

Best of the Best in Children's Literature for 2010



W-3

Best of the Best in Children's Literature

This panel reviews all the K-8 books that received at least two significant awards or honors, such as the Newbery, Caldecott, the Coretta Scott King Awards, and the “best” lists of SLJ, Booklist, etc. Our committee is sponsored by PSLA’s Media Selection and Review Committee.

Please note: A book’s inclusion on this list does not necessarily indicate our panel’s endorsement of the book, only that the books have met the selection criteria stated above.

If purchasing books from this list, we recommend you are present at our workshop to hear our reviews or read our comments posted on the PSLA website (available in May). We hope that our reviews will give you additional information to help you select purchases that are appropriate for your library patrons.

Best of the Best in Children's Literature for 2010 Committee

Kelly Grimmett, The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Martha Lambertsen, Wallingford Elementary School, Wallingford, PA 19086

Diana Lamey, Cheltenham School District, retired

Linda Mullen, The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Lynne Rudolph, Retired

Julie Tomer, Andrew Mellon Middle School, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Martha Trzepacz, Strath Haven Middle School, Wallingford, PA 19086

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W-3, Thursday, April 28, 2011: Linda Mullen, Julie Tomer and the Best of the Best Committee

Kelly Grimmett, The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

- #12 Novesky, Amy, Me, Frida
- #28 Ryan, Pam Muñoz, The Dreamer
- #37 Engle, Margarita, The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba
- #38 Flores-Galbis, Enrique, 90 Miles to Havana
- #40 Matti, Truus, Departure Time
- #45 Rhodes, Jewell Parker, Ninth Ward
- #48 Teller, Janne, Nothing

Martha Lambertsen, Wallingford Elementary School, Wallingford, PA 19086

- #2 Dicamillo, Kate and Alison McGhee, Bink and Gollie
- #4 Graham, Bob, April and Esme, Tooth Fairies
- #8 Lin, Grace, Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same
- #14 Sidman, Joyce, Ubiquitous
- #15 Stead, Phillip C., Sick Day for Amos McGee
- #23 Bishop, Nic, Nic Bishop Lizards
- #47 Sonnenblick, Jordan, After Ever After

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Diana Lamey, Cheltenham School District, Retired

- #1 Browne, Anthony, Me and You
- #16 Stein, David Ezra, Interrupting Chicken
- #17 Tafolla, Carmen, Fiesta Babies
- #19 Velasquez, Eric, Grandma's Gift
- #27 Nelson, S. D., Black Elk's Vision
- #39 Freedman, Russell, Lafayette and the American Revolution
- #43 Preus, Margi, Heart of a Samurai

Linda Mullen, The Baldwin School, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

- #3 Fleming, Candace, Clever Jack Takes the Cake
- #9 Lobel, Anita, Nini Lost and Found
- #11 Nelson, Marilyn, Snook Alone
- #18 Tonatiuh, Duncan, Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin
- #21 Willems, Mo, We are in a Book
- #30 Sidman, Joyce, Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night
- #31 Singer, Marilyn, Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse

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Lynne Rudolph, Retired

- #6 Jenkins, Steve and Robin Page, How to Clean a Hippopotamus
- #7 Khan, Rukhsana, Big Red Lollipop
- #10 Mavor, Salley, Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes
- #13 Rumford, James, Rain School
- #20 Willems, Mo, City Dog, Country Frog
- #24 Greenber, Jan and Sandra Jordan, Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring
- #25 Holm, Jennifer L., Turtle in Paradise

Julie Tomer, Andrew Mellon Middle School, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

- #29 Shiga, Jason, Meanwhile
- #32 Williams-Garcia, Rita, One Crazy Summer
- #34 Bacigalupi, Paolo, Ship Breaker
- #36 Bondoux, Anne-Laure, Time of Miracles
- #41 Neri, Greg, Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty
- #42 Perkins, Lynne Rae, As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth
- #44 Reeve, Phillip, Fever Crumb
- #49 Vanderpool, Clare, Moon Over Manifest

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Martha Trzepacz, Strath Haven Middle School, Wallingford, PA 19086

- #5 Hill, Laban Carrick, Dave the Potter
- #22 Ancona, George, Ole! Flamenco
- #26 Montgomery, Sy, Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot
- #33 Atkins, Jeannine, Borrowed Names
- #35 Bartoletti, Susan Campbell, They Called Themselves the KKK
- #46 Sedgwick, Marcus, Revolver
- #50 Wiles, Deborah, Countdown

W 3, Thursday, April 28, 2011: Linda Mullen, Julie Tomer and the Best of the Best Committee:

KELLY GRIMMETT, MARTHA LAMBERTSEN, DIANA LAMEY, LYNNE RUDOLPH AND MARTHA TRZEPACZ

<i>Preschool to Grade 3 Books</i>						
	Author	Illustrator	Title	Awards (see key)	Grades	Publisher
1	Browne, Anthony	Illus. by author	Me and You	FAN: SLJ	PreS-2	Farrar
2	DiCamillo, Kate and McGhee, Alison	Fucile, Tony	Bink and Gollie	TSGA; NOT	K-3	Candlewick Press
3	Fleming, Candace	Karas, G. Brian	Clever Jack Takes the Cake	SLJ; B List	K-3	Random
4	Graham, Bob	Illus. by author	April and Esme, Tooth Fairies	FAN; NOT	PreS-2	Candlewick Press
5	Hill, Laban Carrick	Collier, Brian	Dave the Potter	CH; NOT; CSKIA	K-4	Little, Brown
6	Jenkins, Steve and Page, Robin	Jenkins, Steve	How to Clean a Hippopotamus	B Links; NOT	K-3	Houghton-Mifflin
7	Khan, Rukhsana	Blackall, Sophie	Big Red Lollipop	B List; NOT	PreS-2	Viking
8	Lin, Grace	Illus. by author	Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same	TSGAH; FAN; B List; NOT	1-2	Little, Brown
9	Lobel, Anita	Illus. by author	Nini Lost and Found	FAN; B List	PreS-1	Knopf
10	Mavor, Salley	Illus. by author	Pocketful of Posies: A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes	FAN; NOT	PreS-1	Houghton

11	Nelson, Marilyn	Ering, Timothy Basil	Snook Alone	SLJ; B List	K-4	Candlewick Press
12	Novesky, Amy	Diaz, David	Me, Frida	PBIH; NOT	1-3	Abrams Books for Young Readers
13	Rumford, James	Illus. by author	Rain School	B Links; B List	PreS-2	Houghton
14	Sidman, Joyce	Prange, Beckie	Ubiquitous	B Links; NOT	1-6	Houghton-Mifflin Books for Children
15	Stead, Philip C.	Stead, Erin E.	Sick Day for Amos McGee	CA; NOT	K-2	Roaring Book Press
16	Stein, David Ezra	Illus. by author	Interrupting Chicken	CH; NOT	PreS-3	Candlewick Press
17	Tafolla, Carmen	Cordóva, Amy	Fiesta Babies	PBIH; NOT	PreS-K	Tricycle Press
18	Tonatiuh, Duncan	Illus. by author	Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin	PBIH; NOT	K-3	Abrams Books for Young Readers
19	Velasquez, Eric	Illus. by author	Grandma's Gift	PBI; NOT	K-3	Walker Publishing Co.
20	Willems, Mo	Muth, Jon J.	City Dog, Country Frog	B List; NOT	PreS-2	Disney Press
21	Willems, Mo	Illus. by author	We Are in a Book	TSGAH; NOT	PreS-2	Hyperion Books for Children

Intermediate Books (Grades 3-6)

	Author	Illustrator	Title	Awards (see key)	Grades	Publisher
22	Ancona, George		¡Ole! Flamenco	PBAH; NOT	3-5	Lee & Low Books
23	Bishop, Nic	Photographs by Nic Bishop	Nic Bishop Lizards	B Links; B List; NOT	2-5	Scholastic Press
24	Greenberg, Jan and Jordan, Sandra	Floca, Brian	Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring	SIBH: FAN; B Links; B List; NOT	2-4	Roaring Book Press
25	Holm, Jennifer L.		Turtle in Paradise	NH; B List; NOT	4-6	Random House
26	Montgomery, Sy	Photographs by Nic Bishop	Kakapo Rescue: Saving the World's Strangest Parrot	SIB; FAN; Blinks; B List; NOT	4-7	Houghton- Mifflin Books for Children
27	Nelson, S. D.		Black Elk's Vision	B Links; NOT	2-6	Abrams Books for Young Readers
28	Ryan, Pam Muñoz	Sis, Peter	The Dreamer	PBA; FAN; B List; NOT	4-8	Scholastic Press
29	Shiga, Jason	Illus. by author	Meanwhile	B List; NOT	4-9	Amulet Books
30	Sidman, Joyce	Allen, Rick	Dark Emperor and Other Poems of the Night	NH; FAN; B List; NOT	3-6	Houghton- Mifflin Books for Children
31	Singer, Marilyn	Masse, Josée	Mirror Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse	FAN; Blinks; B List; NOT	2-5	Dutton
32	Williams-Garcia, Rita		One Crazy Summer	NH; FAN; B List; NOT	4-7	Amistad

	Author	Illustrator	Title	Awards (see key)	Grades	Publisher
33	Atkins, Jeannine		Borrowed Names	B Links; B List	6-9	Holt
34	Bacigalupi, Paolo		Ship Breaker	Printz; NOT	7-12	Little, Brown
35	Bartoletti, Susan Campbell		They Called Themselves the KKK	FAN; B Links; NOT	7-12	Houghton
36	Bondoux, Anne-Laure	Translated by Y. Maudet	Time of Miracles	MLBA; NOT	7-10	Delacorte Press
37	Engle, Margarita		The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba	PBAH; NOT	6-12	Henry Holt and Co.
38	Flores-Galbis, Enrique		90 Miles to Havana	PBAH; NOT	5-8	Roaring Book Press
39	Freedman, Russell		Lafayette and the American Revolution	SIBH; B Links; B List; NOT	6-9	Holiday House
40	Matti, Truus	Translated by Nancy Forest-Flier	Departure Time	MLBHA; NOT	5-8	Namelos
41	Neri, Greg	DuBurke, Randy	Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty	NOT; CSAH	7-12	Lee and Low
42	Perkins, Lynne Rae		As Easy as Falling Off the Face of the Earth	FAN; B List	8-12	Greenwillow
43	Preus, Margi		Heart of a Samurai	NH; B Links; B List; NOT	7-11	Amulet Books

44	Reeve, Philip		Fever Crumb	B List; NOT	6-9	Scholastic Press
45	Rhodes, Jewell Parker		Ninth Ward	NOT; CSKAH	5-8	Little, Brown
46	Sedgwick, Marcus		Revolver	FAN; PrintzH	7-10	Roaring Book Press
47	Sonnenblick, Jordan		After Ever After	B List; SFBA	5-8	Scholastic Press
48	Teller, Janne	Translated by Martin Aitken	Nothing	MLBHA; B List; NOT; PrintzH	7-12	Atheneum Books for Young Readers
49	Vanderpool, Clare		Moon Over Manifest	NA; NOT	5-8	Delacorte Press
50	Wiles, Deborah		Countdown	B Links; B List; NOT	5-7	Scholastic Press

Code for Best of the Best in Children's Literature

B Links	Listed in Book Links' Lasting Connections
B List	Listed in Book List's Editors' Choice List
CA	Caldecott Award <i>Named in honor of 19th century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. Awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.</i>
CH	Caldecott Honor
CSKA	Coretta Scott King Author Award <i>The Coretta Scott King Award is awarded annually to authors of African descent whose distinguished books promote understanding and appreciation of the "American Dream." This award commemorates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honors his widow, Coretta Scott King, for her courage in continuing his work for peace and brotherhood.</i>
CSKAH	Coretta Scott King Author Honor Award
CSKI	Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award <i>Awarded annually to illustrators of African descent whose work heightens and extends the reader's awareness of the best and worst around them. The style and content enlarges upon the story elements, awakening and strengthening the imagination of the reader while leading to an appreciation of beauty.</i>
CSKIH	Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor Award
CSK/JSNTA	Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award <i>Established to affirm new talent and to offer visibility to excellence in writing and/or illustration which otherwise might be formally unacknowledged within a given year within the structure of the two awards given annually by the Coretta Scott King Task Force.</i>
FAN	Listed in Horn Book's Fanfare List

MLBA	<p>Mildred L. Batchelder Award</p> <p><i>Honors Mildred L. Batchelder, a former executive director of the Association for Library Service to Children, a believer in the importance of good books for children. It is 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.</i></p>
MLBHA	Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Award
NA	<p>Newbery Award</p> <p><i>Named in honor of 18th century English bookseller John Newbery. Awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the American author of the most distinguished book written for children, and published in the United States.</i></p>
NH	Newbery Honor
NOT	ALA Notable Children's Books 2005
PBA	<p>Pura Belpré Author Award (not given in odd number years)</p> <p><i>The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian from the New York Public Library.</i></p>
PBAH	Pura Belpré Author Honor Award (not given in odd number years)
PBI	Pura Belpré Illustrator Award (not given in odd number years)
PBIH	Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Award (not given in odd number years)
Printz	<p>Michael L. Printz Award</p> <p><i>The Michael L. Printz Award is an award for books that exemplify literary excellence in young adult literature. It is named for a Topeka, Kansas, school librarian who was a long-time active member of the Young Adult Library Services Association. The award-winning book can be fiction, nonfiction, poetry, or an anthology, and it can be a work of joint authorship or editorship.</i></p>
Printz H	Michael L. Printz Honor Award

SFBA

Schneider Family Book Award

The Schneider Family Book Awards honor an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

SFBAH

Schneider Family Book Honor Award

SIB

Robert F. Sibert Award

Awarded annually to the author of the most distinguished informational book published in English during the preceding year.

SIB H

Robert F. Sibert Honor Award

SLJ

Listed in School Library Journal's Best Books of the Year

TSGA

Theodore Seuss Geisel Award

Established in 2004, this award will be given annually beginning in 2006, to recognize the author and illustrator of a beginning reader book who demonstrates great creativity and imagination in their literacy and artistic achievements to engage children in reading. The award is named for the world-renowned children's author, Theodore Geisel.

TSGAH

Theodore Seuss Geisel Honor Award