

Ladybug Picture Book Award

2026 Nominees



Aggie and the Ghost

by Matthew Forsythe

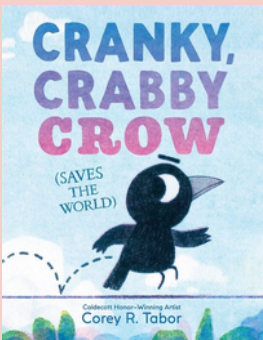
Aggie is very excited to live on her own—until she finds out her new house is haunted. But no fear, the situation can be fixed with a carefully considered list of *No haunting after dark. No stealing socks. No eating all the food.* But the ghost doesn't like playing by the rules and challenges Aggie to an epic game of tic-tac-toe—winner gets the house.



Broken

by X. Fang

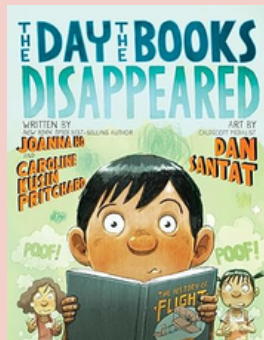
When Mei Mei accidentally breaks her ama's favorite cup, she's convinced it's the end of the world. What if Ama is angry? What if she yells? Mei Mei can't face it. But when Mimi, the innocent cat who, ends up being blamed, the guilt is too much! Mimi's accusing eyes follow Mei Mei until she just can't take it anymore, and the truth comes spilling out.



Cranky, Crabby Crow (Saves the World)

by Corey R. Tabor

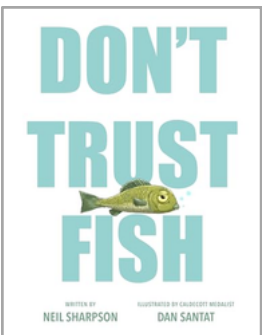
Cranky, crabby Crow does not want to play with Squirrel or do loop-de-loops with Hummingbird. He doesn't have time for Rat or Bat. From high atop a telephone pole, Cat warns Crow that he will soon be all alone if he turns all his friends away. But Crow has bigger, world-saving fish to fry—he must protect planet Earth from an asteroid headed our way!



The Day the Books Disappeared

by Joanna Ho, Caroline Kusin Pritchard, and Dan Santat

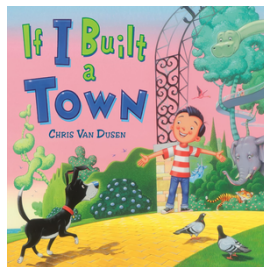
Arnold didn't mean for the books to disappear—not exactly. It all started because he liked his book about airplanes best. Why would anyone want to read about anything else? When Arnold realizes he can make the other books vanish, he goes a little too far. Before he knows it, all the books are gone...including his. Can Arnold figure out how to bring them back before it's too late?



Don't Trust Fish

by Neil Sharpson and Dan Santat

Why, dear reader, must you NEVER EVER trust fish? 1) They spend all their time in the water where we can't see them. 2) Some are as big as a bus—that is not okay. 3) We don't know what they're teaching in their "schools." 4) They are likely plotting our doom. This nature-guide-gone-wrong is a hilarious, off-the-rails exploration of the seemingly innocent animals that live in the water.



If I Built A Town

by Chris van Dusen

"My town will be swanky! My town will be swell! My town will be prized as the best place to dwell," says Jack to the mayor as he describes his plans for the town he has dreamed up! The zoo is packed with fantastic creatures, the mail is delivered by hover vans, the health clinic comes to your door, and a parade passes through each week! All of Jack's plans include the most exciting and useful serving machines. But most of all, wait till you see the beach!



The Man Who Didn't Like Animals

by Deborah Underwood and LeUyen Pham

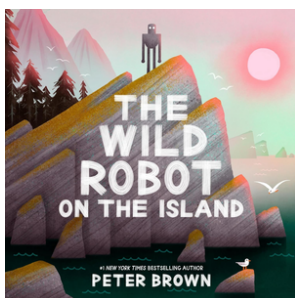
There once was a man who loved his tidy home and who didn't like animals. Then one day, a cat appeared. The man and the cat both liked napping and watching the rain and eating dinner precisely at six. Well, maybe this one animal could stay. Next came a dog . . .



Stalactite & Stalagmite: A Big Tale from a Little Cave

by Drew Beckmeyer

Time flies for two little cave nubs, Stalactite and Stalagmite. Over millions of years, creatures and things pass in and out of their cave, everything from a trilobite to triceratops, to a ground sloth and a bat. When you are an ageless rock formation, it's nice to have a friend who's always there. But what will happen when the two nubs grow enough to finally touch?



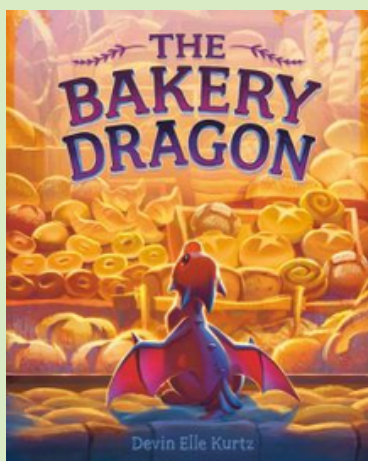
The Wild Robot on the Island

by Peter Brown

Roz is not where she's supposed to be. You see, the robot wasn't designed to live in the wilderness. But when she washes up on an island, she must learn from the animal inhabitants and adapt to her new, natural surroundings, and before long, the island begins to feel like home.

Past Winners

of the Ladybug Picture Book Award



2025 Winner

The Bakery Dragon, by Devin Elle Kurtz

100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli by David LaRoche and Lian Cho

Noodle and the No Bones Day by Jonathan Graziano and Dan Tavis

Milk & Juice: A Recycling Romance by Meredith Crandall Brown

Snail Crossing by Corey R. Tabor

There Are No Bears in This Bakery by Julia Sarcone-Roach