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Children’s Book Update for 2007-2008

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A sleepless city girl imagines what it would be like to get away from snoring family members and curl up alone with one's thoughts in the cool night air under wide-open skies.  RL 4.5

When Baby Boo-Boo, a mouse dressed in a bunny suit, becomes lost in the forest, his mother follows the sound of his cries to locate him.  RL 1.6

Nic Bishop's photographs show all different kinds of frogs, big ones, very tiny ones, frogs with beautiful colors of skin, and one frog you can see inside of.  RL 3.7

Text and photographs introduce readers to different types of spiders and their behavior.  RL 3.3 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor book; Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor book.

Illustrated with historical artifacts and photographs, a fresh look at a pioneering American innovator traces Carver's life, discoveries, and legacy as the first African-American to attend Iowa State College and as an inspirational conservationist.  RL 6.1

A baby kangaroo is reluctant to leave the comfort of his mother's pocket, where he is safe and warm and can always hear her heartbeat, until he finds out that her heart is not actually in her pocket.  RL 2.6

Scientist Pierre Aronnax and his trusty servant set sail to hunt a monster. With help from Ned Land, the world's greatest harpooner, the men soon discover that the creature is really a high-tech submarine. To keep this secret from being revealed, the sub's leader, Captain Nemo, takes the men hostage.  RL 3.0

An independent young frog goes on a wild adventure when he accidentally gets carried away by a dragonfly.  RL 2.2

Describes the significant contribution Dolley Madison made to the United States when she saved a picture of George Washington.  RL 5.7
Tyrone and his friends rule the school except for the library, which he thinks is boring until strange happenings during story hour change his mind.

This picture book biography of William Carlos Williams traces childhood events that lead him to become a doctor and a poet.  RL 5.0

Presents nine of the illustrator's books of nursery rhymes and other classic rhymes for children, including "The House that Jack Built," "The Queen of Hearts," and "Baby Bunting."

Story about two boy's commitment to restore the Christmas spirit to their larger than life mother.  RL 2.4

When Bunny becomes separated from Ray, a magician who is his business partner and friend, he follows a crowd to a park where he has a lovely afternoon, and after the people leave and darkness falls, the lonely and frightened Bunny finds a glittering trail of hope.  RL 3.6

Norman Rockwell images accompany this patriotic song written for a Broadway musical by George M. Cohan.  RL 2.3

Upon moving to a new house, young Caroline and her parents encourage wildflowers to grow and birds and animals to stay in their yard, which soon has the whole suburban street living up to its name.  RL 2.3

A young rat hides in his father's bass case and tags along as he plays and scats around the big city.  RL 1.1

A brief biography of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, five-time Olympic swimming champion from the early 1900s who is also considered worldwide as the 'father of modern surfing'.  Asian/Pacific American Award  RL 6.0

This pop-up book of aircraft will take you up, up, and away with tons of facts all about flight! Lift the flaps and pull the tabs to trace the history of flying; check out the newest passenger planes in the pop-up airport; and step into the cockpit of a 747.  RL 7.7
Just before Christmas, when Frances sees a sad-eyed organ grinder and his monkey performing near her apartment, she cannot stop thinking about them, wondering where they go at night, and wishing she could do something to help.  RL 4.0

After Mercy Watson follows the delightful scent and delicious taste of the pansies her thoughtful neighbors plant to beautify their yard, animal control officer Francine Poulet is called out to handle the case, which brings unexpected results.  RL 2.6

Describes all the animals of the farmyard, including a goat, a cow, a rooster, bees, and bunnies, presented in verse and accompanied by woodcut and watercolor illustrations.  RL 2.0

As she impatiently waits for Santa's arrival, Olivia the pig tries to help with family preparations on the day before Christmas.  RL 2.3

Describes the cultivation and uses of apples.  RL 4.9

When Doc the bear arrives at the dump from his former home, he isn't sure about what awaits him but his new friends are determined to make his new home a welcoming one.  RL 5.2

A Christmas market in a snowy German village, an intimate French street lined with holiday lights, the crèche in St. Peter's Square in Rome, a phpto tour of Christmas across America - all of this and more comes to life in fourteen pages of pop-ups, pullouts and booklets about celebrations around the world.  RL 7.0

The true story of Vinnie Ream's courage and persistence in the service of art, and in the service of a friend.  RL 5.3

The author draws from a variety of folk traditions to put together this version of Cinderella, including elements from Mexico, Iran, Korea, Russia, Appalachia, and more.  RL 3.0

Lightships once served where lighthouses could not be built. They helped to guide sailors safely through the fog.  RL 2.3  *Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor book*
Rhyming text and illustrations describe the ways fish are caught in various locations around the world.  RL 5.4

Friends James and Eamon enjoy a wonderful week at the home of Eamon's grandparents during summer vacation.  RL 2.7

Every spring the monarch butterfly migrates thousands of miles in search of the ideal milkweed plant. When she finds it, she lays her eggs on the plant, so when each egg hatches, the baby caterpillar can feed on the milkweed leaves. The milkweed plant then provides the perfect protection as the caterpillar turns into one of nature's wonders, a chrysalis, before transforming into an even greater wonder: a monarch butterfly. And once the newborn butterfly soars away, the milkweed seeds fly away on the wind and start this cycle over again.  RL 3.1

Chronicles Paul Revere's life, describing his childhood as the son of a French immigrant, his work as a silversmith, and his roles in the American Revolution.  RL 6.4

Excited about their trip to the zoo, a young girl and her stuffed monkey delight in mimicking all the animals they see, such as a hopping kangaroo and stomping elephant, during their wonderful outing together.  RL 1.2

Best friends Randolph, a beaver, and Ivy, a goose, do everything together until Ivy is invited to a girls-only birthday sleepover party and Randolph, full of bad feelings, tries to spoil her fun.  RL 3.7

At bedtime, a young boy who cannot find his favorite book imagines the various creatures that might have taken it from him.  RL 1.5

In 1910, when his family moves to New York City from their ranch out West, Ben misses the cowboys and the prairies that they left behind, but after he learns that there are cowboys in the city who race along the railroad tracks and warn people of approaching trains, he begins to feel more at home.  RL 4.9

Long ago in Bethlehem, young Harold the rooster keeps failing to wake the other farm animals in the morning, but when a young woman gives birth to a very special baby in the stable, Harold is finally able to crow loudly and help spread the good news.  RL 2.2
Shows just how big several big things truly are by setting them next to other items in illustrations.  RL 6.7

ISBN: 9780316166867
Toot and Puddle celebrate Christmas and learn that the best kind of present for the best kind of friend is one that shows just how much you care.  RL 2.8

As the summer ends, six-year-old Garmann's three ancient aunts visit and they all talk about the things that scare them.  RL 2.6

Captured by humans after trying to steal their food, a small, hungry polar bear cub realizes his dream—to fly. End notes provide facts about polar bears and describe how, during the month of October, several hundred polar bears gather in the small Canadian town of Churchill, near the Hudson Bay, to wait for the sea to freeze over.  RL 2.3

When the Christmas Rabbit makes his wish come true and brings him the beautiful red sled from the store window, Little Rabbit wants it all to himself until he learns that even the best gift is better when shared.  RL 2.8

Tired of being ignored by his human family, Chester the dog sets off to find a new home, but when he is turned away by a flock of forest birds and taken in by a wealthy woman who treats him more like a toy than a dog, Chester soon discovers that old homes are not so easily replaced.  RL 2.2

ISBN: 9780525478362
A little girl awakens to scenes from fairy tales in which she can count familiar characters or objects from one to ten and back again.

ISBN: 9781423100232
Every summer on Chincoteague Island, there is an auction of ponies who have swum across the channel from Assateague, where ponies run free. If Julie works hard and saves her money all year, perhaps she can win the pony of her dreams, her very own Chincoteague pony.  RL 3.0

A preschooler marks the progress of her day, not by the clock but by what happens after lunch, after nap, after swimming, after the library - and after Daddy comes home. She doesn't map her neighborhood by street signs, either. Her morning walk to see dogs in the park takes her past the cat outside the deli, past her friend Errolyn's building and the daycare where she used to go when she was little, and down the block to the bagel store.  RL 2.9
ISBN: 9781933491080
Olivia shares a secret with her best friend who then lets it slip to someone else, and soon everyone knows about Olivia's secret.  RL 3.3  *2008 Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Honor Book*

Louie takes an imagined trip back to his old neighborhood. While there, Louie runs into a group of strange monsters who turn out to be his old friends in imaginative Halloween disguise; and their friendly cries of "Trick or treat," while Louie wafts home in his bright red airplane, blend with the real voices of his new neighbors as, helped by his mother into an ice-cream-cone costume, Louie goes outside to join them.  RL 1.8

The states decide to get together and put on a show featuring their particular talents. Also includes facts about the history and geography of the states.  RL 4.0

An illustrated biography of Alice Roosevelt Longworth that focuses on her experiences while her father was president of the United States.  RL 2.8

When Pecos Bill's daughter gets two pet hamsters, they soon multiply into the hundreds, so Bill decides to take them all to Chicago where lots of boys and girls want pet hamsters.  RL 2.4

Describes in rhymed text the many ways to use the greeting "Bonjour" when visiting Paris. Includes brief descriptions of Parisian landmarks at the end of the story.  RL 0.9

Chronicles the seven stories of the Narnia chronology; and features foldouts, mini-booklets, and pull-tabs.  RL 5.4

All of the animals in the forest go into hiding because the wolf is coming, but why they are hiding is the big surprise.  RL 1.8

A wordless picture book that shows a little girl's first experiences at the beach, as she goes from being afraid of the roaring waves to playing on the shore while gulls soar overhead.

In this wordless picture book, a young girl takes a train and makes a stop at a most unusual place where she has an important task to perform.
A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.  RL 2.6
Caldecott Honor book

Describes the visitors and activities which go on at Gleason’s gym in Brooklyn, where famous boxers such as Muhammad Ali trained.  RL 2.9

Bored with another normal, inky evening, bats discover an open library window and fly in to enjoy the photocopier, water fountain, and especially the books and stories found there.  RL 2.7

After building his ark and loading it with animals, Old MacNoah must deal with mealtimes and their aftermath on the high seas.  RL 1.2

Various animals greet the sunrise in their own unique voices, except for the owl who welcomes the night.  RL 2.2

Simple text and illustrations introduce the endangered bumblebee bat of Thailand.  RL 1.8
Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book

A child relates some of the wondrous tales told by an old man who once found a falling star and stood at the end of a rainbow.  RL 2.9

Velma starts first grade in the shadow of her memorable older sisters, and while her newfound interest in butterflies helps her to stand out, it also leads to an interesting complication.  RL 3.0

A pop-up book featuring colorful illustrations of everyday sayings.  RL 1.4

Presents the animals Robert Scott saw during his two years of study and exploration of Antarctica in the early 1900s, including penguins, whales, birds, and small, previously undiscovered sea creatures, derived from writings and sketches he left behind.  RL 6.2

Photographs and text introduce students to the development of baby sharks, describing how different types of shark pups grow from eggs to mature adults, the ways they avoid predators, and their ascent up the ocean's food chain.  RL 3.9
Illustrations and rhyming text portray a young bear searching for its mother and meeting many North American animals along the way.  RL 1.6

Six year-old Angela of Limerick, Ireland, worries for the Baby Jesus on the altar of St. Joseph's Church near School House Lane where she lives and on the damp, cold December nights the baby is sure to need her help.

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Describes the history of the American School for the Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, and the invention of American Sign Language, and includes biographical information on the school's founder, Thomas Gallaudet, and Alice Cogswell, the young girl who inspired the creation.  RL 2.8

A big boy and his best stuffed friend seek the courage to move to a gigantic new bed.  RL 1.3

Nella asks Santa for a Baby Betty doll, but she lives during the Depression. When her wish comes true, she must learn to share.  RL 4.4

**McMullan, Kate.**  I'm Bad!  Joanna Cotler Books, 2008.  ISBN: 9780061229718
A hungry Tyrannosaurus rex searches for food in the prehistoric forest but is thwarted in its attempts to find something to eat.  RL 2.0

An excited Bear mistakenly believes that Rat has given him a boat for his birthday.  RL 1.5

In 1632, John Tuttle set sail from England to Dover, New Hampshire and there he set up a farm on seven acres of land. From those humble beginnings the Tuttle family story became America's story.  RL 3.9

**Milord, Susan.**  Happy School Year, illustrated by Mary Newell DePalma.  Scholastic Press, 2008.  ISBN: 9780439882804
Children gather for a first day of school celebration that calms their worries about the day. Includes note about the history of such celebrations, and a related website.  RL 2.8
Die-cut pages and a pop-up illustration enhance the classic children's poem about the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. RL 5.2

From blueberries to vanilla, indigenous foods of the Americas are celebrated in this collection of haiku, which also includes information about each food's origins. *Américas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature*

When the shepherds are invited to follow the star to visit the Christ child, one young boy is left behind to mind the flock. But the angel Gabriel returns for him, taking the boy on a magical, memorable flight to be the first to witness the Christmas miracle. RL 3.6

Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Green Belt Movement, grew up in the highlands of Kenya, where fig trees cloaked the hills, fish filled the streams, and the people tended their bountiful gardens. But over many years, as more and more land was cleared, Kenya was transformed. When Wangari returned home from college in America, she found the village gardens dry, the people malnourished, and the trees gone. How could she alone bring back the trees and restore the gardens and the people? RL 3.3

Nancy is furious when she cannot go to her friend Bree's butterfly-themed birthday party, but her family's outing might just be extraordinary enough to make her feel better. Includes facts about butterflies. RL 2.1

Fancy Nancy provides one or more of her favorite fancy words for each letter of the alphabet, defines them, and uses some in sentences that show what they mean to her, such as that she yearns--wants really badly--to visit Paris someday. RL 2.7

Captain Raptor and the crew of the Megatooth are called back into action to save the planet Jurassica from rogue space pirates. RL 3.2

Chicken dreams about a treasure and sets off on a dangerous journey to find it. RL 2.3

Illustrations and easy-to-follow text describe Fred Astaire's humble dancing beginnings and the years he spent dancing with his sister, Adele. RL 5.1
The story of the young Art Tatum, who became one of the all-time greats of jazz piano. RL 2.2

Tells the story of Jesus' life from his birth in Bethlehem to his crucifixion and resurrection, and describes his teachings, explaining why he is called "the light of the world". RL 1.9

A sweet little girl meets a hungry wolf in the forest while on her way to visit her grandmother. RL 4.1

A bear continues to paint what he likes despite criticism from two passing gentlemen. RL 2.0

Traces the rise and fall of the city of Pompeii, describing the daily lives of the city's people, as well as their culture, beliefs, working lives, historical significance, and devastating end. RL 5.0

When Marilyn and her teacher, Miss Wichelman, both get cancer, they encourage each other and, aided by medical treatments and support from friends, they get better. Based on a true story. RL 3.9

Have you ever encountered an underwater marching band, a pig in a bathing suit, a pet orangutan, or a witch in a hardware store? Have you ever sat with a skunk in a courtroom, shopped for a dinosaur, or conversed with a Bupple, a Wosstrus, a Violinnet, or a Celloon? You will have, once you've read this collection of poems. RL 3.2

A father and son find an old Radio Flyer wagon when cleaning out the attic and, through the course of a week, turn it back into a wonderful toy. RL 2.0

A biography of a statue and symbol that captures and reflects the fervor of those who knew the Statue of Liberty best: the sculptor, the engineer, the newspaper publisher, the poet, and many others who understood her significance and foresaw her magnificent destiny. RL 6.2

An illustrated pop-up book of more than thirty entries that explain the origins and magical world of fairies, and includes other magical creatures, such as elves, gnomes, pegasus, and mermaids. RL 8.9
Frankenstein wants to marry his undead bride in peace, but his best man, Dracula, is freaking out about the garlic bread, and the Headless Horseman wishes everyone would stop drooling over his pumpkin head.  RL 3.2

A teacher tells the children in her class to talk to an adult if they are being sexually abused.  RL 2.1

Mrs. Madoff's preschool class learns about President's Day and puts on a play about the men who inspired the holiday, particularly those featured on Mount Rushmore.  RL 2.7

Even though he loves water, Sergio the penguin is afraid to swim in the deep water until he learns how.  RL 2.8

A bear is rescued by a fairy in an enchanted wood and agrees to return the favor by leading the battle against a usurper who has imprisoned the king and queen, along with their loyal subjects, in the dungeon of their castle.  Wordless book.

As four kittens who have never seen winter watch the seasons pass, three of them declare the reasons they will dislike snow when it arrives, while the fourth cannot wait to experience it for himself.  RL 2.7

Little Hoot wants to go to bed early, like all of his friends do, and he is hopping mad when Mama and Papa Owl insist that he stay up late and play.  RL 1.9

Jumpy Jack the snail is terrified that there are monsters around every corner despite the reassurances of his best friend, Googily.  RL 2.0

The story of the "Financier of the American Revolution," Haym Solomon.  RL 5.7

Each of the seven Chronicles of Narnia books has its own pop-up spread with detail and special effects.  RL 4.9

Growing up poor in the backwoods of Kentucky and Indiana, Abraham Lincoln lost his mother before he was ten. But Sally Johnston, who married Abe's father a year later, brought a library of books to their log cabin home and turned young Abe's life around.  RL 3.4
ISBN:  9780805075571
Turkey vultures soar on the balmy air, looking for their next stinky feast. These birds don't hunt--they like their food to be already dead. Vultures are part of nature's cleanup crew.  
RL 1.6  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

A small blue truck finds his way out of a jam, with a little help from his friends.  RL 1.5

A red tail hawk and his mate build their nest near the top of a Fifth Avenue apartment building and bird watchers gather hoping to see the chicks in the nest.  RL 5.2

Russell the sheep tries to help Santa fix his broken sleigh.  RL 3.2

A nervous Splat finds his first day at Cat School much better than he expected.  RL 2.0

ISBN:  9780761147633
Rhyming text asks if the reader can move like a variety of animals. Striped acetate overlays on board pages give illustrations the illusion of movement.  RL 2.4

ISBN:  9781596432734
Three more easy-to-read stories reveal the close friendship between a dachshund named Dog and a stuffed bear.  RL 1.6

ISBN:  9781596432727
A picture book about transformations.  RL 2.0  *Caldecott Honor book*

ISBN:  9780375841941
Horton finds an entire city of Whos on a speck of dust, but, since no one else can see them, no one believes they exist.  RL 1.6

A picture book biography, told as if by Vivaldi himself, shows the famous musician's energetic personality and steadfast dedication to music.  RL 2.4

Sherry, Kevin.  *I'm the Best Artist in the Ocean*.  Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008.  
ISBN:  9780803732551
A giant squid brags about being the best artist in the entire ocean.  RL 0.9

ISBN:  9780374334994
As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.  RL 2.7
A photo-illustrated exploration of penguins that covers their physical traits, behavior, reproduction, diet, and predators and the unique characteristics of various species. RL 6.9

Explains some of the reasons why people sneeze, featuring color micrographs of the air-pollen, dust mites, mold spores, dust, goose down, and other allergens that provoke sneezing. RL 6.9

To settle an inheritance dispute between two brothers, King Solomon tells a tale of how Jerusalem came to be founded. RL 4.0

ISBN: 9781423108467
A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were President of the United States. RL 3.6

ISBN: 9780152167790
Abigail, Ralphie, and the other citizens of Lumberville struggle to endure a week-long heat wave. RL 2.2

The story of creation from the NIV. RL 3.2

Illustrates each line of the Twenty-Third Psalm and features a foldout painting that combines all the previous pictures. RL 6.4

An illustrated edition of the traditional Christmas song. RL 4.9

A biography of Althea Gibson, the first black tennis player to ever compete in what is now known as the U.S. Open, and in the Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, England. RL 3.9

Discover a world from long ago through the eyes of Sir Hugo, a brave and noble knight. Life as it really was within the walls of medieval city is shown through artwork and pop-ups.

Minerva Louise follows a farmer in a red hat from a snowy rooftop, down a "well," and into the house with the red curtains, where she finds a tree decorated with sparkling eggs. RL 1.4
Illustrations and easy-to-read text explore the light that makes a house in the night a home filled with light.  RL 1.7

Written as a competition between every state bird, readers learn about United States history, geography, and wildlife.  RL 6.6

With Mrs. LaRue injured and in the hospital, Ike decides to uphold justice and take the laws of Snort City into his own paws.  RL 3.0

Despite the objections of Pig and Mouse, Duck insists on adding a special ingredient to the cake they are making to celebrate Cow's birthday.  RL 1.6

Besides being a general and the first president of the United States, George Washington was also a farmer. His efforts to create a self-sufficient farm at Mount Vernon, Virginia, mirrored his struggle to form a new nation. Excerpts from Washington's writings are featured throughout the book, which also includes a timeline, resource section, as well as essays on Washington at Mount Vernon and his thoughts on slavery.  RL 6.3

These are the apples, juicy and red, that went in the pie, warm and sweet, that Papa baked… for guess who!  RL 2.9

True story of five little girls with cerebral palsy or other physical disabilities who were determined to become ballerinas.  RL 2.7

The members of the Vowel family have a hard time talking until their children, Alan, Ellen, Iris, Otto, and Ursula, are born, and when one of them gets lost one day, it takes their Aunt Cyndy to fix the problem.  RL 4.3

As the author/illustrator attempts to create a picture book about a mouse in a house, her rotund feline Chester sends the mouse packing and attempts to rewrite the story with his handy red marker.  RL 1.8

The life of Matthew Henson from the port of Baltimore to North Pole.  RL 6.5
**Wells, Rosemary.**  *Otto Runs for President.*  Scholastic Press, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780545037228  
While the popular Tiffany and athletic Charles make increasingly outrageous promises in their campaigns for President of Canine Country Day School, Otto quietly enters the race, vowing only to try to do what students really want.  RL 2.4

ISBN: 9780152025229  
Baby and his family make some jazzy music.  RL 2.3  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor book*

ISBN: 9781423109617  
When Elephant accidentally breaks Piggie’s new toy, they both experience intense feelings before coming to realize how important their friendship is.  RL 0.6

ISBN: 9781423109624  
Best friends Elephant and Piggie decide that they will try to surprise each other, with unexpected results.  RL 1.2

Her daddy in tow, Trixie hurries to school to show off her one-of-a-kind Knuffle Bunny. But an awful surprise awaits her: someone else has the exact same bunny!  RL 2.9

ISBN: 9781423109600  
The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, but when a puppy arrives the pigeon changes its mind.  RL 1.2

**Willems, Mo.**  *There Is a Bird on Your Head!*  Hyperion, 2007.  ISBN: 9781423106869  
Gerald the elephant discovers that there is something worse than a bird on your head-- two birds on your head! Piggie will try to help her best friend.  RL 0.8  *Theodor Seuss Geisel Award book*

ISBN: 9780763631970  
A retelling in comic strip form of Geoffrey Chaucer's famous work in which a group of pilgrims in fourteenth-century England tell each other stories as they travel on a pilgrimage to the cathedral at Canterbury.  RL 5.3

**Willis, Jeanne.**  *Cottonball Colin.*  Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2008.  
ISBN: 9780802853318  
Afraid that her smallest child, Colin, will be hurt if he goes outside or plays, a mother mouse insists that he sit quietly indoors until his grandmother suggests wrapping him in cotton wool, which proves to be effective, but in a most unexpected way.  RL 2.2

ISBN: 9780618759262  
Mole is mad about magic until he takes his friend Mouse to a show that turns out to be all tricks, but then Mouse conjures up a special night program to show him the enchantment found in nature.  RL 2.0
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