



Book Kits for the 2021 Beehive Book Awards Poetry Book Nominees

The Bell Rang

Birdie

Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons

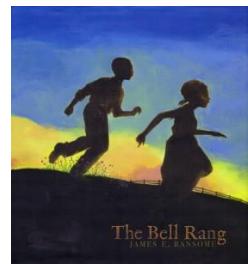
Predator and Prey

Sometimes You Fly



The Bell Rang

Author & Illustrator: James E. Ransome
Publisher: Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books
Publication Date: January 15, 2019
ISBN: 978-1442421134
Grade Level: PreK-6th



Description

A young slave girl witnesses the heartbreak and hopefulness of her family and their plantation community when her brother escapes for freedom

Themes

African Americans, Brothers and Sisters, Families, Fugitive Slaves, Plantations, Slavery

Author Information

James E. Ransome lives in Rhinebeck New York with his wife, Lesa Cline Ransome, a writer of children's books. They have collaborated on a number of books together. Ransome has illustrated more than 50 books and received many awards, including the Coretta Scott King Honor Award, the NAACP Image Award, and the Rip van Winkle Award. He writes that "What makes illustrating books so exciting is that because each book has a special voice, my approach toward each is different. Whether it be through my choice of palette, design or perspective, there is always a desire to experiment and explore what makes each book unique."

Author's Website:

<https://jamesransome.com/>

Contact Information:

James E. Ransome
107 Knollwood Road
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Email: JRansomeillustr@aol.com

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think the bell ringing is mentioned every day? Why doesn't it ring on Sunday?
2. How did *The Bell Rang* make you feel? Scared? Happy for Ben? Sad for his sister and family?
3. Why did Ben give his sister a doll? How is her doll different from the toys you play with?
4. Which illustration in the book is your favorite?
5. What do you think happened to Ben?
6. How do you think Ben's running will influence his sister as she grows up?

Activities

1. The book's author and illustrator James E. Ransome, says that he was influenced by the artists Mary Cassatt, John Singer Sargent, Winslow Homer, Edgar Degas and Joaquin Sorolla. Go to your library to find books about those artists or look online to see images of their work. Can you see similarities between Ransome's paintings and the other artists'? Which one do you like best?
2. Look at the drawings of the doll Ben made for his sister. Do you think you could make one too? What materials would you use?
3. Do you know how to jump rope? Jumping rope and playing hopscotch and hide-and-seek are some of



the fun things that Ben's sister does with the other children who live on the plantation. Ask your mom or dad if you can learn how to jump rope, too. If you already know, go outside and jump rope!

4. Ben's running away made his family feel many things—happiness for his freedom but sadness because they couldn't see him anymore. This will be a story they tell in their family for a long, long time. Ask your grandparents, aunts and uncles, or parents about some of your family stories. What things did your ancestors do that were brave, scary, or memorable?

5. *The Bell Rang* is a book about slavery. What questions do you have about that time in the United States' history? Write a list of questions and then ask your parents or a teacher for help in understanding.

More Resources

- The organization Teaching Tolerance has a downloadable packet of information for teaching children about "hard history"—topics from history that are problematic but necessary to understand. While it is developed for teachers, it is also helpful for parents. <https://www.tolerance.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/Teaching-Hard-History-American-Slavery-Framework-K-5.pdf>
- The *Washington Post* wrote a series of articles about teaching children about slavery. https://www.washingtonpost.com/american-slavery/?itid=lk_inline_manual_56
- The Barefoot Mommy blog focuses on a variety of different ways to teach children about diversity, racism, and social justice, including many book reviews. <https://www.thebarefootmommy.com/>

Similar Books

- *All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom* by Angela Johnson
- *Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave* by Laban Carrick Hill
- *Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom* by Shane W. Evans
- *In the Time of the Drums* by Kim L. Siegelson
- *Freedom in Congo Square* by Carole Boston Weatherford and R. Gregory Christie

Related Non-fiction

- *Under the Freedom Tree* by Susan VanHecke
- *Great Escapes: Real Tales of Harrowing Getaways* by Judy Dodge Cummings
- *Voices from the Underground Railroad* by Kay Winters
- *Harriet Tubman: Freedom Fighter* by Nadia L. Hohn
- *Learning About the Civil Rights Movement with Arts and Crafts* by Kira Freed



Birdie

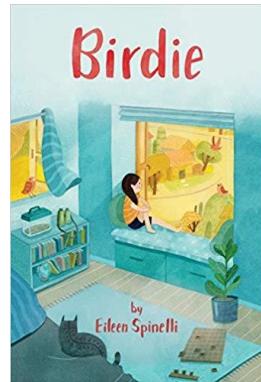
Author: Eileen Spinelli

Publisher: Erdmans Books for Young Readers

Publication Date: April 9, 2019

ISBN: 978-0802855138

Grade Level: 4th-8th



Description

Twelve-year-old Birdie Briggs loves birds. They bring her comfort when she thinks about her dad, a firefighter who was killed in the line of duty. Life without her dad isn't easy, but at least Birdie still has Mom and Maymee, and her friends Nina and Martin.

But then Maymee gets a boyfriend, Nina and Martin start dating, and Birdie's mom starts seeing a police officer. And suddenly not even her beloved birds can lift Birdie's spirits. Her world is changing, and Birdie wishes things would go back to how they were before. But maybe change, painful as it is, can be beautiful too.

Themes

Dating, Families, Friendship, Grief, Relationships, Single-Parent Families

Author Information

Eileen Spinelli made her debut in 1991 with *Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch*, which one a Christopher Award. Since then she has written more than forty children's books, including *Thankful* and *When No One is Watching*. She lives in Pennsylvania with Jerry Spinelli, her husband and fellow children's writer. Her website is eileenspinelli.com

Discussion Questions

1. How can you help make a new person feel welcome at school or in your neighborhood?
2. What would be some better alternatives to handling a situation you don't want to face instead of pretending to be sick?
3. What brings you comfort when you are sad or are missing someone?
4. Sometimes it is difficult to tell someone how you are feeling. What are some ways you can communicate besides talking face to face?
5. How can you adjust to a new person whom you, perhaps initially, did not want to be a part of your life?

Activities

1. Organize a game day with friends ([The 40 Greatest Family Games](#)). Play Scrabble with a friend using a theme (birds, for example) for the words to add a challenge. Race a friend to list as many words in a theme in a set amount of time. Play Scattergories for additional practice thinking of words in a theme.
2. Build a bird feeder, birdbath, or bird house (ask an adult for assistance if needed), and, with permission, set it up to attract birds to your home or neighborhood.
3. Use the Seek app by iNaturalist (https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app) to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.
4. Make a memory box for or in honor of someone you miss.
5. Make a list of all the activities you would like to try to do with your friends (or to make new friends) over a certain period of time. Use a list like [this one](#) for some additional ideas.
6. Keep a log of all the things you experience each day that make you happy. Write a note to someone to show your appreciation for something nice they did for you.

More Resources



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- Tracy Aviary - <https://tracyaviary.org/>
 - Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge - https://www.fws.gov/refuge/bear_river_migratory_bird_refuge/
 - Design Squad Global Lesson Plan The Challenge: Helping Others - https://pbskids.org/designsquad/parentseducators/lesson-plans/helping_others.html
 - PBS For Parents: How to Teach Your Child to Be an “Includer” - <https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/how-to-teach-your-child-to-be-an-includer>
 - Kids Activities: Teaching Kids Life Skills: Being a Good Friend - <https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/24345/teaching-kids-2/>

Similar Books

- *The Thing about Jellyfish* by Ali Benjamin
- *Louisiana's Way Home* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Shouting at the Rain* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *Right as Rain* by Lindsey Stoddard
- *My Jasper June* by Laurel Snyder
- *Pay Attention, Carter Jones* by Gary Schmidt
- *Love, Ruby Lavender* by Deborah Wiles
- *Umbrella Summer* by Lisa Graff
- *Finding Orion* by John David Anderson
- *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg
- *You Go First* by Erin Entrada Kelly
- *Ashes to Asheville* by Sarah Dooley

Related Non-Fiction

- *After Life: Ways We Think about Death* by Merrie-Ellen Wilcox
- *Growing Friendships: A Kid's Guide to Making and Keeping Friends* by Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore & Christine McLaughlin
- *Is Nothing Something?: Kids' Questions and Zen Answers about Life, Death, Family, Friendship, and Everything in Between* by Thich Nhat Hanh
- *Humanimals: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us!* by Christopher Lloyd
- *Great Games!: Old & New, Indoor/Outdoor, Travel, Board, Ball & Word* by Sam Taggar and Susan Williamson
- *Am I a Good Friend?: A Book about Trustworthiness* by Robin Nelson



Lion of the Sky: Haiku for All Seasons

Author/Illustrator: Laura Purdie Salas / Mercé Lopez

Publisher: Millbrook Press Inc

Publication Date: 4/2/2019

ISBN: 9781512498097

Grade Level: K-4



Description

Haiku meet riddles in this wonderful collection from Laura Purdie Salas. The poems celebrate the seasons and describe everything from an earthworm to a baseball to an apple to snow angels, alongside full-color illustrations.

Themes

Haiku, Juvenile Non-Fiction, Language Arts, Poems, Riddles, Seasons

Author/Illustrator Information

Short Bio from author website:

Laura Purdie Salas has written more than 125 books for kids, including *Meet My Family!*, *If You Were the Moon*, *Water Can Be...* and *BookSpeak!* Laura grew up in Florida and now lives and writes in Minnesota. She loves to get kids excited about reading and writing. For more info, please visit laurasalas.com

<https://laurasalas.com/laura-purdie-salas-short-bios/>

For more info visit:

<https://laurasalas.com/what-i-write/>

Mercé Lopez was born in Barcelona, Spain, in 1979. She is the youngest of 3 sisters and she loved painting and drawing with one of them while listening to the other read *The Never Ending Story* to her. Personal website:

<https://www.mercelopez.com/>

Discussion Questions

7. This book explores seasons. If you were to create a book about the seasons what events would you have to include? You can do this activity individually, or in groups. If you break into groups you can break into small groups of four and each person in the group can be in charge of one season. Or you can break into four groups and have each group be in charge of one season, and then they can share with the class. This would also be a really good activity to do with post-it notes.
8. Which Riddle-ku was your favorite? Why? Which Riddle-ku was your least favorite? Why?
9. Which season is your favorite? Why? Which season is your least favorite? Why? This discussion could also be set up as a debate. Defend your favorite season. Why is your favorite season the best out of all the seasons?
10. How does the Haiku poetry form compare to other poetry forms you may have studied? Do they have similar rules? Do you have a favorite poetry form? If so, why or why not?
11. Do you like riddles? Do you have a favorite riddle? (Teacher note: you may have to assign this as homework, ie, "Bring in a favorite riddle for tomorrow.") Share your riddles with the class. See if the students can guess everyone's favorite riddle.

Activities

1. Create your own Riddle-ku, both the haiku and artwork, and post it to the author's website.
 - a. <https://laurasalas.com/lion/>



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2. Watch the section of the video "An Author's Thoughts on Picture Book Illustration" about this book. Create a Riddle-ku and swap with a partner and illustrate their Riddle-ku.
 - a. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjRNZpnRhGw>
 - b. Minutes: 14:27-21:08
 3. Write a Poetryactions. Poetryactions are "short, quick poems written in response to a book." Check out Laura Salas' website for more details.
 - a. <https://laurasalas.com/cat-page-poetryactions/>
 4. This book explores seasons. Have the students use the data from US Climate Data to find the average high and low temperature for each season in Utah, and create a graph for both the high and low temperature. The website also has info for precipitation if you want them to have more practice. Have them decide which months belong in each season.
 - a. <https://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/salt-lake-city/utah/united-states/usut0225>
 5. Designate different walls in your rooms as different seasons. Find multiple pictures that encapsulate the season for your students. Mix up the images. Divide them in two. Divide your students into two. Have a race to see who can put up all of their pictures the quickest. This can be done all at once, or as a relay. If you want this to be a multiple day project, you can even use the list of items from Discussion Question #1.

More Resources

- The author's website is full of amazing ideas and tips. Below is the link to her page for this book and her blog. On her blog website, she has a sidebar with useful links to search her blog including: Poems for the Classroom, Poetryactions, and Poetry Activities for Teachers.
 - <https://laurasalas.com/lion/>
 - <https://laurasalas.com/blog/>
- Former Children's Poet Laureate Kenn Nesbitt's Poetry4Kids website includes a how to write a haiku page as well as other poetry lessons.
 - <https://www.poetry4kids.com/lessons/how-to-write-a-haiku/>
- DLTK's Crafts for Kids features a section on poetry that includes Haiku's and Who Am I? Haiku's. It also has worksheets.
 - <https://www.kidzone.ws/poetry/haiku.htm>
- Need some riddle ideas? Reader's Digest has an article called Best Riddles for Kids.
 - <https://www.rd.com/culture/best-riddles-for-kids/>

Similar Books

- *Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons* presented by Koo and John J. Muth
- *Wonderfall* by Michael Hall
- *Under the Same Sky* by Britta Teckentrup
- *The Popcorn Astronauts: And Other Biteable Rhymes* by Deborah Ruddell, illustrated by Joan Rankin
- *Nightlights* by Paul Paolini and Dan Brewer, pictures by Alice Brereton

Related Non-fiction

- *Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems* selected by Paul B. Janeczko; illustrated by Melissa Sweet
- *Sing a Song of Seasons: A Nature Poem for Each Day of the Year* selected by Fiona Waters; illustrated by Frann Preston-Gannon
- *Guess Who, Haiku* words by Deanna Caswell; pictures by Bob Shea
- *If Not for the Cat: Haiku* by Jack Prelutsky; paintings by Ted Rand.
- *Who Am I? A Peek-Through-Pages Book of Endangered Animals* photography by Tim Flach, text by Rachel Clare



Predator and Prey

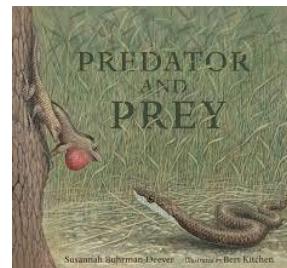
Author/Illustrator: Susannah Buhrman-Deever / Bert Kitchen

Publisher: Candlewick Studio

Publication Date: 2019

ISBN: 978-0-7636-9533-0

Grade Level: 4 and higher



Description

The Battle for survival between predator and prey is sometimes a fight, sometimes a dance, and can involve spying, lying, or even telling the truth to get ahead. Susannah Buhrman-Deever explores this dynamic relationship in poems that give both sides of the story, while Bert Kitchen's realistic art captures the dramatic moment when predator and prey meet.

Themes

Animals, Disease, Ecology, Environment, Predator, Prey, Poetry

Author/Illustrator Information

Susannah Buhrman-Deever is a biologist with a PHD in animal behavior from Cornell. In addition to her academic work and writing, she has developed inquire-based ecology curricula for children. Predator and Prey is her first book for children. She lives with her family in Upstate New York. <https://www.susannahbuhrmandeever.com/>

Bert Kitchen was born in Liverpool, England in 1940. He attended the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and was a lecturer there as well. He lives and works in London. <http://www.bertkitchen.com>

Discussion Questions

1. Why should a predator stay away from brightly colored animals?
2. Why would the Female Pennsylvania firefly lie?
3. Why does a squirrel heat up and boldly wave its tail at a rattlesnake?
4. What type of Spider hunts other spiders?
5. How do the giant honey bees avoid getting eaten?

Activities

1. Invent a new type of animal.
 - a. What does it look like?
 - b. What type of habitat does it live in?
 - c. What does it eat?
 - d. Is it a predator or would it be prey?
 - e. What type of camouflage does it have?
 - f. What does it eat?
2. With a partner, make stick puppets. One of the predator, one of the prey. Memorize a poem and perform it to the class.
3. Mouths: Teach about food chains. Have class make mouths of the largest predator and include smaller mouths inside. For examples: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/110127153374637976/> and / or <http://theinspirationroom.com/daily/2009/sanctuary-magazine-mouths-save-trees/>
4. Write a poem for two people to read. A poem for two voices is written for two or more people to perform. The poetry usually has two columns—one for each person who is reading the poem. The persons reading the poem will each take their column.

Sometimes the poet wants the two readers to say something at the same time, then the poet will write the



words on the same line in each column. It's a lot like writing a dialogue for two people.

5. Learn how to make animal sounds. Elk calls, Coyote calls, Bird calls. Etc.

More Resources

- Youtube video: A joyful noise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGDo8ebZKwU>
- Youtube video: A different version of A Joyful noise
<https://sites.google.com/a/sau16.org/steinberg/literacy/poetry/poems-for-two-voices>

Similar Books

- *Diary of a Fly* by Doreen Cornin
- *Diary of a Spider* by Doreen Cornin
- *Boom! Bellow! Bleat!* by Georgia Heard
- *Seeds, Bees, and Butterflies and More* by Carole Gerber
- *Secrets of the Garden* by Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

Related Non-fiction

- *What do you do with a tail like this?* by Steven Jenkins
- *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest* by Steven Jenkins
- *Nefertiti, the Spidernaut: The Jumping Spider Who Learned to Hunt in Space* by Darcy Pattison
- *Bat Scientist* by Mary Kay Carson
- *What Eats That?* by Ryan Jacobson



Sometimes You Fly

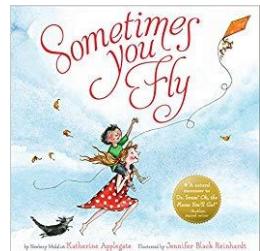
Author/Illustrator: Katherine Applegate / Jennifer Black Reinhardt

Publisher: Clarion Books

Publication Date: April 3, 2018

ISBN: 978-0547633909

Grade Level: PreK – 3rd, applicable for all ages



Description

A simple poem about encouragement, filled with realistic humor and insight into the effort behind any meaningful accomplishment in life.

Themes

Accomplishment, Achievement, Beauty, Effort, Emotions, Encouragement, Errors, Failure, Goals, Growing Up, Journey (Life), Learning, Life, Milestones (Life), Mistakes, Persistence, Resilience, Struggles, Success, Work

Author/Illustrator Information

Katherine Applegate (born October 9, 1956) is an American young adult and children's fiction writer, best known as the author of the Animorphs, Remnants, Everworld, and other book series. She won the 2013 Newbery Medal for her 2012 children's novel *The One and Only Ivan*.

Jennifer Black Reinhardt is the illustrator for several books for children. She grew up in the Pennsylvania mountains, graduated with a degree in illustration from Carnegie Mellon University, and now lives in Iowa City with her family. Her website is <https://jbreinhardt.com>.

Discussion Questions

6. Have you ever made a mistake or failed when trying to do something? How did it make you feel? What did you do to feel better? Did you ever try that thing again, and if so, did you ever succeed to a point that made you feel proud?
7. What are some things that you want to do in your life? As a child? As a teen? As an adult? What are things you do now that will help you do those things some day?
8. Have you tried any of the things in this book like bake a cake? Some of the things you have done but may not remember. How do you think those who were teaching you to do those things felt when you succeeded? How do you feel when you succeed at something?
9. Are there some things you have tried to do many times but just cannot do? How does that make you feel? Are there some things you are all right not being able to do and are there some things you want to keep trying? How do you think accepting both of those will help you for the rest of your life?
10. Who are people in your life who have encouraged you to learn and keep trying? What did they do to encourage you? What could you do to encourage others?

Activities

6. Doodle Art or Creative Reformation. Can be done in a group, with at least one partner, or for a harder challenge on one's own. Have children doodle or scribble on a piece of paper. Then exchange the papers and have the children create some drawing from the doodle/scribble. Good practice for imagination and creativity. Have the children describe what they thought or saw originally, what they created, and even what they were thinking as they made their creation. This activity can also be done with leftover craft materials, torn or crumpled paper, etc. This activity could also be done musically, with different instruments being added to other sounds, or imitating what rhythms and beats have already been made.
7. Do a 3-legged race with two partners per team. Children learn patience, persistence, cooperation,



trying again, accomplishment, working for something, and success whether they win or not—so long as they can work together and cross the finish line. To add to difficulty and the fun, try the race with *three* partners. Try to do this with some open space in case there are falls. If any teams fall, encourage them to get back up and keep going. You can make a relay out of this, or an obstacle course with stations of more games that involve partners to work together (building a house out of LEGOs, shooting a paper ball into a hoop/basket/trashcan, stacking cups, etc).

8. Pick a science experiment you can do on your own, with a partner, or as a group. You can find many suggestions in books or online. Choose a fairly simple one that you can change. For example, the Mentos in Soda (should be done outside). Think of ways to change some of the variables in your science experiment (different types of soda, different types of mentos, how many mentos are used, etc). Write down results of each experiment with the different variables. Notice how some variables do not succeed as others. These “failed” experiments help you find the bigger/better/stronger/further results and actually help you improve. This is exactly what scientists do with their experiments.
9. Think of any task that was or could be hard for you to learn (tying your shoes, reading, math, cooking food, learning to fly). Write a short story or poem about that activity.
10. Try some basic coding programs. Coding is all about trying, failing, learning, and trying again. This website suggests 10 free websites you can try: <https://childhood101.com/coding-for-kids/> If you don't want to go the technology route, then try to have your class build a Chain Reaction model. There will be failure as they try to figure out what can cause and how it will affect, but as they work together they will learn persistence and success.

More Resources

- <https://biglifejournal.com/blogs/blog/help-kids-overcome-fear-failure>
- <https://childmind.org/article/how-to-help-kids-learn-to-fail/>
- <https://connectedprincipals.com/archives/3224> Marshmallow Challenge (can do with all ages)
- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/margiewarrell/2015/12/05/prepare-your-kids-for-success-teach-them-how-to-fail/#6ef50a9f7445>
- <https://listverse.com/2015/07/16/10-really-impressive-achievements-by-kids/>
- <http://www.momentsaday.com/5-activities-to-help-your-kids-learn-perseverance/> (For K-3rd)
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/06/476884049/how-to-teach-children-that-failure-is-the-secret-to-success>
- <https://oncourseworkshop.com/life-long-learning/failure-toss/> (Meant for college, but adaptable for school-age, especially 4th-9th)
- <https://pbskids.org/learn/lifes-little-lessons/persistence/> (For K-3rd)
- <https://www.rootsofaction.com/learning-from-mistakes/>
- <https://www.teachthought.com/learning/help-students-embrace-failure-game-based-learning/>
- <https://www.verywellfamily.com/when-kids-fail-616954>

Similar Books

- *100 Things That Make Me Happy* *100 Things That Make Me Happy* by Amy Schwartz
- *After the Fall (How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again)* by Dan Santat
- *Beautiful Oops* by Barney Saltzberg
- *Cuckoo!* by Fiona Roberton
- *Dear Girl* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
- *Flight School* by Lita Judge
- *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers



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- *I am Enough* by Grace Byers
 - *Ish* by Peter Reynolds
 - *Just in Case You Want to Fly* by Julie Fogliano
 - *La La La: A Story of Hope* by Kate DiCamillo
 - *Max and Marla* by Alexandra Boiger
 - *The Most Magnificent Thing* by Ashley Spires
 - *Now* by Antoinette Portis
 - *Oh the Places You'll Go* by Dr. Seuss
 - *Oliver and the Seawigs* by Philip Reave
 - *Papa's Mechanical Fish* by Candace Fleming
 - *A Perfectly Messed-Up Story* by Patrick McDonnell
 - *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty
 - *Salt in His Shoes* by Roslyn Jordan and Deloris Jordan
 - *The Thing Lou Couldn't Do* by Ashley Spires
 - *What Do You Do with a Problem?* by Kobi Yamada

Related Non-fiction

- *365 Days of Wonder: Mr. Browne's Precepts* by R.J. Palacio
- *Adventures to School: Real-Life Journeys of Students from around the World* by Baptiste Paul and Miranda Paul
- *Fantastic Failures: True Stories of People Who Changed the World by Falling Down First* by Luke Reynolds
- *I Want to Win!* by Sue Graves
- *Nadia: The Girl Who Couldn't Sit Still* by Karlin Gray
- *Perseverance: I Have Grit* by Jodie Shepherd
- *The Playbook: 52 Rules to Aim, Shoot, and Score in This Game Called Life* by Kwame Alexander
- *The Race to Space: Countdown to Liftoff* by Erik Slader and Ben Thompson
- *Rising Above: Inspiring Women in Sports* by Gregory Zuckerman