

2021 Suggested Reading List, Grades 3-5

Fiction

Alston, B. B. **Amari and the Night Brothers (Supernatural Investigations 1)**. 2021

Quinton Peters was the golden boy of the Rosewood low-income housing projects, receiving full scholarship offers to two different Ivy League schools. When he mysteriously goes missing, his little sister, 13-year-old Amari Peters, can't understand why it's not a bigger deal. Why isn't his story all over the news? Then Amari discovers a ticking briefcase in her brother's old closet. A briefcase meant for her eyes only. There was far more to Quinton, it seems, than she ever knew.

J FIC Alston, J Pop Now Alston, eBook

Applegate, Katherine. **The One and Only Bob (The One and Only Ivan #2)**. 2020

A powerful sequel to the Newbery Medal winning **The One and Only Ivan** (2012). Bob sets out on a dangerous journey in search of his long-lost sister with the help of his two best friends, Ivan and Ruby. As a hurricane approaches and time is running out, Bob finds courage he never knew he had and learns the true meaning of friendship and family.

J FIC Pop Now APPLEGATE, CD Audiobook, Playaway Audiobook, eBook, eAudiobook

Arnold, Elana K, illustrated by Charles Santoso. **A Boy Called Bat (series)**. 2017-2019

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises — some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter. But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

J FIC ARNOLD, CD Audiobook, eBook, eAudiobook

Arnold, Marie. **The Year I Flew Away**. 2021.

It's 1985 and ten-year-old Gabrielle is excited to be moving from Haiti to America. Unfortunately, her parents won't be able to join her yet and she'll be living in a place called

Brooklyn, New York, with relatives she has never met. She promises her parents that she will behave, but life proves to be difficult in the United States, from learning the language to always feeling like she doesn't fit in to being bullied. So when a witch offers her a chance to speak English perfectly and be "American," she makes the deal. But soon she realizes how much she has given up by trying to fit in.

J FIC Arnold

Barrows, Annie. **The Best of Iggy (Iggy Frangi 1)**. 2020

Meet Iggy Frangi. He's not a bad kid, he's really not. Okay, so he's done a few (a few is anything up to 100) bad things. And okay, he's not very sorry about most of them. People make a big deal about nothing. What's a little pancake here and there? Is that something to get mad about? Iggy doesn't think so. No one got hurt, so there's no problem. No one got hurt except for that one time, that one time when the Best Idea Ever turned into the Worst Idea of All Time. Iggy is sorry he did it. He is really, really, really sorry.

J FIC BARROWS, J FIC Pop Now BARROWS, CD Audiobook, eBook

Blankman, Anne. **Blackbird Girls**. 2020

On a spring morning in 1986, neighbors Valentina Kaplan and Oksana Savchenko wake up to an angry red sky. A reactor at the nuclear power plant where their fathers work--Chernobyl--has exploded. Before they know it, the two girls, who've always been enemies, find themselves on a train bound for Leningrad to stay with Valentina's estranged grandmother, Rita Grigorievna. In 1941 Rifka must flee Kiev before the Germans arrive. Her journey is harrowing and fraught with danger because Germans and Russians alike will revile her for her Jewish blood. In both time periods, the girls must learn who to trust and how to have hope in the midst of horrible events.

J FIC Blankman, eBook

Burt, Jake. **Cleo Porter and the Body Electric**. 2020

A woman is dying. Cleo Porter has her medicine. And no way to deliver it. Like everyone else, twelve-year-old Cleo and her parents are sealed in an apartment without windows or doors. They never leave. They never get visitors. Their food is dropped off by drones. So they're safe. Safe from the disease that nearly wiped humans from the earth. Safe from everything. The trade-off? They're alone. Thus, when they receive a package clearly meant for someone else--a package containing a substance critical for a stranger's survival--Cleo is stuck. As a surgeon-in-training, she knows the clock is ticking. But people don't leave their units.

J FIC Burt

Chadda, Sarwat. **City of the Plague God**. 2021

Part of the Rick Riordan presents books: Characters from the Epic of Gilgamesh populate this high-stakes contemporary adventure in which all of Manhattan is threatened by the ancient god of plagues. Thirteen-year-old Sik wants a simple life going to school and helping at his parents' deli in the evenings. But all that is blown to smithereens when Nergal comes looking for him, thinking that Sik holds the secret to eternal life. Turns out Sik is immortal but doesn't know it, and that's about to get him and the entire city into deep, deep trouble.

J FIC Sarwat, eBook

Davies, Jacqueline. **Sydney & Taylor Explore the Whole Wide World (Sydney & Taylor 1)**. 2021

Best-selling author Jacqueline Davies tells the story of two unlikely friends: Sydney and Taylor, a skunk and a hedgehog who strike out to discover the great unknown, despite how afraid they are of it. Charming full-color illustrations and a laugh-out-loud story make this chapter book perfect for fans of the Mercy Watson and Owl Diaries series.

J FIC Davies

Elliott, Rebecca. **Unicorn Diaries (series)**. 2019-2020

Meet Rainbow Tinseltail and the unicorns of Sparklegrove Forest, in this magical series from the creator of the bestselling Owl Diaries series! Bo Tinseltail loves going to Sparklegrove School with the other unicorns. Every unicorn has a magical power. Bo is a Wish Unicorn with the power to grant wishes. Bo has lots of friends, but one thing Bo wants more than anything is a best friend. When a new unicorn named Sunny Huckleberry pops into the forest, will Bo's big wish finally come true?

J PAPERBACK ELLIOTT

Goodner, David. **Kondo & Kezumi Visit Giant Island**. 2020

The first book in a new full-color chapter book series featuring best friends Kondo and Kezumi who find a map that leads to the wonders of the unknown. Kondo is big. Kezumi is little. They lived on an island with fruit trees and berry bushes and flutter-birds and fluffle-bunnies. When a surprise bottle washes ashore, they discover a map with a mysterious message: WE ARE NOT ALONE. Kezumi wants to follow the map and explore the world. Kondo wants to stay home and

pick fruit from the fruit tree and berries from the berry bushes. But once Kezumi builds the perfect boat, the best friends set sail together to see . . . well, they don't know!

J FIC Goodner

Grabenstein, Chris. **The Smartest Kid in the Universe**. 2020.

12 year old Jake's middle school is about to be shut down. Jake and his friends know their school's worth saving-if they could only figure out how! When Jake spies a bowl of jellybeans at the hotel where his mom works, he eats them. But uh-oh-those weren't just jellybeans, one of the scientists at his mom's conference is in the process of developing the first ingestible information pills. And THAT'S what Jake ate. Before long, Jake is the smartest kid in the universe. But the pills haven't been tested yet, and when word gets out about this new genius, people want him. Not all of them are good people! Can Jake navigate all the ins and outs of his newfound geniusdom AND use his smarts to figure out how to save his school?

J FIC Grabenstein, eBook

Hernandez, Carlos. **Sal and Gabi Break the Universe (Sal and Gabi 1)**. 2019

Part of the Rick Riordan presents books: This brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence poses a question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you want, including your mother, who is no longer living (in this universe, anyway)? Sal prides himself on being an excellent magician, but for this sleight of hand, he relied on a talent no one would guess . . . except maybe Gabi, whose sharp eyes never miss a trick. When Gabi learns that he's capable of conjuring things from parallel universes and she takes it all in stride, Sal knows that she is someone he can work with. There's only one slight problem: their manipulation of time and space could put the entire universe at risk.

J FIC HERNANDEZ, CD Audiobook, Playaway Audiobook, eBook, eAudiobook.

Holm, Jennifer. **The Lion of Mars**. 2021

Bell has spent his whole life - all eleven years of it - on Mars. But he's still just a regular kid - he loves cats, any kind of cake, and is curious about the secrets the adults in the US colony are keeping. Like, why don't they have contact with anyone on the other Mars colonies? Why are they so isolated? When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help. It's up to Bell - a regular kid in a very different world - to uncover the truth and save his family ... and possibly unite an entire planet.

J FIC Holm

Keller, Tae. **When You Trap a Tiger.** 2020

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now, the tigers want it back. And when one of those tigers offers Lily a deal--return what Halmoni stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to accept. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice... and the courage to face a tiger. 2021 Newbery Medal Winner!

J FIC Keller, J Pop Now Keller

Kim, Jessica. **Stand Up, Yumi Chung.** 2020

On the outside, Yumi Chung suffers from #shygirlproblems, a perm-gone-wrong, and kids calling her "Yu-MEAT" because she smells like her family's Korean barbecue restaurant. On the inside, Yumi is ready for her Netflix stand-up special. Her notebook is filled with mortifying memories that she's reworked into comedy gold. All she needs is a stage and courage.

J Pop Now Kim, Playaway Audiobook, eBook

Korman, Gordan. **Unplugged.** 2021

A hilarious middle grade novel about a group of kids forced to “unplug” at a wellness camp—where they instead find intrigue, adventure, and a whole lot of chaos. As the son of the world’s most famous tech billionaire, Jett Baranov has always gotten exactly what he wanted. So, when his father’s private jet drops him in the middle of Little Rock, Arkansas, at a wellness camp called the Oasis, Jett can’t believe it. As the weeks go on, Jett starts to get used to the unplugged life and even bonds with the other kids over their discovery of a baby lizard-turned-pet, Needles. But he can’t help noticing that the adults at the Oasis are acting really strange...

J FIC Korman, CD Audiobook, Playaway Audiobook

Lee, Lyla. **Mindy Kim (series) 2020-2021**

Fresh Off the Boat meets Junie B. Jones in this adorable new chapter book series about Mindy Kim. Mindy Kim just wants three things:

1. A puppy!
2. To fit in at her new school

3. For her dad to be happy again

But, getting all three of the things on her list is a lot trickier than she thought it would be.

J FIC Lee, J Paperback Lee, eBook

Lupica, Mike. **The Zach and Zoe Mysteries (series)**. 2018 - 2020

New York Times bestseller Mike Lupica begins an exciting new chapter book series, perfect for fans of Cam Jansen, featuring his trademark sports action and heart, and a lovable twin brother-sister duo who solve sports-related mysteries. Easy-to-read text and plentiful illustrations make this a great series for young readers.

J FIC LUPICA, CD Audiobook, eBook

Mbalia, Kwame. **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky (Tristan Strong 1)**. 2019

Part of the Rick Riordan presents books and inspired by African American folk heroes and West African gods: Seventh grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm in Alabama, where he's being sent to heal from the tragedy. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up in his bedroom and steals Eddie's notebook.

J FIC MBALIA, CD Audiobook, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

Medina, Meg. **Merci Suarez Can't Dance (Merci Suarez 2)**. 2021

Standalone Sequel to 2019 Newbery Medal Winner **Merci Suarez Changes Gears**.

Seventh grade is going to be a real trial for Merci Suárez. For science she's got no-nonsense Mr. Ellis, who expects her to be as smart as her brother, Roli. She's been assigned to co-manage the tiny school store with Wilson Bellevue, a boy she barely knows, but whom she might actually like. And she's tangling again with classmate Edna Santos, who is bossier and more obnoxious than ever now that she is in charge of the annual Heart Ball.

J FIC Medina

Parry, Rosanne. **A Whale of the Wild**. 2020

In this stand-alone companion to **A Wolf Called Wander**, a young orca whale must lead her brother on a tumultuous journey to be reunited with their pod. **A Whale of the Wild** is a

gorgeously illustrated animal adventure novel that explores family bonds, survival, global warming, and a changing seascape.

J FIC Parry, CD Audiobook

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Black Brother, Black Brother**. 2020

Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the "Black Brother," Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Trey. Quiet, obedient. When an incident with "King" Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing. With the help of a former Olympic fencer, Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.

J Pop Now Rhodes, CD Audiobook, eBook, eAudiobook

Royce, Eden. **Root Magic**. 2021

It's 1963, and things are changing for Jezebel Turner. Her beloved grandmother has just passed away. The local police deputy won't stop harassing her family. With school integration arriving in South Carolina, Jez and her twin brother, Jay, are about to begin the school year with a bunch of new kids. But the biggest change comes when Jez and Jay turn eleven—and their uncle, Doc, tells them he's going to train them in rootwork. Jez and Jay have always been fascinated by the African American folk magic that has been the legacy of her family for generations—especially the curious potions and powders Doc and Gran would make for the people on their island. But Jez soon finds out that her family's true power goes far beyond small charms and elixirs...and not a moment too soon. Because when evil both natural and supernatural comes to show itself in town, it's going to take every bit of the magic she has inside her to see her through.

J FIC Royce

Sheth, Kashmira. **Nina Soni, Former Best Friend (Nina Soni 1)**. 2019

The first title in a chapter book series featuring a lovable, distractible Indian-American girl and her family and friends. Nina tried as hard as she could, but still somehow she forgot about her school project. Fortunately, a class lesson about Alexander Fleming suggests how she might make a great discovery--and thus a great project! But with little sister Kavita's birthday party

right around the corner, and her longtime friendship with Jay on the rocks, Nina has a lot to keep track of.

J FIC SHETH, eBook

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. **Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids.** 2021

A collection of intersecting stories set at a powwow that bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. In a high school gym full of color and song, Native families from Nations within the borders of the U.S. and Canada dance, sell beadwork and books, and celebrate friendship and heritage. They are the heroes of their own stories.

J FIC Smith

Stead, Rebecca. **The List of Things that Will Not Change.** 2020

After her parents' divorce, Bea's life became different in many ways. But she can always look back at the list she keeps in her green notebook to remember the things that will stay the same. The first and most important: Mom and Dad will always love Bea, and each other. When Dad tells Bea that he and his boyfriend, Jesse, are getting married, Bea is thrilled. Bea loves Jesse, and when he and Dad get married, she'll finally (finally!) have what she's always wanted--a sister. Even though she's never met Jesse's daughter, Sonia, Bea is sure that they'll be "just like sisters anywhere." As the wedding day approaches, Bea will learn that making a new family brings questions, surprises, and joy.

J FIC Stead, CD Audiobook, eBook, eAudiobook

Sutton, Karah. **A Wolf for a Spell.** 2020.

Since she was a pup, Zima has been taught to fear humans—especially witches—but when her family is threatened, she has no choice but to seek help from the witch Baba Yaga. Baba Yaga never does magic for free, but it just so happens that she needs a wolf's keen nose for a secret plan she's brewing... Before Zima knows what's happening, the witch has cast a switching spell and run off into the woods, while Zima is left behind in Baba Yaga's hut—and Baba Yaga's body! Meanwhile, a young village girl named Nadya is also seeking the witch's help, and when she meets Zima (in Baba Yaga's form), they discover that they face a common enemy.

J FIC Sutton

Watson, Tom. **Trouble at Table 5 (series).** 2020-2021

Molly gets things stuck in her head sometimes. When she sees a jar of candy on Principal Shelton's desk, she absolutely *needs* to know how many candies are in that jar! Luckily, her two best friends, Simon and Rosie, are ready to help her find the answer—even if it means detention for all of them!

J FIC Watson, J PAPERBACK Watson, CD Audiobook, eBook

West, Tracey. **Dragon Masters (series)**. 2014-2021

Dragon Masters has it all! Dragons, a Dragon Stone, a king, a wizard, and magic! In the first book in this fully-illustrated series, 8-year-old Drake is snatched up by King Roland's soldier and taken to the castle. He is to be trained as a Dragon Master. At the castle, he is joined by three other young Dragon Masters-in-training: Ana, Rori, and Bo. The Dragon Masters must learn how to connect with and train their dragons--and they must also uncover their dragons' special powers. Does Drake have what it takes to be a Dragon Master?

J FIC WEST, J PAPERBACK WEST, Playaway, eBook, eAudiobook

Graphic Novels

Annable, Graham. **Peter & Ernesto: A Tale of Two Sloths (Peter & Ernesto 1)**. 2018

Peter and Ernesto are sloths. Peter and Ernesto are friends. But Peter and Ernesto are nothing alike. Peter loves their tree and never wants to leave, while Ernesto loves the sky and wants to see it from every place on Earth. When Ernesto leaves to have a grand adventure, Peter stays behind and frets. The two friends grow even closer in separation, as Peter the homebody expands his horizons and Ernesto the wanderer learns the value of home.

J GN Annable

Bell, Cici. **Chick and Brain: Smell my Foot! (Chick and Brain 1)**. 2019

Meet Chick and Brain. And their friend Spot. Chick likes to follow the rules. Brain might not be as smart as he looks. And Spot just wants to eat lunch. A primer on good manners gone awry.

J GN Bell

Craft, Jerry. **Class Act (New Kid # 2)**. 2020

Companion to 2020 Newbery Award Winner **New Kid**.

Eighth grader Drew Ellis is no stranger to the saying “You have to work twice as hard to be just as good.” His grandmother has reminded him his entire life. But what if he works ten times as hard and still isn’t afforded the same opportunities that his privileged classmates at the Riverdale Academy Day School take for granted? To make matters worse, Drew begins to feel as if his good friend Liam might be one of those privileged kids. He wants to pretend like everything is fine, but it's hard not to withdraw, and even their mutual friend Jordan doesn't know how to keep the group together. As the pressures mount, will Drew find a way to bridge the divide so he and his friends can truly accept each other? And most important, will he finally be able to accept himself?

J GN Pop Now Craft, Playaway Audiobook, eBook

Johnson, Varian. **Twins**. 2020

Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. A girl who seems happy to share only two classes with her sister! Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

J GN Johnson, eBook

Lloyd, Megan Wagner. **Allergic**. 2021

At home, Maggie is the odd one out. Her parents are preoccupied with getting ready for a new baby, and her younger brothers are twins and always in their own world. Maggie loves animals and thinks a new puppy to call her own is the answer, but when she goes to select one on her birthday, she breaks out in hives and rashes. She's severely allergic to anything with fur! Can Maggie outsmart her allergies and find the perfect pet?

J GN Lloyd

Scrivan, Maria. **Nat Enough (Nat Enough 1)**. 2020

Natalie has never felt that she's enough -- athletic enough, stylish enough, or talented enough. And on the first day of middle school, Natalie discovers that things are worse than she thought - now she's not even cool enough for her best friend, Lily! As Natalie tries to get her best friend back, she learns more about her true self and natural talents. If Natalie can focus on who she is rather than who she isn't, then she might realize she's more than enough, just the way she is.

J GN Scrivan, eBook

Non-Fiction

Alexander, Lori. **All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World.** 2019

A full-color chapter book biography that shows how a self-taught scientist was the first to observe the microbial life in and around us. By building his own microscope, Antony van Leeuwenhoek advanced humanity's understanding of our oft-invisible world around us.

J BIO LEEUWENHOEK

Buller, Laura. **Castles: Conquer the World's Most Impressive Castles.** 2020

Journey across the world and throughout history to discover the world's best and most unusual castles, and learn about their features, from the tallest turrets to the dingiest dungeons. Find out how castles have changed over time and what happened to the people who lived in them.

J 728.82 Buller

Greenberg, Jan and Sandra Jordan. **World of Glass: The Art of Dale Chihuly.** 2020

His crew calls him Maestro. Thousands of fans call him a magician. Over the past five decades, Dale Chihuly (b. 1941) has created some of the most innovative and popular works of art in museums and gardens around the world. Authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan met with Chihuly in his studio for exclusive interviews discussing his early life, his passion for glassblowing, and his dazzling works. Lavishly illustrated with Chihuly's art and family photographs, this book discusses Chihuly's workshop and his glassblowing technique.

J 748.092 GREENBERG

Hewitt, Ben; illustrated by Luke Boushee. **The Young Adventurer's Guide to (Almost) Everything.** 2019

45 step-by-step, illustrated activities that teach kids everything from how to see like an owl to build the world's coolest fort from sticks.

J 796.083 HEWITT

Lloyd, Christopher. **Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals are Just Like Us!** 2019

So you think you're special? You think that just because people have built giant cities, invented pop-up toasters and put a person on the Moon that they are somehow different from other living things? Well, it's time to think again! Humanimal shows the inextricable interconnections of the human and animal worlds in ways you never before imagined.

J Pop Now 591.5 Lloyd

Markle, Sandra. **The Great Penguin Rescue: Saving the African Penguins.** 2018.

Learn about the real struggles of today's African penguins. Despite South African government efforts to protect the penguin colonies and their ocean fish supply, young penguins still struggle to survive. Fuzzy chicks waiting for food in open nests may overheat in the sun or become prey. Others simply may not get enough food to survive on their own once their parents leave. But new conservation methods, including rescuing and hand-feeding vulnerable chicks, are giving experts hope. Can volunteers and scientists help save Africa's only penguins before it's too late?

J 598.47 MARKLE

Mizielińska, Aleksandra. **Under Water; Under Earth.** 2016

Hundreds of fascinating facts are waiting to be unearthed in this book from Aleksandra and Daniel Mizielinska, the creative duo behind **Maps**. Dive below the surface, and find out what happens under the earth and under the water. From early submarines and deep-sea life, to burrowing animals and man-made tunnels--you will never look at the world in the same way again!

J 551 MIZIELINSKA

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. **Let 'er Buck!: George Fletcher, the People's Champion.** 2019

In 1911, three men were in the final round of the famed Pendleton Round-Up. One was white, one was Indian, and one was black. When the judges declared the white man the winner, the

audience was outraged. They named black cowboy George Fletcher the "people's champion" and took up a collection, ultimately giving Fletcher far more than the value of the prize that went to the official winner. Award-winning author Vaunda Micheaux Nelson tells the story of Fletcher's unlikely triumph with a Western twang that will delight kids--and adults--who love true stories, unlikely heroes, and cowboy tales.

J BIO FLETCHER

Novesky, Amy. **Girl on a Motorcycle.** 2020

One day, a girl gets on her motorcycle and rides away. She wants to wander the world. To go... Elsewhere. This is the true story of the first woman to ride a motorcycle around the world alone. Each place has something to teach her. Each place is beautiful. And despite many flat tires and falls, she learns to always get back up and keep riding.

J BIO DAUTHEVILLE

Reid, Megan. **Who Did it First? 50 Icons, Luminaries, and Legends Who Revolutionized the World.** 2020

This fully illustrated book celebrates fifty trailblazers who made the world a better place. Filled with profiles highlighting what each subject accomplished first alongside vibrant illustrations, this book is a celebration of the iconic figures who have paved the way for future generations.

J 920.02 Reid

Reiss, Stephen (editor). **The Fierce 44: Black Americans Who Shook Up the World.** 2019

Meet forty-four of America's most impressive heroes in this collective biography of African American figures authored by the team at ESPN's TheUndefeated.com. From visionaries to entrepreneurs, athletes to activists, the Fierce 44 are beacons of brilliance, perseverance, and excellence. Each short biography is accompanied by a compelling portrait by Robert Ball, whose bright, graphic art pops off the page.

J 920 Fierce

Weatherford, Carole Boston. **Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom.** 2020

In a moving, lyrical tale about the cost and fragility of freedom, a New York Times best-selling author and an acclaimed artist follow the life of a man who courageously shipped himself out of slavery.

J Bio Brown, Readalong Bio Brown

Wright, Adrienne. **Hector: A Boy, A Protest, and the Photograph that Changed Apartheid.** 2019

On June 16, 1976, Hector Pieterse, an ordinary boy, lost his life after getting caught up in what was supposed to be a peaceful protest. Black South African students were marching against a new law requiring that they be taught half of their subjects in Afrikaans, the language of the White government. The story's events unfold from the perspectives of Hector, his sister, and the photographer who captured their photo in the chaos. Graphic novel style and mixed media art portray the vibrancy and grit of Hector's daily life and untimely death.

J BIO PIETERSON