

detecting, inspecting, and connecting the dots of forensic science. Investigate rates of human decomposition; find out what makes fingerprints unique; identify handwriting traits; and discover the secrets of paper fiber analysis.

Grades 9-12

Compiled by Vermont NEA member Barbara Marvin,
Colchester High School Library

* Ali, Nujood. **I AM NUJOOD, AGE 10 AND DIVORCED.** Three Rivers Press. Nujood Ali was a Yemeni child bride in an arranged marriage who was beaten and raped by her much-older husband in 2008. She made her way to a judge, and luckily she found people to protect her. This story of courage is told through the eyes and innocence of a ten-year-old girl. She is the first child bride in Yemen to win a divorce.

* Brandt, Anthony. **THE MAN WHO ATE HIS BOOTS: THE TRAGIC HISTORY OF THE SEARCH FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE.** Knopf. In search of the Northwest Passage to Asia, 19th century British expeditions were doomed from the start due to the year-round, icebound Arctic Ocean. But the explorers (including Sir John Barrow, Sir William Edward Parry, and Sir John Franklin) didn't know that. This is a history of the quest, and a story of adventure, disappointment, and the fight to survive.

* Cashore, Kristin. **FIRE.** Dial Books. Fire, a beautiful monster-woman, strives to use her powers for good. This story has quite a lot going for it: strong characters, adventure, romance, a realistic fantasy world, and the struggle between good and evil. This is the prequel to *Graceling* (a fantasy published in 2008).

* Coelho, Paulo. **THE ALCHEMIST.** HarperCollins. First published in the U.S. in 1993, Brazilian Coelho's story about the human spirit has been called a fable and been compared to Saint-Exup'ry's *The Little Prince*. A shepherd boy named Santiago leaves Spain for Egypt in search of treasure. On his journey he meets key figures, including an alchemist, and learns about the world and himself. At its heart, this is a simple story for young and old that invites the reader to think.

* de la Pena, Matt. **MEXICAN WHITEBOY.** Delacorte Press. Sixteen-year-old, biracial Danny Lopez feels like he doesn't belong. For a summer, he leaves his mother to live with his father's family. This is a straightforward story with short chapters about a boy who loves baseball figuring out who he is.

* Dessen, Sarah. **ALONG FOR THE RIDE: A NOVEL.** Viking. The summer before college, Auden leaves her

mother's house to live with her father, his wife, and her newborn half-sister. Auden finds romance, learns to make new friends, discovers how to ride a bike—and tries other childhood activities she missed. Dessen creates characters with depth who face realistic teen choices and challenges.

* Ollestad, Norman. **CRAZY FOR THE STORM: A MEMOIR OF SURVIVAL.** Ecco. At eleven-years-old in February of 1979, Ollestad survives a plane crash in the San Gabriel Mountains. The dangerous trip down the mountain is interspersed with flashbacks of time spent with his father, who died in the crash. A page-turning, coming-of-age story.

* Parker, Robert B. **THE BOXER AND THE SPY.** Sleuth Speak. The author who brought us police Chief Jesse Stone and a P.I. named Spenser (with an 's'), also wrote a few YA books. *The Boxer and the Spy* features 15-year-old Terry Novak, who's learning to box, and his best friend, Abby, investigating the supposed-suicide of a quiet classmate, Jason. This is a fast-paced mystery.

* Patterson, James. **FANG: A MAXIMUM RIDE NOVEL.** Little-Brown. Max and her Flock (of human children who were genetically altered to fly) are on a relief mission getting food to Africa when they discover an evil doer. Can they stop him? This is the sixth installment in the series that begins with *Maximum Ride: The Angel Experiment*. Manga versions of some books in the series are also available.

* Pausch, Randy. **THE LAST LECTURE.** Hyperion. Think of this little book as advice and funny stories on how to live, shared by a favorite uncle. Randy Pausch died in 2008 of pancreatic cancer, but his words and zest for life live on.

* Picoult, Jodi. **HANDLE WITH CARE: A NOVEL.** Atria Books. Picoult, as she's done in her other books, balances family relationships, medical situations, ethical issues, and the law in a thoughtful, compassionate manner. And she keeps the action moving! A child with 'brittle bone' disease is the focal point of this book.

* Sapphire. **PUSH: A NOVEL.** Vintage. Before the movie *Precious*, there was the book *Push*, first published in 1996. A pregnant sixteen-year-old Precious Jones learns to read—and learns true strength.

* Stockett, Kathryn. **THE HELP.** G.P. Putnam's Sons. This is a story about middle-class white women and their attitudes toward 'the help' who raise their children in 1950-60s Jackson, Mississippi. It's also about the changes in society, work, and family due to the Civil Rights Movement. A riveting eye-opener—and funny—novel, told in turns by three intriguing and likeable women: one white (*Skeeter*) and two black (*Aibileen* and *Minnie*).

* Yost, Christopher. **ENDER'S GAME: BATTLE SCHOOL.** Marvel. This is the well-done graphic version of Orson Scott Card's classic science fiction series about Ender Wiggin, whose first journey takes him to Battle School and learning to fight. This is the starting point for the series whether it's read in graphic format as future volumes are published—or in Card's original novels. In the *Ender Saga*, the next books are *Speaker for the Dead*, *Xenocide*, and *Children of the Mind*—for starters.



Summer Reading for Kids 2010

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

2010 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Pinkney, Jerry. **THE LION AND THE MOUSE.** Little, Brown.

Newbery Award: Stead, Rebecca. **WHEN YOU REACH ME.** Wendy Lamb Books.

Robert F. Sibert Award: Stone, Tanya Lee. **ALMOST ASTRONAUTS: 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM.** Candlewick.

Coretta Scott King Author Award: Nelson, Vaunda. **BAD NEWS FOR OUTLAWS: THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF BASS REEVES, DEPUTY U.S. MARSHAL.** Carolrhoda Books.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Hughes, Langston. **MY PEOPLE.** Illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr. Atheneum Books.

Geisel Award: Hayes, Geoffrey. **BENNY AND PENNY IN THE BIG NO-NO! RAW Junior.**

Michael L. Printz Award: Bray, Libba. **GOING BOVINE.** Delacourte Press.

Vermont Red Clover Award Books:
2010-2011 Master list available at: http://www.mothersgooseprograms.org/lit_red_clover_nominees.php

Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) Award: 2010-2011 Master list available at: <http://www.dcfaward.org/lists/DCFMasterlist10-11.pdf>

Green Mountain Book Award: 2010-2011 Master list available at: <http://libraries.vermont.gov/libraries/gmba>

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 **VERMONT-NEA**
THE UNION OF VERMONT EDUCATORS

Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont NEA member Deborah Chamberlin, school librarian at Addison and Ferrisburgh Central Schools.

✱ Baker, Keith. **LMNOPEAS**. Beach Lane Books. This alphabet book is peopled with tiny pea-ple, each portraying an occupation. Each pea is a detailed representation of a worker, such as scientist, teacher, vet, and even volunteer. White backgrounds set off the bold four inch letters, while on each page the pea-ple offer clever details.

✱ Christensen, Bonnie. **DJANGO: WORLD'S GREATEST JAZZ GUITARIST**. Roaring Brook Press. An inspiring account of a Gypsy boy who overcame tragedy has been illustrated by the author with lush oil paintings. Young Django was a gifted youngster who was able to catch trout with his hands. Though he played as a boy in Paris clubs, he was seriously burned in a fire but did not give up the dream of playing again, in this story of tenacity and courage.

✱ Cousins, Lucy. **YUMMY: EIGHT FAVORITE FAIRY TALES**. Candlewick. Cousin's wildly bold artwork in array of bright colors complements the memorable characters in this tasty collection of classic stories. There are no cultural or historical clues in the illustrations, yet the pictures are a delight, especially for younger wanna be artists. The villains definitely receive their due!

✱ Davies, Jacqueline. **TRICKING THE TALLYMAN**. Knopf. In 1790 in Tunbridge, Vermont an attempt was made by the government to count the residents. This laugh along historical account of the first U.S. Census portrays Vermonters as suspicious and clever at evading outsiders. Subtle colors infused with a golden cast enhance the lively illustrations while carrying the story along.

✱ Gravett, Emily. **DOGS**. S & S. A happy hound illustrates the cover of this captivating picture book which is narrated by a cat. Many different dog breeds walk and run through the creamy pages written in a rhyming text, which concludes in a unique surprise ending. Dog illustrations rendered in pencil and watercolor carry the story along as the reader learns about spotty, tough and soft dogs.

✱ Henkes, Kevin. **MY GARDEN**. Greenwillow. A child's imaginary garden complete with jelly bean bushes and beach ball sized tomatoes takes root before the eyes of the reader. Even the bunnies in the garden are all chocolate, no threat to the lettuce patch. Bright pastels with bold outlines illustrate the seasonal and magical changes in the garden.

✱ Krull, Kathleen. **THE BOY WHO INVENTED TV: THE SVORY OF PHILO FARNSWORTH** Knopf. Although it is difficult for some young people to imagine life without television, there are some who may recall a time without "screens." Young Farnsworth learned about inventors through reading, but was inspired while working in a farm field by the parallel rows of crops. Thinking about the lines as a model for transmitting electric signals, Philo was an imaginative and creative individual. Glowing Acrylic wash and colored pencil renderings illuminate the text perfectly.

✱ Long, Loren. **OTIS**. Philomel. The nostalgic colors used by Long to illustrate "Otis" bring to mind Burton's classic "Mike Mulligan." Otis is a tractor with an engine that purrs a frightened calf to sleep. When a shiny new yellow tractor comes to the farm, Otis is retired to the back of the barn. All ends well when Otis is given a new role on the farm.

✱ Peck, Robert Newton. **SOUP**. Dell Yearling. Soup and Rob live in rural Vermont in the 1930's in this first book in a series. Haircuts cost a quarter, shoes were saved for winter, and Burlington was a big city. Classmates Janice Riker and Norma Jean Bissel are featured in hilarious episodes and adventures.

✱ Portis, Antoinette. **A PENGUIN STORY**. HarperCollins. Edna the penguin wishes for a more colorful life. She has seen only the white of snow and ice, the blue sky and black of the night sky. When a group of humans bring an expedition to her world, she discovers an unnamed color. The artwork is bold and graphic, especially the penguins, so simple, yet perfectly depicted.

✱ Ruddell, Deborah. **A WHIFF OF PINE, A HINT OF SKUNK: A FOREST OF POEMS**. S & S. From the lovely forested end papers to the first poem entitled "Eau de Forest: a Woodsy Cologne," this collection celebrates the natural world. Twenty two poems, each written with a different tone and style, are illustrated with rich tones in watercolors. Cleverly humorous critters add to the delight.

✱ Underwood, Deborah. **THE QUIET BOOK**. Houghton. Different kinds of quiet are depicted in this comforting picture book. Beautifully drawn pencil illustrations in neutral colors are placed carefully on creamy white backgrounds. "Coloring in the lines quiet, making a wish quiet," and "best friends don't need to talk quiet," evoke feelings that readers of all ages can clearly understand.

✱ Weeks, Sara. **WOOF: A LOVE STORY**. HarperCollins. Who says opposites can't attract one another? When an ordinary dog happens to observe a pretty cat, he's so taken with her that he smiles, showing all of his teeth. Terrified, she hides in a tree. She can't seem to understand when he calls out: "I love you," since she only hears "woof, woof, woof." Colorful collage illustrations carry this rhythmic story to a pleasing conclusion.

✱ Yolen, Jane. **ALL STAR: HONUS WAGNER AND THE MOST FAMOUS BASEBALL CARD EVER**. Philomel. A picture book biography of the Hall of Fame shortstop Wagner of the Pittsburgh Pirates explores how young men were able to get out of mining, where most boys went after finishing the sixth grade. Wagner grew from a family of German immigrants who lived outside of Pittsburgh in the coal mining area of Pennsylvania.

Grades 5-8

✱ Dorion, Christian. **HOW THE WORLD WORKS: A HANDS-ON GUIDE TO OUR AMAZING PLANET**. Templar. Answering a multitude of questions about how our world works, this fun, engaging book introduces the earth's important cycles and offers an exciting way to learn geography and science. Jam packed with illustrations and paper fold-outs, flaps, pops, and more to boost interactive learning!

✱ Down, Siobhan. **THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY**. Yearling. Ted and Kat watched cousin Salim board the London Eye, but after half an hour it landed and everyone trooped off—except Salim. How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Ted and Kat follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. Ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own very unique way, to find the key to the mystery.

✱ Flanagan, John. **REVENGE OF THE WITCH**. Greenwillow. For years, Old Gregory has been the Spook for the county, ridding the local villages of evil. Now his time is coming to an end. But who will take over for him? Twenty-nine apprentices have tried—some floundered, some fled, some failed to stay alive. Only Thomas Ward is left. He's the last hope; the last apprentice. First in a series of six spine-tingling tales.

✱ Graff, Lisa. **UMBRELLA SUMMER**. HarperCollins. Annie Richards knows there are a million things to look out for—bicycle accidents, food poisoning, chicken pox, smallpox, typhoid fever, runaway zoo animals, and poison oak. Everyone keeps telling Annie not to worry so much, that she's just fine. But they thought her brother, Jared, was just fine too, and Jared died. It takes a new neighbor, who looks as plain as a box of toothpicks but has some surprising secrets of her own, to make Annie realize that her plans for being careful aren't working out so well.

✱ Hale, Shannon. **CALAMITY JACK**. Bloomsbury. Jack likes to think of himself as a criminal mastermind...with an unfortunate amount of bad luck. A schemer, plotter, planner, trickster, swindler...maybe even thief? One fine day Jack picks a target a little more giant than the usual, and one little bean turns into a great big building-destroying beanstalk. Sure to be a hit with fans of the Hales' previous

graphic novel *Rapunzel's Revenge*.

✱ Mass, Wendy. **EVERY SOUL A STAR**. Little,Brown. At Moon Shadow Campground, thousands have gathered to catch a glimpse of a rare and extraordinary total eclipse of the sun. It's also where three lives are about to be changed forever: sheltered Ally, beauty queen Bree, and Jack. A compelling story about strangers coming together, unlikely friendships, and finding one's place in the universe.

✱ O'Connor, Barbara. **HOW TO STEAL A DOG**. One secret that Georgina plans to keep from everyone, including her best friend, is that her father left; now she, her mother and her little brother, Toby, are homeless. When she sees a sign offering a \$500.00 reward for a lost dog, she sees a way out of her troubles. Now she just has to steal a dog...

✱ Patterson, James. **WITCH & WIZARD** Little, Brown. The world is changing: the government has seized control of every aspect of society, and now, kids are disappearing. But while trapped in this totalitarian nightmare, Wisty and Whit discover they have incredible powers they'd never dreamed of. Can they master their new skills in time to save themselves, their parents--and maybe the world?

✱ Paulsen, Gary. **MUDSHARK**. Yearling. Mudshark is cool. He's fast-thinking and fast-moving, and with his photographic memory, he's the go-to guy with the answers. Lost your shoe? Your dad's car? Can't find your homework? Ask Mudshark. There's an escaped gerbil running the halls, a near-nuclear emergency in the faculty restroom, and an unexplained phenomenon involving disappearing erasers in this humorous mystery from master writer Gary Paulsen.

✱ Rollins, James. **JAKE RANSOM AND THE SKULL KING'S SHADOW**. HarperCollins. When a mysterious envelope arrives for Jake Ransom, he and sister Kady are plunged into a gripping chain of events. An artifact found by their parents—on the expedition from which they never returned—leads Jake and Kady to a strange world inhabited by a peculiar mix of long-lost civilizations, a world that may hold the key to their parents' disappearance. Will Jake and Kady make it out-dead or alive?

✱ Riordan, Rick. **THE RED PYRAMID**. Disney Hyperion. Brilliant Egyptologist Dr. Julius Kane accidentally unleashes the Egyptian god Set, who banishes the doctor to oblivion and forces his two children to embark on a dangerous journey across the globe, bringing them closer to the truth about their family and its links to a secret order that has existed since the time of the pharaohs.

✱ Young, Karen. **CRIME SCENE SCIENCE: 20 PROJECTS AND EXPERIMENTS ABOUT CLUES, CRIMES, CRIMINALS AND OTHER MYSTERIOUS THINGS**. National Geographic. Slip under the yellow crime-scene tape to conduct your own experiments: you'll soon be