

Picture Book #1

Daniel Finds a Poem by Micha Archer

Publisher: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2016

Age: K-3

ISBN: 0-399-16913-X

Unpaged

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: A little boy's animal friends help him discover the poetry to be found in nature.

Rationale:

Since lower elementary students in FCPS study elements of poetry and rhyming words, this is a great book to supplement the curriculum. Plus, it seems like a really great book that helps attune children to nature.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (January 1, 2016): "Readers who revel in the everyday small miracles in nature will identify with Daniel and appreciate this lyrical story."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews (November 15, 2015): "A vividly illustrated, inventively told opportunity for early readers to grasp the power of language to observe, entertain, and mystify. "

Review 3:

Booklist (February 1, 2016 (Vol. 112, No. 11)): "The lush oil illustrations, which consist of collages made from tissue paper and patterned with handmade stamps, create a world saturated in color and texture, complementing the animals' well-chosen words about beauty and poetry in the natural world. Readers will take many repeat visits to Daniel's inviting park."

Picture Book #2

Don't Throw it to Mo by David A. Adler

Publisher: Penguin Young Readers, 2015 Age: K-3

ISBN: 0-316-18822-0 32 pages

Cost: \$12.79 Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: Mo is the youngest kid on the Robins football team. The kids on the rival team tease him for being a 'butterfingers' who's too tiny to catch the ball. But Mo's coach has a plan up his sleeve to turn Mo's little size into a big win for the Robins.

Rationale:

This is a great book for teaching kids about determination and not giving up on your dreams. Football lovers will enjoy the excitement as Mo sets up for the winning play and many students will identify with Mo's underdog status.

Review 1:

Booklist (May 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 18)): "Despite the longevity of Leonard Kessler's *Kick, Pass, and Run* (1966, 1996), football-themed books for beginning readers are surprisingly hard to find. Fortunately for young sports fans, this one is a winner."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): "Simple text, an exciting story, a lovable underdog, and charming illustrations combine to make this easy reader a winner."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (April 1, 2015): "An engaging sports title with ethnically diverse characters, recommended for all early reader collections."

Picture Book #3

The Jar of Happiness by Ailsa Burrows

Publisher: Child's Play Ltd., 2016

Age: K-3

ISBN: 1-84643-729-6

Unpaged

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: E

Summary:

From the Publisher: Is there a recipe for happiness? Meg certainly thinks so. She collects all the necessary ingredients in a jar, which she uses to cheer up her friends and family when they're feeling low.

Rationale:

Empathy is a hard thing to teach and this book can help. Students and teachers will both enjoy this heartwarming story.

Review 1:

Kirkus Reviews (December 1, 2015): "Burrows' gentle tale is gracefully told and well-pitched to a very young audience, with minimal text, clean compositions, and plenty of white space. Meg and her family are white, while Zoe has light-brown skin and straight, dark hair. Sweet and simple. "

Review 2:

School Library Journal (January 1, 2016): "A first purchase for libraries looking to expand on books focusing on empathy."

Review 3:

Picture Book #4

The Knowing Book by Rebecca Kai Dotlich

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press, 2016

Age: K-3

ISBN: 1-59078-926-1

Unpaged

Cost: \$14.46

Dewey: E

Summary:

From the Publisher: Inspiring and wise, this story begins and ends with the sky that is always above you. In between, a young rabbit travels through the wide world, experiencing joy and sorrow and all the wonder that the world has to offer.

Rationale:

This looks like a really awesome book about growing up and achieving your dreams. It seems like one of those classic books that kids through adults will love forever.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (January 1, 2016): "The beautiful pen and ink with watercolor illustrations are as goose bump-inducing as the words of wisdom in the text. This inspirational book could be given as a graduation gift at almost any age."

Review 2:

Booklist (February 1, 2016 (Online)): "The universe is full of playful clouds in whimsical shapes, lively musical notes, and energetic breezes, and the importance of courage, curiosity, and trust are just some of the values celebrated. An excellent companion to Dr. Seuss' classic *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*"

Review 3:

Kirkus Reviews (December 15, 2015): "A frenzy of feeling, pen strokes, and verse that seeks to excite and empower young people just awakening from childhood slumber."

Picture Book #5

Last Stop on Market Street by Christian Robinson

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2015

Age: PreK-2

ISBN: 0399257748

Unpaged

Cost: \$16.99

Dewey: E

Summary:

From the Publisher: Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town?

Rationale:

This sounds like a really beautiful story that can help students who feel different because they don't have all of the things they see their friends with.

Review 1:

Horn Book (March/April 2015): "De la Peña and Robinson here are carrying on for Ezra Jack Keats in spirit and visual style. This quietly remarkable book will likely inspire questions of a sort less practical-minded than CJ's; it will also have some adult readers reaching for a tissue."

Review 2:

Kirkus (November 2014): "This celebration of cross-generational bonding is a textual and artistic tour de force."

Review 3:

Wilson's Children's Most Highly Recommended

Picture Book #6

The Night World by Mordicai Gerstein

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company, 2015 Age: K-3

ISBN: 0-316-18822-0 unpagged

Cost: \$15.35 Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: Sylvie the cat persuades her boy to go into the darkness very late at night, where they are greeted by the shadows of roses and other flowers, and by nocturnal animals who whisper, "it's almost here."

Rationale:

Lots of young children are still afraid of the dark and will be intrigued by the different things in their world that make shadows.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (March 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 14)): "The strong yet simple message impresses: look around; there are so many wonderful things to see."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): "The glory of daybreak, brilliant atop the sooty paper, is both comfortingly reliable and astonishing."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (March 1, 2015): "This is fun bedtime fare, but so much more-parents and teachers will find many possibilities for conversations about night and day."

Picture Book #7

One Family by George Shannon

Publisher: Frances Foster Books, Farrar Straus Giroux, 2015
Age: K-3
ISBN: 0-374-30003-8
26 pages
Cost: \$15.34
Dewey: E

Summary:

From the Publisher: From veteran picture book author George Shannon and up-and-coming artist Blanca Gomez comes a playful, interactive book that shows how a family can be big or small and comprised of people of a range of genders and races.

Rationale:

I love how this book shows all kinds of families and that students can practice counting skills too.

Review 1:

Booklist (April 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 16)): "With a sweet, timeless message and a contemporary setting with which many kids might identify, this is a nice addition to titles like Patricia Polacco's *Chicken Sunday* (1992) and Mary Ann Hoberman's *All Kinds of Families!*"

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): "In this loving concept book about the multitudes contained in the number one ("One is five. One bunch of bananas. One hand of cards. One family"), lyrical text and warm illustrations depict diverse families ranging from one member to ten."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (March 1, 2015): "Thoughtful text and great design make this counting book a top choice for most libraries."

Picture Book #8

The Only Child by Guojing

Publisher: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015 Age: K-3

ISBN: 0-553-49705-7 unpaged

Cost: \$22.99 Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: In this wordless graphic novel, a young girl traveling from her city apartment to her grandmother's country home becomes lost and enters a fantastical world in the clouds.

Rationale:

This looks like a beautiful story sure to spark the imagination. Plus, it is a graphic novel geared towards younger students and sure to be popular.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (November 15, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 6)): "Each arresting, softly penciled panel is surprisingly luminous in spite of its monochromatic palette, and in those gentle scenes, Guojing evokes a wide range of feeling, especially the lonesomeness of the little girl, who never quite seems at ease alone. Reminiscent of Raymond Briggs' classic, *The Snowman* (1978), this is quiet, moving, playful, and bittersweet all at once."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (September 15, 2015): "Majestic settings, tender interactions, and pure silliness lead readers to pore closely over these images, pulled along by shifting perspectives, ethereal beauty, and delight in the joy born of friendship. Rare is the book containing great emotional depth that truly resonates across a span of ages: this is one such."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): "Part picture book, part graphic novel, this book is a solid addition that will spark discussion and inspire budding artists."

Picture Book #9

Oskar and the Eight Blessings by Mark Siegal

Publisher: Roaring Brook Press, 2015

Age: 1-3

ISBN: 1-59643-949-1

40 pages

Cost: \$15.34

Dewey: E

Summary:

From the Publisher: A refugee seeking sanctuary from the horrors of Kristallnacht, Oskar arrives by ship in New York City with only a photograph and an address for an aunt he has never met. It is both the seventh day of Hanukkah and Christmas Eve, 1938.

Rationale:

Lower elementary students study cultures and holidays around the world. This is a great new book to introduce Hanukkah and will prompt discussions about kindness and being far from home.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (September 15, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 2)): "Eloquently rendered in art and text, this graphic-novel-style picture book relates the story of young Jewish immigrant Oskar, who, after Kristallnacht, is sent by his parents to New York City to live with his aunt."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide starred (Spring 2016): "The illustrations, an engaging blend of large and small panels, are paced to echo the starts and stops and blessings of Oskar's (successful) journey."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (October 1, 2015): "A wonderful, heartwarming picture book for any library at any time of year."

Picture Book #10

The Year of the Monkey: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac by Oliver Clyde Chin

Publisher: Immedium, 2016

Age: K-2

ISBN: 1-59702-118-0

Unpaged

Cost: \$13.61

Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: Max befriends the boy Kai, as well as other animals of the Chinese lunar calendar, and demonstrates the qualities of an adventurous spirit. Lists the birth years and characteristics of individuals born in the Chinese Year of the Monkey.

Rationale:

This features aspects of the Chinese culture and exposes students to Chinese writing as well. Plus, it has a main character who has difficulty controlling his actions in school which will appeal to many students.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (January 1, 2016): "A story of practice, hard work, and family expectations that's sure to appeal long after the Year of the Monkey is over."

Review 2:

Review 3:

Fiction #1

The Astounding Broccoli Boy by Frank Cottrell Boyce

Publisher: Walden Pond Press, 2015

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-06-240017-7

370 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for anything, but when he inexplicably turns green and finds himself in an experimental hospital ward with his nemesis, school bully Tommy-Lee "Grim" Komissky, everyone is baffled but Rory believes he and Grim have become superheroes.

Rationale:

This book deals with bullies and has an African American character with whom many students will surely identify.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): Boyce, whose *Cosmic* (2010) is something of a modern classic, and who recently wrapped up several authorized sequels of Ian Fleming's Chitty Chitty Bang Bang series, provides readers with a fast-paced and hysterically funny adventure while also exploring the nature of fear, friendship, and family."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): "Race, identity, individuality, courage, friendship—Boyce's young heroes tackle these serious themes, too, offering up wise-beyond-their-years takeaways like: 'The thing that makes you different from everyone else—that's your superpower.'"

Review 3:

School Library Journal (July 1, 2015): "Humorous and fast-paced, this distinctive tale with well-developed characters will appeal to those readers who have ever searched for their own superpowers."

Fiction #2

The Best Worst Thing by Kathleen Lane

Publisher: Little, Brown Books, 2016

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-316-25781-8

279 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From the Publisher: Maggie is worried. Ever since she started middle school, she sees injustice and danger everywhere--on the news, in her textbooks, in her own neighborhood. Maggie believes it is up to her, and only her, to make everything all right.

Rationale:

This book is one of the few that has a character with OCD. Our school community has several students diagnosed with this disorder and this sounds like a book that they can identify with.

Review 1:

Kirkus Reviews (April 15, 2016): "A tender, sober portrait of a middle schooler with OCD."

Review 2:

Publishers Weekly (March 21, 2016): "Though there are no tidy beginnings or endings in Maggie's swirling first-person narrative, Lane crafts a powerful portrait of a girl wrangling with deeply relatable concerns, which will easily resonate with readers confronting a complex and uncertain world."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (March 1, 2016): "Thoughtful characterization and relatable themes make this a strong purchase."

Fiction #3

Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton

Publisher: Feiwel and Friends, 2015

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 0-525-42875-5

389 pages

Cost: \$15.34

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: In 1969 twelve-year-old Mimi and her family move to an all-white town in Vermont, where Mimi's mixed-race background and interest in "boyish" topics like astronomy make her feel like an outsider.

Rationale:

This book features an ethnically diverse character who must overcome feeling like an outsider. Students will identify with this character in many ways.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (September 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 1)): "Perfect for readers who straddle societies, feel they don't fit in, or need that confirmation of self-celebration."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (June 15, 2015): "By the book's end, readers will be moved by the empathetic lyricism of Mimi's maturing voice."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): This novel stands out with its thoughtful portrayal of race and its embrace of girls in science and technical fields. The verse, though spare, is powerful and evocative, perfectly capturing Mimi's emotional journey."

Fiction #4

George by Gino Alex

Publisher: Scholastic Press, 2015

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-545-81254-2

195 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever.

Rationale:

This book addresses transgender issues and seems like a story that many students will enjoy reading.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): "Gino does an excellent job introducing factual information into the narrative without impinging upon the accessible and appealing story."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): "But the heart of this novel—for slightly younger readers than Ami Polonski's similarly themed and plotted *Gracefully Grayson* (rev. 11/14)—is George's achingly poignant struggle to be herself, and that heart beats strong and true."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (July 1, 2015): "A required purchase for any collection that serves a middle grade population."

Fiction #5

The Last Kids on Earth by Max Brallier

Publisher: Viking, 2015

Age: Grade 3-8

ISBN: 0-670-01661-6

225 pages

Cost: \$11.94

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: After a monster apocalypse hits town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg.

Rationale:

Zombies are huge right now and so are graphic novels, so this is sure to be a hit with the students—especially reluctant readers.

Review 1:

Booklist (October 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 3)): “The video-game-like plotting, gross-out humor, frequent pop-culture references, and quippy dialogue make this a great fit for reluctant readers. Recommend to Wimpy Kid fans looking for a horror-lite adventure.”

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (August 15, 2015): “The marriage of text and illustration serves as a perfect example of what an illustrated novel can and should be. Classic action-packed, monster-fighting fun.”

Review 3:

School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): “A gross-out good time with surprisingly nuanced character development.”

Fiction #6

The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau

Publisher: Scholastic Press, 2015

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-545-80084-6

323 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: On the Hill of Dust, in the remote mountains of Mexico, an eleven-year-old Mixtec boy called Teo lives with his family and the animals that he has healed, but one day a Romany caravan rolls into town with a young girl who calls herself Esma, the Gypsy Queen of Lightning--it is the beginning of a life-long friendship that will change both their lives.

Rationale:

This sounds like an interesting fantasy that also addresses friendship and overcoming cultural differences. Hispanic students will connect with the Mexican characters.

Review 1:

Booklist (October 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 3)): "Resau is conscientious about being an outsider exploring a culture different from her own, and she includes abundant back matter about the story's inspiration, the Mixteco and Romani people, as well as a glossary and pronunciation guide for the Mexican Spanish, Mixteco, and Romani words that are scattered throughout the text."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide (Spring 2016): "Resau's sensory descriptions heighten the tale's sweeping romanticism."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): "The diverse characters, heartbreaking events, and historical and present-day backdrops are excellently executed. Highly recommended."

Fiction #7

Makoons by Louise

Publisher: Harper Collins, 2016

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-06-057793-2

279 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From the Publisher: In the sequel to *Chickadee*, acclaimed author Louise Erdrich continues her award-winning Birchbark House series with the story of an Ojibwe family in nineteenth-century America.

Rationale:

This is a sequel to highly acclaimed and well-loved book *Chickadee*. Students in Upper Elementary study US History and native Americans and this could be great for read aloud or to supplement the curriculum in reading groups.

Review 1:

Booklist Starred (April 15, 2016 (Vol. 112, No. 16)): "Erdrich's direct narrative voice brings readers right into *Makoons*' world."

Review 2:

School Library Journal (March 1, 2016): "This beautiful novel is quick moving and deeply affecting."

Review 3:

Fiction #8

The Marvels by Brian Selznick

Publisher: Scholastic Press, 2015

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 0-545-44868-9

665 pages

Cost: \$28.09

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: In 1766, a boy, Billy Marvel, is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors that flourishes in London until 1900--and nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis, runs away from home, seeking refuge with his uncle in London, and is captivated by the Marvel house, with its portraits and ghostly presences.

Rationale:

What kid doesn't like shipwrecks, adventure, and ghosts? Hugo Cabret and Wonderstruck were such big hits with students and this book seems like it will be another one to love.

Review 1:

Horn Book Guide starred (Spring 2016): "Selznick's masterful story-inside-a-story unfolds an emotional narrative."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): "While stilted in some written phrasing and dialogue, this book proves once again that Selznick is— regardless—a unique and masterful storyteller, and his story-inside-a-story unfolds an emotional narrative with a drama that will leave readers marveling."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): "Complex, entertaining, and full of gorgeous art and writing, this is a powerhouse of a book."

Fiction #9

The Toymakers Apprentice by Sherri Smith

Publisher: Scholastic Press, 2015

Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-399-25295-9

384 pages

Cost: \$14.49

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: Journeyman toymaker Stefan Drosselmeyer is recruited by his mysterious cousin, Christian, to find a mythical nut that will save Boldavia's princess and his own kidnapped father from a fanatical Mouse Queen and her seven-headed Mouse Prince, who have sworn to destroy the Drosselmeyer family.

Rationale:

This is a new and exciting take on The Nutcracker story has some fantasy and historical elements that will appeal to both students and teachers.

Review 1:

Booklist (October 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 3)) "It's a great, sprawling story, elaborately plotted and brimful of elements such as a near-impossible quest, an apparent death overturned, and elaborate clockworks that keep the city running."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide (Spring 2016): "Smith's energetic tale takes off in unexpected directions within the framework of its inspiration, The Nutcracker."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): "Part Nutcracker with a dash of Pinocchio, this middle grade debut by YA author Smith is an absorbing tale of adventure, invention, family loyalty, and sly humor."

Fiction #10

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

Publisher: Little, Brown and Company, 2016 Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 0-399-25295-9 279 pages

Cost: \$14.49 Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: Roz the robot discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island with no memory of where she is from or why she is there, and her only hope of survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the island's hostile inhabitants.

Rationale:

Good science fiction is hard to find for this age group. This books sounds like it would appeal to both boys and girls.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (December 15, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 8)): "Expect readers to go wild for his robot-themed novel."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (February 1, 2016): "While the end to Roz's benign and wild life is startling and violent, Brown leaves Roz and her companions--and readers--with hope. Thought-provoking and charming."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (January 1, 2016): "This strong debut middle grade novel by the acclaimed picture book author/illustrator is a first purchase for most middle grade collections."

Nonfiction #1

Dia de Los Muertos by Roseanne Thong

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015 Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 0-8075-1566-3 Unpaged

Cost: \$16.99 Dewey: 551.22

Summary:

From Follett: Text primarily in English with some Spanish. Rhyming text and illustrations describe how and why the holiday Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is celebrated in Mexico and South America.

Rationale:

This is a great nonfiction book that will appeal to Hispanic students and those studying holidays around the world.

Review 1:

Booklist (November 1, 2015 (Online)): "A great choice for readers who celebrate the holiday and those wanting to learn more about it."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (June 1, 2015): "This enchanting presentation of the Dia de los Muertos holiday will resonate with both those who are new to its traditions and those who have been celebrating for generations."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): "A festive and colorful celebration of the Mexican and Latin American holiday."

Nonfiction #2

Earmuffs for Everyone: How Chester Greenwood became known as the inventor of earmuffs
by Meghan McCarthy

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015 Age: K-3
ISBN: 1-51811-837-2 unpagged
Cost: \$19.14 Dewey: 687

Summary:

From Follett: This picture book biography of Chester Greenwood explores the invention of the earmuffs and the patenting process.

Rationale:

Young students have great imaginations and will enjoy imagining themselves becoming inventors.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (January 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 9)): "Always entertaining, this picture book features a clearly written text and appealing acrylic paintings that vary from spot illustrations of familiar patented inventions (Coke bottles, LEGO blocks, a space capsule) to double-page scenes representing the inventor's life."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): "McCarthy's signature bug-eyed characters perfectly represent her subject's lighthearted, wide-eyed curiosity."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (October 1, 2014): "A solid addition for those seeking titles about inventors and inventions."

Nonfiction #3

Frederick's Journey: The life of Frederick Douglass by Doreen Rappaport

Publisher: Disney/Jump at the Sun, 2015 Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 1-42311-438-8 Unpaged

Cost: \$15.34 Dewey: 973.8

Summary:

From Follett: An illustrated biography of African American abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

Rationale:

A great supplement for African American, United States, and Maryland history.

Review 1:

Booklist (October 15, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 4)): "This true story of determination and courage despite all odds concludes appropriately with Douglass' own words: "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." A message worth heeding."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (January/February, 2016): "There are many longer books that detail the events of Douglass's life -- from his enslaved childhood to his escape as a young man to his passionately outspoken advocacy for the abolition of slavery -- but this one, in picture-book form, manages to synthesize those details just as well as a much longer work might, and all without losing the essence of the great man."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (October 1, 2015): "Frederick Douglass's journey from slavery to international renown as writer and lecturer is broadly sketched here."

Nonfiction #4

Gordon Parks: How the photographer captured black and white America by Carole Boston Weatherford

Publisher: Albert Whitman & Company, 2015 Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 0-8075-3017-4 32 pages

Cost: \$16.99 Dewey: 770.89

Summary:

From Follett: Tells how with a single photograph a self-taught African American photographer captured the attention of America. Includes a brief biography of African American photographer, writer, and director, Gordon Parks

Rationale:

This covers American history, segregation, and racism and would be a great supplement to the lower elementary curriculum.

Review 1:

Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): "This handsome book will help children better understand the widespread racial segregation and discrimination in twentieth-century America."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (May/June, 2015): "Illustrations that recreate Parks's photographs appear throughout to mark time, capture moments, and reflect the real-life work of "one of the most important photographers of the 20th century."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): "This effective overview is a solid addition for those looking to beef up their biography collections."

Nonfiction #5

How Machines Work: Zoo break! by David Macaulay

Publisher: DK/Penguin Random House, 2015 Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 0-8075-3017-4 30 pages

Cost: \$17.04 Dewey: 621.8

Summary:

From the Publisher: *How Machines Work: Zoo Break!* uses models and illustrations to demonstrate the technology of six simple machines: levers, pulleys, screws, inclined planes, wedges, and wheels.

Rationale:

Lower elementary classes study simple machines and inventions and this would be a great supplement.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (November 15, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 6)): "Youngsters will be eager to get their hands on this simply amazing book."

Review 2:

Kirkus Reviews starred (December 1, 2015): "So clever!" murmurs the elephant shrew, admiring himself in a mirror. No argument here."

Review 3:

Publishers Weekly (September 28, 2015): "Expertly blending comedy with a substantive look at physics and mechanics, Macaulay stages a lesson about simple machines at a zoo, where a sloth and shrew are attempting to escape."

Nonfiction #6

Hurricane Watch by Melissa Stewart

Publisher: Harper, 2015

Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 0-8075-3017-4

278 pages

Cost: \$15.34

Dewey: 551.55

Summary:

From Follett: Find out how hurricanes form, how scientists track the storms, and what you can do to keep yourself safe if one strikes.

Rationale:

Students in lower elementary study weather and they will enjoy the hands on activities to try.

Review 1:

Booklist (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): "Offering plenty of facts for kids intrigued by extreme weather as well as some practical advice and a couple of hands-on activities to try, this attractive book is the latest addition to the respected Let's-Read-and-Find-Out series."

Review 2:

School Library Journal (December 1, 2015): "Readers and browsers will find a lot to read and see in these spreads."

Review 3:

NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12 2016

Nonfiction #7

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, spirit of the civil rights movement by Carole Boston Weatherford

Publisher: Candlewick Press, 2015	Age: Grade 5-8
ISBN: 1-56145-961-5	Unpaged
Cost: \$15.35	Dewey: 323

Summary:

From Follett: A collage-illustrated collection of free form poems describing the life and work of civil rights advocate Fannie Lou Hamer.

Rationale:

This is a great way to integrate units on poetry with Black History Month curriculum.

Review 1:

Booklist starred (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): "In this stunning biography of Fannie Lou Hamer, we walk beside her through tears and smiles on a remarkable journey of resilience and determination that leaves us transformed."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide starred (Spring 2016): "This majestic biography places the civil rights movement in personal, local, national, and international contexts."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): "Hamer's heroic life story should be widely known, and this well-crafted work should find a place in most libraries."

Nonfiction #8

One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the recycling women of the Gambia by Miranda Paul

Publisher: Millbrook Press, 2015

Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 1-42311-438-8

34 pages

Cost: \$15.04

Dewey: 363.7288

Summary:

From Follett: Isatou Ceesay finds a way to recycle discarded plastic bags that have accumulated in dirty heaps in her Gambian village.

Rationale:

I love that this brings in recycling from an African village. Great to use for Earth Day lessons.

Review 1:

Booklist (February 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 12)): "Colorful textured and patterned collage artwork illustrates this inspiring true story, which concludes with more information about Isatou's grassroots initiative."

Review 2:

Horn Book Magazine (January/February, 2015): "This handsome presentation of grassroots environmental activism is certain to inspire young readers."

Review 3:

School Library Journal (December 1, 2014): "The simple format of this picture book belies the strength of its content, a story lovingly supported by charming collage illustrations."

Nonfiction #9

Plant Reproduction by Shelly Buchanan

Publisher: Teacher Created Materials, 2016 Age: Grade 3-6

ISBN: 1-48987-601 32 pages

Cost: \$13.31 Dewey: 575.6

Summary:

From Follett: Many plants catch your eye with their amazing colors and shapes. But plants also reproduce in amazing ways. From seeds to spores and pollination to fertilization, plant reproduction is anything but ordinary.

Rationale:

Fits great into science curriculum in upper grades.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (November 1, 2015): "The latest additions to this ongoing series deliver the same authoritative, comprehensive, and relevant information that educators have come to expect from the publisher."

Review 2:

Wilson's Most Highly Recommended

Review 3:

Booklist Starred (September 2015)

Nonfiction #10

When the Earth Shakes: Earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis by Simon Winchester

Publisher: Harper, 2015

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 0-670-78536-9

71 pages

Cost: \$16.19

Dewey: 551.22

Summary:

From Follett: Explores the history of earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis around the world.

Rationale:

Students in upper elementary study natural disasters and this one explores several of them in an interesting way.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (November 1, 2015): "A must-buy for libraries serving middle school, this title works both as a basic overview of earth science and as a fine example of how to incorporate personal narrative into nonfiction."

Review 2:

Horn Book Guide, 4/1/16 & Library Media Connection, 12/01/15

Review 3:

NSTA Outstanding Science Trade Book for Students K-12 2016

Nonbook #1

American Ace by Marilyn Nelson (MP3 CD Audiobook)

Publisher: Listening Library, 2016

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 9780147525772

1 hour 22 minutes

Cost: \$28.00

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: Sixteen-year-old Connor tries to help his severely depressed father, who learned upon his mother's death that Nonno was not his biological father, by doing research that reveals Dad's father was probably a Tuskegee Airman.

Rationale:

This book combines many themes that will resonate with students including depression, adoptions, death, and heroism.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (April 28, 2016): "Nelson narrates her own verses with graceful solemnity."

Nonbook #2

Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins (DVD)

Publisher: Dreamscapes Media, LLC, 2015 Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 1-68141-669-7 22 minutes

Cost: \$38.99 Dewey: E

Summary:

From Follett: Relates how Hershel outwits the goblins that haunt the old synagogue and prevent the village people from celebrating Hanukkah.

Rationale:

This is a great companion to a lower elementary study of holidays around the world.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (December 1, 2015): "This is a wonderful presentation that will have little ones on the edge of their seats. It deserves to be a staple for all Hanukkah celebrations."

Nonbook #3

This Side of Wild by Gary Paulsen (CD Audiobook)

Publisher: Audioworks, 2015

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 1-44238-961-3 Cost: \$14.99

3 hours

Dewey: 813

Summary:

From Follett: The Newbery Honor-winning author of Hatchet and Dogsong shares surprising true stories about his relationship with animals, highlighting their compassion, intellect, intuition, and sense of adventure.

Rationale:

Gary Paulsen's books are well-loved by all kinds of students, and those who love animals will especially love this book.

Review 1:

School Library Journal (December 1, 2015): "This memorable production will resonate with anyone who has ever sensed that animals may be more perceptive, more intelligent, and more loyal than humans typically give them credit for."

Nonbook #4

Trees by Molly Ledford and Billy Kelly (Music CD)

Publisher: Yay! Music, 2015

Age: Grade K-3

ISBN: 9780147525772

38 minutes

Cost: \$15.56

Dewey: 780

Summary:

From Follett: Gentle educational songs celebrating the beauty, variety and purpose of trees.

Rationale:

This sounds like something that is great for younger students to celebrate trees with music and movement.

Review 1:

School Library Journal starred (March 2, 2016)

Nonbook #5

Warren the 13th and the All-Seeing Eye by Tania Del Rio (MP3 CD Audiobook)

Publisher: Brilliance Audio, 2015

Age: Grade 5-8

ISBN: 9780147525772

5 hours

Cost: \$14.99

Dewey: Fic

Summary:

From Follett: Orphan Warren's pride and joy is his family's hotel, but he's been miserable ever since his evil Aunt Anaconda took over the management. Anaconda believes a mysterious treasure known as the All-Seeing Eye is hidden somewhere on the grounds, and she'll do anything to find it.

Rationale:

This just sounds like a fun book and students will appreciate the wacky humor and magical elements.

Review 1:

School Library Journal starred (April 8, 2016)

Website/App #1

Caleb Johnson's Mayflower Web Pages

<http://mayflowerhistory.com/>

Publisher: Y Factory, 2016

Age: Grade 5-8

Cost: Free

Summary:

This site is the merging of two fields: genealogy and history. It includes detailed information on history, passengers, and documents of the Mayflower.

Rationale:

This is a good supplement to US history curriculum and is both engaging and fun. Plus, it includes primary sources. Students can use this site to demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.

Review 1:

ALA Great Websites for Kids

Website/App #2

Dada Trains (App for iOS)

Publisher: Y Factory, 2016

Age: Grade K-3

Cost: \$2.99

Summary:

From SLJ: It's no secret that along with dinosaurs and construction sites, trains make the list of preschool and early elementary students' favorite topics. Here's an app that combines exploration with story and creation activities.

Rationale:

Lower elementary students study transportation, plus lots of kids love trains. Students can use this site to demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.

Review 1:

School Library Journal, 2016: "Cheery graphics in a number of styles and entertaining sound effects heighten the experience. No instructions are given, which in this app, encourages exploration."

Website/App #3

Engineer Girl

<http://www.engineergirl.org/>

Publisher: National Academy of Engineering, Age: Grade 5-8
2016

Cost: Free

Summary: The EngineerGirl website is designed to bring national attention to the exciting opportunities that engineering represents for girls and women.

Rationale:

Many girls need encouragement when it comes to exploring careers in science and this website is perfect for that purpose. Students can use this site to demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.

Review 1:

ALA Great Websites for Kids

Website/App #4

Global Trek

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/globaltrek/>

Publisher: Y Factory, 2016

Age: Grade 5-8

Cost: Free

Summary:

This site is a way for students to travel the world without having to leave their classroom. The travel itinerary provides links to background information and a chance to read about a country's people and culture.

Rationale:

This site is a great resource for country studies. Students can use this site to demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.

Review 1:

ALA Great Websites for Kids

Website/App #5

Time for Kids

<http://www.timeforkids.com/>

Publisher: Y Factory, 2016

Age: Grade 5-8

Cost: \$4.24/student

Summary:

Time Magazine for Kids offers news articles about many topics, including the country, the world, animals, and trends in schools. Also features games, polls, and a homework help section.

Rationale:

This is a great website for current events and finding nonfiction text for Common Core reading activities. Students can use this site to demonstrate mastery of technology tools for accessing information and pursuing inquiry.

Review 1:

ALA Great Websites for Kids

Reflection:

I found myself using *School Library Journal* the most to find good books. I really love the “verdict” at the end of each review. When you don’t have a whole lot of time to read all the details about the book, it is nice to go right to the end and see what they say the bottom line is. A lot of times they will even say, “This is a must have for every library collection.” I wouldn’t rely on that completely, but it is helpful to know if you should look for other positive reviews to back it up. I also really like that *SLJ* has their “Starred Review” lists that collect all of the starred reviews in one place every month. Plus, they divide up the starred books into Picture Book, Beginning Readers, Chapter Books, Middle Grade, Young Adult, Nonfiction, Graphic, DVDS, and Audio which makes it easy to find exactly what you need.

My second favorite place to go was *Wilson’s* because I knew that if I found a book in there, it would almost be a sure hit. The only frustration with *Wilson’s* is that it does not appear to be as updated as they say it is. I had a hard time finding 2016 books, and even some 2015 books.

When looking for nonfiction books, I used the *Outstanding Science Trade Books* and *Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People* lists. These lists are great and pretty diverse, but they did take a lot of time to pour through to find the topics that would fit with our curriculum and needs. It would be really nice if there was a journal that was just devoted to nonfiction reviews to make it easier.

I also relied on *Titlewave* a lot for the reviews. For most books, they have the full text review right on the page with the book information. There is even a way to narrow down your search by current books with three positive reviews. One thing I noticed about *Titlewave* is that it mostly had reviews from *School Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Horn Book Guide*, *Kirkus*, and *Booklist*. I did not see any reviews from other sources like *School Library Connection* or *Verdict*. So in some cases, where it only listed two positive reviews, there might have been more from other sources. This tells me that I can’t rely completely on *Titlewave* to find books with three positive reviews.

At first I found it a little difficult to find books that reflected a wide range of diversities. Eventually, I remembered the *Notable Books for a Global Society* lists and found the book *George* by Alex Gino and *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt De La Pena. I am really glad that this list exists and will definitely be using it in the future to create orders for my library.

After working on this assignment for a while, I definitely decided that I would be subscribing to *School Library Journal*. I really liked their review format and I like that I can also use it to get ideas for my library program. I will probably also get a subscription to *Horn Book Guide*, but will use that in a little different way. It seems that it would be good to use as a reference since it has a review of pretty much every book to come out in the year. That way if you come across a random book or somebody requests something you never heard of, you can start by looking for it in

your *Horn Book* to get an idea of its quality before looking any further. The rating system in *Horn Book* makes it easier to decide if the book is worth looking into.

I was much more efficient with finding the books to order in this assignment than I was in the last assignment for this course. I have learned which sources were the easiest to use and gave me the information I needed. My librarian friends don't always use multiple selection sources, or rely on *Titlewave* to find books with multiple reviews, but I have decided that really isn't enough. I know that time will be limited, but I hope that I will get a good system going that will allow me the time to look through several of the selection sources and find only the best books for my library.

I didn't find myself leaning towards one publisher or another. I had a pretty good variety of different publishers across genres. However, I did notice I had three books from Little, Brown, and Company and I had at least four books from Scholastic Press.

I compared my order to a few different classmates and found that we all had chosen very different books. Melinda and I both chose *Jar of Happiness*, although it only had two reviews. We both agreed that this looked like a fantastic picture book that would definitely appeal to younger students. We also both picked *Wild Robot*, knowing that good Science Fiction novels are hard to come by and this book seems to be written for a diverse audience. I noticed that Geraldine's order was also quite different than mine and that she had a lot of poetry books while I only had one. Since she is in a library and has an intimate knowledge of what they need, she made sure she bulked up on poetry books. Since I have a library that pretty much needs everything, I tried to pick a variety of different types of books. I noticed that Brittany chose to order several books that I had looked at, but passed on because I wanted to find books that I could tie in more closely with our curriculum. For example, I thought *The Fantastic Ferris Wheel* looked like a fantastic book, but I found other books that tied more closely into what our students study. I am hoping against hope that someday I will have a healthy budget that would allow me to also pick the fun and interesting books along with the books that directly support the curriculum.