant, fast-paced biography that reads like an adventure novel. ...The author's obvious mastery of his material, lively prose and abundant use of eyewitness accounts make this one of the most exciting biographies young readers will find." Biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Weissman, Elissa Brent et al.** *Our Story Begins: Your Favorite Authors and Illustrators Share Fun, Inspiring, and Occasionally Ridiculous Things They Wrote and Drew as Kids*

"Twenty-six notable authors and illustrators of children's books—including the book's editor—introduce themselves via their childhood memories." Collective memoir. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Wilson, Jamia; illus. by Andrea Pippins.** *Young, Gifted and Black: Meet 52 Black Heroes from Past and Present*

"A beautifully crafted volume that can serve either as an introduction to these figures or as a supplementary text." Collective biography. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Woodson, Jacqueline.** *Brown Girl Dreaming*

The author tells the story of her childhood in vivid poems. Her focus is on what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement, and her joy at finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Memoir. Told in narrative verse.

## Other Nonfiction

**Cornille, Didier; transl. from French by Yolanda Stern Broad.** *Bridges: An Introduction to Ten Great Bridges and Their Designers* (Who Built That? series)

"Ten bridges that both changed how we get from here to there and stunned us with their design beauty and engineering cleverness." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**D'Aulaire, Ingri and Edgar d'Aulaire.** *D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths*

A classic introduction to the Greek myths. Greek mythology.

**Grill, William.**

*Shackleton's Journey*

"A magnificent chronicle by emerging illustrator William Grill, whose affectionate and enchanting colored-pencil drawings bring to life the legendary explorer and his historic expedition." Nonfiction. (Publisher)

**G Hale, Nathan.**

*Raid of No Return: A World War II Tale of the Doolittle Raid*

(Nathan Hale's Hazardous Tales series)

"Presented in the author's instantly recognizable artistic and storytelling style, this new series installment centers on the Doolittle air raid over Japan during World War II." Nonfiction. (*School Library Journal*)

**Hopkinson, Deborah.**

*Dive! World War II Stories of Sailors & Submarines*

"Hopkinson's writing plumbs the depths in relating the undersea exploits of American submariners during World War II." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Montgomery, Sy; photographed by Nic Bishop.** *Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cats*

(Scientists in the Field series)

Describes the cheetah's essential role in the ecosystem and the ways in which Namibia's Cheetah Conservation Fund promotes cohabitation between cheetahs and farmers. Nonfiction.

**Montgomery, Sy; photographed  
by Keith Ellenbogen.**

*The Great White Shark Scientist*

(Scientists in the Field series)

"This appreciative introduction to a much-maligned species will thrill readers while it encourages them to see great white sharks in a new way." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Pinkney, Andrea Davis; illus. by Brian Pinkney.** *Martin & Mahalia: His Words, Her Song*

"A well-illustrated and meticulously researched story of the inextricably intertwined lives of two important African-American historical figures." Informational picture book. (*Kirkus Reviews*)

**Thornhill, Jan.**

*The Tragic Tale of the Great Auk*

"A sobering, beautifully presented extinction story." Nonfiction. (*Kirkus Reviews*)