

to the priesthood in the time of the Crusades, all with biting humor and a keen eye for historical detail.

■ Leavitt, Martine. **HECK, SUPERHERO.** Front St. Gr. 6-up. Abandoned by his mother, 13-year-old Heck tries to survive on his own as his mind bounces between the superhero character he imagines himself to be and the harsh reality of his life.

■ Sidman, Joyce. **THE WORLD ACCORDING TO DOG: POEMS AND TEEN VOICES.** Houghton. Gr. 6-up. Eloquent poems, compelling photography, and heartfelt tributes combine to convey the riches of canine-human friendships.

Grades 9-12

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Christine Eldred, school librarian at Missisquoi Valley Union High School, Swanton, Vermont.

■ Sleator, William. **THE LAST UNIVERSE.** Amulet Books. Desperately ill, 16-year-old Gary seems drawn to the mysterious garden on his family's estate and his sister Susan is required to take him there daily, even though disturbing events begin to occur. When they discover a maze deep in the garden, everything they know about reality will be called into question. Encounter parallel universes, dark family secrets, a peculiar cat, and the puzzle of quantum mechanics.

■ Zusak, Marcus. **I AM THE MESSENGER.** Random House. Ed Kennedy hasn't done much since high school. He drives a cab, plays cards with his buddies, and hopes that his best friend Audrey will finally fall in love with him. But soon after inadvertently stopping a bank robbery, he receives a playing card in the mail with three addresses written on it. What do the addresses mean? Who sent them? And why was Ed chosen?

■ Anderson, Laurie Halse. **PROM.** Viking-Penguin. Senior Ashley Hannigan is not popular, rich, or an honor student, and after graduation, she plans to continue waitressing and to move in with her boyfriend TJ. She couldn't care less about the senior prom, but when the prom advisor steals all the money raised for the dance and it looks as though it will have to be cancelled, Ashley is unexpectedly roped into helping.

■ Stahler, David. **A GATHERING OF SHADES.** HarperTempest. After his father's death, Aidan and his mother move to his grandmother's farm in Vermont. One evening Aidan follows his grandmother on her nightly walk and finds her communicating with the spirits of the dead, awakening in him the hope that he can contact his father's spirit.

■ Nelson, Blake. **ROCK STAR, SUPERSTAR.** Viking-Penguin. A bass guitar player, Pete lives for music, and plays in a jazz band and rock cover band. Then he gets the chance to perform with a popular local rock group; the other guys in the band aren't very dedicated, but somehow things really take off and they get a shot at a recording contract.

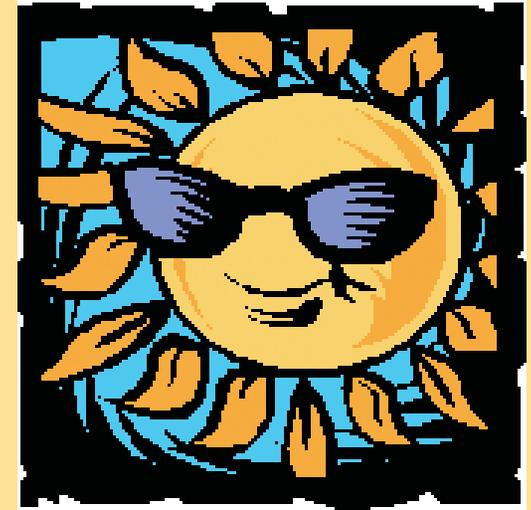
■ Westerfeld, Scott. **UGLIES.** Simon Pulse. Tally Youngblood lives in a future world where everyone is equal because everyone is beautiful—that is, once they become one of the Pretties through the extensive cosmetic surgery everyone undergoes at 16. Tally is still an Ugly, a few months shy of her sixteenth birthday, when she meets Shay, a girl who questions the value of the surgery and the shallow lifestyle of the Pretties. When Shay escapes to join a renegade band of Uglies, the government forces Tally to help them locate her. When you finish this sci-fi thriller, you'll immediately want to pick up the sequel, **PRETTIES.**

■ Pearson, Mary. **A ROOM ON LORELEI STREET.** Henry Holt & Co. Life at home is very tough for Zoe; it's up to her to take care of her alcoholic mother, the house, and the bills. When she sees a small room for rent, Zoe sees a chance to escape, but she must go to extremes to cover expenses.

■ Melling, O.R. **THE HUNTER'S MOON.** Amulet Books. Gwen visits her Irish cousin for a summer backpacking trip to Ireland's legendary magical sites. But when cousin Findabhair is kidnapped by the Faerie King, Gwen must set off to rescue her, relying on her own instincts and the help of a few allies in her fight against the forces of darkness. Vivid adventure-fantasy.

■ Lawrence, Iain. **B IS FOR BUSTER.** Delacorte Press. Kak leaves his unhappy home and lies about his age to join up with the Canadian Air Force during World War II. On his first bombing run over Germany, he experiences the terror of heavy enemy fire. Knowing he must complete thirty bombing runs, Kak realizes chances of survival are slim.

This booklist was edited by Shannon Walters, librarian at C.P. Smith Elementary School in Burlington, and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, 10 Wheelock Street, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.



Summer Reading for Kids 2006

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.

2006 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Juster, Norman. **THE HELLO, GOODBYE WINDOW.** Illustrated by Chris Raschka. Hyperion Books.

Newbery Award: Perkins, Lynne Rae. **CRISS CROSS.** Greenwillow Books.

Coretta Scott King Author Award: Lester, Julius. **DAY OF TEARS: A NOVEL IN DIALOGUE.** Hyperion Books.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Giovanni, Nikki. **ROSA.** Illustrated by Bryan Collier. Henry Holt & Company.

Theodor Seuss Geisel Award

Rylant, Cynthia. **HENRY AND MUDGE AND THE GREAT GRANDPAS.** Simon & Schuster.

Michael L. Printz Award: Green, John. **LOOKING FOR ALASKA.** Dutton Books.

Robert F. Sibert Award: Walker, Sally M. **SECRETS OF A CIVIL WAR SUBMARINE: SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THE H.L. HUNLEY.** Carolrhoda Books.

Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Pattie Williams Garofalo, school librarian at Porters Point School, Colchester, Vermont.

■ Cunnane, Kelly. **FOR YOU ARE A KENYAN CHILD.** Atheneum. A young boy's day in a Kenyan village includes chores, visits, sounds and tastes. This is a book to read many times to experience all of the nuances, Swahili words, and beautiful illustrations. An excellent read aloud.

■ Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie. **NORA'S ARK.** HarperCollins. A flood is coming! This heartwarming story by Vermont author Kinsey-Warnock is based on the Vermont Flood of 1927.

■ McMillan, Bruce. **THE PROBLEM WITH CHICKENS.** Houghton Mifflin. The ladies who live in a small, remote village in Iceland have a problem when their chickens stop laying eggs. They come up with a clever idea to help the chickens and themselves. The illustrations are perfect accompaniment to the delightful story.

■ Newman, Marlene. **MYRON'S MAGIC COW.** When Myron is sent to the store for some milk, he meets strange fairy tale characters, and ends up with three wishes. American Folk Art illustrations add depth and humor to this very fun read aloud.

■ Ormerod, Jan. **LIZZIE NONSENSE.** In the Australian bush country, Pioneer settlers Lizzie, Mama and the baby manage while Papa is away. Lizzie's creative imagination gets her in trouble with her no-nonsense mother. A lush archetypal story of pioneer life.

■ Van Leeuwen, Jean. **AMANDA PIG AND THE REALLY HOT DAY.** It's too darn hot. Hot as a fried egg. Hot as toast. Hot as oatmeal. Beat the heat this summer with four short tales that are as refreshing as a cool breeze.

■ Schubert, Leda. **BALLET OF THE ELEPHANTS.** Roaring Brook Press. Elephants and ballerinas dance together in the spotlight in this fascinating true story by Vermont author Leda Schubert. This intriguing history introduces young readers to the "Circus Polka," choreographed in 1942 by George Balanchine, with music by Igor Stravinsky and performances by John Ringling North's elephants.

■ Tavares, Mudball. **MUDBALL.** Crack! Somehow, Andy's bat had hit the ball. Everybody heard it . . . but nobody saw where it went. One of baseball's legendary stories brought to life just in time for baseball season!

■ Haas, Jessie. **JIGSAW PONY.** Greenwillow. When father brings home a pony for his twin daughters, he correctly predicts that they will share the work as well as the joy of caring for Jigsaw. Beginning readers will feel comfortable with the simple text and proud to read all ten chapters. **RUNAWAY RADISH** by Haas is perfect sequel.

■ Willner-Pardo, Gina. **JUMP INTO NOTHING.** Clarion Books. Nine-year-old Sophie is scared to jump off the high diving board. Maybe she can train herself to be brave: if she can eat a bug and ride her bike no-hands, surely she can manage that jump! A lively story of Sophie's summer project and the surprising discoveries she makes on the way to her goal.

Grades 4-8

Compiled by Vermont-NEA member Steve Madden, school librarian at Camels Hump Middle School, Richmond, Vermont.

For Middle Readers

■ Amato, Mary. **THE NAKED MOLE-RAT LETTERS.** Holiday House. Gr. 4-up. When her father begins a long-distance romance with a zookeeper from Washington, D.C., Frankie sends fabricated e-mails to the zookeeper in an attempt to sabotage the relationship. But when the zookeeper responds, with wise and witty letters about protecting territory, shunning outsiders, and rebuilding a home, Frankie begins an honest and prickly correspondence that touches on family, friendship, and growing up.

■ Ball, Johnny. **GO FIGURE! A TOTALLY COOL BOOK ABOUT NUMBERS.** DK. Gr. 5-up. This cornucopia of mathematical history, information, tidbits, and brain-teasers gives readers a rich and genuinely intriguing look at the field and practice of mathematics.

■ Grandits, John. **TECHNICALLY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT: CONCRETE POEMS.** Clarion. Gr. 4-up. In this hilarious collection of linked concrete poems, Robert speculates about professional wrestling for animals, wonders why no one makes scratch-and-sniff fart stickers, and designs the ultimate roller coaster (complete with spiders).

■ McKay, Hilary. **SAFFY'S ANGEL; PERMANENT ROSE; and INDIGO STAR.** McElderry. Gr. 5-up. Three wonderful stories about the children in the Casson family.

■ Pullman, Philip. **THE SCARECROW AND HIS SERVANT.** Knopf. Gr. 4-up. When a scarecrow with a mysterious letter hidden inside him comes to life and teams up with an optimistic orphan boy, the

two barely manage to stay ahead of the villains pursuing them. Hair-raising, rollicking adventures and clever use of language are the hallmarks of this story that's as witty as it is wise.

■ Riordan, Rick. **THE LIGHTNING THIEF.** Hyperion/Miramax. Gr. 5-up. A 12-year-old New York City kid is stunned to discover his true heritage, his special talents, and the fact that he has been charged with a dangerous mission into the Underworld. Nonstop cinematic action, broad humor, and drama in epic proportions make this introduction to Greek mythology an electrifying read.

■ Roche, Art. **CARTOONING,** and Temple, Kathryn. **DRAWING.** Both Lark Books. Gr. 4 up. The subtitles of these books might not be entirely true, but they're close: "The only cartooning/drawing book you'll ever need to be the artist you've always wanted to be."

Grades 6-up

■ Aronson, Marc. **THE REAL REVOLUTION: THE GLOBAL STORY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.** Clarion. Gr. 7-up. In tracing the roots of the revolutionary rumblings in the hearts and minds of the American colonists, Aronson found himself steeped in the economics, politics, and conflicts in countries on several continents. Compelling narrative and outstanding archival documents and graphics provide a unique and far-reaching perspective on our past.

■ Capuzzo, Michael. **CLOSE TO SHORE: THE TERRIFYING SHARK ATTACKS OF 1916.** Crown. Gr. 6-up. And you thought it was safe to go in the water! Readers will sink their teeth into this pulse-pounding historical account of an East Coast beset by shark attacks.

■ Curtis, Christopher Paul. **BUCKING THE SARGE.** Random/Wendy Lamb Bks. Gr. 8 up. Deeply involved in his cold and manipulative mother's shady business dealings in Flint, Michigan, fourteen-year-old Luther keeps a sense of humor while running the Happy Neighbor Group Home For Men, all the while dreaming of going to college and becoming a philosopher.

■ Hosler, Jay. **THE SANDWALK ADVENTURES.** Active Synapse. Gr. 6-up. In this intelligently designed graphic novel, Charles Darwin tries to convince a family of follicle mites living in his eyebrow that he is not a god.

■ Jinks, Catherine. **PAGAN IN EXILE; PAGAN'S CRUSADE; PAGAN'S VOWS; PAGAN'S SCRIBE.** Candlewick. Gr. 7-up. This stellar four-volume series takes our hero Pagan from squirehood