

MFAC Publications and Awards

Our students and alumni do more than hone their craft -- they get their work published. Many of the projects that students work on while they are enrolled in the Creative Writing Programs become successful books. These works catch the attention of publishers and critics alike, earning awards and gaining literary recognition.

Here are books by our students and alumni that have been published or are forthcoming in the world of literature for children and young adults.

Sarah Ahiers

Thief's Cunning (YA Novel)

HarperTeen, 2017

Finalist for Minnesota Book Award

Assassin's Heart (YA novel)

HarperTeen, 2016

Finalist for Minnesota Book Award

Cecilia Aragon

Flying Free: My Victory Over Fear to Become the First Latina Pilot on the U.S. Aerobic Team (YA/adult memoir)

Blackstone Publishing, 2020

Writers in the Secret Garden: Fanfiction, Youth, and New Forms of Mentoring, with Katie Davis (nonfiction)

MIT Press, 2020

Megan Atwood

The Devils You Know (YA Novel)

Soho Tee, 2017

Ice Cream Summer (An Orchard Novel), illustrated by Natalie Andrewson (middle-grade novel)
Aladdin, 2017

Once Upon a Winter (An Orchard Novel), illustrated by Natalie Andrewson (middle-grade novel)
Aladdin, 2017

Also author of *Dear Molly*, *Dear Olive* series, *Real Life Ghost Stories*, *The Contest Book* series, *The Dario Quincy Academy of Dance* series, *The Paranormalists Book* series, and more.

J. J. Austrian

Worm Loves Worm, illustrated by Mike Curato (picture book)

Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2016

Winner of a Minnesota Book Award

Cheryl Bardoe

Nothing Stopped Sophie (nonfiction)

Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2018

The Ugly Duckling Dinosaur (picture book)

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2011

Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age (picture book)

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010

Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas (picture book),

Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2006

Daniel Bernstrom

A Bear, A Bee, and a Honey Tree, illustrated by Brandon James Scott (picture book)

Hippo Park, 2022

Song in the City, illustrated by Jenin Mohammed (picture book)

Amistad Books for Young Readers, 2022

Big Papa and the Time Machine, illustrated by Shane W Evans (picture book)

HarperCollins, 2020

Winner, 2021 Minnesota Book Award in Children's Literature; Bank Street's Best Books of the Year

Gator, Gator, Gator, illustrated by Fran Preston-Gannon (picture book)

HarperCollins, 2018

Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year

One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree, illustrated by Brendan Wenzel (picture book)

Harper Collins, 2016

Molly Burnham

Teddy Mars Almost an Outlaw

Katherine Tegan Books, 2017

Teddy Mars Almost a Winner

Katherine Tegan Books, 2016

Teddy Mars Almost a World Record Breaker

Katherine Tegan Books, 2015

Winner of the Sid Fleischman Humor Award

Miriam Busch

Raisin, the Littlest Cow, illustrated by Larry Day (picture Book)
Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2017

Lion, Lion, illustrated by Larry Day (picture book)
Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2014
Junior Library Guild Selection
Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year
Indie Next List Great Reads
NPR's Best Books of 2014

Meg Cannistra

How to Heal a Gryphon (middle-grade novel)
Inkyard Press, 2022

The Trouble with Shooting Stars (middle-grade novel)
Simon & Schuster, 2019

Jyoti Chand

Fitting Indian (graphic novel)
HarperCollins, 2024

Sherryl Clark

Mina and the Whole Wide World, illustrated by Briony Stewart (verse novel)
University of Queensland Press, 2021

Our Australian Girl: The Rose Stories (4-book series) (middle-grade novels)
Penguin eBooks, 2017

Do you Dare: Jimmy's War (middle-grade nonfiction)
Puffin, 2015

Dying to Tell Me (middle-grade novel)
Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2011

Farm Kid (verse novel)
Penguin, 2005
NSW Premier's Literary Award for Children's Books, Patricia Wrightson Prize

Sixth Grade Style Queen (Not!)
Puffin, 2008
Children's Book Council of Australia Honour Award

Author of *Ellyse Perry* series, *Meet Rose* series, *Nibbles* series, and *Aussi Bites* series

Jennifer Wilson Coates

Someday We'll Find It (YA Novel)

Harper Teen, 2022

Ailynn Collins

Mars or Bust!: Orion and the Mission to Deep Space (middle-grade nonfiction)

Capstone Press, 2019

Author or co-author of multiple books in the *Michael Dahl Presents: Mysteries* series for Capstone Press.

Melinda Cordell

Courageous Women of the Civil War: Soldiers Spies, Medics, and More (nonfiction)

Chicago Review Press, 2016

Jill Davis

Orangutans Are Ticklish (picture book)

Schwartz & Wade, 2010

The First Rule of Little Brothers (picture book)

Knopf, 2008

Naomi Kinsman Downing

Brilliant Hues (Faithgirlz/From Sadie's Sketchbook Book 4) (middle-grade novel)

Zonderkidz, 2012

Waves of Light (Faithgirlz/From Sadie's Sketchbook Book 3) (middle-grade novel)

Zonderkidz, 2012

Flickering Hope (Faithgirlz/From Sadie's Sketchbook Book 2) (middle-grade novel)

Zonderkidz, 2011

Shades of Truth (Faithgirlz/From Sadie's Sketchbook Book 1) (middle-grade novel)

Zonderkidz, 2011

Loretta Ellsworth

Tangle-Knot, illustrated by Annabel Tempest (picture book)

Page Street Kids, 2023

Stars Over Clear Lake (novel)

St. Martin's Press, 2017

Unforgettable (novel)

Walker Books for Young Readers, 2011

In a Heartbeat (novel)

Walker & Company/Macmillan, 2010

In Search of Mockingbird (novel)
Henry Holt, 2007

The Shrouding Woman (novel), Henry Holt, 2002

Elizabeth Fixmer

Saint Training (middle grade novel)
ZonderKidz, 2010

Olivia Ghafoerkhan

Siblings: The Ultimate Teen Guide (nonfiction book)
Bowman and Littlefield Publishing Group, 2019

Amanda Glaze

The Second Death of Edie and Violet Bond (YA novel)
Union Square & Company, 2022
Barnes & Noble YA Book Club Pick

Rebecca Grabill

A Year with Mama Earth, illustrated by Rebecca Green (picture book)
Eerdman's Books for Young Readers, 2019

Violet and the Woof, illustrated by Dasha Tolstikova (picture book)
HarperCollins, 2018

Halloween Goodnight, illustrated by Ella Okstad
Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2017

Kesha Grant

Women in the Civil Rights Movement (middle-grade nonfiction)
Children's Press, 2020

Molly Beth Griffin

Just Us, illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan (picture book)
Charlesbridge, 2024

Ten Beautiful Things, illustrated by Maribel Lechuya (picture book)
Charlesbridge, 2021

Rhoda's Rock Hunt, illustrated by Jennifer A. Bell (picture book)
MHS Press, 2014

Silhouette of a Sparrow (novel)
Milkweed Editions, 2012
Winner of Milkweed Prize for Literature

Loon Baby (picture book)
Houghton Mifflin, 2011

Erin Berger Guendelsberger

Little Red Sleigh, illustrated by Elizaveta Kretyakova (picture book)
Sourcebooks, 2021
USA Today bestseller list

Goodnight ABCs (board book)
Sourcebooks, 2021

Can You Put Me to Bed? (board book)
Sourcebooks, 2021

Amanda Henke

Not a Book About Bunnies, illustrated by Anna Davis court (picture book)
Starry Forest Books, 2023

Christine Heppermann

What Goes Up (YA Novel)
Greenwillow Books, 2020

Ask Me How I Got Here (YA Verse Novel)
Greenwillow Books, 2016

Maya's Story (Backyard Witch) with Ron Koertge (middle-grade series)
Greenwillow Books, 2018

Jess's Story (Backyard Witch), with Ron Koertge
Greenwillow Books, 2017

Sadie's Story (Backyard Witch), with Ron Koertge
Greenwillow Books, 2016

Poisoned Apples (YA poetry collection)
Greenwillow Press, 2014

City Chickens
Houghton Mifflin, 2012

Barbara Herkert

This Old Madrone Tree, illustrated by Marlo Garnsworthy (Nonfiction PB)
Web of Life Children's Books, September 2023

A Boy, a Mouse, and a Spider: The Story of E.B. White, illustrated by Lauren Castillo (nonfiction picture book)

Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2017

Mary Cassatt: Extraordinary Impressionist Painter, illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska
Christy Ottaviano Books/Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2015

Sewing Stories: Harriet Powers' Journey from Slave to Artist, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley
(picture book biography)
Knopf Children's Books, 2015

Jonathan Hillman

The Wishing Machine, illustrated by Nadia Alam (picture book)
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, October 2023

Big Wig, illustrated by Levi Hastings (picture book)
Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster, 2022

Melanie Heuiser Hill

Around the Table That Grandad Built, illustrated by Jaime Kim (picture book)
Candlewick Press, 2019

Giant Pumpkin Suite (middle-grade novel)
Candlewick Press, 2017
Winner of the Mathical Book Award Honor

Bonnie Sue Hitchcock

Everyone Dies Famous in a Small Town (stories)
Wendy Lamb Books/Penguin Random House, 2021

The Smell of Other People's Houses
Wendy Lamb Books, 2016
William C. Morris Award finalist
New York Public Library's Best Books for Teens

Justina Ireland

Chaos and Flame, with Tessa Gratton (YA novel)
Razorbill, 2023

Rust in the Root (YA novel)
Balzer + Bray, 2022

Ophie's Ghosts (middle-grade novel)
Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2021
Cybil's Award finalist
Scott O'Dell Award

Deathless Divide (YA novel)

Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2020
2020 Locus Award

Dread Nation (YA novel)
Balzer + Bray/HarperCollins, 2018
New York Times Bestseller
2019 Locus Award

Promise of Shadows (YA novel)
Simon & Schuster, 2015

Vengeance Bound (YA novel)
Simon & Schuster, 2014

Star Wars The High Republic: Mission to Disaster (middle-grade novel)
Disney Lucas Films Press, 2022

Star Wars The High Republic: Out of the Shadows (middle-grade novel)
Disney Lucas Films Press, 2021

Star Wars: A Test of Courage (middle-grade novel)
Disney Lucas Films Press, 2021

Star Wars: Spark of the Resistance (middle-grade novel)
Disney Lucas Films Press, 2019

Star Wars: Lando's Luck
Disney Lucas Films Press, 2018

Landra Jennings
Wand (middle-grade novel)
Clarion Books, 2023

The Whispering Fog, illustrated by Nikolai Lockertsen (middle-grade novel)
HarperCollins, 2022

Janel Kolby
Winterfolk (YA Novel)
HarperTeen, 2018

Lilly LaMotte
Chloe's Lunar New Year, illustrated by Michelle Lee (debut picture book)
HarperCollins, 2023

Unhappy Camper, illustrated by Ann Xu (middle-grade graphic novel)
HarperCollins, 2022

Measuring Up (middle-grade graphic novel)

HarperCollins, 2021

Junior Library Guild Selection, finalist for Washington Book Award and Cybil's Award

Susan Latta

Bold Women of Medicine (middle-grade nonfiction)

Chicago Review Press, 2017

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2018, Sixth to Eighth Grade

Aimee Lucido

Recipe for Disaster (middle-grade novel)

Versify, 2021

Second Banana, illustrated by Kate Berube (picture book)

Harry N. Abrams, 2020

Emmy in the Key of Code, illustrated by Abigail Dela Cruz (middle-grade novel)

Versify, 2019

Winner of the Northern California Book Award, long-listed for 2021 Carnegie Medal

Ann Matzke

My Life as a Native American (Little World Social Studies) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2019

Reading Maps (Little World Social Studies) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2019

My Life as a Pioneer (Little World Social Studies) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2012

What Are the Branches of Democracy (Little World Social Studies) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2012

Hedgehog (You Have a Pet What?!) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2018

Skunk (You Have a Pet What?!) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2017

Mini-Horse (You Have a Pet What?!) (nonfiction series)

Roarke Educational Media, 2015

Can You Guess? (picture book)

Rourke, 2010

Plus 1, Minus 1 (picture book)
Rourke, 2010

Tracy Nelson Maurer

Lady Bird Johnson, That's Who!, illustrated by Ginnie Hsu (nonfiction picture book)
Henry Holt & Co., 2021

Samuel Morse, That's Who!, illustrated by el primo Ramon (nonfiction picture book)
Henry Holt & Co., 2019
Junior Library Guild Selection

John Deere, That's Who!, illustrated by Tim Zeltner (nonfiction picture book)
Henry Holt & Co., 2017
Junior Library Build Selection, American Farm Bureau Foundation Book of the Year, National Science Teachers of America STEM Book

Noah Webster's Fighting Words, illustrated by Ginnie Hsu (nonfiction picture book)
Millbrook Press, 2017
New York Public Library 2017 Best Picture Book list

Storm Codes (picture book)
Windward, 2007

Debra McArthur

A Voice for Kansas (middle-grade novel)
Kane Miller Books, 2012
Bank Street College Best Children's Books of the Year
Kansas Notable Books

Raoul Wallenberg: Rescuing Thousands from The Nazis' Grasp (HOLOCAUST HEROES AND NAZI CRIMINALS) (YA nonfiction)
Enslow Publishing Inc., 2005

Christine McDonnel

Kip Tiwernan and Rosie's Place, the Nation's First Shelter for Women, illustrated by Victoria Tentler-Krylov (nonfiction biography)
Candlewick, March 2022

When the Babies Came to Stay, illustrated by Jeanette Bradley (picture book)
Viking, 2020

Goyangi Means Cat, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher (picture book)
Viking, 2011

Gary Metivier

Cody and Grandpa's Christmas Tradition, illustrated by Traci Van Wagoner (picture book)

Pelican, 2016

Until Daddy Comes Home, illustrated by Robert Rath (early reader)
Pelican, 2014

Saluting Grandpa
Wild Horses Publishing, 2011

Kalena Miller

Shannon in the Spotlight (YA novel)
Random House, 2023

Becoming Brigitte (MG novel)
Delacorte, spring 2022

The Night When No One Had Sex (YA novel)
Adams Books for Young Readers, 2021

Diane Mullen

One Little Lot: The 1-2-3s of an Urban Garden, illustrated by Oriol Vidal (picture book)
Charlesbridge, 2020

Tagged (YA novel)
Charlesbridge, 2015

Jane O'Reilly

The Notations of Cooper Cameron (middle-grade novel)
Carolrhoda Books, 2017

The Secret of Goldenrod (middle-grade novel)

Cristina Oxta

What Lolo Wants, illustrated by Jamie Baugh (picture book)
Kids Can Press, fall 2024

Tara and the Towering Wave: An Indian Ocean Tsunami Story, illustrated by Francesca Ficorilli
(middle-grade novel)
Capstone Publishing, 2020

Red Riding Hood, illustrated by Miguel Riaz Rivas (early reader)
Picture Window Books, 2020

Tae Kwon Do Test, illustrated by Amanda Erb (early reader)
Picture Window Books, 2020

Stan Lee: Get to Know the Comics Creator (middle-grade nonfiction)

Capstone Press, 2020

Stephen Hawking: Get to Know the Man Behind the Theory (middle-grade nonfiction)
Capstone Press, 2019

Bobbie Peyton

Dancing the Tinikling (picture book)
Sleeping Bear Press, spring 2023

Melody Reed

The Major Eights 6: The Secret Valentine, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2020

The Major Eights 5: The New Bandmate, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2018

The Major Eights 4: Starstruck, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2020

The Major Eights 3: The Goo Disaster, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2018

The Major Eights 2: Scarlet's Big Break, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2018

The Major Eights 1: Battle of the Bands, illustrated by Emilie Pepin (early chapter book)
little bee books, 2018

Lisa Frenkel Riddiough

Letters to Live By: An Alphabet Book with Intention, illustrated by Asa Gilland (picture book)
Running Press, 2022

Elvis and the World as It Stands (middle-grade novel)
Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2021

Barbara Carroll Roberts

A Rose Named Peace, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline (nonfiction PB)
Candlewick, 2021

Nikki on the Line (middle-grade novel)
Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2019

Brita Sandstrom

Hollow Chest (middle-grade novel)
Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, 2021

Melissa Savage

Kharma Moon, Ghost Hunter (middle-grade novel)
Crown Books for Young Readers, 2021

Nessie Quest (middle-grade novel)
Yearling, 2021

The Truth About Martians (middle-grade novel)
Yearling, 2020

Lemons (middle-grade novel)
Crown Books for Young Readers, 2018

Bigfoot, Tobin, and Me (middle-grade novel)
Chicken House, 2017

Ari Schwieters

Saints of the Household (verse novel)
Farrar Strauss & Giroux, 2022

Sonja Solter

When You Know What I Know (middle-grade novel-in-verse)
Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2020

Caren Stelson

Stars of the Night: The Courageous Children of the Czech Kindertransport, illustrated by Selina Alko (picture book)
Carolrhoda Books, 2023

A Bowl Full of Peace: A True Story, illustrated by Akira Kusaka (nonfiction picture book)
Carolrhoda Books, 2020
Finalist for the 2021 Minnesota Book Award in Children's Literature

Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story (middle-grade nonfiction)
Carolrhoda Books, 2016
2017 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book
Bank Street College's Best Children's Books
Cybill's Award
Jane Adams Children's Book Award
Junior Library Guild Selection
New York Public Library Best Books for Teens
Orbis Pictus Award

Eija Sumner

The Good Little Mermaid's Guide to Bedtime, illustrated by Nici Gregory (picture book)
Penguin Random House, 2024

Crocodile Hungry, illustrated by John Martz (picture book)
Tundra Books, 2022

Melanie Sumrow

Girls Like Her (YA novel)
Balzer + Bray (HarperCollins), 2024

Patricia Sutton

Capsized: The Forgotten Story of the SS Eastland Disaster (middle-grade nonfiction)
Chicago Review Press, 2018
New York Public Library's 100 Best Books for Kids
Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2018
Society of Midland Authors Literary Award Honoree
Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People List
Cybils Literary Award Winner
Cooperative Children's Book Center's Choice
Tofte/Wright Children's Literary Award

Jamie Swenson

We Want Snow: A Wintry Chant, illustrated by Emilie Boone (picture book), published by
Sleeping Bear Press in September, 2021

Chirp: Chipmunk Sings for a Friend, illustrated by Scott Magoon (picture book)
Simon & Schuster, 2021

A Fall Ball for All, illustrated by Chiara Fidele (picture book)
Millbrook Press, 2018

Big Rig, illustrated by Ned Young (picture book)
Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016

If You Were a Dog, illustrated by Chris Raschka (picture book)
Straus & Giroux, 2014

Boom, Boom, Boom!, illustrated by David Walker (picture book)
Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2013

Blair Thornburgh

Second Banana, illustrated by Kate Berube (picture book)
Harry N. Abrams, 2020

Skulls, illustrated by Scott Campbell (picture book)
Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2019

Ordinary Girls (YA Novel)

HarperTeen, 2019
Publishers Weekly Best Book
Booklist Editors Choice for Books for Youth

Skulls, illustrated by Scott Campbell (picture book)
Atheneum, 2019

Who's That Girl (YA Novel)
HarperTeen 2017

Kim Tomsic

The Elephants Come Home: A True Story of Seven Elephants, Two People, and One Extraordinary Friendship, illustrated by Hadley Hooper (picture book)
Chronicle Books, 2021
Finalist for Cybil's Award

The 12th Candle (middle-grade novel)
Katherine Tegan Books, 2020

The 11:11 Wish (middle-grade novel)
Katherine Tegan Books, 2019

Hebah Uddin

A Bit of Earth (as Karuna Riazi) (middle-grade novel)
Greenwillow Books, 2023

The Battle (as Karuna Riazi) (middle-grade novel)
Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster, 2020

The Gauntlet (as Karuna Riazi) (middle-grade novel)
Salaam Reads/Simon & Schuster, 2018)

Elizabeth Verdick

Trusty Bus, illustrated by Jeff Harter (picture book)
Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2025

Try Again Time, illustrated by Marieka Heilein (board book)
Free Spirit Publishing, 2021

Small Walt Spots Dot, illustrated by Marc Rosenthal (picture book)
Simon & Schuster, 2020

Bike and Trike, illustrated by Brian Biggs (picture book)
Simon & Schuster, 2020

Small Walt and Mo the Tow, illustrated by Marc Rosenthal (picture books)

Simon & Schuster, 2018

Small Walt, illustrated by Marc Rosenthal (picture book)
Simon & Schuster, 2017

Peep Leap, illustrated by John Bendall-Brunello (picture book)
Two Lions, 2013

Alicia D. Williams

The Talk, illustrated by Briana Mukodin Uchendu (picture book)
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2022
Coretta Scott King Honor Award, Golden Kite Honor Award

Shirley Chisholm Dared: The Story of the First Black Woman in Congress, illustrated by Jane Harrison (NF picture book)
Anne Schwartz Books (Random House), 2022
2022 Jane Adams Children's Book Award

Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara (nonfiction picture book)
Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 2021
Named an NEA Read Across America March 2022 read

Genesis Begins Again (middle-grade novel)
Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books (January 15, 2019)
Newbery Medal Honor Award
Winner of the Coretta Scott King—John Steptoe for New Talent Award
William C. Morris Prize Finalist
An NPR Favorite Book of 2019
A *School Library Journal* Best Middle Grade Book of 2019
Kirkus Prize Finalist

Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston, illustrated by Jacqueline Alcantara (nonfiction picture book)
Atheneum/Simon & Schuster, 2021

TOTAL Books Published and Sold (July 29, 2023):

189 Books

65 Authors

65 Awards and Best Lists

Many more books written for hire and many individual poems, stories, and articles published.