**Science, Technology, and the Natural World**

Montgomery, Sy. *The Book of Turtles.* Illustrated by Matt Patterson. Clarion / HarperCollins, 2023. 40 pgs (9780358458074)

* Engaging, informational picture book
* Turtle anatomy overview
* Many species are described and illustrated
* Text is approachable and informational
* 10 Ways to Advocate for Turtles is provided at the end of the book

Salas, Laura Purdie. *Finding Family: The Duckling Raised by Loons.* Illustrated by Alexandria Neonakis. Millbrook Press / Lerner, 2023. 32 pages (978-1-7284-4299-0)

* This occurred on a Wisconsin lake
* Loon parents begin caring for deserted mallard duckling
* These two species are natural enemies
* Mallard duckling begins to take on loon characteristics
* A lot of facts presented in a poetic way
* Charlotte Zolotow honor book

**Seasons and Celebrations**

Ho, Richard. *Two New Years.* Illustrated by Lynn Scurfield. Chronicle, 2023. 36 pages (978-1-7972-1281-4)

* Kids in the story are Chinese American and Jewish
* Sydney Taylor award winner
* Book talks about how the two holidays are similar- time for renewal, time to sweep bad luck out of the door, time to cast away sins symbolically, remember ancestors who have passed, special food dishes for both holidays, special sights and sounds for each holiday
* Many illustrations are a combination of both holidays in one picture
* Sparse text with more information in the back of the book

**Historical People, Places, and Events**

Barton, Chris. *Glitter Everywhere! Where It Came From, Where It’s Found & Where It’s Going.* Illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat. Charlesbridge, 2023. 48 pages (978-1-62354-252-8)

* Book discusses the iridescence of glitter making it shine
* Talks about history of how people have liked shiny things
* Where it came from, where it’s found, and where it’s going
* Book has a conversational voice with accessible information

Williams, Yohuru, and Michael G. Long. More Than a Dream: The Radical March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Farrar Straus Giroux / Macmillan, 2023. 262 pages (978-0-374-39174-4)

* Book discusses march on Washington
* Behind-the-scenes of this event is shared
* Contributions from well-known and less-known participants are shared
* Compelling narrative non-fiction for upper middle schoolers and high schoolers

**Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir**

Martín, Pedro. *Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir.* Dial / Penguin Random House, 2023. 309 pages (978-0593462294)

* Two vehicles are used for this road trip- the vehicles become important to the story
* Story is gross, humiliating, unflinching, honest
* Told from Pedro’s perspective

**Contemporary People, Places, and Issues**

Lin, Grace. *Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods.* Little, Brown, 2023. 288 pages (978-0-316-48600-2)

* Author documents Chinese food found in America
* Each section starts with an introduction by the author from her personal experience
* Highly illustrated book, thoughtfully designed and produced
* End notes included
* Chinese food originates from many different regions
* Many Chinese American dishes have been altered based on ingredient availability and consumer desire

**Understanding Oneself and Others**

Serani, Deborah. *Sometimes When I’m Worried.* Illustrated by Kyra Teis. Free Spirit / Teacher Created Materials, 2023. 36 pages (978-1-63198-737-3)

* Looks at emotions
* Main character shares feelings with a trusted adult who then share coping strategies with her (stretching like a cat, deep breaths, accomplish a task one step at a time)

Townes, Jess. *Sometimes I Cry.* Illustrated by Daniel Miyares. Farrar Straus Giroux / Macmillan, 2023. 36 pages (978-0-374-30825-4)

* Looks at émotions
* Book shares how tears come from many different situations- pain, sadness, anger, laughter, grief, joy, etc
* Book validates a full range of emotions and shares that crying is a normal response

**The Arts**

Chang, Rosa. *My Indigo World: A True Story of the Color Blue.* minedition / Astra, 2023. 40 pages (978-1-6626-5065-9)

* Blue is the author’s favorite color
* Author began growing indigo. Book further explores how to raise indigo, harvesting it and turning it into dye
* Emotional and personal story combined with scientific, practical information
* Two methods of creating indigo dye are included

**Poetry**

Ashman, Linda. Champion Chompers, Super Stinkers and Other Poems by Extraordinary Animals. Illustrated by Aparna Varma. Kids Can Press, 2023. 48 pages (978-1-5253-0350-0)

* All of the poems are written from the specific animal’s perspective
* There are familiar and many unfamiliar animals that are included
* Book has some riddles to guess which animal each poem is about

Peacock, Lou. A Whale of a Time: A Funny Poem for Each Day of the Year. Illustrated by Matt Hunt. U.S. edition: Nosy Crow, 2023. 349 pages (979-8-88777-025-3)

* This is a very big and heavy book!
* Very funny book
* Short and informative poems
* There are topical sections in the book

**Concept Books**

Lin, Grace. *A Beautiful House for Birds.* (Storytelling Math) Charlesbridge, 2023. 14 pg (978-1-62354-347-1)

Lin, Grace. *Our Favorite Apples*. (Storytelling Math) Charlesbridge, 2023. 14 pages (978-1-62354-348-8)

Lin, Grace. *Where Are the Eggs?* (Storytelling Math) Charlesbridge, 2023. 14 pages (978-1-62354-346-4)

Lin, Grace. *Who Jumps More?* (Storytelling Math) Charlesbridge, 2023. 14 pages (978-1-62354-349-5)

* These are storytelling math concept books (these are board books)
* The same three diverse children are in these books
* Concepts- patterns, counting

**Picture Books**

Brown, Lisa. *The Hospital Book.* Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2023. 32 pages (978-0-8234-4665-0)

* Child experiences an unexpected hospital visit and all the emotions that are present
* Lots of crying off and on- during exam, getting in IV
* Curiosity over the machinery and equipment
* Hospital experience is illustrated

Engle, Margarita. *Water Day.* Illustrated by Olivia Sua. Atheneum / Simon & Schuster, 2023. 40 pages (978-1-6659-1871-8)

* Set in Cuba- man delivers water to households
* Tanks on roofs hold water that are refilled every 5 days
* Water is for drinking, bathing, cooking, cleaning, etc.
* Grandmother explains that when she was a child, rainwater was stored in clay jars
* The fish lady comes to add mosquito fish to the water tanks to diminish risk of malaria
* Water day is a celebration day for communities without running water

LaRocca, Rajani. Summer Is for Cousins. Illustrated by Abhi Alwar. Abrams, 2023. 32 pages (978-1-4197-5733-4)

* 15 family members get together each summer at a lake house
* The narrator is now no longer the youngest in the family

Rogers, Kim. *Just Like Grandma.* Illustrated by Julie Flett. Heartdrum / HarperCollins, 2023. 32 pages (978-0-06-304924-6)

* Charlotte Zolotow winner for this year
* Child learns some history and tradition from grandma
* Then grandma learns how to shoot hoops with the child
* Mutual admiration between grandmother and grandchild is evident

Rylant, Cynthia. *Hornbeam All In.* Illustrated by Arthur Howard. Beach Lane / Simon & Schuster, 2023. 48 pages (978-1-6659-2481-8)

* Hornbeam is a moose that has received an invitation to a picnic from Eureka
* The picnic included Eureka’s family reunion
* Hornbeam is mostly looking forward to potato salad but must meet all the family members first who share kind comments about him that Eureka had shared with them
* 3 short stories in this picture book

Savage, Chloe. *The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish.* U.S. edition: Candlewick Press, 2023. 32 pages (978-1-5362-2851-9)

* Fiction book- giant jellyfish don’t exist
* They crew cannot find the jellyfish during months of journey
* Illustrations are cutaways- you can see action above and below the water
* The jellyfish is hidden in many illustrations and the crew can’t seek it but the reader can
* Many detailed illustrations of ship and crew that give the reader many things to look at

Scanlon, Liz Garton, and Audrey Vernick. *The World’s Best Class Plant.* Illustrated by Lynnor Bontigao. Putnam / Penguin Random House, 2023. 32 pages (978-0-525-51635-4)

* This classroom doesn’t have a pet, they have a plant (this disappoints the students)
* Kids often forget to water the plant because it doesn’t do anything exciting
* Students decide to name the plant, which is full of funny options
* Students find the teacher boring and unexciting
* Funny picture book with unexpected turns

Trimmer, Christian. *The Good Hair Day.* Illustrated by J Yang. Abrams, 2023. 32 pages (978-1-4197-4588-1)

* Noah’s birthday is approaching
* He secretly wants long-flowing hair
* Each year he gets a birthday haircut and this year the shorter haircut made him cry
* Noah received a long-haired wig as a present
* The following year, his hair is grown out a bit
* Book includes conversation starters for talking to others that are different than us

**Books for Beginning Readers**

Bailey, Jenn. Henry, Like Always. Illustrated by Mika Song. Chronicle, 2023. 40 pages (978-1-7972-1389-7)

* Henry likes the classroom calendar that lays out what is happening hour by hour and it repeats consistently
* On Monday, Henry learns there will be a parade on Friday which has altered the schedule for the week which upsets Henry
* In the quiet closet in the classroom, Henry finds a marching band hat that he likes because it muffles the sound of the day

**Fiction for Children**

Arango, Andrea Beatriz. *Something Like Home.* Random House, 2023. 248 pages (978-0-593-56618-3)

* Novel in verse
* The 11 -year-old lives with an aunt as her parents are in drug rehab
* She finds a puppy and the aunt lets her keep it and she aims to train it as a therapy dog
* Novel shows the impact of parental addiction; shows emotions of being in a kinship guardianship

Arlow, Jake Maia. *The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet.* Dial / Penguin Random House, 2023. 284 pages (978-0-593-11296-0)

* Al has been diagnosed with Crohn’s and joins a support group
* Humor is used to deal with the situation
* Al is gay although hasn’t come out; them her mom comes out as gay

Bow, Erin. *Simon Sort of Says.* Disney / Hyperion, 2023. 305 pages (978-1-368-08285-3)

* Simon is dealing with PTSD as the lone survivor of a school shooting
* He lives in the quiet zone in Nebraska and enjoys the quiet
* Laugh-out-loud funny book, witty dialogue, outrageous situations
* With a classmate, they create fake alien signals to “mess with” the scientists

Eliopulos, Andrew. *Will on the Inside.* Quill Tree / HarperCollins, 2023. 292 pages (978-0-322870-2)

* Will struggles with Crohn’s and is gay
* Will is Christian and is concerned about coming out because he enjoys youth group and finds them supportive

Marsh, Katherine. *The Lost Year.* Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2023. 354 pages (978-1-250-31360-7)

* Weaves three different storylines together, with different characters and in different times
* Author drew on her family history to write this book

Wyman, Christina. Jawbreaker. Farrar Straus Giroux / Macmillan, 2023. 305 pages (978-0-374-38969-7)

* 12 year old Max has an extreme overbite; she is concerned with future jaw surgery
* Parents fight often, especially over money
* Max is bullied by her sister and two classmates
* Book is balanced between the bullying at school and the toxic family dynamic
* Book is a glimpse into the psychological affects of bullying and extreme family situations

**Fiction for Young Adults**

Dimaline, Cherie. *Funeral Songs for Dying Girls.* Tundra, 2023. 271 pages (978-0-7352-6563-9)

* Winnifred and dad live on cemetery grounds
* They add the cemetery to a haunted tour- Winnifred enlists her cousin to create “haunted” elements at the cemetery
* Then Winn meets are real ghost- 16 year old Phil. Winn begins to fall in love with Phil.

Gilbert, Kelly Loy. *Everyone Wants to Know.* Simon & Schuster, 2023. 372 pages (978-1-6659-0136-9)

* Book is about social influencers- the family appeared online for quite a while
* 16 year old Honor has anxiety over the attention the family receives
* Father decides to leave the mother and move across country with a younger woman
* An older sister is diagnosed with cancer and the family moves to be with her during treatment
* Hard to put down, social media drama, family drama, there is a twist!
* How to deal with criticism and admiration when you live your life online; is it OK for parents to put their kids online for financial gain?

Graves, Byron. *Rez Ball.* Heartdrum / HarperCollins, 2023. 357 pages (978-0-06-316037-8)

* Trey going into sophomore year and is aiming to get on varsity basketball team
* He plays to honor his older brother who was killed in a car accident
* He makes JV team, then Trey moves onto Varsity due to a team mate injury
* Compelling sports story
* Trey also loves comics and videogames; Trey has friends outside of the sports team
* Graves is an Ojibew author and former basketball player

Mathieu, Jennifer. *Down Came the Rain.* Roaring Brook Press / Macmillan, 2023. 279 pgs (9781250232670)

* Eliza’s home was flooded during a hurricane; they stay with relatives for a while.
* Javi has anxiety anytime it rains hard
* Eliza creates an environmental club at school that Javi joins
* Eliza helps Javi create coping techniques
* Climate change and its impact are a central theme of the story

Walton, Jessica. *Stars in Their Eyes.* Illustrated by Aśka. Graphix / Scholastic ‘23.209 pgs (9781338818796)

* Graphic novel
* Maisie and her mom are attending a FanCon
* Maisie has a disability and one of the TV actresses has the same disability
* Maisie meets non-binary Ollie at the Con; they start a friendship and write and illustrate a story together
* Excitement of first love
* Book shares the importance of representation in literature

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