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One Day on Our Blue Planet

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story readily accessible through well-written and vivid text. Though lengthy, the narrative never feels overwritten. Navarro's expressive acrylic, graphite, and digital collage illustrations provide a poignant and moving backdrop for this compelling first-person narrative. Back matter includes information on immigration, a history of the U.S. and Mexican border, and photos of Alva's family and hometown. **VERDICT** An authentic and humanizing perspective on immigration; a must-have for classrooms, libraries, and bilingual collections.—*Mary Margaret Mercado, Pima County Public Library, Tucson, AZ*

ANDREWS, Troy. *The 5 O'Clock Band.* illus. by Bryan Collier. 40p. photos. Abrams. Jun. 2018. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781419728365.

K-Gr 4—In this beautiful companion to the award-winning *Trombone Shorty*, the author shares his love and appreciation for his hometown of New Orleans and the musical heritage that exists there. Based on his own experiences as a boy, Andrews shares with readers the story of Shorty and his friends, members of the 5 O'Clock Band, who love to parade down the street and through their neighborhood of Tremé playing music each afternoon after school. One day Shorty gets so involved in his practicing that he's late to the rendezvous point and is left wondering if he really has what it takes to be a bandleader. As he wanders in search of his mates, Shorty encounters a number of beloved neighbors, including Tube Tremé and Big Chief, who each offer him a salient piece of advice to consider. He's reminded of the importance of tradition, love, and dedication. Andrews provides some information on the history of the Mardi Gras Indians in the back matter; however, librarians will want to provide additional resources for readers. Collier's exquisite artwork rendered in pen and ink, watercolor, and collage brings readers into the heart of the city that Andrews so dearly loves. These complex and layered illustrations complement the story perfectly, honoring the vibrancy of New Orleans. **VERDICT** Consider this beautiful book wherever Andrews's *Trombone Shorty* is popular.—*Heidi Grange, Summit Elementary School, Smithfield, UT*

BAILEY, Ella. *One Day on Our Blue Planet... in the Ocean.* illus. by Ella Bailey. 32p. (One Day on Our Blue Planet). Nobrow/Flying Eye. Jun. 2018. Tr \$16.95. ISBN 9781911171416.

PreS-Gr 1—The latest in this series follows a dolphin calf as she explores the vast Pacific Ocean while guiding a lost baby whale back to her mother, helping her pod to group their prey near the ocean's surface to eat, and staying alert by sleeping with one eye open. As with the other books in the series, the story depicts a typical day from morning to night, and here the background shades of blue

on each page gradually signal this change. Each spread is brimming with a variety of sea creatures—the best, perhaps, being the illustration of the Great Barrier Reef, which will captivate readers as they search for all of the aquatic life within. All of the animals in the book are labeled on the endpapers that wonderfully depict the vibrant and amazing diversity of ocean life in the shallows as well as the deep. A simple, engaging narrative combines with the rich colors of the work to provide a charming introduction to the ecosystem for young audiences. **VERDICT** A great addition to any informational picture book collection and a solid choice for a read-aloud with little explorers.—*Maggie Mason Smith, Clemson University, SC*

BRUCHAC, Joseph. *Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story.* illus. by Liz Amini-Holmes. 32p. Albert Whitman. Apr. 2018. Tr \$16.99. ISBN 9780807500071.

Gr 2-5—Bruchac has penned a moving portrait of Chester Nez, a Navajo code talker who survived the residential school system and World War II. The narrative opens in 1929, with an eight-year-old Betoli being forced into a missionary's truck and given the name Chester. Even though he was told to only speak English in order to “live in the white man's world,” he decided to never forget his language and his people. Once he graduated, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was placed in platoon number 382, the group who created the only unbreakable code during the Second World War. Told in chronological segments (e.g., “December 1941: Month of Crusted Snow”), the work explores how closely the trauma of the residential school system and of fighting in war resemble each other. Amini-Holmes's illustrations are visceral in their depiction of pain; however, these moments are offset by more joyful scenes of Nez with family and his fellow code talkers and of him living “the Right Way.” (“But what he felt best about...able to live the Right Way as a Navajo, holding on to his language and traditions despite being told in school to give up his culture.”) Back matter includes an author's note and a portion of the Navajo code. **VERDICT** A can't-miss picture book biography.—*Amanda C. Buschmann, Carroll Elementary School, Houston*

CHRISTOFORA, Kevin. *Amira Can Catch.* illus. by Dale Tangeman. 40p. (Hometown All Stars). Clarendon. Mar. 2018. Tr \$12.99. ISBN 9780986349331.

Gr 1-3—Amira is new to school, having relocated to the United States from a refugee camp in Syria. In an effort to help her make friends, a classmate named Nick invites her to practice with his baseball team after school. From there, readers are taken through various techniques and terms that Amira is also

learning. Kids are given a glance into what a Syrian refugee camp might look like, but they are given no explanation as to why her family was there to begin with. The characters are drawn in a cartoon style, and sometimes they demonstrate different game-related formations, positions, and plays. Unfortunately, the illustrations don't always match the text, depicting the children standing in a different way than instructed or are odd; lasers shooting out of their eyes, for example. The coloring on all pages is inconsistent and the Asian American character has a yellow tinge in addition to being drawn with exaggeratedly slanted eyes. The back matter consists of an article and a list of terms readers learned in the narrative, but no definitions are given. This book attempts to be too many things at once—a story about a Syrian refugee, an instructional book on baseball basics, a tale about friendship—but falls short on all fronts. **VERDICT** Most collections will want to skip.—*Kerri Williams, Sachem Public Library, Holbrook, NY*

CORNELL, Kari. *Dig In!: 12 Easy Gardening Projects Using Kitchen Scraps.* photos by Jennifer S. Larson. 64p. further reading. glossary. index. photos. websites. Millbrook. Apr. 2018. Tr \$31.99. ISBN 9781512430653.

Gr 3-5—Don't throw away that lettuce core or those potato ends—instead, recycle and turn them into new plants. This is a beautiful book for beginning gardeners that encourages the use of kitchen scraps and cuttings. The title is filled with projects to grow sweet potatoes, lettuce, garlic, and many vegetables and herbs. Planting zones and soil composition, as well as tools and supplies needed are covered in the planning stage. Each project is then outlined with drawings, photography, and step-by-step instructions that are easy to follow. Each section also includes recipes for using the plants that are grown. There are instructions on how to make seedling pots from old newspapers and how to root stems in a glass of water. The author and the photographer are experienced gardeners and writers of children's nonfiction books, making this collection of projects even more valuable. **VERDICT** A fine addition to gardening collections.—*Cynde Suite, Bartow City Library, System, Adairsville, GA*

DODD, Emily. *Did You Know? Science.* 144p. diag. glossary. illus. index. photos. DK. Mar. 2018. Tr \$21.99. ISBN 9781465469328.

Gr 2-5—This introduction to a wide breadth of topics is easy to access, contains numerous text features, and has colorful visuals that are accessible to young learners. It is clearly organized into topics for users who may not have yet developed scientific vocabulary, such as “The Living World,” and “Human Body.” Each chapter is further organized

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