

2008-2009 West Virginia Children's Book Award

Clements, Andrew. No Talking. New York: Simon and Schuster, 2007. The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Collins, Ross. Medusa Jones. New York: Scholastic, 2008. In ancient Greece, Medusa Jones, a gorgon, and her friends, a minotaur and a centaur, are mocked and sneered at by the other Acropolis Academy children whose parents are kings and gods, but when they go on a school camping trip together, the "freaks" become true heroes.

Garland, Michael. King Puck. New York: HarperCollins, 2007. With the help of fairies, Seamus the farmer and his scrawny goat win top honors at a festival in Killorglin, Ireland, and receive a lifetime supply of books

Hart, Alison. Gabriel's Horses. Atlanta: Peachtree Press, 2007. In Kentucky, during the Civil War, the twelve-year-old slave Gabriel, contends with a cruel new horse trainer and skirmishes with Confederate soldiers as he pursues his dream of becoming a jockey.

Lafevers, R. L. Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2007. Eleven-year-old Theo uses arcane knowledge and her own special talent when she encounters two secret societies, one sworn to protect the world from ancient Egyptian magic and one planning to harness it to bring chaos to the world, both of which want a valuable artifact stolen from the London museum where her parents work.

Larson, Kirby. Hattie Big Sky. New York: Delacorte, 2006. After inheriting her uncle's homesteading claim in Montana, sixteen-year-old orphan Hattie Brooks travels from Iowa in 1917 to make a home for herself and encounters some unexpected problems related to the war being fought in Europe.

Levine, Ellen and Kadir Nelson, illus. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story of the Underground Railroad. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007. A fictionalized account of how in 1849 a Virginia slave, Henry "Box" Brown, escapes to freedom by shipping himself in a wooden crate from Richmond to Philadelphia.

Levy, Debbie. Underwater. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Press, 2007. Sixth-grader Gabe feels out of depth in school and worries that he may have learning disabilities like his older brother, but he gains some self-confidence after joining the local swim team and working at a local aquarium store.

McEwen, Jamie and John Margeson, illus. Rufus the Scrub Does Not Wear a Tutu. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Press, 2007. Rufus wants to be good at football, but although he is the right size, he is too clumsy. He takes ballet lessons in order to improve his coordination, but when his classmates find out about it, they tease him relentlessly.

Pennypacker, Sara and Marla Frazee, illus. Clementine's Letter. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2008. When her favorite teacher goes away and leaves a strict substitute behind in his place, Clementine is torn between putting in motion her sneaky plan to coax Mr. D'Matz back to school or leaving him be to enjoy his adventure.

Porter, Tracey. Billy Creekmore. New York: Joanna Cotler Books, 2007. In West Virginia in 1905, ten-year-old Billy is taken from an orphanage to live with an aunt and uncle he never knew he had. He enjoys his first taste of family life until his work in a coal mine and involvement with a union brings trouble. So he joins a circus in hopes of finding his father.

Regan, Dian Curtis. Cyberpals According to Kaley. Plain City, OH: Darby Creek Press, 2006. Sequel to: The World According to Kaley. For a school assignment, fourth-grader Kaley tries corresponding with different children from all over the world and tries out new nicknames as she learns about e-mail.

Russell, Christopher. Dogboy. New York: Greenwillow, 2006. In 1346, twelve-year-old Brind, an orphaned kennel boy raised with hunting dogs at an English manor, accompanies his master, along with half of the manor's prized mastiffs, to France. There he must fend for himself when both his master and the dogs are lost at the decisive battle of Crecy.

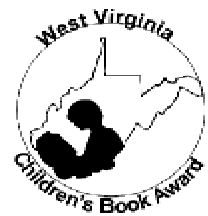
Salisbury, Graham. Night of the Howling Dogs. New York: Random House, 2007. In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami.

Speck, Katie and Paul Ratz de Tagyos, illus. Maybelle in the Soup. New York: Henry Holt, 2007. When Mr. and Mrs. Peabody invite a guest to dinner, Maybelle the cockroach, who lives under their refrigerator, ignores the warnings of Henry the flea to be sensible and ends up "splashing" into a big adventure.

Spinelli, Jerry. Eggs. New York: Little Brown, 2007. Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives.

Tarshis, Lauren. Emma—Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2007. A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers.

Nominees & Sample Ballot



Please vote for your choice by checking the oval next to the title.

1. 1. A Crooked Kind of Perfect
by Linda Urban
2. 2. Billy Creekmore
by Tracey Porter
3. 3. Clementine's Letter
by Sara Pennypacker and Marla Frazee, illus.
4. 4. Cyberpals According to Kaley
by Dian Curtis Regan
5. 5. Dogboy
by Christopher Russell
6. 6. Eggs
by Jerry Spinelli
7. 7. Emma—Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree
by Lauren Tarshis
8. 8. Gabriel's Horses
by Alison Hart
9. 9. Hattie Big Sky
by Kirby Larson
10. 10. Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story of the Underground Railroad
by Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson, illus
11. 11. King Puck
by Michael Garland
12. 12. Maybelle in the Soup
by Katie Speck and Paul Ratz de Tagyos, illus.
13. 13. Medusa Jones
by Ross Collins
14. 14. Night of the Howling Dogs
by Graham Salisbury
15. 15. No Talking
by Andrew Clements
16. 16. Rufus the Scrub Does Not Wear a Tutu
by Jamie McEwen and John Margeson, illus.
17. 17. Someone Named Eva
by Joan M. Wolf
18. 18. The New Policeman
by Thompson, Kate
19. 19. Theodosia and the Serpents of Chaos
by R.L. Lafevers
20. 20. Underwater
by Debbie Levy

Thompson, Kate. The New Policeman. New York: Greenwillow, 2005. Irish teenager JJ Liddy discovers that time is leaking from his world into Tir na Nog, the land of the fairies. When he attempts to stop the leak he finds out a lot about his family history, the music that he loves, and a crime his great-grandfather may or may not have committed.

Urban, Linda. A Crooked Kind of Perfect. New York: Harcourt, 2007. Ten-year-old Zoë Elias longs to play the piano but must resign herself to learning the portable organ, instead. She finds that her musicianship has a positive impact on her workaholic mother, her jittery father, and her school social life.

Wolf, Joan M. Someone Named Eva. New York: Clarion, 2007. Inspired by real events, a young girl is separated from her family in Czechoslovakia and made to go to the Lebensborn center in Poland in order to become the perfect German citizen. Despite the constant pressures put upon her, Milada stays true to herself and waits with hope for the day she will be reunited with her rightful family.