The accidental genius of Weasel High

By Detorie, Rick

A typical boy in ninth grade draws comics and records his thoughts in his journal, describing life with his two parents, adolescent sister, and a bully. IL:YA

All the water in the world

By Lyon, George Ella

A lyrical, illustrated look at the water cycle, showing how water rises to the clouds and is rained back down again to be used by plants, people, and every living thing. IL:K-3 RL:3

Anya's ghost

By Brosgol, Vera

Anya, embarrassed by her family and lacking confidence in her body and her social skills, finally finds a friend after falling down a well, but quickly learns there are drawbacks to having a ghost for a friend. IL:YA

At the sea floor cafe: odd ocean critter poems

By Bulion, Leslie An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about some of the creatures that live in the sea. Includes a glossary of scientific terms. IL:3-6 RL:6.6

Beauty queens

By Bray, Libba

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition. IL:YA

The adventures of Mark Twain

By Burleigh, Robert An illustrated biography of American author Mark Twain, presented from the perspective of the Twain's famous literary character Huckleberry Finn. IL:3-6 RL:5.1

Amelia lost: the life and disappearance of Amelia Earhart

By Fleming, Candace

Traces the life of female aviator Amelia Earhart from her childhood to her final flight, discusses the extensive search for her and her missing plane, and includes photographs, maps, handwritten notes by Amelia, and sidebars. IL:5-8 RL:5.5

Around the world on eighty legs

By Gibson, Amy An illustrated collection of poems that provides information about animals around the world. IL:K-3 RL:4

Bad island

By TenNapel, Doug Reese, forced to go on vacation with his family, finds himself shipwrecked with them on a strange island full of weird plants and animals, and pursued by an unknown entity on the hunt. IL:5-8 RL:4.2

Ben Franklin: his wit and wisdom from A-Z By Schroeder, Alan

An illustrated overview of Benjamin Franklin's inventions, wisdom, and accomplishments. IL:3-6 RL:5.9

Between shades of gray

By Sepetys, Ruta

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil. Based on the author's family, includes a historical note. IL:YA

Blackout

By Rocco, John

Neighbors gather on the roof after the power goes out on a hot night in the city and start having so much fun not everyone is happy when the lights go back on. IL:K-3 RL:1.4

Blue chicken

By Freedman, Deborah An innocent chicken, eager to be helpful, creates chaos in the farmyard with a can of blue paint. IL:K-3 *Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on September 15, 2011.*

Breadcrumbs

By Ursu, Anne Hazel and Jack are best friends until an accident with a magical mirror and a run-in with a villainous queen find Hazel on her own, entering an enchanted wood in the hopes of saving Jack's life. IL:3-6 *Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on September 27, 2011.*

Camo girl

By Magoon, Kekla Ella has always been friends with a boy known as Z, despite his reputation as the weird kid, but when a new boy, Bailey, moves to town

Big wig: a little history of hair

By Krull, Kathleen Chronicles the history of hair, looking at hair facts and lore from ancient to modern times. IL:3-6 RL:4.8

Bless this mouse

By Lowry, Lois Mouse Mistress Hildegarde musters all her ingenuity to keep a large colony of church mice safe from the exterminator and to see that they make it through the dangerous Blessing of the Animals. IL:3-6 RL:6

The boy who cried ninja

By Latimer, Alex A young boy named Tim is accused of lying when he tells his parents that a ninja ate the last piece of cake and a sunburned crocodile landed on the roof, so he figures out a way to prove that he is telling the truth. IL:K-3 RL:2.4

Brother Sun, Sister Moon: Saint Francis of Assisi's canticle of the creatures

By Paterson, Katherine An illustrated reimagining of Saint Francis of Assisi's thirteenth-century tribute to nature. IL:K-3 RL:3.7

Can we save the tiger?

By Jenkins, Martin Contains illustrations of rare animals, including tigers, ground iguanas, whiterumped vultures, and others, discusses the

and befriends Ella because they are the only two African American students in the class, she must choose between the popularity Bailey will bring to her life and her lifelong friendship with Z. IL:5-8 RL:4.3

The cazuela that the farm maiden stirred

By Vamos, Samantha R.

A cumulative tale of a farm maiden who, aided by a group of animals, prepares "Arroz con Leche," or rice pudding. Includes recipe and glossary of the Spanish words that are woven throughout the text. IL:K-3 RL:2.4

Chime

By Billingsley, Franny

In the early twentieth century in Swampsea, seventeen-year-old Briony, who can see the spirits that haunt the marshes around their town, feels responsible for her twin sister's horrible injury until a young man enters their lives and exposes secrets that even Briony does not know about. IL:YA

Delirium

By Oliver, Lauren

The government requires that all teenagers be cured of love, a.k.a. deliria, to keep society safe. But 95 days before her treatment, Lena Haloway falls for a boy--and must face the truth about her own feelings and the world in which she lives. IL:YA

A dog's way home

By Pyron, Bobbie

After a car accident strands them at opposite ends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, eleven-yearold Abby and her beloved sheltie Tam overcome months filled with physical and emotional challenges to find their way back to each other. IL:3-6 RL:5.6 impact of human activities on the animals, and looks at how they can be saved. IL:K-3 RL:3.5

Chicks run wild

By Bardhan-Quallen, Sudipta When her little chicks refuse to settle down for the night, Mama decides to surprise them with an unusual request. IL:K-3 RL:2

Close to famous

By Bauer, Joan

The residents of Culpepper, despite their grand aspirations, have made little progress toward achieving their goals, but unexpected events and surprises put the ambitions of the residents of Culpepper to the test. IL:5-8 RL:5

Divergent

By Roth, Veronica

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all. IL:YA

Dragon castle

By Bruchac, Joseph

Young Prince Rashko, frequently frustrated with his family which he has come to think of as a pack of fools, learns they are not as witless as he thought when his parents disappear leaving him to manage the castle and kingdom. IL:5-8 RL:5.7

Dream something big: the story of Watts Towers

By Aston, Dianna Hutts In Watts, California, over a period of many years, a man known to all as Uncle Sam spends his free time collecting broken bits of pottery, glass, and other scraps and turning them into a work of art. IL:K-3 *Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on August 18, 2011.*

The elephant scientist

By O'Connell, Caitlin Photographs and text recount Caitlin O'Connell's experiences observing African elephants in their natural habitat, describing the discoveries she made about elephant communication. IL:5-8 RL:7.2

Everybody Sees the Ants

By King, A.S.

Lucky Linderman didn't ask for his life. He didn't ask his grandfather not to come home from the Vietnam War. He didn't ask for a father who never got over it. He didn't ask for a mother who keeps pretending their family is fine. And he certainly didn't ask to be the recipient of Nadar McMillan's relentless bullying, which has finally gone too far. IL:YA

Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on October 3, 2011.

Fairly fairy tales

By Codell, Esme Raji Offers a different look at some classic stories, as a parent and child read before bedtime. IL:K-3 RL:1

Forgotten

By Patrick, Cat Sixteen-year-old London Lane forgets everything each night and must use notes to

Dude: fun with Dude and Betty

By Pliscou, Lisa Simple text and illustrations describe Dude and Betty's fun adventures as they take part in California's surfer culture. IL:K-3 RL:1.4

The emerald atlas

By Stephens, John

Kate, Michael, and Emma have passed from one orphanage to another in the ten years since their parents disappeared to protect them, but now they learn that they have special powers-and a fearsome enemy--and embark on a prophesied quest to find a magical book. IL:5-8 RL:5.1

Excalibur : the legend of King Arthur : a graphic novel

By Lee, Tony

Retells, in graphic novel format, the legend of Arthur Pendragon who, raised in obscurity, draws a legendary sword from a stone and begins the life he was born to lead, guided by the elusive wizard Merlin. IL:5-8 RL:3.9

Forever

By Stiefvater, Maggie As the werewolves are hunted by those intent on destroying them, Sam and Grace risk everything to be together. IL:YA

The friendship doll

By Larson, Kirby Follows the adventures of Miss Kanagawa, a doll made to serve as an ambassador from

struggle through the day, even to recall her wonderful boyfriend, but she "remembers" future events and as her "flashforwards" become more disturbing she realizes she must learn more about the past lest it destroy her future. IL:YA

The girl who circumnavigated Fairyland in a ship of her own making

By Valente, Catherynne M. A young girl named September finds herself transported from her home in Omaha to Fairyland, where she must battle the mysterious Marquess alongside her creaturefriends. IL:5-8 RL:6.7

The great wall of Lucy Wu

By Shang, Wendy Wan Long 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. IL:3-6 RL:5.3

Horton Halfpott, or, The fiendish mystery of Smugwick Manor, or, The loosening of M'Lady Luggertuck's corset

By Angleberger, Tom Horton, an upstanding kitchen boy in a castle in nineteenth-century England, becomes embroiled in a mystery surrounding a series of thefts, which is also connected to the pursuit of a very eligible and wealthy young lady's affections. IL:5-8 RL:6.4

I broke my trunk!

By Willems, Mo Gerald the elephant tells his best friend Piggie a long, crazy story about how he broke his trunk. IL:K-3 RL:1.4 Japan to the United States, as she makes friends and learns about love during the twentieth century. IL:3-6 RL:5.2

The grand plan to fix everything

By Krishnaswami, Uma Eleven-year-old Dini loves movies, and so when she learns that her family is moving to India for two years, her devastation over leaving her best friend in Maryland is tempered by the possibility of meeting her favorite actress, Dolly Singh. IL:3-6 RL:5.6

Hidden

By Frost, Helen

Years after Darra Monson's father stole a minivan with Wren Abbott hiding in the back, the girls come face to face at summer camp and together they try to work through what happened to them and the impact it had on their lives. IL:5-8 RL:4.9

I am the book: poems

Edited by Hopkins, Lee Bennett An illustrated collection of poems that celebrates reading, featuring selections by Karla Kuskin, Jill Corcoran, Jane Yolen, and others. IL:K-3 RL:3.4

Ice

By Geisert, Arthur

This wordless tale depicts a community of pigs that suffer from the heat and go in search of ice despite the odds against them. IL:K-3

Inside out & back again

By Lai, Thanhha Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama. IL:3-6 RL:4.9

Jeremy Bender vs. the Cupcake Cadets

By Luper, Eric

When sixth-grader Jeremy Bender damages his father's prized boat and needs to come up with a lot of money to get it repaired, he and his best friend dress up as girls and infiltrate the Cupcake Cadet troop in an attempt to win the Windjammer Whirl model sailboat contest, and the prize money that comes with it. IL:3-6 RL:4.1

Juniper Berry

By Kozlowsky, M. P.

When eleven-year-old Juniper begins to suspect something is wrong with her mother and father, she and her friend Giles discover they have been selling their souls, pieces at a time, to a silver-tongued creature in a terrifying fairy-tale underworld. IL:5-8 RL:5.6

Lemonade: and other poems squeezed from a single word

By Raczka, Bob

A collection of poems based on a child's dayto-day experiences that includes a puzzle at the end of each poem. IL:3-6 RL:6.1

The loud book!

By Underwood, Deborah From the blare of an alarm clock in the morning to snores and crickets in the evening, simple text explores the many loud noises one might hear during the course of a day.

Irena Sendler and the children of the Warsaw Ghetto

By Rubin, Susan Goldman Recounts Irena Sendler's efforts to save hundreds of Jewish children in the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II. IL:3-6 RL:5.7

Jim Henson --the guy who played with puppets

By Krull, Kathleen

Chronicles the life of Jim Henson, describing how he pushed the boundaries of entertainment and brought the art of puppets to a new level with the creation of his Muppets. IL:K-3

Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on August 23, 2011.

Junonia

By Henkes, Kevin

Alice and her parents spend the week of Alice's tenth birthday as they always do on Sanibel Island, Florida, but Alice gets upset when she discovers some of the people who are always there are missing and new ones have arrived, and Alice wants things to be like they have always been. IL:3-6 RL:4.3

Lost and found

By Tan, Shaun

Collects three stories by Shaun Tan that explore how people lose and find what matters most to them, as a girl finds a bright spot in a dark world, a boy leads a strange, lost being home, and a group of peaceful creatures loses its home to cruel invaders. IL:5-8 RL:5.4

Love, Mouserella

By Stein, David Ezra

Mouserella misses her grandmouse, so she writes her a letter. At first she can't think of anything to say, but once she starts, the news begins to flow. IL:K-3

Best Books of 2011 (so far...)

Donalyn Miller

thebookwhisperer@gmail.com

IL:K-3 RL:3.7

The manatee scientist : saving vulnerable species

By Lourie, Peter

An introduction to manatees and manatee conservation that includes photographs and information on the three different manatee species, their migration patterns, and their natural habitat. IL:5-8 RL:7

Marty McGuire

By Messner, Kate When tomboy Marty is cast as the princess in the third-grade play, she learns about improvisation, which helps her become more adaptable. IL:K-3 RL:2.8

Mitchell's license

By Durand, Hallie

Mitchell never wants to go to bed until, at the age of three years, nine months, and five days he gets his license so that he can drive there--at least until he and the car have a disagreement about what fuel goes in the tank. IL:K-3 RL:2.4

My life, the theater, and other tragedies: a novel

By Zadoff, Allen

While working backstage on a high school production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," sixteen-year-old Adam develops feelings for a beautiful actress--which violates an unwritten code--and begins to overcome the grief that has controlled him since his father's death nearly two years earlier. IL:YA *Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on September 15, 2011.*

A mango in the hand : a story told through proverbs

By Sacre, Antonio

Guided by proverbs from his father and other relatives, Francisco makes several attempts to bring ripe mangoes home for dessert on his saint day, and in the process learns lessons in love and generosity. Includes glossary of Spanish terms. IL:K-3 RL:2.8

Me-- Jane

By McDonnell, Patrick Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals. Includes biographical information on the prominent zoologist. IL:K-3 RL:3.5

A monster calls --a novel

By Ness, Patrick

Thirteen-year-old Conor awakens one night to find a monster outside his bedroom window, but not the one from the recurring nightmare that began when his mother became ill--an ancient, wild creature that wants him to face truth and loss. IL:YA

Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on September 27, 2011.

My side of the car

By Feiffer, Kate

Sadie and her father have been planning a trip to the zoo for a long time but something always gets in the way, so when they finally start out and her father sees some raindrops, Sadie insists there is no rain on her side of the car. IL:K-3 RL:2.7

A nation's hope : the story of boxing legend Joe Louis

By Pena, Matt de la An illustrated introduction to the life and accomplishments of professional boxer Joe Louis. IL:K-3 RL:3.6

No one but you

By Wood, Douglas Readers are invited to discover nature using their sense of smell, sight, hearing, touch, and taste. IL:K-3 RL:5

Noah Barleywater runs away: a fairytale By Boyne, John

When life at home becomes too difficult, eight-year-old Noah sets out to see the world and have an adventure, and in the forest he meets a toymaker who has a story and some advice to share. IL:3-6 RL:6.3

Okay for now

By Schmidt, Gary D.

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer; he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library. IL:5-8 RL:4.3

Nerd camp

By Weissman, Elissa Brent For ten-year-old Gabe, the Summer Center for Gifted Enrichment is all that he dreamed it would be, but he must work hard to write about the fun in letters to Zach, his cool future stepbrother, without revealing that it is a camp for "nerds." IL:3-6 RL:6.2

No passengers beyond this point

By Choldenko, Gennifer With their house in foreclosure, sisters India and Mouse and brother Finn are sent to stay with an uncle in Colorado until their mother can join them, but when the plane lands, the children are welcomed by cheering crowds to a strange place where each of them has a perfect house and a clock that is ticking down the time. IL:5-8 RL:5.1

Nurse, soldier, spy : the story of Sarah Edmonds, a Civil War hero

By Moss, Marissa

Describes the life of Sarah Emma Edmonds, who disguised herself as a man, took the name Frank Thompson, joined a Michigan army regiment to fight in the Civil War, served as a nurse on the battlefield, and became a spy. IL:K-3 RL:4.9

Olympians #3: Hera, the goddess and her glory

By O'Connor, George

Recounts the stories of the many heroes who sought and won the approval and patronage of Hera, the Queen of the Gods, including the story of Heracles. IL:5-8 RL:5.1

One day and one amazing morning on Orange Street

By Rocklin, Joanne

The last remaining orange tree on a Southern California street brings together neighbors of all ages as they face their problems and anxieties, including the possibility that a mysterious stranger is a threat to their tree. IL:3-6

Passing the music down

By Sullivan, Sarah

A boy and his family befriend a country fiddler, who teaches the boy all about playing the old tunes, which the boy promises to help keep alive. Inspired by Melvin Wine and Jake Krack. IL:K-3 RL:2.7

Peter Nimble and his fantastic eyes: a story

By Auxier, Jonathan

Raised to be a thief, blind orphan Peter Nimble, age ten, steals from a mysterious stranger three pairs of magical eyes that lead him to a hidden island where he must decide to become a hero or resume his life of crime. IL:5-8 RL:5.9

Press here

By Tullet, Herve

Instructs the reader on how to interact with the illustrations to manipulate yellow, blue, and red dots. IL:K-3 RL:1.5

The Queen of France

By Wadham, Tim Rose decides to dress up as the Queen of France one morning, and, as she imagines herself as real royalty, goes off in search of Rose's mother. IL:K-3 RL:2.3

Page by Paige

By Gulledge, Laura Lee Paige Turner, who has just moved to New York with her family, uses her sketchbook to try to make sense of her new life, and she finds the process of sharing her artwork and identity with others both scary and rewarding. IL:YA

Pearl

By Knowles, Johanna After fifteen-year-old Bean's beloved grandfather Gus dies, she discovers uncomfortable secrets about him, her mother, and the father she has never known. IL:YA

Pick-up game : a full day of full court

Edited by Aronson, Marc

A series of short stories by such authors as Walter Dean Myers, Rita Williams-Garcia, and Joseph Bruchac, interspersed with poems and photographs, provides different perspectives on a game of street ball played one steamy July day at the West 4th Street court in New York City known as The Cage. IL:YA

The pull of gravity

By Polisner, Gae

When their friend Scooter dies of a rare disease, teenagers Nick Gardner and Jaycee Amato set out on a secret journey to find the father who abandoned "The Scoot" when he was an infant, and give him a signed first edition of "Of Mice and Men." IL:YA

Queen of the Falls

By Van Allsburg, Chris

Recounts the stunt performed by sixty-twoyear-old retired charm school instructor Annie Edson Taylor, who went over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel in an effort to gain fame and fortune. IL:K-3 RL:4

The quite contrary man: a true American tale

By Hyatt, Patricia Rusch

In nineteenth century New England, Joseph Palmer flouts the law against wearing a beard and is accused by his fellow citizens of being unpatriotic and sinful, stubbornly refusing to shave even when he is sent to jail. IL:K-3 RL:3.2

The secret river

By Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan Young Calpurnia takes her dog, Buggy-horse, and follows her nose to a secret river in a Florida forest, where she catches enough fresh fish to feed her hungry neighbors, even after giving some to the forest creatures she meets on the way home. IL:K-3 RL:3

Squish. No. 1: Super Amoeba

By Holm, Jennifer L.

The young amoeba Squish, inspired by his favorite comic book hero, Super Amoeba, tries to navigate his way through school and save his friends and the world from the evils that lurk in the halls. IL:3-6 RL:2.2

A tale of Two Castles

By Levine, Gail Carson Twelve-year-old Elodie journeys to Two Castles in hopes of studying acting but instead becomes apprentice to a dragon, who teaches her to be observant and use reasoning, thus helping her to uncover who is poisoning the king. IL:3-6 RL:4.9

Thunder birds: nature's flying predators By Arnosky, Jim

Presents information about different types birds and the features that make them unique,

The rites & wrongs of Janice Wills: a novel

By Pearson, Joanna Janice Wills, not quite seventeen and an aspiring anthropologist, reports on the sociocultural ordeals of being an teenager in Melva, North Carolina, including "Beautiful Rich Girls," parties, and the Miss Livermush pageant. IL:YA

Six sheep sip thick shakes: and other tricky tongue twisters

By Cleary, Brian P. Colorful illustrations accompany silly tongue twisters. IL:K-3 RL:3.7

Strange creatures: the story of Walter Rothschild and his museum

By Judge, Lita

A biography of Walter Rothschild, nearly the richest child in the world when he was born in 1868, discussing his extreme shyness, and focusing on his lifelong fascination with animals, a passion that led him to collect animals from around the world, write books and scientific papers, a name five thousand species. IL:K-3 RL:4.1

Ten miles past normal

By Dowell, Frances O'Roark

Because living with "modern-hippy" parents on a goat farm means fourteen-year-old Janie Gorman cannot have a normal high school life, she tries joining Jam Band, making friends with Monster, and spending time with elderly former civil rights workers. IL:YA

Tia Isa wants a car

By Medina, Meg

Tia Isa and her niece try to save enough money to buy a car to take the whole family to the

thebookwhisperer@gmail.com

and contains color photographs of these birds. IL:K-3 RL:5.8

True (--sort of)

By Hannigan, Katherine For most of her eleven years, Delly has been in trouble without knowing why, until her little brother, R.B., and a strange, silent new friend, Ferris, help her find a way to be good--and happy--again. IL:3-6 RL:3.8

The watcher: Jane Goodall's life with the chimps

By Winter, Jeanette An illustrated biography of British primatologist Jane Goodall, describing her childhood, the years she spent in the African forests to observe chimpanzees, and her efforts to protect and preserve primates and their habitats. IL:K-3 RL:3.2

Where's walrus?

By Savage, Stephen

An adventurous walrus escapes from the zoo and dons a number of different disguises in order to avoid being caught by the zookeeper. IL:K-3

Wonderstruck

By Selznick, Brian

Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. IL:5-8

Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on September 13, 2011.

beach. IL:K-3 RL:3

Warp speed

By Yee, Lisa

Marley Sandelski has always felt invisible at school, but a series of unexpected events gives him a taste of popularity and insights into some classmates who are well-liked or greatlyfeared. IL:3-6 RL:5.2

When Bob met Woody

By Golio, Gary

Illustrations and lyrical text follows a kid from rural Minnesota who grows up, changes his name to Bob Dylan, and leaves home to pursue his love for music in New York City. IL:3-6 RL:5.6

Where she went

By Forman, Gayle

Adam, now a rising rock star, and Mia, a successful cellist studying at Juilliard, are reunited in New York City and reconnect for the first time since Mia's near-fatal car accident three years earlier drove them apart. IL:YA

ZooZical

By Sierra, Judy

When the winter doldrums arrive at the zoo, a very small hippo and a young kangaroo decide to stage a "ZooZical," a show to display their singing, dancing, acrobatic, and other talents to the people of Springfield. IL:K-3

Not yet published: This item is scheduled to be available on August 9, 2011.