

BIG BOOKS OF 2007

As Compiled by Barb Swanson Sanders

August, 2007

(* = Highly recommended)

PICTURE BOOKS

Fiction.....

*17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore by Jenny Offill & Nancy Carpenter. Random House/Schwartz & Wade (What happens after you get in trouble??)

All-I'll-Ever-Want Christmas Doll by Patricia C McKissack & Jerry Pinkney. Random House/Schwartz & Wade (A Xmas story set in Depression-Era South)

Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What Do You Say? By Bill Martin, Jr & Eric Carle. Holt (Final collaboration of the author/illustrator of "Brown Bear, Brown Bear")

Cowboy and Octopus by Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith. Viking (An unlikely friendship)

Dadblamed Union Army Cow by Susan Fletcher (LOCAL AUTHOR). Candlewick (Based on a true story of the Civil War..by the author of Shadow Spinner)

Diary of a Fly by Doreen Cronin & Harry Bliss. HarperCollins (Another in the series about bugs and their "real" lives!!)

*Dog and Bear Two Friends, Three Stories by Laura Vaccaro Seeger. Roaring Brook Press (Simple stories for sharing, or a beginning independent reader)

Duck at the Door by Jackie Urbanovic. HarperCollins (Max finds a home for himself when the other ducks go south!)

*The End by David LaRochelle & Richard Egielski. Scholastic/Arthur A Levine (This story is REALLY backwards!!!!)

Fancy Nancy and the Posh Puppy by Jane O'Connor & Robin Preiss Glasser. HarperCollins (A sequel that lives up to its predecessor!!)

Knock! Knock!: Who's There? By 40 Children's book artists. Dial (The best of the best jokes illustrated by a team of experts!)

*Knuffle Bunny Too by Mo Willems. Hyperion (Trixie goes to school...and Knuffle Bunny has an adventure!!)

The Lemonade Club by Patricia Polacco. Philomel Books (True story of a friendship tested by leukemia)

Nothing by Jon Agee. Hyperion (Can you sell "nothing"?)

Orange Pear Apple Bear by Emily Gravett. Simon & Schuster (A story with only 4 words...almost!!)

The Perfect Nest by Catherine Friend & John Manders. Candlewick Press (Trying to lure the "perfect egg for an omelette", Jack the Cat gets !?!)

Pink Refrigerator by Tim Egan. Houghton Mifflin (Creativity in an old pink refrigerator? Antidote to boredom!)

Poor Puppy by Nick Bruel (author of Bad Kitty). Roaring Brook Press (Wonderful alphabet AND number book!!)

*Scaredy Squirrel Makes a Friend by Melanie Watt (author of Scaredy Squirrel). Kids Can Press (Great way to teach VOICE!!)

The Three Snow Bears by Jan Brett. Putnam (An Arctic "take" on the "3 Bears")

*Sugar Cane: A Caribbean Rapunzel by Patricia Storage & Raul Colon. Hyperion (A beautiful re-telling!!)

*That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown by Cressida Cowell & Neal Layton. Hyperion (Queen Glorianna CAN'T have Emily's rabbit...no matter what!)

The Wizard by Jack Prelutsky & Brandon Dorman. Greenwillow (A beautiful edition of Prelutsky's poem)

When a Monster is Born by Sean Taylor & Nick Sharratt. Roaring Brook Press ("What If" possibilities!!!)

Wolf! Wolf! By John Rocco. Hyperion (Aesop's fable retold with a Japanese flavor)

Nonfiction.....

Adventures of Riley: Operation Orangutan by Amanda Lumry & Laura Hurwitz. Eaglemont Press (The latest adventure of Riley & his uncle, the biologist!)

Animal Poems by Valerie Worth (Illustrated by Steve Jenkins). Farrar Straus (A collection of poems by the great children's poet)

*Another Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It Bad by Mark Gonyea. Holt (A follow-up to A Book About Design: Complicated Doesn't Make It Good)

*The Arrival by Shaun Tan. Scholastic (A wordless book about immigration...AMAZING!!)

The Bee Tree by Stephen Buchmann et al. Cinco Puntos Press (Malaysia bee-keeping! Glorious paintings....)

Beetle Bop! By Denise Fleming. Harcourt (Fleming's signature paintings about the world of beetles)

Bronzeville Boys and Girls by Gwendolyn Brooks & Faith Ringgold. HarperCollins (Brooks' poetry of the city coupled with Ringgold's newest work)

Comets, Stars, the Moon & Mars by Douglas Florian. Harcourt (Subtitled: "Space Poems and Paintings")

Dogs & Cats by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin (Opening front and back, info about our pets)

George's Secret Key to the Universe by Steven Hawking & Lucy Hawking. Simon & Schuster (The great physicist's work..for kids)

The Girl's Like Spaghetti: Why, You Can't Manage Without Apostrophes! By Lynne Truss. Putnam (Another funny look at punctuation!)

Good Sports: Poems about Running, Jumping, Throwing, and More by Prelutsky & Raschka. Knopf (Great illustrations for Prelutsky's poems!)

Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad by Ellen Levine. Scholastic (Kadir Nelson's pictures highlight this story about mailing a man to freedom) _

Houdini: The Handcuff King by Jason Lutes & Nick Bertozzi. Hyperion
(A graphic novel about one of Houdini's famous stunts)

Living Color by Steve Jenkins. Houghton Mifflin (About animal color & the functions it serves)

Mother Goose: Numbers on the Loose by Leo and Diane Dillon. Harcourt
(Mother Goose rhymes about Numbers)

My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks & Other Funny Family Portraits by Hanoch Piven. Random House/Schwartz & Wade (Wonderful collages...and creative writing starts)

Owen and Mzee: The Language of Friendship by Isabella Hatkoff et al. Scholastic (Sequel to the original book about the tortoise & the hippo who bonded)

Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas by Meghan McCarthy. Knopf
(An introduction to his life)

The Tale of Pale Male: A True Story by Jeanette Winter. Harcourt
(About the red-tailed hawks that nested in a NYC skyscraper)

* Torina's World: A Child's Life in Madagascar by Joni Kabana (LOCAL AUTHOR) Arnica Publishing (Local author bonds with a child in Madagascar)

*The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sis. Farrar Straus
(The childhood of the illustrator in Prague)

MIDDLE GRADE FICTION

Atherton: The House of Power by Patrick Carman. Little Brown (A new series by the author of "Elyon" for older readers)

*The Aurora County All-Stars by Deborah Wiles. Harcourt (The "Ruby" trilogy ends here...with a tale of grief and baseball)

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems by John Grandits. Clarion (By the author of "Technically Its Not My Fault"...great poetry!!)

The Book of Time by Guillaume Prevost. Scholastic/Arthur A Levine
(September) (Time travel for grades 4-7)

The Castle Corona by Sharon Creech (Illuminated by David Diaz). HarperCollins (Fantasy by the Newbery author..."Long ago & far away...")

A Crooked Kind of Perfect by Linda Urban. Harcourt (A young musician and her kooky family)

Edward's Eyes by Patricia MacLachlan. Atheneum (A remarkable boy leaves his mark....)

*Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis. Scholastic (Historical novel about freed slaves in Canada...1850s)

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis. Dial (A "logical" 7th grader learns some social skills)

A Friendship for Today by Patricia C McKissack. Scholastic (School integration seen through two different girls' eyes)

The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio by Lloyd Alexander. Holt (Adventure from the late fantasy author)

*Gooney the Fabulous by Lois Lowry & Middy Thomas. Houghton Mifflin (Gooney tackles fables...and, of course, life!!)

I Am Not Joey Pigza by Jack Gantos. Farrar Straus (Joey's dad re-imagines his family...to Joey's chagrin!)

*Iris, Messenger by Sarah Deming. Harcourt (Another teen meets up with the gods...tie to Riordan's novels)

*The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. Scholastic (UNIQUE!!! 500 pages of drawings, story, and mystery)

Iron Thunder by Avi. Hyperion (Historical novel about the Monitor & Merrimac)

*Jack Plank Tells Tales by Natalie Babbitt. Scholastic (A selection of short stories told by a former pirate looking for a job)

Lawn Boy by Gary Paulsen. Random House/Wendy Lamb Books (How to make\$\$\$ by mowing lawns)

Leepike Ridge by N D Wilson. Random House (A fantasy/adventure story...with a little mystery thrown in!)

Moxy Maxwell Does NOT Love Stuart Little by Peggy Gifford. Random House/Schwartz & Wade (How do you organize your summer reading?)

Mr Chickee's Messy Mission by Christopher Paul Curtis. Random House/Wendy Lamb Books (Part fantasy, part mystery, part farce!)

*The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart. Little Brown (Testing, mysteries, puzzles, intrigue...this book has it all!)

The Name of this Book is Secret by Pseudonymous Bosch. Little Brown (No one knows what happens in this mystery!!??)

The Neddiad: How Neddie Took The Train, Went to Hollywood & Saved Civilization by Daniel Pinkwater. Houghton Mifflin (Fantasy with a touch of reality)

Nightmare Academy by Dean Lorey. HarperCollins (What happens when your nightmares come alive...really!!)

On the Wings of Heroes by Richard Peck. Dial (World War II invades Davy's homefront boyhood.....)

Paint the Wind by Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic (A horse story by an author who developed a fixation)

*Peak by Roland Smith. Harcourt (A mountain-climbing whiz kid tries his hand at Everest)

*Skulduggery Pleasant by Derek Landy. HarperCollins (A spoof on detective novels...with a skeleton as the detective!)

*The Talented Clementine by Sara Pennypacker. Hyperion (Is our favorite third-grader "talented" at ANYTHING???)

*Time to Smell The Roses: A Hermux Tantamoq Adventure by Michael Hoeye. Putnam (The 4th mystery in Hermux' mouse community!)

Time Warp Trio "I Can Read" Series by Jon Scieszka. HarperCollins (The time-travel series for younger readers!)

*Way Down Deep by Ruth White. Farrar Straus (Ruby, of the Roost boardinghouse, in Way Down Deep, W VA)

YOUNG ADULT NOVELS

*Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Little Brown (Searing story of a Spokane Indian boy...)

The Alchemyst: The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel by Michael Scott. Delacorte (First in a series about the mysteries of time & space....)

Alfred Kropp: The Seal of Solomon by Rick Yancey. Bloomsbury Books (sequel to “The Amazing Adventures of Alfred Kropp”)

Before I Die by Jenny Downham. David Fickling Books/RH (Leukemia changes your priorities)

Billy Creekmore by Tracey Porter. HarperCollins (Historical fiction in the vein of Mark Twain)

The Corps of the Bare-Boned Plane by Polly Horvath. Farrar Straus (Teen cousins build an aircraft to help heal their grief...)

Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata. Atheneum (A dog’s tale of life in the canine corps..bomb sniffing in Vietnam)

*A Darkling Plain (The Hungry City Series) by Philip Reeve. HarperCollins (The final installment in a futuristic world where cities move around)

*Deadline by Chris Crutcher. Greenwillow (How do you keep your diagnosis a secret senior year?)

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: A Novel in Cartoons by Jeff Kinney. Amulet Books/Abrams (Graphic novel about life in middle school)

Does My Head Look Big in This? By Randa Abdel-Fattah. Orchard (An Australian girl decides to wear the hijab full time....)

Eggs by Jerry Spinelli. Little Brown (Two scarred young people form an unusual friendship)

The Falconer’s Knot: A Story of Friars, Flirtation & Foul Play by Mary Hoffman. Bloomsbury (A mystery set in Medieval Italy)

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson. Putnam (A pale “Jesus Boy” steps into a black classroom..and changes it all)

If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period by Jennifer Choldenko. Harcourt
(A Middle school novel dealing with race, family...)

*In Search of Mockingbird by Loretta Ellsworth. Holt (Erin's mom died young..but loved Harper Lee & her novel)

*Kiki Strike: The Empress's Tomb by Kirsten Miller. (sequel to Inside the Shadow City) Bloomsbury (5 young girls in NYC...strong characters, quirky stories...)

Laika by Nick Abadzis. First Second Books (Graphic novel about 1st dog in space)

Love, Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli. Knopf (Companion to Stargirl, from her perspective in a new town, after Leo)

Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac by Gabrielle Zevin (author of Elsewhere) Farrar Straus (Naomi's amnesia changes everything....)

My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow. Harper (Desegregation in southern schools seen by the daughter of a segregationist)

*The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World by E L Konigsburg. Atheneum (The Holocaust, the world of art, and a friendship)

The New Policeman by Kate Thompson. Greenwillow (Mystical Irish story of music, mythology, and wonder...)

The Off Season by Catherine Gilbert Murdock (author of Dairy Queen). Houghton Mifflin (Sequel to the story of D J Schwenk, football star... and a girl)

Powers by Ursula K LeGuin. (companion to Gifts and Voices) Harcourt (Original mythology about "story" & how it works...)

A Swift Pure Cry by Siobhan Dowd. David Fickling Books (Irish girl falls for a priest in her small Irish community)

*Un Lun Dun by China Mieville. Del Rey (Quirky fantasy about a mirror-image London...and its secrets)

The Wednesday Wars by Gary Schmidt. Clarion (The Sixties, & Holling Hoodhood's teacher makes him read Shakespeare!)Wildwood Dancing by Juliet Marillier. Knopf (Alternative worlds collide in a "12 Dancing Princesses" tale)