Footwork: The Story of Fred and Adele Astaire
by Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch

In 1905, four-and-a-half-year-old Fred Astaire put on his first pair of dancing shoes—and from that moment, his life was filled with singing, dancing, and fancy footwork. This is a fascinating story of child stars who hoof their way to knockout success on Broadway and beyond and a boy who exceeds at an art form often thought of as reserved for women.

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by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Paul Lee

Kidnapped from her home in Africa and shipped to America, she’d had everything taken from her: her family, her name, and her language. But Phillis had a passion to learn. Amid the tumult of the Revolutionary War, Phillis Wheatley became a poet and ultimately had a book of verse published, establishing herself as the first African-American woman poet.

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Handel, Who Knew What He Liked
by M. T. Anderson, illustrated by Kevin Hawkes

George Frideric Handel always knew what he liked. And he was never afraid to do what he liked. Even in his darkest hour, when it seemed everyone and everything was against him, Handel stayed true to himself. And because he did, he has become one of the best-loved composers in the world. This absorbing biography illuminates the life and legacy of a musical visionary.

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Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker
by Kathryn Lasky, illustrated by Nneka Bennett

The first freeborn child in her family, Sarah Breedlove Walker rose from a bleak world of poverty and discrimination to unprecedented success as an influential businesswoman and philanthropist.

PB: 978-0-7636-6091-8 • HC: 978-0-7636-6427-5

Henry Aaron’s Dream
by Matt Tavares

Before he was Hammerin’ Hank, Henry Aaron was a young boy growing up in Mobile, Alabama, with what seemed like a foolhardy dream: to be a big-league baseball player. He didn’t have a bat. He didn’t have a ball. And there wasn’t a single black ball player in the major leagues. But none of this could stop Henry Aaron. In a captivating biography of Henry Aaron’s young life—from his sandlot days through his time in the Negro Leagues to the day he played his first spring-training game for the Milwaukee Braves—Matt Tavares offers an inspiring homage to one of baseball’s all-time greats.

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Electrical Wizard: How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World
by Elizabeth Rusch, illustrated by Oliver Dominguez

When a Serbian boy named Nikola Tesla was three, he stroked his cat and was enchanted by the electrical sparks. By the time he was a teenager, he had made a vow: Someday I will turn the power of Niagara Falls into electricity. Here is the story of the ambitious young man who brought life-changing ideas to America, despite the obstructive efforts of his hero-turned-rival, Thomas Edison.

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It began in 1865 as a romantic idea, but ten years later, Édouard Laboulaye’s dream caught fire and took shape. Sculptor Auguste Bartholdi gave the dream the form of a lady, holding a torch to “enlighten the world.” Engineers, plasterers, carpenters, coppersmiths — many of them immigrants — worked together to turn the lady into a monument over 100 feet tall. Joseph Pulitzer called on readers to help fund a pedestal, and hundreds sent in nickels, dimes, and even roosters for the cause. Doreen Rappaport’s historically accurate, poetic vignettes and Matt Tavares’s magnificent images remind us of the origins of a national symbol — and show that it took a lot of people to make the Lady.

PB: 978-0-7636-7115-0 • HC: 978-0-7636-7114-3

Residents along the Mississippi Gulf Coast thought Walter Anderson was odd, rowing across twelve miles of open water in a leaky skiff to reach Horn, an uninhabited island without running water or electricity. But this solitary artist didn’t much care what they thought as he spent weeks at a time on his personal paradise, sleeping under his boat, sometimes eating whatever washed ashore, sketching and painting the natural surroundings and the animals that became his friends. Here Anderson created some of his most brilliant watercolors, work he kept hidden during his lifetime.

PB: 978-0-7636-7117-4 • HC: 978-0-7636-7116-7

From the meadows of Scotland to the farms of Wisconsin, from the swamps of Florida to the Alaskan tundra, John Muir loved the land. Born in 1838, he was a writer, a scholar, an inventor, a shepherd, a farmer, and an explorer. But above all, he was a naturalist. Here is the life story of the man who, moved by a commitment to preserving wilderness everywhere, founded the Sierra Club, a conservation group that carries on his crucial work to this day.

PB: 978-0-7636-6214-1 • HC: 978-0-7636-6470-1

From the time Charles Darwin was a boy, he was happiest when he was out alone collecting specimens (especially beetles). And despite his father’s efforts to turn young Darwin — a poor student — into a doctor or a clergyman, the born naturalist jumped instead at the chance to sail around South America, observing and collecting flora and fauna along the way. A lively text and captivating images tell the story of the ever-curious boy who grew up to make one of the most significant discoveries of our time.

PB: 978-0-7636-6843-3 • HC: 978-0-7636-6842-6

When Ella Fitzgerald danced the Lindy Hop on the streets of 1930s Yonkers, passersby said good-bye to their loose change. But for a girl who was orphaned and hungry, with tattered clothes and often no place to spend the night, small change was not enough. One amateur night at Harlem’s Apollo Theater, Ella made a discovery: the dancing beat in her feet could travel up and out of her mouth in a powerful song — and the feeling of being listened to was a salve to her heart. With lively prose, Roxane Orgill follows the gutsy Ella from schoolgirl days to a featured spot with Chick Webb’s band and all the way to her number-one radio hit “A Tisket, A Tasket.” Jazzy mixed-media art by illustrator Sean Qualls brings the singer’s indomitable spirit to life.

PB: 978-0-7636-6458-9 • HC: 978-0-7636-6459-6

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