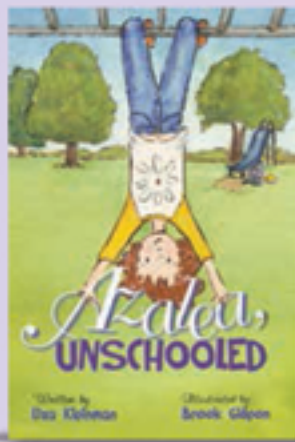




Captain Coconut and the Case of the Missing Bananas

Anushka Ravishankar, Priya Sundram, illustrator
Tara Books, Hardcover \$16.95 (96pp)
978-938314522-5

Amusement abounds in this non-sequitur-filled adventure that's a mix of noir detective novel and psychedelic cartoon. You can't get much weirder than Captain Coconut's method of mystery-solving or wackier than the graphic-novel-like illustrations, filled with color, humor, and sly details. Clever kids are sure to laugh and hope for more books featuring this turban-clad detective. Ages six and up.



Azalea, Unschooled

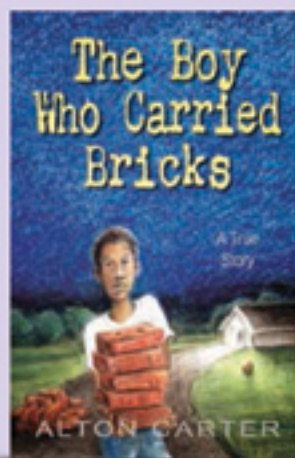
Liza Kleinman, Brook Gideon, illustrator
Islandport Press, Hardcover \$16.95 (140pp)
978-1-939017-58-1

Having been homeschooled her whole life and after moving to Portland, Maine, with her family, Azalea attempts "unschooling," in which she is given the freedom to "discover her own truth." She is guided by her parents, friends, and community members to learn practical skills and to find her own passions—though it's not as easy as it sounds. With everyday challenges come valuable lessons, and both parents and kids can be educated by this fascinating perspective. Ages seven and up.

Avis Dolphin

Frieda Wishinsky, Willow Dawson, illustrator
Groundwood Books, Hardcover \$16.95 (168pp)
978-1-55498-489-3

"The line between storytelling and lying is murky," says the professor to twelve-year-old Avis as they sit aboard the *Lusitania* in 1915. "All storytellers embroider their tales." His tale is one of the island Foula, where a giant and a bogeyman quarrel until a young girl washes up on the shore. Whimsy and elegance shake hands in this book as alternating text and graphic novel form narrate the story of the mysterious island and that of Avis and the *Lusitania*, marking the hundredth year of its sinking. Ages ten and up.



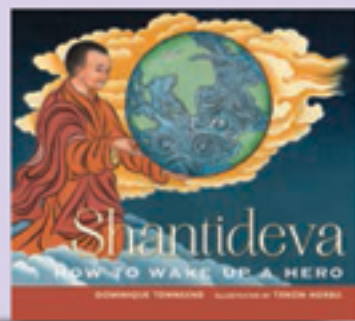
The Boy Who Carried Bricks

A True Story

Alton Carter

The RoadRunner Press, Hardcover \$18.95 (192pp), 978-1-937054-34-2

Although his memoir contains violence and mature themes—abuse, foster care, poverty, crime—Alton Carter tells the story of his rough childhood in a style that both enlightens and inspires. Older children will see themselves and their classmates in Carter's portrayal of foster families, teachers who stereotype, and peers who drag others into trouble. This autobiography could guide at-risk children through tough circumstances. It is at times heartbreaking but always hopeful. Ages twelve and up.



Shantideva

How to Wake Up a Hero

Dominique Townsend

Tenzin Norbu, illustrator

Wisdom Publications, Hardcover \$22.95 (64pp)
978-1-61429-058-2

In the simple, compassionate language akin to other Buddhist works, this insightful book offers spiritual teachings, practical advice, and an entertaining story, all at once. The monk Shantideva, depicted in various situations in majestic illustrations, speaks to his friends about avoiding selfishness and applying benevolence to difficult situations. Concrete examples root abstract concepts in everyday life to provide wisdom for children and adults alike. Ages ten and up.