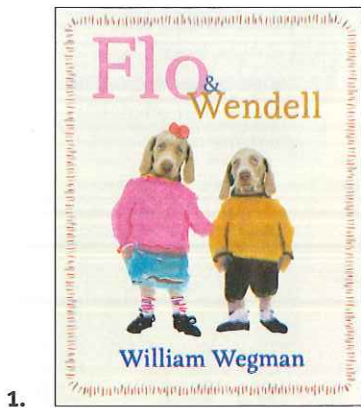
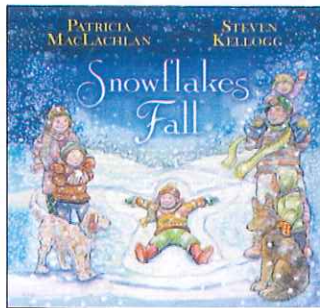


Bright Lights

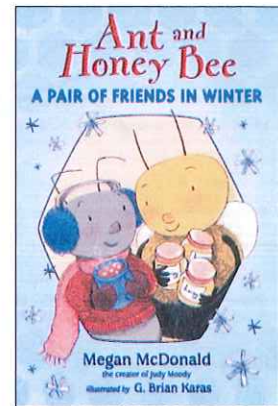
Notable authors on basketball, anagrams, memories of childhood, and a girl and her



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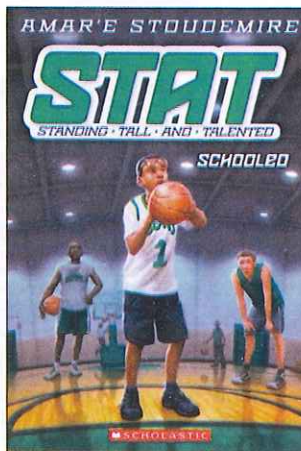
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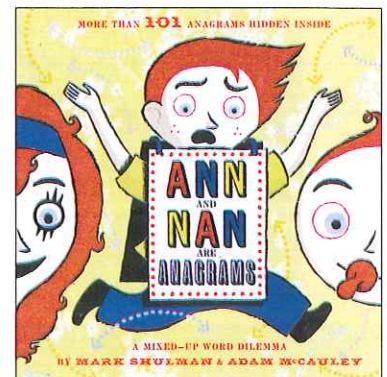
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1. Flo & Wendell By William Wegman. \$16.99. Wegman's famed Weimaraners make an appearance in this wry, sweetly illustrated picture book about "dramatic" Flo and her little brother, Wendell. Grades PreK-2.

2. Friends By Eric Carle. \$17.99. Carle's signature swirls and splashes of saturated color illustrate his latest story, about a boy's mad dash through forests and over mountains to reunite with his best friend. Grades PreK-1.

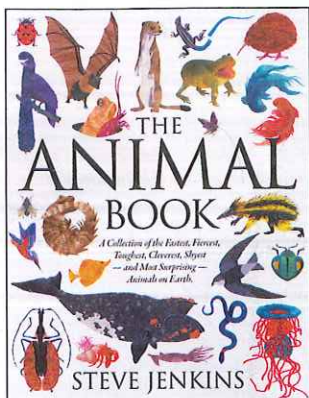
3. Snowflakes Fall By Patricia MacLachlan, illustrated by Steven Kellogg. \$17.99. This book of lovely seasonal stories is a tribute to the children of Sandy Hook (Kellogg was a longtime resident). A literacy fund benefits. Grades PreK-1.

4. STAT #4: Schooled By Amar'e Stoudemire. \$5.99. Kids will love this insider look at basketball as they follow 11-year-old Amar'e on and off the court. Fourth in a series by the captain of the New York Knicks. Grades 3-7.

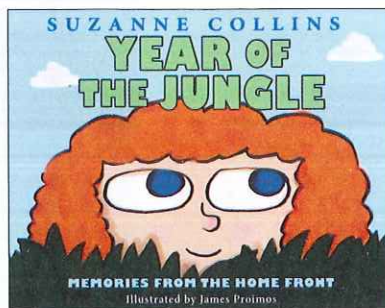
5. Ant and Honey Bee: A Pair of Friends in Winter By Megan McDonald, illustrated by G. Brian Karas. \$14.99. McDonald (Judy Moody) teams with Karas for this early chapter book about two insect friends. Grades K-3.

6. Ann and Nan Are Anagrams By Mark Shulman, illustrated by Adam McCauley. \$16.99. McCauley's wacky illos (Wayside School) complement Shulman's prose in this "hidden" anagram adventure. Grades 1-4.

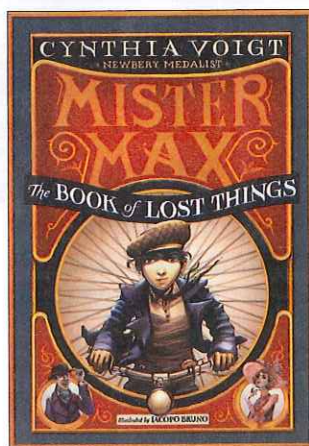
superhero squirrel. BY CHRIS BORRIS



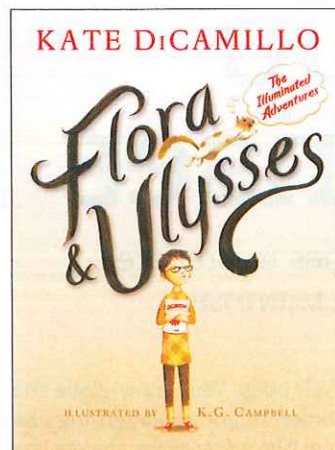
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7. The Animal Book By Steve Jenkins. \$21.99. Jenkins, a Caldecott Honor winner, outdoes himself with a cleverly categorized animal encyclopedia (Lures, Copycats, Siblings) done in his trademark torn-paper style. Grades 4–8.

8. Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things By Cynthia Voigt, illustrated by Iacopo Bruno. \$16.99. Lost parents, dogs, a case of mistaken identity—12-year-old Max, “Solutioneer,” has his hands full in Voigt’s latest. Grades 4–7.

9. Year of the Jungle By Suzanne Collins, illustrated by James Proimos. \$17.99. The idlings of childhood are mixed with anxiety when “Little Sue’s” dad goes to Vietnam. From Hunger Games author Collins. Grades K–2.

10. Flora & Ulysses By Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by K. G. Campbell. \$17.99. DiCamillo again finds heroism in the unlikelyst of places: a literate squirrel, a preteen “cynic,” an unassuming janitor. Not just for kids. Grades 3–7. □



Q&A

Suzanne Collins
Author, *Year of the Jungle*

► **How does the experience of writing a picture book compare to writing novels?** Picture books don’t have very many words, which sounds easy, until you realize that you really need to find the right ones. Fortunately, there’s the art, which can tell a story all by itself. It shows what I couldn’t articulate as a 6-year-old.

► **Talk about collaborating with artist James Proimos.** I told him the idea for the story and realized I couldn’t tell it if he didn’t do the art. We spent hours together where I shared the postcards and other artifacts from that year. Because I trusted him and could talk openly about my experience, I think I was able to go deeper into the story.

► **Can you tell us about the Ogden Nash poem that begins and ends the book?** The poem is “The Tale of Custard the Dragon.” It tells kids that having fear doesn’t mean you’re not brave. The book opens and closes with my dad reading me the poem, but by the end it has a whole different resonance because the characters have experienced real fear.

PHOTO: TODD FLITT



Teachers' Picks
The best books and products for the classroom.