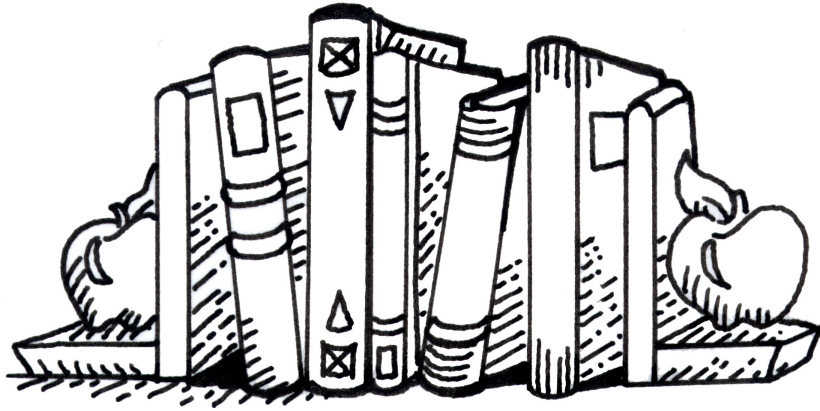


# The Best Teen Reads • 2010 •

**Sharron L. McElmeel**



Hi Willow Research & Publishing  
2010

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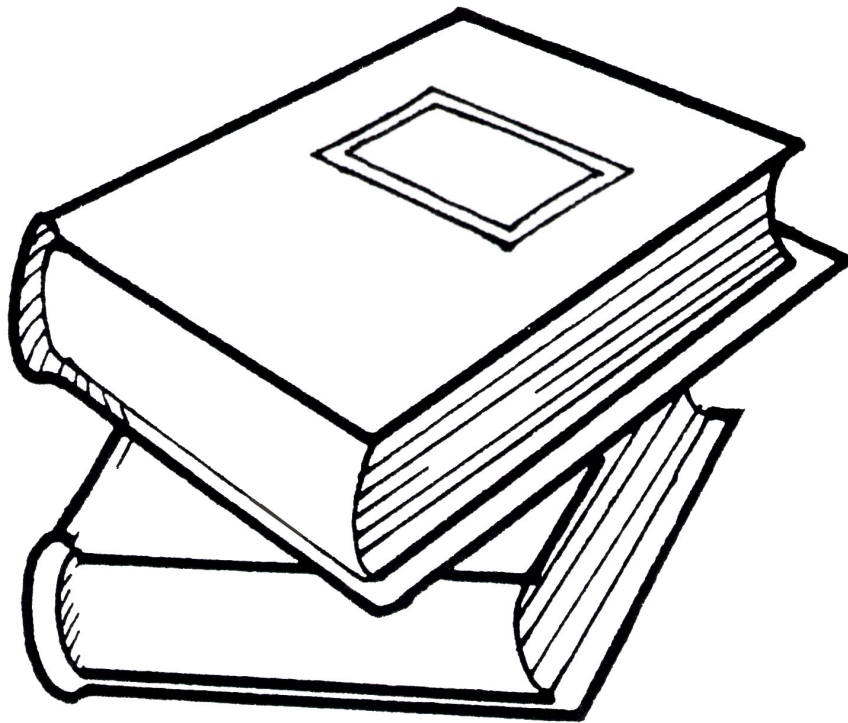
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# Section 1

## The Best Teen Reads



# The Best Teen Reads

## Introduction

Who decides what are the best teen reads? In this case, the best teen reads are those books published in the recent publishing seasons that have garnered notice because of star reviews from professional reviewing sources, tapped as an award winning book, received endorsements from professionals/teenage readers through online review sites, or professional/social networking venues. Recommendations have been sifted through, distilled, and collated into a list representing selections for a diverse group of readers. The list represents the trend to fantasy and vampire books; faerie worlds, and into realistic historic fiction. For the most part, the books listed in the following pages are those that were published for and marketed to young adults. The one major exception are those books that are selected as "Alex Award" books identified as adult books that teens will read and enjoy. Those of us considering purchasing and recommending books in 2010 and beyond will want to look to the most recent best books and choice book lists from the immediate past years and from those nominated for lists in the process of being compiled by various organizations and publications. The entries in the following booklist have notations indicating the awards/lists associated with a particular title. We reviewed these lists and identified those books that our work with young readers verified as among the best; additional books were identified because of student interviews, press received, and perhaps published too late in the publishing year to receive formal notice; or published too close to the publication of this book to have been listed on a select list. The following are sources that will further assist in book selection.

ALA Best Book: Each year the American Library Association (ALA) names a list of best books published in the prior year. Lists are available on the ALA site.

<[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bbyahome.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/bestbooksya/bbyahome.cfm)>

Bank Street College of Education Best Book: The Best Books list, selected for more than 90 years, is designed to guide parents, teachers, and librarians in choosing the very best books for children. <[www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/](http://www.bankstreet.edu/bookcom/)>

BCCB Blue Ribbon Non-fiction Book Award: The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books issues an annual Blue Ribbon List. The list is available at

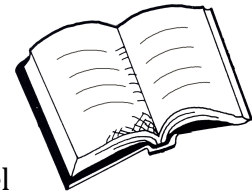
<[www.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/bccb/blueindex.html](http://www.lis.uiuc.edu/puboff/bccb/blueindex.html)>

Coretta Scott King Award: An award presented annually during the ALA convention. Only African American writers are eligible.

<[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/ckskbookawards/recipients.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/ckskbookawards/recipients.cfm)>

- Junior Literary Guild: For over 75 years the Junior Literary Guild has selected "bestsellers" for its guild members. <[www.literaryguild.com/Children\\_s-Books-books/Young-Adult.html](http://www.literaryguild.com/Children_s-Books-books/Young-Adult.html)>
- Michael A. Printz Award/Honor: An American Library Association award named for Michael A. Printz. (See Section 7.)
- National Book Award for Young People's Literature: The National Book Foundation awards. <[www.nationalbook.org](http://www.nationalbook.org)>
- Newbery Award/Honor: An American Library Association award named for John Newbery. (See Section 7.)
- Nominee for Edgar YA Mystery Award—2004: Each year the Mystery Writers of America nominate books, published in the prior year, in this genre. The award winner is named in April of each year. Various categories are included. <[www.mysterywriters.org](http://www.mysterywriters.org)>
- OSBCB, History/Science: The American Library Association annually names a list of books designated as Outstanding Books for the College Bound and Life-long Learners. Books are designated in various curriculum areas/areas of interest. <[www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/obcb](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/obcb)>
- Pura Belpré Award/Honor: An American Library Association award. (See Section 7.)
- Quick Pick-YA Reluctant Readers: Annually the American Library Association selects titles for its "Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers." <[www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/booklists/quickpicks)>
- Robert F. Siebert Award: An award for information books given by the American Library Association. (See Section 7.)
- SLJ Adult books for High School: Each year the School Library Journal lists their picks of adult books that will, in the editors' opinion, appeal to high school readers. <[www.schoollibraryjournal.com](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com)>. Locate the link for the current list.
- Starred Booklist: Books that received a star review in Booklist (a publication of the ALA), a professional reviewing source. Most Booklist reviews may be read online through the Barnes and Noble book and Amazon.com sites, which pay a fee to republish the reviews for your convenience. <[www.ala.org/booklist/](http://www.ala.org/booklist/)>
- Starred Kirkus: Books that received a star review in Kirkus Reviews, a professional reviewing source. Most Kirkus reviews may be read online through the Barnes and Noble book site, which pays a fee to republish the reviews for your convenience. <[www.kirkusreviews.com](http://www.kirkusreviews.com)>
- Starred PW: Books that received a star review in Publishers Weekly, a professional reviewing source focused primarily at the bookstore industry. Most Publisher Weekly reviews may be read online through the Amazon.com or the Barnes and Noble book site, which pay a fee to republish the reviews for your convenience.
- VOYA Top 10: The top ten books reviewed by The Voice of Youth Advocates. VOYA is a bi-monthly library journal. <[www.voya.com](http://www.voya.com)>

Identifying exactly what reader, based on age or grade, each of these books is appropriate for is not an exact science. Maturation, reading ability, interest, and need all play a role in identifying appropriate reading material for any individual or group of readers. Every eighth grade reader is not the same as the eighth grade reader sitting in the next chair. In this book we have provided information that will provide some guidelines for appropriate age level. The age of the main characters and content are all indicators of what readers might enjoy in the book. By the time a reader reaches middle school, actual reading levels vary so widely that designating any book for one grade level is simply a guess at best. Selection of books is more compatible with interest in the book's contents. The information included in the annotations that follow present only guidelines as indicators of appropriateness based on subject matter, presentation of the material, and interest. Interest often allows a reader to rise above reading level restrictions to master a book of high interest, while other readers who are more able may wish to read a book at a lower reading level because of interest or a need for information. Thus we leave it to you, the user of this guide, and to the readers themselves to determine which readers might best relate to any particular title.



Sharron I. McElmeel





## The Bookshelf

Abbott, Ellen Jensen. (2009) ***Watersmeet***. Marshal Cavendish. — Abisina has been different from birth — the color of her eyes, the color of her skin, and the lack of a father. But she has been safe in Vranille since her mother had status as “the healer.” But now the evil Charach has pledged to cleanse Vranille of all the unworthy. In order to survive, Abisina must seek refuge with her father in Watersmeet. Only then does she begin to realize that all creatures can live together — that is until the peace is threatened when the Vranians move to destroy all nonhumans. Will Abisina remain safe even under her father’s reign? Nominated 2010 BBYA

Abdel-Fattah, Randa. (2007) ***Does My Head Look Big in This?*** Scholastic/Orchard. — Abdel-Fattah takes readers through the emotional and spiritual journey of Australian 11<sup>th</sup> grader Amal. She is very articulate, humorous, a loyal friend, and an excellent student. She is also a devout Muslim and has decided to wear the hijab, a head covering, full-

time. A number of sub-plots bring up serious cultural issues in a very funny and entertaining tale of a journey undertaken by a strong and thoughtful young woman. YA Notable

Abrahams, Peter. (2009) ***Reality Check***. Harper Collins/Laura Geringer. — Cody’s hopes for a college sports scholarship is dashed when he injures his knee. With no future in sight he drops out of school. Then his rich girlfriend goes missing at an exclusive Vermont boarding school. Cody sets out to find where Clea has gone. His “country boy” perspective helps him find the red herring and uncover a surprise villain. Nominated 2010 BBYA



### Make the Connection: More Mysteries

Reach to the library shelves to locate *The Body of Christopher Creed* by Carol Plum-Ucci (Harcourt, 2000) and *The Killer's Cousin* by Nancy Werlin (Delacorte, 1998)

☐ Alexander, Lloyd. (2007) *The Golden Dreams of Carlo Chuchio*. Holt. —Once Carlo is orphaned he works for his merchant uncle, but his uncle loses his patience with his daydreaming and gives his nephew a purse filled with coins so he can follow his dreams. So taking the treasure map he has found in an old book, Carlo and two traveling companions set out upon an adventure to find the treasure. Starred Booklist.

☐ Almond, David. (2008) *The Savage*. Candlewick. —In a twist of reality, Blue Baker's story of a feral child living in the woods begins to merge with his own grief and anger at losing his father, and with his efforts to avoid Hopper, a bully who won't leave Blue alone. The pain he feels brings anger, violent revenge, and loneliness to his own life and to that of his comic book character. 2009 BBYA, Notable Children's Books

☐ Alsenas, Linas. (2008) *Gay America: Struggle for Equality*. Abrams/Amulet. —A first ever history of gay life in America, focusing on the attitude of the public toward homosexuality. Chapters cover attitudes during the periods 1910-39 and 1940-59, and then into the present day. Many accounts of personal viewpoints and experiences are woven into the historical treatment. This is important reading for all teens. Nonfiction. Starred Booklist, ALA Rainbow List

☐ Alvarez, Julia. (2009) *Return to Sender*. Random House/Knopf. —When Tyler's parents hire illegal immigrants to keep their farm operating after Tyler's father is injured. When Mari's family settles in on the dairy farm, Mari, a sixth grader, and Tyler share an interest in stargazing. Their families become friends – but Mari's mother is strangely missing and soon Tyler discovers why. "Coyotes" are offering to return Mari's mother for a price – Tyler's friendship involves him in the efforts to rescue Mrs. Cruz. But immigration officials are also lurking. Nominated 2010 BBYA



#### **Making the Connection: Crossing the Border**

Pair this book with Will Hobbs's *Crossing the Wire* (HarperCollins, 2006).

Hobbs recounts the story of fifteen-year-old Victor who makes a deal with a coyote to take him to the North (the United States). Every since his father's death, Victor has been responsible for his family – and he can't make enough money in the tiny village of Los Árboles to provide food for his family. For another view of the illegal crossing the U.S. and Mexico, by young people, is provided in Ann Jaramillo's *La Línea* (Roaring Brook, 2006).

Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2009) ***Wintergirls***. Penguin/Viking Books. — Once best friends Lia and Cassie were deeply competitive. Soon they became estranged former friends, and finally Cassie's anorexia leads to her death and Lia finds herself haunted by the death but no less prepared to halt her own spiral toward the a similar fate. As her own weight races from 101.30 to 97.00 to 89.00 she begins to realize that she has no control. And who knows perhaps she has started cutting herself again too. Nominated 2010 BBYA



### Making the Connection: Teens Who Cut

For more titles about the urge of teens to cut themselves to relieve inner frustrations and guilt, read *Cut* by Patricia McCormick (Front Street/Boyd's Mills Press, 2000), and Julia Hoban's *Willow* (see notes accompanying the entry for Hoban's book).

Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2008) ***Chains***. Simon & Schuster. —Set during the Revolutionary War, two sisters (Isabel and Ruthie) slaves of Loyalists must decide if they should be "loyal" as their masters are, or become American patriots and help the cause by spying. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2009 National Book Award Finalist, 2009 Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Award

### About the Author: Laurie Halse Anderson

Laurie Halse (rhymes with waltz)



Anderson's first book was published in 1996—but readers began to take real notice when her young adult title, *Speak*, was published in 1999. Since

then the list of books she has written have included: *Fever 1793* (2000), *Catalyst* (2002), and *Prom* (2005). Her books include both contemporary fiction and historical fiction. Learn more about Anderson on her website [www.writerlady.com](http://www.writerlady.com).

Anderson, M.T. (2008) ***The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: Vol. II: The Kingdom on the Waves***. Candlewick. —Continues the story of Octavian from the first volume: *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party* (2006). In the first volume Octavian, a slave, discovers that he and his mother are being used as part of an experiment; they are required to be part of a "Pox party" when everyone in attendance is injected with pox in the belief that those inoculated with the virus will build an immunity. His mother dies, and Octavian escapes. However, he is returned to his masters, but escapes once again and this time joins the Royal Ethiopian Regiment of the British Army in 1775 Boston with the promise that they will give freedom to any slave who fights against the Revolutionary forces. Historical fiction

examining freedom, loyalty, coming of age, and the importance of identity. 2009 BBYA; 2009 Michael L. Printz Honor Award, Starred Booklist, 2008 Horn Book Best Book, BCCB, 2009 Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor

**About the Author: Matthew Tobin (M.T.) Anderson**

Anderson's research, for his books about Octavian's story, included visits to battlefields in historic Lexington, Massachusetts, and hours spent in libraries



poring over 250-year-old documents. While researching facts about the Revolutionary War Anderson came across a little-known fact about the war. During the first year of the war, Lord Dunmore, the royal governor of Virginia promised any slave who fled their masters and joined the king's army would immediately be freed. With the thousands that escaped and signed up, the governor established Lord Dunmore's Royal Ethiopians, a regiment that battled against Patrick Henry and the patriots. The Royal Ethiopians were fighting for "liberty for slaves." That fact became central to the plot and events in this second book about Octavian. His first book about Octavian won the National Book Award for Young People and received a 2007 Michael L. Printz honor award. Anderson's extensive list of titles includes: *Feed* (2002) and *Whales on Stilts* (2005). M.T. Anderson lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Appelt, Kathi. (2008) *The Underneath*. Illustrated by David Small. Atheneum. —Set in the swamp, this tale and its characters, an embittered man, loyal hound, and a rescued cat will not be soon forgotten. 2009 Newbery Honor, Starred Booklist, 2008 National Book Award Finalist, 2008 Delete Key Award Finalist

Aronson, Marc and Campbell, Patty. (2008) *War Is...Soldiers, Survivors, and Storytellers Talk About War*. Candlewick. —From the perspective of those who lived through the war, this collection of contemporary and historical writings will provide a unique insight into the faces of war. Interviews, stories, memoirs, and blogs all provide a view into the experience from every angle. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

Arvin, Nick. (2005) *Articles of War*. Doubleday. —Through the eyes of soldiers serving "on the ground" during World War II. An eye-opening view of the carnage and chaos of the war. 2006 W.Y. Boyd Literary Award.

Babbitt, Natalie. (2007) *Jack Plank Tells Tales*. Scholastic/Michael di Capua. —Clearly an episodic tale that recounts Jack's efforts (or non-efforts) to find an occupation. He can't become a farmer, for example, because to get to the fields he would have to cross a bridge and he does not ever cross a bridge because he might meet a troll. He is a pirate who is boarding in the home of Mrs. Del Fresno and her

11-year-old daughter and they would prefer he find another calling. He is quite content being a pirate. This is a humorous, light-hearted read for the very youngest of YA readers or older readers who just want a light-hearted quick read. Starred Booklist, 2008-09 South Carolina Children's Book Award Nominee

□ Barakat, Ibtisam. (2007) ***Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood.*** Farrar/Melanie Kroupa. — A young high school girl (set in 1981) shares her memories of everyday life during the political upheaval in Palestine, her detainment by Israeli soldiers, flight to Jordan, and attendance at the United Nations School for refugees. A youthful view of the conflict and daily life within that conflict. Starred Booklist, 2007 Cybils Award, 2008 Arab American National Museum Book Award

□ Barlow, Toby. (2008) ***Sharp Teeth: A Novel (P.S).*** Harper/HarperCollins.—The seedy underside of Los Angeles is revealed through the lives of Anthony Silvo, a self-professed loner and dogcatcher and a mysterious woman. Free-verse captures the intrigue, the violence and the neo-horror of the grim story filled with werewolf related murders, rival lycanthropes, and the ties to ties to the LA drug scenes that might exist to a comic bridge tournament. 2009 Alex Award. 2009 Reading List Award

□ Barnes, John. (2009) ***Tales of the Madman Underground: A Historical Romance 1973.***

Penguin/Viking Books. — Since fourth grade Karl Shoemaker (now a high-school senior) has been a member of the self-proclaimed "Madman Underground" – a group constantly in therapy focused on helping the members of the group cope with their highly dysfunctional families. While the tale is tragic it is told with humor and charm, and Karl attempts to launch his senior year with "Operation Be Fucking Normal." Laced with very rough language, the story is true to its characters but never gratuitous. It is a page-turner. Nominated 2010 BBYA



**About the Author:  
John Barnes**

Barnes is a successful author of 27 books, mostly in the science fiction field, for adults.

This is his first for young adult readers. But, like his earlier titles, this story about Karl Shoemaker is both imaginative and filled with detailed character development.

□ Barry, Lynda. (2008) ***What It Is. Drawn and Quarterly.*** —Questions, images, story, comic illustrations gently push readers to examine the barriers that affect their lives. Through writing and drawing readers are encouraged to be all they can be. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Eisner Award nominee

□ Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. (2008) ***The Boy Who Dared***. Scholastic. —Helmuth Guddat Hubner, once a patriotic Hitler Youth listens to an uncensored BBC radio broadcast and begins to distribute the truth in pamphlets he and his friends secretly type and distribute. Bartoletti plucked on episode from her Newbery honor Book, *Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow* and parlayed the character into a full-fictional tale of his life. While waiting for execution Helmuth tells his own story through a series of flashbacks. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, Notable Children's Books

□ Bausch, Richard. (2008) ***Peace***. Knopf. —A tragic but realistic novel set in Italy during the winter of 1944. An American patrol unit in the bleak days of World War II is faced with the futility and moral complexity of combat. 2009 W.Y. Boyd Literary Award.

□ Beah, Ishmeal. (2007) ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier***. Farrar, Straus Giroux/Sarah Crichton Books. —Beah is growing up in Sierra Leona during the 1990s. At first, as a 12-year-old, he is enthralled with hip-hop, a precocious child who is soon caught up in the efforts of the rebels when they invade his village and he is thrust into indiscriminate atrocities of unruly, sociopathic rebel and army forces. He is addicted to killing and to cocaine – freely supplied to members of the army. When he is 15, the UN is able to put him into a rehabilitation

camp where he lived with his family and uncle in the capitol. When the capitol becomes engulfed in the war, he flees and eventually he is able to enter the United States where he now lives (and where he graduated from college in 2004). A firsthand account of war and of being a child soldier. 2008 Alex Award. NYTimes Bestseller, NYTimes Notable Book (non-fiction), Los Angeles Times Book Prize Finalist, Time Magazine's Best Books

□ Bell, Hilari. (2007) ***The Last Knight***. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. —Sir Michael (a knight errant) and Fisk, Michael's unwilling squire, mistake an accused murderess for a damsel in distress and after "rescuing" her they find that they must bring her to justice. Their adventure is filled with "magica"—a gift that enables the two (who become fast friends) to escape many close calls. The newly forged friendship promises that readers will see more of Sir Michael and Squire Fisk. 2009 BBYA.

□ Benioff, David. (2008) ***City of Thieves***. Viking. Benioff's grandfather's stories about surviving World War II in Russia and set during the Siege of Leningrad, two teenage boys struggle with unsavory characters and true danger as they attempt to avoid the death penalty. The colonel will spare them, if they can acquire a dozen eggs for the colonel's daughter's wedding cake. With many twists and dangerous turns this quest is much more dangerous than it appears on the surface. 2009 Alex Award.

□ Benway, Robin. (2008) ***Audrey, Wait!*** Penguin/Razorbill. —

Revengeful acts by Audrey's ex-boyfriend splash their failed relationship on the airwaves (in a hit song), and puts Audrey in the middle of his fans, the cameras, Facebook, and the gossip tabloids. Can Audrey handle the spotlight? 2009 BBYA, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book

□ Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. (2007) ***Frida: Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!*** Illustrated by Frida Kahlo. Marshall Cavendish. —

Bernier-Grand presents a famous artist's life in free-verse poems. Accompanied by a painting by Frida Kahlo – each poem illuminates another phase of her life. Those unfamiliar with her life, and her tumultuous marriage to Diego Rivera will want to read the prose biographical material that accompanies these imaginative poems. Frida's depiction of herself nude, as a very young person, in front of her family accompanies an original poem about family tensions. Both the illustrations and the oblique reference to turning points in the artist's life make this a book that will appeal to the mature teen. Starred Booklist, Pura Belpré Medal Honor

□ Birdsall, Olivia. (2007) ***Notes on a Near-Life Experience.*** Delacorte. — Written in short anecdotes, Mia tells of her life, marred by her parents' divorce, her crush on her brother's best friend—who has been declared off limits, and her less than perfect teen years. Her parents are not parenting

her little sister. Their father is off living with another woman and their mother works all the time. Mia's older brother, Allen, is drinking too much and somewhat put into chaos as his best friend, Julian, begins to show interest in Mia. Mia is in the middle of several crises caused by the pain of changing dynamics of the family. Delacorte Press First Novel Award, 2005, Bank Street

□ Bloom, Stephen G. (2008) ***The Oxford Project.*** Photographed by Peter Feldstein. Welcome Books. In 1984, Feldstein photographed the residents of Oxford, Iowa. Years later, in 2005, he photographed them again—and in a brief text composed by Bloom the story of a town is told. 2009 Alex Award. NPR Holiday Book Recommendation, NPR Best Picture Books

□ Blundell, Judy. (2008) ***What I Saw and How I Lied.*** Scholastic. — Life is not exactly as expected when Evie's father returns from the war. Secrets and deceptive behavior mixes with romance and mystery. 2009 BBYA, 2008 National Book Award

□ Boorhaem, Ellen. (2008) ***The Unnameables.*** Houghton Mifflin. — Anything that is of any value has a name – and on this island if it doesn't have a name, it is a useless object. Medford, washed up on shore when his parents drown, has no useful name. He is taken in by the Carvers and would be banished if the people in town found that he had been carving beautiful objects out of wood—

considered an abomination. When the Goatman (half-man and half-goat) arrives on the island, the two become friends and things begin to change. Nominated 2010 BBYA, Honorable Mention Maine Literary Award

☐ Booth, Coe. (2008) **Kendra**. Scholastic/Push. — Kendra's mom, Renee, has finally finished her Ph.D. program, however, Kendra's plans for a real family are dashed when her mother rents a studio apartment and leaves Kendra behind. Kendra turns to her boyfriend (the sex is frankly discussed, not graphic or gratuitous), and her best friend and aunt, Adonna. Kendra faces rejection and the realization that she is the only one responsible for her future. 2009 BBYA, ALA Quick Picks for the Reluctant Young Adult Reader

☐ Bowman, Robin. (2007) **It's Complicated: The American Teenager**. Umbrage Editions. —An eclectic and random collection of black and white photographs of teenagers from across the country with short testimonials about their lives. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA

☐ Bradbury, Jennifer. (2008) **Shift**. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. Two best friends, Chris and Win, set out, after graduation, to cross America on bicycles. Chris returns but Win does not and Win's powerful and domineering father sets out to find out what happened to his son. A mystery, a quest, and a conclusion you will not foresee. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

☐ Bray, Libba. (2009) **Going Bovine**. Random House/Delacorte. — Cameron goes on a quest for his very own life. Diagnosed with Mad Cow Disease he is destined to die. But along comes Dullcie, an angel—well maybe she is an angel or maybe a hallucination. In any case Dulcie has a cure, if only Cameron can keep up with a dwarf and a yard gnome in a crazy trip across the United States. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Brennan, Sarah Rees. (2009) **Demon's Lexicon**. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing/Margaret K. McElderry. — Alan and 16-year-old Nick have been on the run every since their father was murdered. Marked by a demon while saving a neighborhood boy this urban fantasy nearly reveals the truth behind their father's death and why their mother always screams whenever Nick comes near. Is Nick really a sword-wielding demon slayer? First in a series. Nominated 2010 BBYA



#### More Connections: The Demon's Covenant

Continue the saga in *The Demon's Covenant*

(Simon & Schuster

Children's Publishing/Margaret K. McElderry, 2010), the second book in the *Demon's Lexicon Trilogy*. In this title Mae is always in control but realizes that everyone she trusts is lying (and is in danger). Visit the author's website at [www.sarahreesbrennah.com](http://www.sarahreesbrennah.com).



□ Brooks, Laurie. (2008) *Selkie Girl*. Random House/Knopf. —Neither Selkie nor totally girl—but sixteen-year-old Elin Jean, is unaware of why she is different. Her webbed fingers return even when they are cut apart. Then she finds the seal skin beneath the family's porch and she comes to know another ostracized villager, Tam, the son of a gypsy peddler. Elin Jean seeks to find the keys to her own mysterious origins and her mother's unhappiness. Nominated 2010 BBYA Making Connections: Selkie Tales Taken from the roots of Celtic folklore, Brooks novel utilizes many of the motifs used in the traditional shape-shifter tales. Pair with: *Indigo* by Alice Hoffman (Scholastic, 2002); *The Music of Dolphins* by Karen Hesse (Scholastic, 1996), or *Daughter of the Sea* by Berlie Doherty (DK Children, 1997)

□ Brooks, Martha. (2007) *Mistik Lake*. Farrar/Melanie Kroupa. — Throughout her childhood, 17-year-old Odella has cared for her family while her mother sank further and further away; and finally left them all for a new life in Iceland. But now her mother has died. Odella finds it difficult to grieve for a ghost. But now she really is alone – with her dreams, her great-aunt, a first-love, and the shocking realization that sometimes, family secrets—no matter how painful, may be gifts in disguise. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA, 2008 CLA

□ Brothers, Meagan. (2008) *Debbie Harry Sings in French*. Henry Holt. —Johnny's life has always been hard, but at thirteen his dad dies in a car accident; he is even more conflicted. He turns to alcohol and by sixteen he finds himself in rehab and then shipped off to live with an uncle in South Carolina. His Goth ways bring on the bullies at the prep school he attends but he has the unconditional support of his friend Maria who encourages him to enter a drag contest as Debbie Harry, a singer he has admired for years. 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Rainbow list



### Breaking Grounding: Transvestism in GLBTQ Literature

By having a straight, cross-dressing protagonist in *Debbie Harry Sings in French*, Meagan Brothers manages to cut through one of the last bastions in YA literature. Her college years and late nights with her gay and straight friends gave her plenty of researched material to include in this book. Brothers is a huge fan of Debbie Harry and the band Blondie, as well as, a fan of B-52s and the Ramones; they play an important part in her debut novel. She writes in long-hand in spiral notebooks. To get in the right mood, she plays music she thinks might be playing in a particular setting, or a character's favorite songs. From her hand-written first draft, she enters her writing into a computer and then sets about revising. In 2009 she was working on her second novel.



### A GLBTQ Booklist for Further Reading:

★Castellucci, Cecil. (2007) *Beige*.— Katy is exiled to live with her punk rock father in LA while her mother is on an archaeological dig. Katy's personality emerges as she gains confidence in a musical environment that, unlike Johnny in *Debbie Harry Sings in French*, she dislikes very much.

★Peters, Julie Ann. (2004) *Luna*. Little Brown. —Regan is fiercely protective of her brother's life as Luna and helps him maintain his persona as Liam by day and Luna by night. But when Liam announces that he is ready to transition to Luna permanently, Regan isn't sure she is ready.

★St. James, James. (2007) *Freak Show*. Dutton Juvenile. —When Billy Bloom, drag queen, decides that he wants to be homecoming queen at this conservative high school, he sets some tongues wagging, and firmly establishes that one should not be defined by his/her sexuality.

★Wittlinger, Ellen. (2007) *Parrotfish*. Simon & Schuster.— Angela knows she is a boy, and so when she emerges as Grady, he is finally able to be a very normal boy – who must deal with issues of self-identify.

Bunce, Elizabeth. (2008) *A Curse Dark as Gold*. Scholastic. — Set during the early days of England's Industrial Revolution, Charlotte takes over the family mill, when her father dies. A series of misfortunes befall the

mill, and Jack Spinner shows up offers to help dispel the curses. He also seeks payment, as Rumpelstiltskin did. Charlotte fears for her child. 2009 BBYA, 2009 William C. Morris YA Debut Award, Smithsonian Notable Book, Amelia Bloom List, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book

Burd, Nick. (2009) *The Vast Fields of Ordinary*. Penguin/Dial. — Dade's boyfriend, Pablo, won't acknowledge him—perhaps because Pablo also has a girlfriend and is still denying his own place in life. Added to his crappy (and troubling) existence is a dreary job at a food store, and his parent's impending divorce. College looms as the light at the end of the tunnel. And then the mysterious Alex Kincaid enters, along with *real* love, and the opening of the closet door. Summer might just be redeemable after all—then tragedy strikes and Pablo's true character is revealed. A fresh LGBTQ novel that is both humorous and poignant. Set in Iowa. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Burg, Anne E. (2009) *All the Broken Pieces*. Scholastic. —Rescued during the airlift operations, from war-torn Vietnam 12-year-old Matt is haunted by memories of the family (mother and baby brother) that he left behind, and taunted in the classroom and on the baseball field by those who lost their own loved ones in Vietnam. While Matt is learning to understand the emotions behind the actions of his tormentors, others come to understand what Matt (and others) has endured. Nominated 2010 BBYA

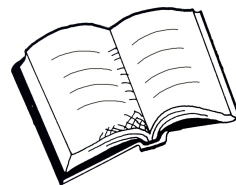
□ Burgess, Melvin. (2007) ***Bloodsong***. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse. —A sequel to *Bloodtide* (2001), a mix of science fiction and thirteenth-century Viking epic tales. Sigurd, the 15-year-old son of Sigmund (from *Bloodtide*) takes place in a futuristic war-torn England. This quest tale includes classic themes of heroism, love, and betrayal. For mature readers. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA

□ Caletti, Deb. (2008) ***The Fortunes of Indigo Skye***. Simon & Schuster. —Even though she has a somewhat crazed family life, her life is all she could want. She has a great boyfriend, a satisfying job at Carrera's restaurant in Seattle, and is content. But her life is about to change as a stranger orders a cup of coffee and leaves her a two-and-a-half-million dollar tip. A satisfying coming-of-age story. 2009 BBYA

□ Cameron, Peter. (2007) ***Someday This Pain Will Be Useful to You***. Farrar/Frances Foster. —James just wants a simple Midwestern life in perhaps, Indiana. Instead he finds himself headed to Brown University and visiting, during the summer, at his thrice married mother's Manhattan Art Gallery. Seeking to gain the attention of his mother's assistant, an older man, James ends up being accused of sexual harassment. A first person account of a young man's coming-of-age. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA, 2007 Horn Book Best Book. 2008 ALA Rainbow List, 2009 ALA Outstanding Books for College Bound

□ Cantor, Jillian. (2009) ***The September Sisters***. HarperCollins/HarperTeen. —Abigail won't believe that her younger sister, Becky, is actually gone. It's been two years since Becky's mysterious disappearance and the memories of their sometimes-volatile relationship brings pangs of guilt. Now she hears the words she has been waiting for, and dreading, "We have found her." Is missing better than dead? Their mother, often depressed, is among those that are suspect. The family is falling apart. Abby must find the killer— a suspenseful mystery that will keep readers reading. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Carey, Janet Lee. (2007) ***Dragon's Keep***. Harcourt. —Rosalind, a 16-year-old, is destined to become queen of Wilde Island, a dragon plagued island. But Rosalind has been born with a finger that looks exactly like a dragon's claw—a deformity that will mark her as a witch and seal her doom. To conceal the finger, she always wears a golden glove. In the summer she is plucked from her environment, by a dragon, and taken to care for his four pips, in the mountains. *Dragon's Keep* is filled



with imaginative fantasy in a dragon world sure to keep readers in suspense: fresh and compelling. Starred Booklist

□ Carey, Mike. (2007) ***Re-Gifters***. Illustrated by Sonny Liew. DC Comics/Minx. — Centered on a Korean-American teenager’s love of Hapkido, a martial art. Dixie and her best friend Avril enter a tournament. Dixie becomes infatuated with another contestant, Adam, but her crush/love is unrequited. Action, romance, and plot twists galore. Graphic Novel. Starred Booklist, 2008 ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens, 2008 Booklist’s Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth, 2008 BBYA

□ Cashore, Kristin. (2009) ***Fire***. Dial.—*Fire* takes place 30 years before *Graceling* —a prequel-companion book. *Fire* takes place across the mountains to the east of the seven kingdoms, in the Dells, a rocky, war-torn land. Fire, a 17-year-old, is the last remaining human-shaped monster and this is her story. *Fire* has only one common character with *Graceling*, that of a small boy with a special ability. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Cashore, Kristin. (2008) ***Graceling***. Harcourt.—Katsa is a graceling, each of which is born with a special talent: storytelling, swimming, dancing. Lady Katsa’s talent is very unusual— the gift of “grace” which she uses to serve her uncle King Randa. Po, enters the picture and convinces Katsa that she could use her gift for much worthier causes. When Katsa joins Po in a rescue mission, she finds romance, self-knowledge, and justice. She must, however, find moral courage to stand

up to evil rulers and fight for what is right? First in a Series. Starred Booklist, 2009 BBYA, SLJ Best Books, 2009 Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children’s Literature. SIBA Book Award for YA Literature, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List, 2008 Andre Norton Award Finalist, 2009 William C. Morris YA Debut Finalist

□ Castellucci, Cecil, and Jim Rugg. (2007) ***The Plain Janes***. DC Comics/Minx. —Moving to escape the evils of urban society into suburbia, Jane bands together to garner attention through their art terrorism. They gift wrap objects in the downtown, and put bubbles in the town fountain. The book is thought provoking and a great read. 2007 Cybil Finalist, 2008 Booklist’s Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth, 2008 ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens



#### Curriculum Connections: Public Art

Investigate the public art created by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, the Gates of Central Park, and other projects with the Golden Gate Bridge, and other projects designed by communities -- the cows of Chicago, and so forth. Perhaps a public art project in your own community could be designed. Connect with the book *Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond* by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan (See entry under Greenberg). *Janes in Love* (Minx, 2008) is the second book in this series.

☐ Chaltas, Talia. (2009) ***Because I Am Furniture***. Penguin/Viking. To her abusive father, Anke is invisible and a silent witness to the abuse foisted on her siblings and mother. Anke begins to find her worthiness and her voice when she joins the volleyball team and involves herself in school activities. Can she find enough strength to rescue herself and her family. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Clayton, Emma. (2009) ***The Roar***. Scholastic/Chicken House. — What really happened to his twin—she supposedly was accidentally drowned but 12-year-old Mika doesn't think so. He thinks she is still alive and being held as part of an evil plot to build a army of post-plague kids. When offered training he plays along hoping to get information to free his sister. Unbeknown to him his role will be much larger. Nominated 2010 BBYA

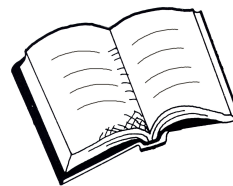
☐ Clement-Moore, Rosemary. (2009) ***Highway to Hell***. Random House / Delacorte Press. — A road trip across Texas lands best friends Maggie and Lisa (a sorceress) stranded in a very small town with a disabled car. It doesn't take them long to realize that evil lurks within the town, and they have become part of the terrorism that is griping the town. Always on the watch for trouble, this time trouble has found them. Are they ready for it? Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Cody, Matthew. (2009) ***Powerless***. Random House/Knopf— Six 12-year-old kids with superpowers and one new kid without. The superpowers are used to do good but all are in danger of losing not only their power but the memory of having had the power. They must find the villain— and it may be Daniel (the powerless one), along with a long-ago meteor strike, a World War II-era comic book—*Fantastic Futures*, the green-flamed Witch Fire, a hidden Shroud cave that holds the secret to the superhero villain who is sapping the power away. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Colfer, Eoin. (2008) ***Airman***. Hyperion. —Murder and court intrigue sends Conor Broekhart to prison on labor in the diamond mines. His days dreaming of flying hot air balloons and inventing flying machines are dashed. His energy is directed at breaking out of prison. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Bisto Book of the Year Shortlist

☐ Collard, Sneed B., III. (2007) ***Pocket Babies and Other Amazing Marsupials***. Illustrated. Darby Creek Publishers. — An introduction to marsupials from all over the world — from opossums to Kangaroos and Wallabys. Historical accounts, and

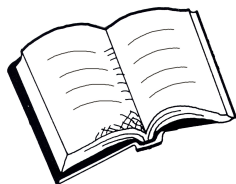
fossil evidence is included. Nonfiction. Starred Booklist.



Collins, Suzanne. (2008) ***The Hunger Games***. Scholastic. —Katniss will represent her district in the most inhuman of reality games, a deadly competition that can have only one winner? Will Katniss be the one survivor? And if she is, will she have given too much. First in a series. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2008 Book Best Books, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List, 2008 Locus Recommended Reading, 2008 Cybils Award, 2009 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

Collins, Suzanne. (2009) ***Catching Fire: The Second Book of The Hunger Games***. Scholastic. —Katniss Everdeen and her partner have won the Hunger Games but now the Capitol is angry and they want revenge. Katniss and Peeta should be enjoying their lifelong promise of safety and plenty, but there are rumors of rebellion. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Conner, Leslie. (2008) ***Waiting for Normal***. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins. —When Dwight and her mom “Mommers” separate, he is able to take his two daughters with him, but since Addie is not his, she must stay with Mommers. And when they are left to live in an old trailer under the overhead train track Addie must learn to take care of herself. With



a little help she almost succeeds. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Schneider Family Book Award

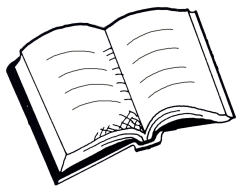
Crisler, Curtis L. (2007) ***Tough boy Sonatas***. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Boyds Mills/Wordsong. —Strong language (including the “N” word) peppers in these first person poems in the voices of African American males chronicling the violence and crumbling social structure in Gary, Indiana. Cooper’s sooty black and gray chalk-like drawings extend the mood and sullenness of the topic: justice, love, safety, sex, and education. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA

Crowley, Suzanne Carlisle. (2009) ***The Stolen One***. Harper Collins/Greenwillow. When her foster mother dies, 16-year-old Kat leaves her rural village to search for her birth parents’ identities. In the court of Elizabeth I, Kat discovers many secrets and struggles with her love for a rogue in the court and for the farmer back home. An author’s note clarifies facts that inspired the novel. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Cullen, Lynn. (2007) ***I Am Rembrandt’s Daughter***. Bloomsbury. —Fourteen-year-old Cornelia is left with her widowed father, Rembrandt van Rijn. They live in poverty but Cornelia dreams of a different life— one of wealth and emotional stability. This imagined life provides much information about Rembrandt, his art, and his innovative painting style. Author note includes information about paintings that are part of the story. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA

□ Curtis, Christopher Paul. (2007) ***Elijah of Buxton***. Scholastic. —Elijah is the first-born child in the town of Buxton, Canada, in 1849, established by runaway slaves. Elijah is just 12-years-old and not particularly known for being anything but the first-born child until a runaway slave steals money from Elijah's friend who is saving to buy his family's freedom. 2008 Newbery Honor, Starred Booklist, 2007 Booklist Editor's Choice, 2008 Coretta Scott King Award, 2008 Scott O'Dell, 2008 Great Lakes Book Award Finalist, 2007 Horn Book Best Book

□ Davies, Jacqueline. (2009) ***Lost***. Marshall Cavendish. —Essie's life is difficult on the Lower East Side (1990s) where she lives with her mother and younger siblings. She works at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory and meets the mysterious Harriet Abbott, who seems unlikely to be a factory worker. Essie is having a difficult time accepting the fact that her lively and joyful younger sister has died in an accident. Two historical events unfold: the mysterious disappearance of a wealthy heiress and the Triangle Shirtwaist fire of 1911. Nominated 2010 BBYA



□ D'Alusio, Faith. (2008) ***What the World Eats***. Illustrated by Peter Menzel. Tricycle/Ten Speed Press. —A compilation of information from 21 countries (25 families) and what they eat. Photographs, food comparison costs, and what a week's worth of groceries cost. Based on the author's/illustrator's adult title, *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. This edition has many additional charts and graphs. Lush photos and health statistics that will encourage readers to think about what they are eating. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

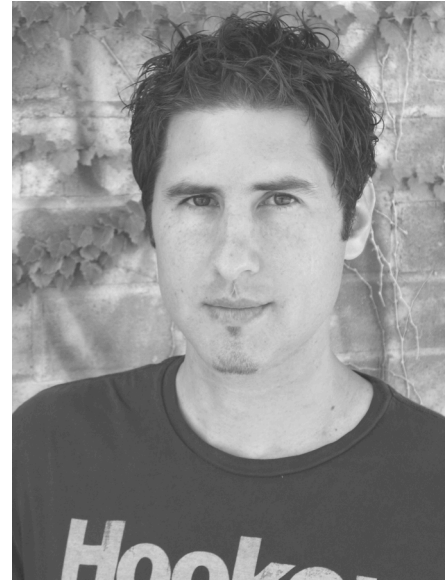
□ de la Peña, Matt. (2009) ***We Were Here***. Random House/Delacorte Press. —Miguel commits a horrible crime and ends up with a year long sentence to a juvenile group home. But then any home would be better than his mother's home. In the group home Miguel meets Randell and Mong who convince Miguel to steal travel money from the home and to set off with them to go to Mexico where each will start a new life. The trip is described in first person by Miguel, who continues to write in his court ordered journal, as the trio—a Mexican kid, an Asian kid, and an African American kid travel physically and emotionally to a new life and make discoveries about each other's race. Nominated 2010 BBYA

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## Meet the Author: Matt De La Peña

**M**att de la Peña is a rising new writer; a Hispanic writer. His first novel, *Ball Don't Lie* (2005) has been made into a movie. See the movie's website at for more information, a link to a movie trailer, and all the details <balldontliemovie.com>. His second book, *Mexican White Boy*, was published in 2008, and made several best book lists. His 2009 book, *We Were Here*, continues his emergence as a brilliant writer. His father is first-generation Mexican American; his mother white. He grew up in the shadow of Mexico, near San Diego in National City.



**A**s a teenager he decided his hope for a future resided in attending college. To afford college, he knew he would have to get a scholarship so he began to play basketball every day—by the end of high school he was offered a full scholarship to University of Pacific. After earning his undergraduate degree, de la Peña earned a graduate degree in creative writing from San Diego State University. He now lives in Brooklyn, New York where he teaches creative writing. In an interview with Amy Bowlian on her blog entry “Writers Against Racism: Matt de la Peña” (August 31, 2009), the author discusses the racism that influenced his thinking and his writing. He says, “In everything I’ve ever written... elements of racism and racial identity and racial consciousness color the world.” <[www.schoollibraryjournal.com/blog/620000062/post/210048421.html](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/blog/620000062/post/210048421.html)>.

Learn more about Matt de la Peña at <[www.mattdelapena.com/](http://www.mattdelapena.com/)>

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□ de la Pena, Matt. (2008) ***Mexican White Boy***. Delacorte. — Being half, half white and half Mexican leaves Danny 100% confused. It doesn't help that his father is absent from his life. Danny struggles with baseball, and must deal with his first love while in San Diego, for the summer, with his familia. 2009 BBYA, 2008 BCCB Blue Ribbon Book

□ Deem, James M. (2008) ***Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past***. Houghton Mifflin. —A fascinating tale of frozen bodies found in northern Italy (a 5300 year old Alpine Iceman), mummified Incan children from the Andes Mountains, and George Mallory's body on Mount Everest. Geographical information, notes about the ice-age glaciers, and events surrounding the causes of the deaths, and mummification of the bodies. 2009 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor.

□ Deneberg, Barry. (2008) ***Lincoln Shot: A President's Life Remembered***. Illustrated by Christopher Bing. Feiwel and Friends. —A large book (12x16 inches) with the look of "The National News." Features "news accounts" of Lincoln's assassination, the hunt for his assassins, and biographical information about Lincoln intertwined with historical Civil War information. Starred Booklist, 2009 Notable Children's Books

□ Dessen, Sarah. (2009) ***Along For the Ride***. Penguin/Viking. — Auden's mother is a controlling college professor; her father is quite the opposite. The summer before college, Auden decides to live with her father, his new wife, and their baby. She has many new experiences — riding a bike, new friends, dealing with her parents' divorce, and falling in love, as well as, richly drawn interpersonal relationships, authentic girl friendships, and a gentle romance. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Doctorow, Cory. (2008) ***Little Brother***. Tom Doherty. —After a major terrorist attack Marcus, computer geek, must find a way save everyone from an over protective police state. Starred Booklist, (2008) Nebula Nominee Award, Emperor Norton Award, PW Best Book, Bookgasm Best Sci-Fi, Locus Recommended Reading, SF Site Editor's Choice; and Readers' Choice, Prometheus Award, (2009) Locus Finalist, Hugo Nominee, BBYA, John W. Campbell Memorial Award, ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound, Sunburst Award



#### More About the Author :

**Cory Doctorow** — A science fiction author, activist, journalist and blogger. He was born in

Canada and now lives in London.

<[www.craphound.com](http://www.craphound.com)>

□ Dole, Mayra Lazara. (2008) ***Down to the Bone***. HarperTeen. — Laurie is Catholic, Cuban, lesbian, and labeled as “abnormal” by her mom who throws her out of the house. Lauri’s love, Marlena, gives in to her family’s wishes and marries a man. Lauri’s straight and black friend Soli, takes her in Lauri gets a job, and tries to fall in love with a man. Laugh out loud funny, this first person account says a lot about growing up as a lesbian, dealing with prejudices (even Lauri is guilty), and finding joy in friendships and love. Starred Booklist, ALA Rainbow List

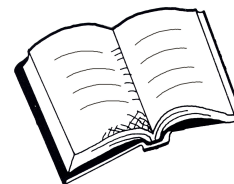
□ Dowd, Siobhan. (2008) ***Bog Child***. Random House/David Fickling Books. —During the 1981 feuding between Northern Ireland and the South; Fergus and his uncle uncover an ancient body preserved by the bog, which brings more trouble between the factions. Romance, mystery, historical events, intrigue. 2009 BBYA. Starred Booklist, 2009 Edgar Award Nominee

□ Dowd, Siobhan. (2008) ***The London Eye Mystery***. Random House/David Fickling.—Their cousin Salim gets on the London Eye—a ferris wheel in London, but does not exit with the other riders. Where has he gone? It’s up to Ted and his sister Kat to solve the mystery. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2008 Horn Book Best Book, 2008 Cybils Award, 2009-10 Texas Lone Star Book Award List

□ Echols, Jennifer. (2009) ***Going Too Far***. Simon Pulse/MTV Pocket Books. — A tightly written romance novel, with humor and nuances that keep readers interested. The relationship story of Meg (a blue-haired girl) and John (a police officer who picks her up one night) in the small town where both live. Each of them has their own issues. Their relationship develops—for better or for worse. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Efaw, Amy. (2009) ***After***. Penguin/Viking. —Star soccer player, responsible, and certainly not a pregnant teen. Even Devon did not believe that she could possibly be pregnant. She is home “sick” and the police are searching for the mother of an abandoned baby—a baby left in the trash to die. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Ellis, Ann Dee. (2009) ***Everything Is Fine***. Little, Brown and Company. — After Mazzy’s sister is killed in a tragic accident, her mother’s depression makes her emotionally unable to function. Her father, an ESPN reporter, physically absents himself. Mazzy spends her summer making art and heating up marshmallows in the microwave. Her friendship with the boy next door and activities in her neighborhood keep her functioning—but only when she discovers what tore her family apart, will she be able to figure out how to put it back together. Nominated 2010 BBYA



□ Engle, Margarita. (2008) *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*. Henry Holt. — Stories that recount Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain. Told in free verse and alternating voices this is historical fiction featuring real life characters, including Rosa La Bayamesa who struggled to save everyone, of any heritage, man or woman, friend or enemy. Rosa puts herself in peril but she is determined to help nurse the sick and wounded. She sets up secret hospitals in caves and hidden huts during three wars for Cuba's independence from 1850-1899. Rich poems and dramatic narratives in the same style as Engle's popular *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano* (Henry Holt, 2006). Nonfiction. 2009 Newbery Honor; 2009 Pura Belpré Award; 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

□ Engle, Margarita. (2009) *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. Henry Holt. — A German-Jewish teen, Daniel, is sent from his home, in 1939, in order to flee from the horrors of holocaust Europe. Denied entry into the USA and Canada, the ship travels to Cuba where the refugees are given visas – for a price. When 12-year-old Paloma discovers the role her own father is playing, she knows she must do something. Daniel's and Paloma's efforts to save others is told in free verse, in alternating voices. Nominated 2010 BBYA



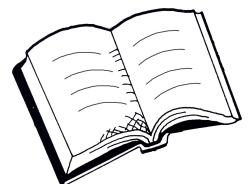
#### More About the Author: Margarita Engle

Margarita Engle is a botanist and the Cuban-

American author of several books about Cuba. She has earned many awards, including twice winning the Pura Belpré Award, and became the first Latina to earn a Newbery honor award. Margarita was born and raised in Los Angeles and still lives in California, where she hikes the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and helps her husband with his volunteer work for a wilderness search-and-rescue dog-training program. Read an interview with Engle, published in the *Guanabee: The Daily News Network for the Latino in You* by Alex Alvarez (23 February 2009).

<[guanabee.com/2009/02/surrender-tree-margarita\\_engle](http://guanabee.com/2009/02/surrender-tree-margarita_engle)>

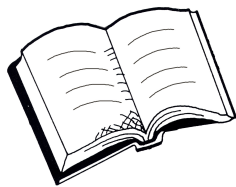
□ Fantaskey, Beth. (2009) *Jessica's Guide to Dating on the Dark Side*. Harcourt. — Jessica Packwood has always known of her adoption but not that she was Vampire royalty-betrothed as a child to a member of the Vladescu vampire family. And as she begins her senior year at Woodrow Wilson High School she is unaware that an arrogant vampire prince who expects to establish his birthright and claim his prize will be arriving at her high school. And a romance unfolds. If this plot sounds somewhat familiar be assured that it is fresh and a cut above in



terms of literary quality. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Farmer, Nancy. (2007) *The Land of the Silver Apples*. Atheneum. —In this sequel to *The Sea of Trolls* (2004), Jack learns his challenging little sis is actually a changeling and his real sister likely lives with hobgoblins. After a misguided exorcism fails, Jack must enter the out-of-time *Land of the Silver Apples*, to find his lost siblings. Set in eighth-century Britain, a mixture of Christian and pagan traditions create a druidic life force that takes Jack on an epic adventure. Starred Booklist, Booklist Books for Older Reader, Cybils Finalist, 2007 Emperor Norton Award

☐ Ferraris, Zoë. (2008) *Finding Nouf*. Houghton Mifflin. —This gripping murder mystery involves the death of very wealthy 16-year-old daughter of a Saudi family. A devout



Muslim guide and a young medical examiner seek to solve the mystery, while adhering to the sanctions of the

Middle Eastern society. 2009 Alex Award, 2008 Los Angeles Times -Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction

☐ Ferraro, Tina. (2009) *The ABC's of Kissing Boys*. Random House Children's Books/Delacorte Press. — Soccer has been Parker Stanhope's life she is looking forward to a spot on the varsity team. But Coach Hartley doesn't see it that way. Parker is relegated to playing with the junior

varsity team – a mostly freshman team. Parker's older brother has a plan—a plan that involves Parker's learning to kiss from a neighbor-the son of her father's archenemy's and a freshman to boot. The plan has possibilities and potential for many repercussions. But the bottom line is will Parker get a spot on the varsity team? Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Fleischman, Sid. (2007) *The Entertainer and the Dybbuk*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. —Years ago, the Great Freddie, a second-rate ventriloquist, was saved by a 12-year-old Jewish boy who was killed in the Holocaust. But now the boy's spirit returns and asks for Freddie's help to extract justice for a SS agent. The boy's spirit, Avrom Amos, likes to crack jokes but he's a ghost—a dybbuk. And Avrom exactly how to get his revenge. 2009 BBYA, 2008 Sydney Taylor Book Award

☐ Fleischman, Sid. (2008) *The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West*. Greenwillow/HarperCollins. —Fleischman introduces readers to Samuel Clemens and takes them from Clemens's childhood through the experiences that mold him into the renowned American, a most famous humorist, and social commentator. A very well written biography of one of the most interesting writers of the century. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist,



**Author Web Site: Sid Fleischman**

<[www.sidfleischman.com](http://www.sidfleischman.com)>

Learn a card trick – click on the “magic” link.

Fletcher, Christine. (2008) *Ten Cents a Dance*. Bloomsbury. — Fifteen-year-old Ruby Jacinski takes one of the few jobs available for a Polish-American girl. But a local thug befriends her and convinces her to quit and become a taxi dancer and soon she is “fishing” her clients for meals, money, jewelry, and is drawn further and further into the world of the mob. Until she realizes her future is only in her hands. 2009 BBYA, 2008 BCCB Blue Ribbon Book

Forman, Gayle. (2009) *If I Stay*. Penguin/ Dutton. —Mia’s family is in a horrific accident and Mia finds herself standing on the outside looking at her parents’ corpses and her younger brother being worked on by paramedics. She sees her own body in a coma, and struggles to figure out whether she should stay or go. Through her thoughts and flashbacks, readers are able to travel back through Mia’s life and explore the reasons she might want to live and to give up the struggle to survive. Readers will find themselves assessing their own lives. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Forman, Gayle. (2007) *Sisters in Sanity*. HarperTeen. —To 16-year-old Brit’s father she is out-of-control. Brit thinks no one will listen to her. No one understands, including her dad

who decides that she needs therapy. Brit is enrolled in Red Rock and forced into therapy. The trouble is Red Rock is a bogus treatment center and the environment is toxic. Her only salvation, her only chance at survival is banding together with her four “sisters in sanity,” V., Bebe, Martha, and Cassie. Together they hold onto their sanity and their sisterhood. Bank Street List

Freedman, Russell. (2008) *Washington at Valley Forge*. Illustrated. Holiday House. — Freedman, known for his meticulously detailed research and accuracy, and compelling narrative about his subject writes of Washington’s Revolutionary War involvement. The exciting story of the rag-tag army, hungry, fighting extreme cold, and without adequate clothing or food supplies is told with a clear perspective. Freedman tells of Washington’s rise to success against all odds. Starred Booklist

Freedman, Russell. (2007) *Who Was First? Discovering the Americas*. Clarion. —Freedman examines the facts and theories about the “discovery” of America. Examining the claims that fifteenth-century Chinese explorer Zheng sailed to America, Native Americans came across an ice bridge from the Bering Strait, Vikings from Newfoundland, and Columbus’s famed voyages in and around 1492. With his own questioning and examination he shows that history is not a static body of knowledge but rather an ever-evolving interpretation of facts and discoveries. This is an illuminating examination of

long-held theories about the first to be in America. Starred Booklist, 2007 Cybils Finalist (Nonfiction), 2007 Horn Book Best Book

- Freeman, Ru. (2009) *A Disobedient Girl: A Novel*. Atria. —A compelling first novel of contemporary Sri Lanka. Two women strive for freedom: one grows up as an orphaned servant in a wealthy household, and the other flees an abusive husband. Both take their own path but find that they are one another's promise of a future—romance, heartbreak, loss, friends and strangers, strong women, tolerance, and perseverance. Alternating voices of the two women: Latha and Biso, tell the story. Nominated 2010 BBYA



**More About the Author:  
Ru Freeman  
and Sri Lanka**

Freeman has written short stories and articles, but *A*

*Disobedient Girl* is her first novel. The book has been translated into several languages and published in various countries. Learn more about the author and her childhood home at [<rufreeman.com>](http://rufreeman.com).

- Gaiman, Neil. (2008) *Coraline: Graphic Novel*. Illustrated by P. Craig Russell. HarperCollins. — A graphic edition/adaptation of Gaiman's 2002 novel *Coraline* (illustrated by Dave McKean). While the narrative is streamlined, as compared to the novel, the illustrations enhance the

storytelling. *Coraline* retains her clever and resourceful traits while displaying her determination to do what she must. Whether or not one has read the original *Coraline* (2002), this book will be of immense interest. Starred Booklist, Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels, 2009 Eisner Award Nominee, 2009 Locus Award (Nonfiction/Art Book)

- Gaiman, Neil. (2008) *The Graveyard Book*. Illustrated by Dave McKean. HarperCollins. —Fantasy and humor mixed with the mystery surrounding a child called "Nobody Owens." Raised by spirits in a graveyard, Nobody, has the entire graveyard community as his protectors. (2009) Newbery Award; BBYA, Audies Award, Hugo, 2009 Locus, Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee, British Fantasy Award Nominee, World Fantasy Award, (2008) Time Magazine's Best Books of the Year, Horn Book Best Book, Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist, Cybils Award (Fantasy and Science Fiction), SF Site Editor's Choice, SF Site Reader's Choice

- Gardner, Sally. (2008) *The Red Necklace: A Story of the French Revolution*. Penguin/Dial. —Set during the French Revolution (eighteenth century), Yann, a magician's assistant sees the magician killed by the evil Count Kalliovski. The count also has his eyes on 14-year-old Yann and the dwarf that raised him. The Count's young daughter attracts Yann's romantic interests and Yann comes to feel he must rescue her from

the treachery of her father. Heart-stopping suspense with every page turn. 2009 BYAA, Starred Booklist

☐ Garsee, Jeannine. (2009) ***Say the Word***. Bloomsbury. —When Shawna’s mother was pregnant with Shawna’s brother she left to live with her lesbian lover, Fran, and left Shawna behind with her domineering father. After her mother’s death, Shawna comes face to face with her mother’s second family. And now Shawna’s father wants custody of his son. But her father’s actions toward Fran and her brother, brings Shawna to question her own ability to stand-up for what is right. Twists and turns in the plot make for a compelling coming-of-age novel, causing readers to examine prejudices and the circumstances of others’ existence. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Geerling, Marjetta. (2008) ***Fancy White Trash***. Penguin/Viking. —Her mother and sisters all became teenage mothers; Abby Savage is determined to be different. Her mom is pregnant, but her new husband is also the father of Abby’s sister Kait’s unborn baby. The only one she can turn to is Cody, but he has his own concerns—he’s trying to come out of the closet. Soap opera drama in every chapter. 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Rainbow List

☐ George, Jessica Day. (2009) ***Princess of the Midnight Ball***. Bloomsbury. A novelization of one of the Grimm Brothers’ best known tales, *The Twelve Dancing Princesses*.

Professional soldier Galen finds himself working in the royal court and his work in the royal gardens leads him to meet the beautiful Rose, the youngest of the twelve daughters. Cursed to have to dance each night until their shoes are in tatters, the princesses yearn for rescue. Perhaps Galen and his magical knitting pattern will be the key to the rescue—and while the princesses wish to be rescued they are not about to give up their fierce independence and loyalty to one another. Those familiar with the Grimm tales will not find any surprises here, but the trip will be worth taking. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ George, Jessica Day. (2008) ***Sun and Moon, Ice and Snow***. Bloomsbury. —Filled with folklore motifs, a great white bear promises Lass, a woodcutter’s daughter, that he will rescue her family from poverty if she will agree to live with him in his ice castle, for a year and a day. When the bear disappears, Lass begins an arduous quest for him and finds that if she does not rescue him he will be forced to marry a troll princess. A quest tale at its best. 2009 BBYA

☐ George, Madeleine. (2008) ***Looks***. Viking. —Looks aren’t everything but in this case their weight issues bring Meghan and Aimee together; Meghan is the invisible fat girl and Aimee the overlooked anorexic. The two share a common enemy, Cara who has turned her back on their friendship and stolen Aimee’s poetry. And then there is the pack of taunting boys who torment and bully.

Meghan and Aimee will get revenge.  
2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

Goodman, Alison. (2009) ***Eon: Dragoneye Reborn***. Penguin/Viking Books. —Each year 12 energy dragons choose an apprentice from a pool of 12-year-old boys. Eon, physically lame and unassuming, seems the least likely to be chosen. Eon is chosen but Eon is a 16-year-old girl, and as the new Dragoneye she holds great power and a dangerous secret that just might make her the greatest Dragoneye for centuries. Fans of J.K. Rowling and Stephenie Meyers's recent series will find this book very satisfying. A sequel is planned. Nominated 2010 BBYA

#### More Connections: Book Titles by

**Alison Goodman.** Her most popular book has been published under three different titles: *Two Pearls of Wisdom* (Australia), *Eon:*

*Dragoneye Reborn* (USA), and *Eon: Rise of the Dragoneye* (UK). The book has been translated in a number of other countries. For more information about the translations check Goodman's official website at

[<www.alisongoodman.com.au/>](http://www.alisongoodman.com.au/).

Grant, K.M. (2009) ***Blue Flame: Book One, The Perfect Fire Trilogy***. Walker & Company. —The son of a Cathar weaver and the daughter of a Catholic Count are locked in a forbidden relationship, forbidden because the two factions have not lived amiably ever since the reappearance of the legendary Blue

Flame. The setting is 1242 France.  
Nominated 2010 BBYA

Green, John. (2008) ***Paper Towns***. Penguin/Dutton. — When his neighbor (and someone he has loved from afar all of his teen years), Margo Roth Spiegelman, appears at his window she convinces him to go on a night of revenge—playing pranks to even the score with fellow classmates. And then Margo disappears—has she run away or committed suicide? What was Margo hiding? Quentin's quest is to learn where she is and what has happened to her. Definitely, not your normal coming-of-age novel. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2009 Edgar Award



**Author Web Site: John Green**

[<www.sparksflyup.com>](http://www.sparksflyup.com)

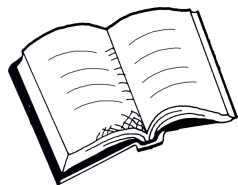
Links to his blog and his book pages.

Greenberg, Jan, and Sandra Jordan. (2008) ***Christo and Jeanne-Claude: Through the Gates and Beyond***. Roaring Book Press. — Examines all of the aspects of these two innovative artists and their project to put art in a public venue for the general community. This account details the efforts to put 23 miles of walkways in Central Park, accented by bright streams of saffron fabric panels attached to gates covered in the same bright fabric. A most interesting account that will excite readers about art. Starred Booklist, 2008 Horn Book Best Book



□ Griffin, Paul. (2009) ***The Orange Houses***. Penguin/Dial Books. —Living in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, three urban teens, outcasts among their peers, struggle together to overcome the poverty, gang violence, and lack of appropriate supports. From the very beginning their story will be unpredictable and predictable—with surprising twists and turns. Readers may not be prepared for the finale of this very powerful and moving tale of three friends. A slim volume, 147 pages that will keep readers from start to finish. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Gutman, Dan (Editor). (2009) ***Recycle This Book: What You Can Do to Save the World! 100 Top Children's Book Authors Tell You How to Go Green***. Random House/Yearling. —Essays providing suggestions about conserving energy, recycling, and protecting our environment, from 100 authors and collected in these 288 pages. Advice to young readers come from Lois Lowry, Rick Riordan, Jon Scieszka, Jane Yolen, Jerry Spinelli, Andrew Clements, Eoin Colfer, Bruce Coville, Jack Gantos, James Howe, Ann Brashares, Jeanne DuPrau, Caroline B. Cooney, Laurie Halse Anderson, Bruce Coville, Gennifer Choldenko, and many others. Profits from this book will be donated to environmental groups. Nonfiction. Nominated 2010 BBYA.



□ Harazin, S.A. (2007) ***Blood Brothers***. Delacorte. —When Clay and Joey are seven they spit into a bottle and declare themselves to be blood brothers. By the time they are in high school they begin to notice that they have completely different lifestyles. Joey is rich and Clay poor. Joey has a bright future in front of him, Clay, it seems, will always struggle. But one day Clay goes to Joey's and finds him hallucinating and violent. Joey is admitted to the same hospital where Clay is an orderly. But Clay may be blamed for Joey's condition. What really did happen at the party and what caused Joey to overdose? What does the future hold for Joey's best friend, Clay? Bank Street, 2008 Edgar Award Nominee, 2008 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult

Author Web Site: S.A. Harazin  
www.saharazin.com



□ Harmon, Michael. (2008) ***The Last Exit to Normal***. Alfred A. Knopf. —When Ben Campbell's dad comes out of the closet, Ben goes into full-blown rebellion mode. His dad and dad's boyfriend, Edward, set out to change the situation. Their first move is to plunk the spiked haired, skateboarding teen down into the midst of a very small town in the middle of Montana where he encounters, homophobia, an abused boy, and a special girl. But it's the boy that he must help, how can he help Billy help himself? 2009 BBYA, ALA Rainbow List - starred

Hartinger, Brent. (2009) ***Project Sweet Life***. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. —Dave, Victor, and Curtis decide to live the sweet life for one last summer — no summer jobs for them. Their families expect them to work hard to earn money. Their schemes bring them into the history of Tacoma, Washington and provide more surprises than they can imagine. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Headley, Justina Chen. (2009) ***North of Beautiful***. Little, Brown and Company. — Terra Cooper is very insecure—living with an abusive father, a birthmark on her cheek—she is never sure of her abilities or her place in life. Then she meets Jacob, a Goth Chinese boy with a cleft palate. Terra and Jacob soon build a friendship. With a number of turns in their lives, the two teenagers soon find themselves on the way to China. The old cliché “True beauty is within,” is at work here. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Heiligman, Deborah. (2009) ***Charles and Emma: The Darwins’ Leap of Faith***. Henry Holt and Company. —A fascinating love story on several planes. Love between Darwin and his first-cousin Emma; love of science and religion; love of his research. Darwin has many loves — and fears that wedded life might interfere or at least impact his scientific work. This is a biography of one of the world’s most famous scientists and his wife. A complicated story of family and science. Nonfiction. Nominated 2010 BBYA

**More Connections: the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Darwin’s Birth**

Charles Darwin was born on exactly the same day as Abraham Lincoln. Both anniversaries are celebrated in 2009. Introduce Darwin and his work



with one or more of these picture books:  
★Lasky, Kathryn, and Matthew Trueman.

(2009) *One Beetle Too*

*Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin*. Candlewick.

★McGinty, Alice B. (2009) *Darwin*. Illustrated by Mary Azarian. Houghton.

★Schanzer, Rosalyn. (2009) *What Darwin Saw: The Journey That Changed the World*. National Geographic.

Henkes, Kevin. (2008) ***Bird Lake Moon***. Greenwillow. —Mitch Sinclair, age 12, is at the center of this tale. His parents are divorcing and he has been sent to his grandparents’ home on Bird Moon Lake. But the days are not all easy with his grandparents either, and he thinks about moving into the empty house next door — but then the family that owns the empty cottage shows up, Mitch find a friend in Spencer, but not before he convinces Spencer that the brother who drowned in the lake is haunting him. The secret of that trick may just ruin their friendship – or could it become a bridge to each of their healing? Starred Booklist

☐ Herlong, M.H. (2009) *The Great Wide Sea*. Penguin/Viking. —In an attempt to deal with his grief over his wife's death, Ben's father sells their home and buys a sailboat. Soon Ben, his two younger brothers, and their father are setting sail – headed for Bermuda. One night their father goes overboard—on purpose or accident; the boys do not have time to reflect on the answer as a huge storm continues and there the three boys are, alone, in a damaged boat on a raging sea. A convincing survival story that will keep the pages turning. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Hernandez, David. (2009) *No More Us for You*. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. —At the beginning Carlos and Isabel do not know one another. Their lives will soon intersect: Carlos works at the museum with Isabel's good friend, Vanessa; and eventually each of them have a friend that is involved in the same accident—one dies and one is in a coma. A romantic slice-of-life with enough tension and action to keep teen readers reading. Told in alternating voices, in alternating chapters. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Hernandez, David. (2008) *Suckerpunch*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. — Marcus feels guilt about not being able to protect his brother Enrique from their abusive father. The two brothers turn to sex, drugs, and alcohol once their father leaves, but when their mother tells them their father might be returning,

the boys decide to embark on their own quest. They set out to find the answers and perhaps extract revenge? Are two brothers, their friend Oliver, and Enrique's girlfriend Ashley, undertaking more than they can handle? 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adults

☐ Herrick, Steven. (2009) *Cold Skin*. Boyd's Mill Press Inc./Front Street. —Albert Holding, an Australian soldier during World War II, has been to war and it has left him angry and bitter. His two sons, Eddie and Larry, are involved with girlfriends, but when Larry's girlfriend is murdered Larry becomes a suspect, along with several other townspeople including his father, Albert. Each character in the story has their own perspective, which they relate in their own voice, through various poems. Through the poems the mystery unfolds as a multilayered tale. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Hicks, Faith Erin. (2008) *The War at Ellsmere*. SLG. —Ellsmere is a high society boarding school where the rich bullies show open disdain for anyone poorer – especially those at the school on scholarship. This year Juniper is their target. But the bullies have met their match in Juniper who is self-confident and emotionally intelligent. For those readers who are not quite ready for Gossip Girls, but enjoy the fast pace of a graphic novel. Graphic Novel. Starred Booklist

**Web Site: Faith Erin Hicks – a cartoonist**  
[www.fatherinhicks.com](http://www.fatherinhicks.com)



Hijuelos, Oscar. (2008) ***Dark Dude***. Simon & Schuster. — The color of his skin (its too light) makes Rico the target of bullying in his drug-infested Harlem neighborhood. Escaping from his family problems and the ever-increasing neighborhood problems, Rico and his best friend Jimmy (who is a recovering heroin addict) head off to an older friend's farm in rural Wisconsin. Wisconsin seems to be a haven away from all of his problems but he still must face life—and has a lot of issues to resolve. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

Higgins, F. E. (2007) ***The Black Book of Secrets***. Feiwel and Friends. — Ludlow Fitch's parents force him into a life as a pickpocket. When they attempt to remove his teeth to sell for gin money he realizes that he must strike out on his own. He settles in the mountain village of Pagus Parvus and begins to work for Joe Zabbidou, a "secret pawnbroker." It is Ludlow's job to find out the secrets of the villagers and to write them down in a mysterious black book. Why Zabbidou wants that information is part of the mystery. As the mystery moves through the tale so does Ludlow as he begins to view Zabbidou as a mentor and finds his own self-worth. A tale with many Dicken-like qualities, leaves enough loose threads that readers may expect a sequel – and they will clamor to read it. Starred Booklist, 2007 Maine Student Reading List, West Australian Young Readers' Book Award Readers List 2009



### More Connections: The Author and Her Books

Hear F.E. Higgins speak about *The Black Book of Secrets* at the Meet the

Author USA site at

[www.meettheauthor.com/bookbites/1358.html](http://www.meettheauthor.com/bookbites/1358.html). She discusses this book as well as its "paraquel" – events happen in a parallel time frame with *The Black Book of Secrets*. Plan to read *The Bone Magician* (2009), which takes place in the same world but follows a different thread; and *The Eyeball Collector* (2009), the third book in this set of three companion books. Book trailers and brief enticing come-on phrases are available with links at F.E. Higgins's web site [www.fehiggins.com](http://www.fehiggins.com).

Hoban, Julia. (2009) ***Willow***. Penguin Group/ Dial Books. — With her parents dead from a car accident that happened while she was driving, sixteen-year-old Willow is known as the "killer orphan girl." Her older brother refuses to speak to her, except when absolutely necessary. To block the pain she resorts to cutting—self-mutilation to make the greater pain disappear. She keeps her "cutter" impulses a secret but when a classmate discovers her secret he feels he can help and he refuses to give up on her. Willow's struggle with tragedy becomes a love story during an intense journey to reality. Nominated 2010 BBYA

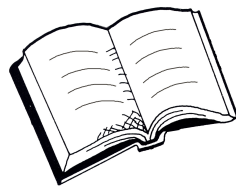


**More Connections:  
Teens Who Cut**

When Patricia McCormick wrote *Cut*

(Front Street/

Boyd's Mills Press, 2000) she told the story of fifteen-year-old Callie who became a "cutter" as a reaction to the guilt she felt for her brother's illness. Her situation results in her admittance to a psychiatric hospital where therapy plays a major part in her recovery. Pair McCormick's *Cut* with Hoban's *Willow* to help educate teens so *cutters* will be treated with understanding and respect. The psychiatric syndrome is often attributed to a dysfunctional family relationship, a mental disease, or a traumatic event such as presented in each of these books. Out of respect for those who might secretly be cutters in the group you will be sharing these books with, we would recommend that discussions focus on how to help peers who might be in distress rather than focusing on the diagnosis that might cause such a situation. Diagnosis is a job for professionals. For peers the crucial elements are the symptoms and suggestions for showing compassion and support for recovery. Also see entry for Laura Halse Andersen's *Wintergirls*.



□ Hoffman, Mary. (2007) *The Falconer's Knot: A Story of Friars, Flirtation and Foul Play*.

Bloomsbury. —Set in fourteenth-century Umbria, 16-year-old Silvano admires a local merchant's wife. When the merchant is murdered Silvano becomes a suspect. He takes refuge in a Franciscan Friary and begins to focus on learning about pigments for local artists. A series of other deaths occur and Silvano's freedom is at stake. He decides that he must solve the murders himself. An exciting and suspenseful mystery that will have readers engaged to the end. Starred Booklist, (2007) Booklist Books for Older Readers, Agatha Award Nominee

□ Hoose, Phillip M. (2009) *Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. — Rosa Parks and her refusal to give up a bus seat for a white passenger sparked a city wide boycott. Nine months earlier 15-year-old, Claudette Colvin sparked a similar protest but the leaders of the civil rights efforts decided that Colvin, a sometimes-volatile teen might not be the best choice for the face of a boycott. Claudette was involved in the Parks's boycott. During that time Claudette faced an unwed pregnancy and expulsion from school but Colvin's role in history was not finished. She was one of the plaintiffs in the court case that did eventually integrate Montgomery's buses. Nonfiction. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Horvath, Polly. (2008) ***My One Hundred Adventures***. Random/Schwartz & Wade. —Twelve-year-old Jane longs for adventure. There's not much happening on the beach where she lives with her artist, poet, mother (who likes to make jam), and with her younger siblings. But as summer arrives so do the adventures, a procession of possible fathers, and life's lessons. Starred Booklist

Howell, Simone. (2009) ***Everything Beautiful***. Bloomsbury. — Sixteen-year-old Riley is an atheist, a rebel, promiscuous, and grieving her mother's death. When her father and stepmom dump her at a Christian camp for a week Riley is determined that she will escape. She meets Dylan, a paraplegic and the two outcasts ban together to deal with the bullies and plan a vision quest into the Australian desert—but find themselves instead. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Hrditschka, Shelley. (2008) ***Sister Wife***. Orca. — Hrditschka uses alternating viewpoints to present the narrative in *Sister Wife*. Three teen women's voices present their unique perspective of their remote strict, religious polygamy group. The prophet has decided that 15-year-old Celeste is to be assigned as the sixth wife of an older man. Celeste's relationships with Nanette and Tavia (a former teen prostitute rescued by the Movement), her growing fondness for Jon, and her friendship with Craig (a boy she met on the beach), all color her decisions

regarding her community. Her father has five wives—and one is her dying mother, dying because she cannot “hold” her seventh baby, and interference from a doctor is forbidden. Others in the community are sympathetic to Celeste's concerns but her relationship with Tavia, and with Nanette, a true believer sister, complicates her decisions to flee. A story of growing up, decision making, and facing the consequences. 2009 CLA Young Adult Book Award Nominee, Nominated 2010 BBYA



#### More Connections:

##### Multiple Wives

Pair ***Sister Wife*** with:

★ Williams, Carol Lynch  
(2009) *The Chosen One*.

Macmillan/St. Martin's Griffin.

★ Jessop, Carolyn. (2007) *Escape*.  
Broadway.

★ Wall, Elissa (2008) *Stolen Innocence: My Story of Growing Up in a Polygamous Sect, Becoming a Teenage Bride, and Breaking Free of Warren Jeffs*. William Morrow.

Iggulden, Conn. (2007)

##### ***Genghis: Birth of an Empire***.

Delacorte. — Historical fiction that focuses on the rise of the young boy, Temujin, to becoming the fierce warrior and diplomat, Genghis Khan. As a young warrior he began raiding Tartar camps and launched an ambitious campaign to bring together Mongol tribes, defeat the Tartars, and invade China. A very engaging piece of historical fiction. 2008 Alex Award.

- Jenkins, A.M. (2008) *Night Road*. Bowen Press/HarperCollins. — Eighteen-year-old Gordon, a blood feeder or heme, must learn the rules of his new life during a road trip with Cole and Sandor. Jenkins wants guy camaraderie. Cole and Sandor teach Gordon the ways a “hemovore” (a blood-drinker who eschews the term vampire). 2009 BBYA
- Jiménez, Francisco. (2008) *Reaching Out*. Houghton. —The first in his migrant Mexican-American family to attend college, Jiménez struggles against the heckling of his depressed father and other family members who feel that he thinks he is “better than us.” He finds solace in his classes, his church, and discovers great Spanish literature. He joins César Chávez in efforts to unionize farm workers—fiction but autobiographical, a companion title to *The Circuit* (1997) and *Breaking Through* (2001). Starred Booklist, 2009 ALA Notable Book
- Jinks, Catherine. (2009) *The Reformed Vampire Support Group*. Harcourt/ Houghton Mifflin. — Taking up the cause of fighting against vampire persecution, Nina Harrison, forever a 15-year-old (she’s been 15 since 1973) teenage vampire decides to lead her band of sickly and weak vampires on a mission to uncover the slayer of one of their group. The vampires are not the usual stereotypical sexy and mysterious, and human blood sucking creature—they struggle to survive but survive they will. Nominated 2010 BBYA,
- Johnson, Maureen. (2008) *Suite Scarlett*. Scholastic/Point. —The once stylish hotel has fallen into disrepair. The four Martin children, Spencer, Lola, Scarlett, and Marlene, are left to keep it afloat. Scarlett has just turned 15 she inherits the care of the Empire Suite and the very wealthy, eccentric occupant, Amy Amberson. Scarlett’s responsibility evolves into being a personal assistant for the wealthy benefactor’s every whim—whims that change often. Scarlett must step in and rescue many projects, faltering as a result of their benefactor’s loss of interest. Needless to say, Scarlett’s summer turns into a major challenge. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist
- Johnston, Tony. (2007) *Bone by Bone by Bone*. Roaring Brook/ Deborah Broody. — A gritty novel meets racial prejudices face-to-face with raw and gritty language, including myriad uses of the “N” word. Set in small town Tennessee, 1950s, nine-year-old David (who is white) and Malcolm (who is black) are blood brothers. David’s racist father forbids their friendship. As the boys get older, David’s father becomes more insistent. David questions whether or not his father is a member of the Ku-Klux-Klan. An authors’ forward says, “The raw language . . . is my father’s language and reflects a way of thinking that has troubled me my whole life. “ The realism is difficult to miss. Family secrets and violence are all part of the Jim Crow South – and two friends find their way to deal with it all. Starred Booklist, 2008 BBYA

☐ Jones, Carrie. (2009) *Need*. Bloomsbury. —A vampire inspired book spawned from the Twilight series. Zara’s father has died and her mother is not able to care for her so Zara is sent to live in small town Bedford, Maine with her grandmother. Good looking Nick turns out to be a werewolf, and other characters include a pixie king who is lusting after the human blood of young men. Zara could sacrifice herself as a bride to the pixie king and stop his quest for human blood – but is she willing to make the sacrifice? Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Jones, Lloyd. (2007) *Mister Pip*. Dial Press. —Bougainville, a fictional island, in the 1990s is consumed in civil war and all the white people have left the island except Mr. Watts, the only white local. His wife, Grace, is a native of the island. Mr. Watts volunteers to open up the school. When he begins to teach the students *Great Expectations*, his lessons open up a rift between 13-year-old Matilda, and her mother Delores who feels that Mr. Watts is a bad influence on the children. Retribution and actions toward Mr. Watts has dire consequences and brings a sharp conclusion to the events on the island. (2007) Booker Prize Short List, Commonwealth Writers’ Prize Best Book, NPR’s Complete Holiday Book Recommendations list, (2008) Alex Award, KiriYama Prize, BBYA, Montan NZ Book Award, Whitcoulls Top 100, 2009 ALA Outstanding Books for the College Bound,

☐ Jordan, Hillary. (2008) *Mudbound*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. —After facing the explosive battlefields of Europe during World War II, Jamie McAllan (a white man) and Ronsel Jackson (a Black man) return to their lives in the Jim Crow South. Their friendship defies the culture of the times. The racial climate in the Mudfields of the Mississippi Delta plays in a tragedy more dangerous than anything experienced during the war. 2009 Alex Award. 2009 Galaxy British Book Award Shortlist, Bellwether Prize



**About the Author:  
Hillary Jordan**

The author grew up in Texas and Oklahoma and now lives in Trivoli, New York.

Visitors to her website (and her blog) will learn about the writer’s life, the research (and travel) that goes into her book writing. Watch for her new novel, *Red*, to be published.  
<hillaryjordan.com>

☐ July, Susan. (2007) *Another Kind of Cowboy*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. —Horses are Alex’s life and his life suddenly gets much better once he has a chance to ride with dressage, instead of western pleasure. The dressage gear makes him feel more in tune with his riding and his own personal identity. 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Rainbow List



Catcher, Brian. (2008) *Playing With Matches*. Random House/Delacorte. —Two social outcasts find a common bond: Leon Sanders, a loser and Melody Hennon whose childhood accident left her face disfigured. In a common plot scenario, the girl Leon has admired from afar is actually making a play for him. Should he stay with Melody or take a chance on the girl of his dreams? An unpredictable conclusion awaits readers who will cheer Melody on. 2009 BBYA

Kibuishi, Kazu. (2008) *The Stonekeeper: Amulet: Book 1*. Scholastic/Graphix. —When their mother is lured through a basement door and is kidnapped by a large creature with tentacles, Emily and her brother, Navin, find themselves entering into a dark and dangerous world below their late great-grandfather's mansion. In the quest to save their mother, they follow her into an underground world inhabited by demons, robots, and talking animals. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Eisner Award Nominee, Children's Choice Book Award Nominee,

Kibuishi, Kazu. (2009) *The Stonekeeper's Curse: Amulet: Book 2*. Scholastic/Graphix. —Em and Navin must acquire the antidote for the poison that is threatening their mother's life. They have rescued her and have taken her to Kanalis, the bustling, beautiful city of waterfalls. Her life is in danger. A new fox friend steps in and offers to help Em reach the needed antidote, others around Em

and Navin are worried. Is this friend associated with the Elf King's son, Trellis, who is still after them? Is the mysterious fox, Leon Redbeard really a friend or enemy? Should he be trusted or not? What will the future bring?



#### **More About the Author: Kazu Kibuishi**

Kibuishi was born in Japan and moved to the United States with his mother and

brother. He studied film at the University of California Santa Barbara. After working in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles, he now works as a full-time comic book artist, and lives in Alhambra, California with his wife and young child. Keep up to date about his writings, including his work on book 3 in the Amulet series, follow him on twitter <[twitter.com/boltcity](https://twitter.com/boltcity)> or on his website at <[www.boltcity.com](http://www.boltcity.com)>.

King, A.S. (2009) *The Dust of 100 Dogs*. Llewellyn Publications/Flux. —A very select audience of readers will be attracted to this tale of a 17<sup>th</sup> century pirate, who after being reincarnated 100 times as a dog, is now reincarnated as Saffron Adams, a 20<sup>th</sup> century teen who seeks to escape from her pathetic family and recover the fortune buried in Jamaica. Strife involving a reincarnated murderer of Emer's lover centuries before figures in this quest for treasure and escape. This is a tale with some graphic sex, disturbing violence and gruesome exploits. Nominated 2010 BBYA, 2009 Indie Next List Pick for Teens

□ King, Stephen. (2008) *Just After the Sunset: Stories*. Scribner. — Classic macabre and wicked stories abound with modern terrors. A dozen stories: “Willa,” “The gingerbread girl,” “Harvey’s dream,” “Rest stop,” “Stationary bike,” “The things they left behind,” “Graduation afternoon,” “N,” “The cat from hell,” “The New York Times at special bargain rates,” “Mute,” “Ayana,” and “A very tight place.” (2008) NY Times Bestseller, NPR’s Complete Holiday Book, Bram Stoker Award Recommendations, NPR’s Best Gift Books, (2009) British Fantasy Award Nominee, Alex Award

□ Kuklin, Susan. (2008) *No Choirboy: Murder, Violence, and Teenagers on Death Row*. Henry Holt. — Teenagers, imprisoned and on death row, provide firsthand accounts of their life before and on death row. Relatives of their victims and of the prisoners themselves weigh in with comments and impact statements. A sobering look at poor decisions and the lifetime consequences. Nonfiction. (2009) BBYA, Top Ten ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adults

□ Kyle, Aryn. (2007) *The God of Animals*. Scribner. — Alice Winston, 12-years-old, lives in Desert Valley, Colorado. Her older sister, Nona, has been pretty much responsible for Alice since she was a baby. But now Nona has eloped with a rodeo cowboy. Alice’s father runs a horse stable and gives riding lessons. He is also a member of the volunteer posse and helped to recover one of Alice’s

classmates when she drowned in the river. But her father’s attention to Alice is only to expect her to clean out the horse stalls and her mother spends most days in her bedroom. Not your normal coming-of-age novel. 2008 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award, 2009 BBYA, 2009 Top Ten ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers

□ LaFleur, Suzanne. (2009) *Love, Aubrey*. Wendy Lamb Books. Grieving the loss of her father and younger sister after they are killed in a car crash, Aubrey must now deal with the abrupt disappearance of her mother. Her grandmother takes her to Vermont and Aubrey slowly makes adjustments. Her mother’s return forces Aubrey to make a decision: stay in Vermont with her grandmother or return home to Virginia with her mom. Sad but a compelling read. Starred *Booklist*

□ Lanagan, Margo. (2008) *Tender Morsels*. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. — Liga has suffered unspeakable assaults and creates a magical fantasy world—a safe haven for herself and her two daughters (one born of incest, the other of gang rape) but the real world intrudes; they cope with beauty mixed with brutality. Only for mature readers. (2008) PW Best Book, Horn Book Best Book, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, James Tiptree, Jr. Award Honor list, Locus Recommended Reading, Aurealis Award Finalist, (2009) BBYA, Michael L. Printz Honor, Locus Award Finalist, Ditmar Award, World Fantasy Award Nominee

☐ Law, Ingrid. (2008) *Savvy*. Dial Books. —A tale of Mibs Beaumont and self-discovery. Each member of the Beaumont family develops their own “Savvy” when they turn 13. Mibs is anxious to turn 13 to find out her power will be. Mibs believes that she knows what it is—the ability to restore life – but it turns out to be something quite different. And so the adventures begin. (2009) Newbery Honor, Starred Booklist, Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee, Children’s Book Sense Pick, 2008 Andre Norton Award Finalist

☐ Lemire, Jeff. (2007) *Essex County Volume 1: Tales from the Farm*. Top Shelf Publication. —When Ten-year-old Lester is orphaned he is sent to live with Uncle Ken in rural Ontario. Uncle Ken finds it difficult to identify with a kid who wears a cape and thinks about alien invasions. Lester makes friends with the local convenience store operator who has suffered his own losses — the two of them bond and Jimmy is able to bring Lester back to the real world to find his own place in the world. Graphic novel. 2008 Alex Award, 2008 Doug Wright Award –Best Emerging Talent

☐ Lester, Julius. (2008) *Guardian*. HarperCollins/HarperTeen/Amistad. —The Deep South in 1946 is not a welcoming place for the friendship between Ansell Anderson (a white 14-year-old) and Willie Benton (an African-American teen). Their friendship dies however, when Ansel’s father is part of a lynch mob that

murders Willie’s father in a false accusation of rape and murder of a white teen. An eccentric towns-person offers a way out of town and a ticket to a new future. A slim volume best suited to older teens. 2009 BBYA

☐ Levine, Kristine. (2009) *The Best Bad Luck I Ever Had*. Penguin/G.P. Putnam's Sons. —Rural Moundville, Alabama in 1917 is the scene for the complicated and tragic events in 12-year-old Dit’s life. A new postmaster is coming to town – he’s African American and has a daughter who knows nothing about baseball, fishing, or hunting. Dit had been hoping for a friend – and despite the fact that “he” turned out to be a “she” – the two become friends. But the racist townspeople have opinions, especially the alcoholic and abusive sheriff. When the sheriff is killed, the two friends, Dit and Emma band together to hatch up a plan to save an unjust hanging. A realistic sense of the times involving friendship, Jim Crow laws, segregation, and racism. Nominated 2010 BBYA

#### More Connections: Friendships in the Civil Rights Era



Create a collaborative reading list by combining titles by Lester and Levine (see entries on this page)

with:

- ★Tony Johnston’s *Bone by Bone* by *Bone* (p. 35) and
- ★Hillary Jordan’s *Mudbound* (p. 35)

Libby, Alisa M. (2009) *The King's Rose*. Penguin/Dutton. — King Henry Tudor (Henry VIII) has a sickly son—not likely to live long enough to succeed the king. Three wives have tried to give him a healthy male heir. Catherine Howard's powerful family thrusts the beautiful 15-year-old, before him. A pawn to her family's ambition, Catherine tries to give Henry VIII a son. But an affair, her past, and other indiscretions put her in a troubled position. An author's note provides the historical reality included in the tale woven in this book. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Link, Kelly. (2008) *Pretty Monsters: Stories*. Viking. —A collection of nine short tales that take readers to magic libraries, the world of wizards, and into a cemetery to recover poems believed to be buried with a dead girlfriend. Clever resolutions and tricky plots. (2009) BBYA, Locus Award Finalist, World Fantasy Award Nominee

Livingston, Leslie. (2009) *Wondrous Strange*. HarperCollins/Harper Teen. —Kelley moves to New York City and dreams of theatrical success. Sonny Flannery introduces Kelley to a world that few get to encounter —Elements from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the world of fantasy and magic are woven through this story of theater in a contemporary New York City setting. Nominated 2010 BBYA

#### More Connections:

#### Shakespeare's *A Midsummer*

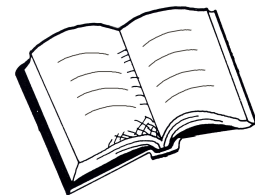


*Night's Dream* is a classic title whose basic motifs can be found in other contemporary titles.

Read Shakespeare's

*Midsummer Night's Dream* with Livingston's novel and with Carol Gorman's contemporary title, *Midsummer Night's Dork* (HarperCollins, 2004), that uses a similar theme/plot structure. Visit Gorman's website for curriculum ideas comparing and contrasting Shakespeare's classic title to *Midsummer Night's Dork* <[www.carolgorman.com/books/dorkmid.html](http://www.carolgorman.com/books/dorkmid.html)>.

Lockhart, E. (2008) *The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks*. Hyperion. —Over the summer, Frankie Landau-Banks has gone from major geek to outstanding beauty—and with brains too. But none of that will let her join the all-male Loyal Order of the Basset Hounds of Alabaster Preparatory Academy—but she has a plan. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2008 National Book Award Finalist, 2009 Michael L. Printz Honor, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List, 2008 Cybils Award



Lutz, Lisa. (2007) *The Spellman Files*. Simon & Schuster. — The first in a series about Izzy Spellman, a 28-year-old PI in her family's business. A dysfunctional family that somehow manages to solve crimes and dead file cases. Rae, Izzy's 14-year-old sister, joins in the investigations and adds yet another layer to the mystery and humor in these books. (Other books in the series include: *Curse of the Spellmans* [2009]; *Revenge of the Spellmans* [2009]; *The Spellmans Strike Again* [2010]). (2008) Alex Award, Gumshoe Award Nominee for First Novel, Anthony Award Nominee, Barry Award Nominee, Macavity Award Nominee

**Web Site: Liza Lutz** <[www.lisalutz.com](http://www.lisalutz.com)> Don't miss the wacky and entertaining entries on her "Ask Lutz" blog, and keep up on the antics of the fictional Spellmans.



### Meet the Author:

#### Lisa Lutz



Lisa Lutz was a screen-writer for more than a decade, and survived without a lot of success. She could not get anyone to read her screenplay titled "The Spellman Files." She discovered that she really needed more space to tell the story of Izzy Spellman and her rather interesting family, so she turned to novels. After growing up in southern California, Lutz traveled to the East (where she lived on the cheap in an aunt's second home) and then to the Northwest (Seattle) where she wrote the second Spellman novel. Now she lives in San Francisco, busy writing between traveling —throughout California, and on book tours in the United States and Australia. Perhaps Izzy Spellman will find an adventure in Australia.

Lyga, Barry. (2007) *Boy Toy*. Houghton Mifflin. — Everyone in town knows that it was Josh, who at the age of 12 had a sexual relationship with his social studies teacher. Now a senior in high school he is clearly suffering the after effects of his past. He is quick to anger, finds being a team player on the basketball court difficult and in general struggles to be part of the high school environment. But he is an "A" student and plans to attend a prestigious college in the fall. Will he be able to deal with his demons and move beyond his past? 2007 Cybils Award, BBYA 2008, Bank Street

Macomber, Robert N. (2007) *A Different Kind of Honor*. Pineapple Press.—A historically accurate novel, set during the War of the Pacific (1879-1884), about Lt. Cmdr. Pater Wake's assignment. Many plot-twisting events in a narrative that keeps the reader turning the pages. 2008 W.Y. Boyd Literary Award.

□ Magoon, Kekla. (2009) *The Rock and the River*. Simon & Schuster. — Readers will have a feel for the fury and frustration blacks felt during the civil rights protests. Roland Childs instills the principals of nonviolent protest in his two sons. But when Sam, age 14 and his 17-year-old brother, Stephen “Stick” see the brutal beating of a friend, Stick brings home a gun and joins the Black Panthers. The Panthers do some good in the neighborhood and Sam has conflicting thoughts. Then their father is stabbed. Will violence beget violence, or will the sons honor their father’s commitment to non-violence? A historical note examines the conflicts within the Black community. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Maltman, Thomas. (2007) *The Night Birds*. Soho. —Set in the late 1800s, in the Midwest - Minnesota, the Senger family has a tangled history with the Dakota Sioux. Clashes of Europeans and Native Americans, slave owners and abolitionists, and other adversaries—Asa Senger, a lonely 14-year-old, comes face to face with his complicated heritage. The author has a firm sense of history. 2008 Alex Award, 2008 Spur Award

□ Marchetta, Melina. (2008) *Jellicoe Road*. HarperTeen/ HarperCollins. — Three factions battle for control in the small Australian community. Taylor Markham is the leader of the school group; Jacob is in charge of another

group. The plot is centered on the disappearance of Taylor’s housemother and the book manuscript she left behind. Adding to that is Taylor’s abandonment (at age 11) by her mother. She is finally ready to discover the reason why. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Michael L. Printz Award

□ Marillier, Juliet. 2008. *Cybele’s Secret*. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. —Paula accompanies her merchant father to Istanbul where they encounter opposition to their recovery of the pagan totem. Paula undertakes her own quest to an unfamiliar part of the Other Kingdom. A companion novel to *Wildwood Dancing* (2007). 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2008 Sir Julius Vogel Awards, Aurealis Award Finalist

□ Marino, Peter. (2009) *Magic and Misery*. Holiday House—Tony Jo (TJ) has two “boyfriends” – James (Pan) and Caspar. Pan is handsome, a new guy in town, and openly gay. Caspar is a typical football star. The book explores the dynamics of homophobic behavior in the community, jealousy between friends, and class (rich vs. poverty) differences. The book includes some raw scenes and discussions of condoms, STDs, and unwanted pregnancies. The triangular friendship brings both magic and misery. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Mass, Wendy. (2009) **11 Birthdays**. Scholastic. —It's the first year in 10 years that Amanda and Leo have not celebrated their birthday together—they are not talking. The following day Amanda wakes up looking for a new day. But the new day brings on her birthday, the day rewinds, and it is her birthday again and again and again. The same is true for Leo. Amanda begins to realize she is being given a chance to redo the day—changes in her behavior bring changes in the outcome. Once she changes her behavior will her rewinds stop? A little magic, and a lot of insight into behavior. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Mazer, Norma Fox. (2008) **The Missing Girl**. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. —A psychological thriller featuring the five Herbert sisters, Beauty, Mim, Stevie, Fancy, and Autumn, realize that they are being watched and observed by a creepy man but they think that nothing could really happen to them. However, when Autumn is abducted the close-knit family is put into chaos. 2009 BBYA



#### More About the Author:

##### Norma Fox Mazer

Norma Fox Mazer (May 15, 1931 – October 17, 2009) was a teacher and

an author of 33 books for children and young adults. She died of brain cancer at the age of 78.

<normafoxmazer.net>

□ McCormick, Patricia. (2009) **Purple Heart**. Balzer + Bray. —Private Matthew Duffy has spent his time in an army hospital in Iraq and now is back with his combat squad: Justin, Wolf, and Charlene—all part of his squadron family in this war torn country. But now he sees threats everywhere, and he is not sure he can pull the trigger when needed. The vision of the young boy, killed by a bullet in his chest haunts him. He has his purple heart but what of the young boy? His head injury makes putting all the pieces together, (and finding the truth) difficult. War is not all black-and-white. Starred PW.



#### More Connections:

##### Patricia McCormick

McCormick is the author of ground breaking books—visit the author's

website, *Patricia McCormick—Books* at <[www.pattymccormick.com](http://www.pattymccormick.com)>. Her books include one about slavery in today's time, *Sold* (Hyperion, 2006), a National Book Award Finalist in 2007, and *Cut* (Scholastic, 2002), a story that *The Boston Globe* described as “a riveting tale of a girl who is hurting so badly she takes it out on her own body.”

☐ McKernan, Victoria. (2009) *The Devil's Paintbox*. Random House/Knopf. —Readers seeking adventure and excitement from the old west will be captivated by this tale of orphans Aiden and Maddy, 15 and 13, who at the brink of starvation seek a way to leave their family's Kansas farm for a better life in the Northwest. When Aiden indentures himself to a guide on the Oregon Trail the two siblings begin their trek westward where they meet Nez Perce Indians. The "devil's paintbox" (small pox) brings a moral conflict when the Nez Perce are routinely denied vaccinations. An insightful (and harsh) view of this period of history. The controversy over whether or not the Native Americans were deliberately infected with the pox virus is addressed in an author's note. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ McMann, Lisa. (2009) *Fade*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse. — Dream catcher Janie is on the trail again. Navigating the dreams of others (and her own) Janie gleans clues to solve mysteries in her community. She and her boyfriend/co-investigator seek to expose the teachers suspected of drugging and abusing students. Fans of TV's, *The Ghost Whisperer* and *Medium* will be firmly drawn to this title as well as to the first and third books in the Wake series: *Wake* (2008) and *Gone* (2010), Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ McMullan, Margaret. (2007) *When I Crossed No-Bob*. Houghton Mifflin. —During the era of Reconstruction (approx. 1897), 12-year-old Addy McDonnell is caught in the middle of a racist family, in a tract of woods that had been home to her poor Mississippi family for decades. A coming-of-age book in the most difficult of times. Frank (the child protagonist in the author's *How I Feel the Strong* [2004]) is one of the main characters in this companion novel. 2009 BBYA

☐ McNamee, Graham. (2008) *Bonechiller*. Wendy Lamb/Random House. —Set during winter, in a remote Canadian town; a supernatural thriller that has four friends being stalked by a cannibalistic creature intent on hunting and killing teens. 2009 BBYA

☐ Meldrum, Christina. (2008) *Madapple*. Random House Children's Books/Alfred A. Knopf. Aslaug was raised, by her mother, in a sheltered and reclusive environment, interacting only with her mother and the plants and herbs her mother raised. After her mother dies Aslaug must go to live with her aunt and cousins in a nearby town. Soon Aslaug is on trial for their murder. Told through trial transcripts and flashbacks narrated by Aslaug. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist, 2009 William C. Morris YA Debut Finalist



☐ Meminger, Neesha. (2009) ***Shine, Coconut Moon***. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry Books. —Samar's (Sam) mother is raising Sam away from her strict extended Asian (Indian) family. She's a typical American teenager, until her uncle shows up. Family and ancestors begin to have a profound effect especially in the wake of 9/11 and the prejudice foisted on Southeast Asians and Middle Easterners. Sam's struggles, to blend her two cultures, bring her through an exploration of her identity and truth about her own history. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Meyer, Stephenie. (2008) ***The Host***. Little, Brown. —A love story – and a futuristic story of betrayal and compassion, in a universe taken over by the "souls." 2009 BBYA, 2008 NY Times Bestseller, 2008 Whitney Award Nominee



**More About the Author:  
Stephenie Meyer**

Meyer is the author of the award winning and very popular Twilight series:

*Twilight* (Book 1; 2005); *New Moon* (Book 2; 2006); *Eclipse* (Book 3; 2007); and *Breaking Dawn* (Book 4; 2008). Of course there are the immensely popular *Twilight* movies and CDs of the movies soundtrack. One can even purchase shirts and skateboards – *The Host* merchandise. Visit the Official author website at <[www.stepheniemeyer.com](http://www.stepheniemeyer.com)>.

☐ Monninger, Joseph. (2007) ***Baby***. Front Street/Boyd Mills Press. —Baby's foster parents, an older couple that raise sled dogs, are not the ordinary foster parents—a last chance before a juvenile home. She responds well and then her boyfriend shows up and she ends up on the streets in a gargoyle costume begging for tourist change. What does her future hold for her? Told in first-person. 2009 BBYA

☐ Murphy, Pat. (2007) ***The Wild Girls***. Viking/Penguin. —Being in a new town is not something 12-year-old Joan is looking forward too. But she meets Sarah– Sarah who prefers to be called “Fox.” Fox lives with her author father in the middle of the woods, in a rundown house. Joan and Sarah become friends and focus on writing. When they sign up for a writing class “the Wild Girls” are able to explore friendship, their power as writers, and their own coming of age. 2009 BBYA, 2007 Cybils Finalist, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List

☐ Myers, Walter Dean. (2009) ***Dope Sick***. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. —Seventeen-year-old Lil J has lived a sorry life filled with grief, drug use, jail time, and irresponsible baby making. Fantasy meets reality when a vagrant invites Lil J into an apartment where the TV is strangely screening episodes from Lil J's life and asks the question: “If you could take back one thing that you did ... what would it be? Nominated 2010 BBYA

Napoli, Donna Jo. (2009) ***Alligator Bayou***. Random House/Knopf. —Racial prejudice was never more alive than in Tallulah, Louisiana in 1899, not just segregation between blacks and whites but segregation from the Sicilians settlers in the region. When his mother dies, 14-year-old Calogero leaves his tiny Sicilian community and joins male relatives in the Tallulah. He faces discrimination, the bigotry of the south—a bigotry of violence, fear, and economic retributions. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Napoli, Donna Jo. (2007) ***Hush: An Irish Princess' Tale***. Simon Pulse. —When a 10th century Irish Princess, Princess Melkorka, is abducted from her home and taken aboard a marauding slave ship, she finds the only power is her voice. She decides to remain mute – and becomes a curiosity. She also discovers that any power, no matter how little, does make a difference. 2009 BBYA



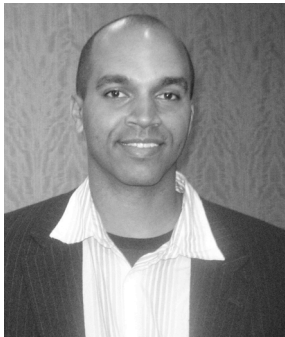
**More About the Author:  
Donna Jo Napoli**

Donna Jo Napoli has published many books, from picture books to young adult books; and in many genres. For 14 years, her writing was rejected by publishers. Now her books are widely published and she travels to many places the world over to research the settings in her books. <[www.donnajonapoli.com](http://www.donnajonapoli.com)>.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. (2009) ***Cricket Man***. Simon & Schuster/Ginee Seo Books. —Kenny, an eighth grader, fancies himself as "Superhero" Cricket Man— rescuing crickets from the family pool, and becomes friends with next door neighbor, 16-year-old Janie. Cricket Man saves a boy from drowning, has an incident with the school principal, participates in his sister's wedding—and, becomes a real hero when his friend Janie asks for help giving birth on a picnic table. The lives of teens lived outside of the school setting. Nominated 2010 BBYA

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**Kadir Nelson - *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball***



Nelson, Kadir. (2008) ***We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball***. Jump at the Sun/Hyperion. — Illustrated and wonderful. (2009) Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal; Coretta Scott King Author Award (author) and Honor Award (illustrator), (2008) Horn Book Best Book, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, Commonwealth Club of California Book Awards, Casey Award Visit *The Art of Kadir Nelson* <[www.kadirnelson.com](http://www.kadirnelson.com)>.

□ Nelson, Scott Reynolds. (2008) ***Ain't Nothing But a Man: My Quest to Find the Real John Henry***. National Geographic Society. —John Henry is the subject of many songs and legends—real or a legendary character, a composite of many. Can the real John Henry be found? Historian Scott Reynolds Nelson takes readers on his travels and into the writing historical records as he pursues his quest to find the man behind the myth. 2008 Aesop Prize, 2009 Notable Children's Book, 2009 BBYA

□ Ness, Patrick. (2008) ***The Knife of Never Letting Go. Chaos Walking. Book One***. Candlewick. —Todd Hewitt is the last boy in a town of all men. The enemy has killed all the women and has infected the men with a germ that broadcasts their every thought for all to hear. In a town where everyone can hear each other's thoughts what kind of secrets can be kept? Todd flees with the relentless army in pursuit. Terrifying, full of tension, and suspenseful—this first book is a great introduction to Ness's Chaos Walking Trilogy. 2009 BBYA, 2008 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, 2008 Booktrust Teenage Prize, 2008 Locus Recommended Reading for Young Adult, 2008 James Tiptree, Jr. Award

□ Northrop, Michael. (2009) ***Gentlemen***. Scholastic. —Mr. Haberman is trying to get his remedial reading students to read *Crime and Punishment*. Four of his students, *Mike, Tommy, Mixer, and Bones* are the core of Mr. Haberman's class – and when Tommy disappears the other three begin to notice their teacher's strange behavior and build their suspicions about Tommy's disappearance. Those familiar with *Crime and Punishment* will find many nuances and connections to stimulate interest beyond the gripping mystery. Both avid and reluctant readers will enjoy this fast-moving novel that amplifies foreshadowing, red herrings, and an inevitable conclusion. Nominated 2010 BBYA



**More Connections:  
*Crime and Punishment***

Avid readers will have many suitable editions of *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky available for reading. Averse bibliophiles might be drawn into the tale with a graphic presentation of the classic novel. Introduce *Crime and Punishment: A Graphic Novel* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, David Zane Mairowitz, and Alain Korkos (Sterling, 2009).

□ Nuzum, K.A. (2009) *The Leanin' Dog*. Harper Collins/Joanna Cotler Books. —Eleven-year-old Dessa Dean develops agoraphobia, is home-schooled, and lonely (even with her father around), after witnessing her mother freezing to death. When a skittish and injured dog shows up on their doorstep. Dessa's efforts to assimilate the dog into normal existence may rescue her. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Padian, Maria. (2008) *Brett McCarthy: Work in Progress*. Alfred A. Knopf. —How does a great student, one of four best friends, redefine herself as a friendless, suspended eighth-grader? How does she gain back her status? How does she redefine herself again? 2009 BBYA, 2009 Maine Literary Award

□ Pardes, Bronwen. (2007) *Doing It Right: Making Smart, Safe, and Satisfying Choices About Sex*. Simon Pulse. — A very straightforward narrative that does not shy away from topics that teens are commonly interested in, information about: sex of all types, masturbation and sexual encounters. Nonfiction. 2008 ALA Quick Picks for the Reluctant Young Adult Reader, NYPL Best Books

□ Parker, David L. (2007) *Before Their Time: The World of Child Labor*. Quantuck Lane Press. —Lewis Hine exposed child labor abuses in the United States at the turn of the century, now activist David L. Parker presents profiles of

some of the 320 million children under the age of sixteen still working around the world today. All are being exploited. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA

**More Connections: Child Labor**

This nonfiction title provides background for several collaborative reading titles. Introduce

these books to readers.

★Winthrop, Elizabeth. (2006) *Counting on Grace*. Wendy Lamb Books.

(Fiction)

★Paterson, Katherine. (2006) *Bread and Roses, Too*. Clarion Books. (Fiction)

★Paterson, Katherine. (1991) *Lyddie*. Dutton Juvenile. (Fiction)

★Freedman, Russell. (1994) *Kids at Work: Lewis Hine and the Crusade Against Child Labor*. Clarion.(Nonfiction)

★Parker, David. (2007) *Before Their time: The World of Child Labor*, Introduction by Tom Harkin. Quantuck Lane. (Nonfiction)

□ Pearson, Mary E. (2008) *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*. Henry Holt. —When Jenna Fox wakes from a yearlong coma she realizes there is something very strange. Her family is now in California. Her few memories raise more questions than answers. Has medical technology gone too far? Why are her parents so secretive? What is going on? What has gone on? (2009) BBYA, Golden Kite Award, (2008) Andre Norton Award Finalist, Locus Recommended Reading for Young Adult



□ Pike, Aprilynne. (2009)  
***Wings***. Harper Collins Publishers/HarperTeen. —When her family moves to Los Angeles Laurel ends her home-schooling and enters a public high-school. A growth on her back sprouts a wing-like blossom and Laurel discovers she is a faerie. Her new friend David uses a microscope to examine some of her cells and confirms that she is more plant than animal. When a realtor begins to pressure her adoptive family to sell their land, her efforts to save the land, puts Laurel in the middle of the centuries old battle between the faeries and the trolls. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Polak, Monique. (2008)  
***World Is Left?*** Orca. —Based on her mother's experiences as a camp survivor, the author tells the story of Anneke. Anneke is Jewish and has little interest in religion but her family is sent to Theresienstadt, a concentration camp in the Czech Republic. Anneke struggles with family loyalty and her sense of what is right as her father helps the Nazi's create the impression that Theresienstadt is a "model" concentration camp. An author's note details the facts of the Holocaust era as it relates to Theresienstadt, and why Anneke's mother did not speak of her experiences for 60 years. Nominated 2010 BBYA

**More Connections: Theresienstadt Concentration Camp**

Read about the camp at the *Jewish Virtual Library: A Division of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise* website at [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/terezin.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/terezin.html)

□ Polly, Matthew. (2007)  
***American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch: An Odyssey in the New China***. Penguin/Gotham Books. —Matthew Polly took the bold step of taking a break from college for two years to live in China with the Shaolin Monks. His memoirs help readers develop a higher understanding of the Chinese culture and the pitfalls and achievements accomplished by a determined individual. 2008 Alex Award, 2008 BBYA, 2009 ALA Best Books for the College Bound.

□ Porcellino, John. (2008)  
***Thoreau at Walden***. Hyperion. —A fresh and gorgeously illustrated adaptation of this classic piece of literature. A wonderful graphic biography to inspire readers to look to nature for solace and inspiration. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA

□ Pratchett, Terry. (2008) ***Nation***. HarperCollins. —A tsunami leaves Mau as the sole survivor of his destroyed island. Daphne (formerly Ermintrude) is the only survivor from her ship—or so she thinks. Mau and Daphne establish a community of refugees from nearby islands. All is going well until a mutineer from the ship arrives. Mau and Daphne must use their courage and ingenuity to keep their community intact – and the members, safe from the intruders. 2009 BBYA, 2008 PW Best Book, 2009 Horn Book Best Book, 2009 Printz Honor, 2008 Los Angeles Times Book Prize, BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, 2009 Locus Award Finalist, 2008 Sidewise Award Finalist, 2009 Boston Globe – Horn Book Award (Fiction and Poetry)

□ Rallison, Janette. (2009) ***My Fair Godmother***. Walker & Company. —Savannah wishes for a “prince” to take her to the prom, and is given a fair Godmother – only “fair” because she is still in training and has much to learn. Savannah and her intended date, Tristan are accidentally sent back to the Middle Ages where they must fight against trolls, dragons, and a mysterious Black Knight. This is a humorous and romantic modern day literary fairy tale. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Rapp, Adam. (2009) ***Punkzilla***. Candlewick Press. — Never able to satisfy his parents, Jamie chooses life on the streets (where he steals and exploits

others). Jamie leaves that life behind to journey from Oregon to Memphis, to the bedside of his dying gay brother. The trip is recorded through letters that Jamie writes—unsent letters to his brother. Letters Jamie receives from friends and family accent the narration. In his death Jamie’s brother may be giving Jamie a new beginning—a new beginning introduced by his brother’s partner. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Rebeck, Theresa. (2008) ***Three Girls and Their Brother: a Novel***. Shaye Areheart Books/Crown. —An over-the-top mother is willing to sacrifice her teenage children’s future for fame and fortune. The teens are eager for the publicity. Satirical look into show-biz politics through the voices of four New York teens. 2009 Alex Award

□ Reeve, Philip. (2008) ***Here Lies Arthur***. Scholastic. —An innovative tale, from medieval Britain, about Gwyna, a young child who is rescued by Myrddin. Myrddin disguises Gwyna as a boy, and later as a maid. Gwyna finally realizes that the legend behind Arthur’s deeds come not from his actions but from the stories that Myrddin spins. When Myrddin dies Gwyna picks up the task. 2009 BBYA, 2007 Nestlé Smarties Book Prize (Bronze Award), 2007 Carnegie Medal, 2007 Booktrust Teenage Prize Shortlist, 2009 Notable Children’s Books

Reinhardt, Dana. (2008) ***How to Build a House***. Random House/Wendy Lamb. —When Harper’s father and step-mother split, the home is in havoc. Harper welcomes a chance to work with 11 other teens rebuilding a tornado-destroyed house. Leaving her troubles, and an indifferent boyfriend, behind Harper makes new friends, renews bonds with her step-sister, and builds relationships. She views a new future and an emotional exploration of love, family, and friendship. 2009 BBYA

Resau, Laura. (2009) ***The Indigo Notebook***. Random House/Delacorte. —Each year, Zeeta moves from country to country with her mother; this year it’s Ecuador. Zeeta actively seeks a “normal” man for her mother, but meets someone of her own. Wendell was born in Ecuador, adopted, raised in America, and now in Ecuador to locate his birth parents. Zeeta discovers that Wendell’s birth father is involved with dangerous activities so great that she fears for herself. This is a heart-stopping suspense novel that puts romance on center stage. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Riordan, Rick. (2009) ***The Last Olympian***. Disney Book Group/Hyperion. —Book five in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series, brings forth the long-awaited prophecy. A compelling account of Percy’s battle for the survival of Western civilization. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Rothfuss, Patrick. (2007) ***The Name of the Wind***. DAW. —The first of the Kingkiller Chronicles, a fantasy trilogy featuring the epic life of Kvothe, a man who started life as an actor in his family’s traveling troupe of magicians, jugglers, and jesters. When his family is murdered in the streets of Tarbean, he must fend for himself setting him on a quest that engulfs his days. NY Times Bestseller, (2008) Alex Award, Locus Award Finalist, (2007) Quill Award, PW Best Books of the Year, SF Site Reader’s Choice

**About the Author:  
Patrick Rothfuss**



Watch for the second title, *The Wise Man’s Fear* (2010 or later), the author is working hard on it but 300,000 words take a long time to write. Check the

author’s blog for news and updates - [www.patrickrothfuss.com/blog/2009/02/concerning-release-of-book-two.html](http://www.patrickrothfuss.com/blog/2009/02/concerning-release-of-book-two.html).

Ruff, Matt. (2007) ***Bad Monkeys***. HarperCollins. — Described as a “clever science fiction thriller” *Bad Monkeys* features Jane Charlotte, who confides her role as a “Bad Monkey,” in an organization dedicated to fighting evil to her psychotherapist in the Las Vegas County jail psych ward. Many twists and lots of action. 2008 Alex Award, 2007 SF Site Editor’s Choice, 2008 John W. Campbell Memorial Award Finalist, 2007 Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award

□ Runyon, Brent. (2009) ***Surface Tension: A Novel in Four Summers***. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. — For the past four summers Luke and his family have spent two weeks at their lakeside cabin. The author profiles the summers and the changing interests. At age 13, Luke was mostly interested in swimming, fishing, and looking for lucky rocks. By the time he is 16 he suffers from the pangs of lost love. An insightful slice of life as a teenager. Nominated 2010 BBYA Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Ryan, Carrie. (2009) ***Forests of Hands and Teeth***. Random House/ Delacorte. — Mary's village is cut off from the forest by a fence, keeping out the Unconsecrated—who are undead craving human flesh. For generations the citizens of the village have lived in isolation with strict and archaic traditions to protect them from the horrors of the forest. Some do not recognize the danger of life outside and seek ways to escape the shambling society – but to what danger? Readers will revel in this true zombie apocalypse. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Sandler, Martin W. (2009) ***The Secret Subway: The Fascinating Tale of an Amazing Feat of Engineering***. National Geographic Society/National Geographic Children's Books. —In the late 1860's, Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall ruled New York City—he was a politician who ruled

the entire culture of the city. The city was very congested and full of chaos. So Arthur Beach developed a dream – the dream of going underground. He financed a secret project to build a subterranean transportation system. He swore his workers to secrecy and only unveiled his tunnel, single station, and one subway car once it was completed. The project received rave reviews from the public. But Boss Tweed, since it wasn't his idea, perceived the subway as a threat to his power – and he stopped it cold. It took another four decades, until the turn of the century, for the New York Subway to become a reality. Nonfiction. This is a fascinating account of innovation, political machination, and the survival of a good idea. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Schlitz, Laura Amy. (2007) ***Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village***. Illustrated by Robert Byrd. Candlewick. —A collection of twenty-two monologues from young people living in a (1255) medieval English village. Each speaker provides a unique perspective reflecting a particular role in the society. Side notes provide additional information on specific topics: for example, falconry, the Crusades. Use for Medieval studies or creative drama. 2008 Newbery Award, Starred Booklist, 2007 Cybils Finalist, 2007 BCCB Blue Ribbon Book



Schmidt, Gary D. (2007) *The Wednesday Wars*. Clarion. —As the only Presbyterian in a school populated by Catholic and Jewish classmates, Holling Hoodhood must spend Wednesday afternoons with Mrs. Baker, while his classmates are at religious class. He is sure that Mrs. Baker hates him and he knows he dislikes her. But she manages to instill a love of Shakespeare, coaches him to a varsity cross-country position, and other achievements. (2008) Newbery Honor, BBYA, Judy Lopez Memorial Award Medal, 2007 Cybils Finalist



**About the Author:**

**Gary D. Schmidt:**

Interview with the author — Corbett, Sue. (May 3, 2007)

“Children’s Bookshelf Talks with Gary Schmidt.” *Publishers Weekly*. WEB <[www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6438766.html](http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6438766.html)>

Schmidt, Gary D. (2008) *Trouble*. Clarion. —“If you build your house far enough away from Trouble, then Trouble will never find you.” For 300 years trouble stayed away but Henry’s older brother Franklin is killed when hit by a truck. The driver, a Cambodian immigrant is not charged and the Boston community erupts. Later, tension threatens when Henry and a friend take a road trip and unexpectedly meet Chay (the driver). Will Henry be able to see and hear the other perspective? 2009 BBYA

Schrefer, Eliot. (2009) *The School for Dangerous Girls*. Scholastic. —Angela Cardenas’s parents are tired of dealing with her incorrigible behavior. Although they think the answer is the Hidden Oak boarding school it is not exactly what it seems. After first spending a month in isolation, each new resident is designated to be a redeemable girl or “the bad of the bad and considered unredeemable”. Those living in as unredeemables live unsupervised, completely self-governing, and in a dangerous existence. Angela know she and her friends must shut down the school and rescue those imprisoned underground. Will the evil teachers be defeated? Predictable but the road taken is filled with tension and suspense. Nominated 2010 BBYA

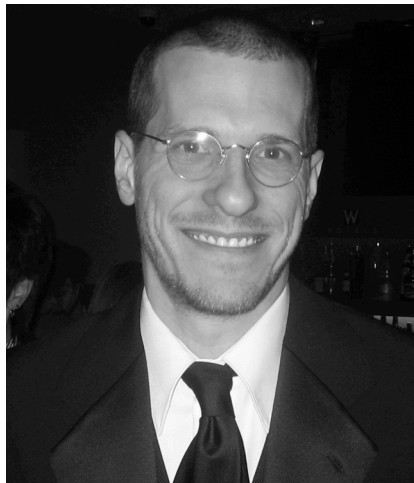
Schumacher, Julie. (2008) *Black Box*. Random House/Delacorte. —Dora has the steady and complete love of her younger 14-year-old sister. But when Dora is hospitalized for depression, she returns home a different person and her change in personality challenges Elena. Challenges her because Dora feels responsible for holding the family together. Elena’s bad boy friend turns out to be Elena’s strength and helps her realize what she must do for the good of all the family. 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Quick Picks for the Reluctant Readers

☐ Scott, Elizabeth. (2008) *Living Dead Girl*. Simon and Schuster/Simon Pulse. —A chilling tale of abduction, sexual abuse, and psychological power. After five years, fifteen-year-old “Alice” is “too old” and she must find and train her replacement. Only for mature teens. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List, 2008 BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, 2009 ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Readers

☐ Scott, Elizabeth. (2008) *Stealing Heaven*. HarperTeen/HarperCollins. — Heaven and her mother have burglarized expensive homes wherever they live. Once the best homes are hit, they move on. Only this time Heaven meets a best friend, and establishes a relationship with a young man—a cop. Danielle, aka Sydney, Rebecca or whatever names her mother thinks up, begins to question her life. 2009 BBYA

☐ Selznick, Brian. (2007) *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Scholastic. —Selznick has describes his book by saying, “Paris in the 1930's, a thief, a broken machine, a strange girl, a mean old man, and the secrets that tie them all together...” Selznick weaves together the story of Hugo, an orphan, clock keeper, and a thief. Hugo lives in the walls of a busy train station and connects with a bookish girl and a bitter old man running a toy booth in the train station. His life becomes an enthralling mystery. Many pages of pictures help move the story forward. —2008 Caldecott Award, 2007 Quill Award, 2007 NY Times Best Illustrated, 2007 National Book Award finalist, 2008 BBYA, 2008 Book Sense of the Year Award, 2007 Horn Book Best Book

### Meet the Author: Brian Selznick



Brian Selznick has provided background information about his ground breaking book, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* on a site titled “Welcome to the Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick” Web <[www.theinventionofhugocabret.com/](http://www.theinventionofhugocabret.com/)>.

Before he developed the idea for *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, he illustrated many picture books including *Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride* by Pam Muñoz Ryan. *The Houdini Box* (1991), his first book, was published while he was selling books and creating window displays at Eeyore Books for Children in Manhattan. A complete list of his books is on the website.

He says he lives in Brooklyn, New York, and San Diego, California. But mostly I think he lives in Brooklyn. Read about his illustrator life in an interview with Gavin J. Grant for Indie Bound. WEB <[www.indiebound.org/author-interviews/selznick](http://www.indiebound.org/author-interviews/selznick)> and don't miss Selznick's Caldecott acceptance speech at <[www.theinventionofhugocabret.com/brian\\_speech.htm](http://www.theinventionofhugocabret.com/brian_speech.htm)>

Sharenow, Robert. (2007) ***My Mother the Cheerleader***. Laura Geringer/HarperCollins. —Thirteen-year-old Louise Collins’s mother is part of the group of women, “the Cheerleaders” who spend every morning hassling six-year-old Ruby Bridges as she enters the all-white elementary school. Then the mysterious Morgan Miller arrives in a car with a New York license plate and an interest in renting a room at the boarding house Louise’s mother runs. Louise’s mother is interested in Miller and his background and her family secrets slowly emerge as she and Louise begin to question their attitudes. Strong language, but a compelling first novel of historical fiction, set in the Civil Rights days in New Orleans. BBYA 2008, Nominated for the Green Mountain Book Award, 2009-10, BBYA, NYPL Books for the Teen Age, VOYA Top Shelf for Middle School, Bank Street curriculum



**Connections: John Steinbeck**



These are the same “cheerleaders” that were part of Steinbeck’s New Orleans end of trip chronicled in his *Travels with Charley: In Search of*

*America* (Viking Penguin, 1962)

Sheth, Kashmira. (2007) ***Keeping Corner***. Hyperion. — She was betrothed at age two and married at age nine. Now she is twelve-years-old and a widow destined to mourn the rest of her life for a boy she barely knew. She must shave her head and stay inside for the

next year—preparing for her life of mourning. However, there is a glimmer of light when her teacher learns of her plight—and that glimmer is about to open up the world for her. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Amelia Bloomer List

Curriculum Connection: Pair *Keeping Corner* with *Climbing the Stairs* by Padma Venkatraman (See entry).

Shields, Charles J. (2008) ***I Am Scout: The Biography of Harper Lee***. Henry Holt. —Readers follow Lee’s evolution from success to self-imposed seclusion and rejection of fame. Photographs of Lee, information about her complicated relationship with Truman Capote, and with her family members. A young adult version of the author’s New York Times bestselling book for adults, *Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee* (2006). Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA

Shusterman, Neal. (2008) ***Antsy Does Time***. Penguin/Dutton. —Co-workers often offer sick day leave time to ailing colleagues. In Shusterman’s tale, Anthony “Antsy” Conano offers his dying classmate a month of his life. That gesture earns Antsy a series of dates with the classmate’s hot sister; and inspires other classmates to join in the gesture by donating their own months. But, as readers soon find out, that is not the end of the dying classmate or the story. There’s a humorous twist at every turn in this companion novel to the author’s *The Schwa Was Here* (2004). 2009 BBYA

□ Shusterman, Neal. (2009) *Everwild*. Simon & Schuster. —In this second book in the Skinjacker Trilogy, Shusterman continues the story of *Everlost* (2006). Everlost is where children go when they die, if they miss their chance to go into the light. Mary seeks to trap children there forever, Nick, the Chocolate Ogre seeks to stop that. Everlost changes into Everwild before readers realize that change is coming.



#### About the Author: Neal Shusterman

Learn about Shusterman and his writing (including *Bruiser* [2010] and *The Schwa Was Here* [2004]) on his website, *Neal Shusterman* <[www.storyman.com](http://www.storyman.com)>.

□ Simner, Janie Lee. (2009) *Bones of Faerie*. Random House. A war of gigantic proportions has rendered the world, as we know it, and the faerie world into a devastated wasteland. People huddle in groups becoming more and more suspicious and paranoid about those around them. When Liza's mother gives birth to a baby, possibly a faerie baby, Liza's father leaves the baby on a hillside to die. Liza's mother disappears. And then Liza begins to sense that she too might have magic powers. In an effort to escape she becomes caught in a dangerous journey into the faerie world. The plot is strong (but murky at times) bringing intriguing results to readers. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Slade, Arthur. (2009) *Jolted: Newton Starker's Rules for Survival*. Random House/Wendy Lamb Books. —Newton Starker is cursed. Each member of his family has died from lightning strikes. Newton lives in constant fear but after his mother's death he decides he must face the curse head on and enrolls in the very unusual Jerry Potts Academy of Higher Learning and Survival in rural Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Canada. As a budding chef, he joins the culinary arts and survival class. When he attempts to order truffles Newton ends up with a truffle-seeking pig. More hilarious mishaps ensue until he is struck by lightning. Much tongue-in-check humor, a little romance, and some very gross recipes populate this tale that ultimately is focused on taking charge of one's own life despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Smith, Andrew. (2008) *Ghost Medicine*. Feiwel & Friends. —Dealing with grief at the death of his mother, and emotionally absent father, Troy Stotts spends his 17<sup>th</sup> summer in a solo camping trip; and then with friends, Tom Buller—a farmhand, Gabe Benavidez—the son of a wealthy rancher, and Luz—Gabe's sister and his "lifetime love." Together they deal with deadly threats, find their own strengths, and seek answers from Ghost Medicine—a Native American philosophy that gathers strength from nature. Tony's summer is one of courage, fast and fierce action, and life and love. 2009 BBYA

□ Smith, Charles. (2007) ***Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali***. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Candlewick. —For younger YA readers, this is a slim biography of the man who is known as the World's Greatest Boxer in the World. Told in twelve rhyming poems, the rhythm seems off at first, but fans of Ali will soon recognize the rhythm as emulating his famed style. Quotes from historical sources and Ali, himself. Nonfiction. Starred Booklist, Coretta Scott King Award – picture books appropriate for teens.

□ Smith, Hope Anita. (2008) ***Keeping the Night Watch***. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Holt. —Sequel to *The Way a Door Closes* (Holt, 2003; with illustrations by Shane Evans). Thirteen-year-old C.J. tries to deal with his anger, pain, and sense of being betrayed. His inability to forgive his father who left the family makes him uneasy about showing his emotions or counting on anyone or anything. Free verse poetry examines his feelings as his father comes home and says he is sorry; but there is also a sonnet, and an acrostic. In the end C.J. surprises even himself. Nonfiction. Starred Booklist

□ Smith, Jennifer E. (2009) ***You Are Here***. Simon and Schuster. —Once Emma discovers the birth certificate for her twin brother who seems to have died at two days of age, she knows she must visit his grave. So Emma and her neighbor, Peter, decide to set out on a trip. Despite being neighbors the teens do not know each other very well but

Peter is ready to escape their small upstate New York town and he is good with maps. So Emma commandeers a car and they take off on a road trip headed to North Carolina— it becomes a journey that changes their lives.

Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Smith, Roland. (2007) ***Elephant Run***. Hyperion. —When the airplanes rain bombs down on London, during World War II, Nick's mother sends him to be with his father on the family Burmanese plantation. But no sooner does he arrive than terror erupts in the remote village. With his father captured and thirteen-year-old Nick made to work for the Japanese invaders, Nick tries to find a way to save himself and his father. Along with his friend Mya – they plot to escape and rescue his father and her brother from the POW camp, during an elephant run. 2009 BBYA, 2008 Judy Lopez Memorial Award


□ Smith Roland. (2009) ***Tentacles***. Scholastic. —A sequel to Smith's incredibly popular *Cryptid Hunters*, this title is sure to be a winner. When Grace and Marty O'Hara's parents disappear while on assignment for a nature magazine, the two siblings must go to live with Uncle Wolfe. Their uncle is a scientist that is fascinated with Cryptids – and their mythical existence. This time though the two accompany their uncle on a voyage to New Zealand to trace a giant squid.



**Roland Smith Website**  
<[www.rolandsmith.com](http://www.rolandsmith.com)>

□ Smith, Sherri L. (2009) *Flygirl*. Penguin/G.P. Putnam's Sons. —During World War II, in an America that denies women pilot's licenses and discriminates against African-Americans, Ida Mae Jones is determined to join the Army's WASP program. By passing for white and faking a license Ida Mae manages to circumvent those who would deny her dreams. The sacrifice is great—there is frustration, but immense satisfaction as Ida Mae works with the other members of the Woman Air force Service Pilots. There's much for readers to learn but the lessons are bound by friendships built and tempered with humor and page-turning adventures. Nominated 2010 BBYA

### More Connections: Sherri L. Smith



Sherri L. Smith became acquainted with the WASP story while she was caught in a Los Angeles traffic jam listening to a broadcast on public radio. It was a story that captured her attention. And while thinking about the hardships each of the pilots had to endure – many of them because they were women in a man's world, she began to think about how hard the lives of a WASP must have been. And then she began to think of how difficult it would be if one of the pilots was an African-American as well. On the guest author blog (March 6, 2009-March 13, 2009) for Penguin.com at [us.penguin.com/static/html/blogs/guest-author/flygirl-sherri-l-smith](http://us.penguin.com/static/html/blogs/guest-author/flygirl-sherri-l-smith) the author says, "I thought to myself, 'Boy, it was hard for women. Imagine being black, too.'" And when writers begin to question and imagine one never knows what the outcome will be. Smith goes on to say, "... there were at least two Asian women accepted into the WASP, there is nothing to indicate that any African-Americans made the cut. In fact, quite to the contrary, I have read memoirs of black women who were turned away for the very same reasons Ida fears she will be denied." And so the author's questioning spawned research and research brought her to the premise for *Flygirl*.

After working at Disney, and at a construction company (where she worked in a office/trailer on the tarmac at the Los Angeles International Airport) she now works at Bongo (a comic book company) and spends her nights writing novels. Learn more about the author, the origins of *Flygirl*, and the facts about the WASPs by visiting the author's website *Sherri L. Smith* at [www.sherrilsmith.com](http://www.sherrilsmith.com)



□ Smithson, Ryan. (2009) *Ghosts of War: The True Story of a 19-Year-Old GI*. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. — Fueled by patriotism after 9/11, Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserves. He was just 17. This is his account of boot camp, marrying before being deployed to Iraq, and his experiences in Iraq—some gruesome, some humorous, and some, like his interactions with the children are very insightful. Nonfiction. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Sniegowski, Tom. (2009) *Legacy*. Random House/Delacorte. — Lucas, a high-school dropout is not about to take up the role his ailing father is leaving behind. But then his mother is killed and everything changes. Perhaps he should join the fight against evil. Lucas is appalled by the amount of poverty and crime in Seraph City. His father, secretly “The Raptor” might fight crime but the line between good and evil is difficult to draw. Nominated 2010 BBYA



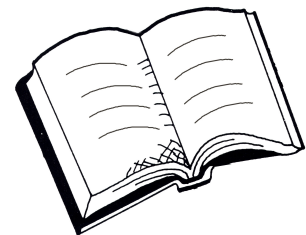
**More About the Author:  
Tom Sniegowski**

Sniegowski has worked for every major comic book

publisher: Marvel, DC, Image, Dark Horse, Cartoon Books. His list of character credits includes -- Batman and Buffy, the vampire slayer and others. He has written in the adult field and for middle school readers. He loves comics but his most recent focus has been on writing novels. For more information about his past work and his current writings visit his website at <[www.sniegowski.com/](http://www.sniegowski.com/)>.

□ Springer, Nancy. (2009) *Somebody*. Holiday House. — A thin novel packed with mystery – so mysterious that Fifteen-year-old Sherica must first discover and reclaim her name; and then reclaim herself. For years, her father moved her from place-to-place (along with her brother). But this small town is different. She met Mason. Mason helps her understand that the story about her mother, that her father has been telling her, may not be the truth. Sherica begins to remember bits and pieces. Those flashbacks provide her the clues to use as she (and Mason) search the Internet for answers to her questions and leads her to a new understanding of herself. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Stead, Rebecca. (2009) *When You Reach Me*. Random House / Wendy Lamb Books. — It is 1978, in New York City and now that Sal and Miranda are twelve their lives do not seem as intertwined as they once were. Then Miranda begins to receive notes to seem to be predicting the future. Those readers who are familiar with Madeline L’Engle’s *A Wrinkle in Time* will begin to recognize connections. Nominated 2010 BBYA



Stewart, Trenton Lee. (2007) ***The Mysterious Benedict Society***. Illustrated by Carson Ellis. Little Brown/Megan Tingley. —Reynie Muldoon, an orphan needs to find a way to take care of himself and Mr. Benedict is looking for some extraordinary people to infiltrate the isolated Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened. Four others, Sticky Washington- a child with a photographic memory, Kate Weatherhill, and a tiny young person, Constance Contraire, all join Reynie. Interesting characters, an intricate plot, and issues of abandonment, family, and loyalty. But the ultimate issue is how one faces fears. Fans of Blue Balliett's books will relish this addition to the library shelves. Starred Booklist, 2007 BCCB Blue Ribbon Book, 2008 E.B. White Read Aloud Award (for older readers), 2008 ALA Notable, 2009 Booklist Editor's Choice, 2009 Massachusetts Children's Book Award, 2007 SLJ Best Books

#### Readers Connections: The

#### Mysterious Benedict



Watch for more books to follow *The Mysterious Benedict*, and check out the books by Blue Balliett at Scholastic's website

devoted to the *Blue Balliett, Author of Chasing Vermeer, The Wright 3, and The Calder Game.*

[www.scholastic.com/blueballiett/](http://www.scholastic.com/blueballiett/)

Stiefvater, Maggie. (2008) ***Lament: The Faerie Queen's Deception***. Llewellyn/Flux. —Celtic Faerie lore influences this tale of Deirdre Monaghan, a harpist who gets such intense stage fright that she vomits before every performance. When Luke Dillon comes to the restroom to hold her hair back, she is smitten with the gorgeous guy. And despite the fact that the queen of Faerie has appointed Luke as Deirdre's assassin, Luke falls in love with Deirdre—her family is in danger, she is in danger. What is to become of Deirdre, her family, her friends, and to her relationship with Luke? Nominated 2010 BBYA

Stone, Tanya Lee. (2009) ***Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream***. Candlewick. —A passionate and well researched account of the Mercury 13 and their efforts to win admission into NASA's initial astronaut training program in the 1960s. Examines the gender prejudices that impacted their courageous challenge to the system that kept them out despite their qualifications. This is a dynamic tale that needs to be shared. Outstanding Science Trade Book 2010

Stork, Francisco X. (2009) ***Marcelo in the Real World***. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books. — Until this summer, Marcelo, a seventeen year-old boy with a high-functioning autism spectrum disorder, Marcelo has attended a special school where he has been protected and where he has arranged to care for the ponies at his



school's therapeutic-riding stable. But this summer, the summer before his senior year, his father wants him to work in his law firm, in the mailroom, and experience the "real world" in preparation for attending a regular high school. Marcelo tells of his summer in a first person narration. The learning is compelling, the story is insightful, and readers will devour every word.

Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Stroud, Jonathan. (2009) *Heroes of the Valley*. Disney Book Group/Hyperion. —The Twelve Houses of the Valley have not been at war for generations but when Halli Sveinsson, the 15-year-old youngest child in the House of Svein seeks to avenge his uncle's death, warfare results. Halli is not at all like his tall handsome family but he is also not afraid of facing his enemies, human or not. The tale is humorous, adventuresome, and an epic hero quest of the most legendary kind. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Summers, Courtney. (2009) *Cracked Up to Be*. St. Martin's Press/St. Martin's Griffin. — Parker Fadley has it all — and then comes a drunken party, Parker's best friend Jessica disappears, and she blames herself. Flashbacks, provides information leading up to the situation as Parker moves through her senior year at a Catholic High School. A new guy, Jake, senses Parker is deliberately self-destructing and tries to determine why. A great read filled with turmoil, new love, raw language, and frank sexuality. Nominated 2010 BBYA

☐ Swanwick, Michael. (2008) *The Dragons of Babel*. Tor/Tom Doherty Associates. — A gritty novel filled with evil mechanical war dragons, magic, centaurs, and Faerie villages; postindustrial Earth and biblical places. Teenager Will Le Fey's adventures are played out in the author's return to the universe of *The Iron Dragon's Daughter* (1994). 2008 SF Site Reader's Choice, (2009) Alex Award, Locus Finalist

☐ Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. (2008) *Skim*. House of Anansi Press/Groundwood Books. — Kimberly Keiko Cameron "Skim" struggles with her identity, friendships, and romance at an all-girl school in the 1940s, in Toronto. Skim, a Goth mixed-race teenager finds herself on the outside struggling to be accepted. Graphic novel. 2009 BBYA, 2008 Ignatz Award, 2008 NY Times Best Illustrated, 2009 ALA Great Graphic Novel for Teens, 2009 ALA Rainbow List, 2009 Eisner Award Nominee

☐ Tamaki, Mariko and Steve Rolston. (2008) *Emiko Superstar*. DC Comics/Minx. — Emily moves from a teen geek to a superstar. Emily, an Asian-Canadian teen meets Poppy who is advertising a "freak show" and is soon engulfed in the world of performance art as Emiko. Her grandmother's mod 60s outfits and the stolen diaries she bases her act on, help her become a sensation. But her guilt brings about concerns that move her through a romance, around a lesbian subplot, and into life as a more mature person. Graphic Novel. Nominated 2010 BBYA

**More About the Author: Mariko Tamaki**

Tamaki is a performance artist and writer based in Toronto, Canada. Her first graphic novel, *Skim*, is illustrated by her cousin Jillian; and the second novel by a Vancouver artist. Find out more at <[www.marikotamaki.com/](http://www.marikotamaki.com/)>.

□ Tan, Shaun. (2009) *Tales from Outer Suburbia*. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books. —A collection of urban fantasy, fifteen stories in all. Each is illustrated with weirdly wonderful images. Stick Figures roam the streets, unread poetry forms a huge poetry ball; strange sea creatures, and even an all-knowing water buffalo are part of the landscape. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Thompson, Kate. (2009) *Creature of the Night*. Roaring Brook Press. 2009. —Bobby's mother plans to take the incorrigible 14-year-old and herself from their Dublin home to a creaky home in the country. The home had been inhabited previously by a couple that murdered their child—a child they thought to be a faerie changling. It seems that the countryside still has something eerie in the surrounding fields. Bobby's reluctance to move to the country turns to fear. *Creature of the Night* is both realistic and supernatural but Bobby's reassessment of his own path in life will be all too real to the many readers who are hooked on this tale of mayhem, defiance—kindness and honesty, as well. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Tinti, Hannah. (2008) *The Good Thief*. Dial Press. —Twelve-year-old Ren, abandoned at an orphanage as an infant, longs to know something of his past. He has no information about his missing left hand or his parents. When Benjamin Nab claims to be his long-lost brother, the monks let Ren leave. But is Benjamin who he says he is—or is he just the common con artist that he seems to be? Does Benjamin hold the key to his past and to Ren's future as well? As Ren travels through the New England whaling towns, he senses that he will soon find out. 2009 Alex Award; New York Times Notable Book of 2008; Washington Post Best Books of 2008; San Francisco Chronicle 50 Best Fiction & Poetry of 2008; Kirkus Best Fiction of 2008

**More About the Author: Hannah Tinti**



*The Good Thief* is Tinti's first novel although she has written short stories and worked in publishing as an editor for years. Learn more

about the author on her website <[www.hannahtinti.com](http://www.hannahtinti.com)> and the back-story for *The Good Thief* on her "author" page. In an interview, site visitors will learn about the "Resurrection men" of the 1800s, and why they rob graves, and why Tinti created Ren with a missing hand; and will be able to read the first 50 pages of the book. Readers will not want to stop there.

□ Tucker, Todd. (2008) ***Over and Under***. Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's Press. — Although their fathers are on opposite sides in a labor dispute threatening to close the Borden Casket Company, Andy and Tom's 14th summer involves only their friendship, woodland adventures, and cave exploration near their home. Their friendship (and the spirit of the town) is tested by an explosion, a murder, the escape of two fugitives, and the secrets they know. 2009 Alex Award.

□ Uehashi, Nahoko. (2008) ***Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit***. Translated from the Japanese by Cathy Hirano. Scholastic/Alvin A. Levine. — A Japanese epic tale filled with intrigue, mystery, and danger. 2009 Mildred L. Batchelder Award

□ Valentine, Jenny. (2009) ***Broken Soup***. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. — The London Times called *Broken Soup* "life-affirming, witty, romantic read, about freedom, responsibility and love." And 15-year-old Rowan's story is just that. Rowan's brother has died and her mother is seriously depressed. Rowan is wandering aimlessly through life until Bee comes into her life. He gives her a picture negative (which turns out to be a picture of her brother) that has out of her purse. The negative sets in motion a mystery that brings the two new friends into a developing series of events that will compel readers to turn the pages until the very end. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Valentine, Jenny. (2008) ***Me, the Missing, and the Dead***. HarperCollins/HarperTeen. — His father has been missing for five years, his sister rarely comes home, and his mother is having her own midlife crisis; no wonder Lucas feels deserted. But when he begins to investigate the woman whose ashes are in the urn in the lobby of a London office he begins to listen to what the woman "tells" him. He uncovers connections that lead him to some needed discoveries. 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

□ Van Diepen, Alison. (2009) ***Raven: Death is Inevitable, Passion is Eternal***. Simon & Shuster/Simon Pulse. — Raven wants to escape from her dreadful family and Zin, the handsome newcomer may just be the answer. But Zin keeps Raven at a distance, but Raven feels that their souls are yearning for one another. But Zin has a secret, Raven discovers that Zin has eternal life. He stays alive by absorbing the souls of others. Raven faces a decision—either abandon her love or agree to be "turned" and have a chance for eternal love. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Vecchione, Patrice, ed. (2007) ***Faith & Doubt: An Anthology of Poems***. Henry Holt. — Poems collected from around the world, all focusing on the subject of faith and doubt. Bank Street

□ Venkatraman, Padma. (2008) *Climbing the Stairs*. Penguin. —Set during 1941, during the British occupation of India, 15-year-old Vidya’s life in Bombay makes a drastic shift when her father is beaten by the British and suffers extensive brain injury. Her father had expected her to go to college but her sharp-tongued abusive aunt is anything but encouraging. Vidya is determined and finds her independent character to be supported by her grandfather. The story chronicles a strong young woman’s resolve to make something of herself. (Pair with *Keeping Corner* by Kashmira Sheth). 2009 BBYA, Starred Booklist

□ Volponi, Paul. (2009) *Response*. Penguin/Viking. —Seventeen-year-old Noah is a thug, a thief, and after he and his two friends are beaten when they go into an Italian-American neighborhood to steal a car. The coverage by the media makes him into a celebrity of sorts. The entire community seems to be racist, as are several members of the school’s faculty. Noah knows that his intentions were not honorable— he must determine if he a victim or if the incident will change him for the better. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Voorhees, Coert. (2008) *The Brothers Torres*. Hyperion. —Frankie knows that his brother is wasting his chance to go to college, running with the “cholos” —a group of gangsters, and ignoring his responsibilities at the family business but Frankie covers for him anyway. Is Frankie really doing the right thing? 2009 BBYA

□ Walker, Sally M. (2009) *Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland*. Lerner/Carolrhoda Books. — While describing meticulous work of archaeologists, Walker describes the findings that arise from the bones recovered in the Chesapeake Bay region. This is an account of the real life in the colonies, a life that is often romanticized in history. Stories from ancient bones. Nonfiction. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Weatherford, Carole Boston. (2008) *Becoming Billie Holiday*. Illustrations by Floyd Cooper. Wordsong. —A poetic look at the life that produced one of the nation’s most revered singers. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA, 2009 Coretta Scott King Honor, Kirkus Reviews Editor’s Choice for Young Adults

### More About the Author: Carole Boston Weatherford



Carol Boston Weatherford is a most extraordinary poet and writer. She is the author of the Caldecott Honor Award title, *Moses, When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson (Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2006).

A complete list of her books is available on her site at <[www.caroleweatherford.com](http://www.caroleweatherford.com)>. There is also a site devoted to the Billie Holiday book, <[www.becomingbillieholiday.com](http://www.becomingbillieholiday.com)>.

The Billie Holiday site links to information about Holiday's music, a readers' guide to the book, a book trailer, podcasts, and several interviews.

Wendel, Tim and Villegas, Jose Luis. (2008) *Far From Home: Latino Baseball Players in America*. National Geographic. —Baseball has long been a revered sport in many Latino communities. Wendel and Villegas give us a history of the players, a sense of their growing up years, and how they came to be so passionate about baseball. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA

Werlin, Nancy. (2008) *Impossible*. Penguin/Dial. —The women in her family have been cursed, each in their turn become engulfed by madness. Lucy is determined that the curse will not claim her. She embarks on a quest to break the curse by accomplishing three impossible tasks. Never mind that each who have tried before have failed. Lucy must succeed and perhaps with the help of Zach, maybe she will. 2009 BBYA

Whitcomb, Laura. (2009) *The Fetch*. Houghton Mifflin. 2009. 978-0-618-89131-3. \$17.00. To be a "Fetch" means eternal life as a person who escorts souls to heaven—Calder, is over 300 years old and has served as a Fetch since his death at 19. But now he has fallen in love with a Romanov and takes the body of Rasputin as his own, in order to pursue his love. This is a tender love story set in Russian history. Nominated 2010 BBYA

Williams-Garcia, Rita. (2009) *Jumped*. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. —Dominique, a star basketball player, is tough as nails but the coach has benched her because of her grades. She's looking for a confrontation. Trina, the school's girly girl, doesn't know she is a potential target. Leticia could warn her, but she's reluctant to get involved. One day's time – and told in voices/ chapters alternating between the three teenagers. Politics of high school and the culture of "snitching." Nominated 2010 BBYA

- Williams, Carol Lynch. (2009) ***The Chosen One***. Macmillan/St. Martin's Griffin. —Kyra is just 13-years-old and destined to be forced to marry her 60-year-old uncle. Repulsed by the possibility that the polygamist cult's Prophet will make her submit to the marriage Kyra plots a way to escape the community. A budding relationship with a young member of the cult puts them both in peril. The conclusion of the tale may leave more questions than answers — leaving the path open for a sequel. Nominated 2010 BBYA



**Reading Connection:** Multiple Wives —Pair with Shelley Hrdlitschka's *Sister Wife* (See entry).

- Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (2009) ***This Full House***. Harper Collins/Harper Teen. — Now a 17-year-old, LaVaughn continues to aspire to having a career in science and perseveres despite still having to attend a high school with run-down lab equipment and not much more to offer someone like her, she perseveres. She has been accepted into a prestigious after-school enrichment program for “Women in Medical Science.” Her love of science continues until the program leads her to make a stunning discovery—a discovery that threatens everything that she has or will have. This is the third verse novel in the author's “Make Lemonade” trilogy: *Make Lemonade* (Henry Holt, 1993) and *True Believer* (Atheneum, 2001). Nominated 2010 BBYA

- Wood, Don. (2008) ***Into the Volcano***. Scholastic. . —When relatives of Duffy and Sumo pick them up at their school, it is just the beginning of an adventure into the belly of an ancient volcano. Mysteries begin to reveal themselves and the discoveries the boys make at first deepen the mystery of how all of this is connected to them and their mother. Their discoveries shock and cause them grave danger. How will they escape? 2009 BBYA, Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels

- Woodson, Jacqueline. (2007) ***Feathers***. Putnam. —Frannie's sixth grade class is predominantly African-American until a new “white” kid enrolls. The bully of the class nicknames the boy as “Jesus Boy.” He is pale and has long hair. Frannie takes note of the boy's calm demeanor while being intrigued with Emily Dickinson's poem, “Hope is the thing with feathers/.” As she begins to figure out the dynamics of those around her she begins to view her brother's deafness, and her mother's pregnancy (and the problems with previous pregnancies) in a different light. Frannie develops a new view (and understanding) of race, faith, and prejudice. 2008 Newbery Honor, South Caroline Children's Book Award nominee

□ Woodson, Jacqueline. (2008) *After Tupac & D Foster*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. —A trio of 11-year-old friends, two long-standing and one newcomer struggle with their own lives and their different situations as they develop a friendship and work to help Tupac Shakur face her troubles. 2009 Newbery Honor, 2009 BBYA, 2009 ALA Rainbow List, 2009 ALA Best Books

□ Wyatt, Melissa. (2009) *Funny How Things Change*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. —The thought of leaving behind a comfortable existence, where he is very much an "insider" is cause for concern as Remy contemplates moving with his girlfriend to the college-town in Pennsylvania. Whether Remy remains an insider or follows his girlfriend and put himself in a position as an outsider; it's a decision that will shape his life. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Wynne-Jones, Tim. (2009) *The Uninvited*. Candlewick Press. —Mimi decides to take refuge (after an affair with her professor) in her long-absent father's remote Canadian cabin. But her half-brother is already there. Together the half-siblings share the house and the mysteries that begin to evolve. Cramer – yet another son of Mimi's father, comes into the story. Cramer's place in the "family" is not apparent, at first. He cares for his mentally unstable mother and is strange himself. Jay's mother (and her lesbian partner) are part of the story—a story that includes mystery intruders, a hidden passage tunnel, and eerie events. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Yang, Gene Luen, and Derek Kirk Kim. (2009) *The Eternal Smile: Three Stories*. Roaring Brook/First Second. —Gene Luen Yang (A Printz Award winner with his graphic novel, *American Born Chinese* [First Second, 2006]) and Derek Kirk Kim (*Same Difference and Other Stories* [Top Shelf, 2004]) collaborate to create "Duncan's Kingdom," "Gran'pa Greenbax and the Eternal Smile," and "Urgent Request." A frog that finds he might just be better off as a frog; a prince who discovers that his world is not as he thought it was; and a third story that involves a Prince from Nigeria who sends an e-mail asking for a loan to save his family. The authors blur the line between reality and fantasy. All will become clear in the end. Nominated 2010 BBYA

□ Zarr, Sara. (2008) *Sweethearts*. Little, Brown. — Jenna, a high school senior has put her traumatic childhood behind her. She is happy with her life and is moving ahead—and then her only friend from childhood suddenly comes back into her life. How will she do if she has to confront her long-suppressed memories? A book for slightly younger readers. 2009 BBYA.

□ Zemser, Amy Bronwen. (2008) *Dear Julia*. Harper Collins/Greenwillow Book. —A very quirky cast of supporting characters populates this story of sixteen-year-old Elaine Hamilton who has studied French cooking since she has been eight. She wants to be a chef like Julia Child, but her mother – a powerful businesswoman/politician views a

career in the kitchen as an affront to woman's independence and upward movement in society. A newfound friend, Lucinda does add more dimensions to the quest: she has two moms, and there are thoughts about women's colleges, traditional female career roles. An entertaining and light-hearted tale for those with an interest in food and quirky tales. Nominated 2010 BBYA

### Reading Connections: More Books — *Julie & Julia*

A more sophisticated connection to Julia Child was created in 2005 by Julie

Powell who in 2002 set out to create each of the recipes in Julia Child's well-known French Cooking cookbook.

She wrote a daily blog and the blog evolved into a book,

*Julie & Julia* (Bullfinch Press, 2005).



*Julie & Julia* and *My Life in France* by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme (Julia's nephew) became an inspiration for the movie *Julie & Julia* (Columbia Pictures, 2009). Read the books, view the movie, and discuss what will be the plan of action when "I need something to doooooo."



Zink, Michelle. (2009)

***Prophecy of the Sisters***. Hachette Book Group/Little Brown. —An ancient prophecy says that among twin sisters "one is good, and one is evil." And once their father dies suddenly the two sisters Lia and Alice are orphaned and seem destined to fulfill the prophecy. Both struggle with the good and the bad but they do know that they cannot trust one another. Told from the point of view of Lia. The second book of the trilogy is *Guardian of the Gate* (Little Brown, 2010). Nominated 2010 BBYA

### More Connections: Michelle Zink: An Interview

Michelle Zink lives in upstate New York in a Gothic like setting, not unlike the setting where Lia and Alice live. Zink's publisher, Little Brown, has mounted a <[www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/prophecyofthesisters/home.html](http://www.hachettebookgroup.com/features/prophecyofthesisters/home.html)> which presents some additional information about the first prophecy book and the proposed trilogy. The site features an interview (via a YouTube link) and a link enabling readers to join the Community of the Prophecy. On that social network readers can comment and ask questions. The author herself has a very visible presence there, answering inquiries and writing comments. On the network the author says that *Guardian of the Gate* includes "an epic adventure, a hot new guy (though James remains part of the story in a very unexpected way), and a betrayal of unimaginable proportions."





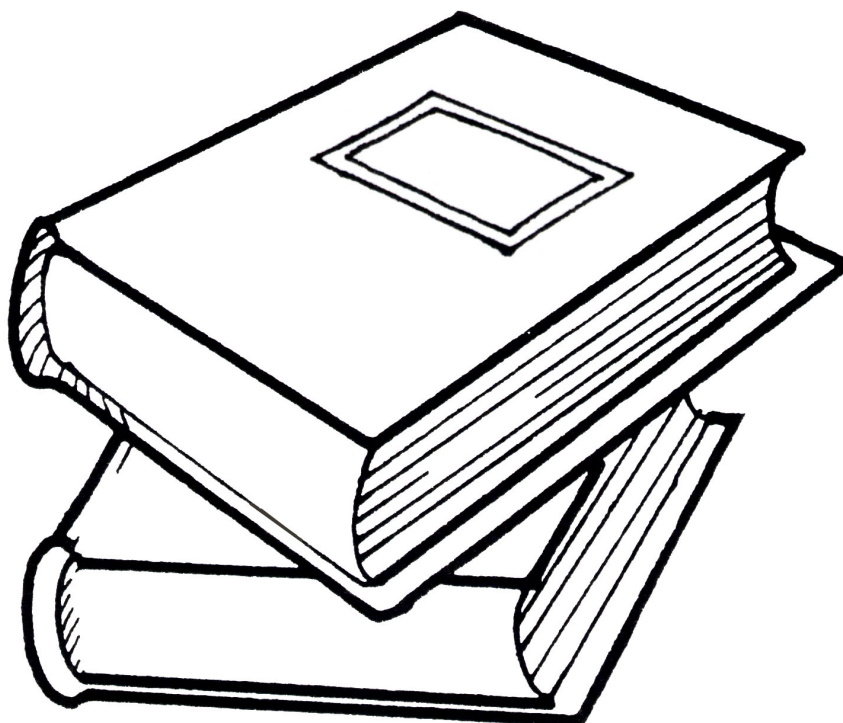
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# Section 2

# Top Titles

# 2005-2006

A select list of books previously included in  
*Best Teen Reads 2005* and *Best Teen Reads 2007*





### The Bookshelf

- ❑ Abel, Jessica. (2006) ***La Perdida***. Random House. —In Mexico, Carla Olivares, a Mexican-American soon discovers that poverty and lack of direction can quickly lead to violence. Graphic Novel.
- ❑ Acampora, Paul. (2006) ***Defining Dulcie***. Dial. —When Dulcie’s father dies her mother moves the family to California, leaving the grief behind. But Dulcie is determined to return to Connecticut.
- ❑ Adlington, L. J. (2005) ***The Diary of Pelly D***. Greenwillow. —A fictionalized tale of Toni V who finds Pelly D.’s diary while working on a demolition crew after the war.
- ❑ Adoff, Jaime. (2005) ***Jimi and Me***. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun. —When Keith James’s father is killed violently He and his mother are left in near-poverty and then grief turns to rage when Keith discovers why his father left his family little money— he had another family and another Jimi. Verse novel. John Steptoe Award for New Talent.
- ❑ Akbar, Said Hyder and Burton, Susan. (2005) ***Back to Afghanistan: A California Teenager's Story***. Bloomsbury. — Three summers in Afghanistan helping to rebuild the country— Hyder, a California teen and his father. Non-fiction
- ❑ Alexander, Robert. (2006) ***Rasputin's Daughter***. Viking. — Was Rasputin a saint or sinner? Marie, Rasputin’s daughter, shares a new view of her father—for good or bad.
- ❑ Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2005) ***Prom***. (2005) Viking. — Ashley Hannigan doesn't much care about her senior prom, but her best friend Natalia is very much involved. Natalia is faced with a problem: creating a prom with no funds. A rite-of-passage event.
- ❑ Aronson, Marc. (2005) ***The Real Revolution: The Global Story of the American Revolution***. Clarion. — A portrait of how our nation came to be.

- ❑ Balliett, Blue. (2006) ***Wright 3***. Illustrated by Brett Helquist. Scholastic. Petra Andalee and Calder Pillary are back, this time with their friend Tommy and in the midst of solving a mystery that concerns the Robie House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1909. Companion title to ***Chasing Vermeer*** (2004)
- ❑ Barnard, Bryn. (2005) ***Outbreak: Plagues That Changed History***. Crown. —Well-researched volume includes illustrations and maps that show the geographical route that the infections traveled. Non-fiction
- ❑ Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. (2005) ***Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler's Shadow***. Scholastic. Illustrated with photographs. —It was Adolf Hitler's goal to use the young people of his nation to accomplish his evil master plan for global domination. Nonfiction
- ❑ Bechard, Margaret. (2005) ***Spacer and Rat***. Roaring Brook/Deborah Brodie. — Jack has spent his whole life in space and is now leaving to go to Liberty when he runs into an Earthie, Kit, who ends up endangering Jack's plans and his life.
- ❑ Belth, Alex. (2005) ***Stepping Up: The Story of Curt Flood and His Fight for Baseball Players' Rights***. Persea. This book makes the case for Curt Flood and his immeasurable influence on today's game of baseball. Non-fiction
- ❑ Belton, Sandra. (2006) ***Store-Bought Baby***. HarperCollins/Greenwillow. — Leah is left to ponder the mysteries of Luce's life (after he dies in a car-accident). Her search for answers leads her to understand much about "real" families.
- ❑ Benanav, Michael. (2006) ***Men of Salt: Crossing the Sahara on the Caravan of White Gold***. Globe Pequot/Lyons. —Details Benanav's journey—forty days north on a camel caravan from the legendary city of Timbuktu in Mali to the remote salt-mining outpost of Taoudenni. Nonfiction
- ❑ Black, Holly. (2005) ***Valiant: A Modern Tale of Faerie***. Simon & Schuster. —Val runs away to the bowels of New York City where she meets the trolls in the "faerie world" and a homeless trio who introduces her to subway squatting and dumpster diving.
- ❑ Blackwood, Gary. (2005) ***Second Sight***. Dutton. — An alternate history that takes us to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. Father and son Nicolas and Joseph Ehrlich are mind readers who make sense of a secret coded alphabet.
- ❑ Bloor, Edward. ***London Calling***. (2006) Random House/Knopf. (0375836357). A time travel adventure that takes Martin back to London during the 1941 Blitz. BBYA (nominated 2007)

- ❑ Blumenthal, Karen. (2005) ***Let Me Play: The Story of Title IX: The Law That Changed the Future of Girls in America***. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. Illustrated. — Until 1972, females were not given opportunities in the sports world. Title IX changed the dynamics of sports in America. Non-fiction
- ❑ Bolden, Tonya. (2005) ***Maritcha: A Nineteenth Century American Girl***. Abrams. Illustrated. — A free slave in the “free North” must still struggle to live a normal life. Maritcha Lyons, born of a free African American family in New York in 1843, managed to live an amazing life peppered with influence from events in American history. Non-fiction
- ❑ Bondoux, Anne-Laure. (2006) ***The Killer's Tears***. Random House/Delacorte. — Angel Allegria kills young Paolo's parents but spares Paolo's life. Angel takes over the house and the life within it. A wealthy traveler soon joins the group and he and Angel find themselves vying to be a father figure to Paolo. Set in a remote area of Chili.
- ❑ Boyne, John. (2006) ***The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable***. Random House/David Fickling. — A Holocaust tale from the viewpoint of a nine-year-old boy whose father is a commandant.
- ❑ Bradley, Alex. (2005) ***24 Girls in 7 Days***. Dutton. — Jack, a high school senior finds himself in a crazy social situation: he does not have a date for prom. His friends put a classified ad in the school paper. Now he has 24 girls and must make a decision in 7 days.
- ❑ Brashares, Ann. (2005) ***Girls in Pants: The Third Summer of the Sisterhood***. Delacorte. — The third volume of this popular series (*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *The Second Summer of the Sisterhood*) is cited as being inspiring and hilarious. The four friends spend their last summer before college, together.
- ❑ Bray, Libba. (2005) ***Rebel Angels***. Delacorte. — A fantasy that has brought magic to all through Gemma's act of breaking the runes. Sequel to *A Great and Terrible Beauty* (2003).
- ❑ Brooks, Kevin. (2006) ***The Road of the Dead***. Scholastic/Chicken House. — Ruben can see things that others cannot. A gripping tale with scenes of brutal, vivid violence but never gratuitous.
- ❑ Brooks, Kevin. ***Candy***. (2005) Chicken House. — Joe's life is rather mundane until he meets Candy and gets closer to her world—drugs and violent confrontations. Danger seems to be at every turn.

- ❑ Bruchac, Joseph. (2005) ***Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of World War Two***. Dial. A fictionalized account of the Navajo's role in World War II as code talkers. Collaborative book: ***Navajo Code Talkers*** by Nate Aaseng (Walker, 2004, pb). Nonfiction
- ❑ Bruchac, Joseph. (2006) ***Wabi: A Hero's Tale***. Dial. —A fantasy tale that includes elements of romance, adventure, and folklore. Wabi finds a wolf companion and discovers ways to protect his environment and Dojihla's people. An Abenaki tale.
- ❑ Brugman, Alyssa. (2006) ***Being Bindy***. Delacorte. —Eighth grade is pure torture. Belinda's ex-best friend's is hanging out with a gang that smokes pot, dresses too risqué, and are just plain mean and her father is dating her ex-friend's mother.
- ❑ Buckhanon, Kalisha. (2005) ***Upstate***. St. Martin's. —Nine years of love letters between Natasha (left behind in Harlem) and Antonio (serving time for murdering his mother). Antonio struggles to survive; Natasha struggles to make a life without her first love.
- ❑ Budhos, Marina. (2006) ***Ask Me No Questions***. Atheneum/Ginee Soe. —After 9/11 a Bangladesh family, who has lived illegally for years in New York City, sense the immigration laws tightening, so they attempt to flee to Canada.
- ❑ Burton, Rebecca. (2006) ***Leaving Jetty Road***. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. —Chronicles the final year of school for three friends in South Australia. Through alternating chapters, Nat and Sofia detail their decision to become vegetarians.
- ❑ Caletti, Deb. (2005) ***Wild Roses***. Simon & Schuster. —Everyone thinks her world-renowned stepfather, Dino Cavalli, is wonderful—a wonderful violinist and a wonderful composer. But to 17-year-old Cassie Morgan he is a dangerous self-centered bully.
- ❑ Caputo, Philip. (2005) ***10,000 Days of Thunder: A History of the Vietnam War***. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum/Byron Press. — A Vietnam Vet examines the causes and repercussions of the Vietnam War. Many photographs and maps help readers understand the well-written text. Non-fiction
- ❑ Carbone, Elisa. (2005) ***Last Dance on Holladay Street***. Knopf/Random House. — Historical novel set in 1878 in Colorado. Thirteen-year-old Eva seeks her birth mother and finds out the city and her mother are not what she imagined.
- ❑ Castellucci, Cecil. (2005) ***Boy Proof***. Candlewick. — Victoria Denton is too bright and too tough to attract any interest from the boys or any friends in the high school. But then Max arrives.

- ❑ Cheney, Annie. (2006) ***Body Brokers: Inside America's Underground Trade in Human Remains***. Random House/Broadway. — Unscrupulous undertakers work with body brokers to sell body parts for high prices. Non-fiction
- ❑ Clee, Paul. (2005) ***Before Hollywood: From Shadow Play to the Silver Screen***. Clarion. — The history of movies and movie making including inventions, animation, and special effects. Non-fiction
- ❑ Coburn, Jake. (2005) ***Love Sick***. Dutton. — A drunk driver cripples Ted and causes him to lose his basketball scholarship.
- ❑ Cohn, Rachel and David Levithan. (2006) ***Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist***. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. — In alternating chapters, Norah and Nick talk of their romance, their emotions, and connections to the New York club scene.
- ❑ Cole, Sheila. (2005) ***To Be Young in America: Growing Up with the Country, 1776-1940***. Little, Brown. A collection of chapters examining many phases of life in America from love to war. Non-fiction
- ❑ Cooney, Caroline B. (2006) ***Hit the Road***. Delacorte. — Brit has had her driver's license just 11 days and her grandmother "Nannie" wants to travel across three states to pick up her college roommates and go to their college's 65<sup>th</sup> reunion.
- ❑ Cornish, D. M. (2006) ***Monster Blood Tattoo: Foundling***. Penguin Group USA/Putnam. — Rossamünd Bookchild, an orphan, sets off to slay the monsters.
- ❑ Couloumbis, Audrey. (2005) ***Summer's End***. Putnam. Thirteen-year-old Grace's older brother, Colin, is turned out of the house after burning his draft card, and Grace seeks refuge at her grandparents' farm to avoid her parents' arguments.
- ❑ Creech, Sharon. (2005) ***Replay***. Joanna Cotler. — One day, in the family's attic, Leo finds his father's journal and discovers a mystery that he is determined to solve.
- ❑ Davidson, Dana. (2005) ***Played***. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun. — Ian's initiation into an elite high school fraternity involves seducing one of the plainest girls in school and having sex with her.
- ❑ Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt. (2005) ***We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success***. Dutton. — Three young black men grew up in the tough streets of New Jersey, but with luck, perseverance, and their friendship they rose above their circumstances to become doctors. Nonfiction
- ❑ de la Peña, Matt. (2005) ***Ball Don't Lie***. Delacorte. — Efforts to pull him from poverty, life with a prostitute mother, and escape from foster care and the streets are a struggle but Sticky must.

- ❑ Deem, James M. (2005) ***Bodies From the Ash: Life and Death in Ancient Pompeii***. Houghton Mifflin. — A quick read focusing on the eruption of Vesuvius that destroyed Pompeii in AD 79. Non-fiction
- ❑ DeFelice, Cynthia. (2005) ***The Missing Manatee***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. — While coping with his parents' separation, eleven-year-old Skeet spends most of Spring Break in his skiff on a Florida river, where he finds a manatee shot to death and begins looking for the killer.
- ❑ Delisle, Guy. (2005) ***Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea***. (2005) Drawn and Quarterly. — Guy Delisle, a French Canadian, is sent to oversee an animation project in communist North Korea. This is a simple and funny graphic novel. Nonfiction.
- ❑ Dendy, Leslie and Mel Boring. (2005) ***Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine***. Holt. — Ten dedicated and determined scientists used themselves as subjects for crucial experiments. Nonfiction
- ❑ Dessen, Sarah. (2006) ***Just Listen***. Viking. — Annabel Greene's friends shun her after she is date raped. A school loner, Owen, helps her to speak out. Pair this with Laura Halse Anderson's *Speak* (1999).
- ❑ Deuker, Carl. (2005) ***Runner***. Houghton Mifflin — Life with an alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat is hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but he soon learns a high-paying job is not worth the risk.
- ❑ Dorfman, Joaquin. (2006) ***Playing it Cool***. Random House. — Jeremy asks his problem-solving friend, Sebastian Montero, for help finding his biological dad, but there may be more than what's on the surface.
- ❑ Draper, Sharon. (2006) ***Copper Sun***. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. — Amari is living in a calm peaceful Ashanti village until slave traders put her on a slave ship bound for America. Readers will learn much about the state of slavery, indentured servitude, and 18<sup>th</sup> century slave sanctuaries
- ❑ Draper, Sharon. (2005) ***The Battle of Jericho***. Atheneum — The consequences of choices are the ultimate result of the initiation into the Ohio High School's elite club, The Warriors of Distinction.
- ❑ Duple, Kathleen Benner. (2005) ***The Sacrifice***. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry. — Ten-year-old Abigail is accused of witchcraft in 1692 in Andover, Massachusetts. The author's ancestors' family share part of this story. Pair with Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*; Ellen Levine's *Catch a Tiger by the Toe* (2005); and Marc Aronson's informational account, *Witch-Hunt* (2003).

- ❑ Eisner, Will. (2005) *The Plot: The Secret Story of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. W.W. Norton. — The Protocol document was a fraud (and historical treatise) but has been often quoted by Klansmen, Hitler, and other defamation groups to further their cause. Graphic Nonfiction
- ❑ Farrell, Jeanette. (2005) *Invisible Allies: Microbes That Shape Our Lives*. Farrar. Microbes as they positively affect our lives, follow a cheese sandwich and a chocolate bar from beginning to end. Nonfiction
- ❑ Ferguson, Alane. (2006) *The Christopher Killer*. Forensic Mystery Series. Viking/Sleuth. — Fascinated with forensic science, 17-year-old Cameryn convinces her dad, a coroner, to hire her as an assistant. And soon she is involved in solving murders, and finding danger for herself. A compelling mystery-thriller. Follow Cameryn's further adventures with other titles in the series: *The Angel of Death* (2006), *The Circle of Blood* (2008), and *The Dying Breath* (2009).
- ❑ Fisher, Catherine. (2006) *Darkhenge*. Greenwillow. — Drawing on Celtic mythology: using mystery and dark magic, Rob senses that the henges have something to do with his sister's coma and he enters the world of Anwyn to investigate. The heavy dose of folkloric elements and changing perspectives will make this book one for able readers.
- ❑ Fisher, Catherine. (2006) *Day of the Scarab: Book Three of the Oracle Prophecies*. Greenwillow. — Archon must find the power that is hidden in the sign of the Scarab and Mirany and the Archon must find a journey through the Nine Gateways into death and back?
- ❑ Flake, Sharon G. (2005) *Bang!* Hyperion/Jump at the Sun. — Mann's father feels he lost one son because of his protectiveness. Determined it won't happen again, he abandons Mann to survive in the wilderness and later turns him out to live on the streets.
- ❑ Flanagan, John. (2006) *The Burning Bridge: The Ranger's Apprentice: Book II*. Philomel. — The war against the evil Morgarath continues in this sequel to *The Ruins of Gorlan* (2005). High adventure.
- ❑ Flanagan, Timothy. (2005) *Reconstruction: A Primary Source History of the Struggle to Unite the North and South after the Civil War*. Rosen. — Primary source materials dealing with the basic information and timelines for the Reconstruction period of United States history.
- ❑ Fleming, Candace. (2005) *Our Eleanor: A Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life*. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. — A scrapbook-format biography. — Artifacts from Roosevelt's childhood, through marriage and motherhood, into her public life, and years as First Lady. Nonfiction



- ❑ Fradin, Judith Bloom and Dennis Brindell Fradin. (2006) ***5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight From Slavery***. National Geographic. — A moving story of a slave couple that pose as a white man (Ellen) with his male servant (William) traveling north to freedom. Non-fiction
- ❑ Frank, E. R. (2005) ***Wrecked***. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. — Anna, 16, must deal with post-traumatic stress disorder following a car-accident in which friends died and an emotionally abusive father.
- ❑ Frank, Mitch. (2005) ***The Holy Land: Answering Questions About the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict***. Viking. Illustrated. — Through questions and answers the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is examined. Non-fiction
- ❑ Freyemann-Weyr, Garret. (2005) ***Stay with Me***. Houghton Mifflin. — When Rebecca's and Leila's mother dies, Rebecca commits suicide and sixteen-year-old Leila must go to live with Clare. She searches for answers to her own complex relationships, including a mutual attraction to 31-year-old Eamon. A complicated coming-of-age tale.
- ❑ Gaiman, Neil. (2005) ***Anansi Boys***. HarperCollins/William Morrow. — Dark humor. Father-son and brother relationships—all characters who have a relationship with Anansi, the Spiderman trickster from African folklore.
- ❑ Gallego Garcia, Laura. (2006) ***The Valley of the Wolves***. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. — Dana has been sent to study sorcery, but she and her invisible friend Kai, search for the Unicorn against her mentor's warnings about the night woods.
- ❑ Galloway, Gregory. (2005) ***As Simple as Snow***. Putnam. —When Anastasia (Anna), a high school student, disappears, the only thing left is a neatly laid out dress by a hole in the ice.
- ❑ Gantos, Jack. (2006) ***The Love Curse of the Rumbaughs***. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. —Ivy is just seven years old when this dark and perverse tale in the ultra gothic style begins. Incest, a compulsive interest in taxidermy, and a pair of identical albino twins make this quirky, and darkly comic horror tale.
- ❑ Garden, Nancy. (2006) ***Endgame***. Harcourt. — Gray was hoping for a new start but the bullies at Greenford High did not take long to find him. Ignored by those in authority the bullying culminates with Gray bringing a gun to school. The story unfolds through interviews with Gray in the juvenile detention center waiting for his murder trial. A shocking look at the impact of bullying and violence.

- ❑ Geras, Adele. (2006) *Ithaka*. Harcourt. — Playing on the theme of the *The Odyssey* and those that were left behind, Geras restructures the tale through the eyes of the servant girl. A fine companion to pair with *The Odyssey*, just as the author's *Troy* (2001) paired with *The Iliad*.
- ❑ Giblin, James Cross. (2005) *Good Brother, Bad Brother: The Story of Edwin Booth and John Wilkes Booth*. Clarion. — John Wilkes Booth is remembered for assassinating President Abraham Lincoln. Edwin Booth made his mark as an actor. Presents a unique look at the events that lead up to Lincoln's assassination. Non-fiction
- ❑ Gideon, Melanie. (2006) *Pucker*. Penguin Group USA/Razorbill. — Thomas left the alternative world, Isaura, as a child with his widowed mother. Now his mother, who is losing her own life force, wants him to return, but he will face danger and the loss of his free will. A dangerous journey back into an alternative world.
- ❑ Giles, Gail. (2006) *What Happened to Cass McBride?* Little, Brown. — When her brother commits suicide, a revengeful college student knows just who is to blame—Cass McBride—snobby, rich, and popular with everyone except, those who really know what she has done. Drugged, kidnapped, and buried alive—what happened to Cass McBride?
- ❑ Glass, Linzi Alex. (2006) *The Year the Gypsies Came*. Henry Holt. — It is the '60s and Apartheid does not seem to resonate until Buza, Emily's family night watchman, is arrested for not having papers and 12-year-old Emily becomes aware of his legally enforced life-long separation from his own daughter and family. A sad book and coming-of-age novel.
- ❑ Gravelle, Karen. (2005) *The Driving Book: Everything New Drivers Need to Know But Don't Know to Ask*. Illustrated by Helen Flook. Walker. — Meant for "new" drivers this book covers all the normal topics (as the state driving manual does) but adds some common sense tips as well.
- ❑ Green, John. (2005) *Looking for Alaska*. Dutton. — Miles meets the captivating, completely over-the-edge, vivacious Alaska at an Alabama boarding school—and that is just the beginning.
- ❑ Green, John. (2006) *An Abundance of Katherines*. Dutton. — Every Katherine he has ever loved has dumped him, and now Colin, an expert at creating anagrams, teams up with his best friend Hassan to head south. Their work together results in a mathematical theorem estimating the length of his romantic relationships and brings humor to the story that details Colin's real contribution to the world.

- ❑ Griffin, Adele. (2005) ***Where I Want to Be***. Putnam. —Jane and Lily have had a close but troubled relationship. Then Jane dies, and Lily is left to come to terms with what might have been.
- ❑ Grimes, Nikki. (2005) ***Dark Sons***. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun. —Verse novel. Sam, an African-American teen, must find a way to deal with his parents' divorce and his relationship with his father, his new white mom, and the baby half-brother named Sam.
- ❑ ***Growing Up in Slavery: Stories of Young Slaves as Told By Themselves***. (2005) Edited by Yuval Taylor. Lawrence Hill. — Ten intense American slave narratives filled with brutality, perseverance, will power and a triumphant spirit. Primary source narratives. Nonfiction
- ❑ Gruber, Michael. (2005) ***The Witch's Boy***. HarperTempest. — A witch finds an ugly baby boy in the woods and raises him as her son. Look for bits and pieces of "Little Red Riding Hood," "Hansel and Gretel," and "Rumpelstiltskin."
- ❑ Gutman, Dan. (2005) ***Abner & Me: A Baseball Card Adventure***. HarperCollins. — With his ability to travel through time using baseball cards and photographs, thirteen-year-old Joe and his mother go back to 1863 to ask Abner Doubleday whether he invented baseball, but instead find themselves in the middle of the Battle of Gettysburg.
- ❑ Haab, Sherri and Michelle Haab. (2005) ***Dangles and Bangles: 25 Funky Accessories to Make and Wear***. Illustrated by Barbara Pollak. Watson-Guption. — A craft book that delivers what it advertises—instructions for 25 inexpensive and fun projects that promote creative artistry.
- ❑ Halam, Ann. (2005) ***Siberia: A Novel***. Random/Wendy Lamb. — Thirteen-year-old Sloe is dedicated to finding a safe place for the DNA of genetically engineered lost animal species. She must smuggle the DNA through the wilderness past thieves and outlaws.
- ❑ Haney, Eric L. (2006) ***Inside Delta Force: The Story of America's Elite Counterterrorist Unit***. Random House/Delacorte. — A veteran of the Delta Force provides a glimpse into the unit and its secret world. An adaptation of the author's adult book with the same title (Dell, 2002). Non-fiction
- ❑ Hardinge, Frances. (2006) ***Fly by Night***. HarperCollins. — In a fractured, fantastical Britain with intense warring over the written word, a twelve-year-old orphan girl and her homicidal goose find adventure.
- ❑ Hautman, Pete. (2005) ***Invisible***. Simon & Schuster. —His teachers and parents think he is highly disturbed. Seventeen-year-old Doug's classmates view him as creepy— only Andy understands him, and together they have deep secrets.

- ❑ Hautman, Pete. (2005) ***Rash***. Simon & Schuster. — The world as it might be in 2076 when anyone is punished for the infraction of being angry, fat, verbally abusing, or engage unsafe activity. A satirical sports novel.
- ❑ Hearn, Julie. (2005) ***The Minister's Daughter***. Atheneum. — The fate of Nell and the minister's daughters (Grace and Patience) are threatened when Grace accuses Nell and her grandmother of witchcraft.
- ❑ Hiaasen, Carl. (2005) ***Flush***. Knopf. — When Noah's father gets arrested for sinking the Coral Queen casino boat in retaliation for the boat's flagrant dumping of raw sewage into the waters of the Florida Keys. Noah vows to finish the job.
- ❑ Hobbs, Will. (2006) ***Crossing the Wire***. HarperCollins. — Economic factors and the disappearing market for corn in his Mexican village causes Victor (15) to make the desperate decision to cross the border. Pair with Ann Jaramillos' *La Linea* (Roaring Brook, 2006).
- ❑ Hoffman, Alice. (2006) ***Incantation***. Little, Brown. — Estrella's Spanish Jewish family's double life began at a time when the alternative to a conversion to Christianity was to risk everything. Estrella discovers that her family's secret involves the practice of kabbalah. The betrayal of a friend brings her to a dangerous confrontation with evil.
- ❑ Hokenson, Terry. (2006) ***The Winter Road***. Front Street. — Willa is determined to fly a plane and gain her father's approval. One day she makes the hasty decision to fly the plane solo. A storm and crash-landing begins her 18-day fight for survival. Pair with Gary Paulsen's *The Hatchet* (Atheneum, 2000)
- ❑ Holub, Josef. (2005) ***An Innocent Soldier***. Translated by Michael Hofmann. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. — Adam, a farm hand who is sent to Napoleon's army joins the march on Russia in 1811.
- ❑ Hopkinson, Deborah. (2006) ***Up before Daybreak: Cotton and People in America***. Scholastic— The history of the industry, from before the Civil War to today, using many oral histories and archival photographs. Nonfiction
- ❑ Houston, Julian. (2005) ***New Boy***. Houghton Mifflin. — A native of Virginia, fifteen-year-old Rob Garrett is to become the first black student at an exclusive Connecticut boarding school. His chance meeting with Malcolm X and other incidents show him that there are many forms of racism,
- ❑ Hubner, John. (2005) ***Last Chance in Texas: The Redemption of Criminal Youth***. Random House. — This redemption effort claims a 90% success rate with only 10% of the capital offenders re-offending. Those who do not cooperate are sent to complete their sentences (sometimes 25–40 years) in the state penitentiary. Nonfiction

- ❑ Hughes, Lynne B. (2005) ***You Are Not Alone: Teens Talk About Life After the Loss of a Parent***. Scholastic. —Teens offer their own testimonials and advice about dealing with the death of a parent or parents.
- ❑ Hunt, Scott, illustrator. (2006) ***Twice Told: Original Stories Inspired by Original Artwork***. Dutton. — Nine charcoal drawings; two stories for each drawing: Nancy Werlin; Alex Flinn; Audrey Coulombis; John Green; M.T. Anderson; William Sleator; Sarah Dessen; Ellen Wittlinger; Gene Brewer; Bruce Coville; Ron Koertge; Adèle Geras; Jan Marino; Marilyn Singer; Margaret Peterson Haddix; Jaime Adoff; Neal Shusterman; David Lubar.
- ❑ Hyde, Catherine Ryan. (2006) ***Becoming Chloe***. Alfred A. Knopf. Seventeen-year-old Jordan is gay. Homeless and out on the street she risks his life to rescue 18-year-old Chloe from a gang rape. The two lonely outcasts form a bond and together they struggle to survive on the streets of New York City.
- ❑ Ingram, Scott. (2005) ***Want Fries with That? Obesity and the Supersizing of America***. Franklin Watts. —A well-researched look at the real cost of the food we eat.
- ❑ Jackson, Donna M. (2005) ***ER Vets: Life in an Animal Emergency Room***. Houghton Mifflin. —Many photographs document treatments for a variety of animals. Nonfiction
- ❑ Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. (2005) ***Stained***. Atheneum. — Told from Jocelyn's perspective, this novel examines first love (Jocelyn and Benny) and their friend Gabe's emotional life after he succumbs to Father Warren's demands.
- ❑ Jaramillo, Ann. (2006) ***Linea***. Roaring Brook/Deborah Brodie. — Miguel's parents are in the United States and at 15 he has waited for years to join them. When his father sends him the money to leave Mexico, he sets off on the journey to the North—a dangerous and treacherous journey. Pair with Will Hobbs's *Crossing Wire*.
- ❑ Jenkins, A. M. (2006) ***Beating Heart: A Ghost Story***. HarperCollins/ HarperTempest. — When Evan and his family move into a rickety old house Evan finds another inhabitant. Cora, the ghost of a girl who lived in the house over 100 years ago, still lives there.
- ❑ Johnson, Harriet McBryde. (2006) ***Accidents of Nature***. Holt. — Jean has spent all of her 17 years with her cerebral palsy and has never met another person like her until she arrives at Camp Courage.
- ❑ Johnson, Marilyn. (2006) ***The Dead Beat: Lost Souls, Lucky Stiffs and the Perverse Pleasures of Obituaries***. HarperCollins. — Humorous look at the "golden age" of the obituary. Non-fiction

- ❑ Johnson, Maureen. (2005) ***13 Little Blue Envelopes***. HarperCollins. After Aunt Peg dies of cancer, her niece gets the first of 13 blue envelopes.
- ❑ Jones, Patrick. (2006) ***Nailed***. Walker. —The jocks bully him. His father bullies him. Now that Bret, 16, is performing with a band and acting, he hopes the bullying will stop.
- ❑ Jurmain, Suzanne. (2005) ***The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students***. Houghton—Crandall faced opposition of many of the townspeople in Canterbury, Connecticut when she, a white woman, opened a school for African-American girls (1833). Non-fiction
- ❑ Kadohata, Cynthia. (2006) ***Weedflower***. Simon & Schuster/Atheneum — After Pearl Harbor, twelve-year-old Sumiko, and her family are forced to leave their California flower farm and are interred in a camp on a Mohave reservation in Arizona.
- ❑ Kibuishi, Kazu. (2005) ***Daisy Cutter: The Last Train***. Viper Comics. — Daisy Cutter is a reformed bandit and a small-town model citizen where her ex-partner in crime and love is now the sheriff.
- ❑ Kidd, Ronald. (2006) ***Monkey Town: The Summer of the Scopes Trial***. Simon & Schuster. — Fifteen-year-old Frances begins to examine her own beliefs and relationships with her family and community.
- ❑ Krovatin, Christopher. (2005) ***Heavy Metal and You***. Scholastic/Push. —Laced with music references, slang, and raw language, this tale is the classic bad boy meets good girl.
- ❑ Kuhlman, Evan. (2006) ***Wolf Boy: A Novel***. Random House/Shaye Areheart. — An inventive book that recounts Stephen's efforts, as superhero Wolf Boy, to rescue his dysfunctional family.
- ❑ Lake, Sanoe. (2005) ***Surfer Girl: A Guide to the Surfing Life***. Little, Brown. — Everything you ever wanted to know about surfing and more. Non-fiction
- ❑ Lansens, Lori. (2006) ***The Girls: A Novel***. Little, Brown. —Twenty-nine-year-old conjoined twins Ruby and Rose each tell their version of their autobiography. Alternating voices.
- ❑ Larbalestier, Justine. (2005) ***Magic or Madness***. Penguin/Razorbill. — Reason's mother is mentally ill, and Reason, now fifteen, must live with her grandmother— a witch. Reason realizes that she also holds those same genes. But to use the witch's magic will bring a high price.

- ❑ Larochelle, David. (2005) ***Absolutely Positively Not.*** Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. — Coming out as a teenager is difficult. Steven is not really sure he is gay, but his health teacher is very handsome. Humorous.
- ❑ Lester, Julius. (2005) ***Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue.*** Hyperion/Jump at the Sun. — Emma and Joe struggle with the idea of escape after they become chattel and are sold at the largest slave auction in American history.
- ❑ Lester, Julius. (2006) ***Time's Memory.*** Farrar, Straus and Giroux. —The grey fog of dead slaves hovers over the slave quarters – and Nathaniel struggles to bring peace. A love interest develops between Nathaniel and Ellen, the master's daughter, who has taught him to read and write. A complex view of the past and the future, from the days of slavery.
- ❑ Lester, Julius. (2007) ***This Strange New Feeling: Three Love Stories from Black History.*** Dial. — On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of publication, Dial is reissuing this volume of three stories that speak of personal freedom. A must read.
- ❑ Levithan, David. (2005) ***Are We There Yet?*** Knopf. — Two brothers, Elijah and Danny, are as different as night and day. But their parents, who hope they will rekindle their positive relationship, send them on an Italian trip. Elijah meets Julia, and as that attraction blossoms Julia meets Danny.
- ❑ Levithan, David. (2006) ***Marly's Ghost.*** Dial. — There's a lot of pain as Ben recalls the death of his girlfriend, Marly, from cancer. Sorrow and visions of suicide plague Ben. Written by the author of *Boy Meets Boy* (2003), this title also involves gay relationships.
- ❑ Lipsyte, Robert. (2006) ***Heroes of Baseball: The Men Who Made it America's Favorite Game.*** Atheneum. The history of baseball and the major-league heroes peppered with incidental information about baseball cards, nicknames, mascots and other interesting bits. Non-fiction
- ❑ Lisle, Janet Taylor. (2006) ***Black Duck.*** Philomel/Sleuth. — David is writing a story about the legendary and mysterious deaths surrounding the 1929 rum-running ship, and comes to the door of aging Ruben Hart. Both Ruben and David want to bring the truth to light. Staying honest is hard to do.
- ❑ Lubar, David. (2005) ***Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie: A Novel.*** Dutton. — He is the least athletic sports reporter that his high school newspaper has ever had. Humorous diary entries of a very eventful freshman year.
- ❑ Lynch, Chris. (2005) ***Inexcusable.*** Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. — Keir Sarafina knows how to rationalize his bad behavior: Keir tries to convince readers that he really is a good guy.

- ❑ Lynch, Jim. (2005) *The Highest Tide: A Novel*. Bloomsbury. —Set in Puget Sound, Miles O'Malley discovers life at high tide and a remarkable summer.
- ❑ Mackall, Dandi Daley. (2006) *Eva Underground: A Novel*. Harcourt. — A candid look inside a Communist country and the despair of the Polish people. Eva witnesses Lech Walesa and the Solidarity Movement rise to power.
- ❑ Marino, Peter. (2005) *Dough Boy*. Holiday House. —Blended families, bullying, and an effort to regain and build self-esteem are all topics that will engage many readers.
- ❑ Marsalis, Wynton. (2005) *Jazz A-B-Z: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits*. Illustrated by Paul Rogers. Candlewick. —Twenty-six Jazz greats are included in alliterative poetry. Rogers' large illustrations illuminate the poems.
- ❑ Mazer, Harry. (2005) *Heroes Don't Run: A Novel of the Pacific War*. Simon & Schuster —To honor his father who died during invasion of Pearl Harbor, seventeen-year-old Adam eagerly enlists in the Marines in 1944 survives boot camp, and faces combat on the tiny island of Okinawa.
- ❑ McGhee, Alison. (2005) *All Rivers Flow to the Sea*. Candlewick. —Ivy (18) and Rose (17) have been as close as anyone could be—secrets, high school, and boyfriends—and then comes that fateful night.
- ❑ McKillip, Patricia A. (2006) *Solstice Wood*. Penguin Group USA/Ace. — Sylvia managed to leave the pull of the faery world behind when she left her grandparents' home seven years ago. But the barrier between the worlds has weakened ...
- ❑ Menzel, Peter and Faith D'Aluisio. (2005) *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. Ten Speed Press. — Thirty families in 24 countries purchase a week's worth of food— food that costs a mother and five children in Chad \$1.44 a week to a German family of four spending \$494.19. Questions surrounding the lists of food, quantities, and health are included. Very provocative. Non-fiction
- ❑ Meyer, Stephanie. (2005) *Twilight: A Novel*. Little, Brown/Megan Tingley. — Star-crossed lovers— Bella meets Edward. ... And then a roving band of vampires fixate on her.
- ❑ Miller, Kirsten. (2006) *Kiki Strike: Inside the Shadow City*. (2006) Bloomsbury. — The first in a series about a group of girls who protect New York City's secret underground world, *The Shadow City*.
- ❑ Miller, Mary Beth. (2006) *On the Head of a Pin*. Dutton. —A party at Andy's father's isolated cabin ends in Helen's accidental death. Teens, guns, and consequences. Pair with Walter Dean Myers's *Monster* (1999) or *Shooter* (2004), and Nancy Garden's *Endgame* (2006).



- ❑ Mitchell, David. (2006) ***Black Swan Green***. Random House. — Unlike his earlier titles, this tale has but one narrator, one viewpoint, and is written as a first-person semiautobiographical coming-of-age story. Thirteen-year-old Jason's weakness is his stammer. He is harassed mercilessly. But, in the end, Jason makes a discovery that will make readers who love adventure take notice.
- ❑ Moranville, Sharelle Byars. (2006) ***A Higher Geometry***. Henry Holt. Set in the Midwest during the Cold War (post World War II), Anna is determined to pursue her mathematical career.
- ❑ Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. (2006) ***Dairy Queen***. Houghton Mifflin. — Saddled with the major portion of the work on her family's Wisconsin dairy farm after her father's injury, D.J. is overwhelmed with all the duties necessary to keep the business running.
- ❑ Myers, Walter Dean. (2005) ***Autobiography of My Dead Brother***. Illustrated by Christopher Myers. HarperCollins/Amistad. — A poignant look at how to survive hopelessness and the violence rooted in 15-year-old Jesse's neighborhood.
- ❑ Myers, Walter Dean. (2006) ***Street Love***. Amistad. — When their mother is sentenced to 25 years in prison, Junice and her younger sister know that foster care is not far way. And what of the girl's future? A compelling verse novel.
- ❑ Na, An. (2006) ***Wait for Me***. Putnam. — Mina's lies have convinced her mother, Uhmma, that she really can attend Harvard, but her senior year is unfolding and the lies will be discovered. And when they unfold so does her life... Unconventional punctuation.
- ❑ Nelson, Marilyn. (2005) ***A Wreath for Emmett Till***. Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton. — A heroic crown of sonnets describe the death of 14-year-old Emmett Till and places Till's death in historic context. Nonfiction.
- ❑ Nolan, Han. (2006) ***A Summer of Kings***. Harcourt. — It is the summer of 1963. This is the summer Ester will rebel. Humor, vibrant exchanges of philosophies, and subtle prejudice fueled in part by a touch of romance.
- ❑ O'Donnell, Joe. (2005) ***Japan 1945: A U.S. Marine's Photographs from Ground Zero***. Vanderbilt. — Through the eyes of an unflinching camera, readers are given a unique visual perspective on the devastation of Ground Zero in Japan as seen shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Non-fiction
- ❑ Oppel, Kenneth. (2005) ***Skybreaker***. HarperCollins/Eos. — A fantasy space novel. Matt Cruise and his fellow Airship Academy training students sight a long-lost treasure-laden spaceship. Check for Oppel's new fantasy series: *Starclimber* (2009), *Silverwing* (2009), *The King's Taster* (2009),

- ❑ Oppenheim, Joanne. (2006) ***Dear Miss Breed: True Stories of the Japanese American Incarceration During World War II and a Librarian Who Made a Difference.*** Scholastic Nonfiction. — A public librarian made sure that the Japanese-American children in concentration camps were sent books during World War II. Non-fiction; *Hip Hip Hooray for Librarians* <[www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/hiphiphooray.html](http://www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/hiphiphooray.html)>
- ❑ Park, Linda Sue. (2005) ***Project Mulberry.*** Clarion. — Julia Song and her friend Patrick need a project for state fair. Will raising silk worms be "American" enough? A funny and witty presentation in which the author also shares information about the writing process.
- ❑ Park, Linda Sue. (2006) ***Archer's Quest.*** Clarion. When one of Korea's legendary great archers (from the first century B.C.) shows up Kevin's bedroom, the fun has just begun. Kevin, a sixth grader in Dorchester, NY, has to help Chumong return to his home (and century) before the Year of the Tiger ends on the following day—and all of history is changed.
- ❑ Partridge, Elizabeth. (2005) ***John Lennon: All I Want Is the Truth.*** Viking. — John Lennon in a revealing photo-biography. A birth to death biography that includes much information about his days with the Beatles. Non-fiction
- ❑ Payment, Simone. (2005) ***The Pony Express: A Primary Source History of the Race to Bring Mail to the American West.*** Rosen. — Primary source materials dealing with the basic information and time lines for the westward movement period of United States history. Primary Sources in America History series. Non-fiction
- ❑ Pearson, Mary E. (2005) ***A Room on Lorelei Street.*** Holt. — Zoe must escape from her alcoholic mother, her overbearing grandmother, school, everything. The story is in the struggle to learn how.
- ❑ Peck, Richard. (2006) ***Past Perfect, Present Tense.*** Viking. — A reissue of Peck's collection of short stories, this edition includes eleven previously published short stories and two brand-new ones. Peck's first short story, "Shotgun Cheatham's Last Night Above Ground," inspired both *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*, and "The Electric Summer," which were the inspiration for *Fair Weather*. Inside notes about his writing and tips for other writers.
- ❑ Peck, Richard. (2006) ***Here Lies the Librarian.*** Dial. — A tornado rips through the countryside, creating havoc in the graveyard but not daring to disturb the stern former librarian's grave. The town's library has been closed since her death—but that just might change when Irene Ridpath shows up in a fancy car.

- ❑ Peet, Mal. *Keeper*. (2005) Candlewick. El Gato is at the top of his soccer game and everyone wants his story. A fast-paced sports fantasy.
- ❑ Pemberton, Delia. (2005) *The Atlas of Ancient Egypt: With Artworks and Photographs from the British Museum*. Harry N. Abrams. —Very readable narrative showcasing holdings in the British Museum: maps, sidebars of information, glossary, and index.
- ❑ Perkins, Lynne Rae. (2005) *Criss Cross*. Greenwillow. —A collection of connecting vignettes about Debbie and her friends; stories of one life intersecting with another as they leave childhood behind. Funny, perceptive.
- ❑ Peters, Julie Ann. (2006) *Between Mom and Jo*. Little Brown. —Nick has grown up in a household with two moms and everything has been fine until now, when the battle of which he will live with begins.
- ❑ Portman, Frank. (2006) *King Dork*. Random House/Delacorte. —Fourteen-year-old Tom sets to solve the mystery of his father's death.
- ❑ Price, Charlie. (2006) *Dead Connection*. Roaring Brook. —Murray Kiefer hears voices asking for help and goes into motion, reluctantly befriendng Pearl and starting a quest to solve the murder mystery they have stumbled across. Violence takes place off-stage. A great mystery.
- ❑ Qualey, Marsha. (2005) *Just Like That*. Dial. —A chance encounter along Lake Calhoun and the death of two teens bring guilt and cause 18-year-old Hanna to question her life and relationships—and her family and friends to wonder what has caused Hanna to retreat inside herself.
- ❑ Reinhardt, Dana. (2006) *A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life*. Random House/Wendy Lamb. Simone has always known she was adopted and now at age 16, her birth mother has ovarian cancer and she wants to meet Simone and it turns Simone's year upside down. Simone must learn how to balance her life. Big issues to contend with while coming-of-age.
- ❑ Richardson, Nigel. (2006) *The Wrong Hands*. Random House/Alfred A. Knopf. Fourteen-year-old Graham Sinclair's secret was not intended to be revealed, but his ability to fly is revealed and Graham is in for a big fall. Part allegory, part fantasy, and extremely compelling.
- ❑ Riordan, Rick. (2005) *The Lightning Thief: Percy Jackson and the Olympians*. Hyperion. —Percy is just another ADHD kid in boarding school for troubled teenagers, until he finds out who he really is—the Son of Poseidon and a mortal woman.

- ❑ Roof, Meg. (2006) ***Just in Case***. Random House/Wendy Lamb. — Convinced that fate has more in store for him, David sets out to change his total identity, starting with a new name and a new wardrobe. A love interest, friendships, and an examination of faith, time, free will, and the boundaries of love and sex make this a provocative read.
- ❑ Rowling, J. K. (2005) ***Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince***. Illustrated by Mary GrandPré. Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine. — Book 6 takes Harry into even darker adventures and he moves into being contrary, less trusting, and into seeking revenge.
- ❑ Sachar, Louis. (2006) ***Small Steps***. Delacorte. — A companion to ***Holes*** (1998). Armpit is still digging holes but now for a landscaper in Austin, Texas. Others do not expect him to succeed. Humor and social commentary abound in this tale from a master storyteller. <www.louissachar.com>
- ❑ Salisbury, Graham. (2005) ***Eyes of the Emperor***. Random/Wendy Lamb. — Eddy Okubo, wants to serve his country and lies about his age to join the U.S. Army in 1941. Despite facing extreme racism, Eddy persists as he joins young Japanese American men training experimental K-9 units to hunt Japanese during World War II. Companion novel to *Under the Blood-Red Sun* (1995).
- ❑ Schlosser, Eric and Charles Wilson. (2006) ***Chew On This: Everything You Don't Want to Know About Fast Food***. Houghton Mifflin. — All you ever wanted to know, or not know, about fast food—interviews, statistics, and little known information. Non-fiction
- ❑ Schmemmann, Serge. (2006) ***New York Times: When the Wall Came Down: The Berlin Wall and the Fall of Communism***. Larousse/Kingfisher. — As a veteran journalist in Germany at the time the wall fell, Schmemmann tells the immediate story of the fall of the wall from his experience and then recounts the history of the Berlin Wall.
- ❑ Shull, Megan. (2005) ***Amazing Grace***. Hyperion. — Followed by paparazzi, world tennis star Grace “Ace” Kincaid wants out. She calls her mother from the US Open and insists she is done. In short order her Aunt Ava, a retired FBI agent, spirits her away to a cabin in Medicine Hat, Alaska.
- ❑ Shulman, Polly. (2006) ***Enthusiasm***. Putnam. Julie and Ashleigh are Jane Austen fans and best friends. Each is looking for a first love. Julie has spotted her Mr. Darcy at the mall... [But] when Ashleigh is also attracted to the same boy, frustrating and confusing times follow.

- ❑ Sizer, Paul. (2006) ***Moped Army***. Café Digital Comics/Fiery Studios. Simmering socio-political ideas begin to surface when a clash between two rival groups takes Simone from the “upper” society to experiencing life in the Lower City with the Moped Army. (Latter part of the 23<sup>rd</sup> century.)
- ❑ Skelton, Matthew. (2006) ***Endymion Spring***. Random House/Delacorte. —Set at Oxford University, Blake finds himself a target of members of the antiquarian book society who want an important writing fragment for themselves. A scholarly background that will appeal mostly to bibliophiles.
- ❑ Sloan, Christopher. (2005) *How Dinosaurs Took Flight: Fossils, Science, What We Think We Know, and Mysteries Yet Unsolved*. National Geography. —Documents the research concerned with the connections between dinosaurs and birds. Photographs illuminate the hypotheses and evidence presented to support the contention that birds evolved beyond the dinosaurs.
- ❑ Smith, Greg Leitich. (2005) ***Tofu and T.Rex***. Little Brown. —After being kicked out of a Texas school, militant vegan Frederika Murchison-Kowalski is back at the Peshtigo School. And living with her cousin Hans-Peter and their Opa. Constantly at odds with one another, Hans-Peter needs his cousin Freddie or he may not get into Peshtigo School. The two cousins are eighth graders but act more like sixth graders. The book is a good solid school and family tale. Companion to *Ninjas, Piranhas, and Galileo* (2004).
- ❑ Smith, Kirsten. (2006) ***The Geography of Girlhood***. Little, Brown. — Abandoned at age six, Penny, now in high school, still longs for her mother but also has to deal with adolescence: a depressed friend, her first boyfriend’s death, an older and wild sister, a new step-mother. A verse novel.
- ❑ Sonneborn, Liz. (2005) ***The Mexican-American War: A Primary Source History of the Expansion of the Western Lands of the United States***. Rosen. Primary source materials dealing with the basic information and time lines for the westward movement period of United States history. Part of the Primary Sources in America History series. Nonfiction
- ❑ Spiegler, Louise. (2005) ***The Amethyst Road***. Clarion. —Born of an Anglo father and a Gypsy mother, Serena and her sister, Willow, are outcasts in both cultures, ... When Zara is taken by Child Protective Services, Serena realizes that if her family is to be reunited it will be up to her—and she must seek help wherever she can find it.

- ❑ Spillebeen, Geert. (2005) ***Kipling's Choice***. Translated by Terese Edelstein. Houghton. — Lt. John Kipling's famous father, Rudyard Kipling, has used his influence to get the authorities to allow John, despite poor eyesight, to join the British Army in World War I. And now he lies dying in France. A gripping story contrasting the war and the home front.
- ❑ Staples, Suzanne Fisher. (2005) ***Under the Persimmon Tree***. Farrar/ Frances Foster. — Set in Afghanistan, a young girl loses her mother and brother in an air raid. Najmah seeks refuge in Pakistan with an American-Muslim teacher (Elaine/Nusrat).
- ❑ Stassen, Jean-Philippe. (2006) ***Deogratias, a Tale of Rwanda***. Roaring Brook/First Second. — Deogratias is a teenaged Hutu; his friends Benina and Apollinaria are Tutsi. Deogratias and his love Benina cannot be together. The brutality and atrocities of the Rwandan genocide are not fully shared, but scenes of rape, harsh language, and some sexual content render this graphically designed account of Rwanda's history will be more suitable for a mature audience. A gripping graphic novel.
- ❑ Stein, Tammar. (2005) ***Light Years: A Novel***. Knopf. — Virginia is to be a refuge for her grief and pain, but Maya Laor finds she cannot escape from the guilt she feels for the tragic suicide bombing that killed her boyfriend.
- ❑ Stone, Tanya Lee. (2006) ***A Bad Boy Can be Good for a Girl***. Random House/Wendy Lamb. — When a sexy high school senior summarily dumps each of three girls, they begin to realize what love and sex is all about. Free verse. Use in connection with Judy Blume's *Forever*.
- ❑ Stroud, Jonathan. (2005) ***Ptolemy's Gate***. Hyperion/Miramax. — The final book in the Bartimaeus Trilogy. Nathaniel, an apprentice magician is strong in face of the war against the most dangerous demons encountered to date. An exciting conclusion to this trilogy. BBYA (nominated 2007)
- ❑ Sturtevant, Katherine. (2006) ***A True and Faithful Narrative***. Farrar Straus Giroux. — Sixteen-year-old Meg longs to be a writer but in the 17<sup>th</sup> century there is a great disapproval of female authors. When her brother is seized as a slave, by pirates on the high seas she realizes that she must use the power of her pen. A gripping novel. Sequel to *At the Sign of the Star* (2000).
- ❑ Sullivan, George. (2005) ***Built to Last: Building America's Amazing Bridges, Dams, Tunnels, and Skyscrapers***. Scholastic. — Diagrams, photos, charts, and sidebars present the information about seventeen of the most amazing bridges, dams, tunnels, and skyscrapers built in America. Details about design and construction. Nonfiction.

- ❑ Sullivan, George. (2006) ***Bernice Abbott, Photographer: Independent Vision***. Clarion. —A significant biography of a pioneer female photographer who changed photography by her innovative methods, her realism, and her drive to succeed. Nonfiction.
- ❑ Tanaka, Shelley. (2005) ***Mummies: The Newest, Coolest and Creepiest from Around the World***. Harry N. Abrams. —Everything to know about mummies from all over the world. Historical and scientific information. Nonfiction
- ❑ Tiffany, Grace. (2005) ***Ariel***. HarperCollins/Laura Geringer. — Ariel, a mysterious figure from Shakespeare's *Tempest*, has her story of dreams and lies and madness.
- ❑ Tingle, Rebecca. (2005) ***Far Traveler***. Putnam. — In this sequel to *The Edge on the Sword*, Aelfwyn must find a way to avoid a forced marriage to the king's ally, an older man. Disguised as a male storyteller, Aelfwyn flees —the decisions she makes now will decide her future.
- ❑ Tullson, Diane. (2005) ***Red Sea***. Orca. —Libby, a 14-year-old, defies her stepfather and mother at every turn. Their family is on a sailing voyage they encounter modern-day pirates, murder, serious injury—all leaving Libby terrified and responsible for the sailboat and getting her mother to help before she dies.
- ❑ Turner, Ann Warren. (2006) ***Hard Hit***. Scholastic. — Matt's life seems enviable. He is a high-school basketball star, has a popular girlfriend, and a loyal best friend. Then the news comes—his father has pancreatic cancer and despite a brief remission he needs much care.
- ❑ Turner, Megan Whalen. (2006) ***The King of Attolia***. Greenwillow. — After marrying the Queen, Eugenides (King Gen), the former thief and liar, must convince the rest of the court that he is deserving of the title. ... But when one court guard goes too far and knocks him down, an infraction that is punishable by beheading, they find out that Eugenides is a shrewd king. Sequel to *The Queen of Attolia* (2000) and *The Thief* (1996).
- ❑ Vaughan, Brian K. (2005) ***Runaways: Volume 1—Pride and Joy***. (2005) Illustrated by Adrian Alphona. Marvel. The first in a series of exploits by six teenagers (a goth girl, the brain, the jock, the dreamboat, and the shy one) who discover that their parents don't just seem evil but actually are evil super-villains. First in a series of graphic novels.
- ❑ Vaught, Susan. (2005) ***Stormwitch***. Bloomsbury. — After her parents die, Ruba, leaves her native Haiti to move to Mississippi to be with her grandmother. A clash of cultures, beliefs, and pride.

- ❑ Vizzini, Ned. (2006) *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. Hyperion/Miramax. —Depression plagues 15-year-old Craig as he pressures himself to maintain his image at the prestigious Manhattan high school.
- ❑ Volponi, Paul. (2005) *Black and White*. Viking. — Best friends Marcus ("Black") and Eddie ("White") have gotten past the racial "crap." Both have been offered basketball scholarships but they need spending money. And armed robberies seem to be the answer until their third try the robbery goes terribly wrong and everything changes. Alternating voices.
- ❑ Volponi, Paul. (2006) *Rooftop*. Penguin Group USA/Viking. —Clay (17) has been estranged from his cousin Addison (18) but now both are going through a drug abuse program in New York City. But Clay witnesses his cousin getting shot, by a policeman. What does this mean for Clay?
- ❑ Walker, Sally M. (2005) *Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley*. Carolrhoda/Lerner. — The sinking and rising of the H.L. Hunley is augmented with photos, illustrations, and primary sources that document and provide a complete account of the submarine. Nonfiction
- ❑ Westerfeld, Scott. (2005) *Peeps*. Penguin/Razorbill. — A fantasy novel that has college freshman Cal coming to NY and spending a night with a beautiful girl. He becomes a carrier and now everyone he kisses develops a craving for meat, an aversion to sunlight, and super strength. Vampires, horror, but no gore. <www.scottwesterfeld.com>
- ❑ Westerfeld, Scott. (2005) *Uglies*. Simon & Schuster/Simon Pulse. (0689865384). 441 pgs. —Tally can't wait for her 16th birthday and the surgery that will transform her into a "pretty". Because if everyone is beautiful, everything is perfect—right? Additional books in the Uglies Trilogy include: *Pretties* (Book 2; 2005), *Specials* (Book 3; 2006)
- ❑ Whitcomb, Laura. (2005) *A Certain Slant of Light*. Houghton/Graphia, — When a body is living but whose spirit within has died, it is open for inhabitation by a spirit that is living but whose body has died. And so that is how Helen, who died 130 years ago came to inhabit the body of Jenny, and James, who had died years earlier had come to inhabit the body of Billy. Mature readers.
- ❑ Windsor, Patricia. (2006) *Nightwood*. Random House/Delacorte. —Three girls at a cabin, just across the lake from three boys on a fishing trip—a much better plan than going on the senior class trip. No parents, nobody to tell them what to do or when, no curfew, and nobody to help when the first body shows up.



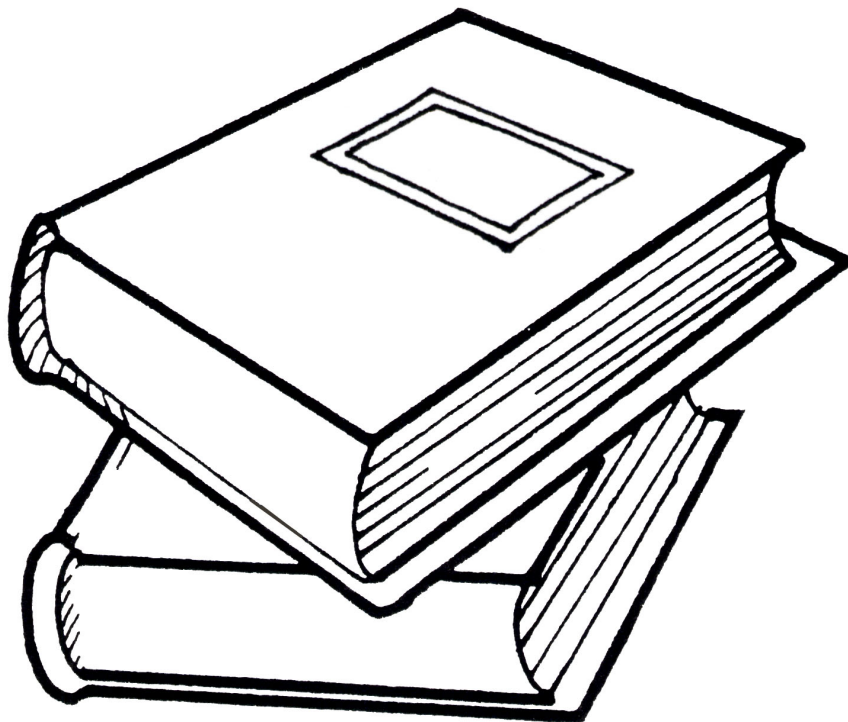
- ❑ Wittlinger, Ellen. (2005) ***Sandpiper***. Simon & Schuster. — Sandpiper Hollow Ragsdale (15) is a promiscuous teen that engages in oral sex to satisfy her need to be needed. A frank look at relationships and at the myth that oral sex really isn't sex.
- ❑ Wooding, Chris. (2005) ***Poison***. Scholastic/Orchard. — Phaeries kidnap Poison's baby sister and leave a changeling in the baby's crib.
- ❑ Wooding, Chris. (2006) ***The Storm Thief***. Scholastic/Orchard. —The city of Orokos has stood undisturbed on a rocky island for centuries. No one living in the city even questions what lies beyond its walls. But when street thieves Rail and Moa steal an artifact....
- ❑ Wynne-Jones, Tim. (2005) ***A Thief in the House of Memory***. Farrar/Melanie Kroupa. —When a man is found dead in the old family home, it sets in motion Declan's efforts to learn the secrets that have haunted him ever since his mother's death ten years ago. A coming-of-age novel.
- ❑ Zenatti, Valérie. (2005) ***When I Was a Soldier: A Memoir***. Bloomsbury. —How being a soldier (during compulsory military service in Israel) made an adult of Valerie. Nonfiction
- ❑ Zusak, Markus. (2005) ***I Am the Messenger***. Knopf. —Ed Kennedy is a loser cab driver, 19-years-old, and no future in sight and then he foils a bank robbery. Soon after the robbery, he begins to receive coded messages on playing cards. The coded messages direct him onto life-altering missions—missions to help people and make changes in his own life. But who is sending the life-altering missions? And what is to become of it all?



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# Section 3

## Graphic Novels



## Graphic Novels Introduction

Graphic novels are not a genre but a format that includes all genres of literature, including nonfiction. Graphic novels have not only arrived but they have invaded the American experience. For decades the graphic novel has lurked at the edges of the publishing world; now they are the fastest growing format or category in the publishing industry. In 2002, *People Magazine* reviewed Doug TenNapel's *Creature Tech* (Top Shelf Productions), and said "TenNapel may be Generation X's answer to Dr. Seuss." At first, the mainstream culture was reluctant to embrace the format, despite the Japanese's Manga invasion, which continued at top speed. Manga was luring readers in such numbers that the format could no longer be ignored. One high school English teacher noticed the change in 2005. She read a *People Magazine* book review of *Gemma Boverly* by Posy Simmonds (Pantheon, 2005) and said, "A few weeks ago I had not noticed graphic novels and now, here they are in the mainstream adult reading."

Other teachers began to take notice as well. Stephen Weiner wrote in *English Journal* ("Bold Books for Innovative Teaching" [November 2004, 94:2, p. 114]) about the fact that "Well-done graphic novels offer teachers another tool to be used in the classroom... enticing reluctant readers...."

Graphic novels are the ultimate in "show, don't tell" writing.

While readers have thoroughly embraced the format, educators have been somewhat slower to acknowledge the format as legitimate reading. Many continue the debate surrounding the decision about whether or not to include graphic novels in classrooms and library collections. A speech delivered to a committee of librarians formed to decide whether or not to include graphic novels in library collections. Read Katy Foster's *Graphic Novels in the Library: An Expert's Opinion* from the University of North Texas History and Ethnography of Youth Information Service is available on a website at <[coursesunt.edu/efiga/HistoryAndEthnography/TrendsProjects/foster/FosterTrends.htm](http://coursesunt.edu/efiga/HistoryAndEthnography/TrendsProjects/foster/FosterTrends.htm)>.

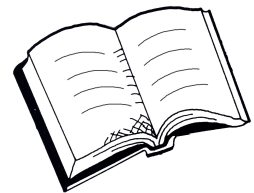
Some would like to stereotype graphic novels as offerings for reluctant readers or for those who are less able readers. That is not a direct correlation. Reluctant readers may be reluctant because they are more attracted to visual imagery (right-brained) and all we have been offering them has been focused on input that has been more oriented toward verbal or language input (left-brained). A person whose right side of the brain is more dominant (This DOES NOT, necessarily, equate to being right-handed.) is visual and processes information in an intuitive and simultaneous way, looking first at the whole picture then the details. A person whose left side of the brain is more dominant, is verbal and processes information in

an analytical and sequential way, looking first at the pieces then putting them together to get the whole. Thus, a “right-brained” reader would approach reading in a much different manner than a “left-brained” reader. Graphic novels provide an approach to reading that reflects the multimedia nature of today’s culture. The graphic novel approach combines images and text to tell a different type of story than would be possible with only a single medium. The result is a whole new way to read—one that appeals to a different type of reader, but not necessarily a “lesser” reader. In fact over a decade ago, Hayes and Ahrens produced the results of a study “Rare words per 1000,” showing that comic/graphic books introduced more new words than did adult books (53.5 vs. 52.7). See: Hayes, D. P. & M. G. Ahrens. (1998). Vocabulary Simplification for Children: A Case of 'Motherese'. *Journal of Child Language*, 15, pp. 395-410.

But some educators will remain unconvinced because it is a format that they are not comfortable with. One Midwestern high school teacher had never read a graphic novel, and when she read the hype about Art Spiegelman’s *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale: My Father Bleeds History* (Pantheon Books, 1973) she decided to see what graphic novels were all about. She said, “I was reluctant at first because of the format. The art looked too dark and very depressing. I started the book one evening, and when I read the first page, I couldn’t put it down.” She went on to say, “Students that I recommended this book to had no idea of what the holocaust was or meant and some even doubted its existence. They came back to me deeply concerned and aware of the world that we lived in and still live in. The story of a holocaust survivor told in this genre reached more students than any book or movie could.”

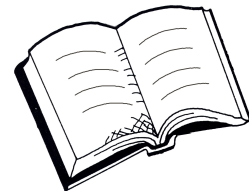
### More “Teacher” Comments about Graphic Novels

- ★ “I was thrilled to find classic literature made into a graphic novel in our little school library. The librarian told me that she can not keep most graphic novels on the shelf - they are extremely popular.”
- ★ “My knowledge of graphic novels was limited to the “superheroes” of Marvel. It took me a while to “get into” this book, but after getting into a rhythm, I did actually enjoy it. Honestly, I didn’t think I would.”
- ★ “After reading this book my opinion about graphic novels has changed. I understand their valuable use in our classrooms.”



## Investigating Graphic Novels —In the Classroom/Library and How to Read Them

- Brenner, Robin. *No Flying No Tights: A Website Reviewing Graphic Novels for Teens*. WEB <[www.noflyingnotights.com](http://www.noflyingnotights.com)>
- “The Complete Maus: How to Read a Graphic Novel.” n.d. Slideshow on WEB. <[www.slideshare.net/smondroner/how-to-read-a-graphic-novel-v03](http://www.slideshare.net/smondroner/how-to-read-a-graphic-novel-v03)>
- Gorman, Michele. *Getting Graphic! Using Graphic Novels to Promote Literacy with Preteens and Teens*. Linworth, 2003.
- “Great Graphic Novels for Teens.” (Spring 2007) *Young Adult Library Services (YALS)*. 5:3, p. 40-42.
- Lavin, Michael R. (2008) “Graphic Novels: Resources for Teachers & Librarians.” *University of Buffalo Libraries*. WEB <[library.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/graphicnovels/](http://library.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/guides/graphicnovels/)>
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### Magazines

#### *Shojo Beat*

Official site for online content and subscription information: [www.shojobeat.com](http://www.shojobeat.com)

- Manga samples (full chapters)
- Specializes Shojo manga (such as, Vampire Knight, I.O.N., Fullmoon, Wanted, etc.)
- Japanese fashion
- New Manga
- Horoscope

Shojo manga: refers to manga marketed to a female audience roughly between the ages of 10 and 18.

*Shonen Jump*

Official site for online content and subscription information: [www.shonenjump.com](http://www.shonenjump.com)

- Manga samples (full chapters)
- Specializes in Shonen manga (such as, Naruto, One piece, Bleach, etc.)
- Interviews
- Contests
- New Anime and Manga related products

Shonen manga: refers to manga marketed to a male audience roughly between the ages of 10 and 18.

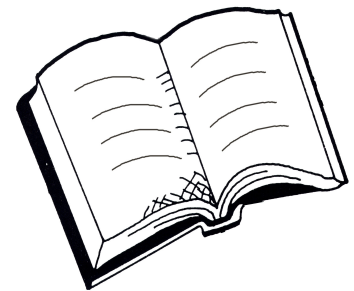


## The Bookshelf

This list of graphic novels, that follows, includes those recognized by mainstream reviewing sources as noteworthy and those recommended by teen fan readers of manga and other graphic novels. As with other forms of literature, some types of graphic novels and some specific titles will be more appealing to some readers and not to others. In that respect, graphic novels are very much like the novels and nonfiction titles that are considered mainstream selections.

- Abel, Jessica, Gabriel Soria and Warren Pleece. (2008) *Life Sucks*. First Second. — David is a vampire but he's not gaining any respect as he would rather steal from the blood bank rather than suck from an unsuspecting victim. When his rival moves in on his goth love, Rosa, David finds himself needing to change his ways. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Ashihara, Hinako. (2008) *Sand Chronicles, v. 1-v. 3*; (2009) *Sand Chronicles, v. 4-v.6*; (2010) *Sand Chronicles, v.7-v.8*. VIZ. — After her parents divorce, 16-year-old Ann leaves big city living in Tokyo for a new life in rural Shimane. But over the span of this series she falls in love with Diego (who is in Shimane), returns for periods of time to Tokyo, and finds her life (and love) changing. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.

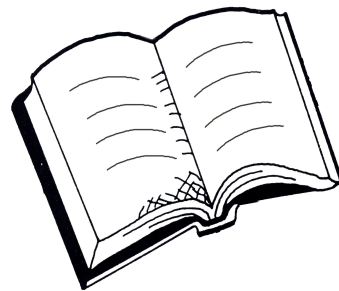
- Axe, David. (2006) ***War-Fix***. Illustrated by Steven Olexa. NBM. —David was in the first Iraq war and when he sits transfixed in front of a television, watching the second Gulf War; both his editor and his girlfriend know that his addiction will take him back to Iraq. The consequences of his addiction are predictable, but may surprise.
- Bialik, Steve. (2008) ***Minister Jade***. Cellar Door Publishing. — Imperial China has been conquered by Mongol hordes and now the Middle Kingdom must contend with a demonic cult on a mission of ultimate destruction. But China's honor may be saved when China counters with a weapon of her own - The Flying Fist of Fujian! Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Black, Holly. (2008) ***The Good Neighbors: Book One, Kin***. Illustrated by Ted Naifeh. Graphix. — Rue's mother dies and her professor father is accused of killing her. Then Rue discovers that her mother was a faerie and part of a hidden faerie world. Solving the mystery of her mother's death (disappearance) is the focus of this plot; but this first volume also sets up a darkly foreboding atmosphere and pitches Rue into a battle for power. Nominated ALA Best Graphic
- Black, Holly. (2009) ***The Good Neighbors: Book Two, Kith***. Illustrated by Ted Naifeh. Graphix. — By now Rue realizes that her mother has been taken back to the faerie world and she is the only one who can bring her back. In order to rescue her mother, she must travel back deep into the inhuman world. Is Rue human or faerie? And how can she stop her grandfather's plan to threaten Rue's city? . Nominated ALA Best Graphic
- Brubaker, Ed. (2008) ***The Death of Captain America: The Death of the Dream, v. 1.; The Death of Captain America: The Burden of Dreams, v. 2.; and The Death of Captain America: The Man Who Bought America, v. 3.*** Illustrated by Steve Epting and Butch Gulce. Marvel. — These new adventures of Captain America continue through three volumes as Captain America attempts to carry on the legacy of Steve Rogers. But things do not go well for Bucky Barnes as he encounters the Red Skull. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Book.
- Buhle, Paul and Sabrina Jones. (2008) ***Isadora Duncan: A Graphic Biography***. Hill and Wang. — A serious biography (in 125 art-filled pages) of one of the greatest dancers in our century. Duncan was a revolutionary figure in the dance world and in her private life. She was independent and passionate about all that she did. Non-fiction. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.



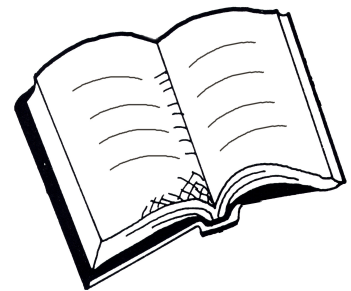


- Carey, Mike. (2007) *Re-Gifters*. Illustrated by Sonny Liew. DC Comics/Minx. — Centered on the love of Hapkido, a martial art, by a Korean American teenager Dixie. She and her best friend Avril enter a tournament. But it's her infatuation with another contestant, Adam and her crush/love that is unrequited. Action, romance, and plot twists galore. Graphic Novel. Starred Booklist, 2008 ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens, 2008 Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth, 2008 BBYA
- Castellucci, Cecil, and Jim Rugg. (2007) *The Plain Janes*. DC Comics/Minx. — Moving from a big city (to escape the evils of urban society) into suburbia, Jane is an outsider. She gathers other outsiders and proceeds to create a stir by gift wrapping objects in the downtown, and put bubbles in the town fountain— “art Terrorism.” It is a thought-provoking great read. 2007 Cybil Finalist, 2008 Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth, 2008 ALA Great Graphic Novels for Teens
- Clevinger, Brian, et. al. (2008) *Atomic Robo: Atomic Robo and the Fightin' Scientists of Tesladyne, v. 1*; (2009) *Atomic Robo: Atomic Robo and the Dogs of War, v. 2*. Red Five Comics. —Set on the front lines of World War II. Devastating weird weaponry of Nazi Germany is up against Robo and The Sparrow, Britain's greatest covert operative. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Book.
- King, Stephen, and Peter David. (2008) *Dark Tower: The Gunslinger Born, v. 1*; *Dark Tower: The Long Road Home, v. 2*. Marvel. — Inspired by Stephen King's epic *The Dark Tower!* Roland Distain is mourning the death of his lover Susan Delgado who has been burned at the stake by the Big Coffin Hunters. Roland, his ka-tet Cuthbert, and Alain flee to the desert with the Hunters in hot pursuit. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Book.
- Fujisawa, Yuki. (2008) *Metro Survive, v. 1* ; *Metro Survive, v. 2*. DrMaster Publications. —The survivors find themselves in the middle of a hostile takeover, and the basement may go back to the metro—the rodent-invested Metro. Will they survive again? It is clear that the massive earthquake was only the start of their troubles. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Gaiman, Neil. (2008) *Coraline*. Illustrated by P. Craig Russell. HarperCollins. — A graphic adaptation of Gaiman's 2002 novel (illustrated by David McKean). Follows the original story: none of the eeriness is lost, and Coraline remains clever, resourceful, and very determined. Starred Booklist, Starred Booklist, Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels, 2009 Eisner Award Nominee, 2009 Locus Award (Nonfiction/Art Book)

- Hennessey, Jonathan and Aaron McConnell. (2008) ***The United States Constitution: A Graphic Adaptation***. Hill and Wang. — Understanding the impact of the Constitution on our daily life; and our voting process, especially the Electoral College. Non-fiction. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Hale, Shannon, Dean Hale and Nathan Hale. (2008) ***Rapunzel's Revenge***. Bloomsbury. —A witty tale of a gritty Rapunzel. Rapunzel forgoes a relationship with the pompous prince and finds a partner in Jack (once a character in Jack in the Beanstalk), as they attempt to free her real mother and the entire kingdom from the clutches of the wicked witch who had once imprisoned her. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Helfer, A. (2006). ***A Graphic Biography of Malcolm X***. Illustrated by R. Duburke. Hill and Wang. — The biography includes details about his parents, his childhood, his decline into a life of crime, imprisonment, his conversion to Islam, and the events that led to his assassination. The Civil Rights Movement is a major part of the content with references to Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Brown vs. Board of Education.
- Hicks, Faith Erin. (2008) ***The War at Ellsmere***. SLG. —Ellsmere is a high society boarding school where the rich bullies show open disdain for anyone poorer – especially those at the school on scholarship. This year Juniper is their target. But the bullies have met their match in Juniper who is self-confident and emotionally intelligent. For those readers who are not quite ready for Gossip Girls, but enjoy the fast pace of a graphic novel. Starred Booklist, Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.
- Hoppey, Tim. (2009) Jungle ***Scout: A Vietnam War Story***. Illustrated by Ramon Espinoza. Stone Arch Books. — Set in the jungles of South Vietnam in 1969, sixteen-year-old Lam Hung is working to guide the American soldiers through the Viet Cong invested jungle. One of the soldiers does not trust Lam Hung because Hung was once a member of the Viet Cong. The story progresses as the group faces raids from the Viet Cong.
- Hotta, Yumi and Takeshi Obata. (2008) ***Hikary no Go*** (1-13 volumes) Viz Media. — Now without Sai, Hikaru must handle the competition alone.
- In-Wan, Youn, et.al. (2008) ***Deja-Vu: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter***. Tokyopop. —Love stories that span the beginning of history, WWII-era Japan, modern-day America, and the far distant future.



- Inoue, Takehiko. (2008; 2009) **Real** (1-5 volumes) Viz Media. — More basketball manga this time featuring a high school dropout and thug, Nomiya, who finds and befriends a wheelchair-bound basketball prodigy Kiyoharu Tagawa. Together the two of them begin to organize pick-up games at outdoor courts.
- Inoue, Takehiko. (1991-2009) **Slam Dunk** (1-20 volumes) Viz Media. —Initially tall and red-headed Hanamichi Sakuragi attempts to join the basketball court to win the heart of Haruko Akagi; but he has difficulty learning to be a team player, preferring to slam dunk instead—love, romance, teamwork, sports.
- Johns, Geoff and Dave Gibbons. (2008) **Green Lantern: The Sinestro Corps War (1-2 volumes)** DC. — Hal Jordan, the greatest Green Lantern, finds his archenemy, Sinestro, working with former Green Lantern, Kyle Rayner to cut a path of evil. It's up to Jordan to stop the army of fear.
- Jaffe, M (2008). **Bad Kitty: Catnipped**. TokyoPop/Harper Collins —*Bad Kitty: Catnipped* is sort of a new Nancy Drew in manga form. The protagonist is a cute, redheaded girl with the large-eyed look of a traditional Japanese manga character. She also happens to be intelligent and have some crime solving skills. She also had a lot of really cute, witty friends with really big eyes and cute outfits, and a new, cute boyfriend. They become involved in solving the mystery of a small jewelry heist at her local shopping mall. Each chapter has a summary of the protagonist's hair, pores and heart situation as well as side-notes called "life lessons" which keep us updated on her personal development.
- Johnson, Mat and Warren Pleece. (2008) **Incognegro: A Graphic Mystery**. Vertigo. —Black reporters who are light enough to pass as white infiltrate life in the south to report on the disturbing events taking place there at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When Zane Pinchback is sent to report on the arrest of his own brother, he must stay "incognegro" long enough to uncover the truth behind the false arrest of his brother for the murder of a white woman. He finds himself in more danger than even he could have anticipated.
- Kabei, Yukako and Shiori Teshirogi. (2008) **Kieli** (1-2 volumes). Yen Press. — *Kieli* is characterized as a reclusive being that has the ability to see ghosts. The precocious spirit of a former student in *Kieli's* dorm room is her only friend. That is until she meets the immortal soldier, Harvey, who can also see ghosts. But their future is perilous as the Church is hunting Harvey. What does their future hold?



- Kawahara, Kazune. (2008-2010) ***High School Debut***. (1-3 volumes) Viz Media. — Haruno Nagashima spent her middle school life playing softball and reading comics, but now in high school she is interested in finding a boyfriend. Her “love coach,” an older boy named Yoh tries to remake her but Haruno resists the notion that she must change to attract a male friend.
- Kibuishi, Kazu, ed. (2007) ***Flight: Volume one***. (Reprint) Villard. — Twenty-four stories by various artists. Some of stories are wordless. One reader described the stories as, “Some are gritty; some are sweet. Some are vibrant; others are stark. The stories in the series all are based on the concept of flight. The authors see this very differently!” Readers can pick up this book, read a story, put it down and not lose the story thread. This collection is a superb introduction to the graphic format. There is much diversity in art and story lines. A few stories include some strong language.

### More Books: Flight Series

The series was originally published by Image Comix and after several very positive mentions in publications respected in the field, the entire backlist was moved to Villard and today they are publishing more volumes. Kazu Kibuishi, who was a 24-year-old full-time animator, began this project as a side interest, and now works full-time as a writer/artist from his Pasadena Studio. Volumes that followed this first volume (originally published in 2004) includes:

*Flight: Volume Two* (Villard, 2007); *Flight Volume Three* (Villard, 2007);  
*Flight Volume Four* (Villard, 2007); *Flight Volume Five* (Villard, 2008);  
*Flight Volume Six* (Villard, 2009);

*Flight Explorer: Volume 1* (Villard, 2008) This volume is inspired by the success of the *Flight* volumes but is intended for a younger audience (ages 9-12).

- Kibuishi, Kazu. (2008) ***The Stonekeeper: Amulet: Book 1***. Scholastic/Graphix. (2009) ***The Stonekeeper's Curse: Amulet: Book 2***. Scholastic/Graphix. — A series that keeps readers in suspense, as Emily and Navin's mother is still in a coma and Emily is on a quest to get the antidote. A perilous trip to Demon's Head Mountain may end the quest but might cause Emily to lose the power of the amulet and her. Book 1, 2009 BBYA
- Kirkman, Robert and Jason Howard. ***Astounding Wolf-Man***. Volume I (2008) Volume 2 and Volume 3 (2009). Image Comics. — Gary Hampton finds his life transformed after a mauling; the transformation makes him into a night beast a werewolf.

- Kishimoto, Masashi. (2008) *Naruto*, (1-45 volumes) Viz Media. —A ninja-in-training, Naruto, needs attention and has a knack for mischief which amuses his instructor but literally irritates his fellow teammates. Naruto wants to be the best ninja in his village but must decipher the cryptic message from his mentor. Why was the message hidden in code? Why did it need to be camouflaged?
- Kiyuduki, Satoko. (2008) *Shoulder-a-Coffin Kuro*. (1-2 volumes) Yen Press. — Sen, her bat, and her two catgirl friends, Nikuju and Sanju, ramble across the countryside as they meet up with other outcasts and eccentrics. But danger lies ahead and her fate may be sealed by the curse she carries. The coffin she carries on her back may become her own.
- Koontz, Dean. (2008). *In Odd We Trust*. Illustrated by Q. Chan. New York: Random House. —Odd Thomas has the ability to see dead people. He uses this special gift to help solve local crimes - in this case a possible child killer. Humor, but also a mild amount of strong language.
- Kusakawa, Nari. (2008) *Two Flowers for the Dragon* (1-2 volumes). CMX Manga. —Two fiancés does not make for a comfortable situation. When Shakuya's first betrothed mysteriously returns, the second is expected to step aside, but he has no intention of doing so. Shakuya is destined to be the next head of the Dragon Clan and the situation. To resolve this her "magic tattoos" and her transformation comes into play.
- Lee, Lela. (2005) *Angry Little Girls*. Harry N. Abrams. —Twelve angry teen characters present their problems; a teen problem such as weight issues, relationship problems, sexuality, racism, parental problems, sibling rivalry. All teen problems are presented humorously and each is a different kind of "angry." The quiz on the back cover will help readers determine what kind of "angry" they might be.
- Lemire, Jeff. (2007) *Essex County Volume 1: Tales from the Farm*. Top Shelf Publication. — Ten-year-old Lester is orphaned when his mother dies, and with his father long ago out of the picture, he is sent to live with Uncle Ken in rural Ontario. But Uncle Ken finds it difficult to identify with a kid who wears a cape and thinks about alien invasions. But when Lester makes friends with the local convenience store operator who has suffered his own losses — the two of them bond and Jimmy is able to bring Lester back to the real world and find his own place in the world. Graphic novel. 2008 Alex Award, 2008 Doug Wright Award – Best Emerging Talent

- Lowry, S. (Ed.). (2007). ***Murder & Mystery: The Hound of the Baskervilles, Macbeth, The Legend of Sleepy Hollow***. World Almanac Library. —A classic tale revisited.
- Poe, M. (2008). ***Sons of Liberty***. Aladdin. — Nathaniel is an apprentice smithy for Paul Revere. Coming from a Loyalist home, Nathaniel's decision to become a Son of Liberty is not well received by his father. It isn't until the colonist's rights are further eroded does Nathaniel's father join his son in the war effort. Full of historical information leading up to the Revolutionary War. These events include the Stamp Act, Intolerable Act, Boston Tea Party and the Continental Congress.
- Porcellino, John. (2008) ***Thoreau at Walden***. Hyperion. — A fresh and gorgeously illustrated adaptation of this classic piece of literature. A wonderful graphic biography to inspire readers to look to nature for solace and inspiration. Nonfiction. 2009 BBYA
- Sakai, Stan. (2008) ***Usagi Yojimbo: Tomoe's Story***. Dark Horse Comics. —A collection of stories that builds the relationship between Usagi and Tomoe while including a ghost story, a string of mysterious murders, a formal tea ceremony, and heart-stopping suspense.
- Shitou, Kyoko. (2007; 2008) ***Key to the Kingdom (1-6 volumes)***. CMX. —Prince Astathe is ready to assume the throne but must fulfill the quest by finding the key.
- Siegel, Siena Cherson. (2006) ***To Dance: A Ballerina's Graphic Novel***. Illustrated by Mark Siegel. Simon & Schuster/Richard Jackson. —At age six, while growing up in Puerto Rico, Siena Siegal began to dance. Eventually she came to Boston and continued to study ballet, and when she entered the American School of Ballet her family moved to New York. A life story that also provides an introduction and glimpse into the golden age of ballet. 2007 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor
- Simone, Gail, and Neil Googe. (2007; 2008) ***Welcome to Tranquility (1-2 volumes)***. Wildstorm. —Tranquility is a unique town, the home for super-powered retirees during their golden years. Villain or hero the super-powers all reside in "tranquility." A string murders, and a number of serious conflicts tax law enforcement. Then Freddie Beasel arrives with his devilish secret.
- Straczynski, J. Michael and Esad Ribic. (2007; 2008) ***Silver Surfer: Requiem***. (1-4 volumes) Marvel. —The Silver Surfer surfs the galaxy, taking voyages between the stars and vast civilizations. Volume 4 takes Norrin Radd on his last journey, to a destination that has always eluded him.

Steinberger, Aimee Major. (2007) *Japan Ai: A Tall Girl's Adventures in Japan*. Go Comi. —An American otaku does Japan. When animator Steinberger, who is six-foot tall, travels to Japan with friends. This is their detail-filled travelogue. Non-fiction. Nominated ALA Best Graphic Books.

Smith, Jeff. (2005). *Bone: Out from Boneville*. Scholastic. — Based upon small, simple, white bone characters: Fone Bone, Phoney Bone, and Smiley Bone who are run out of Boneville for Phoney Bone's greedy schemes. The three are lost in the desert, attacked by locusts, find themselves separated, and then are all lost in a surreal valley with monster 'rat' creatures, dragons, and humans. The main Bone characters are very simple lined art with the backgrounds and other characters visually more complex.

### More Connections: Bone Series

Bone began as a self-published comic book with limited funds. His goal while writing it, and only his wife knew this goal, was to create a graphic novel series of Bone. His goal was reached after Scholastic offered to publish the book, and readers responded to make it a popular series. Now there is a possibility of a movie. The author/artist has a blog, *Boneville*, online at <[www.boneville.com](http://www.boneville.com)>. From the blog you can also link to the Scholastic site for the books, *The Bone Site at Scholastic*, and download a 14 page PDF of Scholastic's Guide for Teachers & Librarians, *Graphic Novels in the Classroom including Bone by Jeff Smith*.

Takaya, Natsuki. (2004-2008) *Fruits Basket*. (1-21 volumes). Tokyopop. —Kyo struggles to find his birth father, and to counter the curse that plagues him. As Akito's control over the Sohma family, little by little, slips away, both come to a crossroads.

Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. (2008) *Skim*. House of Anansi Press/Groundwood Books. —Kimberly Keiko Cameron "Skim" struggles with her own identity, friendships, and romance at an all-girl school. Set in the 1940s in Toronto, Skim, a goth mixed-race teenager finds herself on the outside struggling to be accepted. Graphic novel. 2009 BBYA, 2008 Ignatz Award, 2008 NY Times Best Illustrated, 2009 ALA Great Graphic Novel for Teens, 2009 ALA Rainbow List, 2009 Eisner Award Nominee

Tamaki, Mariko and Rolston, Steve. (2008) *Emiko Superstar*. DC Comics/Minx. — Emily (Emiko) is part Japanese and part Caucasian-Canadian, facing a summer of loneliness and babysitting. But Emiko finds a new group of friends and joins their performing art group and becomes a celebrity status. A compelling female coming-of-age tale with a lesbian subplot. Graphic Novel. Nominated 2010 BBYA

- TenNapel, Doug. (2008) ***Monster Zoo***. Image Comics. —The local zoo brings more fright than one could ever imagine.
- Tezuka, Osamu. (2007-2009) ***Black Jack*** (1-6 volumes). Vertical. —Unlicensed and out of the mainstream but Black Jack is a sought after surgeon. His distinctively scarred face and his black coat make him immediately recognizable. He is called in for the most bizarre cases: body transplants, removing of a woman's tumor that results in harvested bits and synthetic parts that create his own lispng little girl who serves as his sidekick.
- Tezuka, Osamu. (2008) ***Dororo***, (1-3 volumes) Vertical. —Hyakkimaru's father gave away Hyakkimaru's body parts, to 48 demons, in exchange for unstoppable military power. A doctor finds Hyakkimaru and fashions artificial parts, including limbs that conceal hidden swords. He and Dororo, an unabashed thief, team up to find and kill the demons and reclaim Hyakkimaru's body parts. Each demon found leads to suspenseful encounters.
- Umino, Chica. (2008) ***Honey and Clover***, (1-9 volumes) Viz Media. —Takemoto and his college roommates share their everyday lives, and their oddities. Morita is a very illusive and strange member of the group. Hagu, a tiny art prodigy not only interests all that meet her but she is also very manipulative and soon is exploiting Hagu. Sexual innuendos and the complex love liaisons will make this a novel more appropriate for the older YA reader.
- Wertz, Julia. (2009). ***I Saw You...Comics Inspired by Real-Life Missed Connections***. Three Rivers Press. —You have a missed connection if you make eye contact with someone at the grocery store and you were too shy to ask the person's name. Posts about missed connections are often made on Craig's List—bringing a reconnection and sometimes love or friendship. This book takes those listings and created a book out of it. The missed connections deal with many things that young adults struggle with; identity, sexuality, love, hopes and dreams.
- Winds, Gareth, adaptor. (2008) ***The Merchant of Venice***, Candlewick Press, —Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* retains the high drama and darkness in this modern adaptation of the classic tale. Some characters, such as Lancelot Gobbs, have been cut as well as some scenes. For some students this will serve as a good introduction to the original and will provide an opportunity to compare and contrast the adaptation to the original. Both versions will include the issues of homosexuality and anti-Semitism.



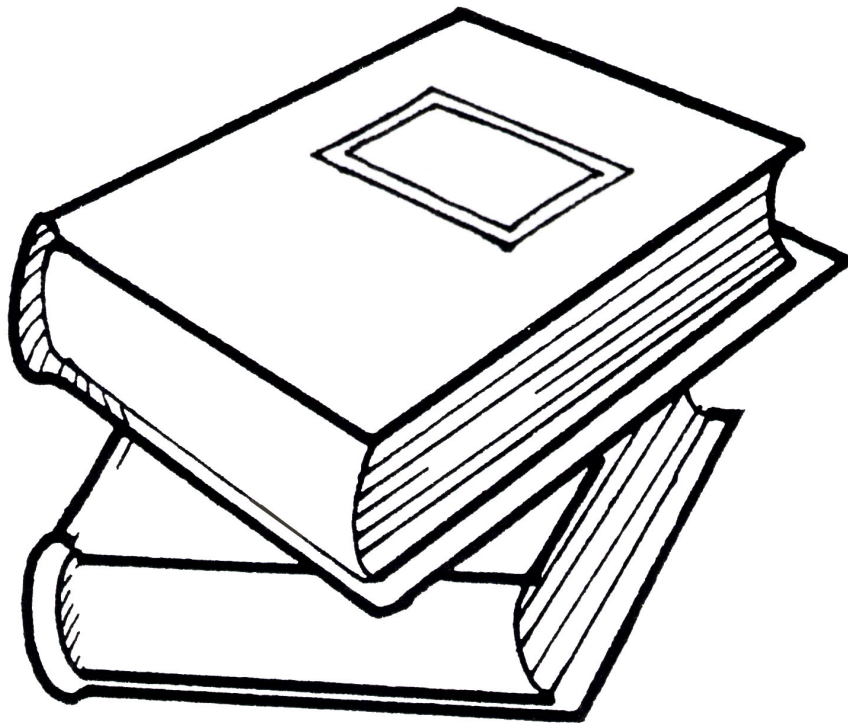
- Wood, Don. (2008) *Into the Volcano*. Scholastic. . —When relatives of Duffy and Sumo pick them up at their school, it is just the beginning of an adventure into the belly of an ancient volcano. Mysteries begin to reveal themselves and the discoveries the boys make at first deepen the mystery of how all of this is connected to them and their mother. Their discoveries shock and cause them grave danger. How will they escape? Neither manga nor mainstream, this graphic novel, with brightly colored artwork, will appeal to middle grade readers and older readers who want to fast moving light read. 2009 BBYA, Booklist's Top 10 Graphic Novels
- Yagami, Yu. (2007) *Hikkatsu!* (1-3 volumes). Go Comi. —Every appliance on earth seems to go haywire and only the karate student Shota can fix the machines. Using his “recovery strike” technique, Shota goes to work.
- Yazawa, Ai. (2008) *Nana*, (1-8 volumes). Viz Media. —Two women, with the exact same name, meet up and become best friends. Stories are filled with sex, music, fashion, gossip, and party filled nights.
- Yang, Gene Luen, and Derek Kirk Kim. (2009) *The Eternal Smile: Three Stories*. Roaring Brook/First Second. —Gene Luen Yang (A Printz Award winner with his graphic novel, *American Born Chinese* [First Second, 2006]) and Derek Kirk Kim (*Same Difference and Other Stories* [Top Shelf, 2004]) have collaborated to create “Duncan’s Kingdom,” “Gran’pa Greenbax and the Eternal Smile,” and “Urgent Request.” The stories involve a frog that finds he might just be better off as a frog; a prince who discovers that his world is not as he thought it was; and a third story that involves a Prince from Nigeria who sends an e-mail to a woman asking for a loan that will help him save his family. The authors blur the line between reality and fantasy. Readers won’t know just where they are at – but all will become clear in the end. Nominated 2010 BBYA



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# Section 4

## Poetry & Verse Novels



## Poetry & Verse Novels

### Introduction

**P**oetry is for all places. In his *Pass the Poetry, Please* (Harper, 1987), Lee Bennett Hopkins says, "The unit approach is good for social studies, science, and mathematics, but not for poetry." Hopkins and other poets implore educators not to reduce poetry to an assignment, not to reduce the poetry unit to a sequence introducing a structure or form and then asking students to "write a haiku" or whatever form is being studied. The substance of good poetry is not its form but rather what is said (and not said). Surround readers and listeners with all forms of poetry, giving them the rhythm and language of the form while allowing their own writing to take whatever form is most appropriate.

In April of each year the Academy of American Poets sponsors National Poetry Month. In concert with the Academy of American Poets, the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress designates the third week of April as Young People's Poetry Week.

For more information about National Poetry Month and Young People's Poetry Week go to the Academy of American Poets website <[www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org)> and The Children's Book Council <[www.cbcbooks.org](http://www.cbcbooks.org)>.

In the past few years an interesting trend in young adult literature has developed: novels written in verse have made inroads in attracting readers. A huge number of these books address dealing with contemporary social issues, letting readers see the problems in a new light, and encouraging readers to reveal their own emotions in a similar poetic form.

Credited with starting this lasting trend are some very popular novels from the past few years:

***Love That Dog*** by Sharon Creech (Joanna Cotler, 2001)

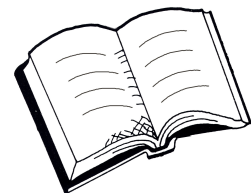
***Out of the Dust*** by Karen Hesse (Scholastic, 1997)

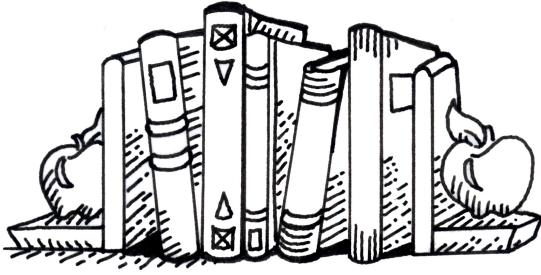
***Locomotion*** by Jacqueline Woodson (Putnam, 2003)

***Carver: A Life in Poems*** by Marilyn Nelson (Scholastic, 2002)

***Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem*** by Marilyn Nelson (Hand Print, 2004)

The following list includes both poetry and narratives written in verse. Since annotations are included in the general lists, for most of these titles, this listing includes brief annotations, and the bibliographic information which will provide you with the titles and authors — a booklist to be used directly with readers.





## The Bookshelf

### Poetry & Verse Novels

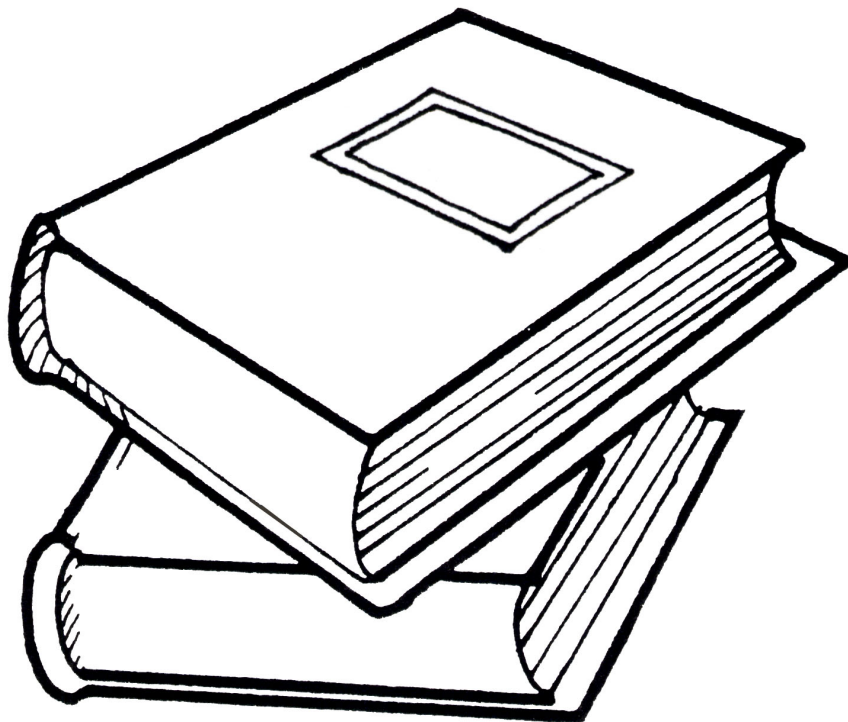
- ★ Adoff, Jaime. (2005) *Jimi and Me*. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun.  
A father and son's love of Jimi Hendrix can not heal the bond that is lost when Keith discovers the secret his father's death reveals.
- ★ Barlow, Toby. (2008) *Sharp Teeth: A Novel (P.S.)*. Harper/HarperCollins.  
Anthony Silvo, a self-professed loner and dogcatcher, and a mysterious woman — werewolf related murders, rival lycanthropes, an ties to the LA drug scenes.
- ★ Bernier-Grand, Carmen T. (2007) *Frida: Viva la Vida! Long Live Life!* Illustrated by Frida Kahlo. Marshall Cavendish.  
Verse biography of Frida Kahlo illustrated with paintings by the artist.
- ★ Carlson, Lori. (2005) *Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems in Being Young and Latino in The United States*. Henry Holt.  
Companion to *Cool Salsa* (Holt, 1994); includes selections from poets Gary Soto and others, including poems by students in the New York Public School system.
- ★ Carvell, Marlene. (2005) *Sweetgrass Basket*. Dutton.  
Mattie and Sarah each tell their story of the Carlisle Indian Boarding School during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- ★ Connor, Leslie. (2005) *Dead on Town Line*. Illustrated by Gina Triplett. Dial.  
A teen murder victim narrates her story from her afterlife.
- ★ Engle, Margarita. (2008) *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*. Henry Holt. Cuba's struggle for freedom from Spain.
- ★ Engle, Margarita. (2009) *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba*. Henry Holt.  
Details efforts to save other refugees; focuses on the efforts of a German-Jewish teen, Daniel, who flees the horrors of the holocaust, in 1939 and ends up in Cuba.
- ★ Frost, Helen. (2006) *The Braid*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux/Frances Foster Books.  
In 1850s, when their family is evicted, one sister travels to Canada with her siblings and parents while the other stays behind in Scotland.
- ★ Grimes, Nikki. (2005) *Dark Sons*. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun.  
Plot involves Sam, an African-American teen, and mimic the theme of the biblical story of Ishmael, the son of Abraham, and his despair upon being replaced by Isaac.

- ★ Herrera, Juan Felipe. (2005) *Downtown Boy*. Scholastic.  
A Year (1950s) in the life of Juanito. His father is a roving man; he and his mother live first in San Francisco with relatives and then in many homes in San Diego.
- ★ Janeczko, Paul B. (2005) *A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms*. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Candlewick.  
Clear and concise explanations of many poetic forms.
- ★ Janeczko, Paul B. and J. Patrick Lewis. (2006) *Wing Nuts: Screwed Haiku*. Illustrated by Tricia Tusa. Little, Brown.  
Collection of Japanese verse form, senryu, is similar to the haiku form.
- ★ Marsalis, Wynton. (2005) *Jazz A-B-Z: An A to Z Collection of Jazz Portraits*. Illustrated by Paul Rogers. Candlewick.  
Twenty-six Jazz greats are included in alliterative poetry.
- ★ Myers, Walter Dean. (2006) *Street Love*. Amistad.  
When Janice and her sister's mother goes to prison, what of their future?
- ★ Pratchett, Terry. (2008) *Nation*. HarperCollins.  
A tsunami leaves Mau as the sole survivor of his destroyed island. Daphne is the only survivor of her ship. When both end up on the island, they establish a community of refugees from nearby islands.
- ★ Smith, Charles. (2007) *Twelve Rounds to Glory: The Story of Muhammad Ali*. Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Candlewick. Twelve rhyming poems.
- ★ Smith, Hope Anita. (2008) *Keeping the Night Watch*. Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Holt. Thirteen-year-old C.J. tries to deal with his anger, pain, and sense of being betrayed and his inability to forgive his father who left the family.
- ★ Smith, Kirsten. (2006) *The Geography of Girlhood*. Little, Brown.  
Having been abandoned by her mother when she was just six, Penny must deal with her life as it is—and it seems like everything in her life is a mistake.
- ★ Soto, Gary. (2006) *A Fire in My Hands*. Harcourt.  
Originally published in 1971; an author's note and 16 poems
- ★ Stone, Tanya Lee. (2006) *A Bad Boy Can be Good for a Girl*. Random House/Wendy Lamb.  
Three high school girls dumped by the most popular jock. Each realizes too late that sex and love are not synonymous terms.
- ★ Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (2009) *This Full House*. Harper Collins/Harper Teen.  
Seventeen-year-old Lavaughn's school lacks much in the way of science education; but she manages to earn a spot in a very prestigious after-school science program for women. Her participation in that program leads her to make a stunning discovery—a discovery that threatens everything that she has or will have.

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# **Section 5**

## **Illustrated Short Stories (Picture Books for Teens)**



## Illustrated Short Stories (Picture Books)

### Introduction

The texts of picture books are very similar to the short stories found within anthologies of stories collected and packaged for older readers. The only difference between the short story texts and the texts of those found in picture books are the illustrations.

Novels often have several conflicts within one tale while short stories or picture books generally have room for just one. Collections of short stories are wonderful for emphasizing a particular theme or curricular connection. Even though a picture book contains one story, the possibilities for connections are the same. Short stories (illustrated or not) can be used to:

- promote literacy across the curriculum;
- convey ideas simply;
- encourage the reading of more difficult books on the same subject;
- encourage creative writing in prose and poetry;
- promote awareness of language;
- teach artistic styles in illustrations;
- encourage the development of creativity and imagination;
- introduce a person or topic for more in-depth study;
- provide a schema for students in special education or ESL classes;
- provide models for teen parents to read to their children;
- teach elements of literature: plotting, characterization;
- provide material for reader's theater, speech class, and dramatic interpretation;
- teach literary devices: foreshadowing, flashbacks, and so forth.

In order to become more familiar with this genre and potentials for use, you may wish to seek out some of the following resources which will provide additional rationale and provide lists of picture books that are important additions to the lists that follow.

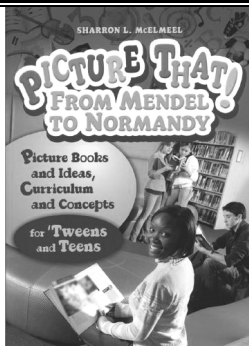
- Ammon, Richard. (Sept 2007) "Picture Books in Secondary Music." *General Music Today*. 21:1 (24-25)
- Burke, Anne, and Shelley Stagg Peterson. (Jan 2007) "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Literacy through Picture Books and Drama." 96:3 (74-79)
- Carr, Kathryn S., et.al. (Oct 2001) "Not Just for Primary Grades: A Bibliography of Picture Books for Secondary Content Teachers." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. 45:2 (146-154)
- Connor, Julia Johnson. (Nov 2003) "'The textbooks never said anything about...': Adolescents Respond to *The Middle Passage: White Ships/Black Cargo*." *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. 47:3 (240-246)
- Landt, Susan M. (Jan 2007) "Using Picture Books to Arouse Interest in the Study of Geographic Areas." *Social Studies*. 98:1 (9-12)



- Linder, Roberta. (Fall 2007) "Text Talk with Picture Books: Developing Vocabulary in Middle School." *Illinois Reading Council Journal*. 35:4 (3-15)
- Padula, Janice. (Oct 2005) "Mathematical Fiction." *Australian Mathematics Teacher*. 61:4 (6-13)
- Schneider, Dean. (Jul 2009) "Picture Books in the Middle-School Classroom." *Book Links*. 18:6 (10)
- Varsalona, Carol. (Apr 2008) "Picture This Program Engages Junior High School Students in the Literary Experience." *Reading Today*. 25:5 (44)
- Wilkins, Karen H., et.al. (May/June 2008) "Images of Struggle and Triumph: Using Picture Books to Teach about Civil Rights in the Secondary Classroom." *Social Education*. 72:4 (177-180)
- Wysocki, Barbara. (Spring 2004) "A Thousand Words." *Schol Library Journal (Supplement)*. 50 (8-9)

The trend toward creating picture books with more and more sophisticated topics and the emphasis on the creative use of many picture books to introduce specific topics, to present information about a person or place, and myriad of other connections to curriculum in secondary schools (middle, junior high school, and senior high schools) has grown exponentially in the past few years. That trend spurred the creation of *Picture That! From Mendel to Normandy: Picture Books and Ideas, Curriculum and Connections—for 'Tweens and Teens* (Libraries Unlimited, 2009). The book lists over 350 titles, more than 60 with full entries. Get more information about that book at [www.mcelmeel.com/writing/picturethat.html](http://www.mcelmeel.com/writing/picturethat.html).

Go beyond the introduction, text-to-text connections with picture books and consider the use of web 2.0 tools. Think about asking students to collaborate to write their own publishable versions of picture books. Illustrations might be their own drawings, photographs they take themselves, or copyright free illustrations. Perhaps their text/art might yield video clips with accompanying text. Use radio interviews, graphic novels, popup books, and other non-traditional media as a way to stimulate ideas, critical thinking, and creative thinking.



In the list that follows, I've picked a few of my favorite titles from *Picture That! From Mendel to Normandy: Picture Books and Ideas, Curriculum and Connections—for 'Tweens and Teens* and have added some updates—titles that will invariably present some ideas to you for making curriculum connections. The articles cited above will have many archival suggestions from past publishing years.

***Picture Books That Have Possibilities for Integration  
A Few of My Favorites for 2010 and Beyond***

“One of the great things about books is sometimes there are some fantastic pictures.”  
— George W. Bush (43<sup>rd</sup> USA President)

Alexander, Elizabeth, and Marilyn Nelson. (2007) ***Miss Crandall’s School for Young Ladies & Little Misses of Color***. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Boyds Mills/Wordsong. —A gorgeous book of illustrated sonnets (twenty-four) that tell the story of a white teacher, Prudence Crandall, who stood up to bigotry and established a school for 20 African-American women. A historical note provides the background for this tale set in Canterbury, Connecticut, in 1833.

**Prudence Crandall:** Pair with Suzanne Jurmain’s *The Forbidden Schoolhouse: The True and Dramatic Story of Prudence Crandall and Her Students*. (Houghton, 2005). Jurmain’s full-length non-fiction account of Prudence Crandall’s work is supplemented in this book by an epilogue that includes information about what became of some of the women who attended the school. The National Women’s History Museum (Online) presents a summary of Crandall’s life and her work in Connecticut. *NWHM Exhibit: Women in Education* <[www.nwhm.org/exhibits/Education/Prudence Crandall Bio.html](http://www.nwhm.org/exhibits/Education/Prudence%20Crandall%20Bio.html)> (Note spaces between the words Prudence, Crandall, and Bio and although Crandall’s name is Prudence [with a “e”] the page’s URL spells her name as Prudence [with an “a”]).

Bardoe, Cheryl. (2006) ***Gregor Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas***. Illustrated by Joseph A. Smith. Abrams. —The Father of Modern Genetics and a great introduction to hereditary factors with gloriously accurate illustrations that clearly illuminate the basic pattern of hereditary.

Pair with the book: *The Monk in the Garden: The Lost and Found Genius of Gregor Mendel* by Robin Marantz Henig. (Houghton Mifflin, 2000)

Collard, Sneed B. (2005) ***The Prairie Builders: Reconstructing America’s Lost Grasslands***. Photographs by Sneed B. Collard. Houghton. —Follows the work at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge (Iowa) and the efforts to restore the prairie. Covers the successes and the failures. The book documents environmental efforts over a number of years.

Giblin, James. (2004). ***Secrets of the Sphinx***. Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. Scholastic Press. — Creation, purpose, and mysteries surrounding the Great Sphinx of Egypt are discussed, along with current issues about preservation of the Sphinx and other historic monuments and artifacts. Orbus Picus Award for best nonfiction for children. Readers will be astounded with the vast wealth and richness of Egypt's history.

**Egypt:** Visit the National Geographic Channel's site to learn more - *Egypt Unwrapped: Secrets of the Sphinx*.  
<[channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/egypt-unwrapped/3917/Overview](http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/egypt-unwrapped/3917/Overview)>

Gourley, Robbin. (2009) ***Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie: A Story About Edna Lewis***. Clarion. —Black restaurateur and Southern cookbook author Edna Lewis (1916-2006) grew up in Freetown, Virginia, a town founded by Edna's grandfather and two other freed slaves. She was one of eight children, who grew up surrounded by freshness and cooking what they produced. It is this childhood that put Edna on the path to a career that resulted in her being dubbed the "Grande Dame of Southern Cooking." Gourley loosely bases this book on her childhood—a celebration through the seasons and living off the land.

**Chefs Extraordinaire:** Pair this book with the picture book by Donald Hall's *Ox-Cart Man*, with illustrations by Barbara Cooney (Penguin, 1979). Both could serve as introductions to the concept of self-sufficiency and the evolution of our monetary system. Lewis is to Southern cooking what Julia Childs is to French Cuisine. Learn more about both chefs.

Janeczko, Paul B., ed. (2005) ***A Kick in the Head: An Everyday Guide to Poetic Forms***. Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Candlewick. Defines and illustrates poetic forms and gives a classic example of each form. Use as a model for one's own search for an example and an art poster activity, or for writing, introduce poetry forms.

Kerley, Barbara. (2004) ***Walt Whitman: Words for America***. Illustrated by Brian Selznick. Scholastic. — Walt Whitman spent time as a dedicated Civil War nurse. Forced to return home by his health, he soon learned of the war's end, and of the assassination of a president for which he had a great fondness. To heal his own life (and that of his nation) he turned to poetry. This is an energetic and engaging picture book biography. 2005 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor; New York Times Best Illustrated Book

Walt Whitman: Justin Kaplan has written the definitive biography of Walt Whitman, *Walt Whitman: A Life* (Harper Perennial Classics, 2003). When, in 1884, Walt Whitman bought a house in Camden, New Jersey, he finally, at age 64, was able to live in his own home. Readers will read about the controversy surrounding the publication of *Leaves of Grass* – leave the sex in or expunge it for the sake of public opinion. Insight into the poet who challenged the mores of his time and perplexed his brother George Washington Whitman who had little real knowledge of what Walt was about.

Kerley, Barbara. (2008) ***What to Do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy.*** Illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. Scholastic. — Being the daughter of the President is not easy. This is a great introduction to Theodore Roosevelt and his family while in the White House. 2009 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor.

**Alice Roosevelt:** Two days after Alice Lee Roosevelt's birth in 1884, both her mother and grandmother died unexpectedly. Their death left Theodore Roosevelt, a young assemblyman, too consumed with grief to celebrate the birth of his daughter. That, according to Stacy A. Cordery, "...was the last time anyone would eclipse Alice." Read the full account of Alice Roosevelt's irrepressible life in Cordery's *Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, from White House Princess to Washington Power Broker* (Penguin, 2008; reprint paperback)

Kimmel, Eric A. (2005) ***The Hero Beowulf.*** Illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux. And Rumford, James. (2007) ***Beowulf: A Hero's Tale.*** Houghton Mifflin Company.—Beowulf has all the epic elements to attract YA readers: traditions--monsters, seductive women, magic, battles. The illustrated versions will be great introductions to reading more classic versions of the tale.

**Beowulf:** Pair these picture books with Seamus Heaney's *Beowulf: A New Translation* (Faber and Faber, 2000) and with the audio version (Highbridge Audio, 2000) read by Heaney.

Lowry, Lois (2009) ***Crow Call.*** Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline. Scholastic. —A child and father reconnect after her father returns from World War II. This is a great book, for beginning a discussion about the impact of war on families and the home front.

Napoli, Donna. (2010) ***Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai And The Trees Of Kenya*** .Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Simon & Schuster. (See entry for Winters, Jeanette)

McCully, Emily Arnold. (2006) ***Marvelous Mattie: How Margaret E. Knight Became an Inventor***. Farrar Straus Giroux. —Sketch books, prototypes, and the patent process are all detailed in this book about a female inventor who began as a young girl by inventing a shuttle cock shut-off that saved many lives to inventing a way of folding a paper bag so as to make it sit flat for use. For more information about this book, go to <[us.macmillan.com/marvelousmattie](http://us.macmillan.com/marvelousmattie)>, a site maintained by the author's publisher.

**Margaret Knight:** Pairs nicely with another picture book: *Margaret Knight, Girl Inventor* by Marlene Targ Brill (Millbrook Press, 2001). McCully's book and Brill's book will be inspiration for Science Fair projects or Invention programs. Learn more about the author and her research on Brill's website <[www.marlenetargbrill.com](http://www.marlenetargbrill.com)>.

McCutcheon, John. (2006) ***Christmas in the Trenches***. Illustrated by Henri Sorensen. Peachtree. Fictionalized account of the Christmas truce that occurred during World War I in 1914. Establishes a discussion point for the events that occur during years of war. Accompanied by a CD of the song that was inspired by the story. For additional information: McBookwords: Christmas in the Trenches at <[www.mcbookwords.com/books/christmasinthetrenches.html](http://www.mcbookwords.com/books/christmasinthetrenches.html)>.

**Christmas Truce:** Jim Murphy has written a well researched, 116 page book, *Truce* (Scholastic, 2009), which provides the preliminary information about the War – World War I, which began on July 29, 1914, and the actual events that took place during the Christmas holiday season, 1914. The truce fictionalized in McCutcheon's song and picture book is presented with facts, photographs, quotes, and historical records in Murphy's book. Many source notes. Updated and complete citations for the web addresses Murphy cites are provided on the webpage cited above.

Nelson, Marilyn. (2009) ***Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Story of the Greatest All Girl Swing Band in the World*** by Marilyn Nelson. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial. — When the Piney Woods Country Life School in Mississippi—a school for poor and orphaned African American children, fell on hard times, in 1937, the Piney Woods musicians formed an all-girl jazz band and set out on a fund-raising tour. In 1941, the band turned professional and continued to tour throughout World War II. These women made their mark in a male dominated field. Nelson's poetry, spoken in the voice of the instruments, layer music on top of history just as Pinkney's illustrations layer collage elements on top of his exquisite watercolors.

**Sweethearts of Rhythm:** Featured the “In the Spotlight” Column in *Library Sparks* (February 2010). Connect to sources about the All Girl Bands and the Era of Swing ands by using the links at [www.mcbookwords.com/books/sweetheartsofrhythm.html](http://www.mcbookwords.com/books/sweetheartsofrhythm.html)

Park, Linda Sue. (2007) *Tap Dancing on the Roof: Sijo*. Illustrated by Istvan Banvai. Clarion. Park introduces a Korean form of poetry that is somewhat more complicated than Haiku. It has a set form and Park tackles such topics as school lunch, long division, and snowmen threatened by warm weather. Each poem has a turnabout close that will intrigue readers. Poetry—Compare the form with the other more familiar forms, such as Haiku. Like Haiku, Sijo is a three-lined poem. Sijo, Haiku, and Tanka are all rooted in ancient Chinese verse. Sijo has been the most popular poetic form in Korea. Sijo is 44 to 46 syllables; 14-16 in each of three lines. Sometimes the three lines are split into six lines, more for form. Line 1 is the beginning; the second line is the development of the idea; and the final, third line has a twist or surprise. Introduce this form; and read many examples. Discuss how the examples “fit” or deviate from the established form.

Rumford, James. (2007) *Beowulf: A Hero's Tale*. Houghton Mifflin. (See entry under Kimmel).

Rumford, James. (2004) *Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing*. Translated into Cherokee by Anna Sixkiller Huckaby. Houghton Mifflin. — A picture book biography of the man who, in the 1800s, decided to create a written syllabary. His efforts provided the Cherokee nation with a written form of their language. 2005 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Honor.

Scanlon, Liz Garton. (2009) *All the World*. Illustrated by Marla Frazee. Simon & Schuster/Beach Lane. —Forty pages of idyllic verses that reflect harmony with the earth: the birds, the bees, rocks, flowers, sky, and the sea. The poetry begins on the surf and sand and continues through community agriculture, tree-climbing and bike-riding, a rain that sends everyone to the town’s café, and after the rain, a community gathering – and then pajamas. Poems model reflective writing on events in one’s own community. Frazee’s illustrations are magnificent in blues and greens, browns and tans. Note similarities and differences with our own communities. Use the pictures as inspiration for paintings of life as we know it.

Schanzer, Rosalyn. (2009) *What Darwin Saw: The Journey That Changed the World*. National Geographic. —Uses journeys and diaries, Darwin’s own words to introduce Darwin, his childhood and his work on the *Origin of Species*. Despite it’s picture book format this book has a lot of information for older readers. The source bibliography will provide many suggestions for further exploration.

**Charles Darwin:** nicely with *One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin* by Kathryn Lasky and Matthew Trueman (Candlewick, 2009). The focus is on Darwin's five-year trip on the *Beagle*, sailing to South America, as a naturalist—work that led to his development of *Origin of the Species*.

Sis, Peter. (2007) *The Wall: Growing Up the Iron Curtain*. Farrar Straus Giroux/Frances Foster. — A biographical story that gives insight into life in Czechoslovak during the struggles for independence. 2008 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award.

**The Wall:** As a follow up to Sis's book, read the background of the wall, and President Ronald Reagan's memorable speech that memorialized the phrase "Tear down this wall!" *The History Place: Great Speeches Collection*  
<[www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-tear-down.htm](http://www.historyplace.com/speeches/reagan-tear-down.htm)>.

Smith, Lane. (2006) *John, Paul, George, & Ben*. Hyperion Books for Children. Readers will have to know something about the history of these four lads: John [Hancock], Paul [Revere], George [Washington], and Ben [Franklin] (and about Thomas Jefferson who was always off doing his own thing) in order to understand the satire and play on the events that occurred (or didn't occur). Includes an allusion to the British four lads (The Beatles) and their recording of Abbey.

Taylor, Gaylia. (2006) *George Crum and the Saratoga Chip*. Illustrated by Frank Morrison. Lee & Low. A fictionalized account of the invention of potato chips by George Crum, an African-America/Native American chef.

**Potato Chips:** Pairs nicely with another picture book, Penelope Stowell's *The Greatest Potatoes*. Illustrated by Sharon Watts. (Jump at the Sun, 2005). More information from : The Idea Finder. (2007) "Potato Chip History – Invention of Potato Chips." WEB.  
<[www.idealfinder.com/history/inventions/potatochips.htm](http://www.idealfinder.com/history/inventions/potatochips.htm)>.

Truss, Lynne. (2006) *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: Why, Commas Really Do Make a Difference*. Illustrated by Bonnie Timmons. Putnam. Truss uses identical sentences sans commas and shows how a missing or misplaced comma can create very different meanings. Timmons's illustrations illuminate the humorous effects of the errant commas. Try using this book to help illustrate the six-traits of writing: conventions of writing. Picture book version of Truss's adult book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* (Gotham, 2004).

Weatherford, Carole Boston. (2005) *A Negro League Scrapbook*. Boyds Mills Press. Poetic tributes to the Negro Leagues are augmented with statistics, anecdotes, player profiles, and historic images. Inspired by the author's trip to the Negro League Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Missouri. Introducing the topic of civil rights, Negro Baseball, baseball, prejudice, Jim Crow era, and other related topics.

**Negro League:** Pair this scrapbook presentation of the heroes of the Negro League with Kadir Nelson's *We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball* (Jump at the Sun, 2008). Much additional information may be obtained through links from Nelson's website: <[www.kadirnelson.com](http://www.kadirnelson.com)> and <[www.wearetheship.com](http://www.wearetheship.com)>.

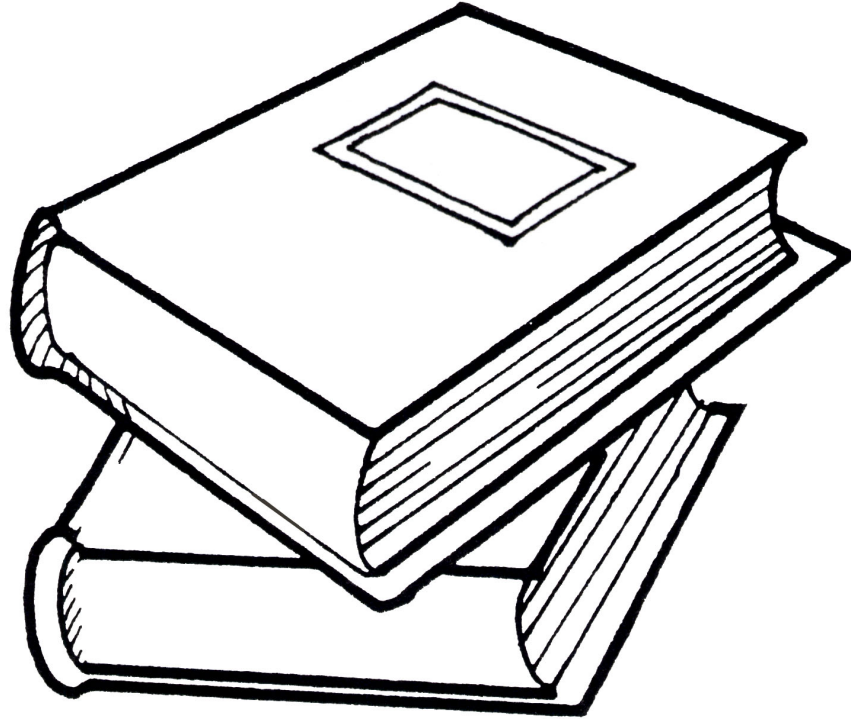
Winter, Jeanette. (2008) *Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story of Africa*. Harcourt; and Napoli, Donna. (2010) *Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai And The Trees Of Kenya*. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Simon & Schuster. —Wanari Maathai mounted a personal campaign to reforest Kenya. She planted seedlings, created tree nurseries, and convinced other women to join her in the efforts. In 2004, Wangair received the Nobel Peace Prize for her work—by then she and her followers had planted 30 million trees, established 6,000 nurseries in Kenya, helped to increase the incomes of 80,000 people who planted trees, and expanded their efforts to 30 African countries. As the founder of the Green Belt Movement, much information about *Wangari Maathai* and her work in Kenya and all of Africa can be located on the movement's website, <[www.greenbeltmovement.org](http://www.greenbeltmovement.org)>. This website explains the danger Wangari Maathai faced (and still faces) for planting trees and why her efforts earned her a Nobel Prize in 2004.



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# Section 6

## Audio Material for Teens



## Audio Material for Teens

### Introduction

Using audio readings of books have enabled teachers to build a community of readers and participate in initiatives similar to the one book/one class project, general classroom reads, and so forth. Encouraging and making possible the ability of less-able readers to use an audio book to read a book-length novel that other students are also reading encourages group interaction and heterogeneous group discussions. Audio books, whether on tape or audio CD, allow learning disabled students to read more and to read at their age and interest level. Audio books are able to reduce frustration and fatigue often experienced by readers who are struggling with vocabulary and comprehension. Although we recommend that audio books be used in conjunction with independent reading (with the requirement that students follow along in the text as much as possible), there seems no question that audio books provide another voice, keeping reluctant readers interested and helping them move at an even pace throughout the narrative. The assistance of audio books often encourages less-able readers to read a longer book than they would read by themselves.

Using audio books:

- Provides modeling of fluent reading for students who have fluency issues.
- Allows a less able reader to enjoy a selection and participate in appropriate discussions with his or her peers or to participate in classroom activities.
- Allows various levels of readers to “read” a single title and build a “community of readers” to discuss and enjoy that book.
- Allow readers to “read” the book while traveling, exercising, or engaging in alternative activities.
- Provides an alternative method of presentation to accommodate alternative and diverse learning styles.
- Varies the classroom presentation.
- Minimizes the struggle for students with disabilities.
- Assists in vocabulary building—sharing similar benefits to those of a read aloud title.

### Audio Books for All YA Readers

#### All Students Can Benefit

- As a whole class listen to 10-15 minutes of an audio book each day.
- Read-aloud techniques that doesn't strain your voice after five class periods.
- Keeps the reading fresh for each class.
- Models fluent reading.
- Promotes a technique students might employ.
- Assist in building reading confidence and help build life-long readers.

## Other Resources:

Associated American Publishers. (n.d.) *Get Caught Listening for Teachers: Learn How to Use Audiobooks in the Classroom and how Kids Getting Caught Listening can be used as a Learning Tool*. WEB

[www.getcaughtreading.org/listening/get\\_caught\\_listening\\_teachers.htm](http://www.getcaughtreading.org/listening/get_caught_listening_teachers.htm)

Audio Bookshelf. (n.d.) *Learning with Audio Books*. WEB

[www.audiobookshelf.com/teachwith.html](http://www.audiobookshelf.com/teachwith.html).

Johnson, Denise. (2003, April). Web watch -- Audiobooks: Ear-resistible! *Reading Online*, 6(8). WEB [www.readingonline.org/electronic/elec\\_index.asp?](http://www.readingonline.org/electronic/elec_index.asp?HREF=webwatch/audiobooks/index.html)

[HREF=webwatch/audiobooks/index.html](http://www.readingonline.org/electronic/elec_index.asp?HREF=webwatch/audiobooks/index.html)

## Audio Books in the Classroom/Library Trends and Access

It seems that the use of audio books in the classroom is driven more by the desire of a student to read a specific title, or the desire of a teacher to ask the student to react and respond to a book that reading abilities will not allow her/him to fully participate. Thus, locating a book, that has been published in an audio format, by title or author is of primary importance. The following are “go to” sources for finding audio books.

In the recent five years there seems to have been a great growth in publishing houses producing audio books for the hard copy titles that they publish. In addition to the CD format, many audio books are being published as MP3 format, and some are available for downloading. Don’t confuse those titles available for downloading in a format readable by Amazon’s Kindle application with those titles downloadable as audio books.

The following sources are among the first locations that I use for the quickest access/knowledge about audio versions of specific titles.

Amazon.com —At this comprehensive site one is able to search by title or author. In the search function, use the drop down toggle button to select *Books* as your searchable area, and in the search box type “audiobooks on cd.” Then you can go back to the “books” toggle and select a category within the major category.

Other major sources for audio books include:

- Listening Library. [www.randomhouse.com/listeninglibrary](http://www.randomhouse.com/listeninglibrary)
- Random House Audio. [www.randomhouse.com/audio](http://www.randomhouse.com/audio)
- Scholastic Audio. [www2.scholastic.com](http://www2.scholastic.com)
- Brilliance Audio. [www.recordedbooks.com](http://www.recordedbooks.com)
- Full Cast Audio. [www.fullcastaudio.com](http://www.fullcastaudio.com)

**Full Cast Audio**

My favorite company is the small studio founded and directed by author Bruce Coville, Full Cast Audio. My love affair with their productions began when they sent me a couple of preview recordings (including *The United Tates of America* by Paula Danziger early in the company's existence). I've followed their success and growth ever since. Always quality productions and since they are the only company (to my knowledge) to use multiple readers—a full cast of characters, their recordings are excellent to promote reading, fluency, voice inflection, and drama, including readers' theater. In June of 2006, Voice of Youth Advocacy ([www.voya.com](http://www.voya.com)) published an article about the company, *Voya – A Visit with the Full Cast Audio Family*. WEB [pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200606VisitAudio.pdf](http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200606VisitAudio.pdf). Check out Full Cast Audio for some of the best recordings of literature written for young adult readers.

**The Odyssey Award**

Each year the American Library Association (ALA) awards the Odyssey Award to the producer of the best audio book produced for children and/or young adults, available in English in the United States. The award is named to honor Ulysses's travel and the storytelling roots spurred by the retelling of his epic journeys. In the epic poem *The Odyssey*, by Homer, Ulysses's journeys were told and retold in the oral tradition, thus establishing the value of storytelling. Check out the current winners at (traditionally announced during the ALA's midwinter conference, in January of each year. WEB

[www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/odyssey/odyssey.cfm](http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/odyssey/odyssey.cfm)

## Selected Odyssey Titles

## 2009 Award/Honor Books

★ Alexie, Sherman. (2008) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

## Recorded Books.

- Curtis, Christopher Paul, and Mirron Willis. (2008) *Elijah of Buxton*. Listening Library.
- Meyer, L.A. and Katherine Kellgren. (2008) *Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber*. Listen & Live Audio.
- Pratchett, Terry, and Stephen Briggs. (2008) *Nation*. Harper Children's Audio.

## 2008 Award/Honor Books

★ Myers, Walter Dean, James "D-Train" Williams and Vaneese Thomas. (2007) *Jazz*. Live Oak Media.

- Myer, L.A., and Katherine Kellgren. (2007) *Bloody Jacke: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary 'Jacky' Faber, Ship's Boy*. Listen & Live Audio.
- Rowling, J.K. (2007) *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Listening Library.



### The Audio Shelf—A Very Select List

Check the sources listed above in addition to the titles that follow.

- Alexie, Sherman. (2008) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Recorded Books. CD
- Black, Holly, Tony DiTerlizzi, and Andrew McCarthy. (2009) *The Wyrms King* (Beyond the Spiderwick Chronicles). Simon & Schuster Audio. CD
- Brashares, Ann, and Kimberley Farr. (2009) *3 Willows*. Listening Library. CD (Also available are all the Traveling Pants titles).
- Choldenko, Gennifer, and Kirby Heyborne. (2009) *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. Listening Library. CD
- Collins, Suzanne. (2009) *Catching Fire* (The Second Book of the Hunger Games). Scholastic Audio. CD.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul, and Mirron Willis. (2008) *Elijah of Buxton*. Listening Library. CD
- Farmer, Nancy, and Gerard Doyle. (2009) *The Islands of the Blessed*. Simon & Schuster Audio. CD
- Gantos, Jack. (2009) *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key*. Listening Library. CD
- Korman, Gordon, and Nick Podehl. (2009) *Pop*. Brilliance Audio. CD
- Meyer, L.A. and Katherine Kellgren. (2008) *Curse of the Blue Tattoo: Being an Account of the Misadventures of Jacky Faber*. Listen & Live Audio. CD
- Meyer, Stephenie. (various dates) *Twilight Saga*. The complete series including *New Moon*. Random House Audio. CD

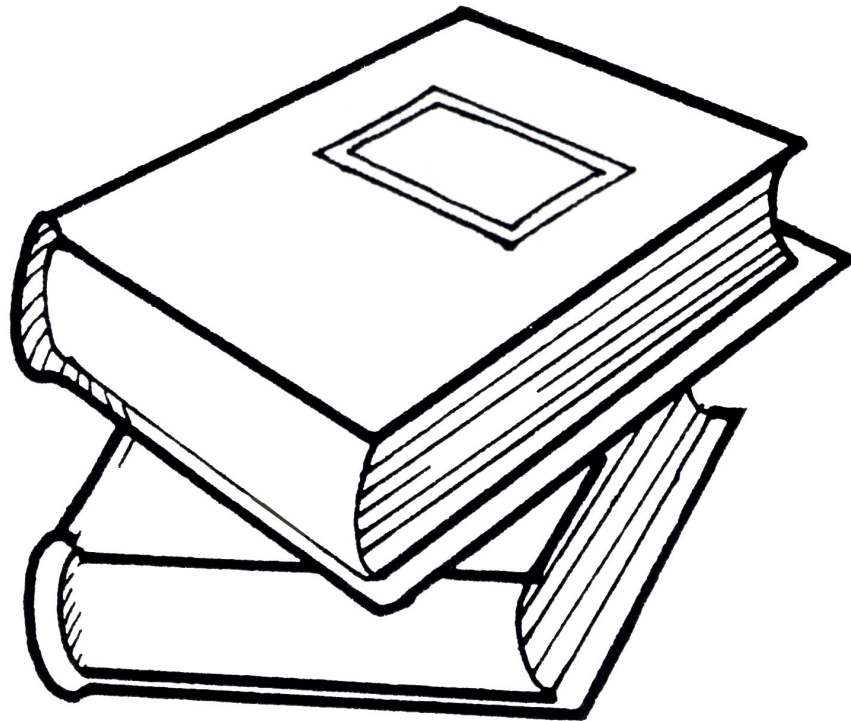
- Nix, Garth, and Allan Corduner. (2010) *Sir Thursday* (Keys to the Kingdom, Book 4). Listening Library. CD.
- Paterson, Katherine, and Tavia Gilbert. (2009) *The Day of the Pelican*. Brilliance Audio. MP3 CD
- Pratchett, Terry, and Stephen Briggs. (2008) *Nation*. Harper Children's Audio. CD
- Schmidt, Gary D. (2009) *Trouble*. Scholastic Audio. CD
- Scieszka, Jon. (2009) *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Almost True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka*. Brilliance Audio. CD.
- Shusterman, Neal, and Luck Daniels. (2009) *Unwind*. Brilliance Audio. CD.
- Shusterman, Neal, and Nick Podehl. (2009) *Everwild* (Skinjacker Trilogy). Brilliance Audio. MP3 CD.
- Woodson, Jacqueline, and Susan Spain. (2009) *After Tupac & D Foster*. Brilliance Audio. CD

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# **Section 7**

# **Award Winners**

# **for Teens**



## Award Winners Introduction

**A**wards for young adult books mirror the type of awards given to adult books and to those for children. Anyone winning a prestigious award, such as the Newbery or Printz award, is almost guaranteed to have a positive growth pattern in his or her financial situation. Some authors have said the awards have enabled them to quit their full-time job and to write full-time. That is true of Christopher Paul Curtis whose first two books, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham: 1963* (Delacorte, 1995) and *Bud, Not Buddy* (Delacorte, 1999) were named honor books and award winners both by the Newbery Committee and the Coretta Scott King Committee.

- In 2006, the American Indian Library Association (AILA), an affiliate of the American Library Association (ALA), announced the first of its American Indian Youth Literature Award. Awards are given in three categories: picture book, middle school, and young adult. The first major award for American Indian titles.
- Students and teachers turn to these awards as an indication of quality or reader appeal. Basically, there are two types of awards: the literary award or the popularity award. Most literary awards tend to disavow any reference of popularity to readers, but give a token nod to the book's literary value. Literary awards that are given for a single title are often restricted to books published in a particular location within the past year while those given for the body of an author's work is more comprehensive.
- Choice awards are generally selected through a combination of checkpoints but are open to books published in a wider range of publication years—a span wide enough to ensure that the book has gained a certain degree of popularity and that the book could legitimately be considered in a choice list situation. Choice awards are most often sponsored by state or regional reading or library organizations. A comprehensive list of specific state awards and links to their official sites is located at ***McBookwords: State and Regional Book Awards*** at <[www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/bookawards.html](http://www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/bookawards.html)>

### **Literary Awards—Single Book**

Awards that are given for a single title, based on the book's perceived literary value. Most often the criteria for eligible books set time and place of publication criteria and criteria for the author/illustrator. Examples of this type of award include the John Newbery award, Michael L. Printz award, and the Golden Kite Award.

### **Literary Awards—Body of Work**

Awards that are given for the entire body of an author's or illustrator's writing, based on the book's perceived literary value.. Examples of this type of award include the Margaret Edwards Award and the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

### **Choice Awards—Single Book**

This award is often a combination of choices made by professional educators or authors and readers. This type of award is often sponsored by reading or librarian organizations that has a committee to choose the core list of books to be considered for the award. The appropriate readers then read and select the award winner.



**The Michael L. Printz Award for  
Excellence in Young Adult Literature**

The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature. It is named for a Topeka, Kansas school librarian who was a long-time active member of the Young Adult Library Services Association. The award is given annually by an award committee that can also name as many as four honor books. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or an anthology are eligible. Joint authors or editors are eligible as well. The books must be published between January 1 and December 31 of the preceding year and be designated by its publisher as being either a young adult book or one published for the age range that YALSA defines as young adult, ages 12 through 18.

**Printz Award**

<b>2010</b>			
<b>2009</b>	<i>Jellicoe Road</i>	Melina Marcaetta	HarperTeen
<b>2008</b>	<i>The White Darkness</i>	Geraldine McCaughrean	HarperTempest
<b>2007</b>	<i>American Born Chinese</i>	Gene Luen Yang	First Second
<b>2006</b>	<i>Looking for Alaska</i>	John Green	Dutton

**The John Newbery Award**

The John Newbery Medal is awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children published in English and in the United States during the preceding year. There are no limitations as to the character of the book considered except that it must be original work. Books that are also truly distinguished are named as Honor Books. The author must be a U.S. citizen or a resident.

**Newbery Award**

<b>2010</b>			
<b>2009</b>	<i>The Graveyard Book</i>	Neil Gaiman	HarperCollins
<b>2008</b>	<i>Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village</i>	Laura Amy Schlitz	Candlewick
<b>2007</b>	<i>The Higher Power of Lucky</i>	Susan Patron	Simon & Schuster
<b>2006</b>	<i>Criss Cross</i>	Lynne Rae Perkins	Greenwillow

### American Indian Youth Literature Award

The American Indian Youth Literature Award is an award for a book that exemplifies literary excellence that also identifies and honors the very best writing and illustrating by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award present Native Americans in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts. Of the three categories in which the award is given, the middle school category and the young adult category will be of interest to those readers in the grade 6–12 age range.

#### American Indian Youth Literature Award

##### 2010 Young Adult

##### 2010 Middle School

2008 Young Adult	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	Sherman Alexie	Little Brown, 2008
2008 Middle School	<i>Counting Coup: Becoming a Crow Chief on the Reservation</i>	Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow (Absarokee)	National Geographic, 2006
2006 Young Adult	<i>Hidden Roots</i>	Joseph Bruchac	Scholastic, 2004; 2006
2006 Middle School	<i>The Birchbark House</i>	Louise Erdrich	Hyperion, 1999; 2002

### Pura Belpré Award

The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a latino/latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian from the New York Public Library. The award, given biennially until 2008, is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA), an ALA Affiliate.

#### Pura Belpré Award for Narrative

##### 2010

2009	<i>The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom</i>	Margarita Engle	Henry Holt
2008	<i>The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano</i>	Margarita Engle	Henry Holt
2006	<i>The Tequila Worm</i>	Viola Canales	Wendy Lamb/ Random House

**Coretta Scott King Award  
& John Steptoe New Talent Award**

The Coretta Scott King Award is presented annually by the Coretta Scott King Task Force of the American Library Association's Ethnic Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT). Recipients are authors and illustrators of African descent whose distinguished books promote an understanding and appreciation of the "American Dream."

**Coretta Scott King Award**

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**2010**

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<b>2009</b>	<b><i>We Are the Ship: The Story of the Negro League Baseball</i></b>	Kadir Nelson	Jump at the Sun
<b>2008</b>	<b><i>Elijah of Buxton</i></b>	Christopher Paul Curtis	Scholastic
<b>2007</b>	<b><i>Copper Sun</i></b>	Sharon Draper	Atheneum
<b>2006</b>	<b><i>Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue</i></b>	Julius Lester	Jump at the Sun

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**John Steptoe New Talent Award**

The winner may not have published more than three books and may only receive the award once. If the book is selected for the Coretta Scott King Award it is not eligible for the new talent award. There is one award for writing and a second for illustration, if appropriate. If no book is qualified, the award need not be given in that particular year.

**John Steptoe New Talent Award**

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**2010**

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<b>2009</b>	<b><i>Bird</i></b>	Shadra Strickland	Lee & Low Books
<b>2008</b>	<b><i>Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It</i></b>	Sundee T. Frazier	Delacorte Press
<b>2007</b>	<b><i>Standing Against the Wind</i></b>	Tracie L. Jones	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
<b>2006</b>	<b><i>Jimi &amp; Me</i></b>	Jaime Adoff	Jump at the Sun

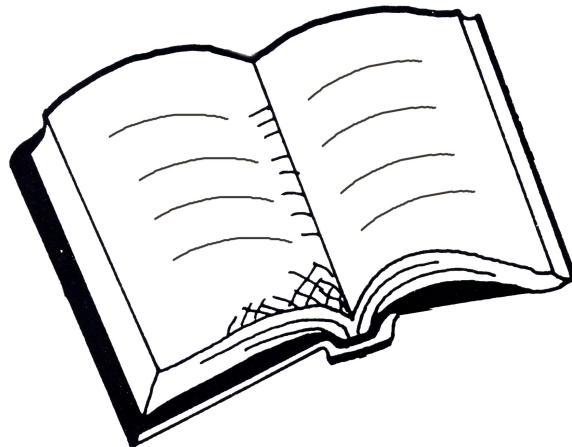
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### Golden Kite Award

Since 1973 the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI) has presented this award to several of their peers. This award is coveted as it is the only award given to a writer or illustrator by his or her peers. The award is presented annually in four categories: fiction, nonfiction, picture book text, and picture book illustration. (2010 awards will be announced in April 2010; awards are accepted at the SCBWI's annual conference in August.)

#### Golden Kite Award

<b>2009 Fiction</b>	<i>Down Sand Mountain</i>	Steve Watkins	Candlewick Press
<b>2009 nonfiction</b>	<i>A Life in the Wild: George Schaller's Struggle to Save the Last Great Beasts</i>	Pamela S. Turner	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
<b>2008 Fiction</b>	<i>Home of the Brave</i>	Katherine Applegate	Feiwel and Friends
<b>2008 nonfiction</b>	<i>Muckrakers</i>	Ann Bausum	National Geographic
<b>2007 Fiction</b>	<i>Firegirl</i>	Tony Abbott	Little, Brown
<b>2007 nonfiction</b>	<i>The Adventures of Marco Polo</i>	Russell Freedman	Arthur A. Levine
<b>2006 Fiction</b>	<i>A Room on Lorelei Street</i>	Mary E. Pearson	Henry Holt
<b>2006 nonfiction</b>	<i>Children of the Great Depression</i>	Russell Freedman	Clarion



### National Book Award

The National Book Awards have been given for the past 55 years. There are four categories: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and young people's literature. The Young People's section was added in 1996. Announced in November of each year.

#### National Book Award

2010			
2009	<i>Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice</i>	Phillip Hoose	Farrar, Straus and Giroux
2008	<i>What I Saw and How I Lied</i>	Judy Blundell	Scholastic
2007	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i>	Sherman Alexie	Little, Brown & Company
2006	<i>The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party</i>	M.T. Anderson	Candlewick Press

### Robert F. Siebert Information Book Award

Established in 2001, the Association of Library Service to Children (ALSC) presents this award annually to the author of the most distinguished information book published in the previous year. The award is named after Robert F. Sibert, a long-time president of Bound-to-Stay Bound Books. That company sponsors the award.

#### Robert F. Siebert Information Book Award

2010			
2009	<i>We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball</i>	Kadir Nelson	Jump at the Sun
2008	<i>The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain</i>	Peter Sis	Frances Foster
2007	<i>Team Moon: How 4000,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon</i>	Catherine Thimmesh	Houghton Mifflin
2006	<i>Secrets of a Civil War Submarine: Solving the Mysteries of the H.L. Hunley</i>	Sally M. Walker	Carolrhoda

### Schneider Family Book Award

The Schneider Family Book Award is given to an author or illustrator for a book that portrays some aspect of living with a disability or a disability of a friend or family member. The disability may be physical, mental, or emotional. Winners in three categories, books for birth through grade school (approx. ages 0–10), middle school [11–13], and teens (age 13–18), are given \$5000 and a framed plaque. Books must have been published in the past three years and be created by a United States author or illustrator. The American Library Association administers the award.

#### Schneider Family Book Award

<b>2010 Teen</b>			
<b>2010 Middle</b>			
<b>2009 Teen</b>	<i>Jerk, California</i>	Jonathan Friesen	Speak/Penguin
<b>2009 Middle</b>	<i>Waiting for Normal</i>	Leslie Connor	HarperCollins
<b>2008 Teen</b>	<i>Hurt Go Happy</i>	Ginny Rorby	Tom Doherty Assoc.
<b>2008 Middle</b>	<i>Reaching for Sun</i>	Tracie Vaughn Zimmer	Bloomsbury
<b>2007 Teen</b>	<i>Small Steps</i>	Louis Sachar	Delacorte Press
<b>2007 Middle</b>	<i>Rules</i>	Cynthia Lord	Scholastic
<b>2006 Teen</b>	<i>Under the Wolf, Under the Dog</i>	Adam Rapp	Candlewick
<b>2006 Middle</b>	<i>Tending to Grace</i>	Kimberly Newton Fusco	Alfred A. Knopf

### The W. Y. Boyd Literary Award

“For Excellence in Military Fiction” —These books are not necessarily YA books but may be suitable. The W. Y. Boyd Award is given for the best fiction set in a period when the United States was at war. The book must have been published in the prior year. It recognizes the service of American veterans and military personnel and encourages the writing and publishing of outstanding war-related fiction. The American Library Association administers the award.

<b>2010</b>			
<b>2009</b>	<i>Peace</i>	Richard Bausch	Vintage/Anchor
<b>2008</b>	<i>A Different Kind of Honor</i>	Robert N. Macomber	Pineapple Press
<b>2007</b>	<i>The Deadly Embrace</i>	Robert J. Mrazek	Penguin
<b>2006</b>	<i>Articles of War</i>	Nick Arvin	Doubleday

## Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) Alex Awards

YALSA and *Booklist* announce the list of “ALEX” books during National Library Week (3rd week of April). The titles are “outstanding adult fiction and non-fiction titles that will intrigue and challenge the diverse audience of teen readers.”

### 2009

- Barlow, Toby. (2008) *Sharp Teeth*. Harper/ HarperCollins.
- Benioff, David. (2008) *City of Thieves*. Viking Penguin.
- Bloom, Stephen. (2008) *The Oxford Project*. Photography by Peter Feldstein. Welcome Books.
- Ferraris, Zoë. (2008) *Finding Nouf*. Houghton Mifflin.
- Jordan, Hillary. . (2008) *Mudbound*. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.
- King, Stephen. (2008) *Just After Sunset: Stories*. Scribner.
- Rebeck, Theresa. (2008) *Three Girls and Their Brother*. Shaye Areheart/Crown.
- Swanwick, Michael. (2008) *The Dragons of Babel*. Tor Book/Tom Doherty Associates.
- Tinti, Hannah. (2008) *The Good Thief*. Dial Press.
- Tucker, Todd. (2008) *Over and Under*. Thomas Dunne/St. Martin’s Press.

### 2008

- Beah, Ishmael. (2007) *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Farrar/Sarah Crichton
- Iggulden, Conn. (2007) *Genghis: Birth of an Empire*. Bantam.
- Jones, Lloyd. (2007) *Mister Pip*. Dial.
- Kyle, Aryn. (2007) *The God of Animals*. Scribner.
- Lemire, Jeff. (2007) *Tales from the Farm: Essex County, v.1*. Top Shelf.
- Lutz, Lisa. (2007) *The Spellman Files*. Simon & Schuster.
- Maltman, Thomas. (2007) *The Night Birds*. Soho,
- Polly, Matthew Polly. (2007) *American Shaolin: Flying Kicks, Buddhist Monks, and the Legend of Iron Crotch; An Odyssey in the New China*. Gotha.
- Rothfuss, Patrick. (2007) *The Name of the Wind*. DAW,
- Ruff, Matt. (2007) *Bad Monkeys*. HarperCollins,

**The Margaret A. Edwards Award  
for Lifetime Achievement**

The Margaret A. Edwards Award, established in 1988, honors an author's lifetime achievement for writing books that have been popular over a period of time. The annual award is administered by YALSA and sponsored by School Library Journal magazine.

First presented in 1988; and now presented annually since 1990.

2009—Laurie Halse Anderson cited for *Catalyst*, *Fever 1793*, and *Speak*.

2008—Orson Scott Card cited for his novels *Ender's Game* and *Ender's Shadow*.

2007—Lois Lowry cited for *The Giver*.

2006—Jacqueline Woodson, cited for giving voice to outsiders often invisible to mainstream America: *I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This*, *Lena*, *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*, *If You Come Softly*, and *Miracle's Boys*.

2005—Francesca Lia Block, cited for her ground-breaking *Weetzie Bat* books: *Weetzie Bat*; *Witch Baby*; *Cherokee Bat and the Goat Guys*; *Missing Angel Juan*; and *Baby Be-Bop*.

2004—Ursula K. Le Guin, cited for *A Wizard of Earthsea*; *The Tombs of Atuan*; *The Farthest Shore*; *Tehanu*; *The Left Hand of Darkness*; and *The Beginning Place*.

2003—Nancy Garden, cited for *Annie On My Mind*.

2002—Paul Zindel, cited for *The Pigman*; *The Pigman's Legacy*; *The Pigman & Me*; *My Darling, My Hamburger*; and *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds: A Drama in Two Acts*.

2001—Robert Lipsyte, cited for *The Contender*; *The Brave*; *The Chief*; and *One Fat Summer*.

2000—Chris Crutcher, cited for *Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes*; *Athletic Shorts*; *Chinese Handcuffs*; *The Crazy Horse Electric Game*; *Stotan!*; and *Running Loose*.



- 1999—Anne McCaffrey, cited for the series *Dragonriders of Pern*, comprising *Dragonflight*, *Dragonquest*, and the *White Dragon. The Ship Who Sang* and the Harper Hall Trilogy: *Dragonsong*, *Dragonsinger*, and *Dragondrums*
- 1998—Madeleine L'Engle, cited for the Austin Family Series, which includes *Meet the Austins* and *A Ring of Endless Light*; and the Time Fantasy Series, which includes *A Wrinkle In Time* and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*.
- 1997—Gary Paulsen, cited for *Hatchet*; *Woodson*; *Winter Room*; *The Crossing*; *Canyons*; and *Dancing Carl*.
- 1996—Judy Blume, cited for *Forever*.
- 1995—Cynthia Voigt, cited for *Homecoming*; *Dacey's Song*; *Solitary Blue*; *Building Blocks*; *The Runner*; *Jackaroo*; and *Izzy, Willy-Nilly*.
- 1994—Walter Dean Myers cited for *Hoops*, *Motown & Didi*, *Fallen Angels*, and *Scorpions*.
- 1993— M.E. Kerr (Maryjane Meaker) cited for *Dinky Hocker Shoots Smack!*, *Gentlehands*, *Me Me Me Me Me: Not a Novel*, and *Night Kites*.
- 1992—Lois Duncan
- 1991— Robert Cormier cited for three of his books: *After the First Death*, *The Chocolate War*, and *I Am the Cheese*
- 1990— Richard Peck cited for *Are You in the House Alone?*, *Father Figure*, *The Ghost Belonged to Me*, *Ghosts I Have Been*, *Remembering the Good Times*, and *Secrets of the Shopping Mall*.
- 1988—S.E. Hinton cited for *The Outsiders*, *That Was Then This Is Now*, *Rumble Fish*, and *Tex*.

For a complete list, visit [www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards/](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/edwards/)

**McElmeel's Significant Books  
A List of One Hundred**

These titles were selected by twenty educators who work with young adult readers. They, with their students, selected five “top” novels. Their selections were based holistically on literary quality and popularity. This is a collated list of their selections. They were not asked to justify their selections or to vet the titles for award potential or any other criteria other than what they established for themselves.

1. Alexie, Sherman. (2007) *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Illustrated by E. Forney. Little, Brown.
2. Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2008) *Twisted*. Viking.
3. Anderson, Laurie Halse. (2009) *Wintergirls*. Viking.
4. Anderson, M.T. (2006) *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing: Traitor to the Nation, Volume 1: the Pox Party*. Candlewick Press.
5. Applegate, Katherine. (2007) *Home of the Brave*. Square Fish.
6. Asher, Jay. (2007) *Thirteen Reasons Why*. RazorBill.
7. Beah, Ishmael. (2007) *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. Sarah Crichton Books.
8. Bennett, Veronica. (2007) *Cassandra's Sister*. Candlewick Press.
9. Bingham, Kelly. (2007) *Shark Girl*. Candlewick Press.
10. Blundell, Judy. (2008) *What I Saw and How I Lied*. Scholastic.
11. Brooks, Kevin. (2006) *Road of the Dead*. Scholastic.
12. Buckley-Archer, Linda. (2006) *Gideon the Cutpurse: Book One in the Gideon Trilogy*. Simon And Schuster Books for Young Readers.
13. Carvell, Marlene. (2005) *Sweetgrass Basket*. Dutton Children's Books.
14. Cashore, Kristin. (2008) *Graceling*. Harcourt.
15. Clare, Cassandra. (2009) *City of Bones*. Margaret K. McElderry/Simon & Schuster.
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28. Efaw, Amy. (2009) *After*. Viking.
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75. Peck, Richard. (2006) *The Teacher's Funeral, A Comedy in Three Parts*. Dial Books.
76. Pfeffer, Susan Beth. (2006) *Life As We Knew It*. Harcourt.
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78. Pratchett, Terry. (2006) *Wintersmith*. Harper Teen.
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81. Riordan, Rick. (2008) *39 Clues Book 1: Maze of Bones*. Scholastic.
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83. Robison, John Elder. (2008) *Look Me in the Eye: My Life With Asperger's*. Three Rivers.
84. Rowling, J.K. (2005) *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Scholastic.
85. Schutz, Samatha. (2006) *I Don't Want to be Crazy*. Scholastic.

86. Selznick, Brian. (2007) *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Scholastic.
87. Shusterman, Neal. (2007) *Unwind*. Simon & Schuster.
88. Smith, Hope Anita. (2008) *Keeping the Night Watch*. Henry Holt.
89. Smith, Sherri L. (2009) *Flygirl*. Penguin/G.P. Putnam's Sons.
90. Snicket, Lemony. (2006) *A Series of Unfortunate Events: The End*. Harper Collins.
91. Stone, Tanya Lee. (2009) *Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream*. Candlewick.
92. Stork, Francisco X. (2009) *Marcelo in the Real World*. Arthur A. Levine Books.
93. Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. (2008) *Skim*. House of Anansi.
94. Tammet, Daniel. (2006) *Born on a Blue Day: Inside the Extraordinary Mind of an Autistic Savant, A Memoir*. Free Press.
95. Weatherford, Carol Boston. (2008) *Becoming Billie Holiday*. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Boyd Mills/Wordsong.
96. Werlin, Nancy. (2008) *Impossible*. Dial Books.
97. Westerfeld, Scott. (2005) *Uglies*. Simon Pulse.
98. Weyn, Suzanne. (2006) *The Bar Code Rebellion*. Scholastic.
99. Wizner, Jake (2008) *Spanking Shakespeare*. NY: Random House.
100. Woodson, Jacqueline. (2008) *After Tupac & D. Foster*. G. Putnam and Sons.

---

Why are these books considered significant?

How many do you know?

What five titles would you add? (past five years)

### Words from Bibliophiles

“When I get a little money, I buy books; and, if any is left, I buy food and clothes.”—Erasmus

“Time spent reading, like time spent loving, increases our lifetime.”—Daniel Pennac

“Some books are undeservedly forgotten, none are undeservedly remembered.”—W.H. Auden

“Libraries are reservoirs of strength, grace and wit, reminders of order, calm and continuity, lakes of mental energy, neither warm nor cold, light nor dark...”—Germaine Greer

“When an old man dies, a library burns to the ground.”—African Proverb

“Anyone who says they have only one life to live must not know how to read a book.”—Anonymous

“I have always imagined that Paradise will be a kind of library.”—Jorge Luis Borges

“The library is the temple of learning, and learning has liberated more people than all the wars in history.”—Carl Rowan

“I am a part of everything I have read.”—John Kieran

“A book must be an ice ax to break the frozen sea within us.”—Franz Kafka

“Outside of a dog, a book is a man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read.”—Groucho Marx

“People say that life's the thing, but I prefer reading.”—Logan P. Smith

“No story ever really ends, and I think I know why.”—George MacDonald

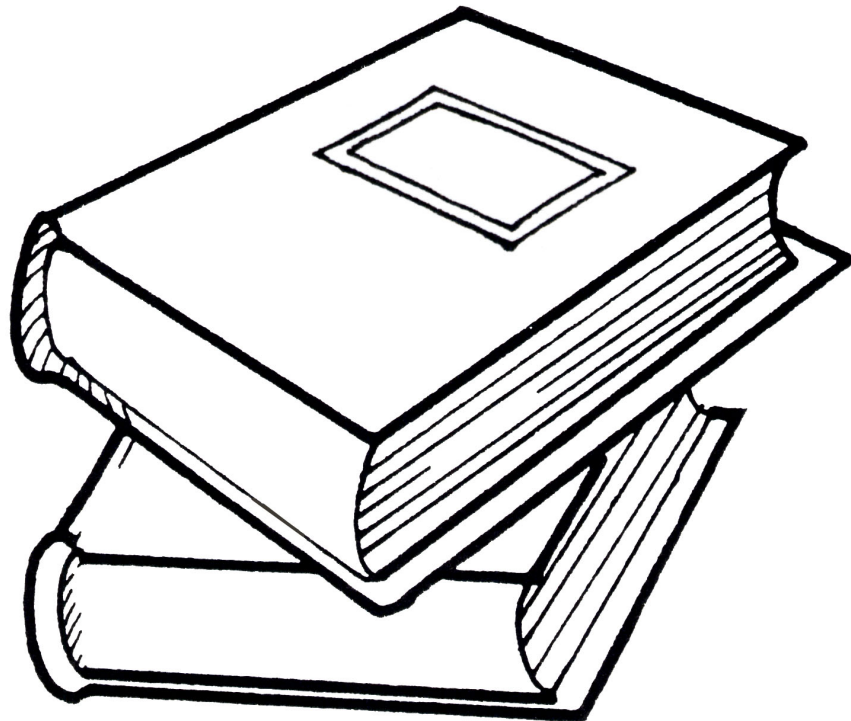
“A house without books is like a room without windows.”—Horace Mann

“When you sell a person a book you don't sell just twelve ounces of paper and ink and glue; you sell a whole new life.”—Christopher Morley

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# **Section 8**

## **Theme Lists, Book Packages, and Other Things**



## Theme Lists and Book Packages

### Introduction

If you subscribe to the fact that readers learn more effectively when they already know something about a topic, you will want to consider "pairing" or creating book packages of books for readers to read. Experiences or having read one book help to build concepts in a particular area that mean something to them and to their particular background or culture. When a second book is linked to that first book, the link helps the reader take in new information to complement their prior knowledge. The reader's interest and curiosity are activated, and activities relating to either one of the books are infused with a sense of purpose. Some refer to this pairing (which may limit the selections to just two) or packaging as "bundling," which could conceivably include any number of titles but most often includes 4–5 titles that relate in some way. The packaging of related titles need not be non-fiction with fiction; for example, the packaging might be several books of fiction with a similar theme, focus, or setting. Other types of packages are appropriate as well: fiction with non-fiction; fiction with fiction; non-fiction with non-fiction; fiction with film; non-fiction with film; and so forth.

Longer lists are generally referred to as "thematic lists." By using one book (a familiar title perhaps) to activate a reader's prior knowledge, the stage can be set for enhancing comprehension, for setting a purpose for reading/listening, and for providing new meaningful and challenging experiences and a new reading.

**Historical Novels and Picture Books for World War II -- Dr. Seuss and More—**  
See list at <[www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/picturebooks\\_WWII.html](http://www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/picturebooks_WWII.html)>

**Hip! Hip! Hooray for Librarians** — See list at  
<[www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/hiphiphooray.html](http://www.mcelmeel.com/curriculum/hiphiphooray.html)>

### **Ellen & William Craft (and Slavery)**

Connect non-fiction, short stories, full-length historical fiction

- Fradin, Judith Bloom and Dennis Brindell Fradin. (2006) *5,000 Miles to Freedom: Ellen and William Craft's Flight From Slavery*. National Geographic.
- Lester, Julius. (1982; 2006) *This Strange New Feeling: Three Love Stories from Black History*. Dial.
- Lester, Julius. (2005) *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun.



**Columbine and other School Tragedies Examined.**

Connect non-fiction and fiction

- Brown, Jennifer. (2009) *The Hate List*. Little, Brown. <[www.jennifunny.com/](http://www.jennifunny.com/)>.
- Cullen, Dave. (2009) *Columbine*. Twelve. (non-fiction) See <[www.davecullen.com/](http://www.davecullen.com/)>.
- Picoult, Jodi. (2007) *Nineteen Minutes*. Atria.

**Classic and Contemporary Fiction Connections**

A source that will contain many suggestions is *From Hinton to Hamlet: Building Bridges between Young Adult Literature and the Classics Hamlet*

**Romeo and Juliet.**

- Shakespeare. *Romeo and Juliet*. (Classic, various editions).
- Lee, Marie G. (2001 pb) *Finding My Voice*. HarperTeen.
- Avi. (1988) *Romeo and Juliet--Together (And Alive!) at Last*. HarperCollins.

**Midsummer Night's Dream**

- Shakespeare. *Midsummer Night's Dream*. (Classic, various editions).
- Gorman, Carol. (2004) *Midsummer Night's Dork*. HarperCollins. See <[www.carolgorman.com/books/dorkmid.html](http://www.carolgorman.com/books/dorkmid.html)> for a comparison chart; and a link to *Shakespeare in Contemporary Literature -- A book list compiled by librarian Heidi Anne Heiner*

**Death of a Salesman**

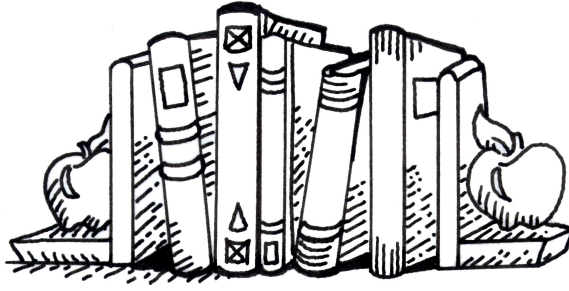
- Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. (Classic, various editions).
- Voigt, Cynthia. (1985; 1994 pb) *The Runner*. Scholastic.

**A Doll's House**

- Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. (Classic, various editions).
- Bridgers, Sue Ellen. (1994 pb) *Permanent Connections*. Banks Channel Books.

**Explain and Answer These Questions**

1. This vacuum cleaner is wonderful it really sucks.
2. The third hand on my clock, the “second” hand, is bent.
3. If you don’t know how to spell a word, look it up in the dictionary, which is arranged alphabetically by the word’s spelling.
4. Webster wrote the first dictionary; where did he get the words.
5. When something is out of whack; what is a whack?
6. How are my actions the same or different if I “slow up” or if I “slow down?”
7. What is the difference between “fat chance “ and “slim chance?”
8. When a boat pushes a barge up the river why do we call them “tug” boats.
9. Why would we sing “Take me out to the ball game” at the ball game when we are already there?
10. Why do we sit in the “stands” at a sports stadium?
11. When it is dark outside, why do we call the time “after dark” when it is really “after light.”
12. If one expects the unexpected then isn’t the unexpected expected?
13. Is a wise man a wise guy as well?
14. If I am asked to with oversee a job and I do overlook the job – have I done a good job?
15. Why isn’t “phonics” spelled “fonix?”
16. If work is so great, why do employers have to pay their employees to do it?
17. If all the world is a stage, where does the audience sit?
18. If love is blind, why is Victoria Secrets doing such a huge business?
19. Why do we put suits in a garment bag, and garments in a suitcase?
20. Why is “abbreviated” such a long word?
21. Why doesn’t glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
22. A group of eight glasses is a set, but our one television is also a set.
23. Why are cars driven on a parkway, but are parked on a driveway?
24. How can “shrimp” be billed as “jumbo shrimp?”



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## About the Author

**Sharron L. McElmeel** has built a national reputation as a resource for those interested in children's and young adult literature. In addition to having written more than two-dozen books in the area of children's and young adult literature, she is an instructor at the University of Wisconsin-Stout and writes and edits for a number of educational publications. She has been named as Iowa Reading Teacher of the Year by the Iowa Reading Association, honored with the organization's Celebrate Literacy Award, nominated as Iowa's Teacher of the Year, and named one of the Top Ten Online Educators of the Year. She is an often-requested speaker at conferences and professional development workshops. Contact McBookwords by e-mail ([mcelmeel@mcelmeel.com](mailto:mcelmeel@mcelmeel.com)) or phone (319) 393-2562. More information is available online at [www.mcelmeel.com](http://www.mcelmeel.com) and [www.mcbookwords.com](http://www.mcbookwords.com)

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***Too Good to Miss*** (2004) Libraries

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