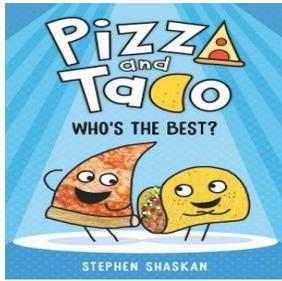


Literary Genre Bibliography: Graphic Novels

*all summaries are taken from the publisher

*Graphic Novels recommended for K-3 are difficult to find

Grades K-3

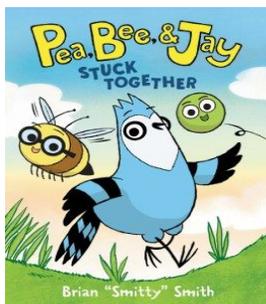


Shaskan, Stephen. **Pizza and Taco: Who's the Best?**. Random House, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-593-12331-7

Summary: The first in a hilarious young graphic novel series about Pizza and Taco. Two best friends, lots of toppings...but only one of them can be the BEST, right? Fans of Narwhal and Jelly will eat this book up...and be hungry for more. Best friends are the BEST. But WHO is the BEST? Is it Pizza or Taco? The question is debatable. They both love water slides. They both are friends with Hot Dog and Hamburger. In fact, maybe they should have a debate and get their friends to VOTE for who's the best. Can their friendship survive the race for top spot on the popularity food chain? Cast your VOTE

Curricular Use: What a great way to talk about choice or even voting. This would also make a good topic for a persuasive essay introduction or a debate as to who is best.

Audience: This book is aimed at grades K-3 but my whole family enjoyed it, so I would say it is good for all ages.



Smith, Brian. **Pea, Bee, & Jay: Stuck Together**. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-71373-352-2.

Summary: Like all peas, Pea loves to roll. So when a no-good strawberry dares him to roll all the way off the farm, he swears he can do it "eazy me-zee"! But along the way, a powerful thunderstorm strikes and bounces Pea off course...and right into two unlikely new buds: a bee named Bee who thinks she knows it all, and a bird named Jay who can't figure out how to fly. On their own they may not look like much, but if this trio can stick together, they just might help Pea find his way back home

Curricular Use: A good book to start discussing peer pressure and looping into friendship.

Audience: It will be a great inclusion in a K-1 classroom. The older students will find the drawings and story a little childish.



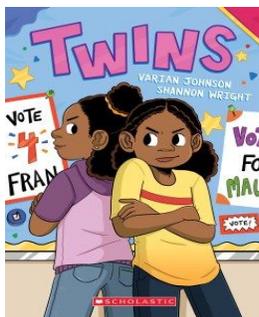
Song, Mika. **Donut Feed the Squirrels**. Penguin Random House, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-593-12527-4.

Summary: Two squirrel best friends meet their match: a donut food truck! A hilarious young graphic novel perfect for fans of *Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea* and anyone who would do ANYTHING for a donut. Norma and Belly would really really really really really like a donut. With a burned breakfast and a cranky donut seller at the local food truck, they may be stuck with only nuts to eat . . . unless they can steal the biggest, most delicious donut of their tiny lives!

Curricular Use: A great addition to a classroom/guidance lesson on collaboration and working together.

Audience: While written with younger readers in mind, this book would be well liked by all elementary age levels for its humor and the squirrels' love of donuts.

Grades 3-6



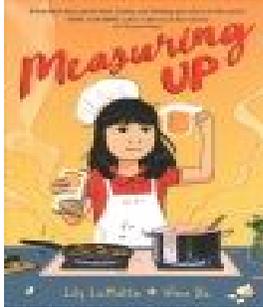
Johnson, Varian. **Twins**. Graphix, a division of Scholastic, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-33823-613-2.

Summary: Maureen and Francine Carter are twins and best friends. They participate in the same clubs, enjoy the same foods, and are partners on all their school projects. But just before the girls start sixth grade, Francine becomes Fran -- a girl who wants to join the chorus, run for class president, and dress in fashionable outfits that set her apart from Maureen. A girl who seems happy to share only two classes with her sister Maureen and Francine are growing apart and there's nothing Maureen can do to stop it. Are sisters really forever? Or will middle school change things for good?

Curricular Use: These books would make a good transitional series to Raina Telgemeier books. A great conversation started about differences

and the OK to want to find what makes you happy. You can also use this book to introduce the democratic process.

Audience: Stick with 3rd and up.



Lamotte, Lily. *Measuring Up*. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-71373-381-2.

Summary: Newly transplanted to Seattle, 12-year-old Cici does her best to blend in at her new middle school, even though she misses her beloved A-má, her paternal grandmother who she left back in Taiwan. Cici is desperate to bring her grandmother to America for a visit, but how to pay for it? A local cooking contest with a \$1,000 grand prize might be the answer, but will her favorite Taiwanese dishes be enough to win over the judges? This sweet, family-oriented graphic novel celebrates cultural traditions and new beginnings in equal measure. Cici is good at making friends and adjusting to American culture, but she also celebrates her Taiwanese roots, finding joy and balance in both.

Curricular Use: Family ties, immigration, culture.

Audience: Concentrate more in 5-6.



Miller, Kayla. *Act*. Houghton Mifflin, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-72548-221-0.

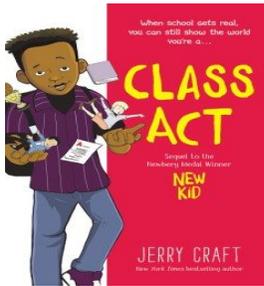
Summary: Olive enters the world of small-scale politics when she decides to run for student council at her school. Spurred to action when she discovers that some students are being excluded from field trips because they can't afford the costs, Olive earns the trust of classmates who confide in her about their problems with the school, such as an unfair dress code. She's committed to making the school a better place for all the students, but the competition is fierce: Sawyer and Trent clown their way through the election, promising students more pudding, and Belinda's got politician parents influencing her performance. Olive's supportive mother and her activist aunt Molly help her research protest movements, which the back matter supports through brief historical summaries and a recommended reading list. While the stated moral of the story is that kids should take action to make a difference, Miller also emphasizes practical planning and teamwork rather than taking the easy way out or appealing to the lowest common denominator. What keeps the book from being overly didactic is its gentle, sensitive depiction of its core cast. Olive's

diverse classmates support one another, which makes the occasional bruised ego all the more deeply felt. Friendships are tested along candidate lines, and readers will have many angles to consider before casting their own vote.

Curricular Use: Activism, social justice, democratic process.

Audience: Grades 4-6. Students who enjoy Telgemeier and Jerry Craft will enjoy this book. This is the third book in the “Click” series.

Grades 5-8



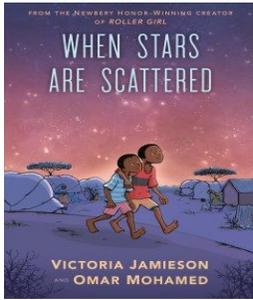
Craft, Jerry. *Class Act*. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-71371-007-3.

Summary: This follow-up to the accessible and profoundly necessary *New Kid* (it didn't win the Newbery Medal and a Coretta Scott King Book Award for nothing), puts the focus on Drew, Jordan's friend and fellow Black student at their upper-crust, mostly white private school

in New York. The two are now in their second year, and the racial issues are still complicated, but *Class Act* also widens its examination of difference. Physically, the slow-to-develop Jordan experiences classmates growing taller, starting to smell different, and forming new relationships with the other genders. Economically, children from a struggling school visit the expansive private campus and are astonished and disturbed, and the boys' visit to wealthy Liam's mansion and apparently carefree life triggers hard realizations. Drew, darker-skinned than Jordan, faces a different set of expectations and assumptions from white classmates and faculty, as well as the resentment of lifelong friends in his neighborhood. It's a tribute to Craft's skill and his deep humanity that both Drew and Liam, who face very different struggles, use those struggles to widen and deepen their respective perspectives. Never relying on platitudes, Craft makes the story honest and believable and presents it as a powerful, if difficult to achieve, real-world possibility.

Curricular Use: Discussing stereotypes, tokenism, race relations, and body image.

Audience: For students who enjoyed “*New Kid*” they will love this book as a companion piece. I have students in grade 4 who enjoyed “*New Kid*” so I would say grades 4-8 for sure, if not some older students who enjoy graphic novels.

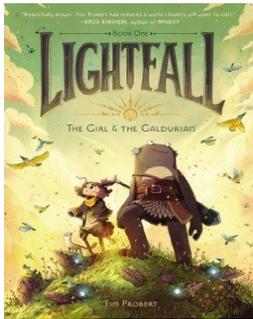


Jamieson, Victoria. **When Stars Are Scattered**. Dial Books for Young Readers, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-72548-313-2.

Summary: Omar Mohamed was a child when soldiers attacked his village in Somalia. Separated from his parents, he and his younger brother, Hassan, eventually made their way to Dadaab, a crowded refugee camp in Kenya where he now spends his days scrambling for food and taking care of Hassan, who is nonverbal and suffers from debilitating seizures. A chance to attend school is a dream come true, but the opportunity weighs heavily on Omar; school is a selfish choice when you have no parents and a brother who needs constant looking after. Debut author Mohamed shares his absorbing story with absolute honesty, laying bare every aspect of his life's many challenges; even after surviving unimaginable circumstances, he remains compassionate—to others as well as himself. While Mohamed's story is riveting in its own right, the illustrations bring warmth and depth to the tale.

Curricular Use: Developing identity, overcoming adversity, social awareness, immigration, diverse abilities.

Audience: I see the need for this book at all grade levels due to the topics it covers. However, I would recommend grades 5 and up.



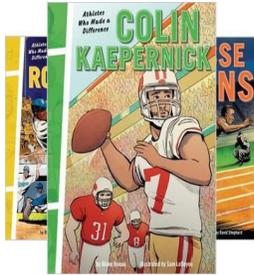
Probert, Tim. **Lightfall**. Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-71373-353-9.

Summary: Bea's in a perilous position—dangling from a tree—when she meets Cad, an axolotl-like Galdurian, a race of beings long thought lost to history. When Bea's forgetful grandfather, a bearded pig in a sweater, goes missing, she and Cad embark on a search, uncovering clues in the mystery of not only her grandfather's disappearance but the strange lights that keep civilization safe from encroaching darkness. Impulsive, irrepressibly cheerful Cad is a lively foil for Bea, whose anxiety, rendered in a radiating swirl of black lines, sometimes swallows her right up. Probert's cinematic, full-color artwork is packed with inventive creatures and vivid landscapes perfectly in keeping with the fantasy adventure atmosphere. Most intriguing, however, is the complex backstory behind the world that's hinted at.

Curricular Use: Building friendships; this would also be an interesting BreakOut book, the adventure leads a lot to some interesting clues to include.

Audience: Students who enjoy adventure/fantasy genres that include main characters who are animals would love this series.

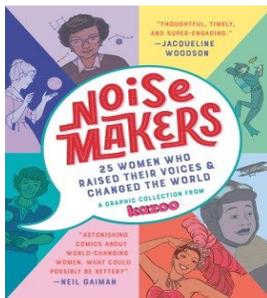
Series Recommendations



Hoena, B.A. **Athletes Who Made A Difference.** Graphic Universe, 2020. Follet Number: A499664

Summary: A collection of titles showing POC with grit, leadership and resistance. Titles include Colin Kaepernick, Jackie Robinson, Serena Williams, and Jesse Owens.

Audience: Students who enjoy Jake Maddox or Mike Lupica will enjoy this series.



Knopf, Alfred. **Noisemakers : 25 women who raised their voices & changed the world : a graphic collection from kazoo.** Alfred Knopf, 2020. ISBN: 978-0-525-58017-1.

Summary: Did anyone ever get anywhere by being quiet? To change anything, you have to make some noise. From the creators of the award-winning Kazoo magazine comes a look at the lives of 25 extraordinary women through the eyes of 25 extraordinary comic artists. In chapters titled Grow, Tinker, Play, Create, Rally, and Explore, you'll meet Eugenie Clark, who swam with sharks, Raye Montague, who revolutionized the design process for ships, Hedy Lamarr, a beautiful actress and brilliant inventor, Julia Child, a chef who wasn't afraid to make mistakes, Kate Warne, the first female detective, who saved the life of President-Elect Abraham Lincoln, and many more.

Audience: Grades 5-8 with additional usage for struggling readers in the upper grades.



Van Lante, Fred. **Action Presidents.** Harper Collins, 2020. ISBN: 978-1-71370-470-6 (George Washington); 978-1-71370-471-3 (Abraham Lincoln); 978-1-71370-472-0 (Theodore Roosevelt); 978-1-71370-473-7 (John F. Kennedy)

Summary: Each Action Presidents book includes useful,informative backmatter to supplement the comic-style interior text. The backmatter includes comprehensive timelines, historically accurate maps, helpful glossaries

Audience: Students who enjoy the "I Survived" and "Nathan Hale" series will be drawn to this series.