

Bluestem Nominees 2011-2012

Powerpoint created by
Michelle Johnson and Brian Wilson
Publicity and Voting
Bluestem Steering Committee

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Illinois Bluestem Award

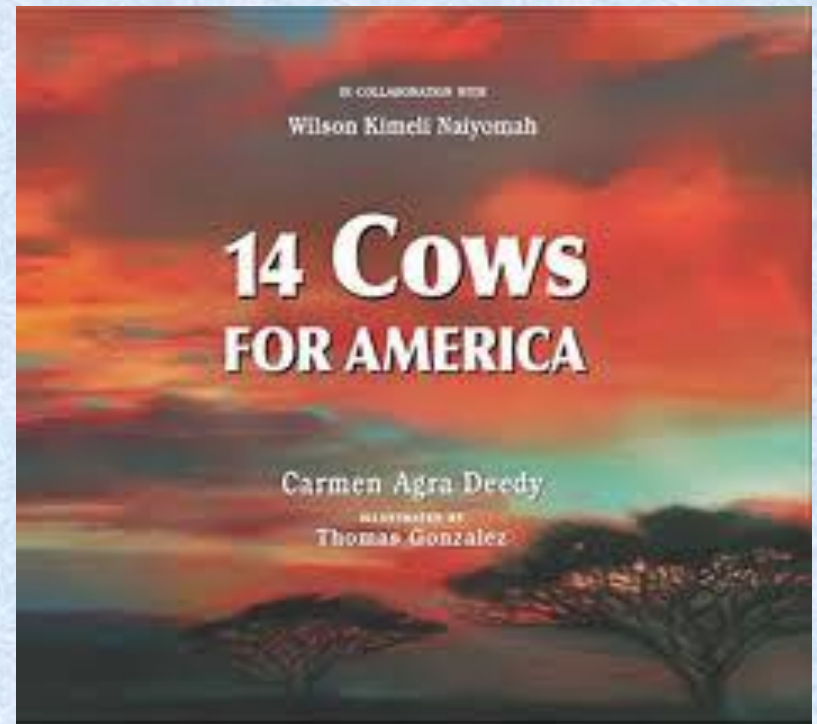
- ❖ 2nd year of this award
- ❖ Created for 3rd-5th graders
- ❖ Named after a common prairie grass in Illinois
- ❖ Must read 4 books to vote
- ❖ Only students can vote!
- ❖ Voting takes place in March
- ❖ Let's look at the books!



14 Cows for America

by Carmen Agra Deedy

In response to the September 11, 2001 attacks, a man from Kenya inspires his Maasai tribe to bless 14 cows, revered in their culture, in order to honor the American people. This non-fiction picture book tells of this moving event. (36 pgs)



Adventures in Cartooning

by James Sturm, Andrew Arnold
& Alexis Frederick-Frost



Get ready for a fantastical adventure including a magical elf who knows how to make cartoons, a fire breathing dragon, an impatient knight, a cowardly horse and a princess who needs to be rescued. (112 pgs)

Learn how to draw cartoons!

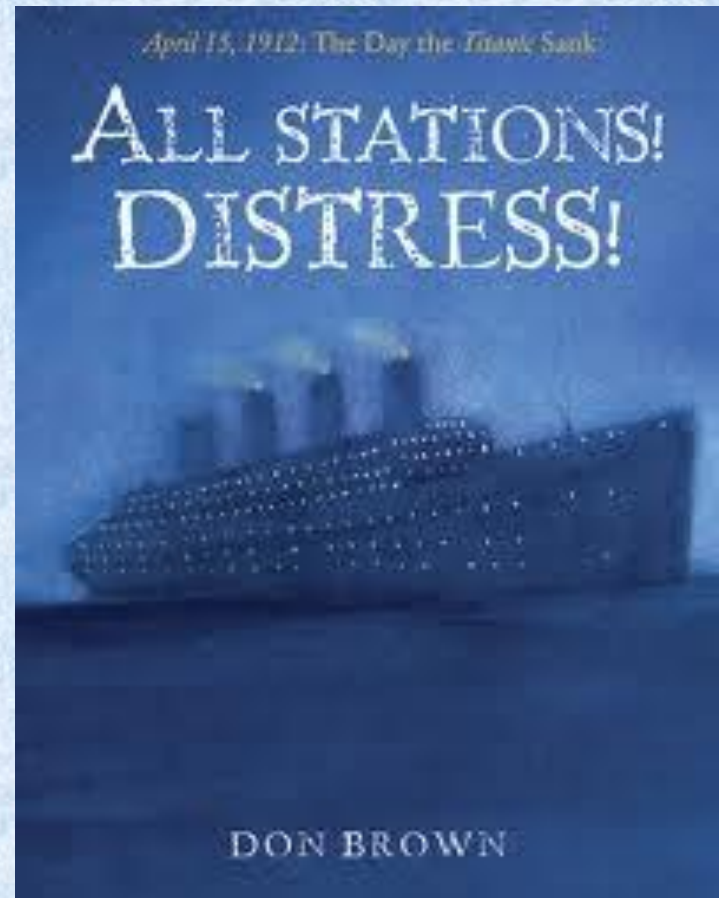
All Stations! Distress! April 15, 1912

The Day the Titanic Sank

by Don Brown

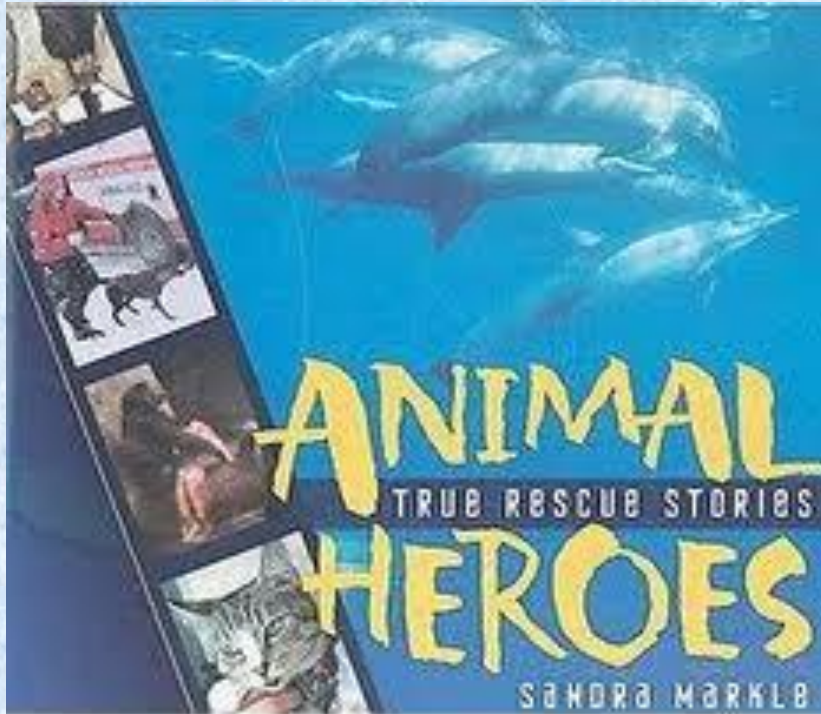
On April 15, 1912 the giant passenger ship Titanic struck an iceberg and started sinking into the cold ocean.

Illustrations fill this non-fiction account that shows how 2,000 people fought to survive this tragic disaster. (64 pgs)



Animal Heroes: True Rescue Stories

by Sandra Markle



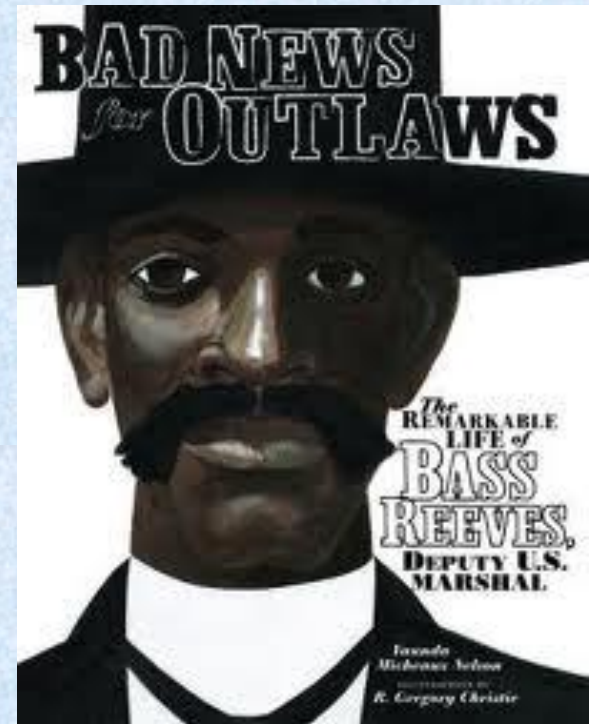
A dog leads its owner down seventy flights of stairs before the building collapses. A small child falls into a gorilla cage at the zoo and is held carefully by a female gorilla until help arrives. Dogs, cats, cows, monkeys and even dolphins have rescued people in danger. This book is full of true stories about these wonderful animals. (64 pgs)

Bad News for Outlaws

The Remarkable Life of Bass Reeves, Deputy U.S. Marshall

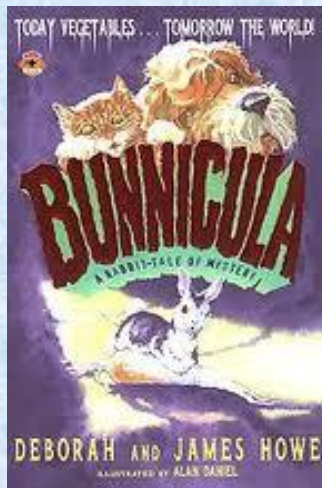
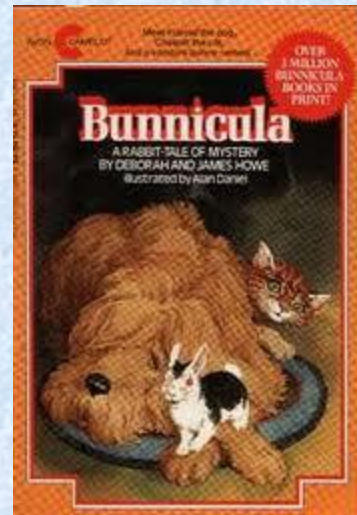
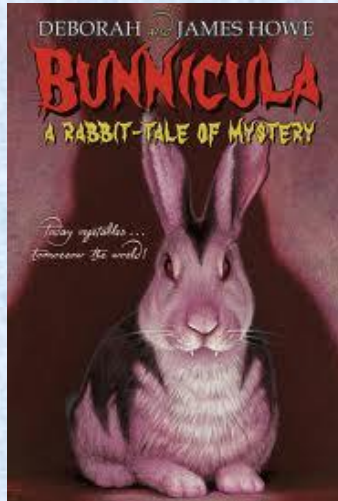
by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Bass Reeves started life as a slave but many years after running away became a United States Deputy Marshall. When Bass Reeves was given a criminal to track down, he always succeeded. He arrested 3000 criminals and led a true wild west life in the 1800s. (40 pgs)



Bunnicula: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery

by Deborah and James Howe



Same story,
different covers

Chester the cat and Harold the dog find themselves creeped out by the Monroes' latest pet, an odd bunny discovered at a movie theater showing Dracula. Is Bunnicula a vegetarian vampire rabbit??? (128 pgs)

First in a series 😊

Dying to Meet You

by Kate Klise & M. Sarah Klise

Told in letters, newspaper articles, and drawings, this story tells of a grumpy writer who moves into an old mansion hoping for some peace and quiet. Instead he encounters a boy living there on his own, a cat, and a ghost with a bad temper. (160 pgs)



First in a series 😊

Extra Credit

by Andrew Clements

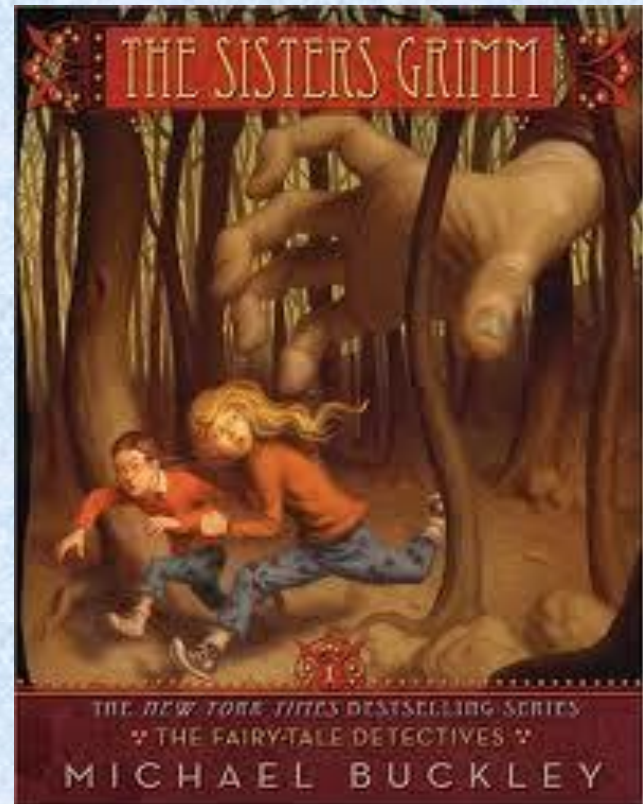


In danger of repeating a grade, Abby agrees to do an extra credit project that involves writing to a student living in Afghanistan. Her letters make life complicated for Sadeed, a boy with a gift for writing, who is told by his elders he should not be writing to a girl. (224 pgs)

The Fairy-tale Detectives

By Michael Buckley

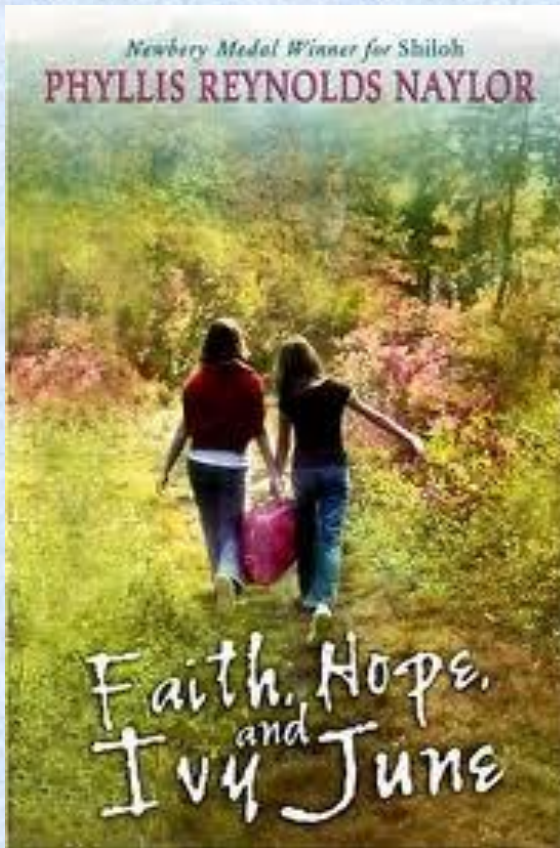
Sabrina and Daphne learn that they are related to the famous Grimm Brothers after they move to a new town filled with magical fairy tale characters called Everafters. Will these crime-solving girls figure out which Everafter set a destructive giant free? (312 pgs)



First book in the series
The Sisters Grimm

Faith, Hope and Ivy June

By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

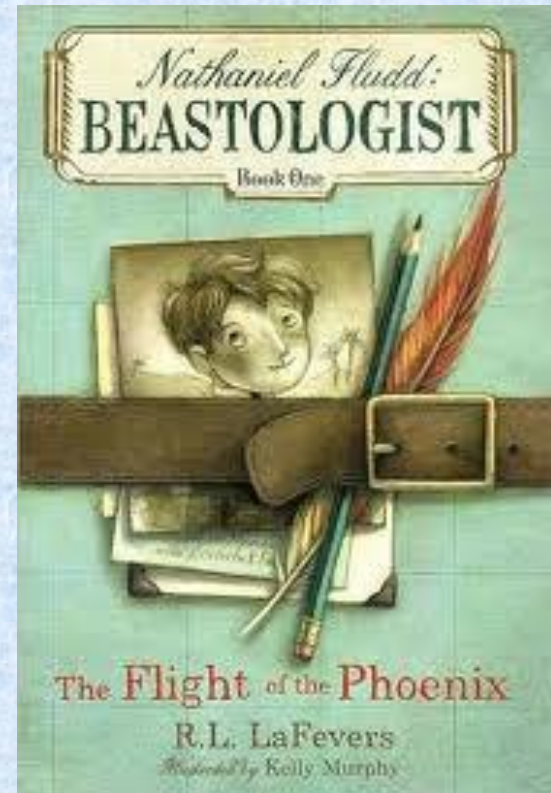


Catherine lives in a bustling city. Ivy June lives in the mountains. They are selected for an exchange program and will spend four weeks together. First they will stay at Catherine's home and then they will stay at Ivy June's home. Will they find anything in common during their time together? (288 pgs)

Flight of the Phoenix

by R.L. LaFevers

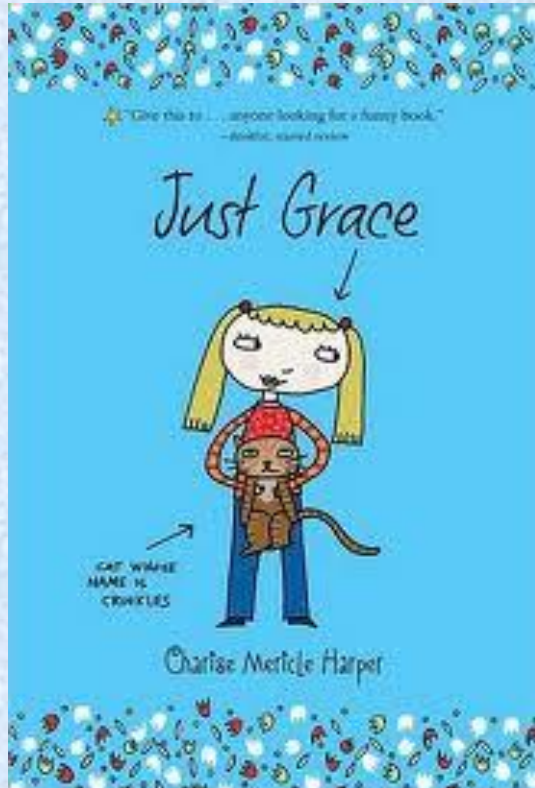
Nathaniel Fludd's parents have been lost at sea and he has to go live with his aunt. This may seem sad and boring but Nathaniel's parents are beastologists and it is up to Nathaniel to learn the family business. So begins this adventure in a world of mythical creatures. (144 pgs)



First book in the series
Nathaniel Fludd Beastologist

Just Grace

by Charise Harper



Grace loves taking photographs and really loves cats. When her lonely neighbor's cat goes missing, Grace tries to help but her plans go all wrong. Should she turn to Sammy Stringer, a boy she does not like, for assistance? (144 pgs)

First in a series 😊

Knucklehead: Tall Tales & Mostly True Stories About Growing Up Scieszka

by Jon Scieszka

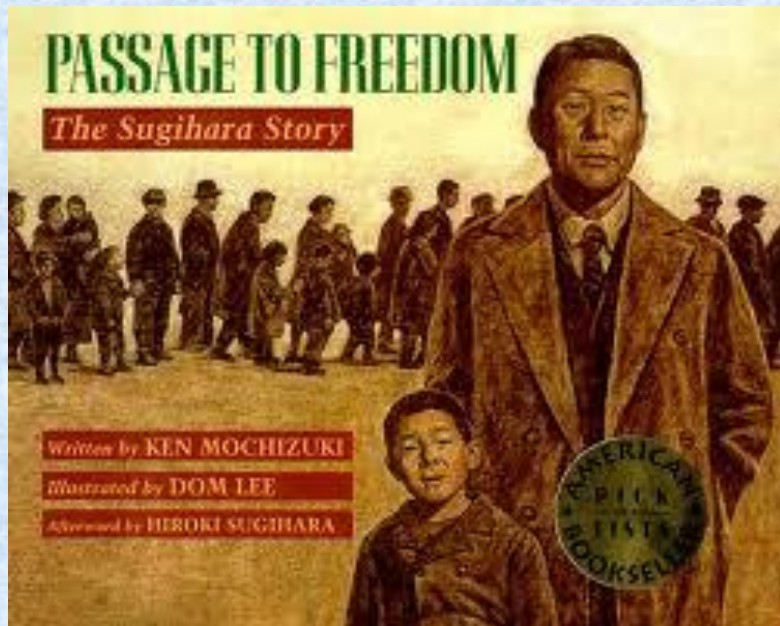
This is a laugh out loud autobiography from author Jon Scieszka. Growing up with five brothers, a mom who was a nurse and a dad who was a school principal, there was always something funny going on in the Scieszka house. Find out why he likes to stir oatmeal more than pick up dog poop and what crossing swords really means. (106 pgs)



Passage to Freedom

The Sugihara Story

by Ken Mochizuki

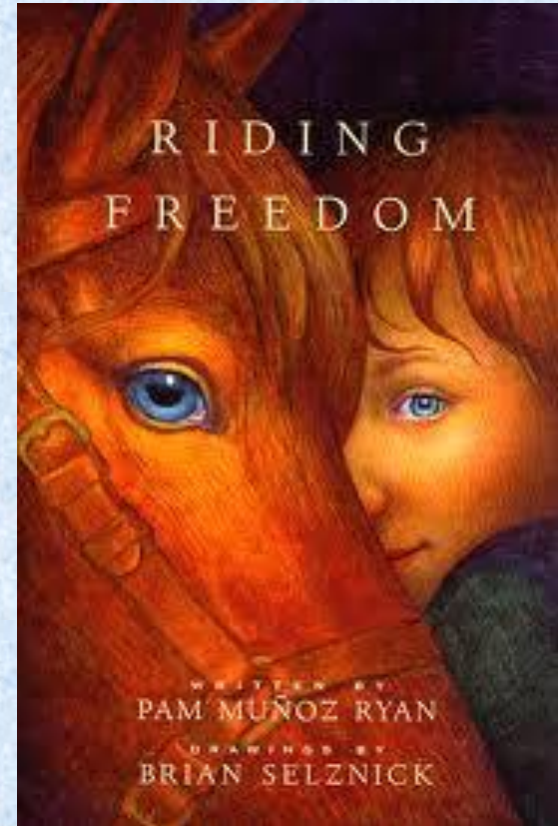


Hiroki Sugihara is a Japanese five year old boy living in Lithuania during World War II. His father is a Japanese diplomat and is writing Visas for Jewish people that will allow them to leave the country rather than be killed by the Nazis. How many people will Mr. Sugihara be able to save? (32 pgs)

Riding Freedom

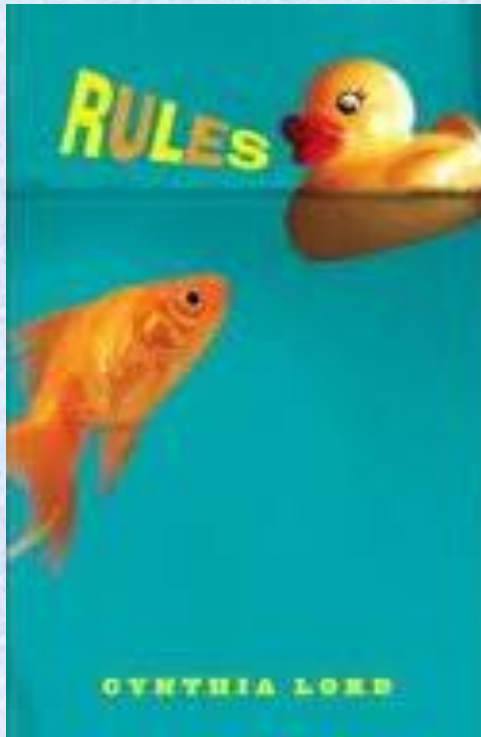
by Pam Muñoz Ryan

It is the mid 1800's and Charlotte Parkhurst's parents die when she is only two years old. After living in an orphanage for 10 years, she decides to dress like a boy and run away. First she is a stable boy and then she becomes a famous stage coach driver. Will anyone discover that Charlotte is not really a boy? (144 pgs)



Rules

by Cynthia Lord

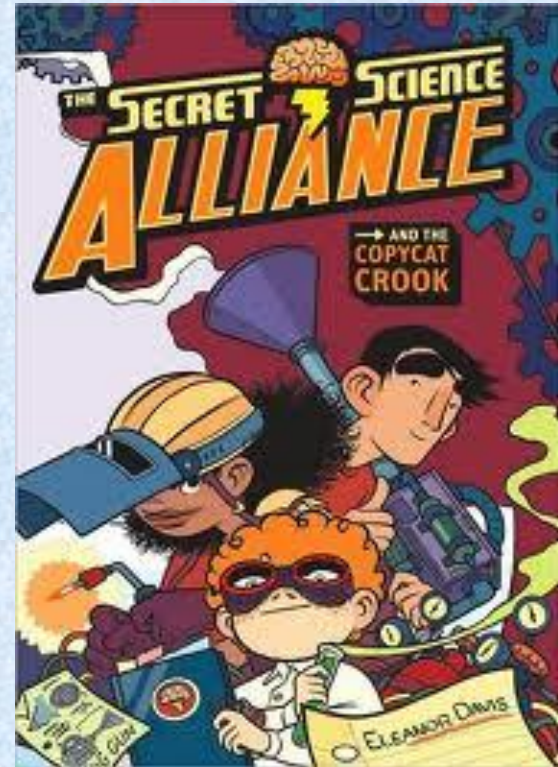


Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. However, her brother has autism and her family is consumed by his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public". Then one summer Catherine meets Jason at her brother's clinic and Kristi moves in next door. These new friendships have Catherine rethinking "What is normal?" (224 pgs)

Secret Science Alliance and the Copycat Crook

by Eleanor Davis

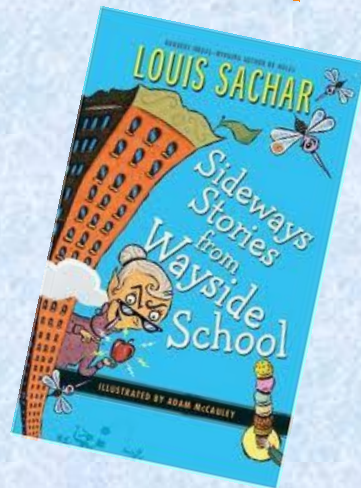
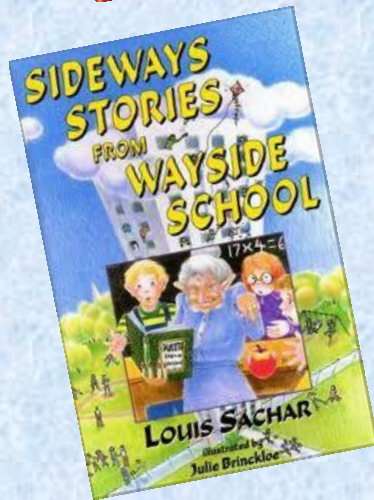
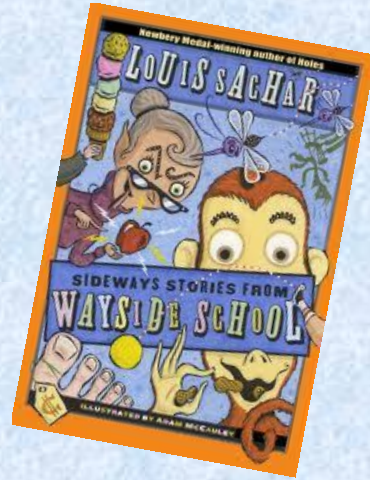
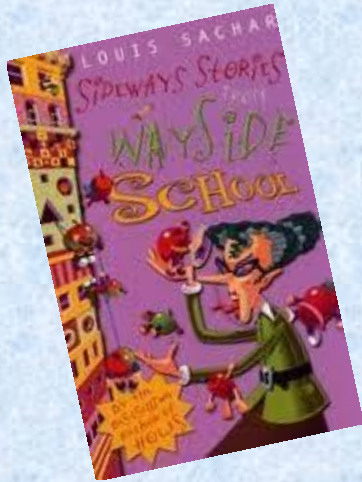
This graphic novel tells the story of a trio of brilliant young scientists who love creating such inventions as the Stink-O-Meter. They join forces to foil the diabolical plans of a criminal mastermind who steals their ideas so he can rob a museum. (160 pgs)



Graphic Novel format

Sideways Stories from Wayside School

by Louis Sachar



Wayside School is a most unusual place where the wackiest things happen. It is thirty stories tall with one classroom on each floor. Come inside and meet the mean Mrs. Gorf who turns her students into apples, the newest teacher Mrs. Jewls and all the students of the thirtieth floor. They will have you laughing out loud! (128 pgs)

Same story, different covers

Swindle

by Gordon Korman

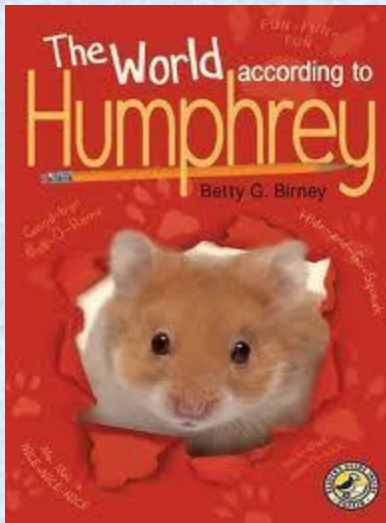
Griffin and a bunch of misfits team up to break into a store belonging to a tricky baseball card collector who has conned Griffin out of a valuable Babe Ruth card. Can they get past the alarms, the obstacles, and the menacing guard dog? (256 pgs)



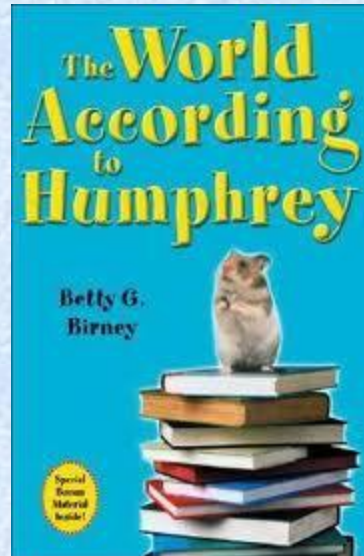
First in a series 😊

The World According to Humphrey

by Betty G. Birney



*Same story,
different covers*



The students all love Humphrey the curious classroom hamster, who learns how to read, write, and shoot rubber bands. However, will he win over the new teacher who does not like little rodents? (144 pgs)



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