



## Children's Booklist 2025: The Best Books of 2024-2025

### Grades K-1



#### The Ocean Gardener

by Clara Anganuzzi

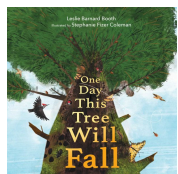
Ayla lives on a beautiful tropical island surrounded by a coral reef. Her mom is a marine biologist, and every day, the two go exploring together. One day, Ayla notices that many of the fish have disappeared, and the once-vibrant corals have turned pale. She and her mom set out to save the corals--but is it too late?



#### Animal Albums from A to Z

by Cece Bell

Drawing from her personal collection of albums, memorabilia and lyrics dating between 1944 and 1984, this all-ages alphabet book is filled with bright, zany art and lots of humor that will have readers asking for an encore!



#### One Day This Tree Will Fall

by Leslie Barnard Booth

A tree's life story is told from its beginnings as a seed to its survival in the wilderness until it finally falls, but continues its life as a log, an animal habitat, and finally decomposes to provide nutrition for future trees.



#### Knight Owl and Early Bird

by Christopher Denise

Owl, captain of the Knight Watch, is dismissive of Early Bird, an energetic and talkative bird who aspires to be a Knight Owl until her bravery shines through during a wolf attack.



#### The Last Stand

by Antwan Eady

Selling eggs, plums, peppers and pumpkins at Papa's stand in the farmer's market, one little boy learns the importance of family, community and hope when his Papa can't make it to the stand, in this moving intergenerational story inspired by the author's childhood in the rural South.



#### We Are Definitely Human

by X. Fang

When three mysterious visitors from "Europe" crash-land in Mr. Li's field, he does what any good host would: he invites them back to his farmhouse and offers to help fix up their "car." No, there's nothing strange about these guests at all. Just like other humans, they "make business," "play sportsball" and "wear hat."



#### That Always Happens Sometimes

by Kiley Frank

Chronicles the trials and tribulations of a very relatable kid named Max, who's goofy, disorganized and generally uncontainable, much to the chagrin of those around him, but is always full of energy, creativity and kindness when it counts.



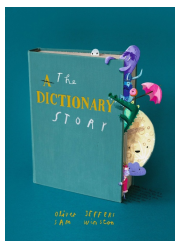
#### Spider in the Well

by Jess Hannigan

Breaking news: Wishing Well Broken! The townspeople of Bad Gèoodsburg are up in arms. With their beloved well busted, none of their important, generous, kindhearted wishes are coming true!

# Best Books 2024-2025

Grades K-1



## The Dictionary Story

by Oliver Jeffers

When Dictionary wishes she could tell a story like other books and decides to bring her words to life, comical chaos ensues and her friend Alphabet must come to the rescue, singing a song that brings calm and order to her pages once again.



## Monster Hands

by Karen Kane

When nighttime comes, Milo has a problem--he's convinced there's a monster under his bed! Luckily, his best friend Mel knows just what to do--scare the monster more than the monster scares you!

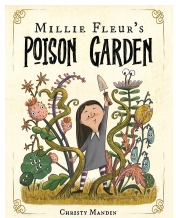


## The Yellow Bus

by Loren Long

A tender, gorgeously illustrated picture book from the New York Times best-selling author/illustrator tells a touching story about

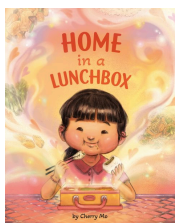
a forgotten school bus that finds happiness and purpose in the most unexpected places.



## Millie Fleur's Poison Garden

by Christy Mandin

Arriving in Garden Glen, where every house and garden look the same, Millie Fleur La Fae plants her spectacularly strange garden, but when the townspeople call it poison, she sets out to find kindred spirits who'll appreciate all the garden has to offer.



## Home in a Lunchbox

by Cherry Mo

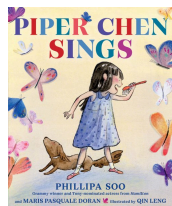
Jun, who only knows a few words of English, finds her new school foreign and frightening, but when she opens her lunchbox to find her favorite meals, she realizes home isn't so far away after all.



## This Wolf Was Different

by Katie Slivensky

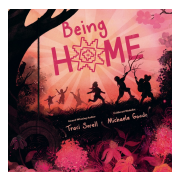
Inspired by natural history, this captivating story follows a wolf pup who wishes she were more like her siblings until she meets a new kind of creature whose friendship shows her it's ok to be different.



## Piper Chen Sings

by Phillippa Soo

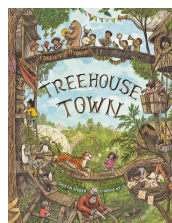
Loving nothing more than to sing, Piper Chen is suddenly riddled with doubt when she agrees to sing a solo in her school's Spring Sing until her grandmother helps her overcome her nerves and shine.



## Being Home

by Traci Sorell

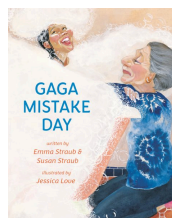
Moving back to their ancestral land, a joy-filled Cherokee girl draws the changing landscape as they travel along, looking forward to the end of the journey where she'll be with family and settle into the new rhythm of home.



## Treehouse Town

by Gideon Sterer

This visually stunning book, filled with intricately detailed illustrations, takes readers on a tour of Treehouse Town, a treetop utopia built by children that's as endless as their imaginations and celebrates teamwork, inclusion and limitless possibility.



## Gaga Mistake Day

by Emma Straub

When Gaga comes to visit, silliness and creativity abound delightfully as goofy grandma makes "mistakes," like swapping eyeglasses, walking backwards to the park and reading a bedtime story all the way through upside down.



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