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Fresh, New Titles Recommended by Teachers College Reading and Writing Project

TCRWP is always on the look-out for new books we can bring into our classrooms. With new books we can continue to keep our teaching fresh and our students engaged. In this packet you will find several new titles we have recently come across and highly recommend.

Touchstone Texts

The Staff at Teachers College Reading and Writing Project take a lot into consideration when choosing Touchstone Texts. They look for books that are well-written, are not in most classroom libraries, are from varying genres, and show diversity among the authors and/or characters. It is not an easy process. The Staff spends two to three months going over texts and talking to teachers, each other, and other knowledgeable literary specialists to decide what books will make the perfect Touchstone Texts.



Change It! Solids, Liquids, Gases And You **NF**

Mason, Adrienne The physics of matter—solids, liquids, and gases—is transformed into an enjoyable and easy-to-understand first science book.
RL 1.2 · IL K-2 · Physical Sciences · **1** · AR · 16
9781553378389-J

Paperback List Price \$7.95 Your Price **\$5.96**



Kitchen Dance

Manning, Maurie Two sleepy children sneak out of their beds to watch as their parents, who love each other very much, break into a dance while washing the dishes.
IL P-1 · Family Relationships, Latino Heritage & Culture, Picture Book · AR
9780618991105-J

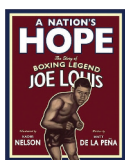
Hardcover List Price \$16.00 Your Price **\$12.00**



Shooting The Moon

Dowell, Frances O'Roark When her brother joins the army and goes off to Vietnam, 12-year-old Jamie is proud of him, but when he suddenly goes missing, Jamie can only hope that her father, the Colonel, will be able to get her beloved brother back home.
IL 5-9 · Family Relationships, Historical Fiction, Vietnam War, War · AR
9781416979869-J

Paperback List Price \$5.99 Your Price **\$4.49**



A Nation's Hope: The Story Of Boxing Legend Joe Louis **NF**

de la Pena, Matt Illustrated by a two-time Caldecott Honor-winning artist, an evocative portrait of the boxing icon centers around his historic match against Germany's Max Schmeling on the eve of World War II, a fight that reflected international tensions and a triumph against racial barriers.
IL 1-3 · Biography, African American Heritage & Culture, Boy Book, General History, Picture Book, Prejudice And Tolerance, Social Issues, Sports, U.S. Studies, World War II · AR
9780803731677-J

Hardcover List Price \$17.99 Your Price **\$13.49**

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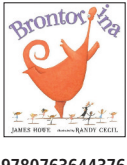
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Picture Books

**Brontorina**

Howe, James The creator of the Bunnica series presents the story of an irrepressible dinosaur, whose determination to dance is made possible by her lovable heart and boundless imagination.

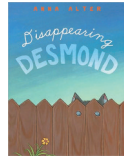
IL P-3 · Humor, Picture Book · AR

9780763644376-J

Hardcover

List Price \$15.99

Your Price \$11.99

**Disappearing Desmond**

Alter, Anna Desmond is so skilled at disappearing that sometimes even his teacher cannot find him but when he meets Gloria, a new student at school, his attitude slowly changes.

AR 9780375866845-J

Hardcover

List Price \$17.99

Your Price \$13.49

**SkySisters**

Waboose, Jan Bourdeau Two Ojibway sisters set off across the frozen north country to see the SkySpirits' midnight dance, and after an exhilarating walk and patient waiting, the girls are rewarded by the arrival of the SkySpirits—

the Northern Lights.

IL K-3 · Native American Heritage & Culture, Picture Book, Family Relationships · AR 9781550746990-J

Paperback

List Price \$8.95

Your Price \$6.71

**Clever Jack Takes The Cake**

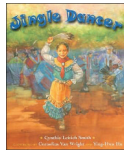
Fleming, Candace Baking a cake for the princess's 10th birthday party when he doesn't have enough money to buy a present, clever Jack is challenged to bring the cake to the castle in one piece.

IL K-3 · Picture Book, Journey · AR 9780375849794-J

Hardcover

List Price \$17.99

Your Price \$13.49

**Jingle Dancer**

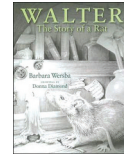
Smith, Cynthia Jenna, a member of the Muscogee, or Creek Nation, borrows jingles from the dresses of several friends and relatives so that she can perform the jingle dance at the pow-wow, in a picture book that includes a note about the jingle dance tradition and its regalia.

LX 710 · IL P-2 · Diversity, Native American Heritage & Culture, Picture Book, Family Relationships · M · AR 9780688162412-J

Hardcover

List Price \$17.99

Your Price \$13.49

**Walter**

Wersba, Barbara Walter, namesake of Sir Walter Scott and a rat that can read, lives in the home of Miss Amanda Pomeroy, a celebrated writer of children's books.

RL 6.4 · I · AR 9781932425413-J

Hardcover

List Price \$16.95

Your Price \$12.71

**The Curious Garden**

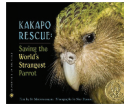
Brown, Peter Liam discovers a hidden garden and, with careful tending, spreads color throughout the dark, gray city, in this imaginative picture book with an environmental theme.

IL P-2 · Urban Setting, Ecology and Environment, Community & Neighborhoods, Picture Book, Plants · M · AR 9780316015479-J

Hardcover

List Price \$16.99

Your Price \$12.74

**Kakapo Rescue**

Montgomery, Sy Traces the efforts of New Zealand's National Kakapo Recovery Team to restore the near-extinct ground-dwelling parrot population, revealing the Kakapo's endearing nature and the factors that have nearly eliminated their numbers.

IL 3-7 · Animals, Birds, High Interest Picture Book, Life Science, Picture Book, Science · AR 9780618494170-J

Hardcover List Price \$18.00

Your Price \$13.50

Graphic Novels

**Mal And Chad: The Biggest, Bestest Time Ever!**

McCranie, Stephen Fourth-grade genius Mal and his talking dog Chad shrink themselves to microscopic size and travel through time, but girls and the school bully present bigger challenges.

IL 2-5 · Chapter Book, Striving Reader

Recommendation, Boy Book, Fantasy · AR 9780399252211-J

Paperback

List Price \$9.99

Your Price \$7.49

**Tales From A Not-So-Popular Party Girl**

Russell, Rachel Renee Settling in at a new school with new friends and cute lab partner Brandon, Nikki agrees to go to a kids' party with her little sister because mean-girl Mackenzie lies that she will be attending the Halloween dance with Brandon, in a tale

complemented by comic-style artwork.

IL 4-8 · Girl Books, Self Concept, Letters, Diaries & Journals, Humor, Striving Reader Recommendation · AR 9781416980087-J

Hardcover

List Price \$12.99

Your Price \$9.74

**Tales From A Not-So-Talented Pop Star**

Russell, Rachel Renee When scholarship student Nikki Maxwell, whose father is the school exterminator, decides to enter the talent show at her expensive private school, her nemesis MacKenzie threatens to reveal Nikki's

status to the rest of the school.

IL 4-8 · Girl Books, Letters, Diaries & Journals, Graphic Literature & Graphic Novels, Humor, Self Concept · AR 9781442411906-J

Hardcover

List Price \$12.99

Your Price \$9.74

**Tales From A Not-So-Fabulous Life**

Russell, Rachel Renee Through journal entries, sketches, and drawings, the complicated life of eighth grader Nikki Maxwell is presented through revelations about her relationship with her mother, secret crushes, dealings with her biggest rival at school, passion in pursuing art as a career, and overall views on the world

in which she lives.

IL 4-8 · Girl Books, Humor, Striving Reader Recommendation, Letters, Diaries & Journals · AR 9781416980063-J

Hardcover

List Price \$12.99

Your Price \$9.74

Chapter Books

**A Crooked Kind Of Perfect**

Urban, Linda Upset when her dreams of becoming a grand pianist are squashed when her father returns from the store with an old organ, ten-year-old Zoe Elias tries to make the best of it and so practices hard in order to compete in the Perform-O-Rama contest.

IL 4-7 · Girl Books, Realistic Fiction · **U** · AR

9780152066086-J

Paperback

List Price \$6.99

Your Price \$5.24

**The Luck Of The Buttons**

Ylvisaker, Anne In Iowa circa 1929, spunky twelve-year-old Tugs vows to turn her family's luck around, with the help of a Brownie camera and a small-town mystery that only she can solve.

IL 3-7 · Great Depression, Family Relationships, Historical Fiction, Mystery · AR

9780763650667-J

Hardcover

List Price \$15.99

Your Price \$11.99

**Stop Pretending: What Happened When My Big Sister Went Crazy**

Sones, Sonya When her older sister unexpectedly has a mental breakdown, a young girl deals with the consequences of a suddenly very different life, one without her best friend.

RL 5-5.5 · IL 8-12 · Conflict Resolution, Ecology and Environment, Poetry, Striving Reader Recommendation · AR

9780064462181-J

Paperback

List Price \$8.99

Your Price \$6.74

**Disney After Dark**

Pearson, Ridley Finn Whitman and his fellow DHIs, teenagers chosen to serve as actors for a new technology, investigate strange occurrences at Disney theme park attractions, racing to uncover a supernatural force that could destroy the world.

IL 5-8 · AR

9781423123118-J

Paperback

List Price \$8.99

Your Price \$6.74

**Moon Over Manifest**

Vanderpool, Clare Jumping off a train in Kansas to learn more about her father's exciting past, Abilene Tucker is initially disappointed by the run-down Depression town she encounters before finding a hidden box of mementos and letters that mention a spy who played an important role in the town's secret history.

IL 4-7 · Adventure, Community & Neighborhoods, Great Depression, Diversity, Family Relationships, Midwest Region · AR

9780385738835-J

Hardcover

List Price \$16.99

Your Price \$12.74

**The Strange Case Of Origami**

Yoda Angleberger, Tom When unpopular sixth grader Dwight successfully dispenses sound advice to his classmates via an origami finger puppet, his classmate Tommy investigates the source of Dwight's accuracy and makes a surprising discovery.

IL 5-9 · Humor, Mystery, School Stories · AR

9780810984257-J

Hardcover

List Price \$12.95

Your Price \$9.71

**Extra Credit**

Clements, Andrew As letters flow back and forth—between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides—sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

L 4-7 · Diversity, Letters, Diaries & Journals,

Characters Who Write, School Stories, Chapter Book, Middle East · **U** · AR

9781416949312-J

Paperback

List Price \$5.99

Your Price \$4.49

**Okay For Now**

Schmidt, Gary D. Fourteen-year-old Doug Swietek has just moved to a new town. With all of the odds stacked against him, Doug finds the strength to endure an abusive father, the suspicions of a whole town, and the return of his oldest brother, forever scarred, from Vietnam.

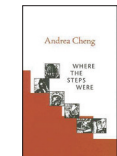
IL 5-9 · Boy Book, Coming Of Age, Historical Fiction, Vietnam War, Family Relationships, Friendship, Abuse · AR

9780547152608-J

Hardcover

List Price \$16.99

Your Price \$12.74

**Where The Steps Were**

Cheng, Andrea Verse from the perspectives of five students in Miss D.'s third grade class—Dawn, Kayla, Jonathan, Anthony, and Carmen—details the children's last year together before their inner city school is to be torn down.

IL 5-9 · Poetry, Social Issues, Urban Setting · **U**

AR 9781932425888-J

Hardcover

List Price \$16.95

Your Price \$12.71

**Inside Out And Back Again**

Lai, Thanhha Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

IL 3-7 · Historical Fiction, Asian American

Protagonist, Vietnam War, Southern States, Novels In Verse, First Person Narration · AR

9780061962783-J

Hardcover

List Price \$15.99

Your Price \$11.99

**Saving Sky**

Stanley, Diane Sky Brightman lives a happy, technology-challenged life in rural New Mexico as terrorism and war ravage the rest of the country until Sky's new friend, Kareem, becomes a government target and she must take a stand against harsh injustice.

AR 9780061239052-J

Hardcover

List Price \$15.99

Your Price \$11.99

**Words In The Dust**

Reedy, Trent Zulaikha, a thirteen-year-old girl in Afghanistan, faces a series of frightening but exhilarating changes in her life as she defies her father and secretly meets with an old woman who teaches her to read, her older sister gets married, and American troops offer her surgery to fix her disfiguring cleft palate.

IL 4-7 · Middle East, Current Events, Diversity, Girl Books · AR

9780545261258-J

Hardcover

List Price \$17.99

Your Price \$13.49

**The Liberation Of Gabriel King**

Going, K.L. Two unlikely friends help each other face their fears in the summer of 1976.

LX 780 · IL 4-6 · African American Heritage & Culture, Character Education, Feelings,

Friendship, Historical Fiction, Prejudice And Tolerance · **U** · AR

9780142407660-J

Paperback

List Price \$6.99

Your Price \$5.24

**A Single Shard**

Park, Linda Sue Tree-Ear is an orphan boy in a twelfth-century Korean potters' village. When he accidentally breaks a pot, he must work for the master to pay for the damage by taking a difficult and dangerous journey that changes his life forever.

RL 6.2 · LX 920 · IL 4-7 · Art, Asian Heritage & Culture, Self Concept, Historical Fiction, Character Education, Perseverance & Determination, Courage, Sentence Fluency 6+1 Traits

· **U** · AR 9780547534268-J

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