

# WPR - THE MORNING SHOW - 1/4/19

**Caroline Akervik** is an avid reader, an elementary school librarian at Lakeshore Elementary in the Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and an author of middle grade and young adult fiction including *Summer Snow*, *Halcyon: A Sentinel Novel*, and *A Horse Named Viking*. For more information on her novels, please visit her website: <http://carolineakervik.blogspot.com/> or follow her on Twitter at @CAkervik or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HorseNamedViking/>.

**Becky Wojahn** is a long-time school librarian who now teaches children's and young adult literature classes in the Library and Information Services program at the Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire. She also writes books for kids (*Malcolm at Midnight*, *Glow: Animals with their Own Night-Lights*) under the pen name W.H. Beck. You can find her online at [www.whbeck.com](http://www.whbeck.com).

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## PICTURE BOOKS (PRESCHOOL - early elementary)

\**Don't Blink* by Amy Rosenthal, illustrated by David Roberts

Interactive bedtime story. Readers are challenged not to blink - if they do, a page is turned and when they reach the end of the book, they have to go to bed.

\**The Wall in the Middle of the Book* by Jon Agee

The pictures tell a very different story than the words. Helps early readers learn to read through looking at the pictures and the words to decode the story.

\**Sparky!* by Jenny Offill, illustrated by Chris Appelhans

Sloths may make surprisingly satisfying if not super engaging pets. The illustrations add to the humor and charm of the story.

\**Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal

Main character thinks she has way too many names - six! As she asks people about her names, she learns about her family history. Great family conversation starter.

*I Walk with Vanessa: a Story About a Simple Act of Kindness* by Kerascoët

A little girl helps a bullied classmate with an act of kindness and changes her whole community. Touching, not cloying.

\**Lovely Beasts: the Surprising Truth* by Kate Gardner, illustrated by Heidi Smith

Features "unlikeable" animals with their stereotypical word, then, after the page turn you learn the other side of that creature. Could be jumping off point for conversations on not judging animals/people on first impressions.

## PICTURE BOOKS FOR SLIGHTLY OLDER READERS (7-11 year OLDS)

\**Whoosh! Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions* by Chris Barton

(nonfiction) True story of inventor of Super Soaker water gun. Most kids are familiar with the water gun. Gets them fired up about STEM and their own capabilities.

\**Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover* (nonfiction) by Markus Motum (author/illustrator)

Reads like science fiction but TRUE! Awesome illustrations.

\**I'm Just No Good at Rhyming* by Chris Harris, illustrated by Lane Smith (poetry)

Hilarious poetry, in the vein of Shel Silverstein. Great for reading snippets out in short segments.

\**Cute as an Axolotl* (nonfiction) by Jess Keating

Great read aloud. Pictures hook the readers. Witty science writing about "cute" animals.

*What's the Difference?: 40+ Pairs of the Seemingly Similar* by Emma Strack, illustrated by

Guillaume Plantevin

If you've ever wondered what the difference is between noodles and pasta or rabbits and hares or other similar things, this book has you covered. Very browseable.

## **EASY READERS (new readers, ages 4-7)**

*Mo Jackson* series by Sam Ricks

Little boy who is passionate about sports but not the most gifted athlete.

*I Am (Not) Scared* by Anna King, illustrated by Christopher Weyant

Characters from *I Am (Not) Small* deal with fears while contemplating riding a roller coaster.

*Ballet Cat* series by Bob Shea

Easy words and humorous illustrations on theme of friendship. Fun and not preachy.

*King and Kayla* series by Dori Hillestad Butler, illustrated by Nancy Meyers

Brief mysteries for early chapter book readers. King is a dog who helps his owner, Kayla, solve mysteries.

## **EARLY CHAPTERS BOOKS (INDEPENDENT READERS, AGES 6-10)**

*The Infamous Ratsos* series by Kara LaReau

Newish chapter book series of brothers who want to be "tough" like their dad, but somehow, everything they do ends up helping people. (Dad doesn't mind.)

*The Unicorn Rescue Society* series by Adam Gidwitz + others, illustrated by Hatem Aly

Fun fantasy with short chapters about friends assisting mythical creatures around the world - co-written by authors from that culture.

*Narwhal and Jelly* series by Ben Clanton (graphic novels)

Super cute series of two best friends - a narwhal and a jellyfish - and their adventures undersea. Graphic novels reminiscent of *Frog and Toad*.

\**Dory Fantasmagory* series by Abby Hanlon

Dory is a bit of a wild hair with many imaginary friends. Laugh out loud funny. 2nd graders love it as a read aloud.

## MIDDLE GRADE (UPPER elementary - MIDDLE SCHOOL)

*The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson

Fantastic puzzle mystery set in modern day, but with historical roots in the civil rights era (and beyond). Lots to talk and learn about, plus a darn good mystery to solve.

*City of Ghosts* by Victoria Schwab

For kids who love scary. About a girl who, ever since she almost drowned, can see ghosts. Ironically, her parents (who can't see ghosts) are ghost chasers, filming a TV series. The first in a series, this one is set in Edinburgh, Scotland.

*Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* by Stacy McAnulty

Sweet and funny fish-out-of-water story of a math genius with obsessive-compulsive tendencies having to survive a year in middle school.

*The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid* by Dylan Thuras and Rosemary Mosco, illustrated by Joy Ang (nonfiction)

From the creators of the adult book and website, *Atlas Obscura*, this features little known places around the world. Fun to read together, one segment at a time, then go investigate.

*Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

Misfit cast of characters save boy who is trapped in well. Deals with important issue of bullying.

*Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed

Pakistani girl dreams of education but is forced into indentured servitude. Culturally relevant story.

*Sanity and Tallulah* (graphic novel)

Two girls, living on a space station, have to track down their unauthorized three-headed kitten who has escaped - and discover other things afoot. Lots of STEM, quick read, relatable characters and friendship.

*2 Truths and a Lie* by Amie-Joan Paquette and Laurie Thompson (nonfiction)

Fun nonfiction book to read together - readers are presented with 3 outrageous stories, two are true, one is a lie. Could be launchpad for "fake news" discussions.

*Science Comics* series, assorted authors/illustrators (nonfiction, graphic)

Informational comics about all sorts of science topics, from dinosaurs to dust.

## YOUNG ADULT (MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL)

\**Boots on the Ground: America's War in Vietnam* by Elizabeth Partridge (nonfiction)

True account of Vietnam War history, but told in alternating chapters - one chapter will discuss the history, the next will be a first-person account of a person living through the historic events. Brings history alive.

*Dread Nation* by Justina Ireland

Blends zombies, fantasy, history, and horror. Will rock your world.

*You Bring the Distant Near* by Mitali Perkins

Three generations of Bengali women learn to live between cultures.

*Trail of Lightning* by Rebecca Roanhorse

In a post-apocalyptic world, the Dinétah (Navajo nation) has been reborn but the legends now roam the earth. Maggie, a Dinétah monster hunter, battles tricksters and gods and monsters. As you might expect, it's dark, with much violence. For upper YA.

*The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang (graphic novel)

A poor seamstress is hired to make clothes for the prince, only he also secretly wants dresses, too. A beautiful friendship (and possible romance) develops.

\**Hey Kiddo* by Jarrett Krosoczka (graphic novel)

Memoir of favorite children's author/illustrator's difficult childhood dealing with an addicted mother, absent father, and how art and an extended family saved him.

*Turtles All the Way Down* by John Green

Aza, who is struggling with anxiety, and Davis team up to solve a mystery.

*Anger is a Gift* by Mark Oshiro

Bleak look at world of systematic racism from viewpoint of gay teenager whose father was killed by police.