



NJLA

GARDEN STATE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

2011 Nominee Annotations

EASY READER SERIES

Arnold, Tedd. *Hooray for Fly Guy!*

Scholastic, 2008. HC 9780545007245 \$5.99

In this adventure, Fly Guy and Buzz join the football team. Though Coach has his misgivings, the duo manages to save the game with a special, secret play.

Chaconas, Dori. *Cork & Fuzz: The Collectors.*

Penquin, 2008. HC 9780670062867 \$13.99; PB 9780142417140 \$3.99

Cork, a short muskrat and Fuzz, a tall possum, love to collect shiny stones. When Fuzz collects a 'stone' from a duck's nest, Mama Duck collects him. Will Cork be able to save his friend?

Rylant, Cynthia. *Mr. Putter & Tabby Run the Race.*

Harcourt, 2008. HC 9780152060695 \$15.00; PB 9780547248240 \$5.99

Mr. Putter and Mrs. Teaberry sign up to run in the senior marathon. Mr. Putter hopes to come in second and win the train set; Mrs. Teaberry would like the first place prize of golf clubs. So they each prepare for the big race in their own individual styles. Who knew Mr. Putter would come in first?

Silverman, Erica. *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa: Rain or Shine.*

Harcourt, 2008. HC 9780152053840 \$15.00; PB 9780152066024 \$5.99

Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa are ready for some rainy day adventures. Cocoa doesn't want to get wet and the thunder is frightening, but whatever the weather, these cowpoke pals are sticking together.

Van Leeuwen, Jean. *Oliver and Amanda: Amanda Pig and the Wiggly Tooth.*

Penguin, 2008. HC 9780803731042 \$14.99; PB 9780142412909 \$3.99

Amanda Pig has her first wiggly tooth but it won't come out! When it finally does, she can't find it. How will the Tooth Fairy come if Amanda's tooth is really lost?

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

Hyperion, 2008. HC 9781423113478 \$8.99

Best friends, Gerald and Piggie can't wait to play in the sunshine. But the day is rainy. How can Gerald save the day for Piggie?

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Banks, Kate. *Monkeys and Dog Days*. Illustrated by Tomek Bogacki.

Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2008. HC 9780374350291 \$14.95

Monkey fans will love the story of Max and his older brother, Pete, who learn how to share responsibility for the care of their new dog. Readers will enjoy seeing the bond grow between Fudge, the dog, and the boys. The story and endearing illustrations will entertain and instruct young readers about the joys and work involved in caring for a pet.

George, Jean. *Goose and Duck*. Illustrated by Priscilla Lamont.

Harper Collins, 2008. HC 9780061170768 \$19.99

Goose and Duck like to imitate the little boy who found them hatching from their eggs. After a while though, Goose and Duck must move on as the leaves start falling from the trees. This book has simple sentences but slightly more complex ideas that involve learning about friendship and nature.

Grant, Judyann. *Chicken Said, "Cluck!"* Illustrated by Sue Truesdell.

Harper Collins, 2008. HC 9780060287238 \$18.50

Two friends plant pumpkin seeds, and then scramble to keep Chicken from disturbing their garden. Surprisingly, Chicken turn out to be a big help when the grasshoppers invade the pumpkin patch. This is a funny and entertaining story for emergent readers.

Howe, James. *Houndsley and Catina and the Quiet Time*.

Candlewick, 2008. HC 9780763633844 \$15.99

When Houndsley and Catina's concert plans are disturbed by a winter storm, the two friends must find a way to appreciate the beauty of the snow. This dog and cat may even enjoy a musical night after their snow day.

Levinson, Nancy. *Rain Forests*. Illustrated by Diane Hearn.

Holiday House, 2008. HC 9780823418992 \$15.95

Colorful illustrations of animals such as lemurs, chameleons, weevils, and anacondas are nestled into the lush greenery of the rain forest. This informative easy reader will appeal to beginning readers because of the large type, simple vocabulary, and short chapters.

Ormerod, Jan. *Ballet Sisters: The Newest Dancer*.

Scholastic, 2008. HC 9780439822824 \$5.99

Sylvie, who wants to be just like her big sister who takes ballet, happily does her ducky dance and "waddles, flaps, and quacks" for the ballet teacher, Miss Trish. Sylvie is delighted when she receives

some hand-me-downs from her sister for her un-birthday: the leotard, pink socks, and ballet slippers will be perfect for her new ballet class. This easy reader has delightful illustrations that show boys as well as girls flapping, bending, pointing toes, and jumping right off the page.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Annie and Snowball and the Teacup Club*. Illustrated by Sucie Stevenson. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers.

HC 9781416909408 \$15.99

Annie loves fancily decorated teacups, and she dreams of having a teacup club. She and her cousin Henry put up signs to advertise her club. Will her campaign be successful enough to attract some new “tea party” friends? This easy reader will appeal to young girls who like flowers, bows, sugar cookies, and cinnamon spice tea.

Schaefer, Lola. *What's That, Mittens?* Illustrated by Susan Hartung.

Harper Collins, 2008. HC 9780060546632 \$17.89

The very simple text and adorable kitten, Mittens, will appeal to beginning readers. Mittens is an expressive kitty as he swats at a ball, sniffs a worm, and scratches the dirt. Mittens starts meowing when he hears barking behind the white picket fence, and he soon discovers a nice surprise and a new friend waiting on the other side.

Schreiber, Anne. *Sharks!*

National Geographic, 2008. HC 9781426302862 \$12.99

Sharks are quick, silent, and can chomp down with great force using their five rows of deadly teeth. Kids will enjoy the interesting photos, cool facts about sharks, and jokes on some of the pages.

Shore, Diane. *How to Drive Your Sister Crazy*. Illustrated by Laura Rankin.

Harper Collins, 2008. HC 9780060527624 \$16.99

Bradley Harris Pinkerton's job is to drive his big sister, Abby, crazy. Bradley is clever enough to cause a lot of trouble with just a few boyish props such as a rubber snake, chewed bubble gum, and crinkled gum wrappers. Children will enjoy this simple easy reader with a common sibling rivalry theme.

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FICTION

Birdsall, Jeanne. *The Penderwicks on Gardam Street*.

Alfred A. Knopf, c2008. HC 9780375840906 \$15.99; PBK 9780440422037 \$7.99

This stand-alone sequel to *The Penderwicks: A Summer Tale of Four Sisters, Two Rabbits, and a Very Interesting Boy*, features the return of the Penderwick sisters and their hilarious adventures. This time, the girls are trying to thwart their widowed father's attempts at dating, that is until they decide to become match-makers. Various sub-plots include Batty and the mysterious bug man, romantic problems for Rosalind, and a homework mix-up for Jane and Skye.

Broach, Elise. *Masterpiece*.

New York: Henry Holt, 2008. HC 9780805082708 \$16.99; PB 9780312608705 \$7.99.

When Marvin the beetle, who lives in a high-rise apartment in New York City with his family, discovers a talent for drawing with ink, he gets caught up in an art-theft adventure, and befriends the human boy, James, who lives in the apartment with his mother and step-father.

Bruel, Nick. *Bad Kitty Gets a Bath*.

New York: Roaring Brook, 2008. HC 9781596433410 \$14.99; PB 9780312581381 \$6.99.

This generously illustrated easy chapter book, humorously explains the right and wrong way to bathe a kitty, featured the picture book stars of Bad Kitty and Poor Puppy. Cartoon illustrations add to the uproarious nature of the book.

Creech, Sharon. *Hate That Cat*.

Harper Collins, 2008. HC 9780061430923 \$10.87; PBK 9780061430947 \$5.99.

Jack of *Love that Dog* is back, writing more poetry with the guidance of Miss Stretchberry. In this quick story in verse, Jack details his hatred of the neighborhood stray black cat and the way words carry and express emotion.

Durango, Julian. *The Walls of Cartagena*.

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, c2008. HC 9781416941026 \$15.99

Calepino, the privileged slave of an affluent Spanish woman, witnesses the horrors of slavery firsthand while doing charity work on Portuguese slave ships under the guidance of a Catholic priest in 17th century Columbia. When Calepino meets a distraught African boy and his mother, he is reminded of his past and becomes determined to help them escape from their terrible fate

Gifford, Peggy. *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Writing Thank-You Notes.*

Schwartz & Wade Books, c2008. HC 9780375842702 \$12.99; LIB 9780375945526; PBK 0375843434 \$6.50.

Ten-year-old Moxy Maxwell has promised to write twelve thank-you notes by the day after Christmas so that she and her twin brother Mark can go to Hollywood to visit their father, but all her brilliant ideas to help finish the task more efficiently end up creating chaos in the house.

Griffin, Adele. *The Knaveheart's Curse : A Vampire Island Story.*

G.P. Putnam's Sons, c2008. HC 9780399250644 \$14.99; PBK 0142414077 \$5.99

Eleven-year-old Maddy Livingstone, a vampire-fruit bat hybrid striving to make friends in modern-day New York City, tries to protect her family from a vicious pureblood vampire who is in the New World seeking the Tenth Knave.

Holt, Kimberly Willis. *Piper Reed, the Great Gypsy.*

Henry Holt and Co., c2008. HC 9780805081985 \$14.95; PBK 9780312561369 \$6.99

While her father, a Navy Chief, is on ship duty for six months, nine-year-old Piper stays busy with new neighbors, spends Christmas at a spaceship beach house, takes a trip to New Orleans, and organizes the upcoming Gypsy Club pet show. A sequel to *Piper Reed, Navy Brat*.

Horvath, Polly. *My One Hundred Adventures.*

Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. LIB 9780375955822 \$19.99; HC 9780375845826 \$16.99; PBK 9780375855269 \$7.99

Twelve-year-old Jane, who lives at the beach in a run-down old house with her mother, two brothers, and sister, has an eventful summer accompanying her pastor on bible deliveries, meeting former boyfriends of her mother's, and being coerced into babysitting for a family of ill-mannered children.

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

Amulet Books, c2008. HC 9780810994737 \$13.95

Gregg Heffley is back and in diary form describes his summer vacation and the humiliating incident that happened to him over his vacation. Unfortunately, Geoff's older brother Rodrick knows his secret and Geoff must devise a way to prevent him from telling it before he gets to middle school.

Korman, Gordon. *Swindle.*

Scholastic, 2008. HC 9780439903448 \$16.99; PBK 9780439903455 \$6.99

Sixth-grader Griffin Bing gathers together a group of misfit kids to steal a valuable baseball card from collector S. Wendell Palamino who swindles him out of it.

Law, Ingrid. *Savvy.*

Dial, 2008. HC 9780803733060 \$16.99; PBK 9780142414330 \$7.99

When Mibs Beaumont's father has a terrible accident, Mibs, her brothers and the preacher's kids hide out on a bible salesman's bus in the hopes that they will get to the hospital where Mibs is sure her savvy or magical power will save her father. In the end it is indeed Mib's unerring love and savvy that will ultimately save her father and unite those who join her on her quest.

Look, Lenore. *Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things.*

Schwartz & Wade Books, 2008. HC 9780375839146 \$15.99; PBK 9780375849305 \$5.99.

A young boy in Concord, Massachusetts, who loves superheroes and comes from a long line of brave Chinese farmer-warriors, wants to make friends, but first he must overcome his fear of everything.

Lowry, Lois. *The Willoughbys*.

Houghton Mifflin, 2008. HC 9780618979745 \$16.00; PBK 9780385737760 \$6.99.

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

Martin, Ann M. and Laura Godwin. *The Runaway Dolls*.

Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. HC 9780786855841 \$16.99; PBK 978-0786855858 \$7.99

Best friends Annabelle and Tiffany risk placing all of doll kind in danger when they run away while trying to prevent Tilly from being sent back to London before they can determine if she is Annabelle's long-lost baby sister.

Pennypacker, Sara. *Clementine's Letter*.

Hyperion Books, 2008. HC 9780786838844 \$14.99; 9780786838851 \$4.99

Finally "getting the hang of third grade," Clementine sets in motion a plan to sabotage her favorite teacher's chance to win a year long trip to Egypt.

Prineas, Sarah. *The Magic Thief*

HarperCollins, 2008. HC 9780061375873 \$16.99; LIB 9780061375880 \$17.89; PBK 9780061375903 6.99

A young thief is drawn into a life of magic and adventure after picking the pocket of the powerful wizard Nevery Flinglas, who has returned from exile to attempt to reverse the troubling decline of magic in Wellmet City.

Snyder, Laurel. *Up and Down the Scratchy Mountains*.

Random House, 2008. HC 9780375847196 \$16.99

This is an innocent love story about Lucy, a milkmaid, and, Wynston, a young prince, an unlikely pair who fall in love in spite of the King's protestations. Their common interests bring them together and lead them on an adventure to find Lucy's mother who disappeared several years earlier.

Speck, Katie. *Maybelle Goes to Tea*.

Henry Holt and Company, 2008. HC 9789805080933 \$16.95

Maybelle, an adventurous cockroach, and her new fly friend, Maurice, crash Mrs. Peabody's tea party in order to taste her famous Chocolate Surprise Cookies. This sequel to *Maybelle in the Soup* will entertain young readers with the humorous black and white drawings and funny antics.

Yue, Guo & Clare Farrow. *Little Leap Forward: A Boy in Beijing*.

Barefoot Books, 2008. HC 978-1846861147 \$16.99.

In the late 1960's, Little Leap Forward is an 8 year old boy who enjoys playing the flute, flying kites and wandering the countryside in Beijing. Only when he is unable to hear and record the notes of a caged bird's song does he realize the stifling effects of the Cultural Revolution taking place around him and his family.

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NONFICTION

Arnosky, Jim. *Wild Tracks: A Guide to Nature's Footprints.*

Sterling Publishing Co., Inc. 2008. HC 9781402739859 \$14.95.

In this SLJ star-reviewed title, Jim Arnosky once again creates a guide that children and their adults will find hard to put down. By including life-sized drawings of each of the animal's paw or hoof, he helps the reader relate more easily to the actual size of each creature. He also uses paintings of the animals in their habitat. He covers deer and other hoofed animals, felines, birds, reptiles and more. Sit yourself down in a big chair so you can open the fold-out pages and enjoy this wonderful guide!

Bishop, Nic. *Frogs.*

Scholastic, Inc. 2008. REIN 9780439877558 \$17.95.

This extraordinary photographic presentation of frogs in their habitats is both science and art. Winner of the Irma S. and James H. Black Honor for Excellence in Children's Literature, *Frogs* introduces the reader to a red-eyed tree frog, an African bullfrog, the colorful poison dart frog, and others. One outstanding shot captures a giant water bug catching a tadpole. The final photos show Nic Bishop himself at work in his canoe in waterweeds watching dragonflies. From the table of contents to its index and glossary, this work earns its inclusion in any school or public library's collection.

Brown, Don. *All Stations! Distress!: April 15, 1912: The Day the Titanic Sank.*

Roaring Brook, 2008. REIN 9781596432222 \$17.99; PBK 978159643644 \$7.99 (Aug 2010).

Brown's telling of the events of April 15, 1912, when Titanic sank, is a remarkable work of non-fiction for students. He chronicles everything from embarkation to disaster in a way that informs and engages without excesses that would frighten some young readers.

Clifford, Barry. *Real Pirates: The Untold Story of the Whydah from Slave Ship to Pirate Ship.*

National Geographic Society Children's Books, 2008. HC 9781426302794 \$16.95; LIB 9781426302800 \$25.90.

The Whydah Galley was captured by pirates, and sunk off the coast of Cape Cod in 1717. Clifford heard this story as a child, and as an adult, he and his team located the wreck. He weaves the story of Atlantic trade in the 1700s, pirates, shipwrecks, and underwater archaeology in this informative book featuring crisp pictures of the relics retrieved from the wreck of the Whydah.

Collard, Sneed B. and Phyllis V. Saroff (illustrator). *Teeth.*

Charlesbridge Pub, Inc, 2008. REIN 978158091202 \$16.95; PBK 9781580891219 \$7.95.

Fascinating facts about teeth that slice, stab, crack, grind, mash and munch. Saroff's illustrations realistically depict types, numbers and uses of teeth that Collard explores in this appealing and informative book.

Dray, Philip. and Stephen Alcorn (illustrator). *Yours for Justice, Ida B. Wells: The Daring Life of a Crusading Journalist.*

Peachtree. Pub Ltd., 2008. HC 9781561454174 \$18.95.

Alcorn's stylized and energetic illustrations perfectly complement Dray's crisp text to create an appealing biography of Ida B. Wells. The illustrations fill the pages and interpret Wells' birth into slavery to her life as a journalist, and her struggles with racism, drawing the reader into her story. Also includes an afterword with timeline and bibliography.

Halls, Kelly Milner and Mark Hallett (illustrator). *Wild Horses: Galloping Through Time.*

Darby Creek Publishing, 2008. HC 9781581960655 \$18.95.

Horse lovers, as well as anyone interested in history, will relish this fascinating look at the history of horses around the world, from prehistoric times to the present. The clear, color photographs, combined with Hallett's detailed illustrations bring these beautiful animals to vivid life. Includes "You Can Help" section, bibliography, and index.

Hirschi, Ron and Thomas D. Mangelsen (photographer). *Our Three Bears.*

Boyd's Mills, 2008. HC 9781590780152 \$16.95.

Mangelsen's amazingly clear photographs make the reader want to reach out and touch these fascinating animals. Hirschi's succinct text offers an abundance of information about the Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, and Polar Bear. Includes index, "For More Information" and "Further Reading" sections.

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

Houghton Mifflin, Company, 2008. HC 9780618966349 \$16.00.

In their now familiar, but always spectacular, cut-paper artwork with accompanying fascinating facts, Jenkins and Page deliver another informative and absorbing book about a variety of animals. Highlighted are how animals face everyday challenges such as finding food and shelter, and defending themselves. Additional information on each of the 36 featured creatures (from dolphins to earwigs to capuchin monkeys to the assassin bug) rounds out the presentation.

Kerley, Barbara and Edwin Fotheringham (illustrator). *What to do About Alice?: How Alice Roosevelt Broke the Rules, Charmed the World, and Drove Her Father Teddy Crazy!*

Scholastic Press, 2008. HC 9780439922319 \$16.99.

With vibrant illustrations, this picture book style biography highlights the life of young Alice Roosevelt, daughter of President Theodore Roosevelt. Readers will learn about the early life of this energetic and free-spirited girl who took the country by storm while her father was at the height of his political career.

Markle, Sandra. *Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories.*

Millbrook Press, 2009. LIB 9780822578840 \$29.27.

This book recounts 9 inspirational true stories of heroic animal actions that saved the lives of people. With full color photographs and interesting side bars of related information, even non-animal lovers will be captivated.

Markle, Sandra. *Sneaky, Spinning Baby Spiders.*

Walker & Co., 2008. HC 9780802796974 \$16.99; LIB 9780802796981 \$17.89.

With striking, close up photographs and succinct, engaging text, Markle describes the life cycle of 15 different spiders found around the world. An excellent choice for creepy crawler lovers as well as the homework researcher.

Miller, Edward. *The Tooth Book*

Holiday House, 2008. HC 9780823420926 \$16.95; PBK 9780823422067 \$6.95.

Learn about teeth and the proper way to brush those pearly whites in this colorful book by the author of *The Monster Health Book*.

Nobleman, Marc Tyler and Ross MacDonald (illustrator). *Boys of Steel: The Creators of Superman*

Knopf Books, 2008. HC 9780375838026 \$16.99; LIB 9780375938023 \$19.99.

The creators of the greatest superhero in comic book history were just two teenagers growing up during the Depression looking for a way to escape their dull world.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw and Dan Hartman and Cassie Hartman (photographers). *When the Wolves Returned: Restoring Nature's Balance in Yellowstone.*

Walker Books, 2008. HC 9780802796868 \$17.95; LIB 9780802796875 \$18.85.

The removal of wolves from Yellowstone National Park during the early years of operation had a devastating effect on animals and plants. The return of the wolves in 1995 began the slow restoration of the park to a healthy system for all wildlife.

Rex, Adam. *Frankenstein Takes the Cake.*

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2008. HC 9780152062354 \$16.00.

No one ever said it was easy being a monster. Take Frankenstein, for instance: he just wants to marry his undead bride in peace, but his best man, Dracula, is freaking out about the garlic bread. Then there's the Headless Horseman, who wishes everyone would stop drooling over his delicious pumpkin head. And can someone please tell Edgar Allan Poe to get the door already before the raven completely loses it? *Sheesh*. In a wickedly funny follow-up to the bestselling *Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich*, Adam Rex once again proves that monsters are just like you and me. (Well, sort of.)

Schulman, Janet and Meilo So (illustrator). *Pale Male: Citizen Hawk of New York City.*

Alfred A. Knopf, 2008. LIB 9780375945588 \$19.99; HC 9780375845581 \$16.99.

The birdwatchers of Central Park were buzzing—a young red-tailed hawk had been spotted, would he stay? The bird they dubbed “Pale Male” not only stayed, he became one of New York City’s most famous residents. Pale Male and his mate built their nest near the top of one of Fifth Avenue’s swankiest apartment buildings. Nine years and 23 chicks later, Pale Male’s fame had grown so large that a CBS newsman named him Father of the Year! But Pale Male was less beloved by the residents of the

building, and in 2004 the owners suddenly removed the nest—setting off an international outcry on behalf of the birds.

Scieszka, Jon. *Knucklehead: Tall Tales and Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka.*

Viking, 2008. HC 9780670011063 \$16.99; PBK 9780670011384 \$12.99.

How did Jon Scieszka get so funny, anyway? Growing up as one of six brothers was a good start, but that was just the beginning. Throw in Catholic school, lots of comic books, lazy summers at the lake with time to kill, babysitting misadventures, TV shows, jokes told at family dinner, and the result is *Knucklehead*. Part memoir, part scrapbook, this hilarious trip down memory lane provides a unique glimpse into the formation of a creative mind and a free spirit.

Tanaka, Shelley and David Craig (illustrator). *Amelia Earhart: the Legend of the Lost Aviator.*

Abrams, 2008. HC 9780810970953 \$18.95.

Amelia Earhart was truly a legend in her own time. She was a skilled pilot who shattered flying records, an author and lecturer, and a world-wide celebrity. Though her plane has never been found and her disappearance is still a mystery, she remains an inspiration for courage and independence. This title recounts her life.

Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari's Trees of Peace*

Harcourt, 2008. HC 9788493684310 \$18.99; REIN 9780152065454 \$17.00.

Wangari Maathai decides to do something about all the trees being cut down in Kenya. She starts with nine seedlings, then a nursery, then convinces the village women to plant trees. Soon, everyone plants trees and the land is no longer barren.