

Bluestem Nominees 2014-2015

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Chained

by Lynne Kelly

In order to help his family, Hastin takes a job in a circus taking as an elephant caretaker. However, when he discovers that the circus owner is being cruel to a little elephant, he tries to find a way to save the creature! Can he? Set in India! (248 pages)



A Dog Called Homeless

by Sarah Lean

Cally Fisher decides to stop speaking because talking won't bring back her mother, or get people to listen to her either. After 31 days, Cally sees a vision of her mother, and meets a scruffy dog. Will new friendships and her new dog help Cally begin to hope again? (224 pages)



Dogs on Duty: Soldiers' Best Friends on the Battlefield and Beyond

by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent



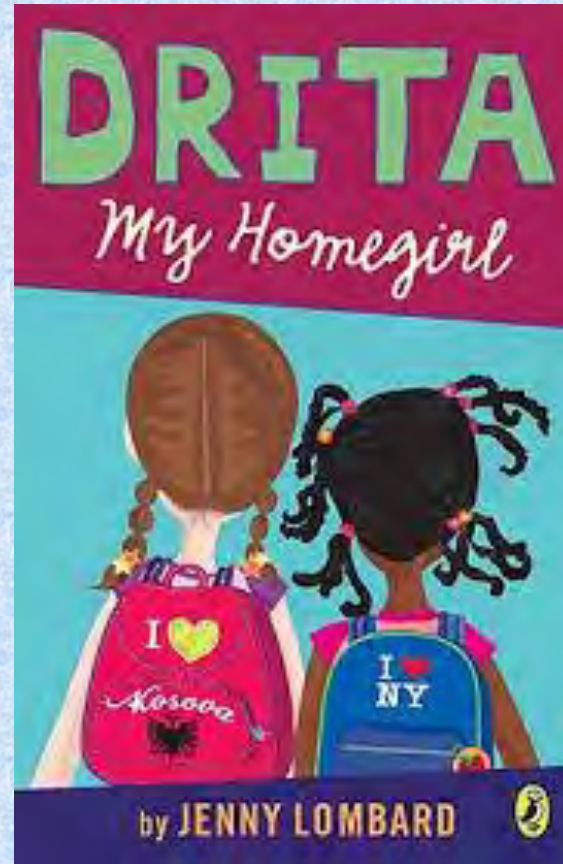
Non-fiction!

Throughout history, dogs have helped soldiers on the battlefield. Learn how these canine helpers are trained to assist people in the military. Packed with photographs! (48 pages)

Drita, My Homegirl

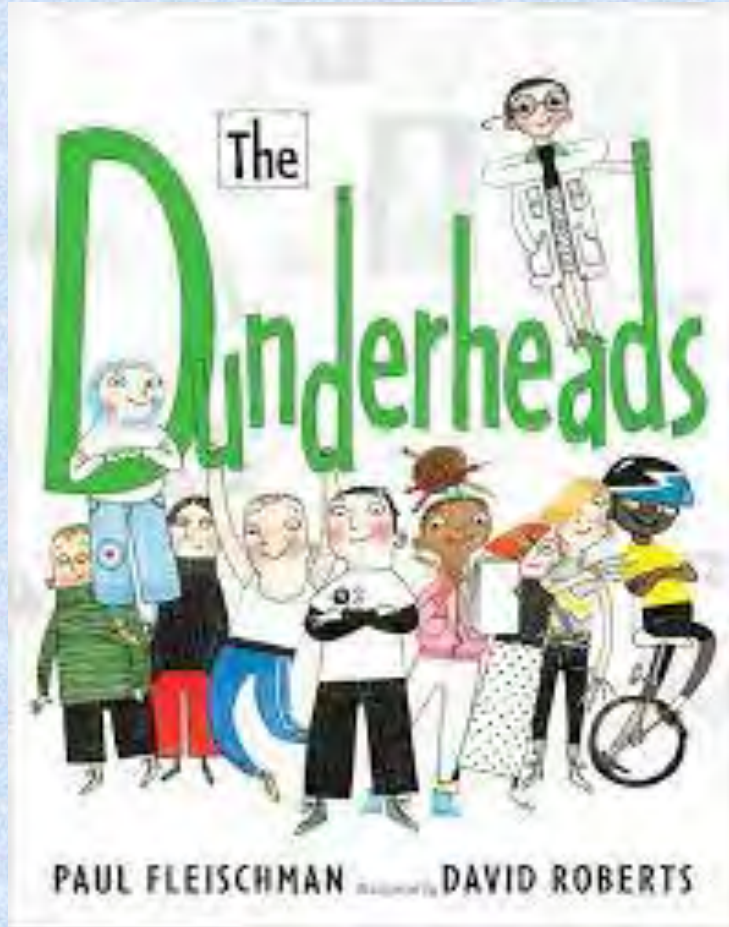
by Jenny Lombard

Lonely Drita moves from war-torn Kosovo to New York City where she struggles to learn English. She meets funny rebel Maxie, who has a sad secret she tells no one. Will these two girls overcome their differences and become friends? (135 pages)



The Dunderheads

by Paul Fleischman, illustrated by David Roberts



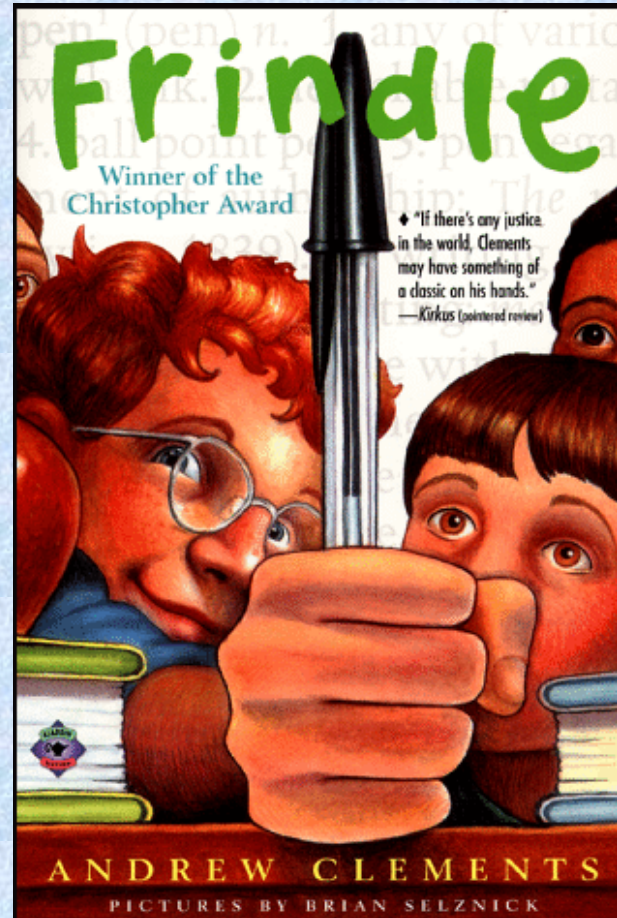
A bunch of misfit students have the meanest teacher in the world, Miss Breakbone! When she goes too far, they decide it is time to teach **her** a lesson! Will they pull off their plan? (56 pages)

Quick read and funny!

Frindle

by Andrew Clements

Nicholas decides to play a trick on his dictionary-loving teacher by inventing a new word for “pen.” Soon **everyone** starts using the word “frindle” and his teacher is not happy! Will things spin out of control? (105 pages)



Funny!

Gregor the Overlander

by Suzanne Collins



In this action-packed fantasy, Gregor and his 2-year-old sister fall into an underground world. There they meet bats and cockroaches...and evil rats who want to take over the world! Can Gregor save humankind against these vicious rodents? (311 pages)

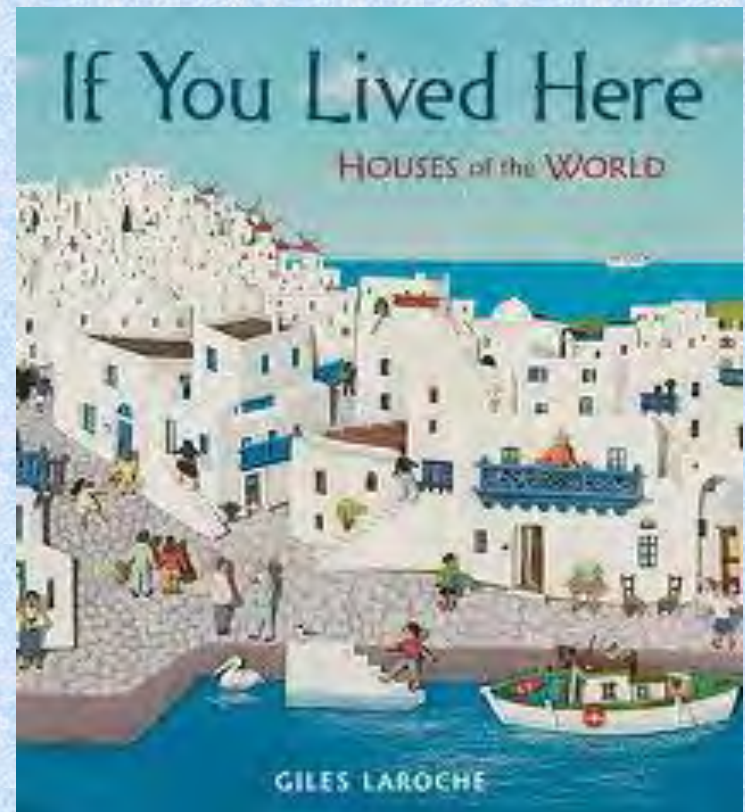
First in a series!

If You Lived Here: Houses of the World

by Giles Laroche

Imagine living inside a mountain, or in a home where you could catch fish from your bedroom window. This book takes you all over the world, showing you the coolest of houses!

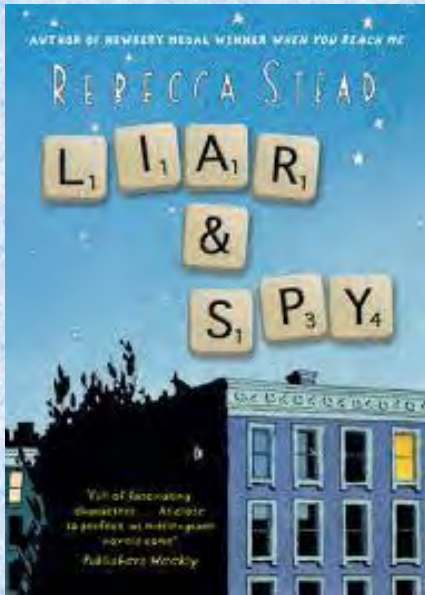
Which house would you choose as your favorite?
(32 pages)



Non-fiction!

Liar & Spy

by Rebecca Stead



After he moves into a new apartment building, Georges meets Safer, a boy who says he is a great spy. They start spying on neighbor Mr. X, who may or may not be completely evil! What will they discover about this possibly dangerous man? (180 pages)

Lunch Lady and the Cyborg Substitute

by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

The new substitute teacher seems to be up to no good! Who will save the school? Why, the crime-fighting Lunch Lady and her brave assistant Betty will! Which supercool gadgets will she use to save the day??? A funny graphic novel! (95 pages)



Funny, first in a series, and a quick read!

Niagara Falls, or Does it

by Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver

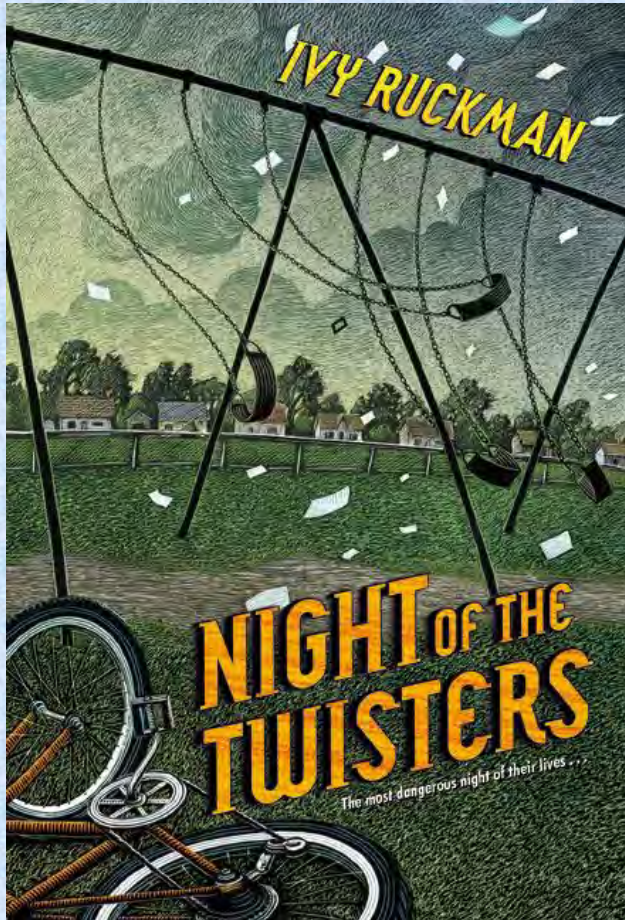


Hank Zipzer does not like to read or write. When asked to compose an essay about his summer vacation, he decides to build a model of Niagara Falls instead! What happens when he shows off his epic project? (137 pages)

Funny and first in a series!

Night of the Twisters

by Ivy Ruckman



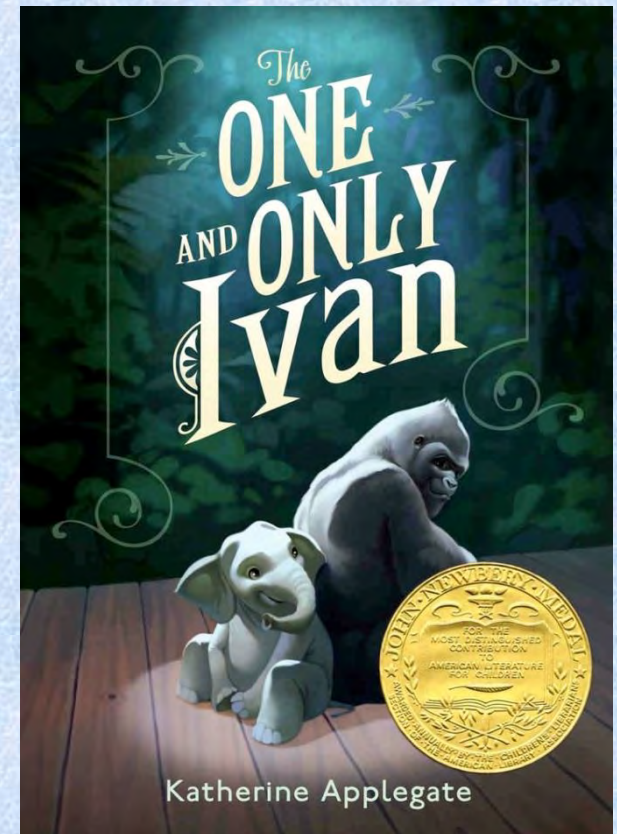
Based on a true story!

12-year old Dan Hatch finds himself at home with his baby brother and his best friend Arthur when tornado sirens begin to go off. Hiding in the basement, the three boys face multiple twisters in a night none of them will ever forget. An exciting story about survival and strength. (160 pages)

The One and Only Ivan

by Katherine Applegate

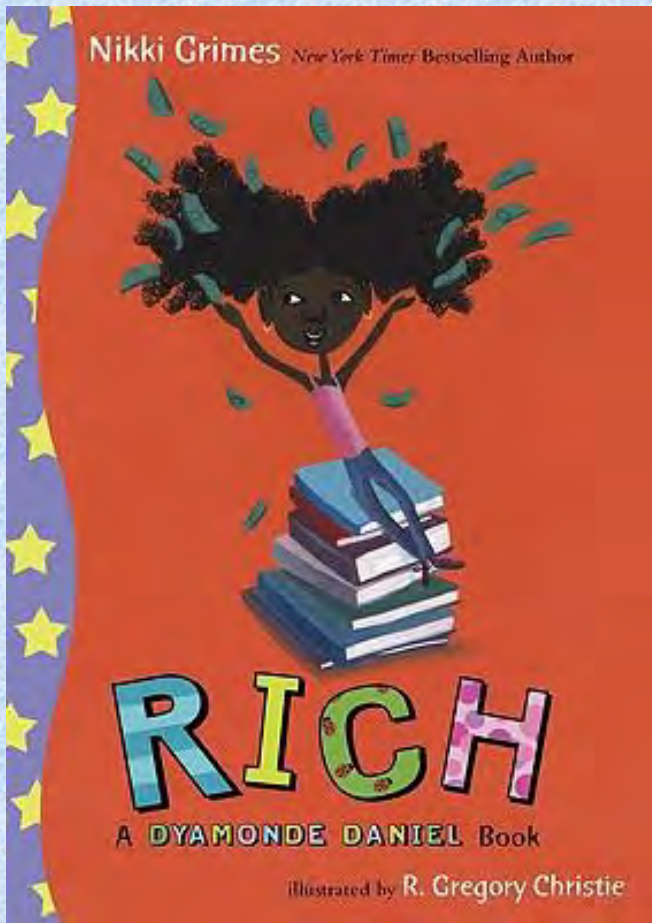
Ivan has spent most of his life in a circus-themed mall. He has his art, his friends and he can even watch TV. When a baby elephant is brought in to draw in more customers, Ivan begins to view his life in a new light. Can he find a way to save them all? Newbery Medal Winner. (320 pages)



Based on a true story! Short chapters and illustrations.

Rich: A Dyamonde Daniel Book

by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie



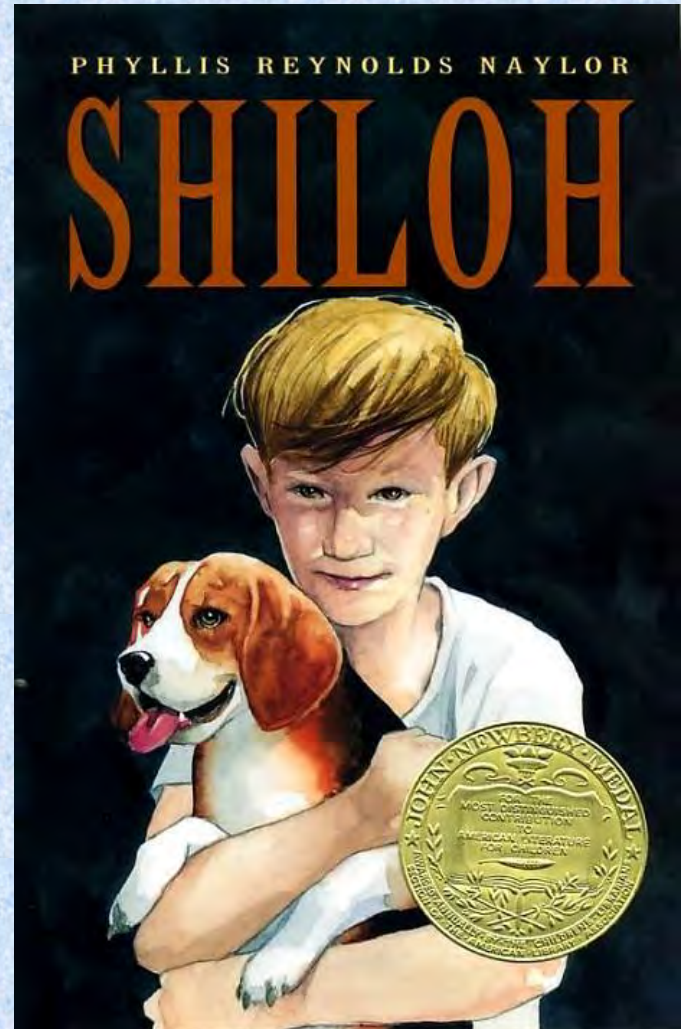
Dyamonde Daniel cannot wait to enter the library's poetry contest with her friend Free. They could do so many great things with the \$100 prize! When they discover their classmate, Damaris' secret, they have to decide whether winning, or helping their new friend is more important. (95 pages)

Shiloh

by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

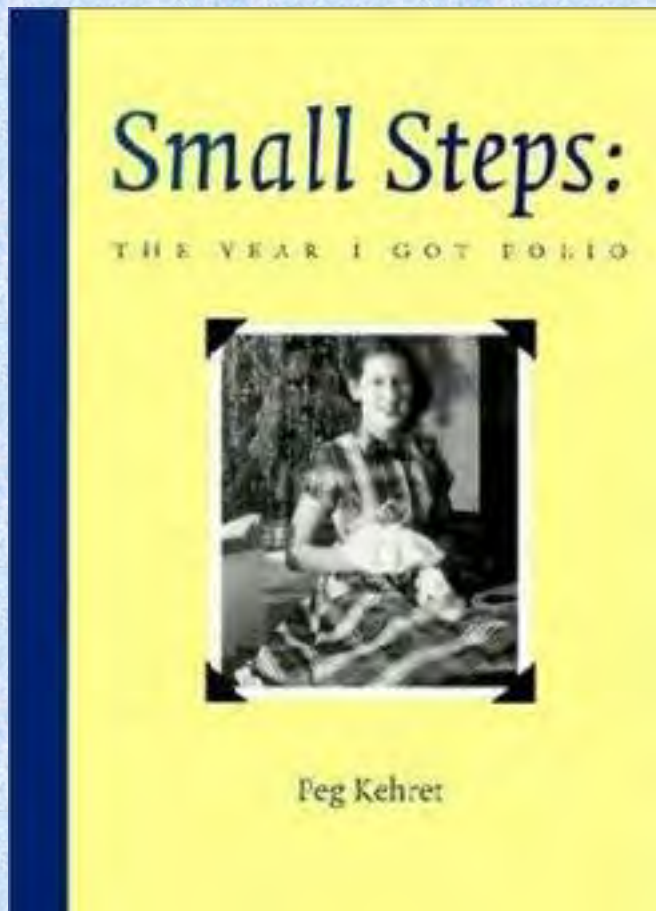
When Marty discovers a beagle in the hills behind his house he falls in love at first sight.

Unfortunately Shiloh belongs to a cruel man, Judd Travers. As Marty protects Shiloh the secrets and danger grow greater. Read this classic to find out if Marty can ever have Shiloh for good. (144 pages)



Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio

by Peg Kehret

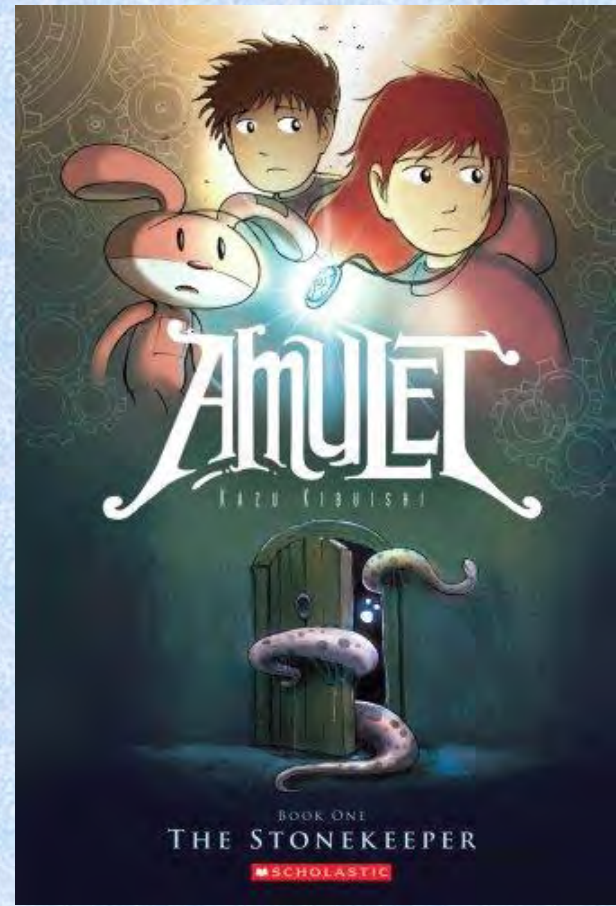


The true story of how Peg Kehret battled polio when she was twelve years old. Surviving the initial paralysis brought on by the illness, Peg then had to learn how to walk again. A story of strength and courage in the face of an uncertain future. (179 pages)

The Stonekeeper

by Kazu Kibuishi

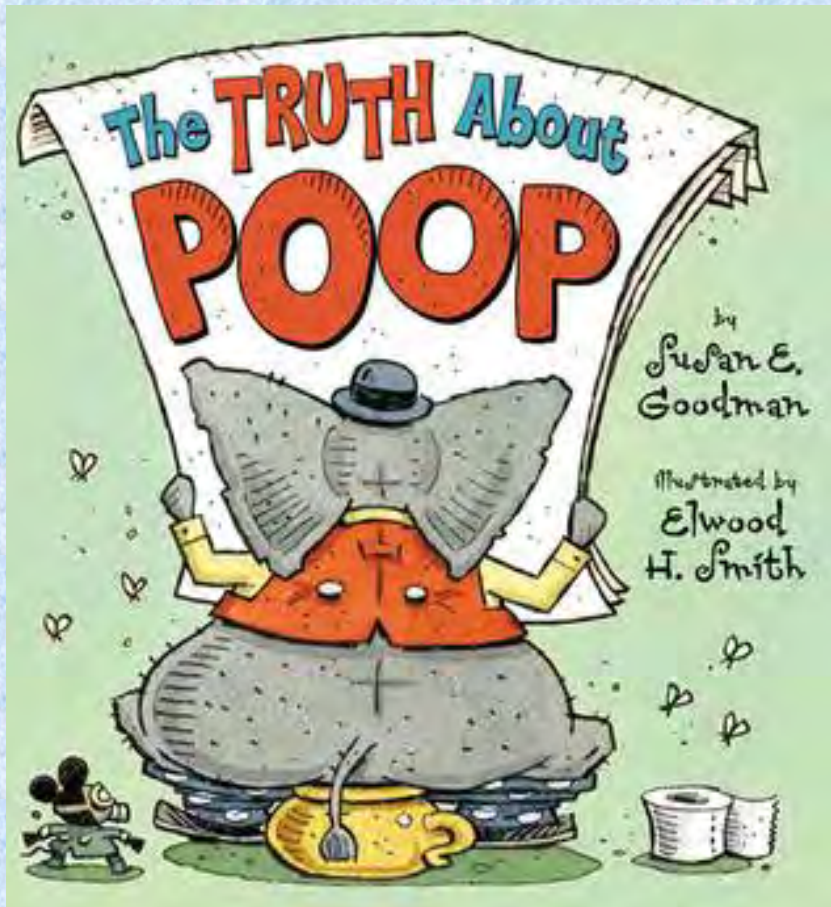
When a terrible creature lures their mother away from their new home, Emily and Navin find themselves on a dangerous mission. They must rescue her from an underground world full of talking animals, robots and demons. (192 pages)



First in a graphic novel series!

The Truth About Poop

by Susan E. Goodman, illustrated by Elwood H. Smith

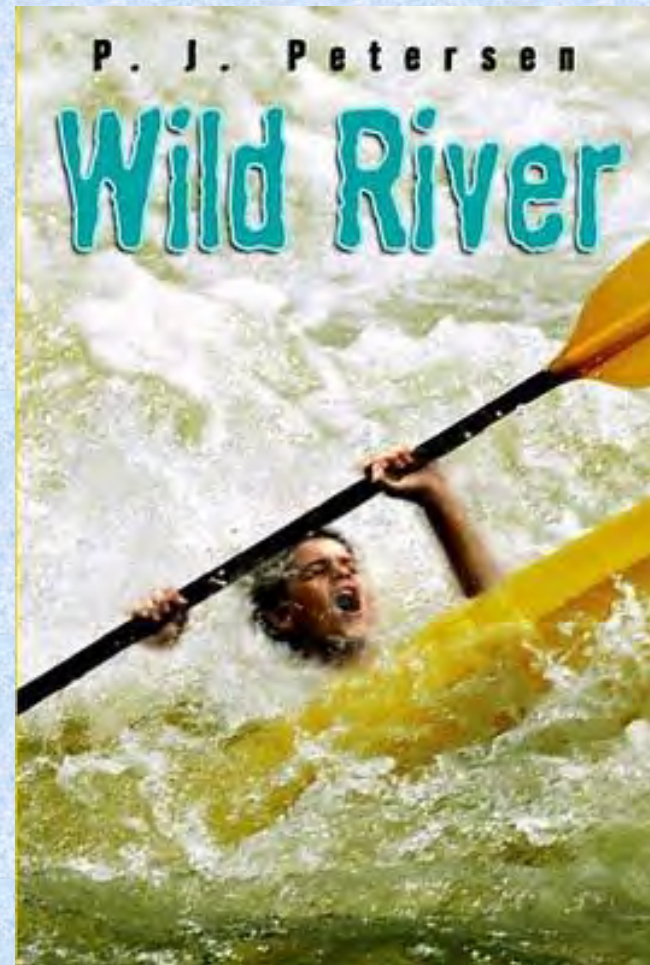


A fascinating look at one of the more private bodily functions. Learn how far a skipper caterpillar can shoot its poop as well as about all of the substitutes there have been for toilet paper in history. Full of hilarious illustrations too! (48 pages)

Wild River

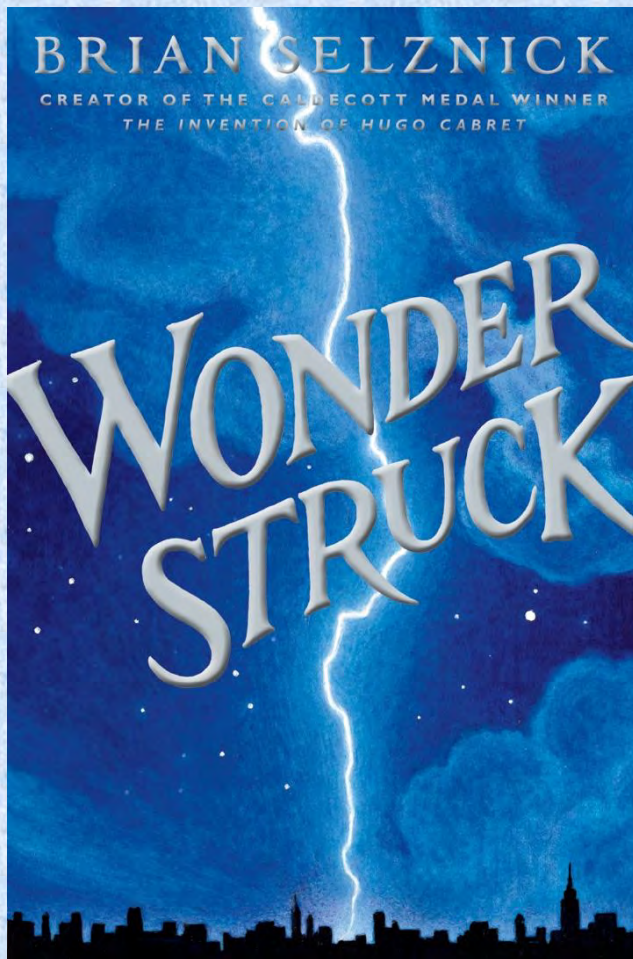
by P.J. Petersen

Ryan, a video game addict, finds himself in a real life adventure when a camping trip with his older brother Tanner goes horribly wrong. Can Ryan save his brother and brave the wilderness on his own? (128 pages)



Wonderstruck

by Brian Selznick



This is the story of Ben and Rose. Though they live 50 years apart, both wish for different lives and set out on quests to find what they are missing. Ben's story is told in words, while Rose's is told in dynamic illustrations. (608 pages)

By the author of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret!*



**Which book will you read
first?**

**Be sure to read at least four
so you can vote!**