



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# MPS READS!

Selections for March, 2021



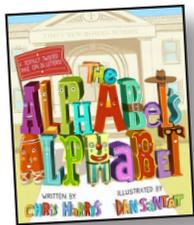
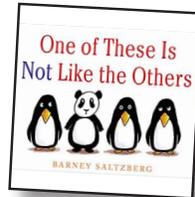
Help children get excited about reading! Each month, a list of featured books will be available to: Assist teachers, librarians, and families in finding quality books to encourage independent reading; offer titles that allow students to see themselves, explore other cultures, and discover more about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

## PRESCHOOL

### ***One of These is Not Like the Others***

by Barney Saltzberg

This book introduces children to inclusiveness by recognizing who or what is different on each page and celebrating unity. When the reader sees three cows and an elephant accompanied by the text “One of these is not like the other,” then turns the page, all four animals take part in an exuberant conga line and say “That’s just fine with us!”



### ***The Alphabet's Alphabet***

by Chris Harris

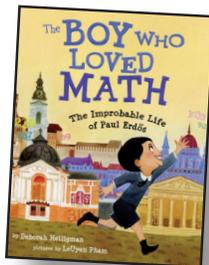
Here’s a totally twisted take on the alphabet that invites readers to look at letters in a whole new way: An A is an H that just won’t stand up right, a B is a D with its belt on too tight, and a Z is an L in a tug-of-war fight! Twenty-six letters, unique from each other — and yet, every letter looks just like one another!

## PRIMARY (GRADES KINDERGARTEN – 2)

### ***A Boy Who Loved Math: The Improbable Life of Paul Erdos***

by Deborah Heiligman

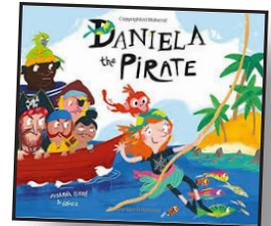
At the age of four, Paul Erdos could ask you when you were born and then calculate in his head the number of seconds you had been alive. But he didn’t learn to butter his own bread until he turned twenty. Instead, he traveled around the world from one mathematician to the next, collaborating on an astonishing number of publications.



### ***Daniela the Pirate/Daniela Pirata***

by Susanna Isern

Is being a pirate only for boys? That’s not what Daniela thinks. She dreams of becoming a pirate on the legendary ship the *Black Croc*. She searches the seven seas until one day, she finally finds it. But these pirates are chauvinistic, particularly Captain Choppylobe, who will make Daniela go through difficult challenges to prove her worth. Will she make it? Will they let her be part of the crew?



## INTERMEDIATE (GRADES 3 – 5)

### ***Seven Golden Rings: A Tale of Music and Math***

by Rajani LaRocca

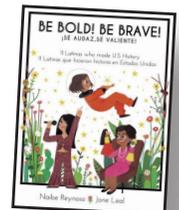
In ancient India, a boy named Bhagat travels to the Rajah’s city, hoping to ensure his family’s prosperity by winning a place at court as a singer. Bhagat carries his family’s entire fortune—a single coin and a chain of seven golden rings—to pay for his lodging. But when the innkeeper demands one ring per night, and every link snapped costs one coin, how can Bhagat both break the chain and avoid overpaying?



### ***Be Bold! Be Brave! 11 Latinas Who Made U.S. History/ Sé Audaz! Sé Valiente!: 11 Latinas que hicieron historia en Estados Unidos***

by Naibe Reynoso

This bilingual book highlights 11 Latinas who excelled in their professions and made U.S. history by accomplishing something that hadn’t been done before in medicine, science, sports, art, and politics. The biographical stories of these outstanding Latinas are presented in rhyming verses so young readers will easily follow their journeys.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6 – 8)

### ***Fighting Words***

by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ten-year-old Della has always had her older sister, Suki. When their mom went to prison, Della had Suki. When their mom's boyfriend took them in, Della had Suki. When that same boyfriend did something so awful they had to run fast, Della had Suki. Suki is Della's own wolf—her protector. But who has been protecting Suki? Then Suki tries to kill herself, and Della's world turns so far upside down, it feels like it's shaking her by the ankles. Maybe she's been quiet about the wrong things. Maybe it's time to be loud.



### ***Amal Unbound***

by Aisha Saeed

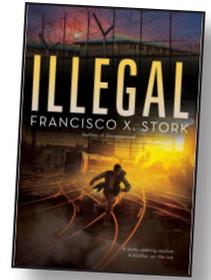
Twelve-year-old Amal's dream of becoming a teacher one day is dashed when she accidentally insults a member of her Pakistani village's ruling family. As punishment, she is forced to leave her heartbroken family behind and go work at their estate. Amal is distraught but has faced setbacks before. She summons her courage and begins navigating the complex rules of life as a servant, with all its jealousies and pecking-order woes. Most troubling is Amal's increasing awareness of the deadly measures the Khan family will go to in order to stay in control. Their hold over her village will never loosen as long as everyone is too afraid to challenge them—so if Amal is to have any chance of ensuring her family's safety and winning back her freedom, she must find a way to work with the other servants to make it happen.

## HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9 – 12)

### ***Illegal***

by Francisco X. Stork

Life in Mexico is a death sentence for Emiliano and his sister Sara. To escape the violent cartel that is after them, they flee across the border, seeking a better life in the United States and hoping they can find a way to bring their pursuers to justice.



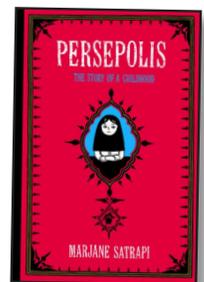
Sara turns herself over to the authorities to apply for asylum. Emiliano enters the country illegally, planning to live with their father. But Sara is held in a detention facility, awaiting an asylum hearing that may never come, finding it harder every day to hold on to her faith and hope. Life for Emiliano is not easy, either. Everywhere he goes, the cartel is closing in on them.

Emiliano sets off on a tense and dangerous race to find justice, but can he expose the web of crimes from his place in the shadows?

### ***Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood***

by Marjane Satrapi

In powerful black-and-white comic strip images, Satrapi tells the story of her life in Tehran from age six to fourteen, years that saw the overthrow of the shah's regime, the triumph of the Islamic Revolution, and the devastating effects of war with Iraq. The intelligent and outspoken only child of committed Marxists and the great-granddaughter of one of Iran's last emperors, Marjane bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country.



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