

If It Rains Pancakes: Haiku and Lantern Poems
by Brian P. Cleary

Explains and demonstrates how to write two types of ancient Japanese poetry: haiku and lanterns.

Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball
by John Coy

Discover the true story of how James Naismith invented basketball in 1891 at a school in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane

An Arab girl of the Sahara who wants to wear a malafa, the veiled dress worn by her mother and older sister, learns that the garment represents beauty, mystery, tradition, belonging, and faith.

A Dance like Starlight: One Ballerina's Dream
by Kristy Dempsey

A young girl growing up in Harlem in the 1950s dreams of becoming a prima ballerina one day, and is thrilled to see a performance of Janet Collins, the first "colored" prima ballerina.

The Scraps Book: Notes from a Colorful Life
by Lois Ehlert

Presents a visual survey of Lois Ehlert's artistic career that reflects on her parents' support, her early creative experiments, and her behind-the-scenes book-making processes.

Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building
by Christy Hale

A collection of concrete poetry, illustrations, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

The Girl Who Heard Colors by Marie Harris

Because she has a special extra sense called synesthesia, Jillian sees colors whenever she hears sounds.

Lost Cat by Roger C. Mader

Slipper the cat is mistakenly left behind in the commotion when the lady she has always lived with moves in with her daughter's family. Slipper, the lost cat, sets out to find someone new to adopt.

This is Moose by Richard T. Morris

Director Billy Waddler is trying to film a documentary about moose, but the moose in question has no intention of spending his life in the woods and his animal friends, who have dreams of their own, help him prove his point.

Nelson Mandela by Kadir Nelson

Kadir Nelson tells the story of Mandela, in poignant verse and glorious illustrations. It is the story of a young boy's determination to change South Africa and of the struggles of a man who eventually became the president of the country by believing in equality for people of all colors.

The Watermelon Seed by Greg Pizzoli

After swallowing a watermelon seed, a crocodile imagines a scary outcome.

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz

Rabinowitz, a renowned cat conservationist, reflects on his early childhood struggles with a speech disorder, describing how he only spoke fluently when he was communicating with animals and how he resolved at a young age to find his voice and be their advocate.

The Dark by Lemony Snicket

Laszlo is afraid of the dark which lives in the same big, creaky house as he does, until one night the dark pays him a visit.

Feathers: Not Just for Flying
by Melissa Stewart

Young naturalists meet sixteen birds in this elegant introduction to the many uses of feathers.

8 Class Pets + One Squirrel [Divided by] One Dog = Chaos by Vivian Vande Velde

A dog chases a squirrel into an elementary school one night, creating monumental chaos.

Past Monarch Award Winners

- 2015 ***The Day the Crayons Quit***
by Drew Daywalt
- 2014 ***The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School***
by Laura Murray and Mike Lowery
- 2013 ***Rocking in My School Shoes***
by Eric Litwin
- 2012 ***Shark vs. Train***
by Chris Barton
- 2011 ***Rhyming Dust Bunnies***
by Jan Thomas
- 2010 ***Scaredy Squirrel***
by Melanie Watt
- 2009 ***Once Upon a Cool Motorcycle Dude***
by Kevin O'Malley
- 2008 ***If I Built a Car***
by Chris Van Dusen
- 2007 ***Superdog: The Heart of a Hero***
by Caralyn Buehner
- 2006 ***My Lucky Day***
by Keiko Kasza
- 2005 ***David Gets in Trouble***
by David Shannon

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www.islma.org/Monarch.htm



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Monarch Award Reading List 2016

Can you read them all?

The Monarch Award was established in 2003 to promote the joy of reading for children in kindergarten through 3rd grade.

The winners are chosen by Illinois children in grades K-3 after reading books from a list of 20 titles.

This is the list of nominees for the 2016 Award.

- Building Our House* by Jonathan Bean**
A young girl narrates her family's move from the city to the country, where they live in a trailer while they build a house from the ground up, with help from relatives and friends.
- Breaking News: Bear Alert* by David Biedrzycki**
In this story (told in the form of a television broadcast), bears emerge from hibernation demanding to be fed.
- Marisol McDonald and the Clash Bash* by Monica Brown**
A unique, spunky, multiracial, bilingual girl plans a one-of-a-kind birthday party and hopes her abuelita (grandma) will be able to come from Peru to join the festivities.
- Bad Kitty School Daze* by Nick Bruel**
When Kitty's owners have finally had enough of her bad behavior, it's time to ship her off to obedience school.
- A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin* by Jennifer Bryant**
This is an illustrated introduction to the life and work of artist Horace Pippin, describing his childhood love for drawing and the World War I injury that challenged his career.