

# The Best of 2019



# Jacqui's Review

## Picture Books



### **Lion and Mouse** by Jairo Buitrago

Buitrago brings humor to the age-old fable, expanding on it to show the many ways lion and mouse grow their friendship after the initial dinner-net interaction.



### **The Scarecrow** by Beth Ferry

This beautifully illustrated, straight-forward book speaks gently to the changes a scarecrow undergoes when, instead of scaring a crow, he befriends it, and becomes an invaluable member of the crow's family through all the seasons of a year.



### **Saturday** by Oge Mora

Ava's mom works a busy job, but Saturdays are their special day together. What are they going to do when absolutely everything goes wrong on their one special day? The day is saved by love and a good attitude.

#### **More picture book titles:**

- *The Boring Book* by Shinsuke Yoshitake
- *It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book about Gender Identity* by Theresa Thorn
- *Prairie Boy: Frank Lloyd Wright Turns the Heartland into a Home* by Barb Rosenstock
- *The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander
- *Wild Horse Annie: Friend of the Mustangs* by Tracey Fern

## Easy Readers



### **Chick and Brain: Smell My Foot** by CeCe Bell

This simple, silly book has a comic book style perfect for those who have watched enviously as older siblings laugh out loud at *Dog Man*. A chicken and a cave man have a comedy of manners when someone's feet get stinky.



### **Chapter Two Is Missing** by Josh Lieb

In a quick 48 pages, plentiful wit is imparted concise language. The book is an active crime scene and—duhn duhn duhn!—chapter two is missing! Energetic and random, this book will have many fans.



### **Frank and Bean** by Jamie Michalak

In the tradition of odd couples everywhere, Frank is a quiet, detail-oriented camper and Bean is a loud, gregarious camping fiend! How will the two get along when they must bunk together? It's a buddy comedy for readers stretching themselves towards chapter books.

#### **More easy reader titles:**

- *Endangered Operation (Carmen Sandiego Chase-Your-Own Capers)*
- *How Emily Saved the Bridge: the Story of Emily Warren Roebling and the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* by Frieda Wishinsky
- *The Wonders of Nature* by Ben Hoare
- *You Are My Friend: the Story of Mister Rogers and His Neighborhood* by Aimee Reid
- *Yummy Yoga: Playful Poses and Tasty Treats* by Joy Bauer



## Chapter Books



### **Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks** by Jason Reynolds

One ordinary afternoon, the dismissal bell rings and ten different peoples' stories unfold across a single ten-block-walk home from school. Great for walking a mile in someone else's shoes in our walking community.



### **This Was Our Pact** by Ryan Andrews

Where do the fall festival lanterns go when released into the skies every year? A pack of boys vow to race their bicycles in an unforgettable journey to chase the lanterns down. A graphic novel perfect for fans of *Ghosts* by Raina Telgemeier.



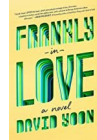
### **Roll with It** by Jamie Sumner

Smart-mouthed tween Ellie moves into a dilapidated trailer in a new town with her single mom to take care of her ailing grandfather. Her dreams of becoming a celebrity chef are undamped by her impoverished and wheelchair-bound circumstances.

#### **More chapter book titles:**

- ***Born To Fly: The First Women's Air Race across America*** by Steve Sheinkin
- ***Dear Sweet Pea*** by Julie Murphy
- ***Other Words for Home*** by Jasmine Warga
- ***Stargazing*** by Jen Wang
- ***A Wolf Called Wander*** by Rosanne Parry

## Young Adult



### **Frankly In Love** by David Yoon

When his parents disown his sister for marrying a black man, Frank Li and Joy Song--both second generation Korean-American teenagers--pretend to start dating in order to hide their real, unorthodox relationships.



### **Heroine** by Mindy McGinnis

This emotionally intense novel compassionately, but brutally, describes the descent of high school softball player Mickey from average teen to opioid drug addict.



### **We Set the Dark on Fire** by Tehlor Kay Mejia

In this dystopian novel, the only way to escape a life of abject suffering under the cruel arm of the government is to join in polygamous marriage to a politician. Dani thinks she's set for success, until she starts falling for her sister-wife.

#### **More young adult titles:**

- ***American Royals*** by Katharine McGee
- ***Gender Queer: a Memoir*** by Maia Kobabe
- ***Harley Quinn. Breaking Glass: a Graphic Novel*** by Mariko Tamaki
- ***Parkland Speaks: Survivors from Marjory Stoneman Douglas Share Their Stories*** edited by MSD teacher Sarah Lerner
- ***Warhead: the True Story of One Teen Who Almost Saved the World*** by Jeff Henigson