

# Just One More Page

## 2008 Convention

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature Committee

### **\*Books to be discussed in this session**

**An Unlikely Friendship: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Keckley.** Rinaldi, Ann (2007)

Relates the lives of Mary Todd Lincoln, raised in a wealthy Virginia family, and Lizzy Keckley, a dressmaker born a slave, as they grow up separately then become best friends when Mary's childhood dream of living in the White House comes true. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Bear Walker.** Bruchac, Joseph (2007)

A young Mohawk boy uses what his family has taught him to help save a class field trip to the Adirondacks. This fast paced mystery twists and turns keeping the reader in suspense. Grades 4 and up.

**Bird Springs.** Marsden, Carolyn (2007)

When drought and his father's absence force them to leave the Navajo reservation at Bird Springs, ten-year-old Gregory, his mother, and sister move to a motel in Tuscon, Arizona, where one of Gregory's teachers helps him confront his painful past. Grades 4 and up.

**\*The Black Book of Secrets.** Higgins, F.E. (2007)

A boy arrives at a remote village in the dead of night. His name is Ludlow Fitch—and he is running from a terrible past. He falls into a job as assistant to a mysterious pawnbroker and life he has only dreamed. Grades 7-12.

**Bone by Bone by Bone.** Johnston, Tony (2007)

In 1950's Tennessee, ten-year-old David's racist father refuses to let him associate with his best friend Malcolm, an African American boy. Grades 8 and up.

**The Castle Corona.** Creech, Sharon (2007)

Two orphaned peasant children discover a mysterious pouch, the contents of which lead them to the majestic Castle Corona, where their lives may be transformed forever. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Click.** Scholastic, Inc. (2007)

The world's best beloved authors each contribute a chapter in the life of mysterious George "Gee" Keane. Under different pens, a startling portrait emerges of a man, his family, and his tangle of a life. Grades 8 and up.

**\*Come Juneteenth.** Rinaldi, Ann (2007)

Fourteen-year-old Luli and her family face tragedy after failing to tell their slaves that President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation made them free. Grades 5 to 7.

**Comets, Stars, the Moon and Mars.** Florian, Douglas (2007)

A collection of space poems and paintings including a galactic glossary that would complete a lesson on the universe. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Cracker!: The Best Dog in Vietnam.** Kadohata, Cynthia (2007)

A young soldier bonds with his bomb-sniffing dog. Grades 5 and up.

**The Dangerous Book for Boys.** Iggulden, C. & H. (2007)

A complete handbook showing everything a boy might want to know from building a fort to folding the best paper airplane. The chapters are labeled and organized for ease in finding a topic of interest. Grades 5 and up.

**Deep and Dark and Dangerous: A Ghost Story.** Hahn, Mary Downing (2007)

When thirteen-year-old Ali goes to spend the summer with her aunt and cousin at the family's vacation home, she stumbles upon a secret that her mother and aunt have been hiding for over thirty years. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Diary of a Wimpy Kid.** Kinney, Jeff (2007)

Author and illustrator Jeff Kinney shows the life of a middle school weakling. Kinney takes the reader through the school year highlighting the seasons and school activities through his diary entries and cartoon illustrations. A candid look at the middle school weakling and how one survives the school year. Grades 4 and up.

**Dragon Slippers.** George, Jessica Day (2007)

Orphaned after a fever epidemic, Creel befriends a dragon and unknowingly inherits an object that can either save or destroy her kingdom. Grades 4 and up.

**Dramarama.** Lockhart, E. (2007)

Two theater mad Ohio teenagers set their sights on going to summer drama camp. Lockhart tackles the subject of living a gay lifestyle with an intense look at teen friendships. Grades 9 and up.

**Edward's Eyes.** MacLachan, Patricia (2007)

Edward is one of a large and close family that loves baseball, music, books and one another, and when he unexpectedly dies and his parents donate his organs, his wonderful eyes get a perfect recipient. Grades 4 and up.

**Eggs.** Spinelli, Jerry (2007)

Mourning the loss of his mother, nine-year-old David forms an unlikely friendship with independent, quirky thirteen-year-old Primrose, as the two help each other deal with what is missing in their lives. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Elijah of Buxton.** Curtis, Christopher Paul (2007)

In 1860, 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. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell out of a Tree.** Tarshis, Lauren (2007)

A quirky and utterly logical seventh-grade girl named Emma-Jean Lazarus discovers some interesting results when she gets involved in the messy everyday problems of her peers. Grades 5 and up.

**\*Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat.** Jonell, Lynne (2007)

When Emmy discovers that she and her formerly loving parents are being drugged by their evil nanny, who has access to rodent potions that can change people in frightening ways, she and some new friends must try everything possible to return things to normal. Grades 4 and up.

**The Entertainer and the Dybbuk.** Fleischman, Sid (2007)

A struggling American ventriloquist in post-World War II Europe is possessed by the mischievous spirit of a young Jewish boy killed in the Holocaust. Grades 5 and up.

**The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School.** Fleming, Candace (2007)

An unlikely teacher takes over the disorderly fourth-grade class of Aesop Elementary School with surprising results. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Face to Face with Caterpillars.** Murawski, Darlyne A. (2007)

Join a caterpillar expert who will wow you with the astonishing inner workings of the caterpillar's own world. Grades 3 and up.

**Feathers.** Woodson, Jacqueline (2007)

When a new, white student nicknamed "The Jesus Boy" joins her sixth grade class in the winter of 1971, Frannie's growing friendship with him makes her start to see some things in a new light. Grades 4 and up

**\*First Light.** Stead, Rebecca (2007)

When twelve-year-old Peter and his family arrive in Greenland for his father's research, he stumbles upon a secret his mother has been hiding from him all his life, and begins an adventure he never imagines possible. Grades 6 and up.

**Forged in Fire.** Turnbull, Ann (2007)

After three years apart, eighteen-year-old Susanna is eager to be reunited with her fiancé Will so they can be married, but it is the summer of 1665 and the plague is beginning to spread throughout London. Grades 9 and up.

**Greetings From the Planet Earth.** Kerley, Barbara (2007)

In 1977, as twelve-year-old Theo struggles with a science class project, questions emerge about why his father never returned from Vietnam and why Theo's mother has been keeping secrets for many years. Grades 5 and up.

**\*Home of the Brave.** Applegate, Katherine (2007)

Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth-grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. Grades 6 and up.

**How It Happened in Peach Hill.** Jocelyn, Marthe (2007)

When fifteen-year-old Annie Grey and her "clairvoyant" mother arrive in Peach Hill, New York, in 1924, each finds a reason for wanting to finally settle down, but to reach their goals they will have to do some serious lying and Annie will have to stand up for herself. Grades 5 and up.

**\*In Search of Mockingbird.** Ellsworth, Loretta (2007)

A young girl finds comfort in being a writer and is on a mission to find out about her deceased mother. The one connection young Erin has with her mother is that they both are fascinated with the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Erin sets out on her own to find some answers about the mother she never knew. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Into the Wild.** Durst, Sarah Beth (2007)

When The Wild, a fairy-tale world, escapes from under Julie's bed and begins to devour the entire town, Julie must venture deep into the world and outsmart witches, giants and other storybook characters in the ultimate quest to save her family and town. Grades 4 and up.

**\*The Invention of Hugo Cabret.** Selznik, Brian (2007)

When twelve-year-old Hugo, an orphan living and repairing clocks within the walls of a Paris train station in 1931, meets a mysterious toyseller and his goddaughter, his undercover life and his biggest secret is jeopardized. Grades 4 and up.

**The Lacemaker and the Princess.** Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker (2007)

In 1788, eleven-year-old Isabelle, living with her lacemaker grandmother and mother near the palace of Versailles, becomes close friends with Marie Antoinette's daughter, Princess Therese, and finds their relationship complicated not only by their different social class but by the growing political unrest and resentment of the French people. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Lawn Boy.** Paulsen, Gary (2007)

Things get out of hand for a twelve-year-old boy when a neighbor convinces him to expand his summer lawn mowing business. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Leepike Ridge.** Wilson, N.D. (2007)

While his widowed mother continues to search for him, eleven-year-old Tom, presumed dead after slipping underground while drifting down a river, finds himself trapped in a series of underground caves with another survivor and a dog, and pursued by murderous treasure-hunters. Grades 4 and up.

**Letters from Rapunzel.** Holmes, Sara Lewis (2007)

Through a series of letters written to a post office box, twelve-year-old Cadence describes her father's hospitalization for depression, her subsequent problems at school, and her hope that the mysterious recipient will help her find a happy ending. Grades 5 and up.

**Living Color.** Jenkins, Steve (2007)

This nonfiction book tells how animals use color to warn predators, signal friends, attract a mate, or hide from enemies. Grades 2 and up.

**M Is for Magic.** Gaiman, Neil (2007)

Eleven short stories make up this breathtaking collection of tales that may chill or amuse their readers. Grades 4 and up.

**The Man with the Red Bag.** Bunting, Eve (2007)

In the months following the September 11 terrorist attacks, twelve-year-old Kevin, an aspiring mystery writer traveling cross-country with his grandmother on a sightseeing trip to various national parks and monuments, suspects a sinister-looking man of carrying a bomb. Grades 5 and up.

**Me and the Pumpkin Queen.** Kennedy, Marlane (2007)

Although Aunt Arlene tries to interest her in clothing and growing up, Mildred is entirely focused on growing a pumpkin big enough to win the annual Circleville, Ohio, contest as her mother dreamed of doing before she died. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Moxy Maxwell Does Not Love Stuart Little.** Gifford, Peggy (2007)

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. Grades 3 and up.

**My Last Best Friend.** Bowe, Julie (2007)

After her best friend moves away, fourth-grader Ida May is determined not to make a new best friend, despite the efforts of a new girl in her class. Grades 3 and up.

**The Mysterious Benedict Society.** Stewart, Trenton Lee (2007)

After passing a series of mind-bending tests, four children are selected to go on a secret mission that requires them to go undercover at the Learning Institute for the Very Enlightened, where the only rule is that there are no rules. Grades 4 and up.

**The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World.** Konigsburg, E.L. (2007)

When William and Amedeo work together on a house sale for Amedeo's eccentric neighbor, Mrs. Zender, they discover memorabilia of her life, with stories to go with them. One particular story intrigues them and leads to a painful secret from the outrages of Nazi Germany. Grades 5 and up.

**\*Night of the Howling Dogs.** Salisbury, Graham (2007)

In 1975, eleven Boy Scouts, their leaders, and some new friends camping at Halape, Hawaii, find their survival skills put to the test when a massive earthquake strikes, followed by a tsunami. Grades 4 and up.

**\*No Talking.** Clements, Andrew (2007)

The noisy fifth-grade boys of Laketon Elementary School challenge the equally loud fifth-grade girls to a "no talking" contest. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Nobody's Princess.** Friesner, Esther (2007)

Determined to fend for herself in a world where only men have real freedom, headstrong Helen, who will be called queen of Sparta and Helen of Troy one day, learns to fight, hunt, and ride horses while disguised as a boy, and goes on an adventure throughout the Mediterranean. Grades 8 and up.

**On the Wings of Heroes.** Peck, Richard (2007)

A boy in Illinois remembers the home-front years of World War II, especially his two heroes – his brother in the Air Force and his father, who fought in the previous war. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Paint the Wind.** Ryan, Pam Munoz (2007)

After her overprotective grandmother has a stroke, Maya, an orphan, leaves her extremely restricted life in California to stay with her mother's family on a remote Wyoming ranch, where she discovers a love of horses and encounters a wild mare that her mother once rode. Grades 5 and up.

**\*Piper Reed: Navy Brat.** Holt, Kimberly Willis (2007)

Piper is sad about leaving her home and friends behind when her father, a Navy aircraft mechanic, is transferred yet again, but with help from her often-annoying sisters and a surprise from their parents, she finds happiness in their new home in Pensacola, Florida. Grades 3-6.

**Pocket Babies: and Other Amazing Marsupials.** Collard, Sneed B. III (2007)

Learn about the marsupials of the world, including opossums, kangaroos, koalas and others. Grades 3 and up.

**The Puzzling World of Winston Breen.** Berlin, Eric (2007)

Puzzle-crazy, twelve-year-old Winston and his ten-year-old sister Katie find themselves involved in a dangerous mystery involving a hidden ring. Puzzles for the reader to solve are included throughout the text. Grades 4 and up.

**Reaching for the Sun.** Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn (2007)

Josie, who lives with her mother and grandmother and has cerebral palsy, befriends a boy who moves into one of the rich houses behind her old farmhouse. Grades 4 and up.

**Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party.** Compestine, Ying Chang (2007)

Starting in 1972 when she is nine years old, Ling, the daughter of two doctors, struggles to make sense of the communist's Cultural Revolution, which empties stores of food, homes of appliances deemed "bourgeois," and people of laughter. Grades 5 and up.

**Rickshaw Girl.** Perkins, Matali (2007)

In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy—or disguise herself as one. Grades 4 and up.

**\*The Rising Star of Rusty Nail.** Blume, Lesley M.M. (2007)

In the small town of Rusty Nail, Minnesota, in the early 1950's, musically talented, ten-year-old Franny wants to take advanced piano lessons from newcomer Olga Malenkov, a famous Russian musician suspected of being a communist spy by gossipy members of the community. Grades 4 and up.

**Rover.** French, Jackie (2007)

Captured by Vikings, young Hekja is taken as a slave to Greenland by the daughter of Erik the Red, and accompanied by no one from her homeland but her loyal dog, shares adventures with her new mistress, who is determined to make a name for herself as her father and brother have. Grades 4 and up.

**\*Schooled.** Korman, Gordon (2007)

Thirteen-year-old Cap Anderson had been home schooled by his grandmother on Garland Farm, a commune from the sixties. Since her fall, he has attended Claverage (C-average) Middle School where the educational experience is different. Grades 6 and up.

**Swordbird.** Fan, Nancy Yi (2007)

Warring factions of blue jays and cardinals call on Swordbird, the heroic bird of peace, to rescue them from the evil machinations of Turnatt, the tyrant hawk lord who plans to enslave them. Grades 4 and up.

**\*The Talented Clementine.** Pennypacker, Sara (2007)

Follow the antics of third grader, Clementine, as the night of the big "Talent-palooza" draws closer. Grades 3 and up.

**Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood.** Barakat, Ibtisam (2007)

A memoir of being a three-and-a-half-year-old fleeing from her home during the Six-Day War of June 1967. Grades 5 and up.

**Throwing Like a Girl.** Mackey, Weezie Kerr (2007)

After moving from Chicago to Dallas in the spring of her sophomore year, fifteen-year-old Ella finds that joining the softball team at her private school not only helps her make friends, it also provides unexpected opportunities to learn and grow. Grades 5 and up.

**The Treasures of Weatherby.** Snyder, Zilpha Keatley (2007)

Determined to be as strong and powerful as the first Harleigh, who built the rambling Weatherby Hall, twelve-year-old Harleigh Fourth and an equally diminutive new friend try to foil the plans of a distant relative who is seeking the long lost Weatherby fortune. Grades 4 and up.

**Un Lun Dun.** Mieville, China (2007)

When twelve-year-old Zanna and her friend Deeba find a secret entrance leading out of London and into the strange city of Un Lun Dun, where all the lost and broken things of London end up, it appears that a prophesy is coming true, but then everything goes horribly wrong. Grades 5 and up.

**The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain.** Sis, Peter (2007)

Peter Sis grew up in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War. He combines drawings with some of his journal writings from that time. Grades 3 and up.

**Way Down Deep.** White, Ruth (2007)

In the West Virginia town of Way Down Deep in the 1950's, a foundling called Ruby June is happily living with Miss Arbutus at the local boardinghouse when suddenly, after the arrival of a family of outsiders, the mystery of Ruby's past begins to unravel. Grades 4 and up.

**When Heaven Fell.** Marsden, Carolyn (2007)

When her grandmother reveals that the daughter who she had given up for adoption is coming from America to visit her Vietnamese family, nine-year-old Binh is convinced that her newly discovered aunt is wealthy and will take care of all the family's needs. Grades 4 and up.

**When Is a Planet Not a Planet: The Story of Pluto.** Scott, Elaine (2007)

A history of the discovery of our planets shows how scientists come to conclusions and occasionally change their minds. Grades 4 and up.

**While I Live.** Marsden, John (2007)

A tale of destruction, carnage, and courage – the powerful story of one girl fighting the odds with all the ammunition she has. Grades 8 and up.

**\*The White Giraffe.** St. John, Lauren (2007)

After a fire kills her parents, eleven-year-old Martine must leave England to live with her grandmother on a wildlife game reserve in South Africa, where she befriends a mythical white giraffe. Grades 4 and up.

**The Wolf.** Herrick, Steven (2007)

Sixteen-year-old Lucy, living in the shadow of her violent father, experiences a night of tenderness, danger, and revelation as she and Jake, her fifteen-year-old neighbor, search for a legendary wolf in the Australian outback. Grades 9 and up.