Children’s Literature Annotated Bibliography

**INFORMATIONAL / NONFICTION**

1. **Bartoletti, Susan Campbell. (2005). *Hitler youth: growing up in hitler’s shadow.* New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc. 176. Gr. 5 – 8.**

**Summary:**

Susan Campbell Bartoletti weaves the stories of the young people that Hitler built National Socialism upon. Drawn to his promises of jobs and economic prosperity, German children and teenagers flocked to the Hitler Youth program to serve Hitler. Their reflections and memories intertwine with Jewish youth of the same time period to create a dynamic picture of how World War II affected young people.

**Key Words:**

National Socialism, Jewish youth, Holocaust, German Youth, World War II, Hitler Youth

**Awards:**

Carolyn W. Field Award Winner 2006

John Newbery Medal Honor Book 2006

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor 2006

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor Book 2006

1. **DeCristofano, Carolyn Cinami. (2012). *A black hole is not a hole*. Illus, by Michael Carrol. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc. 80. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

This delightful book transports readers out of the known universe and beyond. Black holes are misunderstood and we still have much to learn about them. This book teaches readers about stars, their origins, and what exactly happens to them when they die.

**Key Words:**

Black hole, science, universe, stars, planets, gravity, light, galaxies

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Winter, Jonah. (2010). *Here comes the garbage barge.* Illus. by Red Nose Studio. New York, NY: Schwartz & Wade Books. 40. Gr. 2 – 4.**

**Summary:**

This inviting story tells the tale of a New Jersey town and its attempt to find a home for its unwanted garbage. An ambitious captain tries to get other states to take it, but unfortunately he cannot. After a long journey and many miles the stinky garbage finds a home.

**Key Words:**

Refuse, refuse disposal, barges, voyages, travel, history, environmental issues

**Awards:**

Great Lakes Great Books Award Winner 2011 – 2012

New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Books 2010

1. **Byrd, Robert. (2012). *Electric ben: the amazing life and times of Benjamin franklin.* New York, NY: Penguin Group. 40. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

Moving through his life page by page, *Electric Ben* tells the story of Benjamin Franklin and his many accomplishments. More than a biography however, this book also provides information on the historical setting in which he lived, the science he helped to create, and the nation he helped to form. With illustrations on every page this book will keep readers focused on learning more about the amazing Ben Franklin.

**Key Words:**

Statesmen, inventors, scientists, printers, American Government, ingenuity

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Boston Globe-Horn Book Award for Excellence in Children’s Literature Winner 2013

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor Book 2013

1. **Bryant, Jennifer. (2013). *A splash of red: the life and art of horace pippin.* Illus. by Melissa Sweet. New York, NY: Random House Inc. 40. Gr. 2 – 4.**

**Summary:**

All his life Horace loved to paint and draw, but he had to give up his dream of being an artist in order to help his family. His drawing arm was injured later in life effectively ending his dream of drawing forever. With creativity and dedication, Horace retaught himself how to use his arm to become one of the most prominent African-American artists in America.

**Key Words:**

Art, creativity, overcoming injuries, persistence, lifetime achievement, families

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Wheeler, Lisa. (2006). *Mammoths on the move.* Illus. by Kurt Cyrus. New York, NY: Blue Sky Press. 32. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this delightfully rhymed tale, readers enter the lives of a pack of woolly mammoths. Through dangers and trials of a long journey the woolly mammoths prevail. We journey with the pack to the final destination to see how these giant creatures accomplished their grueling adventure.

**Key Words:**

Woolly mammoths, dinosaurs, pre-historic age, poetry, family units

**Awards:**

Florida Reading Association’s Children’s Book Award Honor Book 2007 – 2008

Parents’ Choice Award 2006

Society of School Librarians International Book Awards Honor Book 2006

1. **Bang, Molly and Penny Chisolm. (2012). *Ocean sunlight: how tiny plants feed the sea.* Illus. by Molly Bang. New York, NY: The Blue Sky Press. 48. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

The sun sustains every ounce of life on planet earth. In this informative, easy-to-read book we discover how the sun sustains life in even the darkest parts of our oceans. With an index included in the back, readers can delve deeper into the ocean to experience more in depth discussion and knowledge.

**Key Words:**

Photobiology, marine animals, plants, sunshine, oceans, light, science

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

SB & F Prize for Excellence in Science Winner 2013

1. **Cooper, Elisha. (2013). *Train.* New York, NY: Orchard Books. 40. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this informational book, we explore how trains and railroads work. The reader is presented with information on the different types of trains. We take the voyage with the train, from beginning to end, covering everything in between.

**Key Words:**

Trains, travel, voyages, railroad, commuters, passengers

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

**BIOGRAPHY**

1. **Fleming, Candace. (2011). *Amelia lost: the life and disappearance of amelia earhart.* New York, NY: Random House Children’s Books. 128. Gr. 3 – 6.**

**Summary:**

Amelia Earhart’s disappearance during her flight around the world has baffled millions for centuries. In this novel, Candace Fleming explores Amelia’s life with excerpts about the day she disappeared interposed between chapters. Full of historical information about Amelia’s life this chapter book lets the reader experience life with Amelia.

**Key Words:**

Women, pilots, flight, aviation, mystery, disappearance, 1920’s

**Awards:**

Cybil Award Winner 2011

Mind the Gap Award Winner 2012

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Honor Book 2012

1. **Sweet, Melissa. (2011). *Balloons over broadway: the true story of the puppeeteer of macy’s parade.* Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 40, Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

This delightful picture book tells the story of Tony Sarg, the man who created the first puppets for the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. We follow his life and his imagination as we learn just how those amazing balloons came to be. With inviting and dynamic illustrations this is sure to be a favorite in any classroom.

**Key Words:**

Puppets, parades, Thanksgiving, invention, creativity, imagination, traditions,

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Winner 2012

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children Winner 2012

Charlotte Zolotow Award 2012

1. **Bruchac, Joseph. (2004). *Jim thorpe’s bright path.*** **Illus. by S.D. Nelson. New York, NY: Lee and Low Books Inc. 40. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

Many people have heard of the incredible Native American athlete Jim Thorpe. This biography, however, focuses on how education set the stage for Jim to have such a fruitful career. Focused mainly on his early life, this book allows the reader to see a side of Jim Thorpe we may not be as familiar with.

**Key Words:**

Athletes, Native Americans, education, football, track, perseverance, dedication\

**Awards:**

Carter G. Woodson Book Award Winner 2005

Storytelling World Award Honor Book 2005

1. **Bryant, Jen. (2008). *A river of words: the story of william carlos williams.* Illus. by Melissa Sweet. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 34. Gr. 5 – 7.**

**Summary:**

A young Horace loves being outside in nature and loves the sounds he finds there. Eventually, he begins to create poetry whenever and wherever he can. Even though he decides to become a doctor, his love of poetry never falters.

**Key Words:**

Poets, poetry, physicians, creativity, imagination, storytelling, nature,

**Awards:**

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2009

Cybil Award Finalist 2008

Carlotte Zolotow Award Honor Book 2009

Lupine Awards Winner 2008

1. **Barton, Chris. (2009). *The day-glo brothers*. Illus. by Tony Persiani. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 48. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

Two brothers stumble upon a discovery that will change both of their lives. This book tells the story of Bob and Joe Switzer, the men who invented Day-Glo colors. Both were driven by different desires, but through exploration they invented colors that have never been seen before. The artwork helps to tell the story, going from grey to Day-Glo colors.

**Key Words:**

Colors, fluorescence, paint, inventions, science, brothers, teamwork

**Awards:**

Children’s Crown Award Winner 2012

Cybil Award Winner 2009

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor Book 2010

1. **Pinkney, Adrea Davis and Brian Pinkney. (2009). *Sojourner truth’s step-stomp stride.* Illus. by Brian Pinkney. New York, NY: Disney Book Group. 38. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

This beautifully illustrated tale follows Sojourner Truth from infancy to adulthood. Born a slave, Sojourner was eventually freed and began speaking out about slavery, freedom, and women’s rights. Sojourner laid the groundwork for many African Americans and women to follow her and fight for the freedom they deserved.

**Key Words:**

Slavery, abolitionists, women’s rights, African Americans, speech, self-confidence

**Awards:**

Jane Addams Children’s Book Award Honor Book 2010

Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Award 2009

Young Hoosier Book Award Winner 2011 – 2012

1. **Say, Allen. (2011). *Drawing from memory*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press. 63. Gr. 3 – 6.**

**Summary:**

Beginning in the World War II era, Allen Say tells his story about growing up in Japan. From his education to becoming an apprentice for a famous cartoonist, Say covers every aspect of life that got him to America. With a mix of artwork for the illustrations, this graphic novel relates the life of a young Japanese boy following his dreams.

**Key Words:**

Illustrators, Japanese, graphic novel, dreams, ambition, education, art, drawing

**Awards:**

Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal Honor Book 2012

School Library Journal’s Battle of the Kids’ Books Nominee 2012

1. **Winter, Jeanette. (2011). *The watcher: jane goodall’s life with the chimps.* New York, NY: Random House, Inc. 48. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

A young Jane Goodall was already watching and learning about the world around her. When she got older she left home in order to pursue her passion for science, and was tasked with observing chimpanzees in Africa. Through this observation we now know many things about the primate world that were formerly unknown; Jane gave a voice to our closest animal relatives and allowed humans to understand and explore the primate world.

**Key Words:**

Primatologists, women, chimpanzees, studying, conservation, nature, acceptance

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Parents’ Choice Award 2011

**REALISTIC FICTION**

1. **Abdel – Fattah, Randa. (2006). *Does my head look big in this.* London, England: Marion Lloyd Books. 368. Gr. 6 – 8.**

**Summary:**

A teenage Muslim girl makes the difficult decision to begin wearing the hijab, a religious garment that covers the head, full-time. The story tells about life from her point of view as she struggles to make sense of her religion and the world. A journey of self-discovery ensues as she lives with her decision.

**Key Words:**

Teenagers, religion, Islam, humor, self-discovery, relationships

**Awards:**

Wirral Paperback of the Year Award 2007

1. **Fleischman, Paul. (2013). *The matchbox diary*. Illus. by Bagram Ibatoulline. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 40. Gr. 2 – 4.**

**Summary:**

A young girl visits her great-grandfather’s home and begins exploring his vast amount of collectables. When she discovers a cigar box filled with small items, her grandfather explains it is own version of a diary. The discovery of the diary prompts the grandfather to recount his memories of traveling to America as a small boy, of his heritage, and family history.

**Key Words:**

Family, historically-based, immigration, 1800’s, Italy, narrative

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Author Award – Newbury Medal for *Joyful Noise*

Author Award – Newbury Medal for *Graven Images*

1. **Winthrop, Elizabeth. (2005). *Squashed in the middle*. Illus. by Pat Cummings. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company. 29. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

A young girl attempts to navigate the chaos that is her family. She struggles with being the middle child and not having much of a say in her own life. She asserts her independence by spending a night at a friend’s house even though no one in her family believes she can do it. After she stands up for herself, her family begins to see her in a new light.

**Key Words:**

Family, independence, birth order, relationships, finding your voice, growing-up

**Awards:**

Delaware Diamonds Nominee 2005-2006

Author Award – Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award

Author Award – Pen Syndicated Fiction Award

1. **Olshan, Matthew. (2013). *The mighty lalouche.* Illus. by Sophie Blackall. New York, NY: Random House Children’s Books. 40. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

A small but fast, nimble, and strong mail carrier named Lalouche is let go from his job and must find a way to make ends meet. He discovers he has great skill as a boxer and faces off against some of the biggest names in the sport. Each opponent underestimates his ability, resulting in a highly successful career for Lalouche.

**Key Words:**

Boxing, mail carriers, looking past appearances, passion, Paris

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Graham, Bob. (2012). *A bus called heaven.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 40. Gr. 3 – 7.**

**Summary:**

It is a normal, busy day for a family in the city. When a blackout forces them away from their activities they must find new ways to spend time together. With beautiful full page illustrations and simple text , we watch as the family’s busy lives come to a halt.

**Key Words:**

Family, city, blackout, quality time, distractions, easy-to-read

**Awards:**

Cybil Award Finalist 2011

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2012

1. **Rocco, John. (2011). *Blackout.* New York, NY: Disney – Hyperion Books. 40. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, a young family forgets what is important. When a citywide blackout occurs they are forced to spend time together. When the lights eventually come back on, the family has discovered they would much rather be with each other.

**Key Words:**

Family, blackout, cities, quality time, love, support

**Awards:**

Cybil Award Finalist 2011

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2012

1. **Li-Qiong, Yu. (2011). *A new year’s reunion: a chinese story.* Illus. by Zhu Cheng-Liang. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 112. Gr. 3 – 7.**

**Summary:**

Maomao is a young Chinese girl whose father works away from the home most of the year to support his family. Her father comes home for Chinese New Year. The family soon indulges in all the traditions before her father has to leave again.

**Key Words:**

Families, Chinese New Year, fathers and daughters, multicultural, traditions

**Awards:**

New York Times Best illustrated Children’s Books 2011

Feng Zikai Chinese Children’s Picture Book Award 2009

1. **Reynolds, Peter. (2012). *Sky color.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 32. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

Marisol is a young artist who loves to paint. When her class is tasked with painting a mural Marisol volunteers to paint the sky, before discovering that she does not have any blue paint. Marisol is stumped about what color to paint the sky, until she looks up and sees the big sky above her.

**Key Words:**

Classrooms, projects, art, creativity, painting, color, imagination

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

**HISTORICAL FICTION**

1. **Gantos, Jack. (2011). *Dead end in norvelt.* New York, NY: Square Fish. 384. Gr. 4 – 8.**

**Summary:**

Jack has big plans for his summer, until he gets permanently grounded. He ends up helping an older neighbor who suffers from an arthritic like disease write for the newspaper. In the process he learns a lot about the town’s history, life, and his boring summer ends up being not so boring after all.

**Key Words:**

Behavior, old age, humor, history, post-World War II, small towns

**Awards:**

Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize 2012

John Newbery Medal 2012

Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction Winner 2012

1. **Crisp, Marth. (2008). *Titanicat.* Illus. by Robert Papp. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press. 38. Gr. 2 – 6.**

**Summary:**

In the spring of 1912 young Jim is preparing for the adventure of a lifetime: sailing across the Atlantic on the famed Titanic. The cabin boy gets placed in charge of the ship’s cat and makes quick friends with her. When the cat leaves the ship in Southampton Jim chases her, missing the ship in the process.

**Key Words:**

Titanic, ships, superstition, cats, friendship

**Awards:**

Cybil Award Finalist 2008

Golden Sower Award Winner 2011

Young Hoosier Book Award Winner 2011 – 2012

1. **Adler, David A. (2003). *Mama played baseball.* Illus. by Chris O’Leary. San Diego, CA: Gulliver Books Harcourt, Inc. 32. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

Amy’s father is away at war and her mother decides she must get a job to help support her family. Mama tries out for the brand new women’s baseball league and makes the team. Amy enjoys watching Mama and helping her practice until Father can return home from the war.

**Key Words:**

Baseball, family life, World War II, absent fathers, jobs, women, mothers and daughters

**Awards:**

Children’s Gallery Award Winner 2006

1. **Michelson, Richard. (2010). *Busing brewster.* Illus. by R.G. Roth. New York, NY: Random House Publishing. 32. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

Set in the segregated 1960’s, *Busing Brewster* tells the story of a first grade boy and his experience with an integrated school. Along with his brother, Brewster is allowed to attend a predominately white school at a time when it was a new idea to do so. The story hints at racism and our youth’s ability to cope with new situations.

**Key Words:**

Segregation, schools, buses, racism, 1960’s, brothers, education

**Awards:**

New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Books 2010

1. **Henson, Heather. (2008). *That book woman*. Illus. by David Small. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 40. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

A young boy and his family live high up in the Appalachian Mountains where no one ever visits. He works hard around the family farm while his sister sits and reads a pastime he sees as useless. When a woman on a horse shows up to give them books, for free, the boy is intrigued and finds a love of reading he never knew existed.

**Key Words:**

Librarians, books, packhorses, travel, reading, education

**Awards:**

Storytelling World Award Honor Book 2009

Anne Izard Storyteller’s Choice Award Winner 2009

Cybil Award Finalist 2008

Christopher Award Winner 2009

1. **Kajikawa, Kimiko. (2009). *Tsunami.* Illus. by Ed Young. New York, NY: Philomel Books. 32. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

A village is gearing up to celebrate bringing in the harvest. A wealthy man named Ojiisan decides to stay behind and continue to harvest his rice fields. While out in the field he sees and impending tsunami and takes drastic measures to save the villagers lives.

**Key Words:**

Folklore, tsunamis, festivals, responsibility, kindness, saving lives

**Awards:**

Aesop Prize Accolade 2009

Parents’ Choice Award 2009

1. **Johnston, Tony. (2004). *The harmonica*. Illus. by Ron Mazellan. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge. 32. Gr. 3 – 6.**

**Summary:**

A young boy has aspirations to learn how to play a Schuster on the piano, but due to financial constraints his father gives him a harmonica instead. When the family is shipped off to a concentration camp, the only hope the boyhas is the music his harmonica can make. A German officer takes a liking to the music and forces the boy to play Schuster every night for him, unknowingly providing hope to the Jews who also hear the music.

**Key Words:**

World War II, Holocaust, concentration camps, Jews, family, music, hope

**Awards:**

Independent Publisher Book Award Finalist 2005

National Jewish Book Award Finalist 2004

Storytelling World Award Honor Book 2005

1. **Grifalconi, Ann. (2007). *Ain’t nobody a stranger to me*. Illus. by Jerry Pinkney. New York, NY: Jump at the Sun Hyperion Books for Children. 32. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

A young girl asks her grandfather how he is able to know everyone in their town. He replies by recounting his tale of escaping slavery with the help of the Underground Railroad and relying on people along the way. They plant an apple tree in memory of every person he met who helped him get to freedom.

**Key Words:**

African Americans, slavery, Underground Railroad, grandfathers, pride

**Awards:**

National Parenting Publications Gold Book Award 2007

Society of School Librarians International Book Awards Honor Book 2007

**TRADITIONAL LITERATURE**

1. **Fleischman, Paul. (2007). *Glass slipper, gold sandal: A worldwide Cinderella.* Illus. by Julie Paschkis. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company. 32. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this delightfully told tale, we visit the wildly popular tale of Cinderella with a twist. Woven through the story is each cultures depiction of this character. Differentiated with artwork, we are led through how Cinderella snags her prince from country to country.

**Key Words:**

Folklore, Cinderella, variations, worldwide, culture

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

California Book Award 2008

1. **McDermott, Gerald. (2011). *Monkey: a trickster tale from india.* Boston, MA: Harcourt Children’s Books. 32. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

A hungry crocodile schemes over ways to eat monkey. Monkey, however, is always one step ahead of crocodile. Monkey figures out ways to avoid getting eaten every time.

**Key Words:**

Folklore, India, monkeys, crocodiles, outsmarting, playful

**Awards:**

Parent’s Choice Award 2011

School Library Journal Book Review Stars 2011

1. **Stampler, Ann Redisch. (2010). *The rooster prince of breslov*. Illus. by Eugene Yelchin. Boston, MA: Clarion Books. 30. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

A young, spoiled prince gets tired of having everything he wants handed to him. He decides to become a rooster instead of being a prince, and no one can convince him to be the prince again. An old man shows up to help get the prince back in order.

**Key Words:**

Jewish folklore, roosters, appreciating what you have, humor, pretending

**Awards:**

National Jewish Book Award Winner 2010

Sydney Taylor Book Award 2011

1. **Deedy, Carmen Agra. (2007). *Martina, the beautiful cockroach: a cuban folktale.* Illus. by Michael Austin. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers. 28. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this humorous retelling of a popular Cuban folktale, a young and beautiful cockroach attempts to find an appropriate suitor to marry. Armed with some sound advice from her grandmother, Martina weeds her way through boorish, rude, and sly suitors. Just when she has given up, her grandmother instructs her to take a second look.

**Key Words:**

Folktales, Cuba, cockroaches, advice, inner-beauty, suitors, grandmothers

**Awards:**

Pura Belpre Award Honor Book 2008

Anne Izard Storytellers’ Choice Award Winner 2009

Storytelling World Award Winner 2009

Society of School Librarians International Book Award Honor Book 2008

1. **Knutson, Barbara. (2004). *Love and roast chicken: a trickster tale from the andes mountains.* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group. 40. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

High up in the Andes Mountains a guinea pig and a wolf engage in a battle of wits. The wolf makes pointed efforts to capture and eat the guinea pig. The guinea pig is always one step ahead, escaping certain death multiple times.

**Key Words:**

Indians of South America, guinea pigs, tricksters, folklore, wolves

**Awards:**

ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Award 2004

Minnesota Book Awards Finalist 2005

Society of School Librarians International Book Awards Honor Book 2005

1. **Tingle, Tim. (2006). *Crossing bok chitto.* Illus. by Jeanne Rorex Bridges. El Paso, TX: Cinco Puntos Press. 40. Gr. 1 – 6.**

**Summary:**

Martha is a young Indian girl who lives on one side of the river Bok Chitto and has been instructed not crossed to the other side. One day she does cross the river and meets a new friend named Mo that happens to be a slave. When Mo’s family needs to escape, the friendship with Martha helps save their lives.

**Key Words:**

Choctaw Indians, slavery, friendship, churches, African Americans, freedom

**Awards:**

American Indian Youth Literature Award Winner 2008

Anne Izard Storytellers’ Choice Award Winner 2007

Best Children’s Book Winner 2007

Oklahoma Book Award Winner 2007

1. **Pinkney, Jerry. (2009). *The lion and the mouse.* New York, NY: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 40. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

*The Lion and the Mouse* is one of the most well-known Aesop’s fables in existence today. In this wordless rendition, the reader must interpret the meaning and dialogue of the story from a series of beautiful illustrations. The story of the kind lion, the courageous mouse, and their mutual reliance on one another is a story sure to satisfy and engage many diverse readers.

**Key Words:**

Fables, folklore, safari, animals, wordless, repaying debts, friendship, survival

**Awards:**

Randolph Caldecott Medal Winner 2010

Prize for Design and Printing First Place 2010

Cybil Award Finalist 2009

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Aylesworth, Jim. (2009). *The mitten*. Illus. by Barbara McClintock. New York, NY: Scholastic, Inc. 32. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

A young boy loses his mitten while playing out in the snow. A variety of animals find the lost mitten and attempt to all fit inside of it to stay warm. The mitten busts leaving both the animals and the boy without its warmth.

**Key Words:**

Folklore, animals, sharing, lost items, love, grandmothers, warmth

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Oppenhiem Toy Portfolio Award 2009

Parents’ Choice Award 2009

**POETRY**

1. **Sidman, Joyce. (2010). *Dark emperor and other poems of the night.* Illus. by Rick Allen. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. 32. Gr. 3 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this collection of poems, we explore the different types of animals that are active during the nighttime. Each poem contains a short explanation of a different animal. Along with the poems, the book gives a brief informational paragraph going more in depth on the animal.

**Key Words:**

Forest animals, children’s poetry, night, animal biology, scientific terminology

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

John Newberry Medal Honor Book 2011

Cybil Award Finalist 2010

Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry Award Honor Book 2011

1. **Salas, Laura Purdie. (2011). *BookSpeak! Poems written by and about books.* Illus. by Josee Bisaillon. Boston, MA: Clarion Books. 32. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

In this novel collection of poems readers get the change to explore what books think. From a cliffhanger all the way to what books do when everyone goes home, this book leaves no page unturned. *BookSpeak* puts a different perspective on literary elements making them fun and easy to understand.

**Key Words:**

Books, literary elements, humorous, easy-to-read, poetry, collection of poetry

**Awards:**

Best Children’s Books of the Year 2012

Notable Children’s Books in the Language Arts 2012

1. **Myers, Walter Dean. (2009). *Looking like me.* Illus. by Christopher Myers. New York, NY: Egmont Press. 28. Gr. 3 - 5.**

**Summary:**

A boy attempts to figure out exactly who he is. With each person he encounters, he discovers more adjectives he can use to describe himself.

**Key Words:**

Individuality, family life, African Americans, self-esteem, rhyming words, repetition

**Awards:**

Best Children’s Books of the Year 2010

Booklist Starred Review

School Library Journal Best Books 2009

Author Award – Corretta Scott King Award

1. **Sidman, Joyce. (2009). *Red sings from the treetops: a year in colors.* Illus. by Pamela Zagarenski. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 32. Gr. 2 – 4.**

**Summary:**

In a wonderfully illustrated tale, the author explores nature and seasons. Each season has its own colors and its own feeling. The author explores how colors changes and what they can look like at different times as well.

**Key Words:**

Seasons, colors, weather, nature, poetry

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Claudia Lewis Award Winner 2010

Cybil Award Winner 2009

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2010

1. **Scanlon, Elizabeth Garton. (2009). *All the world.* Illus. by Marla Frazee. New York, NY: Beach Lane Books. 40. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

In this simple to read rhyming text, we explore the similarities of the world we live in. As the book progresses through different settings we discover that the whole world can be more similar than we think. From shopping at a market to eating at a restaurant, parallels are all around us.

**Key Words:**

Families, nature, America, world, exploration, community, similarities, simple poetry

**Awards:**

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2010

IRA Children’s and Young Adults’ Book Award Winner 2010

Cybil Award Winner 2009

Indies Choice Book Award Honor Book 2010

1. **Doyen, Denise. (2009). *Once upon a twice*. Illus. by Barry Moser. New York, NY: Random House, Inc. 32. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

A young mouse is warned by its elders to scamper and scurry about at night to avoid being eaten. He ignores the advice, almost losing his life in the process. He eventually becomes the elder warning younger mice about his experiences.

**Key Words:**

Stories in rhyme, nonsense verses, mice, conduct of life, advice, respecting elders

**Awards:**

E.B. White Read Aloud Award Honor Book 2010

Marion Vannett Ridgway Award Honor Book 2010

1. **Layne, Steven L. (2005). *T is for teachers: a school alphabet*. Illus. by Doris Ettinger. Chelsea, MI: Sleeping Bear Press. 32. Gr. 2 – 4.**

**Summary:**

Each page of this delightful text pairs a letter of the alphabet with an object, place, or person you would find in a school. Accompanying each page’s four-line rhyme there is also a small informational paragraph that explains more about that particular letters subject.

**Key Words:**

Schools, alphabet, teachers, education, rhyming

**Awards:**

Teacher’s Choice Award for Children’s Books Winner 2005

1. **Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. (2012). *Green.* New York, NY: Roaring House Press. 36. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

In this simply rhymed text, the reader explores the many different shades of green. With creatively placed die-cuts and beautiful illustrations each page is a world of its own. Through the text we see that one simple thing, like the color green, can have many different varieties.

**Key Words:**

Rhymes, colors, nature, die-cuts, green, creativity, variations

**Awards:**

Giverny Book Award Winner 2013

Randolph Caldecott Medal Honor Book 2013

Booklist Starred Review

**FANTASY**

1. **Messenger, Shannon. (2013).  *Let the sky fall*. New York, NY: Simon Pulse. 432. Gr, 5 – 8.**

**Summary:**

After a deadly tornado ripped his parents away from him, Vane finds himself confused and alone. What he does not know is that is not alone at all; he has a guardian names Audra. Together Vane and Audra attempt to evade detection in the midst of falling for one another.

**Key Words:**

Supernatural, winds, spirits, amnesia, tornadoes, orphans, romance

**Awards:**

N/A

1. **Klassen, Jon. (2012). *This is not my hat*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press. 34. Gr. 2 – 5.**

**Summary:**

Narrated by a small fish, *This is Not My Hat* tells the tale of hat and its transfer of possession. The small fish believes he has taken the hat away from a big fish and has gotten away with the crime. However, the small fish may be slightly mistaken about now owning the hat himself.

**Key Words:**

Fishes, stealing, humor, suspense, predicting books, easy-to-read

**Awards:**

Randolph Caldecott Medal Winner 2013

Booklist Starred Review

New York Times Notable Children’s Books 2012

1. **Stead, Philip C. (2010). *A sick day for amos mcgee.* Illus. by Erin E. Stead. New York, NY: Roaring Book Press. 32. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

Amos McGee is a loveable, caring zookeeper who is loved and adored by his animal friends at the zoo. When one day he does not appear at work his animal friends are concerned. They travel across town to comfort him in his illness.

**Key Words:**

Zoo keepers, zoo animals, friendship, illness, humor, transportation

**Awards:**

Charlotte Zolotow Award Honor Book 2011

Cybil Award Finalist 2010

Randolph Caldecott Medal Winner 2011

New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Books 2010

1. **Heide, Florence Parry. (2009). *Princess hyacinth (the surprising tale of a girl who floated)*. Illus. by Lane Smith. New York, NY: Random House, Inc. 48. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

Princess Hyacinth has an unusual problem: she floats whenever she is not weighted down. This makes for a very boring life since she cannot leave the castle without being weighted down to the point of dragging. With the help of a balloon man and a friend, Hyacinth finds a way to get out of the castle.

**Key Words:**

Princesses, floating, kites, weights, friendship, castles, kings and queens, creativity

**Awards:**

Charlotte Zolotow Award Honor Book 2010

E.B. White Read Aloud Award Honor Book 2010

Great Lakes Great Books Award Winner 2010 – 2011

Ladybug Picture Book Award Winner 2010

1. **Henkes, Kevin. (2004). *Kitten’s first full moon.*  New York, NY: Harper Collins Publishers. 40. Gr. 1 – 4.**

**Summary:**

Kitten has discovered her first ever full moon, but she mistakes it for a bowl of milk. After trying to chase it, climb after it, jump for it, and pounce on it unsuccessfully, defeated kitten returns home to find a special surprise.

**Key Words:**

Cats, animals, moon, adventure, exploration, kittens

**Awards:**

Charlotte Zolotow Award Winner 2005

Randolph Caldecott Medal Winner 2005

White Ravens Award Winner 2005

Book Sense Book of the Year Award Honor Book 2005

1. **Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. (2013). *Exclamation mark.*** **Illus. by Tom Lichtenheld. New York, NY: Scholastic Press. 56. Gr. 1 – 5.**

**Summary:**

The exclamation point always feels left out around his period peers. That is, until he meets question mark. Through this unlikely friendship, exclamation mark discovers what he has inside of him and learns to appreciate his differences.

**Key Words:**

Individuality, punctuation, friendship, differences, self-acceptance, humor

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Shea, Bob. (2013). *Unicorn thinks he’s pretty great.* New York, NY: Disney-Hyperion. 40. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

Goat had it pretty good, until Unicorn showed up. Now it seems like Unicorn is besting him at everything. Little did Goat know that Unicorn might just think Goat has everything.

**Key Words:**

Unicorn, goats, envy, friendship, talents, self-confidence

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

1. **Snicket, Lemony. (2013). *The dark*. Illus. by Jon Klassen. New York, NY: Little Brown Books for Young Readers. 40. Gr. 1 – 3.**

**Summary:**

Lazlo is a boy who shares a house with the dark, and he dislikes it greatly. One night the dark visits Lazlo in his room and instructions him to go to the basement where the dark lives. Lazlo obeys, discovers a stash of nightlights, and overcomes his fears.

**Key Words:**

Fear of the dark, friendship, light, overcoming fears, nightlights

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Governor General’s Literary Awards Finalist 2013

**GRAPHIC NOVELS**

1. **Stamaty, Mark Allen. (2004). *Alia’s mission: saving the books of iraq.* New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf. 32. Gr. 2 – 6.**

**Summary:**

Alia is the head librarian at the Basra Central Library; she loves her job and books. Unfortunately, Iraq is on the brink of war and Alia fears that the library will be bombed and all the knowledge contained in it will be lost. With the help of many friends Alia is able to save many books and preserve the history of Basra.

**Key Words:**

Libraries, librarians, Iraq War, books, knowledge, teamwork, politics, government

**Awards:**

Middle East Book Award Winner 2005

Booklist Top 10 Graphic Novels for Youth 2005

1. **Yang, Gene Luen. (2006). *American born chinese.* New York, NY: First Second. 240. Gr. 5 – 8.**

**Summary:**

Woven with several different storylines, this wonderful graphic novel tells the story of a young Chinese boy attempting to find his identity. After making friends with another Asian student the boy begins to find confidence in himself. However, that does not solve all of his identity woes.

**Key Words:**

Graphic novels, identity, Chinese, school, cartoons, folklore, multiple storylines

**Awards:**

Cybil Award Winner 2006

James Cook Book Award Honorable Book 2007

Michael L. Printz Award Winner 2007

National Book Award Finalist 2006

1. **Tan, Shaun. (2007). *The arrival*. New York, NY: Scholastic Inc. 128. Gr. 5 – 8.**

**Summary:**

This wordless graphic novel tells the story of an immigrant coming to a new and foreign land. Along the way, he meets other immigrants who share their stories with him. As he attempts to understand this new place where he finds himself, he works to bring his family there with him.

**Key Words:**

Graphic novels, wordless stories, emigration, immigration, immigrants, families

**Awards:**

Booklist Starred Review

Cybil Award Finalist 2007

Mind the Gap Award Winner 2008

New York Times Best Illustrated Children’s Books of the Year Winner 2007