

# New Children's Books @ PPL – December 2022

## Juvenile Nonfiction

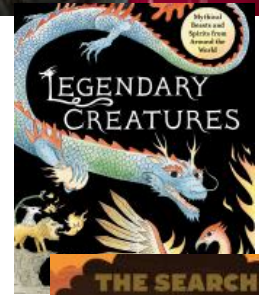
### *Mega-Predators of the Past*, Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Howard Gray

Award-winning nonfiction author and science specialist Melissa Stewart offers young readers a mega-exploration of little-known prehistoric predators that rival even the mightiest of dinosaurs! It is time for T. rex and his dinosaur cousins to step aside and let other mega-predators like the terror bird and the giant ripper lizard take the spotlight! Travel back to prehistoric times and meet some of the most impressive creatures to ever roam the Earth. You'll be amazed at the size and the fierceness of these lesser-known predators, many of them ancient ancestors of animals that we still see today. Stewart's cheeky, humorous voice--along with a comical version of the familiar "comparison man"--put these creatures in perspective. Artist and former zoologist Howard Gray brings these predators (back) to life with dynamic, humorous, and scientifically accurate illustrations.



### *Legendary Creatures: Mythical Beasts and Spirits from Around the World*, Adam Auerbach

A vibrantly illustrated, imaginative picture book featuring mythological creatures drawn from diverse cultural traditions. From the vicious three-headed Chimera of ancient Greece to the peaceful Navagunjara of India—a creature made from parts from nine different animals—to the awe-inspiring dragons of Europe and East Asia, this exciting introduction to mythological creatures celebrates the wondrous beings featured in stories from all over the world.



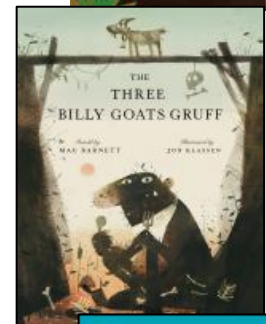
### *The Search for Sasquatch*, Laura Krantz

Inspired by her popular Wild Thing podcast, journalist Laura Krantz incorporates the scientific method and her journalistic skills to determine if Bigfoot is real. When journalist Krantz discovered that her long-lost cousin, Grover Krantz, a distinguished anthropologist and professor at Washington State University, had devoted much of his career to the search for Bigfoot, she couldn't quite believe it. A natural skeptic and a strong believer in facts, Krantz decided to conduct her own quest for the most famous and elusive mythical creature. *The Search for Sasquatch* takes readers through the big guy's fun, fascinating, and complex world, posing the question: Could Bigfoot be out there? Exploring the gray area between myth and science, Krantz takes readers on a strange, surreal, and surprising hunt for the fabled Sasquatch—showing us how to challenge our gut assumptions and open our minds to new possibilities, to think critically, and to use the scientific method along the way.



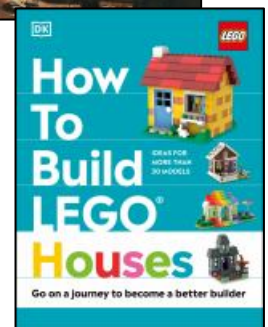
### *Three Billy Goats Gruff*, Mac Barnett, illustrated by Jon Klassen

Once there was a bridge and a terrible and VERY hungry troll lived underneath it. When the three Billy Goats Gruff decide to clip-clop across the bridge to get to the grassy ridge, the troll is already imagining all the way to prepare a delicious goat dinner. But the troll underestimates those seemingly sweet but oh-so-savvy goats! The story was first written down in Norway almost 200 years ago. It has been told, over and over again, but this is the first in a groundbreaking new collection of fractured fairy tales crafted by one of today's most celebrated and acclaimed authors, Mac Barnett, and brought to stunning visual life by award-winning and beloved creator of *I Want My Hat Back*, Jon Klassen.



### *How to Build LEGO Houses: Go on a Journey to Become a Better Builder*, Hannah Dolan; models by Jessica Farrell.

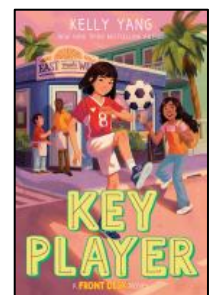
Discover how to build your dream LEGO houses from foundations and roofs to balconies and microscale buildings with tips and techniques from expert LEGO builders. Create 30 incredible LEGO homes: build a beautiful thatched cottage, make a cool treehouse, create a fantasy home with a slide, spook your friends with a haunted house, and much more.



## Fiction

### *Key Player (Front Desk #4)*, Kelly Yang

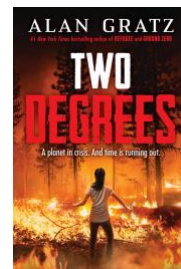
The Women's World Cup coming to Southern California, everyone is soccer-crazy—especially Mia Tang! The U.S. is playing China in the finals, and Mia feels like her two identities are finally coming together. Less exciting, though? The fact that her P.E. teacher wants Mia to get out of the soccer field, too -- or fall short of the grade she needs to earn a spot at journalism camp. But as always, Mia Tang is ready with a plan: she'll track down the two women's teams, interview them, and write an A-grade article for P.E. instead! It's not so easy, though, finding professional athletes in Pasadena—or bringing two identities together, even during a game. As



Mia aims for her goals, she'll have to face prejudice, discrimination, and her own fears. But if anyone can find a way to win, it's Mia Tang!

### *Two Degrees*, Alan Gratz

Fire. Ice. Flood. Three climate disasters. Four kids fighting for their lives. Akira is riding her horse in the California woods when a wildfire sparks—and grows scarily fast. How can she make it to safety when there are flames everywhere? Owen and his best friend, George, are used to seeing polar bears on the snowy Canadian tundra. But when one bear gets way too close for comfort, do the boys have any chance of surviving? Natalie hunkers down at home as a massive hurricane barrels toward Miami. When the floodwaters crash into her house, Natalie is dragged out into the storm—with nowhere to hide. Akira, Owen, George, and Natalie are all swept up in the devastating effects of climate change. They are also connected in ways that will shock them—and could alter their destinies forever. Bestselling author Alan Gratz is at the top of his game, shining a light on our increasingly urgent climate crisis while spinning an action-packed story that will keep readers hooked—and inspire them to take action.



### *Dog Squad*, Chris Grabenstein

When trouble calls . . . it's DOG SQUAD to the rescue! Duke is not your average dog. Along with his crew, he fights crime and goes on claw-biting adventures helping dogs in peril in the hit streaming sensation--DOG SQUAD! Fred is a pretty average dog. He's scrappy. He's loveable. But he's not brave like his heroes on Dog Squad. Fred looks an awful lot like Duke from Dog Squad though. In fact, when Duke needs a stand-in, Fred's the perfect choice. But the Dog Squad action doesn't always stop on screen! When there's danger in real life, can Fred find the courage to step up and save the day?!



## Fantasy/Science Fiction

*Dungeons and Dragons: Dungeon Academy—No Humans Allowed!* (Dungeon Academy #1)

*Dungeons and Dragons: Dungeon Academy—Tourney of Terror* (Dungeon Academy #2)

From New York Times bestselling author Madeleine Roux and acclaimed artist Tim Probert comes an all-new original Dungeons & Dragons middle grade series! Welcome to Dungeon Academy, where monsters and creatures train for the dark world that awaits just beyond the dungeon walls! But Zellidora "Zelli" Stormclash is a bit—different. She's the one thing monsters and creatures of the Forgotten



Realms fear the most: Zelli is a human! Knowing she'll never be accepted, Zelli's parents disguise her as a minotaur in hopes she'll blend with the academy's monstrous surroundings. Zelli does her work, keeps to herself, and becomes "invisible" to everyone. While in History of Horrible Humans class, Zelli learns of the great human adventurer, Allidora Steelstrike, who oddly resembles her. Could Zelli also be a Steelstrike? Seeking answers to her true lineage, Zelli embarks on a dangerous adventure. But she won't be alone. A vegan owlbear, a cowardly kobold, and a shapeshifting mimic will join Zelli on her quest for truth in a world that holds no place for them. And who knows? Perhaps these monstrous misfits may discover some truths of their own . . .

### *The Patron Thief of Bread*, Lindsay Eager

Fished from the river as an infant and raised by a roving band of street urchins who call themselves the Crowns, eight-year-old Duck keeps her head down and her mouth shut. It's a rollicking life, always thieving, always on the run—until the ragtag Crowns infiltrate an abandoned cathedral in the city of Odierne and decide to set down roots. It's all part of the bold new plan hatched by the Crowns' fearless leader, Gnat: one of their very own will pose as an apprentice to the local baker, relieving Master Griselde of bread and coin to fill the bellies and line the pockets of all the Crowns. But no sooner is Duck apprenticed to the kindly Griselde than Duck's allegiances start to blur. Who is she really—a Crown or an apprentice baker? And who does she want to be? Meanwhile, high above the streets of Odierne, on the roof of the unfinished cathedral, an old and ugly gargoyle grows weary of waiting to fulfill his own destiny—to watch and protect.



### *The Lost Ryū*, Emi Watanabe Cohen

Kohei Fujiwara has never seen a big ryū in real life. Those dragons all disappeared from Japan after World War II, and twenty years later, they've become the stuff of legend. Their smaller cousins, who can fit in your palm, are all that remain. And Kohei loves his ryū, Yuharu, but... ..Kohei has a memory of the big ryū. He knows that's impossible, but still, it's there, in his mind. In it, he can see his grandpa - Ojiisan - gazing up at the big ryū with what looks to Kohei like total and absolute wonder. When Kohei was little, he dreamed he'd go on a grand quest to bring the big ryū back, to get Ojiisan to smile again. But now, Ojiisan is really, really sick. And Kohei is running out of time. Kohei needs to find the big ryū now, before it's too late. With the help of Isolde, his new half-Jewish, half-Japanese neighbor; and Isolde's Yiddish-speaking dragon, Cheshire; he thinks he can do it. Maybe. He doesn't have a choice.



### *Show Us Who You Are*, Elle McNicoll

A neurodiverse twelve-year-old girl is shown an amazing new technology that gives her another chance to talk to the best friend she lost. But she soon discovers the corporation behind the science hides dark secrets that only she can expose in this heartwarming and heroic sophomore novel from the award-winning author of *A Kind of Spark*. It has never been easy for Cora to make friends. Cora is autistic, and sometimes she gets overwhelmed and stims to soothe her nerves. Adrien has ADHD and knows what it is like to navigate a world that isn't always built for the neurodiverse. The two are fast friends until an accident puts Adrien in a coma. Cora is devastated until Dr. Gold, the CEO of Pomegranate Institute, offers to let Cora talk to Adrien again, as a hologram her company develops. While at first enchanted, Cora soon discovers that the hologram of Adrien doesn't capture who he was in life. And the deeper Cora dives into the mystery, the more she sees Pomegranate has secrets to hide. Can Cora uncover Pomegranate's dark truth before their technologies rewrite history forever?



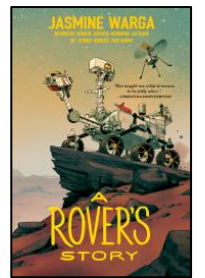
### *Cece Rios and the King of Fears* (Cece Rios #2), Kaela Rivera

In this thrilling sequel to the middle grade fantasy adventure *Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls*, Cece and her sister Juana must journey into the stronghold of Devil's Alley to challenge the *criatura* king El Cucuy. Cece Rios thought saving her sister would be the end of her adventures in the world of *criaturas*. But part of Juana's soul is still trapped in Devil's Alley. As Cece tries to find a way to get it back using her new curandera abilities, Juana takes her fate in her own hands and sets off alone, intent on restoring her soul and getting revenge on El Sombrerón. But then they discover that El Cucuy, king of the *criaturas*, is hunting for Cece, craving her powers for his own dark purposes. Can the Rios sisters—along with Coyote, Little Lion, and their other *criatura* allies—uncover his secrets and reclaim Juana's soul Or will the sinister forces of Devil's Alley overcome them all?



### *A Rover's Story*, Jasmine Warga

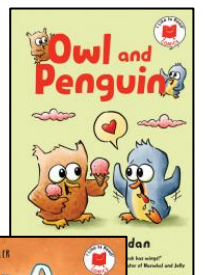
Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name. Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop humanlike feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming.... Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly. But Res quickly discovers that Mars is a dangerous place filled with dust storms and giant cliffs. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration. As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage, and resilience to succeed... and survive?



## Graphic Novels

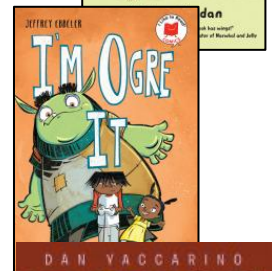
### *Owl and Penguin*, Vikram Madan

Two feathered friends are Frog and Toad for the emoji generation in this delightful graphic novel for emerging readers. Owl likes peace and quiet. Penguin likes to SING OUT LOUD. But best friends don't need to be the same. Sometimes it's good to disagree! Owl and Penguin celebrate their differences and solve their problems with creative play. From ice cream mishaps to rainy day chills, there's nothing these pals can't get through together. In three nearly wordless stories, expressive art takes charge of the storytelling, supplemented by simple text captions and emoticon-style images in speech bubbles.



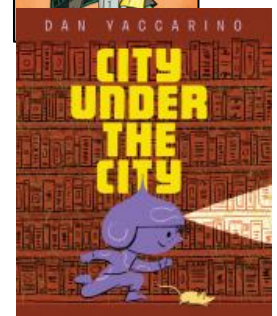
### *I'm Ogre It*, Jeffrey Ebbeler

Izzie makes a new friend, an Ogre named Tim who has just moved into her backyard. Her brother Ollie is so absorbed in the video game Smash Tower that he doesn't notice that Izzie and Tim have emptied his room and constructed an obstacle course that mirrors the levels of the game in the yard. But a tell-tale red string leads him to the challenges.



### *Under the City*, Dan Yaccarino

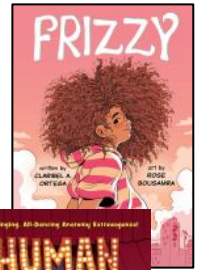
Bix lives with her family in a city where people rarely talk or play together, and no longer read books. Instead, they stare at small portable screens, monitored by giant eyeballs. The Eyes are here to help! With everything. But Bix would like to do things for herself. Running from an Eye, she discovers another world—the City Under the City. There, she befriends a rat who leads her to a library and its treasure trove of books and knowledge. As she explores the abandoned city, she's thrilled to learn about the people who lived there, with no Eyes. But she misses her family, and decides to head home, where, just maybe, she can help defeat the intrusive Eyes—and show her people how to think for themselves and enjoy each other's company.



### *Frizzy*, Claribel A. Ortega, art by Rose Bousamra

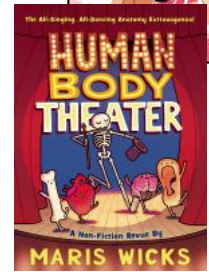
Marlene is a young Dominican girl whose greatest enemy is the hair salon! Through her struggles and triumphs, this heartwarming and gorgeous middle-grade graphic novel shows the radical power of accepting yourself as you are, frizzy curls and all. Marlene loves

three things: books, her cool Tía Ruby and hanging out with her best friend Camila. But according to her mother, Paola, the only thing she needs to focus on is school and “growing up.” That means straightening her hair every weekend so she could have “presentable,” “good hair.” But Marlene hates being in the salon and doesn't understand why her curls are not considered pretty by those around her. With a few hiccups, a dash of embarrassment, and the much-needed help of Camila and Tia Ruby—she slowly starts a journey to learn to appreciate and proudly wear her curly hair.



### *Human Body Theater: A Non-Fiction Revue*, Maris Wicks

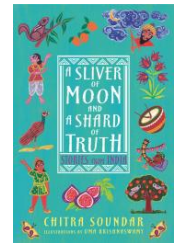
Welcome to the Human Body Theater, where your master of ceremonies is going to lead you through a theatrical revue of each and every biological system of the human body! Starting out as a skeleton, the MC puts on a new layer of her costume (her body) with each "act." By turns goofy and intensely informative, *Human Body Theater* is always accessible and always entertaining. Maris Wicks is a biology nerd, and by the time you've read this book, you will be too! Harnessing her passion for science (and her background as a science educator for elementary and middle-school students), she has created a comics-format introduction to the human body that will make an expert of any reader—young or old!



### Easy Readers and Intermediate Novels

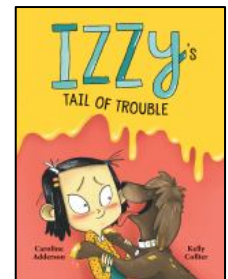
#### *A Sliver of Moon and a Shard of Truth*, Chitra Soundar ; illustrated by Uma Krishnaswamy

Four wry new trickster tales from the creators of *Mangoes*, *Mischief*, and *Tales of Friendship* draw on Hindu mythology and the rich tradition of Indian folktales. Clever Prince Veera and his best friend, Suku, are back in a vibrant new collection of stories riddled with surprises. When the prince's great uncle, Raja Apoorva, invites the boys to the summer festival in Peetalpur, Prince Veera and Suku are excited to compete in the games. It's no easy feat to make the peahen sing (when peahens can't sing) or defeat the country's champion wrestler, but Raja Apoorva's riddles prove the ultimate test of the boys' wit and wisdom. Who owns the tree that provides the palace figs? What intruder dared pull the Raja's beard? And what are the secrets of the holy man and the astronomer?



#### *Izzy's Tail of Trouble* (Izzy #2), Caroline Adderson, illustrated by Kelly Collier

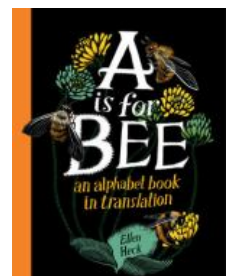
Isabel, Zoë and Rollo are back! But, this time, Isabel's sweet little puppy is turning into a dog she can't recognize. So, who's in the doghouse now? Isabel's dog, Rollo --- "the cutest, funniest puppy" ever --- just doesn't seem like himself these days. For starters, he doesn't fit into any of her best friend Zoë's doll clothes anymore when they try to play baby with him. But worse, he keeps doing things that get him into a very big amount of trouble. Like, even when both girls are holding his leash, he manages to jerk loose to chase a squirrel --- then keeps running! And, when no one's looking, he eats everyone's ice cream, right off the table! Sure, Isabel bent the rules (or, um, had no rules?) for Rollo when he was a baby. But now he's a teenager—and he's out of control!! Is there a cure for this?



### Board Books and Picture Books

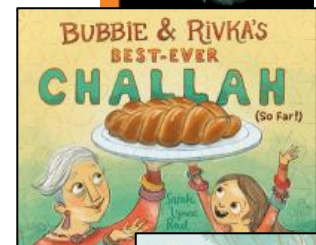
#### *A Is for Bee: An Alphabet Book in Translation*, Ellen Heck

What letter does the word bee start with? If you said "B" you're right—in English! But in many, many languages, it actually starts with A. Bee is Anū in Igbo, Aamoo in Ojibwe, Abelha in Portuguese. And Ari in Turkish. Come and explore the gorgeous variations in the ways we talk about familiar things, unified and illuminated through Ellen Heck's eye-catching, graphic scratchboard details and hidden letterforms.



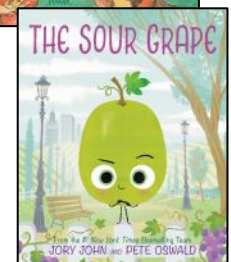
#### *Bubbie & Rivka's Best-Ever Challah So Far*, Sarah Lynne Reul

Practice makes progress in this multigenerational story about family traditions and the pursuit of the perfect challah. Bubbie and Rivka are not the best bakers . . . yet. But they are starting a new tradition. Every Friday they will bake a challah together! Week after week, Bubbie and Rivka pull a challah out of the oven that's not quite right. Once, it's a little lumpy. Another time, it's totally burnt! But no matter what has gone wrong, each challah is the best one they've ever made (. . . so far!) As Bubbie and Rivka put their heads together to solve each week's baking disaster, they learn something new about how to approach their next challah, fine-tuning their skills and ensuring next week's bread will be even tastier.



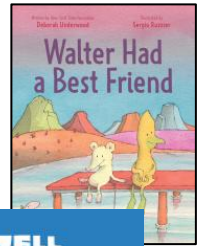
#### *The Sour Grape* (Food Group #6), Jory John and Pete Oswald

The Sour Grape holds grudges for every reason under the sun. Lime never returned a scarf they borrowed Grudge! Orange never called back Grudge! But when a friend holds a grudge against the Sour Grape without listening to an explanation, the Sour Grape realizes how unfair grudges can be. Could a bunch of forgiveness and compassion be enough to turn a sour grape sweet?



### ***Walter Had a Best Friend*, Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Sergio Ruzzier**

Walter and Xavier are best friends. They do everything together! But then...quietly...slowly...Xavier becomes best friends with someone else. Walter goes from feeling hurt and left out to feeling confused and angry to feeling just plain lonely. Until one morning he wakes up feeling a tiny bit hopeful. That day, while out for a hike by himself, he meets Ollie. Could this be the beginning of a new friendship? Sometimes best friends aren't forever, and that's okay. Because there might be a new pal waiting just around the corner.



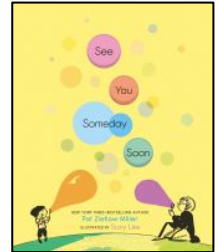
### ***Well Done, Mommy Penguin*, Chris Haughton**

With his vibrant, stylish art and spot-on visual storytelling, Chris Haughton turns to Antarctica for an irresistible ode to family bonds and awesome moms. "She'll be back soon, won't she?" "She sure will," says Daddy Penguin. The sky may be dark over icy waters, but Mommy Penguin is off to catch some fish for dinner. As Daddy and Little Penguin watch in suspense, Mommy swims, jumps, and climbs up a slippery slope, barely avoiding a plunge back into the sea. Well done! There's just one more hurdle to overcome, past some grumpy, just-awakened seals, before she returns to her anxiously waiting family.



### ***See You Someday Soon*, Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Suzy Lee**

*Someday soon, I'll see you. Even though you are there. And I am here. So very far apart.* In this heartfelt picture book, a child imagines ways to connect with a grandmother who lives far away. Whether by rocket ship or jet pack, train or in a plane, any journey is worth it to see someone you love. *See You Someday Soon* reminds us that, no matter the physical distance between us, the people we care about are never far from our hearts. The book features clever and innovative die-cuts throughout, adding a creative, thoughtful and discussion-worthy novelty aspect to this layered and deeply emotional story.



### ***Monsters in the Fog*, Ali Bahrampour**

A donkey's trip up the mountain turns eerie when he encounters "monsters" along the way in this humorous, suspenseful tale about challenging first impressions Hakim is traveling up the mountain to visit his friend Daisy, but the fog is so thick that he can't see the road ahead. Then an old goat appears out of nowhere and delivers a sinister warning: "Beware! Beware! There are monsters up there!" Hakim trots with caution, until he hears an awful groan, growing closer and closer. And out of the mist comes the strangest creature Hakim has ever seen . . . Is Hakim doomed? Or are things not always what they seem?

