

New Children's Books @ PPL – February 2023

Juvenile Nonfiction

The Last Plastic Straw: A Plastic Problem and Finding Ways to Fix It, Dee Romito, illustrated by Ziyue Chen

From reeds used by ancient Sumerians to bendy straws in World War II hospitals, people have changed the straw to fit their needs for 5000 years. Today however, this useful tool is contributing to the plastic problem polluting our oceans. Once again, the simple straw needs a reinvention. With bright illustrations and well-researched text, children can read about the inventors behind the straw's technological advancements, including primary sources like patents, as well as how disposable plastic harms the environment. See the newest solutions, from plastic straw alternatives to activism by real kids like Milo Cress who started the Be Straw Free campaign when he was 11 years old. Learn about what kids can do to reduce plastic waste. The backmatter includes more information on the movement to stop plastic waste, action items kids can do, a bibliography, and additional resources on plastic pollution.



World Soccer Records 2023, Keir Radnedge

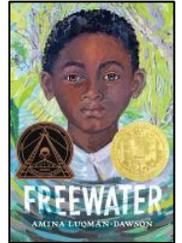
A unique presentation of facts and stats from the world of international soccer. Focusing simultaneously on all the major world and continental tournaments, national team records, exceptional matches and the stars who made it all possible, this exhaustively researched annual tells the stories of these key moments and some of the tales behind them.



Realistic Fiction

Freewater, Amina Luqman-Dawson **2023 Newbery Medal/2023 Coretta Scott King Award**

Under the cover of night, twelve-year-old Homer flees Southerland Plantation with his little sister Ada, unwillingly leaving their beloved mother behind. Much as he adores her and fears for her life, Homer knows there's no turning back, not with the overseer on their trail. Through tangled vines, secret doorways, and over a sky bridge, the two find a secret community called Freewater, deep in the swamp. In this society created by formerly enslaved people and some freeborn children, Homer finds new friends, almost forgetting where he came from. But when he learns of a threat that could destroy Freewater, he crafts a plan to find his mother and help his new home. Deeply inspiring and loosely based on the history of maroon communities in the South, this is a striking tale of survival, adventure, friendship, and courage.



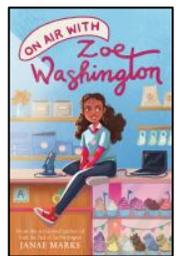
Zara's Rules for Record-Breaking Fun (Zara's Rules #1), Hena Khan, illustrated by Wastana Haikal

The first book in a humor-filled middle grade series by the author of *Amina's Voice*, starring a young Muslim girl with an endless list of hobbies who searches for ways to maximize fun for her family and neighborhood friends. Meet Zara Saleem, the queen of the neighborhood. Zara's in charge of it all: she organizes the games, picks the teams, and makes sure everyone has a good time...and they always do. When a new family moves in across the street, suddenly Zara's reign is threatened by Naomi, who has big ideas of her own about how the neighborhood kids can have fun. To get everyone to notice her again, Zara decides she's going to break a Guinness World Record—if her little brother Zayd doesn't mess things up. But when she finds herself increasingly alone in her record-breaking quest, Zara starts to wonder if sharing the crown and making a new friend might end up being the best rule of all.



On Air with Zoe Washington, Janae Marks

An empowering and big-hearted sequel to the bestselling and critically acclaimed *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*! Two years ago, Zoe Washington helped clear Marcus' name for a crime he didn't commit. Now her birth father has finally been released from prison and to an outpouring of community support, so everything should be perfect. When Marcus reveals his dream of opening his own restaurant, Zoe becomes determined to help him achieve it—with her as his pastry chef of course. However, starting a new place is much more difficult than it looks, and Marcus is having a harder time re-entering society than anyone expected. Set on finding a solution, Zoe starts a podcast to bring light to the exonerees' experiences and fundraise for their restaurant. After all, Zoe knows full well the power of using her voice. But with waning public interest in their story, will anyone still be listening?



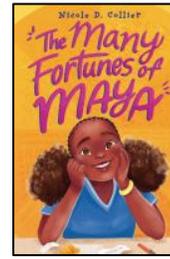
The Many Fortunes of Maya, Nicole D. Collier

Maya J. Jenkins is bursting with questions: Will she get the MVP award at this year's soccer banquet? Who will win the big grill off between Daddy and Uncle J? When will she pass the swim test and get a green bracelet? For answers and a dose of good luck, 12-year-old Maya turns to her Wheel of Fortunes, a cardboard circle covered with the small slips of wisdom she's collected from fortune

cookies. But can the fortunes answer her deep-down questions? The ones she's too scared to ask out loud? Like, where did Mama's smile go, the real one that lit up everything around her? When will Daddy move back home? And most of all, does she have enough courage to truly listen to the voice in her heart?

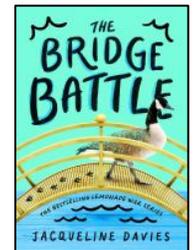
The Big Sting, Rachel Delaney

Eleven-year-old Leo is an "armchair adventurer." This, according to Dad, means he'd choose adventures in books or video games over real-life experiences. And while Leo hates the label, he can't argue with it. Unlike his little sister Lizzie, Leo is not a risk-taker. So when he, Lizzie, Mom and Dad leave the city to visit Grandpa on Heron Island, Leo finds all kinds of dangers to avoid -- from the deep, dark ocean to an old barn on the verge of collapse. But nothing on the island is more fearsome than Grandpa himself -- Leo has never met anyone so grumpy! According to Mom, Grandpa is still grieving the recent death of his wife, a beekeeper beloved by everyone on the island. Despite Leo's best efforts to avoid it, adventure finds him anyway when Grandpa's beehives go missing in the dead of night. Infuriated, Grandpa vows to track down the sticky-fingered thieves himself . . . with risk-averse Leo and danger-loving Lizzie (plus a kitten named Mayhem) in tow.



The Bridge Battle, Jacqueline Davies

In this gripping, funny addition to the bestselling Lemonade War series, both Jessie and her brother Evan find themselves unexpectedly cast as outsiders. How they find their way forward makes for a timeless story about the power of courage and kindness. Evan and Jessie Treski have waged a lemonade war, sought justice in a class trial, unmasked a bell thief, and created a professional magic show. Yet for all their skills and talents, both find themselves being singled out this summer for reasons beyond their control. Natural-born leader Evan, who is always good at making new friends, discovers he is at the mercy of a bully on the summer school playground, and is pressured to act in a way he never has before. Science-loving Jessie just wants to construct the best bridge she can for the competition next month, yet she is stuck in the wrong summer camp, surrounded by kids who believe fairies are more real than physics and a group of girls who tortured her back in second grade. Suddenly, she, too finds herself acting in ways that puzzle her.



Fantasy/Science Fiction

The Secrets of the Stormforest (Strangeworlds Travel Agency #3), L. D. Lapinski

In the "moving conclusion to a delightful trilogy" (*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review), Flick and Jonathan have faced countless dangers as members of the Strangeworlds Society and come out alive on the other side. But what do they really know about the society they are risking their lives for? Why does it exist? Who is Strangeworlds there to protect? And what in the worlds is happening to the multiverse now? With worlds everywhere under threat of collapse and mysteries abounding, it's up to Flick and Jonathan to discover the answers to these questions. And only if they can uncover the secrets of Strangeworlds, and the secrets of a mysterious new world called The Stormforest, will they have any hope of defending their world--and others--from the threat that is facing them all.



Unraveller, Frances Hardinge

A dark fantasy about learning to use your power and finding peace, from award-winning author Frances Hardinge. In a world where anyone can create a life-destroying curse, only one person has the power to unravel them. Kellen does not fully understand his talent, but helps those transformed maliciously—including Nettle. Recovered from entrapment in bird form, she is now his constant companion and closest ally. But Kellen has also been cursed, and unless he and Nettle can remove his curse, Kellen is in danger of unravelling everything—and everyone—around him . . .



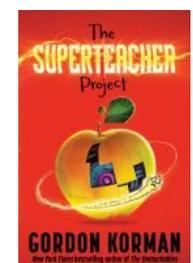
Glitch, Laura Martin

Regan Fitz and Elliot Mason have been enemies since they started training to become Glitchers—people who travel through time to preserve important historical events. But everything changes when they find a letter from Regan's future self, warning them about an impending disaster that threatens them and everyone they know. Will they be able to set aside their past in order to save the future?



The Superteacher Project, Gordon Korman

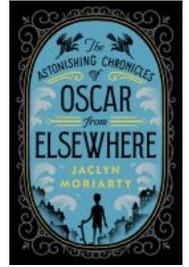
Gordon Korman, the bestselling author of *Restart* and *The Unteachables*, comes a hilarious new story about a mysterious new teacher who turns out to be an AI robot from a secret experimental program. Oliver Zahn, spitball champion and self-declared rule-wrecker of Brightling Middle School, is not a fan of his new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact. The guy is sort of stiff, never cracks a smile, and refers to them as "pupils." The worst part is he catches Oliver before he can pull any of his signature pranks! It's time for Oliver and his best friend, Nathan, to show the



new teacher who's boss. But as the weeks go by, they start to realize that Mr. Aidact is not what they expected. He has an uncanny ability to remember song lyrics or trivia. When the girls' field hockey team needs a new coach, he suddenly turns out to be an expert. He never complains when other teachers unload work on him—even when it's lunchroom duty and overseeing detention. Against all odds, Mr. Aidact starts to become the most popular teacher at Brightling. Still, Oliver and Nathan know that something is fishy. They're determined to get to the bottom of the mystery: What's the deal with Mr. Aidact?

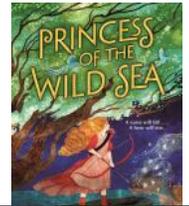
The Astonishing Chronicles of Oscar from Elsewhere, Jaclyn Moriarty

During a sleepover, a letter comes to five children begging for the urgent assistance of Esther Mettlestone-Staranise, the newly-realized Rain Weaver; she must arrive before 10am on Monday to save an entire town of elves. When they arrive, the children find two incredibly odd things: first, the town of elves, buried under layers of silver; and second, a regular-size boy who, soon after seeing the children, dies. Oscar is that boy who skipped school in our world on Monday to skate, and found himself in the city of the elves at just the wrong moment: He fled as fast as he could, but not fast enough because the silver wave struck him and he fell down dead. And that's just the beginning! At breakneck pace the cousins and friends (and a six year old stowaway elf named Gruffudd, who's a troublemaker) try to stop the clock and rewind the tragedy. Can they do it?



Princess of the Wild Sea, Megan Frazer Blackmore

A curse will fall . . . A hero will rise . . . Princess Harbor Rose is cursed. She's lived her whole life hidden away on a remote island with her magical aunts, following all the rules for being a princess. Now it is only one more year until thirteenth birthday, when a hero will finally arrive to save her from her curse. But as with any story, there are two sides . . . and the curse told of much more than a single princess's uncertain fate. It told of a dangerous foe rooted in powerful magic. It told of a terrible war that could destroy everything if a young hero didn't arrive in time. It told of a magic imbued with hope that could save everyone, but only if they believe. With her beloved kingdom and island at grave risk, Harbor Rose has a choice: Should she wait for the hero, or take matters into her own hands?



Graphic Novels

Unsolved Case Files 1: Escape at 10,000 Feet, Tom Sullivan

Unsolved Case Files 2: Jailbreak at Alcatraz, Tom Sullivan

Unsolved Case Files 3: The 500 Million Dollar Heist, Tom Sullivan

A thrilling new graphic nonfiction series about real FBI cases, launching with a gripping, minute-by-minute account of D. B. Cooper and the only unsolved airplane hijacking in the U.S., followed with a gripping account of an escape from Alcatraz, the infamous island prison and the Isabella Stewart Gardner heist—the largest, and one of the most famous, art thefts in the world.



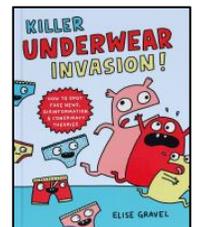
Besties Find Their Groove, Kayla Miller & Jeffrey Canino, art by Kristina Luu

A fun and fresh spin-off of the New York Times bestselling Click graphic novels. With their first formal school dance around the corner, Beth and Chanda are on a mission to make it the best night ever. Step one? Secure the perfect dresses so they can dominate the dance floor! But when neither of them can find an outfit that lives up to their high expectations—and when they encounter unexpected pressure to find dates—these besties will need to lean on their friendship more than ever if they hope to find their groove and bust a move!



Killer Underwear Invasion! : How to Spot Fake News, Disinformation and Conspiracy Theories, Elise Gravel

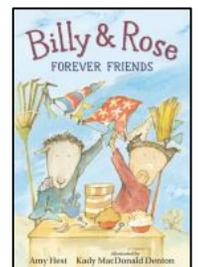
A hilarious and timely tool to help kids learn how to tell what news is true and what isn't. Can peanuts give you super strength? Were unicorns discovered on the moon? Did Martians really invade New Jersey? For anyone who has ever encountered outrageous stories like these and wondered whether they were true, this funny, yet informative book breaks down what fake news is, why people spread it, and how to tell what is true and what isn't. With quirky illustrations and a humorous tone, Elise Gravel brings her kid-accessible wit to the increasingly important subject of media literacy and equips younger readers with the skills needed to interact with global news.



Easy Readers and Intermediate Novels

Billy and Rose: Forever Friends, Amy Hest, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton

Best friends Billy and Rose, an industrious sheep and a laid-back pig, sometimes see things differently in these four charming easy-to-read stories. When they play catch, Rose insists that Billy throws too high, and he counters that she throws too low. While Rose thinks washing clothes is the world's biggest chore, Billy contends that playing the cello holds that distinction. Still, these endearing friends always find a way to work things out: What if Billy plays a cello serenade for Rose while she does her laundry? After all, what they really want is to be together.



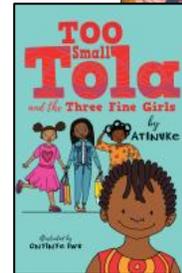
Five-Minute Frozen (Five-Minute Stories), Disney Books

Join Anna, Elsa, Sven, Kristoff, Olaf, and some all new friends for adventures in Arendelle! With twelve fantastically-frozen stories that can each be read in five minutes, this storybook is the perfect fit for bedtime, story time, or anytime!



Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls, Atinuke ; illustrated by Onyinye Iwu

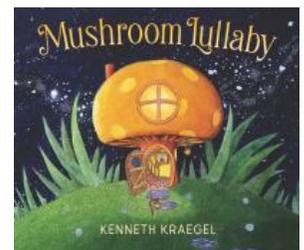
Too Small Tola lives in an apartment with her clever sister, Moji; her big brother, Dapo; and Grandmommy, who is very bossy. In the first of three endearing new adventures, Tola is sized just right to wriggle under the bed and rescue Grandmommy's prized possession when it goes missing. Her savvy and math skills save the day when Grandmommy gets sick, and when the family can't afford new clothes, industrious Tola finds a way—with a little help from Grandmommy—to be just as fine as the three fine girls she so greatly admires.



Picture Books and Board Books

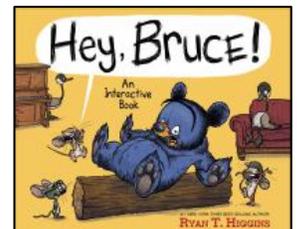
Mushroom Lullaby, Kenneth Kraegel

In gentle rhyme, this spare and whimsical picture book from the one-of-a-kind imagination of Kenneth Kraegel introduces little readers to all sorts of wonderful mushrooms: ones that grow up high and ones that never stay dry, ones that grow in a park and ones that glow in the dark, and even one made just for them! Who can resist climbing up the soft mushroom stair, curling up in a plush mushroom chair, and preparing to dream sweet mushroom dreams? The lulling narration and warm illustrations of this charmingly quirky book will have drowsy young ones settling into their own comfy beds, ready to drift off to sleep.



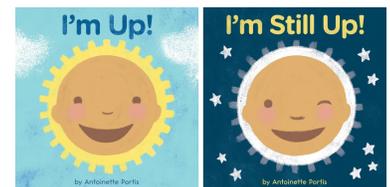
Hey, Bruce: An Interactive Book, Bruce T. Higgins

In *Hey, Bruce!*, Bruce the bear experiences . . . well, whatever readers want him to. Rupert, Thistle, and Nibbs, the fun-loving mice in Bruce's begrudgingly expansive family, guide readers on a quest for a fun reading experience, with Bruce the ever-reluctant star. As readers turn the page, flip the book, and follow the mice's increasingly silly instructions, Bruce is sent flying and tumbling--all as he looks right up the reader's nose! How will you interact with Bruce? Bruce's life is what YOU, the reader, make it in this special interactive addition to the award-winning Mother Bruce series.



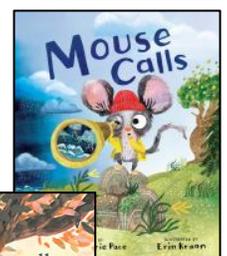
I'm Up and I'm Still Up, Antoinette Portis

A board book pair that are perfect for babies and their loved ones: *I'm Up!* is an ode to a new day, and a celebration of everything and everyone that gets up each morning. *I'm Still Up!* is a joyful story about the age-old struggle of bed time, and a soothing reminder that when Mommy and Daddy, the cat and the dog and even the sun are sleepy, baby might be, too. Repeating shapes, words, and language will help your baby learn new words and routines while you read.



Mouse Calls, Anne Marie Pace, illustrated by Erin Kraan

Mouse warns her array of animal neighbors of a coming storm in this high-spirited rhyming picture book about friendship, teamwork, and communication. When a giant storm appears on the horizon, Mouse rushes to alert her nearby neighbors. And there are a lot of them! Mouse's warning sets off a game of telephone across the land, from Snail to Whale, Loon to Raccoon, Chimpanzee to Manatee! Can this quirky crew come together and take cover before the storm hits?



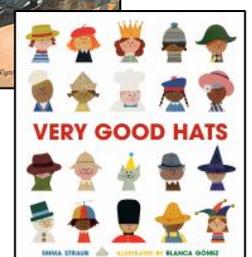
Nell Plants a Tree, Anne Wynter, illustrated by Daniel Myares

Before her grandchildren climbed the towering tree, explored its secret nests, raced to its sturdy trunk, read in its cool shade, or made pies with its pecans...Nell buried a seed. And just as Nell's tree grows and thrives with her love and care, so do generations of her close-knit family. Inspired by the pecan trees of the creators' own childhoods, Anne Wynter's lyrical picture book, brought to life with breathtaking illustrations by Daniel Miyares, brims with wonder and love.



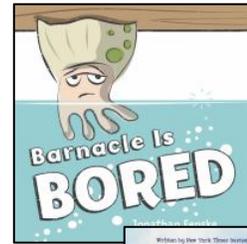
Very Good Hats, Emma Straub, illustrated by Blanca Gómez

Some people think hats are fancy things you can buy at a dressy store, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. In this book, acorns and raspberries are snug hats for your fingers, and an empty pudding cup is a good hat for a stuffed bear. Pajama pants make dangly hats, books can be dramatic hats, and bubbles make very fine hats as well (if temporary).



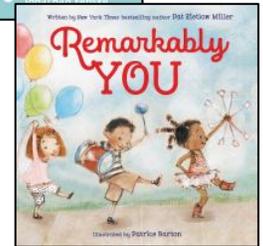
Barnacle Is Bored, Jonathan Fenske

Barnacle is bored. Bored. Bored. Bored. Barnacle is stuck on the underside of a pier, wishing he had something to do. Every day is exactly the same. The tide comes in and Barnacle gets wet. The tide goes out and Barnacle dries off. Boring! Barnacle wants something EXCITING to happen. Then a colorful fish swims by. Barnacle bets the fish doesn't have a boring life. In the end, it turns out exciting isn't always better. . . This picture book is an irreverent and playful answer to any child's declaration of boredom!



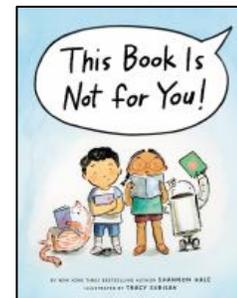
Remarkably You, Pat Zietlow Miller, illustrated by Patrice Barton

Heartfelt and timeless, *Remarkably You* is an inspirational manifesto about all of the things—little or small, loud or quiet—that make us who we are. With encouraging text and exuberant illustrations by Patrice Barton, readers will delight in all the ways they can be their remarkable selves. You might go unnoticed, or shine like a star, but wherever you go and whoever you are... don't change how you act to be just like the rest. Believe in yourself and the things you do best.



This Book Is Not for You, Shannon Hale, illustrated by Tracy Subisak

Stanley is thrilled for bookmobile day—until the old man at the window refuses to lend him the story he wants, all because it features a girl. "Girl books" are only for girls, the book man insists, just like cat books are only for cats and robot books are only for robots. But when a dinosaur arrives at the bookmobile and successfully demands a book about ponies, Stanley musters the courage to ask for the tale he really wants—about a girl adventurer fighting pirates on the open seas. By speaking up, Stanley inspires the people, cats, robots, and goats around him to read more stories outside their experiences and enjoy the pleasure of a good book of their choosing.



The Dark Was Done, Lauren Stringer

Everyone was afraid of the Dark and pushed it away, wishing the Dark would leave. So one day, the Dark left and did not return. The Dark was done. At first, nobody misses the Dark. But a young boy starts to miss creatures of the night: crickets singing and owls hooting and bats flying. He decides to go look for the Dark. One by one, others who miss the Dark and all its creatures and mysteries and magic join in. Can they find a way to bring back the Dark?

