

**BMS Summer 2011  
Reader's Choice List**

**Fiction**

**The Adoration of Jenna Fox** by Mary Pearson

In the not-too-distant future, when biotechnological advances have made synthetic bodies and brains possible but illegal, a seventeen-year-old girl, recovering from a serious accident and suffering from memory lapses, learns a startling secret about her existence.

**After Tupac & D Foster** by Jacqueline Woodson

In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.

**All of the Above: a novel** by Shelley Pearsal

In a gritty Cleveland neighborhood, a disillusioned middle-school math teacher enlists four students in a giant tetrahedron project to get themselves into the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The participants take it in turn to tell the story, revealing their own lives and reasons for joining the project.

**Blood Red Horse** by K. M. Grant

A special horse named Hosanna changes the lives of two English brothers and those around them as they fight with King Richard I against Saladin's armies during the Third Crusades.

**Borderline** by Allan Stratton

Despite the strained relationship between them, teenaged Sami Sabiri risks his life to uncover the truth when his father is implicated in a terrorist plot.

**Cat's Cradle** by Kurt Vonnegut

In the year 2000, a young man discovers ice-nine, which can set off a chain reaction more deadly than a nuclear bomb and a new prophet whose teachings sweep the world.

**Climbing the Stairs** by Padma Venkatraman

1941 India – Vidya's dreams of college are dashed when her politically progressive father is seriously injured by British colonial troops. Forced to live in her grandfather's traditional household, Vidya's options narrow precipitously. With the help of an unexpected ally, she begins to regain her strength and independence.

**Dairy Queen** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

Coaching the rival high school's quarterback in a summer fitness program, farmgirl D.J. realizes she's attracted to Brian; winning a place as a defensive linebacker for her own school, D.J. realizes she'll face Brian on the field. D.J.'s practical, understatedly humorous voice drives this memoir of her fifteenth summer--an engrossing tale of love, family, and football.

**Darkside** by Tom Becker

School Library Journal (May 1, 2008)

Jonathan Starling's father is in an asylum and his home has been attacked when, while running away from kidnappers, he stumbles upon Darkside, a terrifying and hidden part of London ruled by the descendents of Jack the Ripper, where Jonathan is in mortal danger if he cannot find the way out.

**The Diamond of Drury Lane** by Julia Golding

Orphan Catherine "Cat" Royal, living at the Drury Lane Theater in 1790s London, tries to find the "diamond" supposedly hidden in the theater, which unmasks a treasonous political cartoonist, and involves her in the street gangs of Covent Garden and the world of nobility.

**Double Dutch** by Sharon M. Draper

Horn Book (Fall, 2002)

Delia, an eighth grader on a championship level double dutch team, has a terrible secret and so has her friend Randy. Delia is illiterate and about to be unmasked by a mandatory state test. Randy has been all alone for weeks, with no word from his absent father and little money left. This issue-laden novel features an appealing cast of sympathetic characters.

**Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card

Young Ender Wiggin may prove to be the military genius Earth needs to fight a desperate battle against a deadly alien race.

**Exodus** by Julie Bertagna

In the year 2100, as the island of Wing is about to be covered by water, fifteen-year-old Mara discovers the existence of New World sky cities that are safe from the storms and rising waters, and convinces her people to travel to one of these cities in order to save themselves.

**Front and Center** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

D.J. Schwenk finds her life taking an unexpected turn just as she was thinking things were finally calming down, and as she tries to make important decisions about her future, she discovers romance and adventure in the unlikeliest places.

**The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn** by Dorothy Hoobler

Fourteen-year-old Seiki, a tea merchant's son who longs to be samurai, attempts to solve the mystery of a stolen jewel.

**The Girl Who Could Fly** by Victoria Forester (Victoria Lakeman)

Horn Book starred (January, 2009)

Midwesterner Piper McCloud, who can fly, is whisked off to a top-secret institute whose purpose is to make the children normal at all costs. Piper's indomitable personality makes credible her efforts to rally an elite resistance force. Readers will take strength from Piper's fight to be herself.

**Going Going** by Naomi Shihab Nye

Florrie, a sixteen-year-old living in San Antonio, Texas, leads her friends and a new boyfriend in a campaign which supports small businesses and protests the effects of chain stores.

**Half-moon Investigations** by Eoin Colfer

Twelve-year-old Fletcher Moon, the youngest qualified private detective in the world, receives a diploma and gold-plated detective's shield after completing an Internet course, and sets out to solve petty crimes at school, but he is 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.

**Heroes of the Valley** by Jonathan Stroud

Halli Sveinsson, a mischievous young man who does not fit in with his peers and siblings, plays a trick on Ragnor that goes too far, forcing him to embark on a hero's quest in which he will face highway robbers, monsters, an intriguing girl, and truths about his family and the legends he grew up with.

**Inkheart** by Cornelia Caroline Funke

Twelve-year-old Meggie learns that her father Mo, a bookbinder, can "read" fictional characters to life when an evil ruler named Capricorn, freed from the novel "Inkheart" years earlier, tries to force Mo to release an immortal monster from the story.

**The Invention of Hugo Cabret** by Brian Selznick

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret are jeopardized.

**Jeremy Fink and the meaning of Life** by Wendy Mass

Just before his thirteenth birthday, Jeremy Fink receives a keyless locked box--set aside by his father before his death five years earlier--that purportedly contains the meaning of life.

**Keeping Corner** by Kashmira Sheth

In India in the 1940s, thirteen-year-old Leela's happy, spoiled childhood ends when her husband since age nine, whom she barely knows, dies, leaving her a widow whose only hope of happiness could come from Mahatma Ghandi's social and political reforms.

**Killer's Cousin** by Nancy Werlin

Publishers Weekly (January 31, 2000)

"Many secrets bubble just beneath the surface of this skillful thriller narrated by a high-school senior who has been accused--and acquitted--of murdering his girlfriend," said PW in a starred review.

**Larklight, or, The Revenge of the White spiders!, or, To Saturn's Rings and Back!: A Rousing Tale of Dauntless Pluck in the Farthest Reaches of Space** by Philip Reeve

Horn Book starred (Spring 2007)

Art and his prim sister live in an alternate nineteenth century in which Britain has colonized the solar system. When elephant-sized space-spiders attack their home, the siblings must stiff-upper-lip their way through the ensuing adventure. Capturing both the pathos and humor of every absurd situation, Reeve offers a genre-defying work that melds deadpan comedy, political satire, sci-fi epic, and pirate caper.

**The London Eye Mystery** by Siobhan Dowd

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim.

**Mara, Daughter of the Nile** by Eloise Jarvis McGraw

The adventures of an ingenious Egyptian slave girl who undertakes a dangerous assignment as a spy in the royal palace of Thebes, in the days when Queen Hatshepsut ruled.

**Maze Runner** by James Dashner

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.

**The Neddias: How Neddie Took the Train, Went to Hollywood, and Saved Civilization** by Daniel Pinkwater

When shoelace heir Neddie Wentworthstein and his family take the train from Chicago to Los Angeles in the 1940s, he winds up in possession of a valuable Indian turtle artifact whose owner is supposed to be able to prevent the impending destruction of the world.

**The Off Season** by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

High school junior D. J. Schwenk staggers under the weight of caring for her badly injured brother, her responsibilities on the dairy farm, a chasnging relationship with her friend Brian, and her own athletic aspirations.

**Ringside, 1925: Views from the Scopes Trial** by Jennifer Bryant

A novel in free verse poems, in which visitors, spectators, and residents of Dayton, Tennessee, in 1925 describe the Scopes "monkey trial" and its effects on that small town and its citizens.

**Runner** by Carl Deuker

Living with his alcoholic father on a broken-down sailboat on Puget Sound has been hard on seventeen-year-old Chance Taylor, but when his love of running leads to a high-paying job, he quickly learns that the money is not worth the risk.

**Shooting the Moon** by Frances O’Roark Dowell

When her brother is sent to fight in Vietnam, twelve-year-old Jamie begins to reconsider the army world that she has grown up in.

**Skulduggery Pleasant** by Derek Landy

When twelve-year-old Stephanie inherits her weird uncle's estate, she must join forces with Skulduggery Pleasant, a skeleton mage, to save the world from the Faceless Ones.

**Star Girl** by Jerry Spinelli

Stargirl, a teen who animates quiet Mica High with her colorful personality, suddenly finds herself shunned for her refusal to conform.

**Surviving the Applewhites** by Stephanie S. Tolan

Jake, a budding juvenile delinquent, is sent for home schooling to the artsy and eccentric Applewhite Family's Creative Academy, where he discovers talents and interests he never knew he had.

**Waiting for Normal** by Leslie Conner

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

**The Warrior Heir** by Chima Williams Cinda

After learning about his magical ancestry and his own warrior powers, sixteen-year-old Jack embarks on a training program to fight enemy wizards.

## Series

**Airborn** (any book from any of the three series) by Kenneth Opiel

**Alex Rider Adventures** (any book from the series) by Anthony Horowitz

**Artemis Fowl** (any book from the series) by Eoin Colfer

**Hunger Games** (any book from the series) by Suzanne Collins

**Percy Jackson & the Olympians** (any book from the series) by Rick Riordan

**Ranger's Apprentice** (any book from the series) by John Flanagan

**Sammy Keyes** (any book from the series) by Wendelin VanDraanen

**Shadow Children** (any book from the series) by Margaret Peterson Haddix

**Young Bond** (any book from the series) by Charlie Higson

**Warriors, Warriors: a New Prophecy, Warriors: Power of Three** (any book from any of the three series) by Erin Hunter

## Classics (fiction)

**The adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain

Huck, in flight from his murderous father, and Jim, in flight from slavery, pilot their raft down the Mississippi River in search of freedom.

**The adventures of Tom Sawyer** by Mark Twain

The tale of a mischievous boy growing up in a nineteenth-century Mississippi River town.

**Alice in Wonderland** by Lewis Carroll

An illustrated adaptation of the classic Lewis Carroll story about a young girl who follows a talking rabbit into a world of adventure. Includes brief biographical information about the author.

**Little Women** by Louisa May Alcott

Chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young women in nineteenth-century New England.

**Peter Pan** by J.M. Barrie

The adventures of the three Darling children, Michael, John, and Wendy, and Peter Pan, the boy who would not grow up as they battle pirates and Indians in Never-Never land.

**Pride and Prejudice** by Jane Austen

In early nineteenth-century England, a spirited young woman copes with the courtship of a snobbish gentleman as well as the romantic entanglements of her four sisters.

**Red Badge of Courage** by Stephen Crane

During his service in the Civil War, a young Union soldier matures to manhood and finds peace of mind as he comes to grips with his conflicting emotions about war.

**The Secret Garden** by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors and discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams

Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

**The wizard of Oz** by Frank Baum

After a cyclone transports her to the land of Oz, Dorothy must seek out the great wizard in order to return to Kansas.

## Non-Fiction

### **Bad Boy: a Memoir** by Walter Dean Myers

Author Walter Dean Myers describes his childhood in Harlem in the 1940s and 1950s, discussing his loving stepmother, his problems in school, his reasons for leaving home, and his beginnings as a writer.

### **Bill Gates: A Twentieth Century Life** by Marc Aronson

Booklist starred (December 1, 2008)

Profiles the life and achievements of Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates, discussing how he became such a success and his philanthropic activities.

### **Catch me if you can: the Amazing True Story of the Most Extraordinary Liar in the History of Fun and Profit** by Frank W. Abagnale

Former con man Frank Abagnale, an authority on financial foul play, shares stories from the high life he was living when he was engaged in criminal activity.

### **Delicious: the Life & Art of Wayne Thiebaud** by Susan Goldman Rubin

Chronicles the life and career of American painter Wayne Thiebaud, discussing his depictions of foods, people, farms, cities, and other subjects.

### **Dickens: His Work and His World** by Michael Rosen

Introduces the life and times of Charles Dickens, and explores the likely inspirations for his writing style, stories, and characters through an examination of four of his most popular works, including "A Christmas Carol," "Oliver Twist," "David Copperfield," and "Great Expectations."

### **Facing the lion: growing up Maasai on the African Savanna** by Joseph Lekuton

Lekuton, a member of the Masai people, describes his life growing up in a northern Kenya village, then traveling to America to attend college, and then becoming an elementary school teacher in Virginia.

### **Free the Children : a young man fights against child labor and proves that children can change the world** by Craig Kielburger

This book tells the story of twelve-year-old Craig Kielburger his human rights organization, Free the Children, efforts to stop child labor exploitation in foreign countries.

### **The Journey that Saved Curious George: the true wartime escape of Margret and H.A. Rey** by Louise Borden

In 1940, the Jewish Reys barely managed to escape the invading Germans--on bicycles. An early draft of *Curious George* was one of the few items they carried with them as they fled occupied France. **The**

### **Kidnapped Prince: The Life of Olaudah Equiano** by Ann Cameron

The biography of Olaudah Equiano, the young African boy who was kidnapped, hidden in an enormous sack, and carried off into slavery, and his struggle with injustice, heartbreak, and his own despair as well as his triumph because of his courage, intelligence, love of adventure, and his unconquerable faith.

**Knucklehead: Tall tales & mostly true stories about growing up Scieszka** by Jon Scieszka  
Scieszka offers entertaining and allegedly true tales from his Michigan childhood, growing up in a family of six boys and two blessedly good-natured parents. Short, conversational paragraphs showcase his expertly timed delivery.

**A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier** by Ishmael Beah  
Ishmael Beah describes his experiences after he was driven from his home by war in Sierra Leone and picked up by the government army at the age of thirteen, serving as a soldier for three years before being removed from fighting by UNICEF and eventually moving to the United States.

**Looking Back: a Book of Memories** by Lois Lowry  
Using family photographs and quotes from her books, the Lois Lowry provides glimpses into her life.

**Lost childhood: my life in a Japanese prison camp during World War II: a memoir** by Annelex Hofstra Layson  
Layson reveals a first-hand account of her and her family's experiences when they and other Dutch residents on the island of Java, were captured by the Japanese in 1942 and taken to a prison camp where they spent over three years.

**Maritcha: a Nineteenth-century American Girl** by Tonya Bolden  
Presents the personal memoirs of Maritcha Rémond Lyons who was born in nineteenth-century New York City and describes how she and her family escaped to Rhode Island during the 1863 Draft riots and how she overcame prejudice to become the first African-American person to graduate from Providence High School.

**Our Eleanor: a Scrapbook Look at Eleanor Roosevelt's Remarkable Life** by Candace Fleming  
Presents a collection of illustrated photographs and stories representing the life and career of Eleanor Roosevelt, and examines her White House years, her years as a delegate to the United Nations, and more.

**Rachel Carson: A Twentieth-century Life** by Ellen Levine  
Examines the life and career of marine biologist Rachel Carson; discussing her childhood, education, research, publications, personal life, and fight against cancer.

**She Touched the World: Laura Bridgman, Deaf-Blind Pioneer** by Sally Hobart Alexander and Robert Joseph Alexander  
Chronicles the life of Laura Bridgman, who, at the age of five, became both deaf and blind, and recounts how she learned to communicate with the world around her and became one of the most famous people in the world.

**Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of age in China during the cultural revolution** by Moying Li  
The author reveals the events of her life from age twelve to adulthood when the cultural revolution of Mao Zedong destroyed family customs and life as they knew it.

**Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family and Fighting to Get Back on the Board** by Bethany Hamilton with Sheryl Berk and Rick Bundschuh  
Soul surfer is a true story Bethany Hamilton. It describes how faith, family, and the will to fight back, get Bethany back on a surf board after a tragic accident.

**The Story of my Life: an Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky** by Farah Ahmedi

Farah Ahmedi, the victim of a land mine when she was just twelve years old, tells about her childhood in Afghanistan, a country trapped in war her entire life, and discusses the challenges she has faced as a result of losing her leg, and in trying to adapt to living in the United States.

**The Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain in the Wild, Wild West** by Sid Fleischman

Twain's early years, adventurous travels, writing career, and popularity as a lecturer are examined in this biography. The text explores how his experiences informed his writing, with particular emphasis on "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County." Fleischman, a celebrated humorist himself, keeps the tone light through narrative wit and judicious use of Twain's sayings.

**York's Adventures with Lewis and Clark: An African-American's Part in the Great Expedition**

by Rhoda Blumberg

Did you know that an African-American man participated in Lewis and Clark's famous expedition? Working alongside free men, Clark's slave York played an important role in the journey's success. This award-winning book draws on extensive research to give a gripping and insightful account of York's significant contribution to this landmark historical event.