



# 16 Books

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Grader Should Read





# 16 Books

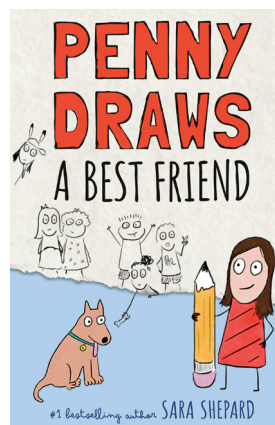
## Every 4<sup>th</sup> Grader Should Read



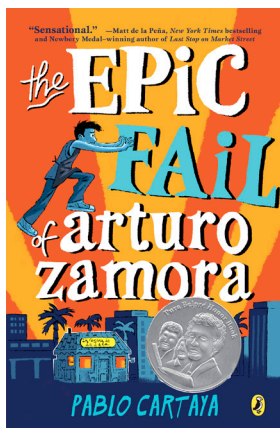
Penguin  
Young  
Readers



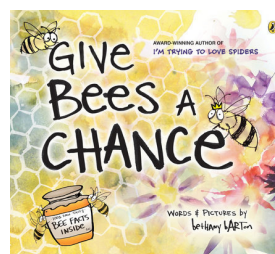
**Thirst** by Varsha Bajaj. The inspiring tale of a heroic girl from a poor part of Mumbai fighting for her belief that water should be for everyone.



**Penny Draws a Best Friend** by Sara Shepard. Starting a new school year is tough for Penny, especially when her best friend starts spending time with the meanest girl in school. Penny wonders if she's done something wrong. This story explores managing anxiety, letting go of unkind friends, and making space for better ones.



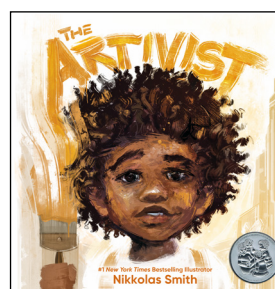
**The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora** by Pablo Cartaya. Save the restaurant. Save the town. Get the girl. Make Abuela proud. Can 13-year-old Arturo Zamora do it all or is he in for a BIG, EPIC FAIL?



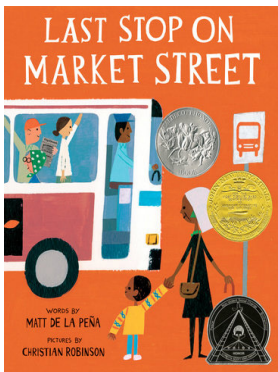
**Give Bees a Chance** by Bethany Barton. Not sure whether to high-five bees or run away from them? Well, maybe you shouldn't high-five them, but you definitely don't have to run away from them. It's more important now than ever to get on board with our honey-making friends!



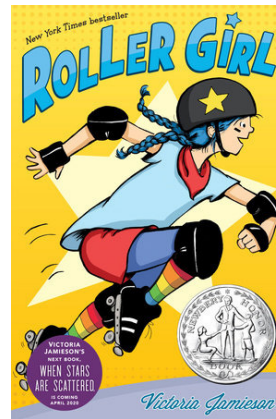
**The Last Kids on Earth: The Graphic Novel** by Max Brallier, illustrated by Brian Churilla. This graphic novel adaptation of the bestselling series centers on a group of 13-year-old friends working together to survive after the monster apocalypse.



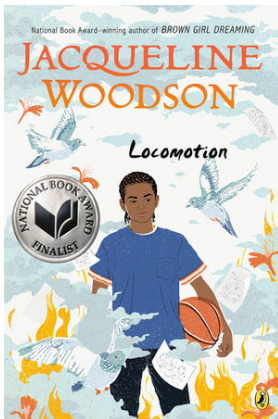
**The Artist** by Nikkolos Smith. This 2024 Jane Addams Children's Book Award honoree tells an inspiring story about how children can combine art and activism in their daily lives.



**Last Stop on Market Street** by Matt de la Peña, illustrated by Christian Robinson. An inclusive ode to kindness, empathy, gratitude, and finding joy in unexpected places.



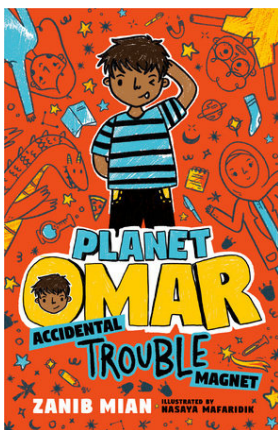
**Roller Girl** by Victoria Jamieson. A heartwarming graphic novel about friendship and surviving junior high through the power of roller derby—perfect for fans of Raina Telgemeier's *Smile*!



**Locomotion** by Jacqueline Woodson. When Lonnie was 7 years old, his parents died and he and his sister were sent to live in different foster homes. Told entirely through Lonnie's poetry, we see his heartbreak, his thoughtful perspective, and his determination to one day be reunited with his sister.



**Shirley & Jamila Save Their Summer** by Gillian Goerz. This middle-grade graphic novel introduces Jamila and Shirley, two unlikely friends who save each other's summers while solving their neighborhood's biggest mysteries.

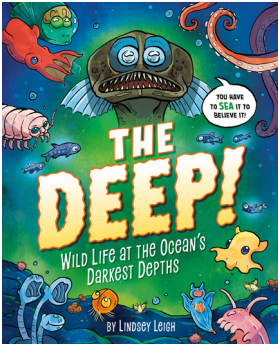


**Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet** by Zanib Mian, illustrated by Nasaya Mafaridik. Omar and his family have just moved, and he is NOT excited about starting at a new school. Luckily, Omar's big imagination and goofy family help him get through it.

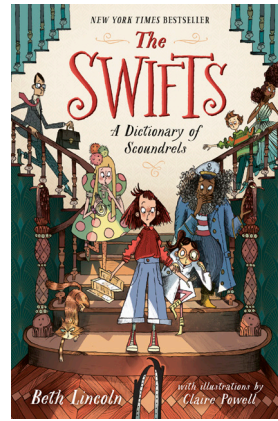


**Small Spaces** by Katherine Arden. A creepy, spellbinding ghost story destined to become a classic. Three friends have to run away from a mysterious danger after their school bus breaks down during a class field trip.





**The Deep!** written and illustrated by Lindsey Leigh. Plunge beneath the waves to find an alien world of bizarre creatures who explain for themselves how they've adapted to life in the deep dark sea in this graphic nonfiction book.

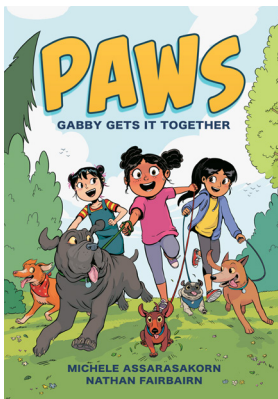


**The Swifts** by Beth Lincoln, illustrated by Claire Powell. Shenanigan Swift, known for her risk-taking and mischief, is preparing for the Swift Family Reunion and plotting to find a hidden treasure. When a family member is murdered, Shenanigan is determined to prove she's more than just a

troublemaker by becoming a detective and solving the case.



**Tight** by Torrey Maldonado. Lately, Bryan's been feeling it in all kinds of ways. He knows what's tight for him in a good way—reading comics, drawing superheroes, and hanging out with no drama. But drama's hard to escape where he's from, and that gets him wound up tight.



**PAWS: Gabby Gets it Together** by Nathan Fairbairn, illustrated by Michele Assarasakorn. Are you a fan of Raina Telgemeier or Shannon Hale? Then don't miss PAWS, a new graphic novel series about best friends, cute dogs, and all the fun (and trouble) that comes with them.



**Penguin  
Young  
Readers**

Find more resources  
at Penguin Classroom

[Browse More](#)