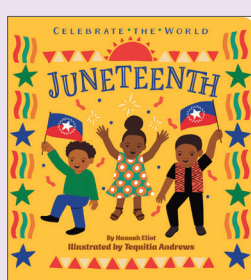


KALEIDOSCOPE

ENLIGHTEN YOUR SHELF

A SPECTRUM OF DIVERSE BOOKS COMING IN 2026 FROM SIMON & SCHUSTER CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING | VOLUME 12

PICTURE BOOKS



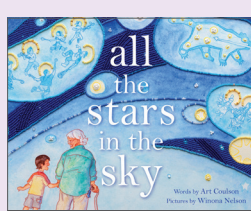
Juneteenth
BY HANNAH ELIOT
ILLUSTRATED BY TEQUITA ANDREWS
 Introduce young readers to holidays and celebrations around the world with this board book series! Juneteenth is an important celebration of freedom for Black people in America.

Keywords
 African American
 Holidays & Celebration
 History



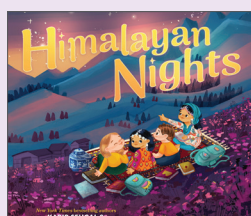
We Go Slow
BY MARIAHADESSA EKERE TALLIE
ILLUSTRATED BY AARON BECKER
 A granddaughter explores the wonders of the city while on a walk with her grandfather.

Keywords
 Black
 Grandparents
 Wonder



All the Stars in the Sky
BY ART COULSON
ILLUSTRATED BY WINONA NELSON
 A young boy learns from his grandmother the Cherokee lesson of gadugi and how helping others and working together helps make the community stronger.

Keywords
 Indigenous Peoples
 Cherokee
 Community



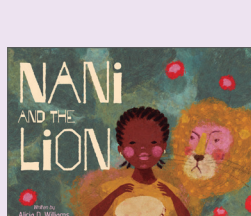
Himalayan Nights
BY KABIR SEHGAL AND SURISHTHA SEHGAL
ILLUSTRATED BY KAMALA NAIR
 From bestselling mother-son duo Surishtha Sehgal and Kabir Sehgal comes a bed-time journey to the Himalayan Mountains, exploring the captivating sights as sunset turns to night.

Keywords
 Indian
 Exploration
 Nature



Hairstory
BY SOPE MARTINS
ILLUSTRATED BY BRIANA MUKODORI UCHENDU
 A celebration of the African heritage behind braids, locs, cornrows, and all manner of crowning glory, from ancient times to present day.

Keywords
 Black
 Hair Culture
 Community



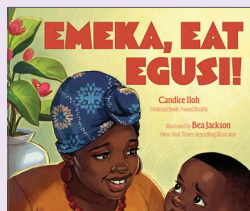
Nani and the Lion
BY ALICIA D. WILLIAMS
ILLUSTRATED BY ANNA CUNHA
 A drumming girl comes face-to-face with the quiet-loving King of Lions, and she must use her wits and skills to save the day.

Keywords
 African
 Bravery
 Folktale



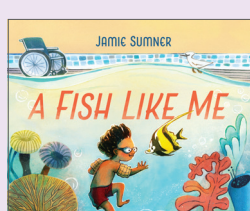
Loops
BY JASHAR AWAN
ILLUSTRATED BY JASHAR AWAN
 From acclaimed and award-winning author Jashar Awan comes a joyful celebration of an important kid milestone, helping make even mundane aspects of childhood wonderful.

Keywords
 Afro-Caribbean
 Immigration
 Growth & Learning



Emeka, Eat Egusi!
BY CANDICE ILOH
ILLUSTRATED BY BEA JACKSON
 Emeka's family helps him explore a new kind of food by enlisting his help in the cooking!

Keywords
 African
 Cooking & Food
 Autism



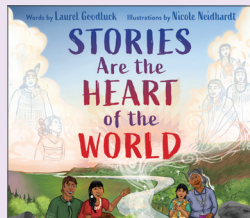
A Fish Like Me
BY JAMIE SUMNER
ILLUSTRATED BY DEVON HOLZWARHT
 Acclaimed author Jamie Sumner tells a lyrical story of a child in swim therapy, celebrating the ways differently abled bodies can move in the water.

Keywords
 Differently Abled
 Swim Therapy
 Imagination



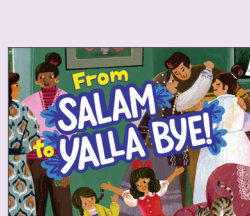
Daisy Helps with the Dress
BY OLUGBEMISOLA RHUDAY-PERKOVICH
ILLUSTRATED BY CHRIS JACKSON BARRIOS
 When Daisy tries to help plan her cousin's wedding, her misguided assists almost ruin the big day, but family always sticks together in this heartwarming picture book.

Keywords
 Black
 Recycle
 Finding Your Place



Stories Are the Heart of the World
BY LAUREL GOODLUCK
ILLUSTRATED BY NICOLE NEIDHARDT
 Drawing on tribal Nations' traditions including Mandan-Hidatsa and Navajo/Diné, this lyrical picture book carries readers through the milestones of a beloved child's life.

Keywords
 Indigenous Peoples
 Celebrations
 Inter-tribal



From Salam to Yalla Bye!
BY LEILA BOUKARIM
ILLUSTRATED BY AFSANEH SANEI
 A big sister guides her little sister on how to survive a huge family party, especially the never-ending goodbye in this charming picture book.

Keywords
 Middle Eastern
 Community
 First Experiences

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION



The Many Misfortunes of Eugenia Wang
BY STAN YAN
ILLUSTRATED BY STAN YAN
 A girl born on a day considered unlucky in Chinese superstition starts receiving visions of impending doom on her thirteenth birthday in this hilarious and heartfelt debut graphic novel.

Keywords
 Chinese
 Mother-Daughter Stories
 Anxiety



Coach
BY JASON REYNOLDS
 A surprise addition to the *New York Times* bestselling Track series by Jason Reynolds relays the story of Otis Brody Jr., a.k.a. Coach, and the beginning of the Defenders track team.

Keywords
 Black
 Mischief & Hijinks
 Forgiveness



Dear Jackie
BY JESSICA BAGLEY
ILLUSTRATED BY AARON BAGLEY
 Middle schooler Jackie accidentally attracts the attention of the entire school when she writes herself a fake love letter in an attempt to take her new friends' attention off her love life!

Keywords
 Black
 Growing Pains
 Crushes



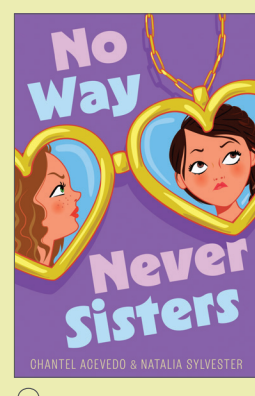
Olivia Gray Will Not Fade Away
BY CIERA BURCH
 Seventh grader Olivia must navigate the challenges of feeling invisible—literally and figuratively—as she comes to terms with her asexual identity.

Keywords
 LGBTQIA+
 Black,
 Speculative



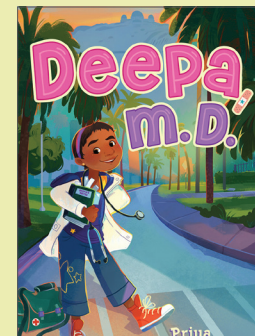
Space for Saffron
BY RIE NEAL
 Ten-year-old Saffron must figure out how to help save her family's cafe and impress her new school's science fair at the same time!

Keywords
 Differently Abled
 STEM & Space
 Family



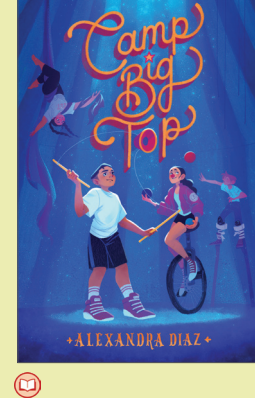
No Way Never Sisters
BY CHANTEL ACEVEDO AND NATALIA SYLVESTER
 In this fun, fresh remix of *The Parent Trap*, two girls scheme to break their parents up before they get married and ruin the girls' lives forever.

Keywords
 Latine
 Blended Family
 Mischief & Hijinks



Deepa, M.D.
BY PRIYA SWAMINATHAN
 A precocious seventh grader decides to become a "medical detective" alongside her doctor uncle as she juggles friendships and family while trying to show she's more than "the girl with cancer."

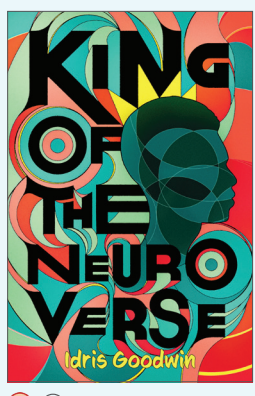
Keywords
 Indian
 Chronic Illness
 Bullying



Camp Big Top
BY ALEXANDRIA DIAZ
 A group of kids form a strong friendship while trying to save their circus camp from closing in this new coming-of-age story from Pura Belpre Honor winner Alexandria Diaz.

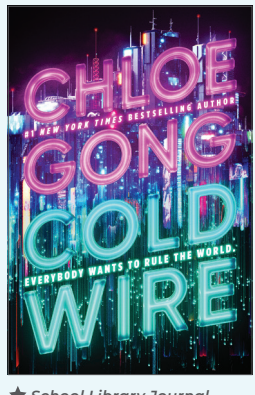
Keywords
 Latine
 Multi-perspective
 Friendship

TEEN FICTION



King of the Neuro Verse
BY IDRIS GOODWIN
 This powerful, funny novel in verse boldly tackles what it's like to live with ADHD as a Black teenager in the last stretch of the '90s.

Keywords
 Black
 Neurodiversity
 Academic Pressure



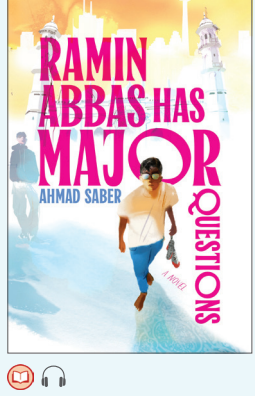
Coldwire
BY CHLOE GONG
 A young soldier is framed for a political assassination and must team up with her country's most wanted terrorist to clear her name in this new dystopian series from bestselling author Chloe Gong.

Keywords
 School Library Journal



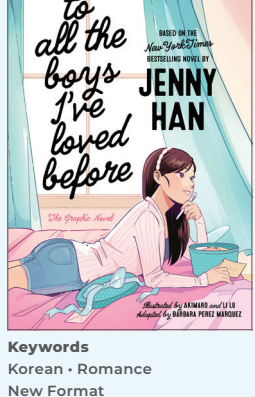
Love Me Tomorrow
BY EMIKO JEAN
 A hilarious and deeply moving rom-com about a girl who starts receiving letters from the love of her life, writing to her from years in the future.

Keywords
 Japanese
 Love Letters
 Magical Realism



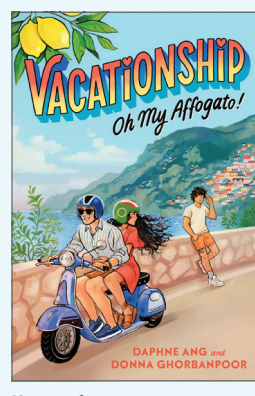
Ramin Abbas Has MAJOR Questions
BY AHMAD SABER
 An intensely brave and gorgeously written story about a gay teen who has to choose between being true to himself or to his faith.

Keywords
 Pakistani
 LGBTQIA+
 Soccer



To All the Boys I've Loved Before: The Graphic Novel
BY JENNY HAN
ADAPTED BY BARBARA PEREZ MARQUEZ
ILLUSTRATED BY AKIMARO
 A sparkling graphic novel adaptation of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling and a *Time* Best Book of All Time *To All the Boys I've Loved Before!*

Keywords
 Korean
 Romance
 New Format



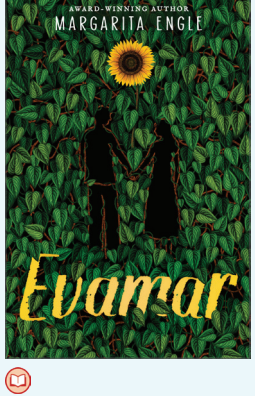
Oh My Affogato!
BY DONNA CHORBANPOOR AND DAPHNE ANG
 A boy-crazy teen tries to plot her way into something real with her situation before realizing the best things in life can't be planned for in this sassy, sexy romp through the Amalfi Coast.

Keywords
 Iranian
 Vacation Romance
 Friendship



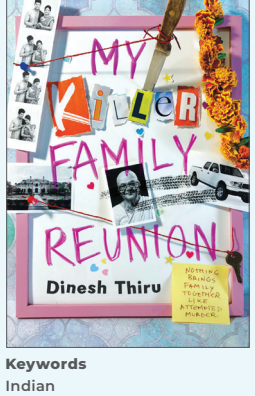
The Lovers, the Liars, and Me
BY DEANDRA DAVIS
 Teen Jaliya travels to Jamaica for the summer before college to learn more about her absent mother, only to discover more about her identity than she could have ever expected.

Keywords
 Jamaican
 LGBTQIA+
 Found Family



Evamar
BY MARGARITA ENGLE
 Part road trip, part romance, this gorgeous novel in verse is a story of first love, lost cultures, and ancestral connections.

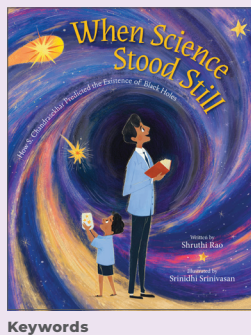
Keywords
 Cuban
 Grief
 Romance



My Killer Family Reunion
BY DINESH THIRU
 An Indian American family reunion falls into chaos in this hilarious and twisty YA mystery/comedy mash-up that is *Knives Out* meets *Never Have I Ever*.

Keywords
 Indian
 Murder Mystery
 Feminism

NONFICTION PICTURE BOOKS



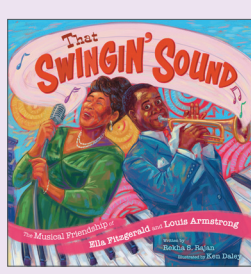
When Science Stood Still: How S. Chandrasekhar Predicted the Existence of Black Holes
BY SHRUTHI RAO
ILLUSTRATED BY SRINIDHI SRINIVASAN
 Discover the remarkable story about the man who discovered the science of black holes and persisted in his theories against the disbelief of the scientific community.

Keywords
 Indian
 Space & Astronomy
 Persistence



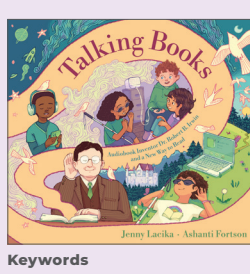
Singing Justice, Singing Peace: The Story of Joan Baez
BY MONICA BROWN
ILLUSTRATED BY MOLLY MENDOZA
 A stunning picture book biography about Joan Baez, whose songs of justice, peace, and activism have inspired listeners to create positive change around the world.

Keywords
 Mexican American
 Music History
 Activism



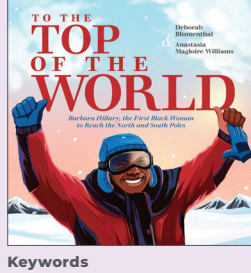
That Swingin' Sound: The Musical Friendship of Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong
BY REKHA S. RAJAN
ILLUSTRATED BY KEN DALEY
 Read about jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong, their rise to stardom, and the friendship that kept them swingin' in this rhythmic picture book biography.

Keywords
 African American
 Music
 Read Aloud



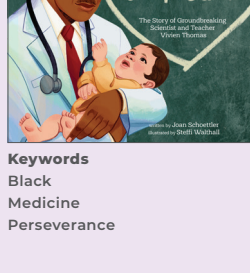
Talking Books: Audiobook Inventor Dr. Robert B. Irwin and a New Way to Read
BY JENNY LACIKA
ILLUSTRATED BY ASHANTI FORTSON
 Discover how reading was revolutionized by origins of audiobooks in this captivating picture book biography of Dr. Robert B. Irwin!

Keywords
 Differently Abled
 Innovation
 Reading



To the Top of the World: Barbara Hillary, the First Black Woman to Reach the North and South Poles
BY DEBORAH BLUMENTHAL
ILLUSTRATED BY ANASTASIA MAGLOIRE WILLIAMS
 A thrilling and inspiring picture book biography of Barbara Hillary, the first Black woman to set foot on both the North and South Poles.

Keywords
 African American
 Activism
 Exploration



A Doctor at Heart: The Story of Groundbreaking Scientist and Teacher Vivien Thomas
BY JOAO SCHOETTLER
ILLUSTRATED BY STEFFI WALTHALL
 A fascinating and inspiring picture book biography about Vivien Thomas, a pioneer of children's heart surgery and trailblazer for Black men in STEM.

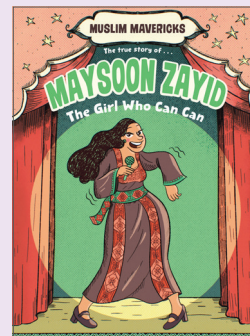
Keywords
 Black
 Medicine
 Perseverance

CHAPTER BOOKS



Venus Washington and the Lasagna Drama
BY MAISHA OSO
ILLUSTRATED BY COURTNEY LOVETT
 Fans of Junie B. Jones will laugh themselves silly as Venus's misunderstandings land her in unexpectedly hilarious situations in this new chapter book series.

Keywords
 Black
 Mischief & Hijinks
 Misunderstandings



Maysoon Zayid, the Girl Who Can Can
BY SEEMA YAMIN
ILLUSTRATED BY NOHA HABAIEB
 The first in a new nonfiction chapter book series showcasing the stories of notable Muslims past and present, starting with one of America's first female Muslim comedians, Maysoon Zayid.

Keywords
 Muslim
 Differently Abled
 New Series



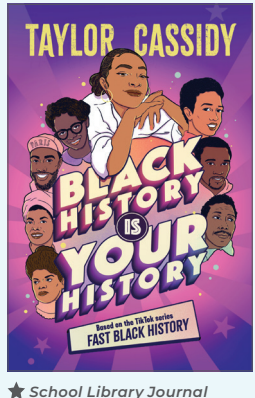
A Surprise for Willow
BY BEA JACKSON
ILLUSTRATED BY BEA JACKSON
 A young fairy and human girl explore their friendship and growing up in exciting adventures in the first book of a new illustrated chapter book series.

Keywords
 Black
 Friendship

Indicates a curriculum or reading group guide is available on SimonandSchuster.net/TheBookPantry

SimonandSchuster.com/Kids
SimonandSchuster.com/Teen
SimonandSchuster.net

TEEN NONFICTION



Black History Is Your History
BY TAYLOR CASSIDY
 TikTok Star Taylor Cassidy has created a joyful take on Black history in a witty, lightly illustrated nonfiction debut blending history and memoir.

Keywords
 African American - Part Memoir - TikTok Star

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KALEIDOSCOPE ENLIGHTEN YOUR SHELF



Himalayan Nights

Written by Kabir Sehgal and Surishta Sehgal
Illustrated by Kamala Nair

Beech Lane Books
Ages 4-8, Grades Pre-K-3

Illustration © 2025 by Kamala Nair

