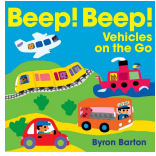


# Our Favorite Children's Books of 2025

## Board Books



### Beep! Beep! Vehicles on the Go

by Byron Barton  
**BABY BARTON, B.**

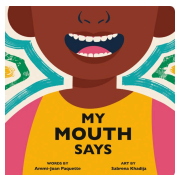
Twelve vehicles are introduced in this celebration of transportation.



### Dulces Y Antojitos

by Aaron Bowersock  
**BABY SPANISH BOWERSOCK, A.**

Introduce your little one to the sweet and savory world of traditional Latin American treats. This high-contrast bilingual book is perfect for tummy time.



### My Mouth Says

by Ammi-Joan Paquette  
**BABY PAQUETTE, A.**

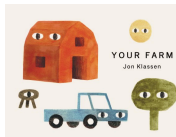
Showcases all the wonderful things a mouth can do.



### Potty Time with Bean

by Ms. Rachel  
**BABY ACCURSO, R.**

Ms. Rachel's engaging story will have little ones using the potty in no time.



### Your Farm

by Jon Klassen  
**BABY KLASSEN, J.**

With familiar farm objects and a gentle rhythm suited for reading at bedtime.

## Picture Books



### The Bear Out There

by Jess Hannigan  
**E HANNIGAN, J.**

Reader you are safe. Don't worry about shadows and noises. A surprise ending showing not everything is not what it seems.



### Big Bike, Little Bike

by Kellie DuBay Gillis  
**E GILLIS, K.**

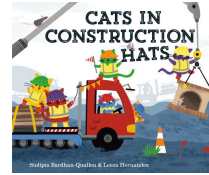
Different animals approach the same bike, in a story that celebrates how circumstances can change perspective.



### Broken

by X. Fang  
**E FANG, X.**

When Mei Mei accidentally breaks her ama's favorite cup, she's convinced it's the end of the world. When the cat ends up being blamed the truth is revealed.



### Cats in Construction Hats

by Sudipta Bardhan-Quallen  
**E BARDHAN-QUALLEN, S.**

Six colorful cats and their tiny rat friends work together to build a house.



### City Summer, Country Summer

by Kiese Laymon  
**E LAYMON, K.**

In this celebration of summer and Black joy, three boys form a meaningful connection during a trip from the city to rural Mississippi.



### A Cup of Quiet

by Nikki Grimes  
**E GRIMES, N.**

This beautiful book is about the special bond between a child and grandparent.



### Don't Trust Fish

by Neil Sharpson  
**E SHARPSON, N.**

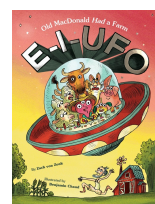
A unknown nature guide humorously warns readers why they should never trust fish, exploring their villainous nature.



### Downpour

by Yuko Onari  
**E ONARI, Y.**

As the rain pours down, a little boy encourages the droplets to play with him.



### E-I-UFO: Old MacDonald Had a Farm

by Zach Von Zonk  
**E VON ZONK, Z.**

When a spaceship visits Old MacDonald's farm, chaos ensues as the farm animals make a mess of Old MacMartian's spaceship.

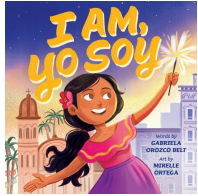


## Every Monday Mabel

by Jashar Awan

**E AWAN, J.**

Every Monday, Mabel takes her breakfast outside and waits for her favorite part of the week: the garbage truck.

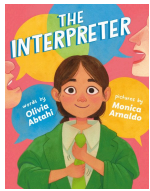


## I Am, Yo Soy

by Gabriela Orozco Belt

**E BELT, G.**

With text in English and Spanish, this is a vibrant celebration of Hispanic American identity--showcasing the beauty of being part of two cultures.



## The Interpreter

by Olivia Abtahi

**E ABTAHI, O.**

A sharp and heartfelt story about a soccer-loving girl who's an interpreter for her Spanish-speaking parents.

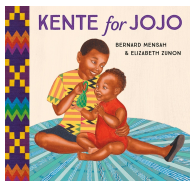


## The Invisible Parade

by Leigh Bardugo

**DIA DE MUERT E BARDUGO, L.**

A young girl examines fear and death and discovers bravery against the backdrop of Dia de los Muertos.



## Kente for Jojo

by Bernard Mensah

**E MENSAH, B.**

A young boy helps weave a special kente cloth for his baby brother.

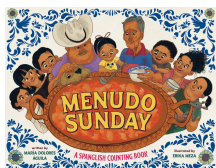


## Let's Be Bees

by Shawn Harris

**E HARRIS, S.**

A parent and child play make-believe as a variety of animals, plants, and forces of nature.



## Menudo Sunday

by María Dolores Águila

**E ÁGUILA, M.**

A family gathers for their Sunday tradition, and through playful mishaps and counting they learn the value of teamwork and love.

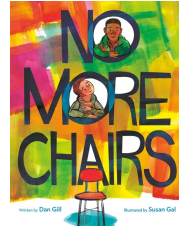


## New

by Niña Mata

**E MATA, N.**

Follows a young Filipina on her first day of school as she discovers the layered meaning of 'new.'



## No More Chairs

by Dan Gill

**E GILL, D.**

Based on a true story of a teacher's commitment to inclusion, inspired by a childhood experience with racism where his Black best friend was denied a chair at a birthday party.



## Old Blue Is My Home

by Lita Judge

**E JUDGE, L.**

A young girl and her family experience housing insecurity while living in an old blue van, which they call home.

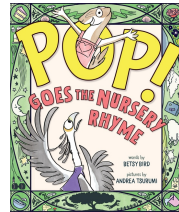


## One Day a Mayfly

by Shirley Marr

**E MARR, S.**

A poignant children's picture book about a mayfly living its entire life in a single day, exploring the city alongside a little girl in a yellow raincoat.

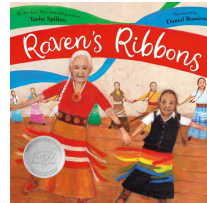


## Pop! Goes the Nursery Rhyme

by Betsy Bird

**E BIRD, B.**

Enjoy a remix of beloved nursery rhymes, serving up a classic-in-the-making packed with hilarious surprises that will have listeners rolling.



## Raven's Ribbons

by Tasha Spillett

**E SPILLETT, T.**

An Indigenous boy shares his dream of wearing a traditional ribbon skirt to the community's Round Dance with his grandmother.



## Soy Sauce!

by Laura G. Lee

**E LEE, L.**

Celebrate the iconic kitchen staple and the magical way food connects family and friends across the world.



## This Is How We Talk

by Jessica Slice

**E SLICE, J.**

This rhyming book respectfully demystifies how people with disabilities and their families use different forms of communication.



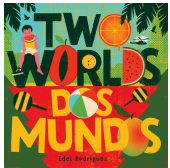
## Picture Book



### Tíos and Primos

by Jacqueline Alcántara  
**E ALCANTARA, J.**

A young girl visits her papa's homeland for the first time, discovering ways to connect with her large Spanish-speaking family despite language barriers.



### Two Worlds Dos Mundos

by Edel Rodriguez  
**E RODRIGUEZ, E.**  
**E SPANISH RODRIGUEZ, E.**

This lushly illustrated bilingual vocabulary picture book teaches Spanish and English words inspired by his experience as an immigrant.

## Early Reader



### Chip Gets Swimmer Shivers

by Maddie Frost  
**ER FROST, M.**

Chip is starting swim school and he really isn't looking forward to it. Join Chip as he navigates this first-time experience with imagination and humor.



### Elena Camps

by Juana Medina  
**ER MEDINA, J.**

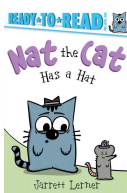
Elena is eager to put up her tent--but is there something she's missing in her hurry?



### More Trees, Please!

by Alastair Heim  
**ER HEIM, A.**

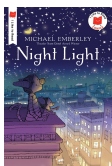
A young girl explores all the different types of trees in nature.



### Nat the Cat Has a Hat

by Jarrett Lerner  
**ER LERNER, J.**

Beginning readers will enjoy this silly story about a cat, a rat and hats!



### Night Light

by Michael Emberley  
**ER EMBERLEY, M.**

A simple graphic novel about a parent and child monster duo who experience a blackout during bedtime.



### Pickle on Wheels

by Sylvie Kantorovitz  
**ER KANTOROVITZ, S.**

A beginner reader delight about a dog who is determined to roller skate, only he doesn't know that practice comes first!



### Squid in Pants

by Kaz Windness  
**ER WINDNESS, K.**

A squid takes some clothes off a boat, and squabbles with his friends over who gets to wear them--until the their owner returns.



### Stop That Mop!

by Jonathan Fenske  
**ER FENSKE, J.**

Tired of mopping slop, this Mop wants to run away, and challenges anyone who wants to stop it.

## Transitional Chapter Books



### The Cave and Other Stories

by Jarvis  
**JF JARVIS.**

Bear and Bird may not always understand each other, but they both want their friend to be happy. So when they each find today's date circled in red, they obviously assume it's the other one's birthday.



### George the Flybot and the Lost Camera on Mount Everest

by Nessa Bellido Schwarz  
**JF SCHWARZ, N.**

Meet GEORGE robotic fly on his first mission! Find a camera that went missing during a failed Mount Everest summit attempt. This starts a series combining robotics with history.



### Saved by the Smell

by Jarrett Lerner  
**JF LERNER, J.**

Ari's life takes a chaotic turn when his mad scientist mom devises a portal to tackle their laundry crisis, and instead they are transported back in time!



### Tana Cooks with Care

by Stacy Wells  
**JF WELLS, S.**

Tana's friend Ana is nervous about auditioning for the school play, so Tana helps her practice and makes Ana's favorite snack.

## Picture Book Nonfiction



### **Awesome Earth: Concrete Poems Celebrate Caves, Canyons, and Other Fascinating Landforms**

by Joan Bransfield Graham

**J 811.54 GRA**

Concrete poems illustrate how our Earth slowly took shape.



### **A Banquet for Cecilia: How Cecilia Chiang Revolutionized Chinese Food in America**

by Julie Leung

**E LEUNG, J.**

A picture book biography of pioneering Chinese American chef and restaurateur Cecilia Chiang.



### **The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit**

by Kelly Crull

**J 639.9 CRU**

Go on patrol with South Africa's first women-led anti-poaching unit. Meet the rangers and discover how they protect the wildlife.

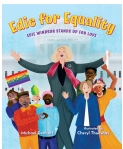


### **The Camel Library: A True Story from Pakistan**

by Marzieh Abbas

**J 027.4 ABB**

This title shares true story of Pakistan's first camel library. The books delivered to children don't just bring stories--they also carry joy and connection.



### **Edie for Equality: Edie Windsor Stands Up for Love**

by Michael Genhart

**J B WINDSOR, E.**

This is a story about injustice and how Edie Windsor boldly stood up for what was right and went up against the highest court in the United States.

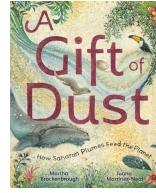


### **The Friendship Train**

by Debbie Levy

**J 940.53 LEV**

The true story of the kindness of strangers around the world following World War II.

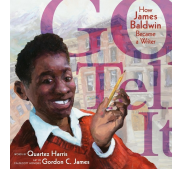


### **A Gift of Dust: How Saharan Plumes Feed the Planet**

by Martha Brockenbrough

**J 551.37 BRO**

Dust from the Sahara Desert travels across the Atlantic to nourish the Amazon rainforest and the ocean.

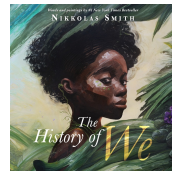


### **Go Tell It: How James Baldwin Became a Writer**

by Quartez Harris

**J B BALDWIN, J.**

A boy who loves stories grows into a teenager who escapes into his writing and then a young man who plays his typewriter like a piano to show the fullness of Black life. This biography is about James Baldwin, the celebrated novelist, essayist, and playwright.

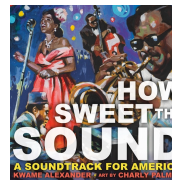


### **The History of We**

by Nikkolas Smith

**J 599.938 SMI**

A picture book about the origin and advancement of humans.

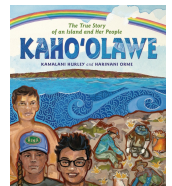


### **How Sweet the Sound**

by Kwame Alexander

**J 780.8996 ALE**

A celebration of the history of Black music in America.

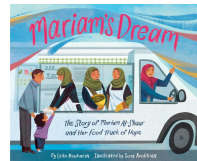


### **Kaho'olawe: The True Story of an Island and Her People**

by Kamalani Hurley

**J 996.922 HUR**

Discover the story of the smallest Hawaiian island, from its formation long ago to its present-day restoration as a protected site.



### **Mariam's Dream: The Story of Mariam Al-Shaar and Her Food Truck of Hope**

by Leila Boukarim

**J B SHAAR, M.**

This biography follows real-life freedom dreamer Mariam Al-Shaar, known around the world for building a women-run kitchen in a refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon.



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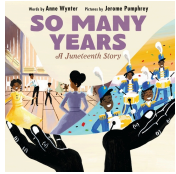


### Safe Crossing

by Kari Percival

**J 597.8 PER**

A young scientist helps amphibians safely cross roads during their spring migration by organizing a community into action.



### So Many Years: A Juneteenth Story

by Anne Wynter

**J 394.263 WYN**

A poetic picture book introduction to Juneteenth and its origin while also acknowledging the history of slavery in the U.S., as well as the astonishing Black resilience.

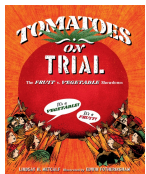


### Some of Us: A Story of Citizenship and the United States

by Rajani Larocca

**J 323.623 LAR**

This thoughtfully crafted informative text precisely breaks down the process by which new residents apply for and acquire US citizenship.

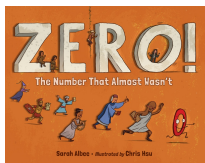


### Tomatoes on Trial: The Fruit V. Vegetable Showdown

by Lindsay H. Metcalf

**J 343.73 MET**

This tells the true story of the U.S. Supreme Court case that legally classified the tomato as a vegetable for tariff purposes, despite its botanical classification as a fruit.



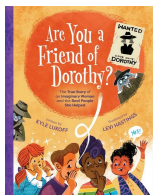
### Zero! the Number That Almost Wasn't

by Sarah Albee

**J 513.5 ALB**

A book all about the number zero, from its origins to enabling modern physics and so much more.

## Middle Grade Nonfiction



### Are You a Friend of Dorothy?: The True Story of an Imaginary Woman and the Real People She Helped

by Kyle Lukoff

**J 306.766 LUK**

The origins of the phrase 'friend of Dorothy,' a phrase coined by the LGBTQ+ community in the United States starting in the 1940s.



### Catching Cryptids: The Scientific Search for Mysterious Creatures

by Kim Long

**J 001.944 LON**

A fact-filled cryptozoology book that uses the scientific method hunting for the cryptid creatures.



### Did You Hear What Happened in Salem?: The Witch Trials of 1692

by Katie Kennedy

**J 133.4309 KEN**

A first-person account of the 1692 Salem witch trials reveals how mass hysteria led to false accusations, resulting in deaths and ruined lives.

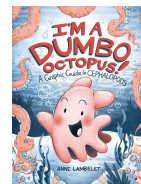


### Eating to Save the Planet: How Veganism Helps Fight Climate Change

by Anne Broyles

**J 338.176 BRO**

An exploration of the environmental impacts of the meat industry and how diets like veganism can help fight the effects of climate change.

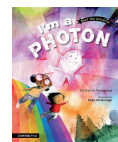


### I'm a Dumbo Octopus!: A Graphic Guide to Cephalopods

by Anne Lambelet

**J GRAPH 594.5 LAM**

A dumbo octopus presents a tour of the cephalopods class. A graphic nonfiction to delight young marine biologist.



### I'm a Photon

by Eve M. Vavagiakis

**J 539.7217 VAV**

Using lyrical rhymes and stunning illustrations this introduces the concept of photons.



### To Walk the Sky: How Iroquois Steelworkers Helped Build Towering Cities

by Patricia Morris Buckley

**J 974.7004 BUC**

This is the true story of the brave sky walkers--Native men who work as high steelworkers building skyscrapers no matter the dangers.



### Words with Wings and Magic Things

by Matthew Burgess

**J 811.6 BUR**

This poetry collection showcases the power of words to awaken the imagination and celebrate the everyday.

## Graphic Novels



### Carousel Summer

by Kathleen Gros

**J GRAPH GROS, K.**

12-year-old Lucy spends a transformative summer discovering her identity and exploring a potential crush on a new girl, Anaïs. Lucy is helping to restore a town carousel while dealing with family and community conflicts.



### The Cartoonists Club

by Raina Telgemeier

**J GRAPH TELGEMEIER, R.**

Four middle schoolers form a club to explore their passion for comics, blending how-to elements with a story about creativity and self-expression.



### The Case of the Missing Flower

by Kristyna Litten

**J GRAPH LITTEN, K.**

When a rare flower goes missing from Bearona's botanic gardens, it's up to super-sleuth Ivy and her grandpa to crack the case. The first book in a interactive mystery series featuring puzzles for readers to solve.



### Cassi and the House of Memories

by Dean Stuart

**J GRAPH STUART, D.**

Cassi loves spending time with her grandpa. When he goes missing after wandering off from his own backyard, Cassi knows she has to figure out where he's gone. She journeys through a surreal magical world of her grandfather's memories to find him.



### Chickenpox

by Remy Lai

**J GRAPH LAI, R.**

All Abby wants is to spend time with her friends, far away from her annoying siblings. But a case of the chickenpox leaves the Lai kids stuck at home together. Abby thinks this might be the end--of her sanity. This realistic fiction is full of heart, hijinks, and hilarious family antics.



### Detective Stanley and the Mystery at the Museum

by Hannah Tunnicliffe

**J GRAPH TUNNICLIFFE, H.**

Detective Stanley may have retired from the Narlybone Criminal Investigation Department, but when he receives a mysterious letter, he cannot refuse to investigate one last case. Something is afoot at the Narlybone Museum, and this mystery could be tricky enough to stump the renowned detective.

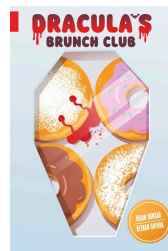


### Dino Poet

by Tom Angleberger

**J GRAPH ANGLEBERGER, T.**

Dino Poet is on a mission: to write the first great poem--ever! His lunch, a prehistoric frog, is also on a mission: to not get eaten! The two set off into the wild world, chasing life and poetry! Until a T-Rex starts chasing them.



### Dracula's Brunch Club

by Brian Gonsar

**J GRAPH GONSAR, B.**

Have you ever wondered how vampires got their taste for blood? In Dracula's Brunch Club, it all started with a crimson-red donut, dripping and oozing with spooky secrets and jelly.

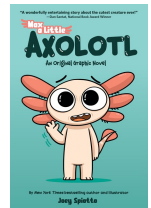


### Ghost Town

by Eric Colossal

**J GRAPH COLOSSAL, E.**

Lily is facing a move, but discovers her town is full of ghosts she and her friends must help, leading to a spooky adventure with themes of friendship and change.



### Max, a Little Axolotl

by Joey Spiotto

**J GRAPH SPIOTTO, J.**

It's Max's first day at school and it's filled with marine animals, but none of the other students have ever seen an axolotl before. Can this little axolotl adjust to his new underwater school or will the pressure just be too much? This silly graphic novel explores themes of friendship, nature conservation, and so much more!





## Mr. Muffins: Defender of the Stars

by Ben Kahn

**J GRAPH KAHN, B.**

Eleven-year-old Reuben Mahmud just wants a break. When he takes his pet corgi, Mr. Muffins, to the park, he expects to get just that--a break. But what he gets instead is an alien invasion right smack dab in the middle of his neighborhood. And apparently Mr. Muffins is the chosen one destined to save the galaxy!



## Sea Legs

by Jules Bakes

**J GRAPH BAKES, J.**

Janey's family is sailing to the Caribbean in their boat, but it means Janey has to leave all her friends behind for a life at sea. She discovers that when you're constantly on the move it can be difficult to connect to people.



## Two Vampire Cats

by Jannie Ho

**J GRAPH HO, J.**

Pumpkin and Beetle are two vampire cat best friends explore their cozy-spooky town, trying to raise enough money to buy a comic.

## Middle Grade Fiction



## All the Blues in the Sky

by Renée Watson

**JF WATSON, R.**

When thirteen-year-old Sage's best friend dies, Sage struggles with grief, but when she joins a grief group, she slowly learns to heal. This novel-in-verse explores grief, loss, and friendship.



## Benny on the Case

by Wesley King

**JF KING, W.**

Benny, a boy with Mosaic Down syndrome, navigates a new classroom, standing up to bullies, making new friends, and uncovering a government conspiracy threatening to close down the retirement home owned by his mother.



## Blood in the Water

by Tiffany D. Jackson

**JF JACKSON, T.**

Kaylani is thrust into an intricate web of lies when a shocking murder on Martha's Vineyard threatens to expose dangerous secrets.



## Chloe Vega and the Agents of Magic

by Leslie Adame

**JF ADAME, L.**

A fantasy debut where a secret magical academy, an evil sorcerer, and a powerful, coveted gem awaits one girl in her quest to reunite her family.



## An Encantadora's Guide to Monstros and Magic

by Sarah J. Mendonca

**JF MENDONCA, S.**

Magical lockpick Rosa Coelho has spent her whole life hunting monstros, wandering the city streets with her best friend, and dreaming of a better life for herself and her grandma. Rosa joins a crew of thieves to save her family's struggling shop, confronting monsters and corruption along the way.



## The Freedom Seeker

by Ruchira Gupta

**JF GUPTA, R.**

Simi flees religious intolerance in India with her family, only to become separated from her mother during a perilous journey to the U.S. and must find her way to safety and reunite her family.



## Graciela in the Abyss

by Meg Medina

**JF MEDINA, M.**

In the deepest recesses of the ocean, Graciela, once an ordinary girl, now makes sea glass and assists her friend, Amina, as she welcomes newly awakened sea ghosts from their death sleep.



## The Island of Forgotten Gods

by Victor Piñero

**JF PINEIRO, V.**

Nico and his cousins' seemingly boring summer in Puerto Rico takes a horrific turn when they encounter the legendary chupacabra, a cult, and the gods who created the island.



## It's All or Nothing, Vale

by Andrea Beatriz Arango

**JF ARANGO, A.**

Vale was a top fencer but her identity was shattered after an accident leaving her with chronic pain. Now returning to fencing she deals with recovery, a new rival and finding her way back to her passion.

## Middle Grade Fiction



### It's Watching

by Lindsay Currie

**JF CURRIE, L.**

Four friends visit haunted Bachelor's Grove Cemetery on Halloween attempting to prove the existence of a famous ghost. Afterwards they receive sinister memes on their phones from a unknown source. Now they must uncover the truth behind the terrifying messages before time runs out.



### The Last Resort

by Erin Entrada Kelly

**JF KELLY, E.**

Lila has vowed to be less dramatic, but with ghosts in their new home it has not been easy. With the help of her skeptical brother, Caleb, and their new ghost-obsessed neighbor, Teddy, they must work together to uncover her grandfather's killer. And stop the evil spirits desperate to make their way back into the human world.

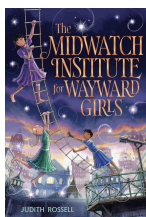


### The Magician Next Door

by Rachel Chivers Khoo

**JF CHIVERS KHOO, R.**

A fantasy adventure about a homesick girl named Callie who discovers a magical, flying house crash-landed in her backyard, belonging to a magician named Winnifred.

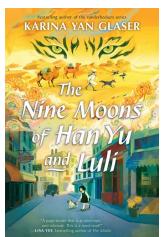


### The Midwatch Institute for Wayward Girls

by Judith Rossell

**JF ROSSELL, J.**

Maggie, an orphan, is sent to the dreary Midwatch Institute, which is actually a secret training ground for young girls learning skills to fight crime. In this whimsical adventure she and her new friends learn useful lessons, uncover a mystery, and work together to solve it.



### The Nine Moons of Han Yu and Luli

by Karina Yan Glaser

**JF GLASER, K.**

Suspense, unforgettable characters, a pinch of magic combine in this historical fiction novel. Alternates between two young people's stories—one in 731 China, and one in Manhattan's Chinatown in 1931— both embarking on perilous journeys to save their families.



### No Purchase Necessary

by Maria Marianayagam

**JF MARIANAYAGAM, M.**

A Sri Lankan boy's life spirals out of control when he wins a prize in a stolen candy bar. Now he has to face his strict parents' rules, his conscience, and his identity as he tries to figure out how to claim the money without getting caught.



### Return to Sender

by Vera Brosgol

**JF BROSGOL, V.**

After everything they've been through, Oliver and his mom finally have a place to call home. But Oliver's fresh start feels more like a dead-end at his fancy new school and not feeling he fits in. One day, after slipping a wish into a mysterious mail slot, it suddenly comes true. His dreams are finally within his grasp, but what happens when he discovers that his wishes don't come for free?

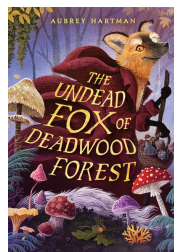


### The Trouble with Heroes

by Kate Messner

**JF MESSNER, K.**

A grieving 13-year-old boy, Finn Connelly, agrees to climb all 46 Adirondack High Peaks in one summer to avoid legal trouble for vandalizing a cemetery. This is a deeply moving novel-in-verse about a boy, a dog, and the healing power of nature.



### The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest

by Aubrey Hartman

**JF HARTMAN, A.**

Clare is an undead fox serving as the Usher of animal souls. His life is upended when a mysterious badger soul appears- and Clare hates badgers.



### What Fell from the Sky

by Adrianna Cuevas

**JF CUEVAS, A.**

Pineda Matlage is a Cuban-American boy in 1950s Texas. He hides an alien girl after she falls from the sky, while soldiers occupy his town for what they claim is a training exercise but is actually a cover-up for capturing extraterrestrials. An out of this world adventure that is based on true historical events that shows us the best examples of humanity aren't necessarily human.