A Band of Angels: A Story Inspired by the Jubilee Singers by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Raul Colon
The daughter of a slave forms a gospel singing group and goes on tour to raise money to save Fisk University. | ALA, NCTE | Lexile: 740

A Symphony of Whales by Steve Schuch, illustrated by Peter Sylvada
Young Glashka's dream of the singing of whales, accompanied by a special kind of music, leads to the rescue of thousands of whales stranded in a freezing Siberian bay. | NCSS, NSTA | Lexile: 600

Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin by Chieri Uegaki, illustrated by Qin Leng (2014)
With the help of her memories of the time she spent in Japan with her ojichan, which is a professional violinist, a young girl named Hana practices and practices playing her violin for her school talent show. | ILA, Nutmeg 2017 | Lexile: 930

John Lincoln Clem: a Civil War Drummer Boy by E. F. Abbott
A fictional retelling of the legend of John Clem, who ran away from his Ohio home to become a drummer boy during the Civil War, and became famous when he was captured in 1863 and was exchanged after a short stay in Andersonville prison. | NCSS, Connecticut Author | Lexile: 680

Little Rat Makes Music by Monika Bang Campbell
Little Rat loves the violin but hates to practice, until her teacher suggests she perform a duet with one of the advanced students at the holiday concert. | ALA | Lexile: 520

The Song from Somewhere Else by A. F. Harrold, illustrated by Levi Pinfold
Saved from bullies by the class misfit, Nick, Frank is drawn to Nick's house by strange music, discovers he has incredible secrets that bring danger, and decides to help him as he helped her. | Lexile: 690

Dear Hank Williams by Kimberly Willis Holt
In Rippling Creek, Louisiana, in 1948, eleven-year-old Tate writes letters to her favorite country singer, sharing her dreams of becoming a singer and revealing that her mother is in prison. | VOYA Perfect Tens | Lexile: 820

Fly Away by Patricia MacLachlan
While in North Dakota helping her Aunt Frankie prepare for a possible flood, Lucy finds her voice as a poet with the help of her two-year-old brother Teddy, the rest of their family, and a few cows. | ILA, Connecticut Author | Lexile: 490

The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Pérez
Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang—violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos. | ALA | Lexile: 670

Sydney & Simon: Go Green! by Paul A. Reynolds, illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds
After discovering that a green sea turtle was harmed by plastic in the ocean, twin mice Sydney and Simon come up with a creative campaign to increase recycling and reduce the amount of trash created in their home, school, and town. | Lexile: 750

The Way to Stay in Destiny by Augusta Scattergood
Sixth-grader Theo leaves everything behind to live with his Uncle Chester, a Vietnam War veteran and loner, in Destiny, Florida, but he is drawn to play the piano in Miss Sister's dance school and soon makes friends with the feisty Anabel, a baseball fanatic who invites Theo to help solve a mystery. | Lexile: 650

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban
Ten-year-old Zoe Elias, who longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the organ, instead, finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life. | Lexile: 730
**POETRY**

*Under the Mambo Moon* by Julia Durango
Contains poems about the different people who stop by Marisol's father's music store on a hot summer night, looking for just the right songs to make their hearts fly home. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 840

*Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat* by Nikki Giovanni
More than 50 poems and an accompanying CD introduce poetry with a beat. | **NCTE**

**NONFICTION**

*Soldier Song: A True Story of the Civil War* by Debbie Levy, illustrated by Gilbert Ford
Provides an account of the important role of songs in rallying Union and Confederate troops during the American Civil War. | **NCSS**

*Let’s Clap, Jump, Sing, & Shout; Dance, Spin, & Turn it Out!: Games, Songs, & Stories from an African American Childhood* by Pat McKissack, illustrated by J. Brian Pinkney
A collection of classic, culturally inspired hand clap games, circle games, songs and poems, including "Enie, Meenie Sassafr sneeny," "Little Sally Walker" and "Amazing Grace." | Lexile: 990

*The Beatles Were Fab (And They Were Funny)* by Kathleen Krull & Paul Brewer, illustrated by Stacy Innerst (2013)
Chronicles the legendary band's rise to prominence and highlights the humor of each member. | **NCTE** | Lexile: 860

*Red Bird Sings: The Story of Zitkala-Sa, Native American Author, Musician, and Activist* by Gina Capaldi, illustrated by Q. L. Pearce
Insight into the life of Gertrude Simmons, a Native American girl who left the Yankton Sioux reservation in South Dakota for a boarding school in Indiana at age eight, learned to express herself through music and words, and went on to become an activist for Native American rights. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 940

*Jimi: Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix* by Gary Golio, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe
An illustrated biography of rock musician Jimi Hendrix, focusing on his childhood, and describing how he developed his unique vision and artistic talents. | **ALA, NCTE** | Lexile: 900

*Duke Ellington* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney
A brief recounting of the career of this jazz musician and composer who, along with his orchestra, created music that was beyond category. | **ALA, NCSS, NCTE** | Lexile: 800

*The Music of Life: Bartolomeo Cristofori & the Invention of the Piano* by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Marjorie Priceman
Presents the life of the inventor of the piano, explaining why, how, and when he created the musical instrument. | **NCTE, NSTA** | Lexile: 980

*When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson the Voice of a Century* by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick
An introduction to the life of Marian Anderson, extraordinary singer and civil rights activist, who was the first African American to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, whose life and career encouraged social change. | **ALA, NCTE, NCSS** | Lexile: 920

*The Music in George’s Head: George Gershwin Creates Rhapsody in Blue* by Suzanne Slade, illustrated by Stacy Innerst
A tribute to George Gershwin depicts a young man who hears music everywhere as he grows up and composes his masterpiece, "Rhapsody in Blue." | **NCSS** | Lexile: 680

*Red Bird Sings: The Story of Zitkala-Sa, Native American Author, Musician, and Activist* by Gina Capaldi, illustrated by Q. L. Pearce
Insight into the life of Gertrude Simmons, a Native American girl who left the Yankton Sioux reservation in South Dakota for a boarding school in Indiana at age eight, learned to express herself through music and words, and went on to become an activist for Native American rights. | **NCSS** | Lexile: 940

*Hello, I'm Johnny Cash* by G. Neri
A portrait of the legendary country music star is told through lyrical free verse that conveys information about his impoverished childhood and the extraordinary talent that enabled his career and rise to success on the world stage. | **ALA, NCSS** | Lexile: 1020

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*Many listed books were selected as exemplary by one or more of the following organizations: the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) or the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY).*
My Name Is Maria Isabel by Alma Flor Ada
Third grader María Isabel, born in Puerto Rico and now living in the U.S., wants badly to fit in at school; and the teacher's writing assignment "My Greatest Wish" gives her that opportunity. | Lexile: 880

Mr. Popper’s Penguins by Richard Atwater
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. | Lexile: 910

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit
The Tuck family is confronted with an agonizing situation when they discover that a ten-year-old girl and a malicious stranger now share their secret about a spring whose water prevents one from ever growing any older. | Lexile: 770

Madeline by Ludwig Bemelmans
Madeline, smallest and naughtiest of the twelve little charges of Miss Clavel, wakes up one night with an attack of appendicitis. | Lexile: 480

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume
Andrew wants freckles so badly that he buys Sharon's freckle recipe for fifty cents. | Lexile: 370

The Stories Julian Tells by Ann Cameron
Relates episodes in seven-year-old Julian's life which include getting into trouble with his younger brother Huey, planting a garden, what he did to try to grow taller, losing a tooth, and finding a new friend. | Lexile: 520

James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
Wonderful adventures abound after James escapes from his fearful aunts by rolling away inside a giant peach. | Lexile: 870

Because of Winn–Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Ten-year-old India Opal Buloni describes her first summer in the town of Naomi, Florida, and all the good things that happen to her because of her big ugly dog Winn–Dixie. | Lexile: 610

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
In winning a medal she is no longer there to receive, a tight-lipped little Polish girl teaches her classmates a lesson. | Lexile: 870

My Father's Dragon by Ruth Stiles Gannett
A young boy determines to rescue a poor baby dragon who is being used by a group of lazy wild animals to ferry them across the river on Wild Island. | Lexile: 990

Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
Paul and his sister Maureen's determination to own a pony from the herd on Chincoteague Island, Virginia, is greatly increased when the Phantom and her colt are among the ponies rounded up for the yearly auction. | Lexile: 750

The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf
Ferdinand likes to sit quietly and smell the flowers, but one day he gets stung by a bee and his snorting and stomping convince everyone that he is the fiercest of bulls. | Lexile: 710

The Tales of Uncle Remus as told by Julius Lester
A retelling of the African American tales about the adventures and misadventures of Brer Rabbit and his friends and enemies. | Lexile: 760

Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
The unexpected delivery of a large crate containing an Antarctic penguin changes the life and fortunes of Mr. Popper, a house painter obsessed by dreams of the Polar regions. | Lexile: 910

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren
Escapades of a lucky little girl who lives with a horse and a monkey — but without any parents — at the edge of a Swedish village. | Lexile: 870

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
When their father invites a mail-order bride to come live with them in their prairie home, Caleb and Anna are captivated by their new mother and hope that she will stay. | Lexile: 560

 Archer's Quest by Linda Sue Park
Twelve-year-old Kevin Kim helps Chu-mong, a legendary king of ancient Korea, return to his own time. | Lexile: 690
Little Red Riding Hood by Jerry Pinkney
A sweet little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother. | Lexile: 840

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather. | Lexile: 590

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold
A young girl dreams of flying above her Harlem home, claiming all she sees for herself and her family. Based on the author's quilt painting of the same name. | Lexile: 790

Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say
A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he also undertakes later, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. | Lexile: 560

Knights of the Kitchen Table by Jon Scieszka
Joe receives a magic book for his birthday present from his uncle. Joe, Fred, and Sam are transported to a time when evil knights, fire-breathing dragons, and vile-smelling giants roamed the land. | Lexile: 630

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein
A boy who turns into a TV set and a girl who eats a whale are only two of the characters in this collection of humorous poetry illustrated with the author's own drawings. | Lexile: 740

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters by John Steptoe
Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife. | Lexile: 720

All-of-a-Kind Family by Sydney Taylor
The adventures of five sisters growing up in a Jewish family in New York in the early twentieth century. | Lexile: 750

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White
Wilbur, the pig, is desolate when he discovers that he is destined to be the farmer's Christmas dinner until his spider friend, Charlotte, decides to help him. | Lexile: 680

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
By the time the Velveteen Rabbit is dirty, worn out, and about to be burned, he has almost given up hope of ever finding the magic called Real. | Lexile: 820

Dragonwings by Lawrence Yep
In the early twentieth century a young Chinese boy joins his father in San Francisco and helps him realize his dream of making a flying machine. | Lexile: 870

Lon Po Po by Ed Young
Three sisters staying home alone are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother. | Lexile: 670

Rumpelstiltskin by Paul O. Zelinsky
A strange little man helps the miller's daughter spin straw into gold for the king on the condition that she will give him her first-born child. | Lexile: 740

**SERIES**

Ramona series by Beverly Cleary
Amber Brown series by Paula Danziger
Bink & Gollie series by Kate DiCamillo
Mercy Watson series by Kate DiCamillo
Sassy series by Sharon Draper
Nikki and Deja series by Karen English
Babymouse series by Jennifer L. Holm
Bunnicula series by James Howe
Frog and Toad series by Arnold Lobel

Gooney Bird series by Lois Lowry
Lulu series by Hilary McKay
Magic Treehouse series by Mary Pope Osborne
Junie B. Jones series by Barbara Park
Clementine series by Sara Pennypacker
Calvin Coconut series by Graham Salisbury
The Time Warp Trio series by Jon Scieszka
EllRay Jakes series by Sally Warner
Commander Toad series by Jane Yolen