

***In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More***  
**Performing Arts**  
**Book Recommendations**

This list of book recommendations was created by specialists in literature for young people to supplement *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*, a professional development day presented by The National Children’s Book and Literacy Alliance, in conjunction with the Perry Ohio School District. We invite you to print and share this list as needed. Books are listed by age range. This document is formatted so you can print it double sided on 3-hole punch paper and store in a binder. Lists of book recommendations for many other categories are available at: [thencbla.org](http://thencbla.org)

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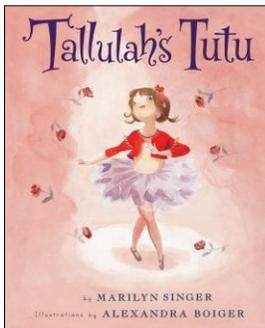
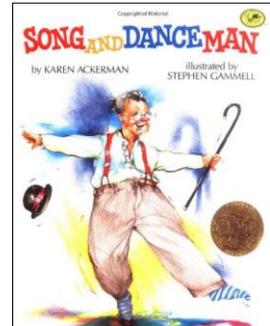
**Song and Dance Man**

Written by Karen Ackerman, illustrated by Stephen Camwell.

Published by Dragonfly Books.

For ages 3-7.

Fiction: "In this affectionate story, three children follow their grandfather up to the attic, where he pulls out his old bowler hat, gold-tipped cane, and his tap shoes. Grandpa once danced on the vaudeville stage, and as he glides across the floor, the children can see what it was like to be a song and dance man. Gammell captures all the story's inherent *joie de vivre* with color pencil renderings that leap off the pages. Bespectacled, enthusiastic Grandpa clearly exudes the message that you're only as old as you feel, but the children respond—as will readers—to the nostalgia of the moment. Utterly original." – *Booklist*



**Tallulah’s Tutu**

Written by Marilyn Singer, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger.

Published by Clarion.

For ages 4-8.

Fiction: Tallulah just knew she could be a great ballerina, if only she had a tutu. So she starts ballet class. When she does not receive a tutu, she quits. But everywhere she goes, things keep reminding her of ballet. Her neighbor’s basset hound always stands in second position. The kitchen clock performs perfect ronds de jambe. And Tallulah can’t seem to stop doing ballet, either. A park bench makes a perfect barre, and what better way to pet the dog than with a graceful plié? This well-told, funny story with a smart new character will satisfy girls’ cravings for pretty and pink, but also shows that ballet is about more than just the tutu.

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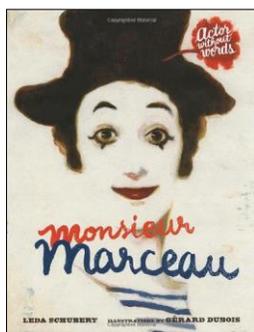
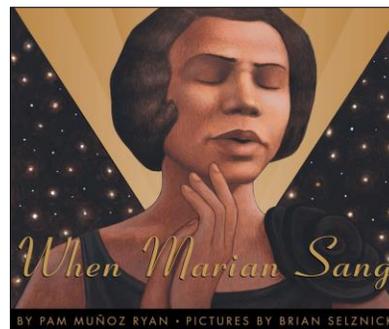
**When Marian Sang: The True Recital of Marian Anderson**

Written by Pam Munoz Ryan, illustrated by Brian Selznick.

Published by Scholastic.

For ages 4-8.

Biography: Marian Anderson is best known for her historic concert at the Lincoln Memorial in 1939, which drew an integrated crowd of 75,000 people in pre-Civil Rights America. While this momentous event showcased the uniqueness of her voice, the strength of her character, and the struggles of the times in which she lived, it is only part of her story.



**Monsieur Marceau: Actor Without Words**

Written by Leda Schubert, illustrated by Gerard DuBois.

Published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 5-8.

Biography: A stunning picture book biography of the world's most famous and unforgettable mime.

**Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring**

Written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Brian Floca.

Published by Roaring Brook Press, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 8-12.

Nonfiction: Award-winning authors Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan tell the story behind the scenes of the collaboration that created *Appalachian Spring*, from its inception through the score's composition to Martha's intense rehearsal process.



**Clara Schumann: Piano Virtuoso**

Written by Susanna Reich.

Published by Clarion.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: A piano prodigy, Clara Schumann made her professional debut at the age of nine and had embarked on her first European concert tour by the time she was twelve. Clara charmed audiences with her soulful playing throughout her life. Music was a constant source of inspiration and support for this strong and resilient woman. After the death of her husband, Robert Schumann, Clara continued her brilliant career and supported their eight children. Clara Schumann's extraordinary story is supplemented with her letters and diary entries, some of which have never before been published in English. Gorgeous portraits and photographs show the members of Clara's famous musical community and Clara herself from age eight to seventy-six.

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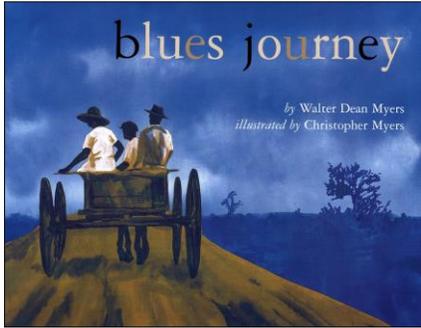
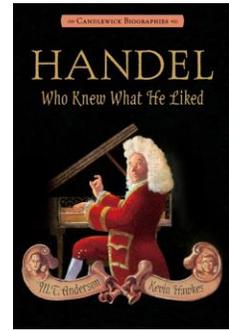
## Handel, Who Knew What He Liked

Written by M.T. Anderson, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes.

Published by Candlewick Press.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: In this absorbing biography, M. T. Anderson's narrative and Kevin Hawkes' stunning art illuminate the life and legacy of George Frideric Handel, a musical visionary.



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## Blues Journey

Written by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Christopher Myers.

Published by Holiday House.

For ages 9 and up.

Poetry: The African experience in America is celebrated with a soulful, affecting blues poem and bold, powerful illustrations.

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## Make Your Own Puppets and Puppet Theaters

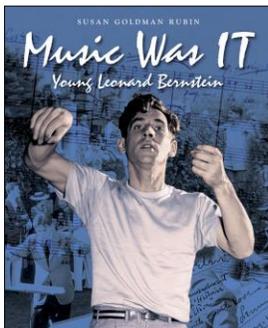
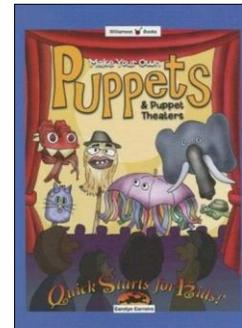
Written by Caroline Carreiro.

Published by Williamson Books.

For ages 9 and up.

*Note: This book is out of print. Please ask for it at your local library or used book bookstore.*

Nonfiction: Beginning and skilled puppet makers alike will appreciate the crafting and performance techniques this book offers. Activities are presented as beginnings that children can then expand upon with their own ideas and creative touches. Puppet enthusiasts can explore 50 puppetry options to create puppets to use in oral book reports, history projects, and creative writing. Children will also discover fun activities on how to write scripts, construct a theatre, create scenery, and effectively use props and sound.



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## Music Was It: Young Leonard Bernstein

Written by Susan Goldman Rubín.

Published by Charlesbridge.

For ages 10-14.

Biography: A detailed look at the energetic and passionate life of Leonard Bernstein, beginning with Lenny's childhood in Boston and ending with his triumphant conducting debut at Carnegie Hall with the New York Philharmonic at age twenty-five.

### **Up Close: Ella Fitzgerald**

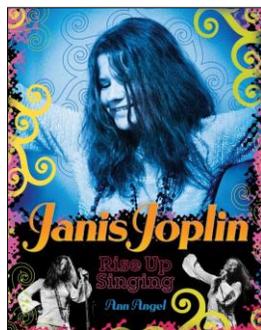
Written by Tanya Lee Stone.

Published by Viking.

For ages 12-15.

**Biography:** The name Ella Fitzgerald brings to mind a silky voice crooning jazz standards. The First Lady of Song earned her nickname by touring almost nonstop for over fifty years, winning thirteen Grammys, and recording album after album.

But who was the woman behind the name? How did a teenage runaway become a renowned jazz singer? Long after her homeless days, Ella remained insecure; she often suffered stage fright. Yet she was a born performer, able to improvise lyrics and record songs in single takes. She even seemed more comfortable on stage than off, and close friends found her hard to truly know. Tanya Lee Stone's *Up Close* biography delivers several never-before-published details of this intensely private, legendary singer's life.



### **Janis Joplin: Rise Up Singing**

Written by Ann Angel.

Published by Abrams.

For ages 14 and up.

**Biography:** Forty years after her death, Janis Joplin remains among the most compelling and influential figures in rock-and-roll history. Her story—told here with depth and sensitivity by author Ann Angel—is one of a girl who struggled against rules and limitations, yet worked diligently to improve as a singer. It's the story of an outrageous rebel who wanted to be loved, and of a wild woman who wrote long, loving letters to her mom. And finally, it's the story of one of the most iconic female musicians in American history, who died at twenty-seven. *Janis Joplin* includes more than sixty photographs and an assortment of anecdotes from Janis' friends and band mates. This thoroughly researched and well-illustrated biography is a must-have for all young artists, music lovers, and pop-culture enthusiasts.

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