Pluto is sad. After years of calling himself a planet, he learns he no longer “belongs” with the other planets in our solar system. Pluto embarks on a journey to “find” where he belongs amongst the other celestial bodies in the universe.

In Bugs Don’t Hug, bugs are portrayed in a human like role. The following pages draw comparison to the human like action with an actual insect behavior. This book is jam-packed with interesting facts that are sure to fascinate even the biggest bug skeptics.

Wendell thinks a walrus would be the perfect best friend to tell jokes with, ride bikes, and more. He decides to write a message in a bottle in hopes of finding a walrus friend. When he goes to the ocean to throw in his bottle, he meets a boy who hopes to meet a whale. The two quickly realize they can have more fun with each other than with animals. This is a sweet story about finding friendship.

A slice of pizza tries many hilarious ways to convince the reader not to eat him but to eat other slices or something else entirely!

Rashin is from Iran and just migrated to New York City with her family. They are headed by train to Coney Island to see the ocean. She visited the Caspian Sea with her family when she lived in Iran. She remembers that Saffron was her favorite flavor of ice cream. She discovers that she will need to find a new favorite flavor of ice cream because they don’t have that flavor at Coney Island.

Taco the squirrel loves tacos. This book is both a humorous story and factual book. We learn facts about squirrels, but we also learn that writing creatively in your own style is the best kind of story to tell.

Penelope the dinosaur finds it hard to make friends in her classroom especially because they are so delicious. She learns a lesson from the class pet and discovers it’s not so hard making friends.

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The author and illustrator challenge commonly held misperceptions about insects and animals. While it does not need to be read from beginning to end, readers will want to study all of its pages to appreciate the greater message.

The cast and crew of an underwater talk show are shocked to realize that their guest is a shark. Everyone nervously watches Shark’s every move as he interacts with a fish, baby seal, and humans on a beach. Poor Bob, the show’s host, does his best to keep things moving smoothly by giving shark facts.

In a small town, three colors, Red, Yellow, and Blue, all live together. Trouble begins when they decide they are better on their own. They stay separate until a few colors start to come together. When they create even more colors, things begin to change.

A boy convinces his mother to allow him to have a dog as a pet. The dog has other plans; he wants a pet of his own. All of the animals want a pet of their own, too; but the house is getting crowded, and the boy’s mom is not happy.
Young Hoosier Book Award
Middle Grade Book Nominees for 2020-2021

A vivid poem that recounts the life of Harriet Tubman by traveling backwards through time from her as an old woman to her as a child.


Livvy and her family have traveled from New England to visit her grandmother in Australia after a five-year absence. What Livvy finds in her old room is a large green creature in a chicken suit that has been waiting for her return, but Livvy has NO memory of him. They work together to solve the mysterious magic of getting Bob back where he came from and to end the drought the town has experienced.


Property Jones is left in the lost property cupboard of a bookshop at age five. The store owners bring her into their family, and together they run the shop! One day the family wins a humongous, enchanting bookshop; and they quickly move in. Unfortunately for the Joneses, two criminal masterminds, Pink and Gimble, claim that the previous owner owed a large debt and threaten to clean out the store. Property, while unable to read, has keen observational skills and proves that Pink and Gimble are truly just con men. Property saves the store and keeps her family’s home.


A delightful story about a nine-year-old boy named Bixby Alexander Tam or Bat for short. Bat’s mom is a veterinarian, and one day she brings an orphaned skunk kit home from work. Bat becomes very attached to the skunk kit, but he knows he can’t keep him forever. Will Bat find a way to talk his mom into keeping the skunk?


In 1953, when women were mostly working as teachers or nurses, Katherine Johnson began working in the space program as a human computer in twinning the math calculations to project the arc of rockets working on the first manned flight, Mercury. Later she was credited with saving the space program as a human computer. She did the math on the Apollo 13 mission when an explosion on board threatened to clean out the town. During this process, she makes decisions that could alter magic’s existence.


It’s the 1800’s, and Pinkerton is learning that he likes a challenge and enjoys a mystery. He starts his career by solving cases for the Chicago Police Department, and over time he builds his own detective agency. His work catches the eye of President Abraham Lincoln who creates the Secret Service to spy on the Confederacy and asks Allan Pinkerton to lead this high ranking security organization.


Winslow, the runt of the litter, is a baby donkey rejected by his mother at birth. Louie pleads with his parents to allow him to save the helpless creature. With the help of an awkward friend named Nora, Louie quickly nurses Winslow back to health. During this process, it is more than just Winslow who is saved. All the characters discover a great deal about themselves, each other, love, acceptance, and the true meaning of what being a risk-taker means when you care deeply about someone or something in your life.


Ophelia Delphinium Fidgets is sent on her first wish-granting mission that requires perseverance and the help of an unlikely guide, Sam, a stray mutt who takes on a heroic role when an injured wing presents an unexpected obstacle for Ophelia. With a mission to find the coin used to make her wish for a new bicycle on her mind, Ophelia must make decisions that could alter magic’s existence.


Lety is a girl who is excited to spend her summer at a camp at the local Furry Friends Animal Shelter. Lety is also a determined young girl; and although she is learning English, she vows to write profiles for the animals at the shelter. It turns into a not-so-friendly contest with a boy from school to determine who will be the official shelter scribe.


Og the Frog loves living in the swamp where he can “Float. Doze. Be.” Og finds himself living in Room 26 instead of his beloved swamp. He has to learn to get along with his new neighbor, Humphrey. Og the Frog has to learn to figure out clues. Along the way, he helps the students and makes them really think about having a wild animal as a pet.


When Mal and Colm move to a new apartment building in Chicago, they discover more than a new friend and a city. While exploring their new building, Mal and Colm find a secret floor that takes them to a whole new world. While traveling back and forth to the 13th floor, the twins learn that their mother’s new boss, Professor Parker, and his family are behind the mysterious people living in the afterworld. Mal, Colm, and their friend Tami work diligently to break the curse before it’s too late!


Zayd Saleem loves everything about the sport of basketball. More than anything, he wants to find his way onto the team. This becomes a challenge when his parents just don’t understand his desire to play nor recognize that it far exceeds anything else that they want him to do.


Cricket is a young girl with a dead father and a mother who has abandoned her with an aunt. When the aunt accidentally leaves her behind in a grocery store, Cricket takes some supplies and runs away to a ghost town to solve a mystery—seemingly from her mother’s childhood. She survives in the wood in a treehouse and begins finding clues to the magical room filled with painted birds that may prove her mother isn’t really crazy.


Ra, Pharaoh’s cat, is lazy and spoiled. However, when the Great Wife’s expensive amulet goes missing and a servant girl goes to steal it, Ra and his friend Kepri, jump into action and decide to get to the bottom of who really took the amulet. Suspects are numerous and with an angry leopard bent on revenge, Ra and Kepri need to stay on their toes. Will they find the true thief before the missing servant girl is found?


Frederick Frederickson is a fifth-grader struggling with the social aspects of school. He finds himself at Camp Omnig Michig, a disciplinary camp for boys, and is mistaken for a camper named Dash. He joins Nosebleeds, Specks, The Professor, Nosebleed, Specs, The Professor, and Ant Bite in Group 13. Friendship begins to develop among the boys as they participate in trust-building exercises and make plans for escape. The boys are faced with a huge problem when a Category 5 hurricane is headed directly for camp. Frederick and another boy are stranded at camp. They discover what courage is along with what is required to be a true friend.


Carter, who is with his family in Costa Rica on a birding trip, goes with Anna, whose family is vacationing at the same resort, to investigate a statue that is just down a short trail. When howler monkeys make their loud noises, Anna panics and runs into the forest. Carter, who is anxious by nature, has his backpack full of survival gear for almost any situation. But after they are hopelessly lost in the jungle, it takes the skill of both to survive.


Max is apprenticing with her Uncle Budrick to become a troubadour; but her dream is to become a knightrider because she’s a girl. Her travels have brought her to Byjovia where the evil King Gastley has taken over by force. Uncle Budrick is kidnapped by the king to become his personal entertainer, and Max has to figure out a way to rescue her uncle before the king finds out he’s not much of an entertainer. Max takes her to her parents’ house and gathers a group of kids to join her in the rescue plan.


Zoe has never felt the need to have friends. After all, “all they do is hurt you”. As Zoe switches schools, she hopes her craft of building robots. A magic ring results in a twist of fate. Suddenly Zoe finds herself befriending a monster in order to save her city and the people in it. As more and more monsters are set to arrive, Zoe must do the one thing she has sworn she wouldn’t-- make friends.


India Wimple is a shy girl who loves to spell, and she loves to watch the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee on TV every week. Her unique and close-knit family encourages her to face her fears and sign up for the Bee. India’s family, small town community, and new friends help her face several obstacles that stand in her way of making it to the final round of the Stupendously Spectacular Spelling Bee in Sydney, Australia.


Mavis and her mom are on the move again, and what she wants most in the world is to stay in a place long enough to have a best friend. Rose feels lost in her own home with her pushy mom and friends that really aren’t nice to her. And then there’s Henry, a lost dog. After some time foraging for food and wandering the woods, he realizes he’s lonely and misses being in a home. How do these three come together and save one another?
Hoosier, Phillip Hoose, chronicles the true story of the Indianapolis Crispus Attucks Attucks, their coach Ray Crowe, and possibly one of the greatest basketball players ever - Oscar Robertson. The book includes photos and newspaper snippets that detail the prejudice and cultural climate of Indiana that abounded during this time period. Readers should at basketball's racist history and what this team had to overcome, but readers will find the team's persistence inspiring.

Charlie Hernández always thought the stories his abuela told him were made up... until he starts meeting the mythical creatures she spoke of. He quickly learns that he may also be a mythical creature called a Morphling when his body starts producing feathers, horns, and even lobster-like claws! With the help of his crush (an ambitious detective), he will attempt to learn the truth about himself and his entire race—and he will finally learn what the mythical creatures have to do with all of it.

Marcus Vega is the biggest kid in his grade. He's not a mean kid, but he knows how to use his size to his advantage. He knows his dad left years ago; but he's certain of his dad's words—just meet him and little brother, Charlie, he would want to come back. A family trip to Puerto Rico for Spring Break is finally his chance to change things. Following his father's family all over the countryside in his attempt to find his father leads Marcus to some deep, personal revelations; and he may just realize who he has always been inside.

Twelve year old Lucy Callahan is a math savant courtesy of a lightning strike when she was 8. Now she has to navigate the hardest thing ever—middle school.

Cass temporarily dies by drowning. She did not come back alone. She came back with a new best friend named Jacob. When her ghost hunting parents get a TV deal in Europe, Cass is not thrilled. She is even more displeased when she finds out that the Raven in Red, a ghost, is stealing children. With the help of Jacob and Lara (another girl who sees ghosts), Cass will have to figure out how to defeat the Raven in Red.

Elite gamer Rogan receives an invitation to an exclusive contest by the developer of his favorite game, Laser Viper. When Rogan accepts, he's determined to beat the other skilled players at all costs. However in this new game, one member of the Gamer Army is eliminated after each task which has an impact on how they play both individually and as a team. And when they realize that the game they are playing is impacting the real world, it's up to the Gamer Army to reunite to defeat the villain.

After twelve-year-old Jerome is killed by a white police officer, he watches over his family, friends, and community in the afterlife. Together with a band of ghost boys, he struggles to make sense of his fate.

Vicky Decker likes to go unnoticed. So unexpected, in fact, that she has a mental Terror List of everyday things that might bring attention to herself. On a whim, she takes to Instagram and creates her secret alter ego, Vicarious, a girl who isn't afraid to stand out in the crowd. Hiding behind Vicarious, Vicky suddenly finds herself with a growing number of followers. With newfound fame and a powerful social media platform, Vicky's worlds are starting to collide. Will she be able to handle the fame of Vicarious even if it means her true self being noticed?

When a tornado destroys Ivy's home, she feels lost in more ways than one. As she struggles losing her home as well as her notebook of personal drawings, she receives the push she needs to be true to herself in ways she has been hiding.

As the daughter of the President's personal bodyguard, Maddie has lived a privileged life. But her circumstances quickly change when her father leaves the Secret Service. Moving away from the life she has known in Washington, D.C. to the remote Alaskan wilderness is the last thing Maddie wants, but she has no choice. Worst of all, she has to leave her best friend, the President's son, behind. Six years later, without a word from Logan in all that time, she suddenly shows up on her doorstep. While Alaska prepares for a dangerous storm, Maddie and Logan are attacked outdoors and Logan is kidnapped. Maddie knows she must try to save the President's son, but will her anger at his long silence get in the way?

In present day South Carolina, Candice discovers a letter which could help solve a decades old mystery and save her grandmother's reputation. Teaming up with Brandon, these two will have to put their research skills to work. As the clues multiply, readers will get a glimpse into the past as the narrative switches between points of view.

At school, no one wants decisions made for them based on assumptions. At Jade's school, her counselor does just that. She makes assumptions about Jade's impoverished neighborhood, her single mom, and the color of Jade's skin. The counselor decides that Jade is an “at risk” student who could benefit by being selected for a mentor program. This is not the program that strong, artistic, academic Jade wants for herself. Supportive of all of Jade’s dreams, her mom does not want Jade to lose sight of the college scholarship. For the life that Jade wants for herself, she knows a scholarship is important but at what cost? Herself?

Frances is a young seamstress who has dreams of being a designer. She is hired to work for a secretive employer—Prince Sebastian, a prince who likes to wear dresses. Frances starts designing beautiful dresses for her female persona, Lady Crystallia. As the dresses garner more attention, the Prince must decide how far he will go to keep his secrets.

Kestra Dallisor’s father being the right-hand man of the powerful king, Lord Endrick, comes with plenty of benefits such as wealth and status. However, it also makes her a valuable pawn in a nasty political game to take down the cruel king. Simon is a rebel who has vowed to do anything to bring down the evil king, even if he is not always happy with the violence and difficult choices it involves. As circumstances bring Kestra and Simon together on a secret mission to find the only weapon that can bring down Lord Endrick, their loyalties are challenged and it becomes harder to tell whom to trust in the Trader’s Game.

Mason is a 7th grader with a learning disability. Although he is a fluent storyteller, he struggles to read and write. His troubles go beyond academics. Kids on the bus pick on him, and his family life is a little crazy. Townspeople and local law enforcement believe that Mason had something to do with his friend's mysterious death. Mason's troubles don’t stop there.