

## 2011 Nominee Lists

### K-2

*Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall Thin Tale (Introducing his Forgotten Frontier Friend)*/Deborah Hopkinson; John Hendrix, ill. Schwartz and Wade Books, 2008.

Seven-year-old Abe Lincoln falls into a creek and is rescued by his friend Austin Gollaher. Readers realize that each person does make a difference in the world, for without Austin saving young Abe, where would America be today?

*Dinothesaurus: Prehistoric Poems and Paintings*/By Douglas Florian. Atheneum, 2009.

“An illustrated collection of poems and collages about dinosaurs.”

*Duck! Rabbit!*/By Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld. Chronicle Books, 2009.

Children will love the back and forth of deciding whether the story is about a duck or rabbit. It's all about perspective.

*Lousy Rotten Stinkin' Grapes*/By Margie Palatini & Barry Moser, ill. Simon, 2009.

Retells the fable of a frustrated fox that, after many tries to reach a high bunch of grapes, decides they must be sour anyway.

*Maggie's Monkeys*/Linda Sanders-Wells & Abby Carter. Candlewick, 2009.

“When Maggie reports that pink monkeys have moved into the refrigerator, her mother and father play along and accommodate the invisible visitors, much to the frustration of Maggie's older, reality-obsessed brother.”

*Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*/By Brian Floca. Atheneum, 2009.

In celebration of the 40th anniversary of the first lunar landing, Brian Floca has given young readers a front row seat in this historic event: from an up-close and personal perspective of the astronauts to the excitement for those back home on earth who watched on television.

*Otis*/By Loren Long. Philomel, 2009.

Otis, a once useful, but older model tractor is relegated to a spot behind the barn when the farmer brings in a fancy new model. When a crisis ensues, it is the reassuring refrain of Otis's “putt puff puttedy chuff” that saves the day and a special friend.

*Panda Kindergarten* /By Joanne Ryder; photos by Dr. Katherine Feng. HarperCollins, 2009.

Young readers are treated to a day in the life of sixteen giant panda cubs raised in a nature preserve in China. When the cubs are old enough to leave their mothers, they are put together

where they learn many new things about their world. The photos perfectly capture this transitional stage in the young pandas life.

*Rhyming Dust Bunnies* /By Jan Thomas. Atheneum, 2009.

Three dust bunnies love to rhyme, all the time, while the fourth just never seems to get it because there is something else distracting him.

*Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride* /Andrea Davis Pinkney & Brian Pinkney. Jump at the Sun, 2009.

"A celebrated author-illustrator team tells the story of one of the most unique and courageous women in American history, Sojourner Truth, who worked relentlessly to end slavery and ensure freedom for all."

### 3-5

*Be Glad Your Nose is On Your Face and Other Poems: Some of the Best of Jack Prelutsky* /Jack Prelutsky; Brandon Dorman, ill. Greenwillow Books, 2008.

A collection of more than one hundred silly poems from Jack Prelutsky with activities. Featured selections include: "It's Hard to Be an Elephant," "Once They Believed in Dragons," "Is Traffic Jam Delectable?" and many others. An audio CD with performances by the author is included.

*The Cats of Roxville Station* / By Jean Craighead George; Tom Pohrt, ill. Dutton Children's Books, 2009.

Thrown into a river by a cruel human, a young tiger-striped cat fights to survive amid feral cats and other creatures near the Roxville train station, aided by Mike, an eleven-year-old foster boy who is not allowed to have a pet.

*Extra Credit* /Andrew Clements; Mark Elliott, ill. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009.

As letters flow back and forth--between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides--sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

*Frankie Pickle and the Closet of Doom* /By Eric Wight. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2009.

Fourth-grader Frankie Piccolini has a vivid imagination when it comes to cleaning his disastrously messy room, but eventually even he decides that it is just too dirty.

*The Magic Half* /By Annie Barrows. Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2008.

Eleven-year-old Miri Gill feels left out in her family, which has two sets of twins and her, until she travels back in time to 1935 and discovers Molly, her own lost twin, and brings her back to the present day.

*Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine, and a Miracle* /By Major Brian Dennis, Kirby Larson, and Mary Nethery. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009.

Chronicles the friendship between Marine Major Brian Dennis and Nubs, a pack leader of wild dogs in Iraq who bonded with Dennis, but when Dennis was relocated seventy miles away and could not bring the dog with him, Nubs traveled across the freezing desert to find his human friend.

*Odd and the Frost Giants* /By Neil Gaiman. Harper, 2009.

An unlucky twelve-year-old Norwegian boy named Odd leads the Norse gods Loki, Thor, and Odin in an attempt to outwit evil Frost Giants who have taken over Asgard.

*Road to Pleasant Hill*/by Rebecca Mitchell Turney and Marie Mitchell; Pam Dixon, ill. Motes Books, 2009.

Ten-year-old Betsy Johnson and her younger brother Tad are uprooted from their Kentucky farm and sent hundreds of miles away to live with the Shakers at Pleasant Hill, after the untimely death of their parents.

*Something to Sing About*/By C. C. Payne. Eerdmann's Books for Young Readers, 2008.

Ten-year-old Jamie Jo's fear of bees keeps her inside most of the time, but a series of events that begins when her mother is excluded from the church choir brings about many changes, including new friendships and greater trust in God.

*Wild River*/By P.J. Peterson. Random House Children's Books, 2009.

Considered lazy and unathletic, twelve-year-old Ryan discovers a heroic side of himself when a kayak trip with his older brother goes horribly awry.

## **6-8**

*All the Broken Pieces*/By Ann E. Burg. Scholastic Press, 2009.

Two years after being airlifted out of Vietnam in 1975, Matt Pin is haunted by the terrible secret he left behind. Now in a loving adoptive home in the United States, a series of profound events forces him to confront his past.

*Bystander*/By James Preller. Feiwel and Friends, 2009.

Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people. Although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.

*Faith, Hope, and Ivy June*/By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. Delacorte, 2009.

During a student exchange program, seventh-graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, home, and communities. Surprisingly, both girls find that although their lifestyles are total opposites, they have a lot in common.

*Flawed Dogs: The Shocking Raid on Westminster* /By Berkeley Breathed. Philomel Books, 2009.

After being framed by a jealous poodle, a dachshund is left for dead, but comes back with a group of mutts from the National Last Ditch Dog Depository to disrupt the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and exact revenge on Cassius the poodle.

*Jane in Bloom*/By Deborah Lytton. Dutton Children's Books, 2009.

Devastated when her beautiful, older sister dies from anorexia, twelve-year-old Jane recovers slowly from the tragedy with help from unexpected sources.

*Leviathan*/By Scott Westerfeld. Simon Pulse, 2009.

In an alternate 1914 Europe, fifteen-year-old Austrian Prince Alek is on the run from the Clanker Powers who are attempting to take over the globe using mechanical machinery. Alek soon forms an uneasy alliance with Deryn, a girl secretly disguised as a boy so she can serve in the British Air Service, who is learning to fly genetically-engineered beasts.

*Million-Dollar Throw*/By Mike Lupica. Philomel Books, 2009.

Eighth-grade star quarterback Nate Brodie's family is feeling the stress of the troubled economy, plus his best friend Abby is going blind. When he gets a chance to win a million dollars by completing a pass during halftime of a New England Patriot's game, he is nearly overwhelmed by the pressure to succeed.

*Slob* By Ellen Potter. Philomel Books, 2009.

Picked on, overweight genius Owen tries to invent a television that can see the past to find out what happened the day his parents were killed.

*The Storm in the Barn*/By Matt Phelan. Candlewick, 2009.

Eleven-year-old Jack Clark struggles with everyday obstacles while his family and community contend with the challenges brought on by the Dust Bowl in 1937 Kansas.

*Woods Runner*/By Gary Paulsen. Wendy Lamb Books, 2010.

From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel sets out toward New York to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Native Americans who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes.

## 9-12

*Because I am Furniture*/By Thalia Chaltas. Viking, 2009.

The youngest of three siblings, fourteen-year-old Anke feels both relieved and neglected that her father abuses her brother and sister but ignores her, but when she catches him with one of her friends, she finally becomes angry enough to take action.

*Funny How Things Change*/By Melissa Wyatt. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2009.

Remy, a talented, seventeen-year-old auto mechanic, questions his decision to join his girlfriend when she starts college in Pennsylvania, after a visiting artist helps him realize what his family home in a dying West Virginia mountain town means to him.

*Hate List*/By Jennifer Brown. Little, Brown and Company, 2009.

Sixteen-year-old Valerie, whose boyfriend Nick committed a school shooting at the end of their junior year, struggles to cope with integrating herself back into high school life, unsure herself whether she was a hero or a villain.

*If I Grow Up*/By Todd Strasser. Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Growing up in the inner-city projects, DeShawn is reluctantly forced into the gang world by circumstances beyond his control.

*If I Stay*/By Gayle Forman. Speak, 2009.

While in a coma following an automobile accident that killed her parents and younger brother, seventeen-year-old Mia, a gifted cellist, weighs whether to live with her grief or join her family in death.

*In the Path of Falling Objects* /By Andrew Smith. Feiwel and Friends, 2009.

In 1970, after their older brother is shipped off to Vietnam, sixteen-year-old Jonah and his younger brother Simon leave home to find their father, who is being released from an Arizona prison, but soon find themselves hitching a ride with a violent killer.

*King of the Screwups*/By K.L. Going. Harcourt-Houghton, 2009.

Liam Geller is one of the most popular boys in school but can't seem to do anything right in the eyes of his father; so he goes to live with his homosexual, rocker uncle who helps him to understand that there is much more to him than his father will ever see.

*Little Brother*/By Cory Doctorow. Tor, 2008.

Interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus is released into what is now a police state, and decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

*Liar*/By Justine Larbalestier. Bloomsbury, 2009.

Compulsive liar Micah promises to tell the truth after revealing that her boyfriend has been murdered.

*Maze Runner*/By James Dashner. Delacorte, 2009.

Sixteen-year-old Thomas wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realizes he must work with the community in which he finds himself if he is to escape.