2021 OLA Children’s Not Quite Sequoyah

Bajaj, Varsha. *Count Me In*. New York: Nancy Paulsen Books Penguin Random House. 175 p. (Grades 5-8). Karina and her next door neighbor, Chris, have never been friendly. However, Karina’s grandfather begins to tutor Chris, and they are forced to get better acquainted. Later, Chris and Karina team up to fight racism in their school and community because they witness Karina’s grandfather being attacked because of his skin color. Karina and Chris share their experiences via alternating points of view.

Bryan, Ashley. *Infinite Hope: A Black Artist’s Journey From World War II to Peace*. New York: Simon and Schuster Children’s Publishing Division. 98 p. (Grades 5-9). This autobiography of artist and WWII veteran Ashley Bryan is a multimedia collection of Bryan’s time in the United States Army. Featuring journal entries, sketches, photographs, and letters, Bryan tells the story of WWII in the voice of an artist-turned-soldier. He notes the segregation and discrimination his all-Black unit faced during the war; the horrors of war are juxtaposed beautifully against his artistic renderings and poetic musings.

Burleigh, Robert. *O Captain, My Captain*. New York: Abrams Books. 63 p. (Grades 3-7). Walt Whitman was a poet, friend and journalist. He was inspired by one of the nation's greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln in this moving, beautifully illustrated book.

Buzzeo, Toni. *When Sue Found Sue: Sue Hendrickson Discovers Her T. Rex*. New York: Abrams. (Grades 1-4). Sue Hendrickson was always a treasure seeker. Her curious mind led her to many discoveries. As an adult her passion for discovery grew, and her hard work and determination made an amazing dinosaur discovery possible.

De Fombelle, Timothee. *Captain Rosalie*. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press. 60 p. (Grades 3-6). While her father is away fighting in the first World War, Rosalie wages a mission of her own and tracks the progress in her secret notebook. As her mother reads letters sent home from her father, Rosalie knows that he is still thinking of her. When her mother withholding the final letter, Rosalie makes it her mission to uncover the truth.

Graff, Lisa. *Far Away*. New York: Philomel Books. 266 p. (Grades 3-7). CJ lives with her Aunt, who is a psychic medium. When she learns her aunt is unable to give messages to CJ from her mother, who died hours after giving birth, anymore, CJ sets out on a road trip with her friend Jax to find the one thing that will “tether” her mom to her. On this road trip, she finds herself learning things she never thought she would. She then has to figure out the reality from the lies.
Griffin, Adele. *The Becket List*. Chapel Hill, NC: *Algonquin*. 198 p. (Grades 2-6). As 10-year-old Rebecca and her family move from NYC to country life on her grandparent’s blackberry farm, she decides to reinvent herself, starting with her name. Now Becket, she has a list of things that she will need to accomplish as a new “country kid.” Of course, things don’t go like Becket expected. It is a hilariously fun and zany adventure as she struggles to find her place in this new world.

Kadohata, Cynthia. *A Place to Belong*. New York: *Antheneum*. 416 p. (Grades 5-9). American born Hanako and her family move to post-World War II Japan to escape their imprisonment in hopes for a new start. Unfortunately, life in war ravaged Japan is harder than they imagined. Orphans roam the streets begging for food, and the black market seems to be in charge. Can Hanako help her family while finding her place to belong?

Lloyd, Natalie. *Over the Moon*. New York: *Scholastic*. 291 p. (Grades 3-6). Mallie, a twelve-year-old, had one way to keep from becoming a servant. She has to compete to become a Dust collector. Enter flying horses and a dangerous secret at the heart of Coal Top’s trouble, and Mallie is thrown into a world which she may not be equipped to handle. Mallie is not just a girl; she has a physical disability which further hampers her ability to compete with the boys and become the best Dust collector in Coal Top. Secrets, danger, twists, and turns make this book a must read for any adventure seeker out there.

Lupica, Mike. *Batting Order*. New York: *Simon & Schuster*. 293 p. (Grades 5-8). Matt Baker is the utility player on his baseball team. Big Ben Roberson swings for the fence every time he is up to bat because that is what his father expects. Can Matt help Ben improve his swing and hitting average while also helping him stand up to his father who coaches loudly from the stands? Read *Batting Order* by Mike Lupica to find out.

Melleby, Nicole. *Hurricane Season*. New York, Algonquin Readers. 288p. (Grades 4-7). Fig, a sixth grader, feels like the whole world is on her shoulders. Her father, who was once a famous piano player, often lives in his own world. Fig lives in fear that her father’s behavior will be noticed by her teachers or neighbors, and social services will be called. Just when Fig feels like her life is going to crash around her, she finds hope and friendship from a neighbor and a girl in the public library.

Rodkey, Geoff. *We’re Not From Here*. New York: Penguin Random House LLC. 249 p. (Grades 3-7). Earth is uninhabitable, and Mars is running out of resources. Humans are invited to join four other species on a new planet. Once they arrive, the planet is home to only three species, and they no longer wish to welcome the Earthlings. One trial family is granted access to
see if our “violent” species can live in harmony, but things on this planet are not as friendly as they seem.

Seidler, Tor. **Oh Rats!**. New York: Atheneum. 320 p. (Grades 1-3). When a hawk snatches up on an adventurous squirrel named Phoenix, he is ready to kiss his tail goodbye. But what should have been a death sentence becomes the beginning of a sweeping big-city adventure.

Shumaker, Heather. *The Griffins of Castle Cary*. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. 306 p. (Grades 3-7). Meg, Will and Ariel are excited to visit their aunt for a week. Strange things begin to happen when they arrive and learn of the folklore ghost at Castle Cary. Will and Meg feel they should solve the mystery and also maybe get to see a ghost. They soon run into trouble when their little sister, Ariel, talks about her new friend and the party they will have. The older siblings find they need to solve the mystery of the ghosts before one of them is lost forever.

Tingle, Tim. *Stone River Crossing*. New York, Tu Books. 316 p. (Grades 3-5). Lil Mo and his family are slaves in the early 1800s in Mississippi territory across the Bok Chitto river from the Native Americans in Choctaw Town. Lil Mo’s family is in trouble, and a young Choctaw girl comes to their rescue. The Choctaws welcome Lil Mo and his family as their own, but what will happen when the slave owners come for them? Will Lil Mo survive, and at what cost to Choctaw Town? A great adventure filled with Choctaw history and suspense.

Woodrow, Allan. *The Curse of the Werepenguin*. New York: Penguin Randomhouse. 334 p. (Grades 3-7). This film-noir satire follows the story of Bolt Wattle as he battles the curse that has turned him into a werepenguin. He has three days to unify the penguin hoards against the evil Baron Chordata as he tries to terrorize Brugaria. Reminiscent of *Young Frankenstein*, this book will have readers laughing out loud.