

# 2021 BEST OF THE BEST BOOKLIST

## HONORABLE MENTION

### Pre-K Through 4th

#### **Billy Be Kind: Clean-Up Time by Kim Adams (Pre-k through 4th)**

-Noah wants to find his toy truck, but his bedroom is very messy. Will Noah ever find his favorite truck? How will Billy Be Kind help Noah? Join the Billy Be Kind family and dive into a collection of short rhyming stories with important messages for young readers.

#### **Change Sings by Amanda Gorman (Pre-K through 4th)**

-This hybrid of song and story boast moments of inspired poetry, the essence of which is capture by the old-school realism of Long's illustrations. While reminiscent of Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land," this book carries a more direct call to action, reflected in the images of community activism.

#### **I Affirm Me: The ABCs of Inspiration for Black Kids by Nyasha Williams**

-An empowering A-Z title that celebrates the joy and love of Black childhood.

#### **Mia's Mask by Monica L. Woodard**

-Mia's Mask is a rhyming story about a young girl adjusting to wearing a face mask. Mia started wearing a mask due to the global pandemic, COVID-19. She had to learn to wear it properly, and there is no in-between.

#### **Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Pena**

-This clever story of a boy spending a long train ride drawing the lives of fellow passengers steps comfortably into the mind of a child. De la Peña manages to flesh out Milo's character and life with remarkably few words, and Robinson' artwork captures both the vibrant variety of city life and the rudimentary beauty of children's artwork.

#### **My Mother's Wildest Dreams by John E. Light**

-Many Ancestors were responsible for bringing us into the world. My Mothers Wildest Dreams honors the Mothers responsible for bringing Mister John here. The beautifully rich illustration and poetic prose highlight the hopes, dreams and aspirations every mother has for their children. In life the seasons and scenery change, but a Mother's love never fades.



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### Pre-K Through 4th (continued)

#### **Virus Busters: A Children's Story About Germs, Virus, Hygiene, and Working in Unity by Virtuous Cornwall**

-An adventurous story that teaches children how to practice good hygiene to help prevent the spread of germs and viruses.

#### **Shhh! The Baby's Asleep by JaNay Brown-Wood**

Packed with bouncy rhymes, lively illustrations, and plenty of room for audience participation, this bedtime-themed comedy is sure to please little ones and caregivers alike.

#### **Soulful Holidays by Ciara Hill**

An inclusive poem celebrating the joys of Christmas and Kwanzaa

#### **The Snotty Nosed Kids by Maurice Todd**

View on life through the courageous eyes of Carly, Benjamin and Owen. Three orphaned children now living under the tutelage of their beloved Grandma Madame Estelle Walker. Now is your chance to accompany them on many wonderful adventures. So Hurry! For they are about to embark on a journey by night from Anyhood U.S.A. to The Hidden Isle of Sepalo!

#### **Saving American Beach by Heidi Tyline King**

This inspiring biography with bright illustrations highlights the important themes of preservation and environmental concern in one woman's efforts to preserve an element of her family's heritage. Told through the perspective of MaVynee Betsch, an opera singer, the book describes her efforts to save a beach purchased by her great-grandfather during the Jim Crow era, which was under threat due to pollution and development projects. Betsch's persistence and desire to do what is right is likely to inspire young readers, and to show that they can also make a difference.



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### 5th Through 8th

#### **Maya and the Robot by Eve Ewing**

-Fifth grade Maya is nervous about fifth grade. When, for the first time since kindergarten, she is separated from her best friends, Maya tries turning inward to self soothe. After finding a robot in the back of her teacher's closet, and using her ingenuity to activate it, Maya learns there is power in being oneself.

### 9th Through 12th

#### **Quincredible: Quest to Be the Best vol.1 by Rodney Barnes**

-As a teenager blessed with superhuman powers by the effects of a meteor, what does one do? Join the Super Heroes crew of course. Follow Quincredible through his adventures managing the use of a new super power.



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## CONTRIBUTORS

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