



# BEST OF THE BEST 2013: Elementary/Middle School Edition



## A Select List of Brown County Library Children's Books

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### Picture Books

[Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic](#) by Ginnie Lo

*This cheery and nostalgic book is not only a piece of family lore but more broadly an exploration of traditions and community within immigrant populations. Author Ginnie Lo recalls how her Auntie Yang turned a neglected soybean crop into a traditional Chinese feast that expands to include generations of Chinese-American families in Chicago. The author's sister, Beth Lo, provides quirky and sunny illustrations, cleverly using ceramic plates as her canvas. Fulfilling as the feast itself is Auntie Yang's reunion with her siblings from China, who visit America for the first time, reconnecting over mountain of American soybeans. An afterword provides family snapshots as well as a Chinese glossary and a succinct history of the indispensable bean.*

[Chloe and the Lion](#) by Mac Barnett

[The Cloud Spinner](#) by Michael Catchpool

[Each Kindness](#) by Jacqueline Woodson

[The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore](#) by William Joyce

[I Have Two Homes](#) by Marian De Smet

[Jack and the Baked Beanstalk](#) by Colin Stimpson

*Open this generous sized book and step into a nameless city in the great Depression era, where even a can of baked beans has an intriguing cinematic sheen. Jack and his mother's food truck café flounders when a highway overpass is built overhead, so when Jack spends their last pennies on a "magic" can of baked beans, all seems lost. The inevitable beanstalk soars past the sepia-toned city to a soaring deco mansion in the clouds. Instead of the fee-fi-fo-fum variety of giant, this colossus is a banker who ceaselessly counts his gold. A complex fellow rather than a traditional villain, the mammoth mogul loves cooking for (not with) his infrequent guest, feeling quite lonely and somehow unfulfilled by his pecuniary hobbies. An unstable beanstalk and a golden goose lead to the happy ending of this majestic tale.*

[Laundry Day](#) by Maurie Manning

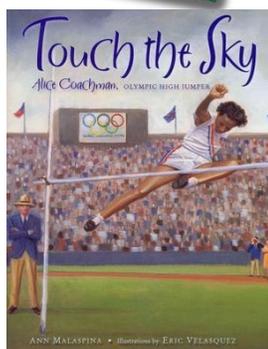
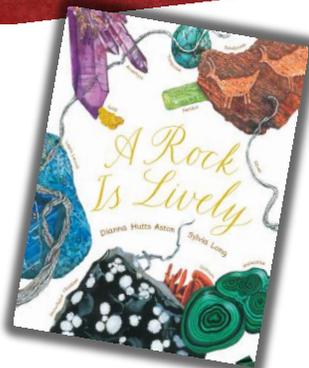
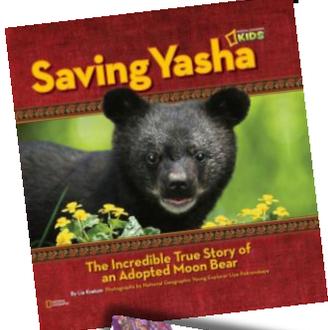
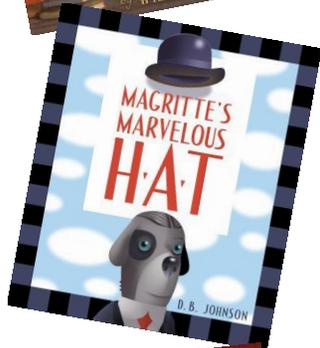
[A Leaf Can Be](#) by Laura Purdie Salas

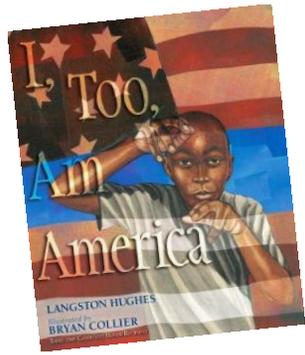
[Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic](#) by Mônica Carnesi

[Magritte's Marvelous Hat](#) by D.B Johnson

[A Path of Stars](#) by Anne Sibley O'Brien

[The Quiet Place](#) by Sarah Stewart





[Ralph Tells a Story](#) by Abby Hanlon

[Rocket Writes a Story](#) by Tad Hills

### Non-Fiction

[Alex the Parrot: No Ordinary Bird](#) by Stephanie Spinner

*Alex the African Gray and animal communications researcher Irene Pepperberg were pioneers in the fields of animal intelligence and communications. From a shy bird in the back of a crowded cage at a pet store, Alex was able to learn colors, materials, shapes, and even the concept of zero. Testing at the intelligence level of a five-year old child, Alex has inspired many people to take a more compassionate and respectful view of animals, especially parrots. Beyond intelligence, Alex showed the individuality and personality of a true diva. Constant demands for petting, specific foods, and playthings, left unmet, lead to tantrums, jealousy and even the ability to manipulate his faithful scientist companions. The fascinating science within this concise book is elevated by the true affection readers will feel for the riveting creature at its center.*



[Annie and Helen](#) by Deborah Hopkinson

[The Arrow Finds Its Mark: A Book of Found Poems](#) by Georgia Heard

[The Camping Trip That Changed America: Theodore Roosevelt, John](#)

[Muir, and Our National Parks](#) by Barb Rosenstock

[Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building](#) by Christy Hale

[The Fantastic Jungles of Henri Rousseau](#) by Michelle Markel

[Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington](#) by Jabari Asim

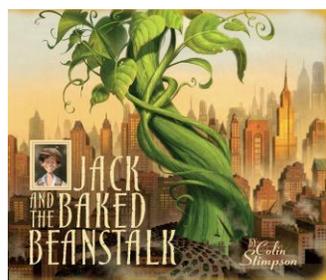
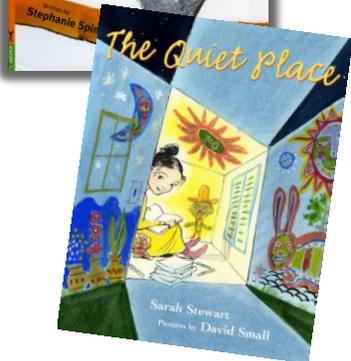
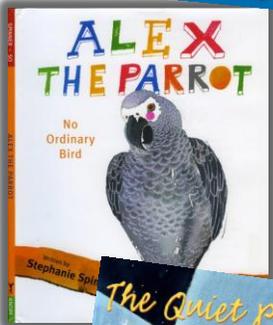
[I Saw a Peacock with a Fiery Tail](#) (A 17<sup>th</sup>-Century English

Poem, author unknown) Ill. by Ramsingh Urveti, Jonathan Yamakami

[Island: A Story of the Galápagos](#) by Jason Chin

[I, Too, Am America](#) by Langston Hughes, Illustrated by Brian Collier

*Eminent illustrator Brian Collier gives Langston Hughes' powerful poem a well-conceived and stirring showcase. Collier depicts black Pullman train porters as they spread music, literature, and knowledge, from the past to present, from Southern cotton fields where they land in the hands of an enslaved girl, to the streets of Harlem, where a subway takes the train's place. A subtle American flag motif ties the images of subjugation, determination and progress together. An intriguing illustrator's note explains the overlooked role of the Pullman porters in our nation's history. This multi-faceted book is best used with upper elementary and middle-school aged children.*



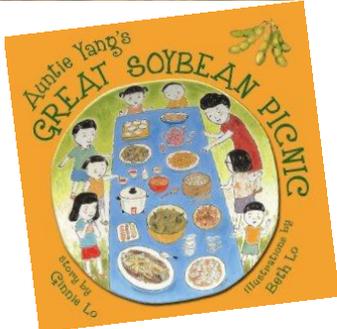
[Looking at Lincoln](#) by Maira Kalman

[A Rock is Lively](#) by Dianna Hutts Ashton

[Saving Yasha: The Incredible True Story of an Adopted Moon Bear](#) by Lia Kvatum

[Touch the Sky: Alice Coachman, Olympic High Jumper](#) by Ann Malaspina

[Water Sings Blue: Ocean Poems](#) by Kate Coombs



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