

Blockbuster BOOK LIST

Keep your students reading until the next school bell rings. BY KIM GREENE

PICTURE-BOOK PICKS Grades K-2

SOME BUGS

By *Angela DiTerlizzi*, illustrated by *Brendan Wenzel*. \$17.99.

A perfect primer on bugs, this book introduces young readers to the sights and sounds of insects. Its simple text and colorful, detailed pictures will have your students buzzing.

IT'S AN ORANGE AARDVARK!

By *Michael Hall*. \$17.99.

If your young readers enjoy Eric Carle and Lois Ehlert, Hall's book will be right up their alley. The story follows five ants that drill holes in their tree-stump home and concoct a story about the colorful aardvark lurking on the other side.

RULES OF SUMMER

By *Shaun Tan*. \$18.99.

With its running list of rules ("Never be late for a parade"), the text in best-selling author Tan's new book is deceptively simple. It's the intricate—and dark—paintings that tell most of the story about a boy and his older brother.

SPARKY!

By *Jenny Offill*, illustrated by *Chris Appelhans*. \$16.99. In this delightful story,

Sparky's young owner learns that when it comes to sloths, what you see is what you get. The watercolor-and-pencil illustrations are masterful.

THE PILOT AND THE LITTLE PRINCE: The Life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

By *Peter Sís*. \$18.99.

This illustrated biography traces the life of Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, author of *The Little Prince*. Timelines and maps are incorporated in a whimsical way that's not often seen in nonfiction texts.

HELP! WE NEED A TITLE!

By *Hervé Tullet*. \$16.99.

From the author of *Press Here* comes a book that's a work in progress—literally. The characters scramble to draw pictures and develop a story while they track down the author.

BABY BEAR

By *Kadir Nelson*. \$17.99.

Nelson, winner of the Caldecott Honor and Coretta Scott King Author and Illustrator Awards, has written a heartwarming tale about a baby bear that loses his way. Each painting in the book is worthy of framing.

MIDDLE-GRADE MARVELS Grades 3-5

A SNICKER OF MAGIC

By *Natalie Lloyd*. \$16.99.

When Felicity Pickle turns up in the town of Midnight Gulch, she senses a snicker of long-gone magic in the air. She uses her way with words to find where the magic has gone.

TERRORS OF THE DEEP

By *Deborah Lock*. \$5.99.

Take a dive into the depths of the Pacific Ocean aboard a submarine. *Terrors of the Deep* is packed with facts, diagrams, and photos that any budding marine biologist will love.

HALF A CHANCE

By *Cynthia Lord*. \$16.99.

Lord gracefully handled the subject of autism in *Rules* and has done it again with dementia in *Half a Chance*. Lucy faces a moral dilemma about whether to enter a photo of her friend's ailing grandmother in a contest.

RECIPE FOR ADVENTURE: NAPLES!

By *Giada De Laurentiis*. \$6.99.

In this series by famed TV chef De Laurentiis, siblings Alfie and Emilia travel to cities around the world known for their food, including Naples, Paris, and New Orleans. Each book contains two recipes for the young cooks in your life.

MY BIG FAT ZOMBIE GOLDFISH: THE SEAQUEL

By *Mo O'Hara*, illustrated by *Marek Jagucki*. \$12.99.

Following on the heels of its

popular predecessor, the story follows protagonist Tom and his hypnotic goldfish Frankie as they take on big brothers and a Super Electric Zombie Eel.

JUST JAKE

By *Jake Marcionette*. \$11.99.

Written for kids by a kid, this book is a good pick for fans of series like *Timmy Failure* and *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Teen author Jake Marcionette is sure to make your students laugh with his humorous, semi-autobiographical story about popularity and acceptance.

NIGHTINGALE'S NEST

By *Nikki Loftin*. \$16.99.

Inspired by a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale, this story is as heartbreaking as it is magical. Little John is struggling with his sister's death when he meets a girl whose mesmerizing voice has the power to heal. He ultimately must face a difficult decision between family and friendship.

UNDER THE EGG

By *Laura Marx Fitzgerald*. \$16.99.

Theo accidentally spills rubbing alcohol on a painting that belonged to her late grandfather, revealing what she thinks is a masterpiece. She searches for answers about why her grandfather—a former security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art—might have owned this work of art.

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YOUNG-ADULT ADVENTURES

Grades 6-8

CAMINAR

By *Skila Brown*. \$15.99.

Told in verse and inspired by true events, this coming-of-age story finds Carlos in the middle of Guatemala's civil war in 1981. The boy is tasked with warning his family members about the approaching soldiers.

THE MARK OF THE DRAGONFLY

By *Jaleigh Johnson*. \$16.99.

In this fantasy adventure novel, Piper discovers a girl in the wreckage of the Meteor Fields and must help her find her way home to the Dragonfly Territories.

THE RIVERMAN

By *Aaron Starmer*. \$15.99.

Fiona Loomis tells her friend Alistair Cleary that a creature called the Riverman is stealing the souls of children—and she will be next. In this first book of a trilogy, Alistair must figure out if Fiona's tale is truth or fiction.

THE BOUNDLESS

By *Kenneth Oppel*. \$16.99.

Protagonist Will travels aboard a train called *The Boundless* as it chugs its way across the Canadian Pacific Railway. Will fends off all sorts of villains intent on stealing a key that unlocks the train's treasures.

THE FINISHER

By *David Baldacci*. \$17.99.

New York Times best-selling author Baldacci tells the tale of teenage Vega, who leaves the village of Wormwood for the first time in search of a kindly family friend. Along the way, she must navigate a forest of beasts and uncover long-lost secrets.

PURE GRIT: How American World War II Nurses Survived Battle and Prison Camp in the Pacific

By *Mary Cronk Farrell*. \$24.95.

A detailed work of nonfiction, *Pure Grit* recounts the saga of 101 brave women who served as Army and Navy nurses in the Philippines during World War II and were taken prisoner by the Japanese.