

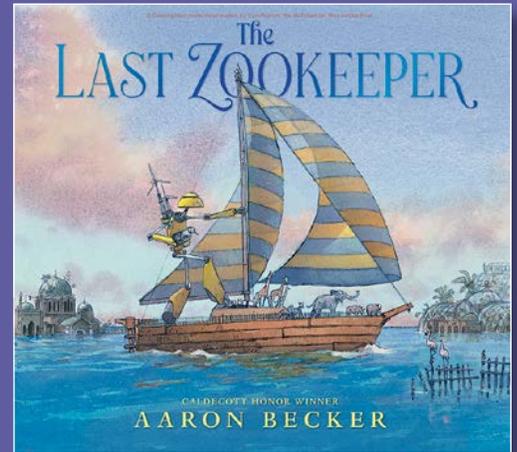
**2024
BOOKS**

WERNICK & PRATT AGENCY

THE LAST ZOOKEEPER

Aaron Becker / Candlewick Press / Spring 2024
Starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *PW*, *Horn Book*, *SLJ*

The Earth has flooded. Peeking out from the deluge are the remnants of a zoo, home to rare and endangered animals, survivors of long neglect. Tender-hearted NOA is a construction robot who's found new purpose as the caretaker of the zoo's beleaguered inhabitants. Bracing for the next storm, NOA builds an ark from the wreckage in search of new land and a new home, only to discover something even more profound. With boundless compassion and sweeping scenes of sea and sky punctuated by detailed wordless panels to pore over, Caldecott Honor-winning creator Aaron Becker delivers a timely and concrete message about the rewards of caring in even the most difficult of times that is sure to inspire the dreamers among us.



BOOK TRAILER

Epic storytelling erupts on the page without the use of a single word. Superb.—Kirkus Reviews

© Aaron Becker

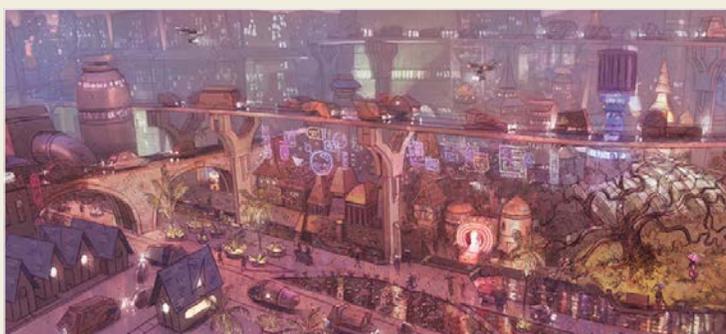
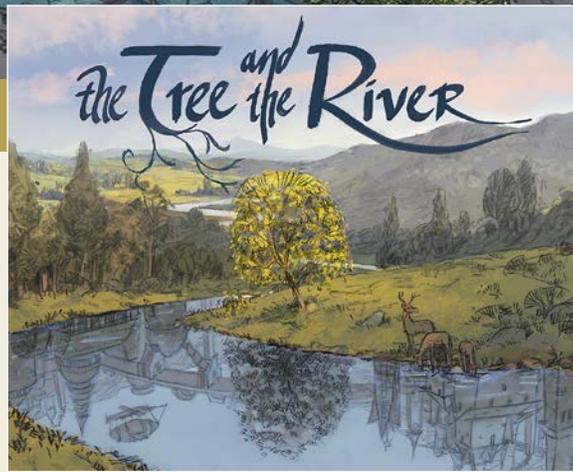




THE TREE AND THE RIVER

Aaron Becker / Candlewick Press / Spring 2023
Starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *PW*, *Horn Book*,
Foreword Reviews, and *School Library Connections*
Korean, German, and Italian translation rights sold

Aaron Becker takes the reader on another journey in this new wordless masterpiece. Readers will get a timelapse look at one small corner of the world that changes with the arrival, influence, and progression of human activity. Despite all these changes, the power of nature always prevails to reclaim the landscape.

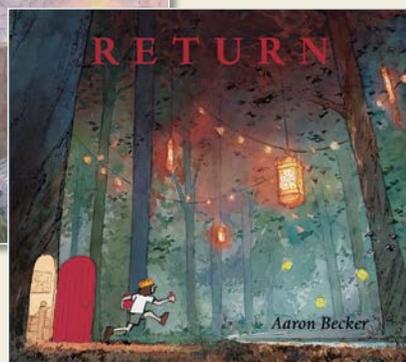
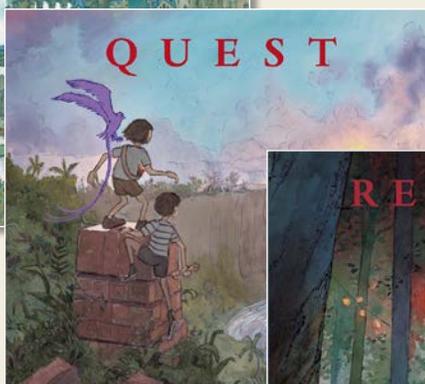
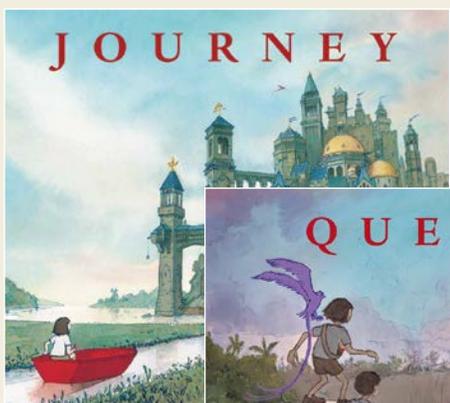


*A stunning accomplishment
—Kirkus Reviews*

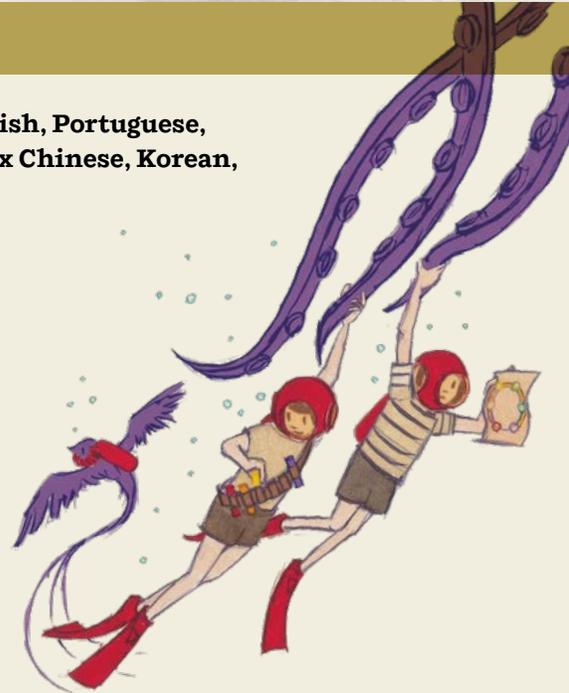
© Aaron Becker

THE JOURNEY TRILOGY

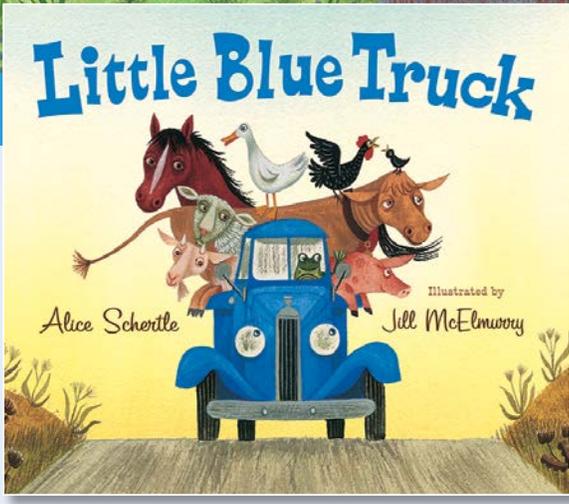
Aaron Becker / Candlewick Press / French, German, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Romanian, Greek, Russian, Danish, Swedish, simplified Chinese, complex Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Farsi translation rights sold in the series



© Aaron Becker



Becker's creation is a gift to his readers—one they'll want to save for their own children.
—Publishers Weekly



LITTLE BLUE TRUCK

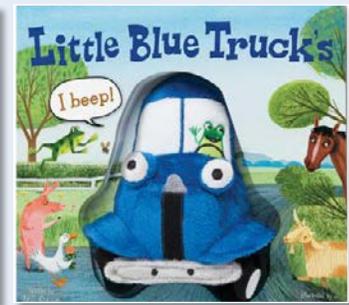
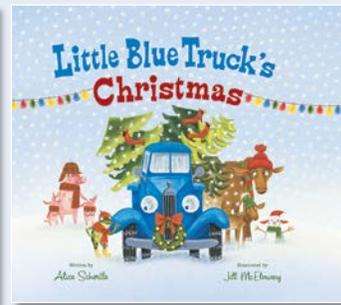
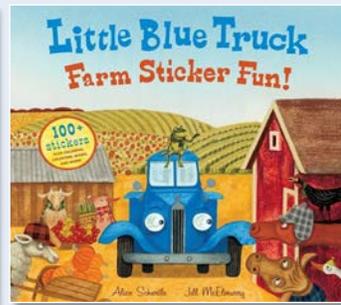
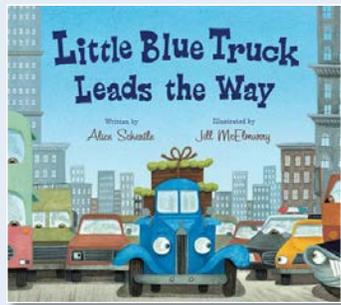
Alice Schertle, illustrated by Jill McElmurry
HarperCollins Children's Books
HarperCollins handles text rights
British, German, Dutch, French, Romanian, Serbian,
Russian, Spanish, Japanese, Korean, Simplified
and Complex Chinese, and Hebrew translation rights
sold in the series

Beep! Beep!
Four #1 New York Times bestsellers!
More than 17 million copies sold!

The Little Blue Truck series is a joyful cacophony of animal and truck sounds that will have youngsters beeping, quacking, and begging for one more go-round! Jill McElmurry's gouache illustrations of wild-eyed farm animals and country roads are warm and wonderful, suiting the cheerfully rhyming texts to a T. A preschool and toddler favorite for 15 years running!



BOOK TRAILER



Also available, with text and illustration rights both handled by HarperCollins:

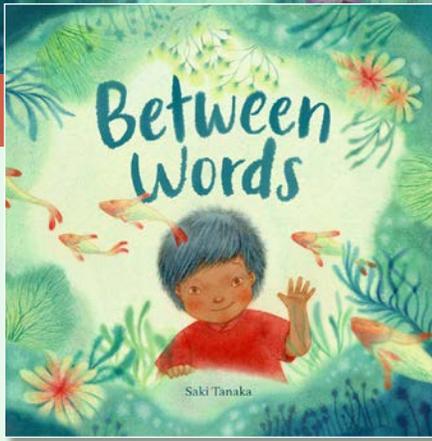
Little Blue Truck's Valentine
Little Blue Truck's Springtime
Little Blue Truck's Halloween

Time for School, Little Blue Truck
Little Blue Truck Makes a Friend
Good Night, Little Blue Truck

What Do You Say, Little Blue Truck?
Little Blue Truck Feeling Happy: A Touch-and-Feel Book

© Jill McElmurry





© Saki Tanaka

BETWEEN WORDS: A FRIENDSHIP TALE

Saki Tanaka / Scholastic Press / Spring 2024

Starred review from *Kirkus*

An immigrant child seeks to connect in this tender debut picture book

Kai has followed his pa from place to place through the seasons for as long as he can remember. In each place, Kai stacks stones as little wishes. One day they reach a valley of pools, where Pa says they can stay for a few seasons. Kai tries to talk to the local children, but they laugh at his strange words. Frustrated, Kai kicks his latest stack—and his favorite stone falls deep into a pool! Kai plunges in to save it. There he discovers a way to connect between words—which ultimately helps him find a friend.



A pitch-perfect tale for shy friend-makers everywhere. —Kirkus Reviews



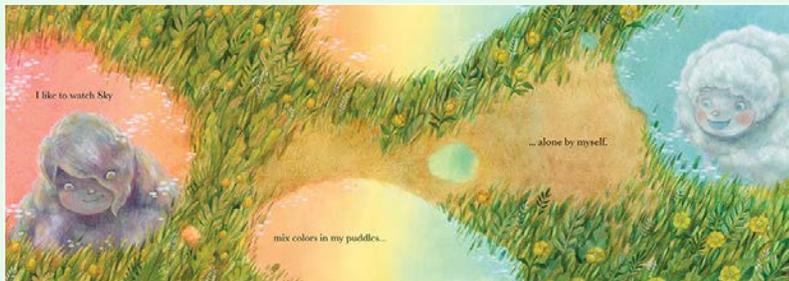
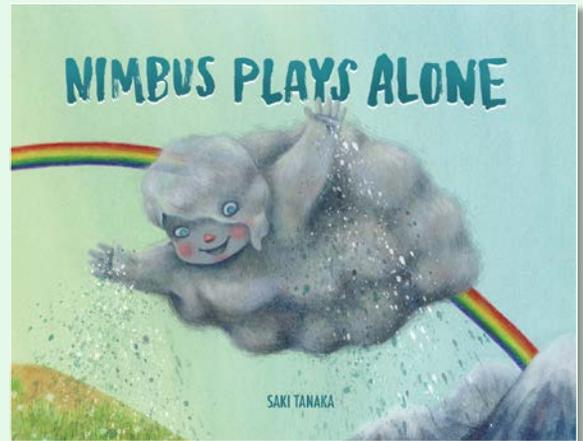
NIMBUS PLAYS ALONE

Saki Tanaka / Henry Holt Books for Young Readers

Spring 2025

Alone is better for this cloud . . .

Nimbus is a cloud who plays alone—throwing lightning, teasing the sun with peekaboo, sprinkling raindrops to the ground. Alone is better. When Cumulus bursts on the scene (“Look at me! I’m a Penguin!”), followed by Cirrus (“Cool doodle”), then Stratus (“Hide and seek!”), Nimbus says ENOUGH! Alone is better. Or is it?



Cumulus might see the crow in that puddle, too. Cirrus could guess how long their lightning tail is. Could Stratus find a cozy hiding place? Nimbus plays alone . . . but not always! Back matter includes information about types of clouds.

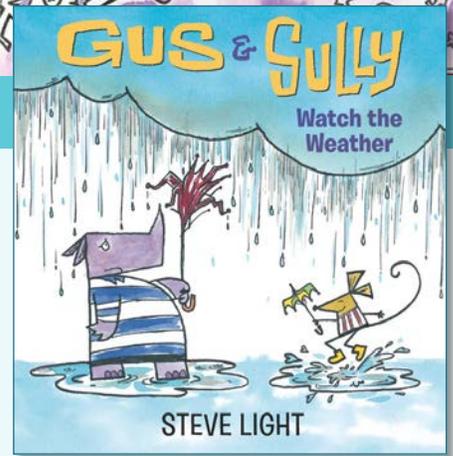
© Saki Tanaka

GUS & SULLY WATCH THE WEATHER

Steve Light / Candlewick Press / Spring 2024

What's the weather like today? Let's see!

When Gus the rhino and Sully the mouse check out the weather each morning, they see and feel the same thing, but they experience it a different way. Bright sun is too hot for Gus and perfect for beach-loving Sully. Clouds inspire Gus's imagination ("I see a bunny!") but they just look like clouds to Sully. The wind is perfect for kite-flying for one, but threatens to blow someone small away. Whether rain or snow or sleet, Gus and Sully are on the spot, reporting back in their unique way. Wielding ink and watercolor, Steve Light ventures into an appealing new art style with a simple, funny board book ideal for children just beginning to explore the wide world around them.



COMING SOON:
GUS & SULLY GET READY
THE DAYS OF THE WEEK WITH GUS & SULLY



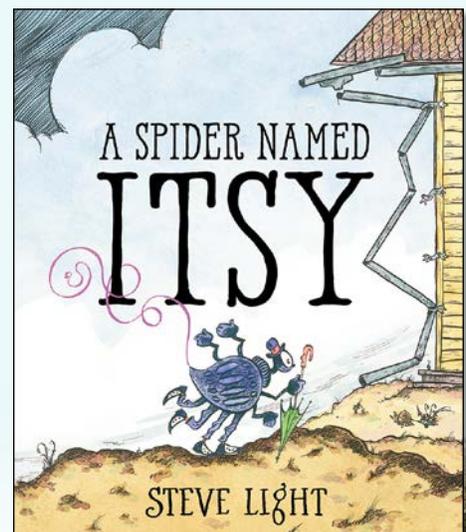
A SPIDER NAMED ITSY

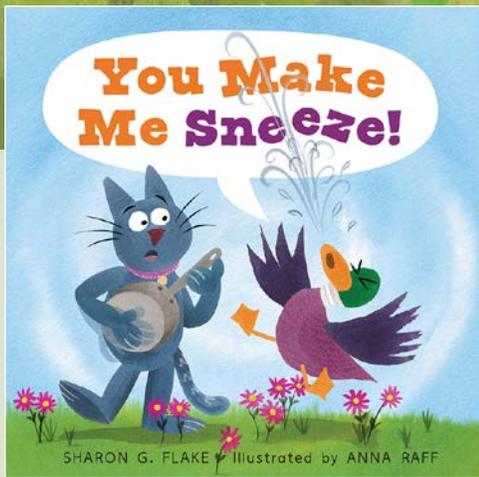
Steve Light / Candlewick Press / Fall 2023

With a dose of warmth and whimsy, Steve Light's remarkable, intricate artwork spins a backstory of unexpected friendship

Itsy Bitsy sits at home,
drinking tea, all alone . . .

Everyone knows the rhyme "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." We know about the climb up the waterspout, the washout, the return of the sun, and the determined climb back up the spout—again. Generations of children have sung this beloved verse and mastered its accompanying twisty finger play. But what sent the tiny spider on his upward trek to begin with? What happened along the way—and where is Itsy now? Steve Light—with his meticulously rendered, highly detailed pen, ink, and watercolor illustrations and an endearing cast of insect characters—riffs on a classic as he offers some surprising answers, ushering us into a charming tale of perseverance, kindness, and community.





YOU MAKE ME SNEEZE



BOOK TRAILER

Sharon Flake, illustrated by Anna Raff / Astra House Books for Young Readers / Spring 2024
Jennifer Lyons Literary Agency handles text rights

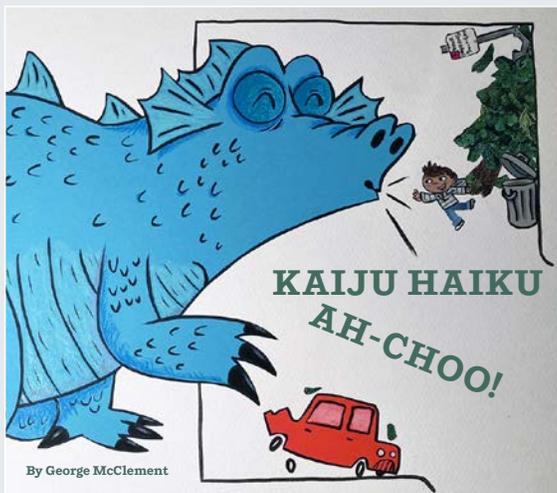
This story about a very serious cat and a very silly duck will inspire giggles with every reading!

Best friends Duck and Cat have a problem—Cat makes Duck sneeze!

“I think—*achoo!*—I’m allergic to you,” Duck declares. Hilarity ensues as Cat keeps trying to solve the problem—but Duck keeps sneezing! Is Duck really allergic to Cat, or is something else going on?

Written completely in dialogue, this text is fun to read aloud and easy enough for newly independent readers to enjoy on their own. Humorous illustrations highlight the characters’ personalities, emphasizing Duck’s quirky humor and Cat’s earnestness. This dynamic duo will charm readers as the sly friendship tale keeps them laughing.

KAIJU HAIKU AH-CHOO



© George McClements

George McClements / Hippo Park / Spring 2024

Where is one to go when in need of a little tender-loving care?

This is the dilemma that Kaiju faces when they come down with a bad cold. The only problem, of course, is that anywhere Kaiju goes, they make an entrance that some see, as well . . . destructive, sparking fear and mayhem. A simple question asked, however, is all it takes to be a cure all for everything—soothing monstrous sniffles and mass hysteria alike!

I CANNOT DRAW A BICYCLE

Charise Mericle Harper / Union Square Kids / Fall 2023

Award-winning author and illustrator Charise Mericle Harper creates a laugh-out-loud picture book about making something out of nothing, a companion title to *I Cannot Draw a Horse*.

The Horse wants a bicycle.

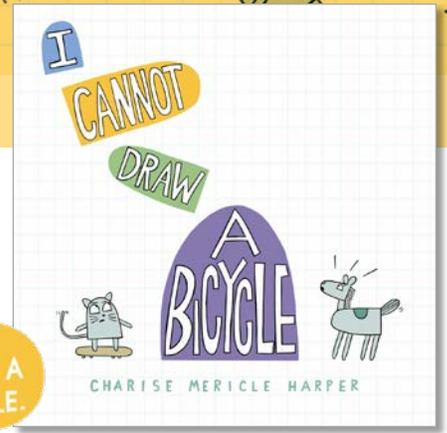
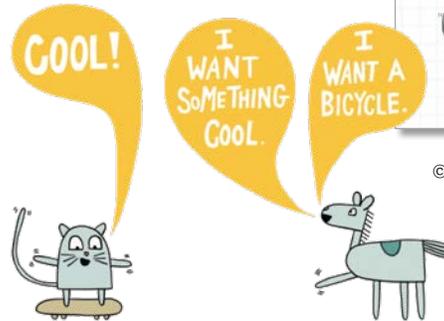
A bicycle is hard to draw.

The Book cannot draw a bicycle.

But the Book CAN draw shapes.

Can the Horse and the Cat build a bicycle from shapes?

Or will their dreams end in pieces?

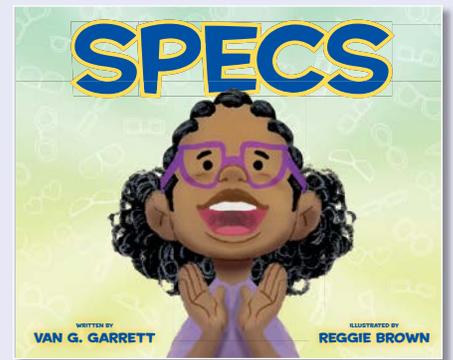


© Charise Mericle Harper

SPECS

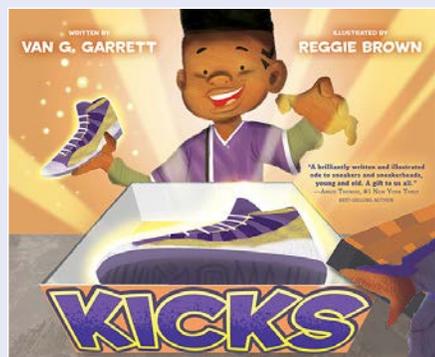
Van Garrett, illustrated by Reggie Lewis / Harper-Versify
Fall 2024 / Tugeau Agency handles illustration rights

The right pair of glasses can help you see—and help people see the real you! This lyrical ode to eyewear celebrates the funky, smart, stylish accessories that reflect how SPECTacular you are!



Cover not final

KICKS



© Reggie Brown

Van Garrett, illustrated by Reggie Lewis
Harper-Versify / Spring 2022
Tugeau Agency handles illustration rights

With bold, kid-friendly art and fun, lyrical language, *Kicks* is the perfect read for sneaker fans of all ages!

Kicks is a love letter to sneakers—the flyest, floatiest, you-est kicks you can get. This colorful, rhythmic adventure has something to offer anyone who prizes a great pair of shoes and any reader who loves to play with their words.

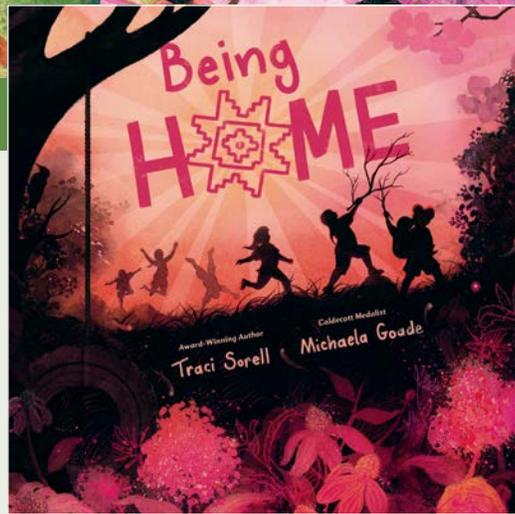




BEING HOME

Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade / Kokila Books
Spring 2024 / Starred reviews from *Kirkus* and *PW*
Catbird Productions handles illustration rights

Today is a day of excitement—it’s time to move! As a young Cherokee girl says goodbye to the swing, the house, and the city she’s called home her whole life, she readies herself for the upcoming road trip. While her mother drives, the girl draws the changing landscape outside her window. She looks forward to the end of the journey, where she’ll eat the feast her family has prepared, play in the creek with her cousins, and settle into the new rhythm of home.



With warm, expressive artwork and spare, lyrical prose, this picture book from Sibert Honor author Traci Sorell and Caldecott Medalist Michaela Goade celebrates a young girl’s move toward rather than away from home.

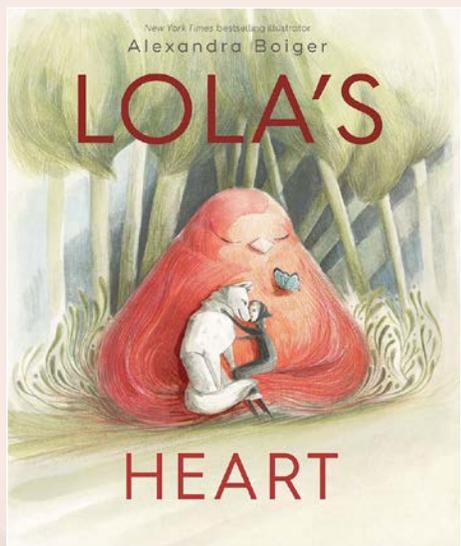
An evocative, heartwarming testament to the power of home and community.—Kirkus Reviews

© Michaela Goade

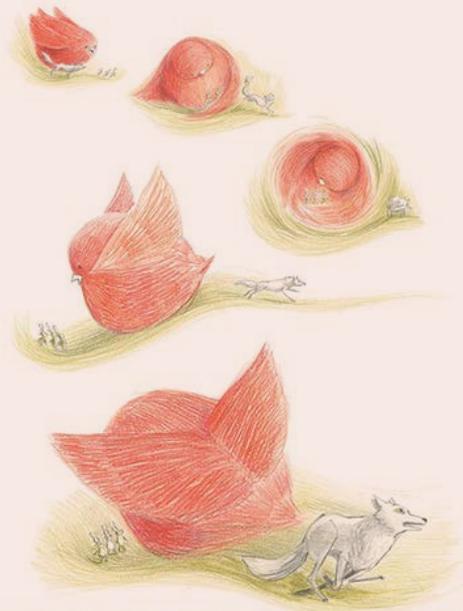
LOLA’S HEART

Alexandra Boiger / Philomel Books / Summer 2023

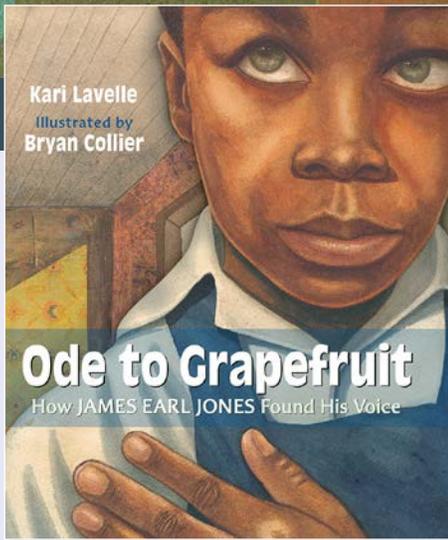
A gorgeous wordless picture book about the power of love to overcome fear by the #1 New York Times bestselling artist of the She Persisted series



In this stunning picture book, Lola heads out into the world with a dream in her heart and the love of her family and friends by her side. But when her dream gets lost, her heart is wounded. Lola cannot nurse it back to health on her own, but love steps in—and is patient and kind and protects Lola and her heart until they can heal and head off again to find new dreams. Award-winning and bestselling illustrator Alexandra Boiger creates a breathtakingly beautiful allegory to reassure readers that no matter how broken they or their hearts may be, love will always be there to see them through.



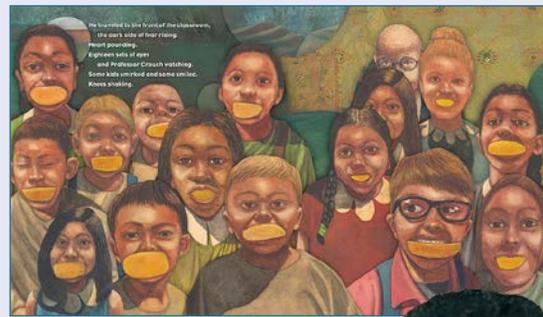
© Alexandra Boiger



ODE TO A GRAPEFRUIT

Kari Lavelle, illustrated by Bryan Collier
Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers / Summer 2024
Transatlantic Literary Agency handles text rights

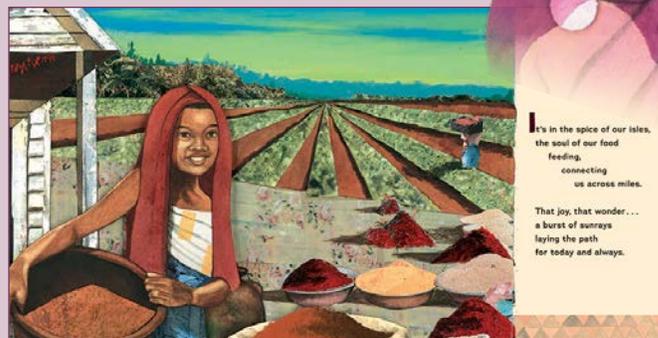
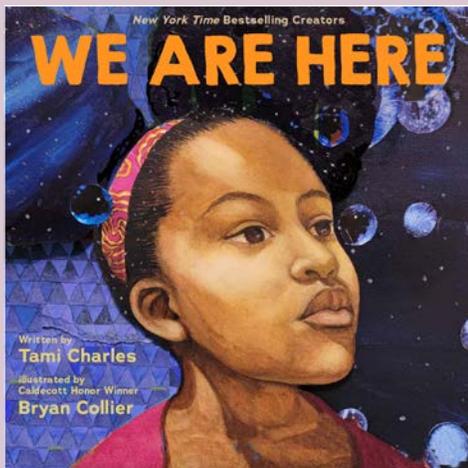
Before there was Mufasa . . . Before there was Darth Vader . . . Before legendary actor James Earl Jones was recognized for his memorable, smooth voice, he was just James—a stutterer who stopped speaking for eight years as a child . . . and ultimately found his voice through poetry. Lyrical text and stunning art combine in a remarkable picture book about a silent boy who grew up to become an EGOT-winning performer with a voice few could forget.



WE ARE HERE

Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier / Scholastic Press
Spring 2023 / Starred reviews from *Horn Book*, *Kirkus*, *SLJ*, *PW*
Andrea Brown handles text rights

An empowering follow-up to *New York Times* bestselling picture book *All Because You Matter*

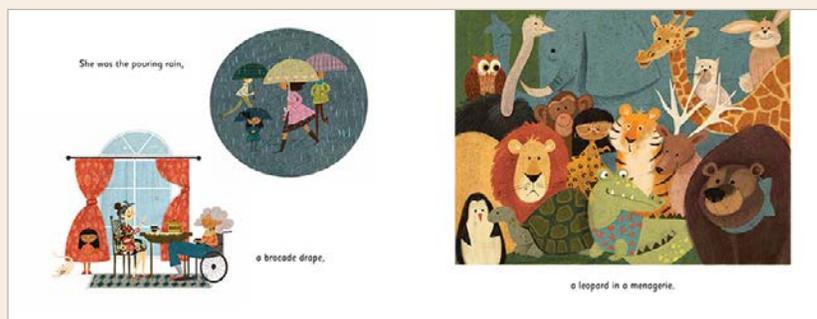
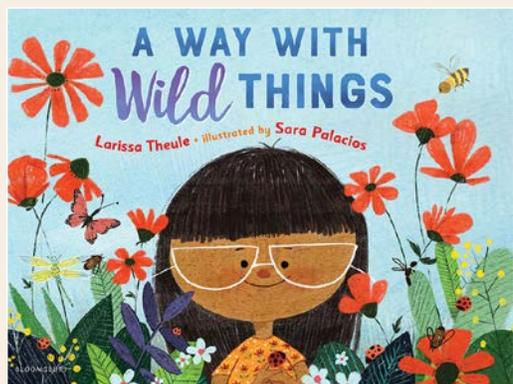


© Bryan Collier

Lyrical, affirmational, and bursting with love, Tami Charles's powerful and empowering text is accompanied with illustrations by renowned artist Bryan Collier, a four-time Caldecott Honor recipient and a nine-time Coretta Scott King Award winner or honoree.



A WAY WITH WILD THINGS



Larissa Theule, illustrated by Sara Palacios / Bloomsbury / Spring 2020 / Starred reviews from *Kirkus*, *PW Bookstop Literary* handles illustration rights

Meet Poppy—if you can spot her among the wildflowers!

Poppy loves nature and can be found conversing with ladybugs or singing with cicadas—but good luck spotting her indoors and around people! Some might call her a wallflower. At a party, Poppy stays out of sight. But when a very special bug lands on the cake, Poppy can't resist popping out to see it. Soon, the other guests notice the beautiful dragonfly, and Poppy, too. Maybe she's not a wallflower after all, but a wildflower. This evocative story celebrates the shy and introverted among us, as well as the other small creatures to be found if we look closely enough.

KAFKA AND THE DOLL

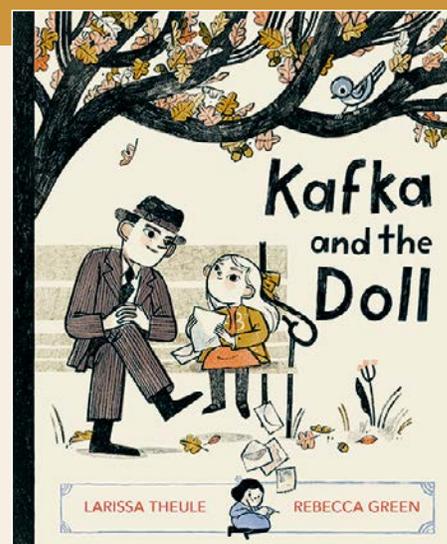
Larissa Theule, illustrated by Rebecca Green

Viking Children's Books / Spring 2021

Starred reviews from *Booklist*, *SLJ*

French, German, Japanese, Simplified and Complex Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Greek, and Turkish translation rights sold
Viking Children's Books handles illustration rights

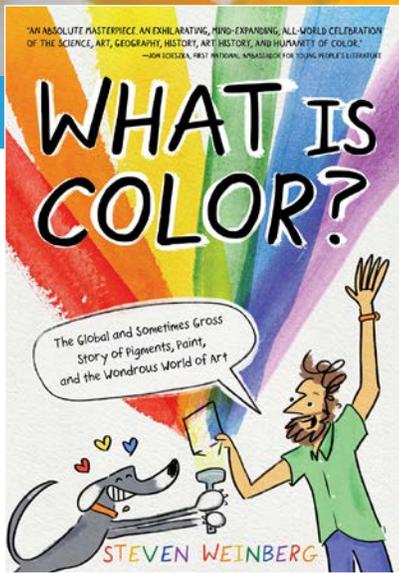
Inspired by a true story, *Kafka and the Doll* recounts a remarkable gesture of kindness from one of the world's most bewildering and iconic writers. In the fall of 1923, Franz Kafka encountered a distraught little girl on a walk in the park. She'd lost her doll and was inconsolable. Kafka told her the doll wasn't lost, but instead, traveling the world and having grand adventures! And to reassure her, Kafka began delivering letters from the doll to the girl for weeks. *Kafka and the Doll* is a testament to living life to the fullest and to the life-changing power of storytelling.



This set of quiet encounters between a writer and a child has as much going on between the spare, poetic lines as in them.—Booklist



© Rebecca Green



WHAT IS COLOR?

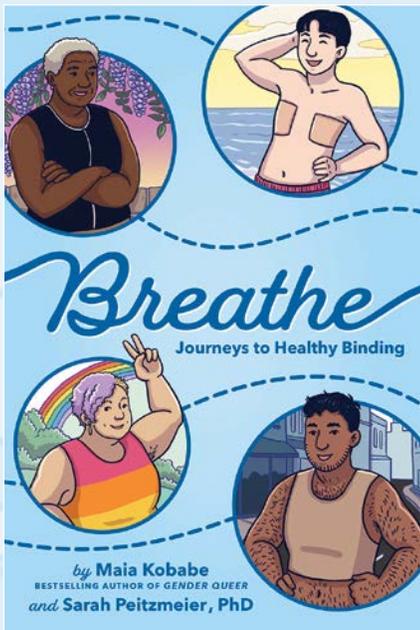
Steven Weinberg / Roaring Brook Press / Spring 2024

What do toxic sludge, dragon's blood, avocado pits, powdered bugs, and cutting edge nanotechnology have in common? They all make color! *What Is Color?* tells the global story of how color has been made over the past 64,000 years in an immensely researched, yet highly accessible (and funny!) hybrid graphic novel format.



© Steven Weinberg

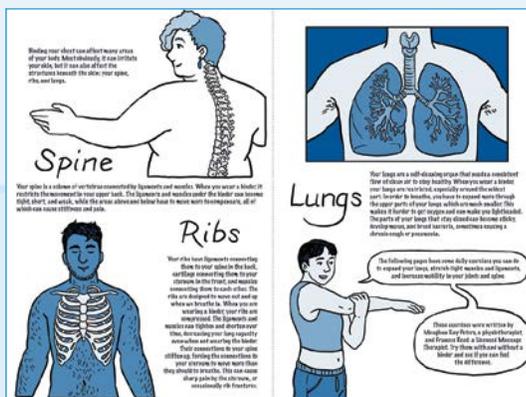
BREATHE: JOURNEYS TO HEALTHY BINDING



Maia Kobabe and Dr. Sarah Peitzmeier
Dutton Books for Young Readers / Spring 2024

A graphic-novel guide to chest binding with real-life stories and research-backed advice from bestselling *Gender Queer* author Maia Kobabe and University of Michigan professor Sarah Peitzmeier

Breathe arose from the need for a resource for folks considering chest binding as gender-affirming care. Dr. Peitzmeier interviewed twenty-five people of different ages and backgrounds about their journeys with binding, and then she and Kobabe combined excerpts from those interviews with evidence-based resources on binding into this extremely accessible guide.



Breathe is both a practical resource for trans and nonbinary folks and an engaging and perspective-broadening read for anyone interested in what it means to be on a journey of expressing one's gender in ways that are joyful, healthy, and affirming.

WERNICK & PRATT AGENCY

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hidden pigeon company

WHERE'S MO?

In 2023 Mo Willems launched Hidden Pigeon Company (HPC), in partnership with the global media company Stampede Ventures and private investment firm RedBird Capital Partners, to expand his library of kids' and family IP, both existing and in development, across entertainment platforms. HPC now handles translation, film, and merchandising rights to Mo's books and characters. contact@hiddenpigeonco.com