

**Kennebec Valley Book Award Books 2016-2017**  
**Selected by the RSU#38 Elementary Library Team**  
**All books are 2015 copyright**

1. Avi. Old Wolf. Atheneum Books. 160 p. A wolf and bird must fight the starving time and find food, while a human boy learns how to hunt. Lexile 630. Fantasy/Adventure.
2. Barton, Chris. Nutcracker Comes to America: How Three Ballet Loving Brothers Created a Holiday Tradition. Milbrook Press. 40p. How did the 19 century Russian ballet The Nutcracker become such a big part of the holidays in the 21 century? It all started with 3 brothers from Utah who loved to dance. They presented The Nutcracker to America in 1944 at the War Memorial Opera House, San Francisco California. Lexile 920. Informational/Arts.
3. Bond, Rebecca. Escape From Baxter's Barn. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing. 240p. When Burdock, a young barn cat, sneaks into the house to get warm he hears that the farmer, Dewey Baxter, has terrible plans that will endanger all the animals, and he leads them in an attempt to escape before it is too late. Lexile 800. Fiction/Humorous
4. Bond, Rebecca. Out of the Woods: A True Story of an Unforgettable Event. Farrar Straus Giroux Books. 40p. Antonio Wille Giroux lived in a hotel his mother ran on the edge of a lake. He loved to explore the woods and look for animals, but they always remained hidden away. One hot, dry summer, when Antonio was almost five, disaster struck: a fire rushed through the forest. Antonio never forgot this moment in his life when he watched the distance between people and animals disappear. Lexile 990. Informational/History.
5. Dannenberg, Julie. John Muir Wrestles a Waterfall. Charlesbridge. 32p. The now iconic figure John Muir, while living at the base of Yosemite Falls in California, ventures up the trail from his cabin one night and has a harrowing waterfall adventure. Lexile 970. Biography/Memoir.
6. Fern, Tracey. W is for Webster: Noah Webster and his American Dictionary. Farrar Straus Giroux. 40p. Noah thought America needed its own national language, and he was the man to create it. He decided to compile a complete comprehensive dictionary of American English. He thought it would take him 5 years to finish, it took him 20. Biography/Memoir.
7. Foreman, Michael. Tortoise and the Soldier: A Story of Courage & Friendship in World War I. 128p. Henry Holt & Co. As a boy, Henry Friston dreamed of traveling the world. He thought he was signing up for a lifetime of adventure when he joined the Royal Navy. When WW I begins, it launched the world and Henry into turmoil. While facing enemy fire at Gallipoli, Henry discovers the strength he needs to survive in an unexpected source; a tortoise. So begins the friendship of a life time. Based on true events. Informational/History.
8. Grabenstein, Chris. Island of Dr. Libris. Random House. 272p. What if your favorite characters came to life? Billy's spending the summer in a lakeside cabin that belongs to the mysterious Dr. Libris. Something strange is going on. Whenever Billy opens a book he can hear sounds coming from the island in the middle of the lake. It's almost as if the stories he's reading are coming to life! But that's impossible....or is it? Lexile 640. Fiction/Fantasy.
9. Greenwald, Tommy. Crime Biters! My Dog is Better than Your Dog. Scholastic. 280p. Jimmy Bishop loves 3 things: Laughing at funny dog videos, watching "Stop! Police!" on TV, and reading his favorite vampire book over and over. When Jimmy's family adopts a dog, he becomes convinced she is a super crime fighting vampire dog. Lexile 590. Fiction/Animal.
10. Hopkins, Lee Bennett. Amazing Places. Lee & Low Books. 40p. A collection of poems bring together fourteen sections that celebrate through poetic imagery some of the amazing diverse places in our nation. Poetry.

11. Jenkins, Steve. How to Swallow a Pig: Step by Step Advice from the Animal Kingdom. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing. 32p. Have you ever wondered how animals perform their tasks. This book gives you number by number steps demonstrating how to repel insects like a capuchin monkey, catch a meal like a crocodile or defend oneself like an armadillo. Lexile 940. Informational/Animals.
12. Lord, Cynthia. Handful of Stars. Scholastic. 192p. When Lily's blind dog, Lucky, slips his collar and runs away across the wide open blueberry barrens of eastern Maine, it's Selma Santiago who manages to catch him. This forms a friendship that touches upon prejudice, loss and love. Lexile 690. Fiction/Realistic.
13. Lynch, P.J. Boy Who Fell Off the Mayflower, or John Howland's Good Fortune. Candlewick Press. 64p. John Howland was an indentured servant to Pilgrim John Carver. John didn't realize the adventure he was about to embark when he stepped foot on the Mayflower, his good fortune prevailed. Lexile 940. Biography/Memoir.
14. Macfarlane, John. Stormstruck!. Holiday House. 160p. This gripping adventure at sea skillfully blends a suspenseful survival story, a heart wrenching boy and his dog tale and the sensitive treatment of a youngster coming to terms with the death of a family member. Lexile 700. Fiction/Survival.
15. Mattick, Lindsey. Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear. Little Brown Book. 56p. In 1914, Harry Colebourn, a veterinarian on his way to tend horses in WW I, followed his heart and rescued a baby bear. He named her Winnie, after his home town of Winnipeg. This is the sweet tale of the black bear that inspired the legendary children's book character Winnie the Pooh. Lexile 590. Informational/History.
16. McCarthy, Meghan. Earmuffs for Everyone: How Chester Greenwood Became Known as the Inventor of the Earmuffs. Simon & Schuster Books. 48p. When your ears are cold, you can wear earmuffs, but that wasn't true for Chester Greenwood back in 1873. Earmuffs didn't exist yet! During a long cold Maine winter, Chester decided to do something about his freezing ears, he designed the first pair of ear protectors. Lexile 720. Biography/Memoir.
17. McCully, Emily Arnold. Queen of the Diamond: The Lizzie Murphy Story. Farrar Straus Giroux. 32p. Lizzie Murphy was good at baseball. In fact, she was better than most of the boys. But she was born in 1894, and everyone said baseball was not a game for girls. Lizzie practiced anyway and became the first female to play on a professional baseball team. Lexile 400. Biography.
18. McGhee, Alison. Firefly Hollow. Atheneum Books. 304p. Because their dreams of daring adventure go against the cautious teachings of the nations, Firefly and Cricket set out on their own. They find a home with a kindly vole and together help a grieving "miniature giant" named Peter. Lexile 690. Fiction/Fantasy.
19. Nannestad, Katrina. When Mischief Came to Town. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing. 192p. When Inge Maria arrives on the tiny island of Bornholm in Denmark to live with her grandmother, she's not sure what to expect. Her grandmother is stern, the people of the island are strange and children are supposed to be seen not heard. No matter how hard Inge tries to be good, mischief has a way of finding her. Could it be that a bit of mischief is exactly what Grandmother and the people of Bornholm need? Lexile 930. Fiction/Realistic.
20. Parker, Jane. Lily of the North: The True Story of Lillian Nordica, a Maine Diva. Maine Authors Publishing. 34p. Lily Norton was born in 1857 in Farmington Maine. Despite difficult circumstances, her family found great joy in music and eventually recognized young Lily's remarkable talent. Lily's parents determination and sacrifice enabled her to study with the era's most accomplished vocalists and teachers. Known as Lillian Nordica, she became one of the world's most famous opera stars. Biography.

21. Paul, Miranda. One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia. Millbrook Press. 32p. Plastic bags don't disintegrate. They accumulate along roadsides where water pools in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease or kill livestock that tries to eat them. Isatou Ceesay changed all that, she found away to recycle the bags and transform her community. Lexile 480. Informational/Environmental.
22. Paulsen, Gary. Field Trip. Scholastic. 128p. Ben has been invited to try out for a special hockey academy. Dad wants Ben to catch up to the school field trip instead. So Ben, Dad and their dogs jump into their truck. Ben and Dad's trip turns into a wacky adventure full of new friends and surprises. Lexile 780. Fiction/Humorous.
23. Pennypacker, Sara. Completely Clementine. Disney Hyperion. 208p. Third grade is ending and Clementine feels anxious as the school year comes to a close. She does not like saying goodbye, and she's especially not ready to bid farewell to Mr. D'Matz. She's also worried about her mother's nutty "nesting" behavior as the new baby's birth approaches. Lexile 720. Fiction/Realistic.
24. Perkins, Matali. Tiger Boy. Charlesbridge. 144p. A tiger cub has escaped from a reserve in the Sunderbans in West Bengal, India. Neel, a poor boy from the island, is determined to find her in order to save her from being captured and sold on the black market by Mr. Coupta and his men. Lexile 770. Fiction/Realistic.
25. Polacco, Patricia. Tucky Jo. Simon & Schuster. 48p. A fifteen year old soldier in WW II meets a sweet young girl in the Philippines who helps him remember what he is fighting for as helps her and others of her village avoid starvation. Many years later the girl is able to return his act of kindness. Lexile 740. Informational/History.
26. Rappaport, Doreen. Fredrick's Journey: The Life of Frederick Douglass. Disney. Fredrick Douglass escaped to the North when he was 20, where he spread his abolitionist beliefs through newspaper articles, autobiographies and speeches. He believed that all people, regardless of color or gender were entitled to equal rights. Lexile 770. Biography.
27. Ray, Deborah Kogan. The Impossible Voyage of Kon-Tiki. Charlesbridge. 40p. Combining history with culture, the ocean with exploration, and risk with triumph, this is the story of Thor Heyerdahl's world famous Kon-Tiki exploration, which he sailed a raft 5,000 miles from the coast of South America to the islands of the South Pacific. Lexile 990. Informational/History.
28. Rockliff, Mara. Mesmerized: How Ben Franklin Solved a Mystery that Baffled All of France. Candlewick Press. 45p. Discover how Ben Franklin's scientific method challenged a certain Dr. Mesmer's mysterious powers in a whimsical look at a true moment in history. Lexile 690. Informational/History.
29. Rosen, Michael. Tale of Rescue. Candlewick Press. 112p. When a blizzard traps a family outside in a whiteout, a cattle dog devises a stunning rescue to save them. Lexile 970. Fiction/Survival.
30. Rozier, Lucy Margaret. Jackrabbit McCabe & the Electric Telegraph. Schwartz & Wade Books. 40p. Jackrabbit McCabe's unusually long legs have made him the fastest thing around. When the electric telegraph arrives in Windy Flats, Jackrabbit may have met his match. Lexile 930. Tall Tale.
31. Smith, Matthew Clark. Small Wonders: Jean-Henri Fabre and His World of Insects. 40p. Two Lions, a moth with a sixth sense, a wasp that hunts beetles nearly twice its size. The lives of fascinating creatures such as these were unknown until one man introduced them to the world. Lexile 880. Biography.
32. Tarish, Lauren. I Survived the Great Chicago Fire, 1871. Scholastic. 112p. Oscar Starling never wanted to come to Chicago. Oscar finds himself not just in the heart of the big city, but in the middle of a terrible fire! No one knows exactly how it began, but one thing is clear: Chicago is like a giant powder keg about to explode. Lexile 730. Fiction/Realistic.

33. Tavares, Matt. Growing Up Pedro. Candlewick Press. 40p. Before Pedro Martinez pitched the Red Sox to a World Series, before he was named to the All-Star team eight times, before he won the Cy Young Award three times, he was a kid from a place called Manoguauabo in the Dominican Republic. Lexile 820. Biography.
34. Wallmark, Laurie. Ada Byron Lovelace and the Thinking Machine. Creston Books. 40p. Ada Lovelace was the first to write a computer program more than 100 years before the first computer was built. Ever since she was a young girl, Ada was fascinated by numbers, leading her into the study of science and math. Biography.
35. Willems, Mo. Story of Diva and Flea. Hyperion Books. 80p. Diva, a small yet brave dog, and Flea a curious street cat, develop an unexpected friendship. Lexile 750. Fiction/Fantasy.
36. Winter, Jonah. Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Penguin Random House. 40p. An elderly African woman, enroute to vote, remembers her family's tumultuous voting history. The voting Rights Act of 1965 allowed all the right to vote. Lexile 1030. Informational/History.