

3-5th Grade Louisiana Young Readers' Choice 2015 Annotated Title List

1. Bully by Patricia Polacco, 48 pgs. Penguin Group, Putnam Juvenile imprint. Lyla Dean is nervous on her first day at a new school, until she finds a friend in fellow new kid Jamie Aldrich. Later in the year, Lyla is invited to join the group of popular girls, but when Lyla sees how they mistreat others, she stops hanging out with them. This incites the girls to do their best to get Lyla into trouble. (bullies) IL: **MG** - BL: **4.1** - AR Pts: **0.5**
Hardcover. Putnam Juvenile. 2012. 9780399257049. \$17.99
Ebook available
2. The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir and Our National Parks by Barb Rosenstock, 32 pgs. Penguin Group, Dial imprint. Americans once could not imagine that their country's vast natural resources could ever disappear. In 1903 President Theodore Roosevelt read John Muir's book about how the wild forests were endangered. Roosevelt asked him on a camping trip to see for himself. That camping trip changed history. IL: **LG** – RL: **5.0** – AR Pts. **0.5**, SLJ Starred review
Hardcover. Dial. 2012. 9780803737105. \$16.99
3. Double Dog Dare by Lisa Graff, 304 pgs. Penguin Group, Philomel imprint. The dares begin with the competition between Kansas and Francine as they face off as the future news anchor for the fourth grade Media Club. (humorous, reluctant readers, boy and girl interest) IL: **MG** – BL: **4.4** – AR Pts: **7.0**
Hardcover. Philomel. 2012. 9780399255168. \$16.99
Paperback. Puffin. 2013. 9780142424124. \$7.99
Ebook available
4. Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrations by E. B. Lewis, 32 pgs. Penguin Group, Nancy Paulsen imprint. Maya, the new girl at school is just a little bit different. Chloe and her friends always say no and turn away when Maya asks them to play. One day, Maya does not come to school. That day, the teacher talks to the class about kindness and how each little act of kindness makes the world a little bit better. Chloe wishes she had taken the time to be kind to Maya when she had the chance. (Coretta Scott King Honor, bullies, kindness)
IL: **LG** - BL: **3.4** - AR Pts: **0.5**,
Hardcover. Nancy Paulsen. 2012. 9780399246524. \$16.99

5. The Forgiveness Garden by Lauren Thompson, 32 pages, Feiwel & Friends. Imprint of MacMillan. When a boy from one village throws a rock and injures a girl from another, it takes her days to recover and leaves a jagged scar. Later, her neighbors kidnap the boy and put the same rock in her hand, telling her to throw it at him in revenge. What would you do? A deeply moving picture book tells a story of forgiveness through a boy and a girl. It is a timeless message that could happen at any place and at any time. IL: **LG** - BL: **3.0** - AR Pts: **0.5**
 Hardcover. Feiwel & Friends. 2012. 9780312625993. \$16.99
 Ebook available

6. The Ghost Tree by Yvette Landry, illustrations by Cullen Bernard, Velluminous Press. Kids have always been told stories about why they shouldn't go out into the swamp alone. Around Catahoula Swamp, the story was about the Ghost Tree that would eat children. On Halloween in 1913, three brothers decided they would go out into the swamp and cut the Ghost Tree down. What happened is a story people still tell. (Louisiana picture book) *No AR yet.*
 Hardcover. Velluminous Press. 2012. 9780982923979. \$19.99

7. Hocus Pocus Hotel by Michael Dahl, illustrations by Lisa Weber, 202 pgs. Stone Arch Books. Ty Yu lives at the Hocus Pocus Hotel, a home for retired stage magicians. When one of the tenants goes missing, Ty recruits his mystery-fan classmate Charlie Hitchcock to solve the case. Later, the two find themselves searching for the identity of a local ghost. The first in a new series, these cases will only be the beginning for this magician-mentored, detective duo. *No AR yet.*
 Hardcover. Stone Arch Books. 2012. 9781434242532. \$10.95
 Paperback. Raintree. 2012. 9781406266405. \$8.85

8. The Humming Room by Ellen Potter, 184 pgs. Feiwel & Friends. Imprint of MacMillan. Roo Fanshaw is rescued from a difficult, unstable life after her parents are murdered, and a rich eccentric uncle that she doesn't remember takes her in. Similar to *The Secret Garden* and *The Little Prince*, this story centers on a garden and many secrets, not to mention the mysterious humming coming from an empty room. IL: **MG** - BL: **5.2** - AR Pts: **6.0**
 Hardcover. Feiwel & Friends. 2012. 9780312644383. \$16.99
 Paperback. Square Fish. 2013. 9781250016669. \$6.99
 Ebook available.

9. The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate, 305 pgs. HarperCollins. Based on a true story, Ivan is a lonely gorilla living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. With the crowds growing smaller, Ivan's owner hopes to make money selling the gorilla's "signed" art and bringing in a new attraction, Ruby the baby elephant. Ruby's arrival, however, reminds Ivan of something. With the help of his friends, both animal and human, Ivan will change their lives forever. IL: **MG** – RL: **3.6** – AR Pts. **4.0**, SLJ Starred review, Newbery Medal
 Hardcover. HarperCollins. 2012. 9780061992254. \$16.99
 CD-Audio. HarperFestival. 2013. 9780062285300. \$13.99
 Ebook available.
10. Pickle: The (Formerly) Anonymous Prank Club of Fountain Point Middle School by Kim Baker, illustrations by Tim Probert, 236 pgs. Roaring Brook Press. Ben forms a club at school under the guise of making pickles. The real purpose of the group is to pull pranks, remaining anonymous the whole time. (humorous, reluctant readers, guy and girl interest) IL: **MG** - BL: **4.6** - AR Pts: **7.0**
 Hardcover. Roaring Brook Press. 2012. 9781596437654. \$15.99
 Ebook available.
11. Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper by Ann Malaspina, illustrations by Eric Velasquez, 32 pgs. Albert Whitman & Company. In 1948, Alice Coachman was the first African-American woman to win an Olympic gold medal. The path there wasn't easy. It took a touch of talent, a ton of practice, more than a little luck, and most of all, a never-ending desire to touch the sky. This picture book biography, told in verse, is an inspirational story of determination overcoming gender, class, and racial barriers to reach one of the highest goals. IL: **MG** - BL: **3.6** - AR Pts: **0.5**
 Hardcover. Albert Whitman & Company. 2012. 9780807580356. \$16.99
12. Wonder by R.J. Palacio, 313 pgs. Random House, Knopf Books for Young Readers imprint. Before the fifth grade, Auggie Pullman had never gone to school. His life had been an endless round of surgeries trying to lessen his facial deformities. Now he's functional, though far from normal-looking even as he sees the world as an otherwise ordinary kid. It's time for him to face middle school, and for middle school to figure out how to handle him. IL: **MG** - BL: **4.8** - AR Pts: **11.0**
 Hardcover. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 2012. 9780375869020. \$15.99
 CD-Audio. Brilliance Audio. 2013. 9781469259178. \$14.99
 Ebook available.

13. Words Set Me Free: the Story of Young Frederick Douglas by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrations by James E. Ransome, 32 pgs. Simon & Schuster, Paula Wiseman imprint. Frederick Douglas was born a slave, but through the kindness of his owner's wife, he learned his letters and the power that words carry. For him, it opened his eyes to the possibilities of knowledge and freedom from slavery. He shared his learning and his desire to be as free in body as words made his mind. On the second try, he succeeded. Book includes Author's Note recounting Douglas' adult successes, bibliography, and timeline. IL: **LG** – RL: **4.4** – AR Pts. **0.5**, SLJ Starred review
Hardcover. Paula Wiseman. 2012. 9781416959038. \$17.99
Ebook available
14. The World's Greatest Lion by Ralph Helfer, illustrations by Ted Lewin, 9780399254178, 40 pgs. Penguin Group, Philomel imprint. In the African grassland, an orphaned lion cub must try to survive. On the verge of death, he is taken to a wildlife sanctuary where he learns to interact with other animals and humans. He is eventually sent to America, where he becomes a Hollywood star. IL: **LG** - BL: **4.4** - AR Pts: **0.5**, Non-Fiction
Hardcover. Philomel. 2012. 9780399254178. \$17.99
15. Zeus and the Thunderbolt of Doom by Joan Holub and Suzanne Williams, illustrations by Craig Phillips, 100 pgs. Simon & Schuster, Paula Wiseman imprint. 10-year-old Zeus is growing up on the Greek island of Crete and yearns for adventure. On stormy days, a lightning bolt chases him around, and he hears a voice calling out "You are the one." Zeus wonders just what he is the one for. When he gets attacked by an army of giants, Zeus reaches for the bolt with a mind of its own, and finds himself on a quest to find his true calling. IL: LG - RL: **3.8** - AR Pts: **2.0**
Hardcover. Paula Wiseman. 2012. 9781442457874. \$15.99
Paperback. Paula Wiseman. 2012. 9781442452633. \$5.99
Ebook available