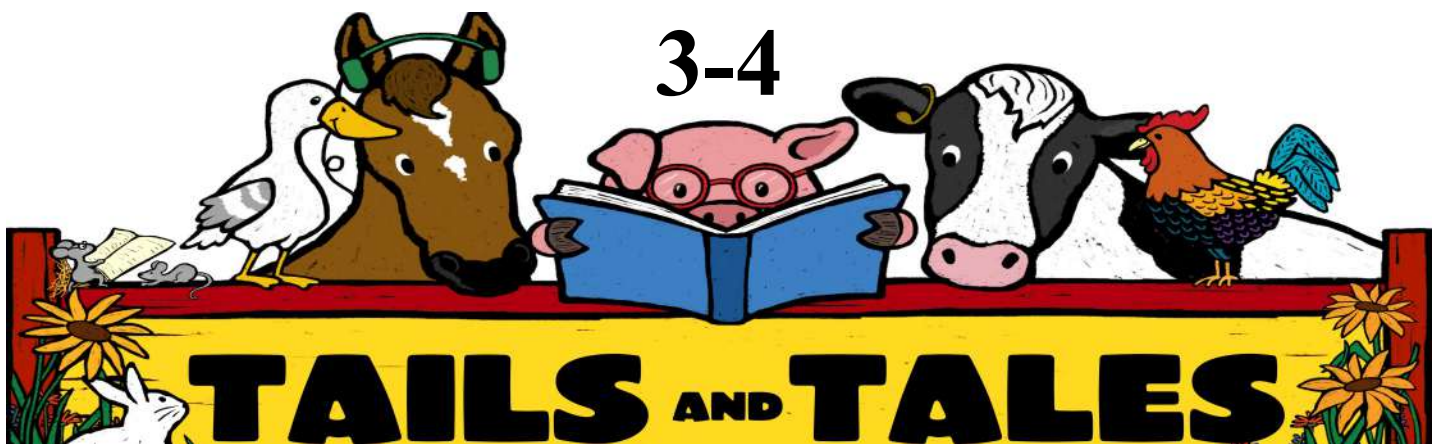




Tails and Tales

The Underneath

by Kathi Appelt & David Small

A calico cat about to have kittens hears the lonely howl of a chained hound deep in the Louisiana bayou. She dares to find him in the forest, and the hound dares to befriend this cat, this feline, this creature he is supposed to hate. They are an unlikely pair, about to become an unlikely family. The story also tells how an ancient snake came to be trapped in a jar beneath a centuries-old tree in the bayou. Lexile: 830L

The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp by Kathi Appelt

Raccoon brothers, Bingo and J'miah, are the newest recruits of the Official Sugar Man Swamp Scouts. It is an honor, and also a big responsibility, since the rest of the swamp critters rely heavily on these hardworking Scouts. Twelve-year-old Chap is not a member of any such organization. But he loves the swamp something fierce, and he'll do anything to help protect it. And help is needed, because alligator Jaeger Stitch wants to turn Sugar Man swamp into an Alligator World Wrestling Arena and Theme Park. There is also a group of wild hogs on the march, headed straight toward them all. | Lexile: 810L

Wishtree by Katherine Applegate

Red is an oak tree who is many rings old. Red is the neighborhood "wishtree." People write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red's branches, and he watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red's experience as a wishtree is all-important. | Lexile: 590L

Because of Winn-Dixie by Kate DiCamillo

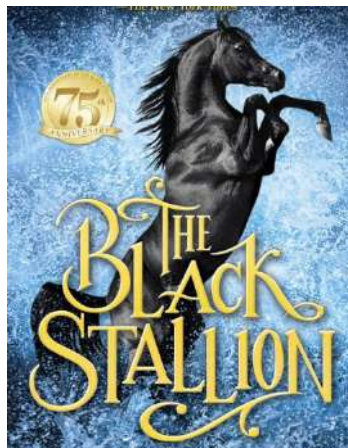
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her

Picture Books

first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog, Winn-Dixie. | Lexile: 670L

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley

Pulled to a desert island by a wild black stallion he had freed during a shipwreck at sea, seventeen-year-old Alec Ramsay befriends the horse, trains him by night, and rides him to victory in a match race. Lexile: 680L



Misty of Chincoteague

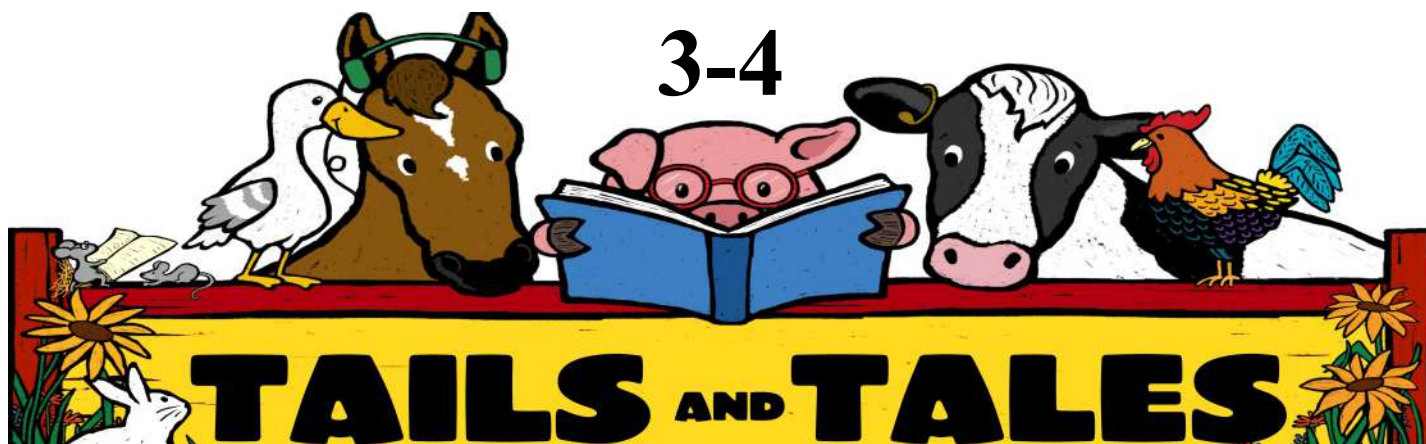
by Marguerite Henry

Nobody could capture the Phantom. She was the wildest mare on Assateague Island, and Paul and Maureen Beebe had their hearts set on owning her. The roundup men had tried to capture her and for two years, the Phantom had escaped them. However, Pony Penning Day holds a surprise for everyone, for Paul not only brings in the Phantom, but her newborn colt as well. Can Paul and Maureen possibly earn enough to buy them both? | Lexile: 750L

The Popper Penguin Rescue

by Eliot Schrefer

In Hillport, residents try to recreate the magic of the now shuttered Popper family penguin carnival rides and penguin petting zoo once held across the river in Stillwater. As the years have gone by, fewer and fewer people have come. Nina and Joe Popper who had long ago left Stillwater, have just moved to Hillport with their mother. With the discovery of two penguin eggs tucked snugly near the furnace in the basement of their new home, it's up to Nina and Joe to find their newly hatched penguin chicks a home. Setting off on the adventure of a lifetime, they endure perilous storms, a long journey to the Arctic, and of course, penguins. Lots and lots of Popper penguins!



Fiction

A Dog-Friendly Town by Josephine Cameron

Twelve-year-old Epic McDade isn't ready for middle school. He'd rather help out at his family's dog-friendly bed n' breakfast all summer, or in the fall, return to his alternative elementary school. However, change comes in all shapes and fur colors when Carmelito, California is named America's #1 Dog-Friendly Town. All the top dogs and their owners pour into Epic's sleepy seaside neighborhood for a week of celebration, but then a famous dog's jewel-encrusted collar goes missing.

Lexile: 690L

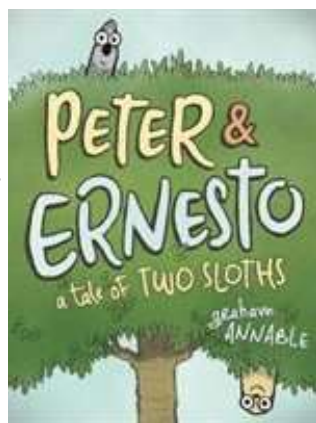
Get a Grip, Vivvy Cohen! by Sarah Kapit

Vivvy is determined to pitch for a real baseball team. But Vivvy's mom is worried about Vivvy being the only girl on the team, and the only kid with autism. When her social skills teacher makes her write a letter to someone, Vivvy chooses Major League pitcher VJ Capello, who starts writing back! Then, a coach sees Vivvy's amazing knuckleball and invites her to join his team. But when a big accident puts her back on the bench, Vivvy has to fight to stay on the team.

Lexile: 650L

Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B., members of the Little family, each present the vivid story of their young lives, spanning three generations. Their separate stories come together to create one unforgettable journey. Inspired by storytelling's oral tradition, stirring vignettes are presented in a series of theatrical monologues that paint a gripping, multidimensional portrait of America's struggle for civil rights as seen through the eyes of the children who lived it.



Nonfiction

The Next President: The Unexpected Beginnings and Unwritten Future of America's Presidents by Kate Messner

When George Washington became the first president of the United States, there were nine future presidents already alive in America. When JFK became the thirty-fifth president, there were 10 future presidents already alive in America, doing things like hosting TV shows and learning the saxophone. And right now, today, there are at least 10 future presidents alive in America. They could be playing basketball, like Barack Obama, or helping in the garden, like Dwight D. Eisenhower.

They could be solving math problems or reading books. They could be making art or already making change. | Lexile: 1080L

Graphic Novels

Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths

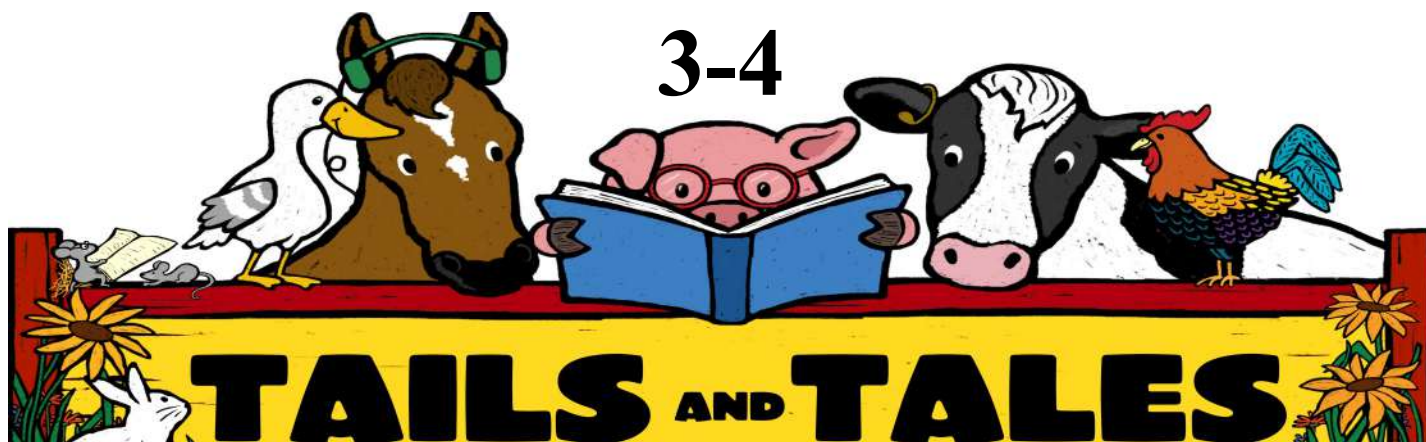
by Graham Annabelle

Peter and Ernesto are sloths, friends, and nothing alike. Peter loves their tree and never wants to leave, while Ernesto loves the sky and wants to see it from every place on earth. When Ernesto leaves to have a grand adventure, Peter stays behind and frets. The two friends grow even closer in separation, as Peter the homebody expands his horizons and Ernesto the wanderer learns the value of home. | Lexile: GN390L

Clyde by Jim Benton

When Clyde the bear decides to ditch his safe and peaceful life in Cubville and head off for the mean streets of Grizzly City, he learns, with the help of a reformed juvenile delinquent butterfly, the Bad Life isn't always so great. Lexile: GN210L - 400L

Many of the listed books were recognized as exemplary books by one or more of the following organizations: American Library Association (ALA), Children's Literature & Reading and Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG), Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), American Indian Library Association (AILA), International Literacy Association (ILA), National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), American Association of the Advancement of Science (AAAS), United States Board on Books for Young People (USBYP). Other awards as noted.



Featured Authors

Susan Hood



Susan Hood is the award-winning author of many picture books for young readers. She is the recipient of the E. B. White Honor Award, the Christopher Award, the Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult

Literature, the International Latino Award, and the Bank Street Flora Steiglitz Straus Award, which is given to "a distinguished work of nonfiction that serves as an inspiration to young people."

Book Titles:

Titan and the Wild Boars

Lifeboat 12

Ada's Violin

Valorie Fisher



Valorie spent her childhood in the U.S., England, and Italy. She studied art at the Museum School and Tufts University. After graduation, she moved to New York City, where she worked in various capacities before weaving her way into children's books. Valorie lives in a farmhouse in Cornwall, Connecticut, with her family.

Book Titles:

Now You Know What You Eat

Now You Know How It Works

Jenna Grodzicki



Jenna's book, *I See Sea Food: Sea Creatures That Look Like Food* (Millbrook Press, 2019) was the winner of the 2020 Connecticut Book Award in the Young Readers Non-fiction category. She

lives on Cape Cod, MA, with her husband, two awesome kids, two cats, and one dog.

Book Titles:

Harmony Humbolt

Wild Style: Amazing Animal Adornments

Leslie Bulion



Leslie Bulion has been reading and writing poetry since the fourth grade. She loved the musical sounds of words in poems--words that made her heart and mind soar, and words

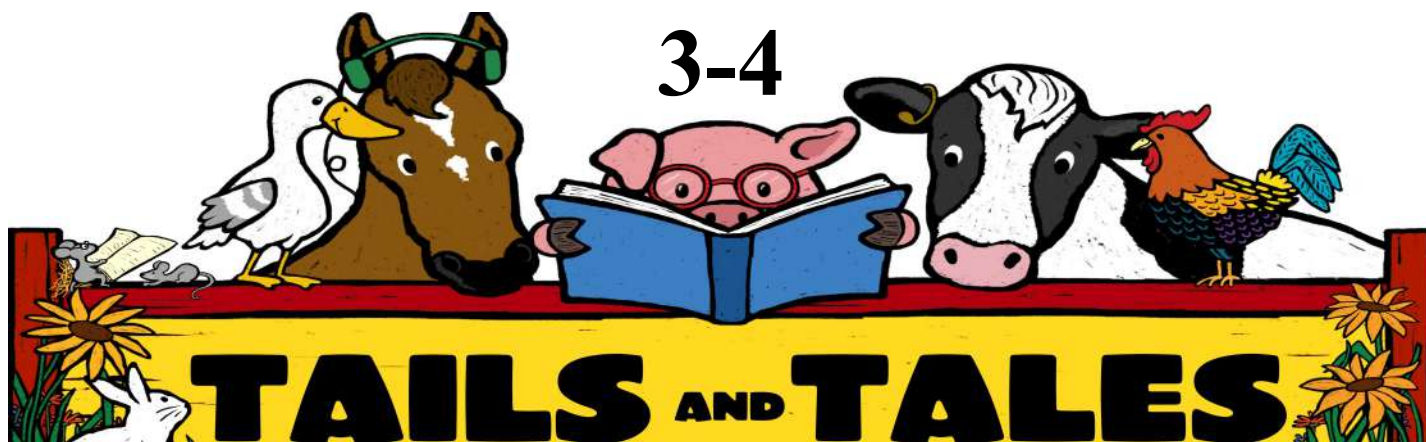
with rhythm and words that rhyme. When she's not writing, you'll find her outside exploring nature with her binoculars, hand lens, and camera, or collecting specimens to examine under her microscope.

Book Titles:

Superlative Birds

The Trouble with Rules

Uncharted Waters



Nutmeg Award Winners

What is the Connecticut Nutmeg Book Award?

The Nutmeg Book Award encourages children in Grades 2-12 to read quality literature and to choose their favorite book from a list of ten nominated titles. There are four divisions: Elementary (Grades 2-3); Intermediate (Grades 4-6); Middle School (Grades 7-8); and High School (Grades 9-12). Jointly sponsored by the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) and the Connecticut Association of School Librarians (CASL), the selection committee is comprised of children's librarians and school library media specialists who are members of the sponsoring organizations, as well as students. For more information visit <https://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

Moth: An Evolution Story

by Isabel Thomas & Daniel Egneus

My Papi Has a Motorcycle

by Isabel Quintero

The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

by Ibtihaj Muhammad

Seeds Move!

by Robin Page

Superlative Birds

by Leslie Bulion

You Don't Know Everything Jilly P!

by Alex Gino

Planet Earth is Blue

by Nicole Panteleakos

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe

by Carlos Hernandez

We Are Water Protectors

by Carole Lindstrom

Classics and Popular Titles

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers. One day, he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convinces everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: AD760L

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren

Readers will follow the escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey, but without any parents, at the edge of a Swedish village. Lexile: 870L

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco

Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, an African-American soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. | Lexile: 660L

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say

A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America, which he also undertakes later, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. | Lexile: AD650L

All-of-a-Kind-Family by Sydney Taylor

Follow the adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 750L

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. | Lexile: 680L

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real.

