

The New York Public Library

BEST BOOKS FOR KIDS 2016

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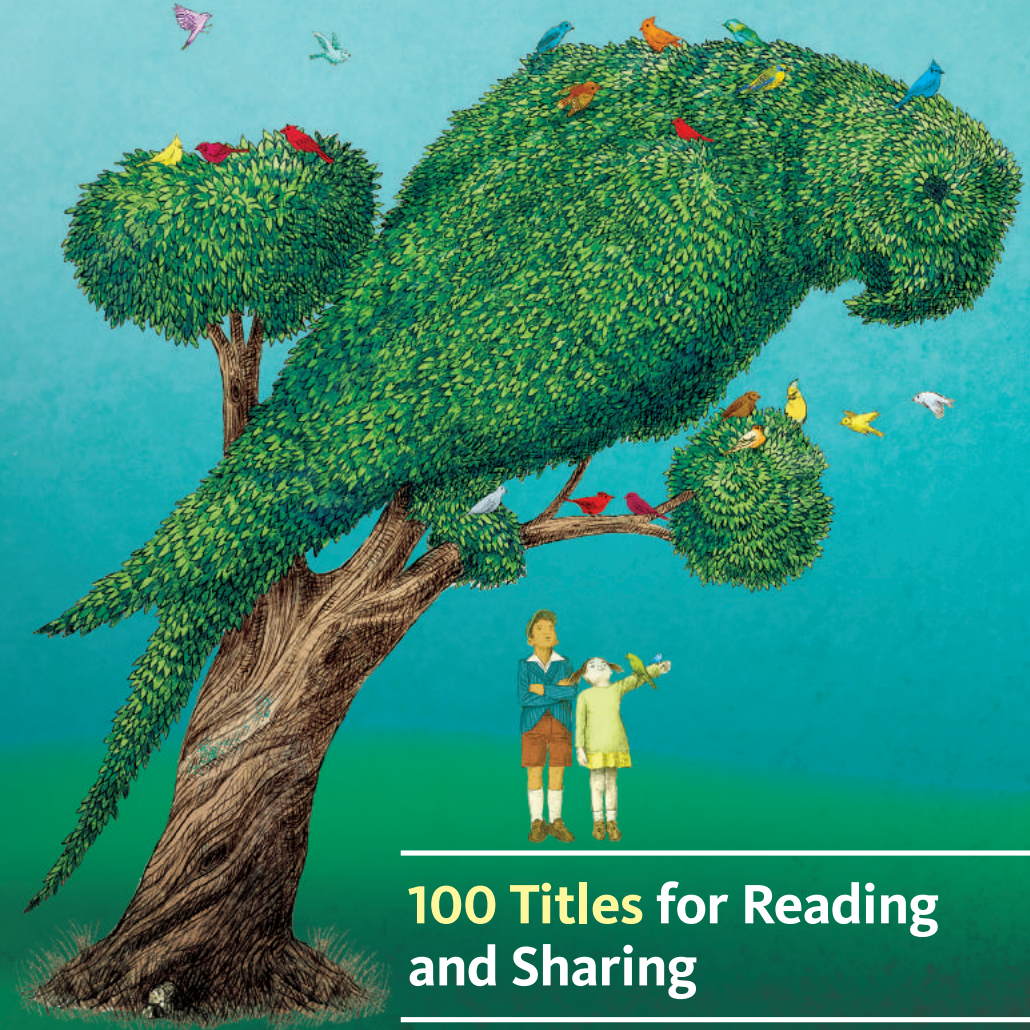


#BESTBOOKS

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100 Titles for Reading and Sharing



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"I love playing in the dirt, so maybe my name should be Mud in His Ears."

— THUNDER BOY JR. by Sherman Alexie

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2016 edition of The New York Public Library's *Best Books for Kids: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing*. Among this year's selection of noteworthy new children's books, readers of all ages are sure to discover new worlds, engage their curiosity, and spark their imaginations. Our expert librarians chose favorites from the thousands of books published this year for you and your family to discover and enjoy.

More than a century old, this list has always sought to reflect the vibrant diversity of New York City's readership. In these books, you'll discover important moments in history, scientific wonders beyond imagination, and cultures from around the world—all while rapt in the power of great storytelling.

Parents, caregivers, librarians, and teachers all play a critical role in supporting a child's journey from emerging reader to confident reader. Here are a few tips to get started:

Make reading part of your family's regular routine. Nightly bedtime stories work well for many families, but any time of day is good. It's never too early to start, and never too late to encourage your child to pick up the habit!

Talk about what you are reading. Whether your child is reading independently or together with you, discussing and retelling stories helps deepen understanding, improve reading skills, and build vocabulary.

Let your child catch you reading! Keep books, newspapers, and magazines at home and demonstrate your own love for the written word.

The New York Public Library's *Best Books for Kids 2016: 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing* is published by:

Committee: Alexandria Abenshon, Clarissa Cooke, Jay Garfinkel, Chelsea Holland, Tiffany James, Annie Lin, Anthony Murisco, Rachel Skinner O'Neill, David Paggi, Noemi Vega, Christina Wilson, Sue Yee, Lauren Younger

Co-Chairs: Louise Lareau & Theresa Panza

Advisors: BookOps & Readers Services

Picture Books

Armstrong: The Adventurous Journey of a Mouse to the Moon

by Torben Kuhlmann. A stargazing mouse takes his dreams of space travel and makes them a reality in this finely detailed story.

A Beginner's Guide to Bear Spotting by Michelle Robinson; illustrated by David Roberts. Learn to charm furry beasts with a simple teddy bear in this humorous how-to.

Bunny Slopes by Claudia Rueda. A bunny is getting ready to ski but needs some help from you in this interactive picture book.

Dragon Was Terrible by Kelly DiPucchio; illustrated by Greg Pizzoli. When a magical menace terrorizes the people and unicorns of a small kingdom, an unlikely hero steps up.

Emma and Julia Love Ballet by Barbara McClintock. Emma is studying dance and Julia is a professional ballerina. Take a look at a day in the life of two performers.

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THE JOURNEY by Francesca Sanna

Freedom in Congo Square by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Slaves count down the days until they can meet in New Orleans' famed Congo Square—the only place they could legally worship and make music together.

Have You Seen My Trumpet? by Michaël Escoffier; illustrated by Kris Di Giacomo. Spot the animals in this seaside setting filled with fun and witty wordplay.

Henry & Leo by Pamela Zagarenski. When Henry's best friend, a stuffed lion, goes missing, no one thinks he can find his way home.

I Am a Story by Dan Yaccarino. Celebrate the power of storytelling and all its various forms.

If I Had a Gryphon by Vikki VanSickle; illustrated by Cale Atkinson. Sam thinks life would be so much more exciting with an exotic, magical creature as a pet. But would it?

The Journey by Francesca Sanna. Haunting illustrations chronicle one refugee family's harrowing escape from the darkness of war in this tale of love, courage, and perseverance.

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Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood by F. Isabel Campoy & Theresa Howell; illustrated by Rafael López. Mira meets an artist who helps transform their gray city into something colorful and bright. Based on a true story.

The Night Gardener by Terry Fan & Eric Fan. Grimloch Lane is transformed by a mysterious stranger who creates magical topiaries by moonlight and inspires a young boy's imagination.

Ooko by Esmé Shapiro. Ooko has a stick, a rock, and a leaf, yet something is missing. Join this quirky fox in his quest to find what he wants most: a friend.

School's First Day of School by Adam Rex & Christian Robinson. School is suffering from first day jitters. Luckily, a friendly janitor is there to provide a helping hand.

They All Saw a Cat by Brendan Wenzel. Follow a feline's journey through the eyes of a fish, a flea, and a bee in this unique exploration of perspective.

Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie; illustrated by Yuyi Morales. What's in a name? Find out in this story about a father and son.

Tree: A Peek-Through Picture Book by Britta Teckentrup. Owl peeks through the foliage as critters frolic through the seasons in these detailed illustrated cutouts.

A Voyage in the Clouds: The (Mostly) True Story of the First International Flight by Balloon in 1785 by Matthew Olshan; illustrated by Sophie Blackall. A rollicking hot air balloon romp over the English Channel lands a Frenchman and an American on the seashore in their knickers.

The Water Princess by Susan Verde & Georgie Badiel; illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. Journey with Gie Gie as she and her mother make the day-long trek to find life's most precious necessity: clean water.

What to Do with a Box by Jane Yolen; illustrated by Chris Sheban. To an imaginative child, a cardboard box provides endless adventure. Artwork created with recycled materials.

4 **The White Cat and the Monk: A Retelling of the Poem "Pangur Bán"** by Jo Ellen Bogart; illustrated by Sydney Smith. Two friends find fulfillment in a job well done in this retelling of an Old Irish poem.

Worm Loves Worm by J. J. Austrian; illustrated by Mike Curato. Wave goodbye to convention and rip up the rule book on wedding etiquette! It's time to toast the newlyweds.

Yaks Yak: Animal Word Pairs by Linda Sue Park; illustrated by Jennifer Black Reinhardt. Wild and witty wordplay abound in this marvelous menagerie.

Stories for Younger Readers

Duck, Duck, Porcupine! by Salina Yoon. Who needs goose when you have a friend like porcupine? Little duck's expressions will make you laugh and scream "squeel!"



"I was carved onto clay and told in pictures."

— I AM A STORY by Dan Yaccarino

Haggis and Tank Unleashed: All Paws on Deck by Jessica Young; illustrated by James Burks. Two canine buddies embark on a swash-buckling adventure fueled only by their imagination.

Mango & Bambang: The Not-a-Pig by Polly Faber; illustrated by Clara Vulliamy. A shy tapir lost in the bustling city is rescued by a kind girl in this warm-hearted tale of unlikely friends.

My Life in Pictures (Bea Garcia) by Deborah Zemke. Aspiring artist Bea chronicles her encounters with Bert, the "monster" boy who has moved in next door and into her life.

Pugs of the Frozen North (A Not-So-Impossible Tale) by Philip Reeve; illustrated by Sarah McIntyre. Sika and Shen (and their team of 66 pugs!) want to win the Great Northern Race and meet the Snowfather, who will reward them with their heart's desire.

Timo's Garden by Victoria Allenby; illustrated by Dean Griffiths. A passionate gardener learns the importance of friendship and picnics.

Waylon! One Awesome Thing by Sara Pennypacker; illustrated by Marla Frazee. Waylon's world is turned topsy-turvy when a classmate splits the fourth grade into cliques. Can science whiz Waylon bring everyone back together?

Weekends with Max and His Dad by Linda Urban; illustrated by Katie Kath. Max and his dad share pizza, pancakes, and new adventures when divorce redefines their notion of home.

What This Story Needs Is a Hush and a Shush by Emma J. Virján. Will a pig in a wig ever get to sleep despite her noisy barnyard neighbors? Colorful illustrations accompany this amusing bedtime story.

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"Under the light of a full moon..."

— THE NIGHT GARDENER by Terry Fan & Eric Fan

Where Are You Going, Baby Lincoln? By Kate DiCamillo; illustrated by Chris Van Dusen. Baby Lincoln braves her sister's disapproval by taking the trip of a lifetime. New friends and jelly beans abound!

Stories for Older Readers

All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook by Leslie Connor. Perry has spent his entire life living in a minimum security prison with his inmate mother. When he is suddenly forced to live on the "outside," he has to cope with being away from the only family he has ever known.

As Brave as You by Jason Reynolds. Two brothers from Brooklyn spend the summer in rural Virginia and discover the complexities of family in this contemporary coming-of-age story.

Beetle Boy by M. G. Leonard. Will some mutant beetles and three new friends solve the mysterious disappearance of Darkus's father and defeat the creepy Lucretia Cutter?

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The Best Man by Richard Peck. As Archer navigates middle school, he learns about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of friendship in this hilarious tale with colorful characters and wacky shenanigans.

The Bolds by Julian Clary; illustrated by David Roberts. There's something different about the new arrivals to the sleepy suburb of Teddington. Meet the Bolds in this fun-filled tale about trying to fit in when you clearly stand out.

The Door by the Staircase by Katherine Marsh. Spunky orphan Mary Hayes is adopted by the mysterious Madame Z, a witch who eats children.

Full of Beans by Jennifer L. Holm. In 1934, Beans Curry is tempted by a resident gangster, dreams of Hollywood stardom, and rallies locals to help rescue down-and-out Key West.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds. Castle Cranshaw, a.k.a. Ghost, keeps running into trouble until a mentor gets him on the right track.

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill. Can two witches, a swamp monster and a tiny dragon save villagers from an evil council of elders? Dive into this engrossing fairy tale of hope, love, and family.

The Island of Beyond by Elizabeth Atkinson. Martin's world is shaken up when he is forced to unplug and travel to his great-aunt's off-the-grid island. There he encounters wild forest friends, family secrets, and self-discovery.

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas. It's 1979 and Zomorod (Cindy) is trying to fit into her new life in southern California. When the hostage crisis hits the headlines, she finds herself explaining all things Iranian, when all she wants is to rock a pom-pom belt.

Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart. A young transgender girl and a boy with bipolar disorder, both struggling for acceptance, find strength and bravery in each other.

The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez by Robin Yardi. After he catches two skunks stealing his old tricycle, Mateo follows them to "Stink Base." Soon he is caught up in a turf war between the feisty neighborhood critters.

Moo: A Novel by Sharon Creech. When Reena and her family unexpectedly move to Maine, they find new friends in an elderly neighbor and a stubborn cow in this tender story told in verse.

Ms. Bixby's Last Day by John David Anderson. Join three misfits and one very special teacher for a day they'll never forget.



"then in public libraries open to everyone..."

— I AM A STORY by Dan Yaccarino

Pax by Sara Pennypacker; illustrated by Jon Klassen. Forced apart by the coming of war, a young boy and his fox must each embark on their own epic journey to be reunited. Along the way, both must learn to trust new friends and their own instincts for survival.

Some Kind of Happiness by Claire Legrand. Finley takes refuge in her imaginary world of Everwood when confronted with family mysteries and inner conflicts.

Time Traveling with a Hamster by Ross Welford. If given the chance, would you go back in time to save a loved one? For Al Chaudhury, it almost seems too easy.

Unbound by Ann E. Burg. Written in verse, this powerful and evocative story chronicles a family's struggle to escape into the Great Dismal Swamp.

When Mischievous Came to Town by Katrina Nannestad. A quiet town is woken up when a quirky, mischievous 10-year-old moves in with her strict grandmother. An irresistible story where the humor flows freely!

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown. Shipwrecked on a deserted island, robot Roz must adapt her factory settings and learn how to live in the natural world.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk. In a courageous act, Annabelle takes a stand against bullying, injustice, and cruelty in 1943 Pennsylvania.

Graphic Novels

The Great Pet Escape by Victoria Jamieson. Join the class pets of Daisy P. Flugelhorn Elementary School for a hilarious adventure as they make a break for freedom and save their school along the way.

Hilo: Saving the Whole Wide World by Judd Winick. After evil sneaks to Earth through a portal created by his big toe, Hilo must stop a robot invasion and face his own destiny.

Lucy & Andy Neanderthal by Jeffrey Brown. This laugh-out-loud prehistoric tale of sibling rivalry and mischief is artfully paired with scientific facts and slapstick comedy.

The Nameless City by Faith Erin Hicks; color by Jordie Bellaire. Can two friends from different backgrounds bring together a city with a history of never-ending invasions?

Red's Planet by Eddie Pittman. After Red is mistakenly kidnapped by a gang of intergalactic thieves, she finds herself closer to "Paradise" than she could have ever imagined.

Rutabaga the Adventure Chef: Feasts of Fury by Eric Colossal. Rutabaga, a chef with a recipe for adventure, cooks his way out of his encounters with tricksters, "gubblin" royalty, and a gargantuan spider!

Snow White by Matt Phelan. Set in glamorous 1920s New York, this shadowy and atmospheric telling breathes new life into an old classic.



"the most magnificent masterpiece yet!"

— THE NIGHT GARDENER by Terry Fan & Eric Fan

Folktales and Fairy Tale

The Blue Jackal by Shobha Viswanath; illustrated by Dileep Joshi. Juno fools the forest animals into believing he is their newly appointed king in this tale with earthy illustrations inspired by traditional Warli artwork.

Hare and Tortoise by Alison Murray. Who will win the race in this modern retelling of a well-known Aesop's fable?

I Am Pan! by Mordicai Gerstein. In this lively look at the mischievous life of the Greek god, Gerstein's art is as playful as Pan himself.

The Princess and the Warrior: A Tale of Two Volcanoes by Duncan Tonatiuh. These illustrations in the style of the Mixtec Codices bring to life an ancient, Aztec love story.

Thumbelina by Xanthe Gresham Knight; illustrated by Charlotte Gastaut. A young girl braves numerous adventures in this classic Andersen tale enhanced by bright, bold colors.

Poetry

Echo Echo: Reverso Poems About Greek Myths by Marilyn Singer; illustrated by Josée Masse. Ancient tales of Arachne and Athena, Perseus and Medusa, and other mythical figures are told from two perspectives.

Freedom Over Me: Eleven Slaves, Their Lives and Dreams Brought to Life by Ashley Bryan. Inspired by plantation estate documents, these powerfully illustrated free-verse, first person narratives give voice to the horrors endured and the hopes of freedom.

Guess Who, Haiku by Deanna Caswell; illustrated by Bob Shea. It is a puzzle / Use your imagination / Laugh out loud, guess who.

Jazz Day: The Making of a Famous Photograph by Roxane Orgill; illustrated by Francis Vallejo. Neighborhood children, a photographer, and a group of musicians share laughter and music on a hot day in Harlem.

Slickety Quick: Poems About Sharks by Skila Brown; illustrated by Bob Kolar. Plunge into the deep with the ocean's most infamous predators. What do you know about the goblin or cookie-cutter shark?

Wet Cement: A Mix of Concrete Poems by Bob Raczka. Words wiggle, wave, and wander across the page in these playfully shaped poems.

When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons by Julie Fogliano; illustrated by Julie Morstad. From blooming crocuses and glowing fireflies to falling leaves and snowy arms, gentle artwork depicts the delights of the seasons.

You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen by Carole Boston Weatherford; illustrated by Jeffrey Boston Weatherford. Meet the men who faced adversity on multiple fronts, yet triumphed in the skies in this book complimented by scratch-board illustrations and inspired by archival World War II photographs.



"I learned to ride a bike when I was three, so maybe my name should be Gravity's Best Friend."

— THUNDER BOY JR. by Sherman Alexie

Nonfiction

Ada's Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World's First Computer Programmer by Fiona Robinson. Spectacular mixed-media collage helps recount the story of the woman responsible for the foundations of modern-day computing.

Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood; illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. Inspiration unfolds as a community built on a landfill unites through music.

Death Is Stupid by Anastasia Higginbotham. This book offers an honest look at how it feels when someone you love dies.

Deep Roots: How Trees Sustain Our Planet by Nikki Tate. From cleaning the air to providing food and shelter, discover the ways trees are an integral part of life on Earth.

Giant Squid by Candace Fleming; illustrated by Eric Rohmann. With dark and rich illustrations, this lyrical study of Earth's most mysterious creature is equal parts suspenseful and informative.

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"She shows us pictures of strange cities, strange forests and strange animals ..."

— THE JOURNEY by Francesca Sanna

The Great Leopard Rescue: Saving the Amur Leopards by Sandra Markle. Discover the plans to save the critically endangered Amur leopards and the creation of a dedicated haven for these big cats.

How Much Does a Ladybug Weigh? by Alison Limentani. A clever counting book introduces the concept of weight for budding scientists.

I Am NOT a Dinosaur! by Will Lach & The American Museum of Natural History; illustrated by Jonny Lambert. Enter the exciting world of woolly mammoths, dimetrodons, and other exquisite creatures in this book filled with simple verse and paper-cut art.

I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark by Debbie Levy; illustrated by Elizabeth Baddeley. Discover this humorous account of how one determined little girl became a driving force for change, equality, and justice in this nation—one disagreement at a time.

Let Your Voice Be Heard: The Life and Times of Pete Seeger by Anita Silvey. The highs and lows of a folk music icon and activist who traveled the world sharing his love of music and championing numerous social and environmental causes.

Like a Bird: The Art of the American Slave Song by Cynthia Grady; illustrated by Michele Wood. Vibrant folk art paired with powerful spirituals raises thoughtful questions and brings a deeper understanding of what it means to be enslaved.

Lincoln and Kennedy: A Pair to Compare by Gene Barretta. This illuminating account explores the similarities between the lives of two commanders-in-chief.

¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z!/Olinguito, from A to Z! by Lulu Delacre. Explore the flora and fauna of the Ecuadorean Andes while searching for an elusive mammal in this bilingual adventure filled with beautiful mixed media illustrations.

Pink Is for Blobfish: Discovering the World's Perfectly Pink Animals by Jess Keating; illustrated by David DeGrand. Pretty in pink? Think again! Have fun with this informative study of the extraordinary rosy-hued creatures that populate our world.

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Radiant Child: The Story of Young Artist Jean-Michel Basquiat

by Javaka Steptoe. A Brooklyn kid becomes a 1980s cultural phenomenon after he takes the art world by storm with his unique paintings. Illustrations inspired by Basquiat’s work are used throughout.

Saved by the Boats: The Heroic Sea Evacuation of September 11

by Julie Gassman; illustrated by Steve Moors. Hundreds of boats answered the call for help and ferried 500,000 people to safety across the Hudson River, becoming “a light in the city’s darkest day.”

The Secret Subway by Shana Corey; illustrated by Red Nose Studio.

Discover New York City’s earliest incarnation of the subway system, told with exquisite stop-motion-esque figures.

Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor

by Robert Burleigh; illustrated by Raúl Colón. While the ocean floor remains a mystery, a tenacious woman perseveres and makes a triumphant discovery that spans the globe.

Some Writer! The Story of E. B. White by Melissa Sweet. Personal letters, photographs, and family ephemera create the perfect backdrop for this tribute to a beloved author—a delightful, educational biography that is a feast for the eyes.

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“I was written on papyrus and printed with ink and woodblocks...”

— I AM A STORY by Dan Yaccarino

Splat! The Most Exciting Artists of All Time by Mary Richards.

Get the inside scoop on 20 trend-setting, rule-breaking artists in concise chronological chapters with plentiful visual aids.

Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas

by Gwendolyn Hooks; illustrated by Colin Bootman. This medical innovator revolutionized pediatric heart surgery in the 1940s. But because of racial discrimination, his contributions went unacknowledged for decades.

We Will Not Be Silent: The White Rose Student Resistance Movement That Defied Adolf Hitler by Russell Freedman.

A group of brave friends ran a campaign of active resistance urging Germans to defy the Nazi government. Discover the inspiring story of Hans and Sophie Scholl and their belief that freedom is worth dying for.

Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson’s Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions

by Chris Barton; illustrated by Don Tate. From building rockets in his parents’ kitchen to becoming a NASA engineer, the Super Soaker king never backed down from tackling creative inventions.

The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game

by Nancy Churnin; illustrated by Jez Tuya. Discover this triumphant tale of a decidedly different and dedicated man who refused to let his disability keep him from achieving his dream.

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