

Kennebec Valley Book Award Books 2017-2018
Selected by the RSU#38 Elementary Library Team
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1. Barton, Chris. Whoosh!: Lonnie Johnson's Super Soaking Stream of Inventions. Charlesbridge. 32p. The Super Soaker is one of top twenty toys of all time and it was invented by accident. Trying to create a new cooling system for refrigerators and air conditioners Lonnie realized his new pump and nozzle would make a great water gun. Lexile 820. Biography.
2. Brown, Peter. The Wild Robot. Little Brown Company 273p. When Robot Roz opens her eyes for the first time, she discovers that she is alone on a remote, wild island. She has no idea how she got there or what her purpose is. Her only hope for survival is to try to learn about her new environment from the islands' hostile inhabitants. Lexile 740. Fantasy.
3. Bryant, Jen. Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille. Knopf Books. 40p. Louis Braille was 5 yrs. old when he lost his sight. More than anything he wanted to learn to read. He invented his own alphabet, a whole new system for writing that could be read by touch - a system so ingenious that it is still used by the blind community today. Biography.
4. Burleigh, Robert. Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor. Simon & Schuster. 40p. Maria Tharp was a pioneering woman scientist and the first person to ever successfully map the ocean floor. Lexile 750. Biography.
5. Churnin, Nancy. The William Hoy Story: How a Deaf Baseball Player Changed the Game. Albert Whitman & Company. 32p. All William Hoy wanted to do was play baseball. William practiced hard, eventually earning a spot on a professional team. Not being able to hear the umpires, due to his deafness, he asked them to use hand signals to call a strike, ball or out, changing the way baseball was played forever. Lexile 620. Biography.
6. Corey, Shana. The Secret Subway. Swartz & Wade. 40p. New York City in the 1860's was a disgusting dirty mess and crowded. Something had to be done. Alfred Ely Beach was a thinker, an inventor and a man of action. Secretly he invented the first pneumatic train, where people took turns swooshing down the track and back. Lexile 810. Biography.
7. Cousteau, Philippe. Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids and a Hundred Sea Turtles. Chronicle Books. 48p. The author delivers an eloquent environmental message while demonstrating how kids can change the world through teamwork and perseverance. Lexile NC520. Environmental.
8. Creech, Sharon. Moo. Harper Collins. 288p. When Reena, her little brother Luke and their parents move to Maine, Reena doesn't know what to expect. She's ready for beaches, blueberries and lobster. Instead her parents volunteer her and her brother to work for their eccentric neighbor who has a pig named Paula, a cat named China, a snake named Edna and a stubborn cow named Zora. New experiences can bring surprising adventures. Lexile 790. Realistic Fiction.
9. Diamond, Jill. Lou Lou and Pea and the Mural Mystery. Farrar, Straus, Giroux. 272p. Two best friends with a flair for adventure, use their gardening skills and art talents to catch a criminal in their small quirky California neighborhood. Mystery.
10. Drummond, Allan. Green City: How One Community Survived a Tornado and Rebuilt for a Sustainable Future. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. 40p. In 2007, a tornado destroyed Greenburg, Kansas. The residents were at a loss as to what to do. They didn't want to rebuild if their small town would be destroyed in another storm. They decided they wouldn't just rebuild the same old thing, but one that was built in an environmentally sustainable way. Lexile 770. Environmental

11. Fleming Candace. Giant Squid. Roaring Brooks Press. 40p. In the depths of the oceans lives a mysterious sea creature as big as a bus! Until 2012 the giant squid had never been photographed in its natural habitat. Open this book to meet the creepy but fascinating giant squid. Lexile 1060. Animal
12. Fogliano, Julia. When Green Becomes Tomatoes: Poems for All Seasons. Roaring Brook Press. 56p. Celebrate the four seasons through journal entries in poetic form. Poetry.
13. Ford, Gilbert. The Marvelous Thing that Came from a Spring: The Accidental Invention of the Toy That Swept the Nation. Atheneum Books. 40p. Richard James, a mechanical engineer, was developing a system to steady fragile equipment on ships when one day he accidentally knocked a spring off his desk. He knew, as it fell, that he had stumbled onto an idea for a new toy. Biography.
14. Frost, Helen. Applesauce Weather. Candlewick Press. 112p. The fall of the first apple from the tree is the signal to Faith and Peter that it is applesauce weather. Peter and Faith aren't sure if Uncle Arthur will make it this year, as it is his first fall without his beloved Lucy. Lexile 650. Realistic Fiction.
15. Giff, Patricia Reilly. Jubilee. Wendy Lamb Books. 160p. Judith stopped talking long ago when her mother left her in the care of her beloved Aunt Cora. Going back into a regular classroom won't be easy, but she has her dog and a new friend who helps her manage it. Lexile 540. Realistic Fiction.
16. Greenwald, Tommy. It's a Doggy World.(Crimebiters! #2) Scholastic. 229p. Sit, stay, fetch the crook. That used to describe my dog, Abby. Then my parents enrolled her in obedience school. Now Abby's acting like every other boring dog instead of the superhero vampire crime fighter I know she is. The gang needs to help me get Abby back to her old crime-biting self. Mystery.
17. Guiberson, Brenda Z. The Deadliest Creature in the World. Henry Holt. 32p. Which creature is the deadliest? Is it the insect that bites, the ostrich that kicks, the snake that squeezes or the shrew that paralyzes? Fascinating facts will help you choose which creature is the deadliest. Lexile 800. Animal.
18. Henson, Heather. Lift Your Light a Little Higher: The Story of Stephen Bishop: Slave-Explorer. Atheneum. 32p. Grab your lantern and follow the remarkable and world famous Mammoth Cave explorer and slave Stephan Bishop as he guides you through the world's largest cave system in this remarkable homage to the resilience of human nature. Lexile 670 Biography.
19. Hood, Susan. Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay. Simon & Schuster. 40p. The extraordinary true tale of an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash. Lexile 820. Music.
20. Hooks, Gwendolyn. Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas. Lee & Low Books. 32p. Vivien Thomas had to overcome hardship from living during the Great Depression, housing discrimination and racism. He worked hard to pursue his goal of becoming a neonatal surgeon although it didn't turn out the way he hoped. Lexile 920. Biography.
21. Jenkins, Steve. Flying Frogs and Walking Fish. HMH books. 40p. Every living creature requires a way to travel. Each comes equipped with legs, wings, or tentacles and often moves from place to place in surprising ways. Lexile 900. Animals. (Amazon has a look at how the book was made, check it out.)
22. Kelly, Jacqueline. Skunked! (Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet). Henry Holt. 112p. When softhearted Travis discovers an abandoned baby skunk, he can't help but bring it home and take care of it. Stinky, as Travis has named him, settles in pretty well. When Stinky's litter-mate is added to the mix things get complicated around the Tate house. Realistic Fiction.

23. Klimo, Kate. Cinders (Horse Diaries #13). Random House. 176p. In the 1800's, firefighters needed horses to pull the fire trucks. The horses could get easily spooked and run away from the fire, so they needed fire dogs to keep them calm. Cinder tells his side of the story and how he had to stay brave during the Great Chicago Fire. Lexile 650. Historical Fiction.
24. Klimo, Kate. Sparky (Dog Diaries). Random House. 160p. In the 1800's, firefighters needed horses to pull the fire trucks. Horses could easily get spooked and run away from the fire. Fire dogs helped to keep the horses calm. Sparky tells her story of helping the horses especially during the Great Chicago Fire. Lexile 660. Historical Fiction.
25. Kuhlmann, Torben. Armstrong: Journey of a Mouse to the Moon. NorthSouth Books. 128p. A story about a clever mouse's fascination with the moon. His telescope shows him that the moon is actually "a giant ball of stone", not the big ball of cheese his friends say it is. A visit to the Smithsonian gives him the encouragement he needs to pursue his dream of reaching the moon. Stunning illustrations. Fantasy.
26. Levy, Debbie. Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark. Simon & Schuster. 40p. Ruth B. Ginsburg grew up in a time different from today. Girls were taught to aspire to be wives and mothers, not study at college and become lawyers. Ruth spent her life time disagreeing with inequality, arguing against unfair treatment and standing up for what's right for people everywhere. Lexile 710. Biography.
27. MacLachlan, Patricia. The Poet's Dog. Katherine Tegen Books. 96p. Teddy is a gifted dog who can hear poets and children speak. One day he is able to rescue two children from a snowstorm. He is able to comfort them during a scary situation with his comforting words. Lexile 550. Fantasy.
28. Macy, Sue. Miss Mary Reporting. Simon & Schuster. 40p. Sports reporter, Mary Garber, became a sportswriter at a time when there were few women in the field. Women were not welcome in the press box, in the locker room or on the sidelines. Her love of sports, her fierce determination and independent spirit gave her the tools she needed to succeed. Lexile NC 910. Biography.
29. Miller, Pat. The Hole Story of the Doughnut. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 40p. In 1843 14 yr. old Hanson Gregory left his home in Rockport, ME and set sail as a cabin boy on the schooner Achorn, looking for high-stakes adventure on the high seas. Little did he know that a boatload of hungry sailors, coupled with his knack for creative problem solving, would yield one of the world's most prized and beloved pastries. Lexile AD900. Biography.
30. Nolan, Janet. Seven and a Half Tons of Steel. Peachtree Publishing. 36p. There is a ship, a Navy ship, called the USS New York. It is big like other Navy ships and it sails like other Navy ships, but there is something special about the USS New York. It has a connection with September 11, 2001. Lexile 820.
31. O'Connor, Barbara. Wish. Farrar Straus and Giroux. 240p. Charlie Reese has been making the same secret wish everyday since 4th grade. She even has a list of all the ways there are to make the wish. When she is sent to the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina to live with a family she barely knows, it seems unlikely her wish will come true. That is until she meets Wishbone, a skinny stray dog who captures her heart and Howard, a neighbor who surprises her in lots of ways. Lexile 850. Realistic Fiction.
32. Plourde, Lynn. Maxi's Secret: (Or What You Can Learn From a Dog). Nancy Paulsen Books. 272p. Timminy knows that moving to a new town to start middle school when you are a perfect size for bullying is not that much fun. He gets a new dog as a consolation prize for moving. His dog teaches him acceptance and to have a better attitude. Lexile 650. Realistic Fiction.

33. Rappaport, Doreen. Elizabeth Started all the Trouble. Disney, Hyperion. 40p. She couldn't go to college, she couldn't become a politician, she couldn't even vote. Elizabeth Cady Stanton didn't let that stop her. She called on women across the nation to demand equal rights. Through determination, things very slowly began to change. Lexile 790. Biography.
34. Rockwell, Anne. A Spy Called James: The True Story of James Lafayette. Revolutionary Double Agent. Millbrook Press. 32p. James Lafayette was a slave who spied for George Washington's army during the Revolutionary War. The information he gathered helped win the battle at Yorktown. While America celebrated their new nation, James had to return to slavery. His service didn't qualify him to gain freedom. James had to continue fighting for his freedom. Lexile 940. Biography.
35. Telgemeier, Raina. Ghosts. Scholastic. 239p. Catrina and her family are moving to the coast of Northern California because her little sister, Maya, is sick. A neighbor lets them in on a secret: there are ghosts in Bahia de La Luna. Maya is determined to meet one, but Cat wants nothing to do with them. Cat must figure out how to put aside her fears for her sister's sake, and her own. Lexile 300. Graphic Novel.
36. Troupe, Thomas Kingsley. Blizzard!: A Tale of Snow-Blind Survival. Stone Arch Books. 56p. Jeff and his best friend, Keith are ice fishing in the middle of a big lake. It's been snowing for hours and the fish aren't biting, but they're having a blast, until the storm of the decade closes in. Lexile 580. Survival.