Beasley, Cassie. *Tumble & Blue*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017. 304 p. (Grades 4-6). Two new friends, one cursed to lose at everything and the other a hero in training, are determined to change their fates by searching for Munich, a golden alligator that is said to exist and can change lives. In the process of their search, they learn that sometimes, a person’s fate doesn’t have to define him. From the author of Circus Mirandus comes an unforgettable take of friendship, sacrifice, and courage.

Bowe, Julie. *Big & Little Questions of Wren Jo Byrd*. New York: Kathy Dawson Books, 2017. 228 p. (Grades 1-3). It’s the beginning of summer vacation when 4th grader Wren finds out the devastating news that her parents are divorcing. Wren’s parents send her to live with her grandparents for the summer before she can explain to her friends what happened. While she’s gone, her best friend Amber makes friends with the fashionable new girl, and Wren feels even more alone. However, things aren’t always what they seem, and Wren learns that everyone has secrets they keep hidden.

Coats, J. Anderson. *Many Reflections of Miss Jane Deming*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017. 288 p. (Grades 3-5). Jane has been taking care of her little brother since her father died so an opportunity to start over in a new place is very appealing to her. Along with other Civil War orphans and widows, Jane is excited about life in the Western Territory. The trip on the ship is quite an adventure but she is ready for a new life in Seattle. Little does Jane know that her life in Seattle is not quite what she expected but she is determined to make the most with what she is given. This is a wonderful story about a young girl who learns how to open up to new things, new people, and new adventures.

Coville, Bruce. *Trolled*. New York: Random House, 2017. 288 p. (Grades 4-6). Fans of The Enchanted Files will love traveling back to the Enchanted Realms in this latest book in the series! Cody is a 6th grader who loves to daydream and is known for his rose-scented farts. (Yes! What kid won’t laugh at that?) Turns out though, Cody is also part troll. With the help of a night watchman at Grand Central Terminal, who happens to be a full-blooded troll, Cody goes on an adventure to save his grandfather from the dangers that lurk beneath the tracks.

Cuevas, Michelle. *Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017. 200 p. (Grades 3-6). Stella unexpectedly finds a black hole while on her way home from NASA and decides to keep it for a pet. But Stella has also recently lost her father, and her pet black hole becomes something much more. The metaphor of grief as a black hole is such a simple, yet profound comparison. This funny, witty story deals with childhood grief in a refreshing presentation.
Emerson, Kevin. *Last Day on Mars*. New York: Walden Pond Press, 2017. 326 p. (Grades 4-8). Earth is gone. The survivors fled to Mars in order to buy more time to build ships capable of fleeing our galaxy. There are only hours left before Mars is destroyed by the sun; Liam, the son of scientists, and his friends are running out of time to board the last starliner. Unknown to them, a human-like being, the chronicler, has been traveling the universe and recording what is seen. While viewing the destruction taking place in the Milky Way, another being teleports in behind the chronicler and kills him. Who are these beings? What is their involvement? Will the families leave Mars in time and find a home? These are some of the questions you will be seeking answers to while reading the first book in the Chronicle of the Dark Star science fiction series.

Gray, Kristin. *Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017. 176 p. (Grades 4-6). Vilonia is a spunky 10-year-old girl who is dealing with her grandmother’s death in the best way she can. When her mother slips into a depressive state Vilonia tries to cover every base. She cooks, cleans, and secretly covers her mother’s job as an obituary writer for the newspaper. Meanwhile, she tries to be a good friend and a foster parent to the school library’s pet fish, Max. Vilonia soon sets out to prove that a dog is a key to happiness. When her pet-scapades become a jumbled mess, Vilonia must prove that she is responsible enough to be a good friend and responsible pet owner.

Kelly, Erin Entrada. *Hello Universe*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2017. 313 p. (Grades 3-7). This book is told from the perspective of four kids -- two boys and two girls -- over the course of a day. Virgil Salinas is shy and often bullied at school. Chet Bullens also called “the Bull”, calls Virgil names. Valencia Somerset feels like an outsider because she’s deaf. Kaori Tanaka thinks she’s a psychic and tells Virgil to become friends with Valencia. Chet throws Virgil’s backpack down a well and Virgil gets stuck in the well when he tries to retrieve it. The two girls, Valencia and Kaori, go looking for Virgil after getting a bad feeling. It is a story about good vs. evil. But, it is also a story of teamwork, self-acceptance, friendship and courage.


Meltzer, Brad. *I am Jim Henson*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017. 40 p. (Grades 1-3). A biography of Jim Henson, who was always dreaming up something new, and always expressing his belief in the goodness of people. Henson was a born performer with a terrific sense of humor, and he used those talents to help create two of the most beloved programs in television history: *The Muppet Show* and *Sesame Street*. Through his Muppets, Jim showed the world that there’s nothing more beautiful than imagination, especially when it’s accompanied by laughter and kindness.

Nolen, Jerdine. *Calico Girl*. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2017. 144 p. (Grades 4-6). It’s 1861, and Virginia just voted to secede from the Union. Callie and her family, like hundreds of other slave families, go to Fort Monroe to seek refuge. At the Fort, Callie goes to school for the first time and begins to learn that freedom comes with a
price. Detailed historical notes help set the scene for this beautiful story of a girl who gains an education, but risks losing her family in the process.

Ott, Alexandra. *Rules for Thieves*. New York: Aladdin, 2017. 272 p. (Grades 4-6). Allie Rosco escapes the orphanage without a plan. As she tries to escape she is hit by a deadly curse. When Allie is caught trying to steal food she is rescued by a fellow thief, Beck Rigler. Beck offers to help Allie find food, money, clothing and hopefully a new life with the Guild of Thieves. Allie and Beck must first pass a serious test to become true members of the Guild. A task that unfortunately may prove to be deadly.

Smith, Matthew Clark. *Lighter than Air*. Somerville, Massachusetts: Candlewick Press 2017; 32 p. (Grades 1-4). This picture book is a short biography of a mostly unknown extraordinary woman. Sophie Armant (Blanchard) was the first woman pilot. Sophie became fascinated with hot air balloons as a young girl and vows to fly one day. However, all the pilots were men. It is a time when hot air ballooning was a frenzy in France. Sophie finally meets and marries Jean-Pierre Blanchard and realizes her dreams. After the death of Jean-Pierre, Sophie returned the sky flying solo and became famous in France. The book is beautifully illustrated.

Winter, Jonah. *The Secret Project*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2017. 40 p. (Grades 4-8) This is the story of the atomic bomb. It tells of the scientists who worked in secret in the desert of New Mexico. It recalls how they worked for two years with uranium and plutonium to build a gadget of enormous power. The simple language is enriched with wonder illustrations depicting those who worked on the project and the land around the area. The illustrations speak for themselves on the last few pages as the bomb is tested in the desert. At the end of the book is an author’s note which gives more detail on the research and the use of the atomic bomb.

Wolk, Lauren. *Beyond the Bright Sea*. New York: Dutton Children's Books 2017. 283 p. (Grades 5-8). Crow, a twelve-year-old girl, lives on tiny isolated island in Massachusetts. Her only friends are Osh, the man who found her adrift in a small boat when she was just a baby, and their neighbor, Miss Maggie. For many years Osh and Miss Maggie are her family. But when they see a fire across the water Crow begins to question who she and where she came from.