Carol Wellen

 SLM 506

**Materials Order**

School: Whittier Elementary School, Frederick, MD 21702

Population: 797 students

**Summary of Order**

**Print Titles – Picture Books**

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| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** | **Publisher** | **Copyright** | **Dewey number** | **Gr level** | **Pages** | **Cost** |
| Boats for Papa | Bagley, Jessixa | 978-1-62672-039-8 | Roaring Brook Press | 2015 | E | K-3 | 34p | $ 15.34 |
| Drum dream girl : how one girl's courage changed music | Engle, Margarita | 978-0-544-10229-3 | Houghton Mifflin Harcourt | 2015 | E | K-3 | 40p | $ 14.49 |
| Ice cream summer | Sis, Peter | 978-0-545-73161-4 | Scholastic Press | 2015 | E | K-3 | 33p | $ 15.34 |
| Ketzel, the cat who composed | Newman, Leslea | 978-0-7636-6555-5 | Candlewick Press | 2015 | E | K-3 | 34p | $ 14.49 |
| Last stop on Market Street | de la Peña, Matt | 978-1-48987-173-2 | G.P. Putnam's Sons | 2015 | E | K-3 | 32p | $ 18.41 |
| Leo : a ghost story | Barnett, Mac | 978-1-45213-156-6 | Chronicle Books | 2015 | E | K-3 | 46p | $ 14.49 |
| My three best friends and me, Zulay | Best, Cari | 978-0-374-38819-5 | Margaret Ferguson Books, Farrar Straus Giroux | 2015 | E | K-3 | 33p | $ 15.34 |
| The Nonsense Show | Carle, Eric | 978-0-399-17687-6 | Philomel Books | 2015 | E | K-3 | 38p | $ 16.19 |
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| **Print Titles – Fiction** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** | **Publisher** | **Copyright** | **Dewey number** | **Gr level** | **Pages** | **Cost** |
| A handful of stars | Lord, Cynthia | 978-1-51810-760-3 | Scholastic Press | 2015 | Fic | K-3 | 184p | $ 18.41 |
| Buddy and Earl | Fergus, Maureen | 978-1-55498-712-2 | Groundwood Books/ House of Anansi Press | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | 32p | $ 14.46 |
| Crenshaw | Applegate, Katherine | 978-1-51810-864-8 | Feiwel and Friends | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | 245p | $ 18.41 |
| Echo | Ryan, Pam Munoz | 978-1-51810-759-7 | Scholastic Press | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | 585p | $ 20.51 |
| George | Gino, Alex | 978-0-545-81254-2 | Scholastic Press | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | 195p | $ 14.49 |
| Gone crazy in Alabama | Williams-Garcia, Rita | 978-0-06-221588-8 | Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers | 2015 | Fic | 5-8 | 293p | $ 17.89 |
| Stella by starlight | Draper, Sharon M | 978-1-44249-497-8 | Atheneum Books for Young Readers | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | 320p | $ 14.49 |
| The last kids on Earth | Brallier, Max | 978-0-670-01661-7 | Viking | 2015 | Fic | 5-8 | 225p | $ 11.94 |
| The thing about jellyfish : a novel | Benjamin, Ali | 978-1-51810-662-0 | Little, Brown and Company | 2015 | Fic | K-3 | 343p | $ 18.41 |
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| **Print Titles – Graphic Novels** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Little Robot | Hatke, Ben | 978-1-62672-080-0 | First Second | 2015 | 741.5 | K-3 | 132p | $ 14.49 |
| Rutabaga, the adventure chef. 1 | Colossal, Eric | 978-1-41971-380-4 | Amulet books | 2015 | 741.5 | 3-6 | 127p | $ 14.46 |
| Sunny Side Up | Holm, Jennifer L | 978-0-545-74165-1 | Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic | 2015 | 741.5 | 3-6 | 216p | $ 20.44 |
| **Print Titles – Nonfiction** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** | **Publisher** | **Copyright** | **Dewey number** | **Gr level** | **Pages** | **Cost** |
| The case for loving : the fight for interracial marriage | Alko, Selina | 978-0-545-47853-3 | Arthur A. Levine Books | 2015 | 306.84 | K-3 | 34p | $ 16.19 |
| The grasshopper & the ants | Pinkney, Jerry | 978-0-316-40081-7 | Little, Brown and Company | 2015 | 398.2 | K-3 | 33p | $ 15.35 |
| Elephant in the dark | Javaherbin, Mina | 978-0-545-63670-4 | Scholastic Press | 2015 | 398.21 | K-3 | 32p | $ 15.34 |
| The octopus scientists : exploring the mind of a mollusk | Montgomery, Sy | 978-0-544-23270-9 | Houghton Mifflin Harcourt | 2015 | 594.56 | 5-8 | 71p | $ 16.19 |
| Aerospace engineer Aprille Ericsson | Waxman, Laura Hamilton | 978-1-46775-793-5 | Lerner Publications | 2015 | 629.4 | 3-6 | 32p | $ 20.04 |
| Gordon Parks : how the photographer captured black and white America | Weatherford, Carole Boston | 978-0-8075-3017-7 | Albert Whitman & Company | 2015 | 770.89 | K-3 | 32p | $ 16.99 |
| Growing up Pedro | Tavares, Matt | 978-0-7636-6824-2 | Candlewick Press | 2015 | 796.357 | 3-6 | 40p | $ 14.49 |
| Flutter & hum : animal poems = Aleteo y zumbido : poemas de animales | Paschkis, Julie | 978-1-62779-103-8 | Henry Holt and Company | 2015 | 811 | K-3 | 32p | $ 15.34 |
| The Maine coon's haiku and other poems for cat lovers | Rosen, Michael J | 978-0-7636-6492-3 | Candlewick Press | 2015 | 811 | 3-6 | 56p | $ 15.34 |
| The popcorn astronauts : and other biteable rhymes | Ruddell, Deborah | 978-1-44246-555-8 | Margaret K. McElderry Books | 2015 | 811 | K-3 | 32p | $ 15.34 |
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| **Nonprint Titles - Media** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Title** | **Author** | **ISBN** | **Publisher** | **Copyright** | **Dewey number** | **Gr level** | **Format** | **Cost** |
| Best Friend Next Door | Mackler, Carolyn | 978-0-545-85771-0 | Scholastic Inc | 2015 | Fic | K-3 | CD | $ 25.99 |
| Completely Clementine | Pennypacker, Sara | 978-1-49062-522-5 | Recorded Books | 2015 | Fic | 3-6 | CD | $ 25.75 |
| Fuzzy mud | Sachar, Louis | 978-0-8041-2136-1 | Listening Library | 2015 | Fic | 5-8 | CD | $ 30.00 |
| Imani's moon | Brown-Wood, JaNay | 978-1-43011-900-5 | Live Oak Media | 2015 | E | K-3 | CD | $ 32.95 |
| Invisible universe revealed | Yost, Peter | 978-1-62789-361-9 | PBS | 2015 | 522 | 4-8 | DVD | $ 19.99 |
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| **Websites, Apps, and Tools** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Title** | **Publisher** | **Location** | **Last Updated** | **Subject** | **Gr level** | **Format** | **Cost** |
| The New Immigrants NYC 1880–1924 | Vanguard Direct | https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/new-immigrants-nyc-1880-1924/id892259397?ls=1&mt=8 | 2015 | History, Immigration | 4 - 8 | App | Free |
| WWF Together by World Wildlife Fund | World Wildlife Fund | http://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/the-world-s-most-amazing-animals-in-one-app | 8/11/2015 | Endangered Animals | 3 - 8 | App | Free |
| iBiome-Wetland by Springbay Studio | Springbay Studio | http://www.springbaystudio.com/ | 11/10/2015 | Biomes | 3 - 6 | App | $ 3.99  |
| Homes | Tinybop | http://tinybop.com/apps/homes | 10/17/2015 | World cultures | K - 5 | App | $ 3.99  |
| Women of NASA | NASA | http://women.nasa.gov/ | 2015 | Biographies | 3 - 8 | Website | Free |

**Annotations and Reviews**

**Print Titles: Picture Books**

**Title:** Boats for Papa by Bagley, Jessixa

* **Summary:** Buckley and his mother cope with the loss of their father/husband by sending small wooden boats, built by Buckley, off into the ocean. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (May 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 17)): “A gentle storyteller’s voice, in a soothing cadence, introduces the details of this simple, moving tale. Reassuring, consoling, and lovely.”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “Young beaver Buckley lives with his mother in a small house on the beach and makes boats out of driftwood, launching them out to sea in hopes they will reach his absent father. The strength of this quiet, contemplative book is its gorgeous pen and watercolor illustrations.”
3. School Library Journal (May 1, 2015): “’They didn't have much, but they always had each other.’ So begins this spare tale of longing and acceptance. Bagley's tender watercolors and lyrical text give weight and volume to a family's grief. The ambiguity of Papa's absence allows this story to transcend specifics and gives it a timeless and universal appeal.”
* **Rationale:**  This is a good book to have available for students dealing with loss and grief, but also for students missing a loved one. This would be a good resource for many of our students who are missing their parents who have deployed overseas.

**Title:** Drum dream girl : how one girl's courage changed music \* by Engle, Margarita

* **Summary:** Follows a girl in the 1920s as she strives to become a drummer, despite being continually reminded that only boys play the drums, and that there has never been a female drummer in Cuba. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): “Vibrant, warm, and hopeful, this expressive story shows the power of perseverance and importance of following your dreams. Engle’s prose flows easily, with clean but evocative language that will be accessible to a range of young readers. The text and illustrations work together beautifully here, creating a story that will imbue readers with inspiration and a yearning to make music of their own.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “A young girl "on an island of music" dreams of becoming a drummer, but only boys play drums. The story is based on Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a "Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers." Poetic text takes its cues from Zaldarriaga's chosen instrument.”
3. School Library Journal (January 1, 2015): “The heroine's tenacity in the face of naysayers will inspire all dreamers, and the illustrator's smile-inducing cameo on the last page emphasizes the universality of Millo's story.”
* **Rationale:** This book has many great qualities – a wonderful story, showing kids that it is ok to follow your dreams, portraying girls doing something that is considered “for boys only”, and a multicultural focus.

**Title:** Ice cream summer by Sis, Peter

* **Summary:** A little boy writes a letter to his grandfather about all the reading and studying he is doing this summer, but all his activities revolve around ice cream. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (April 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 15)) “This delectable amalgam of historical record and confectionery celebration is both a delight for the eyes and an inspiration for the tummy.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Summery-hued illustrations and incorporated text reveal that Joe's activities… each revolve around ice cream: e.g., when Joe reads about ancient China, the accompanying picture depicts how the first ice cream was made there two-thousand years ago. A picture-book treat that teaches some history behind this favorite dessert.”
3. School Library Journal (May 1, 2015): “This book is fabulous for teachers introducing a unit on letter writing or research skills. The facts about how ice cream was invented are interesting and presented in a cartoonlike manner that children will find entertaining. Children will love finding all of the ways that ice cream is incorporated into each picture.”
* **Rationale:** This is a fun book that all kids will enjoy, but it also can be used by teachers in the classroom for teaching letter writing, which teachers work on in kindergarten through second grade.

**Title:** Ketzel, the cat who composed by Newman, Leslea

* **Summary:** After his kitten walks across a piano keyboard, a composer writes down the notes exactly as he heard them and enters the tune into a competition. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): “Based on a true incident, this delightfully told story is unlikely and adorable in equal parts. Bates’ watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations feature an unanthropomorphic kitty whose inquisitive and quizzical nature will be familiar to all cat owners… An absolute charmer!”
2. Kirkus Reviews (August 1, 2015): “This adorable account is as warm and fuzzy as Ketzel herself and all the sweeter because it's based on fact. The watercolor, gouache, and pencil illustrations suit the text perfectly, delightfully capturing Ketzel's furriness, the story's charming, lively energy, and Moshe and the "composer's" loving friendship. Truly, the cat's meow.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “Musicians and cat lovers alike will enjoy this charming picture book based on a true story. A delightful read.”
* **Rationale:** This is an imaginative story that will engage younger readers, who will be even more surprised to know that the story is true.

**Title:** Last stop on Market Street \* by de la Peña, Matt

* **Summary:** A young boy rides the bus across town with his grandmother and learns to appreciate the beauty in everyday things. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): “Robinson’s bright, simple, multicultural figures, with their rounded heads, boxy bodies, and friendly expressions, contrast nicely with de la Peña’s lyrical language, establishing a unique tone that reflects both CJ’s wonder and his nana’s wisdom. The celebratory warmth is irresistible, offering a picture of community that resonates with harmony and diversity.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Nana has bottomless look-on-the-sunny-side answers, but she isn't dispensing bromides; the exquisitely composed collage illustrations showing a glamour-free urban setting forbid a glib reading. A quietly remarkable book.”
3. School Library Journal (November 1, 2014): “The urban setting is truly reflective, showing people with different skin colors, body types, abilities, ages, and classes in a natural and authentic manner… This is an excellent book that highlights less popular topics such as urban life, volunteerism, and thankfulness, with people of color as the main characters. “
* **Rationale:**  This book focuses on appreciating everything around us and not complaining about things we don’t have – good for discussing needs versus wants. It is also a great book for diversity.

**Title:** Leo : a ghost story by Barnett, Mac

* **Summary:** Leo is a friendly house ghost but when a family moves into his house and tries to get rid of him, he leaves and roams the city looking for a friend. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): “The vintage-style cutout illustrations, almost entirely done in shades of blue, convey Leo’s ghostliness and work well with the clever design… Despite the blue tones and Leo’s initial loneliness, this is a tender, touching story of friendship and the power of imagination. And it is sure to warm hearts.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2015): “The friendship between the youngsters is touching and well partnered by Robinson’s purply-blue and black acrylic collage illustrations, warm and sweet and simple with a mid-twentieth-century vibe.”
3. School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): “Leo beautifully contrasts with the geometrically composed live humans, and Robinson finds some clever opportunities for depicting Leo's transparency. The balance of texture and white space helps mitigate the many shades of blue, retaining visual interest and keeping the overall feel upbeat. A whimsical tale from Barnett aptly accompanied by enthralling artwork by Robinson.”
* **Rationale:** This is an entertaining, imaginative book that all students should enjoy.

**Title:** My three best friends and me, Zulay \* by Best, Cari

* **Summary:** Zulay is a blind girl who longs to be able to run in the race on field day at her school. – from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “The straightforward depiction of spunky Zulay and her diverse group of girlfriends… helps this story shine. Brantley-Newton's bright illustrations showcase expressive faces, welcoming readers into a world where the successes and frustrations of being disabled are noted and respected.”
2. Kirkus Reviews starred (November 1, 2014): “A glimpse at blindness, friendship and perseverance. Blind and sighted kids alike will enjoy this cheery outing, which appropriately treats learning to use a white cane with the straightforwardness another might treat learning to ride a bike.”
3. School Library Journal (November 1, 2014): “This story is inspiring and inclusive. Young readers will understand the challenges that Zulay faces in getting around but also that all students face unique challenges… This picture book is a great way to continue building diverse library collections for all readers.”
* **Rationale:** This book features cultural diversity as well as diversity of abilities, since the main character Zulay is blind. It is good for encouraging persistence, and we have a blind student in our school so this book represents someone in our school community.

**Title:** The Nonsense Show by Carle, Eric

* **Summary:** Ducks growing out of bananas? A mouse catching a cat? There's something strange, something funny, and even downright preposterous on every page of this book. But it's not a mistake--it's nonsense! – from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): “Carle’s latest renders fanciful illustrations of absurd creations. A plethora of synonyms for nonsense and oddities swarm in a word bubble on the last two pages as a little boy pushes a giant magician rabbit offstage. The oversize format is perfect for storytimes and silly times all round. Carle hits it out of the nonsense park!”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “Like the art, the rhyming text eschews logic and reason, adding another layer of unabashed nonsense to the book’s offbeat tone. On the last spread, the child who came out of that hat at the beginning brings closure as he wheels the rabbit-magician off the page. With a nod to surrealist painter René Magritte (“Ceci n’est pas une pipe”) on the dedication page, the book, with its cleanly designed white pages, makes the unexpected elements of the imagery stand out and prompts questions and wonder.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “In rhyming text and surrealist illustrations, the book is full of Carle's distinct art featuring bright and colorfully textured images. Children will love seeing everyday images turned on their heads and will delight in exploring these illustrations again and again. A sure hit as a read-aloud and a definite purchase for picture book collections.”
* **Rationale:** Students and teachers love Eric Carle. This is his newest book and it sounds imaginative and fun.

**Print Titles: Fiction**

**Title:** A handful of stars \* by Lord, Cynthia

* **Summary:** When her dog slips his collar, Lily meets Salma, a young Hispanic girl whose migrant family are in Maine for blueberry-picking season, and, based on their mutual love of dogs, the two forge a friendship.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (April 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 16)): "Newbery Honor Book author Lord has written a quiet, gentle story of friendship… and Lucky—well, Lucky steals the show. Dog-lovers will dote on this one.”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “Small-town Mainer Lily and migrant worker Salma become fast friends, bonding over Lily's blind dog, Lucky. Both support each other's plans despite the obstacles… in this warm-hearted, thoughtfully written tale of a memorable friendship.”
3. School Library Journal (June 1, 2015): “Two girls from seemingly different backgrounds bond over a blind dog and blueberries in Lord's latest heartwarmer. Lord's characters reveal themselves slowly within the narrative and the Maine setting is richly described. A thoughtful work that examines cultural bias and will spark discussion.”
* **Rationale:**  This book deals with different cultures and different socioeconomic backgrounds, all of which we have at our school. It’s important for students to understand that you should be friends with someone because of who they are, not what they look like or the things they have.

**Title:** Buddy and Earl by Fergus, Maureen

* **Summary:** Buddy, a dog, and his new friend Earl go on an adventure to find out what kind of an animal Earl is. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): “Though savvy little ones will likely recognize that Earl is a hedgehog… Sookocheff’s cute, cartoonish pictures cleverly illustrate Earl’s imaginative japes. Their charmingly raucous game of make-believe is appealing enough, but the sneaky lesson in deductive reasoning makes this frolicsome, read-aloud-friendly picture book truly outstanding.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “For such an unassuming and unpretentious little picture book— this has a surprising lot going on. Most of all, enjoy the humor, and the depth of characterization, in both art and text, and hope for more Buddy and Earl adventures.”
3. School Library Journal (July 1, 2015): “Despite the lack of a definitive answer regarding Earl's identity (he appears to be a hedgehog), Buddy is confident that ultimately Earl is nothing less than a friend.. A simple story for animal loving readers and proponents of imaginative play.”
* **Rationale:** Students of all ages love stories about cute animals – which is what this book is about. A dog making friends with a cute hedgehog – what’s not to love?

**Title:** Crenshaw \* by Applegate, Katherine

* **Summary:** A story about a homeless boy and his imaginary friend that proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary. – from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (September 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 1)): Newbery winner Applegate (The One and Only Ivan, 2012) uses gentle humor, embodied by Crenshaw, to explore the topic of homelessness. Jackson’s anxiety is central to the narrative, and his concerns will resonate with readers who have been in stressful situations. Though the story is weighty, it is a quick read that encourages people of all ages to be honest with one another and value family and friends.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “The tone is warm and, occasionally, quirkily funny, but it doesn’t sugarcoat the effects of hunger and vulnerability. This novel adds a middle-grade perspective to the literature of imaginary friends and paints a convincing and compassionate portrait of a social class—the working poor—underrepresented in children’s books.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “While sardonic Crenshaw may not be the warm and cuddly imaginary friend readers are expecting, he's the companion that Jackson truly needs as he begins to realize that he doesn't need to carry the weight of the world upon his shoulders… A compelling and unflinchingly honest treatment of a difficult topic.”
* **Rationale:** This book deals with a boy in a low income family, as many of our students are. Many students don’t understand what it means to not have enough money and this book is great for showing that. Also, students loved “The One and Only Ivan”, by the same author.

**Title:** Echo by Ryan, Pam Munoz

* **Summary:** Lost in the Black Forest, Otto meets three mysterious sisters and finds himself entwined in a prophecy, a promise, and a harmonica.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 15, 2015 (Online)): “Though the fairy tale–like prologue and conclusion seem a bit tacked on, Ryan nonetheless builds a heartening constellation of stories around the harmonica, and the ultimate message—that small things can have a powerful destiny—is resoundingly hopeful. Harmonica tabs are included for readers who want to try their hands at the instrument.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Ryan's storytelling prowess and vivid voice lead readers through a hefty tome illuminated by layers of history, adventure, and the seemingly magical but ultimately very human spirit of music.”
3. Horn Book Magazine (March/April, 2015): “Ryan's storytelling prowess and vivid voice lead readers expertly through a hefty tome illuminated by layers of history, adventure, and the seemingly magical but ultimately very human spirit of music.”
* **Rationale:**  Fantasy books are very popular with older students, so this highly recommended book should be popular as well.

**Title:** George \* by Gino, Alex

* **Summary:** George looks like a boy, but inside, she knows she's a girl. With the help of her best friend, George makes with a plan so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): “Gino’s debut novel is a sensitive, insightful portrayal of a transgender child coming to terms with gender identity. Gino does an excellent job introducing factual information into the narrative without impinging upon the accessible and appealing story.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “But the heart of this novel—is George’s achingly poignant struggle to be herself, and that heart beats strong and true.”
3. School Library Journal (July 1, 2015): “For George, as is the case for many LGBTQ youth, coming out is a process that she must repeat until she is properly recognized. There is pain in George, but not without the promise of a better tomorrow, even if tomorrow doesn't arrive as soon as it should. A required purchase for any collection that serves a middle grade population.”
* **Rationale:**  Cultural diversity is a focus in our school, but gender diversity is rarely discussed. This is an important title to have for students who may need this support.

**Title:** Gone crazy in Alabama \* by Williams-Garcia, Rita

* **Summary:** Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern are off to Alabama to visit their grandmother and great-grandmother. As Delphine hears about her family history, she uncovers the surprising truth that's been keeping her family apart.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): “At the heart of all this family interaction remain the Gaither girls. Narrator Delphine, almost 13, still feels the responsibility of being the oldest, but now her challenge is to loosen the reins on sisters who are also getting older and coming more deeply into their own selves. Her narrator’s voice continues to be strong and true.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “When a tornado strikes, twelve-year-old Delphine sees how her scattered family comes together to hold one another up. This concluding installment has the feeling of a saga, related effectively from Delphine's first-person point of view--and with help from some feisty elders.”
3. School Library Journal (March 1, 2015): “This final installment is rich in atmosphere and clearly conveys the sisters' distinct personalities, their loyalty to one another, and their special place in their complex family. A must-have conclusion to this beloved middle grade series.”
* **Rationale:** This book is the final book in a popular trilogy, and it involves African American characters which is a large minority at our school.

**Title:** Stella by starlight \* by Draper, Sharon M

* **Summary:** When a burning cross set by the Klan causes panic and fear in 1932 Bumblebee, North Carolina, fifth-grader Stella must face prejudice and find the strength to demand change in her segregated town. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (December 1, 2014 (Vol. 111, No. 7)): “Inspired by her own grandmother’s childhood, Draper weaves folksy tall tales, traditional storytelling, and hymns throughout Stella’s story, which is punctuated by her ever-more-confident journal entries. This uplifting and nostalgic tale of community and family movingly captures both 10-year-old Stella’s relatable experiences as well as the weighty social issues of the period.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “There's plenty of action--cross burnings, house burnings, a snakebite, a near-drowning, and a beating. But at its core this story is one of a supportive African American community facing tough times.”
3. School Library Journal (January 1, 2015): “This is an engrossing historical fiction novel with an amiable and humble heroine who does not recognize her own bravery or the power of her words. She provides inspiration not only to her fellow characters but also to readers who will relate to her and her situation. Storytelling at its finest.”
* **Rationale:** This is an important historical fiction novel for any student, but especially in our county where some of these prejudices still exist. It is important for students to read about people’s experience with prejudice and hopefully break out of that cycle.

**Title:** The last kids on Earth by Brallier, Max

* **Summary:** After a monster apocalypse hits town, average thirteen-year-old Jack Sullivan builds a team of friends to help slay the eerily intelligent monster known as Blarg. - from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (October 1, 2015 (Vol. 112, No. 3)): “Jack’s snappy, upbeat first-person narration is well matched by Holgate’s comic-book-style artwork, which takes over the narrative in little bursts. The video-game-like plotting, gross-out humor, frequent pop-culture references, and quippy dialogue make this a great fit for reluctant readers.”
2. Kirkus Reviews starred (August 15, 2015): “Middle-grade readers, particularly boys, will find Jack's pitch-perfect mix of humor, bravado, and self-professed geekiness impossible to resist. Classic action-packed, monster-fighting fun.”
3. School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): “The chapter book/graphic novel hybrid is fast moving and action packed. Loaded with outrageous devices such as a rolling ball of zombies, a revenge-filled creature with bad eyesight called BLARGH, and a monster-dog name Rover, this book provides loads of laughs. For readers looking to make the transition from chapter books to graphic novels, this is a foolproof initiation.”
* **Rationale:** This sounds like an action-packed book that will be popular, as well as engaging for some more reluctant readers.

**Title:** The thing about jellyfish : a novel by Benjamin, Ali

* **Summary:** Twelve-year-old Suzy wades through her grief over the loss of her best friend by investigating the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for her friend's death. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): “Benjamin’s involving novel features clean, fluid writing that is highly accessible yet rich with possibilities for discussion. Her highly individual first-person narrative makes compelling reading. Facts and metaphors related to jellyfish are woven seamlessly into the narrative of this memorable story.”
2. Kirkus Reviews starred (June 1, 2015): “Surrounded by the cruelty of adolescence, Zu is awkward, smart, methodical, and driven by sadness. A painful story smartly told, Benjamin's first solo novel has appeal well beyond a middle school audience.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “This multilayered novel takes readers on several concurrent emotional journeys. Benjamin's inverse approach to tragedy, placing the death at the beginning of the novel and storytelling through the grieving process, transcends the trope, as the story triumphs in the affecting realities of emotional response and resilience. Strong readers of middle grade realistic fiction will fully immerse themselves in this superbly written, heartfelt novel.”
* **Rationale:** This book deals with the loss of a friend, but also the awkwardness and teasing that go along with adolescence. Hopefully this book will help students know they are not alone in feeling out of place as they go through their tween/teen years.

**Print Titles: Graphic Novels**

**Title:** Little robot by Hatke, Ben

* **Summary:** A robot finds life confusing outside the robot factory, until it finds a friend in a little girl. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): This nearly wordless graphic novel delivers a classic friendship story in a nuanced yet lively package that will resonate with young readers. …Hatke has created a perfectly balanced story of adventure, danger, and loyalty with charming illustrations that reward careful readers with small details conveying surprising depth. Subtly inventive in both vision and execution, this one begs to be read again and again.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “Well-plotted and -paced, this engaging story of loneliness, bravery, and friendship builds to a satisfying and sweet conclusion.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “Young readers, and those new to graphica, will find the easy-to-follow illustrations, large borderless panels, and steady pace welcoming. A pleasantly colorful adventure of discovery and friendship. Highly recommended.”
* **Rationale:** Graphic novels are very popular in our library, even the wordless ones like these. Students love “Owly” and I think they will enjoy this graphic novel as well.

**Title:** Sunny Side Up by Holm, Jennifer L

* **Summary:** After her older brother starts acting strangely, Sunny is sent to Florida to spend the summer with her grandfather. She tries to enjoy her stay, but besides her new friend Buzz, everyone is really old.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (August 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 22)): “Though Sunny will appeal to all kinds of readers, an authors’ note shares the Holms’ hope to let kids in similar situations know that it’s OK to feel sad and to talk about it. Clear dialogue bubbles, plenty of wordless spreads, and Matthew’s cartoons and beach-umbrella color palette keep Sunny’s story an upbeat one that readers will easily stick with.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “Matthew Holm’s loose, less-is-more cartooning is easy to read and expressive. Straightforward dialogue, captions establishing time and setting, and extended wordless scenes swiftly propel the narrative.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): Gr 4-6-The Holm siblings… have created a must-have graphic novel based on true events from the Holms' childhood. This title sensitively portrays how drug abuse affects loved ones through visual imagery and realistic dialogue. A humorous yet emotional story.”
* **Rationale:** This book deals with an important topic of substance abuse in a family, which is not always discussed so students may not know how to talk about it. Also, all of the Holms’ graphic novels are popular – all of the Squish and Babymouse books.

**Title:** Rutabaga, the adventure chef. 1 by Colossal, Eric

* **Summary:** Rutabaga and his magic cooking pot join a group of adventurers as they search for a dragon, monsters, and new ingredients for cooking. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (January 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 9)): “In small panels with blocky figures shaded by benday dots, Colossal playfully tells the story of Rutabaga’s madcap adventures, which include a creature who eats only dream food, a cook-off with a crotchety old chef, and some fierce, grizzled warriors… A couple of recipes end the volume, but even Rutabaga’s culinary feats in the comic—bare-bones instructions are included in the panels—could easily inspire young adventure chefs to make some gourmet grub of their own.”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “The quirky series-starting graphic novel includes easy-to-make recipes and uses comic vignettes to concisely introduce such entertaining characters as sword-slinging Winn and her comrades, Manny and Beef.”
3. School Library Journal (January 1, 2015): “Still, author Colossal perfectly mixes action and humor, similar in style to "Adventure Time" comics writer Ryan North, only with simple enough language to please the chapter book-reading crowd. And his simple, manga-influenced illustrations will be just as easily accessible. A promising first course in a series that could really take off.”
* **Rationale:** This sounds like a fun graphic novel, which are always in demand in our library. It also has the added approval of my two fourth-grade sons, who highly recommended it.

**Print Titles: Nonfiction**

**Title:** The case for loving : the fight for interracial marriage \* by Alko, Selina

* **Summary:** Shares the story of Mildred and Richard Loving, an interracial couple who, in 1958, struggled with marriage laws.
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (December 1, 2014 (Vol. 111, No. 7)): “Gentle painted background scenes are overlaid with bright collages of flowers, birds, and hearts, lending a playfulness to the otherwise sober story. An author’s note grounds the Lovings’ story in the present as Alko recognizes that her own interracial marriage is part of the trajectory of change, which continues today in the LGBTQ community’s fight for equality. Inspirational, never heavy-handed, and appropriate for just about everyone.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Alko does a mostly admirable job of shaping the story (some terms are hazy) and the legal proceedings for a young audience. The book's optimistic message and tone are reinforced by mixed-media illustrations by Alko and Qualls.”
3. School Library Journal (December 1, 2014): “The charming and cheerful mixed media illustrations are done in gouache and acrylic paint with collage and colored pencil, a perfect marriage of Alko and Qualls's art styles. A much-needed work on a historical court case that made the ultimate difference on mixed race families that will resonate with contemporary civil rights battles.”
* **Rationale:** There are many diverse families at our school, including families of mixed races. It is important to have books that represent all the different families in our school community.

**Title:** The grasshopper & the ants by Pinkney, Jerry

* **Summary:**  Hardworking ants stock up for the winter while a fun-loving grasshopper plays all year long, until the cold weather arrives and he realizes his mistake in not planning ahead. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 12)): “Caldecott Medal–winning Pinkney’s vibrant watercolors portray the lushness and beauty of the natural world in extraordinary detail while conveying the power of music through stunning visual art. Another winner to follow his other renditions of Aesop’s fables.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Pinkney transforms Aesop's harsh fable about the consequences of improvidence into one celebrating the value of the arts.”
3. School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): “Full-page vivid watercolor paintings bustling with natural activity and fanciful detail flow through the hues of the seasons, ending in the spare whiteness of winter. A lively and engaging version of a favorite Aesop fable.”
* **Rationale:** This is a new, highly recommended version of a well-known fable. It is a companion book for Jerry Pinkney’s “The Lion and the Mouse”, and this new fable will support the folktale and fable unit of the ELA curriculum.

**Title:** Elephant in the dark by Javaherbin, Mina

* **Summary:**  In this version of "The Blind Men and the Elephant" based on a poem by Rumi, Persian villagers try to figure out what strange animal in a dark barn has arrived from India. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (July 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 21)): “When a merchant returns to his village with a mysterious creature procured in India (an elephant), the villagers are impatient to see what it is. Amid wildly differing guesses, the villagers argue over the animal’s identity late into the night. Eventually, they learn the truth… and it becomes clear that partial knowledge is a dangerous thing.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2015): “Rumi’s version of a story that goes back to the oral Buddhist tradition; the book should provide opportunities for rich discussions about perception and about advocating for what you believe to be true.”
3. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “The story is told simply but with a meaningful impact. Young readers and teachers who enjoy folktales with an entertaining moral will appreciate this story's message.”
* **Rationale:** This is a new version of a classic folktale. The reviews compared it to The Seven Blind Mice, which is in the current collection, so it would make a good curricular companion to that book.

**Title:** The octopus scientists : exploring the mind of a mollusk by Montgomery, Sy

* **Summary:**  Explores the octopus, discussing how it changes colors, how their behavior can reveal the health of the world’s oceans, and more, as well as the work of scientists to learn more about it. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist starred (May 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 18)): “Spectacular underwater photography shows octopuses “standing” tall and stately on their tentacles, while others lie coiled with their skin drawn up into peaks to mimic coral or displaying a range of colors and patterns… that they can conjure in one-tenth of a second. Ultimately, little new information is discovered, but this account of octopuses’ lives remains endlessly fascinating.”
2. Horn Book Magazine (July/August, 2015): “Abundant stunningly clear underwater photographs highlight the colorful details of a range of marine species -- including sea cucumbers, sharks, fish, rays, and eels as well as the octopuses.”
3. School Library Journal (July 1, 2015): “Through sharply crafted text, Montgomery shares her enthusiasm with readers, and Ellenbogen's vibrant color photos allow a crystalline window into a very special environment. ... Another enticing entry in a series devoted to highlighting enthusiastic scientists hard at work in the fields they love.”
* **Rationale:** This is a fascinating book about octopuses which would be a great addition to the collection for animal research projects. It was also on the NSTA’s Outstanding Science Books list.

**Title:** Aerospace engineer Aprille Ericsson \* by Waxman, Laura Hamilton

* **Summary:**  A look at the life and work of aerospace engineer Aprille Ericsson. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (March 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 14)): “Aerospace Engineer Aprille Ericsson examines how she didn’t let her race or gender stop her from becoming the first African American woman at Goddard Space Flight Center to earn a PhD in engineering or beginning a career at NASA, working on space missions and studying Earth’s climate change. With a focus on modern engineers and scientists, this series fills a gap in STEM collections.”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “A colorful, easy-to-read format features photos and "tech talk" sidebars with quotes from the "trailblazers" themselves.”
3. School Library Journal (April 1, 2015): “Highly recommended, especially where current biographies, particularly of those involved in STEM careers, are needed and requested; strong supplemental reading for science classes, too.”
* **Rationale:** This book is a resource that meets many criteria – student biography research, women in science, a multicultural focus, and STEM all in one book.

**Title:** Gordon Parks : how the photographer captured black and white America \*

 by Weatherford, Carole Boston

* **Summary:** Tells how with a single photograph a self-taught African American photographer captured the attention of America. Includes a brief biography of African American photographer, writer, and director, Gordon Parks. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): “Created with a certain elegance of line, Christoph’s artwork includes many haunting, beautifully composed scenes. Although the narrative features Parks’ determination to document African Americans, it offers no dates and little historical context for young children, who may also need help with terms such as porter, Life magazine, and Renaissance man. This handsome book will help children better understand the widespread racial segregation and discrimination in twentieth-century America.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Straightforward present-tense text presents the life of this groundbreaking African American photographer, whose iconic 1942 photo "American Gothic" became a symbol for civil rights.”
3. School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): “While the book gets off to a choppy start, moving very rapidly over the photographer's early life, it provides a much-needed portrait of a talented individual and views of his work. This effective overview is a solid addition for those looking to beef up their biography collections.”
* **Rationale:** This book supports the 4th and 5th grade biography research projects, and being a picture book it may help engage reluctant readers. It also adds to the diversity of the collection.

**Title:** Growing up Pedro \* by Tavares, Matt

* **Summary:**  An illustrated biography of Pedro Martinez that describes his childhood and how he became a famous baseball player. - from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (February 1, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 11)): “Tavares’ latest baseball profile, featuring Pedro Martínez, is as much an homage to the love between brothers as it is a biography. Despite the awards and accolades over the years, Pedro never loses sight of his humble background or gratitude for his brother’s talent and teaching.”
2. Horn Book Guide starred (Fall 2015): “Tavares highlights the warm relationship between two baseball greats… and their present-day return to the Dominican Republic where they have built churches, schools, and baseball fields.”
3. School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): “After describing of the athlete's major league triumphs with several teams, Tavares leads readers back to the mango groves of the Dominican Republic, where Martinez developed into one of the best pitchers in baseball history. Martinez's unbelievable statistics are included at the end of the book. A wonderful introduction to a truly special player.”
* **Rationale:** This book supports the 4th and 5th grade biography research projects. The most worn biography books were ones about sports players, so this would be a great new sports biography to have.

**Title:** Flutter & hum : animal poems = Aleteo y zumbido : poemas de animales \* by Paschkis, Julie

* **Summary:** All sorts of animals flutter and hum, dance and stretch, and slither and leap their way through this ...collection of poems in English and Spanish. – from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. Horn Book Magazine (September/October, 2015): “The colors and line-work of each gouache illustration vary somewhat according to the subject: the playful dog is all bright colors and curving, bouncy balls, while the crow is dark with sharp edges and straight lines. Readers will find themselves carefully studying every little detail of the illustrations while being charmed by the poems.”
2. Kirkus Reviews starred (November 15, 2015): “Award-winning author/illustrator Paschkis’ free verse, bilingual animal poems are more than delightful. They tease and meander across the emotional spectrum. Readers would be hard-pressed to find a snappier introduction to language appreciation, poetry and vocabulary enrichment.”
3. School Library Journal (May 1, 2015): “An excellent Spanish-English collection of poetry on animals. A book that takes wing and flies, flutters, and sometimes falters.”
* **Rationale:** This book fits with the ELA poetry curriculum, and it is a great bilingual title as well.

**Title:** The Maine coon's haiku and other poems for cat lovers by Rosen, Michael J

* **Summary:** An illustrated collection of haiku in which the author describes the characteristics of twenty popular cat breeds. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (March 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 14)): “Often clarifying and enhancing the verse for young readers, White’s digital illustrations combine a sense of spontaneity in line work with strong composition and interesting textures. A worthy companion to Rosen’s The Hound Dog’s Haiku and Other Poems for Dog Lovers (2011).”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “Alternating between "Inside" and "Outside," each poem's title is simply the breed name--Maine Coon, Japanese Bobtail, Scottish Fold--while the haiku captures its essence. Each poem is paired with digitally created illustrations with light touches of collage, patterns, and playful scratched lines.”
3. School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): “With rich colors and detailed, scratchy lines, each illustration uses clever page layouts and line work to convey movement or stillness as the featured cats dictate. This attractive, delightful volume will enchant cat lovers and is a great selection for those who want to inject some life into their poetry collections.”
* **Rationale:** This poetry book is highly recommended, it will fit with the ELA curriculum, and it has information about cats which are popular with many students.

**Title:** The popcorn astronauts : and other biteable rhymes by Ruddell, Deborah

* **Summary:** An illustrated collection of whimsical poems about food. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. Booklist (March 15, 2015 (Vol. 111, No. 14)) “The title poem, “Popcorn Astronauts,” provides an inkling of the curious descriptions of food captured in this collection by the same pair who created A Whiff of Pine, a Hint of Skunk (2009). Use this to inspire unusual musings.”
2. Horn Book Guide (Fall 2015): “From the "Strawberry Queen" of spring through the "Cocoa Cabana" of winter, this poetry collection provides a fresh perspective on the tastes of each season.”
3. School Library Journal (February 1, 2015): “The book includes a delicious variety of forms and all of the poems have elements of surprise and adventure. A must-serve in most collections.”
* **Rationale:** This book of poems also fits with the ELA poetry curriculum, and it would be a great resource in kindergarten classes where they incorporate the seasons of the year into many of their units.

**Nonprint Titles: Media**

**Title:** Best Friend Next Door by Mackler, Carolyn (Audiobook CD)

* **Summary:** The summer before fifth grade has been rough for Hannah. Her best friend moved away, her father and stepmother announced that they are expecting a baby, and a new girl moved in next door. – from School Library Journal
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (October 1, 2015): “Tara Sands and Cassandra Morris narrate the girls' alternating chapters with much tween expression and give the adults suitably mature voices as well. Through them, Mackler gives voice to the common fears and challenges that preteen girls face, and shows that true friendship and supportive families can overcome many obstacles.”
* **Rationale:** There are a number of military families at our school, so having friends move away is common. This is a good book for students struggling with those changes.

**Title:** Completely Clementine by Pennypacker, Sara (Audiobook CD)

* **Summary:** Clementine has to deal with a lot - a feud with her father, the end of the school year, and all the goodbyes she must say.
* **Reviews:**
1. Horn Book Magazine (November/December, 2015): “Reader Almasy captures the big-hearted, earnest first-person voice of Pennypacker’s heroine… Characterization and expression come through loud and clear as Clementine grapples with everything from the end of the school year to the birth of a new sibling.”
2. School Library Journal (October 1, 2015): “Jessica Almasy narrates, bringing infectious enthusiasm to Clementine's usually upbeat and slightly sassy personality. Other character voices are clearly defined, with Clementine's parents sounding especially authentic. Fans of the series and kids ready to move up from Junie B. Jones will enjoy.”
* **Rationale:** Clementine books are popular with younger students. This would be great for individual students to check out or for a listening center in a teacher’s room.

**Title:** Fuzzy mud by Sachar, Louis (Audio CD)

* **Summary:** Two kids take a shortcut home from school and discover what looks like fuzzy mud, but is actually a substance with the potential to wreak havoc on the entire world. – from the publisher
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (November 1, 2015): “With appropriate sound effects and outstanding narration, Kathleen McInerney and a full cast skillfully create two scenarios, each occurring in a different time and place but which complement each other and keep the suspense high until the last chapter. Sachar deftly combines a lesson about bullying, a reflection on virtues, …and a message about tampering with natural science, all without becoming preachy. A solid, suspenseful, and thoughtful tale that will appeal to fans of the author and science fiction.”
* **Rationale:** This title will appeal to a lot of students, and it is always helpful to have materials that deal with bullying.

**Title:** Imani's moon by Brown-Wood, JaNay \* (Read-Along Hardcover and CD)

* **Summary:** Little Imani of the Maasai people longs to do something great, like touching the moon, but the other children just laugh at her. – from Follett
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (September 1, 2015): “Brown-Wood here gives listeners a beautiful tribute to the power of a child's vision, interwoven with folklore and tradition. Maame Yaa Boafo's brilliant narration is sparkling with life. This story affirms the power of perseverance and should be shared with all young students.”
* **Rationale:** This is another book that encourages children to reach for their dreams. Also, read-along books are a great resource for early readers and for students learning English.

**Title:** Invisible universe revealed written and directed by Yost, Peter (DVD)

* **Summary:** Twenty-five years ago, NASA launched the Hubble Space Telescope which has helped astronomers pinpoint the age of the universe, revealed the birthplace of stars, and uncovered black holes lurking at the heart of galaxies.
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (August 1, 2015): “This 25th-anniversary tribute to the Hubble Space Telescope combines jaw-dropping deep space photographs with an unusually detailed account of how the defective mirror that nearly derailed the entire project was fixed. A first-rate contribution to the history of space exploration, with visuals that amply demonstrate that the "universe is as beautiful as it is astonishing."”
* **Rationale:** Fourth graders study space as one of their science units, and this DVD would fit perfectly with that unit.

**Nonprint Titles: Websites, Apps, and Tools**

**Title:** The New Immigrants NYC 1880–1924 by Vanguard Direct (App)

* **Summary:** The New Immigrants: NYC 1880-1924 explores the immigrant experience through a carefully curated collection of over 100 artifacts that includes photos, documents, newspaper articles, political cartoons, videos and much more. - School Library Journal
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (March 19, 2015): “…this superb production touches on the economic, religious, and political reasons people left their homes at the turn of the century and made the grueling trip to the United States. In the range and depth of its resources and support material, the app will help students understand the value of primary and secondary sources, develop insights into the immigrant experience of the millions of new arrivals to our nation in the early 20th century, and explore historical thinking. It’s not to be missed.”
* **Rationale:** Fourth graders read biographies and write biography reports. This app has a wealth of primary sources on immigrants that would be a great resource for any student.

**Title:** WWF Together by World Wildlife Fund (App)

* **Summary:** Experience the world’s most amazing and endangered animals in one app. This interactive experience brings you closer to the stories of elephants, whales, rhinos and other fascinating species. – from worldwildlife.org
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (November 19, 2015): “Through crisp, beautiful design and engaging content, information (population, threat level, habitat, and a paragraph of text) on dozens of animals is provided; 16 animals of various threat levels are featured with in-depth stories. The app contains interactive, puzzle-like elements that keep users coming back to each animal multiple times. This is must-have free app jam-packed with quality content.”
2. AASL's Best Apps for Teaching & Learning 2015: “WWF Together is beautifully designed app to help teach students about different endangered animals. It uses high-quality photographs, interesting interactive design elements to help students discover different information about specific animal species.”
* **Rationale:** This app supports the 2nd and 3rd grade animal research projects. It is engaging as well as informative, and it is a good alternative resource for reluctant readers.

**Title:** iBiome-Wetland by Springbay Studio (App)

* **Summary:** With Professor Bio as your guide, explore the wetland habitat and all the amazing species within. Build unique bio domes from scratch and interact with their fascinating food webs through immersive game play. – from Springbay Studio
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (October 15, 2015): “A smiling Professor Bio guides students through iBiome-Wetland an app designed to teach biodiversity. Given the number of levels in each biome, the app will keep students involved for some time; badges earned and a timer may offer incentive to complete all the tasks. While the app is activity-based, there is a fair amount of text and teachers may prefer to use the app with young students on an interactive white board. “
2. AASL's Best Apps for Teaching & Learning 2015: “This app allows students to explore 3 different wetland habitats (mangrove swamp, saltwater marsh, freshwater marsh) by building bio domes. This app is highly interactive with hand drawn animations. Students will see right away how species depend on one another and how easy it is for an ecosystem to get off-balance.”
* **Rationale:** Fifth graders study biomes in science and this would be a great app to go along with that curriculum.

**Title:** Homes by Tinybop (App)

* **Summary**: Students can plan and wander into unique homes around the world. Make meals, decorate, and play games. From NYC to Mongolia, Yemen to Guatemala, make yourself at home. - from Tinybop
* **Reviews:**
1. School Library Journal (July 2, 2015): “Viewers get to peek inside a Yemeni tower house, a Mongolian ger (yurt), an adobe structure in the Guatemalan highlands, and a row house located in the Northeastern United States… Exploration of each location yields a concept book that can be opened, featuring the language of the particular country. There is no text beyond labels, but the extensive online handbook (available in 11 languages as a free download) offers additional information and suggestions of prompts to use with children when exploring how people around the world live and “how landscape and the surrounding areas, architecture, materials, and division of space shape each residence.”"
* **Rationale:** In kindergarten and 1st grade, students explore communities around the world. This app would be a good resource for that unit, allowing students to explore homes in different countries.

**Title:** Women of NASA by NASA \* (Website)

* **Summary:** This website has 64 videos and essays from women across the agency who contribute to NASA’s mission. Their stories illuminate the vibrant community of dedicated women employees who play a vital role at the agency.
1. **Reviews:** ALSC's Great Websites for Kids: “The Women of NASA resource was developed to encourage more young women to pursue careers in math, science, and technology. Selected profiles are available in Spanish.”
* **Rationale:** This is a great resource for students’ biography research projects. There are over 20 women featured, with videos in addition to the profiles. There is discussion of starting a girls’ STEM club at school, and this would be a good resource for that as well.

\* = denotes diversity titles

**Comparison to other orders**

Comparison with Katie M.:

**Nonfiction:** We matched on 1 title out of 19. (5%)

**Fiction & Graphic Novels**: We matched on 3 titles out of 19. (16%)

**Picture books**: We matched on 1 title out of 19. (5%)

**Media:** We shared no titles.

**Web, apps and tools:** We shared 2 out of 8 titles. (25%)

Katie and I did not share a lot of the same titles; our orders only matched by 9%. However, this was a small order with only 30 books. If this had been a larger order of 50 to 100 books, we would have had more matching titles. Many of the fiction and everybody titles that she had were books that had been on my larger list, but did not make the final cut. For the nonfiction books, I was not familiar with a lot of her titles, but we did have one book in common. She focused her nonfiction order on the 500s section, while my order had books from the 300s, 800s, and 920s/biography sections. I was happy to see that a few of our apps overlapped – we both had WWF Together and iBiome Wetlands. The apps were harder for me to choose with fewer review sources, so seeing those on someone else’s list confirmed that I had made good choices there.

Comparison with Stephanie K.:

**Nonfiction:** We matched on 2 titles out of 20. (10%)

**Fiction & Graphic Novels**: We matched on 1 title out of 22. (4.5%)

**Picture books:** We matched on 1 title out of 14. (7%)

**Media:** We shared no titles.

**Web, apps and tools:** We shared 2 out of 8 titles. (25%)

Stephanie and I did not share a lot of titles either; our orders matched by 8%. We only had 2 books in common for fiction and picture books. The nonfiction section was where I recognized a lot of books that I had considered, but did not make my final cut. Similar to the other order, we matched on 2 out of the 8 websites and apps that we chose. With a smaller number of recommended apps and websites available, it makes sense that we would have more titles in common. Overall my takeaway is that there is such a wealth of quality fiction and picture book titles, you may not see the same books in every library. In addition, with so many recommended books available, there is no reason why a librarian should not select highly recommended books to add to the collection.

**Reflection**

(a) Selection journals:

 The selection journals I focused on for this assignment were Booklist, Horn Book Guide, and School Library Journal. School Library Journal is definitely my favorite. I like the way their reviews always end with a “Verdict” – one line of whether it is recommended or not. They also have a lot of great “Best of” lists – books, but also audiobooks and apps. They have a graphic novels list which is perfect since we want to increase that section of the library. Also, since their focus is school libraries, they will often include curriculum connections in their reviews, which is really helpful.

(b) Publishers:

 I do not think I have a preference for a certain publisher. The publisher I chose the most was Scholastic. Scholastic also is the company that provides our school book fairs, so it is possible that I am more familiar with their books because I have seen them at our fair. I did not pay much attention to the publishers during the selection process so if there is a big difference between publishers, I am not aware of it.

(c) Differences selecting for fiction, nonfiction and digital:

 For both fiction and picture books, I wanted to select titles that would appeal to students, but I also focused on diversity and ensuring that a diverse range of characters was represented. I wanted books that would appeal to boys as well as girls, different cultures, and different reading abilities. It was easy to find a wide range of highly recommended choices, but a little harder to narrow them down because there were so many titles to choose from. Fiction books had the added difficulty of making sure the reading level was appropriate for elementary school. I chose books that sounded interesting based on the reviews, but when I looked at some of them in Titlewave, the reading level was too high for elementary school. For nonfiction books, my selection parameters were very specific since I was looking for books in certain sections of the library. I searched by specific Dewey decimal numbers for the nonfiction books. I was surprised that there were a number of great folktale and biography choices.

 Selecting digital materials was probably the most challenging. There just are not as many selection sources available that review digital apps and websites. As I looked at the AASL lists and School Library Journal, there were a lot of apps that looked interesting, but I could not figure out a direct curricular connection. I feel like if teachers do not immediately see a connection to how the tool can be used in class, it may not get used at all. So I chose apps and websites that directly tie in to the curriculum map that I put together in the first module.

(d) Difficulties:

 Selecting highly recommended titles was not difficult. I easily found over 50 titles that I was interested in ordering. Narrowing down those titles into the best ones was the challenge. I had to make sure the books were written in the past year, since some “new” books were actually a few years old but with new binding. I also had to make sure that the books were suitable for elementary school readers. Sometimes I was so engrossed reading the reviews, that I did not pay attention to the reading level when I added the title to my list.

(e) Lessons learned:

 Going through this process I learned two important things. First, there are many highly recommended books published each year in fiction and nonfiction. When it is time to purchase books, there is no reason why you should not be able to find quality titles for your collection. Second, it is important to remember why you are choosing a particular book. A book being highly recommended alone is not reason to buy it. The book needs to fill a need in your collection – whether it is a curriculum need for teachers or a high interest title for students.

(f) Understanding of selection:

 Selection should always improve the library collection, not just add to it and increase the number of books. Every title you select should be current and highly recommended. You should always keep the needs of your specific community of students and teachers in mind during the selection process. Jobbers like Titlewave can be a valuable resource, but it is important to use selection journals and AASL lists as well.

(g) Future impact:

 This project had a lot of impact on how I plan to order books as a library media specialist. I was happy to find Titlewave since it aggregates a lot of journal reviews together, but I know that I will still need to read the reviews for the titles I am interested in. Also, using the “best of” lists from sources like School Library Journal is another good place to start if I am looking to fill a particular need, like graphic novels. Finally, I have to remember that websites and apps are a valuable resource as well. I will need to check AASL’s website and app lists now and then to be sure teachers have all possible resources that are available.

 (h) ALA/AASL Elements 5.1 and 2.3.

 As I mentioned earlier, using the professional selection tools to select print, nonprint and digital resources was not difficult. The challenge was making sure that the titles I selected would meet the curricular, personal and professional needs of the students and staff. I will always need to keep the “who” in mind when I am selecting new resources for the collection.

 I always try to have diversity in mind as I am selecting books and nonprint resources. I pay attention to cultural, social, and gender diversity as I am choosing books. Fifteen out of my 40 titles reflected diversity in one way or another, which means that over 37% of my order was diverse titles. The challenge for me will be to remember that the makeup of a community is different from school to school, so I still may need to select different titles to meet the diversity needs of a different school.

**Response to my order**

Feedback from Tina Dattoli, Whittier Library Media Specialist:

“What a fabulous list! It looks comprehensive, touching on important Dewey subjects and genres and [you] have the reviews to support your choices. I will be adding some of them to my order as well. Thanks so much for sharing!”