

UVU Forum on Engaged Reading

Best Books - October 2021

Selected by:
Tiffany Sorensen, Nancy Peterson, and Gene Nelson

Title	Author	Publisher	Date	ISBN	Grade Level	Cost	Annotation
Tiffany Sorensen							
<i>The Little Wooden Robot and the Log Princess</i>	Gauld, Tom	Neal Porter Books	08/21	978-0823446988	PreK-3	\$18.99	A little wooden robot embarks on a quest to find his missing sister and bring her home. A memorable contemporary bedtime story.
<i>Norman Didn't Do It!: (Yes, He Did)</i>	Higgins, Ryan T.	Disney-Hyperion	09/21	978-1368026239	PreK-K	\$17.99	Norman is a porcupine. Mildred is a tree. The two are best friends until a surprise pops up, life will never be the same again.
<i>Brave as a Mouse</i>	Carozzi, Nicolo	Random House Studio	05/21	978-0593181836	PreK-2	\$17.99	The friendship of a goldfish and a mouse is in jeopardy when three felines want to play too. A book that reminds us about the importance of bravery and friendship.
<i>Beautifully Me</i>	Noor, Nabela	Simon & Schuster BFYR	09/21	978-1534485877	PreK-3	\$17.99	A beautiful picture book about loving yourself just as you are and making the world a more beautiful place by being beautifully ourselves.
<i>Bright Star</i>	Morales, Yuyi	Neal Porter Books	09/21	978-0823443284	PreK-3	\$18.99	A beautiful story about growth, empowerment and finding one's own voice.
<i>I'm On It!</i>	Tsurumi, Andrea	Hyperion Books for Children	05/21	978-1368066969	K-3	\$9.99	Goat likes to lead. Goat also likes Frog to follow. When Goat jumps on it, Frog does, too. Soon they are on it, above it, around it, and under it – phew! How can their friendship get through it?
<i>Jojo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend</i>	Quigley, Dawn	Heartdrum	05/21	978-0063015371	1-5	\$15.99	Meet Jojo Makoons! She is full of pride, joy and plenty of humor in this new book series that celebrates a young Ojibwe girl who loves who she is.
<i>Survivor Tree</i>	Colleen, Marcie	Little, Brown BFYR	08/21	978-0316487672	PreK-3	\$18.99	The story of a resilient tree that grew (and still grows) at the base of the twin towers. A simple introduction for young readers to gain an understanding of September 11th and the impact it had on America.
<i>Fish and Sun</i>	Ruzzier, Sergio	HarperAlley	06/21	978-0063076648	PreK-3	\$16.99	A bored little fish journeys up to the surface of the ocean where it meets the sun and a wonderful friendship blooms.
<i>Monster Friends</i>	Vandorn, Kaeti	Random House Graphic	06/21	978-1984896827	PreK-3	\$12.99	Two friends- one big, one little, both monsters! Despite their differences these two monsters make the perfect pair of explorers as they go on adventures and discover how friendship can mend a heart and soul.
<i>The Ghoul Next Door</i>	Bunn, Cullen	HarperAlley	07/21	978-0062896100	3-7	\$21.99	A fun, spooky, graphic novel about a supernatural adventure and friendships that go beyond the grave.
<i>Ophie's Ghosts</i>	Ireland, Justina	Balzer + Bray	05/21	978-0062915894	3-7	\$16.99	An unforgettable girl named Ophie discovers that she can see ghosts. She forges a bond with one particular ghost who she wants to help, but she may uncover more than she bargained for.
<i>Amber and Clay</i>	Schlitz, Laura Amy	Candlewick	03/21	978-1536201222	5-9	\$22.99	A tale from ancient Greece about two spiritual twins who form an unlikely friendship that crosses the line between life and death. With the help of some snarky gods and fearsome goddesses, mothers and philosophers, their story is shaped and told.
<i>Sisters of the Neversea</i>	Smith, Cynthia L.	Heartdrum	06/21	978-0062869975	3-7	\$16.99	A beautifully reimagined story of Native American Lily and English Wendy as they embark on a high-flying journey of magic and adventure to the fairy-tale island known as Neverland.
<i>What Big Teeth</i>	Szabo, Rose	Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR)	02/21	978-0374314309	10-12	\$18.99	Eleanor Zarrin has been estranged from her wild family for years. When she flees boarding school after a horrifying incident, she goes to the only place she thinks is safe, home. Here she must learn to embrace her family of monsters and tame the darkness inside her.
Nancy Peterson							
<i>I'm a Feel-O-Saur</i>	Evans, Lezlie	Welbeck Children's	04/21	978-1783127092	PreK-K	\$9.95	A rhyming romp through all the different feelings that kids (and the rest of us!) experience, from sad, to 'hangry', to happy. ... a fun and non-didactic way to talk about and handle all these emotions.
<i>Rectangle Time</i>	Paul, Pamela	Philomel Books	02/21	978-0593115114	PreK-3	\$17.99	A charming story about books, a cat, and reading together... This plucky cat loves when "the man" and "the boy" get together and hold "the triangle," and take turns "speaking".
<i>Someone Builds the Dream</i>	Wheeler, Lisa	Dial Books	03/21	978-1984814333	K-3	\$19.99	A rhythmic verse exploration of—and a thank you for-- the many types of work that go into building our world—from building bridges, to wind farms, and even this very picture book that you are reading.
<i>If You Come to Earth</i>	Blackall, Sophie	Chronicle Books	09/20	978-1452137797	K-3	\$18.99	In the form of a letter, this glorious guide to our home on earth is laid out through the eyes of a single curious and imaginative child, who kindly shows the rest of us how to take care of the Earth and each other.

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Dr. Fauci: How a Boy from Brooklyn Became America's Doctor	Messner, Kate	Simon & Schuster BFYR	06/21	978-1665902434	PreK-3	\$17.99	An engaging narrative about his life and what brought him to working with seven US presidents in tackling the biggest public health challenges of the past fifty years, including the COVID-19 pandemic.
Doggo and Pupper	Applegate, Katherine	Feiwel & Friends	03/21	978-1250620972	1-4	\$9.99	A delightful new series for grades 1–3. Doggo loves predictable routines and a quiet life, but has to make way for his new companion, spunky and messy Pupper. Sure to give children the giggles!
Shielded	Flanders, KayLynn	Delacorte Press	07/20	978-0593118535	12+	\$13.90	Book 1 in a fantasy series (by a BYU grad!) about a kingdom ravaged by war, and the princess who might be the key to saving not only those closest to her, but the kingdom itself. This fantasy is believable, relatable, and lovable.
Untethered (Sequel)	Flanders, KayLynn	Delacorte Press	07/21	978-0593118573	12+	\$17.99	Book 2 answers questions and inspires new ones! This well written duology is scrumptious & satisfying, with magic, emotion, and historical notes to medieval settings.
Friends Forever	Hale, Shannon	First Second	08/21	978-1250317551	5-9	\$21.99	Follows the mega-bestselling Real Friends and Best Friends graphic memoirs, and reminds us all that we are enough, and we can know that.
Magic Tree House #35: Camp Time in California	Osborne, Mary Pope	Random House BFYR	03/21	978-0593177464	1-4	\$13.99	Carries on the Magic Treehouse tradition of engaging and informational. If you're a collector, you have to have this one – about engaging and inspiring Teddy Roosevelt and John Muir.
Evie and the Truth About Witches	Martz, John	Tundra Books	08/21	978-0735271005	K-4	\$12.99	Just like some kids you know, Evie wants to be scared, and the usual scary stories just aren't enough anymore! For fans of spooky, kid-friendly books.
Pizza and Taco: Super-Awesome Comic!	Shaskan, Stephen	Random House BFYR	08/21	978-0593376041	K-3	\$12.99	Book 3 brings Pizza and Taco collaborating on a new comic, but running into "artistic differences" that will tickle readers, ages 5 – 8. Graphic novel good for transitioning to chapter books.
Scary Stories for Young Foxes: The City	Heidicker, Christian M	Henry Holt and Co.	08/21	978-1250181442	4-7	\$17.99	A heart-stopping companion to the 2020 Newbery Honor recipient Scary Stories for Young Foxes, chronicling the adventures of three fox kits desperate to survive the terrors of a frightening new world. This recommendation comes with warning -- dangers within are real, but so is the bravery of foxes.
Frankie & Bug	Forman, Gayle	Aladdin	10/21	978-1534482531	3-7	\$17.99	A coming-of-age story following 10-yr-old Bug and her new "forced friend" Frankie. Addresses family, friendship, allyship, and finding your way in a complicated world.
Susie B. Won't Back Down	Finnegan, Margaret	Atheneum BFYR	10/21	978-1534496361	3-7	\$17.99	A savvy, outgoing girl's campaign for student council president (so she can advocate for underdogs) takes some unexpected twists & turns as Susie B discovers that her hero from history wasn't perfect, either.
The List of Unspeakable Fears	Kramer, J Kasper	Atheneum BFYR	09/21	978-1534480742	3-7	\$17.99	A chilling middle grade historical novel follows an anxious young girl learning to face her fears—and her ghosts—against the backdrop of the typhoid epidemic. ...a poignant commentary on the value of immigrants' lives and our human capacity to become stronger, better persons.
Girl From Nowhere	Rosenhan, Tiffany	Bloomsbury YA	07/20	978-1547603039	7-9	\$17.29	An action-packed, romance-filled YA novel about a girl trying to outrun her past -- Ninety-four countries, thirty-one schools and two bullets. Now she lives in a sleepy Montana town, where she will risk everything to try and fit in.
Beyond the Mapped Stars	Eves, Rosalyn	Knopf BFYR	08/21	978-1984849557	7-9	\$17.99	A coming-of-age adventure, set in the late 19th century, balances an exploration of intersecting religion and science, about an LDS young woman dwelling in a rural, polygamous community who longs to become an astronomer.
Gene Nelson							
Bear Is a Bear	Stutzman, Jonathan	Balzer + Bray	09/21	978-0062880512	PreK - 3	\$18.99	A tender and surprising tribute to the beloved companions of our childhoods.
It Fell from the Sky	Fan Brothers	Simon & Schuster BFYR	09/21	978-1534457621	PreK - 3	\$17.99	None of the insects know where it came from, or what it is. Some say it's an egg. Others, a gumdrop. But whatever it is, it fell near Spider's house, so he's convinced it belongs to him.
The Rock From the Sky	Klassen, Jon	Candlewick	04/21	978-1536215625	PreK - 3	\$18.99	A story of how sometimes the perfect spot to stand isn't that perfect at all—and how you never really know what will happen.
Yes & No	Cooper, Elisha	Roaring Brook Press	04/21	978-1250257338	PreK - 2	\$18.99	Join a cat and puppy pair through their day—the ups of being fed and romping through grass, and the downs of days that are too short and things that don't go as planned—as they realize that sometimes the very best thing that can happen is just being together.
Keeping the City Going	Floca, Brian	Atheneum/ Caitlyn Dlouhy Books	04/21	978-1534493773	PreK - 3	\$17.99	The once hustling and bustling streets are empty. Well, almost empty. Around the city there are still people, some, out and about. These are the people keeping us safe. Keeping us healthy. Keeping our mail and our food delivered. Keeping our grocery stores stocked. Keeping the whole city going.
Cat Problems	John, Jory	Random House Studio	08/21	978-0593302132	PreK - 2	\$17.99	Just like most cats, this cat lives an extremely comfortable life. But he has his problems too! The sun spot he's trying to bathe in won't stop moving. He keeps getting served dry food instead of wet. And don't even get him started on the vacuum--it's an absolute menace!--and the nosy neighbor squirrel that just can't seem to mind its own business. Will this cat ever find the silver lining?
A House	Henkes, Kevin	Greenwillow Books	09/21	978-0063092600	PreK - 3	\$18.99	Caldecott Medal-winner Kevin Henkes employs interactive questions, declarative sentences, basic shapes, and a limited color palette in this brilliant and classic picture book. A House introduces young readers to shapes, numbers, the weather, and the parts of a house, with a rhythmic, repetitive text and remarkable illustrations.

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<i>Hurricane</i>	Rocco, John	Little, Brown BFYR	09/21	978- 0759554931	PreK - 3	\$17.99	A young boy's favorite place in the world is the old, splintery neighborhood dock. At this dock the boy can swim, fish, or watch minnows dart between the rocks. But a hurricane is coming...and its violent winds and rain carry with it anything that can float.
<i>Red</i>	Seeger, Laura Vaccaro	Neal Porter Books	10/21	978- 0823447121	PreK - 3	\$18.99	Separated from its family, a lone fox experiences, anger, fear, and ultimately love as it journeys home. Lost and alone, he makes his way through a dark forest, injures his paw, has glancing encounters with humans, and finds himself trapped in a cage, before an act of kindness returns him to the wilderness.
<i>Kaleidoscope</i>	Selznick, Brian	Scholastic, Inc.	09/21	978- 1338777246	4 - 6	\$19.99	A story of two people bound to each other through time and space, memory and dreams. At the center of their relationship is a mystery about the nature of grief and love which will look different to each reader.
<i>Once Upon a Camel</i>	Appelt, Kathi	Atheneum/ Caitlyn Dlouhy Books	09/21	978- 1534406438	3 - 7	\$17.99	This exquisite middle grade novel from Newbery Honoree and National Book Award finalist Kathi Appelt follows an old camel out to save two baby kestrel chicks during a massive storm in the Texas desert.
<i>Willodeen</i>	Applegate, Katherine	Feiwel & Friends	09/21	978- 1250147400	3 - 4	\$16.99	Eleven-year-old Willodeen adores creatures of all kinds, but her favorites are the most unlovable beasts in the land: strange beasts known as "screechers." The villagers of Perchance call them pests, even monsters, but Willodeen believes the animals serve a vital role in the complicated web of nature.
<i>The Beatryce Prophecy</i>	DiCamillo, Kate	Candlewick	09/21	978- 1536213614	3 - 7	\$19.99	In a time of war, a mysterious child appears at the monastery of the Order of the Chronicles of Sorrowing. Gentle Brother Edik finds the girl, Beatryce, curled in a stall, wracked with fever, coated in dirt and blood, and holding fast to the ear of Answelica the goat. As the monk nurses Beatryce to health, he uncovers her dangerous secret.
<i>Stowaway</i>	Anderson, John David	Walden Pond Press	08/21	978- 0062985941	3 - 7	\$16.99	When scientists discover a rare and mysterious mineral buried in the Earth's crust, they have no idea that it just happens to be the most valuable substance in the entire universe. A material so precious that other alien forces are willing to start a war over it.
<i>Pony</i>	Palacio, R.J.	Knopf BFYR	09/21	978- 0553508116	5 - 6	\$17.99	A modern classic about a boy on a quest to rescue his father, with only a ghost as his companion and a mysterious pony as his guide.
<i>Maybe Maybe Marisol Rainey</i>	Kelly, Erin Entrada	Greenwillow Books	05/21	978- 0062970428	3 - 7	\$16.99	Erin Entrada Kelly celebrates the small but mighty Marisol, the joys of friendship, and the triumph of overcoming your fears in this stunning new novel.
<i>In the Shadow of the Fallen Towers: The Seconds, Minutes, Hours, Days, Weeks, Months, and Years after the 9/11 Attack</i>	Brown, Don	Etch/Clarion Books	08/21	978- 0358223573	7 - 9	\$19.99	A graphic novel chronicling the immediate aftermath and rippling effects of one of the most impactful days in modern history: September 11, 2001.
<i>Fallout: Spies, Superbombs, and the Ultimate Cold War Showdown</i>	Sheinkin, Steve	Roaring Brook Press	09/21	978- 1250149015	4 - 6	\$19.99	As World War II comes to a close, the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as the two greatest world powers on extreme opposites of the political spectrum. In their battle for dominance, spy planes fly above, armed submarines swim deep below, and undercover agents meet in the dead of night.
<i>The Outlaws Scarlett & Browne</i>	Stroud, Jonathan	Knopf BFYR	10/21	978- 0593430361	5 - 6	\$17.99	Scarlett McCain is a shoot-first ask-questions-later kind of outlaw. She scrapes by on bank heists, her wits—and never looking back. She's on the run from her latest crime when she comes across Albert Browne. He is the sole survivor of a horrific accident, and against her better judgement, Scarlett agrees to guide him to safety.
<i>The Robber Girl</i>	Billingsley, Franny	Candlewick	09/21	978- 0763669560	5 - 9	\$18.99	Five years before the events of Billingsley's (Chime) fantasy-tinged western, ivory-skinned Robber Girl, 10, who can't speak unless spoken to, was abandoned by her mother. She doesn't remember her name or past—just that Gentleman Jack Royal rescued her and gave her the dagger with which she psychically converses. Per Jack, once they stick up a gold-laden stagecoach, he'll give her a new name and a home; as it turns out, however, their intended target is a trap for Jack, who is wanted for murder.
<i>Anticipated Sequels</i>							
<i>Pax, Journey Home</i>	Pennypacker,	Balzer + Bray	09/21	978-	3 - 7	\$17.99	It's been a year since Peter and his pet fox, Pax, have seen each other. Once inseparable, they now lead very
<i>Billy Miller Makes a Wish</i>	Henkes, Kevin	Greenwillow Books	04/21	978- 0063042797	3 - 7	\$16.99	On his birthday, Billy Miller wishes for something exciting to happen. But he immediately regrets his wish when an ambulance rushes to his neighbor's house. Is Billy responsible?
<i>Egg Marks the Spot (Skunk and Badger 2)</i>	Timberlake, Amy	Algonquin Young Readers	09/21	978- 1643750064	2 - 5	\$18.95	This new adventure begins as Skunk and Badger head out on a rock-finding expedition, finding surprises behind every boulder.