Best & Brightest Children’s Books of 2019

Board Books
Count to Five: A Little Book of Numbers
Jump Around: A Little Book of Movement
Make a Noise: A Little Book of Sounds
See a Rainbow: A Little Book of Colors

by Annabel Blackledge, illustrated by Anne Passchier
Toddler-Preschool

Shapes by Jane Cabrera
Toddler-Preschool

One Yellow Ribbon by Marthe Jocelyn
Toddler-Preschool

Happy Baby by Violet Lemay
Birth-Toddler

Roar! Roar! I’m a Dinosaur! by Jo Lodge
Toddler-Preschool

Peek-a-Who Too? by Elsa Mroziewicz
Toddler-Preschool

Baby Dream by Sunny Scribens
Birth-Toddler

Baby Food by Stefanie Paige Wieder
Birth-Toddler

Baby Play by Skye Silver
Birth-Toddler

Spot, Spike, Spiral by Sarah Grace Tuttle, illustrated by Miriam Nerlove
Birth-Preschool

My Little Forest
My Little Garden
My Little Ocean
My Little Pond by Katrin Wiehle
Birth-Preschool

Picture Books
Maybe Tomorrow? by Charlotte Agell, illustrated by Ana Ramirez González
Preschool-2nd grade

Salsa Lullaby by Jen Arena, illustrated by Erika Meza
Toddler-Kindergarten

Henry the Boy by Molly Felder, illustrated by Nate Christopherson and Tara Sweeney
Preschool-2nd grade

Pokko and the Drum by Matthew Forsythe
Preschool-2nd grade

Hair, it’s a Family Affair! by Mylo Freeman
Preschool-2nd grade

Up, Up, Up, Down! by Kimberly Gee
Toddler-Preschool

Little Doctor and the Fearless Beast by Sophie Gilmore
Preschool-2nd grade

How Do You Dance? by Thyra Heder
Preschool-2nd grade

Mr. Scuff by Simon James
Toddler-1st grade

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan, illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel
Preschool-2nd grade

When Aiden Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita
Preschool-2nd grade

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard
Preschool-5th grade

Lubna and Pebble by Wendy Meddour, illustrated by Erika Meza
Preschool-2nd grade

Saturday by Oge Mora
Preschool-2nd grade

I Am a Tiger by Karl Newson, illustrated by Ross Collins
Preschool-2nd grade

I Got Next by Daria Peoples-Riley
Preschool-2nd grade

Puppy Truck by Brian Pinkney
Toddler-Kindergarten

Let’s Have a Dog Party by Mikela Prevost
Preschool-2nd grade

My Papi Has a Motorcycle by Isabel Quintero, illustrated by Zeke Peña
Preschool-3rd grade

Hats are Not for Cats by Jacqueline K. Rayner
Toddler-1st grade

Truman by Jean Reidy, illustrated by Lucy Ruth Cummins
Preschool-2nd grade

There are No Bears in This Bakery by Julia Sarcone-Roach
Preschool-2nd grade

Spencer’s New Pet by Jessie Sima
Preschool-2nd grade

Here and There by Tamara Ellis Smith, illustrated by Evelyn Daviddi
Preschool-1st grade

Ruby’s Sword by Jacqueline Véissid, illustrated by Paola Zakimi
Preschool-1st grade

Astro Girl by Ken Wilson-Max
Preschool-1st grade

Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao by Kat Zhang, illustrated by Charlene Chua
Preschool-2nd grade

Beginning Readers
Beneath the Bed and Other Scary Stories by Max Brallier, illustrated by Letizia Rubegni
Kindergarten-3rd grade

King and Kayla and the Case of Found Fred by Dori Hillestad Butler, illustrated by Nancy Meyers
1st-3rd grade

Go Home Goat by Molly Coxe
2nd-3rd grade

To Night Owl from Dogfish by Holly Goldberg Sloan, audio produced by Random House LISTENING LIBRARY, narrated by full cast: Cassandra Morris, Imani Parks and others 4th-6th grade

We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga by Traci Sorell, audio produced by Live Oak Media, narrated by full cast: Lauren Hummingbird, Agalisiga (Choqie) Mackey, Ryan Mackey, Traci Sorell and Tonia Weavel, illustrated by Frané Lessac Preschool-4th grade

All the Greys on Greene Street by Laura Tucker, audio produced by Random House LISTENING LIBRARY, narrated by Taylor Meskimen 5th-8th grade

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga, audio produced by Balzer + Bray, narrated by Vaneh Assadourian 4th-6th grade

Best & Brightest Teen Books of 2019

Young Adult Fiction

With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo 9th grade & up

Internment by Samira Ahmed 8th grade & up

In the Neighborhood of True by Susan Kaplan Carlton 9th grade & up

I Wish You All The Best by Mason Deaver 8th grade & up

Aurora Rising by Amie Kaufman and Jay Kristoff 9th grade & up

A Curse So Dark and Lonely by Brigid Kemmerer 9th grade & up

The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali by Sabina Khan 9th grade & up

Dig by A.S. King 9th grade & up

We Set the Dark on Fire by Tehlor Kay Mejia 8th grade & up

Birthday by Meredith Russo 9th grade & up

Black Enough: Stories of Being Young & Black in America by Ibi Aanu Zoboi, Justina Ireland, Varian Johnson, Rita Williams-Garcia, Dhonielle Clayton, Brandy Colbert, Kekla Magoon, Leah Henderson, Tochi Onyebuchi, Jason Reynolds, Nic Stone, Liara Tamani, Renée Watson, Tracey Baptiste, Coe Booth, Jay Coles and Lamar Giles 9th grade & up

Young Adult Graphic Novels

Manuelito by Elisa Amado, illustrated by Israel Silva, lettered by Maxime Zorn 7th grade & up

Cosmic Ghost Rider. Baby Thanos Must Die by Donny Cates, illustrated by Dylan Burnett and Antonio Fabela 8th grade & up

Sparrowhawk by Dellalah S. Dawson, illustrated by Matias Basla and Rebecca Nalty 8th grade & up

Cellies. Vol. 1 by Joe Flood, illustrated by David Steward II 7th grade & up

Black Badge. Volume 1 by Matt Kindt, illustrated by Tyler Jenkins and Hilary Jenkins 9th grade & up

The Long Con. Volume 1 by Dylan Meconis and Ben Coleman, illustrated by EA Denich, colored by M. Victoria Robado and lettered by Aditya Bidikar 8th grade & up

Bloom by Kevin Panetta, illustrated by Savanna Ganucheau 8th grade & up

Sleepless Vol. 1 & 2 by Sarah Vaughn, illustrated by Leila del Duca and Alissa Sallah 8th grade & up

Mooncakes by Suzanne Walker, illustrated by Wendy Xu 7th grade & up

Young Adult Nonfiction

A Cave in the Clouds: A Young Woman’s Escape from ISIS by Badeeah Hassan Ahmed 9th grade & up

Feminism Is… by Alexandra Black 9th grade & up

Dark Sky Rising: Reconstruction and the Dawn of Jim Crow by Henry Louis Gates Jr. 9th grade & up

Troublemaker for Justice: The Story of Bayard Rustin, the Man Behind the March on Washington by Jacqueline Houtman 8th grade & up

Obviously: Stories from My Timeline by Aklilah Hughes 9th grade & up

Brave Face: A Memoir by Shaun David Hutchinson 9th grade & up

Girls Who Run the World: 31 CEOs Who Mean Business by Diana Kapp 7th grade & up

No More Excuses: Dismantling Rape Culture by Amber Keyser 9th grade & up

We Are Here To Stay: Voices of Undocumented Young Adults by Susan Kuklin 7th grade & up

I Am A Feminist: Claiming the F-word in Turbulent Times by Monique Polaski 9th grade & up

Ish Knows No Borders: Poems of the Immigrant and Refugee Experience by Patrice Vecchione 7th grade & up

Can’t wait to read one or more of these books? Visit kids.denverlibrary.org to place a hold today.