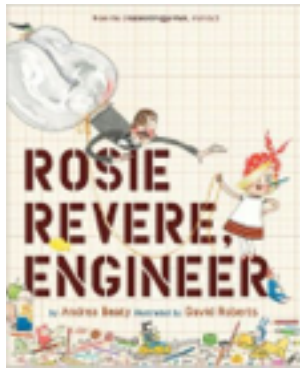


The New York Times Best Sellers

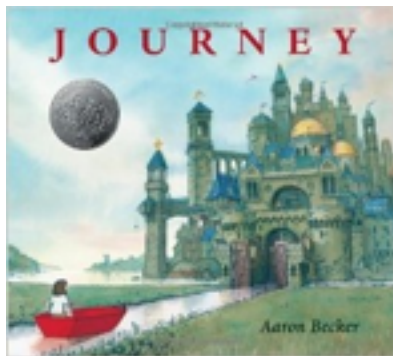
2014 New York Times Best Selling Children's Picture Books

Beaty, A. (2013). *Rosie Revere, engineer*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers.



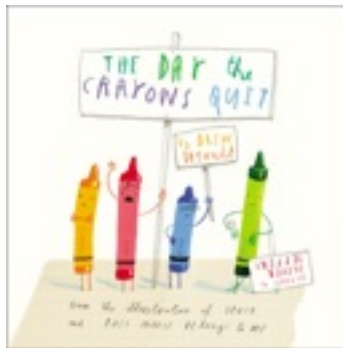
Rosie Revere wants to be an engineer when she grows up. When she showed one of her inventions to her favorite uncle, he laughed at her and from then on she kept her ideas to herself. One day when her Great-great aunt Rosie came to visit she wanted to find a way for her to fly. She invented a heli-o-cheese-copter that crashed, and when her aunt laughed, she got discouraged until Aunt Rosie reassured her that it's okay to fail. Now she doesn't hide her ideas anymore. This book teaches a great lesson to children about perseverance. With the detailed and creative illustrations combined with a compelling story and a valuable lesson, this book is worthy of a best seller. (NYT Bestseller, March-May, 2014)

Becker, A. (2013). *Journey*. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press.



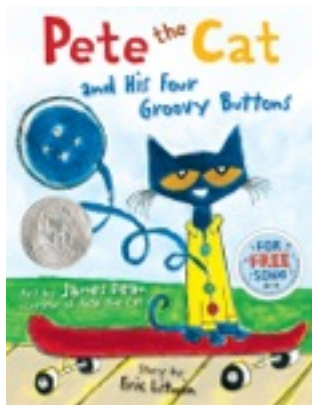
A little girl searching for merriment uses a red marker to let her imagination take her to worlds beyond reality. She uses that red marker to draw a door that takes her to a beautifully lit forest with a stream. She draws herself a boat that then takes her to a magnificent city. As she is coming to a waterfall, she draws a hot air balloon that soars her into the clouds where she spots a purple bird. Together they encounter danger that leads them to the little boy who is the creator of the purple bird. At the beginning of the story, I immediately noticed the purple marker the little boy was holding and thought this subtle hint might be significant. I was correct. This little boy is the companionship she was looking for at the beginning of the book. This story is told completely with flawless illustrations, and filled with excitement. There is nothing better than tapping into a child's imagination and Aaron Becker does it seamlessly. (NYT Bestseller, January-May, 2014)

Daywalt, D. (2013). *The day the crayons quit*. New York: Philomel Books.



All Duncan wanted to do was color, but when he went to get his crayons out, all he found was a stack of letters written to him from his crayons expressing their frustrations. Green was happy but tired of orange and yellow fighting about who is the real color of the sun. Blue needs a break and so does grey from coloring so much, and peach wants her clothes back because the paper had been peeled off. This book is full of the author's voice and I love the use of personification. The illustrations are created from actual crayon colorings and the letters look very real while each crayon found a different type of paper to write their letter on. (NYT Bestseller, January-May 2014)

Litwin, E. (2012). *Pete the cat and his four groovy buttons*. New York, NY: Harper.



Pete the Cat is singing a song about his favorite shirt with four buttons. As he is singing, the buttons begin to pop off one by one. He doesn't cry about it though, because "Buttons come and buttons go". When the last one pops off he looks down, but doesn't fret because he still has his belly button. This book has bright, colorful illustrations that capture the reader's attention. Eric Litwin has incorporated math into the story to make this a perfect educational book for preschoolers. It also teaches a valuable lesson to kids that there's no reason to cry over the little things. (NYT Bestseller, January 12-January 19, 2014)

Nyhus, S. (2013). *What does the fox say?*. New York, NY: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.



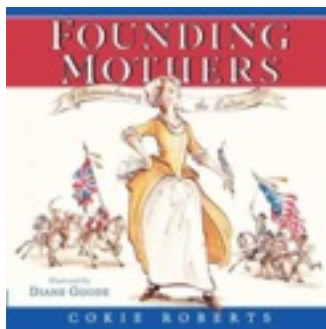
What does the fox say? No one seems to know. The story is based on the song by Ylvis, a You Tube sensation. We know that the cow goes moo, the frog goes croak and the elephant goes toot, but we may never know what the fox says. The illustrations by Svein Nyhus are strangely appealing. They are a whimsical design that adds to the humor of the words. The song was a hit with children, so naturally the book is too. (NYT Bestseller, January-April, 2014)

Rinker, S. D. (2012). *Goodnight, goodnight, construction site*. New York: Scholastic.



All the tough trucks of the construction site have been working hard and now it's time for them to wind down for the day. They are finishing their jobs and going off to bed. The crane truck places one last beam, the dump truck moves one last load, the excavator digs one last hole. Now it's time for them all to snuggle up and go to sleep. Kids can make personal connections with the pictures, such as the crane truck with his night light and holding his teddy bear. The rhyming patterns and endearing illustrations are perfect for bedtime stories for preschoolers. (NYT Bestseller, January-May, 2014)

Roberts, C. (2004). *Founding mothers: the women who raised our nation*. New York: William Morrow.



Founding Mothers is a look at the women of the American Revolution. Women such as, Abigail Adams who gave her husband political advice and Mercy Otis Warren who wrote poems and plays to spread her political cause were honored in this well written ode to the very important people in our American history. Cokie Roberts' research was delightfully displayed in this piece of nonfiction with a little humor added here and there. (NYT Bestseller, 2014)

Rubin, A. (2012). *Dragons love tacos*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers.



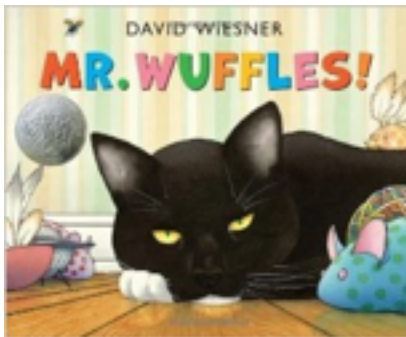
The narrator suggests to a kid that he should throw a taco party for dragons because dragons love tacos. They love everything about tacos from the crunchy shell to the cheese and lettuce. They do not however like spicy salsa. The boy serves them salsa that is spicy by mistake and the party is burned to the ground. The dragons help him rebuild the house while he provides tacos for the dragons. This book is full of humor that young age children will love. The illustrations help add to the hilarity of this delightful story. (NYT Bestseller, April-May, 2014)

Tullet, H. (2011). *Press here*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books.



First press the button and turn the page and another button appears. Press it again and another one appears. Shake the book and it scrambles the dots. Blow on them and it pushes them to the top of the page. Every page the dots do something different depending on what the book asks the reader to do. This interactive book is enjoyable for kids as it gets the reader involved in the story. It's so simple with the illustrations only consisting of dots, yet so intriguing to kids' inquisitive minds. (NYT Bestseller, January-May, 2014)

Wiesner, D. (2013). *Mr. Wuffles!*. New York, NY: Clarion Books.

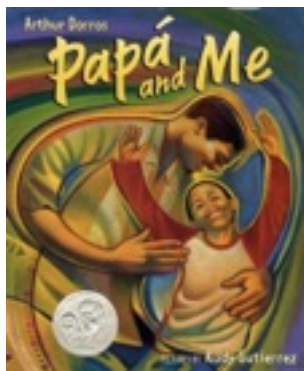


Mr. Wuffles is a cat who has many toys that do not amuse him. He does however become interested when a spaceship full of aliens captures his eye. As he toys around with the spaceship, the aliens are jostled about and their aircraft is damaged. The local insects help them repair their ship and they manage to escape the playful and curious kitty. This wordless picture book is so brilliantly illustrated, you don't even miss the words. The expressions on the aliens' faces are priceless and tell so much of the story. (NYT Bestseller, January-March, 2014)



Pura Belpré Award Books

Dorros, A. (2008). *Papá and me*. New York: Rayo.



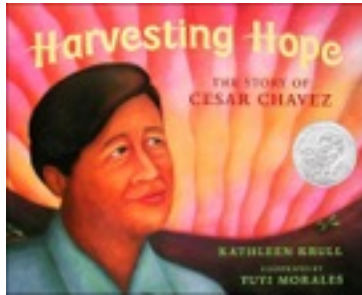
A boy and his Papa take a trip to grandma's and grandpa's (Abuela and Abuelo) house. On the way, they have a blast together playing in water puddles, drawing in the sand, swinging in the trees, hearing stories about Papa's childhood, just having a fun day together. This is a story of a bond between a father and son with intermingled spanish words with English meanings accompanying them. The beautiful illustrations curve and swirl with every happy moment between father and son. The bold colors provide a warm feel and play a huge part to portraying the love that is shared. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2009)

Goebel, N. (2002). *The pot that Juan Built*. New York: Lee & Low Books.



Juan Quezada began recreating the pot making craft of the Casas Grandes people of Mexico. He used the materials of earth to fuel the fire, form the clay, and paint the colors of the pots he created. With the poetic form of this story, each new addition to the story adds to the poem describing his life's work. David Diaz gives the illustrations a southwest look with vibrant colors and warm earth tones. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2004)

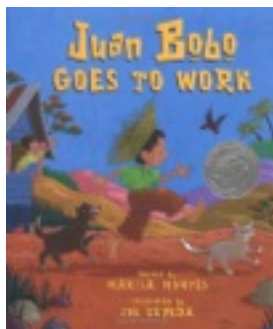
Krull, K. (2003). *Harvesting hope: the story of Cesar Chavez*. San Diego: Harcourt, Inc..



Caesar Chavez, as a boy, worked on a farm his family owned. As the drought forced them to sell their property and move to California, the family had to work on other people's crops with dozens of other families. Working conditions were poor and workers were mistreated. Chavez started the National Farm Workers Association and began marching to spreading the word of these harsh conditions the farm workers were forced to endure. After marching for many days with hundreds of followers he was successful in changing the outcome for farm workers everywhere. This historical story portrays the struggles Caesar Chavez

encountered in his life and helps the reader feel respect for his cause. The vivid illustrations bring Caesar and his cause to life. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2004)

Montes, M. (2000). *Juan Bobo goes to work: a Puerto Rican folktale*. New York: Harper Collins Publishers.



Juan Bobo is a silly boy from Puerto Rico. Everyday his mother sent him to find work. The problem is he did everything backward causing him to lose his payment on the way home. But his silliness helped save the life of a little girl who needed to laugh soon in order to live. This is a humorous story which school age children of both American or Hispanic heritage can relate to. The oil paintings help portray the character's innocence and reflect the bright Puerto Rican atmosphere. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2002)

Schmidt, G. D. (2012). *Martín de Porres: the rose in the desert*. Boston: Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



Martin was born into poverty by a slave African woman and a Spanish royal conqueror in the barrio in Lima, Peru. As he got older he wanted to be a priest in the monastery, but they would not let him because he was not of pure blood. Over time, they started noticing he had healing powers and soon people everywhere were coming to him to be healed. They finally allowed him to make his vows as a priest. Spanish words are sprinkled throughout the book and italicized without definitions so the reader must rely on context clues to determine meaning. David Diaz's bold, vibrant pastels are rich, yet genuine giving the feel of stained glass. (Pura Belpré, 2013)

Slate, J. (1998). *The secret stars*. New York: Marshall Cavendish.



On the night of the Three Kings, during a heavy rain, Pepe and Silla are worried the kings will not be able to see the stars to find their way to their house to deliver toys. Through dream, Grandmother takes them on a journey to find the hidden stars and when they wake the next morning they find the toys were delivered successfully. This is a Latino Christmas story of the celebration of “The Three Kings”. It sets the mood of anticipation we felt as children on the night of Christmas Eve waiting for Santa to deliver our toys. The illustrations are appealing as some of the paintings are surrounded by painted wood frames giving it a warm feel of home. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2000)

Soto, G. (1997). *Snapshots from the wedding*. New York: G.P. Putnam's.



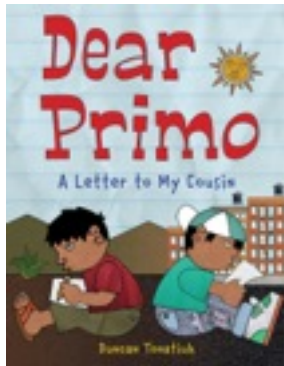
Maya, a flower girl in her aunt's wedding tells the happenings of the wedding in her eyes. She tells about a traditional Hispanic wedding with a mariachi band, money being pinned on the bride's dress and Mexican food being served. Every detail of the wedding is displayed as sculpted clay with real fabric for the clothes and authentic items included in each frame such as champagne glasses and potato chips. (Pura Belpré, 1998)

Tafolla, C. (2010). *Fiesta babies*. Berkeley: Tricycle Press.



Fiesta babies love everything about fiestas from the salsa, to the the Cha Cha Cha. They march in parades and sing along with Grandpa's mariachi songs. This book is full of Hispanic tradition as the babies are wearing coronas Mama has made, the beautiful party decorations and adobe houses. The illustrations portray this tradition beautifully. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2011)

Tonatiuh, D. (2010). *Dear primo: a letter to my cousin*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers.



Two cousins, Carlitos and Charlie, live in different parts of the world. One lives in Mexico and one lives in America. They write letters to each other describing the differences and similarities of their homes. One lives in the city and rides the subway to school while the other rides his bike to school. One plays futbol at recess, and the other plays basketball at recess. In the end they realize even though their worlds are different, they are very similar at heart. The text is written to portray the different worlds and the illustrations are drawn side by side on the page to display the differences. This book teaches Spanish vocabulary as there are pictures with labels to clarify what the Spanish words mean. (Pura Belpré Honor, 2011)

Velasquez, E. (2010). *Grandma's gift*. New York, NY: Walker.

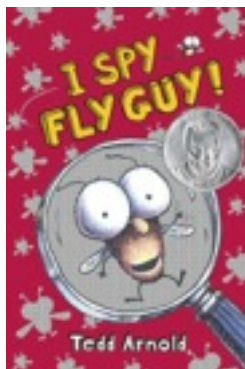


Eric lives in Puerto Rico and while on Christmas vacation with his grandmother, he is given an assignment to visit the new painting that is on display at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and write a report about it. Before they head to the museum, they spend a great day together preparing for their traditional Puerto Rican Christmas celebration. While at the museum, Grandmother notices a painting of Diego Valesquez and Eric becomes inspired to be an artist himself. His grandmother's gift to him was his very own sketchbook and colored pencils. Spanish language is poured throughout this book with its translation not far behind. It is a story of Puerto Rican tradition and a relationship between a boy and his grandmother. Hispanic children can relate to the story as they too have to translate their school notes for their parents. The illustrations are life like and portrays Puerto Rico at a time of holiday season. (Pura Belpré, 2011)



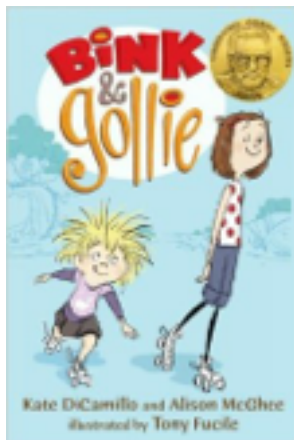
Theodor Seuss Geisel Award Books

Arnold, T. (2009). *I spy Fly Guy*. New York: Scholastic.



While Buzz and his pet Fly Guy are playing hide and seek, Fly Guy hides in a trash can which ultimately gets picked up by the garbage truck and taken to the town dump. In an attempt to rescue his beloved pet, he can't figure out which fly is his Fly Guy. Suddenly he remembered they were still playing their game and Fly Guy revealed his hiding place. Buzz and Fly Guy were reunited. This early reader is appealing to young readers as they make personal connections to the story. It's written in chapters so they will feel more like an advanced reader. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2010)

DiCamillo, K. (2010). *Bink & Gollie*. Norwalk, CT: Scholastic :.



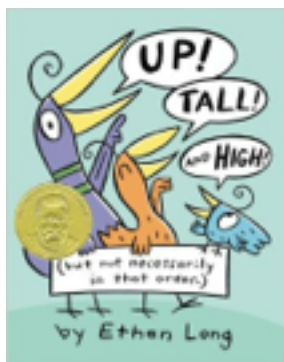
Bink and Gollie are best friends. Gollie is mature and intellectual and Gollie is free spirited and innocent. These three adventures are stories of lasting friendship between two girls. In the first story Bink is determined to buy brightly colored socks that are on sale at the local store and Gollie is appalled by them. The compromise is Gollie will share her pancakes if Bink gives up one of her socks. In the second story Gollie is trying to climb the Andes Mountains in her living room, but Bink keeps bothering her because she wants to play. When Gollie reaches the top of the mountain she realizes she wants to share her accomplishment with her friend so she invites Bink to join her. In the third, Bink is smitten with a goldfish and just has to have it. Gollie can not see its charm, but when Bink trips and the fish goes flying, Gollie is the one saving its life. This book would be great for reinforcing context clues. There are several situations where context clues are given to show meanings of difficult words. (Theodor Seuss Geisel, 2001)

Klassen, J. (2011). *I want my hat back*. Somerville, Mass.: Candlewick Press.



In this cute story about a bear trying to find his hat, he asks every animal he comes across if they've seen it. They all tell him no, so he thanks them and moves on. He does not notice the rabbit wearing his hat. When he begins describing it to the deer, he realized what he missed and goes back for it. In the delicious ending, he finally gets his hat back. This intelligently humorous book would work wonders for children who need a little motivation to get them reading. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2012)

Long, E. (2012). *Up, tall and high*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.



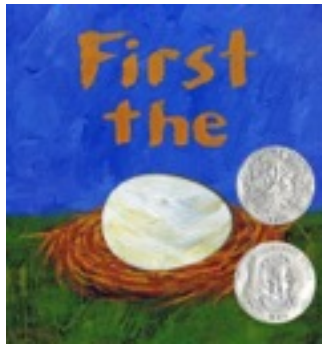
In these three easy to read stories, bird friends compare themselves to see who is tall, who is up, and who is high. One bird tries to show that he is taller than the other birds, but when you pull up the flap, it shows he is wearing shoes with leg extenders. The penguin wants to go high like the other bird, but he can't fly. When his friend gives him balloons, he can go high. This book would be perfect for building students' fluency with the repetition of the words. It is great for teaching rhyming words as well. (Theodor Seuss Geisel, 2013)

Sayre, A. P. (2007). *Vulture view*. New York: Henry Holt.



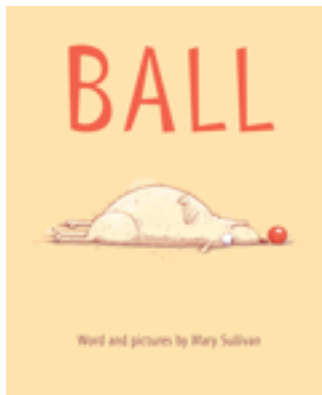
Described with poetic text, turkey vultures glide in the warm, heavy air looking for their next feast, but they aren't looking for just anything, they like their food already dead. After they feast, they find the nearest water source and bathe themselves clean. The turkey vulture's job is to clean the earth of its stinky carcasses. It is fun to read aloud to children and it is filled with fun facts at the end of the book that kids find fascinating. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2008)

Seeger, L. V. (2007). *First the egg*. New Milford, Conn.: Roaring Brook Press.



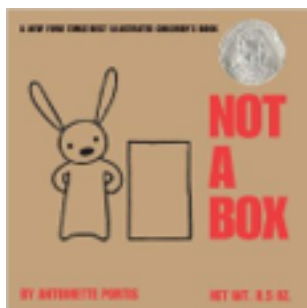
First the Egg is a picture book with cut outs in the pages so the story builds on itself with each turn of the page. It shows the transformation from the egg to the chicken, the tadpole to the frog, the seed to the flower. This is a great book to encourage readers to become writers. The development of a story from a single word tells the reader that all they need to do is begin and let the words carry them away. Also if you're trying to find fictional books for someone who only reads nonfiction, this book would interest them because it shows the life cycle of a frog and flower. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2008)

Sullivan, M. (2013). *Ball*. : Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.



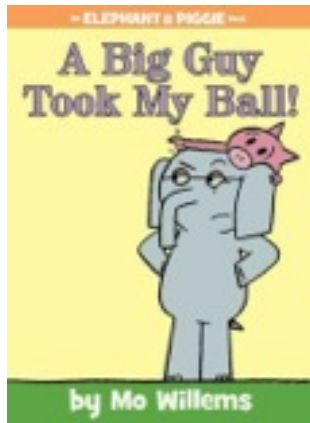
Ball is an adorable one word book about a dog that adores his red ball. It's all he thinks about. The little girl is the only one that will throw the ball for him, so when she goes to school, his can't find anyone who will play. He takes a nap and dreams about the ball. Finally the little girl returns home from school and he now has a friend who will throw the ball for him. He is happy once more. This book is great for showing how authors use voice in their writing, even when there's only one word in the story. It is also great for practicing their inferencing skills. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2014)

Portis, A. (2007). *Not a box*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.



A rabbit uses his imagination to turn an ordinary cardboard box into a world of unordinary things. It's not a box, it's a race car, a mountain peak, a robot or a hot air balloon. He's not sure what to call it, but it's not a box! This book can be used to inspire the imagination of kids. Read the book to them and then give them an inanimate object to turn into something completely different. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2007)

Willems, M. (2013). *A big guy took my ball!*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.



Piggy runs crying to Gerald that she found an awesome big ball and a big guy took it from her. Gerald gets very angry that someone has upset his friend so he goes to find the big guy and get Piggy's ball back. When Gerald finds the fellow, he sees that the big guy is much bigger than he thought, a whale as a matter of fact, and is afraid to confront him. It turns out the ball belonged to the whale and he thanks them for finding it for him. He is sad though because he doesn't have anyone to play with because he is so big. Piggy and Gerald are no longer afraid of the whale's size and they all find a way to play together. This is a great book to teach kids not to judge people by their outside appearance. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2014)

Yee, W. H. (2009). *Mouse and Mole, fine feathered friends*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children.

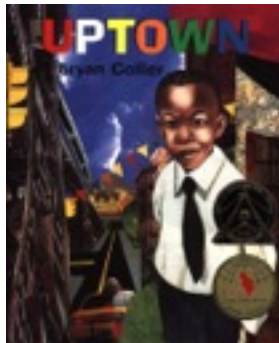


Mole and Mouse want to create bird books by observing birds they see in the outdoors and coloring them with their crayons. Every time they see a bird and begin to get a little closer, the bird flies away before they get a chance to draw it. They decide to make bird costumes and build a nest in a tree in order to keep from scaring the birds away. Mouse and Mole complement each other's talents and their unique ideas helps them solve problems together. This story would be a great mentor text to use with introducing onomatopoeia or to teach a character lesson about how everyone is unique in their own way. (Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor, 2010)



Coretta Scott King Winners and Honor Books

Collier, B. (2000). *Uptown*. New York: Henry Holt.



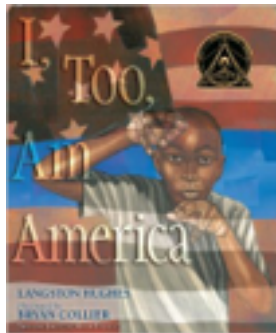
A boy takes us to Harlem, New York giving us a tour of his home through his eyes. The wonderful aspects of this city are described by the things he loves best about it, from the basketball court he and his friends played to the barbershop where the old men discuss last night's ball game. He gives the reader a personal view of his community and its cultural traditions. The cut out pictures are collaged together to create the illustrations and it gives the reader a true sense of what Harlem looked like for this boy. The colored text gives the reader an introduction to each part he is describing. (Coretta Scott King, 2001)

Golio, G. (2010). *Jimi: sounds like a rainbow : a story of the young Jimi Hendrix*. Boston: Clarion Books.



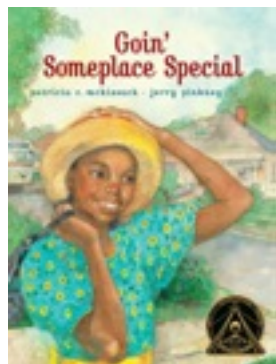
In this biography about Jimi Hendrix, we're taken back to a time when Jimi was a boy and just learning about music. He was an artist and wondered if a person could paint pictures with sound. With his new electric guitar he learned how to play around with so many different sounds. He finally was able to paint pictures with music. The illustrator forms Jimi as cut outs and sensibly separates him from his surroundings. He gives life to the colors Jimi imagined while playing his music and puts it on a page for all to view and enjoy. (Coretta Scott King Honor, 2011)

Hughes, L. (2012). *I, too, am America*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.



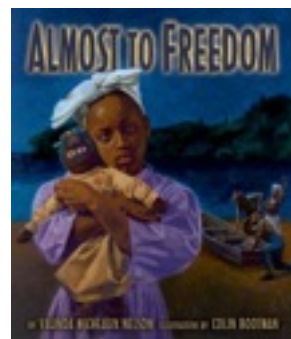
I, Too, am America is a poem by Langston Hughes. His powerful message speaks that the African Americans will one day show that they too represent America. The illustrations depict the harsh working conditions pullman porters had to endure during a time when the color of their skin determined how they were treated. The pictures show life-like happy faces of children and pullman porters and the translucent colors of the American Flag covering the characters on the pages. (Coretta Scott King, 2013)

McKissack, P. (2001). *Goin' someplace special*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.



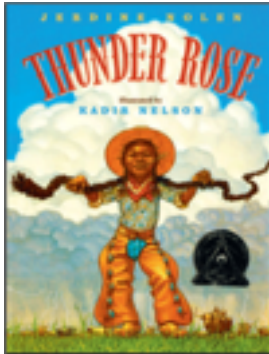
When Mama Frances finally let 'Tricia Ann go to her "Someplace Special" on her own, she encounters many situations where the Jim Crow laws forbid her to participate. When she almost gives up, a friend helps her remember Mama Frances' words of encouragement and she presses on with her head held high. She finally makes it to her "Someplace Special" which turns out to be the public library where everyone is welcome. The illustrations have an older look to them which sets the mood for this historical fiction. Her brightly colored dress shows great contrast to the muted colors of the rest of the pictures. (Coretta Scott King, 2002)

Nelson, V. M. (2003). *Almost to freedom*. Minneapolis, Minn.: Carolrhoda Books.



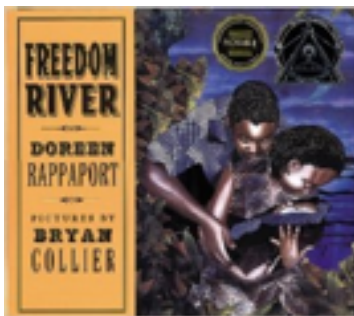
Almost to Freedom was told in the perspective of a beloved rag doll Sally and tells a story of a young girl's escape from slavery. After they cross the river and take shelter in the floor of an abolitionist's home, Sally is dropped in the haste of escaping the slave catchers. She misses her friend Lindy until another family comes along with a little girl and she is loved once again. Colin Bootman's oil painted illustrations are colorful using dark, rich colors to portray the mood and tenseness of the situation. (Coretta Scott King Honor, 2004)

Nolen, J. (2003). *Thunder Rose*. San Diego: Harcourt.



Rose, who is born with the power of thunder and lightning uses her metal bending abilities and her special song to tame bulls and calm tornadoes. With her powers she brings much needed rain to the town. Kadir Nelson does a fabulous job of capturing the beauty of the country side as well as the sweetness and determination in Rose's face. The vivid colors and contrast between the bull and the sky, and the detailed drawings of the characters help make the illustrations realistic. (Coretta Scott King Honor, 2004)

Rappaport, D. (2000). *Freedom river*. New York: Jump at the Sun/Hyperion Books for Children.



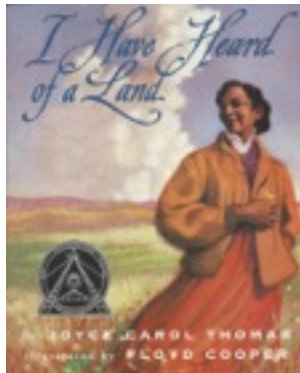
Born a slave who had earned enough money to buy his freedom, John Parker was determined to help a slave family cross the river to freedom. They didn't want to leave their baby behind who was being kept in the main house with the owner, so John was able to sneak into the room and save the baby and the entire family but not without leaving his shoes behind. The owner came to John's house the next day looking for the family, but John was able to send them far away before they were caught. Collier's combination of watercolor and collage put the reader in the story. The dark colors emit a tense ambience for the night time setting. (Coretta Scott King Honor, 2001)

Shange, N. (2004). *Ellington was not a street*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.



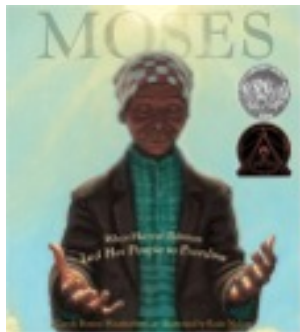
This poem is about the many inspiring men who came to her father's house when she was a child, all fighting for the equality of African Americans during a time when equality wasn't a right for all people in America. Among the men included famous musicians, such as "Dizzy" Gillespie, politicians, such as Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, and athletes like Virgil "Honey Bear" Akins. Kadir Nelson as always does a tremendous job with the illustrations in this book. The little girl's facial expressions shows her curiosity and love for her father throughout the book. The bold colors and details are breathtaking and really draw the reader's attention to the comfort of the house and the company in it. (Coretta Scott King, 2005)

Thomas, J. C. (1998). *I have heard of a land*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.



This poem tells a story of a family's westward travel to the Oklahoma Territory in search for their own land to claim. A woman describes her dreams of a better life once they arrive and the hardships they endure during their journey. The use of oil pastels make the illustrations stunning. The look of hope on the people's faces drives the story to make the reader believe their motivation for happiness. (Coretta Scott King Honor, 1999)

Weatherford, C. B. (2006). *Moses: when Harriet Tubman led her people to freedom*. New York: Hyperion Books for Children.



Harriet Tubman heard a message from God. It was her time to escape slavery. During her long and treacherous journey, she continued to look to God to guide her through the difficult times. Finally, when she reached Philadelphia she was a free woman, but her journey wasn't over. Harriet wanted to free her family and other slaves as well. Driven by the word of God, she became a conductor on the Underground Railroad crucial to the rescue of thousands of slaves. Kadir Nelson's use of light, perspective, and color make the illustrations phenomenal. The detail to Harriet Tubman's face shows her facial expressions flawlessly. (Coretta Scott King, 2007)



Caldecott Winner and Honor Books

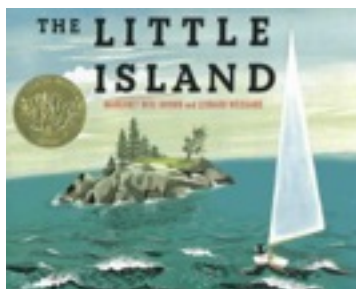
Bemelmans, L. (1953). *Madeline's rescue*. New York: Viking Press.



Madeline is a little girl who lives in a boarding school in Paris when one day she is rescued by a brave dog from drowning in the river Siene. Genevieve the dog becomes Madeline's cherished pet and the 12 girls of the boarding school can't help but fight over her affection. As the board of trustees comes to inspect the school, Genevieve is forced to leave. The 12 girls are devastated and begin to look for her all over town. When Genevieve finally returns to the school, she returns with a surprise that will solve the girls' problem. Bemelmans prominent color in this beautifully illustrated book is yellow except when the focus is on the scenery of Paris. It's during these parts of the story where he uses watercolors to his advantage. He carefully sets the scene for 1950s Paris.

(Caldecott, 1954)

Brown, M. W. (2003/1973). *The little island*. New York: Doubleday Book for Young Readers.



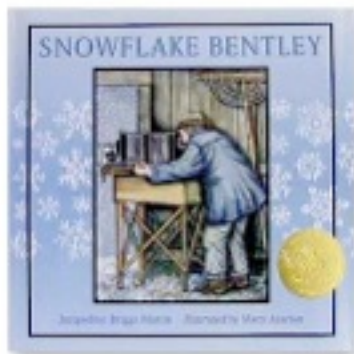
The Little Island is a story of a tiny island alone in the middle of the sea. As each season comes and goes, the island changes with its shifting patterns of wildlife. A little kitten visits the island not realizing that the island is more than it seems. When the island suggests to the kitten that he talk to the fish, he learns a valuable lesson about faith and that all things natural have a connection with one another. The beautiful watercolors create a mood of serenity and an appreciation of nature. The colors and scenery give the reader a feel that they are on the island themselves. (Caldecott, 1947)

Ehlert, L. (1989). *Color zoo*. New York: J.B. Lippincott.



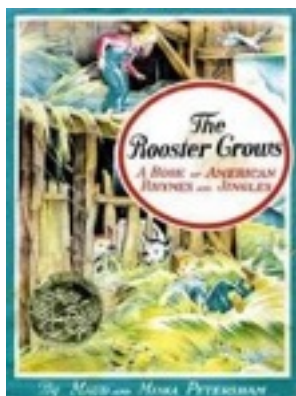
Lois Ehlert cleverly uses die cut pages forming shapes and colors to create the face of a new zoo animal each time the reader turns the page. As the page is turned, a shape is removed to reveal a new animal. What once was a tiger is now a mouse, and next is a fox. The book introduces shapes and primary colors to young readers and draws their attention with animal faces build from squares, triangles, circles, etc. (Caldecott Honor, 1990)

Martin, J. B. (1998). *Snowflake Bentley*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.



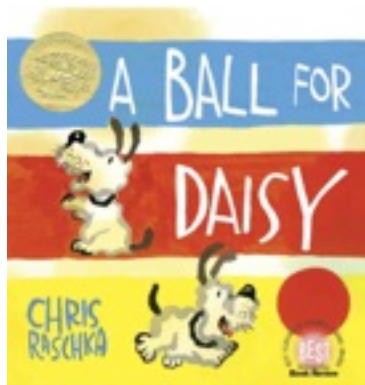
Snowflake Bentley is a biography made into a children's picture book about a young boy who is passionate about uncovering the mystery of how snowflakes are formed. From the time he was a boy on a small farm in Vermont, Wilson Bentley was obsessed with snow and was determined to discover the secret of their intricate patterns. He begged his parents for a camera that would magnify the snowflakes in order to get a closer look at them and photograph his discoveries. He shared his discoveries with the world and published his own book with pictures of the beautiful snowflake designs. Mary Azarian skillfully uses woodcuts that are hand-colored to give the characters a comforting feel and brought them to life. The beautiful landscapes set the reader back to the 1800s with its snow draped hills and old wooden barns. (Caldecott, 1999)

Petersham, M. (1945). *The rooster crows: a book of American rhymes and jingles*. New York: Macmillan Co..



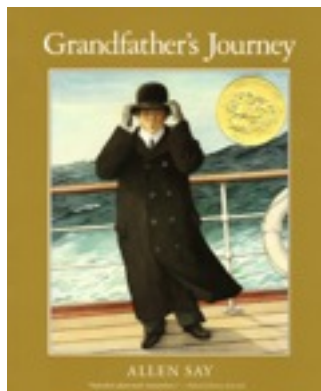
The Rooster Crows is a wonderful collection of children's rhymes and verses. The old American style nursery rhymes, such as "Yankee Doodle" and "Star Bright, Star Light" are arranged in categories for finger games, rope skipping rhymes, etc. It is certainly to bring the adult reader back to a time when their mother used to read to them in her rocking chair and the child reader to a fun imaginative place of songs and games. The old fashioned illustrations are done in early American times with its detailed pencil drawings colored with orange, yellow, and green shades. (Caldecott, 1946)

Raschka, C. (2011). *A ball for Daisy*. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books.



In this delightfully wordless picture book, the dog Daisy has a favorite red ball. She plays with it daily and even sleeps with it. One day her owner brings her to the park to play with the ball. Daisy is very excited until a brown dog in the park begins playing with her favorite ball and it deflates. Her owner throws the toy away and brings her home very sad. The next day they go back to the park and to her surprise, the brown dog and his owner has replaced Daisy's destroyed red ball with a shiny new blue one. Daisy is happy once again. The illustrator used simple curved lines for the characters in this book, and they depict Daisy's emotions perfectly. The story is organized in picture clips to show the events and stages of Daisy's emotions. (Caldecott, 2012)

Say, A. (1993). *Grandfather's journey*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.



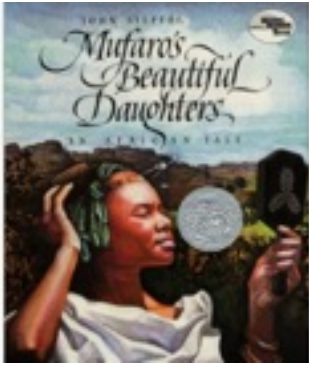
A boy tells a story about his grandfather's journey to the New World and falling in love with the beautiful land. He brings his family from Japan to build their lives by the ocean side in California. After a time he misses his homeland and returns to Japan to raise his family and eventually his grandchildren. When the boy is old enough he decides to follow in his grandfather's footsteps and visit California himself. It was then he realized how his grandfather felt because he too became homesick for his homeland. Allen Say's illustrations are spot on in depicting the scenes across America. His paintings give full color to the desert sculptures and the sea coast in California. (Caldecott, 1994)

Seeger, L. V. (2012). *Green*. New York: Roaring Brook Press.



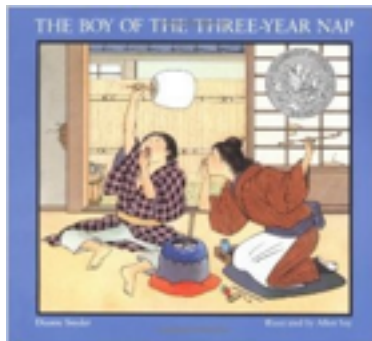
So many shades of green are displayed in this picture book. With just a few words per page and a single color, the book manages to draw the reader in to interact with each type of green. It's pages are covered with splash strokes of a rich green forest, an eloquent green fern against a night sky, a hidden chameleon within khaki green splotches, and the lush, comforting green of a shade tree. The die cut pages are windows of a new creation of green for every turn of the page inviting the reader to predict what each cleverly positioned cut out will become when they turn the page. (Caldecott Honor, 2013)

Steptoe, J. (1987). *Mufaro's beautiful daughters: an African tale*. New York: Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books.



In this African folktale, Mufaro and his two beautiful daughters, Manyara and Nyasha lived in a small village in Africa. Manyara was always wicked and mean to her sister, but Nyasha was very kind and generous. When the king announced that he wanted to take a wife, the girls' worthiness was tested in several ways. During these tests Manyara demonstrated how greedy and monstrous she is while Nyasha proved to be the most worthy and beautiful daughter in the land. Nyasha became the queen and Manyara is now her servant. Steptoe's paintings in this book capture the beauty of Zimbabwe perfectly. From the plants and animals of the forest to the architecture of the city, the colors and details are striking. (Caldecott Honor, 1988)

Snyder, D. (1988). *The boy of the three-year nap*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co..



Taro and his mother live in a one room house that is in disrepair. He is a lazy boy who takes naps all day long. His mother pesters him to acquire a job, but he has no desire to work. Ultimately he became enchanted by his neighbor's way of life and longed to live in such luxury. Taro devised a plan that would force the merchant to have his daughter marry him which will secure a better life for him and his mother. Taro's plan almost worked until his mother catches on and has a trick up her sleeve to make sure her son is no longer living a lazy lifestyle. (Caldecott Honor, 1989)

