

# Just One More Page

2014 Convention

Compiled by WSRA's Children's Literature Committee

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

**\*The 14 Fibs of Gregory K.** Pincus, Greg (2013).

Failing math but great at writing, Gregory finds the poetry in what's hard. Gregory K is the middle child in a family of mathematical geniuses. But if he claimed to love math? Well, he'd be fibbing. What he really wants most is to go to Author Camp. But to get his parents' permission he's going to have to pass his math class. Hilariously it's the "Fibonacci Sequence" -- a famous mathematical formula! -- that comes to the rescue, inspiring Gregory to create a whole new form of poem: the Fib! Maybe Fibs will save the day, and help Gregory find his way back to the truth. Grades 4-7.

**33 Minutes.** Lowy-Hasak, Todd (2013).

In 33 minutes, Sam Lewis is going to "get his butt kicked" by his former best friend Morgan Sturtz. Seen through the eyes of Sam, this funny, fast-paced story is packed with drama and action. Sam does not take his fate lying down. The story harbors many truths, how friends can become enemies, how bullies pick on the weak, and not everything can be fixed in the end. Grades 5-8.

**The Adventures of Radisson: Hell Never Burns.** Fournier, Martin (2012).

Pierre-Esprit Radisson arrived from Paris to New France in 1651, a 15-year-old boy eager for adventure in the New World. Radisson is captured and tortured by the Iroquois. He is adopted and learns their way of life. He escapes and becomes a fur trader and the founder of the Hudson Bay Company. Wisconsin history. Grades 4-7.

**Africa is My Home: A Child of the Amistad.** Edinger, Monica (2013).

No one comes home. This is what they told me. No one. Once you go to the white man's land, that is where you stay. Forever. But they were wrong. I did come back to Africa. I did come home. Grades 4-8.

**After the River the Sun.** Calhoun, Dia (2013).

When Eckhart Lyon arrives at Sunrise Orchard, all he wants to do is play video games and read. Anything that helps him forget that his parents drowned in a river, and forget his own cowardliness. Novel in verse. Grades 5-7.

**\*Alien Deep: Revealing the Mysterious Living World at the Bottom of the Ocean.** Hague, Bradley (2012).

Based on a remarkable undersea discovery, Alien Deep pulls the reader into the exciting world of ocean exploration. Travel with a team of scientists who uncover unimaginable never-seen-before life forms using the newest technology available. National Geographic. Grades 5-8.

**Bo at Ballard Creek.** Hill, Kirkpatrick, illus. Pham, LeVyen (2013).

It's the 1920's, and Bo was headed for an Alaska orphanage when she won the hearts of two tough gold miners who set out to raise her, helped by the kind people in the nearby Eskimo village. Fans of Laura Ingalls Wilder will appreciate the atmospheric look at this time and place. Alaskan gold rush, adding detail to a story. Grades 4-7.

**\*The Boy on the Porch.** Creech, Sharon (2013).

When a young couple finds a boy asleep on their porch, their lives take a surprising turn. Unable to speak, the boy Jacob can't explain his history. All John and Marta know is that they have been chosen to care for him. And, as their connection and friendship with Jacob grow, they embrace his exuberant spirit and talents. The three of them blossom into an unlikely family and begin to see the world in brand-new ways. Grades 4-6.

**The Bully Book.** Gale, Eric Kahn (2013).

Sixth-grader Eric finds himself on the receiving end of bullying behavior. And what's worse, he suspects he is the target of a well thought out plan to ruin his life. Eric believes there is a secret bully book at his school that has been handed down through the years. Through great investigative work and with the help of some of the book's past victims, Eric is determined to find and destroy this book and get his life back. Grades 4-7.

**Counting by 7s.** Sloan, Holly Goldberg (2013).

Twelve-year-old genius and outsider Willow Chance must figure out how to connect with other people and find a surrogate family for herself after her parents are killed in a car accident. Grades 5-8.

**\*Danny's Doodles: The Jelly Bean Experiment.** Adler, David (2013).

Danny Cohen and Calvin Waffle are two very different kids. Danny likes playing baseball; Calvin enjoys strange experiments. Danny follows the rules at school; Calvin tries to drive his teacher crazy. Danny and Calvin decide to team up for the big jelly bean experiment. Will it lead to trouble? Maybe. Will they have fun trying? You can count on it. Grades 2-5.

**Danny, Who Fell In a Hole.** Fagan, Cary (2013).

Danny finds himself stranded at the bottom of a giant construction hole, armed with nothing but his school backpack, his wits, and the company of a poetry-spouting mole. Reluctant reader. Grades 3-6.

**Disconnect.** Peterson, Lois (2012).

Fourteen-year-old Daria's addiction to technology creates serious problems in her life. Orca currents. Grades 6-10.

**Doll Bones.** Black, Holly (2013).

Zach, Alice and Poppy, friends from a Pennsylvania middle school who have long enjoyed acting out imaginary adventures with dolls and action figures, embark on a real-life quest to Ohio to bury a doll made from the ashes of a dead girl. Grades 4-7.

**\*Dorko the Magnificent.** Beaty, Andrea (2013).

Robbie Darko is a fifth grader and an old school magician who wants to make a big splash at his school's talents show, but he never expects to get the help he needs from grumpy old Grandma Melvyn. Grades 4-6.

**Elvis and the Underdogs.** Lee, Jenny (2013).

All his life Benji, now ten, has been sickly and he has long been targeted by the school bully, but after a seizure Benji gets a therapy dog that is not only big enough to protect him, it can also talk. Grades 4-6.

**Eruption!: Volcanoes and the Science of Saving Lives.** Rusch, Elizabeth, illus. Uhlman, Tom (2013).

Through photographs we learn of the 1985 eruption of Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz. At the present time more than one billion people live in eruption zones of volcanoes. This book tells how scientists are studying volcanoes to determine when they will erupt. Grades 5-9.

**Etched in Clay: The Life of Dave, Enslaved Potter and Poet.** Cheng, Andrea (2013).

In this novelized biography told in verse, we learn about Dave, a potter who wrote poetry on his pots. This was really brave because South Carolina's anti-literacy law for slaves could have resulted in his severe punishment. Many of his pieces still exist. Black and white woodcuts illustrate the book. Biography, pottery, slavery, close reading. Grades 5 and up.

**\*Finding Zasha.** Barrow, Randi (2013).

Twelve-year-old Ivan has escaped from the Siege of Leningrad, but when the town he has taken refuge in is occupied by Hitler's troops, he sees his chance to help the partisans he has met and to rescue two German shepherd puppies, Zasha and Thor, from the cruel Commander Recht. Grades 5-8.

**\*Flora & Ulysses.** DiCamillo, Kate (2013).

It begins, as the best superhero stories do, with a tragic accident that has unexpected consequences. The squirrel never saw the vacuum cleaner coming, but self-described cynic Flora Belle Buckman, who has read every issue of the comic book *Terrible Things Can Happen to You!*, is the just the right person to step in and save him. What neither can predict is that Ulysses (the squirrel) has been born anew, with powers of strength, flight, and misspelled poetry — and that Flora will be changed too, as she discovers the possibility of hope and the promise of a capacious heart. Grades 4-6.

**\*From Mud Huts to Skyscrapers: Architecture for Children.** Paxmann, Christine (2013).

From primitive huts to modern day buildings, the history of architecture is shown and explained, helping the reader to see how the culture and events of the times are reflected in what was built. Grades 4-6

**The Garden of my Imaan.** Zia, Farhana (2013).

The arrival of new student Marwa, a fellow fifth-grader who is a strict Muslim, helps Aliya come to terms with her own lukewarm practice of the faith and her embarrassment over others' reactions to their beliefs. Grades 4-7.

**\*Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design.** Kidd, Chip (2013).

Graphic designs send messages into our brains many times a day. The art itself is largely problem-solving, and the author has explained all the different decisions that affect how we see and interpret things. Grades 5 and up.

**The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel.**

Hopkinson, Deborah (2013).

Eel, an orphan, and his best friend Florrie must help Dr. John Snow prove that cholera is spreading through water, and not poisonous air, when an epidemic sweeps across their London neighborhood in 1854. Grades 5-8.

**Hideout.** Korman, Gordon (2013).

When Griffin Bing and his friends first met Luthor he was a vicious attack dog. The kids rescued Luthor and never thought they'd see his evil owner again. But now the owner has returned and he wants his dog back. Six kids, three hideouts, one extremely large dog, what could possibly go wrong? Grades 5-7.

**Hokey Pokey.** Spinelli, Jerry (2013).

Ever since they were snottippers, Jack and the girl have fought, until one day she steals his bike, and as he and the Amigos try to recover it, Jack realizes that he is growing up and must eventually leave the "goodlands and badlands of Hokey Pokey." Grades 5-7.

**Hold Fast.** Balliett, Blue (2013).

In Chicago, a girl named Early, her mom, and her brother must flee their apartment when her father mysteriously disappears. In a city shelter, Early starts asking questions and looking for answers when she finds traces that may lead to her father.

Ideas, Word Choice. Grades 6-9.

**I Represent Sean Rosen.** Baron, Jeff (2013).

With the help of his "manager," a thirteen-year-old boy sells a movie idea to a major Hollywood studio. Grades 6-8.

**I See the Promised Land: A Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.** Flowers, Arthur, illus.

Chitrakar, Manu (2013).

This graphic novel tells the story of MLK JR and the Civil Rights Movement from two different storytelling traditions. Grades 7 and up.

**Ivy in the Shadows.** Woodworth, Chris (2013).

After Ivy's stepfather disappears, Ivy's mama begins waitressing at Dining Divinely to make ends meet. She also takes in a boarder — twelve-year-old Caleb, who's the same age as Ivy and is the weirdest guy she's ever met. With Mama working full-time, Ivy has to babysit her little brother, JJ. She also has to fend off the nosy Pastor Harold, stop Caleb from filling JJ's head with lies, and keep her best friend, Ellen, from knowing anything about her embarrassing situation at home. Ivy has always found out all she needs to know by lurking in the shadows (some might call it "eavesdropping"). But as things at home become more complicated, she learns to step into the light and not only listen but speak up. Grades 5-7.

**Lincoln's Grave Robbers.** Sheinkin, Steve (2013).

The action begins in October of 1875, as secret service agents raid the Fulton, Illinois workshop of master counterfeiter Ben Boyd. After he is carted off to prison, his cohorts hatch a plan to steal Lincoln's body and demand Ben's release and \$200,000 for its return. Crime thriller. Grades 5-9.

**Listening for Lucca.** LaFleur, Suzanne (2013).

Thirteen-year-old Siena's visions of the past intensify when her family moves to the Maine coast hoping her little brother will begin speaking, and she connects with residents of the house from many years earlier who faced a similar problem. Grades 5-8.

**Looks Like Daylight: Voices of Indigenous Kids.** Ellis, Deborah (2013).

True stories of Native American and Indigenous teens living throughout North America. A result of 45 interviews conducted over a two year period. Grades 9 and up.

**Magicalamity.** Saunders, Kate (2013).

Eleven-year-old Tom is shocked to learn that he is a demisprite, half fairy and half mortal, and that he, aided by three fairy godmothers, must save his father, who is hiding in the fairly Realm, while safeguarding his mortal mother. Grades 4-6.

**A Matter of Days.** Kizer, Amber (2013).

In the not-too-distant future when a global pandemic kills most of humanity, a teenage girl and her younger brother struggle to survive. Grades 8 and up.

**Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things.** Voigt, Cynthia (2013).

When Max's parents leave the country without him, he must rely on his wits to get by, and before long he is running his own—rather unusual—business. Grades 5-8.

**\*The Mouse with the Question Mark Tail.** Peck, Richard (2013).

A very small mouse of unknown origins runs away from school in the Royal Mews of Buckingham Palace shortly before the celebration of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. Grades 4-6.

**\*The Mystery of Darwin's Frog.** Crump, Marty Ph.D., illus. Jenkins, Steve and Rodriguez, Edel (2013).

A frog full of tadpoles? Here is the story of a frog discovered by Darwin in 1834 that holds his young in a vocal sac while they grow and develop, and the scientists who studied it. Life cycles, science discoveries. Grades 5-7.

**Navigating Early.** Vanderpool, Clare (2013).

Odyssey-like adventure of two boys' incredible quest on the Appalachian Trail where they deal with pirates, buried secrets, and extraordinary encounters. Grades 6-9.

**\*The Neptune Project.** Holyoke, Polly (2013).

Global warming is here now. Government controls like *1984*. Parents alter the DNA of children to live in the sea and breathe in water. Whales, octopus, pirates, and government adventures along the way hamper their journey to safety. Grades 6-8.

**\*Never Say Die.** Hobbs, Will (2013).

When Nick Thrasher (15) agrees to join the photographer-brother he has never met on a journey down a remote Arctic river, their search for migrating caribou turns into a struggle with the elements and a fearsome bear that is part polar bear, part grizzly. [Never...motto of Nick's Inuit village.] Grades 5-7.

**\*Not a Chance.** Mulder, Michelle (2013).

Dian visits the Dominican Republic with her parents each summer. There are culture clashes. Dian is Canadian and knows she doesn't fit in there. Her modern ideas disagree with traditional customs in the Dominican. Dian wants her friend to join her in Canada to get an education. Her friend seems to prefer marriage, children, and hard work. Orca currents. Grades 5-8.

**Odessa Again.** Reinhardt, Dana (2013).

Fourth grader Odessa Green-light lives with her mom and toad of a brother, Oliver. Her dad is getting remarried and as she stomps across the attic floor, she falls and realizes she has time-traveled one day in the past. With her new power, she tries to fix all sorts of things, embarrassing moments, mistakes, and her brother. Ideas, argument. Grades 3-5.

**One + One = Blue.** Auch, MJ (2013).

Twelve-year-old Basil knows he's special – he's been associating numbers with colors since he was a kid. He's a loner, but this changes when he meets Tenzie, a new girl in school with the same gift. Synesthesia, coming of age. Grades 5-8.

**One Tough Chick.** Margolis, Leslie (2013).

As the school talent show nears, Annabelle's plan to display her dog training skills goes awry and she is asked to be a student judge instead, which seems perfect until her friends begin asking for special treatment. Grades 3-6.

**Operation Oleander.** Patterson, Valerie O. (2013).

7th-grader Jess and her friends establish the Order of the Oleander to collect supplies for an orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan, where two of their parents are deployed, but when disaster strikes and many blame the Order, Jess must find a way to go on. Grades 5-9.

\*\*\*PLEASE PREREAD before recommending this book\*\*\*

**P.S. Be Eleven.** Williams-Garcia, Rita (2013).

After spending the summer with their mother and soaking in the “power to the people” mind-set, Delphine and her sisters return to Boston where their new ideas don’t go over well with their grandmother Big Ma. Grades 4-7.

**\*Paperboy.** Vawter, Vince (2013).

When an eleven year old boy takes over his friend’s newspaper route in July 1959, in Memphis, his debilitating stutter makes for a memorable month. Grades 6-9.

**\*Parched.** Crowder, Melanie (2013).

Sarel is a girl with secrets who must keep herself and her dogs alive in a parched and barren land overrun with gangs who will stop at nothing to find water. Grades 5-8.

**Pi in the Sky.** Mass, Wendy (2013).

Josh, the seventh son of the Supreme Overlord of the Universe, must team up with a human girl to re-create Earth, when the planet is accidentally erased from existence. Grades 5-8.

**Poems to Learn By Heart.** Kennedy, Caroline, ed., illus. Muth, Jon J. (2013).

A diverse collection of more than a hundred poems. Great selection, not only for memorizing, but also for classroom study and personal enjoyment. Grades 5 and up.

**Poison.** Zinn, Bridget (2013).

Sixteen-year-old potions master, Kyra, is the only one who can save her kingdom from destruction. Her poison dart, meant for the kingdom’s future ruler, goes wide, and she becomes a fugitive. She and her companions try to survive, evade her pursuers, and save the kingdom. Fantasy, strong female protagonist. Grades 6-9.

**Prisoner B-3087.** Gruener, Ruth & Jack, and Gratz, Alan (2013).

True story of ten year old Yanek Gruener and his survival of the Jewish Ghetto in Krakow, his parents’ deportation, and 10 different concentration camps. Survival, Holocaust. Grades 6-10.

**\*Pug and Other Animal Poems.** Worth, Valerie, illus. Jenkins, Steve (2013).

This book examines a wide range of animal behavior, from the fleetingness of a fly sipping spilled milk to the constant steely presence of a powerful bull; we enjoy thoughtful descriptions on each page. Grades 3-5.

**\*Red River Stallion.** Harrison, Troon (2013).

In mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Canada, a young orphan Cree girl named Rose travels west to be with the great red stallion that she loves and to search for the Scotch-English father who had abandoned her as a baby. Grades 5-8.

**Road Trip.** Paulsen, Gary & Jim (2013).

A father and son embark on a road trip to a distant animal shelter to save a homeless Border Collie puppy. Grades 5-8.

**Romeo Blue.** Stone, Phoebe (2013).

During World War II, Felicity Bathburn is living in Bottlebay, Maine, with her eccentric relatives and their foster child, Derek, whom she has grown to love, but when a man claiming to be Derek's true father arrives and starts asking all kinds of strange questions Felicity becomes suspicious of his motives. Grades 5-7.

**Rooftoppers.** Rundell, Katherine (2013).

When authorities threaten to take Sophie, twelve, from Charles, who has been her guardian since she was one and they both survived a shipwreck, the pair goes to Paris to try to find Sophie's mother, and they are aided by Matteo and his band of "rooftoppers." Grades 4-6.

**\*Ruby Redfort Take Your Last Breath.** Child, Lauren (2013).

Ruby is 13, a most intelligent secret agent battling sea monsters and criminals with friend Clancy and a butler as backup. Ruby also solves difficult cases as a talented code breaker. Grades 5-8.

**The Saturday Boy.** Fleming, David (2013).

Every school day seems to bring more trouble to eleven-year-old Derek, whose former best friend bullies him, while at home he deals with the long absence of his father, a Blackhawk helicopter pilot, and his mother's sudden moodiness. Grades 5-8.

**\*Serafina's Promise.** Burg, Ann E. (2013).

Serafina wants to go to school to become a doctor, but little money, never-ending chores, and the worries of Manman make it unlikely. Then come heavy rains and a shaking earth that turn everything upside down. Verse novel. Grades 4-6.

**Soldier Dog.** Angus, Sam (2013).

When thirteen-year-old Stanley wakes up one morning to find his dogs that he loves and his explosive father gone, he runs away to join an increasingly desperate army and is assigned to the experimental War Dog School where he trains a Great Dane and is sent to France to take part in a brutal war. Graphic war language, violence. Grades 6-8.

**A Song for Bijou.** Farrar, Josh (2013).

Alex Schrader is a seventh-grade boy who has fallen in love with the new girl in class, a Haitian immigrant named Bijou. Alex struggles to maintain old friendships as he pursues Bijou. As American and Haitian cultures collide, both learn to see things from the other person's point of view. Grades 5-8.

**Spy Camp.** Gibbs, Stuart (2013).

In this sequel to “Spy School”, Ben Ripley is heading to camp to relax, but once there is approached by an agent of the evil Spyder organization trying to recruit him to the dark side. Characters are both comic and convincing and there are some nifty plot surprises. Ideas, humor, story elements. Grade 5-7.

**Sugar.** Rhodes, Jewell Parker (2013).

In 1870, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky ten-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her friendship with Billy, the son of the former master, and the arrival of workmen from China. Grades 5-8.

**\*A Tangle of Knots.** Graff, Lisa (2013).

Destiny leads 11-year-old Cady to a peanut butter factory, a family of children searching for their own Talents, and a Talent Thief who will alter her life forever. Fantasy, characterization, story mapping. Grades 3-7.

**\*The Tapir Scientist: Saving South America’s Largest Mammal.** Montgomery, Sy (2013).

Told in the first person narrative, The Tapir Scientist tells the story of a team of scientists who are on a mission to locate and study the elusive, endangered tapir. The team braves the hot, humid Brazilian wetland and endures massive tick swarms, encounters venomous snakes, and survives hungry pumas in the quest to observe and protect South America’s largest animal. Grades 5-10.

**\*The Thing about Luck.** Kadohata, Cynthia (2013).

Just when twelve-year old Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook for migrant workers. Grades 5-8.

**\*The Vine Basket.** La Valley, Josanne (2013).

Life has been hard for fourteen-year-old Mehriqul, a member of the Uyghur tribal group scorned by the Chinese communist regime, so when an American offers to buy all the baskets she can make in three weeks, Mehriqul strives for a better future for herself and her family despite her father’s opposition. Grades 5-9.

**Wild Boy: The Real Life of the Savage of Aveyron.** Losure, Mary (2013).

The true story of a boy known as the Wild Boy of Aveyron who is discovered in the wilds of 18<sup>th</sup> century France and brought back to civilization. Told through first-hand accounts of those who came in contact with him or cared for him, this powerful story of a silent boy who never learned to speak opens readers' hearts to his physical and emotional difficulties adjusting to a new world. Grade 4-6.

**\*The Year of the Baby.** Cheng, Andrea, illus. Barton, Patrice (2013).

Last year Anna learned how to be a good friend. Now that her family has adopted a baby girl from China, she wants to learn to be a good sister, but the doctor notices that the baby is not thriving. Can Anna and her friends create a science project that saves the day? Easy chapter book. Grades 1-4.

**\*The Year of Billy Miller.** Henkes, Kevin (2013).

When Billy Miller has a mishap at the statue of the Jolly Green Giant at the end of summer vacation, he ends up with a big lump on his head. What a way to start second grade, with a lump on your head! As the year goes by, though, Billy figures out how to navigate elementary school, how to appreciate his little sister, and how to be a more grown up and responsible member of the family and a help to his busy working mom and stay-at-home dad. Grades 2-5.

**Zebra Forest.** Gewirtz, Adina Rishe (2013).

Annie and her brother Rew with their brooding grandmother who has told them little about their father other than that he was killed in a fight with an angry man. They spend their days telling stories under the birches and oaks of the Zebra Forest. Then one night a prison escapee breaks in and holds them hostage, changing their lives forever. Grades 5-8.

**Zero Tolerance.** Mills, Claudia (2013).

Perfect student, seventh-grader Sierra Shepard sees that she accidentally brought her mother's lunch to school, including a paring knife, and turns the knife in at the school office. She is placed on in-school suspension, and awaits a hearing for expulsion because of the school's no weapons policy. Argument, gray areas. Grades 6-8.