

2023 Read Aloud Indiana Primary List

<https://www.ilfonline.org/read-aloud-book-awards>

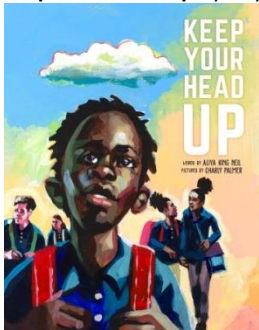


Home is In Between by Mitali Perkins, Lavanya Naidu



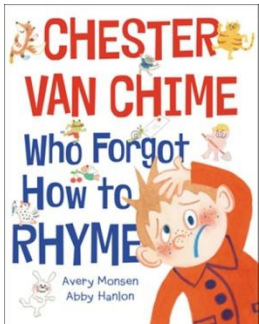
Shanti has moved to America with her parents from India. She embraces her new home as she learns to read English, celebrate Christmas, and attend ballet class. She keeps her Indian culture alive by dancing Kathak with Ma and learning Bangli letters with Baba. But sometimes it is overwhelming to live “in between”.

Keep Your Head Up by Aliya King Neil, Charly Palmer



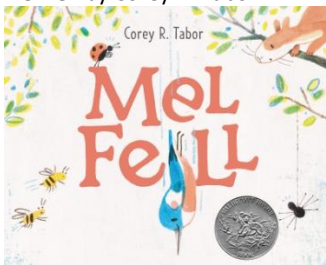
Some days you just feel scrunchy. D’s day starts off with missing toothpaste and a forgotten gym uniform and continues to go wrong. He has a meltdown that lands him in the principal’s office. But Miss King graciously understands and encourages him to be gentle with himself. Just wanting to try to keep your head up on the bad days is sometimes enough.

Chester Van Chime Who Forgot How to Rhyme By Avery Monsen



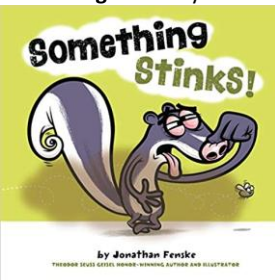
In this hilarious picture book, join Chester as he has an unconventional day where he has forgotten how to rhyme all words. Bright, vivid artwork helps to bring out the fun and adventure Chester has along the way as he rediscovers himself.

Mel Fell by Corey R. Tabor



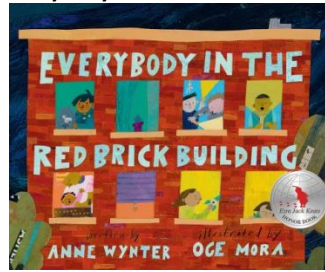
Mel is a kingfisher fledgling determined to fly in this picture book filled with heart and humor. With simple text and clever but simple to navigate page rotations, this story will show kids that with a little determination and support they too can do hard things.

Something Stinks by Jonathan Fenske



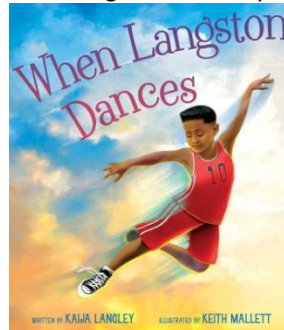
Ewww! What’s that smell? Skunk needs help from the audience to find where the terrible stench is coming from. Will skunk figure it out? This silly story is sure to leave you and your patrons full of giggles.

Everybody in the Red Brick Building by Anne Wynter, Oge Mora



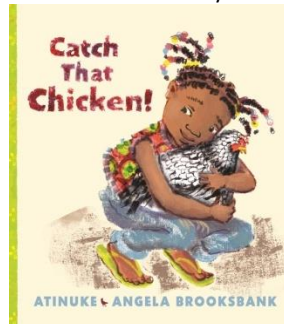
Everybody in the red brick building was asleep...until a series of sounds wakes EVERYBODY up. Eventually a new set of quiet, late night noises lulls the residents back to sleep.

When Langston Dances by Kaija Langley, Keith Mallett



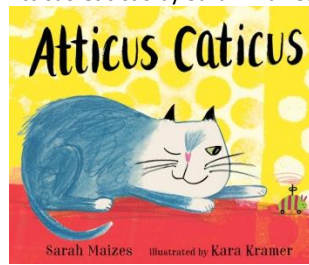
Inspired by the Alvin Alley Dance Company, Langston longs to become a famous dancer. His family, neighbors, and teacher support his dream as he perseveres even as the only boy in his dance class. He twirls, twists, pirouettes, piques, arabesques, and grand jetes up and down the streets in his neighborhood. The exuberant illustrations portray his pure joy in dancing!

Catch That Chicken by Atinuke, Angela Brooksbank



In a small Nigerian village, Lami is excited to be the best of something – catching chickens! When she falls and sprains her ankle, she can’t run. Will she still be able to catch the chickens? This adorable story shows how people in other parts of the world live differently than we do, but in many ways, are also the same.

Atticus Caticus by Sarah Maizes, Kara Kramer



This story follows a boy and his cat named Atticus as they go about their day. Clever rhyming and repetition throughout the story will invite your audience to join in the fun!

Dinosaurs Are Not Extinct by Drew Sheneman



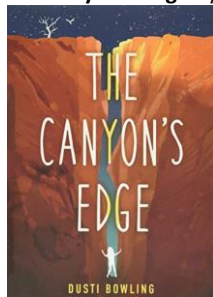
This book is the perfect combination of education and humor! Colorful illustrations accompany comic speech bubbles that will make your readers giggle. Alongside is the text full of real information about dinosaurs. Funny, informative, and engaging read!

2023 Read Aloud Indiana Upper Elementary List

<https://www.ilfonline.org/read-aloud-book-awards>



The Canyon's Edge by Dusti Bowling



A random shooting changes Nora's life forever. Nora and her father decide to get away and explore a slot canyon. While in the canyon, there is an unexpected flash flood that sweeps away all of Nora's security. Fighting off scorpions, dehydration and terrorizing memories, she must survive for days while finding her way out of the canyon. Will Nora save herself and her father?

The Great Stink: How Joseph Bazalgette Solved London's Poop Pollution Problem by Colleen Paeff, Nancy Carpenter



This fascinating nonfiction picture book for older listeners combines engineering, history, ecology, and biography to give kids an approachable introduction to the history of sanitation in London. With engaging illustrations and just the right amount of humor, this book is sure to capture the attention of even reluctant listeners.

A Sky-Blue Bench by Bahram Rahman, Peggy Collins



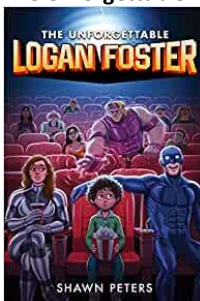
Aria lives in Afghanistan and has lost her leg in a land mine accident. She is ready to return to school but sitting on the floor will be uncomfortable with her prosthetic leg. This book shows the damage left behind from war, the barriers that young Afghan girls and women face in relation to their education, and the unique challenges faced by people with prosthetics.

Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee



When her Opa gets sick, Maizy and her mother travel to Last Chance, Minnesota to help care for him. While there, Maizy gets to know her semi-estranged grandparents, experiences being the only Asian family in town, and learns the complex history of Chinese immigration in the U.S., including the role of the Chinese "paper sons" in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

The Unforgettable Logan Foster by Shawn Peters



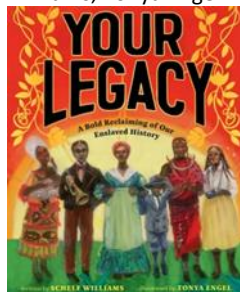
Logan is a quirky kid with an eidetic memory who has been in the foster care system a long time. But then he meets Gil and Margie, and they don't seem like typical parents. There is something special about them. He soon discovers that they are genuine superheroes! As Logan gets involved in their fight against evil, will his talents be needed? Read and find out!

The Barren Grounds by David A. Robertson



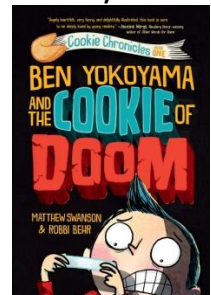
In this mashup of realistic fiction and fantasy, Indigenous foster siblings Morgan and Eli discover that they can travel to another world through a portal in their foster parents' attic. The world, populated with animal beings that speak their native Cree, is threatened by the actions of a white man who stumbled into it years before. Can Morgan and Eli help save the people of Misewa and learn the true meaning of family along the way?

Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Enslaved History by Schele Williams, Tonya Engel



Beginning in Africa, before the first European slave traders arrived, this tale progresses through the centuries, highlighting the traits that enabled generations of Africans and African Americans to survive enslavement - ingenuity, determination, and dignity, among others. This text provides an excellent springboard for ongoing conversations.

Ben Yokoyama and the Cookie of Doom by Matthew Swanson



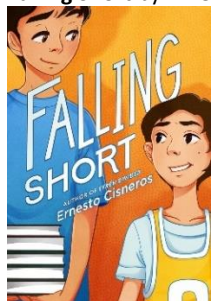
Ben opens up a fortune cookie, and reads what's inside. He takes it literally and thinks it's his last day on earth, so he sets out to do some really crazy things! He involves his friend and parents as well, and what ensues is a funny and heartfelt tale about what's most important in life!

Ikenga by Nnedi Okorafor



Nnamdi's father is the police chief of their town. After his father is shot and killed, Nnamdi is determined to find the person responsible. With the help from a gift of a magical object, he finds he has the power to confront those who were involved with his father's death. Nnamdi finds that the power from the magical object gives him superpowers that give him power for good.

Falling Short by Ernesto Cisneros



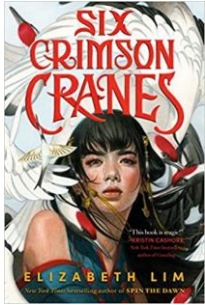
Isaac and Marco may be best friends, but they couldn't be more different: Isaac is athletic and a basketball star, and Marco is short and an academic whiz. Both of them are being raised by single moms so they have to have each other's backs. Starting middle school means everything is going to change. Can Marco help Isaac get better grades? Can Isaac actually teach Marco how to play basketball?

2023 Read Aloud Indiana Middle Grade List

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Six Crimson Cranes by Elizabeth Lim



Shiori'anma complains about her life as the princess of Kiata, including her arranged betrothal to Lord Bushian's son. She regrets those complaints after a dragon encounter and a stepmother's curse. Voiceless, she must discover a way to use magic to restore order in her kingdom for her brothers, for herself, and for her father.

The Blackbird Girls by Anne Blankman



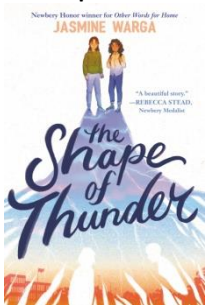
After seeing the horrors of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster firsthand, two girls (who hate each other) are sent off together to find refuge with a grandmother. This split timeline weaves the events of Chernobyl in with Kiev during World War II. Can the girls learn to trust each other in order to survive?

Race Against Time: The Untold Story of Scipio Jones and the Battle to Save Twelve Innocent Men by Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace



Before the civil rights movement, there was the Elaine massacre. In 1919, a white mob killed hundreds of Black sharecroppers over union meetings. Reports estimate 5 white men and over 200 Black men were killed. In a rushed and unjust trial, twelve of the Black sharecroppers were sentenced to death. Scipio Jones fights for their justice in this uphill battle.

The Shape of Thunder by Jasmine Warga



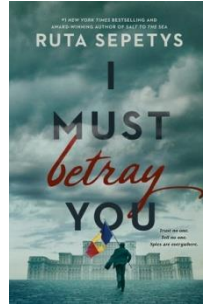
Two girls are dealing with the aftermath of a school shooting and living in separate worlds of grief. One girl lost her sister--the other carries guilt about her brother. If only one could travel back in time and right the wrongs that have occurred... Can Cora and Quinn unlock the secrets of time travel and find their way again?

Ace Takes Flight by Cory McCarthy



Ace is beyond ready to receive his biological augmentation, when he enters training in the B.E.S.T. program. Will he receive the TurboLegs aug like his older brother, or the SuperSoar aug so he can fly as he's always dreamed? Or, will Ace begin to question everything? There are no easy answers and many intriguing questions in this adventure!

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys



This historical fiction takes you inside Romania while communist regimes crumble across Europe in 1989. Cristian learns the truth behind the regime with first hand experiences but questions if he can trust anyone—his family, his friends. He helps give a voice to exposing Romania to the world by joining a revolution that will change everything.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll



Addie is a girl with autism. During a school project about witch trials, she learns of an injustice against others because they were different. No one would speak for them until Addie. She gives them a voice and fights to have them recognized. Her passion stems from how she is treated differently and wants people to understand who she is. This is an incredibly touching and powerful book.

Operation Do-Over by Gordon Korman



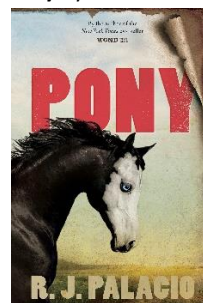
Meet Mason and Ty in this relatable middle grade novel about two best friends and second chances. After years of being at odds with his former best friend, Mason gets an impossible chance--a do-over. Will their friendship be mended or will it blow up like before? Explore what happens when someone actually gets his wish to go back and change his actions.

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat



Sai is the mapmaker's assistant, a role that hides her true existence in poverty and her future life as a thief. When she is given the opportunity to travel across the ocean, mapping pathways to new lands, Sai must give up everything she's ever known and take a leap of faith, even if not everyone aboard can be trusted. A fantasy adventure you will never forget!

Pony by R. J. Palacio



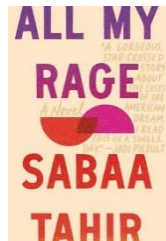
Award-winning author R.J. Palacio writes the story of Silas, a twelve-year-old boy whose father is kidnapped. Silas and his ghostly companion, Mittenwool, follow a mysterious pony in an attempt to find Silas's father and save him from certain death. The journey becomes not only a western adventure, but a story of friendship and hope in the midst of unexpected loss and inspiring courage.

2023 Read Aloud Indiana High School List

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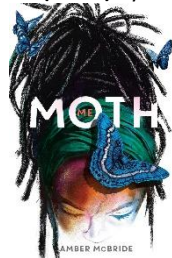


All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir



This novel will hit you in all the feels as it transports you between Pakistan twenty years ago to right now in a sleepy town in California. Unravel the stories and lives of two former friends, the secrets they carry, and their families' stories. Will Sal and Noor's attempts to save each other help them heal or will everything spiral out of control?

Me (Moth) by Amber McBride



Dive into this novel-in-verse about loss, grief, and the journey to finding oneself. Go on a road trip with two new friends as they discover what they've lost, how to be there for one another, and how to move on.

Bluebird by Sharon Cameron



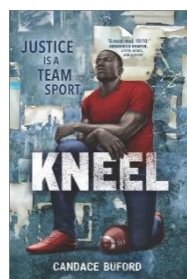
Bluebird, a story of deadly secrets, lies, and betrayals, is told in two alternating timelines: at the tail end of WWII in 1945, and a year later in America. When Eva, a German refugee arrives in America – she comes not to start a new life, but rather to seek justice and end a life! Throughout the story are the 27 names that Eva repeats like a mantra--names that are victims of the atrocities of WWII carried out by Eva's own father! Will justice be served?

We Were Kings by Court Stevens



A controversial new death penalty law speeds up Frankie Quick's execution in this small town, powerful family murder mystery. With more twists and turns than there are reliable leads, this novel is sure to spark lively discussion on the death penalty, small town politics, and who really did kill Cora King?

Kneel by Candace Buford



"Please rise for the national anthem." Racism. Injustice. Police brutality. Football might be Russell's only way out of the small town he is living in. His chances of a scholarship are right there in front of him, until he chooses to take a stand... by kneeling. Now a target for hatred, the future isn't so certain and feels more out of reach than ever.

Does My Body Offend You? by Mayra Cuevas and Marie Marquardt



Ruby, a feminist rebel, meets Malena in the high school bathroom right after she was humiliated by the high school administration for not wearing a bra to school after getting a bad sunburn. The two team up to lead a dress code rebellion facing their own insecurities, biases, and privileges along the way.

Mirror Girls by Kelly McWilliams



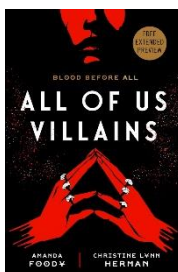
Twin sisters are separated as infants after their parents are brutally murdered in a segregated small town in Georgia. One sister is raised on a plantation as White and the other grows up in Harlem as a Black civil rights activist. Now as teenagers, they finally meet each other. Can they overcome all the tragedy, injustice, and violence in their past? Or will it consume them both?

Victories Greater than Death by Charlie Jane Anders



This thrilling sci-fi adventure will keep you on the edge of your seat. Full of the most fascinating aliens, an intergalactic war, and a look at what true friendship is this story won't disappoint. Can Tina and her friends save Earth and multiple galaxies from an unknown enemy, only time will tell.

All of Us Villians by Amanda Foody and Christine Lynn Herman



In Ilvernath, seven champions are sent to fight for the right to control the high magick long thought lost, only one will emerge the victor. This tournament will be much different due to the scandalous book that was published that shares the secrets of the seven participating families. Will the champions accept the fate chosen for them or rewrite their own future?

Making Our Way Home: The Great Migration and the Black American Dream by Blair Imani



This narrative nonfiction book explores the experiences of Black Americans in the United States during the late 19th and early to mid-20th centuries, highlighting events and people often ignored in U.S. history. Organized by decade, each chapter partners blocks of text with portraits of notable Black historical figures. Section headings, a detailed glossary, and an extensive index add depth to the main text.

2023 Read Aloud Indiana Ageless List

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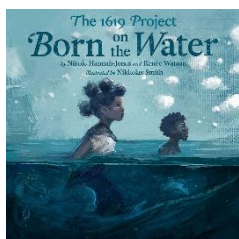


Survivor Tree by Marcie Colleen, Aaron Becker



Under the rubble of the towers on 9/11, a tree sprouted green leaves and gave us all an inspirational story of survival and hope. It took many years to recover from the devastation but with patience and care, the old pear tree returned to its first home, now next to the 9/11 memorial.

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones and Renée Watson, Nikkolos Smith



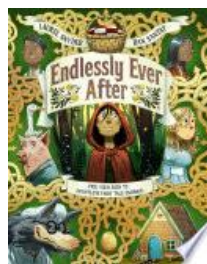
A young girl sits in class, not knowing what to write on her blank paper after her teacher assigns a family tree project. Upset when she arrives home, the girl learns of her past through her grandmother's retelling of their peoples' journey to this country. "Ours in no immigration story...We were born on the water. We come from the people who refused to die." A beautiful yet pointed story of injustice and the hope of a resilient nation.

Friday Night Wrestlefest by J. F. Fox, Micah Player



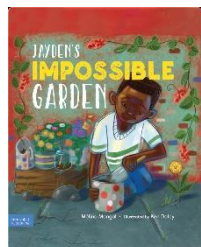
Let's. Get. Ready. To. Wreeeesstllleee!!! It's a battle to the bedtime. In one corner we have the Dangerous Daddoo. In the other corner we have the Tag Team Twins: Peanut Brother and Jellyfish with help from Big Bald Baby. Who will win this bedtime battle? With moves like the Jumpin' Jellyflop, the Blasting Butter Bump, and the Squishy Squid Squeeze, it's anybody's match. Add in the Flying Mom Bomb and you have a fun new take on a bedtime routine!

Endlessly Ever After by Laurel Snyder, Dan Santat



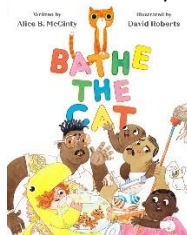
In this endlessly entertaining picture book for kids of all ages, readers must help Rosie decide which paths to follow on her journey to Grandma's house. Red cape or faux fur coat? Follow the straight and narrow path or take a quick detour? Depending on their choices, listeners may encounter a wolf, Jack, Hansel and Gretel, a princess, a witch, some pigs or even Grandma herself.

Jayden's Impossible Garden by Mélina Mangal, Ken Daley



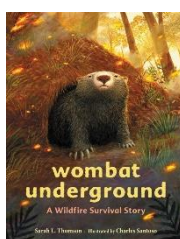
Sometimes kids can see things their loved ones miss. Follow Jayden and Mr. Curtis's summer-long journey to create a "magical secret fort garden." This stunning picture book highlights an intergenerational partnership which results in an oasis of natural beauty. Sometimes the invisible is made visible through collaboration, faith, and a little bit of magic.

Bathe the Cat by Alice B. McGinty, David Roberts



It's time to clean up the house
Grandma is coming at two.
The magnet list on the fridge
Tells the family what to do.
But there's one chore on the list
The cat does not like at all.
Cat mixes up the magnets
And the family goes off the wall!
So read this book, it's all in rhyme.
Will they clean it up in time?

Wombat Underground: A Wildfire Survival Story by Sarah L. Thomson, Charles Santoso



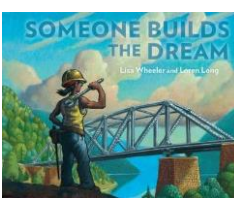
Wombat digs out the perfect burrow as creatures above him bustle on. Then one day a bushfire rages through the Outback of Australia. Will Wombat share his home to animals fleeing the fire? The beautiful story informs readers of the devastation that wildfires had on many different species, while teaching the importance of helping others during trying times.

Standing on Her Shoulders by Monica Clark-Robinson, Laura Freeman



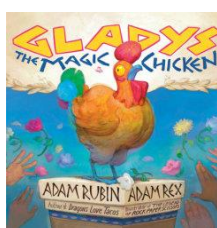
As a child spends time with her family, she learns about the strong, uplifting women who came before her: the freedom fighters, artists, protectors, and suffragists. This book is a beautiful ode to all of the amazing women throughout the world whose shoulder's we all stand on. It will empower and inspire the girls of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Someone Builds the Dream by Lisa Wheeler, Loren Long



In this beautifully illustrated and thought provoking book we see how it takes more than one person to make dreams come true. The connections from beginning to end are brilliant in this captivating and beautiful story. This is a brilliant homage to all the infrastructure workers who have worked hard to build dreams for all.

Gladys the Magic Chicken by Adam Rubin, Adam Rex



Back in the Ancient Times, like, waaaaay before you were ever born, there lived a chicken named Gladys. Like most things in Ancient Times, Gladys was magic. Or at least it seems that way. Gladys finds herself on a laugh-out-loud adventure, going from one owner to the next as wish after wish is granted. But is Gladys magic or are the granted wishes just a lucky coincidence?