

The New York Public Library

Best New Books for Kids

Librarians and staff experts from across The New York Public Library have compiled this list of the best books of 2023 for kids, including picture books, graphic novels, fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Explore the list—and more for readers of all ages: nypl.org/bestbooks

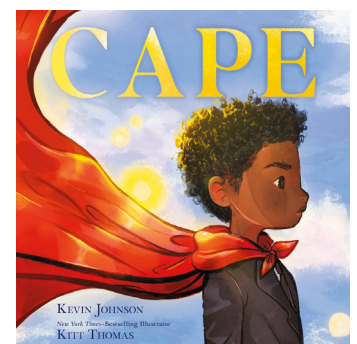
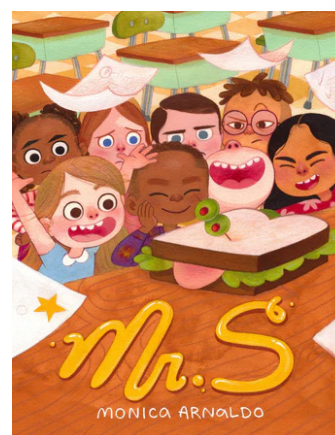
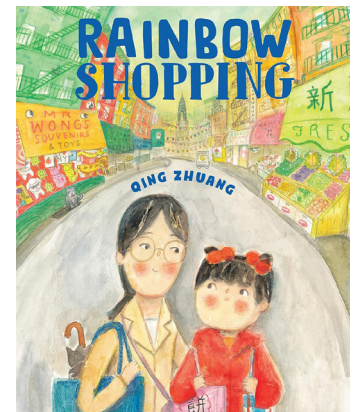
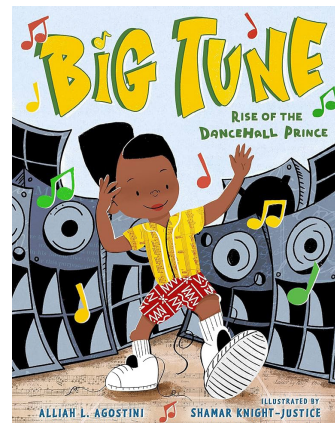
PICTURE BOOKS

- At the Drop of a Cat**
Élise Fontenaille, illustrated by Violeta Lópiz, translated by Karin Snelson and Emilie Robert Wong
- Bábo: A Tale of Armenian Rug-Washing Day**
Astrid Kamalyan, illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan
- Big**
Vashti Harrison
- Big Tune: Rise of the Dancehall Prince**
Alliah L. Agostini, illustrated by Shamar Knight-Justice
- The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name**
Sandhya Parappukaran, illustrated by Michelle Pereira
- Breaking to the Beat!**
Linda J. Acevedo, illustrated by Frank Morrison
- Bunny and Tree**
Balint Zsako
- Cape**
Kevin Johnson, illustrated by Kitt Thomas
- Do You Remember?**
Sydney Smith

- Just Like Grandma**
Kim Rogers, illustrated by Julie Flett
- Kicks in the Sky**
C.G. Esperanza
- Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar**
Mojdeh Hassani and Samira Iravani, illustrated by Maya Fidawi
- Mr. S**
Monica Arnaldo
- My Baba's Garden**
Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith
- 9 Kilometers**
Claudio Aguilera, illustrated by Gabriela Lyon, translated by Lawrence Schimel
- Papá's Magical Water-Jug Clock**
Jesús Trejo, illustrated by Eliza Kinkz
- Rainbow Shopping**
Qing Zhuang
- Roll, Roll, Little Pea**
Cécile Bergame, illustrated by Magali Attiogbé, translated by Angus Yuen-Killick
- That Flag**
Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nikkolos Smith

- There Was a Party for Langston**
Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jerome Pumphrey and Jarrett Pumphrey
- These Olive Trees**
Aya Ghanameh
- To the Other Side**
Erika Meza
- The Train Home**
Dan-ah Kim

- The Walk**
Winsome Bingham, illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- When You Can Swim**
Jack Wong
- Window Fishing**
DK Dyson, illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez



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What's your favorite book of the year?
Share your #BestBooks online with @nypl!

nypl.org/bestbooks | 1

YOUNG READERS

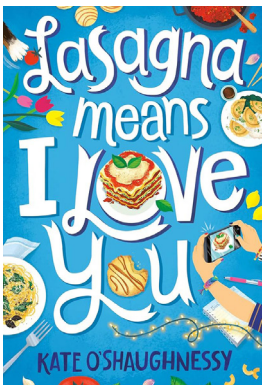
Frankie and Friends: Breaking News
Christine Platt, illustrated by Alea Marley

Ghost Girl
Brooke Carter, illustrated by Alyssa Waterbury

José and El Perro
Susan Rose and Silvia López, illustrated by Gloria Félix

Link + Hud: Heroes by a Hair
Jarrett Pumphrey and Jerome Pumphrey

Mehndi Boy
Zain Bandali, illustrated by Jani Balakumar



The Party Diaries: Awesome Orange Birthday
Mitali Banerjee Ruths, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel

Salma Makes a Home
Danny Ramadan, illustrated by Anna Bron

The Skull: A Tyrolean Folktale
Jon Klassen

MIDDLE GRADE

Aniana del Mar Jumps In
Jasminne Mendez

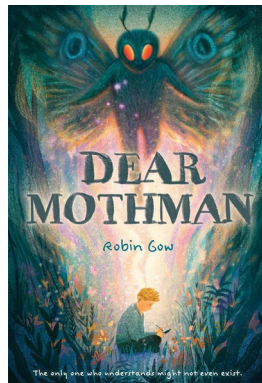
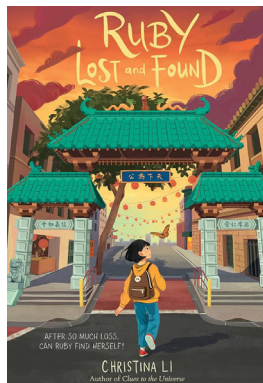
Calling the Moon: 16 Period Stories from BIPOC Authors
Edited by Aida Salazar and Yamile Saied Mendez

Dear Mothman
Robin Gow

Deephaven
Ethan M. Aldridge

The Eyes and the Impossible
Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris

The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn
Sally J. Pla



Greenwild: The World Behind the Door
Pari Thomson

Hands
Torrey Maldonado

The House That Whispers
Lin Thompson

Lasagna Means I Love You
Kate O'Shaughnessy

The Lost Year
Katherine Marsh

The Many Masks of Andy Zhou
Jack Cheng

Mascot
Charles Waters and Traci Sorell

Nothing Else but Miracles
Kate Albus

Remember Us
Jacqueline Woodson

Ruby Lost and Found
Christina Li

Sisters of the Lost Marsh
Lucy Strange

The Swifts: A Dictionary of Scoundrels
Beth Lincoln, illustrated by Claire Powell

The Umbrella Maker's Son
Katrina Leno

The Unlovable Alina Butt
Ambreen Butt-Hussain

What Happened to Rachel Riley?
Claire Swinarski

Where the Lockwood Grows
Olivia A. Cole

Will on the Inside
Andrew Eliopoulos

A Work in Progress
Jarrett Lerner

The Year My Life Went Down the Toilet
Jake Maia Arlow

You Are Here: Connecting Flights
Edited by Ellen Oh

NONFICTION

An American Story
Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dare Coulter

Ancestry: The Mystery and Majesty of Ancient Cave Art
Hannah Salyer

Chef Edna: Queen of Southern Cooking, Edna Lewis
Melvina Noel, illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera

Chinese Menu: The History, Myths, and Legends Behind Your Favorite Foods
Grace Lin

Contenders: Two Native Baseball Players, One World Series
Traci Sorell, illustrated by Arigon Starr

From Here to There: A First Book of Maps
Vivian French, illustrated by Ya-Ling Huang

Glitter Everywhere!: Where It Came From, Where It's Found and Where It's Going
Chris Barton, illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat

Great Carrier Reef
Jessica Stremmer, illustrated by Gordy Wright

Holding Her Own: The Exceptional Life of Jackie Ormes
Traci N. Todd, illustrated by Shannon Wright

How the Sea Came to Be: And All the Creatures in It
Jennifer Berne, illustrated by Amanda Hall

How to Bird
Rasha Hamid

Jumper: A Day in the Life of a Backyard Jumping Spider
Jessica Lanan

The Lion Queen: Rasila Vadher, the First Woman Guardian of the Last Asiatic Lions
Rina Singh, illustrated by Tara Anand

The Mona Lisa Vanishes: A Legendary Painter, a Shocking Heist, and the Birth of a Global Celebrity
Nicholas Day, illustrated by Brett Helquist

The Monkey Trial: John Scopes and the Battle over Teaching Evolution
Anita Sanchez

My Indigo World: A True Story of the Color Blue
Rosa Chang

Rock, Rosetta, Rock! Roll, Rosetta, Roll!: Presenting Sister Rosetta Tharpe, the Godmother of Rock and Roll
Tonya Bolden, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

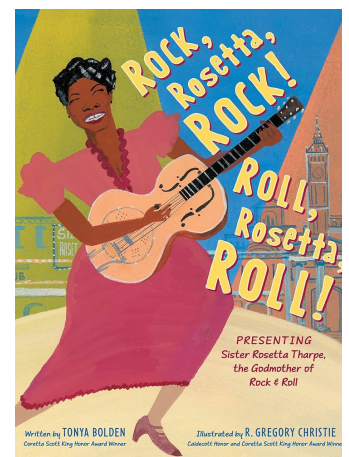
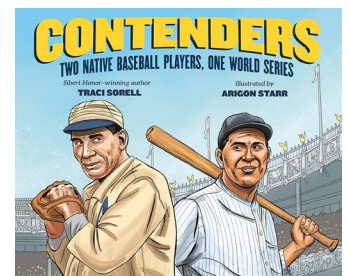
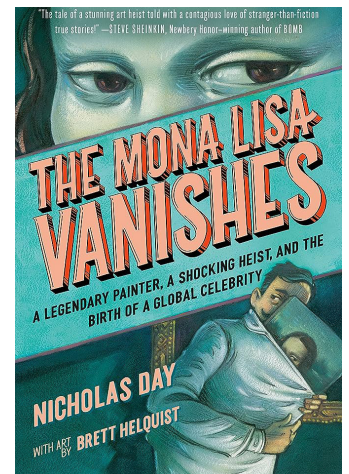
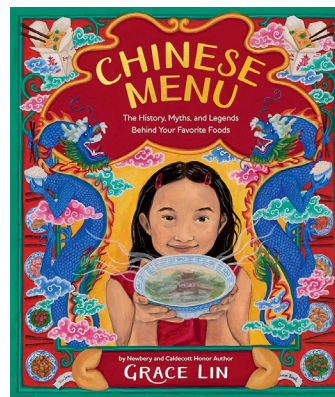
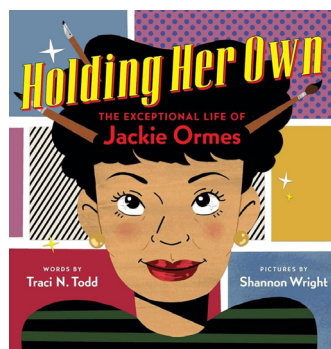
Search for a Giant Squid: Pick Your Path
Amy Seto Forrester, illustrated by Andy Chou Musser

Shipwrecked!: Diving for Hidden Time Capsules on the Ocean Floor
Martin W. Sandler

The Sky Is Not the Limit
J r mie Decalf

Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport
Caren Stelson, illustrated by Selina Alko

Thank a Farmer
Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Monica Mikai



They Hold the Line: Wildfires, Wildlands, and the Firefighters Who Brave Them
Dan Paley, illustrated by Molly Mendoza

Total Garbage: A Messy Dive into Trash, Waste, and Our World
Rebecca Donnelly, illustrated by John Hendrix

Unseen Jungle: The Microbes that Secretly Control Our World
Eleanor Spicer Rice, illustrated by Rob Wilson

Whale Fall: Exploring an Ocean-Floor Ecosystem
Melissa Stewart, illustrated by Rob Dunlavey

POETRY

I'm From
Gary R. Gray, Jr., illustrated by Oge Mora

Remember
Joy Harjo, illustrated by Michaela Goade

You So Black
Theresa S.O.N.G.B.I.R.D., illustrated by London Ladd

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Curlfriends: New in Town
Sharee Miller

Doodles from the Boogie Down
Stephanie Rodriguez

Hoops
Matt Tavares

Mexikid
Pedro Martín

Parachute Kids
Betty C. Tang

Saving Sunshine
Saadia Faruqi, Shazleen Khan

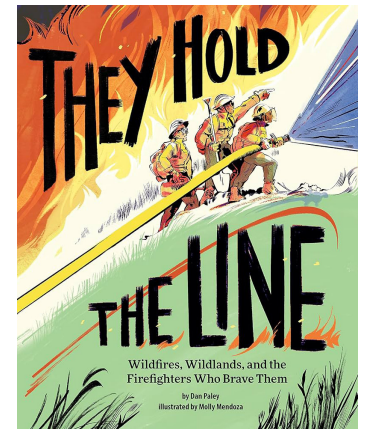
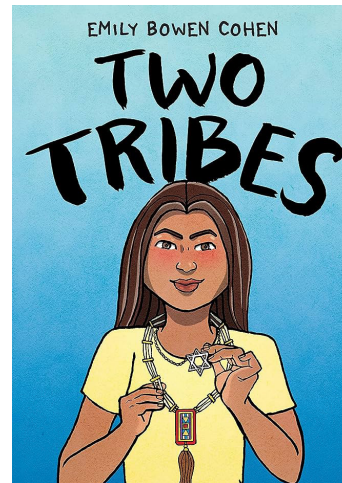
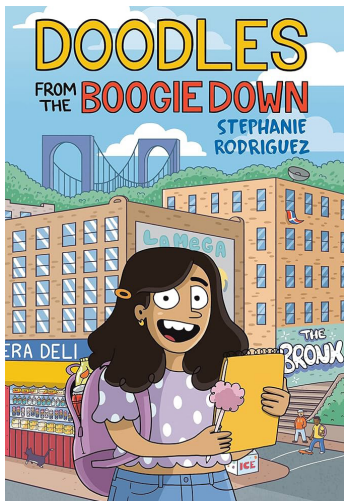
Things in the Basement
Ben Hatke

Two Tribes
Emily Bowen Cohen

Worm and Caterpillar Are Friends
Kaz Windness

Eerie Tales from the School of Screams
Graham Annable

Cross My Heart and Never Lie
Nora Dåsnes, translated by Matt Baggeley



About Best Books

Every year our librarians and staff select noteworthy new books for readers of all ages. These lists have always sought to reflect the diversity of New York City's readership. Special thanks to our Best Books committees, the members of which have read thousands of books to bring readers these recommendations. Learn more: nypl.org/bestbooks

About The New York Public Library

Founded in 1895, The New York Public Library is the nation's largest public library system, with neighborhood branches throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island, and scholarly research centers. Serving millions of patrons a year both in-person and online, the Library offers free materials, classes, and programs for users of all ages.



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