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Children's Book Update for 2010-2011

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/gregory_martin/1/
When Oscar dreams of being more than he is, he visits the wise old snail for advice. RL 2.2

Lyrical text explores how Blues have been part of everyday life throughout history, from its origins in the sounds of the earth, through slaves' voices singing of freedom, to today's greatest performers--and listeners. RL 4.4

Mr. Putney has all sorts of animal friends with unusual names. RL 1.8

A biography in verse, written by Samantha Thornhill. Illustrator Stephen Alcorn draws on personal dialogue with Odetta to describe the life and career of the American folksinger. RL 4.9

When a little girl decides to run away, her father helps her pack. RL 1.6

Cinderella, Snow White, and three other well-known princesses share a surprising connection in these fairy tale retellings presented in comic book format. RL 3.6

The arrival of a new little brother has his big sister singing the blues. RL 1.7

Identifies some of the things happening in nature while one goes about an ordinary day, such as a shark circling a reef while one brushes one's teeth, or puffins eating fresh-caught fish while one eats dinner. RL 6.0

In Sydney, Australia, and in Morocco, two boys and their families have a day of shopping. Readers are invited to compare illustrations in two wordless stories that are intended to be read one from left to right and the other from right to left.

Busy little peas introduce their favorite occupations, from astronaut to zoologist. RL 3.7
Provides information about the mammoths and mastodons that roamed the Earth for millions of years. RL 5.3 *Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children* Honor

After winning the science fair with the giant robot she has built, a little girl realizes that there is a major problem. RL 2.7

Wilbur loves the legend of the Golden Snail, an enchanted galleon, and vows to become its next master. RL 2.2

Little Mouse refuses to reveal his secret despite being questioned by his friends. RL 1.4

A small but effervescent overnight guest tries the patience of a curmudgeonly bear who needs absolute quiet to fall asleep. RL 2.3

An illustrated poem which explores the artistry and purposes of flags. RL 3.4

A kvetch steals all the menorahs on the first night of Hanukkah in Oyville before he learns an important insight from three children about the festival of lights. RL 1.7

Illustrations and text describe the 1941 baseball season, in which Red Sox players Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams set hitting records. RL 2.0

With breathtaking full-page images, including a double-gatefold spread, Sibert-Honor photographer Nic Bishop introduces the beauty and diversity of lizards. The simple, engaging text presents both basic information and fun, quirky facts about the appearance, habits, and life cycle of these amazing reptiles. RL 2.3

Explains precisely why, although it may sound like a good idea, gathering hundreds of pigs to march in a parade through one’s hometown is inadvisable. RL 3.7

Brownie the groundhog encounters a fox while waiting for winter to be over, and through clever maneuvering—and tasty snacks—the two become friends. RL 2.6
Explores, through brief text and illustrations, various aspects of each season of the year.

When Fox joins Goose and Bear for playtime, one of them is left out and someone must figure out how all three of them can play together.  RL 0.7

Successive pop up scenes show the progress as a rural area is built up into a busy city, in a book that encourages young readers to imagine how a city is built and what the people who live there would need.  RL 2.9

A first-grade girl who does not like to read stubbornly resists her school librarian's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that might change her mind.  RL 2.4

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale of belonging and self-discovery. An ugly duckling spends an unhappy year ostracized by the other animals before he grows into a beautiful swan.  RL 2.2

In this adaptation of the traditional folktale, three little dassies (also called rock hyraxes) build their houses in the Namib Desert of Southern Africa, hoping for protection from the eagle that lives atop a nearby mountain.  RL 2.9

When Peter goes on an African adventure with his beloved Uncle Nigel, who hopes to spot a rare gorilla, the oblivious Nigel urges Peter on by telling him to have gumption, while Peter keeps his eyes open and uses his ingenuity.  RL 1.9

This comforting alphabet book links words and phrases with familiar images from everyone's favorite bedtime book, Goodnight Moon. From kittens to stars to yarn, there are so many things that can be found in the great green room. Search for them all as you learn your ABCs.  RL 0.8

Describes the life and times of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet.  RL 3.5

Elinor Smith, who first flew in a "flying machine" when she was six, earns her aviation license at the age of sixteen in 1928, and when male pilots and newspapermen mock her abilities, she performs the daring maneuver of flying under all four of New York City's East River bridges.  RL 3.2
An urban retelling of the classic Goldilocks and the Three Bears story, told from the baby bear's perspective. RL 1.6

A child imagines what it would be like if a snowman, made of magical snow, could be a companion throughout the year. RL 3.0

An illustrated biography of American author Mark Twain, presented from the perspective of the Twain's famous literary character Huckleberry Finn. RL 5.1

An account of Amelia Earhart's dangerous 1932 flight across the Atlantic Ocean from Newfoundland to Ireland, in which she survived bad weather and a malfunctioning airplane. Includes a brief biography of the aviator. RL 2.4

Every night Marie-Elaine's cat, Malcolm, goes out, and every morning he comes back in and sleeps. "Where do cats go at night?" the girl wonders. So when she sees him at his cat door dressed to the nines, she begs to come along. And amazingly, Malcolm agrees, as long as she puts on her fancy clothes, gets small, and keeps it all a secret. With a whimsical story and breathtaking artwork, the acclaimed John Burningham takes us on an exciting night's journey, braving hoodlum dogs and precarious climbs for a rooftop party that is cause for celebration indeed. RL 2.7 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor

A young boy imagines what life will be like when his new sibling arrives. RL 2.7

It's time for bed and David A. Carter's bugs help guide children through their nightly routines. RL 2.7

Pop-up and movable features show bugs of different colors.

Pop-up illustrations of butterflies help children learn to count. RL ?

Teaches the concept of opposites through pop-up illustrations of bugs. RL ?

Pop-up features show bugs going in all directions.
Snowflakes fall on a young family watching a live nativity scene in their city neighborhood. As the boy peers into the manger, the story shifts to an ancient field underneath gentle moonglow and a brilliant star's guiding light on the holy night observed by shepherds.  RL 4.0

A cumulative, rhyming tale of a slamming door which wakes a cat, setting into motion an absurd chain of events and resulting in chaos.  RL 1.2

Describes the activities on a busy family farm from the spring when preparations for planting begin to the autumn when the cats grow winter coats and the cold rains begin to fall.  RL 2.5

When Dog's constant boasting makes his friends sad, they find a way to teach him what it means to be a good friend.  RL 1.3

ISBN: 9780888999238
A tale about a young girl whose family moves from the forests of northeastern Saskatchewan to a strange new place called 'Toronto'.  RL 2.3  Boston Globe-Horn Book Award

A hard-working mother's extraordinary accomplishments are listed by her devoted child.  RL 1.8

ISBN: 9780547429243
Follows the life of a giant prehistoric sea turtle.  RL 3.4

Important secrets about how best to live a cat's life will be revealed only to those who can prove that they are genuine cats.  RL 2.2

A biography of Leonardo Fibonacci, the 12th century mathematician who discovered the numerical sequence named for him.  RL 3.4

Daly, Jude.  Sivu’s Six Wishes.  Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2010.
ISBN: 9780802853691
Sivu, an African stonecarver, is not paid well for his work, but through his wishes to become more powerful and live as different people, like the mayor, and things, like the wind, he discovers where real power lies.  RL 3.6
An illustrated introduction to the life and accomplishments of professional boxer Joe Louis. RL 3.6

A little girl tries to be good but soon discovers that being bad is ever so much more fun. RL 2.8

Llama Llama becomes overwhelmed as Christmas preparations progress, until his mother reminds him of the real gift the holiday brings. RL 2.6

Two roller-skating best friends—one tiny, one tall—share three comical adventures involving outrageously bright socks, an impromptu trek to the Andes, and a most unlikely marvelous companion. RL 1.5 *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award*

Although much quieter than the farm animals that moo, cluck, or oink, a gentle ladybug is instrumental in foiling a plan to steal the farm's prize-winning cow. RL 1.8

Tackling both normal and extreme scenarios, this is an entertaining and enlightening exploration of the world's weather. With bright, friendly illustrations, plus pop-ups, pull-tabs, and booklets, this interactive book stimulates learning and encourages children to think about how humans can influence the Earth's climate.

It's windy on the Danish island of Samso. Meet the environmentally friendly folks who, in a few short years, worked together for energy independence, and who now proudly call their home Energy Island. RL 2.8

Although they love each other, Old Bear and his little Cub have a tug of war over which one knows best in a variety of situations. RL 2.3

Based on a song by Bob Dylan, tells the story of how man named the animals of the world. RL 2.7

Separated from his favorite toy pilot action figure, young Jack envisions his lost friend's brave journey back home across the ocean, in a story complemented by a glossary of pilot terms. RL 1.9
The narrator describes discovering how Ralph the dog can talk, appropriately saying words such as "roof," "rough," "bark," and "wolf." RL 1.4

A woodcut-illustrated collection of poems that celebrates wild animals. RL 1.7

With twelve beloved stories meant for reading aloud and more than one hundred glorious illustrations, Mary Engelbreit's Fairy Tales is destined to become a family favorite! RL 2.8

An introduction to the Underground Railroad, narrated by a group of slaves. RL 0.6

On a family vacation in Venice, Olivia indulges in gelato, rides in a gondola, and finds the perfect souvenir. RL 3.0

Recounts the traditions and folklore surrounding the Christmas tree, including its origin, customs around the world, and the activities that take place on a Christmas tree farm. RL 5.9

Sadie and her father have been planning a trip to the zoo for a long time but something always gets in the way, so when they finally start out and her father sees some raindrops, Sadie insists there is no rain on her side of the car. RL 2.7

When Little Croc and his friends find a purse filled with money, they must decide whether to spend the money or turn in the purse. RL 3.6

A poor boy named Jack struggles to deliver a birthday present worthy of the princess. RL 3.5

Depicts a number of animal babies sleeping as a mother puts her own baby to bed. RL 1.0

Through his imaginative journey, Alexander discovers how great men become heroes: a tough president has a soft spot for nature, a proud warrior is also the most peaceful, and sometimes, being brave about what makes you different will not only help you break records, but inspire others. RL 2.6
Letters of the alphabet in various graphic styles accompany words associated with fairs.

From the moment he arrives, it is obvious that the new baby is boss and he gets whatever he wants, from drinks made-to-order around the clock to his executive gym.  RL 2.6

A mouse baby leads his father on a merry game of hide-and-squeak at bedtime.  RL 1.1

An exploration of the different ways seeds are dispersed into the environment.  RL 2.2

The buffalo, an American icon once nearly extinct, has made a comeback. This stirring picture book tells the dramatic story, following bison from the Plains Indians to the cowboys, Teddy Roosevelt to the Dust Bowl, and from the brink of extinction to the majestic herds that now roam our national parks.  RL 3.7

Emma is Jess's little sister ... and her dilemma. How can one small girl be sweet, funny, imaginative, playful, and affectionate as well as a clinging vine, brat, tattletale, and nuisance-all at the same time? Why is Jess supposed to be a good big sister while Emma doesn't have to be a good little sister? The highlights and low points of this sibling relationship are insightfully evoked in short and simple poems, some funny, some touching, and all resonant with emotional truth. Every child with a younger sibling will recognize Jess's dilemma and the combination of ambivalence and deep loyalty that is built into the sibling relationship.  RL 4.0

Peeking through the pages, children will be able to spot a different colored animal every time, and guess what it is using a simple, factual clue. Bold illustrations and die-cut holes will absorb young readers as they learn about colors and animal names.  RL 2.0

The story of Emma Lazarus, who, despite her life of privilege, became a tireless advocate for the immigrants who arrived in New York City in the 1880s and wrote a famous poem for the Statue of Liberty.  RL 2.7
Before he became one of the greatest guitar players of all time, Jimi Hendrix was a boy who loved to paint and listen to records, and who asked himself an unusual question: could someone paint pictures with sound?  RL 5.8  *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor*

Mister Bud, the family dog, has a satisfying routine to his life, but when another dog joins the family and disrupts his schedule, Mister Bud must learn to adapt.  RL 1.7

After reading "Puss in Boots," an adventurous dog sets out to find the perfect pair of shoes to suit his every need.  RL 2.9

On their first assignment, two young tooth fairy sisters journey by night into the huge world of humans to collect Daniel Dangerfield's tooth and fly it safely home.  RL 1.7  *Charlotte Zolotow Honor*

Big dogs, small dogs, stripy dogs, spotty dogs. There are so many different kinds of dogs. How can anyone pick one type of dog to love the most?  RL 1.0

Tells the story behind the creation of "Appalachian Spring," describing Aaron Copland's composition, Martha Graham's intense choreography and Isamu Noguchi's set design.  RL 5.1  *Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor, Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children*

Describes the period of the 20th century when many African Americans left the South to make better lives for themselves in the northern states.  RL 5.6

Cat, Dog, and Mouse live together contentedly in a cottage by the sea, dividing the work between them, until A. Stranger, Esq., a fox from the Winds of Change company, arrives and stirs up trouble.  RL 3.3

**Grigsby, Susan.**  *In the Garden with Dr. Carver*, illustrated by Nicole Tadgell.  Albert Whitman, 2010.  ISBN: 9780807536308
A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the rewards of nature's bounty. Includes factual note about George Washington Carver.  RL 3.6

Moon bears, or Asiatic black bears, get their name from the white moon-shaped blaze on their chests. Sadly, there are more moon bears in captivity than in the wild, as the animals
are being farmed for their commercially valuable bile. This text pays tribute to the endangered species. RL 4.4

In this variation on the folk song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," Robo-Santa gives gifts that consist of electronic gear, including a cartridge in a gear tree, three wrench hens, and nine droids a-dancing. RL 2.4

A perfect square that's perfectly happy is torn into pieces, punched with holes, crumpled, and otherwise changed, but finds in each transformation that it can be something new, and just as happy. RL 3.1

Inside New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the sphinx of the Pharaoh Hatshepsut holds court. But how did this ancient artifact get to the museum? RL 6.5

Describes in poetic verse the predatory habits of a variety of animals and the foods that they eat. RL 4.8

Just after the first snowfall, Bear is ready to go to sleep until spring but his friends encourage him to spend one last day playing with them. RL 1.6

As he hops along a little rabbit wonders what it would be like to be green as grass, tall as fir trees, hard as rocks, and flutter like butterflies. RL 3.3

Chronicles the life of Dave, a nineteenth-century slave who went on to become an influential poet, artist, and potter. RL 3.1 Caldecott Honor, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

Nursery rhymes are presented in the form of rebuses. RL 1.6

Excited that spring has finally arrived, Mole tries--unsuccessfully--to wake up Bear, but then he comes up with the perfect plan. RL 2.2

Goose is more interested in skating, sledding, and making snow angels than in helping Duck decorate their big Christmas tree. RL 1.5
A collection of poems about peace by Anna Grossnickle Hines, accompanied by illustrations that feature homemade quilts.  RL 3.3

When Holly's family moves from the city to a farm, she longs to get a horse for her birthday. Based on events in the author's childhood.  RL 3.7

Contains twelve original prayers for beginning readers that gives young readers and their families a chance to celebrate the simple but important things in life.  RL 2.3

A collection of 48 poems, 12 for each of the seasons, from a variety of poets.  RL 5.6

Despite her size and not having the proper footwear, a determined dinosaur pursues her dream of becoming a ballerina.  RL 2.9

In 1930s Liverpool, England, Bronwen and Dylan live with their widowed mother, who works long hours doing other people's washing, and even though she sometimes must leave the children alone in the house, she cautions them not to speak to the O'Rileys next door, who go to a different church.  RL 2.6

This book relates the history of gospel music as reflected through the journey of African Americans from their arrival as slaves in America to the election of the United States' first black president, Barack Obama.  RL 4.0

Having moved to Montana from Tennessee in the 1830s, fearless Angelica Longrider--also known as Swamp Angel--changes the state's landscape, tames a wild horse, and captures some desperadoes.  RL 3.6

Sets the traditional Christmas carol in Africa, using a combination of text and rebuses. Includes author's note about some of the African traditions depicted.  RL 3.2

During a geography lesson, a child takes an imaginary journey to each of the seven seas, including the Brown Sea which is made of chocolate, and the Pink Sea which has flamingos.  RL 3.9
In Zurich, Switzerland, an artistic cat finds the perfect owner in fellow Dadaist, Mr. Dada.  Author’s note provides background on the Dadaist art movement.  RL 3.0

After rescuing her Christmas nutcracker from an army of angry toys, Marie and her brother are rewarded by the nutcracker, now a prince, with a fantastic nighttime journey to a realm of dancing fairies, beautiful palaces, and wonderful things to eat.  RL 3.3

The tiger is just one of thousands of animals -- including the ground iguana, the white-rumped vulture, and the partula snail -- currently in danger of becoming extinct, joining the dodo, the marsupial wolf, the great auk, and countless others we will never see again.  RL 3.5

A guide to human and animal skeletons provides informative comparisons while sharing such facts as the number of bones in the human body and the ways that skeletal structures work.  RL 6.1

It's time for a bath! Find out which animals soak, lick, bake, or spray their dirt away.  RL 3.9

Provides an introduction to what animals eat and how they collect, store, and digest their food.  RL 4.0

It's time to sleep! Who dozes standing on one leg without falling over, snores while flying, or snuggles together in a big sleepy pile?  RL 3.9

A young apprentice to a master builder does some mischief that causes a palace to be built upside-down, which creates all sorts of trouble--and fun. Inspired by the work of M.C. Escher and intended to be read front-to-back, then turned over and read back-to-front.  RL 2.3

Presents new animals discovered during a ten year project of documenting sea life, describing new species of such creatures as jellyfish, octopuses, squids, sea worms, and crabs, found along coral reefs, ocean mountain ranges, and in the dark zone.  RL 6.5

A little girl and her grandmother have a rollicking good time during a sleepover.  RL 2.3
From her first bite, young Betty Bunny likes chocolate cake so much that she claims she will marry it one day, and she has trouble learning to wait patiently until she can have her next taste. RL 3.3

Throughout the seasons the workers at the Village Garage are busy taking care of the town and its residents. RL 2.1

Pink, a piglet who is the runt of the litter, is adopted by Tink, a dachshund who is nursing a litter of her own, and Pink is raised in the house along with the puppies. RL 2.3

Louis's favorite toy lamb inadvertently falls into Santa's bag on Christmas Eve. RL 2.2

A fictionalized biography of Ella Kate Ewing, born in 1872, who was eight feet tall by the age of seventeen and who became financially independent by traveling the country for nearly twenty years appearing at museums, exhibitions, and in circus shows. RL 2.9

While putting on a Halloween pageant, the alphabet mixes things up with some spooky, and funny, results. RL 1.9

The story of the three Kennedy brothers and how they relied on each other. RL 4.2

An introduction to the thirteenth-century Chinese emperor which offers a more complete picture of the man than books which treat him as just a supporting player in Marco Polo's adventures. RL 6.8

A little girl uses her imagination and a light bulb to go on an adventure in a dark attic. Wordless book

A young schoolboy from the early twentieth century hides a candy box with secret instructions in the floorboards of his boarding school for future generations of schoolchildren to find and follow to a mysterious hidden place. Story without words.

Nina is determined to save the horses at the famous Spanish Riding School in Vienna during the war. RL 3.7
ISBN: 9780547172088
Goodly, Lovely, Angel, Neatly, Perfect, and Tacky are having a wonderful Christmas, complete with an unusual tree, when Tacky's odd behavior saves them from a group of hunters. RL 3.6

A stray cat finds a happy home in a kindergarten classroom.  RL 3.4

Thirteen witty and wacky poems pose riddles that challenge readers to "Name That Book." With a glass slipper here and a spiderweb there, Lynn Munsinger's adorable illustrations lead young readers to the solutions. From Goodnight Moon to Madeline, children and parents alike will delight in recognizing their most cherished stories. RL 2.5

When Bridget loses the beret that provides her with artistic inspiration like other great artists, she thinks she will never be able to draw again.  RL 3.6

ISBN: 9780547249704
Two teams of bats play an exciting nighttime baseball game.  RL 3.3

When two best friends, a giant and an elf, grow Christmastown's holiday tree, disaster strikes.  RL 1.6

ISBN: 9780316024525
Ling and Ting are identical twins that people think are exactly the same, but time and again they prove to be different.  RL 1.4  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor*

When Lucy gets a new red wagon she wants to play with it immediately, but first she must use it to bring vegetables home from the market for her mother.  RL 2.1

Nini Cat enjoys her outdoor adventure until she ventures too far and can't find her way home.  RL 2.0

ISBN: 9780545035309
A hamster, with the help of a canine junkyard dealer and his mouse assistants, builds a hot rod and drives it in a race against some very large dogs.  RL 1.9

Inspired by letters that Vincent wrote to Theo, his closest friend and constant encourager, the text of Vincent van Gogh and the Colors of the Wind is vibrantly illustrated in a style that recalls the paintings of the artist himself. The book also includes fourteen reproductions of van Gogh's actual paintings. This lyrical story provides a thoughtful and fresh look at the life of one of the world's most famous artists.
Ginny's eyes play tricks on her, making her see everything double, but when she goes to vision screening at school and discovers that not everyone sees this way, she learns that her double vision can be cured.  RL 1.6  Schneider Family Book Award

Introduces young children to the water cycle with simple text and illustrations.  RL 3.0

Ballet instructor Miss Lina has a solution when her eight students, who always dance in pairs, are distraught when a ninth girl joins the class.  RL 2.3

Raised on a cattle ranch, Agnes Morley was sent to Stanford University to learn to be a lady. Yet in no time she exchanged her breeches and spurred for bloomers and a basketball; and in April 1896 she made history. In a heart-pounding game against the University of California at Berkeley, Agnes led her team to victory in the first-ever intercollegiate women's basketball game, earning national attention and putting women's basketball on the map.  RL 3.3

When the eggs of the hip-pocket frog hatch, the father sits "while the tadpoles wiggle up his hind legs and into the hidden pockets on his hips." But that is only the beginning of a fascinating adventure--the father must evade predators while searching for the perfect place for his froglets to emerge.  RL 3.9  Charlotte Zolotow Award Honor

Full of fun historical facts, this book is the true story of how bubble gum was invented.  RL 4.8

A fictionalized account of Bill "Doc" Key, a former slave who became a veterinarian, trained his horse, Jim Key, to recognize letters and numbers and to perform in skits around the country, and moved the nation toward a belief in treating animals humanely. Includes an author's note.  RL 3.9

Holding her stuffed toy chimpanzee, young Jane Goodall observes nature, reads Tarzan books, and dreams of living in Africa and helping animals. Includes biographical information on the prominent zoologist.  RL 3.5

While looking for a job, Bulldog tries being a firefighter, a window washer, a sign painter, and a bookseller before finding just the right job for himself.  RL 2.9
A young bird, safe in its nest, debates whether or not to risk trying its wings.  RL 3.0

Short verses describe symbols, foods, and family fun associated with the festival of Hanukkah. Includes facts about the history and traditions.  RL 3.2

When a teddy bear is lost by the child who loves him, the bear begins an adventurous journey to get back home again.  RL 3.0

**Milgrim, David.** *Santa Duck and His Merry Helpers.* G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2010.
ISBN: 9780399254734
Every Christmas, Nicholas Duck helps Santa by collecting gift lists, but this year his little brothers and sister create havoc when they try to help, leading Nicholas to contemplate the true meaning of Christmas.  RL 2.8

In medieval Ireland, Theophane's boredom with his duties as a scribe distracts the other monks, but when he is sent to the kitchens he discovers that he can make inks of many colors from plants, allowing the others to illustrate their work. Includes facts about the history of monasteries, scriptoriums, and illuminated manuscripts.  RL 5.5

An illustrated version of the classic Christmas poem about a visit from St. Nick. Includes a specially created three-track musical and narrative CD featuring Moore's tale stunningly set to music by Noel Paul Stookey, an enchanting reading by Mary Travers over a special score composed by Peter Yarrow with Peter and Noel joining Mary one last time in her final performance, plus the classic Peter, Paul and Mary holiday favorite, ""A' Soalin."
RL 4.3

Explores the life and work of nineteenth-century French physicist Léon Foucault, who invented a pendulum that provided proof that the Earth rotated on its axis.  RL 5.9

**Myers, Walter Dean.** *We Are America: A Tribute from the Heart,* illustrated by Christopher Myers. Collins, 2011. ISBN: 9780060523084
Examines the events and people that have shaped America, providing portraits of figures such as Chief Tecumseh, President Abraham Lincoln, and musician Jimi Hendrix, and featuring lyrical, free-verse poetic text.  RL 4.3

The story of Wangari Maathai, who in 1977 founded the Green Belt Movement, an African grassroots organization, and in 2004 was the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.  RL 3.6
Through the power of faith, a monk named Abba Jacob and his loyal rat terrier, Snook, are reunited after being separated by a ferocious storm.  RL 3.6

Izzy, raised in the mountains, visits the ocean on a hot summer day.

Pictures and rhyming text describe the drills and scrimmages of a team at soccer practice.  RL 1.9

When Ellie makes three wishes and begins to believe in the magic of Christmas, all kinds of miracles occur, from broken tree lights twinkling again, to angel shapes appearing in snow, to the biggest of all: a baby brother arriving soon. It all happened in the time of Billy Lee.  RL 2.2

Artist Frida Kahlo finds her own voice and style when her famous husband, Diego Rivera, is commissioned to paint a mural in San Francisco, California, in the 1930s and she finds herself exploring the city on her own.  RL 4.2  *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor*

Nancy sets up a fabulous fashion boutique to earn money to buy herself a beautiful fuschia fan, and the items she was selling come in handy when her sister's birthday party goes awry.  RL 3.5

Inspired by such art masters as Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, and Jackson Pollock, Nancy, who likes to use fancy words, dons her beret to create her own fabulous artwork.  RL 3.5

A biography of jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald.  RL 3.7

A boy imagines how much more fun he and his dog could have if only the dog would learn to talk.  RL 2.7

While visiting her grandparents, literal-minded Amelia Bedelia finally learns, despite some mishaps, how to bake an apple pie.  RL 2.1
Playful poems from five alternating viewpoints tell the story of an exciting day--from sunrise to moonrise--on a young, about-to-shout volcano.  RL 2.5

Presents the classic tale of three youngsters who are careless with their mittens, but who turn out to be good little kittens after all.  RL 1.5

When two brothers visit a museum in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, with their grandmother, they find themselves in a very realistic Civil War setting where they see the Antietam battlefield and meet historical figures from the aftermath of that momentous battle. Includes author's note on the Battle of Antietam.  RL 5.1

Annalina's diary entries reflect her feelings and experiences as she goes from being afraid to go to kindergarten to loving it during her first month of school.  RL 1.9

A young pirate and his crew embark on a grand adventure when they board the bus for the first day of first grade.  RL 3.3

Fresh, new animal portraits with words that enhance Saint-Saën's music.  RL 4.1

When Todd's parents are too busy to take care of him, his television steps in to handle the parenting.  RL 2.1

When Santa's allergies prevent him from keeping a homeless kitten, he and Mrs. Claus find it a perfect home.  RL 2.4

Raczka and Reynolds present a humorous haiku collection perfect for guys (big and small) that celebrates outdoor fun throughout the seasons.  RL 2.7

Part anagram, part rebus, part riddle - this brand new poetic form turns word puzzles into poetry.  RL 6.1

A lone traveler, tired, hungry, and cold, finds a house and asks for a room for the night, but the old man to whom he speaks refers him to his father, and that man to his father, until he is finally rewarded for his efforts by the eldest.  RL 3.6
A young girl takes her dog to a river in a forest, where she catches enough fish to feed her neighbors, even after giving some to forest creatures she meets on the way home.  RL 3.0

Worried about her father's trip to the hospital, Rosy goes to play with the special dollhouse he built for her and finds Thistle, a very messy and mischievous fairy who needs a place to stay while her injured wing mends.  RL 4.9

Norris the bear has been waiting patiently for the last ripe fruit to fall from the tree, and when it does he decides to share it with his two new friends.  RL 1.5

An introduction to the superheroes and villains of DC Comics with profiles of superheroes such as Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, and others that feature twenty-five pop-up illustrations, and includes a battery-powered, light-up Bat-Signal.  RL 7.8

Master paper engineers Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda unfold the legends and lore of cultures around the world to reveal these monsters and dragons that have prowled countrysides and imaginations for centuries. Pop-up fans and fantasy lovers will be equally enthralled by the dynamic creatures depicted in this astonishing volume, the climax of the Encyclopedia Mythologica trilogy.

Lyrics and simple scores for traditional Christmas carols are brought to life with illustrations by the creator of the "Curious George" series in which the notes on the staff are representing by pictures. Includes CD.  RL 2.9

From the back of the bus, an African American child watches the arrest of Rosa Parks.  RL 2.2

Wraps up the day as toys, dogs, and cars are told good night.  RL 1.1

Although Ben is worried about his dog Aggie when the veterinarian spays her and while she recovers, he laughs at her problems with the cone she must wear on her head until her stitches are removed.  RL 1.5
When young Steve, who is Jewish, tells his new neighbor, Jackie Robinson, that his family does not have a Christmas tree, Jackie brings one to his neighbors, not knowing that they celebrate Hanukkah instead of Christmas. Based on a true story.  RL 4.1

A fox steals a chicken. Why would the fox do this and not eat the bird? Wordless book

Simple arithmetical equations show how big and small moments add up in life.

When Willy wakes up without his favorite toy, he looks everywhere until he finds it.  RL 1.6

Grumpy Old Man Fookwire’s new neighbor has a cat that threatens his beloved birds, but the pesky squirrels figure out a way to solve the problem.  RL 4.1

Using toolboxes, ambulances, and other ingenious measures, Irena Sendler defied the Nazis and risked her own life by saving and then hiding Jewish children. Her secret list of the children’s real identities was kept safe, buried in two jars under a tree in war-torn Warsaw. An inspiring story of courage and compassion, this biography includes a list of resources, source notes, and an index.  RL 5.7

It's winter and little bear doesn't want to go to sleep. He'd rather play, and he's sure he won't get cold outside, no matter how long the winter is, how deep the snow might get, or how hard the storm might blow. Until, that is, little bear finds himself all alone in a snowstorm.  RL 0.8

Good friends Owly and Wormy are disappointed when their new plant attracts fat, green, bug-like things, instead of butterflies, until a metamorphosis occurs. Wordless book

Maria Mozart, like her famous brother Wolfgang, was a musical prodigy. The talented siblings toured Europe, playing before kings and empresses, were showered with gifts and favors, and lived in a whirlwind life of music and travel. As they grew older, Wolfgang was encouraged to pursue his musical ambitions, while Maria was told she must stop performing and, ultimately, marry. But she was determined to continue playing the piano every day, for the love of music.  RL 4.2

The classic fairy tale is illustrated with pop-up castles and characters.  RL 4.8
Selections from the gospels of Matthew and Luke that tell of the birth of Christ.  RL 5.9

In this wordless picture book, follow Walrus on a happy-go-lucky spree through the big city, as he tries on different hats to disguise himself from the chasing zookeeper.

After Jiro encounters a life-like garden statue of a tall bird, he falls asleep and dreams of the story his mother once told him about a grateful crane.  RL 2.3

Splat the cat accidently succeeds in being the scariest cat in the class for Halloween.  RL 2.1

Splat does not want to have a playdate with Spike and both are afraid to learn how to swim. When the rest of their classmates rush straight into the pool, Splat and Spike find that they may have more in common than they thought.  RL 2.1

Presents eleven scenes and quotations from the six Star Wars motion pictures. Striped acetate overlays on board pages give illustrations the illusion of movement.  RL 5.3

A twentieth anniversary, pop-up version of Dr. Seuss's "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" in which he offers humorous, rhyming advice on how to proceed in life, conquer fear, loneliness, and confusion, and take charge of one's own destiny.  RL 3.2

Christmas has arrived with so many rules to follow that David fears his mistakes will cause Santa to pass him by.  RL 0.9

A young hippopotamus shows his father the right way to do things, such as getting dressed, watering the flowers, and especially giving big hugs.  RL 1.5

A collection of poems that celebrate the wonder, mystery, and danger of the night and describes the many things that hide in the dark.  RL 4.0

Madlenka plays soccer in her city neighborhood--with the mailbox, a dog, a parking meter, and some cats. Includes facts about the game, and translations for the word "soccer" in various languages.  RL 1.6
Art and poetry combine to tell the story of boxer Jack Johnson, who became the first African-American world heavyweight boxing champion in the early part of the twentieth century,  RL 2.4

Suhaila's wish to know her deceased grandmother is granted when a golden ladder appears at her window and Grandma Annie invites her on a journey to the moon, where they welcome people who are facing tragedy. Includes facts about the painting and woman who inspired the story.  RL 4.1

A baby who plans to grow up to be a writer records thoughts and events in a private journal.  RL 3.1

Simple, rhyming text introduces historical figures through the cats each owned. Includes facts about each person.  RL 1.8

A young mouse is encouraged by his mother to enjoy summer while waiting for autumn to come.  RL 2.5

A little boy ponders the many possible jobs in his future, from paper-plane folder and puppy-dog holder to mixing-bowl licker and tin-can kicker.  RL 2.4

Gennady Spirin created one original, spectacular oil painting to illustrate thirteen principal events in the life of Jesus. The painting has been lifted and reproduced to illustrate this book's Biblical text.  RL 5.4

A little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother. Includes a note about the history of the tale.  RL 2.9

Easy-to-read, rhyming text invites the reader to search for items on a different theme on each page, while celebrating the wonder of a picture book.  RL 2.4

Amos McGee, a friendly zookeeper, always made time to visit his good friends: the elephant, the tortoise, the penguin, the rhinoceros, and the owl. But one day--'Ah-choo!'--he woke with the sniffles and the sneezes. Though he didn't make it into the zoo that day, he did receive some unexpected guests.  RL 3.1  *Caldecott Medal, Charlotte Zolotow Honor*
Little Red Chicken wants Papa to read her a bedtime story, but interrupts him almost as soon as he begins each tale. RL 2.1 *Caldecott Honor*

Babies enjoy the colorful fiesta with singing, dancing, hugs, and kisses. RL 2.2

Edward and his cousin Judy come for a visit to the firehouse and learn how everything works, with some unexpected results. RL 2.8

A clever leprechaun who has amassed a pot of gold by making beautiful shoes for people decides to hide his money at the end of a rainbow, knowing that no one will find it there. RL 3.4

A little frog makes increasingly bold leaps out into the world, and then comes back to his mother after each excursion. RL 1.7

A wordless picture book about three children who go to a park on a rainy day, find some chalk, and draw pictures that come to life.

Choctaw author Tim Tingle tells the story of his family's move from Oklahoma Choctaw country to Pasadena, Texas. Spanning fifty years, the book describes the problems encountered by his Choctaw grandmother from her orphan days at an Indian boarding school to hardships she met at her new home on the Texas Gulf Coast. It is the story of one family's efforts to honor the past while struggling to gain a foothold in modern America. RL 3.4

Two cousins, one in Mexico and one in New York City, write to each other and learn that even though their daily lives differ, at heart the boys are very similar. RL 2.2 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award Honor*

Turn the flaps to make the colorful paintings into new works of art. Wordless book

Instructs the reader on how to interact with the illustrations to create imaginative images. RL 1.5

From the blare of an alarm clock in the morning to snores and crickets in the evening, simple text explores the many loud noises one might hear during the course of a day. RL 3.7
Teddy bear Otto tells the story of his journey from among Jewish children in WWII Germany to the United States years later where he is reunited with David, his original owner. RL 3.1

A cumulative tale of a farm maiden who, aided by a group of animals, prepares "Arroz con Leche," or rice pudding. Includes recipe and glossary of the Spanish words that are woven throughout the text. RL 2.4

Recounts the stunt performed by sixty-two-year-old retired charm school instructor Annie Edson Taylor, who went over Niagara Falls in a wooden barrel in an effort to gain fame and fortune. RL 4.0

The author describes Christmas at his grandmother’s apartment in Spanish Harlem the year she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diego Velazquez’s portrait of Juan de Pareja, which has had a profound and lasting effect on him. RL 3.7 *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award*

Although kindergarten provides unique challenges for a young buffalo, one who follows the rules and tries his best will get along fine. RL 3.3

An enticing, fact-filled invitation to explore the world of insects. Includes hands-on activities. RL 4.7

Rose wakes up one morning feeling royal and, donning jewels and a crown, she seeks her parents who behave as her royal subjects, causing Rose to wonder what they would think if the queen traded places with their daughter. RL 2.3

Two mice have fun playing on a teeter-totter, but as more and larger friends join them, it becomes increasingly difficult to stay balanced. RL 0.9

A cat arrives at a shelter, arranges to go home with a good family, and settles in with them, all the while letting them know who is boss and, finally, sharing his real name. RL 3.0

Li’l Rabbit searches for a gift for his grandmother when she is sick during Kwanzaa, and surprises her with the best gift of all. Includes "The Nguzo Saba - The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa." RL 2.3
After baking a scrumptious Ugly Pie, made from ingredients donated by his neighbors, Ol' Bear invites everyone over for a slice. Includes pie recipe.  RL 2.4

A pirate ship and a chest of gold take readers on a journey through time that leads to the location of purloined treasures. Beginning with a zoom of a gold coin, photographs pull back to reveal the story of the coin's travels from the hull of a pirate ship in the 1700s to the shore of a beach town today.  RL 3.3

Max wants to be an artist like Arthur, but his first attempt at using a paintbrush sends the two friends on a whirlwind trip through various media, with unexpected consequences.  RL 0.7

One day when Harry comes home from school, his faithful companion Hopper isn't there to greet him, in a touching story about the process of healing after losing a beloved pet.  RL 3.0  *Kate Greenaway Medal*

Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog's rock to play games with him, but during the winter things change for them both.  RL 2.1  *Charlotte Zolotow Honor*

Amanda and her alligator have lots of fun together, but when Amanda's grandfather buys her a panda, Alligator must learn to make new friends.  RL 2.6

Gerald the elephant tells his best friend Piggie a long, crazy story about how he broke his trunk.  RL 1.4

While traveling with her family to Holland to visit her grandparents, Trixie once again loses her beloved Knuffle Bunny.  RL 2.9

Gerald and Piggie discover the joy of being read. But what will happen when the book ends?  RL 1.3  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor*

When his father tells him not to leave the lion he is drawing on the beach, a little boy starts making a very, very long tail--and a trail to follow back.  RL 2.4
Retells the story of the birth of Jesus, with lift-the-flap illustrations that gradually reveal the unfolding events. RL 2

After amassing piles of books, Luis, a voracious reader, dreams up a way to share his collection with 'faraway villages.' He starts with two burros--one for himself, one for books--and heads off. Tough terrain and menacing bandits challenge him along the way, but at last he reaches a remote town, where he holds a story hour and loans titles to eager kids before returning home to his wife and reading late into the night. RL 1.8

An illustrated biography of British primatologist Jane Goodall, describing her childhood, the years she spent in the African forests to observe chimpanzees, and her efforts to protect and preserve primates and their habitats. RL 3.2

Dan Yaccarino tells the story of his family's experiences in the United States since his great-grandfather came to America from Italy through Ellis Island. RL 4.2

Dog loves books so much that he decides to open a book store. RL 1.9

Presents the history of the Meadowland, from its pristine state, to its gradual transformation by European settlers, to the pollution caused by industrialization, and the changes brought by environmental organizations striving to protect it. RL 5.3

Discusses the life and career of the Pittsburgh Pirates legend who was one of the greatest hitters and fielders in baseball history. RL 3.0

A collection of poems for bedtime that features topics such as owls, lullabies, and the sounds of the city, with work from poets such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, Sylvia Plath, and Lee Bennett Hopkins. RL 1.8

Young Elsie must find a way to adapt to her new home on the Nebraska prairie after she and her father leave their comfortable city life in Boston. RL 3.7

Brief biography of the Scottish writer who created the story of Peter Pan, as well as other works of literature. RL 4.3
Describes how some of Paris's famous artists and writers, such as Pablo Picasso, Max Jacob, and Guillaume Apollinaire, spend their day before preparing to attend a party at Gertrude Stein's apartment.  RL 4.2

Paula Young Shelton shares her memories of the civil rights movement and her involvement in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery.  RL 2.8

Zoe's desire for a pet, along with her participation in her aunt's baby shower, causes her to have dreams about showers of pets falling from the sky.  RL 3.0

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