

Genre: Animal Stories

Bibliography

This kit contains a wide variety of individual titles that fit the genre category of “Animal Stories.” The titles vary in their interest levels, reading levels, number of pages, themes etc., in order to provide students with “choice” in their reading for pleasure. Note that if more than one interest level (IL) is listed, the first is from the publisher. Publishers tend to rate titles for lower grade levels than reviewers.

If you would like a second or third copy of a title, or more titles beyond what is in the kit, your Teacher-Librarian or Library Clerk will be able to help you find titles in your school’s collection, or interlibrary loan copies from other schools.

We hope that your students enjoy these titles and expand the genres that they regularly choose to read. A “Passport to Genres” activity, where students read one title from each genre, is one way to encourage this. If you have any questions about any of them, please feel free to contact me.

Joan

Genre: Animal Stories

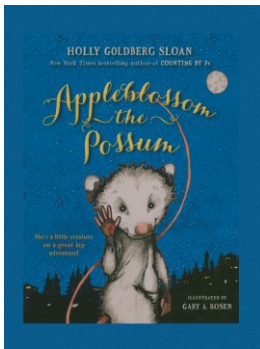
Selected by Joan Pearce



Always Clementine

by Carlie Sorosiak, c2022 (IL: 3-7, 3-5; RL: 4.8)

“Clementine is different from other mice: she can calculate the speed of light and she dreams in Latin. The scientists say she's a genius and put her through test after test. Clementine is proud of being a good lab mouse, but she's lonely. Her only snatches of friendship occur during her late-night visits with a chimpanzee named Rosie. When a compassionate lab technician frees Clementine, the mouse discovers an outside world full of wonders: Brussels sprouts, games of speed chess, television fame, and a chance for a real home. But for Clementine, it's not enough to be free when she knows that Rosie and the other mice are not. This tender, lively adventure story, narrated in letters from a mouse to a chimpanzee, shows us that goodness is something we have to define for ourselves-- and that courage and wisdom aren't proportionate to size.” - *Pub.*



Appleblossom the Possum

by Holly Goldberg Sloan, c2016 (IL: 3-7, 3-5; RL: 4.9)

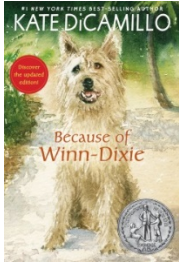
“A young possum strikes out on her own and winds up trapped in a human house before her brothers can rescue her.” - *Follett*



Babe: The Gallant Pig

by Dick King-Smith, c2017 (IL: 1-4, RL: 5.8)

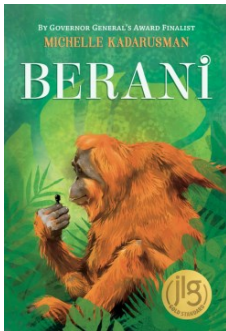
“A piglet destined for eventual butchering arrives at the farmyard, is adopted by an old sheep dog, and discovers a special secret to success.” - *Follett*



Because of Winn-Dixie

by Kate DiCamillo, c2000, 2021 (IL: 4-7; RL: 4.9)

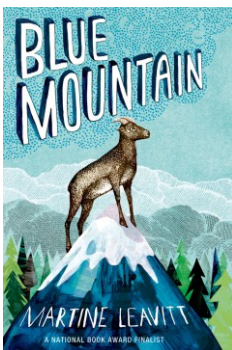
“One summer's day, ten-year-old India Opal Buloni goes down to the local supermarket for some groceries--and comes home with a dog. But Winn-Dixie is no ordinary dog. It's because of Winn-Dixie that Opal begins to make friends. And it's because of Winn-Dixie that she finally dares to ask her father about her mother, who left when Opal was three. In fact, as Opal admits, just about *everything* that happens that summer is because of Winn-Dixie.” - *Pub.*



Berani

by Michelle Kadarusman, c2022 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.5)

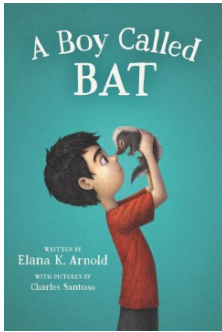
“Perspectives of two Indonesian middle-schoolers and a caged orangutan entwine. Wealthy Malia faces the consequences of disobediendly circulating an anti-palm-oil petition at her school, resulting in suspensions for herself, her best friend, and her teacher. Ari, fortunate to be plucked from his impoverished village to attend school and compete in chess tournaments, helps the uncle who is hosting him but worries about Ginger Juice, the orangutan his uncle keeps in a cage. When Ari learns about orangutan rehabilitation centers from Malia's petition, the young people unite to plot a rescue.” – *Pub.*



Blue Mountain

by Martine Leavitt, c2014 (IL: 3-7, RL: 4.8)

“Tuk the bighorn sheep is told he will be the one to save his herd, but he is young and would rather play with his bandmates than figure out why the herd needs saving. As humans encroach further and further into their territory, there is less room for the sheep to wander, food becomes scarce, and the herd's very survival is in danger. Tuk and his friends set out to find Blue Mountain, a place that Tuk sometimes sees far in the distance and thinks might be a better home. The journey is treacherous, filled with threatening pumas and bears and dangerous lands, leading Tuk down a path that goes against every one of his instincts. Still, Tuk perseveres, reaching Blue Mountain and leading his herd into a new, safe place.” – *Pub.*



A Boy Called Bat

by Elana K. Arnold, c2017 (IL: 1-5, 3-6; RL: 4.6)

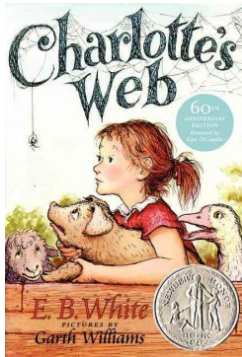
"When his veterinarian mom brings home a stray baby skunk that needs rehabilitation before it can be placed in a wild animal shelter, Bat, who has autism, resolves to prove that he is up to the challenge of caring for the skunk permanently." - *OCLC*.



The Cat Whisperer (Red Rhino Hi Lo)

by Jeff Gottesfeld, c2015 (IL: 4-7, RL: 1.0-1.5)

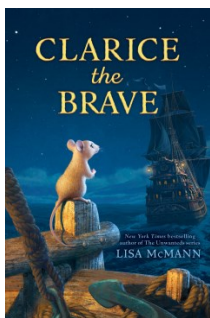
"Jen's parents moved her all the way to Los Angeles, the least they could do was get her a pet. And Jen chose Mimi. Little did she know that Mimi was not the perfect cat. She was stubborn. She was standoffish. And she was mean. But one day, Mimi started talking to Jen and telling her what she wanted and needed. A talking cat? What could be better? Mimi shows Jen how much she loves her and makes the ultimate sacrifice." – *Pub.*



Charlotte's Web

by E. B. White, c1952, 1980 (IL: 3-7, RL: 4.4)

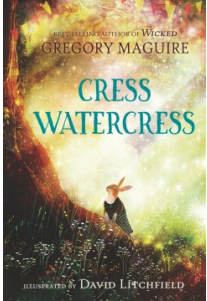
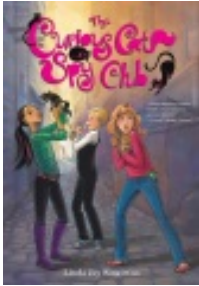

"A Newbery Honor book - Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him." – *Pub.*

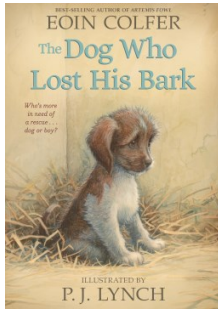


Clarice the Brave

By Lisa McMann, c2021 (IL: 3-7, RL: 6.0)

"The only good cat is a fed cat. Clarice, a young ship mouse, knows this to be true. She and her brother, Charles Sebastian, were taught to be careful--as all mice are--but caution is no match for the sea, which took their mother, and it is certainly no match for Special Lady, the horrid cat who ate their sister. Now the siblings hide in their pantry crate, knowing every move they make could be their last. When a shocking mutiny forces Clarice onto a small, leaky boat with Special Lady and a dozen hungry sailors with deadly boots, Charles Sebastian is left on the ship to fend off

	<p>mutineers, a flock of irate chickens, and an inquisitive human prisoner--a mouse's worst enemy. Being careful may have saved them in the past, but now Clarice and Charles Sebastian will need to grow bold if they are to survive . . . and keep their promise to find one other again." – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Cress Watercress</u> by Gregory Maguire, c2022 (IL: 3-7, RL: 4.2)</p> <p>"When Papa doesn't return from a nocturnal honey-gathering expedition, Cress holds out hope, but her mother assumes the worst. It's a dangerous world for rabbits, after all. Mama moves what's left of the Watercress family to the basement unit of the Broken Arms, a run-down apartment oak with a suspect owl landlord, a nosy mouse super, a rowdy family of squirrels, and a pair of songbirds who broadcast everyone's business. Can a dead tree full of annoying neighbors, and no Papa, ever be home?" – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>The Curious Cat Spy Club</u> (<i>Curious Cat Spy Club, Bk. 1</i>) by Linda Joy Singleton, c2015 (IL: 3-7, 3-5; RL: 4.8)</p> <p>"Kelsey helps catch a runaway zorse (horse + zebra) with the help of the nicest and most popular girl in school, Becca. The two are walking home when they happen upon a litter of kittens trapped in a dumpster and Leo is the only person around who can help get them out. The three unlikely friends decide to work together to help solve animal crimes with their secret club." – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Dog Driven</u> by Terry Lynn Johnson, c2019 (IL: 5-8; RL: 4.4)</p> <p>"From the author of Ice Dogs comes a riveting adventure about a musher who sets out to prove her impaired vision won't hold her back from competing in a rigorous sled race through the Canadian wilderness. Perfect for fans of Gary Paulsen. McKenna Barney is trying to hide her worsening eyesight and has been isolating herself for the last year. But at the request of her little sister, she signs up for a commemorative mail run race in the Canadian wilderness race she doesn't know if she can even see to run." – <i>Pub.</i></p>



The Dog Who Lost His Bark

by P.J. Lynch, c2021 (IL: 2-5, RL: 4.3)

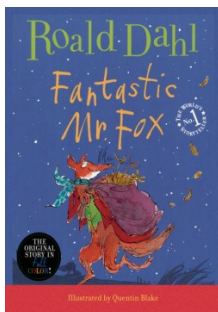
"Patrick has been desperate for a dog for as long as he can remember. A dog he can play with and talk to. A buddy. A best friend. In his young puppy life, Oz has suffered at the hands of some BAD people. His mother told him that somewhere out there is a boy or girl just for him, but Oz no longer knows whom to trust. When Patrick finds Oz, he is determined to coax the frightened little dog's bark back. Then they can finally both be happy. Can't they?" - *back cover*



Dolphin Rescue (*Animal Planet – Awesome Adventures, Bk. 1*)

by Catherine Nichols, c2017, 2021 (IL: 3-7; RL: 3.6)

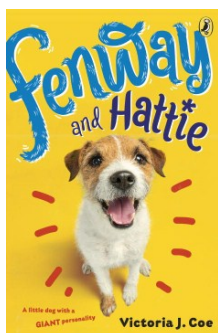
"Dive in and solve the mystery! Maddie and Atticus live with their father on the New England coast. One day, garbage starts showing up all over town. They're on the case of the "Trasher" when they spy dolphins in trouble in the cove. Will Maddie's knowledge of animals and Atticus's problem-solving skills be enough to save a baby dolphin and solve the mystery?"--*Back cover*



Fantastic Mr. Fox

by Roald Dahl, c1970, 2012 (IL: 3-7, RL: 4.1)

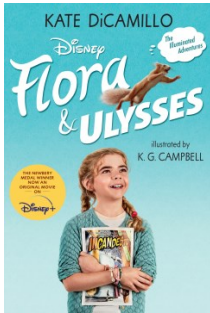
"Someone's been stealing from the three meanest farmers around, and they know the identity of the thief--it's Fantastic Mr. Fox Working alone they could never catch him; but now fat Boggis, squat Bunce, and skinny Bean have joined forces, and they have Mr. Fox and his family surrounded. What they don't know is that they're not dealing with just any fox--Mr. Fox would rather die than surrender. Only the most fantastic plan can save him now." – *Pub.*



Fenway and Hattie (*Fenway and Hattie, Bk. 1*)

by Victoria J. Cole, c2016 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 3.6)

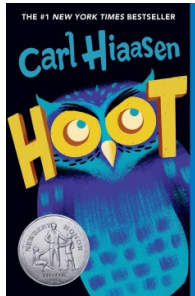
"This lovable new series introduces a little dog with a GIANT personality. Fenway is an excitable and endlessly energetic Jack Russell terrier. He lives in the city with Food Lady, Fetch Man, and--of course--his beloved short human and best-friend-in-the-world, Hattie. But when his family moves to the suburbs, Fenway faces a world of changes..." – *Pub.*



Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures

by Kate DiCamillo, c2013, 2020 (IL: 3-7; RL: 4.3)

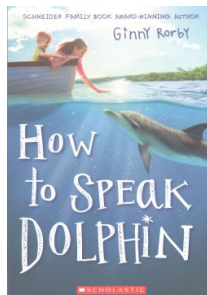
“A girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses, whose life was saved by Flora after he was involved in an incident with a vacuum cleaner, team up to use Ulysses' superpowers to conquer villains and protect the weak.”
- *Follett*



Hoot

by Carl Hiaasen, c2002, 2004 (IL: 5-8, RL: 5.2)

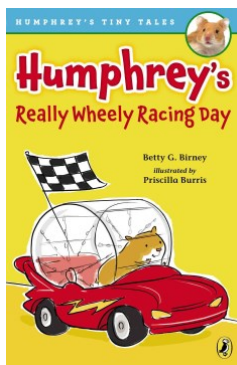
“Unfortunately, Roy's first acquaintance in Florida is Dana Matherson, a well-known bully. Then again, if Dana hadn't been sinking his thumbs into Roy's temples and mashing his face against the school-bus window, Roy might never have spotted the running boy. And the running boy is intriguing: he was running away from the school bus, carried no books, and-here's the odd part-wore no shoes. Sensing a mystery, Roy sets himself on the boy's trail.” – *Pub.*



How to Speak Dolphin

by Ginny, Rorby, c2017 (IL: 4-7, RL: 4.7)

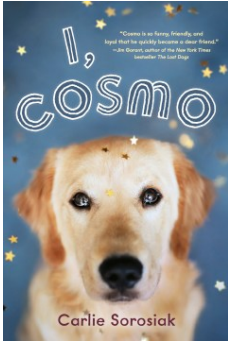
“Since her mother died, twelve-year-old Lily has struggled to care for her severely autistic half-brother, Adam, in their Miami home, but she is frustrated and angry because her oncologist step-father, Don, expects her to devote her time to Adam, and is unwilling to admit that Adam needs professional help--but when Adam bonds with a young dolphin with cancer Lily is confronted with another dilemma: her family or the dolphin's freedom.” – *Pub.*



Humphrey's Really Wheely Racing Day (Humphrey's Tiny Tales, Bk. 1)

by Betty G. Birney, c2014 (IL: K-3; RL: 3.1)

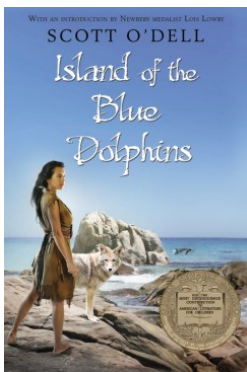
“Humphrey is one happy hamster. He lives in Room 26 at Longfellow School. He has a big comfy cage with a wheel perfect for spinning and a room *full* of friends. But when Humphrey goes to Mandy's house one weekend, he learns that her hamster has something Humphrey has never seen before--a hamster car! Humphrey wants one, too, but school is not usually the place for toys. Then his teacher talks about bringing in something special for a project. Is Humphrey getting a really wheely surprise?” – *Pub.*



I, Cosmo

by Carlie Sorosiak, c2019, 2021 (IL: 3-7, RL: 4.9)

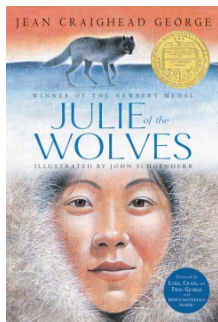
“Ever since Cosmo became a big brother to Max ten years ago, he's known what his job was: to protect his boy and make him happy. Through many good years marked by tennis balls and pilfered turkey, torn-up toilet paper and fragrant goose poop, Cosmo has doggedly kept his vow. Until recently, his biggest problems were the evil tutu-wearing sheepdog he met on Halloween and the arthritis in his own joints. But now, with Dad-scented blankets appearing on the couch and arguing voices getting louder, Cosmo senses a tougher challenge ahead.” - *Pub.*



Island of the Blue Dolphins

by Scott O'Dell, c1988, 2010 (IL: 4-7, 5-8; RL: 5.4)

“1961 Newbery Medal Winner Far off the coast of California looms a harsh rock known as the island of San Nicholas. Dolphins flash in the blue waters around it, sea otters play in the vast kelp beds, and sea elephants loll on the stony beaches. Here, in the early 1800s, according to history, an Indian girl spent eighteen years alone, and this beautifully written novel is her story. It is a romantic adventure filled with drama and heartache, for not only was mere subsistence on so desolate a spot a near miracle, but Karana had to contend with the ferocious pack of wild dogs that had killed her younger brother, constantly guard against the Aleutian Sea otter hunters, and maintain a precarious food supply.” – *Pub.*



Julie of the Wolves

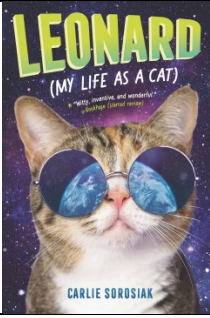
by Jean Craighead George, c1972, 2003 (IL: 6-7, YA; RL: 5.8)

“Escaping from an unwanted marriage, a thirteen-year-old Eskimo girl gets lost on the Alaskan tundra and is befriended by a wolf pack.” - *Follett*

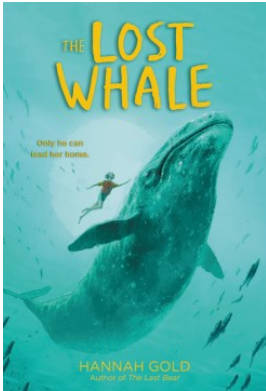
Leonard: My Life as a Cat

by Carlie Sorosiak, c2020, 2022 (IL: 4-7, RL: 7.2)

"The cat that Olive rescues from a flood has a secret: he's not really a cat at all, but an alien who crashed to Earth. The cat, whom Olive names Leonard, was prepared to visit the planet as a human; but something



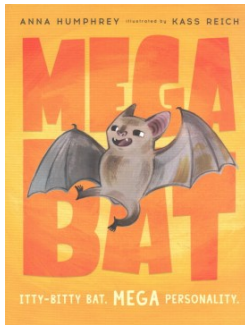
went wrong. While Olive worries about whether she will have to move after her mom and her new boyfriend get back from their summer vacation, Leonard tries to figure out how to get from South Carolina to Yellowstone National Park, because if he's not there at the end of the month, he'll miss his ride home." – Pub.



The Lost Whale

by Hannah Gold, c2022 (IL: 4-7, RL: 6.5)

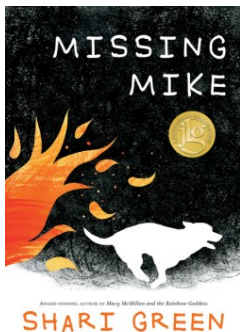
“What if you could communicate with a whale? Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital back home. Alone and adrift, the only thing that makes him smile is joining his new friend Marina on her dad's whale watching trips. That is until an incredible encounter with White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea changes everything. But when White Beak goes missing, Rio must set out on a desperate quest to find his whale and somehow save his mum.” - Follett



Megabat (Megabat, Bk. 1)

by Anna Humphrey, c2018 (IL: 2-5, 1-3; RL: 4.8)

"Daniel Misumi has just moved to a new house. It's big and old and far away from his friends and his life before. AND it's haunted . . . or is it? Megabat was just napping on a papaya one day when he was stuffed in a box and shipped halfway across the world. Now he's living in an old house far from home, feeling sorry for himself and accidentally scaring the people who live there. Daniel realizes it's not a ghost in his new house. It's a bat. And he can talk. And he's actually kind of cute. Megabat realizes that not every human wants to whack him with a broom. This one shares his smooshfruit. Add some buttermelon, juice boxes, a light saber and a common enemy and you've got a new friendship in the making!" – Pub.



Missing Mike

by Shari Green, c2018 (IL: 4-8, 4-6; RL: 5.0)

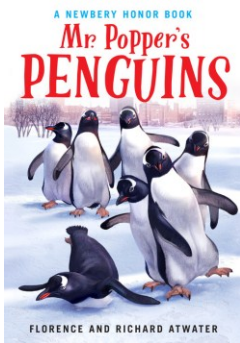
"Twelve-year-old Caera Donovan and her family flee a wildfire bearing down on their hometown of Pine Grove, with no time to find Caera's beloved dog Mike. Faced with the loss of everything she knows, Caera can't stand to lose Mike as well and seeks a way to sneak back to Pine Grove. When her plans are thwarted, she must learn to embrace a new definition of 'home.'" – Pub.



Mortimer: Rat Race to Space

by Joan Marie Galat, c2022 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.8)

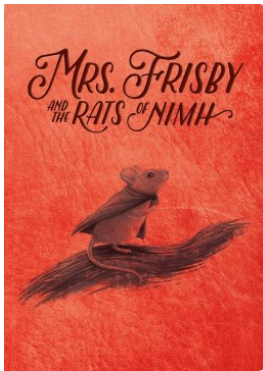
“A spot on the International Space Station (ISS) has opened up, and Mortimer, is not about to miss his chance to become an intergalactic space rat. And that’s just the first step in his master plan to prove that rats are much better suited than humans for a future mission to Mars. He packs his camera and prepares to take to the internet with his evidence of rat superiority. But when Mortimer’s schemes go awry, he is forced to face new truths about dreams, friendship, and choosing the right thing to do. Maybe not everything is a rat race.” – *Amazon.ca*



Mr. Popper's Penguins

by Richard Atwater, c1938, 2020 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.6)

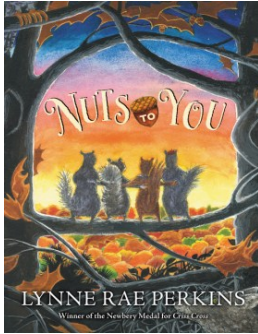
“This Newbery Honor-winning novel, with over 1 million copies sold, now celebrates its 80th anniversary with a new look and interior illustrations. *Mr. Popper's Penguins* is one of the handful of American books for children that has attained the status of a classic. A humble house painter is sent a male penguin by the great Admiral Drake and, thanks to the arrival of a female penguin, soon has twelve penguins living in his house.” – *Pub.*



Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH

by Robert O'Brien, c2021 (IL: 4-7; RL: 5.1)

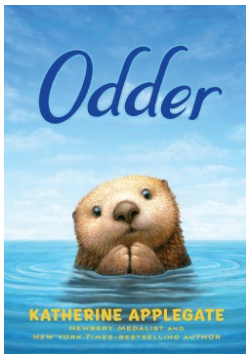
“A special 50th anniversary edition of the Newbery Award-winning classic by notable children's author Robert C. O'Brien about a brave mouse who makes unexpected new friends! Mrs. Frisby, a widowed mouse with four small children, is faced with a terrible problem. She must move her family to their summer quarters immediately or face almost certain death. But her youngest son, Timothy, lies ill with pneumonia and must not be moved. Fortunately, she encounters the rats of NIMH, an extraordinary breed of highly intelligent creatures, who come up with a brilliant solution to her dilemma. And Mrs. Frisby in turn renders them a great service.” – *Pub.*



Nuts to You

by Lynne Rae Perkins, c2014, 2016 (IL: 3-7, 3-6; RL: 4.2)

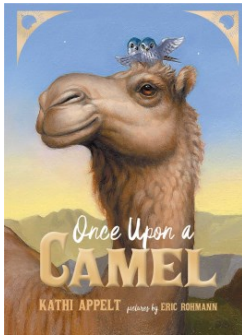
“When their friend Jed is snatched up by a hawk and dropped somewhere, squirrels TsTs and Chai embark on a search involving strange communities, new friends and formidable dangers.” – *Pub.*



Odder

by Katherine Applegate, c2022 (IL: 3-7, RL: 6.3)

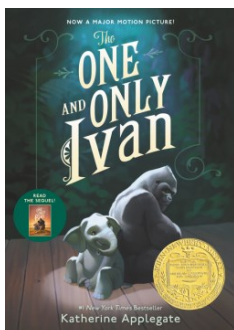
“Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself--and about the humans who hope to save her. Inspired by the true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers, this poignant and humorous tale told in free verse examines bravery and healing through the eyes of one of nature's most beloved and charming animals.” – *Pub.*



Once Upon a Camel

by Kathi Appelt, 2021 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.6)

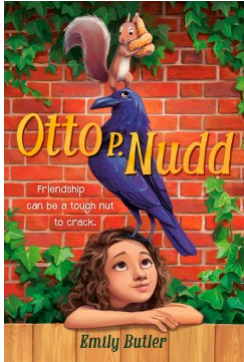
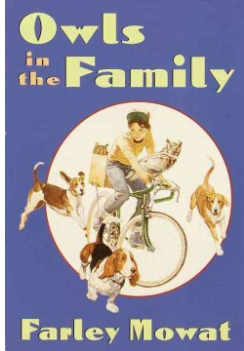

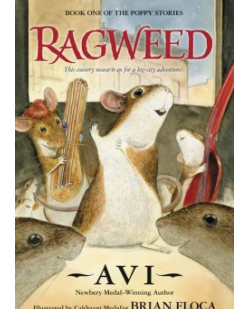
“Perfect for fans of *The One and Only Ivan*, this exquisite middle grade novel from Newbery Honoree and National Book Award finalist Kathi Appelt follows a creaky old camel out to save two baby kestrel chicks during a massive storm in the Texas desert--filled with over a dozen illustrations by Caldecott winner Eric Rohmann.” – *Pub.*

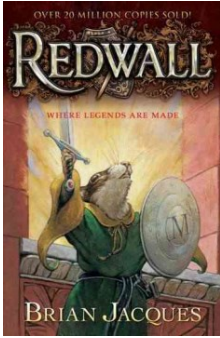


The One and Only Ivan

by Katherine Applegate, c2012, 2014 (IL: 3-7, RL: 3.6)

“When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.” – *Follett*
“This unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired

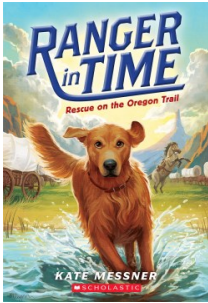
	<p>by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated book is told from the point of view of Ivan himself.” – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Otto P. Nudd</u> by Emily Butler, 2020 (IL: 3-7, RL: 5.4)</p> <p>“While his corvid buddies spend their days cracking jokes at the dump, raven Otto P. Nudd invents things with his human neighbor Old Man Bartleby, but when one of Bartleby’s contraptions puts him in danger, Otto must join forces with kids and critters to save the Old Man.” – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Owls in the Family</u> by Farley Mowat, c1961, 1996 (IL: 3-7, RL: 5.0)</p> <p>“In Farley Mowat’s exciting children’s story, a young boy’s pet menagerie—which includes crows, magpies, gophers and a dog—grows out of control with the addition of <i>two</i> cantankerous pet owls. The story of how Wol and Weeps turn the whole town upside down is warm, funny, and bursting with adventure and suspense.” – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Pax (Pax, Book 1)</u> by Sara Pennypacker, c2016, 2019 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.3)</p> <p>“Pax and Peter have been inseparable ever since Peter rescued him as a kit. But one day, the unimaginable happens: Peter’s dad enlists in the military and makes him return the fox to the wild. At his grandfather’s house, three hundred miles away from home, Peter knows he isn’t where he should be—with Pax. He strikes out on his own despite the encroaching war, spurred by love, loyalty, and grief, to be reunited with his fox. Meanwhile Pax, steadfastly waiting for his boy, embarks on adventures and discoveries of his own.” – <i>Pub.</i></p>
	<p><u>Ragweed (Poppy, Book 11)</u> by Avi, 1999, 2020 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 4.4)</p> <p>“Ragweed, a young country mouse, leaves his family and travels to the big city, where he finds excitement and danger and sees cats for the first time.” – <i>back cover</i></p>



Redwall

by Brian Jacques, c1986, 2002 (IL: 5-7, 6 up; RL: 6.1)

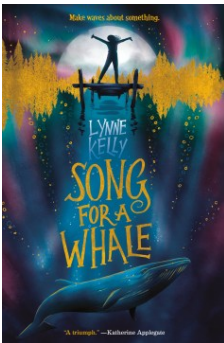
“When the peaceful life of ancient Redwall Abbey is shattered by the arrival of the evil rat Cluny and his villainous hordes, Matthias, a young mouse, determines to find the legendary sword of Martin the Warrior which, he is convinced, will help Redwall's inhabitants destroy the enemy?” – *Pub.*



Rescue on the Oregon Trail (*Ranger in Time, Bk. 1*)

by Kate Messner, c2016 (IL: 2-5, 3-5; RL: 4.5)

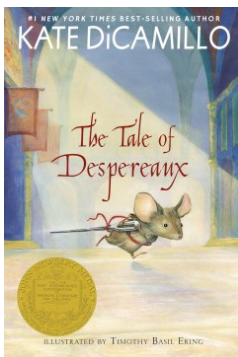
“Ranger, a golden retriever, could have been a great search-and-rescue dog except for the squirrels, but one day he unearths a mysterious box and finds himself transported back to the year 1850, where his faithful service is really needed by a family traveling west along the Oregon Trail.” - *Follett*



Song for a Whale

by Lynne Kelly, c2019, 2022 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.3)

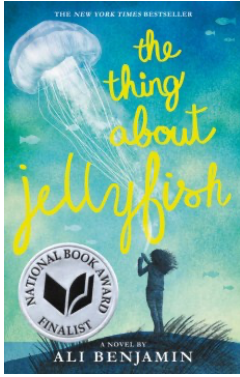
“Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue-55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales.” - *Follett*



The Tale of Despereaux; Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread

by Kate DiCamillo, c2003, 2015 (IL: 2-5, 3-6; RL: 4.7)

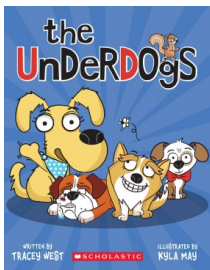
“Welcome to the story of Despereaux Tilling, a mouse who is in love with music, stories, and a princess named Pea. It is also the story of a rat called Roscuro, who lives in the darkness and covets a world filled with light. And it is the story of Miggery Sow, a slow-witted serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish. These three characters are about to embark on a journey that will lead them down into a horrible dungeon, up into a glittering castle, and, ultimately, into each other's lives. What happens then?” – *Pub.*



The Thing About Jellyfish

by Ali Benjamin, c2015, 2017 (IL: 5 up, 5-8; RL: 4.6)

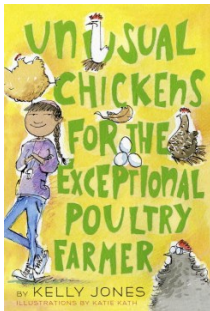
“Everyone says that it was an accident... that sometimes things "just happen". But Suzy won't believe it. Ever. After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy was a rare jellyfish sting. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.” – *Pub.*



The Underdogs (Underdogs, Bk. 1)

by Tracey West, c2021 (IL: 2-5, 1-3; RL: 3.9)

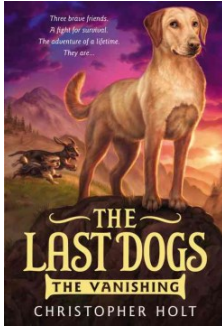
“In Barksdale Academy (in the town of Barksdale) most canines strive to be Best in Show; Nova, Duke, Harley, and Peanut have never won anything, but this year Nova is determined to get her pack to pass their agility exam--even though Duke is afraid of the high ramp, Harley just wants to chase squirrels, Peanut can not make it through the hoops, and Nova herself gets so excited she keeps knocking the whole practice course over.” – *Follett*



Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer

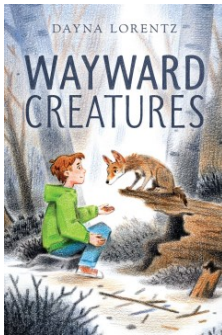
by Kelly Jones, 2015, 2016 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 5.3)

“Twelve-year-old Sophie Brown feels like a fish out of water when she and her parents move from Los Angeles to the farm they've inherited from a great-uncle. But farm life gets more interesting when a cranky chicken appears and Sophie discovers the hen can move objects with the power of her little chicken brain: jam jars, the latch to her henhouse, the *entire* henhouse....And then more of her great-uncle's unusual chickens come home to roost. Determined, resourceful Sophie learns to care for her flock, earning money for chicken feed, collecting eggs. But when a respected local farmer tries to steal them, Sophie must find a way to keep them (and their superpowers) safe.” – *Pub.*



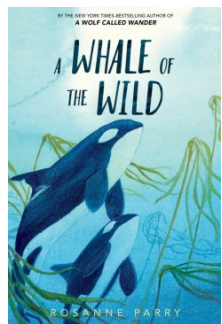
The Vanishing (*The Last Dogs, Bk. 1*)
by Christopher Holt, c2012 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.1)

“When all the humans in his world disappear, Max, a yellow Labrador Retriever, begins the search for his family. He knows that if he can just find Madame Curie, a wise, old black Lab, she'll be able to help. Madame had a premonition of astonishing events to come -- she might know where Max's family is. But Max can't make the journey alone. Joined by friends Rocky and Gizmo, Max sets off to find Madame. Along the way, the trio must face a pack of angry wolves, forage for food in a land where kibble is akin to gold, befriend a house full of cats, and outsmart a gang of subway rats. Ultimately, they'll have to escape from the biggest threat of all: the Corporation, a "perfect" society for dogs and by dogs, where nothing is quite as it seems.” – *Pub.*



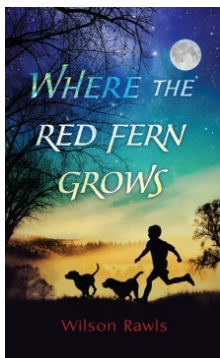
Wayward Creatures
by Dayna Lorentz, c2021 (IL: 4-7, RL: 5.3)

"Gabe doesn't know where he belongs anymore. His family is caught up in their own lives and his friends barely have time for him. In a desperate move for attention Gabe sets off fireworks in the woods near his house and causes a small forest fire. In the chaos of the destruction, a coyote named Rill . . . finds herself far from home. Gabe and Rill's paths irrevocably cross when Gabe is tasked with cleaning up the forest. The damage to the land and both their lives is beyond what the two can imagine. But together, they discover that sometimes it only takes one friend to find the place where you belong.” – *Pub.*



A Whale of the Wild
by Rosanne Parry, c2020, 2021 (IL: 3-7; RL: 4.2)

“For Vega and her family, salmon is life. And Vega is learning to be a salmon finder, preparing for the day when she will be her family's matriarch. But then she and her brother Deneb are separated from their pod when a devastating earthquake and tsunami render the seascape unrecognizable. Vega must use every skill she has to lead her brother back to their family. The young orcas face a shark attack, hunger, the deep ocean, and polluted waters on their journey. Will Vega become the leader she's destined to be?” – *Pub.*



Where the Red Fern Grows

by Wilson Rawls, c1961, 2017 (IL: Middle School, RL: 4.7)

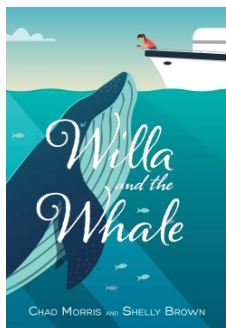
“A School Library Journal Top 100 Children's Novel. Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own - Old Dan and Little Ann - he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. Soon Billy and his hounds become the finest hunting team in the valley. Stories of their great achievements spread throughout the region, and the combination of Old Dan's brawn, Little Ann's brains, and Billy's sheer will seems unbeatable. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters - now friends - and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past.” – *Pub.*



The Wild Robot (*Wild Robot, Book 1*)

by Peter Brown, c2016, 2020 (IL: 3-7, RL: 5.1)

“Can a robot survive in the wilderness? When robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is all alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is--but she knows she needs to survive. After battling a violent storm and escaping a vicious bear attack, she realizes that her only hope for survival is to adapt to her surroundings and learn from the island's unwelcoming animal inhabitants. As Roz slowly befriends the animals, the island starts to feel like home--until, one day the robot's mysterious past comes back to haunt her.” – *Pub.*

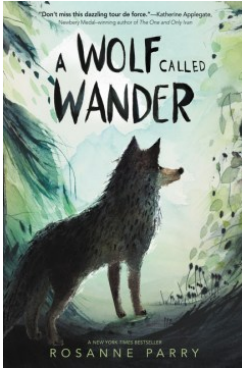


Willa and the Whale

by Morris Chad, c2020, 2021 (IL: 3-6, 5-8: RL: 4.7)

“When her mother dies, twelve-year-old Willa feels lost and alone except when she connects with things her mom loved about the wonders of the ocean as a marine biologist.

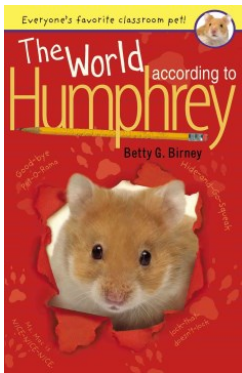
While on a whale-watching excursion with her dad, who is trying to cheer her up after Willa is sent to live with him and his new family, Willa is alone on one side of the boat when she sees a humpback whale. Her awe and wonderment about this massive and beautiful creature turns to shock when the whale communicates with her, introducing herself as Meg and exchanging small talk. Willa asks if they can talk again, and Meg tells her that if...” – *Pub.*



A Wolf Called Wander

by Rosanne Parry, c2019, 2020 (IL: 3-7, 4-6; RL: 4.4)

“A New York Times bestseller. Don’t miss this dazzling tour de force by Katherine Applegate, Newbery Medal winning author of *The One and Only Ivan*. This gripping novel about survival and family is based on the real story of one wolf’s incredible journey to find a safe place to call home.” – *Pub.*



The World According to Humphrey (*Humphrey the Hamster, Book 1*)

by Betty G. Birney, c2004, 2005 (IL: 3-7, 2-5; RL: 4.2)

“You can learn a lot about life by observing another species. That's what Humphrey was told when he was first brought to Room 26. And boy, is it true In addition to having FUN-FUN-FUN in class, each weekend this amazing hamster gets to sleep over with a different student, like Lower-Your-Voice-A.J. and Speak-Up-Sayeh. Soon Humphrey learns to read, write, and even shoot rubber bands (only in self-defense, of course). With lots of friends to help, adventures to enjoy, and a cage with a lock-that-doesn't- lock, Humphrey's life is almost perfect. If only the teacher, Mrs. Brisbane, wasn't out to get him.” – *Pub.*



World's Ugliest Dog (*Red Rhino Hi Lo*)

by Jeff Gottesfeld, c? (IL: 4-7, RL: 1.0-1.5)

“Tana has wanted a dog for years. Her parents have finally agreed. She loves her shelter dog, Storm. He's smart and loving. But wow, he is an ugly dog. That doesn't matter to Tana. Storm gives her more responsibility. When she enters him in an ugly dog contest, she learns about friendship, loyalty, and heroism.” – *Pub.*