**The Best Books of 2012 and a Peek into 2013**

**Deborah B. Ford**

*Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass : the story behind an American friendship* -- Freedman, Russell {IL 5-8, 973.7} -- Clarion Books, 2012., RL 8.7, 119p  
Looks at the lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, including their friendship and their effect on Emancipation and the Civil War.

*After the snow* -- Crockett, S. D. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Feiwel and Friends, 2012., 288p  
Fifteen-year-old Willo Blake, born after the 2059 snows created a new ice age, searches for his family, who mysteriously disappeared from their frozen mountain home, and encounters outlaws, halfmen, and an abandoned girl along the way.

*And then it's spring* -- Fogliano, Julie {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 1.6, 32p  
Simple text reveals the anticipation of a boy who, having planted seeds while everything around is brown, fears that something has gone wrong until, at last, the world turns green.

*Aristotle and Dante discover the secrets of the universe* -- Saenz, Benjamin Alire {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012., 359p  
Fifteen-year-old Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

*The art of Miss Chew* -- Polacco, Patricia {IL K-3, -E-} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2012., RL 2.8, 40p  
Describes how a teacher named Miss Chew encouraged individuality, and accepted learning differences, and helped a young student with academic difficulties get extra time to take tests and permission to be in advanced art classes. Inspired by the author's memories of her art teacher.

*Ask the passengers : a novel -- King, A. S. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2012., 293p*Astrid Jones, who realizes that she is a lesbian, deals with the gossip and rejection she faces by sending love up to the people on airplanes as they pass over her.

*Auntie Yang's great soybean picnic* -- Lo, Ginnie {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Lee & Low Books, c2012., RL 5.2, 32p  
A Chinese American girl's Auntie Yang discovers soybeans-a favorite Chinese food-growing in Illinois, leading her family to a soybean picnic tradition that grows into an annual community event.

*Baby Bear sees blue* -- Wolff, Ashley {IL K-3, 535.6} -- Beach Lane Books, c2012., RL 1.5, 40p  
Leaving the den as the weather warms, Baby Bear discovers blue birds, red strawberries, orange butterflies, and other colorful things in nature.

*A bad day for voodoo* -- Strand, Jeff {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Sourcebooks Fire, c2012., 251p  
Angry after his teacher gives him a failing grade on his final exam, Tyler uses the voodoo doll given to him by his friend, Adam, and is shocked to discover the doll's power, but does not realize that Adam has another doll made in Tyler's image and things escalate when Tyler's car is stolen--with the doll inside.

*Barnum's bones : how Barnum Brown discovered the most famous dinosaur in the world* -- Fern, Tracey E {IL K-3, 560} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012., RL 4.4, 34p  
Text and illustrations look at the life of paleontologist Barnum Brown.

*Bear has a story to tell* -- Stead, Philip Christian {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 2.6, 32p  
Bear, with the help of his animal friends, remembers the story he had hoped to tell before the onset of winter.

*The bear in the book* -- Banks, Kate {IL K-3, -E-} -- Frances Foster Books, 2012., RL 1.9, 32p  
At the end of the day a little boy falls asleep as his mama reads about a bear hibernating.

*The beetle book* -- Jenkins, Steve {IL 3-6, 595.76} -- Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2012., RL 6.4, 31p  
An illustrated introduction to a variety of beetle species with information on unique characteristics and how these insects have adapted to survive.

*Beneath a meth moon : an elegy* -- Woodson, Jacqueline {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Nancy Paulsen Books, c2012., 182p  
Laurel Daneau, having lost her mother, grandmother, and home in Hurricane Katrina, thinks things are going well with her new life as a cheerleader and the girlfriend of basketball start T-Boom, but after T-Boom introduces her to meth and she finds the drug helps her deal with her past, she must rely on the help of an artist named Moses and her friend Kaylee to overcome the addiction.

*Beyond courage : the untold story of Jewish resistance during the Holocaust* -- Rappaport, Doreen {IL 5-8, 940.53} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 5.9, 228p  
Provides detailed accounts of twenty-one acts of defiance committed against Nazis in Nazi-occupied countries during World War II.

*Bink & Gollie, two for one* -- DiCamillo, Kate {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 2.4, 75p  
The state fair is in town, and now Bink and Gollie-utter opposites and best friends extraordinaire-must use teamwork while navigating its many wonders.

*Bird talk : what birds are saying and why* -- Judge, Lita {IL K-3, 598.159} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 3.7, 48p  
Illustrations and text examine how birds communicate, showing the different ways birds sing, talk, dance, drum, cuddle, and fight.

*Bitterblue* -- Cashore, Kristin {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dial Books, c2012., 563p  
Eighteen-year-old Bitterblue, queen of Monsea, realizes her heavy responsibility and the futility of relying on advisors who surround her with lies as she tries to help her people to heal from the thirty-five-year spell cast by her father, a violent psychopath with mind-altering abilities.

*A black hole is not a hole* -- DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami {IL 3-6, 523.8} -- Charlesbridge, c2012., RL 5.7, 74p  
An examination of black holes that discusses what they are, what causes them, how they are discovered, and more.

*Bon appetit! : the delicious life of Julia Child* -- Hartland, Jessie {IL 3-6, 641.5} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 5, 50p  
Biography of Julia Child, the famous chef who changed the way the world cooks at home.

*Bomb : the race to build and steal the world's most dangerous weapon* -- Sheinkin, Steve {IL YA, 623.4} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., 266p  
Examines the history of the atomic bomb, discussing the discovery of the behavior of uranium when placed next to radioactive material, the race to build a bomb, and the impact of the weapon on societies around the world.

*Boot & Shoe* -- Frazee, Marla {IL K-3, -E-} -- Beach Lane Books, c2012.  
Boot and Shoe are dogs that live in the same house, eat from the same bowl, and sleep in the same bed but spend their days on separate porches until a squirrel mixes things up.

*Boy + Bot* -- Dyckman, Ame {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2012., RL 1.5, 24p  
A boy and a robot strike up a friendship despite their differences.

*A boy called Dickens* -- Hopkinson, Deborah {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 3.2, 32p  
Narrates the tale of twelve-year-old Charles Dickens who, despite poverty and long hours of factory work, still has time to discover and share the stories of other residents of 1824 London. Includes author's note about Dickens' life and some of the books he wrote.

*The boy on Cinnamon Street* -- Stone, Phoebe {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012., RL 4.5, 234p  
Since a tragedy she cannot remember, thirteen-year-old Louise has changed her name, given up gymnastics, moved in with her grandparents, and locked her feelings inside but through her friends Reni and Hen and notes from a secret admirer she begins to find herself again.

*The brides of Rollrock Island* -- Lanagan, Margo {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, c2012., 305p  
On remote Rollrock Island, men go to sea to make their livings--and to catch their wives. The witch Misskaella knows the way of drawing a girl from the heart of a seal, ofluring the beauty out of the beast, and for a price a man may buy himself a lovely sea-wife.

*Brothers at bat : the true story of an amazing all-brother baseball team* -- Vernick, Audrey {IL K-3, 796.357} -- Clarion Books, 2012., RL 3.6, 39p  
Shares the story of the Acerras and their sixteen children, who had enough members to fill every position on a baseball team.

*Caddy's world* -- McKay, Hilary {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2012, c2011., RL 4.8, 265p  
Twelve-year-old Caddy's world turns upside down with the early arrival of a new baby, which leads her father, Bill, to temporarily become a stay-at-home "mom," at the same time that her best friends since kindergarten, Ali, Beth, and Ruby, begin to grow apart.

*The camping trip that changed America : Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and our National Parks* -- Rosenstock, Barbara {IL K-3, 979.4} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 4.8, 32p  
Offers insight into the camping trip that President Theodore Roosevelt and naturalist John Muir took to the redwoods of Yosemite in 1903, during which the two men had experiences and conversations that eventually contributed to the establishment of national parks in the United States.

*Can I bring Woolly to the library, Ms. Reeder?* -- Grambling, Lois G {IL K-3, -E-} -- Charlesbridge, c2012., RL 3, 32p  
A child wants to bring his woolly mammoth to the library.

*Caught* -- Haddix, Margaret Peterson [ BKL+ ] {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 4.9, 343p  
When Jonah and Katherine travel to early 1900s Switzerland and Serbia to return Albert Einstein's daughter, Lieserl, to history, her mother Mileva grasps entirely too much about time travel and has no intention of letting her daughter go.

FIC/NF PAIR: *Albert Einstein* (2009)-- Krull, Kathleen. An exploration of the life and times of German-born theoretical physicist Albert Einstein, whose contributions to the field earned his a Nobel Prize.

*A certain October* -- Johnson, Angela {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster Books For Young Readers, c2012., 158p  
After a terrible accident, Scotty feels responsible for the death of someone she hardly knew and struggles with her own reality while her friends and family deal with their own troubles, but the prospect of a boy and a dance add positive possibility back into Scotty's life.

*Chloe and the lion* -- Barnett, Mac {IL K-3, -E-} -- Disney/Hyperion Books, c2012., RL 2.9, 46p  
Mac, the author, fires Adam, the illustrator, over their artistic differences about Chloe, the main character of their book, until Mac realizes both of their talents are needed and they must work together or their story about Chloe will never be finished.

*Chopsticks* -- Rosenthal, Amy Krouse {IL K-3, -E-} -- Disney/Hyperion Books, c2012., RL 2.7, 32p  
A pair of chopsticks gets separated, but after some traumatic moments the two friends eventually learn to stand on their own.

*Chuck Close : face book* -- Close, Chuck {IL 3-6, 759.13} -- Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2012., RL 5.9, 55p  
Artist Chuck Close introduces children to his art, shows the processes he uses in his studios, and answers questions about his life and the challenges--physical and mental--he has faced.

*Cinder* -- Meyer, Marissa {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Feiwel and Friends, 2012., 390p  
Cinder, a gifted mechanic and a cyborg with a mysterious past, is blamed by her stepmother for her stepsister's illness while a deadly plague decimates the population of New Beijing, but when Cinder's life gets intertwined with Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the center of an intergalactic struggle.

*Code name Verity* -- Wein, Elizabeth {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Hyperion Books, c2012., 343p  
In 1943, a British fighter plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France and the survivor tells a tale of friendship, war, espionage, and great courage as she relates what she must to survive while keeping secret all that she can.

*A confusion of princes* -- Nix, Garth {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Harper, c2012., 337p  
Battling aliens, space pirates, and competitors, Prince Khemri meets a young woman, named Raine, and learns more than he expected about the hidden workings of a vast, intergalactic Empire, and about himself.

*Crow* -- Wright, Barbara {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Random House, c2012., RL 4.6, 297p  
Moses Thomas's summer vacation in 1898 does not go as planned, and while he deals with family problems and fickle friends, Moses comes to be more aware of the escalating tension between the African American and white communities of Wilmington, North Carolina.

*Curveball : the year I lost my grip* -- Sonnenblick, Jordan {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., 285p  
After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he is becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear.

*Darkwater* -- Fisher, Catherine {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dial, c2012.  
Sixteen-year-old Sarah sells her soul to reclaim her family's estate and is given 100 years to atone for their sins, but as the bargain nears its end, modern-day Tom, yearning to attend the private school that Darkwater Hall has become, gets caught up in the bargain.

*Deck Z* --The Titanic -- Pauls, Chris {IL AD, 813} -- Chronicle Books, c2012.

Imagine being trapped aboard the doomed Titanic on an icy Atlantic. . . with the walking dead. This fast-paced thriller reimagines the historical events of the fateful Titanic voyage through the lens of zombie mayhem.

*The difference between you and me* -- George, Madeleine {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Viking, 2012., 256p  
School outsider Jesse, a lesbian, is having secret trysts with Emily, the popular student council vice president, but when they find themselves on opposite sides of a major issue and Jesse becomes more involved with a student activist, they are forced to make a difficult decision.

*The Disenchantments* -- LaCour, Nina {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dutton Books, c2012., 308p  
Colby is dismayed when his best friend, Beth, announces her post-high school plans, sharing her intentions to start college after her band's tour instead of spending a year in Europe with Colby, and as Colby struggles to understand why she changed her mind, he begins to question what losing Beth would mean for his future.

*The diviners* -- Bray, Libba {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2012., 578p  
Seventeen-year-old Evie O'Neill is thrilled when she is exiled from small-town Ohio to New York City in 1926, even when a rash of occult-based murders thrusts Evie and her uncle, curator of The Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult, into the thick of the investigation.

*A dog called Homeless* -- Lean, Sarah {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Katherine Tegen Books, c2012., RL 5.2, 202p  
Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates.

*Drama* -- Telgemeier, Raina {IL 3-6, 741.5} -- Graphix, 2012., RL 5.2, 233p  
Callie rides an emotional roller coaster while serving on the stage crew for a middle school production of Moon over Mississippi as various relationships start and end, and others never quite get going.

*The drowned cities* -- Bacigalupi, Paolo {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2012., 437p  
In a dark future America that has devolved into unending civil wars, orphans Mahlia and Mouse barely escape the war-torn lands of the Drowned Cities, but their fragile safety is soon threatened and Mahlia will have to risk everything if she is to save Mouse, as he once saved her.

*The duckling gets a cookie!?* -- Willems, Mo {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, c2012., RL 1.4, 34p  
Pigeon is very angry when the duckling gets a cookie just by asking politely.

*Dying to know you* -- Chambers, Aidan {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Amulet Books, 2012., 275p  
Struggling through his dyslexia to try to fulfill his girlfriend Fiorella's request for a letter revealing his secret self, eighteen-year-old Karl asks Fiorella's favorite author for help, and he agrees only if Karl will submit to a series of interviews, which result in unexpected consequences for Karl, Fiorella, and the author.

*Each kindness* -- Woodson, Jacqueline {IL K-3, -E-} -- Nancy Paulsen Books, c2012.

*Every day* -- Levithan, David {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, c2012., 324p  
Every morning A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.

*Extra yarn* -- Barnett, Mac {IL K-3, -E-} -- Balzer & Bray, c2012., RL 2.2, 40p  
With a supply of yarn that never runs out, Annabelle knits for everyone and everything in town until an evil archduke decides he wants the yarn for himself.

*The fairy ring, or, Elsie and Frances fool the world* -- Losure, Mary {IL 5-8, 398} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 5.3, 184p  
Relates the story of Francis and Elsie, cousins who concocted a story and photographs about fairies because nobody believed Francis could see the tiny men and were surprised when their photographs were found by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who truly believed in fairies.

*The false prince* -- Nielsen, Jennifer A. {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., RL 5.2, 342p  
In the country of Carthya, a devious nobleman engages four orphans in a brutal competition to be selected to impersonate the king's long-missing son in an effort to avoid a civil war.

*The fantastic jungles of Henri Rousseau* -- Markel, Michelle {IL K-3, 759.4} -- Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 3.1, 32p  
Introduces readers to the life and accomplishments of Henri Rousseau, a self-taught painter who faced harsh criticism but persevered and succeeded.

*The fault in our stars* -- Green, John {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dutton Books, c2012., 318p  
Sixteen year old Hazel, who has cancer, meets Augustus at a kids-with-cancer support group and as they fall in love they both wonder how they will be remembered.

*The Final Four* -- Volponi, Paul {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Viking, 2012., 244p  
Four players at the Final Four of the NCAA basketball tournament struggle with the pressures of tournament play and the expectations of society at large.

*Forget-me-nots : poems to learn by heart* -- {IL K-3, 811.008} -- Little, Brown, 2012., RL 2.3, 143p  
A collection of more than 120 poems for children to learn, including selections from classic and contemporary poets, with tips and tricks from former Children's Poet Laureate Mary Ann Hoberman on memorization and recitation.

*Forgive me, I meant to do it : false apology poems* -- Levine, Gail Carson {IL K-3, 811} -- Harper, c2012., RL 5, 79p  
A collection of poems with false apologies from author Gail Carson Levine.

*Froi of the exiles* -- Marchetta, Melina {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012, c2011., 593p  
Froi settles in and is guided and aided by the guard to the royal family, but when he is sent on a secret mission to the kingdom of Charyn, Froi is surprised by what he finds in the surreal royal court and within himself.

*The giant and how he humbugged America* -- Murphy, Jim {IL 3-6, 974.7} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., RL 6.9, 112p  
A description of the Cardiff Giant mystery in which a man in upstate New York buried a ten-foot-tall, petrified model of a man, which was discovered by well diggers a year later, and set into motion a money-making spectacle.

*The girl with borrowed wings* -- Rossetti, Rinsai {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Dial Books, c2012., 290p  
Seventeen-year-old Frenenqer lives a controlled and restricted life in the desert, like everyone else there, but when she meets Sangris, a Free, winged shape-shifter, everything changes.

*The girls of No Return* -- Saldin, Erin {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012., 345p  
Lida Wallace, a troubled sixteen-year-old girl, attends a school in the Idaho mountains where she befriends glamorous Gia Longchamps, but the consequences of their friendship get revealed during the school's planned wilderness hike.

*Goldilocks and the three dinosaurs* -- Willems, Mo {IL K-3, -E-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012., RL 5.9, 34p  
A spin on the traditional tale with dinosaurs who visit Norway as the main characters.

*Grave mercy* -- LaFevers, Robin {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2012., 549p  
Seventeen-year-old Ismae avoids an arranged marriage by making a place for herself at the convent of St. Martin, where she learns of her unique gifts and must determine whether she will be trained as an assassin and serve as a handmaiden to Death.

*The great cake mystery : Precious Ramotswe's very first case* -- McCall Smith, Alexander {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Anchor Books, 2012., RL 5.6, 73p  
Before becoming the first female private investigator in Botswana, eight-year-old Precious Ramotswe tracks down a thief who has been stealing her classmates' snacks.

*The great unexpected* -- Creech, Sharon {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Joanna Cotler Books, c2012., RL 4.1, 226p  
Orphans Naomi and Lizzie, living in America, and grown-up sisters Sybil and Nula, from Ireland, learn what life is truly about as they receive help from one another and open up their hearts to love and forgiveness.

*Green* -- Seeger, Laura Vaccaro {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL .8, 36p  
Illustrations and simple, rhyming text explore the many shades of the color green.

*A greyhound of a girl* -- Doyle, Roddy {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Amulet Books, 2012, c2011., 201p  
Mary O'Hara is a sharp and cheeky twelve-year-old Dublin schoolgirl who is bravely facing the fact that her beloved Gran is dying. But Gran can't let go of life, and when a mysterious young woman turns up in Mary's street with a message for her Gran, Mary gets pulled into an unlikely adventure.

*Happy like soccer* -- Boelts, Maribeth {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 5.8, 32p  
For soccer games Sierra rides a bus out of the city to fields that are nicer than the "lot" in her neighborhood, but so her auntie can be at her last game, she asks Coach Marco if the team might play in her neighborhood on a day her aunt does not work.

*Here come the Girl Scouts! : the amazing all-true story of Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low and her great adventure* -- Corey, Shana {IL K-3, 369.463} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., RL 3.9, 40p  
Introduces Juliette Gordon Low to readers and describes how her life-long love of the outdoors led her to found the Girl Scouts.

*The hero of Little Street* -- Rogers, Gregory {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., 30p  
When a boy being chased through present-day London seeks refuge in the National Gallery, a dog escapes from the painting of one Dutch master and together they leap into the painting of another, where their adventures in seventeenth-century Delft are a prelude to returning to London and continuing the chase.

*The hero's guide to saving your kingdom* -- Healy, Christopher {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Walden Pond Press, c2012., RL 6.1, 438p  
Liam, Frederic, Duncan, and Gustav, all former princes who had been rejected by their princesses and cast out of their castles, encounter trolls, witches, and dragons during their quest to become heroes.

*Hide & seek* -- Na, Il Sung {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2012, c2011., RL 2.3, 32p  
When the animals play hide and seek, Elephant finds everyone but Chameleon, who has hidden so well no one can find him.

*A home for Bird* -- Stead, Philip Christian {IL K-3, -E-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 2.1, 32p  
Vernon the toad takes the silent Bird on a journey in hopes of finding Bird's home.

*Homer* -- Cooper, Elisha {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, c2012., RL 1.2, 32p  
Homer the dog is content to watch from the porch as his family goes out to enjoy the day.

*The house that George built* -- Slade, Suzanne {IL K-3, 975.3} -- Charlesbridge, c2012., RL 3.7, 32p  
Describes George Washington's role in the designing, planning, and building of the White House.

*I know a wee piggy* -- Norman, Kimberly {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 1.7, 32p  
A cumulative, rhyming tale of an ordinary pig who leaps out of his boy's arms at a state fair and wallows in color after color, turning himself into a work of art.

*I, too, am America* -- Hughes, Langston {IL K-3, 811} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2012., RL 2.4, 32p  
Presents the poem of Langston Hughes in which highlights the courage and dignity of the African American Pullman porters in the early twentieth century.

*I'm bored* -- Black, Michael Ian {IL K-3, -E-} -- Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 1.6, 32p  
When a bored girl meets a potato who finds children tedius, she tries to prove him wrong by demonstrating all of the things they can do, from turning cartwheels to using their imaginations.

*The impossible rescue : the true story of an amazing Arctic adventure* -- Sandler, Martin W {IL 5-8, 979.8} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 6.6, 163p  
Presents the true story of three men sent by President McKinley in 1897 to drive two herds of reindeer across parts of Alaska to feed stranded whalers whose ships were trapped in ice.

*In a glass Grimmly : companion to A tale dark & Grimm* -- Gidwitz, Adam {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Dutton Children's Books, c2012., RL 4.8, 314p  
Frog joins cousins Jack and Jill in leaving their own stories to seek a magic mirror, encountering such creatures as giants, mermaids, and goblins along the way. Based in part on fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen.

*Invincible microbe : tuberculosis and the never-ending search for a cure* -- Murphy, Jim {IL 5-8, 616.9} -- Clarion Books, 2012., RL 8.9, 149p  
Discusses the history of tuberculosis and the attempts to find a cure.

*Island : a story of the Galapagos* -- Chin, Jason {IL K-3, 508.866} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 4, 34p  
A history of the Galapagos Island, describing how the island formed and animals came to inhabit it.

*It jes' happened : when Bill Traylor started to draw* -- Tate, Don {IL 3-6, 759.13} -- Lee & Low Books, c2012., RL 4.5, 32p  
A biography of Bill Traylor, a former slave who began to draw pictures--based on his recollections of rural and urban life--at the age of 83.

*Jazz Age Josephine* -- Winter, Jonah {IL K-3, 792.8} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 2.4, 32p  
Illustrations and text introduce children to the life and legacy of Josephine Baker, examining her accomplishments, and describing how she overcame her poor, segregated upbringing to find success as a performer.

*Jimmy the greatest!* -- Buitrago, Jairo {IL K-3, -E-} -- Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2012., RL 2.3, 48p  
Don Apolinar urges Jimmy, who lives in a small Caribbean town where there is not much to do, to start training at the boxing gym and to read about Muhammad Ali. Jimmy begins to realize that he is a good boxer and finds that he would be happy running the gym and improving his hometown.

*Just behave, Pablo Picasso!* -- Winter, Jonah {IL K-3, 709.2} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, 2012., RL 4.2, 48p  
Critics want Pablo Picasso to continue painting the kind of things they like, but he stands up to them and paints in the styles he chooses.

*Just ducks!* -- Davies, Nicola {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 3.6, 26p  
A young girl shares her observations about the mallard ducks that live down on the river.

*Keeping the castle : a tale of romance, riches, and real estate* -- Kindl, Patrice {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Viking, 2012., 261p  
In order to support her family and maintain their ancient castle in Lesser Hoo, seventeen-year-old Althea bears the burden of finding a wealthy suitor who can remedy their financial problems.

*Kepler's dream* -- Bell, Juliet {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2012., RL 6.1, 247p  
While her mother undergoes radical cancer treatment, eleven-year-old Ella stays with her father's mother in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she learns about grammar and family history, and helps investigate the theft of an extremely rare book from her grandmother's library.

*Kindred souls* -- MacLachlan, Patricia {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Katherine Tegen Books, c2012., RL 3.5, 119p  
Ten year-old Jake shares a special bond with his grandfather, Billy, but when Billy asks Jake to build him a sod house, Jake is not sure he wants to do it.

*Legends of Zita the spacegirl* -- Hatke, Ben {IL 3-6, 741.5} -- First Second, 2012., RL 2.8, 205p  
Zita is determined to find her way home to Earth, but her exploits have made her an intergallactic megastar, and as her true self is eclipsed by her public persona, she faces a robot doppelganger, unsure of who she can trust.

*Lemonade in winter : a book about two kids counting money* -- Jenkins, Emily {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 2.2, 34p  
Pauline and her brother John-John set up a stand to sell lemonade, limeade, and lemon-limeade one cold, wintry day, then try to attract customers as Pauline adds up their earnings.

*Liar & spy* -- Stead, Rebecca {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Wendy Lamb Books, c2012., RL 4.8, 180p  
Seventh-grader Georges adjusts to moving from a house to an apartment, his father's efforts to start a new business, his mother's extra shifts as a nurse, being picked on at school, and Safer, a boy who wants his help spying on another resident of their building.

*Lies, knives and girls in red dresses* -- Koertge, Ronald {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., 87p  
Free-verse reveals true stories behind well-known fairy tales, some reset in modern times, as a strung-out match girl sells CDs to drug users, Little Red Riding Hood admits that she wanted to know what it is like to be swallowed whole, and Cinderella's stepsisters are duped.

*Life in the ocean : the story of oceanographer Sylvia Earle* -- Nivola, Claire A {IL K-3, 551.46} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012., RL 5, 32p  
A picture book biography of oceanographer Sylvia Earle, discussing her childhood along the Gulf of Mexico, her passion for the environment, and her experiences in ocean exploration.

*The lions of Little Rock* -- Levine, Kristin {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2012., RL 3.9, 298p  
Twelve-year-old Marlee develops a strong friendship with Liz, the new girl in school, but when Liz suddenly stops attending school and Marlee hears a rumor that her friend is actually an African American girl passing herself off as white, the two young girls must decide whether their friendship is worth taking on integration and the dangers it could bring to their families.

*Listen to my trumpet!* -- Willems, Mo {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion Books for Children, c2012., RL 1.5, 57p  
When Piggie plays her new trumpet for Gerald, the elephant decides he must be honest in his response.

*Little White Duck : a childhood in China* -- Liu, Na {IL 5-8, 741.5} -- Graphic Universe, c2012., RL 3.2, 108p  
In graphic novel format, a young girl describes her experiences growing up in China, beginning with the death of Chairman Mao in 1976.

*Lulu and the duck in the park* -- McKay, Hilary {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Albert Whitman, 2012, c2011., RL 5.8, 104p  
Lulu, who loves animals, brings an abandoned duck egg to school, even though her teacher has banned Lulu from bringing animals to school ever again.

*Machines go to work in the city* -- Low, William {IL K-3, 621.8} -- Henry Holt, 2012., RL 2.7, 30p  
Shows the machines that work around the cities, such as, garbage trucks, trains, cranes, and planes.

*Master of deceit : J. Edgar Hoover and America in the age of lies* -- Aronson, Marc {IL YA, 363.25} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., 230p  
Examines the legacy and the power held by J. Edgar Hoover during his years as the first director of the FBI and describes how his decisions affected the lives of Americans in the twentieth century.

*May B. : a novel* -- Rose, Caroline Starr {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 3.7, 231p  
When a failed wheat crop nearly bankrupts the Betterly family, twelve-year-old May's father pulls her from school and hires her out to a couple new to the Kansas frontier.

*Me and Earl and the dying girl : a novel* -- Andrews, Jesse {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Amulet Books, 2012., 295p  
Seventeen-year-old Greg has managed to become part of every social group at his Pittsburgh high school without having any friends, but his life changes when his mother forces him to befriend Rachel, a girl he once knew in Hebrew school who has leukemia.

*The mighty Mars rovers : the incredible adventures of Spirit and Opportunity* -- Rusch, Elizabeth {IL 3-6, 523.43} -- Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2012., RL 6.4, 79p  
The story of the two robot vehicles, Spirit and Opportunity, that were sent to explore Mars, lasting far past their projected lives of three months and sending back invaluable images of the environmentally hostile planet.

*The mighty Miss Malone* -- Curtis, Christopher Paul {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Wendy Lamb Books, c2012., RL 3.8, 307p  
Deza Malone, the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, accompanies her mother and older brother on a trip to find her father, an African American man who left to find work after the Great Depression hit. They end up in a Hooverville outside of Flint, Michigan, and her brother attempts to be a performer while Deza and her mother search for a home.

*Miles to go for freedom : segregation & civil rights in the Jim Crow years* -- Osborne, Linda Barrett {IL 5-8, 305.896} -- Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2012., RL 5.7, 118p  
Describes the lives of African Americans during the Jim Crow years, a period of legal segregation and discrimination from the 1890s through the 1950s, including photographs and interviews with African Americans who were young during this time and other primary resources.

*Minette's feast : the delicious story of Julia Child and her cat* -- Reich, Susanna {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Abrams Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 5.2, 40p  
While Julia is in the kitchen learning to cook up elaborate, delicious dishes, the only feast Minette is truly interested in is that of fresh mouse.

*The miseducation of Cameron Post* -- Danforth, Emily M. {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012., 470p  
In the early 1990s, when gay teenager Cameron Post rebels against her conservative Montana ranch town and her family decides she needs to change her ways, she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center.

*Mom, it's my first day of kindergarten!* -- Yum, Hyewon {IL K-3, -E-} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012., RL 1.5, 34p  
A five-year-old boy, ready and eager on his first day at "the big kids' school," must calm his very worried mother.

*Moonbird : a year on the wind with the great survivor B95* -- Hoose, Phillip M. {IL YA, 598.072} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012., 148p  
Chronicles a year in the life of rufa red knot B95, also called Moonbird, following him through his migration pattern and discussing the environmental problems that caused the rufa population to collapsed by nearly eighty percent.

*Mr. and Mrs. Bunny-- detectives extraordinaire!* -- Horvath, Polly {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 5.9, 248p  
Middle-schooler Madeline's hippy parents have been kidnapped from Hornby Island, Canada, by foxes and Madeline, upon discovering that she can understand animal languages, hires two rabbit detectives to find them.

*Mrs. Harkness and the panda* -- Potter, Alicia {IL 3-6, 599.789} -- Alfred A. Knopf, c2012., RL 3.5, 32p  
An illustrated account of Ruth Harkness' journey to China and up the Yangtze River, where she discovered a baby panda she named Su Lin.

*My sister lives on the mantelpiece : a novel* -- Pitcher, Annabel {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown, 2012, c2011., 214p  
With his family still grieving over his sister's death in a terrorist bombing seven years earlier, ten-year-old Jamie is far more interested in his cat, Roger, his birthday Spider-Man T-shirt, and keeping his new Muslim friend, Sunya, a secret from his father.

*Never fall down : a novel* -- McCormick, Patricia {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012., 216p  
When soldiers arrive in his hometown in Cambodia, Arn Chorn Pond is separated from his family and sent to a labor camp, where he works in the rice paddies until he volunteers to learn to play an instrument--a decision that both saves his life and lands him in battle.

*Nic Bishop snakes* -- Bishop, Nic {IL K-3, 597.96} -- Scholastic Nonfiction, c2012., RL 3.1, 48p  
Naturalist Nic Bishop provides an in-depth examination of snakes, featuring full-color images, and sharing details on the characteristics, habitats, and abilities of various species of reptiles.

*Nighttime ninja* -- DaCosta, Barbara {IL K-3, -E-} -- Little, Brown, 2012., RL 1.6, 31p  
Late at night, when all is quiet and everyone is asleep, a ninja creeps silently through the house in search of treasure.

*No crystal stair : a documentary novel of the life and work of Lewis Michaux, Harlem bookseller* -- Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Carolrhoda Lab, c2012., 188p  
Tells the story of Lewis Michaux who built a bookstore in Harlem despite widespread opposition.

*The obsidian blade* -- Hautman, Pete {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., 308p  
After thirteen-year-old Tucker Feye's parents disappear, he suspects that the strange disks of shimmering air that he keeps seeing are somehow involved, and, when he steps inside one, he is whisked away on a time-twisting journey trailed by a shadowy sect of priests and haunted by ghostlike figures.

*Ocean sunlight : how tiny plants feed the seas* -- Bang, Molly {IL K-3, 571.4} -- Blue Sky Press, c2012., RL 3.7, 42p  
Explains how tiny plants feed the seas.

*Oh, no!* -- Fleming, Candace {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 1.5, 34p  
A series of animals falls into a deep hole, only to be saved at last by a very large rescuer.

*Olivia and the fairy princesses* -- Falconer, Ian {IL K-3, -E-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 2.3, 32p  
Olivia is having an identity crisis! There are too many ruffly, sparkly princesses around these days, and Olivia has had quite enough. She needs to stand out! She has to be special.

*Olympians. 4,Hades, lord of the dead* -- O'Connor, George {IL 5-8, 741.5} -- First Second, 2012., RL 4, 76p  
A fictionalized account, in graphic novel format, of the Greek myth of Hades, God of the Underworld, and his abduction of the goddess Demeter's daughter, Persephone, to make her his wife, and the chaos that ensued.

*The one and only Ivan* -- Applegate, Katherine {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Harper, c2012., RL 4, 305p  
When Ivan, a gorilla who has lived for years in a down-and-out circus-themed mall, meets Ruby, a baby elephant that has been added to the mall, he decides that he must find her a better life.

*One cool friend* -- Buzzeo, Toni {IL K-3, -E-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 4.8, 32p  
Elliot, a very proper young man, feels a kinship with the penguins at the aquarium and wants to take one home with him.

*One Times Square : a century of change at the crossroads of the world* -- McKendry, Joe {IL 5-8, 974.7} -- David R. Godine, 2012., RL 8.9  
Explores the intersection at One Times Square, the former headquarters of the "New York Times," covering early Broadway, the district's decades of postwar decay, and its renewal as a tourist-friendly media mecca.

*One year in Coal Harbor* -- Horvath, Polly {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 5, 216p  
In a small fishing village in British Columbia, twelve-year-old Primrose tries to be a matchmaker for her Uncle Jack, befriends Ked, a new foster child, tries to decide if she is willing to go to jail for her convictions, and together with Ked, publishes a cookbook to raise money for the Fisherman's Aid. Includes recipes.

*Otto the book bear* -- Cleminson, Katie {IL K-3, -E-} -- Disney/Hyperion Books, 2012, c2011., RL 2.6, 32p  
Otto lives in a book in a house but when no one is looking he comes to life to read his favorite stories and practice his writing, until he is left behind and must set out in search of a new home.

*Out on the prairie* -- Bateman, Donna M {IL K-3, 577.4} -- Charlesbridge, c2012., RL 5.2, 32p  
Cut-paper art illustrates the creatures of Badlands National Park from reptiles, mammals, and birds to insects, and includes a guide to prairie flora and fauna.

*The Peculiars* -- McQuerry, Maureen {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Amulet Books, 2012., 359p  
Eighteen-year-old Lena Mattacascar sets out for Scree, a weird place inhabited by Peculiars, seeking the father who left when she was young, but on the way she meets young librarian, Jimson Quiggley, and handsome marshal, Thomas Saltre, who complicate her plans.

*Penny and Her Doll* -- Henkes, Kevin {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillo Books, c2013.

*Penny and her song* -- Henkes, Kevin {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, c2012., RL 2.1, 32p  
Penny comes home from school eager to share her very own song, but must wait until the time is right to teach it to her parents and the babies.

*Pickle : the (formerly) anonymous prank club of Fountain Point Middle School* -- Baker, Kimberly {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., RL 5.7, 233p  
Using a bogus name, the League of Picklemakers, sixth-grader Ben and three recruits start a prank-pulling club and receive funding from their middle school's PTA.

*Pink smog : becoming Weetzie Bat* -- Block, Francesca Lia {IL YA, -Fic-} -- HarperTeen, c2012., 185p  
While thirteen-year-old junior high school outcast Weetzie Bat is mourning the life her family lost when their cottage in the Los Angeles hills burned down, her father leaves her alcoholic mother without telling either of them where he is going, and she must learn how to stand up for herself and to find beauty in even the most difficult situations.

*Prairie Evers* -- Airgood, Ellen {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Nancy Paulsen Books, c2012., RL 3.1, 215p  
Ten-year-old Prairie is happy being home-schooled and raising her flock of chickens, so transferring to regular school is a big change, but fortunately she meets a wonderful friend.

*Princess Academy : palace of stone* -- Hale, Shannon {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Bloomsbury, 2012., RL 6, 321p  
Miri returns to Asland and calls upon all of her knowledge of rhetoric and other useful lessons learned at the Princess Academy when she and the other girls face strong opposition while working for a new, fair charter.

*The quiet place* -- Stewart, Sarah {IL K-3, -E-} -- Farrar Straus Giroux, 2012., RL 2.8, 34p  
A little girl moves to the United States from Mexico with her family and writes letters to her aunt in Mexico about her new life.

*The Raven Boys* -- Stiefvater, Maggie {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., 409p  
Though she is from a family of clairvoyants, Blue Sargent's only gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, and when she meets Gansey, one of the Raven Boys from the expensive Aglionby Academy, she discovers that he has talents of his own--and that together their talents are a dangerous mix.

*Rocket writes a story* -- Hills, Tad {IL K-3, -E-} -- Schwartz & Wade Books, c2012., RL 2.8, 32p  
Rocket writes a story about a new friend, the owl.

*Sadie and Ratz* -- Hartnett, Sonya {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012, c2008., RL 2.3, 59p  
Hannah and her hands, named Sadie and Ratz, regularly get into trouble, especially when younger brother Baby Boy is around.

*Second chance summer* -- Matson, Morgan {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Simon & Schuster BFYR, c2012., 468p  
After Taylor Edwards' family gets devastating news, they decide to spend one last summer all together at their lake house in the Pocono Mountains, they get to know each other again and bond, and Taylor remembers her past friends and crush.

*The second life of Abigail Walker* -- Dowell, Frances O'Roark {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Atheneum Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 5.4, 228p  
Bullied by two mean girls in her sixth-grade class, a lonely, plump girl gains self-confidence and makes new friends after a mysterious fox gently bites her.

*Seraphina* -- Hartman, Rachel {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Random House, c2012., 465p  
In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents.

*Son* -- Lowry, Lois {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Houghton Mifflin Books -, c2012., 288p  
Unlike the other Birthmothers in her utopian community, teenaged Claire forms an attachment to her baby, feeling a great loss when he is taken to the Nurturing Center to be adopted by a family unit.

*Sophia's war --a tale of the revolution* -- Avi {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Beach Lane Books, c2012.

*Spike --the mixed-up monster* / pictures by Melissa Sweet; includes Spanish words and animal facts -- Hood, Susan {IL K-3, -E-} -- Paula Wiseman Books, c2012.

*The Spindlers* -- Oliver, Lauren {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- HarperCollins, c2012.  
Accompanied by an eccentric, human-sized rat, Liza embarks on a perilous quest through an underground realm to save her brother Patrick, whose soul has been stolen by the evilest of creatures--the spider-like spindlers.

*Splendors and glooms* -- Schlitz, Laura Amy {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 5.5, 384p  
When Clara vanishes after the puppeteer Grisini and two orphaned assistants were at her twelfth birthday party, suspicion of kidnapping chases the trio away from London and soon the two orphans are caught in a trap set by Grisini's ancient rival, a witch with a deadly inheritance to shed before it is too late.

*Starry River of the Sky* -- Lin, Grace {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Little, Brown Books for Y, c2012.  
An innkeeper's chore boy discovers that a visitor's stories hold the key to returning the moon to the Starry River of the Sky.

*Step gently out* -- Frost, Helen {IL K-3, 811} -- Candlewick Press, 2012., RL 2.4, 26p  
Examines nature through lyrical text and close-up photography.

*Summer and Bird* -- Catmull, Katherine {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Dutton Children's Books, c2012., RL 3.9, 344p  
In the world of Down, young sisters Summer and Bird are separated and go in very different directions as they seek their missing parents, try to vanquish the evil Puppeteer, lead the talking birds back to their Green Home, and discover the identity of the true bird queen.

*Summer of the gypsy moths* -- Pennypacker, Sara {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012., RL 5.8, 275p  
A foster child named Angel and twelve-year-old Stella, who are living with Stella's great-aunt Louise at the Linger Longer Cottage Colony on Cape Cod, secretly assume responsibility for the vacation rentals when Louise unexpectedly dies and the girls are afraid of being returned to the foster care system.

*Team Human* -- Larbalestier, Justine {IL YA, -Fic-} -- HarperTeen, c2012., 344p  
Residing in New Whitby, Maine, a town founded by vampires trying to escape persecution, Mel finds her negative attitudes challenged when her best friend falls in love with one, another friend's father runs off with one, and she herself is attracted to someone who tries to pass himself off as one.

*There is no dog* -- Rosoff, Meg {IL YA, -Fic-} -- G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2012, c2011., 272p  
When the beautiful Lucy prays to fall in love, God, an irresponsible youth named Bob, chooses to answer her prayer personally, to the dismay of this assistant, Mr. B who must try to clean up the resulting catastrophes.

*This Is Not My Hat* -- Klassen, Jon {IL K-3, -E-} -- Candlewick, c2012.  
A tiny fish wearing a blue hat hopes not to wake up the trouble that might be following close behind.

*Three times lucky* -- Turnage, Sheila {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Dial Books for Young Readers, c2012., RL 4.5, 312p  
Washed ashore as a baby in tiny Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, Mo LoBeau, now eleven, and her best friend Dale turn detective when the amnesiac Colonel, owner of a cafe and co-parent of Mo with his cook, Miss Lana, seems implicated in a murder.

*Tiger Lily* -- Anderson, Jodi Lynn {IL YA, -Fic-} -- HarperTeen, c2012., 292p  
Fifteen-year-old Tiger Lily receives special protections from the spiritual forces of Neverland, but then she meets her tribe's most dangerous enemy--Peter Pan--and falls in love with him.

*Titanic : voices from the disaster* -- Hopkinson, Deborah {IL 3-6, 910.9163} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., RL 7.6, 289p  
Draws on stories from survivors and archival photographs to describe the history of the "Titanic" from its launch to its sinking.

*To the mountaintop! : my journey through the civil rights movement* -- Hunter-Gault, Charlayne {IL YA, 070} -- Roaring Brook Press, 2012., 198p  
The author describes her involvement in the civil rights movement and the way she felt at the inauguration of Barack Obama, featuring black-and-white photographs, articles from the "New York Times," and more.

*Traction Man and the beach odyssey* -- Grey, Mini {IL K-3, -E-} -- Alfred A. Knopf, 2012, c2011., RL 3, 32p  
Traction Man, the action figure, and his sidekick, Scrubbing Brush, share dangerous adventures at the beach.

*Twelve Kinds of Ice* -- Obed, Ellen Bryan {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, c2012.  
From the first ice, a thin skin on a bucket of water, through thickly-iced fields, streams, and gardens, a girl, her family, and friends anticipate and enjoy a winter of skating, ending with an ice show complete with costumes, refreshments, and clowns.

*The unfortunate son* -- Leeds, Constance {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Viking, 2012., RL 6.7, 302p  
Luc, a youth born with one ear and raised by a drunken father in fifteenth-century France, finds a better home with fisherman Pons, his sister Mattie, and their ward Beatrice, the daughter of a disgraced knight, and even after being kidnapped and sold into slavery in Africa, he remains remarkably fortunate.

*Ungifted* -- Korman, Gordon {IL 5-8, -Fic-} -- Balzer + Bray, c2012., RL 6.2, 280p  
Due to an administrative mix-up, troublemaker Donovan Curtis is sent to the Academy of Scholastic Distinction, a special program for gifted and talented students, after pulling a major prank at middle school.

*Unspoken : a story from the Underground Railroad* -- Cole, Henry {IL K-3, -E-} -- Scholastic Press, 2012., 40p  
In this wordless picture book, a young Southern farm girl discovers a runaway slave hiding behind the corn crib in the barn and decides to help him.

*Waiting* -- Williams, Carol Lynch {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Simon and Schuster BFYR, c2012., 335p  
As the tragic death of her older brother devastates the family, teenaged London struggles to find redemption and finds herself torn between her brother's best friend and a handsome new boy in town.

*Water sings blue : ocean poems* -- Coombs, Kate {IL K-3, 811} -- Chronicle Books, c2012., 28p  
A collection of poems about the sea, accompanied by watercolors by artist Meilo So.

*We've got a job : the 1963 Birmingham Children's March* -- Levinson, Cynthia {IL 5-8, 323.1196} -- Peachtree, c2012., RL 7.1, 176p  
Discusses the 1963 Birmingham Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama.

*The wicked and the just* -- Coats, Jillian Anderson {IL YA, -Fic-} -- Harcourt, 2012., 344p  
In medieval Wales, follows Cecily whose family is lured by cheap land and the duty of all Englishman to help keep down the "vicious" Welshmen, and Gwenhwyfar, a Welsh girl who must wait hand and foot on her new English mistress.

*Wonder* -- Palacio, R. J {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Knopf, c2012., RL 5.1, 315p  
Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

*Year of the book* -- Cheng, Andrea {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Houghton Mifflin, 2012., RL 2.3, 146p  
Follows a young Chinese American girl, as she navigates relationships with family, friends, and her fourth-grade classroom, and finds a true best friend.

*Z is for Moose* -- Bingham, Kelly L. {IL K-3, -E-} -- Greenwillow Books, 2012., RL .8, 32p  
Moose is terribly eager to play his part in Zebra's alphabet book, but when his letter passes him by, Moose behaves rather badly until Zebra finds a spot for him.

**A Peek into 2013**

*Barbed Wire Baseball* -- Moss, Marissa {IL 3-6, 796} -- Abrams Books for Young Re, c2013.

*The Beatles were fab (and they were funny)* / illustrated by Stacy Innerst -- Krull, Kathleen {IL K-3, 782} -- HMH Children's Books, c2013., 40p

*The Bird King --An Artist's Notebook* -- Tan, Shaun {IL 5-8, 741.6} -- Arthur A. Levine Books, c2013.

*Brave girl --Clara and the shirtwaist makers' strike of 1909* / illustrated in full color by Melissa Sweet -- Markel, Michelle {IL K-3, 331.892} -- Balzer + Bray, c2013., 32p

*Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bike* -- Raschka, Chris {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Schwartz & Wade, c2013.

*Extreme Babymouse* -- Holm, Jennifer L {IL 3-6, 741.5} -- Random House Books for Yo, c2013.

*Follow Follow* -- Singer, Marilyn {IL 3-6, 811} -- Dial, c2013.

*Lincoln's Grave Robbers* -- Sheinkin, Steve {IL 5-8, 973} -- Scholastic Press, c2013.

*Master George's People* -- Delano, Marfe Ferguson {IL 3-6, 973} -- National Geographic Child, c2013.

*The Matchbox Diary* -- Fleischman, Paul {IL 3-6, -Fic-} -- Candlewick, 2013., 40p

*Pluto's Secret An Icy World's Tale of Discovery* -- Weitekamp, Margaret {IL K-3, 520} -- Abrams, 2013., 40p

*The Price of Freedom How One Town Stood up to Slavery* -- Fradin, Dennis Brindell {IL K-3, 973} -- Walker & Co, c2013., 48p

*Red kite, blue kite* -- Jiang, Ji-Li {IL K-3, -E-} -- Hyperion/Disney, c2013., 32p

*A Splash of Red* -- Bryant, Jen [{IL K-3, 759.13} -- Knopf Books for Young Rea, c2013.

*Stronger than Steel --spider silk DNA and the quest for better bulletproof vests,-- / (Scientists in the Field)* -- Heos, Bridget {IL 5-8, 590} -- Houghton Mifflin Books -, c2012.

*Tillie Pierce Teen Eyewitness to the Battle of Gettysburg* -- Anderson, Tanya {IL 5-8, 973.73} -- Twenty-First Century Book, c2013.

*White fur flying* -- MacLachlan, Patricia {IL K-3, -Fic-} -- Margaret K. McElderry Bks, c2012.

*You Never Heard of Willie Mays?!* -- Winter, Jonah {IL K-3, 796.357092} -- Schwartz & Wade, c2013.

**Sources for Book Selection**

**Awards**

* ALA: Caldecott, Newbery, Coretta Scott King, Michael Printz, Batchelder, Notables (check the discussion lists)
* YALSA: Quick Picks, Notables, College Bound, Graphic Novels
* Canadian Librarian Association: National, Regional and Children’s Choice
* Reader’s Choice Awards: usually promoted by state library, reading and/or English teacher associations

**Non-Library Associations**

* Children’s Book Council
* International Reading Association: Teachers’ and Children’s Choices
* National Council of Social Studies: Notable Social Studies Trade Book Award
* National Science Teachers Association: Notable Science Trade Book

**Journals**

* Booklist with Book Links
* Bulletin for the Center of Children’s Books
* Kirkus Reviews
* Library Journal
* LMC- Library Media Connection
* School Library Journal
* The Horn Book Magazine
* Publishers Weekly
* VOYA

**Experts**

* Kathleen Baxter- Nonfiction and boy-book expert, author the *Gotcha* books
* Esme Codell- Teacher, librarian and author of *Sahara Special* and *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading*
* Deborah B. Ford- Award winning teacher librarian, author and international speaker
* Judy Freeman- Librarian, storyteller and author, BER consultant for What’s New In Children’s Literature K-6
* Deborah Hypes- Librarian known for workshops on Best YA literature
* Nancy Keane- Known for her booktalks and booklists; new blog hosts podcasts
* Kathleen Odean- Expert on children’s and young adult books; sign up for her YA newsletter
* Peggy Sharp- Known for her presentation of children’s books including BER What’s New in Children’s Literature, K-6
* Patti Tjomsland- Teacher Librarian known for her presentations on BER What’s New in YA literature

**Publishers**

*(General note: Google publisher of your book for links to resource materials; also search by author or illustrator)*

* Bookmarket.com- Links to most publishers of children’s books
* Publishers Weekly Children’s Bookshelf- newsletter

**Bookseller selections:**

* Follett
* IndieBound: Independent Booksellers Picks
* Junior Library Guild
* Local Independent bookseller

**Other Book Sources** *Be sure to sign up for the newsletters*

* KidsReads.com
* Reader’s Group Guides http://www.readinggroupguides.com/
* TeenReads.com

**Support Sites:**

Deborah B. Ford blog http://deborahford.blogspot.com

Some of the Best Books http://tinyurl.com/bestbooksofyear

**About the Speaker**

Deborah B. Ford is an award-winning teacher librarian and international speaker with almost thirty years of experience as a classroom teacher and librarian in K-12 schools. Moving back across the country, Deborah is the new Director of Library Outreach for Junior Library Guild in Ohio. Her column, *On the Radar,* appears weekly in SLJ’s Extra Helping.

Deborah is the former District Resource Librarian for San Diego Unified School District where she supported over 180 K-12 school libraries. Traveling throughout North America, she still does seminars NEFLIN and for the Bureau of Education, including, "Increasing the Effectiveness of Your School Library Program," and “How School Libraries Impact Student Achievement.” Her book, *Scary, Gross and Enlightening: Books for Boys* was released by Linworth Publishing late fall 2009. You can contact her for keynotes, workshops and conferences at auntbettyblue@yahoo.com.