2019 Read Alouds: Upper Elementary

**Before She Was Harriet**
by Lesa Cline-Ransome
This beautifully illustrated picture book takes the reader backwards through Harriet Tubman’s life. Lyrical language describes many roles that shaped her, including some perhaps less familiar, to provide a complete overview of an American icon.

**Clayton Byrd Goes Underground**
by Rita Williams-Garcia
Clayton Byrd and his grandfather share a love of blues music, but when Cool Papa Byrd suddenly dies, Clayton’s mother is intent on removing every trace of the blues from his life. So Clayton sets off in search of his music, but he finds an unexpected adventure instead.

**Imagine That!: How Dr. Seuss Wrote the Cat in the Hat**
by Judy Sierra
Dr. Seuss had already written nine picture books before accepting the challenge of writing a book for beginning readers. This brightly illustrated picture book describes the process that led to The Cat in the Hat and includes writing tips from Dr. Seuss himself.

**Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability**
by Shane Burcaw
Shane Burcaw has a rare disease that left him wheelchair-bound. With bright photos, speech bubbles and humor, he answers questions about living with a disability, helping us see what we all have in common, rather than our differences.

**She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed The World**
by Chelsea Clinton
This picture book features a paragraph about each woman, along with a quote to tie in with the overarching theme and inspire girls of all ages.

**Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World**
by Susan Hood
In this inspiring collection, the accomplishment of each young woman is presented in a poem and each is illustrated by a different female illustrator.

**Superstar**
by Mandy Davis
See the world through the eyes of Lester, a 5th grader on the autism spectrum, trying to adjust to public school after years of homeschooling. The first person narrative is engaging and believable.

**The Tiny Hero of Ferny Creek Library**
by Linda Bailey
While on a mission to rescue his Aunt Min, a shiny, green bug named Eddie overhears a plan to turn his beloved library into a testing center. Inspired by other tiny heroes in children’s literature, he devises a clever plan to save the library.

**Wishtree**
by Katherine Applegate
Thanks to an old oak tree named Red and his animal friends, people remember their own history and come together to make immigrants feel at home. This touching story revolves around themes of inclusion and kindness.

**The Word Collector**
by Peter H. Reynolds
Thanks to a happy accident, Jerome’s perfectly organized word collection is jumbled. He comes to realize that putting words together in unexpected ways and sharing his treasures with others can make a real difference.