



WILD RUMPUS



Some Reader!

Two books this year sum up my gut feelings about books. The first, *Some Writer! The Story of E.B. White* by Melissa Sweet, gives wings to one of my favorite writers, the author of the iconic first line, “Where’s Papa going with that ax?” (*Charlotte’s Web*). E.B. White, or Elwyn as I like to refer to him, was influential in the journalistic world of the 1930’s *New Yorker*,

but is better remembered for his contribution to literature for young people.

My second choice is *A Child of Books* by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston. Ok, here’s an author/illustrator (Jeffers) who had no intention of influencing the picture book world but got dragged into the strong current by his innate talent. A fine artist, he collaborated with another fine artist to complete this ode to reading and creativity. Sam Winston has used typography and words to “illustrate” the story of books and imagination.



Together, these two books cement in my mind the reasons that we need authors and illustrators to help us interpret our current society. In the words of the playwright Arthur Miller, “attention must be paid.” In our world of instant gratification and the internet of everything, these two books spell it out for anyone willing to listen.

We need “Some Writers” and we need the visionaries who embrace being “A Child of Books” and, most importantly, we need “Some Readers.”

Attention must be paid.

Collette, 2016

A Child of Books by Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston, Candlewick Press, \$17.99

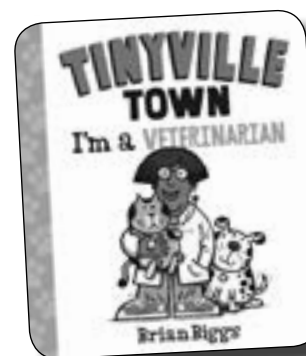
Some Writer!: The Story of E.B. White by Melissa Sweet, HMH Books for Young Readers, \$18.99

Cover art by **Jesse Minutaglio**

baby & toddler

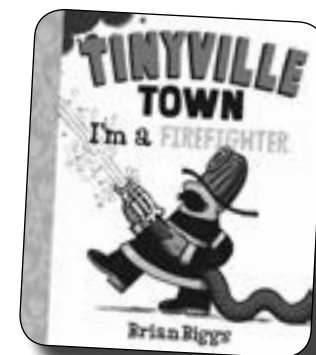
Cityblock by Christopher Franceschelli, Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95

The city is a marvelous and bustling place, full of excitement and new things to see. So many people, so many treats, and so many ways to get from here to there! From the creators of *Alphablock*, *Countablock*, and *Dinoblock* comes *Cityblock*, an interactive and delightfully detailed board book that gives young readers a fun insight as to what a day in the city can look like. Enjoy turning pages and flaps for surprising reveals as colorful scenes change and new sights are discovered around every corner! **Heather**



Tinyville Town: I'm a Veterinarian and **Tinyville Town: I'm a Firefighter** by Brian Biggs, Abrams Appleseed, \$7.95 each

Welcome to a busy day in Tinyville Town! Have you ever wondered what it's like to be a vet? Or a firefighter? Each brightly illustrated story gives a peek into the daily lives of some of our most-valued neighbors. These board books are so stinking cute, you and your little one will love them! **Katie**

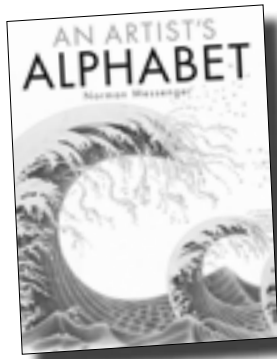


Day Dreamers: A Journey of Imagination by Emily Winfield Martin, Random House Books for Young Readers, \$8.99



In the land of waking dreams, wander along through a whimsical journey of imagination and see where your dreams can take you. From riding through a forest on a unicorn to exploring ancient lands on the back of a phoenix, join Emily Winfield Martin on an exquisitely illustrated journey through her world of make believe. In today's hectic world, take a minute to enjoy the land of day dreamers. **Julia**

baby & toddler



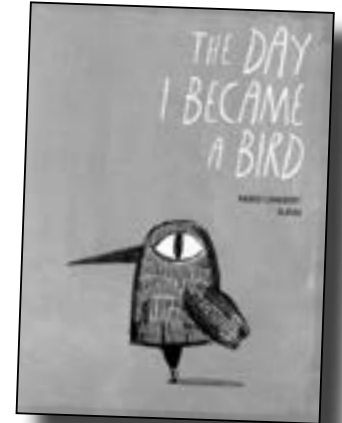
An Artist's Alphabet by Norman Messenger, Candlewick Studio, \$17.99

There are no set rules, and no obvious answers to each dreamy illustration Messenger crafts across our Roman alphabet. From arched acrobats all the way to billowy clouds, this unique ABC book inspires discovery. What can I see in the shapes of letters? Where will I find visual surprises? Young readers and older companions alike, bring your artist's eye to every page turn. **Jesse**

picture

The Day I Became a Bird by Ingrid Chabbert, illustrated by Guridi, Kids Can Press, \$16.95

The author captured my heart, the illustrator caught my eye. Here we have a child's honest story of love. It is simply stated, quietly observed, and sadly one-sided. Our narrator is nameless. His love interest is Sylvia, but she only has eyes for birds. Enter a rather LARGE bird in a shining feather costume. Now life becomes complicated for the narrator, but not for Sylvia! As a bird watcher, it is easy for Sylvia to see the bird for what it really is. Might it be love at first sight? **Ellen**



Counting with Barefoot Critters by Teagan White, Tundra Books, \$16.99

Counting with Barefoot Critters is a delightful new book from MCAD graduate Teagan White. The story takes place over the course of a day, with more and more friends joining in on the fun as the morning and afternoon pass and evening sets in. Not only is this a whimsical way to learn about counting, this story is filled with cozy depictions of seasonal activities and fun hidden details, and is bound to delight readers of all ages with its relatable dialogue about valuing all friendships. **Heather**



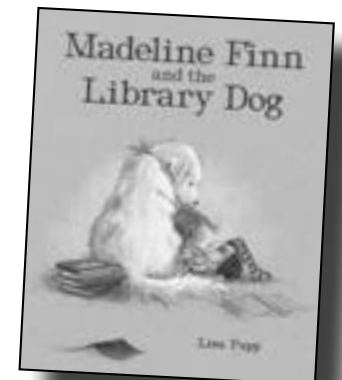
A Well-Mannered Young Wolf by Jean Leroy, illustrated by Matthieu Maudet, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, \$16.00

Looking for a darkly comic picture book with a surprise twist ending? Well, look no further. When a hungry young wolf sets out for some food, his manners get in the way. Though he politely honors his victims' final requests for stories and songs, they have the nerve to actually run away! Will the wolf find justice? Will he ever eat again? Against all odds, and doubled over with laughter, you will likely find yourself rooting for this mannerly hunter. **Katie**



Madeline Finn and the Library Dog by Lisa Papp, Peachtree Publishers, \$16.95

Madeline Finn does NOT like to read. Not quietly to herself, not to her parents, and especially not out loud in her classroom. She gets nervous and tongue-tied and has herself convinced that reading is just not for her. But when Mrs. Dimple, the librarian, takes her into a room full of dogs and stands her in front of Bonnie, a big white canine, Madeline works up enough courage to give reading another try. Madeline Finn, with the help of her patient audience, becomes more confident and relaxed. A beautifully illustrated book that lovingly teaches confidence building. **Jean**

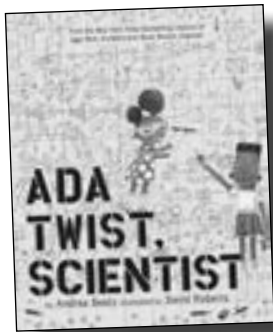


Pancakes!: An Interactive Recipe Book by Lotta Nieminen, Phaidon Press, \$14.95

Calling all chefs (even those who might still be a little bit too small to use a real stovetop)! It's time to make pancakes, and you're in charge. This interactive board book is a fun way for young readers to learn the basic concepts of how the food we eat is prepared, and how delightful it is to partake in something you have created. Mix, pour, flip

and stack your tasty creation, and learn about what goes into one of the tastiest breakfast foods. What a treat! And, after a lot of practice here, and with help from a grown-up, you can learn to make real pancakes of your own someday soon! **Heather**

local author



picture

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beaty, illustrated by David Roberts, Abrams Books for Young Readers, \$17.95

First a question, or maybe two
then a guess, but that's not all you can do.
For Ada Twist works her experiments
in order to have her world make sense.

Enjoy the rhyme, the quests and the wonder of a budding scientist. Named after Ada Lovelace and Marie Curie, Ada Marie's curiosity does one proud to be a daughter who can "figure it out." (Look for the answer to Ada's plight on the top of the last page, and you'll be right. And, parents, find a new use for the "thinking chair" when tired of questions about who, what and where!) **Ellen**

Cleonardo, the Little Inventor by Mary GrandPré, Arthur A. Levine Books, \$18.99

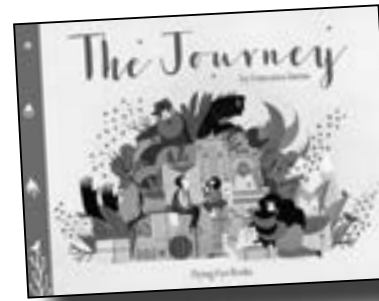
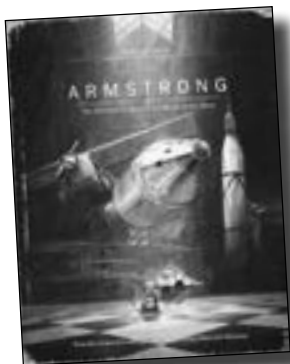
Cleonardo comes from a long line of great inventors, but try as she might to aid her father with his machines, her ideas never seem to meet the family's traditional expectations. With her own style of invention, Cleonardo finds it difficult to see eye to eye with her father's methods. When the town holds its annual invention competition, Cleonardo accepts the challenge and puts her unique take on engineering to create something marvelous—and inadvertently saves the day! A warm-hearted book about supporting each other's ideas and proudly embracing your own set of skills. **Rachael**



Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon by Torben Kuhlmann, NorthSouth, \$19.95

Dive into a richly illustrated tale of a tiny mouse as it sets its sights farther than any rodent before: the moon. Filled with intricate, beautifully executed illustrations, *Armstrong* ensures the reader of a marvelous adventure alongside the mouse as it invents one amazing piece of technology after another—complete with gorgeously drawn blueprints—in pursuit of its grand lunar endeavors. But such impressive

plans won't go unnoticed for long, and soon our protagonist has more to worry about than gravity. Once again, Kuhlmann delivers with this breathtakingly beautiful picture book. **Rachael**



picture

The Journey by Francesca Sanna, Flying Eye Books, \$17.95

No one ever expects to become a refugee, fleeing for their lives and leaving everything behind. This story was created to bring light to the recent refugee crisis in our world, and

approaches the issue with incredible grace and metaphor.

Debut Italian author/illustrator Francesca Sanna weaves a heartbreaking and hopeful tale with her beautiful words and illustrations. The story is told from the perspective of two children as they cross treacherous landscapes and hide in frightening places with their brave mother, desperately hoping to find safety and a new life once again. A beautiful and relevant tale. **Heather**

The Uncorker of Ocean Bottles

by Michelle Cuevas, illustrated by Erin E. Stead, Dial Books, \$17.99

I remember launching my first bottle overboard the ferry boat, imagining who it would eventually reach as the current swept it away. Meet the Uncorker—he fishes out messages in bottles to ensure they land in the hands they are intended for. Michelle Cuevas delivers us words that bob gently along a lyrical tale. In textured hues of weathered sea glass, sandy beaches, and seaside mist, Stead's art perfectly captures this inviting story and the characters that reside there. Don't let this clam-hugged pearl wash away with the tide. **Jesse**



Yellow Time by Lauren Stringer, Beach Lane Books, \$17.99

It's the perfect time of year to snuggle up with a great book! Written in beautiful lyrical poetry, Stringer depicts the time of year when all the world is full of color and the leaves "dance" to life. The illustrations enhance the text with Stringer's signature whimsy of line and shape and will delight readers of all ages and in any season. **Anna**



local author



beginning readers

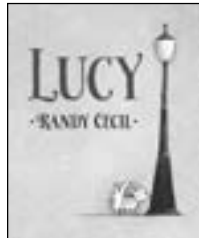
Book Uncle and Me by Uma Krishnaswami, illustrated by Julianna Swaney, Groundwood Books, \$14.95

“Right book for the right person for the right day.” So goes the motto of Book Uncle, a retired teacher in India who daily offers free books from his stand to the community. Young Yasmin can’t get enough and aspires to read a book a day, so when a governmental notice forces Book Uncle

to leave his corner, Yasmin decides to do something. Yasmin’s introduction to community activism, local elections and organizing is relevant and endearing, and will leave our youngest book lovers with a sense of how they, too, can make a difference. **Kristen**

Lucy by Randy Cecil, Candlewick Press, \$19.99

A little white dog (Lucy) roams the streets, always in search of food and shelter, revisiting her former life only in dreams. A little girl (Eleanor) notices the dog and dreams of befriending her. The girl’s father (Sam) juggles brilliantly at home, but cannot get past his stage fright to complete a public performance. Told in four ‘acts’, the story unfolds gracefully and ends with all parties getting their fondest wish in a perfect storm of magic and memory. **Collette**



The Infamous Ratsos by Kara LaReau, illustrated by Matt Myers, Candlewick Press, \$14.99

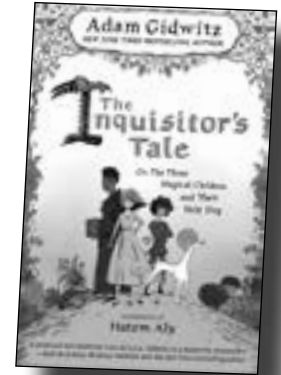


Brothers Louie and Ralph Ratso hear from their dad Big Lou that there are two types of people in the world, the toughies and the softies. They want to be toughies like their dad, so they spend their time trying to impress him—taking someone’s hat, making a gross sandwich for the new girl at school, and soaping up the window of the mean lady next door. But all of their tough moves end up unexpectedly helping the people involved, and the brothers find that being kind and helpful isn’t just for the softies. **Kristen**

intermediate

The Inquisitor’s Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog

by Adam Gidwitz, illustrated by Hatem Aly, Dutton Books for Young Readers, \$17.99



Adam Gidwitz trades Grimm’s tales for Chaucer’s, bringing readers into a medieval tavern where strangers tell stories about three children and their miraculous dog who have sent France into an uproar. William, Jeanne, and Jacob (a monk, a peasant girl, and a Jewish boy) learn that friendship can flourish despite, or even because of, their differences as they set out to rescue a library’s worth of books from King Louis IX’s inquisitorial bonfires. Along the way, they encounter fiends, knights, an inquisitor or two, and one very rude dragon. Illuminated illustrations enhance the medieval setting of this funny, timely book. **Hannah**

Mighty Jack by Ben Hatke, First Second, \$14.99



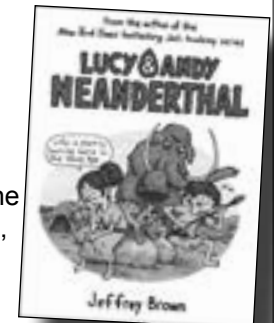
The author of *Zita the Spacegirl* is back with a new series, this time a take on Jack and the Beanstalk. Jack’s mom works a lot, leaving him largely in charge of his autistic, nonverbal younger sister Maddy. One day Maddy trades the family car for some magic beans, and in planting them she creates a magical, fantastic garden. Plants that throw mud, edible peppers that give you the ability

to jump as high as the clouds—it all seems fun and amazing until the dragon shows up. An exciting beginning to what promises to be another great graphic series. **Kristen**

graphic reads

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal by Jeffrey Brown, Crown Books for Young Readers, \$12.99

Lucy and Andy are a pair of typical Stone Age kids who get into Paleo-sized shenanigans. Part comic book, part archeology lesson, Brown imagines a world where scimitar cats curl up by the bonfire, cave-teens grow terrible puberty-’staches, and pants are a thing of the past (pun definitely intended). **Addison**



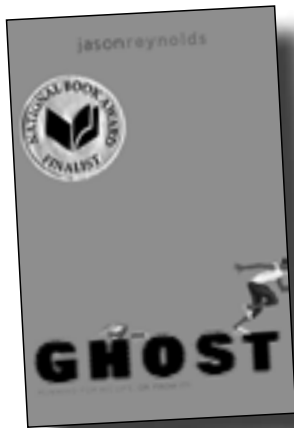
graphic read

Dog Man by Dav Pilkey, Graphix, \$9.99

Dav Pilkey is at it again in *Dog Man*, a comic written by his fictional characters George and Harold. Dog Man is a police officer with the head of a dog who fights crime and gets dog hair all over the chief’s couch. The mom in me cringes at the potty humor that was characteristic of his *Captain Underpants* series, but my kids have read this book fifteen times and vouch that it is hysterical and awesome. Pilkey is a master at creating books that get kids excited about reading. **Kristen**



intermediate



Ghost by Jason Reynolds,
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, \$16.99

Castle Crenshaw is a reluctant natural athlete who has no idea how running will change his life. Coach Brody is firm but caring, and has more in common with Castle than he lets on. Though their roles are familiar, Castle and Coach are unique, intriguing, and memorable characters. Set in the world of junior track and field—a sport both dramatic and metaphoric—*Ghost* is the first in a fresh new series for sports lovers.

Katie

Poet's Dog by Patricia MacLachlan,
Katherine Tegen Books, \$14.99

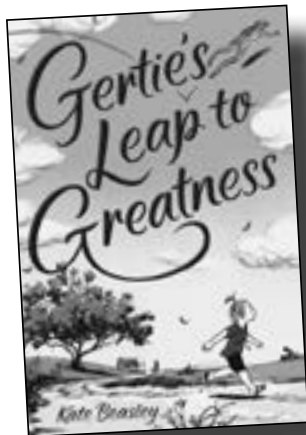
"I'm a dog. I should tell you that right away. I understand words, but there are only two who understand me when I speak." Within the framework of a fierce blizzard, Teddy the dog explains his own rescue and the loss of his beloved poet, Sylvan. But misfortune turns to good when he finds and cares for two children freezing in the cold. Thus the poet's dog has the providence of rescuing 'a jewel or two'. As Sylvan once told him, "When you can't find a poet, find a child. Remember that." Remember that! **Ellen**



Gertie's Leap to Greatness

by Kate Beasley, illustrated by Jillian Tamaki,
Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$16.99

Gertie Foy is on a mission! In order to keep her estranged mom from moving to another town, Gertie is determined to become the best 5th grader in the whole universe and show her mom what she'll be missing. The mission isn't without its hiccups, but Gertie is "like a dog with a tire" and presses forward with optimism. Beasley has written a heartwarming and relatable story filled with many laughs. Gertie's strength, tenacity, and confidence are admirable and her outlook on life is an inspiration to young readers. **Stacy**



advanced

The Forgetting by Sharon Cameron,
Scholastic Press, \$18.99

What would you do if you knew an inevitable event would cause you to forget everything? This is the question the inhabitants of Canaan must ask themselves, for every twelve years they go through the Forgetting. They wake up not knowing who or where they are, and can only gain answers through the diaries that each is expected to keep. Nadia is approaching her second Forgetting with the troubling secret that she is the only one who has never forgotten. As she searches for an explanation and a way to prevent the Forgetting, she must navigate deception, secrecy and an unexpected romance.

Kristen



Snow White: A Graphic Novel

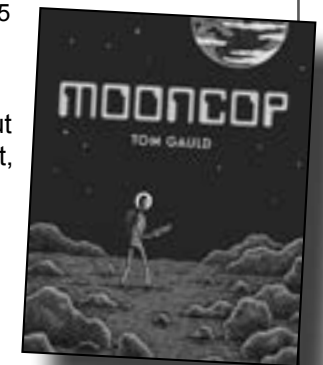
by Matt Phelan, Candlewick Press, \$19.99

This stunning take on the classic fairy tale envisions Snow White in Depression-Era New York City. The cinematic gray and sepia palette (with touches of red, of course), and spot-on details (the evil stepmother is a Ziegfeld chorus girl, Prince Charming is a hard-boiled detective) give the book a gritty, film noir feel. Snow's relationship with the dwarves (here, seven homeless street kids) is utterly charming, and her happily-ever-after ending will warm your heart on a cold winter evening.

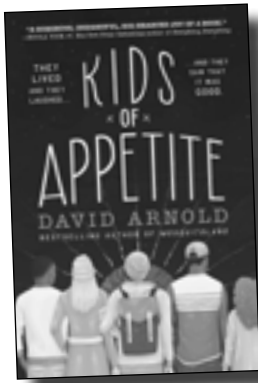
Katie

Mooncop by Tom Gauld, Drawn & Quarterly, \$19.95

It's a lonely job being the only cop on the moon. Everything is automated, the moon's populace is moving back to Earth, and the donut kiosk has been out of order for too long. At least, with no crime on the moon, his crime solving rate is technically 100%. Tom Gauld paints a dry, poignant picture of isolation, boredom, and ultimately satisfaction in the idea of a job well done and finding one's niche. **Jordan**



graphic reads



advanced

Kids of Appetite by David Arnold, Viking Books for Young Readers, \$18.99

I've heard that spider silk has the same tensile strength as kevlar. Whether or not that's true, David Arnold has crafted a novel that spins the strongest web I've ever read between a band of ostensibly homeless kids and their current living situation. When Bruno flees home on impulse with his father's ashes in tow, he's unprepared for the network of characters who are willing to help him complete a list of his dad's last wishes. This is a story about loyalty, betrayal, fierce love and fiercer loss. A murder, the foster care system, the plight of refugees and the beauty of asymmetry make this my favorite novel of the fall. The spider silk that binds us to the family we have and the family we choose is stronger than kevlar. **Collette**

adult

Moonglow by Michael Chabon, Harper, \$28.99

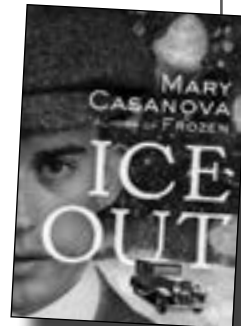
Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Chabon has written his most ambitious and moving novel yet. Inspired by confessions from his grandfather's deathbed, *Moonglow* is a fictionalized, dreamlike exploration of Chabon's family history told from the perspective of one man's long and event-filled life. The horrors of World War II, the strain of mental illness, long-kept family secrets, true love and loss, and even the high aspirations and secret dark side of the history of rocketry and space travel all factor into a narrative that condenses and pulls apart an entire lifetime. **Jordan**



local author

Ice-Out by Mary Casanova, University of Minnesota Press, \$16.95

Ice-Out is a continuation of the stories of Owen Jensen and Sadie Rose who were teenagers in the 1920's. Casanova's earlier book, *Frozen*, was Sadie Rose's story of her search for the truth about her mother's untimely death and her own place in the world. Owen's story, told here, is one of growing up in a world where the lines between rich and poor and right and wrong are often blurred. Their stories have roots along the border between Minnesota and Canada and are tales taken from true events and the history of the early 20th century. **Jean**



Upstream: Selected Essays by Mary Oliver, Penguin Press, \$26.00

Finding the words of your own soul within the soul of another is a sacred and mysterious experience. Throughout her life and work as a poet, National Book Award and Pulitzer Prize winner Mary Oliver has quietly spoken into the hearts of thousands, using her love of the natural world, as well as her love of literature, as muses. *Upstream* is a collection of beloved essays from her many books, carefully chosen to reflect upon her journey toward self discovery, and seen through the lenses of flora, fauna, and even Walt Whitman. A precious and beautiful memoir of musings, this book is one to savor again and again. **Heather**



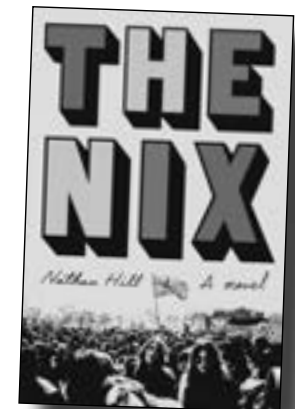
The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon, Delacorte Press, \$18.99

When Daniel spots Natasha on a New York City street, it's a meant-to-be moment. For him. It's not a spoiler to tell you that this poet and scientist do eventually fall for each other, but the way their relationship unfolds—through a day's worth of questions and conversations about race, family, immigration, deportation, career goals, hair care, karaoke and quantum physics—makes this a definitively contemporary, and yes, surprising, love story. **Katie**

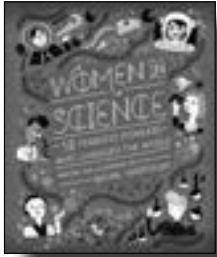


The Nix by Nathan Hill, Knopf, \$27.95

The Nix is a spirit from Norwegian mythology who takes what you love and makes it disappear. Eleven year old Samuel Andresen-Anderson's mother disappears on a seemly ordinary day. She's been planning it for some time, but the reason is a mystery that Samuel carries with him well into adulthood. When out of the blue his runaway mother is headlined in the news, Samuel feels that the time is right to get to the bottom of his personal mystery. Hill's novel travels through different decades from differing points of view. It's a wild ride! **Jean**



non-fiction



Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignatofsky, Ten Speed Press, \$16.99

This book is a treasure! A few names will be familiar, but I'm betting that most of these women scientists are ones you've never come across: Gertrude Elion, Edith Clarke, Florence Bascom, and Wang Zhenyi, just to name a few. Female scientists made discoveries, saved lives and added to numerous areas of knowledge, and we should know them. Lots of facts and clever illustrations make this a fun and much-needed book for anyone to have on their shelf. **Jean**

Rad Women Worldwide by Kate Schatz, illustrated by Miriam Klein Stahl, Ten Speed Press, \$15.99

From the creators of the New York Times best-selling *Rad American Women A-Z* comes another anthology of fierce females. The stories in this book prove that young girls and seasoned women alike have been kicking major butt since 430 BC. These are women who have stepped up to the plate, rewritten the rules and envisioned a better future for us all. A coffee-table essential! **Addison**



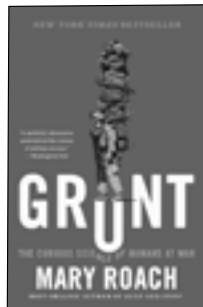
Atlas Obscura by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton, Workman Publishing, \$35.00



The Taj Mahal. A run-of-the-mill travel book will steer you towards such popular destinations, but there's an antidote to predictable travel in this very "Rumpian" guidebook. When traveling to India, why not also visit the Karni Mata Rat Temple (p. 131), where you may walk among 20,000 rats believed to be descendants of a reincarnated Hindu goddess? Teeming with quirky sightseeing recommendations, *Atlas Obscura* will inspire you whether you are actually traveling or living vicariously. **Carmelle**

Grunt: The Curious Science of Humans at War by Mary Roach, W. W. Norton & Company, \$26.95

Mary Roach does it again with her humorous journalistic writing style, this time about the science of keeping soldiers alive, sane, and parasite-free. From ruptured submarine simulations to dead chicken-launchers, *Grunt* offers readers a fascinating (albeit cringe-worthy) ride through the nerdy side of the military sciences. A magnificent book for mature readers with a good sense of humor and a love of all things weird! **Rachael**



gift



The Story Orchestra: Four Seasons in One Day by Jessica Courtney-Tickle, Frances Lincoln Children's Books, \$22.99

Follow Isabelle and her loyal pup, Pickle, as they discover the wonders of nature by way of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. This interactive classical adventure is bursting with original illustrations, historical information and samples of Vivaldi's cherished orchestral quartet. Educational and whimsical, this text marks the first in a forthcoming series of press-and-hear books that bring classical music to life. *The Story Orchestra* is sure to delight musical minds of any age. **Addison**

A Year Full of Stories: 52 Folktales and Legends from All Around the World by Angela McAllister, illustrated by Christopher Corr, Frances Lincoln Children's Books, \$19.99

Go on a journey around the calendar with this stunning anthology of folktales from around the globe. With fifty-two folktales, there are stories for every holiday and occasion, from classics like *East of the Sun, West of the Moon* and *The Frog Prince* to new tales like *Father Frost* and *The Gifts of the North Wind*. Spend Thanksgiving in West Africa and Valentine's Day in Korea. Learn about new holidays and traditions from cultures different from your own; a treat for every reader and a beautiful book to be enjoyed all year round. **Julia**



The Singing Bones by Shaun Tan, Arthur A. Levine Books, \$24.99



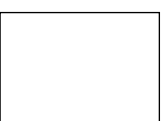
Shaun Tan is a multifaceted artist surprising at every turn. Out of earthen clay and papier-mâché, Tan forms seventy-five beguiling narrative sculptures, shedding new light on fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. Paging through the photographs of this book is akin to wandering an artist exhibition and gazing on an enchanted forest of collected ancient folklore—you might never imagine the golden locks of the young woman in the tower the same way again. You will want to reach in and hold these storied figurines that fit in the palm of a hand. **Jesse**

WILD · RUMPUS

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www.wildrumpusbooks.com



Some Writer! The Story of E.B.

White by Melissa Sweet,
HMH Books for Young Readers,
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Immerse yourself in the wonderful world of the much-beloved author E.B. White. This beautifully illustrated biography brings the reader right alongside him as he writes classics such as *Stuart Little*, *Charlotte's*

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