

For Your Summer Reading Enjoyment!
Nominees from the Garden State Children's and Teen Book Awards

2010 & 2011

Available at the WAMS Media Center



Avi

The Seer of Shadows

It's New York City, 1872, and fourteen-year-old Horace, a photographer's apprentice, becomes entangled in a plot to create fraudulent spirit photographs. When Horace accidentally frees the real ghost of a dead girl bent on revenge, his life takes a frightening turn.

Bartoletti, Susan Campbell

The Boy Who Dared

In October 1942, seventeen-year-old Helmuth Hubener, imprisoned for distributing anti-Nazi leaflets, recalls his past life and how he came to dedicate himself to bring the truth about Hitler and the war to the German people. This enthralling tale is based on the true story of a Hitler Youth.

Blundell, Judy

What I Saw and How I Lied

**** (National Book Award Winner)**

It's 1947, and when 15-year-old Evie Spooner goes on a family trip to Palm Beach with her mother and stepfather, she becomes embroiled in a web of lies and intrigue involving a handsome young ex-GI who seems smitten with her. When events take a murderous turn, Evie must decide for herself what she must do.

Collins, Suzanne

The Hunger Games

In Panem, winning the lottery changes the lives of 24 children each year, but not for the good. These girls and boys become contestants in The Hunger Games, a televised battle to the death.

Connor, Leslie

Waiting for Normal

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

Curtis, Christopher Paul

Elijah of Buxton

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Deem, James M.

Bodies from the Ice: Melting Glaciers and the Recovery of the Past

Examines the science of glaciers and looks at some of the discoveries of the past that have been made as the ice masses move and melt, including the preserved frozen remains of Otzi, the oldest human mummy ever found in ice, believed to be at least 5,300 years old.

Dowd, Siobhan

The London Eye Mystery

Ted's cousin, Salim, disappears from a closed capsule on the London Eye, a 442-foot-tall Ferris wheel. Is Salim kidnapped? Dead? Ted has Asperger's Syndrome and his unique, analytical outlook may just solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

Gaiman, Neil

The Graveyard Book

The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures following his escape from his family's murderer. What will happen when the murderer returns for him?

Horvath, Polly

My One Hundred Adventures

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: Greg Heffley's Journal

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

Kinney, Jeff

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

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

Korman, Gordon

Swindle

After unscrupulous collector S. Wendell Palomino cons him out of a valuable baseball card, sixth-grader Griffin Bing puts together a band of misfits to break into Palomino's heavily guarded store and steal the card back, planning to use the money to finance his father's failing invention, the Smart Pick fruit picker.

Law, Ingrid

Savvy

**** (Newbery Medal/Honor)**

Recounts the adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible accident.

Lockhart, E.

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks

Frankie attends one of the most elite boarding schools on the east coast. During her freshman year Frankie goes largely unnoticed behind her sister's shadow, but during the summer between freshman and sophomore years, she changes both physically and mentally. Emboldened by the readings from her class on urban protests, Frankie challenges the established hierarchy, soon becomes the mastermind behind several school pranks, and is well on her way to becoming either a great world-leader or a criminal mastermind.

Menzel, Peter and Faith D'Aluisio

What the World Eats

This is a collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Ecuador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a weeks worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country.

Murdock, Catherine Gilbert

Princess Ben

This is the story of a princess who was raised with the commoners, and never learned all that a "proper" royal should. Now that her family has been killed, she is left to the tender mercies of her aunt, the Queen. They clash constantly and when Ben is left locked in her room, she discovers some magical artifacts that change her and her world forever.

Nelson, Kadir

We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball

With many colorful illustrations, this book explores the history of Negro League baseball teams, discussing owners, players, hardships, wins, losses, and the ultimate disappearance of the Negro Leagues as players like Jackie Robinson, Willie Mays and Hank Aaron began to play for the major and minor leagues.

Paulsen, Gary

Lawn Boy

When a 12 year old boy starts cutting lawns to earn some spending money he doesn't count on meeting a stock broker who helps him invest his money, start a business, and earn over 400,000 dollars.

Peck, Richard

On the Wings of Heroes

A boy in Illinois remembers the home front years in his small town during World War II. He reminisces about life and especially the two heroes in his life--his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war.

Prineas, Sarah

The Magic Thief

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

Selznick, Brian

The Invention of Hugo Cabret

**** (Teen Award Winner)**

Set in a 1931 Paris train station, Hugo, a gifted twelve-year-old orphan, is taken in by his alcoholic uncle after his father perishes in a fire. Convinced that his father left him a secret message, Hugo sets out to find the automaton that his father was restoring prior to his death.

Sis, Peter

The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

**** (Caldecott Medal/Honor)**

Artist Peter Sís describes what it was like growing up in Czechoslovakia under Soviet rule and discusses how Western culture influenced his life in this powerful combination of graphic novel and picture book. Written in several stands, the narrative never dilutes the impact of the boldly composed panels depicting scenes from Sís' infancy through young adulthood.

Spinelli, Eileen

Summerhouse Time

Eleven-year-old Eileen always looks forward to August when her extended family gathers at the summerhouse for a month at the beach, but this year she is a bit reluctant to leave behind her first crush, and when she arrives she finds reality is not quite as good as her memories. Presented in simple free verse.

Tarshis, Lauren

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree

Emma-Jean Lazarus is strangely logical and highly observant, a combination of traits that set her apart from her classmates. A chance encounter with fellow seventh grader, Colleen Pomerantz, turns Emma-Jean into a problem solver, but the results aren't always logical. Emma-Jean's mother is always there, supporting and encouraging her "strange" daughter.

Uehashi, Nahoko

Moribito: Guardian of the Spirit

Prince Chagum is possessed by a water demon and it is up to Balsa, a wandering bodyguard, to find out the true nature of the demon while keeping Chagum safe from his father's murderous intent.

Urban, Linda

A Crooked Kind of Perfect

Ten-year-old Zoe Elias's mother is the breadwinner of the family, her father is afraid to leave the house, and Zoe dreams of becoming a famous piano prodigy. Although Zoe's father gives her a Perfectone D-60 organ instead of a piano, Zoe tries to make the best of the situation. Readers will identify with Zoe's insecurities, laugh at her quirky family, and feel her pride in this winning story about family, friendship, self-confidence, and dreams come (realistically) true.

Weatherford, Carole Boston *Becoming Billie Holiday* **** (Coretta Scott King Award/Honor)**

Before she became a world famous jazz singer and changed her name to Billie Holiday, she was known as Eleanora Fagan. Eleanora fought to survive in Baltimore and make a career for herself in New York. This is a fictional look at her fascinating life, written in verse with sepia-toned illustrations.

Wiles, Deborah *The Aurora County All-Stars*

The story is set against the back drop of a Mississippi small town's secrets and history of racial injustice. Twelve-year-old House Jackson, team captain and star pitcher of the Aurora County All-Stars, is finally ready to play again after being sidelined for a year with a broken elbow, but a standoff ensues when the team's big game is scheduled for the same day as Aurora County's two-hundredth anniversary pageant--an event directed by Frances, the very girl who caused Jackson's injury. After a series of minor mishaps, betrayals and bouts of miscommunication, House and Frances work out a hilarious compromise that all readers can root for.

Woodson, Jacqueline *After Tupac and D Foster* **** (Newbery Medal/Honor)**

The day Neeka and her best friend meet D Foster is the day everything changes. Together, the three become teenagers, helping each other through hard times, sharing good times, and looking up to their hero, rapper Tupac Shakur. What will happen to their friendship when D Foster's missing mother shows up to take her away? In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

