



Page Turners: Books for Children

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Ahoy!

Written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall

Anne Schwartz Books, 2024

ISBN 978-0593429396

Ahoy! written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall highlights the power of a child's imagination to turn any place into the fantastical world they dream of. The power of the child's imagination in this story pulls their parent from the mundane adult tasks at hand to partake in a high seas adventure as a pair of swashbuckling sailors. As the carpet that needs to be vacuumed transforms into the high seas, the child and parent take on all the trials and tribulations of life at sea. An important phone call pulls the parent back into the real world, but he quickly returns to the high seas to finish their adventure. Just as the adventure ends and the parent is reminded that the carpet needs to be vacuumed, another adult arrives and is pulled into the next imaginative adventure! Ages 4-8.

Chooch Helped

Written by Andrea L. Rogers

Illustrated by Rebecca Lee Kunz

Levine Querido, 2024

ISBN 978-1646144549

Chooch just turned two years old and loves to help. No longer a baby, he wants to have his hand in every family project and is ready to jump right into sewing, cooking, mechanics, painting, pottery, and more. Older sister, Sissy, looks askance, as sometimes Chooch's help seems like it's anything but helpful. This warm, beautifully illustrated story highlights the role of family dynamics and love, highlighting the powerful impact siblings have on each other's lives. This Caldecott-winning book is steeped in elements of the Cherokee language, culture, and values. These are powerfully conveyed by the author-illustrator team, who are both members of the Cherokee nation. Ages 4-10.

The Book That Almost Rhymed**Written by** Omar Abed**Illustrated by** Hatem Aly

Dial Books for Young Readers, 2024

ISBN 978-0593406380

This delightful story follows a brother who at first is frustrated with his sister who he feels is ruining his perfectly crafted rhyming story. His sister's additions to his story are both quirky and at first do not seem to fit into his rhyming scheme. As the story draws to a close, the brother realizes that his sister's edits can both fit into his rhyming scheme and add whimsy to his story. Working together, the story becomes more creative and leads to their next rhyming adventure. This story would be a great read aloud for young children who enjoy rhyming or who are working on their phonological awareness skills. In addition, this read aloud highlights the value of cooperation, considering alternate viewpoints and the love shared between an older brother and his younger sister who is eager to be like her big brother. Ages 3-6.

Forests**Written by** Nell Cross Beckerman**Illustrated by** Kalen Chock

Orchard Books, 2025

ISBN 978-1546130970

Explore forests across the world with this stunning nonfiction book! With vibrant, detailed illustrations depicting undersea kelp forests, the urban forest, and Poland's Crooked Forest, among others, the reader is invited to engage with the plants and animals that make these natural spaces home. For each forest, the author provides a descriptive paragraph, highlighting scientific, geographic, and historical points that deepen reader knowledge. In addition, each page includes a thoughtful poem about the forest, with lines such as, "Roots roam like tangled timber telephone lines". The text and illustrations align beautifully to beckon the reader to spend time in the forest and advocate for its preservation and care. Along with rich vocabulary, there are text features that support comprehension, such as author's and illustrator's notes, suggestions for further reading and viewing, a list of additional forests to learn about, resources for tree events, and directions on how to plant your own tree. Ages 4-8.

Just in Case: Saving Seeds in the Svalbard Global Seed Vault**Written by** Megan Clendenan**Illustrated by** Brittany Cicchese

Charlesbridge 2025

ISBN 978-1623544805

What is a seed vault? How was it built, and how does it work? This nonfiction text provides the reader with those answers and more, with gorgeous illustrations depicting the design and purpose of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, as well as images of the future plants these 580 million seeds can provide to people around the world. The author begins by providing background about seed vaults and how this large vault differs from the 1,700 smaller ones that exist. Illustrations and text then show the building process and security needs of the vault which will engage readers who are interested in how things work. Important connections to historical events are included, such as the need for seeds after war. Overall, this is an informative book about hope, innovation,

and survival that will provide insight into the importance of small- and large-scale seed saving as a long-time human agricultural practice. Ages 5-8.

The Yellow Bus

Written and illustrated by Loren Long

Roaring Brook Press 2024

ISBN 978-1250903136

Surely a big yellow bus can take children to school--but, can it do more? This amazingly thoughtful picture book invites readers to follow the life of a school bus over an extended period of time. As years pass, the bus goes through many transformations, always providing service and bringing joy and refuge for those who enter it. The detailed charcoal illustrations, punctuated with pops of color, are enchanting and will invite readers to look again and again. This is a great book to inspire children to consider the impacts of the passage of time and to look for extraordinary possibilities in even the most mundane objects. Ages. 4-10.

The Circuit Graphic Novel

Written by Francisco Jiménez

Illustrated by Celia Jacob

Clarion Books 2024

ISBN 978-0358348221

The Circuit: A Graphic Novel offers a visually powerful adaptation of Francisco Jiménez's memoir, *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*. This timely retelling invites young readers to see the world through the eyes of a young immigrant child who, along with his family, works in the agricultural fields of California. Celia Jacob's beautiful and visually compelling mixed-media illustrations bring the story to life, conveying both the historical time and the emotional mood. Together, text and image create a deeply human narrative that serves as a quiet celebration of steadfast family and enduring grace, builds empathy, and invites readers to recognize the resilience of immigrant families. Teachers can use this graphic adaptation to explore immigration and resilience while building students' visual literacy through analysis of how the illustrations convey mood and theme. Ages 8-12.

If You Make a Call on a Banana Phone

Written by Gideon Sterer

Illustrated by Emily Hughes

Clarion Books 2025

ISBN 978-0-06-337522-2

What happens when you decide to pick up a banana and make a call? This book by the award-winning author and illustrator feels like a wonderful combination of the *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* series and *Where the Wild Things Are*. The book follows the unlikely but warm connection between a young child and the gorilla who picks up the banana on the other end. With delightful illustrations that show the connections good conversation and imagination can inspire, this book will have everyone reaching for the fruit bowl, just to see who picks up on the other end. Ages 4-8.

Over and Under the Coral Reef**Written by** Kate Messner**Illustrated by** Christopher Silas Neal

Chronicle Books 2025

ISBN 978-1-7972-2535-7

This picture book follows the exciting journey of a child and father as they explore the coral reefs that encircle their island home. Following the recent trend of exquisite nonfiction that also tells a story, this book provides readers with vivid illustrations and descriptions of the wonders that exist below the waves. In the back of the text, there is a brief description of coral reefs, how we can protect these environmental wonders, and an appendix with details about the creatures that are featured in the story. There is also a list of other resources with information about reefs, making this book a wonderful choice for a unit of study or text set on ocean life. Ages 5-10.

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Updates

Thank you for your continued support of the International Journal of the Whole Child and our commitment to holistic learning and to the development of children around the world. The submission deadline for the Fall/Winter issue is October 1. Thank you again for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you in Fall/Winter 2026.