

* Walker, Sally M. **WRITTEN IN BONE: BURIED LIVES OF JAMESTOWN AND COLONIAL MARYLAND.** Carolrhoda Books. Sibert Award-winning author Walker presents an outstanding history mystery. Young CSI fans will be intrigued by these forensic archeologists studying colonial-era burials in the Chesapeake Bay area. Scientists can look into a grave and determine the skeleton's gender, age, nationality, how they lived and died—and more. "Readers will be enticed by both the scientific detective work and by the tantalizing mysteries that remain."

Grades 9-12

* Colfer, Eoin. **AIRMAN.** Hyperion Books. Intrigue. Treachery. Survival. In the 1890s on an island off the Irish coast, Conor Broekhart is falsely imprisoned and passes the solitary months by scratching designs of flying machines into the walls. The months turn into years, but eventually the day comes when Conor must find the courage to trust his revolutionary designs and take to the skies.

* Cornwell, Autumn. **CARPE DIEM.** Square Fish. 16-year-old Vassar Spore's detailed plans for the next twenty years of her life (PhD. and Pulitzer Prize) are derailed when her bohemian grandmother insists that she join her in Southeast Asia for the summer. On her journey, Vassar sweats, falls in love, hones her outdoor survival skills—and uncovers a family secret that turns her whole world upside-down. Vassar Spore can plan on one thing: she'll never be the same again.

* Green, John. **PAPER TOWNS.** Dutton Books. Quentin Jacobsen has spent a lifetime loving the magnificently adventurous Margo Roth Spiegelman from afar. So when she cracks open a window and climbs back into his life, dressed like a ninja and summoning him for an ingenious campaign of revenge, he follows. Then Margo, always an enigma, becomes a real mystery. But Q soon learns that there are clues—and they're for him.

* Kaufman, Michael T. **1968.** Roaring Brook Press. From racial and gender equality fights to the struggle against the draft and the Vietnam war, in 1968 Americans asked questions and fought for their rights. Now, 40 years later, we look back on that pivotal year—from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination to the Columbia University riots to our changing role among other nations—in this gripping introduction to the events home and abroad. The year we first took steps in space, the year we shaped the present, **1968** presented by a former **New York Times** writer who lived through it all, shares the story with detail and passion.

* Mackel, Kathy. **BOOST.** Dial Books. Savvy is six two and full of raw basketball talent; her three-point shot is deadly. But she's also skinny and gets pushed around on the court. Her sister, Callie, is a freshman on varsity cheerleading, but she's not quite light enough to be a flier—her coveted position. Both girls need to boost their level of competition to get off the bench and into the action. When steroids are found in Savvy's gym bag, she claims they are not hers. Suddenly, accusations are flying

and nobody knows who is telling the truth. When it comes to competitive sports, no one is exempt from being offered a boost.

* Mazer, Norma Fox. **THE MISSING GIRL.** HarperTeen. In Mallory, New York, the five Herbert girls: Beauty, Mim, Stevie, Fancy, and Autumn, deal with assorted problems, conflicts, fears, and yearnings, as a mysterious middle-aged man watches them, fascinated, deciding which one he likes the best. In alternating points of view, Vermont author Norma Fox Mazer manages to interweave the lives of predator and prey in this unforgettable psychological thriller.

* Nye, Naomi Shihab. **HONEYBEE: POEMS & SHORT PROSE.** Greenwillow Books. Honey. Beeswax. Pollinate. Hive. Colony. Work. Dance. Communicate. Industrious. Buzz. Sting. Cooperate. Where would we be without them? Where would we be without one another? In eighty-two poems and paragraphs, Naomi Shihab Nye alights on the essentials of our time—our loved ones, our dense air, our wars, our memories, our planet—and leaves us feeling curiously sweeter and profoundly soothed.

* Pearson, Mary E. **THE ADORATION OF JENNA FOX.** Henry Holt. Who is Jenna Fox? 17-year-old Jenna has been told that is her name. She has just awoken from a coma, they tell her, and she is still recovering from a terrible accident in which she was involved a year ago. But what happened before that? Jenna doesn't remember her life. Or does she? Set in a near future America, it takes readers on an unforgettable journey through questions of bio-medical ethics and the nature of humanity.

* Reeve, Philip. **HERE LIES ARTHUR.** Scholastic. Gwynna is just a girl when her village is attacked by Arthur's ragtag war band. Discovered by Myrddin, she agrees to bind herself to his service in exchange for protection. In the course of their travels, Myrddin transforms Gwynna into the mysterious Lady of the Lake, a boy warrior, and a spy in his efforts to transform Arthur from ruffian into King Arthur, the greatest hero of all time.

* Smithson, Ryan. **GHOSTS OF WAR : THE TRUE STORY OF A 19-YEAR-OLD GI.** Collins. Ryan Smithson joined the Army Reserve when he was seventeen. Two years later, he was deployed to Iraq as an Army engineer. In this extraordinary and harrowing memoir, readers march along one GI's tour of duty. "A tough but powerful look at one man's experience."

This list was created by members of the Vermont School Library Association and published as a public service by the Vermont-National Education Association, 10 Wheelock St., Montpelier, VT 05602.



Summer Reading for Kids 2009

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.

2009 Award Winners

Caldecott Award: Swanson, Susan Marie. **THE HOUSE IN THE NIGHT.** Houghton Mifflin Company. Beth Krommes, illustrator.

Newbery Award: Gaiman, Neil. **THE GRAVEYARD BOOK.** HarperCollins.

Robert F. Sibert Award / Coretta Scott King Author Award: Nelson, Kadir. **WE ARE THE SHIP: THE STORY OF NEGRO LEAGUE BASEBALL.** Disney-Jump at the Sun.

Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award: Thomas, Joyce Carol. **THE BLACKER THE BERRY.** HarperCollins Publishers. Floyd Cooper, illustrator.

Geisel Award: Willems, Mo. **ARE YOU READY TO PLAY OUTSIDE?** Hyperion Books for Children.

Michael L. Printz Award: Marchetta, Melina. **JELlicoe ROAD.** HarperTeen..

Vermont Red Clover Award Books: 2009-10 Master list available at: http://www.mothersgooseprograms.org/lit_red_clover_nominees.php

Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher (DCF) Award: 2009-10 Master list available at: <http://www.dcfaward.org/lists/2010.htm>

Green Mountain Book Award: 2009-10 Master list available at: http://libraries.vermont.gov/sites/libraries/files/cbec/gmbamasterlist09-10withimages_1.pdf

Picture Books and Easy Readers for Grades K-4

- * Campbell, Sarah C. **WOLFSNAIL: A BACKYARD PREDATOR.** Boyds Mills Press. This true tale of horror begins in the leaf litter. Slowly, a slimy foot emerges from the shell, then a hideous head: the wolfsnail is on the prowl! Big, strong, and fast (for a snail), the wolfsnail has a taste for meat. Stunning photos and simple text make this an engaging easy reader.
- * Emberley, Rebecca. **CHICKEN LITTLE.** Roaring Brook Press. One day an acorn fell and hit Chicken Little in the head. Bonk! Eep! "Oh my goodness! Oh my gracious!" Chicken Little exclaimed. "The sky is falling! The sky is falling!" You may think you know **Chicken Little**, but think again. This is a new retelling you don't want to miss!
- * Grindley, Sally. **POPPY AND MAX AND THE BIG WAVE.** Hodder & Stoughton. Max is a dog who doesn't like being cold, wearing clothes, taking long walks, or surfing, but his long list of dislikes never stops him from having interesting adventures with Poppy, his pigtailed best friend. At the beach Poppy can't wait to surf the big waves, but Max isn't so sure. He thinks he will be much safer chasing crabs on the sand. But then one crab gets very close to the water . . . splash! A brilliant match for fans of **Henry and Mudge**.
- * Howe, James. **HOUNDSLEY AND CATINA PLINK AND PLUNK.** Candlewick. Houndsley loves to canoe. Catina loves to ride bikes. But when Houndsley takes Catina out canoeing, she chatters the whole time, drowning out the sounds he loves: the call of birds or the plink and plunk of the paddles. And when Catina wants to go biking, Houndsley balks at going. What is wrong with Catina? And what is wrong with Houndsley? Luckily, they discover that the things you're afraid of are easier to do with a good friend or two at your side.
- * Hughes, Ted. **MY BROTHER BERT.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Illustrations and rhyming text portray a hobby gone awry, as Bert's collection of exotic pets seems on the verge of breaking into a quarrel, or perhaps a rumpus. Luckily, Bert's little sister is at hand. Vermont illustrator Tracey Campbell Pearson outdoes herself in this exuberant extension of the classic poem.
- * Kellogg, Steven. **THE PIED PIPER'S MAGIC.** Dial Books. Peterkin the elf brings music and hope everywhere he goes with the aid of his magic pipe. With the power to call any animal and even to transform creatures, this is just what the evil Grand Duke needs to rid his village of its never-ending rats. But when Peter turns the rats into stars, the Grand Duke is still as mean as ever. Discover the pipe's true magic as our hero uses it to inspire and save the whole village in this clever new take on a familiar tale by local author Steven Kellogg.
- * Prosek, James. **BIRD, BUTTERFLY AND EEL.** Simon & Schuster. Change is all around us. From the first buds of springtime to the first autumn frost, nature shows us that change is all around us and that the world has its own way of beginning

anew. Bird, Butterfly, and Eel spend their summers on the same coastal farm, but in the fall they go to very distant and different places. Their migrations to the far reaches of land and sea make them remarkable creatures.

- * Rosenthal, Amy Krouse. **DUCK! RABBIT!** Chronicle Books. A clever take on the age-old optical illusion: is it a duck or a rabbit? Depends on how you look at it. This smart, simple story will make readers of all ages eager to take a side. **Duck! Rabbit!** makes it easy to agree on at least one thing: reading it again!

Grades 5-8

- * Gerstein, Mordicai. **A BOOK.** Roaring Brook Press. Once upon a time there was a family who lived in a book. All but the youngest had stories they belonged to—fighting fires, exploring space, entertaining in the circus—but she didn't have one yet. A funny and touching celebration of books, stories, and finding yourself.
- * Markey, Kevin. **SLUMPBUSTER.** HarperCollins. 11-year-old slugger Banjo "The Great Walloper" Bishbash is overcome by a nasty hitting slump as he tries to lead the Rambletown Rounders to the division baseball championship.
- * Sturm, James. **ADVENTURES IN CARTOONING.** First Second Books. Once upon a time . . . a princess tried to make a comic. And with the help of a magical cartooning elf, she learns how—well enough to draw her way out of an encounter with a dangerous dragon, near-death by drowning, and into her very own adventure! In this action-packed cartooning adventure, kids will have as much fun making comics as reading them.
- * Bell, Ted. **NICK OF TIME.** St. Martin's Griffin. Cliffhangers, gadgets and weapons galore, spying, and pure adventure mark this time travel story. Nick stumbles on an ancient sea chest desperately wanted by dread pirate Captain Blood, then discovers his dad's a spy on the lookout for experimental German subs. Guaranteed to be a page-turner.
- * Fleischman, Sid. **THE TROUBLE BEGINS AT 8: A LIFE OF MARK TWAIN IN THE WILD, WILD WEST.** Greenwillow Books. Broad-sides advertising Twain's early speeches read, "Doors open at 7. The trouble begins at 8." This is the spirit in which Fleischman writes about Twain, talking about him as an author, of course, but also as steamboat pilot, a journalist, a prospector, and a lecturer—in other words, as an adventurer who didn't mind a little trouble.
- * Hiaasen, Carl. **SCAT.** Knopf. Mrs. Bunny Starch, the most feared biology teacher ever, was last seen during a field trip to Black Vine Swamp. The school's headmaster and the police seem to have accepted the sketchy, unsigned note explaining that her absence is due to a "family emergency." There's no real evidence of foul play. But still, Nick and Marta don't buy it. Something weird is definitely going on.

* Hurley, Tonya. **GHOSTGIRL.** Little, Brown. "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. And if I should die before I awake, I pray the popular attend my wake." Charlotte Usher feels practically invisible at school, and then one day she really is invisible. Even worse: she's dead, choked on a gummy bear. But being dead doesn't stop Charlotte from wanting to be popular; it just makes her more creative about achieving her goal.

* Kelly, Jacqueline. **THE EVOLUTION OF CALPURNIA.** Henry Holt. In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, navigates the dangers of living with six brothers, studies the natural world with her cantankerous grandfather, and comes up against just what it means to be a girl at the turn of the century.

* Levine, Gail Carson. **EVER.** HarperCollins. Falling in love is never easy, but falling in love with an immortal god while your days on earth are numbered is almost more than a girl can bear. Attempting to thwart her fate, Kezi and her love, Olus—god of wind and loneliness—embark on a series of dangerous and seemingly impossible quests in this spellbinding tale of flawed gods, unbreakable vows, and ancient omens.

* Macaulay, David. **THE WAY WE WORK : GETTING TO KNOW THE AMAZING HUMAN BODY.** Houghton Mifflin. A stunning visual exploration that demystifies the inner workings of the human body. Vermont author/illustrator Macaulay uses close-ups, cross-sections, and perspectives to look at the different body systems and how they function.

* Riordan, Rick. **THE LAST OLYMPIAN.** Disney Hyperion. All year the half-bloods have been preparing for battle against the Titans. While the Olympians struggle to contain the rampaging monster Typhon, evil Titan Kronos begins his advance on New York City, where Mount Olympus stands virtually unguarded. Now it's up to Percy Jackson and an army of young demigods to stop the Lord of Time. The eagerly-awaited conclusion to Percy Jackson & the Olympians series.

* Stone, Tanya Lee. **ALMOST ASTRONAUTS : 13 WOMEN WHO DARED TO DREAM.** Candlewick Press. What does it take to be an astronaut? Excellence at flying, courage, intelligence, resistance to stress, top physical shape—any checklist would include these. But when America created NASA in 1958, there was another unspoken rule: you had to be a man. Here is the tale of thirteen women who proved that they were not only as tough as the toughest man but also brave enough to change the rules.

* Stroud, Jonathan. **HEROES OF THE VALLEY.** Disney Hyperion Books. Bored with everyday chores, Halli can't help himself from playing practical jokes. But when he goes too far, he sets in motion a chain of events that will forever alter his destiny. Along the way, he will encounter highway robbers, terrifying monsters, and a girl who may finally be his match. In the end, he will discover the truth about the legends, his family, and himself.