Picture Books to help children soar

flyaway books

2020

www.flyawaybooks.com
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fly away . . .

The phrase conjures up a sense of freedom, imagination, adventure. That’s why we chose the name Flyaway Books. We hope those who read our picture books feel as if they are soaring high, exploring new lands, seeing the world from a new perspective.

Flyaway Books embraces diversity, inclusivity, compassion, care for each other, and care for our world. Many of our books explore social justice and other contemporary issues. Some retell familiar religious stories in new ways, while others carry universal themes appealing to those with any, or no, religious background.


In just our first few years, Flyaway’s picture books have been praised by The New York Times Book Review, The Horn Book, School Library Journal, Booklist, Publishers Weekly, Foreword Reviews, and Kirkus Reviews, including starred reviews for books of exceptional merit. Several have been named Junior Library Guild selections.

Many of our books can be found in libraries, schools, and general trade bookstores, while some are suited for progressive faith communities. Although Flyaway Books is young, the imprint is affiliated with Westminster John Knox Press (WJK), a publisher with more than 175 years of history.

We invite you to share our books with your favorite young person as Flyaway Books continues to grow wings. Open up the pages together, and let your imaginations fly away.
"Dad, what happened?"
"Why are they shooting?"
"What is this vigil for?"

The shootings keep coming, and so do Jeremiah's questions. Dad doesn't have easy answers, but that doesn't mean he won't talk about it—or that he won't act. But what if Jeremiah doesn't want to talk anymore? None of it makes sense, and he's just a kid. Even if he wants to believe in a better world, is there anything he can do about it?

Inspired by real-life events, this honest, intimate look at one family's response to racism and gun violence includes a discussion guide created by the Muhammad Ali Center, in Louisville, Kentucky, a multicultural center and museum committed to promoting respect, hope, and understanding.

For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World
Michael W. Waters
Illustrated by Keisha Morris

With a guide by the Muhammad Ali Center
September 2020
Jacketed hardback • $18.00 9781947888081
40 pages • 8.5" x 11"
Ages 6-10
Rights: World
Shelving: Social Issues

Michael W. Waters is an award-winning author, activist, professor, and pastor. A sought-after speaker to national and international audiences, he is a frequent social commentator for major media outlets. He was named one of America's emerging leaders by Ebony magazine and has received multiple honors for his work in peace and justice. Michael W. Waters lives in Dallas, Texas. www.michaelwwaters.com

Keisha Morris grew up in Charlottesville, Virginia, studied illustration in New York City, and now tells stories through pictures and words in Reno, Nevada. www.keishamorris.com
Sometimes friends are best off with a little
time apart. That’s true for Babbit, a rabbit,
and Joan, his phone. Yet Babbit has never
left Joan at home before. Does he dare go
out on a solo excursion? How will he know
what to do? What if he gets lost?

This charming, low-tech tale reveals
that a small adventure can open up big
possibilities—for seeing new places, meeting
new friends, and coming home to share all
about it.

Denise Turu is the illustrator of Who Is My Neighbor? by Amy-
Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, as well as both author and
illustrator of numerous picture books and graphic novels. Her work
has been exhibited around the world. www.deniseturu.com

Babbit and Joan,
a Rabbit and a Phone
Denise Turu
April 2020
Jacketed hardback • $17.00
9781947888203
40 pages • 8.5” x 8.5”
Ages 3-7
Rights: World
Shelving: Social Issues, Family,
and Friendship
Crocodile is tired, scared, and hopeful as he searches for his new home. *Everything will be better where I’m going!* he thinks. But where is that?

*Crocodile’s Crossing: A Search for Home* introduces children to the complex topic of immigration. Featuring bright artwork packed with playful details, this thoughtful tale sensitively portrays the challenges faced by refugees and other newcomers.

A downloadable discussion guide is available at www.flyawaybooks.com/resources.
“Maybe I can help!” exclaimed Arthur.

At least he hopes he can. But how? What does a forgetful elephant need? Arthur doesn’t know, but he’s determined to find out as he and the elephant share a playful and colorful day.

Arthur and the Forgetful Elephant explores memory loss from the perspective of both those who forget and those around them. With spare writing and poignant art, this story reminds us that compassion and togetherness can make even elephant-sized problems seem a little smaller.

Maria Girón spent her childhood immersed in art. Since studying fine arts and illustration in Seville and Barcelona, she has illustrated ten children’s books, several of which she also wrote. In 2010, the Bologna Children’s Book Fair selected her work for a collective exhibition. www.mariagiron.com.

Arthur and the Forgetful Elephant
Maria Girón
September 2020
Jacketed hardback • $18.00
9781947888272
48 pages • 8.5” x 10.75”
Ages 3-7
Rights: North America
Shelving: Family and Friendship
In the beginning, God's garden is beautiful and peaceful, but it doesn't stay that way. Everyone has something to say! Rain brags that it's the most refreshing. Birds boast that they're the most splendid. Earthworms bluster about their busyness. Then children come along, claiming to be the best of all. And it's only fair that the best is loved most, isn't it?

This charming picture book offers a message about the expansiveness of God's love and reminds readers that everyone is equally valuable.
Binkle can’t wait until he turns from caterpillar to butterfly. He’ll finally have strong, beautiful wings to take him high into the sky! But when the day comes, something is terribly wrong. Why are Binkle’s wings so wispy and weak? How will he ever fly like the other butterflies if his wings are nothing like theirs?

Yet with some help and creativity, maybe there’s more than one way to fly . . .

As this gorgeously illustrated story reminds us, life can present us with unwelcome challenges, but inventive alternatives and the support of others can make all the difference.

Sharmila Collins was inspired to write this story by the bravery of her daughter and other children who face ongoing medical challenges. She is the founder of Cure EB, a charity dedicated to researching her daughter’s rare skin disease. Originally from Sri Lanka, she lives in the United Kingdom. www.cure-eb.org

Carolina Rabei graduated with distinction from the Cambridge School of Art and has been honored with a Kate Greenaway Medal nomination. Her unique style employs traditional and digital techniques. She began her artistic pursuits in her home country of Moldova and now lives in the United Kingdom. www.carolinarabei.com

Binkle’s Time to Fly
Sharmila Collins
Illustrated by Carolina Rabei
February 2020
Jacketed hardback • $17.00
9781947888227
32 pages • 10.83" x 9.34"
Ages 3-7
Rights: North America
Shelving: Growing Up and Emotions, Character and Values

www.flyawaybooks.com
Why is everyone in the world so different? It’s all because of God’s big plan.

Adapted from the picture book version of God’s Big Plan, this board book is the perfect introduction to the wonderful diversity of the world God created.

Elizabeth F. Caldwell is a noted Christian educator, author, coeditor of Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible, and an editor of the Common English Bible. She is Professor Emerita of Pastoral Theology at McCormick Theological Seminary and Visiting Professor in Religious Education at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Theodore Hiebert is Francis A. McGaw Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at McCormick Theological Seminary, where he served as a member of the faculty and academic dean, and was an editor and translator of the Common English Bible. A leading scholar among theological educators, he has done groundbreaking work in the study of Genesis.

Katie Yamasaki is a muralist, teaching artist, and author/illustrator of children’s books. She views her work as a vehicle for dialogue within diverse communities and travels widely to create conversations around art. www.katieyamasaki.com

Also Available
God’s Big Plan (picture book)
Elizabeth F. Caldwell
Theodore Hiebert
Illustrated by Katie Yamasaki
Hardback • $17.00
9781947888067
Ages 3-7
Dedication Promises helps explain to children the significance of their dedication in church and the promises their family and church community made to them on that special day.

Featuring easy-to-follow language, bright and inclusive artwork, and four simple prayers, this inspiring book shows young children how important they are to God and to the whole church. Dedication Promises includes a special dedication page in the front of the book and is perfect for gift giving.
Who Is My Neighbor?
Amy-Jill Levine
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
Illustrated by Denise Turu
Jacketed hardback • $17.00 • 9781947888074 • Ages 3-7

Blues and Yellows just don’t mix, and that’s how it’s always been.

No one remembers why. But then comes the day Midnight Blue takes a tumble along the road. His friends Navy and Powder Blue don’t even stop to help! It’s only when a Yellow comes along that everything changes—forever.

The Story of AND
The Little Word that Changed the World
Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
Illustrated by Joani Keller Rothenberg
With a song by Carrie Newcomer
Jacketed hardback • $18.00 • 9781947888050 • Ages 3-7

When an array of opinionated shapes just can’t find common ground, AND comes to the rescue.

AND is the link that helps each pair of shapes overcome their differences, teaming up to create something entirely new. Bouncy rhyming text and colorful paintings come together in a fable that will prompt children to look for the unexpected connections all around them.
Where Is Home, Daddy Bear?

Nicola O’Byrne
Jacketed hardback • $17.00 • 9781947888142 • Ages 3-7

Evie Bear and Dad are moving.

But as they leave their old home behind and set off on their long drive toward the new, Evie Bear is full of questions. “What if I don’t like it there?” she worries. “How will I make new friends?” But her dad reassures her with wise and comforting words, and by the end of their journey, Evie Bear comes to realize that she can feel at home anywhere, as long as Dad is with her.

Brian the Brave

Paul Stewart
Illustrated by Jane Porter
Jacketed hardback • $17.00 • 9781947888180 • Ages 3-7

Every sheep is different. Some white, some black. Some striped, some spotted, some with hats! They’re all still sheep, and they can all play together. At least that’s what Brian thinks—until the other sheep say they can be friends only with sheep that are just like them.

But when danger strikes, can Brian help the sheep come together? Can Brian the ordinary become Brian the Brave?
The Night of His Birth
Katherine Paterson
Illustrated by Lisa Aisato
Jacketed hardback • $18.00 • 9781947888128 • Ages 6-10

Mary’s baby has arrived, and she can’t contain her joy! As Joseph sleeps, she examines her newborn’s tiny mouth, his wild hair, his little hands. Yet what’s most wondrous is that this child is not just Mary’s own but a gift that God has shared with everyone.

Poetic text by Newbery Medalist Katherine Paterson and striking images by Lisa Aisato reveal the intimacy of that unforgettable night long ago, when the mother of Jesus was the first to welcome him into a world he would change forever.

The Worst Christmas Ever
Kathleen Long Bostrom
Illustrated by Guy Porfirio
Jacketed hardback • $17.00 • 9781947888098 • Ages 3-7

Now that his family has moved to California, Matthew has doubts as the holiday season approaches. Palm trees? No snow? It’s all wrong.

Little sister, Lucy, thinks everything is wonderful, but Matthew knows better. And to top it off, the sudden disappearance of his beloved dog, Jasper, settles it. This will be the worst Christmas ever.

Or will it? Surprising events on Christmas Eve just might change everything—and maybe this new place can feel like home to Matthew after all.

Also Available
Home by Another Way
A Christmas Story
Barbara Brown Taylor
Illustrated by Melanie Cataldo
Jacketed hardback • $18.00
9781947888005
Ages 6-10
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