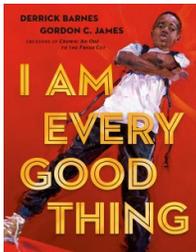


Caldecott Medal Contenders 2021

I Am Every Good Thing

Written by Derrick Barnes, Illustrated by Gordon C. James



The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. So slow down and really look and listen, when somebody tells you--and shows you--who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!

A Polar Bear in the Snow

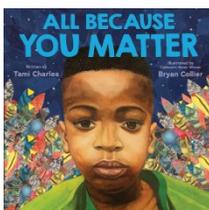
Written by Mac Barnett, Illustrated by Shawn Harris



Follow a magnificent polar bear through a fantastic world of snow and shockingly blue sea. Over the ice, through the water, past Arctic animals and even a human . . . where is he going? What does he want?

All Because You Matter

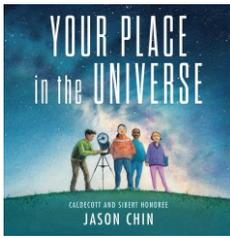
Written by Tami Charles, Illustrated by Bryan Collier



A lyrical, heart-lifting love letter to Black and Brown children everywhere reminds them how much they matter, that they have always mattered, and they always will.

Your Place in the Universe

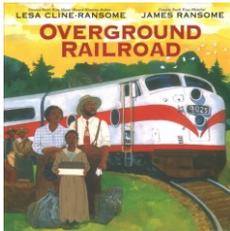
Written and Illustrated by Jason Chin



Explore the known Universe and consider its mind-boggling scale in this crisply illustrated, well-researched picture book. An engaging way to delve into perspective, astronomy, and astrophysics.

Overground Railroad

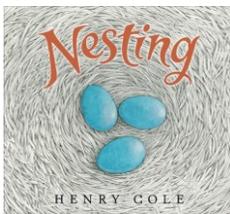
Written by Lesa Cline-Ransome, Illustrated by James Ransome



A perceptive girl tells the story of her train journey from North Carolina to New York City as part of the Great Migration. Each leg of the trip brings new revelations as scenes out the window of folks working in fields give way to the Delaware River, the curtain that separates the colored car is removed, and glimpses of the freedom and opportunity the family hopes to find come into view.

Nesting

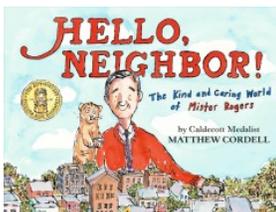
Written and Illustrated by Henry Cole



In this black-and-white picture book highlighted with robin's egg blue, the reader will follow two robins as they build a nest, lay four beautiful blue eggs, and keep the eggs warm in the nest until they hatch into four baby robins. The perils the babies encounter are many, but the nest is always their safe place.

Hello, Neighbor! The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers

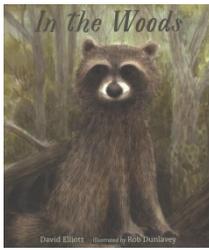
Written and Illustrated by Matthew Cordell



In difficult times, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood provided a refuge for children and their families alike. Lively, colorful illustrations explore Fred Rogers' early life and the events that led him to create his enduring show. A brief biography of Mister Rogers and a history of the show is included.

In the Woods

Written by David Elliott, Illustrated by Rob Dunlavy



An evocative collection of verse for young poetry lovers and budding naturalists explores the secretive inner lives of woodland animals, from the inquisitive raccoon to the dignified bear. Colorful, expressive art pairs with charming poems to create a love letter to the animals of the forest.

Swashby and the Sea

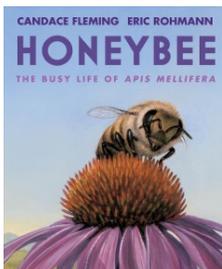
Written by Beth Ferry, Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal



No-nonsense Captain Swashby loves his life by the sea just as it is: salty and sandy and serene. But after his retirement, new neighbors disturb his solitary life. Could it be that the captain's oldest friend, the sea, knows what Swashby needs even better than he knows himself?

Honeybee: The Interesting Life of Apis Mellifera

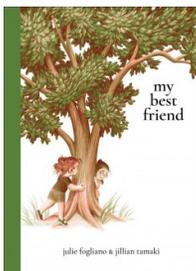
Written by Candace Fleming, Illustrated by Eric Rohmann



Exquisitely detailed illustrations bring the great outdoors into your hands in this poetically written tribute to the hardworking honeybee. Describes the life cycle of a honeybee as she emerges from her cell, does different jobs around the hive while growing big enough and strong enough to fly, and flies far and wide to search for nectar.

My Best Friend

Written by Julie Fogliano, Illustrated by Jillian Tamaki



What is a best friend, if not someone who laughs with you the whole entire day, especially when you pretend to be a pickle? This pitch-perfect picture book is a sweetly earnest, visually stunning celebration of the magic of friendship.

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read

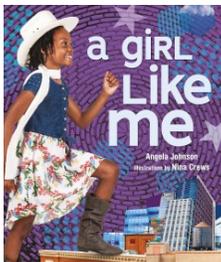
Written by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, Illustrated by Oge Mora



In 1848, Mary Walker was born into slavery. At age 15, she was freed. By age 68, she had worked numerous jobs, including cooking, cleaning, and selling sandwiches to raise money for her church. And at 116, she learned to read. This is the inspirational story of Mary Walker, a woman whose long life spanned from the Civil War to the Civil Rights Movement, and who proved that you're never too old to learn.

A Girl Like Me

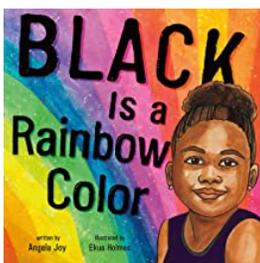
Written by Angela Johnson, Illustrated by Nina Crews



Empower young readers to embrace their individuality, reject societal limitations, and follow their dreams. This inspiring picture book brings together a poem by acclaimed author Angela Johnson and Nina Crews's distinctive photo collage illustrations to celebrate girls of color.

Black is a Rainbow Color

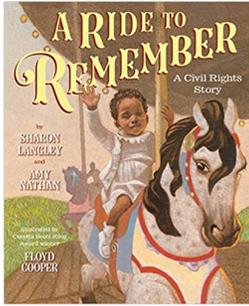
Written by Angela Joy, Illustrated by Ekua Holmes



A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this moving and powerful anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy that lives on. From the wheels of a bicycle to the robe on Thurgood Marshall's back, Black surrounds our lives. It is a color to simply describe some of our favorite things, but it also evokes a deeper sentiment about the incredible people who helped change the world and a community that continues to grow and thrive.

A Ride to Remember: A Civil Rights Story

Written by Sharon Langley, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper



The true story of how a ride on a carousel made a powerful Civil Rights statement when a community came together—both black and white—to make a change. In the early 1960s, many amusement parks were segregated, and African-American families were not allowed entry. This book reveals how in the summer of 1963, due to demonstrations and public protests, the Gwynn Oak Amusement Park in Maryland became desegregated and opened to all for the first time.

Lift

Written by Minh Le, Illustrated by Dan Santat



Iris loves to push the elevator buttons in her apartment building, and doesn't want to share the fun with her little brother. The sudden appearance of a mysterious new button opens up entire realms of possibility, places where she can escape and explore on her own. Ultimately, Iris finds that sharing a discovery with the people you love can be the most wonderful experience of all.

We Are Water Protectors

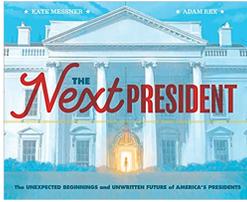
Written by Carole Lindstrom, Illustrated by Michaela Goade



Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, *We Are Water Protectors* issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

The Next President

Written by Kate Messner, Illustrated by Adam Rex



An inspiring and informative book for kids about the past and future of America's presidents. Who will be the NEXT president? Could it be you? A breezy, kid-friendly survey of American history and American presidents.

Hike

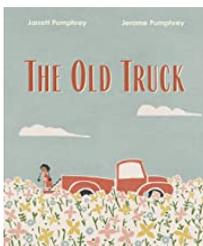
Written and Illustrated by Pete Oswald



Take to the trails for a celebration of nature — and a day spent with dad. In the cool and quiet early light of morning, a father and child wake up. Today they're going on a hike. Follow the duo into the mountains as they witness the magic of the wilderness, overcome challenges, and play a small role in the survival of the forest.

The Old Truck

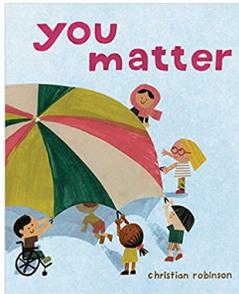
Written and Illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey



When is an old truck something more? On a small, bustling farm, a resilient and steadfast pickup works tirelessly alongside the family that lives there, and becomes a part of the dreams and ambitions of the family's young daughter. After long days and years of hard work, she is running her own busy farm, and it may be time to bring her faithful childhood companion back to life.

You Matter

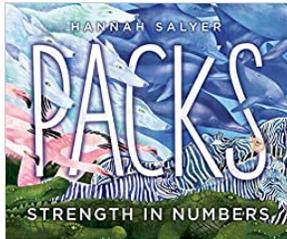
Written and Illustrated by Christian Robinson



In this full, bright, and beautiful picture book, any different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored—from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous illustrations, inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.

Packs

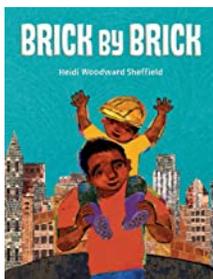
Written and Illustrated by Hannah Salyer



Groups, packs, herds of millions, and more—our world teems with animals on land, air, and sea. *Packs* is an inspiring celebration of how togetherness helps many creatures thrive, in both nonhuman and human communities.

Brick by Brick

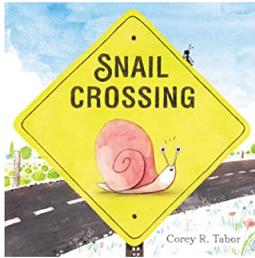
Written and Illustrated by Heidi Woodward Sheffield



Papi is a bricklayer, and he works hard every day to help build the city, brick by brick. His son, Luis, works hard too—in school, book by book. Together, they dream big about their future as they work to make those dreams come true.

Snail Crossing

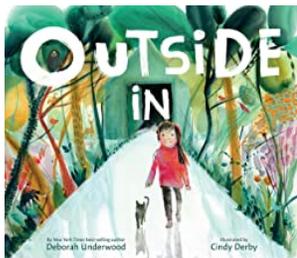
Written and Illustrated by Corey R. Tabor



In a book that is as cheerful and charming as Snail himself, Corey Tabor tells a winning tale of slow but steady Snail, whose determination and kindness bring him the best reward of all: friendship.

Outside In

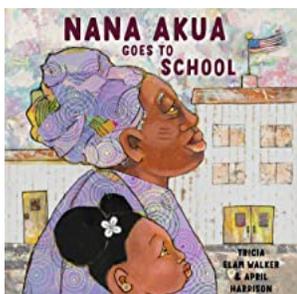
Written by Deborah Underwood, Illustrated by Cindy Derby



Outside In reminds readers of the ways nature creates and touches our lives in homes, apartments, and cars, and is the perfect tool to reflect on the world's connectedness. Rhythmic, powerful language shows us how our world is made and the many ways Outside comes in to help and heal us, and reminds us that we are all part of a much greater universe.

Nana Akua Goes to School

Written by Tricia Elam Walker, Illustrated by April Harrison



In this moving story that celebrates cultural diversity, a shy girl brings her West African grandmother--whose face bears traditional tribal markings--to meet her classmates. With a quilt of traditional African symbols and a bit of face paint, Nana Akua is able to explain what makes her special, and to make all of Zura's classmates feel special, too.