



**MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

MPS READS!

Selections for April, 2021
April is National Poetry Month



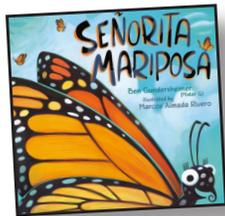
Help children get excited about reading! Each month, a list of featured books will be available to: Assist teachers, librarians, and families in finding quality books to encourage independent reading; offer titles that allow students to see themselves, explore other cultures, and discover more about the world in which they live; and ignite a passion for reading.

PRESCHOOL

Soaked!

by Abi Cushman

It looks like a wet and dreary day for Bear and his friends. How could he possibly have fun when he is soaked? But Badger, Rabbit, and Moose don't seem to mind. In fact, Moose can still hula hoop! Might Bear like to try? Fun is not dependent on sunshine and blue skies. In fact, it might be more fun to be soaked!



Señorita Mariposa

by Ben Gundersheimer

Rhyming text showcases the epic trip taken by monarch butterflies. At the end of each summer, these travelers leave Canada to fly

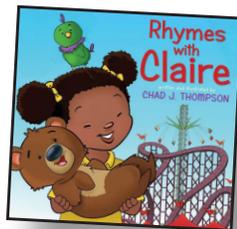
south to Mexico for the winter—and now readers can come along for the ride! Children will be delighted to share in the fascinating journey of the monarchs before they finally arrive in the forests that their ancestors called home.

PRIMARY (GRADES KINDERGARTEN – 2)

Rhymes with Claire

by Chad J. Thompson

Otto, the rhyming parrot, is causing trouble. Claire brings Otto to school and the little feathered fellow, who rhymed Doug's name with everything from mug to pug to bug, uses Claire's moniker as a jumping off point. All starts off innocently enough: fair and share, but then takes a turn from bear to flare! How can one little parrot cause so much trouble?



Luca's Bridge/El puente de Luca

by Mariana Llanos

Together in their car, Luca, his brother Paco, and their parents head across the border to Mexico where his parents were born. Luca doesn't understand why he must leave his home, his friends, and his school. He struggles through lonely and disorienting times—and leans on music, memory, and familial love for support. This is a story for everyone about immigration, deportation, home, and identity.



INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3 – 5)

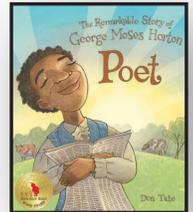
Poet: The Remarkable Story of George Moses Horton

by Don Tate

George loved words, but he was enslaved. Forced to work long hours, he was unable to attend school. But he listened to the white children's lessons and learned the alphabet. Then he taught himself to read.

He began composing poetry in his head and reciting it as he sold fruits and vegetables. Before long, George had customers for his poems. But he was still enslaved. Would he ever be free?

In this powerful biography of George Moses Horton, the first southern African-American man to be published, Don Tate tells an inspiring story of talent and determination.



Words with Wings

by Nikki Grimes

Gabby's world is filled with daydreams. But what began as an escape from her parents' arguments has now taken over her life. With the help of a new teacher, Gabby the dreamer might just become Gabby the writer, and words that carried her away might allow her to soar. This remarkable verse novel is a celebration of imagination, friendship, one girl's indomitable spirit, and a teacher's ability to change a life.



MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6 – 8)

Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur/ Moon Girl Y Dinosaurio Diabólico

Multiple Authors

Lunella Lafayette is a preteen super genius who wants to change the world—but learned the hard way that it takes more than just big brains. Fearful of the monstrous inhuman genes inside her, life is turned upside down when a savage, red-scaled tyrant is teleported from the prehistoric past to a far-flung future we call TODAY. The pair are many things, and together make the most amazing Marvel Team.



Closer to Nowhere

by Ellen Hopkins

Hannah's life is just how she wants it. She has two supportive parents, she's popular at school, and she's been killing it at gymnastics. But when her cousin Cal moves in with her family, everything changes.

Cal tells half-truths and tall tales, pranks Hannah constantly, and seems to be the reason her parents are fighting more. She knows that Cal went through a lot after his mom died.

Cal is trying his hardest to fit in, but not everyone is appreciative of his unique sense of humor and storytelling. Humor and stories might be his defense mechanism, but if Cal doesn't let his walls down soon, he might push away the very people who are trying their best to love him.

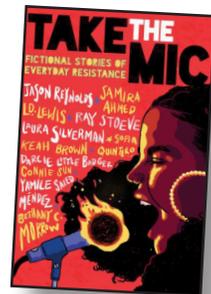
Told in verse from the alternating perspectives of Hannah and Cal, this is a story of two cousins who are more alike than they realize.

HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 – 12)

Take the Mic: Fictional Stories of Everyday Resistance

by Jason Reynolds, Samira Ahmed,
Laura Silverman, L.D. Lewis,
Ray Stoeve, et al

This young adult anthology features fictional stories of everyday resistance. You might be the kind of person who stands up to online trolls. Or who marches to protest injustice. Perhaps you are #DisabledAndCute and dancing around your living room, alive and proud. Or perhaps you are the trans mentor that you wish you had when you were younger. Maybe you call out false allies or stand up to loved ones. Maybe you speak your truth and drop the mic, or maybe you take it with you when you leave. This anthology features fictional stories—in poems, prose, and art—that reflect a slice of the varied and limitless ways that young people resist every day.



Chlorine Sky

by Mahogany L. Browne

A novel-in-verse about a young girl coming of age and stepping out of the shadow of her former best friend.

*She looks me hard in my eyes
& my knees lock into tree trunks
My eyes don't dance like my heartbeat racing
They stare straight back hot daggers.
I remember things will never be the same.
I remember things.*

This book is about broken promises, fast rumors, and when growing up means growing apart from your best friend.



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