

## *In Search of Wonder: Common Core and More*

### Visual 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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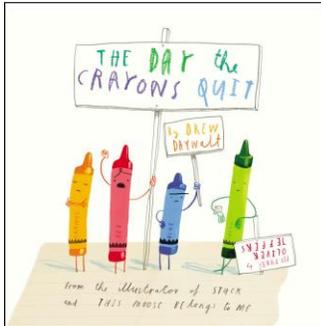
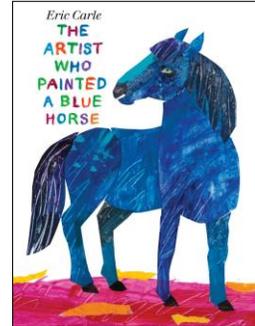
#### **The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse**

Written and illustrated by Eric Carle.

Published by Philomel.

For ages 3-5.

Picture Book: Every child has an artist inside them, and this vibrant picture book from Eric Carle will help let it out. The artist in this book paints the world as he sees it, just like a child. There's a red crocodile, an orange elephant, a purple fox and a polka-dotted donkey. More than anything, there's imagination. Filled with some of the most magnificently colorful animals of Eric Carle's career, this tribute to the creative life celebrates the power of art.



#### **The Day the Crayons Quit**

Written by Drew Daywalt, illustrated by Oliver Jeffers.

Published by Philomel.

For ages 3-7.

Fiction: Poor Duncan just wants to color. But when he opens his box of crayons, he finds only letters, all saying the same thing: His crayons have had enough! They quit! Beige Crayon is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown Crayon. Black wants to be used for more than just outlining. Blue needs a break from coloring all those bodies of water. And Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking—each believes he is the true color of the sun. What can Duncan possibly do to appease all of the crayons and get them back to doing what they do best?

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### **The Boy Who Drew Birds: A Story of John James Audubon**

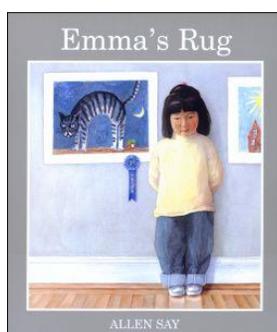
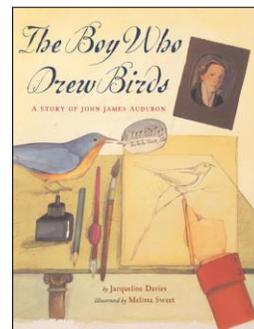
Written by Jacqueline Davis, illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 4-8.

Biography: John James Audubon was a boy who loved the out-of-doors more than the in. He was a boy who believed in studying birds in nature, not just from books. And, in the fall of 1804, he was a boy determined to learn if the small birds nesting near his Pennsylvania home really would return the following spring.

This book reveals how the youthful Audubon pioneered a technique essential to our understanding of birds. Capturing the early passion of America's greatest painter of birds, this story will leave young readers listening intently for the call of birds large and small near their own homes.



### **Emma's Rug**

Written by Allen Say.

Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

For ages 4-8.

Fiction: Emma is a gifted young artist whose most prized possession is a small, shaggy rug. When her mother accidentally puts the rug in the washing machine and destroys it, Emma is devastated and ceases her art.

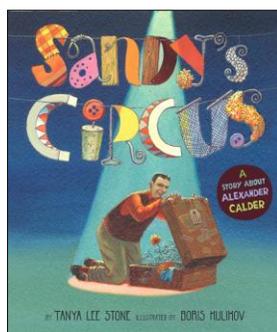
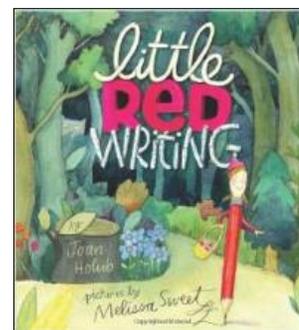
### **Little Red Writing**

Written by Joan Holub, illustrated by Melissa Sweet.

Published by Chronicle.

For ages 5-8.

Fiction: Acclaimed writer Joan Holub and Caldecott Honoree Melissa Sweet team up in this hilarious and exuberant retelling of *Little Red Riding Hood*, in which a brave, little red pencil finds her way through the many perils of writing a story, faces a ravenous pencil sharpener (the Wolf 3000)... and saves the day.



### **Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder**

Written by Tanya Lee Stone, illustrated by Boris Kulikov.

Published by Viking.

For ages 6-8.

Biography: As a boy, Alexander Sandy Calder was always fiddling with odds and ends, making objects for friends. When he got older and became an artist, his fiddling led him to create wire sculptures. One day, Sandy made a lion. Next came a lion cage. Before he knew it, he had an entire circus and was traveling between Paris and New York performing a brand-new kind of art for amazed audiences. This is the story of Sandy's Circus, as told by Tanya Lee Stone with Boris Kulikov's spectacular and innovative illustrations. Calder's original circus is on permanent display at the Whitney Museum in New York City.

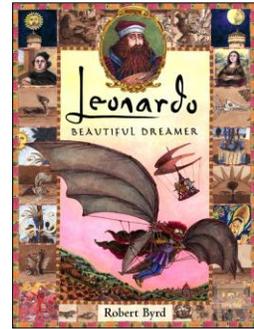
**Leonardo: Beautiful Dreamer**

Written by Robert Byrd.

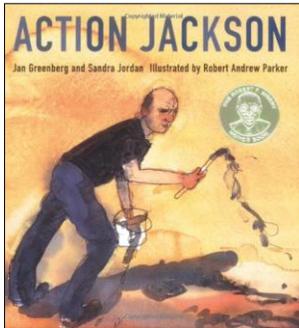
Published by Dutton.

For ages 8-12.

Biography: Famous in his time as a painter, prankster, and philosopher, Leonardo da Vinci was also a musician, sculptor, and engineer for dukes, popes, and kings. What remains of his work—from futuristic designs and scientific inquiry to artwork of ethereal beauty—reveals the ambitious, unpredictable brilliance of a visionary and a timeless dreamer.



Robert Byrd celebrates this passionate, playful genius in a glowing picture book replete with the richness and imagination of Leonardo's own notebooks. Twenty lavish spreads, including side drawings, supplemental texts, and quotes from Leonardo's writings, highlight distinct periods and make the master's art, jokes, explorations, and inventions wonderfully vivid and accessible. A striking tribute to an irrepressible mind and to the potential within all who are curious.



**Action Jackson**

Written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, illustrated by Robert Andrew Parker.

Published by Square Fish, an imprint of Macmillan Children's Publishing Group.

For ages 9-11.

Biography: Take a look at Jackson Pollock's intriguing method of painting during the creation of one of his famous paint-swirled and splattered canvasses.

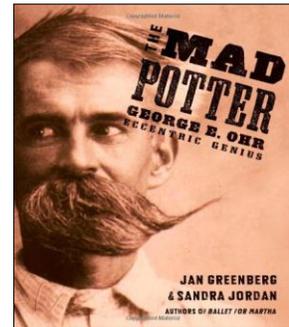
**The Mad Potter: George E. Ohr, Eccentric Genius**

Written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan.

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

For ages 9-12.

Biography: When George Ohr's trove of pottery was discovered in 1967, years after his death, his true genius was discovered with it. The world could finally see how unique this artist really was!

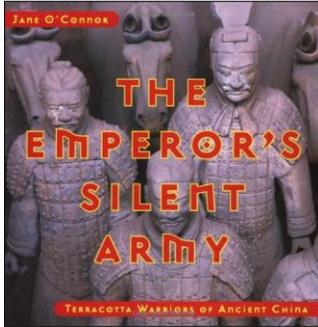


Born in 1856 in Biloxi, Mississippi, George grew up to the sounds of the civil war and political unrest. When he was 22, his boyhood friend introduced him to the pottery wheel. The lost young man suddenly found his calling.

"When I found the potter's wheel I felt it all over like a duck in water."

He started creating strangely crafted pots and vases, expressing his creativity and personality through the ceramic sculptures. Eventually he had thousands at his fingertips. He took them to fairs and art shows, but nobody was buying these odd figures from this bizarre man. Eventually he retired, but not without hiding hundreds of his ceramics.

Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, authors of the award-winning *Ballet for Martha*, approach this colorful biography with a gentle and curious hand.



**The Emperor's Silent Army:  
Terracotta Warriors of Ancient China**

Written by Jane O'Connor.

Published by Viking.

For ages 9-14.

Nonfiction: Describes the archaeological discovery of thousands of life-sized terracotta warrior statues in northern China in 1974 and discusses the emperor who had them created and placed near his tomb.

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**The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History  
from Prehistoric to Post-Modern**

Written by Carol Strickland.

Published by Andrews McMeel.

For ages 14 and up.

Nonfiction: Featuring succinct page-length essays, instructive sidebars, and more than 300 photographs, *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern* takes art history out of the realm of dreary textbooks, demystifies jargon and theory, and makes art accessible—even at a cursory reading.

From Stonehenge to the Guggenheim and from Holbein to Warhol, more than 25,000 years of art is distilled into five sections covering a little more than 200 pages.

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