

West Virginia Children's Choice Book Award Nominees 2011-2012

1. Clements, Andrew and Mark Elliot, illus. Extra Credit. New York: 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. Grades 4 through 7, 183 pages.

2. Croza, Laurel and Matt James, illus. I Know Here. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2010. When she finds out that her family will be moving from northeastern Saskatchewan to Toronto, a young girl tries to find a way to hang on to the things that she has seen in her old home when she moves to this new city. Grades 2 through 5, unpagged.

3. DeFelice, Cynthia. Signal. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009. After moving with his emotionally distant father to the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, twelve-year-old Owen faces a lonely summer until he meets an abused girl who may be a space alien. Grades 5 through 8, 160 pages.

4. Dowell, Frances O'Roark. Falling In. New York: Atheneum, 2010. Middle-schooler Isabelle Bean follows a mouse's squeak into a closet and falls into a parallel universe where the children believe she is the witch they have feared for years, finally come to devour them. Grades 3 through 6, 272 pages.

5. Erskine, Kathryn. Mockingbird. New York: Philomel Books, 2010. Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. Grades 4 through 6, 235 pages.

6. Gaiman, Neil and Brett Helquist, illus. Odd and the Frost Giant. New York: 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. Grades 3 through 6, 117 pages.

7. Holm, Jennifer L. Turtle in Paradise. New York: Random House, 2010. In 1935, when her mother gets a job housekeeping for a woman who does not like children, eleven-year-old Turtle is sent to stay with relatives she has never met in far away Key West, Florida. Grades 3 through 6, 272 pages.

8. Isaacs, Anne and Paul O. Zelinsky, illus. Dust Devil. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2010. Having moved to Montana from Tennessee in the 1830s, fearless Angelica Longrider--also known as Swamp Angel--changes the state's landscape, tames a wild horse, and captures some desperadoes. Grades K through 4, 48 pages.

9. Kehret, Peg. Runaway Twin. New York: Dutton, 2009. Thirteen-year-old Sunny, accompanied by a stray dog, takes advantage of a windfall to travel from her Nebraska foster home to Enumclaw, Washington, to find the twin sister from whom she was separated at age three. Grades 5 through 7, 179 pages.

10. Kidd, Ronald. The Year of the Bomb. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young People, 2009. In 1955 California, as "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" is filmed in their hometown, thirteen-year-old Paul discovers a real enemy when he and three friends go against a young government agent determined to find communists at a nearby university or on the movie set. Grades 4 through 7, 208 pages.

11. MacLachlan, Patricia. Word after Word after Word. New York: Katherine Tegan Books, 2010. A visiting author teaches five friends about the power of words and writing. Grades 2 through 5, 128 pages.

12. O'Connor, Barbara. The Fantastic Secret of Owen Jester. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2010. After Owen captures an enormous bullfrog, names it Tooley Graham, then has to release it, he and two friends try to use a small submarine that fell from a passing train to search for Tooley in the Carter, Georgia, pond it came from, while avoiding nosy neighbor Viola. Grades 4 through 7, 176 pages.

13. O'Malley, Kevin. Animal Crackers Fly the Coop. New York: Walker & Co., 2010. In this humorous take-off of "The Bremen Town Musicians," four animals that aspire to make it big as comedians leave their owners and seek their fortunes. Grades 3 and up, 40 pages.

14. Paulsen, Gary. Woods Runner. New York: Wendy Lamb Books, 2010. From his 1776 Pennsylvania homestead, thirteen-year-old Samuel, who is a highly-skilled woodsman, sets out toward New York City to rescue his parents from the band of British soldiers and Indians who kidnapped them after slaughtering most of their community. Includes historical notes. Grades 4 and up, 164 pages.

15. Pennypacker, Sara and Yoko Tanaka, illus. Sparrow Girl. New York: Hyperion, 2009. When China's leader declares war on sparrows in 1958, everyone makes loud noise in hopes of chasing the hungry birds from their land except for Ming-Li, a young girl whose compassion and foresight prevent a disaster. Grades K through 4, 40 pages.

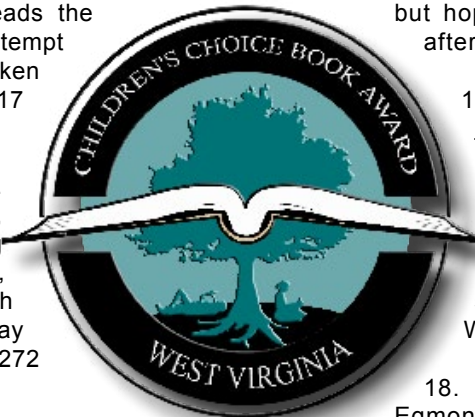
16. Phelan, Matt. The Storm in the Barn. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2009. Facing his share of ordinary challenges, from local bullies to his father's failed expectations, eleven-year-old Jack Clark must also deal with the effects of the Dust Bowl in 1937 Kansas, including the rising tensions in his small town and the spread of a shadowy illness. Grim but hopeful, dramatic graphic novel with author afterword. Grades 5 through 7, 208 pages.

17. Orr, Wendy and Jonathan Bean, illus. Mokie and Bik Go to Sea. New York: Henry Holt and Co, 2010. With their father home from the sea, the rambunctious twins Mokie and Bik make the Bullfrog shipshape for a voyage out to sea, where they make friends with a scaredy-seal, save a runaway boat, and keep track of Waggles. Grades 2 through 4, 75 pages.

18. Sparkes, Ali. Frozen in Time. New York: Egmont, 2009. In present-day England, thirteen-year-old Ben and his twelve-year-old sister Rachel find two children who have been cryogenically frozen in a bomb shelter since 1956, and must prevent them from being discovered while helping them adjust to modern life. Grades 4 through 7, 320 pages.

19. Sullivan, Sarah and Barry Root, illus. Passing the Music Down. Somerville, Ma: Candlewick, 2011. A boy and his family befriend a West Virginia old-time fiddler, who teaches the boy all about playing the old tunes, which the boy promises to help keep alive. Inspired by Melvin Wine and Jake Krack. Contains author's notes and resources. Grades K through 4, 32 pages.

20. Williams-Garcia, Rita. One Crazy Summer. New York: Amistad, 2010. In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp. Grades 4 through 7, 224 pages.



Please return tally sheet by mail, fax or e-mail.
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Votes must be received by April 15, 2011.