penny candy books

SPRING 2019





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Dear Friends,

Penny Candy Books is an independent children's book press founded in 2015 with the mission of publishing children's literature that represents the diverse realities of our world, both at home and abroad. Our titles spark big conversations between kids and their adults about timely and timeless topics.

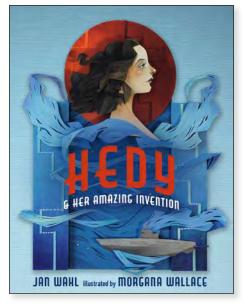
We are thrilled to share our Spring 2019 list with you. It is our biggest season yet, with five new titles from a variety of voices, both new and familiar. Whether about a famous actress whose true passions were technology and inventing or a girl who travels overseas for a grandmother's funeral, about a boy who is deported with his family or a boy with a disability who learns to accept himself with the help of a friend, or a friendship built around a love of compound words, our memorable Spring 2019 titles foster empathy and understanding in children and adults.

There's a lot going on in the world today. How do you talk to kids about the hard stuff? The big stuff? Stuff that's even scary for adults? You can read them a title from Penny Candy Books, listen to what they have to say, and make sense of things together.

Thank you, and enjoy the big conversations.

Chad & Alexis

How "the world's most beautiful woman" defied narrow-minded expectations at each stage of her life to become an important inventor.



Juvenile Fiction /
Biographical / Girls &
Women / Historical, US,
20th Century / Science
& Technology

Ages 7-11

ISBN 978-0-9987999-9-5 6.5" x 8.5" 36 pages \$16.95 hardcover February 5, 2019

Hedy & Her Amazing Invention

Jan Wahl Illustrated by Morgana Wallace

The latest by prolific children's book author Jan Wahl, *Hedy and Her Amazing Invention* teaches kids about the pioneering scientific work and inspiring courage of Hedy Lamarr, the famous 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. Upand-coming Canadian visual artist Morgana Wallace contributes beautifully detailed cut-paper illustrations.

A picture chapter book that introduces children to 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 & limiting • Encourages girls to pursue STEM careers

★ Jan Wahl distills the eventful life of Hollywood actress and inventor Hedy Lamarr in this grade school biography. It is illuminating and illustrated and is sure 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, starred review

★ The main narrative offers an engaging introduction to Lamarr, and, in an appended note, Wahl shares his recollections of meeting her on three occasions. A Canadian artist, Wallace contributes richly colored illustrations created with layers of cut paper, pen and ink, and watercolors. Notable for portraying their subject with



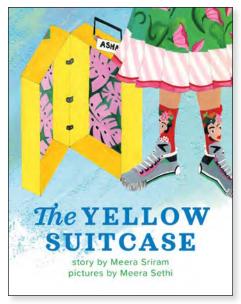
consistency, clarity, and beauty, these distinctive collages enhance the book's appeal to a broad audience. —*Booklist*,

starred review

JAN WAHL is the author of over one hundred children's books, including Coretta Scott King Honor-winner Little Eight John and the Christopher Medal winner Humphrey's Bear. Jan lives and writes in Toledo, OH.

MORGANA WALLACE studied at the Victoria College of Art in Victoria, British Columbia. Her paper collages, incorporate watercolor, ink, and pen to create an intricately imagined world. Hedy ϑ Her Amazing Invention is her first children's book.

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.



Juvenile Fiction / Social Themes / Death & Dying / New Experience / People & Places / Asian American / Family Multigenerational

Ages 6-10

ISBN 978-0-9996584-1-3 6.5" x 8.5" 40 pages \$16.95 hardcover March 12, 2019

The Yellow Suitcase

Meera Sriram Illustrated by Meera Sethi

In *The Yellow Suitcase* by Meera Sriram, 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.

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 the pain and confusion of losing a loved one

This immigrant narrative beautifully captures the emotions of loss, love, and belonging that the little girl experiences, embedding readers in Asha's developmentally spot-on perspective . . . A thoughtful story that artfully addresses the loss of a grandparent from an immigrant perspective. —*Kirkus Reviews*

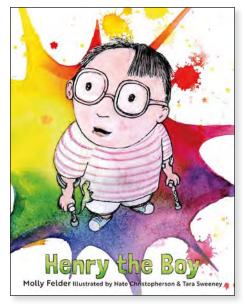
Here Wee Read's 2019 Ultimate List of Diverse Children's Books

MEERA SRIRAM grew up in India and moved to the US at the turn of the millennium. Previously an electrical engineer, she has coauthored several books published in India. Meera lives with her husband and two children in Berkeley, California.

MEERA SETHI was born in New Delhi, India and as a child immigrated to Toronto, Canada, where she still lives. Her art has been featured in NBC, NPR, the *Toronto Star*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Fader, Vice, Vogue India*, CNN, MTV, and elsewhere. *The Yellow Suitcase* is her first picture book.



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



Juvenile Fiction / Imagination & Play / Self-Esteem & Self-Reliance / Special Needs / Friendship

Ages 5-9

ISBN 978-0-9996584-0-6 6.5" x 8.5" 36 pages \$16.95 hardcover April 2, 2019

Henry the Boy

Molly Felder Illustrated by Nate Christopherson & Tara Sweeney

In *Henry the Boy* by Molly Felder with illustrations by motherson team Tara Sweeney and Nate Christopherson, 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.

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

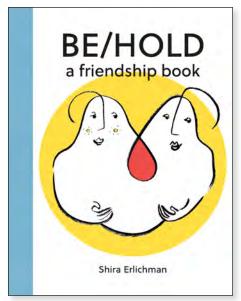
MOLLY FELDER has a physical disability called cerebral palsy. She received her MA from New York University's Gallatin School of Individ-ualized Study, where she focused on creative writing and disability culture. She is committed to representing children of all abilities in her writing, and loves teaching English to Chinese students online. She lives in Alabama with her assistance dog, Patterson.



TARA SWEENEY and NATE CHRISTOPHERSON are a mother-and-son team who combine watercolor with ink to create magical illustrations. Nate has a BA in studio art from Saint Olaf College and an MA in special education from Augsburg University in Minnesota, and he teaches special education. Tara earned BS degrees in art and design from the University of Wisconsin and an MFA from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, and is professor emeritus at Augsburg University. They both live in Saint Paul, Minnesota.



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



Juvenile Fiction /
Concepts & Words /
Friendship / Emotions &
Feelings

Ages 6-11

ISBN 978-0-9996584-2-0 6.5" x 8.5" 68 pages \$17.95 hardcover April 2, 2019

Be/Hold: A Friendship Book
Shira Erlichman

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.

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

SHIRA ERLICHMAN is a visual artist, writer, and musician. In Hebrew *shira* means *poem* and *song*. True to her name, Shira loves to write poems, sing songs, and draw pictures. She immigrated from Israel to the US when she was six and now lives in Brooklyn where she teaches and creates. Her favorite compound word is *seesaw*. She is also the author of a poetry collection. *Be/Hold* is her first picture book.

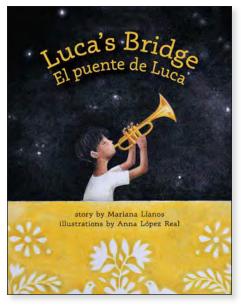






Believe

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.



Juvenile Fiction /
Emigration & Immigration
/ Hispanic & Latino /
Family Multigenerational /
Emotions & Feelings

Ages 7-11

ISBN 978-0-9987999-5-7 6.5" x 8.5" 40 pages \$16.95 hardcover April 16, 2019

Luca's Bridge / El puente de Luca

Mariana Llanos Illustrated by Anna López Real

The bilingual picture book *Luca's Bridge | El puente de Luca,* by Mariana Llanos with illustrations by Anna López Real, 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.

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

Here Wee Read's 2019 Ultimate List of Diverse Children's Books

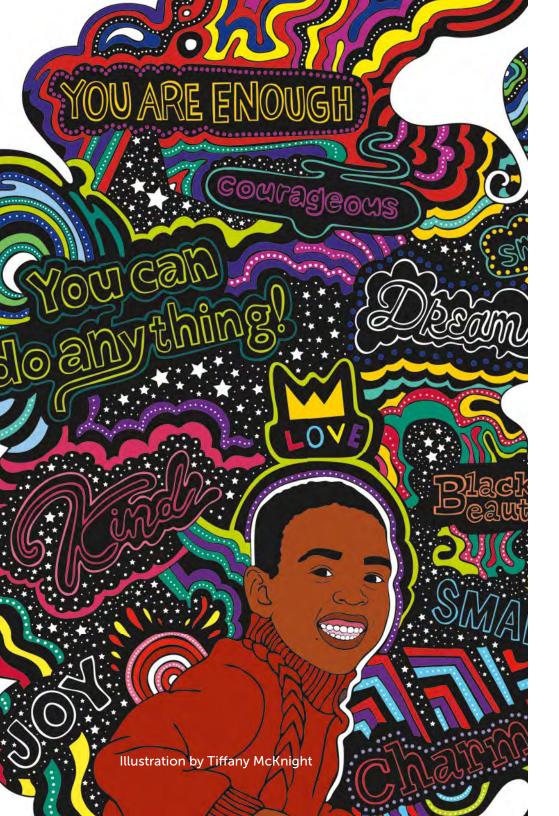


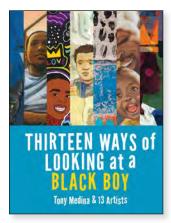


MARIANA LLANOS was born in Lima, Peru, and has lived in Oklahoma since 2002. Her self-published first book, *Tristan Wolf*, was a finalist in the 2013 Readers' Favorite Book Award, and she has published seven books independently in English and Spanish.

ANNA LÓPEZ REAL is a freelance illustrator from Guadalajara, Mexico. She has a BD in Graphic Design from Universidad de Guadalajara. Her love of colors, shadows, textures inspires her to use traditional techniques.

Recent Releases





Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy

Tony Medina Illustrated by 13 artists

Ages 6–11 ISBN 978-0-9987999-4-0 6.5" x 8.5" 40 pages \$16.95 hardcover

A picture book that celebrates the rich and complex lives of black boys and men

Offers a counter-narrative to the negative representations and perceptions of African-American boys and men • Introduces younger readers to the short Japanese poetic form of tanka

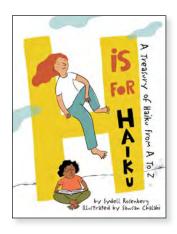
Kirkus Reviews' Best of 2018, Middle Grade Poetry School Library Journal's Best of 2018, Poetry

★ The fascinating illustrations matched with the dazzling imagery of Medina's tanka make this a captivating release.

-Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Boy by Tony Medina offers a fresh perspective of young men of color by depicting thirteen views of everyday life: young boys dressed in their Sunday best, running to catch a bus, growing up to be teachers, and much more. Tony Medina's tanka are matched with 13 artists—including recent Caldecott and Coretta Scott King Award recipients. • Juvenile Fiction / Poetry / Boys & Men / African-American

Recent Releases Recent Releases



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

Sydell Rosenberg Illustrated by Sawsan Chalabi

Ages 5-11 ISBN 978-0-9987999-7-1 6.5" x 8.5" 40 pages \$16.95 hardcover

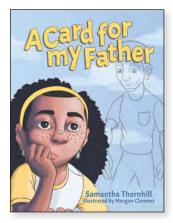
An ABC book that uses poetry to transform small moments into big adventures

Introduces young readers to the short Japanese poetic form of haiku • Encourages readers to slow down and see the wonder and poetry in everyday moments • A worthy addition to the classic alphabet book canon • Brings overdue spotlight to a poet who played a significant role in the popularization of haiku in America

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

In *H Is For Haiku: A Treasury of Haiku from A to Z*, the late poet Sydell Rosenberg, a charter member of the Haiku Society of America and a New York City public school teacher, and illustrator Sawsan Chalabi offer an A–Z compendium of haiku that brings out the fun and poetry in everyday moments. • Juvenile Fiction / Poetry / Haiku / Concepts / Alphabet



A Card for My Father

Samantha Thornhill Illustrated by Morgan Clement

Ages 6–11 ISBN 978-0-9987999-6-4 6.5" x 8.5" 64 pages \$16.95 hardcover

The first in a trilogy of picture books about a girl longing for a relationship with her incarcerated father.

Illustrates the devastating effects that a family member's incarceration can have on loved ones • Shows how children of different races and backgrounds can find common ground and forge friendships

The beginning of a needed story. —Kirkus Reviews

A Card For My Father by Samantha Thornhill with illustrations by Morgan Clement is the first title in a trilogy of picture books exploring the lasting effects, big and small, of a father's incarceration on his first-grade daughter. In A Card for My Father, how can Flora complete her class assignment to write a Father's Day card for a father she's never known? • Juvenile Fiction / Social Themes / Emotions & Feelings / Girls & Women / Alternative Family

Recent Releases Backlist



Thank You, CrowMichael Minkovitz Illustrated by Jose D. Medina

Ages 4–11 ISBN 978-0-9987999-8-8 8.5" x 6.5" 40 pages \$16.95 hardcover

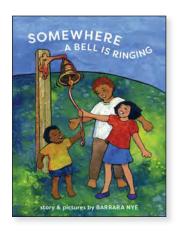
What can two friends build out of acts of kindness and their imagination?

Encourages kindness and gratitude • Encourages imagination and play • Shows how friends can be very different from one another but still build a relationship around mutual respect

This pleasant debut picture book from Minkovitz and Medina will have readers always wondering what will happen next. 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*

In *Thank You, Crow* by Michael Minkovitz with illustrations by Jose Medina, Crow brings strange treasures to Sebastian, who helped when Crow had a broken wing. With each new gift, Sebastian says, "Thank you," even though he's unsure about the gifts . . . until he sees where Crow's imagination can take them.

ullet Juvenile Fiction / Animals / Birds / Action & Adventure / Imagination & Play / Friendship



Somewhere a Bell Is Ringing

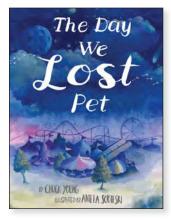
Barbara Nye

Ages 4–8 ISBN 978-09987999-2-6 6.5" x 8.5" 44 pages \$16.95 hardcover

The attention 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 5–10 ISBN 978-0-09987999-3-6.5" 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

Backlist Backlist



The Blue Pool of Questions

Maya Abu-Alhayyat Illustrated by Hassan Manasrah Translated by Hanan Awad

Ages 6–9
ISBN 978-0-9972219-8-5
6.5" x 8.5"
44 pages
\$13.95 softcover

Deliciously confounding and deeply moving, this book is 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*



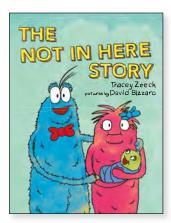
The Hunt Margaux Othats

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
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



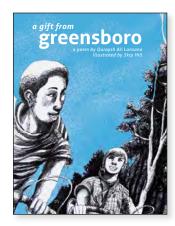
Nuveau: The Future of Pattern

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

Backlist



A Gift from Greensboro

Quraysh Ali Lansana Illustrated by Skip Hill

Ages 8–11 ISBN 978-0-9972219-1-6 6.5" x 8.5" 48 pages \$13.95 softcover

A book that creatively glances backward and forward, offering hope for an America that wants to be post-racial but isn't yet.

-Kirkus Reviews

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*



Trini's Big Leap Alexander de Wit & Beth Kephart, illus. by William Sulit

At her after-school club Trini easily masters any gymnastic move her teachers show her, to the amazement of her friends. But when she tries to construct buildings out of blocks like they do, she discovers that some things don't come easily for her. Through the encouragement of her friends, Trini learns the value of giving and receiving help and of collaboration.

Sam! Dani Gabriel, illus. 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.

The Pear Tree Luli Gray, illus. by Madelyn Goodnight

In this retelling of a Spanish folktale, an old woman named Esperanza 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.

Cloud Lasso Stephanie Schlaifer, illus. 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 overcome her feelings of sadness and isolation. *The Cloud Lasso* is a poetic meditation on loss, memory, and paying homage to those we've lost.

Ordering Information

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