



BEST BOOKS 2009 (so far!!)

BARB SWANSON SANDERS

SUMMER 2009

(* indicates more mature readers, middle school and older!!)

INTRODUCTORY PICTURE BOOK.....

The Big Little Book of Happy Sadness by Colin Thompson
Kane Miller 2008

PICTURE BOOKS

All in a Day by Cynthia Rylant/ Nikki McClure

Abrams (An ode to the opportunities in a single day)

The Big Elephant in the Room by Lane Smith

Disney-Hyperion (What is the big problem here?)

The Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin & Rosana Faria

Groundwood (How do the blind "see" color?)

A Book by Mordicai Gerstein

Roaring Brook (What happens when a girl in a book can't find her story?????)

Chicken Little by Rebecca & Ed Emberley

Roaring Brook (Wacky illustrations for this old favorite!)

Crow Call by Lois Lowry/ Bagram Ibatoulline

Scholastic (A family story about a father, a daughter, and how they bond while hunting crows)

Duck! Rabbit! By Amy Krause Rosenthal & Tom Lichtenheld

Chronicle (a visual joke...which is IT?? A duck?? A rabbit?)

Falling Down the Page: A Book of List Poems by Georgia Heard

Roaring Brook ("List" poems about school!!)

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Gennady Spirin

(Marshall Cavendish)

Goldilocks by Ruth Sanderson (Little Brown)

Goldilocks and the Three Bears by Lauren Child (Disney)

3 GORGEOUS retellings of this familiar fairy tale!

The Hair of Zoe Fellfenbacher Goes to School

by Laurie Halse Anderson/ Ard Hoyt

Simon&Schuster (Now this girl has a WILD head of hair!)

Hook by Ed Young

Roaring Brook (A young eaglet learns to fly)

Jeremy Draws a Monster by Peter McCarty

Henry Holt (What do you do if the monster is a bully?)

The Lion and the Mouse by Jerry Pinckney

Little Brown (An almost wordless retelling of the fable)

Mama Says: A Book of Love for Mothers and Sons by Rob Walker

Scholastic (Poetry from around the world) Illus by the Dillons!

The Marshmallow Incident by Judi Barrett and Ron Barrett

Scholastic (Sept) From the team that brought you Cloudy with a Chance of Meatball comes this tale of some knights & some sweets!

In Our Mothers' House by Patricia Polacco

Philomel (The story of a loving lesbian couple & their kids)

The Pied Piper's Magic by Steven Kellogg

Dial (A re-working of the original legend with wordplay!!)

Pig-Boy: A Trickster Tale from Hawaii by Gerald McCermott

Harcourt (A rare Hawaiian tale about a clever pig)

The Secret Circus by Johanna Wright (Oregon author/illustrator)

Roaring Brook (Only the mice know.....)

Tiny and Hercules by Amy Schwartz

Roaring Brook (Tiny the elephant & Hercules the mouse...in 4 easy stories about friendship)

CHAPTER BOOKS

Alvin Ho: Allergic to Camping Hiking and Other Natural Disasters

By Lenore Look Random House (A compulsive worrier!!)

Calvin Coconut: Trouble Magnet by Graham Salisbury

Scholastic (A Hawaiian boy who can't stay out of trouble)

The Cats of Roxville Station by Jean Craighead George

Dutton (Study of feral housecats charmingly illustrated)

Dessert First by Hallie Durand

Atheneum (Think of Judy Moody whose parents are chefs!)

Gooney Bird is So Absurd by Lois Lowry

Houghton Mifflin (This time Gooney tackles poetry)

Happy Birthday Bad Kitty by Nick Bruel

Roaring Brook (Sequel to Bad Kitty Gets a Bath)

Julia Gillian and the Quest for Joy by Alison McGhee

Scholastic (Another story about our charming 5th grader)

Julian Rodriguez: Episode Two: Invasion of the Relatives 9/09

By Alexander Stadler Scholastic (Our hero!!)

Junie B's Essential Survival Guide to School by Barbara Park

Random House (A WONDERFUL introduction to school)

Make Way for Dyanonde Daniel by Nikki Grimes

Putnam (A new African American character to rival Junie)

MIDDLE READERS

11 Birthdays by Wendy Mass

Scholastic (A "Groundhog's Day" for Amanda, stuck in her 11th birthday until she can solve some of the problems in her world)

The 39 Clues Book 3: Sword Thief Peter Lerangis 3/09

Book 4: Beyond the Grave Jude Watson 6/09

Book 5: Black Circle Patrick Carmen 8/09

Book 6: Untitled Jude Watson 12/09

(Watch for "The Amanda Project", Book 1 Invisible I by Melissa Kantor, coming in September..check out the website, www.theamandaproject.com)

Bettina Valentino and the Picasso Club by Niki Daly

FSG (A new art teacher rocks Bettina's world!)

Dangerous Times: a Nathan Fox Adventure by L Brittney

Macmillan (Shakespeare's young apprentice as a spy!)

Doc Wilde and the Frogs of Doom by Tim Byrd

Putnam ("Indiana Jones" for middle readers)

Dying to Meet You: 43 Old Cemetery Road by Kate & Sarah Klise

Harcourt (Ghost story told in a variety of formats)

Faith Hope and Ivy June by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Delacourt (2 girls try out each other's lives in Appalachia)
The Girl Who Threw Butterflies by Mick Cochrane
Knopf (Molly's joining the boys' team to deal with Dad's death)
The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan (Last of "Lightning Thief")
Hyperion (This series ends with a BANG!)
The Magician's Elephant by Kate DiCamillo
Candlewick (A parable about faith and caring about others)
The Missing series: Book One: Found by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Simon&Schuster (A great new time travel series begins!)
WATCH FOR BOOK TWO: Sent coming in September!
The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Prisoner's Dilemma
By Trenton Lee Stewart Little Brown September 2009
The Return of the Homework Machine by Dan Gutman
Simon&Schuster (Sequel to The Homework Machine 2007)
Tentacles by Roland Smith
Scholastic 9/09 (Kids find the Kraken or Giant Squid)
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
Little Brown (Fantasy crossed with Chinese folklore)
Zoobreak by Gordon Korman
Scholastic (Sequel to Swindle, another funny mystery!)

*OLDER READERS

All the Broken Pieces by Ann E Burg
Scholastic (A Vietnamese boy begins to heal with baseball)
Amiri and Odette: A Love Story by Walter Dean Myers
Scholastic (Retelling of "Swan Lake" set in the 'hood)
Anything But Typical by Baskin
ASK ME ABOUT THIS ONE!!!!
Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins (Sequel to Hunger Games) 10/09
Scholastic (Wonderful follow-up to this sci-fi treat)
The Chosen One by Carol Lynch Williams
Griffin (Kyra must become her uncle's fourth wife...or???)
The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Due October 2009

Fire by Kristin Cashore (companion book to Graceling)

Dial (Fantasy adventure featuring Fire whose powers are huge..)

Hero.com

Villain.net both by Andy Briggs

Walker (Beginning of a series where kids get super powers off the internet for good or for evil! Watch these titles, more to come)

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X Stork

Scholastic (Autistic teen tries his way in the "real world")

Scat by Carl Hiaasen

Knopf (Ecological mystery about the jaguars of Florida)

Skeleton Creek by Patrick Carman

Scholastic (Kids try to solve a ghost story...with videos!)

NOTE: This series hooks into a website where your kids can view the videos the characters make! Sequel 10/09 Ghost in the Machine

Starclimber by Kenneth Oppel (Airborn and Skybreaker)

Eos Books (WONDERFUL fantasy series about airships)

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead

Scholastic (Puzzle about time travel..like "6th Sense")

The Wizard of Rondo by Emily Rodda

Scholastic (Sequel to The Key to Rondo)

COMICS AND GRAPHIC NOVELS

Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3: The Last Straw by Jeff Kinney

Abrams (Watch for #4, coming in October!!)

The Elsewhere Chronicles: Book One: The Shadow Door

By Bannister et al Graphic Universe

(An old movie projector opens into a world of monsters and intrigue)

Joey Fly, Private Eye: Creepy Crawly Crime by Aaron Reynolds

Holt (Mystery in the insect world)

Lunch Lady and the League of Librarians

Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute both by Jarrett J Krosoczka

Knopf (Take-off on super heroines...AT SCHOOL)

The Tale of Despereaux: the Graphic Novel by Matt Smith et al

Candlewick (The obligatory graphic treatment of this classic)

*The Twilight Zone: Death's Head Revisited by Mark Kneese

Walker (One of a series from the old TV program)

NONFICTION

SCIENCE AND MATH

2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids by Amy Zuckerman et al
Dutton (So what WILL the universe be like???)

Christian the Lion (YA version) Delecorte

Christian the Lion (picture book) Henry Holt

Both by Anthony Bourke & John Rendell

The story of the lion who recognized his trainers in the wild)

Down, Down, Down: A Journey to the Bottom of the Sea

By Steve Jenkins Houghton Mifflin (Just what it says!)

How Many Baby Pandas? By Sandra Markle

Walker (BEAUTIFUL photos of pandas in China)

Life in the Boreal Forest by Brenda Guiberson & Gennady Spirin

Holt (Wonderful paintings illustrate this introduction)

Look to the Stars by Buzz Aldrin & Wendell Minor

Putnam (The moon landing as retold by the man who lived it)

One Giant Leap by Robert Burleigh & Mike Wimmer

Philomel (Another retelling of the moon landing)

Pocket Guide to The Outdoors: Based on My Side of the Mountain

By Jean Craighead George Penguin September 2009

Tsunami! By Kimiko Kajikawa & Ed Young

Philomel (Japanese tale of the power of tsunami & courage)

*Written in Bone: Buried Lives of Jamestown and Colonial Maryland

By Sally M Walker Carolrhoda (Archeology & forensics!)

You are the First Kid on Mars by Patrick O'Brien

Putnam (Exactly what it says)

SOCIAL STUDIES

*The Anne Frank Case: Simon Wiesenthal's Search for the Truth

By Susan Goldman Rubin Holiday House

(Fascinating account of his 5 year search for the Nazi who arrested the Frank family, in response to a challenge by NeoNazi youth)

El Barrio by Debbi Chocolate & David Diaz

Holt (Ode to life in the Hispanic community)

Hands of the Rain Forest: The Embera People of Panama by Crandell

Holt (Intriguing look at a tribal culture we know little about)

Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr Greg & 3 Cups of Tea

By Greg Mortenson & Susan L Roth Dial

(See also : Three Cups of Tea by Mortenson & Oliver Relin)

These books tell the story of a man who changed the lives of children in Pakistan by building schools there....)

My People: a Poem by Langston Hughes by Charles R Smith Jr

Atheneum (Photo essay based on Hughes' poetry)

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

By Katie Smith Milway Chronicle (Great story about African ingenuity...based on a true story of economic recovery!)

One World, One Day by Barbara Kerley

National Geographic (Photo essay around the world)

Our World of Water: Children & Water Around the World

By Beatrice Hollyer Holt (Photo essay)

*The Photographer: Into the Afghan War Zone with Doctors Without Borders
by Guibert, Lefevre, and Lemercier Firstsecondbooks

Graphic study/photo essay about the Afghan war (for older kids)

HISTORICAL FICTION

Al Capone Shines My Shoes by Gennifer Choldenko (9/09)

Dial (Great sequel to Al Capone Does My Shirts)

The Brooklyn Nine: a Novel in Nine Innings by Alan Gratz

Dial (Nine short vignettes about the evolution of the game)

* Crossing Stones by Helen Frost

FSG (Free verse novel about WWI and the suffragettes)

*The Devil's Paintbox by Victoria McKernan

Knopf (Two children travel the Oregon Trail...extremely realistic)

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate by Jacqueline Kelly

Holt (A young girl at the turn of the 20th Century loves science)

Flygirl by Sherri L Smith

Putnam (Women Air Force pilots in WWII)

For the Duration: The War Years by Tomie DePaola

Putnam (Tomie's memories of the WWII years)

January's Sparrow by Patricia Polacco

Penguin 9/09 (A slave family escapes to Canada..almost)

Minnow and Rose: An Oregon Trail Story by Judy Young

Sleeping Bear Press (A pioneer girl and a Native American)

The (Mostly) True Adventures of Homer P Figg by Rodman Philbrick

Scholastic (Hilarious adventures of a lovable liar in Civil War!)

Nick of Time: An Adventure Through Time by Ted Bell

St Martin's (WWII adventure through time...to Lord Nelson's ship and Winston Churchill's office and a pirates' ship!!!!)

A Season of Gifts by Richard Peck

Penguin 9/09 (More adventures of Grandma Dowdel!!!!)

Stonewall Hinkleman and the Battle of Bull Run by Michael Hemphill

Dial (Stonewall goes back in time to the REAL battle)

When the Whistle Blows by Fran Cannon Slayton

Philomel (10 Halloweens in the 1940s Appalachian railroad country)

BIOGRAPHY

An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers by Natasha Wing

Holt (Biography of the artist who was fascinated by color)

Coretta Scott by Ntozake Shange & Kadir Nelson

Harper (Poetic tribute to Coretta Scott King)

Cromwell Dixon's Sky-Cycle by John Abbott Nez

Putnam (True story of a boy inventor whose bicycle flies!)

Diego: Bigger Than Life by Carmen Bernier Grand & David Diaz

Marshall Cavendish (Poetic retelling of Rivera's life)

Eleanor, Quiet No More: The Life of Eleanor Roosevelt

By Doreen Rapaport Disney (Using her own words!)

Louisa: The life of Louisa May Alcott by Yona Zeldis McDonough

Holt (Beautiful illustrations add to Alcott's life story)

My Uncle Emily by Jane Yolen & Nancy Carpenter

Philomel (From the point of view of her nephew)

Nubs: The True Story of a Mutt, a Marine & a Miracle

By Major Brian Dennis et al Little Brown

(A true story from Iraq of a dog who wouldn't leave his Marine)

Our Abe Lincoln by Jim Aylseworth & Barbara McClintock

Scholastic ('An Old Tune with New Lyric')

Words to My Life's Song by Ashley Bryan

Atheneum (The life of the artist and storyteller)

AND SOME BOOKS ABOUT DARWIN.....

Darwin, With Glimpses into His Private Journal & Letters

By Alice B McGinty & Mary Azarian Houghton Mifflin

What Darwin Saw: The Journey That Changed the World

By Rosalyn Schanzer National Geographic

One Beetle Too Many: The Extraordinary Adventures of Charles Darwin by

Kathryn Lasky & Matthew Trueman Candlewick Press

AND FINALLY.....Coming in October 2009, a book for EVERYONE!!!!

Everything I Need to Know I Learned From a Children's Book: Life Lessons
from Notable People from All Walks of Life

Edited by Anita Silvey Roaring Brook Press