

## Featured Books 2008-09

### Newbery Award

#### **Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz**

Thirteenth-century England springs to life using 21 dramatic individual narratives that introduce young inhabitants of village and manor; from Hugo, the lord's nephew, to Nelly, the sniggler.

#### **Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis**

Eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, 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.

#### **The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt**

During the 1967 school year, on Wednesday afternoons when all his classmates go to either Catechism or Hebrew school, seventh-grader Holling Hoodhood stays in Mrs. Baker's classroom where they read the plays of William Shakespeare and Holling learns much of value about the world he lives in.

#### **Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson**

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light.

### Printz Award

#### **The White Darkness by Geraldine McCaughrean**

Fourteen-year-old Symone's exciting vacation to Antarctica turns into a desperate struggle for survival when her uncle's obsessive quest leads them across the frozen wilderness into danger.

#### **Dreamquake: Book Two of the Dreamhunter Duet by Elizabeth Knox**

While investigating the government's involvement in the disappearance of her father, Tziga Hame, and the decline of the art of projecting dreams, dreamhunter Laura learns more about "The Place."

#### **One Whole and Perfect Day by Judith Clarke**

As her irritating family prepares to celebrate her grandfather's eightieth birthday, sixteen-year-old Lily yearns for just one whole perfect day together.

#### **Repossessed by A.M. Jenkins**

A fallen angel, tired of being unappreciated while doing his pointless, demeaning job, leaves Hell, enters the body of a seventeen-year-old boy, and tries to experience the full range of human feelings. The boy's family and friends puzzle over his changed behavior.

#### **Your Own, Sylvia: A Verse Portrait of Sylvia Plath by Stephanie Hemphill**

A series of poems that provide a chronological portrait of the life of Sylvia Plath, told in the voices of family members, friends, associates, and others who knew her.

### Evergreen Young Adult Book Award

#### **Just Listen by Sarah Dessen**

Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face what really happened at the end-of-the-year party.

#### **Eagle Blue by Michael D'Orso**

*Eagle Blue* follows the Fort Yukon Eagles high school basketball team from its 2004 preseason to the 2005 Alaskan state championship, exploring the lives of its players and coach and examining the six-hundred-person village's Gwich'in Athabascan heritage.

#### **Born to Rock by Gordon Korman**

High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

#### **Dairy Queen by Catherine Murdock**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

#### **Life as We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

#### **Terrier (Beka Cooper, book 1) by Tamora Pierce**

When sixteen-year-old Beka becomes "Puppy" to a pair of "Dogs," as the Provost's Guards are called, she uses her police training, natural abilities, and a touch of magic to help them solve the case of a murdered baby in Tortall's Lower City.

#### **Doppelganger by David Stahler**

A doppelganger is a shape-shifter that kills its victims, claims their identity, and takes over their lives for a month to a year. When high school jock Chris Parker attacks a helpless old man by the tracks and is killed, a doppelganger takes his place, learns about the family he is living with, and falls for the deceased Chris's girlfriend, only to learn that humans can be monsters to.

#### **Knights of the Hill Country by Tim Tharp**

In his senior year, high school star linebacker Hampton Greene finally begins to think for himself and discovers that he might be interested in more than just football.

#### **Grist by Heather Waldorf**

Charlie, unhappy with her widowed father's new love interest, her best friend's defection to Australia, and her beloved English teacher's criticism of her final writing project, decides to spend the summer with her grandmother on Lake Ringrose, where her blossoming romance with a local boy forces shocking revelations about the past.

#### **The Rules of Survival by Nancy Werlin**

Seventeen-year-old Matthew recounts his attempts, starting at a young age, to free himself and his sisters from the grip of their emotionally and physically abusive mother.

## Featured Books 2008-09

### Young Reader's Choice Award

#### Junior

**Room One: A Mystery or Two by Andrew Clements**

Ted Hammond, the only sixth grader in his small Nebraska town's one-room schoolhouse, searches for clues to the disappearance of a homeless family.

**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo**

Edward Tulane, a cold-hearted and proud toy rabbit, loves only himself until he is separated from the little girl who adores him and travels across the country, acquiring new owners and listening to their hopes, dreams, and histories.

**The Homework Machine by Dan Gutman**

Four fifth-grade students--a geek, a class clown, a teacher's pet, and a slacker--as well as their teacher and mothers, each relate events surrounding a computer programmed to complete homework assignments.

**The Year of the Dog by Grace Lin**

Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

**Rules by Cynthia Lord**

Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

**Gossamer by Lois Lowry**

While learning to bestow dreams, a young dream giver tries to save an eight-year-old boy from the effects of both his abusive past and the nightmares inflicted on him by the frightening Sinisteeds.

**The Higher Power of Lucky by Susan Patron**

Fearing that her legal guardian plans to abandon her to return to France, ten-year-old aspiring scientist Lucky Trimble determines to run away while also continuing to seek the Higher Power that will bring stability to her life.

**To Dance by Siena Cherson Siegel**

Presented in graphic novel format, *To Dance* follows the life and career of a ballerina, detailing her dance school experiences, performances, and personal life.

#### Intermediate

**The Boy in the Striped Pajamas: A Fable by John Boyne**

Bored and lonely after his family moves from Berlin to a place called "Out-With" in 1942, Bruno, the son of a Nazi officer, befriends a boy in striped pajamas who lives behind a wire fence.

**Half-Moon Investigations by Eoin Colfer**

Twelve-year-old Fletcher Moon, the youngest qualified private detective in the world, sets out to solve petty crimes at school, but he's forced to go on the run when, while investigating the town's biggest crime family, his badge is stolen and he is framed for several crimes he did not commit.

**Ark Angel by Anthony Horowitz**

After recovering from a near fatal gunshot wound, teenage spy Alex Rider embarks on a new mission to stop a group of eco-terrorists from sabotaging the launch of the first outer space hotel.

**The Pinhoe Egg by Diana Wynne Jones**

Two powerful young enchanters, Cat and Marianne, work together as friends to try to end an illegal witches' war and, in the process, right some old wrongs.

**Fablehaven by Brandon Mull**

When Kendra and Seth go to stay at their grandparents' estate, they discover that it is a sanctuary for magical creatures and that a battle between good and evil is looming.

**Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock**

After spending her summer running the family farm and training the quarterback for her school's rival football team, sixteen-year-old D.J. decides to go out for the sport herself, not anticipating the reactions of those around her.

**Small Steps by Louis Sachar**

Sequel to: *Holes*. Three years after being released from Camp Green Lake, Armpit is trying hard to keep his life on track, but when his old pal X-Ray shows up with a tempting plan to make some easy money scalping concert tickets, Armpit reluctantly goes along.

**Endymion Spring by Matthew Skelton**

Having reluctantly accompanied his academic mother and pesky younger sister to Oxford, twelve-year-old Blake Winters stumbles across an ancient and magical book, secretly brought to England in 1453 by Gutenberg's mute apprentice, and which now draws Blake into a dangerous and life-threatening quest.

#### Senior

**The Road of the Dead by Kevin Brooks**

Two brothers, sons of an incarcerated gypsy, leave London traveling to an isolated and desolate village, in search of the brutal killer of their sister.

**Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist by Rachel Cohn**

Nick O'Leary, a member of a local rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and talks her into posing as his girlfriend in order to get rid of his ex-girlfriend.

**An Abundance of Katherines by John Green**

Having been recently dumped for the nineteenth time by a girl named Katherine, recent high school graduate and former child prodigy Colin sets off on a road trip with his best friend to try to find some new direction in life while also trying to create a mathematical formula to explain his relationships.

**The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl by Barry Lyga**

A fifteen-year-old "geek" who keeps a list of the high school jocks and others who torment him, and pours his energy into creating a great graphic novel, encounters Kyra, Goth Girl, who helps change his outlook on almost everything, including himself.

**New Moon by Stephenie Meyer**

When the Cullens, including her beloved Edward, leave Forks rather than risk revealing that they are vampires, it is almost too much for eighteen-year-old Bella to bear, but she finds solace in her friend Jacob until he is drawn into a "cult" and changes in terrible ways.

**Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer**

Through journal entries sixteen-year-old Miranda describes her family's struggle to survive after a meteor hits the moon, causing worldwide tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

**American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang**

Presented in graphic novel format, *American Born Chinese* alternates between three interrelated stories about the problems of young Chinese Americans trying to participate in the popular culture.

**The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

Trying to make sense of the horrors of World War II, Death relates the story of Liesel--a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family and the Jewish man they are hiding, as well as their neighbors.