

SOCIETY OF CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS OFFICIAL READING LIST — 2017

MID-SOUTH

(Kansas / Louisiana / Arkansas / Tennessee / Kentucky / Missouri / Mississippi)

PREK-K

Picture Book

The Alphabet Forest

by Lori Galaske, illustrated by Eugene Ruble

Book Description: When a little girl loses her name, she and her brother travel through the alphabet forest, where furry and feathery animals of every letter play.

Author's Residence: Columbia, Missouri

Publisher: Guardian Angel Publishing

Author's website: www.lorigalaske.com

Pug Meets Pig

by Sue Lowell Gallion, illustrated by Joyce Wan

Book Description: Pug is one happy pup until Pig arrives to stay.

Will Pug and Pig ever learn to live together as friends?

Author's Residence: Leawood, Kansas

Publisher: Beach Lane Books

Spider's Gift: A Christmas Story

by Geraldine Ann Marshall, illustrated by Rebecca Sorge

Book Description: This is the Nativity from the viewpoints of a spider, cricket, and honeybee. Spider finds her gift to give Baby Jesus. Includes spider facts, folklore.

Author's Residence: Paducah, Kentucky

Publisher: Pauline Books and Media

Sweet Hearts

by Amy E. Sklansky, illustrated by Anna Dunn

Book Description: Celebrate your little sweetheart with this rhyming novelty book with colorful tiered pages and a die-cut shape that looks just like a heart!

Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri

Publisher: Cartwheel/Scholastic

Website: www.amysklansky.com

Time for (Earth) School, Dewey Dew

by Leslie Staub, illustrated by Jeff Mack

Book Description: No matter how different you are or what your skin color is—even if it's bright blue—kindness can go a very long way.

Author's Residence: New Orleans, Louisiana

Publisher: Boyds Mills Press

A Tip Tap Tale

by Denise Gallagher

Book Description: BouZou, a singing, guitar-playing hound dog, is happy performing in his Louisiana swamp. But when a cat named Slick Jim Jack shows up, BouZou is enticed to perform in the big city of New Aw-Leens.

Publisher: UL University Press

Author's Website: www.denisegallagher.com

Religious

The Giant Book of Bible Fingerplays for Preschoolers

by Amy Houts

Book Description: This resource has a fingerplay for every Bible story you can imagine! The book covers the Old and New Testaments in a fun and memorable way.

Author's Residence: Maryville, Missouri

Publisher: Group Publishing

Author's Website: www.amyhouts.com

GRADES 1-2

Early Chapter Book

Haggis and Tank Unleashed: All Paws on Deck

by Jessica Young, illustrated by James Burks

Book Description: Haggis and Tank set sail with the help of their imaginations. A pirate adventure in an early graphic novel format full of wordplay and homophones.

Author's Residence: Tennessee

Publisher: Scholastic

Early Reader

Claire Wants a Boxing Name

by Jo Meserve Mach and Vera Lynne Stroup-Rentier, photographs by Mary Birdsell

Book Description: Claire is learning to focus and to box. "Libraries looking to add to their inclusive nonfiction offerings will find this one a winner."—Kirkus Reviews

Author's Residence: Topeka, Kansas

Publisher: Finding My Way Books

Author's Website: www.findingmywaybooks.net

Humorous Fiction

Roof Octopus

by Lucy Branam, illustrated by Rogério Coehlo

Book Description: Nora discovers an octopus on her apartment building. When they become friends, the octopus disappears. Will he reappear in time to come to show-and-tell?

Author's Residence: Jacksboro, Tennessee

Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press

Nonfiction Picture Book

Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator

by Sarah C. Campbell, illustrated by Sarah C. Campbell and Richard P. Campbell

Book Description: Stunning photographs and a fact-filled story deliver a close-up look at a day in the life of a tiny, and unexpected,

predator—the seriously slimy wolfsnail.
Author's Residence: Jackson, Mississippi
Publisher: Boyds Mills Press
Author's Website: www.sarahccampbell.com

Picture Book

A Book of Bridges: Here to There and Me to You

by Cheryl Keely, illustrated by Celia Krampien

Book Description: Bridges are fascinating structures, and they come in all forms. This book visits them all, while reminding us their main purpose is bringing people together.
Author's Residence: Louisville, Kentucky
Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press
Author's Website: www.cherylkeely.com

How I Did It (Peace Dragon Tale)

by Linda Ragsdale, illustrated by Anoocha Syed

Book Description: Follow Capitol I through an inviting adventure about creativity, individuality, and following one's dreams. Clever wordplay and bright illustrations captivate every age audience.
Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee
Publisher: Flowerpot Press
Author's Website: www.thepeacedragon.com

The Legend of Papa Noël: A Cajun Christmas Story

by Terri Hoover Dunham, illustrated by Laura Knorr

Book Description: On a foggy Christmas Eve, Papa Noël rides the river in a pirogue pulled by alligators to deliver toys to good little boys and girls.
Author's Residence: Greenwell Springs, Louisiana
Publisher: Sleeping Bear Press

Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop: Slave-Explorer

by Heather Henson, illustrated by Bryon Collier

Book Description: Celebrates the life of Stephen Bishop, famous guide and explorer of Mammoth Cave, the world's longest cave system, and yet a slave.
Author's Residence: Danville, Kentucky
Publisher: Caitlyn Dlouhy Books

Out on the Prairie

by Donna M. Bateman, illustrated by Susan Swan

Book Description: Using the traditional rhyme scheme of "Over in the Meadow," *Out on the Prairie* celebrates the flora, fauna, and wide sky of the prairie.
Author's Residence: Bridgeton, Missouri
Publisher: Charlesbridge

Prudence the Part-Time Cow

by Jody Jensen Shaffer, illustrated by Stephanie Laberis

Book Description: Prudence isn't just a cow. She's a scientist, architect, and inventor, too. Her herd thinks she's a little too part-time. Until she shows them she can be a part-time cow and a full-time member of the herd.
Author's Residence: Liberty, Missouri
Publisher: Henry Holt & Company
Author's Website: www.jodyjensenshaffer.com

Rickshaw Reggie: Chicago Neighborhoods

by Kathleen Dragan, illustrated by Ed Koehler

Book Description: A magical pedicab tour of seven Chicago neighborhoods.
Illustrator's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri
Publisher: Reedy Press
Illustrator's Website: www.edkoehler.com

The Story Catcher

by Donna L. Martin

Book Description: Addie tries to corral wiggly words so she can read her favorite book, but it will take some perseverance to become the next Story Catcher.
Author's Residence: Knoxville, Tennessee
Publisher: Anaiah Press

Picture Book/Bilingual

Spearfinger

by Charles Suddeth, illustrated by Carrie Salazar

Book Description: Spearfinger the witch terrorizes Cherokees. Can Chucha discover her secrets and end her rampages? Bilingual English/Cherokee.
Author's Residence: Louisville, Kentucky
Publisher: 4RV Publishing
Author's Website: www.ctsuddeth.com

Realistic Fiction

Piper Morgan Joins the Circus

by Stephanie Faris, illustrated by Lucy Fleming

Book Description: The first book in a new chapter book series follows the adventures of a spunky young girl as she follows her mom from one job to another.
Author's Residence: Gallatin, Tennessee
Publisher: Aladdin

GRADES 3-5

Adventure

Surviving the Iditarod: An Interactive Extreme Sports Adventure (YOU CHOOSE series)

by Nicki Jacobsmeyer

Book Description: Set in the Alaskan wilds, the Iditarod is one of the most extreme races on the planet. As the musher and leader of a dog-sledding team, YOU CHOOSE how this adventure ends.
Author's Residence: Troy, Missouri
Publisher: Capstone Press
Author's Website: www.nickijacobsmeyer.com

Biography

St. John Neumann: Missionary to Immigrants

by Laura Rhoderica Brown, fsp, illustrated by Virginia Esquinaldo

Book Description: Learn about the life of the man who became the only canonized North American bishop. Join him as he travels from Europe to America.
Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri
Publisher: Pauline Books and Media

Chapter Book

Ready, Set, Goal!

by **Debbie Dadey**, illustrated by **Tatevik Avakyan**

Book Description: The Trident Academy's shell wars team is going to the championships in Atlantis! But the team may lose when Shelly sees a cursed fish. Can Shelly and her friends reverse the curse in time?

Author's Residence: Sevierville, Tennessee

Publisher: Aladdin

Author's Website: www.debbiedadey.com

Contemporary Fiction

A Dog Like Daisy

by **Kristin O'Donnell Tubb**

Book Description: Daisy has only ten weeks to prove her usefulness or else be sent back to the pound. Yet if she goes back, who will protect Colonel Victor from his PTSD attacks? What if no one ever adopts her again?

Author's Residence: Arrington, Tennessee

Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins

Author's Website: www.kristintubb.com

A Dog Steals Home

by **Kathleen Schrenk**

Book Description: Zach must make a tough decision that threatens his position as starting pitcher . . . but can he save Audrey and a scraggly dog named Grace?

Author's Residence: New Orleans, Louisiana

Publisher: Pelican Publishing Company

Author's Website: www.kathleenschrenk.com

Vilonia Beebe Takes Charge

by **Kristin L. Gray**, illustrated **Emma Trithart**

Book Description: Fourth grader Vilonia must prove she's responsible enough for a dog in order to help her mom overcome her grief. If only the hens would behave . . .

Author's Residence: Fayetteville, Arkansas

Publisher: Paula Wiseman Books

Author's Website: www.kristinlgray.com

Fantasy

The Lazy Dragon and the Bumblespells Wizard

by **Kath Boyd Marsh**

Book Description: Waste-of-dr'gon-scales, Cl'rnce, can't avoid his Quest. Teamed with Moire Ain, bumblespelled wanna-be wizard, they complete his Quest and save a king.

Author's Residence: Richmond, Kentucky

Publisher: CBAY Books

Historical Fiction

Callahan Crossroads

by **Anola Pickett**

Book Description: In the summer of 1918, twelve-year-old George Callahan finds that war overseas has brought surprising, and sometimes dangerous, changes to his life on the home front.

Author's Residence: Kansas City, Missouri

Publisher: Cedar Fort

Finding My Place: One Girl's Strength at Vicksburg

by **Margo L. Dill**

Book Description: Thirteen-year-old Anna Green lives during the Siege of Vicksburg. During one terrible bombing, a tragedy strikes Anna and her siblings and changes their lives forever.

Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri

Publisher: White Mane Publishing

Paper Wishes

by **Lois Sepahban**

Description: When Manami is sent to a prison camp with her family in 1942, she tries to sneak her dog under her coat, but she is caught and forced to abandon him.

Author's Residence: Harrodsburg, Kentucky

Publisher: Farrar, Straus & Giroux Books for Young Readers

Summer of the Skunks

by **Wilmoth Foreman**

Book Description: Skunks under the house, a down-on-his-luck stowaway, and lazy Cousin Hershel's too-long visit literally lead to fireworks amid hilarious misadventures for the Clark siblings.

Author's Residence: Columbia, Tennessee

Publisher: Front Street

The War I Finally Won

by **Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

Book Description: In this sequel to the Newbery Honor-winning book *The War That Saved My Life*, Ada learns who she's fighting for.

Author's Residence: Bristol, Tennessee

Publisher: Dial Books for Young Readers

Author's Website: www.kimberlybrubakerbradley.com

Horror

The Bayou Bogeyman Presents Hoodoo and Voodoo

by **Gary Alipio**, **Laura Roach Dragon**, **Terri Hoover Dunham**, **Julie Gonzalez**, **Patricia Hefler**, **Sue Houston**, **Virginia Howard**, **Cheryl Mathis** and **Josephine Schloegel**

Book Description: Spending Halloween in a swamp, the Society of Sublime Scribblers must tell stories sinister enough to scare the Bayou Bogeyman or become his midnight feast.

Author's Residence (Mathis): New Orleans, Louisiana

Author's Residence (Hefler): Madisonville, Louisiana

Publisher: Pelican Publishing Company

Humorous Fiction

Cool Beans: The Further Adventures of Beanboy

by **Lisa Harkrader**

Book Description: Combines comic illustrations and an epic game of dodgeball as Tucker MacBean tries to make art—and himself—seem cool in seventh grade.

Author's Residence: Tonganoxie, Kansas

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers

Mystery

Emma's Gossip Column

by Pamela Perry

Book Description: Burned out as author of Emma's Gossip Column, Emma Sawyer gladly shifts focus from gossip columnist to case decoder after stumbling on a town secret.

Author's Residence: Knoxville, Tennessee

Publisher: Saguaro Books

The Imp Bottle

by D. V. Kelleher

Book Description: Olivia, Isabel, and Joe buy a genie bottle that grants wishes, but they have to free the imp to save Olivia from a terrible fate.

Author's Residence: Warsaw, Kentucky

Publisher: Diversion Press

Nonfiction

Ruth Law: The Queen of the Air

by Billie Holladay Skelley, illustrated by Rachel Bowman

Book Description: Biographical text about female aviation pioneer Ruth Bancroft Law. Daring and courageous, Law inspired the nation in 1916 with a bold and historic flight.

Author's Residence: Joplin, Missouri

Publisher: Goldminds Publishing

Author's Website: www.bhskelley.com

Where Did Sacagawea Join the Corps of Discovery? And Other Questions about the Lewis and Clark Expedition

by Linda Gondosch

Book Description: This book describes the incredible adventures of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806 as it explored the breathtaking new land called the American West.

Author's Residence: Hebron, Kentucky

Publisher: Lerner

Picture Book

Cricket in the Thicket

by Carol Murray, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

Book Description: This forty-page picture book features short, lively poems, beautiful illustrations, and cool facts about bugs. It's a great way to have fun while learning!

Author's Residence: Hutchinson, Kansas

Publisher: Henry Holt & Company

Author's Website: www.carolmurray.net

The Crown Affair

by Jeanie Franz Ransom, illustrated by Stephen Axelsen

Book Description: When Jack and Jill fall down the hill, someone swipes Jack's crown. Detective Joe Dumpty's really going to have to scramble to crack this case!

Author's Residence: O'Fallon, Missouri

Publisher: Charlesbridge

The Twelve Days of Christmas in Kentucky

by Evelyn B. Christensen, illustrated by Kent Culotta

Book Description: Come along on a fun trip as Marybeth introduces her cousin to all her favorite Kentucky places and activities and

gives him some unusual gifts.

Author's Residence: Lexington, Kentucky

Publisher: Sterling Children's Books

Author's Website: www.evelynchristensen.com

Realistic Fiction

Allie, First at Last

by Angela Cervantes

Book Description: Born into an ambitious family, Allie must make her mark. When a prestigious contest is announced, she has a chance to take first, at last.

Author's Residence: Shawnee, Kansas

Publisher: Scholastic Press

The Legend of Ghost Dog Island

by Rita Monette

Book Description: Behind every legend lies the truth. And ten-year-old Nikki Landry aims to find the truth behind what's living on a nearby swamp island.

Author's Residence: Deer Lodge, Tennessee

Publisher: Mirror World Publishing

GRADES 6-8

Christian Nonfiction

Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Gory Deaths

by Jonathan Schkade, illustrated by Gleisson Cipriano

Book Description: Drowned. Incinerated. Eaten by dogs. Gory, but not gratuitous, this book explores the Bible's nastiest deaths, providing scriptural context, historical connections, and fascinating facts.

Author's Residence: Jefferson City, Missouri

Publisher: Concordia Publishing House

Contemporary Fiction

Out of Tune

by Gail Nall

Book Description: Maya embarks on a one-hundred-mile bike ride through Yellowstone National Park to get home in time for a singing show audition.

Author's Residence: Louisville, Kentucky

Publisher: Aladdin

Author's Website: www.gailnall.com

The Seventh Level

by Jody Feldman

Book Description: Seventh grader Travis Raines is suddenly receiving mysterious puzzles. Will they lead him into his school's incredible secret society or directly toward disaster?

Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri

Publisher: Greenwillow

Fantasy

Cry of the Sea

by D. G. Driver

Book Description: When teen environmental activist Juniper Sawfeather discovers real mermaids during an oil spill, can she protect

them from being exploited or killed?
 Author's Residence: Mt. Juliet, Tennessee
 Publisher: Fire and Ice Young Adult Books

Into the Shadowlands

by **Cynthia Reeg**

Book Description: Two middle-school monsters venture into a world with horrors worse than any nightmare, and if they make it out alive, they'll undoubtedly not emerge unscathed!
 Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri
 Publisher: Jolly Fish Press
 Author's Website: www.cynthiareeg.com

Historical Fiction

Come Next Spring

by **Alana White**

Book Description: This evocative novel, set in the 1940s, captures Salina's struggles to accept the inevitability of change in friends and family in the mountains of Tennessee.
 Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee
 Publisher: Clarion Books

The Growing Rock

by **Susanna Lancaster**

Book Description: When the Great Depression sends Papa away to find work, fourteen-year-old Caroline struggles not to give into the hopelessness tearing her family apart.
 Author's Residence: Memphis, Tennessee
 Publisher: Harvard Square Editions
 Author's Website: www.susannalancaster.com

King of Ithaka

by **Tracy Barrett**

Book Description: In this coming-of-age adventure tale, the teenage son of Odysseus goes in search of his wandering father, guided only by a mysterious prophecy.
 Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee
 Publisher: Square Fish
 Author's Website: www.tracybarrett.com

Navigating Early

by **Clare Vanderpool**

Book Description: Two boys set off on the adventure of a lifetime on the Appalachian Trail in Maine, where they encounter pirates, a volcano, and a great bear.
 Author's Residence: Wichita, Kansas
 Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers

Swing Low, Sweet Harriet

by **Rhonda Hicks Rucker**

Book Description: A slave boy, who finds mysterious objects in a river near his plantation, gets entangled in a Union spy operation during the Civil War.
 Author's Residence: Maryville, Tennessee
 Publisher: MotesBooks

Horror

Blues Bones

by **Rick Starkey**

Book Description: Thirteen-year-old Rodney Becker has found the perfect cure for stage fright. Voodoo! How much will Rodney risk to become a guitar legend?
 Author's Residence: Gatlinburg, Tennessee
 Publisher: Leap Books
 Author's Website: www.RickStarkey.com

Mystery

The Devil's Backbone

by **Rae Ann Parker**

Book Description: After a school suspension forces David Baxter on a road trip to redemption, he encounters a ghost with the key to a two-hundred-year-old mystery.
 Author's Residence: Tennessee
 Publisher: Gamekeeper Press

Things Too Huge to Fix by Saying Sorry

by **Susan Vaught**

Book Description: Present and past collide when a mysterious note and an old-fashioned key propel Dani Beans into the secrets of Ole Miss, her town, and her own family.
 Author's Residence: Hopkinsville, Kentucky
 Publisher: Paula Wiseman Books

Nonfiction

Kindertransport: A Child's Journey

by **Kena Sosa**, illustrated by **Jeanne Conway**

Book Description: Kindertransport saved many Jewish children from the Holocaust. Ten-year-old Helen tells of her journey from Berlin to the safety of England.
 Author's Residence: St. Louis, Missouri
 Publisher: 4RV Publishing
 Illustrator's Website: www.jeanniespaintings.com

Twisted True Tales from Science: Insane Inventors

by **Stephanie Bearce**

Book Description: Eating puke, starting earthquakes, and operating on yourself—it's just a part of the life of an insane inventor. Learn how inventors changed the world with their crazy experiments.
 Author's Residence: St. Charles, Missouri
 Publisher: Prufrock Press
 Author's Website: www.stephaniebearce.com

Realistic Fiction

Life As I Knew It

by **Randi Hacker**

Book Description: The difference between "losing" and "loving" is just one letter.
 Author's Residence: Lawrence, Kansas
 Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

My Seventh-Grade Life in Tights

by **Brooks Benjamin**

Book Description: Dillon, a self-taught dancer, must choose

between sticking with his crew or a chance at a dance-studio scholarship in this humorous middle-grade story.

Author's Residence: Harriman, Tennessee

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers

While I Danced

by Lynn Slaughter

Book Description: In the midst of an intense dance workshop and the beginnings of a new romance, fifteen-year-old Cass makes a devastating discovery about her past.

Author's Residence: Louisville, Kentucky

Publisher: Write Words Inc.

GRADES 9-12

Adventure

The Unicorn Tree

by Cynthia Collins

Book Description: A high school senior explores a nineteenth-century mansion as an assignment and learns what happened to her brother who is lost at sea.

Author's Residence: Jefferson City, Missouri

Publisher: Mockingbird Lane Press

Contemporary Fiction

The Broken One

by Christine H. Bailey

Book Description: The Broken One explores a teen's struggle to overcome loss and her hope to rediscover what it truly means to live and love again.

Author's Residence: Henderson, Tennessee

Publisher: Vinspire Publishing

Falling for Forever

by Melissa Chambers

Book Description: A reality show runner-up. A music nerd. A talent competition with one \$25,000 cash prize. It's on.

Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee

Publisher: Entangled Teen

Author's Website: www.melissachambers.com

That Thing We Call a Heart

by Sheba Karim

Book Description: The summer before college, Pakistani American teen Shabnam learns powerful lessons about love, acceptance, her family's past, and how Urdu poetry can change your life.

Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee

Publisher: HarperTeen

Author's Website: www.shebakarim.com

Contemporary Romance

Tuned into You

by Cindy Dorminy

Book Description: A teen rock star and a softball player are forced into community service after being wrongfully arrested. They fall for each other in the process.

Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee

Publisher: BookFish Books

Fantasy

Bad Bloods: July Thunder

by Shannon A. Thompson

Book Description: *Bad Bloods: July Thunder* is the third book in this young adult fantasy series about brutal elections, superpowers, and hope.

Author's Residence: Kansas City, Missouri

Publisher: Clean Teen Publishing

Author's Website: www.shannonathompson.com

Emerald Bound

by Teresa Richards

Book Description: Maggie learns the true story of the Princess and the Pea when her friend becomes the victim of an ancient curse.

Author's Residence: La Grange, Kentucky

Publisher: Evernight Teen

Historical Fiction

Girl in Reverse

by Barbara Stuber

Book Description: It's 1951. The Korean War is raging. Lily, the only Chinese student in her Kansas City high school, is bullied in the name of patriotism.

Author's Residence: Mission Hills, Kansas

Publisher: Margaret K. McElderry Books

Salt to the Sea

by Ruta Sepetys

Description: An epic WWII novel chronicling the refugee evacuation of 1945 and the sinking of the Wilhelm Gustloff.

Author's Residence: Nashville, Tennessee

Publisher: Philomel Books

Historical Romance

Hearts Divided

by Cheryl Zach

Book Description: Elizabeth's budding romance with a young Union officer is interrupted by the shelling of Fort Sumter. Can love survive the dangers of war time?

Author's Residence: Franklin, Tennessee

Publisher: Bantam Books

Magical Realism

Spark

by Holly Schindler

Book Description: Is the love story playing out on the Avery Theater's dilapidated stage merely a figment of seventeen-year-old Quin's active "writerly" imagination? You decide.

Author's Residence: Springfield, Missouri

Publisher: HarperTeen

Nonfiction

What Are Race and Racism? (Series: Race in America)

by Sue Bradford Edwards

Book Description: This book examines the complex meanings of these concepts, what roles they play in society, and how they affect individuals in America today.

Author's Residence: Florissant, Missouri

Publisher: ABDO

Author's Website: www.suebradfordedwards.com

Realistic Fiction

The Obvious Game

by Rita Arens

Book Description: The reality of Diana's complicated life finds her helpless against new eating rules taking shape in her mind in this psychological and realistic YA novel.

Author's Residence: Lee's Summit, Missouri

Publisher: InkSpell Publishing