

Art in Young People's Fiction

Children's Books

Framed by Frank Cottrell Boyce: A hilarious novel based on a true story from WWII when paintings from the National Gallery were stored in Welsh slate-mines for safe-keeping. This is an exploration of how art - its beauty and its value - touches the life of a boy.

From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E

Frankweiler by EL Koningsburg. A delightful book about a runaway girl and her brother, who decide to secretly live in the grand, elegant Metropolitan Museum of Art and get caught up in an art mystery.

Fire Colour One by Jenny Valentine Iris's father, Ernest, is at the end of his life and she hasn't even met him. Her best friend, Thurston, is somewhere on the other side of the world. Everything she thought she knew is up in flames. Now her mother has declared war and means to get her hands on Ernest's priceless art collection. But Ernest has other ideas. There are things he wants Iris to know after he's gone and the truth has more than one way of coming to light.

Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett. After a valuable Vermeer disappears, Petra and Calder are drawn clue by clue into a mysterious labyrinth. They must draw on their powers of intuition, their problem-solving skills, and their knowledge of Vermeer. Can they decipher a crime that has left even the FBI baffled?

Teen or Young Adult Books

Marie, Dancing by Carolyn Meyer. Marie van Goethem, a fourteen-year-old ballet dancer in the famed Paris Opera, has led a life of hardship and poverty. But when famed artist Edgar Degas demands Marie's presence in his studio, it appears that her life will be transformed: He will pay her to pose for a new sculpture, and he promises to make her a star.

I am Rembrandt's Daughter by Lynn Cullen. With her mother dead of the plague, and her beloved brother newly married and moved away, Cornelia van Rijn finds herself without a friend or

confidant - save her difficult father. Out of favour with Amsterdam's elite, and considered brash and unreasonable by his patrons, Rembrandt van Rijn, once revered, is now teetering on the brink of madness.

Starry Nights by Daisy Whitney. Seventeen-year-old Julien is a romantic -- he loves spending his free time at the museum poring over the great works of the Impressionists. But one night, a peach falls out of a Cezanne, Degas ballerinas dance across the floor, and Julien is not hallucinating.

See What I See by Gloria Whelan. Kate Tapert sees her life in paintings. She makes sense of the world around her by relating it to what she adores—art. Armed with a suitcase, some canvases, and a scholarship to art school in Detroit, Kate is ready to leave home and fully immerse herself in painting. Sounds like heaven. All Kate needs is a place to stay.

Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier. 17th Century Holland. When Griet becomes a maid in the household of Johannes Vermeer in the town of Delft, she thinks she knows her role: housework, laundry and the care of his six children. But as she becomes part of his world and his work, their growing intimacy spreads tension and deception in the ordered household and, as the scandal seeps out, into the town beyond.

David by Mary Hoffman. Michelangelo's statue, "David," is famous around the world. This epic tale imagines the story of Gabriele, a naive but incredibly handsome young man who is hired as Michelangelo's model, only to find himself drawn into a world of spies, political treachery, and murder. Set against the vibrant backdrop of Florence in its most turbulent times, this rich, colourful, thrilling tale gives life to one of the world's greatest masterpieces.

Books that mix text and illustration in innovative ways

Wonderstruck by Brian Selznik. Ben's story takes place in 1977 and is told in words. Rose's story in

1927 is told entirely in pictures. Ever since his mother died, Ben feels lost. At home with her father, Rose feels alone. When Ben finds a mysterious clue hidden in his mother's room, and when a tempting opportunity presents itself to Rose, both children risk everything to find what's missing.

Mrs Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs. A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs. It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous.

Chopsticks by Jessica Anthony. After her mother's death, teenage piano prodigy Glory has been raised by her father, who strictly enforces Glory's piano studies and concert schedule. When Frank, a cute guy from Argentina moves in next door, Glory falls for him and gets distracted from the piano. Missing Frank, and feeling like a virtual prisoner while on tour abroad, Glory starts to fall apart and eventually can only play Chopsticks to the exclusion of anything else—all of this leading up to her disappearance. But, in looking closely at the illustrations, another story is revealed, showing that nothing is as it appears. The reader is left to interpret what's really happened.

The Savage by David Almond. Imagine you wrote a story and that story came true. This is exactly what happens to Blue Baker when he writes about a savage living alone in the woods near his home. After his dad's death, Blue finds comfort in dreaming of a wild kid who survives on a diet of berries and the occasional hapless passer-by. But when the savage pays a night-time visit to the local bully, boundaries become blurred and Blue begins to wonder where he ends and the savage begins. Part novel, part graphic novel, this moving

story features striking art from the award-winning Dave McKean.

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness. The monster showed up just after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments, the one with the darkness and the wind and the screaming... The monster in his back garden, though, this monster is something different. Something ancient, something wild. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. Winner of the Greenaway prize for illustration.

Coraline by Neil Gaiman (graphic novel version). There is something strange about Coraline's new home. What is it about the other house - the one behind the old door in the drawing room? Another mother and father with black-button eyes and papery skin are waiting for Coraline to join them there. And they want her to stay with them. For ever. She knows that if she ventures through that door, she may never come back.

Wordless Picture Books for Older Readers: Fabulous for discussion

Window or Belonging by Jeannie Baker

Unspoken by Henry Cole

Footpath Flowers by JoArno Lawson

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

The Boy, The Bear, The Baron, The Bard by Gregory Rogers

The Journey by Francesca Sanna (some words)

The Arrival by Shaun Tan

Tuesday or Flotsam by David Wiesner

Also look for Greenaway prize winners!

Descriptions mostly taken from publishers' reviews.