



*J's Best Picks for 2012... So  
Far*

*KASL — Dream, Create,*

*Inspire*

*Thursday, October 18, 2012*



*Julie Tomlianovich*  
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## *Non-Fiction*

Codell, Esme Raji. **Seed by Seed-The Legend and Legacy of John Appleseed Chapman.** Lynne Rae Perkins, illus. Greenwillow (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-145515-5) \$16.99 (Pre.-3<sup>rd</sup> Gr.)

His real name was John Chapman. He grew apples. Why should he be remembered, more than 200 years after he was born? Codell and Perkins show in eloquent words and exhilarating pictures why Johnny Appleseed matters now.

Cross, Gillian. **The Odyssey.** Neil Packer, illus. Candlewick. (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-4791-9) \$19.99.(Gr. 3-up)

Odysseus faces storm and shipwreck, a terrifying man-eating Cyclops, the alluring but deadly Sirens, and the fury of the sea-god Poseidon as he makes his ten-year journey home from the Trojan War. While Odysseus struggles to make it home, his wife, Penelope, fights a different kind of battle as her palace is invaded by forceful, greedy men who tell her that Odysseus is dead and she must choose a new husband. Homer's epic, age-old story is powerfully told and stunningly illustrated.

Davies, Nicola **Outside Your Window: A First Book of Nature.** Illus. Mark Hearld. Candlewick Press. (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5549-5) \$19.99 (Pre.-Gr. 3)

To write Outside Your Window I cast off my grown-up self and found the me I was at five or six. Inside that younger self I could see the world as I saw it first - not just the sights and sounds of nature, but the feelings and the thoughts about it that ran through me, strong as the tide." - Nicola Davies

Freedman, Russell **The Boston Tea Party.** Peter Malone, illus. Holiday House. (ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2266-1) \$17.99. (Gr. 3-5)

More than any other event, the Boston Tea Party of 1773 has come to stand for the determination of American colonists to control their own destinies. Source notes, bibliography, time line, afterword, historical map, index.

Hennessy, B. G. **The Scary Places Map Book Seven Terrifying Tours.** Ervin Madrid, illus. Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-4541-0) \$15.99

Take a tour of seven spooky places, among them the Wicked Woods, a Ghostly Galleon, and the Western Terror-tories. Along the way, avoid booby traps, search for hidden objects, and learn basic map reading skills! A map key, items to look for, and points of interest, such as Dracula's Castle and Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory, are included for each eerie region.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. **Forget-Me-Nots: Poems to Learn by Heart.** Michael Emberley, illus. Little, Brown (ISBN-13: 978-0-316-12947-3) \$19.99 (All Ages)

In this new anthology, Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman shares a brand-new collection of poems especially suitable for learning by heart and saying aloud. In addition to beloved poems by Mary Ann herself, this collection also features poems by such notable poets as Carl Sandburg, Karla Kuskin, and Jack Prelutsky

Jenkins, Steve. **Beetle Book.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-68084-2) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-8)

With legs, antennae, horns, beautiful shells, knobs, and other oddities - what's not to life about beetles? From the goliath beetle that weighs one fourth of a pound to the nine inch long titan beetle, Jenkins presents an array of these intriguing insects and the many amazing adaptations they have made to survive.

Lewis, J. Patrick. **Edgar Allan Poe's Pie: Math Puzzlers in Classic Poems.** Michael Stack, illus. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-51338-6) \$16.99 (Gr. 1-4)

Poetry? Math? A brainteaser? It's all that and more. The poet Lewis has reimagined classic poems—such as Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven* and Langston Hughes's *April Rain Song*—and added a dash of math. Between the silly parodies and the wonderfully wacky art, kids will have so much fun figuring out the puzzles, they won't guess they're learning! Answers appear unobtrusively on each page, and engaging information about the original poets is included. Math games and concepts, poetry and poet biographies—it's all so cleverly put together. This funny book is a treat for fans of words and numbers alike.

Moss, Marissa. **Amelia's Back-to-School Survival Guide.** Simon & Schuster (ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-4349-5) \$12.99 (Gr. 3-6)

Two popular titles from Marissa Moss's bestselling *Amelia* series join together in one fantastic bind-up. In *Vote 4 Amelia*, a passion for politics turns into a battle for justice when an opponent spreads lies, and it's up to Amelia to save her friend's reputation—and the class elections. And in *Amelia's Guide to Babysitting*, Amelia and Carly decide to start a babysitting service, and when they meet their first charges, they realize they are in for quite an adventure!

Nivola, Claire A.. **Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux (ISBN-13: 978-0-374-38068-7) \$17.99 (K-Gr. 3)

With stunningly detailed pictures of the wonders of the sea, *Life in the Ocean* tells the story of Sylvia's growing passion and how her ocean exploration and advocacy have made her known around the world. This picture book biography also includes an informative author's note that will motivate young environmentalists.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Beyond Courage: The Untold Story of Jewish Resistance During the Holocaust.** Candlewick Press (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2976-2) \$22.99

Rappaport illuminates the defiance of tens of thousands of Jews across eleven Nazi-occupied countries during World War II. In answer to the genocidal madness that was Hitler's Holocaust, the only response they could abide was resistance, and their greatest weapons were courage, ingenuity, the will to survive, and the resolve to save others or to die trying. Extensive end matter includes: timeline of important events, index, pronunciation guide, source notes, maps integrated throughout text.

Rusch, Elizabeth. **The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures of Spirit and Opportunity.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-47881-4) \$18.99 (Gr.3-8)

Newest addition to the *Scientists in the Field* series, readers are taken behind the scenes and straight into mission control -- where it seemed like everything that could go wrong did go wrong. Running out of power, getting stuck in ditches, becoming lost in dust storms -- Spirit and Opportunity faced numerous challenges, and each time, the scientists devised a way to solve the problems. This is for every child who looks up into the dark night and wonders if he or she might solve some of the mysteries of our universe, NASA photos.

Scott, Elaine. **Buried Alive! How 33 Miners Survived 69 Days Deep under the Chilean Desert.** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-69178-7) \$17.99 (Gr. 4-9)

In August 2010, thirty-three miners were buried alive, two thousand feet below the surface of the earth. After seventeen tense days, just as hope was nearly gone, rescuers made contact with the men. This amazing true story about problem-solving, community, and real-life heroes is made kid-friendly. It will inspire for years to come. Photos, glossary. Index.

Silvey, Anita. **The Plant Hunters: True Stories of Their Daring Adventures to the Far Corners of the Earth.** Farrar, Straus & Giroux (ISBN-13: 978-0-374-30908-4) \$19.99

Working from primary sources—journals, letters, and notes from the field, the author introduces readers to these daring adventurers and scientists. She takes readers into the heart of their expeditions to then-uncharted places such as the Amazon basin, China, and India. As she brings a colorful cast of characters to life, she shows what motivated these Indiana Jones–type heroes. In *The Plant Hunters*, science, history, and adventure have been interwoven to tell a largely forgotten—yet fascinating—story.

Townsend, Mike. **Where Do Presidents Come From? And Other Presidential Stuff of Super Great Importance.** Dial (ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3748-8) \$14.99 (Gr. 5-8)

Just in time for the 2012 election, Townsend presents his comic book guide to everything you ever wanted to know (and maybe a few things you didn't!) about the President of the United States. It's full of insanely weird facts about our leaders, as well as the history and powers of the presidency, day-to-day life, and pros and cons of the job. Even the most mundane of facts become hilarious in this brilliantly cheeky guide to our nation's MVP.

## *Fiction – Chapter Books*

Applegate, Katherine. **One and Only Ivan.** HarperCollins (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-199225-4) 16.99 (Gr. 4-7)  
An unforgettable and uplifting tween animal fantasy that explores the power of friendship, art, and hope with humor and touching poignancy.

Babbitt, Natalie. **Moon Over High Street.** Scholastic (ISBN-13: 978-0-545-37636-5) \$15.95 (Gr. 5-9)  
Joe Casimir needed help with the choice he had to make. But how do you choose the person who will help you choose? Mr. Boulderwall, the millionaire, knew exactly what he wanted Joe to choose. The good advice was there, though. Right across the street. Just waiting right across the street. There are a lot of good things just waiting.

Bauer, Marion Dane. **Little Dog, Lost.** Atheneum (ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-3423-3) \$14.99 (Gr. 3-5)  
A boy, a dog, and an old man are lonely before the boy plans a rally, the dog looks for a boy, and all the townspeople run to the old man's aid when lightning strikes his home and something miraculous happens.

Bell, Juliet. **Kepler's Dream.** Putnam (ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25645-5) \$16.99 (Gr 4-7)  
While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

Cheng, Andrea. **Year of the Book.** HM (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-68463-5) \$15.99 (Gr. 2-5)  
In Chinese, *peng you* means friend. But in any language, all Anna knows for certain is that friendship is complicated. When Anna needs company, she turns to her books. Whether traveling through *A Wrinkle in Time*, or peering over *My Side of the Mountain*, books provide what real life cannot, constant companionship and insight into her changing world.

Clifton, Lutricia. **Freaky Fast Frankie Joe.** Holiday House (ISBN-13: 978-0-8234-2367-5) \$16.95 (Gr 3-6)  
Twelve-year-old Frankie Joe Huckaby, forced to live with the father he never knew, a stepmother, and four half-brothers in Illinois, starts a delivery service to finance his escape back to his mother in Texas, not realizing he is making a better life for himself than he ever had with her.

Creech, Sharon. **Great Unexpected.** Harper (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-189233-2) \$17.89 (Gr. 5-7)

In the little town of Blackbird Tree live two orphan girls: Naomi brimming with curiosity, and her best friend, who could talk the ears off a cornfield. Naomi has a knack for being around when trouble happens. One day, a boy drops out of a tree. Then the Dingle Dangle man appears, asking all kinds of questions. Curious surprises are revealed—three locked trunks, a pair of rooks, a crooked bridge, and that boy. Meanwhile, on a grand estate across the ocean, an old lady whose heart has been deceived concocts a plan. . .

DeKeyser, Stacy. **Brixen Witch.** McElderry (ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-3328-1) \$15.99 (Gr. 4-7)

An enchanted coin. A witch's curse. And rats, rats everywhere! What's a boy to do? When Rudi Bauer accidentally takes a witch's coin, he unleashes her curse. Accident or not, he knows he's got to fix things, so he tries to return the coin, only to lose it on the witch's magic mountain just as the snows come. Plagued all winter by terrible dreams, Rudi tries to find the coin again in the spring, but it has vanished—and a plague of rats has descended on his village.

Engle, Margarita. **Wild Book.** Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-58131-6) \$16.99 (Gr. 6-9)

In early twentieth-century Cuba, bandits terrorize the countryside as a young farm girl struggles with dyslexia. Based on the life of the author's grandmother.

Hoban, Russell. **Soonchild.** Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5920-2) \$15.99 (Gr. 7-up)

In Hoban's final work, rough-edged characters who speak in prose-poetry hurtle through an Arctic world in which humans, animals, and underworld spirits share a dizzying variety of magical powers... Hoban fearlessly tackles the big questions: the distinction between the real and the unreal, the nature of courage, and the debt humans owe the dead and the unborn

House, Silas and Neela Vaswani. **Same Sun Here.** Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5684-3) \$15.99 (Gr. 4-7)

In this novel in letters, an Indian immigrant girl in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son find strength and perspective by sharing their true selves across the miles.

MacLachlan, Patricia. **Kindered Souls.** HarperCollins (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-052297-1) \$14.99 (Gr. 3-5)

Jake's grandfather, Billy, hears the talk of birds, is eighty-eight years old, and is going to live forever. Even when Billy gets sick, Jake knows that everything will go on as always. But there's one thing Billy wants: to rebuild the sod house where he grew up. Can Jake give him this one special thing?

Moulton, Erin E. **Tracing Stars.** Philomel (ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25696-7) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-7)

In a small seaside town during the summer before sixth grade, Indie Lee Chickory tries to follow her older sister's popularity advice by working backstage on the upcoming community theater musical and by not revealing that she is looking for her beloved pet lobster and becoming friends with "loser" Owen Stone.

Murphy, Sally. **Toppling.** Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5921-9) \$15.99 (Gr. 3-5)

All John cares about is setting the world record for knocking down dominoes and spending time with his best friends at school until his closest friend, Dom, is hospitalized, leaving John and the gang wondering what to do for him.

Palacio, R.J. **Wonder.** Knopf (ISBN-13: 978-0-375-96902-7) \$18.99 (Gr. 3-7)

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

Rosenthal, Betsy R. **Looking for Me.** HM (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-61084-9) \$15.99 (Gr. 4-7)  
One of twelve siblings growing up in depression-era Baltimore, Edith isn't quite sure of who she is. Between working at her father's diner, taking care of her younger siblings, and living in the shadow of her more mature sisters, Edith feels lost in a sea of siblings. Full of joy, pain, humor, and sadness, this novel in verse is a wonderful look at the life of Edith Paul, the author's mother, and is an enduring portrait (complete with family photos and an author's note at the end) of one family's pursuit of the American dream.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. **Splendors and Glooms.** Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5380-4) \$17.99 (Gr. 4-9)  
When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

Smith, Jennifer E. **Storm Makers.** Little Brown (ISBN-13: 978-0-316-17958-4) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-7)  
Twelve-year-olds Ruby and Simon have been growing apart since their parents moved them to a Wisconsin farm, but weird weather events that seem tied to Simon's emotions bring a stranger into their lives who introduces them to the Makers of Storms Society, strengthening the bond between the twins.

Standtford, Natalie. **Secret Tree.** Scholastic (ISBN-13: 978-0-545-33479-2) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-7)  
Minty's neighborhood is full of mysteries. There's the Witch House, the Man Bat, and there are the Mean Boys, David and Troy, who torment Minty for no reason, and her boy-crazy older sister, Thea, who acts weirder and weirder. One day Minty spots a flash in the woods, and when she chases after it, she discovers a new mystery-- a Secret Tree, with a hollow trunk that holds the secrets of everyone in the neighborhood.

Sullivan, Mary. **Dear Blue Sky.** Nancy Paulsen Books (ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25684-4) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-7)  
Ever since her brother Sef left for Iraq, Cassie has felt like her life is falling apart. Her parents are fighting over her brother having gone to war. Her smart, beautiful sister is messing up. Her little brother, who has Down syndrome, is pretending he's a Marine. And her best friend no longer has time for her. In her loneliness Cassie turns to a surprising source of comfort: Blue Sky, an Iraqi girl she meets through her blog.

Turner, Amber McRee. **Sway.** Hyperion (ISBN-13: 978-1-4231-3477-0) \$16.99 (Gr. 4-6)  
Ten-year-old Cass's attitude changes after her mother, whom she idolizes, leaves her behind, and her father who previously seemed boring and practical, takes her on a summer road trip in which he shows her the creative, magical side of himself.

Watts, Jeri. **Kizzy Ann Stamps.** Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5895-3) \$15.99 (Gr. 5-8)  
In 1963, as Kizzy Ann prepares for her first year at an integrated school, she worries about the color of her skin, the scar running from the corner of her right eye to the tip of her smile, and whether anyone at the white school will like her. She writes letters to her new teacher in a clear, insistent voice, stating her troubles and asking questions with startling honesty. The new teacher is supportive, but not everyone feels the same, so there is a lot to write about. But Shag, her border collie, is her refuge.

## *Picture Books*

Aesop. **Town Mouse and the Country Mouse.** Helen Ward, illus. Templar BKS (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-6098-7) \$16.99 (Gr. K-up)

Helen Ward's 1930s New York at Christmas is at once gorgeous and frighteningly busy. In the end the reader understands both why the town mouse loves his exciting life and why the country mouse is content with his peaceful home.

Barnett, Mac. **Extra Yarn**. Jon Klassen, illus. HarperCollins (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-195338-5) \$16.99 (Pre-3<sup>rd</sup>)

With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

Burleigh, Robert. **Hit the Road Jack**. Ross MacDonald, illus. Abrams (ISBN-13: 978-1-4197-0399-7) \$17.95 (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)

Loosely inspired by Jack Kerouac's, *On the Road*, a scat-singing, be-bopping jackrabbit travels across the United States and marvels at all the wonders that the country reveals—from hopping on the subway in New York City to playing a jukebox in Chicago, and from gazing at Mount Rushmore to crossing the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Written in the rhythm and spirit of Beat poetry, this is an exuberant story of experiencing all the country has to offer with wide-eyed awe.

Florian, Douglas. **Poem Runs**. Harcourt (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-68838-1) \$16.99 (Gr. 1-4)

Florian's collection of baseball poems brings wordplay, wit, and laughter to America's springtime tradition. From the first pitch to the last out, and all nine innings in between, these poems offer something for anyone who's ever played-or watched-a game of baseball.

Goodrich, Carter. **Zorro Gets an Outfit**. Simon & Schuster (ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-3535-3) \$15.99 (Pre-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Er Bud and Zorro get along just great. They wake up together, have walk time together, and take naps together. But something is about to interrupt their schedule: Zorro has to wear a fancy outfit.

Griffith, Helen V. **Moonlight**. Laura Dronzek, illus. Greenwillow (ISBN-13: 978-0-06-203285-0) \$16.99 (Pre.-K)

One night after Rabbit goes into his burrow to sleep, the moon comes out covering the countryside like butter, awakening Rabbit to come out and dance.

Johnson, D.B. **Magritte's Marvelous Hat**. HM (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-82244-0) (Gr. 3-up)

Johnson writes and illustrates the surreal story of famous surrealist painter Rene Magritte and his very mysterious (and mischievous!) hat. While the art reflects some of Magritte's own work, the text sets readers on a fun and accessible path to learning about the simpler concepts behind Mr. Magritte's work.

Joyce, William. **Fantastic Flying Books of Mr Morris Lessmore**. S&S (ISBN-13: 978-1-4424-5702-7) (K-up)

Morris Lessmore loves words, stories and books, and after a tornado carries him to another land, dreary and colorless, he finds a single book in color that leads him to an amazing library where, he learns, the books need him as much as he needs them.

Klassen, Jon. **This Is Not My Hat**. Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5599-0)

When a tiny fish shoots into view wearing a round blue topper (which happens to fit him perfectly), trouble *could* be following close behind. So it's a good thing that enormous fish won't wake up. And even if he does, it's not like he'll ever know what happened. . . . Visual humor swims to the fore with this deadpan-funny tale.

London, Jonathan. **Little Lost Tiger**. Ilya Spirin, illus. Marshall Cavendish (ISBN-13: 978-0-7614-6130-2) \$17.99 (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)

Amba, a Siberian tiger cub, is separated from his mother by a forest fire in the Siberian wilderness. Fiction based on real events.

Maclear, Kyo. **Virginia Wolf**. Isabelle Arsenault, illus. Kids Can Press (ISBN-13: 978-1-55453-649-8)  
Loosely based on the relationship between author Virginia Woolf and her sister, painter Vanessa Bell, Virginia Wolf is an uplifting story for readers of all ages. When Virginia wakes up feeling "wolfish," her sister, Vanessa, tries to cheer her up. After treats, funny faces and other efforts fail, Vanessa begins to paint a glorious mural depicting the world of the sisters' imagination. Will it help lift Virginia from her doldrums?

McClure, Nikki. **Apple**. Abrams (ISBN-13: 978-1-4197-0378-2) (Pre-K)  
McClure's signature paper-cuts, follows the life of an apple and shows the cyclical patterns in nature. In the opening spread, a ripe, red apple falls from a tree. A man gathers the apple to take home. His daughter takes the apple to school for lunch, but mistakenly drops it after taking a bite.

McPhail, David. **Family Tree**. Henry Holt (ISBN-13: 978-0-8050-9057-4) (K.- 4<sup>th</sup> Gr)  
A man in the 1800s comes upon a beautiful forest and decides to build his home there. When he clears the land, he leaves one special tree to grace his front yard. Over the years, several generations of his family enjoy this tree until a plan to build a highway threatens its survival. A young boy and his host of animal friends get together to make a stand, and give back to the tree which has given them so much.

Manning, Maurie J. **Laundry Day**. Clarion (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-24196-8) \$16.99 (K-3<sup>rd</sup> Gr)  
In a picture book that blends realism and fantasy, a shoeshine boy is surprised when a piece of red silk falls from the sky. Trying to find its owner, he ventures up and down fire escapes, back and forth across clotheslines, and into the company of the colorfully diverse people who live in the tenement. Lively pages laid out in multiple panels, with a few words of text in dialogue balloons, capture the exhilarating action, and foreign language phrases are translated on the endpapers.

Nyeu, Tao. **Squid and Octopus Friends for Always**. Dial (ISBN-13: 978-0-8037-3565-1) (  
The four tales show funny moments in the life of best friends Squid and Octopus. Yes, they argue sometimes (about things as silly as whether they should wear mittens or socks to keep their tentacles warm!), but they are always able to cheer each other up in glum times (such as when Squid wakes from the dream of being a superhero and feels disappointed to be plain old Squid again).

Pinkwater, Daniel. **Bear in Love**. Will Hillenbrand, illus. Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-4569-4) \$16.99 (K-1<sup>st</sup>)  
One morning, the bear finds something just outside his cave. It is orange and long and pointy and has bushy green leaves at one end. And it's sweet and crunchy! Where did it come from? Did someone leave it for him? Then there are two more of the sweet crunchy things the next morning! The bear knows that someone nice is leaving him these treats. If only he could discover who it is! Should he leave something tasty in return?

Reynolds, Peter. **Sky Color**. Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-2345-6) \$14.00 (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Marisol loves to paint. So when her teacher asks her to help make a mural for the school library, she can't wait to begin! But wait-how can Marisol ever make a sky without blue paint? After gazing out the bus window and watching from her porch as day turns into night, she closes her eyes and starts to dream

Springman, I.C. **More**. Brian Lies, illus. HM (ISBN-13: 978-0-547-61083-2) \$16.99 (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
This innovative and spare picture book asks the question: When is MORE, more than enough? Can a team of well-intentioned mice save their friend from hoarding too much stuff? With breathtaking illustrations created by the award-winning Brian Lies, this book about friendship and conservation wraps an important message in a beautiful package. One magpie, lots of stuff, and a few friendly mice show readers that less is MORE!

Stimpson, Colin. **Jack and the Baked Beanstalk**. Candlewick (ISBN-13: 978-0-7636-5563-1) (K-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Jack and his mom run a little café, but business has dried up and they're nearly broke. So when Jack comes home with only an old can of baked beans in return for their last few pennies, his mother throws it out the window. Overnight it grows into a gigantic baked beanstalk, which takes Jack to the castle of a giant who spends all his time counting his huge fortune.

Stoop, Naoko. **Red Knit Cap Girl**. Little Brown (ISBN-13: 978-0-316-12946-6) (K-1<sup>st</sup>)  
Red Knit Cap Girl lives with her animal friends in an enchanted forest. There is so much to see and do, but more than anything Red Knit Cap Girl wishes she could talk to the Moon. A journey of curiosity, imagination, and joy as they search for a way to meet the Moon. Gorgeously illustrated on wood grain, Red Knit Cap Girl's curiosity, imagination, and joy will captivate the hearts of readers young and old as her journey offers a gentle reminder to appreciate the beauty of the natural world around us.

Vaccaro Seeger, Laura. **Green**. Roaring Brook Press (ISBN-13: 978-1-59643-397-7) \$16.99 (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)  
How many kinds of green are there? There's the lush green of a forest on a late spring day, the fresh, juicy green of a just-cut lime, the incandescent green of a firefly, and the vivid aquamarine of a tropical sea. In her newest book, Caldecott and Geisel Honor Book author Seeger fashions an homage to a single color and, in doing so, creates a book that inspires delight in *all* the colors of creation.

Weiner, Miriam. **Shakespeare's Seasons**. Shannon Whitt, illus. Downtown Bookworks (ISBN-13: 978-1-935703-57-0) \$15.99 (Gr. 2<sup>nd</sup>-up)  
Carefully curated excerpts from Shakespeare's works accompany spectacular art to illustrate the seasons. Snippets from familiar sonnets such as "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate" are included as well as elegant selections from King Lear, The Winter's Tale, The Tempest, and other famous plays. A stunning and simple first taste of Shakespeare, this really special book will appeal to parents as well as children.

Wolf, Karina. **Insomniacs**. Ben/Sean Hiltz, illus. Putnam (ISBN-13: 978-0-399-25665-3) \$16.99 (K-up)  
The wonder of nighttime comes to life in this breathtaking debut. When the Insomniacs move twelve time zones away for Mrs. Insomniac's new job, the family has an impossible time adapting to the change. They try everything to fall asleep at night--take hot baths, count to one thousand, sip mugs of milk--but nothing helps. Venturing out into the dark, they learn there is a whole world still awake and a beauty in their new and unconventional schedule.