

Ankylosaurus by Lori Dittmer. (9781640265004, English), (9781640008939, Spanish). Easy Nonfiction. Seedlings books are one of my all time favorite non-fiction series for preschoolers. From the publisher: "Early readers are introduced to Ankylosaurus, a Cretaceous plant eater. Friendly text and dynamic photos share the dinosaur's looks, behaviors, and diet, based on scientific research" Other titles include Tyrannosaurus Rex, Stegosaurus, Apatosaurus, and more. All titles can be found in Spanish, too. Published in 2024.



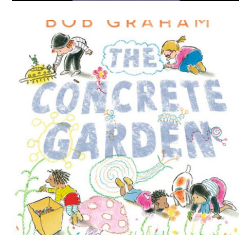
As Brave as a Lion / Valiente Como un León by Erika Meza. (9781536225082, English), (9781536225075, Spanish). Picture Book. The bold illustrations in this picture book about bravery elevate it to excellent storytime material. There's a new, tall slide to try, and it's intimidating for both a child and their lion, but they go down! Erika Meza is a Mexican author and illustrator residing in the UK. Published in 2023.



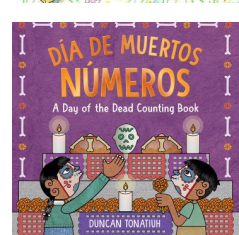
El Barrilito Mágico de Papá (Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock) by Jesús Trejo. (9781662651373). Picture Book. In this Spanish-language edition of Mexican American comedian Jesús Trejo's debut picture book, little Jesús makes a big, funny mistake as he works alongside his landscaper papá, but father and son find a heartwarming solution. Published in 2023.



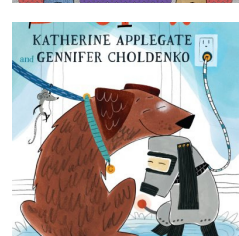
Benita and the Night Creatures / Benita y las Criaturas Nocturnas by Mariana Llanos, illustrated by Cocoretto. (9798888590027, English), (9798888590416, Spanish). Picture Book. This funny picture book sees monsters fail to scare a child who is entranced by the book she is reading. They try again and again, with more and more monsters joining. On the shortlist for a CLEL Bell, I recommend this title as a group read aloud with the audience participating in the sounds of the monsters. Mariana Llanos is a Peruvian children's author who lives in the U.S. Published in 2023.



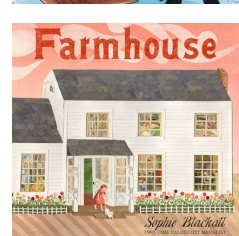
Concrete Garden by Bob Graham. (9781536233803). Picture Book. Winter is over! Time for going outside. On every inch of the pavement, children draw pictures of flowers and trees, mushrooms and snails, and a few very unexpected things. Their creativity brings hope and beauty to the residents. Published in 2023.



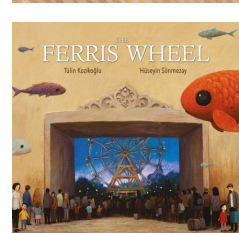
Día de Muertos Números: A Day of the Dead Counting Book by Duncan Tonatiuh. (9781419764462). A toddler friendly, bilingual counting book about preparing a Day of the Dead altar. The gatefold illustration is gorgeous. Duncan Tonatiuh is both Mexican and American. Published in 2023.



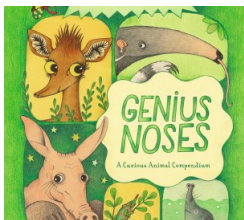
Dog Town by Katherine Applegate. (9781250811608). Juvenile Fiction. Welcome to Dogtown, a shelter for regular dogs—and robot dogs (don't ask, just go with it). As Chance connects with Metal Head, the two make a brief escape into the wider world, and Chance learns a familiar lesson: Everyone longs for a place to belong. Chance's chatty narrative style includes flashbacks, vignettes about fellow shelter pets, and thoughtful observations. Published in 2023.



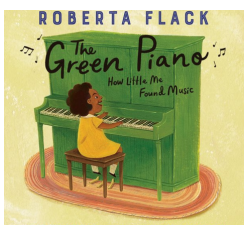
Farmhouse Sophie Blackall. (9780316528948). Picture Book. In rhythmic, lightly rhyming verse and densely textured multimedia spreads whose collaged layers mimic the strata of stories built up over generations, a farmhouse provides the setting for a dozen children to live and grow, and when they leave, another family arrives to fill the house with love again. Blackall is a two-time Caldecott Medalist. Published in 2022.



The Ferris Wheel by Tülin Kozikoğlu. (9781623717216). Picture Book. This story tells a poignant story of two families going through "the same thing" with very different experiences. Two parallel journeys in cities far apart: a mother and a son leave their home for a better day, while a father and a daughter leave their home for a safer day. Published in 2023.

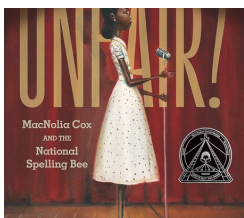


**Genius Noses: a Curious Animal Compendium** by Lena Anlauf. (9780735845350). Nonfiction Picture Book. What can animals do with their noses besides smell? Noses can tell us a lot about animal habits and habitats. An animal collection of special species from around the world -- filled with amazing facts celebrating the diversity in nature. "Fascinating insights into the world of animal noses, whether small, large, round or star-shaped. Published in 2023.



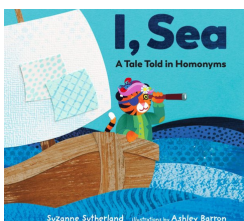
**The Green Piano** by Roberta Flack. (9780593479872). Nonfiction Picture Book.

Singer Flack looks back on her childhood. A rescued piano from a junkyard for the 9-year-old prodigy, serves as a memorable central image, but the memoir is really about the joys of growing up in a musical family and turning musical dreams into reality through years of listening, practice, and study. Published in 2023.



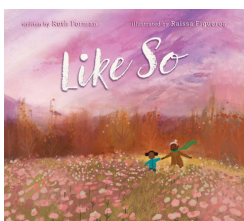
**How Do You Spell Unfair? MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee** by Carole Boston Weatherford. (9781536232035). A Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book. Nonfiction Picture Book.

MacNolia's Spelling Bee warm win in Akron Ohio turned to chill when the train crossed the state line into Maryland, where segregation was the law of the land. Prejudice and discrimination ruled--on the train, in the hotel, and, sadly, at the spelling bee itself. This is the story of MacNolia's achievement, magnificently told by award-winning creators. Published in 2023.



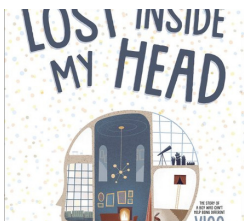
**I, Sea: a Tale Told in Homonyms** by Suzanne Sutherland. (9781771474993).

At first glance, this is a simple and fun pirate story. But there's more to this story than first meets the eye. See? On the final page, readers discover that this charming and whimsical story was played out by a child with toys in their bathtub. Published in 2023.



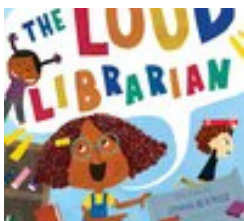
**Like So** by Ruth Forman. (9781665917544). Picture Book.

A Black-presenting grandparent and grandchild have endless love for one another. Just as the sun loves the day and the moon loves the waves, a grandmother shows how her family's love is natural and connected to the world around them. Published in 2024.



**Lost Inside My Head** by Vigg. (9781459835948). Picture Book.

In this tale translated from French, a young boy with ADHD describes his thought processes. Life is full of distractions, but for someone with attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), all those distractions can seem chaotic and lead to paralysis as well as low self-esteem. Published in 2023.



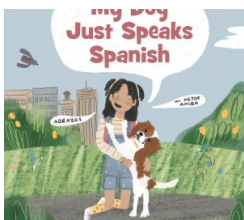
**The Loud Librarian** by Jenna Beatrice. (9781665910545). Picture Book.

Penelope is loud but finds belonging while staying true to herself as a student librarian. This book is for all future and current youth librarians feeling like they are a little out of place until they find their calling. Published 2023.



**My Dad Is a Tree** by Jon Agee. (9780593531372). Picture Book.

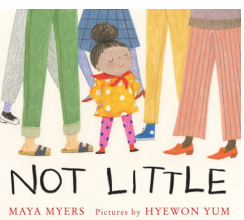
An imaginative picture book that encourages playing pretend finds an obedient father going along as his child plots to stay outside all day long--even in the rain, and even when wildlife take up resident in dad's "branches." A satisfying role reversal. Published in 2023.



**My Dog Just Speaks Spanish / Mi perro solo habla español** by Andrea Cáceres. (9781536222784, English), (9781536229882, Spanish). Picture Book.

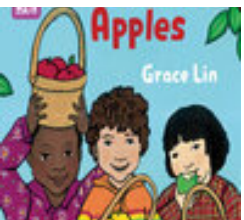
A child explains to the reader that their dog only knows Spanish and takes a walk sharing all the words their dog knows. Full of action words, this picture book works great for a bilingual storytime with the new vocabulary demonstrated or acted out. The author Andrea Cáceres was born in Venezuela and lives in the United States. Published in 2023.



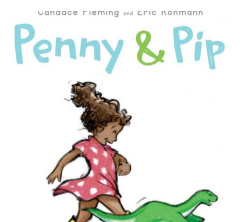


Not Little by Maya Myers. (9780823446193). Picture Book.

Though she's the smallest, in stature in her (mixed-race) family and in her (diverse) class, Dot insists: "I'm not little." She is big in personality and intellect. When a new, also diminutive kid joins the class, he's teased at recess and lunch by a "mean kid" (Luckily the plucky protagonist is able to use her big voice, conveyed loud and clear in Myers's conversational text, to stand up for what's right. Published in 2021.

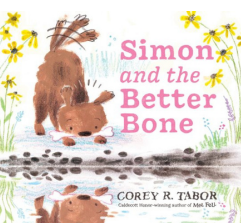


Our Favorite Apples by Grace Lin. (9781632893161, English) (9781632893765 Bilingual Spanish/English). Board Book. Fall, apples, sorting, a multiethnic group of kids. This board book from the Storytelling Math series is my toddler's favorite of 2023. A Spanish/English bilingual edition will be released in May 2024. Other titles in this series include The Last Marshmallow, Up To My Knees, Circle! Sphere!, Where Are The Eggs, and more! Published in 2023.



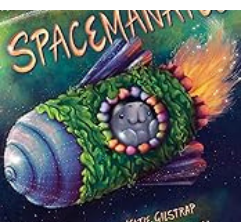
Penny and Pip by Candace Fleming. (9781665913317). Picture Book.

Haven't you always wanted your very own baby dinosaur?! Penny and Pip become fast friends while Penny visits the museum. As they leave together, the reader will beg for more adventures of this darling duo. Published in 2023.



Simon and the Better Bone by Corey R. Tabor. (9780063275553). Picture Book.

One day, down by the pond, Simon meets another dog just like him. And that dog has a bone just like his, only better! How will Simon ever get him to trade, when the other pup knows all the same tricks? Using the same innovative format as his Caldecott Honor winner, Mel Fell, Corey R. Tabor reimagines Aesop's "The Dog and His Reflection" in a clever, charming tale of empathy and generosity. Published in 2023.



Spacemanatees by Katie Gilstrap. (9781433840371). Picture Book.

There's more than one way to get preschoolers excited about space and this book is definitely one way. "The rhyming text is bright and charming, the characters are appealing and energetic, and the message is clear and accessible... A whimsical, enjoyable tale designed to encourage self-confidence." — Kirkus Published in 2023.



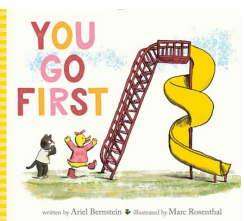
To the Other Side Erica Mezza. (9780063073166). Picture Book.

"A girl reframes the dangerous border crossing between Mexico and the United States as a game to help her brother through the journey"—Gorgeous illustrations and storyline will give you all the feels. Published in 2023.



Wepa by J. De la Vega. (9781948066549). Picture Book.

Her mom thinks she is too messy; her teachers think she is too loud. But Grandma says that's nonsense. Mia Emilia Lucia Renata simply has too much wepa! In a bilingual text, with both English and Spanish versions of the prose on every page, de la Vega tells an empowering story exploring the experiences of kids with ADHD. Published in 2023.



You Go First. Ariel Bernstein. (9781665911511). Kirkus Starred Review. Picture Book.

Cat and Duck are very good friends and play together all the time, so when the new slide gets built, they can't wait to try it out! Only, the slide is very big and curvy—what if it's too big for Cat? As Cat and Duck move closer to the front of the line, Cat imagines everything that could go wrong. Luckily, this sweet tale ends with a jubilant ending, er, sliding. Published in 2023.



Your School Is the Best! by Maggie Hutchings. (9780735271647). Picture Book.

The confident cockroach crawls into the child's backpack,. The stowaway bug sinks his teeth into a grammar textbook, investigates a peapod science experiment, and plays in pencil shavings. The kooky cockroach's unwavering, happy-go-lucky obliviousness cannot be exterminated. Published in 2023.