



Children's Choices for 2007

A project of the International Reading Association and The Children's Book Council

Logo illustration © by Tomie dePaola

What Is the Children's Choices Project?

Each year 10,000 school children from different regions of the United States read and vote on the newly published children's and young adults' trade books that they like best. The Children's Choices for 2007 list is the 33rd in a series that first appeared as "Classroom Choices" in the November 1975 issue of *The Reading Teacher (RT)*, a peer-reviewed journal for preschool, primary, and elementary levels published eight times a year by the International Reading Association (IRA). This list is designed for use not only by teachers, librarians, administrators, and booksellers, but also by parents, grandparents, caregivers, and everyone who wishes to encourage young people to read for pleasure.

Children's Choices is a project of a joint committee supported by IRA and The Children's Book Council (CBC). IRA is a nonprofit educational organization whose members include classroom and reading

teachers, school administrators and supervisors, parents, college/university faculty, and others who are dedicated to improving reading instruction and promoting literacy worldwide.

The Children's Book Council is the nonprofit professional association of U.S. publishers and packagers of books for young people. It encourages childhood literacy through sponsorship of national programs including Young People's Poetry Week and the annual observance of Children's Book Week, as well as working cooperatively with other professional associations.

In 1969, IRA and CBC formed a liaison committee to explore areas of mutual interest to reading teachers and publishers. Among the committee's initial charges was the development of a core selection of trade books for the classroom. This list of Children's Choices has remained an important activity of the committee, which each year produces this child-selected bibliography identifying titles that can be used successfully in reading programs, can be related to the classroom curricula, and are known to engage children.

How Are Books Selected and Annotated?

More than 630 books were evaluated by children for Children's Choices for 2007. The books to be tested were selected by publishers from the books they published in 2006 and were sent to five review teams located in different regions of the United States. Each team consisted of a children's literature specialist plus one or more classroom teachers who in turn worked with other classroom teachers, school librarians, and more than 2,000 children. Throughout the school year the books were in classrooms, being read to or by children.

Children's votes were tabulated in March, and the top 99 titles for 2007 were announced at the annual International Reading Association Convention in May. The review teams provided an annotation for each title on the list.

What Bibliographic Information Is Provided?

Books selected for the Children's Choices list have been grouped by reading levels:

- Beginning readers (ages 5–7)
- Young readers (ages 8–10)
- Advanced readers (ages 11–13)

Users should note that many books read easily by beginning readers are also enjoyed by more advanced readers, and many titles for advanced readers are accessible to younger readers or can be read aloud in the classroom.

The title, author, illustrator, publisher, and price are provided for each book as well as a brief annotation prepared by a review team. All books listed are hardcover unless otherwise noted. Prices are accurate as of late spring 2007; they are subject to change without notice. These abbreviations are provided for easy reference:

- Ill. illustrator of the book
- Pb. a paperback book
- (library) indicates the library edition of a book
- (trade) indicates the edition of the book available from booksellers
- pp. page count
- F. paperback is forthcoming but not yet available

All books on this list should be available through your local library or a local bookseller.

Beginning Readers

The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon

Mini Grey. Ill. by the author.

The dish and the spoon journey to America, appear in a vaudeville act, make lots of money, squander it all, borrow money from shady characters, rob a bank, land in jail, meet in a junk shop, and finally join forces to perform for modern audiences. (Team 2)

Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books. 32 pp. US\$18.99 (library). CAN\$26.99. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$23.95.

Aliens Are Coming! The True Account of the 1938 War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast

Meghan McCarthy. Ill. by the author.

From the story in this book, children view the reaction as radio listeners believe that aliens have landed in New Jersey. Cartoon Martians and information on 1930s radio illustrate the humor in this historic miscommunication. (Team 3)

Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books. 40 pp. US\$18.99 (library). CAN\$26.99. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$23.95.



Jacket illustration © 2006 by the author from *Aliens Are Coming! The True Story of the 1938 War of the Worlds Radio Broadcast* by Meghan McCarthy. Used by permission of the publisher, Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books.

Amazing Dolphins!

Sarah L. Thomson. Ill. with photographs.

Colorful photographs accompany this factual book. Readers will learn about everything from echolocation to blowholes, along with many other interesting tidbits about these fascinating mammals, such as how they communicate with sound. (Team 4)

HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Amazing Snakes!

Sarah L. Thomson. Ill. with photographs.

This book has many close-up photographs and interesting facts about snakes that will amaze you. Beginning readers will enjoy all the facts, especially how snakes can be helpful to humans. (Team 1)

HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Bad Boys Get Cookie!

Margie Palatini. Ill. Henry Cole.

In this variation of the Gingerbread Man story, “smart cookie” runs away from the baker. Willy and Wally (wolf detectives) scheme to catch the clever cookie—they even disguise themselves as Hansel and Gretel! Cookie finally escapes on the back of an alligator—or does he? (Team 2)

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Bear Dreams

Elisha Cooper. Ill. by the author.

Bear refuses to take the usual long winter nap as bears always do. He goes out to play with all his animal friends. And play he does, until he is so tired that he falls asleep. (Team 5)

Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Burger Boy

Alan Durant. Ill. Mei Matsuoka.

What happens when a boy eats so many burgers that he turns into one? Children will enjoy reading about the adventures the boy has as a burger. The colorful and imaginative illustrations will hold readers’ attention. (Team 3)

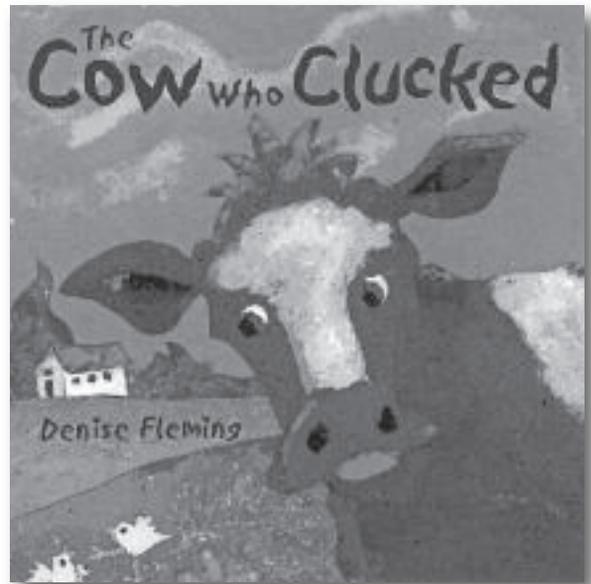
Clarion Books. 32 pp. US\$16.00 (trade).

Charlie and Lola: But Excuse Me That Is My Book

Lauren Child. Ill. by the author.

Join Charlie as he tries to convince his little sister, Lola, that there are more exciting books in the library. Lola is reluctant to read any book but her favorite, Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies. (Team 1)

Dial Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade).



Jacket illustration by the author from *The Cow Who Clucked* by Denise Fleming. Used by permission of the publisher, Henry Holt.

The Cow Who Clucked

Denise Fleming. Ill. by the author.

The cow wakes up to find that she now clucks. As she exchanges greetings with different animals, she discovers who has taken her moo. Young readers will enjoy the illustrations of the farm and the cow’s search for her voice. (Team 5)

Henry Holt. 32 pp. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$22.95.

Duck and Goose

Tad Hills. Ill. by the author.

Duck and goose find what they think is a huge, spotted egg. They argue over it constantly. Finally, they become friends and protect the egg together. One day a bird asks if he can play ball with them, and they realize their mistake. (Team 2)

Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House Children’s Books. 40 pp. US\$16.99 (library). CAN\$23.99. US\$14.95 (trade). CAN\$21.00.

Fancy Nancy

Jane O’Connor. Ill. Robin Preiss Glasser.

Nancy loves being fancy, but her family needs lessons. During an elegant evening of parfaits and limousines, a catastrophe happens. Nancy learns her family is just fine and that there is no fancy way to say, “I love you.” (Team 3)

HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.50.

Tips for Parents, Primary Caregivers, and Educators

Initial Book Activities

One of the easiest ways to begin telling the story of a book is through the use of illustrations. Most books for young children are illustrated in great detail, and noting important details related to the characters, plot, and setting will provide a wholesome first literacy activity.

- Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading books becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- Browse through books to help the child become familiar with books and how they are handled.
- Read the story while the child points to the pictures. Adult and child can repeat interesting sounds, repetitive word patterns, and distinctive word features to the delight of both.
- Have the child tell the story using the illustrations, while the adult reinforces the telling. The two can predict outcomes, discuss how the characters feel, and relate the events to their own experiences.
- Read the book to the child and enjoy it together. Retell the story together and talk about the characters, setting, plot, and life experiences.
- Compare the similarities and differences of children's books available as video productions.
- Have children make responses to the books read through art reproductions such as drawings, or by using clay, papier-mâché, dioramas, or fingerpaints.
- Make regular trips to the library and attend storytelling sessions. Visit bookstores together to begin a personal library for a child.

Beginning Reading-level Activities

Children at this level should be encouraged to browse through books and pretend to read the story, an initial step toward becoming an independent reader. Children may tell the story to themselves or attempt to read frequently highlighted words.

- Read the story as the child points to the pictures on each page.
- Let the child pretend to read the story as the adult points to the pictures.
- Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. The adult models what he or she thinks of when reading the page so the child gets a variety of perspectives on the ways words have different meanings.
- Use computer programs to expand a child's interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- Compare and contrast video adaptations of children's books for this and more advanced literacy levels.

Primary-grade Book Activities

- Continue to spend time reading with the child; set aside a specific time and place.
- Be familiar with Children's Choices books and other high-quality children's literature.
- Become aware of the interests of your children and books that extend life experiences so they know what happens in the world around them.
- Encourage children to share books read in school with parents and caregivers at home. Parents and caregivers should encourage children to share books they've read at home with their teachers and schoolmates.
- Continue to extend the information and knowledge bases through computer programs and other technology that capitalize on topics initiated through reading.

Independent Reader Activities

- Challenge readers to compare and contrast books.
- Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction, and poetry.
- Encourage children to read books related to beginning career and vocational choices.
- Seek a balance between school book activities; home and school literature activities; and familiarity with newspapers, magazines, and other text media that address contemporary social, cultural, and civic issues.

Develop the Desire to Be a Lifelong Reader

- Have students bring what is read to bear on what is viewed on film, television, and computer and other media technologies.
- View technology in the reflection of the literature.
- Keep in mind that the most memorable conversations are often filled with anecdotes from literature.
- Relate what has been read to the solution of problems. By internalizing what has been read, we use knowledge and wisdom to solve personal problems, to make significant decisions related to career choices, to find solutions to community and social problems, and to develop healthy attitudes toward a positive world environment.

IRA/CBC Liaison Committee
Teri S. Lesesne, 2006–2007 Cochair
Beth Eller, 2006–2007 Cochair

Fast Food

Saxton Freymann and Joost Elffers. Ill. with photographs by the authors.

A delightful and delicious display depicts various forms of transportation made from fruit and vegetables, with creative poetic text. Humorous photographs and rhythmic style allow children and adults to relate existing and new-found knowledge of diverse travel options to healthy produce. (Team 3)

Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic. 32 pp. US\$12.99 (trade). CAN\$16.99.

Hi! Fly Guy

Tedd Arnold. Ill. by the author.

Buzz meets a fly that can say his name and decides it should be his pet. Trying to convince his parents and the judges at a pet contest is another story. (Team 1)

Cartwheel Books/Scholastic. 32 pp. US\$5.99 (trade). CAN\$7.99.

The Gingerbread Cowboy

Janet Squires. Ill. Holly Berry.

This variation of the classic tale is set in the western United States. The main character runs from roadrunners, javelinas, and long-horned cattle, until a coyote eats him.

The story ends with a rancher, his wife, and the coyote making more gingerbread cowboys. (Team 2)

Laura Geringer Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Good Boy, Fergus!

David Shannon. Ill. by the author.

Spend a day with Fergus, a charming but mischievous dog, as he chases cats and motorcycles and makes a mess of the house plants. In the end, Fergus falls asleep. Good boy, Fergus! (Team 2)

The Blue Sky Press/Scholastic. 32 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$19.99.

The Hidden Feast: A Folktale From the American South

Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss. Ill. Don Tate.

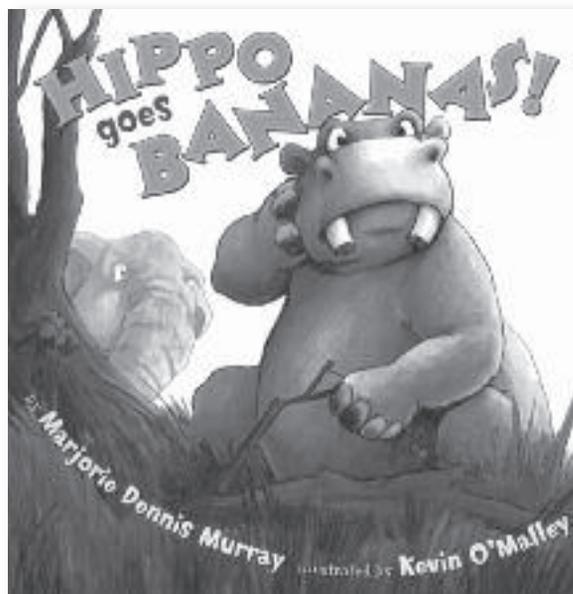
Barnyard animals attend a neighborhood party and when they sit down to eat, Rooster is disappointed to see only combread for dinner. After he leaves in disgust, the rest of the animals discover the hidden feast within the combread. (Team 4)

August House Littlefolk. 32 pp. US\$16.95 (trade).

Hippo Goes Bananas!

Marjorie Dennis Murray. Ill. Kevin O'Malley.

Hippo's toothache has him acting bananas. All his animal friends try to help him. They think his problem may be



Jacket design by Michael Nelson and illustration © 2006 by Kevin O'Malley from *Hippo Goes Bananas!* by Marjorie Dennis Murray. Used by permission of the publisher, Marshall Cavendish Children.

skeeter fever—and give him a “heave-ho push” into the river. Their idea helps in an unexpected way. (Team 1)

Marshall Cavendish Children. 32 pp. US\$14.95 (trade). CAN\$21.95.

How to Be a Good Dog

Gail Page. Ill. by the author.

Bobo was a good dog and got lots of treats, but when he was a bad dog, he was sent to his doghouse. When even the cat began to miss him, the cat teaches Bobo how to be a good dog. (Team 3)

Bloomsbury Children's Books. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). Pb., Bloomsbury Children's Books. US\$6.95.

If I Had a Dragon

Amanda Ellery. Ill. Tom Ellery.

Morton wonders what may happen if he turns his little brother into a dragon. The result is not what he expects. At the end, Morton decides that his little brother is a better playmate than the imaginary beast. (Team 5)

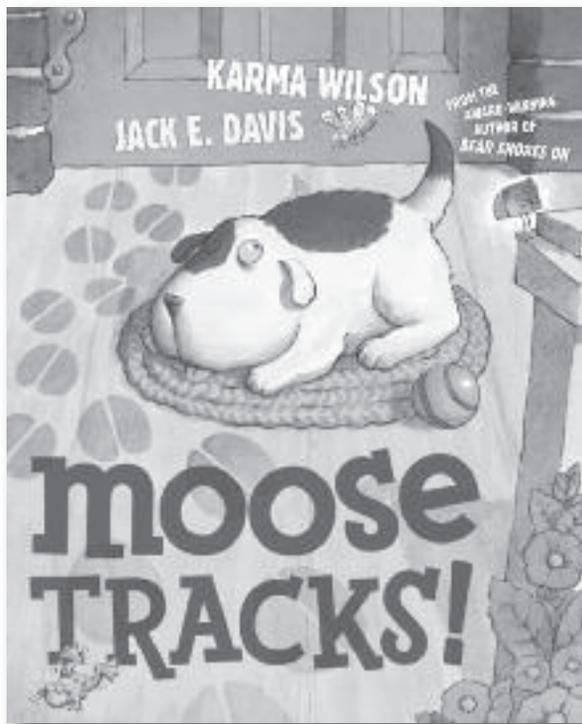
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. US\$14.95 (trade).

I'm Dirty!

Kate McMullan. Ill. Jim McMullan.

Young readers who love dirty, noisy construction equipment will enjoy this backhoe loader's story of a dirty work day. Along with entertaining information about backhoe work comes onomatopoeia, alliteration, and even some counting. (Team 4)

Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 36 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.



Jacket design by Abelardo Martínez and illustration © 2006 by Jack E. Davis from *Moose Tracks!* by Karma Wilson. Used by permission of the publisher, Margaret K. McElderry Book/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

John Deere Big Building Site

Deere & Company. Ill. with photographs.

Find out what big construction machines do at building sites. Photographs of the big machines with peek-behind flaps reveal even more about these machines. (Team 1)

DK Publishing. 12 pp. US\$8.99. CAN\$11.99.

Letters From a Desperate Dog

Eileen Christelow. Ill. by the author.

This book, told from the perspective of a dog, is about the problems between humans and pets and how the dog seeks advice on controlling the owner. Readers love it because they can relate to the interactions between pet and owner. (Team 3)

Clarion Books. 32 pp. US\$16.00 (trade). CAN\$21.95.

Little Quack's New Friend

Lauren Thompson. Ill. Derek Anderson.

Widdle, Waddle, Piddle, and Puddle don't want to play with a teeny green frog—until their sibling Little Quack shows them how much fun a frog can be in this whimsical tale full of action. (Team 4)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. US\$14.95 (trade). CAN\$21.00.

The Mixed-Up Rooster

Pamela Duncan Edwards. Ill. Megan Lloyd.

Ned, the rooster, likes to party all night long. Every morning he oversleeps, so the chickens want to replace him. One night he saves the henhouse from a snake, so the hens give him a new job as "head of night security." (Team 2)

Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Moose Tracks!

Karma Wilson. Ill. Jack E. Davis.

Readers wander through this household of animals who leave evidence of their visits. But who left the moose tracks? The illustrations trick readers into thinking a dog is asking that question, when really the moose is persistently asking the question. (Team 4)

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Mrs. Claus Takes a Vacation

Linus Alsenas. Ill. by the author.

Mrs. Claus has never had a vacation. As she travels and explores new things, Santa is home missing her. She returns home to take yet another trip—her first trip around the world with Mr. Claus on Christmas Eve. (Team 3)

Scholastic Press/Scholastic. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Oink?

Margie Palatini. Ill. Henry Cole.

Thomas and Joseph live as they should—as pigs. Their farm friends try to teach them how to be less messy, cleaning up and painting. The other animals soon tire of the pigs' messy attempts at learning. (Team 1)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$21.95.

Once I Ate a Pie

Patricia MacLachlan and Emily MacLachlan Charest. Ill. Katy Schneider.

Thirteen unique dogs share their own stories in poetry. Size, shape, behavior, and choice of entertainment vary, but all these dogs love their people. The illustrations almost invite petting of each personable dog. (Team 4)

Joanna Cotler Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.50.

Puppies, Puppies Everywhere!

Cat Urbigkit. Ill. with photographs.

This simple nonfiction book consists of two words on each page—puppy and an adjective, verb, or noun (e.g.,

More About Children's Choices

Who is on the IRA–CBC Joint Committee, and Who Are Members of the Review Teams?

Cochairing the 2006–2007 IRA–CBC Joint Committee were Teri S. Lesesne, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, and Beth Eller, Bloomsbury USA/Walker Books, New York City, New York. Representing IRA on the committee were Jill Caton Johnson, Jan L. LaBonty, Lauren A. Liang, Beth Pendergraft, Lorna Tobias, and Linda B. Gambrell; those representing CBC were Terry Borzumato, Tanya Dean, David Gale, Margaret Quinlin, and Jeff Reynolds. CBC administrative staff coordinated the teams' work.

The review teams described below coordinated the project at each of the following five test sites:

Team 1: Raleigh, North Carolina, consisted of three urban elementary schools, three suburban elementary schools, three rural elementary schools, and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Jennifer Olson.

Team 2: Starkville, Mississippi, consisted of two urban, one suburban, and seven rural elementary schools. Team leader: Jeanne Swafford.

Team 3: Middletown, Delaware, consisted of five suburban elementary schools and two suburban middle schools. Team leader: Christine Payne. Support team members: Jill Simpson, Susan Abshire, Gina Robinson, Jodie Klein, Courtney Kaczka, Jennifer Barnett, Karen Taylor, Mary Beth Jones, Kim Horsey, Laura Wright, Janice Haney, Megan Zarzycki, Maria Gregors.

Team 4: Omaha, Nebraska, consisted of four urban elementary schools and three suburban elementary schools. Team leaders: Wilma Kuhlman and Kathy Danielson.

Team 5: Tacoma, Washington, consisted of three urban elementary schools, two suburban elementary schools, one rural elementary school and one urban and one suburban middle school. Team leader: Belinda Louie.

How Can I Become a Team Leader?

Team leaders are selected by the IRA–CBC Joint Committee based upon numerous factors such as location within the United States; cooperation between team leaders, school administrators, and library media specialists; and ability to attend orientation sessions at the International Reading Association's annual convention. Information about how to become a team leader is available from the Children's Book Council, Attn: Team Leader Information, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7480, USA. All applications remain on file, and periodically CBC reconfirms applicants' interest. For additional information about this project and a downloadable application form, visit CBC's website at www.cbcbooks.org.

How Can I Order Copies of This List?

Offprints of this annotated 2007 Children's Choices list (publication #9106) are available from the International Reading Association. Single copies are US\$1.00 when you send a self-addressed 9" x 12" envelope to the attention of Department EG. Single copies of each choices list may also be downloaded as a PDF file at www.reading.org. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the U.S. and Canada only) 1-800-336-7323, or send your order to Order Department, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 6021, Newark, DE 19714-6021, USA. Bulk copies are also available in lots of 10 at www.reading.org.

Are Other Booklists Available?

The International Reading Association prepares two additional annual booklists. Teachers' Choices describes approximately 30 new trade books published for children and adolescents that teachers themselves have found to be exceptional in curriculum use. The list appears each year in the November issue of *The Reading Teacher* and is also available in bulk as a separate reprint and on the Association's website at www.reading.org. Young Adults' Choices lists approximately 30 new trade books that middle, junior high, and senior high school students have selected as being particularly appealing for their age group. This list appears each November in the International Reading Association publication *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and is available as a separate reprint and on the Association's website at www.reading.org.

Copies of either Teachers' or Young Adults' Choices lists are available from the International Reading Association, Attn: Dept. EG, 800 Barksdale Road, PO Box 8139, Newark, DE 19714-8139, USA. Prices for each annotated list are the same as those given for the Children's Choices offprint. Prepaid orders for bulk copies should be sent Attn: Order Department at the same address. To order bulk copies by phone with a credit card, call (in the United States and Canada only) 1-800-336-7323, ext. 266.

Annual lists distributed by the Children's Book Council (CBC) are Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People, a project of the National Council for the Social Studies–CBC Joint Committee, and Outstanding Science Trade Books for Children, a project of the National Science Teachers Association–CBC Joint Committee. For a single copy of the Social Studies list or Science list, send a self-addressed 6" X 9" envelope with appropriate postage to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA; Attn: Social Studies List, or Attn: Science List. Multiple copy rates are available on the CBC website www.cbcbooks.org.

How do publishers obtain information about submitting titles for future lists?

The Children's Choices project is open to all U.S. publishers of children's books. Publishers who are not members of the CBC pay a per-title administrative fee to submit books for consideration. Submission information is available in late May.

Publishers may request submission notification by e-mailing bibliographies@cbcbooks.org.

CBC welcomes publishers, large and small, to join its diverse membership. For membership information, write to CBC, 12 W. 37th Street, New York, NY 10018-7840, USA, or e-mail info@cbcbooks.org.

How can I find out more about the Children's Book Council?

For a complete listing of CBC's activities and publications, visit their website at www.cbcbooks.org.

“puppy kiss”) to describe the color photographs of endearing canines. (Team 2)

Boyd's Mills Press. 24 pp. US\$12.95 (trade).

Sally and the Some-Thing

George O'Connor. Ill. by the author.

One boring morning, Sally decides to go fishing and meets a slimy, slithery “some-thing.” Sally is thrilled, and together they do things like make mud pies and have burping contests. Unexpected and beautifully illustrated, this book is a sure delight. (Team 4)

Roaring Brook Press. 32 pp. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$22.95.

What DO Teachers Do (After YOU Leave School)?

Anne Bowen. Ill. Barry Gott.

Every young child always wonders what teachers do at night. This funny, poetic story takes children through the hilarious stunts the teachers pull when the students are not in school. After reading, the children will never look at their teachers the same again. (Team 3)

Carolrhoda Books/Lerner Publishing Group. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$22.95.

Where's My Sock?

Joyce Dunbar. Ill. Sanja Rescek.

Pippin is very frustrated when he cannot find a matching sock. After he searches all the places where missing socks tend to hide, he declares that it may be more fun to wear unmatched socks. (Team 5)

The Chicken House/Scholastic. 32 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Young Readers

Akimbo and the Crocodile Man

Alexander McCall Smith. Ill. LeUyen Pham.

Akimbo joins a visiting zoologist as he begins a project to determine how many baby crocodiles survive their first year of life. But crocodiles are protective, quick, and unpredictable creatures in the rivers and bush of Africa. (Team 1)

Bloomsbury Children's Books. 80 pp. US\$9.95 (trade). Pb., Bloomsbury Children's Books. US\$4.95.

Annie the River Otter

Frances Keiser. Ill. Hugh Keiser.

Annie the River Otter recounts her carefree life before the fire. Her story is filled with details about the otter's habitat and activities. The author introduces a wildlife rescue group and the work of its volunteers to conclude Annie's journey. (Team 5)

Sagaponack Books. 32 pp. US\$17.00 (trade).

Atomic Ace and the Robot Rampage

Jeff Weigel. Ill. by the author.

Atomic Ace and Energy Angel have started a family without abandoning their duty to protect the earth. When robots attack and are defeated, the two change the robots into domestic help. The comic-book format is well suited to these heroes' adventures. (Team 5)

Albert Whitman & Company. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). Pb., Albert Whitman & Company. US\$6.95.

Babymouse: Beach Babe

Jennifer L. Holm. Ill. Matthew Holm.

This graphic novel takes the reader through the imagination of Babymouse when she and her family go on vacation to the beach. Readers love the detailed and humorous illustrations in this book. (Team 3)

Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 96 pp. US\$12.99 (trade). CAN\$16.99. Pb., US\$5.95. CAN\$7.95.

Blizzard of the Blue Moon

Mary Pope Osborne. Ill. Sal Murdocca.

Jack and Annie are on another Merlin mission. This time they travel back in time to New York City to save a magical unicorn. The sights might look familiar, but what happens to Jack and Annie is anything but ordinary. (Team 1)

Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 128 pp. US\$11.95 (library). CAN\$15.95. US\$13.99 (trade). CAN\$18.99.

Cinderella (As if You Didn't Already Know the Story)

Barbara Ensor.

“Cinderella” is a story with which girls are familiar, but this version allows girls to connect with Cinderella as they dive deep into the life of a fairy-tale princess. The modern-day twist allows the readers to hear the story in a unique, interesting way. (Team 3)

Schwartz & Wade Books/Random House Children's Books. 128 pp. US\$14.99 (trade). CAN\$21.00.

Dear Max

Sally Grindley. Ill. Tony Ross.

Max develops a friendship with his favorite author through the lost art of letter writing. The two give each other advice about writing, friendship, and life in this touching story. (Team 4)

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 144 pp. US\$14.95 (trade). CAN\$21.00. Pb., Aladdin Paperbacks. US\$4.99.

Dog Den Mystery

Darrell and Sally Odgers. Ill. Janine Dawson.

Jack Russell enjoys his life as a dog—running in circles, riding with his head out a car window, and chewing toys. But when his toys start to disappear, he sniffs a mystery worth solving. (Team 1)

Kane/Miller Book Publishers. 84 pp. Pb., US\$4.95.

Drooling and Dangerous: The Riot Brothers Return

Mary Amato. Ill. Ethan Long.

Three separate hilarious adventures of brothers Orville and Wilbur and their principal mother will attract young readers who love silliness. With plastic bugs constantly flying, the brothers become spies and movie stars, celebrate “dwitch say,” and almost get into big trouble. (Team 4)

Holiday House. 176 pp. US\$16.95 (trade).

The Enchanted Dolls’ House

Robyn Johnson. Ill. by the author.

Peer through windows, unfold letters, and open closet doors of dollhouses from the medieval times through the 1900s. Search for 10 little boys in the pages of this book filled with information about dollhouses through the ages. (Team 1)

Handprint Books. 32 pp. US\$24.95 (trade).

Extreme Animals: The Toughest Creatures on Earth

Nicola Davies. Ill. Neal Layton.

A book to engender a lot of “Did you know...” conversations, Extreme Animals will amaze readers with facts about animals that withstand earth’s extremes. The most amazing animal of all can live through all of the extremes scientists can produce. (Team 4)

Candlewick Press. 64 pp. US\$12.99 (trade).

Food Creations: From Hot Dogs to Ice Cream Cones

Jacqueline A. Ball. Ill. with photographs.

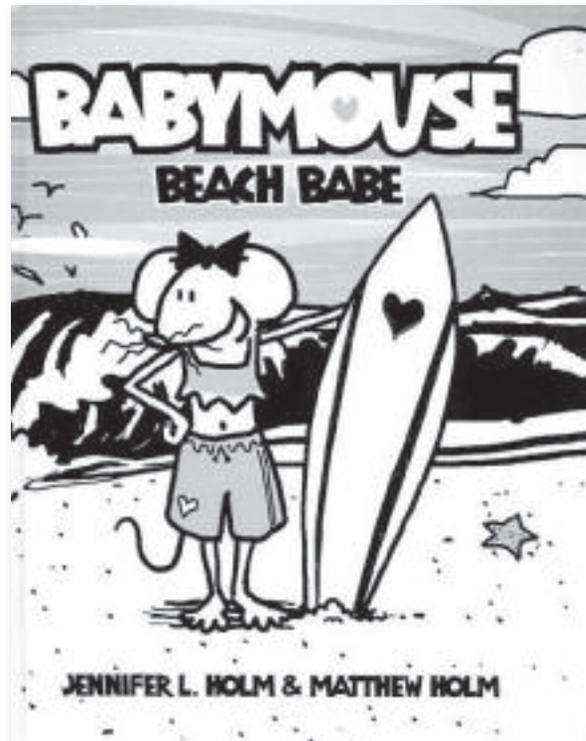
Pick from a pair of familiar foods as you guess which food was created first. Learn about the creation and history of each food before you turn the page to find out which came first. (Team 1)

Bearport Publishing. 32 pp. US\$17.97 (library). US\$23.96 (trade).

Friends: Making Them and Keeping Them

Patty Kelley Criswell. Ill. Stacy Peterson.

Making friends isn’t always easy. In this book, girls learn the importance of friends and making a friendship work.



Jacket art © 2006 by the authors from *Babymouse: Beach Babe* by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm. Used by permission of the publisher, Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children’s Books.

Young girl readers enjoyed the real-life stories, activities, and quizzes included in this book they could read on their own or with a friend. (Team 3)

American Girl Publishing. 80 pp. Pb., US\$9.95.

The Homework Machine

Dan Gutman.

Young readers will recognize their classmates and maybe themselves in the key witnesses who describe the events (interrogation-style) leading up to the discovery, use, and destruction of a computer that was supposed to make kids’ lives easier. It didn’t. (Team 3)

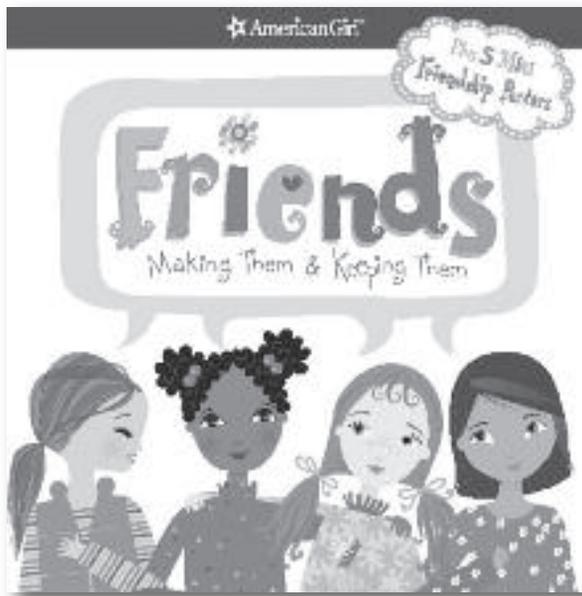
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 160 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$21.95. Pb., Aladdin Paperbacks. US\$4.99.

Horses

Seymour Simon. Ill. with photographs.

This broad, nonfiction book covers many subtopics including evolution, special features, senses, foaling, communication, coloring, breeds, and uses for horses. This breadth of information will interest students as will the full-sized color action photography included as illustrations. (Team 3)

HarperCollins Publishers. 40 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.50.



Jacket illustration by Stacy Peterson from *Friends: Making Them and Keeping Them* by Patty Kelley Criswell. Used by permission of the publisher, American Girl Publishing.

How the Moon Regained Her Shape

Janet Ruth Heller. Ill. Ben Hodson.

In the form of a Native American tale, the author tells how people on Earth help the moon to regain her perspective after being taunted by the sun. Directions for a moon project are provided at the end of the book. (Team 5)

Sylvan Dell Publishing. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade).

The Last Day of School

Louise Borden. Ill. Adam Gustavson.

On the last day of school, Matt, the official timekeeper in his third-grade class, has a special gift for his teacher—a clock that keeps the correct time! This book accurately describes the mixed feelings and typical events on the last day of school. (Team 2)

Margaret K. McEldery Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$21.95.

Little Lost Bat

Sandra Markle. Ill. Alan Marks.

A Mexican free-tailed bat is born in Texas and experiences the harshness of nature in this informative book presented in poetic verse. Dusky blue- and purple-hued illustrations put readers into the night world of bats. (Team 4)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade).

Look What Whiskers Can Do

D.M. Souza. Ill. with photographs.

Whiskers are found on mammals' cheeks, on upper lips, over eyes, around blow holes, and even on ankles! Whiskers help animals (e.g., cats, rats, walruses, gophers, manatees, seals, and whales) find food, "see" in the dark, and recognize when predators are near. Who knew?! (Team 2)

Lerner Publishing Group. 48 pp. US\$22.60 (library). Pb., LernerClassroom. US\$7.95.

The Magic Baseball Cap

David A. Ham and Janice B. Sibley. Ill. Blair Bostick.

A magic baseball cap travels across the U.S., landing on the heads of boys and girls who doubt their abilities to play baseball. After wearing the hat, the children become more confident. U.S. landmarks (e.g., Mt. Rushmore, Golden Gate Bridge) are highlighted in the illustrations. (Team 2)

CRM Publishers. 48 pp. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$23.95.

The Navajo Year, Walk Through Many Seasons

Nancy Bo Flood. Ill. Billy Whitethorne.

Walk through the Navajo year, beginning in October. Customs of the Navajo tribe are highlighted, as is the weather during each month. A coyote is featured in almost every two-page spread and mentioned frequently in the text. The colorful illustrations beautifully portray the Navajo landscape. (Team 2)

Salina Bookshelf. 32 pp. US\$17.95 (trade).

Not Afraid of Dogs

Susanna Pitzer. Ill. Larry Day.

Daniel is afraid of only one thing—dogs! Bandit teaches Daniel that everyone, even a puppy, is frightened of something. Children can identify with Daniel's and Bandit's fears and how they can be overcome. A heart-warming story! (Team 3)

Walker Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. US\$16.95 (trade).

Pigs

Duncan Searl. Ill. with photographs.

Did you know that pigs can be trained to do everything that dogs can do, and pigs learn faster? Pigs have rescued people from drowning and have served as Seeing Eye pigs. Some even have been trained to find drugs, guns, and truffles! (Team 2)

Bearport Publishing. 32 pp. US\$17.97 (library). US\$23.96 (trade).

Pirate Bob

Kathryn Lasky. Ill. David Clarke.

Pirate Bob's job is to cut the steering cables on the ships he and his shipmates loot. The seemingly exciting, yet

sometimes lonely life of a pirate in search of a true friend is told in this book. (Team 4)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$23.95.

Pirateology: A Pirate Hunter's Companion

Captain William Lubber, Dugald Steer, and Nghiem Ta. Ill. Ian Andrew, Anne Yvonne Gilbert, and Helen Ward.

Pirateology chronicles Captain Lubber's hunt for the pirate Arabella Drummond. This creative pop-up appeals to children because it includes Captain Lubber's journal entries, artifacts such as a treasure map and gold dust, historically accurate drawings and a nautical glossary. (Team 3)

Candlewick Press. 32 pp. US\$19.99 (trade). CAN\$27.99.

Please Write in This Book

Mary Amato. Ill. Eric Brace.

Ms. Wurtz hides a book in the writer's corner, inviting her students to write on its blank pages. Conversations, pictures, charts, and stories find their ways into the book as students record what happens in the classroom. (Team 5)

Holiday House. 112 pp. US\$16.95.

The Quest to Digest

Mary K. Corcoran. Ill. Jef Czekaj.

This is an information book about the digestive system. The cartoon illustrations and the funny vignettes at different organs make it enjoyable to learn the organs' names and functions as an apple travels through the body. (Team 5)

Charlesbridge. 32 pp. US\$16.95. Pb., Charlesbridge. US\$6.95.

Rotten School #4: Lose, Team, Lose

R.L. Stine.

Bernie Bridges calls Jennifer Ecch the Nightmare Girl, because she won't leave him alone. She wants to be his girlfriend. But Bernie decides to tolerate her when it turns out Jennifer may be the only one who can help the school's football team win. (Team 1)

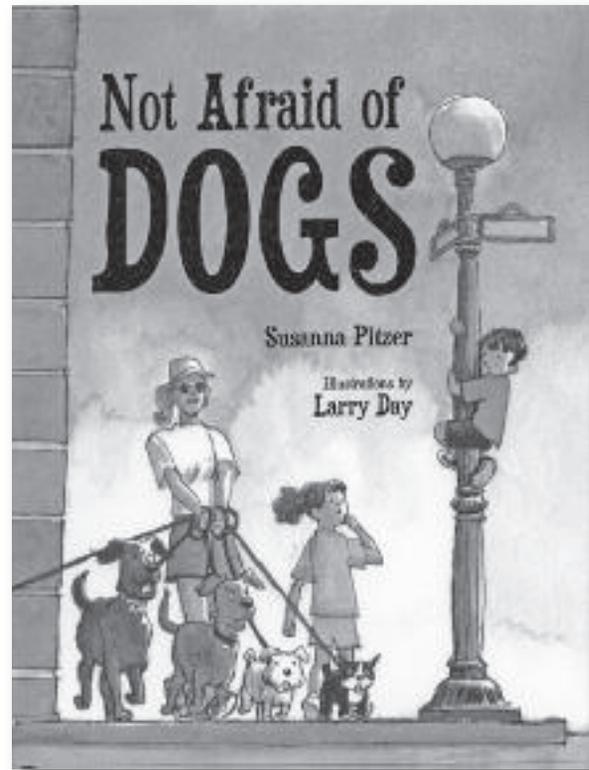
Parachute Press/HarperCollins Publishers. 120 pp. US\$6.99. CAN\$8.99.

Scaredy Squirrel

Mélanie Watt. Ill. by the author.

Scaredy Squirrel enjoys his comfortable routine in his safe nut tree. He has, however, prepared a kit for emergencies. The sudden visit of a bee upsets his routine and gives a nice twist to his orderly life. (Team 5)

Kids Can Press. 40 pp. US\$14.95. CAN\$16.95.



Jacket design by Nicole Gastonguay and illustration © 2006 by Larry Day from *Not Afraid of Dogs* by Susanna Pitzer. Used by permission of the publisher, Walker Books for Young Readers.

The Secret Science Project that Almost Ate the School

Judy Sierra. Ill. Stephen Gammell.

A third grader sends off for some super slime to use for her science project. The strange slime swallows everything after it arrives. The spirited illustrations add to the humor found in the ensuing chaos. (Team 5)

Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. US\$16.95. CAN\$21.99.

Sled Dogs

Lori Haskins. Ill. with photographs.

Starting with the race with death to get medicine to Nome, Alaska, photos and readable text tell the story of Alaskan Huskies as workers and racers. Recent Iditarod winners are highlighted as well as information about other U.S. dog races. (Team 4)

Bearport Publishing. 32 pp. US\$17.97 (library). US\$23.96 (trade).

Slippery, Slimy Baby Frogs

Sandra Markle. Ill. with photographs.

The outstanding photographs show how different kinds of frogs protect their eggs, in the male's mouth or inside



Jacket design by Einav Aviram and illustration © 2006 by Stephen Gammell from *The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School* by Judy Sierra. Used by permission of the publisher, Paula Wiseman Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

the skin on a female's back. The pictures also capture the journey from eggs to tadpoles and then to leaping frogs.
(Team 5)

Walker Books for Young Readers. 32 pp. US\$17.85 (library). US\$16.95 (trade).

Sporting Events: From Baseball to Skateboarding

Gabriel Kaufman. Ill. with photographs.

Contrasting pairs of sports are teamed together. Readers are asked to guess which sport was invented first. The next page has the answer plus the history of both sports. Students loved the interactive, question-and-answer format. (Team 3)

Bearport Publishing. 32 pp. US\$17.97 (library). US\$23.96 (trade).

There Is a Flower at the Tip of My Nose Smelling Me

Alice Walker. Ill. Stefano Vitale.

Instead of me smelling the flower, the flower is smelling me. Instead of me tasting the raindrops, the rainwater is tasting me. Alice Walker's poetic writing draws the students to focus on the active nature of the world around us. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Publishers. 32 pp. US\$16.99. CAN\$22.99.

3-D ABC: A Sculptural Alphabet

Bob Raczka. Ill. with photographs.

This unique alphabet book features three-dimensional sculptures on each page. Different styles of sculpture

(such as abstract, relief, kinetic) are shown, as well as a variety of materials (stone, scrap metal, and light).
(Team 4)

Millbrook Press/Lerner Publishing Group. 32 pp. US\$23.93 (library). Pb., First Avenue Editions. US\$9.95.

The Travels of Thelonious: The Fog Mound

Susan Schade. Ill. Jon Buller

Thelonious and his companions are on a dangerous quest to get to Fog Mound. They have proof that humans once inhabited the earth! Alternating chapters of prose and graphic novel make this book appealing to even reluctant readers. (Team 3)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 214 pp. US\$14.95 (trade). CAN\$21.00.

Why Do Dogs Have Wet Noses?

Stanley Coren. Ill. with photographs.

Using a question-and-answer format, this nonfiction book provides information boys and girls want to know about dogs (and even answers some questions they never thought to ask). Color photographs enhance the simple text. (Team 2)

Kids Can Press. 64 pp. US\$12.95 (trade). CAN\$14.95.

What Athletes Are Made Of

Hanoch Pivin. Ill. by the author.

Ever wonder what athletes are made of? In this book, each athlete's short biography includes a portrait made from a collection of items that help to tell just what they are "made of." (Team 1)

Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 40 pp. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$23.50.

Advanced Readers

Bone #3: Eyes of the Storm

Jeff Smith. Ill. by the author.

Fone Bone, a fanciful character, hides from the rat creatures with Gran'ma Ben (whose identity as former queen is revealed) and his human friend, Thom (who finds out she is a princess). This graphic novel weaves together intrigue, humor, and parallel stories of Bone and others' adventures. (Team 2)

Graphix. 192 pp. US\$19.99 (trade). CAN\$25.99. Pb., Graphix. \$9.99.

Bunnica Meets Edgar Allan Crow

James Howe.

*The Monroe family is visited by the famous author of the *FleshCrawlers* books. When the author and his crow show an unusual interest in Bunnica, the Monroe pets are sure that their favorite rabbit is in danger.* (Team 4)

Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 160 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$19.99. Pb., Aladdin Paperbacks, F. US\$4.99.

Counting on Grace

Elizabeth Winthrop.

In the early 1900s in rural Vermont, Grace and her friend Arthur are forced to work in the cotton mills to help their families make ends meet. With help from their teacher, they contact Lewis Hine (an activist against child labor) to report their plight. (Team 2)

Wendy Lamb Books/Random House Children's Books. 240 pp. US\$17.99 (library). CAN\$ 25.99. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$22.95. Pb., Yearling/Random House Children's Books. US\$6.50. CAN\$8.99.

Crossing the Wire

Will Hobbs.

Victor Flores crosses the U.S.–Mexican border to find work to support his mother and younger siblings after his father died. Without money to hire smugglers, Victor jumps trains, suffers hunger, and struggles with the Arizona desert during his desperate run. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Publishers. 216 pp. US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

Dogboy

Christopher Russell.

Brind is more likely to get along with Glaive—a dog—than any human. But Brind's ability to communicate with the mastiffs of the kennel and other dogs puts him in danger during the Hundred Years' War. (Team 1)

Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins Publishers. 272 pp. US\$16.89 (library). US\$15.99 (trade).

The Earth Dragon Awakes

Laurence Yep.

This story is a short, powerful example of historical fiction. Readers see the experiences of a wealthy white family and an immigrant Chinese family during the events of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. A subplot describes discrimination that is experienced and overcome by the characters. (Team 3)

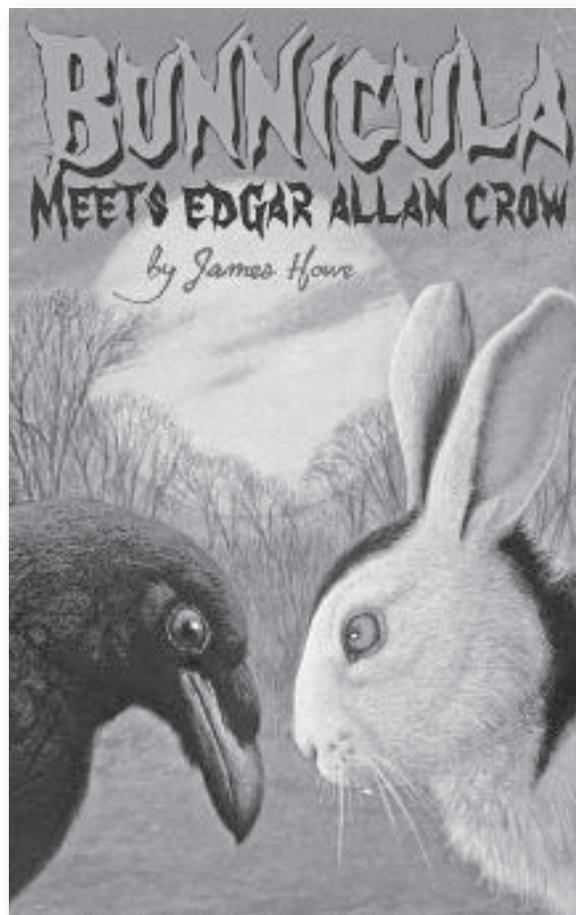
HarperCollins Publishers. 128 pp. US\$15.89 (library). US\$14.99 (trade). CAN\$19.99.

The Five Ancestors: Snake

Jeff Stone.

Follow the adventures of 12-year-old Seh (snake), Fu (tiger), and Malao (monkey) in 17th-century China. With the many twists and turns in the plot, you never know who is friend or foe—even family members are not always who they seem to be. (Team 2)

Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 208 pp. US\$17.99 (library). CAN\$25.99. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$22.95.



Jacket design by Russell Gordon and illustration © 2006 by C.F. Payne from *Bunnacula Meets Edgar Allan Crow* by James Howe. Used by permission of the publisher, Ginee Seo Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Hannah West in the Belltown Towers

Linda Johns.

Twelve-year-old Hannah West—adopted from China when she was an infant—lives with her mother in Seattle. They house-sit for a living. A series of mysterious thefts from local art galleries catches Hannah's attention. By piecing the clues together, she uncovers an art fraud plot. (Team 2)

Puffin Books/Penguin Young Readers Group. 160 pp. Pb., US\$5.99.

Heat

Mike Lupica.

Cuban-born Michael Arroyo fled to America with his father, brother, and a Yankee-sized dream. With "heat" in his pitch, Michael is close to achieving Little League stardom. Yet adult-sized problems stand in his way, including his missing birth certificate. (Team 3)

Philomel Books. 324 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). Pb., Puffin Books. US\$6.99.

Hercules: The Twelve Labors

Paul Storrie. Ill. Steve Kurth.

Hercules must perform 12 labors as ordered by a jealous King Eurystheus. These impossible requests are whispered to the king by the goddess Hera, who hopes to see Hercules fail. But with every difficult task, Hercules proves his strength and courage. (Team 4)

Graphic Universe/Lerner Publishing Group. 48 pp. US\$26.60 (library). Pb., Graphic Universe. US\$8.95.

The House Where Nobody Lived: A John Bellairs Mystery Featuring Lewis Barnavelt

Brad Strickland.

A haunted house, unexpected shadows, strange noises, a friendly witch, and curious young visitors are the elements in this fast-paced mystery. The magic of exploring a mansion built for a Hawaiian princess who later died adds to the charm of the book. (Team 5)

Dial Books for Young Readers/Sleuth. 176 pp. US\$16.99 (trade).

Kidnapped #1: The Abduction

Gordon Korman.

As Meg and Aidan Falconer (of the On the Run series) walk home from school, Meg is abducted. Aidan understands and follows the clues she leaves behind. In this fast-paced adventure, the siblings depend on a former enemy for help. (Team 1)

Scholastic Paperbacks. 144 pp. Pb., US\$4.99.

Kidnapped #2: The Search

Gordon Korman.

Meg Falconer tries to escape from her captives using strategies she remembers from her father's novel. Her brother, frustrated by the slow pace of rescue attempts, decides to find her himself. This is an action-packed page turner! (Team 4)

Scholastic Paperbacks. 144 pp. Pb., US\$4.99.

Kidnapped #3: The Rescue

Gordon Korman.

Continuing the high adventure from the first two books, Meg escapes into a violent blizzard. Only after her recapture, and with her whole family in danger in an abandoned mine, do we learn the real dastardly goals of the kidnapers. (Team 4)

Scholastic Paperbacks. 144 pp. Pb., US\$4.99.

Little Fur: The Legend Begins

Isobelle Carmody.

Little Fur is a half-elf, half-troll girl. She must leave her magical grove of trees and enter the dangerous world of humans to save the earth spirit. (Team 1)

Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 208 pp. US\$14.99 (library). CAN\$21.00. US\$12.95 (trade). CAN\$16.95.

The Legend of Thunderfoot

Bill Wallace.

The legend of Thunderfoot is told to all young roadrunners on the day they are named. This book tells the humorous (and endearing) "true" story of Thunderfoot, who was named because of his enormous feet which sounded like thunder when he ran. (Team 2)

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 160 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$19.99. Pb., Aladdin Paperbacks. US\$5.99.

Listen!

Stephanie Tolan.

Charley has to strengthen her injured leg after the car accident. Her mother's death two years ago and her father's long working hours make life almost unbearable. Charley's bond with a stray dog helps her to mend inside and outside. (Team 5)

HarperCollins Publishers. 208 pp. US\$ 16.89 (library). US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.

The Monstrous Memoirs of a Mighty McFearless

Ahmet Zappa.

Barf, slime, blood, and guts are plentiful in this novel told by Minerva McFearless, a "monsterterminator" in training. Recipes for keeping specific monsters away, close calls with gruesome monsters, humor, and sibling rivalry make this book entertaining. (Team 4)

Random House Books for Young Readers/Random House Children's Books. 224 pp. US\$12.95 (trade). CAN\$16.95.

Probably the World's Best Story About a Dog and the Girl Who Loved Me

D. James Smith.

In a sequel to The Boys of San Joaquin, Paolo, his brother Georgie, and deaf cousin Billy try to solve the mystery of a dog-napping. In the midst of the mystery, Paolo deals with Theresa Mueller's crush on him. (Team 1)

Richard Jackson Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 240 pp. US\$15.95. CAN\$21.95.

The Return of Skeleton Man

Joseph Bruchac.

Children who love to be scared will enjoy this sequel's build up through Molly's dreams and premonitions before the skeleton man kidnaps her during a snowstorm. Mohawk and other Native stories propel this well-told story. (Team 4)

HarperCollins Publishers. 144 pp. US\$16.89 (library). US\$15.99 (trade). CAN\$19.99.

Sand Dollar Summer

Kimberly K. Jones.

Lise has much to cope with when her single-mother moves her and her selective-mute brother next to the ocean to recover from a car accident. It takes a hurricane and an aged Native American friend to help Lise appreciate her life. (Team 5)

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 224 pp. US\$15.95 (trade). CAN\$21.95.

The Secret Country

Jane Johnson.

Ben is a regular kid (except for his one green and one brown eye) looking for a pet. A talking cat convinces Ben to buy him and save his life. Iggy the cat introduces Ben to Eidolon—the secret country—where he is prince. (Team 1)

Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 224 pp. US\$15.95 (trade).

Small Steps

Louis Sachar.

Characters familiar to readers from the bestseller Holes take on new challenges as they adjust to their life back in Austin, Texas. Armpit makes some unlikely friends of a neighbor with cerebral palsy and a lonely young pop star. (Team 1)

Delacorte Press/Random House Children's Books. 272 pp. US\$19.99 (library). US\$16.95 (trade).

To Dance

Siena Cherson Siegel. Ill. Mark Siegel.

This reflective memoir is written as a graphic novel. The author is able to express her thoughts through the illustrator's detailed pictures. Readers follow Siegel's memories of her youth and passion for ballet as she developed and pursued her talent for dance. (Team 3)

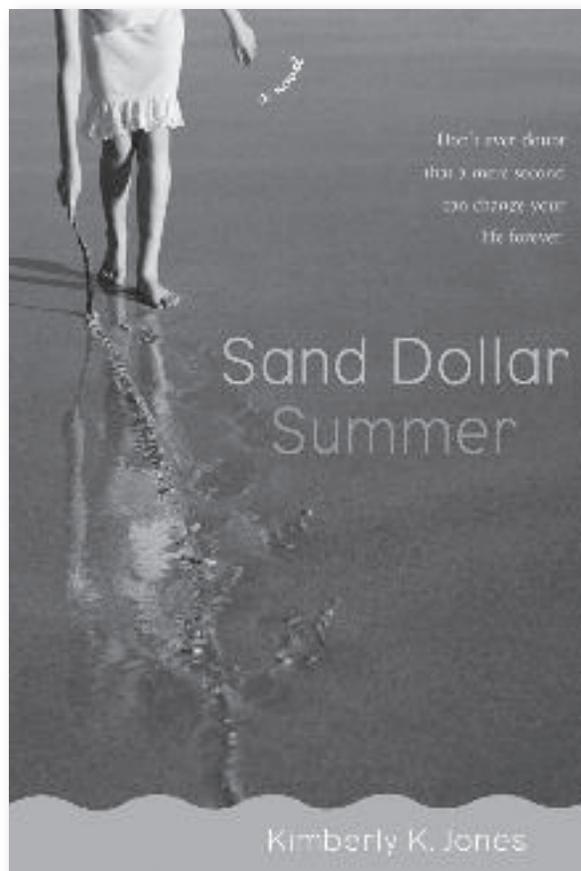
Richard Jackson Books/Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 64 pp. US\$17.95 (trade). Pb., Aladdin Paperbacks. US\$9.99.

Trapped in Ice!: An Amazing True Whaling Adventure

Martin W. Sandler.

In 1871, 39 ships set out on a journey from Massachusetts to the Arctic Ocean to hunt whales. Not only was whaling dangerous, but also the threat of ice was ever present as spring turned to winter. Every man, woman, and child aboard those 39 ships survived the harrowing trip. (Team 2)

Scholastic Nonfiction. 176 pp. US\$16.99 (trade). CAN\$21.99.



Jacket design by Krista Vossen and cover photograph © 2006 by Clarissa Leahy/Getty Images from *Sand Dollar Summer* by Kimberly K. Jones. Used by permission of the publisher, Margaret K. McElderry Books/Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing.

Vanishing Act: Mystery at the U.S. Open

John Feinstein.

Susan Carol Anderson and Stevie Thomas join together again, in the sequel to Last Shot, to help unravel the mystery of a vanished tennis star at the U.S. Open in New York City. (Team 1)

Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Children's Books. 288 pp. US\$18.99 (library). CAN\$24.99. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$22.99.

Weedflower

Cynthia Kadohata.

Sumiko and her family are forced to abandon their flower farm to go to an internment camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. Her misery is lightened after she befriends a Native-American boy who lives near the desert camp. (Team 5)

Atheneum Books for Young Readers/Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 272 pp. US\$16.95 (trade). CAN\$19.95.

White Star: A Dog on the *Titanic*

Marty Crisp.

Many dogs traveled on the Titanic. During its fateful night of tragedy, Sam bonded with Star, the dog of the owner of the White Star Line, as they struggled to survive. The author provides a booklist and deck drawing for readers who want to explore further. (Team 5)

Scholastic Paperbacks. 160 pp. US\$4.99.

Wild Lives: A History of the People & Animals of the Bronx Zoo

Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld. Ill. with photographs.

The book documents the development of the Bronx Zoo since it opened in 1899. Zookeeping is the science of conducting research on animals. It is also the art of developing relationship with the animals in the zoo's care. (Team 5)

Alfred A. Knopf/Random House Books for Young Readers. 96 pp. S\$20.99 (library). CAN\$27.99. US\$18.95 (trade). CAN\$26.95.