

Books to make you Laugh:

Zita the Spacegirl by Ben Hatke

J ZIT

Zita's life took a cosmic left turn in the blink of an eye. When her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, Zita leaps to the rescue and finds herself a stranger on a strange planet. Humanoid chickens and neurotic robots are shocking enough, but Zita is even more surprised to find herself taking on the role of intergalactic hero. Before long, aliens in all shapes and sizes don't even phase her. *Zita the Spacegirl* is a fun, captivating tale of friendship and redemption.

Oh No! (Or How My Science Project Destroyed the World) by Dan Santat

E BAR

Some kids are too smart for their own good...and maybe for everybody else's good. After winning the science fair with the giant robot she has built, a little girl realizes that there is a major problem. Check this book out to see what has happened!

Once I Ate a Pie by Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Emily MacLachlan Charest

J811.54 MAC

Gus herds his people like sheep. Abby loves borrowing slippers. And once, Mr. Beefy ate a pie--Filled with squeaky toys, mischief, and plenty of naps, the poems and paintings presented in this book delightfully capture each dog's distinct personality with humor and charm.

Adventures in Cartooning by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold, and Alexis Frederick-Frost

J741.5 STU

Once upon a time . . . a princess tried to make a comic. And with the help of a magical cartooning elf, she learned how – well enough to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near-death by drowning, and into her very own adventure! Like the princess, you will discover that you already have the drawing and writing skills it takes to make a comic – you just need a little know-how. And *Adventures in Cartooning* supplies just that!

Books to make you Cry:

Only One Year by Andrea Cheng, illustrated by Nicole Wong

J CHE

Sharon and Mary can't believe their parents' decision to send their two-year-old brother, Di Di, to China in order to spend a year with their grandparents, who will care for him and teach him Chinese. When Di Di leaves, the sisters keep his memory fresh by placing photos of him in an album chronicling his time in China. However, as months go by, the girls spend less and less time thinking about him. What will happen when Di Di returns from China? Will he fit back in with the family or will he be an outsider forever? Read this book to find out!

Garmann's Summer by Stian Hole

E HOL

When his three aunts come to visit, Garmann ponders fear and courage, life and death, beginnings and endings with them. In the process, he learns in touching ways that everyone is scared of something.

Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nicholls

J NIC

1. My name is Sam.
2. I am eleven years old.
3. I collect stories and fantastic facts.
4. I have leukemia.
5. By the time you read this, I will probably be dead.

Living through the final stages of leukemia, Sam collects stories, questions, lists, and pictures that create a profoundly moving portrait of how a boy lives when he knows his time is almost up.

Books about Holding On:

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban

J URB and JAUDIOBOOK URB

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias dreams of playing a baby grand piano at Carnegie Hall. But when her Dad comes home with a wheezy organ instead of a piano, Zoe's dreams hit a sour note. And the organ isn't the only part of Zoe's life that's off-kilter, what with her Mom constantly at work, her Dad afraid to leave the house, and that odd boy, Wheeler Diggs, following her home from school every day. Yet when Zoe enters the annual Perform-O-Rama organ competition, she finds that life is full of surprises--and that perfection may be even better when it's just a little off center.

Ninth Ward by Jewell Parker Rhodes

J RHO

Twelve-year-old Lanesha lives in a tight-knit community in New Orleans' Ninth Ward. She doesn't have a lot of money or a lot of friends, but what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it's up to Lanesha to help them both survive the storm.

The Birchbark House by Louise Erdrich

J LOU

Omakayas, a seven-year-old Native American girl of the Ojibwa tribe, lives through the joys of summer and the perils of winter on an island in Lake Superior in 1847. This book has a surprise ending that you won't want to miss!

Books to Disturb You:

Ghostopolis by Doug TenNapel

J TEN

Imagine Garth Hale's surprise when he's accidentally zapped to the spirit world by Frank Gallows, a washed-out ghost wrangler. Suddenly Garth finds he has powers the ghosts don't have, and he's stuck in a world run by the evil ruler of Ghostopolis, who would use Garth's newfound abilities to rule the ghostly kingdom. When Garth meets Cecil, his grandfather's ghost, the two search for a way to get Garth back home, and nearly lose hope until someone shows up to save the day.

Bones by Steve Jenkins

J573.76 JEN

Take a look at the animal kingdom from a new perspective—under the skin! Discover head-to-toe comparisons of bones, many of them shown at actual size. Find out the differences between a man's hand and that of a spider monkey or the great weight of an elephant's leg, paired with the feather-light femur of a stork. Open the three large gatefold spreads that reveal the hard truths about the boney insides of Earth's many creatures.

Books about Progress:

The Day-Glo Brothers: The True Story of Bob and Joe Switzer's Bright Ideas and Brand New Colors by Chris Barton

JB SWI

Joe and Bob Switzer were very different brothers. Bob was a studious planner who wanted to grow up to be a doctor. Joe dreamed of making his fortune in show business and loved magic tricks and problem-solving. When an accident left Bob recovering in a darkened basement, the brothers began experimenting with ultraviolet light and fluorescent paints. Together they invented a whole new kind of color, one that glows with an extra-special intensity: Day-Glo.

Ubiquitous: Celebrating Nature's Survivors by Joyce Sidman

J811.6 SID

Ubiquitous (yoo-bik-wi-tuhs): Something that is (or seems to be) everywhere at the same time.

Why is the beetle, born 265 million years ago, still with us today? (because its wings mutated and hardened). How did the gecko survive 160 million years? (by becoming nocturnal and developing sticky toe pads.) How did the shark and the crow and the tiny ant survive millions and millions of years? When 99 percent of all life forms on earth have become extinct, why do some survive? And survive not just in one place, but in many places: in deserts, in ice, in lakes and puddles, inside houses and forest and farmland? Check out this scientific book written in verse to find out the answers to these questions!

Books about Integrity:

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

J PAR

A Long Walk to Water begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is a two hour walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Heart of a Shepherd by Rosanne Parry

J PAR and JAUDIOBOOK PAR

When Brother's dad is shipped off to Iraq, along with the rest of his reserve unit, Brother must help his grandparents keep the ranch going. He's determined to maintain it just as his father left it, in the hope that doing so will ensure his father's safe return. The hardships Brother faces will not only change the ranch, but also reveal his true calling.