

Penny Candy Books

FALL 2020



Small press.
Big conversations.

DEAR FRIENDS,

That we're living in uncertain times has been a bit of a refrain lately, but what does this mean exactly? Does each generation feel its times are uncertain? The Great Recession of 2008 caused tremendous upheaval and change, as did 9/11, as did the fall of the Berlin Wall, and so on going back through the years. When one is living through a crisis, whatever it is, relativity flies out the window and the difficulties of the moment feel absolute. How do you explain to a child that what they are feeling will pass, when you yourself feel stuck in an impassable moment?

Penny Candy Books was founded by two poets, and we often turn to poetry when looking for solace. In December of 1817, a twenty-three-year-old English poet named John Keats wrote a remarkable letter to his brothers in which he coined a phrase that we think about as we do our work today. That phrase is "negative capability"—but first some context.

Keats had published his first book of poetry in March of that year to mixed reviews. He was immersed in the world of ideas, surrounded by artistic friends, going to the theater, writing and publishing reviews of plays and books. And yet in this letter he complains to his brothers that although his friends may have wit and charm and wear all the right clothes and say all the right things, they lack soul. He seems disappointed to be living in a culture that values appearances over substance.

It's at this moment that Keats coins his remarkable phrase. Musing on what made Shakespeare so special, he concludes that great writers possess "Negative Capability, that is, when a man is capable of being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after fact and reason." If you are a writer, or a parent, or a business owner, or a human being really, you will probably know what he means. We want to be certain about everything—is my work any good? Am I doing right by my kids? Have I made the smartest business decisions?—but this

certainty all too often eludes us. And what then? Do we remain frozen by this lack of certainty, of fact, of reason? Or can we learn to tolerate not knowing for sure if what we're doing is the absolute best or right thing to do?

But back to the question we started out with: How do you explain to a child that what they are feeling will pass, when you yourself feel stuck in an impassable moment?

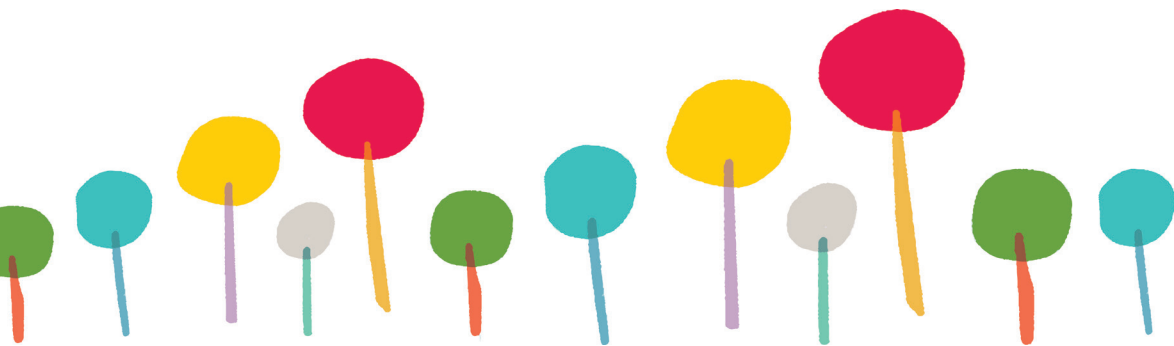
We think each of our three Fall 2020 titles, in its own way, displays a negative capability that might help you and your children or students feel okay with "being in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts."

Cloud Hopper by National Book Award finalist Beth Kephart (and our first novel!) shows that some mysteries, no matter how hard you might want to solve them, no matter how smart you work to solve them, just can't be solved. ***In One Ear and Out the Other: Antonia Brico and her Amazingly Musical Life*** by Diane Worthey, with illustrations by Morgana Wallace, tells the story of the first woman to guest-conduct the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, a woman who dedicated her life to art when there was no certain path for her to advance professionally. And ***Infinity*** by Argentinian author and illustrator Pablo Bernasconi uses figurative language to attempt to define the concept of infinity only to realize that there's no one clear and easy definition—but that that doesn't mean one shouldn't try.

It's no fun feeling uncertain, but uncertainty can lead to art, which can lead to understanding. Our hope is that our fall titles will help kids, teens, and adults feel a smidge better about being in this particular moment of uncertainty.

Alexis & Chad

Curriculum Guides are available upon request.



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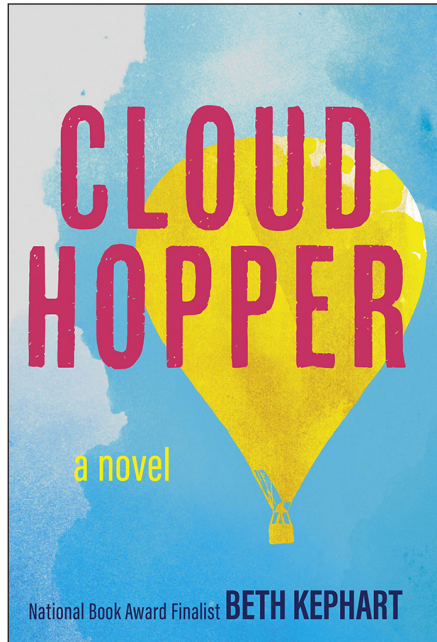
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Ages 11–15
ISBN 978-1-7342259-0-7
5¾" x 7⅞"
332 pages
\$17.99 hardcover
September 8, 2020

PENELOPE EDITIONS
YOUNG ADULT FICTION /
Alternative Family • Loners
& Outcasts • Social Themes
/ Emigration & Immigration
• Values & Virtues •
Friendship • Lifestyles /
Country Life • Health &
Daily Living /Diseases

**A fast-moving tale set among the old planes,
Vietnam vets, and majestic hot air balloons
of a run-down municipal airport**

Cloud Hopper

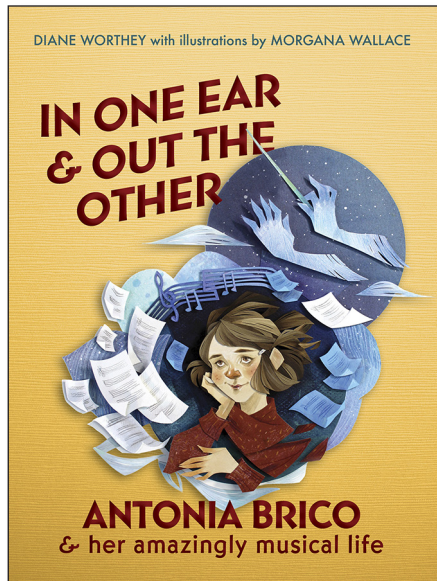
Beth Kephart

Illustrated by William Sulit

When a girl in a homemade hot air balloon falls out of the sky in rural Gilbertine, there are questions: Who is this girl, where exactly did she come from, why won't she talk, and what has she risked to live in a country that does not seem to want her? And what can Sophie, Wyatt, and K—three misfit best friends with complex and harrowing stories of their own—do to help the girl who can't trust those who want to help her? What should they do? As seen through the eyes of fourteen-year-old Sophie, who lives with her terminally ill grandmother, *Cloud Hopper* by National Book Award–finalist Beth Kephart is about the rules we'll break and the dangers we'll face to do the most-right thing we can imagine, even when we're feeling long past brave.



A diverse cast of young people with complex family lives who ban together to help a stranger • Story explores the perils of being an undocumented immigrant in the US • Quirky, smart female narrator who learns to be brave as she navigates her grandmother's worsening multiple sclerosis • From a National Book Award finalist (adult memoir) and prolific, award-winning young adult and middle grade writer



Ages 7–11
 ISBN 978-1-7342259-1-4
 6.5" x 8.5"
 52 pages
 \$16.95 hardcover
 October 6, 2020

JUVENILE NONFICTION
 / Biography & Auto-
 biography / Women /
 Music • Music / Classical
 / History

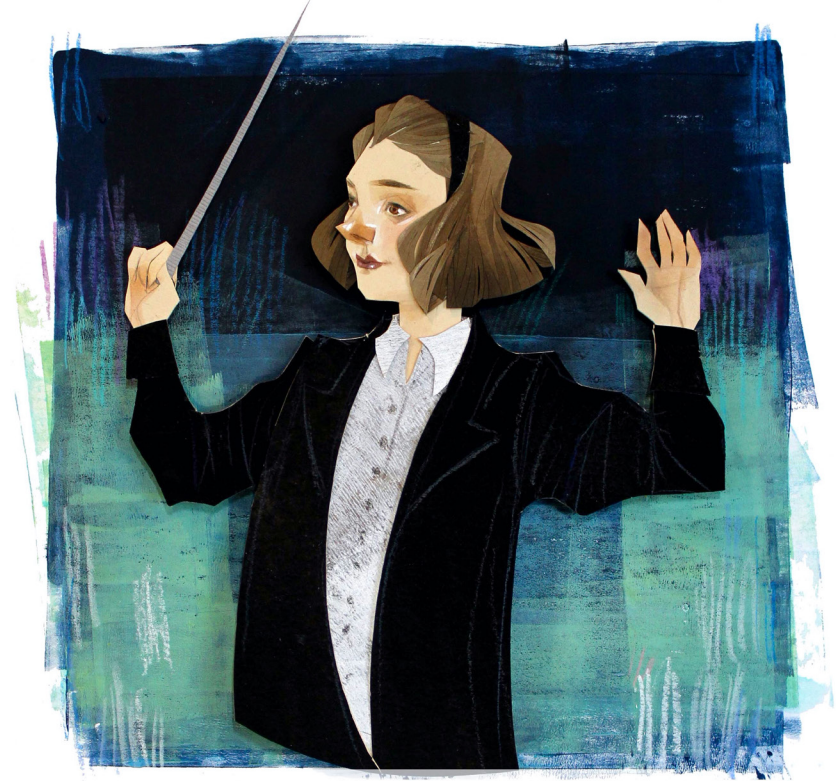
The story of one woman's fight to gain recognition as a classical music conductor

In One Ear and Out the Other: Antonia Brico and Her Amazingly Musical Life

Diane Worthey

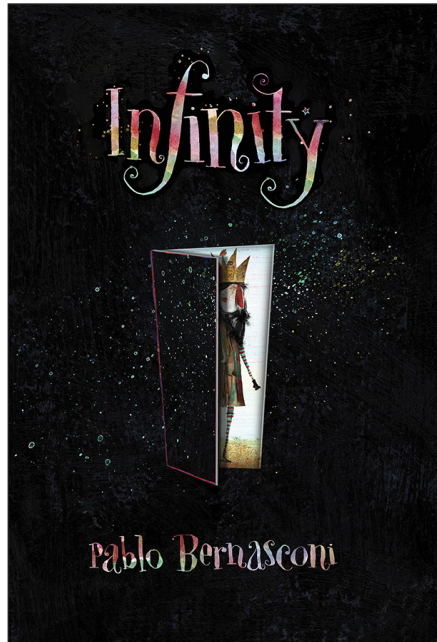
Illustrated by Morgana Wallace

In an era when women couldn't become conductors, Antonia Brico didn't listen to discouraging words. The words went in one ear and out the other. The second title in Penny Candy's Amazing Women Series of nonfiction picture books, *In One Ear and Out the Other: Antonia Brico and Her Amazingly Musical Life* tells the story of one woman's fight to gain recognition as a conductor in an era when men dominated classical music. The first woman to guest-conduct the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Antonia Brico never secured a permanent conducting job with a major symphony—but her contributions paved the way for the many women conductors to follow. A true visionary in the long fight for equal opportunities for women.



The first picture book of a lesser-known figure in the fight for equal opportunities for women • Encourages girls to pursue their dreams, no matter the obstacles or difficulties • Inspires children to learn more about classical music and the art of conducting a symphony orchestra • Second title in Penny Candy's growing series on Amazing Women





Ages 9 and up
ISBN 978-1-7342259-2-1
6⁵/₁₆" x 8⁷/₈"
72 pages
\$16.95 hardcover
November 10, 2020

JUVENILE FICTION /
Concepts / General •
Imagination & Play •
Visionary & Metaphysical •
Mathematics • Poetry (see
also Stories in Verse)

What is infinity? A jar full of stories and white ink spilled on the snow? Maybe!

Infinity

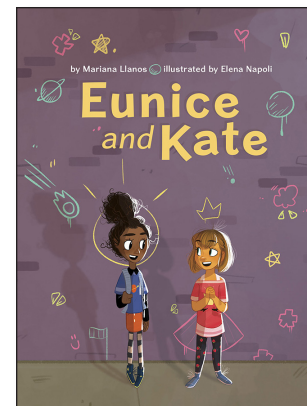
Pablo Bernasconi

What is infinity? It's reading the last line of a book and imagining the rest. No, wait, it's the instruction manual for the machine that operates the sun and the stars. In unexpected observations and captivating images, celebrated Argentinian author-illustrator Pablo Bernasconi, finalist for the 2018 Hans Christian Andersen Award, offers up small verses about what infinity could mean to us. Winner of the Grand Prize from the Asociación de Literatura Infantil y Juvenil de la Argentina (ALIJA) in 2018, *Infinity* is a book children and adults alike will find endlessly fascinating. Pairs nicely with *Infinity and Me* by Kate Hosford.



Quirky, philosophical poems on the concept of infinity that will appeal to children and adults alike • Invites children to participate in global conversations • Latest picture book by a celebrated and award-winning Argentinian author-illustrator • Winner of one of the biggest children's book prizes in Argentina





Eunice and Kate

Mariana Llanos

Illustrated by Elena Napoli

Ages 5–9

Guided Reading: L

Lexile™: 630L

Interest Level: Grades PK–3

Grade Level: 2

Reading Recovery Level: 19

ISBN 978-0-9996584-7-5

6.5" x 8.5" • 48 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

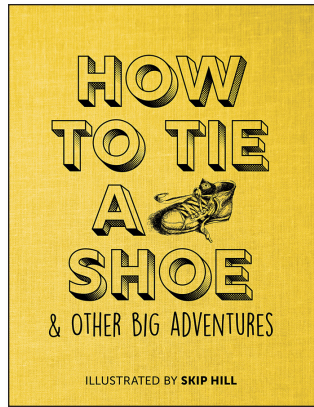
Eunice and Kate are best friends, but can their friendship weather a storm?

Shows how differences can make a friendship stronger • Offers children an example of positive, creative conflict resolution • Presents strong mother-daughter relationships • Presents strong female protagonists • Encourages children to dream big

Inward reflection, a box of crayons, and some wise words from mom help the girls to recognize, appreciate, and promote a spirit of friendship and individuality. —*Foreword Reviews*

Eunice and Kate live with their moms next door to each other in the heart of the city and have a lot in common—even though they have different dreams for the future: Kate wants to be an astronaut and Eunice wants to be a ballet dancer. But when they draw portraits of each other in art class, things get mixed up. Can their friendship survive? *Eunice and Kate* is about how honoring our differences can strengthen our bonds.

JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship • Diversity & Multi-cultural • Imagination & Play • Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings • Girls & Women • Family / Parents



**How to Tie a Shoe
& Other Big Adventures**
Penny Candy Books
Illustrated by Skip Hill

Ages 7–11
Guided Reading: Q
Lexile™: 560L
Interest Level: Grades K–6
Grade Level: 4

If you've ever eaten spaghetti or pointed out a bird's nest to a friend in spring . . . you can probably tie a shoe!

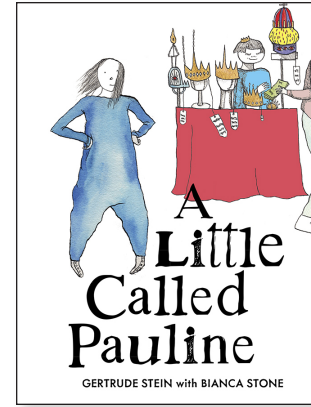
ISBN 978-0-9996584-8-2
6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

- An illustrated poem that uses wordplay and figurative language for a new take on the how-to genre for kids • Shows that learning is always an act of discovery • Intricate black-and-white illustrations with playful hand-lettered text • First in a series encouraging kids to look beneath the surface of daily life • The best advice you'll ever get!

★ Ultimately, this book uses learning to tie a shoe as a metaphor for personal growth and experiential learning—with the beauty and challenges that accompany both. A quirky picture book that respects the intelligence of children. —*Kirkus Reviews*

Every kid knows that tying a shoe can be a big adventure, especially in a world full of spaghetti, birds' nests, camping trips, and seeing old friends after summer break. *How to Tie a Shoe* is the first story in a series of handbooks exploring and unraveling the complexities of some of childhood's most essential lessons.

JUVENILE FICTION / Poetry (see also Stories in Verse) • Imagination & Play • Health & Daily Living / Daily Activities • Social Themes / Adolescence & Coming of Age



A Little Called Pauline
Gertrude Stein
Illustrated by Bianca Stone

Ages 7–11
Guided Reading: Z
Lexile™: 430L
Interest Level: Grades 6 and up
Grade Level: 7–8

Readers will experience Gertrude Stein's playful, mysterious, language for the very first time—and delight in little Pauline.

ISBN 978-0-9996584-9-9
6.5" x 8.5" • 64 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

- Introduces young readers to Gertrude Stein and her modernist poetry • Encourages children to experiment and be playful with language and to appreciate its sonic possibilities • Short essay from illustrator on poetry comics and the challenges and fun of visual storytelling • A touching visual story about the bond between a mother and daughter

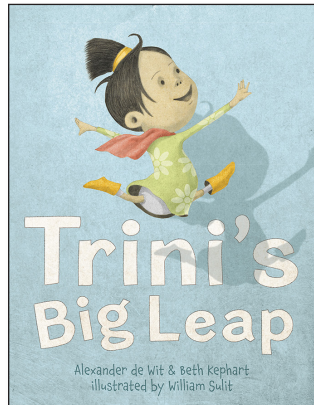
If you want a book that gives your children raw, unblemished poetry in a form they CAN'T understand and love NOT understanding, this is the book for them. This is a book for kids (and adults) unafraid to use their brains. This is a book with guts and glory packed in its pages. See if you're brave enough to give it a shot.

—Betsy Bird, Fuse 8 Productions (*School Library Journal* blog)

A Little Called Pauline is the first picture book adaptation of a poem from Gertrude Stein's groundbreaking 1914 book *Tender Buttons*, featuring vibrant illustrations from poet-artist Bianca Stone.

JUVENILE FICTION / Girls & Women • Imagination & Play • LGBT • Concepts / Words • Poetry (see also Stories in Verse)



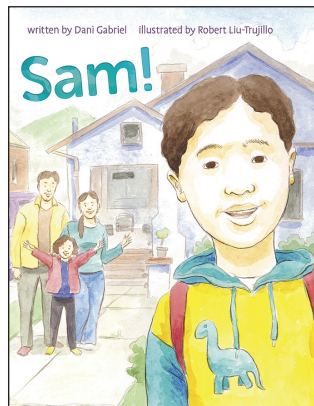


Trini's Big Leap

Alexander de Wit & Beth Kephart
Illustrated by William Sulit

Ages 5–8
ISBN 978-0-9996584-5-1
6.5" x 8.5"
44 pages
\$17.95 hardcover

Trini is bold, jumping and twirling in bright yellow boots, a floral sundress, and crimson cape. But her confidence is shaken when her attempts to build a block castle all fall flat. With a little help from friends, Trini discovers the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and trying new things. —*Foreword Reviews*



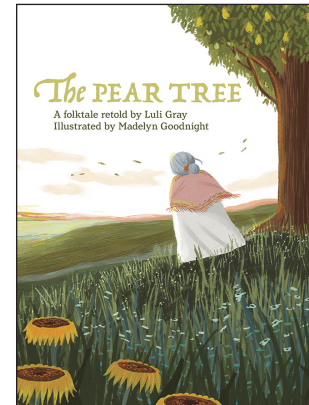
Sam!

Dani Gabriel
Illustrated by Robert Liu-Trujillo

Ages 8–12
ISBN 978-0-9996584-3-7
6.5" x 8.5"
52 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

A coming-out story radiating warmth and joy. —*Kirkus Reviews*

Robert Liu-Trujillo's soft watercolor illustrations bring out the characters' emotions in this warm story of sibling support and family love. —*Washington Blade*

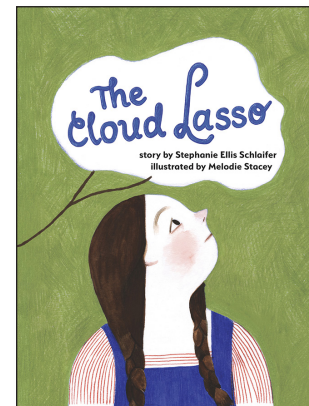


The Pear Tree

A folktale retold by Luli Gray
Illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

Ages 8–12
ISBN 978-0-9996584-6-8
6.5" x 8.5"
40 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

This book about being unselfish and accepting the natural order is perfect for lovers of Aesop, Anansi, and multicultural and indigenous folktales and mythology as well as readers who might be grappling with grief or fearing death and trying to understand what's to come. —*Booklist*



The Cloud Lasso

Stephanie Ellis Schlaifer
Illustrated by Melodie Stacey

Ages 6–11
ISBN 978-0-9996584-4-4
6.5" x 8.5"
48 pages
\$16.95 hardcover

Delilah's visualization of the things that upset her can be a helpful tool to aid children in working through their difficult emotions in a constructive and useful way. —*School Library Journal*

Quiet, rural, magical grief. —*Kirkus Reviews*



Hedy & Her Amazing Invention

Jan Wahl

Illustrated by Morgana Wallace

Ages 7–11

ISBN 978-0-9987999-9-5

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover



The Yellow Suitcase

Meera Sriram

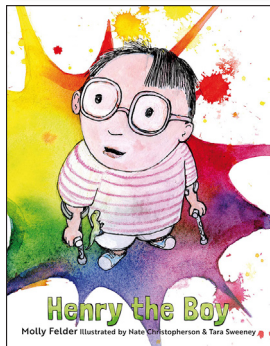
Illustrated by Meera Sethi

Ages 5–11

ISBN 978-0-9996584-1-3

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\$16.95 hardcover



Henry the Boy

Molly Felder

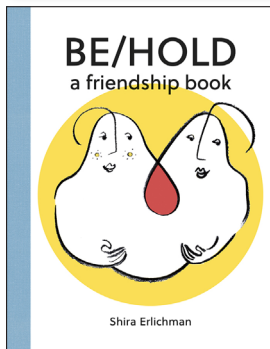
Illustrated by Nate Christopherson & Tara Sweeney

Ages 5–10

ISBN 978-0-9996584-0-6

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover



BE/HOLD: A Friendship Book

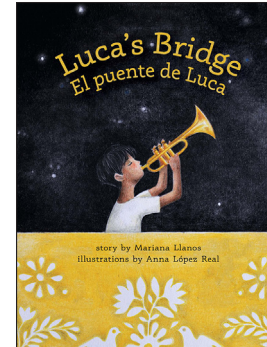
Shira Erlichman

Ages 5–11

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6.5" x 8.5" • 68 pages

\$17.95 hardcover



Luca's Bridge / El puente de Luca

Mariana Llanos

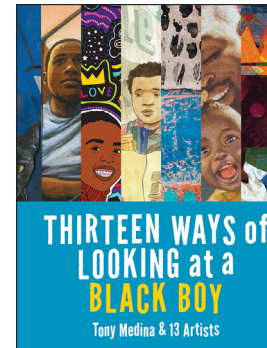
Illustrated by Anna López Real

Ages 6–11

ISBN 978-0-9987999-5-7

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

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Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy

Tony Medina

Illustrated by 13 artists

Ages 10–14

ISBN 978-0-9987999-4-0

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover



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

Sydell Rosenberg

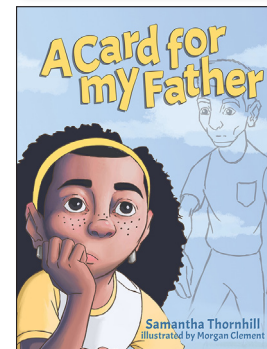
Illustrated by Sawan Chalabi

Ages 5–12

ISBN 978-0-9987999-7-1

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover



A Card for My Father

Samantha Thornhill

Illustrated by Morgan Clement

Ages 5–10

ISBN 978-0-9987999-6-4

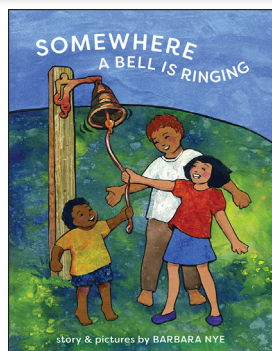
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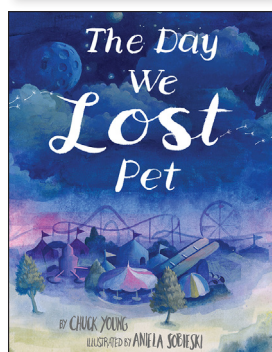
Thank You, Crow
 Michael Minkovitz
 Illustrated by Jose D. Medina

Ages 5–11
 ISBN 978-0-9987999-8-8
 8.5" x 6.5" • 40 pages
 \$16.95 hardcover



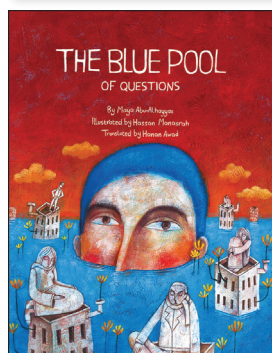
Somewhere a Bell Is Ringing
 Barbara Nye

Ages 5–11
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 6.5" x 8.5" • 44 pages
 \$16.95 hardcover



The Day We Lost Pet
 Chuck Young
 Illustrated by Aniela Sobieski

Ages 9–13
 ISBN 978-0-9987999-3-3
 6.5" x 8.5" • 56 pages
 \$16.95 hardcover



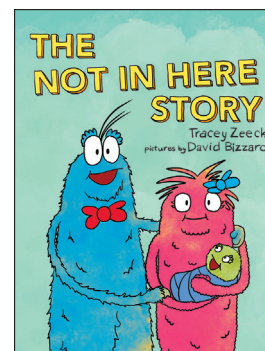
The Blue Pool of Questions
 Maya Abu-Alhayyat
 Illustrated by Hassan Manasrah
 Translated by Hanan Awad

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The Hunt
 Margaux Othats

Ages 6–11
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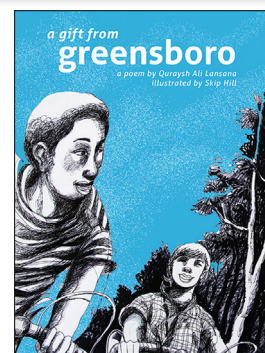
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 Tracey Zeeck
 Illustrated by David Bizzaro

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 Tiffany McKnight

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 Quraysh Ali Lansana
 Illustrated by Skip Hill

Ages 9–13
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