

Parents
10 BEST
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS

2017

This Year's Winning Reads

We consulted with children's librarians plus parent and kid testers to create our highly anticipated annual list. Help us spread the word about [#ParentsBestBooks](#).

by **KAREN CICERO**
photographs by **YUNHEE KIM**



BOARD BOOK

When Your Lion Needs a Bath
by Susanna Leonard Hill,
illustrated by Daniel Wiseman
Toddlers roared with laughter as they listened to this tale about a boy who tries and tries to coax his smelly pet lion into the tub, finally casting him in on a fishing line. "My 2-year-old pointed out the silly illustrations, like the lion tangled in yarn," says one mom. If the bath struggle is real with your kid, the last page may help him take the plunge. Ages 1 to 3, \$8



...this time into books. Whale sharks. Nurse sharks. Tiger sharks. Lemon sharks. Eugenie wanted to know about them all. She also joined the Queens County Aquarium Society as its youngest member. Eugenie's notebooks filled with sharks. They swam in her daydreams and on the margins of her pages.

NONFICTION BOOK

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist

by Jess Keating, illustrated by Marta Álvarez Miguéns
This biography rose to the top because it tells Clark's story—from her childhood fascination with sharks to becoming a scientist who was able to train them—without overwhelming kids with text. "After I read this book with my 6-year-old daughter, she told me that she wanted to be a scientist," beamed one dad. Ages 5 to 10, \$18

EARLY READER

Charlie & Mouse

by Laurel Snyder, illustrated by Emily Hughes
This collection of four short stories about two friends "evokes the feeling of Frog and Toad," says Betsy Bird, a youth-materials specialist at Evanston Public Library, in Illinois. Kid reviewers reread their favorite passages, especially the one about the party at the playground. Ages 5 to 7, \$15

BEGINNING CHAPTER BOOK SERIES

Hilde Cracks the Case

by Hilde Lysiak with Matthew Lysiak, illustrated by Joanne Lew-Vriethoff
Written by a 10-year-old who started her own neighborhood newspaper, this series will appeal to both boys and girls who like a good detective story. "I loved uncovering clues with her," said a 7-year-old reviewer. The first two installments, *Hero Dog!* and *Bear on the Loose!*, are out now, with two more slated for 2018. Ages 6 to 10, \$5 in paperback

GRAPHIC NOVEL

Real Friends

by Shannon Hale, illustrated by LeUyen Pham
The author's memoir nails what it's like to navigate elementary-school friendships. "Things that happened to Shannon have happened to me too, like I've thought I was friends with somebody and then the next day she didn't want me to be part of her group," says an 11-year-old reviewer. Most kids finished the book in a day and came away with new ideas about how to handle their own friendship dramas. Ages 7+, \$13

OLDER-KID CHAPTER BOOK

Beyond the Bright Sea

by Lauren Wolk
Kid testers relished the plot twists in this book about 12-year-old Crow's quest to find her birth parents. "I was so excited when she learned more about her past, especially that her real name is Morgan," says a reviewer of the same age. Ages 10+, \$17

The 3 That Almost Made It

We liked these books nearly as much as our winners:

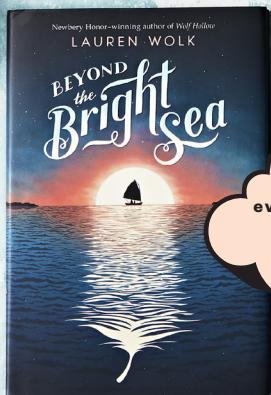
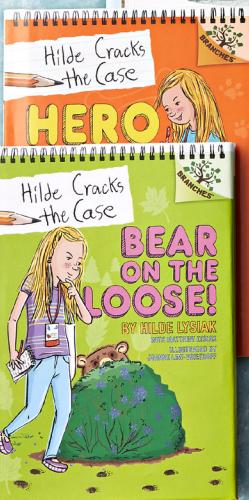
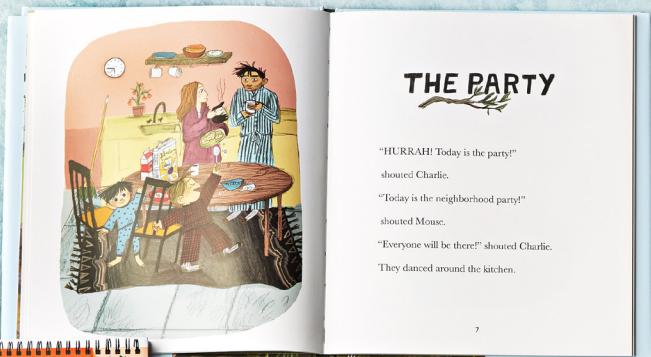
Her Right Foot

by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris
Cool facts about the Statue of Liberty plus a heart-tugging ending made this book tough to cut. It's lengthy, so split it into two nights. Ages 6+, \$20

7 Ate 9: The Untold Story

by Tara Lazar, illustrated by Ross MacDonald
When the number 6 can't find 9, he hires a "Private I" to find out what's going on. Many puns later ("I hope so," said 6. "I feel like my days are numbered"), there's a twist ending. A lot of the references flew over the heads of young kids, but we were laughing out loud. Read it to older kids who will get more of the jokes. Ages 6+, \$18

Pigeon P.I.
by Meg McLaren
Kids went crazy for comic-book-like illustrations and text bubbles in this funny story, which focuses on a pigeon private investigator that comes out of retirement to help locate the "feather thief." Ages 4 to 8, \$17



Nearly every librarian chose this book.