**2019-2020 LYRC 3-5th Grade Annotated Nominated Title List**

1. **Army Brats** by Daphne Benedis-Grab

The Baily Family has been transferred to Fort Patrick in Virginia and there are a lot of adjustments to make. Tom (12) is bullied by the base school bully, Charlotte (10) finds herself trying too hard to make friends with the "cool" girls, and Rosie (6) is just being difficult as usual--but they come together to investigate a mysterious, abandoned building, setting off on an adventure to solve Fort Patrick’s mysteries. This book teaches great lessons on friendship, interracial families, and bravery.

Scholastic Press, 2017. HC: 9780545932059, 240 pp., $17.99. PB: 9781338156379, $8.95

IL:MG – BL:5.8 – AR Pts:7.0

[multi-racial family, international adoption (China), siblings, bullying, secrets, living on military base, families of military personnel, military moms]

1. **Balderdash: John Newbery and the Boisterous Birth of Children’s Books** by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter

A delightful, engaging picture book rendition of the birth of children’s literature. Nancy Carpenter’s depictions of characters in 18th century garb bring home Michelle Markel’s “Welcome, this book’s for you…be glad it’s not 1726.” The text, full of period vocabulary, as well as the humorous illustrations, are sure to capture the attention of even the most reluctant 21st century reader.

Chronicle Books, 2017. HC: 9780811879224, 44 pp., $17.99

IL:LG – BL:4.4 – AR Pts:0.5

[two starred reviews, humor, John Newbery 1713-1767, Newbery medal, England, children’s literature, picture book biography]

1. **A Boy Called Bat (#1)** by Elana K. Arnold, illustrated by Charles Santoso

Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat) is on the autism spectrum. He has good days and bad, but it’s a very good day when Bat’s mother, a veterinarian, brings home a baby skunk. The minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together, but Bat only has one month before the skunk is supposed to go to the wild-animal shelter to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

Walden Pond Press (Harper Collins Children's), 2017. HC: 9780062445827, 208 pp, $16.99. PB: 9780062445834, $6.59

IL:LG – BL:4.6 – AR Pts:3.0

[starred review, first book in a series, male protagonist, wildlife rehabilitation, family, parents, special needs, autism, chapter book]

1. **Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut** by Derrick Barnes

This title celebrates the magnificent feeling that comes from walking out of a barber shop with newly-cut hair and reflects on the cultural importance of the barbershop. Follow the protagonist as he makes his way through his community in anticipation of a fresh haircut. The book includes afterward by the author.

Agate Bolden (Agate), 2017. HC: 9781572842243, 32 pp, $17.95

IL: LG - BL: 3.8 - AR Pts: 0.5

[picture book, African-American interest, male protagonist, barber shop, confidence, positive message, Newbery Honor, Caldecott Honor, Coretta Scott King Author & Illustrator Honor, Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award Winner]

1. **Give Bees a Chance** by Bethany Barton

An enthusiastic bee-loving narrator tries to convince a bee-phobic friend that our fuzzy, flying neighbors are our friends--we should all give bees a chance!

Viking Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House), 2017. HC: 9780670016945, 40 pp, $16.99

IL:LG – BL:3.6 – AR Pts:0.5

[nonfiction picture book, two starred reviews, Children’s Choice Book Award Winner, humor, science and nature]

1. **Grace Hopper: Queen of Computer Code** by Laurie Wallmark, illustrated by Katy Wu

Picture book biography of Admiral Grace Hopper, the woman who invented computer code that allowed computers to read instructions in words, rather than just 0’s and 1’s. This inspirational story reveals Grace’s passion for math and science and her extraordinary gift of problem-solving. Have you ever wondered how the term “computer bug” came to be? Join Grace on her journey to solve the unexplained.

Sterling Children’s Books, 2017. HC: 9781454920007, 44 pp, $16.95

BL:LG – BL:4.7 – AR Pts:0.5

[starred review, picture book biography, STEM, women admirals, computer engineer]

1. **Imagine That!: How Dr. Seuss Wrote the Cat in the Hat** by Judy Sierra

Picture book biography of Ted Seuss Geisel, better known as “Dr. Seuss,” the beloved children’s author, and the story of how *The Cat in the Hat* was created using a very strict vocabulary list. With colorful illustrations, this books tells the story of how Dr. Seuss changed the world for beginning readers everywhere.

Random House Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House), 2017. HC: 9780553510973, 48 pp. $17.99

 IL:LG – BL:3.6 – AR Pts:0.5.

[two starred reviews, picture book biography, Dr. Seuss, The Cat in the Hat creation, American authors, children’s literature]

1. **Jake the Fake Keeps it Real (Book 1)** by Craig Robinson and Adam Mansbach, illustrated by Keith Knight

Having faked his way into the Music and Art Academy, a performing arts school for gifted students where his talented older sister rules, sixth-grader Jake, a jokester and misfit who can barely play an instrument, will have to think of something quick before the last laugh is on him when he has to present his final project in front of the entire student body. A delightful romp through middle school!

Crown Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House), 2017. HC: 9780553523515, 144 pp, $13.99. PB: 9780553523546, $6.99

IL:MG – BL:5.4 – AR Pts:3.0

[African-American male protagonist, humor, school antics, Arts & Music Academy, first in series, brothers and sister, for fans of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, chapter book]

1. **Lemons** by Melissa Savage

After her mother dies in 1975, ten-year-old Lemonade Liberty Witt must leave her home in the city to live with her grandfather in a small town famous for Bigfoot sightings and soon becomes friends with Tobin, a quirky Bigfoot investigator. Through her friendship with Tobin, love for her grandfather, and adventures searching for Bigfoot, she finds a way to make lemonade out of the lemons life threw her.

Crown Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House), 2017. HC: 9781524700126, 308 pp, $16.99. PB: 9781524700157, $7.99

IL:MG – BL:5.5 – AR Pts:7.0.

[male and female protagonists, chapter book, for fans of *Crenshaw*, moving, Bigfoot, friendship, adventure, mystery, yeti, single-parent families, orphans, grandfathers, sorrow, loss and healing, coming of age story]

1. **Malala – Activist for Girl’s Education** by Raphaelle Frier, illustrated by Aurelia Fronty

An illustrated biography and inspiring story of Malala Yousafzai, Nobel Peace Prize recipient a Muslim teenage girl from Pakistan, who advocates for education of women and children and whom the Taliban attempted to assassinate on October 9, 2012. The title contains extensive resources and back matter.

Charlesbridge, 2017. HC: 9781580897853, 48 pp, $17.99

IL:LG – BL:5.0 – AR Pts:0.5.

[picture book biography; Yousafzai, Malala, 1997; girls, education discrimination, Pakistan, political activists, Mildred L. Batchelder Honor]

1. **Sled Dog School** by Terry Lynn Johnson

Eleven-year-old Matt loves his sled dogs, but not math class. When he must set up a business to save his failing math grade, he overcomes his self-doubt and also gains two friends along the way.

HMH Books for Young Readers (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), 2017. HC: 9780544873315, 197 pp, $16.99. PB: 9780358004561, $7.99

IL:MG – BL:4.4 – AR Pts:4.0.

[male protagonist, chapter book, sled dogs and sled racing, Alaska, friendship, business enterprises]

1. **The Explorers: The Door in the Alley** by Adrienne Kress

Shy, serious rule-follower Sebastian’s life is sent spiraling into adventure after a fateful day when he discovers a pig in a small hat and returns it to its home at the mysterious Explorers Society. A hilarious read full of action and adventure!

Delacorte Books for Young Readers (Penguin Random House), 2017. HC: 9781101940051, 305 pp, $16.99. PB: 9781101940082, $7.99

IL:MG – BL:5.4 – AR Pts:9.0

[male and female protagonists, adventure, humor, missing persons, hired thugs, rescue mission, first in a series, chapter book, for fans of Lemony Snicket]

1. **The Princess and the Peas** by Rachel Himes

In this re-telling of Princess and the Pea, Ma Sally of Charleston County, South Carolina, devises a contest for her son's admirers: cook up a dish of black-eyed peas that meets her exacting standards, and the winner can marry her son. Princess comes along and provides a twist to this classic tale! Includes recipe for Princess' black-eyed peas.

Charlesbridge, 2017. HC: 9781580897181, 32 pp, $16.99

IL:LG –BL:3.7 – AR Pts:0.5

[modern day fairy tale retelling of the *Princess and the Pea*, African American protagonist, cooking, mothers and sons, South Carolina, contests, picture book]

1. **Wedgie & Gizmo** by Suzanne Selfors, illustrated by Barbara Fisinger

While his human Elliot adjusts to his new home and stepfamily, Gizmo, an evil genius guinea pig, searches for a new evil lair where he can plot to take over the world, but is constantly thwarted by Wedgie, a super-dog who loves the “furry potato” who lives in his house now. In the showdown between guinea pig and super dog, who will come out on top?

Katherine Tegen Books (Harper Collins Children's), 2017. HC: 9780062447630, 168 pp, $12.99

IL:LG – BL:3.7 – AR Pts:2.0.

[first in a series, humor, pets, stepfamilies, African-American, Hispanic-American, for fans of *My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish*]

1. **Wishtree** by Katherine Applegate, illustrated by Charles Santoso

An old red oak tree tells how he and his crow friend, Bongo, help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family—especially little girl whose one wish is to have a friend—is carved into the tree's trunk.

Feiwel & Friends (Macmillan), 2017. HC: 9781250043221, 215 pp, $16.99. PB: 9781250306869, $15.99

IL:MG – BL:4.2- AR Pts:3.0

[E.B. White Read Aloud Award winner, 2018 ALSC/ALA Notable Children's Book, 9 best of lists, trees, crows, toleration, kindness, accepting others, friendship, nature, wishes, chapter book]