



Page Turners: Books for Children

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The Artist

Written and illustrated by **Ed Vere**

Doubleday Books by Young Children, 2023

ISBN: 978-0525580874

The Artist is an inspiring tale of the role that art can play in igniting our imaginations and coloring our world. Behind the art is the artist who uses their creativity as inspiration to bring their ideas to life and brighten their surroundings. Author and illustrator, Ed Vere, writes about being asked, “what is an artist?”. The ensuing tale shows a young artist who leaves home to brighten the world. Along the way she learns valuable life lessons about the power of making mistakes, coloring outside of the lines, and the importance of carrying on. This inspirational tale will inspire young artists and serves as a reminder for all of us about the power of continual learning and the beauty we can bring to the world. Ages 3-7.

Call Me Roberto: Roberto Clemente Goes to Bat for Latinos

Written by **Nathalie Alonso**

Illustrated by **Rudy Gutierrez**

Calkins Creek, 2024

ISBN: 978-1-63592-811-2

Roberto Clemente’s legacy looms large in this compelling biography of his life. Alonso’s well-written text highlights his amazing baseball achievements alongside the tension between his proud Puerto Rican heritage and the discrimination he faced here at home. The inclusion of Spanish language within the story is powerful and draws the reader into Clemente’s presence in these dual worlds. Colorful and dynamic illustrations by Gutierrez depict Clemente’s life in motion. This wonderful biography would be a fantastic read-aloud to generate rich discussion about the historical context of Roberto Clemente’s accomplishments as a baseball player and humanitarian. Ages 7-10.

The Dictionary Story

Written and illustrated by **Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston**

Candlewick Press, 2024
ISBN: 978-1-5362-3550-0

From a partnership (including the creator of the beloved *The Day The Crayons Quit*) comes a humorous and playful tale about how Dictionary created a story. Tired of her endless lists but no plot, Dictionary is delighted when her many words begin to romp across the pages, bringing her story to life. Unlike a traditional pairing of an author and an illustrator, here the two creators worked together with typeset, image, and the written word to visually bring this reimagining of genre to life. While even the youngest children could enjoy this book, older elementary students learning about alphabetizing and the dictionary as a resource, as well as developing knowledge about genres, will really appreciate the humor and fun of this picture book. Ages 5-10.

Follow Your Heart

Written and illustrated by **Emma Dodd**
Templar, 2024
ISBN: 978-1-5362-3493-0

This heartwarming picture book features a parent and baby dolphin duo as they explore many aspects of life in the sea. At every turn the parent stays close and continuously affirms that the baby dolphin is becoming competent and capable; that it will be ready to take on a world of challenges and joys when the time is right. Readers are encouraged, “So follow your heart/ and soon you will see,/ it will always take you.../ where you were meant to be.” A new and delightful addition to the *Love You* series, this book includes engaging animal illustrations, highlighted by Dodd’s characteristic pops of luminescent foil. Ages 2-5.

Gray

Written by **Laura Dockrill**
Illustrated by **Lauren Child**
Candlewick, 2024
ISBN 978-1-5362-3546-3

Days bring different types of feelings with them. Some are warm and bright, while others are not. In this picturebook poem, a child conveys her feelings of experiencing a “gray” day; gray like a scribble, or a puddle, or cold tea... a day when she doesn’t feel like herself. A wise caregiver appears, reassuring the child that she is always loved—even when she is feeling a deep shade of gray. She also reminds her that new days will come when she will feel different colors inside her, too: sunshine yellow, bubblegum pink, lullaby blue, and more. With scant text and evocative illustrations, this gentle book affirms the many different types of feelings we all experience. This would be a good conversation starter for morning meetings or other venues that encourage self reflection and expressions of feelings. Ages 3-8.

I’m Gonna Paint: Ralph Fasanella, Artist of the People

Written by **Anne Broyles**
Illustrated by **Victoria Tentler-Krylov**
Holiday House, 2023
ISBN: 978-0-82345-006-0

This vibrantly illustrated biography of Ralph Fasanella tells the story of a self-trained artist from humble beginnings who found success depicting the real lives of working Americans and historical events of the time. This book thoughtfully conveys the intersection of Fasanella's activism and art by highlighting the historical moments that most influenced his work, such as the McCarthy era and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. His paintings have been displayed all over the world and this biography includes images of his art, along with a detailed author's note, a timeline of Fasanella's life, suggestions for further reading, and a bibliography of sources, making this text not only an interesting book to share with children, but also a compelling catalyst for future reading and research. Ages 4-8.

Under the Blanket Sky

Written and illustrated by **Tim Fischer**

Doubleday Books for Young Readers, 2023

ISBN: 978-0593645918

The soft, whimsical and sweeping illustrations in *Under the Blanket Sky* by author and illustrator, Tim Fischer, add to the dreamlike feel of this tale of an unexpected summer friendship. As the summer unfolds a boy and an owl are inseparable sharing long, quiet summer days doing all the things the boy loves. Their friendship grows with a shared love and the boy wonders if they can be together forever. The owl wisely shares that he is unsure but they can enjoy the time that they have together. As the weather changes and the first day of school looms, the owl must move on leaving only memories of their wonderful summer adventures. From this book, we can all learn about friendship, love and the inevitable reality that time marches on and that change is inevitable but that our memories are forever. Ages 3-7.

When We Gather (Ostadahlisiha): A Cherokee Tribal Feast

Written by **Andrea L. Rogers**

Illustrated by **Madelyn Goodnight**.

Harpers Collins Children, in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, 2024

ISBN: 978-0-06-307679-2

This lovely picturebook, written by a Cherokee author and illustrated by a Chickasaw artist, offers a window into the Cherokee spring feast that celebrates the arrival of the wild onion, an early spring crop. The book's words and images celebrate the diversity of the Cherokee community, as well as the blending of ancient and modern traditions. Following a young girl and her family as they prepare for the feast and then celebrate with their community, the book interweaves English and Cherokee phrases. This text is a celebration of joy and community and would be a wonderful addition to any early elementary classroom, especially when learning about celebrations of spring's arrival. Ages 3-8.