

# The Review Crew



## Early Elementary Fiction

### One Little, Two Little, Three Little Children

By: Kelly DiPucchio  
Illus. by: Mary Lundquist  
Balzer + Bray, 2016  
ISBN: 9780062348661



*Topics: Nursery rhymes; Poetry; Sing-along*  
If the title makes you think this is going to be a bit too easy—a PC rewrite of an inappropriate nursery rhyme--take heart. The best-selling author of *Grace for President* comes through with clever meter and rhyme scheme celebrating children and their families. Lundquist's illustrations add their own fun—the houses pictured include a mobile home, a Victorian, a mid-century modern, a house boat, and a hobbit hole. Unfortunately, there is room for an editorial quibble. DiPucchio's refrain ends ". . . all 'round the world." The illustrations, however, are almost invariably Western and middle class. Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley  
Cheltenham Elem.

### Swap

By: Steve Light  
Candlewick Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9780763679903



*Topics: Friendship; Ships; Barter; Repetitive*  
The captain of a decrepit, old sailing ship forlornly wishes he could still sail. His friend decides to swap a button for two tea cups! Then he swaps the cups for ropes, a rope for oars, oars for flags, and on and on. Until

finally, they have all they need to make an old ship new. The minimal text allows the busy pen-and-ink illustrations to provide the full story. An original, entertaining tale that shows kids that from small things, great things can happen. Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
George Washington H.S.

### Let's Go to the Hardware Store

By: Anne Rockwell  
Illus. by: Melissa Iwai  
Henry Holt, 2016  
ISBN: 9780805087383



*Topics: Hardware store; Tools; Nuclear family*  
When everything needs fixing, a trip to the hardware store is afoot. Dad's little helpers aid him in finding brads and screws, spackle and paint, even a bird-house kit. Most readers will enjoy this trip to Norman Rockwell's world, but some may find the gender roles a bit stereotypical: Mom stays home with the baby, while "Daddy said he could fix it all if had some new tools." Fortunately, kids of any gender can have a fine time learning about flathead screwdrivers, levels, shiny-new saws, and more. Iwai's richly-detailed illustrations complement the text.

Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley  
Cheltenham Elem.

### Lucy

Written and illus. by:  
Randy Cecil  
Candlewick Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9780763668082



*Topics: Friendship; Perseverance; Second Chances*

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### Who are we?

- ☺ We are DPS teacher librarians from elementary, middle and high school.
- ☺ We know DPS students and the DPS curriculum.

### What we do!

- ☺ Every month each member writes reviews of at least twelve recently published books.
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- ☺ Our hard work earns thousands of dollars of free books for our school libraries and for the classroom library at ETLs, where DPS teachers can order baskets of books for their classrooms. (Call 720-423-8131 to order.)

Written as an early chapter book in four acts, "Lucy" follows the concurrent stories of a lonely girl and a homeless dog. Eleanor and her single father live in a small apartment. Her family doesn't have much money, but she often saves food scraps to lower down to a little lost dog that shows up under her window every morning. The story centers around the dreams of the three main characters. Eleanor's dad eeks out a living as a stock boy at a grocery store, but has dreams of becoming a famous juggler. Eleanor dreams of having a dog to ease her loneliness and Lucy, the lost Pomeranian, dreams of having a family again. This beautifully illustrated story is sure to become a heart-warming classic.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing  
Carson Elem.

### The Wonder

By: Faye Hanson  
Templar Books, 2014  
ISBN:  
9780763679576

*Topics: Imagination*

A young boy wonders about many things; where do the birds go and who makes the clouds? Each adult he meets, chides him for daydreaming and insists that he pay attention. But the art teacher is different - she directs her students to use their imagination while drawing. At last the boy is allowed to unleash his daydreams and let them grow. Illustrations are muted and dull, but by story's end they display the boy's imagination in a kaleidoscope of color and creative, fanciful images. Readers will be mesmerized as they explore these wondrous swooping, twirling, inventive illustrations.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
George Washington H.S.



### The Knowing Book

By: Rebecca Kai Dotlich  
Illus. by: Matthew Cordell

Boyd's Mills Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9781590789261

*Topics: Figurative language; Mindfulness*

Calming pastel colors illustrate this beautiful book about being mindful and present in each of life's moments, even the difficult ones. We follow a little bunny as s/he walks through the world and is reminded of the beauty in each experience. A wonderful book for meditation and visualization.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing  
Carson Elem



### Everyone

Written & Illus. by:  
Christopher Silas Neal  
Candlewick Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9780763676834

*Topic: Feelings; Emotions*

In Neal's author-illustrator debut, he delights as he reminds us that everyone has all of the emotions--happiness, sadness, frustration, and anger.

Through his simplistic illustrations, grounded in blue hues, we are able to focus on the fact that emotions are normal and are what all people experience. The little boy in the story goes through his emotions, realizing that sometimes you may be frustrated and feel as though no one is listening, or it's okay that when you are sad you need to cry and be alone, or even that when you laugh you spread your cheer. Over and over we are reminded that we all share our emotions, and that leaves everyone feeling supported and comforted.

Reviewed by:  
Emily Rubin  
Barnum Elem.



### Archibald's Next Big Thing

By: Tony Hale and Tony Biaggne

Illus. by: Misty Manley  
and Victor Huckabee

Boxing Clever  
Publishing, 2014

ISBN: 9780692229484

*Topics: Chickens; Growing up; Experiences; Memories*

When Archibald, a newly hatched chicken, is asked what his next big thing will be, he doesn't know. So he sets off to find out. He has amazing adventures, like riding a roller coaster with a dinosaur. But always he moves on in search of the big thing. Finally, Archibald's friend Bee helps him to realize that his next big thing is really about living every moment in the here and now. The illustrations are engaging; filled with color, texture, and variety. This well-crafted, entertaining title will appeal to readers of all ages.

Reviewed by: Michelle Jensen  
George Washington H.S.



### The One-Tire House

By: Kirsten McDonald

Illus. by: Erika Meza  
ABDO, 2016

ISBN: 9781624021404

*Topics: Moving; Twins*

From the Calico Kid

"Carlos & Carmen" series, readers will jump back into the life of twins Carmen and Carlos and their adventures as they find out they are moving to a house with a red door and one tire. This early reader is great for the student beginning the challenge of chapter books without overwhelming them. Visual supports are still present and while Spanish terms are included throughout the text, there is a Spanish to English page in the back to translate. Wonderful light-hearted story about what happens

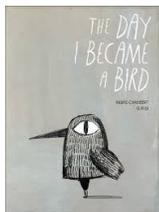


when children find out they are leaving the only house they know and dealing with the process of a move. The illustrations truly add to the story without taking away imagination prospects for the reader. Perfect title and series for any classroom or school library. Reviewed by: Emily Rubin Barnum Elem.

## Upper Elementary Fiction

### The Day I Became a Bird

By: Ingrid Chabbert  
Illus. by: Guridi  
Kids Can Press, 2015  
ISBN:  
9781771386210

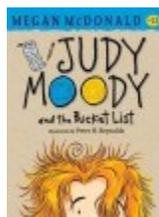


*Topics: First crush; Poetry; Fantasy*  
On the first day of school, a nameless narrator sees only Sylvia, while Sylvia sees only birds: "There are birds on her pants and dresses - bird barrettes in her hair - And when she speaks, her voice sounds like birdsong." While his classmates stare, our boy poet dons a disguise. In his homemade bird costume, playing soccer is hard, going to the bathroom complicated, and dreaming of flight his only consolation. But when the boy comes face to face with Sylvia, she pulls off his costume and puts her arms around him. And then? Sometimes a boy can soar. Chabbert's poetic prose and Guridi's simple sketches pair perfectly. Reviewed by: Nick Bleckley Cheltenham Elementary



### Judy Moody and the Bucket List

By: Megan McDonald  
Illus. By: Peter H. Reynolds  
Candlewick Press, 2016  
ISBN: 9780763679958



*Topic: Goals; Grandparents; Judy Moody*

The newest Judy Moody adventure readers are kept giggling from the start. Judy begins by exploring the treasure chest that is her Grandma Lou's purse and discovers her bucket list. Judy is inspired to create her own: of what to do before she reaches 4th grade. From inventing an ouchless hair brush, traveling to Antarctica, getting triple stickers on her homework, to learning how to cartwheel Judy is on a kick of wacky things to complete. By the end she realizes that it's the journey to complete the goals, not the goals themselves that makes it so enjoyable. With Peter H. Reynolds' whimsical black and white Illustrations staggered throughout the text, readers still adjusting to text heavy chapter books will be comforted.

Reviewed by: Emily Rubin Barnum Elem.

## Upper Elementary Nonfiction

### How Kate Warne Saved

#### President Lincoln

By: Elizabeth Van Steenwyk  
Illus. by: Valentina Belloni



Albert Whitman & Company, 2016  
ISBN: 9780807541173

*Topics: Detectives, Abraham Lincoln, Women's History*

In the 1800's, Pinkerton's was one of the world's first detective agency. One day a woman, Kate Warne, came in and asked for a job. She explained that

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### From ETLs:

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**Antonio Nicotera**

women were skilled in finding information, and women could go some places that men could not. Pinkerton hired her the next day. Her biggest case was discovering a plot to assassinate Abraham Lincoln before he was inaugurated. Thanks to her they were able to change Lincoln's travel plans and timing to thwart the assassins. This encouraged Pinkerton to hire other female detectives, and Kate eventually ran the Washington office. This is a colorful picture book relating an historic event that many did not know occurred. It also shows how a woman was successful at being the first woman Pinkerton agent. The book would be a good addition for Woman's History month

Reviewed by: Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

**Wet Cement: a Mix of Concrete Poems**

Written and illus. by:  
Bob Raczka  
Roaring Brook Press,  
2016  
ISBN: 9781626722361

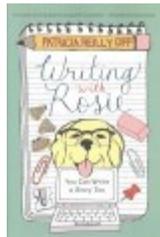


*Topics: Poetry; Concrete poetry*  
In this collection of twenty-one poems, the author uses letters and words to playfully emphasize the poems' meanings. Beginning with a table of contents that looks like an actual table, everyday things like clocks, the Big Dipper, and a firefly are displayed in unusual ways that link each item with the poem. In "Dominoes," the letters in the title lean against each other, as do the phrases that are uttered by the tiles. The final word "beauty" falls off the last line of "Autumn" just like a leaf would drop. "Lightning" is set in white type on a black page showing the "cloud tantrum." Although the poems are short, they are vibrant and begging to be read aloud for the wonderful figurative language. Great for helping

students study and emulate this distinctive form.  
Reviewed by: Peggy Obert  
Alumni

**Writing With Rosie**

By: Patricia Reilly Giff  
Holiday House, 2016  
ISBN: 9780823436569

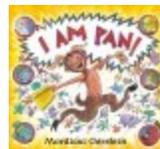


*Topics: Authors; Writing*  
If you ever wanted to write your own stories, this fun to read book will help get you started. Patricia Reilly Giff who has written award winning books such as, *Pictures of Hollis Woods* and *Lily's Crossing*, give some easy to follow advice on how to get started. She talks about how to create a character and giving him the right words to say. There is advice on how to give your character a problem to solve and friends to solve it with. Then she gives examples from her own writing as to what it looks like for her. How to describe a setting, background, and even including animals like dogs or cats. Finally, the conclusion and how your character solves the problem. Towards the end, the author summarizes the information, then advises young people to "Go for it!"

Reviewed by: Karen Burns  
Place Bridge Academy

**I Am Pan!**

Written and illus. by:  
Mordicai Gerstein  
Roaring Book Press,  
2016  
ISBN: 9781626720350



*Topics: Greek Mythology; Word Entomology*  
This collection of stories about Pan, Hermes' son and Zeus' grandson, is a spirited introduction to Greek Mythology for the youngest readers. Pan is known as the impish god of noise and

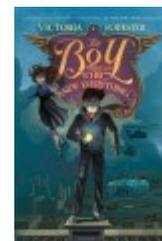
confusion and he does not disappoint in these short tales. Readers learn through these whimsical stories that the words "pandemonium" and "panic" were derived from Pan and his effects on the world. Author/illustrator Mordicai Gerstein has a previous Caldecott winning book, *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers*.

Reviewed by: Denise Cushing  
Carson Elem.

**Middle School Fiction**

**Boy Who Knew**

**Everything**  
By: Victoria Forester  
Feiwel and Friends,  
2015  
ISBN:  
9780312626006



*Topics: Good/Evil; Friendship; Super powers*  
The Boy Who Knew Everything is a companion novel to *The Girl Who Could Fly*. Conrad is living quietly and happily on Piper's family farm after escaping from the school for exceptional children. Conrad is two jumps beyond your average genius. Their happy, quiet life soon ends. Evil is abroad and it is up to Piper, Conrad and their friends to make changes in their world that will thwart what is wrong. While there is plenty of action and adventure, the friendship and understanding between the characters is, perhaps, the most memorable part of this novel.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
CEC Early College



### Hammer of Thor

By: Rick Riordan

Dysney-Hyperion, 2016

ISBN: 978143160622

*Topics: Norse Mythology; Friendship; Adventure*



Magnus Chase is dead. The Valkyrie Samirah has taken him to Hotel Valhalla. At the Hotel Valhalla Magnus and the other heroes prepare for Ragnarok. But now Thor's hammer is stolen. The price of its return is a wedding between Samirah and one of the giants. Sam is contracted to marry another man so this arrangement isn't going to work out well for her. Therefore, Magnus and his friends just need to find the hammer and steal it back before the wedding day and before the giants invade Midgard. Action, adventure and humor will keep the pages turning.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
CEC Early College

## High School Fiction

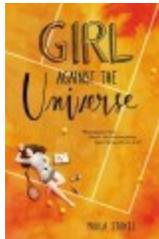
### Girl Against the Universe

By: Paula Stokes

Harper, 2016

ISBN: 978062379962

*Topics: Relationships; Luck; Mental illness*



Maguire has been involved in so many tragedies, including an accident that killed her father and brother, that she thinks her unlucky presence is to blame. Therapy is helping, but it isn't until she meets Jordy, a world-class tennis player also in therapy, that she begins to surrender some of her fears. Joining the tennis team at school, riding public transportation, and renewing a beloved pastime all

help her realize that though she cannot control the universe, she can manage her reactions. Maguire's struggles are believable, and the story moves quickly through her growth until a final shocking incident convinces her that life has ups and downs for everyone. Teens who have had to deal with trauma will appreciate this book with its romantic undertones.

Reviewed by: Peggy Obert  
Alumni

### Calvin

By: Martine Leavitt

Farrar Straus

Giroux, 2015

ISBN: 9780374380731

*Topics: Schizophrenia; Friendship; Survival*



Calvin has a lot in common with the comic strip Calvin and Hobbes. He was born on the day the last comic was published, he had a stuffed tiger named Hobbes from his grandfather and his best friend as a child was Susie. Now Calvin has been diagnosed with schizophrenia. Calvin decides that he needs to get Watterson, the author of the strip, to write one more comic without Hobbes so Calvin can be well again. Calvin sets out to find Watterson across frozen Lake Erie. He is joined by Susie and Hobbes; who is getting bigger and more out of control. The teens are fighting the elements out on the frozen lake as much as they are fighting the psychosis that is threatening Calvin. This serious subject is carefully handled with humor and romance.

Reviewed by: Chris Coble  
CEC Early College



## End of Summer

By Stanley Kunitz

An agitation of the air,  
A perturbation of the light  
Admonished me the unloved  
year

Would turn on its hinge that  
night.

I stood in the disenchanted  
field

Amid the stubble and the  
stones,

Amazed, while a small worm  
lisp'd to me

The song of my marrow-bones.

Blue poured into summer blue,  
A hawk broke from his cloud-  
less tower,

The roof of the silo blazed, and  
I knew

That part of my life was over.

Already the iron door of the  
north

Clangs open: birds, leaves,  
snows

Order their populations forth,  
And a cruel wind blows.