

# West Virginia Children's Choice Book Award Nominees 2010-2011

Almond, David and Polly Dunbar, illus. *My Dad's a Birdman*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2007, U. S. edition, 2008. In a small, rainy town in the north of England, Lizzie watches as her father, as well as other family members and friends, begin acting strangely as they prepare for the Great Human Bird Competition. Grades 3 to 6, 111 pages.

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Chains*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2008. After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War. A riveting story. Grades 4 to 12, 316 pages.

Appelt, Kathi. *The Underneath*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. A wonderful and moving story. An old hound that has been chained up at his hateful owner's rundown shack and two orphaned kittens born underneath the house endure separation, danger and other tribulations in their quest to be a free family. Interwoven is a powerful story based on Native American mythology. Grades 4 to 8, 313 pages.

Aston, Dianna Hutts and Jerry Pinckney, illus. *The Moon over Star*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2008. On her family's farm in the town of Star, eight-year-old Mae eagerly follows the progress of the 1969 Apollo 11 flight and moon landing. She dreams that one day she might be an astronaut too. Grades 1 to 4, unpagged.

Elliott, Zetta and Shadra Strickland, illus. *Bird*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2008. Bird, an artistic African American boy, expresses himself through drawing as he struggles to understand his older brother's drug addiction and death. Uncle Son, a family friend provides guidance and understanding. Grades 1 to 5, unpagged.

Giff, Patricia Reilly. *Eleven*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2008. When Sam, who can barely read, discovers an old newspaper clipping just before his eleventh birthday, it brings up memories of the past. With the help of a new friend at school and the castle they are building for a school project his questions are answered. Grades 3 to 8, 164 pages.

Hale, Shannon and Dean and Nathan Hale, illus. *Rapunzel's Revenge*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2008. Rapunzel is raised in a grand villa surrounded by towering walls. Rapunzel dreams of a different mother than Gothel, the woman she calls Mother. She climbs over the wall and finds out the truth. Her real mother, Kate, is a slave in Gothel's gold mine. In this graphic novel Old West retelling, Rapunzel uses her hair as a lasso and to take on outlaws-including Gothel. Grades 5 to 12, 144 pages.

Kelly, Jacqueline. *The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2009. In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother. She learns about love watching the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather. Grades 4 to 8, 340 pages.

Klise, Kate and M. Sarah Klise, illus. *Dying to Meet You: 43 Old Cemetery Road: Book One*. Boston: Harcourt, 2009. In this story, told mostly through letters, writer's-blocked, children's book author I. B. Grumpy gets more than he bargained for when he rents a quiet place to write for the summer. Grades 3 to 7, 147 pages.

Lowry, Lois and Bagram Ibatoulline, illus. *Crow Call*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2009. Nine-year-old Lizzie accompanies her father, newly returned from the War, when he goes hunting crows in rural Pennsylvania. Grades 3 to 8, unpagged.

Marsden, Carolyn and Thay Phap Niem. *The Buddha's Diamonds*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2008. As a storm sweeps in, Tinh's father tells him to tie up the family's fishing boat but the storm frightens Tinh and he runs away. When the damage to the boat is discovered, he realizes what he must do. The afterword contains historical notes and a Vietnamese glossary. Grades 4 to 7, 97 pages.

Mass, Wendy. *11 Birthdays*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2009. After celebrating their first nine birthdays together, friends Amanda and Leo have a falling out on their tenth and since not speaking to each other for a year, prepare to celebrate their eleventh birthdays separately, but peculiar things begin to happen. The day of their birthdays begins to repeat itself over and over. Can they set time back on the right path? Grades 4 to 6, 267 pages.

Morris, Gerald and Aaron Renier, illus. *The Adventures of Sir Givret the Short*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2008. While not the most intrepid knight of the Round Table, Sir Givret the Short helps King Arthur and the other knights with his cunning and cleverness. Grades 3 to 6, 101 pages.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *Faith, Hope and Ivy June*. New York: Delacorte Press, 2009. During a student exchange program between a private school in Lexington and a rural public middle school in eastern Kentucky, seventh graders Ivy June and Catherine share their lives, homes and communities. They find that although their lifestyles are different, they have a lot in common. There is a reference to the Sago Mine disaster. Grades 5 to 12, 280 pages.

Nicholls, Sally. *Ways to Live Forever*. New York: Arthur E. Levine Books, 2008. Eleven-year-old Sam McQueen, who has leukemia, writes a book about the last four months of his life, in which he tells what he would like to accomplish, how he feels and the things that happened to him. Following the text is a list of leukemia websites and books for young people about death and dying. Grades 4 to 7, 205 pages.

Peck, Richard. *A Season of Gifts*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2009. A companion novel to *A Long Way from Chicago* and *A Year Down Yonder*, this story relates the surprising gifts bestowed on twelve-year-old Bob Barnhart and his family who have recently moved to a small Illinois town by their larger than life neighbor, Mrs. Dowdel. Grades 4 to 12, 164 pages.

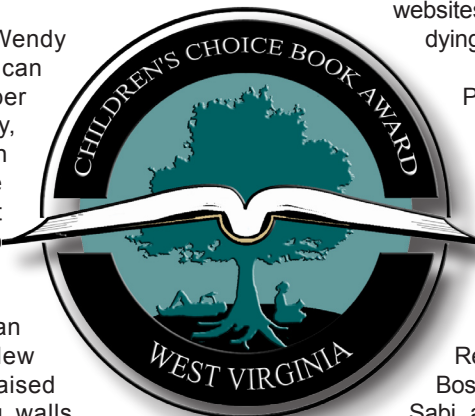
Reibstein, Mark and Ed Young, illus. *Wabi Sabi*. Boston: Little Brown and Company, 2008. Wabi Sabi, a cat living in the city of Kyoto, learns about the Japanese concept of beauty through simplicity as she asks various animals she meets about the meaning of her name. Each page contains a haiku relating to the text and explanatory notes are included in the back. Grades K to 4, unpagged.

Rumford, James. *Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2008. As bombs and missiles fall on Baghdad in 2003, a young boy uses calligraphy to distance himself from the horrors of war. There is an author's note on Arabic calligraphy in

the back. Grades 1 to 6, unpagged.

Smith, Charles R., Jr. *Winning Words: Sports Stories and Photographs*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 2008. With their fast-paced narration and dynamic photos, these stories will pump up confidence regardless of the sport. From saving a disastrous football season to sharing glory on the girls' soccer field, the stories and inspirational quotes capture the striving for personal best and mastering fears. An author's note is included. Grades 4 to 12, 80 pages.

Stead, Rebecca. *When You Reach Me*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2009. As her mother prepares to be a contestant on the 1970s television game show, "The \$20,000 Pyramid", Miranda, a twelve-year-old New York City girl tries to make sense of a series of mysterious notes received from an anonymous source that seems to defy time and space. Grades 4 to 9, 199 pages.



Please return tally sheet by mail, fax or e-mail.  
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Votes must be received by March 30, 2011.