

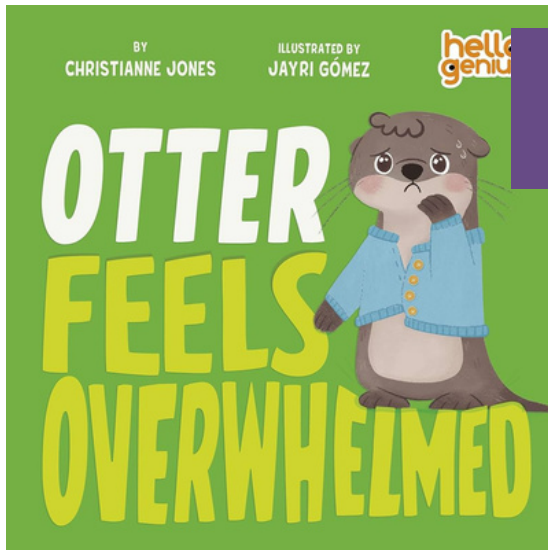
SELECTIONS JR.

January 2026



Monthly Youth Recommendations from the Staff at Deerfield Public Library

Board Book



Otter Feels Overwhelmed

Christianne Jones

Sometimes little kids experience big emotions but don't know how to express, explain, or work through them. Little Otter is feeling overwhelmed at the movie theater after not having his nap. His dad helps him name and work through these feelings.

- Megan S.

Pencil

Hye-Eun Kim

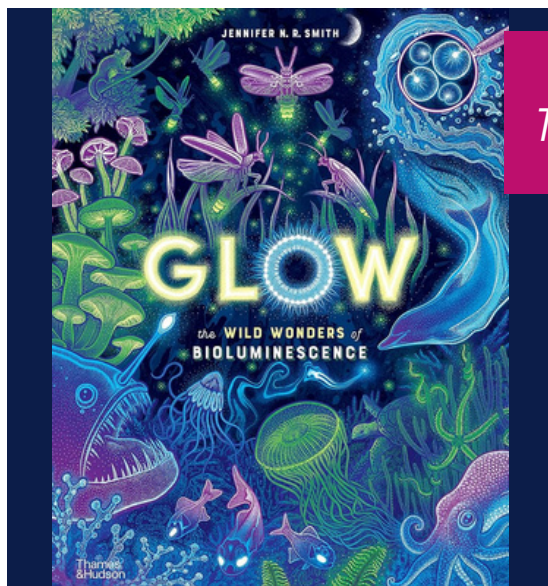
Wordless picture books have a magic all their own. This book shares the story of the life cycle of a pencil from shavings to forests to pencils. Suggestions at the end help readers understand how to read a wordless book. Storytelling at its best through magnificent illustrations.

- Andrea L.



Picture Book

Nonfiction



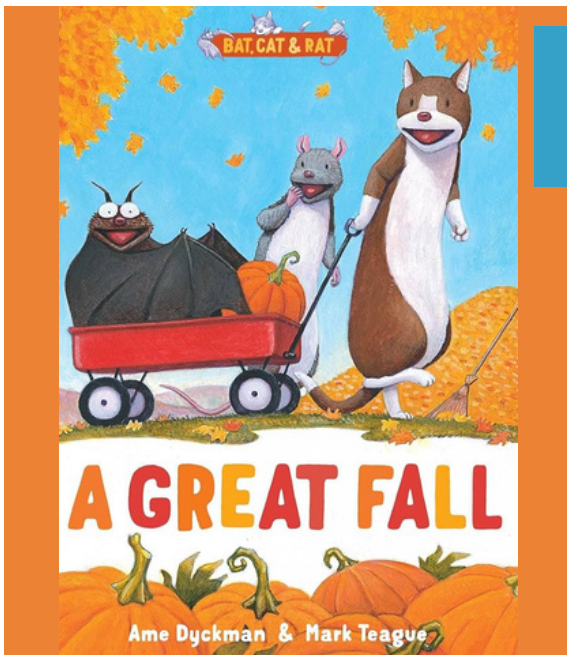
Glow: The Wild Wonders of Bioluminescence

Jennifer N.R. Smith

Did you know fireflies aren't the only creatures that glow in the dark? Learn about plants and animals that glow, from mushrooms to deep-sea animals.

- Megan S.

Early Reader



Bat, Cat & Rat series

Ame Dyckman & Mark Teague

Bat, Cat and Rat are three unlikely friends off on all sorts of adventures! Each book in this series contains 3 ½ stories filled with fun, silliness and good messages. Repetitive language and clear illustrations help our younger readers decipher these stories.

- Andrea L.

The Shindig is Coming!

Charise Mericle Harper

Mouse heard it from Blue Jay: "The Shindig is Coming!" But what IS a shindig? Forest animals meet to discuss whether to fear or celebrate a shindig. Full of humor, wordplay, and folk art style illustrations, the open ending will give you and your reader something to talk about!

- Kary H.



Early Chapter Book

Early Comic



Bug Scouts series

Mike Lowery

It's an absolute treat to see these little bugs go on epic adventures-- they're bugs of few words, but their big personalities show through as they try (or don't try) to earn bug badges. The clean art and clear speech bubbles make for an excellent early comic!

- Sean C.



Octopus Moon

Bobbie Pyron

As she begins 5th grade, Pearl finds herself struggling to enjoy the things she used to. In this beautifully written novel in verse, Bobbie Pyron takes us deeply into Pearl's world to understand her issues and shows us how she finds her way through her depression.

- Andrea L.

(CW: Mental Health, depression)

Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces

Carlos Sánchez



The world building in this graphic novel is so lush despite it's short page count, I was quickly immersed in the world and invested in the characters. Chiri and Dai wander through a portal to the magical world of Puddin'. There they must find a way home and avoid the darkness.

- Dylan G.

Flying Colors: A Guide to Flags From Around the World

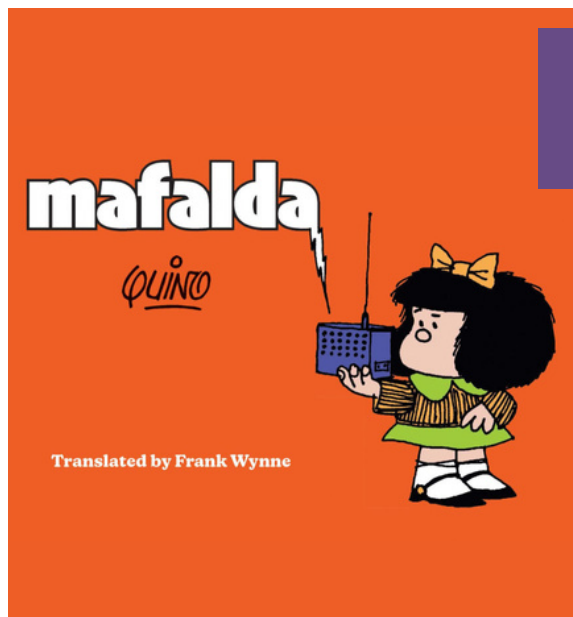
Robert Fresson



This breezy, vibrant guide provides the necessary building blocks for understanding the origins and meanings of the world's flags. It explores national flags both historical and modern, and the relationships that they've always had with evolving, interrelated national identities.

- Sean C.

(CW: Hate symbols (e.g., the flag of Nazi Germany is depicted), war and colonialism referenced, but not depicted in depth.)



Mafalda

Quino

Its always fun to look for comics made around the world! Originally published in Spanish throughout the 60's and 70's, this feels like Charlie Brown, if it was made in Argentina. The art style is cute. This will introduce readers to comics from different countries.
- Joseph G.

(CW: Social commentary about life in Argentina in the 60's and 70's)

A Feast for the Eyes

Alex Crespo

This book takes the classic "Monster of the Week" format of beloved shows like Buffy the Vampire Slayer and X-Files, but with a gang of modern queer teens in the Pacific Northwest. The main characters were all so loveable and the idea of a cryptid that stalks people keeping deep dark secrets is unique premise that adds an extra layer of mystery to the plot.

- Dylan G.

(CW: mentions of abuse, substance use, bullying, homophobia)



Angelica and the Bear Prince

Trung Le Nguyen

Nguyen's sophomore graphic novel elevates what made *Magic Fish* a success. The illustrations are gorgeous; I particularly liked how he framed the panels depicting the play at the center of the novel. It's equal parts an adorable love story, and a meaningful introspection about burnout.

- Emily K.

(CW: grief and extreme burnout)

For more teen titles, visit the [Get Recommendations for Teens webpage!](#)