Welcome!
We had a great time visiting with many of you at the “Get Kids Reading” workshops held around the state last week. It’s always fun to hear about the creative programs and activities library staff are doing in their schools and communities. The photo at the right shows some of the participants in Boise sharing ideas for motivating tweens and teens to read. We encourage you to keep on sharing those great ideas in The Scoop. We have some leftover nonfiction books from the workshops and will be happy to exchange great new books for your contributions to this publication! Just send a quick email to Stephanie, Staci, or Erica and let us know what you’re doing in your libraries.
Dates and Deadlines

- **Family Reading Week registration is still open.** This opportunity is filling up fast, so sign up now!
- You can apply anytime to participate in the Idaho Child Care Reads Program or Year-Round Underserved program.

Library to Library

Read to Me Bag Sighted on ICfL Board Tour
Public Information Specialist Teresa Lipus told us that as the ICfL Board was touring the American Falls District Library on October 14 they noticed a patron carrying her Read to Me bag from the Every Child Ready to Read family workshops. “We just love it!” said Mom Kimi Taylor. Little Shaylee and Gabe filled up the bag, then spent time playing with their mom in the play literacy area of the library.

Idaho libraries share Family Reading Week Ideas
Library staff, teachers, and VISTA volunteers who participated in the recent fall trainings shared some wonderful ideas for this year’s theme “Let the Games Begin @ your library.”

**Activities and Events**
- Miniature golf in the stacks
- Create your own jigsaw puzzle
- Book scavenger hunt
- Trivial Pursuit tournament
- Speed reading (like speed dating) where you read to your partner
- Puppet plays
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid release party including games like “Fregly’s Jelly Beans” and “Put the Booger on Greg”
- Read a mystery book and have the kids choose a title and cover art
- Wii tournament
- Board Game Night with lots of food
- Native American times – history of Shoshone, crafts, and games they played
• Hunger Games – survival of the fittest (race to the Cornucopia, practice survival skills, and library scavenger hunt)
• Family movie afternoon
• Family Treasure Hunt
• Bingo night
• Book Walk game (like a cake walk!)
• Interactive Scrabble
• Stump the Librarian
• Building blocks, Legos, and Mr. Potato Head area to encourage all family play
• Create popcorn balls to look like basketballs or baseballs
• Send home an activity or craft for entire family
• Set up literacy play stations
• PJ Storytime
• Reading passports – use throughout the week for different events
• Electronic gaming night
• “Game Day” food like hotdogs, popcorn, and peanuts
• Play “Guess the Google” game
• Interactive game shows

Marketing and Promoting
• School reader boards
• Newsletters of every kind
• Mayoral proclamation
• Talk with Boy and Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs
• Create Bulletin Boards/Displays
• Have the Principal read on the announcements and talk up the event
• Flyers around school, town
• School visits by public library staff
• Attend Parent-Teacher nights at schools and provide information
• Custom made “scratch tickets” to bring to the library for a prize
• Partner or advertise with Parks and Recreation department

Prize Ideas
• Bookmarks
• Games
• Books
• Credit towards library fines
• Small toys

Kids in Hayden Display Early Literacy Skills
Cassie Kelley, children’s librarian at the Community Library Network at Hayden, has
been encouraging parents in her Every Child Ready to Read family workshops and storytimes to provide writing materials and involve children in literacy activities. One of the little guys in Miss Cassie’s story time made up a grocery list. His mom couldn’t help sharing it with Miss Cassie, who whipped up a whole scrapbook page. Young Adult Librarian Nick Madsen thought we’d like to see it as well. It’s a great example of early literacy in action and a great way to display that information for other parents to see too!

Librarians Enjoy Halloween Fun Too
Librarians around the state encouraged storytime children to attend in costume, sponsored treat times, and got into the Halloween spirit this week. Jean Hauritz shared this fun picture of the storytime children at Priest River Library who enjoyed a costume party for Halloween.

Young Adult Corner

Teen Biographies
Need a great booklist of biographies for teens? Monmouth County Library put together this resource for you at www.monmouthcountylib.org/BiographiesforTeens.doc

Teens and Technology Ideas?
We are in the planning stages for the next ICfL Teens and Technology Course. If you have suggestions for technology you would like to learn more about during this professional development opportunity, please email Erica with your ideas at erica.compton@libraries.idaho.gov.

Teen Read Week Projects Coming In!
Thanks to those of you participating in the “Picture It with Posters” project who have submitted posters and essays. Remember, the deadline for the projects is now Wednesday, November 9. Voting will now take place from November 12-20. Please call or email Erica if you have any questions at all! We hope your Teen Read Week activities were successful! Remember to send us write-ups and pictures of the events you sponsored so we can share them in The Scoop.

Dystopias Are Everywhere
No matter where you look -- on the bookshelves and in the theaters -- dystopias are there. School Library Journal had an interesting article in their August issue on dystopias. In their
words they are “grim, humorless, and hopeless -- and incredibly appealing to today’s teens.” Read the entire article at here.

More Teen-friendly Ideas for Idaho Family Reading Week

- Wii Have Fun and Learn. Video game play can support the curriculum in many exciting ways, [www.libraryjournal.com/slj/printissuecurrentissue/890947-427/wii_have_fun_and_learn.html.csp](http://www.libraryjournal.com/slj/printissuecurrentissue/890947-427/wii_have_fun_and_learn.html.csp) (from the July School Library Journal issue)
- Games for Educators, [www.g4ed.com/index.php](http://www.g4ed.com/index.php)

School Zone

How Idaho School Library Staff Motivate Students to Read

We asked library staff who attended last week’s “Get Kids Reading” workshops how they motivate kids to read at their schools. Here are a few ideas they shared:

Barbara McFarland at Dalton Elementary School said she encourages boys to read by always including nonfiction in her storytimes. “To highlight the nonfiction topic, I try to bring in a prop that coincides with the topic -- a beaver pelt with a book about beavers, a Morse code key for a biography about Samuel Morse, a glass float about the seashore and so forth. Such items often engage the class, especially the boys,” she said.

Teresa Miller at Peregrine Elementary booktalks all new books as they come in. “I read aloud to all grades and we act some out,” she said. They’ve also recently tried sending home “We Both Read” books with struggling students. “The parents read one page (harder text) and the students read one page (easier text). There are comprehension tests so they get points for reading them.”

“During our morning announcements students do a short book review called ‘You Should Read This Book.’ They share why they feel other kids should read the books and their favorite part in the story. Kids tend to listen to their peers.” – Colleen Olive, Kamiah School District

Kiersten Kerr from Coeur d’Alene High School has a digital picture frame running book trailers in the library. “It definitely gets kids’ attention and then gets them interested in the books,” she said. Kiersten also has a bulletin board in the hallway where she posts information on new books and different reading programs.

Lora Seaman from Skyway Elementary has come up with some creative contests throughout the year. They just finished a pumpkin contest where students read a book and turned a pumpkin into one of the characters or used the pumpkin to somehow depict the book. She did a similar contest with old shoes. Students take an old shoe and make it a depiction of a book. (We hope she sends some photos of some of these to The Scoop!). In addition to a showcase with book selections for parents to see, Lora sponsored a Lonely Hearts Book Club. “I make a selection of books that aren’t checked
out often. The kids read them and write love letters to the book they love! I publish the letters for all to read.”

If you have an idea for how you motivate students to read at your school, we’d love to hear it. We also welcome photos of library displays, reading events, and anything else you’d like to share with others in the Idaho library community. We plan on sharing lots more ideas in upcoming issues.

**Upcoming Events**

**Digital Learning Day and Teen Tech Week**

YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association) is partnering with the Alliance for Excellent Education and others to implement Digital Learning Day on Feb. 1, 2012. Learn more about this event and sign up to participate at [www.digitallearningday.org](http://www.digitallearningday.org).

Digital Learning Day is a great lead-in to Teen Tech Week, which will be celebrated with the theme “Geek Out @ your library” on March 4 – 10, 2012. The website for Teen Tech Week is [www.ala.org/teentechweek](http://www.ala.org/teentechweek).

**Idaho Family Reading Week: November 13 – 19, 2011**

“Let the Games Begin!”

Every Idaho public library and public elementary school should have received a Family Reading Week resource CD by now. If you would like an extra CD or two, please contact us so we can get another in the mail to you.

Be sure to open this right away to access important information about registering your event and to begin planning your activities. Registration opened on September 23 and the spots are filling fast! Remember, there are only spots for the first 130 eligible libraries. Register here: [http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/idaho-family-reading-week](http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/idaho-family-reading-week).

**Celebrate Geography Awareness Week**

Geography Awareness Week is November 13–19, 2011. It’s a great time to introduce students to youth literature that can transport them across time and place. It’s also a great time to share information about primary-sources.

**Tips & Tools**

**Coretta Scott King Award Review Books Donation Grant.**

Every year, in the process of choosing the Coretta Scott King Award winners and honor books, the Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (EMIERT) of the American Library Association receives multiple copies of approximately 300 books by African American
authors and illustrators. Once the award is chosen, these review copies must be removed to make room for the next year's nominees. The Awards Committee donates these books to underfunded school or public libraries, or other agencies that serve children, especially nontraditional institutions that provide both educational and custodial services to children and their families.

If your library and community are in need, or if you know of a child-serving agency that suits the qualifications for the Review Books Donation Grant, you can find more information and a link to the application at www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/csckbookawards/bookgrant.cfm. Applications must be received by December 1.

**Novelist Connection: Board Books**
Are you looking for outstanding board books to share with babies one-on-one or in small groups? On any search page in NoveList K-8 Plus, enter “board books” and click on Search. Next, click on the List & Articles tab for a list of 40 titles that can also serve as a core collection. These books have such infant appealing features as high contrast black-and-white objects; babies and families; clearly defined illustrations; strong rhymes, rhythm and repetition; and animal sounds and lullabies. We hope to share a few tips on using Novelist here from time to time. Novelist is a great resource and we're so happy to have it back in Idaho!

**Consider Applying for an Idaho Community Foundation Grant**
The Idaho Community Foundation recently provided grants in eastern Idaho including $2,000 for the Rigby Public Library to purchase two educational junior desktop stations and $900 to Malad Elementary School to purchase library books.

Grant applications for the northern region of Idaho will be accepted from November 1 to January 15 with final review by the Board of Directors at their May meeting. Distribution of Northern Region grants is scheduled to begin in June. See www.idcomfdn.org/ for more information.

**Create Your Very Own Photo Booth to Capture the Fun**
The Collister Branch of the Boise Public Library created some wonderful photo strips as part of their Teen Read Week activities. They used a Mac computer with a webcam and THIS software to capture images of teens from two middle schools in the area. They then imported the images into a bookmark template created in Publisher and printed them out for the kids. What a great idea!

Don’t have a Mac? That’s OK there is software for PCs too! http://snap.en.softonic.com/?gclid=CPCwufXJmKwCFQ40hwodkiVjOQ
www.cameroid.com/
www.seenly.com/

Another creative idea using photo strips:
Photo Strip Bow! - www.curbly.com/swelldesigner/posts/9547-easy-photostrip-bow

**Free Professional Digital Photo Editor**
Here's a free photo editor that claims to rival Photoshop.
From their website: “The GIMP (The GNU Image Manipulation Program) is a professional digital photo editor that is the open source answer to Adobe Photoshop. It has a raster image editor that is the envy of commercial editors. The GIMP’s tools can do the unimaginable with any image you want to edit or build from scratch. It can be used as a simple paint program, a photo retouching program, an image renderer, or an image format converter. The GIMP supports layered design, gradients and an endless list of incredible functions.”

We have not used it, but you can check it out [HERE](#).

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**Summer Reading News**

**How many kids did we reach with summer reading programs in 2011?**

This was a great year! Here are some highlights from the SRP Reports:

- 143 out of 146 publicly-funded public “member” libraries in Idaho submitted reports
- 51,634 kids from birth to age 18 registered for summer reading programs
- 19,819 kids were reached through events held at schools, parks, and other outreach locations
- We’ll do the math for you: That’s **71,423 kids**, a slight increase of about 2000 from 2010. Great job, libraries!
- 99 libraries offered SRPs for kids who are not yet school age; 105 offered programs for elementary-age kids; and 101 offered programs for teens/tweens.
- 108 libraries said they visited schools in the spring to promote summer reading; 71 said the schools brought students to the library in the spring in order to promote summer reading.

**Stay informed!**

There are several ways to stay informed about summer reading deadlines, outreach programs, special events, and resources that will help you plan and implement your SRP this year:

- **ICfL Website.** Just about everything you need to know about Summer Reading in Idaho can be found on our website!
  - Main summer reading page: Bright Futures Outreach Opportunities (School Visits, Underserved Children, School Partnerships), Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP), and Final report information [http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading](http://libraries.idaho.gov/landing/summer-reading)
  - SRP Resources page: Program ideas, research, PowerPoint presentations, handouts, helpful websites, booklists, timelines and planning tips, web banners and e-branch skins, the preschool gameboard/reading log, and more! [http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources](http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/summer-reading-resources)
- **Collaborative Summer Library Programs (CSLP) Website.** Use this website to place your Upstart orders, access Rules of Use information, download special program components not included in your manual or DVD, and much more! Only member
libraries can access certain pages (all publicly-funded public libraries). You must register for a free username and password. www.cslpreads.org.

- **The Scoop.** All deadlines, program opportunities, and important announcements will be included in the *Scoop* every other week. We will also include program ideas and resources, which will then be placed on our SRP Resources website.

- **LibIdaho.** This is the Idaho Library Association’s listserv, and one of the only ways to reach the overall Idaho library community. We will post important deadlines and final report information on this listserv several times throughout the year. If you are not yet a subscriber, please sign up today at www.idaholibraries.org/libidaho.

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**A Closer Look at a Successful Head Start / Library Partnerships**

*If You’re Partners and You Know It, Clap Your Hands!*
By Julie Armstrong and Brenda Whipps, Madison Head Start Teachers

“Da-da-da-da” “Huh?” “It’s gone!” The children’s eyes were riveted as the story came to life through the talented sound effects and storytelling of Miss Tammy. What had happened to the book the cat was reading? (The illustrator informally dubbed him Gatto). Had the bear eaten it, or the shark swallowed it? The children were anxious to find out. Miss Tammy is actually Tamara Hawley-House, a children’s librarian for Boise Public Library. She is the Read to Me First Book storyteller for the Madison Head Start center. This is the first time that all four classes at the center have been recipients of a First Book grant.

In the recently revised Child Development and Early Learning Framework from the National Head Start Office there is a domain of learning entitled Literacy Knowledge and Skills. One of the skills to be developed in this domain is Book Appreciation. It is defined as “the interest in books and their characteristics, and the ability to understand and get meaning from stories and information from books and other texts”. Sub-skills to be developed in this domain are:

- Shows interest in shared reading experiences and looking at books independently
- Recognizes how books are read, such as front-to-back and one page at a time, and recognizes basic characteristics such as title, author, and illustrator
- Asks and answers questions and makes comments about print materials
- Demonstrates interest in different kinds of literature, such as fiction and non-fiction books and poetry, on a range of topics
Retells stories or information from books through conversations, artistic works, creative movement, or drama

All of these skills will be developed as our students participate in Read to Me storytimes, and are able to extend their learning through taking the book and newsletter home. These skills also fit harmoniously into the six literacy goals of the library’s Every Child Ready to Read program.

We surveyed our families to see how they are currently using library services. We want to be able to support our library partners as best we can. Out of our combined 36 students, half of them responded. The results show that there is work to be done in helping our families be aware of the services they can tap into at the library.

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<th>Weekly</th>
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<td>Go to library</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Have a library card</td>
<td>12 out of 18</td>
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<td>Go to storytime</td>
<td>7 of 18</td>
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We are grateful to have the First Book program for our students. The Joint Position Statement of the International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children says “…that achieving high standards of literacy for every child in the United States is a shared responsibility of schools, early childhood programs, families and communities” (Joint Position Statement, 1998, p.8). With grants for programs such as First Book, and talented storytellers like Miss Tammy, we will be able to achieve this goal together.

References:
Learning to Read and Write: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Children
A Position Statement of the International Reading Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children, 1998.

CE News You Can Use

头皮 Upcoming ALSC Webinars – Winter 2011/12
The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is offering a full slate of webinars this winter. In the next few months, ALSC will also be offering Storytelling 2.0. In this webinar, participants will learn how to incorporate new technologies – like iPads, digital cameras, and social media – into their storytelling. For more information on these webinars, such as times, fees, and registration, please visit the ALSC online education page at www.ala.org/alsced.
They also archive past webinars and charge a small fee to access those. Below is a calendar of upcoming webinars:

**November**

**December**
- Connecting with Many Children from Many Cultures: Cultural Literacy @your library, Mon., Dec. 5, 2011, 1 - 2 PM CT
- Storytelling 2.0. Fri., Dec. 16, 2011, 10 - 11 AM CT

**January**
- Día 201: Community Partnerships, Marketing, and Funding, Wed., Jan. 11, 2012, 1 - 2 PM CT
- Storytelling 2.0, Friday, Jan. 13, 2012, 10 - 11 AM CT

**February**
- Storytelling 2.0, Mon., Feb. 6, 2012, 1 - 2 PM CT
- Connecting with Many Children from Many Cultures: Cultural Literacy @your library, Fri., Feb. 10, 2012, 1 - 2 PM CT

**March**
- Día 201: Community Partnerships, Marketing, and Funding, Fri., Mar. 2, 2012, 1 - 2 PM CT
- Storytelling 2.0. Monday, Mar. 19, 2012, 6 - 7 PM CT

**April**

 archivo webinar sounds interesting

**Free Archived Webinar Sounds Interesting**

Multimedia in Your Library: Innovative Learning Tools for Literacy, Languages, and More. An hour-long presentation begins with new discoveries about how the brain works and how the learning process should meet the specific needs of students and patrons. Sponsors Playaway and Mango then share innovative ways to make audio and video more accessible as literacy and language learning tools. This webinar originally took place in April, but sounds good!

**Multicultural Connections**

**New Resources for Día 2012**
Next year the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) will celebrate the 16th anniversary of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day), also known as Día, on April 30, 2012.
On Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, ALSC will roll out the new El día de los niños/El día de los libros website. The new website will include a free downloadable resource guide containing programming, outreach, book lists, activity sheets and other resources. Also, the website will be reorganized and expanded to include resources directed at parents, caregivers and children. A program model and resources for school libraries will also be featured on the new Día website.

Once again, librarians can register their event on the Día website. Registration opens on Nov. 14, 2011. ALSC is offering free stickers (this year in both English and in Spanish) to those who register and “Ask Me about Día!” buttons for library staff (in English and in Spanish).

ALSC is also offering three new Día-related webinars starting in January 2012.

- **Making Every Day a Día Day: Incorporating Día into Current Youth Programming** explores the possibilities of multicultural programming every day.
- **Connecting with Many Children from Many Cultures: Cultural Literacy @your library** discusses culturally sensitive library services.
- **Día 201: Community Partnerships, Marketing, and Funding** takes on holding larger-scale Día events in your community.

Click [here](#) to check out archived and upcoming webinars.

Stay tuned for information on the ICfL’s Día opportunity for 2012.

**Books for Native American Month – courtesy of Debbie Reese, Ph.D.-YALSA-Bk**

“Though I find it problematic to observe any demographic in a specific month (it suggests we do not have to pay attention to them the rest of the time), I also recognize that many of you are working with teachers who are doing studies of American Indians this month. In the spirit of helping you help those teachers find books that accurately portray American Indians, I'm writing to point you to five book/resource lists available at American Indians in Children's Literature.

To get to the lists, go to [http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/](http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/) and look at the far right column under the IF YOU'RE STARTING A LIBRARY... section. There, you'll see:

- Top Board Books for Babies
- Top Ten Books for Elem School
- Top Ten Books for Middle School
- Top Ten Books for High School
- Top Books/Resource about Boarding Schools

Please share this email and the lists with your patrons, friends, colleagues, and parents.”

**Know the Numbers**

2011 Nation’s Report Cards Show Highest Mathematics Scores to Date; Reading Performance is Mixed with Fourth Grade Scores Flat

The nation’s fourth and eighth graders continued their steady upward trend in mathematics achievement in 2011, posting the highest scores to date on the National Assessment of
Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as “The Nation’s Report Card.” In reading, however, the picture was mixed. The average score for fourth graders was unchanged from 2009, while the average score for eighth graders continued to rise. The results were released this week.

At grade 4, the average mathematics score was 1 point higher than in 2009 and 28 points higher than in 1990. At grade 8, it was 1 point higher than in 2009 and 21 points higher than in 1990. By contrast, reading performance for fourth graders was unchanged from 2009 and 4 points higher than in 1992; at grade 8, the average score rose by 1 point from 2009 and was 5 points higher than in 1992.

In reading, fourth graders at all the percentiles made gains compared to 1992, while at grade 8, particularly large gains were seen among students at the 10th and 25th percentiles, but increases in scores were not observed for the highest-performing students. The 2011 reading assessment was given to about 213,100 fourth graders and 168,200 eighth graders. State-level data for 52 states and jurisdictions are included in both report cards.

In both subjects, fourth- and eighth-grade students across all income levels posted the highest scores to date.

In mathematics, 40 percent of fourth graders and 35 percent of eighth graders scored at or above Proficient in 2011, higher than in all previous years in which the assessment was conducted. Mathematics is the only NAEP subject with average scores showing a consistent upward trajectory at both grades over 10 or more years. In reading, 34 percent of fourth graders scored at or above Proficient, unchanged since 2009 but higher than in 1992. In the eighth grade, 34 percent of reading test-takers scored Proficient or above—higher than in 2009 and 1992.

The NAEP reading assessment asked students to respond to questions designed to measure their reading comprehension on two types of texts: literary and informational. Fourth graders performing at the Proficient level should be able to integrate and interpret texts and apply their understanding to draw conclusions and make evaluations. Eighth graders performing at the Proficient level should be able to provide relevant information and summarize main ideas and themes, as well as make and support inferences about a text, connect parts of a text and analyze text features.

A 25-point gap between the average scores of White and Black fourth-grade students was not significantly different from 2009. A 24-point gap between the average scores of White and Hispanic students was not significantly different from 2009.

Scores were higher than in 2009 for lower-performing students at the 10th percentile and for higher-performing students at the 75th and 90th percentiles for eighth-grade students. A 25-point gap between the average scores of White and Black students was not significantly different from 2009, but it was smaller than the 30-point gap in 1992. A 22-point gap between the average scores of White and Hispanic students narrowed from 24 points in 2009 and 26 points in 1992.

2011 Notable Children's Books
Each year a committee of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) identifies the best of the best in children's books. According to the Notables Criteria, "notable" is defined as: Worthy of note or notice, important, distinguished, outstanding. As applied to children's books, notable should be thought to include books of especially commendable quality, books that exhibit venturesome creativity, and books of fiction, information, poetry and pictures for all age levels (birth through age 14) that reflect and encourage children's interests in exemplary ways.

The current year's Newbery, Caldecott, Belpre, Sibert, Geisel, and Batchelder Award and Honor books automatically are added to the Notable Children's Books list. Notable Children's Books that have also received other ALA awards, such as the Coretta Scott King Award, Michael L. Printz Award, Alex Award, and Schneider Family Book Award, are also noted on this list.

Here is a sampling of some of the titles. The complete list can be found at www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb

Younger Readers
On their first assignment, two young tooth fairy sisters journey by night into the huge world of humans to collect a young boy's tooth and fly it safely home.

A young boy and his mother take a familiar ride on a city bus unaware of the historic event they are about to witness: passenger Rosa Parks refuses to move from her seat.

Rubina’s excitement over an invitation to a birthday party is dimmed by her mother’s insistence that she take her younger sister Sana with her.

The simple rhyme scheme is embellished by colorful illustrations of multicultural babies and toddlers celebrating at a local fiesta. Belpre Illustrator Honor Book

A bouncy, rhyming story about a little golden-haired niña who helps herself to everything in the house of the three bears.

Middle Readers
In this summer adventure, Owen is enthralled by his conviction that something amazing has fallen from a train.

Crisp design and clear photography introduce and depict Fibonacci patterns in nature.
Me, Frida, by Amy Novesky. Illus. by David Diaz. Abrams. This story of newlywed artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera in 1930 San Francisco is accompanied by paintings resembling Kahlo’s folkloric style. Belpré Illustrator Honor Book

Ninth Ward, by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Little, Brown. In this story of survival, twelve-year-old Lanesha and her adopted grandmother have little choice but to stay in New Orleans and weather Hurricane Katrina. ALA Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book

Shake, Rattle & Turn That Noise Down! How Elvis Shook Up Music, Me and Mom, by Mark Alan Stamaty. Knopf. An autobiography in graphic novel format shows how Stamaty’s love of Elvis and rock and roll, at first drove his mother crazy but ultimately made her proud.

Smile, by Raina Telgemeier. Illus. by Raina Telgemeier and Stephanie Yue. Scholastic/Graphix. Through artwork showing the details, the reader shares Raina’s pain as the angst of middle school is exacerbated by her disfiguring dental mishap.

Older Readers

Countdown, by Deborah Wiles. Scholastic. A “documentary novel” set in the 1960’s Cold War era, this title captures a girl’s fears about the world around her.

Departure Time, by Truus Matti. Tr. by Nancy Forest-Flier. Namelos. An eleven-year-old mourns the death of her father in chapters that alternate between the real world and a dreamlike hotel staffed by odd creatures. Batchelder Honor Book

Fever Crumb, by Philip Reeve. Scholastic. A lone girl sets out on a mission to retrieve lost technology in a bleak and irrational London of the future.

Heart of a Samurai, by Margi Preus. Abrams/Amulet. This swashbuckling adventure is based on the true story of Manjiro, the young fisherman believed to be the first Japanese person to visit America, who against all odds, became a samurai. Newbery Honor Book

Nothing, by Janne Teller. Tr. by Martin Aitken. Atheneum. As classmates struggle to convince a friend that life has meaning, they force each other to prove and provide meaning, with consequences that are deep, dark, and disastrous. Batchelder Honor Book & YALSA Printz Honor Book


All Ages

Meanwhile, by Jason Shiga. Abrams/Amulet.
Jimmy explores the lab of a mad scientist in this “Choose Your Own Adventure” style graphic novel.

*Mirror, Mirror: A Book of Reversible Verse,* by Marilyn Singer. Illus. by Josée Masse. Dutton. What fun! Read the poem in one direction and it tells the folktale from one point of view. Read it in the opposite direction and the point of view is reversed.


The 2011 Notable Children’s Recordings and 2011 Notable Children’s Videos can also be found on the ALSC website.

**Talk Back:** We welcome your feedback on anything in The Scoop. Just e-mail Stephanie, Staci or Erica and we’ll print your comments in The Scoop.

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