

Transitional Non-Fiction

Winner

Who Likes the Rain? By Etta Kaner. Illustrated by Marie Lafrance. Kids Can Press, 2007.

A charming and diverse group of inquisitive children asks questions about the rain. More details about the weather are revealed when page flaps are lifted. Friendly, color-rich illustrations will appeal to the transitional reader.

Honors

Art Across the Ages: Ancient Mexico. By Kelly Campbell Hinshaw. Chronicle Books, 2007.

Let's explore ancient Mexico! Colorful photographs of artifacts, pronunciation guides and simple sentences make art history and an ancient culture come alive for young readers.

Guess What's Growing Inside This Egg. By Mia Posada. Milbrook Press, 2007.

All the animals in this book come from an egg, and Posada introduces them with verse, a question, and an answer that gives a detailed description of each. The reader will be captivated by this book's magnificent watercolor and collage illustrations.

Lightship. By Brian Floca. Atheneum / Richard Jackson Books, 2007.

Did you know that lightships once helped guide ships on the ocean? Floca gives readers a richly detailed look at these little-known vessels and the daily lives of the crew. Whimsical illustrations and diagrams enhance this very informative book.

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Annotated List



Children's Services Division
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Beginning Fiction

Winner

My Friend is Sad. By Mo Willems. Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.

Piggie goes to great lengths to cheer up his friend Elephant. With balloon captions and colored backgrounds, Willems creates a beginning reader with expressive and memorable characters. New readers will turn each page with anticipation. Piggie and Elephant fans should look for additional titles featuring this endearing and comical duo.

Honors

Cork and Fuzz: Good Sports. By Dori Chaconas. Illustrated by Lisa McCue. Viking / Penguin Young Readers Group, 2007.

Friends Cork and Fuzz are extremely competitive, but when Fuzz disappears during an outdoor game, Cork learns that friendship is more important than winning. Vibrant illustrations by Maryland artist Lisa McCue complement a humorous and heartfelt story.

Pup and Hound Hatch an Egg. By Susan Hood. Illustrated by Linda Hendry. Kids Can Press, 2007.

Pup and Hound are ready to play, but all the farm newborns are too small to join them. The discovery of an untended egg leads to new adventures for Pup and Hound when they inadvertently become surrogate parents to the hatchling. Simple rhymes and lush illustrations lend action and emotion to a story with an unexpected ending.

Wiggle and Waggle. By Caroline Arnold. Illustrated by Mary Peterson. Charlesbridge, 2007.

Wiggle and Waggle are good-natured earthworms who use teamwork, positive attitudes and a silly song to make the best garden ever. Softly edged illustrations and gentle colors add charm to this enchanting beginning reader.

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Best Friends: The True Story of Owen and Mzee. By Roberta Edwards. Illustrated by Carol Schwartz. Grosset & Dunlap, 2007.

This is a heartwarming account of an unlikely friendship between Owen, a hippopotamus who lost his mother in a tsunami and Mzee, a tortoise, who has lived for 130 years in solitude. It presents young readers with a unique insight into life in the wild and the differences – and similarities – among creatures of the animal kingdom.

Honors

Camiones de basura / Garbage Trucks (Bilingual edition). By Terri Degezelle. Translated by Dr. Martin Luis Guzman Ferrer. Capstone Press, 2007. Sure to be a hit with fans of big machinery! Each page includes a full-page photograph of a garbage truck with accompanying text in both English and Spanish. Supplementary material provides detailed information about a surprisingly fascinating subject.

Hello, Bumblebee Bat. By Darrin Lunde. Illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne. Charlesbridge, 2007. With its simple question and answer format, this book describes a bat that is “as light as a dime.” The bumblebee bat is an amazing creature, and Lunde’s account of this little-known creature, with its simple vocabulary and friendly illustrations, is an excellent introduction to non-fiction.

The Life Cycle of a Bean. By Linda Tagliaferro. Capstone Press, 2007.

Detailed photographs illustrate each stage of a bean plant’s development, ending with a two-page spread recapping the growth cycle. Key vocabulary words are repeated and information is clearly presented for an optimum reading and learning experience. Inquisitive early readers will love this informative book.

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Abracadabra! Magic with Mouse and Mole. By Wong Herbert Yee. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007.

Mole is disenchanted when he witnesses a failed magic trick, but when Mouse creates a private midnight show to remind Mole that magic really exists; she chases Mole’s blues away. With its short sentences, abundant illustrations and engaging story, this book is truly magical.

Honors

Little Rat Makes Music. By Monika Bang-Campbell. Illustrated by Molly Bang. Harcourt Court Children’s Books, 2007.

Little Rat is learning to play the violin, and while she loves the sound of a well-played violin, she is disheartened by her first attempts to make music. It takes patience and practice to make music. Bang’s wonderful detail, expressive faces, and bold color make for an inspirational book.

The Mischief Monster (Moongobble and Me). By Bruce Coville. Illustrated by Katherine Coville. Aladdin, 2007.

Sneely is not a typical princess in peril: she’s a petite monster full of mischief. It is up to Moongobble the Magical, Edward, and their magical friends to return this runaway princess to her underground home. Witty dialogue, large typeface and soft pencil drawings create an enjoyable tale.

Stink and the World’s Worst Super-Stinky Sneakers. By Megan McDonald. Illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds. Candlewick, 2007.

You-reek-a! A class trip to the “Every Body Stinks” exhibit helps Stink discover that he has ‘The Nose’ for identifying odors. His visit prompts him to enter the Super Stinky Sneaker Contest with his friend Sophie of the Elves. The result is a rambunctious story full of fun smelly facts.