

2009

A Guide for Reading

Summer reading is an enjoyable experience designed to keep reading skills active. Our goal is for your child to read enjoyable material frequently during these summer weeks. Research has shown that the best way to improve reading skills is to READ – and the material being read should not be so challenging that the enjoyment of reading is lost. The following is a list of **suggested** titles and authors. Other books that a child enjoys are certainly appropriate

Caldecott winning books are also included in this guide. The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator, Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded each year to the illustrator of the most outstanding American picture book. The book selections are made by the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association).

Another reading list in this guide is the “Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominees” list. The Texas Bluebonnet Award reading program was established in 1979 by the Texas Library Association to encourage Texas children to read more books and identify their favorite books. The award process provides librarians, teachers, parents, and writers with insight into young students' reading preferences. It also offers an opportunity to honor and encourage imaginative authors who create books with high appeal to children. [The Texas Library Association sponsors the Texas Bluebonnet Award reading list solely to encourage free voluntary reading that appeal to students from third grade through sixth grade.](#) The goal for students is to read at least five of the books from the list by late January. Students who accomplish this will be invited to the library where they will vote for their favorite bluebonnet book. Students all over Texas will vote at the same time. The votes all over Texas will be tabulated and one author will be chosen winner of the Texas Bluebonnet Award.

Also included is the Newbery Award list. The Newbery Medal is named for eighteenth-century bookseller, John Newbery. It is awarded each year by the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association). The author of the most distinguished contribution to American Literature has received this award since 1922.

At St. Clement's we like to give special recognition to our students who read during the summer. So please use the enclosed summer reading record form to keep track of reading. If your child brings in his/her list of summer reading accomplishments to the library when school starts in September, we will have a special prize just for them.

Have a great summer and happy reading!

Nethia Kelly, Librarian
Maggie Jackson, Librarian

2009-2010 Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominees

Here it is! The new list of Texas Bluebonnet Award Nominees. Third through sixth grade students, if you read at least five of these books, you will be invited to come to the library and vote for your favorite Bluebonnet Award Nominee the last week of January. The votes of all Texas students will be tabulated and a winner chosen.

TITLE	AUTHOR	Date Read	Parent Initial
The Penderwicks on Gardam Street	Birdsall, Jeanne	_____	_____
Surprises According to Humphrey	Birney, Betty G.	_____	_____
Nic Bishop Frogs	Bishop, Nic	_____	_____
Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale	Deedy, Carmen Agra	_____	_____
The Gollywhopper Games	Feldman, Jody	_____	_____
The Luck of the Loch Ness Monster: A Tale of Picky Eating	Flaherty, A.W.	_____	_____
Piper Reed: Navy Brat	Holt, Kimberly Willis	_____	_____
What to do About Alice? How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!	Kerley, Barbara	_____	_____
Savvy	Law, Ingrid	_____	_____
Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls	Look, Lenore	_____	_____
Two-Minute Drill	Lupica, Mike	_____	_____
Yum! MmMm! Que Rico!: America's Sproutings	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	_____	_____
The Hound of Rowan	Neff, Henry H.	_____	_____
We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro Baseball	Nelson, Kadir	_____	_____
Lady Liberty: A Biography	Rappaport, Doreen	_____	_____
Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City	Schulman, Janet	_____	_____
Maybelle in the Soup	Speck, Katie	_____	_____
Where I Live	Spinelli, Eileen	_____	_____
Help Me, Mr. Mutt!	Stevens, Janet and Susan	_____	_____
Someone Named Eva	Wolf, Joan M.	_____	_____

CALDECOTT MEDAL WINNING BOOKS

The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator, Randolph Caldecott. It is awarded each year to the illustrator of the most outstanding American picture book. The book selections are made by the Association for Library Service to Children (a division of the American Library Association).

2009	The House in the Night. Krommes, Susan Marie, Illustrator.	1972	One Fine Day. Horogian, Nancy
2008	The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Selznick, Brian	1971	A Story, a Story. Haley, Gail
2007	Flotsam. Wiesner, David.	1970	Sylvester and the Magic Pebble. Steig, William
2006	The Hello, Goodbye Window. Juster, Norton	1969	The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship. Shulevitz, Uri
2005	Kitten's First Full Moon. Henkes, Kevin	1968	Drummer Hoff. Emberley, Ed
2004	The Man Who Walked Between the Towers Gerstein, Mordiacai	1967	Sam, Bangs and Moonshine. Ness, Evaline
2003	My Friend Rabbit. Rohmann, Eric	1966	Always Room for One More. Hogrogian, Nonny
2002	The Three Pigs. Wiesner, David	1965	May I Bring a Friend? Montresor, Beni
2001	So, You Want to Be President. Small, David	1964	Where the Wild Things Are. Sendak, Maurice
2000	Joseph Had a Little Coat. Taback, Simms	1963	The Snowy Day. Keats, Ezra Jack
1999	Snowflake Bentley. Azarian, Mary	1962	Once a Mouse... Brown, Marcia
1998	Rapunzel. Zelinsky, Paul O.	1961	Baboushka and the Three Kings. Sidjakov, Nicolas
1997	Golem. Wisniewski, David	1960	Nine Days to Christmas. Ets, Marie Hall
1996	Officer Buckle and Gloria. Rathmann, Peggy	1959	Chanticleer and the Fox. Cooney, Barbara
1995	Smoky Night. Diaz, David	1958	Time of Wonder. McCloskey, Robert
1994	Grandfather's Journey. Say, Allen	1957	A Tree is Nice. Simont, Marc
1993	Mirette on the High Wire. McCulley, Emily	1956	Frog Went A-Courtin'. Rojankovsky, Feodor
1992	Tuesday. Wiesner, David	1955	Cinderella. Brown, Marcia
1991	Black and White. Macaulay, David	1954	Madeline's Rescue. Bemelmans, Ludwig
1990	Lon Po Po. Young, Ed	1953	The Biggest Bear. Ward, Lynd
1989	Song and Dance Man. Gammall, Stephen	1952	Finders Keepers. Mordvinoff, Nicolas
1988	Owl Moon. Schoenherr, John	1951	The Egg Tree. Milhous, Katherine
1987	Hey, Al. Egielski, Richard	1950	Son of the Swallows. Politi, Leo
1986	The Polar Express. Van Allsburg, Chris	1949	The Big Snow. Hader, Berta & Elmer
1985	Saint George and the Dragon. Hyman, Trina Schart	1948	White Snow, Bright Snow. Duvaisini, Roger
1984	The Glorious Flight. Provensen, Alice & Martin	1947	The Little Island. Weisgard, Leonard
1983	Shadow. Brown, Marcia	1946	The Rooster Crows. Petersham, Maud and Miska
1982	Jumanji. Van Allsburg, Chris	1945	Prayer for a Child. Jones, Elizabeth
1981	Fables. Lobel, Arnold	1944	Many Moons. Slobodkin, Louis
1980	Ox-Cart Man. Cooney, Barbara	1943	The Little House. Burton, Virginia Lee
1979	The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses. Goble, Paul	1942	Make Way for Ducklings. McCloskey, Robert
1978	Noah's Ark. Spier, Peter	1941	They Were Strong and Good. Lawson, Robert
1977	Ashanti to Zulu, African Traditions. Dillon, Leo & Diane	1940	Abraham Lincoln. d'Aulaire, Ingri & Edgar
1976	Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears. Dillon, Leo & Diane	1939	Mei Lei. Hanforth, Thomas
1975	Arrow to the Sun. McDermott, Gerald	1938	Animals of the Bible. Lathop, Dorothy P.
1974	Duffy and the Devil. Zemach, Harve & Margaret		
1973	The Funny Little Women. Lent, Blair		

The Newbery Medal

The Newbery Medal is named for an Eighteenth Century bookseller, John Newbery. It is awarded each year by the Association for Library Services to Children (a division of the American Library Association). The author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature has received this award since 1922.

2009	The Graveyard Book. Gaiman, Neil	1966	I, Juan de Pareja. de Trevino, Elizabeth Borton
2008	Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! : Voices from a Medieval Village. Schlitz, Laura Amy.	1965	Shadow of a Bull. Wojciechowska, Maia
2007	The Higher Power of Lucky. Patron, Susan	1964	It's Like This Cat. Neville, Emily
2006	Criss Cross.. Perkins, Lynne Rae	1963	A Wrinkle in Time. L'Engle, Madeleine
2005	Kira-Kira. Kadohata, Cynthia	1962	The Bronze Bow. Speare, Elizabeth George
2004	Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, and a Spool of Thread DiCamillo, Kate	1961	Island of the Blue Dolphins. O'Dell, Scott
2003	Crispin: The Cross of Lead. Avi	1960	Onion John. Krumbgold, Joseph
2002	A Single Shard. Park, Linda Sue	1959	The Witch of Blackbird Pond. Speare, Elizabeth
2001	Year Down Yonder. Peck, Richard	1958	Rifles for Waitie. Keith, Harold
2000	Bud, Not Buddy. Curtis, Christopher	1957	Miracles on Maple Hill. Sorensen, Virginia
1999	Holes. Sachar, Louis	1956	Carry on, Mr. Bowditch. Latham, Jean
1998	Out of the Dust. Hesse, Karen	1955	The Wheel on the School. Dejong, Meindert
1997	The View from Saturday. Konigsburg, E.L.	1954	...And Now, Miguel. Krumbgold, Joseph
1996	Midwife's Apprentice. Cushman, Karen	1953	Secret of the Andes. Clark, Ann Nolan
1995	Walk Two Moons. Creech, Sharon	1952	Ginger Pye. Estes, Eleanor
1994	The Giver. Lowry, Lois	1951	Amos Fortune: Tree Man. Yates, Elizabeth
1993	Missing May. Rylant, Cynthia	1950	The Door in the Wall. de Angeli, Marguerite
1992	Shiloh. Naylor, Phylis R.	1949	King of the Wind. Henry, Marguerite
1991	Maniac Magee. Spinelli, Jerry	1948	The 21 Balloons. du Bois, William P.
1990	Number the Stars. Lowry, Lois	1947	Miss Hickory. Bailey, Carolyn
1989	Joyful Noise: Poems for Two Voices. Fleischman, Paul	1946	Strawberry Girl. Lenski, Lois
1988	Lincoln: A Photobiography. Freeman, Russell	1945	Rabbit Hill. Lawson, Robert
1987	The Whipping Boy. Fleischman, Sid	1944	Johnny Tremain: A Story of the Boston Revolt. Forbes, Ester
1986	Sarah, Plain and Tall. MacLachlan, Patricia	1943	Adam of the Road. Gray, Elizabeth Janet
1985	The Hero and the Crown. McKinley, Robin	1942	The Matchlock Gun. Edmonds, Walter D.
1984	Dear Mr. Henshaw. Cleary, Beverly	1941	Call It Courage. Sperry, Armstrong
1983	Dacey's Song. Voight, Cynthia	1940	Daniel Boone. Daugherty, James
1982	A Visit to William Blake's Inn. Willard, Nancy	1939	Thimble Summer. Enright, Elizabeth
1981	Jacob Have I Loved. Paterson, Katherine	1938	White Stag. Seredy, Kate
1980	A Gathering of Days: A New England Girl's Journal 1830 - 32. Blos, Joan	1937	Roller Skates. Sawyer, Ruth
1979	The Westing Game. Raskin, Ellen	1936	Caddie Woodlawn. Brink, Carol Ryrie
1978	Bridge to Terabithia. Paterson, Katherine	1935	Dobry. Shannon, Monica
1977	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry. Taylor, Mildred	1934	Invincible Louisa: The Story of the Author of "Little Women". Meighs, Cornelia
1976	The Grey King. Cooper, Susan	1933	Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze. Lewis, Elizabeth
1975	M.C. Higgins, the Great. Hamilton, Virginia	1932	Waterless Mountain. Armer, Laura Adams
1974	The Slave Dancer. Fox, Paula	1931	The Cat Who Went to Heaven. Coatsworth, Elizabeth
1973	Julie of the Wolves. George, Jean Craighead	1930	Hitty, Her First Hundred Years. Field, Rachel
1972	Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH. O'Brien, Robert	1929	The Trumpeter of Krakow. Kelly, Eric P.
1971	The Summer of the Swans. Byars, Betsy	1928	Gay-Neck: the Story of a Pigeon. Mukerji, Dhan
1970	Sounder. Armstrong, William H.	1927	Smoky, the Cow Horse. James, Will
1969	The High King. Alexander, Lloyd	1926	Shen of the Sea. Chrisman, Arthur
1968	From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler. Konigsburg, E. L.	1925	Tales from Silver Lands. Finger, Charles
1967	Up the Road Slowly. Hunt, Irene	1924	The Dark Frigate. Hawes, Charles B.
		1923	The Voyage of Doctor Doolittle. Lofting, Hugh
		1922	The Story of Mankind. Van Loon, Hendrik

Summer Reading Record

Name _____

Grade _____

Author and Title

#of pages

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

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12. _____

13. _____

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15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE

Some of the best books of the year

Barrett, Judi. **Never Take a Shark to the Dentist (and other things not to do).**

A list of things one should not do with various animals, such as "hold hands with a lobster."

Berne, Jennifer. **Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau.**

An illustrated biography of Jacques Cousteau, discussing how his youthful fascinations with filming and underwater exploration translated into his life's work, and telling of his later devotion to saving the ocean environment.

Binkow, Howard, **Howard B. Wigglebottom Listens to his Heart.**

Howard, feeling as if he is not good at anything, takes his grandfather's advice and does what makes him happy, resulting in him impressing all of his classmates with his dance moves.

Campbell, Sarah C. **Wolfsnail.**

Close-up photographs and simple text describe how a wolf snail hunts, attacks, and eats its prey.

DiPucchio, Kelly S. **Grace for President.**

After finding out there has never been a female U.S. president, Grace decides to run in her school's mock election, where she learns about the American electoral system and sets out to be the best person for the job even though her opponent, Thomas, seems to be winning all the boys' votes.

Frazer, Marla. **A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever.**

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

Frost, Helen and Leonid Gore. **Monarch and Milkweed.**

Illustrations and text describe the lifecycle of the monarch butterfly and its link with the milkweed plant.

George, Jean Craighead. **Goose and Duck.**

A young boy becomes the "mother" to a goose, who becomes "mother" to a duck, as they learn about the rhythms of nature together.

Graham, Bob. **How to Heal a Broken Wing.**

When a boy finds a wounded bird on a busy street, he and his parents take it home and tenderly care for it, hoping that it will one day fly again.

Grant, Judyann Ackerman. **Chicken Said, Cluck!**

Chicken wants to help Earl and Pearl plant their pumpkins, but she only manages to get in the way, until grasshoppers invade the pumpkin patch and Chicken is the only one who can stop them.

Grey, Mini. **Traction Man Meets Turbo Dog.**

Traction Man braves the evil bin things in order to save Scrubbing Brush, who had been thrown away by the little boy's father and replaced with a battery-operated dog.

Himmelman, John. **Katie Loves the Kittens.**

Sara Ann brings home three little kittens, but Katie the dog's enthusiasm scares the kittens, until she learns that being more patient brings about friendship.

Lee, Suzy. **Wave.**

Simplicity is the hallmark of this wordless picture book in which a child interacts with the ocean, first with caution and frustration and then with confidence, playfulness, and joy. Subdued charcoal drawings are a perfect match for the sparkling blue water that takes on a life of its own.

Martin, Bill, Jr. **The Bill Martin Jr. Big Book of Poetry.**

An illustrated collection of poems for children, featuring the writings of a wide variety of poets, selected as favorites by Bill Martin, Jr.

McCarthy, Meghan. **Astronaut Handbook.**

Illustrations and simple text describe how astronauts prepare for their first mission into space and what it is like to live in outer space.

McCarthy, Meghan. **City Hawk: The Story of Pale Male.**

Pale Male and his mate Lola, a pair of red-tailed hawks, build a nest on the ledge of an apartment building and raise their chicks in downtown New York City.

Monroe, Chris. **Monkey with a Tool Belt.**

Clever monkey Chico Bon Bon builds lots of things with his many tools, and when he is captured by an organ grinder, he uses them to help him escape and get back home.

Mora, Pat. **Yum! MmmMmm! Que Rico! America's Sproutings.**

A collection of haikus that celebrates indigenous foods of the Americas, such as blueberries and vanilla, and includes information about each food's origins.

Page, Robin. **How Many Ways Can You Catch a Fly?**

Looks at how different animals, such as a rainbow trout, chimney swift, and slender loris, approach the challenges of catching flies, digging holes, eating clams, and hatching eggs.

Ryan, Pam Munoz. **Our California.**

Colorful illustrations and rhyming text describes the sights and sounds of California. Includes historical facts about cities.

Shea, Bob and Lane Smith. **Big Plans.**

An unrepentant little boy, sent to the corner for bad behavior, thinks about his very big plans for the future.

Shulevitz, Uri. **How I Learned Geography.**

As he spends hours studying his father's world map, a young boy escapes the hunger and misery of refugee life. 'Based on the author's childhood in Kazakhstan, where he lived as a Polish refugee during World War II.

Seeger, Laura, Vaccaro. **One Boy.**

A boy creates ten paintings in this counting book that also explores the relationship of words within words.

Smith, Lane. **Madam President.**

A little girl imagines what her day would be like if she were President of the United States.

Stevens, Janet. **Help Me, Mr. Mutt! Expert Answers for Dogs with People Problems.**

Dogs across the United States write to Mr. Mutt, a people expert, for help with their humans.

Willems, Mo. **Are You Ready to Play Outside?**

Elephant, who is cautious and pessimistic, and Piggie, who is optimistic and sometimes reckless, go outside to play in the sun and hope that it does not rain.

Willems, Mo. **The Pigeon wants a Puppy!**

The pigeon really, really wants a puppy, but when a puppy arrives the pigeon changes its mind.

Wheeler, Lisa. **Castaway Cats.**

This fun story is about eight cats and seven kittens and how they survive being in a capsized boat and make their new life on an island.

SECOND AND THIRD GRADE

Some of the Best Books of the year

Agee, Jon. **Nothing.**

When Suzie Gump, the richest lady in town, walks into Otis's empty antique shop and insists on buying nothing, she starts a fad that has everyone buying nothing and emptying their homes and stores to make room for it--until Suzie realizes things have gone too far.

Applegate, Katherine. **The Buffalo Storm.**

Hallie and her parents join a wagon train to Oregon leaving her grandmother behind, and now Hallie must learn to face the storms that frighten her as well as other, newer fears, with just her grandmother's quilt to comfort her.

Blake, Robert J. **Swift.**

After his father is attacked by a bear, a young boy must trust the instincts of his dog Swift in order to save his dad and return home safely.

Blume, Judy. **Soupy Saturdays with the Pain and the Great One.**

Seven stories with universal situations giving a peek at how a brother and sister relate to each other.

Bolden, Tonya. **George Washington Carver.**

A biography of American botanical researcher and agronomy educator, George Washington Carver, whose work to promote alternative crops in the post-war South played a major role in revolutionizing Southern agriculture.

Cole, Brock. **Good Enough to Eat.**

An Ogre comes to town demanding a bride, so the mayor decides to sacrifice a homeless girl with no name whom everyone thinks is a pest; however, she finds a way to outwit them all.

Di Camillo, Louise, **The Adventures of a Chicken.**

Longing for adventure, intrepid Louise leaves her comfortable nest and goes to sea.

DiPucchio, Kelly. **Sipping Spiders Through a Straw.**

A collection of creepy critters sing their favorite campfire sing-alongs, slightly altered for little monsters.

Harley, Avis. **The Monarch's Progress.**

Presents eighteen poems in such forms as haiku, sonnet, and cinquain that explore the life cycle, migration, history, and beauty of monarch butterflies, and includes a fact section.

Harper, Charise Mericle. **Just Grace Walks the Dog.**

Eight-year-old Just Grace and her best friend Mimi embark on a campaign to convince Grace's parents that they are responsible and dependable enough to get a dog.

Hopkinson, Deborah. **Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek; A Tall Thin Tale (Introducing His Forgotten Frontier Friend)**

In Knob Creek, Kentucky, in 1816, seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his best friend, Austin Gollaher.

Katz, Alan. **Smelly Locker: Silly Dilly School Songs.**

Well-known songs, including "Oh Susannah" and "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," are presented with new words and titles, such as "Heavy Backpack!" and "I Don't Want to Do Homework!"

Kimmel, Eric A. **The Great Texas Hamster Drive: An Original Tall Tale.**

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

Kitamura, Satoshi. **Stone Age Boy.**

A young boy falls down a hole and is transported to the Stone Age where he learns about how people lived fifteen thousand years ago.

Michelson, Richard. **As Good as Anybody: Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Joshua Heschel's Amazing March Toward Freedom.**

Describes the experiences that influenced Martin Luther King, Jr., and Abraham Joshua Heschel's civil rights activism and discusses the friendship between the two men.

Mitchell, Stephen **The Ugly Duckling.**

An ugly duckling, teased by the other animals because he doesn't fit in, learns the true meaning of beauty and belonging after making a surprising discovery.

Morse, Scott. **Magic Pickle.**

The Magic Pickle, a secret weapon created in a special lab under the floor of Jo Jo Wigman's bedroom, and Jo Jo set out to stop the Brotherhood of the Evil Produce. Presented in graphic novel form.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler. **Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman.**

Relates the story of Cleveland teenagers Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster's creation of Superman.

Osborne, Mary Pope. **Monday with a Mad Genius.**

The Magic Treehouse Series: Jack and Annie travel 500 years back in time to Florence, Italy, and spend a day helping Leonardo da Vinci in the hope of learning another secret of happiness.

Pennypacker, Sara. **Clementine's Letter.**

After learning that her favorite teacher will be leaving for a trip to Egypt and will be absent for the remainder of the year, Clementine devises a plan to get rid of the substitute and get Mr. D'Matz to stay.

Rabin, Staton. **Mr. Lincoln's Boys: Being the Mostly True Adventures of Abraham Lincoln's Trouble-Making Sons, Tad and Willie**

Includes bibliographical references. An illustrated story recounting the adventures of Abraham Lincoln and his two sons that focuses on the years Lincoln was President.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Abe's Honest Words: The Life of Abraham Lincoln.**

An illustrated biography of Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth president of the United States and the man responsible for seeing the country through the Civil War.

Rappaport, Doreen. **Lady Liberty: A Biography.**

Presents an illustrated biography of the Statue of Liberty, describing who designed it and why, and how it came to become a symbol of the United States.

Rosen, Michael. **Our Farm: Four Seasons With Five Kids on One Family's Farm.**

Children describe their day-to-day experiences on their family farm and explain how those experiences change with the seasons.

Rumford, James. **Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad.**

As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses the art of calligraphy to distance himself from the horror of war.

Stone, Tanya Lee. **Sandy's Circus: A Story About Alexander Calder.**

An illustrated account of American mobile artist Alexander Calder's creation of a miniature circus from wire, string, rubber, cloth, and other found objects, which grew to fill multiple suitcases.

Weatherford, Carole, Boston. **I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer.**

Shares the story of Matthew Henson, an African-American man who vigorously pursued his dream to reach the North Pole along with explorer Robert Peary.

FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADES

(Some of the) Best Books of the Year

Appelt, Kathi. *The Underneath.*

An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's run-down shack, and two kittens born underneath the house, endure separation, danger, and many other tribulations in their quest to be reunited and free.

Balliett, Blue. *The Calder Game.*

When seventh-grader Calder Pillay disappears from a remote English village--along with an Alexander Calder sculpture to which he has felt strangely drawn--his friends Petra and Tommy fly from Chicago to help his father find him.

Bradley, Timothy J. *Paleo Bugs: Survival of the Creepiest.*

A plated body, five eyes, and a tubular appendage terminating in a spiny jaw describe one of the amazing arthropods introduced in this spellbinding journey back in time. Absorbing facts accompany close-up renderings of fantastic creatures swimming, crawling, and sailing through otherworldly landscapes that will mesmerize readers.

Clements, Andrew. *Lost and Found.*

Twin brothers Jay and Ray Grayson learn about friendship, honesty, and themselves after taking advantage of a clerical oversight in which their new school thinks there is only one Grayson boy.

Creech, Sharon. *Hate That Cat.*

Jack is studying poetry again in school, and he continues to write poems reflecting his understanding of famous works and how they relate to his life.

Cummins, Julie. *Women Daredevils.*

Profiles fourteen women who flouted convention to work as entertainers in the years between 1880 and 1929, performing thrilling feats in the water, in the air, and in the circus.

Delano, Marfé Ferguson. *Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher.*

The name Annie Sullivan has long been synonymous with the brilliant breakthroughs in the education of her famous pupil. This biography, profusely illustrated with sepia-tint photos, recounts the story of the dedicated teacher who overcame enormous obstacles in her own life and whose achievements and persistence matched those of her celebrated student.

DuPrau, Jeanne. *The Diamond of Darkhold.*

The fourth Book of Ember"--. After obtaining an ancient book with only a few pages remaining, Lina and Doon return to Ember seeking the machine described in the book that might be able to aid their new community, Sparks, through the winter.

Freedman, Russell. *Washington at Valley Forge.*

In fluid prose Freedman explains how the bedraggled Continental army, plagued by inadequate shelter and severe shortages of food and clothing, emerged from its winter encampment stronger and ultimately victorious against the British. Vivid profiles of the personalities, plentiful period quotes, and reproductions of paintings and engravings enliven this stellar history.

Gutman, Dan. *Nightmare at the Book Fair.*

On his way to lacrosse tryouts, the president of the PTA asks Trip Dinkelman to help her with the book fair, resulting in Trip sustaining a head injury which causes him temporary amnesia and makes for an interesting journey home

Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules.*

Greg Heffley tells about his summer vacation and his attempts to steer clear of trouble when he returns to middle school and tries to keep his older brother, Roderick from telling everyone about Greg's most humiliating experience of the summer.

Laidlaw, Rob. *Wild Animals in Captivity.*

The confinement and treatment of animals in public, private, and roadside zoos all too rarely show respect for the creatures' lives. Through measured prose and clear color images, the author considers the educational value of zoos, the challenges of caring for certain species, and the sale of exotic animals around the globe.

Lemna, Don. **When the Sergeant Came Marching Home.**

When his father returns from the war in 1946, a ten year old boy and his family move from their home in a Montana town to an old, run-down farm in the middle of nowhere where they work hard trying to make ends meet.

Lowry, Lois. **The Willoughbys.**

A tongue-in-cheek take on classic themes in children's literature, in which the four Willoughby children set out to become "deserving orphans" after their neglectful parents embark on a treacherous around-the-world adventure, leaving them in the care of an odious nanny.

Nelson, Scott Reynolds. **Ain't Nothing but a Man.**

Historian Scott Nelson introduces children to the life of the real John Henry, drawing on songs, poems, and stories to describe the man behind the legendary African-American hero.

Nicholls, Sally. **Ways to Live Forever.**

Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book during the last three months of his life, in which he tells about what he would like to accomplish, how he feels, and things that have happened to him.

Prevost, Guillaume. **The Gate of Days.**

While seeking the seven magical coins that will allow him to reach his father, who is trapped in the castle of Vlad Tepes, Sam Faulkner travels to such places as ancient Delphi, a Stone Age cave, and 1930s Chicago.

Riodan, Rick. **The Maze of Bones.**

May include game cards in cover page. Amy and Dan, members of the powerful Cahill family, try to uncover the thirty-nine clues which will reveal the secrets of their lineage and find out what really happened to their parents.

Rodda, Emily. **Key to Rondo.**

Through an heirloom music box, Leo, a serious, responsible boy, and his badly-behaved cousin Mimi enter the magical world of Rondo to rescue Mimi's dog from a sorceress, who wishes to exchange him for the key that allows free travel between worlds.

Sanderson, Brandon. **Alcatraz Versus The Scrivener's Bones.**

Thirteen-year-old Alcatraz Smedry and his companions seek Al's father and grandfather in the Great Library of Alexandria, where they face undead, soul-stealing wraiths called the Curators of Alexandria, and one of the Scrivener's Bones, a part-human, part-machine mercenary.

Wynne-Jones, Tim. **Rex Zero King of Nothing.**

Sequel to: Rex Zero and the end of the world. Rex-Norton-Norton, an eleven-year-old boy living in Ottawa in 1962, faces several confusing mysteries, including his father's troubling secrets from World War II, the problems of a beautiful but unhappy woman named Natasha, what to do about his mean and vindictive teacher, and whether or not he should even be concerned about such things.

Welvaert, Scott R. **The Mosquito King: An Agate and Buck Adventure.**

In 1898, on their way to the home of their aunt and uncle in Canada, spirit hunters Buck and Agate are called upon to face the Mosquito King, his growing army of vampire mosquitos, and their old nemesis, Coyote.

White, Ruth. **Little Audrey.**

In 1948, eleven-year-old Audrey lives with her father, mother, and three younger sisters in Jewell Valley, a coal mining camp in Southwest Virginia, where her mother still mourns the death of a baby, her father goes on drinking binges on paydays, and Audrey tries to recover from the scarlet fever that has left her skinny and needing to wear glasses.

Yep, Lawrence. **The Dragon's Child.**

Ten-year-old Gim Lew Yep immigrates from China to America with his father, whom Gim barely knows, and fears he will be a disappointment to his family when he arrives at Angel Island.

SIXTH THROUGH EIGHTH GRADES **(Some of) The Best Books of the Year**

Bunce, Elizabeth C. **A Curse Dark as Gold.**

Upon the death of her father, seventeen-year-old Charlotte struggles to keep the family's woolen mill running in the face of an overwhelming mortgage and what the local villagers believe is a curse, but when a man capable of spinning straw into gold appears on the scene she must decide if his help is worth the price.

Colfer, Eoin. **Airman.**

In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls, including one for a glider with which he dreams of escape.

Connor, Leslie. **Waiting for Normal: a Novel.**

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

Creech, Sharon. **The Castle Corona.**

Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever.

David, Laurie and Cambria Gordon. **The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming.**

A collection of facts and information about global warming and its consequences, with suggestions on maintaining a healthy environment in the home, at school, and in the community.

Dowe, Siobham. **The London Eye Mystery.**

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Ellis, Deborah. **Jakeman.**

Jake and his older sister Shoshona, along with a busload of kids, visit their mother in prison regularly; but this time the journey turns into a series of misadventures, and the kids find themselves on their own, hatching a plan to find the Governor and plead with him to pardon their moms. .

Farmer, Nancy. **The Land of the Silver Apples.**

After escaping from the Sea of Trolls, the apprentice bard Jack plunges into a new series of adventures, traveling underground to Elfland and uncovering the truth about his little sister Lucy.

Haddix, Margaret Peterson. **Uprising.**

In 1927, at the urging of twenty-one-year-old Harriet, Mrs. Livingston reluctantly recalls her experiences at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory, including miserable working conditions that led to a strike, then the fire that took the lives of her two best friends, when Harriet, the boss's daughter, was only five years old. Includes historical notes.

Hampton, Wilborn. **War in the Middle East: A Reporter's Story.**

News correspondent Wilborn Hampton relates his experiences covering two civil wars in the Middle East and discusses the important issues that have plagued the region for decades.

Hearne, Betsy. **Hauntings: and Other Tales of Danger, Love, and Sometimes Loss.**

Contains fifteen stories by Betsy Hearne of hauntings in the past, present, and future.

Henkes, Kevin **Bird Lake Moon.**

Twelve-year-old Mitch, spending the summer with his grandparents at Bird Lake after his parents' separation, becomes friends with ten-year-old Spencer, who has returned with his family to the lake where his littlebrother drowned years earlier, and as the boys spend time together and their friendship grows, each of them begins to heal.

Herlong, M. H. **The Great Wide Sea.**

Still mourning the death of their mother, three brothers go with their father on an extended sailing trip off the Florida Keys and have a harrowing adventure at sea.

Horowitz, Anthony. **Raven's Gate.**

Sent to live in a foster home in a remote Yorkshire village, Matt, a troubled fourteen-year-old English boy, uncovers an evil plot involving witchcraft and the site of an ancient stone circle.

Johnson, Jane. **The Shadow World.**

Twelve-year-old Ben Arnold returns to the magical world of Eidolon to rescue his sister Ellie and help their mother battle the vile Dodman, whose power continues to grow.

Kostick, Conor. **Saga.**

On Saga, a world based on a video role-playing game, fifteen-year-old Ghost lives to break rules, but the Dark Queen who controls Saga plans to enslave its people and those of New Earth, and Ghost and her airboarding friends, along with Erik and his friends from Epic, try to stop her.

McIlister, M. I. **The Heir of Mistmantle.**

The heir of Mistmantle goes missing and the townspeople begin to fear that the abductor is Captain Husk, everyone believed was dead.

McMullan, Margaret. **When I Crossed No-Bob,**

Ten years after the Civil War's end, twelve-year-old Addy, abandoned by her parents, is taken from the horrid town of No-Bob by schoolteacher Frank Russell and his bride, but when her father returns to claim her she must find another way to leave her O'Donnell past behind.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert. **The Off Season.**

High school junior D. J. Schwenk staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a changing relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.

Myers, Walter Dean. **Game.**

Drew Lawson, counting on basketball to get him into college and out of Harlem, struggles to keep his cool when the coach brings in two white players and puts them in positions that clearly threaten Drew's game.

Paver, Michelle. **Outcast.**

Cast out of the Raven clan, Torak heads to the reedbeds at Lake Axehead, where he is hunted by the hidden people and he must do battle with an ancient evil.

Pearson, Mary E. **The Adoration of Jenna Fox.**

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

Porter, Tracey. **Billy Creekmore.**

One day a stranger comes to claim Billy Creekmore from the Guardian Angels Home for Boys; and he embarks on a cross-country journey in search of his past, his future, and his own true self.

Povey, Karen D. **Energy Alternatives.**

Reviews the history of energy use, looks at the development of solar, wind, hydro-, geothermal, and other power alternatives, and discusses the need to create a sustainable energy future. Includes discussion questions, contact information for organizations, and a list of resources.

Prineas, Sarah. **The Magic Thief.**

Conn's life is forever changed when he tries to pick the pocket of the wizard Nevery and instead gets a strong jolt of magic, but, instead of punishing the boy, Nevery takes Conn under his wing, teaches him magic, and enlists his help in finding the person responsible for stealing the city's dwindling magic supply.

Reeve, Philip, **A Darkling Plain.**

While dealing with people from their past and treachery from unexpected sources, Tom, Hester, and Wren return to save the world.

Riordan, Rick. **The Battle of the Labyrinth.**

When demonic cheerleaders invade his high school, Percy Jackson hurries to Camp Half Blood, from whence he and his demigod friends set out on a quest through the Labyrinth, while the war between the Olympians and the evil Titan lord Kronos draws near.

Service, Pamela F. **Tomorrow's Magic.**

Two novels in which a young, resurrected Merlin and two friends attempt to bring King Arthur back to Britain, then struggle against the evil plots of Morgan Le Fey to build a new and better civilization in the wake of a nuclear holocaust.

Shusterman, Neal. **Unwind.**

Three teens embark upon a cross-country journey in order to escape from a society that salvages body parts from children ages thirteen to eighteen.

Stewart, Trenton Lee. **The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Perilous Journey.**

Reynie, Kate, Sticky, and Constance, all graduates of the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened and members of the Benedict Society, embark on a scavenger hunt that turns into a desperate search for the missing Mr. Benedict.

Thompson, Kate. **Origins.**

Christy's souvenir stone from the yeti's cave proves to be fatal for many of the inhabitants of Fourth World, leaving among the survivors a pair of genetically-altered twins whose eventual descendants face an uncertain future in a stone age world of nuclear devastation and disease.

Uehashi, Nahoko, **Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit.**

The wandering warrior Balsa is hired to protect Prince Chagum from both a mysterious monster and the prince's father, the Mikado.

Wilson, Jacqueline. **Candyfloss.**

When her mother plans to move to Australia with her new husband and baby, Floss must decide whether her loyalties lie with her mother or her father, while at the same time, her best friend begins to make fun of her and reject her.

Yancy, Rick. **Alfred Kropp—the Thirteenth Skull.**

Alfred Kropp faces an unknown enemy that is causing him to question who he can trust and whether or not he will escape this latest adventure with his life.

Ziegler, Jennifer. **How Not to be Popular.**

Seventeen-year-old Sugar Magnolia Dempsey is tired of leaving friends behind every time her hippie parents decide to move, but her plan to be unpopular at her new Austin, Texas, school backfires when other students join her on the path to "supreme dorkdom."