

the balls their sports require; as a fun touch, a baby smiles at readers from one of the final pages, opposite a picture of a large beach ball on a bright green background. The lack of text creates an open-ended reading experience, allowing adults to ask children questions about the six sports introduced—golf, baseball, tennis, soccer, football, and basketball. Up to age 4. (*Sept.*)

Brooklyn Baby

Lisa McKeon, illus. by Violet Lemay. Duo Press (PGW, dist.), \$8.95 (22p) ISBN 978-1-938093-27-2

In a charming addition to the Local Babies series, McKeon sings the praises of the baby life in Brooklyn, N.Y., incorporating light fodder for discussions about the seasons, shapes, letters, and more. Lemay is careful to reflect the borough's ethnic diversity, with parents and children of many different backgrounds shown, and her references are nothing if not current: the Barclay Center's distinctive brown façade can be spotted in the corner of a transportation-focused scene, while "foodie" babies check out the offerings at what's clearly the Smorgasburg market in another. Simultaneously available: *Texas Baby*. Up to age 4. *Illustrator's agent: Mela Bolinao, MB Artists.* (*Sept.*)

★ Be Patient, Pandora!

Joan Holub, illus. by Leslie Patricelli. Abrams Appleseed, \$6.95 (24p) ISBN 978-1-4197-0951-7

In one of two titles launching the Mini Myths series, Goddess Girls author Holub presents less a retelling of the story of Pandora than a modern (and entirely delightful) twist on it. Instructed by her mother not to open a neatly wrapped box, Pandora grins mischievously at readers. "I am not opening the box. I am only touching it." Luckily, after bouncing on the box causes it to fly open, it isn't the evils of the world that pour out. Patricelli's preschool-age Pandora couldn't be cuter, and an endnote explains the original myth in greater detail. Genuinely funny and sweet. Simultaneously available: *Play Nice, Hercules!* Ages 1–3. *Author's agent: Liza Pulitzer Voges, Eden Street Literary.* *Illustrator's agent: Rebecca Sherman, Writers House.* (*Sept.*)

Countablock

Christopher Franceschelli, illus. by Peskimo. Abrams Appleseed, \$16.95 (94p) ISBN 978-1-4197-1374-3

Franceschelli and U.K. design team Peskimo follow 2013's *Alphablock* with this equally clever numerical companion, which counts to 10 before leapfrogging up to 100 in increments of 10. Each featured number gets two spreads that have a certain cause-and-effect relationship, with diecut numerals giving a peek at what's to come. Early on, two smiley snowmen in winter become (sad, but true) "two puddles" during warmer weather, and subtle humorous touches keep things

lively ("forty eggs become... thirty-nine chicks and one dinosaur"). Stylish silkscreenlike illustrations and opportunities for both counting and guessing what happens next should keep copies of this chunky book well-loved. Ages 1–4. (*Aug.*)

What's in My Truck?

Linda Bleck. Scholastic/Cartwheel, \$6.99 (10p) ISBN 978-0-545-53525-0

Readers can uncover the items that five distinctive big rigs are carrying in a board book that features multiple flaps on each spread. Bleck's cheerful cartooning shows each truck in profile: the "Red Barn truck" (which is pale blue, oddly) offers a counting exercise with "1 llama," "2 bunnies," and other animals hidden behind flaps, while the driver of the "Carnival Town truck," asks children to help her find her bag. Numerous reader-directed questions ("What color is this car?" reads a flap that unveils a Model T–style vehicle) provide many opportunities for interactive adult-child reading. Ages 2–4. *Agent: Lori Nowicki, Painted Words.* (*Aug.*)

ABC Insects

American Museum of Natural History. Sterling, \$7.95 (18p) ISBN 978-1-4549-1194-4

Like its animal and dinosaur-themed predecessors, this large-format addition to the AMNH ABC Board Books series uses the letters of the alphabet to introduce 26 creatures, this time of the insect variety. Photos of each insect are superimposed on solid-colored backdrops (except for the fireflies, which appear against a field by night, the better to show off their glowing lights). Readers get snippets of information about each insect ("A grasshopper's ears are found on either side of its belly"), just enough to pique the interest of young naturalists. Ages 2–5. (*Sept.*)

★ Counting on Letters: From A to Z and 1 to 26

Mark Gonyea. PowerHouse/POW! (Random, dist.), \$10.95 (28p) ISBN 978-1-57687-702-9

This stylish double primer covers both numbers and letters while giving children a crash course in graphic design in the process. High-contrast silhouettes on each page often evoke the work of Saul Bass as Gonyea opens with "1 A all alone" (the red 'A' appears to stand in a beam of white light) before moving on to nine 'I's "sprinkled on ice cream" (effectively turning the letters into jimmies), 15 white 'O's that turn into planetoids "in orbit" when set against a deep blue sky, and more. A smart and superbly executed combination of concepts. Ages 4–6. *Agent: Rosemary Stimola, Stimola Literary Studio.* (*Sept.*)

