Best New Children's Books of 2025

NLA Conference

October 22, 2025

presented by Sally Snyder
Nebraska Library Commission

Picture Books

Alper, Sacha ***THE LITTLEST DROP***
Illus. By Jerry Pinkney & Brian Pinkney unp. Anne Schwartz Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-30912-4

Atinuke ***100 GOATS AND GRANNY***
Illus. by Lauren Hinds unp. Candlewick Press 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3876-1

Avery, Sean E. ***FRANK'S RED HAT***
Unp. Walker Books 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-7616-0066-1

Awan, Jashar ***EVERY MONDAY MABEL***
Unp. Simon & Schuster 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-3815-0

Baptiste, Tracey ***SUPER GOAT GIRL***
Illus. by Dapo Adeola unp. Nancy Paulsen Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-525-51776-4

Bradbury, Jennifer ***NEARLY EXACTLY ALMOST LIKE ME***
Illus. by Pearl Auyeung unp. Atheneum Books (Simon & Schuster) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-4814-1767-9

Brown, Peter ***THE WILD ROBOT ON THE ISLAND***
Unp. Little, Brown & Co. (Hatchette Book Group) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-316-66946-7

Burgess, Mathew ***FIREWORKS***
Illus, by Cátia Chien unp. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-321672-3

Crews, Nina ***BIG FAMILY BEACH DAY***
Unp. Greenwillow Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-339022-5

de la Peña, Matt ***HOME***
Illus. by Loren Long unp. G. P. Putnam's Sons 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-11089-8

Ferry, Beth ***THE PEDDLER OF PUDDLES***
Illus. by Tom Lichtenheld unp. 2025 Clarion Books $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-331834-2

Friedrich, Paul ***ZEBRA AND YAK: THE BACKWARDS ALPHABET BOOK***
Unp. G.P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 979-82-17-00210-8

Gillis, Kellie DuBay ***BIG BIKE, LITTLE BIKE***
Illus. by Jacob Souva unp. HarperCollins 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-331523-5

Graegin, Stephanie ***EVERYDAY BEAN***
Unp. Tundra Books (Penguin Random House of Canada) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-77488-620-5

Hall, Kirsten ***A FOREST SONG***
Illus. by Evan Turk unp. Random House (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-48036-6

Harris, Shawn ***LET'S BE BEES***
Unp. Neal Porter Books (Holiday House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-8234-5709-0

Johnson, Varian ***LITTLE BIG MAN***
Illus. by Reggie Brown unp. Orchard Books (Scholastic Press) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-338-80743-1

Keller, Shana ***CEECEE: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CINDERELLA***
Illus. by Laura Freeman unp. Charlesbridge 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-62354-389-1

Kooser, Ted ***SEVEN SKIES ALL AT ONCE***
Illus. by Matt Myers unp. Candlewick Press 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2900-4

Lazar, Tara ***FLAT CAT: THE CLASS PET***
Illus. by Pete Oswald unp. Flamingo Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-40460-7

Patschke, Steve ***THE HAUNTED SCAVENGER HUNT***
Illus. by Roland Garrigue unp. Templar Books (Candlewick Press) 2024 $15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3523-4

Tran, Phuc ***CRANKY MAKES A FRIEND***
Illus. by Pete Oswald unp. HarperCollins 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-325630-9

Yum, Hyewon ***TOTO***
Unp. Neal Porter Books (Holiday House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0823453894

Zuill, Andrea ***BOB THE VAMPIRE SNAIL***
Unp. Random House (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-81496-3

Beginning Readers

Annable, Graham ***HIDE & SEEK WITH CLYDE & MONIQUE: CLYDE IN PLAIN SIGHT***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-341415-0; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-341414-3

Dean, Kimberly & James ***PETE THE KITTY AND THE MERMAID'S SANDCASTLE***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-309611-0

Frost, Maddie ***CHIP GETS SWIMMER SHIVERS***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06- 330651-6; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-330650-9

George, Kallie ***DOT THE LADYBUG: The Perfect Spot***
Illus. by Stephanie Fizer Coleman 32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-313753-0; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-313752-3

Lehman, Barbara ***COOL BUDS: TO THE RESCUE***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978- 0-06-338906-9; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-338905-2

Mayer, Mercer ***NIGHT NIGHT! SLEEP TIGHT!***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-326070-2; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-326069-6

Nonfiction Picture Books

Brockenbrough, Martha ***A GIFT OF DUST: How Sahara Plumes Feed the Planet***
Illus. by Juana Marinez-Neal unp. Alfred A. Knopf (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-42842-9

Buckley, Patricia Morris ***TO WALK THE SKY***
Illus. by E. B. Lewis unp. Heartdrum (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-304697-9

Ellis, Elina ***BUT WHERE DO SEA TURTLES LIVE?***
Unp. Kids Can Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0676-1

Graham, Joan Bransfield ***AWESOME EARTH***
Illus. by Tania García unp. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-35-839604-8

Hanson, Thor ***THE ESCAPE ARTIST***
Illus. by Galia Bernstein unp. HarperCollins 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-267647-4

Kulekjian, Jessica ***KERSPLASH!***
Illus. by Zoe Si unp. Kids Can Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0890-1

Stewart, Melissa ***MEET THE MINI-MAMMALS: A Night at the Natural History Museum***
Illus. by Brian Lies unp. Beach Lane Books (Simon & Schuster) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-4716-9

Tekavec, Heather ***THIS IS HOW A BALL ROLLS***
Illus. by Suharu Ogawa unp. Kids Can Press 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-0968-7

Willems, Mo ***LEFTY: A Story That Is Not All Right***
Illus. by Dan Santat unp. Union Square Kids 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-4549-5148-3

Early Chapter Books

Bailey, Jenn ***HENRY'S PICTURE-PERFECT DAY***
Illus. by Mika Song 40p. Chronicle Books 2025 $14.99 ISBN 978-1797230252

Broach, Elise ***BULLDOZER'S BIG RESCUE***
Illus. by Kelly Murphy 111p. Christy Ottaviano Books (Little, Brown & Co.) 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-0-316-56415-1; $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-316-564175

Broach, Elise ***BULLDOZER GOES TO SCHOOL***
Illus. by Kelly Murphy 111p. Christy Ottaviano Books (Little, Brown & Co.) 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-0-316-56419-9; $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-316-56420-5

Capetta, A. R. ***HOCUS AND POCUS AND THE SPELL FOR HOME***
Illus. by Charlene Chua 87p. Candlewick Press 2024 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2492-4; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3672-9

Capetta, A. R. ***HOCUS AND POCUS AND THE DRAGON NEXT DOOR***
Illus. by Charlene Chua 85p. Candlewick Press 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362- 2493-1; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-4269-0

DiCamillo, Kate ***ORRIS AND TIMBLE: LOST AND FOUND***
Illus. by Carmen Mok 76p. Candlewick Press 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-2530-3

Hoover, P. J. ***DRAGON VS. UNICORN: Friends or Frenemies?***
Illus. by Lisa Wiley 119p. Kids Can Press 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5253-1083-6

Jarvis ***BEAR AND BIRD: The Stick and Other Stories***
62p. Candlewick Press 2025 $15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3928-7; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3927-0

Jarvis ***BEAR AND BIRD: The Cave and Other Stories***
62p. Candlewick Press 2025 $15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3942-3; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-4647-6

Pizzoli, Greg ***THE BAD IDEA AND OTHER STORIES*** (Earl & Worm, Bk 1)
69p. Alfred A. Knopf (Penguin Random House) 2025 $10.99 ISBN 978-0-593-64966-4

Pizzoli, Greg ***THE BIG MESS AND OTHER STORIES*** (Earl & Worm, Bk 2)
69p. Alfred A. Knopf (Penguin Random House) 2025 $10.99 ISBN 978-0-593-64970-1

Safadi, Shifa Saltagi ***AMINA BANANA AND THE FORMULA FOR FRIENDSHIP***
Illus. by Aaliya Jaleel 93p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $1.99 ISBN 978-0-593-69922-5; $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-69914-0

Safadi, Shifa Saltagi ***AMINA BANANA AND THE FORMULA FOR WINNING***
Illus. by Aaliya Jaleel 101p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $1.99 ISBN 978-0-593-69923-2; $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-69916-4

Sneve, Virgina Driving Hawk ***THE SUMMER OF THE BONE HORSES***
Illus. by Steph Littlebird 64p. Abrams 2025 $14.99 ISBN 978-1419759550

Soundar, Chitra ***SONA SHARMA: A Friend Indeed***
Illus. by Jen Khatun 117p. Candlewick Press 2024 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3816-7

Thomson, Sarah L. ***THE GRIFFIN'S BOY***
Illus. by Anna Aparicio Català 183p. Peachtree Publishing 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-1-68263-766-1

Tunnicliffe, Hannah ***DETECTIVE STANLEY AND THE MYSTERY AT THE MUSEUM***
Illus. by Erica Harrison 62p. Flying Eye Books 2025 $22.99 ISBN 978-1-83874-926-2; $12.99 (sturdy pbk) ISBN 978-1-83874-211-9

Fiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Brill, Calista & Nilah Magruder ***CREAKY ACRES***
268p. Kokila (Penguin Random House) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0735230613; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-7352-3062-0

Colossal, Eric ***GHOST TOWN***
250p. Abrams Fanfare (ABRAMS) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-1-4197-4584-3; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4197-4585-0

Fusco, Kimberly Newton ***THE SECRET OF HONEYCAKE***
352p. Alfred A. Knopf (Penguin Random House) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-593-12177-1

Garcia, Kami ***MIXED-UP***
Illus. by Brittney Williams 193p. First Second 2025 $22.99 ISBN 978-1-250-14233-7; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-250-84088-2

Gidwitz, Adam ***MAX IN THE LAND OF LIES***
322p. Dutton Children's Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-593-11211-3

Horner, Doogie ***THE ADVENTURES OF INVISIBLE BOY***
172p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2024 $12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-53265-2

Horner, Doogie ***THE ADVENTURES OF INVISIBLE BOY: : Zeroes to Heroes***
187p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-53270-6

Jackson, Tiffany D. ***BLOOD IN THE WATER***
255p. Scholastic Press 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-338-84991-2

Kahn, Ben ***MR. MUFFINS: DEFENDER OF THE STARS***
Illus. by Georgeo Brooks 163p. Oni Press 2025 $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-62010-832-1

Kim, Jessica ***ON THIN ICE***
228p. Kokila (Penguin Random House) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-593-69814-3

Korman, Gordon ***OLD SCHOOL***
276p. HarperCollins 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-06-323814-5

Kurrus, Jeff ***THE LEGEND OF DONNIE BATS***
111p. OnPress 2025 $12.95 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-99163-892-5

Lai, Remy ***CHICKENPOX***
236p. Henry Holt and Co. 2025 $22.95 ISBN 978-1-250-86330-0; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-250-86329-4

Larson, Hope ***VERY BAD AT MATH***
238p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-06-331129-9; $15.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-331128-2

Regina, Michael ***DEEPWATER CREEK***
241p. G. P. Putnam's Sons (Penguin Random House) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-593-11737-8; $13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-11739-2

Rhodes, Jewell Parker ***WILL'S RACE FOR HOME***
190p. Little, Brown & Co. (Hatchette Book Group) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-316-29933-6

Richards, Natalie D. ***SURVIVE THIS SAFARI***
361p. Delacorte Press (Penguin Random House) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-593-64416-4

Rossell, Judith ***THE MIDWATCH INSTITUTE FOR WAYWARD GIRLS***
307p. Dial Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 979-8-217-00240-5

Stuart, Dean ***CASSI AND THE HOUSE OF MEMORIES***
272p. Viking (Penguin Random House) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-593-35112-3; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-35113-0

Sumner, Jamie ***PLEASE PAY ATTENTION***
223p. Atheneum (Simon & Schuster) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-1-6659-5607-9

Vlahos, Len ***SERGE & ROSCOE***
Illus. by Juliette Miron 175p. HarperCollins 2025 $15.99 ISBN 978-0-06-330672-1

Watson, Andi ***PUNYCORN AND THE PRINCESS OF THIEVES***
201p. HarperAlley (HarperCollins) 2025 $15.99 ISBN 978-0-35-857200-8

Williams, Andrea ***INSIDE THE PARK***
214p. HarperCollins 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-328533-0

Wood, Maryrose ***BAD BADGER***
Illus. by Giulia Ghigini 181p. Union Square Kids Can Press 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-4549-5345-6; $9.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-4549-5346-3

Yee, Lisa ***A COPYCAT CONUNDRUM*** (The Misfits series, Bk 2)
Illus. by Dan Santat 274p. Random House (Penguin Random House) 2025 $14.99 ISBN 978-0-593-56422-6

Recommended Graphic Novel Remakes of Well-Know Novels for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Brallier, Max ***THE LAST KIDS ON EARTH: The Graphic Novel***
Illus. by Brian Churilla 190p. Viking (Penguin Random House) 2024 $23.99 ISBN 978-0-593-62216-2; $13.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-62217-9

Davies, Jacqueline ***THE LEMONADE WAR Graphic Novel***
Illus. by Karen De la Vega 201p. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-0-06-331040-7; $15.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-331038-4

Gibbs, Stuart ***SPY SKI SCHOOL: The Graphic Novel***
Illus. by Anjan Sarkar 315p. Simon & Schuster 2025 $24.99 ISBN 978-1665956611; $14.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-6659-5660-4

Marsden, Mariah ***HEIDI: A Graphic Novel***
Illus. by Ofride 153p. Andrews McMeel Publishing 2025 $12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5248-8640-0

Williams-Garcia, Rita ***ONE CRAZY SUMMER: The Graphic Novel***
Illus. by Sharee Miller 299p. Quill Tree Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $23.99 ISBN 978-0-06-293559-5; $15.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-293558-8

Nonfiction for Grades 2-5 (or so)

Burgess, Matthew ***WORDS WITH WINGS AND MAGIC THINGS***
Illus. by Doug Salati 125p. Tundra Books (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-1-77488-028-9

Bycel, Josh & Rich Korson ***SPORTS SUPERHEROES: WILMA RUDOLPH***
Illus. by Brittney Williams, colors by Rico Renzi 111p. Penguin Workshop 2025 $14.99 ISBN 978-0-593-38251-6; $10.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-38249-3

Chin, Jason ***HURRICANE***
Unp. Neal Porter Books (Holiday House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-8234-5849-3

Fleming, Candace ***IS IT REAL?: The Loch Ness Monster***
123p. Scholastic Focus (Scholastic Press) 2025 $26.99 ISBN 978-1546110286; $8.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-339-03793-6

Hiller, Colette ***COLOSSAL WORDS FOR KIDS: 75 Tremendous Words: Neatly Defined to Stick in the Mind*** Illus. by Tor Freeman 80p. Frances Lincoln Children's Books (The Quarto Group) 2024 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-711278752

Korté, Steve ***WHO IS TONY HAWK?***
Illus. by Andrew Thomson 108p. Penguin Workshop (Penguin Random House) 2025 $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-75180-0

Latham, Irene & Charles Waters ***THE MISTAKES THAT MADE US***
Illus. by Mercè López 40p. Carolrhoda Books 2024 $18.99 ISBN 978-1728492100

Robeson, Teresa ***WHO SMASHED HOLLYWOOD BARRIERS WITH GUNG FU? BRUCE LEE***
Illus. by Ryan Inzana 63p. Penguin Workshop (Penguin Random House) 2025 $13.99 ISBN 978-0-593-38463-3; $7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-38462-6

New Titles in Popular Series

Picture Books

Daywalt, Drew ***THE DAY THE CRAYONS MADE FRIENDS***
Illus, by Oliver Jeffries unp. Philomel (Penguin Random House) 2025 $19.99 ISBN 978-0-593-62236-0

Shannon, David ***THAT'S NOT FUNNY, DAVID!***
Unp. Orchard Books (Scholastic Press) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-1-5461-2318-7

Beginning Readers

Dean, Kimberly & James ***PETE THE CAT'S MARS MISSION***
32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-309617-2; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-309616-5

Faruqi, Saadia ***YASMIN THE DIRECTOR***
Illus. by Hatem Aly 24p. Picture Window Bks (Capstone) 2024 $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1484696286

Lyons, Kelly Starling ***TY'S TRAVELS: SUPER TY!***
Illus. by Niña Mata 32p. HarperCollins 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-308372-1; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-308371-4

Rey, H. A. ***CURIOUS GEORGE: SWEET SURPRISE***
Written by Brooke Vitale & illus. by Rea Zhai 32p. Clarion Books (HarperCollins) 2025 $17.99 ISBN 978-0-06-334320-7; $5.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-334318-4

Early Chapter Books

Atinke ***LOVE FROM ANNA HIBISCUS!***
Illus. by Lauren Tobia 89p. Candlewick Press 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3951-5; $7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3952-2

Atinke ***YOU'RE AMAZING, ANNA HIBISCUS!***
Illus. by Lauren Tobia 89p. Candlewick Press 2025 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3813-6; $7.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3814-3

Atinke ***TOO SMALL TOLA MAKES IT COUNT***
Illus. by Onyinye Iwu 89p. Candlewick Press 2024 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3815-0; $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-1-5362-3950-8 (paperback not out until 11/18/25)

Brown, Jeff ***THE GREAT ROBOT RACE*** Flat Stanley's Adventures in Classroom 2E, Bk 4
Illus. by Nadja Sarell 115p. Harper (HarperCollins) 2025 $6.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-06-309506-9

George, Kallie ***CRIMSON TWILL: WITCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT***
Illus. by Birgitta Sif 67p. Candlewick Press 2024 $15.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3237-0

Hale, Shannon & Dean Hale ***THE PRINCESS IN BLACK AND THE KITTY CATASTROPHE***
Illus. by LeUyen Pham 90p. Candlewick Press 2024 $14.99 ISBN 978-1-5362-3409-1

Phelan, Matt ***BIG CHANGES FOR PLUM***
116p. Greenwillow Bks (HarperCollins) 2025 $18.99 ISBN 978-0-06-329634-3

Fiction for Grades 2-5 or so

Fairbairn, Nathan ***PAWS: Hazel Has Her Hands Full***
Illus. by Michele Assarasakorn 165p. G.P. Putnam's Sons 2025 $22.99 ISBN 978-0-593-69578-4; $12.99 (pbk) ISBN 978-0-593-69580-7

Soontornvat, Christina ***TEMPLE OF SECRETS*** (Legends of Lotus Island, #4)
160p. Scholastic Press 2024 $16.99 ISBN 978-1-338-75921-1

Abbreviations Note:

(pbk) – paperback edition

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