

* = Outstanding Merit



= Read Aloud

(5-8) = Suggested Age Range



= Graphic Format

Today, continued**A Family Is a Family Is a Family**

by Sara O'Leary, illustrated by Qin Leng
(Groundwood Books/House of Anansi Press, \$17.95)
978-1-55498-794-8

When a teacher asks her class what makes their family special, the answers are all different in many ways. Whimsical ink and digitally painted illustrations. (5–8)

***Follow the Moon Home: A Tale of One Idea, Twenty Kids, and a Hundred Sea Turtles**

by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Meilo So
(Chronicle Books, \$16.99) 978-1-4521-1241-1
Vivienne and Clementine come up with a community project to ensure that hatchling turtles follow the moonlight toward the ocean. Muted, multicolored illustrations. (7–10)

**The Great Spruce**

by John Duvall, illustrated by Rebecca Gibbon
(G.P. Putnam's Sons/PRH, \$17.99) 978-0-399-16084-4
When his grandfather's tree is chosen to be cut down for the city's Christmas holidays, Alec is heartbroken. How can he save it? Subtle acrylic ink and color pencil illustrations. (5–8)

***A Hat for Mrs. Goldman: A Story about Knitting and Love**

by Michelle Edwards, illustrated by G. Brian Karas
(Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House/PRH, \$17.99)
978-0-553-49710-6
When young Sophia notices that her friend Mrs. Goldman knits hats for everyone except herself, she decides to knit her one as a surprise. Soft mixed-media illustrations. (5–8)

***Home at Last**

by Vera B. Williams, illustrated by Chris Raschka and Vera B. Williams
(Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins, \$17.99)
978-0-06-134973-7
Although his two adoptive dads love him, Lester is having trouble adjusting to his new life. Can Wincka, the dog, help? Expressive watercolor illustrations. (5–8)

Ida, Always

by Caron Levis, illustrated by Charles Santoso
(Atheneum BFYR/ Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, \$17.99) 978-1-4814-2640-4
Polar bears Gus and Ida played together every day at the zoo. When Ida gets sick and dies, Gus grieves the loss of his friend. Soft, expressive digital illustrations. (5–8)

***The Infamous Ratsos**

by Kara LaReau, illustrated by Matt Myers
(Candlewick Press, \$14.99) 978-0-7636-7636-0
Louie and Ralphie want to be tough like their dad, but are they? Detailed pen and ink drawings complement this funny, realistic tale. (6–8)

**Introducing Teddy: A Gentle Story about Gender and Friendship**

by Jessica Walton, illustrated by Dougal MacPherson
(Bloomsbury Children's Books, \$16.99)
978-1-68119-210-9
Errol and Thomas, his teddy bear, are best friends, but Thomas fears their friendship will end if she reveals she is a girl teddy. Colored pencil drawings. (6–8)

Isaac and His Amazing Asperger Superpowers!

written and illustrated by Melanie Walsh
(Candlewick Press, \$16.99) 978-0-7636-8121-0
A young boy happily describes the Asperger "superpowers" that make him different from his classmates. Large, bold acrylic illustrations. (5–7)