101 Great Books for Kids 2018

Compiled by the staff of Evanston Public Library
1. **Alma and How She Got Her Name** by Juana Martinez-Neal. Alma feels burdened by her extraordinarily long name. That is, until her father explains all the relatives it honors and what their stories were. Call Number: JPicture Marti.J

2. **Blue by Laura Vaccaro Seeger.** Die-cuts and a single color revealed through a multitude of hues help tell the story of a boy and his dog. Call Number: JPicture Seege.L

3. **Can I Be Your Dog?** by Troy Cummings. A sunny pup with a heart full of hope tries to acquire a loving owner, only to find them in the least expected place. Call Number: JPicture Cummi.T


7. **First Laugh, Welcome, Baby!** by Rose Ann Tahe and Nancy Bo Flood, ill. Jonathan Nelson. Members of a Navajo family compete to be the first to make the new baby giggle, kicking off the child's First Laugh Ceremony. Call Number: JPicture Tahe.R

8. **The Funeral by Matt James.** Two cousins at a funeral while away the hours, acting like total kids. Call Number: JPicture James.M

9. **Hello Hello by Brendan Wenzel.** Disparate animals can still have a lot in common, as this eye-poppingly colorful romp in the animal kingdom shows. Call Number: JPicture Wenz.B

10. **The Honeybee by Kirsten Hall, ill. Isabelle Arsenault.** This little bee book goes way beyond the waggle dance to tell kids more than they ever thought they could know about insects, honey, and more. Call Number: JPicture Hall.K


12. **I Am a Cat by Galia Bernstein.** It might be roly-poly, cuddly, and cute, but don’t doubt that this little housecat has more in common with its fierce relatives than meets the eye. Call Number: JPicture Berns.G

13. **Imagine! by Raúl Colón.** Smell the sugared nuts, hear the horns of the taxis, and join a boy and some surprising friends as they take in the sights of NYC. Call Number: JPicture Colon.R

14. **Jerome by Heart** by Thomas Scotto, ill. Olivier Tallec, translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick and Karin Snelson. A remarkably sweet tale of two boys that love each other, and how just holding hands can sometimes feel like an act of resistance. Call Number: JPicture Scott.T

15. **Julián Is a Mermaid** by Jessica Love. Julián dreams of elegant mermaids, but what will his abuela think when he tries to become one himself? Call Number: JPicture Love.J

16. **Love by Matt de la Peña, ill. Loren Long.** A celebration of love, with all its complications, highs, lows, tears, and joy. Call Number: JPicture Delap.M

17. **My Hair Is a Garden by Cozbi A. Cabrera.** The kids at school make fun of Mackenzie’s unkempt hair. Fortunately she has her neighbor Miss Tillie to show her that every strand can be tended like a garden. From an Evanston author! Call Number: JPicture Cabre.C

18. **Ocean Meets Sky by Terry Fan and Eric Fan.** A dreamlike voyage takes a boy to a fantastical place where at long last he can commune with the grandfather he misses so much. Call Number: JPicture Fan.T
19. **A Parade of Elephants** by Kevin Henkes. It’s a counting book! It’s a bedtime book! It’s a perfect book for the youngest of readers to snuggle up to and enjoy. *Call Number: JPicture Henke.K*

20. **The Patchwork Bike** by Maxine Beneba Clarke, ill. Van Thanh Rudd. Wind, speed, brothers, and fun. When your bike’s made by your own two hands there’s nothing you can’t do! *Call Number: JPicture Clark.M*


22. **The Stuff of Stars** by Marion Dane Bauer, ill. Ekua Holmes. Handmade paper art that swirls like the cosmos itself evokes the chaos of creation that gave birth to us all. *Call Number: JPicture Bauer.M*

23. **Teddy’s Favorite Toy** by Christian Trimmer, ill. Madeline Valentine. A boy and his doll are not easily parted, but when the mighty Bren-Da accidentally ends up in the trash it’s up to mom to save the day! *Call Number: JPicture Trimm.C*

24. **This Is My Eye** by Neela Vaswani. Hand a kid a camera and see the world through their eyes. You might be surprised at everything you could have missed. *Call Number: JPicture Vaswa.N*

25. **We Don’t Eat Our Classmates** by Ryan T. Higgins. It’s not easy to make new friends on your first day of school. Especially when they’re just so darn tasty. *Call Number: JPicture Higgi.R*


27. **The Frog Prince** by The Brothers Grimm, ill. Sybille Schenker. Luscious die-cuts, gold and gilt, and transparent pages render this classic fairytale in truly magnificent splendor. *Call Number: x398.20943 Grimm.J*

28. **The King of Birds (Gamayun Tales)** by Alexander Utkin. A poor woodsman saves The King of the Birds, only to be drawn into an epic adventure in the sky. *Call Number: JGraphic Utkin.A*

29. **The Little Red Fort** by Brenda Maier, ill. Sonia Sánchez. The tale of the Little Red Hen gets fully modernized in this story of a girl with architectural dreams and the lazy boys who won’t lift a finger to help. *Call Number: JPicture Maier.B*

30. **Never Satisfied: The Story of the Stonecutter** by Dave Horowitz. What goes around comes around. A stonecutter unhappy with his lot continually upgrades his life, until he reaches a funny conclusion. *Call Number: x398.6 Satta.A*

31. **Ramayana: An Illustrated Retelling** by Arshia Shattar, ill. Sonali Zohra. In this epic tale, Prince Rama’s story is brought to bold, brilliantly illustrated life. Ten-headed demons, magical monkeys, betrayal, love, death, and more! *Call Number: x398.20951 Horow.D*

32. **The Tiger Prince** by Chen Jiang Hong. A king offers his own child to a vicious foe, but love and affection save the boy’s life. A keenly told folktale rendered in deep, velvety colors. *Call Number: JBegin McCul.E*


34. **Houndsley and Catina and Cousin Wagster** by James Howe, ill. Marie-Louise Gay. When Houndsley’s fabulous and outgoing cousin Wagster comes for a visit, the simple hound worries that his best friend Catina won’t like him as much anymore. *Call Number: JEasy Howe.J*

35. **Kick It, Mo!** by David A. Adler, ill. Sam Ricks. Sports-loving Mo loves to kick balls high into the sky, but that’s not a good idea in a soccer game. Can he learn to be a team player? *Call Number: JEasy Adler.D*

36. **Min Makes a Machine** by Emily Arnold McCully. A young pachyderm with an engineering streak finds a clever solution to a thirsty problem in this one-of-a-kind easy book. *Call Number: JBegin Mccul.E*
37. *The Party and Other Stories* by Sergio Ruzzier. Fox may find Chick a little exasperating at times, but these pals definitely stick together in a collection of three bite-sized stories. *Call Number: J Easy Ruzzi.S*


39. *They Didn’t Teach THIS In Worm School!: One Worm’s Tale of Survival* by Simone Lia. It may not be easy to be friends with someone who wants to eat you, but it is by no means impossible! *Call Number: J Lia.M*

40. *Can I Touch Your Hair? Poems of Race, Mistakes, and Friendship* by Irene Latham and Charles Waters, ill. Sean Qualls. Two classmates navigate the waters of race and friendship in this thoughtful consideration of how we treat one another. *Call Number: x811 Latha.I*

41. *In the Past: From Trilobites to Dinosaurs to Mammoths in More than 500 Million Years* by David Elliott, ill. Matthew Trueman. Funny poetry filled to brimming with wit, weirdness, and facts about the ancient denizens of the Earth. *Call Number: x811 Ellio.D*

42. *Sakura’s Cherry Blossoms* by Robert Paul Weston, ill. Misa Saburi. Tanka poems tell the tale of a little girl who moves to America from Japan and misses her grandmother terribly. *Call Number: JPictur Westo.R*

43. *Seeing Into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright, ill. Nina Crews*. Overlapping photographs reimagine a dozen of Richard Wright’s haikus, showing black boys as they investigate and observe the natural world around them. *Call Number: x811 Wrigh.R*

44. *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy* by Tony Medina & 13 Artists. Stylistically diverse artists accompany tanka poems dedicated to showing the family, spirituality, self-confidence, and stresses of black and brown kids today. *Call Number: x811 Medin.T*

45. *Vivid: Poems & Notes About Color* by Julie Paschkis. A quirky colorfest that celebrates the art and the science of every hue in the rainbow. *Call Number: x811 Pasch.J*

46. *Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi. Witty sisterly repartee, cosmic battles, and Hindu Mythology combine when Aru Shah discovers she’s the daughter of a god with a quest of mammoth proportions. *Call Number: J Choks.R*


48. *The Book of Boy* by Catherine Gilbert, ill. Ian Schoenherr. A relic thief and a misfit boy who can talk to animals team up in this extraordinary story of a Medieval pilgrimage to Rome. *Call Number: J Murdo.C*

49. *The Button War* by Avi. WWI Poland sets the scene for this dark tale of a button collecting contest gone horribly, tragically wrong. *Call Number: J Avi*

50. *Dear Sister* by Alison McGhee, ill. Joe Bluhm. An epistolary novel between an older brother and the younger sister he hates/tolerates/loves over the course of seven years. *Call Number: J Mcghe.A*

51. *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang. While her parents secretly shelter new immigrants in the motel where they work, Mia Tang reflects on immigration, racism, and her own belief that “sometimes you have to... be creative to get what you want.” *Call Number: J Yang.K*

52. *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Jerome has been shot and killed by a white police officer. Now a ghost stuck on earth, Jerome must find out what to do so he can move on. But first he needs to understand why he can talk with the
the daughter of his killer and why the ghost of Emmett Till keeps appearing to him. A powerful call to action. Call Number: J Rhode.J

53. Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson. Six misfits join together, listen to one another, and help when one of them confesses his father has been deported from the country. Call Number: J Woods.J

54. Ivy Aberdeen’s Letter to the World by Ashley Herring. It’s not enough that Ivy’s house was hit by a tornado. Now she’s not speaking to her beloved older sister, mysterious notes appear in her locker, and she’s terrified to confess her crush on another girl. What’s going on? Call Number: J Blake.A

55. The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge. When there’s an alien on your cellphone and your parents are splitting up, things are far from normal. Outlandish science fiction at its finest. Call Number: J Edge.C

56. The Journey of Little Charlie by Christopher Paul Curtis. Coerced into helping the despicable overseer Cap’n Buck travel North to track down some stolen property, Little Charlie is horrified to discover the “property” is people. Call Number: J Curti.C

57. Louisiana’s Way Home by Kate DiCamillo. Believing that she and her Granny are cursed, Louisiana Elephante finds herself abandoned at a motel in the middle of nowhere. A stunning tale of forgiveness and small delights. Call Number: J Dicam.K

58. The Mad Wolf’s Daughter by Diane Magras. Young Drest watches as her whole family is captured by the king’s soldiers. Now it’s up to her to cut a swath through medieval Europe and get them back! Call Number: J Magra.D

59. Marcus Vega Doesn’t Speak Spanish by Pablo Cartaya. Marcus is six feet tall, 180 pounds, and in the eighth grade. Now he, his mom, and his brother Charlie, who has Down syndrome, are travelling to Puerto Rico to find the family he never met, but deserves. Call Number: J Carta.P

60. Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina. Cuban-American Merci is more than just a scholarship kid in a private school. She wants to save up for a bike, but before she can she’ll have to mentor a new kid, deal with a bully, and face the fact that her beloved Grandfather is acting less and less like himself. Call Number: J Medin.M

61. The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl by Stacy McAnulty. After being struck by lightning at age six, Lucy Callahan became a math genius. Now for the first time, her grandmother is forcing her to attend public school. Math can solve a lot of problems, but this is one Lucy will have to work out herself. Call Number: J Mcanu.S

62. My Year in the Middle by Lila Quintero Weaver. Set in 1970s Alabama, Argentinian immigrant Lu Olivera just wants to be a runner. But in a time when white and black kids are kept separate, where do kids in the middle, like Lu, belong? Call Number: J Weave.L

63. The Parker Inheritance by Varian Johnson. The Westing Game meets Holes in this twisty mystery involving a town’s bleak racial past, a hidden treasure, and two kids determined to uncover secrets everyone thought were buried for good. Call Number: J Johns.V

64. Rebound by Kwame Alexander. It’s 1988 and Charlie Bell is floundering in grief over the recent death of his father. When he’s sent to spend the summer with his grandparents, he’s sure it’s going to be the worst time ever. Is he right or is he wrong? Call Number: J Alexa.K

65. The Season of Styx Malone by Kekla Magoon. Rule-breaking, laugh-out-loud humor, and nail-biting adventure combine when two brothers meet the incredible Styx Malone. Their summer will never be the same. Call Number: J Magoo.K


67. The Stone Girl’s Story by Sarah Beth Durst. A girl carved entirely of stone sets off on a quest to save herself and her friends in this deeply thought out fantasy novel full of danger and an incredible, inventive world. Call Number: J Durst.S
68. **Be Prepared** by Vera Brosgol. High on the misery scale, and even higher on the humor, this semi-autobiographical tale follows young Vera as she navigates a Russian-American camp experience that's nothing like she'd expected. *Call Number: JGraphic Brosg.V*

69. **Cardboard Kingdom** by Chad Sell and various contributors. What do you want to be? A mad scientist? An evil queen? A monster? In this neighborhood all it takes is some cardboard and imagination to live your dreams. *Call Number: JGraphic Sell.C*

70. **Illegal** by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, ill. Giovanni Rigano. Two brothers take a harrowing journey from Ghana to Europe in this deftly illustrated, agonizing tale for older readers. Beautifully wrought. *Call Number: JGraphic Colfe.E*

71. **Lowriders: Blast From the Past** by Cathy Camper, ill. Raúl the Third. Three children with big dreams have to face down the nasty Las Matamoscas who are trying to prevent both women and kids from entering the big car show. Humor, Spanish words, and low-riders combine in a fabuloso tale. *Call Number: JGraphic Campe.C*

72. **Monster Mayhem** by Christopher Eliopoulos. Science genius Zoe is convinced that friends are more trouble than they're worth. But when she's befriended by a gigantic sea creature straight out of her favorite kaiju movies, she discovers it's not so bad having your pals at your side. *Call Number: JGraphic Eliop.C*

73. **The Prince and the Dressmaker** by Jen Wang. With the help of talented dressmaker Frances, Prince Sebastian transforms nightly into the magnificent Lady Crystallia, but is terrified someone might learn his secret. A lushly illustrated, gorgeous tale of gowns, secrets, and love. *Call Number: JGraphic Wang.J*

74. **Sanity & Tallulah** by Molly Brooks. Smart science girls in space! When Sanity’s three-headed kitten escapes into the walls of her space station, she and best friend Tallulah must find it and convince everyone that it’s not responsible for the mysterious power outages. *Call Number: JGraphic Brooks.M*

75. **Sci-Fu: Book 1: Kick it Off by Yehudi Mercado.** In this 1980s tale, all Wax wants is to be the greatest DJ in Brooklyn. When he and his friends and family are abducted by evil space robots, he’ll find it’s those same DJ skills (and a new robotic hand) that are needed to save the day. *Call Number: JGraphic Merca.Y*

76. **Small Things** by Mel Tregonning. In this silent black-and-white tale, a boy is eaten up both literally and figuratively by anxiety. A quiet, evocative story with unique art and a smart message. *Call Number: JGraphic Trego.M*

77. **Between the Lines: How Ernie Barnes Went from the Football Field to the Art Gallery** by Sandra Neil Wallace, ill. Bryan Collier. Ernie Barnes always loved art, but thanks to his sports skills ended up a professional football player instead. Determined to follow his dreams, Barnes committed to his passion, eventually becoming the American Football League’s official artist. *Call Number: xBiog Barne.E Walla.S*


79. **Do Not Lick This Book by Idan Ben-Barak, ill. Julian Frost,** photography by Linnea Rundgren. Combining the tone of an interactive book with high resolution microscopic photography, this book lets kids see firsthand that germs and microbes are everywhere (and how easy it is to move them around). Gross, goofy fun for everyone. *Call Number: x579 Benba.I*

80. **Dreamers by Yuyi Morales.** Yuyi Morales recounts her journey from Mexico to America and how libraries and books opened new worlds for her and her son. A tribute to reading and a beautifully illustrated personal tale. *Call Number: xBiog Moral.Y Moral.Y*
81. Earth! My First 4.54 Billion Years by Stacy McAnulty, ill. by David Litchfield. A quick but comprehensive look at Earth's life, likes, and pet peeves over the last few millennia. Quirky, cute, and fun. Call Number: x550 Mcanu.S

82. The Eye That Never Sleeps: How Detective Pinkerton Saved President Lincoln by Marissa Moss, ill. Jeremy Holmes. This behind-the-scenes look at America's first private eye and his role in protecting Abraham Lincoln from early assassination attempts offers mysterious illustrations in an always interesting presentation.

83. The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler by John Hendrix. If you believe murder is a sin, is it wrong to kill Hitler? A mature graphic-hybrid novel tells the life and dark times of a good man caught in a world gone mad. Call Number: xBiog Bonho.D Hendr.J

84. Frenemies in the Family: Famous Brothers and Sisters Who Butted Heads and Had Each Other's Backs by Kathleen Krull, ill. Maple Lam. You're stuck with the family you have. Covering everyone from Queen Elizabeth and Bloody Mary to the Jacksons and beyond, the good, the bad, and the downright dirty lives of historical siblings are presented, warts and all. Call Number: x306.875 Krull.K


86. The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague by Julia Finley Mosca, ill. Daniel Rieley. Imagine designing a battleship and then not being allowed to attend its opening because you're black! Meet a heroine every kid should know. Call Number: xBiog Monta.R Mosca.J

87. Irving Berlin: The Immigrant Boy Who Made America Sing by Nancy Churnin, ill. James Rey Sanchez. A refugee from Tsarist Russia, Berlin, his humble beginnings, and rise to fame are chronicled alongside handsomely stylized graphics and pops of intense color. Call Number: xBiog Berli.I Churn.N

88. Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles by Patricia Valdez, ill. Felicita Sala. Could you love a komodo dragon so much you'd walk him around like a dog? The world wasn't made for Joan Procter to succeed as a naturalist, so she paved her own way and taught everyone else around her in the process. Call Number: xBiog Proct.J Valde.P

89. Lovely Beasts: The Surprising Truth by Kate Gardner, ill. Heidi Smith. Think you know the animal kingdom? This little book upsets expectations, showing how kind, fierce, and clever animals can sometimes can be. Call Number: x590 Gardn.K

90. Mallko and Dad by Gusti. Sometimes in our quest for perfection we fail to appreciate the truly wonderful. A true story in an eclectic presentation of an artist father and his son with Down syndrome.

91. Marley Dias Gets It Done (And So Can You) by Marley Dias. When Marley Dias started her #1000blackgirlbooks campaign she never could have dreamed it would take off like it did. Now she's here to give tips to kids on reading, style, activism, and being your best self. Call Number: x305.2308 Dias.M

92. Mary Who Wrote Frankenstein by Linda Bailey, ill. Júlia Sardà. How did an 18-year-old girl come to write one of the greatest horror stories of all time? Bailey offers dark, gothic illustrations and a keen knowledge of Mary's early years and influences. Kids will see how creation can be born out of darkness. Call Number: xBiog Shell.M Baile.L

93. The Mushroom Fan Club by Elise Gravel. Hilarious and informative by turns, Gravel shares her deep and abiding love for mushrooms of all shapes and sizes. Just try and not be charmed. Call Number: x579.6 Grave.E
94. My Family Divided: One Girl’s Journey of Home, Loss, and Hope by Diane Guerrero. Imagine coming home from school one day to find your whole family has been deported by ICE. Actress Guerrero tells her story while shining a light on the plight of so many other kids facing the same problems today. Call Number: xBiog Guerr.D

95. Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness by Anastasia Higginbotham. Collage and candor combine in this dissection of white privilege. Provides a solid foundation for critical discussions of white people and racism for young readers everywhere. Call Number: x305.8 Higgi.A


97. Otis and Will Discover the Deep: The Record Setting Dive of the Bathysphere by Barb Rosenstock, ill. Katherine Roy. Imagine diving to 803 feet in a homemade device. Engaging and accurate art as well as a riveting text tell the story of the two men who plunged deep into the sea to see what they could see. Warning: Do not read if prone to claustrophobia. Call Number: x551.46 Rosen.B

98. Spooked! How a Radio Broadcast and The War of the Worlds Sparked the 1938 Invasion of America by Gail Jarrow. What would you do if aliens attacked? Jarrow offers a blow-by-blow account of the day Orson Wells put fear into the hearts of Americans everywhere. Call Number: x791.4472 Jarro.G

99. Thirty Minutes Over Oregon: A Japanese Pilot’s World War II Story by Marc Tyler Nobleman, ill. Melissa Iwai. Nobleman highlights a WWII Japanese attack on Oregon, following how the bomber and the people of Oregon came to terms with one another, forging a friendship that stands as an example for us today. Call Number: x940.5428 Noble.M

100. This Is the Nest That Robin Built by Denise Fleming. Using a classic cumulative format, this book introduces kids to robins’ nest-building methods and the ways that animals “help” with the process. Call Number: JPictur Flemi.D

101. The Truth About Bears by Maxwell Eaton III Call Number: x599.78 Eaton.M
The Truth About Dolphins by Maxwell Eaton III Call Number: x599.532 Eaton.M
The Truth About Hippos by Maxwell Eaton III Call Number: x599.635 Eaton.M
In these three thoroughly engaging books, Eaton uses his signature cartoony style to talk about facts with abundant humor and a lot of laughs.

Committee
Betsy Bird, Hilda Gonzales, Jessica Iverson, Katy Jacob, Hannah Johnson, Leigh Kennelly, Kerry Littel, Judith Mathews, Susan McClelland, Martha Meyer, Bill Ohms, Paula Shapiro, Robin Sindelar, Bridget Sweeney, Kasandra Trejo, Jennifer Wasilewski, and Brian Wilson