

thing he excels at is marksmanship. He's easily the best shot in his class, and like all Crandalls before him, he has a chance at being first shot. That is, until a new student arrives who can shoot a perfect 10 out of 10. But that's not the worst thing in his life. He's pretty sure his dad murdered his mom.

☀ Turner, Ann. **HARD HIT**. Scholastic. Mark Warren lives a typical life with his mom, dad, annoying little sister, and a dog. This free-verse novel relates Mark's thoughts and experiences as he learns of, and comes to terms with, his father's diagnosis of pancreatic cancer.

☀ Gaiman, Neil. **MARVEL 1602**. Marvel Comics. The setting is England in 1602, and the characters are those familiar (yet slightly changed) superheroes from the classic Marvel comics. Follow our heroes through their struggles and adventures in Elizabethan England to the new nation, America: a place of hope and freedom.

Grades 9-12

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Marsha Middleton, school librarian at North Country Union High School, Newport.

☀ Budhos, Marina. **ASK ME NO QUESTIONS**. Atheneum Books. A family of illegal aliens from Bangladesh has managed to live undisturbed in New York City, but when the events of September 11th bring a crackdown on those from Islamic countries, the family flees to seek asylum in Canada. Their troubles begin in earnest when they produce their old passports at the U.S. border. This novel puts a face on the term "illegal alien."

☀ Frank, E.R. **WRECKED**. Atheneum Books. Sixteen-year-old Anna struggles with the guilt of being the driver of a car that crashed with her brother's girlfriend's car. The accident killed the girlfriend and has the potential to destroy Anna's family.

☀ Giles, Gail. **WHAT HAPPENED TO CASS MCBRIDE?** Little, Brown, and Company. Cass McBride is a self-centered popular girl who is oblivious to the repercussions of her thoughtless actions. She writes a cruel note which is intercepted, and David, the boy put down in the note, commits suicide. Seeking revenge, David's brother kidnaps Cass and buries her alive. The chapters of this page-turner alternate between Cass's thoughts and the police investigation of her disappearance.

☀ Green, John. **AN ABUNDANCE OF KATHERINES**. Dutton. Colin, a modern day Don Quixote who keeps getting dumped by girlfriends named Katherine, and his sidekick Hassan, a Muslim, set out on a road trip from their home in Chicago. They only get as far as Tennessee, but the trip is life changing for both of them and provides lots of laughs for the reader.

☀ Kephart, Beth. **UNDERCOVER**. HarperTeen. Elisa feels as though she is a secret agent observing life rather than actively participating in it. Because she is great at writing beautiful, descriptive metaphors, she is kept busy writing little love notes for guys to recopy and slip in their girlfriends' lockers. But then she falls for one of her clients.

☀ Koertge, Ronald. **STONER & SPAZ**. Candlewick. Colleen is a drug addict and Ben has cerebral palsy. Both feel like outsiders. Their unlikely friendship has a positive effect on Ben, freeing him to follow his passion.

☀ Nelson, Marilyn. **A WREATH FOR EMMETT TILL**. Houghton Mifflin. In 1955, fourteen-year-old Emmett Louis Till, an African American, was lynched after being accused of whistling at a white woman. Nelson wrote this heroic crown of sonnets, in which the last line of one sonnet becomes the first line of the next, to honor the memory of this young man whose tragic death helped spark the civil rights movement.

☀ Paulsen, Gary. **THE CAR**. Bantam. Up to his fourteenth year, Terry Anders has had a miserable life. His parents constantly fight and hardly even acknowledge his presence. One night after a terrible argument, his parents do not come home; both leave messages on the answering machine that they are not coming back. Terry is free. He has always been mechanically talented, so he completes a kit car and hits the road for adventure.

☀ Rosoff, Meg. **JUST IN CASE**. Wendy Lamb Books. From the author of **HOW I LIVE NOW**, comes another thought-provoking novel. David Case grows convinced that fate, kismet, chance, luck, whatever you want to call it, is out to destroy him... so to avoid the horrible end which he is certain is coming his way, David changes his name and persona; he becomes Justin Case.

☀ Turow, Scott. **ONE L: THE TURBULENT TRUE STORY OF A FIRST YEAR AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL**. Grand Central Publishing. Before he wrote legal thrillers, Scott Turow wrote about his first year as a law student. Although he attended law school over thirty years ago, his experiences are illuminating for those contemplating study at rigorous schools.

☀ Ung, Loung. **LUCKY CHILD: A DAUGHTER OF CAMBODIA REUNITES WITH THE SISTER SHE LEFT BEHIND**. Harper. In this sequel to **FIRST THEY KILLED MY FATHER**, Loung compares and contrasts her life growing up in Essex, Vermont with her sister's life coming of age in Cambodia. Junior high and high school are tough enough for the average student, but imagine the challenge for one who is just learning English and struggling to fit in, while trying to erase from her memory the horrors of life under the Khmer Rouge.

☀ Wyeth, Sharon Dennis. **ORPHEA PROUD**. Delacourt. Orpheus has turned the story of her life into a performance, and the reader is a member of the audience. Orpheus tells of finding herself after the loss of her parents, conflicts with her older half-brother, and the death of her best friend.



Summer Reading for Kids 2008

These books have been selected by Vermont public school librarians, and are recommended for summer reading for children and young adults. For more, see your school or public librarian.

2008 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Selznick, Brian. **THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET**. Scholastic.

Newbery Award: Schlitz, Laura Amy. **GOOD MASTERS! SWEET LADIES! VOICES FROM A MEDIEVAL VILLAGE**. Candlewick.

Coretta Scott King Author Award: Curtis, Christopher Paul. **ELIJAH OF BUXTON**. Scholastic.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Bryan, Ashley. **LET IT SHINE**. Atheneum Books.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award: Willems, Mo. **THERE IS A BIRD ON YOUR HEAD**. Hyperion.

Michael L. Printz Award: McCaughrean, Geraldine. **THE WHITE DARKNESS**. HarperTempest.

Robert F. Sibert Award: Sis, Peter. **THE WALL: GROWING UP BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN**. Farrar.



Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Shannon Walters, school librarian at C. P. Smith School, Burlington.

☀ Amato, Mary. **SNARF ATTACK, UNDERFOODLE, AND THE SECRET OF LIFE: THE RIOT BROTHERS TELL ALL.** Holiday House. Move over, Captain Underpants, Orville and Wilbur Riot are here! Silly but entertaining, it will have new readers begging for the sequels.

☀ Arnosky, Jim. **PARROTFISH AND SUNKEN SHIPS: EXPLORING A TROPICAL REEF.** HarperCollins. Are you ready to discover the treasures to be found in a coral reef? Vermont author/illustrator Jim Arnosky provides an excellent guide in this informative narrative.

☀ Cronin, Doreen. **DIARY OF A FLY.** HarperCollins. Even though she's little -- Fly wants to be a superhero. And why not? She walks on walls, sees in all directions at once, and can already fly!

☀ Frazee, Marla. **A COUPLE OF BOYS HAVE THE BEST WEEK EVER.** Harcourt. When James and Eamon go to a week of Nature Camp, they discover that sometimes things work out best when they don't go exactly as planned.

☀ Horowitz, Ruth. **BREAK-OUT AT THE BUG LAB.** Puffin. When mom's giant hissing cockroach, Max, escapes from his cage at the lab where she works, adventures abound. An easy reader that will leave your reader asking for more. Fans will also want to read **BIG SURPRISE IN THE BUG TANK.**

☀ Hunter, Erin. **THE LOST WARRIOR.** TokyoPop. Thunderclan warrior cat Graystripe is trapped in the pampered life of a kittypet. Graystripe has all the food and shelter he needs from his affectionate Twoleg family, but the forest is calling him... Will Graystripe ever find his way back to the Clan? Based on Erin Hunter's popular novel series, **Warriors**, this graphic novel is a winner for emerging readers.

☀ Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **FIRST THE EGG.** Roaring Brook Press. Which came first? The chicken or the egg? Deceptively simple die-cuts magically present transformation-- from seed to flower, tadpole to frog, caterpillar to butterfly, idea to story.

☀ Seeger, Laura Vaccaro. **DOG AND BEAR: TWO'S COMPANY.** Roaring Brook Press. In three new easy reader stories, the two friends celebrate Bear's birthday, have their first fight, and learn the true meaning of friendship.

☀ Lunde, Darrin and Wynne, Patricia J. **HELLO BUMBLEBEE BAT.** Charlesbridge Publishing. Meet the inch-long bumblebee bat, the smallest bat species in the world. Learn how this remarkable creature lives: flying, feeding, escaping from predators, entering a cave, and finally sleeping.

☀ McMullan, Kate. **I'M BAD!** Joanna Cotler Books. "Are you BAD? I'm REALLY bad. Scare-the-tails-off all-the-other-dinosaurs BAD." This T-Rex has attitude! From the creators of **I STINK!** and **I'M DIRTY!** this book is sure to please young readers.

☀ O'Malley, Kevin. **ONCE UPON A COOL MOTORCYCLE DUDE.** Walker Books. Once upon a time there was... a boy and a girl who had to tell a fairy tale to their class, but they couldn't agree on the story. Add a princess, a cool dude who rides an awesome motorcycle, and a hungry, slobbery giant. Will everyone live happily ever after?

☀ Polacco, Patricia. **GINGER AND PETUNIA.** Philomel. Ginger's greatest passion is her pet pig, Petunia, whom she pampers endlessly. When Ginger is called out of town, Petunia poses as her owner Ginger and conducts business as usual.

☀ Prelutsky, Jack. **MY DOG MAY BE A GENIUS.** Greenwillow. An irresistible collection of poems that will have "tongues twisting, imaginations soaring, and sides aching with laughter." Great poems to tickle your silly bone.

☀ Willems, Mo. **THE PIGEON WANTS A PUPPY.** Hyperion. The Pigeon really, really, REALLY wants a Puppy. C'mon, he'll take good care of it! He'll play tennis with it, and water it at least once a month! Will you let Pigeon's dream come true?

Grades 4-8

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Susan Monmaney, school technology director at Main Street Middle School, Montpelier

Grade 4 and up

☀ Sidman, Joyce. **THIS IS JUST TO SAY: POEMS OF APOLOGY AND FORGIVENESS.** Houghton Mifflin. Students in a sixth-grade class first wrote poems of apology as a class assignment based on William Carlos Williams' poem "This Is Just to Say." What would happen if their poems were shared with those they offended? What would the responses be? Read this book to find out!

☀ David, Laurie. **THE DOWN-TO-EARTH GUIDE TO GLOBAL WARMING.** Orchard. It's on the news and in all the papers. Maybe you've even studied about it in school. What is global warming, why is it such an issue now, and what can we do about it? Read this book to answer all your questions and possibly a few you hadn't even thought of! The colorful diagrams and pictures help make this complex topic much easier to understand, and it gives you the 411 on what you can do to stop global warming.

☀ Smith, Jeff. **BONE 1, OUT FROM BONEVILLE.** Graphix. Phoney Bone has been run out of Boneville, accompanied by loyal cousins Fone and Smiley Bone. These funny-looking blobby characters have some exciting adventures in a magical valley where they meet up with a sarcastic dragon, bumbling, quiche-

loving rat creatures, and a beautiful girl and her cow-racing grandmother. What did Phoney Bone do to anger the sinister force that's tailing them?

Grade 5 and up

☀ Ferreira, Anton. **ZULU DOG.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux. When Vusi, an 11-year-old Zulu boy, finds and secretly cares for an injured puppy, little does he know that this will lead to an unlikely and potentially dangerous friendship with Shirley, the daughter of a rich cattle farmer. Set in post-apartheid South Africa, a land of continual political upheaval, this story is really about the courage to bridge racial and societal inequalities.

☀ Sage, Angie. **MAGYK, FLYTE and PHYSIK** (Books 1-3 in the Septimus Heap series). Katherine Tegen Books. The seventh son of the seventh son was born for great magic. But tragedy strikes, and Septimus dies soon after birth. Jenna, an abandoned baby girl, takes his place as the seventh child in the Heap family. Is this the end of the story? Fantasy and adventure keep readers on the edge of their seats throughout this enchanting series.

☀ Smith, Charles R. **TWELVE ROUNDS TO GLORY: THE STORY OF MUHAMMAD ALI.** Candlewick. Three-time heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali's famous quote, "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee" fits perfectly with this book's rap-like verse. Readers will want to revisit the watercolor and collage illustrations again and again. Ali started fighting at the age of 12, and his dedication to his impressive boxing career and religious faith have given him the strength to face the fight of his life with courage and grace.

Grade 6 and up

☀ Buckley, James. **PELE.** DK Publishing. Soccer fans will want to dive right into reading all about the life and career of soccer legend, Pele. Photographs on every page, interesting fact boxes, and a timeline of Pele's life to date will also interest readers.

☀ Rinaldi, Ann. **THE REDHEADED PRINCESS.** HarperCollins. Princess Elizabeth is third in line to the throne. What events in her life led up to her becoming one of England's most memorable monarchs? Her father, Henry VIII, had her mother, Anne Boleyn, beheaded when Elizabeth was three. Whom could she trust? This is a wonderful book of historical fiction that will keep readers captivated through the last page.

Grade 7 and up

☀ Coy, John. **CRACKBACK.** Scholastic. Crackback...a blind-side block. The year is off to a great start for Miles. He's a sophomore on the varsity football team. But suddenly his favorite coach retires, only to be replaced by an egotistical dictator. Family secrets, girls, and pressure to use steroids also attempt to blind-side Miles as he struggles to play the game he loves.

☀ Sorrells, Walter. **FIRST SHOT.** Dutton. David Crandall, or "Worm," is a fairly average high school senior. He's okay; just not a babe magnet, top of his class, or a sports star. The one