

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice 2016**  
**3-5<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**Annotated Title List**

1. **Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909** by Michelle Markel, illustrated by Melissa Sweet, 32 pgs.  
Clara Lemlich arrives in America with her family as a little girl with great hopes. She learns to speak English, but soon finds that she must work rather than obtain an education. When she and her fellow workers suffer harsh conditions and mistreatment, she speaks out and perseveres, going on to form a union and leading one of the biggest strikes by working women in America's history. IL: LG - BL: 5.0 - AR Pts.: 0.5 [Biographical picture book, strikes]  
Hardcover. HarperCollins, Balzer + Bray. 2013. 9780061804427. \$17.99  
Audio CD available.
2. **Case File 13: Zombie Kid** by J. Scott Savage, illustrated by Doug Holgate, 288 pgs.  
Even though traveling to a relative's funeral causes Nick to miss trick-or-treating with his friends this year, the trip to Louisiana is not all bad. He returns home with a cursed amulet that, as his friends Carter and Angelo quickly diagnose, is slowly turning him into a zombie. For the three supernatural-loving friends, this is better than any Halloween dress-up. A hilarious horror adventure ensues as they try to undo the curse. The sequel is Making the Team. IL: MG - BL: 4.8 - AR Pts: 8.0 [Humorous, supernatural adventure]  
Hardcover. HarperCollins. 2012. 9780062133250. \$14.99  
Paperback. HarperCollins. 2013. 9780062133274. \$6.99  
EBook available.
3. **Einstein the Class Hamster** by Janet Tashjian, illustrated by Jake Tashjian, 160 pgs.  
Ned is the only student in Ms. Moreno's class who can hear Einstein talk. Einstein may only be the class hamster, but he knows all the class lessons and all the information in the textbooks. He has even created a game show to present the information in an entertaining way. Since Ms. Moreno is always falling asleep during class, Ned and Einstein must work together to prepare the class for the upcoming KIDS KNOW STUFF competition. The sequel is Einstein the Class Hamster and the Very Real Game Show. IL: LG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 1.0 [Fun facts, lots of graphics]  
Hardcover. Henry Holt and Co. 2013. 9780805096101. \$12.99  
EBook available.
4. **Elvis and the Underdogs** by Jenny Lee, illustrated by Kelly Light, 304 pgs.  
It is an added bonus for sickly ten-year-old Benji that his new service dog Elvis can talk, and Elvis is certainly better than the other option the doctors suggested to keep him safe: a special helmet to be worn at all times. Elvis' big, direct personality helps Benji learn to overlook his physical circumstances, overcome bullying, and make new friends. The sequel is Elvis and the Underdogs: Secrets, Secret Service, and Room Service. IL: MG - BL: 4.7 - AR Pts: 9.0 [Service dog, bullies, making friends]  
Hardcover. HarperCollins, Balzer + Bray. 2013. 9780062235541. \$16.99  
Paperback. HarperCollins, Balzer + Bray. 2014. 9780062235558. \$6.99  
Audio and EBook available.

5. **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein, 304 pgs.  
 Kyle Keeley is not interested in winning the essay competition that will allow a handful of twelve-year-olds to spend a night in the new town library; he is far more interested in playing games instead. That is, he is not interested until he discovers that Mr. Luigi Lemoncello, the famous game maker and his idol, is the designer of the new building. Through luck and determination, he wins a spot for the lock-in night of games, but no one expects the doors to remain locked in the morning when the library becomes a much larger and more mysterious game of escape. IL: MG - BL: 4.5 - AR Pts: 7.0 [Adventure, mystery, games, teamwork]  
 Hardcover. Random House Books for Young Readers. 2013. 9780375870897. \$16.99  
 Paperback. Yearling. 2014. 9780307931474. \$6.99  
 Audio and EBook available.  
 Spanish Edition: Escapa de la biblioteca del Señor Lemoncello. Tritón. 2014. 9788415709831. 15,00€
6. **Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table** by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Eric – Shabazz Larkin, 32 pgs.  
 A basketball player with gardening in his blood, Will Allen sees potential in an empty city block of land. The conditions are not ideal, but he succeeds in building an urban farm nonetheless, engaging the community and creating healthy food in a way that is affordable and new to them. AR BL 4.2 and Pts: 0.5. [Urban gardening, Booklist starred review, picture book biography]  
 Hardcover. Readers to Eaters. 2013. 9780983661535. \$17.95  
 Audio CD available.
7. **Fortunately, the Milk** by Neil Gaiman, illustrated by Skottie Young, 128 pgs.  
 Dad took an awfully long time to run to the corner shop to buy milk for the cereal. Despite his children's suspicions, dad claims that he was definitely not chatting with a friend he met on the street. He says he was held up by an unfortunate adventure involving a stegosaurus, space travel, a hot air balloon, pirates and a near-encounter with the end of the world. Fortunately, thanks to his efforts and dedication, the milk survived the whole ordeal. IL: LG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 1.0 [Fast read, adventure, illustrated chapter book]  
 Hardcover. HarperCollins. 2013. 9780062224071. \$14.99  
 Paperback. HarperCollins. 2013. 9780062295156. \$5.99  
 Audio and EBook available.  
 Spanish Edition: El galactico, piratico y alienigena viaje de mi padre. Roca. 2014. 9788499188140. \$14.95
8. **Henry and the Cannons: An Extraordinary True Story of the American Revolution** by Don Brown, 32 pgs.  
 In 1775 at the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Henry Knox achieves the difficult task of transporting 59 cannons across the state of Massachusetts between Fort Ticonderoga and Boston. Despite the harsh winter weather, Henry succeeds in this task and contributes to the defeat of the British at Boston. IL: LG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 0.5 [Non-fiction picture book, SLJ starred review]  
 Hardcover. Roaring Book Press. 2013. 9781596432666. \$16.99  
 EBook available.

9. **Hey, Charleston!: The True Story of the Jenkins Orphanage Band** by Anne F. Rockwell, illustrated by Colin Bootman, 32 pgs.  
 Reverend Daniel Joseph Jenkins was first a hero to the children for whom he created an orphanage and then for the nation and world. He began to take in children to live in his church as a kindness but soon found that his South Carolina community had a greater need for his services. He founded an orphanage and taught the children to play music thanks to donations of old war instruments. This music soon came to be known as ragtime and inspired the Charleston dance before popularity spread it to an international scale. IL: LG - BL: 5.6 - AR Pts: 0.5 [Non-fiction picture book, African American interest, music]  
 Hardcover. Carolrhoda Books. 2013. 9780761355656. \$16.95  
 EBook available.
10. **Hoop Genius: How a Desperate Teacher and a Rowdy Gym Class Invented Basketball** by John Coy, illustrated by Joe Morse, 32 pgs.  
 James Naismith's gym class is full of energetic boys. In fact, they are so rambunctious that two previous gym teachers have already given up trying to teach them. Naismith's desperate attempt to constructively occupy the boys leads to the birth of a new sport, basketball, a game that can be played indoors. IL: LG - BL: 4.6 - AR Pts: 0.5 [Non-fiction picture book, history of basketball]  
 Hardcover. Carolrhoda Books. 2013. 9780761366171. \$16.95  
 EBook available.
11. **The Matchbox Diary** by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, 40 pgs.  
 A little girl's questions about objects in her grandfather's home prompt a dialogue between grandfather and granddaughter that reveals a story of immigration, family, and the importance of history. An old cigar box holds matchboxes filled with small objects, each one tied to a memory for her grandfather to share. IL: LG - BL: 2.8 - AR Pts: 0.5 [Touching picture book, grandfather and granddaughter relationship, immigration story, SLJ Starred Review]  
 Hardcover. Candlewick Press. 2013. 9780763646011. \$16.99  
 Paperback. Walker Books Ltd. 2014. 9781406355352. \$8.99  
 Spanish Edition: El diario de las cajas de fósforos. Lectorum. 2013. 9788426139764.  
 \$24.99
12. **The Mischievians** by William Joyce, 56 pgs.  
 Finally, an explanation exists for all the daily annoyances that simply cannot be otherwise explained! Mischievians are the creatures to blame when one sock of a pair disappears, when you have a song stuck in your head and when a multitude of similar problems occur. There is even space to record your own creative discoveries of Mischievians that are not included in the book. IL: LG - BL: 4.3 - AR Pts: 0.5 [Picture handbook for make-believe creatures]  
 Atheneum Books for Young readers. 2013. 9781442473478. \$17.99  
 Audio and EBook available.

13. **Mountain Dog** by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Olga and Aleksey Ivanov, 212 pgs.  
Uncle Tío and his mountain rescue dog Gabe are the perfect medicine for Tony after his mother is sent to jail for dogfighting. Though he feels lost when he is first sent to live with the uncle he has never met, he finds stability and security with him as a new family. He learns about the immigration journey of his mother and uncle, and he develops a passion for nature and for helping others. IL: MG - BL: 5.9 - AR Pts: 3.0 [Novel in verse, wilderness adventures]  
Hardcover. Henry Holt and Co. 2013. 9780805095166. \$16.99  
Paperback. Square Fish. 2014. 9781250044242. \$7.99  
EBook available.
14. **Sugar** by Jewell Parker Rhodes, 272 pgs.  
Freed slave and orphan Sugar still lives and works on a plantation in Louisiana, but she dreams of seeing the world. When a group of Chinese workers are hired to work on the plantation, she seizes the opportunity to get to know them and to learn about their culture. Despite resistance from the other former slaves, she succeeds in uniting the two groups in friendship. IL: MG – BL: 2.9 - AR Pts: 4.0 [Louisiana interest, historical fiction, African American and Chinese American interest]  
Hardcover. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2013. 9780316043052. \$16.99  
Paperback. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 2014. 9780316043069. \$7.00  
Audio and EBook available.
15. **Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin** by Liesl Shurtliff, 272 pgs.  
Rump’s name lends itself to constant mockery, but he thinks he has finally found a way to make his life better when he discovers he has the ability to spin straw into gold. Yet his magic ability also means he must accept any price, however small, that he is offered to trade for his gold, and this catch makes the talent problematic. Rump’s quest contains all the elements of the original tale with a new twist. IL:MG - BL:4.4 - AR:9.0 [Fairytale retelling]  
Hardcover. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 2013. 9780307977939. \$16.99  
Paperback. Yearling. 2013. 9780307977960. \$6.99  
Audio and EBook available.