



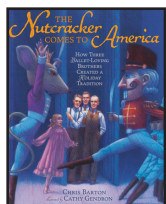
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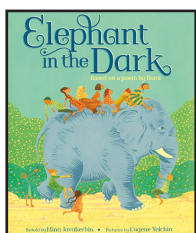
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### Hot Titles - Fall 2015 - Younger Nonfiction

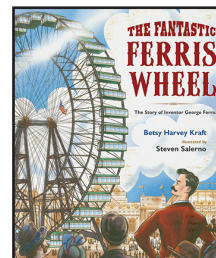


**Barton, Chris. *Nutcracker Comes To America: How Three Ballet-Loving Brothers Created A Holiday Tradition.* (095055)** Millbrook. Ages 7-11. Three brothers growing up in Utah become hooked on ballet and, after many twists and turns in life, end up putting on the then-unknown Russian ballet *The Nutcracker* in San Francisco during World War II. It's a fun story and the three brothers are likeable, creative and obviously devoted to each other. The brief simple text manages to still be insightful and makes good use of fun American language like "shebang". Barton is making a name for himself in young nonfiction with titles like *Day-Glo Brothers* in 2009 and *The Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch* in 2015. This is artist Cathy Gendron's first work in books. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [35 pp.] \$21.61



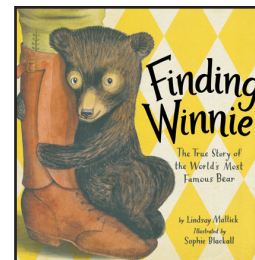
**Javaherbin, Mina. *Elephant In The Dark.* (490126)** Scholastic. Ages 5-7. I believe this is one of the more profound and useful folk tales ever written. It originated with the 13th century Persian poet Rumi and Javaherbin, of Iranian extraction, gives it a humorous twist here, helped by Eugene Yelchin's tongue-in-cheek illustrations. Numerous villagers examine an elephant in a dark barn and come away with quite different conclusions about what kind of creature it is. Javaherbin gave the same treatment to another Rumi poem in *Secret Message* in 2010. Yelchin writes his own books about his native Russia, such as 2014's *Arcady's Goal*. But he primarily illustrates other people's picture books, including Lee Wardlaw's *Won-Ton* books, the latest of which came out this year, *Won-Ton And Chopstick*. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book](#). [31 pp.] \$20.21

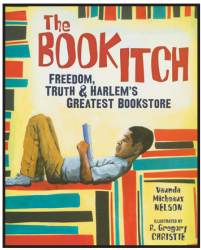
**Kraft, Betsy Harvey. *Fantastic Ferris Wheel: The Story Of Inventor George Ferris.* (530328)** Holt. Ages 6-9. This is not a complete biography but the very specific story of Engineer George Ferris designing and building his giant Ferris Wheel to be a jaw-dropping attraction at Chicago's World's Fair in 1893. This is clearly meant to be an inspirational tale about persistence and thinking creatively. The book has onlookers saying things and thinking things that are plausible but one wonders if they are just made up. Kraft has not published children's nonfiction for over a decade. Steven Salerno does the illustrations and they are sharp, attractive and interesting, particularly the character studies. Salerno specializes in this age group, doing both fiction and nonfiction. His latest were *Boom!* by Mary Lyn Ray in 2013 and *Brothers at Bat* by Audrey Vernick in 2012. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist](#). [42 pp.] \$20.21



**Lynch, P. J. *Boy Who Fell Off The Mayflower: Or John Howland's Good Fortune.* (591076)** Candlewick. Ages 7-10. The Irish artist P. J. Lynch, well-known for his beautiful watercolor picture books, tries his hand at nonfiction by taking an episode from Nathaniel Philbrick's adult book *Mayflower* and bringing it to life for young readers. He probably takes many liberties with dialogue and specific events but tries to stay true to the essence of what happened among the Pilgrims on the ship and in the new land. He provided the art for a similar blend of fiction and nonfiction, Rosemary Well's *Lincoln And His Boys* in 2009. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [64 pp.] \$20.21

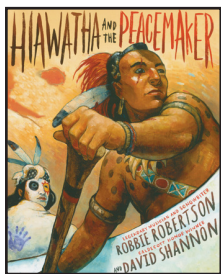
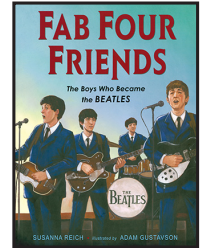
**Mattick, Lindsay. *Finding Winnie: The True Story Of The World's Most Famous Bear.* (613796)** Little. Ages 3-6. The story of a Canadian Army veterinarian who adopts a bear cub on his way to France in World War I. When he goes into combat he leaves the bear, Winnie, in the London Zoo, where the young Christopher Robin Milne is fascinated by him. His father, A. A. Milne, ended up writing a series of books of the imagined adventures of Christopher Robin and his favorite bear, Winnie-the-Pooh. The story is told as a bedtime story to the great grandson of the Army veterinarian. Mattick is actually the veterinarian's granddaughter and this is her first book. The illustrations are by British illustrator Sophie Blackall. In addition to the Ivy & Bean books and many other titles, her latest was the well-received *A Fine Dessert* by Emily Jenkins last spring. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [51 pp.] \$20.22





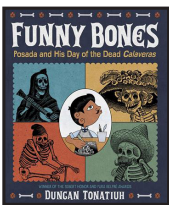
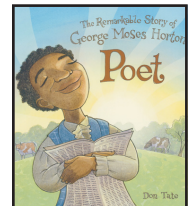
**Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. *Book Itch: Freedom, Truth, & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore.* (670273)** Carolrhoda. Ages 7-10. Nelson tells the story of her great-uncle, Lewis Micheaux, and his long-time bookstore in Harlem, through the eyes of her uncle, Lewis Micheaux, Jr. She focuses on the many African-American celebrities that came through the store and the inspirational sayings that Micheaux made up and posted around the store. This is for very young readers, whereas her biography of Micheaux, *No Crystal Stairs* in 2011, was for older readers. Her biography *Bad News for Outlaws* in 2009 was for readers in between the very youngest and middle school levels. R. Gregory Christie does the bright, impressionistic watercolors for the book. Among the award-winning books illustrated by Christie are both *No Crystal Stairs* and *Bad News for Outlaws*, as well as another Harlem-based book, 2014's *Sugar Hill* by Carole Weatherford. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [33 pp.] **\$20.21**

**Reich, Susanna. *Fab Four Friends: The Boys Who Became The Beatles.* (744958)** Holt. Ages 4-7. Reich gives a short biography of each Beatle leading up to the band's first album coming out. The narrative emphasizes their Liverpool England roots and their personal relationships with each other. The lifelike oil paintings by Adam Gustavson give a classy look to the book. Reich has done several picture book biographies, the most successful of which were *Painting The Wild Frontier* about George Catlin in 2008 and *Minette's Feast* about Julia Child in 2012. Adam Gustavson is a very prolific children's book artist. Lately he has done all the Charley Bumper books by Bill Harley, as well as Sebastian Robertson's *Rock & Roll Highway* in 2014 and Darrin Lunde's *Dirty Rats* last spring. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ](#), [Booklist](#) and [Horn Book](#). [40 pp.] **\$20.21**



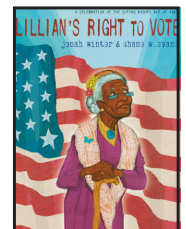
**Robertson, Robbie. *Hiawatha And The Peacemaker.* (758874)** Abrams. Ages 6-9. Robertson, a member of the Mohawk nation and a musician in the legendary rock and roll band, The Band, retells a Mohawk legend from his childhood. The Peacemaker is a mystic who, with his disciple Hiawatha, traveled around the Northeast bringing together the feuding Iroquois nations into one confederation, The Six Nations. Hiawatha is a Mohawk warrior not to be confused with the hero of Longfellow's poem, although there may be some connection. Skilled artist David Shannon's illustrations are a blend of what we think of as primitive Native American art and lush classic oil paintings. This is Robertson's first venture in children's books but Shannon is well-known for his various award-winning *No David* books and our family's personal favorite, *A Bad Case of Stripes* in 2004. Good reviews by [Kirkus](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Booklist+](#) [48 pp.] **\$21.59**

**Tate, Don. *Poet: The Remarkable Story Of George Moses Horton.* (872715)** Peachtree. Ages 6-9. Tate, who has illustrated other people's nonfiction for a number of years is doing more books of his own, such as this one and *It Jes' Happened* in 2012. In this book with simple vocabulary he tells the story of a slave who taught himself to read and became a published poet, although he was 63 years old before the Civil War freed him from slavery. Basic illustrations, with almost a comic book feel, accompany the easy text. Tate's art also appears this year in Chris Barton's *Amazing Age of John Roy Lynch*. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [35 pp.] **\$19.49**



**Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Funny Bones: Posada And His Day Of The Dead Calaveras.* (884829)** Abrams. Ages 6-10. The story of the Mexican artist Jose Lupe Posada who created the cheerful skeleton paintings, or Calaveras, that have become synonymous with the celebration of Mexico's Day of the Dead holiday. Tonatiuh's semi-primitive people with almost totally round heads are mixed up with Calaveras-style drawings to illustrate the very simple text. Tonatiuh burst onto the children's book scene in 2011 with his book about another Mexican artist, *Diego Rivera*, and has several well-reviewed titles since then. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book+](#) [40 pp.] **\$20.89**

**Winter, Jonah. *Lillian's Right To Vote: A Celebration Of The Voting Rights Act Of 1965.* (956828)** Schwartz & Wade. Ages 5-9. Prolific nonfiction writer Winter imagines a 100 year old African American woman on her way to vote in Alabama. Along the way she thinks back on all the struggles for her family and others to get to the point where she can vote, with the highlight being the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The text is fairly limited and easy vocabulary. The pictures are by Shane Evans, who seems to be becoming a bit more representational and less impressionistic as he has moved from his *Underground* in 2011 to his *We March* in 2012 and *28 Days* in 2015. Good reviews by [Kirkus+](#), [SLJ+](#), [Booklist+](#) and [Horn Book](#). [33 pp.] **\$20.21**



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