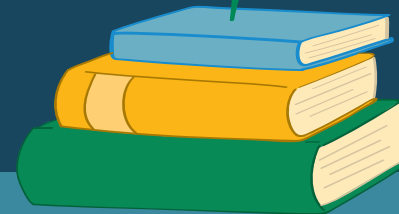


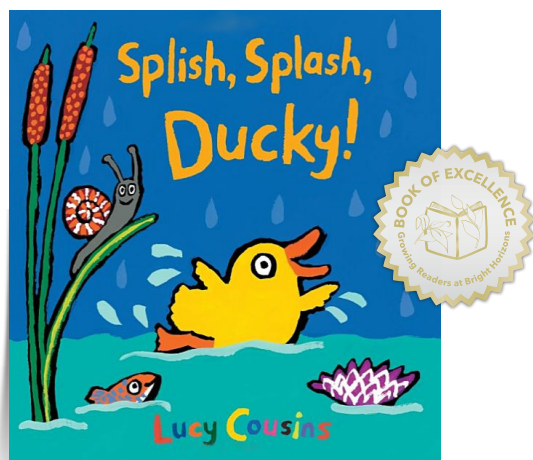
BRIGHT HORIZONS Growing Readers Review

Vol 19
ISSUE 3



Books of Excellence and Notable books are selected annually by a panel of Bright Horizons early childhood experts and represent some of the best new writing in children's literature.

INFANTS & TODDLERS | BH Book of Excellence Award Winner



Splish, Splash, Ducky!

Written and Illustrated by Lucy Cousins

Ducky Duckling is happiest during rainy days. He is playful in the raindrops with his friends. Drip, drop, plip, plop! Readers will enjoy the colorful illustrations and repetitive text as they learn how Ducky's dad shows him he can have fun in any weather.

“The duck is happy. quack, quack, quack!”
— JOHAN, AGE 2

Center: JPMorgan Chase, Brooklyn, NY

PRESCHOOL | BH Book of Excellence Award Winner

Julián is a Mermaid

Written and illustrated by Jessica Love

This beautifully diverse book features a young Spanish boy named Julián who has visions of being a mermaid. He is uncertain of how his Abuela (grandmother) will react if she finds out how he feels, so he hides the fact that he secretly wants to dress in a mermaid costume he created. This is a story of inclusion, acceptance, love, and the ability to be who you are and find comfort in it. Subtle diversity is found throughout, with Spanish in some of the phrases, along with very vibrant clothing, and mermaids of different skin-tones and sizes. There are few words, but the illustrations allow the reader to put themselves in Julián's shoes. Children and teachers will marvel at this book for its messages of self-confidence and inclusion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Jessica Love is the author and illustrator of this, her first publication. She has a BA in Studio Art and a drama degree.



“Some boys can be mermaids if they want to and some girls too only if they learn how to breathe under water.” — MIA, AGE 5

Center: JPMorgan Chase, San Antonio, TX

Rescue and Jessica

**Written by Jessica Kensky & Patrick Downes;
Illustrated by Scott Magoon**

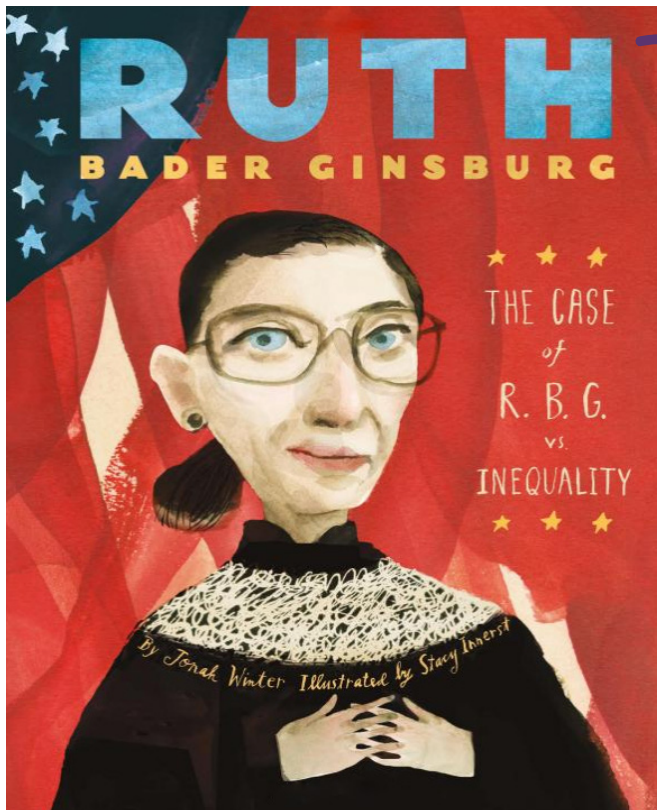
Based on a true story about Jessica, who lost her legs as a result of the bombings at the Boston Marathon, this book beautifully articulates the connection between a dog and a human. Once nervous and afraid, both Jessica and her dog, Rescue, learn how to enjoy life together.

“It shows how much dogs care about humans and how much dogs will do to help. – KAYLA, AGE 10

Center: JPMorgan Chase, Fountain Square, Tampa, FL



SPECIAL INTEREST BOOK



This issue's special interest book is a school-age selection focused on one of the Supreme Court's female justices, Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

Ruth Bader Ginsberg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality

**Written by Jonah Winter; Illustrated by
Stacy Innerst**

Ruth Bader Ginsberg: The Case of R.B.G. vs. Inequality is the true life story of Justice Ginsberg's life. She has persisted in the face of oppression and inequality, both personally and collectively, and has won many battles against injustice in the face of overwhelming odds. School-agers will find Justice Ginsberg's life story inspirational.

Notable Books

Other great books we recommend.

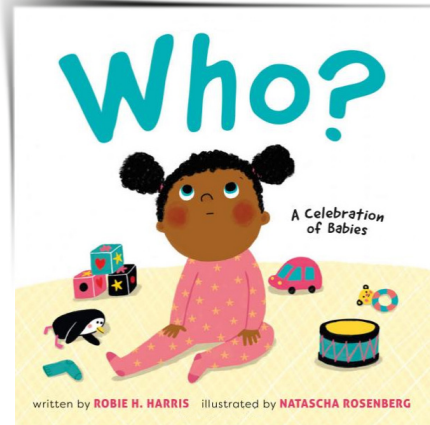


Who? A Celebration of Babies

Written by Robie H. Harris; Illustrated by Natascha Rosenberg

INFANTS & TODDLERS

The rhyming words and soft illustrations will pull you into this sweet book about infants' daily relationships with the people, objects, and pets they love the most.

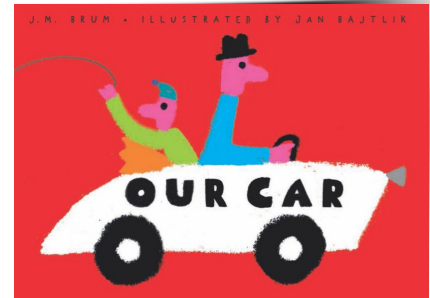


Our Car

Written by J.M. Brum; Illustrated by Jan Bajtlik

INFANTS & TODDLERS

This simple story with engaging illustrations takes us on an adventure with a boy and his dad in their convertible. Sun, rain, wind, a flat tire, and a car wash are all part of their great ride!

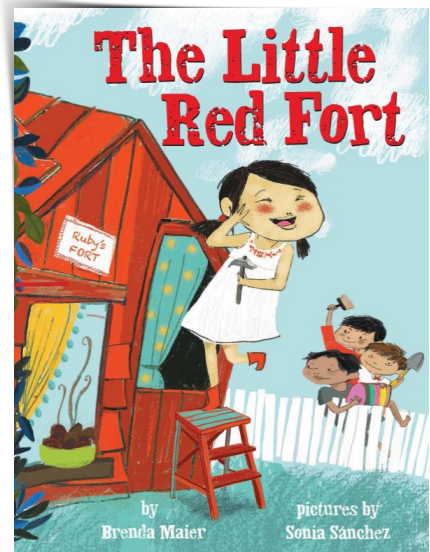


The Little Red Fort

Written by Brenda Maier; Illustrated by Sonia Sánchez

PRESCHOOL

Ruby has decided to build a fort. While her brothers taunt her for not knowing how, Ruby resolves to learn what it takes to execute her plan. With determination, she creates a fort that even her brothers can admire. This happy book shares Ruby's architectural adventure step by step while showcasing her positive attitude.



Notable Books

CONTINUED...

Snap a photo to link to the **Growing Readers** website for more book recommendations.

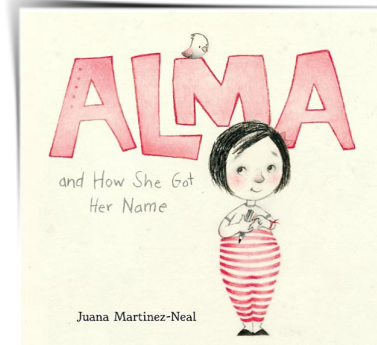


Alma and How She Got Her Name

Written and Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal

PRESCHOOL

Alma Sofia Esperanza José Pura Candela struggles with her long name. She tells her dad her name “doesn’t fit”. When she learns of the origin of her name, Alma develops a sense of pride, history and family.

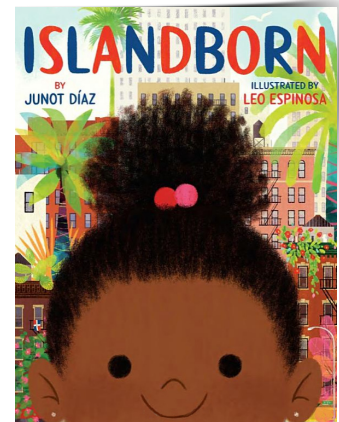


Island Born

Written by Junot Díaz; Illustrated by Leo Espinosa

SCHOOL-AGE

Too young to remember her homeland, Lola connects with her heritage through a school assignment by asking family and friends to share stories of the Island with her. In the process she realizes the Island is a part of her own history and identity even though it is far away in her past.



Between the Lines

Written by Sandra Neil Wallace; Illustrated by Bryan Collier

SCHOOL-AGE

As an African American male growing up in the South during segregation, Ernie Barnes loved art but found it was his football talent that earned him a college scholarship. This story describes Ernie’s interesting journey to combine football and art into a successful career.

