

Books about Innovation and Inventions For Grades K-5

Picture Books:

Compestine, Ying Chang. **The Story of Kites**, 2003. JE COMPESTINE Story

Long ago in China, three brothers become tired of chasing birds from their family's rice fields and experiment with ways to make the job easier.

Doherty, Kathleen. **The Thingity-Jig**, 2021. JE DOHERTY Thingity-jig

The moonlit night sparkles in town and city fanciful illustrations fill in the details of the tale and showcase Bear's inventiveness. Little readers might want to create their own Thingity-Jigs. A delightful, rollicking, joyous romp.

Fliess, Sue. **Goldilocks and the Three Engineers**, 2021. JE FLIESS Goldilocks

When Goldilocks, an inventor, goes for a walk seeking inspiration, three bear engineers visit her bungalow and see that her inventions need a little work to be just right.

Howes, Katey. **Be a Maker**, 2019. JE HOWES Be

How many things can you make in a day? A tower, a friend, a change? Straightforward questions engage readers in a discussion about the things we make and the ways we can make a difference in the world.

Kramer, Jacob. **Okapi Tale**, 2020. JE KRAMER Okapi

A greedy Okapi comes to Beaston and buys the Phantastic Noodler, but when Noodlephant returns from a trip to Japan and China, she leads a protest to set things right.

Loren, John. **Hugo Sprouts and the Strange Case of the Beans**, 2021. JE LOREN Hugo

Hugo Sprouts is a fantastic tale about a boy frustrated with being small. Luckily, Hugo P. Sprouts is a mad scientist and determined to find a solution.

Reynolds, Peter H. **Going Places**, 2014. JE REYNOLDS Going

Rafael has looked forward to the Going Places contest and builds his go-cart from a kit in record time, but his neighbor, Maya, has a more interesting and creative idea for her entry and Rafael decides to help.

Singh, Komal. **Ara the Dream Innovator**, 2021. JE SINGH Ara

Ara is a young girl who loves to dream BIG. Many of her amazing ideas come to her in her dreams.

So Ara builds a Dream Decoder to capture them. A story about inclusive innovation, and making your dreams come true.

Spires, Ashley. **The Most Magnificent Thing**, 2014. JE SPIRES Most

A little girl has a wonderful idea. With the help of her canine assistant, she is going to make the most magnificent thing! She knows just how it will look. She knows just how it will work. But making the most magnificent thing turns out to be harder than she thinks.

Spiro, Ruth. **Made by Maxine**, 2018. JE SPIRO Made

Maxine loves making new things from old things and tinkering until she has solved a problem. She is determined to create something to allow her goldfish to march in the school pet parade – can she do it?

Juvenile Fiction/Chapter Books and Graphic Novels:

Blakemore, Megan Frazer. **Frankie Sparks and the Class Pet**, 2019. JFIC BLAKEMORE Frankie
Frankie Sparks, the self-proclaimed "best inventor in the third grade," does research and creates a tool to try
to persuade her classmates that a rat would make the best class pet.

Hopper, Ada. **Down the Brain Drain**, 2020. JFIC HOPPER Down
Another fun title in the Data Set series. Dr. Bunsen's body in his newest invention, a vehicle that can shrink, to
gather all the cold germs that are interfering with an important presentation he has scheduled.
With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, the DATA Set chapter books are perfect for
emerging readers.

Keating, Jess. **Nikki Tesla and the Ferret-Proof Death Ray**, 2019. JFIC KEATING Nikki
Nikki Tesla is a genius, so mostly she finds school boring, and amuses herself by inventing things, like her
mysterious missing father. Trouble is most of her inventions have serious, lethal potential like the death ray
which just blew a hole in her floor! #1 in the Elements of Genius series.

Lawrence, Mike. **Star Scouts**, 2017. JGN STAR SCOUTS
Accidentally abducted by an alien named Mabel, Avani joins Mabel at Camp Andromeda, a camp for Star
Scouts where she has the adventure of a lifetime. #1 in the Star Scouts series.

Lloyd, Megan Wagner. **Allergic**, 2021. JGN ALLERGIC
Hoping to adopt a pet to find a sense of belonging in her busy family, Maggie is disappointed to discover she is
severely allergic to anything with fur and tries to find a pet to love anyway.

Sell, Chad. **The Cardboard Kingdom**, 2018. JGN CARDBOARD KINGDOM
Follows the adventures of a group of neighborhood children who create costumes from cardboard and use
their imagination in adventures with knights, robots, and monsters.

Selznick, Brian. **The Invention of Hugo Cabret**, 2007. JFIC/JCALD SELZNICK Invention
When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets
a mysterious toy seller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized. A Caldecott
Medal winner.

Sharpe, Luke. **Billy Sure, Kid Entrepreneur**, 2019. JFIC SHARPE Billy
Twelve-year-old genius inventor and budding businessman Billy Sure hosts an online contest for fellow kid innovators to
share their own inventions and the winning submission will be produced by his company, Sure Things, Inc. But with so
many fascinating entries, Billy wonders how he will ever choose a winner while helping other kids achieve their dreams
at the same time. Look for others in the series.

Stilton, Thea. **The Secret Invention**, 2014. JS THEA STILTON MOUSEFORD 5
The students of Mouseford Academy are participating in an enormous science fair! Mice from schools around the
world are all hoping to take the top prize. The Thea Sisters would love to win, but so would Ruby Flashyfur - and she's
willing to do whatever it takes! Can these mice play nice, or will the science fair be a total flop?

Nonfiction and Biographies:

Becker, Helaine. **Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13**, 2018. JBJO JOHNSON, K B395c
From Katherine's early beginnings as a gifted student to her heroic accomplishments as a prominent mathematician at NASA, this is the story of a groundbreaking American woman who not only calculated the course of moon landings but, in turn, saved lives and made enormous contributions to history.

Bolden, Tonya. **Changing the Equation: 50+ US Black Women in STEM**, 2020. JNF 509.252 B687c
Including groundbreaking computer scientists, doctors, inventors, physicists, pharmacists, mathematicians, aviators, and many more, this book celebrates over 50 women who have shattered the glass ceiling, defied racial discrimination, and pioneered in their fields.

Churnin, Nancy. **Beautiful shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring**, 2020. JBJO WARING, L C563b
Growing up in the late 19th century, Laura Wheeler Waring didn't see any artists who looked like her. As a young woman studying art in Paris, she found inspiration in the works of Matisse and Gauguin to paint the people she knew best. Back in Philadelphia, the Harmon Foundation commissioned her to paint portraits of accomplished African-Americans. Her portraits still hang in Washington DC's National Portrait Gallery, where children of all races can admire the beautiful shades of brown she captured.

DiCicco, Joan. **The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan: Inventor, Entrepreneur, Hero**, 2019. JBJO MORGAN, G D54u
The biography of Garrett A. Morgan, an African American entrepreneur and prolific inventor, whose bravery saved lives at the Cleveland Waterworks Disaster in 1916.

Freeman, Martha. **Born Curious: 20 Girls Who Grew Up to be Awesome Scientists**, 2020. JNF 509.252 F855b
A collection of biographies of twenty groundbreaking women scientists who were curious kids and grew up to make incredible discoveries.

Hudson, Cheryl Willis. **Brave. Black. First: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World**, 2020. JNF 920.7208 H885b
An illustrated biographical compilation of over fifty African American women from the 1700s through to the present day.

Kirkfield, Vivian. **From Here to There: Inventions That Changed the Way the World Moves**, 2021. JNF 629.046 K59f
Celebrating the invention of vehicles, this collective biography tells the inspiring stories of the visionaries who changed the way we move through air, water, and land.

Macaulay, David. **The Way Things Work Now**, 2016. JNF 600 M117w 2016
Text and numerous detailed illustrations introduce and explain the scientific principles and workings of hundreds of machines.

Montgomery, Heather L. **What's in Your Pocket?: Collection Nature's Treasures**, 2021. JNF508.0922 M787w
A science educator honors children's curiosity and pockets full of "stuff" by introducing eight scientists who collected natural treasures when they were young. Collecting, sorting, and playing with shells, stones, and other objects taught these young people how to observe, classify, and discover.

Mosca, Julia Finley. **The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin**, 2017 JBIO GRANDIN, T M894g
Describes the life and accomplishments of the animal scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities, from her early life and autism diagnosis through her journey to become a livestock expert.

Moss, Caroline. **Blast Off into Space like Mae Jemison**, 2020. JBIO JEMISON, M M913b
In this imaginatively illustrated book from the Work It, Girl series, discover how Mae Jemison became the first African American woman in space in this true story of her life.

Parsons, Karyn. **Saving the Day: Garrett Morgan's Life-Changing Invention of the Traffic Signal**, 2021.
JBIO MORGAN, G P268s
The story of Garrett Morgan, an African American inventor, who created the first automatic three-way traffic signal system.

Tentler-Krylov, Victoria. **Building Zaha: The Story of Architect Zaha Hadid**, 2020. JBIO HADID, Z T313b
An inspiring picture book biography about British Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid, who was a pioneer in her field against all odds.

Wallmark, Laurie. **Hedy Lamarr's Double Life: Hollywood Legend and Brilliant Inventor**, 2019. JBIO LAMARR, H W214h
Hedy Lamarr became a movie legend, but her true loves were always science and engineering. During World War II, Hedy collaborated with another inventor on an innovative technology called frequency hopping. It was designed to prevent the enemy from jamming torpedo radio signals and commanding weapons to go off course.