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2016 List of Cream of the Crop for Children's and Young Adult Literature

Southern Maine Library District Book Review Group.

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Maine Regional Library System
27th Annual Reading Round-Up of Children's and Young Adult Literature
Augusta Civic Center
April 7, 2016

MAINE EXAMINATION COLLECTION OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

Cream of the Crop

Total books: 99

KEY

L	Library binding	[GN]	Graphic Novel
R	Reinforced trade binding	[M]	Maine Author, Illustrator, Setting
T	Trade binding		

PICTURE BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: 29]

Bagley, Jessixa. *Boats for Papa*. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-626-72039-8, T \$17.00 (PreK-Grade 2). Buckley and his mama live by the sea; they don't have much, but they have each other. Buckley's papa is no longer with them and the ambiguity of his absence makes this a book that can be used on many levels, from the death of a parent to a parent serving overseas. Buckley makes boats out of the driftwood he collects on the beach, then he sends them out on the ocean "For Papa". What this little beaver doesn't know is that Mama, who "misses Papa too" has been collecting his tributes and keeping them safe in a trunk. After a year of sending boats, Buckley discovers mama's secret, and his next boat is for his thoughtful, strong Mama. The story attains an emotional resonance that is rare in children's books. A lovely read-aloud that not only quietly deals with the missing parent, but that honors the one who is still there, caring and nurturing every day.

Bandy, Michael S. *Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-763-66593-7, T \$16.99 (Grade K-4). Simple prose and large, clear images, easily understood by even young listeners, tell of the reality African Americans faced upon trying to exercise their right to vote before the Voting Rights Act was passed. Granddaddy dresses in his Sunday best with his grandson, Michael, and heads to town to cast his first-ever ballot. But he is denied due to impossibly convoluted questions asked of African American voters. He never does get a chance to vote in his lifetime. Years later, Michael finally casts a ballot and he does so with a picture of his granddaddy in his pocket. A note at the end provides historical context about voting and the civil rights movement.

Borando, Silvio. *Black Cat, White Cat*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-8106-7, T \$14.00 (PreK-Grade 1). Black Cat and White Cat are exact opposites. Black Cat only goes out during the day, and White Cat only goes out at night. When the two cats meet, they discover a new world and become inseparable. The simple text and black and white pencil illustrations work well together to create an enjoyable story for very young readers.

Bunting, Eve. *Yard Sale*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-6542-5, R \$15.99 (Grade K-3). Bunting tackle's the hard topic of having to downsize due to financial reasons in this story of Callie and her family. Watching strangers purchase and leave with her possessions is hard, but the message to the reader is that it is the family, not things that hold a family together. Castillo's soft illustrations convey the warmth of a family bond. Jennifer Jacobson's *Paper Things* has a similar topic for older children.

Cline-Ransome, Lesa. *Whale Trails, Before and Now*. Henry Holt and Co. 978-0-8050-9642-2, T \$17.99 (Grade K-5). Presented in the form of parallel stories, readers will learn how our relationship with whales has changed over time. The story features a girl and her father who take a group of tourists on a whale watching trip in present day. On the right side of each page, readers will learn facts about whaling expeditions from the 1800s. Colorful, cartoon-like illustrations help to tell the story of the whale watching voyage while sepia tones are used to illustrate whaling operations from the past. Use the book to spark conversations about protecting endangered species.

Doltich, Rebecca Kei. *One Day: Short, Very Short, Shorter-Than-Ever Stories The End*. Boyds Mills Press. 978-1-6902-1451-9, T \$16.99 (Pre-Grade 1). In these nine short one sentence stories written by a precocious little girl, the stage is set for imaginative adventures. While the text is minimal, the cartoon illustrations tell the entire story, lots of them! Doltich and Koehler have blended the pictures and text so well our readers not only understand each story but see how they all fit together. Use this for word recognition, writing prompts and story discussion.

Dubuc, Marianne. *Mr. Postmouse's Rounds*. Kids Can Press. 978-1-771-38572-5, T \$17.95 (PreK-Grade 2). It's Monday and Mr. Postmouse is making his deliveries to all of the animals. The illustrations are the star of this picture book. Each page has rich and quirky details on each animal's home: a carrot patch on the roof of the rabbits, an igloo complete with snow-making machine for the penguins. Young readers can pore over the pictures and, with its over-sized pages, teachers and librarians can read the story out loud, challenging those readers to discover the habitat details and guess the contents of each delivery.

Ebbeler, Jeffrey. *Click*. Holiday House. 978-0-823-43295-0, T \$16.95 (PreK-Grade 2). Using just onomatopoeic words, this wonderful picture book follows a bird lamp as it solves all of the problems of the noisy nighttime thereby allowing his little human a peaceful night's sleep. Ebbeler perfectly captures the sounds of the dripping faucet, the sneezing broom, the fluttering curtains, and then to take it one step further, one double-page spread with 12 squares of daytime noises before it's time to "click" off the light again. A gorgeous color palette and full-page spreads with fantastic details like a monkey-shaped scrub brush and a grumpy backpack, this book can be pored over by young readers, shared at story time, or used in a poetry unit.

Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*. HMH Books for Young Readers. 978-0-544-10229-3, T \$16.99 (Grade K-5). Engle's lyrical writing tells the story of a girl on the island of Cuba who longed to play the drums despite being told that girls can't play drums. Inspired by the true story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, the first female drummer from Cuba, the story describes Zaldarriaga's determination and passion for playing music. Lush, curved illustrations painted in bright acrylic paint on wood capture the music, the Cuban landscape and the emotion of the story. *Charlotte Zolotow Award* and *Pura Belpre Illustrator Award* (illus. Rafael Lopez)

Garton, Sam. *Otter in Space*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-062-24776-6, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 2). Another title in the "I Am Otter" series, this book emphasizes imagination and problem solving. Otter has a new rocket ship, but really feels that she needs a moon rock to make her space journey successful. She enlists the help of her friends, and assigns them roles, and outfits, to ensure that all goes smoothly. Of course, it doesn't go quite as she plans. With humor and beautiful, bright pictures, this book is a wonderful read-aloud and has high shelf-appeal.

Graham, Bob. *How the Sun Got to Coco's House*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-8109-8, R \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Follow the sun's journey on a winter day across the earth and meet the people and places it touches as it moves through the day. Graham's signature illustrations complement this soft, quiet story of the sun's travels to wake Coco. This book will work well as a storytime selection and as part of a unit on the sun.

Hammill, Elizabeth, ed. *Over the Hills and Far Away*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-763-67729-9, T \$21.99 (Pre-K-Grade 3). This book contains a wealth of rhymes from many, many traditions and cultures and these rhymes have been paired with illuminating, thought-provoking, beautiful illustrations from over 70 artists working today. Hammill does her research and compiles an interesting array of rhymes and she does it in the name of love; love for nursery rhymes and language. The illustrations truly enhance the reading experience. This is a lovely book to sit and read with a child because then the illustrations can be discussed, the language can be figured out together, and any cursive fonts can be discerned. Highly recommend this for any library with a nursery rhymes/folklore collection or any collection that explores the intersection of art and language.

Hanson, Faye. *The Wonder*. Templar. 978-0-763-67957-6, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 2). This picture book has an arresting cover showing a boy with ideas going off like fireworks from his mind. Beginning with sepia tones, the book follows a young boy as he makes his way to school, pausing here and there to wonder about things. He is told by one adult after another to stop daydreaming and keep focused. In school, he encounters the same practical advice from his teachers...until he gets to art class. There, he has permission to let his imagination free. The pages that follow are whimsical, colorful, and wondrous indeed. The boy's imagination, his sense of wonder, has been supported and fed. The book makes the connection between this type of support in art education, and at home, and that of finding success as an artist and sharing that wonder with the world.

Henkes, Kevin. *Waiting*. Greenwillow Books. 978-0-0623-6843-0, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 2). Five toy animals (rabbit, owl, puppy, pig and bear) sit on a windowsill and gaze outside as they wait for something to happen. Henkes uses simple text and soft, watercolor illustrations to convey to readers the feelings and anticipation that come with waiting. *Caldecott Honor* and *Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor*

Isabella, Jude. *The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Bicycle*. Kids Can Press. 978-1-771-38023-2, T \$18.95 (Grade 3-6). The story of one donated bike and all of the people who benefit from its use. The book is fiction, but has a "true story" feel to it which can help children relate to the idea of donating something that they no longer use or need to benefit someone else. Each page has two options for reading the story, depending on your audience: a full-paragraph and a one-sentence summary that encapsulates the action on that page. The end of the book includes photographs of people using a bicycle to sell wares and offers ways for kids to help as well as additional information about Burkina Faso, the location in which most of the story takes place. There is also a note for parents/teachers about ways to use the story to help children effect change.

Knudsen, Michelle. *Marilyn's Monsters*. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-6011-6, R \$18.00 (Grade K-2). Readers will find a strong, independent, main character who decides to take matters in her own hands when her monster doesn't find her. Illustrations show that same independent spirit with a touch of whimsy when one goes monster hunting.

Konnecke, Ole. *You Can Do It, Bert!* Gecko Press. 978-1-927-27103-2, R \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 1). What seems like a predictable story about a bird trying to fly has a twist that will delight young readers/audiences. With spare text, vibrant color, and plenty of white space, Konnecke has a winning story about a bird who goes out on a limb, and takes the leap. Great for lessons about supporting a friend and taking a chance on a new thing, even when it is scary.

Light, Steve. *Have You Seen My Monster?* Candlewick. 978-0-7636-7513-4, R \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 3). In this interactive story, a small child wanders through a county fair in search of her friendly monster. The reader is invited along and while looking, finds a variety of shapes, some simple and some you may not have heard of. With almost no color, the detailed black and white illustrations highlight the 20 shapes to be found. A fun book to be read more than once. Pair with *Marilyn's Monsters* by Michelle Knudsen and *Alphabet City* by Stephen Johnson.

Martin, Emily Winfield. *The Wonderful Things You Will Be*. Random House. 978-0-385-37671-6, T \$17.99 (PreK-Grade 2). Simple rhyming text, gorgeous muted illustrations, which avoid gender bias and depict many ethnicities, and a message of hope and kindness make this picturebook an easy addition to any collection. Parents will love reading it as a bedtime story and children will be inspired by the message that they are never too small to do big things.

McNamara, Margaret. *A Poem in Your Pocket*. Schwartz & Wade. 978-0-307-97947-6, T \$16.99 (Grade K-3). Elinor, confident, eager to learn, knows she can write the best poem in the class, but the challenge of always needing to be the best doesn't allow Elinor the joy of enjoying poetry and the fun of writing poems. In both text and illustration, the reader struggles with Elinor as she lets go of being perfect and finds joy in the journey. Pair with any of your favorite books on poetry.

Medina, Meg. *Mango, Abuela, and Me*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-763-66900-3, T \$15.99 (PreK-Grade 2). Mia is not sure about her grandmother from "far-away," her abuela, moving in with the family. A beautifully told story about acclimating to a new person in one's life and to a new situation and language. The reader is drawn into Mia's hesitation and then to her appreciation for her grandmother. A fantastic story to use around Grandparent's Day, and with any young readers who might have a grandparent living with them. The illustrations capture the color and vibrancy of the Latin heritage of the main characters. *Pura Belpre Author/Illustrator Honor* (illus. Angela Dominguez)

Miyakoshi, Akiko. *Tea Party in the Woods*. Kids Can Press. 978-1-771-38107-9, T \$16.95 (Grade K-2). Kikko notices that her father forgot the pie for grandmother and convinces her mother to let her follow him through the woods to correct his oversight. With splashes of red on a dream-like black & white palette and whiffs of Red Riding Hood, Miyakoshi balances just the right mix of whimsy with suspense. What will Kikko find when she follows the wrong figure in the woods? Is there a wolf waiting up ahead? Stunning drawings and spare text make this a great read-aloud. Also a wonderful mentor text for fairy tales.

O'Brien, Anne Sibley. *I'm New Here*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-580-89612-2, T \$16.95 (Grade K-4). Readers will see the world from the point of view of three immigrant children. What happens when you don't understand the language your teacher speaks or how to communicate with friends on the playground? Bold watercolor illustrations and speech bubbles help convey the story of immigration, community and acceptance. The story is sure to elicit rich discussions about empathy and understanding the viewpoints of others.

Paul, Alison. *The Plan*. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-5442-8333-6, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). A little girl's dream to fly is told in sparse, one word per frame text. Paul lets the illustrations speak to the heart and soul of this story. Clearly defined, soft illustrations show the love of flying a father and daughter share and the love they have for each other.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Meet the Dullards*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-062-19856-3, T \$17.99 (Grade K-2). Pennypacker's deadpan delivery of the most boring family in the world is well-executed. She uses just the right examples to show how shocking the world can be (books! chunky applesauce! wallpaper! exclamation points!!). And Salmieri's watercolor, gouache, and colored pencil drawings add great detail. It is a fun read-aloud as the audience notices the small things that the children do when left to their own devices. And it uses an extreme point-of-view to show that children should be allowed to explore and experiment. Even the youngest readers get this. A fun addition to any picture book collection.

Portis, Antoinette. *Wait*. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-59643-921-4, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 2). A mother and her young son have different priorities as they walk down a busy street. Using just two words: "hurry" and "wait," the author eloquently captures the curiosity of a young child and the determination of a hurried parent. Bold, cartoon-style charcoal, pencil and ink illustrations make this an appealing picture book for very young readers. Pair with *The Man with the Violin*.

Rose, Carolyn Starr. *Over in the Wetlands*. Schwartz & Wade. 978-0-449-81016-3, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Animals living on the Bayou wake to a calm, peaceful day only to watch as a hurricane comes to their wetland home. Rhyming text, illustrations that show the changes the day goes through as the storm arrives makes the reader feel as though they are there. Science and art combine to meet common core standards.

Sarcone-Roach, Julia. *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 978-0-375-85860-4, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 3). An unreliable narrator (dog) recalls how his owner's sandwich was eaten by a bear in this clever picture book. Bold acrylic illustrations show the bear in a variety of settings in the city until he encounters the sandwich on a park bench. Readers will find humor in the surprise ending. The story would make an enjoyable read aloud, and it's perfect for predicting and retelling.

Ward, Helen. *Spots in a Box*. Templar Books. 978-0-7636-7597-4, T \$16.99 (PreK-Grade 2). A guinea fowl without spots feels different from the other birds and writes a letter requesting spots. Soon packages arrive brimming full of small spots, sparkly spots, bright spots, splats, and more. Helen Ward uses watercolor, cut-outs, graph paper and textures to illustrate the variety of spots and dots. Young readers will delight in this unique picture book about individuality and creativity.

PICTURE BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: 13]

Benson, Kathleen and Benny Andrews. *Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews*. Clarion Books. 978-0-544-10487-7, T \$16.99 (Grade K-6). Benson tells of the place in history of Andrews, considered to be one of the finest African American artists of the 20th century. A teacher, a Civil Rights advocate, a voice for those without representation in the art community, a helper, Andrews believed that art was for everyone. With spare prose on one page, and a full illustration on the other, this book uses Andrews's own paintings to tell his story. Andrews style of collage rich in reds and blues are well-chosen by Benson and bring his story to life. This book can be read aloud, used in art class, or for a unit on Civil Rights or the Harlem Renaissance.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett. *Jumping off Library Shelves: A Book of Poems*. Word Song. 978-1-59078-924-7, R (Grade 2-4). How does one describe all a library is and how it shapes the lives of all who enter through its doors? Lee Bennett Hopkins has selected poems that take the reader on a library tour: the librarian, storytime, library card, the books on the shelves. Illustrations of gouache and colored pencils are bright and express the joy found within library walls. Pair this with poets such as Jack Prelutsky, Alice Schertle and/or Jane Yolen.

Janeczko, Paul B. *The Death of the Hat: A Brief History of Poetry in 50 Objects*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-6963-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-12). Poet, Paul B. Janeczko, provides readers with a history of poetry through the ages in this picture book anthology. The selected poems by poets such as Eloise Greenfield, William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, and Langston Hughes, focus on objects and are accompanied by whimsical, watercolor illustrations by Chris Raschka. Arranged chronologically, the selected poems are deep, complex and use rich language that older readers will appreciate and savor.

Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. *Luna and Me-The True Story of a Girl Who Lived in a Tree to Save a Forest*. Christy Ottaviano Books. 978-0-8050-9976-8, R \$18.99 (Grade 1-4). When Luna, an ancient redwood, is scheduled to be cut down, a young girl stages a "sit-in" (738 days) to save her. Based on the true story of Julia "Butterfly" Hill, this shows the reader how one person's commitment can effect change. Illustrations of muted color show the reader in great detail how to spend long periods of time in a great tree. Combine this with books on the environment and with stories showing how one person can make a difference.

Nelson, Robin. *From Steel to Bicycle*. Lerner. 978-1-4677-3892-7, L \$23.95 (Grade K-3). How are bikes made? Simple paragraphs supported by stock photographs explain the process that a bicycle goes through before it comes to a child. Pair this selection with Emmanuel's Dream by Laurie Thompson, How to Ride a Bicycle by Chris Raschka and Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen by Cari Best.

Paul, Miranda. *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*. Millbrook Press. 978-1-4677-1608-6, L \$19.99 (Grade K-5). This nonfiction picture book set in Gambia highlights the issue of plastic bags littering the countryside. When Isatou Ceesay is frustrated by the weak plastic bags that break easily and are abandoned outside, she decides to repurpose the bags by weaving them into plastic thread to create crocheted purses. Collage illustrations incorporate plastic bags into the artwork. The book could be used as part of a science unit or library program about recycling.

Paul, Miranda. *Water is Water: a Book About the Water Cycle*. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-5964-3984-9, R \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Paul Miranda's rhyming text introduces the reader to the various forms water presents itself throughout the year. He explains the importance and prevalence of water in our daily lives in a fun, easy going way. Jason Chin's illustrations match the text. Science and art come together perfectly to make this a must choice.

Prevot, Franck. *Wangari Maathai - The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees*. Charlesbridge. 978-1-58089-626-9, R \$17.99 (Grade 2-4). Born in a small village, raised by a mother to love the environment and education, Wangari Maathai created a movement to plant trees across Kenya so that her country would always have the symbols of hope and peace. Her story is an inspiration to all young people to leave the world a better place. Lush, colorful illustrations support the text in this inspiring story. Pair this with *Luna and Me*, and other stories of environmentalists that changed the world.

Tavares, Matt. ***Growing Up Pedro***. Candlewick Press. 978-0-763-66824-2, T [M] \$16.99 (Grade 2-4). Another excellent baseball-related biography, this time about Pedro Martinez and his rise from the Dominican Republic through Major League Baseball. The book celebrates the relationship of Pedro with his older brother Ramon and will appeal to both sports fans and biography readers at the elementary level. Top-notch illustrations round out the story. *Lupine Picture Book Honor*

Walker, Sally. ***The True Story of the Bear that Inspired Winnie the Pooh***. Henry Holt. 978-0-8050-9715-3, T \$17.99 (Grade K-3). Winnie the Pooh has been and continues to be a part of every child's reading experience. But Winnie didn't start out in the Hundred Acre Wood. He started out as a little black bear on a train platform in Winnipeg Canada. Sally Walker's picture biography introduces the reader to the real Winnie and his journey from battlefield to the hearts of millions of children. Detailed illustrations invoke the same gentle feeling one has about Winnie.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer: Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement***. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-6531-9, T \$17.99 (Grade 5-8). Poems describe pivotal events in the life of Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights activist who fought for the right to vote in this powerful picture book biography. Holmes' vibrant paper collage illustrations pair perfectly with the poems. The paint, paper and maps used in the collages give the illustrations a rich texture. Back matter includes source notes, a timeline, and bibliography. *Robert F. Sibert Honor*

Wright, Anna. ***A Tower of Giraffes: Animals in Groups***. Charlesbridge. 978-1-580-89707-5, T \$17.95 (Grade 1-4). A nonfiction book that explains collective nouns and then provides examples of animal groups fitting into this category. Wright's use of collage with found materials to make her animals is elegant and would be a wonderful example for an art class. This would be a delightful book to read aloud in the primary grades or to use as a mentor text for informational writing.

Yolen, Jane, Stemple, Heidi. ***You Nest Here With Me***. Boyds Mills Press. 978-1-590-78923-0, T \$16.95 (PreK-Grade 2). A mother tucks her child in at bedtime and the story she tells is that of how other "children" are tucked in. Various bird mothers tuck their babies in high trees or sandy beaches. Add Melissa Sweet's illustrations add to the soft, snug nature of the story. Art in the words chosen, in the illustrations drawn and the science of the text come together perfectly in this STEAM selection.

CHAPTER BOOK NONFICTION [total books in this category: 11]

Atkinson, Rick. ***Battle of the Bulge***. Henry Holt & Co. 978-1-627-79113-7, L \$19.99 (Grade 9-12). World War II's Battle of the Bulge is conveyed in detail within Atkinson's latest volume for young readers. The planning and implementation of Hitler's final stand in the Ardennes is told through primary source excerpts, captioned photographs, detailed maps, and an extensive appendix. The level of detail within the work make this a rich title ideal for report writing or history buffs.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. ***Terrible Typhoid Mary: A True Story of the Deadliest Cook in America***. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 9780544313675, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Excellent coverage of the typhoid epidemic in the early 1900s with table of contents, photo album located at the end of the book of Mary and related images from the time, a timeline of Mary Mallon's life and a well-documented bibliography. The book is easy to follow and would be helpful to anyone interested in Mary Mallon's personal life, the typhoid epidemic, the pathology of the time and history.

Blumenthal, Karen. ***Tommy: the Gun That Changed America***. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-626-72084-8, R \$19.99 (Grade 9-12). The gun that was initially turned down by the U.S military became the first choice for gangsters, bootleggers and other criminals. The Thompson machine gun, known as the Tommy Gun, invented in 1918, changed the face of America and beyond. Well researched with lots of photographs, we learn the history of this gun, its impact on society and the new burgeoning concept of gun control. This is an informative and fascinating look at an often unpleasant subject. History buffs, gun enthusiasts, and even those opposed to guns will find this an interesting read.

Brown, Don. ***Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans***. HMH Books for Young Readers. 978-0-544-15777-4, T [GN] \$18.99 (Grade 7-12). Simple line drawings in a muted watercolor palette illustrate this non-fiction graphic novel that recounts the Hurricane Katrina disaster in New Orleans with powerful, unadorned efficacy. Beginning just as the storm was forecast and concluding with the changes it wrought that are still noticeable years after, this is an expansive yet accessible expository that includes direct quotes from those affected by the storm as well as those involved in rescue efforts. Governmental mistakes are treated in a matter of fact manner, as are instances of looting and illegal activity. Expertly paced and designed, with source notes and a bibliography, this is an excellent resource for an academic setting or for anyone seeking a better understanding of this tragedy.

Carson, Mary Kay. ***Inside Biosphere 2 -Earth Science Under Glass***. Houghton Mifflin. 978-0-544-41664-2, T \$18.99 (Grade 4-up). What began as an experiment on how to live and survive in space or other worlds has become a laboratory for the study of earth and all the biomes it supports. Thirty years of study in this air tight structure have given scientists a look at how climate change has affected the world. This is another amazing book in the *Scientists in the Field series*. This can be paired with stories such as Wangari Maathai and Julia Hill.

Hoose, Phillip. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Petersen and the Churchill Club*. Farrar Straus Giroux. 978-0-374-30022-7, T [M] \$19.99 (Grade 7-12). A meticulously researched and thoroughly captivating true story about a group of Danish boys who saw the Germans taking over their country and wanted to stop it or, at the very least, make some waves. Students Knud Petersen, his brother, and a select group of friends decided to engage in vandalism in order to send a message to the Nazis. Hoose is a masterful storyteller and has a way of bringing history to life for high school readers with particular appeal for any reader who loves history, particularly that of WWII, as well as those who appreciate a well-told true story or personal narrative. *Lupine JYA Honor* and *Robert F. Sibert Honor*

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Courage and Defiance: Stories of Spies, Saboteurs, and Survivors in World War II Denmark*. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-59220-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 6-12). A well written account of the heroic acts by men and women involved with the Danish resistance in World War II. Numerous black and white photographs depict the men and women whose stories are told, as well as the time period. The features of the book are not to be missed which include an epilogue, Danish alphabet pronunciations, the people in the book, chronology, map, extensive bibliography (print and online), source notes, numerous photo credits, and comprehensive index.

Jarrow, Gail. *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary*. Calkins Creek (Highlights). 978-162-09159-4, R \$16.95 (Grade 7-12). This is a meticulously researched book centered on the life of Mary Mallon, aka Typhoid Mary. Mary never contracted the disease. She was just a carrier. Mary refused to cooperate with health officials. When they caught her she was imprisoned for a good part of her life so she wouldn't infect anyone else. But still the epidemic raged on. Extensive use of newspaper accounts, photographs and other primary sources enable the reader to gain a firsthand account of Mary's ordeal, the trail of infection, public health in 1900s New York, and the efforts of doctors and other health professionals to stem and stop this epidemic. This is a fine work of nonfiction that reads like a medical thriller. It is second in a planned trilogy on deadly diseases. After reading this you will be more willing to always wash your hands

Johnson, Rebecca L. *Chernobyl's Wild Kingdom: Life in the Dead Zone*. Twenty First Century Books. 978-1-4677-1154-8, L \$33.57 (Grade 4-up). The 1986 Chernobyl nuclear explosion in the Ukraine change the world forever. Scientists assumed that a vast wasteland due to the radiation was all that would remain. But 30 years later, Chernobyl is anything but dead and barren. Johnson has given the reader an inside look at what has happened to the animals, fish, and flora that could not escape. This is a must for every library and can be paired with *Bombs Over Bikini Island* by Connie Goldsmith, *Nuclear Meltdown* by Kristen Larson and biographies about Marie Curie.

Marrin, Albert. *FDR and the American Crisis*. Alfred A. Knopf. 978-0-385-75359-3, R \$24.99 (Grade 7-12). This meticulously researched biography is a wonderful resource on Franklin Delano Roosevelt. You not only learn about his life and presidencies, but the Depression, World War II, his leadership skills, and how his choices both positively and negatively affected people (such as the continuation of Jim Crow). Albert Marrin has given us a thorough glimpse into the life of one of our greatest presidents. History buffs will love this.

Montgomery, Sy. *The Octopus Scientists: Exploring the Mind of a Mollusk*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-5442-3270-9, T \$18.99 (Grade 4-up). Sy Montgomery introduces young scientists to a smart, savvy, mysterious creature found in French Polynesia and Alaska! The information gathered by the scientists in the book, show us that these octopods are smart and important to the ecology of our planet. This is another *Scientists in the Field Series* book and is a must for all libraries.

CHAPTER BOOK FICTION [total books in this category: 46]

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-062-34867-8, T \$17.99 (Grade 8-12). While Simon knows his friends and family will not reject him once they know that he's gay, he dreads the big deal it will be in this honest and funny novel about coming out. Thoughtful, sarcastic Simon is blackmailed by a fellow student who discovers Simon's secret correspondence with another guy at their suburban Atlanta high school. Interspersing sweetly flirtatious emails between Simon and the boy he knows only as Blue (they began writing to each other when Simon spotted an anonymous post by Blue on his school's gossip Tumblr), this love story is earnest and heartfelt, including plenty of well-developed secondary characters whose narrative voices will ring true to readers and carefully wrapping up both its major and minor plots. A pitch-perfect offering for teen romantics who like Rainbow Rowell and David Levithan. *William C. Morris Award*

Almond, David. *The Tightrope Walkers*. Candlewick. 978-0-763-67310-9, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). This anguishing, darkly beautiful tale of gifted writer Dominic coming of age in 1950-60's Northern England finds him stretched to the point of breaking between many worlds. Among them is the working class, brutal existence of his father who is a shipyard worker, the privileged, academically rigorous school for which he qualifies, his childhood best friend Holly whose father was a WWII conscientious objector, and Vincent, the neighborhood's wild, menacing, but strangely magnetic bully. Evocative, heavily vernacular phrasing explores questions of good versus evil, class, gender and faith in this sophisticated, introspective novel of historical fiction.

Aveyard, Victoria. **Red Queen**. HarperTeen. 978-0-062-31063-7, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). This fantasy debut provides an action-packed adventure with lush descriptions of setting in an alternate world where Reds are ruled over the ruling class, the Silvers. Narrated by Mare, who is a Red and living the standard deprived and powerless life of a Red, discovers powers that she did not know existed, and the politics of her world changes forever. Action, violence, romance, and betrayal make this volume a must-have for fantasy collections.

Benway, Robin. **Emmy & Oliver**. Harper Collins. 978-0-062-33059-9, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Oliver's life has been turned upside down twice, when he was kidnapped by his father at 7 years old and when he was returned to his mother at 17 years old. How do you resume a life with friends you no longer know? And with a new family you don't really feel a part of? Thankfully, there is Emmy, Oliver's childhood best friend. As Emmy and Oliver rekindle their friendship, a romance begins to blossom. Emmy helps Oliver readjust to life and to reconcile his feelings for his parents. Oliver helps Emmy break the bonds of over-protective, but loving parents and to seek the life she wants. This is a bittersweet coming of age story about family, friendship, hope and courage. Fans of Sarah Dessen, John Green, and Deb Caletti will rejoice.

Burnham, Molly B. **Teddy Mars: Almost a Record Breaker**. Katherine Tegen Books. 978-0-0622-7810-4, T \$16.99 (Grade 2-4). Ten year-old Teddy is frustrated by his six siblings, especially his annoying little brother Jake. Teddy loves to read the *Guinness Book of World Records*, and he dreams of someday breaking a world record. When Teddy loses his patience with his brother, he decides to move into a tent in the back yard and befriends an elderly neighbor who keeps pigeons. This early chapter book has a well-developed plot, quirky characters and humor that will keep readers engaged right up until the end as Teddy pursues his dream of becoming a record breaker.

Coyle, Katie. **Vivian Apple at the End of the World**. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 978-0-544-34011-4, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Set in a modern America where a religion called the Church of America capitalizes on its Believers in every sense of the word, Vivian is an adamant non-Believer. After the night of the Rapture, Vivian discovers that her parents are missing along with thousands of others. When a rumor reaches her of a secret compound in California where Believers may be hiding, Vivian sets off in a desperate search for truth across America. Packed with satire, irreverent humor, and thorough character development, perfect for libraries with an audience for apocalyptic scenarios and strong female characters.

Crossan, Sarah. **One**. Greenwillow Press. 978-0-062-11875-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Tippi and Grace are conjoined at the hip, and are entering private school for the first time. They meet two friends who see them as separate people, and encourage them to rebel like actual teenagers. While the girls were not expected to live past age 2, they have made it this far - until now. An emergency surgery is required to keep the girls alive, but will split them from each other. Grief, love, and rebellion are all examined by Crossan in this realistic novel in verse.

Gannon, Nicholas. **The Doldrums**. Greenwillow Books. 978-0062320940, T \$17.99 (Grade 4-7). Spectacularly illustrated and expertly told, with quirky characters reminiscent of a Roald Dahl novel, this middle grade novel is delightful and one for those who enjoy unwrapping a story. Archer's grandparents are famous world-explorers, but they have gone missing on an iceberg. Archer fervently believes that they are still alive, so much so that he is willing to put together an expedition to find them. The story is not so much about the expedition, but the planning and putting together of that expedition and what it brings out in Archer and his two friends. The 20 color illustrations, also by Gannon, are gorgeous, and the black-and-white line drawings add to the telling. There is also a nod to the kind, knowledgeable school librarian! Give to fans of Dahl, Trenton Stewart's *Mysterious Benedict Society*, or Lemony Snicket.

Gemeinhart, Dan. **The Honest Truth**. Scholastic. 978-0-545-66573-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). The book starts with a boy who is leaving home with a very definite agenda, to climb to the top of Mt. Ranier or die trying. Mark is ill and believes that the cancer that has ravaged his body for years is about to finish him off anyway, so he resolves to die on his own terms. A story of survival, resilience, human connections, and heart-wrenching decisions, this middle grade book is a quick read and one that will linger in the reader's heart long after the last page.

Gino, Alex. **George**. Scholastic. 978-0-545-81254-2, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). George, to all outward appearances is a 4th grade boy, but in her heart and soul, she is all girl. The life she has to navigate is given voice in this story of trying to be your true self. Transgender is finally being recognized and talked about and Gino's novel is hopefully the first of many that will explore this subject. *Stonewall Book Award*

Hayes, Christine. **Mothman's Curse**. Roaring Brook Press. 978-1-6267-2027-5, T \$15.99 (Grade 4-6). Paranormal activity, pictures from a camera with no film, a curse, and the red-eyed, winged Mothman monster are no match for a family that works together to solve the mystery, save the town, break the curse and send the Mothman back to kingdom come!

Holder, Nancy & Viguie. **The Rules**. Delacorte Press. 978-0-385-74100-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). This is the ultimate high school revenge story/psychological thriller. At an exclusive party for the popular clique, August hopes to get revenge for the wrongs he believes he and his dead sister suffered at the hands of this clique. Things soon turn deadly and horrific. Is August

really the mastermind behind this deadly party? Or has someone else taken control of things? Will August become a victim like the others? The chapters alternate between the perspectives of the various teens trying to survive. This has lots of action, twists and gore. It is a plot driven thrill ride where you don't know who will survive and who is in control. Not to be read at bedtime.

Hosler, Jay. *The Last of the Sandwalkers*. First Second. 978-1-626-72024-4, T [GN] \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). A fantastic graphic novel about beetles on a quest that has the right mix of good and evil, snark and sentiment, humor and sincerity. It begins with a guide to identifying beetles as it introduces the cast of characters in the story. There are journal entries from the protagonist Lucy as the quest begins with a research expedition as the cast sets off on a mission to determine if there is life outside of their city, New Coleopolis. The book is as good as any human explorer's travelogue as Lucy struggles to assign meaning to the things experienced on the mission. Along the way, the bugs discover things about each other, themselves, and the greater world outside of their sheltered little home. The villain, Professor Owen, is evil indeed as he attempts to keep his fellow New Coleopolites in the dark about life outside of their city, reminiscent of the Emperor trying to control the resistance by those pesky Jedis. And the copious endnotes are fascinating to read chapter by chapter or at the very end as the reader realizes that he has learned quite a bit about the insect world in this tale of adventure and discovery.

Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. *Paper Things*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-7636-6323-0, T [M] \$16.99 (Grade 4-7). When fifth grader Ari and her teenage brother leave their guardian's home, they find themselves homeless, alternating between sleeping on a friend's couch and spending nights in the shelter. Ari works hard at school and has dreams of attending a school for gifted students, so she does not tell anyone about her living situation. This powerful middle grade novel will open the eyes of many readers to the issue of homelessness in our country. Pair with *Yard Sale* or *Crenshaw*. *Lupine J/YA Award*

Jonell, Lynne. *The Sign of the Cat*. Henry Holt and Company. 978-0-8050-9683-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 5-8). Duncan McKay has the unique ability to communicate with cats. After leaving his home on the island of Arvidia, Duncan finds himself on a perilous ocean voyage and becomes involved in the search for missing princess and discovers a secret about his own life in the process. Middle grade readers will be drawn to the fast-paced plot of this adventurous story involving cats and royal secrets.

Kaufman, Amie and Jay Kristoff. *Illuminae*. Knopf. 978-0-553-49911-7, T \$18.99 (Grade 8-12). A heart-pounding science fiction thriller set in the year 2575 unfolds in an unusual format, presented as a dossier of captured text communications, described video footage and jumbled computer logs with all of the (abundant) profanity blacked out at the bequest of the at first unknown person who requested its compilation. Readers will be captivated by this story of a recently broken up teen couple who've escaped an attack on their small mining planet by a massive corporation and will effortlessly piece together the events as they unfold involving epic battles in space, a rogue AI system and a deadly biological agent. Breakneck pacing and intricate plotting will appeal to both established science fiction fans and a more general teen audience.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Curious World of Calpurnia Tate*. Henry Holt. 978-0-805-09744-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-8). Calpurnia is a winning character, one who has a good head on her shoulders, curiosity, and empathy. She is a science lover and a girl who will put in the time to figure out an answer. A book with realistic family interactions and a solid portrayal of the realities for a girl growing up in the early 1900s, particularly in terms of her limitations for education and opportunities.

Keyser, Amber J. *The Way Back from Broken*. Carolrhoda Lab, 978-1-4677-7590-8, T \$18.99 (Grade 7-12). This poignant debut novel explores the overwhelming grief of two families who've experienced infant loss. Fifteen-year-old Rakmen first encounters ten-year-old Jacey in a support group that they attend after the deaths of their younger siblings. Rakmen's withdrawn sadness is believable and realistic, as is the gradual way that Jacey begins to draw him out as she latches on to him as something of an older brother figure. When he accompanies Jacey and her mom on a trip to their remote cabin and mishaps occur, both the danger and their similar shared experience bring their emotions to the forefront. A thoughtful, meditative story that will deeply move readers.

Kinsella, Sophie. *Finding Audrey*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-553-53651-5, T \$18.99 (Grade 7-12). This is a story of recovery, being part of a loving but dysfunctional family, and the far reaching effects that bullying and mental illness have, not just on the individual person, but their friends and family as well. Audrey is suffering from severe anxiety and depression resulting from an undisclosed incident at school. The story alternates between Audrey's witty and often thought-provoking first person narrative and transcripts from a documentary of her family she is making as part of her therapy. Audrey meets Linus, a friend of her computer game obsessed brother. He is kind, patient and supportive. A friendship and then romance slowly develop. Things get momentarily worse before they get better for Audrey. This is a sensitive and often humorous portrayal of recovery and the love of family and friends. Great parent-child interaction, strong characters, spot-on dialogue, and gentle and hopeful portrayal of surviving bullying and mental illness.

MacFarlane, John. *Stormstruck!* Holiday House. 978-0-823-43394-0, T \$16.95 (Grade 3-5). Convinced that his parents are going to put down his dog, Pogo, and reeling from the loss of his older brother in Afghanistan, Sam resolves to run away in his little catboat. Confronted with fog, lack of wind, a shipwreck, a wise ornithologist who is injured trying to help Sam, and a

stalking shark, there are plenty of suspenseful moments. An education in nautical terminology and a paean to survival skills. And in the end, a touching story about finding out how strong you can really be and accepting the loss of someone who meant so much to you.

McCoola, Marika. ***Baba Yaga's Assistant***. Candlewick. 978-0-7636-6961-4, T [GN] \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). In this tale within a tale, Marsha mourns the loss of her mother and feels neglected when her father decides to remarry. Marsha leaves home and applies to be Baba Yaga's new assistant. She is given a series of tests by the witch including washing an endless pile of dishes and outsmarting a bear. The author employs flashbacks as Marsha recalls stories her grandmother told about Baba Yaga. The artwork enhances and adds depth to this graphic novel folktale.

McGinnis, Mindy. ***A Madness so Discreet***. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins Publishing. 978-0-062-32086-5, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). A dark historical thriller set at the turn of the nineteenth century examines madness and what it means to be mad. Grace Mae is thrown into an asylum after her father, the Senator, gets her pregnant. After experiencing the horrors of the asylum, she asks Dr. Thornhollow for a lobotomy. Instead, he recognizes Grace's photographic memory and recruits her to solve the case of a series of murders and smuggles her out of the asylum. Fans of Sherlock, psychological thrillers, and murder mysteries will enjoy this well written tale.

Murphy, Julie. ***Dumplin'***. Balzer&Bray/HarperCollins Publishers. 978-0-062-32718-5, T \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). Willowdean knows she is fat and is confident in her own skin. However, a new relationship shakes Will's confidence and has her coping with newfound insecurity. To get her confidence back, Will decides to enter her small town's beauty pageant, which her mother happens to run, and inspires other misfit girls in her school to enter, too. Excellent characters and plot celebrate diverse characters without falling into the pitfall trap of having the protagonist lose weight to be happy. A humorous and real tale that will delight readers of realistic fiction.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Juba!: A Novel***. Amistad. 978-0-062-11271-2, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). A work of historical fiction about real-life figure William Henry Lane, known as "Juba," a young African American man famous for his talent as a dancer in the early nineteenth century, this emotionally rich novel is peppered with interesting primary source documents from his life. Born free in Rhode Island in the early 1800's, Juba lived as a teen in Five Points, New York City, and was determined to make it as a dancer who eschewed the then-popular minstrel style, first in the United States and eventually in the UK. Historical and cultural details abound in this engaging narrative; poverty and racism are depicted with realistic ugliness. A heart-breaking, personal story of a fascinating historical figure.

Myers, Walter Dean and Guy A. Sims. ***Monster: A Graphic Novel***. Amistad. 978-0-062-2750-0, L [GN] \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). This graphic adaptation of *Monster* is superbly done, with panels that enhance the original story of Steve Harmon's murder trial. Steve's interest in filmmaking is highlighted through the depictions of the filmmaking process and flashbacks to the trial. The ambiguity, which is central to the original novel, is preserved, which will leave Steve Harmon's murder trial lingering with readers long after putting the book down.

Nielsen, Jennifer A. ***A Night Divided***. Scholastic Press. 978-0-545-68242-8, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-7). Twelve year-old Gerta lives with her family in Germany. Her father and brother travel west to look for work and are separated from the family when the Berlin wall is erected dividing the east from the west. When her father sends a secret message to Gerta, she finds herself tunneling under the wall in an attempt to escape. This exciting historical fiction novel set in 1960s East Germany will have readers on the edge of their seats.

Niven, Jennifer. ***All the Bright Places***. Knopf Books. 978-0-385-75588-7, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). We meet high school seniors Finch and Violet on top of their school's bell tower contemplating jumping off. They save each other from doing so. They are then forced to work on a school project together. A friendship develops and soon, a romance. Finch, or as he is known at school, Freak, is obsessed with death and dying. Violet is consumed by grief and guilt over the death of her sister. With Finch's help, Violet begins to heal. Violet tries to help Finch, but is he strong enough to help himself? This is a story of love, friendship, healing and hope. Issues of mental illness, suicide, and bullying are dealt with realistically. Give to fans of Gayle Forman and Jay Asher.

Pearsall, Shelley. ***The Seventh Most Important Thing***. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 978-0-553-49728-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Arthur Owens should be sent to juvie for hitting the junkman with a brick, but instead he's given community service and a chance to redeem himself. Pearsall takes the reader on Arthur's road to redemption and in the process asks the reader what kind of person are you and what are you made of? Pair this with the *Paperboy* and *Lost in the Sun*.

Potter, Ellen. *Piper Green and the Fairy Tree*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 978-0-553-49926-1, T [M] \$14.99 (Grade 2-4). Quirky second-grader, Piper Green, lives on an island in Maine and rides a lobster boat to school. Life changes for the strong-willed Piper when her older brother attends high school on the mainland and her new teacher doesn't approve of Piper wearing her favorite monkey earmuffs in school. Elementary readers will relate to Piper and her daily struggles in this humorous, early chapter book.

Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. Balzer + Bray. 978-0-062-31760-5, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-up). Seventeen-year-old Finn is the only witness to the abduction of Roza, a mysterious young woman from Poland who turned up in their small town of Bone Gap with little explanation and became a much yearned for part of his and his brother Sean's family, but is frustrated that he's unable to provide any information about the man who took her. Moving seamlessly between multiple narrators in the insular town, and riffing on tropes from mythology and fairytales, this work of magical realism is a dreamy, feminist mystery and lush with symbolism that could be paired with and critiqued alongside traditional folklore. *Michael L. Printz Award*

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo*. Scholastic Press. 978-00439-87402-1, T \$19.99 (Grade 4-6). A magical harmonica links the stories of three children facing struggles in this hybrid fantasy/historical fiction novel. Friedrich Schmidt and his family attempt to escape Nazi Germany in 1933. Mike longs for a home and an adopted family in Pennsylvania in 1935, and Ivy Lopez struggles to understand why Japanese American families are sent away to internment camps in California in 1942. The theme of perseverance and the mysterious harmonica bring the characters together for a satisfying ending. *Newbery Honor*

Sachar, Louis. *Fuzzy Mud*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers. 978-0-385-74378-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-7). Two middle-school students take a shortcut through the woods, Marshall to avoid a bully, and Tamaya to follow Marshall. When the bully finds them anyway, Tamaya throws mud in his face. Little does she know that the mud contained ergonyms, a microscopic life form created by a nearby research facility as a safe, inexpensive biofuel. However, the ergonyms are not safe for humans, and Tamaya has set off a reaction equal to Typhoid Mary's. A fast-paced science fiction tale with an eco-cautionary spin. Sachar creates a plausible situation, likeable characters, and infuses the whole thing with humor and a worthwhile message.

Schlitz, Laura Amy. *The Hired Girl*. Candlewick Press. 978-0-763-67818-0, R \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Told in diary format, this is the story of fourteen-year-old Joan, who loves books and longs for an education. She leaves her brutish father and a life of toil on their Pennsylvania farm and runs away to Philadelphia. The year is 1911, when women's rights were not in the forefront. Here she becomes a maid in the household of the Rosenbachs. They are kind and become her mentor of sorts. Here, Joan is exposed to art, education, love, faith, family, friendship and some harsh realities. Through this diary format, you learn of Joan's experiences, her immaturity and naiveté, and her dreams and aspirations. Joan is a strong and determined heroine of literature. *2016 Coretta Scott King Award for Historical Fiction*

Schmatz, Pat. *Lizard Radio*. Candlewick. 978-0-763-67635-3, T \$16.99 (Grade 8-12). A vividly imagined dystopia is envisioned in this novel about Kivali, who after being raised to distrust authority, is sent to state-run crop camp in an effort to reduce the risk of winding up in Blight, a prison-like enclave for those who don't fit in. Kivali is a 'bender' – someone whose gender is not binary – and this is just one of many examples of inventive vocabulary that is used to build the futuristic world Kivali inhabits. Strong readers will be fascinated by the themes of resistance versus control and by a multi-dimensional antagonist that defies easy categorization. Thought provoking in the same vein as Lois Lowry's classic *The Giver*.

Schneider, Robyn. *Extraordinary Means*. Katherine Tegen Books. 978-0-062-21716-5, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). This story takes place at a boarding school/hospital for students with an incurable strain of tuberculosis. It is here we meet Lane and Sadie. Lane is a focused and disciplined student and athlete. Sadie is a free spirit. Told in alternating viewpoints of the two teens, we learn of their lives and experiences at the hospital. They become friends and a romance develops. Sadie shows Lane how to loosen up and live in the moment. When a possible cure is discovered, Lane, Sadie and the rest of the "patients" reflect on how they may resume a normal live after such a long confinement. Pop culture references abound, especially to Harry Potter. A unique setting, witty dialogue, distinctive characters, and a bittersweet romance make for a captivating and heartbreaking read.

Shabazz, Ilyasah. *X: A Novel*. Candlewick. 9780763669676, T \$16.99 (Grade 10-12). Co-written by Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, and Kekla Magoon, this novel draws from biographical sources of Malcolm's childhood and pre-jail life. The book presents a picture of the revolutionary as a confused, angry, sometimes desperate, and mostly disillusioned gangster in his teens and early adulthood. Malcolm has to face the harsh reality of being black in America and he must reconcile the early lessons of his parents that he is valuable and that African Americans have worth with the bigotry, racism, and violence he sees and experiences first-hand. This book uses the n-word frequently, and mentions non-graphic sexual situations and drug use. The book ends with Malcolm's conversion to the Nation of Islam and includes historical notes at the end that are well-worth reading. *Coretta Scott King Author Honor*

Shurtliff, Liesl. *Jack: The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk*. Knopf Books for Young Readers. 978-0385-75579-5, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Jack's life changes overnight when his father is abducted by a giant from the sky. Jack decides to climb the beanstalk and enter the kingdom of giants in an attempt to save his father. With the help of his sister and Tom Thumb, Jack faces the greedy, giant King Barf. Witty dialogue and adventure make this a fractured fairy tale that middle grade readers will love.

Shusterman, Neal. *Challenger Deep*. Harper Teen. 978-0-061-13411-1, T \$17.99 (Grade 8-12). Fourteen-year-old Caden Bosch's intensely introspective narrative maps his declining mental health as the intelligent, artistically gifted teen plays down his increasingly troubled thoughts and experiences to his concerned family and friends. Intertwined with this primary thread is another involving Caden's voyage on a meandering, nightmarish pirate ship with an at times menacing captain and a strange, mutinous parrot that is bound for Challenger Deep, the deepest point in the ocean. The two plotlines eventually converge in a way that is at once clever and poignant. Intricate line drawings by Shusterman's son Brendan, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia as a teen, accompany the text. Winner of a 2015 National Book Award, this is an anguishing and inspiring novel that will draw readers in and broaden their understanding of people who live with mental illness.

Stevenson, Noelle. *Nimona*. HarperTeen. 978-0-062-27823-4, T [GN] \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). A superb graphic novel where blurred lines between villain and heroes have the reader rooting for all characters. Nimona is determined to join forces with the notorious Ballister Blackheart to defeat the Institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics. When the supposedly benevolent Institution is found to be stockpiling a poisonous plant, Blackheart and Nimona decide to act. A humorous, quirky, and delightful play on stereotypes.

Toten, Teresa. *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B*. Delacorte Press. 978-0-553-50786-7, T \$17.99 (Grade 7-12). Adam is a kid you can't help but root for. He struggles with the trials of being a teenager and a family dealing with a number of their own mental issues. Adam also struggles with his severe, and often debilitating, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), but he also has a knack for helping others. At the support group he is forced to join he wants to help fellow group member Robyn, who he has fallen instantly in love with. They and their support group peers form a close knit bond as they learn about each other's specific issues and seek spiritual support; but Adam cannot stop his own OCD from escalating. Issues of mental illness, faith, friendship and love are handled with wit, humor and candor. *Schneider Family Book Award for Teens*

Wagner, Laura Rose. *Hold Tight, Don't Let Go*. Amulet/Abrams. 978-1-419-71204-3, T \$17.95 (Grade 8-12). After surviving the terror of 2010's earthquake in Haiti, fifteen-year-old Magdalie and her sister Nadine are bereft at the loss of their mother, who died. The tumult of the days following the quake are drawn into even sharper focus when family secrets come to light and Nadine's father, revealed to be different from Magdalie's own, steps in and secures a visa for Nadine to come to Miami, leaving Magdalie to navigate a nightmare of confusion on her own. This powerful, poignant novel provides a good deal of factual information about the disaster and its aftermath, weaving it seamlessly into Magdalie's story and vivid details of the chaos unfold naturally in her sympathetic narrative voice. Readers will come away with a better understanding of the long-term difficulties this natural disaster caused for the Haitian people, in both public and private ways.

Wiechman, Kathy Cannon. *Like a River: A Novel of the Civil War*. Calkins Creek. 978-1-629-79209-5, T \$17.95 (Grade 5-up). Historical fiction at its best. Set during the Civil War, this novel is well-researched and expertly told. The story follows two different teenagers, both of whom have enlisted with the Northern Army and both of whom have secrets. The book moves across the landscape of the war, from a Southern hospital to a POW camp in Georgia to the wreck of the riverboat Sultana two weeks after the war ends. With themes of family, friendship, failure, survival, and young love, this book is a riveting read that will engage and educate. Wiechman clearly did her research, and the reader will learn much about the conditions experienced during the Civil War. The characters are likeable and relatable even as they experience hardships that students today can't imagine; Wiechman does not sugarcoat the suffering. The theme of change is wonderfully illustrated through the use of water (several rivers, a spring in the prison). There is an excellent Author's Note in which she provides real photographs from the Civil War and additional information about the places and events mentioned in the book. An admirable first-effort by Wiechman. She will be an author to watch and this book is highly recommended for grades 6-9 though older students would appreciate it too.

Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Gone Crazy in Alabama*. Amistad. 978-0-06-221587-1, T \$16.99 (Grade 4-6). Delphine, Vonetta and Fern, spend the summer of 1969 with their grandmother, Big Ma, and great-grandmother, Ma Charles, in rural Alabama. The girls quickly become embroiled in a family rivalry between Ma Charles and her half sister, Miss Trotter. When Vonetta disappears during a tornado, their mother, father and step-mother travel to Alabama, and the family situation becomes even more complicated. This final installment in the Gaither sisters trilogy contains humor, endearing characters, and complex themes of family, race and war. *Coretta Scott King Author Award*

Yee, Lisa. *The Kidney Hypothetical or How to Ruin Your Life in Seven Days*. Scholastic. 978-0-545-23094-0, L \$17.99 (Grade 10-12). Higgs Boson Bing has had a perfect high school career. He is academically successful and admired by all - or so he thinks. A week before graduation, Higgs is asked if he would donate a kidney to his girlfriend, which he declines. Higgs'

life quickly falls apart as his admittance to Harvard is questioned, his father moves out, and a smear campaign against him is plastered all over the school. Themes of loss, identity, and forging your own path are explored in this humorous novel

Yep, Laurence. *A Dragon's Guide to the Care and Feeding of Humans*. Crown Books for Younger Readers. 978-0-385-39228-0, T \$18.99 (Grade 4-6). Miss Drake, a 3000 year old dragon, has always cared for her human "pets". In fact she has penned a guide to their care. Winnie, her newest acquisition is a challenge. She is confident, sassy, and not intimidated by being in the care of a dragon and that is where the adventure begins.

Zappia, Francesca. *Made You Up*. Greenwillow Books. 978-0-062-29010-6, T \$17.99 (Grade 9-12). Being a senior in high school can be difficult; being one with schizophrenia is hard to imagine. Alex is a schizophrenic. She has a hard time knowing what is real and what is not, which she keeps somewhat under control with her medication. She works hard to stay sane so she can get into college. On her first day at her new school Alex meets Miles. She is sure she has met him before. In fact, it was ten years ago, when she was first diagnosed. Miles becomes a friend and love interest. Alex's life becomes somewhat normal and fun. There are so many plot twists in this that you don't know what is real and what Alex imagines. This is an honest portrayal of a teen dealing with schizophrenia. Written from Alex's perspective with witty fast paced dialogue and peppered with pop culture references.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CREAM OF THE CROP COMMITTEE

Brooke Faulkner, Young Adult/Reference Librarian, McArthur Public Library, Biddeford

Kathy George, Children's Services Librarian, Gray Public Library

Jill O'Connor, School Librarian, North Yarmouth Academy

Cathy Potter, School Librarian, Falmouth Elementary School

Cidney Mayes Potvin, Library Information Integrator, Memorial Middle School, South Portland

Deidre Walsh, Head of Youth Services, Goodall Memorial Library, Sanford

2016 National Award Winners

Award books listed here may or may not be included in the “Cream of the Crop” list.

* indicates a title that may appear in more than one category.

Caldecott Medal – Awarded to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Winner: Blackall, Sophie. *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*

Honors: Collier, Bryan. *Trombone Shorty**

Henkes, Kevin. *Waiting**

Holmes, Ekua. *Voice of Freedom Fannie Lou Hamer Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement**

Robinson, Christian. *Last Stop on Market Street**

Charlotte Zolotow Award – Awarded to the best picture book text published in the United States.

Winner: Engle, Margarita. *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music**

Honors: Appelt, Kathi (Jill McElmurry). *When Otis Courted Mama*.

de la Peña, Matt (Christian Robinson). *Last Stop on Market Street**

Mattick, Lindsay (Sophie Blackall). *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*.

Taylor, Sean (Jean Jullien). *Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise*.

Coretta Scott King Award – Recognizes outstanding books for young adults and children by African American authors and illustrators that reflect the African American experience.

CSK Author Award

Winner: Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Gone Crazy in Alabama**

Honors: Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely. *All American Boys*

Reynolds, Jason. *The Boy in the Black Suit*

Shabazz, Ilyasah with Kekla Magoon. *X: A Novel*

CSK Illustrator Award

Winner: Collier, Bryan (Troy “Trombone Shorty” Andrews). *Trombone Shorty**

Honor: Christie, R. Gregory (Vaunda Micheaux). *The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore*

Robinson, Christian (Matt de la Pena). *Last Stop on Market Street**

Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Author Award:

Ronald L. Smith. *Hoodoo*

Ekua Holmes. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement**

Coretta Scott King/ Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

Jerry Pinkney

Katahdin Award – A lifetime achievement award given by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association to recognize an outstanding body of work of children's literature in Maine by one author or illustrator. The award may be given annually but may not necessarily be given each year.

Cathryn Falwell

Laura Ingalls Wilder Award – Honors an author or illustrator whose books, published in the United States, have made a substantial and lasting contribution to literature for children. Awarded every other year.

Jerry Pinkney

Lupine Award – Presented annually by the Youth Services Section of the Maine Library Association, to recognize an outstanding contribution to children's literature in Maine.

Picture Book

Winner: Murray, Eva. *Island Birthday*. Illustrated by Jamie Hogan

Honor: Tavares, Matt. *Growing Up Pedro*

J/YA

Winner: Jacobson, Jennifer Richard. *Paper Things*

Honor: Hoose, Phillip. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Peterson and the Churchill Club*

Margaret A. Edwards Award – Recognizes an author and his/her body of work for outstanding contribution to young adult literature.

David Levithan. Books include: *The Realm of Possibility*, *Boy Meets Boy*, *Love is the Higher Law*, and *Wide Awake*.

Mildred L. Batchelder Award – Awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States.

Winner: Alemagna, Beatrice. *The Wonderful Fluffy Little Squishy*. Translated by Claudia Zoe Bedrick, Enchanted Lion Book

Honors: Appelfeld, Aharon. *Adam and Thomas*. Translated by Jeffrey M. Green, Published by Seven Stories Press

Suzhen, Fang. *Grandma Lives in a Perfume Village*. Translated by Huang Xiumin, Published by NorthSouth Books
Liniers, *Written and Drawn by Henrietta*. Translated by Liniers, Published by TOON Books

Newbery Medal – *The most distinguished contribution to American literature for children.*

Winner: de la Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street**

Honors: Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life**

Jamieson, Victoria. *Roller Girl*

Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Echo**

Printz (Michael L.) Award – *Awarded for a book that exemplifies literary excellence in young adult literature.*

Winner: Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap**

Honors: Perez, Ashley Hope. *Out of Darkness*

Sedgwick, Marcus. *The Ghosts of Heaven*

Pura Belpre – *Presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.*

Author Award

Winner: Engle, Margarita. *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir*.

Honors: Bowles, David. *The Smoking Mirror*

Medina, Meg. *Mango, Abuela, and Me**

Illustrator Award

Winner: Lopez, Rafael (Margarita Engle). *Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music**

Honors: Castro, Antonio L. (Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford). *My Tata's Remedies= Los remedios de mi tata*

Dominguez, Angela (Meg Medina). *Mango, Abuela, and Me**

Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras**

Robert F. Sibert Medal – *Honors the most distinguished informational book published in English in the preceding year for its significant contribution to children's literature.*

Winner: Tonatiuh, Duncan. *Funny Bones: Posada and His Day of the Dead Calaveras**

Honors: Brown, Don. *Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans**

Hoose, Phillip. *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club**

Lowery, Lynda Blackmon. *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March*

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement**

Schneider Family Book Award – *Honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.*

Children's (birth-age 10): Thompson, Laurie Ann. *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah*

Middle (age 11 -13): Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. *The War That Saved My Life**

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly *Fish in a Tree*

Teen (age 13 -18): Toten, Teresa. *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B**

Stonewall Book Award – *Given annually to English language children's and young adult books of exceptional merit relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience.*

Winners: Gino, Alex. *George**

Konigsberg, Bill. *The Porcupine of Truth*

Honors: Barzak, Christopher. *Wonders of the Invisible World*

Silverberg, Cory and Fiona Smyth. *Sex is a Funny Word: A Book about Bodies, Feelings, and YOU*

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award – *Honors the author of the most distinguished contribution to the body of American children's literature known as 'beginning reader books' published in the United States during the preceding year.*

Winner: Adler, David A. *Don't Throw It to Mo!*

Honors: Fenske, Jonathan. *A Pig, a Fox, and a Box*

Henkes, Kevin. *Waiting**

Savage, Stephen. *Supertruck*

William C. Morris Award – *Honors a debut book published by a first-time author writing for teens and celebrating impressive new voices in young adult literature.*

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction for Young Adults – *Honors the best nonfiction book published for ages 12 -18.*

Sheinkin, Steve. *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War*