



GARDEN STATE CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

2010 Nominee Annotations

FICTION

Babbitt, Natalie. *Jack Plank Tells Tales.*

Scholastic, 2007. HC 978-0545004969 \$15.95.

Jack Plank, a recently unemployed pirate, relates the reasons why he cannot take various jobs such as baker, farmer, fortune-teller and others, in a series of short, amusing & adventurous tales. Short chapters accompanied by pencil drawings make this a great chapter book for reluctant readers or those seeking silly adventures.

Clements, Andrew. *No Talking.*

Atheneum, 2007. HC 9781416909835 \$16.99; PBK 9781416909842 \$5.99.

The noisy fifth grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth grade girls to a "no talking" contest.

Coville, Bruce. *The Mischief Monster.*

Simon & Schuster, 2007. HC 9781416908074 \$15.99; PBK 9781416908081 \$4.99.

When the daughter of the Queen of the Mischief Monsters runs away from home, it is up to Edward, Moongobble, Urk, and Fireball to return her to Monster Mountain--then start a new quest.

Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton.*

Scholastic, 2007. HC 9780439023443 \$16.99; PBK 9780439023450 \$7.99.

In 1859, eleven-year-old Elijah Freeman, the first free-born child in Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.

Gifford, Peggy. *Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little.*

Schwartz & Wade, 2007. HC 9780375839153 \$12.99; LIB 780375939150 \$15.99; PBK 9780440422303 \$5.50.

With summer coming to an end, about-to-be-fourth-grader Moxy Maxwell does a hundred different things to avoid reading her assigned summer reading book.

Griffin, Adele. *Vampire Island.*

G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2007. HC 9780399237850 \$14.99; PBK 9780142411827 \$5.50.

Siblings Maddy, Lexie, and Hudson Livingstone, who are vampire-fruit bat hybrids, struggle to adjust to living as humans in New York City while maintaining their individual vampire strengths. .

Jonell, Lynne. *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat.*

Henry Holt, 2007. HC 9780805081503 \$17.95; PBK 978-0312384609 \$6.99.

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny with rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal.

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Kinney, Jeff. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid.*

Amulet Books, 2007. HC 9780810993136 \$12.95 .

Greg records his sixth grade experiences in a middle school where he and his best friend, Rowley, undersized weaklings amid boys who need to shave twice daily, hope just to survive, but when Rowley grows more popular, Greg must take drastic measures to save their friendship.

McKissack, Patricia C. *A Friendship for Today.*

Scholastic Press, c2007. HC 9780439660983 \$16.99.

Having prepared herself to be one of the first African-American students to attend the all-white school in Missouri in the 1950s, Rosemary is saddened when her best friend becomes ill and she has to face the challenge alone, but after some initial hardship and racist reactions, Rosemary develops a new friendship in the most unexpected way.

Mills, Claudia. *Being Teddy Roosevelt.*

Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2007. HC 9780374306571 \$16.00.

When he is assigned Teddy Roosevelt as his biography project in school, fourth-grader Riley finds himself inspired by Roosevelt's tenacity and perseverance and resolves to find a way to get what he most wants--a saxophone and music lessons. Publication

Paulsen, Gary. *Lawn Boy.*

Wendy Lamb Books, 2007. HC 9780385746861 \$12.99; LIB 9780385909235 \$15.99; PBK 9780553494655 \$6.50.

When a 12 year old boy starts cutting lawns to earn some spending money he doesn't count on meeting a stock broker who helps him invest his money, start a business, and earn over 400,000 dollars.

Peck Richard. *On the Wings of Heroes.*

Dial Books, 2007. HC 9780803730816 \$16.99; PBK 978-0142412046 \$6.99.

A boy's reminiscences about life in a small town during World War II are humorously and realistically told in a book that brings to life the patriotism felt on the home front at that time.

Pennypacker, Sara. *The Talented Clementine.*

Hyperion, 2007. HC 9780786838707 \$14.99; PBK 9780786838714 \$4.99.

Third grader Clementine cannot decide what to do in the school talent show therefore does not participate until her teacher falls ill and she becomes assistant director on opening night. As everyone already knew Clementine's true talent lies in being in charge.

Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in Words and Pictures.*

Scholastic, 2007; HC 9780439813785 \$24.99.

Set in a 1931 Paris train station, Hugo, a gifted twelve-year-old orphan, is taken in by his alcoholic uncle after his father perishes in a fire. Convinced that his father left him a secret message, Hugo sets out to find the automaton that his father was restoring prior to his death.

Shalant, Phyllis. *The Great Cape Rescue.*

Dutton Children's Books, 2007. HC 9780525474043 \$15.99.

Finch is entering the fourth grade and realizes that he shouldn't be playing superheroes with his friends anymore; however, everything changes when a cape that he bought at a garage sale magically comes to life.

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Spinelli, Eileen. *Summerhouse Time.*

Alfred A. Knopf, 2007. HC 9780375840616 \$12.99; LIB 9780375940613 \$15.99; PBK 9780440422242 \$5.99.

Excitement builds for eleven-year-old Sophie as she anticipates spending the summer with her beloved family at their rented beach house. This year though, things are different and Sophie will have to adjust.

Stead, Rebecca. *First Light.*

Wendy Lamb Books, 2007. LIB 9780375940170 \$18.99; HC 9780375840173 \$15.99; PBK 9780440422228 \$6.99.

Peter, his parents and a research assistant set out for Greenland to study the effects of global warming. Once in Greenland, Peter experiences severe headaches, his mother spirals into a deep depression and Peter discovers that his parents are searching for more than just evidence of global warming.

Tarshis, Lauren. *Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree.*

Puffin, 2007. HC 9780803731646 \$16.99; PBK 9780142411506 \$6.99.

Emma-Jean Lazarus is strangely logical and highly observant, a combination of traits that set her apart from her classmates. A chance encounter with fellow seventh grader, Colleen Pomerantz, turns Emma-Jean into a problem solver, but the results aren't always logical.

Emma-Jean's mother is always there, supporting and encouraging her "strange" daughter.

Urban, Linda. *A Crooked Kind of Perfect.*

Harcourt, 2007. HC 9780152060077 \$16.00; PBK 9780152066086 \$6.99.

Zoe Elias's mother is the breadwinner of the family, her father is afraid to leave the house. Zoe dreams of being a concert pianist; her father buys her a Perfectone D-60 organ. She makes the best of the situation.

Wiles, Deborah. *Aurora County All-Stars.*

Harcourt, 2007. HC 9780152060688 \$16.00; PBK 9780152066260 \$5.99.

Set against the back drop of a Mississippi small town's secrets and history of racial injustice the Aurora County All Stars must figure out how to play their one game a year when a town pageant is scheduled at the same time. Baseball and ballet teams have to compromise.