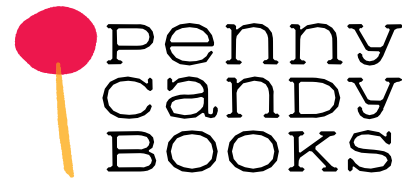


Penny Candy Books

FALL 2019



Small press.
Big conversations.



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DEAR FRIENDS,

At Penny Candy we publish books for the kid in *all* of us. But that's not really what we do.

We really spark conversations between kids and their adults about important topics.

Why? Because we believe that conversations have the power to open eyes, change hearts and minds, raise awareness about important topics, and encourage compassion for others.

How? A conversation is a dialogue, a give and take, that involves a mutual respect between speakers and listeners. The best conversations happen when there's a broad range of people at the table speaking about (and listening to!) a broad range of subjects.

After you read our Fall 2019 books, let's talk! Talk about them with your family, teachers, and friends!

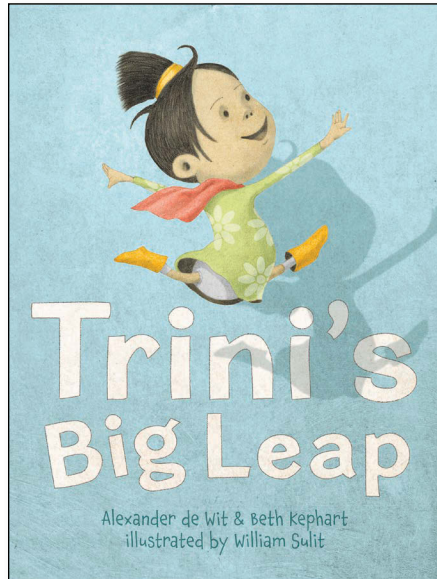
Our books are meant to get you thinking and talking about the big stuff. Our Fall 2019 titles will get you talking about how to find the courage to try new things or to show your true self to the world. Like how to admit when you are wrong or to find compassion and understanding in life's harder moments.

And if you're a teacher or librarian, we now include information on the following pages to help you find titles that are right for readers of every level.

Thank you for your interest in Penny Candy. Happy reading, and enjoy the big conversations!

Chad & Alexis

Trini says "I can do that" about everything she tries at the gym. But what happens when a new activity isn't all that easy for her?



Ages 5–8
Guided Reading: J
Lexile™: 500L
Interest Level: Grades PK–2
Grade Level: 1
Reading Recovery Level: 17

ISBN 978-0-9996584-5-1
6.5" x 8.5"
44 pages
\$17.95 hardcover
August 13, 2019

Trini's Big Leap

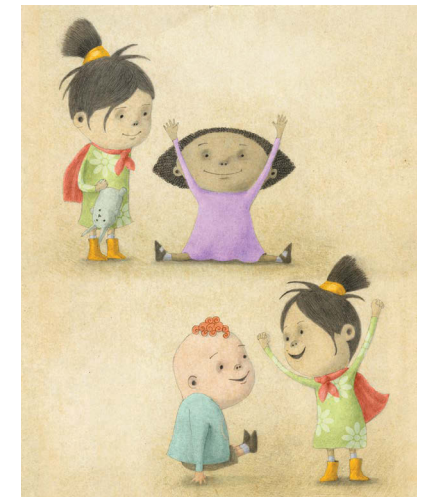
Alexander de Wit & Beth Kephart
Illustrated by William Sulit

Trini is the highest flyer, the strongest gripper, the most spectacular cartwheeler at her after-school club. She easily masters any gymnastic move her teachers show her and always says, "I can do that." But when she tries to construct buildings out of blocks like her friends do, she discovers that some things don't come as easily for her. Through the encouragement of her friends, Trini learns the value of collaboration and trying new things, even when they aren't so easy. An afterword by the founder and CEO of The Little Gym Europe, outlines why it's important to encourage children to try new and difficult things.

JUVENILE FICTION / Sports & Recreation / General • Social Themes / New Experience • Social Themes / Friendship • Imagination & Play

Encourages collaboration, friendship, and sharing • Encourages children to try new activities, even if those activities might seem difficult at first or outside their comfort zones • Encourages children to work hard and seek help when confronted with challenges • Encourages children to exercise their bodies and minds • Afterword for parents by The Little Gym Europe founder, Alexander de Wit

"Trini is a wonderful character for two reasons: she is confident about her abilities and she accepts help from her friends when she needs it. This is a great book that highlights confidence, creativity, persistence and collaboration, all really important parts of childhood." —Rachel Busman, PsyD, ABPP, Clinical psychologist, Senior Director, Anxiety Disorders Center, Child Mind Institute

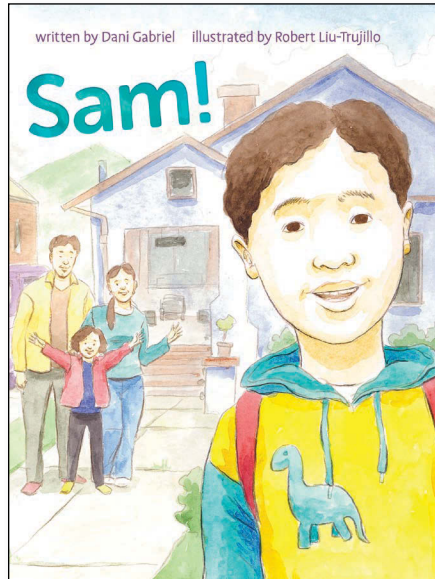


ALEXANDER DE WIT is an entrepreneur, investor, and advisor. A Dutch national living in Belgium, Alexander has founded many successful companies, including The Little Gym Europe. *Trini's Big Leap* is his first picture book.

BETH KEPHART is the award-winning author of more than two dozen books, a teacher of writing at the University of Pennsylvania, and a co-founder of Juncture Workshops.

WILLIAM SULIT is an award-winning illustrator, ceramicist, and designer. Born in El Salvador, he studied design at North Carolina State University and received his Masters of Architecture degree from Yale University. He is the cofounder of Juncture Workshops with his wife, Beth Kephart.

Meet Sam, his annoying but amazing sister, and their parents on a family's journey through Sam's transition.



Ages 8–12
Guided Reading: O
Lexile™: 500L
Interest Level: Grades 2–6
Grade Level: 3

ISBN 978-0-9996584-3-7
6.5" x 8.5"
52 pages
\$16.95 hardcover
September 10, 2019

Sam!

Dani Gabriel

Illustrated by Robert Liu-Trujillo

Sam is a nine-year-old boy who loves riding his bike and learning about the American Revolution. There's just one problem: Sam's family knows him as a girl named Isabel. Sam feels a sense of relief when he finally confides in his sister Maggie, and then his parents, even though it takes them a while to feel comfortable with it. But with lots of love and support, Sam and his family learn and grow through Sam's journey to embrace his true self. In the vein of *I Am Jazz* by Jessica Herthel, *Sam!* is based on a real story, and is an important addition to a list of books that help children and adults discuss gender identity.

JUVENILE FICTION / LGBT / Social Themes / Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance / Family / Siblings

A meaningful way to encourage discussions of gender identity with children, parents, teachers, and loved ones

• A powerful addition to growing list of books about transgender kids • Based on a true story



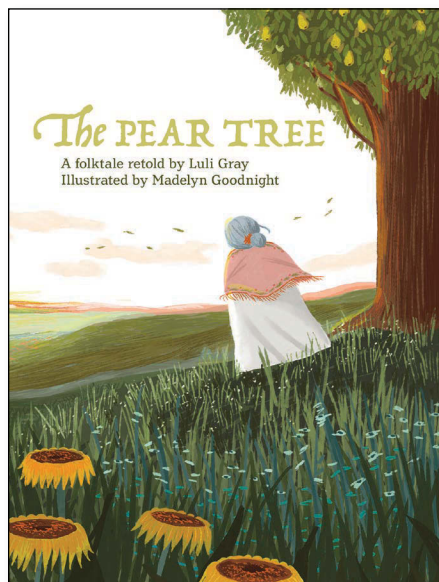
DANI GABRIEL is a queer/gender-fluid poet and writer, the author of *The Woman You Write Poems About* (Civil Defense Poetry) and coauthor of *Molotov Mouths* (Manic D Press). Dani is the Poet Laureate of El Cerrito, CA, where they live with their feisty and rambunctious family, including children Samson and Magdalene.

ROBERT LIU-TRUJILLO is the author/illustrator of *Furqan's First Flat Top*, and the illustrator for *One of a Kind, Like Me* by Laurin Mayeno. He is a cofound-

er of the Trust Your Struggle Collective, a contributor to *Rad Dad*, and the founder of Come Bien Books. He lives in Oakland with his wife, son, and daughter.



Esperanza tricks Señor Death but soon realizes that death is a necessary part of life.



Ages 8–12
Guided Reading: Q
Lexile™: 590L
Interest Level: Grades 2–6
Grade Level: 4

ISBN 978-0-9996584-6-8
6.5" x 8.5"
40 pages
\$16.95 hardcover
October 8, 2019

The Pear Tree

A folktale retold by Luli Gray
Illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

In this retelling of a folktale, an old woman named Esperanza (originally called Tía Miseria) gives her last pear to a beggar and is rewarded with the best pear crop she's ever had—and the power to ensnare anyone she wants in her tree. When Señor Death comes for her, Esperanza tricks him into climbing her tree, where he becomes stuck, unable to come down and do his work. From that point on, no one dies. But when Esperanza learns that the end of death doesn't mean the end of suffering, she agrees to let Señor Death down from her tree. The final work by legendary children's author Luli Gray.

**JUVENILE FICTION / Fairy Tales & Folklore / Adaptations •
Legends, Myths, Fables / General • Social Themes / Death & Dying**

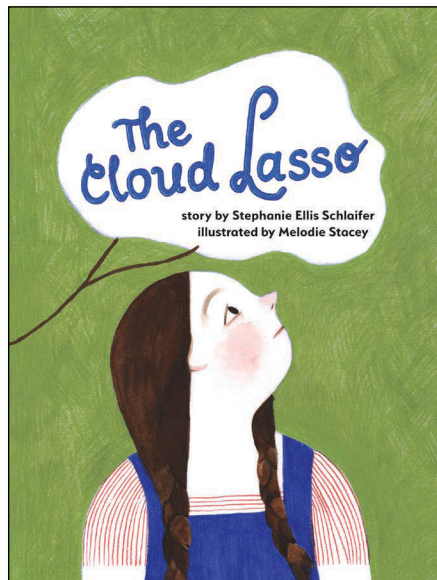
- An upbeat retelling of a folktale told in many places • Helps assuage children's fears of death and the unknown
- Humorous, philosophical tale that helps children understand difficult concepts of mortality and immortality • An afterword by the publisher encourages children and adults to consider why the author may have changed the story the way she did



LUISA "LULI" GRAY (1945–2017) was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Though she always considered herself a writer—of mostly letters and comic verse—she did not begin writing fiction until 1987. She traveled to and lived in many places around the world before moving to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she lived the rest of her life. Her first novel, *Falcon's Egg*, was an ALA Notable Book.

MADELYN GOODNIGHT grew up in Oklahoma where her family encouraged her to explore anything and everything and shared a deep connection to their Native American heritage that emphasized the magic of storytelling. With each new book or piece of art that she makes, she's always trying to convey that magic. Madie uses a wide range of media and outlets for her art so that it is as diverse, energetic, and playful as the children who are seeing it.

Delilah teaches herself to lasso all the clouds out of the sky as she navigates her feelings of sadness and isolation after her grandfather dies.



Ages 6–11

Guided Reading: M

Lexile™: 570L

Interest Level: Grades K–5

Grade Level: 2

ISBN 978-0-9996584-4-4

6.5" x 8.5"

48 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

November 12, 2019

The Cloud Lasso

Stephanie Ellis Schlaifer

Illustrated by Melodie Stacey

Big gloomy clouds have hung over Delilah's head and heart since her beloved grandfather died. But remembering an old trick he taught her, she lassos all the clouds out of the sky to navigate her feelings of sadness and isolation. *The Cloud Lasso* is a poetic meditation on loss, memory, and paying homage to those we've lost.

JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Death & Dying • Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings • Family / Multigenerational • Lifestyles / Farm and Ranch Life

Helps children, parents, teachers, and loved ones talk about feelings of grief, sadness, and isolation in the wake of a loss • Encourages children to seek creative solutions to problems • Highlights the importance and impact of grandparents on grandchildren's lives

STEPHANIE ELLIS SCHLAIFER is a poet and installation artist in St. Louis. She is the author of *Cleavemark* (BOAAT Press, 2016) and has an MFA in poetry from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. *The Cloud Lasso* is her first children's book.

MELODIE STACEY is an artist and illustrator from Brighton, East Sussex, in the UK. She has exhibited her work in the UK and US and has worked with magazines such as *Flow* and *Pompom Quarterly* as an illustrator. *The Cloud Lasso* is her first picture book.





Hedy & Her Amazing Invention

Jan Wahl

Illustrated by Morgana Wallace

Ages 7–11

Guided Reading: S

Lexile™: 800L

Interest Level: Grades 2–5

Grade Level: 4

ISBN 978-0-9987999-9-5

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

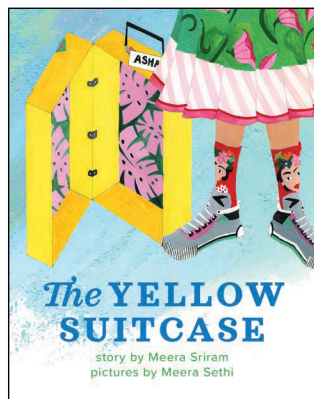
How "the world's most beautiful woman" defied narrow-minded expectations to become an important inventor.

A picture chapter book that introduces an important scientist in Hedy Lamarr • Offers a positive role model who defied expectations to make the life she wanted for herself • Shows that stereotypes about appearance are useless and limiting • Encourages girls to pursue STEM careers

★ [S]ure to be inspiring for young scientists. The book is a luminous tribute to a remarkable woman who carved out an independent and creative life of her own design. —*Foreword Reviews*

The latest by prolific author Jan Wahl, *Hedy and Her Amazing Invention* teaches kids about the pioneering scientific work and inspiring courage of Hedy Lamarr, the Hollywood actress who fought against old-fashioned parents, a domineering husband, prejudice, and stereotypes to become an accomplished inventor whose work helped pave the way for many of the communications technologies we enjoy today.

JUVENILE FICTION / Biographical / General • Girls & Women • Historical, US, 20th Century • Science & Technology



The Yellow Suitcase

Meera Sriram

Illustrated by Meera Sethi

Ages 5–11

Guided Reading: M

Lexile™: 650L

Interest Level: Grades K–5

Grade Level: 2

Reading Recovery Level: 20

The story of a girl who visits India for her grandmother's funeral with the yellow suitcase that carries so many memories for both of them.

ISBN 978-0-9996584-1-3

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

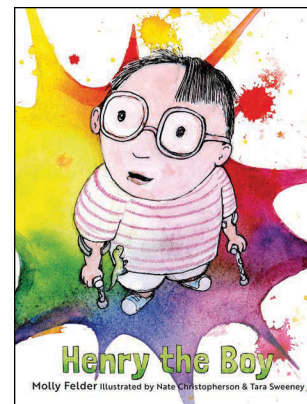
Important addition to growing list of diverse and multicultural books for children • Meets growing demand for stories about the Indian diasporic experience • Helps children get through losing a loved one

This thoughtful picture book provides a rare and necessary perspective, free of tropes and clichés: that of the contemporary bicultural child whose heart is in two places, India and California.

—*Booklist*

In *The Yellow Suitcase* Asha travels with her parents from America to India to mourn her grandmother's passing. Asha's grief and anger are compounded by the empty yellow suitcase usually reserved for gifts to and from Grandma, but when she discovers a gift left behind just for her, Asha realizes that the memory of her grandmother will live on inside her, no matter where she lives.

JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Death & Dying • Social Themes / New Experience • People & Places / United States / Asian American • Family Multigenerational



Henry the Boy

Molly Felder

Illustrated by Nate Christopherson
& Tara Sweeney

Ages 5–10

Guided Reading: K

Lexile™: 490L

Interest Level: Grades K–4

Grade Level: 2

Reading Recovery Level: 18

Though he's the only boy in school who uses mobility aids, Henry learns to see he's not so different from anyone else.

ISBN 978-0-9996584-0-6

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

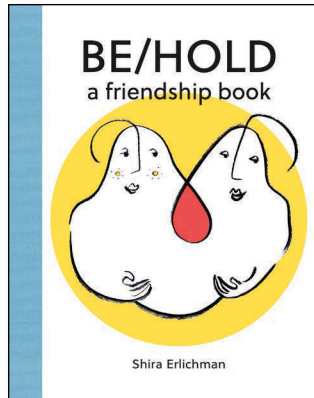
\$16.95 hardcover

A picture book featuring a protagonist with a physical disability • Celebrates differences *and* similarities • Spotlights friendship and self-acceptance

Wild swirls and rainbow splatters highlight Henry's confusion and triumph respectively, and his imaginary, amicable entourage is subtly expressive. Such cozy touches as family portraits, a steaming breakfast bowl, and Henry's pencil drawings emphasize that Henry's something more than his disability: an appealingly ordinary boy. A quietly humorous, encouraging story of friendship, disability, and self-confidence. —*Kirkus Reviews*

In *Henry the Boy* by Molly Felder, Henry uses forearm crutches decorated with animal stickers. He sometimes feels out of place at school, but through his own rich imagination and his friendship with Joel, Henry learns to define himself on his own terms.

JUVENILE FICTION / Imagination & Play • Social Themes / Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance • Social Themes / Special Needs • Social Themes / Friendship



**BE/HOLD:
A Friendship Book**
Shira Erlichman

Ages 5–11
Guided Reading: Q
Lexile™: 560L
Interest Level: Grades K–5
Grade Level: 4

ISBN 978-0-9996584-2-0

6.5" x 8.5"

68 pages

\$17.95 hardcover

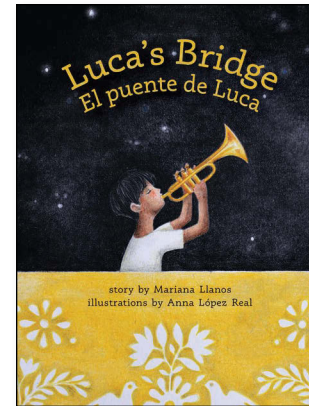
Be/Hold uses wordplay, compound words, and bright splashes of color to explore ways of uplifting those we love, even through challenging times.

Positive, uplifting message of friendship and hope • Bonus compound word activity page at the end of book that emphasizes language play • Encourages positive emotional communication • Debut picture book by accomplished singer, artist, and poet

An ode to the pleasures and surprises of compound words Nascent wordsmiths will be left keen to explore the expressive possibilities for themselves. —*Kirkus Reviews*

In *Be/Hold: A Friendship Book* visual artist, poet, and musician Shira Erlichman opens with the line, "Sweetheart, sometimes when I'm feeling blue I put my ear to the wind & listen for you," building a one-of-a-kind story of friendship from her love of compound words (i.e. *toothbrush*, *windbreaker*, *behold*) in a book that uplifts, encourages, and honors the people we care about most.

JUVENILE FICTION / Concepts & Words • Social Themes / Friendship
• Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings



**Luca's Bridge / El puente
de Luca**

Mariana Llanos

Illustrated by Anna López Real

Ages 6–11
Guided Reading: N
Lexile™: 580L (Eng); 670L (Span)
Interest Level: Grades 1–5
Grade Level: 3

ISBN 978-0-9987999-5-7

6.5" x 8.5"

40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

How can Luca leave the only home he's ever known? With the help of his beloved trumpet, he brings joy to his close-knit family.

Raises awareness of the tragic impacts that deportation has on families and children • A powerful meditation on home and identity at a time when our country sorely needs it • Fosters an understanding of and empathy for immigrants in the United States • Important addition to growing list of bilingual books

[A]n engaging story of a Mexican family's trying to make the best of a terrible situation. It's highly recommended. —*De Colores: The Raza Experience in Books for Children*

The bilingual picture book *Luca's Bridge / El puente de Luca* tells the emotional story of a boy coming to terms with his family's deportation from the United States to Mexico. Despite missing his friends and familiar surroundings, Luca discovers that his love of music can brighten and sustain his dreams, and bring comfort and happiness to his family.

JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Emigration & Immigration • People & Places / United States / Hispanic & Latino • Family Multigenerational • Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings

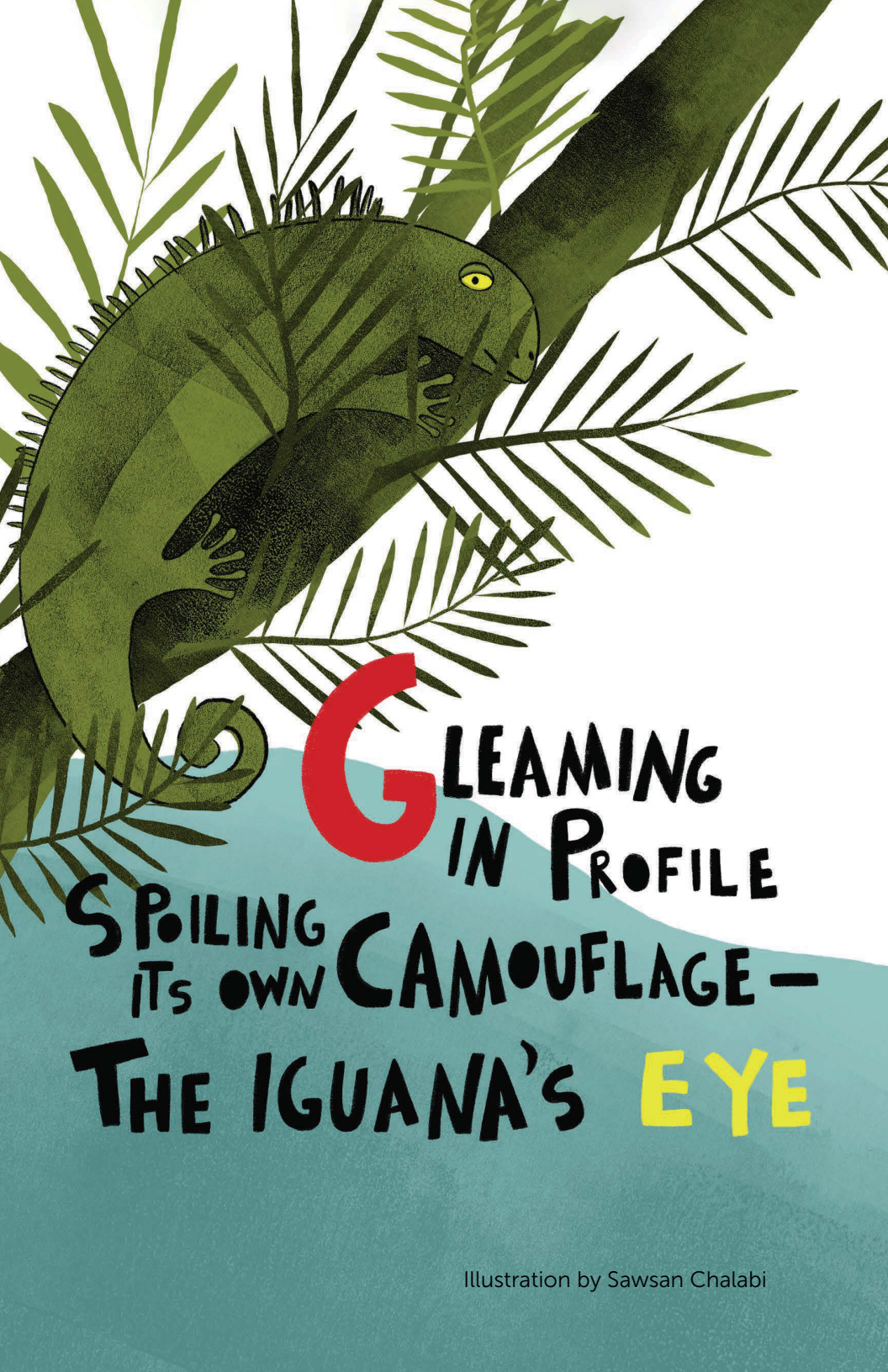
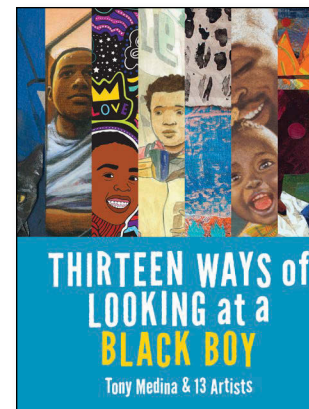


Illustration by Sawsan Chalabi



Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy

Tony Medina

Illustrated by 13 artists

Ages 10–14

Guided Reading: U

Interest Level: Grades 4 & up

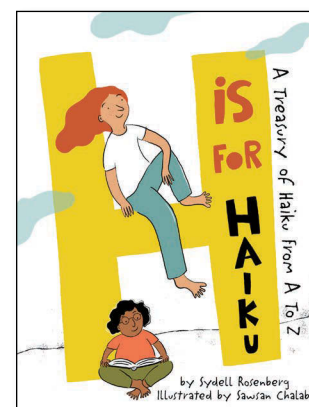
Grade Level: 5

ISBN 978-0-9987999-4-0

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

Best of 2018, Poetry. ★ Medina combines the tanka form with the illustrious talents of 13 artists to produce a resplendent collection of poetry dedicated to black and brown children. This shining title deserves a spot in all poetry collections. —*School Library Journal*



H Is for Haiku: A Treasury of Haiku from A to Z

Sydel Rosenberg

Illustrated by Sawsan Chalabi

Ages 5–12

Guided Reading: P

Interest Level: Grades K–6

Grade Level: 3

ISBN 978-0-9987999-7-1

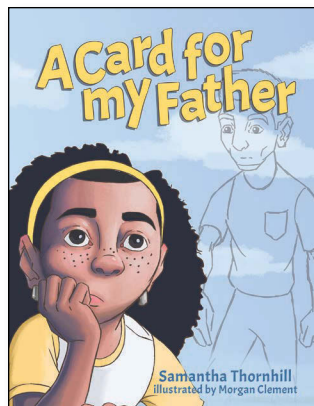
6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

NCTE's 2019 Notable Poetry Books

Lesson plan available from *Teachers & Writers Magazine*

A delightful exploration of the alphabet through haiku. Colorful, playful illustrations complement the poetic text. —*Writers' Rumpus*



A Card for My Father
Samantha Thornhill
Illustrated by Morgan Clement

Ages 5–10
Guided Reading: O • Lexile™: 720L
Interest Level: Grades K–4
Grade Level: 3
ISBN 978-0-9987999-6-4
6.5" x 8.5" • 64 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

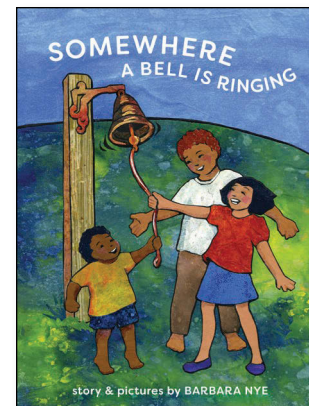
A Card for My Father doesn't just fill a gap on the bookshelf, it does it very well. This book is special. —*Raise Them Righteous*



Thank You, Crow
Michael Minkovitz
Illustrated by Jose D. Medina

Ages 5–11
Guided Reading: J • Lexile™: 550L
Interest Level: Grades K–5
Grade Level: 2
Reading Recovery Level: 17
ISBN 978-0-9987999-8-8
8.5" x 6.5" • 40 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

Medina's style is reminiscent of Jon Klassen's, distinguished by matte textures, spare use of color, and flat planes; it's an excellent companion to Minkovitz's wry, understated text . . . Who can't enjoy a book that so engages the mind and expands the imagination—and in which everybody is so polite, too. —*Kirkus Reviews*

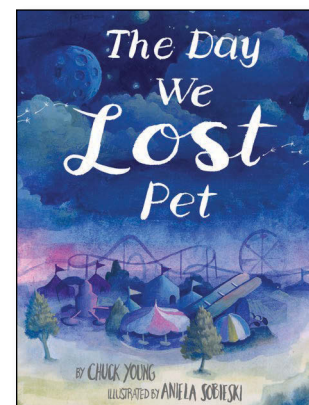


Somewhere a Bell Is Ringing
Barbara Nye

Ages 5–11
Guided Reading: L
Interest Level: Grades K–5
Grade Level: 2
ISBN 978-0-9987999-2-6
6.5" x 8.5" • 44 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

[A]ttention to detail in both text and art is evident, and the message of global interconnectedness comes through. —*Publishers Weekly*

2018 Paterson Prize for Books for Young People, Honor Book



The Day We Lost Pet
Chuck Young
Illustrated by Aniela Sobieski

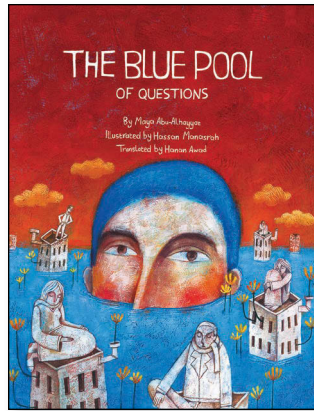
Ages 9–13
Guided Reading: T • Lexile™: 780L
Interest Level: Grades 3–7
Grade Level: 5
ISBN 978-0-9987999-3-3
6.5" x 8.5" • 56 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

★ This supremely tender book is one that readers will return to again and again, if they can bear it, finding new meaning with each reading and in each new stage of life. Breathtakingly original.

—*Kirkus Reviews*

A beautiful, if tragic, discussion on love and loss, life and death.

—*Worcester Magazine*



The Blue Pool of Questions

Maya Abu-Alhayyat

Illustrated by Hassan Manasrah

Translated by Hanan Awad

Ages 9–13

Guided Reading: S • Lexile™: 620L

Interest Level: Grades 3 & up

Grade Level: 4

ISBN 978-0-9972219-8-5

6.5" x 8.5" • 44 pages

\$13.95 softcover

Deliciously confounding and deeply moving . . . a work of art in pictures and words for adults and children alike. —*Kirkus Reviews*

A haunting meditation on one man's search for belonging and meaning. —*Publishers Weekly*



The Hunt

Margaux Othats

Ages 6–11

ISBN 978-0-9972219-0-9

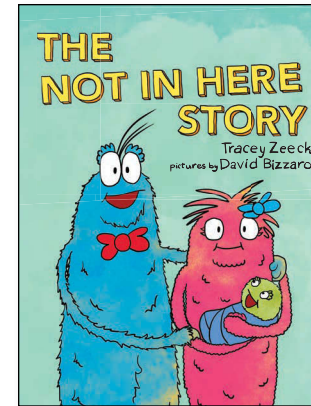
11.25" x 6.25" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

Originally published in France and shortlisted for the Picture Book Prize at the Montreuil Children's Book Fair in 2014.

A simple story with a powerful anti-violence message.

—*Kirkus Reviews*



The Not in Here Story

Tracey Zeeck

Illustrated by David Bizzaro

Ages 4–8

Guided Reading: N • Lexile™: 670L

Interest Level: Grades PK–3

Grade Level: 3

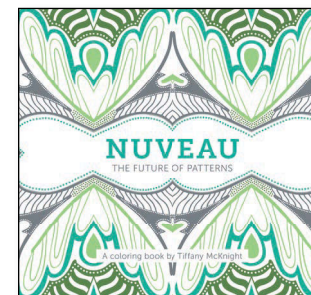
ISBN 978-0-9972219-2-3

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$13.95 softcover

Adoptive parents who experience the painful blow of infertility prior to adopting often have the difficult task of explaining to their children about the process that led them to adopt. *The Not in Here Story* by Tracey Zeeck may make that conversation a bit easier.

—*Reader's Digest*



Nuveau: The Future of Pattern

Tiffany McKnight

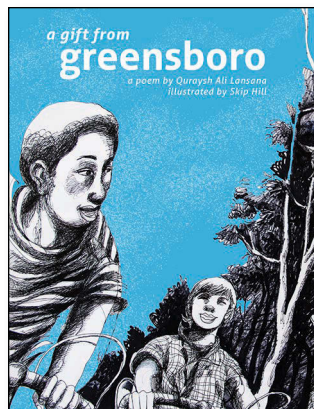
All ages, coloring book

ISBN 978-0-9972219-3-0

8.5" x 8" • 40 pages

\$19.95 softcover

McKnight's modernized designs act as a psychedelic slide into a pool of ever-changing movement. Readers will discover that adding color to the vast maze of NUVEAU will offer an inner reflexive experience that breaks the traditional definition of 'artist'. Plus, it's all for a good cause. —*Garrett Davis, Territory OKC*



A Gift from Greensboro
Quraysh Ali Lansana
Illustrated by Skip Hill

Ages 9–13
Guided Reading: S
Interest Level: Grades 3–7
Grade Level: 4
ISBN 978-0-9972219-1-6
6.5" x 8.5" • 48 pages
\$13.95 softcover

Lansana's moving, semi-autobiographical poem about a friendship that survives the growing complexities of adulthood is accompanied by an author's note about the events that inspired the story. Skip Hill's charming ink drawings enhance the nostalgia and add a touch of psychedelic whimsy. —Nara Schoenberg, *Chicago Tribune*

Illustration by Hassan Manasrah



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about Penny Candy Books?

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upcoming books, and more at
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upon request.

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