

2025 Little Maverick Graphic Novel Reading List

@ Committee's favorites of the starred titles (top 20 titles)

* Titles received a unanimous vote from the selection committee (38 titles)

+ Title is part of a series

Grades K - 5

@ * + *Batcat: Sink or Swim* by Meggie Ramm (Amulet Books, an imprint of Abrams, 2024) #Fantasy

+ *Bizard and the Big Bunny Bizness* by Chrissie Krebs (Margaret Ferguson Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2024) #Animal Fantasy, Humor

@ * + *Cloud Puppy* by Kelly Leigh Miller (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2024) #Animal Fantasy

+ *Frankie and the Beastly Bog Song* by Caitlin Rose Boyle (Oni Press, an imprint of Oni-Lion Forge Publishing Group, 2024) #Adventure, Animal Fantasy

* + *The Great Puptective* by Alina Tysoe (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2024) #Humor, Mystery, Animal Fantasy

* + *It's her story: Sacajawea* by Randy'l He-Dow Teton, illustrated by Aly McKnight (Sunbird Books, an imprint of Phoenix International Publications, 2023) #Biography/memoir

* *Looking for Peppermint or Life in the Forest* by Maxwell Eaton III (Neal Porter Books, an imprint of Holiday House, 2024) #Science (non-fiction), Adventure

@ * + *Monti and Leo: A Newcomer in Pocketville* by Sylvie Kantorovitz (Walker Books US, a division of Candlewick Press, 2024) #Animal Fantasy

* + *Nancy Spector, Monster Detective: The Case of the Missing Spot* by Stephen W. Martin, illustrated by Linh Pham (Algonquin Young Readers, an imprint of Workman Publishing, 2024) #Fantasy, Mystery, Scary

@ * *Poetry Comics* by Grant Snider (Chronicle Books, 2024) #Poetry

@ * + *Rover and Speck: Splash Down!* by Jonathan Roth (Kids Can Press, 2023) #Science (non-fiction), Science Fiction

Grades K – 2

@ * + *Animal Heroes: Superdads* by Heather Lang and Jamie Harper, illustrated by Jamie Harper (Candlewick Press, 2024) # Science (non-fiction)

@ * + *Animal Heroes: Supermoms* by Heather Lang and Jamie Harper, illustrated by Jamie Harper (Candlewick Press, 2023) # Science (non-fiction)

+ *Birtle and the (very) unwelcome Garry* by Tara J. Hannon (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2024) # Animal Fantasy

* *The Best Worst Camp Out Ever* by Joe Cepeda (Holiday House, 2024) # Adventure, Humor, Realistic Fiction

Boom! by Paul Meisel (Holiday House, 2023) # Humor, Realistic Fiction

+ *Elves are the Worst* by Alex Willan (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2023) # Fantasy, Humor

+ *I Like This Color!: a silly story about listening* by Liz Goulet Dubois (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, an imprint of Sourcebook Kids, 2023) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

* + *Kitten Ninja* by Colleen A.F. Venable and Marcie Colleen, illustrated by Ellen Stubbings (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

* *The Light Inside* by Dan Misdea (Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2023) # Fantasy, Scary

The Lost Mitten by Jannie Ho (Holiday House, 2023) # Animal Fantasy

Mika and the Gurgler by Agata Loth-Ignaciuk, illustrated by Berenika Kolomycka (Oni Press, an imprint of Oni-Lion Forge Publishing Group, 2023) # Realistic Fiction

A New Car for Pickle by Sylvie Kantorovitz (Holiday House, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

+ *One Cool Duck: Summer Games* by Mike Petrik (Hippo Park, an imprint of Astra Books, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor, Sports

@ * *One Giant Leap* by Thao Lam (OwlKids Books, 2024) # Science Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Adventure

@ * *Only: the bird who liked being alone* by Airlie Anderson (Little, Brown and Company, 2024) # Animal Fantasy

+ *Otis and Peanut: Forever and Ever* by Naseem Hrab, illustrated by Kelly Collier (Owlkids Books, 2024) # Animal Fantasy

+ *Owl and Penguin: Here and There* by Vikram Madan (Holiday House, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

+ *Pocket Peaches* by Dora Wang (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2023) # Manga/manga-style, Animal Fantasy

+ *Really Bird Stories: It's really cold outside!* by Harriet Ziefert (Red Comet Press, LLC 2023) # Animal Fantasy

* + *Reggie: Penguin in Charge* by Jen De Oliveira (Little, Brown Ink, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company, 2024) # Animal Fantasy

* *Scroll* by Hui Li (Christy Ottaviano Books, an imprint of Little, Brown and Company, 2023) # Realistic Fiction, Fantasy

* *Simone* by Viet Thanh Nguyen, illustrated by Minnie Phan (Minerva, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

* + *Sky and Ty: Howdy, Partner* by Steve Breen (Pixel+Ink, an imprint of TGM Development Corp., 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

* *Super Small: Miniature Marvels of the Natural World* by Tiffany Stone, illustrated by Ashley Spires (Greystone Kids, an imprint of Greystone Books, 2023) # Poetry, Science (non-fiction)

+ *Tig and Lily: Up late!* by Dan Thompson (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

+ *Vamos! Let's Go Read* by Raul the Third (Versify, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2023) # Animal Fantasy

Zips & Eeloo make hummus by Leila Boukarim, illustrated by Alex Lopez (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2024) # Fantasy, Humor

+ *Zooni Tales: a friend till the end* by Vikram Madan (Holiday House, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor, Science Fiction, Sports

Grades 3 – 5

* *All the Lovely Bad Ones* by Mary Downing Hahn, adapted by Scott Peterson, illustrated by Naomi Franquiz (Harper Alley/Clarion Books, imprints of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2023) # Scary, Mystery

Alterations by Ray Xu (Union Square Kids, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

* *Ant Story* by Jay Hosler (Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024) # Fantasy, Science (non-fiction)

Anzu and the Realm of Darkness by Mai K. Nguyen (Viking Books for Young Readers, 2024) # Fantasy, Scary, Manga/manga-style

+ *Atana and the Firebird* by Vivian Zhou (Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2023) # Fantasy, Adventure

+ *Blue Stars Mission 1: The Vice Principal Problem* by Kekla Magoon and Cynthia Leitich Smith, illustrated by Molly Murakami (Candlewick Press, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

+ *Break* by Kayla Miller (Harper Alley/Clarion Books, imprints of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

* + *The Brinkley Yearbooks: Tryouts* by Sarah Sax (RH Graphic, an imprint of Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Realistic Fiction, Sports

+ *Bruce Wayne: Not Super* by Stuart Gibbs, illustrated by Berat Pekmezci (DC Comics, 2023) # Fantasy, Adventure

+ *Club Kick Out!: Into the ring* by Steph Mided (Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2023) # Realistic Fiction, Humor, Sports

Curveball by Pablo Cartaya, illustrated by Miguel Diaz Rivas (Disney Hyperion, an imprint of Buena Vista Books, Inc., 2024) # Sports, Realistic Fiction

@ * + *The Dark!: Wild Life in the Mysterious World of Caves* by Lindsey Leigh (Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2024) # Science (non-fiction)

Dear Dad: Growing Up with a Parent in Prison--and How We Stayed Connected by Jay Jay Patton and Kiara Valdez, illustrated by Markia Jenai (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2024) Biography/memoir

+ *Detective Sweet Pea: The case of the golden bone* by Sara Varon (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Mystery

+ *DnDoggos: Get the Party Started* by Scout Underhill (Feiwel and Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, 2024) Animal Fantasy, Humor

Dog Trouble by Kristin Varner (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Realistic Fiction, Humor

+ *Doña Quixote: Flight of the Witch* by Rey Terciero, illustrated by Monica M. Magana (Henry Holt and Company, 2024) Fantasy, Adventure

@ * *Fake Chinese Sounds* by Jing Jing Tsong (Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

+ *Frights from Feral: Last Exit to Feral* by Mark Fearing (Holiday House, 2023) # Fantasy, Mystery, Scary, Adventure

The Great Turkey Walk by Kathleen Karr, adapted by Leonie Bischoff, translated by Michelle Bailat-Jones, illustrated by Leonie Bischoff (HELVETIQ, 2024) # Historical Fiction

+ *Hilo Book: Rise of the cat* by Judd Winick (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Animal fantasy, Science Fiction

+ *I Survived: The Battle of D-Day, 1944* by Lauren Tarshis, adapted by Georgia Ball, illustrated by Brian Churilla (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2024) # Historical Fiction

@ * *Ink Girls* by Marieke Nijkamp, illustrated by Sylvia Bi (Greenwillow Books/Harper Alley, imprints of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2023) #Fantasy, Historical Fiction

@ * + *Jurassic Jeff: Race to Warp Speed* by Royden Lepp (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Science Fiction, Humor, Animal Fantasy

@ * *Lion Dancers* by Cai Tse (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

+ *Lovely Muco!: The happy daily life of Muco and Mr. Komatsu, vol. 1* by Takayuki Mizushina (Vertical Comics, an imprint of Kodansha USA Publishing, 2023) # Manga/manga-style, Realistic Fiction, Humor

+ *Max Meow: Attack of the Zombees* by John Gallagher (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2023) # Animal Fantasy, Mystery, Adventure

+ *Meems & Feefs: Ferrets from Planet Ferretonia!* by Liza N. Cooper (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2023) # Science Fiction, Animal Fantasy

MIA and Friends: Mia Hamm and the Soccer Sisterhood That Changed History by Karlin Gray, illustrated by Micheline Hess (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Biography/memoir; sports

+ *Monkey King and the World of Myths: The Monster and the Maze* by Maple Lam (G. P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2024) # Fantasy, Animal Fantasy, Adventure

@ * *The Night Librarian* by Christopher Lincoln (Dial Books, 2024) # Fantasy, Mystery

* *Noodle and Bao* by Shaina Lu (Quill Tree Books/Harper Alley, imprints of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024) # Realistic Fiction, Manga/manga-style

+ *Officer Clawsome: Crime Across Time* by Brian "Smitty" Smith, illustrated by Chris Giarrusso (Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor, Adventure

+ *Paws: Priya Puts Herself First* by Nathan Fairbairn, illustrated by Michele Assarasakorn (Razorbill, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 2023) # Realistic Fiction

@ * *Plain Jane and the Mermaid* by Vera Brosgol (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Fantasy, Scary

+ *Racc Pack* by Stephanie Cooke, illustrated by Whitney Gardner (Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, 2024) # Animal Fantasy

+ *Rune: The Tale of a Thousand Faces* by Carlos Sanchez (Flying Eye Books, 2024) # Fantasy, Manga/manga-style

* *Sink or Swim* by Lee Durfey-Lavoie, illustrated by Veronica Agarwal (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Realistic Fiction, Sports

+ *Spirited: Go, Ghoul, Go!* by Liv Livingston, illustrated by Anna Volcan (Little Simon, an imprint of Simon & Schuster's Children's Publishing Division, 2024) # Fantasy

+ *The Squad* by Christina Soontornvat, illustrated by Joanna Cacao (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2024) # Realistic Fiction, Sports

@ * *Stories of the Islands* by Clar Angkasa (Holiday House, 2023) # Fantasy

+ *Super Pancake: Super Pancake and the Mini Muffin Mayhem* by Megan Wagner Lloyd, illustrated by Abhi Alwar (RH Graphic, an imprint of Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Animal Fantasy, Humor

+ *Table Titans Club* by Scott Kurtz (Holiday House, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

@ * + *Tasty: A History of Yummy Experiments* by Victoria Grace Elliott (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2023) # History (non-fiction), Science (non-fiction)

@ * *Taxi Ghost* by Sophie Escabasse (RH Graphic, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Fantasy

Tiffany's Griffon by Magnolia Porter Siddell and Maddi Gonzalez (First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Fantasy, Adventure

Unhappy Camper by Lily LaMotte, illustrated by Ann Xu (Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

+ *Unico: Awakening* by Samuel Sattin, originally created by Osamu Tezuka, illustrated by Gurihuri (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2024) # Fantasy, Manga/manga-style

Uprooted: A Memoir about What Happens When Your Family Moves Back by Ruth Chan (Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Biography/memoir

@ * + *Wagnificent: The Adventures of Thunder and Sage* by Bethanie Murguia (Roaring Brook Press, 2024) # Realistic Fiction

* *We Are Big Time* by Hena Khan, illustrated by Safiya Zerrougui (RH Graphic, an imprint of Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books, 2024) # Sports, Realistic Fiction

+ *Whatever After: Fairest of All* by Sarah Mlynowski, adapted by Meredith Rusu, illustrated by Anu Chouhan (Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic, 2024) # Fantasy