



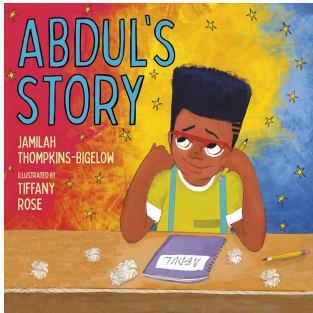
**Vermont's K-4
Children's-Choice
Picture Book Award**



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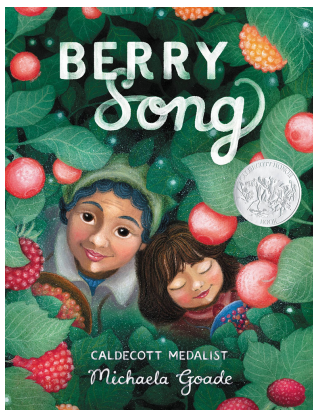
2023-2024 Nominees
Annotated List



Abdul's Story

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Tiffany Rose
Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster | 2022

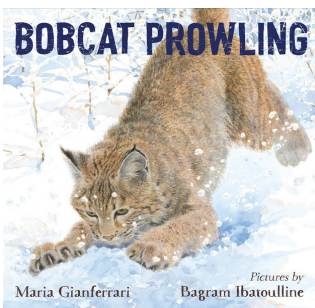
Although Abdul is a confident young storyteller, dyslexia and sloppy handwriting slow him down and causes frustration. At school one day, a successful Black Muslim guest author, Mr. Muhammad, shares his own messy writer's notebook on a class visit. This encounter becomes the key to building Abdul's courage and helps him let go of a well-worn eraser and allow ideas to flow. Every kid who has stared at a blank page struggling to write will connect with this representational, uplifting book.



Berry Song

by Michaela Goade
Little, Brown and Company | 2022

Written and illustrated by Caldecott winner Michaela Goade, *Berry Song* is the story of a young girl learning from her grandmother to gather food from the earth in Sheet'ká, or Sitka, Alaska, where Goade lives as her ancestors did before her. Bright painterly watercolor illustrations bring an air of magic that is deeply grounded in place and the connection between people and the earth. This story is a love letter from and to Tlingit culture, traveling through the seasons with a song of berry names as a refrain. Readers will be inspired to deepen their connections with the natural world, and maybe share some berries, too!



Bobcat Prowling

by Maria Gianferrari, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline
Roaring Brook Press | 2022

Yearling is the bobcat prowling in this story, embarking on the life-cycle task of leaving his mother to claim his own territory. The beautiful, realistic, and Vermont-like illustrations complement the lyrical text and provide additional visual details about Yearling's daily habits and challenges, including specific competitors and prey. Just as we are learning to co-exist with apex predators in our local environments, the reader is never far from Yearling in the story, spotting tracks while waiting for the school bus, and camping in a backyard tent mere yards from Yearling's eventual den, reflecting the broad home range of these animals. The back matter provides specific bobcat vocabulary, a "menu" for bobcats, and even advice on how to hunt like a bobcat.

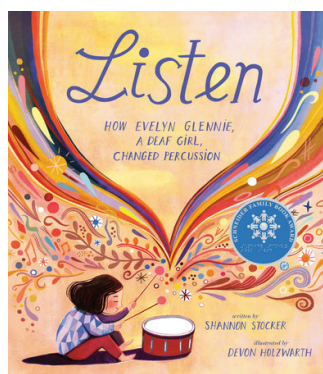


Dragon Bones: The Fantastic Fossil Discoveries of Mary Anning

by Sarah Glenn Marsh, illustrated by Maris Wicks

Roaring Brook Press | 2022

Join young Mary Anning as she explores the English sea coast, finding bones in the soil after each heavy rain. Adventuring with her father, Mary hopes to find the bones of a real dinosaur. When her father dies, Mary must carry on alone. And carry on she does! In this beautiful picture book biography, you'll get to know Mary Anning, the fossil hunter who discovered a nearly intact dinosaur skeleton, forever changing the course of paleontology.

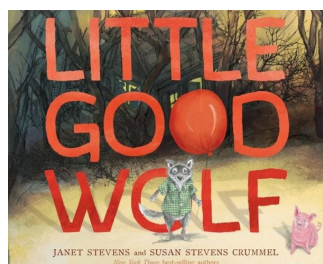


Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion

by Shannon Stocker, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth

Dial Books for Young Readers | 2022

This biography of Scottish-born Grammy Award-winning musician Evelyn Glennie is full of onomatopoeia and rhythm, with vibrant, swirling illustrations. This book explores not only the story of a groundbreaking musician, but also what it means to truly listen. Evelyn Glennie was born into a family of musicians and played several instruments by an early age. When she began to lose her hearing at age 10, Evelyn struggled to comprehend the audiologist's news that she would never play music again. Thanks to supportive parents and the intuition of a music teacher, she discovered that when playing percussion she could feel the vibrations of sound move through her body. She pursued further schooling in music, and eventually became the first full-time solo percussionist in the world. This title presents many opportunities to explore sound and listening, and to learn more about the creativity and persistence of a fascinating artist who is still living and making music today.

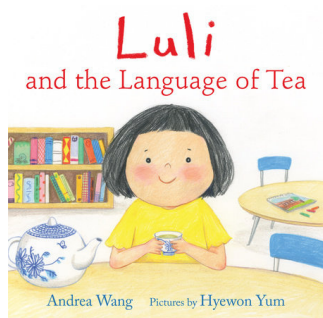


Little Good Wolf

by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel, illustrated by Susan Stevens Crummel

Clarion Books/HarperCollins | 2022

This fractured fairy tale sends a well-mannered young wolf off to reform school so that he can meet his parents' expectations of bad behavior. Many familiar characters attempt to teach explicit lessons of badness but are met by Little Good Wolf's awesome problem-solving skills, schooling them with his good ways. Fortunately, he stays true to himself and is accepted by his family who realizes they do love him the way he is. The popular sister duo of Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel is back on the Red Clover list for the 4th time so enjoy this new nominee and revisit their older works, as well (1997 - *Tops and Bottoms*, 2003 - *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*, and the 2007 winner - *The Great Fuzz Frenzy*).



Luli and the Language of Tea

by Andrea Wang, illustrated by Hyewon Yum

Neal Porter Books/Holiday House | 2022

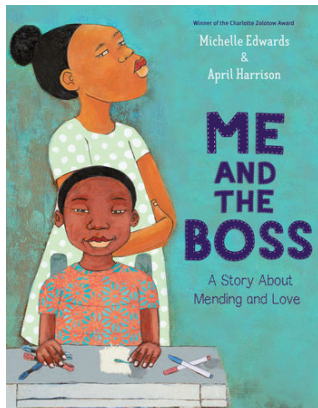
While Luli's parent is busy in an English as a Second Language Class, Luli plays in the room next door. None of the children speak English, but Luli has a way to bring them all together: tea! Colored pencil illustrations and simple text highlight the word and the people that are more similar around the world than they are different. Excellent backmatter about tea as a world-wide phenomenon and the countries each of the children represent expand this globally-minded story.



***Marshmallow Clouds: Two Poets at Play Among Figures of Speech* by Ted Kooser and Connie Wanek, illustrated by Richard Jones**

Candlewick Press | 2022

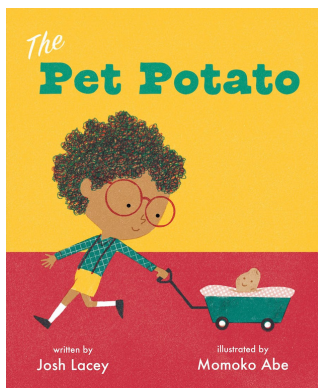
This collection of 28 poems is organized around the elements of fire, water, air and earth, but the poems are so much more than those simple elements. Kooser and Wanek bring playful joy to their language, exploring the world around us through figures of speech such as metaphor, simile, and personification. A pool of tadpoles becomes commas made by someone just learning to write. Marshmallows on a blue plate are partly cloudy. A harpist is gently trying to control a giant moth. An old barn combs its roof straight down the middle in the morning. Richard Jones' illustrations gently provide concrete imagery for the wild creativity these poems represent. Readers will be inspired to dig into their imagination and express a fresh perspective on the world around them.



***Me and the Boss: A Story About Mending and Love* by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by April Harrison**

Anne Schwartz Books | 2022

Meet Lee and his bossy sister, Zora as they head to their local library where they learn how to sew. Zora sews beautifully while Lee is messy, yet late in the night he decides to stitch and mend his pants pocket. In the morning, he even sews his sister's stuffed bear's ear back on his head. A beautiful, honest brother and sister relationship.



***The Pet Potato* by Josh Lacey, illustrated by Momoko Abe**

Roaring Brook Press | 2022

Albert wants a pet more than anything else, but it's a hard sell to his parents: they're too busy, Mom is allergic, and Mom and Dad have said no to every pet Albert can think of. One day, dad gives him a pet potato, a classic dad-joke that frustrates Albert, but he discovers something special about this little potato. This relatable tale will spark discussions about families, pets, loss, gardening, and composting. Abe's illustrations have a simple, engaging humor that complement the text.