

Penny Candy Books

SPRING 2020



Small press.  
Big conversations.

## DEAR FRIENDS,

We have officially published twenty books as of Fall 2019, and we're making no plans to slow down. How can we when there are so many important, creative, and mind-blowing stories to share with kids and their adults?

In Spring 2020, you will meet Eunice and Kate, best friends who live next door to each other—and have a little dust-up about what they want to be when they grow up. The book is a beautiful reminder of strong female friendships and mother-daughter relationships and how we can always make room in our hearts for what makes us each unique. ***Eunice and Kate*** will surely become a kid favorite with Elena Napoli's irresistible, fun, and colorful illustrations and Mariana Llanos's sweet story of weathering friendship's little thunderstorms.

***How to Tie a Shoe & Other Big Adventures*** is the first book in a series of Penny Candy Handbooks—our take on the old how-to guide—that focus, oh-so-poetically, on exploration and adventure in everyday life. Skip Hill's black-and-white illustrations are so intricate and brimming with personality that readers will spend minutes on each page soaking in the detail. And the story itself? Well, to quote from it, "If you've ever eaten spaghetti or pointed out a bird's nest to a friend in spring or combed your hair after sleeping hard on your head, you can probably tie a shoe!"

Finally, for National Poetry Month, we have a real treat. We've paired Gertrude Stein's poem "A Little Called Pauline" with Bianca Stone's illustrations for an indelible journey into the world of a little girl named Pauline who lives with her mom in a house on stilts by the sea—and gets herself into a little trouble when she steals a boat and goes on an adventure. Stein's weird, sometimes confusing, language play and Stone's signature poetry-comics style are a wild and beautiful ride into the minds of not one, but two poets! Bianca writes a wonderful afterword to

***A Little Called Pauline*** about using imagination to let Stein's words tell a new story.

Finally, revisit our Fall 2019 books about teamwork and taking risks, a transgender kid's experience coming out to his family, a hopeful take on a folktale about the nature of life and death, and a story involving lassoing the clouds that embodies imaginative grieving. Our backlist might still be small, but it is mighty and populated with books that matter and that can start conversations with kids.

Love,  
Alexis & Chad



## Spring 2020 Frontlist

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## Recent Releases

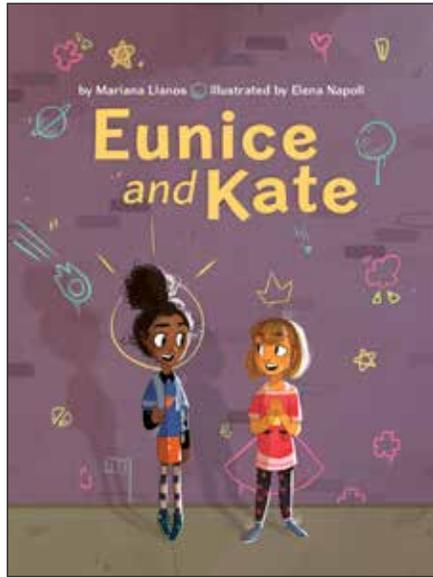
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Curriculum Guides are available upon request.



Ages 5–9  
ISBN 978-0-9996584-7-5  
6.5" x 8.5"  
48 pages  
\$16.95 hardcover  
February 11, 2020

**JUVENILE FICTION**  
/ Social Themes /  
Friendship • Diversity  
& Multicultural •  
Imagination & Play •  
Social Themes / Emotions  
& Feelings • Girls &  
Women • Family / Parents

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

## Eunice and Kate

Mariana Llanos

Illustrated by Elena Napoli

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. Eunice draws Kate as a ballet dancer and Kate draws Eunice as an astronaut, and they both get more than a little annoyed. Can their friendship survive? With a little help from their moms, the girls come to learn the value of respecting each other's different dreams. *Eunice and Kate* is a heartfelt new book by Mariana Llanos, illustrated by Elena Napoli, about how honoring our differences can strengthen our bonds.



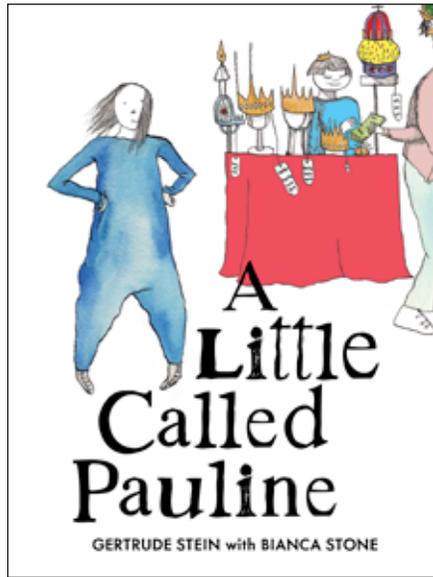
Shows how differences can make a friendship stronger •  
Offers children an example of positive, creative conflict resolution • Presents strong mother-daughter relationships  
• Presents strong female protagonists • Encourages children to dream big



In their classroom they shared glue, scissors, and a box of crayons.

One day, when it was time to draw a portrait of each other, they opened their eyes and observed.





Ages 7–11  
 ISBN 978-0-9996584-9-9  
 6.5" x 8.5"  
 64 pages  
 \$16.95 hardcover  
 October 8, 2019

JUVENILE FICTION /  
 Poetry • Girls & Women •  
 LGBT • Concepts / Words  
 • Imagination & Play

Jump into extreme language play with *A Little Called Pauline* where young readers will experience Gertrude Stein's playful, mysterious language for the very first time—and delight in a girl named Pauline who lives by the sea with her mom.

## A Little Called Pauline

Gertrude Stein

Illustrated by Bianca Stone

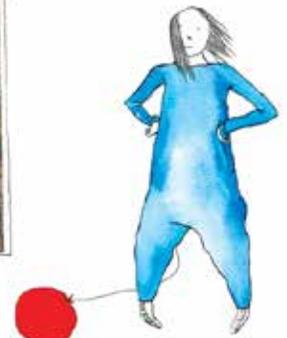
*A Little Called Pauline* is the first picture book adaptation of a poem from Gertrude Stein's groundbreaking 1914 book *Tender Buttons*. Featuring vibrant illustrations from poet-artist Bianca Stone, *A Little Called Pauline* invites young readers to experience Stein's playful, mysterious language for the very first time and to delight in a girl named Pauline who lives with her mom in a house on stilts by the sea. According to Stone's afterword, "Pauline likes to do things her mom does, like type on a typewriter, and she doesn't like to wear dresses. She also really, really wants to get a fancy crown at the market on her birthday, but they don't have



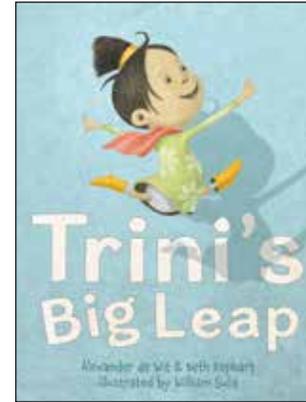
enough money. . . and Pauline throws a bit of a tantrum. Later, while her mom has a grownup birthday party for her, she runs away and jumps into a little boat. She rows out to sea. And all her family friends are searching for her. She sees all kinds of beautiful sights on her boat, but then things go terribly wrong, and Pauline needs to be rescued. In the end she is so glad for what she has, more than any crown to put on her head. Because she has a whole group of friends and family who love her—especially her mom."



and nearly  
 set in where  
 there is a  
 tight head.



- 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



## Trini's Big Leap

Alexander de Wit & Beth Kephart  
Illustrated by William Sulit

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

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

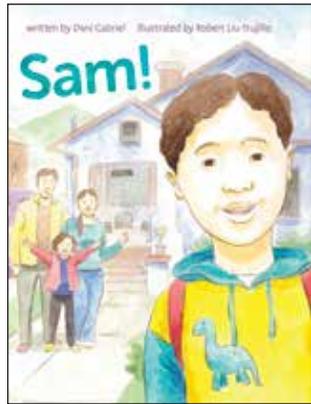
Encourages collaboration, friendship, and sharing • Encourages children to try new activities, even if those activities are outside their comfort zones • Encourages children to work hard and seek help • Encourages children to exercise their bodies and minds • Afterword for parents

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*

Trini is the highest flyer, the strongest gripper, the most spectacular cartwheeler at her after-school club. She easily masters any gymnastic move and always says, "I can do that." But when she tries to construct buildings out of blocks, 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.

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





## Sam!

Dani Gabriel

Illustrated by Robert Liu-Trujillo

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

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

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

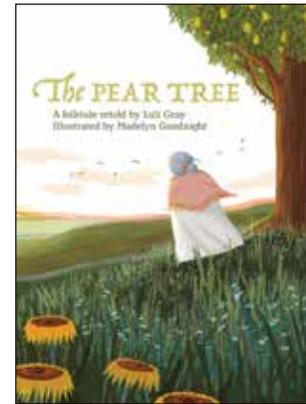
- A powerful addition to growing list of books about transgender kids
- Based on a true story, with note from author about their family's experience

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*

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. With lots of love and support, Sam and his family learn and grow through Sam's journey to embrace his true self.

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



## The Pear Tree

A folktale retold by Luli Gray

Illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

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

Hope triumphs in this retold folktale about Esperanza, her pear tree, and Señor Death.

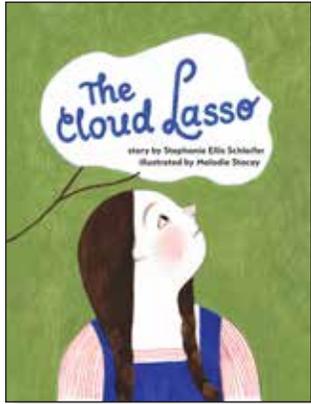
- An upbeat retelling of a folktale
- Humorous, philosophical tale helps assuage children's fears of death and the unknown and understand difficult concepts of mortality and immortality

Gray's small yet masterful tweak to this adapted Spanish fable... reminds readers of all ages that death is natural, inevitable, and a vital piece of the life cycle. —*Booklist*

In this folktale retold, Esperanza gives her very 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 her friend in the next town is suffering terribly, she realizes that the end of death doesn't mean the end of suffering and agrees to let Señor Death down from her tree. The final work by legendary children's author Luli Gray with an afterword by the publisher that explains why Gray changed the story to include hope.

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

## Recent Releases



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

### The Cloud Lasso

Stephanie Ellis Schlaifer

Illustrated by Melodie Stacey

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

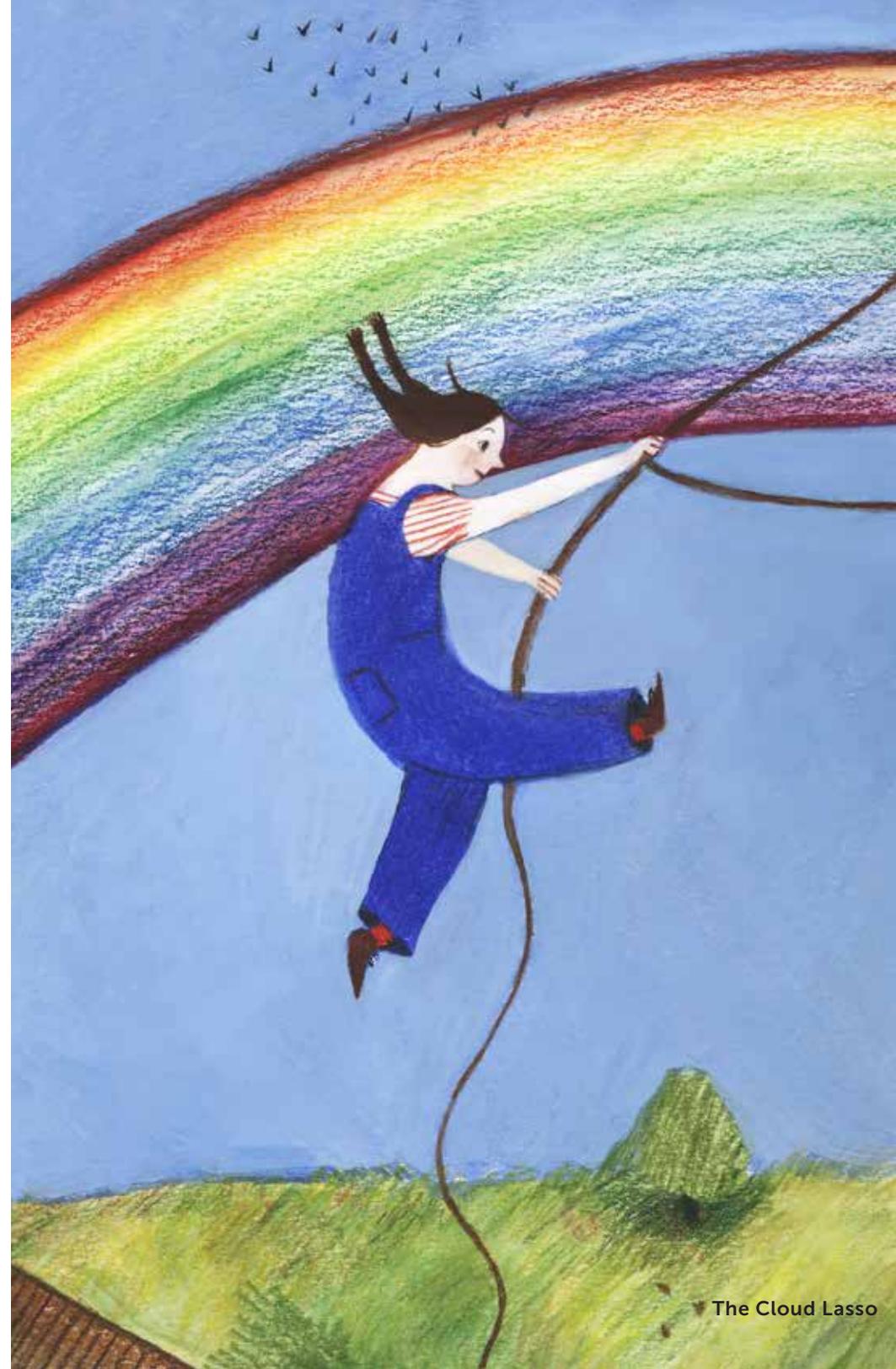
\$16.95 hardcover

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

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*

Big gloomy clouds have hung over Delilah's head and heart since her beloved grandfather died. But remembering an old trick he taught her on the farm, 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





Hedy &amp; Her Amazing Invention



## Hedy & Her Amazing Invention

Jan Wahl

Illustrated by Morgana Wallace

Ages 7–11

Guided Reading: S

Lexile™: 800L

Interest Level: Grades 2–5

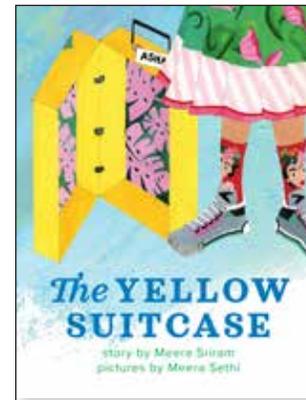
Grade Level: 4

ISBN 978-0-9987999-9-5

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

★ [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 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

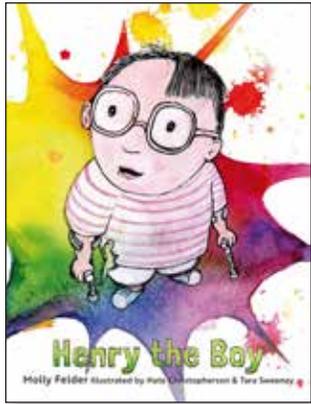
ISBN 978-0-9996584-1-3

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

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*



**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

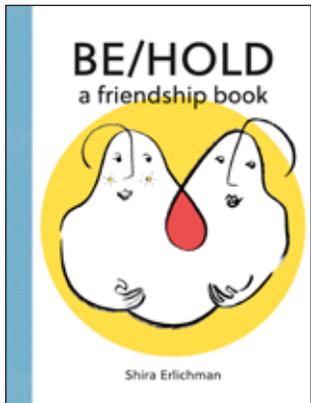
Reading Recovery Level: 18

ISBN 978-0-9996584-0-6

6.5" x 8.5" • 36 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

A quietly humorous, encouraging story of friendship, disability, and self-confidence. —*Kirkus Reviews*



**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

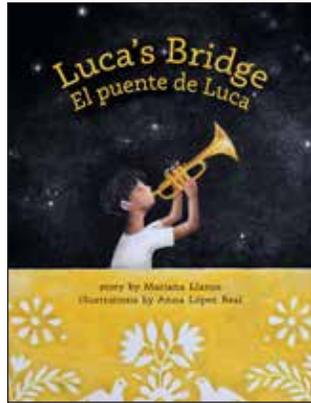
6.5" x 8.5" • 68 pages

\$17.95 hardcover

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*



Henry the Boy



### 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

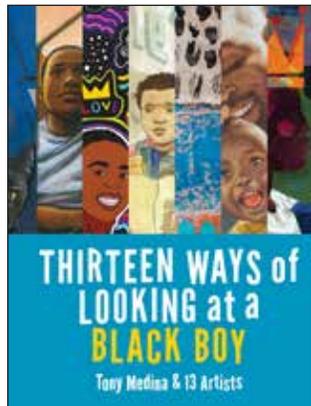
Grade Level: 3

ISBN 978-0-9987999-5-7

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

[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*



### 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

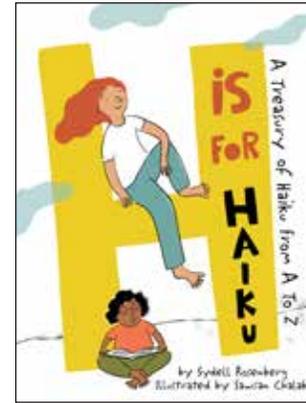
Grade Level: 5

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

Sydell Rosenberg

Illustrated by Sawsan Chalabi

Ages 5–12

Guided Reading: P

Interest Level: Grades K–6

Grade Level: 3

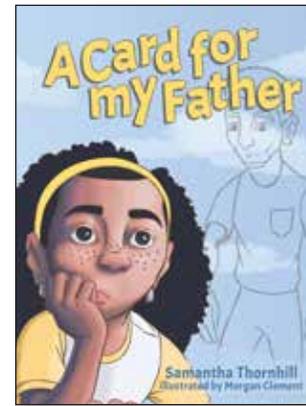
ISBN 978-0-9987999-7-1

6.5" x 8.5" • 40 pages

\$16.95 hardcover

NCTE's 2019 Notable Poetry Books

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

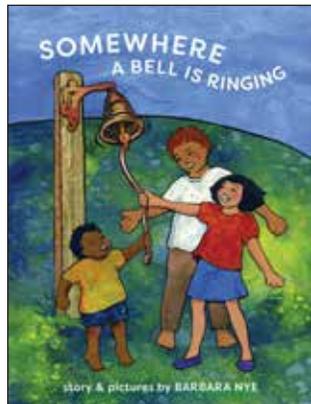
*A Card for My Father* doesn't just fill a gap on the bookshelf, it does it very well. This book is special. —*Raise Them Righteous*



**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*

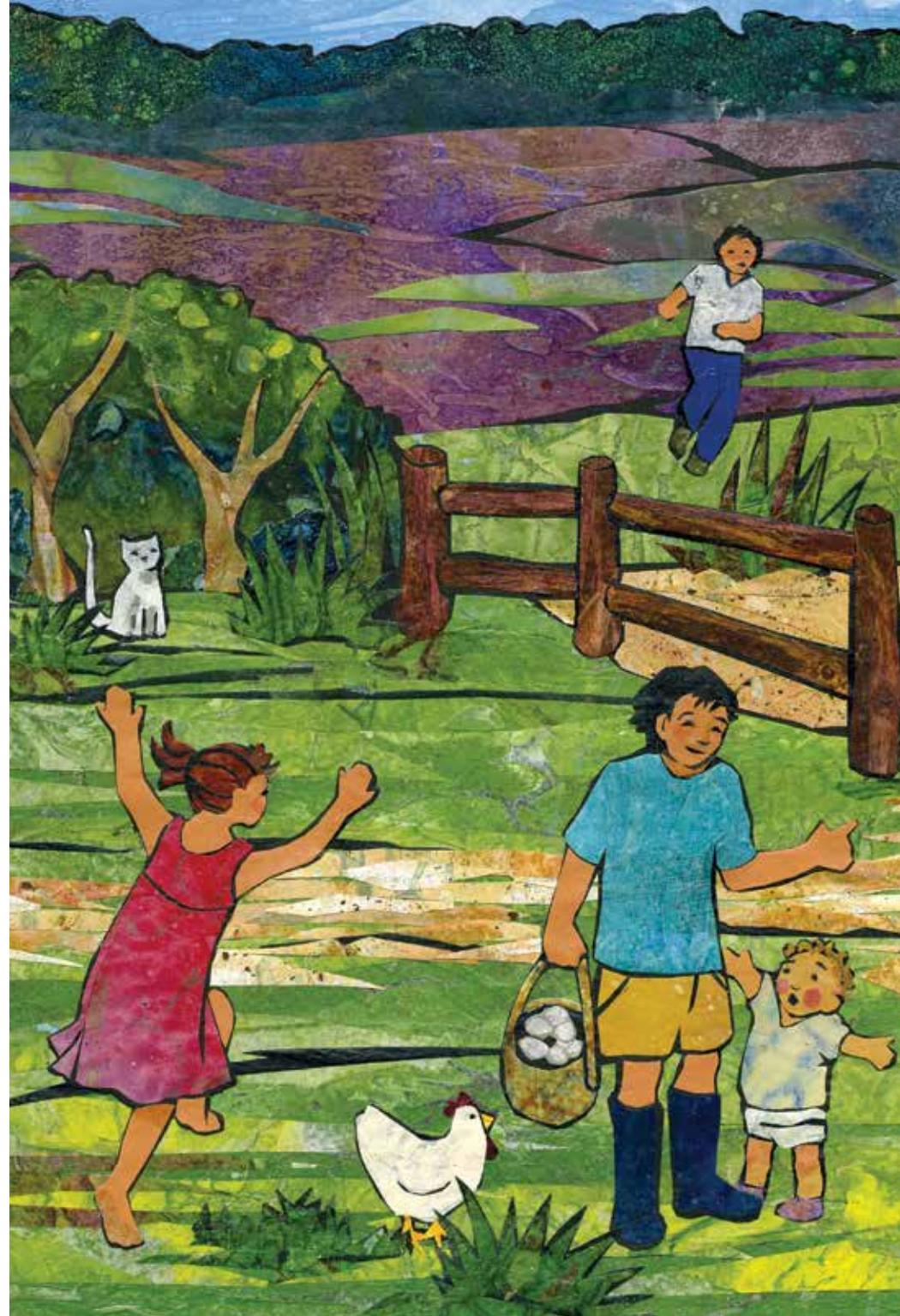


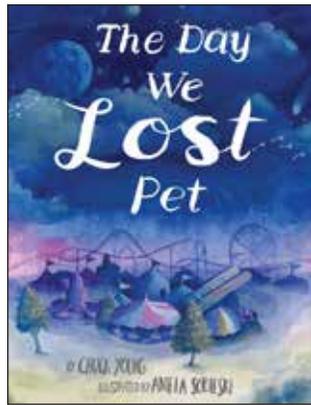
**Somewhere a Bell Is Ringing**

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

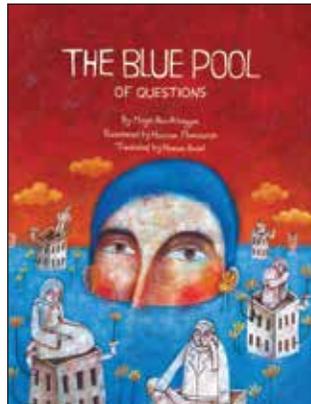
\$16.95 hardcover

★ 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

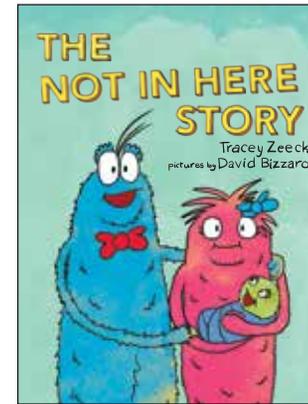
11.25" x 6.25" • 36 pages

\$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

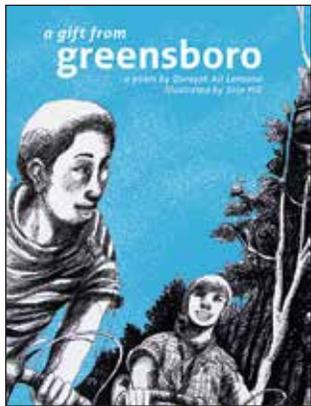
All ages, coloring book

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

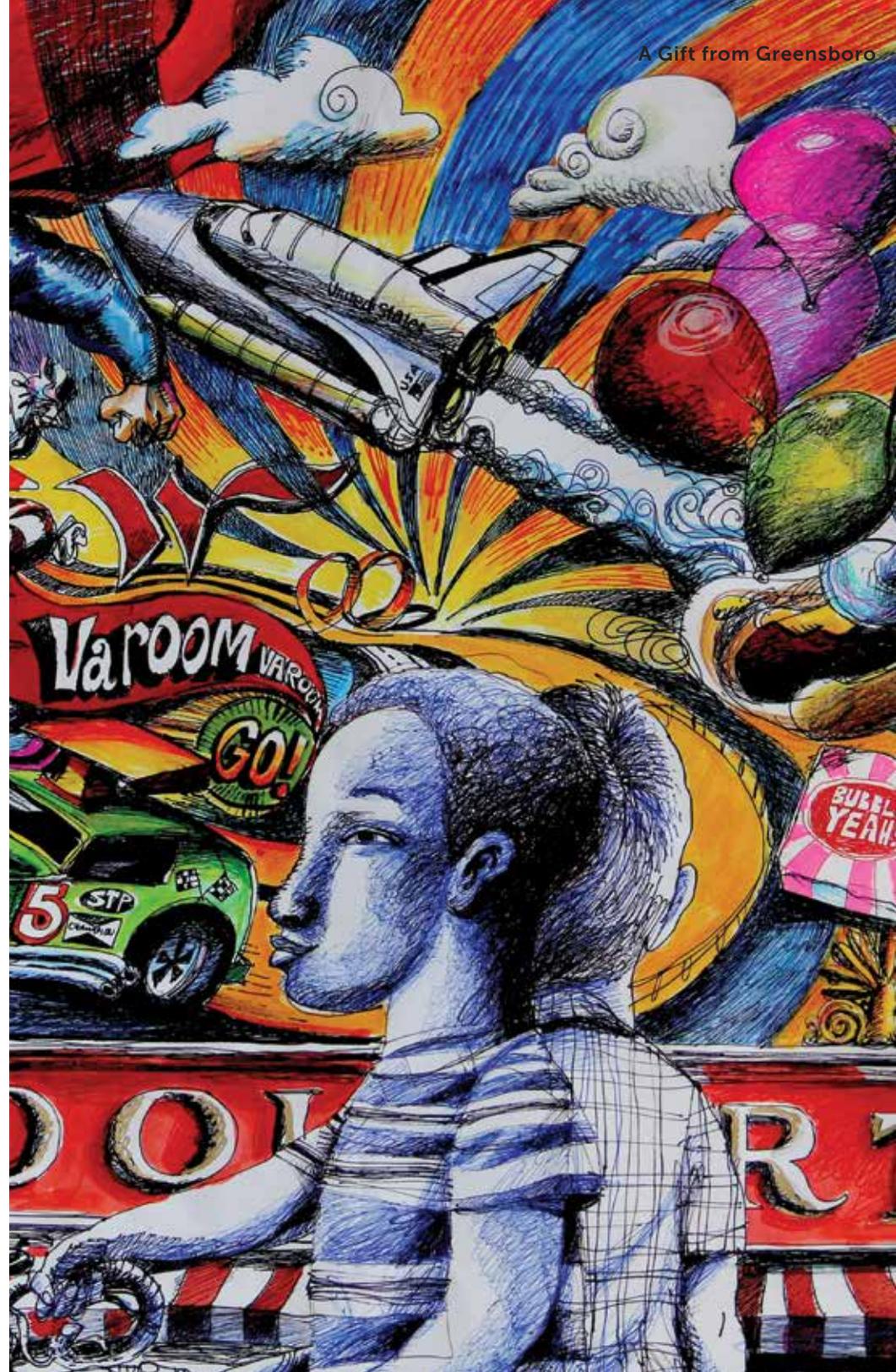
Grade Level: 4

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*



A Gift from Greensboro

## Ordering Information

### Editorial, Sales, & Marketing Offices

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