

**A Taste of (BoB) the Best of the Best  
Tennessee Association of School Librarians  
June 20 & 28, 2018**


Dr. Cindy Welch, Clinical Associate Professor,  
School of Information Sciences, UTK  
[cwelch11@utk.edu](mailto:cwelch11@utk.edu), 865-974-7918




**Picturebooks**

***After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again***, written and illustrated by Dan Santat. Roaring Brook Press, 2017.

Sure, everyone knows what happened to Humpty Dumpty, but it's what happened afterwards that matters.

***Baby Monkey, Private Eye***, written by Brian Selznick; illustrated by David Serlin. Scholastic Press, 2018. 


Combining qualities of graphic novels, chapter books, and early readers, see how Baby Monkey solves cases involving missing jewels, pizza, and more. Includes an illustration key, index and bibliography.

***Before She Was Harriet***, written by Lesa Cline-Ransome; illustrated by James E. Ransome. Holiday House, 2017. 

Minty, Aunt Harriet, Moses, spy, General, suffragist ... all these are one amazing woman: Harriet Tubman.

(A) ***Different Pond***, written by Bao Phi; illustrated by Thi Bui. Capstone, 2017.

A father shares his culture and heritage with his son during an early morning fishing trip, feeding the family and their souls. Back matter includes brief notes from both author and illustrator about their memories as immigrant children.


(A ) ***Hundred Billion Trillion Stars***, written by Seth Fishman; illustrated by Isabel Greenberg. HarperCollins, 2017. 


A picturebook look at the large numbers in our everyday lives. Includes an author's note.

***I Walk With Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness***, written and illustrated by Kerascoët. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2018.

This wordless picturebook shows how a community of children helped prevent bullying. The book concludes with a brief note about helping others, and useful vocabulary for adults to use when discussing it.

***In the Past***, written by David Elliott; illustrated by Matthew Trueman. Candlewick Press, 2018. 



 From trilobites to mammothus, twenty poems about dinosaurs. Also includes an author's note and a facts page, and a timeline at the bottom of each page situates the dino subject of each poem.

***Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor***, written by Patricia Valdez; illustrated by Felicita Sala. Random House Childrens, 2018. 

Joan Proctor loved reptiles and helped further knowledge about them as she worked with them in zoo and museum posts. She was close friends with Komodo Dragon Sumbawa. (really!) A brief biography and bibliography end the book.

***(The) Little Red Cat Who Ran Away and Learned His ABC's (the Hard Way)***, written and illustrated by Patrick McDonnell. Little Brown & Company, 2017.


A great story of adventure and danger told using only the alphabet. The final page connects the letters with the key illustrations.

***Muddy: The Story of Blues Legend Muddy Waters***, written by Michael Mahin; illustrated by Evan Turk. Atheneum, 2017.  

Doing something a new way is never easy and guitarist Muddy Waters went through a lot to get his music – played his way - heard. Includes an author's note, bibliography and music suggestions.

***Now***, written and illustrated by Antoinette Portis. Roaring Brook Press, 2017.

A young girl shares her favorite things, from rain to hugs, in a mindfulness book for the younger set.

***Strong as Sandow: How Eugen Sandow Became the Strongest Man on Earth***, written and illustrated by Don Tate. Charlesbridge, 2017. 

Tate's own career as a body builder led him to discover Eugen Sandow, whose plan for developing and sculpting his own muscles made his famous the world over for his physique. Includes an afterword (by Tate), four suggested exercises for kids, an author's note and bibliography.

***When's My Birthday?***, written by Julie Fogliano; illustrated by Christian Robinson. Roaring Brook Press, 2017.

Every child has worn out their parents asking this question, and speculating about what they'll get, and what they want on this momentous day!

***Windows***, by Julia Denos; illustrated by E.B. Goodale. Candlewick Press, 2017.

A young boy walks his dog through the night, seeing snippets of other people's lives through the windows.

***(The) Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse***, written by Mac Barnett; illustrated by Jon Klassen. Candlewick, 2017.

This story is about a mouse, and how he got swallowed up by a wolf, and who he met down in its belly, and what happened after that. (Publisher)


***(The) World is Not a Rectangle: A Portrait of Architect Zaha Hadid***, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter. Simon & Schuster Children's Books, 2017. 

A picturebook biography of Iraqi female architect Hadid, whose buildings and designs reflect the elements of nature she saw growing up. Includes drawings of the buildings, author's note, and sources.


***Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to his Daughter***, written by Mark Gonzales; illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini. Simon & Schuster Children's Books, 2017.

A father shares his view of what it means to be Muslim, including the glory, the history, complications, and specialness of it all.

## Grades 3-6, Ages 8-11

*All's Faire in Middle School*, written and illustrated by Victoria Jamieson. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017. 


Imogene is facing a lot of first: first time training to be a squire for the Ren Faire, and first time attending middle school. She makes plenty of mistakes in both places, but a good heart and steady hand triumphs over the bad times.

*Her Right Foot*, written by Dave Eggers; illustrated by Shawn Harris. Chronicle Books, 2017. 

Eggers focuses on one underappreciated aspect of the Statue of Liberty that says everything about what she has meant and means to us today.

*Miguel's Brave Knight: Young Cervantes and His Dream of Don Quixote*, written by Margarita Engle; illustrated by Raúl Colón. Peachtree Press, 2017.  


A series of poems explore the difficult growing up and rich imagination of the man who gave us Don Quixote. Back matter includes author's and illustrator's notes, historical note, brief bio of Cervantes and a brief note about his cultural impact.

*My Journey to the Stars*, written by Scott Kelly, with Emily Easton; illustrated by André Ceolin. Crown Books for Young Readers, 2017. 

Astronaut Scott Kelly shares his journey to the International Space Station and back!

*(The) Parker Inheritance*, by Varian Johnson. Scholastic, 2018.

Twelve-year-old Candice Miller spends her summer in Lambert, South Carolina, caught up in a mystery whose resolution may exonerate her dead grandmother and expose an injustice once committed against an African-American family in Lambert. (CIP, edited)

*Silent Days, Silent Dreams*, written and illustrated by Allen Say. Scholastic, 2017. 

James Castle is a self-taught artist born hearing- and speech-impaired. His struggle to be understood and have others appreciate the role art played in his life is inspirational. This picturebook biography includes an extended author's note and bibliography.

*Tumble & Blue*, by Cassie Beasley. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2017.

In order for Tumble Wilson and Blue Montgomery to fix their ancestors' mistakes and banish the bad luck that has followed them around for all of their lives, they must face Munch, the mysterious golden alligator who cast the curse centuries ago. (CIP)

## Grades 6-8, Ages 11-13

*Impact: Asteroids and the Science of Saving the World*, written by Elizabeth Rusch; photos by Karin Anderson. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017. 

This entry in the "Scientists in the Field" series explores asteroids, from impact to composition, and how we are trying to avoid future collisions. Includes a table of contents, ideas for citizen science, further reading, glossary, source, notes and an index.

*(The) Great Penguin Rescue: Saving the African Penguins*, by Sandra Markle. Milbrook Press, 2018. 

There are only twenty-seven breeding sites in the world for this endangered species, and their struggle to survive has led to a breeding program that hopes to increase their dwindling numbers. Additional

content includes an author's note, brief facts about African penguins, timeline, source notes, glossary, sources for more information, and an index.

***(The) Journey of Little Charlie***, by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic, 2018.

When his poor sharecropper father is killed in an accident and leaves the family in debt, twelve-year-old Little Charlie agrees to accompany fearsome plantation overseer Cap'n Buck north in pursuit of people who have stolen from him; Cap'n Buck tells little Charlie that his father's debt will be cleared when the fugitives are captured, which seems like a good deal until Little Charlie comes face-to-face with the people he is chasing. (CIP)

***Louis Undercover***, written by Fanny Britt; illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault; translated by Christelle Morelli and Susan Ouriou. Groundwood Books, 2017. 

Louis watches as his father drinks, his mother copes, and his younger brother grows up, trying to learn to be brave like the girl he loves.

***Maya Lin: Thinking With Her Hands***, by Susan Goldman Rubin. Chronicle Books, 2017. 

The young woman who designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is profiled in this book that is part biography and partly an exploration of her innovative buildings – including two buildings on the Children's Defense Fund Alex Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee. Additional content includes an author's note, bibliography, source notes and an index.

***(The) Stars Beneath Our Feet***, by David Barclay Moore. Random House Children's Books, 2017.

Twelve-year-old Lolly Rachpaul is avoiding dealing with his older brother's death, the gangs that want to recruit him, and how badly school is going, but when his Lego project takes off and he finds a new friend in the developmental slow girl in class, he finds his feet and the stars beneath them.


***Wishtree***, by Katherine Applegate. MacMillan, 2017

An old red oak tree tells how along with crow friend, Bongo, they help their human neighbors get along after a threat against an immigrant family is carved into the tree's trunk. (CIP)

## **Teen/YA**

***#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women***, edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary Beth Leatherdale. Annick Press, 2017. 


A compilation of thirty-eight poems, comics, brief essays and thoughts from Native American women are accompanied by Native artwork. Author Charleyboy's dedication says it all: "For every indigenous woman who has ever been called Pocahontas." Includes a table of contents, foreword, brief note on the contributors (and their nations)

***(The) 57 Bus***, by Dashka Slater. Farrar, Straus, Giroux Books for Young Readers, 2017. 


It was just an ordinary day on the 57 Bus, until the young man set Sasha on fire, burning them severely. Over the next several years, everyone copes with the aftermath, and learns to forgive.

***Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Assassin***, by James L. Swanson. Scholastic, 2018. 

Swanson explores the separate trajectories of King and his killer, and how they intersected on that fateful day in April, 1968. There's a foreword by Congressman John Lewis, as well as lots of extra materials including places to visit, suggested additional resources, a bibliography, index, and more.

***Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today***, by Cynthia and Sanford Levinson. Peachtree Publishers, 2017. 


Even while writing the Constitution the founding fathers knew it wasn't perfect, but they might be intrigued by the C+ our two authors give it today. Informational insets augment discussion of the various articles, and the book also includes the Preamble, an index, a timeline and extensive notes.

***Jazz Owls: A Novel of the Zoot Suit Riots***, written by Margarita Engle; illustrated by Rudy Gutierrez. Atheneum, 2018. 

Tensions between Navy sailors and Mexican-American citizens erupt in August 1942 Los Angeles, on the night known as the Zoot Suit Riots.

***Landscape with Invisible Hand***, by M.T. Anderson. Candlewick Press, 2017.


Earth is invaded by the vuvv, who promise technology and a better life, but the result is widespread poverty and want. Adam and his girlfriend Chloe capitalize on the vuvv's fascination with 50's culture to create a pay-per-minute dating show, but how far will he go when it comes to saving his family?

***Long Way Down***, by Jason Reynolds. Simon & Schuster Children's Books, 2017. 

As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know. (CIP)

***(The) Marrow Thieves***, by Cherie Dimaline. Cormorant Books, Inc. 2017.

Sixteen-year-old Frances "Frenchie" Dusome, one of a dwindling number of Métis, and his "found" family try to survive on the run from the Recruiters, whites who are capturing First Nations members to harvest their bone marrow and sell it as a remedy for the lost ability to dream. (cw/Booklist)

***Martin Rising: Requiem for a King***, by Andrea Davis Pinkney; illustrated by Brian Pinkney. Scholastic, 2018.  

Forty poems present bits of Martin Luther King Junior's life, from youth through his legacy after death. Back matter includes author's and illustrator's notes, timelines and other materials.

***(A) Skinful of Shadows***, by Frances Hardinge. Abrams, 2017.

Makepeace, an illegitimate daughter of the aristocratic Fellmotte family, shares their unique hereditary ability to be possessed by ghosts. Fleeing the Fellmottes across war-torn England, she accumulates a motley crew of outcasts, misfits, criminals, and one extremely angry dead bear. (Publisher, edited)

***Sneakers***, compiled by Rodrigo Corral, Alex French, and Howie Kahn. Razorbill/Penguin Random House, 2017. 

Fifty-four sneaker designers and producers, from musicians to tennis stars, are briefly profiled and then speak to their dedication to the footwear.

***You Bring the Distant Near***, by Mitali Perkins. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2017.

From 1965 through the present, an Indian-American family adjusts to life in New York City, alternately fending off and welcoming challenges to their own traditions. (CIP)

**Where can I use these books in the new AASL Standards? A few thoughts ...**

(refer to the AASL [Framework](#) for the expanded standards)

|                  | <b>I. Inquire</b>  | <b>II. Include</b>   | <b>III. Collaborate</b>  | <b>IV. Curate</b>  | <b>V. Explore</b>  | <b>VI. Engage</b>                        |
|------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>A. Think</b>  | <i>After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again</i>               | <i>The Journey of Little Charlie</i><br><br><i>Louis Undercover</i>                          | <i>I Walk With Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness</i> | <i>In the Past</i><br><br><i>My Journey to the Stars</i>                                       | <i>Fault Lines in the Constitution</i>                       |  |
| <b>B. Create</b> | <i>When's My Birthday</i><br><br><i>A Hundred Billion Trillion Stars</i> | <i>Great Penguin Rescue</i>  |  | <i>Jazz Owls</i>   |  |  |
| <b>C. Share</b>  | <i>A Different Pond</i>  | <i>Long Way Down</i>   | <i>Sneakers</i>  |  | <i>Impact: Asteroids and the Science of Saving the World</i> | <i>Martin Rising: Requiem for a King</i> |
| <b>D. Grow</b>   |  | <i>The 57 Bus</i><br><br><i>I Walk With Vanessa</i><br><br><i>You Bring the Distant Near</i> | <i>Baby Monkey, Private Eye</i>                                    | <i>Chasing King's Killer: The Hunt for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassin and Martin Rising</i> |  |  |

**Projects:**

- Biography project – different types of biographies (partial, chronological, slice of life)
- Space – perspectives include asteroid avoidance, astronaut journey
- Social issues, respect, inclusion – bullying, Native American perspective, Muslim perspective, immigrant experiences