

Bluestem Nominees 2012-2013

Powerpoint created by
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Bluestem Steering Committee

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Illinois Bluestem Award

- ❖ 3rd year of this award
- ❖ Created for 3rd-5th graders
- ❖ Named after a common prairie grass in Illinois
- ❖ Must read 4 books to vote
- ❖ Only students can vote!
- ❖ Voting takes place mid Feb to mid March
- ❖ Let's look at the books!

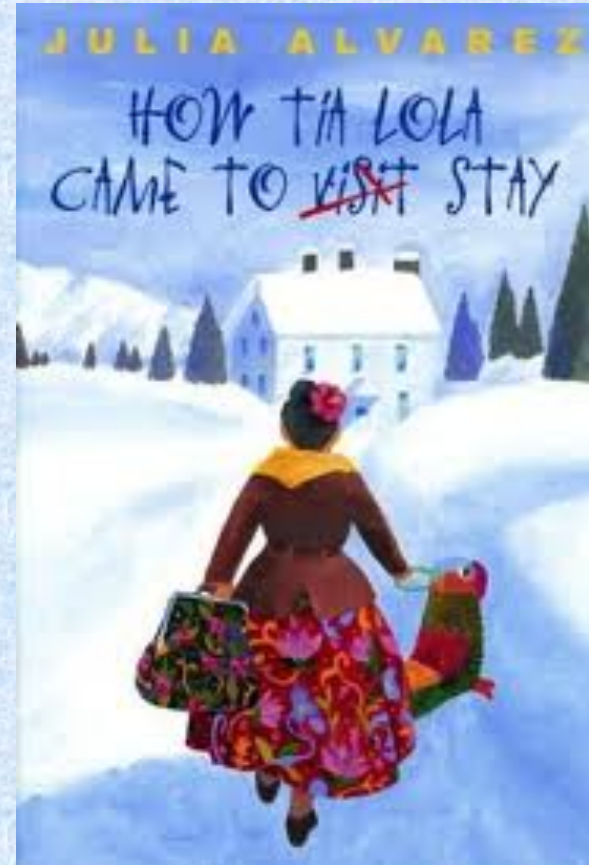


How Tía Lola Came to Stay

by Julia Alvarez

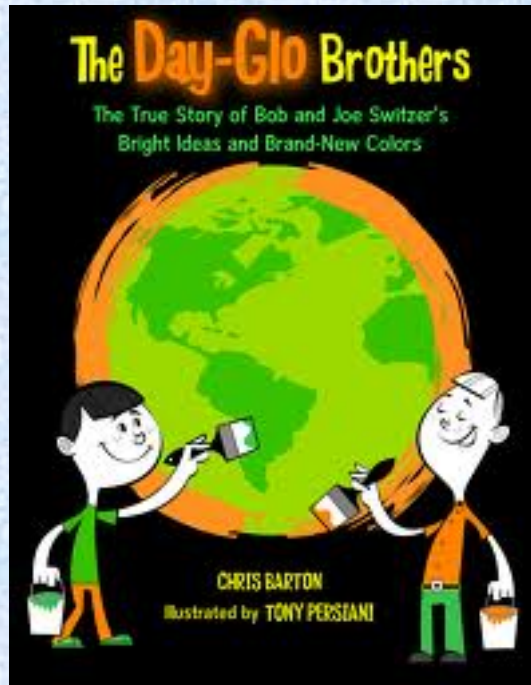
Cheerful Tía Lola moves from the Dominican Republic to a small Vermont town to help out Miguel and his Mami. She fills their lives with color, music, and fun. But why is Miguel so embarrassed by his Aunt's actions? (147 pages)

Spanish words appear
in the story



The Day-Glo Brothers

by Chris Barton



This colorful non-fiction picture book introduces Bob and Joe Switzer, brothers who invented Day-Glo paint. Cool retro illustrations and fun writing show how this fluorescent paint changed the world and brightened people's lives. (40 pages)

A quick read 😊

The Name of This Book is Secret

by Pseudonymous Bosch

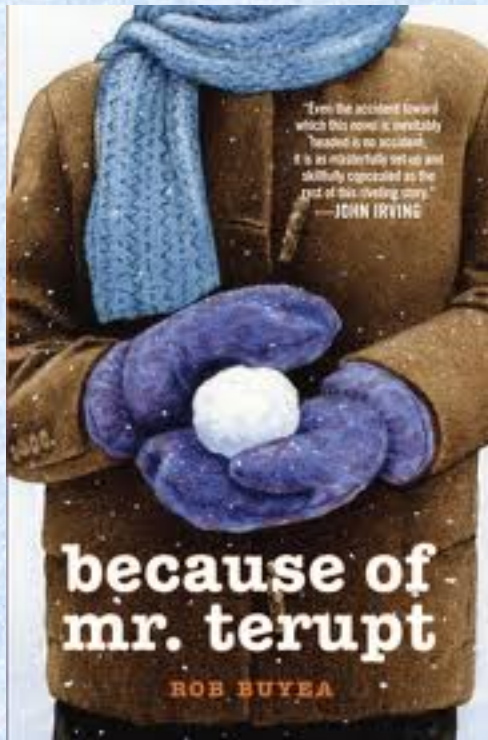
Warning! Do not open this book! OK, go ahead, but beware, this wild tale tells how brave heroes Cass and Max-Ernest encounter evil villains and (smelly) adventure while trying to solve a mystery. (360 pages)



First in a series 😊

Because of Mr. Terupt

by Rob Buyea



Seven fifth-graders each take turns telling stories about their new teacher Mr. Terupt. He not only teaches them about science and math, but about friendship and respect. What will happen to them after a tragic accident changes everything? (269 pages)

Told from alternating points of view

The Story of Snow

by Mark Cassino

What is the story of snow? How does a speck become the center of a snow crystal? Can you collect and study snow crystals? Packed with photos and illustrations, this non-fiction picture book answers these questions and more.
(33 pages)



Non-fiction 😊

Redwoods

by Jason Chin



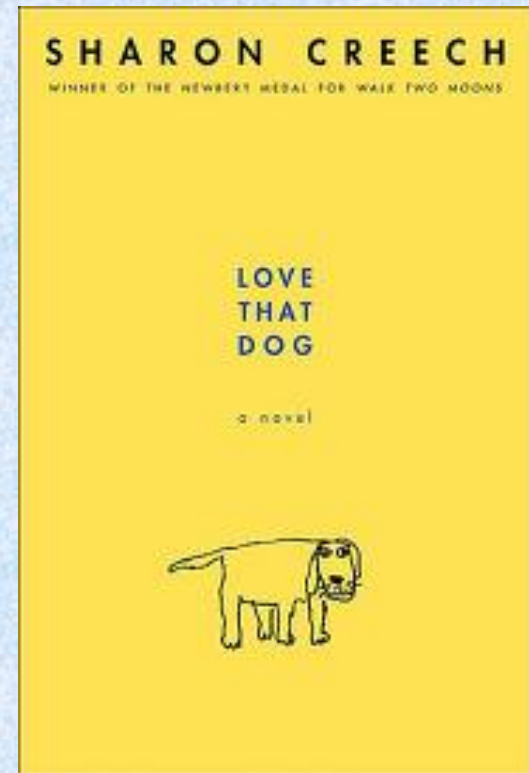
In this imaginative non-fiction picture book, a boy steps off a subway train and finds himself magically transported to a redwood forest. He starts climbing these towering trees, learning about what makes them so amazing. The illustrations capture the epic beauty of the redwoods. (36 pages)

Non-fiction 😊

Love That Dog

by Sharon Creech

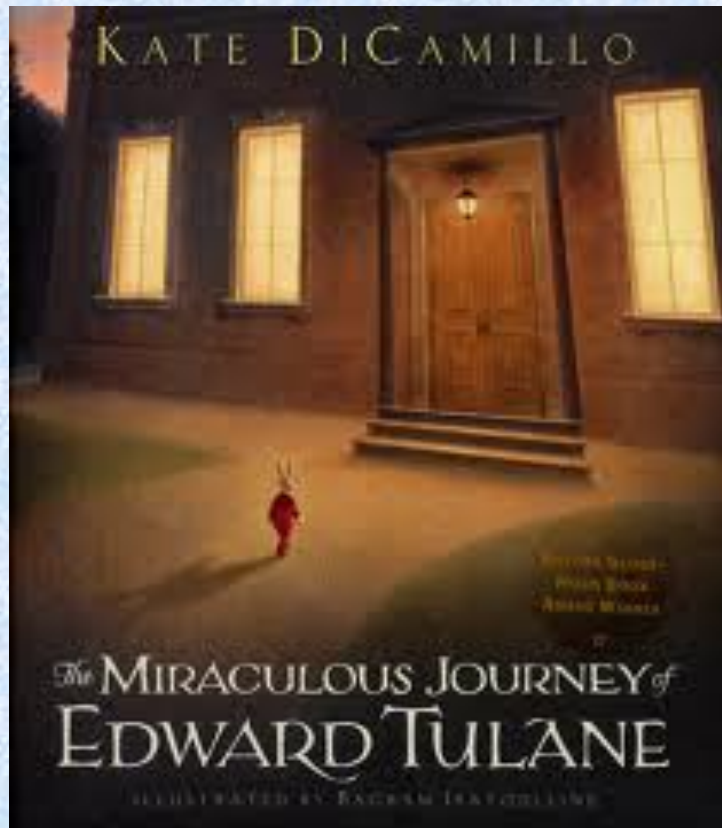
Jack thinks that writing and reading poetry is not for him. He does not like it when his teacher Miss Stretchberry asks him to create his very own poems. Will he change his mind after he discovers that poems can come in all shapes and sizes? (86 pages)



Told through poems

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

by Kate DiCamillo

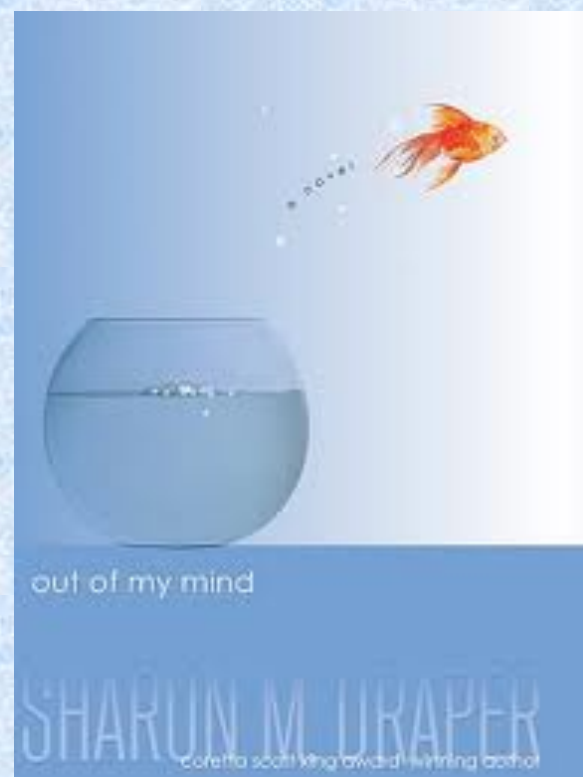


A girl named Abilene pampers vain toy rabbit Edward, who is made of the very finest china. After an accident, he suddenly finds himself lost. Will he ever find Abilene again? And will he learn to be kinder to others? (198 pages)

Out of My Mind

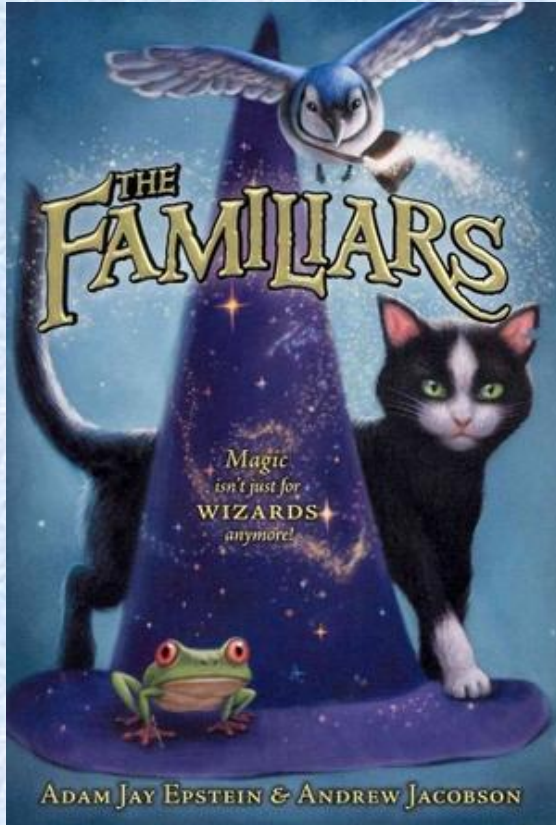
By Sharon M. Draper

Melody has cerebral palsy and cannot speak. She also has an amazing photographic memory and extreme intelligence. How can she express to her family, friends, and classmates what is going on inside her incredible mind? (295 pages)



The Familiars

By Adam Jay Epstein & Andrew Jacobson



Aldwyn, an ordinary alley cat, pretends to have magic powers after boy wizard Jack chooses him to be his familiar. After a witch kidnaps Jack and two of his peers, it is up to Aldwyn and his animal peers to save them. How long can Aldwyn keep lying about being magical? (360 pages)

First in a series 😊

Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything In It

by Sundee Frazier

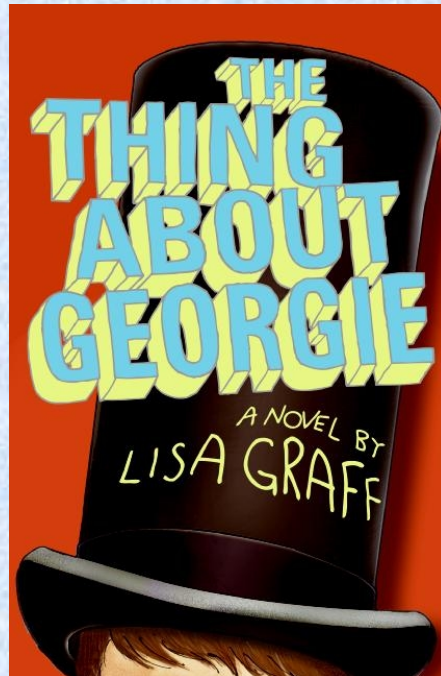
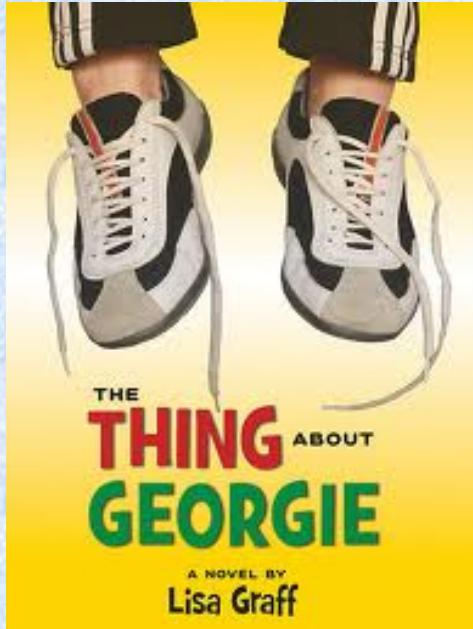
Brendan Buckley is just a normal kid. He takes Tae Kwon Do lessons and is fascinated by rocks. One day he meets an expert rock collector and it turns out to be the grandfather that his mother refuses to talk about! (208 pgs)



Has a sequel 😊

The Thing About Georgie

by Lisa Graff



Georgie has the typical worries of a fourth grader. Will he and his best friend Andy make up? Does he really have to do the class project with Jeanie the Meanie? When will his mom have the new baby? However George also has some other things to worry about, because he is a dwarf. (224 pgs)

Same story, different covers

Honus & Me

by Dan Gutman

Joe Stoshack loves baseball except he is always striking out. One day while helping a neighbor clean out his attic Stosh finds a little piece of cardboard that takes his breath away. His heart is racing. His brain is racing. He can hardly believe his eyes. He has stumbled upon the most valuable baseball card in the world! And he's about to find out that it's worth a lot more than money.... (144 pgs)



There are many other books in the
Baseball Card Adventure series

Touch Blue

by Cynthia Lord



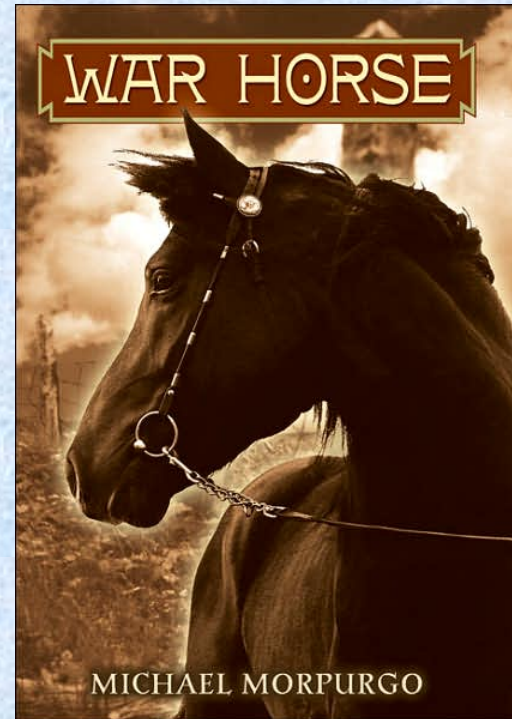
Cynthia Lord also wrote
Rules

Tess Brooks lives with her family on an island off the coast of Maine. Unfortunately the island school is going to be shut down unless more students move to the island. Can the school be saved before it is too late? (192 pgs)

War Horse

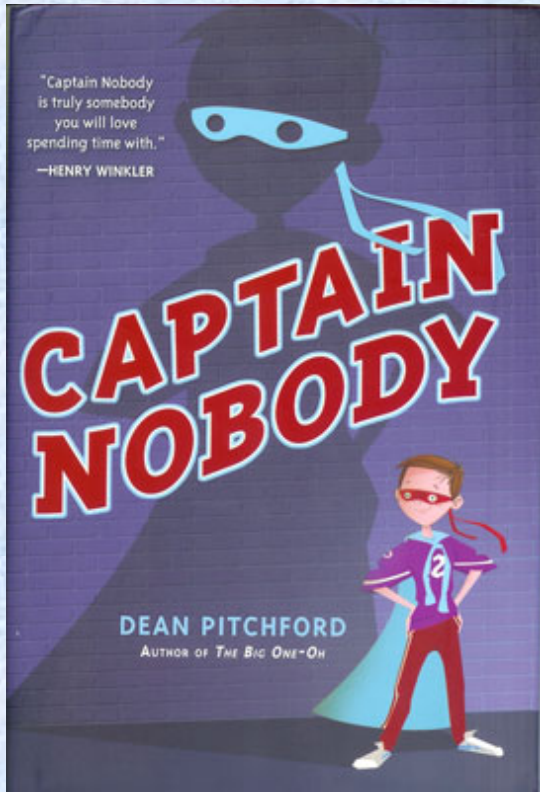
by Michael Morpurgo

Albert loves his horse Joey very much but it is war time and every horse is needed. Joey has quite an adventure during the war but always misses Albert. Will Albert and Joey ever be able to find each other again? (176 pgs)



Captain Nobody

by Dean Pitchford



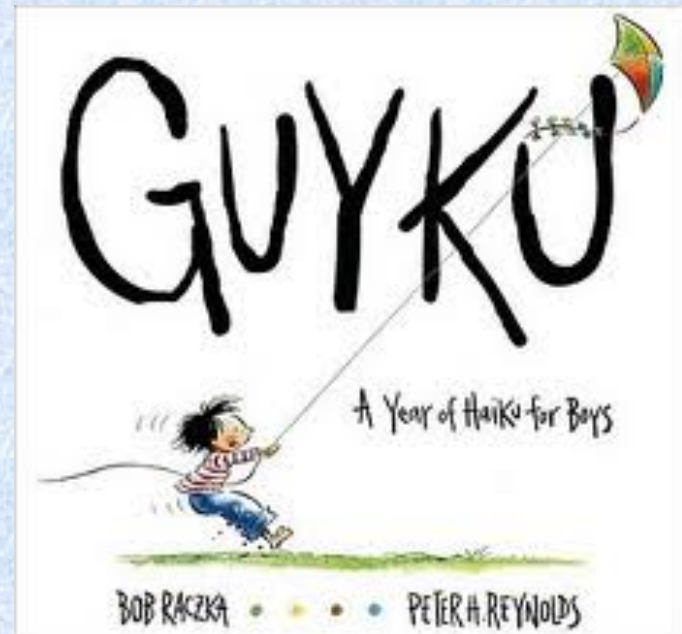
When Newt's brother is injured during a football game and ends up in a coma, Newt decides to dress up as Captain Nobody. While in his costume Newt is able to stop a robbery and save a plane full of people. Will Newt's brother ever get better? And will anybody actually notice who is behind the Captain Nobody mask? (208 pgs)

Guyku

by Bob Raczka

The wind and I play
tug-of-war with my new kite.
The wind is winning.

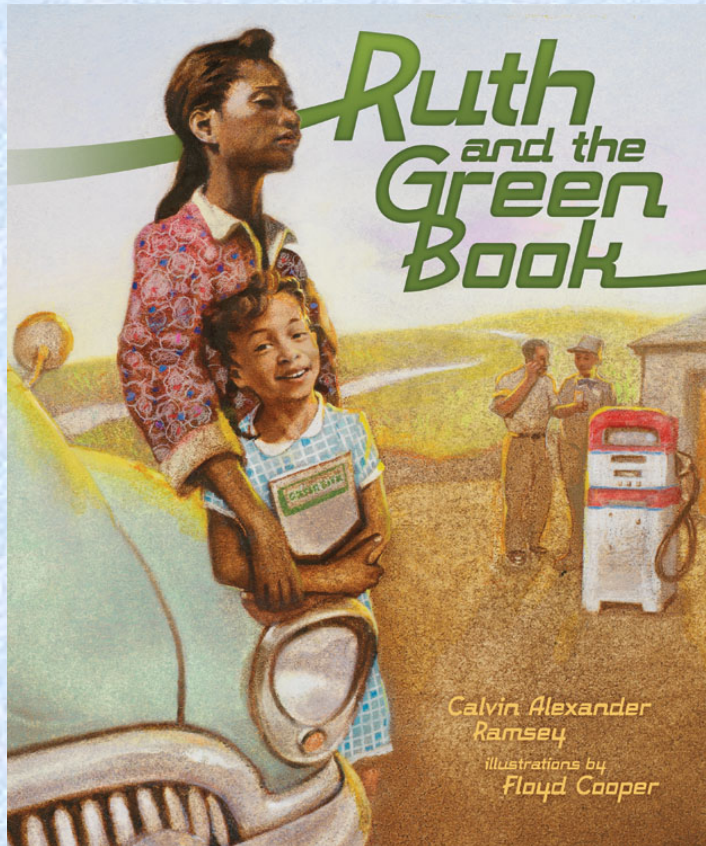
So begins this haiku poetry
journey through the seasons
from a boy's perspective. (48
pgs)



A quick read 😊

Ruth and the Green Book

by Calvin Alexander Ramsey



It is 1950 when Ruth and her family head south on a trip. On the way, they learn about the Green Book which tells them the best hotels, restaurants and gas stations for black people. It is Ruth's job to figure out the next stop in their Green Book (32 pgs)

A quick read 😊

Mirror, Mirror

by Marilyn Singer

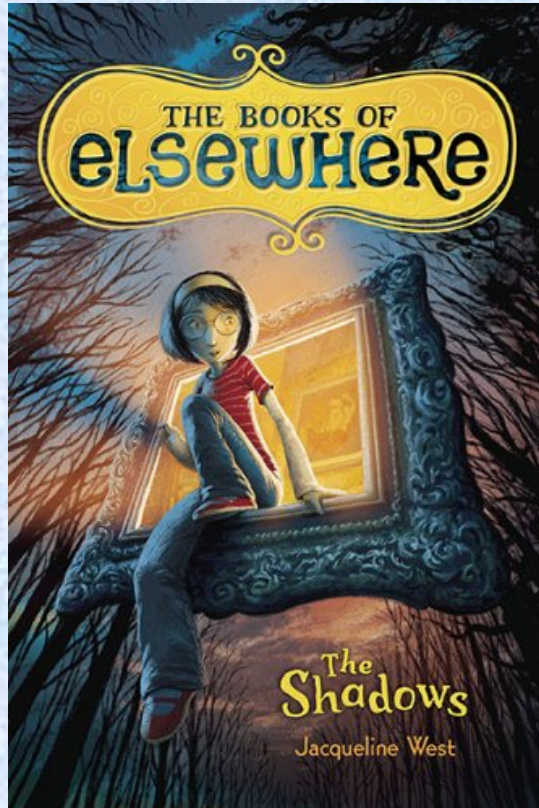
Read the poem down the page, then read the poem up. It makes sense each way and really changes the meaning. All of them are based on fairy tales. After reading these, can you write your own? (32 pgs)



A quick read 😊

The Shadows

by Jacqueline West



First book in the series
The Books of Elsewhere

When eleven-year-old Olive moves into a crumbling old mansion with her parents, she knows there's something strange about the house - especially the odd paintings. And when she puts on a pair of old glasses, she discovers that she can travel inside the paintings, to a spooky world that's full of dark shadows. Can Olive save the the house from the dark shadows, before the lights go out for good? (272 pgs)



**Which book will you read first?
Be sure to read at least four
so you can vote!**